



Knights *focus*

FR. EDWARD V. McCULLOUGH COUNCIL #7736
St, Jude Catholic Church
Mansfield, TX
SEPTEMBER 2011

New Beginnings

By Grand Knight Bill Tillotson

One of the charms God has given us here on earth is the ability to live our life in cycles. Hence, we get to experience the same things over and over again, with slightly different perspectives each time we go through. And I think God laid it all out that way for a reason.

This is certainly evident with the beginning of a new school year. It's a time of excitement for all. As a student (and some of you are still students), there was the new school supplies and a grade book unsullied by academic endeavors (or lack thereof). As a parent, you watch your children progressively moving up in grades and eventually out the door. And I'm sure grandparents enjoy watching their beloved grandchildren moving through school as well.

We experience these types of cycles throughout our lives. We have just started a new fraternal year in the Knights. We go through cycles of readings at church. Another Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas are coming. And of course, football season just kicked off. And every year it is a little different for us.

I think God lets us keep seeing the same things over and over again so that we'll learn from them and hopefully grow to a fuller understanding of what we're doing and seeing. That's how one practices, right? You try it and mess up, try it again and mess up, and keep at it until you get better.

I try to remind myself that "life is practice" on a regular basis because - I fall short way too often. I fall short as a father, husband, Catholic and Grand Knight more than I care to admit. But I don't think God calls me to be perfect - he's calling me to practice. "How can you do it better this time, Bill? What did you learn from last time?"

I believe God calls us to be persistent and open to His help (*a.k.a.* grace). Both of those are achieved through regular prayer.

Every time I move through the same time of the year as a parent - as a husband - as a Knight - as a religious ed teacher - I think God wants me to pray "OK - what did I learn last time? How can you, God, help me this time?" It is through this regular examination of ourselves that we can grow into the types of Catholic Christians God wants us to become.

What genius God possesses to come up with such a clever way to teach us about life! It is through the struggles with our own brokenness that we can grow to love Him and our fellow man more deeply. Our failures are not to be regretted but just looked upon as lessons to lead us towards a greater goal.

Now, if God could just give me some help on my fantasy football team - that would be really great....

Upcoming Events

- Sept. 10 – Major Degree
- Sept. 13 – Monthly Mtg
- Sept. 19 – Pancake Breakfast
- Sept. 18 – 4th Degree Mtg
- Sept. 19 – 4th Degree Mtg
- Sept. 20 – First Degree
- Sept. 24 – Bingo!
- Sept. 24 – Bishop's Pro-Life Dinner
- Sept. 27 – Planning Mtg
- Sept. 28 – 40 Days for Life Kickoff
- Sept. 30 – Pray at Abortion Clinic
- October 1 – Parish Festival
- October 1 – 4th Degree

Vivat Jesus!
Bill

Major Degree

A Major Degree will be held in Denton on September 10. We will meet at St. Jude at 8:00 A.M. and carpool up. If you are still a 1st Degree member, consider making your major degrees. Call or e-mail Bill for more information. Also, the ceremony has been changed somewhat by Supreme, so you 3rd and 4th Degree members ought to come see it.

Pancake Breakfast

We'll be cooking pancakes on the morning of September 18. Please come out and help, even if you can only help cleanup. With Religious Ed started, the crowds will be much bigger!

40 Days for Life

We will be participating in the 40 Days for Life prayer Vigil outside the Henderson Street abortion clinic. The kick-off event is the evening of September 28 at the clinic at 7:00 P.M. (that time is subject to change). We then will be praying outside the clinic every Friday night, starting September 30 all the way through October from 10:00 P.M. to midnight. Please come out and help protect the unborn.

Parish Festival

The St. Jude Parish Festival will be held all day on October 1. Plan on coming out to help cook our world famous turkey legs and sausage on a stick to help raise money for the parish. This annual event is a great way for us to raise the visibility of the Knights and to recruit new members. Please come out and help.



Brother Knights Jerry Rodriguez, Bill Brown Ed Haidusek, Larry Evans, Chris Heath, Cesar Balderas and Kevin Henry working at the Mansfield Wurstfest on August 13. (Star Telegram, 8/26/2011)

First Degree at St. Jude

We are hosting a 1st Degree on the evening of September 20. Same location over in the education side of the center. Have candidates in the dining room by 6:45 so we can make sure the paperwork is in order. Ask that Catholic man you know to join! We need him! Forward his info to Speedy!

BINGO!

Our Bingo which supports the Parish Festival will be held on the evening of September 24. Please come out and help with the food and enjoy the fellowship of your brother Knights.

4th Degree Exemplification

On October 1 there will be a 4th Degree exemplification at the Sheraton Grand Hotel at D/FW Airport. This event lasts all day. If you are interested in making your 4th Degree, or are a 4th Degree and would like to witness the exemplification, please contact Bill for more information. Deadline for candidates for the 4th degree is September 13.

**Have the Knights made you a better Catholic?
Pass on the gift by asking someone to join the Knights!**

First Degrees This Month

(all at 7:00 P.M. unless noted)

9/13 – St. Maria Goretti in Arlington

9/20 – St. Jude in Mansfield

9/30 – St. Rita in Fort Worth

Contact

Speedy Gonzales at 817-680-8240 or e-mail at

speedyg@hotmail.com if you have a lead on a new member

Monthly Awards

KNIGHT OF THE MONTH – Cesar Balderas – Cesar made his First Degree in July and decided his first event to volunteer for would be the Mansfield Wurstfest on August 13. Little did he know the event would be five times larger than expected and he'd be serving like a madman for 5 hours straight! Cesar performed like a champ and has actually been seen at events since then! Way to go Cesar!

FAMILY OF THE MONTH – Dave and Cyndi Kennedy – Dave has just finished up a long stint as Recorder for our Council. This important job is often overlooked but Dave did a great job. And Cyndi has been very active with the Lady Knights, helping put together the auction baskets for the Religious Appreciation dinner. She also is active as a Eucharistic Minister.



Find out everything going on with Council 7736 by going to our website:

www.kofc7736.org

Council 7736 Upcoming Events

September 10 @ 8:00 A.M. – Major Degree in Denton

September 13 @ 7:00 P.M. – Monthly Business Meeting at Parish Center

September 18 @ 7:00 A.M. – Pancake Breakfast

September 19 @ 7:00 P.M. – 4th Degree Meeting at Council 6269

September 20 @ 7:00 P.M. – First Degree

September 24 @ 6:00 P.M. – Bishop's Pro-Life Dinner at Hyatt Regency D/FW Airport

September 24 @ 6:30 P.M. – BINGO in Parish Center

September 27 @ 7:00 P.M. – Council Planning Meeting

September 28 @ 7:00 P.M. – Fort Worth Chapter Meeting at Council 6269

September 28 @ 7:00 P.M. – 40 Days for Life Kickoff

September 30 and all Fridays through October @ 10:00 P.M. – Pray at abortion clinic for 40 Days for Life

October 1 @ 9:00 A.M. – 4th Degree Exemplification at Sheraton Grand Hotel D/FW Airport

October 1 – All Day – Parish Festival at St. Jude

October 9 & 12 – Deliver First Communion Books to RE Children

October 11 @ 7:00 P.M. – Monthly Business Meeting at Parish Center

October 15 @ 9:00 A.M. – Hike for Life in Denton

October 16 @ 11:15 A.M. – Corporate Communion

October 17 @ 7:00 P.M. – 4th Degree Meeting at Council 6269

October 18 @ 7:00 P.M. – Lady Knights Meeting

October 25 @ 7:00 P.M. – Council Planning Meeting

October 26 @ 7:00 P.M. – Fort Worth Chapter Meeting at Council 2813

October 29 @ 3:00 P.M. – Halloween in the Park at Vernon Newsom Stadium

October 30 @ 7:00 A.M. – Pancake Breakfast

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