

### Happy 50th Anniversary Bishop Conaty Council 5385



Dear Brothers in Christ,

It is hard to believe that half of the current Columbian year is almost completed. This is my second term as Grand Knight. I would be thoughtless to start without acknowledging all of our dedicated officers and thanking them for all their hard work and commitment thus far. And to the rest of the Council, thank you for always being there to lend a hand to further not only the cause of Council No. 5385, but that of the Knights of Columbus in its totality.

The last six months definitely have been quite busy. We as a council have taken part in numerous community, church, and council activities and have hosted or participated in many events including several first degree ceremonies, membership drives, and blood drives; the wheel chair drive; a golf tournament for fundraising efforts; the memorial mass for our departed brothers; backyard BBQs at the church; intellectually disabled drive; kids coat drive at the school; fourth degree exemplification representation; the family picnic; and several fundraisings events among others.

Our council is also celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, and we are planning to have a celebration / dinner in February 2013 to honor the efforts of our brother Knights of this council for their service to the community and parish. We will let you know the actual date but please mark your calendar and continue to pray that the council will continue to do their charitable work through the St. Cecilia parish for the next 50 years.

I am glad to report that the State of our Council is strong; however, let us never forget that the continued recruitment of new members is vital to keep our activities going and to strengthen our council. The continued success of our Order depends on the sum of all of its parts. I encourage all members to get involved in one way or another. If you haven't been to a meeting lately, I encourage you to attend one to experience the excitement yourself.

As the holiday season is upon us and the hustle and bustle ensues, please remember those less fortunate or in need of assistance. If you know of a Brother Knight or family member in need of help, please alert me or someone in the Council so that we can lend them a helping hand.

I pray and wish that you all have a safe, healthy, and happy Christmas and a joyous New Year, and I urge you all to continue praying for the men and women in our armed services and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

God Bless you all during this Joyous season.

Vivat Jesus,  
Abraham James  
Grand Knight

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# IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

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## THE NEVILLE PREPARATORY SCHOOL (GHANA) BY NEVILLE MAGGS

Fifteen years ago I was invited to visit Ghana (West Africa) by a Catholic Priest who I had been helping with his university fees for a study course in England. I took up the invitation and stayed for five weeks, three of which were at his family's home on the outskirts of Kumasi, the second city.

In Ghana, “family home” means family in the widest sense - a large house where brothers, sisters, cousins, uncles etc. live together. Many have no work, so that those who have an income provide for the others - a truly remarkable Christian form of sharing.

The home was very poor with intermittent water and electricity and periodic flooding from tropical rains and open drains. During my first stay all the puppies and chicks the family were rearing in order to sell were drowned in a storm one night.

Next to the house was a school, set up by a Mr. Sarkody to provide education for local poor children and also an income for his family. Having filmed the school, I was asked to help make improvements. Over the next few years, I raised money for flood barriers, extra rooms, and even a school mini bus. Five boxes of school books I had shipped out were all destroyed in a storm which flooded the school, and sadly the mini bus could not be replaced because of lack of insurance after it had been in an accident. After several years, the parents and staff honored me by renaming the school “The Neville Preparatory School.”

Four years ago, the local community made a piece of land available to build a new school on top of a hill away from all flooding and the worst of the mosquito infestation. I agreed to help, but soon after, Mr. Sarkody died. I again visited Ghana and met with the family and staff and undertook to build the new school. I had had no experience in this field. I spent my career as an Insurance Claims Investigator/Manager and am now retired.

I got some friends together and we set up a registered charity (New Neville Preparatory School Trust (Ghana) – No: 1135785). Through the good offices of another Ghanaian Catholic Priest friend, Fr Peter Wiafe, we engaged the services of Nana Sarpong, the brother of Archbishop Sarpong of Kumasi as the builder. Nana is highly educated and completely computer literate. He drew up plans and quoted prices for the various stages of construction. As and when money is raised it is sent directly to his bank account. When each stage is completed, he emails me photos of the work with supporting documentation for the materials and labor. Fr Peter casts an experienced eye over these to confirm that all is in order.

The total cost to build the school for 300 children is estimated at £85,000.00 sterling or \$150,000. The school will have a nursery, 6 primary classrooms, 3 middle school classrooms, two offices, a library, and hopefully a computer room. In addition, the school will have its own bore well and

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flushing toilets for the first time to replace two holes in the ground at the old school. Lastly, we will construct a small dining room and kitchen.

Sadly in August 2011, the old school had to be abandoned due to a severe storm and flooding. Fortunately, I had managed to get three rooms completed at the new site and so as many children as possible re-located to the construction site. Since that time, three more rooms have been completed plus two offices and a boundary wall at the rear of the site.

To date, I have been successful in raising approximately £55,000.00 (\$95,000). How did I raise this money you might ask? I have done this by running in sponsored marathons around the world, completing the Tough Guy Challenge twice in England, been interviewed on BBC Radio nine times, given talks to church, business, and social groups plus schools. Even my primary school which I left in 1952 is now fund raising for me. Fortunately, I have been given a lot of media coverage and this has brought in many individual donations.

I am now giving illustrated talks both in the UK and in the USA on my travel adventures. As a result of a chance meeting with staff from Indiana University, I had a group of their students visiting the school on 24th May 2012 to paint the interior of all the finished rooms with all the materials provided by the university students.

As a result of my charity work and my sporting activities, I was chosen to be one of the Torch Bearers in the Olympic Torch Relay around the UK prior to the opening of the London Olympics.

My wife from Tustin is now a charity Trustee and was so motivated she undertook the challenge to run a full marathon in Cologne, Germany on October 14, 2012. I am proud to report that at age 65 she completed what was for her her first marathon. For myself, it was my 26th. We sincerely hope this effort will raise a great deal of much needed sponsorship. All our Trustees work for the charity free of charge. When we travel or organize charity events to spread the word it is all at our own expense. Every single donated penny goes towards building the school.

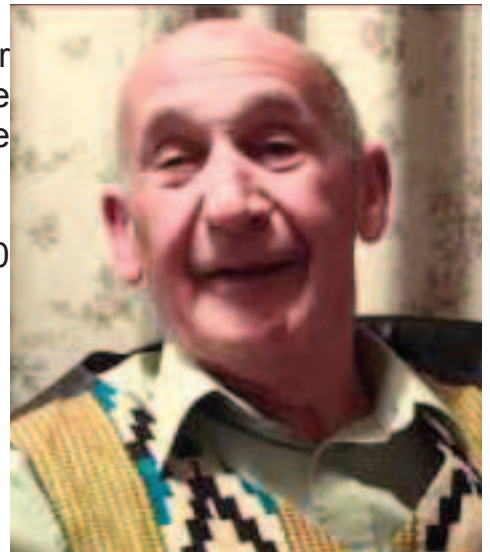
For more information and great photos, do have a look at our web site: [www.nevprep.school.com](http://www.nevprep.school.com). This contains details of the charity bank account details. Any USA checks sent to me will be cleared by the UK bank free of charge to the charity.

US address: 18472, Warren Ave. Tustin, California CA92780  
(714 280 4206)

UK address: 4 Landscape Drive, Leicester LE5 6GA  
(44 (0)116 2209464)

EM: [neville.maggs@ntlworld.com](mailto:neville.maggs@ntlworld.com)

Neville Maggs



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## THE NEVILLE PREPARATORY SCHOOL (GHANA)



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**May God bless your family this Christmas and New Year.**

**Bob Olivas & Family**

*Your Knights of Columbus Field Agent*



Knights of Columbus  
**INSURANCE**  
*Making a difference for life.*

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## AVOIDING ESTATE TAX TRAPS

LAURA SAUNDERS, Wall Street Journal

Are you married? Then put a copy of this column with the “valuable documents file” you are leaving—or ought to be—for your heirs.

Here’s why: The Internal Revenue Service in June issued guidance for an estate-tax law Congress passed late in 2010. As a result, many couples will now find it easier to maximize federal estate-tax savings without costly predeath planning.

There is an important hitch, however. An estate-tax return must be filed soon after the first partner’s death—usually within nine months—in order for a couple to get this new benefit.

If the estate’s executor misses that crucial filing, the couple will likely lose the value of one partner’s estate-tax exemption. That’s currently \$5.12 million per individual, so the loss would mean sheltering only about \$5 million versus \$10 million of assets per couple from federal estate tax.

“A small mistake makes a big difference here,” says Carol Harrington, an attorney at McDermott, Will & Emery in Chicago. She and other experts are especially worried about oversights by executors of smaller estates. Many of them, unaware of the changes, may think no estate-tax return needs to be filed if the assets fall below the exemption amount.

“This could easily happen to the owners of a farm or small business whose advisers aren’t estate-tax specialists,” says Tom Ochenschlager of American University’s Kogod Tax Center.

The recent changes are the latest effort to address a long-standing estate-tax issue for married couples. Since 1981, each spouse has been allowed to leave property to the other spouse, free of tax at death—which seems only fair.

But this fairness spawned another problem. If, as is common, one partner left all assets to the other, then this tax-free transfer in effect cost the couple one of their two estate-tax exemptions. At the second death, only one exemption was available to shelter assets.

Planners devised trusts to get around this issue, but they were clumsy and costly—and taxpayers had to be willing to plan ahead. The new rules instead make each partner’s estate-tax exemption “portable,” so extensive predeath planning isn’t required.

Here is a simplified example, under both regimes: A husband and wife together have \$7.5 million of assets, \$6 million of it in a business owned by him and the rest owned by her. Under prior law, if they died and each partner left everything to the other (with no trusts), the estate of the second-to-die partner would owe federal tax on \$2.5 million—even though the law gave each spouse a \$5 million exemption.

Under the new rules, when the first partner dies—say it’s the wife—the executor files an estate-tax return preserving the value of her \$5 million exemption. The result: At the husband’s death, the wife’s exemption is added to his, and the entire \$7.5 million passes to heirs tax-free.

At current rates, that’s a federal estate-tax saving of \$833,000, says Linda Hirschson, an attorney at Greenberg Traurig in New York.

What if a couple has total assets far below the exemption—say, \$2 million? Experts advise filing an estate-tax return to preserve the dead partner’s exemption, in case the survivor receives a windfall.

The new rules, however, don’t allow taxpayers to pile up exemptions from “serial marriages.”

For example, if a rich widower remarries a wealthy woman, the first wife’s unused exemption is available only as long as the second wife is still alive, although it can be used to make gifts until her death. This is a complex area with great benefits; if you are one of the few affected, get expert help.

The IRS has tried to simplify estate-tax filing. As long as assets go to a spouse or a charity, there is no need for expensive appraisals—the executor files a list with reasonable estimates. A house, for example, might be valued according to comparables in the neighborhood.

Why worry about these new rules when the estate tax is in flux? After all, the exemption is scheduled to drop to \$1 million, with a top 55% rate, next Jan. 1. If that occurs, the new portability rules wouldn’t apply either.

The answer: Experts say these rules will be incorporated into any new regime, because they tackle a long-standing issue.

“The IRS spent a lot of time preparing these generous rules,” Ms. Hirschson says. “We hope they’re here to stay.”

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## COUPLES GAIN ADVANTAGES BY PURCHASING LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE TOGETHER

As more baby boomer couples reach retirement age, the need for long-term care (LTC) insurance becomes more obvious. Few things drain a couple's hard-earned savings faster than a long-term medical condition that requires daily assistance.

In general, LTC insurance covers the help people need with "activities of daily living" such as dressing, eating, and bathing. Spouses and/or other family members often provide this care in addition to a full-time job—it can be a massive physical and emotional strain. And unfortunately, Medicare and health insurance don't cover these services. Medicaid does, once you've met certain qualifications that usually include exhausting most of your available savings. When you buy LTC insurance, you generally choose a daily expense amount to be used for care at home, an adult day-care facility, a nursing home, or an assisted living residence. You also choose a specific period of care per claim, such as three to five years, or lifetime benefits. All of these factors affect the cost, as do your age and health at the time you purchase the policy.

Spousal discount and the shared-care option If you and your spouse purchase LTC insurance together,

you may qualify for a discount on your premium cost. Or you may choose the "shared-care" option which creates a pool of benefits that either spouse may use.

Here's how that works: If you purchase, for example, a five-year LTC policy for each spouse without attaching a shared-care rider, you're each covered for a maximum of five years. In lieu of a spousal discount, you can elect a shared-care rider on two five-year policies to have a pool of 10 years of benefits. Should one spouse require nine years of care and the other one year, you're both fully covered. Or, if one spouse should die having used only two years of care, the surviving spouse now has eight years of benefits remaining on the policy.

This is a basic example and there are many policy choices and terms available with Knights of Columbus LTC insurance. Please get in touch with me for a free analysis of your LTC and other financial protection needs.



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**Your Agent**  
**Bob Olivas, FIC**

**1670 Makaloa St**  
**Sutie 204-441**  
**Honolulu, HI 96814**  
**Serving Oahu & Maui**  
**Phone: 447-0900**  
**[bob.olivas@kofc.org](mailto:bob.olivas@kofc.org)**



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