

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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Saint Thomas More Council 2188

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Chaplain's Message



FEAST OF THE INCARNATION

While it is not what we usually call it, the "Feast of the Incarnation" more appropriately defines what we call "Christmas".

"Christmas" is a contraction of the words "Christ Mass" celebrated in honor of the incarnation of Jesus. There would be no Christmas if there was no "Incarnation". There would be no "incarnation" if one special woman had not agreed to be the vehicle of incarnation. It was Mary who offered herself as the one who would give "flesh" to the Son of God.

While notions of Christmas often revolve around the material aspects of celebrations of gift-giving, it is often forgotten, or assumed to be known, that it is a celebration of the "Gift" given to us by God; the gift of his Son. We should take time to explain this to

Grand Knight's Message

December 2015

I hope this advent season is a peaceful one for you and your family! In spite of the trials and tribulations of this world we are called to be messengers of hope and reflection of God's love in this world.

And always remember to keep Christ in Christmas!

Mark your calendar for Jan. 2nd to be a part of our annual Christmas Party. We will enjoy a great dinner and comraderie! In addition to bringing a guest please extend the invitation to two additional adults to share in the fun and fellowship. We do ask for a discretionary donation which will go to a charitable cause (TBD) for this event.

Merry Christmas!

Joe Laquidara

Grand Knight

(Chaplain' Message)

children growing up in such a material world. They often miss the point of it all. Sometimes even their parents miss the point.

As Knights of Columbus we pledge ourselves to the service of God and the Church. Our action finds its inspiration in the pledging of Mary to the service of God. The feast of the Annunciation calls to mind the event of a Divine call to Mary to do something special. We can forget that the same Divine call is given to each of us in Baptism. We are also called to "enflesh" Christ. Christmas is the time when we celebrate the universal call to serve God by making Christ present in our own time and place. Enfleshing the presence of Christ is to express God's love for all of his creation, even when it is difficult to do.

When the story of that first Christmas is told each year, it is important not to sentimentalize it into a children's tale. The work of becoming other Christs is the work of a lifetime and begins in childhood, but doesn't end there. Parents are called to model for their children that doing good, forgiving others, working for the betterment of people, showing kindness and all of the Christian virtues are what we are called to do. It is about becoming other "Christs" ourselves.

We teach our children that it is not the gift itself that counts, but the love with which it is given. We need to teach them also that we are gifts to one another, and should be the best gift we can manage to be.

As Mary opened herself to allow God to work through her, so must we. Let this Christmas truly impress on us the importance of our lives and our cooperation with God's Spirit. It's not what we "call" Christmas that matters; it's how we let it transform us!

May God show his love through you to all those who are a part of your life!

Important Resolution

In order to certify the support our Council has for both St. Andrew's and St. John's, the Council Officers are proposing the following Resolution.

"Be it resolved that the name of the St. Thomas More Council 2188-Westwood be changed to St. Thomas More Council 2188-Westwood/Hillsdale."

Christmas Canteen

Please don't forget the Christmas Canteen for Spectrum on **Dec. 14th at 6:30 PM**. It is a special night for all involved. Hot dogs, burgers and fries and Santa too!

The usual help is needed.

Thank you,

Mike Carpenter

Joseph F. Lamb Assembly 0665

On November 22nd, 2015, we observed the Exemplification of the Fourth Degree. There were approximately 54 new Sir Knights. Of that number, there were seven (7) members to our assembly from St. Thomas More Council 2188. Please welcome the following new Sir Knights: Gaetano Carnazza, Mike Malure, Frank Mariconti, Domenick Panfile, Ray Polomski, Angelo Restivo and Jeff Wiles. I hope that I got the spelling of their names correct.

In closing, I would like to use a quote from an address given by President Woodrow Wilson on June 14th, 2015.

“The flag of the United States has not been created by rhetorical sentences in declarations of independence and in bills of rights. It has been created by the experience of a great people and nothing is written upon it that has not been written by their life. It is the embodiment, not of a sentiment, but of a history.”

Long may it wave.

Al Lukievics

Calendar of Events

December 2015 and January 2016

December

12/03	General Meeting.....	8:00 PM
12/05	Meals for the Needy.....	9:00 AM
12/08	First Degree.....	7:30 PM
	Immaculate Conception	
12/10	Columbian Club Meeting.....	8:00 PM
12/14	Spectrum Canteen.....	6:30 PM
12/17	Officers' Meeting.....	8:00 PM

January

01/02	Meals for the Needy.....	9:00 AM
	Members' Christmas Party.....	6:00 PM
01/07	General Meeting.....	8:00 PM
01/11	Spectrum Canteen.....	6:30 PM
01/14	Columbian Club Meeting.....	8:00 PM
01/19	First Degree.....	7:30 PM
01/21	Officers' Meeting.....	8:00 PM

Fourth Degree



We Stand Strong on Ethical Ground

Some people believe that ethics in business is a contradiction in terms. They think, that in order to be profitable, a company and its leaders must abandon morality and embrace the dark, greedy side that they see so often in the news and in the movies.

At the Knights of Columbus, we know this isn't true. A business can be both ethical and successful. We are.

As a Catholic organization, we understand the value and importance of our core beliefs and the original mission of Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney. In fact, much of the strength and financial security we provide to members and their families can be attributed to our ethical, moral standards.

More than 96 per cent of Knights who buy our insurance keep it, year in and year out. The order takes this commitment to our members very seriously. This means careful planning when it comes time to invest. Our professional staff researches all transactions to insure that they fall in line with Catholic values. If a transaction makes them feel uncomfortable, they don't make it.

"We exclude any company engaged in activity that conflicts with Catholic moral teaching: companies directly involved in abortion, contraception, human cloning, embryonic stem cell research, for-profit health care that pays for any of these or pornography," said Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson. There are many companies in the pharmaceutical and communications industries that would undoubtedly provide excellent returns for us but which are not in our portfolio because they engage in research and development or programming in ways that violate the sanctity or dignity of human life."

In the end, the Knights of Columbus investment strategy is motivated by morality, not money. Yet, each year, we remain profitable, increase our assets and stay dedicated to this vision that will keep the Order financially sound for generations to come.

"Faithful Catholics have choices in buying life insurance," said the Supreme Knight. "But they know that, at the Knights of Columbus, their policy is supplied by an insurer that shares their moral and ethical values and is guided in all of its investment and sales practices by those values."

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

Dear Brothers,

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas Season and a Happy and Healthy 2016.

As 2015 comes to a close, a new fraternal year begins for the Knights of Columbus. All Brothers will shortly be receiving the 2016 dues notice and annual survey of fraternal activity. The future of our council is dependant of this survey being sent back with your dues before the January 31, 2016 deadline. Please be prompt in getting this back to me.

Again you will notice on the form, a request for your current home and/or cell phone number *and* email address. To date, I only have about 70% of this information and I hope you can find the short amount of time, to fill this out, so I can keep the most up to date information on all members. **Please carefully and clearly provide this information.** This personal information will only be used for the “allbrothers” group email for our monthly Chancellor newsletter, reminders, special events and if you are needed to be contacted by an officer of our council.

If you suffer a hardship in paying your 2016 dues, please contact our Worthy Grand Knight, Joseph Laquidara at: laqgang@verizon.net.

God Bless you all and I look forward to my continuing service as your Financial Secretary.

Angelo Restivo,

Financial Secretary

agrestivo@aol.com

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