

NEWSLETTER NJ STATE COUNCIL

Official Publication of the New Jersey State Council Knights of Columbus

State Deputy's Message

Brothers,

We are reaching the end of this Columbian year, and the last of monthly messages sent by me as your State Deputy for the past 24 months.

At the outset, I wish to thank the E-Newsletter staff, Editor Carmen Blandino, Assistant Editors Frank Manganelli and Walter Marino, and Distribution Director Bernie Ernst. It is through their dedicated service that timely important information was disseminated to you for the past two years.

Andrew E. Lipenta
State Deputy

We have just come home from our annual State Convention Meetings held in Wildwood. At convention on Friday Award Session, many of our councils and brother knights were recognized for their many contributions this year.

Knight of the Year honors was presented to PGK William Flynn, Fr. Thomas F. Blake Council 2560, Ocean City. District Deputy of the Year honors was presented to DD 4 Paul Pinkman.

District Deputy Circle of Honor awards were presented to: DD 11 Silvio Sartori, DD 27 Chris Oliver, DD 29 Jim Mlodgenski, DD 41 Peter Walentowicz, DD47 Ray Sandoval, DD 52 Mike O'Connor, DD 58 Mike Querubin, DD 65 Joseph Sabella, DD 69 Christopher Duffett. Congratulations on a job well done!

Family of the Year was presented to the Greg Stagliano Family of St Jude Council 6551 of Gibbsboro.

Culture of Life committee presented the second annual Gene Baker Award in memory of long time Pro-Life warrior, the late Gene Baker. The award was presented to John Hencinsky, FDD.

We were honored to have many priests in attendance for the weekend most notably, His Excellency, Bishop Dennis Sullivan, host Bishop of the Diocese of Camden and Bishop Kurt Burnette of the Byzantine Eparchy of Passaic.

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State Deputy's Message (continued)

Our Keynote speaker was Chief of Camden County Police, J. Scott Thomson, serving the City of Camden and also we were also addressed by Sister Helen Coe, S.S.J. Director of Guadalupe Family Services in Camden.

A slate of new State Officers was nominated and elected to serve State Council for the next Columbian year. Bruce DeMolli for State Deputy, Bob Hatler for State Secretary, Vinnie Tavormina for State Treasurer, Jim Stoeber for State Advocate and Ray Sands for State Warden.

I have the utmost confidence that these Catholic gentlemen will lead our jurisdiction to new heights of accomplishments and service. We are so fortunate to have their talents, experience and dedication working for us. The slate of Supreme Convention delegates was also elected.

Resolutions, affirming our position, as Knights, on important moral issues, were introduced and voted on during the Saturday business session.

My thanks extended to my Executive Assistant, Jack Persia, Membership Director John Erwin, Program Director, Ray Sands and Culture of Life Director, Steve Richardson for their hours of work preparing awards for the convention and for their dedicated service throughout my two year term.

Turning to our final membership drive, it is important for grand knights to schedule at least one first degree in each council or district. It is always best to schedule the degree date and then invite those blitz drive candidates to join your councils. As an added incentive, Supreme Council offered a cash incentive \$4.50 x the billable council membership for all councils reaching Star Council Award status at year's end.

Let's end with a strong final month, Brothers, and remember what Supreme Knight Carl Anderson has said "We have a moral obligation to ask every eligible Catholic man to join the Knights of Columbus."

Let us finish with a push and as always:

"Proclaim and Defend our Faith."

Vivat Jesus!

Andy Lipenta

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Program Corner

Amazing, we have reached the end of this Columbian Year along with my term in office. It has truly been a remarkable journey. We have seen service program involvement grow by leaps and bounds. I thank all of our Program Activities Directors, Hal Delaney, Ron Hall, Bill Hoffman, Peter Briody and Peter Cassiano for living as an example of leadership, dedication and charity. To all the Chairmen, Diocese Coordinators, District Deputies, Grand Knights, and Brother Knights, again thank you for your dedication, the sharing of your knowledge, sacrifices, and acting as Christ has called us to live - in charity to our fellow man. I can say without hesitation, that the New Jersey State Council is blessed to have members of the greatest distinction and caliber involved in our many service program activities. We can be very proud of going the extra mile. Your actions and dedication truly make a difference in our communities, and they define just what the Knights of Columbus are all about: **Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.**

Thank you! Thank you one and all for your contribution. Be sure to pass on your knowledge and enthusiasm. This will keep your service program traditions alive and well in your council for years to come!

It's not over yet and we need your continued support this month with:

June Program Considerations:

- 06/14 - **Flag Day** and One Nation Under God
- 06/22 - **State Tank Pull Competition**, Clifton. Register on line www.tankpullkofc.org
Don't miss out – be a part of this tremendous service program – contact brother John Hughes
- 06/21 - **Father's Day**, Mass and Communion shared fraternally
- 06/21- 07/04, **Third Fortnight for Freedom.** The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is again asking the Knights and their families to participate in the fourth annual *Fortnight for Freedom* from June 21 to July 4. This will be a period of prayer, fasting and advocacy to respond to the many threats to religious liberty the United States now faces.
- 06/27 - **Grand Knights Meeting, LOOK FOR THE NEW PLACE AND TIME!!!**

REPORTS DUE:

- 06/29 - Columbian Award Application **Due** (Form SP-7)
- 07/01 - Report of Chosen Officers **Due** (Form 185)

I humbly thank our Worthy State Deputy Andy Lipenta for his direction, support, and confidence in my abilities to serve in his administration as General Programs Director. I congratulate Bruce DeMolli on his election to State Deputy and wish him success. To our new General Programs Director, Jim Sweeney, all the best and all my support – Salve Frater!

Let us, together, go forward to do our best to develop a calendar of programs with the tools supplied by our State Council and Supreme. Remember, have fun in doing and promoting God's work while bringing other like-minded Catholic men into our Order as we **Proclaim and Defend our Faith!** Vivat Jesus!

Have a Happy Father's Day and may God bless you and your family in abundance for all you do in His name through our Order of Columbian Knights!

**Yours in friendship and fraternity,
Ray Sands FDD**

The Last “Editor’s” Page – *My Final*

“I’LL SEE YOU SOON.” - By Bro. Walter F. Marino, Staff Writer

As our Columbian year comes to a close, we put our **Forty-ninth Issue** of the **New Jersey State Council “E-Newsletter”** to rest.

I remember when this staff was first asked to produce a state newsletter as an alternative communication medium replacing the monthly “Grand Knights Packet.” This writer really was not that interested. I told Worthy Past State Deputy, “Dan” Rossi, **“I really don’t do newsletters!”** By the way, that seems like ages ago. But after a little prodding and poking by my life-long friend and **New Jersey K of C** mentor Frank Manganelli, I folded like a balsa wood bridge.

Inside I liked working for the Knights of Columbus [see my editorial entitled **“What does the K of C do for me?”** in the [August, 2014 issue](#)] especially when things moved on to a different level; the **New Jersey State Council**. Because of Frank, the late State Deputy Donald E. Ryan, who I affectionately called “Boss,” asked me to come on board back in 1990, when he was coming up the ranks. Being he was a brother from my own council [6904] made it an honor to work with him and Frank. Since then, I have worked for several State Deputies. I thank them and I am deeply honored and proud to have been of service.

And so, to leave something that you have come to love and enjoy with a passion is not easy; especially when you have been intense at on the pressure we did our job know what is going on than ever before! I just can’t say **“Goodbye”** and leave it at that. **“Why not?”** you ask. Because, along with my unexpected decision to take a little break from the newsletter business, I am filled with deep emotions. **“Goodbye”** seems like such a sad and final expression. For that reason, all my life I disliked saying “goodbye.” I preferred to say **“so long”** or **“I’ll see you soon.”**

From day one we decided to make a newsletter that was different and out of the ordinary. We already had experience with this when Frank was chairman of the Paterson Federation and wanted a newsletter. It was there that we came up with the concept of producing a communication tool that was more like a combination of Newspaper and Magazine rolled into one. It had editorial commentary, jokes, cartoons, want ads, pictures, etc. It is with this background experience that we developed the state newsletter; except without the jokes and cartoons. LOL! First and foremost we wanted to create a newsletter that communicated the important issues facing our State Council in a warm and **“reader friendly”** format and bring the State’s message to as many brother knights as possible. Most of all, we wanted our readers to look forward to and enjoy receiving it with anticipation every month. I sincerely hope we have succeeded in doing that! I know, I know, I just love rambling on an on. And so, let me get to the point.....

In conclusion, this will be my last issue of the **“NJ State Council E-Newsletter.”** I will truly miss coming into your homes every month. **Thank you ALL** for allowing me to serve you! A very special **THANK YOU** to Worthy **“Andy,”** our Publisher, and the news staff! **What a fantastic team!!!**

Thanks guys, it was truly a unique experience and a great run!

This is the last in a series - **“Ci vediamo presto. Forse? Ciao!” = “I’ll see you soon. Maybe? So**

General Agents Corner

As we come to the close of the fraternal year, I would like to share a personal story that may help you and your family. When my Dad died I spoke to my aunt and my mother, to make sure that they understood what documents they would need to take care of “things” later in life.

After I spoke to them, I followed up, once or twice and my Mom definitively said they were “all set.” My Aunt and my Mother went to the lawyer who had helped them sell my grandmother’s house and asked him to take care of the papers they needed. The attorney, a nice man, but whose specialty is real estate law, drew up new wills for my Mom, (who was recently widowed) and for my Aunt, (who had never been married).

About a year ago, my aunt had a mini stroke while driving to church. That was when I found all set, was not set at all. When the hospital asked for her living will and who had the legal right to make decisions on behalf of my aunt, my mother strode forward and said she did. The clerk said, can you please give her a copy of the medical proxy and living will, and my mother said, “What are those.”

My heart fell through the floor, I had trusted my mother to know what to do after I had talked to her, but I did not go with her to see the attorney to make sure it happened. We were lucky because even though my aunt has had a few “episodes” of forgetfulness, we moved her into the house across the street from where my family lives. That way we were with her every morning to make sure she got up, cleaned up and got dressed. We made her lunch and she had dinner with the family every night.

About a month ago, she had a heart “episode,” where the pulse rate went down to 29 beats a minute, (great for a marathon runner, not so good for 94 year old). The last six weeks have been a whirlwind of hospitals, rehab and trying to find the right “placement”, as the dementia, brought on by the vascular issues has been getting worse. Throughout this time, I could have been hamstrung, because the original attorney only did a simple will. There was no living will/advanced directives. There was no Power of attorney for medical issues, (sometimes called a medical proxy), and there was no Durable Power of attorney so that I could take care of her financial issues, (like paying rent and the electric bill)

For more than 15 years I was oblivious to the fact that the attorney had not “taken care” of the paperwork. We were lucky that I was able to find out the truth and get a brother Knight, an attorney, who specializes in Elder Care to work with my aunt earlier this year, before she got sick again.

So this weekend, find your will. Take a look at it and if you don’t have a medical proxy and an advanced directives/living will, call your field agent and ask him to recommend a qualified attorney to work with you to insure that your wishes are respected when the time comes and that who you want to make decisions for you, can legally do so.

Protecting Catholic Families Since 1882.....it’s more than insurance.....

it’s caring and that’s who we are and what we do.

Respectfully submitted,

**Charlie Miraglia,
General Agent, Northern New Jersey**

Culture of Life Corner

The 2015 State Convention was certainly the crowning event of the Columbian Year, with many councils distinguishing themselves for their work towards a Culture of Life. Although we have yet to meet some of our goals, we have excelled in others and have much of which to be proud as a State Council.

The competition for the Huggie Award in the Diapers for Babies program was quite fierce, with many more councils reporting participation. From the council reports, over 25,000 diapers were collected and donated, along with over 10,000 wipes! The Huggie Award winners were:

Leading Role: *Nativity Council, 2976*

Supporting Role: *St. Gregory the Great Council, 7677*

Featured Role: *Msr. Fitzpatrick Council 7041*

The Disabilities Drive raised \$631,626.45 this year, down from last year when we raised \$689,297.07. 11 councils raised over \$10,000 each, and 20 councils raised over \$5,000 each, for a total of \$280,745.84. As with last year, 44% of the money raised this year was raised by these councils, and less than 10% of the councils in this state raised nearly half the money! We can do so much more if we could all get involved. Let's try harder this year!

The Alzheimer's Drive did not do as well this year. So far we have raised \$28,324 as compared to \$36,133.31 last year. If your council has not already made a donation yet, please be sure to do so by June 30. The award-winning councils for this program were:

St. Rose Council 6386	\$9269
Fr. James J. Kelly Council 3632	\$5600
Immaculate Conception Council 9021	\$3000

Participation in the Deborah Hospital Drive has also dropped off, with our raising only \$16,475.00 as opposed to \$18,053 last year, with only 28 councils reporting (down from 38 last year). We really need a big push this last month, so if you have not made a donation, please consider doing so now. Our top three, award-winning councils are:

reporting (down from 38 last year). We really need a big push this last month, so if you have not made a donation, please consider doing so now. Our top three, award-winning councils are:

Rev. Mitchell Citkowski Council 6201	\$3000
Marquette Council 588	\$2100
Archbishop Damiano Assembly 1626	\$2000

We were also pleased to honor 20 Pro-Life Warriors with their ACE Wings, recognizing their hard work for Pro-Life throughout this Columbian Year. They are:

Reginald F. Beckett, VSM	John C, Carlucci
Bruce DeMolli, SS	Robert E. Hatler, ST
Gerry Kaufhold	Herbert C, Meyer, PSD
Vincent P. Tavormina, ST	Paul A. Bestafka
Thomas T. Ciborski, PSD	Daniel Flaherty
John Hencinsky	Joesph Kavalus
Raymond W. Norman	Lawrence F. York, Jr.
William J. Birtwistle, PSD	David DeVlesschower
Edward W. Gilbert	Albert E. Karwowski
Arthur Mattei	William G. Smith

Finally, the Gene Baker Culture of Life Award went to an outstanding Pro-Life Warrior and a man who has spent a significant portion of his life defending the unborn. He has served as an example of Catholic Citizenship and Pro Life activism to others. For this reason, our State Deputy was very proud to give this award to my Deputy Director, John Hencinsky!

The Grand Knights Meeting will be at the end of this month, as we enter into another Columbian Year. We have lathered and rinsed, so it is time to repeat. Let's make next year even better than this one!

Vivat Jesus!

Steven J. Richardson, FM
Culture of Life Programs Director

SCHEDULED DEGREES

[LINK](#) individual councils below for details.

<u>DEGREE:</u> <u>DATE:</u>	<u>LINK</u> ,	<u>LOCATION &</u>
CAMDEN:		
First	Council 1443	Mon. June 1
First	Council 7463	Mon. June 15
First	Council 3784	Mon. June 15
METUCHEN		
First	Council 9925	Thurs. June 4
NEWARK:		
Second	Council 2188	Wed. June 3
First	Council 2188	Tues. June 9
Second	Council 4504	Wed. June 10
Third	Council 1345	Fri. June 19
PATERSON:		
Second	Council 3359	Fri. June 5
Third	Council 3359	Fri. June 5
TRENTON		
First	Council 8733	Wed. June 3
First	Council 11660	Wed. June 3
First	Council 7000	Mon. June 8
Third	Council 7333	Wed. June 10

<u>COUNCIL</u> <u>YRS</u>	<u>CHARTERED</u>	
355 Trenton <i>Trenton</i>	6/05/1898	117
588 Marquette <i>Sparta</i>	6/01/1901	114
589 Burlington <i>Burlington</i>	6/27/1901	114
1345 St. John's <i>Dumont</i>	6/28/1908	107
1736 Ridgewood <i>Ridgewood</i>	6/14/1914	101
5714 Our Lady of Perpetual Help <i>Maple Shade</i>	6/06/1965	50
5730 Fr. John S. Nelligan <i>South Plains</i>	6/6/1965	50
10419 Long Valley <i>Long Valley</i>	6/27/1990	25

Our State Deputy Andrew “Andy” Lipenta along with the entire NJ State Council and the Newsletter Staff would like to take this opportunity to wish **ALL** councils best wishes on their **Charter Anniversary**.

May your council continue to grow and do good deeds for many more years to come! Let's continue to grow our ranks, expand our programs and, in doing so, “**Proclaim and Defend our Faith!**”

[NOTE: Due to the large number of anniversaries each month we have limited the publishing list to the names of councils celebrating their 25th, 50th, 75th and 100th Anniversary during the current month.]

Farewell Editorial

In June, of 2011, Frank Manganelli, Walter Marino, and yours truly, sat down at a meeting with State Deputy-elect, Dr. Dan Rossi. He broached us with the idea of publishing an e-newsletter, to serve two (2) purposes. First, to get the State Council message out to our membership, in a timely, efficient and fast manner, and, secondly, to bring our way of communicating into the 21st century.

We had some growing problems, as all new ventures have, but with dedication, patience and open dialog with the State Deputy, we managed to get through these issues. Over the course of time, we have improved the format, design, graphics, and commentaries. From the feed-back that has crossed my desk, constantly, we have been successful.

It has been the newsletter staff's intention to get the State message out on a monthly basis. From all reports, the E-newsletter communication has been on the mark. Because of our ability to reach our Grand Knights, Chairmen, Directors and State Officers, the message of our Order, in general, and our State, has improved council participation in programs and helped increase our membership. As an added point, the E-newsletter has saved the State Council thousands of dollars in postage and added labor. This has enabled the State Council to have more funds available to donate to more charities.

We have worked, diligently, to increase our e-mail list, for the newsletter, and, I am happy to say, that from a startup of about 300, the newsletter is being received by more than 20,000 brother Knights in our state! I cannot say enough about our webmaster, Bernie Ernst, who, so ably, has handled the e-mail list and distribution very professionally. He has been an extremely important member of our staff and is a great asset to our State Council.

The in-coming new administration has decided to take a different direction, and the current newsletter staff, with the exception of Bernie Ernst, have been released of their duties to the State Council.

I have been a Knight of Columbus for over 39 years. I have served in every capacity in my council, Elizabeth Ann Seton, 6904, Whippany and my Assembly, John J. Sheerin, 673, and was a District Deputy for four years. I have served under 18 State Deputies, as chairman, for many different programs and as a State Director for two State Deputies. Nothing has given me more pleasure, and sense of accomplishment, than my time as Editor, these past four years.

Till we meet again,

Vivat Jesus

Carmen Blandino, PGK, PFN, FDD

Upcoming Events:

* PLEASE NOTE - **ALL MONTHLY REPORTS ARE DUE AT THE STATE COUNCIL OFFICE ON THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH.**

Be sure to make a note of the activities that are scheduled for the next several months. Click the specific activity [hyperlink] to obtain more information, details and forms. Log-in required.

2015

- June 27 - Grand Knights meeting
- June 30 - Annual Report of Roundtable Coordinator
- June 30 - RSVP Program

Webmaster

By August 1st we will have loaded the mail server with all of the new, and returning, officers, directors and chairmen. If you are currently receiving this e-newsletter and major State Deputy-approved broadcast e-mails, you will continue to do so, unless you send a specific request to: optout@njkofo.org

We hope you will continue to stay in touch with what is taking place throughout the State.

Please forward this Newsletter to all your council members.

WHEREEVER YOU SEE PRINT [“LINK”] THE COLOR OF THIS BOX - OR - YOU CAN HYPERLINK DIRECTLY TO THE WEBSITE

CHECK for “Summary of Forms & Deadlines”

Quarterly Calendar

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