

## Council Officers

CHAPLAIN - Fr. Anthony J. Legarski      GRAND KNIGHT - Gary Ellis      DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT - Allan Duman  
CHANCELLOR - Mark Sault      WARDEN - William Nelson      FINANCIAL SECRETARY - Louis Endress      TREASURER - Clarence Becker  
ADVOCATE - Edward Zang, Esq.      GUARDS - Bernard Mikesic, Dennis McGeehan      RECORDER - Mike Metzgar  
TRUSTEES - Dan Casey, Dave Karl, PGK George Husick



December 2010

## Chaplain's Message

### "Cremation"

### From the Grand Knight

Brother Knights,

I would like to share an article I found on the internet about Christmas. The Origin of the Twelve Days of Christmas was written in England during 1558-1829. Catholics were prohibited from any practice of their faith by law - private or public. It was a crime to be a Catholic and if caught could be imprisoned or put to death. The song was written as a catechism song to teach children their faith and the gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. Have a great Advent and Christmas

- 1 Partridge in a Pear Tree = Jesus Christ, Son of God
- 2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments
- 3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues
- 4 Calling Birds = The Four Gospels and / or the four Evangelist
- 5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace
- 6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation
- 7 Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments
- 8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes
- 9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- 10 Lords A-leaping = the ten commandments
- 11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles
- 12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

Fraternally Yours,

Gary

The subject of my Chaplain Summation Remarks at our October meeting was that of Cremation, as it pertains to the teachings and practice of the Catholic Faith. A considerable number of you have expressed a desire for me to summarize the content of my presentation in this Newsletter. Although some reflection on the Season of Advent and Christmas would perhaps be more appropriate, I have decided to oblige your request and re-present my presentation in this Newsletter.

For a long time, the Church prohibited cremation. The reason for this prohibition was primarily due to the fact that in the earlier centuries of the Church cremation was a pagan practice which was inextricably bound to a denial of the Resurrection and a disregard for the sacred dignity of the human body as a creation of God. The Church would have us realize that the human body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and as part of the person, receives the Sacraments.

In 1963 the Church relaxed restrictions in exceptional circumstances that warranted cremation; e.g. infectious disease, lack of sufficient grave spaces in densely populated areas, etc.

In 1983, the revised Code of Canon Law permitted cremation, unless the cremation was done for "reasons contrary to Christian doctrine." Consequently, today the cremation of the body is permitted as long as the deceased did not deny belief in the Resurrection and the family assures the Church of its intent to properly and reverently bury the body in a timely fashion. This would of course forbid the ashes to be scattered, stored in a private residence, etc.

When cremation is chosen and these criteria are met, the Church respects that decision; however, cremation is normally to take place only after the funeral liturgy. This is because the funeral liturgy calls for the presence of the body as a

sign of our belief in its sacred dignity and the prayers are directed to the presence of a body. This is why families are encouraged to contact their Pastor prior to finalizing arrangements with the funeral director. This helps ensure that the body of the deceased is given the proper respect at the funeral liturgy.

In some cases however, for one reason or another, cremation is done prior to the funeral liturgy and the family wishes to have the remains present during the liturgy. In such cases the Pastor is to seek the permission of the local Bishop to have the cremated remains present during the liturgy. Normally, this is not a problem, so long as the reasons for the cremation occurring before the funeral liturgy are legitimate and do not conflict with the teachings of the Church.

If the cremated remains are present during the funeral liturgy, they are to be in a dignified receptacle and placed in the church in a suitable manner with dignity. Of course, the prayers and other parts of the funeral liturgy are to be adapted accordingly.

I hope this re-presentation is helpful. I take this opportunity to extend to all of you and your families my prayers and blessings for a happy, safe, and spiritually rich celebration of Advent and Christmas. During this festive time of the year, let us be true to our resolve to "keep Christ in Christmas." In doing so, may we continue to find ourselves guided on our journey as Knights by our Mother and Patroness: Mary, Star of the Sea.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,  
Your Council Chaplain

*Father Anthony J. Legarski*



Remember to keep in your thoughts and prayers all brother knights that have passed away.



## Happy Birthday

Robert J. Baker	12/28
John D. Burk	12/27
Frank M. Clark	12/5
Joseph F. Daus	12/17
Louis J. Endress	12/16
Rick B. Gallagher	12/4
Lucas A. Harella	12/21
Ronald A. Hileman	12/19
William J. Hooten	12/20
Thomas O Hoppel	12/14
George G. Husick	12/3
David D. Karl	12/21
Jason N. Kovach	12/25
Rev. Anthony J. Legarski	12/24
Nicholas S. Luciano	12/31
Daniel T. Moringiello	12/23
William M. Moyer	12/20
Keith A. Natoli	12/4
John C. Pavlic	12/5
Frank R. Schachtner	12/20
Matthew P. Smithmyer	12/17
Timothy J. Surkovich	12/20
Andrew J. Weyant	12/10



## November Council Meeting Notes

A request presented from the Ecumenical Conference of Greater Altoona for a donation. Brother Bill Hiergeist made a motion for \$250 which carried.

A thank-you was read from the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Cresson for the \$250 donation towards the purchase of a new truck and snow plow.

A thank-you was read from the Armed Forces Mothers for the \$100 donation.

A thank-you was read from the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry for the \$100 donation.

A Thank you was read from the Central PA Community Foundation for the \$1,000 donation to the Zach Hinich Foundation. Star of the Sea Council will be recognized on a plaque at the playground. Later Brother Mike Metzgar made a suggestion that we form a work day at the playground at the appropriate time to help with construction.

121 Football Sweep tickets were sold and netted \$84.00 for Council .

Brother Jerry Kovach recommended selling the "Keep Christ in Christmas" magnets at the end of masses and information being placed in Church Bulletins. A reminder was given to remove them at car washes.

Financial Secretary nominated Mike Metzgar as Recorder for Council. A vote was taken and Mike was elected. Brother Guy Luciano made a motion to pay for the breakfast of all Knights that attend at St. Johns after the November 21 Knights of Columbus Mass. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary Lou Endress made a motion that the Memorial Fund be used to reimburse the Home Association for the 50 new padded chairs bought for the Council Home..... motion carried.

Motion was made and carried to make a \$100 donation to St. Judes Hospital. The specific hospital will be identified before the next meeting of Council.

Brother Tom Sault thanked all that purchased raffle tickets for St. Joseph's church in Williamsburg and also announced a Swiss Steak dinner benefit would be held on November 14 at 2pm. Tickets are \$8.00.

Brother Jim Zimmerman said that the donation to the Sons of the American Legion was given to WALY Warmth and suggested we should make a donation on behalf of our Council. Motion for a \$100 donation carried.

4<sup>th</sup> Degree will meet at the Council home on December 9 at 7pm.

### **Please Consider Helping Us:**



Our first degree team is in need of help. So that we can offer the exemption of the first degree in a more timely manner we need members to help with the team. Please consider being a part of the team. If interested contact Dan Turcovsky.



## Council Calendar

Council meetings are held on the **First Thursday** of the month at 7:00 pm.

The next meetings are:  
Thursday, December 2 7:00pm  
Thursday, January 6 7:00pm



## Thoughts and Prayers

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers all brother knight's and their families that are sick, in need or in distress.

### **IMPORTANT!!!!!!**

Please fill out and return the enclosed Survey of Fraternal Activity with your dues.