

Knights of Columbus



Perkiomen Valley Council #3633

<http://www.kofc3633.org/>

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



Volume 10

January - February 2009

No. 1

Grand Knight's Message

First of all, please accept my wishes for a most healthy, prosperous and happy 2009! Many have had some severe hardships this past year losing family members, jobs and facing new illnesses. We can sustain all through our daily prayers for each other and the help of our Lord Jesus Christ. Vivat Jesus.

It is tempting to start talking about what we might accomplish this coming year, maybe make some resolutions or even just comment on how the first six months of my term have gone. I think there are other places in this newsletter to highlight some things we have done and even show in the calendar of events what is coming up. However, here, I would like to take just a few lines of print to talk about us as men of faith, husbands, fathers, grandfathers and family members and what our responsibilities are.

This coming April, I will turn 69 and something that hit me recently when I was helping my son-in-law with a major construction project was a statement made by another daughter about her concern for her almost 70 year old father crawling around on scaffolding and maybe getting injured! Me, almost 70 years old? Yep, nothing like looking into the mirror through the eyes of another for a little bit of reality to set in! However, I may be getting near that next decade of live, God willing, but each of us face different milestone that should cause us to pause and make a reassessment. Sure that sounds like resolutions but I think it goes just a bit deeper. I keep coming back to something we all heard at our first degree, "I promise on my honor as a Catholic gentleman...." These are sobering words and ones we need to take stock of at least once a year or even more often. Are we living up to that definition? What could be more important for us to achieve as husbands, fathers, grandfathers and family members than how we exemplify that definition? To err, fail, is indeed human but the yardstick by which we measure our progress is what is most important.

I would like to suggest we all take a bit more time to evaluate our status before our Lord and Savior and think about living our faith more fully, showing the example of what it means to be a Catholic Gentlemen more clearly and setting a bit of time for quiet reflection, Eucharistic Adoration, a retreat and attendance at a few extra church services this coming year.

Our Council is working hard to make those opportunities available to our members. Keep an eye on our Web Site www.kofc3633.org for events, watch the newsletter and the parish bulletins (yes we will get announcements into the respective bulletins better this coming year-I promise) and of course, my ever incessant email blasts!

God bless each of you and your families. *GK Joe Bondi*

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COUNCIL CALENDAR

<i>Business Meetings</i>	<i>Officers meetings</i>	<i>Other meetings</i>
Sunday- Jan 11th at 7:30 PM	Wednesday- Jan. 28th at 7:30 PM	Membership Drive at St. Eleanor- Feb. 7/8
Sunday- Feb. 9th at 7:30 PM	Wednesday- Feb. 25th at 7:30 PM	March for Life in DC- January 22 (Call Dave Russo 610-650-0876 for bus reservations)
		Informal Communion Breakfast with Fr. Brandt February 21. Check Web Site for details- www.kofc3633.org

Exemplification Schedule

Wednesday, January 14, at St. Peter Council #10351, 2835 Manor Rd., West Brandywine, PA 19320. **1st degree at 7:00 PM degree at 7:30 PM**

Sunday, January 25th, at Rev. William Fenerty Council # 7208, held at St. Joseph Parish Center, 340 Manor Avenue (Rt. 322), Downingtown, **1st and 2nd Degree - Candidates at 7:00 PM, Degree at 7:30 PM**, 2nd Degree will start immediately after 1st Degree.

Sunday, March 1st, at Msgr. Schuyler Council # 1333, 110 W. Market Street, West Chester, Pa, – **3rd Degree - Candidates should arrive no sooner than 12:15 PM and no later than 12:30 PM**, Degree at 1:00 PM,

Field Agent's Message:



William G. Bushéy, Sr. FICF, CSA
P.O. Box 81 Frederick, PA. 19435
610-754-0888
bbkofc@dejazzd.com
Insurance calculator
<http://www.kofc.org/un/insurance/index.cfm>

Who Wins When Knights Stand United in Brotherhood With Clarity of Purpose?

“...to provide pecuniary assistance to its members and their families.”

Taken from the original charter, these few words summarize the very essence of Fr. Michael J. McGivney's vision of the divine purpose for the Knights. Could he have imagined this kind of success? My guess is – you bet!

In 2008, the Knights of Columbus accomplished what precious few other Insurance Companies and Financial Service Companies failed to do. We grew! With the 73,114 life apps issued in 08, we topped \$70 billion of insurance in-force; we increased the insurance in-force in one year to \$6.673 billion dollars. The Knights of Columbus Annuity business is “off the charts.”

These numbers demonstrate that men who are prudently directed by a moral compass rather than quarterly or even year-end profits will succeed where the country's biggest and brightest will not. The Knight's purpose is to serve its members, not anonymous shareholders; a purpose we have never lost sight of. ‘Ours is program designed by brother Knights for the exclusive use of Knights and their families,’ is not an empty slogan. It is, rather, the watchwords of our existence. We put your interests first, and because we earn an excellent return by relying on the highest-quality investments, we are able to provide you with a rock solid foundation for building your financial future and for protecting your family. This is our commitment to you!

We all have a million excuses of why it is not the right time to talk with a Knight of Columbus agent, but I have 70 billion reasons why you should. I congratulate all of our insured members for having the reasoned foresight to take advantage of one the country's preeminent insurance program – one that pays. For all others we stand ready to help! So who wins when Knights stand united in brotherhood with clarity of purpose? The answer of course, is you, my brother Knights.

With confidence, courage, conviction and fortitude we prudently prepare for an even greater future as we live out the vision of our founder.

Fraternally, *Bill Bushéy*



COUNCIL NEWS



Council Dues:

You will soon be receiving dues invoices from FS Dan Pennetti for 2009. When you get the bill, please pay it right away while it's fresh in your mind. Also, if you are a 4th Degree, don't forget that your Assembly dues are something separate from our council and should still be paid promptly. Thanks for your consideration. Please help us avoid the expense and time of second notices!

Christmas Dinner Get together:

30 members and spouses enjoyed a most pleasant evening on December 15 at Brother Rob Fanaro's restaurant (partner with brother Rick) Mama Velia's for a most enjoyable table of hors' de oeuvres, salad and an Italian entrée of their choice. Something clearly we will do again from the response and thank you Rick and Rob for making a special effort to make it an enjoyable night for us all.

Special Church Services:

Brother Charles Sauermelch organized a number of prayer services at St Eleanor and although attendance was spotty, it culminated with a beautiful evening honoring our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12 at St. Eleanor. These are designed not only to provide a time of prayer for Knights and their families, but also to demonstrate to the parishioners that the Knights of Columbus represent something more than selling COAL tickets, Christ in Christmas signs or Crab Cakes. We want to emphasize that faith is first. Please look for upcoming events and celebrate with us. It is most edifying when we can look out of the group and see a brother knight with his children all with rosary in hand praying with us. Very special and very much what we are meant to be! We will be planning events in 2009 at St. Mary and Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. Watch the web site www.kofc3633.org

Rose for Life Drive:

We had a spectacular success with the Rose for Life campaign this year and were able to turn over the Valley Forge Chapter over \$5000. This was a great effort by all at each of the parishes and we can be very proud of what we accomplished.

**Happy
New Year**

Memorial Mass and Communion Breakfast:

Although reported earlier, we would be remiss if we did not mention the very beautiful mass held at Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, the attendance of the Color Corps, the presentation to Sr. Noreen of the Missionaries of Charity and the communion breakfast at St. Mary's hall that followed.

Books for the RICA candidates at St. Eleanor:

The Council delivered 30 sets of the booklets from Supreme: What do Catholics Believe to Ray Hritz who is heading the RCIA program at St. Eleanor. These booklets will supplement the instructional information each candidate receives and hopefully be an ongoing reminder of the generosity and concern of the Knights of Columbus in their Catholic formation.

Work detail at the Missionaries of Charity in Norristown:

Thanks to at least four of our members (Dave Gullick, PGK Reggie Hill, Tom Kinney and Pete DiPetro, a lot of painting and renovations have been taking place at the convent and home on DeKalb Pike for the sisters. There is still plenty to do, as the Sisters get ready to celebrate 25 years of service at that site in May. Please step up and talk to Dave to see how you can help.

Speaking of work details- we would be remiss not to acknowledge the work going on at the Council Home to renovate the lower level. Partitions have been erected, doors installed, closets built, electrical work completed and drop ceiling going in soon. This

space will help us have additional social space and space to facilitate a First Degree Exemplification at the Home. Thanks PGKs Ed Kaeser, Reggie Hill, Rich Keckley, Dave Gullick and others who have helped with this effort.

Crab Cake Sale:

We want to acknowledge the fine work of Brother Scott Shirley for getting us started with the Capt'n Chucky's Crab sale at St. Eleanor. Scott pulled off the first two sales and is planning for the third in Lent also at St. Eleanor. We heard a LOT of reviews about how good the cakes were and know this is really a winner of a fundraiser. We want to expand this to include St. Mary and BTC but we need your help. What else is new?

Web Site:

We are almost complete! Brother Manuel Pena has us up and running with our own web site at www.kofc3633.org. We have posted a ton of pictures thanks to the efforts of Brother Dan Keefe and there are a few more enhancements to come. We would really appreciate your comments and suggestions and maybe some help with this keeping the site and information current. Please check it frequently as the upcoming events are posted and updated regularly as are meeting dates. Thank you ever so much Manuel!!!!

Membership:

Work has been going on in the background to contact members who no longer wish to be part of the order or who have just lapsed in paying their dues. We hope to have this effort completed shortly after the New Year. Also, we have made some major advancement in formalizing our membership recruitment efforts and will have a presentation available to show during membership drives and to better inform potential new members. Look for details regarding our first membership drive of this fraternal year on Saturday February 7 and Sunday February 8 at St. Eleanor. Anyone wishing to help on this should contact GK Joe Bondi or SK Joe Stephey.

First Degree Team:

It has been many years since our Council had a First Degree Team. We are working towards having a team certified. Books have now been received and we have at least three brothers willing to serve on the team. We need six all together. Are you interested? Contact Dan Keefe (daniel_d_keefe@yahoo.com) or Don Barbuto (Dbarbuto@AOL.com) for details.

Free Throw Championship:

This month we will see the continued effort by Dave McDermott and Jody Shollenberger to handle the Championship at St Eleanor and St. Mary. This has been a very successful event for our Council and we thank Dave and Jody in advance for their efforts. Anyone wishing to lend a hand should contact Dave at RMJMLMDM@aol.com or Jody at jsholl1020@comcast.net

COAL 2008:

The 2008 COAL drive was a successful event and the council earned \$1,414, which is significantly more than we earned last year. This year we did something different as we sold tickets at St. Eleanor and St. Mary Parishes. I would like to thank SK Mathew McCloskey for selling tickets at St. Mary's which made a difference this year. We mailed tickets to 175 council members and only 51 council members sold tickets. I would like to thank the Brothers who sold their tickets but in 2009 we need more council members selling tickets. I would also like to personally thank SK Milton Johnson for his hard work in co-chairing and helping make this COAL drive a successful event. *PGK Reggie Hill*

Golf Outing:

PGKs Bill Kirby and Don Barbuto will be co-chairing the golf outing this year. Date is June 5 at Gilbertsville. We are going to need a lot of help getting hole sponsors and players given the economic situation. Please help and give them a call or drop an email if you can help (kirbyhr@AOL.com or dbarbuto@aol.com)

A Women's Auxiliary?

There have been some discussions recently about how this Council would benefit from a Women's Auxiliary. For all you wives of brother Knights who read this newsletter, if you have some interest in this, please contact joseph.bondi@verizon.net At this moment, there is one women who has been doing some groundbreaking investigations and if others surface, we may have the start of something. Let me know!



Fulton Sheen Assembly Valentine Dance:

Saturday February 14 in the social hall at Immaculate Conception BVM Church in Douglassville / Birdsboro immediately following the 5:15PM Mass. Planned for the dinner menu are crab cakes, stuffed shells, roast beef, appetizers, a free champagne toast, and two drinks (alcoholic or not) per person for free with a cash bar after that. DJ and dancing. Dress code is semi-formal (not tuxes). Tickets are \$25 per person or \$45 per couple and are available in advance only (no tickets at the door).



Spiritual Message By Msgr John Galyo

A Fresh Basket of Time, A Basket of Grace!

The comedian, Henny Youngman, he of the violin and the one-liner, tells about the time he was tossed out of an antique shop. He said, "All I did was walk in and ask what's new?"

Someone once tried to frighten Will Rogers, the cowboy philosopher, by asking him, "If you only had 48 hours to live, how would you spend them?" He replied, "One at a time."

We are handed a fresh basket of time each year - a container of 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes. Everyone gets the same amount whether a person is good or bad, rich or poor, young or old, male or female - the basket holds the same portion for each of us. We are all on equal footing here. By living, we fashion time. We spend time. We kill time. We waste time. If an inmate in prison, we do time. And sometimes we make good use of it. God has given us a generous gift each year. What shall we do with it?

As the New Year lies open before us, there are so many possibilities -more than just the simple resolution we make and break before the next kick-off of the next football game, but a whole new year for us. For some it will be the last year of their life on earth. We believe that God has sanctified all time in His work of creation and re-creation, for making this year, a year of peace in our lives and in our homes - for becoming a people of compassion and integrity - for centering our lives in the things of God, for becoming the people God wants us to be.

To enable us to do this we pray:

"Father, you gave the human race eternal salvation through the motherhood of the Virgin Mary. May we experience the help of her prayers in our lives, for through her, we received the very source of life, your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ."

I wish you a blessed New Year! May Our Lord and Our Lady give you at this time and for always, their peace in your soul, their presence in your heart, their power in your life, and may the best day of 2008 be your worst day in 2009!

Msgr. John Galyo

Editor's Note: Msgr. Galyo, our local Henny Youngman of the clergy, was the first recipient of our Lux Mundi Award. We are very happy that Monsignor is back at St. Eleanor's after a brief hiatus and we very much appreciate his contribution to the newsletter. Deacon Jim Burns is talking a break this issue.

Parish News

St. Eleanor: (Parish Rep. Charles Sauermelch):

Jan 22 March for Life in Wash. DC

January 24th after the 5:15 Mass, Volunteer Appreciation Dinner/Dance

St. Mary: (Parish Rep. PGK Matt McCloskey):

A big thanks to all of you who supported the St. Mary Blood drive on December 26. The total accepted donations amounted to 76 pints of blood which was the most successful in recent years - last year at the same time it was 54 pints. The school cafe provided a bright and comfortable setting for donors and Red Cross employees. We will do this again in June. Congratulations!!

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta: (Parish Representative- PGK Sam Augustine): Upcoming communion breakfast with Fr. Brandt on Feb 21. See web site for details.



January Birthdays:

Angelo Butera, Rev. John T. Coates, Ray Crouse, Adam Cusatis, Ron Doroba, PGK Bill Fries, Kevin Gallagher, Kevin Gillespie, Rev. Francis Kelly, PGK Bill Kirby, Dennis Krause, Michael Krause, Tom Lukens, Tom Neafcy, Larry Pennypacker, Anthony Rhuberg, Paul Roy, Giuseppe Scillia, Dan Signore

February Birthdays:

George Adamson, Frank Bosco, Joe Cahill, David Chiazza, Kevin Chiazza, John Decarr, Joe Kavacky, Daniel Keefe, Phil Kirby, Steve Muntzenberger, Dan Pennetti, John Skilton, Joe Stephey, Kevin Strnad

January & February K of C Anniversaries:

Rev John T Coates – 60 years
Tom Scott – 10 years
Richard Berardi, Steve Bette, Ken Butler, Brian Cahill, Alex Charyna, Dom DiGuglielmo, Bob Donaghy, Steve Drehobl, Bob Drobile, Bob Lecher, Dave McDermott, Paul Schiele, Jay Amore, Bill Zerillo

Thank you for your service, Gentlemen!

Prayer Needs

Seminarians & Clergy: Rev. Mr. Jeff Rott, PGK Brother Charlie Schreiner

Deceased: Sylvia Bondi, William Pumillia

Sick: Ed Clinton, Karen DeGennaro, Marion Kendall, Mary Anne Petitto, Dominic Pennetti, Rosina Pennetti, Diane Pennetti, Joann Galiato, Peg Mason, Pete and Tanya Kaeser, Rose Kaeser, Ed Pires, Bob Donaghy, Sr., Karen DeGennaro, Lisa Dougherty, William Turner, Dawn and Dennis Alston, Shelia Davis, Clarence Dalpra,, Norma Drye, Lloyd Williams, Eloise Brown, Mr & Mrs Campolongo, Lester Turner, Carolyn Rye, Joan Reid, Jim Fenerty, Donna Gullick, Ralph Grande, Barbara Tulio, Msgr. Galyo, Reid Family, Robinson Family, Eloise Brown

Deceased: Jerry Donaghy, Richard Robinson, Sylvia Bondi, William Pumillia

Special Needs: Pope Benedict XVI, Peace in the World, Our Elected Officials, Our Pastors, Priests and Parochial Vicars, the Hungry and Homeless, those suffering depression

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