

Knights of Columbus



Perkiomen Valley Council #3633

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

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



Volume 10

May - June 2009

No. 3

Grand Knight's Message

The Lord is Risen, He indeed is Risen! He is the cause of our joy and our reason for hope.

How can I begin this letter without first saying a prayer of thanksgiving to Our Lord for giving us a new priest in the person of our own, third degree brother Knight Fr. Jeffrey Rott. Ordination will take place at the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia on Saturday, May 16 at 10:00 AM. Due to this being a ticketed event, admission will be limited. However, we are just so proud and know that Jeff is going to be a fine and devoted priest. For those that heard him speak at our Communion Breakfast in October, you know he is gifted and will bring inspiration to those he serves. Please look inside for more details about his life.

As our First Degree Team continues to rehearse and work towards certification (which may happen by the time you read this), I am reminded of the lesson of the First Degree and watchword of our Order—Charity. Charity is the foundation of all we do but to paraphrase a bit from James' Letter 3:18, Faith without Works is dead. The converse is also true since unless one has a faith to drive them to do good, the practice of charity is very difficult. What motivation does one have to be kind and generous if it is not built on belief that all are brothers and sisters and the Lord requires us to practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy? "Our compass must always point to Charity" and so we work to raise the funds to allow us to do charitable works. *Continued on page 2*

CONGRATULATIONS FATHER JEFF ROTT !!!



Fr. Jeffery Rott: Jeff will be ordained on May 16th at the Cathedral and will celebrate his first mass on May 17 at 3 PM (for family but Knights are invited) and again on May 31st at the 10:30 mass at St. Eleanor. All are invited and a reception in Campion Hall will follow. God Bless you Father Rott, and you can always count on your Brothers!

COUNCIL CALENDAR

GRAND KNIGHT:

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Please check the Council Web Site for up-to-date information www.kofc3633.org

<i>Business Meetings</i>	<i>Officers meetings</i>	<i>Other Events</i>
Sunday- May 17th at 7:00 PM Note date change due to Mother's Day Check Web site regarding first degree or rosary at 6:30 PM	Wednesday- May 27th at 7:00 PM	Saturday, May 9 th : 9AM mass at St Mary and breakfast following with Fr. McElroy
Sunday- June 14th at 7:00 PM- Rosary begins at 6:30 PM	Wednesday- June 24th at 7:00 PM	Friday, June 5 th : Council Golf Outing

Grand Knight's Message continued:

However, let us not fall into the habit of just determining where we can spend those hard earned dollars. In many ways, it is quite easy to come to a business meeting and approve \$300 for this charity or \$150 for an ad for the program book for that charity. True, we must do those things but we must also become personally involved with acts of charity. Our Council provides so many opportunities to have 'hands-on' projects (ARC, Rose for Life, Volunteerism at the Missionaries of Charity, Blood Drives) but the number of brothers helping is not a large percentage of our membership. As I write this, the official count of members is 175. It is a fact that only 135 of those members can be assigned to the three primary parishes we serve. Of those, at least 30 are over the age of 70. Interestingly, however, is that more than a couple in this age group continue to be very active members and quite visible at Council projects. The unfortunate part of these statistics is that a reasonable percentage of those under the age of 40 are not involved in Council projects at all or not more than one per year. I am fascinated by the demographics of our Council and hope that in the next issue of the newsletter to get back to a project I began before I became Grand Knight, and that is to present a clearer breakdown of our membership. Numbers are only one part of who we are.

At the outset of my term, I set forth a list of goals that I hoped to accomplish in the two years I would serve as your Grand Knight. As I come upon the end of the first year at the end of June, I look at the four principal areas I enumerated, Communication, Membership, Church and Fraternalism. Progress has been made in all four areas to some extent and I will present a state of those goals in the July newsletter. However, as I review these I see that still much needs to be done. One area of immediate concern is the survey many of you responded to either by email or hard copy back in June. We have been lax in communicating those results effectively and presenting to the entire membership the thoughts of those who took the time to answer our questions. This will happen in July, I promise.

As for now, let me close by saying that I continue to be excited by the spirit and dedication of those who are serving as officers and chairing various events. You provide the incentive to me to continue to push our sights higher. Keep up the good work and keep your sights on ways to grow in your faith and find new ways to practice charity. ***GK Joe Bondi***

Special Prayer Request: Please continue to keep Matt Kirby, youngest son of PGK Bill and Saunie in your prayers as he battles Leukemia. He still has not secured a suitable bone marrow donor.

Welcome New Members

New Knights-Congratulations to three new brother Knights who took their first and second degrees at Rev. Wm Fenerty Council in Downingtown on March 22, 2009. We look forward to your involvement in council activities. All three new members attended the April 5 business meeting and were greeted by their brother knights. **Ben Boldin - St. Eleanor, Louis Gentner - St. Mary, Pat Donaghy - St. Mary.** Transfers: **SK. Ed Hinson, SK. William Conaway, SK. John Bucksar, SK Joseph Jay Amore**

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>

A True Story...

In the March '07 issue of the Columbia magazine, a letter was published. You may have read it. It was a letter to the Supreme Knight written by a brother Knight's wife-a woman who unexpectedly became a young widow. And even though, like anyone whose job involves life insurance products, I'm well acquainted with the aftermath of a loved one's loss, this letter makes me pause and reflect. This brother's widow described her agent's obvious devotion to protecting his brother Knights' families from financial hardship. He treated his job like a ministry, she said, not a sales position.

"We weren't easy to persuade about the need for life insurance," the widow wrote. "Never willing to give up, our agent worked to show us that we had a need, and he was able to help us understand the value of being protected with life insurance."

It wasn't only the financial benefit the widow wanted to Supreme Knight to know about: She wanted them to know how her Knights of Columbus agent was there to personally support her family, to answer questions, and to offer genuine compassion.

I think about this widow's letter from time to time. It inspires me to make sure my fellow Knights and their families take the time to understand their financial risks. I never want to see a brother Knight's family in distress because I didn't do everything I could to help them see an unfulfilled need.

I wouldn't share this story with you as a scare tactic. That's not how we do business. I just want you to understand how this widow's effort-in her time of grief-to thank our agent and our Order had fortified my commitment to be there for you and your family.

It is my privilege to represent the life insurance, long-term care insurance, and annuities offered by the Order. You won't find any finer protection products on the market-and you won't find anyone more dedicated to you needs. Thank you for allowing me to serve you and your family-please let me know how I can help.

Fraternally, *Bill Bushéy*



COUNCIL NEWS



**8th Annual
Council Golf Outing
Friday June 5th**

Our 8th Annual Golf Outing is only a month away! If you *HATE* an awesome day away from work playing golf with friends, cold beer, mouthwatering steaks, and fantastic prizes, *then DON'T COME to our Golf Outing!* We have patrons who play in a lot of golf outings and they come back to ours year-after-year. Why? Because they say ours is **THE BEST!** This is the Council's primary fundraiser and so it's in everyone's interest for us to be successful. We still have room for golfers, but respond now. So if you don't want to have a great time, don't come...we warned you! Contact PGK Bill Kirby at (610) 754-9151 or Don Barbuto (610) 983-3262.

Council Meetings: All meetings will now officially begin at 7:00 PM. Business meetings will be preceded by the rosary beginning at 6:30 PM for those who wish to attend. It was decided at the meeting in April that we should begin recitation of the rosary each month but make it optional. Please check our web site www.kofc3633.org to see exactly what is happening at the May 17 meeting since we are hoping to conduct our first First Degree Exemplification. If that takes place, we will need to forego the rosary at this meeting.

First Degree Team:

Our first degree team led by SK Dan Keefe is moving towards certification and the goal is to be able to conduct our own first degree in May. The team is working hard and other members include: SK Don Barbuto, SK Joe Stephey, Scott Shirley, SK Bill Bushey and SK Jay Amore.

Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC) 2009 Drive:

Milt Johnson turned in \$764.67 from the ACME collection in Limerick. This was our first attempt at the new ACME site and all things considered, this was a very good result. Milt echoes the comments of Bob Scuibba: "I would like to thank everyone who gave time and/or money to this year's ARC Drive at Landis. The team collected \$1165 this year. That just exceeded last year's collection. That would not have been possible without the help of many brothers who together, covered 38 hours outside of the market. Many worked multiple hours. I would like to thank them for their all of their help". Next collection at Redner Markets, Wednesday May 13- 15 5 PM- 9 PM and Saturday 9 AM to 5 PM. Dave Gullick still has some open spots to fill (610)584-5572

Mother's Day Roses at St. Eleanor's:

John Giorgis: "We need you for 15 or 20 minutes after a Mass at St. Eleanor's where you'll get to bring smiles to Mom's faces as a lot of happy and loving children donate a dollar for a carnation (or more!) Or \$2.00 for a lovely red rose (or more!) to give to their Mom on her special day! Since you are surely going to mass next weekend - why not help out?" Please contact John at jj.gmanverizon.net

Scholarship Fund:

The George Craig Memorial Scholarship fund was set up many years ago to help provide scholarship money to children of Knights of the Perkiomen Council to help defray tuition costs to Catholic education institutions and Catholic Home Schooling programs. The money awarded comes from interest and dividends earned on a group of investments held in the name of the Council by the Home Association. Provided a Knight submits an application for consideration by April of each year and has met the criteria of actively participating in Council meetings and programs, his children will be eligible for an equal portion of the total interest received. Interest accrued for the 2008-2009 period amounted to \$1061. Four brother Knights submitted applications and a total of 7 children will receive \$151.67 each toward their fall tuition bills.

Mothers Day Dinner:

Members and their spouses gathered at the Limerick Diner on May 4 to share fellowship and a dinner. Thirty eight in all attended a dinner followed by an inspirational talk by Sr. Christen Shukwit, OSF. Sister is Director of Bernadine Franciscan Spirituality and Conference Center at Alvernia College. Sister spoke about "Finding God in everyday life". Thank you Sister for your practical words of wisdom and for Louise Coco, wife of brother Joe Coco for bringing Sister to us.



*Happy Mother's Day to all of our Moms, both
living and those in Heaven!*

Council Website – New Features!

Please check-out our website for the latest information on Council happenings www.kofc3633.org

Council Picnic:

We do not have a date yet but keep an eye open. The Kirby's have graciously offered to host the picnic at their farm again this year. For those who have attended the picnic there in the past, know what a fun time it is. Bring the kids of course as the pool is a favorite area of play. Visits to the alpacas are of course another highlight. Thanks Bill and Saunie.

St. Eleanor Faire:

Our Council will again run the funnel cake booth June 10, 11 and 12. We need 8-10 men (wives welcomed) each night divided into 2 shifts of 2 hours each. Contact Dave Gullick at (610) 584 5572 to volunteer. For those who have helped at the booth in years past, it is truly a night of a lot of fun and fellowship with brother Knights. Come on; get some grease on those hands! (Aprons provided!)

Membership Drives:

Thanks to all who helped with the two membership drives at St Eleanor February and Blessed Teresa of Calcutta respectively. The Admissions Committee has been busy following up with potential candidates. A total of 15 names were obtained at St. Eleanor and 8 at BTC. We are encouraged by the interest in our Order and look forward to greeting new members in the months to come.

Service Anniversaries:

We want to make special mention of several members who have achieved milestones in the Order. Congratulations to each member below and we thank them for their many years of dedicated service to Columbianism.

1. **SK James L. Boswell: 60 years - April 1, 2009** - It is appropriate that we salute Jim for his many years of service. Jim is actually one of the Charter Members of the Council (March 29, 1953) but joined the Knights at the Phoenixville Council in 1949. Jim is best known for his nursery business having raised and planted trees and ornamental shrubs in the Collegetown/Worchester/Skipack areas for many years, actually since 1948. Jim was born on Glenwood Avenue in Collegetown, actually across the street from where your present GK now lives! However, what many do not know is that Jim holds a BS degree from Ursinus College and an MS from the University of Illinois in Math and Physics. He taught at Villanova University for a time until his desire to do a more physical type work lead him to assume his father's Christmas Tree Farm business in Skipack. His father was head of the Economics Department at Ursinus College and bought the farm

in 1939. Jim is a self-taught horticulturist and learned his trade well. He married Dorrie in 1952 and they have three children. He is an active Rotarian as well as a 4th degree Honorary Life Knight. Over the years, Jim served as treasurer for many terms, a two term DGK, Inside Guard and a Trustee. He worked many years on the PARC (now ARC) drive and continues to be active in meetings, always having something of value to add to any discussion. He continues to be interested in economics and is an avid stamp collector, having at least 3000 different US stamps in his collection. We salute you Jim for your many years of service and your fine example of Knighthood to our Council. May God grant you many more years.



2. **SK Robert Rau: 50 years** - Robert Rau became a 50 year Honorary Life Member on April 15, 2009. He joined the Knights at the John Flaherty Council in Glenside in 1959. Bob is married to Alice and they have four children, three daughters and a son. Bob founded the BBL Pipe Co. in Kulpville in 1971. About 30 years ago they moved into St. Mary's parish and transferred into Perkiomen Valley Council. Bob was active in the Special Olympics and was a cross country ski coach. He worked on a variety of Council projects, working closely with PGK Joe McMahon (Deceased) on the Communion Breakfast and other projects. He is now a member of St. Maria Goretti Parish in Hatfield since he and Alice moved to Dock Woods Retirement Community in Kulpville. Due to his failing health and battle with Parkinson's disease, he now resides at Dock Terrace.
3. **George Finnin: 50 years Honorary Life** - George first joined the Knights at the prompting of his father, a life-long Knight back in Hollidaysburg, PA. He took all his degrees in Hollidaysburg and later attended Penn State earning his degree in EE. Later, he moved to NJ and then to PA after marrying Eileen. They have three children, two girls and a son. After 30 years of paying dues to the Hollidaysburg council, George transferred to the Perkiomen Valley Council. He has been active with the ARC collections, teaches Marriage Prep and is active with the Natural Family Planning group. George enjoys the Columbia Magazine and works as a volunteer at the Missionaries of Charity weekly and is responsible for bringing our volunteer efforts to help at the facility with the recent painting and renovations in preparation for their 25th anniversary this year.
4. **Richard Keckley: -Honorary Life Status-** Rich, a dedicated and 42 year member of our Council achieved Honorary Life Membership status in March. Rich has been a very active member of the Council participating in many aspects of our work. In 1968 when the Council purchased the present facility, Rich worked many hours with the renovations doing much of the electrical work to transform the building into two apartments and the Council chambers. He returned to very active status a few years ago after retiring to embark on additional renovations to transform the lower level to an activities room. He has had help from several brother Knights but his electrical expertise helped transform this space into something quite comfortable and usable. Rich is married to Laura and they have three daughters.



Spiritual Message Why Go to Church?

A Churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all." This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the

entire menu for a single one of those meals, but I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" When you are DOWN to nothing... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

Parish News

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

We have been asked to help with the June 25, 26 blood drive at St. Eleanor's this year. Although overall coordination will be provided by Larry DiPiano, the Knights have been asked to assist with making phone calls to prospective donors. There is a list of 100 names so the more who help, the better. Please contact Joe Bondi at (610) 489 6394 if you can offer a hand (or telephone!). We will begin making calls early June. Don't forget the Funnel Cake booth also. See above.

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

Fr. McElroy will celebrate the 9 AM mass on Saturday May 9. We will join him for breakfast at a local restaurant. Please join us for these important get-togethers so Fr. can get to know more of our council members.

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta: (Parish Representative- PGK Sam Augustine):

On Sat May 16th, Blessed Teresa will host a blood drive and Sam needs some Knights to help. It only involves making some phone calls and putting-out some posters. The drive will be held from 8am-12 am at the school. They had a successful drive last year with 45 donors.

May Birthdays:

PGK Sam Augustine, Don Cahill, Jim Durrell, Father Furey, Francis Grant, Jim Hall, Tom Kinney, Dan Monkiewicz, Frank Nied, Bob Sciubba, Al Torcini

June Birthdays:

Paul Brady, Joe Coco, James Coy, Harry Ench, Dave Gullick, Jim Hayes, Pete Kaeser, Chuck Kane (Happy 70th!), Todd Marinelli, Nick Mongiello, George Pinchock, Deacon (soon to be Father) Jeff Rott, PGK John Warner, Bob Wetzel

K of C Perkiomen Council #3633

P.O. Box 116

Schwenksville, PA 19473

May & June K of C Anniversaries:

Bob Lecher, Robert Rorabaugh, Al Torcini – **5 years**
 Bill Bushey, Clinton Lacy – **15 years**
 Tim Cahill, Michael Duvinski – **25 years**
 Henry DiPietro – **35 years**
 Joe Kavacky – **55 years**

Thank you for your service, Gentlemen!

Prayer Needs

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

Deceased: Mary Chieffo, Jacqueline Naomi Burgess, Frederick Nichols, Donald Nauta, Salvatore Barbuto, Frank Whalen, Richard Matthews, John Weiss

Sick: Mary Anne Petitto, Marcia Capaldi, Matt Kirby, Barbara Tullio, Barbara Hritz, Sandy Musson, Helen Torres, Robert Donaghy, Sr., Don Lynch, Peg Mason, Pete Kaeser, Tanya Kaeser, Lisa Dougherty, William Turner, Dawn and Dennis Alston, Norma Dye, Lloyd Williams, Eloise Brown, Mr. & Mrs. Campolongo, Lester Turner, Carolyn Rye, Jean Messa, Mary Schmidt, Helen Barrett, Marcia Eustus, Ed Pires, Larry Pennypacker, PGK Pat Cahill

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. **Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands Protect them as they protect us Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Of all the gifts you could give a Marine, Soldier, Sailor, Airman, & others deployed in harm's way, prayer is the very best one.**