

# Knights of Columbus

## Perkiomen Valley Council #3633

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

Located @ 526 Main Street, Schwenksville, PA 19473

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**OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER**



Volume 10

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No. 6

### Grand Knight's Message

Let me share with you all a trip Rose and I took in September. We had been wanting to visit the coastline of Maine for a longtime and finally got around to doing it. We broke the trip into three segments to minimize the long drive so we started out with the first stop to Stockbridge, MA to the Divine Mercy Shrine.



Being able to stay on the grounds in the guest house was a special treat as was the shrine itself. The peacefulness of the plateau above the small town of Stockbridge was awesome. Highly recommend this to everyone. Stockbridge is a bit isolated; town very small and also boasts the museum to Norman Rockwell which is another wonderful place to visit. We did get to Boothbay Harbor, ME and spent several delightful days at harbor edge in a motel there. This is in the heart of lobster fishing and many opportunities for fresh steamed lobster were around.

*Continued on page 2*

### Seasons Greetings

*From the Officers of  
Perkiomen Valley Council  
#3633*



*Happy Thanksgiving*



*And have a  
Blessed Christmas Season!*

#### **GRAND KNIGHT:**

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## COUNCIL CALENDAR

Please check the Council Web Site for up-to-date information [www.kofc3633.org](http://www.kofc3633.org)

<i>Business Meetings</i>	<i>Officers meetings</i>	<i>Other Events</i>
Sunday- Nov 8 <sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM	Wednesday- Nov 18 <sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM- <b>note date change</b>	
Sunday- Dec 13 <sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM	Wednesday- Dec 23 <sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM	<b>Priest &amp; Volunteer Appreciation Dinner</b> Thursday- Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM
		<b>Our Lady of Guadalupe Devotion</b> St. Eleanor-Thursday December 10, 7:30 PM in Church—lead by the Knights

### Exemplification Schedule

Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, Father Bally Council #1192 will host a **1st Degree Exemplification** at the Father Bally Council home, 675 Constitution Avenue, Stowe, PA 19464-3601. **Candidates no later than 10:00AM, Degree will start promptly at 10:30 AM.**

Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, De LaSalle Council #590, 18 Baltimore Pike, Springfield, PA , **3rd Degree – Candidates should arrive no sooner than 12:15 PM and no later than 12:30 PM, Degree at 1:00 PM.**

Sunday, December 6th at James A. Flaherty, Council # 3128, 235 Limekiln Pike, Glenside, PA, **3<sup>rd</sup> Degree – Candidates should arrive no sooner than 12:15 PM and no later than 12:30 PM, Degree at 1:00 PM.**

### Membership:

**Welcome:** Kevin Bustard who made his first degree on October 11

**Honorary Life Membership:** Marc Rodrigue

**Honorary membership:** Dom DiGuglielmo, Daniel Signore, Joseph Cahill.

**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.



## COUNCIL NEWS



### 2009 Memorial Mass & Breakfast:

We had a great turnout this year for the mass and breakfast at St Eleanor's. Many attended the 9 AM and the breakfast was attended by about 120 individuals. We had over 35 guests including the essay contest winners and the Kurtz Family who received the Lux Mundi Award. John and Donna Kurtz are an amazing couple who live in East Fallowfield, PA where they raise their 20 adopted children in a Christ centered home. They depend totally on contributions to live and home school all their children. One of the boys recently entered St. Charles Seminary to study for the priesthood. You are urged to go to their web site to learn more about their ministry and hopefully feel led to support them. Go to



[www.stjoseph.com](http://www.stjoseph.com) to learn about their home, children, philosophy and St. Philomena academy which they run under a national home school program and currently have 122 students enrolled. All teachers are volunteers.

For these many reasons, they were selected by the Council to receive the Lux Mundi award for their witness to Jesus Christ to the world. It was an honor and privilege to meet these two unique individuals. Thank you to the many at the breakfast who placed donations in the donation box at the door.

**Knight of the Year-SK Daniel Keefe**

Every year, the Grand Knight is able to select a member of the council who exemplifies the principals of Knighthood. He joined our council in 2007 and immediately became actively involved in many of the activities we were discussing. He did not lack for suggestions nor was reticent to volunteer his time and talents to help. He had many valuable discussions about our membership efforts and participated in a number of meetings as we struggled to set clear guidelines as to how we would both recruit and retain members. He has been active in our efforts to strengthen our membership recruitment efforts by designing a slide presentation for use at information events. He was very actively involved in the design of our web site and I have found him always willing to volunteer on any project when there is a need. This man has only been a Knight since 2005 and took his first three degrees within a four month span. He is a fourth degree Knight and was Deputy Grand Knight of his Council at the time he moved here from Chesterfield Virginia. He most recently spearheaded the formation of a first degree team for our Council, the first in over 25 years.. He has been married for 13 years to Sharon and the father of three children: Lauren, Cameron and William

**Pro Life Essay Contest Winners**

We are indeed fortunate that for 26 years, SK Pat Cahill has spearheaded the annual Pro Life essay contest and brings the winners to the Communion Breakfast. This year was no exception and the three winners and their family were present to be acknowledged and have the First Place Winner (\$200 bond), Jacqueline Smith from St. Philip Neri in Lansdale read her winning essay. Jackie is the second in her family to have achieved this award. The topic of this year's essay was- "The Freedom of Choice Act: What is it? Who will it affect? What should we do about it?" Jackie's composition was extremely well written and we will post a copy of it on our Web Site. Other winners were: 2<sup>nd</sup> place (\$100 bond), Rosemary McCree, St Stanislaus, Lansdale, 3<sup>rd</sup> place ties (\$75 bond) Leah Williams, St Philip Neri and Liam Slavin, St Stanislaus, Lansdale. Thanks Pat, another job well done!

**Rose for life:** Due to the great efforts of so many of you, including the chairmanship of Matt McCloskey at St. Mary's; Jim Crawford and Sam Augustine at Blessed Teresa of Calcutta and Joe Bondi at St. Eleanor, we collected just a bit over \$6400 from the three parishes; \$2,225.00 from BTC; \$2039 from St. Mary's and \$2165 from St. Eleanor. At BTC, Jim solicited the help of CCD students and several Knights who are not part of our Council to help. We are very excited by this return and this represents the largest amount ever collected by this Council to support Pro Life activities through the Valley Forge Chapter.

**Keep Christ in Christmas:** We have Christmas Car Magnets and some Lawn signs available for sale. Magnets are \$3 or 2 for \$5. Lawn signs are \$10 each. Please call Dan Keefe at (610) 489 4353 to get yours.

**Priest and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner:**

*Keep this date open- Thursday December 3, 6:00 PM, Moorehead Catering.*

If you have been part of any K of C event this year, you should have received your invitation to a dinner to celebrate all those who serve us and those we serve, Priests, Deacons, brother Knights and spouses. In this year of the Priest, it is only fitting that we honor those priests who give tirelessly to all of us at the three parishes we serve. In that spirit, we have invited all priests and deacons to join us for dinner on December 3. No lengthy speeches or awards ceremonies, just time for enjoying each other over a beer or glass of wine and share dinner. Also, since over the course of the year, many brother Knights volunteer at the many activities we sponsor, we would like to take this opportunity to just meet you outside the "work" setting and enjoy and evening together with our spouses. Cost will be \$19 per person and include pre-dinner libations and snacks followed by a full course buffet and desert. Call Rich Keckley for reservations at (610) 489 6544 or email at [rckeckley@verizon.net](mailto:rckeckley@verizon.net). We hope many of you can make it. If you did not receive an invitation, please forgive our oversight and come anyway!

**Grand Knight's Message continued:**



The trip home was through New Haven. I had wanted to visit the Knights of Columbus Museum for some time and this was the perfect opportunity. Since we planned the visit for a Saturday, things were quiet and we had a chance to first visit old St. Mary's church and the tomb of Venerable Fr. Michael McGivney and pray at the church. I made a special point of saying a Rosary for all my brother knights during that visit in the church. The tomb is not as well displayed as I would have thought but the church was dark given only a baptism was taking place at one side up front. You can hopefully make out the inscription on the end of the granite tomb, but given the reduced size here, it reads: "Rev. Michael J. McGivney, August 12, 1852-August 14, 1890. The Founder of the Knights of Columbus, 3/29/1882. Priest St. Mary's Church 1877-1884.

We left for the museum which is only blocks away from the church and were treated to a very spacious and well organized museum. Entrance and parking are free. The museum is only a few blocks away from the Supreme Office Building. Of course, much of the memorabilia on display recounts the early days of the Knights and their role in shaping the culture of the times. There were some wonderful old photos of past Supreme Knights with the various popes, sculptures, paintings and documents. We easily spent 2 hours at the museum going through the well arranged galleries. I highly recommend this as a trip. Also, I have toyed with the idea of organizing a bus trip but would appreciate knowing what your reaction and interest to this would be.



On another front, and with the inspiration and intent of Fr. McGivney in mind, I was reflecting on the interest and response to calls for volunteering time to the Rose for Life Campaign, the Memorial Mass and Communion Breakfast and other events we try to sponsor. (Recall we had to cancel the Council Picnic this year due to lack of interest and the Bowling Event for families Nov. 7 had to be cancelled as well!) I come back to thoughts I wrote several years ago in my "Cup of Joe" columns and ask the question once again: "Why did you join the Knights?" I fully understand that one cannot participate in all the activities planned by any organization. However, as said before, if every member would choose one or two events per year, we would achieve several things. First, we would get to know each other which I have to confess, with 183 members of our Council, I probably would recognize maybe 40 if I passed you on the street. Secondly, we would be able to achieve a lot more good than we do now. Think about this and take a look inside for a list of upcoming activities and events for the coming year.

*Prosit. GK Joe Bondi*

**Crab Cake Sale-(order on the Web!!!) Our Chairman has set a goal for himself of 1000 cakes this sale—let's make it happen.**



***Knights of Columbus – PREPAID Crab Cake Order Form***

***Contact: Scott Shirley 267-278-1562***

***or scott.shirley@fiserv.com or at www.kofc3633.org***

***Pick up Date: Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> - 5:30-7:30pm***

***Pick-up Location: St. Eleanor's School Lobby***

Please return with your check. Place in box in St. Eleanor Narthex, place in the collection basket or (for non-St Eleanor parishioners) mail to:

Scott Shirley- 335 R Glad Way, Collegeville, PA 19426

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Contact # (prefer cell):</b>	<b>Email Address:</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>Cash or Check#:</b>	
<b># of Crab Cakes: x \$5.00 each = Order Total</b>		

***Crab cakes pre-packaged in boxes of 4, 6 & 12***

***LAST ORDER DUE BY – NOON Thursday 11/19/09***

**St Eleanor and St Mary Blood Drives:**

The next blood drive for the Red Cross is scheduled for December 28 and 29. These dates will be common to both parishes. Volunteers to help with calls for the St. Eleanor drive are needed. Please contact Joe Bondi at (610) 489-6394 if you can help.

**COAL Tickets:**

If you have not returned your COAL tickets yet, please do so before December 4 to Joe Bondi in the self addressed envelop provided. Drawing is December 8 and we must return the stubs by that morning. Remember: only \$7/book and the eighth ticket is yours free!

**Newsletter**

Newsletters are posted on our Web Site each issue. They can be found by clicking the tab marked "NEWSLETTER" under the "Council News" section located under the photo on the home page. In the future, the electronic PDF file will no longer be sent by email but rather a reminder to go to the Web Site to read the letter. Hard copies will still be mailed to those who do not have computer access. We urge members who do use email and the computer to go to the "Members Only" tab right under the masthead and register so you can access the most current membership list and Council documents. Just have your membership number handy when you "register".

**Field Agent's Message:**

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 P.O. Box 81 Frederick, PA. 19435  
 610-754-0888  
[bbkofc@dejazzd.com](mailto:bbkofc@dejazzd.com)  
 Insurance calculator  
<http://www.kofc.org/un/insurance/index.cfm>

**Switching to a Roth Makes Sense Now****Pay Uncle Sam upfront and get tax-free income in retirement.**

By Mary Beth Franklin, Senior Editor

From *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine, September 2009 (abridged)

During his long commutes to work, Mark, a marketing professional from Eugene, Ore., likes to listen to personal-finance books on his iPod. His *aha* moment came when he realized that many of the tax breaks that he and his wife, Sandy, enjoy -- deductions for interest on their mortgage and home-equity loan; deductions for contributions to his 403(b) retirement plan; the \$1,000-a-year federal tax credit for their son, Jacoby, 7; and the state income-tax deduction they get for contributions to Jacoby's 529 college-savings plan -- will disappear when they retire and pay off their mortgage. So even after they stop working and saving, they could still land in a high tax bracket.

And that bracket may be moving higher. As federal and state budget deficits grow, so do concerns that tax rates will rise. That makes moving money from a traditional IRA to a Roth look like a smart strategy. "Roth IRA conversions are the silver lining to the economic crisis," says IRA expert Ed Slott, a CPA in Rockville Centre, N.Y. "These may be the lowest tax rates you'll see for the rest of your life. And with account values down, it's a double sale."

Income limits on Roth IRA conversions disappear in 2010, so anyone can convert to a Roth IRA. Better yet, if you wait until then, you can spread the tax bill over two years, splitting it between your 2011 and 2012 tax returns.

**Let the Knights help you by doing some planning now.**

The biggest benefit to converting is you'll have more control over taxes in retirement, when Roth withdrawals are tax-free. You can withdraw enough taxable income from your traditional retirement accounts to stay in a lower tax bracket and then supplement your income from your Roth IRAs. The Knights have some of the best settlement options\* available, which means you'll receive a higher income from your funds. Also, if you want to leave a legacy to your heirs, a Roth IRA trumps all other accounts. There are no mandatory-distribution requirements, and your beneficiaries can inherit the account tax-free.

You may have heard ads recently stating you can pay nothing or very little in taxes when converting to a ROTH IRA. It's misleading and there's no free lunch, the taxes must still be paid.

\*The Order's settlement options have been shown to be up to 25% or more when compared to other commercial companies.

**Fraternally, *Bill Bushéy***

## Parish News

**St. Eleanor: (Parish Rep. Charles Sauermelech):**  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Prayer Service- Thursday  
December 10 at 7:30 PM. Prayers, rosary to be led  
by the Knights.

**St. Mary: (Parish Rep. PGK Matt McCloskey):**  
Still planning for an evening Rosary. Date TBD.

**Blessed Teresa of Calcutta: (Parish Representative- Jim Crawford)**  
We are planning to lead the Stations of the Cross in Lent  
at BTC. Final date not locked in yet. Other events in  
planning process.



**November Birthdays:**  
Don Barbuto, Deacon Jim Burns, Dan Cahill, Pat Cahill, John Catanzaro, John Duvernois, Sal Fazio, Francis Genuardi, Joe Kostusiak, Clinton Lacy, Glenn Masakowski, Gerard Merschen, Patrick Moore, Mike Powers, Bob Rorabaugh, Bill Ryder, John Surry, John Venezia, Mike Zavrotny, Bill Zerillo

**December Birthdays:**  
Richard Berardi, Steve Bette, Ken Butler, Brian Cahill, Bill Carlin, Alex Charyna, Dom DiGuglielmo, Bob Donaghy,

Steve Drehobl, Bob Drobile, Bob Lecher, Dave McDermott, Jason McLead, Joe Pellizzeri, Paul Schiele

### **November & December K of C Anniversaries:**

John Antosh – 10 years

***Thank you for your service, Gentlemen!***

\*Anniversaries are recognized on the 5-year multiples.

## Prayer Needs

**Seminarians & Clergy:** PGK Brother Charlie Schreiner, Bob Ianelli, Dan Arechabala, SK. Edward Hinson

**Deceased:** George Adamson, Charter member of 3633, Emma Berardi (mother of Richard Berardi)

**Sick:** Matt Kirby, Rose Kaeser, Pete Kaeser, Tanya Kaeser, Peg Mason, Dan Pennetti, Edward Clinton, Josefa Clinton, Greg Fox, David Sauermelech, Ed Pires, Tom Bancia, Bob Donaghy Sr., Matilda Panepinto, Audrey Stephey, Donald Kline, Gary Shirley, Edward Gerlach, Marie Sarsfield, Nina Finaro, Barbary Wynne, Harriette Newell, Sandy McMurtrie, Dawn and Dennis Alston, Eliose Brow, Bob and Alma Jean O'Donnell, Bob Lecher, Young Family, Hill Family, Reid Family and Liberman Family.

**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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**P.O. Box 116**  
**Schwenksville, PA 19473**