

# Knights of Columbus



## Perkiomen Valley Council #3633

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**OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER**



Volume 9

September - October 2008

No. 5

### Grand Knight's Message

I must admit that the first two months of my term have flown by rather quickly. Seems like despite a lot of thought up front, there is a lot to do to 'keep all the balls in the air'. A special thanks to all the officers of the Council and all who agreed to serve as Council Directors and Committee Chairman. Thanks also to PGK Bill Kirby for helping to engage brother Knights to participate as Council Directors. A lot of guidance is available from Supreme Council but the work happens only due to you all coming together to help this Council function and grow.

At the recent 126<sup>th</sup> Supreme Convention, you may have heard or read about the remarks of Carl Anderson Our Supreme Knight regarding the responsibilities of Knights to adhere to the teachings of the Catholic Church. I encourage each of you to take some time and review his comments in the recent issue of Columbia magazine. We cannot take these words lightly either as Knights or as Catholic Gentlemen. I will not go further except to remind all that we stand firm for the sanctity of human life and must work to assure that basic right is not denied any of our citizens.

I want to highlight a few things that are exciting and moving forward. I hope that this will stimulate you to come out and participate. As I said last month, each cannot participate in everything the Council is sponsoring, but if each can do two or three things each year that would be a lot of new faces at our events. First of all, let me thank those who came out for our first quarterly Communion Breakfast Saturday August 9. We had 17 brother Knights join Fr. Sweeney for mass and then breakfast at the Collegeville Diner. A noisy group to be sure but I know Father appreciated the support and showing. Our next informal breakfast is not till November when we are hoping to meet with Fr. Brandt. However, please keep in mind our Memorial Mass for deceased members of this Council and Communion Breakfast. Mass will be at 9 AM at the new Blessed Teresa of Calcutta church and breakfast will follow at St. Mary's auditorium. Look for more details in this newsletter.

Keeping on spiritual related matters, On September 8 we will recite the Rosary at 7:30 PM at St. Eleanor to commemorate the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and on September 25 we will have a holy hour and benediction for Religious Vocations at 7:30 PM also at St. Eleanor. A witness in support of 40 days for life will take place at the Planned Parenthood facility on Rt 29 on September 27 from 9:45 to 10:45 AM.

Renovations are in full swing at the Council Home to transform the lower area of Council Chambers into a social space. Thanks to PGK Ed Kaeser, Rich Keckley and PGK Reggie Hill who are spearheading this effort. Volunteers are needed to help with painting etc. so please let Ed or the others know if you can help. Work is usually ongoing Friday mornings at the home. This is a great initiative on their part and greatly appreciated. Our goal will be to utilize this for our post meeting gatherings as well as looking forward to the day we can conduct our own First Degree Ceremonies.

Volunteerism is alive and well with DGK Dave Gullick and PGK Reggie Hill organizing guys to help the Missionary Sisters of Charity in Norristown with painting and upgrading their facility.

*Continued on page 2*

#### **GRAND KNIGHT:**

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**Council Calendar-**

| <i>Business Meetings</i>  | <i>Officers meetings</i>                |
|---|---|
| <b>Sept. 14- Sunday-7:30 PM</b>   | Wednesday- <b>Sept. 24</b> at 7:30 PM   |
| <b>October 12-</b> Sunday at 7:30 PM<br>(Bring your Rosary- we will recite the rosary for all deceased members and family members during the regular meeting) | Wednesday- <b>October 22</b> at 7:30 PM |

**Exemplification Schedule**

Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, at Rev. William Fenerty Council # 7208, held at St. Joseph Parish Center, 340 Manor Avenue (Rt. 322), Downingtown, Pa, District 19,- **1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree - Candidates at 7:00 PM, Degree at 7:30 PM**

Wednesday, September 17, at St. Charles Borromeo, Council #4279, 1193 Gravel Rd., Bensalem, PA 19020, District 9, - **1<sup>st</sup> Degree - Candidates report at 7:30 PM, Degree will start at 8:00 PM.**

Sunday, October 26th, Light of Christ Council # 8726, held at St. Ignatius School, 2700 St Albans Drive, West Lawn Pa 19609, District 28 – **3rd Degree - Candidates should arrive no sooner than 12:15 PM and no later than 12:30 PM, Degree at 1:00 PM**

**Upcoming Church Activities:**

Chuck Sauermech reports the following upcoming events:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Rosary Nativity of the Blessed Virgin    | Sept 8 7:30 PM St. Eleanor                              |
| Vocations Holy Hour with benediction     | Sept 25 7:30 PM St. Eleanor                             |
| 40 days for life witness                 | Sept 27 9:45-10:45 AM P.Parenthood Collegeville (Rt 29) |
| Pro life holy hour with benediction      | Oct 2 7:30 PM St. Eleanor                               |
| Pro life Sunday witness with parishoners | Oct 3 2-3 PM P.Parenthood Collegeville (Rt 29)          |
| 40 days for life witness                 | Oct 11 9:45-10:45 AM P.Parenthood Collegeville (Rt 29)  |
| Annual communion breakfast               | Oct 12 9 AM Mass / breakfast at St. Mary's              |
| Rosary (Fatima commemoration)            | Oct 13 7:30 PM St. Mary's                               |
| Vocations Holy Hour with benediction     | Oct 30 7:30 PM St. Mary's                               |

**Special Mass with Cardinal Rigali:**

There is a mass at St. Patrick's in Norristown on September 5 at 8:30 AM to honor the birthday of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. The Cardinal is coming to celebrate.

**Grand Knight's Message continued:**

The Sisters, as you know, perform a valuable ministry to the street people and underprivileged in Norristown, serving meals as well as providing shelter for women with children at night. The painting of many of the bedrooms and bathrooms will make the facility friendlier to residents. Thank you for your service. Of course, our priority will be to members and widows of members so if you know of someone in need, please bring them to our attention.

Our picnic was held on August 31 at the Kirby farm. Please see the blurb later in this letter for some further details and photos.

I look forward to reporting on many other initiatives underway in future Newsletters. We are working to develop more social programs for members and families as well as new projects that will be of interest to brother Knights. In the meantime, please let us have your ideas, concerns and yes, even complaints. I need to hear all and you are welcome to contact me by phone or email, both are shown on the front page of this newsletter.

**GK Joe Bondi**

**Field Agent's Message:**

William G. Bush y, Sr. FICF, CSA  
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 610-754-0888  
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 Insurance calculator  
<http://www.kofc.org/un/insurance/index.cfm>

September is Life Insurance Awareness Month. To help educate consumers about the need for and value of adequate life insurance protection, the Life Insurance Market Research Association (LIMRA) has published the following five facts. These statistics are certainly worth considering.

Fact 1: Nearly three-fourths of North Americans agree that life insurance is the best way to protect against premature death of the primary wage earner.

Fact 2: Twenty-four million households have no life insurance protection at all. Almost one third of adults have no life insurance protection.

Fact 3: Forty-four percent of all households either don't own life insurance and believe they should, or own life insurance and believe they need more. Among those that already own some life insurance, 40 percent believe they don't have enough.

Fact 4: One-fourth of primary wage earners feel they do not have a plan in place to provide a decent standard of living for their family if they died tomorrow. Twelve percent of families would immediately have trouble meeting everyday living expenses and another 15 percent would have difficulty keeping up after several months.

Fact 5: People would like to discuss life insurance with a qualified professional agent. They believe that buying life insurance is an important and complex financial decision. Half find it difficult to decide how much to buy, and 43 percent worry about making the wrong decision.

I'd like to meet with you in your home, at your convenience. I'll work with you to make sure your family is protected. As a brother Knight you can trust, I'll take the stress and worry out of the buying decision. I'm at 610-754-0888 Call me – let's talk.

Fraternally, *Bill Bush y*



## ***COUNCIL NEWS***

**2008 Memorial Mass & Breakfast:**

The Annual Memorial Mass and Communion Breakfast will be held on Sun. Oct.12th. The Mass will be at 9:00A.M.at Blessed Teresa of Calcutta (new Neiffer Rd.and Swamp Pike location). We urge all Knights to wear a sportcoat and tie or suit and tie and 4th degree Knights to wear their tux. Seats will be made available in the front pews so we also ask that you arrive early. We definitely want to make our presence felt. The breakfast will be immediately thereafter at the St.Mary's Hall (please take note of this alternate location). The cost of the breakfast will be \$8.50 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 10 years of age. As you are aware if you've come in the past it is an excellent buffet breakfast. Our speaker this year will be Deacon Jeffrey Rott, a Knight from our council and St.Eleanor's parish, who is completing his last year at St.Charles seminary and will be ordained a priest next spring. Please put this on the calendar since this is one of our key events which is always well attended and worthwhile spiritually and socially.

**Please call Sam Augustine at 267-228-0917 ASAP and by Oct.3rd at the latest.** You must have a reservation. Due to the nature of the event we cannot accept walkups.

**Council Picnic:**

The Council Family Picnic at *Whispering Cedars* (Kirby Farm) was another terrific event. It was a beautiful day, the food was fantastic, the drinks were cold, and the fellowship was very enjoyable. We had plenty of kids in the pool as well. Some new faces, some old faces, and some faces looking older (Ha!). Many thanks of course go to Bill and Saunie, who do so much to make this a great time for everyone. Our appreciation also goes to Dan Keefe for working all afternoon to make sure that we had plenty of pictures to remember the day (see pictures below). Also a Thank You to everyone who helped with set-up, clean-up, bringing food etc..



Pictured are all the Grand Knights of 3633 present at the picnic. From left to right: Bill Kirby, Ed Kaeser, Reggie Hill, Joe Bondi, John Warner, Steve Bette, Pat Cahill, and Sam Augustine



Besides the Picnic, we were also celebrating the 45<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of GK Joe Bondi and wife Rose. Congrats!!!

**Christmas Evangelization Project (Signs and Magnets)**

Brothers, we pre-purchased 400 magnets late this summer to take advantage of the pricing. Last year we sold out and thought this year we could continue our efforts. In addition, we have a number of the two-sided Christmas signs left over from last year as well. What do we need from you? Well, for one thing, we need a Chairman to run the sale. Dan Pennetti has become our new Financial Secretary and will have his hands full and cannot run this event this year again. Thanks to his efforts last year, we did sell all the magnets purchased and about 100 signs. We would like to have a table at each parish bazaar and if possible, at least one Sunday after mass. If you can help even just at your parish, please contact me, Joe Bondi at [joseph.bondi@verizon.net](mailto:joseph.bondi@verizon.net) to volunteer or see me at the next business meeting September 14.

**COAL (Chance of a Lifetime) Raffle:**

PGK Reggie Hill and SK Milton Johnson have our 2008 COAL Campaign in full-swing. Everyone should have their ticket books at this point. If you can not sell your tickets please send them back to Reggie so that he may find away to sell them. Please don't delay and return the sold stubs by October 3<sup>rd</sup>. So far our sales have been good. Don't forget that we will be at St. Eleanor on Sept. 28th for sale of the tickets and St. Mary Sept. 14th for Coal tickets sale.

**Rose for Life Drive:**

Respect Life Sunday is October 4th and 5<sup>th</sup>. This year's Rose for Life Drive chairman is Bob Sciubba and he is assisted by PGK Pat Cahill. This is a critical time in our defense of Life, so please get involved in this important effort. More details will follow via separate communication.

**Knights in Action:**

In 2007 the Knights of Columbus contributed the following:

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| <b>GRAND TOTAL OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SUPREME COUNCIL .....</b>          | <b>\$ 31,235,220</b> |
| <b>TOTAL STATE COUNCILS, LOCAL COIUNCILS, ASSEMBLIES AND CHAPTERS .....</b> | <b>\$113,676,561</b> |
| <b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS .....</b>  | <b>\$144,911,781</b> |
| <b>TOTAL HOURS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE .....</b>                               | <b>\$ 68,695,768</b> |

**Brother Ed Clinton:**

Ed Clinton of St. Eleanor's, and a Knight for almost 43 years, is having considerable health problems. Please pray for Ed, his wife Jo, and their family.

**Council 50/50 Drawings:**

Congratulations to Joe Bondi. Joe won the 50/50 Drawing at the August Meeting. The total amount of the Prize was \$584.55. The last person to win the 50/50 Prize was Steve Bette in February 2004. Joe had to stop for gas on the way home from the meeting and spent half of his prize, but he's happy nonetheless.





## *Spiritual Message* By Deacon Jim Burns

I find reading about the saints very inspiring as well as very humbling. Would I ever be able to do what they did? Could I ever love God enough to give my life for Him? The saints are all unique in the way they expressed their holiness, but there are some ways in which they are all alike. One common trait they share is this: The more they prayed and read Scripture, the closer they drew to God; and the closer they drew to God, the more active they became in serving others. You could call most of them "social activists."

The term that saints used to describe their care for others was "charity," the virtue infused into all Christians at Baptism. They based their conduct on obedience to God's law governing relationships to others, the divine command to "love your neighbor as yourself," as Christ is quoted in Matthew 22:39. The saints especially served the poor and the marginalized, from St. Peter's healing of the lame man at the Temple gate (Acts 3:6) to Mother Teresa's rescuing babies from the streets of Calcutta.

Wealthy saints such as Anthony of Egypt and Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati sold all their possessions and distributed money to the poor. Jesuit St. Peter Claver and a few associates worked over forty years, feeding, clothing and nursing about 300,000 slaves at Cartagena, Colombia, the slave trade's port of entry in the New World. Bl. Frederic Ozanam, founder of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, required his followers to serve the poor in person. He wrote: "Help honors when, to the bread that nourishes, it adds the visit that consoles, advice that enlightens, the friendly handshake that lifts up flagging courage."

St. Camillus de Lellis founded an order of male nurses that established and staffed eight hospitals in Italy. In 1595 and 1601 members of his community attended the wounded on the battlefields in Hungary and Croatia, becoming the first recorded examples of military ambulance units. St. Louise de Marillac, under the direction of St. Vincent de Paul, organized a group of committed women to serve the poor at Paris. Her community that began with four women quickly evolved into the Sisters of Charity.

Contrary to a mistaken notion that contemplatives withdraw into isolation, many mystics were also social activists. Evidently their drawing nearer to God allowed Him to share with them his love for the poor. St. Martin de Porres, a contemplative from his youth, turned the monastery of the Holy Rosary at Lima, Peru, into a center where hundreds of the city's poor came daily to him for healing, medicines, food, and money. He built and staffed with support of dedicated laypeople, an orphanage and school for street children. St. Pio of Pietrelcina, a stigmatist and miracle worker, opened a hospital for the sick poor in the impoverished town of San Giovanni Rotondo. With its excellent medical staff and equipment, it has developed into a thriving medical center. St. John Bosco catechized and cared for homeless youths in Turin, Italy, building them residences, workshops, schools and churches. St. Katherine Drexel, born in the U.S., spent herself and her money for Native Americans and blacks, giving about twenty million dollars to these causes.

When we read the lives of the saints we realize how thoroughly they immersed themselves in Scripture. They imagined themselves into biblical scenes or they reflected at length on a particular text that grabbed them. They remembered these meditations when they prayed. Many saints prayed the Liturgy of the Hours daily and the psalms became their own personal prayers.

In his last days with the Church at Ephesus, St. John the Evangelist repeated a teaching that sums up the saints' motivation for their social action. When he was too feeble to preach, he used to be carried into the assembly where he always said the same thing: "My little children love one another." When they asked why, he said: "Because it is the Word of the Lord, and if you keep it you do enough."

We might pray: Heavenly Father, by the grace of your Holy Spirit, grant that we might grow in knowledge and love of your Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ. Let us meet Him afresh in your Word each day.

*Deacon Jim*

**Seminarian Update:**

I would like to thank everyone for your support over the past five years. After my ordination to the Diaconate on May 10th, I was assigned to St. Anastasia's for the year. I spent my summer serving the parish by preaching, visiting the sick, baptizing, and working with the youth group. I returned to the seminary on Wednesday, August 20th. To start off the semester, Bishop Daniel Thomas gave the seminarians a retreat. It was a wonderful time for quiet prayer and reflection. Please continue to pray for the seminarians and please also pray for an increase in vocations to the Priesthood.

*Deacon Jeffrey Rott*

**Editor's Note:** Having played golf with Jeff at our outing in June, and given the fact that he is an avid Mets fan, I can attest that he needs all the prayers he can get! Just kidding, Jeff!

**Knights of Columbus World Day of Prayer for Peace September 11**

(from Pope Benedict XVI prayer at Ground Zero- April 20, 2008)

God of peace, bring your peace to our violent world:  
Peace in the hearts of all men and women  
And peace among the nations of the earth.  
Turn to your way of love  
Those whose hearts and minds are consumed with hatred.

God of understanding,  
Overwhelmed by the magnitude of this tragedy,  
We seek your light and guidance  
As we confront such terrible events.  
Grant that those whose lives were spared  
May live so that the lives lost...  
May not have been lost in vain.  
Comfort and console us,  
Strengthen us in hope,  
And give us the wisdom and courage  
To work tirelessly for a world  
Where true peace and love reign  
Among nations and in the hearts of all.

## Parish News

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

See all the events at the beginning of this newsletter.

**St. Mary: (Parish Rep. PGK Matt McCloskey):** No report**Blessed Teresa of Calcutta: (Parish Representative- PGK Sam Augustine):**

Blessed Teresa Parish will have its last Mass at the Pottstown church on Aug.31st. This will be a day of remembrance and certainly sadness. The former St.Peter's was a Polish National Parish for over a century. However we now look forward to the opening of our school and new temporary church facility at Swamp Pike, and Neifer Rd.School will open the first week of September. The first mass at the new site will be on Sept.7th.

**September Birthdays:**

Bill Bushey, Tim Cahill, Dan DePaul, Michael Duvinski, Frank Genuardi, Nick Golato, Bill Hall, Ed Kaeser, John Kolcun, Jack Paris, Chris Rosekrans, Fran Ruggiero, Bill Shelow, John Wirant

**October Birthdays:**

Michael Cicchetti, Kevin Corcoran, Richard Donovan, Dave Edelman, Richard Gentleman, Austin Kurtz, Michael Limcango, Robert Rau, Dan Roslin, Charlie Schreiner, Andrew Thomas.

**September & October K of C Anniversaries:**

Ken Butler, Don Fuga, Charlie George, Terry Green, John Wirant – 5 years

SK Bob Donaghy – 10 years

Paul Schiele – 15 years

SK Chuck Draksler, Charles Touey – 20 years

Gerard Merschen – 50 years

*Thank you for your service, Gentlemen!*

## **Prayer Needs**

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

**Deceased:** Brian Kaeser, Norma O'Hare, Tony Cicippio

**Sick:** Ed Clinton, Karen DeGennaro, Mary Anne Petitto, Andy Galiato, Peg Mason, Pete and Tanya Kaeser, Rose Kaeser, Ed Pires, Lisa Dougherty, William Turner, Dawn and Dennis Alston, Norma Drye, Lloyd Williams, Eloise Brown, Mr & Mrs Campolongo, Lester Turner, Carolyn Rye, Joan Reid, Sylvia Bondi, Jim Fenerty, Donna Gullick, Ralph Grande, William Pumilia

**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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**K of C Perkiomen Council #3633  
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