

The Cross and Compass

St. Joseph Council #7528

Knights of Columbus

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Federal Way, WA 98093-1763

The Knights of Columbus...a Catholic, Family, Fraternal, Service
Organization



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February 2003

A Message from the Grand Knight

While watching the 4th quarter of Super Bowl XXXVII this past Sunday, as it was apparent the Tampa Bay Buccaneers were going to win, I began thinking about our Knights of Columbus council. Initially there doesn't seem to be a connection between the two subjects. But if you analysis it from a "*championship*" perspective it does.

The Buccaneers are the champions of the NFL because they won the big game. In the same token, I view our council as champions because of all the big things we continually do well for the parish community, and in meeting Supreme's administrative requirements. To get to the level of success both organizations have achieved there has to have been a number of definitive common denominators.

Leadership has to be the first and most important element for becoming a champion. The Bucs were lead by the wily veterans like Warren Sapp and John Lynch on defense and Mike Alstott and Brad Johnson on offense, and of course the animated coach John Gruden. They set the tone for the game, keeping everyone focused and on task. Our council is fortunate to have numerous leaders, Past Grand Knights and Officers, whose experience and example guides the organization, guaranteeing a high degree of current and future achievement in all endeavors.

Execution is mandatory for success. Receivers need to run the proper routes, linemen need to block their men in a particular blocking scheme, and the quarterback needs to make the right decision with the ball at just the right time. When this all happens in synchronicity consistently, plays will be positive, points will be scored, games will be won, and champions will be born. Our council has numerous Brother Knights who have years of experience running events and working with the parish staff and leaders. As a result of this experience, and the hard work of the membership, council-sponsored functions run smoothly, our parishioners and priests are well served, council operations run in an efficient manner, and the council enjoys a positive reputation in the parish community. Additionally, the council remains in good standing with our Knights of Columbus higher headquarters; the Washington State Council and Supreme back in New Haven, CT.

Attitude (Heart & Desire) is the intangible difference between winning and losing. Winning teams when they are on the short end of the score late in the game, truly believe in the hearts that they can win. They dig deep down and give 110% to make the plays necessary to overcome the deficit.

When our council has a busy month scheduled and the first priorities of life, work and family, demand special attention for many of the more active Knights, there is always other Brother Knights stepping up to make the things happen for the council.

In times of a "personnel crisis" all that the council leadership needs to do is ask to gain the needed volunteers. The camaraderie, dedication and teamwork of our membership make being a Knight at St. Vincent de Paul a very proud and gratifying experience.

For these three factors I believe Council #7528, like the newly crowned Tampa Bay Buccaneers football team, is worthy of the moniker "Champions"!

Vivat Jesus!

Marc Gonick, GK

PS - Right now we are early in the 3rd quarter of our fraternal year (the Christmas season was our Halftime). Let's finish the second half strong, staying undefeated and winning another championship title!

The Fish Frys are Coming!!! Stay Tuned.

The Deputy Grand Knight's Corner

By David Myers, DGK

A RED MARBLE

During the waning years of the depression in a small southeastern Idaho community, I used to stop by Mr. Miller's roadside stand for farm-fresh produce as the season made it available. Food and money were still extremely scarce and bartering was used, extensively.

One particular day Mr. Miller was bagging some early potatoes for me. I noticed a small boy, delicate of bone and feature, ragged but clean, hungrily appraising a basket of freshly picked green peas. I paid for my potatoes but was also drawn to the display of fresh green peas. I am a pushover for creamed peas and new potatoes.

Pondering the peas, I couldn't help overhearing the conversation between Mr. Miller and the ragged boy next to me.

"Hello Barry, how are you today?"

H'lo, Mr. Miller. Fine, thank ya. Jus' admirin' them peas ... sure look good."

"They are good, Barry. How's your Ma?"

"Fine. Gittin' stronger alla' time."

"Good. Anything I can help you with?"
 "No, Sir. Jus' admirin' them peas."
 "Would you like to take some home?"
 "No, Sir. Got nuthin' to pay for 'em with."
 "Well, what have you to trade me for some of those peas?"
 "All I got's my prize marble here."
 "Is that right? Let me see it."
 "Here 'tis. She's a dandy."
 "I can see that. Hmmmm, only thing is this one is blue and I sort of go for red. Do you have a red one like this at home?"
 "Not 'zackleybut, almost."
 "Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home with you and next trip this way let me look at that red marble."
 "Sure will. Thanks, Mr. Miller."

Mrs. Miller, who had been standing nearby, came over to help me. With a smile she said: "There are two other boys like him in our community, all three are in very poor circumstances. Jim just loves to bargain with them for peas, apples, tomatoes or whatever. When they come back with their red marbles, and they always do, he decides he doesn't like red after all and he sends them home with a bag of produce for a green marble or an orange one, perhaps."

I left the stand, smiling to myself, impressed with this man. A short time later I moved to Colorado but I never forgot the story of this man, the boys and their bartering. Several years went by each more rapid than the previous one. Just recently I had occasion to visit some old friends in that Idaho community and while I was there learned that Mr. Miller had died. They were having his viewing that evening and knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them. Upon our arrival at the mortuary we fell into line to meet the relatives of the deceased and to offer whatever words of comfort we could. Ahead of us in line were three young men. One was in an army uniform and the other two wore nice haircuts, dark suits and white shirts ... very professional looking. They approached Mrs. Miller, standing smiling and composed, by her husband's casket.

Each of the young men hugged her, kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her and moved on to the casket. Her misty light blue eyes followed them as, one by one, each young man stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold pale hand in the casket. Each left the mortuary, awkwardly, wiping his eyes. Our turn came to meet Mrs. Miller. I told her who I was and mentioned the story she had told me about the marbles. Eyes glistening she took my hand and led me to the casket. "Those three young men, who just left, were the boys I told you about. They just told me how they appreciated the things Jim "traded" them. Now, at last when Jim could not change his mind about color or size ... they came to pay their debt.

"We've never had a great deal of the wealth of this world," she confided, "but, right now, Jim would consider himself the richest man in Idaho." With loving gentleness she lifted the lifeless fingers of her deceased husband. Resting underneath were three, exquisitely shined, red marbles.

Moral: We will not be remembered by our words, but by our kind deeds. Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath.

A wish for you!

Today...I wish you a day of ordinary miracles --

A fresh pot of coffee you didn't make yourself.
 An unexpected phone call from an old friend.
 Green stoplights on your way to work or shop.

I wish you a day of little things to rejoice in...
 The fastest line at the grocery store.
 A good sing along song on the radio.
 Your keys right where you look.

I wish you a day of happiness and perfection -- little bite-size pieces of perfection that give you the funny feeling that the Lord is smiling on you, holding you so gently because you are someone special and rare.

I wish you a day of Peace, Happiness and Joy.

They say it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but then an entire life to forget them.

The Lecturer's Corner

By Joe Clemens, Lecturer

The turn out for the January meeting to greet our guest speaker, Linda Kochmar of the Federal Way City Council was tremendous! Dame Linda was very surprised at the magnitude of those that attend our meetings and the worthy attention and respect given to her as a representative of our City Council. They all were in awe with her knowledge of our city government and her smooth presentation of the facts. Those of you that were unable to attend this meeting but would like to learn about our city government can turn to Channel 21, the Federal Way TV channel and watch and learn about all of our members of the Council. Sorry, we don't have any repeat performances since there is so much to present in the short months ahead.

This month we had planned on having the principal from the St. Vincent De Paul School give a short talk on the doings at the school and what is in the planning stages for the next few years. However, due to schedule conflicts this program is rescheduled for the April 1st meeting instead. We were also planning on a writing by our third Grand Knight of the Council in this months C & C but unfortunately his business called him out of town. Hopefully Dick Mayer will grace us with some pearls of wisdom in our next issue. Sorry that's a double strike out in a row. But we still have one more out to go!

Our program for the February meeting will be a twelve minute film presentation made by the 4th Degree on "How to be a Patriot.". It illustrates the Fourth Degrees' intent of exemplifying the Knights love of God and Love of Country.

There will be a short movie and a short talk by our field agent, Ron Scholz, that you must not miss!!

The Fish Frys are Coming!!! Stay Tuned

Just for Fun!

One Sunday morning the pastor noticed little Johnny was standing staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. The young man of seven had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up and stood beside him and gazing up at the plaque he said quietly, "Good morning son." "Good morning pastor" replied the young man not taking his eyes off the plaque. "Sir, what is this?" Johnny asked. "Well son, these are all the people who have died in the service", replied the pastor. Soberly, they stood together staring up at the large plaque. Little Johnny's voice barely broke the silence when he asked quietly, "Which one sir, the 8:30 or the 10:30?"

Vocations

By Juan Lezcano - Vocations Chairman

Brother Knights,

Like Thomas Nathe, featured in our November Newsletter, Peter Mactutis' father was a Permanent Deacon. Both fathers have since gone to their final rewards, but imparted on their sons a sense of service and love for God and God's people. I pray that you will be edified by Peter's sharing as I was.

Let us continue to pray for our seminarians and for all called to serve the church.

Dear Knights,

I would like to thank all of you once again for your support of my brother seminarians and me. Your prayers and support have helped to make my time in the seminary most fruitful.

This school year is going by very quickly. We only have two and half weeks of class left this semester. Christmas break will be a very nice time to relax; this semester has been very busy and, at times, stressful, but it also has been very fruitful. I have learned a lot in my classes. My class in moral theology is my favorite. The professor works us hard but is a great teacher. I am also enjoying my history class. This semester we are learning about the Protestant Reformation and the Catholic Counter-reformation in the sixteenth century.

This last summer I was living at Queen of Angels parish in Port Angeles, Washington. I absolutely loved it! I spent about half my time learning Spanish at the local college and the other half helping out in the parish and following Fr. Nagel around. Fr. Nagel was a great mentor and I learned a lot from him. What was also nice was that the Knights are very active in the parish there. I got to meet and become friends with quit a few of them.

This is my fourth year in the seminary. (It is unbelievable how time flies.) Next summer I will be doing CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) at either the Seattle VA Hospital, St. Joseph's in Tacoma, or St. Peter's in Olympia. This is where I learn how to be a chaplain in a hospital. After that, I will spend a year in a parish some where in the Archdiocese; this is called Pastoral Internship. After that I will come back to the seminary for two more years. So, I still have a little ways to go.

Please continue to keep me in your prayers. Please

pray that I will continue to grow and learn in the seminary so that one day I can serve the people of God as a holy priest. As always, you are in my prayers.

God Bless you and your work,

Peter Mactutis
Mount Angel Seminary

1st Degree Team

By Joe Penwell - Degree Team Captain

The team is still looking for a volunteer to be the Warden's aide (non speaking part) and backups for all other positions on the degree team. Please call me at 941-6339 if you are interested.

Rosary

Please note that we say the rosary before each General Meeting of the year. This month, we will be starting at 7:00pm, in the Chapel before the General Meeting on February 4th.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Have you seen your birthday or anniversary in recent issues. If not, please call or email Tim Philomeno with those dates. We like to recognize birthdays and anniversaries of our members and their spouses.

Still looking for email addresses

Please call or email Tim Philomeno with your email address. This is the very best way to keep in contact. We want to send you the Cross and Compass via email and save postage \$\$\$\$.

Poster & Essay Contest

By Al Larpenteur - Pro-life Chairman

As I write this article, we are in the midst of our annual RESPECT LIFE poster/essay contests. Dave McArdle led a group of guys who mounted the posters on the walls in our church hall. We have judged both the posters and essays and selected the winners in each grade category. We did this in the midst of a very busy day of preparing providing the parish Spaghetti Dinner that proved to be so successful.

In the next week (by the time you read this, the week will have passed!) we will provide an ice cream treat to each student that submitted an entry, thanked the students and distributed certificates during a school assembly, and left the posters up during the week for students, parishioners and visitors to admire. We have done all this as a Knights of Columbus council in an effort to promote and celebrate RESPECT LIFE in our parish. We must do what we can to keep alive in our hearts this flickering flame that burns for Life.

I want to thank all of you that have supported this RESPECT LIFE effort in our parish. You know who you are. I could easily list the names of many, but in that effort I would probably omit the names of others who should be recognized as well. Just know that I am deeply grateful for

everything you have done. Please also know that our parish also appreciates what we are doing and they encourage us to continue this effort to foster a Respect for Life in our lives.

Pancake Breakfast

On Sunday, January 5th, our council held a Free Pancake Breakfast to Initiate the new kitchen and show our appreciation to the Parish Community for providing the new appliances. Because of the new equipment and the excellence of the kitchen and serving staff, we were able to serve over 450 meals.

Here are a few pictures that documented the event:



Mike Ross trying out the new griddle...



Dave Caton...which side do the forks go on?...



Nice Aprons.....



We're having fun now...

News of the 4th Degree

By Joe Penwell - Faithful Navigator

The Master of the Washington District, Everet Roberts, PSD, announces an information night on the Fourth Degree in our area I preparation for the exemplification to be held at St. John Bosco, Lakewood, WA on 21 June 2003. All potential members of your council and district are urged to attend. The meeting will be on Saturday, February 22nd, 2003, 6pm at the St. John Bosco hall, ikn Lakewood, WA.

Please call me at 253.941.6339 if you are interested.

THE 365 CLUB BY MAIL

Supporting Vocations is simple! All you have to do is join The Pennies For Heaven Crusade. The best way to do this is by becoming a member of The 365 Club. Donate a penny-a-day for a year (\$3.65 or more if you can) and offer a prayer a day for a year for Vocations! Pennies add up quickly and the prayers help. For Brothers who cannot always join us at our meetings, here is your chance to stand up and be counted as a supporter.

CLIP AND MAIL

To: Dave Myers, 365 Chairman

Yes, count me in as a Member of The 365 Club! I want to do my part to support Vocations.

Here is my contribution of \$ _____ Name: _____

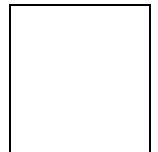
Address: _____ City: _____

Mail your check to:

The 365 Club
Knights of Columbus, Council #7528
PO Box 24763
Federal Way, WA 98093-1763

Calendar of Events		
February 2003		
4 th	General Meeting	St. Vincent de Paul Narthex @7:30pm with the Rosary in the Chapel at 7:00pm (with guest speaker at beginning of meeting)
9 th	District Free Throw Competition	Parish Activity Center
18 th	Planning Meeting	Room "A" @ 7:30pm
March 2003		
4 th	General Meeting	St. Vincent de Paul Narthex @7:30pm with the Rosary in the Chapel at 7:00pm
7 th	Fish Fry	St. Vincent de Paul Parish Hall
14 th	Fish Fry	St. Vincent de Paul Parish Hall
18 th	Planning Meeting	Room "A" @ 7:30pm
21 st	Fish Fry	St. Vincent de Paul Parish Hall
28 th	Fish Fry	St. Vincent de Paul Parish Hall
April 2003		
1 st	General Meeting	St. Vincent de Paul Narthex @7:30pm with the Rosary in the Chapel at 7:00pm
4 th	Fish Fry	St. Vincent de Paul Parish Hall
11 th	Fish Fry	St. Vincent de Paul Parish Hall
12 th	Squires Convention	St. Vincent de Paul Parish Hall
15 th	Planning Meeting	Room "A" @ 7:30pm

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