

The Cross and Compass

St. Joseph Council #7528

Knights of Columbus

PO Box 24763

Federal Way, WA 98093-1763

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



Volume 2003, Issue 7

January 2003

A Message from the Grand Knight

After Christmas is over, and we're all tired and bankrupt, begins a time of renewal. A brand new year is ahead of us, full of new opportunities. It's a time to put the previous year behind, to get a mental cleansing from issues that hindered us in the past, to have an attitude adjustment, and to begin again with a fresh slate.

Therefore, to me New Year's is synonymous with "Hope". We all have that sense that the upcoming year will be better than the last. We feel that there is nothing we can't accomplish with a little effort and a few changes.

It is prior to New Year's Day that we put our hope into action by establishing our "best laid plans of mice and men"; better know as "New Year's resolutions". These are the things that we wholeheartedly intend to accomplish during this time of renewal, to promote self-improvement and enhance our lives. On January 1st we begin our test of endurance, implementing changes in our behavior to accomplish our goals. Soon we are fighting against the urge to retreat back to our former behavior. These familiar phrases often become our mantra, "I'll just have one cookie, cold turkey isn't really the way to quit smoking, I've been good for 5 days - I deserve a little reward, I'll just workout two times a week instead of three, I was too overzealous in setting my goals", etc, etc. These thought processes usually signify the beginning of the end for most resolutions. Thus, all to often these promises we make to ourselves are broken by January 15th.

For those of us who are able to endure and achieve their goals, we have achieved something truly monumental. Most us end up uttering the words, "Oh well, I'll try again next year".

In closing, my New Year's Resolution to you my Brothers is.....**a commitment to holding our General Meetings to one hour in length!!!**

It's my sincerely "hope" that all your New Year's resolutions come true!

**Wishing you and your family a very
safe and Happy New Year!!!**

Vivat Jesus!

Marc Gonick, GK

The Deputy Grand Knight's Corner

By David Myers, DGK

HOW DO YOU THINK OF GOD?

At first, I saw God as my observer, my judge, keeping track of the things I did wrong, so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die. He was out there, sort of like a president. I recognized his picture when I saw it, but I didn't really know him.

But later on when I met Christ, it seemed as though life were rather like a bike ride, but it was a Tandem bike, and I noticed that Christ was in the back helping me pedal.



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I don't know just when it was that He suggested we change places, but life has not been the same since, apostolic life, that is, Christ makes life exciting.

When I had control, I knew the way. It was rather boring, but predictable. It was the shortest distance between two points.

But when He took the lead, He knew delightful long cuts, up mountains, and through rocky places and at breakneck speeds, it was all I could do to hang on!!!! Even though it looked like madness, he said, "Pedal!"

I worried and was anxious and asked, "Where are You taking me?" He laughed and didn't answer, and I started to learn to trust.

I forgot my boring life and entered into the adventure. And when I'd say, "I'm scared," He'd lean back and touch my hand.

He took me to people with gifts that I needed, gifts of healing, acceptance and joy. They gave their gifts to take on my journey, our journey, my Lord's and mine.

And we were off again. He said, "Give the gifts away, they're extra baggage, too much weight." So I did, to the people we met, and I found that in giving I received, and still our burden was light.

I did not trust Him, at first, in control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it, but He knows bike secrets, knows how to make it bend to make sharp corners, jumps to clear high rocks, fly to shorten scary passages.

And I am learning to shut-up and pedal in the strangest places, and I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful constant companion, Christ.

And when I'm sure I just can't do any more. He just smiles and says....."Pedal!" Anon

Recruiting

By Dave Caton - Recruitment Chair, Second Year Trustee

Brother Knights! My thanks for giving the Degree Team the month of December off with all of the events scheduled for this busy season. I think I speak for all of the Degree Team, however when I urge you to keep us from getting rusty!! We need to keep this machine well-oiled and that means doing a First Degree in January. I appreciate all of your hard work thus far, but let's not fall back on our laurels.

Our scheduled 2nd and Third Degrees for the rest of the year, are again, February 8th in Port Orchard, March 22nd in Marysville and in Tukwila, April 6th in Mt. Vernon, May 3rd in Olympia, May 4th in Bellevue, June 1st in Seattle and June 7th in Poulsbo. Candidates and Sponsors please take note and see which dates work for you. These degrees are very meaningful and leave a life-long impression on all of us!

My wishes for a very happy, Holy Christmas and Happy New Year.

The Lecturer's Corner

By Joe Clemens, Lecturer

There's good news and there's good news. In the Cross and Compass you will always get just "Good News". No bad news! This month's information is two parts. The first part is as follows:

We are very fortunate to have two women members of our parish on the Federal Way City Council. One is the present mayor, Jeanne Burbidge and the other is Linda Kochmar.

Linda Kochmar has been very gracious to accept my offer to speak at our regular meeting on January 7th. She will be enlightening us on the present plans for our community. She carries very high credentials in Federal Way and rightly deserves our utmost attention.

Please show your oath as a Knight and attend this January meeting.

The second part is as follows:

I have promised you that, if at all possible, I would have a past grand knight tell of his experience as a Grand Knight in our Council. The following is a write up by Bob Hitchcock, our fifth grand knight in succession.

"I will never forget my first real experience with the Knights of Columbus. It was my second and third degree! It seems like last week but in reality it was in 1963! Those of you who joined the knights then know what I mean. I was so impressed by the degree that I joined the degree team. The degrees are quite different now but the message is much the same. I lost contact with the Knights while in the Air Force and while living in Dallas Texas. When our council was formed here at St Vincent's I re-instated. Our council was very active right from the start. But then when Joe Clemens is in charge you know you will not be sitting on your hands.

I was Grand Knight #5 in our council and was fortunate enough to have Joe, Bernie Price, Wayne Moritz and Dick Meyer precede me. A lot of knowledge is to be learned from them. I am proud to

say that some of the programs I implemented are still in effect today, such as the Scholarship program, Knight of the Year and our attendance drawing. I remember the Reno Nite we had in the parish hall, a tremendous amount of work by the entire council, to raise money for our projects for the year. For that, we won the State Deputy Award for the best Council project of the year in the State.

Our council was much smaller at that time so everyone worked much harder and longer. Our Council has been blessed by a very strong leadership over the past 22 years. We have had some terrific programs and activities to show our strength in Unity, Fraternity and Charity. But what sticks with me the most is the Brotherhood of the Knights. The family fun we have had not only in our council but with other councils as well. My youngest son, Scott, still talks about the late, Past State Deputy, Supreme Warden, Harry Tucker, teaching him to swim and dive at the summer meetings at Richland. Boy, was that a long time ago!

Be proud, my brothers, you belong to one of the finest and most active councils in the State and that reason is- YOU!!

A Merry Christmas and a safe and Prosperous New Year to you and Your Families, Bob Hitchcock, PGK

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 January 7th.

Blood Drive

By Dave Caton - Blood Drive Coordinator

Brothers-I would like to applaud all of you who pitched in to make our December Blood Drive fairly successful with a total of 46 donors on a miserable wet night. I was especially gratified by the number of brother Knights who showed up to help! (at one point we had more Knights present than we had donors!) Many thanks to Mel Longley, our computer check-in man, Bobby Pirolo, Bill Martin and Mark Marek our canteen hosts for the first half and also to Ted Gimlin, the canteen host for the PM shift. Gents-this ministry is essential to our community and is much appreciated by the Puget Sound Blood Center and especially our local hospitals and patients. My special thanks to all of my fellow Knights who also gave a pint of blood to this great cause. Our next blood drive is in mid-February.

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

Our Council will be sponsoring its Respect Life Poster & Essay Contests on the weekend of January 18-19, 2003. I will need three judges for the poster contest and three judges for the essay contest. Judging these entries is a very special experience, and I strongly encourage new brother Knights to help with these judging efforts. You will be very pleased with your experience. If you would like to help, please call Al Larpenteur at 941-8539. Thanks very much.

General Meeting Raffle - \$\$\$\$\$

As you may know, each meeting we hold a raffle for all attending members. The last thing we do is draw a name from the hat (all current paid up members). If that member is present at the meeting, he wins the fraternal year pot (you must be present to win). This month the name

Gerald Duhamel

was drawn. Gerry won the pot of \$40.00. Remember, the winner must be in attendance. We will begin next month with \$25.00 in the pot.

Council Free Throw Competition

The Council Free Throw Competition will be held on Saturday, January 18th at the St. Vincent de Paul Gym from 2:00-5:00PM. We will be running the event with our Brother Knights of Centennial Council #8079 from St. Philomena's parish. All participants must have a **valid Birth Certificate** with them at registration. We need 6 volunteers to help run the event. If you are able to help out, please contact Mark Mareko at mmareko123@aol.com or 253-661-3635.

Pancake Breakfast

The council will be providing a pancake breakfast on Sunday January 5th, 2003 after all 3 masses. We are hosting this breakfast to commemorate the new kitchen in the Parish Hall. Come and see the remodeled kitchen and help with the breakfast. Please contact Tim Philomeno @253.661.2296 if

you can help.

Does this ring true for you?

Three sisters ages 92, 94 and 96 live in a house together. One night the 96 year old draws a bath. She puts her foot in and pauses. She yells to the other sisters, "Was I getting in or out of the bath?" The 94 year old yells back, "I don't know. I'll come up and see." She starts up the stairs and pauses. "Was I going up the stairs or down?"

The 92 year old is sitting at the kitchen table having tea listening to her sisters. She shakes her head and says, "I sure hope I never get that forgetful." She knocks on wood for good measure. She then yells, "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who's at the door.""

Parking Lot Duty

Each year, our Council is called upon to provide parking lot management and security during the Christmas Eve Mass. We need volunteers to help with this event. If you can spend some time helping on Christmas Eve, please call Marc Gonick @253-942-9916

A Story for the Holiday

Once there were three trees on a hill in the woods. They were discussing their hopes and dreams when the first tree said, "Someday I hope to be a treasure chest. I could be filled with gold, silver and precious gems. I could be decorated with intricate carving and everyone would see the beauty."

Then the second tree said, "Someday I will be a mighty ship. I will take kings and queens across the waters and sail to the corners of the world. Everyone will feel safe in me because of the strength of my hull."

Finally the third tree said, "I want to grow to be the tallest and straightest tree in the forest. People will see me on top of the hill and look up to my branches, and think of the heavens and God and how close to them I am reaching. I will be the greatest tree of all time and people will always remember me."

After a few years of praying that their dreams would come true, a group of woodsmen came upon the trees. When one came to the first tree he said, "This looks like a strong tree, I think I should be able to sell the wood to a carpenter," and he began cutting it down. The tree was happy, because he knew that the carpenter would make him into a treasure chest.

At the second tree the woodsman said, "This looks like a strong tree, I should be able to sell it to the shipyard." The second tree was happy because he knew he was on his way to becoming a mighty ship. When the woodsmen came upon the third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down his dreams would not come true. One of the woodsmen said, "I don't need anything special from my tree, so I'll take this one," and he cut it down.

When the first tree arrived at the carpenters, he was made into a feed box for animals. He was then placed in a barn and filled with hay. This was not at all what he had prayed for. The second tree was cut and made into a small fishing boat. His dreams of being a mighty ship and carrying kings had come to an end. The third tree was cut into large pieces and left alone in the dark.

Years went by, and the trees forgot about their dreams. Then one day, a man and woman came to the barn. She gave

birth and they placed the baby in the hay in the feed box that was made from the first tree. The man wished that he could have made a crib for the baby, but this would have to do. The tree could feel the importance of this event and knew that it had held the greatest treasure of all time.

Years later, a group of men got in the fishing boat made from the second tree. One of them was tired and went to sleep. While they were out on the water, a great storm arose and the tree didn't think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. The men woke the sleeping man, and He stood up and said "Peace" and the storm stopped. At this time, the tree knew that it had carried the King of Kings in its boat.

Finally, someone came and got the third tree. It was carried through the streets as the people mocked the man who was carrying it. When they came to a stop, the man was nailed to the tree and raised in the air to die at the top of a hill. When Sunday came, the tree came to realize that it was strong enough to stand at the top of the hill and be as close to God as was possible, because Jesus had been crucified on it.

The moral of this story is that when things don't seem to be going your way, always know that God has a plan for you. If you place your trust in Him, He will give you great gifts. Each of the trees got what they wanted, just not in the way they had imagined. We don't always know what God's plans are for us. We just know that His ways are not our ways, but His ways are always best.

May your day be blessed. May your road rise to meet you. May the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warmly upon your face. May the rain fall softly upon all that you plant. And, until we meet again, May God cradle you in the palm of His hand.

Submitted by Joe Clemens

Council #7528 Wins Star Council Award

John Wallace, State Warden, was on hand at our December meeting to present PKG Mike Hemmer with the Star Council Award for fraternal year 2001-2002. Congratulations to Mike and the whole Council for their hard work.



Pictured from left to right, Program Chairman - Dave Caton, Community Chairman - Bill Martin, PKG Mike Hemmer, State Warden - John Wallace, Church Chairman - Al Larpenteur



John Wallace and his wife Shelia thank Shirley Hemmer for here support of Mike during his Star Year....

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: _____

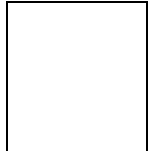
Address: _____ City: _____

Mail your check to:

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

Calendar of Events		
January 2003		
5 th	Pancake Breakfast to Commemorate the new Kitchen	St. Vincent's Parish Hall. After all 3 Sunday Masses
7 th	General Meeting	St. Vincent de Paul Narthex Rosary starts @7:00pm, Guest Speaker @7:30pm, General Meeting @8:00pm
18 th	Council Free Throw Competition	St. Vincent de Paul Activity Center from 2:00pm to 5:00pm
21 st	Planning Meeting	Room "A" @ 7:30pm with the 1 st Degree @7:00pm
25 th	Pro-life Poster/Essay Spaghetti Dinner	St. Vincent's Parish Hall after 5:00pm mass....
February 2003		
4 th	General Meeting	St. Vincent de Paul Narthex @7:30pm with the Rosary in the Chapel at 7:00pm
9 th	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
18 th	Planning Meeting	
		Room "A" @ 7:30pm

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