

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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A Message from the Grand Knight

Sometimes we don't appreciate the small and simple things in life, or have forgotten about them, until a defining moment makes them obvious to us.

Such a "wake up call" came to me after attending the Life Teen mass on February 23rd. For the first time in a long while, I felt an internal calm during mass. I'd just about forgotten how therapeutic mass could be. It made me think about all the events of my life, and life around me, that have distracted me from feeling at peace at St. Vincent de Paul every Sunday; or sometimes Saturday.

Over the past few months I've had the usual distractions that most of us Knights have had; the Christmas holidays, working numerous council activities, family responsibilities, stresses at work, and doing the 2002 tax return, and the depressing news world affairs. (As I'm not a big Sonics fan, the trade of Gary Payton didn't make my list.) However, the one thing that has most been unsettling for me is the whole issue of Iraq – terrorism, biological agent and war. As a former member of the U.S. military, who served on active duty without deploying during Desert Storm, I have mixed feelings regarding the issue. I won't editorialize my thoughts, but it seems as if we as a nation have transcended back to the 1960's with all the protests and build up toward an unpopular war.

What I will share is my real life experience vision that reoccurs when I think about the possibility of war, that of the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor. I visited the memorial during a military business trip to Hawaii in 1991 following Desert Storm. You can see the top of one of the battleship's smoke stacks, as it is only 3 feet below the surface of the water. Oil still seeps from the engines below and there is an oil slick that is visible directly above the wreck. And most stirring is the knowledge that it is a gravesite for nearly 1800 U.S. sailors. Never in my life have I felt such an intensely eerie and ghostly sensation as I did there. Nor have I ever felt such a sense of history. Thus, I believe that we all need to continually pray for Peace in the world, whether it is realized through negotiations, or the unfortunate "necessity" of war.

Not only did I feel at peace during mass on the 23rd and reflect on why I hadn't been as focused lately, but reviewing

my responses to the parish survey made me feel privileged to be a member of such a great Catholic community as well. Small and simple things I'd forgotten.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you!

Vivat Jesus!

Marc Gonick, GK

The Deputy Grand Knight's Corner

By David Myers, DGK

A teacher in New York decided to honor each of her Seniors in High school by telling them the difference they each made.

She called each student to the front of the class, one at a time. First she told each of them how they had made a difference to her and the class. Then she presented each of them with a blue ribbon imprinted with gold letters, which read, "Who I Am Makes a Difference."

Afterwards the teacher decided to do a class project to see what kind of impact recognition would have on a community. She gave each of the students three more ribbons and instructed them to go out and spread this acknowledgment ceremony. Then they were to follow up on the results, see who honored whom, and report back to the class in about a week.

One of the boys in the class went to a junior executive in a nearby company and honored him for helping him with his career planning. He gave him a blue ribbon and put it on his shirt. Then he gave him two extra ribbons and said, "We're doing a class project on recognition, and we'd like you to go out, find somebody to honor, give them a blue ribbon, then give them the extra blue ribbon so they can acknowledge a third person to keep this acknowledgment ceremony going. Then please report back to me and tell me what happened."

Later that day the junior executive went in to see his boss, who had been noted, by the way, as being kind of a grouchy fellow. He sat his boss down and he told him that he deeply admired him for being a creative genius. The boss seemed very surprised. The junior executive asked him if he would accept the gift of the blue ribbon and would he give him permission to put it on him.

His surprised boss said, "Well, sure." The junior executive took the blue ribbon and placed it right on his boss's jacket above his heart.

As he gave him the last extra ribbon, he said, "Would you

do me a favor? Would you take this extra one and pass it on by honoring somebody else. The young boy who first gave me the ribbons is doing a project in school and we want to keep this recognition ceremony going and find out how it affects people."

That night the boss came home to his 14-year-old son and sat him down. He said, "The most incredible thing happened to me today. I was in my office and one of the junior executives came in and told me he admired me and gave me a blue ribbon for being a creative genius. Imagine. He thinks I'm a creative genius. Then he put this blue ribbon that says "Who I Am Makes a Difference" on my jacket above my heart. He gave me an extra ribbon and asked me to find somebody else to honor. As I was driving home tonight, I started thinking about whom I would honor with this ribbon and I thought about you. I want to honor you. My days are really hectic and when I come home I don't pay a lot of attention to you. Sometimes I scream at you for not getting good enough grades in school and for your bedroom being a mess, but somehow tonight, I just wanted to sit here and, well, just let you know that you do make a difference to me. Besides your mother, you are the most important person in my life. You're a great kid and I love you!"

The startled boy started to sob and sob, and he wouldn't stop crying. His whole body shook. He looked up at his father and said through his tears, "Dad, earlier tonight I sat in my room and wrote a letter to you and Mom explaining why I had killed myself and asking you to forgive me. I was going to commit suicide tonight after you were asleep. I just didn't think that you cared at all. The letter is upstairs. I don't think I need it after all."

His father walked upstairs and found a heartfelt letter full of anguish and pain. The envelope was addressed, "Mom and Dad." The boss went back to work a changed man. He was no longer a grouch, but made sure to let all his employees know that they made a difference. The junior executive helped several other young people with career planning and never forgot to let them know that they made a difference in his life...one being the boss's son.

And the young boy and his classmates learned a valuable lesson. Who you are DOES make a difference.

Friends are quiet angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly. Anon

The Lecturer's Corner

By Joe Clemens, Lecturer

In today's Lecturers Corner we will be discussing the March 4th meeting presentation of the Knights of Columbus Insurance program and we will then have another enlightening letter from one of our Grand Knights out of the past.

Number one: There will be a ten minute showing of "Peace of Mind", a movie that all knights should see in regards to protection for their spouses and children. Don't forget that the insurance program was the one of main reason for the founding of the Knights of Columbus in 1882 by Father Michael J. McGivney. By the way, anyone interested in the history of the Knights of Columbus will find the Centennial book by Christopher J Kauffman worth reading. I have a copy and would be glad to loan it out to anyone who would like to learn more about the Knights..

We will follow the movie with a short talk from our

Insurance Representative, Sir Knight Ron Scholz. This talk will be on an area of most concern of our members. You must not miss this!! Talk to your wives. I am sure they will push you out the door to hear this presentation. The good of your family is involved.

Number two: I have the honor of introducing to you young members of the order another Knight of distinction. He is our fourth Grand Knight in succession for our Council. He has granted us his time to reminisce on a part of our past:

"Hi Joe—great hearing from you. You have asked me to write a few lines to share some of my thoughts and experiences of my early times with our Council.

We moved to Federal Way from Pittsburgh in February, 1981 and shortly after, we were in St. Vincent's attending Mass when we heard an appeal from you for all of the men in the Parish to join the Knights of Columbus and become active in the Parish. After I drove home, I called you and you immediately came to our house to discuss the merits of joining the K. of C. You were somewhat surprised when I waved my 4th Degree sword at you and then explained that I had taken all of my degrees many years ago while living in Buffalo, N.Y.

This meeting prompted my becoming very active in the K. of C. and the Parish, but of all the years of memories the two that stick out are: The many trips to the Tri-Cities for conventions and the constant driving back and forth on the bridge, looking for the restaurant we always ate at---you would think that a car of adults would be able to find the right exit??? And then there was the huge Fund Raiser we did for the relocation of St. Aloysius Church—we had literally 100s of Knights selling raffle tickets and the success of that appeal was a feat to be proud of. There were always kitchen chores, Easter and Christmas Masses and of course, manning the parking lot. Met some great people, made a lot of great friends and have too many memories to recite here.

Thanks again for thinking of us and we do look forward to once again becoming active in the near future.

God Bless to All

Dick Mayer

Fish Frys are Here!

By Tony Robinson - Event Chairman

It's that time of year. We will begin our annual Lenten Fish Frys on Friday, March 7th. We will continue for the 1st 6 weeks of Lent. Remember that this is our big fund-raiser for the year and we need the help of everyone to meet our goals. Please stop and consider how much time you can spend helping serve, bus tables, setup, cleanup, etc. If you can't work every week, work whatever you can. Please don't hesitate to call me at 839-1084 if you have an questions. Hope to see you there!

Vocations

By Juan Lezcano - Vocations Chairman

James Thurman, like Peter and Thomas, attends Mount Angel Seminary and is one of the five seminarians that our Council is financially supporting. Please take a few minutes to read James' letter.

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

Paz y Bien,

Juan F. Lezcano, sfo

My name is James Thurman and I have been at Mount Angel Seminary for 2 years now. I have had the best year of my life last year and it has only gotten better this year. I love my studies in philosophy. The prayer life in the community is wonderful. The seminarians here are great young holy men that want to serve God and I am making friends here that I will have for a lifetime. The seminary staff here is outstanding. The professors here are top-notch educators in there fields, with most of them having Doctorates in the field of study. I hope to finish here and move on to Theology. I am very confident in my call towards the priesthood. I can't wait to serve the people of God in the parishes around the Archdiocese of Seattle. I am grateful for you to support me with my financial needs. God Bless and I'll stay in touch.

James Thurman

1st Degree Team

By Joe Penwell - Degree Team Captain

Remember your 1st degree? Remember how it felt hearing those words for the first time? Why not join us as a Degree Team Member? Please contact me at 941-6339 for further information.

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 March 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 \$\$\$\$.

Welcome New Member

Please join me in welcoming a new 1st Degree Member **Pete Williams**. Pete attend the 1st degree exemption held on Februray 18th. Pete is a Boeing Engineer, married - his wife is Christine . Please say hi to Pete when you see him at the next meeting.

Reprinted from February 10th, 2003 Knightline:

Knights of Columbus Needed Now, Says Bishop

*Birmingham Bishioop Says Knights 'A Blessing' for
Families*

Writing in the Jan. 10 edition of One Voice, the official newspaper of the Diocese of Birmingham, Ala., Bishop David E. Foley called the Knights of Columbus a source of support for Catholic men trying to live out their faith. Bishop Foley is a member of the Knights.

Most men have heard of the Knights, Bishop Foley wrote, "but many do not realize the spiritual support being a Knight brings." All of us, he said, "need help in remaining what we should be." Whether we were raised Catholic or are converts, he said, the challenges from a "secular lifestyle" can be overwhelming.

"We need some places to go and things to do that will keep us with people who share our values and think of others as important to them. I see the Knights of Columbus as a way to be involved in the life of the Catholic Church and work for its goals," Bishop Foley wrote.

In Alabama, as elsewhere, Bishop Foley noted, the Knights of Columbus can be found supporting and strengthening the Curch through charitable and volunteer programs.

"The Knights definitely have an agenda, and its agenda is the support of the Holy Father, the bishops and the priests in furthering the mission of the Catholic faith. We need thishelp at theis point of time in our Church," he wrote.

In the Knights of Columbus, he said, "you will find people together in friendships as Catholics happy to be united in charity and helping the Catholic Church.

Bishop Foley ended his column by urging eligible Catholic men to join the Knights. Now is the time, he said, "for you to enroll and be introduced to what I know will be a blessing for you, your family and the Church."

Reprinted from the February Washington State Council Bulletin

QUESTION OF THE MONTH?

Do you pay your neighbors taxes? What is Per Capita Tax and whom does the council pay it to and for whom?

A good question posed by GK Leonard McGregor of Council 3361. I quote his answer; each year your council must pay to the Supreme Council and to the state a Per Capita tax on each member. This tax is basically for operating expenses, and in the case of the state it is the only revenue that the state operates with. **You see your council is paying your per capita tax each year regardless of your dues payment.** Do you think it is fair for someone else to pay your just tax? Keep your dues paid in full each year so you don't become a fallen Knight and have to be removed from the council membership. As a Knights of Columbus you have earned and deserve the benefits of your fraternal organization. The reimbursements of the benefits are a hundred fold. If you forgot about your dues last year, don't fret just pay this years dues and you are back in good standing. Keep your membership current. GK McGregor then talks about the council meeting dates and what events are coming up. A good idea for getting those members who are late in paying up to date and letting them know what events are coming up.

Thanks Brother McGregor for a nice thought for the question of the month.

Squires Convention is coming to St. Vincent de Paul Parish

Mark your calendars!! Saturday, April 12th, 2003 will be the occasion of the Washington State Squires Circles 2nd Annual Convention. The Apostle Circle 4571 in Federal Way/Auburn will host the State Squires Convention with the assistance of St. Joseph Council 7528 in Federal Way.

Don't Whine

Today, upon a bus, I saw a girl with golden hair.
I envied her, she seemed so gay,
and wished I was as fair.
When suddenly she rose to leave,
I saw her hobble down the aisle.
She had one leg and wore a crutch.
But as she passed, a smile.

Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
I have 2 legs, the world is mine.

I stopped to buy some candy.
The lad who sold it had such charm.
I talked with him, he seemed so glad.
If I were late, it'd do no harm.
And as I left, he said to me,
"I thank you, you've been so kind.
It's nice to talk with folks like you.
You see," he said, "I'm blind."

Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
I have 2 eyes, the world is mine.

Later while walking down the street,
I saw a child with eyes of blue.
He stood and watched the others play.
I stopped a moment and then I said,
"Why don't you join the others, dear?"
He looked ahead without a word.
And then I knew, he couldn't hear.

Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
I have 2 ears, the world is mine.
With feet to take me where I'd go.
With eyes to see the sunset's glow.
With ears to hear what I'd know.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
I've been blessed indeed, the world is mine.

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: _____

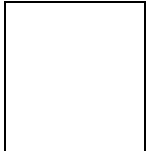
Address: _____ City: _____

Mail your check to:

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

Calendar of Events		
March 2003		
2 nd	Regional Free Throw Competition	All Saints - Puyallup
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
22 nd	2 nd & 3 rd Degree	Tukwilla
28 th	Fish Fry	St. Vincent de Paul Parish Hall
29 th	Founders Day	
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
25 th -26 th	A Knight's Night out at the Theater	"The Chalk Garden" at Knudson Family Theater

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