



The Cross and Compass

St. Joseph Council #7528

Knights of Columbus

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

<http://www.kc7528.org>



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A Message from the Grand Knight

Normally, as Grand Knight, I have an opportunity to place a short message at the beginning of the Cross & Compass, our monthly newsletter. This month, however, I would like to reprint an article from the New York Times, written by Archbishop Charles Chaput of Denver. Archbishop Chaput writes a compelling message, stating that Catholics should add their voices to the public discourse on political, moral, and religious issues. He argues that opinion makers do not want Catholic standpoints and moral values in our nation's political process or in the setting of community values, and they have convinced today's Catholics that their beliefs do not count. Mark Milosicia, the guest speaker at the Fourth Degree exemplification on Oct. 23, 2004 made very similar points. I urge you to spend a moment in reading the following article, and then ask yourself if anyone hears your voice in promoting Catholic religious beliefs and moral judgments.

Published: October 22, 2004

Denver — The theologian Karl Barth once said, "To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world."

That saying comes to mind as the election approaches and I hear more lectures about how Roman Catholics must not "impose their beliefs on society" or warnings about the need for "the separation of church and state." These are two of the emptiest slogans in current American politics, intended to discourage serious debate. No one in mainstream American politics wants a theocracy. Nor does anyone doubt the importance of morality in public life. Therefore, we should recognize these slogans for what they are: frequently dishonest and ultimately dangerous sound bites.

Lawmaking inevitably involves some group imposing its beliefs on the rest of us. That's the nature of the democratic process. If we say that we "ought" to do something, we are making a moral judgment. When our legislators turn that judgment into law, somebody's ought becomes a "must" for the whole of society. This is not inherently dangerous; it's how pluralism works.

Democracy depends on people of conviction expressing their views, confidently and without embarrassment. This give-and-take is an American tradition, and religious believers play a vital role in it. We don't serve our country - in fact we weaken it intellectually - if we downplay our principles or fail to speak forcefully out of some misguided sense of good manners.

People who support permissive abortion laws have no qualms about imposing their views on society. Often

working against popular opinion, they have tried to block any effort to change permissive abortion laws since the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision in 1973. That's fair. That's their right. But why should the rules of engagement be different for citizens who oppose those laws?

Catholics have an obligation to work for the common good and the dignity of every person. We see abortion as a matter of civil rights and human dignity, not simply as a matter of religious teaching. We are doubly unfaithful - both to our religious convictions and to our democratic responsibilities - if we fail to support the right to life of the unborn child. Our duties to social justice by no means end there. But they do always begin there, because the right to life is foundational.

For Catholics to take a "pro-choice" view toward abortion contradicts our identity and makes us complicit in how the choice plays out. The "choice" in abortion always involves the choice to end the life of an unborn human being. For anyone who sees this fact clearly, neutrality, silence or private disapproval are not options. They are evils almost as grave as abortion itself. If religious believers do not advance their convictions about public morality in public debate, they are demonstrating not tolerance but cowardice.

The civil order has its own sphere of responsibility, and its own proper autonomy, apart from the church or any other religious community. But civil authorities are never exempt from moral engagement and criticism, either from the church or its members. The founder themselves realized this.

The founders sought to prevent the establishment of an official state church. Given America's history of anti-Catholic nativism, Catholics strongly support the Constitution's approach to religious freedom. But the Constitution does not, nor was it ever intended to, prohibit people or communities of faith from playing an active role in public life. Exiling religion from civic debate separates government from morality and citizens from their consciences. That road leads to politics without character, now a national epidemic.

Words are cheap. Actions matter. If we believe in the sanctity of life from conception to natural death, we need to prove that by our actions, including our political choices. Anything less leads to the corruption of our integrity. Patriotism, which is a virtue for people of all faiths, requires that we fight, ethically and nonviolently, for what we believe. Claiming that "we don't want to impose our beliefs on society" is not merely politically convenient; it is morally incoherent and irresponsible.

As James 2:17 reminds us, in a passage quoted in the final presidential debate, "Faith without works is dead." It is a valid point. People should act on what they claim to believe. Otherwise they are violating their own conscience, and lying to themselves and the rest of us.

Vivat Jesus!

Al Larpenteur, GK

From the Deputy Grand Knight

By Kevin Buck, DGK

Last month I urged you all to practice "Faithful Citizenship." Now I want to provide you with a tool to help you discern which lever to pull. If you have access to the internet and type the following link into your browser address bar, it will connect you to a page with several links to information on almost all the candidates:

<http://www.priestsforlife.org/candidates/index.htm>

This may be too late for many of you, as the majority of us vote with absentee ballots and have probably sent them in already. If so, we can use this source of information to track what our favorite candidates do in the future. If you are reading this before election day and you haven't voted yet, I implore you to find out where the candidates stand on the issues that are important to all of us. If you haven't yet voted, please do so! This election is huge in its importance to our future... Many issues that we as Catholics have a vested interest in, could be turned against us as a result. So, be a responsible citizen. Be a faithful Catholic. Vote!

The Chancellor's Corner

By Mike Fay, Chancellor

In September's C&C I discussed how a brother Knight can be involved in Membership. Membership can happen any time as it did for me on a recent Sunday at coffee & donuts after the 9:30 am mass. I met two gentlemen, one who had been active as a Knight but had stopped participating at his previous council, and one who expressed interest in becoming a new knight. It was totally unexpected and unplanned, but I will follow-up to see these men as members of St. Joseph's council.

This month the service topic is Church. Service to the Church is defined as your participation in activities at your parish or a neighboring parish. Several parishes are represented by the council membership, although the majority are registered with St. Vincent's. Service to your church may be ushering at mass, being a lector or Eucharistic minister. Singing in the Choir, cleaning the church facility whether inside or outside, or supporting the fall festival each September. Members of the Wedding Committee host receptions for weddings, funerals, and special events as requested. Are you a money counter for the Sacrificial Offerings? Praying the Rosary is in service to the greater church and it's intentions

Our Church Director, Tom Skoda, is the council representative on the Parish Council. As such, Tom is the liaison between the parish and the council.

Look for an upcoming email requesting your service hours for the month of October. The list of activities that will be attached has been expanded. You can report your service hours on the form provided or just list them as you find best works for you.

You can contact me at mwfay@comcast.net.

Recruiting/Membership

By Dave Caton - Recruitment Chair, Third Year Trustee

I'd like to welcome our newest First Degree Knights, George Horsham and Jack Powers who were brought into our council on October 19th. Please greet and support these two fine new Knights at our November 2nd business meeting!

Your Worthy Grand Knight Al Larpenteur, Ted Gimlin, and I had the honor of attending a Second and Third degree exemplification opportunity in Auburn at Holy Family Church on Saturday, October 16th, with 5 candidates. The 5 men who became 3rd degree Knights were: Kurt Karasuda-Downing, Jim Yokum, Mike O'Connell, Joe Armstrong and Chuck Lasher. The degrees were well done and were put on by our local newest exemplification teams.

Our next 2nd and 3rd Degree opportunity is in Lakewood on November 14th.

Folks, we need to continue recruiting to continue the wonderful legacy started our founder Fr. Michael J. McGivney. Our ranks need to be continually replenished with new Knights with youthful leadership, fresh ideas, with a zeal for Catholicism and for the Knights. Please take the time to ask your fellow parishioner at Mass in the next pew to join us!

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 November 2nd, 2004.

Family of the Month

September – The Rich Gonzalez Family

Knight of the Month

September – Mike O'Connell

WWW.KOFC7528.ORG

When was the last time you visited our website?

Many thanks to Dan Reeb for maintaining an accurate and up-to-date calendar. Check it out!

With consistency, beautiful and undeviating, human life from its commencement to its close, is protected by common law. By law it is protected not only from immediate destruction, but from every degree of actual violence, and in some cases, from every degree of danger.— James Wilson, U.S. Supreme Court justice, signer of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, "Lectures on Law," 1791

Blood Drive

By Dave Caton - Blood Drive Chairman

Fellow Knights-thanks to those who gave the essential gift of blood Thursday, October 14th at our own parish hall. We had 63 potential donors of which 53 gave or tried to give blood. This was a tremendous response. I'd like to especially thank Ted Gimlin for doing computer check-ins as well as Al Wolfskill and Bill Martin for helping out at the canteen serving cookies and beverages to donors.

The next Knights-sponsored blood drive will be on February 17th, 2005. I'd like to urge you all to give blood approximately 56 days from October 14th at other local drives. To find drives in our area, go to psbc.org

Notes From Parish Health Care Ministry

Fellow Knights:

You may have heard the announcement after Mass this past weekend that the Health Care Ministry will not hold a parish flu clinic this year due to the national shortage of flu vaccines. Our supplier, the Franciscan Hospitals were not able to obtain enough vaccine to provide different parishes with this benefit. I strongly urge any of you with chronic illnesses to try to obtain the vaccine at your usual health provider's office or to consider a trip to Victoria where apparently the Canadian Health officials are welcoming Americans to receive the vaccine! What a great excuse to have "High Tea" at the Empress Hotel!

David and Mary Caton, Parish Health Care Ministry

GET YOUR CRAB FEED TICKETS!

On Saturday evening, January 15th, 2005, starting at 6:00PM in the Parish Hall, we will be having our Second Annual Charity Crab Feed to benefit the Knights of Columbus Charities. Tickets are \$25.00 each, and include one free alcoholic beverage (beer or wine) or a soft drink and a coupon for \$1.00 off any entrée at the local Ivar's Seafood Bar in Federal Way. FRESH Dungeness crab will be the featured entrée for the event.

The tickets are sold in books of 24 tickets each, as there will be 24 seats at each table, so your whole group can sit at the same table! We are selling to our Brother Knights and their families first, so get your tickets now by calling one of the following Brother Knights who have graciously volunteered to serve as Ticket Sales Captains for this event:

Ken Baune	253.946.6811
Dave Myers	253.941.0251
Matt Siverly	253.941.8253
Wayne Moritz	253.941.0354
Bill Thomas	253.941.3639
Eddie Cooper	253.946.9067
Mark Mareko	253.661.3635
Mike Hemmer	253.874.1192

Tickets will also be available at the next General Meeting on November 2nd. If you have any questions on the event itself, please call me at (253) 941-0251.

**GET YOUR CRAB FEED TICKETS NOW BEFORE
WE'RE SOLD OUT!**

Dave Myers
Crab Feed 2005 Chairman

A CARROT, EGG, COFFEE

You will never look at a cup of coffee the same way again

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life, and how things were so hard for her. She said she did not know how she was going to make it, and felt like she just wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling... It seemed as if when one problem was solved, a new one arose.

Her mother calmly took her into the kitchen. She filled three pots with water, and placed each on a high fire.

Soon the pots came to a boil. In the first pot, her mother placed carrots; in the second she placed eggs; and in the last she placed ground coffee beans.

She let them sit and boil, without saying a word. In about 20 minutes, she turned off the burners. She then fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl.

She pulled the eggs out and placed them into a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl.

Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me, what do you see?" "Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied.

Her mother brought her over closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft.

The mother then asked the daughter to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard boiled egg.

Finally, the mother asked the daughter to sip the coffee... The daughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma.

The daughter then asked, "What does it mean, mother?" Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the exact same adversity ... boiling water... and each reacted differently.

The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak, more pliable.

The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid-like interior, but after sitting in the boiling water, its inside became hardened.

The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.

"Which are you?", she asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

Think of this: 'Which am I?' Am I the carrot that seems strong... but with pain and adversity do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength?

Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit... but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship, or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same... but on the inside am I bitter and tough, with a stiff spirit and hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water... the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you ARE like the bean... when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you.

When the hour is the darkest and trials are their greatest... do you elevate yourself to another level? How do you handle adversity? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?
Count your blessings, not your problems.....

Great Christmas Gift!

CRAB FEED TICKETS

Brother Knights your assistance is needed. We need to sell 384 tickets for the January 15th Crab Feed. Currently we need ticket sellers after each Mass. The 11:30 is in most need of sellers.

The most successful and quickest way for us to sell out:

We need 11 more Knights to take responsibility and sell a table (24 seats @ \$25).

Contact Ken Baune 253.946.6811 for your table of choice or assist in selling tickets after one of the masses.

Something to think about...

“Those whose lives are diminished or weakened deserve special respect. Sick or handicapped persons should be helped to lead lives as normal as possible. Whatever its motives and means, direct euthanasia consists in putting an end to the lives of handicapped, sick or dying persons. It is morally unacceptable.” - *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

New Web Site for Founder Launched

<http://www.fathermcgivney.org> tells the story of Father Michael J. McGivney's life and legacy to global Internet audience

To further the cause for canonization of Father

Michael J. McGivney, the Supreme Council has launched www.fathermcgivney.org, a new Web site on the life and legacy of the Knights of Columbus founder.

With attractive graphics and numerous sections that explain the central role that Father McGivney has played and continues to play in the life of the Knights and the Church, the Web site provides a high-tech guide to the holy life and “spiritual genius” of this humble parish priest.

It also gives details on the status of Father McGivney's cause, which was opened officially in 1997, and the Vatican's investigation into a possible medical miracle performed through his intercession. A special interactive section allows users to enter a prayer request and to read personal testimonies from others who have received favors by praying to Father McGivney, who holds the title Servant of God, the first step on the road to sainthood.

The site is hosted by the Father McGivney Guild, which promotes the cause for canonization, offers prayer cards and other devotional items, and gathers testimonies from those who claim to have received favors through the intercession of Father McGivney. Knights, families of Knights and non-Knights may join the Guild free of charge and receive a regular newsletter which presently goes to more than 85,000 members.

Reprinted from KinghtLine August 26th, 2004

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: Kevin Buck, 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:

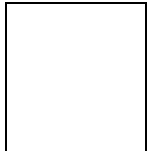
The 365 Club
Knights of Columbus, Council #7528
PO Box 24763
Federal Way, WA 98093-1763

Calendar of Events

November 2004		
2 nd	General Meeting	St. Vincent de Paul Hall @7:30pm with the Rosary in the Chapel at 7:00pm
7 th	Coffee & Donuts	St. Vincent de Paul Parish Hall
16 th	Planning Meeting and 1st Degree	Room "A" at 7:30pm...1st Degree starts at 7:00pm sharp!
21 st	Thanksgiving Basket Delivery	After 11:00 Mass in the Parish Hall
December 2004		
7 th	General Meeting	St. Vincent de Paul Hall @7:30pm with the Rosary in the Chapel at 7:00pm
19 th	Christmas Basket Delivery	After 11:00 Mass in the Parish Hall
21 st	Planning Meeting and 1st Degree	Room "A" at 7:30pm...1st Degree starts at 7:00pm sharp!
25 th	Merry Christmas	

Check out our website at <http://www.kc7528.org> for all of these events and more!

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED