

The Cross and Compass

Knights of Columbus St. Joseph Council #7528



Joey Romero, Grand Knight

Tim Philomeno, FFS—Editor

From The Grand Knight

- The May 7th General Meeting will center around voting on officers. Please attend. Rosary will be from 7 pm to 7:30 pm. The meeting begins at 7:30 pm.
- Knights Spaghetti Feed Saturday, May 4th at 6 pm. Proceeds go to seminarians.
- Knights will provide donuts after the 9 am and 11 am masses on May 5th.
- The Parish Spring Fling will be Friday, April 26th from 5 - 8 pm in the Courtyard. Help is needed and prep will start at 3:30 pm.
- Knight of the Month and Family of the Month - TBD.
- Headstone Cleaning will take place at Tahoma National Cemetary and is sponsored by 4th Degree. (This is not confirmed yet).
- The Rainier Baseball night is May 23rd.
- We need more parking lot security volunteers, please.

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From Your Lecturer

Matthew McConaughey Commencement Speech (Part 1 of 2)



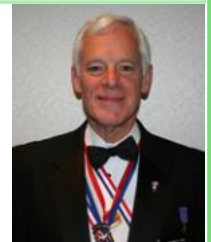
May and June are traditional months for college graduation ceremonies. The University of Washington has their graduation scheduled for June 8th. The ceremony is an occasion to invite a prominent individual to deliver a motivational speech to the graduating students.

In 2016 the actor, Matthew [McConaughey](#), gave a classic motivational speech at the University of Houston. It is considered one of the best motivational speeches of all time. I think that this speech has something to say to all of us. Because of its length, I have broken the speech into two parts for this issue and next month's issue of the Cross & Compass.

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FS Notes

No message this month



(Continued from page 1) Lecturer

Can you hear me? Can you hear me? You hear me? Okay. Congratulations class of 2015. You guys and girls, and young men and women are the reason I'm here. I'm really looking forward to talking with you all tonight. You heard my dad played football here and I believe he even graduated from here. That was some extra incentive for me to come. Short and sweet or long and salty? A sugar doughnut or some oatmeal? Now, out of respect for you and your efforts in getting your degree, I thought long and hard about what I could share with you tonight. Did I want to stand up here at a podium and read you your rights? Did I want to come up here and just share some funny stories. I thought about what you would want, I thought about what you might need. I also thought about what I want to say and what I need to say. Hopefully, we're both going to be happy on both accounts. As the saying goes, take what you like, leave the rest. Thank you for having me.

So before I share with you some what I do know, I want to talk with you about what I don't know. I have two older brothers. One was in high school in the early 1970s. And this was a time when a high school GED got you a job, and the college degree was exemplary. My other brother, Pat, was in high school in the early 80s. And by this time, the GED wasn't enough to guarantee employment. He needed a college degree. And if you got one, you had a pretty good chance of getting the kind of job that you wanted after you graduated. Me, I graduated high school in 1988. Got my college degree in 1993. And that college degree in '93 did not mean much. It was not a ticket. It was not a voucher. It was not a free pass go to anything. So I asked the question, what does your college degree mean?

It means you got an education. It means you have more knowledge in a specific subject, vocation. It means you may have more expertise in what your degree is in. But what's it worth in the job market out there today? We know the market for college graduates is more competitive now than ever. Now, some of you already have a job lined up, you've got a path where today's job is going to become tomorrow's career. But for most of you, the future is probably still pretty fuzzy. And you don't have that job that directly reflects the degree you just got. Many of you don't even have a job at all. Think about it. You've just completed your scholastic educational curriculum in life, the one that you started when you were five years old in kindergarten up until now, and your future may not be any clearer than it was five years ago. You don't have the answers and is probably pretty damn scary.

And I say that's okay. Because that is how it hits. This is the reality that many of you are facing. This is the world that we live in. And while I'm not here to discourage you, or in any way, belittle your accomplishments tonight, which I'd like to applaud that one more time. You graduated. Now, I'm not here to be a downer on that. Let's get that straight. But I am here to talk brass tacks. I want to skip the flattery and theatta boys. Because I do know this. The sooner that we become less impressed with our life, with our accomplishments, with our career, with whatever that prospect is in front of us, the sooner we become less impressed and more involved with that and these things, the sooner we get a whole lot better at doing it. So I'm going to talk to you about some things I've learned in my journey. Most from experience, some of them I heard in passing, many of them I'm

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still practicing, but all of them I do believe are true.

Now, they may be truth to me, but don't think that that makes them mine because you cannot own the truth. So please think of these as signposts, approaches paradigms, that give some science to satisfaction. They're yours to steal, they're yours to share, liken to your own lives, to personally apply in your own lives in your own way should you choose to. So here we go. Number one, and this should come up on the jumbotron, life's not easy. Is it up there. Life is not easy. It is not. Don't try to make it that way. Life's not fair. It never was, it isn't now, and it won't ever be. Do not fall into the trap, the entitlement trap of feeling like you're a victim. You are not. Get over it and get on with it. And yes, most things are more rewarding when you break a sweat to get them back. Fact.

Number two. I love this one. Unbelievable is the stupidest word in the dictionary. Should never come out of our mouths. Think about it. To say, what an unbelievable play. It was an unbelievable book, an unbelievable film, an unbelievable act of courage. Really? It may be spectacular, it may be phenomenal, most excellent or outstanding. But unbelievable? Give others and yourself more credit. It just happened. You witnessed it. You just did it. Believe it. What about the other side of unbelievable? That side when we humans underperform or act out of our best character. For instance, man flies a suicide jet into the World Trade Center. Millions died from diseases every day that we have cures for. Bob the Builder swears that he's going to have your house built by Thanksgiving and you can't move in until Christmas the next year. Our best friends lie to us. And we lie to ourselves all the time. Unbelievable? I don't think so. Again, it just happens and it happens every day.

Nothing that we Homo Sapiens earthlings do is unbelievable. And if there's one thing you can depend on people being, its people. So we shouldn't be surprised. We, us are the trickiest mammals walking the planet. I'm not worried about the monkeys. I'm worried about you and me. So acknowledge the acts of greatness as real and do not be naive about mankind's capacity for evil nor be in denial of our own shortcomings. Happiness is an emotional response to an outcome. If I win, I will be happy. If I don't, I won't. It's an if, then cause and effect, quid pro quo standard that we cannot sustain, because we immediately raise it every time we attain it. See, happiness demands a certain outcome. It is result reliant. And I say if happiness is what you're after, then you're going to be let down frequently and you're going to be unhappy much of your time.

Joy, though, joy is a different thing. It's something else. Joy is not a choice. It's not a response to some result. It's a constant. Joy is the feeling that we have from doing what we are fashioned to do, no matter the outcome. Now, personally as an actor, I started enjoying my work and literally being more happy when I stopped trying to make the daily labor a means to a certain end. For example, I need this film to be a box office success. I need my performance to be acknowledged. I need the respect of my peers. All those are reasonable aspirations. But the truth is, as soon as the work, the daily making of the movie, the doing of the deed became the reward in itself for me, I got more Box Office, more accolades and respect than I ever had before. See, Joy is always in process. It's under construction. It is in constant approach. Alive and well in the doing of what we're fashion to do and enjoying.

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(Continued from page 3) Lecturer

Number four. Define success for yourself. You already liked that one. Define success for yourself. Now, check this out. I'm in south of New Orleans a few years ago, and I went to a voodoo shop. And they had this wooden partition against the wall of these columns. In these columns were all these vials of these magic potions, right? And the headings above each potion defining what they would give you were things like fertility, health, family, legal help, energy, forgiveness, money. Guess which column was empty? Money. Let's admit it. Money is king today, is what makes the world go round. It is success. The more we have, the more successful we are, right? I would argue that our cultural values have even been financialized.

Humility is not vogue anymore. It's too passive. It's a get rich quick on the internet, rich as 15 minutes of fame world that we live in, and we see it every day. But we all want to succeed, right? So the question that we got to ask ourselves is what success is to us? What success is to you? Is it more money? That's fine. I got nothing against money. I don't. Maybe it's a healthy family. Maybe it's a happy marriage. Maybe it's to help others, to be famous, to be spiritually sound, to leave the world a little bit better place than you found it. Continue to ask yourself that question. Now, your answer may change over time and that's fine. But do yourself this favor. Whatever your answer is, don't choose anything that will jeopardize your soul.

Prioritize who you are, who you want to be, and don't spend time with anything that antagonizes your character. Don't drink the Kool-Aid. It tastes sweet but you will get cavities tomorrow. Life is not a popularity contest. Be brave. Take the hill. But first answer that question. What's my hill? So, me, how do I define success? For me myself. Well, for me, it's a measurement of five things. We got fatherhood, we got being a good husband, we got my health, mind, body and spirit, we got career and we got friendships. These are what's important to me in my life right now. So I try to measure these five things each day. I check in with them. I like to see whether or not I'm in the debit section or the credit section with each one. Am I in the red or I'm in the black? You follow?

For instance, sometimes say my career's rolling. All right, it's way up here in the black. But I see how my relationship with my wife maybe could use a little bit more of my attention. I got to pick up the slack on being a better husband. Get that one out of the red. Or say my spiritual health could use some maintenance. It's down here, but hey man, my friendships and my social life, they're in high gear. I got to recalibrate. Checks and balances. I got to go to church, remember to say thank you more often or something. But I got to take the tally, because I want to keep all five in healthy shape. And I know that if I don't take care of them, if I don't keep up maintenance on them, one of them is going to get weak, man.

It's going to dip too deep into the debit section, it's going to go bankrupt, it's going to get sick, died. So first, we have to define success for ourselves. And then we have to put in the work to maintain it. Take that daily tally. Tend to our garden, keep the things that are important to us in good shape. I mean, let's admit it. We've all got two wolves in us, a good one and a bad one, and they both want to eat. The best I can tell, we just got to feed that good one a little more than the other one. Here we go.

Birthdays and Anniversaries for May

Members		Member's Wife	
2nd	Gary Fredrickson	1st	Cindy Mansanarez
5th	David Sakamoto	8th	Anita Paves
12th	Tomisang Andon	8th	Lina Rutland
14th	Glenn Martin	9th	Teenamarie Callahan
15th	Stephen Young	15th	Maureen Fay
17th	David McArdle	17th	Colleen Clevenger
18th	Tommy Honorius	19th	Laura Abounader
18th	Benedict Villaruz	20th	Patty Winch
20th	Frank Schuster	Anniversaries	
22th	Joseph Krick	4th	Maurice and Isabel Tessier
25th	Carlos Rodriguez	17th	Thomas and Lavone Samstag
27th	Nathan Ramirez	20th	Kenneth and Kirsten Baune
27th	Thomas Rossetto	28th	Mark and Meschell Miloscia

Good of The Order

The following is a list of those Brother Knights or family members who are sick or in distress that we have been asked to pray for:

Pete Anderson, Richard Coe, Dale Dietrich , Arthur DePalma father of Fr. John Patrick , Margie wife of Gary Fredrickson, Ray & Mary Garcia, Leo Herrera, Ralph & Peggy Horner, Jerry and Kathy Koch, Bill Miller brother of Don Miller, Katherine Myers mother of Dave Myers, Larry and Ann Neville , Ralph Osman, Paul & Marianne Savino, Dean Smith, Anita Spicer Mother of Frank Spicer, Fr. Tom Vandenberg, Jim Yokum

Pray for all people that are victims of war and persecution throughout the world especially Israel, the middle east and Ukraine.

Pray for our Brother Knights of Columbus, Church members and families that we remain strong in our faith and pray that the Holy Spirit guides and protects us during these troubling times.

Pray for all priests and clergy that the Holy Spirit strengthen them and help them cope with all the changes as they minister to the faithful.

Pray for Our Country and leaders that the Holy Spirit descend upon us and lead us back to One Nation Under God for without Him we will not survive as a nation.

2023-2024 Council Leadership

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Knight of the Month April

TBA

Nativity House!

Come help feed the homeless Saturday May 18th. Everyone will be meeting in the church parking lot at 7:45 and leaving promptly at 8AM. From there everyone will be heading to the Tacoma Nativity House to feed the homeless pancakes and sausage! This is a great opportunity to help those in need!

Contact Ted Colby at nhb@kofc7528.org for any additional information.

Family of the Month April

TBA

Pennies for Heaven

Our goal for this year, as always, is a penny a day for Vocations, \$3.65/yr. Please support our priests!

Contact [FS Mike Fay](#)

Upcoming Events!

May

- 4th Spaghetti dinner to benefit the Seminarians
- 7th General Meeting—South Narthex 7:30pm
- 18th Nativity House
- 21st Planning Meeting—South Narthex 7:00pm

June

- 7th General Meeting—South Narthex 7:30pm
- 18th Nativity House
- 21st Planning Meeting—South Narthex 7:00pm

Knights of Columbus

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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