

The Cross and Compass

Knights of Columbus St. Joseph Council #7528
Federal Way, Washington



Vince Mansanarez
Grand Knight

Tim Philomeno, FFS—Editor

From The Grand Knight

My brother Knights of Columbus, I am honored to be your Grand Knight for this upcoming fraternal year. As we begin a new year, let us take a few minutes to reflect on why we became members of this outstanding organization. First and foremost, the main charge of this Council is to be the right hand of the parish priest. When one of our priests asks us to step up to perform a task for the church, we say yes immediately. Then we figured out how to reach the goal.

The new calendar will be available on the website. Look it over to see what events best show off your abilities. Remember, working together as a team, we can achieve the goals set for each of the events scheduled. The events we put on can fund the many worthwhile charities that our Council supports. As we work together, we are doing so in a brotherhood that makes us stronger Catholic Gentlemen and better members of the St Vincent's community.

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From Your Lecturer

Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis

I had intended to write my article about another book I was reading but a homily by our new pastor, Fr. Michael Dion, led me to read, **Mere Christianity** by C.S. Lewis. A book that I had not read before. C. S. Lewis was an atheist who converted to Christianity. At the invitation of the BBC, he conducted a series of wartime radio broadcasts on Christian faith during the Second World War. Delivered over the air from 1942 to 1944, these speeches were gathered into the several books, which are books of oral literature. Addressed to people enveloped by the suffering, pain and evil of



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FS Notes

Nothing to report this month...



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The first event in September will be coffee and donuts on the 15th. Nativity House will follow on Saturday 21st, then a Welcome New Knights Dinner on Saturday the 28th, at 2:00 pm.

The New Members' gathering will be a great way to meet all the new Knights and their families that joined our Council last fraternal year, as well as those that have joined us this new fraternal year. What better way to meet our newest members than a potluck bbq. Please bring your favorite dish to share with everyone. The time will be 2:00-5:00 pm. Hope to see a full hall for this occasion.

Our first general meeting will be held on September 3rd, at 7:30 pm, but come at 7:00 pm for our first Council rosary. I look forward to hearing from my brothers on ways to make our Council even better and bigger than previous years. My goal is to keep the meeting time at one hour or less, with time after to discuss events with light refreshments. We will be returning the meetings to a Council chamber setup. If you do not remember what that looks like, come on September 3rd to find out. We will also reintroduce the Pennies for Heaven bucket. Bring your dollar bills in case you need to "hit the bucket". Hitting the bucket is for a member who talks out of turn or is disruptive. Also, we will be bringing back the 50/50 raffle, with half going straight to Pennies for Heaven. I look forward to a full chamber on September 3rd.

Again, thank you for voting me as Grand Knight for this upcoming year. I will do my best to live up to the Grand Knights that I am following.

Vince Mansanarez
GK 7528

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war. But dare I say that we today are likewise faced with the reality of evil in the world that threatens us with destruction as well.

While it would have been easy to blame all of the evils of the world on technology, modernity, or declaring the notion of sin to be obsolete, Lewis insists that the problem is US. Like the psalmists and prophets of long ago described, whenever we are complacent and submit to systematic and individual evils, our own generation is to blame. In **Mere Christianity**, Lewis “betrays a deep faith in the power of the human imagination to reveal the truth about our condition and bring us to hope.”

Lewis intentionally avoided topics that divide the denominations of Christianity and instead concentrated on those beliefs that unite all Christians.

Lewis’ speeches were originally published in four books, which were then compiled together into one volume titled **Mere Christianity**. Over the next four articles I will summarize Lewis’ thoughts presented in each book. I hope that you will be inspired to read the book **Mere Christianity** on your own.

Book One: Right and Wrong as a Clue to the Meaning of the Universe

The Law of Human Nature. What Lewis means by this is a standard of behavior. Human nature because of free will can choose to obey or disobey this standard, unlike laws such as gravity, for example. This natural law is one that need not be taught because all should know what is right and what is wrong. We all recognize evil for what it is, just as the people of England knew that the Nazis were in the Wrong, and they opposed them for they were in the Right. Indeed, all civilizations from ancient times have a similar moral teaching even if they have disagreed on the details. However, we human beings have not acted in a way that we know to be the proper way whether it be in how we relate to our children, our spouses or in our business dealings. We offer excuses to be sure but that in itself reveals how we believe in the Law of Human Nature.

As Lewis says, “Human beings all over the earth, have this curious idea that they ought to behave in a certain way, and cannot really get rid of it. Secondly, that they do not in fact behave in that way. These two facts are the foundation of all clear thinking about ourselves and the universe we live in.”

Some Objections. Lewis points out objections by some to his position regarding The Law of Human Nature. Some wrote that Moral Law is simply herd instinct. Lewis agreed that we have instincts to act in a certain way. But a desire to act is different than feeling that you ought to act whether you want to or not.

Others wrote Lewis asserting that Moral Law is just social convention instilled in us by education. That is to say, what we learned from parents and teachers was merely a human invention. But Lewis counters by pointing out that there are absolutes such as mathematics that are the same to all. On the other hand, there are different moralities which humans em-

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brace. The fact that there are these differences points to a comparison to a standard of morality which is The Law of Human Nature.

The Reality of the Law. Unlike natural laws like gravity which are absolute, the Law of Human Nature tells what humans ought to do and not do. In other words, when you are dealing with humans, something else comes in beyond the actual facts. Yet, we all know what is good or bad behavior. Consequently, the Law of Human Nature must be a real thing. There is something above and beyond the ordinary facts of human behavior which none of us made for which we find pressing on us.

What Lies Behind the Law. Lewis next describes what this Law of Human Nature tells us about the universe we live in. One view is the materialistic view that all life developed as series of chances. The other view is religious in which a conscious mind had a purpose and made the universe as it is partly for purposes unknown, but partly to produce creatures like itself to the extent of having minds.

You cannot find out which view is right by science in the ordinary sense, because science works by experiments. You cannot prove a chance of something happening which leads to a certain result. But one cannot as well prove something is behind that which science observes. If there is something behind that which science observes or nothing is not a scientific question. No matter how much science discovers about the universe, the questions, "Why is there a universe?", "Why does it go on as it does?", "Has it any meaning?" would remain.

Lewis writes "Now the position would be quite hopeless but for this. There is one thing, and only one, in the whole universe which we know more about than we could learn from external observation. That one thing is Man. We know that men follow a moral law, which they did not create, and which they know they ought to obey." One cannot observe this because Moral Law is about what Man ought to do, and you can only scientifically observe what man has done.

We want to know whether the universe simply happens to be for no reason or whether there is a power behind it that makes it what it is. If that power exists, it would not be one of the observed objects in the universe, no more than the architect of a house could be a wall. The only way in which we could expect it to show itself is inside of us as an influence of our behavior. This leads us to Something directing the universe, because we have this innate comprehension of this Moral Law.

We have Cause to be Uneasy. Having posed the premise that Something has directed the universe, and that there is a Law of Human Nature, Lewis asserts that the architect of the universe is indeed a Being (we call God) with great artistic sense for the universe is beautiful though at the same time dangerous and terrifying. The universal Moral Law teaches us that this Being also is interested in right conduct. However, this leads us to a dilemma. If the universe is not governed by an absolute goodness, then all our efforts in the long run are hopeless. We are making ourselves enemies of that goodness because of our failures (sin?). God

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is our only comfort. He is what we most need, and the one we most want to hide from. Goodness is either the great safety or the great danger based on how we act.

Christianity tells people to repent and as a result promises forgiveness. It is after we realize that there is a real Moral Law, and a Power behind the Law, and that we have broken that Law and put ourselves in the wrong with that power that Christianity offers us a means to make things right. Lewis writes, "They (Christians) offer an explanation of how we got into our present state of both hating goodness and loving it. They offer an explanation of how God can be this impersonal mind at the back of Moral Law and yet also be a Person. They tell you that the how the demands of this law, which you and I cannot meet, have been met on our behalf, how God himself becomes a man to save man from the disapproval of God."

Next month will continue with **Mere Christianity** and present C. S. Lewis' description in Book Two What Christians Believe.

Birthdays and Anniversaries for September

Member Birthday		Anniversaries	
2nd	Michael Kragten	5th	Richard and Laurel Schumacher
3rd	James Lewis	5th	Victor and Marcia Ducusin
7th	Robert Knutson	6th	Donald and Patty Hall
8th	William Stearns	7th	Craig and Anna Patrick
12th	William Thomas	9th	David and Shirley McArdle
13th	Mark Miloscia	13th	J Robert and Sunee Ward
13th	Victor Ducusin	15th	James and Eevie Pogue
15th	Raymond Garcia	19th	Jack and Patty Winch
16th	Michael Mansanarez	21th	Joseph and Sharon Conner
16th	Joseph Dela Cruz	23th	James and Mary Miles
23th	Ralph Osman	23th	Thomas and Jenny Rossetto
25th	James Stiles	24th	Robert and Veronica (Sim) Williams
28th	Joel Fadul	25th	James and Cora Stiles
30th	Kenneth Baune	28th	Antonio and Nora Del Rosario

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, Aurther DePalma father of Fr. John Patrick, Margie wife of Gary Fredrickson, Ray & Mary Garcia, Leo Herrera, Ralph & Peggy Horner, Kathy Koch wife of Departed Brother Jerry Koch, Bill Miller brother of Don Miller, Katherine Myers mother of Dave Myers, Larry and Ann Neville, Ralph Osman, Paul & Marianne Savino, Jim Miles, Dean Smith, Anita Spicer Mother of Frank Spicer, Jim Yokum

- Pray for all people that are victims of war and persecution throughout the world especially Israel, the middle east and Ukraine and pray for a peaceful resolution to the hostilities.
- 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.

2024-2025 Council Leadership

TITLE	NAME	EMAIL ALIAS	Phone #
Chaplain		chaplain@kofc7528.org	
Grand Knight	Vince Mansanarez	gk@kofc7528.org	253-973-2842
Deputy Grand Knight	William Lie	dqk@kofc7528.org	206-240-4546
Chancellor	Tim Amato	chancellor@kofc7528.org	425-890-9388
Warden	Ralph Osmon	warden@kofc7528.org	253-735-6035
Recorder	Bob Butzerin	recorder@kofc7528.org	253-498-6745
Treasurer	John Mills	treasurer@kofc7528.org	206-981-6911
Financial Secretary	Mike Fay	fs@kofc7528.org	206-697-8252
Lecturer	Bill Shell	lecturer@kofc7528.org	253-236-4456
Advocate	Tony Robinson	advocate@kofc7528.org	206-673-7287
Inside Guard	Terance Toensfeldt	ig@kofc7528.org	206-429-2788
Outside Guard	Glenn J. Boctot	og@kofc7528.org	206-307-6761
Trustee for 1 Years	Garnett Beadle	Trustee1@kofc7528.org	253-266-7950
Trustee for 2 Years	Jim Stiles	trustee2@kofc7528.org	253-312-1711
Trustee for 3 Year	Joey Romero	trustee3@kofc7528.org	253-334-6110
Program Chairman	Jim Stiles	program@kofc7528.org	253-312-1711
IPGK	Joey Romero	ipgk@kofc7528.org	253-334-6110
Membership Chairman	Mike Rutland	membership@kofc7528.org	206-419-8120
Retention Chairman	Joey Romero	retention@kofc7528.org	253-334-6110
Life Director	Bill Shell	life@kofc7528.org	253-236-4456
Community Director	Mark Czaplewski	community@kofc7528.org	253-838-1238
Family Director	Reuben Morales	family@kofc7528.org	206-304-7348
Faith Director	Bill Shell	faith@kofc7528.org	253-236-4456
Insurance Agent	Michael P. Rutland	agent@kofc7528.org	206-419-8120
Good of the Order	Tony Robinson	goodoftheorder@kofc7528.org	206-673-7287
Cross & Compass Editor	Tim Philomeno	candc@kofc7528.org	206-391-8008
Webmaster	Tim Philomeno	webmaster@kofc7528.org	206-391-8008

Knight of the Month July/Aug

Father John Patrick/
Bill Schell

Nativity House!

Come help feed the homeless Saturday September 21st. 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 July/Aug

Ted Colby Sanchez/
William Crowley

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!

September

3rd General Meeting—South Narthex 7:30pm
 3rd Council Rosary
 7th Respect Life Vigil
 15th Coffee and Donuts
 17th Planning Meeting—South Narthex 7:00pm
 21st Nativity House
 28th SVDP Food Drive
 29th SVDP Food Drive

October

1st General Meeting—South Narthex 7:30pm
 1st Respect for Life Parish Rosary
 1st Greenery Sale Starts
 5th 40 Days for Life
 5th Council Dinner
 9th Wounded Warrior Stocking Collection
 12th 40 Days for Life
 15th Planning Meeting—South Narthex 7:00pm
 19th Nativity House
 19th 40 Days For Life

Knights of Columbus
 PO Box 4097
 Federal Way, WA 98063
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Member One