

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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May 2003

A Message from the Grand Knight

Two events of this past month have reinforced why I joined the Knights of Columbus, and most importantly, why after over eight years as a Knight my affection for the Order has grown stronger

The first event was our annual Lenten Fish Fry's. For six consecutive Friday nights each spring the council dedicates itself to literally "serving" the parish. Not only do we provide a great meal at a great price and a sense of community in conjunction with the most holy of Catholic holidays, it is also our most active and visible time of the fraternal year. As a result, the fish fry's have become a legendary tradition in the parish, eagerly anticipated prior to Lent.

I'm personally amazed each year at all the selfless hard work that goes into hosting these dinners, both behind the scenes during the week and on Friday night. There always seems to be enough dedicated Knights to make the necessary preparations for each fish fry, to successfully run the fish fry, and to clean up afterwards. No matter how important or menial tasks are, they always seem to get accomplished in an outstanding manner. Just as amazing is the fact that during the "heat of battle", when there is a huge line wrapped around the inside of the hall, numerous tables need to be cleared and reset, the noise is at fever pitch, and the temperature has reached tropical levels, there is always a sense of unity and brotherhood in the air. Our council dinners and breakfasts are my favorite events every year simply because of the communal and fraternal atmosphere that exists at them.

The second event was the 2nd Annual WA State Squires Convention held here at St. Vincent de Paul on April 12th. Attending the morning session of the convention made me reminisce back four years ago to when our Squires Circle #4175 was re-chartered. We were unable to get the tenth boy required to start a circle at St. Vincent's, so we decided to form a "district" circle with boys from the three parishes in the area - St. Vincent's, St. Teresa's and Holy Family. Our current State Deputy Wayne Hogan graciously helped us get

organized and presided over the circle's initial investiture. Circle #4175 has come a long way since those humble beginnings and has accomplished a lot of wonderful things. Not only are we unique in having one of the most active squires circles in Washington State, but we also have three Squires who are inaugural State Squire Officers. Consequently, our circle was instrumental in the convention's planning and success.

With all the negative stories we read and hear about youth today - gangs, drugs, violence, etc. - it is extremely comforting to know that the Knights of Columbus promotes a program like the Squires that develops strong Christian values, and that OUR youth will be the leaders of our world tomorrow. As Knights, we should also be very proud of these young men we sponsor.

Also worthy of mention was the fact that our 4th Degree Honor Guard presented the Colors to open the Squires Convention, and did an outstanding job. The team looked extremely sharp in their regalia and represented our nation with military precision. Their presence notably added to the class of the proceedings.

Please sincerely pat yourselves on the back, because once again our council has a great deal to be proud of! Happy Belated Easter to everyone!

Vivat Jesus!

Marc Gonick, GK

The Deputy Grand Knight's Corner

By David Myers, DKG

One day a teacher asked her students to list the names of the other students in the room on two sheets of paper, leaving a space between each name. Then she told them to think of the nicest thing they could say about each of their classmates and write it down. It took the remainder of the class period to finish their assignment and, as the students left the room, each one handed in the papers. That Saturday, the teacher wrote down the name of each student on a separate sheet of paper, and listed what everyone else had said about that individual. On Monday, she gave each student his or her list. Before long, the entire class was smiling. "Really?" she heard whispered. "I never knew that I meant anything to anyone!" and, "I didn't know others liked me so much" were some of the comments.

No one ever mentioned those papers in class again. She never knew if they discussed them after class or with their parents, but it didn't matter. The exercise had accomplished its purpose. The students were happy with themselves and one another. That group of students moved on.

Several years later, one of the students was killed in Vietnam and his teacher attended the funeral of that special student. She had never seen a serviceman in a military coffin before. He looked so handsome, so mature. The church was packed with his friends. One by one, those who loved him took a last walk by the coffin. The teacher was the last one to bless the coffin. As she stood there, one of the soldiers, who acted as pallbearer, came up to her. "Were you Mark's math teacher?" he asked. She nodded: "Yes." Then he said: "Mark talked about you a lot."

After the funeral, most of Mark's former classmates went together to a luncheon. Mark's mother and father were there, obviously waiting to speak with his teacher. "We want to show you something," his father said, taking a wallet out of his pocket. "They found this on Mark when he was killed. We thought you might recognize it." Opening the billfold, he carefully removed two worn pieces of notepaper that had obviously been taped, folded and refolded many times. The teacher knew, without looking, that the papers were the ones on which she had listed all the good things each of Mark's classmates had said about him. "Thank you so much for doing that," Mark's mother said. "As you can see, Mark treasured it."

All of Mark's former classmates started to gather around. Charlie smiled rather sheepishly and said, "I still have my list. It's in the top drawer of my desk at home." Chuck's wife said, "Chuck asked me to put his in our wedding album." "I have mine too," Marilyn said. "It's in my diary." Then Vickie, another classmate, reached into her pocketbook, took out her wallet and showed her worn and frazzled list to the group. "I carry this with me at all times," Vickie said, and without batting an eyelash, she continued: "I think we all saved our lists." That's when the teacher finally sat down and cried. She cried for Mark and for all his friends who would never see him again.

The density of people in society is so thick that we forget that life will end one day, and we don't know when that one day will be. So please, tell the people you love and care for, that they are special and important. Tell them, before it is too late.

The Lecturer's Corner

By Joe Clemens, Lecturer

This month's Lecturer Corner will be brief except you had better not miss this next meeting night as I will be explaining the meaning behind the jewels of office and what some of the other emblems signify. It should be quite entertaining. I am sure you all have, at one time or other, wondered about the meaning of Knight of Columbus, what the duties of the officers were and what their emblems of office meant. It will not be a long talk and I hope to enkindle your response by seriously consider one of the positions within the council either as an officer or in one of the chairmen positions.

We have been blessed to have a large group of volunteers but even they get a little tired after awhile. This will be your chance to dig in and give something back to your council, church or community.

"Signs" Around Town

1. There was a church that had problems with outsiders parking in its parking lots, so they put up a sign: CHURCH CAR PARK - FOR MEMBERS ONLY Trespassers will be baptized!
2. "No God - No Peace. Know God - Know Peace."
3. "Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside!"
4. "Try our Sundays. They are better than Baskin Robbins."
5. "Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!"
6. An ad for one Church has a picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed and a headline that reads, "For fast, fast, fast relief, take two tablets."
7. When the restaurant next to another Church put out a big sign with red letters that said, Open Sundays," the church reciprocated with its own message: "We are open on Sundays, too."
8. "Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long and the pay is low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world."
9. "It is unlikely there'll be a reduction in the wages of sin."
10. "Do not wait for the hearse to take you to church."

Squires Convention

By Joe Penwell - Council Event Chairman

I want to thank everyone that helped with the 2nd Annual Washington State Squires' Convention. I know it was really tough coming back right after the last fish fry but the council really shined and impressed me personally. We really came through to attend to the needs of these young men and they are very grateful. It was neat seeing all the squires and guests served in less than 10 minutes. You guys were awesome. Everyone said they enjoyed the food and can those boys eat.

Recruiting

By Dave Caton - Recruitment Chair, Second Year Trustee

I'd like to urge ALL First Degree Knights who could not make the Second/Third degrees last month to be sure and take advantage of the next opportunity in Olympia on Saturday, May 3rd or in Bellevue on Sunday, May 4th.

For the rest of the year, the last two 2nd and 3rd Degrees are on June 1st in Seattle and on June 7th in Poulsbo. Sponsors! I need your help to get our many First Degree Knights to come up in the ranks. We need their youth, vitality and new ideas, as well as leadership skills.

We are now at about 120% for the Fraternal Year for recruiting, but let's not rest on our laurels. Let's continue to make this the best year ever for St. Joseph Council!

Blood Drive News!!!

By Dave Caton - Blood Drive Chairman

Gents: Let's all show further patriotic support for our troops and for the community by donating blood at our next blood drive, scheduled for Thursday, June 5th, 2003.

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 May 6th.

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 \$\$\$\$.

50/50 Winners for April's Meeting

Tom Skoda
Joe Clemens
Joe Clemens

Bob Pirolo's name was drawn from the hat to win
\$52.00

Congratulations to all!

Come to the Meetings and win big!!!

TAPS

We in the United States have all heard the haunting song, "Taps." It's the song that gives us that lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. But, do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be interested to find out about its humble beginnings.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing

if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody, we now know as "Taps" used at military funerals was born.

Day is done,
Gone the sun,
From the lakes,
From the hills,
From the sky,
All is well,
Safely rest,
God is nigh.

Fading light,
Dims the sight,
And a star,
Gems the sky,
Gleaming bright,
From afar,
Drawing nigh,
Falls the night.

Thanks and praise,
For our days,
Neath the sun,
Neath the stars,
Neath the sky,
As we go,
This we know,
God is nigh.

I have never seen all the words to the song until now. I didn't even know there was more than one verse. I also never knew the story behind the song. I now have an even deeper respect for the song.

**REMEMBER THOSE LOST AND HARMED WHILE
SERVING THEIR COUNTRY.**

The Last Fish Fry

Here are some good ones from the last fish fry. A special thanks to all who worked and supported this year's Fish Frys. Because of your hard work and dedication, we will be able to meet our financial obligations for the year!



"Ah... Grasshopper..."



"My finger will never be the same"



"The Ketchup goes in this end.."



"He's just a choppin...."

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: _____

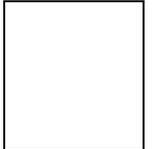
Address: _____ City: _____

Mail your check to:

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

Calendar of Events		
May 2003		
6 th	General Meeting	St. Vincent de Paul Narthex @7:30pm with the Rosary in the Chapel at 7:00pm
11 th	Mother's Day Breakfast	St. Vincent de Paul Parish Hall after 8:00am and 9:30am Masses
16 th -18 th	State Convention	Doubletree Guest Suits, Tukwila, WA (see Tim Philomeno for more information)
20	Planning Meeting	Room "A" @ 7:30pm
31 st	Spaghetti Dinner	After 5:00 Mass
June 2003		
3 rd	General Meeting	St. Vincent de Paul Narthex @7:30pm with the Rosary in the Chapel at 7:00pm
5 th	Blood Drive	St. Vincent de Paul Parish Hall
7 th	Awards Banquet	St. Vincent de Paul Parish Hall at 6:00
17 th	Planning Meeting	Room "A" @ 7:30pm

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED