



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

St. John The Beloved Council 11796

Grand Knight's Message

Dear Brother Knights,

August was first called the “Dog Days” because ancient astronomers noted that the brightest star in the sky, the Dog Star, rose in the east along with the sun. They reasoned that the combination of the two celestial objects was the source of August’s oppressive heat. Others note that, in the days before air conditioning, the only way to get relief from August’s swelter was to lay down in the shade and take it easy, just like our canine companions.

Today we depart from air-conditioned houses into air-conditioned cars and arrive at air-conditioned offices and stores, barely giving a thought to the oppressively hot and damp air of August. (Of course, after I get my bill from the power company, I am tempted to try to recreate those days before central air conditioning!) In order to stay comfortable, we are living hermetically-sealed lives, cut-off from the natural world and unaware of the pleasures summer can offer us. We have learned to tame the Dog Days, but at the cost of losing touch with the world outside.

When you think about it, these Dog Days of summer are a lot like God’s love for us. Just as the Dog Star heats the sky, Jesus’ love burns for us with an intense heat. The Holy Spirit wraps around us just like the humid air of August. God is unavoidable; He is everywhere. Unlike the heat of the Dog Days, though, God is with us everyday of the year.

How unfortunate it is that too many people, like those trying to avoid the summer heat, are too absorbed in their own comfortable spaces to notice God’s presence. I challenge us all this year to take a step out of the cool comfort of the familiar and step out into the heat of the Holy Spirit: volunteer to develop our Parish Hospitality Committee; answer the call to serve as lector, Eucharistic Minister, or choral member; lend a hand at a Pancake Breakfast or parking at a U of D football game; join the Bible Study Group; attend a Council meeting; visit a shut-in; or help teach a child. If you need more ideas, just give the Rectory a call. I’m sure the good Fathers have plenty of ideas!

At first, we may be a little uncomfortable in the new environment, but we will re-connect with God’s love. We will feel refreshed and renewed. Unlike the Dog Days which last only a few weeks, God’s Days last forever!

Vivat Jesus,

Bill Harris

August 2007

State K of C Picnic Scheduled

Our state council's annual picnic has been scheduled for Sunday, August 19, between 1:00 PM and 6:00 PM at St Anthony's in the Hills. Located on Route 7 just ½ mile north of the DE/PA state line, the facilities include a scenic outdoor picnic setting, games and a swimming pool. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children under 12 and \$20 per family. This is a very popular event and a great way to spend time with your family and fellow knights in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Contact Picnic Chairman Brian Dennis at 302-797-3008 for more information.

Celebrate Life in the Celebration Garden

At our July meeting, we discussed a number of ideas for how the council could contribute to the SJB Celebration Garden being planned for the area between the church and the hall (on both sides of the sidewalk where the statue of St. John the Beloved is currently located). Ideas ranged from buying one or more bricks for \$100 to \$200 each depending on location to paying for the planned statue of St. Francis of Assisi or the pedestal on which it will stand. Grand Knight Bill Harris plans on meeting with Father Charlie to discuss options and costs and report back to the council at our meeting on August 15th. In the interim, anyone with suggestions should contact Bill at wkharrisjr@comcast.net or by phone at 998-7271. This will be a chance for the Knights of Columbus to leave a lasting impression so your comments and suggestions are encouraged.

Joe Baggs – Cuistot Familier Pour Les Personnes du Troisieme Age

That should keep him quiet long enough to find his French-English dictionary! The parish honored its grandparents and senior citizens with a dinner in the hall on July 26th – the Feast of Sts. Anne and Joachim. The meal for 180 consisted of chicken, ham, scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables and cake. Joe Baggs demonstrated his talents once again as cook (cuistot familier) for (pour) our senior citizens (les personnes du troisieme age). Tom Dawson, Joe Moretto, Andy Saypack, Joe Baggs' son Steve and grandson Steve were also critical ingredients of a successful evening as everyone enjoyed the meal and the event. Merci pour un travail etait bien fait (Thanks for a job well done) Gentlemen!

Where's Waldo?

Actually, the game this month is "Where's Our Council Chaplain?" For the first time ever, live, uninterrupted coverage of the Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention will be provided on station EWTN (cable channel 78). The convention is being held in Nashville from August 7 – 9 this year. Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone is scheduled to celebrate the opening mass on Tuesday, August 7th. He will read greetings from Pope Benedict to the knights at the opening session of the convention that afternoon and the Order will present him with the Knights of Columbus Gaudium et Spes Award at the States Dinner that evening. Now, you may ask, what does all of this have to do with our worthy council chaplain? Well, Father Cocco plans to attend this year's convention you see. So, while you're watching the proceedings, you get to see if you can spot our good Father C. It won't be as easy as you might imagine. A handsome, cheerful, erudite fellow like him should stand out in a crowd but the key word is crowd (there will be hundreds of priests, bishops and cardinals in attendance) so keep a sharp eye out for 11796's very own (and, of course, terrific) chaplain.

August 2007

Once A Month

Remember that we have only one meeting this month. It's on August 15th at 7:30 PM in the Conference Room in the hall. If you can't remember the date just remember it's the meeting that has food and then you'll remember it's the third Wednesday of the month.

Knights Celebrate Family Week

August 11th – 19th is Knights of Columbus Family Week this year. As a family oriented Order, we knights involve our families in our activities and appreciate our families for their support of those activities. So, get everyone together and celebrate the family for what it is – the cornerstone from which we approach all other activities that life draws us into. It might be dinner at home followed by a board game (with the TV turned off); a visit to grandma's house; a movie and a discussion of its message afterward over ice cream sundaes; or any other activity that draws you closer together for just a little while and that allows you to appreciate each other without the distractions the outside world bombards you with on a daily basis. You can close out the week with a day of fun, food and games at the state council's picnic on Sunday, the 19th at St. Anthony's in the Hills.

Picnic in the Park

Our erstwhile Membership Director Vito DiChiara has spoken with Delaware Park officials (and we suspect some of his four legged friends there) and arranged for our council to hold its picnic there again this year. Reserve the date on your calendar – Sunday, September 9th – and make plans for a day of family fun and dining alfresco with friends. The fun is guaranteed. Winners of the races are not. Vito only talked to the horses. They didn't talk back. Right, Vito?

“Look How the Wild Flowers Grow:...”

“they do not work or make clothes for themselves.” Matthew (6:28) obviously never had to park cars at a University of Delaware football game. Those four wheeled “flowers” won't park themselves. Not to worry though, there are knights who can park just about anything while enjoying the sunny fields and fresh air of Newark. The Blue Hens football season is upon us with the home opener against West Chester set for September 8th. We'll need to field a crew of ten for about four hours for each of the seven regular season home games. So, take a look at the Event Calendar; decide which games you can help at and then contact Joe Mahoney at 998-1774 or dmyhoney@peoplepc.com. to let him know.

My, How Time Flies When You're Having Fun !

Our brother knights at Pius X Council are celebrating their 50th anniversary with a mass in St. Anthony's Church at 5:30 PM on Saturday, September 8th. It will be followed by a dinner in the council hall located at Scott and Lancaster Streets in Wilmington. Anyone who's ever had dinner at the council hall knows Pius X has some great cooks and what better way to spend a summer evening than good food in the company of friends and fellow knights? Hors d'oeuvres and dinner are \$25.00 per person. There's a cash bar. Live music and dancing will follow to allow you to work off dinner or dazzle everyone with your footwork. Contact Gene Dzielak at 658-0351 or Herb Casalena at 571-0149 to make reservations.

August 2007

The Candy Man Says “Thanks” (Letter to the members dated July 10, 2007)

“I just wanted to pass along my personal ‘Thanks’ to all members of our council who volunteered to take an active part in our ‘Helping People With Disabilities Campaign’. This type of campaign does not put a financial burden on our council but [does] gain many heartfelt thanks from the many organizations that will be able to pass along the profits to many needy families.

By standing in front of our church for a few hours and handing out some Tootsie Rolls, we are living up to our [core values] of Charity and Unity. I know this simple task has made life a little easier for many individuals.

Once again, thank you one and all for what you have accomplished. [It is] with a sense of pride that I report SJB Council has raised over \$24,000 in its quest to help other people. As the new Columbian year begins, I hope and pray, with God’s help, [that] our council can [continue] to act to benefit our community.” – Andy Saypack

Thank you Andy. We’re proud to have you lead us in this worthy effort.

Read A Good Book Lately?

While the kids are working their way through their summer reading list or the last volume of Harry Potter, we knights can expand our own mental horizons. Good books are available. A great place to find a few of them is the K of C book club. Generally, two books are recommended each month such as March’s *The Way to Christ* by Pope John Paul II, April’s *Listen My Son* by Dwight Longenecker or February’s *A Man for All Seasons* by Robert Bolt. Available in hardcover or paperback, new volumes average about \$12.00 but used copies can be purchased for as little as \$1.99. For more information, go to www.kofc.org, scroll to the bottom and click on “Supreme Knight’s Book Club”. Happy reading!

Event Calendar

August

5	7:00 PM	First Degree – St. Pius X Council	Scott & Lancaster Sts, Wilmington
8	5:00 PM	Blue Rocks Baseball Game	Frawley Stadium
15	7:30 PM	Council 11796 Social Meeting	Hall Conference Room
19	1:00 PM	State Council Picnic	St Anthony’s in the Hills

September

2	7:00 PM	First Degree – St. Pius X Council	Scott & Lancaster Sts, Wilmington
5	7:00 PM	Council Rosary	Conference Room
5	7:30 PM	Council 11796 Business Meeting	Conference Room
8	3:00 PM	U of D Parking (West Chester)	Lot 9
8	5:30 PM	50 th Anniv. Mass Pius X Council	St Anthony’s Church
8	6:30 PM	50 th Anniv. Dinner/Social Pius X	Council Hall 1801 Lancaster Ave. Wilm.
9	1:00 PM	Council Picnic	Delaware State Park (Rte 4 Entrance)
15	11:30 AM	U of D Parking (Rhode Island)	Lot 9
19	7:30 PM	Council 11796 Social Meeting	Conference Room
29	3:00 PM	U of D Parking (Monmouth)	Lot 9

August 2007