



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

St. John The Beloved Council 11796

Dear Brother Knights,

A “minimalist Christmas” – that’s what Lois and I celebrated this season. “What the heck does that mean?” you might ask. Well, the kitchen remodeling job wasn’t done. Contents of all the old cabinets were stacked in boxes in the dining room. New cabinets were in cartons in the living room. The refrigerator was in the den as were the kitchen table and chairs. The house was a mess. Faced with decorating the homestead, Lois and I looked at each other and wondered to ourselves how to make order out of chaos. We decided on a minimalist Christmas. That meant no big tree; no digging out all the decorations; no lights outside or in the windows. I only sent cards to my mom, brothers and sisters. We limited ourselves to two presents for each other and our daughter. When the extended family met for our annual holiday gathering, we advised everyone we’d made a donation in their name to a favorite charity. Christmas shopping took me less than two hours for everything this year.

I thought it was not really going to seem like Christmas this year. Boy was I wrong. Absent wrestling with tangled strings of wired lights; the personally rewarding but time consuming task of sending out a hundred Christmas cards with individual messages; and the hours spent looking for a parking space and the perfect gift at the mall, we had a warm, personal and really memorable Christmas – one we waited to celebrate on the 27th when our daughter could make it home.

Ah simplicity – it is its own reward. That got me to thinking “Is all that other stuff really necessary?” At home, we each spent some time talking and a lot of time listening. At the family gathering, the kids played an interactive personal game – cards – and had a great time. If they missed the pandemonium of ripping open stacks of presents, it certainly didn’t show. The adults talked and laughed and brought each other up to date on what had happened in their lives over the past year. My daughter’s boy friend, a professional photographer, brought his equipment and took family photo’s we are sure to enjoy.

In the end, instead of guzzling eggnog, I learned how to make lemonade out of a situation that originally looked like a sack of lemons. And, as the New Year rushes at me, I’ve decided to enjoy the gifts I already have – a family’s love, the companionship of good friends, the wonder of the seasons as they change and the love of a Creator who asks nothing but my love in return. With that approach in mind, 2008 is looking like a banner year. I wish each of you the same.

Fraternally Yours,

Kevin Duffy
Editor

January 2008

Welcome Our Newest Members

A knightly welcome is extended to our four newest council members who completed their first degree on December 4th in an exemplification conducted at Pius X Council Hall.

Klaus J. Abele, 51, is a computer consultant who lives in Wilmington. He can be reached at wjf_carriage@verizon.net.

Salvatore (Sal) F. DiPasquale, 45, is the business manager at BCP Smyrna. Sal can be reached at 892-9512.

Brian N. Moore, 37, is a facilities manager for the Red Clay School District who lives in Limestone Hills with his wife Karen. He can be reached at 239-9355 or brian.moore@redclay.k12.de.us.

John P. Piechoski, 66, is a retired engineer who lives in Linden Heath with his wife Irene. He can be reached at 239-4475 or piech@comcast.net.

Knight Gets Third Degree

Council member Tom Pollutri became a knight this past September 19th and he's on a hot streak. Tom got his third degree on December 14th. He had to go to Haddonfield NJ to get it but, hey, there's just no stopping a determined knight! Fellow knight Joe Koskol volunteered to go with Tom and together the two tempted fate in the waning hours of the night. The story of their midnight search for an open Garden State gas station is hilarious. Congratulations Tom.

Oh, What a Night!

Remember the Frankie Valli hit song? "Oh, what a night, Late December back in...." OK, so it was too late for you seniors and no one born after '75 was there to experience it. Anyway, roughly four dozen knights, spouses and friends gathered at the Cavaliers Country Club on December 9th to celebrate the season and enjoy the company of fellow council members. Kevin Duffy was presented with a certificate and pin marking his service as our past grand knight. Our pastor Father Charlie led us in prayer before the meal and our council chaplain Father Cocco gave the closing benediction. We learned who our Knight and Family of the Year are, we ate well and everyone had a great time. It was the best \$15 bucks any of us spent all year. Thanks go to Chick Mealey for making all the arrangements again this year.

A New Year's Resolution – Keep Your Financial Secretary Happy

It's that time of year again so keep your eyes open for the dues notices that have been mailed to you. The notices are for six dollars for the first three months but you can save time and postage by paying \$24.00 for the entire year. Then you won't have to worry about dues until 2009. You'll get to it next week? Yeah, we've heard that one. Procrastination doesn't pay (no pun intended) and having to send out second notices makes our famously good natured Ray McAllister a tad cranky and you wouldn't want to be the one responsible for that would you? Dues can be paid at our meetings or mailed to Ray McAllister at 107 Stone Hurst Court, New Castle, DE 19720.

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Kudos For Koskol – Knight of the Year

Joseph E. Koskol was named Knight of the Year at our Christmas party on December 9th. Joe became a knight in August 2005 and now has his third degree. He was cited by Grand Knight Bill Harris for his active participation in council activities including our pancake breakfasts, Fish Fry, and the Garden of Crosses. Joe was given the Family of the Month award in November 2005 and is our council's only recipient of the Knight in Shining Armor Award. He served in an officer's role on the council as Recorder last year. Joe also fills the most challenging role on our First Degree Team – that of Chancellor – and is actively pursuing the establishment of our own Second Degree Team. An affable and intellectually gifted fellow, Joe has accomplished all of this while working as an engineer on three continents. His wife Eri and daughter Anna have also regularly contributed their talents to our council's activities. Omedetou gozaimasu Joseph san. (For those of us not fluent in Japanese – Congratulations Joe!)

Connolly's Named Family of the Year

Dennis J. Connolly, his wife Pat and their three daughters were named Family of the Year at our gathering on December 9th. A knight for 27 years, Sir Dennis is, of course, a fourth degree member of the Order. A charter member of our council, Dennis served as an officer or director every year since the council was founded in 1996. He is currently council Recorder. Past positions include Chancellor, Trustee, Church Director and Advocate. He was given the Family of the Month Award in August 2006. An employee of the St. Vincent DePaul Society, Dennis has been instrumental in serving the needs of those in our community. Dennis' wife Pat is also a supporter of the knights, our council and its programs. To Dennis and the family we say "Well Done!"

A Fish Tale!

There once were two fisherman named Bob and Steve who braved the early morning cold and rough seas to go fishing. Being the expert anglers they were, they caught thousands. As they gleefully docked their small trawler, they were greeted by their wives Ronnie and Val who, somewhat less enthused than our erstwhile anglers, said to the two "If you think we're going to clean all those @!%#x! fish you've been out in the salt air too long." Only temporarily stymied, the ingenious duo went to their neighbor Joe B and asked what they should do with all the fish. "Fry the suckers and give 'em to whoever wants 'em" said Joe. Now Bob and Steve thought this sounded like a good idea so they went to the next K of C council meeting and told their brother knights of their idea. Everyone thought it was a great idea except Bottom Line Bob who gasped, turned purple and said "What do you mean GIVE them away?" Now the knights are known far and wide for their charity, unity and fraternity so they all volunteered to help dispense the fish to the hungry masses (never mind the fact they didn't want to be responsible for sending the anglers back to their aforementioned good wives with news that they were stuck with the fish) and VOILA! The SJB Council Fish Fry was born.

The shorter version is that we will be holding our famous Fish Fry on February 15th, February 29th and March 14th this year. Lots of help will be needed. To volunteer for any of the dates, just contact Bob Donofrio at 998-2723 or donofrio5@comcast.net or Steve Oldiges at 234-8150 or sjbkofc@hotmail.com and let them know when you'll be available.

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Have You Seen Them?

The green recycling containers behind the trash dumpsters at the side of the parish hall and in the rear parking lot next to the Gerres Building? They're for the newspapers you've been meaning to get rid of. Instead of trekking to the nearest set of recycling igloos, bring your newspapers, magazines and old telephone books with you to mass. Then, before going home, swing by and drop them in the designated containers. You'll save gas by combining your trips, the parish will get cash for your trash and you'll be saving the environment at the same time. It doesn't get any easier than that.

The Schedule is Set!

Spend a little under two hours parking cars, then enjoy the best meal in town and watch courtside while the Blue Hens hoopsters dazzle you with their scoring skills – all for free. You have eleven chances to participate. Four volunteers will be needed for most games, only two volunteers for several. Half the games are on Wednesdays and the other half are on Saturdays. Game times vary so you have lots of choices. The times listed in the event calendar below are the reporting times for volunteers. Game times are an hour and 45 minutes later. So, pick a game you can help at and then contact Joe Mahoney at 998-1774 or dmyhoney@peoplepc.com and let him know.

Be a Super Knight on Souper Bowl Sunday

Ask yourself, “Do I want to be distracted and consumed with guilt when the two best teams in football (the Patriots and whoever) are playing; it's 4th and goal with ten seconds left in the game; and the score is 31 – 29 or do I want to be able to concentrate on the game?” You won't have that dilemma on your hands if you volunteer twenty minutes before any mass on Super Bowl weekend. Matty Lennon is coordinating our council's effort again this year and he's ready. Let him know which mass you can help at by contacting him at 998-4863 or geodisplayart@comcast.net. Volunteers will be needed to collect food donated by parishioners twenty minutes before each mass on Saturday, February 2nd and Sunday, February 3rd. All donations go to our parish food closet. Last year we collected more than a ton of food. Let's set a new record this year.

Check Mate!

Our council will sponsor the “Knights in Battle – Battling Hunger in Delaware” chess tournament on Monday, January 21st, between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM. USCF (United States Chess Federation) rated and non-rated players in grades K through 12 will be invited to play. Participants will be encouraged to bring canned goods that will be donated to the Saint John the Beloved Food Closet. Several volunteers will be needed to set up the hall on Sunday at 7:00 PM and to assist with registration at 9:00 AM on Monday. Contact Kevin Duffy at 366-1655 or americor.duffy@comcast.net if you can help.

Join the March for Life

Our council will be co-sponsoring a bus to Washington, DC on Tuesday, January 22nd, for the 35th annual March for Life. The bus will leave the SJB parking lot at 8:30 AM. The bus is paid for by the Knights of Columbus but contributions are accepted. This is a deeply moving personal and religious event in the company of fellow knights and others committed to the defense of the unborn. Contact Steve Oldiges at 234-8150 or sjbkofc@hotmail.com for more information.

January 2008

A New Year's Message From Our Council Field Agent

Brother Knights, I and my wife Martha would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family all the Blessings of the Incarnate Word for a Holy, Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

As we try to decide whether or not we are going to make, let alone keep, some New Year's resolutions regarding our physical, mental, spiritual or financial health., how about considering an insurance review with me, your Council Field Agent?

Some questions to consider: Do you even know what insurance you have, let alone whether or not you know what you need? I can answer them by performing an insurance needs analysis for you and your family.

I am constantly meeting with my Brother Knights, and there are always questions such as: "Do I have enough or too much insurance? Do I have the right kind of insurance, specifically, is it temporary or permanent? If it is temporary, when does it need to be renewed? How much more will the renewal premium cost? How many years are left on it? If it is term insurance at work, does it go away when I leave the job or can I keep a portion of it? I get many calls from Brothers who are surprised to learn that their insurance is not there when they need their insurance most.

One thing about insurance that I feel very strongly about is you having the right kind of insurance and not having been sold a "bill of goods" by an agent that did not help you or your family but instead helped him and his family. THIS IS NOT RIGHT!

Whether you have K of C insurance or not, you will be doing yourself and your family a real favor by giving me a call and setting up an appointment. This is a "win-win" situation, as you will be dealing with one of the highest rated insurance companies in North America, and you will help the Knights help the Catholic Church and be CATHOLIC in your investments!

Remember, this is a brother knight meeting with a brother knight and his family!

Do yourself a favor - give me a call today at 303-373-3072 or my office at 410-648-6908 or e-mail me at james.mullenjr@KofC.org. You'll be glad you did and your family will thank you for it when the time comes.

January 2008

Event Calendar

January

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|----|---------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2 | 7:00 PM | Council Rosary | Conference Room |
| 2 | 7:30 PM | Council 11796 Business Meeting | Conference Room |
| 6 | 7:00 PM | First Degree – St. Pius X Council | Scott & Lancaster Sts, Wilmington |
| 9 | 5:15 PM | U of D Basketball (Geo. Mason) | U of D Field House (only 2 needed) |
| 12 | 5:15 PM | U of D Basketball (Old Dominion) | U of D Field House |
| 13 | 7:30 AM | Pancake Breakfast | Parish Hall |
| 16 | 7:30 PM | Council 11796 Social Meeting | Conference Room |
| 20 | 6:00 PM | Chess Tournament Set Up | Parish Hall |
| 21 | 8:00 AM | Knights in Battle Chess Tourney | Parish Hall |
| 22 | 8:30 AM | 35 th March for Life | Washington, DC |
| 26 | 2:15 PM | U of D Basketball (Georgia State) | U of D Field House |
| 28 | 6:00 PM | Chaplains' Dinner | Cavaliers Country Club |
| 30 | 5:15 PM | U of D Basketball (Northeastern) | U of D Field House |

February

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| 2-3 | All Masses | Souper Bowl Sunday | Front of Church |
| 3 | 7:00 PM | First Degree – St. Pius X Council | Scott & Lancaster Sts, Wilmington |
| 3 | 12:30 PM | Polar Bear Plunge / Spec Olympics | Sands Hotel, Rehoboth, DE |
| 6 | 7:00 PM | Council Rosary | Conference Room |
| 6 | 7:30 PM | Council 11796 Business Meeting | Conference Room |
| 6 | 7:15 PM | U D Basketball (UNC Wilmington) | U of D Field House |
| 9 | 12:15 PM | U D Basketball (VA Commonwlth) | U of D Field House |
| 10 | 7:30 AM | Pancake Breakfast | Parish Hall |
| 14 | 6:00 PM | Preparation for Fish Fry | Hall Kitchen |
| 15 | 5:00 PM | Council Fish Fry | Parish Hall |
| 16 | 12:15 PM | U of D Basketball (Drexel) | U of D Field House |
| 20 | 7:30 PM | Council 11796 Social Meeting | Conference Room |
| 24 | 1:15 PM | Third Degree Exemplification | Marydel Fire Hall |
| 28 | 6:00 PM | Preparation for Fish Fry | Hall Kitchen |
| 29 | 5:00 PM | Council Fish Fry | Parish Hall |

March

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|----|---------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 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 |
| 6 | 6:00 PM | Preparation for Fish Fry | Hall Kitchen |
| 7 | 5:00 PM | Council Fish Fry | Parish Hall |
| 9 | 7:30 AM | Pancake Breakfast | Parish Hall |
| 13 | 6:00 PM | Preparation for Fish Fry | Hall Kitchen |
| 14 | 5:00 PM | Council Fish Fry | Parish Hall |
| 19 | 7:30 PM | Council 11796 Social Meeting | Conference Room |

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