



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

St. John The Beloved Council 11796

Dear Brother Knights,

Happy New Year everyone. I hope the Christmas season brought you and your families together to share the peace and joy of the season, to remember how precious familial relationships can be and to revel in the message that the Christ Child brought us.

As a new year and a new decade open, we face some daunting challenges - high unemployment, a lousy job market, a struggling economy, lowered expectations, elected officials who can't agree on anything and two wars amongst others. Bummer, huh? Well, maybe not so much. Times are indeed tough but we have the means to weather them and come out of this mess stronger than before. First, we have each other. Then we have our faith. Let's also remember that we are Americans. We have faced hard times before and survived to rise to new heights. We can do it again.

It's going to take some effort. It's going to require some compromise. And, it's going to take a lot of cooperation. Now, we can't, as individuals, cut the unemployment rate in half, fix the problems in the financial markets or convince the Taliban to lay down their arms. But we can, as knights, make the world a little better right here in our own front yard. It's a start. The next opportunity will be to collect food on Souper Bowl Sunday to feed the hungry right here in our own parish.

Remember the old maxim "There's strength in numbers"? The more that contribute their time or efforts, the greater the difference we can make and the faster we can make it happen. And that brings us to membership. We are one of the largest and most active councils in the area. But death and moves out of the area for family and job reasons have reduced our numbers. Age and declining health have limited what some of our members can do. So now is the time to add new faces and new talents.

Recruiting requires some effort. It's not hard though. Mention the knights and what our council does to a friend, neighbor or co-worker. Extend an invitation to a fellow parent or one of the men you volunteer with in other areas. Be ready to compromise. A new member doesn't have to attend meetings on a regular basis. Coming to an occasional meeting is good but information about what's going on can come through the newsletter. Volunteering for one program a year however only takes a couple of hours. New members can be expected to be a little reluctant to join in until they know what they're getting into. So invite your new recruit to join you parking cars, helping at a pancake breakfast or participating in one of the many other events sponsored by our council. Invite him to go with you to one of our meetings. Once he sees how easy it is, he'll be ready to help out on his own. He will benefit from the experience and we will be a richer council for the addition of his talents.

January 2010

Experience has shown us large recruiting efforts or “blitzes” in a parish like ours don’t produce many new members. For us, individual recruiting has been far more effective in adding talented and enthusiastic men to our council. Evidence of this is all around you. Joe Koskol, Joe Lander, Frank Lane, Brian Maahs, Brian Moore, John Piechoski, Mark Pietuszka, Tom Pollutri, Jose Rodriguez, Bill Talarowski, Roger Thompson, Charlie Wagner and Deacon Dennis Wuebbels are just some of the men who have joined us in the past few years. Each of them has contributed to making us a stronger and better council. And, in most cases, it started with one simple question – “Are you a knight?”

Like the issues that face us as a nation, none of us is alone when recruiting for the council. If you encourage just one man to join and the rest of us do the same, we’ll soon have more new members than anyone dreamed possible. It takes cooperation. If you don’t want to do it alone, ask a fellow member to work with you. After all, if a potential candidate is approached by several members, one at a time or in pairs, he’ll likely wonder what he’s missing and be more likely to ask questions. The more questions asked, the greater the likelihood of your success in recruiting him.

If you need information, let me know. I’ll send you some applications, brochures, copies of newsletters and other material to help. If you’ve got a candidate in mind and need ideas on approaching him or want someone to follow up with you, give me a call. You know the number – 366-1655 and the email – americor.duffy@comcast.net. It starts with you though and there’s no time like the present to begin.

In closing, I wish you all a healthy and prosperous New Year. I wish job security for those of you who have one; success in the job hunt if you’re looking for one; good health or a return to it; and a personal sense of purpose and inner peace in a world around us that needs both.

Fraternally Yours,

Kevin Duffy
Grand Knight

Knight of the Year

Robert L. Dayett was named Knight of the Year for 2009 on December 6th. The award citation described Bob as “an absolutely unassuming individual...who can be described as a quiet hero” and one who “has earned such recognition from the Knights of Columbus many, many times over”.

Bob is a charter member of our council and a fourth degree knight. He has served as the council’s treasurer for the past 14 years and has been our Vocations Directors for most of that time. Bob is an active supporter of the Little Sisters of the Poor and been president or member of their Board of Directors for years. He is a Pro-Life advocate who has participated in the March for Life events in Washington, D.C. and has been a retreat leader at the Malvern Retreat Center on multiple occasions.

In presenting the award, Grand Knight Kevin Duffy identified Bob as “a quiet type of guy” who “chooses to accomplish what he does without the accolades and fanfare that often accompany one of society’s ‘movers and shakers’...But he does know how to get things done.” Those who know Bob well would probably distill all that down to “Bob is a quiet dynamo.” Others would agree. As an avid Phillies fan and golfer, Bob could also probably be described with the words “persistent” and “optimistic”. In any case, this overdue honor is well deserved. So we thank Bob for all he has done for us and the council and offer our congratulations to our newest Knight of the Year.

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Family of the Year Honors

Michael and Mary Solomon were honored as Family of the Year for 2009 at our council Christmas party on December 6th. The award identified the family of nine as one that “acting as a single collective force for good, magnifies the effect its individual members have on all the others whose lives they touch.”

Mike is a charter member of our council and a fourth degree member of the Cardinal Gibbons Assembly. He has served the council as Lecturer, Advocate, Deputy Grand Knight, Grand Knight, Trustee (1, 2 and 3) and the state council as Pro-Life Chairman. He has also been a program director of or participant in our Garden of Crosses, Mass of Remembrance and Tootsie Roll Drive events among others. He is also a Eucharistic Minister.

Mary has home schooled the Solomon’s seven children and has seen all of the college aged ones attend school on scholarship. She has been described by those who know the family as “the center of everything” and still found time to volunteer for many of our council events over the years. She too is a Eucharistic Minister.

The children include a seminarian, an altar server and active member of the parish Youth Ministry and others who volunteer their time and services assisting friends and neighbors with physical limitations.

The Solomon’s have been previously honored as Family of the Month in December 2005 and Family of the Year in 2000. When conferring the award, Grand Knight Kevin Duffy told the assembled friends and council members that “Given all they have continued to do for us and our council, it is only fitting that they be honored yet again.” All present agreed. Congratulations Mike, Mary and kids.

We Mourn Their Passing

Lucien Caron, a fourth degree member of our council, passed away on December 4, 2009. He was 89. Lou originally joined the Knights of Columbus in December 1953 and was a member of the Fitzmaurice Assembly. A business man before his retirement, Lou founded Superior Tree Service and was described in his eulogy as a founding member of St. John the Beloved Parish. A knight to the very end of his life, Lou wore the fourth degree baldric at his viewing.

Walter Domorod, a fourth degree member of our council, passed away on December 31, 2009. He was 84. Walter became a knight in 1950. He worked for Educational Testing Services and Kalex Corporation as an electrical engineer before his retirement. He was also a WWII veteran who served in the Merchant Marine. A party man in life and death, he took a brass marker with him into the hereafter that simply said “Republican”.

Joan Hopkins, wife of council member Jim Hopkins, passed away on December 26, 2009. She was 85. Joan was a registered nurse who tended to the ill in New York and later Delaware. She also tended to the spiritual needs of parishioners here at St. John the Beloved as a Eucharistic Minister and worked with the RCIA and Bible Study Group. She also served our parish youth as a library volunteer. Joan was active in many of our council activities as well. During the eulogy at her funeral mass, Joan was remembered for her good nature and sense of humor. We’ll miss this great lady and her smile.

January 2010

Knight of the Month - October

Charles J. Wagner was awarded Knight of the Month honors for October 2009. Charlie took his First Degree in April 1957 and is recognized by our Order as a Lifetime Member. In the 52 years since then, He has been a supporter of the Knights of Columbus wherever he has gone and now, at 95, he can still be seen at many of our meetings and council events. Charlie was recognized for continuing “to set an example for his fellow knights” when being given the award. Congratulations Charlie.

Family of the Month Award - October

Joseph and Deen Mahoney were awarded Family of the Month honors for October. Joe is a third degree knight who joined our council in 1997. He was cited for volunteering “a good deal of his time as well as his considerable organizational and time management skills to directing the council’s volunteer parking agreement with the University of Delaware’s Department of Athletics.” That parking program is one of the council’s largest and most labor intensive events each year. Joe’s wife Deen was recognized for her participation in our annual Fish Fry event and for organizing the council’s first ever Scrap Booking event earlier in the year. The award stated “Joe and Deen are an exceptional couple whose dedication, enthusiasm and volunteer spirit are the quintessential example of the Knights of Columbus motto ‘In service to one, In service to all’ when...put into action.” Well done Joe and Deen.

Knight of the Month - November

William J. Talarowski was awarded Knight of the Month honors for November 2009. Bill joined our council in January 2007 and received his Third Degree in April 2007. He was cited for his participation in our council’s Knights in Battle Chess Tournament and for his volunteer work in our Tootsie Roll Drive that supports the handicapped youth of our community. Most recently, Bill has “displayed a lifetime’s work of artistic excellence” in still life photography at several of our pancake breakfasts and has “generously offered to donate the proceeds” to the council. The award noted that council members “value his support and look forward to his continued participation” in council affairs. So, to our resident artist and all around great guy, we say thanks and well done Bill.

Knight of the Month - December

Guy W. Boniface was awarded Knight of the Month honors for December 2009. Guy received his first three degrees in 1974 and was made an Honorary Life Member of the Order in January 2007. The award recognized Guy for meeting the temporal and spiritual needs of our parishioners. For the former, he helped build the handcrafted wooden cart located in the church vestibule to collect donations to the parish food closet. For the latter, he regularly serves at mass as a Eucharistic Minister. The citation noted that “Guy’s willingness to volunteer his time and talents to meet the varied needs of Catholics throughout our parish and our diocese is a special example of the Knights of Columbus’ core values of charity, unity and fraternity when they are put into action.” Congratulations Guy.

Knights Remembered

Approximately 50 knights, wives and family members attended our council's annual memorial mass on November 18th. Council chaplain Father Cocco celebrated the mass. Our pastor Father Charlie concelebrated and Deacon Dennis Wuebbels assisted. Grand Knight Kevin Duffy read the list of names of knights and ladies for whom the mass was said and reminded those in attendance that the rite was not just a memorial service but also a celebration of their lives and recognition of the joy they brought to the lives of family and friends they had during their time here with us. Our thanks go to PGK Bill Harris, his wife Karen, Bill Matt, Jose Rodriguez, Chick Mealey and others who set up the hall and prepared the meal that was served following the mass.

The Kids Say "Thanks"

Twelve members of our parish's Youth Ministry group went to the National Catholic Youth Conference in Kansas City November 19th to 22nd. They had a terrific time and returned energized in their faith. The excitement in their voices as they tell everyone how much they gained from the experience, shared with 22,000 other Catholic youth, is obvious. They wanted us to know how much they appreciated the \$500 donated by the council to make the trip possible. Just one of the many thank you cards from the kids said "I can't even begin to describe how grateful we are" and "You have a big heart. You are a perfect example of Jesus' works." Now, when was the last time you got a handmade thank you card like that?

Just An Observation

Our parish hosted an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Prayer Service on November 25th. The service was sponsored by the Mill Creek Ministerium which includes St. James Episcopal Church, St. Philip's Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Limestone Presbyterian Church and Marshallton United Methodist Church in addition to our own St. John the Beloved Church. More than 250 parishioners and 7 clergy members from the 6 parishes were in attendance. The observation noted above is that our council was represented at every level of the service. Our pastor, Father Charlie, of course is a knight. So was the Lector Carl Klein. The altar server Tony Solomon is the son of council member Mike Solomon. Three of the four ushers who took up the offering for the ministerium's Family Promise Program and one of the two greeters were knights as well. It was a telling reminder of how well Knights of Columbus in general and our council in particular represent our Order as men who stand as examples to all Christians of men who live their faith.

Breakfast of Champions Kudos

Seventeen of our school's top academic performers were treated to a Breakfast of Champions sponsored by the SJB Home and School Association and led by Principal Hart and Vice Principal Soltys on December 1st. The meal was prepared and hosted by our council and thanks go to Joe Baggs, Steve Oldiges, Bill and Ann Matt and Kevin Duffy for helping make this first ever event such a success. Many of the kids made a point of coming over to the kitchen to say thanks before returning to school though their second (and, in some cases, third) requests for our new sausages were the most telling sign of their appreciation.

Members Celebrate the Season

Fifty knights and guests celebrated the season at our Christmas party on December 6th. The room at Tyler's Restaurant was comfortable, the food (prime rib, chicken Marsala and three cheese pasta) was good and the price was right. Our Knight of the Year and Family of the Year were honored and everyone had a great time. We thank Chick Mealey for making all the arrangements and suggest you mark your calendars now for our 2010 party.

Souper Bowl Sunday

Knights throughout our District are gearing up to make this year's annual Souper Bowl Sunday Food Drive the most successful one yet. Volunteers will be needed 15 to 20 minutes before each mass on Saturday, February 6th and Sunday, February 7th to collect food donated by our parishioners. The food will then be taken to the hall to be added to St. John the Beloved Food Closet. To volunteer, contact Matty Lennon at 998-4863 or mattnpat@comcast.net. The kids from our Youth Ministry want to help so, if a teenager approaches and asks if help is needed, by all means invite him or her to join you.

Penny Party Help Needed

The parish's annual Penny Party is scheduled for Sunday, February 7th. Four men will be needed to help set up the hall at 10:00 AM and to tear down the hall at 2:45 PM. Yes, we know it's Super Bowl game day and Souper Bowl Sunday. What can we say? It's another 15 minutes squeezed into an already crowded schedule but it's for a good cause as all proceeds go to our school. So be there if you can.

Hearts and Howling at the Moon

Our next pancake breakfast is February 14th. To volunteer to help serve, cook or set up the hall, contact Steve Oldiges at sjbkofc@hotmail.com or 234-8150. Donations to the bake sale table are always welcome but, since the 14th is both Valentines Day and the Lunar New Year, items with either motif would be especially welcome. If you can't help out, drop in anyway. Where else are you going to get a full breakfast and good company for only \$8.00?

Planning Your Financial Future in 2010

Those of us in the marketing and agency area of the Supreme Council office wish you and yours a happy, healthy Christmas season and all the best in 2010. Here's hoping that your membership in the Knights continues to bring you countless blessings.

Speaking of the new year, will you take part in the ritual of preparing a set of resolutions for yourself? It's traditional that many people spend this time of year looking at themselves, identifying their flaws and resolving to improve these troublesome areas.

It may be that you consider yourself overweight; or that you don't spend enough time in the gym; or that you haven't read as many books as you would like. January is usually the time when you endeavor to change all the things that you may not like about yourself.

Allow me to recommend one more area that would benefit from such a review; your financial future.

Are you ready for retirement? Will you have enough money to live on? Are you protected from the financial disaster that a long-term illness can bring? If you were suddenly or unexpectedly out of the picture, could your family survive? Have you adequately prepared for your wife's future? Your children's?

The one thing we can never change is the relentless march of time. Consider that this season – in addition to a time of celebration and reflection on 2009 – marks another year gone ... and you're another year older. If you have been putting off discussion with a qualified advisor about your finances, I recommend you add that to the top of your list of resolutions.

Your professional Knights of Columbus agent can help and an appointment with him will be time well spent. We know you're busy and we won't waste your time. Accomplish your first resolution of 2010. Contact your agent today.

Thomas P. Smith, Jr.
Executive Vice President Agencies and Marketing

[To schedule a cost free financial analysis, contact our council field agent, Jim Mullen, Jr. at mullen343@aol.com or 302-373-0372.]

January 2010

Event Calendar

January

3	7:00 PM	First Degree – Pius X Council	Scott and Lancaster Streets
6	7:00 PM	Council Rosary	Conference Room
6	7:30 PM	Council 11796 Business Meeting	Conference Room
10	7:15 AM	Pancake Breakfast	Parish Hall
13	7:00 PM	First Degree – St Joseph's	Middletown
17	1:30 PM	Fish Fry Planning Meeting	Conference Room
17	6:30 PM	50 th Anniversary Gibbons Assembly	Holy Family Church
20	7:30 PM	Council 11796 Social Meeting	Conference Room
22	8:00 AM	37 th Annual March for Life	Washington, D.C.
24	1:30 PM	Fish Fry Planning Meeting	Conference Room
25	6:30 PM	Chaplains' Recognition Dinner	Cavalier's Country Club
26	7:00 PM	First Degree – Seton Council	Bear
26	7:00 PM	Second Degree – Our Lady/Fatima	New Castle
27	7:00 PM	First Degree – Holy Angels	Newark
31	1:30 PM	Fish Fry Planning Meeting	Conference Room
31	7:00 PM	First Degree – Pius X Council	Scott and Lancaster Streets

February

3	7:00 PM	Council Rosary	Conference Room
3	7:30 PM	Council 11796 Business Meeting	Conference Room
6	All Masses	Souper Bowl Food Drive	SJB
7	All Masses	Souper Bowl Food Drive	SJB
7	10:00 AM	Set up for Penny Party	Parish Hall
7	1:30 PM	Fish Fry Planning Meeting	Conference Room
7	12:30 PM	Polar Bear Plunge	Rehoboth Beach
10	7:00 PM	First Degree – St Joseph's	Middletown
14	7:15 AM	Pancake Breakfast	Parish Hall
16	7:30 PM	First Degree – Christopher Council	Claymont
21	1:30 PM	Fish Fry Planning Meeting	Conference Room
25	6:00 PM	Kitchen Prep for Fish Fry	Parish Hall
26	5:00 PM	Lenten Fish Fry	Parish Hall

March

3	7:00 PM	Council Rosary	Conference Room
3	7:30 PM	Council 11796 Business Meeting	Conference Room
7	7:00 PM	First Degree – Pius X Council	Scott and Lancaster Streets
11	6:00 PM	Kitchen Prep for Fish Fry	Parish Hall
12	5:00 PM	Lenten Fish Fry	Parish Hall
14	7:15 AM	Pancake Breakfast	Parish Hall
17	7:30 PM	Council 11796 Social Meeting	Conference Room
25	6:00 PM	Kitchen Prep for Fish Fry	Parish Hall
26	5:00 PM	Lenten Fish Fry	Parish Hall

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