



Volume 2, Issue 4

KNIGHT TALK

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Clare of Assisi Council 12963



April 2003

Orate Pro Pace

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GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE:

By Jim Adams

I have two thoughts to share with you this month. The first applies to the tenet of our 1st Degree - charity. In my opinion, one of the most charitable acts a Knight can make is to respond positively when approached about serving as a Council officer. Despite best intentions to the contrary, as a Council officer there are occasionally demands on one's time that are totally unpredictable and occasionally unavoidable. Despite that, the Council cannot exist without a strong team of officers and we have been blessed in our first two years with excellent support. The nominating committee for our next Columbian Year has again prepared an excellent slate of proposed officers for 2003-2004 presented later in this newsletter. Many thanks to those of you on that slate for accepting the nomination and the incurred contribution to the Council should you be elected. Others not on the slate but interested in serving in any officer position are welcome and encouraged to make your interests known as soon as possible up to the actual evening of our elections on June

12th, our first, business meeting in June. Please remember, too, that if you are not able at this point to seriously consider making the commitment to serve as an officer, there are several key positions in the Council that contribute to the success of our Council, namely: Church Committee; Youth Committee; Family Committee; Community Committee; Council Community; Vocations Committee; Pro-Life Committee; Keep Christ in Christmas Program; KOVAR Program; Memoriam Committee; and even our Council Newsletter, that Mike Dash has so generously contributed not a little effort, might need some fresh participants. There are many, many ways to participate.

A second thought: It seems impossible, but since our last newsletter the United States and its allies, Great Britain and Australia, engaged in and won a war! The Iraqi people know for the first time in thirty-five years - for many the first time in their entire lives - what we often take for granted. Freedom. By all accounts our service members acquitted themselves in a manner to bring great credit upon the United States, themselves and their families. The embedded reporters left no opportunity to represent anything but the reality of the way our troops truly behaved and we are so proud. One might question the core rationale for the war, but seeing the results offers some sense of righteousness. That is not to say the end necessarily justifies the means, but there is little argument that the end, in this case, is good. But

for some, what a price. Families in our own community suffered the loss of husbands, sons, fathers, and brothers. We mourn for them; we honor them; we pray for them. Tomorrow and every day thereafter the lives of Iraqi people will be better for their sacrifice. Freedom in Iraq is a living monument to our fallen comrades. They will live forever in a legacy of goodness. Thank you soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines. Thank you.

PARISH GROUNDS CLEANUP

On April 19th a number of Knights contributed a couple of hours to tidying up the church grounds in anticipation of our Easter Services the next day. Many thanks to Bill Ossenfort for organizing the effort and to the following knights who turned out to help: Mike Dash, Marvin Mikeska, John Rulison, Rob Shaffer, Skip Coffman, Tom Leonardo, Bob Van Winkle, and John St Germain, who turned out to direct traffic with that spiffy cane. Good work; good camaraderie; good coffee and donuts.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Our first attempt at this fun annual event turned out pretty well, with lots of suggestions on how to make a good thing better next year. Seeing all those children dressed for Easter Sunday and carrying their baskets was an absolute delight. Kudos to Bill Ossenfort for setting up the tables and hiding the eggs and to Rob Shaffer for contributing some stuffed eggs for the children's' delight. Many thanks for all the great ideas and volunteers for another fun time next year; can't wait.

KNIGHT OF THE MONTH

A little known program with the Knights of Columbus became a delightful surprise for some new parents in our

parish. Thanks to Jason Seiler, the Rose and Rosary program was experienced for the first time at a baptism ceremony at St Clare of Assisi. Jason, attired in a formal tuxedo, attended the ceremony and, on behalf of the Knights of Columbus, presented a white rose to the mother, a red rose to the father and a Rosary, blessed by our holy father Pope John Paul II, to each. Baptism of their child is a life long memory for this young couple. Thank you Jason, our Knight of the Month for April, for allowing the Knights of Columbus to add significantly to that memory.

FAMILY OF THE MONTH

One of the special programs offered by the Knights of Columbus is the opportunity to recognize the wonderful contributions of families in our church and community, though not necessarily a part of our order. Nonetheless, many families exhibit the same attributes of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism as the Knights of Columbus in their own, selfless way. And we at St Clare of Assisi have a wonderful community of parishioners who exhibit just such attributes. The challenge is to decide where to start; there are so many deserving. But start we must, so, for the month of March, we are pleased to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of the Burakow family to our parish community. Their quiet contributions around the church, like extraordinary minister, lecturer, altar server and most recently Parish Directory, seemingly go unnoticed but are so greatly appreciated. Thank you, Burakow family, our March Family of the Month; for all that you do to help make our parish the wonderful family that it is.

COUNCIL OFFICER SLATE

Our Council Nominating Committee has submitted the following Knights into nomination to serve as Council Officers for the Columbian Year 2003-2004. Many thanks to the committee for this excellent service to the Council and particularly those of you who have agreed to have your names submitted in nomination. Any Knight not included in this slate but interested in being considered for any officer position may still be nominated up until and including the evening of June 12th, our June business meeting and election night.

Grand Knight	Michael E. Dash
Dep Grand Knight	Richard S. Nadolski
Chancellor	Jason A. Seiler
Warden	William P. Ossenfort
Recorder	Robert Shafer
Advocate	Anthony K. Cavallaro
Treasurer	Richard L. Coffman
Outside Guard	Richard H. Stretton
Inside Guard	Robert E. Strzlecki
Trustee 1 year	John St Germain
Trustee 2 years	George Alexa
Trustee 3 years	James L. Adams

Orate Pro Pace
Jim

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER: By Reverend Paul Dudzinski, St. Clare Knights of Columbus Council

Now that we all have completed our Lenten journey and have entered this most solemn season of Easter joy, we contemplate the Gospel story of our Lord's Resurrection from the dead. In hearing (or reading) about the Gospel accounts of our Lord's glorious victory over sin and death, we learn how at first His disciples were slow to believe, and after He came to them through the locked doors they became incredulous with sheer joy. Only after they "settled down" could they accept the good news

of their Lord Jesus' return after His Resurrection. This news meant all the difference for the Eleven. After the sending forth of the Holy Spirit upon them could they comprehend in a new and awe-some manner the power of Jesus' Resurrection from the dead. Our Lord's victory over sin and death became their battle cry. One has only to think of the labors of St. Paul, who was willing to suffer anything and everything gladly for Jesus, to understand just how significant this "news" was in his apostolic work. It meant the difference between witnessing to our Lord, or going back to the way they lived their lives before He called them to follow Him.

In this 21st century as we hear this Good News some of us may be tempted to think of the Gospel message as merely a good story of something that happened "back at that time". Living in the fast paced world of technology and global communications can lull us into viewing the Easter account of our Lord's Resurrection as something unconnected with what we are about today. Such is the challenge presented to us by our secular culture.

As Catholics, we know that the Easter story is more than just a story; *it is a reality, in which we live right now*, in the present moment. When we were baptized, each of us became sharers in our Lord's Resurrection. We were spiritually and supernaturally "upgraded" to share in the very life and love that each of the Persons of the Holy Trinity share with each Other in the Godhead. We have been made "sons in the Son", so close of an identity we have with Christ that He lives in us and we in Him in the life of grace. The bonds of family and friendship are bound more tightly when we receive the Eucharist, the Risen and

glorified Jesus' Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. Indeed the Catholic Catechism calls the Eucharist "the Sacrament of sacraments" because all sacraments point to the Eucharist.

Since we come in close contact with the Risen Jesus under the veil of this Most Holy Sacrament, we also know in faith that the Risen Jesus dwells behind the closed doors of the tabernacle, waiting to embrace and refresh those who come to Him with their sorrows, difficulties, or merely to seek His kingship over them. As Catholic Knights, how often do we take advantage of this Treasure of our Faith? How many of us strive to participate in Mass more than just on Sundays? How many of us make the time to stop by the church to "make a visit" to our Lord within? It is only with an increased devotion to our Lord in this Eucharistic Sacrament, spending time before our Risen Lord, that we can avoid viewing the Gospel story of His Resurrection as merely "a good story".

DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT:

By Mike Dash

Program Activities: April has been a busy, but rewarding month for our Council. Brother knights generously gave of their time and talents and were involved in a myriad of activities that support our Church, our families, and our community – from cleaning up the Church grounds, to leading the Rosary after Masses, to helping prepare children for Confirmation, to raising money for some of our less fortunate brothers and sisters. Thanks to each and every one who participated.

As we go to press, we have preliminary figures from our annual KOVAR drive. It appears that our Council raised over \$1,800. Thank you to each and

every one of you knights for participating. A very special "thanks" is in order to John Weldon, who spearheaded this important effort.

Again, I would ask my brother knights to consider seriously volunteering a little of their time each month to support the First Friday/First Saturday program. Our chaplain has repeatedly asked us to take the lead in this most worthy effort. This is a perhaps small but tangible way we can demonstrate our love of Christ and our support for our Church. Please help; even ½ hour would be gratefully received.

* The Insurance Program. Unfortunately, our Field Agent, Raul, had a scheduling conflict and was unable to give his announced program at the second meeting in April. However, it does appear that he will be able to reschedule for late May. Watch your emails and the next newsletter for details of that important session.

*Buck-A-Year Club. This is a program to help the Council raise additional funds for its various operating and charitable programs. The concept is simple-participating knights donate \$1.00 to the Council for each year of their age. To thank you for your donation, the Council will give (free) you a Knights of Columbus shirt. If you'd like to participate, please contact John Rulison at (703) 330-7237 or via e-mail at John.Rulison@ravenservices.us. So far, the following members of Council 12963 have joined the "Buck-a-Year Club": George Alexa, Skip Coffman, Richard Stretton, Jason Seiler, Chris Jones, Tom Leonardo, Marvin Mikeska, Mike Mikeska, John Weldon, Mike Dash, Dave Leonardo, Dick Nadolski, John Rulison, and Ron Vincoli.

COUNCIL 12963 OFFICERS:

Grand Knight	Jim Adams
Dep. Grand Knight	Mike Dash
Chancellor	George Seiler
Warden	Jason Seiler
Recorder	Dick Nadolski
Advocate	Pete Caylor
Financial Secretary	Brian Turner
Treasurer	John Rulison
Outside Guard	Bill Ossenfort
Inside Guard	Marvin Mikeska
Trustee 1 year	George Alexa
Trustee 2 years	John St. Germain
Trustee 3 years	Ron Vincoli

Delegates:

Grand Knight	Jim Adams
Past Grand Knight	Ron Vincoli

 Alternates:

Grand Knight	Mike Dash
Past Grand Knight:	Jason Seiler

COMMITTEE HEADS:

Church	George Alexa
Community	
Council	
Youth	Jason Seiler
K of C Insurance	H. Raul Almeida

PRO LIFE: THE 20TH ANNUAL WALK FOR LIFE.

The Annual Walk for Life, sponsored by the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, will take place at three different locations in northern Virginia, Alexandria, Fairfax, and Ashburn, VA. Proceeds from the Walk provide counseling, medical assistance, foster care and adoption services to single parents and their babies. The registration fee of \$15 entitles each walker to a T-shirt and lunch. For more information and registration,

contact 703-425-0100 or, online, at:
<http://www.cdda.net>.

THINKING ABOUT A VACATION

No doubt the signs of spring have had their affect on you. Initially, getting outdoors is the obvious thing to do. We start by poking around the garden, working on the lawn, attending softball practice, dusting off the gas grill.

Beneath it all we sense that vacation time is near. This pleases everyone. It does not matter whether we are planning an elaborate vacation or will simply enjoy the company of our family at home - the feeling is the same. Vacations are fun.

If we have planned properly, chances are that some of our hard earned dollars have been set-aside for this occasion. We recognize that if we plan to spend money in the pursuit of enjoyment, the ordinary fixed expenses - mortgage, utilities, etc. - must still be paid. So you need a vacation fund."

All of this makes good sense. The soundness of the idea is obvious. Is not it amazing that so many of us see the wisdom of planning for our vacations each summer, but fail to plan our long range vocation - retirement? The government has thought about it and encouraged your independence at retirement age. Your place of employment has probably thought about it and planned a pension for you.

The only one left is you ... it is time you thought about it. Find out how you can add to government and employer programs an amount sufficient to provide for you and yours. After all, retire-

ment is the longest vacation you will ever take.

H.Raúl Almeida
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MISCELLANEOUS FROM THE EDITOR:

*Do You Like to Sing? Sarah Shafer, ST. Clare’s Music Director, is looking for more male voices for the choir. If you’re interested, contact her at (703) 250-2272. Rehearsals are held on Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM.

* Congratulations to John Weldon, Anthony Cavallaro, and Richard Stretton who obtained their 2nd Degree status this past month!

• Upcoming Degree Dates: June 13th for 2nd degree and June 14th for 3rd degree. Contact the GK or Chancellor for more details.

- Belated Birthday Celebrations:
- April 2nd – Tom Leonardo

- April 30th – Mark Krug
 Congratulations to each of you knights and may you have many more happy birthdays!

**This newsletter is published by and for the membership and spouses of the Knights of Columbus, Council 12963. The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Knights of Columbus and cannot be interpreted as the official position of the Knights of Columbus.*

CALENDAR – May 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 State Convention	3 State convention
4 State Convention; 20 th Annual Walk for Life	5 Officers Meeting @ 7:30 PM	6	7	8 Rosary @ 7:00 PM; followed by Council Meeting	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Rosary @ 7:00 PM; followed by Council Meeting	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Happy Birthday, John St. Germain	31



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