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2

# KNIGHT TALK

St. Clare of Assisi Council  
12963



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## GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE:

By Ron Vincoli

Dear Brother Knights and Families, I thought I would share the following article with you.

### “VIRGINIA KNIGHTS CELEBRATE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

Two hundred and twenty-five years after Thomas Jefferson drafted the Act of Religious Freedom for Virginia, which would become the basis for the first article of the federal Bill of Rights, about four hundred people gathered in Fredericksburg to celebrate the historic event on a sunny January day.

Sponsored by Rappahannock Assembly #1613, the festivities began with a parade that stepped off from the city's train station. Led by a fife and drum, along with members of local Boy Scout troops, the nearly two mile long march, which included Sir Knights in regalia along with police officers, firefighters and emergency medical personnel, pro-

ceeded through historic downtown Fredericksburg to the city's Religious Freedom Monument.

The ceremony opened with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Even though the crowd included members of the general public, the Knights in attendance finished the Pledge with their traditional ending, "For the born, and the unborn", in memory of the victims of abortion.

Virginia State Secretary Jack Michalski read from a message sent by Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, which noted that religious freedom is "vital and necessary for any society worth living in". Virginia Congresswoman Joanne Davis called religious freedom "God ordained" and said it was "part of the fabric of American Liberty". In the wake of the events of September 11th, she sees "an awakening, as the nation looks inward", with many returning to their Judeo-Christian heritage..

But State Delegate Mark Cole warned that even while some are rediscovering the importance of faith, there are many others who still try to stamp it out from the public square. He said, "there are those who seek to purge by lawsuits the religious liberty we hold so dear". He urged those present to renew their commitment to religious freedom without which, he said, "none of us is truly free".

The proceedings concluded with a wreath laying ceremony and the unveiling of a Knights of Columbus Plaque donated by the Rappahannock Assembly. The plaque was presented by Bill Mulvihill, Vice Supreme Master

of Calvert Province, J.P. McCusker, District Master and Virginia State Secretary Jack Michalski.”

(Garry Beausoleil, Past Grand Knight of Father Austin L. Ryder Council # 9407 in Franconia, wrote this article).

I'd like to add my own word of “thanks” to all who helped with our recent blood drive. It required help from many people and was a huge success due to the team effort approach. But we can't rest on our laurels. Dick has already committed us to sponsoring another drive next ye ar!

Vivat Jesus.

Ron

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## **The Chaplain's Corner:**

### **Lenten Reflections:**

By Reverend Paul Dudzinski

The Lord Jesus began His public ministry by being driven out into the desert by the Holy Spirit to be tempted by the evil one, to be among the wild beasts, and where the angels ministered to Him (Mk. 1: 12 – 13). Each Lent provides us with the opportunity to follow our Lord "into the desert" where there He can speak tenderly to our hearts (Hos. 2: 16). To go "into the desert" is a phrase that means entering into the depths of our own beings, to face the areas of our lives where the Lord is not yet the Master, and learn to yield or surrender ourselves over to His kingship of love. We do this particularly by the traditional practices of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

Fasting primarily refers to food, and indeed, we have two days (Ash Wednesday and Good Friday) that we are required to eat only one full meal and two others light meals to sustain our energy. We also are required to abstain from meat on these days and also on Fridays during this holy season. But most of us know deep in our hearts

that we can go further than this. We can also fast from our favorite TV programs, or even our favorite music. By cultivating **silence** into our daily lives we can be more recollected and attuned to God's presence in our daily work.

By cultivating silence we can place ourselves at the feet of our Divine Master and ask Him to teach us how to pray. If, however, we are to bear fruit with this we have to make the time to pray – in the mornings before work, perhaps remembering a short phrase from Scripture during "down time" on the job, and in the evening. The Rosary is a special way to pray, precious to us Knights, in which we can learn how to meditate – not only think about its mysteries, but think about the Person in them. In this we can learn how to pray with the heart. The most efficacious prayer is that spent on our knees before our Lord really and truly present in the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. As Blessed John XXIII said, there is no substitute for such prayer.

Through prayer we not only learn how to be more generous to our Lord, but how to extend our generosity to others in need. By our charitable monetary donations, especially made for the upkeep of our parish, as well as in the collections for the indigent in food, clothing, or knowledge of the truths of the faith, we learn that our giving has a profound spiritual dimension. Let us all strive to keep these things in mind as we begin the discipline of Lent, so that each of us will learn the lessons of God's love for us "in the desert."

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## On Making A Motion:

By Tom Leonardo

Any member (except the Chair) may propose a motion. The motion must be seconded, then discussion follows, in which all members may participate. There can be no discussion between the time a motion is made and it is seconded. When discussion ends, the motion is voted on by the members present. Once a motion has been seconded, and at any time before the vote, any member may offer an amendment to the motion. Activity on the initial motion is suspended until the amendment is seconded, discussed and voted on. Approving an amendment does not approve the motion, and a defeated amendment does not defeat the motion. Any number of amendments may be proposed. In fact, an amendment may be amended, and so on, each amendment requiring a separate vote before voting on the previous action, etc. This process can quickly get out of hand and often confuses the members as to what it is they are actually voting for or against.

To save time and avoid confusion, the proposer may offer to withdraw and restate his motion, to include or delete provisions, or make changes to the wording. The member may do this as long as there is no objection from the floor. However, once an amendment has been made and seconded, it must be dealt with - unless the amendment is withdrawn, and then the original motion can be restated. You can see how this process can get very sticky.

Here are some suggestions to avoid the tangled web of nested amendments and motions.

First, be prepared. Think through your motion, consider all the aspects, and state it carefully and completely. It is advisable to write it down first, look it

over and then read your motion instead of creating as you go. In fact it would be a great help to the Recorder if you gave him a written copy of your motion, because he is going to have to restate it before the vote.

Second, although the prescribed sequence of events is motion, second, discussion, vote, it may be better to discuss the matter on the floor before making your motion. You don't have to start by stating your motion. You could ask to be recognized to discuss an issue. Make your points, ask others to comment, and see where the discussion goes. You could take notes and then rise and state your motion, perhaps accommodating some of the concerns raised during the discussion. That way you may garner support for your motion. Or, if you realize that there would be strong opposition, you could withhold your motion until you can work out a better plan for success.

Third, if your proposal would make a significant impact on the Council, or is potentially controversial, you can greatly increase the likelihood of getting your motion passed if you prepare ahead of time. A lot can be gained by lobbying the members. By this I mean getting the details to each member before the meeting. You can use e-mail, phone calls, letters, and button-holing members during the "social" portions of our meetings. Explain what you are proposing and why. Solicit suggestions, find out what some of the objections might be, and see where your support and opposition is coming from. You may be able to strike a compromise, or win members over by informal discussions and reasoning. You could even write out your motion and ask others to mark it up. (Continued on P. 4)

By incorporating these suggestions, when you do offer your motion, there will be a clearer understanding of what you are proposing, perhaps with less opposition, and certainly with less confusion.

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### **Blood Drive Report:**

By Dick Nadolski

Thanks to the help of a lot of brother knights, the First Annual Blood Drive was a resounding success. The team from INOVA was very happy with the response, especially this being our first drive.

During the day, we had 58 donors show up, of which 44 passed inspection and were able to contribute. Ten of those who were refused due to illness, committed to giving at one of the INOVA facilities after their health is restored. Another eight volunteers called ahead to advise us that they were either ill or out of town, and they committed to contributing later at one of the INOVA centers. That works out to a total of 66 potential donors!

The biggest success of the day was the shared contribution of time from all of the brother knights. Many hands make a light load!

Back in October, Skip Coffman volunteered (unsolicited) to make a sign for the Front of the church. I thanked him greatly, and he went on his quest. The first day of soliciting, we had a chalk board (I was worried) , but by mid way through the drive, we had a professionally made sign that can be used over and over. Thanks Skip, and get well soon.

Mike Woods volunteered to call 35 of the donors up front. I asked him to wait until I could ask for help from the council. Then, we would share what was left over. When I put the call sheets out at our last meeting, I expected to go home with quite a few of them myself. You'd think those call sheets were

gold, because they were gone well before the night ended. Fifteen call sheets, and none were left for me. (I did see Mike take more

John St. Germain volunteered a month ahead to help out at the drive, getting things set up. John turned out to be the best stapler, greeter, and registrar of us all. He hung in there from 7:30 to 12:00. He tried to get a raffle going, but we wouldn't let him. Thanks John.

Bill Ossenfort was there early as well. It was his idea to close the door and make some coffee to keep us all warm. Bill was there for the duration, helping set things up, tear them down, and set up the rooms after it was over. We left it better than it was before we had it. Even got the hallway cleared out. Thanks Bill.

Ron Vincoli had to be there because he is the GK. ☺. Ron was in and out between ushering both 8:00 and 10:00 Masses. At 11:00 he tried to relieve John, but John wouldn't leave. So, Ron along with Jason Seiler became the refreshment volunteers, bringing juice and goodies to those in need. Thanks for thinking of that, guys; something that I missed completely.

George Alexa was again the official photographer. He got some great shots, and even coaxed Bill Ossenfort to take a picture of him when he was donating. George also helped in greeting, and kept the CCD kids comfortable. Thank you, George.

And last but not least... Fr. Dudzinski's offering of the church basement, in lieu of us having to use the blood mobile, was greatly appreciated. Unsolicited comments from the gallery included, "Boy, this is much nicer and more efficient than a lot of other places that I have donated!" That was truly the result of using the basement. Also it was a demonstrated support of the program. Thank you Father. (Continued on P. 5).

If I missed anyone, please accept my apologies. I have signed us up for next year: for the same time next year. It is Sunday, February 2, 2003. It will be here before we know it!

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### **Council Officers, Council 12963**

<b>Chaplain</b>	Reverend Paul Dudzinski
<b>Grand Knight</b>	Ron Vincoli
<b>Deputy Grand Knight</b>	Peter Caylor
<b>Chancellor</b>	George Seiler
<b>Warden</b>	Michael Humm
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Cornelius Turner
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Rulison
<b>Recorder</b>	George Bolash
<b>Advocate</b>	Thomas Leonardo
<b>Inside Guard</b>	Marvin Mikeska
<b>Outside Guard</b>	William Ossenfort
<b>Trustee 1</b>	Robert Van Winkle
<b>Trustee 2</b>	George Alexa
<b>Trustee 3</b>	Gerald Walsh
<b>Lecturer</b>	John St. Germain

### **Committee Heads, Council 12963**

<b>Church</b>	George Acosta
<b>Community</b>	John Heenan
<b>Youth</b>	Jason Seiler
<b>K of C Insurance Agent</b>	Jim Bertine (703) 845-3402 <a href="http://www.kocfanva.com">www.kocfanva.com</a>

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#### **Field Agent Report:**

By Jim Bertine

#### **WHAT IF?**

If you knew that today was the last chance you would ever have to buy life insurance, how much would you buy? If you had a moneymaking machine, that once broken, could never be repaired, how much would you insure it for?

If you knew that today was the last time you would have the opportunity to guarantee your family an income if something happened to you, how much income would you give them?

If you knew that today marked the end of your ability to buy future retirement security, how much would you buy? Isn't it safe to say that you would put some additional dollars into more life insurance protection that could be used for family or retirement benefits?

Chances are that you will be around for a long time, but life is full of "ifs" and surprises, isn't it? Let me help you plan for the future. Call me today at 703-845-3402.

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### Miscellaneous Items From The Editor:

**A Reminder:** If you'd like to receive your newsletter via e-mail instead of "snail mail," please let me know. It's quicker and will save the cost of postage!

**Calendar Entries:** Starting next month, we'll try to include birthdays, anniversaries, and other important dates in a calendar insert. We'll use the information that you have previously given to the Financial Secretary. If in doubt, please check with him to verify the accuracy of the data.

The **KOVAR** drive (which supports efforts to help the mentally

retarded) will be held from April 18<sup>th</sup> – April 21<sup>st</sup>. Our Council will solicit contributions at 2 locations, ST. Clare Church and the K-Mart Store, that is located on 600 Burke Commons Road. Jason Seiler and Ron Vincoli are already accepting volunteer names.

**More** Articles are always welcome! Please try to submit them by the first week of each month for inclusion in that month's newsletter. Thanks!

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