



Volume 2, Issue 2

KNIGHT TALK

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Clare of Assisi Council 12963



February 2003

Orate Pro Pace

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GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE:

By Jim Adams

BLOOD DRIVE: While the turnout was less than hoped for, we did have many parishioners contribute. We thank them and our brother knights (Mike Dash, John Rulison, John St Germain, George Alexa, and Bill Ossenfort) for helping on the drive. The next blood drive is already scheduled for next February.

SUPER BOWL. A small, but spirited group of Knights and families gathered at Jim Adams' home to watch Tampa Bay take away home the NFL championship. After a while, all were more interested in the creative commercials than the ball game. But, it's a start at an annual social; we'll see how it develops in the coming years.

ADORATION. Each month our Parish community celebrates the First Friday with a continuous period of adoration all Friday night until Saturday morning Mass. For many, this is a classic form of reverence from the many ceremonies we recall as chil-

dren in our various parishes across the country. It is a special opportunity to have a really close encounter with God and our Saints as one meditates in silent company with the exposed Eucharist. Perhaps many of our parishioners have not yet experienced this special occasion. To help them see the wisdom of participation, we as Knights of Columbus and Our Lady might seize the opportunity to take a leadership role by example and be represented in each hourly slot available.

Let's make a personal commitment to participate in future periods of Adoration, both as examples for our fellow parishioners and for the benefit of ourselves and our loved ones.

AUTO RAFFLE. The annual auto raffle is underway; by now, each of you should have received 10 tickets in the mail. Indeed, every parishioner has been provided a similar letter with a request to participate. Periodically, we will have a sample automobile on display outside Church on a weekend. Please do your best to sell your 10 tickets and more if possible. And, when we have an auto on display, stay awhile after to help sell even more. This is our primary fundraiser for the year and we need all of you to pitch in.

KNIGHT OF THE MONTH. Our annual auto raffle is key to us and represents a core source of reve-

nues to support our Council and our charitable works. One of the key efforts behind that program is preparing the over four hundred envelopes for mailing. Our Knight of the Month, Tom Leonardo is credited with this excellent work and we are deeply grateful. Thank you Tom, for all that you do.

FAMILY OF THE MONTH. On January 23rd, one of the coldest nights of the year, we celebrated a Marion Hour, under the leadership of our Pastor and brother Knight, Father Dudzinski. On that extraordinary night one of our families, the Dash's - even though Mike was unavoidably out of town - provided the special solemnity to this service with Mary leading us in song. Mary and Mike Dash are a special part of our Church and Council family and we are deeply grateful for all that they do. Thank you, and please accept our choosing you as our January Family of the Month.

We are all deeply saddened by the loss of the seven astronauts Saturday, February 1st. A tragic incident that had us, and the rest of the world, riveted to our television has us mourning this accident and vowing to carry on courageously.

Less than two weeks before, Catholics and others from across the nation marched in our Capitol; they were also mourning the loss of literally millions of lives. One might wonder how many future astronauts have lost their lives to abortion, with no national outpouring of grief. But we have reason for hope. The same Chief Executive who eulogized the lost astronauts speaks out against

abortion. It's a step, and like the more popular space program, worthy of our vow to carry on. God willing, one day the loss of these children will be no less chilling and tragic in all men's eyes as our seven national heroes. And the best part - unlike the space shuttle, we know what caused the loss of these 40 million children over the past 30 years, and we know how to fix it.

Vivat Jesus,

Jim

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

One of the things that our supreme Knight, Carl Anderson, wants our fraternal organization to be identified as is an organization that promotes and prays the Rosary. Another dimension of our Order's spiritual activities that defines what it means to be a Knight is our devotion to our Lord Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

As our supreme Knight so clearly enunciated at the Eucharistic Congress at the National Shrine of the Basilica of the Blessed Virgin Mary last year, the Eucharist is what defines our Knighthood. On the one hand, self-giving of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament provides us with the rationale of the various charitable services that we provide to the family, parish, and community at large. On the other, He gives us the very charity that we extend to others by nourishing us with His Body and Blood. Our Lord, in this most wonderful and august Sacrament of His love for mankind gives shape and

form to the very fraternal dimension of our Order.

In the February edition of the *Columbia*, Cardinal Schotte states very succinctly how the Eucharist provides the very definition of what it means to be a Knight, in calling us the “strong right hand of the Church” and “ardent defenders and helpers of priests.” In order to maintain this reputation the Cardinal suggests that we have to become truly “eucharistic people” and promoters of devotion to our Lord in this most holy Sacrament. The *Catholic Catechism* calls the Eucharist the “Sacrament of sacraments.”

Two distinct ways of becoming the “eucharistic people” that the Cardinal exhorts us to be are (1.) more frequent participation in the holy Sacrifice of the Mass, offered daily on the altar at St. Clare’s, and (2.) monthly participation in the all-night adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on the first Fridays and Saturdays. As your chaplain, I want to encourage each of you, my brother Knights, to devote your time and love to these two points. As your Pastor, I have been extremely edified and touched by the devotion many of you Knights have already taken to implement these two points, particularly those who come to see our Lord in the wee hours of the Saturday morning of our monthly Eucharistic adoration. While I am deeply impressed by the commitment some of you have made in making the treasure of the Eucharist *your* treasure, still we can, *for the good of the Order*, make even greater progress. I am laying down the expectation that every Knight in our Council give greater attention,

and devotion, to our Lord in these areas.

The first Wednesday of March (March 5th) begins our Lenten Season. March 6th through Sunday March 9th is also designated as our parish’s annual Forty Hours devotion. There will be ample times to adore our Lord during the day on Thursday and Friday, Saturday and Sunday, including our all-night worship between Friday night and Saturday morning. I expect each Knight to take an active part in this activity. In this way you all can be an example for all the members of our parish family, leading them by your own sterling example.

DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT:

By Mike Dash

KOVAR: Although April still seems like some time away, we are already gearing up for this important fundraising event. To succeed, we’ll need every knight to pitch in and help.

John Weldon has graciously agreed to lead this effort; he will shortly be contacting brother knights to help on this charitable fundraiser. Please say “yes” when he calls! Just a little of your time will go a long way to help those who really need our help.

BUCK-A-YEAR CLUB. This program helps 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, Jason Seiler, Chris Jones, Tom Leonardo, Mike Dash, Dave Leonardo, Dick Nadolski, and John Rulison.

COUNCIL 12963 OFFICERS:

Grand Knight	Jim Adams
Dep. Grand Knight	Mike Dash
Chancellor	George Seiler
Warden	Jason Seiler
Recorder	Dick Nadolski
Advocate	Pete Caylor
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 THOUGHTS: (Part I of II Parts)

Extensive research has focused on abortion and women, while men have been legally, psychologically and medically bypassed. For men, the abortion issue is a gnawing paradox. At a time when men are changing roles and become increasingly involved in raising their children, they are systematically denied the right to be involved in life-or-death decisions affecting their unborn children.

Empty Feeling

Sociologist Arthur Shostak observed in an article, 'The Family Coordinator,' that three out of four male respondents said they had a difficult time with the abortion experience and that a sizable minority reported persistent day and night dreams about the child that never was, and considerable guilt, remorse and sadness.

For men and women alike, the feeling of emptiness may last a lifetime, for parents are parents forever, even of a dead child. Emotional resolution is nearly impossible because there is no visible conclusion - just a memory. The grieving process is left unfinished.

Some Results are Tangible

Because of the basic inequality between the partners in the abortion

decision, the capacity to develop trust, communication and problem solving skills, intimacy, honesty and companionship is severely restricted. This same inequality has the potential to breed displaced male aggression via child abuse, spousal abuse or self-abuse. Clinical experience shows that men become hostile when they have been excluded from decision-making and when they have discovered they have been deceived or manipulated.

Men, like women, are human and imperfect. They may undergo equivalent feelings of shock, denial and anger. It is not a simple process, but a natural one requiring frank, open, sensitive, and caring communication. It may be difficult, but communication ultimately breeds caring, maturity and intimacy.

In the abortion decision, all too frequently the male's role is marginal and passive. He may be bypassed by his sexual partner, ignored by the abortion clinic, and helpless in the act and aftermath of the abortion itself. This role conflict may well be responsible for some of the increase in the male sexual dysfunction.

Male Role Not Obvious

One young man's experience is recounted in Arden Rothstein's 'Men's Reaction To Their Partner's Elective Abortion.' "I thought I was a much more liberated man. I'd be able to walk in here and say 'Here's an abortion' and that would be it. But now that I'm here, I'm a wreck. I don't think anyone could depend on me in this situation...I'm shaken...I really want to know what they will do for her...How about me? Do they have

something for me to lay on while I die?"

Nowhere is the abortion experience more painfully felt than in the area of man's role expectation to be responsible and protect his loved ones. The results of a national poll indicate that three out of four still believe that the ideal man is one who will fight to protect his family. Yet how can one protect, when is not allowed by law to be involved in a life-or-death decision? On the other hand, abandoning responsibility fits nicely into the mainstream of abortion thinking. For men who don't care about women they impregnate, abortion is a neat disposal system of the evidence of their sexuality and a conclusive abdication of any responsibility. **(Part II, Next Month)**

Vincent Rue, Ph.D., 2000

Life Cycle Books

Lewiston, NY - Toronto, ON

GOOD ADVICE!

Remember your teacher's good advice? "Always start each project with an outline. It will give you the right direction." Experience tells us that the same idea works when it comes to getting ahead on the job - or in planning for individual or family security. But, in the latter kind of planning, your outline cannot be completed alone.

Rely on the trained advice of your Knights of Columbus Insurance Agent and the Order's long and practical experience in the life insurance business to help you prepare your plans for the years ahead. I will be

happy to help you chart and build a sound economic future. Better yet, I'll do it with an individual insurance plan keyed to your own needs and goals.

This sort of professional counsel is available at absolutely no obligation ... just through a telephone call to me for an appointment. Today, when programming is essential to effective use of the do-everything computer, it is equally so to the fulfillment of our own dreams and hopes for our families. Life insurance programming is a service you should have ... and one that I provide. Call me today. I want to hear from you.

H. Raul Almeida
Knights of Columbus Field Agent
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WHY? By George Alexa.

It's not often that I give Holy Communion to the sick and when I do, it is generally to people who are over sixty and then some. However, today I was blessed to give Holy Communion to a young mother who gave birth to a beautiful girl just three days before. During the communion service, the child remained quiet sitting in her mother's arms. Not one peeped! In attendance was the father who also shared in this precious moment.

After the service, I asked them why they are members of Saint Clare since they lived only a few blocks from Saint Andrews and they both said they felt at home! I pressed them further and they liked the smallness of our Parish. That's when I hit them both! I asked

whether or not he would consider joining the Knights...he didn't say yes or no. I also asked both of them to consider becoming lecturers and or extraordinary ministers and both said they would like to be acting members, but no one had ever asked them! Now that I know them, I will watch for them and continue to seek them out.

Which brings me to this point. Why am I a member of the Knights of Columbus? Why am I an Extraordinary minister, and why am I involved in other activities in the Church. Because someone asked me. Actually, it was Father who did the recruiting. I could have said no, but I'm glad I didn't.

And so, perhaps we can take the lesson from Father and each ask someone to join us. Perhaps we can start with members who have dropped off for one reason or another.

Besides thanking Father for starting a group here at Saint Clare's, I would like to thank all those who make our group special. I would also encourage those who are 3rd degree to take the next step to 4th degree and join us once a month at Saint Timothy's. It is a great bunch of guys.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

***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.

*** This Month's Birthday Greetings:**

February 11th: Brian Turner;

February 25th: Gerald Welsh

**** 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.***

FEBRUARY/MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 St. Clare's Valentines' Day Party (revised)
23	24	25	26	27 Rosary and Council Meeting	28	MAR 1
2	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday	6	7 First Friday & All Night Adoration	8
9	10 Officers' Meeting	11	12	13 Rosary and Council Meeting	14	15
16 Rosary After Holy Mass	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Rosary and Council Meeting	28	29
30	31					

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