



Corpus Christi Council No. 2502

LARION

MINEOLA, N.Y.

Volume 64 No.4

December 2010

Grand Knight's Message

My Brother Knights:

Today, not many people consider the religious meaning to Christmas. It has become a busy day to spend money on presents and get ready for the day. A visitor from another world would think that Christmas was a festival to the gods of money and shopping.

Making sense of Christmas!

Christmas cards and pictures today make it all seem very nice. In truth, it must have been dirty and frightening for a young couple, far from their home and families. We romanticize the stable and the manger, to put it in modern times being born in a stable would be like born in someone's garage. Take the shepherds, not necessary the most educated yet God chose them to be the first to hear the good news. God sees things quite differently than we do. He sees deep beneath the surface appearances of life.

We as Catholics and Knights of Columbus believe that it was exactly God's plan that things happened this way.

While the commercialization of the Christmas season floods our villages and towns with Beautiful light displays and decorations of Santa and his reindeer.

For me, Christmas is one of our most important holidays, not only because of Christianity's Christmas message of "peace on Earth, goodwill to men."



In America we are blessed with many freedoms, freedom of speech and the right to worship in a manner of personal preference. I choose to wish others "Merry Christmas" and send religious cards that extend my best wishes on the occasion. We must never forget that the true meaning and significance of Christmas is the birth of Christ, our Lord and Savior.

On Tuesday, December 7, at 8 PM the Grand Knight will turn on the lights of our Christmas tree. This celebration is refer to as "Lighting up for Christ" that occurs in every Council in NYS. Please make every effort to attend.

Our Annual Children's Christmas Party will take place on Sunday, December 12, from 1—4 PM. This year we will be collecting food for the parish outreach, please make a donation when you attend the party. Please see flyer inside.

The Members Christmas Party will take place on Saturday, December 18, at 8 PM. Please contact Richard O'Callaghan at 248—1128 or Charlie Ribando at 742—7211.

Bill Kessler has informed me that this New Years Eve Party will once again be held on Friday, December 31. Any one interested in attending should see the flyer inside for additional details. I shall leave you these lyrics written by John Lennon

*So this is Christmas
And what have you done.
Another year over,
And a new one just begun
A very Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year
Let's hope it's a good one.*

I want to wish all my Brother Knights and their Families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

John Macejka, Grand Knight

The Clarion

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#2502, Knights of Columbus, PO Box 243, Mineola
NY 11501

NYS 17th District – Russell Kendall, DD

Corpus Christi Council Officers

Chaplain - Rev. Kevin Dillon

Grand Knight – John Macejka

Deputy Grand Knight – Jim Corrigan

Chancellor – SK Tom Kelly, PGK

Warden – Bill Kessler

Financial Secretary - SK Robert Hartman, PGK, FDD,

Treasurer - John Squeri

Recorder – Jude Ohrtman

Outside Guard – Timmy Clarkin

Outside Guard – Mike Murtha, PGK

Inside Guard—SK Charles Vigliotti

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Lecturer – Danny Passarella

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Trustee 2 YR— Dan Lynch, PGK,

Trustee 3 YR—Ken Lyons, PGK

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Dan Lynch, PGK (St. A.)

Community Directors - John O'Shea (M),

Lud Odierna (WP, EW)

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Delegates to Nassau Chapter

Mike Raso, PGK

Bill Mara PGK, Steve Driscoll, PGK

Delegates to Nassau Conference

John Macejka, GK; Ken Lyons, PGK;

Steve Driscoll, PGK, Alt. to GK; Mike Murtha, DGK, Alt. to

PGK

Financial Secretary

Robert Hartman, PGK, FDD, PFN, FS 158 Evelyn Road

(516) 741-2332

Fraternal Chairman

(To be notified in case of sickness, death or need)

Anthony Donnelly (516) 741-378

WILMIN CORPORATION:

John O'Shea, President; Charles Ribando, VP

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Sam Donato PGK, Treasurer;

Bruce Burmester; Bob Morrison,

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Bill Gyves.

2502 ASSOCIATION

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Jude Ohrtman, Secretary;

Bob Redmond, Treasurer;

Joe Conlon Danny McWeeney,

Bobby Teemsma; Rob Rom; Bill Kessler;

John Mucella; Billy Greenwood; Ken Lyons, PGK

STEWARDS - Tom Doherty Fax # (516) 746-2141

Council Telephone (516) 746-8643

The Clarion

For information on ads contact

Bill Gyves, Business Manager at (516) 742-0344

Editor

Ken Lyons (516) 746-8643

Deadline for submissions—15th of the month before
publication

VIP Dates Coming Up:

Dec.02 Business Meeting 8:30 PM

Dec. 06 D. D. Meeting – Corpus Christi 7:30 PM

Dec. 07 Light up for Christ 8 PM

Dec. 07 Pearl Harbor Remembrance

Dec. 08 Immaculate Conception

Dec. 09 Officers Meeting 8 PM

Dec. 12 Children's Christmas Party 1-4 PM

Dec. 16 Social Meeting 8:30 PM

Dec. 17 Chapter Meeting Fr. O'Connell

Dec.18 Members Christmas Party 8 PM

Dec. 25 Christmas Day—Council closed

Dec. 29 Chapter Hockey Night—Isles vs. Pens

Dec. 31 New Years Eve Party

Jan. 1 New Years Day—Council closed

Fraternal Corner:

Please keep in your prayers the following brother knights and their families. Tom Hayden; PGK Bill Mara sister Mary; John Squeri; Pat Tobin; Tony Zap; John O'Shea; Bobby Teemsma; Rich Lindeman; PGK Steve Driscoll's wife; Helen Melvin; PGK Richie Ryan; Paul Libassi; and an end to abortion. Let us also pray for a safe return of all our soldiers in harms way.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 First Sunday of ADVENT	29 TEAM BEST 8:30pm - 2502 ASSOC. MEETING	30	1	2 8:30pm - BUSINESS MEETING	3	4
5	6 DD MEETING - CORPUS CHRISTI KELLY'S HEROES	7 PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE	8 8pm - WILMIN MEETING	9 8pm - OFFICERS MEETING	10 9pm - KARAOKE 1AM	11
12 4pm - CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS	13 DANNY MCWEENEY'S COURT	14	15	16 8:30pm - SOCIAL MEETING	17 CHAPTER MEETING FR. O'Connell 9pm - KARAOKE 1AM	18 8pm - MEMBERS CHRISTMAS
19	20 RED RIDERS	21 8pm - CWV MEETING	22 SQUIRES MEETING	23	24	25 CHRISTMAS - COUNCIL CLOSED
26	27 TEAM BEST 8:30pm - 2502 ASSOC. MEETING	28	29	30	31 1pm - NEW YEARS EVE PARTY 8	1

AROUND THE COUNCIL:**Catholic War Veterans Annual Dinner Dance Report:**

On Saturday, November 6, 2010 the CWV, Post 1949 held their second Annual Dinner Dance. The evening was highlighted by the presentation of the first Gregory Peppard Scholarship Award to Sean Sweeney by Mary Peppard and her family. Sean plans to attend Chaminade High School. In his acceptance, Sean thanked the CWV and Mary and her family. He remembers how his grandfather was a veteran and how much he influence his life. The CWV also raised additional money for future donations. All who attended enjoyed themselves. The next CWV meeting will be on Tuesday, December 21, at 8 pm
Ken Lyons, PGK & Editor

Polish Night Dance Report:

The re-birth of the Polish Dinner and Dance was due to the tremendous efforts of Brother Eddie Jakubek, his wife Audry and their committee. The DJ had the crowd dancing down through memory lane of 50's and 60's music throughout the night. I cannot say enough about the food, the stuffed cabbage, the kielbasa, the perogies, potatoes and sauerkraut was outstanding. There was chicken for all who did not like Polish food. Over 90 people were in attendance, if you stay home to watch all the boring shows on TV you missed a great time. Once again, I must congratulate Eddie and Audry for running the Polish Night.
Ken Lyons, PGK, & Editor

Memorial Mass:

Our Annual Memorial Mass was celebrated on Thursday, November 18, at 8 PM by our Chaplain Fr. Kevin Dillon. In attendance were over 35 members and wives. Following mass coffee, tea and cake was served. A special thank you to Chairman Mike Raso, PGK, Tim Clarkin, Billy Kessler, Tom Doherty and Ken Lyons, PGK for help setting up and breaking down the room

A Thanksgiving Note:

On November 22, together with Brothers Bill Kessler and Timmy Clarkin we drop off over (40) bags of food to the Corpus Christi Parish Outreach. The ladies who collect the food were very grateful to the Knights of Columbus for their generous donation. To all my brother knights and their Families who gave I wish to extend my sincere

Gratitude for a job well done.

Ken Lyons, PGK and Chairman of Food Drive.

Lighting up for Christ:

For over the past 25 years Councils around NYS have collectively lit their Christmas Trees at precisely 8 pm. On Tuesday, December 7, 2010 our GK John Macejka will light up the Christmas tree in the lobby. All Brother Knights are asked to attend.

Members Christmas Party:

Our annual Members Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 22, at 8 pm. The cost of the party is \$20 single and \$ 30 per couple. Please contact Brothers Charlie Ribando at 742-7211 or Richard O'Callaghan at 248—1128 for details

Children's Christmas Party:

Our annual Christmas Party will take place on Sunday, December 12, from 1 pm to 4 pm. In addition we asked you bring down some can food for the needy. Please contact Rob Rom at 873—1909 for additional details see flyer on page 10.

New Years Eve Party:

Back by popular demand the New Years Eve Party will be held on Wednesday, December 31. Please contact Brothers Billy Kessler 516—662-5576 or leave a message at the Council. For additional details, please see flyer on page 11.

Squires Circle:

The Squires who have volunteer to help out at the Children's Christmas Party on Sunday, December 12. The next meeting for the Squires will meet on Wednesday, December 15; at 8 pm Pizza will be served.

In addition, Squire Joe Egan's project to collect food outside of King Kullen on Jericho Turnpike Saturday, December 10th will be from 11 am to 2 pm. Joe also agreed to reach out to Mr. Sidney Glee from the Salvation Army to ring the bells to raise funds for the Salvation Army and to get back to you on the date and time.

If you have a friend who is Catholic and wants to join the Squires or express an interest in joining please invite him to our next meeting.

Mr. Gerstner and Mr. Kelly are very proud of you all. Thank you on behalf of the Knights of Columbus and Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families.

John Macejka, Grand Knight

AROUND THE COUNCIL:**C and B:**

Last year we fell short of selling the number C and B books we sold. What a difference a year makes? This year we exceeded our goals by selling over 320 books. To all who purchased books you have our heartfelt appreciation for your generosity. If you were not able to buy a book, perhaps next year will be even better year.

SK Tom Kelly, PGK, & Chairman of C & B

Brothers:

There seems to be a lot of confusion out there on when the Council is open at night and when the Council Lounge is open at night.

Our Lounge is open every weekday night Monday to Friday at 7:30 PM unless there is a religious holiday (i.e. Christmas).

Tom Doherty is our Council's Steward. Tom's evening hours are: Monday Tuesday Thursday Evenings from 7:30 PM to 10 PM

Tom does not work Wednesday and Friday nights.

The volunteer bar captain makes sure that the volunteer bartender can get into the building on Wednesday and Friday Nights at 7:30 PM.

So if you need to be at the Council before 7:30 pm on any night or need to be at the Council before 7:30 PM on a Wednesday or Friday night please contact Steward Tom Doherty at 746-8643 or Grand Knight John Macejka at 747-0095.

Brothers, It was good to enjoy the friendship and humor of my brother Knights on this work party day. It is surprising to see all that is accomplished in a short time when Knights and Squires work together. Look forward to seeing you there at our next work party. As you can see your Officers were present!
John Macejka, Grand Knight

Squires:

Matthew Kelly; Stephen Faux; James Gerstner and Joe Egan

Knights:

Msgr. Robert Batule; G K John Macejka;
DGK Jim Corrigan; F S Bob Hartman, PGK
Chancellor Tom Kelly, PGK; Warden Bill Kessler;
Trustee's Danny Lynch, PGK, KenLyons, PGK,

Recorder Jude Ohrtman; Inside Guard Charlie Vigliotti; Outside Guard Timmy Clarkin
Dan Browne; Rich Raab; Billy Gerstner and Larry Egan.

The volunteers decorated three Christmas trees, cleaned the artificial trees in the Main Hall, replaced bulbs in the main hall, removed tape from windows and mirrors and walls and cleaned tables. They also transported the Nativity figurines to the Main Hall to await transport by the Village to the Village Christmas Area and transported books to the main hall to await donation. The Grand Knight bought Pizza for the volunteers.

Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something.

Membership:**A Knight in Shinning Armor:**

As recorded last month Membership is not all about men entering our order and hopefully becoming active members. It is about those who preceded them, the ones who set the standards.

From out of the east a stranger came, a tool box in his hand, the kind of a man the Council would need to fix its troubled problems

'cause the point of a drill gun was the only way that he understood.

When it came to drilling straight and fast---he was mighty good.

Our second nominee was a quiet lay back, role model and has paved the way for others to pick up his standard for excellence; a true giant. He became a Knight in 1957 and the Council hasn't been the same since; he began volunteering his time by co-chairing the Picnic; co-chairing the Members Christmas Party and has run the Italian Night Dance; so many times I cannot count and recently now chairs the dark horse that pays for Children's Christmas Party. As if that wasn't enough,

He is a Director on the Wilmin Corporation since 1996 and a former President of 2502 Association. He is an avid golfer who when on the golf course can be heard from any particular hole. In fact when he is in the Council or in Mineola you know it. Our second inductee to the round table is **Charlie Ribando.**

Ken Lyons, Editor

A Short Message from the Monsignor:

It's hard to argue against technological advancement when a certain surgery adds fifteen years to the life of a loved one. It's hard to argue against the information age when a computer allows you to down-load data from a library in Vienna on to your own p.c. in a matter of several minutes. Technological advancement and the information have weakened our capacity to wonder. The philosopher Sam Keen has written that wonder is the basis for all philosophy. In order to get at the meaning of life, he writes, you must wonder.

What the philosophers call wondering about the curiosities of life, Christians call beholding the mysteries of life. Along with the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead, Christians most wonder about the Incarnation. How is it that a divine person took on human flesh and became like us in all things but sin? No level of technological proficiency or information retrieval can answer this question satisfactorily.

We call Christmas a mystery because the birth of Jesus the Christ is unlike any other birth. Jesus was born to a married woman who never at any time had sexual relations with her husband. The Holy Spirit had come upon Mary and overshadowed her, thereby conceiving the Child. Without the seed of man. The Child grew in His mother's womb until such time that a son was born. I must confess that it is getting harder and harder in our culture to find the image of the Madonna and Child. Some devout Christians who send cards still use the image but advertisers and merchandisers do not. Advertisers and merchandisers don't use the image of the Madonna and Child because it doesn't sell. Mystery doesn't sell.

Mystery doesn't sell but we can't rid ourselves of it completely either. The greatest unsolved mysteries are not the content of a television show but the largely silent witness of those who love unto death. When Christ was born in Bethlehem, very few were in attendance. The Madonna was there of course and so was Joseph her just, industrious and chaste spouse. The shepherds were there too. But apart from these, only the angels witnessed this mysterious occurrence.

When Christ died on Calvary, very few people were in attendance again. According to the evangelist, the mother of Jesus, along with her sister and two other Mary's assembled at the foot of the Cross along with the Beloved Apostle John.

Before drawing His last breath, Jesus entrusted the care of His mother to a new son, a son of apostolic love.

As the Christ Child lay in the manger, His tender flesh pressed against wood. More than thirty years later, the flesh of the God-Man pressed against the wood of the Cross. The Incarnation was an embrace of pain and suffering as well as delight and joy. The Incarnation is a divine commitment to love unto death.

We are children of the manger and the Cross. We bubble with excitement over sacramental marriages and sacramental ordinations. But as memories of the ceremonies begin to fade, we do not set down our crosses but take them up and follow in the footsteps of the Master. In doing so, we do not so much as save lives but lose them.

Now here's something that definitely won't sell: losing your life. Not even the philosophers can accept this. How can you find the meaning of life if you lose life? It doesn't make sense.

Pope John Paul II calls losing your life the law of the gift. In other words you never discover the true meaning of your life until you lose it in commitment. Christ is committed to us in the Incarnation and the Cross. Both mysteries are grounded in love. Although not the only commitments to Christ, sacramental marriage and sacramental ordination are public expressions of a mysterious love unto death. In marriage, the flesh of husband and wife are joined together to project into the world the *imago Dei*, the image of God. In ordination, a mere man is given the awesome power to call down the flesh of the Son of God on an altar.

In his book "The Rumor of Angels", Peter Berger writes that we have signals of transcendence in our midst. The angels no doubt testified to the presence of the Divine on earth two thousand years ago. Today, angels continue this great work but we can't see them. We can see, however, those committed human beings who love unto death. They are the signals of transcendence who remind a skeptical world that Christmas is first, last and always a mystery.

In the Liturgy of Good Friday, the priest holds aloft a crucifix and says or sings: This is the wood of the Cross, on which hung the Savior of the world. The congregation then responds: come, let us worship. If we can give thanks for a flesh that is destroyed, then surely we can give thanks today for a flesh that is brand new.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

The Incarnation of Jesus made Him subject to death. But God has conquered death through Resurrection. The love we celebrate today is not just love unto death but a love through death and unto everlasting life.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Msgr. Robert J. Batule

Brothers:

We will be doing a Membership Drive at St. Aidan's Parish January 15th and 16th at the following

Masses:

Saturday, January 15th at 5 PM

Sunday, January 16th at 9 AM, 1030 AM and Noon
Your fellow Brother Knights will speak at the end of communion at each of these masses encouraging young Catholic men ages 10 to 17 to join our Squires and to encourage all men 18 and over to join the Knights and I want to do the Open House Sat 1-22 from 10 to 2

Volunteers are needed at the end of each mass to answer questions and hand out invites to an Open House at our Council.

Right Now please put it in your calendars. It's easy w attend and volunteer after one of these Masses.

Brothers we will have a First Degree Wednesday, February 2nd at 8 pm in the Main Hall.

SK Tom Kelly, PGK

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest:

We will hold the Council's Basketball Free Throw Contest on Tuesday, January 25th at 7 pm in the Corpus Christi School Gym (Searing Avenue off Willis Avenue in Mineola). All boys and girls in the community ages 10 to 14 are eligible to participate. Volunteers are needed to register the kids, score the contest, serve soda and retrieve shots. I hope you can help that night.

SK Tom Kelly, PGK

Fourth Degree News:

As we approach the Christmas season, please keep in mind the real meaning of Christmas which is celebration of the birth of our redeemer and savior, Jesus Christ. The easy way to reinforce this is to offer a hearty "Merry Christmas" to all that you meet or greet during this special time of year. In closing, I would like to be the first to wish you and your family a very Blessed and Merry Christmas.

The Kellenberg Assembly will be hosting our annual Christmas Party on Sunday, Dec. 12th from 2:00 - 6:00PM at Joseph Barry Council in Hicksville. Tap beer, wine and food will be served. There will be a minimal bar fee for mixed drinks.

Also, we will be hosting the Jubilarian Awards and Testimonial for PFN Mike Galgano who is the outgoing past Faithful Navigator. All Council 4th degree reps should contact Faithful Pilot Harry Loomis at 516-938-0963 to let him know how many will be attending from each council

Nassau Chapter News:

Please keep the following items on your schedules. The next Chapter meeting we will be honoring our Fourth Degree. We will be honored to be joined by both our District Master and Vice Supreme Master. Also, the first of our two Islanders Games will be 12/29 vs. the Penguins. We will be honored to be joined by our State Deputy. Tickets are still available and will be at the next Chapter meeting.

I appreciate your assistance and all your support. It's through your hard work and dedication that we are the flagship Chapter of our Order.

I would like to extend every brother and his family a very blessed Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Steve Connelly, PGK

NASSAU CHAPTER FUNDRAISER**COCKTAIL PARTY****TO BENEFIT****AUTISM SPEAKS AND****NASSAU COUNTY AUTISM ORGANIZATIONS**

Date: SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 2011

Place: Knights of Columbus
Corpus Christi Council
186 Jericho Turnpike, Mineola, NY

Time: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Price: \$35.00 per person
(Checks payable to: Nassau Chapter
Knights of Columbus)

Music: By D.J. John Weber
Beer, Wine, Soda, Sandwiches, Coffee & Cake
Mixed Drinks at Council Prices
Raffle and Silent Auction to be held
Please see Ticket Chairman
PGK Michael T. Murtha 516-798-0373
PGK Steve Driscoll 516-799-3770

Pro-Life Corner:

I am a Pro-life person although diverse in economic status, race, religion, education and unified by the concept that all humans, especially the innocent unborn, have an inherent right to life.

I believe that the unborn child is human.

I believe life begins at conception.

I believe that abortion is a war on the unborn

I believe that the Roe v. Wade decision, legalizing abortion on demand in America, was one of the most important and devastating Supreme Court decisions.

I believe that a constitutional amendment should be passed that gives equal protection to all living humans, including the unborn.

I believe that rape and incest are horrible crimes and should be punished, but I don't believe that a child conceived from either should be killed.

I am Pro-Life.

Ken Lyons, Editor

Father Michael J. McGivney:**Prayer to Father Michael J. McGivney;**

O great and glorious God, you imbued your holy priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, with deep priestly virtue and especially with pastoral concern for the poor, the orphan, the widow, for the Christian education of youth, for the protection of the faith of the working man of his day.

Now that his priestly ministry continues to spread to countless millions throughout the world through the efforts and influence of the Order of the Knights of Columbus, which Father McGivney founded, we beseech you, Heavenly Father, to raise your faithful servant, Michael, to the honours of the altar.

We ask this favour through our Lord Jesus Christ and His Holy Mother, Mary and our mother.

Amen.

New York State Council News:

As his term as our State Deputy comes to a conclusion and the candidates line up for succession I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations for a successful two years to Art Harris, your leadership team has been active in many behind the scenes activities to help make all the Councils in the state successful.

Ken Lyons, PGK, Editor

Supreme Council News:

Restoration work began this week at the gravesite of President John F. Kennedy, where the words of his inaugural address, engraved in a granite wall opposite the eternal flame over his tomb, have become difficult to read after decades of weathering. The restoration of the lettering is being underwritten by the Knights of Columbus, of which Kennedy was a member from 1946 until his assassination in 1963.

On January 20, 2011, the nation will mark the 50th anniversary of his Inaugural address, which is perhaps best remembered for the phrase, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." That quote, as well as others from the Inaugural address and additional speeches, is inscribed in the gravesite wall. The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring an essay contest on the Inaugural address for U.S. high school students this fall, ensuring that this generation of students will gain an appreciation of Kennedy's legacy.

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson said that the Knights of Columbus "is proud and honored to be able to make this contribution to honoring the memory of President Kennedy. His words inspired an entire generation, not just in America but throughout the world. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with Arlington National Cemetery in helping to ensure that those words will continue to inspire all who visit his final resting place."

Insurance News:

In the beginning, Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney and his fellow Knights "passed the hat" to benefit widows and orphans.

From that humble start, the Order has grown to include top-rated life insurance, long-term care insurance and retirement products.

The best way to learn about our products is by arranging a visit with a local field agent. Your agent can custom design an insurance program to meet your current needs, help you plan for the future or simply explain the many fraternal benefits that come with membership. Dan Higgins is our agent; his phone # is (516) 277-1178. If you have any questions please contact him?

Ken Lyons, Editor

The Gift:

T'WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS,
HE LIVED ALL ALONE,
IN A ONE BEDROOM HOUSE MADE OF
PLASTER AND STONE.

I HAD COME DOWN THE CHIMNEY
WITH PRESENTS TO GIVE,
AND TO SEE JUST WHO
IN THIS HOME DID LIVE.

I LOOKED ALL ABOUT,
A STRANGE SIGHT I DID SEE,
NO TINSEL, NO PRESENTS,
NOT EVEN A TREE.

NO STOCKING BY MANTLE,
JUST BOOTS FILLED WITH SAND,
ON THE WALL HUNG PICTURES
OF FAR DISTANT LANDS.

WITH MEDALS AND BADGES,
AWARDS OF ALL KINDS,
A SOBER THOUGHT
CAME THROUGH MY MIND.

FOR THIS HOUSE WAS DIFFERENT,
IT WAS DARK AND DREARY,
I FOUND THE HOME OF A SOLDIER,
ONCE I COULD SEE CLEARLY.

THE SOLDIER LAY SLEEPING,
SILENT, ALONE,
CURLD UP ON THE FLOOR
IN THIS ONE BEDROOM HOME.

THE FACE WAS SO GENTLE,
THE ROOM IN SUCH DISORDER,
NOT HOW I PICTURED
A UNITED STATES SOLDIER.

WAS THIS THE HERO OF WHOM I'D JUST READ?
CURLD UP ON A PONCHO, THE FLOOR FOR A BED?
I REALIZED THE FAMILIES
THAT I SAW THIS NIGHT,
OWED THEIR LIVES TO THESE SOLDIERS
WHO WERE WILLING TO FIGHT.

SOON ROUND THE WORLD,
THE CHILDREN WOULD PLAY,
AND GROWNUPS WOULD CELEBRATE
A BRIGHT CHRISTMAS DAY.

THEY ALL ENJOYED FREEDOM
EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR,
BECAUSE OF THE SOLDIERS,
LIKE THE ONE LYING HERE.

I COULDN'T HELP WONDER
HOW MANY LAY ALONE,
ON A COLD CHRISTMAS EVE
IN A LAND FAR FROM HOME.

THE VERY THOUGHT
BROUGHT A TEAR TO MY EYE,
I DROPPED TO MY KNEES
AND STARTED TO CRY.

THE SOLDIER AWAKENED
AND I HEARD A ROUGH VOICE,
"SANTA DON'T CRY,
THIS LIFE IS MY CHOICE;

I FIGHT FOR FREEDOM,
I DON'T ASK FOR MORE,
MY LIFE IS MY GOD,
MY COUNTRY, MY CORPS."

THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER
AND SOON DRIFTED TO SLEEP,
I COULDN'T CONTROL IT,
I CONTINUED TO WEEP.

I KEPT WATCH FOR HOURS,
SO SILENT AND STILL
AND WE BOTH SHIVERED
FROM THE COLD NIGHT'S CHILL.

I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE
ON THAT COLD, DARK, NIGHT,
THIS GUARDIAN OF HONOR
SO WILLING TO FIGHT.

THEN THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER,
WITH A VOICE SOFT AND PURE,
WHISPERED, "CARRY ON SANTA,
IT'S CHRISTMAS DAY, ALL IS SECURE."

ONE LOOK AT MY WATCH, AND I KNEW HE WAS
RIGHT.
"MERRY CHRISTMAS MY FRIEND, AND TO ALL A
GOOD NIGHT."

My Brother Knights:

When you send your Christmas cards out please
take the time to send one to someone whose
sacrifice is greater than most of us know.
When you are making out your Christmas card list
this year, please include the following:

A Recovering American soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20 307-5001

Merry Christmas, Ken Lyons, Editor