



Corpus Christi Council No. 2502

CLARION

MINEOLA, N. Y.

Volume 69 No.4

December 2017

Grand Knight's Message

Dear Brother Knights,
Columbiettes, Squires, and all
Catholics that are united in
Christ,

I had just returned from a ten-day pilgrimage of the beautiful island of Ireland that was organized by the Police Holy Name Society of Nassau County. What a wonderfully spiritual and learning experience it was! As we traveled together, all 30 of us were blessed with both good weather and with two spiritual leaders, Father Tom McDonald and Father Noel McHenry. Both of these holy men had willingly and enthusiastically served for over 90 years as missionaries in Africa at places that I had only read about on the news. As we visited the different iconic sites of the Irish Republic, these priests taught me a lot about my Catholic faith.

We held mass every day at a different church and at the town of Downpatrick our tour guide led us to Saint Patrick's Grave which is where the Patron Saint of Ireland is believed to be buried. That afternoon, as we traveled back to our hotel in the tour bus we spotted the most beautiful rainbow that seemed to fill all of us with a renewed spirituality. No, I did not find a pot of gold but I discovered something more valuable. I perceived a mandate to appreciate nature and all of God's creations. This was a lesson that I learned from one of the homilies that Father Tom gave us when he talked about not laying waste to the natural resources that God had provided for us.



As we drove through the North Antrim Coast, you can really admire the stunning green landscapes of Ireland as well as its stupendous coastline. I was able to walk on both the Giants Causeway that was built by the legendary Finn McCool in addition to the Cliffs of Moher. These are some of the world's most unique topographies and its views are breathtaking.

I found the Irish to be a proud and religious people whose roots run deeply throughout history. The Gallarus Oratory built over 1,200 years ago on the Dingle Peninsula is a stone church that has withstood the elements of both weather and time. In County Tipperary, we visited the Rock of Cashel which is where Saint Patrick converted a local king to Catholicism in the fifth century. Part of the Cathedral that was built 800 years ago on this location still stands today. It was used by a local vicar choral group for several centuries. In addition, we visited County Mayo, where on August 21, 1879, fifteen humble residents witnessed an apparition of the Blessed Mother Mary on the exterior of the Knock Parish Church. A Vatican commission investigated and authenticated their vision and Pope Saint John Paul II, along with hundreds of thousands of pilgrims, visited the Shrine on its 100th anniversary in 1979.

The Republic of Ireland is an iconic island that is both magnificent, yet politically tense. This was evidenced by the murals and barbed-wired walls in both Shankill Road and Falls Road that are located in the City of Belfast, and by the large gated walls that surround the Catholic residents of County Derry. One of my fellow pilgrims, Dan S., brought us to the Derry City Cemetery to visit the grave of the recently deceased politician, Martin McGuinness.

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The Clarion is published upon request, or visit our web site at www.kofc@2502.net-- Corpus Christi Council #2502, Knights of Columbus, and PO Box 243, Mineola NY 11501

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Deadline for submissions—**15th of the month**

If you do not have access to a computer, or if **you know someone else** who is not on Facebook, or do not go on Twitter and would like a hard copy or if you prefer a hard copy of the Clarion. Please contact Ken Lyons at (516) 746-8643 or (516) 428-6794

December Calendar 2017

Saturday, Dec. 02 Council's Members Christmas Party 6-9pm
Sunday, Dec.03 – St. Francis Xavier
Wednesday, Dec.06 – St. Nicholas
DD Meeting
Thursday, Dec. 07 – St. Ambrose
Business Meeting 8:00 pm
Pearl Harbor 76th Anniversary
Thursday Night Football
Friday, Dec.08 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
Sunday, Dec.10 – Council's Children's Christmas Party 1-4pm
Fourth Degree Christmas Party
Football Sunday
Monday, Dec.11 – Columbiette Meeting 7:30pm
Tuesday, Dec.12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe
Wednesday, Dec.13 – St. Lucy
Wilmin Meeting 8:30pm
Thursday, Dec.14 – St. John of the Cross
Officers Meeting 8:00pm
Thursday Night Football
Friday, Dec. 15 -- Nassau Chapter Joseph Barry Council 8:00pm
Sunday, Dec.17 -- Football Sunday
Tuesday, Dec.19 -- CWV Meeting 8:30pm
Wednesday, Dec. 20 – Squires Meeting 7:45pm
Thursday, Dec. 21—Social Meeting 8:00pm
Sunday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve – Council closed
Monday, Dec.25 – Christmas Day – Council closed
Tuesday, Dec. 26 – St. Stephen
Wednesday, Dec. 27 – St. John the Apostle
Thursday, Dec. 28 – Holy Innocents
Friday, Dec. 29 St. Thomas Becket

Bar Team Schedule – December

Monday, Dec.04 – McWeeney's Court
Monday, Dec.11 -- Jude's Teachers
Monday, Dec.18 -- Nick's Team Best
Monday, Dec. 25 – Kelly's Heroes

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Dan explained that Mr. McGuinness was a great man because if it wasn't for the treaty that he helped broker 19 years ago, none of us Catholics would be able to travel safely through Northern Ireland. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to enjoy Ireland and I will continue to pray for its future.

On Saturday, December 2nd from 6:00p.m. to 9:00 p.m., all Brother Knights, Columbiettes, Squires, and their families are invited to join us for our Annual Members' Christmas Party.

On Tuesday, December 5th we will join with other councils in Nassau and Suffolk in the "Light up for Christ" at precisely 8:00p.m. all are welcome to come down and participate in this event.

On Thursday, December 7th at 7:00 p.m., prior to our Business Meeting, volunteers are needed to wrap Christmas presents for our Children's Christmas Party.

Friday, December 8th, is the Holy Day of Obligation of the Assumption of Mary into heaven.

On Sunday, December 10th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Santa Claus will come to Corpus Christi Council with special surprises for the children and grandkids of council members.

On Thursday, December 21st, come to our Social Meeting where we will honor our Honorary Life members.

Merry Christmas to all on December 25th, the Holy Day of Obligation of the Nativity of Our Lord.

Vivat Jesus,

SK Peter Zayas, Grand Knight

Chaplain's Christmas Message:

You are reading these words as we begin our Advent observance in the Church. This year, Advent begins late (December 3rd) and ends as it always does on the 24th of December, which is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. What we have then is a short Advent season, just three weeks in length. But it's an important three weeks. To be honest though, you would have thought that Advent ceased being meaningful because before Thanksgiving all that people talk about now is the "holiday season."

We used to have a rather robust observance of Advent at home and in church but it seems that Advent wreaths and calendars are things of the past – at least in the majority of Catholic homes now if not in our churches. And that's not a good thing as far as I'm concerned. Advent is a reminder that time matters. It makes a difference whether we misuse time and fritter it away with a myriad of

diversions or, as the Bible uses the word, we "behold" time, that is, we revere it as a precious expression of the unfolding of God's will for us. God just doesn't "spring" things on us. He prepares us, He readies us to receive what He wants to give us. And what better preparation can there be but to pray with the prophet Isaiah, the herald of the Lord, John the Baptist, and the Virgin-Mother in our hearts and minds.

This Advent, make a concerted effort to mark time profitably. Yes, I say profitably. I mean it in the sense that Jesus does when He asks: "What profit is there for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" (Mk 8:36) The profit is in knowing and serving and loving the One Who offers the great gift of eternal life to us through His death and Resurrection. There is real loss in not knowing, not serving, and not loving the Lord who comes into history as the Babe of Bethlehem.

As you know from regular meetings and The Clarion, I have been stressing the need to protect our Catholic identity when we accept reservations to use our facility (our building) from non-members. To this end, I have asked to meet with Wilmin and 2502 to have our written materials and contracts reflect who we are and what we stand for. I would like to finish up this matter before Christmas. I have already met with our steward, Tom Doherty, to insure that we are not partners, wittingly or unwittingly, to a compromise with our Catholic identity.

Last June, we had our first afternoon of recollection at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Island in Eastport. I'll start planning our second afternoon of recollection early in the New Year (2018). If you have any suggestions or recommendations, please pass them along.

I close with a wish for all our members and their families that you have a blessed and joyous Christmas. May the Infant King rule in your hearts now and always.

Merry Christmas!

Msgr. Bob Batule
Chaplain

Corpus Christi Council celebrates its 95th anniversary in 2018. We will celebrate this special occasion with a journal. Anyone interested in joining this committee or if you have any old pictures please contact Tom Kelly at the Council.

Don't ever question the value of volunteers. Noah's Ark was built by volunteers; the Titanic was built by professionals.

Editor's Note #1

Please be aware that the lot across street from the Council and lot behind where Azurros was has change metered parking Mondays thru Saturdays 8am--9pm.

The Right Corner:

I'm 'That Person' Who's Ready for Christmas music On November 1st.

Sorry, Not Sorry!

As humanity, we are divided around this time of year. When is it acceptable to play Christmas music? When is it okay to start making hot cocoa? When is the switch from pumpkin spice to peppermint?

All of these questions have divided us right before the holidays. I'm going to have to take the side of let's start the holiday spirit now. I mean, who can it hurt? It makes me happy and in a better mood automatically when I think of the holidays being so soon.

It's not that I'm completely forgetting about Thanksgiving, because trust me, I love food as much as the next person. However, now we forget about the history of Thanksgiving and just stuff our faces until we fall into a food coma and take one big long nap. Christmas is so much more than that! It still has the family feel, along with good food, plus great music, great holiday drinks and cozy fireplaces. Have you ever heard a hit Thanksgiving song? I didn't think so.

Starting November 1st, Starbucks is coming out with their peppermint and winter drinks and I'm ready as ever.

You turn on the radio, find your trusty Lite-FM station, and settle in for some Elton, Celine, Shania, Paul McCartney and Mariah. But there's no Elton. None of the usual Celine, Shania, or Paul McCartney. And as for Mariah, there is no "Hero" or "Honey," just "All I Want for Christmas Is You," surrounded by oodles of Christmas songs by Nat King Cole, Andy Williams and the Chipmunks. When beset by the 1953 novelty hit "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas," you finally change the station.

Hate me for it, go ahead. I'm the person that will blast "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" after the spooky month of October is done.

It puts people in a good mood so why not? It makes the holidays remind me how great the Village of Mineola is and how much I miss it, especially when it's decorated with twinkling lights and ribbons everywhere.

Bring on the cold because I'm ready for all the good that comes along with it. I'm not the biggest fan of the weather, but that means cozy blankets, sitting by the fire, opening presents, being with family and close friends, and decorating.

There's just something magical that happens at Christmas time. No matter how or what you're celebrating, you're back in your hometown with your family, and there's no place you'd rather be. For all of the haters who don't like listening to Christmas music until after Thanksgiving, you should like hearing it because it's the best time of the year and you're missing out on an extra month of joy.

Ken Lyons, Editor

Food Drive 2017:

I am happy to announce that this year's donations for our food drive was over \$300; the goal of the Knights of Columbus is to continue to make difference in helping the less fortunate in our community. With the help of donations from supporters we were able to continue to see improvements in the battle against poverty. Your monetary gifts provide the Corpus Christi Parish Outreach with the ability to maintain a consistent amount of nutritious food from season to season, by helping to maximize their long-term relationships with grocery vendors and wholesalers to purchase the staple foods they need.

First and foremost, we praise God and lift up with deep gratitude all who gave so much to the cause of fighting hunger in our community.

The greatest benefit of all, I hope, is the feeling you know that you personally helped one child get the food they need to survive and the opportunity to overcome their desperate situation.

Ken Lyons, Food Drive Chairman.

Editor's Editorial:

Proponents of "Happy Holidays" argue that it's no big deal at all, and that proponents of "Merry Christmas" are making a mountain out of a molehill. But the "Happy Holidays" advocates want it both ways. They dismiss opponents as hysterical while, at the same time, relentlessly pushing to rid America of "Merry Christmas."

The opponents of "Merry Christmas" and other uses of the word "Christmas" know exactly what they are doing. They are disingenuous when they dismiss defenders of "Merry Christmas" as fabricating some "war on Christianity."

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Of course it's a war on Christianity — or, more precisely, a war on the religious nature of America. The Left in America wants to create a thoroughly secular society. Here's a safe prediction: the ACLU and other secular activists on the Left will try to have Christmas removed as a national holiday. Narcissism, misanthropy, meanness, and ingratitude. That's what the Leftist campaign against "Merry Christmas" boils down to. So, say "Merry Christmas" not "Happy Holidays" if you don't, you're letting the real-life grinch win.

Ken Lyons, Editor

Memorial Mass:

On Thursday, November 16th I attended the Annual Memorial Mass held in our council and celebrated by our Chaplain Msgr. Batule. Although there were over thirty Brother Knights, Columbiettes and widows of past knights who died previously there were many family members of the knights who passed away in 2016/17 fraternal years.

It is a sad commentary for brother knights who were always so kind and helpful. Whose faith, hope, and love showed in everything they did. Many of them showed us how to live in both good times and during struggles.

A year has come full circle, but our tears have never gone away. We will never forget them for in our memories they will forever stay.

Ken Lyons, Editor

Member's Christmas Party:

The Annual Members' Christmas Party will take place on Saturday, December 3rd, 2017 in the Columbian Lounge. Come down and share the camaraderie with Brother Knights, Columbiettes and friends. The party starts at 6:00 pm and cost of the party is \$25 per person for food, beer, wine and soda and \$35 for an open bar with food. For additional information please contact

Lou Librandi at (516) 739-1492

Children's Christmas Party:

Our Annual Children's Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 10, 2017 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Please come down and experience the joy and happiness of our member's children and grandchildren as they get to talk to Santa and receive a special toy from him.

Ken Lyons, Editor

Squires News:

We now have 2 new members of the Circle. Andrew Corsello and Mark DaCosta. Besides the meeting and Islander game, I am contacting the 3rd precinct to determine if a speaker can present to the boys at a subsequent meeting.

I have contacted Catholic Charities to determine what activity we assist that organization.

The Viscardi Center would be a good fit for a location for an event.

I have been in touch with the Chief Squire at St. Paul's for inclusion to work together with their Circle on an event. We are able to volunteer at a Bridge for Life on December 9th to assist this not for profit for life agency with some work tasks at their Flushing facility.

Nick and Lou Librandi

Columbiettes News:

The Corpus Christi Columbiettes are always looking for new members! We are a group of ordinary ladies who are proud of reaching out to people in our community.

They are an organization with religious convictions and a dedication to service. Please consider giving your time and special skills back to our Catholic community through our organization. If interested or have questions, please call Margaret Lunden at 516 437-2892 or email

Margaret.Lund90@gmail.com

Fraternal Corner:

Please keep in your prayers the following brother knights and their families. PGK Ken Lyons, Nick Passarella II, PGK Danny Lynch, PGK Marcel Chaillol, Vilma Doherty, Tommy Hayden, Arline Cavanaugh, Tommy Rudolph, John O'Shea, PGK John and Hilda Macejka, Paul Libassi, PGK Richie Ryan, PGK, Ray and Donna Andanuy, Danny Donovan, Joe Conlon, PGK Carl Marchese, John Spellman, PGK, Ed Panzella, Bernadette Ferguson's father, Gertrude Passarella, Suzanne Drake Corsentino, Maryann Ribando, Pat Mulrooney, Lisa Bartell, Pamela and Nancy Driscoll, L Robert Dwyer, Columbiette Lisa Simeone's Father, Bill Cassidy Mom who recently passed away, for all the people affected by Harvey, Irma and Maria hurricanes, the souls in Purgatory, for all our first responders – Police Officers, Firefighters and EMT's, safe return of all our soldiers in harm's way, and an end to abortions. *Four things let us ever keep in mind: God hears prayer, God heeds prayer, God answers prayer and God delivers by prayer.*

CWV Post 1949:

The CWV Veterans Brunch was held on Sunday, November 12, at 1 PM. Chef Peter Augello's food display can only be the creation of a great chef, as every dish was incredible! Here you see that dedication matters: quality food, ingredients [and nothing brings out the flavor better than a praise-worthy presentation]!

Msgr. Batule gave the opening prayer and Post Commander Bill Kessler led the guests in the Pledge of Allegiance. Richard O'Callaghan invited the Iaquinto and the Peppard families up to the podium. He then presented the CWV (Greg Peppard) Scholarship Award to Joseph Iaquinto a freshman at Chaminade High School. Mary Peppard and her sons Greg, John and her daughter-in-law Kathy joined Bill Kessler in presenting Joseph with a check from the post and a matching check from the Peppard family.

Commander Kessler thanked Tom Kelly for setting up, cleaning up the hall and for bartending.

Ken Lyons, Editor

Let's Meet Joseph Iaquinto

Good afternoon Ladies and gentlemen:
My name is Joe Iaquinto and I am a freshman at Chaminade High School here in Mineola. I am extremely grateful to be this year's recipient of the Gregory W. Peppard Scholarship award. The award is special to me for many reasons. Firstly, Mr. Peppard was a former New York City Police Officer as is my father.

Secondly, I am honored to be awarded this scholarship on Veterans Day weekend and I would like to acknowledge and thank the members of the Knights of Columbus Catholic War Veterans for their service to our country and protecting our freedoms.

One last reason this award is so special to me is that I can celebrate today with the person who submitted my name for this scholarship. That special person in my life has been a longtime Knights of Columbus member, a former Nassau County Police Officer, a Korean War Veteran and a role model to me all my life, my grandfather... Frank Iaquinto.

I feel lucky to be going to Chaminade this year for my parents work so very hard to afford me the opportunity to get some of the best education here on Long Island... Thank you Mom and Dad.

I would also like to take a moment to thank Mr. Richard O'Callaghan and Mr. Denis O'Sullivan for choosing me to be the 2017 award recipient.

Thank you to Billy Kessler for organizing this wonderful event and making this all possible for me, my family and all of you that are here today. Lastly, thank you to all my family and friends for coming today and celebrating with me.

Joe Iaquinto

Super Bowl Party:

When it comes down to breathtaking, nail-biting excitement, it's tough to top the Super Bowl. The Super Bowl draws millions of viewers from around the world. Many of them are not interested in the game as much as their attention is drawn towards watching the commercials.

The Super Bowl will be played on Sunday, February 4th, 2018 in U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The N.Y. Jets and Giants are still deciding where they will be watching the game.

So, if you watch the Super Bowl for commercials, the game itself or the numbers you have in various football pools, why not come down to the Council where 2502 Association will hold its annual Super Bowl Party. The cost is \$40 per person for an open bar, snacks, a cold and hot buffet, one hour before game and one hour after the game.

Reservations are required please contact Danny Macweeney at (516) 835-0449 or Bobby Redmond at (516) 741-8930 or simply call the Council.

Ken Lyons, Editor

Golden Gloves News:

On Friday, February 9, 2018, at 7:30 p.m., Corpus Christi Council Number 2502 of the Knights of Columbus will be fortunate to partner up with the New York Daily News Charities for a third time to host a preliminary round of the 91st Annual Golden Gloves boxing tournament at our council in Mineola. This is one of the premier contests in the United States, if not the world.

We are located in 186 Jericho Turnpike, Mineola, NY 11501 and in the past year our fundraising efforts has supported the parishes of Corpus Christi and Saint Aidan, students in the seminary, retired priests, as well as many local charitable and nonprofit organizations.

We are seeking local businesses who are willing to sponsor one of the upcoming bouts. For a minimum \$200.00 tax-deductible donation we will announce your support to the audience between rounds.

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We expect to have over two hundred fans in attendance and we can distribute any brochures or business cards that you can provide to us. Sponsors who have an available banner can have it hung up at our council during this event. We are also looking for gift certificates from local businesses that we can raffle off as a fundraiser. Tickets for this event will be available soon and I hope that you can join us this evening. Your tax-deductible donation can be accepted by a check made out to "Corpus Christi Council Number 2502." Please contact Peter Zayas at 516-458-6610 or at iplaychess@optonline.net if you require any additional information. God bless you and thank you again for your support in helping to make this a successful community event.

Vivat Jesus,

SK Peter Zayas, Grand Knight

Supreme News:

Pope Francis received Supreme Knight Carl Anderson in a private audience at the Vatican. At that audience, Anderson discussed with the Holy Father the Knights' many initiatives including the Knights of Columbus' work on behalf of Christians at risk in the Middle East. He also presented the earnings from the Knights' Vicarius Christi Fund, in the amount of \$1.6 million.

The proceeds are given annually to the pope for his personal charities, and since the fund's inception in 1981, more than \$59 million in earnings have been donated.

New York State News:

Worthy Brothers,

To be a member of the Knights of Columbus is not just something to pay dues and carry a membership card in our wallet. Our membership has evolved into something more special than anyone could imagine. It is a calling by God in service to all. This call is our ministry. We have taken on the task of spreading the word of God through teaching and action. Our actions of faith and our teachings of His word comes directly through the many great programs that we fulfill on a regular basis.

The programs that we participate in have directly changed people's lives whether in a small way or given a whole new direction to people. This is the miracle that has been fulfilled by Fr. Michael McGivney by asking for a few men to form an organization to become the right arm of God.

I encourage all councils and their members to participate in this live ministry of faith to enrich one another in active programs. Your action will affect all of our lives and bring us closer to God through inspiration, teaching, and demonstrating faith in action.

May God bring us closer to him each day through our ministry and may we be the messengers of faith, hope and inspiration through our actions.

May God Bless us.

Bob Graziano

New York State Program Director

Fourth Degree News:

The Fourth Degree Christmas Party will be held at Barry Council on Sunday, 12/10/17 cost is \$15.

Nassau Chapter News:

Charity Ball April 15th 2018 @ Chateaubriand in Carle Place. Cost \$ 80 per Person. Honoring Dominican Nuns of Amityville – let's make this year's event the most successful ever!

Chapter Scholarships – Remember the following scholarship/Grants are available

Religious Education (CCD) Grant – Deadline -- May 18th, 2018.

Catholic Elementary School Grant – Deadline -- May 18th, 2018.

Catholic High School Scholarship – Deadline -- April 20th, 2018.

Insurance News:***Protecting Widows – A Founding Goal***

As a member of this council, you know how important spouses can be to the charitable works of the Order. If you're married, your wife is probably involved in a few of the many events that happen each fraternal year. This support adds great value and impact to what a council can achieve.

When the Order was founded in 1882, Father Michael J. McGivney and the other brave men were setting out to protect Catholic families, but especially wives and children. Today, we remain committed to this mission by offering insurance products and fraternal benefits designed with that goal in mind. One specific policy rider that you may not know about is called Spousal Waiver of Premium. This rider is unique to the Knights of Columbus philosophy of helping our widows. This rider is available on most permanent and Discoverer plans purchased at standard rates by a member and his wife on the same day. When both spouses apply, the rider provides for waiver of premiums on the spouse's contract in the event of the insured's death.

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Best of all, for members and spouses ages 18 to 60, this waiver can be added for no charge.

The rider stays in effect until the spouse attains age 65 or certain other triggering events occur.

Our products are designed with your needs and budget in mind. With a solid portfolio of life insurance, long-term care, disability income and retirement products, the Knights of Columbus can help you meet all of your financial goals. Whether you're 18 or 80, the Knights of Columbus has products that work for you and your family. You owe it to your family to make sure that their future is secure. Call me to learn more about these solutions to protect your family.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU!

December 25th marks an important day in our lives. I wish the Corpus Christi Council's families the gift of love, the gift of peace and the gift of happiness. May all of these and more be yours at Christmas.

May your family's year ahead be rich with God's blessings. Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

VJ

Will Havron, CLTC

516.578.6452

Knights of Columbus Fraternal Benefits

Representative

KofCWillHavron@gmail.com

Conference News:

Our 2018 Nassau Conference Raffle Calendars are available now at \$20 each from either your Worthy DD Jim or any conference officer.

Pro-Life News:**Christmas is universal.**

Christmas has had a surprisingly cozy relationship with the modern world. The commercial radio age began on Christmas Eve, 1906, when "O Holy Night" was sung on the first AM radio broadcast.

You could write a whole history of Christmas broadcast television, from sleepy Whoville and its Grinch to Charlie Brown specials. Christmas provides the theme for It's a Wonderful Life and Miracle on 34th Street, Elf and Home Alone.

Without Christmas, our popular culture would be as flightless as Santa's sleigh without its red-nosed reindeer.

Christ the Savior becomes man precisely for all who share human nature. He excludes nobody.

The good news of Christmas is for all people of all times and places. "Joy to the World."

In fact, so universal is this joy that even nature shares in it: "Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid;

the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them" (Isaiah 11:6).

All of this leads to an inescapable conclusion:

Christmas is also for the unborn. The Savior has come also for the children yet living in their mothers' womb to our youngest brothers and sisters. In fact, we can say it is addressed especially to them, because they are the most helpless.

That good news was announced first precisely to the lowly, not to the great and powerful. The ministry of the One who was born for us continued to follow that pattern: He consistently sought out those who were on the outskirts of society.

His Church does the same today, taking a preferential option for the poor. The "poor" are not simply those deprived of material goods. This preferential option for the poor and vulnerable includes all who are marginalized in our nation and beyond - unborn children, persons with disabilities, the elderly and terminally ill, and victims of injustice and oppression.

In the beautiful Christmas hymn, "O Holy Night," we sing these words. "Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love, and His Gospel is Peace. Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother, and in His Name all oppression shall cease."

Pope Benedict XVI has taught that "love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind, is as essential to the Church as the ministry of the sacraments and preaching of the Gospel." Our Christmas cannot be complete until we join in the great effort to end the oppression of the unborn once and for all, and let them hear that for them, too, a Savior has been born.

Ken Lyons, Editor

Father Michael McGivney:

What I've always loved most about Father McGivney is that he was an "ordinary" parish priest for 13 years who, without fanfare, devoted all his energies to the spiritual and material care of those entrusted to him by God. As far as we know, he had no great miracles associated with his prayer. He wasn't a flashy preacher. He was not known for any particular theological brilliance. He simply "did his job" with great love for God and others, regularly opting for the toughest assignments, like visiting death-row inmates. In fulfilling his duties with humble fidelity, however, he ended up affecting the lives not only of his parishioners,

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but of men and women of all walks of life right down to our day.

As the light from the dying embers casts its last glow upon the Christ child in the crèche, members of the Knights of Columbus begin a humble request. We hope that the church leaders will fill our little stocking with the announcement of Fr. Michael J. McGivney, canonization.

Only three people born in the United States have ever been made saints in the Roman Catholic Church. Two, Saints Elizabeth Seton and Katharine Drexel, founded religious orders dedicated to educating the poor. They were canonized in 1975 and 2000, respectively. The third, Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, was canonized in 2012, becoming the only Native American saint. Were Father McGivney to be elevated to sainthood, he would become the first American-born man ever canonized.

Ken Lyons, Editor

Membership Report:

In this article, I'd like to talk about a problem that many councils experience; namely attracting and retaining new council's members. Without new members, the council goes through a stagnation period where it seems that only the "same-old" people show up at meetings and launches. To break out of this phase, it is important that new members become involved with the council and eventually take over important positions. There are many good reasons why a council should continue to grow, but the most important is to develop new friendship and share the common passion of camaraderie. Isn't that why we all joined a council in the first place? I guess the first place to start the process of getting new members is to stop; step back; and see where our council is at the moment. Is it the same people at every meeting assuming the responsibility of running the council? Is membership dwindling? Are people getting bored? I would suggest a "membership meeting" all the current council members write down the benefits of belonging to our council. What does being a member mean? Can you get those benefits on your own? The second phase would be for the group to jot down their goals for the organization. Would these goals mean more benefits for the members? The more benefits you can offer new people, the more inclined they will be to join the organization and take part in it. Finally, list all the reasons why getting more people involved in the organization would be a good idea. The purpose of this council evaluation is to get everyone fired up about

attracting new members. It also arms them with ammunition to use when approaching other people about becoming a member of our council. For example, when talking to someone about the knights, they can tell them many more benefits about being in our council than they might have thought of before.

At this point, I think the council can start to think about new ways of attracting new members. You have to start with attracting a new person to the council before you can get them to join.

In my opinion, those are the basic steps involved in getting new members to join the Knights of Columbus.

But before our council goes out and implements these new ideas, I would suggest that you also talk about retaining the new members once they come out to a launch or meeting. What steps will be taken to make sure they stay excited about being a member of the club?

But the one key item of attracting and maintaining members is to show them the great benefits that are possible by belonging to our council.

Ken Lyons, Editor

Seminarians and Vocation News:

Pope Francis has delivered the homily at Mass on Sunday morning with seminarians and novices gathered in St Peter's Basilica.

Dear seminarians, dear novices, dear young people discerning your vocations: "evangelization is done on one's knees", as one of you said to me the other day. Always be men and women of prayer! Without a constant relationship with God, the mission becomes a job. The risk of activism, of relying too much on structures, is an ever-present danger. If we look towards Jesus, we see that prior to any important decision or event he recollected himself in intense and prolonged prayer. Let us cultivate the contemplative dimension, even amid the whirlwind of more urgent and pressing duties. And the more the mission calls you to go out to the margins of existence, let your heart be the more closely united to Christ's heart, full of mercy and love. Herein lies the secret of the fruitfulness of a disciple of the Lord! Jesus sends his followers out with no "purse, no bag, no sandals" (Lk 10:4). The spread of the Gospel is not guaranteed either by the number of persons, or by the prestige of the institution, or by the quantity of available resources. What counts is to be permeated by the love of Christ, to let oneself be led by the Holy Spirit and to graft one's own life onto the tree of life,

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which is the Lord's Cross.

Dear friends, with great confidence I entrust you to the intercession of Mary Most Holy. She is the Mother who helps us to take life decisions freely and without fear. May she help you to bear witness to the joy of God's consolation, to conform yourselves to the logic of love of the Cross, to grow in ever deeper union with the Lord. Then your lives will be rich and fruitful! Amen.

Ken Lyons, Editor

What does Jesus want for Christmas?

If Jesus came back and saw our Christmas celebrations, what would He make of them? What would the humble carpenter from Nazareth think of all this praise of His birth? What would He think of the gifts, the carols, the lights, the feasts? How would He feel about the commercialism? Would He even want us to celebrate Christmas, and if so, how?

To celebrate Jesus' birthday has become a firmly entrenched Christian tradition, typically marked by the exchange of gifts with our loved ones, acquaintances and perhaps even people we simply want to impress. But suppose we let Christmas take on an even deeper meaning this year? Suppose we use the Christmas giving season to identify with what is important to Jesus— forgiveness, freedom, peace of mind, restored hope and a new way of life?

There are ways we can do this. Let's take a look at several ideas that might help us share our blessings with those who live in poverty and loneliness, some simple and practical opportunities to help us reach out to our fellow human beings who are frequently overlooked and ignored. Get into the spirit of the holiday by playing Santa for a friend or neighbor in need. By "in need", I don't just mean financially; there are so many people who are alone on the holiday. Fill a small stocking and leave it on their door as a surprise, with a card signed "Santa". Don't let them catch you, it's more fun that way, and much more rewarding to do something nice for someone without expecting recognition or thanks.

Would you like to support an American soldier overseas, some of whom have been wounded, sometimes severely? Now you can, through "Soldiers' Angels," whose motto is "May no soldier go unloved."

Soldiers' Angels has been featured in local and national newspapers, such as the Wall Street Journal, and mentioned on radio and television

programs. Its operations are many and varied, including its Holidays for Heroes program. Do you, or does someone you know, have a friend or loved one in prison? Prison is a lonely place. The dreariness of day-to-day existence can be tormenting. Go into your walk-in closet, dim the light and sit down. Now, stay there until meal time, then go eat something you really do not care for, go back to your closet and sit down. Do this for several days, weeks or months, you will begin to get some idea of what it is like to be incarcerated!

Jesus Christmas present is something that you can't find in a store. Maybe it's peace on earth, no more empty seats in church.

Do you have a gift to give Jesus for Christmas? What gift would you give to Jesus?

Will you offer him carols faintly sung? Offerings regretfully given? Service dutifully performed?

How about going against the current of our crazed culture and give the gift of spending some quiet time with Jesus as your First Love.

Might be, that's what is on His wish list?

Ken Lyons, Editor

Editor's Note #2:

Volunteers will be needed to distribute Poinsettia's to the widows of our members. For additional information please contact Grand Knight Peter Zayas at (516) 458-6610 or e-mail him at iplaychess@optonline.net

Christmas is the spirit of giving, without a thought of getting.

Editor's Note #3:

Corpus Christi Council will kick off the Christmas season with the annual "Light Up for Christ" celebration on Tuesday, December 5th. At precisely 8pm we will light the Christmas Tree in the lobby. All are invited to attend please remember to display your "Keep Christ in Christmas" lawn signs and your car magnets throughout the Christmas season.

In the old days, it was not called the Holiday Season; the Christians called it 'Christmas' and went to church; the Jews called it 'Hanukkah' and went to synagogue; the atheists went to parties and drank. People passing each other on the street would say 'Merry Christmas!' or 'Happy Hanukkah!' or (to the atheists) 'Look out for the wall!'

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Ken Lyons, Editor