



The KNIGHT'S FLAME

Holy Spirit Council 11460 • Rochester MN

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Grand Knight Message

As always seems to be the case each month there are many Thank You's that need to be passed around. First I'd like to thank Mike Riester and his family for setting up and organizing our Light Night evening this past Valentine's day. A good time was had by all who attended. I'd also like to thank Jeff Swantko for providing the wine and Cheri Block for the chocolates that she made and shared (oh yeah, Jeff Block said he helped roll chocolates too – Thanks Jeff!) I'd like to thank Brett Maronde and Aaron Jelinek our area insurance agents for the program they put on and information they shared. Finally congratulations to all those winners of the door prizes, especially Dr. & Mrs. Price who each won a gift certificate along with Jack Mattson and Brad Brech. Other winners were treated to a bottle of wine from our insurance agents or a bag of Cheri's chocolates and Cheri won a special K of C prize ... you'll have to ask her. The other event since our last newsletter was the pancake breakfast held March 2nd for the Youth Mission Trip to Mexico. Thanks to everyone who helped Jerome, Gary and crew on this final breakfast of the season. While I could not attend I hear it was a success.

As we finish up the winter season and head into spring, our council continues to remain active. Over the next couple of months there will be several opportunities to volunteer. These include helping out with Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN), and several of you I'm sure will be asked to assist with the parish capital campaign. The regional free throw contest will be held at Lourdes on March 9th as well. There are also several membership activities happening. Our Open House will be March 10 at Valentino's and there will be major degrees in April for both 2nd and 3rd degrees as well as a 4th degree exemplification. Check the calendar for dates and times of these events.

As we enter into the Easter season, I hope you are able to attend some of the various liturgies during Holy Week. An interesting fun fact about Easter this year is that unless you are 95 years old or older this will be the earliest Easter of your lifetime. The next time Easter will be this early will be over 200 years from now due to the timing between the phases of the moon and our calendar. So enjoy this "opportunity of a lifetime" this Easter season.

Vivat Jesus!

Greg Kapraun, Grand Knight

Get To Know A Knight - Dave Dykstal

This month we are starting a new Get To Know A Knight. I will be calling a random Knight each month and introducing them to you. Hopefully we can even get a picture as well. I thought it was only fair that I introduce myself this month.

I've been a Knight for some time (I'm sure Jim Decker has the records) and am a charter member of Holy Spirit. My wife's name is Ann and my children are Joe (23) and Laura (19). I have one grandson, Aydrien (3). Joe is currently a Navy corpsman and is finishing up his first hitch. He is interested in continuing into nursing and may be returning to Rochester to attend nursing school. Laura is currently at RCTC and in the medical secretary program. My lovely wife Ann is a paraprofessional for Mrs. Pappas' Kindergarten class at St. Francis School - a job which she loves. I work for IBM but almost exclusively at home since my team is scattered worldwide. It has the advantage of a short commute and a very casual dress code.



Birthdays

Knights with birthdays in March are William Medlyn, James Owens, Duane Price, Jim Rogers, Aaron Civil, Marc Betting, Andrew Streit, Jim Buntrock, John Devlin, Chris Guibert, Steve Hansen, Ken White, Paul Weiland, Sean Valentine, Jeremy Bodensteiner, Mark Stopyro, Bernard King, Greg King, Dave Loechler, Steven Decker, Kevin Mulligan, and Bill Towey. Congratulations on being one year wiser!

Calendar

Officer's Meeting
Council Meeting
Open House - Free Pizza!
April Newsletter Deadline
Major Degrees
Fourth Degree

Thursday, March 13, 7:15pm
Thursday, March 13, 7:30pm
Monday, March 10, 6:00pm
Sunday, March 30
Sunday, April 6, see article
Saturday, April 19, see article

Holy Spirit School Library
Holy Spirit School Library
Valentino's
Lourdes High School
Kahler Grand Hotel

Dues Discounts - Still Available

Thanks to all the Knights who have paid their dues so far this year. Our Financial Secretary Jim Decker thinks this must be a record for early dues payers.

Our dues discount is still good until the end of March. If you haven't yet paid your dues (there are about 36 of you), take the time to do it now and save both \$5.00 and Jim the effort of tracking you down later.

IHN Help Needed

John Orbeck

I am the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) coordinator for Holy Spirit. IHN is a network of volunteers from 43 faith communities who offer food and shelter to families who find themselves homeless. During the week of March 9 through March 16, Holy Spirit along with Homestead United Methodist Church and Bethal Lutheran will be hosting IHN families at Homestead United Methodist Church (400 13th Avenue SE, near St. Francis).

I would like to invite you to volunteer as a van driver, cook, evening host, or overnight host for the 2 families that are currently in the network. Almost 70 people are needed to fill all of the volunteer positions during our host week. In the past, it has been difficult to get men to volunteer, especially for the overnight host job (which is the easiest job). Last year over 1,000 different volunteers in our faith communities spend over 14,000 hours of their time for this wonderful cause. Their efforts were well rewarded. Over 2/3 of the families that we help remain in our community after finding homes and jobs. Volunteers make a difference in these families' lives!

You can either volunteer by going to the Holy Spirit web site. If you can't volunteer at this time, but would like to further information about the IHN program in Rochester, please send me an email (orbeck@chartermi.net) and I will add you to the distribution list.

New Council Established

Berry Hobbs

We have a new council that will be serving Holy Family in Kasson and Christ the King in Byron. Although there were some former members who returned to the Order and some transfers, more than 20 new knights were given their membership degree.

The name given for the new council is St. Joseph the Worker - Council 14460. We are very proud of the men who worked so hard to make this happen, proud of the men to become members of this new council, and proud of the fact that this group will bring their time and talents to the service of the Mystical Body of Christ.

Congratulations, St. Joseph the Worker Council 14460!

Major Degree

On Sunday April 6 we will hold the full set of ceremonials here in Rochester at Lourdes High School. 1st Degree registration is from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. with the ceremonial at 10:30 a.m. 2nd and 3rd Degree registration is from 11:15 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. with the 2nd Degree at noon and the 3rd Degree following immediately after. There will be a lunch provided after the 3rd Degree has completed. Please use the school entrance on Center Street.

All 1st degree members are reminded that they are expected to go through the advanced degrees soon after joining - we have a number of members who need to take care of this requirement. Those taking the 2nd/3rd degrees should plan to arrive by 11:30 a.m. to give you plenty of time to register. There are no fees for these advanced degrees, but you should have paid your 2008 dues and have your current membership card with you.

All current members are welcome to observe the 1st degree, and all current 3rd degree members are welcome to observe the advanced degrees. It's always nice to have a good showing of current members to support our members going through the degree ceremonials. Hope to see you there!

Fourth Degree

A year ago, the Bishop Fitzgerald Assembly 548 was asked to host the 2008 Spring Assembly. It was the hope of the Assembly that those 3rd degree knights desiring to enjoy the full honor of knighthood would take this opportunity to apply for membership. At the outset, we felt that a good response would be 20-30 possible candidates. Were we wrong.

At the writing of this article, we have currently signed 56 brother knights, 28 of these applicants are members of the Holy Spirit Council. As membership director for the local assembly, I assure you that Holy Spirit is stepping forward and is certainly 2nd to no other council. Jim Decker, Jerome Lensing, and Paul Dailey have worked very hard on membership, and we are so grateful for their efforts.

The members of the planning team are working very hard to make this a very memorable experience. If you desire to join this wonderful group of knights, please make contact with one of the following Sir Knights, and they will assist you in taking care of the necessary paperwork. They are:

Jim Decker	282-5227	j.bdecker@earthlink.net
Paul Daley	775-7012	orsurfmnturf@aol.com
Jerome Lensing	286-8693	Jerome.Lensing@pioneer.com
Berry Hobbs	529-9059	b.hobbs@charter.net

It is not too late, and we invite your phone call or email message.

Golf Tournament

We are looking for one, two, or a committee of Knights interested in heading up our annual Golf Tournament. Aaron Berg is transferring to Pax Christi and we need to replace him. Please contact Greg Kapraun if you or a group of you are interested in leading this important activity.

Open House

Dave Hubka

We'll be having our annual open house to let potential members know all the good things about the KCs and about our council. It will include a free pizza and pop buffet! Mark your calendars now for Monday, March 10, 2008, 6:00-8:00pm at Valentino's (130 Elton Hills Drive).

If you've been thinking about asking someone to join, what better way to bring up the topic than inviting them to join you for a free meal. Besides the meal, a few of us will share some thoughts about the KCs, and then we'll do informal discussions while eating. If anyone wants to sign up during the course of the evening that will be fine, but coming to the open house does not commit them in any way. It is truly an invitation for them to get to know us better with a free meal thrown in. To make it even better offer to drive!

One special focus - I would like you Knights with sons to come and bring them along. They've seen you involved - now bring them to hear the rest of the story about the Knights and our council. Even if they are a few years too young to join now, I'd like to treat them to a meal and have them get to know us so they are ready to sign up when they turn 18. Please bring them, and don't forget to bring along a friend or two of theirs that you also think might be open to joining. Remember, our council offers reduced annual dues of just \$10 for high school and college students.

I'd like to see a great turnout for this. Given the free meal and the focus on bringing sons and other young men, I'd like to see at least 20 candidates there. Let's make it happen! See you at Valentino's on Monday March 10th. Please plan to arrive no later than 6:15pm.

Youth Choir Appreciation

The Holy Spirit Youth Choir will sing for the final time of the season at the 10:00 Mass on Sunday, April 20, 2008. Immediately following that Mass, the KCs will be serving them brunch as a "thank you" for all their efforts. Format and menu will be similar to past years. Pete Schommer will be head chef, Joe DiCecco will be in charge of the waffle bar, and for the pool of workers I plan to ask the Knights who have a daughter or son in this year's Youth Choir - but I'll gladly accept other volunteers as well. We'll need some workers to start food preparation about 8:00 that morning, and then we will need many more workers to help serve and clean-up. I'll be contacting potential workers soon, but if you know you would like to sign up to help, please take the initiative to send me an email (dhubka@magnaspeed.net) or call me (282-6090) and mark your calendar!

Pancake Breakfast

Gary Moore

Brother Knights, thanks to every one of you who helped out with this year's pancake breakfasts. We put on 5 successful breakfasts this year, starting in September, and finishing up with the last one this past Sunday, March 2. The groups that benefitted from your efforts with some much needed funds were: Holy Spirit Youth NCYC trip, Boy Scout Troop 110, Birthright of Rochester, Holy Spirit Youth mission trip to Mexico, and the KC general fund. Once again, many generous hands contributed to the success. THANK YOU!

Little Known Saint of the Month

Dave Dykstal

This month we are off to Corbie, a town about 120km north of Paris in France. There Colette Boilet, a carpenter's daughter, was born in 1380. Her parents gave her the name of Nicolette from their devotion to St. Nicholas. She was brought up with the love of the pure and austere. Her parents were poor but virtuous and charitable according to their means. After their death she distributed the little they left her among the poor. She joined the community of the Beguines, a devout society of women, leading a life between the secular and religious. Not finding this way of life austere enough, she took the habit of the third order of St. Francis and later that of the Poor Clares with the view of bringing that order back to the primitive rule from which it had strayed. Failing in her attempts to persuade the communities to reform, she found it was necessary that she acquire some measure of authority. She made a journey to Nice (quite a distance) to petition Peter de Luna, who was acknowledged as pope Benedict XIII by the French during the Western schism. (Later Colette would play a part in the resolution of the schism by writing to the Council of Constance disavowing this same Benedict XIII). He made her superior of the whole order of St. Clare. With this position she attempted to revive the primitive rule in the convents of the diocese of Paris, Beauvais, Noyon, and Amiens, but met with violent opposition, and was treated as a fanatic. Continuing through France she met with a more favorable reception in Savoy, and then into Burgundy, Flanders, and Spain.

So great was her love for poverty that she never put on so much as sandals, going always barefoot, and would have only the most humble convents in her order. Her habit was made hundreds of patches sewed together. She continually practiced self-denial in all things and asked her nuns do to the same in imitation of Christ. On Fridays she would fast and meditate from six in the morning till six at night often with a flood of tears as she contemplated Christ's sacrifice.

She was seized with her last sickness in her convent at Ghent and foretold her own death on the 6th of March, 1447. Colette was canonized in 1807 and is considered a patron of those who have lost their parents. Her feast is on March 6.

Correction: I was apparently using out-of-date references for our October Saint - John Cantius. His memorial used to be on October 20th, but is now celebrated on December 23rd. My apologies to all my Polish friends.

Prayer Intentions

For the mother of Pat Mulligan, who passed away on Saturday morning, March 1.

A Story of Prayer

A man's daughter had asked the local minister to come and pray with her father. When the minister arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows. An empty chair sat beside his bed. The minister assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit.

"I guess you were expecting me," he said.

"No, who are you?" said the father.

The minister told him his name and then remarked, "I saw the empty chair and I figured you knew I was going to show up."

"Oh yeah, the chair," said the bedridden man. "Would you mind closing the door?"

Puzzled, the minister shut the door.

"I have never told anyone this, not even my daughter," said the man, "but all of my life I have never known how to pray. At church I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer, but it went right over my head. I abandoned any attempt at prayer," the old man continued, "until one day four years ago, my best friend said to me, 'Johnny, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus. Here is what I suggest. Sit down in a chair, place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith see Jesus on the chair. It's not spooky because he promised to be with us always. Then just speak to him in the same way you're doing with me right now.' So, I tried it and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I'm careful though. If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm."

The minister was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old man to continue on the journey. Then he prayed with him, anointed him with oil, and returned to the church.

Two nights later the daughter called to tell the minister that her daddy had died that afternoon.

"Did he die in peace?" he asked.

"Yes, when I left the house about two o'clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me he loved me and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later, I found him. But there was something strange about his death. Apparently, just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on the chair beside the bed. What do you make of that?"

The minister wiped a tear from his eye and said, "I wish we could all go like that."

Prayer is one of the best free gifts we receive.

I asked God for water, He gave me an ocean.
I asked God for a flower, He gave me a garden.
I asked God for a friend, He gave me all of you.
If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.

Happy moments, praise God.
Difficult moments, seek God.
Quiet moments, worship God
Painful moments, trust God.
Every moment, thank God.