



*From the
Chaplain*

**DECEMBER 6
MARK THE DATE**

The Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus has designated December 6, the feast of St. Nicholas, as the target date for two special activities. As part of the KC effort to spread the light of Christ and keep Christ in Christmas, brother Knights and their families are encouraged to display a Nativity scene and put up a Christmas tree by December 6.

The most important place to put up the crib set and tree is inside the family home, but one or the other could be displayed on the front lawn or some other prominent location outside. The KC Hall is also highly recommended.

Another goal is to decorate the Christmas tree and Nativity set with a generous supply of Christmas lights, but to leave the lights off at first. Then on the evening of December 6, after a short period of eager anticipation, the lights are to be turned on at 8:00 p.m. local time in unison with brother Knights in the area and around the country. Families are asked to do this ceremonially by gathering as many people as possible, having a countdown to the actual time, singing a Christmas carol or two, and sharing some treats.

The lights send a strong spiritual message. We believe that with the birth of Jesus "the true light was coming into the world" (Jn 1:9). Mary gave birth at midnight, the moment when the darkness is the deepest and most intense, and suddenly "the glory of the Lord shone" (Lk 2:9), a star appeared (Mt 2:2), and "the light shines in the darkness" (Jn 1:5a). The Light of Christ is so powerful that "the darkness has not overcome it" (Jn 1:5b).

Beginning on December 6, throughout the rest of Advent, and for the Christmas season, it is the goal of KC families to spread the light of Christ. The lighted evergreen says his love is everlasting. The lighted Nativity scene with the baby Jesus in the manger communicates our belief that God is with us, and that the Blessed Mother's son is



December 2011

the Son of the Most High, our Messiah and Lord, our Savior and Redeemer. The lights are a reminder to ourselves and a powerful witness to others. The Light of Christ brings joy to the world and hope to all.

Fr. Mike Van Sloun

*Grand
Knight's
Message*



Greetings Brother Knights:

I cannot believe Advent season is upon us. The beginning of the church season is truly a wonderful time of the year. Every year we deal with changes in our life. This year we will be using the new translation of the Roman Missal. I believe reciting the new verses at Mass will strengthen our spiritual life and bring us closer to God.

I would like to welcome our newest Brother Knight Father Nathan LaLiberte. We also approved the transfer of Robert Drake to our council at our November meeting. Please extend a warm welcome to these fine gentlemen.

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped out at the Turkey Bingo. I really appreciate it. I want to thank Al Nathe for arranging the purchase of the turkeys.

Soon you will be receiving your annual dues letter from Roger Renner for next year. Please consider donating to one of our additional funds again. This year we added a fund to replace the lighting in the KC chambers. The light fixtures are old and several fixtures are broken. Thank you all for your generosity in the past.

We will be holding a major degree on Saturday, December 10th. This will be a second and third degree ceremony only. Please consider attending this event to witness the new process that was installed in July.

On December 13th we will hold our annual Tom & Jerry night. Drinks will be served immediately after our monthly meeting.

I would like to wish all my fellow Knights and your families a very Blessed Merry Christmas. This is a time to share our faith and take time to thank God for all that he has done for us. May His peace and blessings be with you and your families.
Vern Rausch, Grand Knight

DUES NOTICE 2012
FISCAL YEAR 2012 DUES NOTICES
 will be mailed to you on the 12th of December 2012. PLEASE look over your invoice for the correct spelling of your name, correct address, zip code, and the amount dues. Mailing a second & third notice is expensive to our council and should not be necessary.
REGULAR MEMBERS' dues for 2012 are **\$25.00**.
HONORARY MEMBERS' [25 YEARS OF CONSECUTIVE SERVICE & REACHED THE AGE OF 65 IN 2011] dues for 2012 are **\$12.00**.
HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS' [25 YEARS OF CONSECUTIVE SERVICE & REACHED THE AGE OF 70 IN 2011] dues for 2012 are **WAIVED**.
 If you should have any questions or feel there is a mistake on your billing statement, please contact me: (763) 427-6100, (763) 286-9355-cell#, or e-mail number at rerenner@ehrenner.com
Fraternally yours,
Roger E. Renner, F.S.

**St. Stephen Christmas Tree
Decorating Time**

We have been asked to help decorate the church again this year. If you enjoy putting up the Christmas tree and hanging lights, this activity is perfect for you. We will be putting up 5-7 trees of varying heights in our church. I am listing the times below for the activities this year. If you are able to help, please let me know. You can either email me at Raymond.Danzl@gmail.com or call me at 612-414-0878.

December 6th - The tree of Love needs to be set up. Just one tree so a skeleton crew is great (lots of lights though!). We will start at 6:00 at the church.

December 19th - The rest of the Christmas forest will be put up at the Church (more lights) and lots of needles. We will start at 6:30.
Ray Danzl, chairman



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**

History 2018 Ellis Island

What a sight it must have been for many of our relatives as the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island hove into view! I can't imagine what must have been going through their minds. Barb and I had the opportunity on our latest trip to visit both sights. Both of us are researching our ancestry and this brought everything up close and personal. After being there and digging deeper into the history of Ellis Island, I've got to believe it was far from a big happy new beginning, but rather a scary, desperate attempt to have a better life.

Those people were often herded like cattle and inspected the same way. For many the somber, vacant look in their eyes seemed to say "what have I done?" The rules for landing were constantly changing. The huge throngs and over worked staff didn't make matters any better. Immigrants had to be checked for diseases, mental status, criminal backgrounds, radicalism, prostitution, immoral behavior and many other things. In many cases doctors only had about 10 seconds to evaluate a person's physical health. If one was pulled out of that line for any reason, they faced a demeaning more personal checkup later. Families were separated as some were sent to the hospital until they could recover. If that wasn't an option, they would be deported back to where they came from.

Questions were asked to ascertain mental capacity and many were turned away based on their answers until a psychologist intervened explaining that the questions weren't relative to the person's particular homeland. Many were turned away due to ethnicity, physical stature and any number of other reasons. The Chinese, Italians, southern Europeans and Jews were all victims of those policies at one time or another.

Besides all that, when WWI hit center stage the country of origin came under intense scrutiny. Some Germans already here as resident aliens were rounded up based on certain criteria and held in detention at Ellis Island awaiting deportation, which couldn't take place until after the war because the high seas were too dangerous. My maternal grandfather was German and came through Baltimore in 1914 right before WWI. By the time the U.S. entered the war in 1917, he was 30 years old, married with one child and living in Minneapolis and still had to register for the draft. I never heard of him being questioned about his German origins.

Now let me add this final note about a KC connection to Ellis Island. Edward F. McSweeney was the second in command in the late 1890s, but was considered the de facto commissioner by many because the commissioner, Thomas Fitchie, had no experience with immigration.

After a major, internal feud in 1902 President Theodore Roosevelt had both McSweeney and Fitchie replaced. Edward McSweeney eventually rebuilt his career and restored his reputation. By 1928 he was the chairman of the Knights of Columbus Historical Commission and was killed that year when his car stalled on a railroad track and was struck by a train.

When all is said and done however, those of us with ancestors who took that giant leap of faith have a lot to be thankful for, 'cuz without that many of us wouldn't be here. And now I'm going to take a giant leap, 'cuz my time is up. See ya' next month!
Mike Petschl, historian

KC INSURANCE COLUMN

Brother Knights and Families,

Here's some *really* good news in these tough economic times!

The Supreme Board of Directors just announced that our current *dividend rate of 7.35%* on the cash value on newly issued permanent life insurance policies will *remain unchanged for 2012*. That translates into real cash value you can use for emergencies, retirement, etc. Below are excerpts from the announcement I just received from Supreme:

As always, our clients come first. That mandate is followed closely by the realization that the dividend scale is a very valuable point of pride for all of you. Nearing 11 consecutive years of growth, we realize that the Order's generosity with our insureds is a topic of conversation with our members and their families.

That is why I have such good news to share with you. In this unprecedented time of economic disruption, with most (all?) of our competitors scaling back, we have voted to maintain the dividend scale going forward into 2012. I have always maintained that our permanent products are the best in the insurance industry, and this action gives me no reason to reconsider that boast.

Our products: the best! Our market: receptive and growing! Your Home Office: operating more efficiently than ever! Add to that, especially now, a motivated and energized field force, and the sky's the limit."

Still have doubts that the KC's are a *sound and solid* place to put your money? Think again and give me a call!

God bless,
Dale Robinson, FIC
Certified Senior Advisor
Knights of Columbus Field Agent
651-757-4400 (office)
dale.robinson@kofclife.com

HAUNTED HOUSE 2011 OUR 24th YEAR

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Haunted House this year !!!!

As we all know it takes lots of time to recruit workers, construct the Haunted House in the Anoka Fair building, staff it for 10 days and then take it all apart and put the materials back in storage.

The results for our 2011 Haunted House were 20% less than last year;

2,414 customers and 1,749 non perishable food items donated for the ACBC Food Shelf and Stepping Stones Homeless Shelter.

After paying the bills and making a large donation to the Coon Rapids High School for the hundreds of monster hours, the net profit was good.

As we plan for 2012 – our 25th year – we are always open for more members to be an active part of the event – calling members to work, building the Haunted House & staffing the Haunted House. Please contact one of us (or call Ray Dalzell, 763-757-1241) to add your name to the list.

The number of "no show" scheduled workers was quite high again this year – especially – for teardown on Sunday October 30th.

Co-Chairmen: Steve Beberg, Ray Dalzell, Mike Johnson, Rick Landowski, Pat Worcester



Prayer

List

Please pray for all those on our prayer list:

Leo Kimmel (son of former brother knight Richard Kimmel); Ruth Lovsted; Jim Lovsted; Tom O'connell; Patrick O'Gorman; John Patchen; Blake Wahlberg; Beth Zelenak (daughter-in-law of Bob); Ralph Smithers; Michael Lehn; John Gubernatz; Robert Nichols; Leon Barnier; PGK John Johanson; Brian Hoffman; Bob Belousek; Benno Barthel; Wayne Blue; Jeff Kieffer; Bill Ayers; Mathias Schaust; Jim Meyer; Mike Petschl.

If you wish to add a name to the list, please contact Shield Editor Mike Petschl at 763-421-7926 or mickeyp1543@gmail.



The SHIELD



Planning Meeting every 1st Tuesday

Council Meeting every 2nd Tuesday

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 2018 No. 12 December 2011
www.anokakc.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec. 3 Spaghetti Dinner & Dance
6PM; KC Hall
- Dec. 6 Planning Meeting; 7:30PM
KC Hall
- Dec. 8 The Immaculate Conception
Holyday of Obligation
- Dec. 13 Business Meeting; 7:30PM
Tom & Jerry Night; KC Hall
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day

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2nd and 3rd Degree Ceremonials

At the October 11th First Degree membership installation we gained two new members for the Anoka council. They are Chad Litke and Stephen Hobday. We also installed four new members for the St. Katharine Drexel council and one for the Fridley council. Congratulations to all the new members. The next step for these members should be installation into the Second and Third Degrees of the Knights of Columbus.

There is a great opportunity for all First Degree members to receive the Second and Third Degrees and be knighted into full membership of the Knights. On Saturday, December 10, 2011 both ceremonials will be conducted at the Anoka KC Hall. Candidates need to register between 8:30 AM and 8:50 AM so that the ceremonials can begin promptly at 9:00 AM. The ceremonials should be completed around noon and will be followed by a lunch for all those that are interested. **All current First Degree members should consider taking part in these ceremonials.** Become a member in the Third Degree!!!

Al Kempf 763-421-0116
Membership Chairman

News From the Fourth Degree

Greetings from Nicollet Assembly, the Fourth Degree Assembly in the Northwest Quadrant of the Minneapolis area. Many of you will be reading this article for the first time, as I have requested of your Worthy Grand Knight, permission to publish general information about the Fourth Degree, and specific information about Nicollet Assembly Activities in your monthly newsletter. Who or what we do in Fourth Degree is often overlooked by faithful members of our parish-based Third Degree Councils, unless your Council is fortunate to have a very active Nicollet Assembly member. Joining Fourth Degree, like the time when you made a commitment to join the first three Degrees of the Knights of Columbus, is a very personal decision, reflecting primarily on where you are in your faith journey as a Catholic gentleman. Our comfort level at the Parish where we attend Mass, volunteer for various committees, and greet people that we have known for years, is part of our weekly routine. Fourth Degree allows you to reach out, take a chance, and meet other Catholic men and women from some of the 40+ parishes in the Minneapolis Nicollet Assembly area, who are members of Nicollet Assembly. In future articles, I will expand in more detail who and what we are. Do you have time for one more activity in public expression of your faith? Speak to one of us.....today!

STEP UP TO FOURTH DEGREE! Ken Hudoba, Faithful Admiral, Nicollet Assembly

BOWLING TOURNAMENT

The Crystal KCs are hosting their 26th annual Scotch Doubles Bowling Outing on January 7, 2012 at Doyle's Lanes on West Broadway in Crystal. Check-in begins at 11AM; bowling starts at noon. Dinner will follow at the Crystal VFW beginning with social time at 4PM and dinner at 4:30PM. Cost for the entire event is \$60 per couple (includes bowling, prize money and dinner). For further questions contact Tom Hus at 763-535-6182.

ENTRY FORM

WOMAN'S NAME _____ AVERAGE _____ LEAGUE _____
MAN'S NAME _____ AVERAGE _____ LEAGUE _____
TRY TO PUT ME NEAR: _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO, AND MAIL WITH ENTRY FORM TO:

Tom & Lorraine Hus
9870 65th Ave N, Maple Grove MN 55369