



*From the
Chaplain*

GO TO THE BACK OF THE BOOK

A two-week resolution. Here is a resolution, not for the entire New Year, but just for the first two weeks of January. Go to the back of the Bible. The fifth to last book is the First Letter of John. It is short, only five chapters. For your first two-week resolution, please consider reading from 1 John. Divide it into smaller sections. Set aside some quiet time each day, read the selection that you have chosen, and then spend a few extra moments thinking about the passage and what God is saying to you through it. Toward the end of the second week, read the entire letter from start to finish.

First Choice. The First Letter of John receives preferential treatment during the Christmas season because it is used as the first reading for daily Mass from New Year's Day, the Solemnity of Mary, to Epiphany, and then from Epiphany to the Baptism of the Lord. The Church uses 1 John to reflect upon the profound mystery of the Incarnation, the fact that Jesus who is God became a human being to live among us and make God better known to us.

Dual Emphasis. The letter explains who Jesus is and what it means to be a disciple. The opening statement is that Jesus is the Word of life, the light, the truth, and the one who cleanses us of our sins. As his follows we are asked to listen to his word, be guided by his light, seek and uphold the truth, and live in a good and decent manner.

True Righteousness. The way to prove that we are disciples of Jesus is to keep his commandments, and if all of the commandments are simplified into one, we are asked to love our neighbor. To do otherwise is to live in the darkness. Disciples are also asked to reject the ways of the world and any false teacher who would lead us away from Jesus.



*Grand
Knight's
Message*



Greetings Brother Knights:

I want to wish you and your families a Happy New Year. May God's grace shine upon you.

We are half way through our council year. In the first six months we held our annual events Riverfest, Family Night at the Twins game, Haunted House, Memorial Mass for our deceased Brothers and Turkey Bingo. We added St. John Vianny fundraiser with help from our Brother Councils of our District 59. All of these were very successful. I would like to thank each one of you for a job well done. These events show us how we can come together to help our church, our community and our council and have fun doing so. We have another six months to go and I know we will continue the great work.

In our December meeting we approved the transfer of James Ensign into our council. Let's all welcome him to our council. After the December meeting Jim Nielsen & Peter Beberg served us Tom & Jerry drinks. Thank you Jim and Peter. I also would like to give a special thanks to Joe Soler. He makes and serves a tasty meal after all of the meetings for us to enjoy.

This month's event will include the Basketball Free Throw Contest, Spaghetti Dinner & Dance, the Mid-Winter Breakfast at St. Stephens and the Marion Prayer Program. Your help is needed at all of these events. Please consider volunteering.

We are looking for members that can donate your time and talent to assist with minor repair and maintenance work at the KC Hall. We have a very nice building and it needs our help to keep in proper condition. Ray and Kelly Danzl do a great job managing it. The income from Hall rentals is one of the reasons we are financially sound and can be an active council. We need to make sure the Hall is in good condition. Feel free to contact me for more information or to volunteer.

If any of you know a catholic man over the age of 18 that is interested in becoming a Knight, please forward the person's name and phone number to Al Kempf. We are always in need of new members so our council's traditions of helping and serving can continue for future years.

Peace,
Vern Rausch, Grand Knight

Children of God. Every disciple is a child of God, and as a good child trusts and obeys their parents, disciples trust and obey God. Disciples do everything in their power to avoid sin, keep themselves pure, lay down their lives in service to others, keep the commandments, and carefully discern right from wrong.

Love, the Principle Message. Chapter Four contains the most important message of the letter: God is love (1 Jn 4:8-16). God loves us, and wherever there is love, God is present. We are asked to grow in the ways of love, to love more often and more deeply, because when we love our neighbor, we love God.

The Last Word. The conclusion of the letter states that Jesus is the eternally begotten Son of God, the Victor over the world, the path to eternal life, and our Protector.

Fr. Mike Van Sloun



Prayer List

Please pray for all those on our prayer list:

Jim & Ruth Lovsted; Patrick O'Gorman; John Patchen; Blake Wahlberg; Ralph Smithers; Michael Lehn; John Gubernatz; Robert Nichols; Leon Barnier; PGK John Johanson; Brian Hoffman; Benno Barthel; Wayne Blue; Bill Ayers; Mathias Schaust; Jim Meyer; John & Theresa Downing; Michael Abbott; Vern Lieser; Florian Backowski; Dan Ross; Joe Santer.

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

History 2018 1904

There was a slow start to the year for any news that caught my eye, so we'll get started on March 12th when the crews tunneling under the Hudson River from Jersey City, NJ, and New York, NY, made the connection. They had been drilling for 30 years. Is that the Lincoln Tunnel or the Holland Tunnel? I'm not sure, but, most likely, one of my faithful readers will enlighten me.

On May 2nd the one and only Bing Crosby was born. In other news from May, work was begun on the Panama Canal, another engineering marvel, on the 4th; in sports, Cy Young pitched the first perfect game (no hits, no runs) in major league baseball on the 5th; and Sir Henry Stanley, of Stanley and Livingstone fame, died on the 9th.

There was a terrible disaster on June 15th in New York. An excursion steamer, the General Slocum, caught fire and burned to the water line before it made shore. To make things worse, the life jackets were no good. Many people burned to death as people watched helplessly from shore. Most of the dead were women and children from a local Lutheran Church on an annual excursion. The death toll was estimated to be as high as 1,000.

Skip ahead to October and another piece of news from New York: the subway system was officially opened on the 27th.

Just in case you didn't get your fill of politics by November, 2012, I'll add this note from November, 1904. Theodore Roosevelt, who had ascended to the presidency upon the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901, was elected to a full 4 year term.

And finally, on December 28th, in the great state of Georgia, farmers burned 2 million (not a typo) bales of cotton in order to raise prices. Seems to me it wasn't so many years ago that our own dairy farmers dumped milk due to low prices. I think I'll go grab a beer before somebody declares an embargo on that to raise prices, too. My time is up anyway. See ya' next month!

Mike Petschl, historian

It Was Bound to Happen...

Many of you are aware of the Knights of Columbus involvement in the recent election. We made national news when the Star Tribune wrote a front page article about the the Knights of Columbus involvement in the marriage amendment debate [Catholic Knights of Columbus Battle for Marriage Measure - October 15]. Well, it wasn't long before my phone started ringing.

According to the article, the KC's provided over \$130,000 in support of the amendment to protect marriage in Minnesota. Ostensibly, much of this money was provided by the Knights of Columbus insurance program. This didn't sit well with many folks, including some Catholics. People began calling my office and threatened to cancel their membership and insurance coverage because of the KC's stance. It underscored the fact that being Catholic is becoming less popular and ever more difficult in today's society. My role as a KC agent in this environment can certainly be challenging.

It was a defining moment for my family and me. My wife fielded many of the complaints and my children were shocked at just how ugly some people can be. It also made us even more appreciative of the fraternal organization that we proudly belong to. If these people were trying to make me question my faith, or my involvement in the Knights of Columbus, they failed miserably. But, it was a wake up call that I may lose business simply because I subscribe to traditional Catholic values.

Undoubtably, our Catholic faith is under incredible pressure to "evolve with the times." I, for one, am proud to represent an organization that is willing to finance the defense of our faith and stand firm against moral relativism. I am also very grateful for all of you who feel the same way and continue to support me as your agent. I value your trust in me and the Order. While I may never get rich working for the Knights of Columbus, I am happy that they do not ask me to compromise my Catholic values.

If I may be of assistance to you and your family, please call me. It's how I make my living. I promise to serve you to the best of my ability. Even in the face of adversity.

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

News From Nicollet Assembly and the Fourth Degree

Have you seen the symbol of the Fourth Degree? This can be seen in the pins, co-located with a flag, that we wear on our formalwear, and at various Fourth Degree events. It is circular in shape, with a white background, on which the following appears: (1) A blue globe, with the lands of the Western Hemisphere in white, symbolizing God the Father, Creator of the Universe. (2) A red cross with gold borders, and gold knobs at the end of the points forming the ends of the arms of the Isabella Cross, symbolizing God the Son, Redeemer of Mankind, and (3) A white dove, symbolizing God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of Humanity. These colors are, of course, in the flag of our County in which our Order originated, and are used to stress the basic principle of the Fourth Degree, which is Patriotism. We have one of these pins for you, as we will place them on your tuxedo jacket, on the day of your Fourth Degree Exemplification ceremony. Are you ready for a pin?

STEP UP TO FOURTH DEGREE

Ken Hudoba, Faithful Trustee

Nicollet Assembly

kenhudoba@comcast.net, 763-561-5985

KC HALL PROJECTS

Several improvements have taken place at the hall in the last few months. Rick Aberle has finished off a closet under the west entry of the hall to provide a secure area for the cleaning supplies. He has replaced the door to the ladies rest room in the basement and removed the old cabinets that were located across from the ladies restroom and finished off that wall. He improved the interior of the upstairs broom closet and also removed a lot of old stuff from the basement storeroom. As a result of the cabinets being removed some tile work was required. Ray Renner took care of that work. Ray also then took on the project of replacing a lot of broken tile in the upstairs bar area. As that work began it turned into a larger project than originally expected. That project is also now complete and all of their work is looking great. Thank you to both of them for volunteering their time. Rick's material costs were covered by the council and the tiling project materials were covered by the Anoka Home Association.

Thanks are also extended to David Hudoba and Ken Erkens who took care of replacing four of the exit signs that were not functioning properly. They also took care of a lighting fixture that had failed in the downstairs meeting room. Ken and David Plante also helped with Rick's work mentioned earlier. Thanks to all of them for their help in keeping our hall rentable.

Al Kempf

President, Anoka Home Association

Important Date Changes

Our January KC meetings will be pushed back one week due to New Year's Day being on Tuesday. The KC Planning meeting will be on January 8, 2013 and the KC General meeting will be held on January 15, 2013.



The SHIELD



Planning Meeting 2nd Tuesday

Council Meeting 3rd Tuesday

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No. 1 January 2013

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan. 1 New Years Day
Solemnity of Mary,
Holyday of Obligation
- Jan. 8 Planning Meeting, 7:30PM
KC Hall
- Jan. 15 Business Meeting, 7:30PM
KC Hall
- Jan. 19 Spaghetti Dinner, 6PM
KC Hall
- Jan. 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Jan. 27 Marion Hour of Prayer, 4PM
Holy Cross Chapel, St. Stephen

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Turkey Bingo Wrap-up

Our Turkey Bingo was held on November 16, 2012. We had a nice crowd in attendance. Forty two lucky winners received a turkey with their bingo. Everybody had a great time. I want to say, Thank you, to all the volunteers that helped with the Turkey Bingo, because without all of you this event would not happen. A big thank you goes to the Boy Scouts for handling the concessions and handing out the turkeys.

We made approximately \$1,680.00.

Three names were drawn for the 20# turkeys at the end of the night. The winners are: William Rausch, Hannah Margotta & Ruth Guimont. We also gave out three addition door prizes that were donated by Vern & Jane Rausch. These winners are: Tom Heltemes – box of candy, Robbie McManus – Caribou Coffee basket and Evelyn Berg – Christmas Dog basket.

THANKS EVERYBODY!

Vern Rausch
Bingo Co-Chairman

Spaghetti Dinner & Dance

The 13th Annual Spaghetti Dinner & Dance will be happening on January 19th, 2013. Mark your calendars and reserve that Saturday for a fun night of great food and enjoyable live music. “The Miller Brothers” will again provide the evening of entertainment playing music from the 50’s and 60’s. Once again, we hope to get nice gifts donated from local businesses for everyone to have a chance to win. All money collected from guests for these prizes will be donated to a local organization that helps families of deployed service men and women or returned military personnel. We are researching which organization to give this money.

The event will be held at the KC hall with social hour beginning at 6PM. Dinner will be served at 7:00 and the band starts playing after dinner.

Dinner will consist of Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce and Garlic Bread accompanied by a Caesar Salad and a glass of wine. Dining will end with a serving of Spumoni Ice Cream.

The cost of this night out is \$15 per person. This event is NOT limited to

Knights. Invite friends and neighbors to come and enjoy the evening with us.

Beverages available at the hall will be beer, pop and any remaining wine from dinner. B.Y.O.B.

RSVP’s are being taken, so please call **John Smetana at 763-422-1152** or send an email to jnlsmetana@q.com and let us know how many are planning to attend.

We hope to hear from you!
Ray Danzl, Phil Lesnar, and John Smetana,
Chairs

Marion Prayer Program

On January 27, 2013 our KC Council will hold a Marion Prayer Program. Our council will have the Our Lady of Guadalupe image on display during our prayer service. The prayer service will take place in the Holy Cross Chapel at St. Stephen’s Church at 4:00 P.M. Deacon Chuck will lead us in this prayer service. I encourage you to attend. It will be an honor to pray with this precious image in our midst. The image was blessed by Pope Benedict XVI. The image is sealed with soil from Mexico’s Tepeyac Hill, where Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared.