



From
Deacon
Chuck

The

Shield
January 2014



Grand
Knight's
Message

I am going to begin the new year with several articles around the central prayer for all Christians, the "Our Father". So let us begin a wonderful journey to a deeper understanding of this beautiful prayer that Jesus taught his disciples.

God as Father - Shaping a Healthy Image of God

A healthy image of God reflects Jesus' experience of God as Abba, Father. It is crucial that our image should convey God's unconditional love for us and call forth selfless acts of sacrificial love for others. Without it, our God-image is off the mark and inaccurate. The earliest Gospel tells us that at his baptism, Jesus had a profound experience of Abba's investment in his life, of unconditional love and being the beloved: "You are my Son, the Beloved: with whom I am well pleased" (Mark 1:11)

We, too, by baptismal incorporation into the life and death of Christ, share in Jesus' graced relationship with Abba. We are called and chosen as the beloved, who share in the same unconditional love Jesus experienced at his baptism. Divine adoption makes each one of us a child of God, having the freedom to address God as "Abba! Father!"

"But I'm a sinner! I don't deserve God's love! And how dare I call God a name steeped in such familiarity and intimacy?" Many of us say this in our own way and it might be true. Never the less, we are indeed loved unconditionally as Abba's beloved.

This is one of the most difficult facts to absorb in spiritual formation. The unconditional love of Abba is so mind-boggling in fact, that some people try to rationalize away the "unconditional" part. They say that God loves them *as long* as they are good, *as long* as they tithe, *as long* as they obey all the commandments. They believe that divine love is conditional and that they have to live up to certain requirements to obtain His love.

As the apostle Paul reminded the Romans, "But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). That demonstrates a startling fact: God loves us not because we *are* good but because God is *good*. It is as simple as that.

Unlike our human love, the love of God is not fickle and conditional, based on expectations and hidden agendas. God's love is not some reward for our hard work or payment for our services, such as acts of charity. Rather, it is literally like the air we breathe in and exhale.

God's love "makes his sun rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:45). It's lavish generosity is *celebrated* in Paul's passionate reminder to the Romans: *I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39).*

We, like Jesus, are first and foremost the beloved. Awareness of such an extravagant unconditional love should call forth from us selfless acts of sacrificial love for others. Our love for others is not somehow "like" the experience of God's love. *It is* the love of God. Loving hearts are the opened floodgates of God's love. Whenever we say or others say to us, "I love you", we catch a glimpse of how God looks at each one of us.

Abba's unconditional, selfless love for each one of us takes on flesh and blood in our spouses, our families and our friends and, yes, even in strangers. *That* understanding gets us walking the way of a Knight of Columbus, the way of the disciple with selfless, sacrificial love for others that brings about from heaven: "You are my Son, the Beloved: with whom I am well pleased".

Vivat Jesus



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 Gobernatz; Robert Nichols; PGK John Johanson; Brian Hoffman; Benno Barthel; Wayne Blue; Bill Ayers; Mathias Schaust; Jim Meyer; Michael Abbott; Vern Lieser; Florian Backowski; Dan Ross; Mary Marlen (mother-in-law of George Olson); Irene Ronning (friend of Brian Hoffman); Theresa Filkins (wife of Bob).

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

Dear Brother Knights.

I pray that each of you had a blessed and loving Christmas.

We are starting another new year and the challenges to our faith will require our understanding and leadership. If there is one thing we can promise to God is that we will do our best to lend support and dedication to the Church and the Knights.

Please fill out the Activities Questionnaire for the coming year and be generous with your time – we need you!

A "thank you" to all the Knights who attended the Tom & Jerry event on December 10th. This meeting brought out some terrific ideas from the attendees.

The dates for the upcoming free-throw contest are set. Here's how it breaks down.

The students at the school will participate on January 15, 16 and 17th.

- January 15th hours - 8:50 a.m. to 11:00
- January 16th and 17th hours - 9:55 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. (includes a lunch break).

Open enrollment for all others

- Saturday, January 18th hours - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

The other Councils from our district will be participating at St. Stephen's on January 18th. Please call Al Kempf or me if you can help out. We need four men or more for all the hours.

The Spaghetti Dinner and Dance is fast approaching on January 18th. Helping out at the free-throw contest will get those legs loosened up for dancing that night.

The meeting on January 15th starts at 7:00 p.m. One of the items for discussion will be ways to increase membership. Please come with your ideas.

Happy and blessed New Year.

David Hudoba, Grand Knight

History 2018

The Triangle Waist Co. Fire of 1911

Here's the expanded story of that terrible and unnecessary tragedy in which 123 women and 23 men died; 146 people on the sunny, Saturday afternoon of March 25, 1911, in New York City.

A description of the building will help set the scene. It was a 10 story metal framed structure with wooden floors and trim known as the Asch Building which sat on the corner of Washington Place and Greene Street. The Triangle Waist Co. occupied the top three floors manufacturing shirtwaists, which are called blouses today. There were two entrances to the lobby at street level. Entering from Washington Place led to a stairway and two small passenger elevators used by the owners and management; entering from Greene St. led to another stairway and two large freight elevators used by the employees. In lieu of a third stairway, there was a fire escape, which was a flimsy, narrow, dangerous apparatus that exited down what was actually an air shaft between three buildings. At the bottom was a sky light for the basement and no way to exit to the street, in other words 'a dead end'.

Estimated numbers of workers were about 180 on the 8th floor, 250 on the 9th and 60 on the 10th including the owners. At 4:40PM, just a couple of minutes before quitting time, the fire started on the 8th floor in a bin used for scrap cotton and tissue paper, supposedly by a cigarette butt. The first three minutes were spent trying to battle the blaze unsuccessfully. Two fire hoses attached to roof top water reservoirs didn't function adding to the desperation and it was quickly becoming an inferno, with a lot of combustible material available. As the people on the 8th floor evacuated by the Greene St. stairs, the 10th floor was informed and most escaped onto the roof where some law students from the building next door lowered ladders to get them onto that roof and safety. The 9th floor wasn't notified until the fire had been active for seven minutes, about the same time the first fire rigs arrived. By then they could already see flames out the windows and it was spreading onto their floor. With 250 people in a panic and doors that opened inward there was a log jam at the Greene St. stairway and it appears that the 9th floor doors to the Washington Place stairs were locked, adding to the chaos. The operators of the smaller elevators on the Washington Place side were only able to make a couple trips down before there were so many bodies piled on the tops of the elevators inside the shaft that they

wouldn't work. The larger freight elevators on the Greene St. side were, inexplicably, never used.

The first fire rigs were on the scene about 4:47, but their ladders only reached the 7th floor, so they had to fight their way to the fire by way of the stairways. Some people from the 9th floor attempted the fire escape, but seeing the dead end, broke a window on the 6th floor and entered a closed business and locked doors. Their screams brought a police officer and another employee who broke down the door and led them to the lobby where they were kept inside because so many people were jumping. The same fire escape they used then collapsed raining bodies to the ground at the base and through the sky light into the basement. The first person jumped about 4:50 and the last at 4:57. In that seven minute time span over 50 people, many already on fire, plunged to their death. In desperation the firemen tried to catch them in nets, but it was hopeless.

The fire was under control by 5:15PM, a little over a half hour from the start. Sadly, there were fire prevention methods available at the time, but the owners chose to use the money to pay high insurance premiums and insure the business for \$80,000 more that it was worth rather than provide safety for their employees. They previously had three business fires of a suspicious nature, all in the wee hours of the morning when no one was around and collected insurance money in each case. They were eventually charged with manslaughter, but found not guilty.

Mike Petschl, historian

MEETING TIME CHANGE

Both the Planning Meeting on the 1st Tuesday of every month & the Business Meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of every month will begin at 7PM, instead of 7:30PM, effective January, 2014. Please make a note of the time change!

WHEN WILL THE STOCK MARKET DROP?

I get asked this question a lot. Truth is, no one knows the date but most analysts will tell you that it is inevitable. To understand why the stock market seems to reach a magical new record each day we must first understand what is driving it.

Many analysts believe the current stock market is a "bubble." Bubbles tend to burst – remember what happened in 2008 and how it affected your retirement portfolio? This current bubble is being inflated by the Federal Reserve as a way of trying to improve economic activity. The Feds do this by engaging in a massive bond buying program using money it creates out of thin air! This easy money policy provides easy credit to borrowers by holding interest rates at artificially low levels. The result: companies make more profit and your 401k grows! Sounds good, doesn't it? It isn't. Let me explain why.

Despite government meddling the US economy remains stagnant. For example, while unemployment rates have dropped a little over the past few years (seems good), labor force participation is actually lower than it has been in over 30 years (really bad). This means fewer people are working and contributing to the economy. In other words, the government's attempts at boosting the economy are not achieving the expected results. Lots of expensive effort with little to show for it.

This brings us full circle. There is serious talk that the Feds will soon stop their easy money policy, meaning the current stock market bubble may soon burst. What remains unknown is just how fast and far the market will drop, but most analysts agree it will happen and it won't be pretty.

But, for KC members there is a silver lining in this dark cloud: as markets values drop, interest rates tend to rise. Increasing annuity and IRA interest rates means more money in your KC retirement portfolio (in fact, we recently increased our rates). You can never lose money in a KC annuity – *and that's guaranteed!*

Call me for information on how to preserve your retirement assets. As always, you will NEVER be pressured into buying anything you do not need or want. You have nothing to lose in the KCs.

God bless,
Dale Robinson, FIC
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Knights of Columbus Field Agent
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The SHIELD



Planning Meeting every 1st Tuesday

Council Meeting every 2nd Tuesday

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www.anokakc.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan. 1 New Year's Day
Mary Mother of God
Holy Day of Obligation
- Jan. 7 Planning Meeting, 7PM
KC Hall
- Jan. 14 Business Meeting, 7PM
KC Hall
- Jan 15, 16, 17, 18 Free Throw Contest
St. Stephen's School Gymnasium
- Jan. 18 Spaghetti Dinner & Dance
6PM, KC Hall

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Spaghetti Dinner & Dance



Blaine Perkins presents
"Birthright of Coon Rapids"
Dine to Donate &
Pie Fundraiser going on from
Dec. 15th - Jan. 31st 2014"

Just bring this certificate in during Dec. 15th - Jan. 31st 2014 when you eat a meal or to purchase pies from Blaine Perkins and we will donate \$2.00 per pie and or donate 20% back on all food purchased to Birthright of Coon Rapids from anything you eat, including bakery to go.

Only good at
Blaine Perkins
12545 Ulysses St NE.
763-755-9031

Call to reserve pies & tell them you are
with Birthright of Coon Rapids

The 14th Annual Spaghetti Dinner & Dance will be happening on January 18th, 2014. Mark your calendars and reserve that Saturday for a fun night of great food and enjoyable live music. "The Miller Brothers", once again, will provide an evening of entertainment playing music from the 50's and 60's for us.

We plan to have nice prizes, donated from local businesses, which everyone will have a chance to win. All money collected from guests for these prizes will be donated to Hope 4 Youth. It is a new organization right here in Anoka, that serves youth in Anoka County experiencing homelessness through housing, outreach, prevention and education. If you haven't seen recent articles in local newspapers about this organization, or seen it on the news, find out more about Hope 4 Youth by going to www.hope4youthmn.org.

In addition to helping out this new local organization, it will be an evening of fun, food, music, and dancing held at our KC hall with social hour beginning at 6PM. Dinner will be served at 7:00 and the band will start playing after dinner.

Dinner consists 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, once again, only \$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 certainly hope to hear from you!

Ray Danzl, Phil Lesnar, and John Smetana, Chairs