

Chaplain's Corner



By
Chaplain's
Assistant
Deacon
Chuck

We continue our journey of The Hail Mary, traditionally known as the Ave Maria, to start off the New Year.

“Blessed art thou among women.”

“Blessed art thou among women,” says the prayer, in the words of Elizabeth (Luke 1:42). All the promises of blessing in the Old Testament are fulfilled with the coming of the Savior. Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, continues, “and blessed is the fruit of your womb”. Mary is blessed because of her child, Jesus.

Elizabeth recognizes this, saying in astonishment, “And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” (Luke 1:43). Both Mary and Elizabeth are pregnant miraculously, by the grace of God, emphasizing to us that our life in God is all of grace, all by His willing and doing. We, too, are totally dependent on His grace, His mighty acts, his fulfilling of promises.

In the Incarnation, Mary is blessed to have the God of the universe dwell in her womb. In the Church, we are graced to receive in the Eucharist... His presence, His very body, the fruit of Mary's womb.

The scriptural first half of the prayer ends with the name of Jesus (Luke 1:31). We are told in Acts that “There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved.” (Acts 4:12). Mary rejoices in God her Savior, and all generations shall call her blessed.

Like Mary, we are to rejoice in God's salvation through Jesus. Like Mary, we are blessed in the Son of the Most High. And like her, we are to be conformed to his image. “For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.” (Rom. 8:29). Catholics believe that Mary's sinlessness is due only and completely to the grace of her Savior, her Son. She did not earn this great privilege, but was prepared by His saving grace to shine as a promise of what we will be, when “we shall be like Him” (1 John 3:2).



“Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.”

Next month we will start the second half of the prayer, which is a prayer... of the Body of Christ, His Church.

Vivat Jesus,

It's Mid-Winter Breakfast time!

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, January 25**, following the 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 masses and join us for fellowship and a delightful meal of:

Scrambled Eggs
Pancakes
Sausage
Orange Juice
Milk &
Coffee

This event is sponsored by the **Knights of Columbus** – Anoka Council 2018 - with all proceeds going to St. Stephens School.

Cost is:

\$6.00 for adults

\$4:00 for children 12 and under

We look forward to seeing you there!



Grand
Knight's
Message

Hello Brother Knights,

If you are receiving this *Shield*, it means you belong to one of the best Councils around. In my estimation, Anoka Council 2018 is the best. I am not really one to brag, but it amazes me the good works we do each and every year. But rather than list all of them in this article, I would like to challenge all current members to do someone you know a favor and recruit them to become a Knight.

Here are a few people we could ask to join; father, father-in-law, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, nephew, neighbor, coworker, just to name a few. There are three requirements to become a Knight: male, practicing Catholic, and 18 years of age or older.

If you are asked, “What do the Knights of Columbus do?” a simple answer is, “We change lives and we save lives.” Let them know that becoming a Knight could transform their lives and by becoming one of the “band of brothers”, they have the opportunity of supporting St. Stephen's parish, giving back to the local community, growing in their faith and gaining access to our top-rated insurance program.

Once you have their interest, you can turn them over to our Membership Director Al Kempf ; phone 763-421-0116. He does an excellent job in filling in the new candidate with all the functions and benefits of being a Knight. As a matter of fact he got me to join.

So let's all give it an honest effort and see if each of us can't give Al Kempf at least one prospective candidate.

I need to make a correction to a statement I made in the last *Shield*. I titled Phil Harter as Past District Deputy, which he was at one time in the Mankato area, but more importantly, he is a Past State Deputy, and we are happy to have him in our Council.

Happy New Year,
Joe Soler
Grand Knight

History 2018 - Year 1918

The affluent life styles Americans were living before entering the war were now beginning to feel the pinch of shortages. Many schools were closed for lack of coal; one railroad discontinued 155 trains to conserve fuel; and daylight savings was instituted to conserve fuel for businesses.

Germany used gas attacks on American troops for the first time in April and another first was the use of war planes by the U.S. giving us legendary pilots like Eddie Rickenbacker and other flying aces. In a related item, German ace Baron von Richtofen 'the Red Baron' was shot down and killed on April 22nd. (I'm not sure if it was Snoopy that got him or not.)

Russia pulled an about face in 1917 and separated from Britain and France to sign an armistice with Germany, but there was so much upheaval in the country that they were embroiled in a civil war by 1918.

Women were working in factories to fill the many open positions created by the shortage of men in the work place. They were also encouraged to become nurses, as there was a great need for more of them.

A Spanish flu epidemic struck worldwide showing no partisanship. Troops and civilians from every nation were affected. U.S. health officials said more American troops died from the flu than from battle and civilian deaths far exceeded war casualties.

But, the war is over! Austria-Hungary surrendered on November 3rd, leaving Germany all alone. They finally capitulated and signed an armistice with the allies at 5AM on November 11th with a cease fire to take effect six hours later, 11AM on 11/11.

I have one little snippet of non-war news: Spiro Agnew, vice-president under Richard Nixon, was born on November 9th. How many of you remember his 'nattering nabobs of negativism' statement?

That's it! I won't test you further, 'cuz my time is up. See ya' next month!

Mike Petschl, historian



Jeff & Rhonda Kieffer presented the check for the proceeds from the Fall Pancake Breakfast held Oct. 26th, to school principal Rebecca Gustafson & Pastor Fr. Jack Long. Co-chairs Joe & Carole Santer were not able to attend due to illness.

How Knights of Columbus Annuities and IRAs Work

My last newsletter submission generated a large number of calls and emails requesting additional information on annuities and IRAs. Here are some of the most common questions:

How do I roll over an employer sponsored plan to a KC annuity/IRA? This is a very simple process and takes little effort on your part. Typically, we do this as a "TRUSTEE-TO-TRUSTEE TRANSFER" which allows you to avoid taxes being withheld on the rollover. I help you complete a few simple forms and provide them to our home office for processing. The Knights of Columbus Annuity Department will contact your former employer and complete the rollover.

Can I transfer an existing IRA to a KC annuity? Certainly! The process is similar to a rollover. Your money can be easily and safely transferred upon completion of a few short forms that I help you with.

Will I receive confirmation of my rollover or transfer? Yes, the KC's will provide you with a contract if you don't already have one. We will verify the money has been safely transferred into your account.

How do I get started? The process is quite simple and my job is to help you through every step. I will visit with you in the comfort of your home or place of your choosing. Or, I can host you in my White Bear Lake office. I will have the proper forms. You must provide an account statement from your employer or financial institution showing the account number and approximate balance.

Can I have a KC annuity that is NOT an IRA? Absolutely! You may easily invest after-tax dollars into an annuity. These dollars will grow tax deferred until you take them out. You may also invest in a ROTH IRA for tax free growth. I can help you determine which method is best.

How do I know if this is right for me? Let's talk! I promise never to harm you. If an KC annuity, IRA, or Roth IRA is not good for you I will tell you. My job is to make sure you know your options and to provide you with accurate and honest information so that you can make the BEST decision. One important consideration is knowing that you are guaranteed growth of your money!

Call or email me today to determine if a Knights of Columbus annuity, IRA, or Roth IRA is right for you. As always, you will never be pressured into buying anything. God bless and Merry Christmas!

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

KC Raffle Provides Matching Funds

In the past several years the Anoka Council has participated in the Minnesota Knights Foundation raffle. All council members receive tickets that they can purchase. There are three ways that the Anoka Council can benefit from this raffle. As individuals each ticket sold is eligible to win at a drawing that takes place at the annual KC State Convention. There are 25 cash prizes ranging from \$5,000 to \$100. The council benefits because 50% of the tickets sales come back to the council in a check from the Foundation. The third way is available through a matching fund grant program instituted by the Foundation.

In order to receive matching funds a council must participate in the raffle. The Anoka Council received the benefit of this program as a result of member participation. In September the council committed \$1,000.00 to the St. Stephen's Religious Formation program to help defray the cost of Youth Catechisms (YouCat). At the same time an application for a matching grant was submitted to the KC Foundation. In November a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 was received by the council and has been passed on to the church. These catechisms are part of a new program with a total purchase of 320 at a total cost of \$5,120.00. The Knights were able to reduce the cost to the parish by \$2,000.00. Please consider supporting the KC Foundation raffle when you receive your tickets!!! You might be a winner!!!

Al Kempf



Prayer List

Please pray for all those on our prayer list:

Jim & Ruth Lovsted; Patrick O'Gorman; Blake Wahlberg; Michael Lehn; John Gobernatz; Robert Nichols; PGK John Johanson; Brian Hoffman; Wayne Blue; Bill Ayers; Mathias Schaut; Jim Meyer; Michael Abbott; Vern Lieser; Florian Backowski; Dan Ross; Irene Ronning (friend of Brian Hoffman); Theresa Filkins (wife of Bob); Bob Belousek; Steve Waterman; Ed Melnarik.

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



The SHIELD



Planning Meeting every 1st Tuesday

Council Meeting every 2nd Tuesday

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 2018

No. 1 January 2015

www.anokakc.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan. 1 New Years Day
Mary Mother of God
Holyday of Obligation
- Jan. 6 Planning Meeting, 7PM
KC Hall
- Jan. 13 Business Meeting, 7PM
KC Hall
- Jan. 17 Spaghetti Dinner & Dance, 6PM
KC Hall
- Jan. 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Jan. 25 Mid-winter Breakfast, FCC

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TURKEY BINGO

Our Turkey Bingo was held on November 14, 2014. We had a nice crowd in attendance. We had many lucky winners that 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, 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 \$1,300.00.

Three names were drawn for the turkeys at the end of the night. The winners are: Emily Berthiaume, Joshua Mithcell and Donna Mevissen. We also gave out four addition door prize baskets that were donated by Rausch Family. These winners are: Brittnee Hanson, Karen Carlson, John Geldent and Molly Vittitow. Congratulations to all the winners!

THANKS EVERYBODY!

Vern Rausch
Bingo Co-Chairman

Spaghetti Dinner & Dance

The 15th Annual Spaghetti Dinner & Dance will be happening on January 17th, 2015. Mark your calendar, if you have one for 2015, and reserve that Saturday for a fun night of great food and enjoyable live music. "The Miller Brothers" will provide us with an evening of entertainment playing music from the 50's, 60's, and some 70's.

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 the same organization as last year, Hope 4 Youth. This is a young organization whose doors first opened in March 2013, located in the creamery building in Anoka. It serves youth experiencing homelessness through housing, outreach, prevention and education. Hope 4 Youth was very appreciative of the \$900+ dollars raised for them last year. Let us see if we can exceed that amount this year.

The evening of fun, food, music, and dancing will be held at the KC hall with social hour beginning at 6PM. Dinner will be served at 7:00 and the band will start 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 unchanged since our first dinner/dance at \$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 him an email at jnlsmetana@q.com to let us know how many are planning to attend.

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

Food for Thought

A pessimist is one who make difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties.

Harry Truman

I always have trouble remembering three things: faces, names and I can't remember what the third thing is. Fred Allen