



The Believer

Knights of Columbus

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE COUNCIL NO. 11588

February 2016

Vol.20 No. 2

Grand Knight's Message



Brother Knights,

It's been a while since we have published a copy of *The Believer*. Between personal emergencies and more hours at work, it's been tough just trying to accomplish the everyday regular goals. Let alone the things you want to accomplish for the greater good. But all in all, there are no complaints here. These are first world problems that do not compare to the issues that the rest of the world is going through.

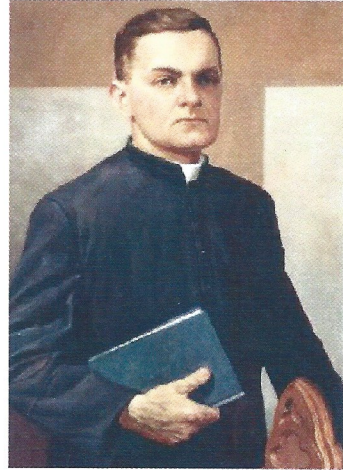
I hope the Christmas season was full of joy and happiness. We had a successful wreath sale thanks to our PGK, current Deputy Grand Knight, Chris Vella and all the Brothers that came out to help. Many thanks to him for going

above and beyond to make it a great fundraiser for our causes.

Speaking of Chris, the **Bowling League** has been a lot of fun since I joined with my son Brandon. Kudos to him for managing it and keeping it going. The proceeds go to the **Maureen Nolan Knights of Columbus Scholarship Fund**. On the **30th of January**, we had a successful **Free Throw Challenge** that was spearheaded by our PGK **Lael Vonelm**. It was a great event and had a great showing. Eleven kids came and had a great time. Now it's on to the **District Level competition on February 21st at 10:00 am. It will take place at St. Raymond's.**

As I look back to 2015, I would like to thank all the Brothers that have made the effort to keep the St. Thomas Knights going despite the lack of participation from the majority of the membership. In 2016, I would like every member to try to make it to at least one meeting this year. **If all members attended just one of our meetings, I am sure we would always have a quorum.**

God bless,
Manuel Torres 2/16



Father McGivney, Founder KofC



WWW.KOFC11588.ORG

St. Thomas the Apostle #11588		19th DISTRICT		BELIEVER STAFF	
COUNCIL MEETINGS		DISTRICT DEPUTY		INSURANCE AGENT	
Our council meets in the Chapel Center at 8:00pm on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month, except July and August when there is one meeting a month.		Dennis McGlynn		William Havron 516-578-6452	
OFFICERS:		COMMITTEES		WAKES	
CHAPLAIN:		PROGRAMS		Open	
Msgr. John A. Alesandro	516 489-8585	Chris Vella PGK		SUNSHINE	
GRAND KNIGHT:		CHURCH		Larry Doyle	
Manuel Torres	917-418-5398	Manuel Torres		DONATIONS	
DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT:		COMMUNITY		Rich Laws, PGK, Chair	
Christopher Vella PGK	516-967-1754	Phillip M. Crowley		Pat Lehane	
CHANCELLOR:		PRO-LIFE:		Phil Crowley	
George Nieves	516 538-0180	Robert Dougherty		Bernie McColgan	
WARDEN:		CATHOLIC ADVOCACY		RETENTION	
Jim Witter	516 538-7250	OPEN		Patrick Lehane, Chair	
FINANCIAL SECRETARY:		YOUTH		Louis DeAngelo	
Patrick Lehane	516-220-4662	OPEN		Joseph Ardito	
RECORDER:		BLOOD DRIVE:		Rich Laws, PGK	
Tim Frawley	516 485-8316	Rich Sweeney PGK		MEMBERSHIP	
TREASURER:		VETERANS AFFAIRS:		Pat Lehane, CHAIR	
Phillip Crowley	516 489-2592	Patrick Lehane		Joe Dean, PGK	
LECTURER:		FOURTH DEGREE REP:		Open	
Herbert Barnes	516-538-4549	Open			
ADVOCATE:		KofC on the INTERNET		HEALTH SERVICES	
Joseph Ardito	516 414-0669	Council Website:		Mike Finnegan	
INSIDE GUARD:		www.KofC11588.org		COUNCIL	
Kenneth Lopez	516-385-1620	Bd. of District Deputies:		OPEN	
OUTSIDE GUARD:		www.NassauKofCdds.org		FAMILY	
Adolfo Valle	516-360-7654	Nassau Chapter Website:		OPEN	
TRUSTEES:		www.NassauChapterKofC.org			
3 yr: Lael Von Elm PGK	516 351-3358	NYS Council			
2 yr: Rich Sweeney PGK	516 639-1288	www.NewYorkKnights.com			
1 yr: Rich Laws PGK	516 330-7015	Supreme Council Site:			
		www.KofC.org			
		Parish Site:			
		www.StThomasApostle.org			
				NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	
				2nd Tuesday of each month.	
				email to:	
				GrandKnight11588@GMail.com	

Need a ride to the meeting?
Call GK Manuel Torres

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KNIGHTS OF THE YEAR

2012-13	Doug O'Neill
2011-12	Pat Lehane
2010-11	Ray Hutter †
2009-10	Rich Sweeney
2008-09	Joe Slattery
2007-08	Lael Von Elm, PGK
2006-07	Joe Keating †
2005-06	Joe Dean, PGK
2004-05	Steven Connelly, PGK
2003-04	Joe Marrone
2002-03	Val Tomicich
2001-02	Louis Tricarico †
2000-01	Dominick Siatti †
1999-00	Louis DeAngelo
1998-99	Joseph Pecora, PGK
1997-98	Charles Castelli
1996-97	Joseph Marone
1995-96	Rich Laws, PGK, FDD

FRANK NICOLAZZI FRATERNALISM AWARD

2012-13	George Neives
2011-12	Joe Ardito
2010-11	Joe Slattery
2009-10	Joe Keating †
2007-08	Larry Doyle
2005-06	Chris Vella
2004-05	Daniel J. Leo
2003-04	Val Tomicich
2002-03	Louis J. DeAngelo
2001-02	Joe Dean, PGK
2000-01	Lael Von Elm, PGK
1999-00	Rich Laws, PGK, FDD
1998-99	Louis DeAngelo
1997-98	Joseph Pecora, PGK



Knights of Columbus

Join

Why Join The Knights of Columbus?

Becoming a Knight of Columbus can transform your life. As a Knight, you have the opportunity to support your parish, give back to your community, grow in your faith and gain exclusive access to our top-rated insurance program to protect your family.

These are just some of the reasons to become a Knight.

We are a band of brothers, a network of men in communities around the world dedicated to doing good in the service of God and our neighbor.

What we provide:

SERVICE

- * Support the parish with its needs
- * Help meet the needs of those in the local community
- * Provide "Coats for Kids" and "Food for Families"
- * Support programs that benefit people with intellectual disabilities

* Aid victims of natural disasters and other catastrophic events, local and worldwide

* Donate wheelchairs to people without mobility at home and abroad

* Save lives through initiatives such as the "Ultrasound Program"

Charity is the first principle of the Knights of Columbus. Knights are men who get things done. We volunteer our time to serve our parishes and our communities. And by working together, we were able to donate more than \$1.4 billion and 664 million volunteer hours to worthy causes in the past decade.

SUPPORT

- * A unique "band of brothers"
- * Shared values and the support to live out our Catholic faith more fully
- * The ability for our network to accomplish things together that we could not accomplish alone

Unity and Fraternity are the second and third principles of the Knights of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus was founded so that men could work together to serve their parishes and communities, protect the well being of their Catholic families, and support each other in faith and in many other ways along life's journey. The Knights of Columbus offers its members the opportunity to grow in their faith through living the example of a charity that evangelizes and personifying what it means to be a Catholic gentleman through the practicing of good works.

STABILITY

- * Exclusive access to our top-rated life insurance products, available only to members and their families
- Your insurance agent is a Knight dedicated to helping his brother Knights protect their families**
- As a Knight, you and your family have exclusive access to our top



quality insurance products. In fact, no insurer in North America is more highly rated than the Knights of Columbus. As an organization founded to protect the well being of Catholic families, we have continued to take that mission seriously for more than 130 years. Generations of Catholics have counted on the Knights of Columbus, and in an increasingly turbulent world, you can trust the Knights of Columbus to affordably and securely protect the future of

your loved ones and to be there when you need us most.

The Knights of Columbus is not just a fraternity in name. It is a brotherhood of Catholic men who each play a part in improving the world around them, one community at a time. They stand together in faith, dedicated to uphold the principles they cherish while lending their support and strength to parish, home and fellow Knight.

From charity for worldwide causes, to helping closer to home with volunteer activities, to a top-rated insurance program that protects those closest to you, the Knights makes the most of its brotherhood.

Make a stand among them, and you can discover how easy it is to make a difference in your life and that of others.

Call Grand Knight Manny Torres (917-418-5398) for more information

Believer Booster Page

Father Mcgivney, Apostle of the Young and Protector of Christian Family Life, Intercede for us

THE DONATION OF OUR BOOSTERS HAVE REALLY HELP DEFRAY THE COST OF PRODUCING AND DELIVERING **The Believer**. THE BOOSTER DONATION IS \$10 FOR THE COLUMBIAN YEAR, WHICH ENDS ON JUNE 30TH 2014 SO WE ARE ASKING YOU TO CONSIDER RENEWING YOUR BOOSTER DONATION FOR THE 2014 TO 2015 YEAR WHICH BEGINS JULY 1ST 2014. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO;
**ST THOMAS COUNCIL MEMBER 11588 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
P.O. BOX 63 WEST HEMPSTEAD NY 11552 ATTN: FINANCIAL SECRETARY**
CONTRIBUTIONS WILL ALSO BE ACCEPTED AT OUR REGULAR MEETING.

Joseph Ardito
Charles Castelli
Tim Frawley
Joseph Marrone
Richard Quigley

Maria Bonventre
Phil Crowley
Pete Isaia
Bernie McColgan
Brandon Torres

Arthur Brown
Louis DeAngelo
Richard Laws
George Nieves
Manuel Torres

Brian Browne
Larry Doyle
Pat Lehane
Joseph Pecora
Rich Sweeney



Knights of Columbus

Chaplain's Message

A Journey Worth Taking

by Msgr. John Alesandro,
Chaplain



One day, our parish's patron St. Thomas asked an innocent question that elicited from Jesus an answer that has stayed with us to this very day: "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus mysteriously responded "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life!" When we commit ourselves to Jesus as the Christ, we are embarking, like Thomas, on the Way.

When Thomas asked that question, the Apostles knew nothing of what was in store for them if they chose to walk along the Way. They did not realize that Jesus was heading for Jerusalem to suffer, die on the cross and rise from the dead -- no

less the role that they themselves would be called to play once the Spirit came upon them at Pentecost. But they soon found out the Way they were to follow and the fact that the Spirit would give them the gifts they needed to do so. For each of them it would be a journey worth taking!

This is the very theme of the **Men's Retreat** sponsored by St. Thomas the Apostle Parish and our K of C Council. The Men's Retreat will be held on the weekend of **March 4-6, at Bishop Molloy Retreat House in Jamaica Estates: A JOURNEY WORTHY TAKING!** It can be a very special journey for you.

The retreat opens with dinner at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and concludes with Mass at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday. This fairly short period provides an opportunity for our brother knights and other men of St. Thomas Parish to walk on the Way with Jesus by taking a little time away from the hectic pace of modern life and spending some quality time with each other, guided by the Holy Spirit. It will be a great Lenten preparation for Easter,

The Bishop Molloy Retreat House is a Spirit-filled place to appreciate

God's inspiration. The Passionist Fathers have been operating it for years. It is adjacent to Immaculate Conception Church on Edgerton Boulevard in Jamaica Estates. Many different types of retreats are offered there all year round. This particular one is arranged just for us.

Claude Madrazo (516-481-5040) is coordinating participation in this retreat along with Joe Fitzgerald (516-538-4550), Larry Doyle (516-978-0966), and Grand Knight Manny Torres (917-418-5398). You can get additional information by calling Claude or one of the other organizers or by telephoning the **Bishop Molloy Retreat House directly at 718-739-1229.**

The Lord is certainly pleased by your prayers, your good works, and your willingness, like St. Thomas, to seek his guidance. Now profess him as the Way and take a few more steps with him on "a journey worth taking"!

March 4-6 2016

WWW.KOFC11588.ORG

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BABY'S LIFE BEFORE BIRTH

- My heart is beating at 18 to 25 days
- The foundation for my nervous system is in place at 20 days
- My skeleton is complete at 42 days and I have reflexes
- My brain waves can be detected as early as 43 days
- At 8 weeks my brain and all body systems are present and I look like a miniature doll
- During weeks 9 & 10 I squint, swallow and can make a fist
- By the 11th & 12th weeks I am moving my arms, sucking my thumb and breathing amniotic fluid. All my systems are working.
- My movements by 16 weeks are quite active and I can be seen performing somersaults on ultrasound, but am not yet felt by my mother
- From the 3rd month on nothing new develops. I continue to grow in size and by 20 weeks I have hair on my head, weigh 1 pound and am 12 inches long



Knights of Columbus

The Holy Year of Mercy

Through spiritual and corporal works of mercy,
the Holy Father calls the Church to live a special year of grace

by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

Earlier this year, during a Lenten penance service, Pope Francis announced that the Church would celebrate an extraordinary jubilee year dedicated to God's mercy. The Holy Year of Mercy begins Dec. 8, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and will conclude Nov. 20, 2016, the solemnity of Christ the King.

Last April, on the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday), Pope Francis published a letter about the holy year titled *Misericordiae Vultus* (The Face of Mercy). In the first words of the document, the Holy Father invites us to look upon the face of the Lord Jesus as the face of God's mercy. It is Jesus of Nazareth, God's eternal Son, born of Mary, who has revealed the Father's mercy to us "by his words, his actions, and his entire person" (1).

Pope Francis also invites us to contemplate God's mercy "as the wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace,"

calling mercy "the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us" (2). Mercy is "the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life" and "the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to a hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness" (ibid.). With these moving words, the pope brings us to the heart of the Gospel, namely, that Jesus Christ is the revelation of the Father's merciful love.

MERCY AND CHARITY

Like his predecessors, St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis does not present God's mercy as merely a soothing ointment designed to make us feel better about our sins while still living in them. Rather, mercy is God's way of reaching out to us, offering us a new chance to look at ourselves, to convert, to believe. Mercy

is also the foundation of the Church's life — God's mercy is what the Church preaches; what the Church dispenses in the Mass and the sacraments; and what the Church practices in works of charity, healing and education. In a world that all too often chooses violence and severity over mercy, we are all called to be authentic signs — and, indeed, missionaries — of the Father's mercy. Pope Francis has thus chosen the "motto" of this holy year as: *Merciful like the Father* (14).

In *Misericordiae Vultus*, Pope Francis recalled the words of St. John XXIII at the opening of the Second Vatican Council when he said that the Church preferred "the medicine of mercy" to "the arms of severity." Even more to the point, he noted what Blessed Pope

Paul VI said when he closed the council in December 1965: "We prefer to point out how charity has been the principal religious

feature of this Council ... the old story of the Good Samaritan has been the model of the spirituality of the Council" (4). Pope Francis also recalled that St. John Paul II, in his encyclical *Dives in Misericordia* (Rich in Mercy), observed that we always experience God's love — his charity — as mercy.

The pope's challenge, then, is for all of us to be practitioners of mercy, not only by contributing to charitable efforts, but also in our personal lives. "Love, after all, cannot be an abstraction," he wrote. "By its very nature, it indicates something concrete: intentions, attitudes, and behaviors that are shown in daily living" (9).

THE SACRAMENT OF MERCY

It is easy to see how this special holy year is tailor-made for the Knights of Columbus family, whose first principle is charity. Following the lead and inspiration of our founder, Father Michael McGivney, the charity that the Order puts into practice is a matter of serving one's neighbor and finds its source

in God's mercy. Whether it's reaching out to a brother Knight and his family in times of trouble, aiding in disaster relief efforts, providing wheelchairs to people with disabilities, distributing winter coats or scholarships, or advancing the protection of unborn life through ultrasound machines, the charity of the Knights of Columbus seeks to restore and affirm our wounded human dignity.

Furthermore, our works of charity are meant to convey the mercy of God, which is at the heart of the Gospel. Prospective members and their families are most attracted to the Knights of Columbus when they see the Order engaged "in service to one, in service to all." More importantly, it is often through the practice of charity that we lead others to Christ and his Church.

For the Order to take full advantage of this special Holy Year of Mercy, the first step is for

each Knight to open himself personally to the God who is "rich in mercy." Jesus is looking at us with the eyes of mercy, asking us to believe in him and trust him. He isn't merely asking us to assent to a series of abstract truths, but instead to entrust our lives to him, confident that he will forgive our sins and open for us the door of mercy in the house of his heavenly Father.

Even more than the vastness of creation, the mighty power of God is revealed in his mercy and endless capacity to forgive our sins, giving us new life by his own eternal newness. During this holy year, Pope Francis especially urges us to "place the sacrament of reconciliation at the center once more in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God's mercy with their own hands" (17).

May this Holy Year of Mercy be for our beloved Order, for each of us personally, and for our entire Church a time of grace and joy. And may Mary, the Mother of Mercy, accompany us along the way. 12/2015





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