

The Knights Herald

Vol. XI Issue 12 - December, 2003

<http://www.geocities.com/oxfordkoc> or
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/StJohns_KOC



From the desk of the Grand Knight

The rapid passage of time always amazes me. It seems as though Christmas was here just a short while ago and here it is again. As we enter this most joyous time of year I am compelled to remind all my Brother Knights (not that they need reminding) of two very important things. First and most important is the reason for the season. While the giving and receiving of presents is part of the festivities and parties and gatherings of friends and family are tremendous fun we are celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As we rush to complete shopping lists and make last minute preparations for social events, please remember that the streets of Bethlehem were cold and dark more than two-thousand years ago when the inns were full. The stable was the only available space and a manger was the first crib of Our Lord.

Now I am not advocating sack-cloth and ashes. This is after all the main birthday celebration of our faith. I am advocating daily quiet contemplation during this season of Advent. Santa Claus, reindeer and twinkling lights have very little to do with the birth of Christ. Secondly, please exercise caution and care when traveling. The time between Thanksgiving and New Years is usually the busiest time of year for travel. With more people on the road things can get more hectic and more dangerous. If you are planning a trip leave yourself plenty of time to get to your destination so that you need not hurry (and so that any unexpected delays will not be as aggravating). Make certain you are well rested before setting out (tired and sleepy drivers account for most traffic accidents). If you are attending any functions where you will be enjoying adult beverages please have a designated driver or make arrangements for a taxi or other means of getting home afterwards. Finally, I would like to congratulate Coach David Cuttcliffe, his entire coaching staff and all the Ole Miss football team for the truly outstanding season they have had this year. It has been a great season and I am looking forward to the Cotton Bowl on January 2, 2004.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Vivat Jesus: Mike M.



Rosary every Sunday at 8:00 a.m.



Knight of the Month

Mark Shows

Family of the Month

Mike and Gillian Mitchell



From Your Membership Director

Christmas is almost upon us and it won't be long until we will all be extending the blessings of the Christmas season to our friends and family. Gifts will be exchanged between you and many of your friends and family. Each gift handpicked to share your friendship and love for each other.

Consider a gift of the Knights of Columbus to a fellow parishioner at St. Johns. The perfect Christmas gift would be to Ask a man to become a Knight before Christmas. This is a great theme for any council to bring in new members before Christmas.

As we approach the Christmas Season we also come to the end of the first six months of our Fraternal Year. Our membership goal of six new Knights is at three. So our Knight before Christmas fits perfectly into our Membership Drive. Please do your best to give the gift of the Knights of Columbus

Birthdays for December

Happy birthday to those brother Knights born in December. We'll include both December and January birthdays in the next newsletter.

this Christmas season.

As we do every month, a First Degree is planned for our next monthly meeting, on Thursday, December 11th at 7:00 pm at St. Johns Parish Center. Come join your Brother Knights that evening. This is the perfect chance to have your new “Knight before Christmas” join our Order.

To you and yours, a personal “Merry Christmas!”

Vivat Jesus: Bob Hudson
Membership Director

Important Dates

December 13 *Church Holiday Party 7 - 9 pm*
(babysitting at church 6:30 pm - 9 pm)

January 3 *Corporate Communion 5 pm Mass*

January 3 *Council Christmas Party following Mass*

2003/2004 Officers

Grand Knight	<i>Michael F. Mitchell</i>
Financial Secretary	<i>Dr Joseph L. Supple</i>
Deputy Grand Knight	<i>Mark A. Shows</i>
Chancellor	<i>Jacob J Eftink</i>
Treasurer	<i>Dennis H Ott</i>
Advocate	<i>Jeffrey N. Hooper</i>
Warden	<i>Michael J Chatelain</i>
Trustee For 1 Year	<i>Duane L Andrews</i>
Trustee For 2 Years	<i>Paul V Patak</i>
Trustee For 3 Years	<i>Walter N Turnbull</i>
Inside Guard	<i>Thomas W. Taylor</i>
Outside Guard	<i>John C. Minor</i>



Good News

I came across the following article in a recent bulletin I picked up at St Louis in Memphis and thought I would pass it on.

“Many of us regularly encounter beggars only through the mail. I’m thinking of the many solicitations for financial support we receive during this time of the year. I used to just toss those letters in the garbage. But a few years ago something got me to thinking. Maybe it was witnessing the effort required to send a mass mailing to our parishioners or maybe, because I write a lot, I know how much effort it takes to put words on paper. Whatever it was, our family started doing something different. Throughout the weeks of Advent, we save every beggar letter. Then on Sunday evenings, after the family dinner with the Advent wreath candles still lit, we open those letters. Our family members read the letters aloud while I prepare the envelopes and my husband writes checks to each one. Usually they are only for \$5 each, sometimes \$10 or \$20 for an effort we want to support in a special way. At first, I didn’t know how the “kids” would greet this new practice. But at the end of one Sunday evening our teenager said “That was fun!” and I could tell there was within him a sense of satisfaction. Chil-

dren are beset by the world’s problems and feel powerless to do anything about them. They need their adults to show that they care and to take the lead in making some kind of response, no matter how apparently insignificant. Our small donations are but drops in the bucket, but at least for a moment we don’t ignore the human suffering that is presented to us. It’s worth a few dollars and a little time, rather than simply stepping over the beggar on the sidewalk—or the one in the mailbox.”

Vivat Jesus: Jeff Hooper

Church Committee Report

This is my favorite time of year. I’ve always looked forward to the crisp, cool weather, a little relief from the yard work, and several holidays away from the job. But as the years pass, I find my appreciation shifting more and more to the religious and family facets of this special season.

Following is an article, *Advent: A Time to Wait, A Time to Prepare*, I found on the Internet. The author does a nice job telling us why this is such a special season for people of faith. I hope you find it as moving as I did.

This is also a season for family and friends.

In the spirit of family and fraternity, our Council has scheduled a Corporate Communion at the 5:00 pm Mass on Saturday, January 3, 2004. A holiday gathering and dinner at Azalea Gardens will follow. All brother Knights are encouraged to attend and bring your spouse or significant other. I will be contacting Knights to volunteer to serve in the various ministries for the Mass. Anyone interested in serving may e-mail me at Panlener@Bellsouth.net.

Advent: A Time to Wait, A Time to Prepare As we begin the season of Advent leading to Christmas, so comes the hustle and bustle of this annual holiday season. It's easy to get wrapped up in the craziness of this most wonderful time of the year and lose sight of what is really important - and what this season is all about. Jesus. We wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Advent, which marks the beginning of our church year, is a time for this waiting - waiting and watching. Anticipating new birth. New Life. Not just that of celebrating the birth of our Savior, but also new life within ourselves. A time to reflect on our life of present and listen to any call God might be sending us - perhaps a call to make a change in our daily lives; perhaps a yearning to walk more closely with our Lord - to deepen our own relationship with Him or with those around

us, or even with Him through those around us. Last year the first Sunday of Advent's Gospel reading (Mark 13:33-37) taught us that we are to always be ready, and to be on watch for when Jesus returns. Advent is a time to reflect on our own personal state of affairs, so to speak - are we truly ready? If Jesus came back today, would you be ready?

Author: Melissa Knoblett-Aman,
www.BellaOnline.com

Vivat Jesus: Bill Panlener

Editorial Corner

Please check out the website, http://groups.yahoo.com/group/StJohns_KOC. We'll be using this yahoo group to send out communications and emails.

Vivat Jesus: James Reid

The Fourth Degree Meets the third Thursday of every month at 7 pm



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