

Knights in Action

Pope John XXIII Council #5441

Avon Park & Sebring, FL

Issue 2008-04

April 2008

Grand Knight's Report

My Brother Knights,

That was some meeting we had in March! After presenting checks to the Gabriel Project for \$830 and to ARC for \$845, we held our monthly council meeting.



Somewhere, some time, somehow, somebody let the Cat out of the Bag! Could it possibly be true? Some members advocate selling our Council Hall, all of our property, and moving us to either one, or both, of our parishes (St. Catherine's and/or Our Lady of Grace). To sell or not to sell; to build or not to build; to renovate or not to renovate --- questions that elicited strong opinions on both sides. It seems to me that the answers to these and other problems facing us can best be found in PRAYER. We need to ask God to assist us in deciding the future of our council. This rift that was so evident at our meeting, needs to be healed. The time for a decision is now!

A nominating committee of four has been appointed to present a slate of officers for the council at our April meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor and will be open during the election meeting in May. If you are asked to run, please remember that we need good leadership in all areas of our council. *The quick, easy "NO" may not be the best answer!*

The Tootsie-Roll Drive, our largest single fund raiser, has been scheduled for the weekends of March

(See *Grand Knight's Report* - page 3, col 3)

Deacon's Corner

Brother Knights and Columbiettes,

Most of us need help with one thing or another, at one time or another. We need help learning how to do things, how to cope with problems, how to manage our time, our money, and our lives. We need help with relationships, with decisions, with moral dilemmas. *Nobody knows it all-alone.* Knowing when we need help, and knowing where to find it, is basic to our survival and happiness.



Some people who need help deny they need it. They don't want to face their inadequacies. Others who need help don't deny it, but they resent it. They don't want to be helpless or dependent; they don't want to appear ignorant -- Nobody does! So even though their needs are obvious, when you try to help them, they may react negatively -- or even attack you for trying to help. They may be struggling with their pride or their self-image. They may not be able to acknowledge that they don't know what to do, or that things aren't what they want them to be, or that life isn't what it used to be.

This is where, my Brother Knights, it is possible to provide the wrong help, or to provide it the wrong way. We need to help others in ways that support their dignity and preserve their options. We need to be thoughtful in ascertaining if they need help and, if so, we need to learn what help is appropriate. We should never

(See *Deacon's Corner* - page 4, col 1)

Upcoming Events

- Tootsie Roll Drive on Apr 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12 & 13
- Apr 1st - 4th Deg Mtg - 7 PM
- Apr 6th - Breakfast OLG - 8 AM
- Apr 7th - Directors Mtg - 7 PM
- Apr 8th - KC Business Mtg 7 PM
- Apr 8th - Columbiettes Mtg 7 PM
- Apr 15th - Columbiettes Chapter Mtg - Lakeland
- Apr 15th - 1st Degree - 8 PM
- Apr 22nd - CMBA Mtg - 7 PM
- Apr 24th - 4th Deg Exemplification Cape Canaveral
- Apr 25-26 - Columbiettes State Convention

***Knights in Action** is a monthly newsletter published by the Knights of Columbus Pope John XXIII Council No. 5441, Sebring, FL 33870. The council was granted its charter on May 26, 1963 and meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.*

The newsletter editor is Jack McLaughlin. 471-3295, or jack.mclaughlin@embarqmail.com. Any Knight, whether from Council 5441 or another council, may submit articles for publication. Please submit articles by the 15th of the month preceding the month of publication.

OFFICERS

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Rev. Mr. James McGarry
385-6608

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Dick Carlson
471-2134

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471-3295

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386-5008

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452-1515

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382-9120

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382-8648

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314-9188

Trustee (3 year)

Joe Grecko
314-9754

Trustee (2 year)

Carmine Aurigemma
385-5097

Trustee (1 year)

Ray Goers
471-2205

April Birthdays

Arthur J. Paek	02	Alton E. Frisch	16
Ervin J. Adams	02	Norbert E. Crowe	17
Helen H. Minard	04	Mary Rose McGarry	19
Denny E. Zelnar	05	Gregory G. Gulyas	20
Joseph R. Grecko	05	Helen Urbanski	22
Marlena Diaz	08	Marion L. Sparks Jr	22
Adrien H. Laverriere	08	Charles F. Cocca	24
Robert L. George	09	William O. Fields	24
Amedeo Schiappa	09	Jack McLaughlin	25
Araceli Rosa Colon	13	William D. Staley	27
Albert D. Phillips	13	Gerald E. Minard	27
Virginia Hollywood	14	Joseph V. Alviano	27
Robert A. Levasseur	16	Mark Anderson	28

April Anniversary

William & Lorraine M. Fields	April 5, 1951
Kevin & Amada (Amy) Bouffard	April 6, 1991
James & Mary Rose McGarry	April 19, 1958
Alfred & Marie Sampson	April 21, 1951

Form #100 Belongs in All of These Places

- Briefcase
- In Your Pocket
- Near Your Phone
- Glove Compartment
- Everywhere You Go!

**SIGN UP A
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TODAY!**



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DD #43
699-2013

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385-4069

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471-3295

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314-9188

Vocations

Bill Reagan
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Pro Life Couple

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314-9188

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402-0423

Family

Ed Cronin
314-9188

Youth

Steve Ashley
385-4980

Membership

Joe Grecko
314-9754

Retention

Steve Ashley
385-4980

District Deputy

My Brothers All:

A reminder to all Council Officers and members; your number one job is to promote growth in your Council; to promote the spirit of Father McGivney by bringing in new members! At your Council meetings, is it difficult to get volunteers to be Chairman of a dinner dance or the Tootsie Roll Drive, etc.? With new members you will get Catholic men who do want to volunteer, men who have new ideas, energy and who will bring life back into your Councils. In the next few weeks talk about the Membership Blitz make this Blitz the best ever.

How? By having a membership plan and start to get ready now. Think big -- sign-up 10-15 new candidates and get them to the First Degree on April 15th. Increase your membership in steps and you Council will grow.

Think of having membership drives throughout the year, other Councils are doing it, so why not you?

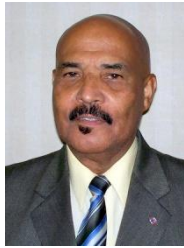
To the Sebring Council #5441 1st Degree Team:

On behalf of Council #7567 of Arcadia, we thank you for going out of your way to help spread the good news of Jesus Christ through the Knights of Columbus and helping your Brother Knights in Arcadia.

It was a blessing and an experience by it self. For the first time we witnessed a Degree in English and Spanish at the same time. Arcadia is still in shock, and for the first time they recruited six (6) new members and put them to work instantly. Great job guys. Keep it up!

Thanks again -- God Bless !!

Hiram Pedraza, DD#43



Columbiettes

Springtime Greetings,

Thank you to all Sister Columbiettes who helped with the breakfast at Our Lady of Grace in March, and to those of you who made cakes or pies for the Major Degree.

April 6th is the next breakfast at Our Lady of Grace. April 8th is our Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm, April 15th is the Chapter Meeting in Lakeland, and April 25-26 is the Florida State Convention.

Prayers & Thanksgiving for our Military Men and Women and our Charter Honorary Members.

Special thoughts & prayers for Lortta Schnoor, Helen Minard, Lucille Hebert, Peggy & Bob George, Rita Harrington and Maria Tavaréz.

Birthday Wishes for the born in April!

Fraternally

Alma



Good of the Order

Your prayers are asked for: Arthur Dupree who is very ill; FN Al Phillips and Hibbard Pudvah who were recently hospitalized; Loretta Schnoor recovering from a stroke; Rufus Bonifas recovering from foot surgery in a nursing home; Chancellor Bill Reagan who is recovering from surgery; and Art Paek and Ray Whitlatch who are ill.

Remember our Brother Knights, Columbiettes and their spouses in need of prayers and our military men and women who are serving in harms way to protect our freedom.

The Natural Choice is Life

(Grand Knight Report from Page 1)

28-30, April 4-6, and April 12 and 13. Thank you to the Knights and Columbiettes who signed up to help. The rest of you can expect a call. Have you ever exited Wal-Mart and

Have you ever exited Wal-Mart and seen someone standing there with a bucket in their hands, and not had a clue as to who they were or why you would be expected to contribute? Our Tootsie-Roll Drive is not like that. People see our yellow and red smocks; and, with Tootsie Rolls in our hands, know immediately who we are and why we are there. Consider it a labor of love and be ready to help.

Our March breakfast at Our Lady of Grace was a busy one. We served 436 people, up from 340 in February and 254 in January! Sincere thanks to the Knights and Columbiettes who worked so hard to make it happen. The next breakfast is scheduled for April 6th.

Please remember that prayer can be the answer to so many things. God bless you all.

Dick Carlson, GK

Tootsie-Roll Drive

As mentioned in the Grand Knight's article, this is annually our largest fund raiser, and the proceeds support the handicapped. We need your help to fill vacancies at many of our locations:

- April 4 & 5 - Lakeshore Carwash
- April 5 & 6 - Lakeshore Mall
- April 10 & 11 - WalMart
- April 12 & 13 - Our Lady of Grace

If you can help please call Jack McLaughlin at 471-3295 as soon as possible.



(Deacon's Corner from Page 1)

be condescending or domineering just because we know they need our help. Some people in need have been betrayed or disappointed before and do not want to risk betrayal or disappointment again. They may be slow to open up and give us their trust.

If in doubt about whether a person is in need, think about the basics. ***People need food, clothing, and shelter; they need friends; they need meaningful activities.*** By observing, asking, and listening, you can identify needs and learn how best to meet them.

My Brother Knights and Columbiettes, everywhere you turn there are people who really need help. If you help them and they attack you, the attack may not be against you. They may be angry about their condition, or fighting against their feelings of helplessness or need. Don't let their attacks stop you! Remember, others have helped us over and over again. Now it's our turn. Enjoy the deep meaning that comes from assisting others in appropriate ways and improving their quality of life.

Pope Benedict XVI is quoted as saying, "In putting aside all preoccupations too help others, we encounter our creator."

Deacon Jim

CMBA Election

Bill Reagan, President

There will be a Special Meeting of the Columbian Business Men's Association (CMBA) during the next regularly scheduled council meeting on April 8th. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect a Director.

Please attend and vote for the candidate that can help us with the upcoming important decisions that will affect the Council Home.

Bill

Pro-Life News

Ed Cronin, Pro-Life Chairman

1. Bishop Dewane has initiated a new spiritual program entitled, Novena of Masses for Life. It is a series of nine Masses, spread throughout the diocese, on a monthly basis to create a greater respect for all human life. The novena implies the nine months of Jesus' gestation in the womb of his mother. It begins with a Mass at the cathedral, celebrated by Bishop Dewane, and continues throughout the diocese on the 25th of each month, from April through November. The schedule of these Masses for our two parishes are : at St. Catherine Friday, April 25th at 12 Noon, and at Our Lady of Grace Sunday, May 25th at 10:30 AM.



All Knights, Columbiettes and their families are urged to assist at these Masses.

2. The deadline for this issue of Knights in Action was before the scheduled annual Day of the Unborn Rosary on March 31st, so I don't know how many people supported the rosary this year. What ever the number, I feel confident we again stormed the gates of heaven with our plea for mercy for the unborn babies in danger of abortion. Once more I am prompted to say this was one of the council's finest hours. Thank you to all who were there and supported the rosary this year.

3. Our council has been asked again to sponsor the annual Teen Summit, which is jointly produced by Highlands County Health Dept. and the county School District. This is a seminar which can be described as a Coming of Age discussion for all eighth grade girls in the Hill-Gustadt Middle School. Similar seminars are held for the other Middle Schools in the district and are sponsored by

several Protestant Churches. The seminar teaches the girls about their maturing bodies and the dangers of premarital sex. The program is very moral and no advocacy of abortion is permitted.

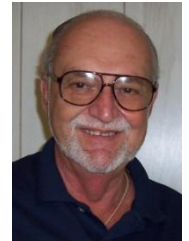
It is an honor to be asked to sponsor this program and reflects the growing awareness in the community that the Knights of Columbus is a Pro-Life organization.

Ed

4th Degree

Al Phillips, Faithful Navigator

Due to my recent health conditions, as well as Kathie's, we will be moving to the Melbourne, FL area as soon as we can make the arrangements.



Unfortunately I therefore must resign as Navigator.

Having said that, we will accept nominations to fill my remaining term (June 30, 2008) at our April meeting.

In accordance with our By-Laws we will soon elect officers for the 2008-2009 Fraternal Year. If we are to succeed as an Assembly we need officers that are willing to work together to carry our organization into the out-years. As we stand now, we are just "treading water".

I thank the membership for allowing me to be your Faithful Navigator this year. I thank all of my Brother Sir Knights and their Ladies for supporting our great organization this year. I am and always have been proud to be a 4th Degree Knight.

SK Al Phillips, FN



Veterans Corner

Mike Basile, Veterans Chairman

The Military Ball on March 8th at the Elks Lodge was great! Over 130 attended the ball including many county officials. Thanks to the Knights and Columbiettes that attended. A special thanks to my wife Mary and Maurene Stephens for their help.



The raffle for the 5-day, 4-night cruise will be on March 28th at Lake Placid Lodge #3880. I won't have the winner's name before the deadline for this newsletter, but will place it in the May newsletter.

The Veterans Service office building should be completed by late November.

Take time to remember our veterans, both past and present!

God Bless America !

Mike

53rd FL State Golf Tourney

Don Sliwicki, Co-Director

The 53rd Florida State Golf Tournament will be held Sep 27-28, 2008, at the Sun n' Lake Golf & Country Club. *We need donations for door prizes and "Gift Packages" for the players, and items for the Basket of Cheer, as well as advertisements for our program book. Cost is \$100 for a full page ad, \$50 for a ½ page, \$25 for a ¼ page, \$20 for business card size, and \$5 for sponsors.*

If you can volunteer to solicit prizes or advertising, or if you have any questions contact Don Sliwicki (402-0423) or Jack McLaughlin (471-3295).

Don

Vatican Declares Knights of Columbus Founder 'Venerable'

Source: Florida State Knights of Columbus Website

Father Michael J. McGivney would be first American born priest to be declared a saint

NEW HAVEN, Conn., March 16 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Pope Benedict XVI Saturday approved a decree recognizing the heroic virtue of Father Michael J. McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus. The pope's declaration significantly advances the priest's process toward sainthood and gives the parish priest the distinction of "Venerable Servant of God." If canonized, Fr. McGivney would be the first American born priest to be so honored.

"All of us who are members of the Knights of Columbus are profoundly grateful for this recognition of the holiness of our founder," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. "The strength of the Knights of Columbus today is a testament to his timeless vision, his holiness and his ideals."

Worried about the religious faith and financial stability of immigrant families, Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus with the help of several men of St. Mary's Parish in New Haven in 1882 to help strengthen the faith of the men of his parish and to provide financial assistance in the event of their death to the widows and orphans they left behind. He was also known for his tireless work among his parishioners.

Born in Waterbury, Conn., Aug. 12, 1852, Michael Joseph McGivney, was the first of Patrick and Mary (Lynch) McGivney's 13 children, six of whom died in infancy or early childhood. His parents, natives of Ireland, had immigrated to the United States during the 19th century. Patrick was a molder in a Waterbury brass mill, where Michael himself worked for a brief time as a child to help support the family.

From an early age, however, he realized a calling to the Catholic priesthood. After studying in several seminaries, he was ordained in that Baltimore's historic Cathedral by Cardinal James Gibbons Dec. 22, 1877. He took up his first assignment, as curate at St. Mary's Church, New Haven, Conn., Jan. 2, 1878. Father McGivney was named pastor of St. Thomas Church in Thomaston, Conn. in 1884. He became seriously ill with pneumonia in January 1890, and died Aug. 14, 1890 at age 38.

The cause, or process, for Father McGivney's sainthood, was opened by Hartford Archbishop Daniel A. Cronin, in December 1997. The cause was presented to the Vatican in 2000, where it has been under review by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. With the pope's recent decree, and the authentication of a miracle at Father McGivney's intercession, the priest could be beatified. A second miracle would be required for canonization.

Still maintaining its headquarters in New Haven, the Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic Fraternal Organization with more than 1.7 million members in the United States, Canada, Mexico and Central America, the Caribbean islands, the Philippines, Guam and, most recently, Poland.



Important Council & Assembly Notes

Council 5441 Scholarship Endowment

As of January 8, 2008, the Pope John XXIII Council #5441's Scholarship Endowment fund at South Florida Community has a balance of \$21,352.66, including earnings from 2007 of \$57.66. An additional \$8,225 will be deposited in the fund in December 2008 from the matching funds portion of the plan, giving the endowment a balance of \$29,577.66.

The provisions of the endowment allow for spending 85% of the earnings in any one year for scholarship awards for the following year. Based on this policy, one award for \$500 will be made in 2008 and we will probably be able to award \$2,000 in 2009.

Your contributions fund this endowment! It is not too late to make contributions to the Scholarship Endowment Fund. If you are interested, contact the Grand Knight of Financial Secretary soon!

Important CMBA Business – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

As all of you that attended the council meeting in March are aware, a lengthy discussion was held concerning the on-going problem of what to do with Council Hall and property. After lengthy discussions it was decided that this is really CMBA business and the issue was deferred to the CMBA.

At the March 26th CMBA meeting all in attendance (11) agreed that we need to take action and decide what to do with the hall, our property, the house on Prospect Drive, the mortgage on the house, etc.

Here are some facts to ponder:

- The only income source for our council is the Wednesday night Bingo. We are in critical need of workers to keep the current operation afloat!
- We've been unable to identify enough workers to start Friday night Bingo up again.
- The money that we raise at Bingo primarily goes to operating the building and paying the bills.
- A small amount of the Bingo income goes to charitable donations.
- Our current building is continually in need of significant maintenance and upkeep. This work is done by a very "few" Brother Knights, and they are wearing out.
- The sale of the "front lot" is nearing completion and will yield a significant amount of money to the council.

CMBA President Bill Reagan appointed a committee to study the problem, prepare a "presentation of the facts" for the membership, and to make recommendations to the membership at the April CMBA meeting. The members of the committee are: Steve Ashley, Dick Carlson, Mike Flood, Andy Mish and Frank Stanton. Five possible solutions were identified and will be studied to identify the positive and negative aspects for each:

- Maintain the status quo – stay in the hall and continue to "patch" it as it deteriorates
- Renovate our current building
- Build a new Hall of sufficient size to host Bingo and social events
- Build a new smaller Hall to hold meeting and small social events
- Sell everything and try to locate to one or both of our parishes

The committee findings will be presented at the April 22nd CMBA meeting (7 PM). Mark your calendar and plan on attending, as this meeting could affect the future of our Council as well as the Hall.

CMBA MEETING AT 7 PM APRIL 22nd

**LISTEN TO THE COMMITTEE REPORT – ASK QUESTIONS – DISCUSS OPTIONS – LISTEN TO
YOUR BROTHER KNIGHTS CONCERNS – CAST AN INFORMED VOTE**



Marge Rafferty representing The Gabriel Project accepts a donation of \$830 from Council 5441.



Linda Wells, ARC's Director of Development receives a Donation of \$845 from Council 5441.

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