

Knights in Action

Pope John XXIII Council #5441

Avon Park & Sebring, FL

Issue 2008-06

June 2008

Grand Knight's Report

My Brother Knights,

It hardly seems possible that another year has gone by already. The Council officers elected at last month's meeting must fill their positions at the first regular meeting in the month of July. I am proud to be your Grand Knight for the coming year, and ask for your help and prayers for the future of our Council.



As you know, we have Directors that help run our Council: *Program, Church, Community, Council, Family, Youth, and Membership*. Each of the directors play a vital role in making us a Catholic, family, fraternal, service organization. The Deputy Grand Knight will continue as the Program Director and Brother Grecko will continue as Membership Director.

The Deputy Grand Knight and I will be soliciting your help to fill the five other directorships. A brief listing of the responsibilities of each director follows:

Church: Vocations & Parish Round Table

Community: Pro-Life, Volunteerism & Human Needs

Council: Public Relations & Social Activities

Family: Memorials, Survivor's Assistance, & Education

Youth: Squires, Youth Groups, & Athletics

I urge you to find a committee

(See GK Report - Page 3, Col 3)

Deacon's Corner

Brother Knights and Columbiettes,

This letter will find us into Liturgical year of the Ordinaries.

I would like to comment on the past feast day of the "Body of Christ." Corpus Christi is the feast on which we pay special homage to the **real presence of Christ** in the Eucharist. In a sense we are repeating the beautiful Last Supper gathering in the upper room with the celebration it deserves. This was not possible on Holy Thursday because on that occasion the shadow of the cross loomed large in the background. Jesus Christ, in order to keep alive the memory of His great act of love on the Hill of Calvary, on the night before He died, left His Body and Blood as spiritual food, to be received in **every generation**.



This solemnity is a splendid opportunity to reflect on God's most striking gift to us and a timely reminder to renew our faith and deepen our appreciation of the **real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist**. He is the living bread sent down from heaven as food for our souls to satisfy our deepest spiritual hunger. The Eucharist proclaims that Christ died for our sins so that we might have life and salvation. The Son of God could not have given us a better proof of His love.

As pilgrims, on the road of life, we suffer from many hungers but the greatest hunger of all is the **yearning for a deeper meaning to life**. This is

(See Deacon's Corner - Page 4, Col 1)

Upcoming Events

- Jun 7th - 3rd Degree (1 PM) at Port Saint Lucie
- Jun 3rd - 4th Deg Mtg (7 PM) Sebring Council Hall
- Jun 10th - Council Mtg (7PM)
- Jun 10th - Columbiette Mtg (7PM)
- Jun 14th - Flag Day
- Jun 16th - 1st Degree (8PM)
- Jun 24th - CMBA Mtg (7PM)



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, who can be reached at jack.mclaughlin@embarqmail.com or by phone at 471-3295. 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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471-2134

Deputy Grand Knight

Jack McLaughlin, FDD
471-3295

Chancellor

Bill Reagan
386-5008

Recorder

Kevin Bouffard
452-1515

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471-6381

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382-9120

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402-1811

Inside Guard

John Schumacher
382-8648

Outside Guard

Modesto Diaz
314-9188

Trustee (3 year)

Joe Grecko
314-9754

Trustee (2 year)

Carmine Aurigemma
385-5097

Trustee (1 year)

Ray Goers
471-2205

June Birthdays

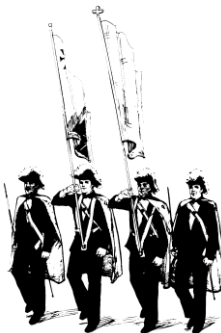
Michael Padron Jr	02	Stephen Ashley, PGK	14
Jerome Lesniak	03	John Griffin	18
Robert Glaab	04	Juan Rosa_Colon	19
Joan Reiter	06	Ruben Ayala	20
Andrew Mish	08	John Zabkar	20
Richard Flis	08	George Huter	21
Deacon Jim McGarry	11	John O'Sullivan PGK	22
Alfred Sampson	12	Edward King	28

June Anniversary

Edgar & Diane M. Cronin	June 22, 1957
Bruce & Priscilla Walker	June 24, 1961
Robert & Delores White	June 29, 1968
Albert & Carole J. Dumbleton	June 30, 1956



Council Grand Knight presents checks totaling nearly \$3750 dollars to representatives of ARC & STARS.



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386-5008

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382-0118

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402-1402

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Hiram Pedraza
DD #43
699-2013

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Alma Almeida
President
385-4069

PROGRAMS

Program Director

Jack McLaughlin, FDD
471-3295

Church

Modesto Diaz
314-9188

Vocations

Bill Reagan
385-4032

Community

Vacant

Pro Life Couple

Ed & Diane Cronin
314-9188

Council

Don Sliwicki, FDD
402-0423

Family

Ed Cronin
314-9188

Youth

Steve Ashley
385-4980

Membership

Joe Grecko
314-9754

Retention

Steve Ashley
385-4980

District Deputy

Hiram Pedraza, DD #43

My Brothers All:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you Brother Knights for having enough confidence in me to allow me to serve you as your District Deputy. Nancy and I are truly honored and look forward to serving you this coming year. I pledge to represent each of you, the State Council and our Honored Order to the best of my ability.



I congratulate the new Council Officers on your election for this fraternal year. As your District Deputy, I ask each of you to join me in committing ourselves to our Worthy State Deputy and the State Council to ensure that we remain among the elite in our honored order.

This year our District #43 joined the "Circle of Honor". I thank each of you for your continued hard work and dedication to our beloved Church and the Knights of Columbus. Our programs, both from State and Supreme are a very important part of each councils agenda, as they keep our members and their families involved in our activities.

Let us start this new Fraternal Year with a commitment to fulfill our ministries needs, meet the challenges, get every report in on time and enjoy our time together as knights working to a greater good. ***This is your year to make history and ensure your legacy of success.***

Again, I'm here to serve you and your Council. Please contact me and let me enjoy assisting and supporting you in reaching your goals.

Thanks again -- God Bless !!

Hiram

Columbiettes

Alma Almeida, President

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

As my term as President comes to an end I will say what I have said so many times during the past three years. I could not have succeeded without the support, cooperation, and friendship of each and very one of YOU.



I thank you all and ask that you continue to support Marie and the New Officers. It has been an honor and privilege to be the President of Pope John XXIII Auxiliary. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all the Knights who have supported me these past three years.

Thank you to all of you who helped at the breakfast at Our Lady of Grace - there will be no more until September.

Our elected officers for this year are:

Marie Carlson - President
Alma Almeida - Past President
Mary Stefanakus - Vice-President
Patty Meegan - Secretary
Carmel Cano - Financial Secretary
Carolyn Stoner - Treasurer
Anne Flagagan - Sentinel.

Our District Deputy remains Vicki Sandin.

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

Special Prayers for Mary Ann Estgen and All Sister Columbiettes.

For those of you who are leaving Sebring for the summer, a safe trip and we look forward to your return in the fall. Birthday Wishes to all those born in June

Fraternally

Alma

(Grand Knight Report from Page 1)

that interests you and to volunteer your service. Additional information is available from the Deputy Grand Knight, me, or the brochure, "Surge with Service."

The Financial Secretary's Report on the State of the Council certainly confirms what most of us already realized--tough times ahead. We need to watch our spending and try to find ways to increase our income. Summer Bingo will not be enough. How about a summer dance, barbeque picnic, flea market, officer installation dinner with the Columbiettes, or (your own idea goes here). Put your thinking caps and your work clothes on. The time for action is now!

Have a safe, happy, and blessed summer. Remember that your Council needs you.

Dick Carlson, GK

Veterans Corner

Mike Basile, Veterans Chairman

On May 12th I attended a conference hosted by Congressman Mahoney, and I brought up his voting record on veterans programs. About 150 people were in attendance. Remember June 14th is Flag Day - fly your American Flag! On July 4th, at 10.00 a ceremony will be held at the ELKS lodge celebrating our great country's independence. Our guest speaker will likely be County Commissioner Don Bates. Coffee and cookies will be served. So remember to fly your flag on June 14 and July 4. Remember our veterans both past present.



God Bless America !

Mike

something that no earthly bread can satisfy. We can view T.V. ad's, read the newspapers & magazines, and be involved in medical advice, and none of these can compare to the life-giving of the Body of Christ. In our struggle to find purpose, the Eucharist is of great help because it is an invitation to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. My fellow Knights and Columbiettes, by doing our utmost to imitate His life of caring and sharing, we are gradually brought to see the importance of placing others before our own self-interest.

If sharing in the Eucharist is to mean more than going to Mass and providing nourishment for our own private spirituality, we must rise above the divisions which keep us apart, not only within ourselves but also in the community. This will mean opening the doors of our hearts and accepting people as they are.

The Eucharist means to live as brothers and sisters of Jesus. There is no way we can offer ourselves to God in the Eucharist and not try and love our neighbor who has failed us during the week. For God to love through us we must try to be loving. We are to go out and touch the lives of others, to be the healing presence, the helping hand, the voice of sympathy and words of encouragement when they are needed. **In this way, we will be shaped and formed, by what we celebrate.**

You and your families, have a safe summer blessed with joy;

Deacon Jim



CMBA

Bill Reagan, President

Fellow Brothers:

As you have probably heard, the sale of the parcel of land fronting our Council Hall has been canceled by the buyer. *This could be a blessing!*

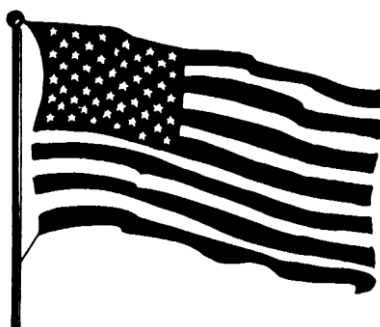


If you attended the last few meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month, you have heard many discussions as to what to do with the property. Now that the offer of the current bidder has been cancelled, it will give us some time to consider our situation and establish both short and long term goals for our Council Hall and the surrounding property.

This issue of the Council Newsletter serves as Official Notice of our Annual Meeting on June 24, 2008. According to the By-Laws of the CMBA, we will be approving a budget for the upcoming year and vote on the audit of our books.

I would like to thank those of you that showed up for the work party. The more that we do with the maintenance for our hall and the annex saves our bottom line financially. Again I wish to thank you all for your support.

Bill



Pro-Life News

Ed Cronin, Pro-Life Chairman

The council again played host to the Teen Summit which is a Coming of Age Seminar jointly organized by the Highlands County Health Department and the local School District. It is a required program for all Eighth Grade girls in the Middle Schools. The program was held at our council hall on April 24th and served the girls from the HillGusdt School.



The girls were taught about their maturing bodies and the hazards of risky behavior. The talks and films are very frank, with strong emphasis on sexual abstinence. The teachers and social workers are specially trained for this work and encourage the girls to ask questions.

The Knights consider our support of this program as part of our Pro-Life work. We provided lunch of hoagies and slaw for about 95 girls and staff. The school district provided milk and fresh fruit and the Girl Scouts contributed their cookies.

We also provided the girls with stylish white wrist bands with the legend, "I am worth waiting for". In addition, we supplied them with cards with smart answers to propositions from boys.

Thanks to Dick and Marie Carlson, Marianne Cecere and Ed and Diane Cronin for coordinating the event and to Andy Mish for helping set up the DVD.

Annual Meeting of the Diocesan Respect Life Dept. on May 31, 2008.

Grand Knight Dick Carlson and his wife Marie, President of the Columbiettes and Ed and Diane Cronin will represent the council at this event. Our council has played a leading role in the Highlands County

(See Pro Life - Page 4, Col 1)

Coalition for Life Leadership, an organization set up by Bishop Dewane for the express purpose of expanding and coordinating the Pro-Life activities of lay organizations. There is no cost to the council for this event.

Ed

Good of the Order

Pray for the soul of Arthur Dupree and Art Paek, deceased members of our Council that have died and gone to their eternal reward.

Remember in your prayers and thoughts Loretta Schnoor recovering from a stroke; Rufus Bonifas recovering from surgery; Rudy Cecere, FN Al Phillips, Hibbard Pudvah, Bill Reagan 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 protecting your freedom.

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

Insurance Corner

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic men's fraternal organization with insurance programs only available to members!

Imagine paying for your life insurance for 20 plus years only to find out that it will expire in your late 70's.



All those thousands of dollars wasted. No refund, no death benefit, nothing.

Your plans to leave money to your loved ones wasted.

If you bought a life insurance policy in the 80's or 90's from another company, there's a very good chance you may end up with nothing.

PLEASE TAKE THESE 3 STEPS:

1. Call your current life insurance company, RIGHT NOW.
2. Ask them to send you a 30 year printout, years 2008 to 2037 showing PREMIUM, CASH VALUE, and DEATH BENEFIT with current interest rates
3. Send me a copy

This will rule out any doubt. Many members in their late 60's and early 70's have done this and the printouts that they received were very helpful in avoiding this financial mistake.

Questions, call Brother Knight Mike McDonough at (941) 228-5656

Marriage Amendment

from FL State Council Website

Sponsors of the proposed state constitutional amendment protecting marriage in California have submitted 1.1 million signatures to state authorities - more than enough to put the measure on the ballot in November. The Knights of Columbus, working closely with the National Organization for Marriage - California,

were instrumental in the signature-gathering effort. Maggie Gallagher, the President of the National Organization for Marriage recently said, "The Knights made the difference between success and failure in this first step in California."

California voters will now have a chance to vote to protect marriage by defining it as an institution between one man and one woman. If passed by California voters, the amendment will place this definition into the state constitution, where the courts and the legislature cannot overturn it. The sponsors of the amendment wanted the measure to go before the voters this November because the California Supreme Court is expected to rule this summer on a series of lawsuits seeking to establish same-sex marriage in the state.

The Knights of Columbus will always pursue laws that protect the dignity and integrity of marriage and family life. As Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said at the 2007 Supreme Convention in Nashville, "We must pray for, and support, those of every party who stand firm on the side of life and family."

In recent months Pope Benedict XVI has spoken publicly of the centrality of marriage and family. The Holy Father praised the efforts of American citizens and government leaders who seek to "safeguard the institution of marriage, acknowledged as a stable union between one man and woman." In November 2007, the bishops add their voices: "The family - based on marriage between a man and a woman - is the first and fundamental unit of society ..."

Twenty-seven states have passed constitutional amendments protecting marriage as the union of one man and one woman. In Florida earlier this year, a proposed state constitutional amendment protecting marriage was certified by the State Divisions of Elections, and the measure will go before Florida voters in November.

Quick Facts about the Knights of Columbus

- **FOUNDED:** 1882 in St Mary's Church in New Haven, CT by Father Michael J. McGivney.
One of the oldest U.S. life insurance companies operating today
- **RANK:** In the top 5% of all U.S. life insurance companies, based on total value of assets. In the top 2% of the insurance industry for financial strength, based on net operating gain before dividends. Ranked among the Fortune 1,000 companies for total revenues. Our solvency ratio is 117.6%, one of the highest in the industry
- **TYPE:** Mutual life insurance company. Policy owners mutually share in the surplus of the company through dividends, thus receiving their insurance at a minimum cost
- **DIVIDEND HISTORY:** The Knights of Columbus has paid out more than \$5 billion in dividends to our policyholders over our history. That's more paid as a "living" benefit than our total death benefits paid out
- **INDUSTRY-WIDE RECOGNITION:** The Knights of Columbus has always received the highest possible rating from:
 1. Insurance Marketplace Standards Association (IMSA) Seal of Approval for the Highest Ethical Business Practices
 2. Standard & Poor's (AAA) Extremely strong
 3. Best's Insurance Reports (A++) Superior*Only 4 out of over 2000 life insurance companies have this distinction*
- **PORTFOLIO:** Permanent/term life insurance, long-term care, annuities, & IRA's
Over \$60 billion of life insurance in force

FOR BROTHER KNIGHTS BY BROTHER KNIGHTS

Our mission is to protect our Catholic members at the lowest possible cost and to allow them to share in the profits of their organization through dividends and member benefits.

In 2006, after all dividends and guaranteed interest was paid to our policyholders, the Supreme council was still able to give \$21 million to our charities.

We ask every member to utilize our insurance and annuity program.



For more information, call Knight
Mike McDonough at (941) 228-5656
Member since 1987 F.I.C and M.D.R.T.

Commander Joseph T O'Callahan, SJ

Assembly #1723

OFFICERS

Deacon

Rev. Mr. James McGarry
385-6608

Faithful Navigator

Al Phillips
471-2134

Faithful Captain

Jack McLaughlin, PFN
471-3295

Faithful Pilot

Hiram Pedraza
699-2013

Faithful Comptroller

Mike Flood, PGK
471-6381

Faithful Scribe

Joseph Sullivan, PGK

Faithful Purser

John Schumacher
382-8648

Faithful Inner Sentinel

Juan Colon

Faithful Outer Sentinel

Modesto Diaz
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Faithful Admiral

Dick Carlson
471-2134

Faithful Trustee (1 year)

Mike Basile
382-4550

Faithful Trustee (2 year)

Don Sliwicky
402-0423

Faithful Trustee (3 year)

Ramon Rivera
385-6046

Navigator's Report

Jack McLaughlin, Faithful Captain

On behalf of our Faithful Navigator, I am preparing this insert in the Pope John XXIII Council newsletter. If you are a 4th Degree member of another council please read this column monthly, as it will be our primary means of communications. Please mark your calendars with dates of upcoming important events, and if there are items of interest please keep this page from the newsletter.

As those of you that attended the May meeting at Lake Placid are aware, we elected our officers for the 2008/2009 Fraternal Year. On behalf of the Assembly and our Faithful Navigator, I would like to thank those that stepped up and accepted the responsibility of leading our Assembly for the next year. Our Fraternal Year begins July 1st, just like your Council's. The officers for the upcoming year are: Navigator - Jack McLaughlin, PFN; Captain - Mike Basile, PFN; Pilot - Richard Carlson; Comptroller - Mike Flood, PFN; Scribe - Sean Dolan; Purser - John Schumacher; Inner Sentinel - Paul Stephens; Outer Sentinel - Modesto Diaz; Admiral - Hiram Pedraza, PFN; Trustee (1 Year) - Charles Wiseman; Trustee (2 Year) - Don Sliwicky; and Trustee (3 Year) - Andy Mish.

As prescribed in our By-Laws Deacon Rev Mr. Max Severe has been appointed as our Faithful Friar and PFN Mike Flood as our Color Corps Commander. ***Next meeting June 3rd at 7PM at Sebring Council 5441.***

Who was Admiral Joseph T. O'Callahan?

Joseph Timothy O'Callahan was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on 14 May 1905. He joined the Jesuit Order in 1922, after graduation from preparatory school, and subsequently received degrees from several institutions of higher learning. He was ordained in 1934, and was a Professor of Mathematics, Philosophy and Physics at Boston College in 1929-37, Professor of Philosophy at the Jesuit Seminary of Weston College in 1937-38 and Director of the Mathematics Department at Holy Cross College, Worcester, Massachusetts, in 1938-40.

Father O'Callahan was commissioned as a Lieutenant JG in the Naval Reserve Chaplain Corps in August 1940. He was assigned to the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, in 1940-42, to the aircraft carrier Ranger in 1942-44 and to the Naval Air Stations and Alameda, California, and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, into early 1945. Lieutenant Commander O'Callahan joined the aircraft carrier Franklin in early March 1945. A few weeks later, when his ship was badly damaged by a Japanese air attack, he distinguished himself comforting the injured and leading damage control and ammunition jettisoning parties. (724 crewmembers died as a result of the Japanese attack) The ship's Commanding Officer described O'Callahan as "the bravest man I ever saw." For his heroism on board Franklin, LT CDR O'Callahan was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Promoted to the rank of Commander in July 1945, O'Callahan served at the Navy Department and at the Naval Training Station, Newport, Rhode Island, until October 1945, when he reported on board the new aircraft carrier Franklin D. Roosevelt. In 1946, he served as Escort Chaplain as the body of the late Philippines President Manuel Quezon was carried from the United States to Manila. Released from active duty in November 1946, Commander O'Callahan returned to Holy Cross College as Professor of Philosophy. Upon his retirement from the Naval Reserve in November 1953, he was advanced to the rank of Captain on the basis of his combat awards. Joseph T. O'Callahan died at Worcester, Massachusetts, on 18 March 1964.

Knights of Columbus
Pope John XXIII Council # 5441
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