

Knights in Action

Pope John XXIII Council #5441

Avon Park & Sebring, FL

March 2007

Grand Knight's Report

My Brother Knights,

This has been a month that has been a life changing experience for me. Because of my recently diagnosed health issues, I was forced to step back a bit from my level of activities. This gave me a chance to take a look at our council activities from a slight distance and it made it clear how much some of you do and the amount of time you give of yourselves. I thank those of you that give of yourself for the good of others, but now it's time for some changes. Due to the age and general health of many of our members they are unable to volunteer as much as they probably would, and those that can and do are slowly but surely burning out. During the years that I've been a member of this council I have tried almost everything that you've suggested, but the manpower required to keep adding additional events, and to raise money to support our charitable work is just not there.

I am going to propose several changes to the Board of Directors this month, and based on their recommendations, to you my Brother Knights at the March Business meeting.

KITCHEN: I've explored the possibility of turning the entire kitchen operation over to a member knight who is retiring shortly. He would be responsible for the entire kitchen operations as a contracted vendor for: Bingo, catered rentals, council events, the monthly brunch, etc. The council would retain rental fees and the bar with snacks and pre-



packaged type items, peanuts, popcorn, etc. I will recommend that the Council negotiate a services contract, renewable on an annual basis, where the council would get a percentage of the profit.

Recent rentals prove that the hall can make money, but we just don't have the manpower to keep accepting catering jobs and rentals where we provide the meals. Turning the kitchen over to a Brother Knight and setting up a group of members to rent the hall and run the bar appears to be a better option for now. ***To all of the members that have been staffing the kitchen and working around the hall I salute you and thank you for the great job you've been doing since I became Grand Knight!***

SCOUTS: As most of you've read in the February Columbia, the Knights and scouting share similar interests and goals. The Order has a long relationship with Scouting in the US, dating back to both groups' earliest days. Building on that partnership, the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and the Knights launched a program in 2006 to promote troop sponsorship in more councils and assemblies.

I believe that our council could assist the scouts where they need help; whether that be supplying a meeting place, assist in covering expenses, working with a troop or den, or whatever is needed. You will be invited to become involved in this endeavor at the March Business Meeting.

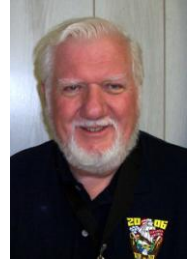
This is a good way to help our youth and potentially attract young

(See "Grand Knight" on Page 3)

Deacon's Corner

Dear Brothers;

Lent is coming and one of the best ways to prepare for the joy of Easter is to participate in several practices of our Faith. This includes daily prayer, daily Mass if possible, and participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



I would like to share with you, my Brother Knights, a true incident of inspiration that I heard at a retreat while I was in the Deaconate Formation in New York. It was shared by a Priest on the week of Retreat. It's title ...

"Won't Go to Confession"

The Priest was, for seven years, the Catholic Chaplain of a rather large hospital. visiting patients, a man told him he didn't want to see him. The priest said, "okay that's alright." Each day as he passed his

(See "Deacon Jim" on Page 3)

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 editor is Jack McLaughlin. who can be reached at 471-3295, or jack.mclaughlin@earthlink.net. 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.

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385-6608

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784-7444

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Joe Meegan
382-3520

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382-8648

Outside Guard

Modesto Diaz
314-9188

Trustee (3 year)

Carmine Aurigemma
385-5097

Trustee (2 year)

Anthony Garosi
655-2440

Trustee (1 year)

Michael Basile
382-4550

Annual Rosary - Unborn Child

Ed Cronin, Pro Life Chairman

For more than 30 years the Knights of Columbus have been in the forefront of the Right to Life movement. Through the annual rosary on the Day of the Unborn Child Knights have stood up for those who cannot stand up for themselves.

Each year the Knights of Columbus councils are asked to renew their commitment to this cause. This year the date is set for Monday, March 26th, the Feast of the Annunciation. It is the tradition of our council to pray the rosary at 12 noon, on the designated day.

Day: Monday, March 26, 2007

Place: K of C Hall, 900 US 27N, Sebring

Time: 12 Noon

Light refreshments will be served after the rosary.

All Knights, Columbiettes, their families and friends are invited to join in this prayer to the heavenly court on behalf of the innocent and defenseless unborn.

This holy tradition is growing in strength in our council. Each year, for the last several years, attendance has significantly improved. Please help us "Storm the Gates of Heaven" for this great cause.

Hall Rentals

Hall rentals generate a significant source of income that is used to help pay the bills to operate our facility, such as heat, air, water, lighting, insurance, etc. Due to the insurance requirements it is necessary to have a member present for all rentals. A member can be a Brother Knight, Columbiette, or a members spouse.

If we cannot get volunteers to step forward and help, we will have to begin declining some rentals. ***If you can help periodically contact GK Don Schnoor at 385-8832.***

March Birthdays

William Dunn	02	Sylvester Wagasky	19
Rev. Mr. Max Severe	09	Warren Fuller	25
Ronnie Durham	09	John Schumacher	25
Richard Wolf	10	Darryk Caraveo	25
Richard Carlson	14	Frederick Khouri, Jr.	29
Christopher O'Sullivan	16	Gary Meredith	29

Happy Anniversary

Michael & Sandra McLeod – March 30, 1986

DIRECTORS

Program Director

Michael Flood, PGK
471-6381

Membership

Dr. Michael McLeod
784-7444

Church

Richard Carlson
471-2134

Community

Andrew Mish
402-1402

Council

Donald Sliwicki, DD
402-0423

Family

Volunteer Needed

Youth

Volunteer Needed

Squires

Volunteer Needed

CMBA

Andrew Mish
402-1402

Jim Hollywood
382-0118

Carmine Aurigemma
385-5097

Scott Giles
202-0537

Columbiettes

Alma Almeida
385-4069

Newsletter

Jack McLaughlin, FDD
471-3295



Grand Knight – (from Page 1)

men to become Knights or Squires in the future. As you are well aware, Youth and Family are two of the Orders major programs. We need to bring young families back to the Knights of Columbus, and that means we must offer them a good family atmosphere that will foster principles of Catholicism, with guidance from our Priests and Deacons.

It's up to you the members to decide the direction that our council will take! Come to the Business Meeting on March 13th, beginning at 7:00 PM. The Board of Directors will meet to discuss the two items that I've described above, at their meeting on March 5th. Give them your ideas and thoughts to bring to this meeting of the council executive.

God Bless you all, and thank you for your prayers, they help in keeping me looking forward to better times for Loretta and myself.

Don Schnoor, GK

What's the GK's Directors Meeting?

Have you wondered what the Grand Knight's Directors Meeting on the monthly council calendar was? At 7:00 PM on the first Monday of each month the GK and all of the Council Officers and Program Directors meet to discuss the current state of the council; make decisions on new programs and activities to be brought to the council's attention; discuss long-term plans; and, to make recommendations to the council body on items to be brought up under new business during the monthly Business Meeting, on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Topics that significantly impact council operations will be discussed at the March 5th meeting so plan on attending if you are a Council Officer, Program Director or have otherwise been invited.

Columbiettes

Dear Sister Columbiettes,



We had a special Memorial Mass for our Past-President Pat Mansfield and it was wonderful to see so many Columbiettes in attendance. I am sure Pat was smiling down on us! A special thank-you to Father Leo for celebrating this Mass for us at Our Lady of Grace. We enjoyed a delicious breakfast and sing-a-long led by Father Onze.

Our next meeting will be March 13, a nominating committee will be formed at this time.

As we reflect on the 40 days of Lent, keep in your thoughts and prayers our Columbiette Sisters who are carrying a heavy cross, that they have the strength and faith to endure the road ahead of them.

At the time this newsletter was due, we had not had our 1st Degree nor our dinner-show, details will be in April's newsletter.

Prayers and Thanksgiving to our military men and women, and our Charter and Honorary members. Special prayers for Adele Markland, Pat Spayd, Mary Ann Estgen, Patty Meegan and our Grand Knight Don Schnoor.

Birthday Wishes to all those born in March, that includes me!!!!

"ALWAYS BE A LITTLE BIT KINDER THAN NECESSARY".

Faternally,

Alma

Monthly Dinner Drawing

Congratulations to Mary Basile, this month's Bingo/Kitchen Worker drawing winner. To be eligible for the dinner tickets at an area restaurant, you must volunteer on the Wednesday night Bingo's.

Deacon Jim – (from Page 1)

bed, he would greet him. One day he called to the priest, "Listen, if I wanted to receive the Sacraments after more than sixty years, I would have to go to confession and I cannot do that." The Priest assured him, "Confession would be quite easy and that he would ask all the questions." After a long talk, he said he would like to go to Confession. The Priest made an appointment with him three days later.

The following day, he told the Priest, "I'm sorry, but I changed my mind, I can't tell you what I have been doing all these years. I can't go to Confession." The Priest asked him, "What are you afraid to tell me?" To Father's amazement, he told him about all the sins he thought he could not reveal. When he finished, Father asked him, "Is there anything else you have to tell me?" The patient said, "No, that's everything!"

Father then asked, "Are you truly sorry for all these faults and failings?" Father shared with him God's love for him and for all of us. Father then gave him absolution and anointed him. This priest was obviously moved as he attempted to describe the joy in the man's eyes.

The next day when Father went to the hospital he was informed that the man had died during the night. Father said "God's love is so great, it is beyond all understanding."

Deacon Jim

Passion of the Christ

This powerful movie depicting the final hours and crucifixion of Jesus Christ, directed by Mel Gibson, will be shown at the Council Hall using our new wall-sized projection television system, on Palm Sunday April 1st and on Monday April 2nd at 3 PM. Attendance is open to the public, so invite your friends and neighbors.

District Deputy's Desk

Worthy Brothers,

This is a wonderful way for me to begin this months report, although it may sound the same as last months, only the names have been changed. I want to congratulate Steve Aiello and his wife for being one of the 100 Families of the Month selected by Supreme to receive a Holy Family Statue for the month of January. That is three families in a row selected from Council 11284 in Buckhead Ridge. Special thanks to David Alford GK, for continuing to send in the required forms each month.



We had to cancel the 1st Degree scheduled for January 25th because not all of the members of the degree team had been certified. Brothers, as you well know, recruitment is essential to keep the order growing. However, if we have candidates and cannot initiate them into the 1st degree we are wasting our time. I urge council members to step up and volunteer to be a back up member so we can avoid canceling any degrees. The team captain will be contacting members soon to schedule another practice. There should be degrees in February and March scheduled to coincide with Supreme's recruitment "Blitz". We need an all out effort to meet our quotas for this year.

We are currently trying to establish a council in Wachula. If this is successful our 1st Degree team is the closest and would be requested to install the new members. I've met with Peter Bishop, New Council Development Administrator for the State, and Father Vincent Clemente, Pastor of St. Michaels in Wachula, and Father is very interested in having a council in his parish. Father Clemente recently transferred from Sarasota and was the Faithful Friar for the Assembly there. He will begin making announcements in his bulletin

about establishing a council in the parish, as well as announcements after Mass. We plan to have a major recruitment effort the weekend of March 10-11th after the Masses. Although some officials from the State Council will be there to assist, additional volunteers from the council would be appreciated, especially any Spanish speaking brothers. If you are able to assist in this effort please let me know. The Mass schedule is as follows: Sat. 5:00 PM, English; 7:30 PM Spanish; Sun. 7:00 AM Spanish; 8:30 AM English; 11:00AM Spanish; and 1:00 PM Creole.

There is still time for members to make contributions to the Helping Life and Vocation Funds. Early reports show that we are doing well in the Helping Life fund, thanks to the special bingo games, but not very well with the Vocations. It would be nice if we met our goals for these worthwhile funds. Plans for the Handicapped drive, "Tootsie Roll" should now be confirmed and collections started. Please inform the chairman of the dates you will be available to help in this year's campaign.

I have received a letter from our Supreme Knight, asking us to redouble our membership recruitment efforts in the remaining months before June 30th. We must expand our membership to continue our charitable works for the good of the Church and our communities. The next six months present a prime opportunity for us to welcome many more Catholic men into our ranks. The State Council has initiated an incentive plan which will reward the GK with a pen set if he meets his membership goal by June 29th. The recruitment goal for our councils eight new members.

The question was recently posed as to whether a Knight could simultaneously be a member of Masons. We have received the following answer. "As in all matters, the Knights of Columbus follows faithfully the teachings of the Catholic Church with respect to membership in

Masonic associations. That teaching has been constant and has been expressed recently in a clear and direct statement from the Sacred Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome. This statement states unequivocally that **membership in Masonic associations is forbidden**, because their principles have always been irreconcilable with the doctrine of the church."

I hope that all councils have made, or are making plans, to celebrate the Day of the Unborn on March 26th, and the 125th anniversary of the founding of our order on March 29th. This would be a good opportunity to demonstrate our Solidarity with our Priests by having some function to recognize the important role they have in our lives and in the order.

The 103rd annual Florida State Convention will be held May 25-27 at the Renaissance Sea World Hotel in Orlando. Councils are required to select two delegates and two alternates no later than your first regular meeting in March. The first delegate is the GK and the second delegate should be a PGK. If no PGK is available, a 3rd Degree member may be elected. Alternates must be 3rd Degree Knights. If you qualify and are interested. Contact Grand Knight. When submitting forms remember to have them affixed with the Council Seal.

Now's the time to begin preparing for the holy season of Lent which begins February 21st. Try to be positive during this period by doing something extra instead of being negative by giving up something. You can make an extra effort to recruit new members, attend the meetings, participate in council activities, visit ill persons, attend an additional Mass, say extra Rosaries and prayers etc. By doing this you will be well prepared for the Easter Season.

Faternally,

Don Sliwicki DD #40

Special Events

Sunday Brunch

Beginning February 25th, Pope John XXIII will host a Brunch on the 4th Sunday of each month from 10 AM to 12 PM. The menu includes breakfast items: scrambled eggs, pancakes, biscuits & gravy, OJ, coffee, tea and mimosa, fruit cup and more; as well as ham and Boston Baked Beans. All of this for a nominal cost of \$5.00 per person. Our goal is to eventually have speakers or films of interest to replace the 4th Tuesday Social Meeting. This event is open to the public, so bring your friends and neighbors – ***Yet another chance to Support your Council !***

Fishing Central Florida Seminar

*Cancelled
Due to
Lack of Support
and Interest*

Highlands County Military Ball

This event is sponsored by the Highlands County Veterans Council at Pope John XXIII Council #5441 from 6:00PM until 11:00PM on March 31, 2007. Dress is formal/semi-formal at a cost of \$40.00 per couple and \$25.00 for a single, until March 1st. After March 1st the cost will be \$50/couple and \$30/single. Admission includes a social hour, dinner and dancing, with a cash bar. Menu is salad buffet, mixed grill (chicken, beef, pork), baked potato, vegetable, coffee or tea, and dessert. ***For tickets contact Mike Basile at (863) 382-4550.***

Tootsie Roll Drive

The council's annual Tootsie Roll Drive that supports the Mentally Challenged and Special Olympics will have begun by the time you receive this newsletter. Brother Dick Carlson has stepped up to chair this event and he needs your help. If you are available for a few hours to pass out Tootsie Rolls and accept donations on March 9th, 10th, 30th, 31st, or April 13th and 14th please call Dick at 471-2134. We especially need help on the weekend of 13-14 April at Wal-Mart with five workers per shift.

February

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

March 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 25 10 AM Brunch & Social	26 7 PM Civil Air Patrol	27	28 5:45 PM Bingo	March 1	2 6 PM Stations of the Cross	3 9 AM Fishing Seminar
4 4:30 PM Super Bowl Party	5 7 PM Civil Air Patrol 7 PM GK Directors Mtg	6 7 PM 4th Deg Mtg	7 5:45 PM Bingo	8	9 Tootsie Roll (Publix) Tootsie Roll (Car Wash) 6 PM Stations of the Cross	10 Tootsie Roll (Publix) Tootsie Roll (Car Wash)
11 Begin Daylight Savings	12 7 PM Civil Air Patrol	13 7 PM Council Mtg	14 5:45 PM Bingo	15	16 Tootsie Roll (Albertsons) 6 PM Stations of the Cross	17 Saint Patrick's Day Tootsie Roll (Albertsons)
18	19 7 PM Civil Air Patrol	20	21 5:45 PM Bingo	22	23 6 PM Stations of the Cross	24
25 10 AM Brunch & Social	26 12 PM Rosary for Unborn Child 7 PM Civil Air Patrol	27	28 5:45 PM Bingo	29	30 Tootsie Roll (Wal-Mart) Tootsie Roll (Wal-Mart) 6 PM Stations of the Cross	31 Tootsie Roll (Wal-Mart) 6 PM Veteran's Military Ball

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April 2007

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 1 Palm Sunday 3 PM Passion of Christ Movie (Mel Gibson)	2 Holy Week 3 PM Passion of Christ Movie (Mel Gibson) 7 PM Civil Air Patrol 7 PM GK Directors Mtg	3 Holy Week 7 PM 4th Deg Mtg	4 Holy Week 5:45 PM Bingo	5 Holy Week	6 Good Friday	7 Holy Saturday
8 Easter Sunday	9 7 PM Civil Air Patrol	10 7 PM Council Mtg	11 5:45 PM Bingo	12	13 5 PM KC Bar Open	14
15 7 PM Civil Air Patrol	16	17	18 5:45 PM Bingo	19	20 5 PM KC Bar Open	21
22 10 AM Brunch & Social	23 7 PM Civil Air Patrol	24	25 5:45 PM Bingo	26	27 5 PM KC Bar Open	28
29	30 7 PM Civil Air Patrol	May 1 7 PM 4th Deg Mtg	2 5:45 PM Bingo	3	4 5 PM KC Bar Open	5

Knights of Columbus
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