



KNIGHT LETTER

January - February 2018

COUNCIL 816 MARY QUEEN OF THE KNIGHTS

Grand Knight's Report

Happy, Healthy, Prosperous and Holy New Year to my brothers and their families

My New Year Resolutions to you and our council!

- 1) Strive to be my very best as your Grand Knight
- 2) Get our brothers more involved in council and charitable activities - "Active Councils are successful Councils"
- 3) Increase membership by twelve new members in the next six months
- 4) Obtain Star Council

Every year, in my business, between Christmas and New Year, I take a good hard look at what we have achieved in the past year and how we can increase revenues and decrease costs. That's what makes a business successful! The same principles apply here!

What we accomplished the first six months

- 1) Family Rosary on 5th Sunday at Ascension and Holy Innocents Churches
- 2) Hurricane Victims Relief Fund - raised over \$948.00 for Florida, Texas and Puerto Rico
- 3) Share Program - distributed food for 15 needy families every month
- 4) 100 new "Coats for Kids"
- 5) Donated \$1000.00 to Saint Vincent De Paul Society for Christmas and Thanksgiving food for the needy
- 6) Donated \$1000.00 to Saint Francis Society for Christmas and Thanksgiving

www.kofc816.org



**Why aren't all
Catholic men
Knights?
They weren't
asked!
Ask a fellow
Parishioner,
You'll be
surprised!**

**Dinner Alert
January Pizza
February Chili**

7) Donated over \$1000.00 to Holy Innocents to aid Challenged Children to receive their Sacraments

8) Our Turkey Basket Dinner raised \$815.00 for the Food Bank Christmas Turkeys.

What's new for the next six months!

- 1) Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast with the Easter Bunny
- 2) Italian Night Dinner
- 3) Alter Server Appreciation at Ascension Church
- 4) "Shoulder to Shoulder" Breakfast to support our Brothers and Sisters in Blue
- 5) Membership Drive at Ascension and Holy Innocents
- 6) Meatball Gala Fund Raiser to Aid Persecuted Christians in the Middle East

I ask all of my Brothers to continue to work together, experience Brotherhood and obtain that "Star Council" award. Only by giving your very best can you realize what talents you really have!

God Bless you!

Happy New Year!

Sebastian P. Vaccaro Grand Knight

**Pro-life
Where would you
be without it.**

The Spiritual Corner by Deacon John Kopcak PGK

The Feast of the Epiphany

On Sunday January 6 we will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. At times it is also called the Feast of the Three Kings. We all know the story. Three Kings from the Orient, Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar, studied astronomy and saw a rising star. They believed it to be the sign that a king was being born. So they followed the star and stopped off at Jerusalem where they met King Herod. They asked him if he knew where the new born king was. Herod, who was intent on killing Jesus, had his priests search scripture to find out where this king might be born. Learning that it was probably Bethlehem he told the three kings to search for Jesus and let him know where he was. Once they found Jesus they gave him the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Of course, as we all know, they journeyed home by a different route and never told Herod where Jesus was.

Of the four Gospels only the gospel of Matthew has the story of the Magi. Nowhere does it mention the names of the three kings in the Gospel nor does it refer to them as kings. They were probably pagan priests who studied the stars and believed in magic. As a matter of fact it doesn't even say how many there were. If they were following a star why did they have to stop and ask Herod if he knew where the newborn king was? If you read the gospel carefully they don't begin to follow the star until they leave Jerusalem. If all this is true than what is this story about?

It is a story about a journey. It is a story about faith. It is a story about contrasts. It is a story of good and evil. It is a story of God's plan of redemption for all mankind.

The Magi were on a journey in search of God. There were several things that helped them on their journey. First there was nature, the star which told them of the birth of Christ and later led them into His presence. They were guided by the scripture e.g. the Word of God. If you recall Herod had his scholars study scripture to find out where Christ would be born. And finally they were guided by their faith which gave them the persistence to continue on their journey. Nature, scripture and faith were all gifts given through the **GRACE OF GOD**. What about the gifts they gave to Jesus? Gold is a symbol of Christ's kingship. Frankincense or incense is a symbol of His divinity. Myrrh a bitter substance used in embalming is a symbol of his suffering and death. How different was their faith journey from ours. How many of us have our beliefs strengthened through the wonders of nature? Aren't we nourished by the Word of God? Doesn't our faith keep us on that journey toward God when things are not going well? Just as the magi gave their gifts to God aren't expected to give to God by giving to others? Wasn't it the suffering, death and resurrection of the divine king that gives us the opportunity to be with Him?

This is also a story of contrasts. The magi were Gentiles who announced the birth of the Messiah to a Jew. The mere fact that they are gentiles tells us that all people are included in God's plan of redemption. It is a story of good and evil. The magi are on a journey to get closer to God. Herod was seeking power and moving away from God. The magi were generous. Herod was selfish, especially when it came to his power. He even wanted to destroy God. The magi by their difficult journey and the gifts they gave to Jesus put part of themselves into life and were happy. Herod took everything he could from life, gave back nothing and was unhappy.

I THINK THERE IS A LITTLE BIT OF HEROD IN ALL OF US. We all want to be closer to God but how often do we move further away from Him by being selfish and seeking the things of the world instead of Him? How often do we make ourselves unhappy by taking more from life than we should and giving little or nothing back?

So let us continue on our journey toward God using God's wondrous creation, our faith and His word and Sacrament to guide us on our journey. Then we will always be generous give more to life than we take and find true happiness when eventually come to God at the end of our journey.

**January 28,2018
Blood Drive at the
Breakfast Buffet
9AM till 12 Noon
Donate a pint of blood and
get a free Breakfast and a \$10.
gift card from Luigi's .
Call Brother Felix Spano
732-585-8281 for more info.**

November Raffle Winners

1st Prize Kathy Charette \$115.00
2nd Prize Stacey Pellicco \$57.50
3rd Prize Frank J. Masco \$57.50
4th Prize Rosann Reese \$28.75
5th Prize Herbert Hagmann \$28.75

December Raffle Winners

1st Prize Pat Fariello \$115.00
2nd Prize Anne Bennett \$57.50
3rd Prize Tracy Newby Jr. \$57.50
4th Prize Patricia Coren \$28.75
5th Prize Diane S. VanderNoot \$28.75

Editor's Note

Our annual charity raffle tickets are available until 11AM on Jan. 28. Please turn in your tickets by then.

Thanks to all who attended our Annual Christmas Party. We all had a splended time and raised \$270.00 from our donated Silent Auction items.

We are going to need help next month as we are hosting the Chapter Meeting Feb.12th. Set aside the night for us.

Thanks and God bless, Joe

Good of the Order

“As a reminder, it is the responsibility of all Brothers to inform either the Grand Knight Sebastian P. Vaccaro (732-762-2609) , or the Financial Secretary John Kopcak (732-776-7643) upon the learning of the death of any K of C Brother, so proper actions can be taken. Don't assume that the GK or FS automatically know about all Brother's deaths, sometimes they need your help!”

January 11 - Council Meeting
28 - Breakfast - Blood Drive

February 1 - Officers Meeting
8 - Council Meeting
12 - Chapter Meeting at our Council Home
25 Breakfast - Shoulder to Shoulder

March 1 - Officers Meeting
3 - Membership Drive - Holy Innocent Church
4 - Membership Drive - Holy Innocent Church
8 - Council Meeting
10 - Membership Drive Ascension Church
11 - Membership Drive Ascension Church
18 - Family Communion at Ascension Church - 10:00 AM
24 - Italian Night Dinner
25 - Palm Sunday - Breakfast with Easter Bunny & Easter Egg Hunt

April 5 - Officers Meeting
12 - Council Meeting
22 - Breakfast
29 - 5th Sunday Rosary at Ascension Church - 10:00 AM
Meatball Gala (Date to be announced)

May 3 - Officers Meeting
10 - Council Meeting - Nomination of Officers
27 - Breakfast
Dedication of Blessed Mother Statue (Date to be announced)

June 7 - Officers Meeting
14 - Council Meeting - Election of Officers
17 - Fathers Day
24 - Breakfast

July 4 - Fourth of July
5 - Officers Meeting
12 - Council Meeting
22 - Breakfast
29 - 5th Sunday Rosary at Holy Innocent Church 10:00 AM

January Birthdays

**Brothers,
Happy Birthday!**

**Louis Berardi
George Bruder Jr. PGK
Peter Dinardo
Michael Donovan
Raul Hernandez
David King
Robert McDonald PGK
John Orlando
Jeffery Petz
Walter Rapka
Robert Rizzo
Edward Rocco
Richard Rogalski
Edward Sullivan**

February Birthdays

**Brothers,
Happy Birthday!**

**Joseph Abbruscato
Edward Bertini
Richard Coscarelli
Gerald D'Imperio
James Emmons PGK
Phillip Escola
David Frick
Robert Goehring
Don Lee
Scott Lintzenich
Bob Lynch
Mark Murtagh PGK
Arthur Petz PGK
Joseph Phillips PGK
Mickey Pondaco PGK
Phillip Pondaco
Christopher Seidle
Charles Uliano**