



Knightslife

Official publication of St. Raphael's Council 9880 Knights of Columbus

December 2003

Council Calendar

1st Tuesday 7:00 Officers' Meeting rm. 107

2nd Tuesday 7:30 Business Meeting rm. 107

Dec 21	Put Christmas Baskets together (Raphael Hall - 12:30pm) Council Christmas Party (Room 107 – 2:00 to 4:00pm)
Dec 22	Christmas Basket Distribution (Raphael Hall – 9:00am to 6:00pm)
Dec 25	Christmas Day
Jan 1	New Years Day 2004
Jan 3	Capital Towers – 9:00am to 12 noon
Jan 6	Officers Meeting
Jan 13	Business Meeting
Jan 17	Annual Rally and March for Life (Downtown Raleigh – 1:00pm)
Jan 24	Annual March for Life in Washington DC
Feb 3	Officers Meeting
Feb 7	Chilifest Fund Raiser (Raphael Hall – 8:00am to 9:00pm)
Feb 7	Capital Towers – 9:00am to 12 noon
Feb 10	Business Meeting
Feb 21	Cupids Bingo Night – 6:00pm to 9:00 pm
Feb 27	Shrimp Dinner (Raphael Hall – 5-9pm)

Grand Knight

Well, this months report is going to be short and sweet. I am glad that the Christmas Season is finally here. This is a time to spend with Family, Friends and other loved ones; and also a time to reflect on what resolutions we accomplished and what resolutions need improvement from this past year.

This is truly the season of giving and for wishing good will to all. I hope that everyone has a Safe and Happy Holiday and I look forward to seeing all of you at the Christmas Party.

Vivat Jesus,

Gordon Perry, Grand Knight

Help needed for Christmas Food Baskets

Brothers,

This year there have been many changes in preparation of the Thanksgiving Baskets. As you may have noticed, we will not be collecting monetary or food donations to support the Christmas baskets, as indicated

in the church bulletins. The parish will reimburse Knights of Columbus for expenditures related to the food baskets.

Historically we have obtained a large percentage of the food for the baskets from the Food Bank. However, the Food Bank will not be providing us any food for either the Thanksgiving Baskets or the Christmas baskets due to increased demand from its core agencies. Fortunately our resources will be focused on helping a significantly smaller number of families in need. We will be providing Christmas baskets for approximately 71 families in need, with St. Raphael's school providing baskets for 8 additional families in need. Fortunately we have been blessed with support from several Wake County businesses. US Food Service will be donating 52 turkeys total for the Thanksgiving/Christmas baskets. UPS will also be donating 30 turkeys for the Christmas baskets.

We need help transporting food from Aldis (Louisburg Road near New Hope Road) to the church on Saturday, December 20th at approximately 3pm. Any volunteers will be appreciated, especially those with a pick-up truck. We will be preparing the baskets on Sunday, December 21st in Raphael Hall from approximately noon to 2pm (immediately prior to the Knights Christmas party). We will be distributing the baskets on Monday, December 22nd from 9am to 6pm. Please send me an email or call me at 261-0246 if you are able to help at any or all stages

Jeff Price

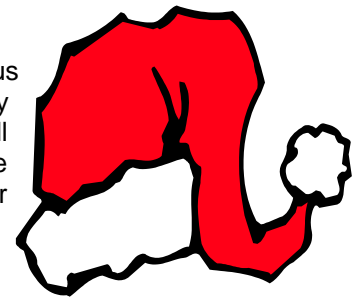
Merry Christmas

A Knight of Columbus 2003 Family Christmas Party is just around the corner. All Knights and their families are invited! Mark your calendar now and reserve Sunday, December 21, from 2:00 to 4:00 in Room 107.

After the 11:30 mass, all Knights and family members can help put together Christmas baskets for the needy of our community in Raphael Hall. This should only take an hour. As soon as that is done we will celebrate Christmas together. This year the festivities will feature a gift exchange (bring one wrapped gift per family, \$10-15).

Also bring a Sunday sweet (cake, cookie, pie, etc.) to share. The Knights will provide drinks, music, entertainment, and a festive atmosphere. There will be more details in the next Knightlife.

Mark Parrish (848-1708)



Knights and Breakfast with Santa:

The knights helped Gail Williams with the cooking and setting up of Raphael Hall on Saturday, December 13th. Thank you to all the Knights that helped out and made it a fun day for the kids and the kids at heart.



Andy Demchak & GK Gordon Perry with Santa and Mrs. Claus

Capital Towers

Our next capital towers visitation is on Saturday, January 3rd. We help the ladies out by turning mattresses, vacuuming the carpets, wash windows, hang pictures, and other small jobs that they can not do themselves.

We need more knights to come help us out so please let Bill Hast or myself know that your will be there. You can email or call us. Our info is on the last page of this newsletter. Thank you and God Bless You All.

Andy Demchak, Lecturer

Chilefest coming up

Chilefest is coming up on February 7, 2004 at Raphael Hall. This is a council fundraiser and was a big success this past year. So mark your calendars.

Business Meeting Minutes

The December 2003 business meeting was opened at 7:30 by Grand Knight Gordon Perry. The November minutes were passed as published in the Knightlife. There were no pending applications.

The treasurer report was not available. Please see this Knightlife or contact Clayton Rodgers for information.

Ron McCord reported we have a membership gain of 2 with a goal of 8, gain 1 insurance member with a goal of 4. There are still 19 unpaid dues.

Bill Hast reported that 6 brothers helped with Capital Towers. We would like to have 12 brothers' sign up for alternating months. Please contact Bill Hast.

Jeff Price reported that we spent \$1570 on the Thanksgiving baskets. We have 600 cans of food left over to use at Christmas. For Christmas baskets we will gather the food on the 20th, sort on the 21st and distribution will be on the 22nd from 8:30 until 6:30 pm. Any time during the 22nd will be greatly appreciated.

Gordon Perry reported that ramp is finished until spring. Six brothers helped out at the road clean-up.

Andy Demchak reported on the Christmas party on December 21st from 2 to 4 pm. Please bring a family gift with a max of \$15.00. We will supply food from Sam's but everyone can bring a dessert to pass. Invite any and all knights that you have contact with to invite.

The Red Cross Blood Drive was on October 15th. We had 36 come with 3 1st timers. A letter of appreciation from the Red Cross was read by Gordon Perry.

Breakfast with Santa will be on the 13th. We need members to help set-up.

Raphael Hall has been taken over by an individual for the next 3 months. Any use of the kitchen by the Knights will have to be paid for.

Andy Demchak gave the good of the order. We signed a condolence card for Brother Joseph Kearney who passed away on December 1st.

The meeting was closed by Gordon Perry at 8:15.

K of C Insurance –

DECEMBER -HAPPY AND HOLY HOLIDAYS!

I would like to extend to you my sincere best wishes for a holy and happy holiday season. I imagine you feel the same way about the Christmas season as I do - such a peaceful, happy time.

But just take one moment to ask yourself what your family's Christmas would be like if you weren't here. This year, why not give them the most precious gift of all- a life insurance plan that will allow them to have, always, the kind of Christmas you want them to have.

We have plans that will guarantee income for your family's future -for just a few dollars a month. Enjoy this season of celebration.

Please call me for an appointment and we will discuss a gift of security and protection from you to your loved ones.

**Timothy, Kilpatrick, Field Agent, K of C Insurance
(919) 880-3463**



My wife and I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Yew.

Andy Demchak - Editor

Editor's Note

Knightlife is published every month immediately after the council business meeting (2nd Tuesday). All member contributions are welcome. Please send text to **Andy Demchak (894-7664)** in electronic format if possible. **Ademchak1960@earthlink.net**

Who started Christmas?

(Author unknown)

This morning I heard a story on the radio of a woman who was out Christmas shopping with her two children; after many hours of looking at row after row of toys and everything else imaginable, and after hours of hearing both her children asking for everything they saw on those many shelves, she finally made it to the elevator with her two kids.

She was feeling what so many of us feel during the holiday season time of the year---overwhelming pressure to go to every party, every housewarming, taste all the holiday food and treats, get that perfect gift for every single person on our shopping list, make sure we don't forget anyone on our card list, and the pressure of making sure we respond to everyone who sent us a card.

Finally the elevator doors opened and there was already a crowd in the car. She pushed her way into the car and dragged her two kids in with her and all the bags of stuff. When the doors closed she couldn't take it anymore and stated, "Whoever started this whole Christmas thing should be found, strung up and shot."

From the back of the car everyone heard a quiet, calm voice respond, "Don't worry. We already crucified him."

For the rest of the trip down the elevator it was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop. Don't forget this year to keep the One who started this whole Christmas thing in your every thought, deed, purchase, and word.

JESUS IS the Reason for **YOUR** Season

Merry Christmas! Please read; this is a great story...

TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS,
HE LIVED ALL ALONE,
IN A ONE BEDROOM HOUSE MADE OF PLASTER AND STONE.

THE NIGHT I HAD COME DOWN THE CHIMNEY
WITH PRESENTS TO GIVE,
AND TO SEE JUST WHO
IN THIS HOME DID LIVE.

I LOOKED ALL ABOUT,
A STRANGE SIGHT I DID SEE,
NO TINSEL, NO PRESENTS,
NOT EVEN A TREE.



NO STOCKING BY MANTLE,
JUST BOOTS FILLED WITH SAND,
ON THE WALL HUNG PICTURES
OF FAR DISTANT LANDS.

WITH MEDALS AND BADGES,
AWARDS OF ALL KINDS,
A SOBER THOUGHT
CAME THROUGH MY MIND.

FOR THIS HOUSE WAS DIFFERENT,
IT WAS DARK AND DREARY,
I FOUND THE HOME OF A SOLDIER,
ONCE I COULD SEE CLEARLY.

THE SOLDIER LAY SLEEPING,
SILENT, ALONE,
CURLD UP ON THE FLOOR
IN THIS ONE BEDROOM HOME.

THE FACE WAS SO GENTLE,
THE ROOM IN SUCH DISORDER,
NOT HOW I PICTURED
A UNITED STATES SOLDIER.

WAS THIS THE HERO
OF WHOM I'D JUST READ?



CURLD UP ON A PONCHO,
THE FLOOR FOR A BED?

I REALIZED THE FAMILIES
THAT I SAW THIS NIGHT,
OWED THEIR LIVES TO THESE
SOLDIERS
WHO WERE WILLING TO FIGHT.

SOON ROUND THE WORLD,
THE CHILDREN WOULD PLAY,
AND GROWNUPS WOULD
CELEBRATE A BRIGHT CHRISTMAS
DAY. LIKE THE ONE LYING HERE.

THEY ALL ENJOYED FREEDOM
EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR,
BECAUSE OF THE SOLDIERS,

I COULDN'T HELP WONDER
HOW MANY LAY ALONE,
ON A COLD CHRISTMAS EVE
IN A LAND FAR FROM HOME.

THE VERY THOUGHT
BROUGHT A TEAR TO MY EYE,
I DROPPED TO MY KNEES
AND STARTED TO CRY.

THE SOLDIER AWAKENED
AND I HEARD A ROUGH VOICE,
"SANTA DON'T CRY,
THIS LIFE IS MY CHOICE;

I FIGHT FOR FREEDOM;
I DON'T ASK FOR MORE,
MY LIFE IS MY GOD,
MY COUNTRY, AND MY CORPS."

THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER
AND DRIFTED TO SLEEP,
I COULDN'T CONTROL IT,
I CONTINUED TO WEEP.

I KEPT WATCH FOR HOURS,
SO SILENT AND STILL
AND WE BOTH SHIVERED
FROM THE COLD NIGHT'S CHILL.

I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE
ON THAT COLD, DARK, NIGHT,
THIS GUARDIAN OF HONOR
SO WILLING TO FIGHT.

THEN THE SOLDIER ROLLED
OVER,
WITH A VOICE SOFT AND PURE,
WHISPERED, "CARRY ON SANTA,
its CHRISTMAS DAY, ALL IS
SECURE."

ONE LOOK AT MY WATCH,
AND I KNEW HE WAS RIGHT.
"MERRY CHRISTMAS MY FRIEND,
AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT."

This poem was written by a Marine stationed in Okinawa Japan. The following is his request. I think it is reasonable.....

PLEASE. Would you do me the kind favor of sending this to as many people as you can? Christmas will be coming soon and some credit is due to our U.S. service men and women for our being able to celebrate these festivities. Let's try in this small way to pay a tiny bit of what we owe. Make people stop and think of our heroes, living and dead, who sacrificed themselves for us.

Please, do your small part to plant this small seed

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 c/o Andy Demchak, KnightLife Editor
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 (Address Correction Requested)

2003/04 Officers

Grand Knight	Gordon Perry	782-0283
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Recorder	Dan LeMarble	255-9248
Chancellor	Joseph Smith	847-4317
Advocate	Mark Parrish	848-1708
Warden	Gilbert Hendricks	850-0227
Lecturer	Andy Demchak	894-7664
Inside Guard	Jack Manning	846-9818
Outside Guard	Jim Bauer	876-7493
1 year Trustee	Bill Hast	847-7247
2 year Trustee	Rick Gall	876-4221
3 year Trustee	Jack Giamportone	293-0236
Chaplain	Fr. R. Keenan	562-6882
Spiritual Adviser	Deacon Madey	781-8395

Committee Chairmen

Community	Ed Cody	782-1215
Youth	Joe Halloran	873-0467
Council	Mark Parrish	848-1708
Membership	Gene Knight	266-6612
Capital Towers	Bill Hast	847-7247
Dining Guides	Ernie Beaugard	850-9733
Blood Drive	Frank Castillo	873-9703
Hispanic Liaison	Olivero Phillips	676-7691
Holiday Baskets	Jeff Price	261-0246
Road Cleanup	Joseph Smith	847-4317
Operation Lamb	Joseph Smith	847-4317
Sports Activities	John Gunther	848-1759
Special Olympics	Rick Gall	876-4221
KnightLife Editor	Andy Demchak	894-7664
Oktoberfest	Ernie Beaugard	850-9733
Widows Liaison	Ed Cody	782-1215

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