# **Father Wessel's Knightly News**

#### FR JOHN P WESSEL COUNCIL 6530

#### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

Chartered January 11, 1974 PDistrict 33 PO BOX 16, Marlton, NJ 08053

www.stjoans.org/ministries/knights-of-columbus/

2018 - 2019 Fraternal Year, Issue 9 Motto: "We are one body in union with Christ" – Romans 12:5

## 

Vic Libetti, Grand Knight

Brother Knights,

February started true to form as we got snowed out of our February 1<sup>st</sup> Business Meeting, and forced to scramble and reschedule it for the following Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for adjusting your busy schedules to this late change, and for the great attendance and productive meeting that resulted. Your commitment to our business meetings is very much appreciated. Even the post meeting meatball sandwich fund raiser went well, seemed to be enjoyed, and produced an additional \$34 to be applied to the benefit of our Parish Pasta Dinner.

Once again, our Parish Pasta Dinner was well received by all and a great success. A special thanks goes out to our kitchen captains: Tom Bouillon and Frank Balco for dedicating themselves to a very long and tedious day in the efficient preparation of our meal; to Ron Cary for managing the details of setup in Pedata Hall; to Paula Kotowski for sharing her beautiful community Sunday accommodations with us, for all our families that worked to create a fantastic desert table, and to all our brothers that showed up to work our event and assure our dinners success. This event was truly a team effort and because of its success, we will be pleased to donate \$500 to the CARITAS ministry. During the event we presented a check in the amount of \$2000 to the 1<sup>st</sup> Way of Burlington County, representing contributions from parish and council to our Roses For Life event.

We need help with deserts for our March 9<sup>th</sup> Pizza Social. Please consider asking your wife or significant other to help by preparing something to share. We will also be using this occasion to award CARITAS the \$600 proceeds from our last Parish Pasta Dinner, so please be sure to join us and participate in this happy occasion.

Remember we have a Council table every Community Sunday, in an effort to bring in new members. Please consider helping to cover our table on March 9-10 following the mass you attend. Answering inquiries about the mission of the K of C, discussing activities in which we're involved, and collecting demographic information from potential candidates have been simplified with the availability of the new K of C landing page on our website and the new signup application for your smart phone. See your Chancellor or DGK/PD for assistance in using these new tools.

Sadly, once again, council members have been observed smoking on campus, in spite of being warned several times that smoking anywhere on the SJA campus is strictly prohibited. Our SJA home is a privilege afforded our council, **do not abuse it**. If you must smoke, do it elsewhere.



**MARCH 2019** 

## Minutes of February Meeting as Recorded Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Vic Libetti, followed by a prayer, and flag salute.

The Gospel was read by our DGK Bob Nardello and the Roll Call of Officers was performed. All Officers were present with the exception of Jim Jurgens and Edwardo Fuentecilla.

#### **GK**, Victor Libetti Report

- Thanked everyone for the great meeting attendance and for making January one of our most successful months.
- Stated that we need to be more aware of the budget as a limit to our spending when conducting events. He reminded everyone that part of running our events included adhering to the budget and completing the event accounting sheets with costs, revenues, and member participation. Our FS, John Carroll added that he would enter the budget on each event sheet as an aid, and reconcile completed forms against our budget to assist in the management and cost control for all future events.
- Reminded members to pay their dues in a timely manner, and to help find members who are listed on our rolls but are not currently active.
- Announced that we are starting to plan for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual car show, and that brother Russ Wells will be the event manager. Proceeds from the event will be dedicated to the Helping Hands Ministry.
- Asked all to welcome Ed Steck as our newly appointed Family Director. DD Vince Schnell reminded the council that Form 365 had to resubmitted identifying Ed Steck as Family Director and that he was required to complete the Safe Environment and background checks as required by Supreme.

**Trustee, Ron Cary** reminded the membership of the council audit due next week. He also informed that the school needs help with their after-school program, and was looking for brother Knights to volunteer to establish clubs and after school programs. All volunteers need to be VIRTUS trained. He also reminded that the 4<sup>th</sup> degree banquet is coming up and hoped that all would support the Seminarians by purchasing the travel raffle tickets.

**Trustee, Joe Henderson** raised the issue of members delinquent in their dues and suggested we identify a way to bring the members back into good standing. FS, John Carroll said he is actively efforts to collect dues from long term delinquent members and will attempt to either get payment or letters of resignation to reduce our state and supreme per diems.

#### Treasurer's Report, Dean DeRose Council Funds:

- January Beginning Balance \$ 16,843.63
- January Ending Balance \$ 16,565.69

#### Balance on Hand:

- New Lisbon \$ 5,042.49
- Precious Feet
   \$ 692.46
- Knight's Fraternal Relief \$ 500.00
- High School Scholarship \$ 1,000.00
- Net Balance O-H for Council \$ 9,330.74

### Council 6530 Facility Fund \$112,891.68

#### FS, John Carroll Report

- Dues collected for January \$642
- Total Dues collected from 66 members \$1541.20
- Council roster as of 2/1/19 205 members

#### Chancellor, Mike Mancano Report

• Submitted Fred Durash Form 100 Transfer and called for a vote on his acceptance into council 6530. The motion for a vote was made by DGK and seconded by Gary Toothman. Voted and approved.

#### DGK/PD, Bob Nardello Report

- Thanked all for their participation and help with all the events.
- Reminded everyone to read their newsletter for information on upcoming events and schedules.
- Requested volunteers to assist with the "Active Day" adult care ministry every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday after 9:00 am mass.
- Reminded, that the Parish Pasta Dinner is scheduled for Feb 9<sup>th</sup> in Pedata Hall, and that the profit from the event will be dedicated to our Caritas ministry. Also a check in the amount of \$2,000 will be presented to the 1<sup>st</sup> Way of Burlington County Pregnancy Center.
- Reminded that the youth free-throw championship was scheduled for Feb16th in the SJA school gymnasium.
- Reports from Event Managers and Program Directors were given
  - Jim Stanley Parish Pizza Social
  - Tom Kiley Rosary for Life
  - Gene Kotowski (excused) March for Life & Roses for Life
  - Ted Shearer Youth Free throw
  - Dean DeRose MLK/Fr. Rich Blood Drive -
  - Identified coming events:
    - Lenten Fish Fry
    - Pizza Social
    - o Intellectual Disabilities Collection
    - Sisters of SJ Dinner
    - Palm Cross Sale Frank Balco, event manager

#### Field Agent, Carl Bruno

- Discussed the reassignment of he and Fred Durso, and his busy schedule covering six local councils.
- Discussed K of C Insurance successes, and how he could assist on membership drives.

#### **DD**, Vince Schnell comments:

- Reminded Form 1728 Survey of Fraternal Activity; Form 1295 Semiannual Council Audit; and Form 365 Service Program Personnel Report for any change in Directors
- Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> K of C Comedy Night at Holy Cross Preparatory Academy Ticket sale: \$25 advance, \$30 at the door. Tickets on-line at <u>https://kofc7755.org/comedy-night</u>
- Feb 27<sup>th</sup> Chapter Meeting At Santa Maria Council 1170
- Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Barnabas Retreat. Qualifies for 10% membership requirement

#### Adjournment at 8:22pm

#### PROGRAM DIRECTOR MESSAGE Bob Nardello

Brothers All,

We have another busy month ahead of us and we'll need a great deal of help once again. Hopefully we can count on your continued support.

Last month I proposed an ambitious new event: **The Lenten Fish Fry.** I originally proposed the four dates March 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup> and a varied menu. After considering the input from our Planning Committee, it appears prudent to scale back the schedule and simplify the menu offering. This change is reflected in the new calendar of Events and Programs. Please update your personal calendars. The primary goal of this event has therefore been changed from that of "fund raiser" for the benefit of our ministries, to one of determining the interest of our parishioners and membership with a simplified menu offering on March 15<sup>th</sup> and March 29<sup>th</sup>. The Fish Fry and menu will be promoted in our parish bulletin and tickets for either or both dates can be purchased in advance by returning an order form with payment, or by direct purchase after masses. This will be a "take out only" event as there will be no provision made for "dining in". The details of the menu, its preparation, and the support that will be required from our members will be discussed briefly at the business meeting.

This month, the Council's 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday visit to the "Active Day" Adult Care Ministry will be moved to March 6<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday, so that in addition to their scripture reading and communion service, we may also distribute ashes. Thus far, Jim Jurgens, Gary Toothman, and Russ Wells have accompanied us to the facility to help out. While it is possible to do what is required alone, the service works best when two or more brothers work together. Ultimately, it is our hope that we can have two teams of Knights to support the ministry.

Our next Parish Pizza Social is on March 9<sup>th</sup>. You can make this one as successful as the last by signing on to help our Council Director, Jim Stanley, and bringing in a desert or two for our table. We hope you plan to participate in our social and our council's presentation of a check to CARITAS.

The collection for Intellectual Disabilities occurs after all masses on march 16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds from the collection, but for the10% directed to Special Olympics by the NJ State Council, will be awarded to the important work of our CARITAS ministry. Please assist with the collection after the masses by grabbing one our K of C aprons and covering one of the exits.

As usual, we will need help with our Pancake Breakfast after all masses on March 24<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate all the help we get during this favorite parish event, but often times we simply have too many people in the kitchen at one time. As you well know there is plenty to do, but to avoid any confusion please take your directions and assignments from our kitchen captains Frank Balco and Tom Bouillon.

Before we know it, our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Auto Show will be upon us. Our scheduled show date is May 18<sup>th</sup> and our rain date is June 8<sup>th</sup>. Russ Wells, Al Lutner and I met with Dan Murphy, owner of HotRod Garage and auto show organizer to discuss the arrangements. A special thanks goes out to Russ Wells' son and brother-in-law who have offered to donate their DJ services for the day. The entry fee will be \$20 of which \$10 is ours. \$500 of that fee will go to the purchase of trophies. As most of you are aware, the bulk of our money comes from show sponsors, and we need help approaching those that supported us last year, and finding new sponsors this year to augment our revenue. We'll run a cafeteria concession once again and sell a variety of raffle tickets. We also need someone to arrange for a radio promo and help design and distribute flyers. We even discussed an added venue such as the police K-9 demonstration. WE NEED YOUR HELP! If you can help, contact Russ Wells. **Proceeds go to HELPING HANDS.** 

## **EVENTS AND PROGRAMS**

### MARCH SCHEDULED EVENTS

Mar 1 <sup>st</sup>	7:30 pm in Cafeteria	Monthly General Business Meeting
Mar 2 <sup>nd</sup>	3:00 pm in Pedata	First Saturday Rosary
Mar 6 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am Active Day Center	Scripture, Ashes, Communion
Mar 8 <sup>th</sup>	<u> 3:30 – 5:30 pm in Pedata</u>	Lenten Fish Fry
Mar 9 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm in Pedata	Parish Pizza Social
Mar 15 <sup>th</sup>	3:30 – 5:30 pm in Pedata	Lenten Fish Fry
Mar 15 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm in Pedata	Planning & Officers Meeting
Mar 16-17 <sup>th</sup>	After All Masses	Intellectual Disabilities Collections
Mar 19 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm in Convent	Sister's of SSJ Dinner
Mar 24 <sup>th</sup>	After All Masses	Pancake Breakfast
Mar 29 <sup>th</sup>	3:30 – 5:30 pm in Pedata	Lenten Fish Fry

March 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Business Meeting	2 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday Rosary
3	4	5	6 Ash Wed Active Day Adult Scripture, Ashes, and Communion	7	<b>8</b> <del>Fish Fry</del>	<b>9</b> Pizza Social
10	11	12	13	14	<b>15</b> Lenten Fish Fry Planning Mtg.	16 Intellectual Disabilities
17 Intellectual Disabilities	18	19 Sisters of SSJ Dinner	20	21	22	23
24 Pancake Breakfast	25	26	27	28	<b>29</b> Lenten Fish Fry	30
31	April 1st					

## **EVENTS AND PROGRAMS**

### **APRIL SCHEDULED EVENTS**

Apr 5th	7:30 pm in Cafeteria	Monthly General Business Meeting
Apr 5 <sup>th</sup>	3:30 – 5:30 pm in Pedata	Lenten Fish Fry
Apr 6th	3:00 pm in Pedata	First Saturday Rosary
Apr 6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup>	After All Masses	Palm Cross Sales
Apr 23 <sup>rd</sup>	7:30 pm in Cafeteria	Planning Meeting
Apr 27 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 Pedata Hall	Beef & Beer Social

April 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 Fish Fry	6 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. Rosary
					Business Meeting	Palm Cross Sale
<b>7</b> Palm Cross Sale	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	<b>23</b> Planning Mtg.	24	25	26	27 Beef & Beer
28	29	30			May 5 <sup>th</sup> Business Meeting	

### **COUNCIL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2018-19**

#### OFFICERS

OTTICENC				
Grand Knight	Victor (Vic) Libetti	856-983-2431	Vlibettigk@gmail.com	
Deputy Grand Knight	Robert (Bob) Nardello	856-630-9692	rankc37@gmail.com	
Chancellor	Michael (Mike) Mancano	609-634-1299	mmancano@comcast.net	
Warden	James (Jim) Jurgens	609-731-0383	jimjurgens@comcast.net	
Financial Secretary	John Carroll	609-953-7081	jurzyjak@comcast.net	
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Recorder	Thomas (Tom) Kiley	609-636-7602	tkiley@comcast.net	
Inside Guard	Branden Pistorius	856-596-5640	fpistorius@hotmail.com	
Outside Guard	John Carroll III	609-678-5133	<u>19carboy97@comcast.net</u>	
Outside Guard	Joel De Torres	856-520-9717	Eljo426@hotmail.com	
Advocate	Gary Toothman	856-596-2925	ghtoothman@gmail.com	
Sick & Vigil	Gary Toothman	856-596-2925	ghtoothman@gmail.com	
Three Year Trustee	Ronald (Ron) Cary	720-415-3270	ronald.cary@gmail.com	
Two Year Trustee	Joseph Henderson	856-983-4793	joehen54@gmail.com	
One Year Trustee	Eduardo Fuentecilla	856-596-5850	effuentecilla@hotmail.com	
Lecturer	John Eiche Jr.	856-220-8435	Jeiche1@yahoo.com	
Chalice Guardian	Gary Toothman	856-596-2925	ghtoothman@gmail.com	
Public Relations	Frank Balco Jr.	856-905-1469	kcbal@comcast.net	
Insurance Agent	Carl Bruno	856-287-3232	<u>carl.bruno@kofc.org</u>	
District Deputy	Vincent (Vince) Schnell II	856-6250770	<u>veschnellii@verizon.net</u>	
Chaplain	Msgr. Rich D. LaVerghetta	856-983-0077	richard.laverghetta@stjoans.org	
Spiritual Advisor	Eugene (Gene) Kotowski	856-596-8844	<u>eugenekotowski@yahoo.com</u>	
PROGRAM DIRECTORS				

Programs	Robert (Bob) Nardello	856-630-9692	rankc37@gmail.com
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Community	Dean DeRose	856-596-6404	roseman1957@comcast.net
Council Co-Chair	Jim Stanley & Tom Bouillon	856-596-2087	<u>856-979-8234</u>
Family	Edwin (Ed) Steck	609.760.9825	esteck854@msn.com
Membership	Thomas (Tom) Cary	856-275-7724	<u>N/A</u>
Wingman (WINGS)	John Carroll	609-953-7081	jurzyjak@comcast.net
Youth	Ted Shearer	856-983-3798	ts2333@aol.com

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

Retention	Ronald (Ron) Cary	720-415-3270	<u>ronald.cary@gmail.com</u>
Culture of Life	Eugene (Gene) Kotowski	856-596-8844	<u>eugenekotowski@yahoo.com</u>
Logistics	Joel DeTorres	856-983-7101	ELJO426@HOTMAIL.COM
Public Relations	Frank Balco	856-354-8294	KCBAL@comcast.net
Religious Liberties	John Eiche Jr.	856-220-8435	Jeiche1@yahoo.com
Technology	Stanley (Stan) Thompson III	609-410-0413	sgt2006me12@yahoo.com
Hospitality	James (Jim) Brown	856-819-0413	wr.brown2626@gmail.com
Kitchen Managers	Frank Balco & Tom Bouillon		

# Supreme Knight's Message by Carl A. Anderson

## WE DO NOT STAND ALONE

# A MESSAGE FROM SUPREME KNIGHT CARL A. ANDERSON ABOUT THE ORDER'S HISTORY OF CHARITY AND OPPOSITION TO RELIGIOUS PREJUDICE



Dear Brother Knight:

There have been times in our country's past when uninformed or prejudiced people questioned whether Catholics could be good citizens or honest public servants. That's why Father McGivney chose the name "Columbus" for our Order — the discoverer was the Catholic figure from American history most admired and accepted at the time. In fact, from our founding in 1882 until the election of Brother Knight John F. Kennedy in 1960, many still held that Catholics were unfit for public office. Throughout that time, the Knights of Columbus worked to counter such prejudice.

Sadly, it seems that in some quarters this prejudice remains.<sup>®</sup> First, in 2017, a Notre Dame law professor was deemed unfit for a federal judgeship by a U.S.

senator who feared that "the dogma lives loudly within you." Now, two more senators have questioned a brother Knight's fitness for the federal bench precisely because our Order holds firm to the Church's teachings on the sanctity of life and marriage.

Such attacks on the basis of our Catholic faith are hardly new. The Knights of Columbus was formed amid a period of anti-Catholic bigotry. We stood against that then, and we do so now. We have spoken out against persecution around the world for nearly a century. At the same time, here at home we stood against the Ku Klux Klan, including its attempts to ban Catholic education, and we published books on the black and Jewish contributions to American history decades before the Civil Rights movement. More recently, we stood with the Little Sisters of the Poor in their fight for religious liberty and have worked with both the Obama and Trump administrations — and both sides of the aisle in Congress — to help Christians, Yazidis and Shi'a Muslims targeted for genocide by ISIS.

From our very beginning, the Knights of Columbus has been an organization adhering to the teachings of the Catholic Church. As with the Church, our primary motivation in everything is Christ's great commandment — that we love God completely and our neighbor as ourselves.

As the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* explains, "Jesus Christ reveals to us that 'God is love' (1 Jn 4:8) and he teaches us that 'the fundamental law of human perfection, and consequently of the transformation of the world, is the new commandment of love."

This love impels us to our great charitable endeavors on behalf of those in need. From inner cities in the United States to refugee camps in the Middle East, our Order's donations over the last decade — more than \$1 billion and hundreds of millions of hours in volunteer work — are the result of this faith.

These works of charity have practical impacts that transform lives as we help people here at home and around the world. Our charity helped typhoon victims in the Philippines rebuild their lives and livelihoods; it brought prosthetics and rehabilitation to thousands of Haitian youth after the earthquake there; it puts coats on children in some of our country's most impoverished neighborhoods each winter;

it gives wheelchairs to those who otherwise could not afford them in countries like Vietnam and Mexico; and it provides education, housing and medical care to AIDS orphans in Africa.

This love also motivates us to stand with the Church on the important issues of life and marriage, precisely because the Church's teaching is based on and reflects that love. We stand with our Church because we believe that what our faith teaches is consistent with reason, is timeless and transcends the changing sentiments of any particular time or place.

We do not stand alone.

In his first message to our international convention, Pope Francis asked "each Knight, and every Council, to bear witness to the authentic nature of marriage and the family, the sanctity and inviolable dignity of human life, and the beauty and truth of human sexuality."

And our positions on life are not new. My two predecessors as supreme knight spoke out forcefully to defend the rights of the unborn. In 1973, Supreme Knight John McDevitt wrote that *Roe v. Wade* was "a mortal blow to all who consider human life sacred." He urged the Order to "to initiate or increase efforts to offset the harmful effects of this lamentable decision."

My immediate predecessor, Virgil Dechant, said in 1977: "With some 1.2 million unborn babies being killed by abortion each year in the United States alone, we are confronted with an outrage against human life paralleled only by the ravages of a bloody war."

Simply put, our positions are now, and have always been, Catholic positions.

We must remember that Article 6 of the U.S. Constitution forbids a religious test for public office, and the First Amendment guarantees our free exercise of religion, freedom of association and freedom of speech. Any suggestion that the Order's adherence to the beliefs of the Catholic Church makes a brother Knight unfit for public office blatantly violates those constitutional guarantees.

Let us continue to express our love of God and neighbor by helping those in need and by standing with our Church, regardless of the popularity of doing so. Let us remember that our "Christian witness is to be considered a fundamental obligation."

Let us also remember that, from our founding, we have embodied the truth that a good Catholic is a good citizen who shows civility and dignity even in the face of prejudice.

As we begin 2019, Dorian and I wish you a new year filled with the joy and wonders of His love. Thank you as well for all the many ways in which you have brought joy into the lives of millions around the world. May the inspiration of our founder prompt us to greater confidence in that love and encourage us to even greater works of charity.

Fraternally,

Carl A. Anderson

## Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

## A MONTH OF PURIFICATION

# AS WE LOOK TOWARD LENT, THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION SIGNALS THE CHURCH'S PROFOUND NEED FOR RENEWAL



WE OFTEN TAKE the names of the various months of the year for granted. Take February, for instance. It is the shortest month of the year and purportedly the last one added to the Roman calendar (around 713 B.C.). The word February comes from the Latin, *februum*— a word which means purification. Originally it may have referred to an ancient Roman purification feast held midmonth. For Christians, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season of purification usually beginning in February.

This year, Ash Wednesday doesn't occur until March 6, but there is another way that we can regard February 2019 as a month of purification. In the Church's tradition, Feb. 2, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord Jesus in the Temple, is also a feast of purification. It commemorates the event when, according to Jewish law and custom, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple for the customary rites of purification. Jesus, the all-holy Son of God made man had

no need to be purified. But carried in the arms of his mother, who herself was preserved from all sin, Jesus undergoes the prescribed rites.

Mary and Joseph are met at the Temple by the aged and holy Simeon, whose eyes of faith are as keen as ever. Filled with the Spirit, Simeon realizes that an extraordinary event is taking place. The longawaited Messiah enters the Temple, his first encounter with his people. His arrival there attracts not only Simeon and Anna, the widow and prophetess, but perhaps even the Gentiles in the Temple area. Jesus' entrance into the Temple signals its purification and foretells the hour when he will again purify the Temple of those who were using it for their own unclean purposes.

In both the East and West, the Church solemnly celebrates the Presentation of the Lord. In the East, this feast is sometimes called *Hypapante*, a word that commemorates the first meeting of the Messiah with his people. In the West, this feast is sometimes called Candlemas Day, a day in which candles are carried to honor the newborn Christ as "a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory for his people Israel" (Lk 2:32). Because this event is not locked in the past but is rather a living mystery, we are challenged to welcome Christ anew into the temple of our hearts and the Temple which is the Church. His coming into our depths and into our midst signals and effects our purification from the darkness of sin and death.

The Feast of the Presentation takes place every February, but this year it takes on a special significance as Pope Francis gathers with the leadership of bishops' conferences from around the world to discuss the sexual abuse crisis. For far too long has this crisis plagued the Church — wreaking havoc in the lives of victim-survivors and scandalizing the faithful. Please God, may this important meeting be a grace-filled moment of purification for the whole Church. Let us pray, and pray fervently, that it will set a direction that, in God's grace, will truly purify the Church of this great evil and set the Church on the path of authentic renewal, holiness and credibility.

## Church will focus on 8 points in 'all-out battle' against abuse



Vatican City, Feb 24, 2019 / 04:46 am (<u>CNA</u>).- Pope Francis Sunday outlined eight points that the Church will focus on in an "all-out battle" against the sexual abuse of minors to, he said, "turn this evil into an opportunity for purification."

"We need to recognize with humility and courage that we stand face to face with the mystery of evil, which strikes most violently against the most vulnerable, for they are an image of Jesus," Pope Francis said Feb. 24 following the Vatican summit's closing Mass in the Sala Regia.

"For this reason, the Church has now

become increasingly aware of the need not only to curb the gravest cases of abuse by disciplinary measures and civil and canonical processes, but also to decisively confront the phenomenon both inside and outside the Church," he continued.

The pope's closing address for the Vatican sex abuse summit Feb. 21 - 24 was filled with statistics on the overall phenomenon of all child sexual abuse worldwide, most of which occurs within the context of the family, Francis pointed out. However, these statistics can only provide explanation of the phenomenon, but not the meaning behind the acts, the pope said.

The meaning behind child sex abuse comes from "the present-day manifestation of the spirit of evil," he said, later adding that consecrated persons who commit such crimes become "tools of Satan."

"Today we find ourselves before a manifestation of brazen, aggressive and destructive evil," he said. "We need to take up the spiritual means that the Lord himself teaches us: humiliation, self-accusation, prayer and penance. This is the only way to overcome the spirit of evil. It is how Jesus himself overcame it."

Building upon the World Health Organization's "Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children," the pope presented eight guidelines to aid the Church in "developing her legislation" on the issues.

The eight guidelines can be summarized as follows:

- 1. A "change of mentality" to focus on protecting children rather than "protecting the institution."
- 2. A recognition of the "impeccable seriousness" of these "sins and crimes of consecrated persons."
- 3. genuine purification beginning with "self-accusation."
- 4. . A Positive formation of candidates for the priesthood in the virtue of chastity.
- 5. Strengthening and reviewing of guidelines by episcopal conferences, reaffirming the need for "rules."
- 6. The accompaniment of those who have been abused with an emphasis on listening.
- 7. Ensure that seminarians and clergy are not enslaved to an addiction to pornography.
- 8. Combat sexual tourism around the world.

"The Church's aim will thus be to hear, watch over, protect and care for abused, exploited and forgotten children, wherever they are," Pope Francis said.

"To achieve that goal, the Church must rise above the ideological disputes and journalistic practices that often exploit, for various interests, the very tragedy experienced by the little ones," he continued.

Francis said that, "the brutality of this worldwide phenomenon becomes all the more grave and scandalous in the Church, for it is utterly incompatible with her moral authority and ethical credibility."

Twice in his speech, the pope highlighted "the scourge of pornography" and its influence on violence against minors.

We need to "encourage countries and authorities to apply every measure needed to contain those websites that threaten human dignity," Pope Francis said, adding that the Church should consider raising the age limit of the crime, specified by Pope Benedict XVI in 2010 of "the acquisition, possession or distribution by a cleric of pornographic images of minors" to above its current limit of 14 years old.

"I would like to stress the important need to turn this evil into an opportunity for purification," Pope Francis said, thanking priests and faithful Catholics who have silently and faithfully lived out their vows of celibacy.

"The best results and the most effective resolution that we can offer to the victims, to the People of Holy Mother Church and to the entire world, are the commitment to personal and collective conversion, the humility of learning, listening, assisting and protecting the most vulnerable," he said.

"In people's justified anger, the Church sees the reflection of the wrath of God, betrayed and insulted by these deceitful consecrated persons. The echo of the silent cry of the little ones who, instead of finding in them fathers and spiritual guides, encountered tormentors, will shake hearts dulled by hypocrisy and by power. It is our duty to pay close heed to this silent, choked cry," Francis said.

The pope made "a heartfelt appeal for an all-out battle against the abuse of minors both sexually and in other areas, on the part of all authorities and individuals, for we are dealing with abominable crimes that must be erased from the face of the earth."

### Virtus Training (Diocesan, Church and School Requirement)

We continue to urge all brothers to complete their VIRTUS training, fingerprinting and background checks. New training sessions are available throughout the year. This training is mandated by the diocese, church, and school for everyone in contact with or participating in programs with youth, elderly, and special needs individuals. You may register for one of the scheduled VIRTUS training sessions by visiting the **VIRTUS.org** website, registering a login-id and password, and selecting a training session and location that fits your schedule.

## Safe Environment Training (K of C Supreme Requirement)

The Safe Environment Program safeguards children and other vulnerable persons, assures members and their families that we maintain a safe environment, protects members from awkward situations, misunderstandings, and appearances of impropriety, builds trust with arch/dioceses and parishes, and protects the good name of the Knights of Columbus.

The training is mandated for: **Grand Knights, Program Directors, Community Directors, and Family Directors**. You can also help our council protect those at risk by registering for the training on a voluntary basis, even if not required by your position. To register for either mandated or volunteer training in Supreme's Safe Environment, place the following link into your browser: *https://www.kofc.org/un/en/members/programs/youth-activities/safe-environment-program.html* 

## **Meetings and Ceremonies**

Brothers, please show proper respect to our parish home, to the order, and to our council at all times. Keep in mind we are grateful guests of the church, school and parishioners, and part of an international, fraternal organization charged with social programs that benefit our church community. As such, there is a decorum and respect that is due church and school property, our organization and its officers.

Ceremonials of the Order should be recognized by the brotherhood, well attended, and participate in when requested. Members should arrive on time for the formal opening of the meeting, sit in the seats arranged and provided by the council, appropriately participate in the meeting, conduct themselves within the established meeting protocol, and remain until the meeting has been formally adjourned.

We are more than the fund-raising events of our council, and certainly more than an opportunity to meet socially once a month. We need our membership to actively participate in the business of the council, to attend meetings, to help plan programs, and to support our efforts to increase our membership by attending membership drives and exemplifications.

## **Movie Knight**

#### Chairman SK Gene Kotowski

## Same Kind of Different as Me (2017)

Director: Michael Carney

Writers: <u>Michael Carney</u> (screenplay), <u>Alexander Foard</u> (screenplay) | <u>4 more credits</u> » Stars: <u>Greg Kinnear</u>, <u>Renée Zellweger</u>, <u>Djimon Hounsou</u> | <u>See full cast & crew</u> »



International art dealer Ron Hall must befriend a dangerous homeless man in order to save his struggling marriage to his wife, a woman whose dreams will lead all three of them on the journey of their lives.

On Thursday March 21st @ 7:30pm in Pedata Hall. Come Hungry! Lite refreshments will be served. *Plan to be fed not just with food.* 

To see the complete list of planned movies, follow the "*Popcorn, Franks and a Movie*" ministry link at the SJA web-site. <sup>+</sup>

## IN OUR PRAYERS

## **Deceased**

Bishop Smith Fr. Leon Buni Brian Picollo – Brother of Fr. Chris

## Sick or in Distress

Vic Libetti – Brother and GK Joe Grabowski - Brother Michelle Healey – Requested by Russ Wells Mary Arnold – Requested by Russ Wells Harold DeRose – Father, Dean DeRose Michelle Gentile - Sister, Anthony Roselli Doris Riccardi – Wife, Carmen Riccardi Steve Porter – Son-in-Law, Andv Kavulich **Bob Fahei – Cousin, Ted Schearer Bobby Terigay – Cousin, Ted Shearer Kevin Crow** Eva Mancano – Mother, Mike Mancano Christina Bruno – Daughter, Field Agent Carl Bruno Florence Kiley – Wife, Tom Kiley Tom Kiley – Brother Knight Henry DeMayo – Requested by Stanley Thompson Ed DiMarco – Requested by Gary Toothman Gary Balitzky – Requested by Jim Jurgens

Please keep these Knights, their families and causes in your prayers:

## Don't forget our Rosaries

- Daily Rosary 8:25 am Monday Saturday (in church prior to 9:00 am mass)
  Weekly Rosary 7:00 pm (in church)
  Monthly Rosary First Saturday of each month at 3:00 PM (in Pedata Hall).







Knights of Columbus Fr. John P. Wessel Council #6530 PO BOX 16, Marlton, NJ 08053

#### ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED