

# Father Wessel's Knightly News



FR JOHN P WESSEL COUNCIL 6530

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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

[www.stjoans.org/ministries/knights-of-columbus/](http://www.stjoans.org/ministries/knights-of-columbus/)

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Motto: "We are one body in union with Christ" – Romans 12:5



## GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Vic Libetti, Grand Knight

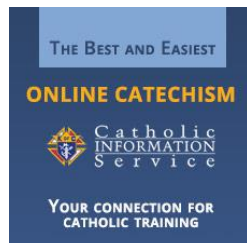
Brother Knights,

Thank you for all your prayers, cards, and kind wishes. I'm resting comfortably at home and hope to see everyone soon. Keep the council ball rolling and the prayers coming.

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.

Please attend our Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> general meeting at 7:15 pm instead of the usual 7:30 pm. Prior to the formal opening of our meeting, Jerry Skorch of our St. Joan of Arc parish will address our council with a short message on the "MISSION OF HONOR." Many of you already know Jerry from TMIY and the various church functions with which he's involved; but some may not know that he's also the Chaplain and Vice Chairman of the New Jersey Mission of Honor whose body of work remembers our veterans whose cremains are left unclaimed and on the shelves of many of our funeral parlors. Jerry is not a member of the Knights of Columbus and therefore cannot attend our meeting in progress, so while his talk might more appropriately be heard as part of our "Good of the Order" during the meeting, we will enjoy it first to avoid disrupting the flow of the meeting, attendant with the need to suspend and reopen the business meeting.

There is an Admissions Degree scheduled on April 25<sup>th</sup> at St. Isaacs Church, 349 Evesboro – Medford Rd., Marlton, NJ 08053. The host council is: The Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Council #12229. Registration is at 7:00pm. Contact Thomas Taburello 856.986.3268. Please come out, meet and support our candidates, and welcome them to the brotherhood.



Try the new online **Catechism for Adults** on Supreme's Catholic Information Service web site: <http://kofc.org/en/cis/index.html> It's a wonderful resource for reinforcing our faith and answering our questions.

Read the free books and pamphlets available. e.g. "All About Angels"

**"FAITH IS A GIFT OF GOD WHICH ENABLES US TO KNOW AND LOVE HIM."**

# Minutes of March Meeting as Recorded Mar 1st 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by DGK Bob Nardello, followed by a prayer, and flag salute.

The Gospel was read by Tom Cary and the Roll Call of Officers was conducted by Recorder Tom Kiley. All Officers were present with the exception of GK Vic Libetti, FS John Carroll, and 1-year Trustee Edwardo Fuentesilla.

The Recorder read the minutes of the previous meeting which were approved as read, without changes or additions.

DGK congratulated 3 new members of the 4<sup>th</sup> degree: Sir Frank Balco, Sir Thomas Bouillon, and Sir Victor Libetti.

Chancellor, Mike Mancano read into record an application for membership from Anthony Romano. His application for membership was accepted, voted and approved.

## Treasurer's Report, Dean DeRose

- February Beginning Balance \$ 16,565.69
  - Receipts \$ 1,716.24
  - Disbursements \$ 3,324.38
- January Ending Balance \$ 14,957.55

## 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 \$ 7,722.60**

## DGK/PD, Bob Nardello

- Requested a motion to award the Pasta Dinner profits of \$500 to CARITAS to be presented at the next Pizza Social. Motion was granted, voted and approved.
- The Lenten Fish Bake events were cancelled because of poor margins, availability of supplies, and scheduling conflicts.
- Voted and approved the selection of Dr. Daniel Rossi as Supreme Director
- Discussed upcoming events:
  - Parish Pizza Social
  - Sisters of St. Joseph Nuns Dinner
  - Intellectual Disabilities Collection
  - Pancake Breakfast
  - Palm Cross Sale
  - Beef & Beer

Thanks went out to Dean DeRose, for accumulating a great many door prizes solicited from event sponsors to make our evening event more enjoyable.

Report on the Retention Committee indicated we still have 63 brothers who are delinquent with 2018 and prior dues. E-mail and letters are being sent to them.\ to the John Tatum Assembly #648

**Trustee, Ron Cary** stated our semi-annual audit for the periods June 2018 to December 2018 has been completed and submitted. Ron thanked John Carroll, Dean DeRose and Tom Kiley for maintaining complete and accurate council records.

Report on the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree:

- Reported that the Seminarian Dinner is scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup> for those that wished to attend
- Asked for support of Charity Ball scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup>, honoring Fr. Swift of St. Mary of the Lakes
- Congratulated 3 new Sir Knights and welcomed them to the Assembly

**DD, Vince Schnell Report:**

- Requested that we schedule degree exemplifications
- Admissions Degree scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> at St. Isaac Jogues 7:30pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup> at Maple Shade Council 8pm
- NJ State Convention May 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> in Wildwood
- Thanked Ted Shearer for his work on for his work with the Youth Free Throw competition.

**Adjournment at 8:22pm**

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## **USHERS NEEDED TO COVER EASTER MASSES**

**Dean DeRose**

There are again **8 Easter Masses** this year and extra usher help is needed to cover all the Masses. The Mass times are at the Saturday Easter Vigil @ 7:30PM. Easter Sunday in the church @ 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am and 12 noon. Easter Sunday in the gymnasium @ 9am, 10:30am and 12 noon. The heaviest Masses are usually the Sunday church Masses and a 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> usher is helpful to cover the back of the church and foyers. Please check in with the ushers at those Masses to see if you can help that day or you can sign up ahead of time on the signup sheets in the usher's room. Also please feel free to contact Dean DeRose by email at [roseman1957@comcast.net](mailto:roseman1957@comcast.net) or by phone at 856-596-6404. Thank you for your help as always.

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## **YOUTH DIRECTOR MESSAGE**

**Ted Scherer**

The Knights of Columbus are proud to announce that three of our SJA athletes that participated in the Diocesan Level of the Free Throw Tournament will be advancing to The State Level on Sunday, April 7, 2019 at Our Lady of Peace in Fords, NJ. Congratulations to the winner of the 9 year old girls: Kaitlyn Roscioli; winner of the 12 year old boys: Jack Mogell; and the winner of the 14 year old boys: Jack Orr.

The Knights want to congratulate these and all the participants of this event and wish them good luck in their State Level Competition.

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR MESSAGE

**Bob Nardello**

Brothers, we had a very busy and successful quarter. Thank you all for your contributions of time.

Once again, the parish pizza social was a huge success; and it appears to be growing in popularity. Nearly as popular with the adults and possibly more popular with the children was our desert table. Thank you to the wives, friends, and brothers that provided baked goods for the table. Jim Stanley, whose brainstorm it was to offer this popular event for our Saturday evening mass parishioners that miss out on the Community Sunday social, is responsible for its success. This social also provided us the perfect opportunity to present the \$500 proceeds from our February 9<sup>th</sup> Parish Pasta dinner to an appreciative Caritas ministry.

The proceeds from our Intellectual Disabilities collection on March 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> was \$2154 made possible by the generous donations of our parishioners. 10% of the collection is directed to NJ Special Olympics as mandated by our State Council; the remainder will be awarded to our own CARITAS ministry.

March 19<sup>th</sup> Nun's of St. Joseph dinner was apparently a great success. Sr. Peg said "the food was excellent as usual and everyone had a great time."

We were cooking again for our March 24<sup>th</sup> Pancake Breakfast. We had a disappointing turn out which will likely cause us to cancel the May 19<sup>th</sup> pancake breakfast, particularly since it is scheduled the day after the classic car show. While the attendance was very light, the patrons that did attend enjoyed good food and comradery, and generously donated \$122 in addition to the \$5 cost of their meal. As usual our kitchen managers Frank Balco and Tom Bouillon kept things moving and on schedule, and are auxiliary helpers was superb. As usual, we're grateful for the use of the school kitchen facilities and always take pride in leaving it cleaner than before our use.

We've started planning for our **2<sup>nd</sup> annual Classics For Charity** auto show. Our scheduled show date is May 18<sup>th</sup> and our rain date is June 8<sup>th</sup>. We're extremely grateful to Andy Kavulich who joins our committee of Russ Wells, Al Lutner, and myself. His experience and contacts from last year is key to the success of our event. We met with the organizer of the "Old Gophers Auto Club on March 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss arrangements and negotiate fees. The entry fee for car registrants will be \$20: \$15 goes to the organizer and \$5 to us to help offset the purchase of trophies. The bulk of our revenue comes from sponsors to cover our cost and augment profits. We'll also run a cafeteria concession and sell a variety of raffle tickets as additional sources of income. A special thanks goes out to Russ Wells' son and brother-in-law who has offered to donate their DJ services for the day. Gary Toothman will arrange for a radio promo, and Al Lutner will inquire as to the availability of the township electronic bulletin panel currently in position at the main street jug handle to Evans and Willow Turn roads to promote our show. If you can help solicit sponsors, distribute flyers, or place road signage contact Russ Wells.

Don't forget, we'll need help for our palm cross sale. Just check in with Frank Balco or Bob Nardello at the rear of the church, after whichever mass you attend. This is a popular event, the parishioners look forward to the Palm Cross as grave markers, and it helps generate the general funds badly needed to support our council activities.

Our next Beef & Beer is scheduled for Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> and we need your support to make it a success. This isn't just a parishioner's night out event, it's also a great opportunity to socialize with your brother Knights and their families. Bring your families and enjoy the evening. Brother Dean has been able to amass enough door prizes that every family should be able to go home with something. And you may even win the 50-50. Please consider bringing a sweet for the desert table.

# EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

## APRIL SCHEDULED EVENTS

Apr 4 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am at Facility	Active Day Adult Care Service
Apr 5 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm in Cafeteria	Monthly General Business Meeting
Apr 6 <sup>th</sup>	3:00 pm in Pedata	First Saturday Rosary
Apr 6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup>	After All Masses	Palm Cross Sales
Apr 11 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 -10:00 pm Pedata	Movie Knight
Apr 18 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am at Facility	Active Day Adult Care Service
Apr 23 <sup>rd</sup>	7:30 pm in Cafeteria	Planning Meeting
Apr 25 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm at St. Isaacs	Admission Degree Ceremony
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 Active Day Adult Care	5 Business Meeting	6 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. Rosary  Palm Cross Sale
7 Palm Cross Sale	8	9	10	11 Movie Knight	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Active Day Adult Care	19	20
21 EASTER SUNDAY	22	23 Planning Mtg.	24	25 Admission Degree St Isaacs	26	27 Beef & Beer
28	29	30				

# EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

## MAY SCHEDULED EVENTS

<b>May 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	7:30 pm in Pedata	Monthly General Business Meeting
<b>May 4<sup>th</sup></b>	3:00 pm in Pedata	First Saturday Rosary
<b>May 9<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 am at Facility	Active Day Adult Care Service
<b>May 18<sup>th</sup></b>	10 am – 2 pm School Lot	Classics for Charity Auto Show
<b>May 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup></b>	After all masses	Travel Raffle Tickets for Seminarians
<b>May 21<sup>st</sup></b>	7:00 pm Cafeteria	Planning Meeting
<b>May 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	10:00 am at Facility	Active Day Adult Care Service
<b>May 30<sup>th</sup></b>	8:00pm in Pedata	Movie Knight

May 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Business Meeting	4 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. Rosary
5	6	7	8	9 Active Day Adult Care	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Car Show Seminarian Travel Raffle
19 Seminarian Travel Raffle	20	21 Planning Meeting	22	23 Active Day Adult Care	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30 Movie Knight	31	

## COUNCIL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2018-19

### OFFICERS

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Kitchen Managers	Frank Balco & Tom Bouillon		



# CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Father Jonathan D. Kalisch, O.P.

Director of Chaplains and Spiritual Development

## Awaiting the Redemption – Lent 2019



In his *Message for Lent 2019*, Pope Francis reminds us that our yearly journey of preparation in which we are conformed to Christ (Romans 8:29), is a “priceless gift of God’s mercy.”

Pope Francis reminds us of the threat sin and death pose to world: “When we fail to live as children of God, we often behave in a destructive way towards our neighbors and other creatures — and ourselves as well — since we begin to think more or less consciously that we can use them as we will. Intemperance then takes the upper hand. ... The mentality expressed in the slogans ‘I want it all and I want it now!’ and ‘Too much is never enough,’ gains the upper hand.”

As we help brother Knights and their families strengthen their faith and pursue holiness, let us reflect with them on how we all can overcome the “rupture of communion with God” that sin effects, can check “the law of the strong over the weak” and the “unbridled pursuit of comfort,” and can conquer “insatiable covetousness.”

Let us encourage our brother Knights in the pursuit of fasting (which helps us, as Pope Francis says, to turn “from the temptation to ‘devour’ everything to satisfy our voracity and being ready to suffer for love, which can fill the emptiness of our hearts”), prayer (“which teaches us to abandon idolatry and the self-sufficiency of our ego, and to acknowledge our need of the Lord and his mercy”) and almsgiving (“whereby we escape from the insanity of hoarding everything for ourselves in the illusory belief that we can secure a future that does not belong to us”).

Lent remains a time when many seek to return to the sacraments and regular practice of the faith. By taking the time to spiritually prepare and form the men of your council, you are equipping them to become witnesses of faith and charity. This investment of your time will inspire Knights to reach out to other men during the Fish Frys, Stations of the Cross and Lenten charitable activities to those on the peripheries, ultimately helping others return to the sacramental practice of the faith.

May the promise which Lent holds for each of us deepen and renew our faith as we grow closer in conformity to Christ.

*Vivat Jesus!*



# Supreme Knight's Message by Carl A. Anderson

## AMERICA'S CONSENSUS ON LIFE

### LIKE SUPREME COURT DECISIONS THAT UPHELD SLAVERY AND SEGREGATION, ROE V. WADE IS BASED UPON A LIE



IN MY REMARKS to this year's March for Life, I highlighted two findings from this year's Marist Poll on attitudes toward abortion. The first is that three in four Americans say abortion should be limited to — at most — the first three months of pregnancy. And that includes 6 in 10 who describe themselves as “pro-choice.”

The second is that about 2 in 3 Americans want the Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade* to be reinterpreted by the Court to allow states to restrict or ban abortion.

Both findings are consistent with what the Marist Poll has found for more than a decade: Strip away the labels often used in the abortion debate, and Americans by large numbers do not agree with the Supreme Court's mandate of a “right” to abortion throughout pregnancy.

Pro-abortion extremists must be paying close attention. Recently, there has been a move in several states to lock in by statute abortion throughout pregnancy.

Writing in the *Wall Street Journal* (Feb. 8), Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York spoke out forcefully against the “horror” of this “extremism.” He predicted “a backlash across the country” against the “gruesome” logic that sanctions unrestricted abortion throughout pregnancy and even the killing of a baby born alive after abortion. (Pope Francis has used even stronger language in the past, saying abortion is equivalent to hiring a hit man.)

Cardinal Dolan placed such legislation in the context of the Supreme Court's 1857 *Dred Scott* decision upholding slavery. There, the Court wrote that Dred Scott and his wife, Harriet, were members of an “inferior class of human beings” who were “unfit to associate with the white race” and “had no rights which the white man was bound to respect.”

While many Americans believed the Court's decision had settled the slavery issue, others did not. The nation soon split along both partisan and geographical lines.

The Civil War would end slavery. But it did not put an end to the logic that produced it. Soon new laws embodied the view that African Americans were an inferior class of human beings “unfit to associate with the white race.” Again, the country split over geographical and partisan lines. And in another shameful decision, the Supreme Court in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896), by a vote of 7-to-1, upheld segregationist “Jim Crow” laws.

And again, many Americans thought the matter settled. It would take six more decades before the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) and the Congress's passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 would wipe away this stain on America's laws.

## Supreme Knight's Message *(cont'd)*

Neither *Dred Scott* nor *Roe v. Wade* should have ever been considered “settled” law, because both decisions were based upon a lie — a lie that says there is an “inferior class of human beings” with “no rights” that we are “bound to respect.”

At the March for Life, I quoted one of America’s great abolitionist leaders, Wendell Phillips, who once stated, “One and God makes a majority.” I added that it also helps to have the American people on our side.

At the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven, Conn., we display a photograph of Supreme Knight Luke Hart at the White House presenting President John F. Kennedy a copy of the Pledge of Allegiance. During the 1950s, the Knights of Columbus led the effort to have Congress add the words “under God” to the text.

When I am asked, “What do these words mean?” I answer they mean at least this: As President Kennedy said at his inauguration, as a nation we stand on the principle that “the rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God.”

The great moral issues of our day should transcend partisan politics. This is occurring today regarding abortion. The Marist Poll survey finds majorities in both political parties reject such extreme late-term abortion laws.

One way to transcend partisanship is by insisting upon reality-based public policies. The approach of the Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade* does the opposite, with the Court stating that it did not have to “resolve the difficult question of when life begins.” But this is precisely the question that must be answered; otherwise, the public discussion loses its moral center.

There is bipartisan consensus among Americans on abortion. It is time that politics in Washington and elsewhere reflect not only that consensus but the reality of the child before birth.

*Vivat Jesus!*

# Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

## THE LONG LENT

### THE CHURCH MUST ADDRESS THE ABUSE CRISIS WITH A TRUE LENTEN SPIRIT OF RENEWAL AND HOPE



BACK IN 2010, a newspaper article described the sexual abuse crisis in the Church as “a long Lent.” At the time, I regarded such a description as unfair to the season of Lent. The article chastised the Church’s leaders for their failures but also depicted the Church itself as caught in a sorry and hopeless quagmire. But Lent isn’t about misery and hopelessness. Quite the opposite. The liturgy describes Lent as God’s “gracious gift,” a time when his people prepare to celebrate the Paschal Mystery “with the joy of minds made pure.” The point of Lent’s chastisements is our inward purification by the Holy Spirit — always the key to authentic renewal and joy.

However, the season of Lent, understood correctly, does indeed shed light on the crisis that has plagued victim-survivors of abuse and the Church itself for far too long. If we speak of this crisis as “a long Lent,” we should really mean: *Now is the time to address this crisis at its roots by the purification and renewal of the Church.* With this in mind, let me suggest three connections between the season of Lent and the sexual abuse crisis.

First, in Lent each of us must acknowledge our sins by which we reject God’s love and inflict pain on others. As we pray in Psalm 51: “Against you, you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your eyes.” During Lent, we should make a complete and unburdening confession of our sins in the sacrament of reconciliation. Similarly, this is a time when the Church’s leaders must fully acknowledge past sins and failures that have inflicted great spiritual, physical and psychological harm on many innocent people. Such an acknowledgment must be coupled with heartfelt resolve to continue helping victim-survivors who struggle with the ongoing impact of past abuse.

Second, the Lenten confession of our sins is more than wiping the slate clean. It must be accompanied by earnest prayer for interior purification. Again, to quote Psalm 51: “A clean heart create for me, God; renew within me a steadfast spirit.” Through prayer, penance and almsgiving, we seek to stand transparent before the God who looks deeply into our hearts. We pray that our external words and actions may flow from a heart and soul cleansed of our sins and impure motives by the refining fire of God’s love. Something similar needs to happen continually in the Church’s life. It is not enough for Church leaders to admit past sins and errors; nor is it enough to strengthen measures to prevent abuse and to attain greater accountability — vitally important as these are. Truthfully, all such efforts aimed at transparency will miss the mark unless they proceed from prayerful and discerning hearts and minds that have been thoroughly purified and renewed by the Holy Spirit.

Third, during Lent we acknowledge our sins and repent of them so that we might embrace our faith more boldly and live it with greater courage and love. Lent is also a time of growth in the Church’s life — interior growth and the joy of welcoming new members at Easter. So too, even in this most challenging time in the Church’s life, we must not lose heart. We must continue to proclaim and live the Gospel with confidence and love. We must continue to be people of charity and compassion. We must be people open to the Holy Spirit, by whom we are joined to Christ and to one another in the Church.

May this long Lent lead to an Easter of renewed hope and joy — for ourselves, for the Church and for those who have been harmed.

# Pope Francis' message for Lent



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Each year, through Mother Church, God “gives us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed... as we recall the great events that gave us new life in Christ” (Preface of Lent I). We can thus journey from Easter to Easter towards the fulfilment of the salvation we have already received as a result of Christ’s paschal mystery – “for in this hope we were saved” (Rom 8:24). This mystery of salvation, already at work in us during our earthly

lives, is a dynamic process that also embraces history and all of creation. As Saint Paul says, “for the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.” (Rom 8:19).

In this perspective, I would like to offer a few reflections to accompany our journey of conversion this coming Lent.

## **The redemption of creation**

The celebration of the Paschal Triduum of Christ’s passion, death and resurrection, the culmination of the liturgical year, calls us yearly to undertake a journey of preparation, in the knowledge that our being conformed to Christ (cf. Rom 8:29) is a priceless gift of God’s mercy. When we live as children of God, redeemed, led by the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom 8:14) and capable of acknowledging and obeying God’s law, beginning with the law written on our hearts and in nature, we also benefit creation by cooperating in its redemption. That is why, Saint Paul says that creation eagerly longs for the revelation of the children of God; in other words, that all those who enjoy the grace of Jesus’ paschal mystery may experience its fulfilment in the redemption of the human body itself. When the love of Christ transfigures the lives of the saints in spirit, body and soul, they give praise to God. Through prayer, contemplation and art, they also include other creatures in that praise, as we see admirably expressed in the “Canticle of the Creatures” by Saint Francis of Assisi (cf. *Laudato Si’*, 87). Yet in this world, the harmony generated by redemption is constantly threatened by the negative power of sin and death.

## **The destructive power of sin**

Indeed, when we fail to live as children of God, we often behave in a destructive way towards our neighbors and other creatures – and ourselves as well – since we begin to think more or less consciously that we can use them as we will. Intemperance then takes the upper hand: we start to live a life that exceeds those limits imposed by our human condition and nature itself. We yield to those untrammelled desires that the Book of Wisdom sees as typical of the ungodly, those who act without thought for God or hope for the future (cf. 2:1-11). Unless we tend constantly towards Easter, towards the horizon of the Resurrection, the mentality expressed in the slogans “I want it all and I want it now!” and “Too much is never enough”, gains the upper hand.

The root of all evil, as we know, is sin, which from its first appearance has disrupted our communion with God, with others and with creation itself, to which we are linked in a particular way by our body. This rupture of communion with God likewise undermines our harmonious relationship with the environment in which we are called to live, so that the garden has become a wilderness (cf. Gen 3:17-

18). Sin leads man to consider himself the god of creation, to see himself as its absolute master and to use it, not for the purpose willed by the Creator but for his own interests, to the detriment of other creatures.

Once God's law, the law of love, is forsaken, then the law of the strong over the weak takes over. The sin that lurks in the human heart (cf. Mk 7:20-23) takes the shape of greed and unbridled pursuit of comfort, lack of concern for the good of others and even of oneself. It leads to the exploitation of creation, both persons and the environment, due to that insatiable covetousness which sees every desire as a right and, sooner or later, destroys all those in its grip.

### **The healing power of repentance and forgiveness**

Creation urgently needs the revelation of the children of God, who have been made "a new creation". For "if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Cor 5:17). Indeed, by virtue of their being revealed, creation itself can celebrate a Pasch, opening itself to a new heaven and a new earth (cf. Rev 21:1). The path to Easter demands that we renew our faces and hearts as Christians through repentance, conversion and forgiveness, so as to live fully the abundant grace of the paschal mystery.

This "eager longing", this expectation of all creation, will be fulfilled in the revelation of the children of God, that is, when Christians and all people enter decisively into the "travail" that conversion entails. All creation is called, with us, to go forth "from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Rom 8:21). Lent is a sacramental sign of this conversion. It invites Christians to embody the paschal mystery more deeply and concretely in their personal, family and social lives, above all by fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

Fasting, that is, learning to change our attitude towards others and all of creation, turning away from the temptation to "devour" everything to satisfy our voracity and being ready to suffer for love, which can fill the emptiness of our hearts. Prayer, which teaches us to abandon idolatry and the self-sufficiency of our ego, and to acknowledge our need of the Lord and his mercy.

Almsgiving, whereby we escape from the insanity of hoarding everything for ourselves in the illusory belief that we can secure a future that does not belong to us. And thus to rediscover the joy of God's plan for creation and for each of us, which is to love him, our brothers and sisters, and the entire world, and to find in this love our true happiness.

Dear brothers and sisters, the "lenten" period of forty days spent by the Son of God in the *desert* of creation had the goal of making it once more that garden of communion with God that it was before original sin (cf. Mk 1:12-13; Is 51:3). May our Lent this year be a journey along that same path, bringing the hope of Christ also to creation, so that it may be "set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Rom 8:21). Let us not allow this season of grace to pass in vain! Let us ask God to help us set out on a path of true conversion. Let us leave behind our selfishness and self-absorption, and turn to Jesus' Pasch. Let us stand beside our brothers and sisters in need, sharing our spiritual and material goods with them. In this way, by concretely welcoming Christ's victory over sin and death into our lives, we will also radiate its transforming power to all of creation.

**FRANCIS**



## **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.

There is a new form that must be used to complete your fingerprinting and background check. Before scheduling your appointment, please see your DGK/PD for the proper form.

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## **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>

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## **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

## What Would Jesus Do (2011)

Director

[Thomas Makowski](#)

Starring

[John Schneider](#), [Adam Gregory](#), [Maxine Bahns](#)



A moving and thought provoking story about a group of Americans - a singer, a newspaper editor, a pastor & a real estate mogul who vow to walk "in the steps of Jesus." Every day and every decision becomes a turning point in their lives as they must ask themselves..."What Would Jesus Do?"

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. †

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## IN OUR PRAYERS

### Deceased

Robert Bouillon - Brother, Tom Bouillon

### Sick or in Distress

Vic Libetti – Brother and GK

Joe Grabowski - Brother

Eva Mancano – Mother, Michael Mancano

Michelle Healey – Requested by Russ Wells

Mary Arnold – Requested by Russ Wells

Michelle Gentile – Sister, Anthony Roselli

Doris Riccardi – Wife, Carmen Riccardi

Steve Porter – Son-in-Law, Andy Kavulich

Bob Fahei – Cousin, Ted Schearer

Bobby Terigay – Cousin, Ted Shearer

Kevin Crow

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

*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*).





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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED