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Chaplain's Message

Is it Really Getting Warmer?

Nature is teasing us now. One day warm, the next day colder. Up and down, a continually changing rollercoaster of temperatures and weather, but who said Nature is predictable?

One thing is predictable at this time of year, and that is the flow of liturgical events that we, as Knights, celebrate. The Passion leads to Resurrection, which leads to Ascension that culminates in the Pentecost event. Within several weeks the story of salvation is played out for us to review. The review reminds us that there is a plan to life, God's plan.

As Knights we seek to understand the connection between faith and life. The very search for human happiness is involved with grasping that God has created us for Himself. St. Augustine wrote in his reflections, "Our souls are restless, O God, until they rest in thee for whom they were created." Truer words were never spoken. If we understand what they mean, we have a great insight into the human condition. (Cont'd. P. 2)

Grand Knight's Message

Spring is finally here even though the weather doesn't make it feel that way. The council is back in gear after a slow down this past winter. The Spectrum Canteens have started up again, we had our annual St. Patrick's Party which was very well attended and we tried something new with our Texas Hold'em tournament. We were able to get a few Form 100's filled out; let's keep that rolling and get some more new members.

Going forward, we shall be very busy with the Spectrum Canteens, Friday Night Dinners Stations of the Cross, showing "The Passion", the blood drive, Veterans' Luncheon, Memorial Mass, The Developmentally Disabled Drive,, continuing the series "Catholicism", Feeding the Needy, and our First Degrees amongst other things.

As we celebrate Easter, this month, keep in mind the sacrifice that Jesus made for us and try to make some time to make a small sacrifice to help out with our many events. Enjoy the Spring and the warm weather (it has to come sometime) and have a **Happy Easter!**

Michael Guastella

Grand Knight

(Chaplain's Column)

Augustine (and God) wants us to grasp that the search we make for love is really a search for God. We don't think of it that way. We think we find someone who cares for us and it is just a nice thing that happens, but the theology of it is that God moves us to reach out to others. In the connections we make through God's promptings, we allow love to flow. In our faith, we understand that God is love. It says it plainly in the writings of John; "God is love." Can't make it simpler, yet we take a long time to see that all love has its source in God, and all love is meant to draw us back to its source.

Life then for the Christian is a glorious journey toward the one who called us into being. We help one another learn about love in our human relationships, and that prepares us better to related to God when we get to the kingdom. Our time here is important. We have lessons of compassion, forgiveness, fortitude and sacrifice to learn. We are challenged to go beyond the mere human convention of loving those who love us. We are asked to use God's grace to be able to even love our enemies. We are encouraged to believe that Divine Power is available to us if we seek it.

The season concludes with Pentecost, the source of the power we need. Let us open our hearts to the Spirit with whom all things are possible.

The Stations of the Cross

April 11, 2014

On April 11, 2014, at 7:00 PM at St. Andrew's Church, members of our Council will be presenting the Stations of The Cross. The themes of our Stations are Right to Life, Poverty and Charity.

The object of the Stations of the Cross is to help the faithful make a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer through meditating on the chief scenes of Christ's suffering and death. It has become one of the most popular forms of devotion for Roman Catholics, particularly during Lent.

Your attendance on April would be an excellent way to prepare yourself for Holy Week.

Frank Zimmerman, PGK

Spectrum Canteens and The Intellectual Developmental Disabilities Drive

Brothers,

On Monday, March 10th at 6:30 PM, we shall have our first Spectrum Canteen for 2014. Your usual help is needed and much appreciated.

Secondly, during the Month of March, I shall be calling members to participate in the Annual Drive for the Intellectual Disabled which will take place on April 3rd through April 5th. It is much earlier this year and we shall have the four stores we usually do but we are restricted to only the Five Corners in Westwood because of the on-going construction by the railroad tracks on the west side of town.

I look forward to the usual response and cooperation.

St. Andrews Needs Ushers

Brothers, St. Andrews Ministry of Usher is looking for Ushers, both Male and Female. We need ushers for the 8:00 Am Sunday Mass. If you or your wife would like to be an usher for that Mass, please contact Mike Daly at msdaly@optonline.net or 201-664-3463 or see me the center aisle during the 12:00 noon Mass every Sunday.

Golf Outing

There may be a chill in the air due to the Polar Vortex and you may be sick of the snow, but, take heart, the Annual Golf Outing is only two months away. This event is very important to the Council as it provides funds for the scholarships and our general charity donations.

June 9th is going to be here before you know it and we are asking once again for your help with this fund raiser. There are many ways that can assist:

- Help set up for the luncheon or clean up the Hall afterwards.
- Solicit the local businesses in Westwood, Hillsdale, Rivervale and Emerson for door prizes, donations and/or hole sponsorships.
- Ask your place of employment to sponsor a hole.
- Be a player in the outing.

This is an opportunity for you to actively participate in the work of the Council in providing funds for those in need some financial assistance. Can you spare an hour or two or more to guarantee the success of the Outing? We would genuinely appreciate all the help we can get.
Ray Polomski

Calendar for April and May 2014

April

04/02	Catholicism.....	8:00 PM
04/03	DD Drive	
04/03	General Meeting.....	8:00 PM
04/04	DD Drive	
04/04	Memorial Mass.....	7:30PM
04/05	Hot Meals	
04/05	DD Drive	
04/08	First Degree.....	7:30 PM
04/09	Catholicism.....	8:00 PM
04/10	Columbian Club.....	8:00 PM
04/11	The Passion.....	7:00 PM
04/11	Stations of the Cross, St Andrews	7:00 PM
04/12	Blood Drive.....	9:00 AM
04/14	Spectrum Canteen.....	6:30 PM
04/15	Officers' Meeting.....	8:00 PM
04/16	Catholicism.....	8:00 PM
04/20	Easter Sunday	
04/23	Catholicism.....	8:00 PM
04/25	Friday Night Dinner.....	6:00 PM
04/30	Catholicism.....	8:00 PM

May

05/01	General Meeting.....	8:00 PM
05/03	Hot Meals.....	9:30 AM
05/11	Mother's Day	
05/26	Memorial Day	

Council Blood Drive

What: Blood Drive sponsored by the St. Thomas More Council of Westwood and the Assumption Council of Emerson.

When: April 12, 2014. 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Where: St. Thomas More Council
40 Crest St.
Westwood, NJ

Why: There is an urgent need for blood due to our severe winter. Your donation can save a life

Wouldn't you give an hour or two of your time to help someone in need, someone whose life you can save?

Please recruit your relatives, friends and neighbors to give blood with you on April 12 2014.
Bring a photo ID and eat prior to giving blood.

Frank Zimmerman, PGK

Joseph F. Lamb Assembly

The Fourth Degree held the Major Exemplification on March 30th, 2014. There were +/- 100 new Sir Knights Exemplified into the Patriotic Order. I am sorry to report that St. Thomas More Council was not represented among the new Sir Knights.

Please consider joining the next Exemplification in October, 2014

Our meeting in March was held in Park Ridge.

The meeting for April will be held at the Ramsey Council on **April 22nd at 8:30 PM.**

Please keep in mind the up-coming Special Olympics.

Fraternally,

St. Patrick's Day Party

I would like to thank all who helped out with this year's St. Patrick's Party celebration held on Saturday, 3/15. The party was a great success and everyone that I have been in touch with enjoyed themselves, including myself. I would like to extend special thanks to Frank Zimmerman who I leaned on heavily for guidance on amounts of food as well as well as picking up staging food for Maris Arellano to prepare the feast. I would also like to thank Dennis Kaiser for organizing table arrangements and collection of reservations, which was much more organized this year. Thanks to George Awad hosting DJ services and the Broesler School of Irish Dance. I would like to extend additional thanks to Grand Knight Mike Guastella and Treasurer Ray Polomski for their support.

I have offered some suggestions to improve things for next year but, all-in-all, everyone had a great time and the overall consensus was things went well and ALL had a good time!

Warden Pete Cangialosi

On Twitter

The K of C is now on Twitter. Please follow if you are on Twitter.

Deacon Jack Gray

Texas Hold'em Tournament

Trying something new can be very exciting and very nerve racking at the same time. This couldn't be more the case than this past month when we held our first **Texas Hold'em Tournament**. As with most events, you never know how it is going to turn out until that night. Fortunately, things came together and it was successful. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and we received many comments to that affect and when we will be holding our next Tournament. We learned things along the way so our next one will be even more successful. Among the players, there were some Brothers from other councils that came to play and show their support. I was glad to see them and hope that, in the future, we can make an effort to support other councils with their events. We are all Brothers and have the same goal in mind which is to raise money for our charities. Knowing that we have other councils support takes some pressure off and we should keep in mind the same for them. I would like to thank all of the countless Brothers who helped out before the event, during the event and those who played in the tournament. We really could not have done this without all of you; I sincerely appreciate it. I would like to thank especially Bill Giordano. He is the one who really put this thing together from getting the company to run it, to getting the players, to scotch tasting, to having unbelievable prizes donated, to setting up.....the list goes on. He kept us from giving up on it and, because of his efforts, it was a successful and enjoyable evening.

Mike Guastella

Grand Knight

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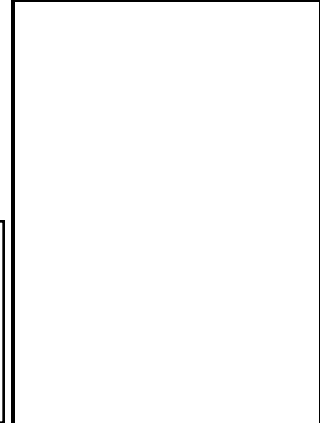
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