



THE BANNER

Unfurled for God and Country



Father Thomas J. F. Ryan Council # 5036
9090 Old Bustleton Ave, Phila, PA 19115
Email: Council5036@gmail.com
Web: www.KofC5036.org
Facebook: [@council5036](https://www.facebook.com/council5036)



Join us for our Christmas Party on December 14.

Let us know how many will be joining us at the party by December 4!

BUSINESS MEETING, Dec 7, 7:00PM (Dinner Served!) ♦ NO OTHER MEETINGS THIS MONTH. Christmas Party Dec 14

Meet IN PERSON or on Zoom! Zoom Meeting ID 805 406 5230; passcode is VjfUN3
Business Meeting, Dec 7, 7pm; No Home Mtg; No Officers Meeting, CHRISTMAS PARTY Dec 14
MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE ON ZOOM AND IN PERSON!
BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR AN EMAIL FROM TONY DICICCO REGARDING MEETING REMINDERS.

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✠ *From the Desk of the Grand Knight*

December 2023

Brothers:

As we enter the month of December we do so with great expectation and joyful longing for the celebration of the birth of our Savior and we await his return in glory at the end of time. Let me be among the first to wish you a Merry Christmas.



As I write this there has not been a wrap up meeting for the Knights at the Races, so I cannot say how well we made out for our charities. However, we know it was a fun evening, where everyone there enjoyed themselves. Thank you to everyone for their support of this activity and for the hard work of everyone who was involved in the night.

We have begun our Keep Christ in Christmas magnet sales. Included this year we are also selling religious Christmas Cards. The sales continue December 9-10 at Resurrection and December 16-17 at BVM. If you can spend some time helping out it would be appreciated.

The Thanksgiving Basket Drive was a success again. With your generous support the council was able to purchase 50 \$50 Acme gift cards, that were divided among the three parishes to assist our neighbors in need. Thank you for your help.

At our December meeting we will start at 7:00 with a degree ceremony, welcoming several new members into the Council. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

The Grand Knight Christmas Party is December 14. A head count is needed for the caterer by December 4th. Please respond if you plan on attending.

(continued)

As we wind down this year, I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of this Council for all that they do to help make this Council better. From recruiting, to making meals at our monthly meetings, to organizing events. Without your help this Council would not grow.

May the joy of the Christmas season fill you and your families with Joy and Peace.

Vivat Jesus,
Tony DiCicco
Grand Knight

✝️ *Pro-Life Chairman*

**Men's Malvern Retreat, Friday,
Jan 19 through Sunday Jan 21**
**Questions: contact John McAleer
at 215-840-0447**

Dear Brother Knights,

I hope everybody had a good Thanksgiving. Events of November were fantastic. We had a great turnout for the knight at the races. Also we started selling magnets and Christmas cards at the parishes. We had a great turnout Thanksgiving weekend at Saint Cecilia's. Thanks for everyone came out.

The Sisters of Life are hosting a Christmas party Saturday, December 9th at Saint Cecilia's. If you're available to help out between 1:00 and 4:00, the Sisters will be very appreciative. Hopefully we can go out and support the pro-life movement as best we can. Hope to see you there.

Chuck Kuhar
Pro-Life Chairman



**Pics from Knight at
the Races and
Brothers helping in
front of St. Cecilia's.**

(continued)

Can I Be Wealthy AND Still Get to Heaven?

Paragraph 2544 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church is the most challenging and convicting paragraph for many. We are urged by Jesus in Lk 14:33 and Mk 8:35 to take what is dearest to us, (plans, people, things, power, money...) and kiss it good-bye. He enjoins His disciples to prefer Him to everything and everyone. He bids them “renounce all that they have” for His sake and that of the Gospel.

The last sentence in Paragraph 2544 reads “The precept of detachment from riches is obligatory for entrance into the kingdom of heaven.” We all know about the young rich man in Mt. 19:16-30 who went away sad when Jesus told him to chuck it all and give to the poor if he wanted perfection.

So, what’s the deal here? Can I be wealthy and still get to heaven? What does it mean to be wealthy? To someone who has lost everything and living on the streets, wealth is having a steady job with a roof over her head and food for the kids. To the guy with a steady job that allows him a home and support for his family, barely getting by paycheck to paycheck, wealth is a paid-off mortgage and a bigger paycheck. And so on. The further up the wealth ladder we go there is still something lacking.

I don’t think there’s a number or situation to define wealth. Most Americans are considered extremely wealthy by poorer nations. Wealth is subjective. But wealth is not the issue. The problem is attachment. “Detachment from riches is obligatory for entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven.” (CCC 2544). Attachment to anything not of God.

We need to constantly mature in our love for God. “Blessed are the poor in spirit.” (Mt. 5:3) Spirit being what is in our heart. What we love the most. What we are ‘attached’ to or idolize. Pray constantly. Seek God, talk with God. Ask God to transform our heart to desire Him over everything else. He is our only treasure.

“But I don’t want to desire God over things... at least not yet.” Then pray for the desire to want to ‘want to.’ God is waiting for you. God wants you more than you know. And you can’t embarrass Him. God already knows what’s in your heart, but He wants to reveal it to you. Mr. Rogers used to say, “If it is mentionable, it’s manageable.”

We think God just tolerates us, when actually, He hugely loves us. When we pray it isn’t us starting it: God initiates, and we respond! God began the dialog, not me. When I pray, I’m responding to God’s initial call to me.

Give Him permission to love you. Talk with him...now.



Grand Knight.....Tony DiCicco.....267-879-3611ajd7016@aol.com
Deputy Grand Knight Chas Kuhar.....267-579-8336.....chaskuhar@gmail.com
Chancellor..... Mike Pinkl.....267-446-41823mikepinkl@yahoo.com
Financial Secretary..... Adam Ungaro.....215-284-1997.....adamungaro57@gmail.com
Lecturer Will Schmitt.....215-745-9710wajschmitt@gmail.com
Insurance Agent.....Cedar Cunningham...425-372-8960.....cedar.cunningham@kofc.org

Business Meeting, Dec 7, 7:00PM (DINNER SERVED!) ♦ OTHER MEETINGS @7:30PM in person and on Zoom!

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PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR BROTHER KNIGHTS & LADIES

Please pray for peace in Ukraine. Please pray for victims of gun violence.
Please call or email Tony DiCicco with the names of all ill Brother Knights and Ladies.
Also... pray through "Prayers Unite the World" www.prayersunitetheworld.org,



*TO ALL WHO WERE
BORN IN DECEMBER!*

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|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Trevor J Berna | Edward K Kelly | Nwabunwanne A Okafor |
| Rev Philip G Bochansl | Domenic A Marzullo | Edwin E Scully |
| Christopher J Breen | Charles D McKeown | Dominic Trocine |
| Dr. Peter Connelly, III | James D Meredith | Christopher Wolkowicz |
| William Derham | Thomas E Merrick | Gerald Woodruff |

If we missed your birthday, we apologize. Please send an email to the editors at council5036@gmail.com.

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PA KofC Newsletter: http://www.pakofc.us/newsletter/keystone_knight/index.html

Prospect Landing Page has been updated by Supreme.

Each council member should have this link readily available on your phone for obtaining new members. Especially if you are helping out at Church Membership Drives.

USA (English) Online Prospect Form: <https://info.kofc.org/us.html>
USA (Spanish) Online Prospect Form: https://info.kofc.org/us_sp.html

BANNER STAFF ~ Editors: Tom Sims and Will Schmitt wajschmitt@gmail.com or council5036@gmail.com
Please submit all articles for the Banner (Council5036@gmail.com) by the 15th of the month.