

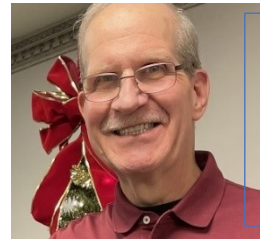


THE BANNER

Unfurled for God and Country



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Knight of the Year.

See more pictures from the Christmas Party on Page 2!

BUSINESS MEETING, Jan 4, 7:00PM (Dinner Served!) ♦ OTHER MEETINGS @7:30PM IN PERSON & ON ZOOM!

Meet IN PERSON or on Zoom! Zoom Meeting ID 805 406 5230; passcode is VjfUN3

Business Meeting, Jan 4, 7pm; Home Mtg, Jan 11; Officers' Meeting, Jan 25.

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*

January 2024

Dear Brothers:

Happy New Year!

As we begin the second half of this fraternal year, we are two-thirds of our way toward meeting our membership goal for the year. Thank you for all your help and hard work in this matter.


The final numbers are in, and the fundraiser was a financial success for the Council and the Auxiliary! More details will be shared at the monthly meeting.

The Keep Christ in Christmas magnet and card sales were also a success. Thank you to Brother Dennis Franklin for coordinating this event. We have 14 boxes of cards left, starting with 100. The proceeds from these sales will be split between the three parishes/schools.

Brothers, our monthly food drive at Resurrection has resulted in 3,300 pounds for food collected since July. Next month, I will provide more details concerning all the service projects for 2023. Thank you all for your hard work in 2023. As I complete my time as Grand Knight, I look forward to many more wonderful opportunities to serve our community as well as growing as a Council.

Vivat Jesus,
Tony DiCicco
Grand Knight

(continued)

Malvern
Retreat House
reflect, refresh, rejoice
Since 1912

Men's Malvern Retreat, Friday, Jan 19 through Sunday Jan 21

Questions: contact John McAleer at 215-840-0447



Pics from the festive and fun Knights Christmas Party!

(continued)

Prayer

Happy and Blessed New Year to You!

**HOW TO BE HAPPY, BE FULL OF JOY,
ALWAYS, IN EVERY SITUATION.**

I am writing this on what we used to call “Gaudete Sunday,” the third Sunday in Advent. Gaudete is Latin for “rejoice”. Rejoice, be joyful, be happy. I’m plagiarizing Father Chris Walsh’s homily from today for this month’s message.

Today’s second reading is from Saint Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians, Chapter 5, versus 16 to 24. “Brothers and Sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks...” (Thess 5:16).

What does it mean to pray unceasingly? Is it constantly saying ‘Our Fathers’ and ‘Hail Marys’ all day? Or praying the psalms all day?

I’m confident Paul didn’t mean for us to pray ‘words’ all day, though that’s fine, but to connect constantly with God in everything we do.

I remember asking our Retreat Director a few years back, “Is one supposed to pray 24/7 during all waking hours? How is that possible? Who would be able to do that?”

I don’t remember his answer, but it worked, because now I can and do connect with God in every undertaking of my day. I awake at 3 A. M. and my first conscious thought is of God.

What does ‘connect with God’ mean? Basically, do everything keeping God in mind. But, take a look at ‘The Morning Offering.’ It is a good explanation of 24/7 connection with God.

Paul exhorts us to be happy 24/7, “Rejoice Always!” – HOW? How can we be happy when things are black and discouraging? Paul tells us how, by connecting with God 24/7 and “in all circumstances give thanks.” Joy comes because of gratitude.

God is good, kind, and merciful. We know for certain that God wants only good for us. God is always working in our favor; always doing something for our good. He wants us to be happy. So, everything God sends us is for our benefit, our happiness, our joy. If everything we experience is for our good, we should be grateful for it. Thus, as Paul says, “IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES, be happy, be grateful. Joy comes because of gratitude.”

I understand things better when examples are given, so here’s an example. The last several weeks I have been experiencing horrific back and hip pain to the point of almost passing out.

I am grateful for the pain, because, as each agonizing jolt shocks my body, I think of God, and I am grateful. Somehow, some way this horrible pain is good for me, and I offer it up in reparation for my past sins, the souls in Purgatory, and another intention or two, and I thank God for the pain, for His goodness, and for initiating the connection between us. God must really love me to send me such pain joy! Joy because of gratitude. (continued)



When we are with God at the end of our Earthly life, it will be revealed how 'all' was for our good. Look for the good, think of something in each circumstance to be grateful for, and pray unceasingly. Thankfulness prevents resentment.

Jesus Lives!
Will Schmitt, PGK
2nd Year Trustee

P.S. Purgatory must be empty at this point!

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

Meet IN PERSON or on Zoom! Zoom Meeting ID 805 406 5230; passcode is VjfUN3
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PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR BROTHER KNIGHTS & LADIES

Please pray for an end to war everywhere. 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.prayersuniteheworld.org,



**TO ALL WHO WERE
BORN IN JANUARY!**

Mark Dillon	Frank Geiger	William Schragen
Domenic J. DiMarco	William Keane	William Appell Schmitt
Thomas T Durkin	John F. Lehane	Daniel V Small
Timothy Durkin	John Joseph Marnell	George W. Smith, III
Thomas P Frank John J Foley	Joseph A Micucci	Thomas C Voisard
		James M 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

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Please submit all articles for the Banner (Council5036@gmail.com) by the 15th of the month.