



Rev. John J. Murray

American Martyrs **KNIGHT LIGHT** Fr. John J. Murray Council #14666



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GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

By Joe Timpa

In last month's newsletter we wrote about how busy we'd been, with BBQ's and Oktoberfest, etc. The piece was closed out with "at ease men" as the borrowed phrase. And then Hurricane Sandy hit us. We all know the results. Many were / are affected, with the spectrum of suffering ranging from the inconvenience of power loss, to property damage, to the loss of homes, to the loss of life. The devastation is surreal.



Our council did what it could to assist, led by our worthy Chancellor Mike Shoule and his family. Mike's wife Esra, mother Maureen, his father Bob, his brother Bobby (Bobby, you can only elude us for so long!) and sister in law Terri all were significantly involved in the effort, both at the church and in making repeated deliveries directly to affected areas (regardless of not knowing where the next tank of gas was coming from). Esra's close friend Pia Loftus also played a significant role accompanying the Shoules.

Our Chancellor, with an email blast or two, and his wife, with some

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CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

By Father Frank Schwarz



My dear brother Knights,

As we enter into a new year, we leave behind a year that has been filled with uncertainty. Political unrest in the Middle East, economic breakdown in Europe, election year partisanship, mass killings in Aurora, those poor children in Newtown, and other places, a looming fiscal cliff, high unemployment for many Americans, the continuance of the conflict in Afghanistan, and natural disasters like Hurricane Sandy; all of these events and more have threatened our sense of well-being, security, and trust. Some people have even seen these as signs of the end which they claim should have happened on December 21st (I'm glad I got my Christmas shopping in early). Without a doubt, we live in uncertain times.

And yet the New Year offers us an opportunity to hope for a brighter and better future. Despite all of the difficulties that we as a people face, we know that our faith will sustain us and preserve us from despair. Together we can

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HAPPY NEW YEAR !

(GK's Message Continued from page 1)

"Facebook" handy work, started a network of communication that rapidly changed what was intended as a Knights of Columbus effort, into a widespread community effort. Our parishioners, our brothers and sisters from the Hollis Hills Jewish Center, groups of teachers, local and not so local residents, all came together to assist.

The amount of donations and assistance received was stunning. Food, water, clothing, blankets, towels and cleaning supply donations inundated both the church parking lot and the Sullivan Center, as they became relief effort staging areas.

It would be remiss of us if we didn't point out that this effort couldn't have happened without Father Frank's approval. Father's sermons are always sincere and informative. In this crisis, he 'walked the walk' and let this never done before at American Martyrs event happen. He also rolled up his shirtsleeves and literally did some of the heavy lifting as well. For all of this, he has our respect and thanks.

At least thirty men from our council assisted with our hurricane relief effort. We also received visits and assistance from Knights from other councils, which was appreciated, including Rocco D'Eramso, Vinnie Ianonne, Tim Farrell, Frank Falco and John O'Rourke. John somehow wound up on the scene at our church and proved tireless in his assistance. He has since decided to transfer to our council, to our benefit. Welcome aboard John.

Brother Knight Joe Cavaliere, of our council, assisted as well, despite the fact that his home was damaged by the storm. A tree crashed through his roof. To top that off, Joe was (is) also recovering from an injury, after being hit by a car in the weeks prior to the storm.

Thank you's and acknowledgements can be perilous when you name names. Many people returned day after day to be a part of the effort. So many people helped in significant ways. Sue and John Moore. Ed Pearce. Our very own Thelma and Louise – Theresa Asche and Sue Templin made numerous deliveries, day and night, again, not knowing when they'd be able to fill up the gas tank. Many more people helped significantly, whose names are not even known to us.

Thank you to all who contributed in any way, but please remember that the suffering continues even though our effort, for the moment, has ended. We should keep those who are suffering in our prayers and remain ready to assist.

And as I write this, the next tragedy has occurred, as the current news is of first communion aged children and their teachers who were massacred in Newton, Connecticut.

We can never pray too much....

Joe T GK



(Chaplin's Message Continued from page 1)

overcome and even conquer the darkness that seems to threaten our world and our nation. We are certain of this because Our Lord tells us that He has overcome the world, so we should not be afraid. He has conquered the darkness with light, chaos with order, fear with courage, doubt with faith, uncertainty with hope, and hatred with love. As Knights of the Catholic Church we are to bring these virtues to the world we live in.

No doubt, that is a tall order. And it would be nearly impossible if we were to try to do it alone. But we are not alone. We have each other: a fraternal order of Catholic men. And we have our families. And we have our Holy Catholic Church. These are all places where we can find the love and support we need to carry on our mission to bring the message of Christ to a world that is broken and tired, and sorely in need of redemption. I think I understand the heart and thinking of Father McGivney when he formed that first council in New Haven, Connecticut. His concern was for his people during very difficult times, and he had a vision that they would support each other as they struggled with their own hardships.

We welcome the new year as another opportunity to serve each other in good times and in bad. And we embrace every opportunity to bring the love of Christ into the world, for that is our mission: to love and to serve.

May you and your families have a Happy New Year filled with peace and prosperity.

Vivat Jesus,
Fr. Frank

CHRISTMAS TREE TRIUMPH



By Michael Shoule

We all know how fortunate we were in our section of Queens to weather Superstorm Sandy as well as we did. Ironically, the loss of power in the Sullivan Center which led to the cancellation of Bingo for a couple of weeks, allowed us to do an extended hurricane relief drive. One other stroke of luck, if you will, was the loss of the beautiful Christmas tree that had adorned our lawn for so many years. Although no one in the parish was happy to see the tree lying on its side that week, as is often the case, when God closes a door, He opens up a window. (Yes, I watched *The Sound of Music* this past week with the family).

During the course of the next few weeks, our Knights of Columbus council decided to be the driving force behind getting a new Christmas tree for our parish. When someone asked me if I knew anyone "in the business", I gave a ring to my uncle and godfather, Brian Reilly (my mother's brother), who is the owner of **Create "A" Scape** out in East Northport. He said he could get us a tree and would be able to come into Queens and plant it the following week.

As simple as that the tree was planted...well, not exactly. First the stump had to be removed and it was quite a big stump at that. Not surprisingly though, the stump was no match for chain wielding Dave "Don't Ask" Russell, and so there was a nice hole awaiting our new tree.

The next obstacle came when Uncle Brian got to the church that day and said he couldn't plant the tree. I asked him why not and he said it wouldn't look good next to the sloppy crabapple tree that was still standing. What I thought was going to be a problem was another stroke of good fortune. Father Frank quickly gave the okay for the chop, chop, and so down came much of the crabapple (or whatever kind of tree it was) with further assistance later that month from **Reis Brothers Landscaping** who removed the rest of the tree.

Our beautiful blue spruce was actually planted in a new hole slightly more centered on the lawn, much to the chagrin of Don and Betty Hamilton who can no longer see the Christmas tree when they exit their house. This was done though to allow space for the manger to be situated next to it. For years the manger has been set up on the lawn on Bell Blvd., but I think most would agree about how great our tree looked all lit up (thank you Worthy Grand Knight, Joe Timpa) with the Nativity scene right next to it. At about 8 feet tall, our tree has a lot of years of growth ahead and will be there for all to enjoy for years to come.

My efforts at getting my uncle to send us a bill have thus far been fruitless. He grew up, along with my Mom and their other 2 siblings, in the house on the Dead End at the corner of 209th and Richland Avenue. He attended

American Martyrs elementary school and after graduating from Bishop Reilly high school which is now St. Francis Prep, he worked for my father's mother in NYC which helped him realize an office job was not for him. He started his landscaping company way back when by mowing lawns in our neighborhood.

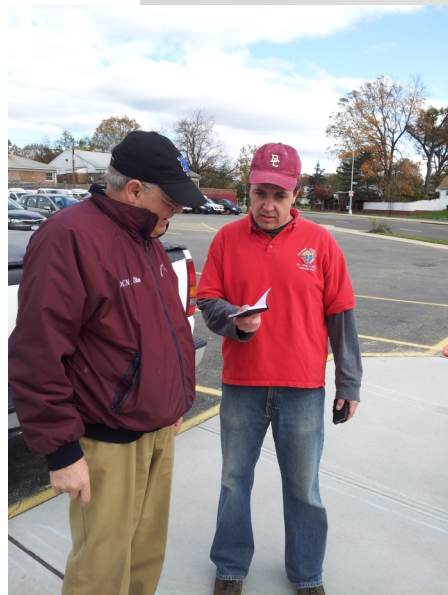
As you can see his roots run deep. That is why he is insisting on donating the tree and the labor as a gift to the parish. He would like to donate it in memory of his parents, Michael and Grace Reilly, as well as my father's parents, Robert and Grace Shoule, in honor of their roles in establishing and supporting American Martyrs parish over the years. He has suggested that we consider getting a stone marker made acknowledging that our Knights of Columbus council had the tree planted after Super Storm Sandy in memory of... or something like that which would also commemorate our huge hurricane relief effort.



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING
Although Hurricane Sandy claimed the beautiful old pine tree in front of the Church, thanks to the generosity of the Knights of Columbus, a new evergreen has been planted in our yard.
May it grow and thrive like this parish!
Our new Christmas tree will be lit after the 5 pm Mass on Saturday, Dec. 8th. Hot Chocolate, coffee and cookies will be served afterward in the Sullivan Center. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**



Hurricane Relief



Thank You Knights!
Thank You Mike Shoule!



American Martyrs and Hollis Hills Join for Interfaith Service

By Michael Chimenti

On Monday, November 19th, the American Martyrs Choir and a large contingent of parishioners traveled to the Hollis Hills Jewish Center to continue a tradition that was started three years ago in celebration of the Thanksgiving weekend. Three years ago, in response to an appeal for more interfaith outreach, American Martyrs joined with the Hollis Hills Jewish Center and began a tradition of coming together to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with an interfaith service.



The evening began with a greeting from Rabbi David Wise, followed by a blessing from the Rabbi Emeritus, H. Joseph Sickest. Rabbi Wise then gave a very loving and heartfelt introduction to Father Frank with an old Jewish folklore that states that there are only 39 truly wise people roaming the earth. "This man is truly one of the 39," to which Father Frank responded, "Wow - no pressure!"

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Father Frank then read from the Gospel of Luke the story of the 10 Lepers. "Ten were cured, but only one returned." Father Frank then gave a historical account of the origins of Thanksgiving, which was started by Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War. Lincoln understood the importance of being thankful, especially during the hardest times. Father Frank related this to the hard times we are going through now, what with the recession and the hurricane and war in the Middle East. The message was very well taken by congregants from both faiths.



The choirs of both congregations then dazzled the crowd with selections from both their repertoires, including our adorable children's choir. The music was led by our own Patrick White and world renowned composer and cantor, Sol Zim. The evening ended with several rousing selections composed by Cantor Zim performed by the joint choirs, ending with a patriotic rendition of "God Bless America", sending the crowd off elevated and ready to celebrate Thanksgiving, secure in the knowledge that there is more that we share in our faith than divides us.



***Thank You To Our Brother Knights, Patrick White
and Michael Chimenti, For Sharing Their Musical Talent***



"Lessons and Carols" Delights As It Rings In The Christmas Season

By Michael Chimenti

Nothing ushers in the Christmas spirit more than the sounds of the season, and the American Martyrs Children's and Adult Choirs were joined by the Holy Trinity Folk Group of Whitestone to celebrate its annual "Lessons and Carols" concert on Sunday, December 9th, right after 12:30 mass, under the direction of brother knight, Patrick White.

The annual concert consists of readings and songs that tell the story of the nativity. The power of music coupled with the words of scripture makes a moving and emotional experience that reminds us all of the "reason for the season". Some of our familiar Sunday lectors were joined by kids young and old, including our own Monsignor Bottino, to share biblical stories such as the visit of the Magi, the annunciation of the Angel Gabriel, and the appearance to the shepherds - stories that bring tears of joy and warmth to the heart.

Each reading was then followed by various songs that share the same Christmas theme. The American Martyrs Adult Choir presented a wide variety of pieces in differing musical styles, including "English Advent Carol", "Lord Emmanuel Come", and "Masters in This Hall". The Children's Choir was full of its usual charm as they brought an innocence to the service with songs such as "Rise Up, O Flame", "Come Lord Jesus", and "The Little Hand Rocks The Cradle". Several of the children dazzled with solos, including a special rendition of Whitney Houston's "Who Would Imagine a King" by our own rising star, Karina Ordonez. The Holy Trinity Folk Group then lent a more pop feel to the service with some contemporary numbers such as "Heart of Compassion", "When Christmas Comes This Year" and "Take a Walk Through Bethlehem".

The program then ended with a rousing sing-along of some traditional Christmas carols. In all, it was a moving experience for everyone, and a fun reminder that it's always best to keep Christ in Christmas.





CONGRATULATIONS!

Fred Ma, Alex McNevin, and John Moore on becoming 1st Degree members of the order.



Answers To Last Issue's... FOR THE CRUCIVERBALIST...

By Sal Tartaglione

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GOOD OLD FASHIONED BINGO

\$3000.00 IN PRIZES
\$650.00 JACKPOT

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- LINES • BELL JARS
- REFRESHMENTS
- WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE

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BELL BLVD. & UNION TURNPIKE • BAYSIDE
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SAVE THE DATE! - Meetings are the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the Month

American Martyrs Athletic Association - - A Message for The Knights - 2013

By Michael Cassano



Greetings Brother Knights,

Let me start by saying thank you so much for all of your help over the past year. You have played such a big role in the resurgence of the American Martyrs Athletic Association. When I was told by the members of the athletic association that this would be the last year the program would exist without merging with St. Roberts my response was complete shock. My baseball team had just won their 1st championship for American Martyrs and we ended our celebration with an amazing visit as VIP guests of the NY Mets at CitiField. Our boys met David Wright, Bryce Harper, the rest of the NY Mets and Washington Nationals.

After getting over the shock I decided that I would do everything I could to try and save the program. I reached out to my fellow Brother Knights and you responded to the call for help. You granted us a monetary gift and then volunteered your time and effort to assist us in putting together a car wash that earned the Athletic Association \$1300.

This was the key to our program because it showed the parents of our children that we had your support and the fight for the program was still alive at American Martyrs. Through hard work of many and support from the Knights and the church, we are back!!!

That being said, we could definitely need more help. I continue to try and be there to answer any questions for anyone that might think of helping us continue on with our growth. If you have any questions as to how you can help the program, please contact me at mcassano25@yahoo.com or (718) 746-3090 / (631) 374- 1002.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank our Worthy Chaplin, and Pastor of American Martyrs, Father Frank Schwarz and our Worthy Grand Knight Joe Timpa for their wonderful and inspirational messages in each issue.

I would also like to thank the following for their contributions in making this newsletter possible.

- Michael Cassano
- Mike Chimenti
- Ed Pearce
- Mike Shoule
- Sal Tartaglione
- Mike Tramonte



- Michael Mitts, Editor