



Rev. John J. Murray

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



Issue 5, May, 2013

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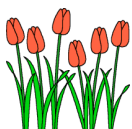
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### **Knight Light Editor**

Michael Mitts



## GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

By Joe Timpa

It's baseball season again, a time of renewed hope. Somehow, despite being a Mets fan, hope returns each spring. That, in itself, is proof of miracles. I will ask Fr. Bill to do some research to see if there is any doctrine that can be interpreted to prove that Mets fans will spend less time in Purgatory, for all of the penance (pain and suffering) on earth.



I love baseball, in part, because it is there *every day*. I've always thought that is one of the main reasons that sets it apart from the other major sports, to make it 'America's pastime'. It is there *every day*, for more than 8 months of the year, to entertain us and distract us.

(Continued on page 2)

## BUSY KNIGHTS

By Michael Tramonte

There is an old expression that goes, "If you want something done, give it to a busy person!" In this case, the busy people are the brothers of the Father John J. Murray American Martyrs Council of the Knights of Columbus. The new year has found the Knights engaged in a multitude of activities in our continuing effort to contribute to the religious, social and civic enhancement of our community.



Following our successful Sandy food and clothing drive which helped numerous communities throughout the city; Jim Tavcar organized a food drive in the parking lot of Key Food on Saturday March 2. The food and donations we collected helped replenish the local food bank at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

(Continued on page 6)



## Congratulations To Our New Fourth Degree Members



Sal Tartaglione, Ed Pearce, Jim Ambery, Steven Day

## Congratulations To Our Newest Members!

Gabriel Moronta, John Reilly, and John Trabulsky made their First Degree during a ceremony on April 25.



## VISIT US ON THE WEB!

<http://home.catholicweb.com/FatherJohnMurrayKofC>

HELPFUL HINT: Simply Click on the link above

*(GK's Message Continued from page 1)*

When I was a kid growing up in the 1960's, I was a New York Yankees fan. I didn't realize how bad they were (I seem to be drawn to bad teams). If I did realize it, I don't remember and it didn't matter. I had Mickey Mantle to root for, and Joe Pepitone, Mel Stottlemyre, Tom Tresh, Horace Clark, Gene Michael, Roy White and the rest. More memories escape me than I want to admit, but my brain still feeds my consciousness visions of Yankees baseball on the TV screen – and I think it was a black and white tv for a while when I first began watching. (My daughter Katie, now almost 20, at a very young age once asked me “Daddy – when did the world change from black and white to color?” – from the mouths of babes!)



Mickey retired after the 1968 season. I do not recall at what point I first realized that the Mets even existed, but by late season 1969, I was caught up in Mets magic. My friends and I saved up Borden's milk carton coupons so our parents could get some cheap seats at Shea. I attended the near perfect game that Tom Seaver pitched against the Cubs. My Uncle Frank gave me a New York Daily News “Lets Go Mets” button during the playoffs. The Mets won the World Series! Wow, winning is fun! I have been miserable ever since. I blame my uncle and I let him know it.

Last summer there was no misery, but rather joy, for the American Martyrs Athletic Association and the parish. We have our own “boys of summer”, in our parish sports program. The program and the CYO boys championship baseball team is lead by Catholic War Veteran (once a Marine, always a Marine) and brother Knight Mike Cassano. We wish them good luck this season as they attempt to repeat their championship season. Their schedule, in case anyone wishes to go to a game to support them, is on our K of C website. Mike and the boys are winners regardless of the outcome of baseball games.

Joe T GK

## FOOD DRIVE SUCCESS!



Another successful food drive was organized on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Led by **Jim Tavcar**, the Knights, with the cooperation of **Dan's Keyfood** (73rd and Bell Blvd) collected food for our food bank and replenished the food bank at Our Lady of Lourdes.

- Thank You!

**MAY 19**

## The Father Murray Communion Breakfast (after the 10:30 mass)

**Guest Speaker:**  
**Retired FDNY Captain Al Fuentes**

This year the event is being co-sponsored by the following American Martyrs parish groups: the Catholic War Veteran's Post; the Rosary Society; the St Vincent DePaul Society; the Athletic Association and our Knights of Columbus council.

## ST. PATRICK'S DINNER DANCE

By Michael Shoule

Now that's a party! Over 275 people including at least 25 Knights from our Council and their family and friends filled the Sullivan Center after the 5pm mass on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> to celebrate our annual St. Patrick's Day party. Jack Tavcar provided a wonderful opening to a great night with beautiful violin music.

Thanks to the great turnout, we did not have to put the portable room dividers to use which gave everyone the opportunity to enjoy a true parish celebration. And thanks to the great time that was had by all, this was an event to build momentum on and get even more parishioners to attend next year.



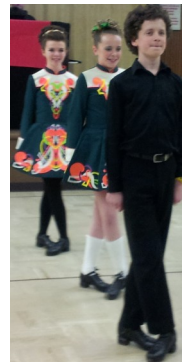
As we have come to expect, the food that was provided by Frank's Deli was top notch – from the traditional corned beef and cabbage to the chicken and pasta for those who chose not to eat Irish for the night. This was complemented by delicious Irish soda bread purchased by fellow Knight Roger Persaud.

From an entertainment perspective, DJs/emcees Joe **Mc**Timpa and Mike **O'**Chimenti set the mood by playing a nice mix of dinner music and traditional Irish tunes before transitioning into dance music later in the evening. In between, the Sullivan Center crowd was treated (depending upon whom you ask) to a sing-a-long led by our fellow Knights with the green blood and in one case green hair. Sitting on the stage with a couple of microphones in their hands were Matt Byrne, John Moore, Brendan Leavy, Alex McNevin, Joe Schweigert, Mike Shoule, and adopted brother, FDNY's Joe Loftus who was dressed the part with his Kelly green blazer and Irish tweed cap.



**O'**Chimenti let the party goers know which song was coming next so they could sing along using the song sheets that were at their tables while our own Irish Men-ors took the lead with McNamara's Band, The Irish Rover, Danny Boy, and The Wild

Rover with its familiar hand clap after the chorus. As far as we know the crowd was having a good time and singing along when they said "And it's no, nay, never, No, nay, never, No more" rather than RSVP'ing to next year's party.



The sing-along was capped off with a family favorite which brought all of the little kids up front for The Unicorn Song. A big thank you to Christine Tavcar and Brendan Leavy for getting all of the children involved with their impressions of humpty backed camels and some chimpanzees. The family fun then continued with a wonderful traditional Irish dance performance by some students from the Donny

Golden School of Irish Dance. We are grateful to Jim Tavcar and especially his wife Christine for making it happen.

The rest of the night was dedicated to letting people get their groove on while they released their inner leprechaun. Speaking of which, several guest were extra happy and were feeling the luck of the Irish as the winner of the 50/50 raffle and the baskets of cheer were announced. The beautiful baskets of cheer were put together by Betty Hamilton with an assist from her husband, lecturer Don Hamilton, who never seems to get any credit in our meetings.



Thanks to all of the Knights and parishioners who helped out to make it such a great night. This article would not be complete without throwing one last ribbing at our fearless leader and sometimes misunderstood Grand Knight Joe Timpa who instituted the Help and KERP (Knights Eat Last Please) plan which worked perfectly.



I guess we would have to vote on it, but after the success of this party, we may want to call ourselves the Knights **O'**Columbus going forward.

## GREENWAY CLEAN-WAY UPDATE

By Michael Shoule

Trash talkers were out in full force on Saturday morning, April 13<sup>th</sup> and the result would have made Oscar the Grouch cringe – not a piece of trash could be spotted on “the bicycle path” from Winchester Blvd. all the way to Hollis Hills Terrace.

The fourth time for the Greenway Clean-way Day seemed to be the charm as we had approximately 65 adults and 35 youth volunteer about two hours of their time to help beautify the old Vanderbilt Motor Parkway. While previous efforts had been quite successful, we did a great job of extending our reach past the pond and into Alley Pond Park thanks to the large number of volunteers which was a result of publicizing the event over a month in advance.

Not only did we do a thorough job of picking up the garbage, but we also picked up one of our three newest brother Knights – John Trabulsy – who showed up for the clean-up and expressed an interest in joining. As always, we got wonderful support from the members of the Alley Pond Striders. This time we were also joined by volunteers from the Samuel Field Y. Special thanks to those who volunteered to be point people-Carmine Vaccarino, Louis Diaz, Rob Liatto, Mike Mitts, Brendan Leavy, John Moore, and Jim Tavcar.

The next Greenway Clean-way Day will be in October and we will let you know once the date has been set. Hollis Hills Terrace as it goes south of Union Turnpike and winds around to Bell Blvd. could use our attention next time so let's see if we can get even more volunteers in the fall.



*Making It Happen, Getting It Done!*

**See The Next Page For More Photos**

## Alley Pond Park

*Courtesy of NYC Parks' Historical Signs Project and can be found posted within the park.*

This park is the second largest in Queens. The site is named for The Alley, an 18th century commercial and manufacturing center formerly located here. The origin of that center's name is the subject of some debate. One theory is that “alley” refers to the shape of the glacier-made valley. Another holds that colonial travelers, who passed through the valley to Brooklyn, en route to the Manhattan ferries, named it “the alley.” The well-traveled passage is believed to have been the route George Washington (1732-1799) took while touring Long Island in 1790.

The park lies on a glacier-formed moraine, a ridge of sand and rock that formed 15,000 years ago, marking the southern terminus of the Minnesota Ice Sheet. The glacier dropped the boulders that sit on the hillsides of the southern end of the park and left buried chunks of ice that melted and formed the ponds dispersed throughout the valley. Geologists call these “Kettle Ponds.” Fresh water drains into the valley from the hills and bubbles up from natural springs, mixing with the salt water from Little Neck Bay. As a result, the park is host to freshwater and saltwater wetlands, tidal flats, meadows, and forests, creating a diverse ecosystem and supporting abundant bird life.

The native Mattinecock once inhabited the area around Alley Pond Park, attracted by the shellfish in Little Neck Bay. In 1673, King Charles I of England gave a 600-acre land grant to Thomas Foster, who built a stone cottage close to modern-day Northern Boulevard. Two other Englishmen, Thomas Hicks and James Hedges, built mills that harnessed water flowing into Alley Creek. Although the area supported light industry, it stayed essentially rural throughout the 19th century and attracted residents with its natural beauty. William Vanderbilt's (1849–1920) privately run Long Island Motor Parkway was built through the area in 1908, a harbinger of the age of automobile travel that would continue to shape the park through the 20th century.

As the borough of Queens expanded rapidly, its population doubling in the 1920s, the City moved to protect open spaces. The City of New York acquired this site for park purposes on June 24, 1929, pursuant to resolution adopted by the Board of Estimate (a now defunct municipal body) on July 28, 1927. Parks acquired 330 acres of land surrounding the alley later that year, the most significant acquisition in the creation of the park, and cleared several older structures from the property. “This is an attractive offer and parks must be anticipated for the good of the increasing populations,” Mayor James J. Walker (1881–1946) said after the Board of Estimate approved the \$1.3 million acquisition. “There is no better site in Queens.” At the same time, the City obtained an option on 500 acres for a parkway connecting other parks in Queens, one of the first steps in a move to connect the City's parks via “greenways.”

# Greenway Clean-way Day



Thank You to the **Shoule Family** for contributing the exciting Greenway Photos!

Michael Shoule, put together a group of close to a hundred people on March 30<sup>th</sup> that included various neighborhood organizations, Knights, and their families in the Greenway Clean-way project. As a result, the Cunningham park walking paths that line our neighborhood have never looked cleaner or more beautiful.

The Knights also took an active role in the Holy Week services in preparation for Easter Sunday. Our brothers participated in the Holy Thursday service, the washing of the feet, and held the Cross for the Good Friday veneration ceremony.

On the social side, we held a successful St. Patrick's dinner, which has become a great annual event. Close to three hundred people enjoyed great Irish food and music that included a violin recital, dancing and singing.

As always Bingo continues as an ongoing effort to support our parish and under the leadership of Tony Zafferese, Dave Russell, and Matthew Byrne there are always five or six brothers who help out on Tuesday nights.

Once again the Knights are sponsoring a scholarship fund and will award money this spring to help a suc-

cessful high school and college student from our parish meet the challenge of tuition.

On the membership side, four of our brothers, Steven Day, Ed Pearce, Sal Tartaglione and Jim Ambery were inducted as Fourth Degree members in a ceremony at Immaculate Conception Church on Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup>. We are very proud of them. And, a successful Ministry Fair in April attracted three new Knights who were inducted in a First Degree ceremony on Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to this flurry of activity, our Council has also donated generously to help support charitable organizations, relief efforts and families in need and we work closely with American Martyrs sports association, the Catholic War Veterans, and the St. Vincent DePaul association to support their activities and events.

And lest we forget, who else (except for Tony Z) but Michael Shoule would shave their head for St. Baldricks to show support for a neighbor with cancer? This was truly a magnanimous show of sacrifice.

Yes, the Knights are really getting it done and in addition to our brothers' initiative and hard work we must also thank our Grand Knight Joe Timpa and our Chaplain Father Frank Schwarz for their ongoing leadership and support that enable us to continue our good work.



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**American Martyrs**

**Fr. John J. Murray Council #14666**

**Gets It Done!**



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