



Rev. John J. Murray

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



Issue 10. March 2014

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GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

By Joe Timpa

For Lent, I am giving up writing lengthy Grand Knight messages. During this season of **prayer, fasting and almsgiving**, besides participating in meaningful prayer and fasting, let's just promise one another that our council will continue to work together as always, to address the corporal and spiritual needs of our brothers and sisters as best as we can.



K of C Life Member - Carmine Vaccarino

By Mike Tramonte

Our selected Knight this month is Carmine Vaccarino, who holds the special distinction of being the longest serving Knight in our council with 56 years of active service in the Knights of Columbus. Carmine has been a member of the American Martyrs Parish for twenty years and serves as an Usher, an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, a member of the John J. Murray Knights of Columbus Council and a weekly bingo volunteer.



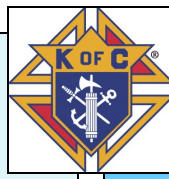
I recently sat down with Carmine to pose the following questions and get to know this fellow knight a little better:

To what do you attribute your strong sense of faith and service to your church?

(Continued on page 2)

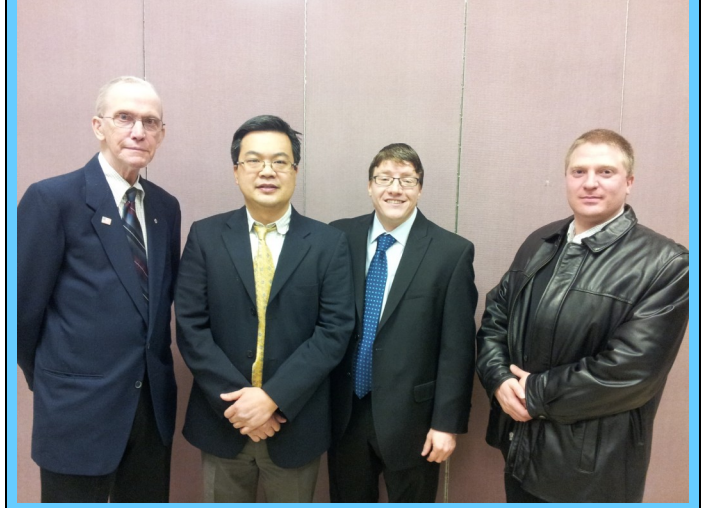
Welcome To Our Newest Members!

Joe Kinney, Matt Tramonte, Tim Rice, and Ryan Bocci made to their First Degree on January 23.



Congratulations Second Degree Members!

Joe Kinney, Fred Ma, Tim Rice, and John Trabulsky received their Second Degree on February 6.



(Continued from page 1)

I had a strong Catholic education. I attended St Patrick's Cathedral Elementary School, Cardinal Hayes High School and Manhattan College. My Catholic education had a strong influence on me.



What first attracted you to the Knights of Columbus?

My father was a Knight. I was working as an engineer in St. Petersburg Florida and I passed a Knights of Columbus Hall while walking with my wife. I saw a knight standing outside the hall. I asked about the Knights and after a brief conversation I was quickly recruited. I have been a Knight ever since.

What changes have you seen for the Knights over the years?

I think it's harder to recruit new members and I do not see the same enthusiasm for organizations like the Knights of Columbus. I think it's important that we attract younger members to continue our work.

What role do you see the Knights playing in the life of the parish of American Martyrs?

The knights play an active role providing service to our parish. Most of the ushers are Knights as well as the ministers of Holy Communion. It's important that we continue to volunteer and support all of the parish activities, organizations and regular services. I also think it is important for me to set an example and to show solidarity with our parish priests.

Do you think our parish is ready to establish a Council of Columbiettes?

Yes. I think the Knights are a family centered organization and in many cases the wives have a strong impact on their family's religious commitment. I think by attracting more wives we will attract more husbands to the Knights.

The Shrine to Our Lady of Fatima

By Lou Diaz

Last summer my wife Elena, my daughter Ginger and I traveled to Niagara Falls for a family vacation. As a side trip we decided to visit the National Shrine to Our Lady of Fatima, in Lewiston, NY, twenty minutes away from the falls. Its counterpart in Portugal cannot be much more inspiring.

We expected to find a museum or a church with a modest shrine, but were extremely surprised, and awed, to drive onto the grounds of the basilica. As we drove up the driveway, a welcoming Knights of Columbus marquis made us feel even more at home. The natural beauty before us was overwhelming. Its inspiring architecture, gardens and walkways made us stop often to take in, and enjoy our surroundings. The incredible domed basilica stood at the center of manicured walkways.



We approached this amazing sight by walking down the Avenue of the Saints, representing saints from every race and walk of life. We passed a large, sparkling pool of blue water, then realized that it was designed as a rosary, which you could recite as you walked its circumference. Farther on we stopped at a gazebo besides a beautiful lake. It seemed we had the place to ourselves, and took advantage of visiting the gift shop, the basilica, its chapels, and its roof. From there you could enjoy the view of the entire grounds, surrounded by the Adirondack Mountains, and stand in front of the beautiful monument to Our Lady of Fatima. To complement the beauty of the place, we were serenaded by peaceful, soothing music, which could be heard throughout the grounds. We were grateful and surprised that such a place existed, and was available to us. We had a few hours to gather our thoughts, and to reflect on our faith and family. After hours of walking, meditating and leaving our prayers in one of the Books of Intentions, we headed back to our motel, still talking about what we had just experienced.

Niagara Falls is certainly one of nature's majestic creations. But nearby, the Shrine to Our Lady Of Fatima was as enjoyable and majestic as anything we have seen. If your travels take you to that part of the state, take an afternoon to visit. We will go back as soon as we can.

Vivat Jesus!



Follow us on the web <http://home.catholicweb.com/FatherJohnMurrayKofC>

Congratulations Eagles!

Coached by brother Knight Mike Cassano, the Girls Basketball (Novice) team won 3rd place.



**Part time position for a
Bingo Volunteer.
An extraordinary opportunity
awaits!**

- Flexible hours & 6 days off a week.
- Earn a “free pastry and coffee.”
- Practice your sales skills.
- Opportunity for advancement - don't worry, you won't be “*pushing the cart*” forever.
- It will make Tony happy!
Note: Happy Tony = Peace

This and That...

By Michael Mitts

Did you know - Matt Tramonte, one of our newest Knights, achieved a personal goal when he ran the **NYC Marathon** for the first time on November 3, 2013. He finished in four hours and ten minutes and is already training for next year's marathon. Matt is the son of Mike Tramonte, and one of only two father & son teams in our council. He took his First Degree on January 23, 2014 with three other new Knights, see page 2 for more information.

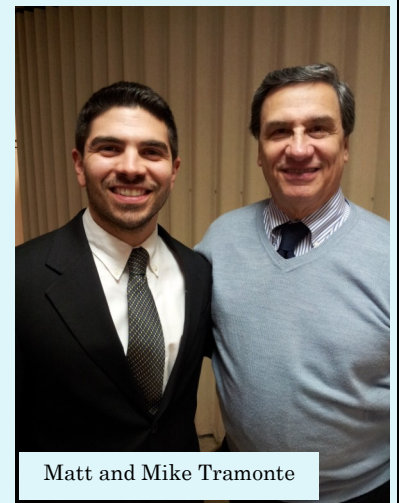
Interested in the Help Wanted position above? Seriously, by volunteering at Bingo you will help us honor our commitment in helping to run the second largest fundraiser for the parish. Note: It will also make Tony happy, that part is true.

Interestingly, only 2 weeks after making his 2nd Degree, Joe Kinney came to Volunteer at Bingo ... and Tony was happy - I have the photo to prove it!

The Queens Courier has presented brother Knight (Catholic War Veteran, Usher, Coach) Mike Cassano with the **2014 Rising Star Award**. This guy does it all - he is the real deal - All aboard the Cassano express!

Between Matt Tramonte and Mike Cassano - I'm exhausted!

Oh, that thing about Dom D'Andrea and the baking, well, forget about that, never mind ... shhh. Note: Forget about any marathons for me, thanks Dom.



Matt and Mike Tramonte



Joe Kinney and Tony Z

URGENT! Blood Drive - March 23

An **Emergency Blood Drive** has been scheduled for **Sunday, March 23. 9:15 am to 1:45 pm**

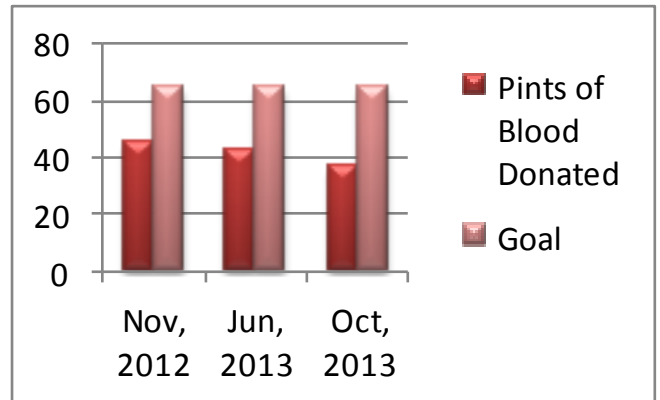
There is a great need for blood donations. Our brother Knight Ed Pearce reminds us that the goal for each collection event is 65 pints. We have not made that goal, and according to the chart, donations have declined.

Lets roll up our sleeves and get out there during the next collection event.



Please get your friends and family involved.

**Help
save
lives**



DOORS OPEN AT 6PM EARLY BIRD SPECIAL AT 7:15PM

GOOD OLD FASHIONED BINGO

\$3,000.00 IN PRIZES
\$650.00 JACKPOT

EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT

- EARLY BIRDS
- SHARE THE WEALTH
- LINES • BELL JARS
- REFRESHMENTS
- WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE

AMERICAN MARTYRS CHURCH
BELL BLVD. & UNION TURNPIKE • BAYSIDE
LICENSE # 510802

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Save The Date

Greenway Clean-way Day
on the
Vanderbilt Motor Parkway,
aka "the bicycle path"

April 12, 2014
9:00 am

Mar. 5 - Ash Wednesday
Mar. 8 - St. Patrick's Party (6 pm)
Mar. 22 - Lenten Soup Supper (after 5 pm Mass)
Mar. 23 - Blood Drive
April 12 - CWV Breakfast with the Easter Bunny
April 12 - Greenway Clean-way Day (9 am)
April 27 - Annual Parish Garage Sale