



Rev. John J. Murray

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



Issue 13. October 2014

## COUNCIL OFFICERS

### **Chaplain**

Fr. Frank Schwarz

### **Grand Knight**

SK Michael Mitts

### **Deputy Grand Knight**

Michael Shoule

### **Chancellor**

SK Vincent Yosca

### **Warden**

SK Dominick D'Andrea

### **Lecturer**

John Galanaugh

### **Financial Secretary**

SK Joe Timpa, PGK

### **Treasurer**

Carl Reyes

### **Recording Secretary**

Michael Tramonte

### **Advocate**

John Buglione

### **Inside Guards**

SK Jim Ambery

### **Outside Guard**

Robert Mitts

### **Trustees**

Fr. William Sweeney

SK Steven Day

SK Carmine Vaccarino

## **American Martyrs**

79-43 Bell Blvd

Bayside, NY 11364

[KofC14666FM@gmail.com](mailto:KofC14666FM@gmail.com)

### **Knight Light Editor**

SK Michael Mitts

### **Official Photographer**

SK Ed Pearce



## GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Brother Knights,

It is fitting that in this issue our Insurance Chairman and Agent, Vincent Marzella writes about asking eligible men to join our order. Membership does fuel our growth. It can also remind us of why we chose to be Knights. Recently, at our open house I was overwhelmed by the members personal testimonies of why they joined and how happy they are that they did. I was awed as I watched the slideshow of our works and friendship throughout these 6 years. I pray that we have many more together.

It cannot be understated: we have an obligation to ask each and every Catholic man to join us as we continue our good work.

That's it. Short and sweet. Let's get back to work - and have some fun while we do it!

Vivat Jesus,  
*Michael Mitts*



Special thanks to our District Deputy Mike Hilley and his team for a wonderful ceremony.



## Congratulations to the Newly Installed Council Officers!



## Meet the New Grand Knight

By Michael Tramonte

The American Martyrs, Father John J. Murray Knights of Columbus Council entered a new era of leadership on July 1, 2014 when Michael Mitts became the new Grand Knight of our Council, following the successful three year term of Grand Knight Joe Timpa.

Michael served as Deputy Grand Knight under GK Timpa and credits him for being a role model, whose successful term in office saw our Council grow in membership as our Knights undertook more activities and contributed more of their time for charitable works.

Grand Knight Mitts is one of the busiest members of our Council and our Parish. Both he and his wife, Nancy, teach CCD, he is the publisher of our Council Newsletter, and importantly a Bingo Volunteer! In the past, he has served as a member of the Parish Council. He is a dad of two beautiful daughters, Emily and Sofia. His father, Robert Mitts, is also a member of our Council and has recently been installed as an officer in the role of Outside Guard.

Michael comes to the office with the support of our entire membership and I think we are fortunate to have his leadership to continue to move us forward and become one of the most successful Knights of Columbus Councils in all of Queens.

Now, here are some things you may not know about Grand Knight Mitts:


- His family has a long history in our country. One of his great, great grandfathers fought in the American Civil War and another one fought in the Mexican War of 1847.
- He is a numismatist who has an interesting collection of coins and tokens, many with significant historic value.
- He was a serious Punk Rocker in his earlier days. Who would've known?
- Under no circumstances will he cut his beard.

I'm sure I am not alone in wishing GK Mitts tremendous success in his new role. With our support, he will certainly do a great job as our new Grand Knight.

## Congratulations to the Newly Installed Officers of the Catholic War Veterans!



A **Welcome Back Bagel Breakfast** sponsored by the Knights, was held on September 21<sup>st</sup>. It was a wonderful success! Thanks so much to all the volunteers that made it so smooth and enjoyable!



**Thank you to John & Linda Limberg** for generously donating their harvest of pumpkins to our church community. It made the children and families so happy!

Thanks also to Deacon Stan and Tony Z for helping John with this wonderful gift.

## LATEST NEWS...

On Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> the Council held its first ever Open House. We were excited to welcome 6 men who were interested in learning about the Order. We hope and pray that these men will consider taking the journey to become Knights of Columbus!

A First Degree is being planned for November 20<sup>th</sup>.

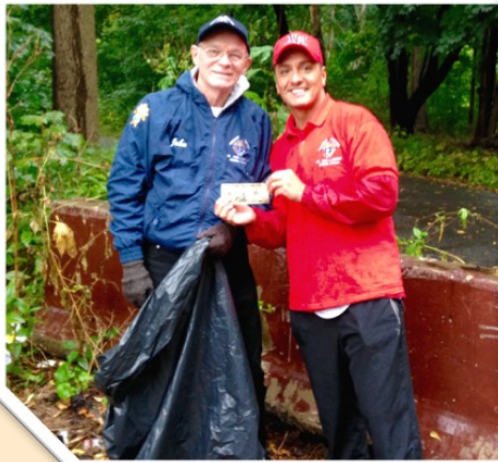
# Keeping the Greenway a Clean-way

By Michael Shoule

The seventh installment of the biannual Greenway Clean-way Day on Saturday morning, October 11<sup>th</sup> was reminiscent of the inaugural event in October 2011 except that this time the weather was warmer and so it was a rainy morning instead of a snowy one. Another distinction, and this one perhaps the most indicative of past efforts, is how much less garbage there seemed to be needing collection.

Despite the forecast and ensuing rain which kept a lot of volunteers away, the 25-30 adults, including members of the Alley Pond Striders and about 15 children who braved the elements did a great job keeping the Greenway a Clean-way.

Thank you to our fellow Knights who served as point people at the 5 meeting spots - Mike Casano, Lou Diaz, Rob Liatto, Tim Rice, and Jim Tavcar. Extra thanks to Mike and Tim who recruited youth from the American Martyrs and Little Neck Douglaston sports programs to lend a hand.



Mark your calendars - the next Greenway Clean-way Day is Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

## Noteworthy News...

Congratulations to **Valerie Day** for 25 years of service as associate of the Daughters of Wisdom's U.S. Province in Islip, L.I. Valerie is the wife of Council Trustee and Church Director, Steven Day.

## Knight Light is on a new Schedule!

Beginning with this issue, Knight Light will be published Quarterly instead of bi-monthly.

## Blood Drives - Save Lives!

Our Blood Chairman, Sir Knight Ed Pearce reports we collected 30 units at the last Blood Drive. **Remember - Blood Saves Lives - it's that simple.**

**Did  
You  
Know?**

## Who are the People in our Neighborhood?

By Michael Shoule

Whether you have lived in our neighborhood for 50 days or 50 years or somewhere in between, by now you have noticed that a decent number of the primary non-numbered streets seem to be named after people. The question though for the intellectually curious (or just plain bored) is who were these people and what did they do to get a street named after them?

I hope you enjoy this first installment of "Streets with Know Names". I invite you to research another roadway or route and write your own submission to potentially be included in a future edition of *Knight Light*. How did a Philadelphia born man come to have a major Queens thoroughfare, along with a lesser-known playground in Rego Park named after him? The logical guess would be money and in a way that would be the correct guess as well, but there is a little more to this story.

Although not meriting a Wikipedia entry of his own, the road that bears his name does get mentioned prominently in another Wiki article and the minimal biographical details provided are confirmed on the NYC Parks website. A "finance magnate" and avid art collector deeply involved in the railways, he also served as a director on various utility and commodity companies.

As a member of the Oakland Country Club, whose greens traversed land now occupied by the Clearview and Long Island Expressways, along with being a landowner in Wheatley Hills (the modern day CW Post campus) he was a staunch supporter of Long Island State Parks Commissioner Robert Moses and his "great parkway plan". He recognized how he would personally benefit from the convenience of an expanded highway system and so contributed financially to the construction.

Little did he know that the expressway that bears his name today would gain him more recognition with Queens residents than a former president who shared the same last name but was not related. Who is this person in our neighborhood? None other than Horace J. Harding (1863-1929).

## Fourth Degree Corner

By Jim Ambery

These are some of the pictures of a recent trip to the Grave of Commodore John Barry in Philadelphia, PA.

We have many different activities at the Commodore John Barry Assembly. Any Third Degree Brother Knight considering taking the Fourth Degree, see me or our Grand Knight.

One last note, I wanted to wish my wife Carolyn a Happy 25th Wedding Anniversary.



## Ask Eligible Men to Join

Today, I want to address the growth of the Order. Membership growth is the fuel that keeps this great fraternal engine running. All of our charitable works at the council, state, national and international level are thanks to our hard-working members. And more members equals more charity.

We know that the membership blitz is a tried and true way for councils to get more men to join. We see these pushes often in March, in celebration of Founder's Day, and again in October. These drives are successful because brother Knights have increased visibility speaking or presenting during and after Masses and at special events. We must remember that we have a duty to ask each and every Catholic gentleman to join our ranks for the good of the Church, the community and the Order.

During the rest of the year, we often "forget" to ask men to join and to bring their families into the Knights of Columbus family. You probably know an eligible Catholic man you could ask today. What if the only reason he hasn't joined is because no one has asked him yet?

When telling a prospect about the strengths of the Order, don't forget our greatest fraternal benefit: our insurance program. This is often a "selling point" to a potential member who is on the fence. Many members become Knights simply to be able to buy coverage to protect their family. Soon after, they realize the good our charitable works do for their community, and they are proud to be members.

As your professional Knights of Columbus insurance agent, I look forward to helping us grow in fraternity in any way that I can.

**Agent Name:** Vincent Marzella

**Phone:** (718) 317-6932

**Email:** [vincent.marzella@kofc.org](mailto:vincent.marzella@kofc.org)

## Food Collection - A Family Effort!

By Jim Tavear

A Food Collection Event was held by the Father John J Murray Knights of Columbus Council # 14666 on Saturday September 13 at Waldbaum's located in New Hyde Park. The event was a huge success! The Knights collected 17 bags of food for the Saint Vincent DePaul Pantry at American Martyrs while 69 bags of food were collected for the Our Lady of Lourdes Outreach Center. An additional 6 bags of food donated by parishioners were dropped off at Our Lady of Lourdes. Cash donations totaled \$158.45.

Thanks John Riley for bringing Isabella, Declan and Xavier.



Thanks Sal T. for bringing Sophia.

Thanks Mike Mitts for bringing Sofia.

Thank you Marie DeAngelis for your help.

Thanks to newcomers John and Tim - please come again.

Once again, guys it's always fun!



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Knights Of Columbus  
Father John J. Murray Council #14666  
Collects Over 3,000 Pounds of Groceries  
For Local Food Pantries**

On Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, The American Martyrs Father John J. Murray Knights of Columbus Council # 14666 sponsored a food Collection drive at the Waldbaums, 259-01 Union Turnpike, Floral Park.

The event was a huge success, with the group collecting a total of 86 bags weighing approximately 500 lbs. 69 bags were delivered to Our Lady of Lourdes Outreach Pantry while 17 went to The Saint Vincent DePaul Society Pantry of American Martyrs Church located at Union Tpke. and Bell Blvd. in Bayside. An additional 6 bags which were dropped off at American Martyrs Church by its parishioners. In addition to food donations, cash collected totaled \$158.45.

The Father Murray Knights of Columbus Council has been sponsoring food drives since July 2013. Since that time, The Council has held 7 events and has collected over 500 bags of groceries that totals over 3,000 pounds! Total cash collected is over \$1,400.

Council # 14666 holds 5 events per year at the following stores: Key Food, Oakland Gardens; Fairway, Douglaston; Stop & Shop, New Hyde Park; Waldbaums, Floral Park; and Waldbaums, Flushing.

Not only are members of the Knights of Columbus collecting food along with their children, but parishioners from both American Martyrs Church and Our Lady of Lourdes work at or with the pantries to help distribute food to those most in need. For information on how you can volunteer, become a member of the Knights of Columbus, or sign up for food assistance from the pantries, you can contact the Father Murray Council at [kofc14666fm@gmail.com](mailto:kofc14666fm@gmail.com).

Press Contact: Michael Chimenti

**WANTED:  
BINGO  
VOLUNTEERS**

Knights, please consider volunteering to help with Bingo. Thanks to all the members that come and make bingo a success - but we can always use more.

Remember, this is our council's largest source of funding. Let's support it with all we got!

Speak to Tony, Matt Byrne, Carmine, or Mike Mitts for more information.

DOORS OPEN AT 5PM EARLY BIRD SPECIAL AT 7:15PM

**GOOD  
OLD FASHIONED  
BINGO**

**\$3,000.00 IN PRIZES**  
**\$650.00 JACKPOT**

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TUESDAY NIGHT**

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

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

**Please Support the  
American Martyrs Athletic Association's  
AMAA Kick Off and Night Out With  
Our Veterans Fundraiser**

On Thursday, November 13 from 6-9 pm at  
Bourbon Street 40-12 Bell Blvd, Bayside.

Tickets available after all Masses  
Adults-\$25, Kids-\$15



**Save the Date!**

We will hold a food collection  
event at Fairway Markets in  
Douglaston, on Saturday,  
November 15 from 9:00 to 1:00

follow us on  
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**@KofC14666**

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