



Rev. John J. Murray

American Martyrs **KNIGHT LIGHT**

Fr. John J. Murray Council #14666



Issue 14. January 2015

COUNCIL OFFICERS

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SK Michael Mitts

Deputy Grand Knight

Michael Shoule

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Warden

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Chaplain's Message



Dear Brother Knights,

It's hard to believe, but our Council is now over six years old. And the best years are still ahead of us. I'm so pleased to hear that more men are joining this great Brotherhood of Catholic men every year. I'm also thrilled to hear that we will soon be forming a Columbiettes auxiliary. Imagine the good work we can all do together as brothers and sisters in Christ!

For many people this past year has been a difficult one. Whether because of economic or health reasons, or for personal reasons, 2014 has left many feeling alone and struggling. That is a sad reality of life in our modern world, which places so much emphasis on appearances, and so little on substance.

The great gift of a fraternal organization like the Knights of Columbus is that each member is valued as a brother, regardless of their wealth, background, race, or social status. This sense of belonging to something bigger than oneself goes far to help alleviate the isolation that so often afflicts individuals in today's society.

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Grand Knight's Message



Knights keep up the great work!

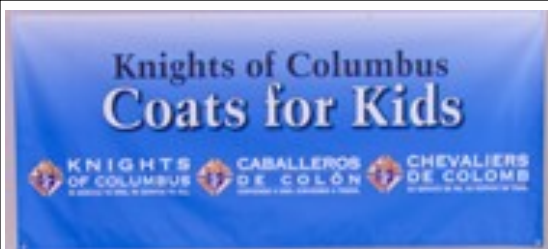
You are an amazing group of men and I am grateful for all that you do. I am learning so much from all of you and I thank you for allowing me to lean on you.

Welcome new Knights! Please get involved in your Council. Our membership is our greatest strength - You are our greatest strength. Help the Order, Grow the Order, and always live and work according to our principles: Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism!

Continue to be the leaders you are and the "strong right arm of the Church."

Vivat Jesus!

- Michael Mitts



Council Donates 36 New Coats for Kids

On December 20th our Council donated 36 brand new coats as part of our Council's participation in the Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids program. Using the proceeds from the C&B raffle sales, our Council purchased the new coats in time for winter. The Council donated the coats to **North Shore LIJ's C.O.A.S.T** program. **C.O.A.S.T** stands for **Creating Optimism Amidst Sandy Trauma**. Many of the coats were given to children in Far Rockaway that were impacted by Sandy.



Social Worker Christine Keene, Council Director and C&B Chairman Sal Tartaglione, Director of the Child, Adolescent, & Adult Divisions of Outpatient Psychiatry Pauline Walfisch, GK Michael Mitts, Robert Mitts - a top C&B seller, Coats for Kids Chairman John Buglione.

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Although I am proud of the progress that the American Martyrs/Fr. John Murray Council has accomplished in its six years, I am constantly reminded that the success of the council is measured not by the number of members on its roster, but by the quality of its unity, fraternity, and charity.

As we look forward to the challenges and opportunities to be of service in the new year, let us never forget who we are and what we are to be about. We are a microcosm of the Church herself. Our Order reflects the values that Christ wants all of His followers to reflect. We are, because of our visibility, a lamp that lights the way for others.

Keep up the good work, brothers. Be assured of my support and prayers for your efforts on behalf of the Church and the community. May God bless you and your families during this year, and may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts always.

Fr. Frank

1st Annual Knight's Sponsored Veteran's Day Event a Tremendous Success

Tim Rice

The event idea began very ambitiously, with the primary goal of honoring our parish veterans for Veteran's day. The event's lofty objective was to provide a tangible opportunity for our parish families to participate interactively with our veterans, highlighting the role they have and continue to play in our lives.

An initial raw draft of the event was shared in September, which was refined to target our CCD students as well as our veterans and their families. A committee was formed and began the work needed to develop and host the event. The work done by that committee resulted in our objectives not only being met, but being far exceeded. The committee met several times over the course of several weeks to ensure all communications and logistics were covered, event schedule developed, and supplies and equipment needs accounted for. Critical to the success was our Knights working in coordination with Fr. Frank, with the CCD teachers and parents, and with our Catholic War Veterans council.

On November 9th the event attended by all our CCD classes, and many of our veterans' families and widows began with a flag procession led by our own brother Knight and Veteran, Bob Mitts. He was joined by his fellow Catholic War Veterans including our Pastor, Fr. Frank Schwarz who helped open our event with a prayer after which we all recited the pledge together. We were then treated to the National Anthem sung by Racquel Uy.

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Following some opening remarks those in attendance were treated to a video put together featuring pictures of our war veterans set to music. The video became a big highlight of the event for our veterans and their families – drawing perhaps a tear or two as well as big smiles, and surprised giggles. The video put together by Elba Rice provided a moving tribute to our veteran's as well as a personalized visual story for our parish children and families.

After the video concluded another of our Brother Knights and Veteran, Mike Cassano, was introduced and spoke on behalf of the veterans with the children. He did a wonderful job in describing his experiences in the service, sharing his thoughts around what it means to serve and the value of patriotism. After Mike's remarks we began an interactive Q&A which became another highlight of the event. Our CCD kids did us proud and had a ton of great questions, so many so that we could not get to them all due to time constraints. We ended the event with the kids making thank you cards for veterans, a prayer and remarks by Fr. Frank as well as the presentation of our Knights \$250 donation to the CWV Council.



The event was a resounding success due to the hard work put in by our Knights. A big thank you goes out to all the Knights that participated, in particular Committee Members Mike Shoule, Bob Mitts, John Galanaugh, Rob Liatto, Sal Tartaglione, Mike Cassano, Joe Timpa, Ed Pearce, and Jim Ambery.

A special thank you goes out also to Elba Rice, Theresa Asche, and Veteran Bob Shoule for their efforts in assisting to make this wonderful event.

Finally, a sincere thank you goes out to all our veterans for all you have sacrificed. Words alone cannot describe the value your commitment to the defense of freedom and the values we hold dear represents.

God Bless America.



Knights Partner with Local Little League to Support Our Lady Of Lourdes Food Pantry

With a break between our councils' food collection efforts this fall, our council partnered with the Little Neck Douglaston Soccer Club to organize a flash food collection. Brother Knight Tim Rice, as a member of the LND board and Girls Soccer Intermural Division head, approached chairman Jim Tavcar about running a food drive through the soccer club. Tim then obtained the approval and direct assistance of the LND Board in running the food drive over the course of 2 weekends. All soccer divisions, intermural and travel, girls and boys participated. Despite a rain out reschedule, Jim and Tim were able to generate a buzz which resulted in a tremendous result on behalf of the food pantry.



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Final Food Collection of the Year - Another Job Well Done!

Jim Tavcar

A Food Collection Event was held at Fairway Markets in Douglaston on Saturday, November 15th. As we basked in the beautiful weather, the Knights and their children managed to pick up 59 bags of food; 20 for American Martyrs St Vincent DePaul Pantry and 39 for Our Lady of Lourdes Outreach Center. We also collected \$226.40 in cash which was due in large part to the children of the Knights who operated the all-important donation jars. We also tallied 18 Knight Hours at the event.

As always, thanks to the Knights who came out and pitched in. Special thanks to (in order of appearance) Emily Liatto, Paul Russell, Anna and Antonio Barreira, Emma and Nate Shoule - you kids are always great. As always special thanks to Marie DeAngelis.



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In total 37 bags of non-perishable food items were collected as well as a total of \$424. In addition to the collection success we added 20 total volunteer man hours to our total for 2014. A big thank you for the efforts made by all Knights involved in particular Jim Tavcar, Joe Timpa, and Tim Rice. A big thank you also to our friends at LND, the money collected at the actual event was \$106, which was anonymously matched by a member of the LND board, that \$212 was then matched by the club resulting in the \$424 total donated. Proof positive through the strength and leadership of the Knights and community partnerships great things are possible.

**The Next Food
Collection Event
has been
Scheduled for:**



**Saturday, February 7, 2015
9 am to 1 pm
at Key Food on 73rd Ave**

**Please consider helping out at this
important event!**



A Noteworthy Knight - - Brendan Leavy

Mike Tramonte

As our Council grows and expands in membership, I have come to realize that our brothers find many different ways to contribute their time and talents.

Some Knights coordinate food or blood drives, while others are active in our church religious and sports programs. Still some contribute their time to Bingo. Our selected Knight for this issue is a man who has contributed to many of those efforts: Brendan Leavy.

He has had a very busy year volunteering his time and talents to a number of worthwhile causes and charities. He manages this while also working as an insurance consultant and being a dad who is there to support all his girls' sports activities.

First, a little background. Brendan has been a member of our parish since 1995 and is a Third Degree Charter Member of the American Martyrs John J. Murray, Knights of Columbus Council 14666. He's been married to his wife Milena for 22 years, and has three wonderful daughters - Emma (15), and identical twins Megan and Julianne (11.)

Many would be surprised to learn that Brendan is a talented musician. He was the lead singer and also played guitar in an original rock band for many years. He still enjoys playing guitar, singing and songwriting.

Brendan's daughters participate in many of American Martyrs Sports Programs including soccer, basketball, softball, swimming and volleyball. His daughter Emma inherited her dad's musical talent and has sung at several parish functions, including a rendition of "God Bless America" at the flagpole for the Catholic War Veterans ceremony, and at the AMAA fund raising dinner at Bourbon Street.

In addition to the Knights, Brendan has also kept busy this year volunteering as a board member at Easter Seals of New York, a nonprofit organization that supports veterans and people with disabilities and special needs. He's also Assistant Volleyball coach for the American Martyrs girls CYO Volleyball Team, providing support to head volleyball Coach Peter Chong.

When Councilman Mark Weprin asked for our help delivering food to Our Lady of Lourdes Food Pantry, Brendan was the first to volunteer and delivered the

food. He also contributed his time and muscles by delivering our parish food collection to Our Lady of Lourdes.

Recently, he has been a great help in collecting donations and clothing to help a family devastated by a home fire in College Point. He has personally arranged for that family to meet one of his contacts from a local Jewish Temple that has a large supply of clothing and other needed items, so that they may begin rebuilding their lives.

Speaking to Brendan I found that he is not only a terrific dad and family man, he exhibits all the best qualities of the Knights in our council. He is fully engaged with his church, community and council and gives selflessly of his time and talents.

He truly is a Noteworthy Knight.



Keep Christ In Christmas



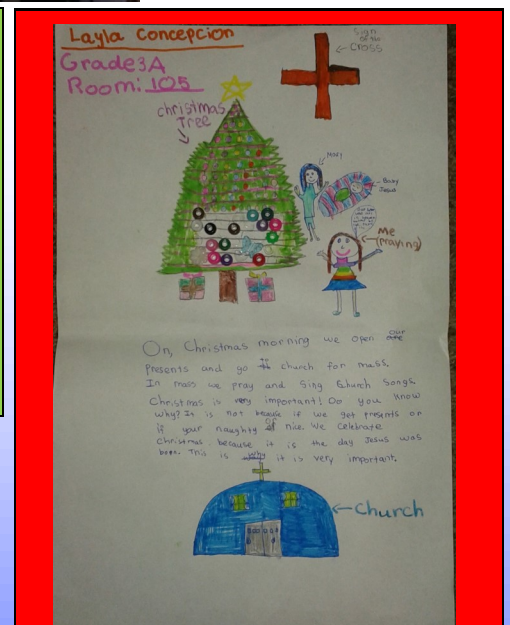
Merry Christmas!



Age 5-7: Emma Shoule



Age 11-14: Julianne Leavy



Age 8-10: Layla Concepcion



Happy New Year!

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the poster contest!

Congratulations New Knights!



11/20 - Pieter Bootsma, Angel Matos, Membership Director Steven Caruso, Dexter Mojica, GK Michael Mitts, George Walfisch, Bobby Shoule, Brendan Dalton, Matt Clendenin, Frank Paukowits, Danny Bacci, Greg Jorge

Membership Growth

Our council has held 2 First Degree Exemplifications in the first part of this fraternal year. On 11/20/14, 10 men joined our Council and on 12/18/14, another 2 men joined. Welcome new Knights!

It should be noted that all of the men that attended our open-house in October joined - 100% Success!

Special thanks to Membership Director Steven Caruso and all the members of our Degree Team.

Great job!



12/18 - Bob Aguanno, GK Michael Mitts, Chris Liatto

Congratulations to the 1st Brothers in the Council!



11/20 - Bobby and Mike Shoule



12/18 - Rob and Chris Liatto

New Knights -

Please remember to contact your personal Insurance Representative Vincent Marzella. You will be glad you did... and you will also be on your way to earning the Shining Armor Award.



All Knights -

Remember your Insurance Representative is always there to answer questions and meet with you and your family. Avail yourself of this Fraternal Benefit.

Protecting Widows – A Founding Goal

As a member of this council, you know how important spouses can be to the charitable works of the Order. If you're married, your wife is probably involved in a few of the many events that happen each fraternal year. This support adds great value and impact to what a council can achieve.

When the Order was founded in 1882, Father Michael J. McGivney and the other brave men were setting out to protect Catholic families, but especially wives and children. Today, we remain committed to this mission by offering insurance products and fraternal benefits designed with that goal in mind. One specific policy rider that you may not know about is called Spousal Waiver of Premium. This rider is unique to the Knights of Columbus philosophy of helping our widows.

This rider is available on most permanent and Discoverer plans purchased at standard rates by a member and his wife on the same day. When both spouses apply, the rider provides for waiver of premiums on the spouse's contract in the event of the insured's death. Best of all, for members and spouses ages 18 to 60, this waiver can be added for no charge. The rider stays in effect until the spouse attains age 65 or certain other triggering events occur.

Our products are designed with your needs and budget in mind. With a solid portfolio of life insurance, long-term care, disability income and retirement products, the Knights of Columbus can help you meet all of your financial goals. To learn more about these solutions, contact me today.

Vincent M. Marzella, FIC
Field Agent #15405
Knights of Columbus

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e-mail: vincent.marzella@kofc.org

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 Z., Matt Byrne, or Mike Mitts for more information.

Congratulations to Our Knights Who Advanced in Their Degrees



Gabe Moronta and Tim Rice made the Third Degree on 11/14/14, seen here with our Worthy District Deputy Mike Hilley

Matt Tramonte made his Second Degree on 11/12/14

Calendar - Save the Date

- 1/7 - Free Throw Contest at ICC
- 1/15 - Meeting 7:45 pm
- 1/16 - Columbiettes Informational Meeting 7 pm (MC)
- 1/29 - Meeting 7:45 pm
- 2/7 - Food Collection, KeyFood
- 2/11 - SECOND DEGREE at Olympia Council
- 2/12 - Meeting 7:45 pm
- 2/26 - Red Cross Disaster Preparedness 8 pm (SC)
- 3/7 - St. Patrick's Day Party (SC)
- 3/11 - THIRD DEGREE at Olympia Council
- 3/12 - Meeting 7:45 pm
- 3/15 - Blood Drive (SC)
- 3/26 - Meeting 7:45 pm
- 3/29 - Palm Sunday, Founders Day Mass, Bagel Breakfast



American Red Cross
Greater New York Region

Are you prepared for a disaster?

The American Red Cross has a mission of making sure that our communities are ready and prepared for disasters. Since New York is at high risk for man-made, technological and natural disasters, the Red Cross has partnered with NY State to advance the message of disaster preparedness.



The Red Cross is offering a **FREE** 1 hour presentation on disaster preparedness to your community. Attendees will receive a comprehensive overview on how to prepare for natural and made-made disasters, and how to respond to and recover from them.

Thursday, February 26, 2015

8:00 PM

American Martyrs Church

79-43 Bell Boulevard, Bayside NY 11364

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #14666

What is the Red Cross?

The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.

For more emergency preparedness information, visit

redcross.org/prepare