



Rev. John J. Murray

American Martyrs **KNIGHT LIGHT**

Fr. John J. Murray Council #14666

Twenty-Fifth New York District



Issue 16. July 2015

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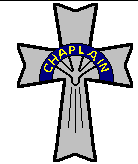
Knight Light Editor

SK Michael Mitts

Official Photographer

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Chaplain's Message



Dear Brother Knights,

Recent events around the world have made it clear to us that the world is still a very dangerous place. The situation in the Middle East continues to devolve into chaos, and its effects can be felt around the world. Russia, our old Cold War foe, is threatening her closest neighbor Ukraine, and bullying the rest of Europe. North Korea is flexing its muscles also, trying to prove that it is a force to be reckoned with. There is no shortage of examples that show how far we human beings are from achieving Peace on Earth. But, lest we think that we in the United States are immune from the violence that threatens so much of our world, the events that have occurred in the southern states of our Union remind us that our past can come back to haunt us if we forget that our commitment to freedom and justice for all people is something that we can never consider a completed endeavor. We have all seen or heard about the shooting of the nine members and Pastor of the Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina. It was carried out by a very sick, racist young man who targeted this Church because of its history and because its members were black. Since that tragic and shameful event, seven other black churches in southern states have been set on fire. Even if one of those churches

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Grand Knight's Message



Brother Knights,

As we end this fraternal year, I look back at the wonderful things that we have done. Everything from record breaking Food Collections, to Free Throw Contests; growing our membership and even forming a Columbiettes auxiliary. You guys did it! So many great leaders, so many good men. The credit is all yours.

I am the luckiest Grand Knight in the world...
...thanks to all of you.

Onward to a new year!

Vivat Jesus!

- Michael Mitts

**Welcome
New
Officers!**

A Dream Come True

It is said " Water is Life" and" Wherever Water Flows, Life Grows". This very basic essential commodity, often taken for granted by many, is what others struggle to get. Over the past 4 years since St. Joseph Catholic Church at Kromoase in Ghana became a Parish, we have been dreaming of planning, and working towards drilling a well. This dream has come true because of the generosity that has been an integral part of the spirituality of the American Martyrs St. Vincent de Paul Society. Your kind donation of \$6,900.00 has made this possible. It is like finding a treasure buried 200 feet deep in the bowels of the earth!



Two water tanks have been installed - one for the Church, the other for the benefit of the community. An electric pump has also been installed to help draw water into the tanks.

I would like to thank the Priests, the Pastoral Staff, Ms. Marie de Angelis and the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and all our benefactors for their generosity and friendship.

"Your loves are written as in a book, where each day we turn the leaf to read them..." and "More is thy due than more than all can pay...." --- Macbeth

May the good Lord continue to shower His blessings upon you, and give you His peace.

Thanks a million,

Rev. Dominic Baffour -Akowuah
St. Joseph Catholic Church
Kromoase, Ghana

Read the Letter from Fr. Dominic to learn about the Well Project that many Knights contributed to, as well as our Council itself!



(Continued from page 1)

caught fire because of a lightning strike, it still leaves a disproportionate number of churches that have been set ablaze in a very short period of time. This is no coincidence, and it most likely reflects a reactionary response to the move to remove a symbol that, for many, is a symbol of racial hatred: the stars and bars of the confederacy. But as I mentioned in my homily on the Sunday after the church shooting, we don't need to look south of the Mason-Dixon Line to find racism. This evil exists everywhere in our country, in our city, in our church, and even within our order. As Catholics and as Knights we are not immune to the attitudes that lead to racism, but we are called to confront those attitudes head on. We certainly have a role to play in making sure the racism that has led to so many atrocities (sometimes even in the name of religion) does not find a foothold in our lives, in our homes, in our Church, in our hearts. We should be angry and outraged, and righteously so, that anyone would perpetrate such violence in the name of God, Country, race, or creed. As we pray for the victims of such inhuman and violent actions, we also need to work to bring the light of true Gospel values to a world that is broken and so often plunged into the darkness of fear, hatred, cowardice, and helplessness. As Knights we should be on the front lines of this fight.

Vivat Jesus,
and may God Bless the USA.

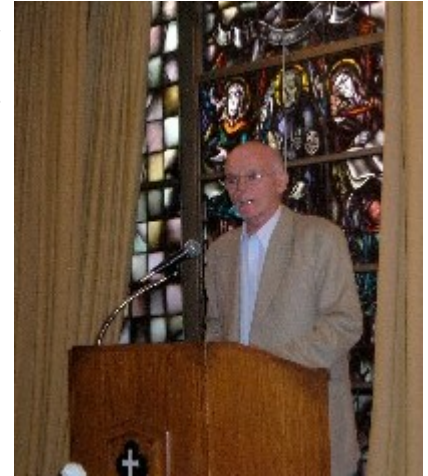
Father Frank

Knights of Columbus and Columbiettes Evening of Reflection

Steven Day

On Friday evening June 19, twenty- three Knights and Columbiettes along with some guests met at Bishop Molloy Retreat House for an evening of prayer and fellowship. Many in our organizations had expressed a need for some time to get away from the demands of everyday life in order to enter into a period of quietness and reflection.

Our evening began with dinner and, of course, lively conversation in the retreat house dining room. The meal prepared by the retreat house chef nourished our bodies. It was then time for us to move into the conference room, where our souls would be nourished. First, Brother Knight John Galanaugh, shared a beautiful reflection on the Trinity with us. John, we hope you will share this with all your brother Knights and sister Columbiettes. Fr. John Lee offered a reflection based on this year's retreat theme: Coming Alive in Christ.



We were asked to reflect upon a time in our own lives when we were struggling. What happened during that time that brought us to the realization that God was indeed present with us? We were also invited to reflect upon an experience in life of deep wonder and awe and how that experience affected us. These reflections were then shared with each other.

After the conference we went to the chapel for the celebration of the Eucharist. Fr. Michael presided at our Eucharist, which was offered for Midge Pearce who had passed away earlier in the week. Orlando served as Lector, Betty and Don brought up the gifts and Valerie and I served as EMs. After the final blessing Fr. John thanked us for coming and invited us to return for another evening of reflection or perhaps for a weekend retreat.

The evening blessed us with many spiritual gifts, most especially the deepening of our relationship with each other and with Jesus. Val and I hope that the Knights and Columbiettes together will continue to offer our membership these opportunities for spiritual nourishment so that all come alive in Christ!





Don and Betty Hamilton were kind enough to visit with the American Martyrs Family when they came to NY recently. They joined the Knights and Columbiettes at an Evening of Reflection at Bishop Molloy Retreat House. Don is a Fourth Degree Knight and Charter Member of this Council and has served as a Council Officer in the past. They currently live in Arizona

Thank you Don and Betty for generously providing the funds for our next pizza social.

Welcome newest Fourth Degree members of the Commodore John Barry Assembly.



Mike Shoule and Rob Liatto took their Fourth Degree on April 11th. They are joined here with Fourth Degree Honor Guard Member Jim Ambery.

Thank You Knights!

Thanks to Knights Ed Pearce, Pieter Bootsma, Fernando Barreira, and William Horowitz for helping with Sr. Ave Clark's Luncheon event on June 13th.



Pieter Bootsma securing the door.



Knights Make a Good Showing at the American Martyrs Golf Outing & Dinner- Monday May 12th

Golfers were Mike Shoule, Bobby Shoule, Brendan Leavy, Ernie Libasci, Fr. Bill, Greg Jorge, Tim Rice, Carl Reyes, Jim Tavcar. Also attending were Anthony Zafferrese, Fr. Frank, Deacon Stan, Ed Pearce.

And the Winners Are...

Jim Tavcar

On Sunday June 21st, after 10:30 Mass, the Father John J Murray Knights of Columbus Council # 14666 announced the winners of their Catholic High School and College Scholarships. The applicants all had good grades, thoughtful essays and impressive extracurricular and community service activities.

The winner of the **Louis Foresta Catholic High School \$500 Scholarship** was **Anastasia Caamano**. Her award was presented to her by Ellie Foresta, a very active parishioner and Lou's widow. The **Father John J Murray College \$1,000 Scholarship** was awarded to **Carina Acosta**.



Congratulations to both winners!



Fourth Degree Corner

Jim Ambery



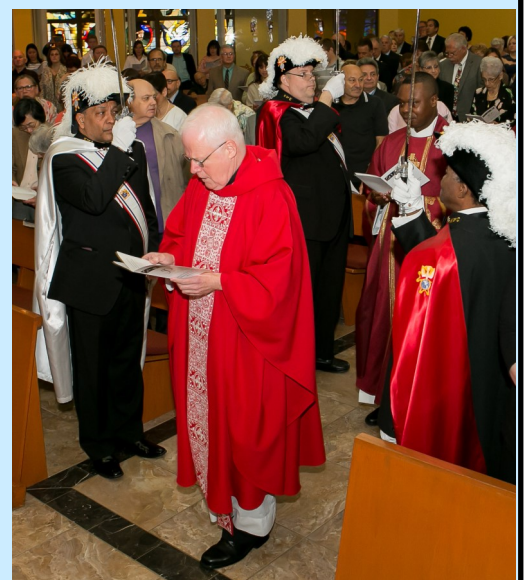
The last meeting was held in our home council. Elections were held and most of the officers were reelected.

A motion was made to partially reimburse members that join the honor guard. Details to follow.

The next meeting is going to be at Jamaica Council #337 at 188-16 91 Ave., Hollis, NY on July 19 @8 pm.

June 27 - the Honor Guard served the 10:30 mass at Holy Family Church in Flushing.

June 28 - Fr. Daniel Kingsley's first mass at St. Vincent Ferrer Church in Brooklyn and we sponsored Father Kingsley in the assembly.



St. Baldrick's Fundraiser—Our Deputy Grand Knight raised \$2280 thanks in part to a donation from the Council along with individual donations from Brother Knights, as well as friends and family. The event at Trinity raised over \$230,000 which ranked them #11 in the entire world



The St. Baldrick's Foundation funds more in childhood cancer research grants than any organization except the U.S. government. Since 2005, St. Baldrick's has awarded more than \$154 million to support life-saving research, making the St. Baldrick's Foundation the largest private funder of childhood cancer research grants. In the 1950s, almost all kids diagnosed with cancer died. Because of research, today more than 85% of kids with the most common type of cancer will live. But there is work to be done. Kids with countless types of childhood cancers have little hope for a cure. We've funded research in 22 countries, including all institutions that treat kids with cancer in the U.S.



Keeping the Greenway a Clean-way

Mike Shoule

The eighth installment of the biannual Greenway Clean-way Day on Saturday morning, April 11th had a nice turnout of about 50 volunteers from our parish and community who came together to beautify the bicycle path. And the weather cooperated thus adding to the positive outlook the volunteers shared along the Greenway.

Thank you to our fellow Knights who served as point people at the 5 meeting spots - Mike Tramonte, Rob Liatto, Pieter Bootsma, and Jim Tavcar.



The next Greenway Clean-way Day will be in October although the exact date is not finalized yet.



Jim Tavcar Leads Food Collection and Collects a “TON” of Food.

One of the most important and widely successful Knights of Columbus activities has always been operating food drives for the hungry. Lead by our Community Director Jim Tavcar, this year was no exception. Thanks to his leadership and the cadre of supporters and volunteers, our Council was able to collect a TON of food - literally. Ending the fraternal year, this Council has collected 2268 pounds of food and an impressive amount of cash donations totaling \$2234 which was donated to food programs. A great job indeed!

Food Collection Report 4/25/15

Jim Tavcar

Members of the Knights of Columbus, their children and the Columbiettes joined forces on a cool but beautiful day and had another successful food collection event. A total of 54 bags of food were collected, which were all delivered to Our Lady of Lourdes Outreach Center. Cash collected totaled \$181.50.

Special thanks to the youngsters Emily and Olivia Liatto, along with Caterina Bootsma who charmed shoppers into donating just a little bit more. I also heard that Marco D'Andrea attended before I got there. I was happy to meet Lil from our parish, along with Columbiette Terry. It was good to see the rest of the Columbiette contingent comprised of Valerie Day, Marie DeAngelis and leader Margaret D'Andrea who attended the early shift.

Thanks to all who attended and helped out, we couldn't have done it without you.



Food Collection Report 6/27/15

Jim Tavcar

Today's Food Collection Event was truly spectacular. We had a huge walk up turnout, with 17 Knights showing up (excuse me while I wipe a tear from my eye), and 9 of their children. We collected 97 bags of food, of which 75 went to Our Lady of Lourdes Outreach, 6 to Broken But Not Destroyed and 16 to St Vincent de Paul Pantry at American Martyrs. The cash collected was a whopping \$486.82 plus 2 \$25 Stop & Shop Gift Cards bringing the total to \$536.82.



This was a great day but without the kids, I doubt we would have collected as much. Here is the children role call - take a bow, Caterina Bootsma, Sophia T., Jillian Ma, Julianne and Megan Leavy, Penelope Rice, Sophia Mitts, and Emma and Nate Shoule. Also thanks to Lil who brought brownies, Valerie Day, Elba Rice and of course Marie DeAngelis. Thanks to all, you guys are the greatest!

**A friend to the Knights,
and a friend to us all.**

Midge Pearce



September 27, 1943 -
June 15, 2015

Social Night Provides Relaxation for Members

On May 28th several members gathered together to play a relaxing fun game of Texas Hold'em. We would like to tell you more... but what happens at the council stays in the council.

Thanks Matt for setting up a fun game.



Thinking Caps ON—

Please let the Officers know if you have any ideas for future social nights. We'd love to hear them!

Communion Breakfast—Team Work

On May 17th, the various parish groups came together and held a Communion Breakfast at American Martyrs with Fr. Bill as the guest speaker. All the children who made their sacraments in the past year as well as the RCIA adults, were invited as guests.



Many groups participated like the Catholic War Veterans, who donated the \$100 Anthony's gift certificate and made a \$150 contribution to the Cathedral Prep scholarship fund in Fr. Bill's name.

The Rosarians donated the table cloths and provided table numbers and the holders which was appreciated.

One of our Knights donated one of the bicycles from his employer, Toys R Us, and another Knight donated a new Blackberry phone.

Our Council donated one of the bikes and have a written a \$150 donation check as well to the Cathedral Prep Scholarship fund, in Fr. Bill's name.

Special thanks to Joe Timpa, who not only represented the Knights but also provided much of the inter-group coordination for this event. This was always something Joe wanted to do - have all the groups come together - and it worked beautifully!



Fr. Bill taking a "selfie" with many of the invited guests.

Don't Assume You Can't Afford Disability Income Insurance

One of the biggest mistakes you can make regarding disability insurance is to assume you can't afford it or you won't qualify. Before you make that assumption, do some basic research and apply for coverage through the Knights of Columbus. The Order's Income Armor product gives you options that can help you fit this critical protection into your risk management budget.

Here are two ways you can reduce your premium:

1. Choose a two-year or five-year maximum benefit period.

Depending on your age, the best option is probably a policy that pays benefits until you reach age 67. But a two-year or five-year duration benefit period would cover disabilities you might encounter in your working life.

2. Choose a longer elimination period.

An elimination period is the number of days a total disability must exist before benefits begin to accrue. Typical elimination periods are 30, 90, or 180 days. Choosing a longer elimination period lowers the policy's premium. But be sure you have enough set aside in your contingency fund to account for the longer gap.

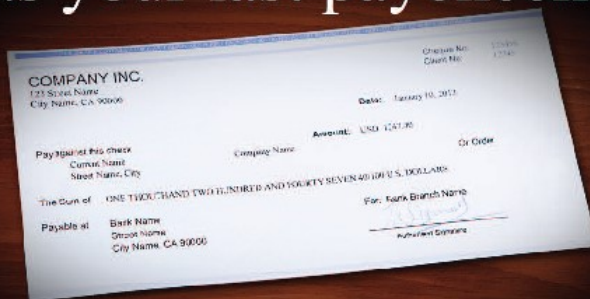
As your professional insurance agent, risk management is my specialty. Let's talk about how to protect your income, your retirement needs, and your family's financial future.

Agent Name: Vincent Marzella

Phone: (718) 317- 6932

Email: vincent.marzella@kofc.org

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