

American Martyrs
KNIGHT LIGHT

Council 14666, Twenty-Eighth New York District



Issue 19, April 2017

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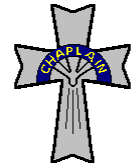
SK Ed Pearce

Dear Brother Knights,

There is no doubt that our country is divided. Democrats vs: Republicans, liberals vs: conservatives, left vs: right, blue state vs: red state, and countless other ways that people have been categorized have too often led to an us vs: them mentality. As an American, a veteran, a Catholic, and a Knight I reject the notion that we, the people of the United States of America, can be so easily lumped together into adversarial groups that reflect our political beliefs or ideologies. We may not always agree with one another, or see eye to eye on many issues, but the principles that should always guide our discernment and deliberations with one another are the same ones that guide our Order: charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. I believe that putting these principles to practice in our everyday lives is a sure way to overcome the extreme negativity and distrust that has affected so many of our fellow countrymen.

These are difficult times, to be sure, but they are also times of

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“Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works.” James 2:18



In my mind, Brother Knights, this is what our Council is all about. From the smallest individual act that one of us performs unbeknownst to anyone else like visiting the sick, to the very public food drives that we hold as a Council to feed the hungry, we are a Council of works. Over 5,600 hours of volunteer service is no accident. That is the result of each of us living a life of intention – the life God intended for us.

In “Praying the Stations of Mercy with Pope Francis”, the booklet that is used during the Friday night Stations of the Cross, Pope Francis is quoted “The cross of Christ invites us also to allow ourselves to be smitten by his love, teaching us always to look upon others with mercy and tenderness. This is especially true of those who suffer,

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opportunity and hope. The mainstream media would have us believe that the future is paved with dangers that threaten our very way of life in these United States. Politicians very often use the fears and hysteria created by the negative news to score points with an electorate that has already been sorely challenged by a very hostile presidential campaign. Even celebrities have weighed in with opinions that more often reflect the bitterness they feel than reality. The result is more negativity, more distrust, more hostility, and more division. We should not yield to these forces of darkness, but instead bring our love of God and country to bear on all we do. As a nation we have many challenges to address and overcome, but we must never allow ourselves to give in to the cynicism of those who would have us believe that the American experiment has failed.

In November of 2016, Americans elected a new president. He was not the candidate that many expected to win. He did not win the popular vote. Many within our Order did not vote for him. He said some inappropriate things. His tweets are, at times, offensive. But he is the President of the United States, and as such he has sworn to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. Whether we like him or not, he deserves our respect and we need to give him the opportunity to serve. He has been called many things by many people, very often unfairly and even maliciously. That is not how we should react. I'm not suggesting that everything he says and does we should accept or embrace, but then, that has never been the case with any president.

As Americans we have the right, indeed the duty, to do everything we can to continue to make these United States the best they can be for all who call them home. I am one of them. We can work together to make the dream that is America a reality, or we can join the ranks of those who would work for the failure of this administration and, thus, the failure of America. I have made my decision. I know where I stand and what I stand for. My prayer, brothers, is that you do as well, and will act accordingly.

May God continue to bless these United States of America.

Vivat Jesus,
Fr. Frank

those who need help and are vulnerable, those who are waiting for us to do something, to take a concrete action on their behalf.” This quote reminds me of the excitement I have to grow our Council’s charitable endeavors by focusing on The Works of Mercy.

Thank you Brothers for giving me the privilege to serve as your Grand Knight and to be part of a great group of guys who continually give of themselves to help others. I owe a debt of gratitude to PGKs Joe Timpa and Mike Mitts for the leadership they have provided to our Council and the guidance they have shared in preparing me for this role. Most importantly I thank them each for their friendship. Despite what I said from the altar about “councils always can use more attractive members”, I was not kidding when I referred to the close friendships I have made with many of you and that our Council is a group of men who I respect and enjoy spending time with.

As our Lenten journey continues, we are reminded of our obligations to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Let us never forget the power of prayer. Prayer works! A recent homily made mention of the fact that many fellow Catholics return “home” and attend mass on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday and that it is important to make them feel welcome at American Martyrs. As Knights, maybe we can each pick up the phone and call one fellow Knight who we have not seen in a while, either at mass or at a meeting, and see how they are doing. A short phone call from someone who cares might be just the right personal contact that will make the difference in our Brother Knight's day, week, or even life. And ours as well.

Vivat Jesus,
Mike Shoule

Shamrocks and Leprechauns

One of the highlights of our Council's social events is the St. Patrick's Day Party and this year was no exception. The Knights got together on March 11, with the help of the Columbiettes, to decorate the Sullivan Center in green with Shamrocks, balloons and Irish symbols to set the perfect mood.

A group of more than two hundred of our parishioners and their families enjoyed traditional Irish fare that included corned beef and cabbage, shepherd's pie and Irish soda bread. Of course, a taste of Bass ale completed the perfect Irish meal.

The entertainment began with Irish Step Dancers who delighted the audience with their fast moving feet and professionally-coordinated dance routines. One of our Knights, Brendan Leavy provided original Irish music with his brother Brian Devale and another member of his group, Luke Powers, who played Uilleann Pipes, a traditional Irish instrument to lend the perfect atmosphere for the evening.



No Knight's party would be complete without a fifty-fifty and raffles. This year's raffle included wine baskets, an Irish Cream basket and a basketball with four tickets to a Nets game. As always Ellie Forester (honored guest) headed the collection of the fifty-fifty and did a great job.

As is our tradition, the St. Patty's party was a family event and I noticed many of the American Martyrs regulars with tables of grandparents, moms and dads and grandkids, who enjoyed running around until they flopped from exhaustion.

Proceeds from the ticket sales will be donated to one of our local charities. The Knights wish to thank all the volunteers and those who donated, which made this another successful Knights of Columbus party.



Knights of Columbus Council wishes good luck to Ellie Foresta!

Our Knights of Columbus Council wishes good luck to Ellie Foresta! She has moved from our parish community to Plainview Long Island to be closer to her daughter and her grandchildren.

Ellie and Lou Foresta joined the American Martyrs family in 1977 and were active members in all of our church activities. Lou Forresta was a Charter Member of the John J. Murray Knights of Columbus Council and a dedicated Bingo volunteer. He passed away in 2012.

Ellie has been a great supporter of both the Knights of Columbus and the church. She was there to support us at every dinner and event we ran. She was a volunteer at Bingo and brought her smile, salesmanship and enthusiasm every Tuesday night.

One of Ellie's unique talents was her considerable sales skills. She was crowned the "50/50 Queen" for her talent at selling 50/50 raffles at every church event. She was an unstoppable saleslady and people simply couldn't say no to Ellie.

Ellie attended our recent St. Patty's Day Party, thanks to Carl and Margaret Reyes who were kind enough to drive out to Plainview to pick her up. In recognition of Ellie and Lou's many contributions to our parish the Knights donated the proceeds of the 50/50 raffle at the party to the Elle Foundation, which was founded to honor the memory of Ellie's great niece who died of cancer.

Although she is no longer living close by, we hope she continues to be part of all of our parish parties and events. She is an exceptional lady and will always be welcomed at American Martyrs.



KEY FOOD COLLECTION ON FEBRUARY 4TH

On Saturday, February 4th, the Knights of Columbus and the Columbiettes participated in a Food Collection Event at the Key Food located on 73rd Avenue and Bell Boulevard. Although the parking lot entrance was bathed in sunshine; some Knights braved the front entrance which had no sun and a stiff breeze. I think Carl Reyes and Bob Mitts almost froze solid before they returned to the back of the store to thaw out. The day was a success with 65 bags collected with 20 going to American Martyrs St Vincent DePaul Pantry and the remainder going to Our Lady of Lourdes Outreach Pantry.

Approximately \$255 was collected.

Special thanks to Marie DeAngelis, the Columbiettes and the Knights who participated. Special thanks to the young generation whose spirited chanting and cheering helped immensely.

Thanks Destiny, Samantha, Emma, Nate and Sofia.



Jim Tavcar, Community Director

THE FOOD COLLECTION PROGRAM AT AMERICAN MARTYRS CHURCH

One of the first and most important building blocks of the American Martyrs Food Collection Program was put into place when Steve and Valerie Day moved to our Parish 27 years ago from Saint Matthias Parish in Ridgewood. Soon after joining our Church, and having both been active members of the Saint Vincent dePaul Society, they proposed to Monsignor Keppler the idea of opening a Saint Vincent dePaul pantry at American Martyrs. Father Keppler agreed and allotted the closet space in the Religious Education Center (now known as the Murray Center), where the pantry is still located. The pantry relied on special food collections at Mass at Thanksgiving and Easter along with weekly donations of bags of food left by parishioners at weekend Masses. It should be noted that this weekly tradition predated Steve and Valerie joining our Parish. At its peak, the pantry assisted 16 families in our community. Many people have given their time to the pantry over the last quarter century – too many to list here, but without their help there would not be a pantry today.



More recently, about 5 years ago, while at Stop and Shop in Glendale, I saw a local member of the Knights of Columbus collecting food by himself at the door. Although I didn't speak to him, his dedication planted the idea in my head that perhaps our Council could do the same – thank you brother Knight – I wish I could shake your hand. All it took was a phone call to the store manager and a request letter and we were on our way. We started the first year with one collection which was a success. Soon afterward, Marie DeAngelis, who had become the latest in a dedicated line of Pantry Coordinators, had forged a relationship with Our Lady of Lourdes Outreach pantry, which serves over 200 families. The following years saw the American Martyrs Knights of Columbus increase our collection events to five per year. The food and cash donations collected are divided between the 2 pantries by Marie DeAngelis, who attends each collection event. Food is also collected at Mass once a year and parishioners still leave bags of food at weekend Masses each week.



Of course none of the work we started could be accomplished without the help of my Brother Knights who give up their time to help others. Just as important is the “shot in the arm” we have gotten in the last year from members of the Columbiettes, who have partnered with us to increase our numbers and thus made us a stronger team. Last, I have to thank the children. They come down on their day off from school with a smile on their faces and sing and make up food collecting chants which touch shoppers to donate – you guys are great! Of course, thank you Father Frank for establishing our Council and the Columbiettes. Thanks for leading us on a brighter path, with the many different things we do to help others.

Jim Tavcar, Community Director

Knights of Columbus, American Martyrs Council, March Newsletter

Thanks to all contributors who made this issue possible including: GK Michael Shoule, PGK Michael Mitts, Jim Tavcar, Marie DeAngelis, Insurance Agent Vincent Marzella and Treasurer Carl Reyes.

Please consider contributing an article for the next issue!

Treasurer's Report on our Council's Donations

The finances of our Council have been managed since the inception of the John J. Murray Council by Carl Reyes, our efficient and capable treasurer. With his careful management of our funds and the hard work of our brothers our fundraising activities enabled us to provide support to many organizations in need of help.

Carl recently reported on the numerous donations and contributions we have made in the last few years and outlined the following efforts:

Our donations and other charitable outlays last year (2016) totaled over \$16,000.

- \$5,000 to Generations of Faith Fund
- \$1,500 toward Seminarian support
- \$1,000 to American Martyrs Columbiettes in their Habitat for Humanity fund drive
- \$1,000 to American Martyrs Annual Appeal
- over \$3,000 to various other American Martyrs organizations, societies and programs
- over \$750 in cash donations to Our Lady of Lourdes food pantry

Other recipients included:

- Bridge to Life
- The Lustgarten Foundation
- St. Baldricks Foundation
- Cathedral Prep.
- K. of C. Charities in support of the Christian Relief Fund and Louisiana flood victims
- We also provided a free course to children of parishioners seeking admission to Catholic High Schools. The cost of the instructor and material came to nearly \$1,000

In the coming year, we will continue to support activities that have noteworthy causes and which are in need of our financial help. This serves as the cornerstone of our Council.

Our council will continue this work and with the commitment and efforts of our brothers will continue to carry on the mission that founder Venerable Father McGivney set out for us when he established the Knights in 1882.

Welcome New Brother Knights!



GK Mike Shoule with new members, Pat Farley, Joe Canzoneri, Ricky Digrugilliers, and DGK Jim Ambery

Happy Birthdays Are In Order for These Fine Knights!

April

William M Horowitz
 Ernest C Caccavale
 Michael T Tramonte
 Vincent P Yosca Jr
 Timothy B Rice
 Vincent Saviano
 Patrick Dorelus
 John E Reilly
 James J Ambery

May

Anthony J Freyta
 Mario C Carlisi
 Kevin M Lyons PGK
 Gabriel Moronta
 Walter F Biggica
 Robert J Mitts
 John Buglione FDD, PGK
 Andrew Lentini
 Brendan C Leavy
 Joseph Cavaliere

June

Steven J Caruso
 John W Limberg
 Carl J Reyes
 Brendan Dalton
 Gary Francis Bandiero
 George M Titza
 Orlando M Hernandez
 Robert E Liatto
 Michael J Champion
 Edward Molina
 Blaise E Toneatto
 Christopher Liatto
 Daniel J Bacci
 Julio A Matos
 Bernard Picca
 Dominick D Andrea
 Robert J Panepinto Jr
 Matthew J Byrne
 Ryan D Bacci



Fourth Degree Corner

Next meeting of the John Barry Assembly 7905 is on April 17, 8 pm at the Hudson council.

Next 4th degree is at Immaculate Conception in Astoria on April 22, 2017.

Fourth degree members looking to join the Honor Guard please see me at a meeting. Please note there is an opportunity for reimbursement of the cost of the regalia. If want to visit different churches and serve with a bunch of wonderful guys the honor guard is for you.

Honor guard requests:

- Olympia Council 10th Annual Divine Mercy Celebration on Sunday, April 23, 2017 at 3PM.
- The Bridge to Life's 25th Anniversary Gala-Dinner Dance on Sunday, April 30, 2017 from 1:30PM to 5:30PM, where Bishop DiMarzio will be honored. Leonard's of Great Neck.
- St. Robert Bellarmine Church on May 20, 2017 at 5:00pm. Filipino mass

SK Jim Ambery





The Only Known Photo...

...of all 3 Past Grand Knights - Kevin Lyons, Joe Timpa, and Mike Mitts along with our current Grand Knight Mike Shoule as well as our Chaplain Fr. Frank were all spotted together at the St. Pat's Party!



Works of Mercy

THE SEVEN CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. Feed the hungry.
2. Give drink to the thirsty.
3. Clothe the naked.
4. Shelter the homeless.
5. Visit the sick.
6. Visit the imprisoned.
7. Bury the dead.

THE SEVEN SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. Counsel the doubtful.
2. Instruct the ignorant.
3. Admonish sinners.
4. Comfort the afflicted.
5. Forgive offenses.
6. Bear wrongs patiently.
7. Pray for the living and the dead.

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



Congratulations to all the Kids that participated in the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest!

5-7 years:

- 1st Place - Megan Hsu
2nd Place - Kaitlin Farley

8-10 years:

- 1st Place - Lelaina Madraza
2nd Place - Melissa Tyska

11-14 years:

- 1st Place - Julia Farley

Help Support your Council and Church, Please Consider Volunteering for Bingo.

We Could Use Your Help

Contact Matt Byrne or email
KOF14666FM@gmail.com



Insurance Agent's Message

Only Having Insurance "Through Work" Doesn't Work

Do you know anyone whose life or career has drastically changed during these years of economic downturn? It's very likely that someone in your immediate or extended family or group of friends is facing financial uncertainty. Maybe there's a possibility that you (or your spouse) could change employers, or even lose your job.

Too many people have often relied on group term life insurance as their only safety net. Often, this insurance is an employee benefit provided at low or no cost. The existence of this coverage might convince someone that personally-owned life insurance is not necessary.

But only having "through work" insurance can leave you and your family vulnerable. Most group life insurance policies are limited in amount, which may be tied to salary or some other benchmark. These numbers are often capped, and this cap may be dangerously low when compared to your family's actual needs. In fact, a detailed needs analysis that evaluates your specific situation, will likely show that any employer-provided coverage falls short.

In addition, the amount of group insurance offered is almost always reduced, sometimes dramatically, when you retire. You could one day find yourself without coverage, and if your health has changed (which it will as you age), you might also find yourself unable to secure individual protection. At the very least, it will definitely be more expensive.


While group life insurance can help, it does not replace the need for individually owned life insurance. I'll be happy to meet with you and provide a no-cost needs analysis, so you'll know exactly where you stand.

Vivat Jesus!

Vincent Marzella

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VINCENT M. MARZELLA
FIELD AGENT

AGENCY DEPARTMENT
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

51 ASHTON DRIVE
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10312

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Friday, April 7th, Rosary 7:15pm followed by Stations of the Cross 7:30pm - Church

Saturday, April 8th, Food Collection, 9am-1pm - Key Food, Glen Oaks

Saturday, April 8th, Breakfast with Easter Bunny, Catholic War Veterans 10am - Sullivan Center

Monday, April 10th, Reconciliation Monday, 3pm-9pm - Church

Holy Thursday, April 13th, Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:30pm - Church

Good Friday, April 14th, Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, 3pm - Church

Good Friday, April 14th, Rosary 7:15pm followed by Stations of the Cross 7:30pm - Church

Holy Saturday, April 15th, Easter Vigil, 7:30pm - Church

Saturday, April 22nd, Greenway Clean-way Day, 9am

Sunday, April 23rd, Garage Sale, Catholic War Veterans, 9am - 3pm - Sullivan Center

* Thursday, April 27th, Council Meeting, 7:45pm, Murray Center

Sunday, April 30th, Blood Drive - Sullivan Center

* Thursday, May 11th, Council Meeting, 7:45pm, Murray Center

Saturday, May 20th, International Night, 6pm - Sullivan Center

* Thursday, May 25th, Council Meeting, 7:45pm, Murray Center

Wednesday, June 7th, Annual Golf Outing, 1pm - North Shore Towers Golf Course

* Thursday, June 8th, Council Meeting, 7:45pm, Murray Center

Friday, June 9th, Broadway Revue, 8pm - Sullivan Center

Saturday, June 10th, Broadway Revue, 8pm - Sullivan Center

* Thursday, June 22nd, Council Meeting, 7:45pm, Murray Center

