

March - April



St. Francis Council
13958 Newsletter

Grand Knight Report

Brother Knights –

Well the Season of “Lent” is almost upon us and I thought it would be good to get a little information about this mysterious season in our church. What is Lent anyway? Lent is a forty-day season of preparation for Easter. Lent always begins on Ash Wednesday. Why 40 days? Because, the bible tells us that Jesus fasted and was tempted in the wilderness for 40 days. Lent is supposed to be a time of fasting, prayer, temptation and repentance for believers. Lent is not required anywhere in scriptures, but it has been a custom which Christians have practiced for most of the last two thousand years. In many languages, the word “Lent” actually means “fast.” This is where the custom of giving up something for Lent originated.

However, just to confuse things, Lent is actually 46 days rather than 40 days. Why? Because the days of lent are supposed to be days of fasting, which means days of self-discipline and self-restraint. But Sunday, the day designated as the Lord’s day should never be a day of fasting, but a day of celebration. So each Sunday Christians suspend Lenten disciplines and celebrate. Lent then is 40 “fasting” days spread out over a total of 46 days beginning on Ash Wednesday.

Some of us still fast on Sunday’s and that is because when we were younger there were no exceptions. That is a personal choice! I believe this season of fasting has its merits and challenges us to self-discipline and restraint but I like another line of thought. That is, rather than give something up like sweets; you could concentrate on a bad habit or give up cussing or gossiping. For many years at work I used to have a container and during Lent whenever anyone in the office forgot and used a bad word, they would be required to put a quarter in the container. We would then donate the proceeds to Father Fred after Lent was over. It was amazing how the quarters added up and it also raised awareness to how we express ourselves.

Another view is instead of giving something up, try to say nice things to people everyday or look for opportunities to help people or volunteer for the local food pantry. Something as simple as smiling at someone can be viewed as an act of kindness.

In the Catholic Church, in an attempt to help Catholics do at least the minimum during Lent, they ask all Catholics to fast and abstain from meat on certain days. Fasting means to limit food to one full meal a day. Abstinence means not eating meat, although fish is allowed. Catholics 14 years of age and older are expected to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays in Lent. They are also asked to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday unless one’s work or health makes it inadvisable. At one time, people gave up all dairy products and meat during all of Lent. Since chickens continue to produce eggs and cows milk, the custom developed to make the milk into cheese and color the eggs so that when Easter arrived, no food would be wasted.

What you do is personal and only you know the level of self sacrifice that is required. I hope this information gathered from several sources helps you in your choices. My last word to you is that during the upcoming Lenten Season, challenge yourself through self sacrifice, this could be by giving up something or by simply just being a little more honest, kind, or reverent. God looks for us to do good things.....Let’s do good things!

Vivat Jesus,
Dave Sliwinski

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: Discover a World of Good Things :
: in the Knights of Columbus :
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Knights Birthday List

<i>Raja Asava</i>	<i>March 4</i>
<i>Fr. Ron Gronowski</i>	<i>March 9</i>
<i>Steven Swan</i>	<i>March 14</i>
<i>Josh Niewiadomski</i>	<i>March 17</i>
<i>Scott Sodini</i>	<i>March 22</i>
<i>Ray Hosek</i>	<i>March 26</i>
<i>Michael Carley</i>	<i>April 1</i>
<i>Chris Stein</i>	<i>April 11</i>
<i>Robert Fall</i>	<i>April 13</i>
<i>Francis Nachazel</i>	<i>April 13</i>
<i>John Morse</i>	<i>April 18</i>
<i>Don Laskey</i>	<i>April 22</i>
<i>Dennis Fox</i>	<i>April 27</i>

Calendar of Upcoming Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
March 5	<i>Council Raffle begins After 4 p.m. Mass</i>
March 7	Social Meeting FC 6 p.m. Larry Blasius to Speak
March 9	ASH WEDNESDAY
March 13	Pancake Breakfast FC 9 & 11 Masses
March 12	<i>Council Raffle After 4 p.m. Mass</i>
March 17	<i>St. Patrick's Day</i>
March 19	<i>Council Raffle After 4 p.m. Mass</i>
March 21	Business Meeting CRA 7 p.m.
March 26	<i>Council Raffle After 4 p.m. Mass</i>
April 2	<i>Council Raffle After 4 p.m. Mass</i>
April 4	Social Meeting CRA 6 p.m.
April 7	St. Francis Parish Penance Service 6:30 p.m.
April 9	<i>Council Raffle After 4 p.m. Mass</i>
April 10	GIFT program St. Francis HS After 11 a.m. Mass
April 16	<i>Council Raffle After 4 p.m. Mass</i>
April 17	Pancake Breakfast FC 9 & 11 Masses
April 18	Business Meeting CRA 7 p.m.
April 22	GOOD FRIDAY
April 24	EASTER SUNDAY <i>Council Raffle After 9 a.m. Mass</i>
April 29 – 30	Father Fred Drive
April 30	Major Degree in Grayling @ St. Mary's 9:30 a.m.

Calendar Keys:

FC – Family Center
CRA – Conference Room A

Membership dues are now being collected.
Please be prompt and get your dues up to
date! If you have a hardship and cannot pay
contact Dave Sliwinski at 645-0730.

Safe Harbor

Once again our parish did an amazing job for the two weeks we hosted SAFE HARBOR program. Thanks to everyone who helped set-up, tear-down, cook a meal, served the food, spent the night, shared some friendship or brought some food. A special thank you goes out to Larry Herman Jr. who acted as the chairman for the two nights our Council was in charge. Many Knights were active on several other nights also. A big thanks Roger Sladek for all the work he did coordinating the meals for the entire two weeks.



Council Free-throw Contest

We need to find a fresh approach to our free-throw contest. The youth that show up to participate have a good time, but the numbers of participants are not what we expect. We have posters up, articles in the bulletins and the Record Eagle and announcements made in the schools. We just do not have the interest in the contest. Some good ideas have been gathered and I believe next year we will take a more aggressive approach in getting the message to the schools. One thing we did not lack is volunteers! We had more Knights willing to help than we had free-throw shooters. That's a good thing! Thanks guys! The kids that did show up got an excellent contest. We will keep working on it until we get it right!

2011 Council Raffle

Raffle tickets for the 2011 raffle are now just about gone. As of this morning only three were available to sell and I expect them to be gone by the time the raffle starts. The winner of our "Early Bird" drawing this year was Rosemary Kennedy! The raffle officially begins with two drawings for \$200 on Saturday, March 5 after the 4 p.m. mass and then continues for ten weeks until Saturday, May 7th. The only exception is Easter weekend and that drawing will be after the 9 a.m. mass on Easter Sunday. I want to thank everyone that sold tickets, especially Mr. Fred who set a new record by selling 119.

K of C Polo Shirts

The Council shirts are in! They are navy blue with the third degree emblem and our Council name "St. Francis Council 13958" embroidered on them. They are \$15. If you ordered one see me or call me 645-0730 and we will arrange to get them to you. If you did not order one this time, do not worry, we will order some more when we get enough commitments.

Father Fred Frozen Food Drive

This year our Council helped the Father Fred Frozen food drive on January 19 from 3 – 5 p.m. January 19th was the day all the area Knights of Columbus Councils committed to two hours of coverage. Gary VanRaalte was our chairman and was helped by Mike Heuss, Al Henning, Sam Pratt and Fred Dittrich. Gary informed me that they were able to fill a semi trailer and a half this year and many people simply gave a monetary donations. The Grand Traverse Community amazes me with its generosity. I wish it was not necessary to collect food to feed the poor and everyone had what they needed, but we know it is necessary..... so thanks guys, another job well done!

Baby Dresser

Most of you know we have been collecting new clothes for a baby boy and had a dresser in the Family Center to fill since before Thanksgiving. The dresser has been removed and Jim and Pat Hanes have finished purchasing a few items to fill the dresser. Skip DeMarsh has tentatively set-up a time with Carol Bunek the Director of the Pregnancy Care Center to deliver the dresser. It will be on Tuesday, March 1 at 4 p.m. Then Carol will select a new Mom in need. If you are interested in being present at the delivery of the dresser contact Skip at 933-4817.



Pancake Breakfast for March

Our next pancake breakfast is fast approaching. It will be held on Sunday, March 13 after both the 9 and 11 a.m. services. Jim Hanes is the chairman and if you can help please call Jim at 946-1382 or 590-9205. We especially need extra people for clean-up at the end. Thank you to all the Knights that did such an outstanding job in February, it was one of our best collections we have had so far!

MAJOR DEGREE in Grayling April 30

There will be a Major Degree held at St. Mary's in Grayling on Saturday, April 30 beginning at 10 a.m. with the First Degree. You should arrive at 9:30 a.m. if you plan on doing the First Degree. This is also a great opportunity for any Knight that wishes to do his Second and Third Degree. They will take place after the First Degree. Please let me know if you are interested at 645-0730. The Council will cover all your fees. Grayling St. Mary's is a wonderful place to take this important step.

March Social Meeting March 7

There will be a bit of the **Irish** in every one of us on March 7th at our Social Meeting. This will be a potluck in the Family center at St. Francis and we are looking for Knights to bring a dish to pass. Something Irish would be great! Please contact Gary VanRaalte at 941-5361 to let him know you are coming and what you will bring. Calling ahead helps us to plan enough food for everyone. We will begin with some Irish Music and Cuisine at 6:30 and then listen to a short insurance presentation from our K of C Insurance Agent Larry Blasius. Larry will have some news about options available to all members. Please attend and bring your questions about insurance.

Nominations for Knight & Family of the Year

It is time to be thinking about who you would like to honor as Knight and Family of the Year for 2010. This should be someone that you feel has significantly impacted our Council and the parish of St. Francis. The last several years we have done this with a vote at our business meeting. This year I would like you to send your vote to me by e-mail or regular mail. This will give more of you a chance to make a selection. My e-mail address is tcdski@charter.net and my address is 3418 Autumn Leaf Dr., Traverse City, MI 49686.

Knight of the Month January, 2011

In January we recognized John "Pat" McLaughlin as the Knight of the month. Although Pat has been recovering from hip replacement surgery, he is constantly seen supporting items at our Council meetings, pancake breakfasts and other events. We appreciate his steady support and thank him for all his efforts. Please let him know that he is appreciated.

Family of the Month January, 2011

In January we recognized the family of Greg Harrant. Greg is a Fourth Degree Knight and has been our Council Treasurer since 2006. He can be seen together with his wife Laura and their children: Jacob, Mathew, Elizabeth and Kate at most Council events, especially pancake breakfasts and the MI drive. Greg is also an active Boy Scout Leader with St. Francis Boy Scout Troop 31 and Pack 31. Please thank Greg, Laura and company for all the do for our Council and the parish of St. Francis.



Fourth Degree Meetings

As a general rule, fourth degree meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the K of C Hall on M-22 in Greilickville. Faithful Navigator Greg Moe invites all Fourth Degree Knights to attend. Questions on the Fourth Degree can be referred to Larry Herman Jr. at 231-944-2170.



Lenten Soup Friday April 15th

Our Council will be providing a Lenten soup after the Noon Stations of the Cross on Friday, April 15. Dave & Linda Sliwinski and Russ & Gloria Marshall will be providing the soup for this event.

Fish Fry at Christ the King Church

You are invited to attend fish fries hosted by Council 9979 in the Family Center of Christ the King Church in Acme. They will take place every Friday from 5 – 7 p.m. in Lent except Good Friday. They deep fry fish and also have a baked version. The Stations of the Cross will be available in the church upstairs immediately after the Fish Fry.

SCOUT SUNDAY Service February 6th

It sure was nice to see so many Scout Leaders and Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts at 11 a.m. Service on Boy Scout Sunday, February 6th. Over Fifty Scouts and Scout Leaders filled the pews. This was the first time we have done this since we have become the Charter Sponsor of Boy Scout Troop 31.

New Knights

Congratulations go out to Raja Asava, Ken O'Brien, Peter Zenz and William Bunek who took their First Degree at Christ the King Church in Acme on January 23rd. It was a very nice ceremony followed by some great fellowship with Knights from several Councils.

Chairman are needed for Pancake Breakfasts

Chairmen are needed to head up the pancake breakfasts during April and May. Please let me know if you can help 645-0730.



Financial Secretary Update

Has your address or your zip code changed?
Is so please send me your updated information.

You can use the form below and mail to:
John Morse
6588 Ann Street
Lake Ann, MI 49650

Address Change

Name _____

New Address _____

New City/State _____

New Zip Code _____

New Phone # _____

Alternatively, you can email your change to me at:
John.Morse.CPA@gmail.com

John Morse
Financial Secretary

The Final Thought

Who is your role model? That is the topic of the Knights of Columbus essay contest for youth this year. But I think it is something we can all spend time contemplating. I think we all know or have had role models during our lifetime. For most of us, it was our parent's, a teacher, an aunt or an uncle, a priest or an athlete. But you have to ask yourself why they were your role model? If I asked you this question, I believe you would tell me it was because they lived a good life, they were kind and they were successful and most of all you could relate to them and you learned from them, you admired what they were. These people stood out in our lives.....we might not even know them in person, maybe we just read about them and their accomplishments and wanted to be like them. Jesus Christ has made that kind of impact on so many of us and our families. I can't think of a better role model..... can you? I hope this Lent encourages us all to live better lives and be good role models!

