

Please come to our business meeting every 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30 pm (usually at St. John Neumann – see schedule)

Volume 21, Issue 02

February 2020

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Upcoming Events

February

- 02/08 Free Throw Championship-SPDT
- 02/10 Business Meeting-SJN (Chili Cookoff)
- 02/29 Regional Free Throw Championship-SPDT

March

- 03/02 Ladies Auxiliary
- 03/03 Officers' Meeting
- 03/06-07 Mercy For The Starving-SPCR
- 03/09 Business Meeting-SJN
- 03/14 St. Patrick Day Parade - St. Charles
- 03/22 Chicago Blackhawks Hockey Event

April

- 04/04 Fill Easter Eggs
- 04/06 Ladies Auxiliary
- 04/07 Officers' Meeting
- 04/11 Easter Egg Hunt
- 04/13 Business Meeting-SJN
- 04/25 Roadside Cleanup
- 04/27-28 Misericordia Candy Days

May

- 05/04 Ladies Auxiliary



Saint Charles
Knights of Columbus
UNITAS



AROUND TOWN WITH GARY



Brother Knights,

Well if groundhog day is any indication, it looks to be an early spring. That's a good thing since our spring calendar is starting to heat up. Talking about HEAT, let's talk about the **1st Annual Chili Cook-off** to be held at the February 10th Council Meeting social gathering. Winner receives a free entry to the Elgin Chili event PLUS up to \$200 reimbursement for ingredients. To all you chili aficionados, dust off those recipes and enter the event through the Council website!

Council dues notices have been sent out for 2020. Dues remain the same as last year, \$40.00. About 40% of the dues go to Supreme and State KofC organizations. The balance funds our various Council programs and charities throughout the year. Those who have paid their 2020 dues, THANK YOU! If you have not yet paid, you can pay at the next Council meeting, send to the PO Box, or pay on-line.

Last January, PGK Bill asked every Knight "**Can you spent 24 hours in a year?**". How did you do against that challenge? Over the next few months the Council has some great events that are very family friendly. Consider making one or more of them a family participation event and start working towards that **24 hours**.

During February, we have 3 Free Throw Championships at St. Patrick downtown gym; Council, District and Regionals. All Boys and Girls between the ages of 9 and 14 are invited to participate in the Council tournament with age group winners moving on to the District and then Regionals. Go to the website www.kofc12497.com to sign-up your child or to volunteer to work the event.

Our biggest event of the year, MERCY FOR THE STARVING will be held March 6 and 7 at St. Patrick Crane Rd. The MFTS team has been working extremely hard to fund the event and are at about 95% to their goal. If you have not yet contributed and would like to, contact Paul Braddock or Ed Mundt for further information, or see the article later in this issue.

For those of you not at our last Council meeting, we developed a calendar of events through December 2020 as we know it. Some events are recurring such as Breakfast with Santa; we want to ensure you are aware of all future activities so that you can plan to participate. A Flocknote copy was sent to each Knight's email address and is now included in this edition of Unitas. Highlights for the next few months follow.

Vivat Jesus,
Grand Knight Gary

05/05 Officers' Meeting
 05/11 Business Meeting-SJN

Degree Schedule

TBD

Please call Paul Braddock,
 630-901-3164.

Upcoming 4th Degree Exemptions

4th Degree: February 22, 2020

Council Officers

Grand Knight	Gary Stopka
Chaplain	Fr. John Kladar
Deputy Grand Knight	Greg Sengstock
Chancellor	TBD
Recorder	Dwight Durall
Financial Secretary	Bill Roth
Treasurer	John R Blake
Advocate	John Blozis
Warden	Jose Philip
Guard Guard	Jeff Bowgren David Richter
Trustee (3 Year)	Paul Clementi
Trustee (2 Year)	Jim Gebhardt
Trustee (1 Year)	Hank Brill
District Deputy	Keith Williams Greg Paul
Field Agent	708 601-5489

Council Directors

Membership Director	Paul Braddock
Faith Director	Ed Kramer
Community Director	Jim McNamara
Council Director	Tom Rasmussen
Family Directors	Eric Vonderhaar, Chris Barone

February 3	Membership	Fraternal Benefits/Membership Night
February 4	Council	Officers Meeting
February 8	Community	Free Throw Championship
February 9	Community	Donut Sunday
February 10	Council	Regular Business Mtg & Chili Cookoff
February 15	Community	Feed The Need Mobile Pack
February 29	Community	Free Throw Championship
March 3	Council	Officers Meeting
March 9	Council	Regular Business Meeting
March 6-7	Faith	Mercy For The Starving
March 14	Community	St. Patrick Day Parade
March 22	Family	Chicago Blackhawks Hockey Event

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Fr. John Kladar

Lent For A New Decade



In a few weeks, we will begin the season of Lent. With it being the first Lent of 2020, I think we can still find the spirit of promises and resolutions as we start this decade. So, will this be the best Lent of your life?

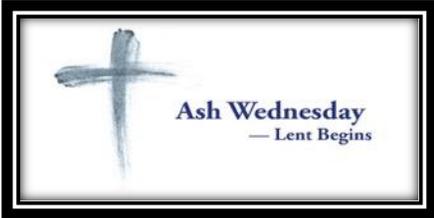
We may be familiar with the three pillars of Lent. During this penitential season, the Church asks us to consider increasing our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We see this in the Gospel of Matthew, 'Give alms...Pray to your Father...Fast without a gloomy face...' (Matthew 6:1-18). We should each incorporate something from each of these pillars during Lent. Yet how do we choose? What is wrong with doing the same thing you have done for each of the last ten years?

Quite simply, I know all of us desire to live more fulfilling lives. We want better marriages and a better family life. To do that, we need to remove any unhealthy attachments. This is what Lent is all about, reminding ourselves that everything in this world is temporary. Every aspect of our life needs to harmonize around and flow through our relationship with Christ. We become disjointed and fractured when we center ourselves in things of the world. So, what is the one thing you can't live without? If Christ asked you to give up one thing, what would hurt the most? I encourage you to pray about whether that is an unhealthy attachment. Pray about cutting back or removing that from your life for forty days. I will pray for the Holy Spirit to show you what to detach from this Lent. Let's all pray for each other, let's make Lent 2020 the best Lent of our life!

God Bless,
 Fr. John Kladar

Youth Co-Directors Jason O'Sullivan, Chris Barone
 Culture of Life Director Fred Karl

LADIES AUXILIARY REPORT



Two dates evoking LOVE – LOVE of humankind and LOVE for our Savior!
 "As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst...He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you."
 – Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

Membership – We are pleased to report that we now have 44 members in the Ladies Auxiliary. As we continue to grow, we urge the Knights to promote our worthwhile organization to their wives, significant others, mothers, sisters or any lady you know to honor us by joining us we assist in making wonderful things happen for the mutual benefit of both of our Parishes. For only \$15 a year – it is an investment in many great opportunities to serve! If interested in joining this wonderful organization, please visit us at ladiesaux12497.org.

Dine-to-Donate – Village Tavern and Grill – Randall Road, South Elgin – **February 20** – This is our monthly opportunity to earn money by enjoying a meal – lunch, dinner or both – and receive 20% of the bill to benefit our endeavors. The Coupon that is printed in both Parish bulletins the week before this event, is required in order to process the benefits. Great food, great service, modest prices – enjoy a meal and help us out! We just picked up another check for \$100 thanks to you who have been helping us by enjoying a meal. We appreciate your support.

Mercy for the Starving – The LAX has reached and surpassed its goal for matching funds for our participation in the Mercy for the Starving event on March 6 & 7 at the Crane Road Church. We are contributing \$1,500 to provide meals for those starving in foreign lands. **Signup has begun** (see article later in this Unitas issue) and the LAX are looking forward to being on the team to make these wonderful meals.

St. Vincent DePaul Trivia Night – The LAX looks forward to participating in this really fun and worthwhile event next Saturday night, Feb. 8th in Dempsey Hall.

Shred Event Date – Save This Date – April 25th 10-12 AM in the Crane Road Church parking lot. Get rid of all that paperwork you have been hanging onto for years, or all your past years tax paperwork. We shred right in front of you – totally secure. We just ask for a donation for this wonderful service.

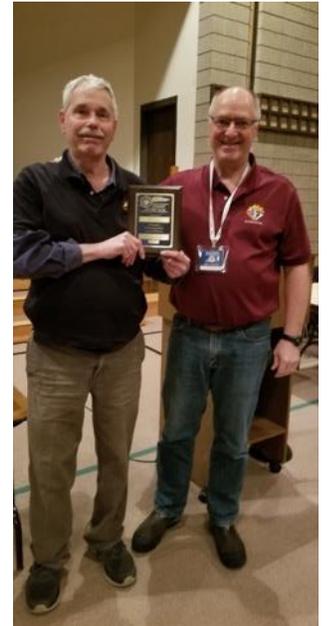
Respectfully,
 Donna Fike
 Ladies Auxiliary President

see our website at www.ladiesaux12497.org

KNIGHT OF THE YEAR

A well-deserved congratulations to brother knight Jeff Bowgren, our 2019 Knight of the Year! Jeff (left) recently received his recognition plaque from Grand Knight Gary.

You will no doubt recognize Jeff as a regular participant at our many service events, monthly business meetings and other Knights events. We thank Jeff for his strong support and involvement in our council!



PRIOR GRAND KNIGHT RECOGNIZED



Prior Grand Knight Bill Roth (left) recently was recognized by Grand Knight Gary, for his service and commitment to our council. Bill served as Grand Knight from 2017 to 2019.

Please take the opportunity to thank Bill when you see him, for his faithful service and leadership.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING – PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN

It is unfortunate in today’s time that it becomes necessary to implement Safe Environment Training. We have discussed this at Council meetings over the past year but have not made the effort to move our Council forward. Our Council is not compliant with the policy of Supreme, but is working towards completing the requirements. Because of the wide range of our activities, we are asking **ALL KNIGHT** participants to complete the Rockford Diocesan training. This program is required by both SP and SJN. It is an easy online program that can be completed in less than one hour or in multiple sessions if you prefer. You can access the training using this link <https://www.ceorockford.org/virtus-protecting-gods-children/>. If you are unable connect with a computer, please advise the GK or DGK so additional arrangements can be made.

SEEKING HELP - WEBSITE ADMIN, FACEBOOK ADMIN

Do you have skills / interests in maintaining websites and/or managing a Facebook page for groups? If so, our council could use your help! We are seeking someone to assist with management of our website, kofc12497.com, a WordPress-based website. More details can be provided to anyone who inquires. We need to keep our website current and useful - please consider serving your council with your talents in this area.

Also, our council is *considering* creating a Facebook page, to increase outreach and visibility. Supreme and State both have pages, as well as both of our parishes. This will require at least two brother Knights to administer and monitor the page, if we are to proceed. Some research has already been done and can be shared.

If you would like to discuss helping with either of these areas, please contact the Unitas editor at unitas12497@sbcglobal.net. For all readers: check out the following Facebook page links: [Supreme](#), [Illinois State Council](#), [St. Patrick](#), and [St. John Neumann](#).

SOUP AND STATIONS FRIDAY 2/28 AT ST. JOHN NEUMANN



Every Lent St. John Neumann offers non-meat soup on Friday starting at 6:30 P.M. followed by Stations of the Cross at 7:00 P.M.

Different groups volunteer to serve the soup each Friday. The Knights have been participating in this event for over 6 years.

We need volunteers **starting at 5:30 P.M.** and we are usually **done by 8:30 P.M.**

If you would like to help go to our website and sign up:
http://kofc12497.com/?page_id=74

MERCY FOR THE STARVING, MARCH 6-7 - SIGN-UP IS OPEN

Sign-up is now open to volunteer to pack meals for this event. Details are in the flyer below.

Be sure to sign up early, before your desired time slot fills up. Use this link to sign up or donate: mercyforthestarving.org and select 'Volunteer' or 'Donate' on the left side. When prompted for the private event code, enter MFTS20.

SIGN-UP TO PACK MEALS!

Turn Hunger into Hope with Your Own Two Hands

March 6-7, 2020

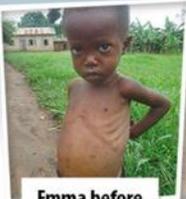
St. Patrick Church
6N491 Crane Rd - St. Charles, IL




St. Patrick Parish
Est. 1851 St. Charles, IL



Bring a non-perishable food item to help St. Vincent DePaul and Lazarus House.



Emma before MannaPack™



Emma after MannaPack™

Mercy for the Starving

Please be one of over 600 people (age 5 and older) to volunteer to hand pack a total of 132,192 meals for Feed My Starving Children. The meals will be distributed to food partners around the world.

To Participate, Click on

VOLUNTEER

and/or

DONATE

or go to www.mercyforthestarving.org

Meal Packing Sessions	
Friday, March 6	
Set-Up	3:30 - 5:30 PM
Packing	6:30 - 8:30 PM
Saturday, March 7	
Packing	7:00 - 8:45 AM
Packing	9:15 - 11:00 AM
Packing	11:45 AM - 1:30 PM
Clean-Up	1:30 - 3:00 PM
Arrive 1/2 hr prior to your Session time	



Need a ride? glenn.megan@gmail.com







Questions? info@mercyforthestarving.org • (630) 901-3164





MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The New Year brings changes to the Degree ceremony that we have followed for many years. This should not change your approach for speaking to a candidate about becoming a Knight. And it certainly does not mean this is the time to stop contacting individuals about becoming a Knight. Quite frankly, since Supreme has developed a new program to streamline the process of how a gentleman becomes a Knight, we should embrace the opportunity to speak with a candidate now. If you do, you will be ready when I let you know that we are in position to follow through using the new procedures.

By the time you read this, we will have conducted our Fraternal Benefits (K)night. It is a golden moment anytime Brother Knights have the opportunity to meet together and promote the values surrounding what it means to be a Knight. To have a successful Benefits (K)night takes three things:

1. You have to remember that we are conducting the Benefits (K)night
2. Do your part by inviting someone to this Information (K)night
3. Attend the event no matter what the status is of who you invited.

Just think if you and 300 others invited one person. We need not wait to see who reads the Bulletin and depend on them attending. If you invite, we may not get 300 men to attend, but how many would you guess that would attend?

You may say it is too late to invite someone because the Fraternal Benefits (K)night is passed. If you stay in the habit of consistently inviting, you will be proud to have your candidate become a member of the Knights. And we will have the new program ready so he can become a Knight.

Let's maintain a high level of enthusiasm no matter what we do.

Vivat Jesus!

Paul Braddock
Director of Membership
trombone_55@yahoo.com
630-901-3164

KNIGHTS GOLF OUTING JULY 20 – SAVE THE DATE!



21ST ANNUAL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 12497
"NEVER GIVE UP ON LIFE" MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING
MONDAY JULY 20, 2020 AT ELGIN COUNTRY CLUB.

Organize your foursomes now, registration to begin on April 1, \$185 per person (\$740 per foursome) to enjoy a Country Club experience which includes full use of clubhouse facilities, continental breakfast, event gift, driving range, box lunch, 18 holes of golf with cart, 3 drink tickets, well-appointed themed raffle baskets, appetizers, buffet dinner and golf prizes. Facilities open at 8am, shotgun start at 10:45, with dinner to follow, evening to conclude no later than 8pm. All outing profits support the pro-life ministry of Corbella Clinic.



All brother knights can help support the outing by donating bottles of wine or a dozen golf balls. Sponsorship or raffle prize donation inquiries can be directed to Fred Karl, cell: 847-373-2922 or ftkarl@sbcglobal.net



KNIGHTS GOLF COMMITTEE MEETING

First meeting on Wed February 12th, 6:30pm at Crane Rd., ending promptly at 7:30pm, new committee members welcome, questions can be directed to Fred Karl.

For additional info contact Fred Karl at 847-373-2922 or ftkarl@sbcglobal.net

FIELD AGENT: *Insurance Check-Up for 2020*

I hope the year is off to a great start for you and your family.

Hopefully you've established a few goals for this year. I've learned a great tip regarding resolutions. First, write them down. It's not too late if you haven't already done this. Commit your goals to paper and post it someplace you will see it often. Writing down a goal is the first step towards achieving it. It may not make sense at first, but I'm sure you have heard stories of the success this simple task can bring. Whether your goal is to exercise more, give more to charity, read more or watch less television, you're more likely to accomplish it if you write it down.

Second, resolve to have an expert look at your finances. I recommend that you have a team of experts help you, and I would love to be the first you sit with. Let's schedule some time to meet together, and I, your professional Knights of Columbus insurance agent, will provide an "insurance check-up" (at no cost!) that will evaluate any gaps in your family's life insurance protection. Now might be the perfect time to fill those gaps, not later. Keep in mind that unlike many other products, you don't just need money to obtain life insurance; you also need good health, and no one knows when your health could change.

Did I mention my check-up is free of charge? When was the last time you received something for free that could provide value to you and your family for generations? Call me today.

Gregory Paul, FIC
(708) 601-5489
gregory.paul@kofc.org



COUNCIL PLANNED EVENTS FOR REMAINDER OF 2020

Following is a list of all currently planned Council events for 2020, included here to assist you in scheduling time on your calendar to participate.

DATE	Category	Event
8-Feb-20	Community	Free Throw Champ.
9-Feb-20	Community	Donut Sunday
10-Feb-20	Council	Reg. Business Mtg & Chili Cookoff Contest
15-Feb-20	Community	Feed The Need Mobile Pack
22-Feb-20	Family	(tentative) Family Movie Night SPCR
29-Feb-20	Community	Free Throw Champ.
3-Mar-20	Council	Officers Meeting
9-Mar-20	Council	Regular Business Meeting
3/6-7/2020	Faith	Mercy For The Starving
14-Mar-20	Community	St. Patrick Day Parade
22-Mar-20	Family	Chgo Blackhawk Hockey Event
4-Apr-20	Family	Fill Easter Eggs
7-Apr-20	Council	Officers Meeting
11-Apr-20	Family	Easter Egg Hunt
13-Apr-20	Council	Regular Business Meeting
19-Apr-20	Council	Degree Ceremony (Tentative)
25-Apr-20	Community	Roadside Cleanup
4/27-28/2020	Life	Misericordia Candy Days
3-May-20	Life	Special Olympics Summer Games
5-May-20	Council	Officers Meeting
9-May-20	Council	Garden Market
9-May-20	Life	Hope For Haitians Fun Run
11-May-20	Council	Regular Business Meeting
22-May-24	Council	State KofC Convention
2-Jun-20	Council	Officers Meeting
8-Jun-20	Council	Regular Business Meeting
14-Jun-20	Council	Degree Ceremony (Tentative)
7-Jul-20	Council	Officers Meeting
13-Jul-20	Council	Regular Business Meeting
20-Jul-20	Life	Golf Outing

4-Aug-20	Council	Officers Meeting
10-Aug-20	Council	Regular Business Meeting
8-Sep-20	Council	Officers Meeting
10-Sep-20	Life	Corbella Banquet
14-Sep-20	Council	Regular Business Meeting
23-Sep-20		Chapter Round Table Dinner
9/18,19,20/2020	Community	ID Tootsie Roll Drive (Various)
9/5-6/2020?	Community	ID Tootsie Roll Drive Flea Market
10/3-4/2020?	Community	ID Tootsie Roll Drive Flea Market
6-Oct-20	Council	Officers Meeting
12-Oct-20	Council	Regular Business Meeting
10/24-25/2020	Community	Pie Sales SP
10/31-11/1/2020	Community	Pie Sales SP
6-Nov-20	Community	Pies By The Guys
7-Nov-20	Community	Pies By The Guys
3-Nov-20	Council	Officers Meeting
9-Nov-20	Council	Regular Business Meeting
8-Dec-20	Council	Officers Meeting
14-Dec-20	Council	Council Social Christmas Party
6-Dec-20	Family	Breakfast with Santa
6-Dec-20	Family	Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

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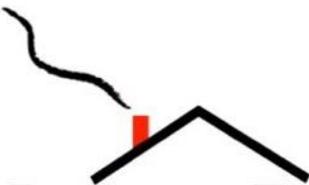
Over 20 Years Experience



Bill Roth

630-443-1701

wmroth1907@gmail.com



TheRasmussenTeam.com
630-762-3902
RE/MAX Action



Tom & Juli Rasmussen
Parishioners
www.TomRasmussen.com
tom@TomRasmussen.com

**Your Neighborhood
Is My Specialty!**

**Call Me Today So We Can Discuss
the Options In Today's Market.**



**HOMETOWN HERO
PROJECT**

Veteran's Specialist
Member of
Hometown Hero Project



SRES
Seniors Real Estate
Specialist

Any Knight can sponsor our newsletter for \$100 per year. Proceeds go toward our Council's charitable works. Contact the Unitas editor at unitas12497@sbcglobal.net

PHOTO ALBUM

No additional photos this month after a very busy 4th quarter 2019. Check again next month!