

Knightly News

DECEMBER 2008

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SUPREME KNIGHT'S MESSAGE ON LAY MISSION

This month marks the 20th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's extraordinary document on the role of the lay faithful, *Christifideles Laici*. Few documents could be more important to understanding the mission of the laity and few are as important to the mission of the Knights of Columbus.

In *Christifideles Laici*, John Paul II called the lay faithful to a great task: "a mending of the Christian fabric of society" which, he says, "is urgently needed." In this way, the pope repeated the call of the Second Vatican Council for lay men and women to work for the renewal of society according to Gospel values.

Many have

seen the founding of the Knights of Columbus by the Venerable Servant of God Father Michael J. McGivney as a truly inspired vision of the role of Catholic men in the renewal of society, according to the Gospel values of charity, unity and fraternity. For more than a century, our founding principles have strengthened the "Christian fabric" of our councils, families, parishes, communities and even our countries.

We have been faithful to the words of *Christifideles Laici*: "Above all, the common outcry which is justly made on behalf of human rights — for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture — is false and



SUPREME KNIGHT
CARL ANDERSON

illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition of all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination."

Sadly, some in our society have lost sight of this truth — one more reason for the Knights of Columbus to "discover ever new ways to serve as a leaven of the Gospel in the world."



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NEW YEARS EVE GALA PLANS FINALIZED

Once again, Council 112 will ring in a new year with a gala celebration, complete with dining, dancing and joyful ruckus at the stroke of midnight. The farewell to 2008 will have many of the typical qualities of previous Galas but with some important changes.

All the festivities will be held this year at the Council Hall, 52 Bradley Street on December 31st at 8:00 PM. Instead of the lavish entrees featured in previous Galas' menus, this year's fare will be based on more modest light refreshments. Guests are invited to create and bring a tasty variety of finger foods, appetizers and pastries to brighten up their appetites. Please bring your own beverages, alcoholic or otherwise.

Dance music will again

be offered by council resident DJ, Recorder John Daigle. Last year's music station nearly groaned under the weight of dozens of CDs ready to be played. Bring whatever tunes you'd like to hear and John will do his best to accommodate.

Finally, get ready to cheer as we countdown the final seconds of a momentous 2008. Tickets for all the fun are only \$15 per person and \$25 for a couple. Profits from the evening will be used to help boost the council's poor financial health.

Members of the Ladies Program will be assisting with the decoration of the hall to add to the party atmosphere. Be sure to reserve your place right away by contacting any of the council officers. Don't miss this family-friendly welcome to 2009; it's sure to be as exciting as last year's!



DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 1st—Officers Meeting, Council Hall, 52 Bradley St, 7:00 PM
- 7th—2nd Sunday of Advent
- 7th—3rd Degree Exemplification, Littleton council 1835, 835 Profile Rd, Bethlehem, 11:30 AM
- 8th—Immaculate Conception, Holy Day of Obligation
- 8th—Business Meeting, Council Hall, 52 Bradley St, 7:00 PM
- 14th—3rd Sunday of Advent
- 15th—1st Degree Exemplification, Bedford council 12988, 7:00 PM
- 15th—1st Degree Exemplification, Merrimack council 6725, 7:00 PM
- 15th—Ladies Program meeting, IHM Education Center, Loudon Rd, 7:00 PM
- 21st—4th Sunday of Advent
- 25th—Christmas, Holy Day of Obligation
- 31st—New Years Eve Gala, Council Hall, 52 Bradley St, 8:00 PM
- Jan 1st—Mary, Mother of God, Holy Day of Obligation



**COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
JANUARY 2nd**

STATE BALL RAISES CASH FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The NH K of C 2008 State Ball was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Nashua on Saturday, November 8th, and Council 112 was on hand with the largest delegation of attendees.

Grand Knight David and Nolie Dale led the party and hand delivered the council's raffle tickets and cash donation to the State leadership. In all, the State Council raised almost \$16,000 from raffle sales, with Council 112 accounting for over \$1,400 of it. Only three councils in the state of New Hampshire produced higher sales, with Greenville outpacing everyone with a whopping \$3,400.

Concord 112 has requested that 50% of its ticket sales be dispersed to the K of C's RSVP program to help increase religious vocations. Unfortunately, Concord had no names among the 2008 prize winners. Elaine Lavoie of Salem won the grand prize of \$3,000. Alton PGK John Brooks' name was drawn as a



prize winner just over 24 hours after he suffered a debilitating stroke. State Secretary Ed McCann was fondly missed as he began rehabilitation following knee replacement surgery.

Still, the evening featured a delicious pork or chicken dinner and plenty of groovy dancing for the couples. Next year's State Ball will be eagerly anticipated.

CRECHE IS AGAIN ERECTED AT STATE HOUSE

The only nativity scene in the United States displayed on the grounds of a state capitol building has once again been erected in Concord thanks to brother Knights of Council 112.

But not before a complete renovation by the dedicated efforts of Norman St.Hilaire, PGK, PFN, FDD and Lily St.Hilaire. Norman and Lily cleaned and refurbished the old

manger figures, which again sparkle as though brand new.

On Friday, November 28th, the day after Thanksgiving, council brothers met in the morning hours and transported the crèche to its place beside the state Christmas tree. See it now for yourself and remember the true meaning of Christmas.



MEETING ATTENDEES RAISE FUNDS FOR HOLY LAND KIDS



When a proposal for the council to grant \$300 to sponsor a child through the HCEF was rejected in October, council Warden Bob Jursik, FDD was undeterred. He returned to November's meeting asking individual knights to offer smaller contributions personally for the same purpose.

The response was overwhelmingly positive. Meeting attendees dug deep into their wallets and collected the first funds for the sponsorship. Now the collection will be a

regular feature of business meetings until the necessary amount is reached. Brother knights offered everything from a few dollars to tens and twenties for the program.

The Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation provides financial assistance to Christian families in the Middle East who are subject to violent political persecution. For \$300, the council will help a Middle Eastern child receive health and education aid.

LADIES HOST CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR GIRLS SHELTER

The Council 112 Ladies Program will be sponsoring a Christmas party for Concord's Rolfe and Rumford Home on Sunday, December 14th at 1:00 PM. The home is a shelter for homeless and impoverished girls, ages 6 through 18.

The Ladies will help decorate the Home's Christmas tree, provide light refreshments for the residents, and even deliver some treasured presents to help ring in the season.

The Ladies Program had been seeking a local youth charity for which they could

provide some Christmas goodwill. The Rolfe and Rumford Home provided the perfect opportunity of need and proximity, and allowed for the Ladies' gifts to have maximum spiritual impact.

With current economic conditions, the resources of local charity groups are being stretched further than ever before, making contributions like those from the Ladies more critical. To offer your own gift, please contact the Rolfe and Rumford Home at (603) 225-5901 for details.



MONASTERY CLEAN-UP IS APPRECIATED



While wet weather prevented the Carmelite Monastery clean-up project from happening when scheduled, council

brothers were able to make a mighty effort a couple of days later nonetheless.

On Monday, November 17th, council knights gathered at the Pleasant Street grounds in the morning hours and wasted little time mowing, raking, and bagging up rubbish in time for the holiday season. Council master chef Red Brochu was on hand to fortify the workers with hot cocoa and hot dogs as the crew cleared up the areas in front and in the rear of the building.

MERGER PLAN FOR THREE CONCORD PARISHES

Manchester Bishop John McCormack has accepted a panel's recommendation for the eventual merge of three Concord parishes into one. The merger would unite the congregations of St. John the Evangelist, Sacred Heart, and St. Peter's—both Immaculate Heart of Mary and Immaculate Conception would not be affected, but may be involved in future discussions.

No timeline for the

merge has been set however the Diocese anticipates the Concord area being served by only three priests by the year 2012. No determination has been made as to what would become of the individual parish facilities.

The recommendation was made after more than two years of analysis and discussion between Concord parishioners and representatives of the Diocese.



INSURANCE REPORT BY MATT POULIN, FA

Tempus fugit. Time flies. The older we get, the more that statement seems to ring true. Especially as we prepare to ring in another new year. I hope that 2008 was a healthy, prosperous year for you and your family.

If you're like most people, you've made some resolutions for the new year. If I may, I'd like to add to your list of resolutions by two. First, write them down. A resolution is really a goal for the year and, until you commit a goal to writing, it's nothing more than a wish. So write your resolutions down.

Whether they be to lose weight, contribute more time and money to charity, read more or watch less television, you're more likely to stick to them if you write them down.

Second, schedule some time to visit with me, your professional Knights of Columbus insurance agent. The "insurance check-up" that I'll provide (free of charge, by the way!) will quickly identify any gaps in your family's life insurance program. And you'll want to fill those gaps now, not later. Because unlike many other

products, you need more than money to obtain life insurance. You also need good health, and no one will ring a bell warning you when your health is about to change.

Knights of Columbus life insurance offers something precious few other financial products can – guarantees. As long as you pay your premiums, the policy proceeds will be there for your beneficiaries should something happen to you. We call that peace of mind, and that's – as they say in the credit card commercial – priceless.

A Prayer for the Season of Advent from Father Anthony Kuzia, CM

Heavenly Father, during Advent, may we remember the greatest gift ever given, Your only Son, Jesus Christ. Fill our hearts with joy day by day as we ponder the Savior who put aside His heavenly glory and came among us. As a newborn, only a stable roof sheltered Him and ordinary, impoverished parents cared for Him. Your angels couldn't contain themselves, but broke into the quiet night-watch of a group of humble shepherds. The heavenly messengers proclaimed the glorious news of the Savior who would pay the price for our sins, the sign of Your goodwill to all men, and Your desire for peace on earth. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, grow our understanding and wonder of His birth. By Christmas day, may our hearts overflow with rejoicing and thanksgiving. Let our gratitude overflow to each person we meet by demonstrating the peace and goodwill in our hearts--not just at this joyful season but all the year round. Thank you for sending Your only son to earth to provide eternal life to all who accept Him.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Bob Jewett
Roy Hechler
Mike Timberlake
Ben Bellerose
Mike Theriault
Ernie Lopez
Rev. Remo Zanatta
Russell Sargent
Rev. Peter Boucher
Angelo Arata

Bryant Zachodny
Claude Marquis
Lou Sillari
Rev. John Sledziona, CM
Rev. Andrew Cryans
Jack Mollica
Gerard Joyal
Chuck McGee
Rev. Eugene Kotlinski, CM
Roger LaFleur



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*In service to one.
In service to all.*

www.kofc112.org



CHAPLAIN'S REPORT BY REV. ANTHONY KUZIA, CM

On Christmas we commemorate the birth of our Savior. This Holy Day of Christmas is celebrated at the time of the year when darkness fills most of the day. Our secular celebrations fill the modern day darkness with artificial glare of glitzy lights and glitter. Sometimes it can all but blind us to the birth of Jesus, the true "Light of the World." I offer the following thoughts as a way for us to focus more closely on that divine illumination brought to us on Christmas Day.

How beautiful are the words of the prophet Isaiah: "A child is born to us; a son is given to us; upon his shoulders dominion rests." Isaiah also tells us that the Child who is born as Savior is the Light of the World, "The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwell in the land of gloom a light has shone."

Christmas is filled with the theme of light and darkness. We recall the star of Bethlehem and the Magi, the wise men, the ones who came from a great distance to honor the source of wisdom and light. For all of us, Christmas celebrates the dawn of the light of the world. Our celebration of Christmas reflects the

joyous event full of light.

But there is a lesson to be learned when we remove our romantic and quaint visions of Christ's birth. There was darkness there as well. Being born in a stable is like being born in someone's garage. No heat, no light, no comforts. It was dark and cold and difficult. The first people who came to see the newborn savior were not the wealthy and the influential, they were shepherds. They were solitary, rough men, shunned by polite society. As lowly as the birth place. This is far from the perfect setting we might expect for the birth of the Son of the Most High God. Yet, there is a reason that God selected this situation and these people to be the first to hear the Good News of Christ's birth. What does all this tell us about God? What does this tell us about Christmas? What does this tell us about ourselves?

In some ways what makes the Christmas story such an effective story is that it reveals how our hope of salvation is born. The Christmas story tells us that the world does not have to be made perfect before it is made new. The world does not have to

be free of sinners before we are freed from sin. The world does not need to be rid of darkness before we can walk in the light. Indeed, Christmas tells us that God's glory is revealed in the muck of a stable and the pain of a Roman cross as it could never have been in the brightness of the heavens, because the greatest glory of God is God's love. It is love without borders or limits. It is a love that has no regard for our income or our station. It is lavished upon us without reservation or consideration for what we have done or have not done. All people are God's people. All are chosen by Him and cherished.

The power and hope of Christmas comes to us here and now, again and again, because we are invited to experience the greatest sign of God's love, the incarnation of Christ. By our Baptism we are called to share in this gift of God's love. By living and loving as Christ's body in the world we walk in a light that shines brightly in a darkness that cannot overcome it. That is the hope that sustains us, the peace that keeps us centered amidst the turmoil of our own lives. It is a joy that makes eternal and abundant the life present in the here and now. Jesus the Christ is born!