



The Knight Register



Newsletter of Knights of Columbus Council No. 13072, St. Mary Parish, Vancouver, BC, Canada

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The Grand Knight's Message

Taking Stock

The year so far

In our second year as a council, what have we accomplished so far?



Almost immediately after the installation of officers, we plunged into our first activity, the hosting of the Catholic Health Care Association of BC Seminar, which was held at St. Mary's Parish from 12 to 4 P.M. on July 12, 2003. Perhaps because the seminar was held on a warm summer afternoon, or because we did not have enough Sundays to promote it, participation in this parish event was far below the expected number.

While preparations for the seminar were proceeding, we also worked on launching our newsletter. With Br. Wibisono Hartono spearheading the project, the first issue of the quarterly newsletter was published well ahead of the end of September.

By then, too, the refugees from Africa who came in June in time to join us during the summer picnic had moved to Surrey. We did not know what was expected of us, or what we could do for the refugees, and now this move made it more difficult to provide support.

Oktoberfest of course loomed ahead. Would we succeed again? Who were going to step up and take on the responsibilities of planning and organizing this fundraising event? What could be done to improve on last year's Oktoberfest and Mardi Gras dinner dance nights?

Brother Edgar, meanwhile, got the Divine Mercy devotions underway, while continuing with the bible study sessions with a small group of regulars who faithfully attended the sessions led by Fr. Pierre.

The family rosary crusade continued, helping forge a closer bond among brothers and their families.



Family Rosary Gathering

Before we could take a breather after successfully concluding our second Oktoberfest, our brothers were again pressed into service, this time to provide security and parking control during the Archdiocesan educational conference known as Congress 2003, which was held over two days. Organizers were very happy with parking control in particular, commenting that it was the best they've ever experienced.

And what about the charity appeal campaign? The two Mikes led council in campaigning at Champlain Square in November, and then again in January at Metropolis, aided by brothers Manny Mendoza, Noel Jimenez, Rene Montilla, Daniel Politeski, Ruben Dioquino, Richard Leung, and others.



Bro. Rick Villanueva with the three refugees whom the Council have been giving moral support

December saw our second Christmas party for our brothers and their families. Gifts were given and exchanged, and, while we were too late in organizing a carolling campaign, the practice sessions helped to end the evening on a warm note, with carols being sung.

As part of the observance of Christmas, council distributed candies with Christmas messages to St. Mary's Elementary School kids. DGK Br. Edward spearheaded this very successful activity.

New Year's Eve saw the knights and their wives helping to put up the lovely decorations designed and created by the Castro clan, setting up the tables, and later taking down and cleaning up after this Annual Parish Potluck Dinner ended at 12:30 A.M.

Just when we thought we could slow down a bit, with only the Metropolis charity appeal campaign on the calendar, we received the green light to co-host the major degree exemplification ceremony at St. Mary's Parish. As our District Deputy was counting on St. Joseph's and our council to put on a good show, especially as the state officers were attending, we needed to plan and execute this well. While plans were being drawn up, Br. Zdravko quietly completed the construction of our glass-covered display shelf at the basement. This big guy with an even bigger heart and strong hands made the job look easy.



Selling Charity Appeal Tickets in Metrotwon

The exemplification ceremony was a big success. Bros. Adel Aguilar and Noel Jimenez did yeoman's jobs in preparing and serving the food, sister Gloria Montilla prepared the flower arrangements and corsages, Jun Jimenez coordinated security and parking with St. Joseph's Council, Rene Montilla produced the program, Bro. Richard collected the fees, Bro. Fernando taught tai chi and wowed his audience with his ability to bend lower than anybody, and Bro. Edward ably substituted for Fr. Pierre in conducting the bible study. Bro. Zdravko provided the highlight of the day,

when he unreservedly displayed his solidarity with the clergy.

January also saw Bro. Mike Buensuceso finish his duty as coordinator of the regular third Sunday coffee service. With our wives assuming the major roles in this effort, over 200 volunteer hours are devoted every quarter to make sure that parishioners enjoyed sandwiches, cookies, donuts, coffee, juice, and tea. The support of Freybe Gourmet Foods, who regularly provided the delicious sandwich spreads for the service thru the efforts of Bro. Roseller and Sis. Gertie Cuyugan, have made the coffee service very popular.

Some people wonder why we are very active as a council. After all, every council has a core group of dedicated brothers; wives who not only stand by but who lead in our activities; and, pastors who unwaveringly give their support.

Some of us might think that we do what we do because we want to win awards and the recognition of our fellow brothers in BC.

When we joined the Knights of Columbus, we set for ourselves the goal of being men for others for God's greater glory, and not for own personal gratification. Thus we see Adel happily embracing the task of making and serving food, Mike M boldly taking on the charity appeal campaign, Mike B assuming multiple roles, Cesar T running the bar in every dinner dance event, Alan faithfully picking up the donuts, Angel quietly manning the ticket booth, Noel J. and Rene M. planning and organizing, Mike D buzzing like a bee all over, Richard watching the money like a hawk, Leo getting a sweet deal, Wibisono recording every meeting...I could go on and on.

Member News

The Council welcomes the following four first-degree members, exemplified in January 2004.

Bro. Nestor Adato

Bro. Salvador Cabatic

Bro. Darius Sarmiento

Bro. Silverio Manuel Usison

Eight Brothers were exemplified to 2/3 degree:

Bros. Michael Devasagayam, Leodegario Felipe, Daniel Politeski, Philip Puno, Gary Sicat, Bill Wong, Alphonse Vlaka and Jankovich Zdravko.

For your Insurance Needs contact our Field Agent:

Bro. Steven Esterreicher

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Lent Message of His Holiness John Paul II

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

1. The evocative rite of the imposition of ashes marks the beginning of the holy season of Lent, when the Liturgy once more calls the faithful to radical conversion and trust in God's mercy.



This year's theme -- "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me" (Matthew 18:5) -- invites us to reflect on the condition of children. Today Jesus continues to call them to himself and to set them as an example to all those who wish to be his disciples. Jesus' words call upon us to see how children are treated in our families, in civil society, and in the Church. They are also an incentive to rediscover the simplicity and trust which believers must cultivate in imitation of the Son of God, who shared the lot of the little ones and the poor. Saint Clare of Assisi loved to say that Christ, "lay in a manger, lived in poverty on the earth and died naked on the Cross" (Testament, Franciscan Sources, No. 2841).

Jesus had a particular love for children because of "their simplicity, their joy of life, their spontaneity, and their faith filled with wonder" (Angelus Message, 18 December 1994). For this reason he wishes the community to open its arms and its heart to them, even as he did: "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me" (Matthew 18:5). Alongside children Jesus sets the "very least of the brethren": the suffering, the needy, the hungry and thirsty, strangers, the naked, the sick, and the imprisoned. In welcoming them and loving them, or in treating them with indifference and contempt, we show our attitude towards him, for it is in them that he is particularly present.

2. The Gospel recounts the childhood of Jesus in the simple home of Nazareth, where he was obedient to his parents and "increased in wisdom and in years, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52). By becoming himself a child, he wished to share our human experience. "He emptied himself," writes the Apostle Paul, "taking the form of a slave, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a Cross" (Philippians 2:7-8). When at twelve years old he remained in the Temple in Jerusalem, he said to his parents who anxiously looked for him: "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:49). Indeed, his whole life was marked by a trusting and filial obedience to his heavenly Father. "My food," he said, "is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work" (John 4:34).

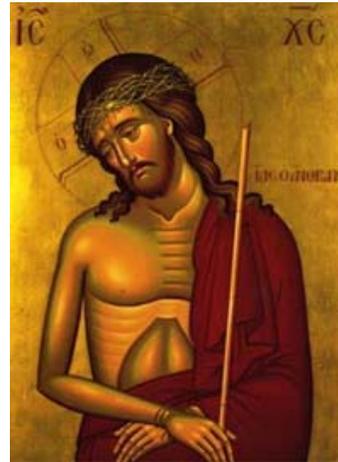
In the years of his public life Jesus often insisted that only those who become like children will enter the Kingdom of Heaven (cf. Matthew 18:3; Mark 10:15; Luke 18:17; John 3:3). In his teaching, young children become a striking image of the disciple who is called to follow the divine Master with childlike docility: "Whoever humbles himself like this child,

he is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven" (Matthew 18:4).

"To become" one of the least and "to receive" the little ones: these are two aspects of a single teaching which the Lord repeats to his disciples in our time. Only the one who makes himself one of the "least" is able to receive with love the "least" of our brothers and sisters.

3. Many believers strive faithfully to follow these teachings of the Lord. Here I would mention those parents who willingly take on the responsibility of a large family, mothers and fathers who, rather than considering success in their profession and career as the highest value, make every effort to pass on to their children those human and religious values that give true meaning to life.

With great admiration I also think of all those committed to caring for underprivileged children and those who alleviate the sufferings of children and their families resulting from war and violence, inadequate food and water, forced immigration and the many forms of injustice present in the world.



Together with such great generosity, however, a word must be said about the selfishness of those who do not "receive" children. There are young people who have been profoundly hurt by the violence of adults: sexual abuse, forced prostitution, involvement in the sale and use of drugs; children forced to work or enlisted for combat; young children scarred forever by the breakup of the family; little ones caught up in the obscene trafficking of organs and persons. What too of the tragedy of AIDS and its devastating consequences in Africa? It is said that millions of persons are now afflicted by this scourge, many of whom were infected from birth. Humanity cannot close its eyes in the face of so appalling a tragedy!

4. What evil have these children done to merit such suffering? From a human standpoint it is not easy, indeed it may be impossible, to answer this disturbing question. Only faith can make us begin to understand so profound an abyss of suffering. By becoming "obedient unto death, even death on a Cross" (Philippians 2:8), Jesus took human suffering upon himself and illuminated it with the radiant light of his resurrection. By his death, he conquered death once for all.

During Lent, we prepare to relive the Paschal Mystery, which sheds the light of hope upon the whole of our existence, even its most complex and painful aspects. Holy Week will again set before us this mystery of salvation in the evocative rites of the Easter Triduum.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, let us set out with trust on our Lenten journey, sustained by fervent prayer, penance and concern for those in need. In particular, may this Lent be a time of ever greater concern for the needs of children, in our own families and in society as a whole: for they are the future of humanity.

5. With childlike simplicity let us turn to God and call him, as Jesus taught us in the prayer of the "Our Father," "Abba," "Father."

Our Father! Let us repeat this prayer often during Lent; let us repeat it with deep emotion. By calling God "Our Father," we will better realize that we are his children and feel that we are brothers and sisters of one another. Thus it will be an easier for us to open our hearts to the little ones, following the invitation of Jesus: "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me" (Matthew 18:5).

In this hope, I invoke upon each of you God's blessings, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Word of God made man and Mother of all humanity.

JOHN PAUL II

Meditation during Lent

The Presence of God

I pause for a moment, aware that God is here.

I think of how everything around me,
the air I breathe, my whole body,
is tingling with the presence of God.

Freedom

I ask for the grace
to let go of my own concerns
and be open to what God is asking of me,
to let myself be guided and formed by my loving Creator.

Consciousness

How do I find myself today?
Where am I with God? With others?
Do I have something to be grateful for? Then I give thanks.
Is there something I am sorry for? Then I ask forgiveness.

The Word

I read the Word of God slowly, a few times over,
and I listen to what God is saying to me.
(*read and reflect on daily Bible readings*)

Conversation

What feelings are rising in me
as I pray and reflect on God's Word?
I imagine Jesus himself sitting or standing near me
and open my heart to him.

Conclusion

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Source: <http://www.jesuit.ie/prayer/>

Joke of the Month

He-brews

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning.



The wife said, "You should do it, because you get up first, and then we don't have to wait long to get our coffee." The husband said, "You are in charge of cooking around here and you should do it, because that is your job." Wife replies, "No, you should do it, and besides, it is

written in the Bible that the man should do the coffee." Husband replies, "I can't believe that, show me!"

So she fetched the Bible, and opened the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages, that it indeed says.... "HEBREWS"

Father Michael J. McGivney Guild

The Father Michael J. McGivney Guild was established to promote the awareness of the founder of the Knights of Columbus and his cause for canonization.



Those devoted to Father McGivney are encouraged to join the Guild and regularly say the prayer for his canonization, which is available online and on a special prayer card. Members are asked to pray for Father McGivney's canonization, report favours received and assist in the advancement of the cause. Membership is free and open to individuals and households, but not

to groups. Members may make tax-deductible contributions to assist in the Guild's work, but this is by no means required.

To register, fill the online form at:

www.kofc.org/about/history/founder/participate/register.cfm

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