



Knights Herald

Piscataway Council #11017

Piscataway, NJ 08854



Calendar of Events

- December- Luminary Sale
- Dec 16th - Santa Breakfast
- Dec 21st- Cash for Christmas Raffle Drawing
- Jan 6th - Monthly Knight's Mass
- Jan 6th - Blood Drive
- Jan 12th - Concert by Greg Gianascoli St. Frances Cabrini Church
- Jan 18th - Chapter IV Meeting Avenel
- Jan 22nd - Right To Life March Washington, DC

Inside this issue:

- Membership Corner **2**
- Knight of the month **3**
- Family of the month **4**
- Our Knights in Action **5**

*** Reminder ***

Council Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of every month beginning at 8pm.

Charity, Unity, Fraternity, Patriotism

December 2007



Grand Knight's Message



Brothers All:

I trust this report finds you fresh from celebrating your blessings at Thanksgiving, and building toward the joys of Christmas. With a new year just around the corner, the time when we all assess where we are and make resolutions to improve our future, I hope you feel contented and happy in your life. The Declaration of Independence guarantees us each "the pursuit of happiness". So if you find yourself having a hard time in that pursuit, how is one to capture that elusive happiness? It turns out, scientists have spent quite a bit of effort trying to point the way. Care to guess what the top factors are in improving your personal level of happiness? Having strong personal relationships with others, contributing to the lives of others, being truly engrossed in your activities so that "time flies", and feeling that your actions have a greater meaning. Remarkably, it sounds like a checklist of the feelings I get through my participation with the Knights of Columbus! (No, we didn't fund the research.) I've made the finest long term friends through my participation, and look forward to seeing them whenever possible. You can certainly see how your efforts to aid handicapped children, families touched by Alzheimers disease, the boy and girl scouts, award scholarships to catholic education, and repair the parish buildings – just to scratch the surface of our annual activities –

make the lives of others better (but if you're not convinced, those we help frequently tell us so!) and make you a part of something bigger than yourself. With such positive feelings, it's easy to become engrossed in what you're doing and forget your own problems. Welcome to happiness! I hope if you've been inactive for a while you'll come out to judge for yourself whether the scientists are right, and extend an invitation to potential members you might know to try as well.

Vivat Jesus,

John P. Hogan, GK
 gk@piscatawaykofc.org
 (732) 968-8563

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shall call his name JESUS: for he shall save people from their sins"

Matthew 2:21



Membership Corner: Let's All Keep 'Christ' in Christmas.....

It's that wonderful time again! The celebration of our Lord's Birth! The excitement of Advent! The decorations and gift giving! This is the time I love most as I re-live the special feelings I always get during this time of year. I enjoy shopping and of course the holiday treats that all come out during this time of year. I enjoy decorating my house with my wife and son. My son and I start the outside with our blow up of Frosty! After that we start building the main focal point which is the manger. I built this myself about 4 years ago with the help of my son and wife. My son Phillip takes charge, placing the hay and figures' making sure every detail is up to his standards. It's so much fun! This started way back when I was a kid in Staten Island when my father and brother did it. I told my dad I was going to do the same thing when I bought my own house. And so I did and it is a tradition my son says he will carry on. This is only a small part of the holidays. But how many peo-

ple look at this holiday as a holy one? Most get caught up in the gift giving, cooking and planning of family events. All that is truly part of this but the reason for this season is the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. That was truly a gift from God the Father Himself. God so loved his people that he gave up his only son to pave the way for salvation. Jesus was taken, beaten, humiliated, spit on and put to death as a common criminal, all to save you and me. So let us all remember that Christmas was the beginning of our salvation and Christ came for us.

I want to thank all of you for all your support through a grueling year. I hope the New Year will bring God's Peace to all of you. My brothers this council has grown and achieved so much in the last 5 years. I extend an invitation to all brothers, active and inactive to please come to the next meeting. For all who don't know by now, we have a Mass the first Sunday of every month. Please come out and

join us at the 9:00am celebration. Also we have our very successful Santa Breakfast on the 16th. Come see our Santa display and enjoy the celebration with good food, and fellowship! Remember brothers in unity there is strength!

Merry Christmas to you and yours!

In His Service Forever

Mel Giannino
Deputy Grand Knight
Membership Director
Knights of Columbus
Council 11017



Did You Know?

The Advent wreath is made up of two basic parts: the wreath itself and the candles.

The wreath is made of evergreen, either real or artificial. Its circular shape represents eternity, for it has no beginning and no end. The evergreen was chosen as it symbolizes growth and everlasting life.

There are four candles, three purple and one pink. They represent the four weeks of preparation. As another candle is lit each week, we are reminded of the growing light of Christ's presence.

The meaning of the candles is as follows:

First Purple candle: represents hope.

Second Purple Candle: stands for love.

Third, pink candle: represents joy.

Fourth purple candle: is a symbol of peace.

Knight of the Month Award

For October 2007, **Mel Giannino** has been named **Knight of the Month**. Since joining the council in 2001, Mel has been a strong and steady performer serving in many leadership roles. As Program Director he led the renovation of the Church basement, and still leads the "Pride in our Parish" committee, renamed to reflect Mel's vision of revitalizing the parish by beautifying its facilities. It's been a very timely cause with concerns that the Diocese may close the Parish school. Mel heeded the call to be Membership Director last year, and in that capacity played a key role in securing our council's first "Double Star Council" award, a distinction earned by only 4% of councils worldwide. He's served as both our Chancel-

lor and Deputy Grand Knight where his strength of character and intelligence have helped our council develop an increasingly positive reputation in the parish and community as well as being a dependable right arm and sounding board for my ideas in my term as Grand Knight. Mel can be counted on to participate in nearly every event the council holds, and donates many of his own dollars and time in his home. He plays Santa at our December breakfast sitting in a gorgeous throne he built himself at a cost of over hundreds of dollars. He's one of the top chefs at our monthly breakfasts, flea market, and annual family picnic. In September Mel stepped up to run our flea market fundraiser in my absence. In addition to his council activities, you'll notice

Mel ushering weekly mass at St. Frances Cabrini as well as a loving husband and father. He accomplishes all this while keeping up with a very demanding job involving long hours, and much continuing education. It's with great pleasure that I name him this month's winner. As our monthly winner, Mel will be entered into the council and state drawings for Knight of the Year. Congratulations Mel! Thank you for being a sturdy pillar in our council and the community!



For November 2007, **Angelo Bariso** has been named **Knight of the Month**. Angelo has set the standard for Warden within our council raising the bar through several years of service in that role. He has agreed to be our Lecturer this year where he's presented advice on retirement funds

that enhance our members financial prospects and aid their family future. I can't wait to see what programming Angelo has planned for the rest of his term. He's also been key to our relationship with St. Frances Cabrini school advancing our youth programs to new heights. While serving as council Youth Director, I've found Angelo's assistance in-

valuable. He's a pivotal member of the breakfast committee, our signature fundraiser, and runs our "Cash for Christmas" raffle, one of our newest but most successful fundraisers. As our monthly winner, Angelo will be entered into the council and state drawings for Knight of the Year. Congratulations Angelo!

Family of the Month Award

For October 2007, our **Family of the Month**, is the **Armstrong** family, PGK Charlie and his wife Carol. Charlie is a PGK who heeded the call to serve as Trustee for the council this year. He's a Eucharistic minister at the Parish and hospital as well as bringing communion to the homes of sick parishioners. Carol

cleans our church each Monday. He and Carol are frequent contributors to our events, most recently running a table to sell candles with the proceeds donated to our Parish. They cook for FISH as well. Both are always warm and friendly, inviting you into their home and treating everyone as family. Both have substantial ties to the community,

and facilitate council activities through their circle of contacts. Charlie's been a prime contributor to our membership growth. They have 3 grown children, and 3 Grandchildren. As our Monthly winners, the Armstrongs will be entered into our council drawing for Family of the Year as well as the state level competition.

For November 2007, our **Family of the Month**, is the **Ciard** family, Dominic and his wife Patricia. Though not members of the council, The Ciardis were instrumental in our candle sale playing a key role in raising over \$1600 for the renovation of St. Frances Cabrini church. Dominic is a trustee of the church, and has helped the Knights in the past including projects such as building a deck and privacy

fence for the rectory in 2005. As our Monthly winners, the Ciardis will be entered into our council drawing for Family of the Year as well as the state level competition. Please join me in thanking Dominic and Patricia for their sacrifices for our parish and community.



Luminary Sale

Family: \$10 per dozen

Individual: \$1 ea.

Order forms and bags can be found in the pews of the church. Place order forms along with payment in the chimney located in the church vestibule.

Contact Greg Giannascoli at 732-369-3682 for more information.



December Birthdays

Edwin Abano	Mortimer Melican
Bob Barton FS	James Murray
Prudencio De Luna	Mel Giannino
Noel Gendrano	



Our 'Knights In Action'.....



Eagle Scout Award

On October 28, 2007, GK John Hogan (left) presented awards to new Eagle Scouts George R. Boff and Mark Paul Kuhn on behalf of the Knights of Columbus and thanked them for the leadership, project management, and charity toward their community they've displayed. Awards were also given to Eagle Scouts Tyler Beauchea & Brian R. Kaszyk.

Candle Sale Fundraiser

On November 17th and 18th, council #11017 sold candles to raise funds for the repair of the St. Frances Cabrini church basement. Thanks to all those members and their families who helped us raise \$1637 for this worthy cause!



Alzheimer's Fundraiser

Members of Council #11017 braved the autumn chill to collect nearly \$2300 for Alzheimer's research, nearly 30% more than our last drive. Several members received thanks from people whose lives were personally touched by the disease. Great work! Thank you all for coming out! Pictured at left is GK John P. Hogan hard at work outside of the Shop Rite in Piscataway.

SANTA

Is coming to the
Piscataway Knights of Columbus
Buffet Breakfast
"All You Can Eat"

Sunday December 16th
8AM - 12 Noon

St. Frances Cabrini School
" Proceeds Donated to the SFC Girl Scout Troop 80553 "





Officers

Grand Knight	John P. Hogan
Deputy Grand Knight	Mel Giannino
Warden	Kevin Haipt
Chancellor	Reuben Valenzuela
Financial Secretary	Bob Barton
Treasurer	John Suiter
Lecturer	Angelo Bariso
Advocate	Joe Micale
Recorder	Steve Marcinko
Inside Guard	Dave DePaolo
Outside Guard	Rodney Vaz
1st Year Trustee	Paul Mattner*
2nd Year Trustee	Charlie Armstrong*
3rd Year Trustee	Kyle Knoell*

Directors

Program Director	John P. Hogan
Membership Director	Mel Giannino
Insurance Agent	Bob McFadden
Church Director	Reuben Valenzuela
Community Director	Paul Mattner*
Council Director	Charlie Armstrong*
Family Director	Charlie Armstrong
Youth Director	John P. Hogan
Publicity Chair	Glenn Morgan
Newsletter Editor	Steve Marcinko
Webmaster	Vinnie Covino, DD*

*Past Grand Knight

In Need of Insurance? Contact Robert McFadden at (732) 382-5795 For More Information



We're on the Web!
www.Piscatawaykofc.org

Charity, Unity, Fraternity, Patriotism

December 2007

Knights of Columbus Annual Freethrow Contest



Sunday
January 27th, 2008
St. Frances Cabrini Gymnasium
Netherwood Ave, Piscataway

OPEN TO ALL BOYS AND GIRLS

No cost to participate

Must be ages 10 through 14 before January 1st

Must have copy of their birth certificate

Pre-registration preferred but not necessary

Registration starts at 12:15 pm

Contest begins at 1:00 pm SHARP!!

10 Categories with a winner in each

If you should have any questions, please e-mail
John Hogan at gk@piscatawaykofc.org
or call (732) 968-8563 and leave a message

Merry Christmas



HAPPY NEW YEAR