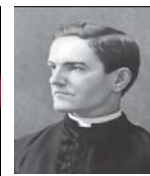
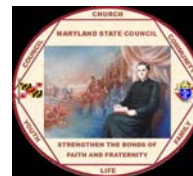




The Notre Dame Grotto



Home of the Traveling Rosary
Dec 2012 Vol. 58, No. 5

The Newsletter of Knights of Columbus Council 2901 www.KofC2901.webs.com

Chaplain's Corner

Fr. Joseph Simmons 410-679-2191, Hspiritchurch@aol.com

Ho, Ho, Ho! December is such a wonderful month. Christmas parties, beautiful liturgies and music, gifts and signs of love everywhere. Best and greatest of these are the Christmas baskets lovingly prepared and delivered to the needy around us. God bless you for GIVING. Receive God's Gift of His Son.

Grand Knights Report

John Morrison GK 410-391-6461 jffpmorrison@aol.com



I pray that all of you and your families have a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy new year. As we get busy preparing for the holidays let us not forget the real meaning of Christmas. Why not start the month with our First Friday Mass and Dinner on December 8 at the council home?

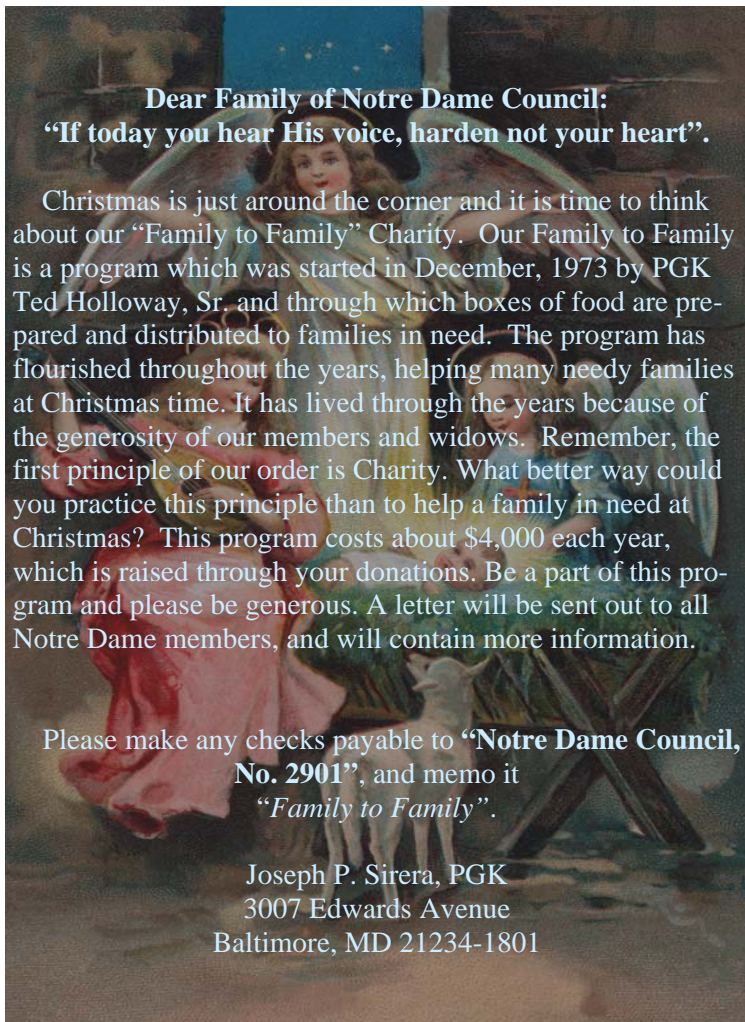
Remember that the first principle of our order is Charity and this month is the time for our council's biggest charitable activity – Family to Family. In the activities since the Crab Feast, the council's participation has been disappointing. Make it a point to be part of the Family to Family Program – donate according to your circumstances and try to join us on December 23 as we pack the Christmas food baskets for those in need.

A special thanks to Tom Antonicci and to those who helped him to make the tootsie roll campaign a success. I would like to express my appreciation to Tom for his years of service to this program, which raises money for St. Elizabeth's School. He has led our efforts since 2001. I would also like to thank all who worked hard to make our other activities social successes, if not financial blockbusters.

Knight and Family of the Month

I am pleased to announce the Knight of the Month for December is Tom Antonicci and that the Family of the Month is the family of Brother George and Yoshi Hollenack

Editors note: Missed from the last print issue of the Grotto was the Family of the Month for November, Stella & Joe Sirera PGK, FDD, PFN.



Dear Family of Notre Dame Council:
"If today you hear His voice, harden not your heart".

Christmas is just around the corner and it is time to think about our "Family to Family" Charity. Our Family to Family is a program which was started in December, 1973 by PGK Ted Holloway, Sr. and through which boxes of food are prepared and distributed to families in need. The program has flourished throughout the years, helping many needy families at Christmas time. It has lived through the years because of the generosity of our members and widows. Remember, the first principle of our order is Charity. What better way could you practice this principle than to help a family in need at Christmas? This program costs about \$4,000 each year, which is raised through your donations. Be a part of this program and please be generous. A letter will be sent out to all Notre Dame members, and will contain more information.

Please make any checks payable to "Notre Dame Council, No. 2901", and memo it "Family to Family".

Joseph P. Sirera, PGK
3007 Edwards Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21234-1801

Baltimore Chapter of Grand Knights



Saturday, December 1st 2012
Villa Maria/Gallagher Center
"Breakfast with Santa"
2520 Pot Spring Rd.

Thursday, Decmber 13, 2012
Baltimore Chapter Christmas Party



Tuesday, December 18th Council Christmas party.
Cost: Donation for the pregnancy center
Time: 6:30 PM
Food, Drink and Fun

Sick, Memorial & Congratulatory

Ted Lingelbach 410-882-8976, tedlingelbach@aol.com

Passings...21-year-old Ashley Bolgiano – niece of former member Deacon Richard Bolgiano – passed away. **Sick**... Bro. Herb Keough is showing progress at Stella Maris where he is undergoing physical therapy...Bro. Bob Morris is recovering slowly from a stroke suffered last summer...Council Widow Kitty Andrews is dealing with an injury. Please pray for our deceased, sick, and shut-ins at this special time of the year. Have a blessed Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy 2013!

Fraternal Benefits

John Samperly, FICF, CSA
410-296-3051 John.Samperly@kofc.org



The Urgency of Buying Long Term Care Insurance

There are very few people who do not have a “long term care experience” somewhere in their family – a loved one in a nursing home facility, or a family member being cared for at home because of advancing age, a disability or both. If you have heard or undergone this situation, you know firsthand the catastrophic effects these events can have on a family, crossing all generations.

What you may not know about is the urgency of taking action. The ability to buy long-term care insurance is based on your health. Putting the decision off, “waiting until next year” or otherwise dragging your feet can be problematic. You never know when your health could change or make you ineligible for coverage. In addition, the required premium commitment increases every year with your age.

When you make the decision to talk about LTC, come right to the Knights of Columbus. In addition to providing life insurance and guaranteed retirement products to our members and their families, we also have a very competitive long-term care product available through our agents. Since entering this market in 2000, nearly 30,000 LTC policies have been sold to K of C members and their wives. While some companies in this line of business have had difficulty (or stopped selling the product altogether), our product continues to perform well with no premium increases on existing policies.

I can help you select the plan that’s right for you and meets your budget. I can show you several different options – facility only coverage, home care, a combination of both. I urge you to not delay.

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2013



TIME: 2-6 COST:\$15 Chairman -- Jere Danaher
Real Irish food, Trivia, music, Irish history

Program Director Jere Danaher PGK FDD PFN PCP FDW
410-426-8236 danaher2@verizon.net

Keep Christ in Christmas by being generous with your Family to Family contribution. Jesus has told us, whatever you do for the least.....you do unto me! We could use your help on the Family to Family Christmas baskets and don't forget to bring the kids and grandkids to help. In this way, you can teach them that it is better to give than to receive. Please inform Church Director, John Butt if you are coming to the 1st Friday in December. Continue to support Notre Dame thru their events. I wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas and a safe New Year.

Save the date for the
2013 KC Players Dinner Theatre
April 13 & 14, 20 & 21, & 27 & 28
(see future Grotto articles for more detail)

Laughter on the 23rd floor

A play by
Neil Simon

Financial Secretary Report

Joseph Sirera PGK, PFN 410-661-4785, jssirera@verizon.net

We are now in the last month of calendar year 2012 which means that Billing Notices will be going out for the coming year, 2013. The dues billing for the year 2013 will be \$42.00 for regular members, \$10.00 for full-time students, and \$10.00 for Honorary Members. Billing 1st notice will be mailed to these members by mid-December. All members are encouraged to pay annually to save postage and supply costs normally incurred with the additional mailings. Please pay your dues promptly. If there is a financial problem preventing you from paying your dues at one time, let me know. Upon receipt of your payment, your 2013 membership card will be mailed to you. Honorary Life Members, those in active military service and those who have been declared as disabled by Supreme Council are exempt from paying dues. For your information, our Council's membership totals 391 (145 Associate members, 176 Insurance members and 70 Inactive Members); included in this count are 6 Honorary members, 104 Honorary Life members and 4 disabled.

Stella and I wish you and your families a most Joyful and Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with Peace and Happiness.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

The following will receive a Supreme Knight's Wedding Certificate at the First Friday Mass in December for attaining a special wedding anniversary in December:

Bro. James I. & Catherine Keenan, Jr. for their 50th
Anniversary on December 15, 2012.
CONGRATULATIONS!

November Birthdays

04 Bro. David A. Carey	15 PGK Raymond J. Duran
04 Bro. James C. Gelhard	17 Dr. Walter R. Welzant
07 Bro. James M. Stallings	19 Bro. William C. Spuck
08 Bro. Joseph Piombino IV	19 Bro. Dennis P. Fahey
08 Bro. David L. Stallings	24 Bro. Anthony U. Olandu
10 Bro. David M. Harrison	26 PGK Howard A. Bottiger
10 Bro. Donald S. Keough	26 Bro. Robert L. Stadter
10 Bro. James P. Catterton	27 Bro. Charles Piersanti
12 Bro. Michael R. Baker	29 Bro. Keith E. Sellner
13 Bro. James P. Klein, Jr.	29 Bro. Vincent I. Keenan
13 Bro. Erich W. Hilse	30 Bro. Lawrence D. Glose

November Anniversaries

02 Bro. John J. & Phyllis Gloss	71
06 Bro. Peter D. & Diane Zirpolo	26
09 Bro. Howard. J & Carol Rousseau	51
15 Bro. James I. & Catherine Keenan, Jr.	50
16 Bro. Charles S. & Naomi Adams, Sr.	45
18 Bro. John C. & Mildred Finck	30
23 Bro. Benedict J. & Alma Ferro, Sr.	51
26 Bro. Salvatore V. & Patricia Barnaba	59
26 Bro. George K. & Elsie Paliath	52
27 Bro. Donald F. & Patricia Yakel, Jr.	26
28 Bro. David J. & Janice Brust	18
31 Bro. Gerald E. & Emily Trees	52

Advocates Report

James Klein Sr. (443) 255-5356 pgk2901a@yahoo.com

At the November 6th meeting the following were elected;

James Schwarz to the vacant Deputy Grand Knights office,
Frank Semon to the Chancellors office, vacated by James Schwarz,
Jake Novicky to the Wardens office vacated by Frank Semon.
Blake Cass to the Inside Guards office vacated by Jake Novicky

Congratulations to these four knights, and good luck in all your endeavors leading Notre Dame Council into the future. Without new men to volunteer their time and new ideas, our order would not grow and we could not do the charitable work so needed in the lives we touch.

FOURTH DEGREE

Charles Carroll of Carrollton Assembly, No. 375

Joseph P. Sirera, PGK, PFN (410) 661-4785



December 17th @ 7:00 PM: 375 Officer's Meeting @ #2901

December 21st @ 2:00 PM: VAVS Bingo @ LR VA CLC

December 24th @ ASSEMBLY MEETING: cancelled

VAVS Program:

Charles Carroll of Carrollton Assembly #375 hosts a Bingo & refreshments

for the veterans at LR VA CLC [BRECC] every 3rd Friday [except August] @ 2:00 PM.

Volunteers are needed and welcome.

Church & Youth Activities

Dr. John Butt 410-532-6713 DrJohnButt@gmail.com

I would like to thank Frank Semon, Jim Schwarz, and Jere Danaher for cooking for the November First Friday.

We still need 5 volunteers to cook for the remaining First Fridays.

Maryland State Council Calendar

Dec 8, 2012 -State Christmas Party-Cardinal Gibbons Council

Jan 5, 2012 Mid-Term Meeting-Cardinal Gibbons Council

Jan 25, 2012—March for Life –Washington D.C.

December 6 marks Saint Nicholas Day, and I thought I'd mark the beginning of the Christmas season by telling the story of Santa Claus's namesake. But before I do, I should remark that, historically speaking, there's not much we really know about Nicholas. Though he's one of the most popular saints in the Greek and Latin churches, his existence isn't attested by any historical document. All we can say is that he was *probably* the bishop of Myra (Turkey) sometime in the 300s. That said, there are of course many legends about Nicholas, and since these have influenced people throughout history, and they likely illustrate *something* about the historical man, they are fair game for a publication, like ours, devoted to Christian history. Supposedly, Nicholas was born to a wealthy family in Patara, Lycia. His parents died, and he inherited a considerable sum of money, but he kept none of it. In the most famous story about his life, he threw bags of gold through the windows of three [girls](#) about to be forced into lives of prostitution. After a couple of miracles (he's sometimes called Nicholas the Wonder-Worker) performed while he was still a boy, Nicholas was chosen by the people of Myra to be their new bishop. But it wasn't long before Diocletian and Maximian began their persecutions of Christians, and the new bishop was imprisoned. When Constantine became emperor, Nicholas was released with countless others and returned to his preaching only to find a new threat: Arianism. According to one biographer (writing five centuries after Nicholas's death), "Thanks to the teaching of St. Nicholas, the metropolis of Myra alone was untouched by the filth of the Arian heresy, which it firmly rejected as a death-dealing poison." Even by the reign of Justinian, Nicholas was famous, and the emperor dedicated a church in Constantinople to him. By the 900s, a Greek wrote, "The West as well as the East acclaims and glorifies him. Wherever there are people, his name is revered and churches are built in his honor. All Christians reverence his memory and call upon his protection." The West became even more interested when his "relics" were taken from Myra to Bari, Italy, on May 9, 1087. He's said to have been represented by medieval artists more frequently than any saint but Mary, and nearly 400 churches were dedicated in his honor in England alone during the late Middle Ages. With such a popularity, his legends inevitably became intertwined with others. In Germanic countries, it sometimes became hard to tell where the legend of Nicholas began and that of Woden (or Odin) ended. Somewhere along the line, probably tied to the gold-giving story, people began giving presents in his name on his feast day. When the Reformation came along, his following disappeared in all the Protestant countries except Holland, where his legend continued as Sinterklass. Martin Luther, for example, replaced this bearer of gifts with the Christ Child, or, in German, Christkindl. Over the years, that became repronounced Kriss Kringle, and ironically is now considered another name for Santa Claus (excerpts from Christianitytoday.com ~ Ted Olsen)

**Knights of Columbus
Notre Dame Council 2901**

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***Note:** Even though others have special auto loan “deals” presently available, you can still save money with your Notre Dame Federal Credit Union loan. All family members are eligible to participate in this special offer. Call now for more information*

**Calendar of Events
December 2012**

- 4. Council Business Meeting 7:30 PM
- 5. Keswick Bingo Christmas Program
- 7. First Friday 6:30 PM
- 11. Kay Cee Club Meeting 7:30 PM
- 18. Council Christmas Party (see ad on page 1)
- 23. Family to Family Christmas Baskets
- 25. Christmas - All Day
- 30. Fifth Sunday TBD

January 2013

- 1. New Years Day - All Day!
- 2. Keswick Bingo 7PM
- 4. First Friday 6:30 PM
- 8. Kay Cee Club Board Meeting 7:30 PM
- 15. Council Meeting 7:30 PM (1st Degree)
- 22. Officers and Chairmen Meeting 7:30 PM

KayCee Club Inc.
201 Homeland Ave.
Baltimore MD 21212
410-433-9756
Robert Jones - rental agent
(Ho-Ho-Ho)



Notre Dame Room (190 people) \$800
Marian Room (110 people) \$700
Discount available for members.