



Dear Brother Knights - Winter Challenge



Happy New Year to all. Hopefully, by this reading your home's warmth and light come from not just your spirit and smile, but from the utility companies as well. Just as hopefully, may your residence remain high and dry through the melting ice and continuous rains. God did say He would never destroy the earth again with water, did He not? But, most hopefully, may the passing season have treated you with true joy and the spirit of giving. I believe the latter happened everywhere. It sure was not hard to see around central Ohio. Everywhere one looked, you could find friends and neighbors offering or accepting the sharing of a home, the hookup of a generator, the clearing of debris, or the bailing out of a basement. Help appeared without request. No sacrifice was too great. Many gave up family celebrations to assist others. It was hard to tell whether the benefactors experienced more joy or the recipients offered more thanks.

The harshness of the season also gave one thought to the conditions in a manger on a hillside several thousand years ago. We always envision a bitterly, cold night and a cloudless sky with little to provide warmth. Sounds familiar. Yet Mary withstood all elements to bring our Savior into the world. Offers of help did not come. And the sacrifice was great. His birth was necessary for Him to die. That alone would crush many a giving spirit. Yet, imagine the joy she must have felt. Her child, immaculately conceived and born to cleanse the sins of mankind. What better gift to give the world? And we the recipients of this gift can probably never show enough gratitude, but should constantly try. Let us keep the practice of charity and kindness throughout the year as most did over the past few weeks. Hopefully we can accomplish this without any climatic assault as a prompt. Instead, just remember a stable and the gift of Christ we received those many years ago. That should be the only prompt we need. But, God does all things for a reason ... or so I have heard ... and maybe He thought this reminder necessary. Let's not disappoint Him and forget.

Now for a quick run down on December and the upcoming events for January. Many showed tremendous gifts of giving in the former and opportunities exist a plenty to get involved in the latter. For December, our second pancake breakfast went off well with an appearance from Santa Claus included. Brother Tom Weitzel sold items to the partial benefit of our council at the event as well. Thanks to all who provided assistance, especially our chairs John Sambuco, Mike White, and Dan Stephan who operated things smoothly. At two different times during the season, Rusty Boehm organized our bell-ringing crew for the Salvation Army buckets at Kroger's. Thanks Rusty and to all who donated time and money. Congratulate our degree team on a fine ceremony conducted on December 19th down in Lancaster. Welcome to those new knights who made the trip with us and attained the First Degree. Please get involved as soon as you can. Thanks also to our pew crew, who under the direction of Dr. Bud Joos, spruced up the pews before the holiday masses and to the many who helped with the church decorations. Our loyal insurance agent, Lloyd Stauffer directed the parking for the Christmas Eve masses under frigid conditions. Thank you very much. And thanks to all who gave voice to the Knights Choir on Christmas Day. I promise a change to that offering next year.

And finally, here are events with which to get involved in January. Our third in a series of exceptional pancake breakfasts comes on Sunday, January 9th. Our big, Monte Carlo fund-raiser occurs on Saturday, January 15th. Come help Mike Sergio and Joe Coffey fill the coffers! Another First Degree ceremony hits the calendar on Wednesday, January 19th with Candidates Call at 7:00PM. New members are encouraged to attend as well as anyone who is sponsoring a candidate. It may not be a bad idea for those who received their degree many moons ago to attend and refresh the main principle of our order. On January 23rd, the ever popular K of C Free Throw Contest for youths aged 10 – 14 engages in the PAC with registration beginning at 1:00 PM. Dave McAllister needs people to score, rebound, and register entrants. Some of the entrants may be from our newly formed Squires Circle! Attend if you can to root on our youth. A big thanks here to Neil Ferguson and Stephen Malott for their continued diligence and enthusiasm in guiding these young men.

Remember that February brings our sponsorship of the Catholic Men's Conference to Seton on February 12th. Please provide us with the necessary hands to register and serve the potential 800 attendees. Note that our Fish Fries begin in February as well. The opportunities to serve and express gratitude are everywhere. Take the challenge and become involved.

Mike Croyle
Grand Knight

K of C Knightly News

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Council 11187, Pickerington Ohio

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Chancellor's Corner

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Let's start the new year off on a fun note and look at some of the many traditions around the holiday that I found while cruising the internet. Quite a few of them involve food. Eating pork and sauerkraut is one of the best-known traditions. Eating chicken to start the new year is thought to bring bad luck as chickens scratch backward and eating it may cause your life to "back up" as it were. The Hispanic world celebrates by eating a dozen grapes. This is done to ensure twelve happy months. In Greece, a sweet bread called vassilopita is baked with a coin hidden in it. The head of the household then cuts it as follows: The first piece is for Christ, the second goes to the house, and the third goes to the head of the house. Finally the rest is cut and handed out to rest of the house. The person who gets the coin is supposed to have good luck all year long. In the south, black-eyed peas are served. This tradition goes back to the Civil War when the union troops destroyed all crops except the peas thinking that they were only used to feed livestock. The new year is the most important holiday in Japan. In December, various *Bonenkai* or "forget-the-year parties" are held to bid farewell to the problems and concerns of the past year and prepare for a new beginning. Misunderstandings and grudges are forgiven and houses are scrubbed. At midnight on December 31, Buddhist temples strike their gongs 108 times, in a effort to expel 108 types of human weaknesses. The birthplace of "Auld Lang Syne" is also the home of Hogmanay (hog-mah-NAY), the rousing Scottish New Year's celebration (the origins of the name are obscure). One of the traditions is "first-footing." Shortly after midnight on New Year's Eve, neighbors pay visits to each other and impart New Year's wishes. Traditionally, First foots used to bring along a gift of coal for the fire, or shortbread. It is considered especially lucky if a tall, dark, and handsome man is the first to enter your house after the new year is rung in. It is believed that the Babylonians were the first to make New Year's resolutions, and people all over the world have been breaking them ever since. The early Christians believed the first day of the new year should be spent reflecting on past mistakes and resolving to improve oneself in the new year. Noisemaking and fireworks on New Year's Eve is believed to have originated in ancient times, when noise and fire were thought to dispel evil spirits and bring good luck. The Chinese are credited with inventing fireworks and use them to spectacular effect in their New Year's Celebrations. In Ireland, one custom that was practiced on New Year's Eve was to take a large loaf of Christmas bread or cake outside the house and hammer it against the closed doors and windows, this was done so as to drive out any misfortune and let happiness in. I hope you had as much fun reading this article as much as I did in writing it.

Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Joe Coffey

Chancellor



WANTED!! KNIGHTS in SERVICE

WE NEED YOUR HELP !

On January 9th, we will hold our first Pancake Breakfast of the new year! For this event we will need a lot of help. Early and late shifts are available and it would greatly help if you email Pat at the address below and let me know what you can work.

Thank you to all who have served, and please consider serving now. If you have not been able to volunteer in the past don't let that stop you now. Any time that you can give is greatly appreciated, even for an hour or two. There are many demands of our time, especially with younger families, and we all understand.

The best help we can receive is for YOU to bring your family and friends. The food is good and the price is right, and even if you are unable to work, do not let that keep you from enjoying the fellowship of our Parish Community.

JOIN US January 9, 2005 7:15 to 1:00

To Volunteer - Contact: John Sambuco, Mike White, or Dan Stephan,

TO HELP - BRING YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS!



