

Grand Knight Quarterly Newsletter January/February 2015

Brother Knights:

May the Christmas Season bring many blessings to your family.

Two extremely important practices have been implemented by our Council. The practice to carry and pray the rosary as often as we can focuses our attention to the importance of a Knights devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. My mother was devoted to the rosary and often I would find her sitting in the living room praying the rosary during my childhood. During her retirement years she prayed the rosary daily. We can continue the practice by following my Mom's example. I'm reminding you of our commitment to carry a rosary, ring rosary or credit card rosary when attending council events, or pay a fine of one dollar to the treasury of the Council.

The other practice is to wear a Council 6353 name badge to all church and council events, thereby, making Council 6353 member Knights visible to the parish members. It is a display of pride and devotion concerning your membership in the Catholic fraternity of men.

At certain times in our lives we may feel insignificant and useless, surrounded by people with greater talent than ours. We are tempted in our weak moments just to settle back and let somebody else do the work. We reason that what we have to offer won't make much difference anyway. We forget the truth suggested by our Lord's use of five loaves and two small fish to feed a multitude (John 6:1-14). Each of us has something important to offer in His service.

The Knights of Columbus can succinctly be called a Catholic Fraternal organization. It is the fraternal bonds between Catholic gentlemen that provide the Orders strength. I suspect that you, like me, didn't join the Knights just to work Bingo or sell latest raffle tickets. We joined, in part, because we wanted to associate with fellow Catholic gentlemen.

The challenge before us is to build and strengthen our fraternal bonds. We should be more than just acquaintances. Our strength as a Council comes from the friendships we have. Friendships are developed over time through close association. Think about the folks you know who sit near you at Mass. You gradually get to know them over time before and after Mass. The respective association in a friendly environment fostered those relationships. That's what the Knights of Columbus can do for you; provide the environment to build lasting friendships with fellow Catholics. Yes, we need people to work events, but those are just the mechanics of the Council. The real benefit is the repeated association with like-minded men that leads to friendships and all the good things that come from the relationship.

Shared experience and frequent association mature the fraternal bonds that are so crucial to the Knights of Columbus. I encourage all of you to become more active in our Council activities, even, if it is only to regularly attend our meetings: you will be pleased at the return on your investment.

One last item is PRAYER. We list those who need our prayers on the Good of the Order list in each set of business meeting minutes. Please email me the name of anyone you feel should be on the list. Some

of our brothers have experienced tragic loss of life of a loved one or serious illness of family or friends.
Please hold in prayer, the suffering members of our council who need the healing power of God's grace.

Bill Schreiber, Grand Knight Council 6353, Vivat Jesus