



# WASHINGTON STATE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS THE SECOND EDITION



**DECEMBER 2014**



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*We are Knights.*

*We don't reach out for a handout.*

*We reach out to give a hand up!!!*



**STRONG VISIBLE PROGRAM**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**"DISCOVERING THE NEW STAR"**





## ***"FROM YOUR OFFICERS"***

### **VSM's CHRISTMAS MESSAGE:**

#### ***Patriotic Quotes from our Nation's Founders***

“And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath?” .... “I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that his justice cannot sleep forever.” – **Thomas Jefferson**

Several retailers over the years stopped using the term Christmas, until publicity and threats of boycotts by the Catholic League, the American Family Association, the Knights of Columbus, and other organizations turned them around. The list includes Lowes, Sears, Kmart, Wal-Mart, Target, Best Buy, Home Depot, Costco, and even Pet Smart. I urge you to be alert this year for any backsliding on their prior pledges to **“Keep Christ In Christmas.”**

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote his poem, "Christmas Bells" on Christmas Day 1863 at the news of his son Lieutenant Charles Appleton Longfellow having suffered severe wounds in battle during November 1862. As he sat nursing his son and giving thanks for his survival, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow penned the poem.

#### ***You remember how the song begins:***

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!



And thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along  
The unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

*We don't sing two later verses that speak of the history of the times:*

Then from each black, accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound  
The carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stones of a continent,  
And made forlorn  
the households born  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

*You may not have heard or sung the concluding verses to the poem which, given the recent terrorist actions in Syria and Iraq, could just as well have been written today:*

And in despair I bowed my head;  
"There is no peace on earth," I said:  
"For hate is strong,  
And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

*I suggest the final verse of the poem should be our prayer for our American Soldiers sailors, and airmen who are fighting abroad to preserve our freedom and, indeed, the entire free world:*



Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men!"



**KARL A. HADLEY, PSD, FMFD, VICE SUPREME MASTER**

**ARCHBISHOP BLANCHET PROVINCE**



## KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS!

As we enter into the months of December and the Christmas Season and embrace for the New Year, we frequently get caught up in the excitement and joy of this time of the year. This time of the year can be a very happy time for many of us. And it should be a happy time for us all! As Catholics and Christians, we prepare the way during Advent with what culminates in the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. I have always heard from people that the Christmas Season can be a very hectic. There are many things going on, many things that we need to do, and our lists get so long that anxiety rises to peak levels. Stress, worry, concern and everything becomes part of our daily routine. Often we get swept up into the "Christmas Machine" only to be unceremoniously deposited out at the end of December wondering where the time went. If things get a little hectic for you over the next several weeks, remember this: "Christmas is a Holiday - and not just a Holiday!" And remember always to **KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS!**

*My wife Vera and I wish you the Warmest and Happiest of Holidays. May this Christmas remembrance of the coming of the Christ Child fill you and your families hearts and homes with God's many blessings! Merry CHRISTmas!*



**Patrick M. Maloney**

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## WHAT BETTER GIFT TO GIVE YOUR COUNCIL?

Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries, and District Deputies--what better gift could you give your brother knights than an updated history of your council? Do you realize that of the 157 councils in Washington there are 35 that have no history filed with the State Council? How unfortunate! If you are one of those history-lacking councils, why not start working on writing one today?

And even if you have a council history in the state history book, you can update it. Get a copy of the State Knights of Columbus history if you don't already have one, check to see if your council's history is included and up to date. If not, make plans to write and submit an updated history.

Right now you're thinking, "But what do I know about my council's past?" Or perhaps you're thinking, "Yes, but I'm no good at writing a history!" Ah, but we will make it easy for you. All you have to do is answer the following questions and submit those answers to State Historian Joe St.Hilaire:

1. Name and number of your council:
2. City in which your council is located:
3. Date of your council's charter:
4. List of your charter members (they should be named on your charter):
5. Who was the charter grand knight and other officers when the council started?
6. Who was instrumental in getting your council started--the pastor, the DD, the charter grand knight, or other?
7. List some significant council events since its start and/or some of its regular activities:
8. List some awards that the council has received--Star Council, best council in the state, Family of the Year, Knight of the Year, etc.

Then submit the answers you provide to [joesthilaire@hotmail.com](mailto:joesthilaire@hotmail.com), and voila! You'll be included in the state's council history.

**Many thanks, and may the blessings of the Christ Child come upon you  
and your councils during this Holy Season.**

***JOE ST.HILAIRE, STATE HISTORIAN***





## WHAT DOES TITHE MEAN TO CATHOLICS:

### **My Dear Brothers All:**

First, we must recall that a precept of the Church teaches that offering some form of material support to the Church is obligatory for all Catholic adults who are able to do so, but it doesn't specify what percent of one's income should be given.

The tithe was an Old Testament obligation that was incumbent on the Jews under the Law of Moses, but Christians are dispensed from the obligation of tithing ten percent of their incomes, but not from the obligation to help the Church.

The key to understanding how God wants us to give to the Church is found in **1 Corinthians 16:2**: "On the first day of the week [Sunday] each of you should set aside whatever he can afford." And, in **2 Corinthians 9:5-8**, "So I thought it necessary to encourage the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for your promised gift [donation], so that in this way it might be ready as a bountiful gift and not as an exaction."

Consider this to: "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

"Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work. God does not demand a fixed amount of money from us, but wants us to give our gifts from the heart as a cheerful giver.

What are your annual gifts of time, talent and treasure as a Catholic Knight?  
We wish you all a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!



**George H. Czerwonka, Jr.**  
**State Deputy Washington State Council**  
**[wonka1882@aol.com](mailto:wonka1882@aol.com)**

**509-370-1001 Cell 509-868-0510 Home**





**I hope that your Christmas would be enjoyable and may the  
essence of Christmas remain always with You**

**Robert Bouse DD 37**

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One that inspires others to excel through his or her actions is a true leader.

Christ opens up to us the way that leads to life. Apart from God there is no life,  
only the way that leads to death. The way that leads to life is characterized by  
charity expressed in words and action towards God and neighbor.

During this Holy Season as the world celebrates the birth of our Lord and Savior,  
what can we do to shine the light of Christ so that others may find  
their way out of darkness

***Viva Cristo Rey,***

***Mike Calderon, State Chairman Hispanic Membership***

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*The birth of Jesus; The stars shone brighter one night so many years ago, when  
angels came to earth to let all men know, that Christ had come. The shepherds that  
were near, the wise men from the East, were among the first ones God chose to see  
and hear the news which still keeps our hearts glowing with love and charity. This  
was the Babe that lay in the manger , as promised to all mankind in Bethlehem that  
day. Remember Brothers we don't have to be perfect today, our God loves us  
today, for who we are today! **Happy Birthday Jesus!!***

*Thank you God for sending us heaven's greatest prize!*

**STEVE & JANET SNELL, (766) DDM,  
STATE FAMILY CHAIRMAN,  
EDITOR "SECOND EDITION"**



May the power of the Holy Spirit this Christmas Season bring you  
Peace & Joy to you and your family!

**Merry Christmas!**

**Ed Miller, FN Joseph R, Miller Assembly #3095**

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**To All My Brother Knights and their Families:**

"As we enter Advent let's keep Christ in Christmas. Let's remember the less fortunate with gifts that will nourish their spiritual as well as material needs, the gift of love, understanding, empathy and compassion as well as the gifts of shelter, food, clothing and other necessities." Keep all who are less fortunate in your Prayers. Merry Christmas and Pray for a peaceful New Year!"

**Scott Gilyeat, FN (3414), PGK (11780), Covington, WA**

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**“And the Word became Flesh.”**

Jesus came into this world as a vulnerable human being thanks to Mary's unconditional YES to God. He was like us in all things but sin and paid for our sins by dying on the cross. Our prayer is that you be like Mary to say YES to God, and give yourselves unconditionally like our Brother Jesus.

**Vivat Jesus,**

**Tim Straub GK Council 10543**





Let us keep Christmas beautiful without a thought of greed, that it might  
live forever more to fill our every need, that it shall not be just a day, but  
last a lifetime through, the miracle of Christmas time that  
brings God close to you.  
**God Give us Peace on Earth!!**

**Tommy LaCour, GK Harry J Tucker Jr**  
**Council 11780 Covington, WA**

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During the holiday season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who  
have made our success possible. It is in this spirit I say thank you, best  
wishes for the Christmas Holidays and a Happy New Year.

**David Hall,**  
**Grand Knight Walla Walla Council 766**

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Our heartfelt wishes to all our Brothers and their families for a  
blessed Christmas. May the peace of Christ be with you.

**Vivat Jesus,**

**Mark Jensen, GK 809,**  
**St. Patrick's Tacoma**



**To my Brother, Sir Knights and your families:**

Wishing you a happy and Holy Christmas season and  
a happy and blessed New Year.

**Jim Majeskey, Sr. GK St. Mary's  
Council 4196 Spokane Valley, WA**

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St Jude Council 8102 prays that each day  
you and yours come closer to Christ.  
**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.**  
**Best Regards**

**Jerry Rames GK St Jude Council (8102) Redmond**

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**Greetings and Best Wishes Brother Knights from Council 11252 in  
Woodland, Ridgefield, Kalama. We hope all will have a blessed  
Christmas and be enriched in our faith.**

**Michael McInnes, GK Council 11252**

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Council 11408 St John Mary Vianney Kirkland would like to wish all our fellow  
Brother Knights and families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Darryl Zaccaria Grand Knight, 11408**



**MAY THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON BE FILLED WITH THE  
LOVE AND PEACE OF CHRIST.**

District 3 is truly blessed by the fellowship and support of their brother  
Knights and pray for a blessed Christmas season and joyful New Year.

**Nathan M Kane, DD3**  
**Knights of Columbus Washington State Council**

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### **Knights of Columbus Families**

I hope you enjoy the Christmas holiday season this year and remember  
that we are, as Knights, a shining example to the rest of our community  
of God's love and patience for His people.

**Jerry Ross, DD 25 - Kalama**

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### **WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS TO ME**

Christmas is for love. It is for joy, for giving and sharing, for laughter,  
for reuniting with family and friends, for tinsel and brightly decorated  
trees and gifts.

**But mostly, Christmas is for love.**

**Jeff Kadinger(8179) District Deputy # 7 - Kennewick**



**Brothers All,**

May the Joy of this Blessed Christmas Season reach each one of you and your families. Jesus is the reason for the season! Don't lose touch with that by helping and giving to your community and families in your area.

I look forward to seeing you at your local Regional Meeting  
in January as we travel the state!



God Bless you one and all!



**Your State Secretary,  
Eddie & Dawna Parazoo**

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**Brother Knights:**

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.  
From my family and council to yours.  
Vivat Jesus,

**Peter McEnderfer Grand Knight  
Pasco Council 1620**

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Obadiah Council # 7642 sends greetings and warm wishes to family and friends this Blessed Christmas and we look forward to the **100<sup>th</sup>** Anniversary of Holy Family Parish in the coming year of 2015!

Vivat Jesus,

**Frank Lucarelli, G K Obadiah Council #7642 Kirkland**



*When I see all the social issues and the related violence, I was reminded about Pope Francis' call for this prayer for the violence towards Christians in the Middle East and elsewhere. A most appropriate Christmas prayer:*

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
Where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console,  
To be understood as to understand,  
To be loved as to love;  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
It is in dying to self that we are born to eternal life.

**Merry Christmas to Knights and their Families.**

**John P. Shumaker (894)**  
**District Deputy # 6 - Yakima**

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May our Lord's coming bring life, hope, and His Peace  
into your heart and home this Christmas. Let us offer  
Him our praise and celebrate His birth.

**Gary Rizzuti**  
**Faithful Comptroller**  
**Father Brouillet Assembly 1169**





## Brother Knights!

May God Bless you with a Peaceful, Blessed and Joyful Holiday Season! I consider all of you to be my friends and I feel especially grateful to you for sharing your lives and times with Valerie and I.

Have fun, play safe and know that you will be in my prayers  
this Holiday Season!



Fraternally,



**Bob Baemmert-State Treasurer**

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## CHRISTMAS

What is it really about? Is it about gifts and presents? It is definitely at the top of the list for holidays. One that is celebrated by millions all over the world. For Catholics it is very important because it's about the birth of Jesus. It's a season of preparation that we celebrate with family and friends. We are getting ready spiritually for our savior. As Catholics its important to remember that we should adjust our priorities so that we can go on living according to our faith.

We must not forget the traditions that have been passed on to us because they comprise our heritage. Let's keep Christ in our hearts. In doing so we'll remember that Christ is the reason for the season.

Merry CHRISTmas from

**Louis Garcia DD# 17 & Family - Prosser**



## **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

Now is the time of the year we need to open our hearts for the unfortunate ones who are in desperate need. We need to dig deep to endorse our passion to help them.

We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

**Sonny Trenti, GK Holy Spirit Council 10653 - Kennewick**

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St John the Evangelist Council in Vancouver wishes you and family a Merry Christmas. May your holidays be filled with Christ and the joy of His birth.

**Jim Parks GK , St. John the Evangelist Council 12983  
Vancouver, WA**

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**We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas this year.**

As we prepare for the way of our Lord, let us remember the Knights and their family members who are no longer with us. Let us also remember our loved ones who are not here to share the season with us. We pray for those who are less fortunate than we are, especially the children of the world who are uneducated and who are living with hunger and disease. We pray for the end of the persecution of Christians throughout the world and for religious tolerance for all. We also pray that people will follow the teachings of Christ and end violence and war. May the politicians of the world end their bickering and try to help those in need. We hope and pray for a better year in 2015.

**James R. Fryxell, Faithful Navigator 2018  
& Grand Knight Council 8455-Sequim**



**Merry Christmas to all my**

**Brother Knights and Sir Knights**

The Officers and Sir Knights of one of the state's newest assemblies, Father Vincent R. Capodanno Assembly #3487, would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours the very best during this blessed time of year. In addition, we hope each of you have a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year!

I would like to encourage each of my Brother Knights who are not currently a 4th Degree member to give prayerful consideration to becoming a Sir Knight in the New Year as well as volunteering for officer positions within your council when the next occasion arises. When you consider this, please remember that of all your outside activities that you can join and participate in, none are more important than service to our God, our priests and our nation.

I offer this short prayer for intercession of this Assembly's "Servant of God", Father Vincent R. Caodanno, MM: "Almighty and merciful God, look on those who plead for Your help. Through the intercession of your servant, Fr. Vincent Capodanno, missionary and Catholic Navy Chaplain, grant the favor I earnestly seek (mention the request). May Vincent, who died bringing consolation to the Marines he was privileged to serve on the field of battle, intercede in my need as I pray to the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Have a very blessed and Merry Christmas and thanks, too, for being part of the largest Catholic lay organization. May God continue to bless and honor you with this service.

**Ron Girkins**  
**Faithful Navigator**



**Worthy Editor,**

From Council 7907 in Issaquah, we wish all of our brother Knights a Merry, Holy, and Blessed Christmas and New Year...and to thank you for all that you have done this past year to serve the Holy Catholic Church. It is an honor to be associated with a group comprised of so many talented and hard-working Knights around the state. It is a joy to see all of the excellent work for the tasks that the Knights accomplish for God's greater purposes.

**David Johnson, Grand Knight  
Knights of Columbus**

**Fr. Anthony McGirl Council No. 7907, Issaquah**

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In the Holy Family's presence, may you find Christmas Joy  
and abiding peace and Brotherly Love throughout  
the Christmas Season and into the New Year.

Fraternal,

**George Dilloo DD14 - Bellevue**

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**From the Sir Knights of Bishop Thomas E. Gill Assembly 1955.**

We are thankful for the blessings and opportunities to serve our active military and veterans during the past year. The families of Assembly 1955 wish to express their gratitude to the men and women on active duty and to all veterans who have defended our freedom while serving at home or abroad. Thank you for your sacrifice in the service of others. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Mike Fay, FN 1955 - Federal Way**

**TO ALL WHO SENT IN THEIR GREETINGS,**

**GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS  
AND THOUGHTFULNESS!!**







## MESSAGE FROM MIKE CALDERON

*Washington State Silver Rose Chairman  
Hispanic Membership Chairman*



### **WINTER MEETING REPORT:**

Brothers, peace to you,

Winter meeting had many positives, the best is yet to come. Thanks to each of you for the hard work of planning and implementation of this meeting.

My target, to get things rolling in Easter Washington, from Okanagan, Maybe Brewster (no council) to St Joseph in Wenatchee. With John at the helm in Yakima, there are lively possibilities, Moxee for example and in the Valley look for greater results, with Brother Steve Snell's help. .... There are a number of Star Councils in the making.

Bishop Tyson spoke of the program "prepare", the Hispanic Mesas in the making need a target in which to place goals, this could be a good start.

Since 1973 have involved myself in Hispanic ministry with the first Mass celebrated at St John, Vancouver in 1976 and have also been involved in immigration rights as a member of St John the Evangelist.

A comprehensive immigration bill seems to be on the horizon, for now those that qualify should fill out papers for work permits but immigration office of Portland has sent out a note that it would not act on any documents for 180 days. Thing change, am encourage that families will not be separated.

I will keep immigration out of my presentations in order not to give someone false hope. In most cases families are happy that someone, with a title, is paying attention to them and not putting them on the back burner.

*May Peace enter the world,*

*Mike Calderon-Servidor del Senior*

# NEW CHICAGO ARCHBISHOP

*"Be authentic, leave your  
comfort zone"*



Chicago, Ill., Nov 18, 2014 / 04:06 pm ([CNA/EWTN News](#)).-

**Newly installed Chicago Archbishop Blase J. Cupich's** first public homily stressed the importance of personal witness "with joy and compassion," purified of "anger, harshness and fear."

Archbishop Cupich, 65, succeeds Cardinal Francis George, who had headed the Chicago archdiocese since 1997. Cardinal George is battling cancer for the third time at age 77 and chose to step down as head of the local Church. **Archbishop Cupich had served as Bishop of Spokane, Wash., since 2010** and previously headed the Diocese of Rapid City, S.D. He has served as chair of the National Catholic Education Association since 2013 and has been on the board of governors of the Chicago-headquartered Catholic Extension Society since 2009.

Born in Omaha, Neb., to a family from a Croatian background, Archbishop Cupich is one of nine siblings. More than 50 family members attended his installation Mass. Also attending were several cardinals, dozens of bishops, and civic and religious leaders including Chicago Mayor Rahm Emmanuel.

"Pope Francis is giving voice to this invitation in our day, by inviting the Church to come and walk with Christ, as he is always doing something new," he continued. "It is an invitation to leave behind the comfort of going the familiar way. He is challenging us to recognize that Christ is always inviting us to more, to greater things." Jesus' communion is "not for the perfect" but "for the salvation of souls, for the lost, the forlorn, and those who are adrift."

*The Archdiocese of Chicago has about 2.2 million Catholics who make up 37 percent of the population. The Chicago archdiocese has 356 parishes with many Masses in Spanish, Polish and other languages. The archdiocese has 771 active and retired diocesan priests, over 500 deacons, 674 religious priests, over 200 religious brothers and almost 1,700 women religious. The archdiocese has more than 200 elementary schools and 37 secondary schools, in addition to three seminaries.*

**ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO COAT OF ARMS**



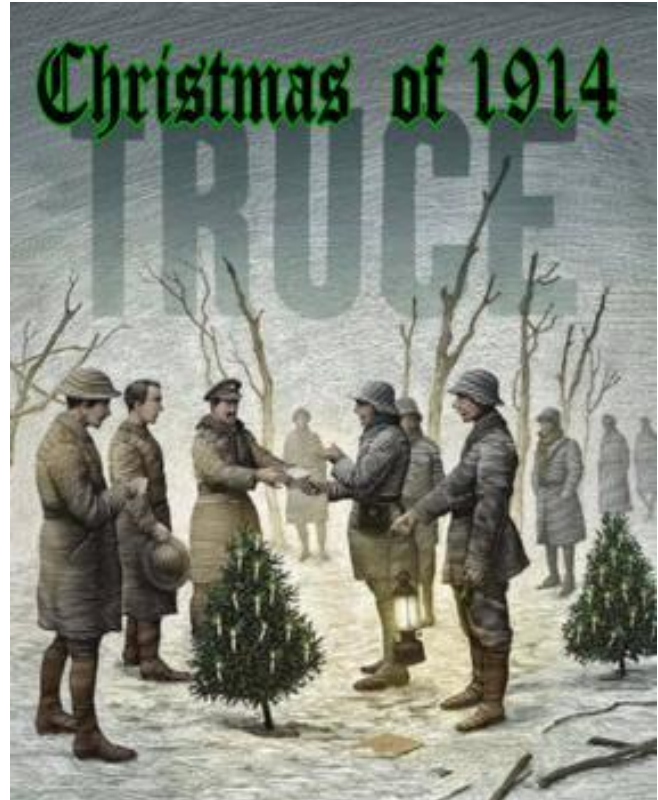
# Christmas Truce of 1914

## 100 YEARS AGO:

*During World War I, on and around Christmas Day 1914, the sounds of rifles firing and shells exploding faded in a number of places along the Western Front in favor of holiday celebrations in the trenches and gestures of goodwill between enemies.*

*On Christmas Eve, many German and British troops sang Christmas carols to each other across the lines, and at certain points the Allied soldiers even heard brass bands joining the Germans in their joyous singing.*

*At the first light of dawn on Christmas Day, some German soldiers emerged from their trenches and approached the Allied lines across no-man's-land, calling out "Merry Christmas" in their enemies' native tongues. At first, the Allied soldiers feared it was a trick, but seeing the Germans unarmed they climbed out of their trenches and shook hands with the enemy soldiers. The men exchanged presents of cigarettes and plum puddings and sang carols and songs. There was even a documented case of soldiers from opposing sides playing a good-natured game of soccer.*



**CREATE  
PEACE BY  
BEING PEACE**



# "FAMILY OF THE MONTH"

## PARTICIPANT'S LISTINGS FOR OCTOBER

1620, 1629, 2763, 3361\*, 3611, 4322, 6806, 7863, 8179,  
8476\*, 8872, 10652\*, 10653, 11357, 11408\*, 11762,  
13374, 13794, 14046

(\*DENOTES SUPREME'S SELECTED WINNERS FOR THE MONTH)

Tom & Geraldine Hiestand  
Council 3361 - Oak Harbor

Leonard & Stephanie Dietlin  
Council 8476 - Stanwood

Charles & Jennie Dowd  
Council 10652 - Ft. Lewis

Greg & Moonja Lum  
Council 11408 - Kirkland

## MERRY CHRISTMAS



### OUR FAMILIES!

**Make them feel appreciated!**

**"NOMINATE A FAMILY OF THE MONTH!"**

**"STRONG VISIBLE  
PROGRAM"**





# ***REACH OUT!***



## ***Use today's tools & yesterday's Apostolic zeal to change lives, to save lives!***

*“There are backseat Christians,” the Pope reminds us. “Those who are well mannered, who do everything well, but are unable to bring people to the Church through proclamation and Apostolic zeal.” Their fear of soiling the linen prevents them from going out in search of others, especially along the edges where the dust and the dirt, the muck and the mire are likely to accumulate. Among the poor and the needy, that is, for whom Jesus shed his blood. “We cannot become starched Christians,” the Pope warns. Not overly fastidious. Like Pilate, in other words, who repeatedly washes his hands lest the evidence of truth leave some lasting stain. The only gentleman in all of Scripture, Nietzsche tells us.*

## **MARCHING ORDERS:**

**By STEVE SNELL**

My dear brothers, we are not nor can we ever allow ourselves to become, "Backseat Knights" or "Starched Knights." We come from stronger and hardier stock than that. I think we can trace our grit back to the apostles, for the most part they were working men who dealt with the everyday stresses and strains of life among the working people of their time. They were not "high" society, but without people like them, the everyday working people, there would have been no society.

Brothers do not allow yourselves to become too polite to speak for our Order in any setting, have the courage to ask good men from every walk of life to join us. Give us the grace to be called annoying in pursuit of new members, the grace and grit to be a little more like Father McGivney's original crew. We have need of this! If we annoy someone, blessed be the Lord.  
*Onwards, as our Lord said to Paul, "take Courage."*

***Oh hey, don't forget to take along a form 100!***



# WIFE'S CORNER

*Barbara Washburn wife of Kim Washburn, State Warden*

## *Would God talk through our pets...?*

**By Barbara Washburn**



When first asked to write a summary for this newsletter, and since this is Advent Season, I had considered sharing about the popular Christmas markets back home that I long for so much. Nonetheless, something happened just today, which made me decide to write about a matter closer to home, - or should I say, a matter closer to our hearts?

Has it ever crossed your mind that God might indeed have the desire, to get messages across to us through our pets? Or could He be aware that we long for certain messages from our pets that have passed?

As many of you know, - since we have been talking about pretty much nothing else since the day it happened - , we lost our dear four legged friend Jack to cancer on July 28. Most of you knew Jack, our Golden Retriever from Knights of Columbus seminars and meetings. On occasions he even served as an informal mascot for my husband's Tootsie Roll Program.

Jack and our family were inseparable. Actually, over these past four month since his death, we came to realize just how given the enormous left in our family. We last time we spend with head was resting so as dogs often do when comfortably at rest. He sleeping; as if he simply moment, and all this had been a bad dream.



young to have left us at only seven years of age. Seven years of laughter, joy and happiness. With nothing left other than hundreds of pictures and beautiful memories of our best friend Jack, who was taken from us way too early in his life.

inseparable we were, emptiness his death will never forget the his lifeless body. His peacefully on his paw, they are laying down looked as if he was had to wake up at any sadness in our lives He looked far too

During a community gathering in 1990, Pope John Paul II asserted that animals, like men, have souls. As Christians we are cognizant of so many biblical writings which explain meeting our pets again one day in heaven. In the bible we find many quotes on animals and pets. In Deuteronomy 5:14-15, it states that animals are given periods of rest on Sabbath, just as their owners, reflecting a type of parity between people and animals. In his writing, Isaiah speaks of Christ who will bring us a time of peace wherever all animals and man will be in closeness,

(*The Branch from Jesse*, Isaiah 11:6-10). Again, this reflects a form of likeness of animals and humans in harmony.

As pet owners we often are aware of connections between ourselves and our four-legged friends. We often insist we have common natures and temperaments. After all, who has not read “*Beau*”, the poem Jimmy Stewart had written about his dog in 1989. Do I need to say more? Yes, I need to explain my real inspiration for this article. The thought of decorating our home for Christmas had been a bitter sweet one this year with Jack being gone. He was always such an entertaining companion during this process for all the years we had him.

Today, as I added the finishing touches to my once dreaded but now finished project, I looked over at our new dog. His name is Max, another Golden Retriever and actually Jack’s three year old brother. Max was resting next to the Christmas tree I had just decorated last night. He had joined our family two months ago after having been an outdoor dog on a dairy farm in Wisconsin. He had been the most scared dog you can imagine, coming from his farming environment to join a new family 2,000 miles away. It had been a crazy eight weeks, - to get our new four legged indoor dog. Need- less to say, the poor guy was used to seeing cows roaming around the fields of Wisconsin. Now he sees nothing but huge evergreen trees that don’t move as the cows did, and to top it all off his new owners hauled one of these trees into his new home. After all, this was done to a guy who had never seen the inside of a house before.



Max had been like a little kid, hovering around me as I was getting all the boxes, taking items out and spreading them throughout our home. He immersed in the decoration process like I would have never imagined. Our new golden haired family member had adapted to us and our busy lives so quickly, and in such a loving way. The sight of Max relaxing as he did at that moment made me smile. It made me remember the past few hectic days of decorating with him and how fun he had been to be with. For an instance I even felt silly for the dreaded feeling I had just days before, to get the process of Christmas decorating done after the loss of Jack. At that moment a feeling of sadness overcame that otherwise peaceful memory. I thought of Jack. Max looked so much like Jack, who had been laying there, lifeless with his head on his paw just four months earlier. Suddenly Max picked up his head, looked at me and winked. ***Now, back to my question.....***



# REMEMBER EVERY CHILD IS THE FACE OF GOD!



## *Prayer for the Unborn:*

*Heavenly Father, in Your love for us, protect against the wickedness of the devil, those helpless little ones to whom You have given the gift of life. Touch with pity the hearts of those women pregnant in our world today who are not thinking of motherhood.*

*Help them to see that the child they carry is made in Your image - as well as theirs - made for eternal life. Dispel their fear and selfishness and give them true womanly hearts to love their babies and give them birth and all the needed care that a mother can give.*

*We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.*



## PROTECT GOD'S CREATIONS



## THROUGH THE KEY HOLE INTO 2015

*A new year reminds us of the passing of time.  
Brothers our time is so precious that God doles it out second by second.*

By STEVE SNELL

The beginning of 2015 can be an opportunity for improvement. If our life in the past year has been less than perfect, the new year can be seen as a second chance to "get it right." If on the other hand your life has been perfectly virtuous, (*I've never had to personally deal with this option,*) the new year can be an opportunity, a time for even greater perfection.

So here I am standing in front of the door to the New Year. My daily/yearly task to become a better person, to "get it right" reminds me of the ceaseless and never ending toil of Sisyphus: He was from Greek Mythology, as a punishment the Gods condemned him to pushing a rock up a mountain; upon reaching the top, the rock would roll down again, leaving Sisyphus to start over. He is condemned to this impossible task, *kinda like my search for personal perfection*. I wonder about Sisyphus's thoughts when marching down the mountain to start the task again, what a truly tragic moment, when he becomes conscious of his wasted effort. Sisyphus's ceaseless and point-less toil is a metaphor for some modern lives spent working at futile jobs in factories and offices. I would love to walk down the mountain with him and ask him how he is able to continue to keep pushing that rock back up the mountain"..... Honk; if you think that would be a great interview.

In 2015 the Knights of Columbus **like Sisyphus** have a never ending task: defending our church, defending the unborn, feeding the hungry, extending loving care & charity to our fellowmen and defending our freedom by defending our country. We are **unlike Sisyphus** in that we are not alone, we are surrounded by good men, their families, and a God that is forever by our side.

**Like our fathers before us Knights die happy, leaving their rock at the summit.**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR AND GOD BLESS ALL MY BROTHERS**

**AND THEIR FAMILIES!**





## Christmas Adventure with Grandma

### *"CHRISTmas story of an 8yr.old from North Dakota "*

*I remember my first Christmas adventure with Grandma. I was just a kid. I remember tearing across town on my bike to visit her on the day my sister dropped the bomb: "There is no Santa Claus"..... "Even dummies know that!"*

My Grandma was not the gushy kind, never had been. I fled to her that day because I knew she would be straight with me. I knew Grandma always told the truth, and I knew that the truth always went down a whole lot easier when swallowed with one of her "world-famous" cinnamon buns. I knew they were world-famous, because Grandma said so. It had to be true.

Grandma was home, and the buns were still warm. Between bites, I told her everything. She was ready for me. "No Santa Claus?" she snorted.... "Ridiculous! Don't believe it. That rumor has been going around for years, and it makes me mad, plain mad!! Now, put on your coat, and let's go." "Go? Go where, Grandma?" I asked. I hadn't even finished my second world-famous cinnamon bun. "Where" turned out to be the General Store, the one store in town that had a little bit of just about everything. As we walked through its doors, Grandma handed me ten dollars.

That was a bundle in those days. "Take this money," she said, "and buy something for someone who needs it. I'll wait for you in the car."

I was only eight years old. I'd often gone shopping with my mother, but never had I shopped for anything all by myself. The store seemed big and crowded, full of people scrambling to finish their Christmas shopping. For a few moments I just stood there, confused, clutching that ten-dollar bill, wondering what to buy, and who on earth to buy it for. I thought of everybody I knew: my family, my friends, my neighbors, the kids at school, the people who went to my church.

I was just about thought out, when I suddenly thought of Bobby Decker. He was a kid with bad breath and messy hair, and he sat right behind me in my grade-two class. Bobby Decker didn't have a coat. I knew that because he never went out to recess during the winter. His mother always wrote a note, telling the teacher that he



had a cough, but all we kids knew that Bobby Decker didn't have a cough; he didn't have a good coat. I fingered the ten-dollar bill with growing excitement. I would buy Bobby Decker a coat! I settled on a red corduroy one that had a hood to it. It looked real warm, and he would like that.

"Is this a Christmas present for someone?" the lady behind the counter asked kindly, as I laid my ten dollars down. "Yes, ma'am," I replied shyly. "It's for Bobby." The nice lady smiled at me, as I told her about how Bobby really needed a good winter coat. I didn't get any change, but she put the coat in a bag, smiled again, and wished me a Merry Christmas.

That evening, Grandma helped me wrap the coat (a little tag fell out of the coat, and Grandma tucked it in her Bible) in Christmas paper and ribbons and wrote, "To Bobby, From Santa Claus" on it. Grandma said that Santa always insisted on secrecy. Then she drove me over to Bobby Decker's house, explaining as we went that I was now and forever officially, one of Santa's helpers.

Grandma parked down the street from Bobby's house, and she and I crept noiselessly and hid in the bushes by his front walk. Then Grandma gave me a nudge. "All right, Santa Claus," she whispered, "get going." I took a deep breath, dashed for his front door, threw the present down on his step, pounded his door and flew back to the safety of the bushes and Grandma. Together we waited breathlessly in the darkness for the front door to open.

**Finally it did, and there stood Bobby.**

*Fifty years haven't dimmed the thrill of those moments spent shivering, beside my Grandma, in Bobby Decker's bushes. That night, I realized that those awful rumors about Santa Claus were just what Grandma said they were -- ridiculous. Santa was alive and well, and we were on his team.*

***I still have the Bible, with the coat tag tucked inside: \$19.95.***

***May you always have LOVE to share,  
HEALTH to spare and FRIENDS that care.  
And may you always believe in  
the magic of CHRISTmas!***





***HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
JESUS!***



# ***FRIENDS AND FAMILIES.***

*I cannot end this year and prepare for a New Year without thanking everyone for allowing me to be a part of your great Brotherhood, The Knights of Columbus. With all the wonderful support I have received, I should have done better, for your patience and understanding I thank you.*

*The continued support and encouragement I have received for the "Second Edition" is truly amazing. With your help and ideas we will grow and be better able to serve you through communication and thought provoking ideas. Please feel free to participate with your thoughts and ideas, they are the fuel that will propel our Order into tomorrow.*

*Please join with me in embracing the vastness of possibilities that the New Year brings to our Order. We are so very fortunate to be in this place at this time, we have before us the chance to save lives and change the world.*

*Let us never lose sight of where we came from or where we are going!*

***Our future is ahead of us, let's go get it!!***

***Merry Christmas and Feliz Navidad.***

***STEVE SNELL, EDITOR SECOND EDITION***

