



The Patriot's Sword

Bishop Thomas E Gill Assembly # 1955

Knights of Columbus

Archbishop Francis Norbert Blanchet Province

Federal Way, WA

The Knights of Columbus...a Catholic, Family, Fraternal, Service Organization



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The Navigator's Log



Happy New Year! It's hard to believe we've made it halfway through our Fraternal Year already. I hope this newsletter finds you and your families healthy and happy after the Christmas season.

Now that we're at the midpoint of the year, I'd like to go over some of the goals that I had set out at the beginning of my Term as Faithful Navigator. First of all, I wanted the assembly to earn the 4th Degree's equivalent to Star Council Award, which means that we have to meet goals for Membership. We have met that goal set be the Faithful Master thanks to the hard work of many members. We still have the opportunity to recruit more Brother Knights and really blow all the other assemblies out of the water. The key is simple recruit your Son, Father or Brother, your brother knight you sit next to at Mass. Invite them to take that final step into the 4th Degree!

Secondly, I wanted to increase participation at meetings. Typically 10 to 15 members out of 130 attend our monthly meetings, gentlemen that's only 1% of our total membership. To those members who attend every month thank you. To those members who choose not to attend, for what ever reason, I ask you to think what was it that lead you to become a 4th degree member. Currently we rotate our meetings between Federal Way and Kent. If we need to add another location, we can do that. I have heard that some said the meetings were boring and dull. Well have you talked to a Sir Knight lately? Our meetings start on time and I do my best to keep them to 1 hour. Bottom line is things have changed and for the better I believe. We are in the process, thanks to the efforts of our Faithful Comptroller, of coming up with a new phone tree. In the very near future every member will be getting a call reminding them of meetings and important functions. I look forward to seeing some new faces in the crowd when the meeting starts. It will be great to see you and I encourage everyone to keep coming out.

Vivat Jesus

Mike Rutland, FN

The Captain's Corner



Brother Knights! January 22nd, 2004 is the 31st anniversary of Supreme Court ruling known as Roe vs. Wade. This controversial ruling meant that the relationship between a woman and her doctor was a private affair and not subject to governmental interference. The ruling written by Justice Blackmun declared that the guarantee of liberty in the 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution extends the right of privacy "broad enough to encompass a women's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy." As a result, the 7-2 ruling pushed a fractured state-by-state debate into a national one and prompted scattered groups to mobilize into pro-choice and pro-life movements. These activists have become some of the most powerful lobbies in American politics, who wage legal and electoral war over whether the Supreme Court decision can be overturned. Tragically, since this ruling in 1973, over 37 million abortions have taken place in the United States, with 1.4 million done in 1994 alone, giving the U.S. the highest abortion rate in the West. Unfortunately, by some surveys, most Americans still agree with the Roe vs. Wade decision, but believe that restrictions should be placed on abortions. Others go so far as to say that they agree with the interpretation of the constitutional "right to privacy", but still feel the procedures equates to murder.

I believe that most Americans hunger for a moral framework to help them deal with the increasing human life issues which face us. As Catholics and Knights, we know that the Catholic Church offers such a framework, giving a clear and consistent ethic of life. As Catholic Christians, we believe that God is the source of all life; that Christ offers us eternal life; that we humans are living temples of the Holy Spirit, and because of this, every human being has a fundamental right to life that they cannot lose. Our Holy Father and the United Council of Bishops have also been clear on the issue of abortion as well as on their opposition to euthanasia, nuclear war, capital punishment, and assisted suicide.

As Knights, we should pray for the overturning of Roe vs. Wade and mourn and pray for the millions of souls lost to abortion.

As an interesting side light, the plaintiff in Roe vs. Wade (Norma McCorvery), has actively condemned and campaigned against abortion for several years, testifying on the 25th anniversary of the ruling before a Senate panel chaired by Sen. John Ashcroft that "I will spend the rest of my life trying to undo the law that bears my name", stating that the country's "experiment with legal abortion is an utter failure".

David Caton, Jr., Faithful Captain

Exemplification Schedule

We have three opportunities to add to our ranks this year. The first exemplification will be held in Bellingham, WA, on 28 February 2004. The second is in Bremerton, WA, on 17 April 2004 and the third will be held in Spanaway, WA on 24th April 2004.

Vacant Position

With SK Dave Caton being elected as Faithful Captain, the position of Outside Sentinel is now vacant. In accordance with Article II, Sec 5 of our by-laws we will have nominations and an election at our January meeting.

AHOY, Crab Feeders!

Attention Sir Knights, Council 7528 is having their First Annual Charity Crab Feed on February 21, 2004. Doors will open at 6:30PM and dinner starts at 7:00PM. Tickets for this event will be \$25.00 each, and will include one free alcoholic beverage or soft drink and a \$1.00 off coupon good at our local Ivar's Seafood Bar. Additional beer and wine will be available for \$2.00 a glass and soft drinks for \$1.00 a glass. On each ticket, there will be assigned tables and seat numbers, so you and your friends can sit all together if you like. For tickets or more information contact a member of Council 7528 or Chris Vaughan at (253) 261-4550.

Brunch Report



Instead of our regular meeting, we had a brunch at the Twin Lakes Country Club on Saturday Dec 27. There were about 20 Sir Knights and their ladies in attendance. Thanks to Bob Dahl and his committee of Joe Clemens and John Fuerbourn for a job well done.

Master Steps Down

Yes it's true the Worthy Washington Master of the 4th Degree Sir Knight Everett (Rob) Roberts will be stepping down. His replacement will be elected at the upcoming Biennial District Meeting. Please help me in thanking Rob for his years of faithful service to the 4th Degree and wishing both he and Maria well.

Biennial District Meeting

Will be held Saturday March 20, 2004, at the Best Western Hotel Lakewood Motor Inn, 6125 Motor Ave SW, Lakewood, WA. For those early birds, there will be a Social in the hotel's Conference Room on Friday, 19 March. The District Meeting will start a 9:00 AM with registration followed by Opening Ceremonies at 10:00 AM. Lunch will be from 12:00 to 1:00 PM. The meeting will resume at 1:00 PM and conclude at 4:00 PM. Mass will be at St. John Bosco in Lakewood at 5PM. St Patrick's Dinner Dance will follow with a choice of Steak or Salmon.

There will be a Ladies Program. After lunch the ladies will tour the Museum of Glass. The cost of the tour is \$8.00.

For more information on the District Meeting, plan on attending our January meeting.

Agenda for January Meeting

Some Sir Knights have asked that I post an agenda for upcoming meetings. So here is the agenda for January's meeting.

- Accept final nominations and vote on Outside Sentinel.
- Accept nominations and vote on Delegates to attend the Biennial District Meeting in Lakewood.
- Discuss any Resolutions the Assembly wishes to submit.
- Vote on the Flag Pole project.
- Assign Sir Knights to be liaisons to area Councils
- Discuss new phone tree

New Year's Resolution

Every year it seems we all make that New Year's Resolution. Whether it be to loose weight, start an exercise program, or just get in shape. I try to remind everyone that round is a shape, but that's another story. What about a resolution to attend our next meeting? I promise you won't regret it you may even enjoy yourself. So how about it? Will we see you there?

Happy Birthday!

Date	Birthdays for Jan	Date	Birthdays for Jan
1 st	Joseph Penwell	15 th	William Michaud
2 nd	James McSherry	15 th	James Miles
2 nd	Joseph Staab	20 th	Thomas Skoda
3 rd	Roy Nelson	23 rd	Bryan Hersey
3 rd	John Leaf	26 th	George Sagaser
7 th	Gary Best	28 th	Tony Robinson

Happy Anniversary!

Date	Anniversaries for January

**Please
Send your dates
to the Faithful Comptroller**

If you would like your birthday or anniversary listed in the Patriot's Sword, or would like to receive this newsletter electronically please send your information and email address to either the Faithful Navigator or Faithful Comptroller using the e-mail address' listed below or send it in to the return address listed on the mailing page of this newsletter.

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Knights of Columbus Official Web site: http://www.kofc.org/index_eng.cfm

Washington State Council's web site: <http://www.kofc-wa.org>



	Calendar of Events	
January 2004		
1 st	New Year's Day	
28 th - 7:00 PM	Assembly Meeting	St Vincent De Paul Willenborg Center, Federal Way
February 2004		
25 th	Assembly Meeting	Holy Spirit Parish, 310 S 3 rd Kent


THE KNIGHTS
O F C O L U M B U S
PROTECTING FAMILIES
FOR GENERATIONS™

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

