



WASHINGTON STATE
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

THE SECOND EDITION
DECEMBER 2015



A child is born

A baby that came to make us new!
"JOY TO THE WORLD"

Steve Snell - Editor - 509.386.3462 - stevesnell@charter.net



SUPREME COUNCIL "FAMILY OF THE MONTH" AWARDS

Each month the Supreme Council will randomly select families that are nominated by their councils, by completing the Family of the Month form (forms must be submitted to Supreme by the 15th of the month.) Each Family will receive a Holy Family Icon from the Supreme Council.

**The following families from Washington are
winners for October, 2015. Congratulations to:**

Roger & Anita Treis
Council 766 - Walla Walla **Robert Spinler**
Council 1620 - Pasco **John & Naomi Forest**
Council 11762 - Tacoma

Thomas & Marti Hembree
Council 8476 - Stanwood **John & Roberta Wolcott**
Council 7863 - Marysville

We are all aware of the importance of Family & our Brother Knights.
Close your eyes - they come drifting back to us like dreams.....maybe it's not their words at all but simply their images that may be wordless, eloquent, tongue-tied, clumsy, joyous and the giving of decades of
"BEING THERE."

Remember the faces of the Brothers in our councils, have they become so familiar that they may be taken for granted?

**Unless we take pains we often forget to thank them.....Take pains.
Recognize them and say THANKS!**

**PUT A NEW STAR IN THE SKY WITH A
FAMILY OF THE MONTH AWARD!!**

STRONG VISIBLE PROGRAM



CATHOLIC CHAMPION

Blessed Paul VI

Pope (1897-1978)



Last October, in a ceremony marking the conclusion of the Synod on the Family, Pope Francis presided over the beatification of Pope Paul VI. Invoking Pope Paul's role in presiding over an era of enormous change, he quoted his holy predecessor: "By carefully surveying the signs of the times, we are making every effort to adapt ways and methods to the growing needs of our time and the changing conditions of society."

Giovanni Battista Montini (as he was born), archbishop of Milan, was elected pope in the conclave of June 1963. Following the jovial and universally beloved Pope Paul XXIII, it fell to Pope Paul to implement the reforms of Vatican II (1962-1965). He steered the Church through one of the most turbulent decades in history, buffeted by criticism from all sides, both from those who felt the Church was changing too quickly as well as from those who felt the pace was not fast enough.

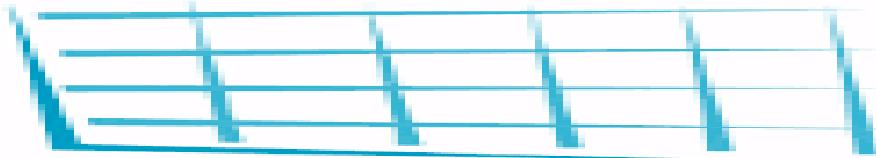
His renewal of Church teaching on birth control stirred divisive controversy that clouded his pontificate. At the same time, with his emphasis on the relation between evangelization and liberation, and the need for "authentic development," he strongly identified the Church with the hope and struggles of the poor. He died on August 6, 1978. His birth date, is also his feast day.

"The world calls for, and expects from us, simplicity of life, the spirit of prayer, charity towards all, especially towards the lowly and the poor, obedience and humility, detachment and self sacrifice. Without this mark of holiness, our word will have difficulty in touching the heart of modern man. It risks being vain and sterile." --- Blessed Paul VI



Pope Paul VI, born Giovanni Battista Enrico Antonio Maria Montini, reigned from 21 June 1963 to his death in 1978. [Wikipedia](#)
Born: September 26, 1897, [Concesio, Italy](#)
Died: August 6, 1978, [Castel Gandolfo, Italy](#)
Successor: [Pope John Paul I](#)

**PUT THIS
ON YOUR
CALENDAR!**



- January 1.....Per Capita DUE**
January 2.....Regional Meeting (Bothell)
January 3.....Regional Meeting (Olympia)
January 22.....Pro Life March for Life -- Olympia
January 31.....Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728) DUE
January 31.....Special Olympics Report (#4584) DUE
February 15.....Semi-annual Audit Report (#1295-2) DUE
March 26.....State Free Throw Championships -Ellensburg
April 1.....Family of the Year/Knight of the Year DUE
April 10.....Grand Knight & District Deputy Reports DUE
April 15.....Service Program Award Submissions DUE
May 13 -15State Convention -- Vancouver
June 30.....Columbian Awards (#SP -7) DUE
June 30.....RSVP Application (#2863) DUE
June 30.....Annual Report KofC Round Tables (#2630) DUE
June 30.....Food for Families Report (#10057) DUE

**SUBMIT YOUR
REPORTS**

***Every Morning You Have A Couple Of
Options: Stay In Bed With Your Dreams,
Or Get Up And Chase Them!***



**Please join us for the first annual
Walk for Life Northwest
at Riverfront Park in beautiful
Spokane, Washington**

Join people of the entire northwest region Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, British Columbia, Alberta and more gather to witness to the dignity of life.

**BISHOP THOMAS DALY AND VISITING BISHOPS WILL CELEBRATE
CATHOLIC MASS AT THE CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES
9 AM PRIOR TO THE WALK**

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!

We are proud to have
REVEREND WALTER HOYE II
Baptist Pastor and Founder of Issues4Life Foundation and
BRYAN KEMPER
President of Stand True Ministries speak before the Walk

*We encourage you to carry banners from your church or community
please, no graphic images at this family event.*

for more details about the Walk visit our website at

www.walkforlifenorthwest.org

contact us at **walkforlifenorthwest@yahoo.com**

May peace
be on our lips
and in our hearts.



"MERRY CHRISTMAS"

"FROM YOUR OFFICERS"

Brother Knights,

Merry Christmas Greetings to all of our Brother Knights and their families from Council 12002 Belfair, WA. May God watch over all of us and bless us with a wonderful and Blessed 2016.

KEN RODRICK - Council 12002

**Wishing you a warmest and peaceful Christmas
& Happy New Year 2016.**

RAFINO G. ISIP, FS COUNCIL 11217

**Brother Knights and your families
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
St John Mary Vianney Council 11408, Kirkland**

**Merry Christmas to you and your family Steve. The
"Second Edition "is a wonderful added
piece of information.**

Jim Wainwright, Comptroller Assembly #2501



My Brother Knights,

**I would like to extend Christmas Greetings from
Richland Council #3307.**

In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for

our sins. 1 John 4: 9-10

We pray that the love of God will continue to keep our Brother Knights strong around the world and continue to guide the work we all do this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

Work as if everything depends on you...

Hope and pray as if everything depends on God.

Vivat Jesus,

**Mike Reisenauer Grand Knight,
Richland Council #3307**

MERRY CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

May the power of the Holy Spirit be with you this Christmas Season and every day throughout the coming year bringing you Peace & Joy to you and your families!

Wishing all a

**VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Ed Miller, DDM



This is a time of the year when we are most thoughtful of the many blessings which God has given us.

The Officers and members of Marysville Fred Harrington Council #7863 wish our fellow Brother Knights, State Officers, and their families a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a blessed, NEW YEAR.

John Fails, FS Council #7863

Brothers in Christ and Families!

May the spirit of giving and sharing shine upon you all and God shower you with blessings this seasons and the coming year. Thank you for all your service to mankind and the needy.

Please pray for World Peace and our Beloved Pope Francis.

Yours in Christ,

Bob Sanchez, DD26 and Family

My Brothers,

Valerie and I would like to wish you all of the best during this very special time of the year. May your Christmas be Blessed and fun-filled and may your New Year be everything you could dream it to be. I know that I'm hoping for a great Packers finish, so feel free to dream right along with me!

God Bless You and Yours and Go Packers!

Bob & Valerie Baemmert

State Secretary



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

By Mike Calderon (12983), Former State Hispanic Membership Chairman

In the year 1223, St. Francis of Assisi, created the first crèche or Nativity scene, to draw attention to the powerful paradox of God's son being born into poverty of a stable.

Every year millions of families bring into their hearts the memory of the hills surrounding Bethlehem. Sweet music resounding in the sky, "Glory to God in the highest and peace to men of good will, for today the king of Kings is born".

We pray that through His son that the tragedies throughout the world may come to an end; that men will learn to live as God's children in peace, reaching out to people of other religions, they too are good people, worshipping the same Savior.

Merry Christmas! Whether we say it as Nollaig Chona Dhuit, Feliz Natal, Joyeux Noel, ZaligKerstfeet, Frohliche Weeihaachten, Buon Natuale, MiladMubarak or Feliz Navidad Let the sound ring in our heart's Brothers and sisters in Christ. Let there be peace on earth.

San Francisco de Asís inventó el pesebre o el Nacimiento, para llamar la atención sobre la poderosa paradoja del nacimiento del Hijo de Dios naciendo en la pobreza de un establo.

Cada año, millones y millones de familias traen en sus corazones el recuerdo de las colinas alrededor de Belén, dulce música resonando en el cielo: "¡Gloria a Dios en las alturas y paz a los hombres de buena voluntad, porque hoy ha nacido el Rey de Reyes!".

Que haya paz en la tierra; oramos para que a través de su hijo los horrores vistos hoy en todo el mundo puedan llegar a su fin y para que los hombres aprendan a vivir en paz como hijos de Dios. Vamos a buscar a las personas de otras religiones, ellos también son buenas personas, que adoran al mismo Salvador.

Feliz Navidad, si lo decimos como Nollaig Chona Dhuit, Feliz Natal, Joyeux Noel, ZaligKerstfeet, Frohliche Weeihaachten, Buon Natuale, MiladMubarak, Merry Chritmas, dejemos que la música suene en nuestro corazones. Hermanos y hermanas en Cristo, Que haya paz en la tierra



BROTHERS

As conflict and terror seem to prevail in our world, let us pray this Christmas season that justice shall flourish in our time and that we may enjoy fullness of peace. Pat and I wish you a very holy and merry Christmas and we pray for health and blessing for you and your families throughout the coming year.

**Vivat Jesus,
Jim Carey
District Deputy Seven**

Michael Flohr Council 766 would like to wish our Brother Knights and their families a safe, joyful, Holy and Blessed Christmas and New Year.

Nicolo Moramarco, GK, Council (766) Walla Walla

We need to remember How special Christmas is..It is not the presents that make it special, but the laughter, the feeling of love, and the togetherness of friends and family that make our Christmas special. Take some time and remember what has Made your Christmas Special!

**Merry Christmas
Tommy LaCour, FN
St. Eugene de Mazenod
Assembly 3414, Covington**



As joyful as the angels who brought good news to earth
As joyful as the Shepherds who told of Jesus birth
As joyful as the Magi who paid them homage due
So joyful may this Christmas and this New Year be for you.

KCIC STATE CHAIRMAN / F.N. Darrell L. Wehr

Greetings Brother Knights!
The Father Chirouse Council 5816 in Lynnwood WA (St Thomas More Parish) would like to extend the blessings of this Christmas Season to our Brother Knights and their families. May God grant you all the best this Season and into the New Year!

Michael Henrichs, Grand Knight (5816)

Blessings and prayers to all of our Knights and Sir Knights along with their family and friends.

May this Christmas be fruitful for all and the Lord be kind to us with his mercy and grace. With the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ we celebrate him with giving thanks to him.

We are all blessed to be here on earth to do the will of our Lord and savior. So may we do so for God in the name of our savior Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas to all.

With a new year upon us we need to look at the last year and thank God for what we have. We look forward to the coming year with a lot to be thankful for. As knights, we are about giving to other which in turn we receive more than we give.

Thanking God for what we have. Happy New Years.

Blessings to all

Peter Berg, DGK Council 11780 Covington



Merry Christmas from the Victorian Seaport of Port Townsend,
Washington! Should your 2016 travels include our picturesque
little town, be sure and visit St. Mary Star of the Sea Church!
We'd love for you to join us at Mass!

Wayne C. Nagy, Grand Knight Sarge Bryant Council 10532

Many Warm wishes go out to my brother Knights at this time of year. My gifts to you all is The Spirit of LOVE, The Blessing of Hope, The Beauty of Pease, and The presents of Joy. May these be your gifts this Christmas Season and throughout the New Year.

Your brother In Christ,

Anthony Farrell, DD2

The Reason for the Session

Christmas is a time of celebration of the “The Birth of Christ.” We need to give thanks and spread good will to others and to pray for peace on earth.

Let us also pray for the sick and homeless, for those whose lives are torn apart, to those who have lost loved ones or are separated by war, that God will give them blessings, food, shelter and much more.

May all you Brother and Sir Knights have a Blessed and Joyous Christmas and remember “Jesus is the Reason for the Session.”

May you also be filled with love, joy, and peace, enjoying happy times with family and friends?

**John L. Walker, Exec. Dir.
WSC Knights of Columbus**



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM TOM WILLIAMS, DD21

My brothers, after three years of working with the men of District 1, it is now my honor to serve the five councils that comprise District 21. I have been able to meet new men, learn of their activities and continue to marvel at the excellent quality of men in the knights of columbus.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your hard work this year to support our Church and Order, Knights make a difference every day by doing God's work in our communities. With the tumultuous and uncertain times we live in, the Knights provide a beacon of light and hope.

From my wife Dawna, my sons Matthew and Brendan, and from myself, I wish you and your families the very best of the Christmas season. May God bless you abundantly in the coming year!

As always, I will close with an old Irish blessing:

**The light of the Christmas star to you,
The warmth of home and hearth to you,
The cheer and good will of friends to you,
The hope of a childlike heart to you,
The joy of a thousand angels to you,
The love of the Son,
And God's peace to you.**

Vivat Jesus!

**Tom Williams
State Bulletin Editor
District Deputy, District 21
PGK, Council 14689**



KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS!

Keep Christ in “Christmas”, not “X’mas”! Because Christ is not an unknown value “X”, He is known to us and among us! Welcome Him into our midst and into our hearts! Let us pray and celebrate!

Christmas brings joy and peace. May you, my Brother Knights, and your families, be filled with the Christmas joy. May true peace be upon this troubled world soon!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

**Bernard (Bernie) Ip - Grand Knight,
Holy Spirit Council 10653, Kennewick.**

**Merry Christmas and Happy New year to all the Knights,
Families, and Friends; with much laughter, good health
and happiness throughout 2016.**

God bless

Mike Vinti FN Assembly 1169, Walla Walla

**May the peace of Christ be with you all this Christmas and best wishes to you
and your families this coming New Year!**

**Marcel and Linda Bergeron
Holy Spirit Council 10653 Kennewick Wa.**

**I'd like to send a Christmas message to all the financial
secretaries and faithful controllers:**

**Brother financial secretaries and faithful controllers the
financial secretary training team want to wish you and your
families a wonderful, peaceful and Merry Christmas.**

Dave Konzek FS Consultant East



From our Family to yours, we wish you a Joyous and Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year! Let us rejoice together in all the good things God has provided, especially the gift of His Son.

With Warmest Regards,

Greg, Doreen, Sean and Clifton Mahoney - State Warden Family

Merry Christmas to you and your family. May you be filled with the Spirit of Christmas and inspired by the birth of our Lord now and throughout the whole year.

***Bret & Michelle Fleming
District 6 Deputy***

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"**

FRIENDS AND FAMILIES.

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"

**FOURTH DEGREE ARCHBISHOP FRANCIS
NORBERT BLANCHET PROVINCE
INTENSE. POWERFUL. DEEPLY SATISFYING.**

**Honor Guard Training Session and District Meeting at
Visitation Catholic Church. Great turn out!
Thank you to the father for letting us be there.**

Eugene Daly, District Master - Western Washington

Prayer for Fair Weather and the Turn of World War II



(How important are chaplains to the military? Here's a story of one.)

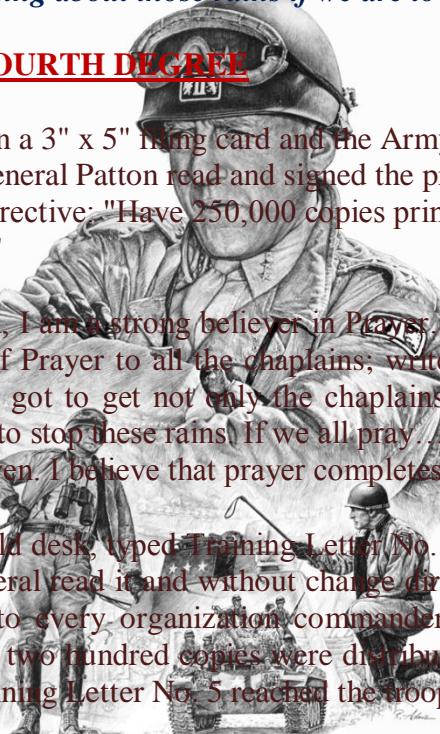
As the Chief Chaplain of the Third Army, Father James Hugh O'Neill received a telephone call on the morning of December 8, 1944: "This is General Patton; do you have a good prayer for weather? We must do something about those rains if we are to win the war."

By KARL HADLEY - VSM FOURTH DEGREE

Father O'Neill typed the prayer on a 3" x 5" filing card and the Army Commander's Christmas Greetings on the reverse side. General Patton read and signed the prayer and returned it to Father O'Neill with a very casual directive: "Have 250,000 copies printed and see to it that every man in the Third Army gets one."

The General then said, "Chaplain, I am a strong believer in Prayer. I wish you would put out a Training Letter on this subject of Prayer to all the chaplains; write about nothing else, just the importance of prayer. We've got to get not only the chaplains but every man in the Third Army to pray. We must ask God to stop these rains. If we all pray ... it will be like plugging in on a current whose source is in Heaven. I believe that prayer completes that circuit."

Father O'Neill returned to his field desk, typed Training Letter No. 5 and presented it to General Patton on the next day. The General read it and without change directed that it be circulated not only to the 486 chaplains, but to every organization commander down to and including the regimental level. Three thousand two hundred copies were distributed to every unit in the Third Army. The Prayer Cards and Training Letter No. 5 reached the troops by December 14.



And then, seventy-one years ago, on December 16, 1944, the last and most devastating battle of World War II in Europe occurred when Nazi forces staged a surprising, massive attack – the Battle of the Bulge. On December 19, 1944, a shaken Eisenhower convened key generals in Verdun and instructed Patton to launch a strong counterattack. Yet the town was 125 difficult, wintry miles from the bulk of the Third Army.

In Luxembourg City the next morning, Patton set out alone for the ancient Roman Catholic chapel in the Foundation Pescatore. Under the crucifix above the altar, Patton, although an Episcopalian, removed his helmet with its three stars, sank to his knees, and prayed earnestly.

"Sir, this is Patton talking....Give me four clear days so that my planes can fly, so that my fighter-bombers can bomb and strafe, so that my reconnaissance may pick our targets for my magnificent artillery.... so that my tanks roll, so that ammunition and rations may be taken to my hungry, ill-equipped infantry. In exchange for four days of fighting weather, I will deliver you enough Krauts to keep your bookkeepers months behind their work."

On December 20, to the consternation of the Germans and the delight of the American forecasters who were equally surprised at the turn-about - the rains and the fogs ceased. For the better part of a week came bright clear skies and perfect flying weather. The 101st Airborne, with the 4th, 9th, and 10th Armored Divisions, saved Bastogne.

Father O'Neill, 486 chaplains, General Patton, and the entire Third Army prayed for fair weather for battle and they got it.

So, yes, chaplains are important!

The Military Chaplain Scholarship Fund was established four years ago. The Knights of Columbus committed to distribute \$1 million in scholarship money to the Archdiocese for the Military Services over a period of five years at a rate of \$200,000 per year. Fundraising for the Order-wide project is led by the Fourth Degree, the patriotic degree of the Knights.

Through this program, the military archdiocese contracts with each participating diocese to fund 50 percent of the cost of a seminarian's five-year education. In return, the candidate agrees that, following ordination and three years of service at a parish, he will commit to serve as a military chaplain under the auspices of the military archdiocese for a minimum of three to five years.

WE NEED 800 PRIESTS TO SERVE THE MILITARY, YET HAVE ONLY 280.

The Order met its \$1,000,000 goal over one year ahead of schedule! The Supreme Knight challenged us to raise another \$200,000. I ask that your council, assembly hold a fundraiser at your parish to put the Order over the \$1.2 million goal!

KYLE AND I WISH YOU AND YOURS A MERRY CHRISTMAS



Karl A. Hadley, Vice Supreme Master



EDITOR'S NOTE:

Father O'Neill was awarded the Bronze Star by General Patton.



SPOT LIGHT ON STRONG



VISIBLE PROGRAMS

Harry J Tucker Jr Council 11780

DGK Peter Berg & GK Tommy LaCour Presents Check to Kent JR MARINE CORPS ROTC CADETS for their Services at a Recent Pancake Breakfast were Cadets assisted Knights in Facilitating a Parish & Community Breakfast In Their Honor. The ROTC Program Was Awarded the Proceeds of the event for Use in the ROTC Program

"Baptism is a way by which we leave the life of sin and enter the new life of grace. The very Greek term from which we take the word 'Baptism' means a 'plunging into'. And so we are plunged into water to be freed from sin and then to rise with Christ to new life."

Dr. Sean Innerst



Now streaming exclusively on
Formed.org



DANCING IN THE STREET

"I heard there was a secret chord that David played and it pleased the Lord.....

By STEVE SNELL

Anyone old enough to remember the 60's remembers a song called dancing in the street. The lyrics of the song lend itself to a generation bent on doing its own thing and letting it all hang out. The flower children were tuned in and turned on. It was a time of social change, personal rebellion, political revolution, of Thomas Merton and a time for Martin Luther King. According to the lyrics of the song the world was ready for a brand new beat, summers here and the time is right for dancing in the street.

When there are hard times and life appears joyless, listless, tedious and hopeless these are times when ones faith should make a difference. If I'm a religious man my faith should be that which takes my clouds away, and reinvests in me a purpose for living and provides hope for tomorrow. My faith makes me feel better from the inside out and restores my self-esteem and confirms for me that I am a child of God. My faith should give me a vision of things eternal that assures me that there is a bright side somewhere, and put a smile on my face and a song in my soul. My faith should be so powerful that on any day of my life I could be found dancing in the street.

I'm convinced that there is something fundamentally wrong when some who claim to be among the called and converted think that religion was designed to make them look like they just lost their best friend. They sit in the same pew every Sunday, and never smile. They never rock the boat and they keep their mouths shut and some go out as sad as when they came in.

On the other hand I think the good news of Jesus Christ is designed to rock your boat, to fill you, to saturate you, to cleanse you, to take the broken pieces of your life and put you back together. It is designed to open you up and set you free, to liberate you, to give you help and hope, and the will to live one more day. And as a consequence every once in a while, even with your prim and proper self, you ought to smile and try dancing in the street.

I understand why much of the natural expression of the joy of life has been taken out of some churches and some organizations. The educated and refrigerated have decided that to give into the spirit within us is not the cultured thing to do. They have decided that to break out in a joyous shout or song is not proper decorum. They have decided that those who break out in dance or song are spiritually unstable or they have flat out lost their mind. So consequently many of those who compose the “traditional”, those who are among the frozen chosen, the high bound conservative “I shall not be moved crowd” have no desire to dance, sing or live the joy of our faith and our Lord's gift of life. **What a tragedy!**

Second Samuel

(Chapter 6)

David with all the Israelites made merry before the Lord. Then David, girt with a linen apron, came dancing before the LORD with abandon, as he and all the Israelites were bringing up the ark of the LORD with shouts of joy and to the sound of the horn



When David set about the task of bringing the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem he did not bring it back alone he took 30,000 men in a huge display and brought it back. When he entered Jerusalem he walked out without his kingly robe and royal crown with nothing on but linen and there in the middle of the street David danced before the Lord with all his might. Something happens when you stand in the presence of God! When you stand in the presence of the creator of the universe, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, something moves you.

We are Knights, we dance and sing our faith every day of this life that God has given us. We shout in the defense of the unborn. As Knights we provide a “brand new beat” for those who need a helping hand.

Young and Old we move as one, together we sing

Happy Birthday Jesus!!!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Please act now to encourage Congress to protect the rights of conscientious objectors to abortion, sterilization, and contraception.

These rights are under attack.

In California, for example, the state government has issued a directive requiring all health plans to cover abortions. Religious ministries in the state, including Catholic schools, are right now being forced to add abortion to their health plans.

This sort of coercion violates federal law, but these federal conscience protections have not been enforced. More protection is needed as similar violations occur throughout the country. Health care workers and organizations need the ability to act on their own to defend their rights in court.

The Abortion Non-Discrimination Act (ANDA) grants this by providing victims a means for protecting their conscience rights through legal action.

Contact your members of Congress to support ANDA.

Immediate action is necessary. Consider the case of Cathy Cenzon-DeCarlo, RN, a nurse in New York City, whose employer forced her to choose between assisting in a late-term abortion and losing her job:

The hospital where I work coerced me to assist in a 22-week abortion. They were well aware that as a faithful Catholic, I could not participate in the killing of a pre-born child. Yet, they threatened my job and my nursing license if I did not take part in the murder of a baby.

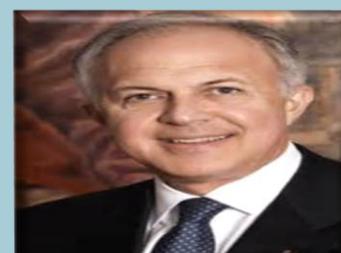
Her story is here: <https://youtu.be/uknxrMI61WI>

As Pope Francis has said, “conscientious objection is a right, and part of the body of all human rights. If we want to make peace, we must respect all rights.”

Thank you for doing your part to protect conscience rights and to build a Culture of Life.



Fraternally
Carl Anderson
Supreme Knight



The Pope Kisses A Baby With A Brain Tumor. 2 Months Later, A Miracle Happens!

Earlier this year, Pope Francis toured the United States. It was a great opportunity to catch the Pope in person without making a trip to the Vatican in Italy.

While passing through Philadelphia, Kristen Masciantonio and her family attended the papal parade. By chance, Pope Francis saw Masciantonio's 1-year-old daughter Gianna and picked her up. Gianna had previously been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor, and doctors only said it was a matter of time before she would pass.

But Pope Francis, not knowing this, picked up the little girl and gave her a kiss on the top of her head. No one expected what was to happen next.

A few months later, Gianna's brain tumor suddenly shrank. It was completely unexpected, and even doctors don't know how it was possible. Gianna's father Joey believes a miracle had happened. The whole family thought Gianna would be leaving them soon.

Joey states, "They said go home, enjoy the last weeks, maybe months, that you have with her."

In fact, Joey almost prevented Gianna from attending the papal parade because she was undergoing chemotherapy at the time. But after receiving a kiss from the Pope, things suddenly turned for the better.

"I think this is all from God," Joey said. "The pope is a messenger from God."

Gianna's tumor is now "basically gone," as it has shrunk to the point where radiologists can no longer detect it.



ADVENT REFLECTION

By FATHER KENNETH KRALL

Jesuit Priest and Professor in the Modern Languages Department at Gonzaga University.



I attended Saint Ignatius Grade School in Portland, Oregon, for eight years and I would imagine that's where I first came to know about Advent. I learned there that Advent was that church season in which we prepared ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus, God's son and Mary's, born in a manager in a cave near a town called Bethlehem, a birth which happened a very, very, very long time ago. And we did this by doing various acts of kindness to others in a quiet sort of way. And that's pretty much the understanding I had of Advent until somewhere in my seminary studies.

Then it was that I noticed, I'm sure with some author's help, or some teacher's, that more than a half of our Advent gospel readings, both Sunday and daily, (twenty-one out of a possible twenty-nine, to be exact) had nothing at all to do with those events that led up to Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. That is to say, that over half of these Advent Gospel selections did not come from the opening chapters of Matthew and Luke. My conclusion? If the Season of Advent was preparing us to celebrate Jesus' birth at Bethlehem, Jesus' coming into our world as a new born baby boy, then it was doing so in a rather strange way.

Take for instance our gospel reading last Sunday, the First Sunday of Advent. Did it have anything to do with the coming birth of Jesus at Bethlehem? No. Its main point was this: Since we cannot know for sure when the Son of Man will come, then we must live our lives in such a way that no matter when he does actually come, we will be ready to receive him. And this coming of the Son of Man Jesus was talking about was not his birth in Bethlehem, but his coming on the last day to judge the living and the dead.

Take for instance today's gospel reading. Anything remotely connected with the mystery of Christmas there? Not as far as I could notice. As you may remember, the adult Jesus was telling his disciples that those people who listened to his words and acted on them would be like houses built on solid rock foundations, houses that would out last any heavy rain falls, any flooding, any wind storms, while those people who heard Jesus preach but did not make that preaching a definite part of their lives would be like houses with sandy foundations, houses which rains and floods and winds would in time completely destroy. And so our daily Advent gospel readings record the words and deeds of the adult Jesus, until Thursday of next week, Thursday of the Second Week of Advent. Then it is that the Church moves our attention from Jesus to the figure of John the Baptizer.

However, on the Sunday before that switch, on the Second Sunday of Advent, our gospel, this year from Luke's Third Chapter, introduces us to John the Baptizer, describing how he appeared in the desert of Judea, calling the people to confess their sins, to be baptized by him in the Jordan River as a sign of their repentance and so ready themselves ready to receive that more powerful person who would follow him.

And then come December 17th we always begin reading from the first chapter of Matthew and the first chapter of Luke and we hear again those very familiar stories about Mary and the angel Gabriel and Joseph and Elizabeth and Zachary, stories which on those last eight days before Christmas directly help us to prepare to celebrate once again Christ's birth.

Well, in the light of all these many words of mine, what conclusions do I draw about the purpose, the message of this Season of Advent? Some wise person, now nameless, once told me: Let the Advent Sunday gospel readings guide us in our understanding of this Advent Season. Since many more people attend church on the Sundays of Advent than attend on the weekdays of Advent, the Church has set up those Advent Sunday gospel readings to emphasize more clearly what Advent is all about. And the message of Advent in the light of those four Sunday gospel selections?

Waiting for... Jesus

The Season of Advent certainly centers on the idea of Christ's coming. But the first coming of Christ which this Advent season stresses is the coming of Christ yet to happen, the coming of Christ at the Last Judgment. So the gospel for the First Sunday of Advent always talks, in one way or another, about the Last Judgment. The gospels for the Second and Third Sundays of Advent focus on John the Baptizer and the work he did to prepare the people of his day for the coming preaching and teaching of the adult Jesus. And then on the Fourth and final Sunday of Advent the gospel reading gives us one of the events that lead up to Jesus' birth near Bethlehem.

My conclusions then about this Season of Advent? It is a time which the church gives us each year to look forward, to look inward and to look backward: forward to the Final Judgment and to those things we need to change in ourselves before it arrives; inward to receive the message of Jesus in our own lives by recalling how John the Baptizer tried to get the people of his day ready for what Jesus had to tell them; and finally backward to that wonderful mystery of Jesus' birth, God's son and Mary's, our brother and our savior. And so as we try to do all of this looking forward, looking inward and looking backward, may this Season of Advent be a time of many blessings for us all.





ALL HEARTS COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

By Barbara Washburn

(Wife of Kim Washburn, State Advocate)



During the Advent Season some of us can close our eyes and imagine the aroma of mulled spiced wine (Glühwein), gingersnaps, and roasting chestnuts. For me these aromas and reminiscences are heartfelt and warm remembrances of the Christmas times of my childhood.

One of my favorite memories of Christmas time are the European Christmas markets, which draw shoppers of all ages. Many cities are known for these picturesque and romantic gatherings. They are held during the month of December, closing on Christmas Eve, which is the main festivity date for Christmas itself in Europe.

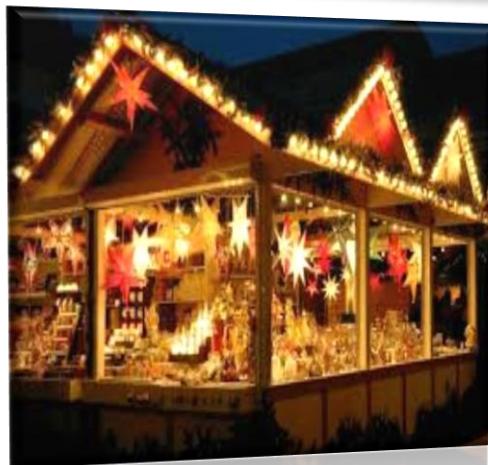
Various local merchants and artists sell incredible goods during that time, and it is by far their most demanding and fruitful season. Some towns call their Christmas markets a “Market of Advent” (Adventsmarkt). Most of these attractions also feature musical entertainment or holiday stage productions, such as live mangers, some including small farm animals and others bring forward camels.

The customs of a Christmas market started in Germany during the late middle ages and are known worldwide. They are called “Christkindlsmarkt”, which actually means “Christchild Market” if translated into English. Many American cities have very successfully copied them during the holiday seasons, including Chicago, Philadelphia, New York City and San Francisco. Nonetheless, one can imagine the cost of merchandise imported from European countries.

Christmas Markets had originated as a simple sale held for only one day at the very beginning of the cold weather season. Villagers were given the opportunity to stock up on meat and groceries to carry them through the frigid winter months.

In the 14th Century the custom was established to add opportunities for area craftsmen, toymakers, basket weavers, bakers and grocers to sell or barter their goods. Many merchants joined in selling gifts for smaller children. Stands with roasted chestnuts (Kastanien), various other nuts, cookies, ginger breads (Lebkuchen) and almonds were already popular over six hundred years ago. At the beginning of the 20th Century Christmas markets became a permanent feature during the month of December.

As I am sitting here reminiscing about my childhood, sipping a Glühwein, listening to Christmas music and anxiously awaiting my next visit back home to a Christkindls Market, I would like to take this joyous occasion to wish you and yours a “Frohe Weihnachten!”





I remember a time on Christmas Eve I needed to talk with Grandma. I was just a kid. I remember tearing across town on my bike to visit her on the day "a big kid" dropped the bomb: "There is no Santa Claus," he jeered. "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.

MY CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE WITH GRANDMA

Submitted by Steve Snell

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 Hardware 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." Then she turned and walked out of the store.

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 Mass at my church.

I was just about thought out, when I suddenly thought of Bobby Becker. He was a kid with bad breath and messy hair, and he sat right behind me in Mrs. Whitney's grade-two class. Bobby Becker 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 Becker 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 Becker 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 Becker'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 Becker'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.

**On Jesus' Birthday;
May you always have LOVE to share,
HEALTH to spare and FRIENDS that care...
And may you always believe in the giving magic of Christmas!**

When my children asked me if Santa really exists, I told them yes, because it's true. Every parent who carries on St. Nicholas' tradition of leaving secret gifts, of being the heart and hands of Jesus, of sharing the wonder, excitement, and the glory of God's most extraordinary Gift ever given to mankind, His Son, then every one of us is Santa Claus.

I believe in Santa Claus because I am Santa Claus...and you are, too!



**LOOK,
A BRIGHT NEW YEAR**

Happy New Year

2016 is getting closer. Ready, Set....Hang on!



Thank you



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

**GOD BLESS YOU FOR
YOUR KINDNESS**

AND THOUGHTFULNESS!!