



Knights Digest



Union Council 4504

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November, 1992

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

by Dr. Donald R. Kennon*

October 12, 1992, will mark the 500th anniversary of Columbus discovery of the Americas. But it will also celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Those two events have much more in common than most Americans realize. The Pledge of Allegiance was written for the occasion of the 400th anniversary of Columbus Day and the celebration of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Both events were designed to assert the positive patriotic sentiments of the American people. Both were designed to demonstrate to the world that the United States, only 27 years after a bloody Civil War, was "one nation indivisible." And finally, both events were designed to boldly assert that the government of this nation was a "republic" whose far-sighted purposes encompassed "liberty and justice for all."

Congress authorized the grand 400th anniversary celebration of Columbus' discovery of the Americas by establishing the colossal World's Columbian Exposition to be held in Chicago in 1892. A committee of educators and civil leaders planned a National Public School Celebration of Columbus Day to mark the exposition. Chaired by Francis Bellamy, a former Baptist minister and a member of the editorial staff of *The Youth's Companion* magazine, the committee planned for celebrations in every public school to center around the flag. Bellamy composed and address to the flag published in the magazine, and he lobbied Congress to declare Columbus Day a national holiday. Largely through his own efforts a lengthy list of political leaders lent their support: including President Benjamin Harrison, former President Grover Cleveland, Henry Cabot Lodge, Theodore Roosevelt, John G. Carlisle, Roger Q. Mills, and Joseph W. Bailey. Congress passed a joint resolution empowering Pres. Harrison to proclaim the 400th anniversary of Columbus Day a national holiday with "suitable exercises



in the schools."

The Presidential Proclamation signed July 21, 1892, set aside October 21st as a general holiday to honor Columbus and "the great achievements of four completed centuries of American life." The proclamation further called for appropriate school observations on that day. "Let the National Flag float over every school house in the country, and the exercises be such as shall impress upon our youth the patriotic duties of American citizenship."

As Bellamy planned the program for these school exercises, he wrestled with the composition of suitable pledge to the flag to be recited by every student in the public schools. One flag salute had been in general use, but Bellamy found it inadequate. He shut himself up in his office one August night and in two hours composed the 23 words that became the pledge of Allegiance. He decided to make it a pledge of allegiance rather than a salute because of the memories of the Civil War. A pledge was a stronger and more positive expression. Instead of "the flag," Bellamy chose "my flag" for emphasis. In a brief, rhythmic, and easily memorized statement, Bellamy encapsulated the fundamental meaning of the nation:

"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the Republic for which it stands: one Nation indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all."

The phrase "one Nation indivisible" harkened back to the hard-won lessons of the Civil War, while, "Liberty and Justice for all" admirably expressed the ideals of the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution. Minor modifications to the Pledge were made in 1923 and 1924 by the First and Second National Flag Conferences, when "my Flag" was changed to "the Flag of the United States (1923) of America (1924)." The Pledge was officially recognized by Congress in 1945 when by Public Law 287 it became our national Pledge of Allegiance. In 1954 following a suggestion made by Rev. Peter Marshall the words "under God" were added after "one nation" in an act signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Francis Bellamy never sought to capitalize on his authorship of the pledge. It was published anonymously in *The Youth's Companion* and the author did not copyright his creation. "I have the happiness of realizing that I once, in my young manhood," he later wrote, "contributed to my Country an easily remembered symbol of patriotism which has become historic and has been in many millions of individuals a spur to their love of Country."

When you stop to consider what the words to the Pledge of Allegiance mean, you can see why it has become our ultimate expression of patriotic sentiment. First and foremost is the Flag itself, the very symbol of all that the United States has been and what it can be; then the "Republic for which it stands," a phrase that calls to mind the Constitution of the United States and the creation of our national government. "One nation under God, indivisible," recalls the Civil War fought to preserve our republic and to extend the blessing of liberty to those to whom it had too long been denied. The final phrase, "with liberty and justice for all," speaks to the noblest ideals of the American experience, always inspiring and representative of the best our nation strives to attain.

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Knight Digest

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MONTHLY MEETINGS

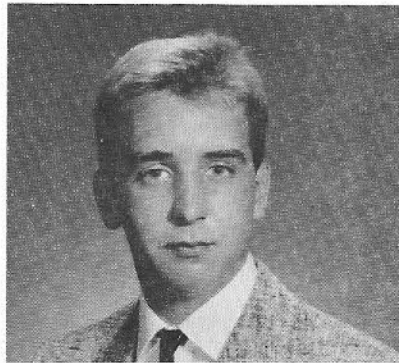
- 1st Mon. Council Officers
- 2nd & 4th Mon. Regular Meetings
- 3rd Mon. Swim Club
- 1st Wed. 4th Degree Officers
- 2nd Thurs. 4th Degree Color Corps
- 3rd Wed. 4th Degree Regular
- 4th Wed. Council Committees
- 4th Thurs. Columbian Club

Council Fund Raisers

On November 15th from 2 P.M. - 6 P.M. Union Council #4504 will be serving an all you can eat Spaghetti Dinner with free soda. Beer may be purchased for 50 cents a glass. The cost is \$5.00 per adult and \$2.50 per child but not more than \$17.00 per family. This fundraiser will support the Pro Life Billboard and other council activities.

Brothers, mark this day on your calendar - Bring your family - Tell your relatives and friends - Lets make this a very successful day. Contact Pat Sheridan 688-0106 or John Peters 964-6869 for tickets.

KNIGHT of THE MONTH November, 1992



Michael Herrigty, III

Our Knight Of The Month for November 1992 is Michael Herrigty, III. Mike lives in Union and is a communicant of St. Michael's Parish.

Mike became a third degree member of our council just two years ago, but since that time he has become a very active member. This year he is a director on the Columbian Club Board and is an assistant to the bar manager. He also serves as a bartender. He has been the leader in improving many areas of the bar. Mike's ideas and actions can be seen with the addition of three new TV's in the bar, the dart game, and the successful new satellite TV. system. Mike's dedication to our council can be traced back to his family roots for he is a third generation member of our council. He is also a member of our council softball team.

Mike works for FS Plumbing and Heating as well as being partners in his own business California Automatic Design which installs car stereos and alarms. Mike's hobbies include skiing and using his computer. He also enjoys restoring Volkswagens and belongs to a local Volkswagen Club. He is a sport enthusiast and enjoys rooting for the N.Y. Rangers.

Union council is pleased to congratulate Michael Herrigty III as our Knight Of The Month for November 1992.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

December 31, 1992

\$70 a couple

Prime Rib Dinner and
Open Bar

For reservations call:

**Bob Sugzda 851-8182 or
Rich Pipala 964-7592**

More information will be
in next months digest.

Grand Knight's Column

Jim O'Connell



In November, Union Council holds its annual Memorial Mass and communion Breakfast. This event is for us to remember our

Brother Knights who have past on to be with our Lord. As each Brother Knight knows, the primary purpose of the Knights of Columbus is to help us prepare for this final event of our lives by assuring that our families will be properly cared for. But there are other ways that the Knights care for the families of our departed brothers.

The first way, unfortunately, occurs soon after our Brothers passing. It is our Memorial Service for a Deceased Brother. At the request of the family, either directly to the Knights, or through the arrangements of the funeral director, a group of our Brothers perform a prayer service at the wake of our departed brother. About two years ago, primarily through the efforts of Brother Art Weber, we organized a group of volunteers that have committed themselves to attend each wake service. Although this group is small, compared to the size of our council, they are a very dedicated group of men. If any member would like to help by participating in this important council function, please let Art know.

Another way our council supports our departed brothers families is through invitations to council events. Each year, widows of our departed brothers are invited to our annual family picnic and to a special event held in their honor. Also, if a brother's widow has dependent children, then there is a standing invitation to our youth activities events, such as the Halloween and Christmas parties.

These are but a few of the ways that the Knights support the families of our departed brothers. But these aren't the only ways. If a Brother knows of a widow in which we may be of some help, please let me know.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Memorial Mass and Communion Breakfast.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Nov. 2.....First Friday
- Nov. 8.....Communion Breakfast
- Nov. 15.....Spaghetti Fund Raiser
- Nov. 22.....Blood Drive
- Dec. 4.....First Friday
- Dec. 14.....Christmas Dinner Meeting
- Dec. 20.....Childrens Christmas Party
- Dec. 31.....New Years Eve Party

Chaplain's Column

Rev. Leonard E. Dembow



When I was a young boy in grammar school the sisters told us that October is a month in which the Blessed Mother should be particularly addressed as mother. We would sing hymns, pray the Rosary and be dutifully trooped over to the church for Mass and Benediction. The sisters also told us that when we went home we should also be very kind and loving to our mothers for all that they have done for us. The sisters. My mother. How many times in your lives and in mine have strength filled women played such a nurturing and directing role. How they made our faith a living thing and showed by their example what true Christian missioning is! None of us would be possessed of that sensitivity of soul and gentleness of spirit without them. Even today I see my mother as a woman able to join in the wonderful times that make up a family and to be a symbol of strength when a crisis presents itself.

To mothers and wives. To women who have taught us strength and courage. To them who have shared their faith-lives and given us example; we salute and thank you and pray that the Blessed Mother who intercedes for us all will be ever close to you. In honor of these let us offer this litany of gratitude to Mary our Mother for them:

Woman
Mom
Mary of rattling tea cups and homemade cookies
Mary of open doors, open hearth, open heart
Queen of warmth and hospitality
Mary of varicose veins and chapped hands
Strong, fragile woman
Believer in love, reality, people, God.
Back stooped and ear bent in listening to life's stories and to the giver of life
Stubborn fidelity to life in the face of death
Heart that breaks and pours love over the thirsty earth...sending happy shock waves to echo in our dreams
Tugging our reluctant mouths into smiles of hope and anticipation
Amen, it will be so, Amen.

Litany excerpted from, "Gathering the Fragments: A Gospel Mosaic."

Rev. Edward J. Farrell

Council Blood Drive

The North Jersey Blood Center will be at Union Council to conduct our semi-annual "GIFT OF LIFE DAY".

The blood drive will be held on November 22, 1992 between the hours of 10AM to 3 PM.

All brother knights and their wives in good health are urged to make this life saving contribution during this critical time of the year.

If you have never given blood before, here are some reasons why you should.

—ONE blood donation can save up to five lives.

—There is no substitute or synthetic process for manufacturing or duplicating human blood.

—95% of us will need blood or a blood product at least once in our lives.

Donors must be between the ages of 18 and 65 and should bring their social security card along with a signed form of identification, also your donors card if you have one.

If you have any questions please call me at (908) 688-3618
DOM CLEMENTONI, PGK
Blood Bank Chairman

Friday Night Dinner

Hungarian Goulash
November 20, 1992

\$5.50

For tickets contact:
Joe Ernst 687-2036 or
John Relton 388-8655

NOTICE

The average meeting attendance in September was 51 members. Make a commitment to attend at least 1 meeting a month.

SWIM CLUB NEWS

The current **WAITING LIST** consists of approximately 70 names. The next 15 are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Gregory Scarlato | 9. Robert F. McKnight |
| 2. Frank Maffie | 10. John Puschak |
| 3. Thomas Barber | 11. Ralph Ventre |
| 4. Patrick Sheridan | 12. Joseph Queli |
| 5. Robert Berrios | 13. Michael W. Ambrosio |
| 6. Russell Anthony | 14. Philip Matrile |
| 7. Donald Hibbard | 15. Steven Surace |
| 8. Thomas Matthews | |

BOARD OF GOVERNORS NOMINATIONS:

There are 3 -3 year terms open for nomination. Anyone interested in running for the Board please contact Frank Fabiano at 964-3863.

Annual Memorial Mass

November 8, 1992

St. Michael's Parish

9:00 am

Communion Breakfast

to follow at

Union Council Home

Price - \$5.00/person

For tickets see:

Jim O'Connell

201-762-1065

Mike Carr

908-276-8006

Night at The Races

Saturday December 5, 1992

\$5.00 per person for Beer, Soda,
Races and Sandwich

Contact:

Rich Pipala 964-7592 or

Frank Cherney 351-5366

for tickets

WAKE UP!

Brothers - those of you who have not, as yet, joined our group, why not come out the next time and experience the feeling of giving a little bit of yourself for one of your departed brothers? If you do, I am sure you will sign up in a hurry. I await your call

Art Weber — 688-7269