



Knight Digest



Vol. 59 No. 08

www.kofc4504.org

April 2018

Calendar of Events

April 1st Easter Sunday
 April 6th-8thIDD Street Collections
 April 9th..... Council Meeting 8:15 PM
 April 12th..... Knights Family Dinner
 April 14th..... Swim Club Tricky Tray
 April 15th..... Membership Drive - St. Michael's
 April 22nd.....4th Degree Exemplification
 April 23rd..... Council Meeting 8:15 PM
 May 14th..... Council Meeting 8:15 PM
 May 17th-20th..... Wildwood Convention
 June 11th..... Council Meeting 8:15 PM
 June 13th.....2nd Degree
 June 15th..... 3rd Degree
 June 16th..... Casino Knight
 June 17th..... Father's Day Breakfast
 June 17th..... Renewal of Wedding Vows (25th & 50th)
 June 21st Knights Family Dinner
 June 25th..... Council Meeting 8:15 PM

Council Elections

The slate of potential officers for the 2018-2019 Columbian year will be in next months digest.

Council Elections
will take place on
May 14, 2018

Nominating Committee

The Columbian Club Nominating Committee will be holding interviews for the next Columbian Year this month. Please keep an eye for blast emails and Facebook posts as to the date and time the interviews will take place.

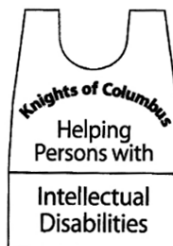
Anyone who is interested in said positions, now is the time to put your names out there!

Exemplification for the Fourth Degree

The 1st NJ District Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus will hold it's Spring 2018 Exemplification on Sunday **April 22, 2018**.

Contact Len Komar FN JFK Assembly #0666 or any Assembly Officer for more information about the Fourth Degree and what we do.

There will be more details to follow.



Yes gentlemen it is that time again to please volunteer your services for the Intellectual Disabilities Drive. We need 40 time slots filled.

The dates are Friday, April 6th; Saturday, April 7th; and Sunday, April 8th from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM and 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM.

We will be collecting at our usually locations on the streets. Let's make this year a success to donate to the Charities we have choose in the past. Our goal is \$5000-\$6000.

If those are unable to volunteer then possibly you could donate, by sending contributions to the Council attention Mike Peter Chairman.

If able to help contact Mike Peter at 908-759-3588 or email mikepeter4275@gmail.com.

Thank you



Knight Digest

This bulletin is published monthly, by and in the interest of the Knights of Columbus Union Council 4504 and registered as third class matter April 23, 1958, at the Union Post Office, Union, NJ.

RULES FOR SUBMISSION: Submissions for consideration are due in writing by the 15th of the month for the following month. Please mail or drop off submission, with contact information to:

Tom Dudek
Knight Digest Editor
549 Robinson Ter.
Union, NJ 07083

or preferably via email to: tomdudek@outlook.com.

You must clearly identify all people in photos submitted and at what council event the photo was taken. Photos with alcoholic beverages will not be considered. Photos may also be submitted via email as hi-resolution image files. Hard copy photos will only be returned when accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Council Officers

Chaplain..... Rev. Msgr. Anselm Nwaorgu
District Deputy..... Alex Costa, PGK
Grand Knight Michael Willemse
Deputy Grand Knight..... Ed McCormick, PGK
Chancellor..... David Wozniak
Warden..... Phillip Cababe
Recorder..... Joshua Merida
Treasurer..... Paul Willemse
Fin. Secretary..... Luke Sangiamo
Inside Guard..... Anthony Ibida
Outside Guard..... Robert Pynckels
Membership Director..... Greg Chaves
Program Director..... Mike Peter, PGK
Advocate..... Stephen F. Hehl
3rd. Yr. Trustee Giftus John, PGK
2nd Yr. Trustee Greg Henn, PGK
1st Yr. Trustee Mike Peter, PGK
4th Degree Faithful
Navigator..... Len Komar
Columbian Club
President John Bashaw
Swim Club President..... Joe Marateo, PGK
Columbiette President..... Fran Corcione

Monthly Meetings

1st. Mon. ----- Council Officers
2nd & 4th Mon. ----- Council Mtgs.
3rd Mon. ----- Swim Club
4th Wed.----- 4th Degree Assembly
4th Thu. ----- Columbian Club

MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND KNIGHT

Brothers All,

The month of April is now among us. Even though we started out our Spring feeling more like winter, we will look forward to seeing the blooming of trees and flowers in our community. For this reason, spring can be synonymous with life. We must remember the most important life during this month; the death and resurrection of Christ. Holy Week has always been in important weekend for me growing up. I remember going to Church on Good Friday and Easter Sunday every year, looking sharp all dressed up. As I have gotten older and my schedule has been far more restrictive, I personally find it difficult to make it to Mass nowadays. However, I always make sure that I attend Holy Week. I look forward to all the celebrations of Holy Week this year, and I hope you will as well.

The Council is always on the move, both with activities as well as internally. We are implementing the internal changes required by Supreme and State, and this transition has been surprisingly smooth. April 6th – 8th will be our street collections for the IDD drive, the Swim Club Tricky Tray on April 14th and a church membership drive will occur at St. Michael's Church on April 15th. The IDD drive holds special considerations for myself. When I first joined this Council in 2011, I didn't know what IDD even stood for. After one meeting, Mike Peter came to me and simply said "Where and when am I putting your name down for this?" I recall giving him a blank stare and requested context. Once I understood whom we were raising this money for, my busy schedule did not matter. I eagerly volunteered every year since 2011. I've been there when it's cold and when it's been unbearably hot, and I enjoyed every second of it as I knew I was making a difference.

Regarding membership goals, as it stands, we are just 5 members short of the McGivney Award this Columbian Year. I am hoping that our Brother Knights will be able to refer their friends and family to our organization and continue to grow our Order.

Work parties for the Swim Club and Columbian Club have started, and as always, we need all the help we can muster. These work parties are to ensure that we have a place to relax with our friends and family in the summertime. I encourage all to come out on Saturday mornings for these work parties.

Keep up the excellent work, Brothers.

Vivat Jesus!
Michael P. Willemse
Grand Knight 2017-2018



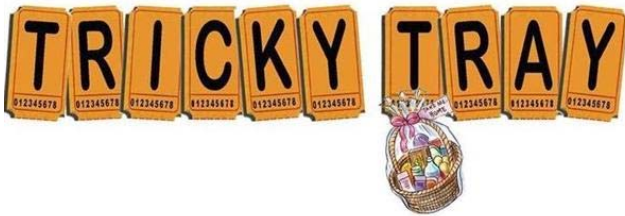
Membership Drive

There will be a membership drive at St. Michael's Church on April 15th.

On April 15th, the Union Council Knights of Columbus will be having their membership drive. We would like to take a moment to encourage the men of our St. Michael's parish to consider joining **Council 4504**. Membership in this Catholic fraternal organization will give them the opportunity to strengthen their parishes and give back to our community; exclusive access to a top-rated insurance program to protect your family; and the ability to grow in your faith. These are just some of the reasons to join our council here in **Union**.

Following each Mass at St. Michael's we would like to greet the male parishioners and take the time to speak with them, so they could learn more about this wonderful organization and become a member.

We are in need of some brother knights to assist in the drive.



On **April 14th** the Columbiettes and Columbia Swim Club will be holding a Tricky Tray at the Council Hall. We are presently accepting gifts from the members to be used at the Tricky Tray.

Gift Ideas include items such as:

Lottery Scratch Off Tickets,
Store Gift Cards,
Restaurant Gift Certificates
Bottles of Wine and accessories
Large and Small prizes of any kind

Your help is needed to make this year's Tricky Tray another great success.

To purchase tickets please contact:
Chris Burlew at chrissi714@aol.com

Knight of the Month



April 2018



Albert "Buddy" Cotter, PGK



The Knight of the month of April, 2018 is a very familiar face around Union Council. Buddy Cotter has done just about everything that can be done in Union

Council at one time or another. He was Grand Knight in the 2006-2007 Columbian Year, having served as Warden, Chancellor and Deputy Grand in earlier years and Trustee for 3 years after.

Buddy is currently Union Council's "Ticketmaster". He prints the tickets for every event held around the Council and is often at the sign in table for the events, along with his long time companion, Gina. Buddy is also currently a director of the Columbian Club. His smiling face is often seen around the bar. Buddy is the kind of Knight we should all attempt to be. He gives willingly of his time and talent for the benefit of Union Council.

Buddy grew up on Staten Island and attended Baruch College. Buddy worked in many retail positions before moving into his current position as an IT Technician for IQVIA in Parsippany. Buddy has two sons, Kristofer and Matthew. Buddy and Gina reside in Roselle Park along with Buddy's best friend Jaxon.

For all that Sir Knight Buddy Cotter has done for years for Union Councils we are proud to name him the Knight of the month of April, 2018.

Congratulations!

2018 Summer Pool Registration

The 2018 Columbia Club Pool Registration is now open. Applications can be downloaded from the Council's website at:

www.kofc4504.org/swim-club

We now offer multi tier level memberships with added benefits.

Any questions please contact:
Chris Burlew at chris714@aol.com or
Joe Marateo at marateoj@gmail.com

Brothers in Business

Are you a brother who has his own business? From a suggestion by Mike Ibbotson during one of our regular meetings, Council 4504 has decided to spotlight, on a monthly basis, in the Digest and on the Council's website, a brother who has his own business. That business may be in or out of Union.

We therefore are asking all brothers who own your own businesses, to submit your names, business name and services offered to GK Michael Willemse or PGK Giftus John. We will then randomly pick a business to highlight. All businesses submitted will be highlighted, and submissions will be on an ongoing basis. No deadlines!

We are hoping that this initiative will work at building stronger ties between our business brothers and our general membership who have need for their services, hopefully at a special rate.

Thanks Mike, for bringing the suggestion to the Council.

Knight's Family Dinners

This month's Knights Family dinner is scheduled for **March 15th**. The dinners will be held on the 3rd Thursday of every month except when noted otherwise.

Anyone planning on attending must call Pat Wittek in advance at 908-964-3989.

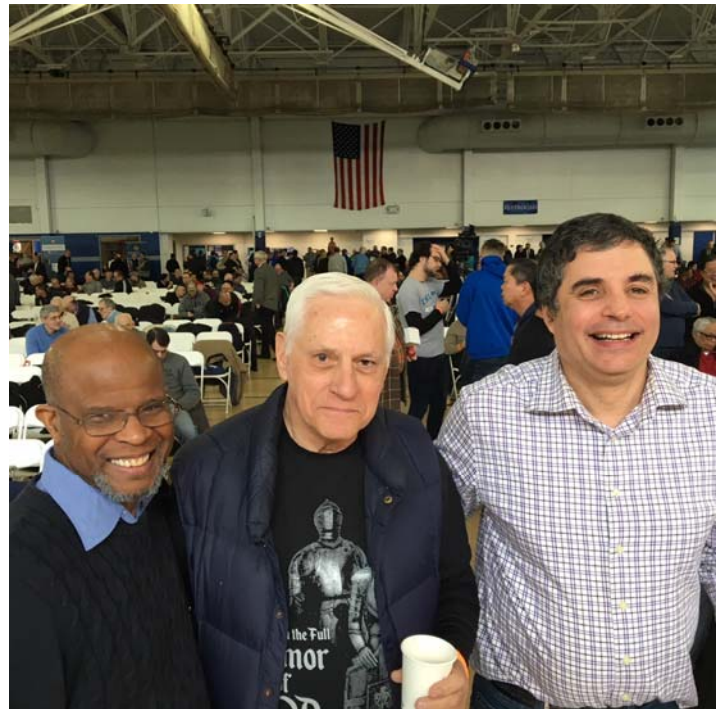
Wildwood 2018 – Are you going?

The annual Wildwood convention will be from **May 17th 2018 through May 20th 2018**. If you are planning on attending, we need your deposit of \$200 ASAP in order to reserve your room.

Please contact Ed McCormick at (973) 650-7643.

Catholic Men's Conference

PGK Giftus John, Ray Gora and Chuck Cababe and Anthony Ibida. Also present at the event was Deacon Mike Cavallo. Among speakers at the event was Joe Lombardi, grandson of the late Vince Lombardi, quarterback coach of the New Orleans Saints.



Easter: Teachable Moments in Dealing with Adversity.

By Msgr. Anselm Nwaorgu, Ph.D

The joy of Easter Sunday takes its full force from Good Friday—the day Christ was crucified, because without Good Friday, Easter Sunday will not be as powerful an event in history as it is today in our lives as Christians. Death does not have the last word; life does.

Life is full of ups and downs, sorrows and joys, adversity and prosperity. As Carl Jung, a prominent psychologist, once observed; “Even a happy life cannot be without a measure of darkness and the word ‘happy’ would lose its meaning if it were not balanced by word, ‘sadness’.” Just like a bed of roses, there are thorns as well as color and beauty. Truth be told, if we did not sometimes taste adversity in life, prosperity would not be so welcome.

This symbiosis between Good Friday and Easter Sunday, teaches us, not how to avoid struggles in life but how to deal with them. Many a time, we attempt to deal with suffering with an attitude of apathy—a defeated acceptance of tribulations in life under the assumption that it is God’s will. This kind of outlook only guarantees more defeat because it kills initiative and creativity, defeats hope and the grace of prayer. It denies one the hope of becoming and “overcomer” under the grace of God. It was not the spirit of apathy that got Christ through the crucifixion and unto the resurrection. It was faith in God that did.

We sometimes also may see hardships as situations to be bulldozed over with defiance; with human power, money and influential connections. Such a mindset does not see any “teachable moment” in human tribulations. “It is not by power and might” as Scripture says, “but by the Spirit of the Lord. Adversity, many a time is a forerunner to prosperity. The experience of tribulation has been known to strengthen the soul, clear up vision, inspire ambition, and lead to greater success.

There is also the temptation to develop an attitude of self-pity in the face of difficult situations. But here is what Scripture says, “No adversity has come to you that is not common to the human race”. All through His journey to the Cross, self-pity was not an option for Christ. An attitude of self-pity drains out the power to overcome, inhibits effort and imagination, stifles hope, compromises initiative, while letting despair, hopelessness, and helplessness run wild.

What the resurrection of Christ teaches us is that, in the face of suffering and tribulations, we need to assure ourselves that God’s hand will never cause His child a needless tear. Believing this, what we need to do is to “Settle our situation in our hearts”. The word “settle” comes from the Greek word “tithemi,” which means, to “set” or “put” something in its place. To settle something in the heart is to have an unshakable confidence in God; to deposit it with God and not let even the total collapse of the entire cosmos interfere with it. As Scripture says: “God is faithful and with every temptation, will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it” (1 Corinthians 10:13). We need to believe, in the face of tribulation, that God is preparing a window of escape, His faithfulness will have the last word as it had if for Jesus Christ. He is the “Ancient of Days”—He has done it before, is doing it now, and will do it again.

Why Catholicism is the Best Religion. -Fr. Dwight Longenecker

I know. This is not really politically correct. You're supposed to pretend that all religions are equal. The comparative religions professor (who often has comparatively no religion) teaches that all religions are human inventions based on interesting and unique historical circumstances and cultures.

The theory is that religions developed from animism when cavemen grunted at the sun, moon and stars and made up stories about the people who lived there. Then they made up stories about gods, which became myths, and they started making sacrifices to the sky people and then they made more stories and eventually they added rules and so all the different religions just developed.

Like most heresies it is a half-truth, and like most half-truths, it is more believable than the full truth. The full truth is always incredible at first glance and yet completely credible on deeper examination. Are all religions equal? If you have one of those posters with a sunset and a slogan that says, "We are all climbing the same mountain but by different paths" then you might draw the sentimental conclusion that all religions are equal. But they're not. Think it through for a moment. Is Judaism, with its monotheism, rituals, rules and regulations equal to the Aztec religion, with genocidal human sacrifice? I don't think so.

Is Hinduism, with its ornate mythos, ancient rituals and fascinatingly populated pantheon of gods equal to Jehovah's Witness? Is Islamic Wahhabism, which condones violence, equal to sherry-sipping American Episcopalianism? Religions are not the same and they're not equal. Some religions are morally, theologically and philosophically superior to others, just like some composers and artists are superior to others. McCartney wrote some nice tunes, but he's not Mozart. Norman Rockwell painted some good pictures, but he's not Rembrandt.

Likewise, some religions are superior to others, and Christianity is the best. And of the Christians, Catholicism is the best. In asserting this I'm not saying all other religions are rubbish. The Catholic Church teaches that all other religions have elements of goodness, truth and beauty, and we affirm the goodness in those religions. But we also affirm that Christianity is best and we do so for one simple reason.

Before I explain why I should say what I'm NOT arguing. I'm not arguing that Christians are the best people. We've got some pretty great accomplishments in our history, but we've got our share of stinkers too. Christians are hypocrites and sinners just like everybody else. I'm not arguing here for how brilliantly the religion has been lived out, but how brilliant the religion is. Chesterton (as usual) was right, "Christianity has not been tried and found wanting. It has not been tried."

I am writing this during Lent, and to put it very simply, Christianity is a superior religion because of Holy Week and Good Friday. It is superior because of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

What I'm getting at is that Christianity is the only religion that does not ignore or skirt the issue of suffering. Indeed, terrible suffering is at the very heart of our religion. Our central icon is a crucifix. Our central act of worship is a commemoration and re-presentation of the execution of an innocent victim. Other religions skirt the issue. Buddhism and Hinduism teach that suffering is part of the karmic cycle and the way to avoid suffering is to rise above it through detachment from the material world.

Epicureanism avoids the issue by teaching one to "eat drink and be merry for tomorrow you die." While Stoicism teaches that one must accept suffering, if possible, with dignity, do one's duty and pass on. Islam teaches that suffering is God's arbitrary choice, and don't ask questions. Primitive religions have no problem with suffering because they do not have a God who is good. Suffering for them is simply part of the cosmos, and fatalism is their creed.

Judaism comes closest to Christianity in that the Jews accept suffering as an inexplicable part of being the chosen people of God. But consider what we do with suffering. We struggle over the question, "How can a good God allow suffering?" We rage over the question. We debate it and people become atheists because of this terrible conundrum.

And Christians (and most especially Catholic Christians) say, "Yes, it is a problem, but the whole reason for our religion is God's answer to the problem. This is not something we sweep under the carpet. This is not something we ignore. Suffering is the whole problem, and the answer is the point of our whole religion. We preach Christ, and Him crucified."

We see suffering as a result of free will and free will as the requirement for true love to exist. If you cannot love freely you cannot love. That free will ultimately produces bad choices and those bad choices produce suffering. We acknowledge that suffering is the problem, and innocent suffering is really the problem.

Furthermore, within the problem is the solution and within the question lies the answer. We see the cycle of pride which blames others, excludes others and eventually kills others — and Jesus Christ comes into the midst of that cycle of pride and takes the blame. He reverses the cycle and by rising from the dead defeats the power of suffering from the inside out.

Christianity is the one religion that plunges into the depth of the suffering, wrestles with the darkness and comes out the other side, bloodied but triumphant. We say this is what our hero Christ the Lord did on Good Friday, and this is why we say he is our Savior — because he wrestled with the devil, went through the dark and came out the other side. From that time on suffering had lost its sting and death lost its stench.

For those who would follow him there was hope. For those who would walk with him there was light on the other side and calm after the terrible storm.



Casino Knight



Break out your Tux
Get your James Bond on
And join us for...

Casino Knight at the Knights!
Craps, Poker, Black Jack, Texas Hold 'Em and more!

Open Play
Tournament Play
(Trophies to the Winners)

50/50s and Raffles



Vodka Martinis, Shaken, Not Stirred

**When: Saturday June 16th 2018
7pm until 11pm**

**Where: 1034 Jeanette Ave.,
Union, NJ 07083**

Cost: \$40 per person
\$55 per couple

Includes: \$100 in play money (additional play money available for purchase)
\$125 in play money if you are in a Tux

\$135 in play money if you are in a Tux & wearing your 4th Degree Social Baldric
Hors D'oeuvres

One Drink Ticket (Cash Bar is available)

Contact Alex Costa PGK at 305-898-1570 for tickets.

Proceeds to benefit
Union Council 4504 & the NJ Special Olympics via
the NJ Knights of Columbus Motorcycle Ministry



Knights of Columbus
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1 Easter Sunday	2 Council Officers	3	4	5	6 IDD Street Collections	7 IDD Street Collections
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22 4th Degree Exemplification	23 Council Meeting 8:15 PM	24	25 4th Degree Assembly	26 Columbian Club	27	28
29	30	Coming in May... Knights of Columbus Convention - Wildwood, NJ May 20th - 22nd				