



Knights Digest



Union Council 4504

VOL. 29 NO. 4

UNION, N.J.

DECEMBER 1987

**MAY THE CHRIST CHILD BLESS YOU & YOUR
LOVED ONES DURING THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON**



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Knights Digest

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

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1987 - 1988 COUNCIL OFFICERS

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Bringing Up the Bishop

Recently I had the unusual experience of participating in the exhumation of a corpse. It was the body of Bishop Wignand Wigger, third Bishop of Newark, who died in 1901. The decision to dig him up was made by Archdiocesan officials, so that he could be buried in the crypt of Sacred Heart Cathedral, where other deceased Bishops have been laid to rest (Bishop O'Connor, Archbishops Walsh and Boland). Bishop Wigger was the one who laid the cornerstone of the Cathedral in 1899, but died long before construction was completed in 1954.

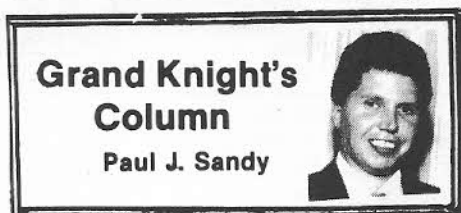
The procedure of the exhumation was reverent. The Bishop's grave, like every grave, is to be reverent. Prayers were offered, and his bones were transferred to another coffin as the priests present blessed the body. In his original coffin, which was not completely intact, the symbols of his office were found: his Bishop's ring and pectoral cross and chain, preserved perfectly. Also, a simple cloth scapular was found in very good condition.

I must say that there was something very touching about the experience. The body had been buried for 86 years. One could argue that his bones should have been left alone. Still, I think it was a proper thing to do. The whole experience prompted me to read about Bishop Wigger's life.

He was born in 1841 in New York City. Rejected by the New York Archdiocese because of poor health, he attended Seton Hall, and then went to Italy, where he was ordained in 1865. He had parish assignments in Newark, Madison, and Summit, and was consecrated a Bishop in 1881. His administration of the Newark Diocese had its ups and downs, but during his episcopacy the number of Catholics, the number of priests, sisters, and Churches, all doubled! Forty-five new Catholic schools were opened, as Wigger was a strong supporter of Catholic education. Now, he is for the first time in his spiritual home, the majestic Cathedral he started to build so long ago.

Since Bishop Wigger's death, a lot has happened in our world. Transportation and communication have changed incredibly. Unfortunately, so have attitudes and values. But the Faith he taught has not changed. The problems facing the Church continue: inadequate knowledge of the Faith, insufficient numbers of clergy, and anti-Catholic bigotry, to name but a few.

At this Christmas season, we pray for the Church! When Christ was born, so were we. He attracted followers then and now. Bishop Wigger was one of those disciples, and so are you. The Bishop was given the role of apostle for the Church at the turn of this century, and it was his faith in Jesus and his Church that gave meaning to his life. May God fill you with peace at Christmas and always. A very merry Christmas to all!



As we approach the holiday season, we should focus our attention not on gifts, trees, lights, etc. but on the Baby Jesus, our Lord and Savior. We sometimes seem to get so caught up in the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, that we forget what it's really all about.

I would like to congratulate Father Robert Emery and Father Mark Wegg on their ordination to the Priesthood. We are very proud of them. The Knighthood Degree which was held on November 25, 1987 was in their honor.

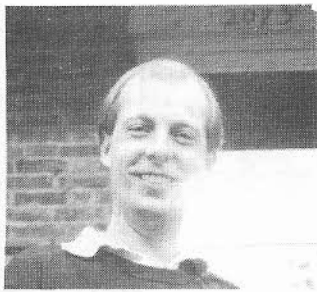
I am instituting a Food Drive Program at the Council (see enclosed article). Food can be dropped off at the club at any time. There will be a drop off point in our card room. Please try to bring in canned food and other non-perishable items. This program will help the needy people in our area.

January 22 is a very important date. Thanks to Stan Firuta and his Right to Life Committee, we raised over \$1,200 to send a bus to Washington, D.C. to participate in the March for Life. If you are interested in participating, please call me.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you and your families.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December	20	Knights of Columbus Children's Christmas Party 1:00 P.M.
	23	Columbian Club Board Meeting 8:00 P.M.
	28	Council Officers Meeting 8:00 P.M.
	31	New Year's Eve Party 8:00 P.M. - SOLD OUT!
January	11	Council Meeting 8:15 P.M.



KNIGHT OF THE MONTH
December, 1987
ANTHONY SHANS, JR.

Tony resides in Union with his wife, Linda, and their two children, Eric and Christin. They are parishioners of St. Michael's. In the past few years Tony has shared with the Council his time and his talents. Last year he served as Outside Guard and was Co-chairman of a successful Retarded Citizens Drive. This year he is serving as Inside Guard. When the publisher of the Council's "Digest" closed shop, Tony was instrumental in securing our new publisher, thus, keeping the "Digest" going. Tony is a Fourth Degree Knight and was active in the Fourth Degree Color Corps.

Tony is employed by City Federal in their Mortgage Insurance Department. He is also proprietor of "Tony's Music Express". Tony D.J.'d the Council Halloween dance for the Airport Chapel. His professionalism was one of the main reasons for the party's success. Tony continues a tradition at Union Council - his dad, Tony Sr., is a former Knight of the Month.

For his efforts, Union Council 4504 is happy to honor Tony Shans, Jr. as Knight of the Month for December, 1987.

CONVENTION 1988
Wildwood New Jersey
May 12, 13, 14, 15

If you have not made your reservations as of yet, please contact Deputy Grand Knight Mike Carr. Rooms are going fast! Only 20 rooms are left! Don't miss out!!! For information and reservations call 354-3186.

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY
January 31, 1988

TIME: To be announced
COST: Tickets are \$10.00 per person if purchased by January 24. If tickets are available after January 24, price will be \$15.00.
TICKETS: Contact DGK Mike Carr 354-3186, Mike Gasser 486-3141 or Joe Tortora 688-1422

Dinner before Game - Hot Dogs at Halftime - Big Screen TV - Beer & Soda

RIGHT TO LIFE MARCH

The Right to Life March will be held on Friday, January 22, 1988 in Washington, D.C. Anyone interested in participating can contact Paul Sandy on 686-1268 or Chairman Stanley Firuta on 688-2374.

Transportation by bus is free. Come along and show your support for this worthwhile cause.

ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Knights of Columbus Annual Children's Christmas Party for Council members will be held Sunday afternoon, December 20, 1987 at 1:00 P.M. Santa will once again visit the children. So that ol' Kriss Kringle doesn't have to burden his reindeer with so many gifts, please bring your children's wrapped Christmas gifts. **Please** be sure that a label or card with the child's name is securely attached to the gift.

Lunch and light entertainment will be provided. Please make every effort to attend. There's space for a lot of children in our Council home.

SWIM CLUB NOTES

The Christmas Holiday Season is upon us. The Board of Directors of The Swim Club wish all the members of Council 4504 and their loved ones a Holy Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

The annual meeting will take place on the third Friday of January. The meeting will start at 8:00 P.M. An election will take place to elect three directors for a three-year term. We strongly invite all Swim Club members to attend the annual meeting. The nominating committee has proposed the slate of Wes Czap, Frank Fabiano and Joe Tortora. Remember nominations from the floor will also be honored.

**SOLD OUT
NEW YEAR'S EVE**

There are a few seats remaining for our New Year's Eve party. Please call Joe Tortora 688-1422.

FOOD DRIVE

WHERE: Council Card Room
TIME: Afternoons and Evenings - Saturday - Sunday
ITEMS: Canned goods, etc.

If you cannot deliver, call Paul Sandy on 686-1268. I will pick them up.

A FEW GOOD MEN NEEDED

There are a few bowlers needed if interested call Mike Carr 354-3186.

Come celebrate with us!
Knights of Columbus
Union Council 4504

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