



Knight Digest



Union Council 4504

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Union, New Jersey

December, 1988

A Christmas Prayer for You

*During this holy season
may your heart be warmed
with the golden memories of
all the happy days you
have ever known.*

*May every gift God has
given you fill with its
fragrance the hearts of
all who are dear to you.
And may the peace-giving
smile of the Infant Jesus
abide with you always,
keeping you lovingly near
to Himself and to Mary,
His Virgin Mother.*

Amen.



I BELIEVE IN THE CHURCH

I am grateful to the leadership of Union Council for giving me this chance to express my warmest wishes for a blessed Christmas to all!! The last year and a half have been very busy and exciting for me. Working with Archbishop McCarrick gives a priest an opportunity to meet some fascinating people. One of the great privileges of my priesthood was accompanying the Bishops of New Jersey and Pennsylvania on their official "ad limina" visit to Rome in October.

To visit and meet with several Cardinals, and to have the chance to be with the Holy Father himself makes one very proud of our Catholic, apostolic faith. I was with Pope John Paul four times in ten days, which is not a bad record. As you might expect, in his presence, one senses a man in union with God, a man of profound and genuine holiness. I, for one, believe he is a saint. God has called him to a most difficult life - to lead the Church in the modern world.

The enemies of the Church, and those who vent their anger against the Church, often accuse her of being out of touch with the times. They say the leadership is not aware of the needs and desires of the people. You have heard this before, so I need not go on. My experience, however, was that the Pope and the Cardinals and others in Rome are very well aware of what is going on in the world, politically,

religiously, socially. They also know the Gospel and they know the Lord Jesus. They are remarkably friendly and outgoing. An example of their awareness can be seen in their observations on the American presidential campaign, which was then in full swing. I think the Holy Father knew more of the issues and stands of the candidates than most Americans knew. In any case, I was honored to have been there.

The Church teaches the truth. Because Jesus was born in our world, the true faith will always be proclaimed by his Church. When it comes to doctrine and morals, God guarantees that every Pope and the Bishops in union with him will be light in a darkened world.

Catholic writer G. K. Chesterton said, "what the world needs most today is not a Church that is right when the world is right, but a Church that is right - and certain that it is right - when the world is wrong."

I thank God that Jesus came to save the world, and to establish his Church of which we are members. I thank God for Pope John Paul II, the Vicar of Christ. I thank God that the Church is right.

May you all be blessed with a merry Christmas, and may we be active and responsible Catholics all the days we live.

Father Robert J. Fuhrman

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Editor
John Peters 964-6869

Advertising
Tony Shons 964-0115

1988-1989 Council Officers

Chaplain	Rev. Edward Gedrich 688-1232
Grand Knight	Michael Carr 354-3186
Deputy Grand Knight	Michael Gasser 486-3141



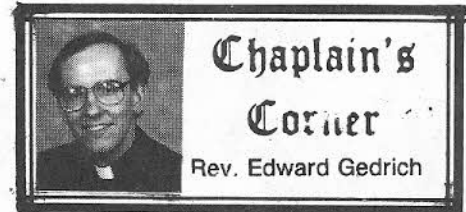
This past month Union Council conducted the three Degrees of Order. They were very successful with Union Council's Degree team the State's Third Degree team doing the usual fine job. Forty-five Brothers from Union were initiated into the Third Degree. I invite these new members to become a part of the life of the Council. One easy way to start is to come out and January 8 between 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. and donate a pint of blood at our blood bank. This is one of the important things that we do during the year. All Brother Knights and their immediate families are entitled to blood if needed. In the past few years we have only been collecting twenty to twenty-five pints a year. We have been using well over that each year. For a Council with a membership of over 1,600, I think we can and should do a lot better than twenty-five pints. I'll be donating again this year, even though I almost faint every year... that gets me some extra attention from the nurses which is nice. So everyone please support the blood drive.

Special thanks to Chancellor Bob Pfarr for handling our after meeting fund raiser. Through his efforts we were able to make a five-hundred dollar donation to the food kitchen in Elizabeth for the Christmas season.

To all my Brother Knights and their families may your Christmas be full of the spirit of giving and may your New Year be a happy one.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December	18 Children's Christmas Party (see article)
	19 Swim Club Meeting 8:00 P.M.
	22 Columbian Club Board Meeting 8:00 P.M.
	31 New Year's Eve Party
January	2 Officers Meeting 8:00 P.M.
	6 First Friday
	8 Blood Bank Drive (see Grand Knight's article)
	9 Council Meeting 8:15 P.M.
	16 Annual Swim Club Meeting
	22 Super Bowl Party (see article)



By now most of us are feeling the pressure - the cards that haven't been sent, the gifts that haven't been bought, the time we don't have enough of - and yet we sing that "Tis the season to be jolly..." Was Scrooge right after all? Should we say "Bah! Humbug!" to the demands of the season?

Though it's sometimes tempting to want to shut out all of the craziness of Christmas, I think that would be a mistake. For while the hectic busyness can take its toll, and while we fear that it can often blind us to "the true meaning" of Christmas, the ordeals we put ourselves through this time of the year remind me of the song from the musical "A Chorus Line": "What I Did For Love".

The traffic jams, the parking headaches, the long lines, other people's brats at Toys-R-Us, the baking, licking 125 stamps for Christmas cards (after licking 125 envelopes!), searching for "the perfect gift" - done for love!

All that wrapping, all those parties, the pine needles in the rug next summer, the unpaid bill next year - done for love! Done so that our kids can have a Christmas morning to remember. Done so that our friends might realize once again just how much we treasure their friendship. Done so that the parent or spouse we can so often take for granted might know just how much we really love them. Done for love!

Maybe we don't have to work too hard at keeping Christ in Christmas. Maybe we just have to open our eyes to see Him where He is - in the traffic jams and the aggravations and the frustrations we bear with for the sake of those we love. For where love is borne, there is Jesus, once again born into our world.

May God bless us all with eyes that might see Him in all things - at Christmas and always!

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

January 22, 1989, Hot and Cold Buffet Snacks Half-time Refreshments Cake and Coffee Guest Speaker _____! Tickets \$10 per person All profits will be used to help defray our insurance premium. Contact: Bob Pfarr 964-1512 or Joe Tortora 688-1422.

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE

February 11, 1989, 8:00 P.M. until 12:00 Midnight Dinner, Beer & Soda 21-Piece Band. Make Your Reservations Early. Contact: Barney Capp, Tom Hornig or Andy Popp 964-3143.

MILITARY SERVICEMEN COMMITTEE

The Military Servicemen Committee sent Christmas packages to the following Brother Knights, or their sons or daughters, who are presently serving in the Armed Forces of the United States at various domestic and overseas locations:

Lt. Commander Thomas J. Arminio, USN
CTO 2 Christopher Carr
Major Daniel French
Captain Thomas Gwiazdowski
Sgt. John Hamilton, Jr.
M/Sgt. Juliana Hamilton
Commander William G. Kolster
Captain Kenneth Konicki
L/CPL Frank Santoro
Lt. Jan Whitman
Commander Walter M. Wasowski

Mike La Motta, Chariman

