



# Knights Digest



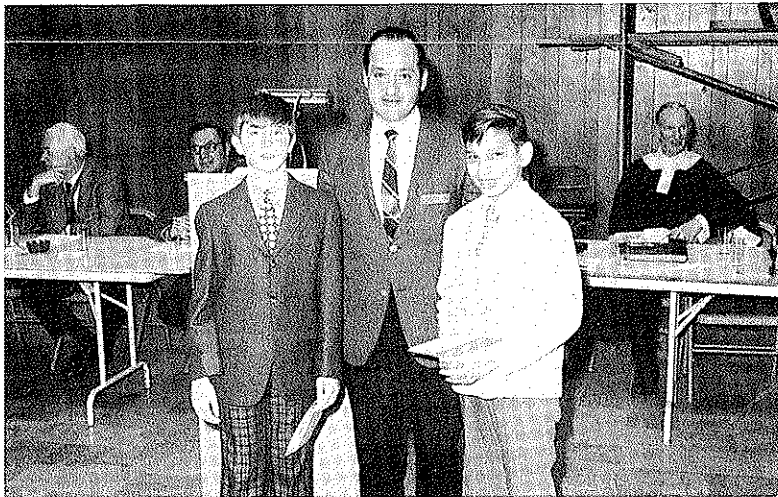
Union Council 4504

Vol. 13, No. 7

UNION, N.J.

April, 1971

## ESSAY CONTEST FROM A TO Z



Grand Knight Robert Armstrong presenting \$25. U. S. Savings Bond to Raymond Zoeller and Michael Ahrens for winning the Council's essay contest.

### Essay Contest From A to Z

The A of it - Michael Ahrens of 896 Sheridan Street, and the Z of it - Raymond M. Zoeller of 2485 Wilson Terrace, both 7th Grade students at St. Michael's Parochial School in Union, and, both winners of Council No. 4504's "Keep Christ in Christmas" essay contest. A \$25 U. S. Savings Bond was awarded each young man by Grand Knight Robert E. Armstrong at the regular council meeting held on February 22, 1971 while proud parents and 100 Brothers rose to applaud their fine efforts. Competition had been keen as 19 well deserving essays were submitted, however, the following showed most merit in keeping with contest requirements and are presented for your appreciation:

(Continued on center page)

### Hollywood Report

Hollywood is in the middle of a financial crisis. Unemployment is very high in the movie industry and related fields. All the studios are deeply in debt, with little improvement in sight. Twentieth Century Fox is over 200 million dollars in debt. The studios are producing some films for T.V., but few for the theaters. Independent producers do not need or want studio lots or equipment. They have traveling units and film mostly on location. The pictures they make are mostly anti-establishment themes and cater to the young market. Films in recent years have featured nudity and other forms of sex display. A handful of these are hits, most are failures. The middle class, middle age and very young people are staying away from movies. Few family pictures are available, so these people stay home and

watch television. The middle age public will not leave his free T.V. (or more) movie, if he thinks it will offend his idea on sex and morals. Hollywood is starting to realize clean movies are money makers. "Love Story", a picture of young love (aside from frank language) should be enjoyed by most upper teenagers and adults. It made over 2 million dollars in the first three days of release throughout the country.

In one week it got back its entire investment, and saved the studio that produced it (Paramount) from near disaster. "Ryans Daughter" is an excellent picture (two minor objectional scenes) for most families. The money it's making is also helping to save a studio. "Scrooge" made \$365,000 in one week at Radio City Music Hall, appearing with the Christmas Show. Aside from the

Music Hall engagement, it's doing well country wide. Large lines at the box office in very cold weather, have attended these pictures, and prove the public wants this type of movie. Proof that Hollywood is starting to recognize this new trend, is that "My Fair Lady" a 1964 musical has been re-issued in New York and drew good crowds. Lots of young people too. On Wednesday evening the 8:45 show had a line in the lobby waiting for admittance. Very unusual for a week day evening. Hollywood has had its fling with uninhibited sex and old taboos of the screen. The public has accepted a great deal of it, but now like any overdone theme, its dying. Most of us welcome this trend and if it means money to Hollywood, as well as independent producers, they'll give us better movies, or go out of business.

Jim Moran

# Knight 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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### COUNCIL OFFICERS

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## Generation Problem?

Is the younger generation better educated? To my surprise the answer is no. "But they are more sophisticated. Through television they have been exposed to world problems as their elders were not. They have had more and probably better schooling. On the other hand, they have been kept longer and in larger numbers away from the world of actual experience. As a result, in many ways they are more naive. They grossly underestimate the complexities of the problems about which they show concern. If we could effectively tie them into adult responsibilities, they might become better than their elders. Study that quoted answer. It says a great deal in a few words. Did it ever occur to you to ask your teenager advice? Foolish question? Not really. "In many ways he is more knowledgeable than you, especially about what is going on in the youth culture to which he belongs. It is a wise parent who has learned to listen to his children, and to hear what they are trying to say. When differences between the generations occur a father may say to his son "I don't see it your way, perhaps you'd better tell me what this means to you. You more than I have first hand experience with this situation, so let's advise one another on what it involves." This not only calms the troubled water, but shows the boy how a mature man meets a difference in point of view."

(The source of this information is in the Explore Your Mind Column of the Newark Star Ledger.)

## Swim Club News

It will soon be that time again! The 1971 Swim Club Season is "just around the corner". Work parties are in full swing. There is much to do. Repairs, replacements, fix up, spruce up the Pool Patio, picnic area -- have them all in order for the new season which starts on May 29th.

A new snack bar is also under construction as a joint Colimbian Club - Swim Club venture. An extra pair of hands is always welcome. Drop around and join in the fun! Work parties go from 9:00 A.M. till noon on Saturday mornings and starting April 28th also from 6 P.M. to 9 P.M. on Wednesday evenings. Rewards are in terms of: good fellowship, a sense of accomplishment, cooperative management of our swim club, plus a guest ticket to the pool for each work party and an appreciation night for all who participate in eight or more work parties. Membership Chairman Bill Taylor urges us all to do two things:

1. Make sure we have paid our 1971 pool membership dues. (April 1st deadline)
2. Update for him the names and ages of all members of our immediate families who will be eligible to use the pool this summer. A new season long badge system will be in effect replacing membership cards. Bill needs this information so that everyone is properly accommodated in this regard.

Rocco Corbo and Mike Bizon have been appointed Swim Club Summer Program Chairmen. They will be assisted by Council and Columbian Club Chairmen in planning a fine series of events for our enjoyment this summer.

Frank De Beau is our new Publicity Chairman - you will hear from him! Your Board of Governors has been meeting regularly and attending to the continuing affairs of the club. I can assure you that all is in good order.

Pool opens May 29th. There will be a poolside Mass at 11:30 A.M. on that date arranged by our Council Chaplain Father John Palasits. The pool will be open weekends only, until the Parochial School's finish their Spring 1971 term - then it will be open full time - up, up and away!

Bill Renner

## CALENDAR

- April 3 ..... Egg Hunt
- April 12 ..... Regular Meeting
- April 17 ..... Grand Ball  
Council Hall
- April 26 ..... Regular Meeting
- May 10 ..... Regular Meeting  
(later) ..... Nun's Night
- May 14-15-16 ..... Convention  
Atlantic City
- May 24 ..... Regular Meeting
- May 29 ..... Pool Opens
- June 14 ..... Regular Meeting
- June 28 ..... Regular Meeting  
(Awards Dinner)

JFK General Assembly meets at the Council Hall every 3rd Wed. at 8:30 P. M.

## Seminar On Obscenity Law Enforcement

On Feb. 18th and 19th, Citizens for Decent Literature Inc., held a seminar on Obscenity Law Enforcement. It's purpose was to look at the legal side of this complex area of law. Obscenity is everywhere; books, magazines, films, and even live sex shows. Many Americans are concerned and want something done about it. The Citizens for Decent Literature Inc., is trying to do something. The seminar covered such areas as: Historical Background: Obscenity and Free Speech, Philosophical View of High Court Justices and a report on the U. S. Supreme Court and its recent decision in Obscenity Cases, Obscenity Views as a Public Nuisance, Criminal Prosecution.

Morally, I believe we know what pornography is; legally it creates a problem under the right of free speech. I hope to get more information on how to combat the spread of this filth.

R. Trupiano  
Public Decency Chairman

## From The Telephone Committee

In keeping the records of the telephone committee up to date; it has come to my attention that an increasing number of the members have gotten new telephone numbers or changed their numbers to unlisted ones. If these members wish to continue being called by the telephone committee I suggest they forward their new numbers to me either by phone or mail.

Thank you:

Edward Kleissler  
1113 Cranbrook Road  
Union, N.J. 07083  
688-6045

## Widow's Night

Wednesday evening, March 3, 1971, we held our WIDOW'S NIGHT. All those who attended enjoyed a superb steak dinner prepared by Chef Bill Zurich. With the assistance of our Grand Knight Robert Armstrong and officers we escorted the guests to the Paper Mill Playhouse. The show was "The Vinegar Tree" with Shirley Booth and was enjoyed by all.

## Keep Christ in Christmas

"Welcome to the CBS news and commentary..."

"We now turn you over to Steven Bartlett, our special features reporter, in midtown Manhattan. It's all yours, Steve."

"Thanks Ray. Right now I'm on the corner of Madison Avenue and 59th Street. The number of people doing last-minute Christmas shopping is phenomenal. You can't even get into the stores; forget about checking out! I've been talking to a few shoppers and asking for their comments about Christmas. . . Here's a nice-looking gentleman . . . Excuse me, Sir, but what is your opinion about these times?"

"I'm telling you, this world looks like it's falling apart. First Nixon and Viet Nam, then our town elected Al Kleidrunner for mayor! Of all people, Kleid!"

"No, no Sir. I mean about Christmas."

"Oh! That's not my department. Ask my wife. She's always ready to talk."

"Thank you, Sir. Ma'm?"

"I think this is such a great time, because people come to understand and love their neighbor. It is a time when everyone tries to bring others joy, and joy is the greatest sign of love."

"Well, I agree wholeheartedly. Thank you very much."

"Thank you and Merry Christmas."

"Ray, that was quite a couple. Let me try this young man . . . Hello there! How are you?"

"Fine thanks."

"How do you feel about this season?"

"Man, I think it's bad! Everybody expects me to send 'em a card. Well, this year I ain't sending anybody anything, and that way I save money too. I got to get going; see ya around."

"Goodbye. It's been nice talking with you . . . Excuse me. Do you have a few extra moments to express your feelings about Christmas?"

"Sure, why not. I'm not a Christian, but I love Christmas anyway. I make at least 15% more profit per item in my store than I do during any other season. People just keep on buying and buying. It's great!"

"Thank you very much, Sir."

"Any time. Merry Christmas. - Say, Mister, care to buy a present for the wife?"

"Thanks, not now . . . Let me ask one more person. This time I'll get the younger generation's view . . . Hi there, little girl. What's your name?"

"Susan."

"Do you like Christmas, Susan?"

"Yes."

"Why?"

"I get presents and have a lot of fun."

"Are you going to **give** some presents too?"

"I don't have much money, but I've been saving all of my allowance so I can get something special for my Mom and Dad."

"That's very nice of you. Merry Christmas."

"Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you too!"

"Ray, before I turn things back over to you, I would like to make an observation of my own about what I've noticed. People have developed quite a monetary attitude about Christmas. 'X' is the mathematical symbol for an unknown quantity. So many merchants display the sign 'X-mas Specials' as if they didn't know what Christmas was all about. '**Christmas**' is the celebration of Christ's birthday and Christ is **not** an unknown quantity - He should be a very real part of our lives. Maybe my attitude is way off base, but in the meantime this has been Steven Bartlett reporting for CBS News and Commentary from midtown Manhattan. Merry Christmas!"

"Thank you Steve, and Merry Christmas to you too . . . Steve has made some very interesting comments, and I would like to close tonight's broadcast by reading a composition my 12 year old son wrote for school. It is entitled 'Keep Christ in Christmas' . . .

One of the most joyous and blessed days of the year is Christmas, December 25, the day on which Our Saviour was born in the Holy Land. Bethlehem marks the birthplace of the Child who brought new faith and new hope into the world. Simple shepherds and Wise Men alike knelt before the Holy Infant in adoration.

Today, men, women and children crowd into churches to show their gratitude. 'Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will' is truly the motto of all festivities on this happy occasion. The splendor and beauty associated with our present day celebrations is very different from the humble stable in Bethlehem where Christ was born, but the message remains the same.

The giving of presents is also part of Christmas. The custom seems to go back to the ancient Romans who distributed gifts during their midwinter

festival. The Wise Men, or Magi, mentioned in the Bible story of Christ's birth, brought gifts to the Christ Child on the twelfth day after his birth.

The Christmas tree came into general use in comparatively recent times. It is not known exactly how the tradition started or who originated the idea of a 'Christmas tree', but by the beginning of the nineteenth century, nearly all of Germany had adopted the tree as a yuletide symbol. The tradition soon spread to most of the countries in Northern Europe and to the Americas, but Christmas trees are still unusual in Italy, Spain and Latin America.

Traditions and symbols are important aspects of any feast or holiday, but the most essential element of the Christmas 'holy day' is that every community brings some sort of special joy to its less fortunate members. Schools, church organizations and charitable civic groups collect food and clothing to be given to the poor. Many groups bring entertainment and presents to children whose parents cannot afford to do so themselves.

Presents, trees, greeting cards and carols are all reminders that this is the season for love and reunion with friends and relatives. In a broader sense, it is a time to reemphasize that Christmas is 'Christ's Mass' - a Mass in which the whole world takes part to hear and practice the Christian doctrine of love. It is therefore not a time of 'I want', but rather a time of 'I would like to give', - to give not necessarily materially, but spiritually. No gift, no matter how great, has any true meaning unless it is given with sincere love.

It has been said that "the greatest thing a man can do is lay down his life for his friends." Whereas we are oftentimes too selfish to even think about our neighbor, Christ had so much love as to willingly die on the Cross for man. Although things may all seem to go wrong, Christ's guiding hand is never far away. The earth is always turning, but the Cross stands erect forever. Consideration, hope and faith will help us become a united people. NOW is the time to put the 'Christ' back into 'X-mas'!

This has been Raymond Zoeller for CBS News and Commentary. Good night and Merry Christmas."

Raymond Zoeller

## Keep Christ in Christmas

We should not have to say "Keep Christ in Christmas" because without Christ there would be no Christmas. This day is Christ's birthday and this should be the reason for celebration. It was His own choice to be born to this world to save us. Then, shouldn't we at least remember Him on His day of birth in the way that He would have wished.

Christmas has become much too commercial. Instead of God being the main character on this holyday, Santa Claus would seem to be the center of attraction. Replacing scenes of the stable where our Lord was born, we come across bright ornaments stressing Santa and his reindeer. If the money spent on gifts and wrapping paper was used for better causes, such as feeding the poor, this would be a much nicer world to live in.

The true Christmas spirit could be kept alive much more in charitable acts such as visiting the poor and lonely than in decorating houses or Christmas shopping.

Some of the customs which developed around Christmas time started beautifully, but then lost their true meaning. One such custom is the exchange of Christmas cards. This could be a beautiful custom as it reflects shared beliefs in the mystery and miracle of Christ's offering of Himself to the world. However, Christmas cards mostly do not show the religious side of Christmas, rather the commercial. Also, the fact

Christmas cards are sent does not necessarily mean the sender believes in the true meaning of the day, as in many cases, the sending of these cards has become sort of a "keeping up with the Joneses" situation. In fact some of these cards do not even mention the word Christmas!

What about the customary "Merry Christmas" people cry out as they meet each other for the first time on Christmas morning? Here again the custom is universal, followed by those who do not believe in Christ as well as by Christians. It is not suggested that non-Christians should stop saying "Merry Christmas" when they meet each other and their Christian neighbors on Christ's birthday, but in these days when being meaningful counts for much, it would be nice if they learned the real meaning of the words: "May the peace, the love, simplicity and unworldliness of Christ be yours on this day of His appearance among us." This could be the sentiment at Christmas even of non-Christians.

We depend on God for our existence, and the tribute we give Him on His human birthday is not nearly enough. Our faith must be very weak if we can't respect Him on His own birthday. When we are brought before Him for final judgment, I'm sure He will consider our behavior on this day.

Michael Ahrens



## Chaplain's Corner

Rev. John A. Palasits

*From the joint communique of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines on civic responsibility, July 1970.*

We must not wait for the State to do everything for us. It is true that the primary obligation to maintain public order, promote public welfare and correct social injustices rests on the State. But the State alone, without the cooperation of the citizenry, cannot attain these ends. In the final analysis, in a democracy the responsibility for good government rests on every citizen, and the failure of government is the failure of every citizen. The duty of establishing a just regime does not rest on the shoulders of the politician alone. It rests on the shoulders of all citizens. And for the Christian citizen this duty is more binding because for him it is a duty not only to a fellow citizen but also to Christ Himself.

And so it is the duty of the Christian citizen to stand up and be counted in all matters affecting the public welfare. It is the duty of the Christian citizen to conscientiously participate in the political life of the country. It is his duty to break the silence of the "silent majority" when injustice is committed, when those in public office fail in their obligations.

Father Palasits

## Panic

One of the most important bills affecting our organization and other fraternal societies throughout the state is now being considered by the State Legislature. I refer to A-1340, which would retain tax exempt status for fraternal organizations.

Failure of the Legislature to act on A-1340 could mean the end of many distinguished organizations and the charitable programs which they support. Therefore, it is imperative that we act **immediately** to persuade our legislators to pass A-1340.

Write to and personally contact the senators and assemblymen in your area to obtain their support for A-1340.

It is expected that action may be taken on this bill when the legislature returns in about two weeks. Therefore, it is most important that you immediately write your letter.

## Summer Jobs

Anyone having any knowledge of any summer job opening for children of Brother Knights please relay this information to Charlie Howes 688-0108.

## Random Thoughts

The world is composed of takers and givers. The takers may eat better, but the givers sleep better. Teaching your children the facts of life is one way of learning some you didn't know about. The best reducing plan is to keep your mouth and the refrigerator shut. Some days the "law and order" citizen may wake up and demand equal riots. If we only wished to be happy, this could be easily accomplished; but we wish to be happier than other people, and this is always difficult for me to believe others to be happier than they are. When a man has a rip in his coat and a button missing from his shirt, he should do one of two things, either get married or get divorced. The telephone company is running a sale, two wrong numbers for a dime. If you want to write something that will live forever, sign a mortgage. The man who invented the alarm clock probably did more than anyone else to arouse the working classes. Don't go around saying the world owes you a living; the world owes you nothing, it was here first. Some wives serve only those foods which are low in calories and high in trading stamps. Drive-In theater patrons are not discriminating, no matter how poor the movie, most of them love every minute of it. Americans spend more money on chewing gum than on books; if you want to know the reason why, read some of the books. Some wives are like baseball umpires; they never believe a man is safe when he's out. An archeologist is the best husband any woman can have, because the older she gets, the more he is interested in her. Since April is "National Income Tax Month", I feel I should devote some lines to the subject -- there will be two classes of people who don't like to pay income tax, men and women. After saving enough money to pay his income tax, a man has to borrow some to live on. Preparing an income tax return is like a girl preparing to go to the beach, you take off as much as the law allows. Despite all attempts to simplify it, there is nothing more taxing than filling out an Internal Revenue form. Two and Two always make four, except when figuring out your tax deductions for charity. Income tax could be a lot worse, suppose we had to pay on what we think we are worth.

Jim Moran

## Golf

The annual K. of C. Golf Tournament will be held at the Asbury Park Country Club, Neptune, New Jersey, Sunday May 23, 1971. Those who would like to play, please put your name and address on the bulletin board at the Council Bar.

The deadline for the tournament will be April 25th.

Jim Connelly  
Golf Committee

## Grand Knight's Message

Robert Armstrong

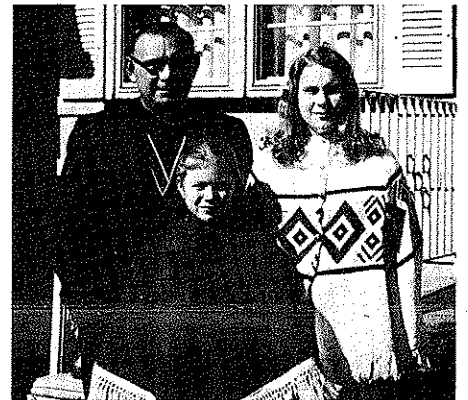


My Brother Knights:

The month of April is upon us and with it the joys of Easter, the time when the trees, flowers and we the people blossom forth in our new apparel. But underneath we are still the same, unless during the past season of Lent we did something about it. Did we strive to change ourselves? If we did, did we succeed? I'm not referring to only our attitude toward our fellow man but of our personality and character, but also that we should be more tolerant of our neighbors and their children, the guy up the block who walks his dog in front of your house. If we use the principles of our Order and approach these people with a different view and make them aware of it, they may see that a change in their attitude may be necessary. As it has been said in the past, so many times, "you only get out of life, what you put into it." I feel very strongly about this, its true not only in our membership in the Knights of Columbus, but in our daily lives. So why not try to put a little more in the Knights, make that extra effort, become involved.

## Knight of the Month

APRIL, 1971



Michael J. Ziobro

It is without doubt, our good fortune to have selected as Knight of the Month, as soft spoken most congenial person, Brother Michael J. Ziobro.

Mike, presently heads the Veterans Packaging-Family Activities Committee, a job he also held last year. Since joining 4504, Mike has served on various committees and donated his services to many work parties.

Mike and his wife Betty reside at 134 Washington Avenue, Union and are communicants of Holy Spirit Church. They are the proud parents of two pretty girls, Diane 13 and Donna 9, both students of Holy Spirit School.

Mike is employed with the National Equipment and Design Co. in Rahway. Our most sincerest congratulations to Mike for your being selected Knight of the Month - April 1971.