



Knight Digest



Union Council 4504

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FATHER MARK

Reverend Mark R. Wegg was born and raised in Jersey City. He left the city to attend a minor high school seminary in southern New Jersey, Mother of the Savior, Blackwood. He attended a one-year college seminary at St. Charles, Catonsville, Maryland, but decided to finish his college degree outside the seminary at Seton Hall University. In 1973 he received a BA in Communication Arts and from that time he served the Church in a variety of professional ministries - high school religion teacher, college campus minister and youth minister. Since 1971 he has been affiliated with a lay Eucharistic Association connected with the Charismatic Renewal - **The Community of God's Love**. From that association he has received the spiritual foundation and support. In addition, Father Mark, as he prefers to be called, served in the missions as a lay missionary for over two years. He did work for the Charismatic Renewal in Central America for a year, as well as, taught as a lay catechist in Mato Do Grosso do Sul, Brazil, for another year with the Redemptionist Fathers.

In 1980, he received a Masters in Religion and Religious Education from Fordham University, having received a scholarship and was graduated with honors. Having re-entered the seminary in 1983, Father Mark was awarded in 1986 with the John Paul II award for Theological Excellence from Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University for his Master of Divinity. Nevertheless, Father Mark's first love in the Church is not academic, but rather evangelistic and community building. Not only does his ministerial and academic experience make him adept in these areas, but also his temporary and part-time jobs over the past 15 years - such as, taxi driver, orderly, post-office handler and waiter - all contribute to his formation as one who knows where people are "at".

As a Deacon, Father Mark spent one year at St. Michael's, Union when he joined Council 4504. As his first official priesthood assignment, the Archbishop assigned him to St. Paul's, Greenville, Jersey City, his hometown. He is very glad to be in the place of his "roots". Father Mark hopes to keep his affiliation with the Union Council as he has found the Brothers here to be true and excellent witnesses of Catholic men.

When asked what led him to priesthood, Father Mark says that he made a commitment to serve the Lord with his life as early as 10 years old when he was attending Sacred Heart Grammar School in Jersey City. In his somewhat circuitous route, he often felt pulled to priestly ministry, but needed, he admits, to first grow in the call through lay ministry in the Church. Father Mark says at a later age he heard the Lord's call with a succinct clarity to priesthood. He resumed his seminary education in 1983 entering the graduate seminary. Quite often Father Mark remarks that he feels as if his call to the priesthood is not a belated vocation, but rather one that needed to mature through lay ministry.

All in all, he is grateful to God for the Lord's leading. He asks us to pray for him always that he be "a sign and symbol of God's steadfast Love". His favorite scripture verse as said by St. Paul in Philippians 3:8, "I have come to rate all things loss in light of the surpassing Knowledge of my Lord Jesus Christ!"

May we remember Father Mark Wegg in our prayers! You can contact Father Mark at St. Paul's Church, 14 Greenville Avenue, Jersey City, New Jersey 07305. His telephone number is 201 433-8500.



God Bless Our Newly Ordained Brothers, Fr. Bob, & Fr. Mark!

FATHER BOB

Reverend Robert Emery is the oldest of four children and who grew up in Ocean Township, in Monmouth County. During high school he began doing magic in nursing homes, hospitals, camps for the handicapped and for retarded children. He became very service oriented during those years and became a member of the Adopt a Grandparent program and was a Big Brother to a fatherless eight-year old boy. Though he never thought about priesthood during high school, he received tremendous satisfaction from helping others.

After High School he entered Kean College in Union and received a BA in Elementary Education. He came a member of Holy Spirit in Union and during his freshman year began to feel a calling to the priesthood. When he looked back he could not pin-point the exact moment that it happened, but it was more of a gradual process. He believes that God was very quietly saying to him, "Come, follow me."

A crucial factor for him was making a Search retreat for teenagers. He saw for the first time that he had an unique and special gift to share with others. It was also on this weekend that he first saw Jesus as a friend and God as a loving Father. After the Search weekend he got in touch

with the Vocational Director of the Archdiocese and worked with him for three years as he discerned his vocation.

He entered the Seminary immediately after college and began his three-in-one-half years of theology. During these years he continued to pray about what it was he was being called to do with his life. He was a public school product and this was all very new to him. He often looked for some real sign that he was doing the right thing, but found that the only real sign was the feeling of peace he had in his heart.

He was ordained a Deacon in December, 1986 and had attained a Masters of Divinity in Pastoral Ministry. As a Deacon he was assigned to St. Peter the Apostle Parish in River Edge and remained there until January 3. Eight years of prayer and discernment came to a climax on November 21, 1987 as he was ordained a Priest. As he walked down the aisle in the Cathedral, he knew that he was doing what God wanted of him. He had a tremendous feeling of peace that day.

As a priest, he is the youngest ordained in the Archdiocese of Newark (26 years old). He sometimes cannot believe that he really is a priest and is enjoying these first few weeks of priesthood. He knows that the Lord has called him to bring God to all people and to bring all people to God.

Father Bob can be reached at St. Catherine's Church, 905 South Maple Avenue, Glen Rock, New Jersey 07452. His telephone number is 201 445-3703.

EVERYONE DESERVES A PAT ON THE BACK

Brothers, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you and your families for supporting our programs this year. We had a successful Halloween Party, honoring Father Malanga and the Chapel at Newark International Airport. Our raffle has been very successful in generating money for our charitable contributions. Let's keep up the good work. Our Bingo at the Boy's Club has broken attendance and profit records. Our Rose Sunday Drive again raised a record amount of money to aid the fight against abortion. Our New Year's Eve party was a huge success, and a good time was enjoyed by all.

The remaining five months of my term as Grand Knight could be the most memorable. We have the Valentine's Day Dance honoring Sister Ann Dominic and Camp Fatima on February 13. The National Bowling Tournament will be held for nine weeks beginning on March 19. We need everyone's help and cooperation to make this a success. Please come and lend a hand. Plans are in the works to raise a record amount of money for our Drive for the Mentally Retarded citizens. We need the support of all members and their families.

Our food drive is going very well. There will be a new drop off point in the bar. Please make an effort to contribute to this drive. Let's not forget our two upcoming raffles.

Again, thanks Brothers for all your hard work. You all deserve a pat on the back.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February	17	Ash Wednesday
	22	Council Meeting 8:15 P.M.
	25	Columbian Club Board Meeting 8:00 P.M.
	26	Sporting Night 6:30 P.M.
March	4	First Friday 7:30 P.M.
	5	Bingo 6:30 P.M. - Boys and Girls Club
	7	Officers Meeting 8:00 P.M.
	14	Council Meeting 8:15 P.M.

The Past and the Future

I write this column on January 22. This is one of the most painful days of the year for me and for countless people of good will, because 15 years ago today, America became a society which permits and even encourages the death of its own unborn citizens. As you know, this is the anniversary of the infamous and deadly Roe vs. Wade decision of the U.S. Supreme Court. That day, the Court felt itself superior to Almighty God, and since that day in 1973, 20 million lives have been ended before they had a chance to grow and defend themselves. I can't let this day get away without reiterating my own total and complete condemnation of abortion, as the Church condemns it. I renew my prayers for the souls of its victims, and for the countless women who have been assaulted in this way, thanks to the Court's decision. We must worry about America's future. At least in this one most vital area, we have declined beyond belief.

On a much happier and hopeful note, there will be two Auxiliary Bishops of Newark as of Monday, January 25. Archbishop McCarrick will consecrate Bishop John M. Smith and Bishop James T. McHugh, and they will follow in the unbroken line of succession from the apostles, which Catholic Bishops enjoy. Papal Pro-Nuncio Archbishop Pio Laghi, Cardinal John O'Connor, and over 50 other bishops will be present for this historical day. I can tell you that both new Bishops are fine men, totally committed to the Holy Father, the teachings of the Church, and the defense of the unborn, the sick, handicapped, and aged - those whom our Supreme Court deems expendable.

As Lent begins, with its extra prayer, penance and sacrifices, let's renew our Catholic identity. The Church needs good, proud, and active Catholics now as much as ever. That is what all Knights of Columbus promise to be! May Our Lord Bless you and your loved ones, that we never forget the life and love He won for us through His Passion and Death.

Father Robert J. Fuhrman
Chaplain, 4504

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. Don't miss out! Only a few rooms are left! For information and reservations call 354-3186.

