



Knights Digest



Union Council 4504

VOL. 46 NO. 7

March 2005

Membership Drive, Bingo Highlight March Events

The month of March will be a busy one in Union Council, as we begin the month with another membership drive and prepare our selves for the celebration of Easter at the end of the month.

On Friday, March 4, our chaplain, Father Jim Worth, will be at the Council Hall to say First Friday Mass at 7:00 pm. This tradition was reinstated last month, and we hope that we will have more of our Brothers in attendance, especially during this, the Lenten season.

On March 5th and 6th, we will be at St. Michael's parish for our membership drive. To make this drive successful, we will need a full complement of Brothers to be at all of the masses that weekend, and to talk to parishioners who may be interested in joining the council. We will also be conducting the drive the next weekend March 12th and 13th at Holy Spirit. If you are available to assist at either weekend, please contact Membership Chairman Nick Belmonte.

Saturday March 12 will be the annual St. Patrick's day parade. Marchers from the 3rd and 4th degrees will meet outside the Council doors to line up for the parade. In addition, the Columbian Club will be hosting a celebration throughout the day, beginning after the end of the parade, and ending with music in the Lounge area.

That same evening, we will also be hosting the second of our double Bingos at the Boys and Girls Club next door to the Council. Proceeds from Bingo are vital to our charitable efforts, and as many volunteers as possible are needed to make certain that the evening is a success. Since our first bingo was cancelled due to January's snow storm, we will need to have a solid turnout in order to make up for that loss.

The next weekend, work parties for the Swim Club and Columbian club will begin at 8:00 am. These parties will continue through Memorial Day, and are necessary in order to prepare the grounds and pool for the opening of the summer season. Volunteers receive both breakfast and lunch, as well as receiving the sense of accomplishment that comes from working together with their fellow Knights.

Finally, the annual children's Easter egg hunt will take place on Saturday, March 19 behind the Council Hall. The gates open at 1:30, with goodie bags for all of the children.

State Convention Dates set

The annual State Convention will take place in Wildwood from May 12-14th. Once again, Union Council will be staying at the Adventurer Hotel on the boardwalk, with rooms available for Thursday to Saturday evenings. The cost is \$355 for all three nights, and includes \$75.00 for the cost of the Hospitality room, which will be available for the entire weekend. If you are only able to stay on Friday and Saturday evenings, the cost is \$265. These amounts do not include taxes.

Last year's convention was blessed with good attendance and wonderful weather, and we hope that this year's will be even more successful. To make reservations, you must contact Deputy Grand Knight Harry Lupo, and give him a deposit of one night's stay plus the Hospitality fee. Harry can be reached at (908) 577-6609 (cell) or (908) 851-2493 (home).

ART AUCTION SET FOR APRIL 9

Plans are well underway for the Council's first Art Auction which will be held on Saturday, April 9 in the Council Hall. Tickets for the event are only \$5.00 per person, and will include wine and cheese. There will be a preview of the art at 7:00 pm, with the auction to begin at 8:00. Starting bids will be between \$65.00 and \$120.00.

Tickets will be available at Council meetings, or from Chairperson Buddy Cotter whose phone number is (908) 447-3378.

YANKEE ROAD TRIP TO BALTIMORE

ONLY 4 TICKETS LEFT!!!!

Our annual Yankee trip will be held from Friday April 15th – Sunday April 17th 2005. We will be staying at the Day's Inn located in Baltimore's famous Inner Harbor. We will be going to Camden Yards for a Friday evening game and we will be sitting in the Club Level seats. The rest of the weekend is for enjoying the Inner Harbor including the aquarium, Fort Mc Henry, Fells Point and numerous restaurants and watering holes. The trip will include tickets to the game and buffet breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. The cost of the trip will be \$60 per person. The cost for the hotel is \$189 per night with up to 4 persons per room.

Please call Steve Helmstetter @ 688-5039 A.S.A.P.

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 tenth of the month for the following month. Please mail or drop off submissions, with contact information, to Andy Schopfer, Knight Digest Editor, 1034 Jeanette Avenue, Union, NJ 07083 or via email at Aschopfer@comcast.net. 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

<i>Chaplain/Father</i>	Jim Worth
<i>District Deputy</i>	Michael L. Cavallo, PGK
<i>Grand Knight</i>	Joseph DeMarco 908-964-1870
<i>Deputy Grand Knight</i>	Harry Lupo
<i>Chancellor</i>	Buddy Cotter
<i>Warden</i>	Andy Schopfer
<i>Recorder</i>	Mike Peter
<i>Treasurer</i>	Peter Kardys
<i>Fin. Secretary</i>	Thomas Hornig, PGK
<i>Inside Guard</i>	Mike LoGuidice
<i>Outside Guard</i>	Frank Santangelo
<i>Program Director</i>	Kevin Collins, PGK
<i>Membership Director</i>	Nick Belmonte
<i>Advocate</i>	James Conlon
<i>Lecturer</i>	Steve Ruhl
<i>3rd Yr. Trustee</i>	Mike Carr, PGK
<i>2nd Yr. Trustee</i>	Larry Killmer, PGK
<i>1st Year Trustee</i>	Dom Clementoni, PGK
<i>Columbian Club President</i>	Sam Maffei
<i>Swim Club President</i>	James Feehan

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

Grand Knight's Column

Brother Knights, March is upon us, and we are now in the season of Lent. Soon it will be spring, my favorite season of the year. Spring is the time of year the leaves come back onto the trees, the flowers start to emerge from the earth, and we hear the birds singing in the trees again. Spring always seems to bring a smile to my heart; I think of it as a rebirth, everything seems to come to life again.

Over the past couple of months I have been thinking about the course the Knights of Columbus has been taking. The Knights seem to have the reputation of being a drinking club, which runs a drive in the spring to help children who are afflicted with the disease of mental retardation. I am sure if Father Michael J. McGivney could see what the Knights has evolved into, he would be very disappointed. I am not talking about Union Council alone; I am talking about the Knights of Columbus in general. I think that we have strayed totally off the course that we meant to be on: a Catholic Fraternal service organization in service to our community and our church.

The main qualification for membership into the Knights is to be a male practical Catholic in union with the Holy See. Nothing is said about a candidate's profession, education, and national background, the color of his skin, his nationality, his cultural level or his financial status. A practical Catholic in union with the Holy See is one who in general regulates his life according to the teachings of Christ and the church, and endeavors to observe the commandments of God and of the Church.

The Knights of Columbus was started in the basement of a Church; in fact the Union Knights was first started in the basement of St. Michael's Church. I wonder if we were still meeting in the Church's basement, how many members would we have today. I doubt very much if it would be the 1700 members we now have.

I have decided that this year I want to return to basics, to start working on the spirituality that I think is missing in our council. I have spoken to our Chaplain, Father Jim, and our Church Activities chairman John Moco, and we have decided that the first step we need to take is to set up a spiritual retreat. The retreat will take place April 16, and will be held at a retreat house that I will name at a later date. I am asking everyone to please set aside about 5-6 hours that morning and attend this retreat. Please let us know of your interest ASAP.

Father Jim also suggested that we get more involved in our church activities, it was suggested that we sponsor different activities in our Parishes. One of the suggestions that were given to me is that we sponsor a parish family Sunday at each of our parishes. This is something that would take very little effort, but would go a long way in helping to change our reputation. I am open to any other suggestions my brother Knights may have. I will be meeting with Father Jim and John Moco on regular bases, anyone who wants to join us is welcome to. Please call me or Email me at Joe@njdemarco.net

Vivat Jesus! Joseph DeMarco. Grand Knight

Columbian Club News

Well, it seems as if winter is almost over. The football season has ended with Super Bowl Sunday. I would like to thank all who supported our season long Sunday Football events at our Council home. I would like to especially thank Bob DeMicheal for a job well done. We had a great season, and are already looking ahead to next year.

Our next affair will be on Saturday, March 12 when the annual St. Patrick's Day parade takes place. We will be open before the parade to support the marchers and after the parade is over we welcome everyone back to the Council to enjoy the music and food of Ireland. We hope that you can stop by and enjoy the fun all day and well into the evening.

Another sign that winter is almost over is that our work parties will begin on Saturday, March 19th and will continue right on through the opening of the picnic area on Memorial Day weekend. We can always use extra hands to help out in getting the grounds ready for the busy summer season, so if you can spare a morning or two, please come by. We start at 8:00 in the morning, and end at noon. Coffee and cake are available in the morning, and we end each session with a filling lunch. Feel free to join us!

Sam Maffei, Columbian Club President

Special Needs/Retarded Citizens Drive Scheduled

On the weekend of April 22nd, 23rd and 24th, 2004, the Council will be conducting its annual Special Needs/Retarded Citizens Drive. Although we still have some time to prepare, I would like to ask for your help that weekend with collections around Union and at St. Michael's and Holy Spirit church after Saturday night Sunday masses. One hour of your time would be a greatly appreciated.

This annual event is one which truly exemplifies our commitment to charity, and provides a significant opportunity to assist those who are less fortunate. In addition, the monies raised by our efforts are donated strictly to local charities and go a long way toward providing those selected organizations with funds that they have come to rely on as they do their own good works. For instance, at a recent meeting, we heard from the McCauley School here in Union, thanking us for our contributions and updating us on their plans for the upcoming year. Please help us to continue to help these groups.

If anyone would like to volunteer, please contact Anthony M. Manochio at amanoch@verizon.net or call me at (908) 688-6761. **Anthony M. Manochio, RCD Chairman**



The Words of Our Chaplain

Father Jim Worth

We Are The Champions

As Easter fast approaches, we focus our attention on the transforming event that changed our lives forever. The Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is not a mere event. It **IS** the Event that allows all other events to happen. Because of the immense love that God has for us, we are able to appreciate the eternal life promised to all who believe in Him.

The sting of death and the chains that have kept us bound have been broken. Victory is sweet and it is ours. We are the champions. Because of Jesus, we are able to be who we are, a people, saved by the blood of the Lamb. Alleluia! Alleluia! The strife is over and the battle is won. It sounds almost too good to be true, doesn't it? Well it is most definitely true. We believe as Roman Catholic Christians that we have been saved and given new life in Jesus. So why do we still have so much stress, worry and anxiety in our daily lives? Why do we live as if we aren't the champions? Maybe it's because we do not truly embrace this life changing event. Maybe we don't think we deserve this much love. Maybe we see so much pain and suffering in our own lives and the lives of those around us, that we find it hard to feel like winners sometimes.

The Good News is here and now. Despite what the world would like us to believe. Regardless of the selfishness, greed and lust that seem to be running rampant in our society, we know better. It's time that we start living life to the full, the kind of fullness that Jesus promised us, the kind of fullness that Jesus delivered for us. Yes, in every life there will be pain and suffering. This is not a sign of loss or punishment. It is a sign of our human condition. The strength, courage and dignity that we muster in order to deal with the dilemmas of life says to the onlooker that we have something more than a passing belief, it says that we have the faith of champions. We have the faith of believers in something much greater than this world could ever offer. Why are we the Champions?...because Jesus is on our team and He will be with us for ever and ever. Amen.

In the Peace of the Risen Christ,

Fr. Jim Worth
Chaplain