



# Knight Digest



Union Council 4504

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UNION, N.J.

October, 1992

## 1492 *The Christopher Columbus Quincentenary* 1992

### THE OPENING OF THE NEW WORLD

by Robert J. Leeney\*

When the three ships of Christopher Columbus, the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria set sail from Spain in 1492 they were, in effect, cockleshells of sailing theory and faith afloat on a dark, uncharted ocean. In so fragile a venture, risk was the only certainty.

But when Columbus returned to Spain from the New World in the spring of 1493, he had launched the Age of Discovery. Humanity's understanding of the round world's possibilities and challenges had been redefined. Europe's burden of decaying empires and old enmities would now be replaced by an almost-universal vision of expansion and change. The Columbus landings launched for centuries wave after wave of political and social revolution by immigration. Profound questions of individuality and human rights — questions that we are still exploring 500 years later — had been seeded in new soil resistant in the Old World's decadent ways.

Christopher Columbus was a child of the Middle Ages. He was an adventurer with roots in brawling, ancient Genoa the medieval city-state to which he gave his lifetime loyalty. But he was also a studious sailor, watchful of winds, currents and tides, careful about maps. He had become convinced he could sail west from Europe into a void nobody knew and return — with great mysteries answered and with riches for the crown he served.

The times in which Columbus lived were harsh. Rulers had absolute power. War and death were common. The daily lives of ordinary men and women and their families were imperiled by disease, disorder, and cruel poverty. In popular belief the world's end was considered near. The conversion of all unbelievers was a Christian duty, and Columbus viewed seriously his given name, Christopher or "Christbearer."

For nine years in royal courts Columbus patiently petitioned kings and queens to send him toward his dream. After Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain finally embraced his plan, Columbus boldly pressed fragile ships and fearful men through 33 days of tension on a landless sea. When he knelt in thanksgiving beneath the flag and cross on October 12, 1492, he was not on the shore of Cipangu (Japan) as he thought. He had come instead to an unknown place in a New World. He had found a new dynamic on the earth, and matched the explorer's horizons of the eye with horizons of the mind that are still unfolding.

Whether "discovery," "encounter," or "invasion" is the apt word for the centuries of change that followed the Columbus landings has become a proper subject for scholarship in this quincentennial.



The achievement of Columbus, however, stands unsullied in time. Bold in spirit, resolute in thought, the Admiral of the Ocean Sea revealed the Americas as a fertile modern source for human progress. Here he doubled the size of the earth his generation knew and renewed for uncounted generations the civilizing ideals of courage, faith, self-confidence and mutual trust. He had shown that a bold and believing mind, and brave heart, at work in the natural world, could change times in decline and refresh all human inspiration.

\*(Robert J. Leeney is Editor Emeritus of the New Haven Register and a Director of the New Haven Colony Historical Society.)

# Knight Digest

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## MONTHLY MEETINGS

1st Mon. .... Council Officers  
2nd & 4th Mon. .... Regular Meetings  
3rd Mon. .... Swim Club  
1st Wed. .... 4th Degree Officers  
2nd Thurs. .... 4th Degree Color Corps  
3rd Wed. .... 4th Degree Regular  
4th Wed. .... Council Committees  
4th Thurs. .... Columbian Club

## POLISH NIGHT

Saturday, October 17, 1992

\$15.00 per person

Polish music

Hot Buffet, Beer & Soda

8PM to 1AM

For Tickets call Rich Pipala:

964-7592 by Oct. 14th

## WINNERS

Vincent Amato - 1400  
Matt Battiato - 90  
Donald Hibbard - 90  
Casmir Brezinski - 90

## KNIGHT of THE MONTH October, 1992



**Matt Battiato**

Our Knight Of The Month for October 1992 is Matt Battiato. Matt with his wife Barbara have 3 children Sharon, Matthew, and Michael and 6 grandchildren. Matt and his wife have been residents of Union for 37 years and are communicants of St. James Parish in Springfield.

Matt became a third degree member of our council in 1968. Since that time he has been one of our most active members. Matt has been a regular participant at work parties over the years as well as helping with many council activities. During our most recent State Bowling Tournament Matt was a big aid to the kitchen manager by picking up the food and he also was a scorekeeper. During this year's council picnic he was again a great aid to the chairman in the preparation and serving of the food. Matt is one of the most consistent collectors each year for the retarded citizens drive manning the Elmwood Avenue post. Matt also helps out as a bartender and takes an active part in degree work. He is one of the senior members of our bowling league and was on last year's championship team. To list all of the activities Matt has been involved in over the years would be too lengthy for this column.

Matt was employed by public service for 30 years before retiring. He keeps himself busy these days by umpiring high school baseball games and playing cards at the council. His hobbies include fishing and hunting. He is a sports enthusiast with particular dedication to the Yankees and Giants. Matt is also a member of Unico, The American Legion, and the V.F.W..

Union Council is pleased to congratulate Matt Battiato as our Knight Of The Month for October 1992.

## *In Memorium*

Richard Dembow  
Brother to Fr. Dembow our Chaplain

## Grand Knight's Column

Jim O'Connell



As we begin the Autumn season, we see many changes starting to occur. The days are becoming shorter and the trees are beginning to change colors. But some things that aren't as easily seen, still seem to stay the same. I'm referring to the plight of those who don't get enough to eat.

On September 15th, we began the first part of our Humanitarian Hunger Drive that will conclude on October 12th, Columbus Day. The second part will be from March 1st to March 29th. I've talked of this event on previous occasions, but I find that now it is even more important for all of us to make it a success.

As you are all aware, the hurricanes of Florida, Louisiana and Hawaii have caused great havoc. They have caused the rest of our nation to redirect much of our charitable resources to the aid their victims. But one fact still remains unchanged. There are still needy families right here in New Jersey, and these families could be closer than you think.

Picture this... A family of four; two children in grade school; wife working as a receptionist in a doctors office; husband is out of work due to no fault of his own. October 1st - rent/mortgage due. Choice - pay it and go without food for a few days, or lose your home. Far fetched? Not really. This family could easily be your next door neighbor. And worst of all, its the children who will be suffering the most. No child should have to go to bed hungry.

There are two ways you can help. You can either bring non-perishable food to the council, where we will make sure that it gets to the appropriate people, or you can send us a donation of a few dollars. Either way, your help will go a long way. Thank you.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct. 2.....First Friday  
Oct. 10-11.....Rose Sale at St. Michaels  
all masses  
Oct. 11.....Columbus Park Ceremony  
Oct. 11.....Columbus Quintcentennial  
Festival  
Oct. 17.....Council Golf Outing  
Oct. 24..Council Golf Outing (Rain Date)  
Oct. 24-25.....Rose Sale at Holy Spirit  
all masses  
Nov. 1.....Children's Halloween Party  
Nov. 6.....First Friday  
Nov. 8.....Annual Communion Breakfast  
Dec. 5.....Race Night

