



Knights Digest



Union Council 4504

Vol. 25, No. 4

UNION, N.J.

December 1983

Children's Halloween Party

The persistent cool rain and the cancellation of Union's 175th Anniversary Parade brought about an unexpected increased attendance at the Knights of Columbus children's Halloween party. Due to the very busy month of October, several Knights' activities were scheduled for Sunday, October 23rd. Union Council #4504 was invited to participate in the gala anniversary celebration of Union Township's 175th year. The Council Swim Club arranged a trip to see "Annie" at the Paper Mill Playhouse with a cold buffet following at the Council Home later that evening. During and between these events, the Halloween party was held.

Because of all the activities scheduled for that Sunday, a rather low turnout was expected for the Halloween party. The rain and unfortunate rescheduling of the parade, however, brought about a welcome crowd to the Halloween party.

Approximately 50 children with 30 adults enjoyed a rather nice, cozy afternoon inside. Hot coffee, donuts, and cookies were served to the adults. Hot dogs and apple cider were distributed to all. With Union dentists' blessings, special Halloween cupcakes were given to each child. Following that barrage of sugar, the children made, decorated, and ate their own candy apples. Did you know that it takes almost 10 pounds of sugar and 7 packages of candy apple mix to cover 70 apples?

For special entertainment this year, a magician from Kenzini's Magic Palace performed his talents for almost an hour in front of all the children. His acts were assisted by audience participation and by the appearance, by magic, of Snowy, The White Rabbit.

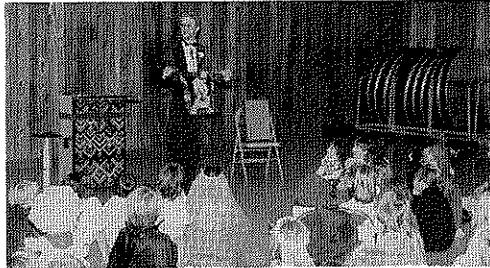
Prizes consisting of treat bags filled with candy were handed out to all children in costume. This year's favorites were E.T., a Mobile gas station attendant, plum tomato, bunch of grapes, clown, and a cheerleader. I would like to thank all those who attended the party for coming out in the rain and giving us adults as good a time as the kids.

I would especially like to thank all those who assisted me in organizing the party and during the afternoon's events, particularly Herbert and Helena Herm, Paul Sandy, Peter and Nancy Bernot, Linda Bernot, and Grand Knight Tom Hornig.

Dave Bernot
Youth Activities Chairman

The Christmas season is only as meaningful as we make it.

When we throw out the Christmas tree we should be especially careful not to throw out the Christmas spirit with it.



All of the children were mesmerized by the magical appearance of Bozo the Clown at the Halloween Party.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

- 2 First Friday Program
- 12 Council Christmas Dinner Meeting
- 18 Children's Christmas Party
- 31 New Year's Eve Party

January

- 21 Bingo!
- 23 Right to Life March



The big kid with the ginger ale and bear on his back really enjoyed the magic act at the Children's Halloween Party.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 18, 1983
12 Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Council Home

Please bring a wrapped gift with your child's name to help Santa surprise your child

First Friday Program

Sister Mary of The Daughters of St. Paul the Apostle will be the guest speaker at the First Friday Program to be held at the Council Home on December 2. Following a Mass at 8:00 p.m., light refreshments will be served and Sr. Mary will discuss a topic entitled "The Media." Your attendance is welcomed.

New Year's Eve Celebration

Saturday Evening — December 31
9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

\$25/person
Dancing Open Bar Hot Buffet
Continental Breakfast
Make Your Reservations Soon!!
Call Vince at 687-9381
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Christmas Dinner Meeting

Union Council will hold its annual Christmas Dinner meeting in the Council Home on Monday, December 12, at 6:30 p.m. A full course dinner with beer and soda will be provided. Tickets for the complete dinner are \$5.00, and are available from Mike Herrighty (964-3841). Tickets will not be available at the door, so please make an effort to contact Mike.

BINGO!

January 21 7:30 p.m.
At the Boy's Club

COLUMBIAN CLUB CORNER

There is an opening for another director of the Columbian Club. Please submit the names of candidates for consideration for the position to Dan Romando. A director will be selected from the names of Council members suggested for the post.

Chefs! Cooks! Dishwashers!

Here's a welcome opportunity for those talented in the culinary arts and kitchen science to put their talents to work. Anyone with kitchen abilities who is interested and willing to give rise to "Columbian Club Catering" is urged to get in touch with Mike Herrighty (964-3841).

As most of us are aware, the Council building is in the later stages of interior remodeling. The Columbian Club appreciates your patience over the past weeks and looks forward to completing its efforts for your pleasure. We hope to have the bar and entrance completed by the New Year. At that time there will be a celebration marking the efforts of the construction and support crews. We look forward to your attendance.

A personal expression of gratitude to all those who participated in the many phases of construction is warmly passed along from Dan Romando.

Knight Digest

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Historian William Taylor, PGK
Program Director John Salvatore
Membership Director Michael Carr

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

Columbian Swim Club

Joe Tortora was presented a plaque at the Swim Club appreciation affair. He was honored for his many years of dedicated service to the Club. Congratulations and thanks again, Joe.

The annual meeting of the Swim Club will be held on Friday evening, January 27, 1984 at the Council. Among the changes to be announced is a change of guest privileges for next season.

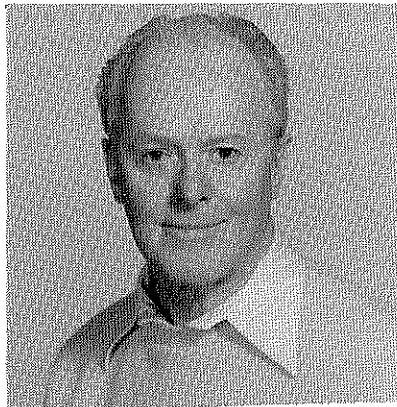
The Board of Governors is accepting bids for the positions of Pool Manager and for the Gate House. Anyone interested should call Pete Martin at 687-4393.

Please notify Bill Taylor, PGK at 686-3120 of any changes in your family status or if you intend to drop your membership, as soon as possible.

The following names on the waiting list will be called when openings are available. Remember that a \$200.00 non-refundable deposit is required upon acceptance of membership.

1. Thomas W. Brady
2. William J. Sheridan
3. Charles L. Lynch, Jr.
4. Thomas W. O'Connor
5. John E. Caskey
6. Vincent J. Nota
7. Brian P. Flitsch
8. Fred M. Dittermer
9. Francesco Portoriero
10. Michael Stojka
11. James M. Stojka

Jim Johnson, PGK



Knight of the Month December 1983 Peter King

We are pleased to announce the selection of Peter King as Knight of the Month for December 1983.

A member of our Council for only 3 years, Pete is in his second term as Council Public Relations Chairman. As such, he is responsible for publicizing council activities in the local newspapers.

Pete is retired from the A.B. Murry Co. and occupies his spare time as a messenger for the Union Center Bank and as a liaison for Travelong to arrange for passports and visas for foreign visitors. Besides his responsibilities with Union Council, Pete is active with the Holy Name Society and the Michael Kelly Post of the V.F.W.

He and his wife Madeline are communicants of Holy Spirit Church and have been residents of Union for 23 years.

Union Council is proud to honor Pete King as Knight of the Month for December 1983.

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship

The annual Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship will begin this January throughout the Order and end in March when the international champions are named. Although the exact date of the Council competition has not been scheduled, it is time for all boys and girls to practice their basketball skills. The tournament is open to all girls and boys ages 11 to 14 inclusive. Age eligibility is to be determined by the age of the contestant as of January 1.

The Council competition will probably be held at the Union Boys and Girls Club as it has been during the past years. In order to be eligible for competition, all entrants must register with the Council prior to beginning the competition. The official contest entry blanks will be available at the Council Home in a few weeks.

Each age group will compete only among themselves — boys and girls separately. Entrants may compete in only one Council competition. Winners of the Council contest will proceed to the District competition to be held in February at a date and location specified by the District Deputy.

Please stay tuned to the future Digests for firm details and dates regarding the competition. Good luck and keep practicing!

Grand Knight's Column

TOM HORNIG



The Holy season of Christmas is here and once again the annual swirl of Christmas greeting cards will be extending good wishes to family, friends and neighbors throughout the world.

One of the oldest greeting cards on record is a German wood sculpture of the Christ child, reflecting good wishes for the New Year.

The practice of sending Christmas cards became popular in the United States when a German named Louis Prang migrated to Boston and established a lithograph printing shop. Within three decades this shop employed three hundred people and produced five million cards each year.

Today we print over three billion cards in fifty thousand designs with an annual revenue of \$500,000,000.

The commercialization of the Christmas card has brought about a general deterioration of its original purpose, to remind all Christians of the birth of Christ. Today only thirty percent of the cards printed capture the true spirit of the holiday. The remaining seventy percent are represented by floral, humorous and even pornographic themes. Each year we are exposed to more non-Christian exploitation of our religious holiday and walk away with indifference. There seems to be a constant drumbeat to distract everyone from the true meaning of this religious event. No other non-Christian religious group would tolerate this type of abuse.

For many misleading reasons, we tend to forget to give the Christmas holiday the true and proper value it commands. Therefore, we should develop this awareness and make it a practice to Keep Christ In Christmas.

I hope to see you during the Holidays. Please remember our Christmas dinner meeting on December 12th, the Christmas party for the retarded children on December 11th, and the council's Christmas party for our members' children on December 18th.

My wife Ann, my family and I wish to extend to you and your family our best wishes for a Happy and Holy Holiday Season.

Children's Christmas Party

This year's Christmas Party for Knights of Columbus members' children will be held Sunday afternoon, 12-4 p.m., December 18th, at the Council Home. Food and refreshments will be served. Santa Claus and his elves will be there to entertain us most of the afternoon. Please remember to bring a wrapped gift, clearly labeled with your child's name (or children's names), to make Santa's job a little easier. We can all look forward to having a merry good time.

Dave Bernot
Youth Activities Chairman



Chaplain's Corner

Rev. Ed Swierzbinski

Recently a staff member asked, "Why does God permit evil? Why does He tolerate bad people?"

There are many ways to consider this troubling question. No answers will satisfy fully.

Physical evil poses one difficulty. I don't know why some die young, some are born damaged, some suffer serious accidents, some live long enough to be terribly lonely, etc. . . . I trust in God and truly believe there is a plan or providence. And I do remember that physical problems often teach us to band together and solve them with talent and research. Also, I do know that physical handicaps are often overcome to teach us a good example. Look at how much Helen Keller accomplished even though she was born blind and deaf! Look at the recent New York Marathon — some contestants with severe handicaps finished the 26 mile course. Sort of tells us to quit complaining, appreciate what we have and get busy with living.

Moral evil poses another difficulty. I would suggest we go to the Bible to the familiar story of the Prodigal Son. The son, with the best education he could get then, goes to the father and says, "Give me my inheritance; your ways are too old fashioned; I'll show you how to make a lot more money."

The father, realizing his son is very immature, still loves him enough (maybe too much) to let him be free. He probably wished him to succeed but he loved him enough to let him fail. He would not take away his son's freedom.

We know the son crashed. He lost everything: weak, hungry, discouraged he sat on a dung hill. Then, wisely, he decided to go back to his father, with more awareness of himself and much humbler.

God is our Father. He loves us very much. God lets us be free. Free to choose Him and His Ways. Free to make mistakes, to sin, even to destroy our health. Our Father does not want blind obedience. This world would be very boring if we were all robots or all "chocolate chip cookies." We are free to grow wiser and more loving or we can be foolish and selfish. The choice is ours and must continually be made. Free will is an awesome responsibility but gives us that uniqueness. God did not abandon us — we have the teachings of His Church and the guidance of the Pope and the Bishops. We have prayer to guide us and motivate our lives. Above all, we have Jesus in Holy Communion. We need prayer; we need each other. Come pray with us on First Friday. The Mass begins at 8 P.M. We, truly, need each other.

We should be thankful for the good things that we have and, also, for the bad things we don't have . . .

Americans are religious people. You can tell they trust in God by the way they drive.

An Editorial Opinion

This past month a New York state judge ruled against the Justice Department's claim to access of the medical records of "Baby Doe," a child born with multiple birth defects to a couple in the state. The child's parents have decided against surgical intervention to correct her birth defects (an open spine, water on the brain, and other defects), explaining that their daughter "... would never know love." The Administration reported it was shocked by the judge's decision and will continue to attempt to see the child's medical records in order to put forth a claim that the girl is being discriminated against on the basis of her medical disabilities. The Justice Department may still try to bring suit to enforce medical treatment under federal health and civil rights regulations. In the meantime, doctors estimate that without surgical correction the infant child will die before she is 3 or 4 years old.

One cannot help but experience discomfort with many aspects of this case. The parents' claim that their little girl will never experience love is only a crude assumption on their part. How does one go about proving that the severely retarded, the severely handicapped child cannot feel love? The perception of love and the process of loving is beyond the capacity of our five senses. We all feel loved, yet who of us is capable of developing a test for its perception?

The parents argue that their decision is a private one, and that somehow their right to privacy outweighs any concern others may have for their child's welfare. It has long been the prerogative of the state to pass legislation outlawing certain activities, private or public, which society finds morally offensive on the whole. Hence, we have laws against private activities such as homosexuality, deviant sexuality, prostitution, adultery, and child abuse. Moreover, there are laws meant to protect people in the family setting. It cannot be imagined that society has no interest in child abuse because it may be an activity private to the family involved. No, there are certain decisions and activities that go beyond the privacy of the family and become the concerns of society as a whole.

The infant's parents say their daughter has no chance for a meaningful life. Yet the concept of meaningful life is beyond our definition — who knows the capacity of God's intervention? Think of people such as Helen Keller, who was certainly thought at one time not to have a meaningful life, yet who with God's intervention made a fantastic and inspirational

Right to Life Needs Your Support

To show your support for those who cannot yet be heard for themselves — the unborn children — please participate in the March for Life Rally in Washington, D.C. on Monday, January 23. Buses will be leaving the parking lot across from the Council building at 7:30 a.m. on the morning of Jan. 23; please make an effort to be on a bus. (There is no charge for transportation.)

If you are interested in showing support for the unborn child, please contact Bob Alves (964-8465).

contribution to history.

Twenty years ago a letter appeared in a London newspaper. Three girls, concerned about England's decision to allow abortion of Thalidomide-affected babies, wrote from an English hospital for the severely handicapped:

"We are fortunate . . . in having been allowed to live and we want to say with strong conviction how thankful we are that none took it upon themselves to destroy us as useless cripples.

"We have found worthwhile and happy lives and we face our future with confidence. Despite our disability, life still has much to offer and we are more than anxious, if only metaphorically, to reach out toward the future.

"This, we hope, will give some comfort and hope to parents of Thalidomide babies, and at the same time serve to condemn those who would contemplate the destruction of an even limbless baby."

The trouble with this case begins for you and me when we recognize that there may be acceptance of the idea that there is such a thing as a life which is not worthy to be lived. It may be a hard concept to accept, but God makes the perfect and the imperfect. God told Moses, "Who gives one man speech and makes another deaf and dumb? Or who gives sight to one and makes another blind? Is it not I, he Lord?" (Exodus 4:11) It is on faith that we must accept God's decisions, and let his reasons go unchallenged. The Bible also tells us that we are made in the image of God. We can imagine that to also mean we are a trinity of the soul, the body, and the spirit. We therefore cannot judge the value of a young infant by the quality of its body; its value is so much more than what its body presents to us. Life is precious to God; we must view it as a holy thing, and its end is not to be prematurely decided by man.

Thomas Jefferson, in 1776, said, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, they are endowed with certain inalienable rights; among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Let us not easily accept that an infant girl will be denied the right to life.

The One That Didn't Get Away



We've all told the story of the one that got away, but few of us can back up our fish tales. Brother Jimmy Mench (holding pole) can now tell stories second to none. While on a company fishing outing (he lives in Bermuda) Jimmy hooked into an 1150 lb., 14 foot Marlin, the largest caught in the Bermuda waters and one of the largest on record. Since the fish was a little too big to hang on his living room wall, he donated it to the Tourist Bureau, who had it stuffed and placed on display in the Bermuda Airport.

Donald W. Rinaldo
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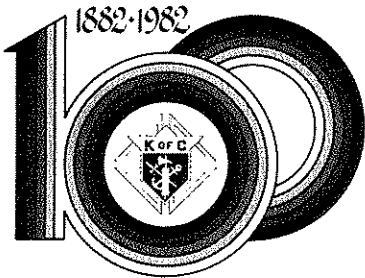
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