



# Knights Digest



Union Council 4504

Vol. 21, No. 4

UNION, N. J.

December 1979

## Merry Christmas



### *He was born in an obscure village . . .*

*. . . the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in still another village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.*

*He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He never visited a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness.*

*He had no credentials but himself. He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race and the leader of mankind's progress.*

*All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that . . .*

*One Solitary Life*

## Happy New Year

# 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.

**EDITOR — GARY HORNIG**  
**CO-EDITOR — MICHAEL LA MOTTA**  
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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 Wed. .... 4th Degree Color Corps  
 3rd Wed. .... 4th Degree Regular  
 4th Wed. .... Council Committees  
 1st Thurs. .... Expansion Committee  
 4th Thurs. .... Columbian Club

## JANUARY FIRST FRIDAY PROGRAM

Our 1980 Sacred Heart Devotion Series will commence on Friday evening, January 4 at 8:00 p.m.

Following Mass, coffee and cake, our speaker will be Sister Rosalie Curran of Saint Elizabeth's College. The topic of discussion will be "The Abortion Issue From The Biologist's Point of View."

Sister Rosalie promises to be of interest, having more than thirty years of teaching and diocesan family life work experience. In addition to her duties at Saint Elizabeth's College, Sister is an officer on the New Jersey Right to Life serving as Education Chairperson.

Please join us.

## MARCH FOR LIFE JANUARY 22, 1980

Yes, we march again January 22, 1980. Not because any of us want to plan and prepare for the event in Washington, or plan bus schedules in cities and towns across the country, or travel in snow or cold weather, or see the Nation's Capital from a wind-swept Pennsylvania Avenue in the middle of January, or wearily tromp the Halls of Congress, or lose a day's work in the middle of the week, or any other similar reasons.

The only reason we shall march again in prolife commoradery is because our Government is still participating in the killing of innocent preborn children and we shall continue to petition our Government to right the wrong. The prolife movement has gained momentum. Thus, there must be more of us at the March for Life on January 22, 1980 than at any of the other six annual events.

Please get ready to March for Life, January 22, 1980. If you made the trip last year, we're sure you're convinced that your presence was noted by our elected officials. If you weren't able to attend last year, do your best to be there this January. It's pretty hard for our Senators and Congressmen to ignore 100,000 citizens crowding the streets and corridors of the Capital.

Council 4504 is actively engaged in planning to double the number of people we send to Washington this year. Our goal is two buses. We already have a half of a bus spoken for prior to this first announcement. Why not tell your boss tomorrow that you'll be taking Tuesday, January 22 as a Vacation Day. Then, phone Roger Burns, our Human Values Chairman — 665-0799 and have your bus seat(s) reserved. Also, keep in mind that the trip is open to anyone interested in this important issue. It's particularly educational and worthwhile to young people in your family ages 13 or older.

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Children's Christmas Party will be held in the Council Home on Sunday, December 16th from 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Children nine years of age and under are invited to attend.

Santa will be there plus entertainment and refreshments.

Please bring one gift per child, \$5.00 or less. Print the child's name on it clearly and leave it in the cloak room for Santa to give out.

Mike Ward  
Youth Activities Dir.

## FIRST FRIDAY DECEMBER 7th MASS AT 8:00 P.M.

688-1373-4

RETAIL

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## Grand Knights Column

Julius Kiss



### MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

As the calendar brings us to December, we look back on an extremely busy five months which have passed in my term as Grand Knight. At this mid-point, appreciation has to be expressed to all my chairmen for a job well done.

An especially warm word of thanks has to go to the ladies of our Council family who came out and literally gave their blood for us during our recent Blood Bank. Brothers, please note — that proportionately, we had more female donors than male — hopefully, this does not indicate that we are lacking in fraternal spirit. During the twelve-month period just passed, we distributed 35 pints of blood to the families of our Council. For this important program to stay viable, we need greater participation.

This month starts with our First Friday series. We will also have our Christmas Dinner meeting on Monday, December 10. It will feature good food, entertainment, and good fellowship. Don't forget, get your tickets.

Santa will come to visit the children on Sunday, December 16. This party should equal the success of our recent Children's Halloween Party.

Preparations are under way to guarantee a gala New Year's Eve Dance. Make your reservations early and enjoy the holiday with your Council friends and guests.

With the opening of the stores on Sundays, we may all need to be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas during the frantic pre-Christmas shopping sprees. Your council will post a billboard by Ideal Dairy reminding every resident of our town to Keep Christ in Christmas. In the words of our Supreme Chaplain, "On this birthday of Christ we celebrate the fulfillment of God's promise to send a savior. He sent us the very best! His Son. The ultimate Christmas gift for all of us is receiving the infinite enjoyment of God Himself."

My family and I wish all members of Council 4504 and their families a very Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years.

Julius Kiss  
Grand Knight



PEACE ON EARTH

## Supreme Chaplain's Religion Outline "CHRIST AND HIS FOLLOWERS"

1. One cannot be called a follower of Christ unless he in some way follows the teachings and examples of Christ; that he resembles Christ. And we know Christ, His works and His teachings principally from the writings of four biographers, who wrote the Gospels, and by other writers of the New Testament, a few years after the death and resurrection of Christ. Likewise, authentic tradition helps us to have a complete portrait of Christ and his works.

The Gospels have been subjected to the most critical analysis and scrutiny that any book has received. Yet countless millions of people since the time of Christ have received these simple accounts of the life and teaching of Christ as the truth. The sacred writers, while bringing out flashes of His divine nature, do not omit the traits of His human nature, as His fears, His sadness, His loneliness, His anger, His love for friends and His sorrows and tears.

2. But in the simple narrative about Christ, there are mentioned astounding facts — miracles — which the enemies of Christ could not deny. These miracles occur everywhere He goes. He walks on the water, multiplies loaves to feed the hungry, calms the storm on lake Genezareth, gives sight to a man blind from birth. Even as His enemies seized Him in the Garden of Olives, He healed the ear of the servant of the high priest. He restored to life the dead son of the widow of Naim.

3. Jesus performed His miracles to prove His divine sonship and to prove his claim to be believed. His teaching stirred men's hearts, for **"no man had ever spoken as this man."** The trusts He taught came from His Father, with whom He was one. He demanded full faith, as to one sent by the Father, to teach men the way to salvation and peace. A simple reading of the Gospels shows the simplicity of Christ's doctrine, and it is that doctrine that has won so many hearts to Him.

4. The unique thing about Christ is not that He is a stupendous historical figure, a wise man or wonder worker. What marks him apart from other men is that He rose from the dead. Had He not risen, His life would have perhaps touched us by its beauty and by the wisdom of His words, but His story would be that of personal failure by reason of His death on the cross between two criminals. Had His crucifixion and death been the end, His disciples would have thought of Him as a great man, but only a man and not what He claimed to be — the Son of God, God.

5. It was Christ's resurrection that made the whole difference, as St. Paul says: **"Christ is alive and dies no more."** The faith of Christ's apostles was deeply shaken by His death on the cross. But when they later realized that He had risen from the dead and was alive, they understood His words spoken a short time before His death: **"I am with you to the end of the world."**

6. To be a Christian, a Catholic, a fol-

## Union Hosts National Tournament

Union Council 4504 has been selected as the host council for the Fifty-fifth Annual, Knights of Columbus, National Bowling Tournament.

Our being chosen to host this tournament is an honor for the council and reflects the confidence the National Committee has in the officers and membership to succeed in this endeavor.

Competition for the privilege of this prestigious event began three years ago at Norfolk, Virginia. Various meetings were held by members of the committee since then in Buffalo, N. Y., Wilmington, Del., Dearborn, Michigan and Springfield, Pa. A formal presentation had to be prepared and presented to the National Committee. The National Secretary, William Burke and Administrative Assistant, Milford Trojon, visited the Union area to inspect the bowling, lodging and dining facilities. They were also given a tour of our council home. The favorable impression shown by our council and this area resulted in the successful approval of our application.

This tournament is the largest single project we have ever undertaken. Union will entertain brother Knights and their guests from councils on the east coast from Florida to Maine including Canada and west to the Mississippi.

Presently the National Committee has



Grand Knight Julius Kiss presents to John Clementoni and Joseph Bilicska plaques commemorating their attainment of the rank of Eagle Scout at ceremonies held on November 7, 1979.

lower of Christ not only means that he accepts the teachings of Christ, but that he also believes in a living Christ, in one Who is present to him and within him in a most real manner. Such a one communicates with the living Christ by prayer. This belief is not a superstition of ignorant men, or of children, but is found among the greatest intellects the world has ever known. Christianity thrives best where culture and civilization are at their highest, yet it is accepted by the minds of average and even of lowly people.

7. To be a Christian, a Catholic, a follower of Christ, means, moreover, to have a personal love for Christ — a love which influences every movement of the heart and inspires every action of life. Christ and His followers enter a personal relationship so intimate, so strong that it becomes a sharing of life. Christ Himself expressed this intimacy: **"Abide in me and I in you . . . I am the vine, you are the branches. You cannot have life unless you dwell in me."** **"This is the victory that conquers the world, our faith."**

six hundred teams registered. It is our goal to obtain one thousand teams to participate in this contest. This means we will have five thousand brother Knights and two thousand guests in Union over a six week period.

The tournament will open at Hy-Way Bowling Alleys on Saturday, March 15, 1980 at 1:00 p.m. and run thru April 27, 1980. The opening will be celebrated with a tournament banquet and dance at the council home the evening of March 15th.

The officers and chairmen selected and approved by council resolution at the December 12, 1977 meeting are as follows:

Pres. . . . . Andrew F. Popp, P.G.K.  
V. Pres. . . . . Julius J. Kiss, G.K.  
Sec'y. . . . . Thomas Hornig  
Treas. . . . . James F. Johnson  
Lanes & Score  
Keepers . . . . . Henry Skarbek, P.G.K.  
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Maintenance . . . . . John Robbins  
Dinner Servers  
. . . . . Kenneth W. Pinney, P.G.K.  
Welcoming . . . . . The Presiding  
Grand Knight  
Entertainment . . . . . Roger Schur  
Publicity . . . . . James Moran, P.G.K.  
General Ticket Sales . . . . . Henry Mey  
Lodgings . . . . . Barney Capriglione,  
P.G.K.

This event sets forth an unprecedented opportunity for Union Council to extend fraternal greetings and receive the benefits of Columbianism by associating with our brothers from other councils throughout the country. In addition, Union Council has the means to obtain financial advantages commensurate with the efforts of our membership.

The specific needs for this project will be detailed in the January Digest.

## THE LAZIEST COMMITTEE

In Union Council, that's what we want to be! The Fraternal Assistance Committee, chaired by P.G.K. Bob Armstrong and the other members, Chaplain Father Ed, P.G.K.'s Barney Capriglione and Harold Maus (our Insurance Representative) and G.K. Julius Kiss, stand ready to assist and advise the family of a departed Brother of our Council.

As so often happens, at that time, the family is unprepared to cope with the many problems that arise shortly after the funeral. Should or can we keep the house? What benefits are we entitled to? What papers do we need — what's all that "stuff" mean on the insurance policies? Why did God do this to us?

These aren't unusual questions, in fact, they are dealt with daily by the members of this committee in their normal routine of livelihood. Their expertise will be readily and willingly shared, when requested.

It is our wish and hope that God will spare us of these problems for many years, that's why we want to be the least called upon or laziest committee ever!

Bob Armstrong  
686-8548

DECEMBER '79

Union Council 4504

Planning Calendar

Tel. 686-4504

| SUN.   | MON.   | TUE.   | WED. | THU.                        | FRI.                      | SAT.   |
|--|--|--|------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| <p>MERRY<br/>CHRISTMAS<br/>AND</p>                             |  |  |      |                             |                           | 1  |
| 2<br>22 <sup>ND</sup><br>ANNIVERSARY<br>OF<br>UNION<br>COUNCIL | 3<br>Officers<br>Mtg 8:00                                  | 4  | 5    | 6                           | 7<br>1st Fri<br>Mass 8:00 | 8<br><br><small>FEAST OF<br/>IMMACULATE CONCEPTION</small>   |
| 9  | 10<br>Council<br>Dinner Mtg<br>DINNER - 6:30<br>MTG - 8:15 | 11   | 12   | 13                          | 14                        | 15   |
| 16<br>Children's<br>Christmas<br>Party<br>2-5 PM               | 17   | 18   | 19   | 20                          | 21                        | 22   |
| 23   | 24   | 25<br><small>HAPPY<br/>BIRTHDAY<br/>JESUS</small><br>Merry<br>Christmas<br>to you all. | 26   | 27<br>Col. Club<br>Mtg 8:00 | 28                        | 29<br>Camp Fatjma<br>Children's<br>Christmas<br>Party 1-4 PM |
| 30   | 31<br>New Year's<br>Eve Dance<br>9PM TO 2AM                | <p>HAPPY<br/>NEW YEAR<br/>TO YOU AND<br/>YOUR FAMILIES</p>                             |      |                             |                           |  |



## Chaplain's Corner

Rev. Ed Swierzbinski

In December everyone thinks of Jesus, especially of His Birth. God became man for you.

It is also a good time to remember other things. Jesus Christ spent over 30 years on earth trying to lift people to His own level. St. Paul wrote in Hebrew that Jesus "is living forever to intercede for all who come to God through Him." Jesus takes us with Him into the life of the Trinity, many people, it must be noted; didn't want to know this. Like the fallen child seeking independence and spurning the gentle arms of the parent who tries to put him back on his feet, many who met Christ rejected His every effort. They wouldn't allow Jesus to touch them. But when Jesus was allowed to touch people the effect was dramatic. Time and again his touch, accompanied by his word gave new life. It restored sight, hearing, speech; it put new heart into people. It has been said that the great Man makes us feel, smell, but that the **truly** great Man makes us feel great. Jesus was and is the **truly great Man**. He changed people. He lifted them to His own level.

Jesus' level of life is summed up in the command, "Love God totally, love yourself, and love your neighbor." Few people achieve this perfectly. One of the few to do so became a Saint. St. Theresa, the Little Flower, lived just 24 years in a Carmelite Convent. But her "little way" of doing even the smallest thing with love has helped millions to come close to God. "When I suffer a lot or have to go through difficult and painful things," she once said, "instead of looking sorry for myself, I smile. **At first I did not succeed very well**, but now I'm so happy that it has become a habit with me."

Theresa's "little way" is no "easy way" however, it means facing the difficulties of daily life head-on; and beating them with a smile. We are to be like the commuter who always greeted the ticket-taker with a friendliness and pleasantness which was only matched by rudeness and unpleasantness. When asked why he was so polite when the ticket-collector was so rude, he replied; "Because I don't want him to **decide how I'm going to act.**"

Our prayer is that you decide to act like Jesus Christ and St. Theresa; that you decide, through daily prayer and especially the Mass, to act in a total loving way toward your neighbor: that you smile more than you frown. This time of seasonal changes can remind us — we are capable of change. May it be for the better. Merry Christmas!

See you on the First Fridays at 8:00 p.m.

Come and pray with us!

**CHRISTMAS DINNER  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 10th**

**6:30 P.M.**

**Admission \$4.00**

## TELEPHONE

The Committee welcomes Brother Wesley Czap of Huntington Road (964-0429). Wes very kindly responded to our request for Captains and will take over List #38. His team consists of Brothers Frank Laudato, James Lawler, Bill Lawrence, Bob Leary, Gene Le Compte, Fred Lee, Charles Leeman, Tony Leonard, Jim Cahil and Ed Leonard. Our thanks to you Brother Wes.

The previous Captain of team 38, Pete DeVico, as you may or may not know, was recently at the U.S. Veteran's Rehabilitation Center in West Haven Connecticut undergoing studies and treatment. He is now at home and we are sure he would appreciate a note or card from the members to let him know we are thinking of and praying for him. His address is 129 Locust Drive, Union, N. J. 07083.

The Committee sends him our best wishes and trust he will soon be back with us, if not as a Telephone Captain, at least as an active member.

Art Weber

### MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS

**EARLY!**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE  
CELEBRATION  
DECEMBER 31, 1979**

\*Buffet

\*Refreshments

\*Dancing

\*Noise Makers

From 9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

\*\$20.00 per person

\*All reservations confirmed by

December 15, 1979

Call

Mr. Capp — 964-3143

Mr. Cotugno — 687-4354

## Camp Fatima Christmas Party

Your Grand Knight has invited Camp Fatima to hold their annual Children's Christmas Party at our Council on December 29. Sr. Ann Dominic is handling arrangements for the party; and has extended an invitation to all special children of our brothers to join in celebrating the birth of Christ.

Anyone interested please call Sister Ann Dominic at 686-3839 or Deputy Grand Knight Jim Johnson at 964-0735.

G.K.

## Bowlers Wanted

If you are a bowler and would like to bowl in the National Tournament, **Now is the time!** This is a 100% handicap tournament and any Knight can enter. We are presently making up teams. For information call: Henry Mey  
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## Vocations —

## Everybody's Business Part Two

To anyone familiar with the Knights of Columbus it will be evident that the Order reflects, and naturally so, the Christian vocations of its members. This is true under the Service Program and the Formation Degree. As long as members are making use of these programs we are correctly directing ourselves to the right goals of Christian activities. Due to the grave need for priests and religious, concern for these church vocations is paramount in the Knights vocation efforts.

It's of great importance to know the degree of crisis we have at the present time. Only through knowledge can we recognize the problems and deal with them in the best possible way. Between 1967 and 1977, the number of seminarians dropped from 48,000 to 17,000. The fall off in religious vocations during the period 1962-1977 reached the staggering figure of 90%. The Church is suffering in two ways; its present care of people is curtailed and its missionary outreach is all but paralyzed. It is true that the development of the diaconate and part time lay ministries has helped to ease the distress somewhat. Still, the Church finds the priesthood and religious life are irreplaceable. Reduction in quantity eventually has an effect also on the quality of service. People in a parish that is large in parishioners or in territory are better served by a number of priests than they are by one. The answer to this situation is not simply doing nothing and reciting the sentiment "God will provide." There is need for a trust in God and hope for His help. But Christian hope must always steer a middle course between despair and presumption. It's better to use the saying "If we do our part, we can count on God to do His."

One of the prime methods we can use to assist in increasing religious vocations comes under the heading of motivation. The two most effective sources of motivation are the personal faith and love of the individual to whom the appeal is made, and the personal faith and love of the one making the appeal. Hence the great value of good Christian family life. If the person presenting Christ's cause is a significant person in the others life, a parent, relative, parish priest, etc., and if the person is noticeably faithful to his or her own vocation (whatever it is), the motivational effect can be very great. As heart speaks to heart, fidelity awakens fidelity. Motivation is a kind of communicated enthusiasm. If we are excited about God in our lives, the excitement will be contagious to those around us.

James Moran

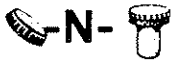
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