



NEWSLETTER



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JANUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 DANCE HOLY ROSARY
10 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	11 MEETING CALDWELL 7:00 PM	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 FALLOUT AUSTIN PRO-LIFE MARCH
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

NEWS

The Clergy Retirement Fund dance will be held at the Frenstat Recreation Center, on the 9th. Hamburgers will be sold starting at 6:00 PM, followed by a dance with music by the Red Ravens, at 7:00 PM. See you there for a good time.

Our next meeting will be in Caldwell, on Jan. 11, starting at 7:00 PM.

We will fallout for the March for Life on 1/23/2016. The day will start with Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 9500 Neenah Ave., Austin, at 10:00 AM. The March for Life will start at 1:00 PM, at 1800 North Congress.

At our February meeting in Somerville, we will be having our Renewal of Obligations. We will need to wear our Tuxedo with the Social Baldric. All wives are invited to attend this special meeting, and a catered dinner will be provided.

The date for our next Turkey Shoot is April 17. Josiah and Beverly will again host this fundraising event.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

When I picked up the last issue of "Knightline" the other day, I thought what a way to get the new year off to a good start. The new year is always a time for reviewing the last year and making resolutions for the up-coming year, most of which go out the window during the first month.

That speech by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson at the mid-year meeting in San Antonio in November, should give us all something to think about. His outline for the future of the Knights is a little different than what I am used to. When I think of the Knights, I think of more of a separate organization, with their own goals rather than an organization that supports the parish, and the goals of the parish. Obviously, my thoughts are not in line with Mr. Anderson's, when it comes to the direction he wants the Knights to go in the future. Not that this is a bad thing, I just need to re-think what the purpose of the Knights really is. As he said, "We are dedicated to faithful and unparalleled service to the Church." His whole speech was about becoming the strong right arm of our parishes, not to use the parishes to further our own goals. He says: "The closer the Knights of Columbus becomes to parish life, the closer we work with our parish priests, and the more we support Catholic families, the more our Order grows in membership and charity."

On the back side of this newsletter are excerpts from the speech he gave in San Antonio in November. The whole speech can be found in the December issue of the Columbia magazine.

As we move into the new year, don't forget to bless your house on Jan. 6, traditional day of the Epiphany, and write these numbers and letters above the outside of your front door (with chalk). 20 + C + M + B + 16. This is the number of the new year and the initials C M B which stand for Christus Mansionem Benedicat and means "May Christ bless this house". Then say this prayer: Loving God, visit this home and bless it. May there be no evil here. Let your holy angels dwell here and keep all who live here in peace. May you bless us, and all whom we love, today and for evermore. Amen. And may His blessings be with you in this new year, 2016.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

In its 2012 document titled *Disciples Called to Witness*, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops made clear the connection between the parish and the family in the new evangelization.

Regarding parish life, the bishops' document stated, "It is the responsibility of both pastors and laity to ensure that [the doors of the parish] are always open. Evangelization must remain rooted in the parish. It is in the parish that one becomes engaged with the Church community, learns how to become a disciple of Christ, is nurtured by Scripture, is nourished by the sacraments, and ultimately becomes an evangelizer. Successful evangelization and catechetical initiatives must be focused on the parish."

Thus we see a providential convergence of three initiatives of the Knights of Columbus: the development of thousands of new parish-based councils; new programs to strengthen family life, all leading to a deeper understanding of the family as domestic church; and our increasing commitment to serve the Church's mission of a new evangelization through the parish.

Indeed, each of these three initiatives points to the Knights of Columbus as the organization best situated to enliven and strengthen parish life. We are truly positioned today to move to a new level of service as the strong right arm of our parish churches.

Now the time has come for us to accelerate these initiatives as they affect our work in parishes and our work to strengthen Christian family life.

THE RENEWAL OF PARISH AND FAMILY LIFE

We must devote even greater efforts to our fundamental mission of charity, unity and fraternity, and we must do so with even greater attention to the needs and the future of our parishes and our families. What is necessary now is our greater involvement in the renewal of parish and family life.

To meet this need we will have to do some things differently. Our councils will have to become even more active in our parish communities. We will have to stop duplicating activities that are more appropriately done by and through the parish. We will have to focus more on programs that support Catholic families in their mission as a domestic church.

For many councils, doing these things will require making choices between what is good and what is better. Often they may have to choose between what our Catholic community may have needed in the past and what it needs today *and in the future*.

A NEW K OF C INITIATIVE

Therefore, I am announcing a new Orderwide initiative to strengthen both our parishes and our families. It is titled *Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish*. This new initiative builds upon our past programs and accomplishments. At the same time, it requires that we do some things differently in the future.

Second, our Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish initiative requires that our parish-based councils move toward greater integration into the life of our parishes.

Councils should begin to phase out the duplication of programs that may compete with parish activities. Instead, we will use our resources of time, talent and money to strengthen parish-based and parish-sponsored programs.

One important area where this will occur is youth-based parish ministry. Perhaps more than at any other time, our youth are in need of greater evangelization, catechesis and pastoral care. This pastoral care must take place within the parish and at the direction and supervision of its pastor. Today our youth need more not less involvement in the life of their parish.

There is no better organization today in so many parishes than the Knights of Columbus to assist our pastors in this responsibility. Councils should seek ways to work more closely with parish-based youth ministry programs. And councils should also seek new ways to support the activities of parish-based schools.

THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

When St. John Paul II spoke of the new evangelization he explained that the content of evangelization would not be new, but that this would be an evangelization "new in its ardor, methods and expression."

This is this same dynamic that guides our mission today. The "content" of the Knights of Columbus has not changed. We are a Catholic brotherhood based upon the principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. We are dedicated to faithful and unparalleled service to the Church. But what will change is the "expression" of that service so that our work may become even more relevant and effective.

The changes outlined here may be difficult for some. Change is never easy. But the proven record of the past half century is clear: The closer the Knights of Columbus becomes to parish life, the closer we work with our parish priests, and the more we support Catholic families, the more our Order grows in membership and charity.

The challenge of effective leadership is to lead change, not to be led by change. The leadership of the Knights of Columbus has always succeeded in leading change. And this is what I am confident you and I will succeed in doing in the days ahead.

Vivat Jesus! (speech by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson in San Antonio-Nov. 2015)

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