



Knights of Columbus

Bishop Ruocco Council, No. 9275

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The Knight Reader

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OFFICERS 2011-2012

Grand Knight.....

ROBERT J. CHEVALIER

Chaplain.....

REV. DAVID P. WHITE

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Lecturer.....

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3rd Year Trustee.....

ADAM M. HEROUX, PGK

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EUGENE F. BARTOS, PGK

1st Year Trustee.....

FRANCIS X. BURKE, PGK

District Deputy.....

JOHN P. DeCOURCY, PGK

Field Agent.....

STEPHEN A. WHITE

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The Grand Knight Report – Robert Chevalier

WORTHY BROTHERS:

May the blessings of Christmas be with each of you and your families as we enter into this Joyous Season and the New Year.

In our review of the advent period we should all be pleased with our charitable actions and spirit in advance of Christmas. We gave generously on our annual charity night to organizations that promote and live by the principals of the Knights of Columbus. Organizations that protect the unborn and care for women who are pregnant and in need of support. We gave to an organization whose work in the city of Lowell help ease the burden of daily life for those who find themselves without a permanent home and, we gave to support the faith life of men and women who seek a more complete understanding of their relationship with Jesus.

Our Council participated in the Massachusetts State Council Knights of Columbus "Coats for Kids" program and, when we discovered the need was even greater than expected, we gave generously from our treasury to supply additional new coats to children in our area who would otherwise be cold as the winter intensifies. This is **Your Council** and this is how we live the principals of faith, charity and unity.

As we look to the New Year, our Council needs your support more than ever. The events that we host to raise and distribute

charitable funding require organization and leadership. Too often we find the same few Knights leaning forward to take ownership of an event. We need you to consider leading a committee that supports our spiritual life (Evening of reflection, Anniversary Mass, Blue Mass, etc), our fund raising (4th of July Booth and Parade, Golf Tournament, Tootsie Roll Drive, Turkey Raffle and new events), our social gatherings (4th Monday, Christmas party for kids and, new ideas) and, most of all, our charity events (Special Needs Fair, Bowling, Coats for Kids and other events as required). We also need new leaders in our ranks and I ask that you consider an officer role in the coming year. You **HAVE** great ideas, you **CAN** offer change, you **CAN** spare the time (only a few hours a month) and you **WILL** make a positive contribution to our Council.

Please consider a **New Year's Resolution** to step forward and lead one of these events. It will take surprisingly little of your time and the rewards and blessings that you give and receive will put a smile on your face throughout the year.

Lastly, as we reflect on our blessings during this period, please pray for those who are without hope, those who are failing in health....., who are in financial stress....., who shoulder the burdens of our difficult economy and those whose faith life is in jeopardy.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year !

Did you Know?

All our Brothers and their families should know that representation from the Knights of Columbus can be requested at the wake service for any member of our Council who has passed away. Please insure that your family is aware of your wishes in this regard so that timely notification can be made to our Council Officers and the appropriate arrangements can be completed for a 4th Degree Honor Guard to stand at the service.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for the following brothers and their families and caregivers: Bob Dzuris, Bob Wheeler, Chuck Carroll, Cathy O'Malley (wife of Mike O'Malley), Jeanne Peters (wife of Jack Peters), Barbara Smith (wife of Michael Smith), Marie Breen (wife of David Breen, Emily Chateauneuf daughter of Marc, Elaine Fulbright, John Keville, Father Bilicky, Paul Barker, Ed & Jean Fournier, Ray Kelly, Al and Pauline Gorham. For those who are sick or in distress, please remember that you are in our prayers at each meeting and in the private prayers of our hearts. If you know of a brother knight or family member who would like to be included in our prayers, please contact one of the individual below. Also, we would like to know any births, wedding and deaths so that we may respond appropriately. Please inform Grand Knight Bob Chevalier at Bob.Chevalier@verizon.net, Chancellor Jim McPadden at JMcPad35@aol.com, or Newsletter Editor/Publisher Barry Bell at kofcnews@yahoo.com.

FIELD AGENTS REPORT by Stephen White

Don't wait any longer... now is the best time!

Now that Christmas is behind us and we welcome in the New Year, have you made a resolution? Did you manage to stick to last year's resolution? Many of us are professionals at procrastinating! Why not set some time aside now for a financial checkup? Many of the members and their families that I visit say the same thing..."I wish I met with you years ago". If you already have a financial and insurance planner, that's great! You should trust your current planner enough to allow me the opportunity to review your plans and give you a second opinion. It doesn't take much time, there is no charge, and you are under absolutely no obligation whatsoever!

I am currently in my eighteenth year as your Knights of Columbus Field Agent. I can honestly say that I have the longevity by doing the right thing for **you!**

Please contact me, Steve White today at (603)894-4780 or kofcins@aol.com for your complimentary analysis. You'll be glad you did.

Life Insurance
Long Term Care Insurance
Disability Income Insurance
Retirement Annuities

Keep Christ in Christmas by Mike Mancini

Thanks for supporting the Christmas card event making it another success. In this day and age, keeping Christ in Christmas is an important message and needs to be said. A special thanks to Bob Chevalier, Paul Rigazio for chairing the churches and the St. Catherine's team. Merry Christmas!!

NOTES FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY by David Breen

Dues Are Due by January 1

The Council has 209 dues paying members. 103 members have already paid their 2012 dues. How many have yet to pay their dues? TOO MANY.

Statistics: Last year, it was September before I could close the books for the 2011 Membership Dues. If you are disabled or are enduring a hardship, please contact me.

Total Membership	250	
Inactive Members	13	Withdrew as a member but retains insurance
Honorary Life Members	24	(Including 10 Priests)
Disabled Members	4	
Dues Paying Members	209	

David Breen, 5 Hearthstone Road, Westford, 01886, 978-692-4873, dlbreen@comcast.net

Annual Children's Christmas party

by Adam Heroux, PGK

The annual Children's Christmas party was held on December 18th at the Paul Center. The event was well attended with about 10 kids, and of course Santa! The children enjoyed crafts, a sing-along, and a visit from Santa.

I would especially like to thank PGK Gene Bartos for filling in as Santa's little helper and MC for the event, and our tried and true Larry Costanzo for his continued support as Santa. Larry has helped the council for years in this role, and the kids love him! Gene mentioned that his granddaughter warmed up to Larry where previous Santa's had failed. We look forward to seeing you all and your little ones next year. Merry Christmas!



SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS

by Deacon Robert Dzuris

Greatness

Retreats are a great practice for keeping one on point spiritually. I attended one given by MSGR. Charles M. Murphy called Belonging to God. It caused me to reflect on what makes a Christian great because it has been my experience with many Catholics that they have too poor an opinion of themselves. One's opinion of one's self can be measured many ways but one is by reading the life of St. Francois and especially Basil the Great who spoke of Christian greatness as *"For it is part of a truly great man not merely to be equal to great things, but also to make little things great by his own power."*

Newsletter by Barry Bell

Articles that are to be included in the February issue of the Knight Reader need to be e-mailed to me at kofcnews@yahoo.com before **January 20th**. If you see a name next to the article, that is the author of the article. No name indicates that I inserted the article. Thank you to Bob Chevalier, Harold Coughlin, John Lamplough, Mike O'Malley, Adam Heroux, Steve White, Bob Dzuris, Mike Mancini, Dave Breen and Paul Rigazio. Communication is most important to be fully informed. Please think of adding an article to the next issue. As you can see I added pictures and I hope to add a calendar in upcoming issues.

Thank You, Barry Bell

Basketball Free Throw Contest by Mike O'Malley

The Basketball Free Throw Contest will be on Saturday, January 14th at the McCarthy Middle School, North Road in Chelmsford from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. I am in need of about 4-5 Brother volunteers to help with registration, judging, ball retrieval and scribing certificates. The usual time asked is about 2 hours during the day.

I can be contacted by Email at omallemo@hotmail.com or at 978-649-6413.

Spring Events For Brothers by Paul Rigazio, PGK

The Council will again be planning a 26th Anniversary Dinner, at which our Juliettes are most welcome and the GK presents the Knight of the Year Award, and a BLUE MASS, recognizing our local Police and Firefighters, at St. Catherine's. Both events are in the early planning stages for Mar/Apr 2012.



The color guard: American Flag is Jean Pennard, POW-MIA flag is Harold Coughlin PGK, MCVV flag is Bob Casper, Detail commander is Mike Kendrick PGK as they lead the 4th Degree at the Wreaths Across America event on December 10, 2011 at Bourne National Cemetery

Buildings & Ground

Sal's Pizza October social meeting raised \$58 for B&G. Thank you to everyone who participated, and we encourage all members to attend in the future.

The Super Bowl Pool has started so buy squares at the January business meeting and Free Throw Competition. Numbers will be drawn at the January social meeting at Princeton Station. Squares are 2 for \$5 and the pool pays \$50 a quarter for the first 3 quarters and for the final score. Jump in to the pool. It makes the Super Bowl more exciting.

State Raffle tickets are in. More information will follow in the February newsletter when the tickets are mailed.

Coats for Kids by Bob Chevalier, GK

What a wonderful and rewarding program this has been for our Council and the community we serve. In September our Council approved a \$200 investment in the Coats for Kids Program which provides warm winter coats for distribution to kids most in need in our community. The Massachusetts State Council augmented our donation (doubled it) and in late November we received 36 coats of varying sizes to distribute to boys and girls. Requirements were solicited from our parish administrators, religious education directors, and our local school nurse.

The response was overwhelming with request for 49 coats for children in need being received. One response asked if we could help -in any way- to get an 11 year old boy a bicycle which is all he wanted for Christmas but the family could not provide. These requests were outlined at our December monthly planning meeting and our officers voted to act quickly and provide a generous \$300 donation from our charity account to meet these request. By Wednesday December 14th all 36 coats from the Coats for Kids Program and an additional 13 coats - and a bicycle - were delivered to these kids and families.

Congratulations to each of you. It is through your efforts, you're assisting at fund raising and your personal support of our Council that we applied for and received coats from the State Council. And it was our own Knights and Officers who extended our charity to reach the additional needs. It's great to be part of the Knights of Columbus!



District Deputy Jack DeCourcy delivers Coats for Kids to Bishop Ruocco Council GK Bob Chevalier for distribution to needy children in our Council area.



It's a trunk full of coats that will warm children this winter.



Bob Chevalier delivers coats to Donna Delahanty – Director of Religious Education (R) and Fran Anderson - Parish Secretary (L) at St. Johns Parish for distribution to kids in need.

