



The Christopher Columbus Navigator



VIVAT JESUS

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1st Quarter, 2007

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Knights of Columbus Newsletter
1st Quarter, 2007

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From The State Deputy



Looking back over the past few months, we have had some truly good things happen. The First State Soccer Challenge (see page 6) for the State of Georgia was held in Griffin on Sunday, November 12th. Participation was really good for the first year. Parents and children came from all over Georgia and many went home with trophies.

A **BIG THANK YOU** to David Oatman and the many brothers that helped make this first challenge a big success. Next year will be even better!

Our Split-The-Pot raffle was another success as we raised \$3,460.00 for the State Emergency Fund. Congratulations to the Fr. John Kennedy Council 4913 in Valdosta. They sold the winning ticket to John Fleming. Both John and the council each received \$3,460.00. Thanks to all of you that participated in this raffle.

Another big success was "THE BLITZ" in October. You did a super job with this recruiting effort. Membership growth is on target! We need to get all who filled out a form 100 through the First Degree and make sure that the completed form 100's for these new members are sent to Supreme immediately following the degree. In addition, you need to make sure that your Membership Committee is following up on your council's prospect cards. Continued recruiting will assure that all goals are met and together we will have a GREAT year!

We are at the mid-way point of this fraternal year. It's time to check our progress and review our plans for the rest of the year. Is your council on track to make Star Council this year? Are your plans for membership, programs and insurance to reach your goals in place?

We have six months left in this fraternal year. With solid planning, we can go over the top in recruitment. While your council activities offer many opportunities for growth, the "March Blitz," like the October Blitz, is a major opportunity to put your council over the TOP! But, planning is the key. Your District Deputy is ready and able to help. And, don't forget to get your Field Agent involved. He is a great recruiter! As a team, you can make it happen.

Reminder, there are two very important reports due to Supreme in January. They are the "Survey of Fraternal Activities" and the "Special Olympics Report". The Fraternal Survey is a requirement for Star Council. The Special Olympics Report will be used to determine the funds we receive from Supreme for Georgia Special Olympics. Please file this report even if you had no Special Olympics activity. It's very important.

The mid-year Grand Knights meetings will be held at Holy Spirit in Macon on January 13th and Notre Dame Academy in Duluth on January 20th. Both meetings will start at 10:00 AM. While you may attend either one, the meeting in Macon is planned for Districts #1 through #7 and the meeting in Alpharetta is for Districts #8 through #21. I look forward to seeing you there!

I hope that all of you had a most blessed Christmas. And with the New Year, may you have a Healthy, Happy, and Prosperous 2007! May the Peace of Christ be with you always!

It is also my honor privilege to announce the appointment of Oscar Gutierrez, PGK of Council 12000 as the District Deputy of the new District #21. Please congratulate him and give him all of your support. I know that he will do a grand job.

Happy New Year and more importantly, **Our Lady of Guadeloupe please pray for us.**

John Brenner - State Deputy



**Our Lady of
Guadeloupe,
Pray for us**

What The Lord Wants For Christmas



Give Jesus the gift of your trusting, hopeful heart received in the sacrament of reconciliation. As you read this column, you are probably in the throes of Christmas shopping. No doubt you've made your list and checked it twice — all in an effort to find appropriate gifts for spouses, children, friends and colleagues. After all, gift giving, especially at Christmas, is more than a superficial social obligation. Our gifts express our bonds of love, friendship, knowledge and respect for others. Thoughtful gifts say that we've taken the time to discover the interests and preferences of the intended recipients. More importantly, such gifts can show that we've truly grown in our knowledge and love of the persons God has sent into our lives.

But what should we give the Lord Jesus for Christmas? After all, it's his birthday. Besides, there's precedent for giving gifts to the newborn King. Scripture (Matt 2:1-12) tells of the Magi who came from afar bringing symbolic gifts of gold (royalty), frankincense (hope in the Messiah) and myrrh (Jesus' future suffering and death).

It would be impossible for us to surpass such magnificent gifts that signify so aptly Jesus' identity as the incarnate Son of God and his mission as Messiah to give us hope by his sacrifice of love. No catalogue will help us find a gift for the Lord Jesus, and there's nothing he wants or needs at the mall. The Lord is not asking you and me to fight the traffic, brave the crowds or divulge our credit card number online. Nor would he want us to give him something extravagant — costly, yes, but not extravagant.

The costly gift that I believe Jesus most wants to receive at Christmas does not seem like a gift to you or to me. It's nothing we'd want to receive — but then we are not messiahs. It's my belief that the Lord Jesus wants us to give him the sin or the sins with which we most struggle. For some, it might be failing to worship God at Sunday Mass and by daily prayer. For others, it might be a sinful habit or an addiction or a longstanding grudge against a family member or colleague. Perhaps it's some destructive form of self-indulgence that wreaks havoc on us and on those around us, or else, a habit of dishonesty. You and I won't see advertisements for these "gifts" but they are what the Lord really wants. After all, God's only begotten Son was born in time and history to save us from our sins.

How do we identify which sin or sins to entrust to the Lord as Christmas approaches? I'd suggest that the angels' hymn on the night of the Lord's birth is a good place to start: "Glory to God in high heaven, and peace on earth to those on whom his favor rests" (Luke 2:14). We should ask ourselves during the weeks of Advent: What sins do I commit that break the bond of peace? What do I do that disturbs my own peace of mind — behavior that bothers my conscience? What do I do that damages or even destroys peace among family members and friends, or causes unnecessary discord at work? Do I sin against the unity of the Church by constantly complaining or tearing down the reputation of fellow Catholics? These are the sorts of things we should most readily entrust to the Prince of Peace at the celebration of his birth.

We zero in on our "gift" or "gifts" to the Lord Jesus by a sincere examination of conscience followed by a good, complete and worthy confession of our sins in the sacrament of penance or reconciliation. In her book, *Confession*, (Herder and Herder 1964), the theologian Adrienne von Speyr observed that Jesus lived his earthly life in complete openness to his Father in heaven. Confession of our sins signals that we are opening our hearts to God and thus becoming like Jesus. The "perfect penitent," she said, lives as Jesus did: "in absolute openness, hiding nothing, always ready to be moved by the Holy Spirit, drawing assurance not from himself, but from the Father and his Spirit." Such openness of heart, such lack of fear, such trust in Jesus' power to save — this is the gift the Lord truly asks of us.

(See "Lord" Continued on page 8)

People with Intellectual Disabilities Drive

What does it take to make "Some kind of Miracle Happen" for the People With Intellectual Disabilities? Or you might ask can I make "Some Kind of Miracle Happen" for the "People with Intellectual Disabilities."

Are these simple questions that require a simple answer? The answer is a resounding **YES!** It begins with **YOU**.

Have **YOU** really given any thought about conducting a drive for the "people with intellectual disabilities?" It's so easy to say "Well we've got a lot on our plate right now" or "Someone else will pick up the slack" or "It takes time and effort and I'm not willing to do that right now."

YOU and **YOU** alone are the answer to success or failure of any charitable drive.

As President John F. Kennedy said in his inaugural speech "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country" The same thing kind of applies here. I'm asking you **not** to say, "Let the other guy do it," but rather "**I'll do what I can to make some kind of miracle happen for the People with Intellectual Disabilities.**"

May God Bless each and every one of you and your families during this Christmas Season.

Dennis Klein - Chairman - People with Intellectual Disabilities Drive



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- **1st** - New Year's Day
- **6th** - 2/3 Degree, St Brigid, Alpharetta, 10AM
- **7th** - Feast of the Epiphany
- **10th** - Family of the Month nominations due at Supreme
- **13th** - Grand Knight's meeting in Macon at Holy Spirit starting at 10:00AM (Districts 1-7)
- **15th** - Martin Luther King Day
- **20th** - Grand Knight's meeting in Duluth at Notre Dame Academy starting at 10:00AM (Districts 8-21)
- **31st** - The following reports are due:
 - Freethrow Championship Participation Report #FT-1
 - Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest Form #4001
 - Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity Report #1728
 - Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics #4584

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6 2/3 Degree, St Brigid
7 Epiphany	8	9	10 Report Due	11	12	13 GK Mtg in Macon
14	15 MLK Day	16	17	18	19	20 GK Mtg in Duluth
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Reports Due			

Prayer To End Abortion



In January we celebrate the story of the Three Kings on the feast of the Epiphany. Let us not forget the dark side of this story. Herod conspired to kill Christ, even at the outset of His life. Innocent children were slaughtered. The Holy Family was forced to flee to Egypt. It's not easy trusting in God's will.

Gianna Molla, a young physician, dedicated her life to God's will when she was just 15 years old. She spent her life serving the sick, especially the young. She became the mother of three children. When pregnant with her fourth, she was given a choice because of uterine cancer: abort the baby and save your life, or save the baby. She gave the choice to God and prayed: "If you must decide between me and the child, do not hesitate: choose the child—I insist on it. Save the baby." She died a week after giving birth to her fourth child. It's not easy trusting in God's will.

We may pray to St. Gianna Molla today for young couples who will courageously trust God's will to honor the sacrament of matrimony and accept the children that God wants to give them.

January 22 marks the 34th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision to legalize abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy. Forty-seven million of us are now missing. Participate in the Memorial mass on January 22nd at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Atlanta, or the March on Washington, or a local observance in your area. The Mass in Atlanta will begin at 10:00 AM. Take the day off and bring the kids. Afterwards there will be a prayer service and rally on the Capitol Steps and a silent parade through the streets of Atlanta.

Pray the Rosary at every opportunity. Begin your Knights meetings with the rosary. Pray the following prayer from Priests for Life:

Prayer to End Abortion

Lord God, I thank you today for the gift of my life, and for the lives of all my brothers and sisters. I know there is nothing that destroys more life than abortion, yet I rejoice that you have conquered death by the Resurrection of Your Son. I am ready to do my part in ending abortion. Today I commit myself never to be silent, never to be passive, never to be forgetful of the unborn. I commit myself to be active in the pro-life movement, and never to stop defending life until all my brothers and sisters are protected, and our nation once again becomes a nation with liberty and justice not just for some, but for all, Through Christ our Lord. Amen!

Peter Badolato - State Pro-Life Chairman

February 2007



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- **10th** - Family of the Month nominations due at Supreme
- **10th** - 2/3 Degree, St Michael the Archangel, Woodstock, 10AM
- **12th** - Lincoln's Birthday
- **14th** - St Valentine's Day
- **15th** - Semiannual Audit Report Form (#1295) Due
- **19th** - Washington's Birthday
- **21st** - Ash Wednesday and President's Day

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 2/3 Degree, Woodstock
11	12 Lincoln's BD	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 Audit Report Due	16	17
18	19 Washington's BD	20	21 Ash Wednesday & Pres Day	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			



Character & Self Confidence

According to research by the Mayo Clinic, children learn valuable lessons through sports and exercise. And, exercise keeps them fit. Ask any coaches you meet and they'll tell you the same thing. As Knights, we can help with character and self-confidence in boys and girls through the K of C Free Throw Championships.

The 2007 Free Throw Championships are now getting under way, with local Council competitions all over Georgia. If your Council hasn't participated in the past, you are strongly encouraged to start your own Free Throw Championships this year.

The competition is easy to put on. All you need is a basket, a couple of basketballs and some kids, age 10 to 14. All of the information you need is available at no charge from the Supreme Council by ordering the Free Throw kit. You can order it on line at www.kofc.org or by mail using the order form in your forms and reports booklet.

Research has proven that children who participate in athletics do better in school and are less likely to become involved with drugs. Through athletic competition, they achieve superior social skills, they learn how to use their strengths and improve on their weaknesses, and learn to believe in themselves. Our Order's responsibilities to families includes being a positive influence on youth, and our Free Throw Championships are a way every Council can take on this responsibility. And it's fun!

If your Council needs any help starting or conducting a Free Throw Championship, your State Free Throw Director is available to help. Email thom@registerdata.com or call (478) 951-5101.

Winners of the Council competitions advance to District Championships held in February. The District winners are then invited to the State Championships scheduled for March 24th in Macon. The Georgia State Council is prepared to host participants from all 21 Districts in Georgia and we hope to have as close to 210 participants as we can in Macon come March.

Our children are our future. We owe it to them and to ourselves to provide them the opportunity to improve themselves, to be better prepared for the responsibilities they will assume as they grow up.

One logistical reminder: each child entered in your Council Championships must complete an entry form/score sheet (they come in the Free Throw Kit from Supreme). At the completion of your Council Championships, you should send those forms for your Council winners to your District Deputy. He'll need them for the District Championships. DD's, you need to forward the forms for your District Champions to me for the State Championships. DD's will be receiving complete instructions from me shortly.

And again, if you have any questions, or if there's anything I can do to help make the Free Throw Championships a success in your Council or your District, please ask. I'll do whatever it takes.

Thom Mead - State Free Throw Chairman



March 2007



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- **10th** - Family of the Month nominations due at Supreme
- **10th** - 2/3 Degree, St Mark, Clarkesville, 10AM
- **17th** - St Patrick's Day
- **24th** - Free Throw Contest in Macon
- **25th** - Knights of Columbus Day of the Unborn Child
- **25th** - 2/3 Degree, 4913 Council Home, Valdosta, Noon
- **29th** - Founder's Day in 1882

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 2/3 Degree & Report Due
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 St Patrick's Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Free Throw Contest
25 KofC Day of Unborn, & 2/3	26	27	28	29 Founder's Day 1882	30	31

April Events

- **1st** - 2/3 Degree at #631 Council Home, Savannah at Noon
- **18th** - Nominations for State Service Program Awards are due
- **21st** - 4th Degree Exemplification will be held at the Atlanta Airport Westin Hotel

Membership, Retention, Membership, Retention . . .



Membership, Membership, Membership, and Retention, Retention, Retention, are still the main focus for the remainder of this fraternal year. In addition working very closely and hand in hand is Programs. Brothers if we do nothing but focus on these areas for the remainder of the year it will prove to be an outstanding year for our councils and our state as a whole. When we work in these areas it is not for the winning of awards; rather it is for the betterment of our councils. However, our efforts are recognized by the awards that follow outstanding achievement in these areas. We are half way through the fraternal year please continue to do what you all have been doing and have fun while you do it.

When it does become necessary to suspend a brother knight, please remember to follow the proper procedures. These procedures are not in place to make things difficult; rather they are to insure that every effort is made to keep brother knights within the order. The major procedure that is often times overlooked is the fact that each member must be contacted prior to suspension. This means a one on one conversation..... Sending letters, leaving voice messages, sending e mails IS NOT THE PROPER WAY.

Thank you all for your continued efforts in the areas of Membership, Retention, and Programs as they are all dependent on each other.....

Rick Sisko - State Warden

We Need Help With Getting New 1st Degree Teams



From the District Master: There will be an Exemplification of the Fourth Degree on Saturday, April 21, 2007. It will be held at the Atlanta Airport Westin Hotel. The fee for candidates will be \$70.00, this includes pin, social baldric, certificate, and one banquet ticket, additional banquet tickets will be in the \$40.00 to \$42.00 range. Final details will follow in late January. Start recruiting now.

From the State Ceremonials Chairman: As of this date only 26 teams have been certified in the new First Degree. Please make this a top priority for your council in the second half of the fraternal year. Make a note that the June Degrees originally scheduled for Council #4599 in Marietta have been moved to Saturday, June 2, 2007 at St. Thomas the Apostle, Council #12386 in Smyrna.

Sow The Seeds of Vocations

On page 8 of this edition, PGK Frank Morgan, Georgia State RSVP Chairman, makes a compelling case for our support of the wonderful men and women who HAVE ALREADY RESPONDED to the call of Christ to serve His Church through the Priesthood and Religious Life. I certainly support that message without reservation.

As true Knights of Columbus and Catholic gentlemen, we must also seek ways to SOW THE SEEDS of vocations among our youth. Thanks to the Georgia State Council, I can offer you an effective and easy way to do that. We have received from Supreme enough copies of two DVD's that each District Deputy in our state will have one copy of each. (I will have them in the mail ASAP and I hope they will have arrived by the time you read this.)

Both of these DVD's were commissioned by Supreme and are of the quality we can always expect in such cases. Both are roughly 29 minutes in length.

One is "The Vocation to the Priesthood." It has actually been available since 2003. The second, done in 2005, is entitled "The Vocation to the Religious Life for Women."

I urge every Council to borrow these from their DD. Then, view them with your Pastor and your Director of Religious Education. I believe once those worthies see them, it will be an easy sell to arrange for a viewing for the young of your parish with perhaps a dinner in connection with the viewing(s).

As important as the result is to the Church – we are not playing a numbers game. As always, the Lord chooses who He wills – we need only the satisfaction of knowing we did what we could to plant the seed.

Wafford Sautel - State Vocations Chairman

State Program Accountability

At the Grand Knight's meetings in July, we talked stressed accountability for all 90 of Georgia's councils to take an active roll in our state programs. So far this year, we've sponsored the State Soccer Challenge in Griffin, GA where a number of districts brought representatives for all age groups. Thanks to David Oatman, State Chairman, for his work on sponsoring this first-ever event.

Another program underway is Family of the Month. Please continue to get your nominations into Supreme by the 10th of each month. We're averaging just under 40 councils per month participating and we'd like to see all councils represented. Thanks to all who participate on a monthly basis.

Other programs underway include: Intellectual Disabilities Drive, State Charities Drive, Special Olympics, Boy Scouts, Wheelchairs, Columbian Squires, Keep Christ in Christmas, and the Free Throw Contest. Please get involved in as many of these charitable causes as possible.

Finally, the deadline to submit nominations for state service program awards is **April 18, 2007**. We need at least one nomination from each of our 90 councils. We'll talk more about this at the upcoming meetings in January. Best wishes for a prosperous new year.

John Southwood - State Program Chairman

First Annual State Soccer Challenge

The Knights of Columbus first annual soccer challenge was held on Sunday November 12th at the Wyomia Tyus Soccer Complex in Griffin, Ga. Participants came from as far away as Savannah, Augusta, Albany and Athens. Eight districts and thirteen councils were represented at the competition.

THE FIRST PLACE WINNERS							
Girls	Age	District	Council	Boys	Age	District	Council
Kaila Green	10	19	8972	David Cheverino	10	20	7601
Julie Trawick	11	16	12883	Nolan Kempainen	11	7	8495
Carley Turner	12	5	3607	Karlton Green	12	19	8972
Virginia Russell	13	2	10866	Timmy McCarthy	14	2	10866

State deputy John Brenner was on hand to present the winners with the trophies and soccer balls. State warden Rick Sisko was also on hand along with several district deputies.

Many thanks to all who participated, transported the contestants, and to Council #12321 for all the help they provided in this event and even those who provided the wonderful flyover. (You had to be there.)

Special Recognition goes to 11 year old Nolan Kempainen of Evans, GA. His 315 points led the competition and included 13 - 20 point shots.

David Oatman - State Soccer Challenge Chairman

Didjano



- That on average, each roundtable results in three new members per year?
- That round tables are the way to offer the benefits of our order to Catholic Communities not served by a council?
- That if you council serves more than one parish or mission you should appoint one roundtable coordinator for all except the primary parish?
- That if you parish has a mass in a language other than English you should appoint one roundtable coordinator to reach out to that community?
- That last fraternal year each Grand Knight who established a Spanish Round Table on Form 2629 and then submitted the annual Round Table Report on Form 2630 received a gift card from Supreme?
- That you can establish several round tables on one Form 2629?
- What are you waiting for?



Jim St John - State Treasurer

Page #	Item	Change
6	District 12	Delete 1st phone number
13	Health Services	New address: 58 N Lake Drive Sautee, GA 30571
38	9458 Financial Sec'y	Add Spouse: Brenda
38	Council Meeting Day	Change to 1st Tuesday
70	Assembly #1962 Faithful Navigator	Add Spouse: Cathy Phone: 770-504-0055
70	Assembly #1962 F Cont	Add Spouse: Sylvia
70	Assembly #1962 Faithful Commander	Add: Richard Guettler Email: guettler@adobeequipment.com

Note the changes for the directory on the table at the left.

And the Winner is . . .

John Fleming of Council 4913 who won the State Split the Pot. Brother Fleming won \$3,460.00 in the drawing held at the Third Degree in Conyers. Brother Fleming's Council also won the same amount for selling the winning ticket. The remaining \$3460.00 goes into the Sate Council Emergency Fund to be dispersed to meet emergencies in the State of Georgia. It was a win-win-win situation!

Dan Baker - State Secretary

Deadlines

As we near the second half of the fraternal year, there are several forms/deadlines which are fast approaching. The following forms are available in the Council Report Forms Booklet, they are also available online at www.kofc.org.

- **January 31st** - Freethrow Championship Participation Report #FT-1
- **January 31st** - Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest Form #4001
- **January 31st** - Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity Report #1728
- **January 31st** - Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics #4584
- **February 15th** - Semi-Annual Audit Report #1295

The only form that cannot be filed with Supreme electronically is the Semi-Annual Audit Report #1295. This form has to be signed by the Grand Knight and Council Trustees and then mailed to Supreme. A copy of each form should be forwarded to your District Deputy and to the State Deputy. When filing on-line, make sure you print a copy of the completed form at the time of submission so you will have a date stamped copy for council records. Should you have questions about completing any of these forms, contact your District Deputy or the State Advocate.

Remember that it is not too early for you to submit the Columbian Award Application #SP-7, Roundtable Coordinator Form #2629, and RSVP Refund/Plaque Application #2863.

Stewart Key III - State Advocate

The Knights of Columbus
Georgia State Council
c/o Holy Family Church
3401 Lower Roswell Rd
Marietta, GA 30068

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Georgia State
Knights of Columbus
Newsletter
1st Quarter, 2007



“Breath of Life”



To the nineteen councils in the state of Georgia who still do not participate in the RSVP Program I would like for you to reflect on the above for a minute or two.

Many of the young men and women who have dedicated themselves to religious vocations are away from home for the first time. They are away from their families and perhaps in a society that speaks a language other than their own, but they persevere (most of them). But what of those that don't? Could we have helped, could we have made the difference in whether or not they persevered? Perhaps.

The support given through the RSVP Program (financial, personal, emotional and spiritual) could possibly be the “breath of life” that sustains them; perhaps at the very moment that they are facing the 2nd most important decision in their lives. The 1st of course being when they made the decision to enter the seminary.

I read somewhere recently that the number of priests in the United States has shrunk close to 15,000(+/-) in the last 25 years. What can we as Knights do to reverse this trend? Participation in the RSVP Program would be a good way to start. The RSVP Program needs your support. The seminarians in our seminaries need your support. The Church needs your support.

If the will to participate exists, a way can be found. I urge you to give this your prayerful consideration.

Frank Morgan - RSVP Chairman

(“Lord” Continued from page 2)

Many parishes have penance services and expanded schedules for the sacrament of reconciliation during Advent. I heartily encourage you to avail yourself of this sacrament in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Ask the Holy Spirit for the courage to make a good and complete confession and truly to be sorry for your sins. Then listen for the priest to say: “Through the ministry of the Church, may God give you pardon and peace. And I absolve you from your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Then listen again and rejoice as the heavenly host echoes those words at Christmas: “Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.” And be at peace, knowing you’ve given the Lord the best gift of all - the gift of a trusting, hopeful heart.

Excerpted from *Columbia Magazine* - Bishop William Lori - Supreme Chaplain