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The Christopher Columbus Navigator



VIVAT JESUS

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"We Will Grow and We Will Serve"

Georgia State Council
Knights of Columbus Newsletter
March-April, 2010

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Page One News...!

TO: U.S. State Deputies

FROM: Supreme Knight

DATE: January 21, 2010

RE: URGENT ACTION NEEDED - Health Care Reform

With Congress now back in session, I am writing to ask you to encourage Knights in your jurisdiction to continue to contact their Representative and Senators about the health care reform legislation. The Senate version of the bill currently under consideration by a joint House and Senate conference committee fails to maintain the long-standing policy against the federal funding of abortion and does not protect the conscience rights of those who refuse to participate in abortion. The U.S. bishops have called this bill "deficient" and have said that it should be opposed.

Thanks to the special efforts of brother Knight Congressman Bart Stupak and a broad bi-partisan coalition of representatives, the House version of the bill maintains the policy against the federal funding of abortion.

It is not yet clear how the result in the special Senate election held in Massachusetts on Tuesday will impact health care reform legislation, but one course of action being considered is for the House to simply pass the Senate version.

Time is of the essence because the negotiations on health care reform are happening now. It is crucial that every member of the House and Senate hear from us immediately so that the final bill will not mandate federal funding of abortion and will adequately protect conscience rights.

Please direct members to www.kofc.org which provides a quick and effective mechanism to contact Congress. We must prevent health care reform from becoming the largest expansion of abortion in our country since *Roe v. Wade*.



From The State Deputy

By Jim St. John - State Deputy



Brothers, we are in the season of Lent, where we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the great Feast of Easter. Many of us can remember when we were children and having to give up candy for those long 6 weeks. I remember a very wise priest suggesting, in an Ash Wednesday homily, that during Lent we should give up those things which cause us to distance ourselves from God. As State Deputy, I am sometimes drawn into conflicts at our councils. Invariably the root cause of these conflicts is that someone was offended and their ego was bruised. Sometimes a member has a project or an idea, but the

other members of the council don't want to adopt it, or a member wants to take some action that the rest of the council is reluctant to do. Sometimes the hard feelings that ensue can nearly tear a council apart. These conflicts occur because we let our egos get in our way. Another wise priest once told me Lent is the time when we need to let some of the hot air out of egos. Sometimes those of us, who hold office in the Order, might take the title "Worthy" a little too seriously. We need to remember that we addressed as "Worthy" to remind us that we should be, not necessarily because we are! We need to take to heart the words we heard as we received the ashes: "Remember you are dust, and unto dust you shall return." We are only worthy because we are loved by God, and because we have been redeemed by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. During this season of Lent let us give up any hard feelings and conflicts; let us seek to mend relationships with our Brother Knights; let us forgive any transgressions, as we hope God will forgive us; let us give up those attitudes that interfere with us performing the good works of our order!

Oh, and let each us also offer the gift of membership in our Order to another Catholic Gentleman.



**"Georgia - Living the Vision of the Venerable
Father Michael J. McGivney"**

"We Choose Life. . ."

By David Canale - State Pro-Life Chairman



As we approach the end of another fraternal year, I wish to thank all of you for your Pro-Life efforts this year. Over the past few months, we had a successful Silver Rose run through our state, we are working hard on getting our matching funding for ultrasound machines, and we most recently provided 1,000 signs for the marchers at the "Rally for Life" at the state capitol building - January 22nd. For those of you who attended the Rally, I am sure that you saw the marchers carrying the K of C "We Choose Life" signs. For those of you who were not there that day, just imagine a sea of blue and white signs with our logo and those words walking through downtown Atlanta. What a wonderful way to communicate our support for the Pro-Life movement.

Now, as we finish out the year, we have one more opportunity for Pro-Life service on March 25th, the "Feast of the Annunciation" and the "Knights of Columbus Day of the Unborn Child," I am confident that all of you know that Pro-Life, although formerly under the category of Community Programs, is now a sixth, separate program area. Thus, in order to qualify for council awards such as Star Council, a council must have four programs in the Pro-Life area. "The Day of the Unborn Child" is a perfect opportunity to finish out your Pro-Life programs, perhaps with a rosary service, a fund-raiser or other appropriate event. There are many opportunities for service - now is the time to think outside the box and get moving!

As always, if I can be of any assistance to you or provide any guidance for you, please feel free to contact me.

Annual Meeting Requirements

By Stewart Key - State Secretary



As presented at the two Grand Knights' Meetings in January, there are a few requirements for delegates to be seated to represent their respective councils at the Annual Meeting in May.

1. Two copies of the completed Delegate Certification Form with the Council Seal affixed to each copy is to be mailed to the State Secretary no later than **April 15, 2010**.

Per the Charter Constitution Laws of the Order, all Per Capita Tax, Major Degree Fees, Convention Book Ad Fees, etc. is to be paid prior to the Annual Meeting in order for Council Delegates to be seated. All taxes, assessments and fees should be submitted to the State Secretary by **April 15, 2010**.

Other Requirements:

1. Resolutions – Any resolutions to come before the Georgia State Council at the Annual Meeting shall be submitted in **duplicate** to the State Secretary by **April 15, 2010**.
2. Necrology Report – The Necrology Report form shall be submitted by **April 30, 2010** to the State Secretary.
3. Applications for 2010-2011 State Charities Benefit Drive – Councils wishing to submit a Charity for consideration as a recipient of 2010-2011 State Charities Benefit Drive funds shall submit applications no later than **April 1, 2010**. Applications shall be mailed to the State Charities Chairman, Stan Rapciewicz FDD.
4. State Program Awards Nominations – Councils wishing to place nominations for the various State Program Awards shall submit nominations postmarked by **April 8, 2010** and received by **April 15, 2010** to the State Program Director, Mark Corrigan FDD.
5. State Knight of the Year Application – All entries for the State Knight of the Year Award shall be postmarked by **April 8, 2010** and received by **April 15, 2010**. Applications shall be mailed to State Chaplain, Reverend Larry Niese and Associate State Chaplain, Reverend Ray Levreault.
6. Georgia State Family of the Year Application – Applications for the Georgia State Family of the Year Award shall be postmarked by **April 8, 2010** and received no later than **April 15, 2010**. Applications shall be mailed to the State Deputy, Jim St. John.
7. Georgia State Ladies Auxiliary of the Year Application – Applications for the Ladies Auxiliary of the Year Award shall be postmarked by **April 8, 2010** and received by **April 15, 2010**. Applications shall be mailed to the State Executive Secretary, FDD Ronald Rigby .
8. State Officers, District Deputies, State Committee Chairmen and State Program Directors shall present to the State Secretary their electronic or typewritten Annual Report at the Annual Meeting but no later than the close of business **May 16, 2010**.

The Dedication of the New Jedlicka General Agency

By John Jedlicka - General Field Agent



Attached are photos of the blessing and dedication of the new Home Office of our field agents - The Jedlicka Agency. A 4th Degree Honor Guard as well as Archbishop Emeritus John Donoghue was on hand. The address of this newly dedicated office is shown on the left.

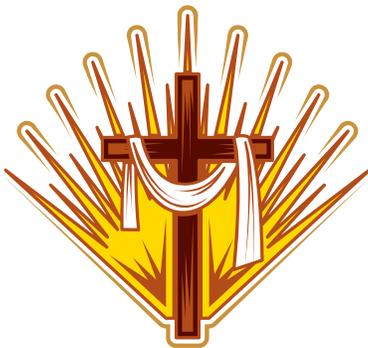
See the article on Page 7 by our Supreme Knight concerning the importance of our insurance program. Please set an appointment today with one of our Field Agents to see how we can help you and your family's future.

The Jedlicka Agency
1720 Old Spring House Lane
Suite 300B
Dunwoody GA 30338-6215
770.455.6313



A Spiritual Message

By Bishop William E Lori - Supreme Chaplain



In one of his many homilies, St. Augustine warned his 5th century congregation not to pine for the good old days: “You hear people complaining about this present day and age because things were so much better in former times!”

He could easily be speaking to us. At one time or another, all of us have conjured up an imaginary time when life was better and discipleship was easier. Longing for the good old days indicates that we don’t understand the hardships our forebears endured. Instead of waiting for the Lord “with joyful hope,” we may find ourselves trying to turn back the clock — but time knows only one direction.

If ever there was a group that needed faith and trust in God and his promises, it was the first followers of Christ. They truly lived in unprecedented times. They saw with their eyes and touched with their hands the Word made flesh. They witnessed Jesus’ miracles, saw him die on the Cross and encountered him after he rose again.

We may wrongly imagine that faith came easily to these first Christians. Yet, it is difficult to grasp how astonishing Christ’s resurrection really was for his first disciples. “The Apostles could not have invented the story of the resurrection since it seemed impossible to them” (*Compendium*, 127). They needed faith and trust in God no less than we do!

After all, the resurrection of Jesus was not merely a resuscitation; it was different from the miracles Jesus’ performed to bring the dead back to life. Like those miracles, Jesus’ resurrection was an event in history, and the marks on his hands and side attest to the fact that “his risen body is that which was crucified” (*Compendium*, 129). Nonetheless, the Resurrection was an event that goes beyond history. By rising from the dead, Jesus brought our humanity into the glory of God.

Scripture reveals that Jesus, risen from the dead, could “appear to his disciples how and where he wished and under various aspects” (*ibid*). Thus, Mary Magdalene thought Jesus was the gardener until he spoke her name (John 20:11 ff). Similarly, the two disciples on the road to Emmaus did not recognize the risen Lord as they walked along; their eyes were opened when they recognized him “in the breaking of bread” (Luke 24:13 ff). Finally, the Apostles, locked in the Upper Room out of fear, were amazed when Jesus stood in their midst (Luke 24:36 ff).

While these appearances and others after Christ’s resurrection brought joy to the disciples, they also caused deep wonderment, fear and confusion. After all, in the Resurrection, the disciples encountered the awesome work of the Holy Trinity. As the *Compendium* explains: “The three Persons act together according to what is proper to them: the Father manifests his power; the Son ‘takes again’ the life which he freely offered (Jn 10:17), reuniting his soul and his body which the Spirit brings to life and glorifies” (*Compendium*, 130).

In a very real sense, there was no road map for the life of faith that the first followers of Christ were called to embrace. The Resurrection surpassed all God had promised of old. To be one of these first disciples was certainly a challenge, the likes of which we can scarcely imagine. To be sure, the disciples fully came to grasp all this only after they had received the Holy Spirit.

In some ways, of course, the Resurrection confirmed that Jesus is truly the Son of God. It also confirmed all he had ever taught and done. As the victor over sin and death, Jesus makes it possible for us to stand holy and righteous before God as his beloved sons and daughters. We share his risen life now through the life of grace; we hope one day to share in the Resurrection, “when Christ will raise our mortal bodies and make them like his own in glory” (see Eucharistic Prayer III; *Compendium*, 131).

On the solemnity of the Ascension, we read how the disciples were “looking up into the heavens” after the Lord ascended (Acts 1:6 ff). Naturally, they longed for the risen Lord to remain with them. Just as the Son of God descended into human history by becoming man, so now did he ascend, bearing on his shoulders a redeemed humanity.

Indeed, Jesus ascended beyond human sight to “the right hand of the Father” (Acts 2:33; Eph 1:20-22). Echoing Psalm 16:11, St. Augustine teaches that God’s right hand is a place of indescribable peace and joy. It is here that Jesus reigns, the supreme instrument of God’s mighty hand (see Psalm 80:16, 18). As we say at Mass, he “pleads for us at the right hand of the Father” (Penitential Rite, Form C).

As God’s Son who fulfilled the Father’s plan of redemption, Jesus’ saving deeds have absolutely universal value for every time, place and culture. Even though he is exalted at the Father’s right hand, Jesus also remains with us, just as he promised. By the power of the Holy Spirit, his kingdom of the Beatitudes takes root on earth through the ministry and sacramental life of the Church. It is this kingdom that we hope to experience fully in heaven.

Without presumption, we look ahead to the final judgment when “the secrets of hearts will be brought to light as well as the conduct of each one toward God and toward his neighbor” (*Compendium*, 135). We pray for Christ to come again, not only to reveal fully his glory but, indeed, to be the judge of the living and dead. The fact of final judgment underscores the need for us not to dawdle in the past but, rather, to seek forgiveness, to live each day in love of God and neighbor, and to pray as men and women of hope, adopted sons and daughters of the heavenly Father. The prayer on our lips should be the same as the first Christians: “Come, Lord!” (Rev 22:20).

District Happenings - “Didjano That. . .”

DISTRICT 9 - (DD Kevin York)

. . . The Knights of Columbus Council 10004 of Conyers, Ga., raised more than \$4,000 for two charities in one day, adding to the charitable fund raising total raised for various charities.

On Saturday, January 16, the Council held its annual Tootsie Roll. In about six hours, the Council raised more than \$1,000.

Later that night, the Knights held a team trivia night fundraiser for a fellow Brother Knight to support him financially in the obtaining of life saving medicine that he was having difficulties in purchasing. This fund raiser, which attracted more than 100 people in a team trivia contest, brought in a little more than \$3,000.

DISTRICT 10 - (DD Kenneth Lucier)

. . . St. Marguerite D’Youville Council (12905) in Lawrenceville is pleased to announce that one of their Brothers, Sir Knight Thomas McHenry (Front Row - 3rd from Left), has been accepted to The Monastery of the Holy Spirit and has entered the postulancy phase of discernment on Thursday January 21, 2010 in Conyers, GA. This will be a six month period of discernment after which Tom would then be accepted for the novitiate phase which could last for several years before final acceptance.



On January 13, 2010 the Council hosted a reception for Tom which was well attended by several members of our council, several members of St Marguerite Parish, Rev Fr Jim Harrison, Rev Fr Joe Mendez, and many other friends and family members (approximately 50 people total).

DISTRICT 15—(DD Dale Hall)

. . . As it has for several years Marietta Council 4599 donated its portion of proceeds from the Knights of Columbus statewide raffle to the St. Vincent DePaul Society. This year’s donation is \$620.

At right, Knights of Columbus Council 4599 Grand Knight Chris McHugh (left) presents check for \$620 to Doug Skaggs (right) St. Vincent DePaul Society District 1 President.



DISTRICT 16 - (DD Vin O’Reilly)

. . . During the last two months, our five Councils conducted a variety of service and fund raising programs.

Lenten Fish Frys dominate the fund raising activities for four of our Councils during February and March.

St Monica’s Council #12883 in Duluth had a large contingent of Brother Knights participating in the Atlanta March for Life. St Brendan’s Council #12942 in Cumming repaired and cleaned hundreds of church chairs saving the parish thousands of expense dollars.

St Benedict’s Council #10633 in Duluth launched a Roundtable that will likely result in a new Council within the next six months. The Southern Catholic College Council in Dawsonville #14496 concluded a successful recruiting campaign by attaining their total membership goal for the year.

The Good Shepherd Council #13161 in Cumming conducted their third annual “Polka Polka” dinner dance, always a social highlight for the parish.

Recruiting and Retention remain our top priority for the balance of the fraternal year. Our Councils have targeted recruiting programs in place for the upcoming “Father Wants You” Membership Blitz

DISTRICT 18 - (DD Jerome Mock)

. . . Council #12287 in Dallas had another great food drive on the weekend of January 30-31. At a local Krogers, they collected 1,140#’s of food. A total of 45 man hours was donated. To date, they have collected about 18,245#’s of food since starting this project in early August.

Protecting the Financial Future of Our Families

By Carl A. Anderson - Supreme Knight



As our global economy continued to limp along in 2009, and as the life insurance industry saw lower sales and experienced significant investment losses resulting from the prolonged recession, the Knights of Columbus avoided the worst effects while recording record sales.

The reason is simple: We continue to build upon more than a century of commitment to putting faith and families first.

Speaking with people unfamiliar with the Knights of Columbus, I am sometimes asked, “Why insurance?” The short answer is that our insurance business follows the same philosophy as our Catholic charitable outreach: “Love of neighbor.”

When Father Michael J. McGivney came to New Haven as a young priest, his parishioners worked in dangerous factories. If a father died or was seriously injured, his family would suffer — often terribly. Father McGivney wanted to protect these Catholic families, and he put his principles to work in founding the Knights.

True to his vision, the Knights of Columbus has continued its high ethical standards because we view our brother Knights as family. As a result, our fine team of insurance, financial and investment professionals cares for the money of our members as if it were their own.

When it comes to shielding his family from financial uncertainty, every family man looks for safety, prudence, protection, quality and sustainable growth of investments. Such thinking isn’t just “smart.” It is the right and moral course of action.

Many companies were lured by the promise of quick profits that put their clients’ finances in jeopardy. With a business model based on Catholic principles, however, we weathered the storm of the past year, and it was another financially strong year for the Knights of Columbus.

Consider this: Despite the turbulent economy, we ended the year in the black with investment returns in line with market indices. And we did it by investing *ethically*. We believe it is morally wrong to pay another man to do what we consider immoral. Thus, we will not invest a brother Knight’s money in companies that engage in things such as abortion or pornography, things that go against the fundamental moral values of our Catholic faith.

What holds true for us at home should also hold true for our business decisions, and at the Knights of Columbus, it does. This hasn’t hurt business, either.

Our rules bar us from investing in companies and industries with immoral products, research or services, yet year after year — and again in 2009 — we have made money without compromising our principles.

We have been successful for our members in other ways, too. During a year in which 140 banks failed, annuity sales at the Knights of Columbus were up 60 percent, or \$180 million — a new record. In 2009, the Order’s overall assets grew by nearly 10 percent. Many insurance companies are cutting dividend rates in 2010; the Knights of Columbus is not.

People sometimes ask why we maintain such a large surplus. In times like these, they have stopped asking.

The Knights ended 2009 with nearly \$75 billion of insurance in force. Once again we earned the top ratings for financial strength from A.M. Best and Standard and Poor’s, as well as certification from the Insurance Marketplace Standards Association for our commitment to ethical business practices.

While many in the insurance industry struggled, we saw a flight to the kind of quality that comes from our philosophy: a mission to protect the financial security of Catholic men and their families based on Venerable Michael McGivney’s vision 128 years ago.

People can see the difference. In 2009, we had our best year ever with more than \$7 billion in sales.

As we begin 2010, my pledge to every brother Knight and his family is this: We will stay the course that has proven so successful in the current financial crisis. We will continue to build upon the ethical and financial strength of the Knights of Columbus, and that strength will continue to be a strong shield to protect the financial future of our families.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Georgia State Council
Knights of Columbus Newsletter
March-April, 2010**



**“Georgia - Living the Vision
of the Venerable Father
Michael J. McGivney”**

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS: March 6 - 3rd Degree Exemplification in Lilburn #7923 13 - 3rd Degree Exemplification in Transfiguration #10362 15 - Per Capita Payment is due 20 - Biennial District 4th Degree Assembly Meeting at Holy Spirit Church in Macon 28 - 3rd Degree Exemplification in Valdosta #4913	April 15 - Annual Meeting Paperwork is due 24 - 3rd Degree Exemplification in Ft Gordon #14773 May 1 - 3rd Degree Exemplification in Chamblee #10355 8 - 3rd Degree Exemplification in Milledgeville #9458 @ 1:30PM 14 thru 16 - 108th Georgia State Annual Meeting and Convention in Augusta
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