



Knighline Council #1711

Officers

First Quarter 2019

Council Meets at 8 pm, 1st
Wednesday, of Every Month

NEXT MEETINGS

Dec 5, Jan 2, & Feb 6 - 8:00 PM

Officers Meet on the Last Wednesday
of Every Month-all are welcome

Officers:

Chaplain:	Fr. Bill Benedetto
Grand Knight:	Miguel Perez-Santalla
Fin Secretary:	Howard Saunders, PGK
Chancellor:	Saverio Zipeto
Warden:	Edward Dickert, PGK
Inside Guard:	Richard Rader
Trustee 1yr:	Jim Sadowski, PGK
Trustee 3yr:	George Russo, PGK
Deputy GK:	John-Michael Jones
Treasurer:	Glenn Miklencic
Advocate:	Carlos Perez-Santalla
Recorder:	Kevin Tedesco
Outside Guard:	Benjamin Chiang
Trustee 2yr:	Rick Weber, PGK
Lecturer:	Kevin Morrissey

We are on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/kofc1711/>

A message from the Grand Knight



Dear Brother Knight and Family,



We are a people of truth and hope. But everyday life and the insane world we live in often causes us to fall into a state of despair. We live in a world where Black is called White and truths are called lies or at best offensive. We worry about the state of affairs in our country and in the world. I'm not saying that we should not but what I wish to say is that we need to be playing the long game. We need to know and accept that if the Lord willed it he could end all things today. But he does not for the sake of the good and pure that arises. For the sake of honing the righteous. As Jesus told us "Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil." Matthew 6:34

The bane of our society, the most gruesome and cruel act of abortion, the murdering of infants in the womb, has been something that has greatly distressed me. I admit I have at times felt like things were hopeless, and that the USA is going to fall to the same evil of the corrupted European nations. But alas, this year at the March for Life my eyes were opened.

The older persons at the event were the minority. The crowd was larger than ever. Must have been nearly 100,000 if not more. Young women were the leaders in the crowd. The message has gotten out **[this is the Pro-Life generation!](#)**

I believe the years of Pro-Life work we have done with and through the Knights of Columbus are coming to fruition. The truth of science is beginning to win out. Life doesn't begin at birth, it begins at conception and people are waking up. More importantly the young who will be running this country. The battle is not over but the tide is turning and I hope to live to see the day when abortion at every stage is once again

SEE UPCOMING EVENTS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES



Theology on Tap

**Wednesday
February 6, 8PM
@ The Columbian Club**

Cash Bar

**Speaker:
Fr. Richard Carrington
Pastor of Our Lady of
Lourdes**

**For men & women!
Please come to hear her
valuable insights and enjoy
a night out!**

**Future Dates:
March 6 & April 3**

**Contact Miguel for more
details
gmiguelp@gmail.com
Padre Dinner
February 1, 2019
Spanish Tavern
7:30 PM \$65
los@comcast.net**

outlawed in this country.

So often the leftists shout that it is a woman's right. Well, how about the "woman to be in the womb"? Why does she not have a say.

I am happy to say that I have returned emboldened and with new vigor. Keep the faith and do the Lord's work and for certain good will come out on top no matter how bad our society continues to slip. Every word of truth we speak is heard. Every action we make is seen. Believe me; though they won't admit it now, many hearts are changing.

I thank God for this joy, for the Knights of Columbus and for the freedom we have to defend life in all its stages.

Vivat Jesus!

Financial Secretary's Report



Bills for membership dues for 2019 are going out this December. Please pay upon receipt. Note that the membership dues help to support the council's obligations and our works of mercy. Send your payment to my address in order to receive your card within 2 weeks. If you have any difficulties in paying, please let

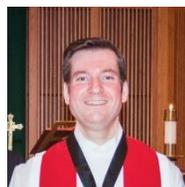
me know. My information is located on the bill.

If you know of anyone who has moved and has not received the bill or this email, please contact me at 908-755-7131 or email at howard_saunders@hotmail.com. Our council is in need of more volunteers to participate in council activities.

We need your help by becoming a Council Officer or by taking the lead for some of our events planned for the Columbian Year of 2019-2020. We are all volunteers. Manpower is limited with many of us becoming more active in our own parishes that we serve. It has become a challenge.

Become active Knights and support the activities: We are love, we are pro-Life; pro-Church; pro-Family: pro-community. Be the saint our Lord calls us to be, what else is there?

Contact any of our Council Officers with any questions on where and how you can contribute.



Chaplin's Corner

Fr. Bill Benedetto

In my Christmas homily that I gave just a few weeks ago, I commented on how most, if not all people want Christmas to be perfect for them and their families, and how rarely, if ever, Christmas turns out that way. To illustrate this point, I used two personal experiences that I

**Chili Cook Off Fundraiser
Benefit for Persecuted
Christians**

February 24, 2019

KofC #1711

**Entry fee \$30 for adults and
\$15 for children 15 and
under**

**Contact Benjamin Chiang
Bchiang@quiteriver.net**

**Blessed Sacrament
Perpetual Adoration Chapel**

**Our Lady of Lourdes always
needs more adorers. Will
you spend one hour a week
with our Lord? For more
information contact:**

732-574-0064

grammareni@aol.com

**Need to make your second
or third degree:**

**Contact Howard Saunders
howard_saunders@hotmail.
com**

**PILGRIMAGE TO FRANCE
15-22 July, 2019
TRIP TO PARIS, LOURDES &
NORMANDY**

Chaplin:

Father William Benedetto

Contact Dick Rader

Richard.rader@verizon.net

Chapter Meeting

January 25, 2019

Caldwell Council 256

8:30 PM

ejdickert@gmail.com

had that very Christmas Eve. The first happened while I was with my parents that afternoon helping in the preparations for Christmas dinner before I returned to the parish to celebrate Mass. My mother, who is a brilliant cook, made a not-so-brilliant maneuver while chopping vegetables when she accidentally cut her finger with a blade that resembled a cross between a meat-cleaver and a machete. Of course, my father and I scrambled to get the bandages and the gauze and the antiseptic to attend her wound which has since healed without any permanent damage. Praise God. The second instance occurred later in the day when the pastor, Fr. Richard Carrington, and I decided to pay a visit to a parishioner's family and spread a little Christmas cheer. We used the GPS to find the address of the house we were going to and proceeded to the door. We rang the bell and stepped inside after the resident within opened the door. We then greeted the homeowner with "Merry Christmas" and began a conversation. He listened for a minute or two before politely interrupting, "Good evening, Fathers. Merry Christmas. Are you sure you have the right house?" After an awkward but good-natured farewell and mutual wishing of Merry Christmas, the pastor and I left and eventually found the correct house a little way further up the street. Christmas was off to an interesting start.

These personal anecdotes attest to the fact that the celebration of Christmas is never perfect and quite often a mess, especially in the lead-up to the holiday. Whether it is putting up decorations including lights and the tree or getting the meal prepared well and on time or trying to get through it all with family without it becoming quarrelsome and tense, Christmas can be and is a God-awful mess! But it is at the same time joyful, wonderful, beautiful, glorious, and up-lifting. Just like the original Christmas, itself. It, too, was a mess but heavenly and divine at the same time. Think about what the holy family had to go through. Mary was found with child before she was married to Joseph. Joseph had to be encouraged and counseled by an angel to take Mary into his home. They then had to uproot their lives from Nazareth and move to Bethlehem for the duration of the Roman census. When they got to Bethlehem, the only accommodations to be found were in a stable and Jesus Christ, the Lord of heaven and all creation, the Eternal Word made flesh through Whom all things were made, received a manger for His first crib. Finally, the only people there to witness this divine and holy and unprecedented event were a group of shepherds. Shepherds, at the time, were considered to belong to pretty much the lowest stratum of society. Talk about

Good of the Order

*Please pray for our sick
Brothers: Paul Mack, Louis
DiLuzio*

Please pray for our deceased Brothers

Contact Us

Email:
kofc.council.1711@gmail.com
Telephone: (646) 422-9360 GK
Hall Rentals: (908) 612-3119

Next Issue:

**Our Worthy Chaplin -Fr. Bill
Benedetto's Words of Inspiration**

a mess. And yet, the Eternal Word still came to earth as man and the heavenly host were there to sing of Him and glorify Him and the Father in Heaven. Christmas still happened, and it was glorious despite the mess.

This tells us something about God's relationship to us, as well. The Incarnation is real. Life is often a mess. Humanity is often a mess. The world is often a mess. God does not separate Himself from that. He doesn't say that He'll come close but not too close because He's divine and must stay above the mess. He inserts himself directly into the chaos. He takes up His role as Savior in the middle of the mess and struggles through it with the rest of us. He embraces all our messed up human nature in the Incarnation and touches it with His divinity, imbues it with His eternity, lifts it up to His glory, and makes it perfect. That doesn't mean the struggle to claim and possess that Christian perfection is over or even is made easy. It continues to be messy and yet perfect, feeble humanity thrown together with awesome divinity, heaven and earth right alongside each other journeying together. Just like Christmas—the first Christmas and virtually every Christmas since.

Columbian Club Corner

Brother Knights and Lady Columbians, we hope all are well at the beginning of this NEW YEAR 2019. As we begin the new year, we also are preparing for the end of another memorable NFL season. We have all been enjoying our football Sundays at The Club, lots of fun and excellent foods prepared by our Club Cooks have been a weekly highlight. We have enjoyed some great games, but alas the season is ending. We are inviting all to enjoy the final weekend of the season and to attend our annual SUPER BOWL PARTY. We urge all to Bring a dish and bring your friends to what is annually a great event at the Club. (See below for details and schedule). Stop By or Call the Club to let us know whatever food you will be bringing. 908-232-9767.

Hey football fans out there, come on down to the Columbian Club at the Knights of Columbus, located on North Avenue and on the border of Westfield and Scotch Plains.

Where can you watch these heavyweight battles?

Of course the Columbian Club lounge, great beverage prices, six large -screen TVs, and food, great food, to boot. And we are not talking booting a football.





[The Fourth Degree](#)

If you want to make your Fourth degree the next exemplification is in the spring.

Please contact Brother JM Jones to make arrangements.

jmpalmcove@gmail.com

908-591-4167

[SPECIAL email sent to KofC 1711](#)

We received a wonderful thank you letter from Louis Tortorelli to our Council. He is the supervisor of education for the DCF (Department of Children and Families) and the Arc of Union County School where we donate the gifts.

Email of thanks following:

From: Louis Tortorelli <Louis.Tortorelli@dcf.nj.gov>
Date: Tue, Dec 11, 2018 at 1:57 PM
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Christmas Wish List
To: Edward D. <ejdickert@gmail.com>

Thank you so much Ed! Sorry I missed you, as I didn't get in until 8:30 AM today bringing in all my stuff for the Christmas party. Please thank all of your Knights for their incredible generosity! When the kids opened the gifts with Santa today, they were very, very happy!

You and your Knights make a great difference in the lives of our students, and it is much appreciated!

Merry Christmas to you and your family and the Knights!

Sincerely,

Lou

A SPECIAL BIG THANK YOU TO OUR BROTHER ED DICKERT, PGK AND HIS WIFE LAUREN WHO TAKE ON THI EVENT EVERY YEAR. MAY GOD'S LOVE AND PEACE ALWAYS FOLLW THEM EVERYWHERE

Ed dropping off the gifts at the ARC





DEFENDERS OF THE FAITH

**Love leads to suffering,
but we take the risk to love because we must**
by Heidi Russell

"God never promised us that we would not suffer." Those words struck a painful, but truthful, chord in me when a friend uttered them as we stood talking at the wake of a 27-year-old woman, a mother of a 1-year-old and wife who died of cancer way too young.

We stood there witnessing the pain one instinctively feels no one should ever have to endure, if our God is a loving God — if, in fact, our God is love. And yet the reality is that Christianity does not teach us that we will not suffer. The opposite is true. Love leads to suffering.

Buddhism recognizes this great truth in the teaching of the promise to fix what is broken; God promises to be present in the midst of the brokenness.

That source of love we call God is revealed in the person of Jesus Christ, the word of love among us, and in the Holy Spirit, God as love enacted within us and among us. The only antidote to the brokenness of the world is to surrender to love, to let that love act in us and through us, even when we know it may ultimately lead to heartbreak.

Love and trust in a finite world are doomed to disappointment. Beyond the inevitable experience of death, our lives are also littered with broken promises, betrayals, people in their humanness letting us down time and again, or perhaps our own humanness and brokenness leading us to sabotage our relationships. We experience this human brokenness in our lovers, our families and our friends.

So the real question becomes, how is it that we continue to go on loving? Why do we continue to take the chance with our hearts to trust again, to give someone a second chance, or to start all over again with someone new? Rahner suggests that our desire to trust another human being wholly is fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. One who loves a fallible human being in some way affirms the one human person who does not disappoint, who is the perfect expression of God as Love in the world.

Four Noble Truths, and one is encouraged to love without attachment, without desire, without trying to hold on to what or who we love. Christianity also teaches that to love is to suffer — to suffer for and with others, exemplified in the crucified Christ who stretched out his arms and died for love. God's response to our suffering is to suffer with us on the cross and to resurrect that suffering into new life. Still, knowing all of that, I could not be anything but devastated by the untimely death of this young woman. How could I trust God in the face of such tragedy?

I had not fully realized, prior to that point, that my idea of God was a God who fixed things, who would make things turn out all right in the end. That image of God, I discovered, is the God of the privileged, the God of those who have not suffered. I find since then, when I talk to people, there is a divide in how people know God — those who have suffered great tragedy and those who have not. To paraphrase C.S. Lewis, suffering is "the great iconoclast" — my idols could not hold up.

In his book *The Eternal Year*, theologian Karl Rahner suggests that when one experiences the absence of God, one's image of God is no longer working. The only way to rebuild trust in the face of such absence is to let go of the image and surrender to the mystery. God as love does not promise that we will not suffer. God promises us that when we do suffer, we are held in love. God does not. As interesting as the parts of the brain that are active, according to Horstman, are the parts that tend to be less active: fear, grief and self-protection. So when we read in Scripture that perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18), there is a truth to that statement on a physical as well as spiritual level. Love indeed does drive out fear. Thus the very way our brain works helps us continue to risk love in an era of distrust. Love, a spiritual realization, manifests and becomes the antidote for distrust.

We continue to love because we must, if we are going to be human. My relationship with God is now changed, but the relationship endures. I don't expect God to "fix" things anymore. The miracle for which I now pray is not to have the outcome of the story changed, but rather how I might manifest God's love in the midst of the grief and suffering of the world. My relationship to God as Love is manifested in my ability to love others, to love my neighbor as myself. God as source and ground of our love enables us to continue taking the risk to love, even when we have been devastated by love in the past.

And so we take the risk again and again to love other human beings, despite their tendency to disappoint and to die, and to love God who has enabled us to love by first loving us.

Scripture tells us we love because God first loves us (1 John 4:19). Humans cannot exist without love. God created us to be in relationship, to love. Psychology and neuroscience have demonstrated what mystics have taught us to perceive with the eye of the soul: that we are hardwired for love. Our brains have a whole pharmacy of neurochemicals that facilitate love, desire and attachment, and enable us to experience trust, generosity, altruism and empathy. Judith Horstman in *The Scientific American Book of Love, Sex and the Brain: The Neuroscience of How, When, Why and Who We Love*, explains how in brain imaging research, it can be seen that love "lights up" our brains.

[Heidi Russell is an associate professor at the Institute of Pastoral Studies at Loyola University Chicago and a Public Voices Fellow. All Soul Seeing columns can be found at NCRonline.org/columns/soul-seeing.]

Brothers at Work

March for Life 2019 – Brothers in Force



Setting up the Crèche, and the Menorah as it may appear, in December 2018... Good job guys☺!



Theology on Tap was a big hit in December with at least 20 attendees. Somehow a few brothers from Scotch Plains heard of it as well and joined the fun.



Dropping off the Christmas Gifts at the ARC of Union County.

