

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249 Newsletter Editor: Jim Hand

St. Jerome's Catholic Church 10895 Hamlin Blvd. Largo, FL

July 2023 Volume 4 Issue 4



July 4 2023



Oh say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bomb bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?



FROM AROUND THE WORLD
OF INTEREST TO CATHOLICS

John Paul abuse claims trigger angry reaction from Poland

Mexican pro-life leader in court for criticizing trans legislator

EU Parliament criticized for displaying 'vulgar' depictions of Jesus and apostles

Maryland to stockpile \$1.3 million in abortion drugs

Pilgrims to walk 59 miles to England's Our Lady of Walsingham shrine this summer

'I received a miracle,' says mother of baby baptized by Pope Francis at hospital in March

California restaurant had fake priest hear workers' confessions, Labor Department says

Carloads of Curious Catholics Make the Trek to See Sister Wilhelmina

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Pete McCabe

1. Distinct officer and general meetings
2. Shorter and more formal meetings (one hour limit applies to both officer and general meetings)
3. Increased socialization (after and outside meetings)
4. Inclusivity (let's meet, greet, and make welcome all brothers)
5. Timely communication (emails, phone calls, and social media)
6. Welcoming your ideas for programs and improvement.

Here are the brothers I have selected to be in the following appointed positions:

Lecturer: Edgar Lecuyer

Financial Secretary: Fred Belzel

Membership Director: Gregg Appel

Social Media Chairman: Ralph Frizzle

Lead Program Director: Bill Bannon

Faith Program Director: Pete Nunes

Family Program Director: Jim Cullinan

Community Program Director: Pete Ganio

Life Program Director: Kevin Manning

Thank you again and I look forward to serving as your Grand Knight!

Thank you all for your confidence in allowing me to be your next Grand Knight. I am excited to get started!

I would first like to say a huge thank you to Brother Bill McClelland who has led this council for the last two years. We have grown as a council over that time and my goal is to continue those successes.

I would also like to say thanks to Brother Bill Bannon (next Deputy Grand Knight). He has committed to working with me and exemplifies a true Catholic gentleman.

As we begin the next fraternal year on July 1st, this council will experience some change. Those changes are summarized here:

LAUGHTER ~ is the best ~ • MEDICINE •

I get enough exercise pushing my luck.

Alcohol does not solve any problems, but then again, neither does milk.

All my life I thought air was free. That was until I bought a bag of potato chips.

I think the worst time to have a heart attack is during a game of charades.

I used to think that you were a pain in the neck. My opinion of you has dropped significantly lower since then.

If a man said he'll fix it, he'll fix it. There is no need to nag him every 6 months about it.

I would like to apologize to anyone whom I haven't offended yet. Please be patient, I will get to you shortly.

I would like to thank my arms for always being by my side, my legs for always supporting me, and my fingers, because I can always count on them.

Change is inevitable, except from a parking meter.

Children in the backseat cause accidents, accidents in the backseat cause children!

Confessions may be great for your soul, but they are hell for your reputation.

IF THIS WERE ALL

If this is all of life we'll know,
If this brief space of breath
Were all there is to human toil,
If death were really death
And never should the soul arise
A finer world to see,
How foolish would our struggles seem,
How grim this earth would be!
If living were the whole of life
To end in eighty years,
How pitiful its joys would seem,
How idle all its tears.
There'd be no faith to keep us true,
No hope to keep us strong,
And only fools would cherish dreams,
No smile would last for long.

How purposeless the strife would be
If there were nothing more,
If there were not a plan to serve,
An end to struggle for,
No reason for a mortal's birth
Except to have him die.
How silly all the goals would seem
For which men bravely try.
There must be something after death
Beyond the toil of man.
There must exist a God divine
Who's working out a plan.
And this brief span we know as life,
Must really be
The gateway to a finer world
That someday we shall see.

In the Spotlight

Growing up in a military family (his dad was a Marine pilot who flew in three wars), Bill accepted an NROTC scholarship upon graduating high school and prepared for an officer's commission at the University of South Carolina. But he chose a shorter two-year military tour instead by enlisting into the Marine Corps which, in 1967, meant 13 months in Vietnam. Bill became one of those foxhole converts (the passage in Matthew 16:13-19 changed his life); subsequently, he was baptized in Danang and received his first Holy Communion somewhere out in the field on Christmas



of Christ Parish in Clearwater (25

Ed Bill Woodard Shares His Life Story

Day 1968. His faith journey continued at the Catholic Student Center at the University of South Florida in Tampa, where, with friends and a new family, involvement in church activities grew - including four and a half years in a small Christian community near St Leo College and St Rita Parish in Dade City. In fact, after starting in public school, Bill's love for the church grew to where he moved his family to New Orleans to pursue a Master's in religious education, and his career became that of a Director of Religious Education at St Ann Parish in Gulf Breeze, FL (3 years, simultaneous with a position at Pensacola Catholic High), Light

years) and Christ the King Parish in Tampa (8 years) Bill and Laura have been parishioners of St Jerome for three decades or so and have been involved in various activities. Currently they are ringers with our bell choir, and Bill is a Knight. Bill became a Knight on June 14, 2022 (Flag Day), and at the invitation of Jim Blackwell joined one of our two bingo teams. (True story: One day at Light of Christ there was a bingo-caller crisis. Somebody thought it a fun idea to ask the DRE to fill in. Without training Bill accepted the challenge, climbed into the caller seat - and learned how particular bingo people can sometimes be: "Speed it up!" a few shouted.) Bill is happily retired and figures that he and Laura have about a 10-year window to travel (especially to Denver and Raleigh where the grandkids are), and lists gardening, reading, and acrylic painting as hobbies.



JULY BIRTHDAYS



Pete Ganio



Bill Woodard



Joe Ghezzi



Jack Fitzgerald



Fr. Rob Cadrecha

Fr. Tom Continues Move to Cathedral

On Wednesday, June 7, our District Deputy Pete Grasso, Deputy Grand Knight, Pete McCabe, and "Baconator" Bill Bannon assisted Fr. Tom in the second part of his three-part move. They moved all of the items from Fr. Tom's office (which filled the church van and bus) to his new office at the cathedral. It consisted of boxes, plastic containers, computer equipment as well as three (yes, I said three) full size Santas! The final move in this trilogy will take place later. Hopefully, we can have plenty of volunteers for that final move.



Brothers Help with Fr. Tom's Final Move to the Cathedral

On Tuesday, 20 June, eight knights gathered at the rectory to complete part three of Fr. Tom's move to the cathedral. As the pictures depict, we had two trucks there which

sped up the process of moving. Thanks go out to Brother Ralph Frizzle who brought his truck. Also, thanks to the knights who showed up that day: Bill McClelland, Rocco Totino, Edgar

Lecuyer (with Taco), Tom Kurt, Greg Musick, Jason Peterson, and Pete McCabe. Fr. Tom was very appreciative of the Knights continued support during all the moves.



New Officers Elected for Fraternal Year of 2023-2024²³



Grand Knight
Pete McCabe



Deputy GK
Bill Bannon



Chancellor
Greg Musick



Recorder
Rocco Totino



Financial Sec.
Fred Belzel



Treasurer
Paul Lee



Advocate
Gregg Appel



Warden
Gene Sanders



Inside Guard 1
Dave Unkrich



Inside Guard 2
Ed Wirth



Outside Guard
Joe Moore



Field Agent
Tony Crevello



1-Year Trustee
Rick Hendrickson



2-Year Trustee
Jim Patton



3-Year Trustee
Bill McClelland



District Deputy
Pete Grasso

17 Suggestions on How to Read the Bible

1. The Bible's human authors were not divine stenographers. Everything asserted in Scripture is asserted by the Holy Spirit, but God allowed the human authors of Scripture to incorporate their own words, ideas, and worldviews into the sacred texts.

2. The Bible's human authors were not writing scientific textbooks. Scripture does not assert a scientific description of the world, so details in the Bible that utilize "the language of appearances" are not erroneous.

3. The Bible contains many different literary styles. The Bible contains many different genres, some of which communicate true, historical facts through the use of poetic, non-literal language.

4. Check the original language. Some Scripture passages are only difficult because they have been mistranslated. Examining the original language can help us better understand the sacred author's intended meaning.

5. The Bible is allowed to be a sole witness to history. Ancient nonbiblical historians could make mistakes or fail to record events. Therefore, it is not necessary to require biblical events to be corroborated by non-biblical sources.

6. Read it in context! Sometimes biblical passages only sound bad because they are isolated from their

original context in which you'll usually find the explanation.

7. Consult a reliable commentary. Commentaries provide details or facts not found in Scripture that can help explain Bible difficulties.

8. Evaluate Scripture against the whole of divine revelation. Interpret Scripture in light of what God has revealed in natural law as well as through his Church in the form of Sacred Tradition and the teaching office of the Magisterium.

9. Differing descriptions do not equal contradictions. The authors of Scripture may have differed in their descriptions of an event's details, but not in the essential truths they were asserting about those events.

10. Incomplete is not inaccurate. Just because the sacred author did not record something another author recorded does not mean his text is in error.

11. Only the original texts are inspired, not their copies. Errors that came about through the copying process do not fall under the doctrine of inerrancy.

12. The burden of proof is on the critic, not the believer. If a critic alleges that Scripture is in error, he has the burden of proving that is the case. If the believer shows a possible way of resolving the text, then the



critic's objection is refuted.

3. When the Bible talks about God, it does so in a nonliteral way. Because God is so unlike us, Scripture must speak about him with anthropomorphic language that should not be taken literally.

14. Just because the Bible records it doesn't mean God recommends it. The Bible is not an instruction book for how we should live, though it teaches us life lessons through stories that show us what not to do.

15. Even though the Bible regulates, it doesn't mean God recommends it. God revealed himself to mankind over several centuries. During this progression, the authors of Scripture regulated sinful practices in order to help God's people eventually reject them in the future.

16. Life is a gift from God and He has complete authority over it. It is not morally impermissible for God to take away the mortal life He freely gave us.

17. Always give God's word the benefit of the doubt.

Council Members Attend State Convention

The 2023 Florida State Council Knights of Columbus Convention took place in Orlando, Florida, May 26-28.

Our council had three delegates attend: District Deputy Pete Grasso, Grand Knight Bill McClelland, and Deputy Grand Knight Peter McCabe.

The first day was taken up with various reports from the state officers concerning membership, charities, programs, marketing, and financial matters.

The second day began with many awards given out to individual councils and districts for meeting membership, charity, and program goals. The afternoon of the second day focused on election of state officers (five people were running for State Warden - Brother Ed Sleyzak from Pinellas Park won), choosing del-

egates for the Supreme convention in August, and voting on a number of resolutions. Two resolutions passed (one to stand firm with our Holy Father, Bishops, and Priests and second to honor Supreme Master Emeritus Dennis Stoddard).

The final resolution to include women members in the Knights of Columbus (brought by council 7621, Tarpon Springs) was rejected.

The evening of the second day was the banquet which included lots of speakers.

The final day concluded with a Mass presided by the State Chaplain, Very Reverend Robert J. Kantor.

As part of the convention, there was an impressive display of historical memorabilia which included items from our own Bob Anderson.



A Young Bob Anderson (RIP)



Convention Dias



DGK Pete McCabe District Deputy Pete Grasso GK Bob McClelland
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The Late Bob Anderson and a Few of His Accolades
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Bingo Newsletter

July 2023

Farewell Jim Blackwell



As most of you know, Jim has been the driving force behind St. Jerome's bingo run by the Knights of Columbus. It was Jim's vision to raise money for the various Knights of Columbus charities. He saw the future potential when most of us in the council couldn't even spell bingo. As is Jim's way, he was very persuasive in his arguments and in April, 2022, the Knights of Columbus started bingo in the Parish Center. We made a lot of mistakes along the way, but Jim knew we were up for the challenge. Jim's vision has been proven right. St. Jerome bingo is a success and has the potential to grow over time. It

has been said about Jim that he is "a man with a song in his heart and a chicken in every pot." No truer words have been said. Jim's involvement with the Silly Sinatras over the years has fed his love of song and his charitable work with and outside the Knights of Columbus has fed his desire to help the less fortunate. Jim will be entertaining his new community in Sun City Center. He will be missed but we know he'll keep singing and helping others for a long time.

Welcome Rocco Totino



Rocco Totino is not new to St. Jerome bingo. In fact, he has been with us since the beginning as a cashier. Rocco will replace Jim Blackwell as one of the two captains (the other is Pete McCabe). This is good news for everyone since Rocco knows the ropes and will keep St. Jerome bingo a fun place to play. Rocco has been a Knight for 43 years and is an active member of our Council. We are all in good hands, so relax and please congratulate Rocco when you see him at bingo.

July Happenings

July 4 – St. Jerome 4th of July picnic (5:30p) tickets from office or the at the door.

July 6 – 4th of July Raffle

July 13 – Surprise Game Coupon:

Free Surprise game

July 13, 2023

Several Filipinos to Reenact Christ's Crucifixion



Several Filipinos are to be nailed to crosses to reenact Jesus Christ's suffering in a gory tradition that is rejected by the Catholic church but draws huge crowds of devotees and tourists to the Philippines.

At least 12 men will participate, including 62-year-old sign painter Ruben Enaje, who will be nailed to a wooden cross for the 34th time, organizers said. Enaje said he would use his extraordinary penance, probably among his last because of his age, to

in the world for the annual feat "but to be honest, I always feel nervous because I could end up dead on the cross," he said. "When I'm laid down on the cross, my body begins to feel cold. When my hands are tied, I just close my eyes and tell myself, 'I can do this. I can do this.'"

Surviving nearly unscathed when he fell from a three-story building in 1985, Enaje was prompted to undergo the ordeal as thanksgiving for what he considered a miracle. He ex-

pray for the end of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has contributed to gas and food prices soaring worldwide. "I really want to retire from this because of my age, but let's see if my body can still bear the pain next year," Enaje told The Associated Press.

The father of four has been portrayed in some media reports as among the bravest men

tended the ritual after loved ones recovered from serious illnesses, one after another, which turned him into a village celebrity.

Ahead of their crucifixion on a dusty hill, Enaje and the other devotees, wearing thorny crowns of twigs, carry heavy wooden crosses on their backs for more than half a mile under the scorching heat. Village actors dressed as Roman centurions will hammer 4-inch stainless steel nails through his palms and feet, then set him aloft on a cross under the sun for about 10 minutes.

Other penitents walk barefoot through village streets and beat their bare backs with sharp bamboo sticks and pieces of wood. Some participants suffer open cuts on their backs by using broken glass to ensure the ritual will be sufficiently bloody.

The gruesome spectacle reflects the Philippines' unique brand of Catholicism, which merges church traditions with folk superstitions.

Church leaders in the Philippines have frowned on the crucifixions and self-flagellations, saying Filipinos can show their deep faith and religious devotion without hurting themselves and by doing charity work instead, such as donating blood.

Kansas City Chief's Kicker Expresses His Faith at White House Celebration

During the Kansas City Chiefs' visit to the White House in celebration of their Super Bowl victory in February, the team's kicker, Harrison Butker, made a statement in support of the unborn by wearing a custom-made necktie with a pro-life message. Butker, a faithful Catholic, wore a tie that says "Vulnerari Praesidio," a Latin phrase he says means "protect the most vulnerable."

"I want to give the most vulnerable, the unborn, a voice at a place where every effort has been made to allow and normalize the tragic termination of their lives," Butker said. Butker was referring to the Biden administration's aggressive pro-abortion stance, a position that has put Biden at odds with the U.S. bishops and members of his own faith.

"As a father who has experienced three miscarriages, my wife and I understand the hardships that come with losing a child. Every life is precious and should be valued whether outside or inside the womb," he said. The gray tie was created in conjunc-

tion with the pro-life advocacy group Live Action. According to the organization, accompanying the tie on Butker's lapel is a gold pin of two tiny feet, the exact-size feet a 10-week-old baby would have



Harrison Butker, holding a Super Bowl trophy.

Sister Wilhelmina Lancaster's Body Found Incorruptable



her last words, "O Maria," and breathed her last. She was laid to rest in the abbey's graveyard. Recently, the sisters decided to follow the longstanding tradition of burying the bodies of founders and foundresses in crypts inside monastery chapels. Upon digging up Sr. Wilhelmina's grave, they

certificate, confirmed for CNA that the religious sister's body was not embalmed and that the wood coffin was not placed into any outer burial container. Klein said he "can't understand" how Sister Wilhelmina's unembalmed body is in the state it's currently in, four years after her burial.

Sister Wilhelmina's body, which has been on display in the open air for pilgrims to visit, is reported to have no foul odor in recent days, as would be the case, morticians say, with a body that has undergone decomposition for four years.

One pilgrim, Peggy Tynan of Denver, even said that while praying over Sister Wilhelmina's body she smelled a "sweet and flowery aroma," which was so powerful she could taste it. A journalist from EWTN who visited the body last weekend also noticed no odor of decomposition. "It's kind of strange, if the body was not embalmed, that there would be no odor," he said.

Currently, Sister Wilhelmina's body lies in state in the sisters' private chapel. The sisters plan to have a rosary procession to the altar of St. Joseph, where her body will be placed in a glass box for veneration. A traditional nun known for her piety and love for the traditional Latin Mass, Sister Wilhelmina has attracted a following of Catholics from across the Midwest, drawn to this Missouri rural town to witness the apparent miracle themselves. The Church has yet to verify Sister Wilhelmina's case as an authentic incorrupt body.

"I became a nun because I was in love with the Lord," Sister Mary Wilhelmina Lancaster, OSB, told her chaplain once. Decades later, Sister Wilhelmina continues to be a witness to the love of the Lord through her possibly incorrupt body.

After serving across the United States with the Oblate Sisters of Providence, Sister Wilhelmina left to establish the Benedictines of Mary, Queen of the Apostles, in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

In 2006, the order moved to Kansas City, establishing an abbey in 2010. Located 45 minutes north of Kansas City, the abbey sits in the unassuming countryside of rural Missouri, a peaceful location for a life of prayer and sacrifice.

On May 29, 2019, at the vigil of the Ascension, with the rest of the community gathered around her singing Marian hymns, Sister Wilhelmina said

found a decaying wooden coffin, subject to four years of water damage. Expecting to find bones and moldy fabric, the sisters were shocked to see what appeared to be a foot when they shined a flashlight through a crack.

"I thought I saw a completely full, intact foot," said abbess Mother Cecilia, OSB. "So I looked again more carefully."

To Mother Cecilia's surprise, she found a fully intact body, preserved despite Sister Wilhelmina never being embalmed. "There was just this sense that the Lord was doing this," said Mother Cecilia. "Right now we need hope. We need it. Our Lord knows that. And she was such a testament to hope, faith, and trust."

Jack Klein, owner of Hixson-Klein Funeral Home in Gower, Missouri, who said he was present at Sister Wilhelmina's burial and issued her death

Men Kneel before the Virgin Mary to Pray the Rosary in Buenos Aries



worldwide Men's Rosary, praying on their knees before the Virgin Mary in Buenos Aries that men would once again be valued in society and for the conversion of the entire world. The general coordinator of the Knights of

the rosary, the participants "want to bear witness, not because of our virtues, but by getting on our knees asking for the intercession of our Most Holy Virgin Mary, so that she would grant us the conversion of sinners, our own conversion, and that of our families."

Páez also noted that the prayer is held in the streets "in the hispanic nations of the Americas, which are culturally Christian, to reclaim the public square for Our Lord Jesus Christ, because a lamp is not lit to be put under the bushel basket, but is placed up high so that it shines throughout the house."

Men from more than 40 countries joined together May 6, 2023, for the

the Rosary apostolate in Mexico, Paco Páez, explained that by praying

Knights Gathers to Welcome Auxiliary Columbiettes Induction Ceremony

On June 7th, our council's brothers attended a West Florida Chapter Columbiettes Initiation ceremony at the Parish Center with food and fellowship.

This long-anticipated event is the beginning of the Divine Mercy of Jesus Auxiliary #17249. There were 33 charter Columbiettes members.

The new officers are as follows: President-Claudia McClelland; Vice-President-Denise McCabe; Secretary-Ana-Maria Carnesoltas; Financial Secretary-Jo-Ellen Abou Nader; Treasurer-Bonnie Prudlow; and Sentinel-Rachel Kesser.

The Columbiette dignitaries included the Florida State President Rae Sta-

bile, the West Florida Chapter Ceremonial Team, and District Deputy Karla Trumbull.

There will be another ceremony inducting a few more charter members on June 28th.

We look forward to a long, fruitful collaboration between our council and the Columbiettes.



The new Columbiettes and dignitaries

Pope Francis Discusses Celibacy



In a recent interview, Pope Francis addressed the question of celibacy and the priesthood in the Catholic Church. He said that it's a discipline that he does not intend to re-examine: "I don't feel ready to reconsider it yet, but obviously it's a matter of discipline, which has nothing to do with dogma. Today that's the case and tomorrow it may no longer be. A time may come when a pope, perhaps, will revisit it."

Priestly celibacy is a discipline, and thus it is not a doctrine that must be preserved forever. It can be re-

pealed.

In his 1967 encyclical *On the Celibacy of the Priest*, Pope Paul VI stated that priestly celibacy is a "brilliant jewel" that the Church has "guarded for centuries," and "retains its value undiminished even in our time."

In its Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests, the Second Vatican Council observed that "celibacy is in harmony with the priesthood," and, therefore, is to be preserved as a "discipline" and "law" of the Church. Although the magisterium has ardently praised priestly celibacy and authoritatively upholds its continuance, it is more than simply an "ecclesial discipline," or a "Church law." Within the Catholic Church, there are married men who are ordained priests - normally they were Anglican or Episcopalian "priests," though they had to be ordained by a Catholic

bishop upon becoming Catholic.

In the Old Testament, the Levitical priests were obliged to abstain from sexual intercourse during the times when they were ministering in the temple. Marriage was not incompatible with being a priest, yet sexual abstinence was deemed necessary prior to performing liturgical tasks. Jesus, as the new and great high priest, was celibate throughout his entire life. The reason for his permanent celibacy was that he lived his entire life in obedience to his Father. He was always about his Father's business in his Father's house. Celibacy enhances the beauty of the ordained priesthood - a marvelous gift that the celibate Jesus has given to the Roman Catholic Church. Celibacy should not be despised or belittled. Rather, it should be treasured, for it is a vital doctrinal portion of the Catholic Church's glorious patrimony.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



Council 17249 Divine Mercy of Jesus Officers for 2022-2023

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Worthy Chaplain | TBD |
| Worthy Grand Knight and Community Director | Sir Knight Pete McCabe |
| Worthy Deputy Grand Knight and Program Director | Sir Knight Bill Bannon |
| Worthy Chancellor | Sir Knight Greg Musick |
| Worthy Recorder | Sir Knight Rocco Totino |
| Worthy Financial Secretary | Sir Knight Fred Belzel |
| Worthy Treasurer | Sir Knight Paul Lee |
| Worthy Advocate and Membership Director | Sir Knight Gregg Appel Pgc |
| Worthy Warden | Knight Gene Sanders |
| Worthy Inside Guard 1 | Knight Dave Unkrich |
| Worthy Inside Guard 2 | Sir Knight Ed Wirth |
| Worthy Outside Guard | Sir Knight Joe Moore |
| 1-year Trustee | Sir Knight Rick Hendrickson |
| 2-year Trustee | Sir Knight Jim Patton |
| 3-year Trustee | Sir Knight Bill McClelland |
| Worthy District Deputy Field Agent | Sir Knight Pete Grasso Pgc |
| Newsletter Editor | Knight Tony Crevello |
| | Knight Jim Hand |