January 2014

The Beacon

A Publication of the St. Albert Knights of Columbus Council 4742

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Bernie McCracken



Grand Knights Report – January 2014

Novus Annus! Happy New Year in latin! Another year has come and gone. As we say good-bye to a memorable 2013, we say hello to a promising 2014. 2013 was decreed by Pope Benedict XVI as the Year of Faith. The Year of Faith was a "summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the One Savior of the world" (Porta Fidei 6). The Knights honoured this by reciting the Formation Programme at each and every General Meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Br. Mauri Maynard for leading us in this program. We will continue with the program in 2014, but remember with fondness the impact it had on us as Knights in 2013.

2014 promises to be even busier for Council 4742, if you can believe it. We have added two more events to our already busy calendar; St. Paddy's Hooly on Friday, March the 14th, and Thank God For Marriage on Friday, May 2nd. Both of these new events are planned to complement our already successful Mardi Gras, Pizza! Pizza! Splash! Splash! And Blue Sunday Parish events. Not enough for you yet! We are also in the planning for a Parish Concert to be held on a Friday night in April. Stay tuned for more on this event.

The 2014 edition of the annual Mardi Gras is shaping up to be the biggest and best yet. There is no doubt we will sell out the 200 tickets so don't be disappointed and get your tickets now! Unless you haven't been to the Parish Hall for awhile you would see that it has already been decorated for the Mardi Gras to get the Parishioners in the mood for the event. The food that will be served that night will be authentic Mardi Gras fare prepared by our caterer of choice; Catering To Your Taste. If you haven't missed a Mardi Gras yet, or this will be your first, I can personally guarantee that you will have a great time. Come dressed for the event in your Mardi Gras best and be ready to dance the night away!

A big thank-you to all the Brother Knights that helped transform our Council Chambers and Storage Room into a room we can now be proud of. We still have some more work to be done, but for the most part it is completed and will serve us well. Our January General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15th @ 7:00 pm in our Council Chambers. Please come out and join us in fellowship.

Our February General Meeting (February 19th) will start with a First Degree Ceremonial. We already have three men confirmed to take their First Degree. If you have a brother, uncle, father, cousin, or friend that is a practicing Catholic Gentleman and wants to get more involved at St. Albert Parish please let myself, Br. Gerry Buccini, or Br. Brian Wolbert know and we will make the necessary arrangements to have him join our Council. Let him know that becoming a Knight of Columbus will transform his life. As a Knight, he will have the opportunity to support our parish, give back to our community, and grow in his faith.

Let's continue to build on our successes of 2013 and make 2014 a memorable year for the Knights of Columbus Council 4742 St. Albert!

Vivat Jesus

Terry Sperling, Grand Knight

January 2014 Meeting Ten Commandments The Fifth Commandment

Opening Prayer

Lord teach us to pray: Our Father

The Reading (to be read by the Leader) **"You shall not kill**

It may seem relatively easy to overlook this commandment because we don't think it could ever really apply to us. Who me? I would not kill anyone, but perhaps we need to take a closer look at this, because there is a reasonable chance we may have had a hand or a tongue in killing or injuring someones reputation through our words or our actions. In the area of ethical practices and principals this is referred to as the "slippery slope". If you have ever started a toboggan down a slippery hill, it is pretty difficult to stop it, without some drastic actions.

So why is it not permissible to take one's own life or the lives of others? God alone is Lord over life and death. Except in the case of legitimate self-defence of oneself or another, no one may kill another human being, (Youcat 378). Human life is sacred; it is in fact a gift from God. So to attack another life is a sacrilege against God. God is the giver of life, of all that is good. It is therefore only God who can take back the life that He has given. So what sort of attacks on human life are forbidden by the Fifth Commandment? The list is as follows: Killing unarmed civilians during a war, the abortion of a human being from the moment of conception on, suicide, self-mutilation, self-destructive behavior. Euthanasia, killing the handicapped, the sick and the dying is also forbidden. The Church is perfectly clear on the question of abortion and euthanasia. Whoever participates in an abortion, forces a woman to undergo an abortion, or merely advises her to do so is automatically excommunicated, just as with other crimes against human life. In other words, life is a wonderful and serious gift from God. So is our responsibility for safeguarding it at all times. If a psychologically ill person commits

suicide, responsibility for the act of killing is often diminished and many cases completely annulled, (Youcat 379).

The Reflection (to be read by the leader)

We might ask the question; is a person responsible for everything he/she does? No one can be held (fully) responsible for something they did under coercion, out of fear, ignorance, under the influence of drugs or the power of bad habits. The more a person knows about the good and practices the good, the more he moves away from the slavery of sin, (Rom. 6, 17). God desires that such free persons should (be able to) take responsibility for themselves, for their environment and for the whole earth. But all of God's merciful love is also for those who are not free; every day he offers them an opportunity to allow themselves to be set free for freedom, (Youcat 288)

Brothers, life is a gift from God, your life, my life, the lives of others. We never have the right to decide who lives and who does not. Naked I came forth from my mother's womb, and naked I go back again. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord, (Job 1, 21-22). What we have received from the Lord, particularly life itself must be respected and valued. If we do not respect and honor the very basic gift of life itself, it will be difficult for us to see and value the many other blessings on our lives that God bestows upon us, purely because of his love for us.

_ Meditation Period

(The leader now invites the members to spend a few moments in silent reflection, as the above text is not meant to be a ready-made answer but a starter for personal reflection on the theme.)

Fraternal Sharing

(The leader now invites the members to share with their Brother Knights any relevant thoughts that came to them during the meditation period.)

Closing Prayer

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen



Our group of volunteers were pleased to sponsor a pancake breakfast on December 1, 2013.

There is a pancake breakfast being held on February 2, 2014 which is the first Sunday of the month. Hope to see you there!



Grand Knight Terry Sperling presents Rebecca Krauskopf of the Ecuador Medical and Dental Mission with a cheque for \$500 to support their work.

Grocery Card Sales Purchasing grocery cards is a great way to support the Knights charitable work. You get your groceries and the money earned from sale of the cards is used for charitable work. The cards are also easy to send in the mail as a gift.



Mardi Gras Dance

Get your tickets now for the annual Mardi Gras Dance, to be held on Friday, February 7th, in the Parish Hall. This special parish activity is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and features music of the 40's and 50's performed by the Saint City Big Band. The evening will feature a late lunch, 50-50 draw, door prizes and cash bar. All proceeds will go toward the special activities of the Knights of Columbus such as the sponsorship of our young seminarian. Tickets are twenty dollars per person and are available from any member of the Knights. Call Gerry at 459-7384 or Moe at 459-9487 for more information. Let's fill the hall again this year! (Source – From St. Albert Parish Bulletin)

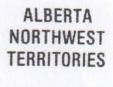


Saturday January 18th is Chili! Chili! Bang! Bang! an event we are proud to partner with Parish Council. Please try to attend You will not be sorry.

Good of the Order! Please keep in your prayers... Br. Edmond Willigar and for Brothers who are ill David Biollo Sr. Armand Carignan Fern Carignan Ernest Sokolan Al Stephenson



COUNCIL PRAYER CARD



KNIGHTS OF

Vocations Prayer

Through baptism, you invite me to share the gift of my life in service to others. Be with me as I choose each day to show Your presence in Your call. I pray especially for those who serve you as priests, brothers, sisters, deacons and lay ministers. Keep them close to you. Open the minds and hearts of many other men and women that they may accept Your challenge to build the Kingdom. Amen

The Knights Prayer Bless the Knights of Columbus. Bless our activities and inspire us to work for the greater glory of God, and the salvation of mankind. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen

Opening Council Prayer

Christ Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life — teach us to live the charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism required of us as Knights of Columbus. During this meeting, guide us in our discussions so that we may thoroughly understand the matters in hand — judge them with knowledge and wisdom — and decide upon solutions that will truly give glory to our Father in heaven.

Amen

Closing Council Prayer

Christ Jesus... You commanded us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Strengthen us now, as we leave this meeting. Help us to live our lives as an expression of our love for you and our brothers and sisters. Give us the courage and generosity to act with perseverance. Bless our actions so that our influence is felt within and beyond this Council. Make renewal within the Church and the work of the Knights of Columbus instruments of your love for all mankind.

Amen