



February, 2008 Newsletter

Knights of Columbus
John Paul the Great Council #486
Middletown, New York
New York District #50

The Shipwright



Visit us on the internet at www.kofc486.catholicweb.com!

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343-6013

Grand Knight

Richard Trapani, Jr.
956-6383

Deputy Grand Knight

Gregory Sillen
343-7343

Chancellor

Michael Biondi
343-1285

Warden

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344-5922

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Paul Dickinson
692-0938

Financial Secretary

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360-2454

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Larry Bedosky
343-0180

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343-7164

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342-5188

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342-1630

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744-3795

Trustee 2nd Year

Matthew Enering, PGK
692-2720

Trustee 3rd Year

Carl Williams, PGK
342-8740

Lecturer

Deacon Richard Trapani, Sr.
344-1087

Insurance Agent

William Schimpf FIC
427-2957

District Deputy #50

Burton Struble, PGK
342-0190

Shipwright Editor

Richard Trapani, Jr.
956-6383

Grand Knight's Message

Brothers,

Life is truly a precious gift from God. As you may know, my family was recently blessed with the gift of a beautiful new daughter, Gianna Marie Therese, who was born on January 11. We are truly joyful as we once again become stewards for another one of His creations. Mom and our baby are doing very well, although we have a few more postpartum tests, which we expect to come out fine, and we are thankful for your continued prayers.

With Lent beginning this month, we are once again reminded of the temptations of Jesus Christ in the desert, as He prepared Himself for His suffering and death on the cross. This is a great time to reflect and pray, and look deeply into our own selves, realizing our imperfections, and cleansing our souls in preparation for the upcoming Easter Season. We have been given so many opportunities to receive the divine grace that God wants to bestow on us. But, since we have been given free will, it's totally up to us to decide that we want His grace, and that can be obtained through the sacrament of Penance, and the Holy Eucharist. I pray that each of us receives His grace in a very special way.

As always, I ask all of you to pray for the intentions of our Holy Father, and for all of our priests and clergy.

God Bless, Rich Trapani

Calendar of Events

February

Thursday, February 7	Council Officers' Meeting	7:30PM
Friday, February 8	Council Fish Fry	5:30PM
Thursday, February 14	Council Business Meeting	8:00PM
Thursday, February 21	4 th Degree Assembly Meeting	8:00PM
Friday, February 22	Chapter Meeting (Warwick Valley)	8:00PM
Sunday, February 24	Annual Council Dinner Dance	2:00PM
Thursday, February 28	Potluck Dinner and Family Social	6:00PM

March

Thursday, March 6	Council Officers' Meeting	7:30PM
Thursday, March 13	Council Business Meeting	8:00PM
Friday, March 14	Council Fish Fry	5:30PM
Thursday, March 20	4 th Degree Assembly Meeting Cancelled	
Thursday, March 27	Potluck Dinner and Family Social	6:00PM
Friday, March 28	Chapter Meeting (Monroe)	8:00PM

Meeting Schedule

Our Council Officers' meeting is held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30PM. Our Business meeting is held on the 2nd Thursday at 8:00PM. Our pot-luck dinner and family social get together is held on the 4th Thursday at 6:00PM. All of these meetings and events are held at the Saint Joseph's Parish Center located at 113 Cottage Street in Middletown.

The meeting of our Middletown 4th Degree Assembly #762 is held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Center, 100 Euclid Avenue in Middletown at 8:00PM.

Our Mailing Address

For our members and friends who wish to contact us by mail, our address is: John Paul the Great Council 486, PO Box 323, Middletown, NY 10940

Please Pray for our Sick

Msgr. George Valastro	Anthony Parenti
Joseph Szela	Thomas Colligan
Daniel Bellotto	Anthony Leo
Thomas Shormis PGK	Elfio Politi

As a Council, we are making a concerted effort to reach out to all of our ill or confined Brother Knights and their families. If you, or somebody you know is in need of our assistance, such as the Sacraments, or a visit from a Brother Knight, please feel free to contact our sick committee chairman Deacon Richard Trapani at 344-1087, or any other Brother Knight.

Weather-related closings

Due to stormy winter weather, we may need to cancel or postpone Council events or meetings. For up to date information, please listen to WHUD radio at 100.7FM, or log onto their web site at www.whud.com. We will also activate our phone tree to keep all of our members informed in a timely manner. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we look forward to the beginning of the spring season.

Adoration of the Eucharist

Did you know that many of our Brother Knights participate in an hour of Eucharistic adoration every Wednesday evening from 8:00 to 9:00? Many benefits are to be gained through the devotion of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is truly present for us in the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist. All it takes from you is a small commitment to establish a personal relationship with the Lord. Please consider spending one hour a week with Him at the Blessed Sacrament Chapel located at Saint Joseph's Church. If you would like more information, or would like to sign up, please contact Jim Higgins at 360-2454.

Upcoming Third Degree

Just in time for eligible members to qualify for the annual Fourth Degree Exemplification on April 12th, there will be a Third Degree scheduled to be held at Sacred Heart Parish in Monroe on Sunday, March 30th. If you are interested, please contact Chancellor Michael Biondi at 343-1285 as soon as possible to sign up. Sponsors of candidates are also encouraged to attend.

Field Agent's Corner

Happy New Year to you, your families and loved ones. As a New Year begins, we often find ourselves making all sorts of resolutions, some of which are actually kept. As a Brother Knight, providing life insurance, annuities, and Long Term Care, for my Brother Knights, I seriously urge you to take a moment out of your busy schedules, and look hard and fast at your family or individual life protection program with the ones that mean the most to you. LET'S BE REAL HERE!!

If you already have life insurance, ask yourselves, does it really provide the necessary protection for them? Some may have life insurance through work. The question to ask here is if you quit, transfer jobs, or retire, will your life insurance continue? If not, you need a backup program. Today, with so many companies failing to provide retirement for their employees, you cannot rely on Social Security alone to help you when you retire. Plan ahead, by starting your own retirement fund with a K of C Flexible Premium Annuity. Start small, and systematically add convenient budgetary amounts, and just sit back and watch it grow.

If you are age 45 or older, NOW is the time for you to consider a Long Term Care plan for you and your spouse (much lower rates), rather than waiting until you reach age 65. In the words of a famous home improvement business, "Let's Build Something Together" (before it's too late). I am here for you. Call me today.

Sincerely and fraternally,

William J. "Bill" Schimpf, FIC
Field Agent
(845) 427-2957

Come and Join Us

The 4th Thursday of every month has been designated as a pot-luck dinner and social get-together, as we strive to reach out to our families and friends of our local community. Each of these events will begin at 6:00PM with a family pot-luck dinner, followed by a special guest speaker at 7:00PM. Please bring a covered dish or dessert to share with us, and take part in our family celebration. ALL are invited to attend. Our Lecturer, Deacon Richard Trapani, is responsible for scheduling the speakers at these events. For more information, please contact him at 344-1087. We hope to see you and your family there.

Council Dinner Dance

Our 108th annual Council Dinner Dance will be held on Sunday, February 24th at Kuhl's Highland House in Middletown from 2:00-7:00PM. Ballroom music will once again be provided by the Winslow Three, with a cocktail hour complete with hor d'oeuvres, and dinner provided. Tickets are \$40.00 per person. Please contact dance chairman Greg Sillen at 343-7343 for more information or to purchase tickets. This event is open to all, and has always been an enjoyable event which no one should miss.

In addition, a money club is being planned with drawings scheduled to take place at the dance.

2008 Council Dues

Notices for 2008 dues have been mailed to our membership. Please forward your payment to Financial Secretary Jim Higgins as soon as possible for a current membership card. If you are experiencing any difficulty, please feel free to contact Grand Knight Rich Trapani at 956-6383 or any other Council officer. Arrangements can be made for financial or medical hardships, but we may not know about them until you contact us. All calls will be kept strictly confidential.

Council Fish Fry

During the Lenten Season, our Council will sponsor a fish fry at the gymnasium at Saint Joseph's Parish Center. It is scheduled for Friday, February 8th from 6:00-8:00PM. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$8.00 for seniors and children under 10. Many volunteers will be needed to help us make this event a success. Please contact chairman Greg Sillen at 343-7343 if you have the opportunity to help us.

Thanks for Advertising with Us!

Please, be sure to support those who have advertised in the Shipwright. Local businesses and other community organizations are invited to advertise in our monthly newsletter for as little as \$100 per year. While helping our Council financially, it will help you reach a whole new customer base. Please help us as we strive to reach out further to the community. Please contact Grand Knight Rich Trapani at 956-6383 or Deputy Grand Knight Greg Sillen at 343-7343 for an application.

Father McGivney Guild

The Father Michael J. McGivney Guild serves as a source for information about the life, works and spirituality of Father McGivney. The Guild distributes informational materials about him, receives reports of favors granted through his intercession and oversees the distribution of relics. Guild members receive regular updates on the progress of Father McGivney's cause for canonization and are invited to participate in promoting devotion to this Servant of God. Members of the Knights of Columbus are not automatically Guild members and

must elect to join the Guild. The Father Michael J. McGivney Guild Newsletter is published bimonthly except July- August, and is sent free to Guild members. To join the Guild, you may visit their web site at www.fathermcgivney.com.

NYS Scholarship and Grant Program

The demographics of declining attendance at Catholic grammar and high schools over the past 20 years are obvious. The reasons vary from rising tuition, consolidation of schools making travel longer, financial pressures on dioceses and parishes, and special education opportunities in public schools. The declining membership of teaching orders, and religious vocations in general, that previously staffed and administered Catholic schools, is probably the immediate basis which has resulted in the mentioned results.

Those of us who have attended Catholic schools know the extraordinary benefits derived from such an education. And those parents who send their children to Catholic school know the sacrifices involved.

While considerably more tuition assistance is available at the university level, relatively little is offered at the high school level. It is with this notion that the New York State Council has provided the Scholarship and Grant Program to those children, grandchildren and legal wards of brother Knights in New York. While this aid may seem small when compared to the costs in attending a Catholic High school, it can make a difference.

The New York State Council Scholarship Program offers 2 scholarships and 1 grant for each of the eight dioceses in New York State. For application purposes the diocese is determined by the sponsoring Knight's council location. These Scholarships and Grants are for \$500 each and are renewable in each of the four years the student attends a Catholic High School.

Applications, with full instructions and guidelines, are available from the New York State Council office:

Robert W. Wissert Executive Secretary 40-27 235th St Douglaston, NY 11363 718-225-3787	Joseph Marchia 12 Metropolitan Ave Bellmore, NY 11710 516-785-6697 Cell 516-661-2073
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The Patriotic Degree

It's still not too late to sign up for this year's 4th Degree Exemplification, scheduled for Saturday April 12th in Fishkill. You must be a Third Degree Member and a member of our Order for at least one year to be eligible to join. You'll be proud to be a part of the most visible arm of the Knights of Columbus, which includes the Fourth Degree Color Corps and Honor Guard. If you are interested, please contact our Faithful Navigator Michael Cummings at 733-5345 as soon as possible. There is some cost with this degree. You may also visit the Middletown 4th Degree Assembly's official web site at www.assembly762kofc.catholicweb.com.

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Knights of Columbus
John Paul the Great Council #486
Past Grand Knights Association

"A family policy must be the basis and driving force of all social policies"

- Pope John Paul the Great -