



April, 2008 Newsletter

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

# The Shipwright



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Rev. Dennis Nikolic  
343-6013

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Richard Trapani, Jr.  
956-6383

### Deputy Grand Knight

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343-7343

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692-0938

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360-2454

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343-0180

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343-7164

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342-5188

### Outside Guard

Edwin Diaz  
342-1630

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Joseph Hartmann, PGK  
744-3795

### Trustee 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

Matthew Ening, PGK  
692-2720

### Trustee 3<sup>rd</sup> 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,

Spring is my favorite time of year. The increasing radiant heat of the sun is a welcome effect. It reminds me of God's Love for us. It brings about energy to tackle all of those home projects that have been waiting so long. As the amount of daylight increases, it gives me more time to get things done. The season of spring brings with it renewal and inspires hope in the future. It is so very important to have a positive attitude as a faithful Catholic, especially in today's chaotic and tumultuous world.

As we are well aware, the Knights of Columbus is an order in total solidarity of our priests. And we realize how important it is to support them. In today's society, where many have turned from God, it's more difficult than ever to be a priest, especially in light of constant attacks on our Catholic Church, the priesthood, and on the very Catholic faith and belief system that we espouse. With the world the way it is today, we are in desperate need of good and dedicated clergy to shepherd us, offer Mass, administer the Sacraments, and give us spiritual guidance. Although there has been a noticeable increase in vocations over the past few years, these have been mostly in developing areas of the world, and not here in this country. Because of this, we are finding fewer priests in our parishes, lay ministers replacing ordained clergy, and many pastors administering to more than one parish in a geographical area.

There is no easy solution to this growing crisis, but we can all start with prayer. And so I ask you all to pray that almighty God may turn more of our young men toward the priesthood and religious life.

God Bless, Rich Trapani

## Calendar of Events

### April

Thursday, April 3	Council Officers' Meeting	7:30PM
Thursday, April 10	Council Business Meeting	8:00PM
Saturday, April 12	Annual 4 <sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification	TBA
Sunday, April 13	Squires Meeting	5:00PM
Thursday, April 17	4 <sup>th</sup> Degree Assembly Meeting	8:00PM
Thursday, April 24	Clergy Appreciation Pot Luck Dinner	6:00PM
Friday, April 25	Chapter Meeting (Hyde Park)	8:00PM
Sunday, April 27	Squires Meeting	5:00PM

### May

Thursday, May 1 – Saturday, May 3	New York State Convention	
Thursday, May 1	Council Officers' Meeting	7:30PM
Thursday, May 8	Council Business Meeting	8:00PM
Sunday, May 11	Squires Meeting	5:00PM
Thursday, May 15	4 <sup>th</sup> Degree Assembly Meeting	8:00PM
Friday, May 16	Chapter Meeting ( <b>Middletown</b> )	8:00PM
Sunday, May 18	Council Communion Breakfast	8:30AM
Thursday, May 23	Potluck Dinner and Family Social	6:00PM
Sunday, May 25	Squires Meeting	5:00PM

## ***Our Meeting Schedule***

Our Council Officers' meeting is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:30PM. Our Business meeting is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 8:00PM. Our pot-luck dinner and family social is held on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Assembly #762 is held at 8:00PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Center, 100 Euclid Avenue in Middletown.

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### ***Please Pray for our Sick***

Msgr. George Valastro  
Joseph Szela  
Elfio Politi  
Joseph Hartmann PGK

Henry Seiffert  
Thomas Colligan  
Thomas Shormis PGK  
Daniel Bellotto

We wish to reach out to all of our members and their families. If you, or somebody you know is in need of any assistance, such as the Sacraments, a helping hand, or perhaps a visit from another Brother Knight or clergy, please contact our sick committee chairman **Deacon Richard Trapani** at 344-1087, or any other Brother Knight.

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### ***Council Nominating Committee Selected***

We are within the last few months of our Columbian Year, with the Council Officer elections just on the horizon. With this in mind, a committee has been selected to oversee the nominations and election process. The members of this year's nominating committee are:

**Matthew Enering PGK**  
**Carl Williams PGK**

**692-2720**  
**342-8740**

Please contact these gentlemen with any of your recommendations or questions. In compliance with the by-laws of our Council, the final recommendations of the nominating committee will be announced at our business meeting in May and mailed to the membership, with the elections set to take place at our June business meeting. In addition, all of the recommendations and election results will be published in the Shipwright newsletter.

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### ***New York State Prayer Rally***

Once again, the New York State Council of the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a prayer rally, to be held on May 13, 2008 in Albany. We will pray the rosary and stage a prayer rally on the steps of the New York State Capital Building from 11:30AM to 2:30PM. Make plans to join our State officers, clergy, Brother Knights, and their families from all over the Empire State as they stand up for their Catholic Faith. For more information, please contact the coordinator for the Hudson Valley Chapter, I. Scott Watkins at 845-564-0339.

## ***Clergy Appreciation Night***

Our monthly pot-luck dinners have been gaining in popularity, and have given our families and friends the opportunity to share and celebrate. Over the past few months, we have had several very interesting and informative speakers who have enlightened and educated us with subjects ranging from fire safety in the home to the ethics of stem-cell research.

On Thursday, April 24 we will honor our local priests and deacons for the wonderful and dedicated work in our community Parishes. Of course, we ask you to prepare a dish to share, but we are also in need of volunteers to help us make this event a success. As always, our pot-luck dinner starts at 6:00 PM with our presentation starting at 7:00 PM. All family members and friends are invited to celebrate with us. For more information, contact our Lecturer, **Deacon Richard Trapani**, at 344-1087 or 342-7188.



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### ***Council Communion Breakfast***

Now that spring is finally here, we can look forward to our annual Council Communion Breakfast, scheduled for Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. After celebrating the 8:30 A.M. Eucharist at Saint Joseph's Church, we will gather at Kuhl's Highland House for a buffet breakfast, followed by an awards presentation. We are honored to have as a keynote speaker, **Orange County Executive Edward Diana**, who gave a presentation for our emergency services personnel at our Blue Mass last September. Tickets for the breakfast are \$12.00 for adults and \$8.00 for children.

In addition, a money club fundraiser is being planned, and the winning tickets will be drawn during the breakfast. Please contact event chairman **Lou Scarano PGK** for further details or to purchase tickets. We hope to see you there.

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### ***Eucharistic Adoration***

Many benefits are gained through the devotion of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is truly present for us in the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist. Our Council participates in an hour of Eucharistic Adoration every Wednesday evening from 8:00-9:00 PM. In addition, many of our members and their families partake in an additional hour of their own. Are you interested? If you would like more information, or would like to sign up, please contact Jim Higgins at 360-2454.

## Field Agent's Corner

Yesterday is but a memory, tomorrow is an uncertainty, but today is the present; a reality, and a gift from Almighty God. Our Lord tells us "We know neither the day nor the hour" of our death, which comes "like a thief in the night". Therefore, a wise man plans ahead for the inevitable, and does not waste the precious time given us all. As Brothers, and mystical members of the Knights of Columbus, we are all expected to heed the call of Fr. Michael J. McGivney, our founder, namely, the protection of widows and orphans, which was built right into our original charter, and is the cornerstone of our Order.

Yes, we are a charitable organization. Yes, we are a social organization. Yes, we are a fraternal organization. However, our main obligation is to our Brothers and their families. We offer many avenues of approach in reaching those goals. Some of these products include very reasonable Life Insurance, lifetime Annuity programs, and Long Term Care. A wise Brother looks to the horizon, and observes the reality of a dwindling Social Security, jobs without the hope of pensions, job related life insurance, which either disappears entirely, or reduces beyond comprehension, at retirement, and skyrocketing nursing home care, all capable of wiping out our assets in a heartbeat.

As your Field Agent, I am charged with the moral responsibility and obligation of protecting your loved ones in their darkest hours. I urge you to not waste another precious moment. Give me a call today, and let me provide you with a FREE and CONFIDENTIAL Insurance Review. Honestly, there is no obligation on your part. Commercial companies charge, and charge greatly for this service. I look forward to hearing from you, and meeting with you soon. I wish God's Blessings to you and to your family, always.

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

## Number of Priests on the Rise

According to the newest pontifical yearbook, the number of Catholic priests has steadily increased between the years 2000 and 2006. In 2007, eight new episcopal sees were created by Pope Benedict XVI, as well as one apostolic prefecture, two metropolitan sees and one apostolic vicariate; 169 new bishops were also appointed. From year-end 2005 to year-end 2006, the latest date for which numbers are available, the number of Catholics in the world increased from 1.115 billion to 1.131 billion, a growth rate of 1.4%. Over the same period, the number of bishops grew to 4,898 from 4,841, an increase of 1.2%. The number of religious and diocesan priests passed from 406,411 in 2005 to 407,262 in 2006 (a growth rate of 0.21%). The number of priests has grown steadily from 2000 to 2006.

However, the actual distribution of priests differs from continent to continent. The numbers of priests have regrettably fallen in Europe and North America, but during the same period have increased in Africa and Asia. Students of philosophy and theology in diocesan and religious seminaries now number 115,480, an increase of 0.9% from year-end 2005 to year-end 2006.

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### **Prayer for Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Visit to the United States (April 15-20, 2008)**

Almighty Father, who pours forth blessings in abundance upon us, we humbly pray that you will inspire, guide, and protect Pope Benedict XVI on his pastoral visit to the United States.

Lord God, bless our Holy Father who comes as a messenger of peace and charity to all people of faith and good will. May his presence in the United States serve to build up the bonds that unite us who are each made in your image and likeness, and may his teaching and witness strengthen the faith of the People of God.

Father, we lovingly entrust Pope Benedict's visit to the care of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Queen of the Americas. Through her prayers may he be preserved from all harm, and may he shine forth with the truth of the Gospel that he proclaims, and may his presence among us foster a renewal of the Church in our country.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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### **Support Our Council through Advertising**

If you know of a business, or own a business, and you're looking to reach new clients, why not advertise in our newsletter? For as little as \$100.00 per year, your monthly advertisement will help support our local Council financially, as well as reach out to a potentially new and loyal customer base. Please help us as we strive to reach out further into the community. Please contact Grand Knight Rich Trapani at 956-6383 or Deputy Grand Knight Greg Sillen at 343-7343 for an application.

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

***"The world needs beauty so as not to despair! The world is tragedy, death, disease, suffering, etc., and if that is all there is, then that is reason to despair. Beauty goes beyond the surface and exposes the depths of things, the deeper reality, which gives hope, even though it is perceived only for a fleeting moment."***

***- Pope John Paul the Great -***