



THE PITTSBURGH KNIGHT

A PUBLICATION OF
THE PITTSBURGH CHAPTER OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPLAIN...

My friends in the Knights of Columbus:

We read in St. Luke's Gospel: **But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner"**.

Many years ago, when I was much younger, I tried to keep track of the many great things I felt I was doing for God. In my prayer time, I would list my accomplishments and bring them to God, hoping to make a good impression: I say mass every day, I say the office and rosary, I make little sacrifices at meals, I smile at people I do not like, I am patient with all my students.

I honestly felt my lists were quite convincing, much like the Pharisees list in St. Luke's gospel. However, I am older now and hopefully wiser and I realize I do not need to make lists or count prayers or good deeds to impress God. All I need to do is come into God's presence and with hands empty and wide open and say, Lord, I really have nothing worthwhile, except what gifts you gave me and I have wasted a lot of those. Grant me your forgiveness.

That simple prayer makes all my efforts worthwhile.

God bless you all.
Fr. Naos

HAVE A HAPPY AND BLESSED EASTER!

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Three Rivers Mass
April 19, 2009
9:30 AM
St. Mary's Church
at the Point**

**Columbus Day Dinner
October 11, 2009
Crown Plaza
Moon Township, PA
\$25/dinner**

**ARE YOU READING
SOMEONE ELSE'S COPY
OF THE PITTSBURGH
KNIGHT?
DO YOU WANT YOUR
OWN COPY?**

Please send your e-mail address to
Mike Conroy at
patnmike5@comcast.net
if you want to be placed on the
Pittsburgh Chapter mailing list.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT...

My Brother Knights:

As a reminder, let me once again call your attention to and request your



attendance at the Chapter's annual "Mass at the Point" scheduled for Sunday April 19, 2009 at the 9:30 AM Mass at St. Mary's Church in downtown Pittsburgh. Following the Mass a brunch will be served in Lawless Hall. The activity commemorates the first Mass celebrated at the Point in Pittsburgh 255 years ago. After some years of declining attendance, the turnout has been increasing in the past few years. I encourage each council to send representatives to support our activity and commemorate the establishment of our Catholic faith in Western Pennsylvania.

This administration has attempted to make some long time talked about changes to the Pittsburgh Chapter during our term. One change involves the meeting night. We moved
(Continued on page 2)

**PITTSBURGH CHAPTER MEETING
FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL
HAS BEEN CANCELLED!**

**OFFICER'S AND DISTRICT DEPUTIES
SEE INFO ON NEXT PAGE!!!!**

**PITTSBURGH CHAPTER MEETINGS
FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH!
7:30 PM**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS UPDATE

◆ **Connecticut Legislation Would Affect Bishops and Priests**

The Connecticut legislation that proposed to strip administrative authority from Catholic priests and bishops has clearly woken a “sleeping giant” – the state’s Catholic population. With its intent of wresting authority from Church officials and removing their vote in parish or diocesan affairs, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson called Bill 1098 “an insult to every priest in the state of Connecticut.” The overall theme of the rally: that Bill No. 1098 should never have been raised, that it smacked of anti-Catholicism and that the Catholic Church in Connecticut strongly supported the bishops and priests threatened by the legislation.

◆ **Assisted-Suicide Bill Tabled in Connecticut**

Only a week after introducing, then pulling, a bill to strip Catholic bishops of administrative authority over their church, the co-chairmen of the Connecticut legislature’s Judiciary Committee offered a measure to legalize assisted suicide in the state. After a quick outcry by Knights and other Catholics, the suicide measure was quickly pulled from consideration until next year.

(Continued from page 1)

from the fourth Friday meeting date to the first Tuesday of the month. An adjustment period was expected due to commitments at various councils and parish meeting sites. At this writing no council has offered to host the April 2009 chapter meeting and thus we will not have a meeting for April.

Finally, as we enter the final weeks of Lent I ask you to read the “Examination of Conscience for Lent” (see article on the right) which appeared in the March issue of *The Word Among Us*. I am not trying to steal our Worthy Chaplin’s role but this reading should give us pause to reflect on our lives.

Happy Easter and may the peace of our Risen Lord be with you.

Vivat Jesus,

**Joseph S. Yourish, PSD
Chapter President**

**ATTENTION OFFICERS AND DISTRICT DEPUTIES!
MEETING AT KING’S RESTAURANT IN HARMARVILLE ON TUESDAY, MARCH 31 AT 7:30 PM (PAY BILLS, DISCUSS CHAPTER ISSUES, ETC.)**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

**May 5, 2009
Our Lady of Joy
Plum
Council #12219**

**June , 2009
Wexford
Our Lady of Olives
Council #3907**

**A WAY FOR PEACEMAKERS
An Examination of Conscience for Lent**

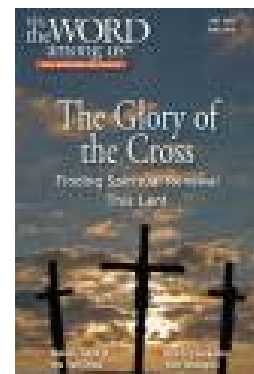
(from “The Word Among Us” - Lent 2009)

Almost everywhere you look—in families, neighborhoods, workplaces, classrooms, and even in the church—you see a world torn by factions and divisions.

Clearly, we need God’s peace! The good news is that Jesus has reconciled us to God and to one another by “making peace by the blood of his cross” (Colossians 1:20). Now, because of his cross, Jesus is offering all of us the power to become peacemakers in this world.

How can we take up this high calling? As with just about everything else in the Christian life, it begins as we experience peace within ourselves—a peace that comes through being reconciled to Christ.

As you prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Lent, try praying through the Peace Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. As you examine your conscience, ask the Lord to help you see the ways in which you have been an instrument of his peace and ways in which you have fallen short. Ask yourself questions like, “Have I pardoned injuries? Have I been a light in times of darkness? Have I sought to be loved more than to love?” Through Confession, let Jesus become an instrument of peace to you. Then watch as his peace and reconciliation flow through you to the people around you.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
PITTSBURGH CHAPTER**



STEEL CITY COUNCIL

**Queen of Peace Council # 5367
March 2008**

Name and Description of Project: “Winter Clothing Drive for the homeless and underprivileged.”

Cost estimates – Item(s) – Total:

Materials required: 1016 articles of clothing were collected from Dec 25th through Feb 1st . .

Preparations necessary:

Manpower/Hours required: A 55 hours

Miscellaneous:

Submitted by: Ed Schuring GK

*Additional forms for the Steel City Council award are available at
www.pittsburghchapterkofc.org/forms.htm*





K of C Insurance



Take a few minutes to visit www.kofc.org and click on the Insurance tab. Then, use the **Life Insurance Calculator** to determine the amount of life insurance protection you and your family need.

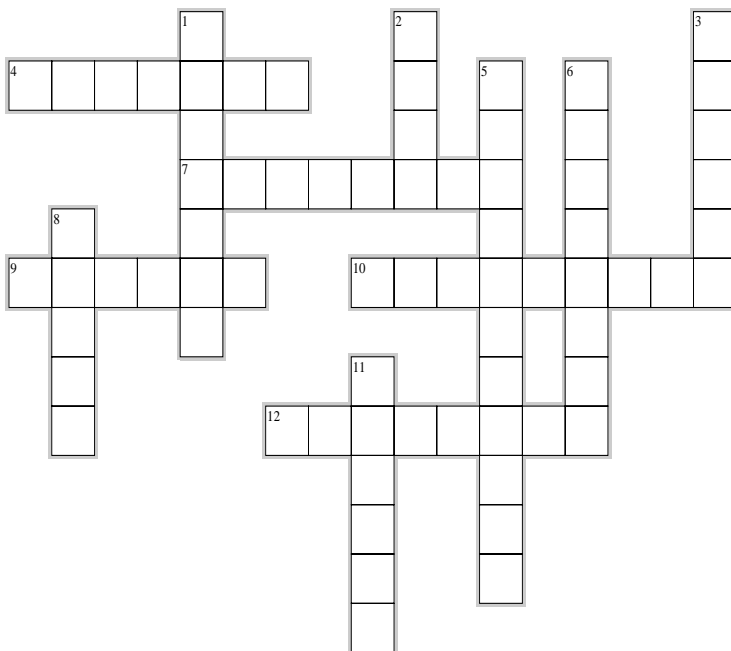
Also, learn about and contact the professional Knights of Columbus agent in your area with the convenient **Find an Agent** feature.

Or simply tour the Web site to learn more about the Knights of Columbus and the products. U.S. residents who would like additional information concerning life insurance, long-term care insurance or annuities, may wish to view the Web site of the American Council of Life Insurers.

*General Agent
Gregory J. Geiger
1 David Hill Road
Cranberry Twp., PA 16066
724-538-4252
gjgeiger@zoominternet.net
or go to
www.kofcgeiger.com*



QUICK CROSSWORD #2



- ### Across
4. PITTSBURGH CHAPTER PRESIDENT
 7. SUPREME KNIGHT CARL
 9. CELEBRATED ON APRIL 12, 2009
 10. ONE OF THE THREE RIVERS
 12. THEY END THEIR REGULAR SEASON IN APRIL
- ### Down
1. THEY START THEIR SEASON IN APRIL
 2. OUR CHAPTER CHAPLAIN IS FATHER
 3. GOOD
 5. NEW HAVEN,
 6. HAD A #1 SEED IN THE NCAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
 8. BISHOP
 11. YOU ARE READING THE PITTSBURGH

INFORMATION FROM:

Gregory J. Geiger
724-538-4252General Agent
gjgeiger@zoominternet.net

FIRST DEGREE FORM ONE HUNDRED POLICIES AND PROTOCOLS

Recently, several Council and District Officers and a few of our Field Agents have asked me to write this memo to clarify confusion about the following;

- The new Form 100's and their completion and distribution,
- The New Member Orientation meeting that our agents perform with new members
- The new member annuity that replaced the old insurance plan on the back of the form 100.
- Conversion of a member from Associate to Insured

Here are several questions/issues set before me and the solutions to them.

1. First Degree Teams and agents are experiencing difficulty in collecting Form 100's. Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries sometimes allow candidates in without form 100's and New Member Rosaries/Pins/Cards and sometimes experience problems with membership at Supreme. NO NEW CANDIDATE should come to a first degree without the form 100 or a new member kit. It is the only means we have of assuring everyone that each man has been voted in by his council. Please help the degree teams by bringing the forms and kits. I sometimes have extra's, but it is a strain on the degree team to have to kluge kits because candidates are lacking when they show up. Failing to bring the form 100 disrupts all processing, including official acknowledgement that the man took the degree. It does not matter which GK or FS has done it one way or differently all along, because we all need to cooperate to ensure that membership numbers are assigned properly via a uniform procedure.

The Field Agent should not be given the top copy, which is to be mailed directly to Supreme by the Council, but should always leave with the middle copy. The second half of this issue is addressed in point Number 4 below.

2. Council Officers are not seeing enough new members converting from Associate to Insured because the new members are not being contacted by the field agents. The middle copy of the form 100 is to be given to the field agent or myself when we attend the degree. The best time to do that is BEFORE the candidate takes the degree, when they are in the ante-room. We expect to contact everybody within a week or two, and expect each council to advise new members on the wisdom of getting their orientation from the field agent...that is different from trying to get a new member to buy insurance.
Please don't do the latter..

3. There is a problem with lag time in converting new insured members from their associate status. The New Member Annuity does not convert a member from associate to insured until the Agent forwards BOTH the members and his own signature to New Business upon delivery of the policy. The only time the top copy of the form 100 is to be diverted to the agents is when a candidate signs up for the New Member Annuity.

In that event, the top copy along with the check is to be mailed to the General agent at my regional address;

1 David Hill Rd., Cranberry Twp, Pa., 16066.

The reason for this is that, once a new member signs off and cuts the check, only the agency department is licensed to process the form and the policy. We are responsible to ensure that it reaches New Business, the Annuity Department and the IRS to be registered as tax sheltered. ***We are also legally accountable for having a licensed agent signature when the plan is delivered to the member.*** This is a legal issue, Gentlemen, and we need your help in executing properly. This is the other half of why we need everyone to be working uniformly with the form 100.

4. The Field Agent is EXPECTED to attend, speak and gather all agency copies of the form 100 at the degree by addressing the new members in the ante-room and by speaking after the degree is over and when the officers are introduced. It is our responsibility to call the new member and his wife asap after the degree to schedule an orientation meeting. This process should be actively endorsed by council officers, ***BUT DON'T MAKE THE MEMBER FEEL LIKE HE IS GOING TO SUFFER BEING SOLD SOMETHING HE DOES NOT WANT.*** Last year I signed a covenant with many of you promising that field agents will behave ethically for the benefit of the member and reminding us that no one has the prerogative of depriving any member of the Knights Of Columbus of his right to examine the benefits to which he is entitled. The Field Agent has been commanded not to aggressively over-sell and to provide a fair and thorough definition of what the new member can expect from his council and fraternity. Push-back given by Council officers in interrupting new members from meeting with Agents is as unacceptable as pushy salesmanship on the part of said agents. That's why I asked your cooperation and have enforced the covenant between us.

5. There is sometimes a lag in recording a new member's membership number because it gets lost somewhere in Supreme or does not get recorded as mailed from the council. A secondary benefit to ensuring that our Agents take the form 100 with them is that we can ride shotgun for form 100's that may become lost or misplaced or not processed through the mail. This year alone I have had to find four new members to assist membership with recording new men, and I was able to do it because I had the middle copy of the form. If a new member signs up for insurance and then has the policy canceled because Membership has no record of his joining, then a nightmare like that can involve litigation against the council officers and agency. When facing that issue twice this past year, I was able to rectify the situation only because I had the agency copy of the form 100.

The point of all this is as follows;

We need to help each other help each other. As we enter into a new century where Supreme has implemented new administrative processes and computer programs, and as we are faced with difficult challenges and hostile politicians, it is all the more important that the Agency and The Chapter support each other for the good and advance of our order. You have all heard me speak about how the order's charter and legal right to exist as not-for-profit entity are defined by the benefits program. You have also heard me speak about how the agency can not survive without the support of the fraternal side of the house.

Getting our act together in processing new members is a fundamental in both mutual support and the success of the order.

Vivat Jesu, Greg Geigner, General Agent