

THE COMPASS

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS POPE PIUS XII COUNCIL 4765

Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish

December 2009 - January 2010

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

Breakfast Sunday has resumed. It is held on the second Sunday of each month. Come on out and show your support. Christmas food baskets will be on December 19th at noon. Thanks to Harry and Sue for their work on the Thanksgiving baskets. The December Officer's meeting will be on the 29th. We learned a lot with the Monte Carlo Night, even though the event was cancelled. In the future, we need to have; liability insurance and, when alcohol is involved a liquor license for events held by the Council. Estimated cost for liability insurance for the year will be \$230.00 +/- and we will investigate including the Ladies of the Knights. We received late notice, but the Knights did hold a coat drive earlier this year. The Women's Crisis center is looking for an ultra-sound machine and a doctor. Any information or leads is greatly appreciated. To make our beautiful Memorial Cross, (thanks John Ottinger), more visible we are looking at putting it in the shrine, (trusting that it will fit).

DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

Nothing to report at this time

CHAPLIN'S REPORT

We are a Catholic organization and; in and around the Parish the Knights are very visible. To that end, by taking part in the Monday Eucharistic Exposition, we encourage other to take part. Eucharistic Exposition does help build the faith within the parish, and it is a blessing in encouraging vocations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December General Meeting	Dec 1
December Officer Meeting	Dec 29
January General Meeting	Jan 5
January Officer Meeting	Jan 28
St. Patrick / St. Joseph's Dance	Mar 13
Third Degree	Apr 11

REPORTS

Financial Secretary Report: Dues statements were mailed out with the last newsletter. Those present at the meeting can pick up their statement, otherwise they will be mailed out. Dues can be paid quarterly

and those that are retired are entitled to a reduced amount.

Treasurer's Report: Account balances were read. Report was approved by all in attendance. Breakfast Sunday is alive and well.

Monte Carlo Night: For the last on this subject, during the last meeting, Father Mike provided sound reasons as to why this event was cancelled. Thanks to Father Mike for the detailed information.

Degree Team: We are still looking for anyone interested in being on the Council's First Degree Team. Anyone interested in being on a degree team should contact Al Scheck.

Color Corps: Any Fourth Degree members interested in joining the Color Corps should contact Al Scheck, he has applications available. (See the Color Corps Section below)

District Deputy: There is possibility of a 4th Degree in April. Wishes for a Merry Christmas to all from State Deputy Wayne Freet.

Golf Outing: Rich Powell is already working on the golf outing for 2010. The date will be Saturday May 15.

COAL Tickets: Thanks to John Wallover for taking on this valuable campaign.

K of C License Plate: Anyone interested in obtaining a K of C license plate for their car, please contact your Financial Secretary. He has the forms and needs to attest that you are a member in good standing.

Trenton Thunder: The final numbers are in. Thanks to Gerry's efforts we made a profit of \$231.57 with the sale of this year's tickets. Plans are underway for next year's game.

PRAYERS LIST

Please keep the following brothers and / or their family members in your prayers:

- The Powell Family, (Joe, Mike, Rich & Sean)
- Harry Haegele's Brother in law
- Mike Fratantaro's sister Mary
- Bob Grover
- Tom Pastore's brother
- Ray DiTomasso
- Mark Martin's brother
- Tom Litz & his Sister-in-law
- Debbie Cinalli
- And to all in need of our prayers

BAPTISM SCHEDULE

December	John Wallover
January	Mike Fratantaro
February	Tony DiTomasso

DID YOU KNOW?

SILENT NIGHT: The Song Heard 'Round The World

by Bill Egan, Christmas Historian

180 years ago the carol "Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht" was heard for the first time in a village church in Oberndorf, Austria. The congregation at that Midnight Mass in St. Nicholas Church listened as the voices of the assistant pastor, Fr. Joseph Mohr, and the choir director, Franz Xaver Gruber, rang through the church to the accompaniment of Fr. Mohr's guitar. On each of the six verses, the choir repeated the last two lines in four-part harmony.

On that Christmas Eve, a song was born that would wing its way into the hearts of people throughout the world. Now translated into hundreds of languages, it is sung by untold millions every December from small chapels in the Andes to great cathedrals in Antwerp and Rome.

Today books, films and Internet sites are filled with fanciful tales purporting to tell the history of "Silent Night." Some tell of mice eating the bellows of the organ creating the necessity for a hymn to be accompanied by a guitar. Others claim that Joseph Mohr was forced to write the words to a new carol in haste since the organ would not play. A recent film, created for Austrian television places Oberndorf in the Alps and includes evil railroad barons and a double-dealing priest, while a recent book by a German author places a zither in the hands of Franz Gruber and connects Joseph Mohr with a tragic fire engulfing the city of Salzburg. You can read claims that "Silent Night" was sung on Christmas Eve in 1818 and then forgotten by its creators. Of course, the latter are easily discounted by manuscript arrangements of the carol by both Mohr and Gruber which were produced at various times between 1820 and 1855.

In this age of tabloid journalism, it's not surprising that some feel it necessary to invent frivolous anecdotes and create fables for a story that is quite beautiful in

its simplicity.

The German words for the original six stanzas of the carol we know as "Silent Night" were written by Joseph Mohr in 1816, when he was a young priest assigned to a pilgrimage church in Mariapfarr, Austria. His grandfather lived nearby, and it is easy to imagine that he could have come up with the words while walking thorough the countryside on a visit to his elderly relative. The fact is, we have no idea if any particular event inspired Joseph Mohr to pen his poetic version of the birth of the Christchild. The world is fortunate, however, that he didn't leave it behind when he was transferred to Oberndorf the following year (1817).

On December 24, 1818 Joseph Mohr journeyed to the home of musician-schoolteacher Franz Gruber who lived in an apartment over the schoolhouse in nearby Arnsdorf. He showed his friend the poem and asked him to add a melody and guitar accompaniment so that it could be sung at Midnight Mass. His reason for wanting the new carol is unknown. Some speculate that the organ would not work; others feel that the assistant pastor, who dearly loved guitar music, merely wanted a new carol for Christmas.

Later that evening, as the two men, backed by the choir, stood in front of the main altar in St. Nicholas Church and sang "Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!" for the first time, they could hardly imagine the impact their composition would have on the world.

Karl Mauracher, a master organ builder and repairman from the Ziller Valley, traveled to Oberndorf to work on the organ, several times in subsequent years. While doing his work in St. Nicholas, he obtained a copy of the composition and took it home with him. Thus, the simple carol, began its journey around the world as a "Tyrolean Folk Song."

Two traveling families of folk singers from the Ziller Valley, similar to the Trapp Family Singers of "The Sound of Music" fame, incorporated the song into their repertoire. According to the Leipziger Tageblatt, the Strassers sang the song in a concert in Leipzig in December 1832. It was during this period, several musical notes were changed, and the carol evolved into the melody we know today. On another occasion, according to an historical plaque, the Rainer Family sang the Christmas carol before an audience which

included Emperor Franz I and Tsar Alexander I. In the year 1839, the Rainers performed "Stille Nacht" for the first time in America, at the Alexander Hamilton Monument outside Trinity Church in New York City.

Joseph Bletzacher, the Court Opera singer from Hannover, reported that by the 1840s, the carol was already well known in Lower Saxony. "In Berlin," he says, "the Royal Cathedral Choir popularized it especially. It became in fact the favorite Christmas carol of the artistically appreciative King Frederick William IV of Prussia, who used to have the Cathedral Choir sing it for him during the Christmas season each year."

By the time the song had become famous throughout Europe, the Joseph Mohr had died and the composer was unknown. Although Franz Gruber wrote to music authorities in Berlin stating that he was the composer, the melody had been assumed to be the work of Haydn, Mozart or Beethoven at various times and these thoughts persisted even into the twentieth century. The controversy was put to rest four years ago when a long-lost arrangement of "Stille Nacht" in the hand of Joseph Mohr was authenticated. In the upper right hand corner of the arrangement, Mohr wrote, "Melodie von Fr. Xav. Gruber."

During his lifetime, Franz Xaver Gruber produced a number of orchestral arrangements of his composition. The original guitar arrangement is missing, but five other Gruber manuscripts of the carol exist. The manuscript by Joseph Mohr (ca. 1820) is for guitar accompaniment and is probably the closest to the arrangement and melody sung at Midnight Mass in 1818.

Later in his life, the Gruber family moved to Hallein, now the site of the Franz Xaver Gruber Museum. It contains several furnished rooms in his former home along with outstanding exhibits dealing with the history of "Silent Night," including Joseph Mohr's guitar. Gruber's grave is outside the home and is decorated with a Christmas tree in December.

Fr. Joseph Mohr's final resting place is a tiny Alpine ski resort, Wagrain. He was born into poverty in Salzburg in 1792 and died penniless in Wagrain in 1848, where he had been assigned as pastor of the church. He had donated all his earnings to be used for eldercare and the education of the children in the area.

His memorial from the townspeople is the Joseph Mohr School located a dozen yards from his grave. The overseer of St. Johann's, in a report to the bishop, described Mohr as "a reliable friend of mankind, toward the poor, a gentle, helping father."

In 1998 it was discovered that Joseph Mohr was not born in the building once thought to be his birthplace at 9 Steingasse in Salzburg. Research into the census records indicates that Mohr and his mother resided at 31 Steingasse. At the same time the Governor of Salzburg, Franz Schausberger, announced a new initiative to promote the cultural sites related to the carol and its composers. It seems that Austria has finally realized that their national treasure has a very special significance outside its birth nation and has become "The Song Heard 'Round The World."

Perhaps this is part of the miracle of "Silent Night." The words flowed from the imagination of a modest curate. The music was composed by a musician who was not known outside his village. There was no celebrity to sing at its world premiere. Yet its powerful message of heavenly peace has crossed all borders and language barriers, conquering the hearts of people everywhere.

(Christmas historian Bill Egan, a retired Navy photojournalist and resident of Flagler Beach, Florida, is a staff writer for Year 'Round Christmas Magazine and provides Christmas research for Charles Osgood of "The Osgood File" on the CBS Radio Network. He is the producer of the annual "Adventsingen" concert in Daytona Beach and lectures on Christmas topics throughout the Eastern U.S. Bill has visited the various "Stille Nacht" locations to research the history of the world famous carol for the Austrian National Tourist Office (ANTO) and Austrian Information. Gabriele Wolf of ANTO Media Relations says that Bill Egan is the foremost "Silent Night" scholar in the U.S. and the Daytona Beach News-Journal says that he is one of the world's leading experts on the origins of the carol.)
<http://www.silentnight.web.za/>

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

By the Ladies of the Knights

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Please wish the following brothers a Happy Birthday:
Bob Grover Dec 1

Robert Sauler	Dec 7
John Fratantaro	Dec 8
Bob Gutherman	Dec 11
Tom Pastore	Dec 18
Ron Poserina	Dec 25
Steven O'Conner	Dec 26
John Wolf	Jan 1
John Brewerton	Jan 1
Russ Andrews	Jan 1
Owen Logan	Jan 6
Rich Rosenblatt	Jan 8
Mike McCormick	Jan 12
Al Wolf	Jan 26

ANNIVERSARIES

Years of Service Anniversaries:

- Owen Logan 35 Years
- George Pizzullo 35 Years
- Dan Glitz 5 Years
- Anthony Zito 30 Years

Congratulations Brothers!

K of C APPAREL

You have undoubtedly seen brothers wearing; shirts, jackets and hats with the Knights of Columbus logo and Pope Pius XII Council. Ever wondered where they got them? You can get them to, just talk to Rich Powell at a meeting to place an order.

BREAKFAST SUNDAY

Breakfast Sunday continues to be a Parish social success. As with any program we can always use more volunteers and supporters.



(Mike Fratantaro working hard at the December Breakfast)

WEB SITES

Looking for information on the Knights of Columbus? Try these web sites for; information forms, etc.

- Main Site www.kofc.org
- State Site <http://www.pakofc.us/>
- Council 4765 <http://kofc.buxcom.net/>
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/KofC4765/>

To join the yahoo group for the Council, you can sign up through the web site. Those without a Yahoo

account simply need to establish an e-mail account. This is totally free.

IN MEMORIUM

December was a tough time for two of our Brothers Father-in-laws. First was Mark Martin's Father-in-law, second was Gerry Smedley's Father-in-law. Prayers and best wishes to; Mark and Linda Martin as well as Gerry and Marilyn Smedley and their families on their recent losses.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Recently we have come across several brothers that have changed their; e-mail, home address and / or phone number. Please keep your Financial Secretary informed of any and all changes in your contact information. Your help is greatly appreciated.

HELP WANTED

A summary of all the activities that are in need of volunteers:

- Christmas Food Baskets

COLOR CORPS EVENTS

Our next event will be the Annual St. John Neumann Mass on Sunday January 3, 2010.

The location of the Mass will be St. Peter the Apostle Church, 5th street and Girard Ave. Philadelphia Pa the report time will be at 2:30 p.m. but remember there is not much parking so if you are going to attend this event please report earlier than that time.

Also, on Wednesday January 6, 2010 we will be having a Color Corp meeting at St. Martha's Church in the senior citizens room to go over the new information we have received from Supreme as well as to certify everyone in the use of the sword. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. so I ask everyone to please be at this important meeting. Also, if you know of any members that do not have emails to please pass this information on. I also ask that if you are no longer interested in being in the corp to please return your Regalia so as we can pass them on to new members that are waiting to join. If you know of anyone that is interested in joining please have them come along as well as we will get them certified as well. I do ask that you bring your sword and services baldric with you so we can do this the right way. Please let me know if you can make the next two events especially the meeting so as we know how much refreshment we will need.

THANK YOU

You may or may not know of the business that help; the Knights, the LOK and our parish. Here is an opportunity to let you know who they are in hopes that you might re-pay their kindness and generosity:

- Schmidt's Flowers in Bristol
- Old Croydon Café
- Cesares Restaurant in Bristol
- Wal-Mart, Bristol Commerce
- ACME Woodhaven & Bensalem
- Shop-Rite Bensalem
- Richard S. Brown Electrical Contractors
- B & B True Value Hardware

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Any brothers that have something that they want listed in this newsletter should contact Jim Berna. I can be reached at 215-788-7004, or by e-mail at buoyz3@verizon.net (revised e-mail address)



December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 General Mtg	2	3	4 First Friday	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Breakfast	14	15	16	17	18	19 Food Baskets 12:00
20	21	22	23	24 Christams Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day
27	28	29 Officer Mtg	30	31 New Year's Eve Day	1 New Year's Day	2

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day	2
3	4	5 January Mtg Formal*	6 Feast of The Epiphany Of the Lord	7	8	9
10 Breakfast	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Officer Mtg	29	30
31	1 February General Mtg	2	3	4	5 First Friday	6

* Formal meeting - all officers must appear in jacket and tie