

# THE COMPASS

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS POPE PIUS XII COUNCIL 4765

Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish

March - April 2011

## GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

Mark Martin G.K.

Upcoming events are:

- Blitz weekend 5 & 6 March
- Open house 8 March
- Malvern Retreat, 11 – 13 March
- Breakfast 13 March
- St. Patrick's Dance 19 March, set up at Noon
- Bus trip to New Haven 26 March
- Set up for 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree – 2 April
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree – 3 April
- Stations of the Cross, every Sunday in lent at Noon

Other Notes:

- Please keep an eye on the Parish. School was vandalized and the shrine was robbed again.
- Consider donating your time during Lent to help spruce up the Church
- The Ladies have donated \$500.00 to the Woman's Center.

## DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

Rich Blinn D.G.K.

- Please pray for our priests, they really need our prayers!

## CHAPLIN'S REPORT

Rev. Michael Davis Chaplin

- No report

## UPCOMING EVENTS

March General Meeting	Mar 1
Retreat at Malvern (Contact Tony & Dan DiTomasso for information)	Mar 11 – 13
Breakfast Sunday	Mar 13
Saint Patrick's / St. Joseph's Dance	Mar 19
Bus Trip to New Haven	Mar 26
March Officer's Meeting	Mar 31
Set up for 3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree	Apr 2
3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree Exemplification	Apr 3
April General Meeting	Apr 5
April Officer's Meeting	Apr 28
Annual Awards Banquet	May 5

## REPORTS

**Financial Secretary Report:** (Jim Berna),

- Receipts and YTD financials were read.
- Dues notices were sent. Membership cards are available tonight.
- The March newsletter will include a piece by Al Litz on our priests.

**Treasurer's Report:** (John Brochon) Account balances were read. Report was approved by all in attendance. Breakfast Sunday continues each month. Please show your support.

**Degree Team:** (Al Scheck) There will be a First Degree at the Council on January 11. Report time is 7:00.

**COAL;** Closed out until next year.

**District Deputy:** (Steve Sannelli)

- Convention is weekend of 4/28/2011.
- Caucus- 4/17/2011
- 4th degree- 5/29/2011
- IRS form 990 due soon
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**Rosaries:** No report other than thank you to Bill Kane for his continuing efforts with this program.

**Discount Cards:** (Mike Fratantaro), the new cards, which will be orange and black, are in work. We are looking for a few more supporters and the cards will go to print. Bristol Council will be buying some of the cards from us to sell in their own neighborhood, etc.

**Membership:** (Al Scheck); We are holding the spring membership blitz the first weekend in March. An open house will be the following Tuesday. It is important to continue to push for active and involved members. A Second Degree is scheduled for March 22 at St. Joseph the Worker Council. We are still on schedule for a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree here at St. Thomas on April 3.

**Public Relations:** (Jim Berna) Nothing to report

**Insurance:** (Rhett Ragsdale):

Don't forget about annuities! Our annuities pay 3% guaranteed. New plans will be available in April.

### PRAYERS LIST

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

Those in need of our prayers are:

- Catherine Lequire
- Joe Powell
- Sarah Glasson
- Mary Davit
- Father Mike
- All Priests and Religious.
- Marie Kelly
- Ken Harkinson's family
- Agnes Meeks
- Joseph Brogan

### BAPTISM SCHEDULE

March	Rich Brown
April	Jimmy Vaughan
May	Russ Andrews

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, is the last hurrah before the Catholic season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. It also has links to the Christmas season through the period known as Carnival.

#### Catholic Roots of Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras, literally "Fat Tuesday," has grown in popularity in recent years as a raucous, sometimes hedonistic event. But its roots lie in the Christian calendar, as the "last hurrah" before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. That's why the enormous party in New Orleans, for example, ends abruptly at midnight on Tuesday, with battalions of street sweepers pushing the crowds out of the French Quarter towards home. What is less known about Mardi Gras is its relation to the Christmas season, through the ordinary-time interlude known in many Catholic cultures as Carnival. (Ordinary time, in the Christian calendar, refers to the normal "ordering" of time outside of the Advent/Christmas or Lent/Easter seasons. There is a fine Scripture From Scratch article on that topic if you want to learn more.)

Carnival comes from the Latin words carne vale, meaning "farewell to the flesh." Like many Catholic holidays and seasonal celebrations, it likely has its roots in pre-Christian traditions based on the seasons. Some believe the festival represented the few days added to the lunar calendar to make it coincide with the solar calendar; since these days were outside the calendar, rules and customs were not obeyed. Others see it as a late-winter celebration designed to welcome the coming spring. As early as the middle of the

second century, the Romans observed a Fast of 40 Days, which was preceded by a brief season of feasting, costumes and merrymaking.

The Carnival season kicks off with the Epiphany, also known as Twelfth Night, Three Kings' Day and, in the Eastern churches, Theophany. Epiphany, which falls on January 6, 12 days after Christmas, celebrates the visit of the Wise Men bearing gifts for the infant Jesus. In cultures that celebrate Carnival, Epiphany kicks off a series of parties leading up to Mardi Gras. Epiphany is also traditionally when celebrants serve King's Cake, a custom that began in France in the 12th century. Legend has it that the cakes were made in a circle to represent the circular routes that the Wise Men took to find Jesus, in order to confuse King Herod and foil his plans of killing the Christ Child. In the early days, a coin or bean was hidden inside the cake, and whoever found the item was said to have good luck in the coming year. In Louisiana, bakers now put a small baby, representing the Christ Child, in the cake; the recipient is then expected to host the next King Cake party.

There are well-known season-long Carnival celebrations in Europe and Latin America, including Nice, France; Cologne, Germany; and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The best-known celebration in the U.S. is in New Orleans and the French-Catholic communities of the Gulf Coast. Mardi Gras came to the New World in 1699, when a French explorer arrived at the Mississippi River, about 60 miles south of present day New Orleans. He named the spot Point du Mardi Gras because he knew the holiday was being celebrated in his native country that day.

Eventually the French in New Orleans celebrated Mardi Gras with masked balls and parties, until the Spanish government took over in the mid-1700s and banned the celebrations. The ban continued even after the U.S. government acquired the land but the celebrations resumed in 1827. The official colors of Mardi Gras, with their roots in Catholicism, were chosen 10 years later: purple, a symbol of justice; green, representing faith; and gold, to signify power. Mardi Gras literally means "Fat Tuesday" in French. The name comes from the tradition of slaughtering and feasting upon a fattened calf on the last day of Carnival. The day is also known as Shrove Tuesday (from "to shrive," or hear confessions), Pancake Tuesday and fetter Dienstag. The custom of making pancakes comes from the need to use up fat, eggs and dairy before the fasting and abstinence of Lent begins. Taken from:

<http://www.americancatholic.org/features/mardigras/>

### **OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS**

By the Ladies of the Knights

LOK Meeting at STA	Mar 28
Monthly Meeting	Apr 25
Installation of Officers Dinner	May 23

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Please wish the following brothers a Happy Birthday:

Mario Maurizi	Mar 10
Dennis Schafer	Mar 10
Sean Berna	Mar 16
Paul Capelli	Apr 4
George LeQuier	Apr 15
Joe Supon	Apr 16
Andy Grillo	Apr 16

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

The following brothers are all celebrating important anniversaries in January and February:

- John Reilly is celebrating 25 years of continuous membership on 1 March

Congratulations John!

### **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 is held each month; September through May in Crehan Hall. This is both a parish social function as well as a parish fundraiser. Come on out and join us for a great time of fellowship.

### **EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place each and every Monday in the Chapel. Please remember this valuable time and resource for finding peace and answers.

### **WEB SITES**

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

Main Site [www.kofc.org](http://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**

Missed during our last two meetings was the passing of Father Larry's brother. Please keep him and the entire Crehan family in your prayers.

### **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.

### **COLOR CORPS EVENTS**

(John Wallover)

Catholic Daughters of America Mass

Sunday 3 April. Mass time is 11:30, Report time is 11:00.

Location: St. Dominic's Church, Frankford Ave

Confirmation Mass - Thursday April 14

Assumption BVM Parish

Bristol Rd & Meadowbrook Lane

Feasterville, PA

Mass time is 4:00, Report time is 3:00

Chrism Mass. Date is April 21.

Location: Cathedral of Saints Peter & Paul

17th & The Parkway

Philadelphia, Pa.

Mass time is 10:00 AM, Report time is 8:30

(S.K. Jeffrey Gordon will be heading this event)

### **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
- Martin Exteriors
- Wal-Mart, Bristol Commerce
- ACME Woodhaven & Bensalem
- Shop-Rite Bensalem
- Richard S. Brown Electrical Contractors
- B & B True Value Hardware

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations are in order for The Ladies of the Knights of Columbus on their wonderful St. Valentine's Day Dance and Vow Renewal. An excellent time was had by all that attended.

### **BUS TRIP INFORMATION**

We are looking to put together a day of fun and learning with a bus trip to New Haven and Saint Mary's. The tentative date for the trip is Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup>. The cost of the trip will be \$35.00 per person plus meals. Anyone interested in going on the trip should contact Mark Martin as soon as possible. Mark's home phone number is: 215-785-3419.

### **PARISH IMPROVEMENTS**

The Wayside Shrine is in need of some improvements. The Shrine was cleaned before Christmas and the floor is showing years of age and wear. Dan DiTomasso has suggested a designer concrete finish for the Shrine. Dan's brother-in-law is in the business and will help with the cost of the project. Dan presented samples at the January meeting. If you would like more information, or you would like to see some actual work, stop by Dan and Tony's house. Their front porch has an application and it looks great!

### **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](mailto:buoyz3@verizon.net) ([revised e-mail address](#))

### **OUR PRIESTS**

This newsletter was started as a tool to communicate and to teach. The notes below from Al Litz do just that. After reading his thoughts, I realized how I need to thank and pray for the two priests in my family.

Dear brother knights; I am writing to ask you to show support to our priests. The Knights of Columbus have been the right arm of our Catholic faith since their founding over 110 years ago. Our parish priest is present when we are baptized and helps us with our

spiritual needs till the day we are buried. He is the one that said the mass on the day we were married. We all left the church after our wedding for the reception, most of the time the priest went back to the rectory and had a dinner with himself or maybe a friend or follow priest. It is a lonely life. The rewards for becoming a priest are that you live your life closer to Our Lord and his Blessed Mother. Saying Mass each day and knowing that when your life is ended you will spend eternity in heaven with God. Once a priest at St. Thomas give a sermon described eternity, as a mile thick cube of the hardest metal known to man and every 100 years a bird drops a feather on the cube and the time it takes to put a mark in the cube is only the start of eternity. (a long time) I have been reading all the stories in the papers about the priest that abused children. I can't understand how these men became Catholic priests and also feel that if guilty they should go to jail for a long time and never be left alone with children. The priest that I support are the ones like Father Mike, Father Larry , Monsignor Duncan and Father McFadden at my parish Priests like my late uncle Rev. Francis Litz CSSR, who spent 25 years of his life working to make Bishop Neumann a saint. Pray to St Neumann to help our priests. He answered my family's prayers when our son Chris was in a accident. I am sure as the 4th bishop of Philadelphia he will help our priest. We just need to pray to him, Our Lord and his Blessed Mother to help our priest. The pastor of my daughter Julie's Parish was crying when he gave his sermon last Sunday on the subject of abuse. Let's stand behind our priest, send them letter of support, and thank them after Sunday mass and most of all pray for them.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS ITEMS

- St. Mike's has a fish fry every Friday during Lent.
- 3/20—Mass for Father Larry's brother.
- Russ Andrews has a tux available for a taller fellow.
- Jim Vaughan will look into a Jerry Blavit fundraiser.
- John Whelihan- please attend St. Patrick's dance, bring a friend.
- John Ottinger- please volunteer for ARC collection dates and times.
- Stations of the Cross begin on 3/20 at noon; Stations will be outdoors if weather permits
- Sign: Andy Grillo & his father are still working on it.
- Tony DiTomasso; please wear your K of C colors to the retreat.

## MY TIME HAS COME

In January we experienced a rather unfortunate problem. One of our Charter Members; Jack Coyne, passed away and did not receive the honors due him. It truly was a case of everything that could have gone wrong did. I have been taught that if you can learn from a mistake or a problem, than it is not all bad. From that unfortunate instance we have put together a plan to avoid this in the future.

1. Upon hearing of the passing of a Brother Knight, notify Jim Berna, (home phone 215.788.7004). Please provide as much information as possible including the family's wishes for honor, if known, contact information, etc.
2. Jim Berna will verify if the Brother was in good standing, by checking the records held by the Council Financial Secretary
3. If he is a member of the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree, Jim Berna will contact the Worthy Controller to verify the brother's status and to begin making arrangements for honoring the deceased.
4. If the deceased is a brother in good standing with the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree, Jim Berna will work with the Assembly to arrange the proper and due honors.
5. If the brother is not a member of the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree, Jim Berna will work with the Council's Grand Knight to make whatever

arrangements possible to honor the deceased.

6. As many as possible within the Council and Assembly will be notified of the Brother's passing via e-mail and phone calls.
7. The Council's Grand Knight will arrange for a Mass card along with the Bible to be given to the deceased's next of kin.

It is important to make sure that your family members are aware of this procedure and that they contact Jim in the event of your passing. Please be specific with your family regarding what you want. While a brother may be entitled to certain honors, they can only be given with the permission of the family.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 General Mtg	2	3 Clean Knight' Room	4 First Friday	5 Blitz Weekend
6 Blitz Weekend	7	8 Open House	9	10	11 Malvern Retreat	12 Malvern Retreat
13 (Retreat) Breakfast Sunday	14	15 Squires Info Meeting	16 Assembly Meeting	17	18	19 Saint Patirck's Dance
20	21	22 1st & 2nd Deg. (St. Joe Council)	23	24	25	26 Bus Trip New Haven
27	28	29 Movie The Passion of Christ	30	31 Officer's Meeting	1	2
3	4	5 General Meeting	6	7	8 First Friday	9

### April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 First Friday	2 3rd Degree Set up
3 3rd Degree STA	4	5 General Meeting	6	7	8	9
10 Breakfast Sunday	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Fr. Mike's 50th B'day Palm Sunday	18	19	20 Passion Play @STA Assembly Meeting	21 Holy Thursday	22 Good Friday	23 Holy Saturday
24 Easter Sunday	25	26	27	28 Officer's Meeting	29	30

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament occurs each Monday in the Chapel

**ARC COLLECTION WILL BE EVERY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY THROUGH APRIL - PLEASE HELP BY SIGNING UP**