



COMMUNION

Monthly Periodical of Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council 1467
265 Wellington Street. St. Thomas, Ontario N5R 2S6

February 2024



GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

As I put this report together, I am getting ready for my trip to Florida. So, I am going to be missing a couple of events that the Knights of Columbus are putting on: the Spaghetti Dinner on January 20th at the Columbus Club and then the January 26th Knights of Columbus 'Knight' at the St. Thomas Stars hockey game. I'm looking forward to hearing about these events upon my return and the fun that everyone had in attending them.

Congratulations to the **4th Degree Bishop Cody Assembly** on their **60th Anniversary**. Sorry that I couldn't be there in person for the levee on January 14th but just know that I was with you in spirit.

February is just around the corner and with that comes **Valentine's Day**. While a bit early, we'll be hosting a **Ladies Appreciation Dinner** on the 10th so please make plans to attend.

So far, we have been busy with our donations to our charities. We still need volunteers to help out with the events that help to raise funds for our Council. As mentioned before, we still need a **Family Director** and Council Officer Nominations & Elections are coming up soon for our 2024-2025 Fraternal Year. I invite you to contact any of the executive to express your interest.

Fraternally Yours,
Raymond Bernicky, Grand Knight, PGK (gk1467@ontariokofc.ca)



Father Ernie Deslippe (1929 - 2011) served as Council chaplain for over 46 years. He was born in Harrow Ontario on March 20, 1929 and was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop John C. Cody on May 27, 1961 at St. Peter's Basilica, London Ontario. He celebrated his first Mass at St. Anthony of Padua parish in Harrow. Through his 50 years of ordained ministry, he served as associate pastor, Holy Angels' Parish, St. Thomas; and Administrator, St. Joseph Mission, Port Stanley. He was an inspiring priest, a leader with fortitude. Throughout his life he was a comforting power for disadvantaged people helping them to find a clear path to follow. He was a dedicated member of the Knights of Columbus who stressed that prayer is a vital tool. It helps to become confident, to see things in proper perspective, to give us vision, courage, strength and endurance, and to erode our impure motives.

He said holiness is not something we do for ourselves and instead something that God does in us. He invited us to open our hands to allow what we have to be shared, to flow out of us and we watch it multiplied. He understood that giving, not getting, is the generosity begets generosity. He pointed out that paying attention is one of the greatest compliments we can pay to another human being. Father Deslippe exemplified the mission of the Church to guide its followers to a fulfilling life. He was a great spiritual leader dedicated to prayer and always striving for virtue. Fr. Ernie was a strong advocate of learning and so Council awards a \$1000 scholarship in his name each year to a student that demonstrates the values and principles of the Gospel and is pursuing post-secondary education.

The Knights of Columbus (K of C) is a fraternal benefit society that was established in 1882 thanks to the efforts of **Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney**, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut. The K of C has grown from several members in one council to more than 14,000 councils and approaching 2 million members worldwide. The Order holds true to its founding principles of **Charity, Unity and Fraternity**.

Bulletin submissions deadline: 25th of the month (Sept-May inclusive)

COUNCIL OFFICERS 2023-24

- Ray Bernicky, Grand Knight
gk1467@ontariokofc.ca
- Fr. Peter Keller, Chaplain
- Harald Schraeder, Deputy GK
- Blair Ferguson, Chancellor
- Robert Weir, Recording Secretary
- Regis Trudel, Financial Secretary
- Orio Ortins, Treasurer
- Jim (Simon) Vink, Advocate
- Luc Audet, Warden
- James Dewan, Trustee (3 yr.)
- Roy Esbaugh, Trustee (2 yr.)
- Steven Wachowiak, Trustee (1 yr.)
- John Kana, Inside Guard
- Francis Dadzie, Outside Guard
- Patrick Houston, Lecturer
- John Noonan, Insurance Agent / Fraternal Advisor

ESTEEMED PARTNERS

- Alex Schadenberg, District Deputy
- Henry Poirier, Faithful Navigator, Bishop Cody Assembly
- Sandi Hoffer, President, Ladies Auxiliary
- Roy Esbaugh, President, Columbus Club

COUNCIL BULLETIN: Harald Schraeder (hschran623@rogers.com)

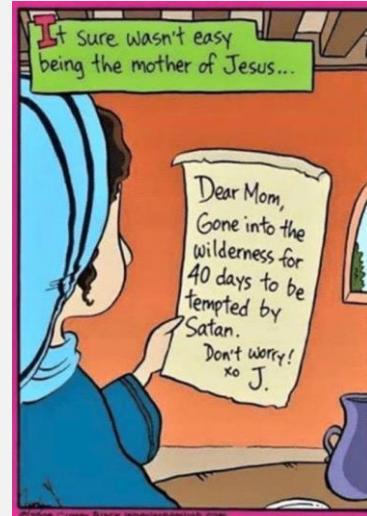
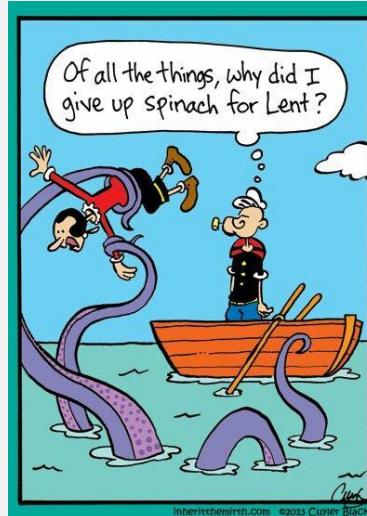
WEB SITE ADMINISTRATOR
(www.KofC1467.com): Martin Evers
(martin.evers53@gmail.com)

COLUMBUS CLUB MANAGER:
[**vacant**] (226-927-0375)



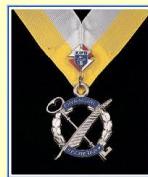
Join Us!

<https://www.kofc.org/en/who-we-are/about-membership/index.html>



POPE FRANCIS' FEBRUARY INTENTION: FOR THE TERMINALLY ILL

The Holy Father encourages prayers "so that terminally ill patients and their families always receive necessary medical and human care and support."



FS CHAT

DUES are past DUE

If you are reading this and have not paid your 2024 dues, then you are late and please accept this gentle reminder to remit your dues ASAP. Your dues are not a charity donation and constitute 60% of our annual budgeted income. They cover your membership in a brotherhood of Catholic gentlemen whose first principle is Charity. Membership has both privileges and responsibilities, one of which is to pay our dues on time. It is hoped that Brothers will pay soon so that a second notice will not be required. Dues can be sent to my home (the address is on your notice) or dropped off at the Columbus Club (please use the mail box by the Wellington Street facing 'front' door) or sent by e-transfer to FS1467@ontariokofc.ca. **PLEASE NOTE:** 2024 Membership Cards are available to pick up at all Business meetings.

Thank you to all Brothers who paid prior to January 15th and were eligible for the draw for a Free 2025 Membership. **Congratulations to our Winner, Brother Luc Audet.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!!!

Michael Brisson, Michael Butler, Michael Kelly, Richard Lenz, Barry MacMillan, Gordon Sim, Adrian Smith, Joseph Smyth, Peter Sowinski & Arnold Walker.

Regis Trudel, FS1467@ontariokofc.ca; 226-688-6060



February Assignments

- 1st (Thursday), 10 – 12 midnight: Jim Dewan & Greg Reynaert
- 9th (Friday), 8 – 10 p.m.: Steve Wachowiak & Tom Carr

Please arrive 10 minutes before your assigned time.

Did you know the Bingo crew generates well over half of Council's Charity giving each year? Thanks to Jackpot Time for giving Council the opportunity to raise funds to help the needy in our community.

Volunteers make the ordinary extraordinary.

MARK THE DATES FEBRUARY EVENTS

All events take place at the Columbus Club at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

- 2nd: Ladies Aux. Dinner
- 5th: Bishop Cody Assembly mtg. (**Tues**)
- 5th: Evening with Fr. John (**6:30 p.m., SA**)
- 12th: Ladies Auxiliary (**Sunday**)
- 12th: FED Exec. Meeting
- 14th: **ASH WEDNESDAY**
- **14th: VALENTINE'S DAY**
- 19th: Columbus Club Directors
- 21st: Soup Brothers (**9:30 am**)
- 26th: FED Business Meeting

Timely notices of events can be arranged by contacting PGK Martin Evers by email (martin.evers53@gmail.com) and requesting an eblast. Please provide all the relevant information when making such request.

Ladies Auxiliary

By the time this makes the news letter the Ladies Auxiliary will have hosted a Pulled Pork dinner on February 2nd. I want to thank all those that came and supported us, as well as the ladies who helped put a lovely dinner together.

Please note that our next meeting will not be until May 13th, at 7:00 p.m. All ladies are encouraged and welcomed to attend. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me for more information. I wish all of you a safe and healthy winter and a fruitful Lenten season.

Blessings, Sandi Hoffer, President



Please Pray for the Intentions of:

Malcolm & Gary Beckwith, Ron & Barry Buchanan, Randall (Otis) Clifton & his daughter Genevieve, Richard Cochrell, Gerry & Miriam Costello, Case Hoffer's niece Robin DeLeemans, Sue Dewan, Martin Evers, John Jakobi Sr, Carl & Barb Kroepelin, John Laverty, Jim Lumley, Cliff Marentette, Barry MacMillan, Madeline McIntosh, Matthew O'Gorman, Doug Pardey, Carl Pearson, Louise Perrier, Alan Taylor, Case Terpstra, Joan Vachon, Patricia (Pat) Vandevenne and Rob Weir. Please also pray for condolence for our widows and surviving family members.

Please pray for all our recently faithful departed, especially **PGK Roger DePoorter**, that through God's mercy they be welcomed by Jesus and are at peaceful repose in Heaven. Please pray as well for our brother Knights and their families impacted by the war in the Ukraine.

Spring Training for Catholics: Prayer, Fasting & Giving

Brother Knights as you know, every year baseball players attend spring training camp to renew their basic practices and skills. Both the first-year rookie and senior veteran of the team practice their basic skills together. It is a humbling experience for all as the home run champion from last year practices bunting with the newbie.

Each year Catholics return to the basics along with those entering the Church at Easter. Lent is the forty-day period of preparation from Wednesday to Easter Sunday that highlights three basic practices of faith, namely: **prayer**, **fasting** and **giving alms**. Young and old ... from the senior veterans in the choir to the neophytes in the RCIA ... are called to discern what practices they will renew at Lent. Like Spring Training for baseball players, it is a humbling experience, yet it is a time of essential renewal and a return to basic practices. What we hope to practice naturally year-round we practice intentionally during Lent.

While personal acts, each of the three practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are relational. In Tobit 12:8, they are outlined as the three pillars of Jewish faith practice. Jesus, while talking of each of these three individually and as a group, also draws them together as righteousness. These practices of prayer, fasting and giving make things right again regarding our three most basic relationships.

Prayer fortifies and renews our central relationship with God. Lent gives us a time of heightened prayer life. I encourage you not only to do more but go deeper into prayer. If you don't have a basic rhythm of daily prayer in your life, start small. Use that rosary in your pocket. Make a morning offering "**Lord be with me this day**" and then a daily reflection of where God was each evening. Next reflecting on Scripture is central. If you don't reflect on Scriptures, start with a simple podcast like "Pray-as-you-go". Daily Mass combines both a daily offering and reflection on scripture while providing a chance to slow down and enter the celebration of the eucharist in a much more intimate and personal way. With reflection, I am sure there is some deepening of prayer God is calling you to. It does not matter what you do ... only that God will be waiting there for you.

Fasting resets our relationships with things. In a culture where our value is determined by the things we can consume, it is good to take a break from consumption. It could be anything we consume like screen time to social media or it could be even food itself. Fasting is meant to awaken our true hungers and appetites. Often, we fill ourselves up with stuff that does not nourish us.

Giving renews and restores our relationships with others. Almsgiving is probably the most practiced yet most misunderstood of all our Lenten practices. In its Jewish roots, it was meant to build relationships and restore balance in society. Unfortunately, giving alms can be guilt-based and meant to make us feel better instead of helping another. Today, I can just click a button and make an impersonal (even anonymous) donation; yet, as a faith practice **it is meant to be a gift of self-giving to restore the dignity of another**. I encourage you to give close to home, sharing your time, treasure, and talent.

Brother Knights, I ask you to reflect and discern what you will personally do for Lent. It will be different for everyone, yet it is something we do together as Church.

Sincerely,
Fr. Peter Keller, Pastor, Elgin Roman Catholic Family of Parishes

Then the angel called the two of them privately and said to them: "*Praise God and give thanks to Him; exalt Him and give thanks to Him in the presence of all the living for what He has done for you. It is good to praise God and to exalt His name, worthily declaring the works of God. Do not be slow to give Him thanks. It is good to guard the secret of a king, but gloriously to reveal the works of God. Do good, and evil will not overtake you.* **Prayer is good when accompanied by fasting, almsgiving, and righteousness.** *A little with righteousness is better than much with wrongdoing. It is better to give alms than to treasure up gold. For almsgiving delivers from death, and it will purge away every sin. Those who perform deeds of charity and of righteousness will have fulness of life; but those who commit sin are the enemies of their own lives.*"

[Tobit 12:6-10]



DGK Harald Schraeder (L) & and **Bingo Cte. Member Bro. Jim Dewan** (R) presenting a donation from Council's Bingo Charity funds (earned at **Jackpot Time**) towards the STEGH MRI-Diagnostic Imaging Campaign to STEGH Foundation Executive Director **Mary Lou Crowley**.



Sir Knight Dennis Collins being awarded his Honourary Lifetime membership card from **Faithful Navigator SK Henry Poirier** at January's Assembly meeting.



Bros. Randal (Otis) Clifton, Jim Dewan & Roy Ewart earning money for Council by working a bingo at **Jackpot Time**.



COMMUNITY PROGRAM

SOUP BROTHERS: The Soup Brothers made **78 containers (32-oz)** of Hamburger Vegetable Soup for the St. Thomas - Elgin Food Bank on January 17th. The next soup day is **Wednesday February 21st**, 9 a.m. at the Columbus Club ... all are welcomed!

ELIMINATON DRAW: First of all, I want to thank all of the people that purchased elimination draw tickets as this helps us to support our local charities in our community. I also would like to thank all of the ticket sellers as this is also a big role to fill. Now, on to the more exciting part of this report - the winners of our weekly draws:

- December weekly \$50 winners: 4th #23 **Henry Valks**, 11th #18 **Ron Buchanan**, 18th #46 **Ljubica Raic** & 25th #194 **Rita Morgan**.
- January weekly \$50 winners: 1st #64 **Maria Collavino**, 8th #230 **Dave Crocker**, 15th #190 **Boris Georgijev**, 22nd #104 **Judy Sheridan** & 29th #279 **Lesley Buchanan**.

Congratulations to all of the winners so far and good luck for future weekly draws each Monday.

Christopher Columbus – Part 2

Let's take another look at our namesake. In the last issue, I told you of Columbus' incredible accomplishments. We need to keep in mind that the average person of that time thought that if you sailed west, you would fall off the edge of the world and fall into a void. North, south and central Americas were unknown to the population of Europe. If we want to put his voyages into today's context, we would have to send someone to a different galaxy. Knowing what we now know of his accomplishments, why are people tearing down his statues? I believe the answer is too many people today hold historical figures to today's moral and ethical standards and if they continue to do so they'll be hard pressed to find any historical figure perfect and worthy of commemoration.



One aspect of Columbus' landing in the Caribbean is that its inhabitants had no resistance to the vast array of diseases that Europeans exposed them to. Almost instantly upon first contact, the indigenous population began dying off. Smallpox was a major contributor but even the common cold and flu killed thousands. If sickness wasn't bad enough, the treatment of the native population by Columbus and his men by today's standards was criminal. Columbus demanded that every inhabitant over the age of 14 hand over a large portion of gold or an even larger portion of cotton. Failure to comply meant death. Indeed, execution became a common punishment for other transgressions as well. Even minor issues were dealt with harshly: a guide once refused to cross a stream for spiritual reasons and so Columbus had his ears cut off. In desperation, 200 Indians attacked the Spanish in hopes of driving them back into the ocean. Columbus fended them off and retaliated by bringing the 3 ring-leaders forward and, in front of a large crowd, he had them beheaded and their heads stuck on a pike for all to see. When Columbus returned to tell his King and Queen of his discovery, he rounded up over 1,000 natives of which 600 were enslaved and ordered to serve the Spanish that stayed behind. He took the remainder with him to parade in front the royal court. On the trip back, 200 died and their bodies were thrown into the Atlantic. It is true the Spanish under Columbus treated the native population worse than livestock. Many women were raped (the Spaniards rationalized it couldn't be helped when the native women walked around with their breasts exposed to tempt the men). They went so far as to report that the women enjoyed the brutal treatment. While tales from the past are often exaggerated, one story in particular tells of 50,000 natives of Hispaniola committing mass suicide by poisoning themselves with fungi and a drink made from roots and destroying their food stock so that they would starve to death (many simply threw themselves off high cliffs). It has been estimated that 60 years after Columbus landed on Hispaniola only 500 remained alive out of a population of 300,000; a case of genocide to be sure.

Columbus' cruel treatment wasn't restricted to the native populations. His rule over the Spanish settlers was just as brutal. He enacted and imposed laws that were extremely punitive and harsh. His taxes were unreasonable and burdensome and those in debt were dealt with an iron fist. He had a dozen Spaniards whipped in a public square for failure to pay their taxes on time. He often bound offenders together by their necks and feet and then left them exposed to the elements. A woman that once spoke out against his harsh treatment had her tongue cut out. Whippings and hangings were common for even minor offences. He viewed himself Supreme Ruler of his colonies and brokered no opposition.

Last month I told you of Columbus wanting to bring about the return of Christ to earth and secure His seat on the right hand of God. While his voyages were clearly aimed at colonization, they were also intended to convert the New World inhabitants to the teachings of Christ. While as Catholics we may reasonably think that evangelizing and bringing the Gospel and the joy of the wonders of Christ to the uninformed is a noble exercise, unfortunately the vast majority of the world today thinks otherwise. Sadly, conversion wasn't a choice and was forcibly imposed on the natives; convert or die. We can be certain Jesus didn't have Columbus' methods in mind nor would He have condoned such treatment in His name. I've always been a firm believer that the teachings of Jesus are held firmer by those who choose them with love in their heart. Those who are thrust into the faith often walk away in time and so coercion should never come into play. I'm not aware of it saying anywhere that Jesus said 'I am the truth, the light and the way ... if you don't believe that then I'm going to beat you until you do.'

So, what are we to make of this history? Should we change our name and drop any reference to Columbus? I don't think so. As I said, his accomplishments are heroic: sailing into the unknown, landing on an unknown

[continued]

[Columbus cont'd]

shore not knowing what lay ahead, and never knowing if a return home was even possible. His voyages are the stuff of legends. But what of his other deeds? Columbus' actions while today considered cruel and unjustifiable, were common and accepted practices in his day. Those that seek to prosecute the people of the past generally forget that they would not likely be found guilty by a jury of their peers.

As recently as World War II, a conquered nation became the property of the victors. Germany was divided up between the nations it was at war with, partitioned into Russian, American, French and British and Canadian sectors. Earlier, after WWI, Germany signed a treaty that saw its natural resources go to other countries that resulted in German children starving to death as Germany's wheat production went to feed French children. I've shared with you before of my own family's fate after 1745 when our faith and language were outlawed. We couldn't even wear plaid for fear of going to jail. Sadly, mankind has never been very kind to its own kind. In Columbus' day, conquest was undertaken to enrich your home nation and its monarchy. Slavery was the biggest business going and the income it generated has seen it practiced from the beginning of recorded time up to the 1860s (it actually still goes on today but not so openly). The Slavic nations were once the most common source of slaves for Europe and Asia (the root of their name is 'slave'). As we know, the bible is full of references to slavery. In a similar way, 'germ warfare' was common as every time one nation walked into another they brought along their homegrown illness, the most famous of this is bubonic plague, the black death.

So while in no way am I saying that Columbus' actions are commendable by today's standards, he was but one in a very long line of explorers and conquerors that behaved in the exact same manner. We only need to read of the Roman Empire, of Alexander the Great and his Macedonians, of the Persians, the Mongols or the Islamic conquest that spread its faith at the tip of a sword, right up to Queen Victoria and her Empire upon which 'The Sun Never Set'. History is full of examples when nations have felt the need to take what isn't theirs and make others to be just like themselves. It seems we have always been going at one another's throats and will remain so until our Lord returns to bring us everlasting and glorious peace. It also seems that every generation sees the previous one as wrong or even misguided. And yet, we simply cannot judge the past as we would judge those of today. If Columbus was alive today and started cutting peoples' ears off for not doing what he wanted, he would obviously be judged very harshly. But if Columbus didn't behave and act as he did, he would have been judged for not doing what was necessary and we very likely would never have heard of him. He lived in a harsh, unforgiving, war torn and extremely cruel world when even 8-year-olds were hung for stealing bread.

I think we're fine to keep Columbus in our name. As Knights, we should follow the rules of chivalry (the sword we wear today is ceremonial not for cutting ears off). We should all strive to be courageous and heroic, to venture into the unknown, and to follow our beliefs. Instead of forcing others to think as we do, we should be shining examples of Christ's love so that they can see the beauty of our faith and be attracted by our love, not by our might. Who knows what those alive 500 or more years from now will think of our deeds and actions? What will they think of me if they come across my writings? We'll never know so why should we care? Let's focus on today, the here and now, and be a shining light in a world of darkness.

Fraternally,
Bro. Blair Ferguson, Faith Director

WHADDYA CO-INKY-DINK???

Valentine's Day & Ash Wednesday fall on the same date this year ... Wednesday February 14th. So, if your Sweet Baboo says something about the dust on the box of chocolates you bought last year on sale on the 15th ... and then hid in the closet for the year ... you can say it must've fallen off your forehead from mass that morning.

Can't help you, bro, if she chips her teeth on them.

Reflection

Can 'common sense' exist when increasing numbers of people disregard traditions and conventions intended to safeguard what we hold in common? Where is common sense when people being chastised with "There's no 'I' in team" mutter to themselves "Yeah ... but there's 'Me'" and then proceed to use their weaponized social media tools to launch disparaging language in your general direction for all their 'friends' to see? [With apologies to all the actual Karens reading this] Don't we prefer people to mind their own business? Things have gone too far, however, when we avoid engaging others about *our* business (i.e., yours and mine) for fear of offending anyone. Alas the *caveat*: Best not speak when treading through a minefield of sleeping victims lest they rise up to demonstrate how 'woke' they are.

I'm reminded again of "*The Tragedy of the Commons*". My experience with the phrase extends from my vocation in natural resources management, when I encountered it in **Garret Hardin's** 1968 article (with that title) in the journal *Science* (162: 1243–1248). Hardin concluded "*Ruin is the destination toward which all men rush, each pursuing his own best interest in a society that believes in the freedom of the commons.*" How true that such is the time-tested destiny of societies that allow people to exercise their rights without obliging them any semblance of responsibility to others.

So, where does that leave us; we who are "*Strengthened by the Eucharist [and] moved to bring healing to a wounded world*"? How can we conduct ourselves, in word and deed, to foster the **Common Good**? Well, **Jesus** has answered that for you:

"But I say to you that hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To him who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from him who takes away your cloak do not withhold your coat as well. Give to everyone who begs from you; and of him who takes away your goods do not ask them again. **And as you wish that men would do to you, do so to them.**

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

(Luke 6:27-38)

St. Paul elaborated on the above with (Romans 14:19), "*Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding*", and reminded us that (notwithstanding current cynicism about the phrase) that diversity truly is our strength (Romans 12:6-8), "*Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.*"

The words of Jesus and St. Paul make a lot of **sense** to me. If we hold that in **common**, that must be **good**.

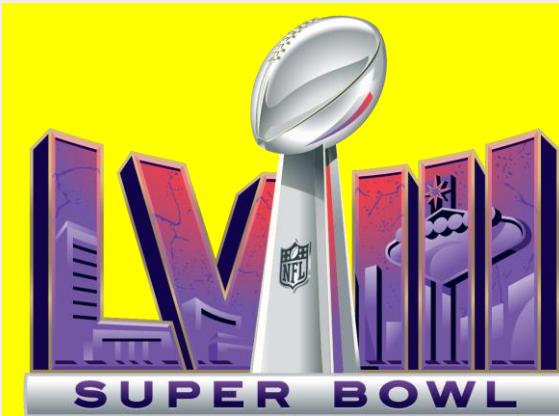
Fraternally,
Harald Schraeder, DGK, PGK



Dear Brothers & Friends: As always, the first two months of the year are quiet around the Columbus Club as far as rentals. It's not just us but talking to other facilities like ours the same goes for them as well. We seem to be holding our own and are able to pay the bills. It's the smaller activities that really make the difference in these times, like having the '**Over 50**' hockey players drop in every Tuesday and Thursday for some grub and refreshments and our Friday '**After 4**' socials (featuring weekly meat draws) for which we see more new faces showing up. It is nice to see how people get along and start to get acquainted with each other. And I'd be remiss if I didn't mention our amazing suppers like the recent '**All You Can Eat Spaghetti & Meat Balls**' dinner. Keep your eyes open for the next dinner coming up soon!

If you have nothing to do on February 11th, why not come out for the Super Bowl Pot Luck party the club will be hosting? It's these types of things that help support the Club by bringing in revenue we need to stay open. So, please take some time and drop in, you may be surprised just how much fun you'll find.

Roy Esbaugh, President



Super Bowl Pot Luck Party

WHEN: Sunday February 11th

WHERE: Columbus Club of St. Thomas

- Doors open 4 p.m.
- FREE Admission & Parking
- Bring a dish for a pot luck
- Cheer on a team and just have some fun.

Catholic Corner

Hello and welcome to what I hope will be a monthly contribution to our monthly issue of **Communion**. First, let me re-introduce myself. I am Brother Rob Weir and have been a Knight (4th Degree) for 10 years. During that time, I have served as Columbus Club President (2 terms) and am currently Council's Recording Secretary. I am a 'cradle Catholic' having been raised through the Catholic school system and weekly trips to mass. My first church experiences were at **Holy Rosary Parish** in London. By the time I was 8 and ready to become an altar server, my family joined the newly formed **St. Justin's Parish** on Southdale road, serving the developing south end of London. As founding Pastor, Fr. Pat Mellon would say, "*I chose the name St. Justin because the new parish was JUST IN London.*" That sums up Fr. Pat and his love of humour.

Having attended mass my entire life but now having my growing children begin to question me on why we attended mass every week, I started to reflect on attending weekly mass. I concluded there must be something more than just attending mass. ***How could I better live out my catholic faith and serve God?*** I found that answer in the Knights of Columbus, jumping in with both feet and having never looked back. What I appreciate most is the brotherhood and support, knowing I have an army of Knights behind me, there for me whenever I needed anything and I for them. Going forward, I plan to contribute monthly on topics facing the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic faith in general. Until next month, please think on whether you are serving God as you should be, stay safe and warm and may God Bless.

Faithfully Yours, SK. Bro. Rob Weir.



The Elgin Patriot

Bishop John C. Cody Assembly 0879 / Feb 2024

Membership consists of Sir Knights from Councils 1467 & 4189



Thank you to **SK Roy Esbaugh** for arranging our 60th Anniversary of our Bishop Cody Assembly. We were fortunate in having our **District Deputy, Alex Schadenburg**, and **Ontario State Deputy, Bruce Poulin**, from Ottawa being our guest speaker. Thank you also to **SK Roy Ewart** for arranging an excellent buffet table for us and to all the Sir Knights, Ladies and guests who were able to attend.

Thank you to the Sir Knights Honour Guard, led by our **Commander SK Jim Dewan**, that drove to West Lorne to help them celebrate their 50th Anniversary as a Council. We were treated to a sumptuous supper.

Remember our **St. Patrick Day Pot Luck** at the Columbus Club on **Sunday March 17th**. No admission charge, just please bring some food to share. We will have a professional musician for a proper celebration and you are welcome to bring your own plate and knife and fork. See you there!

Fraternally, SK Henry Poirier FN, PGK, PFN, PDD



Sir Knight Roy Esbaugh, Ontario State Deputy Bruce Poulin & FN SK Henry Poirier at the Assembly's 60th Anniversary Levee on January 14th at the Columbus Club. OSD Bruce attended several masses where, together with local Knights, he encouraged men of the parishes to put Faith in Action every day.



Ladies Collins, Beausoleil, Vachon, Kana, Coveny & Taylor at the Assembly's 60th Anniversary Levee.

For These We Pray: Maurice Brennan, Gerry & Miriam Costello, Dino DeAngelo, Case Hoffer, James Lumley, Barry MacMillan, Doug Pardey, Alan Taylor, Joan Vachon, as well as for our deceased members, their spouses and families and especially for **Roger DePoorter**, PGK, and **Dr. Jane Babiak**, widow of the late Dr. Walter Babiak.

Faithful Friar Fr. Peter Keller

Pilot Tom Carr

Scribe Case Hoffer / Rob Weir

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Brother Brothers: Barry Buchanan (L) & Ron (R) receiving their 50-year certificates from Ontario State Deputy Bruce Poulin.



Retro Style (L-R): SKs Jim Dewan, John Kana, Bob Beausoleil & Randall ('Otis') Clifton with Ontario State Deputy Bruce Poulin at the 60th Anniversary Levee.



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