



COMMUNION

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

September 2024



GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Dear Brothers: Welcome back! I hope you and yours enjoyed the summer break. Are you ready to join me in serving the needs of our parishes and the needy in our community? Good, I knew it!

While it is my most humble privilege to serve as your Grand Knight for the Fraternal Year 2024-25, I have to admit to being a bit unsettled by the facts that I: 1) assumed the position 'unchallenged' (no one else let their name stand), 2) did so somewhat in haste, and 3) still consider myself a 'too soon re-cycled' GK (having served as GK for 2016-18).

Be that as it may, I sincerely look forward to this upcoming year as one of Council **renewal** and **re-vitalization**. How so? Well, by working with our Executive to 'take stock' of our membership roster (numbering about 200 brothers) and figuring out ways to '**turn them on**' to Council programs and activities. It's not lost on me that a huge upside to being GK (although requiring a lot of effort) is that as an organizational leader my main task will be to inspire others (i.e., you) to enthusiastically pursue my 'vision' (a renewed and revitalized membership) ... **and then step out of your way**.

As you read through this issue, I'd ask you to reflect in particular on **Fr. Peter's** article (**Becoming Intentional Disciples**) as well as the chart following it. At the risk of offending some, let me be blunt: We have too many **able** yet **idle** brothers (*mea culpa*) that need to reflect on their pledge to sustain Council **Fraternity** and **Unity** ... to connect with their brothers to tend to their physical, emotional and especially spiritual needs. If me saying that upsets you, **please call me and I'll meet and buy you a coffee at your convenience** (519-318-4189).

Fraternally, Harald Schraeder, GK
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 world-wide. 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

- Harald Schraeder, Grand Knight
gk1467@ontariokofc.ca
- Fr. Peter Keller, Chaplain
- [vacant], Deputy GK
- Blair Ferguson, Chancellor
- Robert Weir, Recording Secretary
- Regis Trudel, Financial Secretary
- Orio Ortins, Treasurer
- [vacant], Advocate
- Luc Audet, Warden
- Armand Matte, Trustee (3 yr.)
- Jim Dewan, Trustee (2 yr.)
- Roy Esbaugh, Trustee (1 yr.)
- John Kana, Inside Guard
- Michael Kilborn, Outside Guard
- Patrick Houston, Lecturer
- John Noonan, Insurance Agent / Fraternal Advisor

ESTEEMED PARTNERS

- Raymond Bernicky, District Deputy
- Simon Vink, 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)



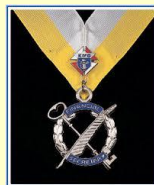
Join Us!

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



'Bookend' Brothers Jim Dewan & Roy Esbaugh presenting \$1,000 Fr. Ernie Deslippe Scholarships to St. Joseph High School grads Andie McGugan, daughter of SK John and Lady Cory, and Sarah VanVelzer.

Additionally, Council donated financial Student Achievement Awards to: Lance Annett, Anabel Bejoy, Carter Ingram & Dawson Walcarius at the June 27th ceremony at SJHS.



FS CHAT

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!!!

David Anderson, Frank Artibello, Barry Buchanan, Michael Carroll, Erik Flock, John Goossens, Richard Haasen, Rev. John Johnson, John Kana, Michael Keays, Heinrich Kemmerling, Michael Kilborne, Armand Matte, Terry Sheridan, David St. John, Regis Trudel & Jeff Yurek.

2024-25 Budget ...

The proposed Council General & Charity Budgets will be presented at the September 23rd Business Meeting. They will then be moved for seconding, discussion and voting at the October 28th Business Meeting.

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



September / October Assignments

Sept 12th (Thurs), 4 - 6 pm: Jim Dewan & Jim Coveny
 Sept 23rd (Mon), noon – 2 pm: Tom Carr & Al Baca

Oct 13th (Sun), noon – 2 pm: Otis Clifton & Al Baca
 Oct 21st (Mon), 10 pm – midnight: Jim Dewan & Greg Reynaert

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 SEPTEMBER EVENTS

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

- 3rd (**Tues**): Bishop Cody Assembly mtg.
- 4th: Evening with Fr. John (**6:30 pm SA**)
- 8th: **GRANDPARENT'S DAY (Canada)**
- 9th: FED Exec. Meeting / Ladies Auxiliary
- 14th: KofC 125th Banquet (**Windsor**)
- 16th: Columbus Club Directors
- 18th: Soup Brothers (**9:00 am**)
- 23rd: FED Business Meeting
- 25th: Ladies Luncheon (**mid-day**)

Coming up in October:

- 8th: Life Chain (2-3 pm @ HA)

Timely notices of events can be arranged by contacting PGK Martin Evers by email (martin.evers53@gmail.com) and requesting an eblast.

Ladies Auxiliary

Good bye Summer and hello Fall. September is such a beautiful month and the Auxiliary is kicking it off with a mass and pot luck dinner on Wednesday, September 18th at 6:00 pm. Bring your favourite dish to share and joins us. All Knights and spouses are warmly welcomed.

As well, we have received a note of appreciation from Father Anthony for our gift and prayers, asking that we remember him in our thoughts and prayers as he will us.

Last June, the Auxiliary decided to not hold monthly meetings. We will however continue to assist the Knights as requested. If you are willing to be on a call list to assist with things such as Christmas decorating, or event help, etc., please let me know (519-317-1468).

Thank you for all your help and support over the past years of the Auxiliary and pray for us as we move into this new phase of service to the Knights.

Sandi Hoffer, A / President

Please Pray for the Intentions of:

Malcolm & Gary Beckwith, Ron & Barry Buchanan, Randall (Otis) Clifton & his daughter Genevieve, Richard Cochrill, Gerry & Miriam Costello, Case Hoffer's niece Robin DeLeemans, Jim Dewan's wife Susan, Martin Evers, Jean Goddeeris, Adam Hicknell's Oma, John Jakobi Sr, Carl & Barb Kroeplin, John Laverty, Jim Lumley, Cliff Marentette, Barry MacMillan, Madeline McIntosh, Matthew O'Gorman, John Nolan, Doug Pardey, Carl Pearson, Louise Perrier, Terry Sheridan, Jack Sims, Darryl Sullivan, Alan Taylor, Case Terpstra, Joan Vachon, Alois (Louie) Van Hooydonk, Bro. SK Simon Vink's sister Jennifer Salomon, Steve Wachowiak, Rob Weir & Priests and ERCFP staff. Please also pray for condolence for our widows and surviving family members.

Please pray for all our recently faithful departed, especially **Marilyn (Bee) Rapposelli**, widow of Bro. Ettore (Tony) Rapposelli, 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.

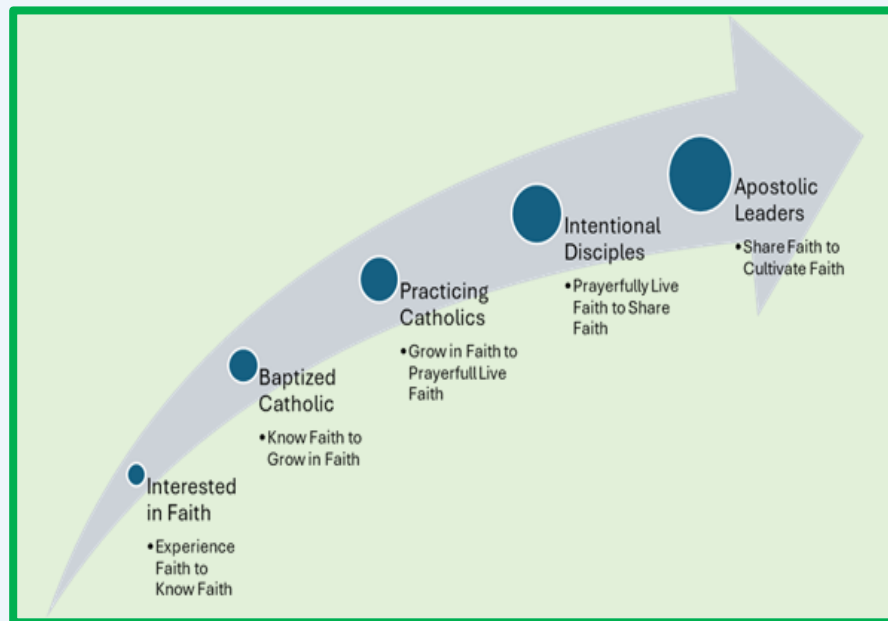
PASTORAL MESSAGE: Becoming Intentional Disciples

Faith is a journey, not a goal. Holiness is the goal, and we are all on that journey together. The goal of everything we do as a parish should be about growing in relationship with God as a member of His Body. Even the service of mercy we provide follows out of knowing and loving the Lord.

We are led by an apostolic faith which challenges us to go out and make disciples of all people. This faith builds gradually and has a common yet personal journey of faith. Each stage of the journey provides an essential building block which is continually built upon. Interest in faith provides the experience of faith leading to a growing knowledge of faith which spurs us on to practice our faith.

Once we are practicing Catholics, our journey of faith has just begun. It is only when we strive to share faith to cultivate the faith that we begin to understand the apostolic mandate to “**Go Baptize and Teach**”. I ask all of you to grow in your faith so you can encourage others to do the same.

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



CALLING ALL MEN OF THE ELGIN ROMAN CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

Are you seeking an opportunity for regular **Confession, Adoration & Spiritual Reflection**? Do you want **companionship** on your personal faith journey? If so, please come & join your fellow male parishioners for:

An evening with Father John

On **Wednesday Sept 4th** @ **St Anne's** with **Confession from 6:30 pm & Adoration beginning at 7 pm** and winding up by 8 pm.

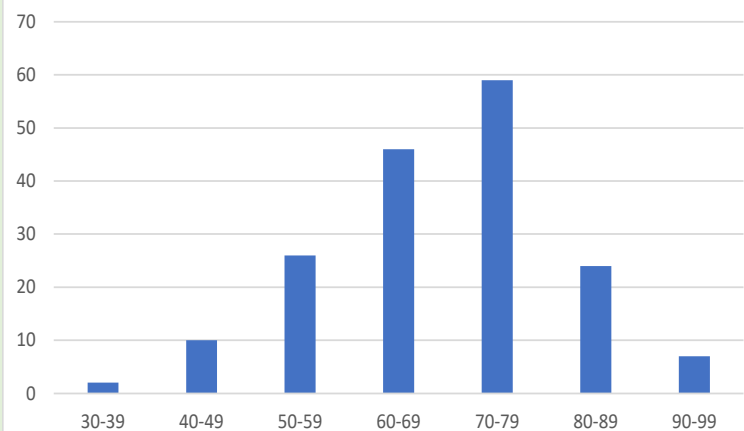
This is a monthly program of **Father Ernie Deslippe Council Knights of Columbus**.

For more information please contact:
Blair Ferguson (blairferguson64@gmail.com)

An Aging Council

The chart to the right, while self-explanatory, is already two years out of date and does not reflect that we have lost 9 deceased brothers over that time, many others have since moved to a bar to the right of the one they occupied in 2022, and we have gained a few new members. Brother **Art Beaudry** is our most senior and is closing in on a century. This 'snap-shot' gives short shrift to the individual circumstances of especially our elder brothers ... something we each should look into to sustain fraternal unity.

Council 1467 Membership X Age Group (2022)



HELP WANTED ... URGENTLY

The **Columbus Club** is required by provincial law to use individuals with a current **Smart Serve Certifications** to serve alcohol or in the sale of drink tickets. Only one member of Council 1467 has responded to our recent appeal for assistance. In total we have 5 Council members and 3 other individuals with Smart Serve Certifications. While this may seem adequate, people have busy lives and are not always available for this very part time work. Other than for Council events, this is a paid service. If you know someone that would be interested in periodic bar tending or hall supervision during a rental, please have them contact **Joe Fleming** (ioefleming@rogers.com).

Life Chain ... to be held at Holy Angel's church parking lot where we will meet just before 2 pm on **October 6th** and have a silent prayer **Life Chain** until 3 pm. Signs will be available. Please participate in this venture to support the Right to Life of our unborn. For more information: **Martin Evers** PGK PFN FFA (martin.evers53@gmail.com)



COMMUNITY PROGRAM

SOUP BROTHERS: The Soup Brothers made **101 containers (32-oz) of Tomato Vegetable Soup** for the St. Thomas - Elgin Food Bank on June 19th. The next soup day is **Wednesday September 18th**, 9 a.m. at the Columbus Club ... all are welcomed!

115TH ANNIVERSARY: Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council 1467 will be marking its 115th anniversary in January 2025. **Bro. Martin Evers** (see contact above) is establishing a team to coordinate a celebratory event and invites interested brothers to join the team. Further details will be shared when available.

ELIMINATION DRAW: Tickets have been distributed to sellers who will be contacting buyers of previous year's tickets to allow them to renew. Weekly \$50 draws will begin in December and continue through later May culminating in the grand draw and dinner (your \$40 ticket enters you in the weekly draws, the grand draw and the dinner). Anyone interested in a ticket that has not purchased one in the past is encouraged to contact PGK Ray Bernicky (519-902-3640) to enquire about available supply.

CHRISTMAS TREE CAMPAIGN: The tree order for 2024 has been prepared and submitted to ensure we get our supply again this year. As we do every year, the "Yard" will be set up on the last Wednesday in November (27th) and sales will start on Friday the 29th. We really need volunteers for this campaign that typically runs 2-1/2 weeks so please plan now on scheduling a few 2-hour shifts that operate from 11 am to 7 pm seven days a week. This event serves a combination of things for council: makes us a few dollars, puts the Knights out in the public eye, and is an excellent opportunity to meet and reconnect with your fellow Knights. We'll soon provide volunteer contact information and look forward to strong support again this season. Please volunteer.



Council 1467 Knights BBQ'd and served burgers, and provided musical entertainment, at the Grace Café's Canada Day celebration on Saturday June 29th.



A handsome contingent of Brothers, including the ones shown above, coordinated and conducted the annual Hot Dog Days at St. Anne's and Msgr Morrison Catholic Elementary Schools last June.

What my dog taught me this summer

Well, here we are in September already. I don't know about you but this summer went by like a blink of the eye. It seems like just a couple of days ago I was telling you all to enjoy the summer months ahead of us and now they are behind us. I pray that you all had a fantastic summer and had an opportunity to be with friends and family.



I had a good summer, although it was very busy, and I have no one to blame for that except myself. I have made my life hectic: I'm involved in the installation of a cenotaph in Dutton Dunwich (almost completed), I wrote a 300-page book outlining the story of each man listed on the cenotaph (now at the printers), did the regular large lawn mowing, maintained the gardens, and, as if I didn't have enough going on, I decided to do a kitchen renovation at our house. I feel I could take a nap just writing about it all.

Now, through all the above-mentioned chaos my constant sidekick has been beside me. I'm not talking about my lovely wife (although she is extremely supportive of everything I do) and instead about **Nikko**, my miniature Jack Russel. Nikko always wants to be right by me and I've come to understand that he's not doing that because of something he wants but because he's looking after me.

I learned a great many things from my dog this summer and if you have a dog perhaps you also can learn from them if you pay attention. I will now say 'sorry' to the cat lovers reading this, as I'm not sure what a cat could teach you having never owned one. The first on the list of lessons is: **Listen to your body**. I'm horrible for not paying attention to my body and I tend to overdo things. I push myself to get things done and then end up in pain, not being able to get out of bed for two days. When I was pushing myself this summer, I often found Nikko wanting to be picked up and that would lead to me sitting down with him on my lap (more times than not, I ended up sound asleep on the couch with Nikko curled up in the crook of my arm also soundly snoring). As we get older naps become important, being over-tired causes high blood pressure, increases stress and causes irritability. None of those are appealing to anyone, so listen to the wisdom of Nikko and have a nap every day.

The second lesson leads into the third. Every morning I take Nikko for a walk, a straight-forward form of exercise. **Going for a walk or getting regular exercise** as we get older is paramount to staying healthy and if you are healthy chances are you are also happy. Walking is, of course, more than exercise. You're outside and experiencing God's creation: the warmth of the sun beating down on you, birds singing, the smell of fresh-cut grass, butterflies fluttering by, flowers blooming and many other wonders. When surrounded by God's greatest gifts to us it is impossible not to smile and say "Hi, beautiful day, eh?" to someone walking by. It's healthy to interact with your fellow man in a positive way.

The third lesson: **stop and smell the roses**. Nikko may only weigh 10 lbs. and stand only 8" high but if he stops to smell something I'm not going anywhere. Stopping, especially to pay attention to life around you, is important. Not only to pay attention to the wonders of this world but also to take in those who are in need. How many of us have had friends who we found out too late were hurting, whether physically, emotionally or spiritually? We are often so wrapped up in our own issues that we don't see what's right in front of us. Nikko, on the other hand, sees everything. Nothing slips by him and so when he stops, I stop. We might be noticing different things but I am far more in-tune to my environment than I used to be thanks to him.

The fourth lesson is to greet your loved ones enthusiastically. When I come home, Nikko is at the door ready to jump into my arms and lick my face. He's pretty darn happy to see me even if I've only been gone an hour. While I'm not suggesting you wait by the door to jump into your wife's arms when she enters (and most certainly not to lick her face) but to sincerely demonstrate that you are happy when loved ones are home; to greet her with a smile on your face, a nice kiss and a "I'm glad you're home, honey". We often take others for granted. Never do that since Heaven forbid anything should happen when we are away from one another. I fondly recall my father never leaving the house without giving my mom a big hug and a big kiss and an "I love you". Likewise, when they come home, imagine what a smile and a hug and a sincere "How was your day?" can do to make the rest of the evening a positive one.

[continued]

[What my dog taught ... continued]

Probably the biggest lesson is this: **Dogs love unconditionally**. Your dog knows you at your worst. They've seen you through your low points and yet they love you and will continue to do so. They don't love you just because you feed them, they don't put stipulations on their love, they love you for exactly who you are. They will be there for you always with tail wagging and smile on their face (Nikko does smile, people think he's growling because he's showing his teeth, but it's just a big smile). A dog's love is so limitless that it will forgive instantly. If you're late coming home to feed them or let them out, they won't give you the cold shoulder for the rest of the day. You'd be forgiven the moment you came home and rubbed their belly. They forgive you for being angry, for not doing what you're supposed to do, even for petting another dog. You're their best friend and to them forgiving comes naturally, they just want to be by your side.

Imagine if we were more like dogs. Divorce would be almost unheard of and time wasted arguing over trivial matters would be gone. We'd all be healthier, more content, and more appreciative of what God has given us and the world around us. I often think dogs are better at following the teachings of Jesus than we are. Jesus often spoke of forgiveness, telling us to forgive those who sin against us. He forgave those that sinned against Him and taught "**If you forgive others their transgressions your heavenly father will forgive you**" (Matthew 6:14).

We all talk a good game but how many of us carry grudges? I recently discovered that someone still disliked me over some slight they felt I'd committed against them 40 years ago! I had to think hard to recall who they were when I was told. Imagine carrying hate for that long over nothing. How much time have they wasted in bitterness. And how about love? Do we follow His commandment to "**love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another**" (John 13:34-35).

Maybe the dog sitting next to you is more than you think. Perhaps they all are guide dogs sent here and put in our lives to guide us to the life our Lord really wants for us: A life full of love, compassion and appreciation. As I close this off, I think I'll go give Nikko one of his favorite treats, an elk antler. I'm certain he deserves it.

I pray you all have enjoyed your summer and I look forward to sharing the coming year with you.

May peace be with you and yours.

Fraternally,
SK Blair Ferguson, Faith Director



Bros. Al Baca, Dennis Collins, Jim Dewan & Roy Esbaugh presenting Council's donation towards Holy Angels' Restoration Fund to Elgin Roman Catholic Family of Parishes Pastor Fr. Peter Keller.



Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council 1467 KofC made a donation of \$250 and did the BBQ for Choose Life Elgin at Waterworks Park on Friday July 5th. Pictured (L – R): Bros. Don Nolan, Jim Dewan, Ray Bernicky, Jim Vink & John Kana together with Laura Chew, Executive Director Choose Life Elgin.

Reflection

After June's business meeting, I thought long and hard over the summer about how to get members more engaged in Council activities. The proverbial penny finally dropped when I completed an on-line course for Grand Knights on 'safe environment'. Ironically, it wasn't something said directly related to the course, but the statement "*as Knights, we are first and foremost parishioners*".

That truth was further hammered home when I attended a recent District Deputy breakfast, hosted by our brothers in Aylmer, where I learned that Supreme would have us 'pivot' to emphasize activities under the *Faith* and *Family* programs ... while not, of course, abandoning what we do under *Community* and *Life*. And it was finally spelled out for me (somewhat cryptically ... I can be pretty dense) when I asked Fr. Peter what he thought Council's priorities should be: *parishioner engagement in spiritual development and building of community* (I'm paraphrasing, see Fr. Peter's article in this issue to get a better sense of what he has in mind that we Knights consider facilitating). And so, I came to my epiphany: Have we become so distracted being a service club that we don't spend any time sustaining fraternity and growing the faith in ourselves and others? Cue a scriptural passage (Luke 10:38-42) ...

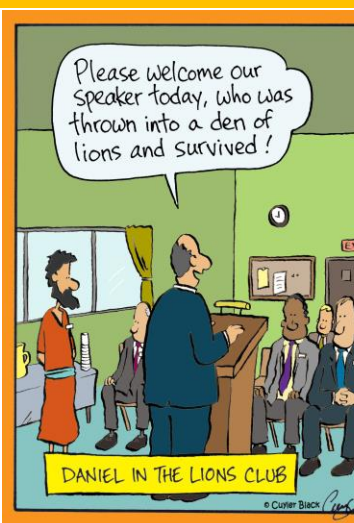
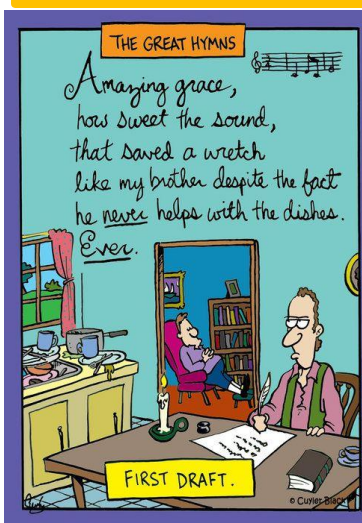
Now as they went on their way, he entered a village; and a woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "*Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her.*"

Those passages resonate strongly with me, as one who aspires to avoid *busyness* (short of embracing sloth, mind you) in the pursuit of *purposefulness* (and typically underachieves).

Should we stop making soup for the Food Bank, selling Christmas trees, hosting fundraising dinners, working bingo shifts? Of course not. But do we, comparatively, spend sufficient fraternal time with brother knights helping each other to "[sit] at the Lord's feet and [listen] to His teachings"?

Having become more aware of the many of our fellow Knights that are no longer able to fully participate in Council programs and activities due to old age and its related infirmaries that often accompany 'over-ripeness', as your Grand Knight I call on our Council's relatively more mobile brothers to reach out to those that are vulnerable to becoming isolated from our fraternity. Let us recall our duty to fulfil the pledge we took when exemplified into our Order to provide for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of each other.

Fraternally,
Harald Schraeder, GK, PGK



Catholic Corner

Welcome back to another fraternal year and is it me or did this summer go by way too fast! I can't believe it is the last week of August and the kids go back to school in a week. Wow. Speaking of summer, my family and I spend two weeks up North each July at the same camp I have been going to since I was 12. If you want to do the math that is 45 years and yes, I am that old! I love my time near North Bay with family and friends, especially my fishing buddy from Ohio, Don, who has been going as long as I have. We can sit for hours on the lake solving all the world's problems. Nothing is off the table and we have supported each other through thick and thin. This summer we got to talking about giving money to those on the streets who ask for it. I believe that if someone asks me for money and I have it to give, I will. Don, who is a practicing catholic, feels slightly different. He thinks you are not really helping such people with basic needs by giving them change or a few dollars. What do you think? Who is right? Well, after a long day on the lake we decided we are both right and that no matter what you do, you are helping. We are our brothers' keepers (Genesis 4:1-13). Don takes a more logical approach to charity: give them a gift card to Dunkin Donuts (can't hold a candle to Timmies, ask Don) and in so doing eliminate the opportunity to buy drugs or alcohol to do more harm to themselves. That does make sense. And yet, as Jesus tells us over and over: There is only one Judge and He will come on the last day. Jesus demonstrated this with the story of the adulterous woman (John 8:7-11): **Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.** Since I know I am a sinner and, as you have read previously, continue to struggle daily with sin, I cannot judge these people. Jesus also teaches us (Matthew 25:40): **As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.** Lest we forget, God made man in his own likeness and so the very next person who is asking you for change, may just be Him. How would you know? Are you willing to take that chance? I know I'm not!

I remember watching a very funny comedian from long ago. My Grandfather loved him and I would sit with him and watch when he was on TV. His name was Red Skelton. Remember him? This was back when comedians were funny without resorting to rudeness or swearing. Well, Red would end his shows with a personal gratitude for the life he was able to live and would ask for kindness, forgiveness, and mercy. He'd often end by saying, God made man in his own image so the very next stranger you meet, be kind, because it could just be God! I loved that sentiment and have never forgotten those words that echo many weekly scripture readings at mass. So, you see, there is no right or wrong, just be kind and that is the morale of this message; it's something the world and our own society needs now more than ever. It's something Don and I agree on and share. How you express kindness and mercy is never wrong and, even if unpopular, keep on demonstrating it. Let us not judge one another nor throw stones. It's simply not our place! Instead, love and show mercy as Jesus preached right up to His death on the cross; a sacrifice made for many that are arguably unworthy in fulfilment of the Father's love and mercy for us all. God does chastise Abel that yes, regardless of what you think, you are your brother's keeper and this is something Jesus reminds us.

Have a great end to your summer and may God bless and keep you well!

Faithfully Your Brother in prayer, SK. Bro. Rob Weir.

Pope Francis' June Intention For migrants fleeing their homes

We pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys full of danger and violence, find welcome and new opportunities in the countries that receive them.

Walk-a-thon to benefit Valora Place

Members of Father Ernie Deslippe Council 1467, Knights of Columbus, will once again be soliciting pledges as part of a 'walk-a-thon' to occur **Friday October 25th**, from 3 – 5 pm, in the vicinity of the **Columbus Club**, to raise funds for **Valora Place** (formerly Violence Against Women Services Elgin County). This will be our 7th year and we've successfully raised thousands over that time, largely drawn from Knights and their neighbours and friends. As a fraternity of Catholic men, the mission of Valora Place, a women's and children's shelter, is something we Knights take very close to heart. Pledge sheets are available from project coordinators **Bro. Steve Miloloza** and **GK Harald Schraeder**. Alternatively, please consider making a pledge when approached to do so by the team that will be canvassing over the next several weeks leading up to the walk. Pledges remitted as cheques should be made out to '**Valora Place**' and CRA-eligible tax receipts will be distributed by Valora Place before end of February 2025.

For more information about Valora Place, please see: <https://valoraplace.ca/> or visit their FaceBook page: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Valora-Place/61558375896838/>



The Elgin Patriot

Bishop John C. Cody Assembly 0879 / Sept. 2024

Membership consists of Sir Knights from Councils 1467, 4189 & 6495



Sir Knights:

It's been a hot wet summer but I'm sure it was well enjoyed by most. I can't believe that we are a mere three weeks from the start of fall. I hope to see more Sir Knights attend our meetings and functions as we are a fraternity and newer members such as myself have not even met over half of our brothers. The next meeting will be Tuesday September 3rd followed by Monday October 7th.

A great time was had by all at the July 1st BBQ at **SK Case** and **Lady Joyce Terpstra's** place in Copenhagen. Sadly, after many, many years of holding this event at their residence it has come to an end as the Terpstra's are moving north. Many thanks for hosting this annual event for as long as anyone can remember. You will be greatly missed. The BBQ will continue of course, just at a new location.

There are still two **Spanish Masses** for migrant workers on Sept 8th and Oct 6th that could use drivers to take them to St. Mary's in West Lorne. Pickup is usually 4 pm, Mass at 5 pm, fellowship dinner 6 pm and return to St. Thomas by 7:30 pm. Please contact Bro. Regis Trudel (226-668-6060) if you are able to drive or simply wish to accompany. The **Evening with Father John** series will be starting up in September (Adoration, Confession, Reflection) and I hope to see you there; *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them"* (Matthew 18:20).

I would like to thank **SK Henry Poirier** for his many years of service, most recently as Faithful Navigator. There never seems to be many takers to serve on any executive so I applaud any Knight that steps into the breach and accepts this role. SK Henry has certainly done his share and more. As your new FN, I ask for your patience and understanding when I mess up (which is sure to happen).

I look forward to serving you and ask for your prayers for all our brothers that we live and act out our Catholic faith.

Fraternally yours,

SK Simon Vink FN



A large contingent of parishioners attended the Parish Family Campout & Picnic, August 2-3 at the JPIL Centre in Port Burwell.

For These We Pray: SK Maurice Brennan, SK Ron Buchanan, SK Gerry & Miriam Costello, SK Dino DeAngelo, SK Jim Dewan's wife Susan, SK Case Hoffer, Fr. Johnson's mother, SK Jim Kennedy's wife Pauline, SK James Lumley, SK Barry MacMillan, SK Larry McCaffery as well as his relatives Leo and Evie, SK John Nolan, SK Doug Pardey, SK Alan Taylor, SK Joe Vachon's wife Joan, SK Louis Van Hooydonk, SK Simon Vink's sister Jennifer Salomon, SK Steve Wachowiak, as well as for our deceased members, their spouses and family members, who we pray have been embraced by God in Heaven.

Faithful Friar Fr. Peter Keller

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My how time flies ... it seems like just yesterday that I sent out my last report in June. One thing that happened over the summer however was our 19th anniversary of Summerfest with the profits going to The Hospice of Elgin. Additionally, the Columbus Club held weekly Friday 'After 4' socials and meat draws. Why not join us? The social runs from 4-6 pm and it's a good time to meet and greet some of our members and guests. You might even take home your supper for the evening!

Sir Knight Roy Esbaugh, Columbus Club President

Check out the Club's updated web site and share with your friends ...
<https://columbusclubstthomas.com/>



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To make Summerfest even more impactful in our community, the Columbus Club obtained Charitable Game Eligibility and an E-Raffle license.

Next Draw Date to be Announced!

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