



COMMUNION

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

October 2024

Made your pledge to raise
funds for Valora Place?
See inside for details.



GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the ... Council

Last month, I used this space to share with you my priority for this Fraternal Year: To reconnect with our brothers. It was inspired by this passage from our Supreme website: **Founded on the principles of charity, unity and fraternity, the Knights of Columbus was established in 1882 by Father Michael J. McGivney, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn., and a group of parishioners. Their intent? To bring financial aid and assistance to the sick, disabled and needy members and their families.**

The brothers that attended our September Business Meeting heard me read the names of those that are homebound or otherwise resident in care facilities due to age or infirmity. They heard me implore us to reach out to our fellow Council members that we haven't seen for a while ... to conduct 'wellness checks' of their physical, mental or spiritual condition and circumstances ... and then to report back to let us know what they may have found out about the needs, if any, of our brothers. I pray we make progress on this priority action over the course of this fraternal year.

I'm very pleased to let you know that **Bro. SK John Kana** accepted his nomination and was affirmed as Council's **Deputy Grand Knight** for fraternal year 2024-25. We're still hoping someone steps up to fill **Advocate**.

I hope you enjoy this issue and please share it with your family and friends. Perhaps take a copy with you when you visit a brother to use as an 'ice-breaker' as you set out on your personal 'reconnection' mission.

Fraternally, Harald Schraeder, GK, PGK



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 2024-25

- Harald Schraeder, Grand Knight
gk1467@ontariokofc.ca
- Fr. Peter Keller, Chaplain
- John Kana, 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 LINK: kofc1467

SITE ADMIN: 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>



POT ROAST DINNER

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23rd, 2024
Hosted by Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council 1467, Knights of Columbus

We'll be serving delicious, slow-cooked Pot Roast of Beef, with Yorkshire, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables & dessert at the Columbus Club, 265 Wellington Street.

Take-Out: 4:30 - 5:00 P.M.
Dine-In: 5:00 - 6:30 P.M.

Tickets \$20 / person

ADVANCE ONLY (while available)

- Columbus Club (519-631-2166)
- Harald Schraeder (519-318-4189)
- Ray Bernicky (519-207-3168)
- Elford Automotive (519-631-8038)
- Ron's Auto Service (519-633-6130)



Dinner proceeds to benefit local community charities.

NOTICE OF MOTION: Moved by Council 1467 Financial Secretary Brother Regis Trudel, that Council's General and Charity budgets for the 2024-25 fraternal year, as presented to members at Council's September Business Meeting, be accepted.

The motion will be seconded, debated and voted upon at Council's October Business Meeting.



FS CHAT

HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!!!

Luc Audet, Phillip Ballantyne, Roy Esbaugh, Ernest Fougere, Wayne Krosnicki, John Lavereau, Michael Peri, Henry Poirier, Rev. Mark Sargent, Gary Slaght, Darryl Sullivan, Rev. Richard Tremblay & David Warden.

2024-25 Budget ...

Our General and Charity Budgets were presented at the September meeting and will be subject to discussion and approval at our October 28th meeting.

Recent Charitable Donations ...

- Seminarian Support
- Coats for Kids
- St Joseph's High School Fall Awards
- Harvest Hands
- Holy Angels Outreach Dinners

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



MARK THE DATES OCTOBER EVENTS

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

- 2nd: Evening with Fr. John (**6:30 pm SA**)
- 7th: Bishop Cody Assembly mtg.
- 6th: Life Chain (2-3 pm @ HA)
- 15th (**Tues**): FED Exec. Mtg / Ladies Aux
- 16th: Soup Brothers (**9:00 am**)
- 21st: Columbus Club Directors
- 27th (**Sun**): 4th Degree Memorial Mass @ SA
- 28th: 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.

October Assignments

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.

Ladies Auxiliary

Fall has arrived and things have returned to a more of a "normal routine". Even though the Ladies Auxiliary is not holding monthly meetings we are still actively involved in supporting the Knights of Columbus. On September 15th we hosted a Mass and Potluck for all Knights and their spouses. We want to thank our celebrant, **Father Weaver**. The Potluck was delicious and the fellowship time was enjoyed by all. Thank you, **Maria DeSousa**, for organizing this event.

Our thanks also goes out to **Gary Clarke** and his fellow Knights and friends for hosting a lovely luncheon on September 25th for all the Ladies who have experienced the loss of a former Knight. Again, the food and fellowship were enjoyed by those able to attend and the flowers provided by **Canadale's** were beautiful. Thank you!

On Sunday, November 24th, following the 11 o'clock mass, we will meet to decorate the hall for Christmas. Please come out and help. Sunday, December 1st will be our Christmas dinner and the meal will once again be catered by the **Back Alley** with entertainment by **Brian May**. Watch for further details concerning tickets and so as not miss out on this celebration. For any questions about these events, please contact me, **Lorraine Fleming**, or **Pat West**.

Enjoy the beautiful fall colours that we are so blessed with in our corner of the world.

Sandi Hoffer, President

Please Pray for the Intentions of:

Malcolm & Gary Beckwith, Ron & Barry Buchanan, William (Bill) Bynsdorp, 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, Michael Lukasik, Jim Lumley, Cliff Marentette, Barry MacMillan, Madeline McIntosh, Matthew O'Gorman, John Nolan, Doug Pardey, Carl Pearson, Louise Perrier, Jack Sims, Peter Sowinski, Darryl Sullivan, Alan Taylor, Case Terpstra, John Thomas, Joan Vachon, Alois (Louie) Van Hooydonk, Ben Veel, 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 **Bro. Terry Sheridan** and **Elena D'Arcangelo** (sister of our late **Brother Ettore 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:

Help Your Parish Grow ... by Growing Yourself



I am overwhelmed by the number of RCIA (*Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults*) candidates being welcomed into our parishes this year. There are well over 40 candidates!! This is the most I have ever seen. These individuals represent the tip of the iceberg of those who are new to our parish. Each week I meet new parishioners and I am awe-struck with the faith and devotion they bring to our community.

These new sparks of faith need to be supported and fanned into flame by the whole community. It is within supportive communities that our very personal story of faith can be unfolded and be embraced by the story of the Gospel. It is only when we see faith lived out that we can begin to realize that indeed God is working in us. I challenge the whole community to welcome these individuals and families into your faith communities. In this way, they will challenge us all to know, grow and share our faith.

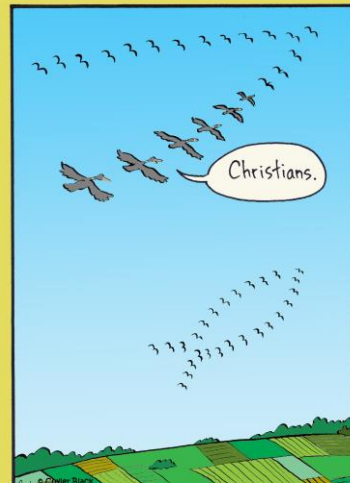
Small faith groups provide a simple way to support faith development. They challenge us to take a monthly or weekly break and to slow down to reflect on the Gospel as it plays out in our life. It is wonderful to see how the Gospel resonates in your life and in the life of others. All our formation programming, from Stepping Stones to RCIA point to a eucharistic relationship with Jesus, supported by Sunday Mass and a small faith sharing group.

Many of our parishioners are already part of small faith sharing groups of various different flavours. It is our goal to encourage all our parishioners, from the founders to the newly arrived, to become part of a small faith sharing group.

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

Pope Francis' October Intention: For a shared mission

We pray that the Church continue to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.





Sponsored by Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council 1467

Catholic Men's Faith Series

**LET'S COME TOGETHER WITH OTHER MEN
TO LISTEN, LEARN, AND DEEPEN OUR FAITH.**
(Welcoming all men 16 and older.)

Where: Holy Angels' Church and Hall
When: Mass at 8:00 a.m., then gather downstairs for refreshments and our morning's speaker, ending by 11:30.

Saturday September 28th
Fr. Al Momney
"The Mystery of the Eucharist"

■ **Saturday October 26th**
■ **Dr. John Dool**
■ "The Meaning of Suffering"

Saturday November 23rd
Fr. Jason Kuntz
"Finding Intimacy with Christ"

To assist in preparation, we would appreciate you notifying us of your planned attendance by contacting:

Bob Bray bob.bray@gmail.com 226-376-6157
or
Regis Trudel registrudel@rogers.com 226-688-6060

A Benefit Concert in support of



SINGER / SONGWRITER EVENT

featuring

JOE CROOKSTON
from Ithaca, New York

THE PAIRS
from London, Ontario



Joe is a force of nature on stage. Pure magic. He's in his power AND connects with his audience. From touring with Gordon Lightfoot, headlining major US festivals, receiving Folk Alliance International "Album of the Year" releasing NINE BECOMES ONE (2021) as being named Folk Alliance International Artist-in-Residence, Joe is on fire. He's played with Suzanne Vega, Dar Williams, David Gray, John McCutcheon, John Gorka, Judy Collins and 100's more. His songs are being made into award winning films. He awakens the senses. His rhythm is infectious. In concert, he is funny as hell one moment and transcendent the next.

This internationally touring band of celebrated songwriters greet every stage with a genuine, quirky presence and unbridled chemistry. Their sibling harmonies and familial banter quickly connects them to their audience. Whether The Pairs are playing an intimate house concert or a sold out show at a Performing Arts Centre, these classically trained vocalists make it their mission to employ three-part harmony and honest storytelling as their nightly ritual that seduces and connects us. The Pairs will release their fourth studio album in spring 2025. This second aims to encapsulate the acoustic, mainstream, and a rootsy style performances the trio has become known for.

Friday November 22nd, 2024

Doors Open 6:30 pm Show 7:30 pm
Masonic Centre - 42703 Fruit Ridge Line at Sunset Rd.
(South of St. Thomas)

ADMISSION BY DONATION
tax receipt issued with a donation of \$50.00 or more per ticket

Sponsored By:
The Hughson Family



The Geerlinks Family

Tickets available by calling Hospice of Elgin at 519-631-7495 or in person at Hospice Office 613 Talbot Street, Unit 102 St. Thomas, ON Grant Hughson 519-631-0740



COMMUNITY PROGRAM

SOUP BROTHERS: The Soup Brothers made **92 containers (24 & 32-oz) of Hamburger Vegetable Soup** for the St. Thomas - Elgin Food Bank on September 18th. The next soup day is **Wednesday October 16th**, 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 who has not purchased one in the past is encouraged to contact **PGK Ray Bernicky** (519-902-3640) to enquire about available supply.

POT ROAST DINNER: **Saturday November 23rd** ... see the poster in this issue and get your tickets fast as our dinners always sell out. The St. Thomas Express Volleyball ladies will again be bussing tables and generally lifting *boomers'* spirits with their enthusiastic support.

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.

A Bucketful of Stones



“Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her” (John 8:7).

I think of everything Jesus said, the quote above is the one we totally disregard the most. I'm going to tell you of one event, that will explain another event, that prompted me to compose this submission for this month's bulletin. I'm sure most of you know I'm a military historian and I have had the honor of interviewing many of our great veterans. Last year I interviewed my last World War Two veteran. Ted was in an elite Regiment on the Canadian army, The **First Canadian Parachute Battalion**, known as **1CanPara**. I was absolutely spell-bound as I sat and listened to this incredible hero tell me his story. While he had never spoken to anyone about his war-time experiences, he was 101 years old and felt it was time. I was commended to him by the people at Petawawa as a writer with a deep understanding of our military, the effects it had on the young men of our nation, and as someone that would do him justice in recounting his story faithfully. Ted was an 18-year-old worker on his brother's tobacco farm when he got his notice to report to **Chatham No.1 Manning Depot** for enlistment in the Canadian army. When he got there, he saw a recruitment poster for volunteers to join 1CanPara. On it, a soldier was wearing high oxblood-coloured boots instead of the black ankle boots Ted had been issued and it said recruits would be paid an extra \$1.25 a day and that was all it took; Ted volunteered.

1CanPara were the best of the best: tough, extremely well-trained, and sent on the worst missions imaginable. They jumped into Normandy on **D-Day minus 1** (June 5th), namely Ted and the rest parachuted into Normandy behind enemy lines in the pitch black one whole day before the rest of the allies began their beach assault. Their mission was to locate German 88 mm guns and take them out so as to ensure the landings could happen with a minimum of troop losses (KIAs). 1CanPara managed to complete their mission and the Canadians landing on **Juno Beach** on June 6th 1944 had the lowest casualty count of all the allied landings that day. Following this action, they were flown back to England, re-outfitted and sent to jump out of DC-3s again but this time into Holland in broad daylight. The Germans saw the parachutes coming down and opened up with their machine guns killing many troopers before they even hit the ground. Ted and the rest of the Battalion that landed successfully set out on their mission and met very tough resistance. The Germans also breached the dyke systems and flooded the area as they retreated. When the Canadians finally met up with the enemy, it was against Germany's equivalent to our paratroopers, the **Fallschirmjager**. They gave our boys as good as they got and then some. The liberation of Holland did not come about easily but it did eventually and in large part to the front-line troops of 1CanPara. After Holland was freed of its Nazi yoke, 1CanPara was sent on an even more dangerous mission, Operation Varsity, the greatest airborne operation of the war. The mission was to jump into Germany and capture a SS headquarters and prevent the SS from escaping and destroying incriminating documents. This was not going to be easy! In fact it was going to be suicidal. The SS where evil through and through. They wore death head cap badges with pride and were sworn never to surrender. They met their match, however, in the men of Canada's elite. 1CanPara not only prevented them from escaping but captured high ranking SS and truckloads of documents outlining everything from the Nazis plans for the governing of the United States once conquered, to a detailed history of the operation of death camps and the 'final solution' (the elimination of the Jewish race from the face of the earth). Having achieved this, 1CanPara was ordered to race to the Danish border by any means possible to stop the Russian army from capturing the Baltic coast. When they got there, they came face to face with the might of the Russian Army: tanks, artillery and thousands of men and women armed to the teeth and wanting to occupy and claim as much land as possible for Uncle Joe (Stalin). Standing against that, Ted and the crew had side-arms, bolt-action Lee-Enfields, and submachine guns made by the **Singer Sewing Machine Company** (Sten guns). Through nothing but sheer bravery and total disregard for their own lives, those men stood their ground and told the Russians *“This is where you stop”*. The Russians thought the Canadians must have air support and field guns hidden somewhere and so stop they did; and then broke out the Vodka as the Canadians and the Russians got rip-roaring drunk. Having completed their mission, 1CanPara was flown back to England and eventually put on a ship home.

As you can imagine, I had nothing but the highest regard for the hero I had just interviewed. I met with Ted four times to go over my notes and to just chat as I felt we had become friends. The following Labour Day, Ted passed away. Having achieved 101 years of life, he did OK. At his funeral, I spoke with his niece who told me she had two of his photo albums. It turned out that he carried a camera everywhere he went and she loaned them to me to make copies to go along with the interview article. The photos were incredible: captured Germans, bombed towns, parachutes coming down, and on and on. There was a photo of some men swimming, all naked, understandable

[continued]

[*Bucketful of Stones cont'd*]

given the living conditions at the front. But there were also more pictures of naked men, even some posed bedroom shots, that sort of thing. It dawned on me why Ted never married. He was gay.

Now, another story. In a neighbouring Knights Council there is a brother who in the past was one of its major fundraisers. He is a huge supporter of a local charity that tends to the needs of the less fortunate members of our society. He is, essentially, an outstanding Knight that routinely went above and beyond what is expected of a brother; someone we should all aspire to emulate. He always attended meetings with another brother. They drove together, did fundraising together and, like many of us, were close friends with their fellow Knights. Sadly, his friend passed away. The obituary mentioned that the two were in fact life partners. They had been together, faithful to one another, for 40 years as devout Catholics that lived their faith. But here's the kicker: Some members of the Council, upon learning these two men were homosexuals, decided the surviving Knight should be kicked out of the Council on account "He's a fag" (their words not mine). Imagine, if you will, that a vote was called for at a special meeting of the Council for the express purpose of kicking out its best fundraiser because of his sexual orientation. Thankfully, the Council's Grand Knight, having been alerted to the motion shut it down at the meeting and the Parish Priest, whom he'd invited, proceeded to hand each brother in attendance a stone from a bucket before paraphrasing Jesus' famous words "let he who is without sin, cast the first stone". I wish I could have been a fly on the wall to see the expression on those men's faces.

So, the tale of two men, both having very different lives that I would say none of us would be worthy to walk in their shadows. Both did incredible things, the one doing more than his part to rid the world of the evil of Nazism and to give us the freedom we take for granted; the other a true follower of our Saviour's teaching, attending Mass more than once a week, going to confession regularly, being an above average Knight of Columbus to fundraise thousands of dollars in support of agencies that feed and clothe the homeless while donating his own money to charities his Council supports, and being one of his parish's greatest financial contributors. We all talk a good game, me included. We all like to think ourselves as good Catholics, as good Knights of Columbus, but all like to occasionally throw stones, some by the bucketful. To be fair, homosexuality is a complex subject. I was raised to think of it as an abomination. As a Catholic, however, I have to remember the words of Christ and that I am certainly not without sin, not by a long shot. Our Lord spoke many times about not judging others, about loving one another, and treating others as we would like to be treated. Let's not throw stones, not judge anyone even as we get to come to know them. We are all God's children, and, as far as I'm concerned, God never made a mistake, not when he created Ted or when he made our brother.

Fraternally, SK Blair Ferguson, Faith Director



Fr. Ernie Deslippe, Knights of Columbus, Council's cheque donation of \$1000.00 was delivered to **Harvest Hands Manager Jim Collins** (left) on September 12th by Bros. (and Bingo Committee members) **Jim Coveny & Jim Dewan** (far right).

As shown, Council's financial gift will provide the equivalent of 3,000 meals to those in need.

This is another fine example of how Council's relationship with **Jackpot City** enables us to serve the charitable needs of our community.

[*Thanks to Bro. **Dennis Collins** for making the arrangements and for taking the picture.*]

Reflection



You know what an **earworm** is, right? No? Of course you don't ... sorry, wrong generation's slang term. But I can at least save you the hassle of looking it up on Wikipedia: "An earworm or brainworm, also described as sticky music or stuck song syndrome, is a catchy or memorable piece of music or saying that continuously occupies a person's mind even after it is no longer being played or spoken about." It's the latter part, "... [a] saying that continuously occupies a person's mind ...", like this one, from Sunday September 15th's Second Reading (James 2:17), "**So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.**"

A funny thing about earworms is that they often compel you to dig out the entirety of where they came from. In this case, the NT book by James, where we find this in his chapter "*Faith without Works Is Dead*" (2:24-26), "**You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so faith apart from works is dead.**"

If you read my **GK Message** and **Reflection** articles last month, you'll recall I emphasized our individual duty as Knights to fulfil a pledge we took when exemplified into our Order: **To provide for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of each other.** What I failed to also mention is our need to welcome new brothers and especially those that 'transfer in'; they are most likely to import new energy to our Council ... to breathe new life into our programs and activities ... and hopefully even to assume leadership roles founded on their experiences gleaned from their careers or former Councils. Such can be the 'gift' we receive upon welcoming our brothers that relocate to St. Thomas and join us in our missions.

But let's circle back to James and reflect on this: How am I [*and by "I", I actually mean "you"*] applying my faith to grow it in myself and in others? While each of us will answer that according to our own particular circumstances, I sincerely hope that we all include, "*I called / texted / visited a fellow brother ... for no other reason than to say: What's new?*" Sadly, what we may learn is that 'new' may very likely include things that track back a few years given how disconnected we've become from each other. Prepare yourselves therefore to encounter brothers that are much changed in appearance and health.

Look, I get that it's tough to 'stick your nose' into another person's affairs. And yet, the fact remains, I'm not talking about just another person and instead your fraternal brother. We all have family members and close friends that we wouldn't hesitate to call if we even smelled they were having problems ... physically, socially, economically and especially spiritually. And while I could simply cut and paste a collection of scripture passages that speak to what God-inspired authors generally felt on this topic, I will instead list the following prompts for you to search and reflect upon yourself [*OMG, now he's even assigning 'homework'*]:

- John 13:34-35 / Galatians 6:10 / Philippians 2:4 / 1 John 3:17-18

In closing, please be advised that a standing agenda item of all future business meetings will provide for brothers to report on their recent contact with a fellow brother that was not able to attend. I pray we will hear from many, including you on occasion, each month.

Fraternally, Harald Schraeder, GK, PGK

Grand Knight Harald Schraeder awarding Past Grand Knight Raymond Bernicky his PGK certificate and pin at Council's September Business Meeting. His name has also been added to the honour roll of Grand Knights plaque that is displayed at the Columbus Club.

Ray has now assumed the role of District Deputy and continues to lead projects for Council including the annual Elimination Draw.



Catholic Corner

'Do The Right Thing Because It Is the Right Thing To Do!' What does that even mean? Like all things, it's easier to say than to put into practice. Well, in the simplest terms, it means doing right by others by opening doors, letting a car merge in front, saying please and thank you, visiting a friend in the hospital, donating to charities, and all the common-sense kindnesses we should all be familiar with. This is one of my life rules that I try to live by. I read a book once entitled the same, *Do the Right Thing*, wherein the key message was not about doing an act of common-sense kindness but instead to do something because it is the right thing to do. The book went on to say when you do an act of kindness, do you look for recognition or approval? The book mentioned about letting a car merge in front of you, the right thing to do, but then getting frustrated because the person in front didn't give you a courtesy wave. There's the point, and something that Jesus taught through several parables. First to mind is the one about the Scribes and Pharisees who make sure everyone sees them making contributions to the temple while the poor woman goes about unnoticed giving her last few pennies. Jesus said it would be easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, than for the rich (the Scribes and Pharisees) to enter the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 19:24, Mark 10:25, Luke 18:25).

You should know by now that I like to fish and tend to write my columns while on a fishing trip and this one is no different. Last week I was fall-fishing with my buddy Don, from Ohio. We were on Lake Nipissing again, our happy place. Don shared a column with me that he had written for his Tire magazine (he is a professional writer and columnist). The article was about a tire distributor located in Singapore who Don had the good fortune to meet and write about. This gentleman lives the motto of doing the right thing because it is the right thing to do. He has the means to do so because his tire distribution business is highly successful and has made him very wealthy. He told Don that in each country where he distributes tires, he donates to charities and different ones in each country as a thank you. In Africa, he donates to the poorest areas hardest hit by criminal activity. After visiting several African countries and seeing the fear from the crimes committed, he is currently working with tire manufacturers to produce 'run-flat' tires. This is because tires are often spiked or slashed rendering the car useless and making the occupants vulnerable to crime. So, what is so special about this? Run-flat tires already exist after all. Well, this gentleman is now providing them to the poorest areas at the same cost of a normal tire through personal subsidies, something unheard of. He is also working with the tire makers to produce less expensive, smaller form, bullet-resistant tires so he can also provide them to these areas of Africa at the same cost as a regular tire. Today, bullet-resistant tires consist of larger form tires using greater amounts of rubber and are reserved for military and large government vehicles costing significantly more than typical tires. During Don's interview, the question was asked: **"Why invest your own money in these ventures?"** The answer was simple, **"It is the right thing to do."**

Now, I am not saying we all need to go to the lengths this gentleman did, but it is refreshing to hear his story. He converted to Catholicism several years ago and believes firmly in doing the right thing simply because it is the right thing to do. Maybe we could all be a little happier and less stressed or anxious if we did more acts of kindness simply because it was the right thing to do and not expecting anything in return. After all, it is Jesus who tells us our reward will be in Heaven. I don't know about you but that sounds like a pretty awesome reward! Have a good month; may God Bless you and your families!

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



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**. Please consider making a pledge (those 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/>.



The Elgin Patriot



Bishop John C. Cody Assembly 0879 / Oct. 2024

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

Sir Knights:

We have had several events that have already come and gone this month of September. The first, a banquet celebrating the **125th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario** was held in Windsor. Then, the **Women's Auxiliary annual Potluck Dinner & Mass** at the Columbus Club. While both events were fun and well-advertised, they were unfortunately poorly attended by our Knights and spouses. I have attended many potluck dinners, typically five or six a year in fact, and have never been disappointed. Each dish more savoury than the next and of course visiting with all the people we have not seen in some time. Also, you won't find a better meal for such a great price anywhere. I would love to meet more of our members but that can only happen if you come out to our (your) events, including dinners, fundraisers, faith seminars, prayer and adoration with Father John, Christmas dinner and more. The Assembly and Council combined, including spouses, would conservatively total 400 people and yet we had less than thirty attend the potluck. It is what you make of it and I for one know that our active Knights play an important role in our community.

Our first 'super' soup Wednesday is under our belt and was well attended. Keep in mind we can always use more '**Soup Brothers**' to make light of our work and add to the nonsense (occasionally something of substance) that we chat about. We assemble at 9 AM at the Club the 3rd Wednesday of every month (September through June) to make soup for the **St. Thomas – Elgin Food Bank**. Our Head Chef, SK 'Otis' Clifton, outdid himself again this past month with a recipe we, with tongue in cheek, called '*Cow in the Vegetables*'.

We will be hosting an **Installation of Officers** at the Columbus Hall on October 23rd at 7pm. We do not have the number of Assemblies that will attend at this time. Looking way ahead, our **Christmas Dinner** will be held Sunday December 1st in the evening at the Columbus Club, please save the date. Additionally, our **40 Days for Life** campaign kicks off September 24th in London (see: info@4lifelondon.ca for details). If you can't participate, then please join the **Life Chain** on October 6th at Holy Angels or in Aylmer (see the parish bulletin for details).

"I am only one, but I am one / I cannot do everything, but I can do something / What I can do, I ought to do / What I ought to do, by the grace of God, I will do" - Edward Everett Hale.

Fraternally yours,
SK Simon Vink FN

For These We Pray: SK Maurice Brennan, SK Ron Buchanan, SK Gerry & Miriam Costello, SK Dino DeAngelo, SK Jim Dewan's wife Susan, 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 Doug Pardey, SK Alan Taylor, SK Joe Vachon's wife Joan, SK Louis Van Hooydonk, 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

Pilot Tom Carr

Scribe Case Hoffer / Rob Weir

Trustees Otis Clifton / Roy Esbaugh
/ Francis Dadzie

Navigator Simon Vink

Admiral Joe Fleming

Purser Orio Ortins

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Dear Knights & Family Members:

I would first like to give thanks to those volunteers for their work in making the Columbus Club a better place these last few months.

Firstly, our **Ladies Auxiliary** for supplying the potted & hanging plants outside our building and hanging decorations inside to add a bit of class when our guests arrive; a nice touch of autumn!

Secondly, thanks to **Bro. Herm Schaap** (a recent 'transfer-in' to Council) for ridding our lot of weeds. What a difference that made!

A tip of the cap to **Bro. Dave Elford** for building and installing the entrance gate off Wellington Street with the help of **Bro. Dennis Walters**. Another great thank you to Dave and his son Mike for taking time off work to deliver a freezer to the club and haul it downstairs. I'm sure I'm missing others that do things to make the club a better place, so I thank those people as well.

The Columbus Club will be holding it's **Annual General Meeting on Monday Oct. 21st at 7pm.** All Knights are more welcome to join us to learn about club business and stewardship of the building.

Fraternally,
SK Roy Esbaugh, President
Columbus Club of St. Thomas




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