



COMMUNION

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

November 2024



GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Brothers: Long before we commemorated **Remembrance Day** (a.k.a. *Armistice Day*, *Poppy Day*), we Catholics observed November as the month dedicated to **The Holy Souls**. Indeed, by the time you read this, the feast of **All Souls** will have already been celebrated on the 2nd. Very soon, representative Council and Assembly members will lay wreaths during the Remembrance Day ceremonies in St. Thomas on the 11th as many of their fellow brothers will attend to solemnly observe a moment of silence at the 11th hour in honour of the war dead that made their great sacrifices that we may enjoy the freedoms we do. Then, immediately after the month closes out, we will enter **Advent**, starting Sunday December 1st this year. How interesting that as the months progress, we will move from a season of *remembrance* to one of *anticipation*.

I'm pleased to report a few brothers have told me they heeded my call to visit our homebound brothers. How fitting it would be that more of us do likewise during this season of remembrance. Remember: Your gift of time and fraternal conversation with a fellow brother may be the most valuable act of charity you perform this month.

Fraternally, Harald Schraeder, GK, PGK



You're Invited!!

The Columbus Club will be hosting a Grey Cup Party, complete with big-screen viewing of the annual CFL Classic, on Sunday November 17th. Doors open @ 4 pm and BYO Pot Luck dish ... everyone welcome!!!



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.)
- Michael Kilborn, Inside Guard
- [vacant], 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

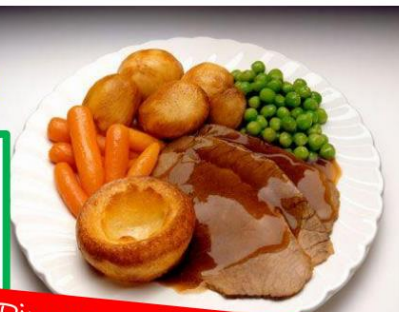
We'll be serving delicious, slow-cooked Pot Roast of Beef, with Yorkshire, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables & dessert at the Columbus Club, 265 Wellington Street.

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.



Several members and friends of Summerfest (including St. Thomas City Councilor Rose Gibson) gathered to award the festival's net proceeds cheque of \$6,500 to Hospice of Elgin's Charlotte Smith.

Plans are underway for Summerfest 2025 so stay tuned for ticket and program details and be sure to save the dates!



FS CHAT

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!!!

Terry Carroll, Edward Cibulka, Keven Grantham, Thomas Intven, William Lee, Michael Lukasik, Larry McCaffery, John Thomas, Peter Tobola, Christopher Van Raay, Simon Vink & Radovan Zovko.

Recent Charitable Donations ...

- Choose Life Elgin
- St Joseph's High School Breakfast Program & Fall Awards
- Holy Angels' Outreach as well as to Harvest Hands
- Support of St. Peter's Seminarians
- St. Thomas Gaming's Christmas Charities

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



November Assignments

- Nov 5th (Tues) 6 - 8 p.m.: Jim Dewan & Bill Walker
- Nov 11th (Mon) 2 – 4 p.m.: Otis Clifton & Roy Ewart
- Nov 21st (Thurs) 10 – noon: Jim Coveny & Dennis Collins

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

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** [see poster to the right].

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

MARK THE DATES NOVEMBER EVENTS

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

- 4th: Bishop Cody Assembly mtg.
- 6th: Evening with Fr. John (**6:30 pm SA**)
- 12th (**Tues**): FED Exec. Mtg / Ladies Aux
- 18th: Columbus Club Directors
- 20th: Soup Brothers (**9:00 am**)
- 23rd: Pot Roast Dinner (see poster)
- 25th: FED Business Meeting
- 27th (**Wed**): Christmas trees yard set-up

Upcoming:

- **Dec. 1st: Christmas Dinner (see poster)**



The Ladies Auxiliary and the Knights of Columbus

Cordially Invite You to Our Annual

Turkey and Roast Beef Christmas Dinner.

Catered by the Back Alley

Cash Bar

Date: Sunday Dec. 1st. 2024

Venue: Columbus Club, 265 Wellington St., St. Thomas

Time: 5:00 p.m. Cocktails 6:00 p.m. Dinner

Entertainment by: Brian May

Dress: Formal / Semi Formal

Ticket Price: \$30.00 per person

Tickets available at:

The Columbus Club: Phone: 519-631-2166

Lorraine: Phone: 519-859-0409

Harald: Phone: 519-318-4189

Simon: Phone: 519-643-6676

Deadline for Ticket: Wednesday: Nov. 27th. 2024

Advanced Ticket Sales Only



Please Pray for the Intentions of:

Malcolm & Gary Beckwith, Maurice Brennan, Ron & Barry Buchanan, William (Bill) Bynsdorp, Randall (Otis) Clifton & his daughter Genevieve, Richard Cochrill, Gerry & Miriam Costello, Dino DeAngelo, Case Hoffer's niece Robin DeLeemans, Jim Dewan's wife Susan, Martin Evers, Jean Goddeeris, Adam Hicknell's Oma, John Jakobi Sr, Fr. Johnson's mother, Jim Kennedy's wife Pauline, Carl & Barb Kroeplin, John Laverty, Michael Lukasik, Jim Lumley, Cliff Marentette, Barry MacMillan, Larry McCaffery as well as his relatives Leo and Evie, 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, Joe Vachon's wife Joan, 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 **SK Simon Vink's father-in-law Tony Stumpf**, 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: We are the wheat... Christ is the Bread

It has been more than one year since I arrived here in this family of parishes and I am still finding new groups and ministries at work in our parish and in the community. There are of course the many liturgical ministries and sacramental ministries which are at the heart of our community, yet there are so many others reaching out to our parish, community and the world. There is so much good being done by so many in our parish of families. We need to celebrate and cultivate what is being done. Fundamentally, this call to service arises out of our baptismal call to holiness which drives us to know, love and serve the Lord in all things. This service is different than just activism or altruism.

Activism and **altruism** are driven by a cause or perceived need as defined by the giver and not the one in need. In times of emergency, this basic tendency to help is good yet ministry and Christian charity is something greater. **Ministry** is driven by the love of God and the desire to serve Him in others. It starts from a place of prayer that seeks to contemplate His Presence and His Grace already at work in the world. It demands a gift of self, given freely for the good of another, and in humility we discover this small gift bears fruit in us and in the world.

While the Catholic Church is the largest charitable organization in the world, the Church is in essence best described as "**a Holy Exchange of Gifts**". Each Sunday we place our small acts of service on the altar of the Lord, bound to the one sacrifice of Christ. From the altar, we receive Christ's true presence and are sent forth. As Ignatius of Antioch said, "**We are the wheat... Christ is the bread**".

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



CHRISTMAS TREE CAMPAIGN

We will once again be selling Christmas trees for the holiday season and are looking for your support and assistance in this annual venture. The trees have been ordered and will be delivered on November 29th @ 9 a.m. **We need help to set up the lot (so it looks like the picture) beside the Columbus Club on November 27th @ 10 a.m.** The setup of the lot usually takes 2-3 hours depending on the number of people available to assist and **Bro. Henry Valks** will supervise the setup. Coffee will be provided for the volunteers. We will need assistance to unload approximately 165 trees and set them up in the lot.



Tree sales will begin on November 29th beginning at noon. A sales shift is 2 hours in length and our usual hours of operation are between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily. If you are able to assist with the lot setup, the unloading of the trees or take a **few** sales shifts, please contact **Bro. Patrick Houston** (519-633-0724; pghouston@sympatico.ca). Traditionally we have sold out our Christmas trees in 14-17 days.

This initiative which has run for several decades is a great opportunity for some fellowship and involvement for all brother Knights and their families. We are looking forward to having another successful tree campaign in 2024.

MOTIONS

Whereas **NOTICE** was previously given in the October issue of *Communion*, 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; and whereas new information has since come forward that is both relevant and related to the **MOTION**; Council members are hereby notified that the following **AMENDMENTS** to the **MOTION** shall be made at the October Business Meeting of Council:

- That the **Charity Budget** be amended by adding **\$1,500.00 for School Hot Dog Days**,
- And that the **General Budget** be amended to include **\$200.00 for the Knights & Ladies Christmas Dinner**
- And that the **General Budget** be further amended to include **\$500.00 for the rental of a St Thomas arena for a community free-ice skating event.**

The **MOTION**, with **AMENDMENTS**, will be debated and voted upon at the November Business Meeting.



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@ymail.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



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" (2023), releasing *NINE BECOMES ONE* (2023) to being named Folk Alliance International Artist-in-Residence, Joe is on fire. He's played with Suzanne Vega, Dar Williams, David Francis, John McCutcheon, John Gorka, Judy Collins and 100's more. His songs are being made into award winning films. He awakens the cynics. His rhythm is infectious. In concert, he is funny as hell one moment and transcendent the next.

THE PAIRS

from London, Ontario



This internationally touring band of celebrated songwriters greet every stage with a genuine, quirky presence and subverted 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 mighty tools that soothe and connect us. The Pairs will release their fourth studio album in spring 2025. This second time to encapsulate the authentic, minimalist, and acoustic 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 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 **72 containers (32-oz) of Ham & Vegetable Soup** for the St. Thomas - Elgin Food Bank on October 16th. The next soup day is **Wednesday November 20th**, 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.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS: Council's KCIC campaign will soon begin on two fronts: Installation of the **KCIC-themed billboard** at a visual city location, and a **KCIC-themed poster contest** at the local Catholic elementary schools. **FS Regis Trudel** will be arranging the billboard installation and **Bros. Blair Ferguson** (Faith Director), **Patrick Houston** & **Rob Weir** will be coordinating the school-focused activities. Any brother interested in assisting is welcome to contact the aforementioned brothers.

A Soldier of the Great War's Diary

As most of you know by now, I'm a military historian and often have folks show up at my doorstep with articles of clothing, badges, or medals for me to identify or to tell them where the items belong. A while back, a family from West Lorne brought me a WWI diary kept by a young man who ended up being their Great Grandfather. It is incredibly detailed and very insightful for such a young man that was experiencing the horrors of war so far from home for the very first time. I'd like to quote passages from his diary that hopefully, as Remembrance Day is upon us, give you pause to reflect upon during the traditional 2 minutes of silence we observe on that day.



Members of the 75th Battalion CEF (all Elgin boys)

"As for myself, during nearly three years in the army, two years away from Canada and 13 months in this land, I have never lost sight of the reason for my enlistment. After going through some of the most remarkable experiences possible for a man, I am still firm in the belief that the Hun must be beaten if I am to be free of military service for the rest of my days and if future generations are to have what I expected in life. This must be done if it takes every fit man in the country or the world."

That says it all in my thinking. I'd ask you to imagine a kid of 21, sitting in a hole full of mud, rats and covered in vermin, writing exactly what many came to understand: that the war had to be fought, that the country of aggression (Germany) had to be stopped lest the Kaiser impose his view of the world on everyone. Perhaps some of you think, "No war should be fought". If so, believe me, I would love to think while that's possible, sometimes a tyrant comes along who will just not listen to reason and, oftentimes, captivates a nation's young men to stand against him.

Historically-speaking, the causation of WWI (The Great War) is murky. Many will blame it on the assassination of the **Austrian Archduke Ferdinand** and his wife in Sarajevo. The fuse had been lit long before that unfortunate moment, in a place no one could find on a map, which was to become the proverbial gasoline puddle that set the world ablaze. Regardless, our diarist was saying what **Col. John McCrae** would say in his famous poem: that it had to be done, and if it wasn't completed then someone else, namely future generations, would have to pick up the torch and continue on. Sadly, some 20 years later that is exactly what happened with the advent of WW2. I'd also like to point out that all through the diary he always referred to the Germans as 'Hun', 'Fritz' or 'Heinie' since this was done (and still is) to dehumanize the enemy. This helped men killing one another to not think the man on the receiving end of the bullet he's just fired as someone like Robert Smith, the guy who lives down the block from me. In the Second World War the enemy was referred to as the Nazi and while indeed they were, the problem was that only a small percentage of the German armed forces at that time were members of **The National Socialist German Workers' Party**, the political party known as the 'Nazis'.

The next passages give us a view into the staggering loss of life that occurred. ***"Next morning we were ordered up to go in to reinforce the 10th Brigade. We met up with the 44th Battalion coming out as we were going in. They had 95 guys left out of the 500 that went in. They were a worn-out looking bunch."*** So, over 400 dead from one Battalion and just in a matter of days which is mind-numbing and almost impossible to comprehend. Canada lost close to 64,000 men in WWI and almost 45,000 in WWII. We weren't a very large country at that time and, as I've said before, entire communities lost every man over the age of 12 and under 60 - a generation lost but hopefully not forgotten. This next statement shows how war changes one's perceptive on life and his fellow man, ***"A wagon was hit a few yards from me. The two drivers were killed instantly but the poor horse was horribly wounded and it lied there in a pool of mud and blood staring at me with sad eyes as if to say 'What's this all about?' I whimpered and cried for that dying horse but not for the drivers, hmm strange."*** While men being killed became so commonplace in the field that it stopped causing a reaction, an animal being killed made men cry.

Further along he wrote, ***"We decided to do a little reconnoitering to see if we could find material to improve our little dugout. 50 yards from us we found a German machine gun post. The smell was horrific from bodies which had been buried and then torn up by shells. Others just laid where they had fallen at the door of the machine gun post sprawled out black and bloated. The sight would turn your stomach had we all not grown accustomed to seeing such sights. It seems cruel but we made jokes and said rude remarks about these grey-clad men. But one must make jokes knowing that an hour from now we could all be in the same situation."***

[continued]

[A Soldier of the Great War's Diary cont'd]

Let us all pray daily that our children and our children's children never have to be put in a situation where death and destruction of their fellow man becomes commonplace. Let us pray that world leaders will listen to reason and find peaceful solutions to conflicts. I pray that all of you on **November 11th**, at **1100 hours**, stop what you're doing and stand in silence for 2 minutes as you remember all of the young men who gave their lives for our freedom.

We have grown too complacent in our lives and sadly many youth today don't learn a great deal about the wars that gave them the right to do whatever and whoever they want to be. As Knights, we must set examples for those around us by stopping and standing proud as we commemorate a generation before us that gave their everything for our tomorrow. Remember then our young diarist and the thousands like him for if their deeds and sacrifice are remembered then they didn't die in vain. Peace my brothers.

Fraternally, SK Blair Ferguson, Faith Director



In Flanders fields the poppies blow / Between the crosses, row on row, / That mark our place; and in the sky / The larks, still bravely singing, fly / Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago / We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, / Loved and were loved, and now we lie, / In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe: / To you from failing hands we throw / The torch; be yours to hold it high. / If ye break faith with us who die / We shall not sleep, though poppies grow / In Flanders fields.



Financial Secretary **Bro. Regis Trudel** delivering winter coats to Monsignor Morrison Catholic School Principal, Emily Butler, one of nine St Thomas schools receiving some of the 72 new winter coats this year.



GK Harald and Bros. **Bill Walker** & **Jim Dewan** attended the tour of the new MRI at STEGH to which Council donated funds.

Reflection



While reflecting upon the theme of this month's article, *Remembrance*, four key passages of scripture came to mind ... three 'happy' and one less so:

- **Luke 22:19:** And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, *"This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*
- **Acts 20:35:** In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."*
- **John 14:25-26:** *"These things I have spoken to you, while I am still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."*
- **Genesis 3:19:** *"In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

The first, as we know, is the foundation of our faith: To assemble regularly for the purpose of celebrating Holy Communion. The second underpins the existence of our Order and especially the mission of Council membership: To perform acts of charity. The third calls us to appreciate the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, who reminds us daily to vigilantly keep at least the 'pilot-light' of hope, faith and love burning in each of us. As John tells us, **the Holy Spirit will also urge us to constantly improve our understanding of the Gospel** so that we may, in turn, share it with others as we give witness to the Word through our actions.

Which brings me to the fourth; God's 'reality check' for all of us mere mortal sinners. To paraphrase: **You will work hard all your life to earn your daily bread (be it mere crumbs or a bakery full of loaves) and then die.** Ah, Death: The 'great 'equalizer', he who awaits us at the 'departure gate' to the after-life, where all life's journeys eventually converge and where (lest we forget) there's no opportunity to arrange carry-on or checked baggage for our final trip. Given, then, that you can't take it with you, let's talk about **'Giving Tuesday'**.

First, what is it? **"The world's largest generosity movement ... whether it's making someone smile, helping a stranger, or giving to those who need our help, every act of generosity counts, and everyone has something to give"** (<https://www.givingtuesday.ca/about>). It occurs **December 3rd** this year ... yes, on a Tuesday. And how does Giving Tuesday relate to the scripture passages I've listed above? Well, it gives us the opportunity to contribute to meeting Jesus' '2nd Great Commandment': **"You shall love your neighbor as yourself"** (Matthew 22:39; Mark 12:31). So, as Giving Tuesday will soon be upon us, I encourage you to consider making a private and personal financial donation to a local charity. Many of them enable direct donations through their web site and here are a few top-of-mind web links to charities that are, in my opinion, strongly aligned with our faith and needing ongoing financial support:

- [Donate - Elgin Roman Catholic Family of Parishes - St. Thomas, Ontario](#)
- [Ways to Give | Fresh Start Support Services](#)
- [Hospice of Elgin St. Thomas Ontario](#)

Giving need not be financial and I continue to urge my fellow brothers to demonstrate faith in action through even the simplest of ways: visit a brother that is homebound or that you haven't heard from for a while.

Fraternally, Harald Schraeder, GK, PGK

Pope Francis' November Intention:
For anyone who has lost a child

We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

Catholic Corner

What does it mean to “be of service?” Rather timely since November is the month for remembrance for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice through their service.

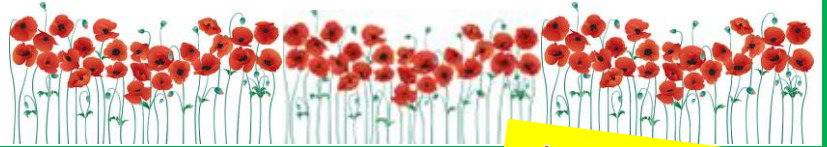
In a recent Gospel and homily, we were invited to think about how to be of service to others; about putting someone else and their needs ahead of ours. In the Gospel, Jesus was asked by two apostles to do whatever they asked of Him. The ask was to be seated at the right and left hand of his throne. Talk about having guts, could you imagine asking the Son of God this? Jesus replied, to be a master means to serve, in order to be first, you have to put yourself last. This is incredibly demonstrated at Easter, when Jesus, before the last supper, knelt and washed their feet. The master serving the servants. This idea has had me thinking about my own service to others.

So, what does it mean to me and how do I put myself last in service to others? There is our very own fraternity, the Knights. We are a service organization. Helping with events, volunteering, taking minutes at the meetings, all acts of service. Yet these don't seem to go far enough. I visit with my mother a few times a week as she is in an assisted living home and unable to get out on her own. Again, doesn't really feel like service, after all it is family and my mother, who always served me! So, what does it mean to me? In reflecting and praying on that question I came to realize it means be open to listening and following Jesus through the Holy Spirit. I recently heard an announcement for more Eucharistic ministers and felt compelled to answer that call. Next, I was approached to volunteer as a small group leader with a faith study session called The Search. I had a million excuses (some even valid) not to step forward and accept the invitation, however I did. The Holy Spirit inside me said this was a great opportunity to further deepen my own faith while sharing and helping others; providing service to others.

Jesus reminds us, “Whatsoever you do to the least of my brother,” so it doesn't have to be grand, even though that was what I thought I was looking for. I am also reminded of the message our Worthy Grand Knight, Harald, says about visiting elderly members who can't get out to meetings or who are infirmed or in hospital. This too is service. I think for me it is a case of stop over-thinking it or looking for the right or convenient time or place to be of service. Instead, I should simply open my heart and mind to the Holy Spirit and follow the lead of Jesus. I challenge each of you to do the same. Open your heart and mind and let the spirit lead you in ways of service. Come to a meeting, volunteer for an event, or go visit our members who are sick or shut in. Not only is it the right thing to do but it will also bring us closer to each other and Jesus.

Service to others and putting ourselves last will lead us to our Heavenly reward through Jesus, who as we know, is the way! May the month be good to you and may God Bless you, your families, all those who serve or have served in our military! Lest We Forget!

Faithfully Your Brother in Prayer ☪,
SK. Bro. Rob Weir



Walk-a-thon to benefit Valora Place

The results are in and another record has been shattered with \$7,300.00 raised.

**\$7,300.00
raised**

This year marked the 9th annual fundraiser to benefit **Valora Place** (formerly *Violence Against Women Services Elgin*). Led by project coordinator **Bro. Steve Miloloza**, his team of pledge raisers, comprised of **Lady Patricia (Pat) West**, **SK John & Lady Betty Kana**, **SK Bill Walker**, **SK Joe Fric** & **SK/GK Harald Schraeder**, canvassed Council & Assembly members, family, friends and neighbours to make donations for which they will receive charitable tax receipts in due course.

Thank you to everyone that contributed funds for this very worthy cause in our community. For more information about Valora Place and their mission to protect and provide refuge for abused women and their children please visit their web site: <https://valoraplace.ca/>.



The Elgin Patriot



Bishop John C. Cody Assembly 0879 / Nov. 2024

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

Sir Knights:

What a beautiful autumn it has been. I don't know if others have noticed the vivid colors this year, but it seems that all that summer rain has rinsed the foliage to let the brilliance shine through. And how about that supermoon. It was as if you could pick it out of the sky and walk away with it. Gorgeous!

The Installation of Officers was held October 23rd at the Columbus Hall and was very well attended. All the guests stayed for a beverage and a light meal that we provided. I had many compliments on our club and the hospitality we extended to them. Thank you to all the executive who showed up in fine form to represent our assembly. Thank you to **SK Roy Esbaugh** for always being such a great help and to **SK Larry McCaffery** for all his support. It truly was a fraternal evening, something we should have a lot more of. Don't forget to get your Christmas dinner tickets for Sunday December 2nd.

More importantly, update all your information with the Council, Assembly, and Martin Evers, so you will receive all eblasts, emails, and bulletins. It is your responsibility to keep us all updated on any changes of personal information.

Remembrance Day is fast approaching, and I hope to see a strong presence of Knights at these ceremonies. Remember our oath, "For God and Country". The next meeting will be Monday November 4th followed by Monday December 2nd. *"Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind."* (Peter 3:8)

Fraternally yours,
SK Simon Vink FN

Bishop John C. Cody Assembly Officers for FY 2024-25 (Left to Right): **SK Don Nolan**, **SK Jim Dewan**, **SK/FN Simon Vink**, **SK Orio Ortins**, **SK John Kana** & **SK Roy Esbaugh**. Additionally, **Deacon Dan O'Connor** and **SKs Francis Dadzie**, **Otis Clifton** & **Dennis Collins** attended the October 23rd Installation.



For These We Pray: *[Please refer to the prayer intentions section of Communion]*

Faithful Friar Fr. Peter Keller
Pilot Tom Carr
Scribe Case Hoffer / Rob Weir
Trustees Otis Clifton / Roy Esbaugh
/ Francis Dadzie

Navigator Simon Vink
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Dear Knights & Family Members:

It is with a sad heart that I am writing my last message in our bulletin, as Columbus Club President. I have enjoyed overseeing its operation the past two years with the support of my directors. I thank them very much for their support. I plan to stay on as a director and to turn the reins over to a member that is more capable of these duties and to be elected at our next Columbus Club meeting.

What I find disheartening, however, is that even as I've been preaching how important it is to support the club by showing up at events and getting involved, it's clear many brothers are either not reading my messages or just ignoring them. To show how pathetic it is: We recently had our AGM and needed 11 members for a quorum. While we had five directors (including myself) and a few others, we had to get on the phone and call someone to come or we would have had to cancel the meeting. That's considering we have over 200 members! It is the same 10 to 15 members that seem to have been doing all the work for all the events. They are getting worn out.

It is not only with the CC but with Council as well, as no one seems to want to get involved. So, mark this report on your calendar as I predict there will no longer be a Knights of Columbus Council or Columbus Club in 5 years if things stay the same. If they do, and I'm still alive, you will be hearing me say, "I told you so".

Fraternally,
 SK Roy Esbaugh, Past CC President


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