



COMMUNION

Monthly Periodical of Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council 1467 (est. 1935)
265 Wellington Street. St. Thomas, Ontario N5R 2S6

January 2025



GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Here we are ... a quarter of the way through the first century of the millennium. How time flies, eh? *Tempus fugit*, indeed! Doesn't it seem like only yesterday we were all holding our collective breath wondering whether the Y2K apocalypse would see the internet crash as aircraft tumbled out of the skies?

A new year brings new hopes and aspirations, chiefly that we will continue to fulfil whatever mission God has endowed us with the spirit, graces and possibly even charisms to bring love into the lives of all the others we encounter in our daily lives. May that be your resolution for the year, brother.

Council will continue to face challenges this year and largely due to circumstances beyond our control: continued moral decline here and abroad, social and financial inequity, the impact of individuals and groups 'hell-bent' on disrupting efforts by men of goodwill to raise the spirits, hopes and aspirations of those that are the beloved children of God.

Arguably, there was never a better time to reflect on Jesus' great commission to us: "*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.*" (Matthew 28:19-20).

So ... What are you waiting for?

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
- Donald Henry, Advocate
- Luc Audet, Warden
- Armand Matte, Trustee (3 yr.)
- Jim Dewan, Trustee (2 yr.)
- Roy Esbaugh, Trustee (1 yr.)
- Michael Kilborn, Inside Guard
- David Primeau, 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>



Bro. Michael Kilbourne presenting Council's donation of \$300 to YMCA's General Manager Eric Seed & Child & Youth Supervisor Morgan Sanguine. The donation went towards the Y's annual children's Christmas program.



Jim Dewan, Council 1467 Trustee & Bingo Team Lead, awarding Council's \$2,500 donation to Hospice of Elgin's Charlotte Smith, Donor Relations & Administrative Assistant.



FS CHAT

DUES ARE DUE

Thank you to Brothers who have paid their 2025 dues. For those who have yet to, please do so before the end of January or we will have to incur further costs to mail out the second notice. **Your 2025 membership cards can be picked up at a monthly Business meeting.**

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!!!

Ejike Adiole, Bob Beausoleil, Tom Carr, Jim Coveny, William Finnigan, Adam Hicknell, Patrick Liebrechts, Jim Lumley, Robert Netherton, Don Nolan, John Nolan, Joseph O'Connor, Nick Ostojic, Art Perrier, Joe Vachon & Henry Walks.

RECENT CHARITABLE DONATIONS ...

- Fresh Start Support Services
- St. Anne's Parish Programs
- Elgin Hospice
- St. Thomas YMCA Christmas

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



January Assignments

- Fri. 3rd (10 a.m. - noon): Otis Clifton & Roy Ewart
- Wed. 15th (10 p.m. – midnight): Jim Dewan & Dennis Collins

Please arrive 15 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 JANUARY EVENTS

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

- 6th: Bishop Cody Assembly mtg.
- 13th: Evening with Fr. John (**6:30 pm SA**)
- 13th: FED Exec. Mtg / Ladies Aux
- 15th: Soup Brothers (**9 am**)
- 20th: Columbus Club Directors
- 27th: FED Business Meeting
- 31st: Turkey Raffle Draw (**4 p.m. @ Club**)

Coming up:

February 9th: Knights-sponsored Public Skate at Joe Thorton Arena (1:15 – 2:45 p.m.)

February 14th: Knights-sponsored St. Thomas Stars game ... Call the Club to **get your free tickets** (while supplies last).

Ladies Auxiliary

I hope everyone had a blessed and joyful Christmas, even if it wasn't quite the "white" one we might have liked to have had.

As we are so blessed to have such great volunteers in our midst, I extend one last request for Christmas Season help: to "undecorate" the hall and place things in storage. I call on all available ladies to attend at the hall on Sunday, January 12th, where we will meet after mass at around 12 noon. Thank you in advance!

Best wishes for a safe and healthy 2025.

Sincerely,
Sandi Hoffer, President



Please Pray for the Intentions of:

Gary Beckwith, Maurice Brennan, Ron & Barry Buchanan, Randall (Otis) Clifton & his daughter Genevieve, 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 Kroepin, 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, Steve Wachowiak, Rob & Lisa 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 William ('Bill') Bynsdorp**, **Bro. Richard ('Dick') Cochrill** & **Mary Vella**, mother of Brother Knight Ian Vella, 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.



Fr. Clare Coleman among the Peruvian children of his church in Cayalti Peru, about 100 km south of the Ecuadorian border. He not only struggled to keep his young charges on track, but was faced with lack of hydro, growing crops where it hadn't rained in 2-1/2 years, dirt floors in the church, and maintaining peace cooperation among local government and the ever-present military anxious with their proximity to a potentially hostile border.

While many of us are familiar with Fr. Clare and his insightful and often witty Homilies, how many are aware of his incredible journey from young altar boy in a small town of 800 through his return as a "retired" priest to that same small albeit larger town. It's all the stuff in-between that I look forward to bringing to your attention in next month's issue.

Blair Ferguson



I had the privilege and pleasure of escorting **Brother Lorenz Manaig** to his 1-3 degrees Exemplification Ceremony on Sunday December 7th at the beautiful Holy Trinity Catholic Church in northeast Woodstock.

Pictured with Brother Lorenz are his wife **Iriz** and daughter **Isla**. They are St. Anne's parishioners.

Lorenz and Iriz are both small business owners. They love to travel and explore different places. They hope to grow their business and use their time and resources to help the needy.

Isla loves to draw and play with her stuffed animals.

I invite all his fellow Knights to welcome our newest brother and his family

Fraternally,
GK Harald



Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council 1467 presents ...

TURKEY RAFFLE 2024-25

City of St. Thomas
Raffle Permit # M875135

The St. Thomas Knights are raising funds for their charitable mission in our city.

Tickets are \$5 each ... Only 250 available!!!

Tickets available, while supplies last, from:

Columbus Club (519-631-2166) / Harald Schraeder (519-318-4189)

Steve Wachowiak (226-984-9563) / Orio Ortins (519-281-8787)

Fric's Car Repair (253 Edward Street, 519-631-6042)

Ron's Auto Service (255 Edward Street, 519-633-6130)

~ Draws will take place the Columbus Club at 4 p.m. on Friday Jan. 31, 2025 ~



Win a \$50 gift certificate

Five (5) certificates will be awarded to lucky winners redeemable for any of the many diverse turkey products available at the Turkey Shoppe, located at Oegema Turkey Farms, Talbotville



COMMUNITY PROGRAM

SOUP BROTHERS: The next soup day is **Wednesday January 15th**, 9 a.m. at the Columbus Club.

115TH ANNIVERSARY: Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council 1467 will be marking its 115th anniversary in January 2025. **Bro. Martin Evers** (martin.evers53@gmail.com) 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: **Weekly \$50 winners for December** were: Dec. 2nd, Ticket #210, **Soup Brothers**; 9th, #142, **Susan Robbins**; 16th, #141, **Laurie Elford**; 23rd, #128, **Case Terpstra**; & 30th, #16, **Ed Szura**. Congratulations to our winners so far and thanks to everyone that bought and/or helped sell tickets for this annual fundraising campaign. The proceeds are a significant 'top up' to Council's Charity funds that are distributed to assist local organizations that care for the poor and distressed. Good luck!

FREE FAMILY SKATE AT THE JOE: Council 1467 will be covering the \$5 cost for anyone attending the Public Skate at the Joe Thronton Community Centre on **Sunday February 9th from 1:15 – 2:45 p.m.** Everyone welcome!

KNIGHT WITH THE STARS: The Elgin County Knights Councils in Aylmer, St. Thomas & West Lorne have once again collaborated to buy a block of tickets to the **St. Thomas Stars game on Friday February 14th**. To get yours, while supplies last, call the Club (519-631-2166).

The Grace Café: Very honourable mentions to **SK Bro. Otis Clifton** for cooking a half-dozen turkeys for the Café's Christmas brunch, and to **Bro. Peter O'Donnell** for playing guitar and singing songs on two occasions during the season. Good and faithful servants indeed!

PALL-BEARERS: Did you know that Council provides pall-bearers upon request of local funeral homes on behalf of families ... regardless of their faith? Interested in helping this mission? Call **SK Bro. Case Hoffer** (519-637-0964)

Let's All Wake Up!



Jesus wasn't *'woke'*. He wasn't concerned about offending your sensitivity or hurting your feelings. If you were doing something wrong, He let fly (and more often with both barrels, as the saying goes). There are many instances in the Gospels that demonstrate Jesus' straight-forward approach to setting people right. Today's cult of niceness and tolerance has taken a front seat to truth and our need to follow God's teachings. Jesus not only often corrected his enemies he attacked them by pointing out their errors. Many times, he even corrected his disciples in shocking and uncomfortable ways. Let's consider the following examples of what I just stated.

Jesus confronted and corrected the false teachings of the Scribes and the Pharisees by teaching his followers to be on constant guard against what they said. He corrected their false misinterpretations by appealing to His own authority when He would say, *"You have heard it was said ... but I say to you ..."* Jesus also often preached to his followers about the dangers of false doctrine, those who taught it, and to not to discuss problems with the ungodly. Jesus often countered those in the church with *"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!"* (Matthew 23:13) when they came to try and trick Him in His teachings. He frequently silenced the Pharisees and the Sadducee by putting them in their place using scripture. On one occasion, He even came right out and said *"You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God"* (Matthew 22:29). Jesus was no slouch when it came to confrontation. He even used name-calling with offenders. He exposed the true nature of the Pharisees by calling them *"You serpents, you brood of vipers"* (Matthew 23:33), and He called Herod a *"fox"*, false teachers *"wolves"*, and Gentiles *"dogs"*. All of this name-calling would send the over-sensitive woke protesters of today into a hyperventilation tizzy.

Jesus used comparison to make a point when he singled out a Roman centurion who said, *"Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go', and he goes, and to another, 'Come', and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this', and he does it."* When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, *"Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth."* And to the centurion Jesus said, *"Go; be it done for you as you have believed."* And the servant was healed at that very moment." (Matthew 8:5-13). Christ used this exchange to contrast the Centurion's faith in Jesus' abilities with that of unbelieving Gentiles. He went on to point out the punishment that awaited those unbelievers, basically telling them *'You're going to Hell and it's not going to be pleasant, while this centurion will be joining me in glory'*.

We are surrounded by self-serving politicians who say and do anything if they think it will garner them votes. It was not so different in Christ's time and an example is mentioned in Matthew (8:18-22), when Jesus corrects a self-seeking man who boastfully promised that he will follow Jesus anywhere. Jesus corrects him by saying that he would be following a homeless Messiah and that there would be no financial or political gains to be had. This reminded me of a few current political figures who are only found in church when the cameras are rolling and mention that they are Christians when it's going to bring them votes.

Jesus corrected another man who used his aging father as an excuse about why he couldn't follow Christ at that time. Jesus told him he was as spiritually dead as his father soon would be physically. I have to admit that this one hits me hard as I remember when I got the call that my dad was drawing his last breath. I dropped what I was doing in London, jumped in my car and broke every speed limit and driving law to make it STEGH in time to hold his hand as he left this world. Would I have left Christ to rush to my father's side? There's an abundance of material written about this situation; a good one is called *"The cost of Discipleship"* by Sinclair Ferguson (no relation).

We can't forget Jesus actually becoming violent. He corrected the greed and corruption of the money-changers in the temple by making a whip and applying it violently to any all who stood in his path, overturning tables and smashing the cages of the sacrificial animals. If he did that today, the woke media would label him unstable and erratic. There are a great many examples of Jesus rebuking those close to him. He even rebukes His mother at the wedding feast at Canaan. When Mary told Jesus that they had no wine, His response was, *"O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come."* (John 2:4) While I'm sure He would have corrected the matter on his own, He took exception to his mother's trying to maintain her motherly control over her son ... almost like saying, *"I'll look after things when I want to, not when you want me to."*

[continued]

[WAKE UP ... cont'd]

When James and John asked Him to place them on either side of Him when He came into His Kingdom, He responded, "**You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?**" (Mark 10:38) Jesus was basically telling the brothers that He would pave the way to Heaven for all by drinking the bitter cup of crucifixion and they were not capable of enduring the torment. Jesus again rebuked his followers in the boat during the storm: "**And they went and woke him, saying, 'Save, Lord; we are perishing.' And he said to them, 'Why are you afraid, O men of little faith?'**" (Matthew 8:25-26) We see again similar responses to the two disciples on the road to Damascus and again in the upper room after His resurrection. I can almost see the slight grin on our Lord's face, when in today's vocabulary He would likely have said, "*Really, guys?!, After all I've shown you and done, you still don't believe.*" Finally, the example of Martha and her anxious heart, when Jesus pointed to her sister sitting at His feet and listening to what He had to say (see Luke 10:38-42). While He basically told her she should be more like her sister, today people would say that was psychologically harmful since He didn't 'validate her feelings'. Nevertheless, He said it and the lesson holds true to this day: **All the worrying in the world isn't going to change anything; we need to put our faith in God.**

Jesus certainly wasn't woke and yet many in today's society continue to dismiss the gospels as outdated fairy tales (worse yet, offensive stories) that have no real bearing on our lives. Oh, how wrong they are. From each and every one of Christ's parables one can draw a hundred comparisons to daily news headlines. The teachings of our Lord and Savior are needed more today than perhaps any other time and perhaps simply because at no point in our history have so many turned their backs on His lessons. This woke agenda that is forced upon young children is leading them farther and farther away from what is right. I don't understand where all of this nonsense has come from. As a historian I've looked for the beginnings and I can't see any correlation. It's almost as if it just popped up one day and has continued to grow. Now, I have every faith that it will go the way of all horrible 'populist' trends and that, hopefully, the woke will join the misguided Hippies, punk rock and disco aficionados so that we can relegate them to past curiosities, as we wonder why even we ever bought platform shoes. A lesson here: What passes as fashionable is rarely presenting what is true.

All joking aside, Jesus did show the human side of his nature. While He criticized and even got angry, in every case He did so with passion in his heart. He didn't say things to Martha to hurt her but instead because He loved her and wanted her to set aside her worrying ways so that she too could enjoy the world before her. Jesus also showed His frustration with the disciples not out of anger but because He knew His time was short and wanted to leave a group behind to continue His mission.

It's a good idea to re-read the Gospels and especially through the lens of what is happening today while thinking, '**How would Christ get his message across to the James, Johns and Marthas of today?**' Doing so, we all might awaken to see a clearer image of the world around us.

Fraternally, SK Blair Ferguson, Faith Director

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS KETTLE CAMPAIGN

"**Tis the Season for Giving**" and once again we have completed a week of helping out the Salvation Army by manning one of their many kettles located around our city. All funds collected in these kettles go back into the community to help those in need throughout the year. Many thanks to the following Brothers for their willingness to give of their time to this most worthy cause:

Luc Audet	Tom Carr	Murray Clarke	Otis Clifton	Dennis Collins
Jim Dewan	Joe Fleming	John Goossens	Donald Henry	Joe Hicknell
Tom Horvorka	John Kana	Patrick Houston	Bill Lee	Bryan Lee
Larry McCaffery	Dan O'Connor	Peter O'Donnell	Orio Ortins	Carl Pearson
Art Perrier	Henry Poirier	Harald Schraeder	Jim Sheridan	Regis Trudel
Peter Vergeer	Simon Vink	Bill Walker	Dennis Walters	

SK Don Nolan, Co-ordination of SA Kettle Campaign

Reflection

Don't Worry
be happy

We're all familiar with the 10 Commandments, even as 'reduced' by Jesus (see: Mathew 22:36-40). We're also aware of His 'Great Commission' (Matthew 28:19-20), echoed by our parishes' mission statement. And while we should of course apply ourselves each day to complying with the 'To Do / Not Do' lists God has bestowed on us; I've been reflecting on another of His 'commandments', one that recurs throughout scripture and seems to me to be very relevant today: **Be not afraid**.

In the New Testament, it is delivered early by angels, to **Zechari'ah** upon receiving news that his elderly wife Elizabeth would conceive and give birth to Jesus' cousin John the Baptist (Luke 1:13), later again to **Mary** (Luke 1:30), and eventually to the **Shepherds** upon Christ's birth (Luke 2:10-11). Throughout His mission, Jesus frequently comforted His disciples while also fortifying them for what was to come, "**Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.**" (John 14:27) Following His death and resurrection, it fell again to an angel to first allay mortal fears, specifically those of Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" (Matthew 28:5), "**Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified**", and very soon thereafter by Jesus Himself (Matthew 28:10), "**Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.**"

So, as the world seems to be steamrolling its way to a nuclear apocalypse, remember to not be afraid. You'll be just fine ... said every Pollyanna I know. But to be serious: Why are people 'afraid'? I think the root cause is *uncertainty* – but one that exceeds being simply anxiously unsure or curious about what the future may bring. Even then, it's not so much about what **may** happen but **what the impact will be**; not so much '**Will it hurt?**' as "**How much will it?**"

They say one of the greatest fears is public speaking. I can attest that the 'cure' to that fear is preparation, practice and the 'simple' resolve to avoid avoiding it (and many people that know me today would probably prefer I start avoiding it again). Another 'primal' fear is that of being '**found out**', that the shameful and humiliating things you do or did in the past and bury deep within you will be discovered and '**outed**'. While history is rife with accounts of people choosing death over facing that fear becoming manifest, it sadly occurs too frequently today as youth of both genders succumb to cyber-bullying and 'sextortion'. Fear invariably triggers a '**fight or flight**' response: to face and overcome it or find an escape with sometimes lethal effects.

Circling back to the beginning of this, I think that when the angels invoked the "**Be not afraid**", they meant something along the lines of "**Sorry I spooked you ... don't freak out as I tell you what I was sent to you to say**". Comparatively, Jesus used it as part of His 'pep talk' for those He commissioned to sustain His mission after He'd left. It's not lost on me that part of His commission to His disciples was to say (John 20:22-23), "**Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.**" As we know, today that gift is manifest in the Sacrament of Confession. **Confession is the antidote to worrying about the only thing you should be worried about: reconciling yourself with yourself, others, and God.**

In closing, I give you Jesus' own advice (Mathew 6:24-24) and pray that you take it to heart as we boldly enter the New Year, "**do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? ... do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ... But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well. Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day.**" How interesting that **Bobby McFerrin** captured the essence of pretty much everything above in his 1988 hit, "**Don't worry, Be Happy**". Do yourself a favour and google it and listen ... it'll bring a smile to your face and that would be a great way to kick off 2025.

Fraternally, Harald Schraeder, GK, PGK

Pope Francis' January Intention: For the right to an education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

Let it be resolved ...

Even as many of us fret about 25% tariffs, becoming the 51st state, or finding that receipt for the Christmas gift that won't fit so it can be returned, some still find the time to make New Year's Resolutions (NYR). And just so we're all on the same page, I'm talking about those "***firm decision[s] made on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day to do or refrain from doing something over the course of the coming year***" (per the OED definition). I find humour in the inclusion of the operative word "***firm***" in the latter definition ... and mainly because it seems to have a shelf life of about 1 week. In any event, while the only person that should be interested in hearing your NYR is you, that has never stopped anyone from making sure everyone knows what they aspire to fail at ... again this year.

But to be kind, I think it comes down to *semantics* ... providing specifics when we say we plan to ***firmly*** commitment to something. Aspiring to abstract aspirations may be fun, my friends ... but it is not likely to get you what you want. Sort of like imagining a destination but neglecting to make travel arrangements. For example, when you resolve to "***Go on a diet***", aren't you actually saying "***I need to lose weight***"? The trick then is to 'firm' that decision up by adding an objective you can hold yourself accountable to: "***I'm going to shed 10 lbs by the end of February 2025 by abstaining from junk food and beer and walking the dog 5K every evening***". And having gone that far last year to refine a practicable resolution probably explains why you're (i.e., I'm) forgoing making resolutions this year: you've (I've) learned that you are (I'm) essentially unaccountable (which is a big reason we should, as above, keep our resolutions to ourselves).

That being said, living a life without resolving oneself to achieving aspirations (hopes) is unbecoming a virtuous Catholic gentleman. Fortunately, Jesus took the time to establish the one-size-fits-all resolution we can all aspire to: "***love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind ... love your neighbor as yourself***" (Mathew 22:37-39). If you focus on busying yourself on those then I suppose you can have all the junk food and beer your heart will regret you desire. No getting out of walking the dog though.

Happy New Year, Harald Schraeder, GK, PGK



CHRISTMAS TREE CAMPAIGN

The Christmas tree campaign was again a huge success for Council 1467. This year we were able to secure 156 trees for sale from our supplier in Bothwell. The quality of the trees was excellent and we were able to sell all of our trees in just 12 days. This would not have been possible without the contributions of all those council members and in some cases their family members who braved the cold and assisted with sales. What a sales team and your efforts are greatly appreciated. Special recognition goes to **Bro. Henry Valks** and his group for their work in the yard setup and takedown. Thank-you to all who assisted on the tree delivery date. We would also like to recognize **GK Harald Schraeder** and **Treasurer Orio Ortins** for their constant support and belief in this campaign and to **FS Regis Trudel** who came each evening to record and verify our daily sales. We are fortunate to have such members in our group. A sincere thank-you is also extended to **Columbus Club Directors** & **Bros. Roy Esbaugh** and **Dennis Walters** for their work on helping the campaign be a great success.

While the campaign achieved a profit that exceeded our budgeted forecast, success is not always adequately measured by profit margin. Other intangibles, such as fellowship, team work, working towards a common goal, getting acquainted (and in some cases reacquainted) with other council members and their family members and reminding our community to keep Christ in Christmas are also important indicators of success. **Many people in our community often comment that when they see the lot being prepared and the trees arriving it signals that Christmas is really here and they need to get prepared.** We serve as beacon to our community to prepare for a special time of year. The lyrics from the Christmas Carol **O Christmas Tree**, "***Your Bright Green Leaves with festive cheer / Give hope and strength throughout the year***", serve to remind us that the Christmas tree is a symbol of the Christmas spirit; that Christmas is not simply an event or a day but a feeling that we encourage all we meet to experience throughout the year.

Thank-you again for all your support and assistance with the Christmas Tree campaign. We look forward to our 2025 Campaign.

Fraternally, Brother John Laverty





The Elgin Patriot

Bishop John C. Cody Assembly 0879 / Jan. 2025

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



Sir Knights:

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-180). This is a divine directive, not a suggestion, and during the Christmas season I feel it can seem almost impossible to live out. The parties, family get-togethers, shopping, and making sure every something or someone did not get left out can bring out the worst in us. So, this would be a good time to sit down and take the time to count our blessings.

While there have been many times in my past when I would think how fortunate or lucky I was or reflected on *“Why me?”*, I always believed that of everything that ever happened to me that something good would come of it and that God had not let me down. For some time now, I have come to the realization of how blest I have been and more so than any other time of the year at Christmas. God has truly been good to me and I give thanks every day regardless of what gets thrown my way. Recalling the biblical quote above is how I start each day and I try to make it a part of my life.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Ladies and Knights Christmas party. On the second last Friday of December, the Columbus Club had a potluck that was awesome, as always. For those of you that missed out on either of these events, you really need to come out and see what you are missing. Our next meeting is on Monday January 6th at 7 p.m., the next following is on February 3rd. Happy New Years to all and let us not forget that the ***Solemnity of Mary*** as the Mother of God is on January 1st (a Holy Day of Obligation).

Fraternally yours, SK Simon Vink FN



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

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WISHING ALL A VERY HAPPY & BLESSED NEW YEAR!!

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On behalf of the Directors of the Club, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

December was very busy at the Club and I extend a special thanks to ALL the volunteers and directors for their time and effort.

We are pleased to welcome **Laurie Elford** to 'Team Columbus'. She will be handling all bookings at the Club and has our full support.

Look forward to lots of exciting events at the Club in 2025! Come out, support and enjoy. Hope to see you soon.

Yours in fellowship,
SK David Warden, President

**Please contact Laurie Elford (226-927-0375)
for all hall booking enquiries.**



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