



THE PITTSBURGH KNIGHT

A PUBLICATION OF THE PITTSBURGH CHAPTER OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Editors: Don Turowski (daturowski@verizon.net) & Robert Conroy (bobconroy15065@verizon.net)

Volume 42, Issue 3

www.pittsburghchapterkofc.org

March 2018

A SPIRITUAL SPRINGTIME

by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop
William E. Lori

The mere mention of Lent can sometimes seem dismal, like a long, dreary day. Lent consists, in fact, of 40 days and 40 nights of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Who can endure it?

Yet the word "Lent" does not pertain to darkness or despair. Quite the opposite. The original meaning of the word actually has to do with springtime. When Lent begins, it's winter. But by the time Lent concludes, the days are growing longer and the forsythias are in bloom. Even if there is an unseasonable snow shower, we take heart knowing that winter is having its last gasp.

Lent, then, represents a new springtime in our spiritual lives. It's a time when the darkness of sin gives way to a new light of grace.

SEASON OF RENEWAL

Three analogies might help us see Lent in terms of a spiritual springtime.

First, just as we do spring cleaning, washing away the dirt and grime that accumulates during the winter months, so too Lent is a time for cleansing our souls and our hearts, making them a beautiful dwelling place for the Lord.

Or to use another comparison, spring is the season when farmers clear the land of debris and till the soil, thus giving the seeds they plant every chance to germinate. So, too, in Lent we are to clear the soil of our hearts from the debris of sin and the deadwood of hatred; by spiritual discipline, we till and enrich the soil of our souls so that the seed of God's Word, planted in us at baptism, will germinate and grow.

<continued on page 2>

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT...

Brother Knights of the Pittsburgh Chapter,

Along with the waning signs of "Cabin Fever" and the first signs of Spring, we are reminded that Lent began in February and the very center of our Catholic Religion, the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ, is fast approaching. Is it any wonder that we so enraptured with the first signs of Spring life at the same time of year when we rejoice in the Resurrection of our Lord?



Let us then rejoice in the rebirth of the Spirit and the upcoming work of the Knights of Columbus and try to make our Chapter's 110th Anniversary Year something to remember. Let us make a concerted effort to promote attendance at our monthly Pittsburgh Chapter meetings among our Grand Knights and/or their Delegates, and increased attendance among our Districts Deputies. Let's call each other and encourage attendance. It is only with good attendance that your organization can truly function with any vibrancy. When I first joined the Order, we were witnessing the average Chapter attendance numbering close to 50 members and 25 councils. Needless to say, it is much less now. I know we should not always lament what once was, but I do think we can, and should always make the effort to improve.

Vivat Jesus!

Fraternally,

Joseph Ferruzza, President, Pittsburgh Chapter Knights of Columbus



**HAVE A HAPPY
ST. PATRICK'S
DAY!!!**

CHAPTER MEETING
MARCH 6, 2018 - 7:30 PM
John F. Kennedy Council #5501
Russellton PA

DIRECTIONS TO J.F. Kennedy Council #5501, Russellton, PA:

From Pittsburgh:

- ◆ Get on Route 28 North
- ◆ Take exit **12** toward **Cheswick/Springdale**
- ◆ Keep **right** at the fork, follow signs for **Russellton** and merge onto **Hite Rd**
- ◆ Turn **right** at **Little Deer Creek Rd/Pearl Ave**
- ◆ Continue to follow Little Deer Creek Rd
- ◆ Arrive at **144 Little Deer Creek Road, Russellton, PA 15076**

From the north:

- ◆ Get on Route 28 South
- ◆ Take exit **12** toward **Cheswick/Springdale**
- ◆ Keep **right** at the fork, follow signs for **Russellton** and merge onto **Hite Rd**
- ◆ Turn **right** at **Little Deer Creek Rd/Pearl Ave**
- ◆ Continue to follow Little Deer Creek Rd
- ◆ Arrive at **144 Little Deer Creek Road, Russellton, PA 15076**



**4 PRINCIPLES
4 REASONS**

CHARITY UNITY FRATERNITY PATRIOTISM

<continued from page 1>

Finally, in winter, we sometimes feel poorly due to indoor pollutants that contaminate the air we breathe. When the weather grows warmer, we open windows to let in fresh air. Just the thought of getting out of the house and taking a walk makes us feel better. But isn't it true that we sometimes "insulate" our hearts? When we become self-centered, we close the windows of our soul to God's love and the needs of others. Then the spiritual air we breathe becomes stuffy, even polluted, with self-pity, impurity, anger, grudges and thoughts of revenge. Lent is a time to open the windows of our souls, to allow the fresh air of God's love to circulate anew in the depths of our hearts and to get ourselves moving outward — toward our brothers and sisters who are in need.

THE PRACTICE OF FAITH

Let's begin with prayer, or conversation with God. There are many ways to pray, but let's concentrate on one: silent, mental prayer, when we are alone with God and his voice echoes in our hearts. Such prayerful solitude requires us to turn off all our electronic devices, block out distractions and simply ask the Lord to let us see ourselves as he sees us. This is more than self-awareness. It is asking the Lord to help us measure our lives according to his standards, not our own. It is humbly asking the Lord for grace and strength to confront our overt sins as well as the hidden corruption that we often conceal from others and even from ourselves.



***Supreme
Chaplain
William E.
Lori***

I don't know about you, but when I pray in this way, I find I'm well short of the mark. Such prayer leads me to seek the Lord's mercy and to make an unburdening confession of my sins. Lent is preeminently the time to grow in prayer and to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. This is a first and essential step in spiritual housecleaning.

A second Lenten practice is fasting or some other form of self-denial. This isn't the same as dieting. Rather, depriving ourselves of food is connected with the arduous process of emptying ourselves of everything that obstructs the grace of God from working in us and through us. Fasting has a way of helping us uproot our deep-seated habits of sin and our endless desire for comfort, convenience, power and esteem. The discipline of foregoing food or other comforts is a way of tilling the soil of our souls, making them receptive to God's Word.

A final Lenten practice is almsgiving, which includes giving of ourselves and our resources to those who are in need. The practice of charity is how we open the windows of our souls to God's love, forgetting our own wants and needs and concentrating instead on the needs of others, especially the poor and vulnerable. When we open our hearts in love to those in need, the stale air of self-centeredness dissipates as the fresh air of Jesus' self-giving love circulates through our inmost being, and we are thus spiritually reinvigorated. For us as Knights, this practice of charity should be second nature.

Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are, in fact, inseparable. As St. Peter Chrysologus taught: "Fasting is the soul of prayer, almsgiving is the lifeblood of fasting. ... When you fast, see the fasting of others. If you want God to know you are hungry, know that another is hungry. If you want mercy, show mercy."

In this way, may our Lenten observance lead us to experience a renewed life in Christ and joy in the Holy Spirit.

UPCOMING EVENTS:



MARCH CHAPTER MEETING – March 6, 2018 at John F. Kennedy Council #5501 (Russellton) at 7:30 PM

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS – March 11, 2018

HOLY THURSDAY – March 29, 2018.

GOOD FRIDAY – March 30, 2018.

HOLY SATURDAY – March 31, 2018

EASTER – April 1, 2018.

MARCH CHAPTER MEETING – April 3, 2018 (site to be determined)

BISHOPS' PROJECT APPRECIATION DINNER – Thursday, April 19, 2018

ON MISSION FOR THE CHURCH ALIVE! ANNOUNCEMENT DAY – April 26, 2018 – Final Parish Groupings/Clergy Assignments/ Maximum Number of Masses will be announced by Bishop Zubik

STATE WARDEN DINNER – Sunday, May 20, 2018

Your Shield of Strength

For the 17th consecutive year in a row, insurance sales increased thanks to the hard work and dedication of our ever-improving and expanding sales force. The Knights finished the year selling more than \$8.78 billion of life insurance in force on 71,186 certificates, protecting the futures of tens of thousands of Catholic families.



Our strength is undeniable. More members than ever before see it and are using our shield to protect their families. Are you? If you need life insurance — and chances are you do — why would you look any where else? Let us be your shield.



Join the hundreds of thousands of your brother Knights who use our shield as their protection. Contact your agent today.

*Insurance & Annuity Questions ?—
call me or your field agent assigned to your respective council !
Ken Scott / General Agent / (724) 719-2324
kenneth.scott@kofc.org*

Grand Knight's Checklist – March

- ◆ Order materials and plan participation in the Orderwide Church Recruitment Drive (March 10-11), the Orderwide Outreach Week in honor of Father McGivney (March 12-18), the Council First Degree Week (March 19-25) and Founder's Day (March 29).
- ◆ Prepare your council's Per Capita Tax, Catholic Advertising Fund and Culture of Life Fund assessments. *Remember, failure to pay the assessments prior to April 10 will result in suspension of the council. A suspended council may not be seated at their state convention, nor are its members eligible to be delegates to the Supreme Convention.*
- ◆ Confirm that your council remains compliant with the Office of Youth Protection's requirements for all activities.
- ◆ Make sure your council is on the path to earning the Star Council Award.

MARCH 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*** Family of the Month Report for February Due				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Daylight Savings Time Begins!	12	13	14	15 ***	16	17  St. Patrick's Day
18	19 St. Joseph's Day	20 <i>Spring</i> First Day of Spring	21	22	23	24
25 Palm Sunday	26	27	28	29 Holy Thursday	30 Good Friday	31 Holy Saturday

APRIL 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 1 EASTER	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Divine Mercy Sunday	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 ***	16	17 Income Tax Due	18	19	20	21
22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					*** Family of the Month Report for March Due