



The Knightly News



Knights of Columbus Fr. Robert E. O’Kane Council #6538

Summer 2021

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Message from the Editor

Dear Brother Knights,

I hope you’ve had a nice and relaxing summer! This July, we were blessed to be able to once again hold our customary installation ceremony for officers, and we ask for your prayers and support for our new officers this Fraternal year!

Brother Knights, as we attempt to return to a sense of normalcy during this continued COVID-19 pandemic, we are once again embracing many of our usual Knightly activities. Our council recently finished selling raffle tickets for two gift baskets, the proceeds of which benefit St. Joseph’s Church. We congratulate Barbara Helmick and Matt Bentz on winning the baskets.

September 4th marked the beginning of the Coats for Kids campaign, which our council participates in each year. Additionally, race weekend will take place at the end of October, and our council will once again be selling hot dogs at the Martinsville Speedway. Our council asks for volunteers to help out that weekend. We recently had one benefit night mandated by Supreme Council with another upcoming. Some of you may recall participating in a webinar in which our insurance agent discussed Fraternal benefits with us. The next benefit night event will take place on the evenings of September 29th, and I’ll send out an email reminder.

Officers

- Grand Knight – Ben Bailey
- Deputy Grand Knight – Tim Moran
- Chaplain – Fr. Carlos Lerma
- Chancellor – Anselmo Quintero
- Recorder – Jim Reaghard
- Financial Secretary – Steve Ogilbee
- Treasurer – Eduardo Guerrero
- Advocate – Jorge Lopez
- Warden – John Martin
- Inside Guard – Richard Carle
- Outside Guard – Michael Moran
- Lecturer – Joe Bonanno

Board of Trustees

- 1 Year – Miguel Ruiz
- 2 Year – Bill Derzawiec
- 3 Year – Gustavo Aquirre

Lastly, our council will participate in a retreat on Saturday, September 25th, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at St. Joseph’s, at which Fr. Carlos will celebrate mass, among other activities which will take place. All family members, in addition to Knights, will be invited. Please sign up via the sheets on the table in the commons area of the church so that we know if you and family members plan to attend. More information on that will be sent out in the coming weeks. In lieu of the Oktoberfest, the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce will host smaller groups of vendors at the next three First Friday events at the Farmers’ Market; our council will hold an outreach event there October 1st. If you have any ideas about how we can assist our church or community, please let one of us know!

Lastly, Brother Knights, as always, please remember to recite the Rosary often, and daily, if possible. This powerful prayer is the spiritual weapon of our time, particularly given the state of our nation and world. God bless you!

Joe Bonanno,
Knightly News Editor, Lecturer



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K of C Council #6538 Raffles off Gift Baskets Benefiting St. Joseph's Church

Knights of Columbus Council #6538, true to our first principle, Charity, raffled off two gift baskets to benefit St. Joseph's Catholic Church. One gift basket contained items for men, while the other included items for women. The male-specific items found in the men's gift basket included shaving implements, a lithium-ion cordless drill and bits, hand sanitizer, a can of snacks, and other items. The women's basket contained a variety of beauty products such as Mary Kay items, a wall-mounted plaque expressing a scripture passage, and other items.

Members of our council, as well as parish staff sold tickets at \$5 apiece or 3 for \$10. The raffle took place on Sunday, September 5th, and the winners were Barbara Helmick and Matt Bentz, whom our council would like to congratulate! Through this effort, our council raised \$641 for St. Joseph's Church! A big thank-you to all who were involved in this effort!



K of C Council #6538 to Sell Hot Dogs at Xfinity 500, Asks for Volunteers

As it has done in the past, our council will be raising funds through the sale of hot dogs at the next NASCAR race, the Xfinity 500, at Martinsville Speedway. The main event will take place on Sunday, October 31st, but our council will be selling hot dogs at pre-event activities on the previous Friday and Saturday, October 29th and 30th as well. In years past, we had been working on behalf of St. Joseph's Church, but this year we will simply be representing our council. If you are able to this year, please contact either Ben, or Joe Bonanno to let one of us know.



The 15 Promises to Those Who Recite the Rosary

I (Joe Bonanno) often describe the importance of praying the Rosary. It is such a powerful prayer, and its recitation has certainly brought blessings and greater virtue to my life. For example, I have found that bad habits, such as using curse words, have declined dramatically. I have also discovered a much greater desire for holiness than I had possessed prior to praying the Rosary regularly. Aside from benefits to our own personal journeys of faith, this prayer is even more important now, given the myriad problems in our nation and world, of which there are so many, and, as of late, they appear to be increasing exponentially. Our Lady makes fifteen promises to those who recite the Rosary, and they are:

1. *“Whoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall receive signal graces.*
2. *I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary.*
3. *The Rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell, it will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies.*
4. *The Rosary will cause virtue and good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God; it will withdraw the hearts of men from the love of the world and its vanities, and will lift them to the desire for eternal things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.*
5. *The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall not perish.*
6. *Whoever shall recite the Rosary devoutly, applying himself to the consideration of its sacred mysteries shall never be conquered by misfortune. God will not chastise him in His justice, he shall not perish by an unprovided death; if he be just he shall remain in the grace of God, and become worthy of eternal life.*
7. *Whoever shall have a true devotion for the Rosary shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.*
8. *Those who are faithful to recite the Rosary shall have during their life and at their death the light of God and the plenitude of His graces; at the moment of death they shall participate in the merits of the saints in paradise.*
9. *I shall deliver from Purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary.*
10. *The faithful children of the Rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in Heaven.*
11. *You shall obtain all you ask of me by the recitation of the Rosary.*
12. *All those who propagate the Holy Rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.*
13. *I have obtained from my Divine Son that all the advocates of the Rosary shall have for intercessors the entire celestial court during their life and at the hour of death.*
14. *All who recite the Rosary are my sons and daughters, and brothers and sisters of my only Son Jesus Christ.*
15. *Devotion of my Rosary is a great sign of predestination.”*¹

¹ *The 15 Promises of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Catholics who pray the Rosary everyday.* Obtained August 29, 2021. www.rosarypromises.com.

K of C Council #6538 Holds Coats for Kids Drive



Beginning September 4th, K of C Council #6538 began participating in the annual Coats for Kids drive. The purpose of this campaign is to help ensure that all children in our community have access to jackets for this upcoming winter season. The coat drive will take place over the course of the month, ending on October 5th. If you wish to donate, all coats must be new and have tags. Last year, coats were distributed within the City of Martinsville, so this year they will be distributed in Henry County. Thank you for your participation and generosity for this important and worthy cause!



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K of C Council #6538 to Host Outreach at First Friday Event

K of C Council #6538 will host an outreach event at the First Friday celebration at the Martinsville Farmers' Market on the evening of October 1st from 4 – 8 p.m. In the past, we have conducted the outreach event at the City's Oktoberfest, but this event was cancelled for the second year in a row due to COVID; in lieu of the Oktoberfest, vendors will be present at First Friday events each month through December.

As part of this event, our council will present a Divine Mercy Image, will provide free books about the Catholic Faith, and we plan to provide "business cards" with inspirational quotes from our Lord as well as contact information for our church. The main intent of this activity is to reach those who do not know Jesus, to show His great love for them, to invite them into the Church, as well as to raise money for KOVAR, a Knights of Columbus charity organization that provides resources to the intellectually disabled. We will also be available to answer any questions anyone may have about our faith, and to offer prayer for anyone who asks for it.

How the Rosary Came to Be

The holy Rosary, as we know it today, had its roots in France in the year 1214. It was then that the Albigensians (a term referring to a heretical people who resided in southern France) were not being converted due to the sinfulness of people in that region in general. This greatly troubled Saint Dominic, who, in an effort to mitigate God's anger, spent three days and nights in the forest there, in which he engaged in severe penances which left his body wounded until such time as he lapsed into a coma. In that state, our Lady appeared to Saint Dominic and told him that the holy Rosary, which she referred to as the Angelic Psalter, was the means by which the Trinity desired that the world be reformed. Upon regaining consciousness, Saint Dominic departed for the local cathedral with urgency, at which the people of the region met him, summoned by bells rung seemingly by themselves. As Saint Dominic began to preach, a number of natural phenomena including darkening of the sun, shaking of the earth, and a violent storm all took place, striking fear into the hearts of those in the cathedral. Additionally, an apparition took place at a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary in which she gestured for the Lord to send his vengeance to the earth if the people failed to reform their lives. A prayer by Saint Dominic brought the terrifying conditions to an end, after which he explained the great importance of this powerful prayer – a sermon so forceful that the vast majority of the people of the area adopted it and renounced their erroneous ways. ¹

1 St. Louis Marie De Montfort. *The Secret of the Holy Rosary*. Pgs. 12 – 13. Revised Translation 1992.

K of C Council #6538 to Hold September Retreat

On September 25th, Knights of Columbus Council #6538 will host a retreat, and we encourage all Knights to attend. This year, because of COVID, the retreat will take place at St. Joseph's Church, and is scheduled from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The retreat will involve a number of activities including talks about our faith, a mass celebrated by Father Carlos, and time for personal reflection and prayer. Knights' families and parishioners are welcome; please sign up at the sign-up sheets in the commons area of the church.

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