



Marshall Council 966

Knights of Columbus

PO Box 1672, Marshalltown, IA 50158

Thoughts from the Grand Knight December 2017

I am frequently reminded of all the good work that is being done by Knights in support of our church, school, Iowa Veteran's Home, and many other good local causes. While I may lament the poor attendance at KC meetings, I appreciate all the good you men do. The combined works of charity of all our members is truly our greatest accomplishment as an organization. Twice a year, the KC organization above us takes an accounting of all the charitable work we do in our councils. This is an important aspect of maintaining our nonprofit organization status at all levels. To this end, I ask each of you to take a few minutes to go to the KofC966.org website, under the "Volunteer" tab, and then "Submit Volunteer Hours" and enter your charitable activities during the last 6 months. Feel free to estimate—an accurate accounting is not required. If you are not an internet user, submit your activities on paper to any officer. Thanks for all you do.

There is a lot going on in the next 3 months that will involve a lot of Knights. Please support these activities however you are able...

December 25: Christmas, of course, spend it with those you love

December 26: 9 AM-1PM: Blood Drive at St. Francis School, walk-ins welcome,

December 31: 5th Sunday rosary before some masses; come early and pray with us.

January 1: Holyday, The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

January 8, 7 PM: Regular council meeting held at St. Francis School

January 11, 6 PM: 4th through 6th grade Spelling Bee at St. Francis School

January 13, 9:30AM: 4th through 6th grade Free-throw contest in the Lenihan gym

January 26: Member appreciation and recognition dinner at St. Francis, recognizing anniversaries at all multiples of 5 years, with special recognition of those reaching 25 years and those achieving honorary life status. All members welcome; there will be no charge for this meal for members and their families.

January 28: District Free-throw contest at St. Patrick in Tama

February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23: Fish Dinners @ St. Francis School

This list of activities cannot happen without significant participation from our members. Please go to the website at kofc966.org to sign up to help where you can. If you don't use the internet, call any officer and let us know how you'd like to help or what you need to know.

In the past couple newsletters I have been calling attention to negativity and encouraging everyone to do their part to see and acknowledge the positive. It is so easy to let the nightly news or our own discomforts drag us down toward feelings of hopelessness. I am not a patient man; I tend to be goal-oriented, destination-focused, and get frustrated when someone or something wastes my time. I might ask: why can't there be more joy in the world? I realized recently that the question should be: why can't I bring more joy to the world.

If I think back to the most joyful moments of my life, they were times when I experienced the joy of giving. The more I sacrificed to obtain or create the gift, the more joy I derived from giving it. This leads me to set high expectations for myself and if I can't do something great, I don't want to do anything at all. It's a trap. I think I need to do something special FOR someone, when it would actually bring them more joy to do something WITH them. I witnessed this recently with one of my grandsons. I spent some time working with him to dismantle an old gasoline motor. He was enjoying having me suggest the tools to use to remove this or that part and to show him how it worked. This grandson even listed "working with grandpa" as one of his favorite activities at this point in his life. He had to go before it was done so then I was bugged by that partially disassembled motor sitting around my shop for a couple weeks. The next time I saw that grandson I asked him to finish taking it apart. I wasn't available to help him because I was preoccupied with another task. He lost interest in about 10 minutes. I'm the biggest obstacle of my own joy. I don't have to work hard or spend a lot of money to bring joy to others and to myself, I just need to be willing to spend time with them.

Have you, like me, been appalled at the way most people are now glued to their phones and not interacting with each other? Yet, I am the one who won't take the time to just stop what I'm doing and truly

be present to the ones I love. My suggestion for you in this Christmas season is to bring more joy into your life by bringing more joy into someone else's life every day. All you have to do is set aside your own agendas, and give them the gift of yourself—your time.

Another topic I want to hit pretty hard is the subject of developing our Catholic faith. Unity is the second of the 4 missions of a Knight. Unity with our Catholic church is not something we can claim if we don't continually work to develop the relationship. If your faith is not growing, it is dying. This is the message of the parable of the talents we recently heard. If you don't develop what you have, even what little you have will be taken away. So, how do you go about developing your faith? One way is CEW, that is, a Christian Experience Weekend. Gentlemen, if you have not been on a CEW before, I strongly urge you to sign up for the one coming up March 2-4. If your wife has not, hers is coming up February 16-18. More information will be coming, but mark this on your calendar today.

My final thought: keeping Christ in Christmas. I recently saw a priest on YouTube talking on the subject of the "war on Christmas." His point was that Jesus would not be nearly as upset about us not using the word "Christmas" as he will be if we don't act like Christians at Christmas. He has a valid point. Actions speak a lot louder than words. May each of us strive to act like a Christian at all times. The most fundamental expression of our faith is our example.

God bless you and your families during this Christmas season.

Steve Seberger - Grand Knight

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Matt Herrick accepts golf tournament proceeds on behalf of St Francis School



LeAnn Fleming accepts donation from Tootsie Roll campaign on behalf of Mid Iowa Workshops



Jeff Vance accepts donation from Tootsie Roll campaign on behalf of CIRSI



Eldon Schneider accepts donation from Tootsie Roll on behalf of ARC

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Insurance Corner: Helping Our Families Prepare

Tempus fugit memento mori – times flies, remember death.

The phrase, we are told, is to remind us to be conscious of our own mortality and to plan accordingly. As Catholics, we keep death always in the front of our minds because it is the gateway to paradise, but also because we want to be sure that we are preparing accordingly and living just lives, conquering sin and living for God, so that we may live with Him after death.

But death is not always easy to think about. While we live with Christian hope, we know that our death also means sadness and trial for those we love. We know that we will leave a void, and, depending on the circumstances of our own death, we may even leave loose ends.

But by thinking about the unthinkable, and planning for the inevitable, we may be able to reduce those trials and tie up some of those loose ends.

That’s why we are excited to introduce the Knights of Columbus Personal Planning Workbook.

The Knights of Columbus Personal Planning Workbook is a no-cost tool available from me to you.

The thirty-four page book is a comprehensive planning guide that will enable you to record personal information, identify personal wishes, and supplement legal documents.

In a fast-paced digital age like ours, there are so many more things to plan for and to record, and so much less time in which to do it. The Knights of Columbus Personal Planning Workbook is an easy and effective way to gather your thoughts, details, data, and wishes for the benefit of your loved ones.

This great resource is another extension of our founding mission, set forth by Father Michael J. McGivney, of protecting Catholic families.

As pointed as it may seem, tempus fugit memento mori reminds us that we – with certainty – will die, but that we may very well not – with certainty – know when.

So why not spend a few minutes preparing for the inevitable?

You’ll have the comfort of knowing that you did the right thing, and the assurance that, when that time does come, you will have made a very difficult time just a little bit easier for the ones you love.

To get a complimentary copy of the Knights of Columbus Personal Planning Workbook, contact me today.

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Helping Brother Knights Protect Their Families

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