



Marshall Council 966

Knights of Columbus

PO Box 1672, Marshalltown, IA 50158

Thoughts from the Grand Knight - February 2018

Before I forget it again, please be aware that you are welcome to receive this newsletter by regular mail and/or by email. We recognize that some of you may like the print copy so those in your household can read it more easily. Also, if you are the family of a deceased member, you are welcome to continue to receive the newsletter to see what we're doing. You will only be removed from the list if the mail becomes undeliverable as addressed.

At the member appreciation dinner at St. Francis School on January 26, I presented certificates of appreciation to several outstanding members of Council 966. The certificates read as follows:

"CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION AWARDED TO (MEMBER NAME) For Outstanding Service to Knights of Columbus Council 966 and to the Catholic churches, school, and community of Marshalltown, Iowa Presented by: Grand Knight (signature) January 26th, 2018"

The awardees were:

John Egnew,	Matt Herrick,	Galen Pille,	Roger Drummer,
Bob Cook,	Greg Jacobs,	Vince Frederick,	Fritz Polt,
Eldon Schneider,	Dave Staron,	Roger Polt,	LeRoy Jero,
Logan Frederick			

These men have stepped up to take responsibility for one or more of the activities of the council and have attended most of the council meetings. The council could not remain in operation without their giving spirit. Please make it a point to thank these gentlemen when you next see them.

At the meeting I also recognized all the honorary members and honorary life members of our council. In case you didn't know, a member reaches honorary status when they reach 65 years of age and 25 consecutive years of membership. At this point their dues drop to \$9 per year. Honorary Life members have reached 70 years of age and 25 consecutive years of membership, and their dues go to zero.

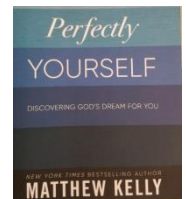
Would you believe that we have a member with **72 years of service?!!** -- **Lester Stalzer**



Lent is upon us and that means Fish Dinners are too. The first couple dinners are under our belt and things are running smoothly. We have been getting lots of compliments on the fish and the attendance is growing. Last week we welcomed about 20 veterans from the Iowa Veteran's Home as well as the usual crowd of regulars. Please support your council and come enjoy some fish. The proceeds from the dinners will support the school again this year, except for donations. We have a donation jar for the Seminarian fund and the youth group has a donation

basket for their summer trips. It is so nice to see the youth scurrying around helping with the drinks, desserts, busing the tables, and putting away the tables and chairs at the end. They are a well-dressed, well-behaved, enthusiastic group of kids. It is a true pleasure to have them helping us with the fish dinners again this year.

Book giveaway! The Knights have purchased several cases of the latest Matthew Kelly book titled: *Perfectly Yourself*. You can pick one up at either of the churches or at the fish dinners. Why not enhance your Lenten journey with a little reading. As Matthew would say, even just 10 minutes a day can make a huge difference in your life.



We will not be having a regular council meeting in March due to the flurry of activity around the fish dinners and the men's CEW, both of which take a lot of our Knights' time. Hope to see you at the dinners and/or the April meeting. The following picture page will be devoted to the first couple fish dinners.

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*Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son. Acts 16*

Fasting invites the Holy Spirit in to our hearts and souls. But how does fasting help us to listen to Jesus' words? Can we hear God's voice amidst our daily activities?

God speaks to us in many ways: through Scripture, through prayer, through the Church, through other people, through the trials/tribulations of life, through the Holy Spirit.

In Scripture, Jesus says, "When you fast." He didn't say, "If you fast." It was a given that his followers (and thus Jesus' present day followers: us!) would fast. When we fast, we are listening to Jesus' words.

However, what if we can hear God's voice, but we don't want to listen? What if we *choose* not to listen? Making a virtuous choice usually means there is sacrifice involved. The regular self-denial of fasting helps to prepare us for future sacrifices and gives us practice at eating what we need and not what we want.

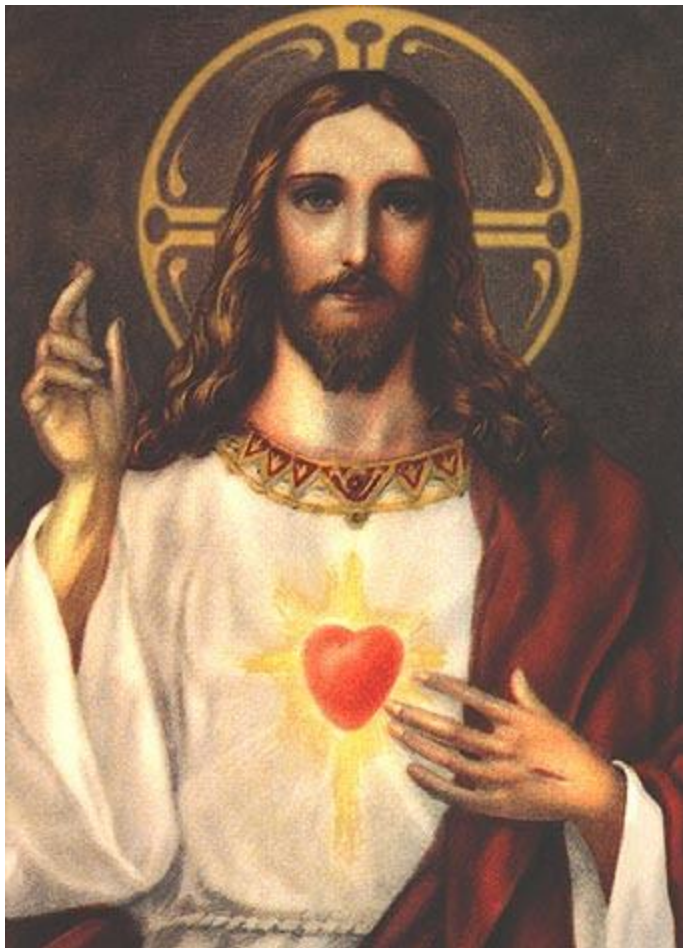
Our sacrifices, our fasting here on earth has tremendous value and merit. Not only can we join our suffering with Christ's suffering, we can also offer up our suffering for others, either in purgatory or those living their purgatory on earth. Embracing suffering is not an easy task... but we **can** do it with God's grace.

Let's listen to Jesus. Let's continue to fast.

Tomorrow, let us fast and pray for all the community intentions and for all those suffering in the world .

"The scripture is full of places that prove fasting to be not the invention of man but the institution of God, and to have many more profits than one. And that the fasting of one man may do good unto another, our Saviour showeth himself where he saith that some kind of devils cannot be cast out of one man by another 'without prayer and fasting.'" St. Thomas More

www.livethefast.com



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