



Knightly News



Council Wins Prestigious Double Star Award

The Knights of Columbus Council #6862 of Our Lady of Grace Church has earned the distinction of a Double Star Council for the 2006-2007 fraternal year.

The award, granted by Supreme, recognizes overall excellence in the areas of membership recruitment (reaching 200% of quota, thereby making it a “double star”) and retention, promotion of the fraternal insurance program, and sponsorship of service-oriented activities. The award was presented to the membership by State District Deputy Dennis Taylor at a special ceremony held on November 6, 2007 at Our Lady of Grace Parish.

The Double Star award was graciously received by Past Grand Knight (PGK), Steve C. Troiano on behalf of the entire council.

PGK Troiano was grateful for the recognition the council received and thanked council members for all their efforts to make this possible.

In addition to the Double Star award—the council also received the State Star award—during the same evening.



GK Vern Symes, District Deputy Dennis Taylor, PGK Steve Troiano receiving the Double Star and State Star Council awards.

Council Supports Parish St. Nicholas Pancake Breakfast

The St. Nicholas Breakfast is a special time for the parish community to come together to teach the children the true story of Saint Nicholas.

The Council funded a portion of the event and prepared a pancake and egg breakfast for the children

and their family. The council was assisted by members of the youth ministry, boy scouts and the woman’s guild.

Thanks to those members who made this event a success to the parish.



St. Nicholas poses with Parish Family

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Special points of interest:

- Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser set for May 10th.
- Council has launched a web site.
- Upcoming events are listed on back page.
- Capital Prayer Rally—April 22, 2008
- Council meets on the first Tuesday of the Month at OLG Church—members only.

Knights Backing New Marriage Defense Group

In the past months, Pope Benedict XVI has spoken several times about what he calls an “educational emergency” with regard to defending and promoting the Christian values of marriage and family.

The Knights of Columbus and the [National Organization for Marriage](#) are responding to the pope’s call to protect marriage – and they are urging Catholics everywhere to join them.

In addition to financial support from the Supreme Council, Knights are encouraged to assist with the mission of the National Organization for Marriage (NOM) on a grassroots level. That mission, NOM President Maggie Gallagher says, is to “protect marriage and the faith communities that sustain it.”

In 2006, the Knights helped to promote a U.S. federal marriage amendment that unfortunately did not pass – but there has been success on the state level. So far, 27 states have passed constitutional amendments protecting marriage as the union of husband and wife.

This year, there are major efforts to put state marriage amendments on the ballot in Florida, California, and several other states.

“The Knights are the foot soldiers for the bishops

and the faith,” says Gallagher. “The battle is shifting away from courts and into state legislatures in the heavily Catholic ‘blue states’ in the Northeast, where social conservative institutions are weakest.” Unless the situation changes, several state legislatures are likely to pass laws supporting same-sex marriage.



With this in mind, NOM was founded, in part, to support state groups fighting for marriage. Gallagher says she and Princeton Prof. Robert George founded the nonprofit after getting “tired of complaining to each other that ‘somebody’ should start an effective national marriage organization.”

Although NOM welcomes involvement from non-Catholics, it was also founded to motivate and mobilize Catholic citizens.

Archbishop John J. Myers of Newark, who serves as NOM’s episcopal adviser, says, “As Catholics, we cannot stand by in silence in the face of challenges that threaten the sanctity of marriage. We

cannot shirk our responsibility.” Archbishop Myers is a member of Spalding Council 427 in Peoria, Ill.

Unless its definition is fundamentally changed, marriage is about bringing together the “two halves of humanity – men and women” as the foundation of the family and future generations, says Gallagher.

Given the terms of the debate, if Catholics lose the battle to “define” marriage, the consequences could be grave, according to Gallagher. Through government tax dollars, children would be indoctrinated with the idea that everyone who believes marriage is the union of husband and wife is a bigot. Catholic institutions would also face serious penalties in the public square, since the Catholic faith would, legally speaking, constitute bigotry.

In short, Gallagher says, the fight to legalize same-sex marriage is an issue of public, not private, concern: “It is about getting the government to use its power to endorse and enforce a powerful new idea.”

As the Knights and NOM work together, Gallagher hopes “there will be many opportunities for Knights to respond to Pope Benedict’s call to stand up for marriage.

Knights of Columbus Day of the Unborn Child

The Knights of Columbus has been a leader in the pro-life movement for over 30 years. With the Knights of Columbus Day of the Unborn Child soon approaching on March 31, the feast of the Annunciation this year, Knights have the opportunity to stand up and speak out against the evils of abortion.

Councils use the Day of the Unborn Child, always a successful event throughout the Order, to come together with



friends and family to host a variety of prayer programs within

their parishes and their communities that show our never-ending commitment to unborn children and their mothers.

"It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish."
Mother Teresa

Leonard Yanazzo Speaks at February Council Meeting

Leonard Yanazzo, Chairman of the Capital District Conference was welcomed by Grand Knight Vernon Symes at the regular February council meeting on the fifth of the month.

Leonard Yanazzo gave a power point presentation on the structure of the Knights organization in New York State and how it relates to the local Council. There are 104 districts and 534 councils in the state. There are 4 minor conferences—in the

state. We are members of the Capital Conference. This conference contains 12 districts and 66 councils. Our council is 1 of 6 in District 65 and Dennis Taylor is our District Deputy.

He also talked about the success of the Knights by how they addressed problems of their time. The same is true today. Len challenged the Council to make themselves and the Council relevant by addressing the issues of our time.



Len Yanazzo making presentation at February Council Meeting

Deacon Neil's Corner



Once again we begin the holy season of Lent, a time to reflect on our relationship

with our God and a time to make those changes in our life that we feel are necessary to maintain that relationship. As Lent was originally a time of retreat for those preparing for the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil, we can use this time as a retreat to prepare ourselves again for the great celebration of the resurrection.

Our pastoral planning initiative in the diocese – Called to BE Church – is entering its final phase during which recommendations will be made by the end of June to the bishop's office as to how our three parishes will move forward in the future. Since the projection for our area shows that we will only have two priests to serve the three parishes by 2015, it will

necessitate some changes relative to Mass schedules and other parish operations. The committees meeting over these next few months will deal with the topics of administration and finance, faith formation, prayer and worship and Christian service. In each area recommendations will be made relative to how we can share our resources to carry out the mission of the Church in this area of the diocese. Please pray for the efforts of our committees as they work toward the finalization of this plan.

Two events will capture our attention over the next several months. In April, our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI will be coming to the United States for a variety of visits in the Washington, DC and New York City area. He will be address-

ing the United Nations during his visit. A number of people throughout our diocese were fortunate to be chosen through a lottery to attend the papal Mass to be held in Yankee Stadium on April 20. Please pray for our Holy Father that he will have a safe journey and be able to impart the important message he brings to the nations of the world.

We all know that this is an important year in the United States as we move toward the time when we will elect the next president of the United States. Our Catholic people have been asked by our bishops to seriously reflect on the importance of exercising their right to vote and to become informed relative to the various candidates' views on those issues that impact the most vulnerable in our society – the unborn, children, the poor, the disabled and the elderly. We are asked to prayerfully consider these matters when making a decision as to which person can best serve the needs of our country especially the most vulnerable in society.

"we can use this time as a retreat to prepare ourselves again for the great celebration of the resurrection."

The Council Launches Web Site: www.knights.olgchurch.com

Did you know that the Council has a new web site? Yes, thanks to the efforts of Mike Welshans, webmaster of the OLG church web site and Council member Edward Razz. The Council web address is shown in the title above. The church web site also has been redesigned. The church web site can be found on the world wide web at this location:
www.olgchurch.com

The web site is a great place to stay connected to the Council. There is a Council calendar where upcoming activities are advertised. You can visit the calendar to find out the latest day for degree exemplifications and other council activities. It contains background information on the Knights for prospective members as well.

The activities page includes slide show presentations of past Council events and a listing of upcoming events. On the officers page—the names and picture of the Council officers can be viewed. A links page is also provided to other web sites of interest to members.



The Council Web Site Activities Page. Check it out at www.knights.olgchurch.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

COUNCIL PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

When: Sat, May 10, 8am – 11am

Where: OLG Church -73 Midline Rd. Ballston Lake, NY

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS REV.
DANIEL D. HOGAN COUNCIL 6862**

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Geoff Cramer and Edward Razz

In Service to One, in service to all

We're on the Web!
<http://knights.olgchurch.com/>

Saratoga 3rd degree

When: Sun, Mar 9, 1pm – 4pm

Where: 50 Pine Rd., Saratoga Springs, NY

Latham 2nd Degree

When: Mon, Mar 24, 7pm – 8pm

Where: 328 Troy-Schenectady Rd., Latham, NY

Saratoga 1st degree

When: Mon, Apr 21, 7pm – 9pm

Where: 50 Pine Rd., Saratoga Springs, NY

Latham 1st Degree

When: Mon, Apr 28, 7pm – 8pm

Where: 328 Troy-Schenectady Rd., Latham, NY

Capital Prayer Rally

When: Mon, April 22, 11:30 am

Where: State Capital Building, Albany, NY

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser set for May 10th.

Mark your calendar and plan to come out to the council fund raising pancake breakfast on May 10th at Our Lady of Grace Church.

The fund raising committee, chaired by Edward Razz—is looking for volunteers to help make this event a success. There are many different ways that you can help out. There is planning activities leading up to the event to gather the support necessary to make this a reality. We need some one with good marketing skills—to help advertise the event. We could use signs to help make visible this event.

When the day comes to execute the breakfast we'll need a table set up team, a clean up team, cooks and servers.

The fund raising committee is also exploring other fund raising ideas and your participation here is wel-

come too. Contact the fund raising chairmen erazz@nycap.rr.com or 877-5875 to find out how you can help.

The funds we raised are aimed at supporting the youth of our parish. Plans include supporting the purchase of bibles for the

youth ministry and clothing for the 1st communicants for those in financial need. We would also like to sponsor a Catholic seminar and support Catholic Radio. Volunteers are needed to make these events a reality too.



Council members making pancakes at the parish St. Nicholas Pancake breakfast.