

Siena Post Dispatch



A Monthly Publication of Siena Council No. 8596
Knights of Columbus, P.O. Box 271, Dundee, IL 60118

December, 2006

Grand Knight's Message

With the holiday season now upon us, we enjoy being with our families and getting involved in the spirit of the holiday season. Most important keeping in our minds the real meaning of Christmas that Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, was born in time and history to save us from our sins.

In December's *KC Columbia*, Bishop William E Lori, Supreme Chaplain, wrote an article, and I would like to quote and highlight some of the contents of his article, "What the Lord Wants for Christmas",

"As you read this message, you are probably in the throes of Christmas shopping. Our gifts express our bond of love, friendship, knowledge, and respect for others. Such gifts can show that we've truly grown in our knowledge and love of the persons God has sent into our lives."

"But what should we give the Lord Jesus for Christmas? After all, it's his birthday. Besides, there's precedent for giving gifts to the newborn King. No, catalogue will help us find a gift for the Lord Jesus, and there is nothing he wants and needs at the mall."

"The costly gift that I believe Jesus most wants does not seem like a gift to you or to me. It's nothing, we'd want to receive, but then we are not messiahs. It's my belief that the Lord Jesus wants us to give him the sin or sins with which we most struggle. You and I won't see advertisements for these "gifts" but they are what the Lord really wants."

"We need to identify which sin or sins to entrust to the Lord as Christmas approaches. This worthy confession of our sins in the sacrament of penance or reconciliation should be our gift to the Prince of Peace at the celebration of his birth. Confession of our sins reflects that we are opening our hearts to God as Jesus was completely open to his Father in Heaven during his earthly life."

During this holiday season St. Catherine will have expanded schedules for the sacrament of reconciliation. Be at peace knowing that you've given the Lord the best gift of all--- the gift of a trusting, hopeful heart.

I would like to close by wishing all of the brother knights of Siena Council and their families a Merry Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

Vivat Jesus
Don Miller GK

Important Coming Events

- December 7 7:00 PM**
Officers' and Trustees' Meeting
- December 8 11:00 PM – 12:00 PM**
National Night of Prayer for Life and Peace
- December 11 6:30 PM**
Recertification of 1st Degree Team
- December 11 8:00 PM**
Business Meeting
- December 15 - 7:00 PM**
Annual Siena Council Christmas Party
- December 16 & 17**
Rosary Weekend
- December 25**
Christmas Day

2007

- January 4 7:00 PM**
Officers' and Trustees' Meeting
- January 8 7:30 PM**
Business Meeting
- January 13 9:00 AM**
Free Throw Contest
- January 20-21 TBA**
Rosary Weekend
- January 26**
Teen Dance
Tentative reschedule date
- February 16**
KC Men's Retreat –Bellarmino Retreat Center
Barrington, IL – Hank Schmalen (847) 426-7326

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Degree Team

The next degree ceremony will be conducted at the January 8, 2007 business meeting. The degree team will be recertified on December 11 @ 6:30 PM in the community room at St. Catherine. Degree Team Members are as follows:

GK	SK Fred McCarthy
DGK	SK Larry Smith (Elgin Council)
Chancellor	SK Tom Ficht
Worthy Warden	SK Mike Graziano
Warden Assist.	SK Dick Williams
Inside Guard	SK Dave Edwards
Music	SK Don Miller

Other members who have volunteered to be under studies are: SK Joe Borowski, SK Hank Schmalen, SK Christopher Gonzales (Algonquin council), SK Dan Schneider (Algonquin council), SK Mark Nelson, and SK Terry Kreplin.

Also, SK Larry Smith volunteered to be responsible for coordinating the activities of the 1st degree team. I want to congratulate these brother knights for volunteering their time and service to such an important function of our council and other councils in our area.

Thanks.

Membership Blitz

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the recruiting blitz is a high priority - not just at our council, but state and nationwide. The council's goal is to recruit 15-20 new members this fraternal year, which I believe is a very achievable goal. We owe it to our fellow brothers to make this goal for the longevity and future of our council. I want to thank the brothers that provided names of potential prospects to both SK Dan Biggins and me. Dan and I will be sending approximately 20 to 25 invitations over the next 2 weeks.

“Sail With the Knights” Fundraiser February 17, 2007

Information is still being gathered on this new fundraising event. The committee will, be meeting this coming Saturday, December 9th, to discuss coordination matters. The decision has been made to hold the event at St. Catherine's gym instead of the Holiday Inn, primarily due to having the gym already reserved; however, the major concern is the time factor needed to coordinate activities. Input from the committee will be discussed at December's business meeting

Annual Siena Council Christmas Party

The annual Christmas party will be on December 15th at 7:00 PM in St. Catherine's Community Room. If you will be bringing a child, it has been a custom for parents to send a gift that Santa can pass out.

The main course will be deep fried turkey with the trimmings. I am delighted to announce that the Kruger Family will be preparing the turkey and delicious dressing for this Christmas dinner. If you will be attending, it would be appreciated if you would bring a dish to pass to serve 10-12 people using the following guidelines:

Last name beginning with....
A-G Appetizers
H-O Salads/ Side Dishes
P-Z Desserts

There will be no alcoholic beverage, but there will be plenty of other refreshments. I am also delighted to announce that Steve and Sylvia Francois will once again be the main entertainment feature for the evening. Of course, I can't forget that good old Santa Claus will be a special guest of the night. Other fun things are also being planned for the evening. Please mark your calendars and planned on being at this holiday event. The more the merrier!

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Men's Retreat – Bellarmine Retreat Center – Barrington, Illinois

The October Men's Conference presented an opportunity for Catholic men to spend time with God in reflection. A second opportunity will be available on February 16th. It begins Friday evening and lasts through lunch on Sunday. This is a special weekend where you truly escape the daily grind and recharge your spiritual batteries. The facilities are beautiful, the food is great, and the time with God is insightful. For more information, please contact Hank Schmalen (847) 426-7326 or hschmal@comcast.net

Siena Council – Proposed 2007 Budget

The proposed annual budget is attached for your review and comments. The plan will be ratified at the December business meeting.

The Good of the Order

If you know of a Brother Knight or Brother's family member who is in need of our prayers, or an announcement you would like to see published in our Siena Post, please email the information to our website news@kofcsiena.org. for inclusion in the Council's next newsletter.

December Birthdays

SK Thomas Lewandowski	Phillip Kehoe
Ray Gerdes	SK Russell Bonfiglio
SK Henry Burmeister	SK Otto Nichols
Benjamin Newhouse	SK Alan Popp
Robert Noja	Larry Wika
Donald Skellie	Ray Zienty
Jeff Condon	SK Jerome Gilmore