



# THE SHIELD



Place  
Stamp  
Here

*Official Publication of Fr. James B. Heary, O.P. - Council 7239 Knights of Columbus*  
30191 Dequindre, Madison Heights, MI 48071 - (248) 588-3430 - [www.kofc7239.org](http://www.kofc7239.org)

VOLUME XXXI, NO. 2

FEBRUARY, 2016

## GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

*By Ron Thompson*

Brother Knights: I hope everyone is enjoying the delayed winter of 2016, just remember the Spring Season is right around the corner!!! I want to thank everyone who made it to our District meeting held at our council. We will be nominating delegates for the State Convention in May. Remember membership is the priority, "One new member per month per council". We were Star Council last year and we can be again. The Tootsie Roll drive will be in the spring too! We will need everyone's help to make it successful. More new members will be able to assist us with our works of charity.

## THANK YOU MEIJERS!

**A big thank you to Meijers in Madison Heights for their gift card to The Fr. Heary Council of the Knights of Columbus (also in Madison Heights) in the amount of \$1,000.00.**

The Meijers gift card was used to purchase items at Meijers. These items, which included clothing, food, basic necessities, etc. were distributed to over 300 developmentally disabled children and adults during the Christmas season. The items were distributed to the mentally impaired in Madison Heights and neighboring communities. Specifically, the Fr. James B. Heary Council #7239 purchased and individually wrapped Gifts that were distributed at the following places for the developmentally disabled:

**65 gifts for the Parents Who Care**  
**mentally impaired bowling league**  
**63 gifts for the Families Exploring DOWN Syndrome**  
**33 gifts for Edmonson School – ages birth to 4 years**  
**18 gifts for Simonds pre-primary impaired ages 5 to 10**  
**82 gifts for Lamphere/Page School – ages 11 to 26**  
**12 gifts for Sterling Heights Special Recreation**  
**30 gifts for Troy Friendship Club**

In addition, Christmas cakes were delivered to the north and south Macomb Skill Centers as well as the Cleave Home which houses developmentally disabled adults.

Thank you brother knights, families and friends for your commitment to give love and kindness to those in need. God bless you all.

**THANK YOU MEIJERS** – As you can see, you helped us serve and make many of the mentally impaired and their families have a happy and joyful Christmas.

## Program Director Report

*By Glain Guilmette, DGK*

Brother Knights, Happy Valentines Day, although it is only February I am asking all of our able bodied members to help with the MI drive in March. We especially need people to work the intersections .

Anyone wanting to help with the Coffee & Doughnuts or the Pancake Breakfast at St. Vincent please contact Jim Morrison at 248-585-2324 .

Those wishing to attend the Anniversary Dinner in April should get their reservations in to Norm Podgorski at 248-546-3730 ASAP so he can make the arrangements for the Hall. As of this time I don't believe there will be a Friday Night Dinner this month.

I am looking for someone to host a St. Patrick's Day Dinner in March, if anyone is interested please contact me at 586-419-4641 .

## CALENDAR FOR FUTURE EVENTS

**Monday, February 1, 2016**

**Building Corporation Meeting – 7:00 p.m.**

**Membership Meeting - 8:00 p.m.**

**Coffee & Donuts**

**Sunday, February 7, 2016**

**After 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Mass**

**Ladies Auxiliary Meeting**

**Thursday, February 11, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Pancake Breakfast - Sun., February 21, 2016**

**After 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Masses at St. Vincent**

**Shield Deadline: Sunday, Feb. 21, 2016**

**OFFICERS MEETING**

**Monday, February 29, 2016**

**7:30 p.m.**

## OFFICERS ROSTER

Sate Deputy: Robert W. Fox .....  
District Deputy: Harry Deneweth ..... 1-586-772-5463  
Chaplain .....  
Grand Knight: Ron Thompson ..... 248-398-7331  
Deputy GK: Glain C. Guilmette..... 586-419-4641  
Financial Sec'y.: Darren Gray, PGK ..... 248-302-8918  
Chancellor: Ron Bertolini ..... 248-399-9261  
Warden: Tony Szeliga ..... 248-399-3574  
Advocate: Lynn Figg, PGK ..... 586-202-9628  
Treasurer: James Morrison, PGK, FDD. 248-585-2324  
Recorder: Silvio Marchesi..... 586-757-0944

### GUARDS

Ernie Scheid ..... 248-544-2739  
Paul Halkey..... 248-398-7413  
Dave Tupiak..... 248-506-1550

### TRUSTEES

Donald Bessler, 2 Years ..... 248-548-1098  
Frank Meister, PGK, 3 Years..... 517-552-9514  
Duane McLaughlin, 1 year ..... 248-885-3153  
Program Director: Glain C. Guilmette..... 586-419-4641  
Membership Chairman: Ron Bertolini.... 248-399-9261  
Church Activities Director: Joe Miller.....248-399-0262  
Boysville Chair.: J. Turchin, PGK, FDD.. 248-547-0854  
Vocation Public Relation Director: .....  
Youth Director: Darren Gray, PGK ..... 248-302-8918

### Mentally Impaired Drive Chairmen

Joe Schanbeck, PGK, PFN ..... 248-379-9812  
Jim Morrison, PGK, FDD ..... 248-585-2324  
Norm Podgorski, PGK, FDD ..... 248-546-3730

### RIGHT-TO-LIFE CHAIRMAN

Jim Morrison, PGK, FDD ..... 248-585-2324

### THE SHIELD EDITOR

Silvio Marchesi ..... 586-757-0944

E-mail: scm04@wowway.biz

### FIELD INSURANCE AGENT

Tony Bliss ..... 248-224-4396

### AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Janice Polan ..... 248-585-1573

### BUILDING CORPORATION

R. Carlisle, *President*: C: 248-703-4136 248-585-8069  
Richard Witkowski, *Vice President*..... 248-546-0867  
Norm Podgorski, PGK, FDD, *Treasurer*... 248-546-3730

### Past Grand Knights in Order of Service

Mike Higgins  
John Claya  
Ron Ploskonka  
Daniel O'Connell  
H. Perrault  
Don Wesierski  
Frank Meister  
John Turchin  
James Malley  
Peter Kuester

James Morrison  
Joe Shanbeck  
Norm Podgorski  
Jacques Nixon  
Anthony Bliss  
Kenneth Podgorski  
Lynn Figg  
Darren Gray  
and  
Ron Thompson

## LADIES AUXILIARY

*By Janice Polan, President*

Our regular meeting will be on Thursday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m. Hostesses are Jean Witkowski and Helen Zolna. Please bring ideas for our birthday celebration, fundraisers, and the Mackinac Island Raffle for Holy Cross Childrens Services.

Thank you to Earlene and Marge for chairing our "adopt a family", Cindy Podgorski and her crew for chairing the Children's Christmas Party, and to Tony & Paula Bliss for being our Santa and Mrs. Claus for the Children. Your volunteer service is greatly appreciated.

Please keep the following Ladies and their families in your prayers - Earlene Carlisle (her brother-in-law was in an accident), Marge McLaughlin (her husband Duane was in the hospital), and Bernie Turchin (loss of her mother Helen Piana in late December and who was an active member of our Ladies Auxiliary, and for the loss of her sister-in-law in January). Remember to support the Knights at their Sunday breakfasts at St. Vincent and their Anniversary Dinner Dance in April. Reservations for the dinner can be made by contacting Norm Podgorski. (see details in the newsletter). Also, donated Raffle Prizes for the Dinner would be appreciated. Happy birthday to: MaryLou Stema (2/11), Cindy Podgorski (2/16), and Stefanie Olszewski (2/18). Sending wishes for a Happy St. Valentine's Day.

## ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

Brother Knights, Please remember to RSVP if you are planning on attending the 37th Anniversary Dinner on Saturday, April 23, 2016. Norm Podgorski needs to have a count soon and he is short on the number that he needs to be able to hold this date. If you are going, please RSVP to: NORM PODGORSKI at 248-546-3730, or normpod@wowway.com Sincerely, Darren Gray, Financial Secretary Council #7239.

### HER SPIRITUAL PROGNOSIS *By Geri L. Dreiling*

Divorce. . . cancer . . . soon to be an empty-nester: How one woman's faith is tested to the hilt "here's a lump," I heard my doctor say in August 2013. Before those words, I thought my life was getting back on track. After a protracted separation, my divorce was finalized; I'd taken a new job; my son was entering his freshman year of college; and my daughter was soon to be a junior in high school. In the time it takes to utter three small words, I went from a healthy woman to a breast-cancer patient. I tried to put on a brave face as I broke the news to my family. I tackled the new set of problems with cool efficiency. But during the dark, lonely hours of insomnia, my mind wandered — would I see my children graduate and get married? Would I meet my grandchildren?

It would seem natural to turn to God in those moments. And yet, I didn't. I was raised Catholic. As a little girl, my grandmother sprinkled me with holy water before bed. I attended a parochial grade school and a Catholic high school.

In my twenties, I carried the rosary made by my grandmother when I got married in a big church wedding. My children were baptized. When they were small, I quietly prayed before drifting off to sleep. But several events left me questioning blind faith. My marriage ended, and I was greatly disturbed by the priest abuse scandals. Although I longed for spiritual nourishment, as a divorced woman, I didn't feel welcome in the Church of my youth. At that point, God seemed hands — off in my life. My problems were my responsibility, not his. It was with that mindset that I entered an MRI machine for yet another test to assess the progress of the cancer. Fed into a cold, confining machine of light and noise, I was expected to remain completely still for thirty minutes. My heart raced; I felt buried alive; the urge to escape became overwhelming. The technician stopped the test to calm me. She said I had to find a way to get through it and sent me back into the machine. Half naked, lying on my stomach, there was only one thing I could think to do. I prayed. The rosary gave me strength. With each Hail Mary, the panic lessened. The more I prayed, the calmer I became. A year has passed since my life was turned upside down. Although I sacrificed part of my body, I was able to avoid radiation and chemotherapy. The cancer seems to be gone, and my prognosis is encouraging. With a brighter outlook, my approach to prayer also has undergone a transformation. Rather than a set of words or a request for divine favors, for me, prayer is a feeling of tremendous gratitude. In my darkest moments, prayer was a way to cope with an uncontrollable situation; a source of strength. Getting out of bed each morning and trying to make good use of my time is an act of faith in and of itself.

# Knights of Columbus "BENEFITS NEWS"

**April 15 - tax day** - is right around the corner. It's become popular this time of year to encourage the opening of an IRA or similar retirement annuity, or the depositing of additional funds into an existing account, as a tax savings vehicle. A secondary approach is to tout the rate of interest that money in one of these accounts can earn. Let me join the chorus of folks encouraging you to open or add funds to an annuity, but for a different reason.

Certainly, contributing money to a Knights of Columbus annuity will allow you to save some money on your income tax return. And our annuities do pay a very competitive interest rate, consistent with our primary goal of absolute safety of principal. Opening or adding to an annuity for these reasons, however, strikes me as taking a short-term view of a product that is designed to provide long-term security. How much security? **How does a retirement income that you cannot outlive – guaranteed – sound to you?**

Here at the Knights of Columbus, you can open a retirement annuity for as little as \$300. Consistent and disciplined savings placed into that annuity over time can guarantee you an income at retirement that you cannot outlive. That guarantee – along with the fact that no one has ever lost money left in a Knights of Columbus annuity (remember – **absolute safety of principal**), really will provide you with peace of mind.

I am happy to meet with you – at your convenience and in your home – to explain in detail the benefits of opening a Knights of Columbus annuity, along with the benefits of our top-rated life insurance and long term care insurance plans.

As you ponder all the things that may not work out as you proceed toward retirement, think about one thing you can do to help yourself – opening a Knights of Columbus annuity. It's reasonably priced (\$300 to start), guaranteed, and controlled by someone you trust – you!

**\*Receive a complete Family Needs Analysis at my expense.**

**Ask about our GUARANTEED LIFE INSURANCE, ANNUITIES,  
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**In Christ, Anthony Bliss FIC  
Knights of Columbus, Field Agent  
750 Pine Ridge Lane, Madison Heights, MI 48071 - 248-224-4396  
Email Anthony.Bliss@kofc.org**

## AN ADEQUATE RESPONSE!

*By Fr. Donald Willard, CSsR*

The Holy Spirit is often described as the bond of love that exists between the Father and the Son. The mutual self-donational and "self-communicative intimate bond between the Father and the Son is so perfect that perfect love exists between the two. Therefore, the Holy Spirit is the love between the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit is the third person in the Holy Trinity. The Holy Spirit is consubstantial with the Father and the Son. This divine mystery occurs because the goodness of God must be communicated and shared. But the Most Holy Trinity must communicate its goodness. This explains the existence of the whole of creation. It affords a place for the Most Holy Trinity to communicate its goodness and share God's divine life. We are then called into existence out of pure love. Humanity has the capacity to receive and enter into a relationship with divine love. We also have the capacity to communicate, share and love the Most Holy Trinity.

This is the call to holiness and wholeness in the life of every person, the call to respond to the love of God poured into our hearts. What is the right and adequate response to a God who would give himself to us-and even die — so we might know the depths of his mercy and love? There is only one proper response — the gift of self.

We give ourselves in loving service to the one who gave himself in loving service to us. Holiness is setting oneself aside for the purposes of God. We realize our lives are not our own. We have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ. And so, if we claim a relationship with him, we are bound to God and offer ourselves in service to our sisters and brothers, who are also the children of God. This service in love brings us wholeness at both a personal and communal level. When we allow the love of God into our lives, we can be healed from all our sins, the injuries other people may have inflicted upon us, and our selfish desires. This offers true freedom, which allows us to reach out to those in need, show them the love of God, and bring healing to their lives. In doing so, our pains begin to take on new meaning. The story doesn't end in pain, but rather, mutual healing. The result is a whole community in unity who can offer fitting thanksgiving and praise to show their love for God.

## PRAYER LIST

Valleria Alexander, Jerry Beauchamp, Mike Bliss, John Bliss, Bea Boutillier, Mike Briggs, Nan Brown, Ann Brunk, Bob Carlisle, Mark Carlisle, Betty Cookets, Gigi Cooper (LeRoy's daughter), Noah Cranston, Derek Dinkins, Ray Dulecki, Dee Figg, Barbara Fisher, Jodi Flynn, Wallis Flynn, Frederick Greaves, Mary Jane Guc, Russell Joyce, Eugene Kazmar, Ed Kanigowski, Cathy Krenzer, Catherine Lesniak, Aldo Marchesi, Chris McCoy, Roger McCoy, Sharon McCoy, Rachel McLaughlin, Catherine Meadows, Carol Miller, Barbara Olevenick, Ray Pasternak, Leona Peklo, Ed Poplawski, Judie Schanbeck, Patricia M. Scheid (Ernie's daughter-in-law), Marilyn Shaub, Mark Smith, Paul Sobas, Robert Stack, Lori Stack, Tyler Tupiak, Ann Tupiak, Lee Ventimiglia, Matt Ventimiglia, Ilene Wagely, Marian Welsh, Regis Welsh, Jean Witkowski. **And please pray for all of the men and women of our Armed Services. Also please prayer for the recently deceased: Royal Henrichs, Annette Terns and Helen Piana.**

**NOTE: Just a reminder. Please make sure to write names clearly so that I can add them correctly to the sick and deceased list.**

## Coffee & Donuts Pancake Breakfast

**Sunday, February 7  
will be Coffee & Donuts  
and Sunday, February 21  
will be the Pancake  
Breakfast.**

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

**07 Ralph Merkel  
08 Louis Longo II  
10 Joseph Marchesi  
10 Edward Novak  
10 Craig Massman  
13 Timothy Morton  
21 John Brehmer  
23 William Hughes  
24 Kevin Gruse  
25 Scott Wesierski**

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

**04 Mike Niemasz  
04 Peter Miles  
06 William Rearick  
08 Glain Guilmette  
10 Glain A. Guilmette  
22 Patrick Allen  
27 Richard King**

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## THE SHIELD - FEBRUARY, 2016

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Happy Birthday Ralph Merkel	<b>8</b> Happy Birthday Louis Longo, II	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Happy Birthday Joe Marchesi Edward Novak Craig Massman	<b>11</b> Happy Birthday MaryLou Stema	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Happy Birthday Tim Northon
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Happy Birthday Cindy Podgorski	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Happy Birthday Stephanie Olszewski	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Happy Birthday John Brehmer	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Happy Birthday William Hughes	<b>24</b> Happy Birthday Kevin Gruse	<b>25</b> Happy Birthday Scott Wesierski	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>					