



# The E-Knightlighter

The Official Publication of the Knights of Columbus, Msgr. James R. Jones Council  
3303 and Kenneth I. Parker Assembly 1820, New Bern, NC



## HAPPENINGS

- 4- Mon. Independence Day, NO Bingo in observance of Independence Day
- 5 - Tue. Council Business Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- 11- Mon. Bingo, Hall 6:00 P.M.
- 12- Tue. First Degree Exemplification Hall 8:00 P.M.
- 13- Wed. Assembly Business Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- 18- Mon. Bingo, Hall 6:00 P.M.
- 19 - Tue. Council Officers Installation Dinner.
- 25- Mon. Bingo, Hall 6:00 P.M.
- 26- Tue. Council Officers Meeting Hall 7:00 P.M.

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Pictured Front Center SK Monroe "Jack" McLacklan Pictured from left to right SK Greg Ciesielski - State Secretary, SK Danny Gennantonio - Faithful Pilot, SK Rich Tomasik - Faithful Captain, SK Lud Hartung, SK Kevin Blust, SK Jim Whetzel - Faithful Navigator

## Brother Knight Exemplified into 4<sup>th</sup> Degree

Brother Monroe "Jack" McLacklan was inducted into the 4th Degree during an Exemplification which took place at Croatan Assisted Living Community on Old Cherry Point Road, New Bern, NC . Now a Sir Knight, Jack has lived in the community for the last 11 years. His overwhelming desire to become a 4th Degree Knight was expressed to the Assembly's Faithful Navigator, Jim Whetzel. Jim contacted the District Master, who gave his approval to proceed with the planning and appointed the State Secretary to conduct the ceremony. Jim made the final arrangements for the exemplification. At 2:00 PM on Tuesday, 7 June 2011, Jack became a 4th Degree Knight in the Fr. Kenneth I. Parker Assembly #1820. As can be seen in the picture, Jack could not be more proud or happier about the ceremony. The beliefs he has for his God and the Knights of Columbus are truly inspiring. Refreshments including cake and pie were served following the exemplification. The staff at the community were very receptive and accommodating to Jacks' wishes. They made the event very special for Jack and the Knights that participated. - Faithful Captain, Rich T.

# Grand Knight Message

Brother All,

July begins the second year I have been honored to be elected to the position of Grand Knight for Monsignor James R. Jones Council 3303. Many Councils and Assemblies have chosen to use the two year schedule for officers and there are some very good reasons for doing so. The first year when a new Grand Knight comes into office the learning curve is rather steep. The first time you attend State and District meetings as the GK there is much to learn. I learn from all of them and from all of you in the Council at our meetings, socials and by working on projects with you. Sometimes the lesson learned may be that "I won't do that again" but each instance is beneficial to me. I appreciate your support and constructive comments.

Last year we increased our focus on charitable giving and it has been successful for us and I hope for the recipients of our gifts. We are currently in the midst of our 2011-2012 budget cycle and have been gathering data for all of our traditional revenue and expense numbers. We are also leveraging off of what we learned last year from our "Charitable Action Response Team" activity. We hope to improve in that area and how we budget for, and report, the results to our membership. We are doing a good job with our giving program. Given the economic environment we are experiencing, the need seems to be even greater for our Community and our Church. So this focus area will be a high priority for our resources.

We have some new officers, a new program chairman and a membership chairman who are attending the officers meeting to keep in step with what we are doing and how these areas can complement our goals for the Council. We have made some good strides in our kitchen facilities and the Kitchen Committee is working through what needs to be done to keep that momentum going. Vince Fragnito and Jim Dunham have both indicated that there is always room for more help in this area and welcome any Brothers to join them in making our facilities even better.

Lastly, we have agreed on July 19<sup>th</sup> as the date for the Council Officers Installation Dinner. We have secured the cooks and the setup team for getting us ready for this wonderful event. Look for more specific information at the next Council meeting, on email, and the phone tree. Please reserve the date to join us for this dinner. Thank you again for your support and I look forward to seeing you on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Vivat Jesus!  
GK Leo Minervini

## Deputy Grand Knight Message

My Fellow Knights,

I am honored to be your Deputy Grand Knight of Council 3303 for the fraternal year.

I never could have dreamed that buying a state raffle ticket and asking about the Knights of Columbus would have put me into this position. I remember right after taking my 1st Degree, then GK Richard Tomasik asked if I would be interested in taking the position of Program Director. I accepted the position even though I had not attended any meeting. But someone took the time to ask a new member to participate and I jumped in.

The following year I was elected to the Recorder position. I was asked if I would retain my Program Director duties and I agreed. So I guess what I am saying is let's get our new Brothers involved from day one and watch them grow in our organization.

I attended my first convention this year, and learned a lot about the Knights of Columbus, and all we do here in the United States and the world. This year's convention was on membership, and retention of members. With

that in mind, Brother Larry Spallanzani has volunteered his time and talent to help with our membership drive. He, along with John LaPointe and John Audilet, will make an excellent team. Larry has a lot of new ideas to achieve our membership goals. Carl Hammerle, our newest Knight, has also stepped up to the challenge and accepted the position of Program Director. I am sure he will do a fine job. I know our Brother Knights will assist him in his new assignment.

In closing, I would like you to go back and ask yourself why you joined the Knights of Columbus. I know why our new Chancellor Jerry Schill joined. He told all of us at our last meeting. He said I joined to be "the Protector of the Faith." Sounds good to me!

Vivat Jesus

DGK Patrick Rocco

## **July Knight of the Month - Mikie Casem**

Mikie graduated from Wheeling Jesuit University in W.Va. with a BA in English Literature and a double minor in Theology and Philosophy. In 1965, the same year he married Rita, he also began a 35 year Federal Career at the Library of Congress, but spent the entire time at the Thomas Jefferson Library. Mikie worked many projects during his library career, introducing many new computer operating systems that have eliminated forever the need for manual card catalogs in the library world.

Mikie's success was duly noted upon his retirement. The Librarian of Congress, James H. Bellington, presented Mikie with the Superior Service Award. This is the highest Civil Service award afforded to a federal employee.

Upon retiring, the Casem's moved to New Bern, where Mikie transferred from Council 2809 in Maryland, to Council 3303. He served as Membership Director for three years before becoming a Council Officer. In 2004, the Casem's were selected NC Knights of Columbus Family of the Year. In 2008, Mikie was elected Grand Knight and that year, New Bern won the Star Council Award from Supreme.

Today, Mikie is still very active as Chairman of the Charity Review Team, a member of the Council's Nominating Committee and a Council Trustee.

I would like to thank Mikie for all of his service for the Good of the Order. - DGK Patrick Rocco

## **Council Honors Loss of Three Brothers**

Within the span of just a few weeks, Council 3303 lost three of our beloved Brothers: Bernie Durkin, Larry Johnson and Ed Dudek. Each of these men exemplified true Knighthood in the way they lived.

Among his many volunteer activities, Bernie's fifteen years as an 8 a.m. Mass Server, on Fridays at Old St. Paul Church, stands out.

Larry's smiling face and countless hours of work in the electronics area for the Yard Sales will never be forgotten.

Ed's quiet life around his family in Fairfield Harbour demonstrated his charity at home.

Bernie and Larry were also Fourth Degree members of Fr. Parker Assembly 1820. Both men were honored by the Color Corps at their wakes and funerals.

As is our Order's tradition, these men and all deceased Knights are remembered daily at Mass at St. Mary's Church, birthplace of the Knights, in New haven, Conn. Let us also pray for all of our deceased Brothers. – Mikie Casem, PGK

## Sir Knight of the Month

In recognition of his many outstanding accomplishments and contributions, Sir Knight Joseph "Sandy" A. Stewart Jr., PFN is enthusiastically recognized as the Fr. Kenneth I. Parker Assembly Sir Knight of the Month.

Sir Knight Stewart presently holds the position of Faithful Admiral. He is also the Public Relations Chair, a link between the public and the Assembly. Through his work in this area, the Knights of Columbus have maintained high visibility in the community. Sandy also is a member of the Assembly's Yard Sale Committee, where decisions are made about sale dates, their frequency and general operations.

Sandy serves as an Usher and Eucharistic Minister at the 11:00 AM Mass on Sunday mornings at St. Paul Catholic Church. He is an avid supporter of St. Paul Catholic School, where he volunteers countless hours of time reading to the children. He is one of two professional advisors of The Knight News, which is the school newspaper.

His dedication to the Order, his Assembly, and his fellow Knights, along with his commitment to Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism make Sir Knight Joseph A. Stewart Jr. truly deserving of this award.  
F. Capt. Rich Tomasik



## Pro-Life Sign

Pro-Life Chairman Bart Spano and SK Jim Bottcher of Council #3303 New Bern erected the Pro-Life sign on US Highway 17 in Pollocksville. Highway 17 leads to Jacksonville, where an active abortion clinic is located. The mothers and their children, parishioners of St. Paul Catholic Church, were invited to stand with the sign to strengthen the message of a mother's love that preserves the value of life. – Bart Spano, Pro-Life Chairman

Pictured on Left: Debbie Audilet with children Baird, Margaret, Laura, and Barwick. Pictured on Right: Kelly Gear with children Rebecca, Benjamin, and Thomas

## Council Raises over \$4,700 for Teen Victim of a Drunk Driver

Council 3303 learned that a young teen parishioner, Lupita Corona, 17, daughter of Rosa and Gustavo Corona, was lying in a coma. She was a victim of a drunk driver, and as a result of this horrific situation the family was facing overwhelming financial needs. We then knew we had to do something. With the permission of Msgr. Lewis, members of our Council took up a special collection for Lupita, after all the Masses the weekend of June 11-12. The outpouring of generosity on the part of St. Paul parishioners was nothing short of wonderful. Thanks to the tremendous response to our solicitation, on behalf of Lupita, the Council was able to present a check to Rosa and Gustavo Corona for \$4,750. God bless each and everyone who helped make this project a huge success. – Mikie Casem, PGK

## From the Editor's Desk

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve our Council and Assembly as the editor of our monthly newsletter for the past four years. I have learned a lot during this time. My spelling has improved, my attention to detail has improved, and most of all I have learned so much more about my fellow Knights and all that they do.

As a teacher I have found that more and more of my time must be directed toward preparing the students in my classes to be better citizens, knowledgeable adults, and 21<sup>st</sup> century ready employees. I have also found that there are a large number of students willing to accept challenges that apply and expand their knowledge and help them build leadership skills. I have done my best to be there for my students. With the cuts in our educational budgets more will be required of my time if my students are to be prepared for adulthood.

It is for these reasons that I have asked our Grand Knight to find someone to take over the editor's duties of the Knightlighter. Our Council and Assembly have grown during my time as editor. We have introduced an e-mail version of the Knightlighter to help reduce printing and mailing cost. This year we further reduced those cost by creating an electronic version of the Knightlighter that comes out in the odd numbered months. I am proud of what our newsletter has become and I do not want to see it go backwards. With the demands on my time and energy I feel that the time is right for a change. – Mike Haynes, Editor

## Batter Up!

The Knights of Columbus have been asked to volunteer to man the concession stands for this year's S.E. Baseball Tournament for 10 year olds. The tournament will run from Thursday July 28 to Sunday July 31 and includes teams from NC, SC, FL, GA, TN, AL, VA and the Bahamas. Dr. Matt Smith, a St. Paul parishioner and coach of the New Bern All-Star team, won the tournament in Richmond last year. This is a first for a New Bern team. About half of the kids on Dr. Smith's All Star team are also on the St. Paul team that he coaches. He is one of the organizers for this year's tournament and has specifically asked for our help. This event will not only be great exposure for our city but also for the Knights of Columbus.

We have been asked to man the concession stands on Friday July 29<sup>th</sup> and Saturday July 30<sup>th</sup>, at Creekside Park from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in 3 hour shifts. Each shift will need 5 people, so I will need at least 40 Brothers to sign up. And yes, wives are encouraged to help!

Contact Jeff Ross by e-mail: [ecupir8s1@embarqmail.com](mailto:ecupir8s1@embarqmail.com) (preferred) or phone: 672-0063 with the following:

1. Name
2. Phone number
3. E-mail address
4. What day(s) and time slot(s)(9am-12pm, 12pm-3pm, 3pm-6pm, 6pm-9pm) you are available to help
5. An alternate day & time slot

The organizers and kids participating in the Tournament would really appreciate your help! It is a worthy cause, so please give a few hours of your time to the kids.

Jeff Ross - Youth Director