Knightly News

Knights of Columbus - St. Joseph Highland Creek **Winter 2009**

Council #11525

A Message from the Grand Knight

Dear Brothers,

It is indeed gratifying that the first half of the current fraternal year has been characterized by a flurry of productive activities.

It was heartening to welcome three new members to the Knights of Columbus. These members have demonstrated a great deal of interest and enthusiasm, and I am sure that they will add vibrancy to our Council. Let us continue this membership drive by encouraging eligible parishioners to join our Fraternity.

I am delighted to say that the Good of the Order segment of our meetings continues to be stimulating and informative, with outstanding presentations by Lawyer Clementina Costa-D'Aguiar and Sir Knight Paul Tuccitto.

All the activities were tremendously successful due to the unconditional efforts and support of an amazing cadre of Brother Knights and their spouses. Mel Rebeiro and Mark D'Silva should be commended for their work on the Life Chain and Roses for Life Campaigns respectively.

And let us not for get the outstanding way in which Charlie Travers conducted the Remembrance Day Ceremony. Everything was exquisitely executed. Similarly, Frank Taylor once again did a remarkable job with the Donor's Club Lottery Draw.

Let me say that our Fall Ball at the Qssis Banquet Hall was undoubtedly one of the best. It certainly received rave reviews. I would, therefore, like to thank the following Brothers and Sisters who made up the Fall Ball Committee for their valuable input and hard work: Paul and Mary Tuccitto, Socrates Furtado, Carlo Vacca, Mark d'Silva, Al Kiel, Phil and Winifred Martin, Frank Taylor, Francis Mendonca, John Frenandes, Dennis and Monica Meharchand, Vince Tuccitto, and David Belcastro. If I have left out any one please forgive me.

Nevertheless, I would be remiss if I did not extend a special word of thanks to Mary Tuccitto and Monica Meharchand who were responsible for the magnificent centre-pieces, and also to Winifred Martin for producing the programme sheets in a very professional and creative manner.

There is no doubt that the younger folk added a great deal of spark to our night's festivities. It was indeed a delight to see how well they blended in with the senior guests. All in all, the Banquet was a rollicking evening of festivities featuring the harmonious and rhythmic sounds of D. J. Mel.

On December 6, St. Joseph's Church was filled with high energy as our annual Church Cleaning Activity got underway with the expertise of David Belcastro as supervisor. Then on December 14, we were not only gratified by the Children's Christmas Party spearheaded once again by the tireless and extremely capable Tuccitto family (Paul, Vince, Mena and Mary), and Val Felix, but by Christmas Caroling led by the dedicated efforts of Tony Aitken, and our annual K of C Social, coordinated by the incomparable Carlo Vacca.

On Saturday, December 20 our flurry of activities culminated with a short Nativity Play by the Altar Servers and Youth Group. The entire performance was superb. The youngsters were led by Eric Pinto and Al Kiel, two very dedicated Knights.

I wish you and your families a happy and prosperous New Year.

Bro. Rupert Johnson
Grand Knight

Chaplain's Message

Finally, here we have another year; one has just past, another one has come. What will happen this year? Who knows...I think that all of us are full of fear, listening what is happening on the world. Financial problems, which effected many families, do not strike us optimism and uplift. Attacks on Holy Land also loom large shock and awe. Many things around are so upsetting but even so we must be optimistic. We have to trust God in those unsteady moments and He will surly help us. Therefore, dear brothers do not be afraid to trust God, give Him your troubles and problems. He will bless all of you in that New Year, so I also bless all of you.

Fr. Michal Jurkowski C.S.Sp
Chaplain

A Message from the Deputy Grand Knight

"I came that you may have and enjoy life and have it in abundance, until it overflows…" John 10:10

Dear Brother Knights,

The above scripture quote is very inspiring for this festive season. I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year and may

cont'd on p. 2

A Message from Deputy Grand Knight …cont'd from p.1

God's love, peace and happiness stay in your hearts and homes.

As we come to the end of 2008, I reflect on all the activities that we were involved, to support our worthy causes. I must thank all the various Directors for their whole hearted support in their respective areas. Despite your other commitments, many of you have spent valuable time and concerted efforts in making it possible to meet the deadlines. As a Deputy Grand Knight, I balanced my hectic work schedule with my other official commitments and drew strength and courage to contribute my best as I recalled ***Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."***

Looking back, we did spend considerable amount of time in personal evangelization and focused on activities for family and community. Respective Directors will elaborate further on their areas separately. Our endeavours to initiate and promote new projects, church activities, get new members and new innovative ideas are surely moving in the right direction… I know a lot still needs to be implemented and accomplished as we start the New Year and I am confident with your continued enthusiasm and endless zeal we will see all these activities through, as planned. As God continues to nurture and prune us, we will rise above many challenges and will strive our very best to help our less fortunate brothers in our community.

I look forward to you sharing your gifts, ideas and valuable time to serve our community.

Socrates Furtado
Deputy Grand Knight

A Message from our Church Director

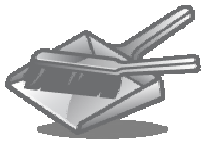
A New Year begins for us; a blessed and graced opportunity for some good work and some growth in perfection.

As Catholics and Knights we have added motives for wanting to grow in virtue and do good works, namely the benefit that it brings to others and the glory that it gives to God. These are our true badges of honour that will be deserving of respect forever.

On the other side of the coin, our doing good to others and our growing in virtue is a way of making up for misdeeds and omissions of the past. As Catholics we understand this, and as Knights we are given endless opportunities and occasions to fulfill our good intentions, collaborating with other like-minded men and women with families. If we as Knights do not have time to be involved may suggest saying the Rosary each day for the good of the Council and members in need, living and deceased. It is also a way of praying for vocations to the priesthood and to consecrated life. I would like to think that all this good and this growth in virtue will not only help our Council, but our parish as well.

So while 2009 doesn't appear to be special in any particular way, it can be special for any one of us and for all of us. Let us pray that our New Year's resolutions bear fruit and we all have a Blessed New Year.

Melville Rebeiro
Church Director



Church Cleaning Activity

Once again, the St. Joseph's Church was a beehive of activity on Saturday, December 6, 2008. Between the hours of 10 and 12 in the morning, an energized group of youngsters primarily from Cardinal Leger and St. Brendan Catholic elementary schools rallied to their cleaning task with a great deal of alacrity.

They certainly did an exquisite job in a relatively short time. The entire Church had a sparkling appearance at the conclusion of this amazing activity. Brother David Belcastro (the supervisor), Brother Manny Florio, and all the students should be commended for participating in this annual event.

Rupert Johnson
Grand Knight

It seems like just yesterday…

Any parent reading this will quickly come up with countless ways to complete that last sentence. The point is – time flies, and tomorrow will (has!) arrive quicker than expected. Will you be ready?

If you meet periodically with your professional Knights of Columbus agent, and address the needs that his analysis uncovers, the answer – at least financially – will be 'Yes.' During that visit, I will take the time to review your needs, goals and budget, and recommend a program of life insurance, long term care insurance and guaranteed income annuities that will help you rest easy at night.

Paying for college for your children may be one of your family's current needs. Or you may be concerned about a comfortable, worry-free retirement. Or about needing costly long-term care that could deplete your hard-earned assets. Or about having something to leave for your children or grandchildren.

Whatever your needs, whatever your concerns, I can help. I will be calling you shortly to set up a mutually convenient date and time for us to meet. I take this opportunity to wish you all the Compliments of the Season and Health and Happiness in the New Year 2009.

If you wish you could always call me for an early appointment my number is 416-284-5632 (KOFC) or send me an e-mail to donkofc@sympatico.ca
Don D'Souza
Insurance Agent

Christmas Carolling at St. Joseph's Church

What a turnout it was on Sunday, December 14th at the annual Christmas carolling at St. Joseph's Church. It was the best turnout ever with over 70 carollers raising their voices to entertain the residents of the Extendicare Nursing Home, the Altamount Nursing Home and the Tony Stacey Centre.

After the entertaining, the carollers returned to the church hall for more carolling and lots of goodies and pizza. Very welcome hot cocoa awaited everyone, thanks to Margaret Wilton.

Thank you to all the carollers for coming out to make this event so joyous and entertaining. Special thanks to Tony Aikens for being the MC for the whole evening and leading everyone in the joyful singing.

St. Joseph's Family Christmas Party

Paul, Vince and Mena Tuccitto organized the annual Christmas party for over 60 needy families in the church hall on Sunday, December 14th.

What a great party it was, with lots of food for everyone. Santa arrived to hand out gifts to all the boys and girls in attendance. He stayed to have his photo taken with all the children.

The Tuccittos did a wonderful job buying all the presents and organizing the whole event. Imagine buying gifts for over 60 children! The time and effort put in by the Tuccittos was very much appreciated by all the people who attended the joyful party.

Proceeds from the Knights of Columbus dance held a few weeks earlier helped pay the costs of the party.

Denis Bulman

Report from Our Director of Youth

During the last quarter of 2008, the Altar Servers Ministry had 12 of its servers recognized for their dedication and commitment by the Serra Clubs of Toronto, and were awarded the Cardinal Carter Medallion for their services. The ceremony took place at St. Paul's Basilica, Toronto on October 11, 2008. A training session was also held for new altar servers on October 18 and eight more altar servers were welcomed to the Ministry.

On October 4, St. Joseph's Youth Group played host to a walkathon organized by the Scarborough Region Youth Groups. About 27 youth participated in the walk which started at St. Barnabas Church and ended at St. Thomas More Parish with celebration of mass. St. Joseph's Parish provided pizza and light refreshments for the walkers during their brief stop over around 2 p.m. and Fr. Edwin Gonsalves led the group in Benediction and Adoration in our church.

The Knights of Columbus Fall Ball held at Qssis Banquet Hall on November 28, attracted eight of our youth members who booked an entire table. They assisted with the sale of raffle tickets and silent auction, and later let themselves loose on the dancing floor, thoroughly enjoyng the evening and the music.

A few of our youth also joined other parishioners in Carol singing on December 14. This was a busy time for the youth who had exams and could not come out in greater numbers.

Meanwhile, in the true spirit of Christmas, the little children of St. Joseph's and the altar servers, supported by the Youth Group staged a Nativity Play in the Church Hall on December 20, 2008 after the 5 p.m. mass. The play was a great success and enjoyed by all. A good attendance was recorded and those present were treated to light snacks and refreshments afterward.

The highlight to this quarter was the recruitment of two brothers, Jason the Youth President and his brother James to the Knights of Columbus. They joined the Council recently and have already acquired their First, Second and Third Degrees. We look forward to their active participation as Brother Knights.

Finally, I would like to thank Our Grand Knight, Rupert Johnson and all other Brothers for the encouragement and support that I received in promoting the Youth Ministry to greater heights. We look forward to expansion of our membership and programs in 2009, for the benefit of our youth.

Eric Pinto
Director of Youth

Remembrance Day

For a short service, many people have to be thanked. Behind the scenes was Joanne Cline getting everything ready and Manny Florio was cuing the CDs.

Those on parade were the Knights of Columbus Honour Guard, Veterans Ray Rivet and George Ahee, Military personnel and Cadets Jonathan Lee, Michelle and Caroline D'Sousa, Guide Jessica Giggie.

One of the readers was a decorated veteran.

The choir had an appropriate selection of music including the Navy hymn, and a most beautiful rendition of "Abide with me" that brought applause from the congregation, a most unusual response during a Mass.

New this year in our service was the eleven bell chimes to herald a moment's silence at eleven o'clock. We will include that next year.

Some further changes are anticipated for next year's service, to keep this day, a day of remembrance.

Charlie Travers

Message for the New Year 2009

By the time this message gets printed, we will have gone through the holy season of Advent, celebrated Christmas and brought in the New Year 2009. In retrospect, therefore, it is pertinent to reflect briefly what Advent is. In Advent, we come to the amazing realization that God calls us like He called John the Baptist to point out to the Messiah in all the places we live. Advent in short expresses the complexity of the world - yearning for the light, needing the straight path, waiting for what some may consider as unreasonable expectation of goodness. As an Advent people, we are called by God to testify to the ***LIGHT.*** We have a share in making the twisted ways straight, and every time we gather as God's people, such as our monthly general meetings and joining our brothers and sisters at the Lord's banquet table, God's love is received in us, God's grace is strengthened in us, and we do reflect God's marvelous light in the darkness of the world.

As we continue our faith journey responding positively and in humility to "GOD'S CALL" in whatever capacity or function we are committed to serve our Council 11525, I would humbly suggest that we keep before us the following excerpts from the sacred writings I came across sometime back:

- Mend a quarrel -seek out a forgotten friend.
- Share some treasure.
- Give a soft answer.
- Encourage a young person.
- Keep a promise.
- Find the time - forgive the enemy- listen.
- Apologize; say sorry if you were wrong.
- Think first of someone else.
- Be kind and gentle - laugh a little, laugh a little more.
- Express your gratitude.
- Gladden the heart of a child.
- Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth.
- Speak your love- speak it again – speak it little more.
- Wish you all Brother Knights Compliments of the Season, and a Happy and hope-filled New Year 2009.

John Fernandes
Lecturer

A Message from the Community Director

Our fraternal year is now half over and we have accomplished some of our goals. The Roses for Life campaign raised $500 on the weekend of October 4 for Rosalie Hall. I will take this opportunity to thank all the brothers who volunteered to sell roses, as well as those who bought roses. Rosalie Hall is well known in the community and we exceeded our expectations.

In future we can look forward to the Knights Basketball Free Throw competition at Cardinal Leger Catholic School. Three parish schools will be participating: St. Domenic Savio, St. Brendan and Cardinal Leger. Last year was a lot of fun, and I'm sure we will have a great time this year.

The Highland Creek Heritage Day Festival will be on the weekend of June 20. Once again, Charlie Travers will be organizing our participation in the parade. The theme he has chosen is the Four Seasons. St. Joseph's is one of the largest groups involved in the festival and we always welcome more people.

If you have not been apart of any of these activities before, please don't let that hold you back. This is our parish and our neighbourhoods, so come out and get involved. God bless and remember your talents only multiply when you use them.

Vivat Jesus
Mark D'Silva Community Director

Calendar of Events 2009

January	
Thu 8, 7:30p.m.	Executive Meeting (Board Room)
Thu 15, 7:30p.m.	General Meeting (Room 2)
Thu 22, 4p.m.	Basketball Free Throw at Cardinal Leger (Council Level)
Februarry	
Thu 5, 7:30p.m.	Executive Meeting (Board Room)
Thu 12	Audit is Due (Jul-Dec 2008)
Thu 19, 7:30p.m.	General Meeting (Room 2)
TBA	Basketball Free Throw (DistLevel)
March	
Thu 5, 7:30p.m.	Executive Meeting (Board Room)
Thu 19, 7:30p.m.	General Meeting (Room 2)
April	
Thu 2, 7:30p.m.	Executive Meeting (Board Room)
Thu 16, 7:30p.m.	General Meeting (Room 2)
May	
Thu 7, 7:30p.m.	Executive Meeting (Board Room)
Sat 9	Spring Fundraising Event (Hall)
Sat 16-Mon 18	State Convention
Sun 17	Car Raffle Draw
Thu 21, 7:30p.m.	General Meeting (Elections Rm 2)
Sat 30	Manresa Garden Project
June	
Thu 4, 7:30p.m.	Executive Meeting (Board Room)
Thu 18, 7p.m.	Awds & Appreciation Dinner(Hall)
Sat 20	Heritage Day Parade
Sun 28, 1p.m.	Parish Picnic—Adams Park