



The Courier

Fr. Finley Council #4374 newsletter



March 2008

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Time to Tootsie Roll ...

What started in 1970 by the Illinois State Council of the Knights of Columbus continues. The final two weekends of April will be devoted to raising money for the intellectually disabled.

Our Council's goal this year is to raise \$7,000 and that's a lot of Tootsie Rolls! We will call all able-bodied members and ask them and their spouses to participate in this event and invest a couple of hours.

We have nine churches and four retail establishments that will be targeted. Remember, unlike many nonprofit fundraisers, we use all volunteer labor: 100 percent of the profit (money raised less cost of Tootsie Rolls) goes to the intellectually disabled. (Only 20 percent of the Salvation Army bell ringing hours are staffed by volunteers!)

Please call Joe Peisert at (651) 738-2219 or via e-mail at peisert@aol.com.

A Knight in China: Spilman sends greetings from Far East to East Side

Brother Knight Jerod Spilman is currently teaching English at a private school in China. In February, he shared information about some aspects of his life there via e-mail message.


"I have been a member of the 4374 KC Council since 2001. Currently, I'm teaching at a private school called Dell English International.

In China, they use little housing insulation. To prevent fires, a majority of the houses are made of concrete. To keep warm, I wear up to five layers of clothes including two sets of longjohns, sweaters, sweatshirts, etc. The problem is when I wash my clothes, it takes two days to dry when it is so cold. The Chinese don't own dryers and neither do I.

In February, we have had problems with electricity, heat, etc. The worst snow in almost 50 years has hit southern China this past week and the focus has been on basic survival.

Here are some photos that are from Christmas. They were taken in the South Cathedral in Beijing. One is of the Nativity scene and another is of a very exuberant parishioner jumping to receive candy from Santa Klaus."

Coming events

- March 30 Pancake Breakfast
Transfiguration Church
- April 1 Council meeting
Transfiguration School 
- April 19 Tootsie Roll Drive
Need lots of help April 19 and 20.
- April 26 Tootsie Roll Drive
Need lots of help April 26 and 27.
Contact Joe Peisert at (651) 738-2219.
- May 4 Pancake Breakfast
To assist Transfiguration youth.

Happy Easter!

He is risen! Happy Easter to you and your families. Let's be sure to celebrate and give thanks to God for these 50 days of Easter until Pentecost.





Grand Knight's message ...

Brothers,

As part of my duties as Grand Knight, I am required to submit documents to Supreme and State that recap the activities of our Council.

I have recently submitted the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity for 2007. Without boring you with the details, I would like to touch on the two biggest items: time and money. Last year your council donated **\$20,000** to charitable causes and dedicated more than **6,000** volunteer hours to serving our fellow man!

I am honored to be associated with a group of men who put their faith in action. Thanks Brothers, for all you do!

If you are unable to participate in our activities I would ask that you pray for the Knights of Columbus, that we may grow in our good works and fraternity.

Vivat Jesus!

Greg Mencke, Grand Knight



Standing in single-digit temperatures, yet with big hearts, KC members John Florin, Joe Peisert, Greg Mencke and Marie (with baby) and James H. joined the Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life rally on the Capitol steps Jan. 22 – the anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade abortion decision. Our #4374 distributed 300 (frozen) Tootsie Rolls within a short time to a few of the thousands at the rally. Photo by Brian Gibson.

March birthdays

- March 3 Theodore Zarembski
- March 4 Rev. Joseph Andrade
- March 5 Keith Stuttgart
- March 9 John Cotroneo
- March 10 Matthew Tacheny
- March 11 Leo Gau
Daniel Elm
- March 12 Dion Scott
- March 16 Brian Uphus
- March 21 Kenneth Chevrette
- March 22 Jay Humsey
- March 24 Donald Elm PGK
Lyle Fischer
Charles Knapp
- March 28 Thomas Fitzgibbon
- March 30 Francis Mikesh PGK
Leo Pierre
Gerald Lowe



April birthdays

- April 2 Paul Schmokel
- April 3 Steve Laubach
- April 5 Robert Deck
Steven Macalus
- April 6 Ronald Mc Guire
Todd Hanrahan
Eric Wagner
- April 10 Duane Verness
- April 11 Michael Damiani
- April 13 Lee Mann
James H.
- April 15 Edward Vasey
Charles Mathna
- April 16 Shawn Jensen
- April 17 Frederick Gorka
- April 18 Russell Roering
- April 19 Thomas Shields
- April 19 Angelo Rulli
- April 20 Rev. Shaji Pazhukkathara
- April 21 Edward Tacheny
- April 24 Paul Zwicky PGK
Kenneth Dines



'Forty Days for Life' effort at Regions



Fr. Finley Knights, their family members and some Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver gathered at Regions Hospital to pray during the Twin Cities "Forty Days for Life" effort. The group met five times outside the hospital and prayed all decades of the Rosary for an end to abortion. The group ranged in size from nine to 17 people and in age from 18 to 83.

Regions Hospital, owned by Health Partners, committed 829 abortions in 2006 and trains doctors to perform abortions. Health Partners' insurance pays for the abortions.

The "40 Days for Life" goal was to give witness and to pray that, with God's help, this campaign will help end abortion here and across the nation. The campaign ended with a prayer rally on March 15.

Thanks to all who participated in this campaign of witness, prayer and fasting.



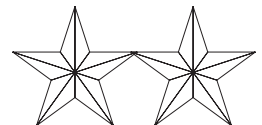
Stellar performance: Council reaches 'Double Star' status

We did it! Fr. Finley Council 4374 officially made "Double Star Council" for this year and it isn't even over yet. Congratulations goes out to all of you for this rare distinction; there was only one "Double Star Council" in the whole state last year. For "Double Star" a council needs to meet all of the normal criteria and meet or exceed 200 percent of new membership recruitment. We did that, and then some! We have a great team with Fr. Finley and it's just going to get better!

Do you listen to Relevant Radio? This Catholic radio station is on the dial at 1330 AM and is the only all Catholic radio station in Minnesota (actually the only one that I am aware of). The KC Twin Cities Insurance arm purchased membership recruiting spots on the air and has become a proud sponsor of this venue supporting our faith. Check it out!

Lastly, did you know that the Knights of Columbus are the only insurance company that will insure ANY child regardless of health? We are also the only company that insures the unborn. If you would like information about this and the other benefits of Knighthood, give me a call at (952) 686-7720.

– Lloyd Cybart, Field Agent



'Pennies for Seminarians' on a roll

Keep those pennies rolling in. The council's goal this year for "Pennies for Seminarians" is \$1,000 and we are already at \$700. Every penny does count. Way to go!

Lenten 'swear jar' challenge ends

For those of you who took the Grand Knight's Lenten challenge to put a \$1 in a "swear jar" during Lent please send a check (made out to "Knights of Columbus #4374") to Greg Mencke at 2135 Margaret Street, St. Paul, MN 55119-3923.

This money will go towards the council's "Pennies for Seminarians." Thanks for putting your money where your mouth wasn't meant to be.



Fr. Curtis Wehmeyer was on hand to witness the council's First Degree practice in January at Blessed Sacrament Church basement. After the practice, he showed them some recent church renovations. In back: James H., Greg Mencke, Mike Braun, Eric Coad, Ken Chevrette. In front: Joe Peisert, John Florin, Fr. Wehmeyer, Lee Martin and Ray Bennett.

Council conducts first 'First Degree'

The Council conducted its first First Degree ceremony March 4 at Transfiguration. Congratulations to the First Degree team and to the three new members who completed the degree:

- John Moy – Blessed Sacrament
- David Houle – St. Agnes
- Greg Auge – St. Casmir

Stay active, take on a challenge

Been awhile since you've been helping out at a KC event? Whether you are a new member or a seasoned member, remember, it is always good to take on a challenge, learn new skills and meet new people.

As KC events arise, let's try to challenge ourselves to participate in whatever way we can to ensure we are helping our community.



An example of this was the March 2 breakfast at Blessed Sacrament, Mike Schilling asked Pierre and Nancy Dalton to work the grills. This was the first time Pierre has worked a pancake grill in his 23 years with the Knights. Usually, Pierre and Nancy work the dining area like pros. They did a great job that day and they also worked part of the time on the pancake grill for the March 9 Pancake Breakfast at Transfiguration.

March 2008 Family of the Month Dave and Lisa Vang

The Vang family are members at Presentation Catholic Church. Dave recently reinstated his membership in the Knights of Columbus by joining the Father Finley Council. The Vang's have two children, Jacob 20 and Katie 17. Jacob is also a member of the Father Finley Council.

The Vang family is very involved in the church and the community. For ten years, the Vang's have been helped unwed mothers by letting them stay in their home until they can get back on their feet.

Dave assists the Presentation Parish Administration and Finance Committee and helps with the confirmation faith formation program. The Vang family has been helpful with the Presentation Parish Festival and the Knights of Columbus pancake breakfasts. Lisa works at Twin Cities TEC (To Encounter Christ) – a Catholic ministry that conducts retreats to help youth and adults grow in their faith. Dave is the Chairman of Finance at the University of St. Thomas.



February 2008 Family of the Month Ralph and Lynn Pierre

The Pierre family are members at Transfiguration Catholic Church. Ralph works with the confirmation faith formation program at Transfiguration. Ralph is also active in the Father Finley Knights of Columbus helping out at several different events.

Both Ralph and Lynn are very active in Twin Cities TEC (To Encounter Christ) – a Catholic ministry that conducts retreats to help youth and adults grow in their faith.

They have worked with TEC for three years and perform an outstanding job of evangelizing to youth.

Ralph and Lynn have three children: Katie, 28; Dominic, 25; and Bekah, 18. All three children are active in the TEC program and help other young people to grow in their knowledge of the Catholic faith.



'That's what it's all about ...'

Fr. Shaji and fellow Knights, Mike Braun, Greg Mencke, Mike Schilling and Ken Chevrette led the group Feb. 16 at Ray-J's with an animated version of "The Hokey Pokey."

Valentine event a singing success

There was plenty of laughs and good company as 19 couples and other friends enjoyed an evening out on Feb. 16 with their fellow spouses and fellow knights. The catered food was wonderful and the karaoke singing was what one would expect: a lot of fun to watch and participate in ... with a few off notes.

Almost all attendees were up singing songs from all genres ... even the Big Bopper and Sonny and Cher showed up.

Overall, it was a wonderful way to get couples out together for a fun-filled evening that ended with new friendships and good memories.



Fr. Finley's Web site to be resurrected online

Keeping with the Easter theme, the council will "resurrect" its Web site within the next month to help educate visitors about our work and future plans.

The site will help market the council. It will explain what we do, show how Fr. Finely Council assists the community and invite new members to join our ranks. Thanks to Kou Ly and John Florin for taking the lead to get us back online.

Transfiguration Pancake Breakfast March 9



There were many smiles and more than 185 vounteer hours as the council hosted a pancake breakfast for the Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver nuns March 9 at Transfiguration gym. Above are members of the Wolfgram family, Sister Genevieve from the MSSPC, and Evan and Angela Florin.



Mike Braun, John Florin and Kevin Bachmeier helped raise funds the Missionary Sisters will donate to build a church in India.



Keith Stuttgen hands a plate to Arne Kaiser and members of the Wolfgram family as Tim Zylla works the grill with Mike Schilling, Lee Martin and Pierre Dalton.



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Lecturer	Jim Hurt	
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2-year Trustee	Ken Chevrette	(651) 735-0951
3-year Trustee	Ed Tacheny	(651) 777-8287

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Respect Life	Arnold Kaiser	(651) 735-9245
Vocations	Joe Peisert	(651) 738-2219
Public Relations	John Florin	(651) 773-4970

Good of the Order: Pray for these KC's and their families

Shirley Beaulieu	Vearl Johnson
Melissa Bennett	Audrey Knudsen
Walter Buck	Bill Krammer Family
Charles and Lorraine Camitsch	Tony and Barbara Levato
Andrea Davis	John Mortensen
Art and Dorothy DeChene	Howard and Geraldine Muraski
Bill Dwyer	Marie Pirri
Rev. Jerry Fenton	Fred Ranallo
Lois Glauadel	Richard Ryan
Tim Hanson Family	Ann Sandberg
Rick Hill	Thomas and Sue Schilling
David Houle	Robert Sett
Stan Jambor	Richard Tacheny
Tom Johnsen Family	Marion Yelle
Doris Johnson	

Prayer for the Canonization of Father Michael J. McGivney

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body, which is the Church.

Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify your servant Father Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request) ... through Christ our Lord, Amen. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.