Grand Knight’s Report

My wife will tell you that I would much rather do something than talk about it. Well, we have a chance, as a Council, to do something for a worthy cause, Special Olympics of Iowa. On June 7th at 10:00 am at the Des Moines International Airport, your State Council is sponsoring a plane pull. Teams of twenty people will race to see which team and pull a plane twelve feet. There are four categories: civic, high school, public safety and open. In order for a team to compete, they must raise $1,000. If we can find twenty interested Knights, I would propose that we use $500 of the Grand Knight's discretionary fund and team member donates or raises at least $25 per member. All of the fundraising can be done on-line. This sounds like a fun way to get some of our younger members involved. Please let me know if you are interested.

A local opportunity to help persons with intellectual disabilities will take place on May 3. We will be holding our annual spring Tootsie Roll drive at local grocery stores. We will be at both HyVee and Fareway stores. If you can help for an hour or two it would be appreciated. Once again, let me know if you are available.

A bit of the Irish in closing

May God be with you and bless you.
May you see your children's children.
May you be poor in misfortune, rich in blessings.
May you know nothing but happiness.
From this day forward.

Vivat Jesus,

Todd Clancy
Regina Coeli - an excerpt from Pope Francis on April 21st.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Good morning!

Happy Easter! “Cristòs anèsti! — Alethòs anèsti!”, “Christ is risen! — He is risen indeed!”. He is among us, here, in the Square! This week we can continue to exchange Easter greetings, as though it were one single day. It is the great day which the Lord has made.

The dominant sentiment that shines forth from the Gospel accounts of the Resurrection is joy full of wonder, but a great wonder! Joy that comes from within! And in the Liturgy we relive the state of mind of the disciples over the news which the women had brought: Jesus is Risen! We have seen him!

Let us allow this experience which is inscribed in the Gospel also to be imprinted in our hearts and shine forth from our lives. Let us allow the joyous wonder of Easter Sunday to shine forth in our thoughts, glances, behaviour, gestures and words…. If only we were so luminous! But this is not just cosmetic! It comes from within, from a heart immersed in the source of this joy, like that of Mary Magdalene, who wept over the loss of her Lord and could hardly believe her eyes seeing him Risen.

Whoever experiences this becomes a witness of the Resurrection, for in a certain sense he himself has risen, she herself has risen. He or she is then capable of carrying a “ray” of light of the Risen One into various situations: to those that are happy, making them more beautiful by preserving them from egoism; to those that are painful, bringing serenity and hope.

Over the course of this week it will do us good to take up the Book of the Gospel and read those chapters which speak about Jesus’ Resurrection. It will really do us good! To take up the Book, look for the chapter and read it. It will also benefit us this week to think about the joy of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Just as her pain was intimate enough to pierce her soul, so too her joy was also intimate and deep, and the disciples were able to draw from it. Having passed through the experience of the death and Resurrection of her Son, seen in faith as the supreme expression of God’s love, Mary’s heart became a font of peace, consolation, hope and mercy. All of the prerogatives of our Mother derive from this, from her participation Jesus’ Paschal Mystery. From Friday until Sunday morning she did not lose hope: we contemplated the sorrowful Mother but, at the same time, the Mother full of hope. She, who is the Mother of all of the disciples, the Mother of the Church, is the Mother of hope.

Let us ask her, the silent witness of the death and Resurrection of Jesus, to introduce us into Paschal joy. We will do so by reciting the Regina Caeli, which at Easter time replaces the prayer of the Angelus.

Chaplain's Report

Dear Brother Knights:

I’m writing this three days after the joyful celebration of the canonizations of Popes John XXIII and John Paul II. The month of May is one traditionally observed in the church as a time to reflect on the person and role of Mary, the Mother of Jesus and Mother of God, in our individual life and in the life of the church. Both popes had a strong devotion to Mary. It is said that Saint John XXIII prayed the entire (in those days) 15 decades of the rosary daily. Saint John Paul II’s devotion is well known. On October 11, 2002, then Pope John Paul II issued “The Rosary of the Virgin Mary.” As Knights we are strongly encouraged to pray the rosary daily. If this is not possible, perhaps we can spread a rosary over the course of a week. I leave you with these words of Saint Pope John Paul II from his exhortation on the rosary.

“Although the repeated Hail Mary is addressed directly to Mary, it is to Jesus that the act of love is ultimately directed, with her and through her. The repetition is nourished by the desire to be conformed ever more completely to Christ, the true program of the Christian life. …The rosary helps us to be conformed ever more closely to Christ until we attain true holiness.

Confidently take up the rosary once again.”

In the Lord,
Father Jim Secora
**Only Having Insurance “Through Work” Doesn’t Work**

Do you know anyone whose life or career has drastically changed during these years of economic downturn? It’s very likely that someone in your immediate or extended family or group of friends is facing financial uncertainty. Maybe there’s a possibility that you (or your spouse) could lose your job or change employers.

Too many people have often relied on group term life insurance as their only safety net. Often, this insurance is an employee benefit provided at low or no cost. The existence of this coverage might convince someone that personally-owned life insurance is not necessary.

But only having “through work” insurance can leave you and your family vulnerable. Most group life insurance policies are limited in amount, which may be tied to salary or some other benchmark. These numbers are often capped, and this cap may be dangerously low when compared to your family’s actual needs. In fact, a detailed needs analysis that evaluates your specific situation, will likely show that any employer-provided coverage falls short.

In addition, the amount of group insurance offered is almost always reduced, sometimes dramatically, when you retire. You could one day find yourself without coverage, and if your health has changed (which it will as you age), you might also find yourself unable to secure individual protection. At the very least, it will definitely be more expensive.

While group life insurance can help, it does not replace the need for individually owned life insurance. I’ll be happy to meet with you and provide a no-cost needs analysis, so you’ll know exactly where you stand.

In Christ,

Charles Stastny
515-344-0962

[Charles.Stastny@kofc.org](mailto:Charles.Stastny@kofc.org)

**News and Notes:**

**Monday Evenings**

Don't forget to join your brother Knights on Monday evenings. They lead a rosary in the Burke Chapel at 7:30 PM.

**Chapter History**

Last month I told you about the replica charter we received. Now our historian has completed a Power Point presentation on the history of our Council. We will show this at our May meeting. Thanks to Dan Konrady for overseeing this project.

**Christ Our Life Conference**

The 2014 Christ Our Life Conference will be September 20-21 at the Wells Fargo Center in Des Moines, Iowa. The featured speaker will be Cardinal Timothy Dolan. Please consider attending this exciting event.

**Council 2230 Shirts**

We have a selection of polo shirts available for sale. We have a variety of sizes and they are royal blue or gray. Cost is $20. Please contact Todd Clancy if you are interested.

**Spring Tootsie Roll Drive**

This year we will be assisting The Arc with their spring Tootsie Roll Drive. We will also be adding a fourth grocery store this year. We will be working at both Hy-Vees and Fareways on May 10th. We will have a signup sheet at the May meeting and I will send an email reminder later in April. Thanks for your willingness to volunteer.

**2014 Special Olympics**

The 2014 State Summer Special Olympics will be in Ames on May 22-24. This event will attract nearly 3,000 athletes to Ames. Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities.
This newsletter is also available on-line:
Council 2230: www.stciciliaparish.org/ameskoc/  
State: www.iowakofc.org

This newsletter is written and published for the members of the Knights of Columbus, Ames Council – 2230. Father Michael J. McGivney and a handful of laymen founded it in New Haven, Connecticut, in the basement of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in 1882. Today the Knights of Columbus is the world’s largest organization of Catholic men and their families. Along with providing financial support for families through insurance, the Knights of Columbus provides support within the Church for programs of evangelization and Catholic education, and for civic involvement and aid to those in need.