

SANTA MARIA

FAIRBORN COUNCIL #3724

KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS

Star Council 2012-2013, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016

FRATERNAL YEAR 2017-2018 CHARTERED IN OCTOBER 1953 Jan 2020

Grand Knight's Corner

My fellow Knights, are you ready? 2020 is here, not only a new year but a new decade. This is not going to be a push for you to purchase life insurance although our worthy agent would probably like me to do so. 2019 did see your council absorb some significant losses so it would not be a bad idea to perform a personal are you ready status spiritually and financially. I honestly don't know if I'm ready, for whatever 2020 has in the wings for my life or our council journey. It's an interesting question, is it ever possible to be ready, after all life is what happens when we make other plans right?

The curtain has closed on 2019 and for me the first of the year is always a good time to look at my financial status, taxes are coming up, my escrow account always seems to get rebalanced. We are halfway through the fraternal year and council audits are due. It's also a good time to look at choices I have made last year, not all worked out for the best, I've fought sickness, discontent and apathy in ways I've never had to fight before. We have lost brothers and friends and even family; some we were unprepared for. Some of my choices have been good ones, I bought a house, started a new job, and I adopted a canine companion. He's a rescue and a bit on the scruffy side, but he is a loyal little dude and we have managed to establish a friendship after a brief period of détente.

You all know from prior letters that I am not a fan of resolutions, I don't make them because I just get depressed if I don't achieve them but I do believe I was moderately successful in my intent to concentrate on the small blessings I talked about last year. I've bought a cup of coffee for police officers; I've yielded a lane when I was in my rights to stay. I have also received blessings this year. One of those blessings happened right at the Christmas Eve mass. Grief for many things was weighing heavily upon me, and I could not understand why? After all the church was festively decorated, the choir was singing the pre mass songs and they sounded good, but the overwhelming sadness that came upon me was palpable and it literally sucked the breath out of me. In that brief span of time a couple of minutes at the most it was like all the grief from the last two years, my family that changed, my friends lost. The weight of this culture of death and me first that abounds in the world descended upon me. The devil is indeed prowling like a roaring lion and he will strike when you least expect it, I know that's who it was and he has been ever present challenging me almost daily as if he senses I am not as strong as I once was or there are chinks in my armor he can exploit.

Now for the blessing part, I don't have to be Samson and stand alone, and I am not alone. I know this because as I tried to focus on the voice of my daughter and the choir I felt a hand upon my shoulder and saw a friend who doesn't come that often to church in the pew next to me and not only him but his wife, and then my mom. Then a fellow knight who usually sits in the back of church sat down behind us with all his family and one by one all said, "Merry Christmas GK, "Merry Christmas Mr. Gene". I felt the weight lift and I could breathe again.

I was hesitant to share this story but after some additional prayer, I felt it warranted the telling. I don't want to use the word miracle because it hardly seemed that major an event in retrospect, but if just the presence of a brother and friend and a kind word from another brother and his family can lift a spirit that much, "Oh My" what else is this council and the families within it capable of. I have shared a lot with you my brother knights and your families in these pages over the last three years, maybe too much sometimes but I want you to understand that I know what a blessing this council is, and how truly honored I am to lead it.

I talked about kindness last year one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit; the quality of understanding sympathy and concern for those in trouble or need. It is shown in affability of speech, generosity of conduct, and forgiveness of injuries sustained. That is Council 3724 and I am grateful for you all. (Con't on next page)



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Special points of interest

- KOTM/FOTM
- Holy Father's Prayer Intention
- Insurance

My Knight of the Month was worthy PGK and 1st year trustee Larry Bogemann, my family of the month was the family of Dan and Jana Cyphers. Larry chairs the WSU Ushers program, works with the kitchen crew and serves on the FYI board in addition to providing me a sounding board. Dan and Jana outdid themselves with the council memorial mass and reception this year. Thank them when you see them. This month Bro Percy Gros will once again be coordinating the transportation for the March for Life in Washington DC. There will be a meeting of the Financial Advisory Board on the 30th. A parish dinner on the 11th as well as the famous Italian dinner and silent auction on the 18th. Happy New Year my brother knights, to you and your families. Let's kick off 2020 with the prayer to St. Michael.

Ut in omnibus glorificetur Deus

“Saint Michael the Archangel defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the Divine Power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who roam throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen”

Vivat Jesus. GK Erbacher

FAB Update

The next FAB meeting will be on January 30th at 6:30, donation checks from the building fund proceeds will be written. We have a total of 10,000 dollars this year and the charities selected for donation support are the following:

Wright State Catholic Campus Ministry (Mission Trip)	\$3000.00
Operation Fairborn Cares (Serving post 9/11 Veterans)	\$3000.00
Fairborn Chapter St Vincent DePaul (Serving the Parish & Community)	\$3000.00
Sponsorship of the Walk for Life DC Bus Trip (Help Alleviate the Cost)	\$1000.00

The council also received multiple donations in the memory of Worthy PGK Phil Ambs, since Phil was a big proponent of education, as GK I thought it appropriate that those donations go in Phil's memory to the Royalmont Academy Catholic Preparatory School in Mason OH. A 12-year school dedicated to turning out young Catholic leaders and future Knights of Columbus. They were recommended by Bro Herb Edwards and their website is here should you wish to check them out. www.royalmontacademy.org

MEMBERSHIP

Let's all work to make 2020 the best New Year yet. I would like for us to dispel the biggest lie in the history of our council. That lie is "I cannot convince anyone to join our council." To get this started I would like for three brother knights join me in forming the nucleus of a membership committee. I would like to meet with you at 7:30 on the third Thursday of January, the 16th. This will not be painful and will be educational and fun. Do you have the foresight to want our council to grow rather than to wither and die?

We actually have a good start on our membership quota for the year. Thanks to Herb Edwards, Larry Bogueman, Percy Gros among others we have several new members and at least 3 more that just need their 1st degree. In addition we have had several transfers.

HELP NEEDED

BINGO is what pays the rent for the space we use in the Parish Center and other bills and is one of, if not the largest fundraiser the Knights have. We are in desperate need of help in the following areas:

Cage workers time is 4:30 - 10:00 Callers 6:00 - 10:00 Floor workers 5:30 - 10:00

On the Third Wednesday there is only myself and PGK Larry Bogaman (FHS Music Club works floor) I work the cage and call, while Larry runs Instants. I know there are those who don't like BINGO. Neither do I. (I don't like work either, but I still go) I still Chair BINGO for the Charities. With that being said I put that aside and think about all the money that we are able to donate to those different charities. So please consider one night a month or splitting one night with someone else (every other month)."The order is dedicated to the principles ('Degrees') of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism" "Charity is the foremost principle of the Knights of Columbus"

Thank you
Eric Rogalinski
BINGO CHAIR
937-657-6958



Grand Knight Eugene Erbacher, his mother and niece in front of the Madonna Tapestry display that was donated by the Erbacher Family to Fairborn Council 3724.

ACTIVITIES

PARISH DINNER

The Knights of Columbus will hold our next Parish Dinner on Saturday January 11. This month's dinner will feature roast pork loin with sauerkraut, buttered noodles, greene beans, salad and a dessert . You get all this for just \$10 for adults \$5 for children. We'll be serving in the Parish Center right after the 4:00 Mass. Come and join your fellow Knights and Parishioners for some good food and even better company.

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS? ASK ANY CURRENT MEMBER. CALL 937-878-2909 OR EMAIL GRANDKNIGHT@3724KOFCC.COM

Men's Retreat

29 Feb 2020

Did you know Julius Caesar introduced the first leap year around 46 BC, and that during leap years, George Armstrong Custer fought the Battle of the Little Big Horn (1876), the Titanic sank (1912), Benjamin Franklin proved that lightning is electricity (1752) and gold was discovered in California (1848)? While none of us lived in these times, 2020 is a leap year and provides us an opportunity to use this extra day to our personal historic significance. So why not set aside this day to grow our relationship with God, who loves us more than anyone else in this world?

So, plan to attend a men's retreat hosted by the Fairborn Knights of Columbus in Fairborn K of C chambers (in back of Mary Help of Christians Parish Center). Join us for coffee and pastries in the lounge starting at 8:30 am. The theme of this year's retreat is: ***Finding Hope in the Mercy of God***. Featured speakers at this event include Fr. Tom Nevels; Fr. Donald Moss; Mr. Joe Hand; and Deacon Max Roadruck. Lunch and beverages will be provided by the Knights. Stations of the Cross, rosary, and confessions followed by a 4 pm Mass at MHC will round out the afternoon.

This retreat is open to men from Mary Help of Christians, Sacred Heart, St. John Bosco parishes, and Knights from Fairborn, New Carlisle, and WSU councils. Yes, the rumor you heard is true, **the event is FREE**. So, why not seek respite from the noise and commotion of daily life? Treat yourself to a Lenten experience of finding hope in the mercy of God, to help prepare us for the joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord at Easter.

"Please sign the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the lounge or RSVP to Herman Karhoff, (937) 361-2758 on or before 27 Feb 2020."

BLUE COAT

The Council 46th Annual Blue Coat Awards will be held on Thursday March 26, 2020 at the Mary Help of Christians Parish Center. All Officers, Members, Widows and K of C Family Members are encouraged to attend this outstanding community event at no cost. A sign-up sheet will be on the lounge bulletin board by the January Business Meeting. Nominations for a Boy Scout (Eagle Scout or working on it) or Girl Scout (Gold Award or working on it) may be sent to PGK Wolfe at wmc45324jaw@aol.com. He can be reached at 937-609-4552.

SPRING 2020 REVERSE RAFFLE

Your Knights of Columbus Council's annual Spring Reverse Raffle will be held on February 22rd. Doors open following the 4:00 mass. Tickets are \$35 which covers 2 adults' admission, heavy hors d'oeuvres, soft drinks and a chance to win prizes. A cash bar will be available. The first ticket drawn wins \$100, last ticket drawn wins \$2000. Additional prizes will be awarded throughout the drawing. You need not be present to win. For tickets call PGK Frank Minnick @ 937-522-0866 or email FMINN@aol.com or any of our members.

ANNUAL PRO-LIFE DINNER



*Spaghetti Dinner
& Silent Auction*

Saturday, January 18th

Doors Open at 5:00 p.m., Dinner & Program 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Mary, Help of Christians Parish Center: 954 N Maple Ave., Fairborn, OH

\$12 per Adult, \$5 per Child (3 & Under Free), Max \$35 per Family

Register at fyohio.org or by calling 937-845-0403

Join Family & Youth Initiatives as we celebrate supporting life at every age. All money raised goes to support the programs that make a great impact on the local community!

Dinner is prepared by the
Fairborn Knights of Columbus
Council 3724

fy Family &
Youth Initiatives
Empowering Families, Providing Hope

FAIRBORN COUNCIL MEETS OUR NEW SEMINARIAN

Nam Mac



On December 19th, 2019, our Council was delighted to meet our new seminarian, Nam Mac, for the first time at our annual Christmas Party. Nam was the special guest at the annual event, hosted by the Past Grand Knights. Nam grew up in a Catholic community in what is now officially named Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, and the capital of South Vietnam. He arrived in the United States for the first time this past fall, to begin his formation at the Athenaeum of Ohio – Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West. He arrived, without relatives or family connections. His story is amazing..

After the ordination of our previous seminarian, Father Alex Biryomumemeisho this past May, our Council sought to continue our tradition of supporting a seminarian through his formation. Later in the year, brother Knight Rod Paxson's wife, Mary Alice, happened to meet a group of seminarians at the Cincinnati airport baggage claim area. Having just arrived from a return flight, she learned from the seminarians that they were there to meet a new seminarian, arriving from Vietnam. A few weeks later, Father Dan Schmitmeyer, the seminary's director of vocations assigned our Council this same seminarian, Nam Mac. Nam is one of two Vietnamese seminarians in the first-year class. The two are the only first-year seminarians not from the United States. They did not know each other prior to entering seminary. Once ordained in seven years, Nam will serve as a priest for the Cincinnati Archdiocese.

Brother Knight Mark Dues and Chancellor Matt Justice met Nam at Our Lady of Lavang Vietnamese Catholic Community in Cincinnati the evening just before the Council's Christmas party. Nam is temporarily staying at the rectory of Our Lady of Lavang as a guest of Father Chau, during Christmas break. After a good visit, Brother Mark drove Matt and Nam up to Fairborn for the party. During the ride, we learned that Nam is thirty years old. He holds a degree in English, and has worked as an editor at a local television station in Vietnam. He is very fluent in English and hopes one day to use his skills in television media to help spread the Gospel message.

Nam is also a third-degree Knight, and member of the seminary's Knights of Columbus Council. He said many of his fellow seminarians are Knights, and are holy and sincere in their vocation. "We gather together each night to pray the Rosary and sing antiphons in Latin" he said. Nam shared that the study of Latin is required at seminary, and that he is receiving outstanding instruction. He hopes that parishes in this country can one day be gradually be reintroduced to the beauty of Latin liturgical rites, to help foster reverence and devotion to the Eucharist.

Shortly after arriving at the party, Matt introduced Nam to the gathering of approximately sixty Knights and family members. Nam then shared the amazing account of his journey toward entering seminary, and coming here to the United States. He explained that he was inspired by the missionary work of the priests of the Congregation of the Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists). Working with the Redemptorists in their missionary work among the isolated poor in the rural highlands of Vietnam, Nam began to sense a deeper calling to serve the Lord. He attended a week long Jesuit retreat. While on retreat he sensed he might be being called to the priesthood. On the last day of the retreat, he entered the chapel, and appealed to Our Lady for discernment, and asked how he could serve the Lord. It was night time, and the chapel interior dark. He approached the statue of Mary and knelt before her. He prayed fifty decades of the Rosary. It was during the Rosary that Our Lady appeared to Nam. "She appeared to me" he said with gentle reverence. "It was awesome." He smelled the sweet fragrance of roses. "She did not speak to me," he said, but he was filled with joy and peace, and knew he had been given a sign that he was indeed called to the priesthood. Next, Nam sought entrance into a diocesan seminary in Vietnam. At age 28, he took the entrance exam. However, the seminary decided he was too old and did not accept him. Nam continued to trust and to pray. Those prayers were answered when he later met an American Jesuit priest in Vietnam. The American priest offered to make some contacts to help him explore the possibility of being accepted to seminary in the United States. Through this priest, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati contacted Nam, and he was eventually accepted into the Athenaeum of Ohio – Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West.

Before coming to Cincinnati to enter the seminary, Nam prayed to Our Lady for assurance that he was making the right decision. Nam related with a smile, "I am a very demanding person, I asked to see red roses, not white roses, not orange roses, but red roses." Later that day, he saw a man pushing a cart full of red roses.

Since entering seminary, Nam said the Lord has continued to bless and guide him. While in the seminary chapel at the Athenaeum on a gray and cloudy day, he prayed the Apostles Creed very slowly. He asked for sign that he was on the right path. As he prayed, the sun appeared brightly for the first time that day. Then it disappeared, but when he continued praying it reappeared. He felt joy and reassurance. Afterwards, one of his classmates approached him excitedly and said, "Nam, the strangest thing just happened. The sun appeared, then reappeared over the chapel."

As for why Nam feels he was called to the United States, he explained that the United States is the world's strongest country, and with her many gifts, has a special opportunity to spread the Gospel message throughout the world. He recognizes the grave moral challenges facing our country. (Con't on next page)

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878-5455

Community Activities PGK John Wolfe
609-4552

Council Activities PGK Bill Stoddard
237-9059

Family Activities Dan Cyphers
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Youth Activities Thomas Pyatt
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(Con't from last page)

However, he believes through Christ, America can overcome these challenges. America meeting her special calling will require a restoration of virtue, and good and holy priests. For that, Nam has chosen to dedicate himself to a life of service as a diocesan priest.

In closing, Nam stressed the importance of prayer. "When you pray, pray like a little child, and whatever you seek will be given to you."

Grand Knight Gene Erbacher then presented Nam with a Christmas card signed by the membership, enclosed with a Christmas gift of \$500 from the Council. Nam's testimonial was so inspirational that the membership was immediately moved to prayer upon his closing. Past Grand Knight Frank Minnick lead us in saying the Hail Mary. So we thank the Lord for our new seminarian. Let us all pray with the heart and trust of a child. Thank you Nam; and May God bless you.



GK Gene Erbacher, seminarian Nam Mac, and Chancellor Matt Justice

Mark Dues and wife Marilyn with Nam

Kathy Justice, seminarian Nam Mac, and Dan Cyphers

Herb Edwards and his wife with seminarian Nam Mac



THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IS DEDICATED TO WORKS OF CHARITY, UNITY, FRATERNITY, AND PATRIOTISM. CARE TO JOIN US? ASK ANY CURRENT MEMBER. CALL 937-878-2909 OR EMAIL GRANDKNIGHT@3724KOFCC.COM



11-26 © 2018 by Russ Milliron www.kofcc.com "Grandma says a lot of her friends are like the birds. They fly south for the winter."

COUNCIL EMAIL ALERTS

Knight alert requests and activity alerts should be send to the PGK Russ Milliron at webmaster@3724kofc.org.

INSURANCE CORNER

The Knights of Columbus offers a complete portfolio of top-quality products to our members and their eligible family members.

Permanent Life Insurance – Insure Your Life for Life

Term Life Insurance – Affordable Protection for Temporary Needs

Retirement Annuities – Give Yourself a Paycheck for the Rest of Your Life. Guaranteed.

Long-Term Care Insurance – Protect Your Assets. Prepare for the Future.

Disability Income Insurance – Shield Your Income from Illness and Injury

If you need more information on any of these, please contact:

Robert Hernandez
Knights of Columbus
Insurance Field Agent # 18446
robert.hernandez@kofc.org
937-689-2202

HOME CORPORATION

Your Home Corp continues to work hard to support the Council. The Directors met on 19 December to pay bills and discuss business. A work party was held on December 7th from 9:00 - 11:00.

Our monthly raffle winners were:

They will appear in the next issue..



Chaplain Fr. Donald Moss spoke to Knights about Our Lady of Guadalupe. At the December Council Meeting

Our Lady of Guadalupe, also known as the Virgin of Guadalupe and La Morenita, is a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary associated with a Marian apparition and a venerated image enshrined within the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. The basilica is the most visited Catholic pilgrimage site in the world, and the world's third most-visited sacred site. Pope Leo XIII granted the venerated image a canonical coronation on 12 October 1895.



PRAY THE ROSARY AS OFFEN AS YOU CAN, PLEASE COME EARLY TO THE BUSINESS MEETING (7 PM) AND PRAY THE ROSARY WITH YOUR BROTHER KNIGHTS.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Health and Healing:

Health and Healing requests are entered into the council's prayer request book prior to the business meeting. If you can't make a meeting and have a name you wish to include in the Santa Maria prayer intentions, please call the council hall and leave a message or send an email to Santamaria@3724kofc.org.

John Erbacher, PGK John Whytal, PGK Al Brewer, PGK Lew and Melita Murphy, Vic Berberich, Dave Bartok, Paul and Rose Yosick, Jon Edwards, Cathy DeWitt, Steve Paulsen, Jim McNamara, Tom O'Connor, Whilma Rizzo, Robert Herring, Martin Hernandez, Katherine Justice, John Habel, Alice and Cal Smith, Barbara Gazzo, Rosile Sloat, John Keampf, John Lougeman, Bernadette Carpio, State Secretary Mark Siracusa, Candi Freil, PGK Frank Minnick, Velma Hobbs, PGK Russ Milliron.



HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS



For Evangelisation - Promotion of World Peace

We pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of good will may promote peace and



**Council 3724
Fairborn, OH**

JANUARY EVENTS

Jan 5	Trustees Meeting	Jan 9	Business Meeting
Jan 13	4th Degree Meeting	Jan 11	K of C Dinner
Jan 16	Home Corp Meeting	Jan 18	Pro-life Dinner
Jan 23	First Degree	Jan 24	March for Life
Jan 30	FAB Meeting	Jan 30	PGK Meeting

FEB PREVIEW

K of C Dinner, Reverse Raffle, First Degree, Council Retreat

BUSINESS MEETING ATTENDANCE

The 2nd Thursday on each month, we pray the Rosary at 7:00 pm which is followed by our business meeting. Please attend, stay after the meeting and socialize with your brother knights. Every Thurs there's a Pot-of-Gold drawing. Entry fee is 50 cents and you are required to sign your name in "The Book". At 10:00 pm on the meeting night and at 9:30 pm on the other Thursdays there's a random drawing from our membership pool. The name of the winner drawn win's the Pot-of-Gold if they completed the entry requirements.



PGK Larry Bogemann Receiving KOTM from GK Erbacher



Dan Cyphers Receiving the FOTM GK Erbacher

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