



# Late Knight News



Knights of Columbus – Columbia Council #7559

Volume 2014, Issue 3

August / September 2014

## Message from the Grand Knight

Brothers All,

It is with great sadness that one of our Charter members, Edwin Strakna, went home to the Lord on July 28. On behalf of the Columbia Council, I offer our sincere condolences to the Strakna family, especially Greg Strakna, our current Warden. May our Father of mercy receive Ed to his promised home, to join the heavenly Saints and give Glory to God forever.

Well, it has been an extremely busy start to the new Columbian year for all of us at the Columbia Council. First, I would like to thank those who worked so hard for us to have a great council picnic. Everyone had a fun and enjoyable time. And, the installation of our officers was such a successful event - what a great beginning to the start of the year. Again, many thanks to those who sacrificed their personal time to make these events happen, working tirelessly to prepare liturgy, food, etc. The Council is grateful for all of your support and it really shows unity and fraternity which are the principles of our Order. Looking ahead, we have a lot of exciting activities planned. My vision for this coming year consists of three main goals. We need to open our arms to welcome our brothers from the Hispanic Community. On this front, the council's degree team is planning a first degree exemplification in Spanish to provide our Hispanic brothers the opportunity to fully participate and understand the fundamental principles of our Order: Charity, Unity and Fraternity. We must also welcome back our brothers who have become inactive in our council. The council's retention committee will be working diligently to contact our brothers who have been unable to participate in council meetings or activities. Please come back to your council and become an active member of this great, Catholic, fraternal organization. And, we will continue to focus efforts on recruiting new members to our Order. We have a lot of important activities in store this year that will support our council, church and community. We will need the assistance of each brother in our council to meet our goals for this year.

It is with this vision that we will focus our charitable efforts to our own church, St. John the Evangelist, and in our community and beyond. I therefore call on every brother Knight to join me in support to this effort. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we bring together all of the communities in our parish to serve one cause, our Church? Wouldn't it also be wonderful if every man in our parish become a Knight? In fact, they should. And, it is our duty as Knights to introduce the Knights and the good works that we do for all people. I encourage every brother Knight to join me in prayer before the Holy Eucharist, as this is the best way to ask God for His Forgiveness, His Strengths, and His Blessings. We, as fragile humans, can only do so much, but with the grace of God, we will together accomplish much more by working together to support our fellow brothers and sisters. Thank you very much for all that you do for the Church in general and for the Knights in particular. May God bless you and your family always.

*Sonny Van, Grand Knight*

## Message from the Chaplain

I hope you have been having a restful and renewing summer season; God's gift to us so we can answer His call "Come to me, all you who labor and find life burdensome, and I will give you rest... learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart, and your souls will find rest, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light." You may wonder: 'how does that work?' To understand, you must also hear Jesus say that we must "become like little children". What is it that little children have that we adults, the learned and clever, do not have? This is important to understand. Little children are vulnerable because they have no power and completely depend on others to take care of them. They are very open and trusting that others will share with them what they need; they have no illusion that they are in charge or that they can do well on their own, with no one to help them. They gratefully accept the help of others. We adults however think we are in charge; that we can do it alone and, as a matter of American pride, feel we can be so fiercely independent and free that we need no one else to help us or tell us what to do. That's why Jesus has to tell us to be 'like little children' – because all these 'adult qualities' are what get us into trouble and take us away from God. Look at the example of Jesus who, throughout the Gospels, as the Divine Son, was constantly praying to and seeking grace, guidance and strength from His Heavenly Father. Let's face it – to carry the burden of being able to do it all, to be independent of God and everyone else, is a huge burden. Jesus invites us as adult Catholic Christians to let go of these burdens and place them in God's hands. To trust that God is with us, as God was with Jesus, every step of the way, and to, like Jesus, give our lives, challenges, struggles and weaknesses over to God and let God into our lives to heal, forgive, lift our sorrows and be our strength is what really will refresh and renew us – we are not alone – God is with us every step of the way. Then we are true children of the Heavenly Father, and we can find rest from our labors and burdens in Him. Amen

*Fr. Gene*

## In Memoriam

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the death of brother Knight and charter member Edwin Strakna. Brother Edwin passed away on July 28, 2014. Edwin, who joined the Order in 1948, was the father of Worthy Warden Greg Strakna and brother Joseph of our Council. Several Knights led a Rosary service for Edwin and attended his funeral mass. We offer our prayers and deepest condolences to our Worthy Warden Greg and his entire family.



## Knights Prayer Corner:

Please continue to prayer for our brother Stan "Danny" Daniello, his wife Jean, and their two daughters as Danny continues to wage a courageous battle against cancer. Also, please pray for Candace Olds, Joan Fiscus, Bob Estright, Mike Hastings, Liz Siani and Barbara Thompson.

## Congratulations!

Columbia Council 7559 congratulates **Victor McCrary** for receiving his First Degree in June.

**Please note:** The Council will be hosting a First and Second Degree Exemplification on Tuesday, October 28, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at WLIFC. Candidates must arrive by 6:00 p.m.

## Council Picnic

Nearly 30 brother Knights and guests enjoyed an evening of food, fun and fraternity at the Columbia Council's annual council picnic on Saturday, July 27, 2014 at the picnic area on the grounds of the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab. District Deputy Howard Johnson and his wife joined the council and shared the evening together. Thank you to all of the brothers who purchased the food and set-up and cleaned-up after the picnic. Also, a special thanks to Bill Kotraba for grilling the hamburgers, hot dogs and sausages.



## August Social Meeting

On Tuesday, August 26 at 7:30 p.m., the Council's monthly social meeting will feature a special presentation about the Columbia Pregnancy Center.

Kim Hartman, Executive Director of the Columbia Pregnancy Center, will discuss what the Pregnancy Center does on a daily basis, why your support is essential, how to get involved, and how they are striving to make abortion unthinkable in Howard County. There will be an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation. Please join us! Light refreshments will be provided.



## Installation of Officer's for 2014-2015 Columbia Year

The Officers for the 2014-2015 Columbian Year were installed following Mass celebrated by the Council's Worthy Chaplain Fr. Gene Nickol. A reception followed the installation ceremony with remarks from District Deputy Thom Partenope (District 34) representing State Deputy Stephen J. Adamczyk and District Deputy (District 23) Howard Johnson. Brother Knights and guests enjoyed an array of sandwiches, vegetables, shrimp cocktail and Maryland Crab soup, as well as a selection of desserts and beverages. The Council would like to recognize all brothers who assisted with planning the event.



## Car Raffle and Tootsie Roll Drive

All brothers are reminded that the annual Car Raffle and Tootsie Roll drives are right around the corner. A packet with car raffle tickets will be mailed to all brother Knights. Sell them to family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors. The raffle tickets are just \$1 each.

Also, coming up in October, the Council will be distributing Tootsie Rolls at four village centers in Columbia. Watch for sign-up information coming soon and schedule yourself for a few shifts. Proceeds from the Tootsie Roll drive will go to the Arc of Howard County and Athelas Institute.

## Upcoming Events

- ❑ **Business Meeting** – Tuesday, August 12, 2014; WLIFC, Rooms 10/11; 8:00 p.m.
- ❑ **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** (Holy Day) – Friday, August 15, 2014
- ❑ **Adoration of the Holy Eucharist** – Tuesday, August 26, 2014; WLIFC, Rooms 10/11; 6:45 p.m.
- ❑ **Social Meeting** – Tuesday, August 26, 2014: WLIFC, Rooms 10/11; 7:30 p.m.
- ❑ **Officer's Meeting** – Tuesday, September 2, 2014; Zapata's, Harpers Choice Village Center; 7:30 p.m. (Please note date change due to Labor Day Holiday)
- ❑ **Business Meeting** – Tuesday, September 9, 2014; WLIFC, Rooms 10/11; 8:00 p.m.
- ❑ **Adoration of the Holy Eucharist** – Tuesday, September 23, 2014; WLIFC, Rooms 10/11; 6:45 p.m.
- ❑ **Social Meeting** – Tuesday, September 23, 2014: WLIFC, Rooms 10/11; 7:30 p.m.
- ❑ **Officer's Meeting** – Monday, October 6, 2014; Zapata's, Harpers Choice Village Center; 7:30 p.m.
- ❑ **Columbus Day Ball** – Saturday, October 11, 2014
- ❑ **Business Meeting** – Tuesday, October 14, 2014: WLIFC, Rooms 10/11; 8:00 p.m.
- ❑ **Oktoberfest** - Saturday, October 25, 2014: WLIFC, 5:00 p.m.
- ❑ **First and Second Degree Exemplification** – Tuesday, October 28, 2014; WLIFC, Rooms 10/11; 6:30 p.m. (candidates must arrive by 6pm)

For more information about these events and other Council information including minutes of past Business Meetings, visit our website at [www.koccolumbiamd.org](http://www.koccolumbiamd.org).

*The next issue of the Late Knight News is October/November. The deadline for submissions is September 15th. Send news to: [apulty@yahoo.com](mailto:apulty@yahoo.com).*

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