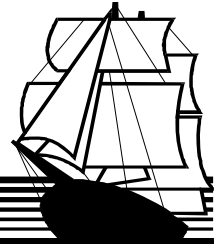


MARINER



K N I G H T S O F C O L U M B U S

Volume 21, Number 1

January–February 2008

Christmas Tree Sales 2007

We keep doing it! Our Christmas Tree Sales program this year has been a great success. This result is due to the effort and enthusiasm of all our brother knights who came out and sold trees.



After a slow start, our customers finally came out and have made our Christmas tree sales a huge success.

Our 2007 sales were simply great. As of Christmas Eve, we had sold 820 trees for \$56,186, generating a profit of \$25,672. All of this has been achieved in the face of higher wholesale prices for our trees, increased freight and 16 damaged trees: A truly impressive result.

A special thanks to all of our brother knights who worked so hard to make sure that our sale was a success. I want to especially thank those knights who volunteered to take extra shifts and those who manned those early, slow, frustrating shifts.

Among those who have made special contributions are:

- the set up crew led by Mike Stephens;
- our electrical and lighting man, Mike Perri;
- our off load crew of Boy Scouts & Squires and their parents and brother knights led by Dave Sharp and Russ Derosé (who unloaded 820 trees in an amazing 54 minutes);
- our assistant sales coordinators, Al Obuchowski and Jim Cella;
- our financial secretary, Phil Torre, who came out at all hours to collect and count money;
- our chairman emeritus, Brian Moynihan, who was on the injured reserve;
- our 37 shift captains, our cashiers, 180 shift workers;

- our take down crew led by Eric Barone; and
- the loyal and generous support of a great many of our parishioners and repeat customers.

Once again, I thank everyone that helped make our sales for 2007 the best ever!

Geoff Smith

Grand Knight's Message



Continue the Vision

Brothers,

As knights of Council 8600, we continue to fulfill Fr. McGivney's vision. During 2006, our council contributed 68 million volunteer community service hours and \$143.8 million in contributions for charitable and benevolent causes. Our numbers, example and actions do impact and make a difference in building a better world for our Church, community, state and nation.

The council financial secretary recently forwarded to you the yearly dues for 2008 and the 2007 Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity Individual Worksheet. We need you to complete this form to assist us in preparing the Council 8600 Fraternal Survey for 2007. This information will go to Su-

(Continued on Page 2.)

Grand Knight's Message

(Continued from page 1.)

preme Council as our contribution to the Knights of Columbus Fraternal Activities volunteer service hours and will show that our council continues to "Build a Better World, One Knight at a Time."

We are halfway through the 2007/2008 Fraternal Year and the Knights of Council 8600 have continued to "**Walk the Talk.**" You have stepped up to help those who are less fortunate; but we still have much more to do to continue Fr. McGivney's vision for the world.

You were also requested to verify personal data (correct address and phone number, spouse name, e-mail, etc.) for our records. This information is vitally needed for our communications with you and to ensure that your status is correctly maintained by our council, state and supreme. We further ask that you notify the financial secretary and me as soon as possible when there is a serious illness or death in your immediate or extended family so that we may respond appropriately and in a timely manner.

Thank you for your past support of Council 8600 charitable and benevolent activities, and I look forward to your "**Good Works**" for the second half of our fraternal year.

Continue to lead by example and be a knight that is "Making a Difference."

Who Are These Men They Call Knights? They are the Knights of St. Mary of Sorrows Council 8600.



Vivat Jesus!
Johnny D. Restivo

Mistakes were probably maybe accidentally made in this issue of the *Mariner*. If you can find one you are entitled to a free cup of coffee at the next council meeting (Jan. 8, 2008).

McGivney's Corner

Offering Spiritual Support to Prisoners

For more than a year, Father McGivney had counseled (James) Smith, and brought him closer and closer to the church into which he had been born, but which he had forsaken early in life. During that time, Smith's fate was uncertain, as legal motions seeking to amend his conviction were duly filed before the appellate court.



The case was an interesting one. Smith insisted that it was (Daniel) Hayes's own gun that had discharged, delivering the mortal wound. Most prisoners, it is true, have some such story to underscore their blameless innocence; however, on another point, Smith did seem to have some hope. Part of the definition of first degree murder in Connecticut stated the crime had to have been premeditated. Smith certainly didn't seem to have planned the shooting. He had, after all, been accosted by Hayes, not the other way around. On that basis, Smith's lawyer argued that conviction should be reduced to second degree murder and the sentence changed to life in prison. When the appeal seemed to be on its way to success, Smith admitted to a reporter that he dreaded the thought of hanging. Life had long since lost its connection to reality for Smith, as hope for legal dispensation came and went, came again and was snatched away. Only one source of hope was constant, "Father McGivney visits me very often, Smith told a reporter ... and I think a great deal of him."

[NOTE: The above excerpts can be found in *Parish Priest: Father Michael McGivney and American Catholicism*, by Douglas Brinkley and Julie M. Fenster, 2006, pages 128-129.]

Dan Hayes was the Chief of Police in Ansonia, Connecticut. On December 27, 1880, Chief Hayes was summoned to arrest James Smith for disorderly conduct and for firing a pistol near a saloon. Chief Hayes was shot by Smith several times, but still affected the arrest. Chief Hayes died within several hours after being shot. He is memorized at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C., panel 3, E-5.

Ushers Ministry Program at Basilica Trains 45 Knights

On December 1, 2007, the Supreme Council conducted training for 45 knights to be ushers at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Participating in the training was one of our own, Brother Dave Lopez, who will be assuming his duties in 2008, every third Saturday of the month at the vigil Mass beginning at 5:15 p.m.

The Ushers Ministry at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception was established in 1982 by Past Supreme Knight Virgil C. Dechant at the request of Msgr. Eugene G. Bilkski, former director of the National Shrine, and has provided uninterrupted service to the National Shrine since its inception.

K of C ushers “provide hospitality and assistance to Shrine visitors, facilitate offertory collections and liturgical procession, support Eucharistic ministers and the distribution of Communion, and preserve order and function in the nave while at

all times exemplifying proper reverence and decorum for the sacredness of the space and proceedings. To be eligible to participate in the program, a Knight must be in good standing in the order, have the recommendation of his pastor or council chaplain or grand knight, and be willing to volunteer at least three hours of service a month as an usher for a minimum of three years. After usher training, the Supreme Council provides each usher with a K of C tie, usher pin, name tag, blue sport coat and pair of gray trousers, which along with a white dress shirt, black socks, dress shoes and belt is the official uniform of the Ushers Ministry.”

The Supreme Council is scheduling another recruitment/training day for the Ushers Ministry at the Basilica on Saturday, March 1, 2008. If you are interested in joining this Supreme Council program, e-mail Peter Sonski (director of public relations) at Peter.Sonski@kofc.org for an application.

Truth or Myth: Standing in the Way of Stem Cell Research

Brother Dick Bulova of Council 8600 wrote the letter below to the editor of the Washington Post rebutting an op-ed that appeared in the December 3 editorial page concerning stem cell research.

The December 3, 2007, op-ed, “Standing in the Way of Stem Cell Research,” by Alan I. Leshner and James A. Thomson was surprisingly disingenuous given the stature of the authors.

The federal government is not standing in the way of embryonic stem cell research. It is only declining to use our tax dollars for that purpose because many Americans, myself included, are morally opposed to such research. There is no prohibition on privately funded research, and there is research being done in other countries as well.

If Mr. Leshner and Mr. Thomson feel so positively that embryos are appropriate targets for destruction in the name of scientific advancement, I would encourage them and others who feel the same way to contribute their own money to institutions that are doing this work, instead of just insisting that mine be used. Similarly, American couples are free to donate their frozen embryos to private or offshore institutions. It’s interesting that neither of these alternatives seem to ever be suggested.

Dick Bulova, Fairfax



St. Mary of Sorrows Council 8600 and St Veronica Council 12579 of Chantilly recently received a joint VKCCI grant in the amount of \$3,000 to support one of our Brother Knights in need. Please support the VKCCI label program .

— Johnny D. Restivo

Community Programs . . .

The start of the New Year is a good time to assess what community programs you can participate in. You build long-lasting friendships with fellow knights while getting a warm glow associated with doing some good for the community at large, regardless of religious affiliation, if any. Your family members are often welcome and needed.

We have a real crunch of projects mid-April to mid-May, so pencil in some weekends then for us. In the meantime, the next two months of January and February afford some good starter projects.

* April Improve-A-Home project, now active year round and led by Brother Tim Shea. If you know of a home in the parish or geographic area that needs a lift, contact Tim. If you would like to lead a team at a house, contact Tim. Otherwise pencil in the last Saturday in April or second Saturday in May to bring your tools and any know-how (none required). Look for announcements in April.

* Telephone Tree. We also have need for knights with email access and a telephone to help program leaders roust up the membership for these activities. As a member of the phone tree, you spend less than two hours spread over two weeks for each of four or five events a year (a total commitment of under 10 hours a year). You call 20 knights on a list e-mailed to you for each event. And the best part — you don't get called for the event you are calling about! Great duty for Knights who can't make the heavier lifting events. Contact Gene Molinelli at e.molinelli@att.net or 703-250-3927 to join the phone tree.

Recent Activities include:

* Route 123 Cleanup. On Dec 1, a Team organized by Dave Evans did a great job cleaning up route 123 from Fairfax Station Road south to Chapel Road. Dick Bulova served as captain for Dave Evans who was on travel. Dick was assisted by Ed Miller, Max Miller, Steve Morales, Tom Milos, Bob Metzger, Jim Kearney, Ed Janurz, Joe Marotta, Jerry Lenaburg and several Squires.

* Holiday Food Baskets. Under the leadership of Mark Haaland, Thanksgiving Food Baskets were collected from knights and distributed to poor families; and Christmas Food Baskets were collected from knights for distribution to the families of inmates incarcerated by the county.

Find out more about our more-than-a-dozen ongoing activities at the council website or by contacting the individual program leaders, whom we list here, or Gene Molinelli. Without these knights leading these efforts, we'd have to scale back our community involvement considerably.

* Celebrate Fairfax led by Brother Mike Burbach. Mike will need your help next June, but is looking for a co-captain any time.

* Lenten Soup Suppers and Fall Clothing Drive led by Brother Pete Garry.

* Food for Others in which surplus food from area groceries are distributed to whomever shows up at two collection sites in Burke. The Monday teams are led by Brother Mike Perri and his wife Kris; and the Wednesday and Friday teams

are led by Brother Pete Garry. There is a periodic need for monthly volunteers and alternates. You may get a call in the months ahead or contact those leading knights to volunteer.

* KOVAR (Knights of Virginia to assist the mentally handicapped) is a statewide funding board for which all councils raise funds while distributing tootsie rolls in April. Our council's major annual effort is led by Brother Scott Leitch. He is looking for site captains. Contact him to volunteer for that role.

* Lamb Center is a Christian assistance program for the homeless in Fairfax County. Our council's liaison is Charlie Hoover. There are ongoing opportunities here. Check with Charlie.

* Marian Home is group home for disabled women run as a separate organization but heavily funded by our council. Mark Roddy is chairman of Marian Homes activities.

* NVTC (Northern Virginia Training Center) led by Brother Gerard Durback.

* Point of Hope bereavement camp provides an escape to families who have lost a loved one to cancer or other tragedies. Our council, led by Worthy Past Grand Knight Jerry Hovan host a Bar-B-Que dinner in the Summer.

* Special Olympics led by Brother Roger Wesley. We help stage track and field events for the handicapped the first Saturday in May. Contact Roger to get on the planning team.

* Arthritis Walk led by Brother Gene Molinelli to raise money or awareness or both for this pervasive disease. We bring a team to a walk at Robinson High School in May each year. Brothers Steve Smith and Dave Sharp are involved at the national and regional level.

* Wounded Vets project provides resources for veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan recuperating at local military hospitals. We raise funds to buy needed personal goods or facilities upgrades and deliver them to the Red Cross for this particular purpose. This effort is led by Worthy Past Grand Knight Tony Vanderbeek; contact him to offer help.



Gene Molinelli

WEAR YOUR BADGE

We are a fraternal order involved in our community and church activities. Let others know you are a knight. Wear your badge at Mass and at other St. Mary activities.

Chancellor's Report . . .

Why not make your New Years resolution early, plan to take your Second or Third Degrees in 2008? All it takes is an e-mail (djturgeon@aol.com/) or call to me (703-239-8644) to get the ball rolling . The schedule for degrees next year in the local area follows:

Second Degrees

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| January 16 | Springfield Council 6153 | St. Bernadette |
| February 26 | Holy Spirit Council 11922 | Holy Spirit |
| April 27 | St. Mary's Council 8600 | OSMH |

Third Degrees

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| January 19 | Council 6292 | Fairfax |
| February 16 | Council 6175 | Sterling |
| March 9 | Council 2473 | Arlington |
| April (TBD) | Council 7877 | Stafford |
| June 14 | Council 6332 | Manassas |

— Dan Turgeon

Military Veterans

You can replace your military records, medals and awards. For information go to the DoD Archives Web site at: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/>

Youth Free Throw Competition

St. Mary of Sorrows Council 8600 will join Holy Spirit Council 11922 and St. Bernadette Council 6153 in the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, January 6, to be held at the Holy Spirit School Gym off of Braddock Road.

Boys and Girls age 10 to 14 can participate with winners in each age group and gender, advancing to our District #14 Free Throw Competition in February. District winners then compete at the State competition in Richmond.

St. Mary's Youth Group, Burke Basketball and other interested youth within our council and parish are encouraged to participate. For further information, contact Council Coordinator Joe Osborne at (703) 250-8332 or osborne@erols.com

Form #100 Belongs in All of These Places

- Briefcase
- In Your Pocket
- Near Your Phone
- Glove Compartment
- Everywhere You Go!



**SIGN UP A
NEW MEMBER
TODAY!**



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



COUNCIL PROGRAMS AND CHAIRMEN FOR FRATERNAL YEAR 2007-08

Youth Program

Joseph W. (Joe) Osborne

Scholarships (Fred Walker)
Young Man / Young Woman of the Year Awards
(Russ DeRose)
High School Graduation Parties (Dick Lee)
Parish Children's Christmas Party (Steve
Schaefer)
Scouting (Cub, Boy and Venture) (Dave Sharp)
Christmas Party (Russ DeRose)
Free Throw Contest (Joe Osborne)
Squires & Squire Roses (Russ DeRose)
Work Camp (Dave Sharp)

Council

R. David Lopez

Meetings & Officer Installation (GK, DD, Don
Wilkinson)
Christmas Trees (Geoff Smith)
Mariner (Frank Romano)
Softball Team (Dennis Connaughton)
Membership (Dan Turgeon)
OSMH Renovation and Maintenance (Erc
Barone)

Church

Bob Richie

Sanctuary for Life (Bob Richie, Kurt Meinsen,
Dick Lee)
Christmas Cards (Bob Richie, David Burke)
Eucharistic Adoration (Chaplain, Tom Gilding)
Car Raffle for St. Mary's Capital Fund (Jim
Cella)
KofC Memorial Masses (Bob Richie)

Community Program

Gene Molinelli

Marian Homes (Erc Barone)
Celebrate Fairfax (Mike Burbach)
April Improve-A-Home (Tim Shea, John
Enzman)
Special Olympics (Roger Wesley)
Northern Virginia Training Center (Gerard
Durback)
KOVAR (Scott Leitch)

Thanksgiving & Christmas Food Baskets (Mark
Haaland)

St. Mary's Food Ministry (Pete Garry)
Route 123 Cleanup (David Evans)

Family

Fidel J. Rodriguez

Parties/Reception/Outings (Erc Barone, et al.)
Spaghetti Suppers (Jim Cella, Johnny Restivo)
Pancake Breakfasts (Joe Marotta, Paul Ciatti,
Erc Barone)
Hope of Northern VA (Pete Garry)

Special Committees

Admissions (Al Obuchowski, Tony Vanderbeek)
Database & Web site (Johnny Restivo, Paul
Armstrong)
Charity (Dennis Halpin)
Pro Life (Tony DiGregorio)
Public Relations (Tony De Christofaro, Dave
Evans)
Athletic Director (Jerry Hovan)

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS TELEPHONE TREE

The Community Programs telephone tree has been a great boon to the programs and project leaders mentioned elsewhere in this issue. We still need additional volunteers to make calls to up to 20 fellow knights about five or six times a year (about 10 hours work per year). This is great duty for knights who are gregarious or busy or infirmed, in any combination. This is not cold calling. Each knight you call is a current member; and most are glad to hear from you and be given the opportunity to participate in a worthy activity. Usually, schedule or infirmity are the reasons for getting a "no" to your request for volunteers. Contact Gene Molinelli at e.molinelli@att.net or 703-259-4150 if you can help.



2007-08 CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 4 First Friday Adoration, Worship Center
- 6 Youth Free Throw Contest
- 8 Council Business Meeting, 8 p.m., OSMH
First Degree Exemplification
- 12 Spaghetti Dinner, 4-8 p.m., FH
- 13 Pancake Breakfast, 6 a.m.-12:45 p.m., FH
(Team Ciatti) Want to help out? Contact Fidel Rodriguez.
- 17 Second Degree Exemplification
St. Bernadette, Council 6153, Springfield
- 19 Third Degree Exemplification
Fr. Diamond, Council 6292, Fairfax
- 22 March for Life, Washington, D.C. Go to:
<http://www.marchforlife.org/event/index.cfm>
- 22 Council Open Meeting and Chili Cook-off
8 to 10:30 p.m., OSMH
- 29 Reserved Date, 7-10:30 p.m., OSMH
TBD Parish FACETS Hypothermia Shelter Support

FEBRUARY

- 1 First Friday Adoration, 7 p.m. - 8 a.m. WC
- 5 Council Business Meeting - 8-10:30 p.m., OSMH
- 6 Ash Wednesday
- 8 Soup Supper, 6:30-8 p.m., FH
- 9 Spaghetti Dinner - 4-8 p.m. FH
- 10 Pancake Breakfast - 6 a.m. -1 p.m., FH
(Team Marotta) Want to help out? Contact Fidel Rodriguez.
- 15 Soup Supper, 6:30-8 p.m., FH
- 19 Council Social Meeting, 8-10:30 p.m., OSMH
- 22 Soup Supper, 6:30-8 p.m., FH
- 23 Polish Night
- 29 Soup Supper, 6:30-8 p.m., FH



MARCH

- 4 Council Business Meeting, 8-10:30 p.m., OSMH
- 7 First Friday Adoration, 7 p.m. - 8 a.m. WC
- 7 Soup Supper, 6:30-8 p.m., FH
- 8 Easter Basket Food Collection, 8-10 a.m. FH
- 8-9 KofC Membership Blitz
- 8 Parish Tex-Mex Dinner, 4-8 p.m., FH
- 9 Pancake Breakfast, 6 a.m.-1 p.m., FH
(Team Barone) Want to help out? Contact Fidel Rodriguez.
- 14 Soup Supper, 6:30-8 p.m., FH
- 15 St. Patrick's Day Dance, FH
- 18 First Degree Exemplification, 7-10:30 p.m.
OSMH
- 21 Soup Supper, 6:30-8 p.m., FH
- 23 Easter Sunday: He is Risen, Alleluia, Alleluia!
- 29 Rt. 123 Cleanup, 8:30 a.m., OSMH
- 29 District#14 KofC Founders Day Dinner



paul.hannan@kofc.org

PHONE: (703) 444-6118
MOBILE: (571) 276-3927



**Paul T. Hannon, PGK, PFN
FIELD AGENT**

AGENCY DEPARTMENT
Knights of Columbus

11667 GILMAN LANE
HERNDON, VA 20170

Grand Knight, Johnny D. Restivo, (703) 250-7830; Chaplain, Fr. James S. Barkett, (703) 978-4141; Financial Secretary, Phil Torrey (703) 690-3127; Insurance Agent, Paul T. Hannon (703) 444-6118

MARINER is published bi-monthly by St. Mary of Sorrows Council 8600 of the Knights of Columbus. Deadline for articles is the tenth day of the month preceding publication. Opinions expressed are those of the individual author and do not necessarily reflect those of Saint Mary of Sorrows Council, the grand knight, the officers, the editor or the Knights of Columbus. Editor: Frank Romano (703) 250-8988; E-Mail: <frank.romano@ed.gov> Web site contact method: www.kofc8600.org

MARINER

Knights of Columbus
St. Mary of Sorrows Council 8600
P.O. Box 339
Fairfax Station, VA 22039-0339

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
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MERRIFIELD, VA
PERMIT NO. 2009

