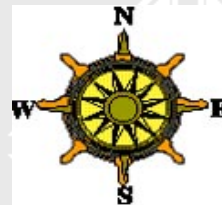




ST-MARK'S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

THE COMPASS



Council Meeting... This Thursday Dec 28th at 7:30pm in Room 209

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GK Column

Brother Knights,

I'd like to begin by congratulating Allan Fernald and Brendan Turcotte for advancing to the 2nd degree this past weekend! Check out our membership corner for more details, and to see when more degree opportunities are coming up.

It's hard to believe, but we just wrapped up another Christmas Tree program. This is our main fund raiser for the year, and it couldn't have happened without the participation of so many of our members. Many thanks to all of you who helped make it a terrific success. Please see our Christmas Tree Update later in this newsletter for more details.

Feel free to rest up in the next few weeks because there are more events coming up shortly. On January 14th we'll have our annual Free Throw contest in partnership with St. Jude's and St. Thomas' councils. Following that, we'll have our Roe v. Wade vigil on January 21st and 22nd, and our annual Spaghetti dinner on January



scholarship program. If you're interested in helping out with any of these activities, just drop a note to info@kc10488.com and we'll make sure it gets to the appropriate chairman. Speaking of chairmen, we are looking for someone to lead our Tootsie Roll drive next year. We'll need to start planning in the next few months, so it would help to have someone on board as soon as possible. If you don't know what's involved, don't let that stop you. We'll be happy to provide all the information and support that you'll need. It can be very rewarding. If you're interested in chairing (or co-chairing) this event, or just getting more information, contact me at 603-437-6549 or ron@turcotte.com.

By now, all of you should have received your notice for annual dues. Enclosed in this year's mailing is a membership survey to find out more about your interests and to give you an opportunity to shape the direction of your council. Many of you have already responded and your new membership cards are on the way. If you haven't, please take the time to fill out the survey and send it in with your dues, or bring it to the next business meeting. Remember, we're offering

\$5.00 dues rebate to the first 10 members who return the survey and come to our January business meeting (officers are excluded from participation – sorry). Some of you have asked about when our December business meeting is, given that Christmas is coming up on Monday. The meeting will be on the 4th Thursday as usual, December 28th at 7:30 PM in room 209 with refreshments to follow. We'd love to see you there.

Until then, please remember to keep Christ in Christmas, and may your holiday be a holy and happy one.

God bless, Ron Turcotte, GK



INSURANCE

We have a new Field Agent supporting our council's insurance needs. His name is Don Paré, and he'd love to meet you. His contact information is below:

Donald Paré
11 Troutbrook Dr
Nashua NH 03063
Office (603) 880-6873 Cell (603) 321-3888

Donald.Pare@kofc.org or
terrydonpare@juno.com

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Silent Night - Historical Roots!

180 years ago the carol "Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht" was heard for the first time in a village church in Oberndorf, Austria. The congregation at that Midnight Mass in St. Nicholas Church listened as the voices of the assistant pastor, Fr. Joseph Mohr, and the choir director, Franz Xaver Gruber, rang through the church to the accompaniment of Fr. Mohr's guitar. On each of the six verses, the choir repeated the last two lines in four-part harmony.

On that Christmas Eve, a song was born that would wing its way into the hearts of people throughout the world. Now translated into hundreds of languages, it is sung by untold millions every December from small chapels in the Andes to great cathedrals in Antwerp and Rome.

Today books, films and Internet sites are filled with fanciful tales purporting to tell the history of "Silent Night." Some tell of mice eating the bellows of the organ creating the necessity for a hymn to be accompanied by a guitar. Others claim that Joseph Mohr was forced to write the words to a new carol in haste since the organ would not play. A recent film, created for Austrian television places Oberndorf in the Alps and includes evil railroad barons and a double-dealing priest, while a recent book by a German author places a zither in the hands of Franz Gruber and connects Joseph Mohr with a tragic fire engulfing the city of Salzburg. You can read claims that "Silent Night" was sung on Christmas Eve in 1818 and then forgotten by its creators. Of course, the latter are easily discounted by manuscript arrangements of the carol by both Mohr and Gruber which were produced at various times between 1820 and 1855.

In this age of tabloid journalism, it's not surprising that some feel it necessary to invent frivolous anecdotes and create fables for a story that is quite beautiful in its simplicity.

The German words for the original six stanzas of the carol we know as "Silent Night" were written by Joseph Mohr in 1816, when he was a young priest assigned to a pilgrimage church in Mariapfarr, Austria. His grandfather lived nearby, and it is easy to imagine that he could have come up with the words while walking through the countryside on a visit to his elderly relative. The fact is, we have no idea if any particular event inspired Joseph Mohr to pen his poetic version of the birth of the Christchild. The world is fortunate, however, that he didn't leave it behind when he was transferred to Oberndorf the following year (1817).

On December 24, 1818 Joseph Mohr journeyed to the home of musician-schoolteacher Franz Gruber who lived in an apartment over the schoolhouse in nearby Arnsdorf. He showed his friend the poem and asked him to add a melody and guitar accompaniment so that it could be sung at Midnight Mass. His reason for wanting the new carol is unknown. Some speculate that the organ would not work; others feel that the assistant pastor, who dearly loved guitar music, merely wanted a new carol for Christmas.

Later that evening, as the two men, backed by the choir, stood in front of the main altar in St. Nicholas Church and sang "Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!" for the first time, they could hardly imagine the impact their composition would have on the world. Karl Mauracher, a master organ builder and repairman from the Ziller Valley, traveled to Oberndorf to work on the organ, several times in subsequent years. While doing his work in St. Nicholas, he obtained a copy of the composition and took it home with him. Thus, the simple carol, began its journey around the world as a "Tyrolean Folk Song."

Two traveling families of folk singers from the Ziller Valley, similar to the Trapp Family Singers of "The Sound of Music" fame, incorporated the song into their repertoire. According to the Leipziger Tageblatt, the Strassers sang the song in a concert in Leipzig in December 1832. It was during this period, several musical notes were changed, and the carol evolved into the melody we know today. On another occasion, according to an historical plaque, the Rainer Family sang the Christmas carol before an audience which included Emperor Franz I and Tsar Alexander I. In the year 1839, the Rainers performed "Stille Nacht" for the first time in America, at the Alexander Hamilton Monument outside Trinity Church in New York City.

Joseph Bletzacher, the Court Opera singer from Hannover, reported that by the 1840s, the carol was already well known in Lower Saxony. "In Berlin," he says, "the Royal Cathedral Choir popularized it especially. It became in fact the favorite Christmas carol of the artistically appreciative King Frederick William IV of Prussia, who used to have the Cathedral Choir sing it for him during the Christmas season each year."

By the time the song had become famous throughout Europe, the Joseph Mohr had died and the composer was unknown. Although Franz Gruber wrote to music authorities in Berlin stating that he was the composer, the melody had been assumed to be the work of Haydn, Mozart or Beethoven at various times and these thoughts persisted even into the twentieth century. The controversy was put to rest four years ago when a long-lost arrangement of "Stille Nacht" in the hand of Joseph Mohr was authenticated. In the upper right hand corner of the arrangement, Mohr wrote, "Melodie von Fr. Xav. Gruber."

During his lifetime, Franz Xaver Gruber produced a number of orchestral arrangements of his composition. The original guitar arrangement is missing, but five other Gruber manuscripts of the carol exist. The manuscript by Joseph Mohr (ca. 1820) is for guitar accompaniment and is probably the closest to the arrangement and melody sung at Midnight Mass in 1818.

(Con't on Page-3)

A traveling salesman was held up in the west by a rainstorm and flood. He e-mails his office in NY: "Delayed by storm. Send instructions"

His boss e-mails back: "Start vacation immediately"

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The following brothers are celebrating their birthday:



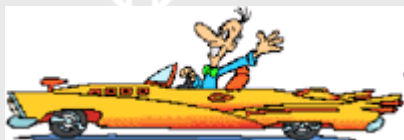
Brian Ross	4th
Al Giguere	9th
Pat O'Brien	10th
Tom Cox, PGK/FDD	27th
Jim Blake, PGK	30th

Silent Night (Con't)

During his lifetime, Franz Xaver Gruber produced a number of orchestral arrangements of his composition. The original guitar arrangement is missing, but five other Gruber manuscripts of the carol exist. The manuscript by Joseph Mohr (ca. 1820) is for guitar accompaniment and is probably the closest to the arrangement and melody sung at Midnight Mass in 1818.

Later in his life, the Gruber family moved to Hallein, now the site of the Franz Xaver Gruber Museum. It contains several furnished rooms in his former home along with outstanding exhibits dealing with the history of "Silent Night," including Joseph Mohr's guitar. Gruber's grave is outside the home and is decorated with a Christmas tree in December.

Fr. Joseph Mohr's final resting place is a tiny Alpine ski resort, Wagrain. He was born into poverty in Salzburg in 1792 and died penniless in Wagrain in 1848, where he had been assigned as pastor of the church. He had donated all his earnings to be used for eldercare and the education of the children in the area.



Isn't it strange how drivers who go slower than you are idiots and those that go faster are maniacs?



Mark Collins	1st
John McCarthy	12th
Jim Giguere	13th
Evan Sohm	16th
Robert McCool	26th
Pat O'Sullivan	30th

His memorial from the townspeople is the Joseph Mohr School located a dozen yards from his grave. The overseer of St. Johann's, in a report to the bishop, described Mohr as "a reliable friend of mankind, toward the poor, a gentle, helping father." In 1998 it was discovered that Joseph Mohr was not born in the building once thought to be his birthplace at 9 Steingasse in Salzburg. Research into the census records indicates that Mohr and his mother resided at 31 Steingasse. At the same time the Governor of Salzburg, Franz Schausberger, announced a new initiative to promote the cultural sites related to the carol and its composers. It seems that Austria has finally realized that their national treasure has a very special significance outside its birth nation and has become "The Song Heard 'Round The World."

Perhaps this is part of the miracle of "Silent Night." The words flowed from the imagination of a modest curate. The music was composed by a musician who was not known outside his village. There was no celebrity to sing at its world premiere. Yet its powerful message of heavenly peace has crossed all borders and language barriers, conquering the hearts of people everywhere.



Saturday, January 27th @ 6 PM
(directly after 5 PM Mass in the Parish Hall) Spaghetti Dinner (Monies raised will support the 2007 Rosemarie R.Cox Memorial Scholarship)

Bring your Families to Support this Worthy Cause and enjoy a delicious Pasta Feast!

Christmas Tree Update

Thanks to all of you who helped make our Christmas Tree program a success! We sold out our stock of 450 trees and also supported Derry Community Caregivers by selling wreaths on their behalf. Extra special thanks go to John Kelly and Mike Dromgoole who co-chaired the program this year. This fund raiser is a lot of work, and John has been coordinating it for a few years now. If anyone would like to step up and serve as Chairman next year, I'm sure John would be happy to show you the ropes. Please contact one of our officers if you're interested.

St. Mark's First Degree Team

We're still looking for help with our new First Degree team. This is an opportunity to get involved in a unique aspect of our order, and to help shepherd in new brother Knights. You only need to be a 1st degree knight to be on the team, and some of the roles are very easy. Please contact Ron Turcotte at ron@turcotte.com or 603-437-6549 if you'd like to join us, or even just to get more information.

Charity, the first principle of our order!

Here is a list of our recent recent Donations:

\$250.00 Sonshine Soup Kitchen

\$250.00 NH State Kidney Fund

\$200.00 Build a Church (State program to build a church in Ghana

\$100.00 EWTN

\$ 50.00 Granite State Awards Program Booklet – in support of state scholarship

Membership Corner

On Sunday, December 17th Brothers Allan Fernald and Brendan Turcotte advanced to the 2nd degree at Sacred Heart Church in Laconia. Please congratulate them!

Upcoming Degrees:

1st Degree Friday, January 12 in Hudson

3rd Degree Sunday, January 21 in West Keene

Please contact Paul Bartlett at 437-2562 or via e-mail at pwbartlett@comcast.net if you're interested in attending either of these degree ceremonies.

Click arrow to view a different month!

◀▶ JANUARY 2007

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Select: All, None							Add to My Calendar		Email Reminder		Other event actions...	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday						
31	1	2	3	4	5	6						
7	8	9	10	11 <input type="checkbox"/> 7:30p KC Officer Meeting	12	13						
14	15	16	17 <input type="checkbox"/> 1p KC Newsletter Deadline	18	19	20						
21 <input type="checkbox"/> 9a Coffee & Donuts Hosting <input type="checkbox"/> 12p 3rd Degree <input type="checkbox"/> Roe v. Wade Vigil	22 <input type="checkbox"/> 7:30p Pro-Life Service & Refreshments	23	24	25 <input type="checkbox"/> 7:30p Council Business Meeting	26	27 <input type="checkbox"/> 6p Spaghetti Dinner (Scholarshp Fundraiser)						
28 <input type="checkbox"/> 12p Quarterly Meeting	29	30	31 <input type="checkbox"/> 12p Fraternal Survey Due	1	2	3						

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