



ST-MARK'S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

THE COMPASS


[Home](#)
[Newsletter](#)
[Page 2](#)
[Page 3](#)
[Page 4](#)
[Archives](#)


GK Column



January is finally behind us, and it was a terrific month for our council. We conducted a Roe v. Wade vigil, Free Throw Competition, and Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for the Rosemarie Cox Memorial Scholarship Fund. Special thanks to Don Sommese for chairing the Spaghetti dinner, and for everyone who helped out. Our scholarship fund now has a balance of \$923.94. Perhaps someone will make a motion at our next meeting to round that balance up to an even \$1,000.

This month we begin our Friday Lenten dinners. Last month I was looking for a volunteer to chair this event, and Tom Lavalley (and his family) graciously stepped up to lead this effort. Thanks

Tom! Dinners begin Friday the 23rd and continue every Friday up to the week before Easter. He has some new ideas for varying the menu a bit this year, so please come and join us, bring your families, invite your friends, and pitch in to help if you can. Note that Stations of the Cross have moved back to Friday nights beginning just after our dinners, so now there are two reasons to come join us.

While I'm speaking of volunteers, I'd like to thank Tom Cox for coordinating our council's participation in this year's Beautify Londonderry program coming up this spring. Please be generous when we begin looking for participants.

There are a couple of KofC events coming up at the State level that I'd like to bring to your attention. Please contact me or check the State Council website nhknights.org for more details.

First, the Granite Award dinner will be held at the Crown Plaza in Nashua on March 17th. This dinner is to honor an outstanding citizen of NH who exemplifies the virtues of our order. Tickets are \$25 per person and must be ordered by March 3rd.

There is also a Founder's Day trip to St. Mary's Church in New Haven, CT, the birthplace of our order, to celebrate the 125th anniversary of our founding. Tickets are \$25 per person (based on filling a 55

-passenger bus) and must be ordered by March 22nd. Details can be found here: [Founders Day](#)

Our next business meeting is Thursday, February 22nd at 7:30PM in Room 209, followed by refreshments. I hope to see many of you there.

Yours in Christ,

Ron Turcotte, GK

Insurance Corner



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

Brian Gillis
12 Webster Ct.
Merrimack NH 03054
Office (603) 429-1017 Cell (603) 4940332

Brian.Gillis@kofc.org

Home

Newsletter

Page 2

Page 3

Page 4

Archives

The History of Saint Valentine's Day

There are varying opinions as to the origin of Valentine's Day. Some experts state that it originated from St. Valentine, a Roman who was martyred for refusing to give up Christianity. He died on February 14, 269 A.D., the same day that had been devoted to love lotteries. Legend also says that St. Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it "From Your Valentine". Other aspects of the story say that Saint Valentine served as a priest at the temple during the reign of Emperor Claudius. Claudius then had Valentine jailed for defying him. In 496 A.D. Pope Gelasius set aside February 14 to honour St. Valentine.

Gradually, February 14 became the date for exchanging love messages and St. Valentine became the patron saint of lovers. The date was marked by sending poems and simple gifts such as flowers. There was often a social gathering or a ball.

In the United States, Miss Esther Howland is given credit for sending the first valentine cards. Commercial valentines were introduced in the 1800's and now the date is very commercialised. The town of Loveland, Colorado, does a large post office business around February 14. The spirit of good continues as valentines are sent out with sentimental verses and children exchange valentine cards at school.

Valentine's Day started in the time of the Roman Empire. In ancient Rome, February 14th was a holiday to honour Juno. Juno was the Queen of the Roman Gods and Goddesses. The Romans also knew her as the Goddess of women and marriage. The following day, February 15th, began the Feast of Lupercalia.

The lives of young boys and girls were strictly separate. However, one of the customs of the young people was name drawing. On the eve of the festival of Lupercalia the names of Roman girls were written on slips of paper and placed into jars. Each young man would draw a girl's name from the jar and would then be partners for the duration of the festival with the girl whom he chose. Sometimes the pairing of the children lasted an entire year, and often, they would fall in love and would later marry.

Under the rule of Emperor Claudius II Rome was involved in many bloody and unpopular campaigns. Claudius the Cruel was having a difficult time getting soldiers to join his military leagues. He believed that the reason was that Roman men did not want to leave their loves or families. As a result, Claudius cancelled all marriages and engagements in Rome. The good Saint Valentine was a priest at Rome in the days of Claudius II. He and Saint Marius aided the Christian martyrs and secretly married couples, and for this kind deed Saint Valentine was apprehended and dragged before the Prefect of Rome, who condemned him to be beaten to death with clubs and to have his head cut off. He suffered martyrdom on the 14th day of February, about the year 270. At that time it was the custom in Rome, a very ancient custom, indeed, to celebrate in the month of February the Lupercalia, feasts in honour of a heathen god. On these occasions, amidst a variety of pagan ceremonies, the names of young women were placed in a box, from which they were drawn by the men as chance directed.

The pastors of the early Christian Church in Rome endeavoured to do away with the pagan element in these feasts by substituting the names of saints for those of maidens. And as the Lupercalia began about the middle of February, the pastors appear to have chosen Saint Valentine's Day for the celebration of this new feast. So it seems that the custom of young men choosing maidens for valentines, or saints as patrons for the coming year, arose in this way.



A champion jockey is about to enter an important race on a new horse. The horse's trainer meets him before the race and says,

"All you have to remember with this horse is that every time you approach a jump, you have to shout, "ALLLLEEE OOOOP!" really loudly in the horse's ear. Providing you do that, you'll be fine".

The jockey thinks the trainer is mad but promises to shout the command. The race begins and they approach the first hurdle. The jockey ignores the trainer's ridiculous advice and the horse crashes straight through the center of the jump.

They carry on and approach the second hurdle. The jockey, somewhat embarrassed, whispers "Aleeee ooop" in the horse's ear. The same thing happens -- the horse crashes straight through the center of the jump.

At the third hurdle, the jockey thinks, "It's no good, I'll have to do it" and yells, "ALLLLEEE OOOOP!" really loudly. Sure enough, the horse sails over the jump with no problems. This continues for the rest of the race, but due to the earlier problems the horse only finishes third.

The trainer is fuming and asks the jockey what went wrong. The jockey replies, "Nothing is wrong with me -- it's this bloody horse. What is he -- deaf or something?"

The trainer replies, "Deaf?? DEAF?? He's not deaf -- he's BLIND!"

Home

Newsletter

Page 2

Page 3

Page 4

Archives

The following brothers are celebrating their birthday:

Friday



Paul DiMarco	5th
Steve Curtin	14th
Bob Valway	14th
Wally Markham	16th
Tim Bowen	21st
Connor O'Brien	24th
Richard Engler	26th



Kevin Lacerda	1st
George Combes	2nd
Dennis Pedley	2nd
Walter Lewis	6th
Richard Fisher	17th
Stephen Barry	19th
Mike Dromggole, PGK	20th
Thomas Brown	25th
Fr. Thom Duston	25th
Stan Swiderek	27th
Matt Sochalski	28th
John Cormier	30th
John Conner	30th

"Brother Knights, once again this year our council will have Lenten Dinners on Fridays during Lent, followed by Stations of the Cross. We're looking for any help from Friday ~3PM until 7 when Stations will begin. More help always means less work for everyone! We'll be cooking beginning around 3 PM, serving starting at 5 PM and cleaning up prior to Stations. We'll start this year with Clam Chowder, Tomato Soup, Grilled Cheese Sandwiches and Salad. We'll also be planning to change the menu a bit each week to have some variety. Fish Chowder, Vegetable Soup, Grilled Cheese and Tomato Sandwiches are just some of the items we're planning. Please plan to come starting Friday, February 23 and join us each Friday throughout Lent. I'm sure we'll have a spiritual and enjoyable time as we prepare for Easter."

Tom Lavallee - Chairman

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.

Microsoft

vs

GM

At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated "If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving twenty-five dollar cars that got 1000 mi/gal."

Recently General Motors addressed this comment by releasing the statement: "Yes, but would you want your car to crash twice a day?" Not only that, but... Every time they repainted the lines on the road you would have to buy a new car. Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason, and you would just accept this, restart and drive on. Occasionally, executing a maneuver would cause your car to stop and fail and you would have to re-install the engine. For some strange reason, you would accept this too.

You could only have one person in the car at a time, unless you bought "Car95" or "CarNT". But, then you would have to buy more seats.

Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast, twice as easy to drive, but would only run on five percent of the roads.

The Macintosh car owners would get expensive Microsoft upgrades to their cars, which would make their cars run much slower. The oil, gas and alternator warning lights would be replaced by a single "general car default" warning light.

New seats would force everyone to have the same size butt.

The airbag system would say "are you sure?" before going off.

If you were involved in a crash, you would have no idea what happened.

[Home](#)[Newsletter](#)[Page 2](#)[Page 3](#)[Page 4](#)[Archives](#)

Charity, the first principle of our order!

Here is a list of our recent recent Donations:

December Donations

- \$200 for Fairfield University Campus Ministry (Jamaican Ministry for Katie McLaughlin)
- \$500 for NH Cultural Diversity Awareness Council
- Renewed quarterly commitment of \$250 for Kidney Fund



Family of the Month

Congratulations to: John and Elaine Matuszewski !



Our New Insurance Agent is:

F. Brian Gillis
12 Webster Court
Merrimack, NH 03054

Home: 603 429-1017

Office: 494-0332

Email:

Brian.Gillis@kofc.org

Click arrow to view a different month!

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