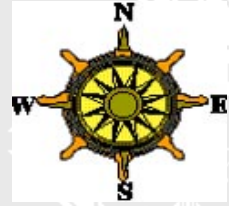




ST-MARK'S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

THE COMPASS



Council Meeting

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GK Column

Brother Knights,

Christmas tree sales are nearly upon us. We'll be setting up the booth this coming weekend, and selling trees the following weekend. Please see the Christmas Tree Update column in this newsletter for details. This is the main fundraiser that sustains our charity work throughout the year, so please help out if you can.

On the membership front, there are a few areas of interest. First, be sure to check out our membership column and congratulate Brother Connor O'Brien. It was just last month that we noted his 2nd degree, and this past weekend he made his 3rd degree! Congratulations again!

In past newsletters I've mentioned that I'd like to start up a 1st degree team in our council. I've got three members interested so far, but we still need more. You only need to be a 1st degree knight to be on the team, and some of the roles are very easy. Please let me know if you'd like to join us.



We had the honor of having brother Greg Taillon, our State Secretary, join us at our October business meeting. He was very impressed with the level of activity and the number of programs in our council, and suggested that this was the best way to grow and maintain our membership. In part, it's great for the community to see what we're doing, and perhaps to interest new men in joining us. It's also great for all of us, as existing members, to be involved in these activities at whatever level each of us can contribute.

Is there something that you'd like to get involved in, or a program that you'd like to suggest? Is there a charity that you'd like to see us support? This is your council, and you have an opportunity to set its direction. To that end, we'll be sending out a membership survey with our upcoming mailing for dues. This is an opportunity for you to tell us what you're interested in. Please take the time to fill it out and send it in with your dues, or bring it to the next business meeting. As a small incentive, we're offering a \$5.00 dues rebate to the first 10 members who return the survey and come to our January business meeting.

Finally, one last point of interest to our members - we have a new insurance agent. His name is Don Paré, and you can find more information about him in the Insurance column of this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the November business meeting on Thursday November 16th at 7:30PM in room 209. We're working hard to keep the business portion as short as possible, and we always serve refreshments after each meeting. Come join us if you can make it. If I don't see you there, then I wish you all a happy and holy Thanksgiving.

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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The real meaning of Thanksgiving



There are many myths and misconceptions surrounding the people responsible for the American Thanksgiving tradition. Contrary to popular opinion, the Pilgrims didn't wear buckles on their shoes or hats. They weren't teetotalers, either. They smoked tobacco and drank beer. And, most importantly, their first harvest festival and subsequent "thanksgivings" weren't held to thank the local natives for saving their lives. Do you know there are public schools in America today actually teaching that? Some textbooks, in their discomfort with open discussions of Christianity, say as much. I dare suggest most parents today know little more about this history than their children. Yet, there is no way to divorce the spiritual from the celebration of Thanksgiving – at least not the way the Pilgrims envisioned it, a tradition dating back to the ancient Hebrews and their feasts of Succoth and Passover. The Pilgrims came to America for one reason – to form a separate community in which they could worship God as they saw fit. They had fled England because King James I was persecuting those who did not recognize the Church of England's absolute civil and spiritual authority. On the two-month journey of 1620, William Bradford and the other elders wrote an extraordinary charter – the Mayflower Compact. Why was it extraordinary? Because it established just and equal laws for all members of their new community – believers and non-believers alike. Where did they get such revolutionary ideas? From the Bible, of course.

When the Pilgrims landed in the New World, they found a cold, rocky, barren, desolate wilderness. There were no friends to greet them, Bradford wrote. No houses to shelter them. No inns where they could refresh themselves. During the first winter, half the Pilgrims died of sickness or exposure – including Bradford's wife. Though life improved for the Pilgrims when spring came, they did not really prosper. Why? Once again, the textbooks don't tell the story, but Bradford's own journal does. The reason they didn't succeed initially is because they were practicing an early form of socialism. The original contract the Pilgrims had with their merchant-sponsors in London called for everything they produced to go into a common store. Each member of the community was entitled to one common share. All of the land they cleared and the houses they built belonged to the community. Bradford, as governor, recognized the inherent problem with this collectivist system. "The experience that was had in this common course and condition, tried sundry years ... that by taking away property, and bringing community into common wealth, would make them happy and flourishing – as if they were wiser than God," Bradford wrote. "For this community [so far as it was] was found to breed much confusion and discontent, and retard much employment that would have been to their benefit and comfort. For young men that were most able and fit for labor and service did repine that they should spend their time and strength to work for other men's wives and children without any recompense ... that was thought injustice." What a surprise! Even back then people did not want to work without incentive. Bradford decided to assign a plot of land to each family to work and manage, thus turning loose the power of free enterprise. What was the result? "This had very good success," wrote Bradford, "for it made all hands industrious, so as much more corn was planted than otherwise would have been." As a result, the Pilgrims soon found they had more food than they could eat themselves. They set up trading posts and exchanged goods with the Indians. The profits allowed them to pay off their debts to the merchants in London much faster than expected. The success of the Plymouth colony thus attracted more Europeans and set off what we call the "Great Puritan Migration." But it wasn't just an economic system that allowed the Pilgrims to prosper. It was their devotion to God and His laws. And that's what Thanksgiving is really all about. The Pilgrims recognized that everything we have is a gift from God – even our sorrows. Their Thanksgiving tradition was established to honor God and thank Him for His blessings and His grace.

Today we continue that tradition in my home – and I hope in yours. God bless you, God bless America, and Happy Thanksgiving.

Written for the WordNetDaily by *Joseph Farah*

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The following brothers are celebrating their birthday:



Paul Bartlett, FS	11th
John McLaughlin, Treas.	13th
John McLean	14th
Mike Garrity	28th
Robert Fawcett	29th



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



**Veterans Day
was Nov
11th**

Let us never forget
those who served
our country

Congratulations to Brother Connor O'Brien, the newest 3rd degree of St. Mark's Council. Connor, who is a Freshman at St. Anselm's College, participated with several other young knight from St. A's at the 3rd Degree ceremony conducted at Fr. Cote's Council (1820) in Claremont, NH on Sunday, 12 November 2006. Connor has progressed through all three degrees in only five month having made his 1st degree on June 20, 2006 and his 2nd degree on Oct. 15, 2006. This was also a very exciting week for Connor in another regards. He was one of the Democratic candidates in Windham seeking to become a NH state representative. His father, Pat mentioned that while the state reps elected in Windham were all Republicans Connor was one of the top democratic vote getters. Next time you see Connor, please congratulate him on both of these accomplishments.

Joe had asked Bob to help him out with the deck after work, so Bob just went straight over to Joe's place. When they got to the door, Joe went straight to his wife, gave her a hug and told her how beautiful she was and how much he had missed her at work. When it was time for supper, he complimented his wife on her cooking, kissed her and told her how much he loved her.

Once they were working on the deck, Bob told Joe that he was surprised that he fussed so much over his wife. Joe said that he'd started this about six months ago, it had revived their marriage, and things couldn't be better. Bob thought he'd give it a go. When he got home, he gave his wife a massive hug, kissed her and told her that he loved her. His wife burst into tears.

Bob was confused and asked why she was crying. She said, "This is the worst day of my life. First, little Billy fell off his bike and twisted his ankle. Then, the washing machine broke and flooded the basement. And now, you come home drunk!"

Christmas Tree Update

We'll be setting up the booth next weekend at the Lukoil (formerly Getty) station in Londonderry, Saturday November 18th at 8:00 AM. We'll start at St. Mark's to get the booth out of the shed and loaded on a trailer, and move on to Lukoil for setup. Please come and join us if you can make it. The more Knights we have, the more quickly we'll finish.



Trees will be delivered during the following week, but we won't have to unload the truck this year. Andre, who provides the trees, will be delivering them and bringing help to

unload and stack the trees for us. That should save a few backaches. Sales begin on Saturday after Thanksgiving on November 25th.

Please contact John Kelly (889-8972) or Mike Dromgoole (434-2515) if you haven't already signed up, or stop by at the business meeting this Thursday night at 7:30.

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

Click arrow to view a different month!

DECEMBER 2006

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Select: All, None

Add to My Calendar

Email Reminder

Other event actions...

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26 <input type="checkbox"/> 8a Tree Sale	27 <input type="checkbox"/> 6p Tree Sale	28 <input type="checkbox"/> 6p Tree Sale	29 <input type="checkbox"/> 6p Tree Sale	30 <input type="checkbox"/> 6p Tree Sale	1 <input type="checkbox"/> 6p Tree Sale	2 <input type="checkbox"/> 8a Tree Sale
3 <input type="checkbox"/> 8a Tree Sale	4 <input type="checkbox"/> 6p Tree Sale	5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6p Tree Sale	6 <input type="checkbox"/> 6p Tree Sale	7 <input type="checkbox"/> 6p Tree Sale	8 <input type="checkbox"/> 6p Tree Sale	9 <input type="checkbox"/> 8a Tree Sale
10 <input type="checkbox"/> 8a Tree Sale	11 <input type="checkbox"/> 6p Tree Sale	12 <input type="checkbox"/> 6p Tree Sale	13 <input type="checkbox"/> 6p Tree Sale	14 <input type="checkbox"/> 6p Tree Sale <input type="checkbox"/> 7:30p KC Officer Meeting	15 <input type="checkbox"/> 6p Tree Sale	16 <input type="checkbox"/> 8a Tree Sale
17 <input type="checkbox"/> 8a Tree Sale <input type="checkbox"/> 9a Coffeew & Donuts Hosting	18 <input type="checkbox"/> 6p Tree Sale	19 <input type="checkbox"/> 6p Tree Sale	20 <input type="checkbox"/> 1p KC Newsletter Deadline <input type="checkbox"/> 6p Tree Sale	21 <input type="checkbox"/> 6p Tree Sale	22 <input type="checkbox"/> 6p Tree Sale	23 <input type="checkbox"/> 8a Tree Sale
24	25	26	27	28 <input type="checkbox"/> 7:30p Council Business Meeting	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

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