



# THE SIKORIAN

*A Newsletter of the Knights of Columbus*

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 5

NOVEMBER 2011

## GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

I almost feel that I am back to being a college professor. Our October activities are like the mid-terms and then all of the activities we have planned for November and early December are like an extended finals period. First let's quickly review October. We participated in the State Meeting, October 1st, the District Soccer Challenge, October 15th, held our fall membership Blitz after all Masses October 15th and 16th, followed by the candidates open house on October 18th, celebrated the Rosary at a candle-lit service on October 21st, and supported the Nativity School PTO Trunk or Treat, October 28th. I thank all of our brothers who supported these events, especially our Youth Chair, John Larvie, our membership chair, Sam Morthland, and our Church Chair, Mike Muller.

So we passed our mid-terms with flying colors, and now the pace really increases. We have two major events in early November on top of our usual string of activities. The first major event is our Italian Dinner Dance on Saturday November 5th. Ron Cestaro has been planning this event since early August, and it is going to be great! If I didn't know better, I would think that he is campaigning for a second term as Grand Knight. As I write this letter we still have a full weekend to sell tickets and have sold 164 as of November 1st. As you read this letter, there still may be time to buy your tickets. Of course besides attending, we will need your help to set up the hall, clean the kitchen, .... See Ron's article in this newsletter.

The second event is one which I don't think our Council has attempted before. We will be hosting a 3rd Degree Exemplification on Saturday November 12th. I estimate that it will take at least 20 of us to pull this off successfully, and I am aware that is over the Veteran's Day long weekend, making this even more of a challenge. But I am positive that we can do it. As I mentioned in our meeting, this is a new format for the 3rd Degree. I observed the new ceremony the first time it was held in Northern Virginia in September, and everyone was moved by its message. If you are a 2nd Degree Knight, please attend. It will not get any closer. If you are a 3rd Degree Knight, we will need your help to set up, man the registration tables, cook and serve the food, participate in the ceremony, and clean up. We will have sign-up sheets at our November 1st meeting. If you come to help and would like to observe the ceremony, please dress appropriately (coat and tie). Of course, if you participate as a ceremonial assistant and are wearing a robe, you wouldn't need to dress up.

Other Council events:

Tuesday, November 1, Parish Hall 7:15 pm Rosary, 7:30 pm Business Meeting which will include a 1st Degree Exemplification.

Tuesday, November 15th, Parish Hall 7:15 pm Rosary, Council Meeting begins at 7:30 pm.

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# GRAND KNIGHTS REPORT CONTINUED

Finally it is my privilege to select the Knight of the Month and the Family of the Month.

The Knight of the Month is Mike Muller. Once again Mike planned the Illuminated Rosary, which gets larger and better each year. As the Chair of our Church committee, Mike is the Council's eyes and ears for opportunities to support the Church. There are so many activities that Mike does, that I cannot list them all. I do know that he is heavily involved with ECHO and SOME. Mike, we are very proud of you.

The Family of the Month, Jim Seymour and Ingrid Sanchez-Seymour. Jim and Ingrid support both the Knights and Nativity School, trying to keep a balance with family activities. We admire their enthusiasm and energy.

VJ,

Phil Thompson  
 Grand Knight  
 Father Sikora Council

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Day	Time	Place	Event	Point of Contact	
November 1, 2011	Tue	7:15 PM	Parish Hall	Meeting and 1st Degree	Phil Thompson	703-451-8626
November 5, 2011	Sat		Parish Hall	Italian Dinner Dance	Ron Cestaro	703-250-1013
November 8, 2011	Tue			Election Day	See Page 6	
November 10, 2011	Thur	7:00 PM	Parish Hall	Flag Retirement and Veterans Reception	See page 4	
November 12, 2011	Sat	10:30 AM	Parish Hall	Third Degree	Sam Morthland	703-455-2186
November 15, 2011	Tue	7:15 PM	Parish Hall	Rosary and Meeting	Phil Thompson	703-451-8626
December 6, 2011	Tue	7:15 PM	Parish Hall	Rosary and Meeting	Phil Thompson	703-451-8626
December 9, 2011	Fri	6:30 PM	NVTC	Annual Christmas Hoopla	Bill Canavan	703-866-5217



# MEMBERSHIP



## November 1st 1st Degree

Brothers, there still is time for you to ask those other Catholic gentlemen you have been talking to about the Knights if they can attend the 1st Degree this Tuesday night, 1 Nov. If you have someone, please let me know and bring them to the meeting at 7pm so we can fill out the Form 100 and get it before the Council prior to the Degree. Also, make sure the candidates have a check for \$39 (\$15 initiation, \$24 dues) with them. If you have any questions please call me 703-455-2186.

DGK Sam Morthland

## November 12th 3rd Degree

**TWO WORDS...THE 3RD DEGREE IS COMING** and I need 20 3rd Degree Brothers to step forward to help. This is a big event and we are supporting our District Deputy in hosting the degree. We expect many State Officer, other District Deputies, and Grand Knights to attend. I need help with setup, reception, food prep/serving, degree participants, and clean up. I will need varying levels of help from 7 am until 2 pm. The Degree starts at 10:30 am and will be followed by lunch. Please come to the meeting on 1 Nov ready to sign up or send me an email (morthlas@aol.com) if you can help.

DGK Sam Morthland

## Upcoming Degrees

Brothers, if you'd like to take advantage and participate in any of the following degrees in our area, please contact me via email or by phone (703-455-2186). DGK Sam Morthland

- 29 Nov 2nd Degree - Holy Spirit Council 11922, Annandale
- 12 Dec 1st Degree - St. John bosco Council 12846, Springfield
- 17 Jan 1st Degree - St. Mary of Sorrows Council 8600, Fairfax Station

# GET A COIN

Recruitment Incentives Honor Pope John Paul II In celebration of the beatification of Pope John Paul II this past May and as part of a new membership focus every Knight who recruits a new member during the first half of the 2011-12 fraternal year will receive a commemorative medallion of Blessed John Paul II featuring the pope's image. So be one of the first in our Council to get one. Get out and talk with your friends and ask them to join.



## TWO ADMONITIONS

We encourage our members to be leaders in our church. We want you to serve on committees and to guide projects. However, in that role or even in casual conversations with our Priests, Nuns, school authorities, secretaries, etc. please do not represent your personal views as those of the Knights of Columbus or our council unless you have been specifically delegated to do so. Let this be our guiding message - "No Surprises"

We are in the midst of a political season which is both intense and long. It is our civic duty to be aware of the issues and to vote responsibly. While we, as a fraternal organization have a unifying core of beliefs, especially towards the sanctity of life from conception to natural death, we are politically neutral. All of the officers have taken a pledge to avoid the "hint of partisan politics" in our meetings. So have most other Knights. I am asking every Knight to follow this within the meeting - gavel to gavel. This does not infringe on any free expression before or after the meetings.

Phillip Thompson, Grand Knight

## ITALIAN DINNER DANCE

This coming Saturday, **November 5th**, is the Council's Italian Dinner Dance gala. Great food. Great wine. Great desserts. Great music. And Child Care too - courtesy of the CYO.

If you missed your chance to buy your tickets, call Ron Cestaro at 703-250-1013 or contact by Email at [rcestaro@cox.net](mailto:rcestaro@cox.net).



Volunteers needed! Help needed for Friday night table set-up and Saturday night table take-down. Also need help for cash bar service.

## FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY/VETERANS RECEPTION

November 10th

The Knights of Columbus Msgr. Francis L. Bradican Assembly #2996 and Boy and Girl Scouts of the Church of the Nativity and Holy Spirit Parishes invite all Veterans, Emergency Service Employees, parishioners, and their families to a Patriotic Flag Retirement Ceremony/Veterans Reception on November 10, 2011 at 7:30 PM behind the Church of the Nativity School. Anyone with a worn or tattered flag to be retired may deposit it in the rear of the church at the Knights Coffee after all Sunday Masses on October 30 and November 6 or simply bring it with them to the ceremony. All are also invited to bring photos of veterans for display on our Wall of Honor. For pictures from last year, visit: <http://thewoj.smugmug.com/Events/Flag-Retirement-2010> to see what it is all about!

## NVTC ANNUAL "CHRISTMAS HOOPLA"

For the 25th year, the Father Sikora Council will sponsor the Northern Virginia Training Center's annual Christmas Hoopla on **Friday, December 9 from 6:30-8:30 pm at the NVTC campus** 9901 Braddock Rd about 2 miles west of Rolling Rd. Together with Brothers from Springfield Council, we will provide gifts for about 70 residents who are physically and mentally disabled. We'll also arrange for Christmas music, refreshments and entertainment, including a visit from Santa Claus. As with other NVTC events, the Christmas Hoopla is a great opportunity for our Knights' family members to participate. Please place the date on your calendar as we need about 20 volunteers to assist for this traditional Christmas event. Contact Brother Bill Canavan at 703-866-5217 or wcanavan@cox.net to sign up or for more information.

PGK Bill Canavan

## ILLUMINATED ROSARY 2011

The 6th annual illuminated rosary was held in the church, the evening of 21 Oct. Although we were not able to "cover all the beads" we had a great group of folks happy to be praying the rosary of the Blessed Mother of God.

Four members of the 4th degree, in their regalia, helped to lead the prayers.

After the prayers, all enjoyed refreshments and the chance to meet new people of the parish. Brother Perez's son Carlos has been well trained by his dad in the KofC role of service to the church. We barely got into the church with all our "stuff" when Carlos stepped up asked to help. We kept him busy till the end. Thanks Carlos!

Brother Mike Muller

## ILLUMINATED ROSARY THANKS

We would like to thank all of the Sir Knights that participated in the Illuminated Rosary and help make it the wonderful event that it was.

Faithful Navigator (Kevin J. Crouch), Color Corps Commander (John Larvie), Sir Knight (Deputy Grand Knight Sam Morthland) and Sir Knight (Carlos Perez)

WFN Kevin Crouch

## ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 8TH

On Tuesday, November 8, 2011, Election Day will occur for Virginia State offices and Fairfax local offices. All registered voters in Fairfax County should have received new precinct voting information in the mail by now. Your precinct and slate of Virginia state senator and delegate may have changed. Be aware and access [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb) for sample ballots. Polls are open from 6 AM until 7 PM. Call 703-222-0776 (recorded message) for voting info in Fairfax County. Elections have consequences. Please Support and Vote Pro-Life!

Please review and share "Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics", a statement issued by the Catholic Bishops of the United States in November, 1998. It is a remarkable document and remains relevant. It can be found at <http://www.archsa.org/FaithPublicLife/documents/LivingtheGospelofLifeaChallengetoAmericanCatholics.pdf> Paragraphs 33 and 34 are presented here.

33. The Gospel of Life must be proclaimed, and human life defended, in all places and all times. The arena for moral responsibility includes not only the halls of government, but the voting booth as well. Laws that permit abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide are profoundly unjust, and we should work peacefully and tirelessly to oppose and change them. Because they are unjust they cannot bind citizens in conscience, be supported, acquiesced in, or recognized as valid. Our nation cannot countenance the continued existence in our society of such fundamental violations of human rights.

34. We encourage all citizens, particularly Catholics, to embrace their citizenship not merely as a duty and privilege, but as an opportunity meaningfully to participate in building the culture of life. Every voice matters in the public forum. Every vote counts. Every act of responsible citizenship is an exercise of significant individual power. We must exercise that power in ways that defend human life, especially those of God's children who are unborn, disabled or otherwise vulnerable. We get the public officials we deserve. Their virtue -- or lack thereof -- is a judgment not only on them, but on us. Because of this, we urge our fellow citizens to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest

Choose Life Today. Choose Life Tomorrow. Pray Always. We Must Do No Less.

Submitted by Brother George Getek

## TRUNK OR TREAT UPDATE

Thank you to Brother Knights Nick Gurick, Mike Muller, Francisco Tavarez, Barry Basselgia, Jason Hines and Chris Thomes who helped make the inaugural Nativity School Trunk or Treat event a great success. Special thanks to Barry and his wife Janet for decorating the back of their pickup in grand Halloween fashion and for braving the elements to distribute candy. And to Jason who endured the cold while dressed as a pirate ready to conquer the Caribbean. Special kudos as well to Carlos Perez whose family came to volunteer without him while he rehearsed for the Fourth Degree exemplification.

### **Trunk or Treat by the numbers:**

25 trunks transformed into ghostly graveyards, haunted huts, and even a dazzling disco

200+ trick or treaters enjoying a carefree, youthful evening

315 pounds of food collected and delivered to Food for Others on behalf of Father Sikora Council

Unlimited gratitude from the Nativity School PTO and families who greatly appreciate our support and participation

Events like this are a great opportunity to introduce K of C to Catholic men in the school community. I look forward to chairing future activities that I think can be beneficial to our Council and our school. Jim Seymour

## **CARPENTER'S SHELTER CHRISTMAS**

We will be supporting the children spending their holiday in the shelter over Christmas holiday. If you would like to play Santa to one of the children at the shelter, please sign up at the meeting OR email Dave/Ann Benson with your name/phone number/email address. We get the list at Thanksgiving time and will call you with the child's wish list.

We gather the unwrapped gifts at our house and take them to the shelter the week before Christmas. The shelter has the parents help to wrap the gifts for their children. We need help the day of delivery - usually need at least 3 vehicles to haul everything.

We appreciate your help with this endeavor - as do the children we help!

Thank you.

Dave and Ann Benson

ph 703-866-9459

annndave2001@yahoo.com

or you can drop off at church - Ann works in the Bookkeeper's office

## **KNIGHT'S ANNUAL WINTER COAT DRIVE**

Thank you to all who donated winter wear. We collected 14 bags of women coats, 7 bags of children coats, 17 bags of men's coats, 2 bags of hats/gloves/scarves, and 3 boxes of toiletries. Carpenter's Shelter, Christ House, and No Hands But Yours were the recipients of the goods we collected. Thank you to Nick Gurick and Don Lemieux who helped us sort and Ed Bannon who helped us sort and deliver everything.

For those who don't know - No Hands But Yours is run by Manuel Ponciano (Nativity parishioner) who distributes to 2 locations in VA and 1 in DC to poor and homeless.

Thank you again.

Dave and Ann Benson

## **FAIRFAX COUNTRY CLUB REQUEST**

Brothers:

I need favor and this is a unusual request, my daughter will be hosting a wedding shower in April 2012 for 20 or so women and she would like to have it at Fairfax Country Club, the club informs me that I need a sponsor. Are any of our brothers a member that would help me out?

Frank Galie

frankgalie@ymail.com

FREE CONCERT GREAT MUSIC



2011 NATIONAL VETERANS DAY CONCERT

Theme: "City Upon a Hill"

Wednesday, November 9, 2011, 7:30 PM. Concert Prelude, 6:30 PM.

Featuring



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Merry Widow Duet

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CAN CAN

Grand Old Flag

(Theme of Lone Ranger)

Stars and Stripes Forever

Colonel Bogey March

from "Bridges on the River Kiewit"

Veterans Hymn

God Bless the USA (Lee Greenwood)



ADRIAN CRONAUER HERSHEL GOBER



MEDICAL MUSICAL GROUP



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National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 400 Michigan Ave, NE, Washington, DC

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### KofC Website Links

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 Insurance: <http://www.kofcinsurance.com>  
 Virginia: <http://www.state.kofcva.org/>  
 District 14: <http://www.kofc8600.org/dd14/>  
 7992: <http://www.frsikora7992.org/>  
 Facebook [Father Sikora FACEBOOK](#)  
 LinkedIn group [Father Sikora LinkedIn Group](#)  
 KofC World News: <http://headlinebistro.com>  
 Fathers For Good: <http://www.fathersforgood.org/ffg/en/index.html>

#### Knights of Columbus Council Officers 2011-2012

Grand Knight	<a href="#">Phil Thompson</a>	703-451-8626
Chaplain	<a href="#">Fr. Cedric Wilson</a>	301-445-1681
Deputy Grand Knight	<a href="#">Sam Morthland</a>	703-455-2186
Chancellor	<a href="#">Mark Sawyer</a>	703-250-3984
Treasurer	<a href="#">Dave Johnson</a>	703-455-3337
Financial Secretary	<a href="#">Tony Adams</a>	703-569-3755
Recorder	<a href="#">Nick Gurick</a>	703-644-1492
Advocate	<a href="#">Carlos Perez</a>	703-866-7605
Warden	<a href="#">Chris Thomes</a>	703-455-1858
Inside Guard	<a href="#">Gary Mausolf</a>	571-405-0075
Outside Guard 1	<a href="#">Brian Mahoney</a>	703-250-2942
Outside Guard 2	<a href="#">Dennis Scott</a>	703-455-3876
Trustee Year 1	<a href="#">George Getek</a>	703-978-6674
Trustee Year 2	<a href="#">Matt Smith</a>	703-455-3197
Trustee Year 3	<a href="#">Tom Savage</a>	512-983-5641
Insurance	<a href="#">Paul Hannan</a>	703-444-6118

#### Committee Chairs and Special Projects 2011-2012

Church Program	<a href="#">Mike Muller</a>	703-451-9386
Council Program	<a href="#">John Landy</a>	703-250-1492
Youth Program	<a href="#">John Larvie</a>	703-451-3477
Family Program	<a href="#">Gary Mausolf</a>	571-405-0075
Community Program	<a href="#">Bill Canavan</a>	703-866-5217
Membership	<a href="#">Sam Morthland</a>	703-455-2186
Charity Committee	<a href="#">Art Rupinen</a> and <a href="#">Pat Bradshaw</a>	703-440-0149 703-866-0877
Pro-Life Program	<a href="#">George Getek</a>	703-978-6674
KOVAR	<a href="#">Jay Hoffmeier</a>	703-250-7753
E-mail Coordinator	<a href="#">Tom Wilder</a>	703-250-8774
Newsletter	<a href="#">Chris Thomes</a>	703-455-1858