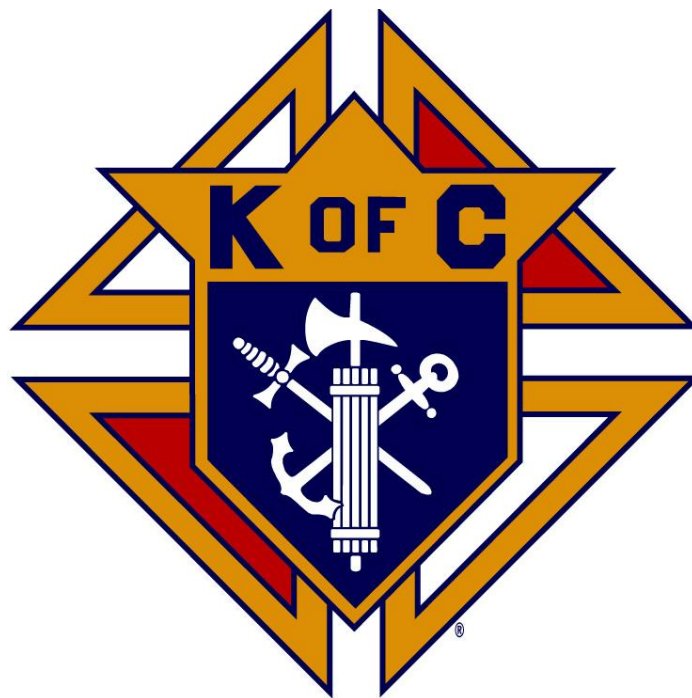


Knights of Columbus
Father Albert Newman
Council 8470



December 2004
Newsletter

GRAND KNIGHT'S LETTER

It is the season again and on behalf of our family, Carole and I want to wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas Holiday Season. May all of your families grow closer together and to God as we try to live the message of the child in the manger.

I am looking forward to the Polar Bear Dinner and Dance. A big thank you to Charles Russell and Danny Fortin for taking it on. The cost is so reasonable; we should have a packed hall.

Congratulations to Larry Griffith, Michal Lemieux and Peter Poos on their major degrees last month. Also to Chris Ried who completed his first degree last week. Welcome to the Knights of Columbus. We look forward to working with you for the next – oh – 50 years. To Chris and all first-degree members, there is a major degree on the 19 February 2005 in Calgary. Keep that in mind.

We still need members to step forward and take on some of the service programs. Please give it prayerful consideration over the holiday season.

A special thank you to Ray Vandale for his work as Family Director. Ray, Twyla and their children are moving to Fort McMurray where Ray will take on new and added responsibilities with his company. Good luck Ray – (yes Twyla, Fort McMurray does have a summer).

Keep the pancake breakfast on January 05, in mind.

Once again, Merry Christmas and pray you have a Happy and Holy New Year.

Sincerely:

**Dave Whitty
Grand Knight
Council 8470**

MEANINGLESS STATEMENTS

Prepared by David Whitty – Grand Knight

During the last election campaign in our country and our neighbours to the south, whenever the politicians discuss the two countries they throw out this line “What ever we do we have to maintain our Canadian values”. Has anyone over heard that exclamation explained as to how our values are different? They really mean “our values” are higher or better.

In the United States, they destroy one million children a year – Canada only one hundred thousand. We are one-tenth their population. Five Supreme Court Judges forced that law on that country. In Canada, the Cabinet (mostly Catholic) brought in the legislation.

In the United States, Dr. Jack Kavorkian is doing twenty years for assisting sick and depressed people to kill themselves. In Canada we re-elect one of the participants back to the House of Commons – remember Sue Rodreculz in British Columbia?

Just recently a person was acquitted in British Columbia for assisting two people to commit suicide. Pundits in the press referred to the woman as courageous. Our Justice Minister wants to open the question of assisted suicide (how to do in the sick – next it becomes the old folks). Just ask seniors In Holland. Their greatest fear is in having an accident while out shopping and ending up in the hospital. Remember, the Nazi holocaust started in hospital in Germany, not in prison camps.

In the last election in the United States, eleven states put the homosexual marriage issue on the ballot and it was defeated in all eleven states by a two to one margin. In Canada, the politicians want to avoid the issue completely so they ask the Supreme Court for opinions beforehand. With the two new additions to the court, does anyone really believe this issue will not be a forgone conclusion?

If someone can see where our values are higher or better than our neighbours to the south, please feel free to point it our to me.

Let us all pray that those who were elected to lead our country forward will remember where all laws originate.

MEDITATION

Mathew 18:21 – 35

Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?”

Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.”

“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payments to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, “Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.” And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, “Pay what you owe.” So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you.” He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, “You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?” And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. “So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Jesus taught us to pray to the Father in Heaven with these words: “Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.” (Mathew 6:12). These words challenge the Christian community to grapple with the practical questions of forgiveness and church order.

Perhaps only an accountant would tend to look at this parable of the two servants and consider the amounts of the debts owed. Such a consideration, however, does lead us to a startling discovery: One hundred denarii represented a laborer’s wages for 100 days of work. Ten thousand talents were equivalent to 150,000 years wages, about half-a-million times greater. The figure need not be taken literally: The numbers indicate how small the second servant’s debt was in comparison with the first; they also reveal the immensity of the debt that the first servant owed to his king, a debt that could never have been repaid, even with the greatest enterprise.

While the number and nature of our sins may differ, it is an unfortunate fact that all of us commit sins that hurt others and ourselves. Our human tendency is to point to the wrong that has been done to us, and never to forget it: “He did this.” “She did

that.” “It’s unfair and it hurt me.” Even small children can recount such experiences in their young lives.

In teaching us to forgive our brothers and sisters, Jesus was not glossing over the reality of the hurts that sinful actions cause. It’s just that a higher reality – God’s forgiveness of our sins – should enable us to forgive those who offend us. Compared to our offenses against God, the debt owed us is comparatively minor. It is simple justice that we should forgive without limit. Ben Sira saw this truth from afar when he said: “Forgive your neighbour the wrong he has done and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray” (Sirach 28:2).

Consider C.S. Lewis, a noted Christian essayist of this century:
To forgive the incessant provocations of daily life – to keep on forgiving the bossy mother in law, the bullying husband, the nagging wife, the selfish daughter, the deceitful son – how can we do it? Only, I think, by meaning our words when we say in our prayers each night: “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us.” We are offered forgiveness on no other terms. To refuse to do it is to refuse God’s Mercy on ourselves. (*The Weight of Glory*, “*On Forgiveness*,” p.7)

- *Matthew, A Devotional Commentary p194, 195, 196 – published by The Word Among Us www.wau.org*

CATHOLIC JOKES

Christmas Carols Gone Crazy! (Catholic Digest, January 2000)

No one can fracture a Christmas carol better than a kid. Sing along with these new takes on old favorites:

Deck the Halls With Buddy Holly...

On the first day of Christmas my tulip gave to me...

Later on we'll perspire, as we dream by the fire...

He's making a list, chicken and vice...

With jelly toast proclaim...

Olive, the other reindeer, used to laugh and call him names...

Frosty the snowman, is a ferret elf, I say...

In the meadow we can build a snowman, then pretend that he is sparse and brown...

Rudolf, the red-nosed reindeer, you'll go down in Listerine

Oh, what fun it is to ride with one house, soap and hay...

You'll tell Carol, "Be a skunk, I require," and the folks all dressed as Eskimos

Good tidings we bring to you and you're kid...

Noel, Noel, Barney's the king of Israel...

We three kings of porridge and tar...



The Lord's Prayer

A mother was teaching her three-year-old daughter The Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she repeated it after her mother. One night she said she was ready to solo. The mother listened with pride, as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end.

"And lead us not into temptation", she prayed, "but deliver us some e-mail, Amen."

Jericho Revisited... by the Parish Financial Council

The pastor went for his normal visit to the catechism classes. He wanted to test the biblical knowledge of the confirmation candidates.

"Let me see! You, John, do you know who toppled down the walls of Jericho?" There was a long silence and finally John in an undertone mumbled, "Father, it was not for me! That's for sure. The pastor glanced bewildered, glanced at the teacher. "Oh Father! If John said he did not do it, believe him. He is very trustworthy...."

That same evening during the pastoral council meeting of the whole parish, the pastor was retelling the story hoping to elicit some sympathy and some concrete suggestions how to improve the catechism program. Again a long silence, broken by the President of the pastoral council who very calmly stated : "Listen, Father, we realize that you are new to this place. But let me put your mind at rest. In this Church everything falls under a full-coverage insurance. Hence it is enough for us to make a claim and we shall have enough money to rebuild the collapsed walls of Jericho..."

Speak now or forever...

A former magistrate had received his calling late in life and gave up his position to become a priest. One day he was conducting his first marriage ceremony.

"Wilt thou have this man to be thy wedded husband?" he asked. The bride answered, "I will."

"And you," he continued addressing the bridegroom. "What have you to say in your defense?"

(Catholic sites.com)

From our house to your house: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May the true spirit of Christmas rekindle in our hearts a life long commitment to Jesus Christ, His words and

His teachings. May the
peace of Christ descend on
our households now and
forever.

Paul Robb