

The Grand Knight Sez.....

At the special organizational meeting held on Monday July 6th, I outlined the current status of the council, the methods that I will use to improve that status, and the timeline during which these improvements are expected to take place.

Last fall the officers of Father Ragan reported on the need to raise dues in the face of mounting debt, due to unanticipated expenses, rising costs and additional assessments from Supreme. The previous officers did a good job of dealing with the problems at that time and cutting back on many unnecessary expenditures. The council debt however, was pushed to the back burner as they dealt with real time issues. It is now time to fulfill the promise made to the membership when the increased dues were proposed, that is to reduce the debt. As of July 1st the amount owed to the Father Ragan Charitable Foundation was \$7659.27. At the July 6th meeting I proposed a budget for the 2009-2010 fraternal year that would pay off this entire debt by the end of 2009. In order to accomplish this goal, certain expenses must be curtailed, and certain activities eliminated.

As anyone who has managed his household budget knows, you have to pay your bills. If you run out of paycheck before you run out of bills, you have to get another job to make more money or make some cuts until the money you have equals the money you owe.

To that end I plan to eliminate all discretionary and non-essential spending until the debt is paid. This is certain to result in some heartache and pain but will assure the financial stability of the council as we go forward.

One of the items that will be cut is the **mailing** of this publication. While the Ragan Report will be compiled and printed every month, it will not be mailed on a regular basis until we are debt free. Printed copies will be available in the foyer at the hall, via e-mail, and online on the Members Page of the website. (www.fragan.com/members.html)

As previously stated I intend to be debt free by December 31st 2009. Unexpected expenses and lower than anticipated income would obviously affect this schedule but I have used very conservative numbers in developing the budget and really believe that we can do it.

More than ever we need your support for our two regularly scheduled fund raisers: the council clambake on October 4th and the Turkey Raffle November 19th. We need you to join us at these events. We need you to bring your friends, neighbors, in-laws, outlaws and anyone else you can drag down. If these events are as successful as they have been in recent history, we will achieve our goal.

It should be mentioned that with the support of our membership at the two above mentioned events, no additional council fund raisers will be needed.

Once the debt is repaid, all activities and services that were reduced or cut will be reviewed. If the activity and services are still desired by the members and funding is provided, they will be restored.

As a bonus, with the elimination of our debt, I believe that we can effect a reduction in the annual dues charged to our members. I propose a committee of Past Grand Knights and/or other interested members that will review the budget, verify the projected income and expense, and make a recommendation to the council on the amount of dues to be charged for the 2010 calendar year.

On another front, our Advocate Fred Metz is chairing a committee to create and /or update our council by-laws.

If you would be interested in serving on either the dues or bylaws committee contact me and I will fix you up. I envision the committees consisting of 3 to 7 people. Too few and you won't get enough ideas, too many and you won't get anything done.

We need to have both recommendations complete and ready to present to the membership by October 1st. We will then have discussions at a minimum of two regular meetings before a vote to accept their recommendations. November has no regular meetings (Memorial Mass & Turkey Raffle replace meetings) and dues statements will be mailed December 1st so time is critical.

I look forward to the continued support of those members who have been working hard to improve Fr. Ragan and encourage any or all of our new members to come forward and offer to assist at one of the many activities our council has scheduled.

YOU are the future of Fr Ragan council and Fr. Ragan needs YOU!

Vivat Jesus



Available Online
www.fragan.com/members.html

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Ragan Report

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In Memoriam



The trees that enhance the beauty of our Council Grounds have been planted in memory of the dedicated men and women who have made significant contributions to Father Ragan Council. Take a minute to remember them in your prayers.

Guests are ALWAYS welcome at social events
Mark These Dates on Your Calendar

Quarterly Communions:

- Sept 20th 9:00 AM Holy Trinity
- Nov 22rd 9:00 AM Holy Spirit
- Feb 14th 8:00 AM St Joseph
- May 23rd 8:00 AM St Mary

Council Clambake

- Oct 4th 3:00-6:00 PM Fr Ragan Hall

Memorial Mass

- Nov 5th 7:00 PM Holy Spirit Chapel

Turkey Raffle

- Nov 19th 6:00 PM Fr Ragan Hall

Senior's Dinner

- Dec 6th 1:00 PM Fr Ragan Hall

Isabella Christmas Party

- Dec 19th 6:00 PM Fr Ragan Hall

Awards Night

- April 17th 6:00 PM Fr Ragan Hall

August 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 Pet Placement Bingo 	6 Officers 6:30 PM Business Meeting 8:00PM	7 Fr Ragan Bingo 	8
9	10	11 No Isabella Guild Meeting This Month	12 Pet Placement Bingo 	13 Foundation 7:30PM	14 Fr Ragan Bingo 	15
16	17	18 Mc Manus Assembly 8:00 PM LorainCouncil 	19 Pet Placement Bingo 	20 Social Meeting 8:00 PM	21 Fr Ragan Bingo 	22
23	24	25	26 Pet Placement Bingo 	27	28 Fr Ragan Bingo 	29
30	31					