

Ragan Report



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Marine Band Concert

The United States Marine Show Band will perform on Sunday May 23rd in Avon Lake High School's Daniel Ross Performing Arts Center at 3:00 PM.

The show will feature the Sounds of the Big Band Era featuring music of the 30's, 40's & 50's. Those who saw the band perform last year will readily tell you that it was a concert that is not to be missed. It will be equally entertaining for audience members from school age to retirement age.

Tickets are required, however they are FREE for the asking. Due to the limited seating, it is strongly recommended that you get your tickets early. Contact PGK Bob Schneider for tickets via e-mail (the preferred method) at cantor9@oh.rr.com or by phone 440-933-2469. Last years concert was a virtual sell-out so don't delay getting your tickets.

PGK Bob is looking for volunteers to assist with collecting tickets, handing out programs, and other logistical chores on the day of the concert. If you can help out let him know. All helpers will get free admission, courtesy of PGK Bob.

Last Call for Scholarships

Scholarship chairman Mike Cobos reminds all that applications for scholarships funded by the Father Ragan Charitable Foundation must be in his hands by May 13th.

1. Scholarships are for attendees of a Catholic High School or any College or Technical School in the 2010/11 school year.
2. Applications will be available at the council hall 1780 Moore Rd Avon, OH, during all scheduled meetings (1st thru 4th Thursdays 7:30 PM) and must be picked up in person by the sponsor or applicant.
3. The applicant must be sponsored by a Knight, in good standing of Father Ragan Council, 3269. The applicant must also be a child or grandchild of a member. The applicant may be a Knight himself.
4. The scholarship award is a one (1) time event. Applicants can, however, receive one award for High School and One Award for College. Award must be used as payment of tuition for the upcoming school year.

Contact Mike via e-mail at mcobos@mail.com or phone 440-396-5594 for more information

An Opportunity for Young Men Ages 10 to 18

The Columbian Squires are the youth group of the Knights of Columbus. The Squires are an international fraternity of approximately 25,000 Catholic young men, ages 10 to 18, in over 1,400 circles worldwide. Circles exist, or have existed, throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Panama, Cuba, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and on U.S. military bases abroad. Local Knights of Columbus councils and assemblies sponsor Squire circles, which may be based either in a council/assembly hall, in a parish building, a parochial, private, public or military school, or on a military installation. The Squires involves young men in programs to benefit the Church, the community, as well as in recreational and social activities. After the Squires they then have the option to join us as Brother Knights.

The men of North Ridgeville Council 7970 recently formed a Squires Circle and have graciously offered to talk to the members of Father Ragan to describe their efforts, answer questions, and hopefully provide an opportunity for young men from our area to experience the Columbian mission of service to others. If you have a son or grandson that is between the ages of 10 and 18, you won't want to miss this presentation on May 20th before our regular meeting. Brother Chris Makselan and a couple of the Squires will be on hand to answer questions. Their program will begin at 8:00 PM and our brief social meeting will follow. Feel free to bring your sons or grandsons to experience what the Squires offer and start them on their way to following in your footsteps as a Knight of Columbus.

Grand Knights Message... From My Opening Comments of Our Awards Banquet, April 17, 2010

The operation and viability of our council throughout the year is dependent on the efforts of many people. There is no reasonable way that we could acknowledge all those who volunteered their time throughout the year, and it is important to point out that in addition to those we honor here tonight, we thank and appreciate all of those who contributed to the great success we have had this past year.

Every Friday a small army of volunteers gathers to host bingo for our Charitable Foundation. Without the efforts of these dedicated workers, our Foundation would be unable to donate money to our area churches and schools, and the building that we currently occupy would not be possible. - We would be holding this event in the parking lot.. A special thank you to bingo chairman PGK Bob Schneider and his associates for their work.

My appreciation goes out to all the local businesses that regularly donate goods and services for our council functions. A very special thanks goes out to Brother Ray Gilles of Ray's Automotive. Ray has been plowing our parking lot without charge for many years and is a vital part of our Council team.

I want to thank our hall manager Steve Sedivec and Foundation President Vic Sedivec for tending to the building administration and hall rental activities that supplement our operating income.

There are certain things that guys are not good at. Recognizing these shortcomings, I have come to rely on the assistance of the Ladies of the Isabella Guild. They provide, not only workers for our many activities, but also the frou-frou stuff like decorations and social protocols that men don't generally handle well. Thank you ladies.

I cannot forget to mention the invaluable help I received throughout the year from all of my officers and committee chairs who spent many hours planning events and rounding up the help needed to assure success. I appreciate all that you do.

I need to reserve a special thank you for the Wednesday Morning Geezer Golf Group who volunteered untold hours taking down the tables and chairs in the main hall - cleaning the hall - then resetting the tables and chairs. Normally these chores are contracted out, but the Geezers did the work, and then donated the payments to the council treasury to assist in our debt reduction program.

Faced with the impossible task of selecting honorees for this evening, I chose to do what any good manager does - delegate the responsibility to others. The awards committee, consisting of PGK Harding Christ, PGK Bob Schneider, DGK John Hricovec, with input from PGK Ted Schmitz and other members, has done a fantastic job in selecting tonight's honorees. I thank them for their many hours of work.

There are some awards that have been, or will be, presented privately as the honoree is unable to attend tonight but I want to publicly acknowledge those individuals.

Two special Fraternal Awards for lifetime achievement were commissioned this year to honor individuals who dedicated their lives to the Knights of Columbus.

The first is PGK R.P. LaScola who was instrumental in the surge of growth of our council in the 1980's and was a regular presence at meeting and social events until his health deteriorated.

The second was FDD Jim Jacobs. Jake was also instrumental in the growth and activities of the council. Jake actively participated in council meetings and activities throughout the current fraternal year until his health deteriorated. I personally remember Jake as the little guy in the chef's hat that carved the roast beef at Tom's Country Place events. As most of you are aware, Jake passed away last Sunday. I am proud to have joined PGK's Jim Bruder & Harding Christ in presenting this award to Jake in the days before his final decline while he was still able to appreciate it. He thanked everyone for thinking of him. Please remember him and his family in your prayers.

The following is a complete list of individuals honored at our Annual Awards Banquet held April 17th. I have posted on the council website (<http://frragan.com/pdf3/RR10-05.pdf>) all of the speeches used by presenters of the awards listing the many activities and reasons for honoring these individuals.

Isabella Friendship Award	Debbie Berger	Blue Coat of the Year	Jason West
Isabella Appreciation Award	Betty Rieck	Lady of the Year	Christine Schneider
Isabella Appreciation Award	Jan Black	Volunteer of the Year	Michael Collins
Isabella of the Year	Pam Christopher	Family of the Year	Tom & Melanie Hricovec
Fraternal Award	FDD James "Jake" Jacobs	Roman Klingshirn Award	Fred Metz
Fraternal Award	PGK R.P. LaScola	Religious of the Year	Sister Irene Sandfry
Catholic Man of the Year	Joseph C. Lowe	Chaplain of the Year	Fr. Gerard Gonda OSB
Special Award	Ted Kocab	Knight of the Year	PGK James Bruder
Youth of the Year	Valeria Tkacik	Special Chef of the Year Award	PGK James Bruder

Quarterly Communion May 23rd St Mary's Avon 8:00 AM Mass

Join your Brother Knights and their families for our last Quarterly Communion of the Fraternal Year at St Mary's Church on Stoney Ridge Road in Avon. The date is Sunday May 23rd at 8:00 AM. Following Mass we will assemble at Fr Ragan Hall for breakfast and the presentation of the Father Ragan Charitable Foundation Scholarships.

Stop by for a free meal and to congratulate the outstanding scholars who have been awarded funds to continue their education. The ladies of the Isabella Guild will also make presentations to the young men and women being honored. Bring your friends and families, you won't regret it.

Opening Comments

On behalf of the Officers and Members of Father Ragan Council, I want to welcome you to our annual awards banquet.

The operation and viability of our council throughout the year is dependent on the efforts of many people. There is no reasonable way that we could acknowledge all those who volunteered their time throughout the year, and it is important to point out that in addition to those we honor here tonight, we thank and appreciate all of those who contributed to the great success we have had this past year.

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There are some awards that **have been**, or **will be**, presented privately as the honoree is unable to attend tonight but I want to publicly acknowledge those individuals.

The Catholic Man of the Year award winner is Joe Lowe. Joe is very active at Holy Spirit Parish, among his many duties he serves Daily Mass as often as his schedule permits, and is a true model of a Catholic Gentleman.

Two special Fraternal Awards for lifetime achievement were commissioned this year to honor individuals who dedicated their lives to the Knights of Columbus.

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Isabella Friendship Award

I am pleased and honored to be the presenter of the Friendship Award this year. The recipient lives in Avon and is the mother of three children. She works in nutrition for the parochial schools and is employed by the Diocese of Cleveland.

Will Debbie Berger please come forward to receive her award?

ISABELLA APPRECIATION AWARD

The Appreciation Award is to be given to an active member who has shown extraordinary action in services to the Isabella Guild.

The lady I am privileged to present this award to – Jan Black -- is a long-time member who, in her quiet ways, has served on many committees as chairman but most of all as one of our worker-bees.

She doesn't like the leadership role as an officer, but has been chairperson of various committees – such as program, membership, Christmas party. And she has served many years in the kitchen for Bingo with her good friend, Betty. Whenever the Isabellas have an event that needs set-up, decorating or clean-up, she is there.

And for our meetings, our Blessed Mary statue always has beautiful roses – in season, of course – as she has a green thumb to grow them.

She is active at her church, St. Joseph in Avon Lake, on the bereavement committee, Garden Club, Ladies Guild and Tuesday adoration.

Some of you have Terry Pluto's book, "*Faith and You*". His essay on Page 53, "*How Can I Serve?*", describes Jan very well. Where would we be if all our members only wanted to tell us what to do and not do the work?

Jan and her twin brother, Jack, were born in Columbus. She attended Holy Rosary grade school and High School. She attended beautician school and became a licensed beautician.

She was married to Jim for 49 years before his passing in October, 2006. They raised three children – Lynn, Laurie and Jim. She has seven grandchildren and 2½ great-grandchildren.

Jan worked in the Avon Lake High School system for 18 years in the cafeteria. She now is retired. She enjoys her winters in Hilton Head, South Carolina, with Jim's sister, Mary. She keeps busy with sewing and knitting groups, and with a group of caring quilters who make quilts for unwed mothers. I might add that she also spends time playing dominos and Bingo.

For all her years of service, it is my great pleasure to present an Appreciation Award to Jan Black.

Appreciation Award 2010

I am the lucky one to give the second Appreciation Award tonight. This award is given to an active Isabella member who has shown extraordinary action in her service to the Guild. We looked around the group and found this to be a very difficult task. We finally selected one lady who is always smiling and always there.

Easy

Let me tell you a little bit about our winner – Betty Rieck. On the personal side, she is the mother of 3 daughters and one son. Matthew has 3 children; Melinda, 1; Renee, 2; and Gina, also 2—giving her a total of 8 grandchildren!

I don't think I have been at many Isabella or Knight activities when we did not see Betty helping out- mixing, serving or washing-any way she could assist, doing what was needed. For several years she has also served as co-chair for the sale of Entertainment Books.

She has taken her service ethic to the community where she worked in several school cafeterias in Avon Lake. These days she spends mornings helping care for Mrs. Carek.

St Joseph Church has also benefitted from her service. She volunteers on "hot dog day" at the day school, for Hospitality Sunday, is active in Circle #6, and helps make seasonal projects for the residents of Beachpark Towers.

It is my pleasure to present this Appreciation Award to Betty Rieck!

The Isabella of the year award is one of the highest honors we can give to one of our members. Our by-laws read: recipient must be a three year member who has provided exemplary service and support socially, intellectually, and charitably in the works of the Isabella Guild, Knights of Columbus, parish and community. This lady meets all of these criteria.

She is wife, mother and grandmother first. She is nurse, friend, caregiver and comforter; always placing others needs before hers. She can be seen helping out at our annual tea party, caring for a sick neighbor or taking flowers to a friend who has just received bad news.

She is the perfect representative for our organization.

Please recognize our Isabella of the year recipient, Pam Christopher

Presenter: Mary Jane Morog

April, 17, 2010

Ted Kocab award 2009

Upon finding out that I was on the awards nominating committee, brother Ted Kocab approached me with an idea for a new award. Since it was his idea, Ted felt it would be best that the award be called the Ted Kocab award for dishwashing. I felt that Ted's loyalty to his council office as special guard for the past several years, and his supportive volunteering to nearly every council function would warrant that we call it the Ted Kocab Award for dishwashing and Council service. After receiving the awards blessing from the grand knight and the other committee members it was a go. After talking with Ted about who could be worthy of such an award, Ted decided he would receive the award. Ted is a resident of the Font Bonne house in Bay Village, and is an invaluable member of Fr Ragan council. He rarely misses a meeting. He never misses an activity or council function where help is needed, or food is being served. He is PGK Jimmy's right hand man in the kitchen, where as soon as he shows up on meeting night Teddy needs to know what are we having tonight Jimmy. Ted is always willing to offer his insight, and asks our guest speakers the most interesting questions. Who could forget the night we had an astronaut here and Teddy asked how do they go to the bathroom in space. Ted is an inspiration, and a friend to everyone he meets. It is my privilege to introduce the inaugural recipient of the Ted Kocab award for dishwashing and council service to brother Ted Kocab

Valeria Tkacik

Valeria is a member of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish (Avon). Born without her left arm from the shoulder down, a condition known as congenital shoulder disarticulation, Valeria has never let that stop her from accomplishing what she has set out to do. She is an altar server at St. Mary, and remains an active participant in events within her parish and school, St. Mary, where she is currently in the 8th grade. She is an A student, a member of the St. Mary Drama Club, plays trumpet and keyboard in the St. Mary Instrumental Band and has been a member of the school choir. Valeria recently won 1st place at the Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair, where she also received a Special Award from the Cleveland Clinic Department of Psychiatry and Psychology. Valeria is involved with various fundraisers throughout the parish and school, and remains active in community events, visiting the elderly at local nursing ~~schools~~ ^{Home Schools} and serving meals at local homeless shelters. Because of her positive attitude, Valeria has occasionally been asked to speak with individuals who are struggling emotionally with the loss of a limb. In August, Valeria will be attending Magnificat High School (Rocky River) as a member of the class of 2014.

Valeria is widely recognized for her achievements in athletics. She runs track and plays volleyball and basketball for St. Mary, and plays AAU basketball for Score More Athletic Club. She has also been involved with the softball and soccer programs in Avon, and spent a number of years taking lessons in dance and horseback riding. In basketball, Valeria has always been the team leader in scoring and assists, and a defensive standout. This year in basketball, Valeria was named team captain, played an instrumental role in her team receiving the CYO Sportsmanship Award, named to two all tournament teams and placed first in a three point contest. For the past two years, Valeria also qualified for the K of C regional free throw contest. She is also one of the top sprinters and long jumpers in the CYO track & field program. Valeria is an inspiration for everyone who has watched her play, and her determination has earned her the respect and admiration from her teammates, opposing players and coaches.

Despite her success, Valeria is a very humble, devout Catholic who maintains her Christian values in all her daily activities. Valeria has never questioned why she was born without her left arm, but instead is always thankful to God for her many accomplishments. She knows that God has given her the many special gifts and skills that have allowed her to be so successful. Valeria has learned to use and develop these gifts and skills to serve as a role model and an asset to others.

Bluecoat oty 2009

The blue coat of the year award is given to recognize a police officer, fireman, or emergency responder who goes above and beyond the call of duty. This years blue coat of the year, we recognize fallen officer Jason West of the Cleveland Heights police department. Jasons life was tragically taken when he responded to a disturbance call in May of 2007. He was mourned by community that he served, as well as the community he grew up in, Avon, where he was brought home and laid to rest. Over 5000 police officers from the U.S. and Canada lined the streets of Avon to give Jay a heros sendoff. Now nearly 3 years later, we honor the memory of Jason and the man that he was. As knights of Columbus, our core principles are charity, unity, and fraternity. Being a member of the Cleveland Heights Police department, these principles were a part of Jays everyday life. I was fortunate enough to share stories with several of Jays fellow officers. My stories were of dumb things kids do, from high school days at Avon, to when Jay was in college at Tiffin. Thier stories were of a Professional focused officer who did kind and generous acts for the citizens he swore to protect and serve. Stories of trust and respect, for thier comrade who put himself in harms way for others. This evening we offer that Jason has not been forgotten, and continue to pray for his family,s healing. It is my honor to represent Fr Ragan council, and present the Blue coat of the Year to the parents of Officer Jason West Mr & Mrs Tom and Georgine west.

Lady of the Year 2009

The lady of the year award recognizes the wife or daughter of a brother knight who stands out in the parish, council or community. This year's winner is Christine Schneider. Chris is the wife of PGK Robert Schneider Jr, and is the mother of 3 children, Corporal Robert III, Phillip, and Lisa. Chris and Bob are also the proud grand parents of Lisa's daughter Jenna. After earning a teaching degree from Cleveland State, and a masters from Ashland, Chris began working with the Developmentally Disabled at Murray Ridge and Elyria Schools. She is currently teaching at Lorain Constellation with children with special needs. The Schneiders have been members of Holy Spirit Parish for nearly 35 years, where Chris has taught 5th grade PSR for the past 10 years, and taught the summer program for the past 2 years. Chris has donated countless hours of service to the Isabellas, and has been arranging guest speakers for the past 2 years. For the good of the Fr Ragan charitable foundation, Chris has been cooking and running the Bingo kitchen on the first Friday of the month for the past 4 years. With all of Chris' works of service, I think her most saintly virtue is the fact that she has been married to PGK Bob for almost 35 years. I am proud to introduce this year's lady of the year Christine Schneider.

Volunteer Award 2010

The Volunteer of the year Award promotes
Volunteerism in the community. This

years winner is Brother Mike Collins. Mike has been
a member of Fr. Ragan

council for almost 4 years now. He has served the
council as Inside Guard,

and warden since he has joined. Mikes hard work and
attention to detail has

made him an asset to our council. His work as our
Free throw contest chairman

has turned an ordinary activity, into one of the
best in the state. Mike did

such a good job on the council level, he inherited
the duty of organizing the

district and the regional free throw contests. Mike
is also the chairman of

this years essay contest, where he will have to
judge nearly 40 500 to 750

word essays written by students from our 4 parishes.
Mike and his wife

Laurann are the parents of 4 children, Kevin, Abbey,
Bridgette, and Timmy. On

behalf of Fr Ragan council it is my pleasure to
introduce this years

volunteer of the year award winner Mike Collins

Kof C Family

The Family of the Year award recognizes a family that stands out for its work in the church, council, and community. Tom and Melanie Hricovec and their 3 daughters Megan, Macie, and Mallory have collectively exceeded this criteria. Tom the son of the late Tom, and his wife Dorothy, had service work made a part of his life since he was a youngster. Melaine, the daughter of Tom and Marge Jones, also had much influence as both of her parents have actively volunteered for over 40 years on parish council, altar and rosary, parish finance and other parish activities. Tom and Melanie own and operate Kodiak construction, and through their company, volunteered the site prep work for the new St Marys gym, and parish life center, only receiving reimbursement for material. Both Tom and Melanie are invaluable members of St Marys parish, where they volunteer countless hours in PTU, Parish Council, Finance, Oktoberfest, Winterfest, and the Fish Frys. Tom is also one of the third generation in his family to belong to Fr Ragan council and a member of the 4th degree. A good thing about this years family of the year is the work the 3 young girls have done. All 3 girls have grown their hair long and cut it to be donated for wigs for kids, an organization which gives wigs to children who have lost hair due to cancer treatment. All 3 girls have spent time around the holidays at nursing homes, where they visited with elderly, gave them homemade cookies, gave them homemade christmas cards, played piano for them, and surely brightened their holidays. All 3 girls have donated money they received on birthdays, and holidays to various causes such as the victims of the Haiti disaster, A young boy in Michigan with brain cancer, and Cleveland christian home for school supplies for the needy. The girls attend St Marys school and are active in drama, cyo, and the childrens choir. On

behalf of fr Ragan council I Present This years Family of the Year Award to this very worthy family, Thomas III Melaine, Megan, Macie and Mallory Hricovec.

Roman Klingshirn Distinguished Knight Award

The Roman Klingshirn Distinguished Knight Award is given annually to a Knight who has done so much for his council but does not get recognition for it.

Roman Klingshirn was a Past Grand Knight who had a deep loyalty to Father Ragan Council. He remained single all his life, and lived on a small farm on Walker Rd. in Avon Lake, just east of where Drug Mart stands today.

When the men of Father Ragan Council bought land and planned to build this hall with much of the work done by themselves, Roman Klingshirn became the project superintendent. He was the one who scheduled the workers and planned work parties. And when money was needed to purchase material or necessary services, Roman Klingshirn quietly reached into his own pocket to pay the bill. No one knows how much of Roman's own money was put into this Hall. And he quietly did so many other things for our council.

When he passed away in 1990, a special committee was assembled to consider a way to honor his memory. The committee came up with the Roman Klingshirn Distinguished Knight Award which would be given annually to a member of Father Ragan Council who has shown loyalty and consistent active service to the council in various ways without, perhaps, receiving honors for the work performed.

According to rules established by the committee, the Knight receiving the award must have been a member for at least five years. A Knight can receive the award only once. Members who have been honored as Knight of the Year cannot receive the award, although Roman Klingshirn Distinguished Knight honorees may later be named Knight of the Year.

Our council today has a number of members who truly qualify for such recognition. Our committee considered several, and decided on one Brother Knight who has been loud and clear in demonstrating his commitment to Father Ragan Council.

May I please present the 2010 Roman Klingshirn Distinguished Knight Award to Brother Knight Fred Metz.

Our selection for Religious of the Year is Sister Irene Sandfry.

Sister Irene was born in Niles Ohio, one of six siblings which includes her brother Bob who joins us here tonight. She attended Jackson Elementary and Niles McKinley High School before earning a Bachelor's degree in education from St John's College of Cleveland. She continued her education at John Carroll University where she earned her Master's Degree.

Sister Irene joined the Sisters-of the Humility of Mary in 1943 and faithfully practiced the precepts of that order for 48 years until receiving a Papal dispensation from her vows in 1991.

Sister Irene was assigned to teach at many area schools during her career and served as principal at St John's in Canton and St Aloysius & Ascension schools in Los Angeles.

She was honored to be one of 35 delegates from all over the United States chosen to participate in a Workshop for the Disadvantaged in Chico CA. While stationed in California she conducted social justice workshops and was the recipient of the Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Peace and Justice.

She was co-author of the **D.C. Heath Math for 2nd** Grade Text and conducted music workshops on the radio and math workshops for television.

Since moving to Avon Lake Sister Irene has become the field general at St Joseph Parish. Simply put she is everywhere. She trains new Servers, Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and provides continuing education regarding policies and procedures for these ministries. She is involved in Eucharistic Adoration, regularly serves as lector at Mass, and provides logistic support for visiting priests. She also coordinates distribution of the Eucharist to homebound parishioners.

Sister Irene is actively involved as a volunteer at Beachpark Tower. Her chores include answering the phone, decorating bulletin boards, coordinating with the Community Resource Center & Meals on Wheels, preparing the newsletter & organizing parties and activities.

Time alone prevents me from itemizing the many other accomplishments and duties of this gifted woman but the achievements that I have presented make it clear that she is a worthy recipient of the Fr Ragan Council Religious of the Year Award.

2:18

Fr. Gerard is a Benedictine monk and priest and has been the President of Benedictine High School in Cleveland for the past two years. He was born in Cleveland and attended St. Benedict Elementary School and Benedictine High School, graduating in 1971. He attended St. John University in Collegeville, Minnesota and John Carroll University where he received his B.A. in English in 1976. He entered the Benedictine order after his sophomore year in college and professed his monastic vows in 1974. He pursued theological studies at St. Mary Seminary in Cleveland and was ordained a priest in 1980 by Basil Cardinal Hume, OSB of Westminster, England.

Fr. Gerard joined the faculty of Benedictine High School after ordination, teaching English and Theology.

He earned a Master's Degree in Liturgical Studies from Notre Dame University, South Bend, Indiana in 1983 and a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Bowling Green State University in 1990.

At Benedictine, he has served as Alumni Moderator, Student Council Moderator, and Academic Dean before being named Principal in June 1999. He served as Principal until 2005 and was named President in 2008.

Fr. Gerard has given retreats and talks for parishes, student groups, and religious communities in the Diocese of Cleveland and throughout the United States. He is also the Vocation Director at St. Andrews Abbey.

For the past 29 years, he has assisted on weekends by saying Mass at Holy Trinity Parish in Avon, Ohio.

Fr Gerard has served as council chaplain for the past two years and has proven to be an excellent communicator whose "Chaplain Reports" are always instructive, informative, and provide a basis for continued thought and reflection long after they have been delivered.

When we had our Quarterly Communion at Holy Trinity, Fr. Girard spent half of his homily extolling the virtues of the Knights of Columbus.

In addition to celebrating the annual Memorial Mass for our deceased brother knights, Fr Gerard welcomed us to his home at Benedictine and St Andrews Abbey last November for a day of prayer and reflection. Our day concluded when we joined the monks for Vespers in the Chapel at the Abbey. For those who attended, it was a day that will remain in their minds and hearts for a long time.

With the enormous demands on his time, Fr Gerard still found time to support the Knights of Columbus and Fr. Ragan Council throughout the year. I want to thank him on behalf of the council and personally, for all that he has done for us.

Knight of the Year – James A. Bruder

Jim was born in Avon Ohio and has resided there his entire life. He attended St Mary's Elementary and Avon High School graduating in 1959. He furthered his studies in Mechanical Engineering at the American Technical Institute in Elyria.

Jim served his country for six years with the 112th Engineer's Battalion of the Ohio National Guard.

He was employed by the Memet Company as a Tool & Die maker for 30 years prior to joining its parent company Union Carbide as Tool Room Supervisor until his retirement in 2003.

Jim met his bride Bobbie after high school and they married at St Jude's in Elyria in 1964. The Bruders raised four children: Annmarie, Tim, Michael, & Beth and are very proud of their three grand children.

Jim remains active in many community groups. These include St Mary's Church especially at its annual Oktoberfest, - the Avon Seniors Center Group, - and the very prestigious ROMEO Organization.

Jim is also a very active promoter & organizer of the Annual Tim Bruder Memorial Golf Tournament. This tournament, - in memory of his son Tim, - benefits The Cleveland Clinic's Crone Disease, Colitis and Colo-rectal Cancer Department.

Jim served as Grand Knight during the 1984-1985 fraternal year and was instrumental in Fr. Ragan Council being named the number one Council in the State of Ohio for that period.

Jim attends virtually every meeting of Fr Ragan Council, - regularly works bingo, - helps at every council activity, - assists at the Isabella Guild events, - serves as council handyman making repairs to our building and grounds, and is a member of the Wednesday Morning Geezer Golf Group that cleans & sets up the hall.

Fr Ragan Council has already awarded Jimmy virtually every award ever conceived. He has gotten awards for his total involvement in church, community, youth and fraternal activities. There are no more new awards to give him. It was for this reason that the awards committee made the unusual and unique break from protocol in awarding Jimmy his second Knight of the Year Award.

Please join me in thanking the Fr. Ragan Council Knight of the Year - Jim Bruder

There is one final award this evening.

While each of the people we have honored this evening has contributed to our church, our community, and our council, one individual needs special recognition for his efforts during the past fraternal year.

As I have said many times, no one comes to a council meeting because they like meetings. They don't come because they enjoy listening to the Grand Knight talk all night. While some might use our meetings as an excuse to get out of the house, the real reason they come is that there is a subliminal need that is satisfied by attendance at our twice-monthly get togethers.

Forget the socio-political, fraternal or religious motivation; the people come to eat.

That's right, you can provide a myriad of activities, guest speakers, and policy debates and the single question that repeatedly comes up is: what do we have to eat?

With this in mind, I tried to choose an individual that would be able to satisfy the wide range of expectations of our members, provide meals on the cheap as the council was short of funds, and provide a healthy selection of tasty food products that would sooth the soul and keep irate members from going after the Grand Knight.

I chose PGK Jimmy Bruder.

I knew from the start that I had made a terrible mistake and the situation deteriorated throughout the year.

For two months following our October clambake, we ate clambake leftovers. For two months following our Senior's Dinner in December, we ate Senior's Dinner leftovers. For a month following the Fourth Degree District meeting in March, we ate District Meeting leftovers. When the leftovers ran out, Jimmy treated us to his personal feast from a stolen recipe, Hot Dog Stew. At a recent council meeting, Jim served what appeared, to many members, to be a variation on Alpo Dog Food.

As I stated a minute ago, I knew from the start I had made a terrible mistake in choosing Jim as my Council Chef. It was at my very first meeting as Grand Knight, at the installation of officers, with hundreds of council members, visiting dignitaries, and my family and friends in attendance, that Jimmy committed his most egregious transgression.

There was excitement in the air as everyone in attendance anticipated the moment when our Council Chef would unveil his masterpiece and bring forth a meal fit for a king, or Grand Knight. The doors swung open and the entire group gasped as they beheld the feast: Baloney Sandwiches.

It is therefore with great remorse that I present PGK Jim Bruder with this award-Chef of the Year 2010