

# Ragan Report



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## HAPPY NEW YEAR!



### Grand Knight Report...

The month of January marks the mid-point of our Council's fraternal year and, from the Grand Knight's perspective, a very active half year. It can be very daunting to a new Grand Knight to learn about his duties and responsibilities and to look at the Calendar of Events for the first time and wonder to himself, "How am I going to accomplish all of this?" I've found out that the way to accomplish all that needs to be done is to get the cooperation of the Knights of the Council and the Ladies of the Isabella's. I can say that I have truly been fortunate to have received the

help of the Knights and the Ladies to accomplish all that we did in the first half-year and, for that, I am very grateful. I hope that I can have your help and support for the next half year.

The month of January also marks the beginning of a new year. Caesar in the year 46 BC made Jan 1 the first day of the year when he instituted the Julian Calendar and changed the old Roman calendar from 10 months to 12 months. He named the month in honor of Janus, the Roman god of beginnings, whose two faces (opposite of each other) allowed him

to look back into the past and forward into the future. In medieval Europe, Christian leaders temporarily replaced January 1 as the first of the year with days carrying more religious significance, such as December 25 (the anniversary of Jesus' birth) and March 25 (the Feast of the Annunciation). Pope Gregory XIII reestablished January 1 as New Year's Day in 1582 with the Gregorian calendar, which most countries around the world follow today. The Gregorian reform contained two parts: a reform of the Julian calendar as used prior to Pope Gregory XIII's time and a reform of the lunar cycle used by the Church, with the Julian calendar, to calculate the date of Easter.

January is the month in which we commemorate the Most Holy Name of Jesus. January 1 is eight days after Christmas (counting Christmas itself), and it was on the eighth day after his birth that Jesus was officially named. At that time, the official naming of a son was done at the time of his circumcision, when he was officially placed in the covenant of the Chosen People. But the commemoration is today held on January 3 because when Pope John Paul II released the 2002 edition of the Roman Missal, the commemoration of the Most Holy Name of Jesus had been moved to that date, which is when it is celebrated today as an optional memorial. As a result, January 1 now is the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God without the addition of the commemoration of the Most Holy Name of Jesus.

Unbeknownst to me and maybe to others is that in the year 2014, January is Poverty Awareness Month. Here are a few facts on this topic:

- In 2010, 46.2 million people were in poverty, up from 43.6 million in 2009—the fourth consecutive annual increase in the number of people in poverty
- In 2010, out of 78.6 million U.S. families, 9.2 million lived in poverty
- The federal "poverty threshold" in 2010 for a family of four with two children 17 or younger is \$22,113. However, basic needs researchers estimate that it takes an income of about 1.5 to 3.5 times the official poverty level, depending on locality, to cover the cost of a family's minimum day-to-day needs.

This last Christmas Eve and New Years Eve, members of our Council cooked a pork dinner for residents of St. Joseph's Homeless Shelter. I believe this was a shining moment for the Council in that we demonstrated our concern for the impoverished.

For more statistics and information on Poverty Awareness Month go to the following link:  
<http://www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/povertyusa/upload/poverty-awareness-month-calendar.pdf>

Vivat Jesus,

GK - John Wesner

# Light Up for Christ

Deacon Bob Walling presided over the Light Up For Christ ceremony wherein the Christmas Tree behind him (right) was lit for the season. This ceremony was well-attended and was enhanced by the singing of the Holy Trinity Parish Choir.



## Parish / Local Events

Jan 26th	Holy Trinity (Avon) - School's Annual Spaghetti Dinner
Jan 27th	Holy Spirit (Avon Lake) - 7:00PM Fr. Mosovsky Hall: Presentation by Fr. Donald Dunson 'Citizens of the World: Suffering and Solidarity in the 21st Century'

# Apparel / Toys Donated

Gifts of apparel such as coats, hats, gloves and boots were purchased for some needy families in the area. Gifts of toys and apparel were also purchased for the children of the homeless mother staying at the St. Joseph's Homeless Shelter. Thank you to all who helped to acquire and distribute these gifts.

# First Degree

Two candidates were exemplified in the first degree last month. Brs. Don McComas and Mike Michetti (L to R) joined our Council on Dec. 11. If you should see our Brothers at our next business meeting or out in public, congratulate them and make them feel welcome!



# Isabella News



**Isabella Guild**

*of Father Ragan Council No. 3269 Knights of Columbus*

The January meeting will be Tuesday the 14th at 7:00. There will not be a speaker but we will have a pizza party and perhaps some other entertainment. At our February 11th meeting our speaker will be Sister Mary Berrington from Blessing House. Any Catholic woman is invited to attend and perhaps join as a member.

# Food for Shelter

In December the Council had two opportunities to cook for the residents of the St. Joseph's Homeless Shelter. We cooked on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. On both occasions, members of our Council and ladies of the Isabella's came to the hall to help. The ladies of the Isabella's, namely Terry Pabin, Pam Christopher and Mary Brady baked 400 Mexican Wedding Cookies for the shelter which were extremely delicious. A huge THANK YOU goes out to all who were able to help with this event. Go to the Fr. Ragan Website for more photos of this event.



# Council Christmas Party

On Dec. 19, instead of a Social Meeting, a Christmas Party was held for Council members and ladies. PGK Jim Bruder and others, including ladies of the Knights, provided Hors d'oeuvres and deserts. After some food and drink, all chimed in with their best voices to sing a number of Christmas carols led by Br. George Perz.



## Right to Life Corner Bob Trunk, RTL Chairman



**Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> 12 noon**

Council members will again march in the **March for Life Rally** in Cleveland. The march is followed with a light luncheon featuring guest speakers. Meet at Fr Ragan Hall to car pool. Parking is free at the Cathedral parking lot located at E9th and Superior Ave.

Lunch tickets can be purchased in advance for \$8.00.

Come and march for the unborn who cannot defend themselves. Pray daily for a culture of life and a return to a civilized society.

*Contact Bob Trunk for more info. (440) 477-2721*

## Upcoming Degree Opportunities

On Tuesday, January 21, 2014, the Garfield Hts. Council will hold a First and Second Degree. Candidate Call will be at 6:30pm with the Degree beginning at 7pm. Also, the Garfield Hts. Council will have a Third Degree on Sunday, January 26, 2014. Candidate Call will be at 12:30pm with the Degree beginning at 1:00 pm. Any member of our Council who would like to advance to the next degree should contact John Wesner @440-654-8961 in order to attend one of these Degrees.

## Kids' Christmas Party

Kids who attended the Council's kids Christmas party were treated to a visit (as always) by Santa.



# Surge... With Service

Together as Knights we are a “**Catholic, family, fraternal, service organization.**” This theme permeates the Knights of Columbus Service Program which promotes activities in the areas of Church, community, council, family, culture of life and youth.

Each month the Ragan Report will highlight a collection of activity ideas in one of the six program areas. Supreme encourages each council to evaluate the needs of their community and determine which programs and activities are best.

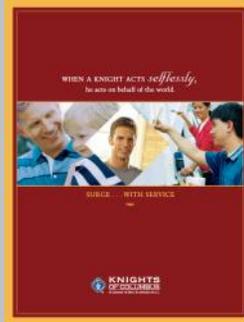
Listed below are program and activity ideas under the Church category...

## EVANGELIZATION

- Invite ministers of local Christian churches to speak at a council meeting on the history, tenets and practices of their denominations. Since many Christian churches have produced excellent films on their denominations, suggest the possibility of showing such a film. Or, conduct a panel discussion program in which representatives of the various faiths explain their religions and precepts. Suggest a question-and-answer period following the program.
- Utilize the Catholic Information Service (CIS), located at the Supreme Council office. As part of its work conducting correspondence courses for non-Catholics interested in learning about Catholic beliefs, CIS produces pamphlets outlining Catholic doctrine on many topics. Catholics also find CIS pamphlets useful for clarifying or reinforcing the Church's outlook on certain issues. Consider setting up a rack of CIS pamphlets in local Catholic churches so that parishioners (or visiting non-Catholics) will have them available as a resource. A complete listing of available pamphlets can be obtained by writing the Catholic Information Service, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326 or [www.kofc.org/cis](http://www.kofc.org/cis).

## FATHER MICHAEL J. MCGIVNEY

- Promote membership in the Father Michael J. McGivney Guild. The guild serves as a source for information about the life, works and spirituality of Father McGivney. The guild distributes informational materials about him, receives reports of favors granted through his intercession and oversees the distribution of relics. Guild members are invited to participate in promoting devotion to this Servant of God. Members of the Knights of Columbus are not automatically guild members and must elect to join the guild. The Father Michael J. McGivney Guild Newsletter is published bimonthly except July-August, and is sent free to guild members. To join the guild, call 203-752-4087 or register directly on their Web site, [www.fathermcgivney.org](http://www.fathermcgivney.org).



# THANK GOD IT'S FIRST FRIDAY - WEST

This inter-parish men's group meets on First Friday for the celebration of the Eucharist, a luncheon and talk by a priest.

Upcoming luncheon:

DATE: Friday, February 7th

SPEAKER: TBD

LOCATION: St. Clarence Church, 30106 Lorain Road, North Olmsted

COST: \$10.00

TIME: Registration 11:30AM - 12:00PM; luncheon followed by talk, concluding with Mass.

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS: Call George at (440) 937-6606 by Tuesday, February 4th

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

- The Annual **K of C Council Free Throw Championship** will be held in January. Contact Brother Mike Collins if willing to assist in any way.
- The **Fr. Ragan Wine Tasting** event will occur in February. Set-up help and event help will be needed. Details forthcoming.

## CALENDAR



Thur, Jan 9

Business Meeting (7:30PM, Knights Hall)

Thur, Jan 23

Social Meeting (7:30PM, Knights Hall)

