

Knights of Columbus

March 2023 Newsletter

ST. PETER'S PARISH COUNCIL 13404 – 533 CLARENCE STREET, LONDON, ONTARIO, N6G 3N1

Grand Knight's Comments: Roger Khouri



Dear brothers,

It is my hope that your Lent is going well. To help form us as Christians, the tenants of increased prayer, fasting, and works of charity are helping you live a life as a better catholic gentleman.

Thanks to all the brothers who assisted at the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner. We had a few new guys who joined our council. It was very

heartening to see that they didn't waste anytime in rolling up their sleeves and jumped right into the mix of preparing and serving food, and the much dreaded clean up. (More photos Pg 7). **Fr. Chris pushed all the guys away from the sink and handled washing the dishes like a pro.** He was a one man show. Who would have thought all those nights working at a burger joint would have paid off so nicely? **Thanks to brother Martin** who organized all the guys and orchestrated the running of the event as a master puppeteer. Many parishioners commented on how tasty the food was, and a lot of them stayed a long time at the event, just chatting it up with fellow parishioners. This event doubled as a way to help get the community re-connected and re-established.



Thanks very much to brother Matt who led a successful Membership Drive. For all the brothers who took on a shift after Mass to man our information table, thanks for your good work! Through these efforts, Matt told me that we had **5 new people join our council.** That is the single most influx of members that we've ever had in a very long time. When you come across a face that you haven't seen before, please do make the effort to welcome the new guys and help them feel welcome and that they are an important part of our brotherhood.

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Coming up soon, there will be an appeal for donations of non-perishable food. You can drop them off before and after Mass. **Thanks to brother Ron** who will look after gathering up the donations and ensuring that they are sent to St. Paul's Food Bank. This is a very vital source of food to the needy in the downtown core.

So, how much stuff do we have after 20 years as a council? Just turn to brothers **Larry, Lawrence, James and Martin and ask them.** Thanks to their efforts, they collected, itemized, and packed up all our supplies. **These items will be moved over to St. Michael's Parish for storage and later use.** They spent long hours and many back-breaking days going through a lot of stuff. I'm sure that they must have remarked, "O, so that's where this is after all", "Why do we still have this?", and "Why are we still hanging on to some of this stuff?" Of course, these are all good questions, but, in all seriousness, thanks gents for doing all the grunt work; we very much appreciate it!

For me, I am closing out my fifth year as Grand Knight. I feel that it is time for a change and I'm not the man to lead the council into our next chapter as we transition out of the Parish Centre. I am a proud founding member of the council and I will definitely still belong as a member but my role and involvement will change. I'm in the Lord's hands as to what that will look like. Since day one, I have served on the Executive Committee in a variety of roles and I have enjoyed every minute of it. Our success as a council to help build up the body of Christ has been our reliance on Our Lady and each man pitching in to offer a hand during any of our events and activities. I take my hat off to you all and I thank you for cooperating with me as your Grand Knight and making my job easy. You are all dynamite guys!

Coming up this **Thursday March 9th at 7 pm is our General Meeting** in our Council Chambers. I warmly invite you to pop in out of the cold for a great chat among brothers. I hope to see you at the meeting. May Our Lord richly bless you and your families!

Reminder.....

St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica's Street Address has been changed to:
196 Dufferin Avenue, London, Ontario N6A 1K8

The Mailing Address has been changed to:
511 Cheapside Street, London, Ontario N5Y 3X5

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Associate Pastor: Fr. Christopher Pietraszko's Message:

Lent with the Father

Every year the Church celebrates the Season of Lent. To really understand this season, we have to read the Book of Exodus. The Israelites found themselves enslaved and comfortable in Egypt. It's a strange combination of things: to be enslaved and comfortable. The people certainly wanted to be free, however the cost seemed too much for them. They were to enter the desert in order to journey between Egypt and the Promised Land. It was the desert that caused them to prefer the comforts of Egypt. How often do we find ourselves wanting things to be better, but unwilling to do the work, spend the time, and come to terms with what we've lost in the process?



An indictment on the human condition is that we cannot really cross that desert on our own. Moses himself was unable to enter into the Promised Land, and he is one of the most righteous people in Sacred Scripture. Consider that the trip was originally supposed to be 40 days, and it turned into 40 years. Spiritual problems ended up obstructing their path to the Promised Land. They made false idols, they broke God's commandments, they grumbled against Moses and by grumbling against Moses, they grumbled against God. The Israelites resented the desert, and preferred slavery over the freedom to worship God in the desert because the food tasted better. Their own religious liberty was less important than the flavor of the food they had to endure. In short, they so quickly forget about God's love, and failed to love God. This is what it looks like when humanity seeks to overcome sin by its own mere willpower.

Where do we find good news? There is one man who was able to survive the desert for 40 days without worshipping false idols, or Satan. There was a man who managed to be content even without worldly bread. Jesus entered the desert after His Baptism, and was able to do what we never could. Jesus took our humanity with Him into the desert to conquer what we were never able to conquer. How did He do it? We might say, "Well He's God." We may flippantly dismiss Christ as the exception, but this is too convenient, because it exempts us from crossing that same desert. We need to ask Christ how He overcame and endured the desert because it is possible for us to do the same. After all, Christ has shared with us the very same Spirit that enabled Him to overcome His temptations.

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So what did the Holy Spirit accomplish in the human will of Christ that evaded our own experience of the Desert? At Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him like a dove. We remember that the Holy Spirit is what enters into our own Spirit and cries out "Abba Father." The conclusion therefore is simply this: Christ overcame the temptations and difficulties of the Desert through a relationship with the Father.

When you love someone in the deepest way, you are willing to lay your life down for them. Jesus loved His Father in such a way that at every temptation he was able to defeat by the very disposition of love for His Father. When tempted with bread He taught us that His Father's will was His bread. When he was tempted to throw himself off the pinnacle of the tower he refused to doubt His Father by testing Him. When he was asked to replace worship of the Father for worship of Satan, he rebuked the Devil out of deference and love for His Father.

All of this reminds us that it is by the waters of baptism that we overcome all temptation in the desert. The water of our baptism gives us the relationship with the Father that quenches the thirst of a dry desert. When we call to mind our beloved childhood in the Father's heart, we become so inspired to do anything for Him.

We must keep in mind that an essential dimension of the Devil's temptation was to put a wedge between Christ and the Father's identity. "If you are the Son of God" the devil begins two of these temptations. That term "if" placed in conjunction with Christ's identity serves to tempt Christ to be cut off from the water and bread that come from the Father. When we are cut off from a love of God, our soul begins to settle for the worldly bread, and what is baser than God.

So my encouragement to all of us as we enter the desert of Lent is to deepen our faith in our adoption with the Father. It is about a relationship growing, not some mere attempt at growing morally. Rather, it is about that relationship which inspires us out of love to become a beloved son or daughter of God in spirit and truth.

Let us submit our hearts and minds in prayer and meditation to the Holy Spirit who teaches us how much the Father truly loves us. Let us remove any lies that are planted in our mind about our value and worth that tell us otherwise. We are His beloved, and we know who we are. We are in love with the Father, who provides us with the deeper needs we have always craved.

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Insurance Agent's Message: Br. John Noonan

March this year, to me means Spring and Spring cleaning, Lent and preparing for Easter, and the day when we're all a little Irish, St. Patrick's Day. It's nice to break from the doldrums of winter and a brief respite from Lenten preparation. To all of my members, Irish or not, I say "Slainte?"

This year we're immersed in Lent for the entire month as we look forward to Easter on April 9th. This is a time of renewal and preparation for Holy Week. Christ's passion, and his conquest over death in the Resurrection. May your focus be on generous giving and spreading peace to everyone you encounter.

Spring...we've been through the toughest part of winter and we begin to think about Spring. And Spring is a time of rebirth and renewal: trees may begin to bud and flowers begin to poke through in search of warmer temperatures. The Spring equinox means that daylight lasts as long as night with the earth spinning toward the summer solstice. Maybe, just maybe, winter is behind us. While you're getting rid of all the old cobwebs of winter and doing the annual cleaning, now is a great time to take a fresh look at your family's financial security.

With a wide range of products-life insurance, long-term care insurance, disability insurance and retirement annuities, I can help you look at your family's financial



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situation now and for years to come. All this while you deal with a company that shares your faith and beliefs and invests in accordance with Church social teaching.

As your knights of Columbus Field Agent, I've been trained to help you through that important process. Sit down for a short meeting with me and we can use our newest and most advanced financial needs analysis platform that the Order has ever had. I'll take the time to gather information from you, ask about your wants, needs and desires, and put together any recommendations to help you meet those. As always you're under no obligation.

I'll contact you soon to see if an appointment should be our next step. Vivat Jesus



For The Good Of The Order

*Remember in your prayers
those who are ill and pray
for the repose of the
deceased souls*



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Barrett

**Editor
: Larry**

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