



Knights Digest



Vol. 58 No. 05

www.kofc4504.org

January 2017

Calendar of Events

December

December 31st New Year's Eve Party

January

January 14th Uncle Floyd
January 15th Murder Mystery Dinner
January 15th Pancake Breakfast
January 19th Family Dinner
January 20th Swim Club Meeting
January 28th Chili Cook-Off

April

April 7th Fish Fry

New Years greetings from the Financial Secretary

Happy New Year brothers. You will be receiving your 2017 dues notice in your mailbox soon if you don't already have it. I would first like to point out that dues were increased to \$48 for 2017. I would also like to mention that out of your dues Union council has to pay a per capita fee to the Supreme Council of \$9 and to the State Council of \$5. This leaves Union Council \$34 per dues paying member to pay our bills and do our charitable work in support of the Church and community. It is imperative that we receive your dues payments as rapidly as possible in order to accomplish our mission. Please don't put your dues notice on the pile for a while. We really do need your cooperation to pay quickly.

When you get your notice pop a check made out to Knights of Columbus 4504 along with the dues notice into the addressed envelope which will be enclosed and mail it to :

Edward McCormick, PGK Financial Secretary
PO Box 1156 Union, NJ 07083

Pancake Breakfasts

The pancake breakfasts conducted by the Council will continue throughout this year and be held on the 3rd Sunday of every month except if the event coincides with another activity. The next breakfast is scheduled for the 15th of this month. We look forward to your support as we attempt to raise funds for our charitable activities as well as providing an avenue for brother knights, family and friends to interact.

Wreaths across America-Len Komar

2016 marked the second year the JFK Council has participated in the National Wreaths Across America, on which Christmas wreaths are placed on Veteran's graves across America. The Fourth Degree Knights have donated toward and worked with the Elizabeth Garden Club, to honor our Nation's veterans interred at the First Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth. On December 3rd, we located and then marked the 157 Veteran's Graves.

On Dec 17th, the actual ceremony started at noon which coincided with ceremonies across our Great Nation. A presentation was given followed by a 21 gun salute by the Elizabeth Honor Guard and the Taps. Sir Knights along with other local groups then placed wreaths on the graves.

A wreath was placed on the grave of WW1 Medal of Honor Gunnery, Sgt Stockham, at the Hollywood cemetery in Union.

Union Council 4504-Anniversary Circle... A celebration of 25 and 50 years married.

Are you celebrating or have you celebrated your 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary this year? If you have, or will be, please send your names to the Grand Knight, Giftus John or call him at 908-370-7760 with the details. We will present Certificates of Commendation from Supreme to all our brothers and their wives who have reached one of these milestones. Hoping to hear from you. Congratulations!!!

Knigh Digest

This bulletin is published monthly, by and in the interest of the Knights of Columbus Union Council 4504 and registered as third class matter April 23, 1958, at the Union Post Office, Union, NJ.

RULES FOR SUBMISSION: Submissions for consideration are due in writing by the 15th of the month for the following month. Please mail or drop off submission, with contact information to:

Tom Dudek
Knigh Digest Editor
1034 Jeanette Avenue
Union, NJ 07083

or preferably via email to: tomdudek@outlook.com. You must clearly identify all people in photos submitted and at what council event the photo was taken. Photos with alcoholic beverages will not be considered. Photos may also be submitted via email as hi-resolution image files. Hard copy photos will only be returned when accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Council Officers

Chaplain.....Rev. Bob Wolfee
District Deputy.....Alex Costa, PGK
Grand Knight Giftus John
Deputy Grand Knight..... Michael Willemse
Chancellor..... Rob Genovese
Warden David Wozniak
Recorder..... Nick Belmonte
Treasurer..... Luke Sangiamo
Fin. Secretary.....Ed McCormick, PGK
Inside Guard..... Anthony Ibida
Outside Guard.....Eric Hernandez
Membership Director.....Greg Chaves
Program Director.....Mike Peter, PGK
Advocate.....Stephen F. Hehl
3rd. Yr. Trustee Greg Henn, PGK
2nd Yr. Trustee Mike Peter, PGK
1st Yr. Trustee Andy Schopfer PGK
4th Degree Faithful
Navigator.....Alex Costa, PGK
Columbian Club
President John Bashaw
Swim Club President.....Joe Marateo, PGK
Columbiette President.....Fran Corcione

Monthly Meetings

1st. Mon. ----- Council Officers
2nd & 4th Mon. ----- Council Mtgs.
3rd Mon. ----- Swim Club
4th Wed.----- 4th Degree Assembly
4th Thu. ----- Columbian Club

MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND KNIGHT

Another Year Dawns

Yes, brothers, it is 2017. We have witnessed another year and I am sure many of us have made new year resolutions for the umpteenth time, but that does not prevent us from doing so one more time with the belief that we may finally get to where we want to be at the end of the year or maybe just to do like many others do and so we join in.

Well, I really have never set down any resolutions for any year. I just believe that if I have to make one I should do it at the time I see it fit and not wait for the beginning of a new year to do so. As Grand Knight of Council 4504, an honor I regard highly, I can only say that I hope to continue leading the Council in an exemplary manner and being the leader that my fellow brothers expect of me.

As we welcome 2017, and say goodbye to 2016, I will continue, together with my fellow officers, to look at programs that will help us promote the principles and precepts of the Knights of Columbus-as Catholic gentlemen- or continue some of what we started in 2016. Programs that will help create avenues for brothers to get involved; bring forth ideas and work together for the continued success of Council 4504 and the Knights of Columbus generally.

There are a number of events and activities that we can look forward to in the new year including the annual State Convention in Wildwood in May; Work parties to get the pool and patio ready for the summer; Membership Drives; the monthly Family Dinners and the Pancake breakfasts, among others.

I want to extend my sincerest wishes for a Prosperous, Healthy and Successful 2017 to all brothers and your families. I pray that the Almighty will guide us all and protect us all as we live up to our resolutions or just continue doing the things we love or pursuing the goals that we have set for ourselves. May God bless us all.

Vivat Jesus

Giftus John
Grand Knight



THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who came to the Breakfast with Santa. We hope everyone had a great time and enjoyed Santa's visit....See you in December.

The Columbian Club
John Bashaw
President



SWIM CLUB NEWS!

The 2017 Annual Swim Club Meeting will be on Friday, January 20th beginning at 7:30p.m. We hope you can attend. Several Director's positions are available for nominations. If you are interested in a position please see Jim Feehan or Joe Marateo. Light refreshments will be served after the meeting.

The 2017 Annual Swim Club Renewal letters have been mailed out. You should receive it in the next week or so. Swim Club Membership information, jford1488@comcast.net (please no phone calls)

The Board of Directors wishes you and your family a wonderful Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Hope to see you on the 20th!

PATRIOTISM HAS NO BOUNDARIES

Patriotism it is the principle behind our 4th Degree. It is defined by Miriam-Webster as "love for or devotion to one's country." And I for one believe it has no boundaries. This is the second year that Sir Knights from the JFK Assembly have honored our veterans by participating in Wreaths Across America and placed wreaths on the tombstones of veterans. I could not be more proud to call these men Brothers and Sir Knights.

I said patriotism has no boundaries. I say this because we honored veterans in Elizabeth, NJ; not just veterans in our hometown of Union, NJ. (We did lay a wreath at Memorial Park in Union and at the Medal of Honor recipient in Hollywood.) I say it has no boundaries because we honored veterans at the First Presbyterian Church, not just a Catholic Church. I say it has no boundaries because on this cold, wet, snowy day, standing shoulder to shoulder with our Sir Knights were women and children from the Boy Scouts and a local garden club as well as our own Kelly Komar (daughter of SK Len Komar).

We are there for THEM as they were there for US at different periods in time. Thank you one and all.

SK Alex Costa PGK, DD
Faithful Navigator
JFK Assembly 0666



KNIGHT OF THE MONTH ***JANUARY 2017*** **Kris Cancelleri**



January's Knight of the Month goes to a gentleman who is always around at the Hall, whether it's helping out with events or pouring an awesome cocktail. Born in Clifton, NJ and a graduate of Clifton High School, this gentleman has been active in major events for both the Council as well as the Columbian Club. You can always see him at the bar, cheering for his NY Jets and NY Mets while having his favorite drink; Baccardi and Coke. He also works for Fette Ford/Kia as a parts driver.

Most recently, he assisted in the Columbian Club's Breakfast with Santa and helped cook hot dogs for the Council Movie Night. He makes a great Santa! His family consists of his father, Michael, his mother Lorraine, and his sister, Lisa. It is my pleasure to award January's Knight of the Month to Kris Cancelleri. Congratulations, Kris, and thank you for your hard work.

FREE THROW CONTEST

The Union Knights of Columbus has been doing the Council Free Throw for as many as the years I have been a member. I am asking some of the Fathers that are members of this Council if they could assist Program director Mike Peter in coordinating this event. This program is for boys and girls the ages of 9-14. I can be reached at mikepeter4275@gmail.com or 908-759-3588.

Thank you,
Mike Peter



BECAUSE YOU LOVE THEM.

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(732) 492-3049 OR

GREGORY.CHAVES@KOFCC.ORG



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HAPPY NEW YEAR

CHILI COOK-OFF

LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE!
It's that time of the year again folks.
The weather gets cooler
The nights are longer
And the smell of Chili is in the air!

**Saturday, January 28, 2017
12 Noon**

Bragging rights are on the line. Last year's results were highly contested (Mainly by me) and a few "kids with talent & promise" were missing from the line up.

All are welcome to enter be you Sir Knight, Brother Knight, Columbiette or friend.
For additional details call Tom Walsh at 908-591-1279. You can also sign-up at the bar.

KNIGHTS FAMILY DINNERS

This favorite event of many has returned and will continue monthly on the 3rd Thursday of each month unless posted otherwise. Next dinner: January 19, 2017

Due to the increase in the number of people coming to the family dinners we are now taking reservations for this event. If you plan on attending please call Pat Wittek at 908-964-3989.

If you don't make a reservation we can't guarantee you a plate for dinner. Thank you for making this event extremely successful.

GRAND KNIGHT PRESENTS CERTIFICATE TO EAGLE SCOUT

Grand Knight Giftus John, presented a Certificate, on behalf of council 4504 and Supreme, congratulating Nicholas John Garry of Connecticut Farms Scout Troop 68, on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. The presentation was made on Saturday 17th December during an advancement ceremony held at the Connecticut Farms Church in Union. Accompanying the Grand Knight to the event was Program Director, Michael Peter.

The Grand Knight had the opportunity to address the gathering, as well as young Garry, and congratulated him on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. The Grand Knight also congratulated Nicholas' parents and told them that he, too, is the proud father of an Eagle Scout and he is aware of all that they, as scout parents, had to experience during their son's journey to being an Eagle Scout and he knew that they were proud of their son's achievement. Also addressing the gathering was Mayor of Union, Mayor Manny Figueredo.

Brother knight, Alex Riviera, is the Scout Master at Troop 68.

Council 4504 extends our sincerest congratulations to Nicholas and hope other young boys of our town will follow his example.

SUCCESSFUL COAT DRIVE

Brothers,

What can I say except, Thank you! The Coat Drive that almost wasn't became The Coat and Clothing Drive Success! Three years ago it was cold out. Brutally cold. I knew we (the Knights) and the Columbiettes used to do clothing and coat drives but as time marches on and people's lives change, there isn't always time for things. So the Coat and Clothing Drives of the past fell by the wayside. As I stated, three years ago it was brutally cold and I took it upon myself to restart the Coat Drive. Our first year was a success. We collected 100 coats (including some we bought via Supreme) that were donated to the needy. I felt good about our efforts but thought we could do better. I knew last year was going to be tough. After all, our generous members just cleaned out their closets the prior year. Well, with renewed efforts we were able to beat the previous year's efforts and we donated 115 coats to charity (and doubling the amount we purchased via Supreme). Now into our third year, I knew the pickings were going to be slim. Members cleaned out their closets, money was tight so we couldn't buy them from Supreme, how was this going to work? I had some meager donations but no way were we going to better ourselves this year. Out of the blue I got a call from a long time Brother Knight, Joseph "Joe" Incitti. He is a retired Newark Officer and at one time had an Army/Navy type store. He said he saw the Coat Drive in the article and had a donation. The only catch is he is home bound and I'd have to drive to Kearny, NJ to get it. So I did. And his donation started a new path of thought. Not only did he donate about 20 BRAND NEW coats (tags still on them) but he donated over 80 pair of shoes, a entire box of socks, even a sleeve of small basketballs for the kids. It was a Godsend. So now it seemed as if everyone was asking if they could donate clothing as well as coats. I said no to nothing. Even Weight Watchers of Union donated a bunch of coats. When all was said and done, I made three trips to St Joe's Social Center with the help of

Andy Schopfer PGK, FFN, DD, GK Giftus John, Brother Ed Stonack (forgive me if I forgot anyone).

So how did this all work out? We donated 128 coats this year, over 80 pair of shoes, a box of socks, over 500 pounds (estimated) of loose clothing - 500 POUNDS! And with the aid of the Columbiettes (especially the lovely Gina Giunta Zangari) we also donated nearly 8,000 pair of gloves! We were so successful this year the last small load went elsewhere as St Joe's said there was no more room at the inn (they had no place to put more clothing). So as I stated, thank you one and all from the bottom of my heart. This always was and always will be a team effort. Your generosity has helped so many less fortunate. God Bless.

Merry Christmas

SK Alex Costa PGK, FN, DD

Bamboozled Coat Drive Chairman



SHOCK TROOPS

contributed by Ray Gora

Jean-Baptiste Chautard recounts in his book *The Soul of the Apostolate* that Pope St. Pius X was conversing with a group of his cardinals one day. The pope asked them:

"What is the thing we most need, today, to save society?"

"Build Catholic schools," said one.

"No."

"More churches," said another.

"Still no."

"Speed up the recruiting of priests," said a third.

"No, no," said the pope, "the most necessary thing of all, at this time, is for every parish to possess a group of laymen who will be at the same time virtuous, enlightened, resolute, and truly apostolic."

Chautard continues, "Further details enable us to assert that this holy pope at the end of his life saw no hope for the salvation of the world unless the clergy could use their zeal to form faithful Christians full of apostolic ardor, preaching by word and example, but especially by example. In the diocese where he served before being elevated to the papacy, he attached less importance to the count of parishioners than to the list of Christians capable of radiating an apostolate. It was his opinion that shock troops could be formed in any environment."

"Shock troops" or assault troops is actually a military term that refers to infantry formations, along with supporting units, created to lead an attack. Consider the Allied Forces of World War II moving toward the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944. That first wave of men knew full well that their chances were extremely poor of ever leaving that beach alive, but they knew somebody needed to go first. It is no less than profound that the holy Pope St. Pius X would use a military term, shock troops, to describe the most necessary need of our times. The pope is resolute in acknowledging we are in spiritual warfare as he calls for an uncommon

valor willing to be the tip of the spear, the vanguard, warrior saints unafraid "to lead."

Excerpt from Church Militant Field Manual.

"Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did."

— St. Maximilian Kolbe



Setting up the Manger



Wreaths Across America

Wildwood 2017 May 18-21 **ARE YOU COMING?**



Rates are:

3 Nights: \$520 *includes hospitality room*

2 Nights: \$395 *includes hospitality room*

Upgrades to 3 room-suites *additional \$35.00 per night.*
Upgrades to penthouse suites *additional \$50.00 per night.*

We require a deposit of \$325.00, if spending 3 nights, and \$250.00, if spending 2 nights, not later than Friday, February 26th to ensure we have the rooms reserved.

Note: If any room is cancelled after April 11th, the deposit won't be returned.

If you are coming, or interested in coming, please register with Mike Willemse, DGK ASAP.

The Columbian Club of Union
presents
Uncle Floyd



Music by DJ Faz

Date: Saturday, January 14, 2017

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$35.00 per person
(Includes buffet dinner)

Tickets can be purchased at the bar or by calling:

John Peters @ 908-296-1638

No tickets will be sold at the door and must be purchased by January 7, 2017

Columbian Club of Union, 1034 Jeanette Avenue, Union, NJ 07083



The Murder Mystery Company Presents:

Midnight at the Masquerade

A murder mystery dinner experience

January 15, 2017 at 7 p.m.

Knights of Columbus
1034 Jeanette Avenue
Union, NJ 07083

\$30 per person
\$55 per couple

RSVP with Mike Willemse, DGK
(908) 447-7009 or
mike.willemse@gmail.com

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January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Council Officers	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Council Meeting 8:10 PM	10	11	12	13	14 Uncle Floyd
15 Pancake Break- fast Murder Mystery	16	17	18	19 Family Dinner	20 Swim Club Meeting	21
22	23 Council Meeting 8:10 PM	24	25 4th Degree Assembly	26 Columbian Club	27	28 Chili Cook-Off 12 Noon
29	30	31				