



Council Works

The Official Newsletter of Knights of Columbus
Fr. Robert E. Nudd Council No. 7369, Chantilly, Virginia
Internet Site: <http://www.fathernudd.org>

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Ethics, Values and the KOC

As a business enterprise, the Order has succeeded for 123 years because of the values and principles of our founder, the Servant of God Father Michael J. McGivney. Recently I read again a book by someone I admire very much, the former president of the Czech Republic, Vaclav Havel. The book is a collection of speeches that he made as president and is entitled *The Art of the Impossible: Politics as Morality in Practice* (New York: Fromm International, 1998). After reviewing the terrible economic and social conditions left by the communists, he said this:

“But all of this is still not the main problem. The worst thing is that we live in a contaminated moral environment. We felt morally ill because we got used to saying something different from what we thought. We learned not to believe in anything, to ignore each other, to care only for ourselves. Concepts such as love, friendship, compassion, humility and forgiveness lost their depth and dimensions. ... The previous regime...reduced man to a force of production. ... It reduced gifted and talented people to nuts and bolts of some monstrously huge, noisy and stinking machine, whose real meaning is not clear to anyone. When I talk about contaminated moral atmosphere, I am not just talking about the [communist officials]. I am talking about all of us. We had all become used to the totalitarian system and accepted it as an unalterable fact of life, and thus we helped to perpetuate it. ... None of us are just its victims: We are all also its co-creators.”

I do not mean by quoting this to imply a moral equivalency between communism and free enterprise. But there is a similar moral atmosphere today that has resulted in “the monstrously huge, noisy and stinking machine[s]” known as Enron, Global Crossing and WorldCom. Today, we could talk about a different art of the impossible; that is, business as morality in practice.

I would like to suggest that contrary to the impression given by recent scandals in the business world, not only is it possible to conduct business from a moral standpoint, but it is possible to do so in a way that is successful. Furthermore, I think that Catholics have an important contribution to make in this area and there are lessons that may be learned from the experience of the KOC.

The Core Values of the Knights of Columbus

There is an interesting parallel with the observation by Pope John Paul II in his encyclical letter *On the Hundredth Anniversary of Rerum Novarum* (Centesimus Annus). After acknowledging the legitimate role of profit, the pope said this: “The purpose of a business firm is not simply to make a profit. ... Profit is a regulator of the life of a business, but it is not the only one; other human and moral factors must also be considered which, in the long term, are at least equally important for the life of a business.”

Most people know the Knights of Columbus as a Catholic men’s organization involved in volunteer charitable projects in their own communities. But our Order is also a fraternal benefit society that sells life insurance products to its members and through them to their families.

Last year, our nearly 1.7 million members provided more than \$130 million to charity and more than 61 million hours of volunteer service. We also sold a record \$6.2 billion of insurance to our members. Today, our Order has more than \$53 billion of insurance in force and nearly \$12 billion of assets under management. Our international headquarters in New Haven has approximately 650 employees, and nearly 1,400 agents work throughout the United States, Canada and now Mexico.

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The Grand Knight's Message...

The snows of February are finally behind us, and spring is just around the corner. With Easter coming in March this year, it seems the whole process is accelerated somehow. While I enjoy winter with the sledding and snowball bouts with the kids, I am also very fond of the spring thaw! Each year it seems that when I am finally tired of being cold and scraping frost in the morning, along comes the warmer weather, right on time! These two words sum it up best: "Ah! Spring!"

First off, I would like to thank our worthy Program Director, Brother A.J., in organizing the Lenten meal series this year. In addition, thanks to all those who helped out at the meals (and the meals yet to come!). These dinners are an excellent sign of what the Knights do for our Parish, and are truly a joy to prepare.

No sooner had I written last month that the McGivney room would be ready soon, than I received word that indeed it was. We held our first Council meeting in the McGivney room on February 16. Fr. Weymes even had Fr. McGivney's picture on the wall for us! Remember to thank Fr. Weymes for all he does for us when you see him.

With the coming Membership drive, I want to get our various pictures and awards on the walls of the room ASAP. If you feel you have a knack for interior design, let me know. This room should be an example of what the Knights of Columbus stand for – Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. I would like to have this completed before the March 13 Open House.

Finally, March brings the third of the quarterly state meetings. This meeting is the one that has "Grand Knight Boot Camp" for the incoming GK (You know who you are!). Seriously though, it is the time of year for those who would like to have a say in how your council is run to step up to the plate. Have ideas for events? Plans for increasing membership? Perhaps just a desire to give back to the Council? I must admit, I have enjoyed being an Officer over the past few years. Please talk to A.J. Zadrozny or myself if you are interested in learning more. There is always a need for leaders.

Men, the next time I write, it will be spring, it will be warm (I will say that until it IS!), and we will be well into our membership drive. Remember to look for that guy you know at Church – the one who is not yet a Brother Knight. Remember to tell him why he should be!

Vivat Jesus!

Jim Frazer

CouncilWorks is the official newsletter of:

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Fr. Nudd Council No. 7369
P.O. Box 220165
Chantilly, VA 20153-0165**

CouncilWorks is published monthly for members of Fr. Nudd Council. Opinions expressed are solely those of the individual contributors. Names, telephone numbers, street addresses, e-mail addresses in this publication are strictly for Knights of Columbus purposes only.

Members are invited to submit articles to the editor for publication in the next issue no later than the 20th of each month. Articles may be on a variety of topics: upcoming events, council related, personal experience, religious, etc., and must be in PC compatible format. Send articles to councilworks@kofc-council7369.org.

In order to receive periodic important notices relative to council activities via e-mail, send your e-mail address to: www.fathernudd.org/newsletter.shtml.

Send all address or telephone number changes to the Financial Secretary.

In the event of illness, death, or special need, please contact one of the following members (contact info. on page 5):

Grand Knight
Financial Secretary
Fraternal Director
Fraternal Benefits Counselor (Insurance)

Visit the council web site at:
www.fathernudd.org



From the Pen of the Worthy Chaplain...



Dear Brother Knights,

This past month I was able to get away from my normal duties to spend some time with Our Lord. I always enjoy visiting the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This trip was especially meaningful as it was in the Lenten Season. As always, I prayed for our parish community, as well as the members of our council and their families. If you have not yet had the chance to make a retreat, even a short one, this Lenten Season, I urge you to do so at your earliest opportunity.

Holy Week is also this month. I anticipate greater attendance at all of our Liturgies. Your help, as always, is greatly appreciated.

This month we have Confirmation at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., on Saturday, March 12. Bishop John Kaising from the Archdiocese for the Military Services is scheduled to join us on this day. I am sure that our members helping with these Liturgies, especially the Color Corps, will make him feel welcome in our parish.

The Lenten Meals have again been outstanding this year.

Again, thank you for all of your hard work. May God bless each and every one of you and your families.

Fr. Weymes

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During the past decade, the Knights of Columbus is one of only six insurance companies out of approximately 1,700 in North America that has received the highest ratings from Standard and Poor's and A. M. Best, as well as the Insurance Marketplace Standards Association. In its credit rating of the Knights of Columbus issued last fall, Standard and Poor's stated that its "AAA" rating was based upon the following strengths: extremely strong capital, very strong competitive position, extremely strong liquidity and historically strong profitability. Not bad for an organization founded in the basement of St. Mary's Church on Hillhouse Avenue in 1882 by a 29-year-old priest and 10 men from his parish.

I would suggest to you that a principal reason why we were able to achieve that "extremely strong" capital position, that "very strong" competitive position and that "historically strong" profitability, is precisely because we placed a value ahead of all of these objectives. The reason we achieved what Standard and Poor's described as a "distinct competitive advantage," a "loyal customer base" and a "unique rapport with clients" is because we have been steadfastly committed to our motto, "Protecting Families for Generations" by means of life insurance "by brother Knights and for brother Knights."

That commitment is an essential core value of the Knights of Columbus as a business enterprise. It is such values and not solely the search for profits that has made possible our extraordinary level of success. For example, our core values permeate all levels of our marketing program. Our Marketing Code of Ethics is modeled after the Ten Commandments and includes statements such as "Thou shall present honestly and accurately, all facts necessary to enable a member to make an informed decision."

And all our ethical principles for marketing are summed up by our Golden Rule: "In all my professional relationships, I pledge myself to the following rule of conduct: I shall, in light of all conditions surrounding those I serve, render that service which, under the same circumstances, I would apply to myself."

Why We Are An Industry Leader

The Insurance Marketplace Standards Association has cited the Knights of Columbus as one of the leaders in the insurance industry for ethical sales and has identified numerous areas where we provide a model for best industry practices. We follow up on the marketplace conduct of our agents by randomly selecting clients monthly to survey their views on their recent purchase of insurance from us. We consider how they were treated by their agent, whether they understood what they purchased and their level of satisfaction.

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Program Director's Message

The kickoff for our Lenten meals went great. I know Father and the rest of the parish appreciate all the effort that has gone in thus far. Jim and I want to give a big hearty thanks to all those that helped, especially Carl and Alberta Hebert for heading up the seafood lasagna meal on February 18. My wife and I also had a great time hosting the Corporate Communion in February. A lot of people came and I think everyone had fun.

March picks right up with the second half of our Lenten meal program. On March 4, Peter Reyda will be heading up the cheese ravioli meal. On March 11, Jim Frazer will be running the macaroni and cheese meal. The whole program culminates with the fish fry on March 18, lead by Tom Trudeau. Like the first three meals we will begin cooking at 4:30 p.m., and serving dinner around 6:00 p.m. Anyone interested in helping with cleanup can arrive beginning at 5:30 p.m.

On February 27, we kicked off our winter membership drive. The drive continues on the weekend of March 5/6 with an information session to help raise awareness of our activities. On the weekend of March 12/13 we will be hosting an open house. At this event our goal is to sign up at least four new members to our order. We will need brother knights and their wives to help run each of the sessions after church on these weekends. The time commitment is not big, an additional 15 to 20 minutes after your regular mass is all that is required.

The Ladies Auxiliary will be meeting on March 22. In addition to the regular social meeting, they will be helping us stuff the Easter eggs for the hunt on March 27. The meeting will be held at Kathy Zadrozny's house. Please call Kathy, at 703-502-3061, if you need directions. All wives are welcome to attend.

March 27 is our annual Easter Egg Hunt. The festivities begin after the 12:30 p.m. Mass. All parish children are invited to participate. We will need several knights to help setup for this event, mostly hiding the eggs on the church grounds. Additional information will be available later this month.

As a reminder, the KOVAR drive begins on April 14. Several brothers, headed by Peter Reyda, have been charged will staffing all of our locations. If you get a call, please consider volunteering your time for this worthy event.

Vivat Jesus!

A.J. Zadrozny, DGK

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Finally we have initiated a mandatory third-party mediation process where complaints are handled without recourse to lengthy proceedings. Policyholders who have a complaint are represented by counsel in the mediation process without cost to themselves. We think a Catholic company ought to be able to develop a system of dispute resolution without depending upon trial attorneys and court proceedings.

We also provide ethical criteria for the investments we make in order to reflect the moral teachings of the Catholic Church. Particular attention is paid to the product lines of companies whose debt and equity security we consider. In this regard, we use six criteria to screen our investments: abortion, contraception, pornography, for-profit health care, embryonic stem cell research and human cloning.

As a result, there are nearly 60 companies trading on the New York Stock Exchange and the NASDAQ that we will not invest in. Our screening efforts are a continuing challenge because companies develop new products that may be objectionable, or may merge with or acquire new companies with objectionable products.

When this happens with companies in which we currently have investments, we sell them with all deliberate speed. For example, in 2001 we had substantial holdings in two large, well-known corporations that made decisions to enter the adult entertainment market in cable television. When it became clear that senior management in those companies had no intention of altering those policies, we disposed of all our stock holdings even though it resulted in a loss of approximately \$775,000. Earlier, we disposed of all our

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FR. NUDD COUNCIL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2004-2005 COLUMBIAN YEAR

OFFICERS:

Chaplain	Fr. Gerald Weymes	378-7461
Grand Knight	Jim Frazer	802-6905
Deputy Grand Knight	AJ Zadrozny	502-3061
Chancellor	Chris Moniz	378-7145
Warden	Bob Loy	
Financial Secretary	Jim Copio	327-3290
Treasurer	Michael Lynch	
Recorder	Brian Tumulty	830-0926
Advocate	Tom Trudeau ^{PGK, FDD}	378-7373
Lecturer	Vacant	
Assistant Lecturer	Vacant	
Inside Guard	Art Hebert	378-7825
Outside Guard	Tom Wiedemer	818-2761
Trustee 1-Year	Paul St. Laurent ^{PGK}	322-9199
Trustee 2-Year	Byron Beall ^{PGK}	304-8299
Trustee 3-Year	CJ Staton ^{PGK}	814-8153

DIRECTORS:

GENERAL PROGRAM	AJ Zadrozny	502-3061
COUNCIL	Vacant	
Fraternal	Tom Trudeau ^{PGK, FDD}	378-7373
Fundraising	Tom Donegan	803-9045
Recycling	Byron Beall ^{PGK}	304-8299
CHURCH	Bill Gott	378-5059
Vocations	Chris Moniz	378-7145
Pro Life	Mark Schaad	968-7859
Ushers Program	Byron Beall ^{PGK}	304-8299
Pamphlet Rack	Joe Jones Sr. ^{PGK}	817-1002
COMMUNITY	William Mencia	968-6362
KOVAR	Jacob Manning	815-5250
Senior Citizens	Al Saccomano	263-9767
Mass Transportation	Paul St. Laurent ^{PGK}	322-9199
Manor Care Bingo	Robert James	802-8081
Special Olympics	Bob Britton	471-5409
FAMILY	William Mencia	968-6362
Family Activities	Vacant	
Ladies Social Auxiliary	Joan Jones and Jeri Trudeau	266-3633 378-5604
YOUTH	Jim Ho	378-9143
Squires	Jim Ho	378-9143
Squire Roses	Linda Gott	378-5059
MEMBERSHIP	Chris Moniz	378-7145
Recruiting	Paul St. Laurent ^{PGK}	322-9199
Recruiting	Byron Beall ^{PGK}	304-8299
Recruiting	Robert James	802-8081
Recruiting	Richard Zacofsky ^{PGK}	631-2023
Retention	Joe Burke ^{PGK}	815-3498
Degree Team Captain	Charlie Gioglio	266-7944
Fraternal Benefits	Joe Jones Sr. ^{PGK}	817-1002
(Insurance)	INSKC@cox.net	
Newsletter Editor and	Kevin O'Malley	815-1404
Publisher	daytonflyers@yahoo.com	
Webmaster	A.J. Zadrozny	502-3061
	webmaster@kofc-council7369.org	

DISTRICT OFFICERS:

District Deputy	Rich LaRoche ^{PGK}	266-3814
District Warden	Al Grimmig ^{PGK}	802-0530
District Marshal	Tom Trudeau ^{PGK}	378-7373

Knight of the Month

The Knight of the Month for March is another one of our Brothers that is always there, getting involved, helping out at various functions, but never really calling much attention to himself. He has been a sponsor of several large projects for the Council and the Parish, and currently ensures we get good food and a shot at the 50-50 every meeting (Though he won't sell the Grand Knight a winning ticket!). I am very pleased to name Brother **Bob Loy** as Knight of the Month for March 2005.

Family of the Month

The Family of the Month is one you know from all the events you see them at. This family has been very active in the Council for a long time, and continue to help in so many ways. Last month, we honored half of them, and this month I thought it appropriate to include the "better half"! I am pleased to name the "Junior" **Hebert family, Alberta and Carl**, as Family of the Month for March 2005.

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holdings in the Disney Corp. because of its subsidiary's release of the film Priest.

Even though we have consistently applied these ethical criteria to our investments, and therefore have refused to invest in companies that many analysts insist are superior investments, we have continued to achieve strong profitability year after year.

Earlier, I mentioned Pope John Paul II's encyclical *Centesimus Annus*. In this encyclical, the pope raises the issue of "the moral conditions for an authentic 'human ecology'." Indeed, one might say that the entire encyclical is an analysis toward the development of criteria for just such "an authentic human ecology" in the economic life of a free society.

All of us have an obligation to help build this more authentically "human ecology" through the choices we make. Moral choosing is the best way we can join in this effort "to safeguard the moral conditions for an authentic 'human ecology.'" Moral choosing is the only way ultimately that we can recognize the inherent dignity of each person and to build an economy that recognizes it as well.

Vivat Jesus!

Carl A. Anderson
Supreme Knight

Knights of Columbus
 Fr. Robert E. Nudd Council 7369
 P.O. Box 220165
 Chantilly, Virginia 20153-0165

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



<i>March 2005</i>						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 7:30 PM Council Meeting	3	4 6:00 PM Lenten Meal	5 State Quarterly Meeting
6 Membership Information Drive	7	8	9 7:30 PM Director's Meeting	10	11 6:00 PM Lenten Meal	12
13 Open House	14	15	16 7:30 PM Rosary and Council Meeting	17	18 6:00 PM Lenten Meal	19
20 PALM SUNDAY Donuts/Coffee	21	22 Ladies Auxillary Meeting	23	24	25 GOOD FRIDAY	26
27 EASTER Easter Egg Hunt	28	29	30	31		