



From The Grand Knight...

I hope everybody had a holy and blessed Easter. The Church year celebrates our Lord’s Resurrection every Sunday — but especially during the Easter Season which will end on Pentecost, 50 days after Easter. This event marks the beginning of the Church. It is a popular tradition for the priest to wear red to Mass, to signify the presence of the Holy Spirit. Don’t forget about the Ascension – celebrated in our Diocese on Sunday May 12th.



If you have articles to put in the Knightly News, please get them in early. They are due by noon, the Wednesday after the CHA meeting which meets on the 3rd Tuesday. Send articles to Knightlynews583@gmail.com Articles are placed in newsletter according to space available.

Remember the election of officers is coming up. Please consider running for office as we need some younger blood in our council. Many of us have reached – and bypassed – the age of wisdom!

The Officers meeting on the fourth Tuesday of each month will include all BBQ Chairpersons (and any involved in planning for the BBQ) from May through July.

The Big Raffle is still going, and the jackpot is near \$15,000! Bring your family and friends and enjoy the evening.

May is the month of Mary, and we will pray the Rosary at the Council meeting. I encourage Brother Knights to pray the Rosary daily for your families and world peace.

And please continue to pray for vocations to the Priesthood and religious life — and for an end to abortion.

- *Thomas Maas, Grand Knight*
217-885-3301 Juliamas@att.net

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- ST FRANCIS PARISH PICNIC



This year's picnic will be held Saturday June 8th on the parish grounds, 1720 College Avenue from 5:00 pm till midnight. Live music with dining inside and out.

Beer & Wine, Raffles & Auctions. Kiddie Korner Bingo!

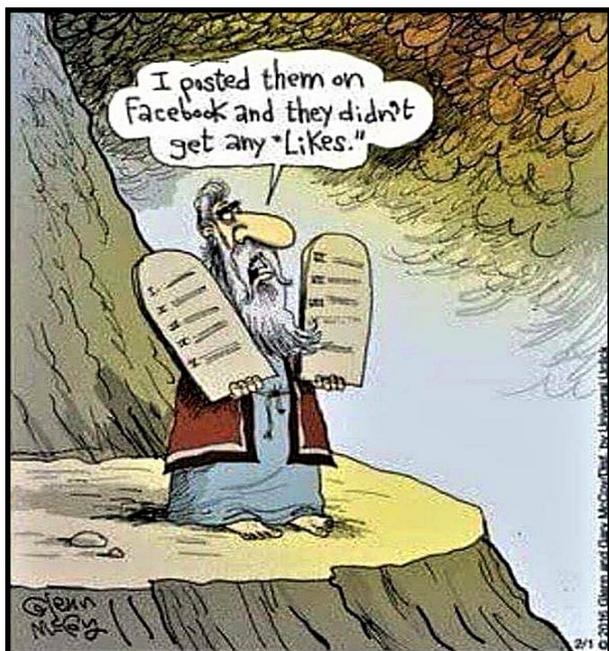
- INSIGHTS OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

Prayer is by nature a dialog and a union of man with God Its effect is to hold the world together. It achieves a reconciliation with God.

Prayer is the mother and daughter of tears. It is an expiation of sin, a bridge across temptation, a bulwark against affliction. It wipes out conflict, is the work of angels, and is the-nourishment of all bodiless beings.

Prayer is future gladness, action without end, well-spring of virtues, source of grace, hidden progress, food of the soul, enlightenment of the mind, an axe against despair, hope demonstrated. sorrow done away with. It treasure of hermits, anger diminished.

It is a mirror of progress, a demonstration of success, evidence of one's condition, the future revealed, a sign of glory. For the man who really prays it is the court, the judgment hall, the tribunal of the Lord—and this prior to the judgment that is to come.



- KC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

QU, QND, and Parish school scholarship forms are available *now* at the Clubhouse Bar and must be returned to the red can at the bar by May 17th.

Scholarship grants are open to the children and grandchildren of "current" Third Degree, as well as Fourth Degree Members. ("Current" means dues have been paid).



If you are a First or Second Degree Member, contact Bill Anderson for a simple increase in degree status.

Members do *not* need to be present to win. If you have multiple children you may submit applications for each, but a

given family may win only one scholarship each year.

Three \$1,000 scholarships to Quincy University, as well as two \$500 scholarships to Q.N.D. and two \$500 scholarships to each of our parochial elementary schools, St. Dominic, St. Francis, St. Peter, and Blessed Sacrament will be given

Questions: Contact Bill Anderson at 217-257-2108 or by email at billanders44@gmail.com

- NEW RANGE AT KC

Perhaps you have noticed construction on the grounds just south of the Clubhouse. A high tech "Techgolf" driving range is being built with initial completion hopefully in late May.

This will be a facility where golfers can drive electronic chip equipped golf balls down the range. These balls give quick readouts to the golfer helping him improve his game. Indeed it makes possible competition between golfers! An app for your smart phone will be available at the range.

When completed heated bays will be available to golfers, as well as a pro shop, bar and a dining area! This will be a family friendly facility.

For more information see. <https://toptracer.com>. A more detailed article with photos is also available on the Quincy *MuddyRiver* website.

This business is privately owned on land leased from Council 583.



The time is always right to do what is right.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Chaplain's Reflection...

I will long remember approaching a striking sculpture in the lower level of the Louvre Museum in Paris. It was a marble statue by Michelangelo entitled "The Dying Slave." To be able to be there right next to such a priceless work of art by one of history's greatest artists was breathtaking.



I stood there for some time in amazement that something so beautiful could be carved from a block of stone, tiny chips painstakingly cut from a block of marble with hammer and chisel. A careless slip of the hand and the entire piece would have been ruined!

As I studied the work I noticed that it appeared to be unfinished. Glancing at the base of the statue, I could see the figure appeared to be emerging, crawling out of the raw marble block from which it was being carved.

One of the sculptor's greatest creations, this statue has been said to be unfinished by some scholars, while others claim that its appearance symbolizes man's struggle for freedom or salvation from the bounds of this world.

In a sense this statue stands for every man, and our deepest desire for transcendence. That journey of life was described so well by the poet Rainer Rilke: *God speaks to each of us as he makes us, then walks with us silently out of the night. These are the words we dimly hear: You, sent out beyond your recall, go to the limits of your longing. Embody me. Flare up like a flame and make big shadows I can move in. Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror. Just keep going. No feeling is final. Don't let yourself lose me. Nearby is the country they call life. You will know it by its seriousness. Give me your hand.*

Sister Lucia, one of the Fatima visionaries, wrote: "Our Lady insists on our persevering in prayer. It is not enough to pray once in a while; we must pray always, that is, every day, with faith and confidence." St. Paul said much the same thing in his first letter to the Thessalonians: *Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.* (1 Thes 5:17-18)

Why must we "pray without ceasing?" Well - for the same reason that a great sculptor must concentrate his whole being on his chisel - so that he

achieves the right motion, forming the stone into a work of art.

When he is distracted he risks ruining the whole work! As Jesus instructed us: *Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.* (Luke 21:36)

We might imagine our lives as being like that statue emerging from a great block of marble. As we hold God's hand, he ever so slowly chips away the stone of our lives, forming us. It is the work of our lifetime, an effort of love. We are God's masterpieces. We help Him most if we allow him to hold our hand in prayer.

- Fr. Don Blickhan

- FINAL KARAOKE EVENT

The last Karaoke opportunity till Fall will be held on Saturday evening May 11th from 8:00 p.m. till midnight. No admission fee. All are welcome! Join us at the Club and share your talent with friends.



- MASS FOR SHUT-INS, INTENTIONS

Mass for May 5th, Intention: Alice Adair
(Studio: April 30th)

Mass of May 12th, Intention: Robert Steinkamp
(Studio: May 7th)

Mass of May 19th, Intention: Kevin Hollensteiner
(Studio: May 14th)

Mass for May 26th, Intention: Leroy Brinkman
(Studio: May 21st)

Mass for June 2nd, Intention: Karl Holtmeyer
(Studio: May 28th)

These TV Masses are sponsored by The Fourth Degree. To follow the Mass at home, A *Pray Together* Misalette can be obtained from Terry Obert. Call: 217-257-3161.



Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.

- Melody Beattie

