

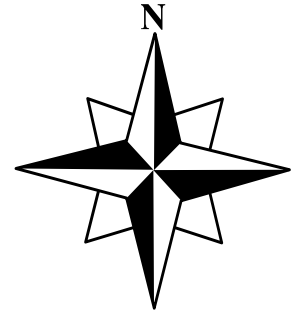


# The Compass

Trinity Council No. 4618

Knights of Columbus

Webster, New York 14580



Vol. 58 No 7

April 2016

District 89

**CHAPLAIN EMERITUS**

Rev. John Reif

**CHAPLAIN**

Rev. Paul Gitau

**GRAND KNIGHT**

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**DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT**

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**Grand Knight's Message**

"These two are fools. Which two? The one who doesn't see his/her transgression as a transgression, and the one who doesn't rightfully pardon another who has confessed his/her transgression. These two are fools.

"These two are wise. Which two? The one who sees his/her transgression as a transgression, and the one who rightfully pardons another who has confessed his/her transgression. These two are wise."  
--(Ancient Buddhist text: AN2:21)

Luke's Gospel is the gospel of salvation. It shows how God's divine plan for salvation was accomplished through the life and resurrection of Jesus which completely fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies. Luke 15 has three parables that together completely describe how God's salvation is open to all. The three parables are related and symbolize the Holy Trinity.

The first is the parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15:3-7). This is the parable where a shepherd has 100 sheep and one wanders away. He finds the sheep and brings it home. Jesus shows in this parable that every individual is precious in His sight and that there is joy when a sinner repents. The lost sheep is out in the world and needs to be saved and brought back to the fold. "We have all gone astray like sheep, all following our own way" (Isaiah 53:6). Jesus is the Good Shepard of the

lost sheep.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> is the parable of the lost coin (Luke 15: 8:10). The coin in this case is lost in the house. In the first parable the lost sheep is outside the fold. In this case the coin is lost in the house. The woman lights the lamp and sweeps the house to find the lost coin. Again there is rejoicing when the coin is found. The lost coin represents the people who participate on a superficial level but have lost their way. The light and the broom symbolize the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God shines through and the lost is found.

Finally, the 3<sup>rd</sup> parable is the Prodigal Son. In the Trinity this parable represents the Father. Unlike the first two parables, he doesn't go and look for the lost son. He waits for the son to come back to him, to come home. This is God the Father, He waits for us to return to Him. Luke also gives a lot of detail on the welcoming home of the son. Each item has its own symbolic meaning. First, he forgave him - God will forgive all your sins. He put a robe on him - the blood of Christ will cleanse you of all sin. He put a ring on his finger which confirms he belongs to the Father. He put shoes on his feet - the bleeding feet walked in the ways of the transgressor and now stands in his Father's house. Additionally, it takes a long time to fatten a calf. The calf is fattened in the expectation of the son's return. He was waiting.

*Continued on next page*



## Grand Knights Message-continued

Let's also not forget about the big brother and what he represents. He is lost too. He was first to point out his brother's sin and cannot get past it. He is typical of people who are quick to point out other people's faults.

Jesus' audience for these three parables is the Pharisees and the Sadducees. The Pharisees consisted of the sages and scribes and included most of the common people. The older son represents these scribes and sages. The Pharisees were active until the destruction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple and eventually became the foundation of Rabbinic Judaism. They followed the oral tradition of the Torah meaning that not everything related to the Law was written down. The Sadducees on the other hand were aristocratic and were made up of mostly high priests. They followed the written tradition of the Torah strictly adhering to the written words. Jesus' views were more closely aligned with the Pharisees but there were fundamental differences. Jesus rejected the idea that the Law needed to be strictly adhered to in order to attain the grace of God. But, as Paul points out God is not rejecting the Jews either. In the early church there was a lot of dissonance between the Jews and Gentiles. Paul reminds us in Romans 11:11 that God never forgets his people. They haven't stumbled so far they can't be restored. Jesus' message of salvation might have come from the exile in the Old Testament as expressed in Psalm 137:

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down,  
And there we wept when we remembered Zion.  
On the willows there we hung up our harps.  
For there our captors asked us for words of song,  
And our tormentors, for mirth:  
"Sing to us from the songs of Zion!"  
How could we sing the song of the LORD on an alien  
land?  
If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, may my right hand forget  
its skill,  
May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth  
if I do not remember you,  
if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.

There are four messages from this Psalm which relate to salvation parables: the horror of sin, an incompatibility being a "child of the world" and a child of God, standing true to God in the most difficult of circumstances, and the challenge to have a deeper

commitment to God. Salvation is a free gift from God. It is not meant to be misused. In Islam, "jihad" is actually salvation. It is a spiritual, psychological, and physical effort to be close to God and achieve a just and harmonious society. It is a "holy war" against one's passions. It can never include aggression. (Qur'an 2:190).

Shakespeare sums it up in Hamlet: "God hath given you one face, and you make yourself another." [Ed. Note: After last month's Lenten message coupled with this month's column, no wonder the Editor asked the Grand Knight when his Diaconate training was beginning! Worthy GK, this is a compliment.]

## Trinity Council Musings

*The Grand Knight's Clairvoyance.* We couldn't help but notice – they appeared in space normally reserved for this column – the following words of Grand Knight Steve Tedesco in the March *Compass* (commenting on Robert Frost's poem, *Mending Wall*): "The poem expresses the need to break down walls." He concluded his analysis by quoting (with attribution) Ronald Reagan's immortal words, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."

Before anyone yells "Plagiarism!" (the journalism equivalent of the biblical phrase "Crucify him!"), we would point out that the Grand Knight's column hit the *Compass*' inbox three days before Pope Francis made his "wall" remarks in response to a reporter's question about Donald Trump during the Pontiff's flight home from Mexico.

We offer this defense of the Grand Knight notwithstanding his attempt to silence dissent by confiscating our pen at the March General Membership Meeting. (As Edward Bulwer-Lytton wrote, "The pen is mightier than the sword.")

*In The News.* From Carol Klem's "Village Focus" column in the February 24, 2016 *Webster Post*: Brother Knight Dick Prinzing and his wife Sheila spotted a mountain lion in Webster recently. [We would hope that if any of our other readers happen to spot a mountain lion on the loose in Webster - or anywhere else, for that matter - that they would contact The Editor (he's on call 24/7) first so that the *Compass* can break the story.

*Continued on next page*



## Trinity Council Musings-continued

That just might get us over the top with the judges of the State Council's newsletter contest.]

From the March 15, 2016 *USA Today* article, "Droids and 'noids usher in robot society at SXSW" by Rick Jervis: "[A]ndroids are used as shopkeepers and TV hosts throughout Japan." Hey, why not bingo workers? From Mike Latona's article in the March, 2016 issue of the *Catholic Courier* about the Knights from the Caledonia and RIT Councils who participated in this year's Polar Plunge into Lake Ontario on the coldest day of the year [Ed. Note: reprinted elsewhere in this issue], it appears that our Caledonia Brothers have come up with a creative idea for recycling council past grand knights: have them serve as council mascots. (Underlined for emphasis. We learned that trick from The Editor.)

*No Surprise.* At the March General Membership Meeting Financial Secretary Bob McNeill announced that the Council's supply of crucifixes to raise funds for persecuted Middle Eastern Christians had sold out. No surprise, given the free publicity we gave this promotion. Another promotion, this one announced at said meeting: the Finger Lakes Chapter Knights of Columbus is trying to fund wheelchairs for Strong's Golisano Children's Hospital. For \$150.00 you can contribute your own wheelchair. Interested? See Dave Stein, PGK. Smaller donations are, of course, most welcome.

*Safe and Secure.* We salute Knights of Columbus Insurance agent Justin Pelletier for opening up an office at 109 West Commercial Street in East Rochester to better serve us. However, if he thinks that sharing a common area with an attorney will create a sense of security we think he will be disappointed. (Not to worry though; from his column in the March *Compass* it appears that Agent Pelletier has the security angle pretty well covered.) Our former insurance agent, Steve Marone, made one of his patented cameo appearances at the March General Membership Meeting to let us know that Pelletier has received an Insurance MVP award from Supreme. Congratulations, Justin!

*Luck Of The Irish?* For the first time in recent memory, the Fourth Degree Color Corps did not march in Rochester's St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 12<sup>th</sup>, thereby guaranteeing good weather. Something about

conflicts that day arising from a quirk in the lunar calendar (a/k/a Easter). You should see the jaws drop at the monthly meetings when Bob Hafner, PGK, stands to announce the Color Corps' upcoming schedule... Before Lent drew to a close we were able to partake of the fish fries offered at the St. Rita and the St. Mary of the Lake facilities. It was good to see so many Knights and their families helping out (Dave Mauro, Deacon Rick Rall, David and Evelyn Powe (and their son, home from college on Spring Break), Dave Samuelson and Dave McCoy at St. Rita and Dave Uerz, PGK, Bob and Lana Leschhorn, Norm and Jane Odell, Bob and Ann Prevost and Carol and Joe Bradbury at St. Mary of the Lake) on the evenings we were there. Sorry if we missed anybody...Speaking of helping our churches, John Czerniawski and Gary Staszak did a yeoman's job last month hooking up the "Jumbotron" in the overflow area at Holy Trinity...At their recent Blue & Gold Dinner St. Rita's honored Council Treasurer John O'Connor for all he has done for St. Rita School.

See you at the Charity Dinner! It's on Saturday, April 23rd. Get your RSVP in today.



**Thursday,  
April 7th**

**Dinner Meeting**

**Picnic Buffet**

**Pulled pork, baked beans, salt potatoes,  
corn, coleslaw**

**\$15.00**

**Reservations are a must by  
March 1st  
Call or e-mail Ron Meagher.**



**787-2674**



**RONMEAGHER1@TWC.COM**

**NOTE 1: If you plan on attending you are  
expected to make a reservation.**

**NOTE 2: If you make a reservation,  
you are expected to pay for the meal.**



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**200**  
*Club*

This spring 200 club dinner is on Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>. Join the 200 club to win and have a great free dinner event with your membership. Come celebrate spring with friends and family!

**OUR \$35.00 FEBRUARY WINNERS ARE:**

Ginny Hurzy, David Uerz, and Kathy Uerz

**OUR \$20.00 FEBRUARY WINNERS ARE:**

Don Fisher and Kathy Uerz

**OUR \$10.00 FEBRUARY WINNERS ARE:**

Carol Wynne and Neil McKenna

Contact David McLellan for more information  
 at 503-8598 or [dcllell@aol.com](mailto:dcllell@aol.com)

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**April Council Birthdays**

Bruce	Brauch	0401
Robert	Hafner	0401
Thomas	Hanna	0401
Marc	Nelson	0402
Stephen	Murphy	0403
Scott	Ellsworth	0404
Joseph	Beckles	0405
Martin H.	Hosenfeld jr.	0405
Fr, John	Reif	0405
Joseph	Schillaci	0408
Anthony	Gilbert	0409
Myron	Suchanick	0410
Paul	Fetter	0411
James	Rousseau	0412
John	Kuebel	0414
John	Stebler	0415
Steven	Lodestro	0416
Mark	Neumann	0417
Carl	Tiberio	0417
Leonard	Farnand	0418
Dale	Haefner	0429

*Editor's Note:* Many of you have asked to list the actual birthdates in case you may wish to send a card. The Council database does contain most everyone's dates. If any information is in error, please contact Tom Freundsuh at 422-4361.

**April 2016**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**May 2016**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**Key Dates for upcoming activities**

- 4/7 Thursday, Monthly Dinner Meeting, WCC 6:00PM
- 4/14 Thursday, 1st & 2nd Degree, WCC 6:30PM
- 4/15 Friday, Monthly Euchre Tournament WCC 7:00PM
- 4/23 Saturday, 46th Annual Charity Dinner, WCC 6:00PM
- 4/28 Thu., Council Officers & WCC Board Meeting, WCC 7:00PM



**Lawn Mowers Needed**

Yep it's that time again to sign up for the best lawn mowing positions available with the Knights.

This is a team event, need two hardy mowers each month. Usually takes 3 hours to mow and generally it is twice during the month.

Looking for mowers for May through October. Help keep the Columbus Center looking great!!!!

Give me a call or send e-mail if you want to sign up. Mike Donovan, cell # 585-738-7883 or e-mail [mdonoval@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mdonoval@rochester.rr.com).

Thanks in advance for your help!

**Spring Clean Up at Holy Trinity Cemetery**



**One of the many ways, we Knights support our parishes**

Friday, April 24th - starting at 1 p.m.  
 Saturday, April 25th starting at 8:30 a.m.  
 Rain/make up dates will be the following week.

All you need to bring is a rake. *However, a wheel barrow or two would be appreciated.*

Email or call Stew Coon if you can make it.

**[jscoon@frontiernet.net](mailto:jscoon@frontiernet.net)  
 or 216-7578**



**Let us Pray: If you are aware of a Brother Knight or someone in their immediate family that should be on our prayer list, please contact Tom Schoenwetter at 265-2263.**



**For our Veterans**, that we always remember those who have given their lives for our freedom and that we support our troops as they return home.

**Prayer for our troops:** Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Lord and Savior. AMEN

**For our Seminarians**, that the Lord gives these men the strength to remain committed to answering God's call to serve Him and His people in a special way.

For the repose of soul and family of Frank Cantatore, PGK. Frank was a PGK of St. John Newman Council 8271, before they merged with Trinity Council in 2011.

For the repose of soul and family of Arlene Kusse, widow of fallen brother Donald Kusse.

Our Council Brethren and family members and who are ill, under treatment or recovering.

Marilyn Bowman	Larry Lochner
Peter & Jackie Breidt	Donna Martin (daughter of Jean Chappell)
Albert Curtis (father of Bob)	Debbie LaTempa-Barth (Sister-In-Law of Jim Waver)
Bob Dominik	Pat McHale (brother of Dick McHale)
Tom Donnelly	Joe Nagel
Deacon Stan Douglas & Joanne	Bev Neumann
Susan Douglas-Doyle (daughter of Deacon Stan)	Family of Gary Nicaastro
Donald Fisher	Richard O'Connor (father of John)
Joe Frate	Michael Pellittiere
Catherine Fremut (twin sister of Peter Breidt)	Mary Przysinda (sister of John Stebler)
Lori Freundsuh (sister of Tom Freundsuh)	Michael Quinlan
Tom Goundry	Ann Rohnke
Marina Griffin (wife of John)	Family of Tim Runyan
Richard Habes	Lucian Scaccia
Carolyn Hafner	Tammy Serio-Miller (daughter of Vic)
Cindy Hoage (daughter of Bill & Carol Van Slyke)	Art & Rita Schuth
Gladys Hickey	Jim Senecal (brother of Don)
Ron Hosenfeld ( Brother of Mike Hosenfeld)	John and Bernadette Stebler
Helen Kester	Karl Steigerwald
Walt Kowalski	Gertrude Swol
Jack Kuebel	Ann Tiberio
Lana Leschhorn	

*Father of goodness & love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our council, their families and friends, and for all those who are in need.*

*Amid mental and physical suffering may they find consolation in your healing presence. Show your mercy as you close wounds, cure illness, make broken bodies whole, and free downcast spirits. May these special people find lasting health and deliverance, and join us in thanking you for all your gifts.*

*With Mary, we ask this through the Lord Jesus who healed those who believed. Amen.*



## Ladies Auxiliary of Trinity Council



### Meeting Date:

April 11, 2016

7:00 pm

**LASS – Ladies Achieving  
Self Sufficiency**

### Prayers/Intentions:

Marina Griffin, Sebastian (friend of Pat Obbie's grandson) Victims of recent flooding/tornados in other parts of the country.

### March Donations:

K of C Charity Dinner  
Webster Comfort Care Home  
Daystar for Medically Fragile  
Children

### April Birthdays:

1<sup>st</sup> Pat McKenna  
7<sup>th</sup> Dolores Caramante  
15<sup>th</sup> Joan Weisshaar  
29<sup>th</sup> Angie Buzzelli



### Calendars:

Please bring in 2016 calendars for Ronnie Zawacki for the Prison Ministry. No spiral bindings!!

### Donation Requests:

Please submit donation requests in writing to any Auxiliary Board Member before the next Board meeting for discussion and review. Request forms are available from the President.

### Dates to Remember:

Charity Dinner –4/23/16

Recipient – Flower City Pickers  
June Banquet – 6/13/16

**Hill Haven:** Volunteers are needed to set up the altar for the religious service at Hill Haven Nursing Home. It is a once a year commitment. The services take place on the second Tuesday of the month. Substitutes are also needed. If you are interested, please contact Katy Uerz or Millie Schillaci.

### Bingo:

We are in need of Bingo workers.

We also need substitutes. Please consider this worthwhile committee. We depend on Bingo money for our donations to charities.

If you are not sure about participating but would like more information to make your decision, please contact Kathy Uerz or any Board member.

The commitment is once every 5-6 weeks.



### April Board Meeting:

April 7<sup>th</sup>

Kathy Pritchett's

### Sunshine Requests:

Do you know of an Auxiliary member who may need some cheering up, is ill or in the hospital, has become a new parent or grandparent, is moving to a new home? Please contact Donna McNinch at 265-1526.



### Fashion Show:

If you have a suggestion for the recipient for our Fashion Show in October, please contact Gale Jones.

### President Notes:

I would like to thank Gale Jones for offering to take Judy McHale's place on the Board as a Trustee. We will miss Judy and all of her contributions to our group but know Gale will do a great job! Wishing you all of Blessed and Happy Easter.

In Prayer,  
Linda



## Presentation to St. Paul's Parish Council

Joe Kozelsky, PGK

PGK Phil Rohnke and I recently met with the parish council of St. Paul's in order to make them more aware of our presence and to encourage them to seek assistance from 4618 for their special projects and needs. Here are some of the highlights of our presentation.

### ABOUT TRINITY COUNCIL 4618

**Trinity Council 4618 is big.** Currently there are **302 members in Trinity Council 4618**, generally comprised of men from Holy Trinity, St. Rita's, St. Maximillian Kober's, and St. Paul's parishes. As best as we can tell, there are approximately 30 – 35 members from St. Paul's Church. Typically there are 60 to 80 members for our monthly dinner meetings and cocktail hour.

Trinity Council enjoys an active **Ladies Auxiliary** which has donated considerable funds to Catholic and other worthy causes in the Webster/Ontario region.

Trinity Council **runs or supports over 19 active annual** community and church related programs. A detailed listing was provided to the parish council. There are **additional ongoing internal** committees.

Amazingly, there are **approximately 86 members** of the Council who are involved at least one leadership role as council officers, member of the board of directors for the WCC and/or the various committee chairs or co-chairs.

### CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

In the last three years since 2012, Trinity Council has contributed over **\$31,175.00** to various recipients in the Rochester-Webster-Ontario regions. A list of recipients of contributions made by Trinity Council since 2012 is included in the Appendix 2. These funds are generated largely through our Bingo and Bell Jar programs at the Webster Columbus Center on Tuesday nights. This does not include the amounts donated as a result of our **Annual Charity Dinner** which **would increase this amount by 50 to 75%.**

Further, the **Auxiliary** has donated **approximately \$11,400** during the same time period.

Trinity Council 4618 is **possibly the leading council** in the state. Given our large size of and extensive involvement by the membership it is easy to see why this could be the case.

In 1972 and 1973 Council 4618 was recognized as the **Most Outstanding Council in New York State**

Following these recognitions the State Council **eliminated the award** because it appeared that no other council could compete with Trinity Council

For **twelve years** running

Trinity Council won the state award for our newsletter, *The Compass*, as the **best newsletter** in the state. Then, *The Compass* voluntarily withdrew from the competition.

We directed their attention to the March 2016 GK's column for a **truly excellent article** about the **Lenten Season** by fellow St. Paul's parishioner, **Stephen Tedesco.**

Our strong reputation continues until today, with Trinity Council receiving high accolades on both the state and chapter level and **continues out of reach** of other councils within the state.

Furthermore, although there is no way to know this, given our prominence on the state level it would appear that **by extrapolation, Trinity Council could be one of the premier councils in the country.**

This was followed by a listing of 20 various programs and activities of 4618 and a listing of 65 donation recipients for both the council and our auxiliary.

Trinity Council 4618, a truly remarkable council.



**Happy 103rd Birthday  
Leonard Farnand  
On April 18th!**

Wishing you many more  
From Your Brothers Of  
Trinity Council No. 4618

*Hope your special day brings you  
all that your heart desires!*





### Insurance News

If you haven't visited the Knights of Columbus Web site in a while, I encourage you to do so the next time you're online. We've added many new features to [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org), but there are two that I wish to make you especially aware of.

The first is our member testimonial area, titled "Stages of Life." In this multi-media area, six "real-life" stories are told – stories of people at different stages of their lives. Chances are, one of them will sound a lot like you. These people talk about how their Knights of Columbus agent took the time to demonstrate for them the need for life insurance in their lives. I'll be happy to do that for you and your family as well.

The second is our Life Insurance Calculator. This handy, easy-to-use online tool was developed to allow you, in about 15-20 minutes, to **estimate** the amount of life insurance coverage you need. The information you'll be asked to provide will be basic (the type most folks would tend to have at their fingertips), and secure (it's intended to be used solely for the purposes of the online calculator – the Order won't capture it or share it with anyone, including me!).

I stress that the number you'll receive is an estimate, based on the basic information you provide. It's not intended to take the place of the free, professional needs analysis that I'll be happy to provide for you and your family. Give me a call – I'd like to meet with you.

VIVAT JESUS!

Agent for Trinity Council No. 4618

Justin Pelletier (585)900-1634 [Justin.Pelletier@kofc.org](mailto:Justin.Pelletier@kofc.org)



### 2016 Charity Dinner Recipient—Flower City Pickers

**THE TIMES NEWS**

*46th Annual Charity Dinner*  
*Trinity Council No. 4618*  
*April 23, 2016*  
*Reservations must be made by April 15th 2016*

*Sit Down Dinner*  
*Grilled Salmon with Garlic Butter Sauce*  
*Chicken Cordon Blue with Mashed Potatoes*  
*London Broil with Roasted Mushrooms and Port Wine Demi Glaze*  
*All served with Salad, Rolls, Dessert*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30 per person

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Seating Preference: \_\_\_\_\_

*MJK*

Pope Francis' Year of Mercy is an invitation—an invitation to love, kindness, and unbounded generosity. Pope Francis is offering us (Trinity Council) the opportunity to encounter the incredible mercy of God.

Please support Trinity Council's Annual Charity Dinner. Additional information is available from PGK Dave Uerz at 645-2351





## 2016 FL Chapter Free Throw Contest

Even though Trinity Council had no winners at the Chapter level this year, the Compass salutes PGK Bob Keown, who chaired this event for the Finger Lakes Chapter. The event was held at McQuaid Jesuit High School on March 6th.

## Webster Columbus Center Gets A Fresh Look

Special thanks to the painting crew that helped paint the large hall at the WCC on Saturday March 12. The same crew made a return trip on Wednesday, March 16th. It really looks great!!!!

Much appreciation to Justin Tubiolo, Dave Samuelson, Dave McCoy, Mark Hochreiter, John Griffin, John Carnevale, Phil Rohnke, PGK, Tom Lafontaine, Joe Kozelsky, PGK, and Jack Czerniawski and Mike Donovan.

A stark change from previous, but it looks like a million bucks.



A look inside the freshly painted WCC. Photo by PGK Dave Uerz.

## Statement of Knights of Columbus CEO Carl Anderson on State Departments Genocide Declaration

3/17/2016

Following Secretary of State John Kerry's finding of genocide being committed by ISIS against Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson released this statement:

Today's announcement by Secretary of State John Kerry is correct and truly historic. For one of the few times in our history, the United States has designated an ongoing situation as genocide, and the State Department is to be commended for having the courage to say so. By joining its voice to that of the House of Representatives, the American people, and the international community, the United States today makes clear to ISIS that its attempt to stamp out religious minorities must cease. The United States and the world are united on this, and simply will not look the other way. The Knights of Columbus is pleased

to have been able to work with the State Department in providing a nearly 300-page report filled with compelling evidence that genocide was occurring against Christians as well as other religious minorities. We thank Secretary Kerry for seriously considering the evidence, and commend the State Department staff for working closely with us in this endeavor.

Following this declaration, America must continue to focus on those being killed in this genocide, and our country, and the international community, must make sure the slaughter ends and that these innocent people are protected. There is much work still to be done, but this represents an important step forward.



## Defensive Driving Class being offered to Trinity Council Family

Saturday, May 28th  
9:00AM—3:00PM  
Cost \$25.00

This course can save you 10 percent off of three parts of your Insurance policy. It also will remove up to 4 points on your license, if needed. Anyone that is interested is asked to contact member Steve Dwyer at 585-230-8944.



Courier photo by **Mike Crupi**

*Kris Ayers, a member of Knights of Columbus Council 7980 in Caledonia, runs out of Lake Ontario after submerging himself during the annual Polar Plunge, which was held at Rochester's Ontario Beach Park Feb. 14.*

## Knights take chilly plunge for charity

*Excerpts reprinted from Courier-Journal Article with permission by author Mike Latona*

ROCHESTER -- A brief epidemic of insanity broke out Feb. 14 at Ontario Beach Park, affecting some 1,800 people.

The symptoms? Charging across the sand whooping and hollering, wearing creative costumes and skimpy swimwear despite air temperatures just above zero -- and then stepping into frigid Lake Ontario.

As if those actions weren't loony enough, Kris Ayers went one step further. He waded out past a large percentage of participants who, after dipping their feet in, had seemingly come to their senses and gotten right back out. Ayers, on the other hand, was among the few who went completely under water for a brief moment -- thus living up to the name of the event: Polar Plunge.

"You have to figure, people are paying me to get in there. So I got in there," Ayers explained while changing into dry clothing a few minutes after taking his plunge.

The pay he mentioned came in the form of donations, collected by the approximately 200 Rochester Polar Plunge teams to benefit Special Olympics New York. Ayers headed up the self-proclaimed "Frozen Knights" representing Knights of Columbus Father William Devereaux Council 7980, based at St. Columba Church in Caledonia. Other council members taking part Feb. 14 were Brian Ribbeck, Chris Richter, Mark Mitschow and Charles Mitschow. Rounding out the Caledonia plungers were Abigail Richter, daughter of Chris; along with two women joining their better halves for a truly unique Valentine's Day observance: Margot Bennett, fiancée of Mark Mitschow, and Tricia Locka, girlfriend of Charles Mitschow. Also on hand was the team "mascot," Ken Moyer, the council's past grand knight.

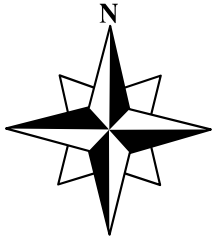
"Awesome" was Bennett's reply upon being asked how the water had felt.

The day started out serenely enough, with many team members meeting for 8 a.m. Mass at Scottsville's St. Mary of the Assumption Church before setting out for the Charlotte neighborhood at the other end of Monroe County. There they met up with two other Knights of Columbus plungers, TJ Wasik and Saul Fernandez from Rochester Institute of Technology Council 14336, who were decked out in full knights' costumes including helmets and swords.

This marked the fifth year of Council 7980's participation in the annual Polar Plunge. Ayers, 31, has coordinated the efforts for each one, noting that he was drafted as the pioneer Polar Plunger in 2012 due to being one of the council's youngest members. Since then the council has raised several thousand dollars for the event, in keeping with the Knights of Columbus' reputation as a major sponsor of Special Olympics worldwide.

Ayers noted that this year's Frozen Knights raised approximately \$2,240, placing in the top 25 of all Polar Plunge teams, with RIT producing an additional \$385. In all, the Rochester Polar Plunge -- for which the Knights of Columbus serves as a sponsor -- has raised millions of dollars for Special Olympics since its inception in 2001. Ayers observed that the Polar Plunge brings out a side of the Knights of Columbus not often seen. Open to men ages 18 and up, it is the world's largest Catholic fraternal organization and renowned for its spiritual, service and charitable efforts.

*[Ed. Note: Is Trinity Council No. 4618 up to the challenge next?]*



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