

**GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE**

Greetings from your Grand Knight, Eric Novak.

Thank you to all who helped with the Rose Sale at the masses last weekend.

Our Pork Chop Bingo will be Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, Valentine's Day in Gilman. Proceeds from the bingo will go to St. John's Area School playground equipment fund drive.

We need to work on membership. Our membership growth has been really weak; we welcome any ideas on how to make our council stronger.

Brother Knight, John Mastey passed away January 10<sup>th</sup>. He was a very active member of the Knights of Columbus and will be greatly missed. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. Let a perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

Continue to pray for our deceased brother knights.

In this Holy Year of Mercy, Pope Francis encourages us to do works of mercy for one another and to work at growing in our faith. Pray the rosary daily; read the bible, especially Gospel of Luke; frequent sacrament of reconciliation; for those who have the opportunity attend a weekday mass.

Vivat Jesus! Fraternally Yours,  
Eric Novak, Grand Knight  
Tel: 320-309-6250

**COUNCIL NEWS**

Grand Knight, Eric Novak welcomed members to the Jan 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Thank you to the members that joined in the singing at the Foley Nursing Center on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you also to members and families that attended the December 2<sup>nd</sup> memorial mass for deceased members in Gilman.

Communications received since the last meeting were read: Thank yous were received from seminarians of the diocese for the gift cards they received from the council.

Kristine Fredericks from St. John's Area School spoke to the membership. She informed of their proposed three year plan to upgrade school yard playground equipment. The overall estimate of costs is \$70,000 to \$75,000. Membership moved in favor to donate \$3,000 toward this project and additional from net proceeds of the pork chop bingo in February.

Membership moved to donate \$100 to the Catholic Foundation.

**Chairman Reports**

Treasurer, Al Sobania reported the council treasury balance is \$10,569.79.

**Membership:** Members are reminded to keep their membership current by paying annual dues on time. The 2016 membership dues are \$30. Please be sure to send your check payable to the Knights of Columbus to: **Financial Secretary Doug Novak 13944 105<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Foley MN 56329.** Do not drop it in the Sunday collection.

A 1<sup>st</sup> degree initiation is planned for early February. Continue to work on signing up new members now. Ask another member knight or officer to assist when you are out there talking to a new potential member about joining the Knights. Form 100 applications can be obtained from financial secretary or grand knight.

**Community activities:**

Thank you to members that met on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> to complete the widow's basket project. Twenty-eight baskets of fruit, cookies and treats were prepared. Volunteer members helped deliver them to deceased council member's wives. A very worthy project remembering our deceased brother knight's wives at this special time of the year.

**Youth:** David Lieser, youth activities chairman of the council had organized a youth poster contest. "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster winners in age

groups 5-7, 8-10 & 11-14 were awarded a cash prize at the Holy Family Sunday celebration on Dec 27<sup>th</sup>. The top winners of the 92 entries were being forwarded to district and state levels of competition. David was thanked for organizing this event. It was rewarding to see our youth interested in the poster project, many showed original talent.

**Church:** Date selected for Roses for Life was set for January 16 & 17<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers from each parish were asked to prepare to hand out roses and accept donations, which later would be used in the Pro-Life Projects.

**HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY**

On December 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm the council held the Holy Family Sunday Celebration. Horse drawn trolley rides were at the Gilman Church parking lot. Followed by a social and pot luck lunch in the church basement. Approximately 100 guests and members attended. Thank you to Doug Novak Family for arranging this event.

**Council:** In April 2016 the Immaculate Mary Council is celebrating 30 years as a council. We need a committee and chairman to begin working on this celebration. Please give us a hand and volunteer. Let Grand Knight, Eric Novak know you'd like to help.

**4<sup>TH</sup> DEGREE – FR. PIERZ GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Next spring will be the Knights of Columbus 4<sup>th</sup> degree exemplification in St. Cloud. This would be a very convenient time to join without a long distance to travel and lodging expense. Darryl Kukowski 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Faithful Trustee membership chairman was guest speaker at the regular meeting, January 5<sup>th</sup>. He explained the patriotic degree and the projects the 4<sup>th</sup> degree are involved in. Please consider joining the 4<sup>th</sup> degree. Contact person is Doug Novak (320) 387-2382.

**Knight of the Month:** January Knight of the Month was awarded to Brother Knight, Richard

Zimmer. We congratulate Brother Knight, Richard on receiving the honor of Knight of the Month. Thank you for your contributions to the council, church and community.

**Family of the Month:** The January Family of the Month is awarded to Brother Knight, Paul Gapinski Family. We congratulate the Gapinski's and thank them for their involvement in the church, community and council.

**PORK CHOP BINGO****Feb 14, 1:00 pm Gilman Church Basement**

Co-chairs – Travis Janson and Chad Thorsten

Callers – Richard Zimmer & Larry Spiczka

Raffle sales – Greg Novak & Mitch Czech

Floor workers – Troy Lubberda, Ryan Skaja, John Brown Jr, Martin Herbst, Chad Matvick, Scott Thell.

Kitchen – Buck Janson, Jim Kampa, Brian Teff, Jim Brown, Jaren Lentner,

If you are not able to work either find your replacement or contact chair person.

Meeting jack pot was awarded to Brother Knight, Ken Janson. Congratulations Ken.

Name drawn for the Pot of Gold was Brother Knight, Richard Winkelman who **was not present** to collect the \$50 prize.

**District Deputy Message**

Jamie Ranweiler, District Deputy announced there is a district meeting January 24<sup>th</sup> 7pm, at Duelm. He is requesting at least four officers be present. Regular members are also invited and welcome to attend.

Remember to pray for Brother Knights and their families sick or in distress.

**Next meeting – February 2, 2016, rosary at 7:15pm, meeting at 7:30pm.**