



A Message from your Grand Knight

Greetings Brother Knights!

As we embark on a new year, I want to thank you for the confidence you've placed in me and my officers once again to lead this council.

We had an excellent year last year and as a bonus, made Star Council once again. Thank you for all who recruited new members and thanks for all who participated in KC events for the last year. You are our real recruitment advertising.

Our June social was in a much better location at Tiffany Park this year. It was shady the whole time and the kids got to play in the Splash Pad. Everyone had a good time.

We gave out the Knight of the Year award to Mike Swetish and the Family of the Year award to Dennis Hoffman and his family. I am proud to be associated with such great individuals.

Please see their write-up on page 6.

So what does a new year mean for us these days? That's right, we hit the ground running because it's Sportsman's Banquet time of the year.

Ticket sales will officially begin on Saturday, July 17th. If you plan to have a ticket for this year, you need to let Charlie Ballew know ASAP.

We are in need of Silent Auction Items, Bucket Raffle Items, and Door Prize Items. Gift cards to restaurants are great, as are gift cards to Home Depot, Lowe's, Academy, Gander Mountain, and any other place that YOU would shop. We are looking for something in the \$20 - \$25 range.

Contact Charlie Ballew if you are interested in purchasing something for the silent auction. He can suggest items for you and he makes forays to Bass Pro and

other locations for purchases.

August 7th we are hosting the Parish Pool Party at Bryan Aquatic. It's pretty easy to help out AND enjoy yourselves with your families so I hope to see you there. The more we show ourselves out there to the parish the more help we recruit.

I know this is going to be a great year because I know what a bunch of hard workers y'all are. I appreciate the help each and everyone of you give.

God's Blessings,

Chris Nugent



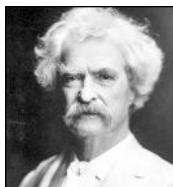
Mark Twain's Favorite Novel

Samuel Langhorne Clemens' Love of St. Joan of Arc
by Father Steven Reilly, LC

As Hemingway put it, "All modern American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called Huckleberry Finn." Even as we commemorate the 100th anniversary of Samuel Langhorne Clemens' death this year, the novels he wrote as Mark Twain still hold an envied place in the annals of literature.

A great writer, and also a complex personality, Twain was the premier humorist of his day — the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts gives an annual award for humor

named after him. Yet the laughter often carried a tinge of cynicism. He viewed the world with a jaundiced eye. Life, after all, had dealt him heavy blows, particularly with the deaths of his beloved wife, Olivia, and two of his daughters in their 20s.



Love for Joan of Arc

As for faith, generally he believed in an afterlife, but often it was conflicted and frequently wavering ("Faith is believing in what you know ain't so."). Still, Catholics may

be impressed to know that Twain said that he liked his 1896 Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc "best of all my books; and it is the best; I know it perfectly well. And besides, it furnished me seven times the pleasure afforded me by any of the others; twelve years of preparation, and two years of writing. The others needed no preparation and got none." Yes, the author of Huckleberry Finn, a book that frequently vies for "Great American Novel" status, held Joan of Arc in higher esteem. What was the source of this feeling?

(Continued on page 2)



Inside this issue:

July-August Calendar [Pg. 3](#)

Message from our Field Agents [Pg. 5](#)

Holy Father's Intentions [Pg. 7](#)

Birthday Anniversaries [Pg. 8](#)

Calendar Highlights:

- ◆ **July 08:** Officer Meeting
- ◆ **July 15:** Officer Installation
- ◆ **July 31:** Blood Drive
- ◆ **Aug 05:** Knights pray the Rosary
- ◆ **Aug 06:** First Friday Get-together
- ◆ **Aug 07:** Parish End of Summer Pool Party
- ◆ **Aug 21:** 9th Annual Sportsman's Banquet.

Mark Twain's Favorite Novel (continued)

Quite simply, Twain loved the medieval heroine and saint. In a separate essay in 1904, he wrote, "There is no blemish in that rounded and beautiful character. ... She is easily and by far the most extraordinary person the human race has ever produced."

Twain originally published his novel serially in Harper's Magazine under a different pseudonym, Louis de Conte. He feared the reactions of readers who had come to expect a certain kind of writing from him and so presented the book at first as the real memoir of Joan's page and secretary recently translated to English. How long the ruse was maintained is hard to say, but the shining admiration of the fictional narrator, the elderly bachelor Louis de Conte, is pure Twain.

15th-Century Maelstrom

His novel is set in the time of the Hundred Years' War, the long and exhausting struggle between England and France. It was a time of vast complexity and confusion, as the papacy was contested by various claimants during the Great Western Schism. And if it was hard to say who was really the pope, the intertwined dynastic politics of the time made it no less difficult to say who should be ruling France. The disastrous defeat of Agincourt (told from the other side by Shakespeare in "Henry V") was just one of the many signs that the French nation was close to entering its death throes.

Into this 15th-century maelstrom stepped Joan, a 16-year-old girl who confronted this complexity with the simplicity and determination of one who was certain of a mission from God.

Joan of Arc is one of the best-documented lives in history, her various trials having generated reams of well-recorded eyewitness testimony. Twain follows the historic events closely, telling the story through the reflections of the younger Louis, who was brought to Domremy to be brought up by the priest after his family perished in the war.

Twain Touches

There are certainly flashes of great humor in the book, which perhaps were a clue to early readers that authorship lay with someone other than an old French nobleman. Anyone who has studied some medieval philosophy will immediately recognize great satire in one of the early scenes of the

book taken from Joan's childhood in Domremy.

A hungry refugee makes it to the D'Arc family home. He's looking for food, and the ever-kind Joan immediately offers him her own bowl of porridge. Her father, Jacques, is furious; they are being eaten out of house and home by these rascals. Joan insists. After all, if he's done any evil, his



head was the author of it. Why should his poor, hungry stomach be punished for what his head has done? Hearing this, the town orator takes her aside and promptly launches into a philosophical tract of distinction-making that would have rivaled Duns Scotus (the "Subtle Doctor").

"Now, then, friends and neighbors, a stomach which cannot plan a crime cannot be a principal in the commission of it — that is plain, as you see. ... Then what do we arrive at as our verdict? Clearly this: that there is no such thing in this world as a guilty stomach; that in the body of the veriest rascal resides a pure and innocent stomach; ... It should be, and is, our privilege, as well as our duty, not only to feed the hungry stomach that resides in a rascal, having pity for its sorrow and its need, but to do it gladly, gratefully, in recognition of its sturdy and loyal maintenance of its purity and innocence in the midst of temptation and in company so repugnant to its better feelings."

A Mission From God

Twain's masterful writing takes us through the whole story of Joan from the divine commission delivered by her "Voices," to her convincing the Dauphin (the uncrowned king, Charles VII) that she was sent from God to lead the army of France, to the stirring and wholly improbable lifting of the siege of Orleans, to the pinnacle of triumph with the coronation of Charles at Rheims through her subsequent capture, her abandonment by the French and her burning at the stake under the English-supporting Archbishop Cauchon.

Through it all, Twain's awe and reverence for Joan are palpable. He makes more

understandable how she could have been so successful. She was pure confidence — that is, in God; he had, through her voices, assured her victory. Believing is half the battle. In that department, she was a total winner. And that's what the troops wanted: someone who believed. After years of defeats, defensive maneuvering and constant reaffirmations of their inferiority before the English, they finally had someone who said, "We will win!" Her rousing presence kept them charging always forward. She also had these rough soldiers on their knees going to confession and receiving Communion. Yet through it all, she never got used to the blood. She never killed anyone herself, and she was frequently seen comforting the dying, whether they be friend or foe.

The English could not deny the effectiveness of Joan. Their spin, however, was that such powers could only be preternatural — she had to be a witch. Thus, the outcome of her trial was preordained. And yet it took almost six months for them to be able to convict her. Twain and the Catholic Catechism share the admiration for Joan at trial: They both offer the same quote that astounded her judges, who asked her if she was in the state of grace.

"Joan looked out upon these hungering faces with innocent, untroubled eyes, and then humbly and gently she brought out that immortal answer which brushed the formidable snare away as if it had been but a cobweb:

"If I be not in a state of grace, I pray God place me in it; if I be in it, I pray God keep me so."

"Ah, you will never see an effect like that; no, not while you live. For a space there was the silence of the grave. Men looked wondering into each other's faces, and some were awed and crossed themselves."

Faithful to the End

As she mounts the scaffolding before her execution by burning, he has Louis looking away, unable to watch. Like his fictional narrator, one can almost feel the tears welling up in his own eyes as this determined soul pays the price for fidelity to her calling.

Mark Twain, yes, the one and the same, loved St. Joan of Arc and wrote a wonderful novel about her ... not a bad item to bring up at Judgment time!

Legionary Father Steven Reilly writes from Washington, D.C.



Faith Family Fraternity

July-August Calendar

**EACH SATURDAY: Knights Stand & Pray at 11 a.m. at PPA Clinic, East 29th.
Stand and Pray for an end to abortion and an end to the PP clinic in our community.
Contact: Mike Orozco.**

July 2010

07/01-THU: Council Report of Officers (Form 185) deadline.

07/01-THU: Knights pray the Rosary at S. J. Church side chapel.

07/02-FRI: Knights meet for lunch at Gina's Restaurant near intersection of Groesbeck and Palasota.

07/04-SUN: Flag raising ceremony by 4th Degree Knights at Mount Calvary Cemetery at 8:15 a.m.

07/08-THU: Council 11759 business meeting at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph PAC.

07/10-11-SAT-SUN: Sportsman's Banquet promotion and ticket sales begin after each mass.

07/15-THU: Council 11759 social and officer installation at 6:30 PM p.m. at St. Joseph PAC.

07/27-TUE: 4th Degree Assembly 1091 & Assembly 2041 joint social and officer installation at 6:30 p.m. at Bryan KofC Hall.

July 2010

07/31-SAT: Gulf Coast Regional Center Blood Drive at St. Joseph PAC; 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

August 2010

08/05-THU: 7:00 PM Knights pray the Rosary at S. J. Church Adoration Chapel. Contact: GK Chris Nugent

08/06-FRI: 12 Noon, First Friday Get-together at Gina's on Groesbeck.

08/07-SAT: 7:30-9:30 Parish End of Summer Pool Party. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus at Bryan Aquatic.

08/12-THU: 7:00 PM Officer Meeting. Saint Joe PAC.

08/19-THU: 7:00 PM Regular Business Meeting. Meal at 6:30 PM.

08/21-SAT: 9th Annual Sportsman's Banquet.



Your 2010-2011 Officers

Grand Knight – Chris Nugent - 979-574-3255 (Julie)
Dep. Grand Knight – Terry Douglas - 979-846-8168 (Lucy)
Chancellor – Pat Gallagher - 979-764-1525 (Suzanne)
Recorder – Wes Thompson- 979-822-5320 (Nelda)
Treasurer – Mike Swetish - 979-774-1429 (Liz)
Advocate – James Bilnoski
Warden – Frank Lara - 979-846-4993 (Connie)
Inside Guard – Gary Lenz 979-268-8579
Outside Guard – Chris Buckbee - 979-218-8993 (Shannon)
1st Year Trustee – Dana Russell
2nd Year Trustee – Neil Gallagher - 979-450-5776 (Jenny)
3rd Year Trustee – Steve Houdek - 979-778-1259 (Michelle)
Field Agents – Doug and Jody Supak - 979-968-5332

Appointed Positions:

Chaplain – Msgr. John McCaffrey 979-822-2721
Financial Secretary – John McGuill - 979-279-9399 (Linda)
Lecturer – TBA

Council 11759 Directors & Chairs:

Program & Council Director Terry Douglas
Church Activities Director Pat Gallagher
Vocations Chair Pat Gallagher
Community Director Chuck Gilliland 979-690-3379 (Diane)
Pro-Life Couple Mike & Tina Orozco (979-823-8211)
Public Relations Director Chris Buckbee 979-218-8993 (Shannon)
Family Life Director John McGuill
Health Director Chuck Gilliland (Diane) 979-690-3379
Youth Director Terry Douglas
Scholarships Chair Chuck Gilliland
Membership Director Charlie Ballew 979-822-2990
Retention Chair Joe Moreno (Josie) 979-822-6446
Recruitment Committee Charlie Ballew, Paul Kunz, Chris Nugent
Retention Committee Chris Nugent, John McGuill, Charlie Ballew
Insurance Promotion Chair Doug and Jody Supak
Sportsman's Banquet Chair Charlie Ballew
Church & Council Webmaster Mrs. Karin Romero

!!!! We need volunteers for all committee activities. All members are welcome to the Officer meetings if they want to volunteer. Complaints are welcome if you have an invitation. If you want to help contact GK Chris Nugent or DGK Terry Douglas.



PRAYER FOR THOSE SERVING

Heavenly Father, grant a courageous heart, a quick mind and a serene spirit to those serving now in Iraq, Afghanistan and throughout the world, ready to offer their talents and if necessary their lives, for the cause of truth, justice, and liberty. Make them always, true witness to Your goodness, love and compassion. And finally, bring them safely back to their homes and families.
Amen.

Prayer for the Beatification of Father Michael J. McGivney

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify your servant Father Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...



5 Factors That Should Go Into Any Life Insurance Decision

Your five reasons are your five kids, of course. Or your spouse, two kids, and two grandkids. These are your real reasons to buy life insurance. But reasons aside for a moment, here are five additional factors to consider.

1) Your personal or family financial circumstances. Choosing the right amount of life insurance isn't a science. But it should be an educated decision based on your family's structure and income, and also on its unique needs, hopes, and dreams. The main purpose of a death benefit is to replace income lost after the death of a wage earner so the family can maintain its standard of living. A life insurance calculator (see sidebar) is a useful start, but can't replace consultation with a professional.

2) Your age. The base cost for a given life insurance policy increases as you age. When we're young, of course, few of us know or can afford all the life insurance we'll eventually need. (This is why permanent life insurance is a high-value gift for young adults!) Acquiring life insurance is rarely a one-time thing—it's something you should re-assess regularly.

3) Your health. Consider your hereditary health risks and any risks inherent in your work or lifestyle. More importantly, consider your toler-

ance for risk. In seeking a balanced mix of insurance, savings, and investments, you must decide whether delaying a life insurance purchase is worth the risk of an illness or accident that could make you uninsurable.

4) Your goals for retirement. Permanent or "whole life" policies provide coverage for life—as long as you pay the premiums.

Your five reasons are your five kids, of course. Or your spouse, two kids, and two grandkids. These are your real reasons to buy life insurance.

But you may not want to carry that expense into retirement. Look for policies that can be paid up in set period. (For example, the Order offers permanent life policies that are paid-up in 20 years, or at age 65.)

5) Your financial legacy. Life insurance can be structured to protect your heirs from estate taxes. Creating a trust as a beneficiary can do that. So can "joint-and-survivor" life insurance, or "second-to-die" insurance, which pays a beneficiary only after both spouses have

died. If you're making the payout of your policy a gift to a person or an organization, you may earn tax advantages in addition to enhancing your legacy.

Setting a sensible target. An important first step in making life insurance decisions is calculating the income you'll need to replace should your family lose a breadwinner. The Life Insurance Calculator at www.kofc.org is simple and quick (find the calculator under the "Insurance" tab on the homepage; it's the fourth link). This gives you a general target amount of life insurance. Every family is different, of course, and there are many policy options to choose from.

Your professional Knights of Columbus agents are here to help you make these important decisions, now and as your life changes.

Call on your local Agents Doug & Jody Supak to assist you. They can be reached at (979) 968-5332, at 130 S. College St. or by email at supakins@cmaaccess.com



Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
Making a difference for life.



Knight of the Year and Family of the Year

This year's **Knight of the Year** is **Mike Swetish**.

Mike is always in the thick of things, even with his business keeping him often on the road, but this year he has really shined!

Mike, as well as being our treasurer, has been part of almost every project we've had and was the main impetus behind our first ever, and highly successful, Men Knowing Christ Retreat.

He's always willing and always helpful and a great example of Knighthood.

Thanks Mike, for all you do!!!



This year's **Family of the Year** goes to the **Hoffman Family**.

Dennis is a long time member of this council and past treasurer. He and Maritza are upstanding members of the community and our parish. This last year and before Dennis has been in Iraq first as a soldier and now as state department liaison. While in Iraq he has helped oversee reconstruction efforts, elections, and volunteered for numerous duties including conducting K of C Council business and recruitment and even Aggie Muster.

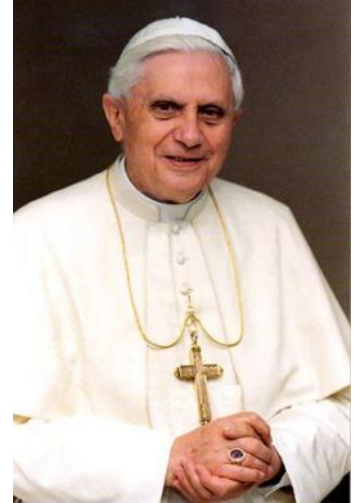
Maritza, who keeps it all together in Dennis' absence is also on the Bryan School Board and volunteers for numerous other activities and events.

And their children are taking a cue from their parents by participating in extracurricular activities in school and also volunteering for charities like the United Way.

It leaves me kind of breathless just thinking about all that they do. What a great Catholic example. I am so proud to be associated with them through the Knights of Columbus!!!

Holy Father's Intentions for July

General: That in every nation of the world the election of officials may be carried out with justice, transparency and honesty, respecting the free decisions of citizens.



Missionary: That Christians may strive to offer everywhere, but especially in great urban centers, an effective contribution to the promotion of education, justice, solidarity and peace.

Knight and Family of the Month, April and May

Congratulations to the **April** Knight of the Month, **Mike Swetish** for his work with the Men Knowing Christ Retreat. It was Mike who started the ball rolling on the whole thing. Thanks Mike!



Congratulations to the **May** Knight of the Month, **Steve Rathbone**, our go-to guy if you want to get some cooking done. Mike coordinated the best BBQ chicken (beats the brisket every time!) this parish has ever seen!



Congratulations to the **April** Family of the Month, **Pat and Suzanne Gallagher** for all they do for our parish and the time they give to the Knights.



Congratulations to the **May** Family of the Month, **Mae and Joe Fazzino**. Yes, Joe's in another council, but they are such a help whenever their parish needs them. Thanks for all you do!

Knights of Columbus Council 11759

Saint Joseph Catholic Church
600 East 26th Street
Bryan, TX 77803

Church Office: (979) 822-2721
PAC - Parish Activity Center:
(979) 823-1836

E-mail: kofc11759@gmail.com



**Faith, Family,
Fraternity**



Join the Knights!

Knights of Columbus Council 11759 was founded April 1996 at Saint Joseph Catholic Church at Preston and W. J. Bryan streets in Bryan, Texas. Monsignor John McCaffrey was instrumental in encouraging the men of the parish to form a Council. Founded with 60 charter members, the council now includes more than 160 Knights.

The primary mission of the council is to assist in the work of the Knights of Columbus, particularly in the areas of Charity, Family, Church, Youth, and Community.

Any practicing Catholic male is eligible to become a member of the Council. Registration forms are available in the Church office. Dues are \$60.00 per year, payable on an annual, semi-annual or quarterly basis.

Council membership meets monthly on the third Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Activity Center near St. Joseph Catholic Church. A pre-meeting meal is served beginning at 6:30 p.m. Contact Membership Director Paul Kunz for information on joining @ pakunz2003@yahoo.com

Birthday Anniversaries

JERRY NOVOSAD	Jul-03
HERMAN LAMBERT	Jul-05
FATHER VINCENT	Jul-05
BOB SMITH	Jul-08
RANDALL RIPPLE	Jul-08
JAMES EDGE	Jul-12
TIM LUZA	Jul-13
JARED BAYER	Jul-13
JORDAN GALLAGHER	Jul-15
CARL OROZCO	Jul-17
JASON LANDRY	Jul-17
JOHN CANTEY	Jul-17
JOE MORENO	Jul-21
JIM MCNEELY	Jul-25
PETE BIENSKI	Jul-26
TOM RIKE	Jul-29

REMINDER

Remember: On all Saturdays of the month, we are obligated to be in attendance for **STAND & PRAY** from 11 am to Noon (that is only one hour) at the Planned Parenthood Clinic on East 29th. We now have the opportunity to sign up for weekend support at each of the monthly Council meetings. We thank Mike & Tina Orozco, our Pro-Life Couple, for their support of this council activity.



The KNIGHT LINES newsletter and the calendar of activities are updated regularly at the Council's web page - <http://www.stjosephbcs.org/kofc.shtml>. If you see something that needs to be changed send an e-mail message to cr.nugent1@verizon.net

The Council's web page is updated each month in cooperation with the church's ministries Webmaster, Mrs. Karin Romero. We thank her for the great work!