

The Beacon

A Publication of the St. Albert Knights of Columbus Council # 4742

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Are you ready for Christmas?
Grocery cards make excellent stocking stuffers.
They do not expire and every family needs food.

The annual 4th Degree Christmas Party will be held on Dec 3rd. We will need a few volunteers to run errands, set up and bartend. If you can assist please contact either Br. Maurice Douville or Br. Bernie Hruciw.

Our next Pancake breakfast is December 4th. In addition to an appearance from Santa, the kids will participate in a "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest.

The 50th Annual Kinette Christmas Campaign is looking to fill 350 food and toy hampers for local families in need. Donations of staples for these baskets and non-perishable food items, new toys & teen items or cash can be made. Drop offs can be made at any of their drop boxes from Nov.15 to Dec.10.

Contact Br. Brian Wolbert to get your Charities Appeal Tickets.
Proceeds to the Marion Center.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2016

November

- 11- Friday - Remembrance Day
- 16 - Wednesday - General Meeting 7:00PM Grandin Room

December

- 3 - Saturday- Fourth Degree Christmas Party
- 4 - Sunday - Pancake Breakfast following 9 & 11 AM Masses.
- 25 - Sunday - Christmas Day

January

- 7 - Saturday - Advent Mass and Banquet



November 2016 Meeting

Dignity of Life, from Conception until Natural Death

Opening Prayer

Lord, teach us to pray:
“Our Father...”

The Reading

(To be read by the Leader)

“God created humanity in His image and likeness, in His divine image He created him; male and female He created them....God looked at everything He had made, and He found it very good, (Gen. 1, 27, 31)”

Brothers as we continue the journey to a clearer understanding of Church teaching with regard to Assisted Suicide and the related issues, we need to achieve some common ground with respect to definitions of particular phrases and terms. The reference material we are using is titled: “Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide, Urgent Questions.” and it is published by the “Catholic Organization for Life and Family, (COLF).” Website: www.colf.ca. In order to give you a sense of who COLF is consider the following. “COLF is co-sponsored by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) and the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus. It promotes respect for human life and dignity and the essential role of the family.”

What is Euthanasia? “Euthanasia is the deliberate killing of someone, with or without that person’s consent, in order to eliminate all suffering. The individual who commits euthanasia must, therefore intend to kill the person and must cause the death for example, by lethal injection.” Brothers, we often hear the term “euthanized” with reference to the family pet that is very ill. This may leave us with a somewhat romantic or merciful view of euthanasia and this may be a reality when we are dealing with the family pet that we are responsible for and often quite attached to. Let us be clear, there is no parallel or similarity between intentionally putting your family pet to sleep and putting “Uncle Joe” to sleep. This sounds terribly disrespectful even as I write it, but in effect euthanasia does not belong in the same sentence as a human person who has a soul and has been given life by our Creator. Again Brothers for clarity, God is the giver of the gift of life and God is the Creator who will call us to be with Him in His time. We are not the masters; we are the stewards of the gift of life given to us. We are to care for our God-given lives and those of others with sincere and diligent desire to respect this gift from one end of the life spectrum (conception) until the other, natural death. We do not know better than the One who created us out of love.

The Reflection

(To be read by the Leader)

For clarity: It is not euthanasia when we respect a loved one’s refusal of a particular treatment or their request to discontinue a particular treatment. It is not euthanasia when we allow a loved one to “die naturally by withdrawing or withholding medical treatment when its burdens outweigh its benefits.”

It is not euthanasia “when the administration of drugs appropriate for the relief of pain and suffering, even if some anticipate that the unintended effect might be the shortening of life.” It is a medical reality that in some cases the amount of a particular pain killer may have a detrimental effect on the life of the individual receiving the drug. The term used here is “comfort care.” This is the case when recovery does not appear to be possible and so the goal becomes to make sure the individual is as comfortable as possible during their remaining time here in the world. The medical profession has made great advances in palliative and comfort care within the areas of pain management.

What is Assisted Suicide? “In cases of assisted suicide, a ‘third person’ (a legal term meaning a disinterested party) provides the means for the person to kill him or herself, (e.g. information, lethal substances [pills], or a weapon.” In short, assisted suicide occurs when for instance a medical professional (knowingly) is involved in administering the lethal concoction of drugs that would terminate a person’s life. Assisted suicide occurs when the individual whose life is at stake collaborates with another, (medical person or otherwise) in bringing their life to an end. Euthanasia can be understood as the same person whose life is at stake being brought to death without their own collaboration. In other words, someone else has made the decision for them. Please remember, respecting your loved one’s refusal of a treatment or request for withdrawal of treatment, (assuming sound mind of the individual) is not euthanasia nor is it assisted suicide. Also, recognizing that administration of some drugs in the appropriate amount to manage pain well may have the unintended effect of shortening one’s life. This is neither euthanasia nor assisted suicide. Brothers, next month, the Catholic Churches position on euthanasia and assisted suicide.

“God created humanity in His image and likeness, in His divine image He created him; male and female He created them....God looked at everything He had made, and He found it very good, (Gen. 1, 27, 31)”

Meditation Period

(The Leader now invites the members to spend a few moments in silent reflection, as the above text is not meant to be a ready-made answer but a starter for personal reflection on the theme.)

Fraternal Sharing

(The leader now invites the members to share with their Brother Knights any relevant thoughts that came to them during the meditation period.)

Closing Prayer

(Recited by all)

Let us pray:

“Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Please bring a copy of this Beacon to the next regular meeting so that you can more fully participate in the readings, meditation and prayers. If you are unable to attend please reflect on the readings in your own way.

Event Manager Required

We need someone to take over managing the pancake breakfast beginning in May. Ideally if more than one person is involved, the task could be shared, perhaps each person taking a turn every second month.



Mark your calendars for the Advent Mass and Banquet Dinner; Saturday, January 7th at 6:30PM at the Star of the North

December is such a busy month for our Brothers already that we decided not to add another event on top of it all. Instead we chose to start off January with a delicious banquet meal and entertainment at the Star of the North on Saturday, January 7th. You are welcome to attend the 5:00PM mass in the main church then walk over to the Star of the North. We will have light entertainment and a social before dinner in the Hearth Room, and then enjoy a delicious Banquet Meal at around 6:30PM. Afterwards we will gather in the Hearth Room for more entertainment. We would love to have you and your spouse join us on January 7th for an evening of fraternity and fellowship. You can expect a telephone call sometime in December from our Telephone Committee confirming your attendance. Tickets are \$25/each or 2 for \$50.

On October 16th we participated in the CWL / KofC Mass. This was a fantastic success. The special blessing at the end of Mass presented a spectacular visual to all who looked on and involved the parishioners in a meaningful way. This was an opportunity to promote the works of the CWL and Knights and attract new members.



On November 3rd we honored the 150 Brother Knights who served our council and are now resting in peace. This was one of the most special events in our Columbian year. The service was made special when the families and friends lit candles for those who have preceded us.



Grocery Cards.

Please help us to continue with our great projects by purchasing some grocery cards. To buy cards, call: Gerry 780-459-7384 or Frank 780-459-7941.



Good of the Order

Please include in your prayers the following Brothers who are ill: **William Oshanyk; Ernest Sokolan; Marcel Venne; Rev. Louis Gendre; Gerry Hartel and Leon Richard.**

We will visit our fellow Brothers who are ill and in continuing care. Some members of our council will visit them, preferably in the mornings. If you are able to participate please contact Br. Brian Wolbert at 780-460-8294 or Br. Tony Csilies 780-458-0065 e-mail kofc@stalbertcouncil4742.ca.

If you are aware of a Knight who is ill or who has passed away please call Br. Tony Csilies.