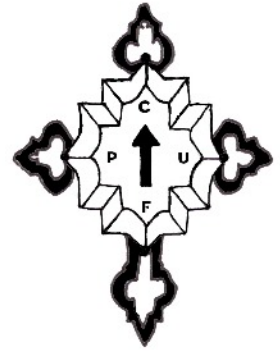




The Council Compass

Msgr. Henry O'Carroll Council #444

Knights of Columbus



Editor: Paul Desroches

1899 - *Over 120 Years* - 2019

February 2019

Officers

Chaplain:	Fr. William Damroth 845-561-1317
Associate Chaplain:	Fr. Fernando Hernandez 845-561-0885
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Treasurer:	I.Scott Watkins, PGK, (Bea) 845-564-0339
Financial Sec.:	William Kuntz 201-697-9920
Recorder:	Ted Coughlin (Julia) 845-913-5631
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Outside Guard:	Frank Gerbes (Mary) 845-527-7659
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Lecturer:	Curt Moran (Pat) 845-564-3239
District Deputy:	Anthony Spaziani 845-782-4681
Insurance Agt:	John Hackney 646-541-5380
Navigator:	Rich Irons (PGK) (Mary) 845-565-5045
Editor:	Paul Desroches, (Joanna) 845-564-3642 Pauldesro@aol.com

January 4, 2019, by Ed Mechmann

"Are you now or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?"

That notorious question was the hallmark of the infamous McCarthy era of American history. It was a time when there was legitimate concern about communist influence and Espionage in the United States. But that fear morphed into a kind of paranoia that resulted in virtual witch hunts that stigmatized legitimate political opinions and blacklisted people who refused to cooperate or whose names were given to the inquisitors. Fortunately, America regained its sanity, that period was soon over and – supposedly – its lessons were learned.

But paranoia never really goes away, it tends to look for new targets. We're now seeing a resurgence of the McCarthy mentality in the United States Congress. But this time it's dipping into the deep well of anti-Catholicism that has been a stain on American history since the colonial era. This new wave is fixated on Church teaching on sexuality and human life, particularly our adamant rejection of abortion, contraception, and sex outside of marriage. Those positions are considered by some of our political rulers as being beyond the pale, extreme positions that must be rooted out wherever they are found. I should note too that this prejudice isn't limited to Catholics. It's also being expressed against any Christian community that holds to traditional teachings on sexuality.

The trend is clear, and well-documented. It can be seen in questions that are being asked of nominees to the federal courts. Here are some examples:

- In June 2017, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) submitted written questions to a District Court nominee about his personal views on issues of same-sex marriage and abortion in light of his membership in a conservative Anglican church.
- In September 2017, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), citing the Catholic faith of a nominee to the Seventh Circuit, said that "the dogma lives loudly with in you, and that's a concern." At the same hearing, Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) asked the nominee "What's an 'orthodox Catholic'? ... And do you consider yourself an 'orthodox Catholic'?" Senators Mazie Hirono (D-HI) said "I think [an article written by the nominee] is very plain in your perspective about the role of religion for judges, and particularly with regard to Catholic judges."
- In March 2018, Senator Feinstein submitted written questions for the record to a nominee to the Seventh Circuit that noting his membership in the St. John the Cross Parish and asking about his involvement with the parish's efforts to establish a crisis pregnancy center.
- In May 2018, Senator Whitehouse submitted written questions for the record to a District Court asking about his affiliation with the Knights of Columbus.
- In October 2018, Senators Feinstein, Whitehouse, Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), and Kamala Harris (D-CA) submitted written questions to a nominee to the Fourth Circuit asking about her involvement with Alliance Defending Freedom, a Christian legal group.
- In November 2018, Senator Feinstein submitted written questions to a nominee to the Third Circuit about his affiliation with the Knights of Columbus.

(Continued on page 3)

Grand Knight's Thoughts

Dear Fellow Brother Knights:

We had a very busy past three months. Our Council is blessed with many brother Knights who dedicate their time and energy to making our neighborhood a better place. Please forgive me if I forget to mention one of you.

We celebrated our Council Memorial Mass on November 25, at St. Francis of Assisi Church. We remembered our brother Knights who passed away over the past year. They are, Thomas Mulligan, Charles Koran, Raymond Baumann, Thomas Shustack, Torry Granja, William Pushman, Salvatore Colacchio and Clarence Starsiak.

PGK Joe Coyle chaired our first American Red Cross Blood Drive on November 25. It was a resounding success. With 40 donors. Joe is looking forward to even a bigger event next year.

Our Council's Fourth Degree members participated in Senator Larkin's "Thank You Dinner" There were also many of our third degree members there.

Once again, PGK John Delessio and Advocate Jude Martini co-chaired the Annual Council Christmas party on December 9. This year it was held at O'Connor Hall. There were many kids and adults. All had a very merry time. Our thanks to John and Jude for all their hard work.

Our annual Mass and tree lighting ceremony was held on December 4, at our council house. My thanks to PGK Ken Ryan for helping with all the details, Fr. Bejoy for saying the Mass and Deacon Nepl for assisting.

Once again our council distributed winter coats to the children at the Jack Seymour food pantry. Thanks to Bill Kuntz, PGK Joe Coyle, Curt Bourdage, Dan Keenan and Paul Zalenowski for helping.

Brother Ted Coughlin once again chaired the Fifth Sunday Rosary, on December 30, at Sacred Heart Church. Thanks Ted for continuing to chair this very important program.

Many thanks to Bill Kuntz and Curt Bourdage for chairing the annual council basketball free throw contest again this year.

We have yet another very busy three months with a lot of activities. We start off with the 4th annual Super Bowl Party at O'Connor Hall, on February 3. It's scheduled to begin at 4 PM and the donation is \$5 or bring a dish to share. Please call Bill Kuntz at 201-697-9920 to reserve your spot. There will be games for the kids, football pools, a 50/50 raffle and you may bring your own bottle.

We will also be having a Saint Valentine's Day Dance on February 9, from 6:30 to 10:30 at Temple Hill Tavern. \$35 per person in advance or \$40 at the door. You can contact Bill Kuntz at 201-697-9920, to RSVP. Brother Ming will DJ and there will be a cash bar.

We will be thanking our Clergy with a brunch at Denny's on February 18 at 10 A.M. Please call PGK Greg Gaetano at 845-629-2722 and let him know if you can make it. Please remember that the Clergy are our guests and as such, we all chip in to pay their tab as well as our own.

Brother Bill Kuntz will be chairing our Lenten Fish Fry again this year. It will be at Gallo Hall, Sacred Heart School on Anne Street, from 5 - 8 PM, on the following Fridays during Lent: March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5 and 12. At only \$10 PP it's a great buy and we will be donating the proceeds to both Saint Mother Theresa of Calcutta and St. Patrick's - St. Mary's, Our Lady of the Lake parishes. We need lots of help. Please call Bill at 201-697-9920, and let him know when you can volunteer and which job you want.

Brother Ted Coughlin has scheduled another fifth Sunday Rosary on March 31, immediately following the 11 A.M. Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Church, You can reach Ted at 845-913-5631.

Our Annual Communion breakfast will be held on Sunday, April 7, 2019. Mass will be at 9:30 at Our Lady of the Lake Church with a truly exquisite brunch immediately following at the Temple Hill Restaurant and Catering. Fr. John Vondras will be our guest speaker. Please RSVP to either Joe Dennis at 845-565-7646 or Joe Coyle at 845-561-7384. Cost is \$25 per person, \$10 ages 6 to 12 and ages 5 and below are free.

Please find enclosed with this newsletter one raffle ticket for the Hudson Valley Chapter Charity Ball. All proceeds will go to benefit Camp Veritas. Drawing will be held on April 6, 2019 at the Charity Ball. (Charity Ball is sold out) Winners need not be present. We are asking each Brother Knight to purchase one ticket at \$5.00. Please make out your check to "Knights of Columbus Council 444". If you do not wish to purchase a ticket we are asking if you would be so kind to return it, so we can sell it. Please return any sold ticket stubs with their check and any unsold tickets, no later than March 22, to:
Knights of Columbus, Council 444, P.O Box 444
Newburgh, N.Y. 12551, Attention: Paul Desroches. Thank you so much for your continued generosity!

Brother Knights, as you can see, we are a vibrant, active council. I ask that each of you consider joining us at a meeting, or participate in only one of our programs during the year. To continue all our existing activities and to add more, we need the assistance of all our Brother Knights!

Vivat Jesus! God Bless you all!
Charles Smith
Grand Knight

(Continued from page 1)

- In December 2018, Senators Hirono and Harris asked a District Court nominee questions about his membership in the Knights of Columbus. Senator Corey Booker (D-NJ) also asked questions centering on an interview the nominee gave to an advocacy group closely identified with Evangelical Christians.

The offensive and dangerous nature of this trend can be seen in the last example. Senator Hirono's questionnaire stated that "The Knights of Columbus has taken a number of extreme positions" and then proceeded to ask numerous questions about the Knights' positions on abortion and same-sex marriage, implying that the nominee's membership in the Order was sufficient alone to show that he was unable to be neutral. She also had the audacity to ask baldly, "If confirmed, do you intend to end your membership with this organization to avoid any appearance of bias?"

This is anti-Catholic McCarthyism, plain and simple. It is particularly disturbing that 8 of the 10 Democratic members of the Senate Judiciary Committee have displayed such blatant prejudice. And it especially appalling that no prominent member of the Democratic Party has breathed so much as a word of disapproval. That silence is remarkable from the party that loves to display its horror at any hint of bigotry, and that prides itself on inclusiveness.

I don't have to defend the bona fides of the Knights of Columbus. I am a proud member of the Order, but the Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson, said all that is necessary in his recent statement about this scandal.

Some hard questions need to be asked. Has it become dogma in the Democratic Party that membership in the Knights makes a person suspect? Or has it become dogma in the Democratic Party that anyone who believes what the Catholic Church (and many other Christian communities) teaches and believes is no longer fit to hold public office?

The question being asked in the United States Senate – for now -- is, "Are you now or have you ever been a member of the Knights of Columbus?" Will it soon become, "Are you now or have you ever been a member of the Catholic Church?"

(Since 1993 Ed Mechmann has worked on public policy education and advocacy for the Archdiocese, particularly on pro-life, marriage, and religious liberty issues. He is the Director of Public Policy and the the Director of the Safe Environment Program of the Archdiocese. He is a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus. Ed and his wife teach marriage preparation and volunteer in the Church and community.)

This issue of the Compass was made possible by the generous donation of Frank Gerbes. Please use his real estate business or recommend him to your friends and acquaintances.



Important dates for the Lenten Season

- Ash Wednesday - March 6
- Palm Sunday - April 14
- Good Friday - April 19
- Easter Sunday - April 21

A Blessed and very happy birthday to the following council members who will be celebrating their birthdays in the months of November, December and January.

02/01 John Matkiewicz	02/05 William J. Larkin Jr.
02/06 Michael Sayegh	02/08 Robert J. Spreer
02/09 Raymond Filipkowski	
02/09 Deacon Thomas Neppi	
02/10 Richard Sosa	02/15 James Roscher
02/16 Francis Fedetti	02/16 Andrew Zarutskie
02/22 John O'Brien Sr.	03/01 Pilade Nardini
03/04 Curtis Moran	03/05 Jean Devis
03/06 Francis Cook	03/09 Rev. Mark Connell
03/16 Iwilliam Kuntz	03/20 Joseph Vanacore
03/21 Vincent Cincotta	03/21 Ralph Depew Jr.
03/21 Carl Hamilton	03/25 Rev. Patrick Bonner
03/25 Deacon Peter Haight	03/26 Domingo Ampil
03/26 Brian Doyle	03/27 Peter Vondras
03/29 Thomas Curtis	04/02 An Pham
04/06 Alberto Laudato	04/09 Leonard Mc Cue
04/13 Mark deCastro	04/17 Richard Irons
04/18 Samuel Colavito	04/18 Kennan Ryan
04/18 Charles Smith	04/19 Robert Markel
04/20 Kevin Butler	04/23 Gregory Raciti
04/25 Dominick Galage	

Lift High the Cross

4th Annual Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 3, 2019
O'Connor Hall
Saint Francis of Assisi Church
Basement
Anytime after 4 PM till it's over
\$5 per person or food donation
Games for kids, football pools and
50/50 raffle. BYOB
Call Bill Kuntz, 201-697-9920 to RSVP

St. Valentine's Day Dance

Saturday, February 9, 2019
6:30 - 10:30
Temple Hill Tavern
171 Temple Hill Road
Vails Gate, N.Y. 12553
\$35.00 PP/ \$40 at the door
RSVP Bill Kuntz 201-697-9920
By February 3, 2019
Featuring DJ Ming and a cash bar

Calendar of Council Meetings

- 05 Feb: Regular Council meeting at 8 P.M.
 - 12 Feb: Fourth Degree meeting at 8 P.M.
 - 19 Feb: Social Meeting at 8 P.M.
 - 26 Feb: Officers' meeting at 8 P.M.
 - 05 Mar: Regular Council meeting at 8 P.M.
 - 12 Mar: Fourth Degree meeting at 8 P.M.
 - 19 Mar: Social meeting at 8 P.M.
 - 26 Mar: Officers' meeting at 8 P.M.
 - 02 Apr: Regular Council meeting at 8 P.M.
 - 09 Apr: Fourth Degree meeting at 8 P.M.
 - 16 Apr: Social meeting at 8 P.M.
 - 23 Apr: Officers' meeting at 8 P.M.
 - 30 Apr: Corporation meeting at 8 P.M.
 - 07 May: Regular Council meeting at 8 P.M.
 - 14 May: Fourth Degree meeting at 8 P.M.
 - 21 May: Social meeting at 8 P.M.
 - 28 May: Officers' meeting at 8 P.M..
- Note: The Rosary will be said before every regular and social meeting at 7:30 PM

LENTEN FISH FRY

To be held at Gallo Hall, Sacred Heart School, entrance on Ann Street, Newburgh.
To be held from 5 PM to 8 PM on the following Friday's during Lent:
March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5 and 12.
\$10 per person.
Proceeds will go to both Saint Mother Theresa of Calcutta and St. Patrick's - St. Mary's, Our Lady of the Lake.
Contact Bill Kuntz 201-697-9920

Communion Breakfast

Sunday April 7, 2019
Our Lady of the Lake Church - 9:30 Mass
Brunch immediately following at Temple Hill
Restaurant and Catering
Guest Speaker is Fr. John Vondras
Contact Joe Coyle 845-561-7384
Joe Dennis 845-565-7646
\$25.00 Per person
Children 6 - 12 -\$10: 5 and under free

CLERGY BRUNCH

JOIN US TO THANK OUR CLERGY
February 18, 2019, 10 A.M.
Denny's Restaurant, 1283 Route 300
Contact: Greg Gaetano 845-629-2722
Bishop Dominick and our Priests and
Deacons have been invited.
(Please remember that our Clergy are our
guests and as such we all chip in to pay their
tab as well as our own.)

FIFTH SUNDAY ROSARY

This will be held on Sunday, March 31, at St. Francis church, immediately following the 11 A.M. Mass. Please contact Ted Coughlin at 845-913-5631, with any questions.



The first annual Knights of Columbus, Council 444, American Red Cross blood drive.