



Grand Knight's Report

Last month, I offered thoughts regarding this time of the year, our “season of giving” when generosity and kindness towards others are exemplified. For me, this is my favorite time of the year. However, I’ve found that as I’ve aged, thoughtful giving has become more challenging. It’s easy to make donations to worthy charities at Christmas, but in giving to friends and family, I work harder to respect their feelings, consider their wants, and make sure the gift will be gratefully received. As a gift giver, I’ve also learned to temper my expectations regarding expressions of appreciation.

“Gracious acceptance” is a term I started using a while ago when my wife and I attempted to give her younger sister, a single wage earner, a new dishwasher. Despite her budget constraints, my sister-in-law viewed our gift as unwanted charity. She didn’t want it! So, we backed off. However, two years ago, my sister-in-law suffered a severe shoulder injury that left her unable to perform simple chores for several months. With her home life severely altered, she finally accepted our dishwasher offer. Even so, when she began discussing repayment, I told her that this was time to graciously accept our gift to a beloved family member. There would be no repayment. Her thanks were enough.

As Catholics, we have graciously accepted the gift of God’s grace and know that nothing we do can change God’s gracious acceptance of us. His gracious acceptance is our very good news!

Vivat Jesus and Merry Christmas!

Peter Blaise



***Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year***

CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

Deacon Tom Dwyer

The giving and receiving of gifts play a huge role in Christmas celebrations - a remembrance of the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh by the Three Kings to the child Jesus that we celebrate on the Feast of Epiphany every January 6th. It is easy to become consumed by concern over choosing and giving gifts to our loved ones. Last month I noted our need to make spiritual preparation for Christmas. Now we might focus on both recognition and thankful acknowledgement of God's three greatest gifts to us.



Christmas is, of course, the celebration of Jesus' human birth.

God's first gift to us was our human birth, imbuing us with an immortal soul capable of eternal life.

God's second gift to us, begun at Christmas, was Jesus Christ's life and ultimate death that reconciled all of humanity, past, present and future to the Eternal Father, to enable us to share eternal life.

God's third gift is His assurance of eternal life for those who acknowledge their sins and seek His unending mercy.

As we embark on a new year it is worth noting that the "Jubilee Year" begun by Pope Francis in 2025 will conclude with closing the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on January 6, 2026, Feast of the Epiphany. The Jubilee theme was "hope that does not fade", focused on our repentance and God's merciful forgiveness.

Christ is our Hope that never fades! Now THAT is something to be thankful for!

Grand Knight	Peter Blaise	Advocate	Dan Rooney	Trustee (3 Year)	Steve Wolfrom
Chaplain	Fr. Bob Johnson	Lecturer	Ken Rodriguez	Faith Director	Dcn Tom Dwyer
Deputy GK	Mic Wehmeyer	Warden	Jim Thennes	Vocation Dir.	Mark Haddorff
Chancellor	John Rafferty	Inside Guard	Greg Muntzner	Community Director	Kevin Knebl
Recorder	Ralph McDonald	Outside Guard	Eric Wehmeyer	Family Director	Ryan Wehmeyer
Financial Secretary	Lenny Smales	Trustee (1 Year)	Jim Yurack	Life Director	Dave Halupowski
Treasurer	John Wohleber	Trustee (2 Year)	Stuart Lewis	Public Relations	Joe Purka

November Knight of the Month

Ken Rodriguez



Our Knight of the Month is dedicated to the council and a member involved in the parish and the community. He serves as a Sunday Teen Catechist and Wednesday Youth Ministry-Confirmation Catechist. He also planned and led the very successful 2025 Parish Picnic. Ken also assisted with the Pricilla Circle Harvest Dinner and Dance event.

For the past several years, he has organized our Parish's Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest and, since 2016, served our Council as Lecturer providing us with greater insight into Catholic traditions and feasts, as well as

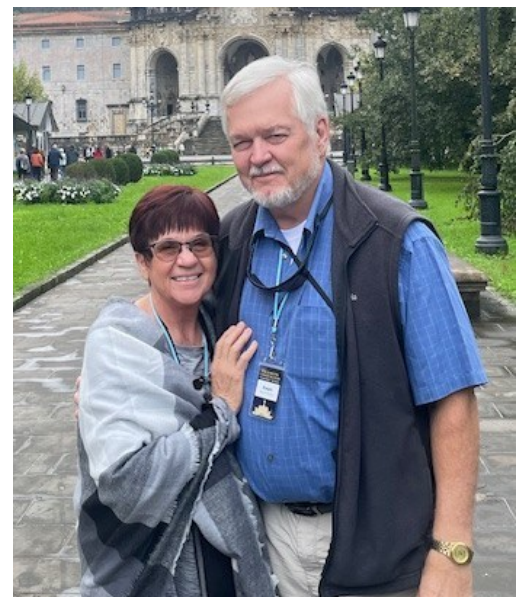
a great number of dad jokes. Additionally, he served as Keynote Speaker for the City of Freeport's 2025 Veterans Day Ceremony. We are proud to have Brother Ken Rodriguez as a member of our council and our November 2025 Knight of the Month.

November Family of the Month

Ralph & Beth McDonald

Our Family of the Month is very active in our church and community. The knight serves as usher during Mass, Council Recorder, bingo floor worker, and a 4th Degree Sentinel. He organizes and runs our pancake breakfasts, including, most recently, the first pancake breakfast in the new Faith Formation building, raising almost \$900. He also helped with our parish picnic, annual Oktoberfest, St Patrick's Day, and Luau fundraisers at 3rd Planet.

His wife, Beth, is a sacristan and Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. She coordinates the Tuesday all-day Adoration, the parish prayer line and is instrumental in conducting the All-Souls Day Remembrance Mass. She also organizes monthly Twin Cities Pavilion lunches, and coordinates Christmas packages for the residents. She also coordinates parish support to the Fort Walton Beach Child in Crisis center, Crestview Homeless shelter, and Christ Our Redeemer Angel Tree.



Despite all of these activities, they still find time to be involved grandparents. For all they do, we recognize Sir Knight Ralph and Beth McDonald as our November 2025 Family of the Month.

Council Christmas Party



On Sunday, Dec. 7th the Council Christmas party brought out members in their holiday finest for a evening of fun and festivities. The event included a scrumptious buffet dinner prepared by executive chef John Sallman and an extensive cookie table contributed by the ladies of the council.



KNIGHTS IN ACTION

On Saturday, December 13, our council had three events which we were called on to support: Sunland Christmas Party, the annual Niceville Christmas Parade (delayed a week because of weather) and a Habitat for Humanity Build in Crestview (also delayed a week by weather). As always, members of the Council stepped forward to respond to the needs.



Knights from 13527 and 7667 sing Christmas Carols at the Sunland Training Center in Marianna. Knights brought presents for the residents of this home for the intellectually challenged.



John Wohleber and Jack Starr prepare the "Keep Christ in Christmas" float for the Niceville Christmas parade. Regardless of the theme established by the parade organizers, the Council has always put the primary emphasis on "Jesus is the Reason for the Season".

John Wohleber presents a check for \$1200 to Diane Freeman, executive director of the Bed for Me Foundation. The council contributes \$300 each quarter which pays for one complete bed kit. (riser, mattress, bedding and pillow).



KNIGHTS IN ACTION



Knights from three councils, 13527, 7667 and 7968 pooled their efforts for the Habitat for Humanity project on Saturday, December 13th. The Knights, along with other volunteers, helped to build interior walls and sheath the outer walls of a house in Crestview. Shown in these pictures are Knights Karl Hawes, Rick Spitznagel, Joe Purka, and Jim Yurack from #13527, Scott Bauer from #7968 and PJ Walker from #7667.

