



## Grand Knight's Report

### The Power of "We"

Last week, I happened across an online interview of Amy Grant, the incredibly talented singer-songwriter. She shared a powerful five-phrase mantra she had learned from Jimmy Gentry, a Tennessee luminary who entered the US Army in World War II to fight in Europe, survived the Battle of the Bulge and helped liberate the Dachau concentration camp. After the war, he returned to Tennessee to marry, raise a family, and served a lengthy career in education and coaching. Quite the homespun philosopher, Jimmy taught Amy the five phrases he believed people needed to repeat as often as possible. Those phrases were:



1. **"How can I help you?"** – To encourage a spirit of service and support.
2. **"I'm proud of you"** - Acknowledging and affirming others.
3. **"I love you"** – Openly expressing love to foster deeper connections.
4. **"Thank you"** – A simple expression of gratitude essential to nurturing relationships.
5. **"We"** - This simple yet powerful one-word phrase emphasizes the importance of community and encourages collaboration rather than division.

Of those phrases, Jimmy Gentry believed "we" was the most powerful. In a world overcome by divisive politics, media misinformation, too many people pedaling "us versus them" rhetoric, the many negative aspects of social media, and more, "we" is indeed powerful! In our councils, "we" are from diverse ethnicities, educational backgrounds, life experiences, family histories, etc., but "we" are powerfully united to pursue the work we do, to support our church, and the charities and people we help. I am honored that "we" are the Knights of Columbus!

Vivat Jesus!

### Peter Blaise

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

# CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

*Deacon Tom Dwyer*

Last month I wrote about making a New Year's resolution to become a saint, with motivation fired by greater appreciation of God's love for us, exemplified by the "ginormous" sacrifice of Jesus' crucifixion.

Lent is upon us; a perfect time to reflect on just that! It is easy to suppose that Lent, with acts of fasting and abstinence, requires a somber attitude. Weekly Church recitations of Stations of the Cross frame the severe mortality of Jesus' sacrifice. As husbands, fathers, and military veterans know, personal sacrifice devoted to an obligation is not unknown. Devotion can be fueled by love of spouse, family, or dedicated loyalty to comrades. Anticipating His own demise, Jesus told the apostles at the Last Supper, "This is my commandment: love another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:12-13).



The intent of Jesus' sacrifice, His agony and crucifixion, was not limited to just the apostles who heard those words. Jesus described Himself as the Good Shepherd, with the "power to lay it (i.e. His life) down, and power to take it up again." (John 10: 11, 18) "My sheep hear my voice... I give them eternal life and they shall never perish." (John 10:27-28) That includes us!

So, amidst our somber Lenten reflections, we should feel immense JOY for the love of God, expressed through the passion and death that Jesus, His Son, through whom all things came into being and exist, willingly suffered!

## Upcoming Events

- Feb 26 Exec Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Feb 28/Mar 1 Knights Lead Pre-Mass Rosary at all Masses
- Mar 5 Council Meeting , 7 p.m. (Dinner & Social at 6:15 p.m. )
- Mar 7 Habitat for Humanity, Crestview, 8 a.m.
- Mar 7 ECCL Walk for Life, 11 a.m., Seville Square, Pensacola
- Mar 7 Pasta Dinner at HNJ, 5 p.m., (COR Team)
- Mar 10 Silver Rose Ceremony at HNJ
- Mar 14 **St Patrick's Day Party at 3rd Planet**
- Mar 19 **St, Joseph's Day**
- Mar 19 Assembly 3236 Meeting at HNJ, 7 p.m. (Dinner & Social at 6:15 p.m. )
- Mar 21 Fourth Degree Exemplification at St. Michaels, Panama City
- Mar 26 Exec Meeting 7 p.m.
- Mar 27 Knights' Lenten Fish Fry at COR, 4-7 p.m.
- Mar 29 **PALM SUNDAY**

## January Family of the Month

### Rick & Marcy Spitznagel

Rick & Marcy Spitznagel actively support both Christ Our Redeemer and Holy Name of Jesus parishes. They demonstrate a strong and consistent commitment to the church and wider community through faithful service across liturgical, educational, and charitable ministries.

Rick regularly ushers at 10:30 Mass and is acting Mass Captain. He routinely contributes to Habitat for Humanity, having worked on multiple home builds in Crestview throughout the year.

Marcy is a member of Christ Our Redeemer's Council of Catholic Women, serves on the Environment Committee for the Mardi Gras 5K, and volunteers at the Angel's Attic Thrift Store.

Both have volunteered extensively at Holy Family Catholic Academy (HFCA), preparing the school for opening day by raking leaves, spreading mulch, assembling cubby bases, and setting up classrooms. Marcy also serves as a Curriculum Advisor and as a member of the HFCA Advisory Council. Marcy also volunteers at Plew Elementary.

Together, they actively support parish life by helping with COR functions, assisting with event setup, participating in the 5K run, and cooking for the parish picnic. The couple is also involved in council fundraisers, including the Pancake Breakfast, and at 3rd Planet Brewing for the St. Patrick's Day celebration, Fire Truck Pull, Luau, and Oktoberfest. For these and all that they do, we award the January 2026 Family of the Month to Rick and Marcy Spitznagel.



### Keep Christ In Christmas Poster Winners

On January 25th, following the 10:30 a.m. Mass, Grand Knight Peter Blaise presented certificates and statuettes to the six winners of the council's Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest.

**KCIC Christmas card and magnet sales this year netted \$796. Thank you to Wehmeyer family.**

# January Knight of the Month

Ron Rabiensky

Our Knight of the Month is a charter member and served as the council's second Grand Knight. Over the years, Ron has been involved in almost every KofC function, to include Sunland Picnics in Marianna, Sunland Christmas parties (as a jolly Santa for five years), Pancake Breakfasts (as batter-master), Niceville Christmas parades, and managing the 4<sup>th</sup> degree's annual Great American Patriot essay contests. In addition, he has been a regular worker at the annual St. Patrick's Day event and Oktoberfest at 3<sup>rd</sup> Planet.



Ron serves the parish as Sacristan and as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, bringing the Eucharist to the sick and homebound and working on various projects around the parish to include power washing the walks in front of the church.

This Knight has performed repairs and other work at the Niceville Pavilion and has worked at several Habitat for Humanity builds in Fort Walton Beach and Crestview.

Most recently, Ron has been the spark behind the **That Man Is You** program that helps Catholic men reach their full potential, scheduling dates and locations, preparing introductions, leading sessions every Saturday morning. For these, and for many other reasons, Ron Rabiensky has been selected as our January Knight of the Month.

## Council Hosts Its First Fish Fry

The Council will host a Fish Friday on Friday, March 27, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Faith Formation Building, serving fried or baked cod with three sides. Grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup will also be available.

Tickets must be purchased in advance, \$12 for adults and \$8 for children (12 and under). Maximum price for a family is \$45. Only 175 tickets will be sold.

Tickets will be sold after all weekend masses March 7 through March 22 or at the parish office. Tickets can be purchased with cash, check or credit card.

This is a dry run to gauge parish interest in future fish fries as a fundraiser for the parish's building fund.

CHRIST OUR REDEEMER

**MARCH 27, 2026**  
**4 PM TO 7 PM**

Fried or baked cod, three sides, grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup.

**Adults \$12**  
**Children 12 and under \$8**  
**Maximum \$45 per family**

Tickets available after masses or at office.  
Must be purchased in advance. Only 175 available. Sales end March 22.