



Chantal Chatter

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. FRANCES DE CHANTAL

COUNCIL #6526

“VIVAT JESUS. LIVE JESUS”



Now that the bone-chilling winds of winter is finally over, we can finally look forward to the hope of spring. With the rest of the Christian world, we are halfway through the Lenten Season, and with spring, comes the hope of the Resurrection and New Life at Easter. In this season of hope, our Muslim neighbors fasting for Ramadan have just celebrated Eid, our Jewish friends will gather for Passover and Hindu friends have just celebrated Holi, the Festival of Colors. And for the first time in more than a decade, Orthodox and Catholic brothers and sisters will celebrate Easter together on the same day. At this time of year, every faith tradition finds reason for hope, faith, and renewal.

Here in Wantagh, the past few months have seen the Knights active in many areas of parish life – from taking down the Church’s Christmas decorations, serving as lectors and ushers at Mass, teaching Faith Formation classes to children preparing for sacraments, leading parish youth events and activities, taking charge of the food and coat drive for Parish Outreach, as well as hosting fundraising events for the parish.

This second issue of the Chantal Chatter will highlight many of these recent activities. As knights, we remember the message St. Francis of Assisi exhorted his brothers, “Preach the Gospel always. When necessary, use words.” Our hope is that the Good News we share in these pages will help foster and encourage a greater sense of community in our Parish and Community by being examples of Christ for others. – PJC

Spring Events

Monday, April 7th

Officers Meeting
Pastoral Center

Monday, April 14th

Business Meeting
Pastoral Center

Sunday, April 27th

51st Anniversary Dinner
Honoring Capt. Tim Jaccard,
CEO of AMT Children of Hope
Baby Safe Haven Foundation –
in the Auditorium

Sunday, May 18th

Pasta with the Pastor
in the Auditorium

Saturday, May 31st

300 Club Thank You Dinner
in the Auditorium

Sunday, June 22nd

Birthright Fundraiser Honoring
Dick and Terry Campbell for
30+ years of volunteer service
–in the Auditorium

Message From the Grand Knight

When the New Year began, we learned that it was not only 2025, but also the Jubilee Year, or Holy Year, a time for spiritual renewal and grace. This couldn't be more fitting for our Council as we continue to embrace change as we settle into our new home at St. Frances de Chantal and adjust to a new monthly routine. Although Officers and Business meetings will continue to be held on the first and second Mondays of the month, they now take place at the Pastoral Council. Our third meeting, however, is being held off-site, where we combine old business updates with a video that fits the "Cor" program. The purpose of Cor is to strengthen Catholic men in their faith and virtue through prayer, unity and fraternity, two of our core principles. The program aims to foster a deeper relationship with Jesus



Christ and with each other as we end the meeting with a repast/social hour. While we had to make some adjustments to our monthly schedule, thankfully one constant is our programs that emphasize community, family, faith, and life. We opened January with a community and life event beginning with the annual K of C "Free Throw Contest" which would continue into February and March. We ended the month with a trip to St. Patrick's Cathedral to attend the annual Knights of Columbus Pro-Life Mass with celebrant Timothy Cardinal Dolan.

In March, we held our second annual Charles Dawson Spiritual Retreat with former pastor, Fr. Greg Cappuccino, and Sr. Lauren Hanley, CSJ, with the theme taken from Pope Francis's encyclical on the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We had a great turnout of 14 council members, which made for meaningful discussion.

That evening, we switched gears and held a well-attended parish community fundraiser, "Left Right Center" for the parish Social Ministry.

After a busy Ash Wednesday during which the Knights were ushers for four masses and three word services, we are now halfway through Lent. March will conclude with an Exemplification to welcome three new Brother Knights, a Parish Food Drive, and a Membership Drive.

We are just getting started though, as we have several fundraiser luncheon/dinners and spiritual pilgrimages planned after Easter. We also have our annual Birthright Carnation Sale on Mother's Day followed by a busy summer, since there is much work to be done in this world and the Knights will never stop.

Have a Blessed Easter.

John Tomeo
Grand Knight



Chaplain's Letter

Dear Brothers in Christ,

As we continue our Lenten journeys; together and as individuals, I offer you the following to smile at and ponder as we walk with Our Lord to the joys of Easter.

RECALL NOTICE: The Maker of all human beings (GOD) is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to a serious defect in the primary and central component of the heart. This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units, code named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. This defect has been identified as "Subsequential Internal Non-morality," more commonly known as S.I.N. It is primarily expressed as follows:

Some of the S. I. N. symptoms include but not limited to: 1. Loss of direction 2. Foul vocal emissions 3. Amnesia of origin 4. Lack of peace and joy 5. Selfish or violent behavior 6. Depression or confusion 7. Fearfulness 8. Idolatry 9. Rebellion. The Manufacturer, who is neither liable nor at fault for this defect, is providing factory-authorized repair and service free of charge to correct this defect. The Repair Technician, JESUS, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs. There is no additional fee required. For all those who are interested – the number to call for repair, regardless of area code is: P-R-A-Y-E-R. Once connected, please upload your burden of SIN through the REPENTANCE procedure. Next, download ATONEMENT from the Repair Technician, Jesus, into the heart component. No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, Jesus will replace it with: 1. Love 2. Joy 3. Peace 4. Patience 5. Kindness 6. Goodness 7. Faithfulness 8. Gentleness 9. Self-control

Please see the operating manual, the **B.I.B.L.E.** (Best Instructions Before Leaving Earth) for further details on the proper use of these fixes.

WARNING: Continuing to operate the human being unit without correction voids any manufacturer warranties, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list, and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded. For free emergency service, call on **Jesus**.

DANGER: The human being units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped in the furnace. The **S.I.N.** defect will not be permitted to enter **Heaven** so as to prevent contamination of that facility.

Thank you for your prompt attention,

- GOD

P.S. Please assist where possible by notifying others of this important recall notice, and you may contact the Father any time by **"Knee mail"**!

Peace and Prayers,

Deacon Bob O'Donovan
Chaplain

Over the last three months, the knights have been busy. Here are some photos of the most recent projects and events.



Thirteen of the brother knights came down to church Saturday morning, Jan 18th, to take down the Christmas crèche in front of the church. With so many hands helping the work was finished quickly! Another group assembled on the following Tuesday morning to help Deacon Bob put away the large Nativity set inside the church.

Free Throw Contest – Wednesday, Jan 22



New Member Spotlight

Bob Gayer worked by the WTC on 9/11 and was a volunteer first responder in the weeks that followed. He has been a parishioner of St. Frances for many years and is an usher at the 12 Mass. Bob said he was approached by GK John Tomeo who invited him to join the Knights because he is a good example of a faithful Catholic man. Since joining, Bob says he is glad to be around people who share his values and Catholic faith and are ready to volunteer to help the parish and the community. Along with several hundred other men, Bob recently became a Fourth degree Knight at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, with Cardinal Dolan presiding. Bob is excited and proud to be a member of the St. Frances de Chantal Knights of Columbus Council.



Kevin Hoffman PGK, PFN, 4th Honor Guard, with Bob Gayer



Parish Youth Group in Action

Parish Youth Leader and Brother Knight Brendan Von Runnen has arranged for the St. Frances Youth Group play a monthly basketball game against high school special needs students. Here they are following a game in January. The Youth Group is welcoming new members this spring. Students in 7th grade and up are welcome to join!

Second Annual Retreat

On Saturday, March 1st, the Council hosted the second annual Charles Dawson Memorial Spiritual Retreat in the Parish Center Chapel led by Sr. Lauren Hanley and Fr. Greg Cappuccino. Over a dozen knights attended the morning-long program which had as its theme 'He Loved Us': Pope Francis' new encyclical on the Sacred Heart of Jesus. and how we recognize that we are Christ's hands, feet and voice through our work in the community.



Here are a few passages from 'He Loved Us': Pope Francis' new encyclical on the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

- "Christ showed the depth of his love for us not by lengthy explanations but by concrete actions"
- "It is only by starting from the heart that our communities will succeed in uniting and reconciling differing minds and wills, so that the Spirit can guide us in unity as brothers and sisters."

In Memoriam
Diane Allikson



Left Right Center Tournament



On Saturday evening, March 1st, the Council hosted another “**Left Right Center**” Tournament that was attended by over 90 enthusiastic knights, spouses and friends.

Wantagh St. Patrick’s Day Parade – March 16th



At the end of March, Russell Merendino and brother Knights led the Food Drive Collection for Parish Outreach.



300 Club Update 26th Round – Report No. 1

Dear 300 Club Members,

We hope everyone is doing well and surviving the cold weather we’ve been experiencing this year. Unfortunately, it had some effect on receiving dues from many of our members, causing us to hold off on the raffles until we were at >90% paid. We didn’t, however, hold back on our charitable donations to those in need. Please read below for an update on our guiding principles: **Charity, Community and Chance.**

Charity—Beginning this year, we have donated \$3,500 to the following charities: \$500 was donated to the Life Center of Long Island, Momma’s House, Birthright Inc. of Nassau-Suffolk, AMT Children of Hope Foundation, and United Veterans Beacon House. An additional \$250 was donated to Tomorrow’s Hope Foundation, The Catholic Faith Network, Positive Community Connections, and East Meadow Little League Challengers.

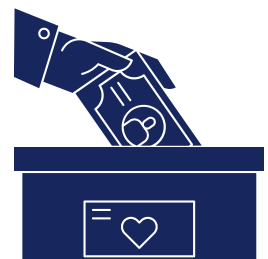
Community—While we are close to 100%, we ask all unpaid members to please respond to the reminder emails or mail your dues to Lennie Labita, Financial Secretary, at 1836 Dover Road, Wantagh. Please make out your check out to **6526 Columbus 300 Club**; \$30 for each number you own.

NOTE: We have 4 numbers available for anyone interested: 62, 142, 168, and 184

Chance—The raffle drawings for the first 3 months of the 26th Round are displayed below. Please feel free to reach out to us if you know someone in need. Thank you for your continued support.

With appreciation,

John Tomeo
 300 Club Chair
 300clubchairman@gmail.com
 Mobile (516) 695-7230



Prize	December Winners	January Winners	February Winners
\$100	#77 – Charlie Buonocore	#18 – Eileen Jaeger	#56 – Kathy O’Donovan
\$75	#236 – Pat Shanley	#322 – Rich Hennessey	#323 – James Mundy
\$75	#224 – Ken Weiss	#77 – Charlie Buonocore	#82 – Ruthanne Riordan
\$75	#74 – Trish Hagan	#316 – Peggy Schlesinger	#217 – Josette Celiberti
\$50	#140 – Gary Dobbins	#24 – Paul Kowalik	#326 – Mary Jean Murphy
\$50	#208 – Christina Young	#76 – Terry Campbell	#63 – Max Hochrain
\$50	#37 – Gordon Mainhart	#339 – Jerry Scro	#302 – Rich Gander
\$50	#197 – Joan Kowalik	#190 – Gerald Calabrese	#342 – Doug Bartolotta
\$50	#60 – Nick Lavacca	#27 – Peter Coleman	#80 – Grace Totten

300 Club Executive Committee

John Tomeo–Chairman, Bob Cabrera, PGK Tom Casey, Doug Celiberti, Lennie Labita–FS, PGK Russell Merendino, Joe Parmese, Peggy Schlesinger, Brenda Vogel

Patrick J. Campbell – Writer and Editor
Mona Shadded – Graphic Design
Tom McClosky – Photography



Welcome New Members!

St. Frances de Chantal Council is proud to welcome the following new members to Council #6526. We look forward to having you at events and sharing in the mission to serve our Church and Community.

- Fred Elblein
- Louis Frontino
- Robert Gayer
- Thomas McLoughlin
- Michael Pastore
- James Streppone
- Daniel Novak
- Steven Borchers

A Look Back in Time

(Below) Brother Knights were setting up the parish festival and casino in August 1979 on the grounds of the Dauernheim Nursery, now the Willow Wood Shoppes. (l to r) Nick Eusanio, Joe Cardella, Joe Parmese, and Bob McKinley.



(Above) Founding Member Grand Knights: (Standing l to r) Vincent Anastasi, Pat Hennessey, Ken Kelly, Ken Iadorola, Nick Giannone (Seated l to r) Dick Campbell, Jack Graham, and Bob McKinley.