



VOL. 46 NO. 10

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June 2005

## Council Elects New Officers

Union Council 4504 elected its new slate of officers for the 2005-2006 Columbian year at their meeting on Monday evening May 23. Former Deputy Grand Knight Harry Lupo was Grand Knight, succeeding Joe DeMarco. The remaining chair officers will be: Buddy Cotter, Deputy Grand Knight, Andy Schopfer, Chancellor, and Mike Peter, who will serve as Warden. All of these officers will begin their new offices July 1.

In addition, Peter Kardys will remain as Treasurer, Mike LoGuidice is slated to take over as the new Recorder, with Frank Santangelo and John Moco elected as the Inside and Outside Guards. Joe DeMarco was elected to serve a three year term as Trustee.

The meeting also marked the announcement of the slate of officers for the Columbian Club for the upcoming Columbian year. Bob Calderone was nominated for President, Kevin Connors, first Vice President, and Tom LaMotta, second vice president. John Murphy and Ken Spellman were nominated to continue their roles as treasurer and recorder, while the Board of Director nominees are John Peters, Frank Santomauro, Buster Rapke and Mike Andriola. The election of these officers will take place at the next scheduled Council Meeting on Monday, June 13.

The May 23 meeting also marked the announcement that the final meeting of the Columbian year, Monday June 27 will be the annual Awards meeting. After the business session and the presenting of the annual Awards, including Knight of the Year and Columbian of the year, the second quarterly raffle will be held.

## Widow's Dinner To Be Held June 5

The annual Nuns and Widow's dinner will be held in the Council Hall on Sunday, June 5. Dinner will be served at 5:00 PM, and the meal will feature salad, vegetables, roast beef, coffee and desert. An open bar will be included.

Over 200 invitations were recently mailed, and a good crowd is expected. If you need any additional information about the evening, feel free to contact Frank Santangelo, the chairman for this event. He can be reached at (908) 686-5588.

Any brother available to assist with food preparation or serving the guests should also contact Frank as soon as possible.

## Columbian Club Sets Race Track Barbecue

The Columbian Club of Union Council 4504 is sponsoring its annual Monmouth Racetrack Barbecue on Saturday, June 18, 2005. The track, which has been selected to host a future Breeders Cup, is located in Oceanport, New Jersey (exit 105 off of the Garden State Parkway). The first post time is 1:05, and the gates to the park will open at 11:00 am.

Last year, over 60 people attended this popular event, and we are hoping to exceed that figure this year. The cost is \$35.00 per adult, and \$10.00 for children under 10. The price includes the park entrance fee, program, use of a private grove, and a full barbecue menu. Last year, the menu consisted of various salads, sausage and peppers, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, chicken and desserts. In addition, bottled beer and soda will be included. While this year's menu could vary, we do expect the same variety of choices. A major benefit of the grove is the private teller for convenience in placing bets.

Contact Kevin Connors (908) 687-1247, or Jamie Zappulla (908) 964-7377 for more information and tickets.

## Blood Drive Rescheduled For August

Due to scheduling conflicts with the North Jersey Blood Center, the Blood Drive that had been scheduled for Sunday, June 5 has been postponed. The expected date is now Saturday afternoon August 6 from 11:00 until 4:00 in the Council Hall.

Despite the change in date, this drive is still vitally important to the Blood Center, as donations traditionally slow down during the summer months. If you will be coming by to work on your summer tan by the pool, why not stop in and donate? Remember, all donations entitle any member of the Knights or their immediate families to receive blood at no cost if they should require it during a medical emergency.

Anyone interested in assisting with this drive should contact Joe Demarco at (908) 964-7824.

## KNIGHT DIGEST

This bulletin is published monthly, by and in the interest of the Knights of Columbus Union Council 4504 and registered as third class matter April 23, 1958, at the Union Post Office, Union, NJ.

**RULES FOR SUBMISSION:** Submissions for consideration are due in writing by the tenth of the month for the following month. Please mail or drop off submissions, with contact information, to Andy Schopfer, Knight Digest Editor, 1034 Jeanette Avenue, Union, NJ 07083 or via email at [Aschopfer@comcast.net](mailto:Aschopfer@comcast.net). You must clearly identify all people in photos submitted and at what council event the photo was taken. Photos with alcoholic beverages will not be considered. Photos may also be submitted via email as hi-resolution image files. Hard copy photos will only be returned when accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

## COUNCIL OFFICERS

<i>Chaplain</i>	Father Jim Worth
<i>District Deputy PGK</i>	Michael L. Cavallo,
<i>Grand Knight</i>	Joseph DeMarco 908-964-1870
<i>Deputy Grand Knight</i>	Harry Lupo
<i>Chancellor</i>	Buddy Cotter
<i>Warden</i>	Andy Schopfer
<i>Recorder</i>	Mike Peter
<i>Treasurer</i>	Peter Kardys
<i>Fin. Secretary</i>	Thomas Hornig, PGK
<i>Inside Guard</i>	Mike LoGuidice
<i>Outside Guard</i>	Frank Santangelo
<i>Program Director</i>	Bob Litterer
<i>Membership Director</i>	Nick Belmonte
<i>Advocate</i>	James Conlon
<i>Lecturer</i>	Steve Ruhl
<i>3rd Yr. Trustee</i>	Mike Carr, PGK
<i>2nd Yr. Trustee</i>	Larry Killmer, PGK
<i>1st Year Trustee</i>	Dom Clementoni, PGK
<i>Columbian Club President</i>	Sam Maffei
<i>Swim Club President</i>	James Feehan

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

1st Mon.	Council Officers
2nd & 4th Mon.	Council
3rd Mon.	Swim Club
1st Wed.	4th Degree Officers

## Grand Knight's Column

**Brothers:** This is the last column that I will be writing as your Grand Knight. The past year seems to have flown by- I can't believe my term is nearly over.

I look back on this past Columbian year with a great sense of pride; I feel it has been very productive year. We have accomplished many of the goals I have set for the past year. The most important goal was to bring the Unity back to the Council, Columbian Club and Swim club. I would like to thank everyone for their help in working towards this goal, especially my Brother Council Officers, Sam Maffei and the Columbian Club Board of Directors, Jim Feehan and the Swim club Board of Directors. I know Union Council 4504 is back on the right path and I feel confident the momentum will continue throughout the next few years.

I am also very proud that we have brought back the First Friday Masses and that the attendance is improving at each Mass. I sincerely hope that this trend continues. We were also able to start a Round Table at each of our parishes, I urge every Brother Knight to get involved in the Round Table at their Parish, and after all we are a Catholic Organization in Service to Our Church.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairmen who have helped me make this year a success, without your help and dedication we could not have held all the events that we did. I thank you, and I'm sure all the organizations we helped also thank you. I will not try to name everyone, because I'm sure I will offend someone by leaving him out.

I would like to thank all my officers for helping to make this past year a success; I could not have done it without your help and support. I would like to congratulate our incoming Grand Knight Harry Lupo, I know you will give him the same help and support that you have given me.

In closing I'd like to thank Union Council 4504, for the Honor and privilege of serving as your Grand Knight; this has been an experience I will not soon forget. Thank you all.

**Vivat Jesus! Joe DeMarco, Grand Knight**

## Gala Summer Event to be held July 23

The Columbian Club and the Council are already hard at work for the first major social event of the 2005-2006 Columbian year: "Seaside Summer Slam", which will be held on Saturday evening July 23. The rain date will be July 30. The festivities will begin at 7:00 P.M.

The evening will feature an outdoor concert by the band Solid Gold, as well as a dinner menu of cheese steaks, hamburgers and hot dogs. Draft beer and soda will also be included in the ticket price of \$20.00 per person. For ticket information contact Clarence Cunningham (908) 241-7710 or Kevin Connors (908) 687-1247.

In addition to this main event, the new Columbian Club has plans for additional events to be planned throughout the summer, including the traditional splash parties for the children using the pool area. Stay tuned to the summer Digest for information and dates.

**Note-** the Council recently received a letter from a local widow needing assistance with various household improvements. If you can help, please contact Steve Helmstetter at (908) 688-5039.

## Columbian Club News

Brothers, my year as Columbian Club president is coming to a close. I would like to thank my Board of Directors for a job well done. Special thanks go to Bob Calderone, Bar Manager, Kevin Connors, Kitchen Manager, and Bob DeMichael for all of their hard work. I would also like to extend my thanks to Grand Knight Joe Demarco for the insight he has provided to me throughout the year. I would all who move up on the Board the best of luck and all of my support in the upcoming years.

It was really quite an experience to serve as the Columbian Club President this year- and much more challenging than most people think. After having served in the position, I congratulate all past presidents!

Many improvements are in the works as we strive to improve the Council building and grounds. However, it takes manpower to complete many of these plans. If any brother can find time to help out, please contact any of the Board members. I am certain that we can find something for you to do. Remember, this is your Council. Please don't hesitate to get involved- only you can make a difference.

**Sam Maffei, Columbian Club President**

### Degree Dates Planned for June

As a result of additional interest from prospective new candidates, Union Council has tentatively scheduled a first degree for Monday evening, June 13. As usual, the first degree ceremony will take place during our regular business meeting.

In addition, we will be hosting a second ceremony on Thursday evening June 16, and a third degree ceremony on Friday, June 24. Both of these ceremonies will take place on the Council Hall beginning at 8:00 P.M.

Those brothers who are interested in completing the two advanced degrees should contact Membership Director Nick Belmonte as soon as possible at 908 686-6084.

### Food, Clothing Drives Prove Successful

Union Council 4504 recently conducted spring food and clothing drives that were both very successful. Members of the Council were able to restock Sister Ann Domenic's food pantry with over 2650 pounds of non perishable food, a significant increase over last spring's effort. In addition, the clothing drive netted over 4,500 pounds of clothing. Thanks to all who contributed and assisted in these drives!



## The Lazy Days of Summer

By Father Jim Worth

We certainly have had a rough winter. There was plenty of shoveling and salting to keep us busy. All of us are now looking forward to a great summer filled with plenty of well-deserved rest and relaxation. Life seems to slow down during these warm, humid months and it is so easy to become lazy on a hazy afternoon. One thing we must be careful of is becoming lazy with the practice of our faith. I certainly do enjoy, every once in a while, to be able to sleep in. Not to have to jump up when the alarm goes off is a great feeling. However, if I did this on a regular basis, it would certainly become a bad habit for me.

Coming to Mass every week has to be a priority for us. To worship as a faith community is a blessing and a luxury that some people do not have. In America, we have the freedom to come to the Table of the Lord as often as we like. Do we embrace this blessing wholeheartedly? Do we make every effort possible to come to the Eucharist every week? Let us re-commit ourselves to the Lord. Making the sacrifice of time each Sunday to come to Mass is an investment in our spiritual welfare. We do everything possible to take care of ourselves and our families in the temporal sense, shouldn't we do the same when it comes to our relationship with God?

If we were to count our blessings, we would need reams of paper to write them all down. Returning to God, just a fraction of thanks and praise is, after all, the least that we can do. This summer, as things slow down and become lazy, may we work harder at keeping up the practice of our faith and attend the Sunday Eucharist on a weekly (*if not more frequent*) basis. The impact of having Jesus in our lives this intimately will give us the strength and courage to endure all the trials and difficulties that come our way. It will also give us the passion to enjoy the happy moments that we so fondly cherish. May our summer be blessed and our lives be directed to God.

**The second** quarterly charitable raffle will be held at our last meeting of June. Tickets have already been mailed. However, if you did not receive a ticket, or would like to receive additional tickets, please contact John Murphy at (908) 964- 4361.