Thanksgiving is over, and I hope everyone had a great time with family and food. Ready or not, the Christmas season is here and there being less than a month until the big day. It will be here before we realize it. Hopefully you can make some time to just enjoy the season without becoming over-stressed. There is so much going on you can become over-whelmed very easily.

This is also a very busy time for the Council as there are a lot of events happening. We have just finished the annual sale of Monastery baked goods, hope you got your supply of the goodies.

Pictures with Santa will be over before you read this. Our last Council Business Meeting of this calendar year will be on December 5th. Please attend. The Council Christmas Party will be on Saturday, December 9th. You have already received the info for that event. The monthly Senior breakfast will be on December 13th. Come and help us out. Not the least will be our New Years eve party. You have already received your tickets for this event. We expect you to attend or at least pay for your tickets if you cannot attend.

I hate to have to bring this topic again, but the unanswered need still exists. We need your involvement in the Council—not in every event—but at least some involvement. There are too many who do nothing all year and do not even attend fund raisers such as pancake breakfasts, NYE Parties, St Patrick Day dinners and whatever else we do.

For months I have been reminding everyone to put the dates for the Atlanta Motor Speedway fund raiser on your calendar. 3 weeks ago, I sent an email asking for volunteers to fill in work sessions at the Raceway. I have not had a single response. The only responses I have were from our usual dedicated members who support all events and I had those spots filled before I sent the email. It is hard to believe which no one has responded.
Gentlemen,

Again I am sending this out after the month has started. Our photos with Santa has come and gone. Thank you all who came out to support this young fundraising program either by working it or having your family photo taken with Santa. Each year we get better at advertising and organizing this event. I am looking forward to running this event next year and your support.

Our Christmas party was 9 December. Thank you Rick for coordinating this party. Ladies you outdid yourself with the food and decorations.

By now all of you have received tickets for our New Year’s Eve party. If you have not attended this event please add it to your to-do list. If you are going to be out of town take a moment to sell the tickets to your friends and a person living near or next door a co-worker, or just purchase the tickets this is a fund raising event so we can continue to do charitable works. Our expectation is that you are supporting this event by purchasing the tickets sent to you.

On 20 January we will host our second Annual Cornhole (Beam Bag toss) Tournament Our doors will open at 10 AM. The tournament starts at 11 AM and will run until we are done. We will need you to let us borrow your cornhole sets. So bring it to the hall and stay for the fun. Put your team together or plan on helping us run the event this year.

Tickets are available on our web page www.taracouncil.org or Eventbrite.com.

We are looking for more people to participate in the Atlanta Motor Speedway security detail. This is a 24 hour duty that we would like to chunk into 6-8 hour shifts. If we have enough support this should not be an issue.

As you are setting your goals for the New Year’s recommit to being an active Knight of Columbus, pay your dues, come to an event (participate in or work the event).

Fraternally yours

David Hinckley
Deputy Grand Knight
Public Affairs Officer
dgk@taracouncil.org
parkstaekwondo92@gmail.com
207-749-2022
Ladies Auxiliary Presidents Corner

Ladies of the Auxiliary

December is a joyous time of year especially if we prepare ourselves during the Advent season. Advent is a time to focus our lives on Christ by prayer and works. This year, in addition to extra works of mercy, a kind word to someone I know or don’t know, a smile to a homeless person, I plan to put more effort into my prayer life. I hope your Advent season will be filled with joy and peace.

It is exciting to see the new Coke cooler up and running with Coke products. There will be a short transition period until our customers are completely comfortable with our new beverage system.

Kathy E has been having some difficulty in filling the concession stand calendar. If she calls, please consider saying Yes. And THANK YOU to all who volunteer for Bingo.

Please include in your prayers Carolyn Gongwer. She has been discharged after 5 days in the hospital with hip surgery again. She continues and will continue to have this problem in the future.

Calendar:

12/5 Monthly meeting
12/6 St. Nicholas
12/8 Immaculate Conception
12/9 St. Juan Diego
12/9 KOC Christmas party. We need to contact Rick with our side dish info. Also, the Knights will be collecting money for St. Vincent de Paul. Plan to attend.
12/12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
12/13 Senior Breakfast
12/25 The Nativity of the Lord
12/28 Feast of the Holy Innocents
12/31 Feast of the Holy Family
12/31 New Year’s Eve party. Plan to attend.

Birthday Ladies
12/6 Clara Elizabeth Johnson, 12/25 Jean Ward

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Respectfully,
Carolyn Kula, President

www.taracouncil.org
Most of us are familiar with the Christmas stable scenes. We have them in church, we have them in our homes. Did you know that the custom of setting up a Christmas crèche began with Francis of Assisi, and that the friars popularized this devotion wherever they went?

The year was 1223 (3 years before Francis’ death), and the place was a small Italian town about 45 miles south of Assisi. Early Franciscan chroniclers tell us that Francis liked to stay in Greccio (pronounced Gre-chee-oh), because the people were poor and uncomplicated. They were rich by their poverty, sincere, devout in prayer, and some of them joined the Order.

Francis wanted to celebrate that Christmas in a special way. He approached his friend John, who is described as a man of some wealth, noble in birth and character. Francis asked his friend to prepare a manger with hay, and to bring in a donkey and an ox. (There is no mention of anyone representing Mary, Joseph, shepherds, kings, or even a child, or a doll of a child.) Perhaps the thought of Francis was that if the people were prepared, the Christ would come into their hearts.

Why did Francis propose this celebration? The Franciscan chroniclers relate Francis’ words: “For I wish to do something that will recall the memory of the little Child who was born in Bethlehem, and set before our bodily eyes in some way the inconveniences of his infant needs”. They record further: “…desiring to represent as faithfully as possible the lowly poverty of the Infant Savior born in Bethlehem”. The stress was upon the wonder of the Incarnation, and the poverty of the Christ Child.

The friars and the people of the area came with torches or candles, to give brightness to the darkness of the night (which was symbolic of the darkness of the human heart). They sang as they went, their voices echoed off the cliffs. The image of glad people and peaceful nature could remind us of the carol Joy to the World, with its’ lyrics: “Let heaven and nature sing…”.

The chroniclers tell us that at some point during that night, a certain virtuous man (possibly Sir John) had a vision of a motionless child in the manger, and that Francis raised that child from its sleep. (It was not Francis, nor a friar, who had this vision, but a generous and prayerful layman.) The vision was appropriate, for the hearts of so many people had forgotten about Christ, but through grace had been revived again. The chroniclers relate that the evening ended with the celebration of Mass (which should be the apex of our Catholic life). At the end of the solemnities everyone went home with joy. People took some hay for their animals, and others brought some home for the healing of various ailments. Sounds a little superstitious, but symbolically, the Child on the hay, the fodder of beasts, becomes for us the Eucharist: may He bring us the healing for our souls.

A blessed Christmas to all!

Padre Paul
We need bingo workers and have had no response to that request. Our Monthly Saturday work mornings are attended by the usual dedicated workers, but no one else.

The café which we man weekly needs help but no response. On November 21st, we had our annual Memorial Mass for our deceased Knights and Ladies. Our attendance was embarrassing. We had twice as many deceased as we did attendees to pay our respects. Where were you? The same group of Knights & Ladies showed up at the abortion clinic—where were the rest of you?

We have a lot of needs, but our limited supply of workers can’t do it all. It is hard to start any new ventures using these same overworked people. If you have a new whatever you are interested in, come and tell us and help get it going.

We are not asking you to support every event, but too many of you don’t support anything—either physically or financially. How can you consider yourself a Knight if you never support anything? You must have a few hours a month to support the Council. If not available for anything year after year, why are you a “member”? Some of the definitions of “member” are “belonging to a particular group”, person who elects to take part in proceedings of a certain organization”, “one of the individual objects which comprise a group”. Do any of these definitions apply to you? If not, why not? Without your support the Council will cease to exist. Do you want to see that happen?

GET INVOLVED.

Bob Kula

Grand Knight

www.taracouncil.org
The Knights of Columbus, Tara Council would like to invite you to our Annual New Year’s Eve Dance.

December 31, 2017—January 1, 2018

Tickets are available on our web page or you can pick them up from one of our Knights.

Cost: $20 per person

Doors Open: 7PM

DJ Starts: 8PM

Light hors d'oeuvre.

Breakfast, served after the New Year’s Eve Champaign Toast.

Cash Bar—No outside drinks are permitted

Council’s web page www.taracouncil.org

Any questions please contact: John Gavel 770-898-7516  David Hinckley at dgk@taracouncil.org

www.taracouncil.org
INDOOR CORNHOLE (BEAN BAG TOSS) TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY 20 JANUARY 2018

COST: $20 PER TEAM OF TWO

RULES: MODIFIED AMERICAN CORNHOLE ASSOCIATION RULES

ADULT / CHILDREN DIVISIONS

DOOR OPEN AT 10 AM               TOURNAMENT BEGINS AT 11 AM

LOCATION: KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL, 481 FLINT RIVER RD, JONESBORO, GA

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE: SEE A BROTHER KNIGHT,

www.taracouncil.org
Thank you all for the support at this year’s photo shoot. I look forward to next year’s event.

David Hinckley
Deputy Grand Knight

Have your photo taken with Santa Next year!

www.taracouncil.org