



BEYOND THE CHAMBERS

The St. John the Apostle Council
of the Knights of Columbus
Periodical Newsletter

St John the Apostle Parish
2340 Baseline Road
Ottawa, Ontario K2C 0C9

Volume 4
Issue 01
December 2021
Christmas Edition

From The Desk of The Grand Knight (GK):

By Jack Belletrutti - Grand Knight

Brothers, the past fraternal year, which spanned the period of June 2020 to June 2021, will be looked at as one of the most challenging years for our council, thanks to the restrictions imposed by the Covid 19 pandemic. It was the year where we reinvented ourselves, and found new ways of supporting each other, our faith, our parish, and our community. We adopted the mantra: **"there is no such thing as can't"**.

So how did we do? Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, and the hard work of our council, we enjoyed the most successful year ever in terms of charitable donations. Our council was awarded the Star Council Award. We were the only council in our district to win the award.

We are now well into the new fraternal year, and we will continue to work hard to help do God's work. Being as the pandemic is still with us, we will continue to adapt as needed.

The installation of officers for the 2021-2022 fraternal year took place on Sunday, September 19th, after the 11 a.m. Mass. The newly appointed District Deputy, Dominico Pontone, performed the ceremony. Also, this

year, we welcomed our new Pastor at St. John the Apostle with the arrival of Father Emeka, a Brother Knight, who has been very supportive of all our initiatives.

We got off to an early start with 2 new initiatives: a District 98 golf tournament and a drive-by breakfast. We joined 3 other councils in organizing the golf tournament and teamed up with the CWL for the breakfast.

Building on the success of last year, we have decided to once again hold an on-line Christmas Auction. The only difference this time is that we invited the CWL to work with us on the auction. More will be said about these activities later in this Newsletter.

Working together with the CWL will be an ongoing theme this year. After all we support the same charities, and rather than competing for funds, we are all better served by sharing the work and the proceeds. (Continued next page.)





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Prior to the pandemic, our council hosted "Drinks and the Divine" meetings at Summerhays Grill on Baseline Road. You will recall that the format was to have a guest speaker present on topics of faith in an informal, casual setting. The sessions were very popular, and the speakers were wonderful.

This year we decided to try to host similar sessions remotely via Webex. Our first speaker

was a Brother Knight, John Brooks, who spoke about the teachings of Father Bob Bedard. More about this later.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed Christmas, and to continue giving of yourselves as we endeavour to do all we can to support our Brother Knights, our church, our community, and our faith. God bless you all.

From the Pastor's Desk:

By Fr. Emeka Onyeogubalu, Pastor

Worthy brothers!

May the name of the Lord be blessed both now and forever. I write to felicitate all of you,



from our Grand knight to all who assisted me in the process to attaining my 4th degree. I am deeply grateful to all of you. Circumstances did not permit us to do the ceremony the

usual way, but we thank God for everything.

I am also using this medium to send all of you warm Christmas wishes. It is that time of the year that we are preparing once again, basically, to celebrate the greatest of all solemnities, the Nativity. It is a celebration of love. God's love for us and our love for each other. It reminds

us, my dear worthy brothers, the extent God was prepared to humble himself, taking the form of a human, for our salvation. In the mystery of the incarnation, ... "the word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us".

As we celebrate this love of God, worthy brothers, we thank God for his immeasurable love, for not giving up on us irrespective of our mistakes. It also presents a challenge to us, "to love our neighbor" as ourselves. We can do this in so many ways: looking out for each other, extending assistance to those who need it, forgiving those who may have offended us and many other ways.

You have always excelled in exemplary services and commitment to our parish and our brotherhood and indeed in living out the faith in our community. I thank all of you dear brothers and urge us to continue the good works.



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A Christmas Message from Deacon Victor

By Deacon Victor Mesta, Lecturer

My dear brothers and sisters; these days of



Advent are a good time to reflect on the Gospel of John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." (NAB)

Christmas is one of the most important holidays in Christianity, along with Easter and Pentecost. It is the appropriate time to ask ourselves, "Where is Jesus in my life?" or "How important is Jesus to me?" Jesus came to give us salvation! What are we doing to obtain it?

Christmas is near yet our commitments distract us and hinder us with our spirituality. Gifts, dinner, the Christmas tree, the lights, etc. All of these elements symbolize Christmas, which

is good, but they also take us away from the spiritual meaning that we should be giving to Christmas.

The first Christmas was not filled with large crowds. Only Mary and Joseph were there and then a few shepherds came to worship the King of the universe. There were no expensive gifts or big celebrations, but the most important thing happened. God became incarnate, he became man!

Brothers and sisters; Christmas is an opportunity to bring out the most beautiful things from our hearts. If we do not give love to our neighbour, if we do not proclaim the cross of Jesus Christ as our salvation, if we think only of ourselves, then we will not be following the teachings of Jesus.

If we just look around us, we will realize that there are many people whom we can help and make happy, especially at Christmas.

Let's strive for being kind and generous with our neighbour in the same way that Jesus taught us. Merry Christmas.

District 98 Golf Tournament

By Jack Belletrutti Grand Knight

During this past summer, our council was invited by St. Maurice's Council to join together with the councils from St. Augustine's and St. Patrick's Fallowfield to co-coordinate a golf tournament. This is the first time, to my knowledge, that 4 KOC councils combined resources to host an event.

The 9-hole tournament, which included dinner, took place on Friday, September 17th, at Cedar Hill G & CC. The tournament was very well

attended with close to 72 golfers playing and even more



enjoying the excellent dinner afterwards. Each council netted \$943.66. (Continued next page.)



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Our council was extremely active in securing sponsors and obtaining gift donations. Br. Mike Leeder organized \$1400 in prizes from various businesses and Br. Chris Pereira arranged a sponsorship donation for \$1000 from Tony Graham Automotive Group. Br. Bob Williamson, who closed the deal with Cedar Hill G & CC, also secured a Cart sponsorship from Fitness Depot worth \$500. I personally sent 20 letters of thanks to the various contributors, along with a (Br. Mike Proctor custom made) Certificate of



Appreciation to Tony Graham Automotive Group. Br. Chris reported that Noreen Graham, president, was pleased with the Certificate and covering letter.

The success of this event allowed our council to purchase 4 boxes of "Coats for Kids", 2 boxes of coats for boys and two for girls. There are plans to repeat the multi-Council Golf Tournament in 2022.



Parish Drive Through Breakfast 16 October

By Mike Proctor, Coordinator

The Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Women's League team up to execute a first-time drive-through and take-home Parish Breakfast combo on Sunday, October 17th after the 8:00 a.m. Mass. The combo consisted of bacon-egg-cheese in a toasted English Muffin



Sandwich with a hash brown potato patty, a tetra juice pack and two individually wrapped oatmeal cookies. The combo less the drink was kept warm in a hot box and served with the cold



Egg Sous Chef 1

drink outside on the sidewalk near the entrance of the Glass house. Sales were conducted under our new Canopy to parishioners as they left Mass on their way to their cars or drove up after Mass.



Egg Sous Chef 2

The combo was prepared by an energetic team of Knights and CWL cooks working to COVID standards with masks and gloves and maintaining physical separation. The combos sold for \$10 each with the expectation that most sales would be two combos at \$20 and so no change would be needed. The cooking team successfully accomplished their production objective in the time allotted. Some lessons



Egg Sous Chef 3



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were learned that would result in refinements implementing a similar event in the future.

Sales of food were a little less than expected, however, more than several parishioners generously made cash donations.



Muffin & Hash Brown Sous Chefs

The proceeds after expenses were \$371. The CWL and the

Knights agreed to make a joint donation of this amount to the Parish. The Planning Team recommended that the Breakfast be repeated for both the 8:00 a.m. Mass and also the 10:30 a.m. Mass but calling it a "Brunch."

However, with the onset of colder weather, such events would be deferred until sales would be possible in the Glass House or in the Main Hall with limited seating.



Bacon Sous Chef

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the production and sales team:

Divina Hogan,
Claudette Joseph, and
Sandra Brancatelli on
eggs; Michel Lavoie on
bacon; Karen Leeder
and Karen Lavoie



Sandwich Assembly Sous Chefs

slicing and toasting muffins; Alex Brancatelli and Brian McAlpine on Hash Browns,



Combo Assembly & Delivery

Audrey Wojcik and Fred Adibe on sandwich assembly, Dan Beausoleil on Combo assembly and transport, Marilyn Muldoon and Brian McAlpine on clean-up and last but not least

Jack Belletrutti and Katie Lyon Villiger on Sales. A special thank you to Mike Leeder for Canopy setup, floating general support and troubleshooting. A sincere thank you to all and to our customers.





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Remembrance Masses 6/7 November

By Dan Beausoleil & Mike Proctor
Coordinators 2021

Remembrance Day Ceremonies were held at each Mass, at St. John the Apostle Church, Saturday & Sunday November 6th & 7th, 2021.



Again, this year our ceremonies were cut back due to Covid 19 restrictions. There was no procession of Honour Guards, wreath bearers or

flag bearers at any of the Masses. Flags and wreaths were set up Friday, November 5th and remained on static display to the left of the altar, near the side entrance, until Friday, November 12th.



The readers, musicians, trumpet player, photographer, videographer, KofC Honour Guard; the reader for "In Flanders Fields" at



the 8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass, and everyone else having a part in the ceremonies helped to ensure their success.

For the Saturday, 5:00 p.m. Mass and Sunday, 11:00 a.m. Mass, a brief script was read honouring our veterans. This was followed by the playing of "Last Post," then "One Minute of Silence," followed



by "Rouse". The music minister then sang "In Flanders Fields". The playing of "Last Post" and "Rouse", by Mr. John Weiss, added to the solemnity of these ceremonies.

For the Sunday, 8:00 a.m. Mass, Mr. Weiss was not available, therefore "Last Post" and "Rouse" were omitted. After the reading honouring our veterans, the "One Minute of Silence" was announced, followed by Mary Jean Thompson's recitation of "In Flanders Fields".



Both 3rd and 4th degree Knights, from our council, took part in the ceremonies as honour guard. Knights were positioned in front of the flags and wreaths with 4th degree Knights in regalia and 3rd degree Knights wearing ceremonial sashes.

A video of the Saturday 5:00 p.m. Mass is available for viewing on the Parish website



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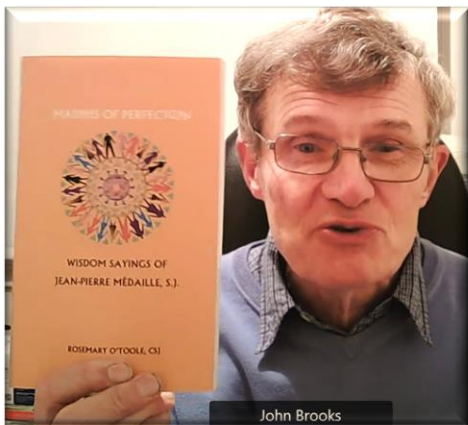
Drinks and the Divine 30 November

By Jack Belletrutti, Coordinator

This year our council decided to resume our previously successful "Drinks and the Divine" get togethers, where a guest was invited to speak on a topic of faith in a casual ambiance of fraternity and good cheer.

But because we are still under pandemic restrictions, we could not host a face to face gathering. Instead, we chose to hold the event virtually using Webex.

The event took place on Tuesday evening, November 30th, at 7:30 p.m. Our guest speaker



was John Brooks, a brother Knight from St. Mary's parish here in Ottawa. John has recently published a new

book entitled "Permission Granted" which speaks to the teachings of Father Bob Bedard, who was the pastor at St. Mary's from 1985 to 1995. John's presentation focused on these teachings.

I first met John about a month or so before the pandemic was declared, thanks to Sister Rosemary who introduced us at our last "Drinks and the Divine" gathering where Sr. Rosemary spoke about "Discernment". It turns out that

John was the publisher for 12 of her books. At that time, Sr. Rosemary highly recommended that we invite John as one of our speakers.

John may be described as a disciple of Father Bob. John tells me that as a St. Mary's parishioner, he did not feel close to God until Fr. Bob

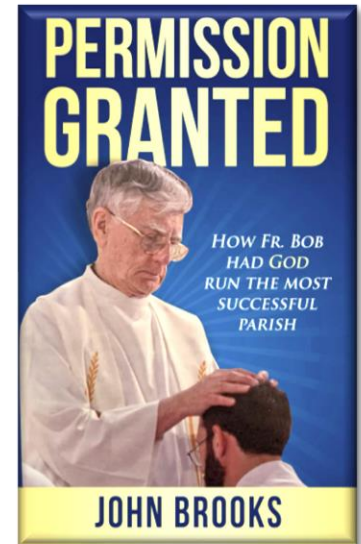
became pastor and explained how to give God permission. To research and write his book, John transcribed 318 of Fr. Bob's talks and reviewed Fr. Bob's writings, including his 19 confidential diaries of daily thoughts. He also spoke with most of the more than 100 parishioners who officially endorsed the idea of recognition for Fr. Bob.

John's presentation was inspiring. He described the 5 key aspects of giving God permission:



listening through prayer, feeling joy, accepting risk, having confidence through humility in God's presence and giving credit to God.

Approximately 30 people were in attendance. John's book is being offered to parishioners on our Christmas Auction site for \$10.





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KOC / CWL Online Christmas Auction

By Len Ugarenko, Deputy Grand Knight
Coordinator

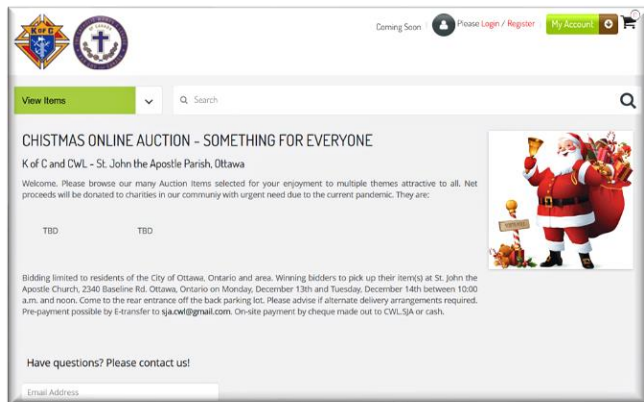
The Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Women's League teamed up again for another successful online auction, this time, with a Christmas theme.



Proceeds were split 50/50 with the Knights' share being donated to the Miriam Centre and the Ottawa Mission and the

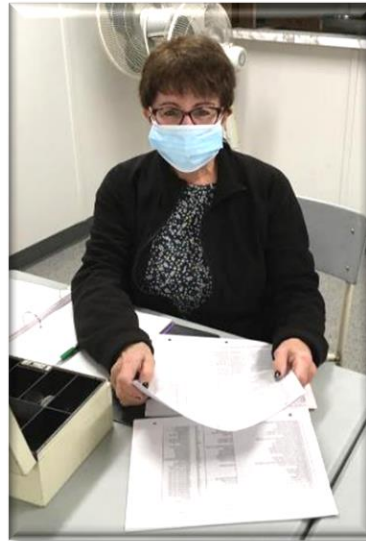
Catholic Women's League's share going to the Shepherds of Good Hope and the Youville Centre.

This auction ran from Saturday, December 4, 2021, until Sunday, December 12, 2021. Many parishioners stepped forward donating a total of 125 items with many being repeat donors from previous online auctions. We are pleased to let you know that the auction raised close to \$4,000.



The list of donations was extensive and covered numerous categories. For example, items

included gift cards, which were one of the most popular items, professional services, mystery baskets, books, jewellery, original art and crafts, electronics and appliances, Christmas decorations and a very delicious selection of baked goods, thanks to the CWL. Some of us



have started to sample what we bought, and everyone is enjoying every last crumb!

That's just a few of the items. You probably saw the fine wooden trays and tea box that our Grand Knight Jack made and the names of many of our Knights who donated either multiple or individual items are also there to be seen.

In the end there were 40 registered bidders who submitted a total of 202 bids, and we are pleased to say that the Bidding Owl website functioned very well.

On behalf of the team of Knights, GK Jack Belletrutti,

R. Mike Proctor, W. Mike Leeder and myself and the many ladies of the CWL, especially





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Audrey Wojcik, Karen Leeder, and Marilyn Muldoon, we sincerely thank you. A special thank you to our Worthy Recorder, Brother Mike Proctor, who managed the

Bidding Owl website from start to finish and Worthy Warden Mike Leeder who helped organise the distribution of auction items.

Chancellor's Wellness and Widows Report

By Fred Adibe, Chancellor

During the Pandemic, certain members of Council are assigned, under the coordination of the Chancellor, the task of calling members and the widows of Knights to track their wellness and to offer assistance as required.



As of the latest report, the majority of Knights and their family members reached by phone, were in good health and spirits. Only a few members could not be reached but hopefully, by the grace of God, they are all well.

All of the widows reached by phone were in good spirits and indicated that they were not in need of any assistance. Messages were left for those who were not available when called.

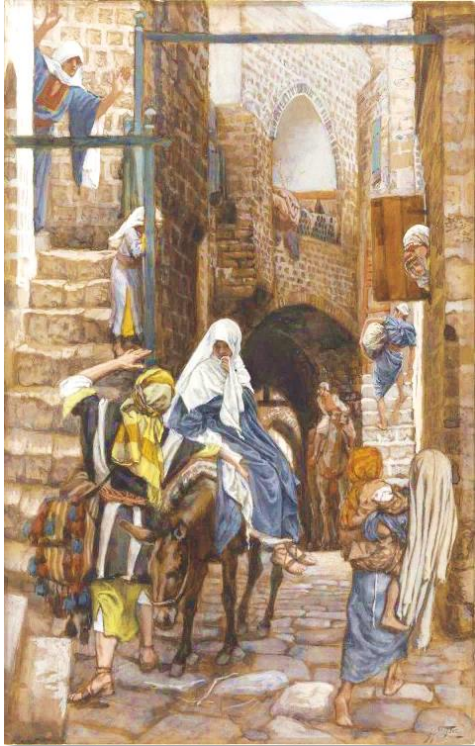
Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

- Christiane Arbel (*Br. Adel Iskandar's daughter's mother-in-law*)
- Frank Calamatis
- Katie Cuddihey
- Giuliano D'Angelo
- Alfonso D'Emilio (*Br. Matteo Macher's grandfather*)
- Paul Gilbert
- Barry Houle
- Deacon Victor Mesta's family
- Chris Moffat
- Jim Murawski
- Bob Noonan
- Patricia Prentice (*Nancy Kerslake's sister*)
- Jason Quinn (*son of Jim Quinn*)
- Janice Rakowski (*daughter of Ralph Watzenboeck*)
- Bill Roblin
- Evariste and Lorraine Thériault (*Lorraine is now at Carling Manor*)
- Greg and Elaine Vaughn and,
- Pat and Helen Wallace



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Luke 2.1-16: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered.

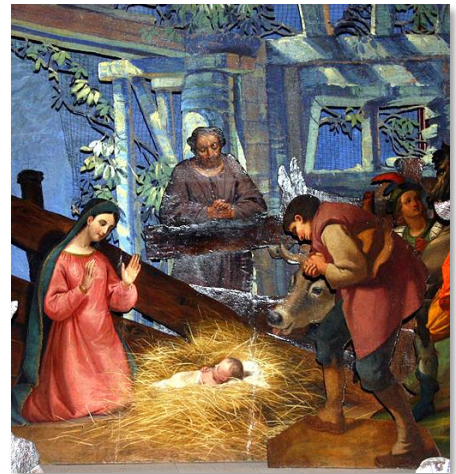


St. Joseph Seeks a Lodging in Bethlehem by James Tissot, circa 1886-1894. Water colour over graphite on grey wove paper (Gouache). Brooklyn Museum. Public Domain.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.



While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.



Nativity by Francesco Londonio, circa 1750. Painted on paper sheets glued on wood panels. Restored. San Marco Church, Milan. Photo by Giovanni Dall'Orto, 2007. Free to use with attribution.

the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the Angel said to them, "Do not be afraid: for see - I a.m. bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord.

Council Activities

ExCom Meeting: Monday, January 3rd, 7:00 p.m., Webex

Parish Memorial Mass: Thursday, January 6th, 7:00 p.m., Church

General Council Meeting: Monday, January 10th, 7:00 p.m., Webex

Deacon Victor Faith Session: Wednesday, February 16th, 7:00 p.m., Webex,

Beyond the Chambers is a Newsletter published periodically throughout the Fraternal Year by the St. John the Apostle Council 10470 of the Knights of Columbus.

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