

Brother Knights,

My name is Tom Palya and as the newly elected Grand Knight of Council 1275 of the Knights of Columbus in Uniontown, I present my first newsletter. To give a brief history of myself for those who don't know me—I was born and raised in Uniontown, worked the coal mines, married my Polish bride, the former Mary Jewel Krzanowski, raised four children and now entertaining 10 grandchildren. My wife and I are members of St. Mary Nativity Church in Uniontown where I am a member of the church choir. I have been a member of the Knights of Columbus for nearly 40 years but have been more active since my retirement in 2012 where I have been warden of our council for the past two years. I am a fourth degree Assembly 926 and a member of the Color Corps.

My duties this year as Grand Knight will be different from the Grand Knights of the past. A restructuring of the home association (Uniontown Columbian Assn. Inc.) took place where the burden of the Grand Knight presiding over both council and our Columbian Association will cease. A newly elected Board of Directors and a Board of Trustees will now have the task of managing and governing the operations of the bar, hall, and pavilion, along with the upkeep of the building and grounds. Their job will be most difficult so be patient, be kind, and be helpful towards them. It is with their success that we can enjoy and be proud of a place of gathering and restore its grounds so it is another showcase in the city of Uniontown.

My main focus now as Grand Knight will be to motivate our council in serving church and community whether through charity or forms of corporal works of mercy. Let us set and establish a good example so we are recognized as a group of Catholic men that can be depended upon when asked or needed. It is only with your participation and gift of time that we can do so much more. Remember this is why we are here and why we joined the Knights of Columbus.

In closing, I want to thank the outgoing Grand Knight, Bill Martin, for his encouragement and future support. I will always respect him for the Grand Knight he was and the friend that he is.

Please try to make our council meetings at the Columbian hall, the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. It will be good to see new faces and renew old friendships from this fraternal organization. Remember to bring your current membership card and your "happy to be here" self.

**1275 Council Officers:** Grand Knight **Thomas Palya** / Deputy Grand Knight **Ted Crable** / Chancellor **AJ Gasparatz** / Recorder **Mike Aesoph** / Financial Secretary **Paul Mihalko** / Treasurer **Rich Pikulsky** / Lecturer **Mike Aesoph** / Advocate **Tony Bartock** / Warden **Tom House** / Inside Guard **Chuck Kosco** / Outside Guard **Tim Mari** / Trustees: 3<sup>rd</sup> yr **Bill Martin** / 2<sup>nd</sup> yr **Joe Korelko** / 1<sup>st</sup> yr **Jim Bitner**

**Memorial Committee:** A committee was formed to acknowledge the death of a brother Knight. Please contact one of the following so proper arrangements can be made by our council: Don Vogelsang 724-438-9064, Tom Palya 724-366-0933, Ted Crable 724-437-0193, and Tom House 724-366-6970.

**Shrine:** Many blessings to John (Gomer) Myers for initiating the clearing and cleaning of areas around the shrine dedicated to the North American Martyrs and Saints that is located on the Columbian grounds. Unfortunately, part of the dome and structure is in decay and gets worse each year. We need strategies and commitments with the professionals in the construction field if ever we want to restore the shrine to its former beauty. With hope and a positive attitude, Divine Intervention may come into play and some good and generous people come forward. If you are interested or have ideas, call 724-366-0933.

**Rosary Walk:** Let the Knights be well represented at the 26<sup>th</sup> annual rosary walk sponsored by the Altar Rosary Society of St. George. Our Blessed Mother will always remember Sept 20, 2015, the day you honored her and her rosary and made the rosary walk your highest priority that day.

**Fayette County Fair:** Going to the fair? Then visit the pro-life booths of the Greater Fayette County Respect Life Committee and the Center of Hope for their interesting literature and displays concerning the unborn child.

**Life Chain Sunday:** The Greater Fayette County Respect Life Committee will be hosting a one-hour pro-life stand October 4 at the five corners from 2 to 3 p.m. Check church bulletins for updates.

**Insurance:** Our Knights of Columbus field agent is Gregory Glowaski. Please contact him for all your insurance needs; he may be reached at 412-217-8636 or [gregory.glowaski@kofc.org](mailto:gregory.glowaski@kofc.org).

**Newsletters:** A new method of informing every one of the council's activities in periodic newsletters is being established. Beginning July 25, 2015, the newsletter can be viewed on our website, [www.kofc1275.org](http://www.kofc1275.org). The newsletter can also be sent to your email in the future if you register at [usmra.rob@gmail.com](mailto:usmra.rob@gmail.com). For those without computer access, spread the word that copies of the newsletter will be available at the Columbian hall along with a copy posted in the vestibule (hours: weekdays 5 to 10, weekends 4 to 11). Members can add their names to a postal mailing list by calling 724-366-0933. This newsletter is being mailed to a random selection of brother Knights to help spread the word. Many thanks to Mike Aesoph for upgrading and maintaining our council's website and Rob McGee (Mr. Mine Rescue) for handling the email accounts for the future newsletters. The next newsletter will be announced through church bulletins sometime in October.

**K of C Scholarship:** The Pennsylvania State Council, Knights of Columbus, is offering scholarships for members, sons and daughters of members, and qualified members of the Columbian Squires. Each scholarship entitles the awardee to receive up to \$3000 over a 6 year period to defray expenses for tuition, books, or maintenance in any college or school of nursing approved by the committee. If interested call Tony Bartock at 724-880-6206.

**Summer Picnic:** The Knights of Columbus Uniontown Council 1275 will hold its annual picnic for its members and families Sunday, August 16, from 1 to 5 pm at the Uniontown Columbian grounds North Gallatin Ave.

**Punt, Pass, and Kick:** The local Pittsburgh Steelers Punt, Pass and Kick contest sponsored nationally by Pepsi Cola will be held on September 19 at Laurel Highlands High School football stadium. Time is 10 a.m. More info coming or call Tony Bartock at 724-880-6206.

**Soccer Challenge:** Save the date September 26 for the upcoming soccer challenge that will be directed by Dave Mihalko.

**Reflection:** *"Humility is the mother of many virtues because from it obedience, fear, reverence, patience, modesty, meekness, and peace are born. One who is humble easily obeys everyone, fears to offend anyone, is at peace with everyone, is kind with all."* (St. Thomas of Villanova)

Respectfully,

Thomas G. Palya  
Grand Knight Council 1275

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