



Monsignor John J. O'Brien Assembly # 2786 Calgary, AB Newsletter

May/June 2010

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Notes from the Faithful Navigator



I was not sure what the theme of my message should be this issue or even if there should be a theme.

We are in that wonderful season of Easter where everything is coming alive from its winter dormancy and where everything around us seems to be transforming itself from dull greys to vibrant greens and the spring flowers and trees are assuming all the glorious colors of the rainbow.

The liturgical season of Easter and the season of spring are magnificent metaphors for our own lives. Perhaps it is time for us to transform our own lives and to assume the brilliant colours of spring!

A lot has happened since our last newsletter. We had our biennial meeting with Master Larry Boland in Red Deer. SK Jerry O'Connor and I represented the assembly. Salient points from the Master's meeting are:

- As of Jan 1, 2010 in the AB/NWT jurisdiction we have a total of 169 councils with 16,912 members and of those we have 34 assemblies with 2585 Fourth Degree Knights. We have about 15% of the total membership belonging to the 4th degree. The goal is 25%.
- The Master emphasized that **"The primary purpose of the Fourth Degree is to encourage active Catholic citizenship and foster the spirit of patriotism in the community at large."** In satisfying this purpose, we must be mindful of our dress code.
- In response to the Bishops of Canada, **no Sir Knight will draw a sword in the nave of the church during any liturgical celebration or procession.**
- A new assembly is being formed in Calgary with PFN Sal Ficaccio nominated as the Charter FN. The Charter Night will be on Sep 17th.

We also had an Exemplification on May 1st so I would like to welcome our two new Sir Knights and their Ladies to our Assembly:

- Sir Knight Nicholas Abu and Lady Doris; and
- Sir Knight Michael Isakeit and Lady Jane.

I would like to especially thank two of our primary contributors to this newsletter: SKs Jerry O'Connor and Ferdie Gayos, who have, once again contributed articles to this issue of the Newsletter. These two gentlemen have wide ranging interests and a genuine heartfelt love for Jesus and, by extension, their fellow sisters and brothers and we thank them for their spiritually motivating contributions.

Ron FN



Exemplification Honouree SK Ed Zentner.



Lady Doris & SK Nick Abu enjoy a most tasty dinner at St. Cecilia's Parish.



SK Mike Isakeit displays his 4th degree certificate while Lady Jane graciously smiles.

Exemplification - 01 May 2010

An exemplification was held at St. Cecilia's Church on the first of May, very capably organized by SK Ken Beckie and presided over by our Master Larry Boland. A banquet was held later that evening with PSD Charles Pratt, FN of Fr. Doucet Assembly, officiating as MC. We were extremely privileged to have both SK David Jones the VSM of Fraser Province (BC & Yukon and AB & NWT) and SK Neil Gannon, AB & NWT State Deputy as our guests. A total of 31 candidates including two priests were exemplified. Two members will be joining our Assembly: SK Nicholas Abu & Lady Doris and SK Michael Isakeit & Lady Jane. Welcome!



Our two newest members, exemplified on May 1st, look forward to becoming active members of Msr. John J. O'Brien Assembly. Pictured L to R is FN Ron Kaczmar, Honour Guard member and sponsor SK Willis Winter, SK Mike Isakeit, SK Nick Abu and Nick's sponsor SK Bill Werbowski.



Head Table Guests from L to R: MC SK Charles Pratt, Lady Pratt, Fr. Henry Rosenbaum (State Chaplain), VSM David Jones, Fr. Abbe Farman, Lady Gannon, Lady Boland, SK Neil Gannon, Master SK Larry Boland.



We encourage all members to display patriotism by flying a Canadian flag.



Lady Doris



Lady Jane

Upcoming Honour Guards

We have two Honour Guards in the month of June:

- **June 6th** - Fr. Wilbert from St. Bonaventure Parish has requested a Colour Guard to participate in the Corpus Christi Procession. It will be held in the vicinity of the St. Bonaventure Church and St. Bonaventure School. The idea is to process around the interior of the St. Bonaventure School grounds (about 4 city blocks of walking) after the Noon Mass. **Eight members** have been requested (minimum of four required) to carry the canopy and lead the procession. Members should meet at about **11:45 am on June 6th at St. Bonaventure Church, 1600 Acadia Drive Southeast** and change in the Columbian Room downstairs.
- **June 10th** – The **Installation of Officers** will take place on Thursday June 10th at St. Patrick's Parish, 1414 Shawnessy Blvd SW, at 6 pm. A minimum of three members is required.

Activities at Father Lacombe Care Centre

The Father Lacombe Centre (FLCC) held its annual volunteer appreciation tea on April 22nd. The tea is held annually during National Volunteer Week. This year's theme was "*Volunteers Build a Better World*" and was linked with the *100th Anniversary* of FLCC. During the tea, recognition was given to those volunteers who have contributed 100 or more hours during the past year as well as those who, since their volunteer commencement with FLCC, have contributed in excess of 500, 1000, 1500, 3000 and 3500 hours! **Two of our members were given special recognition: SK Mike Molden for 125.5 hours during the past year and SK Ed Scott for 104 hours. Special mention goes out to Lady Joan Molden for 1,022.5 hours at FLCC since February, 1999. Well done Lady Joan!**

Approximately 60 people attended this event down from the normal 80.

On April 14th the Alberta Government announced that Father Lacombe Care Centre would receive \$16.5 million dollars for the new facility. The total cost for the new facility comprising of 160 beds, 10 of which are designated for Priests, a chapel and upgrades to 146th Avenue is expected to be in the order of \$48M.

Volunteers, Residents and Families are invited to attend a meeting on **May 17th, 9:30 AM—11:30 AM, FLCC main dining room**, to meet with the Architects and receive an overview of the project. Guests will be able to provide input with regard to the architectural design.

Ladies Section

Welcome to our two new Ladies: Lady Doris Abu and Lady Jane Isakeit. Congratulations again to Lady Joan Molden for over one thousand hours volunteered at Father Lacombe Care Centre.



Hope for the Unborn by SK Jerry O'Connor

More and more with the passing of each day, each week, each month and year, the myths that have been created over the years with respect to abortion and pro-choice for women are being proven and acknowledged by both the medical world and the scientific world as being just that....."myths".

Recently, the State of Nebraska passed a law (decidedly 44 in favour to 5 against) that bans abortion after 20 weeks of gestation on the basis of "fetal pain". It essentially and correctly recognizes a growing body of medical knowledge that not only reports on the capacity of the unborn to feel pain after 20 weeks (even as early as 16 weeks) but also suggests that pain may be felt far more acutely in the unborn than adults.



It is for this reason that some (if not many) doctors already practise this policy of delaying providing any information on the unborn child's sex until after this 20 week period has elapsed. This policy practise among doctors and their calling for this practise to become official procedure strongly suggests that doctors are becoming extremely uncomfortable with sex selective abortions and, by logical inference....abortions.



Secondly, a current article in the Journal of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada has issued a call for new guidelines regarding sex selective abortions. This preferential abortion of female fetuses is a hush-hush practice that is officially condemned by Canada's Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Yet is still very much occurring among cultural groups in societies like China and India (cultural groups in Canada as well for that matter) that value boys far more than girls.

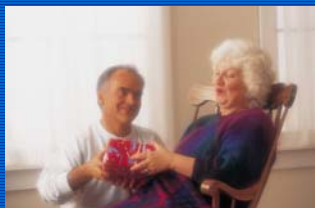
Such practices is further evidence that women in fact hide behind the false convenient ideals of pro-choice because in reality, it is their cultures in their societies that make those choices for them. For in these societies, woman's rights to pro-choice is not the single and most driving force that determines the life or death of the unborn but rather it is the cultural beliefs of their societies that many women live in that truly and tragically decides life or death of the unborn.



New medical evidence is constantly proving that the fetus is very much human and therefore in need of society's protection. Those who continue to deny the humanity of the fetus in their abortion arguments, stand in jeopardy of losing their souls and "risk" becoming precisely what their critics charge them with being. That is being callous, selfish and casually destructive men and women who share a cheapened view of human life.

Those are the words and quote from a well known American feminist, Naomi Wolf commenting on long-time abortion advocate Joyce Arthur who still refuses to acknowledge the obvious implications of such scientific evidence. All

in all, with the ever more increasing positive pro active involvement of doctors on behalf of the unborn, the future is proving to hold good for the unborn and certainly not so good for the pro abortionists. Yes indeed, there is "hope for the unborn".



Anniversaries and Birthdays

Congratulations to the following Sir Knights and their Ladies:

ANNIVERSARIES:

Rev. Fr. Kevin Tumback – 11 years – June 29th;
SK Ron & Lady Adella Kaczmar – 41 years – June 14th.

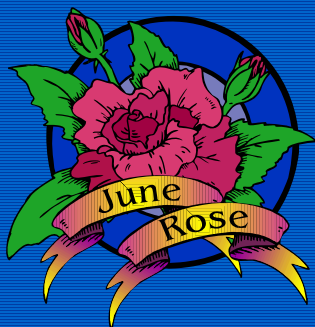
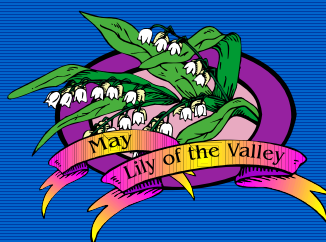
BIRTHDAYS:

May:

Mike Troiano	May 8 th ;
Bill Werbowski	May 18 th ;
Fr. Kevin Tumback	May 22 nd ;
Mike McDougall	May 26 th ; and
Mustang Randall	May 26 th .

June:

Anthony Lawrence	June 12 th ;
George Sarsfield	June 13 th ;
El Garcellano	June 15 th ;
Paul Holloway	June 19 th ;
Bill Hannah	June 26 th ; and
Mark Phillips	June 30 th .



Alive in Christ by SK Ferdie Gayos

“You will never walk alone.”



I remember this popular song in my early years by Elvis Presley “You’ll Never Walk Alone.” I am sure you will be able to relate to me about the message of hope that this song conveys, that *“at the end of the storm is a golden sky and the sweet silver song of the lark...walk on with hope in your heart...and you’ll never walk alone.”*

No matter how, when and where we are born and the corresponding circumstances of our birth, regardless if we are born poor or rich, white or brown and even what faith our parents have passed on to us, we will



for sure encounter difficulties in life. It is as if, we are born and have been pre-destined to experience pain. Unfortunately for majority of people living in this world, almost their whole life is lived in pain and difficulties.

Are there reasons to hope that darkness will come to pass and we will finally see the light? That every Saturday we wake up with anticipation that we finally won the jackpot in Lotto Max and we don't have to come to work the following Monday! That we have finally won our battle with the big "C" and we don't have to go back for chemotherapy and experience one hour of "hell" only to find out that when we wake up the following day, nothing of our circumstance has changed. We feel alone and hope is gone and so with our reasons to live.

How can we keep faith when nothing seems to be going right? Where can we find motivation and optimism when we are feeling defeated and rejected? Worst is, we will discover that good things happen to bad people and bad things happen to good people. Then we conclude that life sucks and is not fair!

I have dreamed of driving a BMW too, of living in a big and beautiful house, of being restored to my profession and enjoy the respect and admiration of people working for me, of having the body that I had 20 years ago and the list goes on. I believe I deserve those more than anybody else I know. But the more that I think of them, the more I have come to realize that there is a great chance not one of them will happen.

But always, I will wake up and snap from these dreams, that though they may not happen in this lifetime, it will happen in the next. Yes, the hope in my heart that one day I will come home and enjoy all these and much more than these that my Father in heaven has prepared for me.

You see, if we look at the things that are finite, we will for sure be disappointed. We have forgotten that we are made for heaven. That God intends to have us all in heaven but He is so perfect and holy that there is no chance that with our present state of life, we would make it to heaven. Say you are filthy and full of dirt, are you going to put on your immaculate white shirt? Of course not, we are going to wash first and make sure there is no single trace of dirt left in our body before we try and put on that shirt. Every pain, difficulties, rejection and defeat we experience in our life are like scrubs, they scrub the dirt on our body. The more we scrub, the more and faster we become clean.

If we think this way, then we will realize that not winning the lotto is not bad at all. That every time you undergo chemotherapy is not bad at all because one hour of chemo is equivalent to a thousand years in purgatory. That every pain and difficulty is God's loving way of bringing us closer and nearer to Him.

Our Lord Jesus has exemplified all of these on the cross and He will not ask us something that He himself has not done. Remember His pain and suffering and you will realize that it is true – you don't walk alone and will never be.



Lunch Prayer MTG:

Held monthly on the 3rd Friday of the month at Stage West, 727 42nd Ave SE (Blackfoot Tr. & 42nd Ave SE). All are welcome to attend.



Beachwood National Military Cemetery
Chaplains Memorial
Window - Hope in a Broken World

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Good of the Order

We had our monthly Prayer Meeting, **capably organized by SK Peter Hay**, on Friday, April 9th at Stage West with eight members attending.

- We offer our prayers for:
 - SK Roy Vinke; and
 - SK Phil Hauk.
- We also pray for the following members and Priests at the Father Lacombe Care Centre:
 - Monsignor Lefort; and
 - Father McCrae.

Calendar of Events

Here is a listing of upcoming and future events.

- 14-17 May – State Convention Lethbridge;
- May 17th – Meeting with architects at FLCC
- 21 May - Prayer Luncheon, Stage West
- **27 May 2010 – Regular Meeting St. Patrick's Parish**
- **June 6th – Corpus Christie Procession, St. Bonaventure**
- **June 10th - Installation of Officers followed by a social at M.T. Tuckers aka Mother Tuckers 345, 10 Avenue Southwest**