



# KNIGHT'S COUNCIL 11187

Volume 7, Issue 1

## Happy New Year!

January 1, 2000

Editor: Joe Drignat  
(614)866-1134  
joe\_drignat@prodigy.com

### Crank's Creek Diary

By Hector Raymond, Youth Director

Grand Knight Fran Vendetta wishes all Knights and their families a



happy, healthy, and Holy New Year. Fran has relinquished his normal article to Brother Hector Raymond for his story about Crank's Creek.

### Upcoming Events

#### January 2000

- 8 9:00 AM First Saturday Mass
- 10:00 AM Officers' Meeting
- 9 Pancake Breakfast
- 9:00 AM—1:00 PM
- 10 8:00 PM Business Meeting
- 17 8:00 PM First Degree
- 23 Free Throw Contest
- 2:00-4:00 PM, at Pickerington Junior High
- 24 8:00 PM Social Meeting
- 31 Fraternal Survey Due #1728

#### February 2000

- 5 9:00 AM First Saturday Mass
- 10:00 AM Officers' Meeting
- 14 Business Meeting
- 15 Audit Due #1295
- 26 Monte Carlo Night, Bishop Herrmann Hall
- 28 8:00 PM Social Meeting

Editor's Note: Our parish has "adopted" the people of Crank's Creek, Kentucky, because of their severe need. Hector was co-chair of the project this year.

#### Day 1, Thursday, December 16, 1999, 6:00 AM:

Most folks arrived at Bishop Herrmann Hall to perform the final preparations for the trip to Crank's. Thanks to the wonderful advance work by the planning committee and many Brother Knights, we were able to have the 24 foot Ryder truck almost fully packed. All that remained to be packed were the kitchen items and the personal bags and bed rolls. This was accomplished in short order and we were ready to travel at about 6:45 AM. Mary Jane Soebczyk (Director of Religious Education (DRE)) had arranged for Father Dwayne to conduct a short commissioning service for the group. The Advance team consisted of 18 youth and 6 adults. We had one 15 passenger and 2-7 passenger vans along with the 24 foot truck. We departed at 7:05 AM. Snow flurries once again this year, made the start of the trip quite Christmasy! I drove the 15 passenger van, Don Miller and my wife, Mary-Lloyd, drove the other two mini-vans, and Dan Silva, once again, drove the truck. Thanks to Dan, we had walkie talkies that enabled us to communicate between vehicles. This was quite nice and increased the safety of the trip.

3:30 PM: After a few pit stops for gas and other essentials, we arrived at Cranks. To our surprise, the place had been cleaned and was in pretty good condition.

Last year it had taken us a few hours to clean. All we had to do was make a final sweep and unload the kitchen items and food items from the truck for the kitchen. The kitchen crew was headed up by Monica Krummen (youth). She and her crew got busy cleaning and rearranging and stacking the shelves. A list of required food items was made up for the fresh food run. Meanwhile, the others unloaded the personal items from the truck. While this was happening, the bunk house crew was cleaning and rearranging the quarters. There are a total of 30 bunks that have a sleeping capacity for 60 people. Monica's kitchen crew had the meal ready at about 7:00 PM. Again this year the first night's meal consisted of lasagna, bread sticks and salad. We finished the meal and had a nice prayer service. Tomorrow will be a busy day. This year the students will be getting out of school at 12 PM instead of the normal 3:00 PM. We will also be delivering shoes to a head start school and slippers to a home for the aged. Most folks were in bed by midnight. As usual, several of the teens and a couple of the adults stayed up until 2-3.

#### Day 2, Friday, December 17, 1999 5:00 AM:

Good morning. As usual, I am the first one to rise. We learned a hard lesson last year by putting our kitchen supplies with the items that were off loaded at the distribution center. We remembered it well this year. Thanks to the advance work of Deacon Kruse, I plugged in the coffee maker and got a shave and shower. Once finished, I enjoyed my first cup of coffee and began

the wake up duties. I have a list of those who need extra time to get pretty or something like that. My wife and daughter are among the early risers.

We were all ready to depart at 8:00 AM. We will be delivering over 1000 pairs of shoes and slippers by day's end. We left for Evarts Elementary School. 8:30 AM: We arrived and began unloading the boxes of shoes that contained the carefully labeled bags of shoes. They were marked so we could easily deliver them to the correct classrooms. As with previous years, several of the shoes did not fit, mostly due to growth spurts and incorrect listing of sizes. It is amazing how many of the students move in and out of the schools. The students and adults were receiving early Christmas gifts. Those gifts were in the guise of smiles and appreciative thank you's from the children. Some of these children will not see another new pair of shoes until we come there again next year. How sad! There was one student that knew only sign language. He was all excited and admittedly getting kind of loud. He wanted his shoes. Fortunately one of our teens knew sign language and was able to assist us in understanding him. There are many other stories too numerous to mention. 12:00 Noon: We had finished delivering the shoes. Most of the

group went to the nursing home to deliver the slippers that were so generously donated by RG Berry. We gave them to the administrator for later distribution. The group spent some time visiting the folks there. Some of the children had never been to a home like this. It was a very good experience for young and old alike. There was a 102 year old lady there who recited a couple of long poems for the group. They were amazed by her memory. We sang a few Christmas Carols and then left for the survival center. We arrived back at about 1:30 PM. We had sandwiches and then proceeded to go back to the distribution center to begin to organize the areas for distribution. We finished around 4:30 PM and went back to the Center for a well deserved dinner. Once again the kickin' Kitchen Krew had done a superb job. We were able to finish eating and go to Harlan for a well deserved Movie break. Most folks went to see Sleepy Hollow. A few stayed back to study for tests at school. Daniel DeMatte, Nick Schubert, and Shelly Raymond. They were part of the advance crew that had to go back on Saturday so they could be ready for the finals at St. Charles and Bishop Hartley High Schools. Another crew, Tracy and Mary-Lloyd went on an adventure to Payless shoes in Tennessee. That's right, Tennessee. It seems that most of the shoes that did not fit came from a Payless and it would be easier to exchange them at a Payless. The closest one was about an hour away in Tennessee. They were successful and only had to purchase about one hundred dollars worth of shoes. Great shoppers. They also picked up a birthday cake for Nick Shubert. Once again Nick had his birthday on the trip. A beginning of an annual tradition.

**9:30 PM:** More Down time: This was prayer and social time. CJ Strange, 21 yearold volunteer from Indiana, surprised us with a very inspirational song that she had composed. After the song, we had cake for Nick and then had the customary prayer service. It is getting late (11:30) and it is about beddy bye time. Most folks hit the pillows except for a chosen few who like the night life, including Mary Jane (DRE). Tomorrow, the work crew should be arriving around 3:30 PM. Comraderie and social interaction with the students is great! Everyone has made many new friends and memories. The addition of **Brother Deacon Kruse** to the trip has been a real big plus. His coffee making skills are enormously appreciated. His stories about the flying Christmas tree and amazing decorations are becoming legendary by now. Please ask anyone who traveled with the advance crew to expound. It is rumored that the Bobby Simpson's radio controlled car is still travelling down I 75 toward Knoxville. I hope the ever ready batteries hold out. Seriously, his spiritual leadership was a big addi-

tion to the trip. He also assisted in setting up an 8:00 AM Sunday mass at the Catholic Church in Harlan. Thanks again **Brother Deacon Kruse**

### **Day 3, Saturday, December 18, 1999**

Once again, I am up before 5:00 AM. Coffee, plugged in, shower and shave and the customary wake up list. All are ready to go at 8:00 AM. The work begins in earnest today. Dan Silva (veteran of about 8 trips to Cranks Creek) is the big organizer of the work crews, I am proud of the way the students and adults alike worked together. The Kitchen Krew once again prepared the lunch and dinners. They also worked very hard at the work site. We had more popcorn and puffed rice crispies than I had ever seen in my entire life. We had oodles of noodles. Thanks to the organizational work done by **Brother Len Fotica** and his team at Hermann Hall, the work went smoothly and we were able to sort out all the food that we had unloaded from the 24 foot truck. Mary-Lloyd (my wife) and the other three freshmen had to head back around noon. We really missed their company and hard work the rest of the trip. The other team arrived with horns tooting at about 3:15 PM. Oh boy, more strong backs and arms to assist in the work. There were three 15 passenger vans and another truck and a load of blankets from the Pickerington High School and Wendolyn Church. Drivers were, Larry Schalk, Larry Flaus, Juan Carlos Maymir, and Jim Keobler. There were a total of 42 more people in this group. Once the luggage was unloaded, this group settled in. Unfortunately there seemed to be a shortage of bunk space. Luckily, we were able to sort this out and only one person had to sleep on the floor (it wasn't too uncomfortable). The other group began to unload the fruit and vegetables that had been picked up by Larry Schalk on Friday. 6:00 PM: Since we had such a large group, we had to break up into two groups for dinner. Once again, Krumman's Kitchen Krew performed splendidly. We were finished with dinner by around 8:00 PM. We had a short prayer service and all settled in to their sleeping areas. Not for sleeping, but for cards, games and the like. Some did get to sleep by around 1 AM. Most were in bed in time for me to get up and do the routine over again.

**Day 4, Sunday, December 19, 1999:** This time, the coffee pot was not ready. I was beginning to miss Deacon Kruse. We managed and we were able to get the first group to church in time for the 8:00 AM Mass. The other group got up and was there for the 9:30 Mass and the 10 folks from Rosehill church attended their service at around 10:30. The groups were broken up into two groups for meals and for work crews. There was plenty of work to be done. The hams were picked up and would remain on the truck. We didn't want to move anything more that it had to be moved. Most of the heavy items were either

moved to the trucks or were moved to a distribution room at the Crank's distribution center. You would have been amazed at the efficiency of the groups. All work was done by not later than 6:00 PM. Both groups had dinner and we were ready for the gift exchange by 8:00 PM. We had a great time with the exchange game. We were finished by about 10:30 PM. Time for bed. Tomorrow will be a hectic day. It will begin early for many folks. We need to be at the site by 7:00 AM. Again, sleep is hard to come by.

### **Day 5, Monday, December 20, 1999: 5:00**

**AM:** Once again, I am the first one awake. The wake up list is huge and by the time I wake up the first team, most everyone else is awake. I have a hard finding people in the night. I am not too quiet. When we get to the site by 7:00 AM, we are not surprised to find that a long line had already formed. We find out that someone had been in line since 2:30 AM. Wow! All was ready. We had folks lined up for traffic control at the intersection and in the parking lot. The State Police were on site to help. The walkie talkies were a big help in communicating with all concerned. Bottle necks were quickly resolved. We got all ready and then proceeded to the Christmas Carols. This was a good mood enhancer and warm up for the crowd and the crew. This year, we had a Santa and an added surprise. Connie Strange, CJ's mother, sang and entertained for most of the day. She has a couple of recordings. Jim Keobler was talked into being the Santa. I found out later that he had a great time. By the end of the day at 3:00 PM, we had given out over 700 blankets, 620 food baskets and countless toys. Each family had at least one 3 pound ham, some received two 3 pound hams. The total food baskets was up 180 over last year. More people must have had a hard year. What an awesome and tiring experience. The Rosehill group departed around 3:00 PM. They really wanted to stay but had committed to leave and return to Ohio that night. The pull of the mountain is that great. Don Miller and his daughter and his minivan full of youth also left. We were totally cleaned up by 4:00 PM. Dinner was around 5:00 PM. Once again, we ate in two groups. At about 7:30, we had a beautiful candle light service. We started out in total darkness. Each person was to light their candle and tell of their experience. Amanda's story was really touching. She had tears from the beginning to the end. Everyone had tears. She captured the mood for all. We were all so tired that emotions flowed freely. Even the guys shed some tears. Dan Silva expressed his love for the people of Cranks Creek and he also noted that he enjoyed being with his younger brother, Chris, and sis-

ter, Michele. He told them how much it meant for him to have them at Cranks and how much he loved them. As in the Christophers (It is better to light one little candle than to curse the darkness.) of old, the room got brighter as each candle was lit. What a wonderful group of youths we have. You should all be proud of them. I know that I am. After Midnight. To bed except for some who stayed up real late.

**Day 6: Tuesday December 21, 1999:** Rats, I was not the first up. The only way they could get up earlier than me was to stay up all night. And stay up all night, they did. They were busy though. They cleaned up the bathrooms and the kitchen. What a group. Most folks got up around 6:00 AM. We were ready by 8:10 and we were on our way. We left the areas better than we had found them. That's my rule in life. Leave it better than you find it. We met up with the Schalks at Burger King. We gassed up and proceeded to leave for Pickerington. We had a wonderful trip back. The weather had turned sharply colder and it felt like Christmas was upon us. We arrived home around 4:00 PM (4:18 to be exact).

**Epilogue:** This year's trip to Crank's Creek was my best ever (my third). It was made extra special because my wife and daughter could both participate. The big thing about this trip is the fact that the youth did most of the planning, work and troubleshooting themselves. It is a great life experience for the youth. Leaders emerged when we needed them. In particular, Dan Silva, Pat Foley and Monica Krummen. I will not mention the others here lest I forget one. I think that you parents can be very proud of your sons and daughters. They performed like a well oiled machine. They worked 16-20 hour days, they visited the sick, the homeless, the hungry, the infirmed. They did it with a smile on their faces and with very deep compassion. We have a lot to be thankful for as we enter the new millennium.

I would like to thank **Brother Len Fotica** for his many hours of work helping to organize the food items. For helping with the covered dish, and for helping by providing the first aid kits for the vehicles. I would also like to thank my wife and daughter for being patient with me. The steering committee met to plan this trip back in late August. Since then, we have spent many, many hours of planning and, to be frank, difficult work in organizing the Crank's Creek project. My many thanks to each and every one of them. Also thanks to all the other Brother Knights who came out and helped. Thanks for the three hundred dollar donation that helped defray the cost of one of the 15 passenger vans. **God bless us, everyone.**

## Chancellor's Challenge

So now that Christmas is past many of us have a letdown. It only follows that after every exciting time there is a down side. Sometimes we experience a tragedy that may affect ourselves or one of our loved ones. Now, that can be a severe downer and we may feel so bad that we think God shouldn't have let this happen to us or our loved ones.

I recently read a book entitled *Disappointment With God*; by Philip Yancy. I will gladly lend you the book if you would like to read it. Yancy asks the questions that no one seems to ask out loud. "Is God unfair?" "Is God Silent?" "Is God Hidden?" And I'm sure that you have heard someone say, "why did God let this terrible thing happen?" after a school shooting is the news of the day.

The fact is that whether you believe that man evolved from a lower being or he was created as the Book Genesis tells us, humans are unique in that we have the to exercise freedom of choice. And doesn't follow that the choice will always be good.

If God would stop a tragedy from happening then we would not be free to make choices. Or to put it another way, what if God would only let us make good decisions? If that were true, would atomic reactions be a source of energy? The development of atomic energy was so important to our country because our way of life could have been eliminated during World War II. But as a result of its use thousands perished in Hi-

roshima. What side would God have taken in that case? Was God silent allowing that to happen?

World War II was started by one person who chose a course of action to prove that his people were a superior race. The free world took action to stop this aggression by any means possible. That was also a choice. The weaponry that was developed on both sides was designed to destroy both the infrastructure and the military and civilian personnel. Was God hidden in this case?

God sent his only Son Jesus to teach us to choose the way of life that all people should follow. What more can He do? Jesus was not silent, was not hidden, and Jesus was never unfair. Jesus was here to teach us a way of life. And after He taught us He left us humans with the choice of following Him. Each of us in our own special way have the ability to be an evangelist by our actions, our words and by our deeds.

There will always be accidents and diseases that seem unfair. But certainly there would be no wars or school shootings if humans would follow the second greatest commandment that Jesus taught us, "Love thy neighbor as thyself." Wouldn't that be a great choice? We have the human ability to choose!

Bud Joos, Chancellor

## Knight Light: Birthdays



**THE FOLLOWING KNIGHTS WILL CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY:**

**Mike Barnett**  
**Tim Bowie**  
**Vincent DeLucia**  
**Al Glanzman \*\*\*\***  
**Jerry Grosso**  
**Mike Hammerle**  
**Ed Koegler**  
**Peter Kowalski \***  
**Tim Lucas**  
**Dave McAllister**  
**Mark Prestifilippo \***  
**Anthony Sheck**  
**Joe Sheridan**  
**Todd Spires**

**\* Milestone**  
**\*\*\*\* Special Congratulations to you, Al!**

**REMEMBER: BIRTHDAY KNIGHTS SHOULD MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT FOR ADORATION AND MASS THIS MONTH ON JANUARY 7TH.**

## Pancake Breakfast

The Pickerington Knights of Columbus Council 11187 will hold a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, January 9th, 2000, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The breakfast will be served at Seton Parish's Bishop Herrmann Hall, on Hill Road in Pickerington.

The donation is \$4 per adult, \$2 for children 12 and under. The price includes:

- ◆ All you can eat of pancakes
- ◆ An order of sausage
- ◆ All you can drink of orange juice, coffee, and milk.

All are welcome! All proceeds are donated to charitable causes.

Please tell all your friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc., about this event. Also, please call Bud Joos at 614-837-7211 to volunteer.



## Free Throw Contest



The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest has been scheduled for Sunday, January 23rd at the Junior High School. Yes, it's the same day as the Superbowl, but the

games doesn't start till later that evening. Sign in is at 1:30; competition is 2:00-4:00 PM. Boys and girls 10-14 are eligible.

Spread the word among your friends with kids that age, and plan on entering your own kids.

Because of the large number of kids expected, Chairman John Morrison will be using the side baskets in addition to the end baskets. **John will need plenty of volunteers.** Call John Morrison at 614-837-6946 for information or to volunteer.



## Around The Council

### Thanks, Monsignor Hawkins

Those of you who know Monsignor Hawkins also know that he enjoys golf. The Knights of Columbus Council 11187 wanted to show it's appreciation for the Monsignor since his time with the parish will end next year. J. B. Boblett organized a campaign to raise money for a special going-away gift. Time was short, since the Monsignor goes on a golf trip early each year. The left picture below shows J. B. presenting a Taylor Made driver to Monsignor Steve. J. B. made a short speech of thanks, then signaled for Steve Walter to bring in the rest of the gift, which was the rest of the set of Taylor Made woods and irons, along with a lightweight carry bag.

Monsignor Hawkins thanked the group, and acknowledged that his appointment as Monsignor was

due in large part to the good works of the parish, and of the Knights. He also said that "you must really like me, because you gave Father Dennis a *chalice* when he left". We all gave the Monsignor the "golf blessing" that the clubs would hit long and straight.

J. B. would like to thank all the Knights whose generous contributions allowed us to purchase the full set of clubs. J. B. had discovered that this was the "dream set" that Monsignor Hawkins wanted, and spent a lot of time finding the perfect match.

### First Degree

January 17th will be the initial First Degree ceremony in the year 2000. Please plan on attending both to help welcome the new Knights and to renew your appreciation of the ceremony. Our guys do a great job!

### Monte Carlo Night

On February 26th from 8 PM to midnight the council will hold it's first Monte Carlo Night. We will need for everyone to pass the word on this — the more people that attend, the better a fund-raiser this will be.

We will need a lot of help with this. Brother Joe Rossi said he may have lessons for the dealers to make sure everyone knows how to deal for all the games. This could be a great money-maker for the council, so please participate if you can.

### Clippers Tickets

Brother Len Fatica will be our contact person for Clippers tickets this year. The council benefits from the purchase, and the tickets are a great deal. More info will be forthcoming in February.



Monsignor Hawkins admires his new driver. J. B. Boblett, Fran Vendetta, and Steve Walter look on.

After making him think the driver was the entire present, the full set of clubs and the golf bag were presented to the Monsignor.

## Around the Council some more...

### Fourth Degree

Brother Charlie Giametta wants to remind all the eligible 3rd Degree Knights that the Southern Ohio District Fourth Degree Exemplification will be held April 7, 8, and 9th, 2000, at the Crown Plaza Hotel in downtown Dayton, Ohio. All Third Degree Knights that have been Knights for at least 6 months are eligible (over 60 in the council!).

Since the application has to be read at two 4th Degree meetings, time is running short!

The Exemplification fee is \$65, which includes the Banquet for the Candidate. You can obtain an application form from Charlie, who can also answer all your questions. Charlie pointed out that since the application has to be read at two 4th Degree meetings, time is running short! Please call Charlie at 864-8414 as soon as possible.

### Transferrals

Martin H. Davis and Robert S. Niemi have applied for transfer into Council 11187. Please welcome our two brand new "experienced" Knights!

### Correction

I incorrectly labeled all birthdays in last month's newsletter as November birthdays. They were all December birthdays. I apologize for making you all one month

older for a while! Joe Drignat

### Clergy Appreciation Night

A Clergy Appreciation Night will be held on February 20th at the Villa Milano Restaurant on Schrock Road. We are sponsoring Monsignor Hawkins, Father Dwayne, and Deacon Dave. Knights may attend for a \$25 fee.

### Jubilee 2000

RCIA is asking for four Knights to volunteer to pass collection baskets among about 10,000 people who will be attending this event at St. John's arena. You will not have to stay for the entire event. Please see Grand Knight Fran Vendetta for more information.

### Thank-You

The Council gave a box of cookies to the Church office staff to thank them for all their help throughout the year.

### Visits to the Sick

Monsignor Hawkins asked Brother Bud Joos to help set up this program. Bud will be asking for volunteers to help visit parishioners who are in the hospital or at home suffering from illness. Please seriously consider helping to comfort our friends through difficult times.

### St. Lawrence Haven

Brother Larry Van Orman reports

that the St. Lawrence Haven needs soap and other toilet articles. Please call Larry for more information.

### March for Life

Please call Dick Peterson for more information about this Pro-Life event in Washington, DC, on January 24th. There are currently 26 open slots.



Have a Happy  
New Year!