

# CHARLES H PHILLIPS

K of C COUNCIL 14351 RANDOLPH, VERMONT

## THE GK'S MESSAGE

### Brother Knights and Worthy Sir Knights:

This month our council is going to be busy. First we have our regular meeting, which is being visited by our State Deputy Florian Wawrzyniak. I ask that everyone who attends the meeting to please be mindful of our State Deputy and his office. I also ask that all officers to please dress accordingly.

One thing on this month's agenda is a fundraiser. We as a council need to come up with some sort of fundraiser. With only a few months left in the fraternal year, we need to do something. I know we can come up with something that *we all* can agree on.

The following Tuesday we will be hosting the Charles W. Jasman Assembly meeting.

The last thing our council will be doing this month will be holding a First Degree on Feb. 20. This will be the first time we have held a degree in almost a year. This will also be a special occasion as Fr. Ken from Bethel is hoping to take his First Degree with the Cadets from Norwich. I encourage all of you to attend the degree.

This month's meeting will be held on February 8. Dinner will be at 6 pm prepared by Emile Fredette, Jr. and John Mahaffy. The meeting will follow at 7 pm. I look forward to seeing you there.

*Vivat Jesus,*

*Thomas Herbst, Jr., G.K.*

# Habit and the Dumbing-down of America

There's nothing wrong with habits; in fact, we'd be in a world of hurt without 'em. Without habits, we would be forced to constantly check the pros and cons of all possible reactions to the multitude of stimuli encountered every moment of the day. Habits allow us to respond to mundane things almost "without thinking," as the saying goes, and this quasi-automatic response pattern is not only an integral part of the learning process, it is the way the human mind functions on all levels of consciousness.

As an example, look out the window at a tree. You don't have to think about it; you know it's a tree. Now, keep looking at that tree and begin thinking about all the things you *know* about that tree . . . and all the things you know about trees . . . all the things you can remember about trees . . . all the related ideas and images that come to mind. All those thoughts and countless more were at your fingertips the moment you saw the tree, but, because habit allowed you to recognize the concept without consciously thinking "tree," you were able to choose to go on with your life with a barely noticeable pause.

The same holds true for every aspect of knowledge. The problem with this time-saving process, however, is that, simply because we no longer consciously consider them each time a choice must be made, the truths upon which our habits of response are predicated can easily be forgotten or, in these days of sophisticated "advertising" (also known as propaganda, brainwashing, etc.), may be as easily gradually altered or replaced by seemingly similar but radically opposed ideas. As a result of a century of carefully orchestrated effort, the basic tenets of many Americans have been diametrically changed – so much so that the concept of life itself has become for them an abstract, meaningless idea, and freedom is synonymous in their minds with no longer having to work for a living.

It is important that those basic truths we take for granted be revisited and relearned periodically, lest our habits – *which can indeed be insidiously altered by the techniques and technology available today* – rather than our reasoned faith, gradually assume control of our lives as they have in the lives of so many others.

God bless America!

# THE INSURANCE CORNER

Dear Brother Knight,

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Christopher Kane and I have been assigned as the Field Agent for your council.

Born and raised in Newport, New Hampshire, I graduated from Newport Middle High School, attended Springfield College, and recently earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Franciscan University of Steubenville. I am a Third Degree member of the Order and will be taking my Fourth this coming spring. As your full-time Knights of Columbus Field Agent, I look forward to serving you and your family with the many insurance benefits that are available to you exclusively as a Brother Knight. Our top-rated insurance products have been designed to meet the needs of our families, while at the same time providing the safety and security our members deserve.

Although I plan to call on each member, please accept this letter as an invitation for you to contact me. I will be glad to answer any questions you may have regarding Knights of Columbus Annuities, Long-term Care Insurance, or Life Insurance. I can be reached by mail, phone, or e-mail and have included my contact information below. I look forward to speaking with you soon. Take care and God Bless.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

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The C.H. Phillips Council Newsletter  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tuesday 2/8	6:00 PM	Spaghetti Supper
	7:00 PM	<b>Council meeting</b> w/ State Deputy
Tuesday 2/15	7:00 PM	Assembly Meeting here
Sunday 2/20	3:00 PM	First Degree Installation

## POPE BENEDICT'S FEBRUARY PRAYER INTENTIONS

Pope Benedict XVI has designated February the Month of the Holy Family

**General Intention:** That the family may be respected by all in its identity and that its irreplaceable contribution to all of society be recognized.

**Missionary Intention:** That in the mission territories where the struggle against disease is most urgent, Christian communities may witness to the presence of Christ to those who suffer.