



# “The Compass”

*Social Distancing, Edition #2*

**Knights of Columbus  
Monsignor George Lewis Smith  
Council No. 3684  
Assembly No. 1074**

**“A Catholic, Family, Fraternal, Service  
Organization”**

**July-August, 2020**

**Meetings: Council No. 3684, 7:30PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesdays; Assembly No. 1074, 7:30PM, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Wednesday**

**Bingo every Monday, 7:00PM, Columbus Club  
Hall, 1003 Spaulding Dr., Aiken, South Carolina  
29803**

*All events/meetings have been  
suspended until further notice.*

## **Current Council #3684 Officers**

Grand Knight	Richard Hesson
Deputy GK:	Craig Burgess
Chancellor:	Stephen Baris
Warden:	Frank Novotny
Recorder:	Mark D. Kranjc
Treasurer:	Charles R. Goergen
Advocate:	John Kvartek
Inside Guard:	Andy Colquitt
Outside Guard:	Mike Pawley
Financial Secretary:	Jim Loftis

1 <sup>st</sup> year Trustee:	Kevin O’Donnell
2 <sup>nd</sup> year Trustee:	Thomas N Baker
3 <sup>rd</sup> year Trustee:	David Didimamoff
Lecturer:	Max Gorensk
District Deputy:	Ed Wilcox

## **Grand Knight’s Message**

I am writing this from our rented condo in New Smyrna Beach, FL and enjoying a much-needed holiday. This first week we went to the beach, relaxed in the pool, I read a James Patterson book, went to a flea market as well as running a few laps at Daytona International Speedway (pics attached). And we have two more weeks to go! We plan to hit the casino, take an evening cruise and watch the launch of Space X Falcon 9 Starlink-9 this evening.



*GK Report Continued.*

I say this to show life is still vibrant and going on even as 2020 seems to be one for the history books. We are still living life albeit with more caution. We wear masks and practice social distancing when we visit places. We talk to new friends (strangers become friends with a new beginning) and get their insight on their opinion of current events. Everyone we met agrees the actions of a few do not reflect those of the many. I have not met anyone who supports the minority and everyone wants to work towards healing this great land. Collectively, we can do this and I encourage everyone, in their action and words, to strive to do their part in this process. The miracle attributed to Father McGivney, clearing his way to beatification, should serve as inspiration today as it did yesterday and tomorrow. The council has been meeting via Zoom and will continue to do so until we are comfortable with meeting in person and it is safe to do so, Until then, please join us during our regularly scheduled meetings on Wednesday at 7:30pm with the next being held July 8th. Invitation will be sent via email and posted on Facebook page. These virtual meeting has also allowed us to see some faces who are not able to join us at the Columbus Club since they live outside of South Carolina. Please take care and until we meet again,

Vivat Jesus

Brother Richard Hesson

## **2020-2021 Officers of K of C Assembly #1074**

Faithful Navigator	Dan Mefford
Faithful Captain	Joe Deskovitch
Faithful Pilot	Jim Dalsanto
Faithful Purser	Bill Collins
Faithful Comptroller	Max Gorenssek
Faithful Scribe	Mark Kranjc
Faithful Inner Sentinel	Richard Hesson
Faithful Outer Sentinel	Bernie Girouard
Faithful Admiral	Ed Cordes
Faithful Trustee 3yr	Charles Goergen
Faithful Trustee 2yr	Randall Brown
Faithful Trustee 1yr	Wayman Johnson
Faithful Friar	Rev. Gregory Wilson

## **Faithful Navigators Log**

Fellow Sir Knights and Brother Knights,

As we end this fraternal year, I want to take the opportunity to thank all the members of the Assembly and Council that make our organization a success. It has been, and continues to be, an honor and privilege to serve as Faithful Navigator. Also, I would like to thank all the Sir Knights that continue to support our Assembly by attending the online virtual meetings conducted via Zoom. Let us pray together that we will have the opportunity soon to resume our face to face meetings and enjoy the comradery that is so important to all of us. Our new fraternal year starts July 1<sup>st</sup> and I ask that all Brother and Sir Knights support our returning and new officers as you have done in the past. Our namesake, Christopher Columbus needed help on occasion to navigate dangerous weather and treacherous waters - please pray that our leadership teams also

receive divine guidance as we navigate through these difficult circumstances.

Have a safe and healthy summer, especially if you plan to travel.

Vivat Jesus!

SK Dan Mefford, FN

**Please Note: Information for the September-October 2020 issue of The Compass will be due to me by Frida, August 21st please.**

**Please send any pictures/news items to my email address, [rvisotski@gmail.com](mailto:rvisotski@gmail.com). Please do not text or use my old, no longer used, @kofc.org address. If able, please include pictures as separate jpegs and not embedded in a Word doc.**

## **Columbus Club**

Submitted by Mark Szymanski



## **Membership**

\*Repeat...Remember, once the club opens back up, to get your Columbus Club Membership Card for 2020.....It's only a \$1.00 and makes us compliant with the State in the bar area. Plus you must sign-in when entering the Bar area. Tips are always welcomed. Thanks for your cooperation and Tips !!

## **Fish Fry's**

\* *Repeat* ..... It was with heavy fish guts that some China Virus snuck into the USA, making people sick across the USA and we had to cancel the last two Fish Fry's. The CC Club (CC) will **Make the Fish Fry's Great Again**, hopefully later this year. Please note that anyone who had bought tickets can **get their money back** or use the \$10.00 Donation Tickets on upcoming events when dates are set for future BBQ or future Fish Fry's or Oktoberfest. So don't worry, the CC Club (CC) will somehow make you Happy!!

## **Pig Roast/BBQ**

\* Due to Brother Knights practicing their Pig Hollering Voices, the BBQ gods, under (CC) Craig Burgess are **Making the BBQ Great Again** with limiting seating in the (CC) bar area, but a drive thru pick up service is scheduled for Saturday July 18th, 2020. An e-mail flyer has been sent out to all knights with the details. Also look in the church bulletin. There is also more complete information found on the last page of this issue of The Compass.

## **Oktoberfest**

\* *Repeat*..... Start thinking and singing, Beer Fest in 2020. By the time the beer ingredients are grown, the beer crafted and aged, the Oktoberfest will be here and the virus will be gone. Where have you heard that line before? The (CC) will make the Oktoberfest great again. Date TBD.

## Rummage Sales

\* *Repeat*.....The rummage sale pick ups etc again are on hold due to the Virus ..**But Remember did I say *Repeat*** " the (CC) will **Make the Rummage Sales Great Again**. It takes many volunteers to obtain, pick-up, store, organize the sales. So study up on volunteering and be ready for the return to reality. There is also the rumor that the “Marion The Great,” is retiring as Rummage Sale Organizer/Head Pricer etc....so if you think you got what it takes contact the (CC) President, Dennis Fraser. PS: Those that help, get insight to what’s there and special basement pricing. Please help and read this again in case you missed anything.

## Bingo

\* *Repeat*.....Bingo was doing well, but due to the virus, it has been shut down. Bingo is a primary source of revenue for (CC) operations. Hopefully in the near future the bingo games will resume. Super Knight/Jim Loftis, Bingo Manager, "**Will Make Bingo Great Again**". SK Loftis has had several Bingo Captain meetings for expressed concerns and some communication with the S.C. State Bingo Commission. (CC) will resume Bingo when released in the future following formal guidelines. Please use Positive Bingo thinking and *Bingo !! Bingo will be a (CC) Winner Again !!*

## Rentals

\* Repeat--the Virus has shut down Rentals until further notice.

## Work Activities

\*\* Note Limited Volunteers used best Social Distancing Possible to accomplish some work as follows:

\* Tom Demasi "Bucket List" work day was a success at Tom's home. Krvartek (Lead), Driscoll, Alejo, Meffford, Loftis, Brown and Tillman talked with Tom and family. It was “Good Feeling Work Day” with conversation, fellowship, prayers, lunch and "Brother Dirt Work". Brother Krvartek continues to mow each Fri and will call for help as needed.

\* Chuck Goergen gave the (CC) bushes and hedges a haircut....Jim Loftis gave the (CC) lawn a manicure for Fathers Day.  
Thanks, Chuck and Jim

\* One new countertop/service window for the Kitchen, along with raising the three deep sinks has been completed by Brother Knights Monahan, Fraser and Ski. Additional work will be done once money/donations/materials start pouring in. Think sunshine on a rainy day.

\* Replacing the entry carpet or applying a coating system is still and will remain on the "Wish List" along with new flooring in the Kitchen area. (Donor/Sponsor needed)

\* Home-Works under Brother Knight Stoner will continue, once the “hold” on work due to the virus is lifted. Tune in and watch for updates in the church bulletin, newspapers,

TV and radio. Sponsors/donations/workers all make it a great success each and every year. Stay tuned for details.

\*Brother Knights Driscoll, Alejo, Tillman are working the church/school projects, including but not limited to: D-&-R of the St Mary Boyd Hall bath rooms, proposed St Mary School fencing/sand box and sink hole, and cleaning out the recently purchased Youth Center building at the corner of Richland and Fairfield.

\* Misc. work at the Columbus Club Club/church/school is slow and limited not only due to the virus but ***funding*** is also a factor. Volunteers/donations are always welcome. Contact: Mark Szymanski 803-645-1405 to get on the call list.

### **Rumors**

\* The keg/draft beer in the bar is starting to go flat. A few Brother Knights are doing their best not to let it go to waste. Cheers!

\* Please note that the (CC) Hall is being used for Meetings by St Vincent Society while the Diocese has shut down the use of church buildings for meeting until directed otherwise. People working with people.

\* Author unknown..... "But"..... No one has brought a U-Haul to their funeral, yet.....so you can't take your money with you.... Think willingly donations to the Knights of Columbus and associated support facilities, now and in the future.

\* The water line feeding Mother Theresa Bldg. has been replaced and the water is

clear. The roadway has been re-paved and striped accordingly.

\* "Thank God"-----Church Masses have resumed and Brother Knights are assisting in ushering. Pray for each and everyone!

\* Perpetual Adoration has resumed and hopefully prayers are hitting a fever pitch to bring some sanity back into this "Old World".

\* Repeat- If you find that you are OCD in the cleaning department. The CC could be your place to expend energy on a weekly or monthly basis. Solo or group therapy available.

\* Repeat- Mulch Day at the St Mary's Campus in March was canceled and is to be rescheduled.

\* Repeat- Due to the Virus, (CC) sanitizing/bleach and work days at the Columbus Club will be established in near future prior to reopening and anyone wishing to head up a special operation like: pressure washing, painting, fertilizing, tree trimming, filling in road holes, burning etc, please speak up as the more hands we have the more we can get done.

\* Demolition of the yellow bldg.. next to Mother Theresa Hall, has been released by the City. Bradley Plumbing and volunteers will tear it down in the near future, under the direction of Gary Stanley and Pat Wray. Then turn it into what you ask? Possibly a green area, meditation park, or columbarium parking, but time will tell.

\* Repeat- People still getting lost on St Mary's Campus. If someone has the skill / ability to make a map/hand-out (8-1\2 x11) of St. Mary's campus with all the bldgs. and streets noted, it would greatly be a benefit to all old and new parishioners. Just a thought for some Knight to ponder. (Maybe talk to Pat Wray in Church office or maybe not and this item will grow older and be lost with time)

\* St. Vincent Food Pantry has remained open during the virus pandemic and has been accepting Golden Harvest Food Deliveries. Volunteers have been picking up grocery store donations and passing out food to the needy, per Father Wilson's direction. Work force volunteers have been reduced but work remained constant.

\* It's amazing what can be accomplished, when people come and work together.

**AMEN** *Say it again Amen!!!*

### **Lady's Corner**

Carol advised she had nothing to report at this time.

### **Free Throw Tournament**

At this time, formal plans for the annual Free Throw Tournament are on hold because of the virus. Randall Brown is looking at some possible options and updates will be provided as they become available.

### **Blood Drive**

Submitted by Vince Ingrassiotta

We will once again have it at the Aiken Center. The Aiken location is at

Hitchcock Plaza, 353 Fabian Dry, Aiken, SC 29803. Phone: 803-643-7996

Saturday August 15th

Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>

**To help expedite your time in the center we recommend you do the following:**

**~Please call for an appointment and tell them you are donating for St. Mary's. If they do not have a sign in sheet at the desk for St Mary's please ask for it.**

**~Fill out your health questionnaire the day of the drive at**

[www.shepeardblood.org/QuickPass](http://www.shepeardblood.org/QuickPass)

Shepard has recently seen an increase in blood usage and donations have started to decrease.

Your donation is needed now to help support patients in local hospitals.

Our community blood supply is 100% dependent on our volunteer donors like YOU!



Saving Lives takes all types

Please chose to donate!

Thank You.

Vince

## Veterans Outreach

I attended the Quarterly VAVS Committee meeting by way of ZOOM.



During the meeting the needs and wishes of patients in the CLCs (Nursing Home Wards) were presented by the Chief Recreation Department.



Although the committee members are not allowed in the building due to restrictions caused by the coronavirus they are still

providing food and treats.

Assembly 1074 made two deliveries of refreshments, personal care items and magazines for Augusta VA Medical Center CLC (nursing home) Ward 2B. All safety measures recommended are being implemented. A list of items was provided to Sam's and they loaded the vehicle and on delivery our VA contact unloaded the vehicle. There was no need to get out of the vehicle.

The VA is very appreciative of the efforts of the group and reported that we are sorely missed. Things are scheduled to return to normal in phases. Going forward volunteers with pre-existing conditions may be limited by the VA on what they will be allowed to do. This may create a problem as many of the volunteers fall into this category. However, if a vaccine is approved, expectations are things will return to normal.

All this time veterans were restricted to the Wards without visits from family and friends. On June 18 for the first time in weeks the veterans were able to see family members when they drove by in a VA sponsored Parade while they watched. This was a big morale booster for patients in the CLCs as is our deliveries of goods.

SK Wayman Johnson, FDD, PGK, PFN

## Field Agent Report

My name is Daniel Gomes and I am your servicing Knights of Columbus Field Agent. I'm your Brother Knight and as such I wanted to send you a quick note that reflects the posture of the Knights of Columbus and my own commitment to serve you and your family in these unprecedented times.

*continued*

As a framework, I want to employ the five pillars that Supreme Knight Carl Anderson has pointed to as characteristics found in men who, in time of crisis, not only survive but lead.

First, **we remain rooted in the truth of the faith.** We pray for one another, for the sick and the dying, and for the Church and world. In this we remain true to Fr. McGivney's vision of protecting families within the sure tracks of the Catholic faith.

Second, the Knights can be counted on to **step into the breach.** When disasters strike, the Knights are there with prayer and work, supporting first responders, providing shelter and assistance to those affected. This time is no different. Working together, we remain united and strong.

Third, **a Knight stays at his post.** I understand that you have concerns about health, finances, job security, savings, retirement, and these have only increased in these days. I am here to help allay those concerns and to answer any questions you may have.

We are ready **to suffer for the good.** It has fallen to us agents and our Supreme Council leadership to roll up our sleeves and get to work so we can remain effective as we work remotely and maintain social distance. To that end, we are employing new technology that allows us to meet "virtually," using a secure video conferencing software. It allows us to see each other, and to share a

screen that features forms and other graphics.

Finally, **a Knight maintains humble confidence.** My commitment to you, our members and families, remains steady and is built not primarily on my qualifications but on the strength of our Order, which has grown and strengthened over more than 135 years. Our Order is strong and our guarantees remain in place.

**As always, I stand ready to help. If you or anyone you know are in need of assistance of any kind during these trying times, please feel free to contact me at 864.494.7891.**

I have been scheduling Skype appointments with all of my members for annual reviews and anything you need, please email me at [Daniel.gomes@kofc.org](mailto:Daniel.gomes@kofc.org) and I will send you brief instructions to meet via Skype For Business.

Fraternally,

Daniel Gomes

### **Report from the District Deputy**

We know for certain that when this pandemic ends we will not return to yesterday's normal. Social upheaval, although its impetus unrelated, was likely fueled by pent up frustrations from weeks of isolation or the inability to participate in normal activities; and, the stronger emotions may spill over and drive changes in other institutions.

*Continued*

Changes could go beyond those widely reported in the media and we need to guard against unjustified attacks on the Church and our Order. Attacks could be violent or simply passive apathy. Do your part, show society you are proud to be Christian by doing something as simple as wearing a K of C hat or, even better, performing acts of mercy. The Knights of Columbus is here to help us.

Vivat Jesus,

Ed Wilcox, DD

### In Memoriam

*When one our members (current or past) die, I think it would be nice for someone who knew them well to share a few brief thoughts with us. (Trying something new.)*

**Bivian Haggerty,**  
widow of  
SK Don Haggerty

\*

**SK Rick Spencer**  
Submitted by SK Jim Loftis

Rick Spencer was a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree member of our Council & Assembly. He was transferred by Bechtel to Savannah River Site in 1989, as a Quality Assurance Reviewer. He became a First-Degree Knight in 1990 and then a Fourth Degree Knight in 2007. In spite of his disabilities, he was an active supporter of K of C functions.

He was reluctant to leave his friends here but after he retired from the site, he realized

it was best to move to assisted living in Michigan so he would be near his two brothers. A very special going away party was held for him at the Columbus Club in 2012. Rick was loved and respected by many.

It is with a sad and heavy heart that we learned from Rick's brother, Bob Spencer, that our friend passed away Thursday, June 18, 2020. Bob said the last two weeks were very difficult for Rick because of his breathing.

A service will be planned for July in MI.

Please keep Rick's family in your prayers. God bless Rick Spencer.



From Left: Jim Loftis, Chuck Goergen, Rick Spencer, Tom Monahan, Ed Maino

*Eternal rest grant unto them, Oh Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.*

### Some Reflections on Christopher Columbus

Bill Collins

June 29, 2020

*continued*

GK Richard Hesson asked if I would consider writing a piece on Christopher Columbus in light of the current attacks on him and his statues. I am happy to do so.

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We hear of people pulling down statues of Christopher Columbus, and decrying him as a villainous oppressor. What can be said about Christopher Columbus, what he did, and why he seems to be such a lightning rod nowadays?

Many volumes have been written about Columbus, about the European conquest of America, about European, American and world history. I can only scratch the surface.

As a schoolboy, I was taught that Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492. What did that mean? I would now say that Christopher Columbus was the first modern European to establish that a continental land mass lay within sailing distance across the Atlantic to the west. He accomplished this by years of study, perseverance, great courage and determination against a lot of skepticism and opposition. He carefully documented and publicized his discovery, which enabled other Europeans to sail across the Atlantic to the Americas over the succeeding centuries. His was a remarkable accomplishment. For this, he is regarded by Europeans as the discoverer of America, and he has been honored as such in America and Europe.

However, the American continents were already populated by human beings before Columbus's arrival in 1492. These people were of various tribes, nations and civilizations. Sophisticated as some of them seem to have been, they were stone-age people. That is, their tools and weapons were based on the working of stone. They had developed some metalworking, in gold and silver, and perhaps in copper and maybe even bronze, but they had not developed the ability to work iron or make steel. Their most advanced weapons were stone axes, stone knives, stone-tipped spears and arrows.

In comparison, the Europeans of Columbus's day were much more technologically advanced, with iron and steel weapons including firearms, and the ability to build and operate ocean-going sailing ships. The superior technology of the Europeans gave them the ability to conquer and subdue the indigenous stone-age peoples of America. European civilization displaced the civilizations of the indigenous people.

The Europeans brought good to the indigenous people, notably Christianity, and knowledge of modern science and technology. However, Europeans also harmed the indigenous people. European diseases killed great numbers, and some of the Europeans felt no compunction about enslaving and killing the native peoples.

*continued*

In view of this history, it seems hardly surprising that some people would feel resentment toward the European conquerors, and toward Christopher Columbus as a symbol of them.

History is complex. Actions have unintended consequences. Columbus's discovery of America was a major step in developing world-wide commerce, information flow, knowledge, and spread of culture and education, including Christianity. However, as Christians, we have to admit that our human nature is fallen, that we are all sinners, we are not all-wise, we are not God. Human society is complex, and our actions, however well-intended, may have bad consequences as well as good.

Whenever we honor someone as a hero, we focus on what seems heroic in that person's history, and generally overlook their shortcomings and the mixed consequences of their-actions.

Would any of the people now protesting Columbus want to go back to living in the stone age? I doubt it. But I think we should not dismiss their sense of loss and injustice.

What about the name "Knights of Columbus?" Where did that come from? Fr Michael McGivney chose the name in order to promote the idea that Catholic men could be good Americans. At the time, there was a lot of discrimination against Catholics in the United States, in part because the Protestant majority claimed that Catholics owed

allegiance to a foreign power, the Papacy. At the same time, Columbus was generally honored by the Protestant majority as the man who discovered America. Fr McGivney chose the name of Columbus to show that Catholics are good Americans.

As Knights of Columbus, let us keep in mind that our purpose is to promote Catholic values in society. Charity is the foremost principle of our Order, along with Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. Let us keep these principles always at the forefront of our purpose and action.

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**Faithful Navigator Dan Mefford also has some perspective on the current state of affairs.**



(Statute of Christopher Columbus beheaded in Boston, June 2020)

*continued*

### **Why We Honor Christopher Columbus**

Christopher Columbus was not a perfect man but his legacy deserves to be respected. It is dangerous and unfair to judge historical figures by today's standards. Having said that, it is a matter of record that his treatment of the Native Americans at times was horrendous but without a doubt, he *was* a man of character. He was a devout Catholic who led prayers every half-hour on his ship during the journey from Spain to the Americas. He had a stout devotion to the faith and its propagation.

### **We are the Knights of Columbus.**

### **What do we admire about Christopher Columbus?**

While looking for sponsors to help fund his exploration he was turned down by Portugal, France and England and had to lobby King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain for *years* to support his voyage.

### **We admire his tenacity, his perseverance and commitment to what he believed in.**

Most of the educated people of the time believed the Earth was round. What they disagreed on was how big the planet was. Most scholars that the Earth was much bigger than what it actually is. According to their calculations there wasn't a ship big enough to sail the world and carry enough food and supplies. Columbus believed the

Earth was smaller and his ships could make the voyage.

### **We admire his courage to proceed with less than perfect knowledge.**

On his first return trip back to Spain he and his crews had to battle very adverse weather and eventually found safety in the Azore Islands.

### **We admire his leadership, seamanship and navigational skills.**

He wanted profits from his trips to finance a crusade to retake Jerusalem from the Muslims. He encouraged the Pope to send missionaries to the new lands.

### **We admire his faith and his desire to spread the Word**

end

### **Columbus Club Pig Roast & BBQ Additional Information**

**\$10 per plate.**

**Help support our Columbus Club Projects We are offering Drive Through Service to Pick up Orders. Limited indoor seating available—Social Distancing in effect Saturday July 18, 2020 Serving 5pm to 8pm or until gone Columbus Club 1003 Spaulding Drive Aiken, SC Whole or Half BBQ Pork Butts available with RSVP \$30-whole / \$20-half Meal consists of: Pulled pork, baked beans, & coleslaw (Hamburger or hotdog may be substituted for pork sandwich upon request)**

*continued*

**One (1) FREE draft beer for ages 21+ (indoor dining only) Or One (1) soda per ticket. Cash Bar includes: beer, wine, mixed drinks or soda Make Checks payable to the Columbus Club Please RSVP number of plates and pork orders to: Dennis Fraser—803.507.0066 Craig Burgess —803.645.0330 St. Mary's Parish Office—803.649.4777**

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**Let me know what you think of The Compass. Is there anything different I can do to make it better or more interesting?**

**If I missed something or spelled someone's name incorrectly, drop me a line and I'll make sure it is corrected.**

**RJV**