



The Knight Times

St. John's Council #1345, Knights of Columbus
Bergenfield & Dumont – (201) 387-9750
Website: www.kofc1345.org



Meets every first and third Monday of the month at 8:00pm.

ONE NATION UNDER GOD...Be a Proud Catholic American

August - 2015

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE:

First I want to say that it is an honor and a pleasure to serve as the chaplain for the Knights of Columbus, St. John's council #1345.

Many of you know me but some of you may not, thus I thought for this first article I would share a bit of my vocation story with you.

I felt called to the priesthood early on in life, sometime around the age of 8 while I was serving as an altar boy at my parish of St. Veronica's in Howell, N.J. At the age of 14 I applied to and was accepted to a seminary high school. I was due to enter in September, 1983, however, in August, 1983, the school burned to the ground and it was decided that it would not be rebuilt. I took this as a sign from God and went in a different direction for several years.

Fast forward to 2001, I am sitting in my parish of St. Michael's in Cranford, N.J. when the then vocation director for the Archdiocese is introduced and starts to give his vocation talk which I proceeded to ignore thinking in my head that at this point I am too old to enter seminary. Just as the thought ran through my head the priest states that there is a special program for older men so we should not think we are too old to enter the seminary and study for the priesthood. I got the message loud and clear and contacted the vocation director later that day and entered the seminary in September of 2002.

I would like to say that the rest is history, however, the story does not end there; for the transition from the life I was living (good career, my own home etc) to life as a seminarian was not an easy one. I was in all honesty ready to give up on the priesthood and return to my old life by the end of my first year of study when I received a sign not to give up. It came in the form of roses.....which is a story I will tell you in next month's article.....

God Bless you and have a wonderful month,

Fr. Michael

Fr. Michael S.P. Trainor, Chaplain

GRAND KNIGHTS MESSAGE:

It's a great honor for me when I was installed as the new Grand Knight of our great council last July 18. I cannot find words to express my deep appreciation and thanks to all of you my brothers who bestowed your trust in me in leading our council this coming year.

I would like to thank all of you who attended the mass held at St. John the Evangelist Church officiated by Msgr. Richard Arnolds, assisted by Fr. Tony Kuizon and Fr. Gustavo Alfaro. It was a great installation event. Thanks to our Worthy District Deputy Chuck Hollis and District Warden Lou Pidi who did a great job in installing all the officers with the help of Bishop O'Connor Assembly Color Corps.

The dinner dance was a huge success with great food spread prepared by our chef Jerry Passano and Mayor Jim Kelly with the help of several of our brothers who volunteered their time as kitchen helpers, dishwashers, waiters, and bartenders. Preparation of the food was administered by our never tiring Advocate/Columbian Club President, Phil Fredericks. Thanks to all of you my brothers who made the night a very memorable one for me, my co-officers, brothers, Sister Columbiettes, relatives and friends.

We had a great music played by The Perfect Timing Band with guests dancing to the tune of 50's, 60's, 70's and 80's music.

I would like to thank especially my wife and children for their understanding of the time and effort I have been doing for our council.

Once again, I am hoping for unity amongst all of us. None of us is as good as all of us. We all know that together, we can accomplish far more than any of us could do individually. Let's stick and support one another. We may have differences in opinion, but it doesn't mean we should not be united.

God Bless us all!!!

Vivat Jesus,
Lauro Rivera
Grand Knight

2015-2016 Officers, Chairmen, Directors, & Auxiliaries
of the Family of St. John's Council #1345

Council Officers 2015-2016

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Chaplain Emeritus: | Rev. John F. Murray | 201-567-0450 |
| Chaplain: | (open) | |
| Grand Knight | Lauro Rivera | 201-315-0456 |
| Deputy GK: | Frank Gallacher | 201-957-2683 |
| Chancellor | Frank Polise | 201-370-0547 |
| Warden | Ken Armellino | 551-795-7480 |
| Recorder | Gerry Flood | 201-873-8054 |
| Treasurer | William Horn | 201-385-7652 |
| Advocate | Phil Fredericks, PGK | 201-321-6695 |
| Financial Secy: | G. DiCostanzo, PGK | 201-338-2617 |
| Inside Guard | Kevin Sheridan | 201-566-8194 |
| Outside Guard I | John Racanelli | 201-206-6425 |
| Outside Guard II | Bob Truppe | 201-988-2289 |
| Trustee 1 yr. | B. Bochicchio, FDD, PGK | 201-385-9015 |
| Trustee 2 yr. | Dave Benson, PGK | 201-385-1839 |
| Trustee 3 yr | Steve Martin, PGK | 201-262-2764 |
| Lecturer | Dr. Geoffrey Sadock | 201-387-0240 |
| Insurance Agent | John McAvinue | 973-563-0120 |

Council Chairmen & Directors 2015-2016

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Bldg. Maintenance | John Graham | 201-387-0419 |
| Church Activities: | Matt Connell | 201-387-7187 |
| Community Affairs: | Lou Pidi, PGK | 201-707-7253 |
| Council Activities: | Ken Armellino | 516-220-9333 |
| Council Reservation: | Kenneth Armellino | 516-220-9333 |
| Drug Awareness: | Rich Merkovsky, | 201-494-9912 |
| Family Activities: | Frank Polise | 201-370-0547 |
| Feeding Homeless: | John Racanelli | 201-206-6425 |
| Mail Committee: | Dave Benson, PGK | 201-385-1839 |
| Membership: | Frank Polise | 201-370-0547 |
| Newsletter Editor: | G. DiCostanzo, PGK | 201-338-2617 |
| Parish Roundtable: | L. Rivera, GK | 201-315-0456 |
| Program Director: | Frank Gallacher | 201-957-2683 |
| Publicity: | Brian O'Dowd | 201-385-2859 |
| Rel & Civil Rgts: | Tom Ciotti, PGK | 201-424-5472 |
| Respect for Life: | Matthew Connell | 201-387-7187 |
| Retention: | Frank Gallacher | 201-957-2683 |
| Retreat: | Tony Tulli | 732-608-0784 |
| Rosary Hour: | John Scalice | 201-338-2789 |
| Scholarship: | Dr. Geoffrey Sadock | 201-387-0240 |
| Sick & Wake: | Bob Truppe | 201-385-9341 |
| SMA Mission Rep | Matt Connell | 201-387-7187 |
| St. John Church Rep | Ezekiel Osdana | 201-245-3559 |
| St. Mary Church Rep | Ed Kostka | 201-387-9482 |
| Webmaster: | Brian O'Dowd | 201-385-2859 |
| Youth Activities: | John Racanelli | 201-206-6425 |

Twin-Boro Columbian Club Officers

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| President: | Phil Fredericks | 201-321-6695 |
| Vice President: | Lou Pidi | 201-707-7283 |
| Secretary: | Jerry Passano | 201-403-8980 |
| Treasurer: | Mike Cremin | 201-956-2782 |
| Bar: | Phil Fredericks | 201-321-6695 |
| Kitchen: | Jerry Passano & Lou Pidi | 201-403-8980 201-707-7283 |
| Dishwasher: | (open) | |
| Purchasing: | John Orsino | 201-244-5875 |
| Rentals: | Robert DeWald | 201-264-6290 |
| Servers/Waiters: | Frank Gallacher | 201-957-2683 |

Columbiette's Ladies Auxiliary 2015-2016

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| President: | A. Nina DiCostanzo | 201-338-2617 |
| Vice-Pres: | Laura Labetti | 201-387-7479 |
| Secretary: | Michele Sciarino | 201-387-2916 |
| Financial Secy: | Maureen Italiano | 201-916-1404 |
| Treasurer: | Lillian Holmes | 201-342-5142 |
| Sentinel: | Marge Kenter | 201-384-4423 |

Troop #1345 - Boy Scouts 2015-2016

| | | |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| Scoutmaster | Rich Merkovsky | 201-494-9912 |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|

Squires Circle #1622 (inactive)

KNIGHT TIMES NEWSLETTER

Editor: George DiCostanzo, PGK, PFN; Email: papagdc@aol.com.
Photographs courtesy of Brian O'Dowd.
Send correspondence to Editor, 70 Dulles Drive, Dumont, NJ 07628.

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Sick & Wake Report - as of July 20, 2015

Italic indicates new name or a change in condition.

To add a name, contact **Bob Truppe at 201-385-9341**

Members

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| -Ed Orr | -Matt Hayes, PGK |
| -Jack McHugh, Sr. | -John Scalice; |
| -John LaRaia | -Scott Manno, PGK |
| -Dick Dorozynski | -Jim McEntee |
| -John McGill, PGK; | -Tom Trank, PGK |
| -Mike Daly | -Dave Benson, PGK |
| -Bob Dondero, PGK | -Geo DiCostanzo, PGK |
| -Gregg Ryan | -John Dillon, PGK |

Relatives & Friends

-Angie Uvenio, wife of Frank Uvenio;
-Carol Donadio, wife of Rich Donadio;
-Diane Olivo, daughter of PGK G. DiCostanzo.
-Elsa Auth, wife of Bob Auth;
-Fran Gorman, wife of Ray Gorman
-Jonathan Jacobi, Jr., grandson of the late PGK F. Messina;
-Kristi, granddaughter of Frank Uvenio;
-Nunzia, cousin of PGK Geo. DiCostanzo;
-Peggy Brennan, wife of Patrick (Joe) Brennan;
-Teagan Davis, granddaughter of Columbiette Pat Barkley.
-Therese DeFalco Holmes, sister of Eli DeFalco

Wakes

Members: *-Fr. John F. Murray, SMA; Joseph Caldera.*

Relatives & Friends: *Joan Barry, wife of Daniel J. Barry.*

Prayer for Healing

"God, our Father, walk through my house and take away all my worries and illnesses and please watch over and heal my family and friends in God's name, Amen."

Reservations Procedure & Payment

New Chairman & E-Mail

Advanced Payment and Reservations for all of our functions are preferred.

**--Email: kofc1345reservations@gmail.com. OR,
-Call or Text to: Kenneth Armellino at 516-220-9333.**

****Mail your check when you make your reservation**.**

Italian Night - Oct. 2015

"SAVE THE DATE! Italian Night is coming Saturday, October 10, 2015. Join us for one of our most popular events.

The evening will consist of an authentic Italian menu including fresh bread from Addeo's in "da Bronx" as well as live music from the Panarama Band.

Last year's event was filled to capacity, so be sure to get your reservations in early.

Warden Ken Armellino, Chairman

From the News Desk

Birthday wishes to our members and friends celebrating a birthday or a special occasion in August., especially Shannon Martin (daughter of PGK Steve Martin) who turns 17 on August 6.

Congratulations to PGK Steve Martin and his wife Patti, who celebrate 20 years of marriage on August 19.

4th Degree News: Save the dates.....

--November 22, 2015 - Exemplification of the 4th Degree and Military Ball - The Fiesta, Wood-Ridge, NJ

--April 17, 2016 - The Sheraton Tara - Parsippany, NJ (*please note new location of the degree*). Degree honoree is State Deputy Bruce DeMolli.

Deputy Grand Knight Report

Two important council functions will occur during the month of August. The first is a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser and the second is our Corporate Communion.

Just as a reminder, the council remains open for Friday Night Socials during the month of August!!!

DGK Frank Gallacher

Chancellor Report - Membership & Recruitment

Congratulations to the following candidates who took there First Degree on July 14th, Gerald Jordan, Michael Reidy and Armando Garcia.

Second Degree Wednesday, September 16,2015. Our Lady of Mount Virgin Council, Garfield, N.J. Anyone Intrested please contact Frank Polise at 201-370-0547,

Frank Polise, Membership Chairman

Financial Secretary Report

Enjoy your summer, but above all, be safe.

As always, if you need my services, my complete contact information is on the back of the member ID card.

George DiCostanzo, FS, PGK

Respect Life Report

Gentlemen- Again the K of C and naturally the Catholic Church is under pressure regarding LIFE Issues. The SCOTUS has once again suppressed religious freedom- They have taken away states rights i.e. overriding the voters rights to create laws pertaining to their particular states i.e. Marriage regulations such as you cannot marry your first cousin or marry your sister or now your brother. Well that seems to be OK now. In fact a father can now marry his son. CRAZY. I remember when there were state laws against Sodomy. Once the sodomy laws were struck down. Gay Marriage became OK. Pretty soon no more human race. Just read Romans 1 vs 23-28. Will the K of C be able to refuse the use of our hall for a gay wedding??

Christian business are under pressure to cave in to provide services for gay Weddings. I would like to see a gay couple approach a Muslim bakery to make their wedding cake. Would the ACLU represent that gay couple? Only Christian businesses are pressured, fined and put out of business. I can see why Muslim countries hate America. Just look at us. 50 million abortions homosexuality as a separate special class of people. What can we do? Men we must defend LIFE and the Catholic Church. Now is the time to be like St Michael the archangel..

Matt Connell, Respect Life Chairman

Columbiette Auxiliary Report

*"Hot August night and the leaves hanging down
And the grass on the ground smellin' sweet"
Neil Diamond, 1969*

...and the winner is: **"St John's Columbiettes!"**

At the 39th annual Columbiette Convention which was held in June, St John's Columbiettes received the following awards; Founders Award, Light the Way Award (which is for activities) 100% Participation Award for the New Jersey Charity Raffle and 100% Participation Award for the New Jersey Council Columbiette State Support Fund.

A full recap of the convention will be discussed at our first meeting in September, but, here are a few highlights. As of December 31, 2014 the state of NJ has 2272 Columbiettes.

The Memorial Fund sent out over 600 cards. The money raised from this fund was \$5000.00 which goes to the Seminarians and Postulates.

Angel Pins sales and Pennies from Heaven raised \$6500.00. An amount of \$2200 was given to the seminarians. Central Chapter President Mattea Truppe accepted the check for our seminarian, Ernesto Betancourt who was unable to attend.

Backpack Ministry: 802 backpacks collected which were distributed to all 5 Diocese. Along with this 408 binders were donated by St. John's along with Central Chapter. (A big THANK YOU for this goes out to Bogota Savings Bank & Vice President Elect Laura Labetti)

Toiletries Collected: 2101 bags for the homeless
Tab Tops: Tons & Tons, estimated that over ONE MILLION were collected!

Our new President- Elect Nina Di Costanzo will be busy the next few weeks looking for new events and fundraisers for our upcoming new year, appointing new chair people for our committees and of course planning for the ever popular.....DUMONT DAY! Mark your calendars Dumont Day is Saturday, September 12. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Roberta Elwell, P.P., Publicity

Corporate Communion Mass & Breakfast

On Sunday, August 30, our first Corporate Communion of this new Columbian Year.

Mass at 9:00am at St. John's Church, followed by a continental breakfast at our Council.

We invite our members and their family, our Sister Columbiette's and their family, and our Brother Scouts and their family to join us. Let's show our Unity as a family council and profess our faith together.

Call Ken at 516-220-9333 and let him know you're coming so that we can have an ample supply for breakfast.

Co-chair Bill Horn & Ezequiel Osdana

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for Council

The council will host a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, August 16th from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM. The menu will include: pancakes, scrambled eggs, hash browns, sausage, coffee, tea, juice and fruit cocktail. The costs are as follows: \$8 for adults, \$4 for children ages 12 and under and \$25 for a family of 5. Call in your reservations now.

Proceeds will benefit St. John's Council #1345 to assist with operating costs and ensure that our charitable works continue.

Co-chaired by Frank Polise and Frank Gallacher

Dates to Remember

Boy Scout Troop 1345 meets every Tuesday at 7:00pm.
Setup for Events every Thursday at 7:00pm.

- Mon, Aug. 3 Council meeting 8pm.
- Thurs, Aug. 6 Transfiguration of the Lord solemnity.
- Sat, Aug. 8 Feast of St. Dominic
- Mon, Aug. 10 Officer meeting 8pm
Columbiette officer mtg. 8pm.
- Sat, Aug. 15 Rental - 7pm.
Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sun, Aug. 16 Pancake Breakfast 9am-1pm.
- Sat, Aug. 22 Queenship of Blessed Virgin Mary
- Mon, Aug. 24 Columbian Club meeting 8pm
- Sat, Aug. 29 Rental - 1 pm.
- Sun, Aug. 30 Corporate Communion 9am mass.

Troop 1345 Scout Report

Troop 1345 is proud to announce its newest Eagle Scout – Liam Markgraf. Liam passed his Eagle Board of Review on July 14, becoming the Troop’s eleventh Eagle Scout since 2008.

Liam earned his Eagle Scout rank by completing all of his required merit badges, displaying leadership during his project (building park benches at Gina’s Field and installing a flagpole for Dumont Girl’s Softball), and by providing leadership and guidance to his fellow scouts.

Liam demonstrated the hard work, character, integrity, and honor that go into earning the Eagle Scout rank. Congratulations Liam!

The troop spent a week at summer camp in July at Ten Mile River in upstate New York. The troop had 14 scouts participate in a 50 mile trek, and another 26 scouts participate in the traditional summer camp program (40 scouts in total).

The scouts were supported by 12 leaders from the troop during the week. Ten Mile River summer camp is located in Narrowsburg, New York. This is the largest group that the troop has sent to summer camp, and reflects the growth and success of the troop which currently boasts 53 scouts on its active roster.

Ray Ziemba, Assistant Scoutmaster

The Rosary Hour

Rosary Hour, every second Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm. Refreshments served afterwards. **Take note of the new time.**

The next rosary hour will resume on September 9th. Let's try and have a good turnout for this first rosary service.

John Scalice, Chairman

Past Navigator & Color Corps Dinner Dance

Sunday, Sept. 13, 2015 from 2:30pm to 6:30pm at St. John's Council #1345 in Dumont, NJ.

Cost is \$40.00/pp; and \$75.00/per couple. The menu features a hot dinner, beverages, coffee, tea, and dessert.

Our current Navigator Jim Meng is doing a 2-year term as FN. We want every PFN and every Color Corpsman to try and attend this event. This is NOT to make money; we barely cover expenses at this dance, BUT, this is the only social event

of the year that the Assembly hosts. And it's our way of saying "Thank You" to the PFN's and Color Corpsmen.

From St. John's Council we have several Past Navigators... PGK's Matt Hayes, John McGill, Bill Bochicchio, George Di Costanzo, and our close friend Master Russ Petrocelli.

We are also asking our Affiliate Councils to send at least 2 or more couples to this dinner.

For reservations, call SK G. DiCostanzo, PFN, at 201-338-2617. Enclosed with this newsletter is the dance flyer. After you call in for your reservation, fill out the reservation form and mail it back with your check. Advance payment is required for this event.

SK George Di Costanzo, PFN, Chairman

SAN ALFONSO RETREAT--

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE MEN WHO CAME TO THE RETREAT. THE FOOD WAS GOOD, THE WEATHER PERFECT AND THE TALKS AND MASSES VERY INTERESTING.

THE COMPANIANSHIP WE SHARED WAS VERY ENJOYABLE. HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL NEXT YEAR AND BRING A FRIEND.

THANKS-TONY TULLI, Chairman

Dumont Day Notice - Help Needed

Dumont Day is September 12th. Please come and support your Knights of Columbus. We will be running a booth serving hamburgers. Your support is always appreciated. Please contact Frank Polise at 201- 370- 0547 if you're interested in helping out. Thanks.

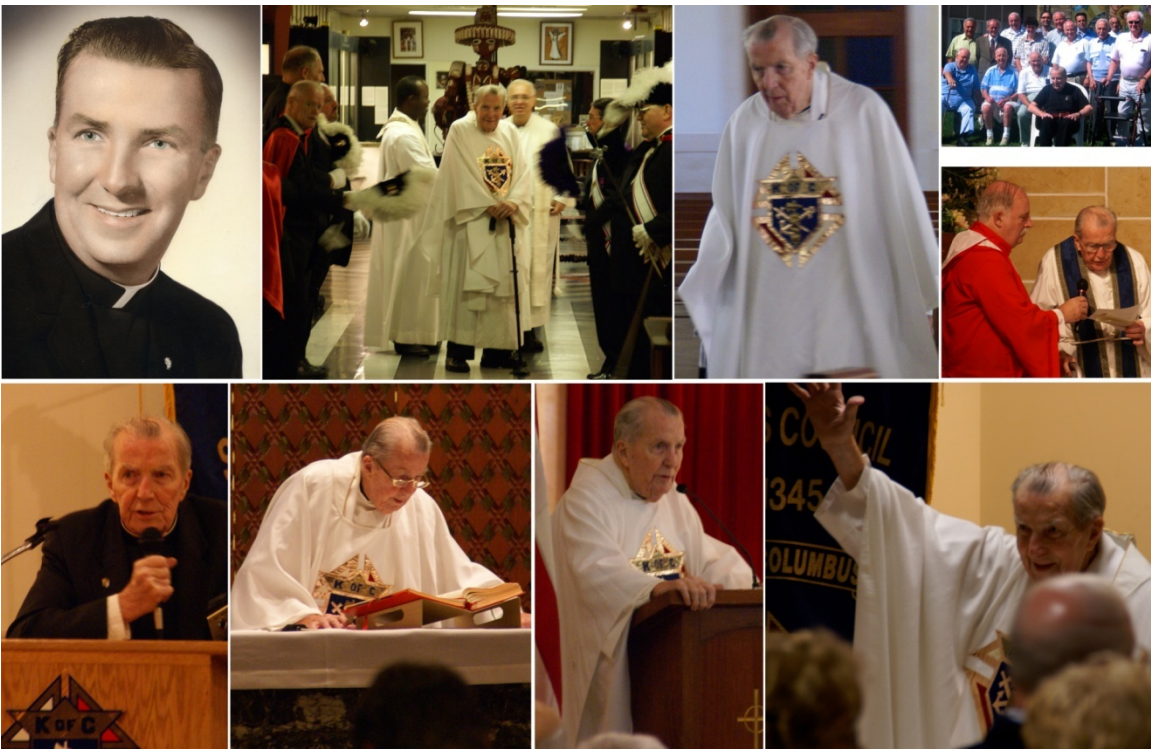
Photo Gallery



New group of Officers with Grand Knight Larry Rivera.



Columbiettes with Grand Knight Larry Rivera.



WE REMEMBER...Fr. John F. Murray, SMA...1923-2015



All Photo's courtesy of Brian O'Dowd

A Biography of Fr. John F. Murray, SMA
by Joseph A. Luciano, K.H.S.
Past State Deputy and State Historian

On May 16, 1968, Father John F. Murray, SMA was appointed State Father Prior of the Columbian Squires in New Jersey, by the newly elected State Deputy Frank J. Brady. Brady also appointed PGK Ralph Calucurcio from Lyndhurst Council No. 2396 State Chairman of the Squires. Together with their dynamic program Father Murray, Frank and Ralph went to great heights with the Columbian Squires movement. New Jersey ranked number one in the world with some 50 circles formed and received numerous awards from the Supreme Council.

Father Murray was born on January 23, 1923 in Flushing, New York to a family of devout Catholics. His parents John and Margaret Murray had 10 children; five boys and five girls. John became a Priest and three of his sisters became nuns. (Two to the Dominican Order and one to the Charity Order.) You can see how deep vocations were rooted in his family. He spent his youth in Flushing, NY attending Elementary School and High School there and graduating in 1941.

In December of 1941 he enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He served a short time and was honorably discharged because of sickness. After College his career in the field of youth started in 1944 by teaching at St. Joseph's House for Homeless Boys in Philadelphia, PA for five years. He enrolled study at Dunstan University, Prince Edward Island in Canada for two years, after which he entered the S.M.A. Seminary in Dedham, Massachusetts; graduating in 1950. He was ordained an S.M.A. Father in 1957.

Father Murray's first assignment was to St. Cyprianes' Church in Georgetown, South Carolina and later became pastor of St. Anthony's Church in Savannah, Georgia. He then left for Liberia, Africa on a two-year assignment and upon returning in 1961 was stationed at the Mission House in Doylestown, PA. Finally, he was moved to Tenafly, NJ to the Provincial House, Society of African Missions, where he has been for the last 46 years. From 1962 to 1967, he served as Vocations Director at the Mission House.

In 1958, Father Murray joined the Knights of Columbus. In 1964 he was appointed Chaplain of Carnation Council No. 1863, Fort Lee and of Madonna Council No. 5200 in Englewood. In the same year he became Father Prior of Dominic Savio Circle No. 1622 at St. John's Council No. 1345 in Bergenfield-Dumont. In 1986 he was appointed Chaplain of St. John's Council No. 1345 in Bergenfield-Dumont. Father received his Fourth Degree in 1965 (First New Jersey District) and in 1980 was appointed Faithful Friar of Pope John XXIII Assembly in Cliffside Park. In 2005 he was appointed Chaplain of the newly-chartered Columbiette Auxiliary of St. John's Council #1345. Father retired from all active duty in 2010.

One of Father Murray's favorite quotes is of Bishop Thomas J. Walsh from our 1922 Convention: "If the Knights of Columbus take care of the growing boy, the boy grown into manhood will take care not only of the Knights of Columbus but of the church and Nation as well."

You can see by his involvement in the Knights of Columbus that he loved the Order and because of his dedication to youth was appointed State Father Prior of the Columbian Squires thirty nine years ago. Until he retired, he served in that post with the same enthusiasm and dedication as when he started.

Fr. John F. Murray, SMA passed into eternal life on July 9, 2015. May he continue to watch over his flock of Knights, Columbiettes and Squires; may he rest in peace, Amen.

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Reflections of Fr. John F. Murray, SMA

On the night before Derek Jeter got his 3000th hit, we were down at the council having a pizza night. Fr. Murray was sitting at the bar watching the Met game, the only games we were ever allowed to watch on a Friday night. A few of the members asked to change the channel to watch the Yankees. "*Change the channel he said...for what?*" He wasn't interested in Jeter's achievement, but then he gave in and said "*put the Yankees on when Jeter is up and then put the Mets game back on*".

Lou Pidi, PGK

We wanted the baptism of our twins to be a very special occasion, and so we asked Fr Murray who immediately said yes. On November 11, 1995 (Veteran's Day) he brought them into the Catholic faith. When it came time for them to receive the Eucharist for the first time, we again asked him if he could give them their first Holy Communion. Again, he happily agreed, and we were thrilled that our friend and very special priest was able to be a part of our lives at both of these very joyous sacramental occasions.

Philip and Donna Fredericks

Fr. Murray was our spiritual guide but he was also a friend to all. He was my Chaplain when I was Grand Knight but he was also much more. He assisted at both of my children's christenings and in later years could be found at the council playing with my daughter and her dolls or sitting on the floor playing with cars with my son.

He was a great priest, chaplain, man and friend and his memory should always be an inspiration to us all.

Paul Zakrzewski PGK, FDD

Fr. John Murray: a tribute to his Irish heritage, his priestly vocation, and his concern for all humanity.

Msgr. Richard Arnholz, Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church, Bergenfield.

I will always remember Fr Murray for being there for my family when my younger sister, Linda, died of breast cancer at the age of only 34 years old, with three little children, in May of 2002. Not only did Fr Murray attend the wake up in Ramsey, but he also conducted a prayer service for the benefit of my family, without my even asking him. Fr Murray had a heart of gold, and I will always remember him in that shining way!

Edward A. Trawinski, Jr.

Even if he had not seen you in years, he never forgot your name. A wonderful priest and a wonderful man.

Jim McFadden, PGK

After Fr. Murray retired, he and I developed a very close friendship and relationship. We would talk on the phone every day except Sunday when he visited with his family. Sometimes he would have to leave a message on the cell phone, and he would say to me "*I'd rather be talking with you than with a machine*", so we set a time of 3:30pm each day for our calls. I was blessed with those calls...no matter what we talked about, it always ended with a spiritual message and a blessing. As an ardent Mets fan, it was tough-going trying to talk about the Yankees. Father had a way of deflecting that talk almost immediately. But through the years, I would always inject some Yankee news into our conversations. And finally in 2014 I hit the lottery when he admitted that he liked Joe Girardi, Yankee manager. I will treasure forever the memory of those daily phone calls and the impact he had on my life.

George DiCostanzo, PGK