



# THE Heartbeat



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METUCHEN DIOCESE CHAPTER, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 1, MARCH 2022

## CHAPTER EVENTS

DATE	DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
<b>March 2022</b>				
March 17	Thursday	7:30 PM	CUF Degree Ceremony	Immaculate Conception Council #6245
<b>April 2022</b>				
April 28	Thursday	7:30 PM	Chapter Meeting	Somerville Council #1432 495 E. Main St. Somerville, NJ
<b>May 2022</b>				
May 13-14	Fri-Sat	9:00 AM	New Jersey State Convention	Wildwood, NJ
<b>June 2022</b>				
June 15	Thursday	5:30 PM	Prayer Service and Chapter Meeting	Rachel Mourning Statue Resurrection Cemetery, Piscataway followed by meeting at Piscataway Council #11017 208 Bound Brook Ave. Piscataway, NJ
<b>September 2022</b>				
Sept. 8	Thursday	7:00 PM	Pride in our Priests Dinner	The Imperia, Somerset, NJ

### CHAPLAINS' COLUMN



#### LENT 2022

The season of Lent is a time to intentionally come closer to the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is a season of ashes and the cross; sins and forgiveness; death and life.

Lent is a time to take practical actions through prayer, fasting and acts of charity.

It is like an exercise program. At the beginning it is difficult to fulfill what we want to do every day. As we continue the practices of Lent we feel

energized and enlivened. We feel good about ourselves. Our journey through Lent to Holy Week celebrates the central and most important mysteries of our faith. We remember the gift of Jesus' Body given to Jesus' friends for the first time. We are overwhelmed by Jesus' love for us and the forgiveness of sins by Christ's suffering and death on the Cross. We celebrate Christ's resurrection and His victory over sin and death.

As we journey through Lent 2022 and celebrate Easter 2022 may we experience Christ's peace and joy. On the first Easter evening Jesus Christ said to his friends "Peace, I

leave you. My Peace, I give you." May Christ's peace be a reality in your life on Easter, 2022.

Vivat Jesus!  
GOD BLESS!  
Fr. William Smith

### PRIDE IN OUR PRIESTS DINNER - 2022

**DD Dan Murphy**, chairman of this year's annual Pride in our Priests Dinner, has announced that the annual affair is scheduled for September 8, 2022 at the same venue as last year's event, *The Imperia* in Somerset. Due to rising costs the cost to attend the dinner has risen to \$60.00 per person.

## Chapter Officers

Position	Member	Phone	E-mail
State Officer	Scott Williams	732-236-3084	scott.williamso@gmail.com
Chaplain	Fr. William Smith	732-634-1403	frsmith_kofc_tettes@yahoo.com
President	Francis A. Rees	732-828-2942	frees814@gmail.com
Vice-President	Edward Schilke	908-713-4914	eschilke@gmail.com
Secretary	Chris Duffett	908-510-18669	cduffett1@gmail.com
Treasurer	Scott Minnihan	732-356-6660	s_minnihan@yahoo.com
Senior Advisor Trustee	John Amato	732-920-9899	johnnybop34@yahoo.com
Trustee	Joseph Charmello	732-329-3390	jac910@comcast.net
Trustee	Robert Lynch	73-828-9310	b4lynch@optimum.net
Trustee	Robert Wright	732-416-0479	rjwko4815@gmail.com

## Chapter Committees

Sergeant-at-Arms	Kenneth Czarnecki	732 429 9283	kenczar@gmail.com
Ronald McDonald House	Dave Pinto John Bauer Stan Hubbard	732-672-3811 732-236-4149 908-420-2124	pintodaj@optonline.net jabauer@optonline.net stanahu@aol.com
Shoulder to Shoulder	Frank Rees	732-828-2942	frees814@gmail.com
Visitation	Bill Hoffman	908-500-2535	dollarbill31@comcast.net
Ultrasound initiative	Stan Hubbard	908-420-2124	stanahu@aol.com
Convention Hotel/Party	Bill Hoffman	908-500-2535	dollarbill31@comcast.net
Right to Life	Bob Keeling	908-812-1071	rkeeling@embarqmail.com
Rutgers Catholic Center	Dave Pinto	732-672-3811	pintodaj@optonline.net
Veteran's Affairs	Bill Hoffman	908-500-2535	dollarbill31@comcast.net
Lyons	Ed Shellman	908-850-0536	eshellman@comcast.net
Seminarians Program	Robert White	NA	bwhite14@earthlink.net
Chapter Audit	Bob Keeling	908-812-1071	rkeeling@embarqmail.com

## District Deputies

District 61	Dave Pinto	732-672-3811	pintodaj@optonline.net
District 62	Steve Reitano	732-254-5177	steve@reitano.com
District 63	Joseph Charmello	732-329-3390	jac910@comcast.net
District 64	Daniel Germaine	908-392-1508	ddangermaine@optonline.net
District 65	John Rossi	908-400-1852	jjrossi@comcast.net
District 66	William Benson	908-581-3117	cenben06@aol.com
District 67	Dan Murphy	908-635-4120	danmurf@aol.com
District 68	David Burns	862-812-5805	dwburns1@verizon.net
District 69	Gerard D'Ambrosio	732-485-8849	gdambrosiokoc6424@gmail.com
District 70	Carl Agneta	908-601-1693	mattiu58@gmail.com
District 71	Ken Smetana	732-2126-1844	smetana.kenneth@yahoo.net

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### RUTGERS CATHOLIC CENTER

**Father Jason Pavich**, administrator, St. Peter the Apostle University and Community Parish, New Brunswick,

accepts a check for \$2,200 from (left to right) Knights of Columbus members **Dave Pinto, DD61, Scott Williams, New Jersey State Warden** and **Frank Rees, president of the Metuchen Diocese Chapter.**

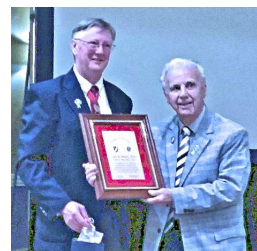
The money was presented to Father



Pavlich on January 1 to help pay for the Catholic Center at Rutgers' bus trip to the March for Life in Washington, DC on January 21. Unfortunately COVID-19 pandemic restrictions mandated by Rutgers University prevented the scheduled bus trip from occurring and the donated funds will be held by the Catholic Center to fund the event next year.

The Metuchen Diocese Chapter has been funding the bus trip for the Catholic Center for eight years. Councils in the Metuchen diocese are encouraged to provide financial support to help defray the costs for the Catholic Center's annual trip.

### JOHN AMATAO RECEIVES KNIGHT OF THE YEAR AWARD



**John Amatao** received the State Knight of the year award from **State Deputy Jim Stoever** at the Grand Knight/District Deputy meeting at the Doubletree in Somerset NJ for his 68 years as a Knight and his involvement with the state on all levels.

## KNIGHTS DONATE 1,500<sup>TH</sup> ULTRASOUND MACHINE



On January 19, 2022, **Bishop James Checchio** blessed the 1,500<sup>th</sup> ultrasound machine paid for by the Knights of Columbus. This was in the newly opened First Choice Women's Resource Center in New Brunswick.

A check for \$2,400 was presented to Aimee Huber, executive director of the center, to cover the purchase of the machine. The funding for the check was provided by Supreme (half), the New Jersey State Council (one-quarter) and the Metuchen Diocese Chapter (one-quarter).



*Pictured above, before the dedication are: L to R: Jack Kennedy, KofC Executive Vice President; Father William Smith, Chaplain Metuchen Diocese Chapter; Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly; Jim Stoever, State Deputy; Scott Williams, State Warden; Frank Rees, President Metuchen Diocese Chapter.*



*Among those attending the dedication were the Sisters of Life: Sr. Therese Marie, Sr. Loretto, Sr. Bernadette and Sr. Naomi (kneeling); Vanessa Kelly and Supreme*

*Knight Patrick Kelly; Aimee Huber, Executive Director First Choice Pregnancy Resource Center; Father William Smith Metuchen Diocese Chapter Chaplain; New Jersey State Deputy Jim Stoever; New Jersey State Warden Scott Williams; Bishop James Checchio of Metuchen; Metuchen Diocese Chapter President Frank Rees; Supreme Director Daniel Rossi; and Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Jack Kennedy.*

## NEW JERSEY STATE CONVENTION

The 126<sup>th</sup> New Jersey State Convention will be held on May 14 and 15 at the Wildwood Convention Center. It will be a live event.

The former motel that the Chapter used for previous State Conventions has been sold and a new location was selected.

**Bill Hoffman** has reserved 25 rooms at the Attachè Resort Motel in Wildwood Crest for the Metuchen Diocese Chapter. If you wish to reserve a room at the new motel you need to call the Attachè Resort Motel directly at 609-729-3104. Be sure to tell the reservationist that you are a member of the Metuchen Knights of Columbus.



The Chapter will share hosting a Hospitality Room in the adjacent Gondolier Motel with the Union County Federation.

For more information and access to the Convention Journal ad form see the Convention page on the Chapter's website at [metuchenchapter.com](http://metuchenchapter.com).

## RACHEL MOURNING STATUE



A prayer service alongside the Rachel Mourning statue is scheduled for June 15, 2022 to be followed by a general Chapter meeting at Piscataway Council #11017 in Piscataway.

The campaign to erect the Rachel Mourning statue began with **Chapter 4 Chairman Joseph Szoke** in 1991, continued with **Chapter 4 Chairman Kenneth Czarnecki** in 1992 and was dedicated on October 15, 1993 by **Chapter 4 Chairman Eugene Baker** in Resurrection Cemetery in Piscataway, NJ.

There are a few meanings from scripture regarding Rachel Mourning and what she represents.

In Genesis, Rachel dies giving birth while on the road to Bethlehem. In the midst of her suffering, the midwife tries to comfort her with the news that she is having another son. In this way, her child is both her cause of weeping and her hope for the future.

In Jeremiah's day, Rachel weeps over her children once more, this time because they are being led into captivity and exile near the very spot where she is buried. She is then comforted with the promise that her children will return. Once again, her offspring are both her cause of weeping and her hope for the future.

In Matthew's day, Rachel weeps yet again: this time over the slaughter of the children at Bethlehem. No words of comfort are given her in Matthew, but the very next verse speaks of Herod's death and the return of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus to the land of Israel. Just as in Jeremiah's day, the

situation seems bleak, but the hope of salvation lives on.

There are, of course, additional historical parallels in this passage. When the wicked king Herod orders the slaughter of innocent children to protect his rule, we naturally think of the Egyptian pharaoh who ordered the slaughter of Hebrew children. One child, Moses, escaped the slaughter and went on to deliver his people from captivity and exile. In the same way, Jesus escapes the slaughter of the innocents—ironically, by going into exile in Egypt. Like the Israelites, he is led into Egypt by a man named Joseph, a man whom God speaks to in dreams. Like the Jews for whom Rachel wept in Jeremiah's day, this child knows the experience of living in exile, and like the Israelites of Moses' day, he goes through his own exodus from Egypt. Just as Rachel was comforted with the promise that her children would be restored, and just as Moses' birth was a sign that the Israelites' deliverance was near, so Matthew's readers are meant to understand that the long-awaited Messiah has been born and the hope of salvation is close at hand.

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## FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING

The February Metuchen Diocese Chapter meeting was held Thursday, February 27 at the home of Our Lady of Mount Virgin Council #12700 in Middlesex with Bishop James F. Checchio in attendance.

During the meeting some twenty plus councils presented Bishop Checchio

with donations toward the Bishop's charities.



*Steve Reitano from Our Lady of Peace Council #11378 greets Bishop Checchio.*

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## SAFE ENVIRONMENT STATUS

Scott Williams, NJ State Warden, reported that the State Deputy has begun a campaign to ensure that all New Jersey councils are in full compliance with the Supreme mandate for providing a safe environment. No awards will be presented to a council that is not in full compliance. Scott presented a 10 minute video at the January Chapter meeting telling the story of a council that is being sued for alleged misconduct in regards to sexual abuse that highlighted the need for all councils to be in full compliance with the safe environment mandate.

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## WHY IS LENT FORTY DAYS LONG?

Forty is a number with ancient biblical significance.

Lent is forty days long because Jesus fasted in the wilderness forty days and forty nights before embarking on His public ministry.

But Jesus did not select the length of His fast at random. Throughout the Old Testament, a stretch of forty days (or years) has always carried a deep meaning often related to punishment, penance, and/or preparation.

Here are a few examples:

During Noah's time, God sent rain for forty days and forty nights to punish the earth with flood.

In consequence of their lack of faith, the Israelites wandered in the desert forty years before reaching the Promised Land.

The people of Nineveh fasted and repented to avert the wrath of God which the prophet Jonah predicted would come upon them in forty days.

Both Moses and Elijah fasted forty days before or during important conversations with God.

When the time came for Jesus to begin His public mission, He utilized this tradition. His mission was of an all-encompassing nature that taps into—and fulfills—all the biblical reasons for forty day events.

As the one Man Who came to bear the punishment due to all men, He evokes the repentance of Nineveh that averted the punishment of God.

His time in the desert—reminiscent of the Israelites' forty year sojourn—proffers the idea that He is deliberately taking on the punishment due to our faithlessness, which otherwise would keep us away from the Promised Land of Heaven.

The season of Lent is our great opportunity to enter into the desert with Christ.

## In Memoriam

Dorothy M. Duffett  
March 3, 2022

Beloved Mother of  
Christopher Duffett