

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249

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Pro-life Student in Midwife Program Receives Apology and Payout

A pro-life undergraduate student in a midwife program has received an apology and payout after she faced suspension. The Daily Telegraph reported that Julia Rynkiewicz, a 25-year-old Catholic, had reached a



settlement with the University of Nottingham in the U.K. She was blocked from entering her program's hospital placement phase after the university learned of her leadership of a pro-life student group. She faced a four-month-long fitness-to-practice investigation.

The university overturned its decision, but Rynkiewicz sought an apology. "The settlement demonstrates that the university's treatment of me was wrong, and while I'm happy to move on, I hope this means that no other student will have to experience what I have," she told the Telegraph.

"What happened to me risks creating a fear among students to discuss their values and beliefs, but university should be the place where you are invited to do just that."

Concerns were raised about Rynkiewicz's fitness to practice as a midwife after she was seen tending a booth at a school fair in her position as president of Nottingham Students for Life (NSFL), an approved pro-life student group that supports life from conception to natural death.

The Students' Union had initially denied affiliation to NSFL, but overturned its decision following the threat of legal action.

Rynkiewicz said that she received a letter from officials at her midwifery school days after the fair, saying that a formal complaint had been filed against her.

A spokesperson for the University of Nottingham said: "While all universities take fitness-to-practice considerations extremely seriously, the university has offered an apology and settlement to Ms. Rynkiewicz and is considering how we might approach such cases differently in future."

Julia Rynkiewicz reflects on better days ahead.



FROM AROUND THE WORLD
OF INTEREST TO CATHOLICS

Longtime Exorcist: Satanism Is Growing in Western Societies

Cardinal Pell: "I Am Caught in the Struggle Between Good and Evil"

Catholics Should Use Vaccines That Have Absolutely No Connection to Abortion

Archbishop Chaput: Denying Biden Communion is 'Pastoral' Not 'Political'

Americans Oppose Religious Exemptions From Coronavirus-Related Restrictions

Germany tightens virus lockdown over holidays

"We're working on it:" Pope's COVID advisers and the mask

Catholic priest kidnapped in Nigeria while traveling to his father's funeral

Away with the manger? Nativity scene at Vatican generates controversy

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Pete Grasso

the previous year and an opportunity to plan for the upcoming 365 days.

I believe, and many people join me in this belief, that God has anointed the group of men here at St. Jerome known as the Divine Mercy of Jesus Council of the Knights of Columbus. We have suffered losses in our membership, but we have all rallied and helped one another where we could. In the worst scourge of modern times, we have stepped up to help Fr. Tom and our priests and clergy to face this head on. It was frightening and still is, but we kept our heads and helped our priests and church family in providing help and services where it was needed the most.

Just think, we have been assisting Father every Saturday and Sunday since March in helping provide the sacraments of confirmation and communion. This was done in the heat and rain and now cold. This is a lot of hours.

There are other countless hours Broth-

ers: First, Dawn and I want to wish you all the most joyous and safe holiday season as we move to the new year. Every new January gives us a landmark to reflect on

er Jim Blackwell and his gang have donated to providing chickens and meals to families. Also, this past month we were contacted by Sister Lucia to deliver a hospital bed to a crippled parishioner and boxes of meals to families. There are other acts which our brothers provided in the middle of the greatest challenge this nation has ever seen. All Father Tom had to do is say, "Can you do this?" and it was done.

Our biggest ongoing project is the grotto in honor of Our Lady. I know that everyone who has helped will tell you that they feel Our Lady's presence out there. It will be a great gift to our church family to be able to gather outside and pray.

As we move forward in to the new year, we will continue to face the challenges head on and do all we can. We will continue with our Zoom meetings, which were meant to be temporary. I believe we need to begin thinking about the slate of officers in the next few months and consider proper procedures for election of officers. We were put in to a position this past year of quickly assembling the leadership by ballot, but we should take the time to do a proper ballot. Let's get creative and come up with some thoughts of fund raising to provide for projects for the council, but also to help our pastor in meeting the the needs of the church. We need to plan for this disease to control our lives a little longer.

May God bless our brothers and their families.

Vivat Jesus, Pete

WORDS OF WISDOM

Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of somebody else.

Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut, that held its ground.

In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.

Being entirely honest with oneself is a good exercise.

We cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are.

I'd rather regret the things I've done than regret the things I haven't done.

Set your course by the stars, not by the lights of every passing ship.

The superior man blames himself. The inferior man blames others.

The smallest deed is better than the greatest intention.

Blessed are those who give without remembering and take without forgetting.

Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR



Jim Hand

When I was a child growing up in Vincennes, IN, a town about 60 miles southwest of Indianapolis, I looked forward to Christmas because that meant standing outside the windows of Saiter-Morgan Hardware Store with my nose pressed against the window as I watched the Lionel train go around its track doing wonderful, marvelous things. I knew I would never have one, but boy it sure was fun to dream.

Also at Saiter-Morgan Santa Claus would sooner or later appear and accept children on his lap as he heard them recite their wish list of hoped-for toys. Without fail, each child ended his or her litany of wishes with, "And candy, nuts, and oranges." I never gave it a second thought, but today as I think about it, I have to smile, because it was an innocent time with wonderful memories, even if I really didn't want candy, nuts, and oranges. We just automatically spat out the words before we climbed off Santa's lap.

Recently, my wife and I started saying the Our Father 3 times at 3 p.m.. each day. I'm not sure why we are doing this, but I think Jean knows; I'm along for the ride. And then I start thinking about saying the Our Father at Mass and am

shocked to think that that prayer could easily have become candy, nuts, and oranges for me, that I am saying this wonderful prayer (and perhaps the rosary, etc.) without thought. How easily that can happen, and what a shame it would be for me to have to admit that I could be guilty of that, for the catholic church has many wonderful prayers and litanies. Much thought has been given to these prayers and litanies over the years. It would be a shame to thoughtlessly say them without bringing them to life in our heart and mind. Writing these comments has caused me to vow to do better, to never let a prayer become commonplace, as though the Catholic church was nothing more than a Santa Claus.



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**DIVINE MERCY OF JESUS COUNCIL 17249
AT WORK, PLAY, AND WORSHIP**

The Grotto



Joe Ghezzi, right, holds rebar while Danny McConnell saws it.



These men were reliable helpers as we continued to bring the grotto to fruition. L-R: Bill Bannon, Mike, Danny Elliott, Pete Grasso, Rick Hendrickson, Greg Musick, Gene Sanders, Manny Barros, Jim Patton



Manny Barros, Danny Elliott, and Pete Grasso prepare rebar for the cement.

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

Our council continues to work on the grotto. As you can see in the photos, the cement has been poured. The various concrete slabs have been identified for you. These things remain: bringing electricity to the grotto, setting the cross on a cement pad, putting the cement circles in the ground for the "Glory Be to the Father" and Holy Mary, "Mother of God" in the Rosary, and putting a 4-foot wooden cross with an inlaid brass cross on its stand. It will be located by a tree which sits by the road that runs toward the Ed Kilroy Building to the north. The spiritual table will be used for

Masses and for anyone in a ministry where a podium is necessary, such as the youth group or the E.C.C. It will be made of wood and be 4 ft. high, 4 ft. wide, and 6 ft. long. We are thinking of making bricks available for \$50 on which will be inscribed one, two, or three sentences. With each sentence, the writing will be a little smaller. This will be done in stages. All money collected from this will go toward the expense of getting a new roof for the church. At the time of this writing, we think the grotto might be finished by the end of January 2021.



This view is looking north, toward the Ed Kilroy Building. To the right is the pad for the spiritual table; to the left is the pad for the grotto; and to the far left is the handicap walkway from the street.

The Grotto (continued)



Danny Elliott and Danny McConnell pour cement in the form for the spiritual table.



Joe Ghezzi checks his notes while Bill Bannon steadies the form for the grotto statue.



Cement blocks, which will be used for the rosary mysteries, and cement circles, which are for "Hail Mary, etc., patiently wait to be put into the ground.



L-R: Bill Bannon, Danny Elliott, and Danny McConnell begin placing the cement circles where they belong in the ground for the rosary.

DIVINE MERCY OF JESUS COUNCIL 17249 AT WORK, PLAY, AND WORSHIP

Christmas Party



It was a dark and stormy night when....well, it was dark anyway when our council met across from the Ed Kilroy Building on December 9 at 7 p.m. to enjoy each other's company and celebrate the Christmas season. There were between 15 and 20 Knights there, many of them quite bundled up. After all, the temperature was about 57 degrees, much too chilly for most Floridans, especially at night when we hate to drive. We brought our own food and drink and of course Christmas carols were in order, led by Jim Blackwell who was helped by the Silly Sinatras. As usual, a good time was had by all.

Our Lady of Guadalupe



Our Lady sits, waiting for the procession to begin as a few of our Knights wait to carry her as she goes around the pond while the Hail Mary is being said.



Bob Anderson, left, and GK Pete Grasso, right, lead the procession as many parishioners walk behind in memory of the miracle of Juan Diego.



Behind our brothers in their 4th Degree regalia a couple of individuals carry a tapestry of the Blessed Mother.



This view gives some idea of how many people were processing around the pond saying the rosary.

DIVINE MERCY OF JESUS COUNCIL 17249 AT WORK, PLAY, AND WORSHIP

Funerals



Some of our Knights meet to recite the rosary before the funeral of Brother Carl Hawkins.

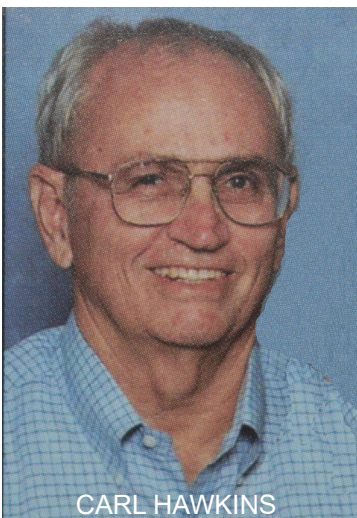
A few of our Knights were dressed in their Honor Guard regalia to help lend some honor to Carl's funeral.

A LIVE NATIVITY



Even though there are no Knights to be seen, they are certainly in the background, helping to set up and especially to direct traffic. On the right, Fire Marshall Robert Hill from Suncoast Fire and Rescue portrays Santa Claus. "We couldn't have done this without the Knights," Phyllis Steele, coordinator, said.

Council Loses Brother Knight



CARL HAWKINS

Carl George Hawkins, of Indian Rocks Beach, beloved husband, brother, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather died on Monday, November 16, 2020, in Largo, Florida. Carl was born on December 31, 1938, to Ralph and Edith Hawkins. Carl had many siblings: his two brothers, Robert Benzel and Leland Hawkins, one half brother, Tim Hawkins, one sister, Alva Lea Edwards, and two half sisters, Bunny Ashmore and Brenda Monday.

Carl was a graduate of the University of South Florida and a member of the National Knights with the Knights of Columbus. Carl was a well-loved businessman and Dry Cleaners, as well as a tech wiz. Carl also worked for Jerome Church for more than 44 years.

He is survived by his ever-saintful wife of 56 years, Carol Hawkins, as well as his daughter and son-in-law, Tina and Brad Currey, his grandchildren, Megan and Morgan Hawkins and Katryna Currey, and his great-grandson Jeremy Pask. Carl was preceded in death by his son Carl George.

He was a true Florida cracker who could make anyone smile, even on the worst of days. He was always ready to help people in need, and he always gave the best advice. Carl and his jokes will be truly missed and they will forever be in our hearts.

Revelation 21:4
"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Lakeland High School and Florida. He had also been a Guard and a Fourth Degree of Columbus. Carl was a member in Largo for 35 years at C&C as a self-proclaimed, self-loved being an usher at St. Mary's.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Tom Deebes
January 1



John Bordeaux
January 6



Bob Anderson
January 6



Bill Bannon
January 7



Bob Daughterty
January 9



Bob Kimsel
January 14



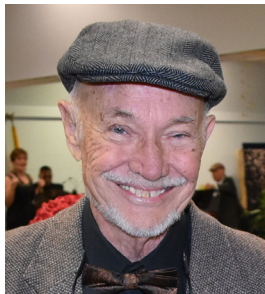
Jim Dolan
January 18



Edgar Lecuyer
January 20



Mark Wisner
January 21



Charlie Scott
January 22



Danny McConnell
January 25



Pat O'Leary
January 27



Ed Garnier
January 28



Jim Cullinan
January 31

1. When one door closes and another door opens, you're probably in prison.
2. To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.
3. Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 pm is the new midnight.
4. It's the start of a brand new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.
5. The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
6. When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.
7. I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.
8. I had my patience tested. I'm negative.
9. Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes



back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.

10. If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"

11. When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.

12. I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.

13. I run like the winded.

14. I hate when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on.

15. When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"

WHERE DOES EVIL COME FROM?

A timeless question: "If there is truly a good God, then why is there evil in the world?" First, we must consider the meaning of evil.

There are two kinds of evil: moral and physical. Moral evil is willful sin, while physical evil is natural harm. Examples of moral evil are murder, adultery, fornication, theft, sorcery, abortion. Examples of physical evil are famine, illness, natural disasters, and death. Now evil is not something in itself, but a lack of something that should be present, e.g. a lie lacks truth. God does not create evil since it is not a thing to be created. Evil is an imperfection, a void in God's creation.

Focusing first on moral evil, the question could be phrased as: "If there is a good God, then why did He create morally evil people?" God does create people who will be sinners. God created us with the gift of free will - the ability to choose Him or reject Him. We choose to sin through willful disobedience. God wants us to love Him, but without free will, we could not sincerely love Him. If God had created us without free will, we would be living machines and not made in His image and likeness. The moral evil in the world is the result of our choices.

Focusing next on physical evil, the question can be stated as: "If there is a just God, why do good people suffer?" Now suffering does serve a purpose in the material world. I do not put my hand in fire mainly out of fear of pain. The pain of angina can warn us of an impending heart attack. Even for good people, such suffering is not totally bad.

Material things operate according to physical laws. For example, fire operates according to the laws of thermody-

less until it rests in You." St. Irenaeus of Lyons (190 A.D.) has another thought: "Where there is no exertion, there is no appreciation." Health is made more precious by the experience of sickness. In the same way, the heavenly kingdom is more precious to those who have known only the earthly one. The more precious it is, the more we love it.

The Book of Job deals with this concept. Job is a righteous, God-fearing man; however, God allows Satan to inflict Job with horrible disasters and disease to test his loyalty. Satan wants to show God that Job's faith is false. Under intense suffering Job argues

with "friends" about the suffering of the innocent. Towards the end God enters the debate and responds: Who is this that obscures divine plans with words of ignorance? Gird up your loins now, like a man; I will question you, and you tell me the answer! Where were you when I founded the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Let him who would correct God give answer!

God responds by telling Job that His wisdom and power are beyond man's ability to understand. Also, his virtues alone do not ensure earthly happiness. Job humbly closes the debate with the words: "I have dealt with great things that I do not understand; things too wonderful for me, which I cannot know. Therefore I disown what I have said, and repent in dust and ashes. [Job 42:2-6]

The Bible here suggests that we should accept suffering and trust in God. Also, Jesus responds this way on the Cross. (Continued on next page)

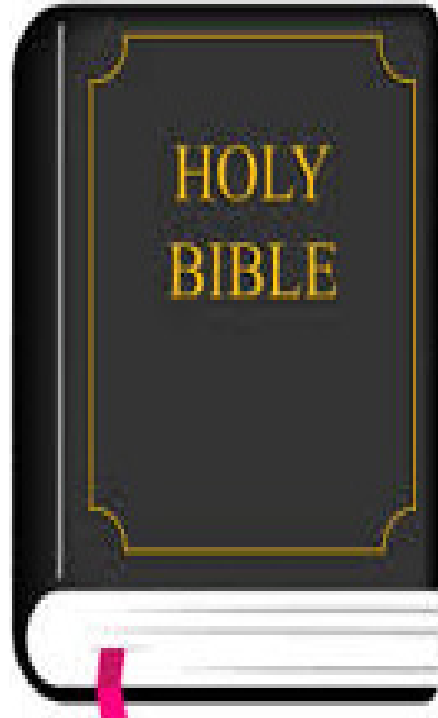


namics. The same laws which allow us to heat our homes during the winter can allow our homes to burn to the ground. To prevent the latter evil would require a miracle - a suspension of physical laws. God permits physical evil to the extent that He does not perform one miracle after another in order to stop suffering, thus causing the ordinary to become extraordinary. Physical laws also apply the same to both good and bad people (Matt. 5:45).

Perhaps the real question is not why does God allow physical evil, but why did God create us in a material world? Some suggest that God created us in an imperfect material world so that we would not rely on ourselves but come to love and rely on the perfect God (2 Cor 1:8-9). We were created with a desire and hunger which can only be satisfied by God. This void of happiness calls us to Him. In the words of St. Augustine: "You have made us for Yourself, O God, and our heart is rest-



What Does the Bible Say about Evil?



(Concluded from the previous page)

For Christians the suffering and pain of this life can become the joy and glory of our eternal life. St. Paul connects physical evil (death) with moral evil (sin): Therefore, as sin came into the world through one man (Adam) and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all men sinned. [Rom 5:12] Through Adam's sin, we all sin and suffer death; however, God is merciful. Christianity offers hope: For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. [1 Cor. 15: 21-22]

Christ's death on the Cross fills the void caused by sin. Even though we suffer pain and death for our sins, Christ, being sinless, accepted, pain and death on the Cross for our salvation. Love involves sacrifice, and Christ has set an example for us: He learned obedience through what He suffered; and being made perfect He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him. [Hebrews 5:8-9]

As Christians we have hope in eternal happiness. As St. Paul promises: We are children of God. If children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. [Rom 8:16-18]

In our suffering we share in the suffering of Christ (Col 1:24) so in heaven we may share in His glory (1 Peter 4:19).

Our sinful world is the unfortunate result of human choice; not even Satan can force us to sin. Pain, suffering, and death are integral parts of the material world due to Adam's sin, but Christianity offers hope through the suffering of Jesus Christ. Evil in this world is not a disproof of God, but a constant reminder of our need for the perfect God of the Bible (2 Cor 1:8-9).