



Chantal Chatter

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. FRANCES DE CHANTAL

COUNCIL #6526

VIVAT JESUS, JESUS LIVES



Welcome to the first reissue of the Knights of Columbus Council #6526 Chantal Chatter!

Since its founding in 1974, the St. Frances de Chantal Knights of Columbus Council has issued regular issues of the Chantal Chatter for its members. After a hiatus of some years, we plan to bring you regular periodic updates on Council events through the "Wantagh Knights" app as well as print editions of the Chantal Chatter. As we start our 51st year of service to the Parish and the Community, we look forward to sharing highlights of the good and great work of our members.

January Events

Officers Meeting - Jan 6

St. Frances de Chantal
Pastoral Center, 1309 Wantagh
Ave, Wantagh, NY 11793, USA

Business Meeting - Jan 13

St. Frances de Chantal Pastoral
Center, 1309 Wantagh Ave,
Wantagh, NY 11793, USA

Pro-Life Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral - Jan 26

New York, 5th Ave, New York
NY 10022, USA

Business / Social Gathering at Wantagh Inn - Jan 27

Wantagh, 3264 Railroad Ave,
Wantagh, NY 11793, USA

Contact us for additional info!

516-826-7492
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P.O. Box 7032, Wantagh, NY
11793

Message From the Grand Knight

As we begin our 51st year as a Council, we are pleased to reintroduce the Chantal Chatter, a quarterly publication that will also be found on our new website, Wantagh Knights. We wanted a new format to get our message out and what better way than with something old on something new. We are proud of what the Council has accomplished in its first 50 years, but these are modern times and we are exploring a new way to get our message out.

In my first year as Grand Knight, I knew I had a lot to learn and had to earn the respect of Council 6526. What I couldn't know were what challenges lay ahead: Planning the 50th Anniversary Gala,

fundraising, recruiting new members and completing enough Fraternal programs to qualify for the Columbian Award were all challenges we met and completed as a Council. We introduced new fundraising events with the Columbiettes, including Radio Bingo and the Summer Saturday Food Truck Festival. We are still coping with the loss of three beloved PGKs, Anthony Giardina, Peter Coleman, and Ken Iadarola. Our biggest challenge, however, was how we would sell our Home Corporation facility, our Council Hall.

As I begin my second term we are faced with new challenges. How do we keep the Council together and recruit new members as we relocate our home base back to the Parish?



How do we increase the participation of our membership as we transition to our new website, Wantagh Knights, and keep the Chantal Chatter up to date?

I am sure there will be additional challenges along the way, but unlike last year, we go into this year with more experience and confidence, having earned the Star Council recognition. In addition, I have no doubt that our members will answer the call to continue to do the necessary and good work that needs to be done because we are Knights and that's what we do. Every day.

Here's looking forward to a great year. God Bless.

John Tomeo
Grand Knight

To find us on the web,
follow this QR code to
Wantagh Knights.



Chaplain's Letter

Dear Brother Knights,

On October 6th, under a beautiful God-blessed sky with the thermometer hovering around 70 degrees, more than 550 families and friends of St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish gathered for what Fr. Seth called Our First Annual Fall Jamboree and Festival. With the aroma of chicken, burgers, and franks on the barbeque, along with the smell of zeppoles frying in oil nearby, we gathered as one family to celebrate who we are as Parish. This was "One Family gathered in Jesus' Love, Happiness, and Grace". This joy-filled day was only possible because of the outstanding participation of our Brother Knights and Sister Columbiettes. Your generous gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure made the Parish Jamboree possible.

If you have an opportunity to personally thank any of the following local businesses or individuals, please do so.

- The Wantagh Inn
- O'Shea Funeral Homes
- Town of Hempstead
- Wantagh Volunteer Fire Department
- Wantagh Abbey Funeral Home
- Phyllis and Her Bandmates
- Shawn Bailey
- The Dees' Nursery & Florist
- Royal Party Tents

We also want to extend a most grateful thank the many Faith Formation student volunteers who joined us in making our celebration a very special day!

Fr. Seth asked, and the Knights and Columbiettes delivered. Thank you for making the day so memorable for so many. God is Good all the Time. All the Time God is Good. That is His Nature.

Peace,

Deacon Bob O'Donovan
Chaplain and Committee Chair

This past year has been a busy and productive one for the Council. Here is a selection of photos of parish and Council events thanks to our official Council Photographer, Tom McCloskey.

The End of an Era: The Council Votes to Sell Hall

For the first twenty years of Council #6526's existence, the goal of nearly every Grand Knight was to secure a permanent location for the members to meet. Originally, commencing in 1974, the Council's meetings were held in the basement of the rectory. Subsequently, Council members located a building on the Sun Pontiac property near the Wantagh train station, renovated it, and the meetings were moved there. The purchase of a house on Park Avenue was the next meeting place for some years, and finally, in 1997, the location at 1869 Wantagh Avenue was acquired and has been home to the Council for nearly thirty years.

This September, after much discussion and consideration, the Council members voted to sell the property and move to the back to the parish campus. Grand Knight John Tomeo said the decision to move was difficult but necessary. "For a number of years now, the hall has been a drain on the resources of the Council, both in terms of time and finances. The Hall has been losing money every month, especially with the dramatic increase in the cost of insurance in the past year. As a fraternal order of Catholic men, we should be spending time supporting parish activities. As difficult a decision as this has been, our members voted overwhelmingly in agreement."

Over the past year, the Grand Knight and Columbus Club President John Casella have worked closely with the Supreme Office and outside counsel on the sale of the facility, which took place in early October. The next steps are still being worked out. Fr. Seth has welcomed the Knights' move back to the parish school where an office near the front entrance will be used for the Knights and Columbiettes. There will also be space for archives and storage.

"The coming year will be one of transition," says Tomeo, who plans to also hold business meetings in the Parish Center and at local restaurants that are supportive of the Knights. "Ultimately, we will be more focused on the mission of the Knights of Columbus Council #6526 to serve the Community of Wantagh. Over the past year we have grown as a Council and have been more active which we expect will continue moving forward."



Raise a Final Glass! GK John Tomeo and brother knights toast the last meeting in the Council Hall.

Welcome New Members!

St. Frances de Chantal Council is proud to welcome the following new members. We look forward to seeing you at our events and sharing in the mission to serve our Church and Community.

- Michael Pastore
- Louis Frontino
- Fred Elblein
- Thomas McLoughlin
- Robert Gayer
- James Streppone



Council Celebrates 50th Anniversary, Columbiettes 10th



On March 3rd, the Council celebrated our 50th Anniversary; the Columbiettes also marked their 10th anniversary. The dinner took place at Verdi's of Westbury. Among those attending were many Past Grand Knights as well as former Columbiette Presidents. From Left to Right: George Jaeger, John Casella, Ken Iadarola, Russell Merendino, Tom Casey, Grand Knight John Tomeo, Sue Ewald (Columbiettes President), Kevin Hoffman, Peggy Schlesinger, Charlie Buonocore, Diane Coleman, John Hensen, Mike Alliksen (behind Hensen).



Kevin Fitzpatrick, PGK, Vice President of the Nassau Chapter, presents Grand Knight John Tomeo and Columbiettes President Sue Ewald with certificates to commemorate the milestone events for the Council.

St Patrick's Party, Saturday March 16th

The entertainment for the St. Patrick's Day Party at the Council Hall was provided by the Show Stompin' Irish Dance troupe of Wantagh.



Celebrating the Day of the Irish were Kathy Sergeant, Lorraine Paretta, George and Eileen Jaeger, Al Parlato, and friends.

300 Club Annual Dinner May 18th



Calling all winners! Doug Celiberti pulls a winning ball to give to Bob Cabrera at the mic to announce the winner. Lennie Labita has the checkbook on hand to write out a check to the winners. Grand Knight and 300 Club Chairman, John Tomeo supervises.



Joanne Merendino has the winning ticket for the 50/50!



Brenda Vogel, Peggy Schlesinger, and Lou Rubino serve guests at the 300 Club Annual Dinner in the Auditorium.



The Last Dance. Kenny and Marge Iadarola, as always, the first ones on the dance floor.

300 Club Update 25th Round – Final Report

Dear 300 Club Members,

Christmas season is finally here, and it will not be long before we celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. Christmas is about the “child” in all of us; however, there is much work to be done for children less fortunate. That is why we will be supporting two very important causes this time of year: The Social Ministry Christmas Angel’s initiative, and John Thiessen’s Children Foundation. Please see below for an update on our guiding principles:

Charity, Community and Chance.

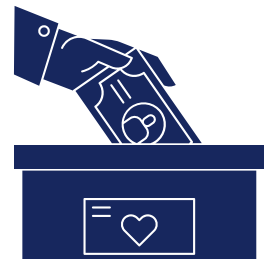
Charity –We will be donating \$500 to the John Thiessen’s Children Foundation that helps sick and underprivileged children in any capacity possible. We will also be providing \$500 in gift cards to Ele Melendez for the Parish Social Ministry’s annual Christmas Angels initiative.

Community – Round 26 has now begun. If you are renewing your membership, please mail your dues to Lennie Labita, Financial Secretary at 1836 Dover Road, Wantagh. Please make out your check out to 6526 Columbus 300 Club, \$30 for each number you own.

Chance – The final raffle drawing results for the 25th Round including the \$500 Founding Members Award. Please feel free to reach out to us if you know someone in need. Thank you for your continued support.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

John Tomeo 300 Club Chair
 300clubchairman@gmail.com
 Mobile (516) 695-7230



Winning No.		October Winners	Prize
43		Priscilla Mainhart	\$100
157		Tim Jaccard	\$75
94		Jean Cangelosi	\$75
122		Lou Rubino	\$75
214		Rosemary Caracappa	\$50
96		Sue Mundy	\$50
84		Matthew Dunphy	\$50
245		Clement Ignieri	\$50
64		Tim Jaccard	\$50
314		Joseph Rienti	\$500 Founding Members’ Award

Summer Saturday Food Truck Festival



The lines were long for the four food trucks that arrived each Saturday in the school parking lot.



Fr. Seth (r) was with Fr. Matthias (l), our summer visiting priest, and a friendly BBQ truck driver at the Saturday Summer Food Truck Festival, which took place over six weekends in June and July. The new event was so popular with parishioners and neighbors that plans are in the works to hold it again next summer.

Parish Feast – October 6th



Fr. Seth was front and center serving salad at the Parish Feast.



Fr. Seth shows off his official chef's hat along with Patrick Campbell.



Deacon Bob was with his crew of Knights manning the barbeque grills for the feast.

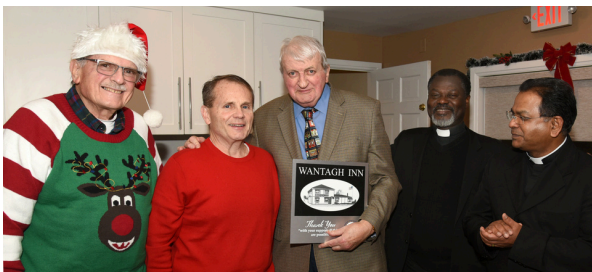


Radio Bingo – November 15th



The irrepressible Bob Cabrera was a winner at Radio Bingo in November.

Knights Christmas Party – December 21st



Grand Knight John Tomeo thanked Mike Dunphy for hosting the Council's Christmas Party at the Wantagh Inn on Dec. 21st. Deacon Bob played Santa and Fr. Seth Awo Doku and Fr. Shaju Devassy enjoyed the festivities as well.



Knights and their spouses enjoyed the evening at the Inn.

Parish Craft Fair – November 23rd



Mike Langiulli was at the mic with Deacon Bob and Gary Hauck announcing winners at the Craft Fair.



Doug Celiberti gives an assist to help pick another winner from the basket.



Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

This year John Portanova chaired the "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest and was happy to report that there were more than 55 submissions from Faith Formation classes grades 1 through 7. First place winners received \$25, second place received \$15. Here is a list of the winners.

1st Grade
1st Place Winner
Mia Heldt

3rd Grade
2nd Place Winner
Mila Minicus

5th Grade
2nd Place Winner
Allison Amador

1st Grade
2nd Place Winner
Mila Torres

4th Grade
1st Place Winner
Cali Torres

6th Grade
1st Place Winner
Declan Privitera

2nd Grade
1st Place Winner
Quinn Dubno

4th Grade
2nd Place Winner
Francesca Leone

6th Grade
2nd Place Winner
Madeline Barea

2nd Grade
2nd Place Winner
Sebastian Barea

5th Grade
1st Place Winner
Natalie Caramanica

7th Grade
1st Place Winner
Mia Privitera

3rd Grade
1st Place Winner
Nora Burke

7th Grade
2nd Place Winner
Jovanni Zollo



Crèche and tree outside church



In Memoriam

2024 was a challenging year with the passing of four brothers, including three Past Grand Knights. They will be dearly missed. We ask that you keep them in your prayers.



Peter Coleman, PGK
Anthony Giardina, PGK
Ken Iadarola, PGK
Giuseppe Ruggiero



Officers and Appointed Members for the 2024–2025 Columbian Year

Grand Knight

John Tomeo

Deputy Grand Knight

Doug Celiberti

Chancellor

Steven Filippazzo.

Warden

Lou Rubino

Advocate

Mike Alliksen PGK

Recorder

Al Parlato

Treasurer

Tom Casey PGK

Inside Guard

Doug Bartolotta

Inside Guard

Nicholas Rubino

Outside Guard

Patrick Campbell

Outside Guard

Pat Shanley

Financial Secretary

Lennie Labita

Media Specialist

Gary Hauck

1st Year Trustee

George Jaeger PKG

2nd Year Trustee

Charlie Buonocore, PGK

3rd Year Trustee

Kevin Hoffman, PGK, PFN

Conference Delegates

John Tomeo, GK

Tom Casey, PGK

George Jaeger PKG -Alternate

Doug Celiberti, DGK -Alternate

Chapter Delegates

Tom Casey, PGK

John Tomeo, GK

Kevin Hoffman, PGK and District Deputy

Newsletter Staff

Patrick J. Campbell – Writer and Editor

Mona Shadded – Graphic Design

Tom McClosky – Photography



 *Happy Holidays!*