



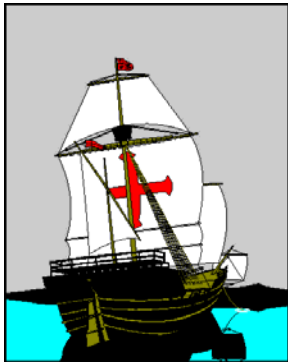
"The opportunity to serve together"

Portsmouth Knightly News

The Official Newsletter of Knights of Columbus, Fr. Christopher S. Rooney Council No. 3618
Portsmouth, Rhode Island

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Honoring Christopher Columbus

This month we celebrate a day in honor of Christopher Columbus, discoverer of our homeland and namesake of our Order. Every American knows the story of his famous voyages to the New World. But do you know any of the details of the early life of this courageous man?

The exact date of Columbus' birth is not known. He was born sometime between Aug. 25 and Oct. 31, 1451, in Genoa, then capital of a self-governing area on the northwest coast of Italy. Genoa was an important seaport, and Genoese ships traded throughout the Mediterranean region. Christopher's given and family name was *Cristoforo Colombo*. His father, Domenico Colombo, was a wool weaver. To increase his income, Domenico also worked as a gatekeeper and wine merchant. Christopher's mother, Susanna Fontanarossa, was the daughter of a wool weaver. Christopher was the oldest of five children. His brothers, Bartholomew and Diego, worked closely with him on many of his enterprises. Christopher and his brothers may have been tutored or sent to a monastery school to learn basic Latin and mathematics. Christopher's formal education ended at about age 14.

Christopher's ambitious father pushed the boy into a business career, and Christopher began to sail on trading trips. In the mid-1470's, in his first documented voyage, Columbus took part in a trading expedition to the island of Chios, a Genoese possession in the Aegean Sea. In 1476, he settled in a Genoese colony in Lisbon, Portugal. There is a legend that he reached Portugal by swimming ashore clinging to an oar after being attacked by pirates. In Lisbon, Columbus joined with his brother Bartholomew to draw and sell maps. Columbus frequently attended Mass at a chapel at the Convento dos Santos, a school for aristocratic young women. There, he met Felipa Perestrello Moniz, whom he married in 1479. Felipa's father was the first governor of Porto Santo, a Portuguese island in the Madeira group off the Atlantic coast of northern Africa.

Between 1480 and 1482, Columbus made voyages to the Canary Islands and the Azores, island groups in the Atlantic Ocean west of Africa. Columbus also visited Portugal's fortified trading posts in western Africa, where he observed the trade in gold and slaves. Some historians believe Columbus also went to England and Ireland, and even to Iceland, where he may have learned of early Norse explorations. By the 1480's, the Portuguese had invented a sturdy ship that could sail against the wind. They were trying to reach the Indies (source of valuable gold, silk, gems, and spices) by sailing around Africa. While Portuguese sailors were trying to reach Asia by sailing around Africa, Columbus thought of what he believed to be the easy way—sailing due west.

Many people in the 1400's relied on a map of the world designed by Ptolemy, an astronomer and geographer in Alexandria, Egypt, during the A.D. 100's. Ptolemy's map showed most of the world as covered by land. Columbus found further confirmation for his idea of sailing west to Asia in the letters of Paolo Toscanelli, an influential scholar from the Italian city of Florence who believed that China lay only 5,000 nautical miles west of the Canary Islands. Columbus' plan was based in part on two major miscalculations. First, he underestimated the circumference of the world by about 25 per cent. Columbus also mistakenly believed that most of the world consisted of land rather than water. This mistake led him to conclude that Asia extended much farther east than it actually did.

About 1483, Columbus gained audiences with King John II of Portugal. The king placed Columbus' proposal before his council, which rejected it. Columbus did not have to prove to the council that the world was round because educated people at that time knew it was. The council turned down his plan on the belief that he had greatly underestimated the length of the journey. The king's advisers thought that Portugal's resources should be invested in finding a route around Africa to Asia.

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Grand Knight's Message



Brothers All,

I am, by standards of the Rooney Council, a relatively new Knight having taken my 1st Degree in 2001. I know that our Council has had a long and

worthy history and that most of the 96 members we carry in our roster have been hardworking Knights and have fulfilled, honorably, in their hearts and souls the mission of service and charity that is the cornerstone of our organization. Presently, we continue to try to remain steadfast in the path of that mission but we need help. The active members, which constitute the core of our council, represent only 10% of our membership. We are limited in what we can do since we can only draw upon the same small group of hardworking brothers. We need to bring devoted and energetic new brothers into our fold and rekindle the flame in the hearts of our members who still can carry the torch in our community. We need the help of our older brothers to pass on their love, commitment and memories of their knighthood to their offspring and persuade them to join the Knights of Columbus.

In spite of the trend in our society to disassociate from fraternal organizations, together and through the beacon of our mission and work we hope that this new Columbian Year will break the membership stagnation that has crippled our Council.

This quarterly Bulletin is one of our attempts to keep everyone informed of the activities of the Rooney Council and to bring back into our business and/or social meetings as many of our members as possible.

Please try to stay in touch, provide us with your email address, if you have one, and let us know if we can be of any service to you and your family.

Vivat Jesus!!

Paulo De Sousa, Grand Knight

St. Barnabas Support to Catholic Orphans

Members of St. Barnabas Parish are in the process of establishing a clothing and toy drive in order to help the orphans at Missionaries of Charity in Karadah and Chaldean Catholic parishes displaced by the Sunni militia in Iraq.

Items that are needed are as follows: clothes for both genders ages 3-13 (for winter and summer), school materials (including coloring books, crayons, pencils, notebooks), small toys (that do not require power or batteries), and personal hygiene supplies. English books are not needed.

The drive begins on 29 September, and continues indefinitely. Items may be dropped off in the St. Barnabas Church Hall before and after Masses. Donations are also very much appreciated.

Our council is planning to support this effort by supplying postage and shipping to a military post in the United States for further shipment to Iraq.

If you have further questions or wish to help, please call Brother Paul Gallagher @401 293 0707 or Brother Edmund Silveria @401-683 0752.

St. Anthony Parish News

Saturday, 6 October: Giant Yard Sale, 9 AM – 2 PM

Saturday/Sunday, 13 & 14 October: Craft Fair, 9 AM – 2 PM

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Brother Knights,

This newsletter is our council's attempt to communicate details of upcoming events and other important information to all of our membership. Please accept our apologies for any errors or omissions in this first issue. Our ultimate goal is to increase our service to the parishes we support, through active participation and increased membership. We hope that this newsletter will help us to achieve this goal.

If you have any suggestions, recommendations for improvements, or just want to submit an article for consideration, please send them directly to the editor. E-mail address is in the list of officers on Page 5.

Thanks,

Paul St. Laurent

Fr. Christopher S. Rooney Council 3618 Schedule of Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME	POINT OF CONTACT	COMMENTS
Fri. 14 Dec	Council Christmas Party	6:00 PM	Paul St. Laurent, 683-2501	Party is at the home of Paul St. Laurent, 48 Schooner Drive, Portsmouth. This is a Pot-Luck Event. Bring a dish to share. Beverages will be provided. Note: This address is not on MAPQUEST. For directions, call Paul.
TBD	Senior Citizens Christmas Party	1-3 PM	Grand Knight, Paul De Sousa, 683-9438	Details of this activity are not yet available. If interested in helping, contact the Grand Knight. Brother Knights needed as early as noon
Fri. 8 Feb	Lenten Fish Dinner #1	5-7 PM	TBD	St. Barnabas Hall. Brother Knights needed as early as 2PM.
Fri. 29 Feb	Lenten Fish Dinner #2	5-7 PM	TBD	Senior Center, Portsmouth. Brother Knights needed as early as 2PM.
Fri. 14 Mar	Lenten Fish Dinner #3	5-7 PM	TBD	St. Barnabas Hall. Brother Knights needed as early as 2PM.

Honoring Christopher Columbus (Continued from Page 1)



Columbus

In 1485, Columbus went to Spain, a bitter rival of Portugal. At that time, Spain consisted of the united kingdoms of Castile and Aragon. Columbus arrived during Spain's war to drive the Muslims out of Granada, the only remaining Islamic kingdom on Spanish soil. Two wealthy Spanish aristocrats offered to give Columbus some ships. But to do so, they needed the permission of Spain's King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. In 1486, Columbus gained an interview with the monarchs, but they were in no position to finance an expedition. They were also cautious about reopening conflict with Portugal. Spain and Portugal had recently settled their disputes over various islands off Africa. However, the intensely religious monarchs were interested in how Columbus vowed to use the proceeds from his expedition. He promised to use the money to recapture Jerusalem from the Muslims. There, he said, he would rebuild the Jews' holy Temple and bring on a new "Age of the Holy Spirit." His eloquent arguments gained him support among Franciscan friars and Jews, including Jews who had converted to Christianity. Queen Isabella was about the same age as Columbus, and she admired men of conviction. At her insistence, Columbus' plan was put before a commission of experts. They met in the Spanish cities of Salamanca and Cordoba during 1486 and 1487 under the leadership of Isabella's spiritual adviser, Hernando de Talavera. Although the committee's first report rejected Columbus' plan, Isabella granted him a small salary.

For the next several years, Columbus followed the Spanish court as it traveled through the country. In 1490, the experts issued a final report. They scoffed at his plan—not because they thought that the world was flat or sea monsters would devour the ships, but because they still believed his estimates were wrong. The committee favored the belief that the world was large and covered mostly by water rather than small and composed mostly of land. In addition, Columbus' demands had increased. He wanted to become a titled aristocrat, to rule the lands he discovered, and to be able to pass these privileges on to his sons. He also wanted a percentage of the wealth he brought back to Spain.

Columbus refused to give up. He sent his brother Bartholomew to seek support from the English and French courts, but the attempts were unsuccessful. Columbus' chance finally came when Spain conquered Granada in January 1492. In the aftermath of this victory, Luis de Santangel, a royal treasurer, convinced Isabella that she was missing a great opportunity. Thus, in April 1492, Columbus's plan suddenly received royal approval. There is no truth to the story that Isabella offered to pawn her jewels to pay for the voyage. Columbus's supporters—including Santangel, who ran a government agency that had extra money in its treasury—provided the funds for the expedition.

The author acknowledges a lot of help from World Book Online Americas Edition in writing this article.

The Story of

Our Lady of the Golden Heart

It was a damp, clammy November evening in 1932, when four Belgian children walked to the convent of the Sisters of Christian Doctrine. Eleven-year-old Albert and his older sister Fernande, first set out for the Degeimbre household to pick up young Gilberte and Andrée. It had become routine for the four children to pick up Gilberte Voisin, the younger sister of Albert and Fernande, from the Sister's academy where she attended class. Nothing was out of the ordinary this Tuesday evening, November 29, in the small Belgian village of Beauraing until the four reached the door of the convent.

After Albert rang the bell, he turned toward the street and saw a luminous figure walking above the bridge by the Lourdes grotto inside the convent yard. "The Virgin dressed in white is walking above the bridge!" he exclaimed to the others, who, because the boy joked often, did not believe a word. The three anticipated an outbreak of laughter. Surprised by his self-constraint and seriousness, they turned around for themselves and saw the same vision.

The four pounded frantically at the door until Sister Valeria arrived. Gilberte Voisin looked immediately to the place where four hands pointed and saw the Lady. But Sister Valeria, seeing nothing, called them foolish, as did the mother of Gilberte and Andrée upon hearing their report. "Don't tell any of this foolishness to your parents," she warned the three Voisin children. Yet, not even inside the door, the three blurted out what they had just seen to their parents, who sent them straight to bed after a scolding.

When the children returned from their errand the next evening with the same story, Mrs. Degeimbre, convinced that some trickster was behind the illusions, decided to investigate the mystery and, with other adults, began to escort the children.

"She is here," gasped one of the children spotting the figure on the walk between the convent gate and the front door. The young visionaries saw more clearly her overwhelming beauty. She wore a simple ivory gown that flowed graciously to her feet, which were hidden in a snow-white cloud. A glimmering light framed perfectly her silk mantle that draped over her head like a wedding veil. Her arms were extended in a permanent embrace to the children. The Lady appeared four times this night - the last time near a rose hawthorn tree in the convent garden, where she appeared from then on.

The Sisters, nervous that the diocese would soon learn of the stories, severely warned the students about any talk of the visions. And to further discourage any activity on the premises, they locked the gates of the academy and released dogs in the convent yard. But despite the nuns' efforts, more and more people joined the children on the convent grounds. On the evening of the feast of the Immaculate Conception, just nine days after the Virgin's first appearance, nearly fifteen thousand people gathered behind the gates of the academy.

Messages of Our Lady of the Golden Heart

*"Do you love my Son? Do you love me? Then,
sacrifice yourself for me."*

"Pray, Pray very much. Pray always."

The Lady who had by now defined herself as the Immaculate Virgin continued to visit the children, but less frequently. On the last day of the year she revealed her golden heart to all five children. Nearly 35,000 people gathered to witness the Madonna's last appearance on January 3, 1933, when she told each of the children secret messages and, in a gesture of farewell, displayed her golden heart. In total there were thirty-three apparitions.

As was first anticipated by the Sisters, the Bishop of Namur, alerted by the reports, commissioned a committee to research the apparitions. After fourteen years and seventy-two sessions, the apparitions were approved on July 2, 1947, two years after the erection of a small chapel at the site. Pope John Paul II visited the site of Our Lady of Beauraing on May 18, 1985.

All five children married and started their own families, drifting occasionally back to the hawthorn tree in the convent garden, where thousands of pilgrims pray each year to Our Lady of the Golden Heart.

Immaculate Heart of Mary

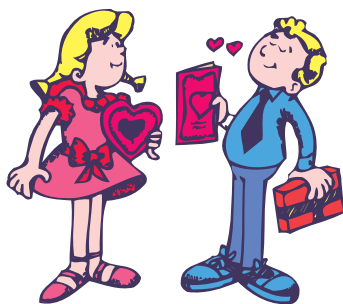
O Most pure Heart of Mary,
full of goodness,
show your love towards us.
Let the flame of your heart, O Mary,
descend on all people.
We love you immensely.
Impress on our hearts true love
so that we long for you.

Amen

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Opinions expressed are those of the individual author and do not necessarily reflect those of Fr. Christopher S. Rooney Council, its Officers, or the Knights of Columbus. Contributions to the *Portsmouth Knightly News* by Brother Knights are welcome. Articles may be on a variety of topics: upcoming events, council related, personal experience, religious, etc. Please send all articles for consideration in PC format via e-mail directly to the Newsletter Editor.

ON LOVE.....FROM THE MOUTH OF BABES



HOW CAN YOU TELL IF TWO ADULTS EATING DINNER AT A RESTAURANT ARE IN LOVE?

"See if the man has lipstick on his face." - Sandra, age 7

"Just see if the man picks up the check. That's how you can tell if he's in love." - Bobby, age 9

"Lovers will just be staring at each other and their food will get cold. Other people care more about the food." - Bart, age 9

"It's love if they order one of those desserts that are on fire. They like to order those because it's just like how their hearts are, on fire." - Christine, age 9

WHY LOVE HAPPENS BETWEEN TWO PARTICULAR PEOPLE

"One of the people has freckles and so he finds somebody else who has freckles too." - Andrew, age 8

"No one is really sure why it happens, but I heard it has something to do with how you smell...That's why perfume and deodorant are so popular." - Mae, age 9

"I think you're supposed to get shot with an arrow or something, but the rest of it isn't supposed to be so painful." - Manuel, age 8

CONCERNING WHY LOVERS OFTEN HOLD HANDS

"They want to make sure their rings don't fall off because they paid good money for them." - Gavin, age 8

"They are just practicing for when they might walk down the aisle someday and do the holy matchimony thing." - John, age 9

Source: Anonymous, from the Internet