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Faithful Navigator Report — SK John Massey

Reverend Father and Worthy Sir Knights,

November was another busy month which started with a fallout for the rosary and funeral mass for SK Dale and Lady Marlene Boman. On November 13th we had 9 Sir Knights fallout for a flag retirement ceremony hosted by the Boy Scouts. November 18th was the closing mass for the 75th Anniversary of the Austin Diocese, six Sir Knights from our Assembly were able to join Sir Knights from across the diocese at this special mass. We ended the month with a rosary and funeral mass for Lady Laine Harris. Eleven Sir Knights were able to fallout for the visitation and rosary for Lady Laine, SK Bill, their daughter Rosemarie and the rest of the family were very appreciative.

It's already December; where did the year go? As we begin December, we enter the Advent Season in which we prepare for the birth of our blessed savior. December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation. Our Assembly Christmas party is December 9th in the Parish Hall at St. Catherine, please make sure to RSVP to Giacomo. Thanks to Giacomo and Oscar for planning the party. Our regular monthly business meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on December 11th in the Parish Hall at St. Catherine. If you haven't made a meeting in a while, please try to join us this month. Wishing all a blessed Christmas season and a happy New Year.

Vivat Jesus!!

John Massey

Faithful Navigator

Bishop Louis J. Reicher Assembly 1099

Bishop Reicher
 Assembly 1099



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**Happy Birthday
Sir Knights !!!**
May you have many more

Steven	Daigle
Trevor	De Martini
James	Evans
Robert	Fonseca
Arturo	Gonzalez
Daniel	Kaiser
Manuel	Moreno
James	Russell
Jimmy	Smith
Timothy	Sullivan
Jesus	Tristan
Joseph	Vaz

Saint of the Month—SK Giacomo Leone

Saint Nicholas

How many of these 10 little-known facts about St. Nicholas do YOU know?

St. Nicholas is known for more than just bringing presents to children.

In honor of St. Nicholas' feast day, December 6, take a moment to see how well you *really* know the beloved saint.

By **Kenya Sinclair (CALIFORNIA NETWORK)**
Catholic Online (<https://www.catholic.org>)
12/6/2016 (6 years ago)
Edited by Giacomo Leone

LOS ANGELES, CA (Catholic Online) - Every boy and girl knows Jolly Old Saint Nick, after all, he is the snowy-bearded, rosy-cheeked gift-giver children traditionally expect to visit them each year - but how many of us know him as more than that?

Most know St. Nicholas was a friendly man who brought joy to the children in his hometown with gifts - but there is so much more to the Saint than the secular world gives him credit for.



Check out these ten little-known facts to see how well *you* know Saint Nicholas:

St. Nicholas' name is of Greek origin.

Did you know Nicholas is the Greek name for "People's victory?" Much like Christ, St. Nicholas lived his life helping and loving others - Certainly a victory for the people!

St. Nicholas' bones weep Manna. Since his death 17 centuries ago, a pure liquid known as the Manna of St. Nicholas, or St. Nicholas Manna, has flowed from his bones.

Every May 9th, during the Feast of the Translation of the Relics of St. Nicholas, a Dominican priest collects the manna in a glass vial to be used to bless the Christian faithful.

St. Nicholas learned to give and serve from his generous parents.

St. Nicholas' parents both served the ill, which resulted in their deaths. St. Nicholas was their only child and inherited everything, leading him to become a sort of philanthropist who often gave anonymous gifts throughout his home in Patara, Turkey.

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Saint of the Month— Continued

The idea of modern-day Santa Claus was born of nuns taking note from St. Nicholas.

Inspired by St. Nicholas' great heart, French nuns in the Middle Ages continued his tradition of giving anonymous gifts at night to needy families and children.

The next morning, families would discover small pouches of coins, food, or treats.

When asking who gave the gifts, the nuns would simply say, "It must have been St. Nicholas."

This anonymous gift-giving eventually became tradition, which is part of what led to modern-day Christmas celebrations.

Chocolate coins are a symbol originating with Saint Nicholas.

In honor of St. Nicholas' gifts of coins, North America continues to provide chocolate coins in gold foil wrappers, usually placed in Christmas stockings for children to discover the following morning.

Candy canes also have origins in honor of St. Nicholas.

Candy canes are actually croziers, the bishop's staff, of St. Nicholas, or as the Dutch call him, "Sinterklaas."

The Dutch are responsible for the change from St. Nicholas to Santa Claus.

When the Dutch brought traditions of "Sinterklaas" to North America in 1621, when they founded New Amsterdam, English settlers later made the name sound more like what we're used to hearing today - Santa Claus.

St. Nicholas was imprisoned for SEVEN YEARS.

St. Nicholas was tortured and imprisoned for his faith until the first Christian emperor gave religious liberty to Christians everywhere.

St. Nicholas is sometimes called the "boy bishop".

St. Nicholas was made a Bishop of Myra at only 30-years-old, prompting many to dub him the "boy bishop."

St. Nicholas was not always offering anonymous gifts.

There are records of St. Nicholas intervening on behalf of three men who were falsely condemned to death. When they were to be killed, St. Nicholas risked his life by grabbing the sword from the executioner's hands. He threw it upon the ground and demanded the men be set free.

He had such authority that the executioner left his sword where it fell and later, the man really responsible for the crime the three men would have died for, sought forgiveness from St. Nicholas and confessed his sin. St. Nicholas forgave the man and absolved his sin - after he underwent a period of repentance.

Knights of Columbus Bishop Reicher
Assembly 1099

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SK Pete Donahoe

Trustee Three Year

SK Billy Roberts

Faithful Inner Sentinel

SK Jim Luhrman

Faithful Outer Sentinel

SK Rayford Carter

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The 4th Degree Patriotic Order of the Knights of Columbus is open to Third Degree Knights. Contact your Council Financial Secretary if you are interested or email the Faithful Navigator or Captain.

Pay Dues or Make Donations Online Now Available

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From the Editor

Contact the Editor: Greg Nelson gnelson8156@gmail.com

Webmaster for the Assembly Brandon Kraft bk@kraft.im

Meetings for Bishop Reicher Assembly 1099

Meeting Schedule:

The Second Monday of the Month at 7:30 pm

St. Catherine of Siena

4800 Convict Hill Road

Austin, TX 78749

Parish Activity Center

2nd Floor Room 213

Patriotic Knights of Columbus

Fr. Charles Watters -- The Chaplain Was a Sky Soldier

Written by SK Lawrence P. Grayson, Archdiocese of Washington 4th Degree



In the early morning hours of November 9, 1967, as American artillery and aircraft pounded an 875-meter-high hill near Dak To, Vietnam, Fr. Charles Watters offered Mass at its base. Many Protestants joined the Catholics for the well-attended service. Soon, the chaplain would accompany these paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade as they moved against a North Vietnam Army (NVA) unit occupying the hill. The commanding general of the 173rd thought the objective was held by a depleted enemy force that suffered heavy casualties in recent fighting. The occupiers, however, were a fresh NVA regiment of 2,000 soldiers.

At 9:43 am, 330 men in three companies moved out. Companies C and D advanced abreast, while Company A was behind to protect the rear. The weather was clear and warm. The advance was slow through the thick, tangled foliage of scrub brush, bamboo and tall trees. Unknown to the Americans, the enemy had been preparing the site for several months, constructing camouflaged bunkers interconnected with trenches and tunnels and storing extensive quantities of supplies. At 10:30 am, with

the first troopers a few hundred meters from the crest of the hill, a well-concealed NVA force opened fire with recoilless rifles, automatic weapons, small arms, rockets and hand grenades.

Fr. Watters moved to the line of contact. When a wounded trooper was standing in shock in front of the assaulting forces, Father raced forward, picked the man up and carried him to safety. Soon after, he ran through intense enemy fire to aid a fallen soldier. The chaplain moved wherever he was needed.

When the fighting began, Company A, which was to the rear, began constructing a landing zone that could be used for resupply and evacuation of the wounded. The work was slow as the company was under occasional fire. Then, at 2:30 pm, enemy troops launched a massive assault from lower on the hill, driving the company upwards toward the other American units. The paratroopers had walked into a carefully prepared ambush, with enemy units above and below them.

With their advance halted, the Americans formed a defensive perimeter, bringing in their injured. As the men pulled back, the chaplain went into "no man's land," between the two forces, exposing himself to friendly as well as enemy fire to recover two wounded soldiers.

The NVA were now striking from all sides in a well-coordinated attack. The paratroopers were firing intensively, but the NVA continued to come. When the American defensive zone was forced to contract, Fr. Watters saw several wounded men lying outside of it. Ignoring attempts to restrain him, he left the perimeter three times in the face of automatic weapons and mortar fire to carry and assist injured troopers to safety. Then he moved about, aiding the medics, distributing food and water, speaking words of encouragement, and giving last rites to the dying.

With the three companies now in a common defensive area, the several command posts and the wounded were placed in the middle. For several hours, the Americans fought off the enemy. The high expenditure of ammunition and lack of water made resupply essential, but heavy enemy fire made it difficult. Six helicopters were hit and driven away before one finally dropped needed supplies at 5:50 pm.

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Patriotic Americans —Continued

As the enemy assault intensified, U.S. air strikes and artillery were called in, but they had little effect because of the dense foliage. Then, just after dark, at 6:58 pm, a Marine Corps fighter-bomber released two 500-pound bombs destined for the edge of the American perimeter. One of them struck the upper part of a tree located near the center of the American position and exploded. Fragments of the bomb were showered over the area which contained the combined command group, the wounded, and the medics. It killed 42 men, including the chaplain, and wounded 45 others. This was one of the worst friendly-fire incidents of the Vietnam War.

Charles Joseph Watters was born in Jersey City, NJ, on January 17, 1927. After attending Seton Hall University, he went to Immaculate Conception Seminary, and was ordained a priest in 1953. While serving in several parishes in New Jersey, he earned a commercial pilot's license, and then in 1962 joined the Air Force National Guard. Three years later, Father enlisted in the Army as a chaplain, successfully completed airborne training and was assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade, nicknamed the Sky Soldiers.

In June 1966, Fr. Watters, now a major, began a twelve-month tour of duty in Vietnam. He believed his place was with the fighting men, and so when a unit he was attached to rotated to the rear, he would join another unit in combat. He was constantly in motion, saying Mass, tending the wounded, joking with the men, giving spiritual guidance. In February 1967, he took part in Operation Junction City, which included the only combat jump of the Vietnam War. This helped endear him to the men, who knew he would risk his life with them. During this tour of duty, he was awarded an Air Medal and a Bronze Star with a V for valor.

When his tour ended, he extended for another six months. After the friendly-fire incident in which Fr. Watters was killed, the Americans took Hill 875, and significantly crippled the fighting effectiveness of the North Vietnam units they fought. Fr. Watters was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, and has had schools, a bridge, a Knights of Columbus council, and the Army Chaplain's School named after him. Major Watters was a member of Knights of Columbus Council #1638 in Rutherford, New Jersey.



Fallout for Laine Harris' Rosary