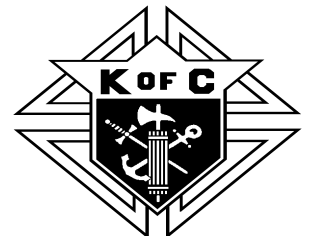




KNIGHT TIMES



Ascension Council #9285
Manassas, Virginia

PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Happy New Year! As the joy and hustle and bustle of the Blessed Christmas season fades into warm memories it's that time of year when we make resolutions and set priorities for the year ahead of us. The brother knights of Ascension Council will no doubt include a renewed commitment to family, church, community and one another as part of that annual resolution countdown! The first half of our fraternal year has been active with never a shortage of community projects and council programs. The second half will be no different.

Work will continue on raising the necessary funds and begin construction on the parish kitchen, what a difference that will make in hosting pancake breakfasts!

Spring will bring forth our beloved fundraising event KOVAR. KOVAR will take on new meaning for Ascension Council this year as we've adopted an ARC of Prince William group home. As reported previously, ARC is a grant recipient of KOVAR funds. This year's KOVAR drive will be April 20th-23rd so clear your calendar and let Jim St. Amour know that you're ready to help.

Our programs and service projects make a difference in our parish and community at large. Let 2006 be a year in which we all renew our commitment to act as a witness for Christ through our charitable works. Thanks to all who selflessly devote their time and talent, and keep up the good work.

Program Director
Steve Trotman
Deputy Grand Knight
703-794-1137
sdrotman@comcast.net



Church

The Director's objective for Church activities is to provide council involvement in, service to, and/or increased council commitment to our Church, clergy and religious, to enrich the spiritual involvement of individual members in their Church and its activities, and to promote vocations to the religious life.

Donut Duty is scheduled for the first weekend of every month.

Ascension Council will participate in a Corporate Eucharistic Celebration on Sunday, January 29th at the 9 AM Mass. All knights are encouraged to join their brother Knights for this special liturgy.

In our ongoing struggle to have Roe vs. Wade overturned, pro-lifers must unite to demonstrate our faith and solidarity and educate America that the right to life vests in each human being at fertilization. No Exception! No Compromise! January 23rd marks the 33rd Annual March for Life rally and convention. Please take the time to review the March for Life events flyer and join us on January 23rd for this annual event. If you wish to show your support in the way of volunteering, contact Curtis Donato @ 703-878-7303 or via email: curtisdonato@verizon.net. The parish has chartered a bus to transport supporters to and from the event and there will be sign-ups in the commons area soon. Please see the bulletin for details. Anyone wishing to help with the sign-ups, probably on the weekend of January 14th-15th, please let Curtis know.

Youth

The Director's objective for Youth activities is to provide opportunities for all youth to become personally involved and committed to programs for improvement of their physical, social, and moral development.



We are reaching out to John Paul I Council to combine our efforts for the Free Throw Contest. If we do the date is January 14th from 8 AM – 11 AM. More detail will be available at our business meeting.

Family

The Director's objective for Family Activities is to involve the entire family in the activities of the Knights of Columbus, to strengthen family life, and to care for widows and children of deceased members.



We have reached out to WOSH to combine our Ladies Appreciation Night with their Valentines Dance which is scheduled for 6:30 PM Saturday, February 11th.



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Manassas, Virginia



Council

The Director's objective for Council activities is to increase fraternalism among members, to provide enjoyment to members and their families, to ensure service to the brotherhood and advancement in the Order's degrees.

The semiannual audit was completed in August 2005 and the next one is scheduled for February 2006. The PGK Billy Sloan Memorial roadside cleanup was conducted on October 30th, 2005. I am planning on scheduling the Winter cleanup the last weekend in January.

A special Social Night is planned for the month of January. Come, meet and listen to Mr. Scafetta, author of "The True and Unbiased Story of Christopher Columbus." as he dispels the myths and shares the true story behind Christopher Columbus. 2006 is a special year for us as knights as it is the 500th Anniversary of the death of Christopher Columbus. Copies of this compelling book will be available for purchase for \$10. And 10% goes back to the council so this is a great fundraiser as well.

Community

The Director's objective for Community activities is to increase the council's awareness of its life within the community and to promote council as well as individual involvement in the community.

ARC of Prince William is a program that was implemented in the last 3 months for our council. I heard from brother knights that they were unsure how KOVAR money was being spent and I found out that ARC receives money from KOVAR. At that moment, we decided to donate time to their program to reduce their administrative costs. Spend a few hours a year donating your time and talent to this home in Dale City. We are in need of knights and their families who are willing to landscape, cut lawns, mulch beds, power wash and seal the deck, one or two times a year. Call me at (703) 580-8660 to hear more about this rewarding program.

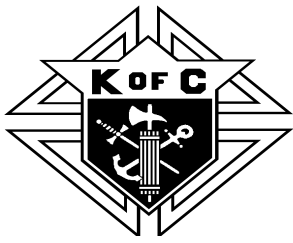
RECRUITING AND RETENTION

Our recruiting and retention committee chair is John Murray and although he is active in our parish, he has abdicated his duties until his health improves. With this, we still have men who are interested in joining the Knights and our Council will be conducting a first degree in February to welcome any new members. Keep up your work of meeting new families in our parish and have them call me if they are interested in knowing more about our council.

KNIGHT OF THE MONTH

It is hard to find anyone more committed to the Knights during November (and December) than Doug Blair. His unending energy, warm smile, and firm commitment to the council was demonstrated in all that he volunteered for in Ascension Council and the fourth degree, Bishop Flaherty Assembly in Manassas. I wish Doug the best during the New Year and look forward to his work with me at the ARC of Prince William home in Dale City,

Remember Keep Christ in Christmas (KCIC)? That was Ray Stearns who led that valuable campaign in November and December, our Knight of the Month for December. He was tasked with working with Charlie Govsky, our last years coordinator and Doug Blair to make this a very organized and prosperous activity for the clergy of the Arlington Diocese. Ray stepped up and used his talents to schedule the workers, ensure their participation, order the cards and coordinate with the other ministries while maintaining a smile throughout it all. We also want to thank Dolly, his beautiful bride for allowing us the time to work with him. Many thanks, Ray, and we look forward to your company for the rest of the year.



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NEW KNIGHTS IN ASCENSION

Two new knights joined our council in November. Here are a few items of interest on their families, interests, and background. Please introduce yourselves to them.

Mark Graves who became a 1st Degree Knight on November 10th. Born in Gardner, MA, the youngest of four children, Mark attended Sacred Heart school catechism classes and Sacred Heart Church (right down the street from our house). He made confirmation at the same church in 1970. He was inducted into his high school sports Hall of Fame. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1976 and traveled to Japan, India (where he met his wife) and Switzerland.

Mark married Sankari Brahma in June 1981 and attended Mount Wachusette City College graduating in 1983 with highest honors and an AS in Electrical Engineering Technologies. He attended University of Lowell (now U Mass at Lowell) and graduated with a BS in Electrical Engineering in 1986. He worked for Texas Instruments for 6 years and went to school nights, receiving his MBA from the University of Texas in 1992. His first daughter, Monica was born in February 1989, and his second daughter, Melanie, was born in February 1993. Mark joined the State Department in the fall of 1992 and lived in India, Greece, Malaysia and Hong Kong. He has traveled to 62 (and counting) countries. He moved into Woodbridge in August 2005. His interests include family, tennis and travel.

Mark Horn transferred into our Council in October. Mark is a 13 year member of our Order and a 4th Degree Knight. He is a Past Grand Knight of Council 9504, Cannon AFB, NM and transferred from Council 13277 in Navarre, FL. Mark is a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force and is married to the former Kathleen Valle. Mark and Kathy have an 11 year old son, Matthew. The family has enjoyed assignments in New Mexico, California, Germany, Italy and Florida. Mark has volunteered in many areas for the Church including Eucharistic Minister, Usher, RCIA teacher and CCD teacher. The Horns look forward to a close relationship with the Sacred Heart community and Ascension Council.

INSURANCE AGENT

John J. Niemiec Joins Knights of Columbus as Field Agent

NEW HAVEN, CT — The Knights of Columbus announced that John J. Niemiec has joined the Knights of Columbus Insurance division as a Field Agent representing Ascension Council #9258.

The sale of insurance has been a part of the Knights of Columbus program and vision since its founding in New Haven in 1882 by Father Michael J. McGivney.

Put simply, John Niemiec's mission is to provide life insurance protection for Ascension Council members—and their families. As a devoted and concerned adviser, John is trained to help Knights secure their financial futures, through a top-rated portfolio of life insurance, long term care insurance and annuity products. The Knights of Columbus insurance program is a special benefit of membership and offers unique programs that exist exclusively for families faced with needs that often fall outside traditional insurance plans.

Under John's passionate care and guidance, the Ascension Council members will have an opportunity to achieve a financial peace of mind.

"The Knights of Columbus is experiencing tremendous growth of which insurance sales plays a significant role in ensuring its financial future. I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to work with the Knights of Columbus and more specifically the Ascension Council members and their families," said John Niemiec. "I am so blessed to have this occasion to serve my fellow Knights."

John Niemiec—the son of Mount Vernon Council member Richard Niemiec and his wife Emma—is a Fourth Degree member of Council 5998 and a parishioner of Good Shepherd Catholic Church. John and his wife Sally have one child, Sarah Grace, and live in Mount Vernon.

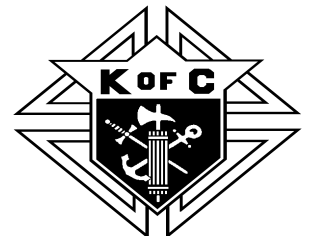
Do you have any questions about your membership benefits? Call or email John at 703-780-3438/john.niemiec@kofc.org and let him help you achieve financial security.

Welcome John! We look forward to your active participation in the Council.



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Note: Look for a monthly column from John Niemiec in each newsletter.



John Niemiec
Knights of Columbus
Field Agent
4101 Colonial Ave
Alexandria VA 22309-2550

(703) 780-3438
E-mail: John.Niemiec@kofc.org
Web: www.kofcinsurance-nva.org

FAMILY OF THE MONTH

Our family of the month for November is the Michonski family. We celebrated our Past Grand Knight's efforts in 2004 and 2005 at our annual PGK dinner in November and it was a clear reminder how much Jerry has worked to build our order. He has shown great spirit and a love for our activities in the parish while his bride, Giulia has enjoyed gaining new friends within the council. Additionally, they both have shown great strength while aiding their parents during times of poor health keeping the family strong. We wish you joy in the coming year and thank you for leading our council.

MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

The following Ascension Council knights will be celebrating their membership anniversaries in January and February (years as a knight are in parenthesis).

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Robert Salm (29) | Kenneth Mathiasmeier (26) |
| Art Bohn, CGK (22) | John O'Neill (22) |
| Tony Bado, PGK (19) | Jack DuFrain (19) |
| Wallace Geiger, Jr. (13) | Don Lewandowski (12) |
| Al Litchfield, PGK (12) | Thomas Zum Brunnen, PGK (12) |
| John Murray, PGK (10) | Robert Regan (10) |
| Michael Romero, PGK (10) | Peter Sisa (10) |
| Joseph Briganti (9) | John Hon (9) |
| Paul Loving (9) | David Adams (8) |
| Kenneth Henz (8) | Kerri Crutchman (7) |
| John Genualdi (7) | Don Hajec (7) |
| Timothy Driskill (5) | George Cunningham (3) |

Our family of the month for December is the Befumo family. Jeff (our Worthy Financial Secretary) and his lovely wife Karen have enjoyed a long history with our council and this month, they opened their home to all knights for the annual Christmas party. All who visited their home enjoyed warm hospitality, fine food, refreshments, and the sight of many knights and their wives opening gifts under the Christmas tree that provided loud laughs from the gallery. It was the Befumo's love for entertaining that made the evening a memorable celebration for all of us. Thank you for your time, energy, and commitment to the council.

KOVAR

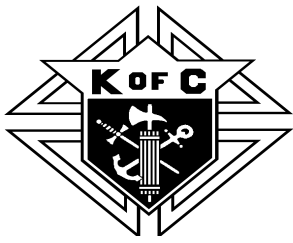
My name is Jim St. Amour, and I have been given the opportunity to excel as the KOVAR Chairman for this fraternal year. I'd like to let everyone know that I will need your assistance in the early spring in support of this worthy cause. KOVAR is the Knights of Columbus of Virginia Assisting Citizens with Mental Retardation. In 1971, the Knights of Columbus of Virginia sought a means to accomplish the Order's charitable work on behalf of citizens with mental retardation. The Knights of Columbus formed a corporation dedicated to providing financial support to organizations that assist citizens of Virginia with mental retardation regardless of race, creed, or ethnic background. This organization was chartered as KOVAR. The primary fund raising activity for KOVAR takes place throughout Virginia during one weekend each year. During this period knights throughout the state collect in front of stores and other public places offering Tootsie Roll candy to all in hope of receiving contributions. Using this approach Virginia knights have raised over \$8 million since 1972. I will keep you informed of when I will need your assistance in support of this very important event.

BIRTHDAYS

The following Ascension Council knights will be celebrating January or February birthdays:

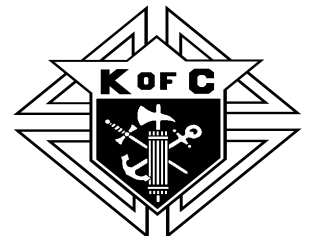


- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| David Adams | Benedicto Agoo |
| Tony Bado, PGK | Jeff Befumo, PGK |
| George Darnell, PGK | Ron DeSpirito |
| Robert Frappier | John Grenier |
| William Hechmer, Jr., PGK | John Hon |
| Joe Marshall | Kenneth Mathiasmeier |
| Peter Pallard | Ray Stearns |
| Mark Uhler | Michael Vrabel, Jr. |
| Edward Wickenhofer | Thomas Wolter |
| James Yuengert | Tom Zum Brunnen, PGK |



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One of the easiest ways to get things started and to show your support is by donating through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and United Way campaigns at your workplace. In recent years we were able to raise a significant percentage of our goal through these campaigns--and that was through the contributions of just a few brother knights!

To donate to KOVAR through these campaigns, simply indicate KOVAR on your donor card by selecting the four-digit number provided in your campaign directory. If you are unsure of the number, you can write in "KOVAR, 12962 Dumbarton Drive, Bristow, VA 20126". Please send a copy of your pledge card to Jim St. Amour at 6379 Oakland Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193. Copies of your pledge card are needed for the council to receive credit for your contribution.

IN MEMORY GRAND KNIGHT #5 – BERNIE KOCIS

Here are musings and remembrances of our brother, Bernie Kocis, from council and family members. Rest in peace brother Bernie; we will miss you.

I would simply say that Bernie was a great guy, a good friend, and a super Knight! *Frank Varljen, USA Retired*

When I was Grand Knight, way back in the nineteen nineties, I tried to conduct our council meetings with dignity and efficiency. Every meeting seemed to have its own life, however, there were motions, discussions, tabling of motions, deferring of motions, votes, and arguments in general. It was comforting to know that, there in the wings, would be Bernie, who would let me know with a gentle "ahem", that a breach in procedure had or was about to occur. He would stand and patiently address the errant speaker, usually me, and bring our meeting back on course. I actually welcomed this assistance, because I knew that at least we were proceeding semi-correctly. And then, there was the occasion, not too often thank God, that Bernie would speak up with an "EXCUSE ME!", meaning "I'm speaking here, you got a problem with that?" That would mean that an etiquette breach, faux pas, and possible mortal sin was about to happen and that there needed to be a serious change in focus PDQ. I didn't enjoy those occasions as much. But the thing I always liked, was that Bernie was a gentleman; sometimes a loud, emphatic gentleman, but always a gentleman. He

took the time and his patient effort to make our council the best it could be, and if we have enjoyed some measure of success in the past, I believe that it derives from the work of our loving and caring friend, Bernie Kocis.

Bill Hechmer, PGK

We will miss his frequent "Worthy Grand Knight -- Point of Order!" as he kept us straight and the procedures correct. *Frank Varljen.*

He expected a lot but would take anything that you could give. *P. Kocis, Bernie's son.*

Although I did not feel the responsibility to step forward or to lead our council, Bernie challenged me to look outside of my situation and examine what I could provide to our brothers, the parish, and our new pastor. The timing was superb, my role as Deputy Grand Knight secured another two years of my involvement, we had a new pastor, and a handful of new young members willing to contribute. Because of Bernie's urgings, our council began a new chapter providing support to Sacred Heart and bringing our brother knights together in fraternal activities. I will miss his gentlemanly way of reminding us of our duty as knights, our responsibility as catholic gentlemen, and our continued love for our Mother Mary. *Bryan Roberts, Grand Knight*

He went home! *Jeannie Kocis*

I knew Bernie for many years and he was a great one for seeking quality in what we put forward in the name of the council. As editor of the newsletter, Bernie and Jeannie contributed significantly to the many quality issues I was able to produce. *Joe Marshall, Advocate*

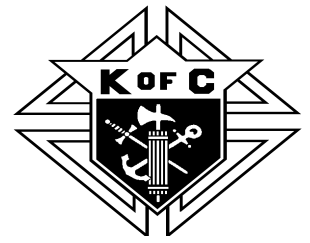
The following was from Bernie's first Grand Knight Report back in July of 1990 after being elected Grand Knight. It captures much of the energy and commitment of Bernie in his own words, 15 years ago...

"Being selected as Grand Knight fills me with emotion, pride, fear, excitement, and hope. It is humbling, yet I'm proud to be the new representative of Ascension Council. As a young Council we have much to be proud of, the awards we have accumulated attest to that fact. There is as a bit of fear within me as I step forward and assume the responsibility of leading the Council through another fraternal year. Many unknowns, many questions, and some apprehension of what is to come continue to plague my mind. Despite that, I am very



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excited about the new challenges this position presents. I am excited about the potential accomplishments for our Council and for those of our members. My excitement toward these new challenges and potential accomplishments is bound ever so tightly with the hope I maintain for our council's continued growth. My hope is that unity and camaraderie will continue to prevail throughout our ranks and will bind our talents and efforts. With the spiritual guidance of our Chaplain Father Ready, this hope, this prayer, will be fulfilled..."

Provided by Joe Marshall, Newsletter Editor

Ode to Bernie

*There lived a noble and humble knight
Known far and wide as Sir Bernie.
He taught us all to do things right.
Twas the one and only way, said he.*

*Out of Arlington he came, some say
To Sacred Heart and Hoadly seeking a place
For his family to grow and often to pray.
So many by then they needed more space.*

*Many wondered, but few dared ask
Why the road to his castle had a tree in the middle.
Mighty dangerous it was after draining a flask.
But great it was when you needed to piddle.*

*Bernie was famous for his speech so clear.
He chose words carefully; his diction ideal
Everyone listened from far and near
When he offered an opinion or uttered an appeal.*

*Handy he was with hammer or wrench,
Lending a hand to all, friends and family.
Working on a car or at his bench
Was when his spirit seemed most free.*

*A troubadour with guitar on his shoulder,
Singing God's praises from time to time,
Or serenading friends with lyrics a bit bolder,
He lived life fully from earthy to sublime.*

*Where did he go, this knight we did love?
He left us too soon, we all can agree
To sing with the heavenly host above
And with his loving Father forever to be.*

George Darnell, January 2006

EDITOR'S CORNER

Welcome to our latest newsletter. Thanks to those who contributed. This is the second time in our history that we have lost a Grand Knight – I hope you enjoy our memorial to Bernie! Also attached to this newsletter is a revised budget to be voted upon at the next business meeting. I would like all future newsletter inputs no later than the **Saturday** before the 1st Thursday of the month of issue. For the February calendar/event summary I will need any changes or updates by January 28th. For the March/April issue I will need articles by Saturday, February 25th. *Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan ahead to meet these deadlines.* Please email me at voyagerjs@earthlink.net. This newsletter is posted on our council website at <http://sacredheart.catholic.org/koc0106.pdf>. Disclaimer: the views and opinions in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the KOC.

Editor

Joe Marshall

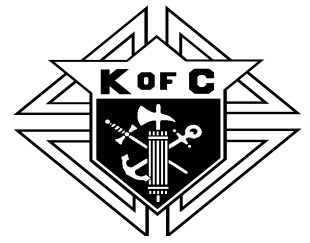
Advocate

voyagerjs@earthlink.net



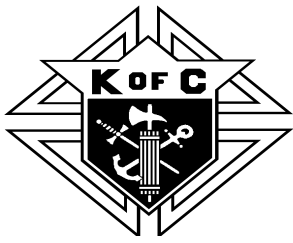
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Ascension Council #9285
Manassas, Virginia



Ascension Council 9285, 2005–2006 Fraternal Year Positions

Position	Name	Phone	E-mail
Chaplain	Father Mike Bazan	590.0030	mjbazan@comcast.net
Grand Knight	Bryan Roberts	580.8660	bryanr@excaliburgrpllc.com
Deputy Grand Knight	Steve Trotman	794.1137	sdtrtman@comcast.net
Program Director	Steve Trotman	794.1137	sdtrtman@comcast.net
Financial Secretary	Jeff Befumo, PGK	791-6748	jbefumo@hotmail.com
Recorder	Doug Blair	583-5937	dougblair@aol.com
Lecturer	Open		
Treasurer	George Darnell, PGK	791.5153	darnellgd@comcast.net
Chancellor	Don Hajec	791.6296	mlkmtw@hotmail.com
Advocate	Joe Marshall	791.4119	voyagerjs@earthlink.net
Warden	Bob Garman	794.0175	Bobmuriel_garman@verizon.net
Inside Guard	Richard Rocha	670.6276	Rrocha4u@netzero.com
Outside Guard	Dave Hangsleben	590.0400	davidh@mitre.org
Outside Guard	Curtis Donato	878.7303	curtisdonato@verizon.net
3 Year Trustee	Jerry Michonski, PGK	791.3148	Jerryandgiulia.michonski@verizon.net
2 Year Trustee	Art Bohn, CGK	368.6964	arthur.bohn@vion.com
1 Year Trustee	Tom Zum Brunnen, PGK	794.8413	thomaszb@comcast.net
Church Director	Larry Gross	590.0030	grossx6@aol.com
Council Director	Ray Stearns	791.2465	rstearns@worldnet.att.net
Family Director	Don Hajec	791.6296	mlkmtw@hotmail.com
Community Director	John Angelotta	791.6940	angelotta@comcast.net
Youth Director	Rick Johnson	897.6078	Stumpa10@comcast.net
Membership/Retention Director	John Murray, PGK	791.6971	John.r.murray@comcast.net
KCIC Chairman	Doug Blair	583.5937	dougblair@aol.com
KOVAR Chairman	Jim St. Amour	878.5091	stamourdc@msn.com
Newsletter Editor	Joe Marshall	791.4119	voyagerjs@earthlink.net
Pro-Life Chair Persons	Curtis and Norma Donato	878.7303	curtisdonato@verizon.net
Sub Sales Chairman	Mike Romero, PGK	590.0437	mikeromero@comcast.net
Nissan Chairman	Art Bohn, CGK	368.6964	arthur.bohn@vion.net
Parish Brunch Chairman	John Brady	680.5135	Johnbrady01@comcast.net
Clergy Memorial Chairman	Leon DeCerb	794.1017	Decerb3@msn.com
VDOT Road Cleanup	Tom Zum Brunnen, PGK	794.8413	thomaszb@comcast.net



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Knights of Columbus Ascension Council “Meet the Author Night” Thursday, January 26, 2006, 7:30PM Sacred Heart Social Hall

In commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Death of Christopher Columbus, the Knights of Columbus, Ascension Council is pleased to invite you to come and meet Joseph Scafetta, Jr. author of “The True and Unbiased Story of Christopher Columbus.”

Come, and listen to Mr. Scafetta as he dispels the myths and shares the true story behind Christopher Columbus. You’ll learn about;

- His early years;
- His four voyages;
- His death;
- the canonization effort; and
- the controversy over where is his body:
In the Old World, the New World or both!
- Speculation about what would have happened if Spain did not back his Enterprise of the Indies.

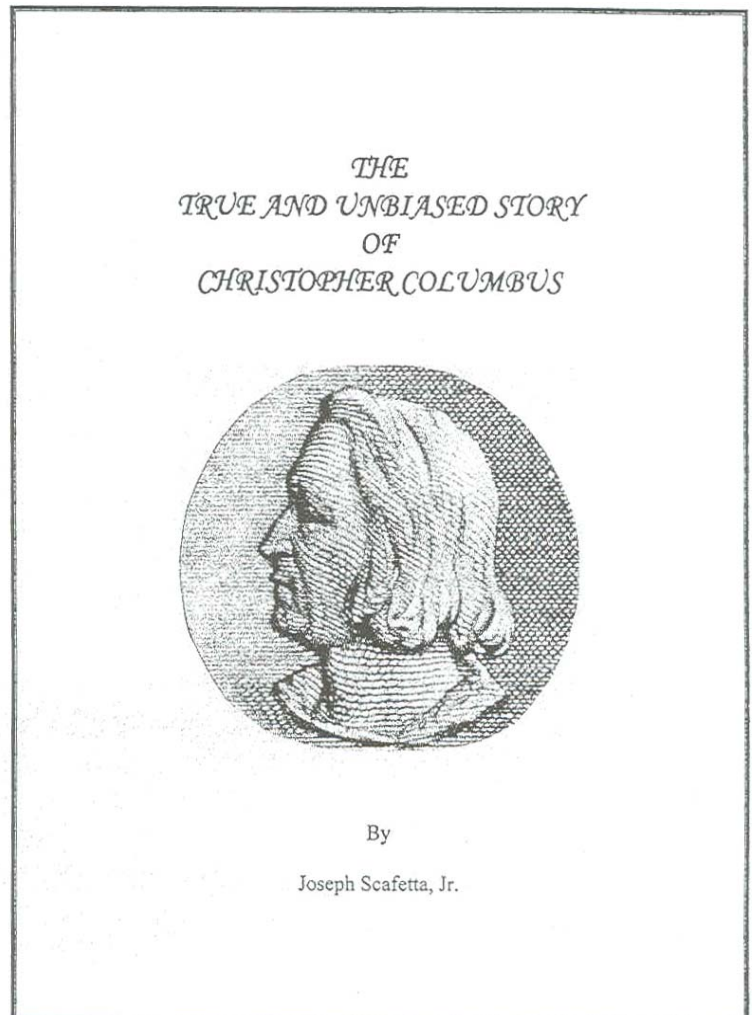
Copies of this compelling book will be available for purchase for \$10. It’s a quick read with 120 pages and 19 illustrations! Book is soft bound with 8 ½ x 11 size pages. ISBN 1-57-166-379-7

Makes a great addition to any library or as a special gift!

Author’s Biography

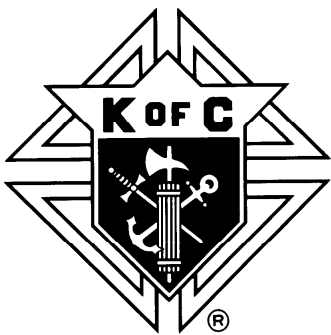
Born in 1947, Joseph Scafetta, Jr. is the son of Giuseppe Scafetta who emigrated from the city of Vasto in Abruzzo, Italy, to Washington, D.C., in April 1915. The author was admitted to practice law in 1972. Over the years, he has contributed articles to various legal journals and Italian-American publications.

He joined the Order of the Sons of Italy in America in 1979 and was first elected to the State Council of Virginia in 1983. In 1987, he was appointed chairman of the State Commission for Social Justice. He was a charter member of the Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Commission from 1990 to 1993 and served as President of the State Council of Virginia from 1993 to 1995. In 1996, he was elected Secretary of the Christopher Columbus Philatelic Society. He became a correspondent for Fra Noi in the Chicago area in 1997. In 2004 he was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Columbus Celebration Association based in Washington, D.C.



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

*Knights of Columbus
12975 Purcell Road
Manassas, VA 20112*



**KNIGHTS
OF
COLUMBUS**