

# Assembly 809 Knightly News



Columbus Father Huber Assembly 809, Columbus Ohio  
Volume 6 No. 11  
November 2006

## Faithful Navigator, Sir Knight Ralph Blamer

**Dear Sir Knights,**

Lady Sandy and I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday season. Hoping your holiday is joyful and a safe one.

May we take the time to look to God by thanking him for all of the Blessings he has given us. Have we really taken inventory of all he has given us? Do we work to better ourselves for God's Glory and Praise? God gives us many tools to do his work, and we need to utilize all of them. God gives us a mind to focus on what is all around us, and a heart to feel God's Spirit. Feel the need to charitable work, like for instance, give to the Food Pantry, or give a warm welcome to an elderly lady or man that walks in to church alone. Take time to say Hello, or shake the elderly man's hand, hold the door open for the elderly Lady. Make all of them feel the Spirit all around us all.

I Thank God for Family, a loving wife, our children, and grandchildren. I know we get busy and don't Thank our wives enough. Let's not take them for granted for they have Blessed us with their Love, Support, and Happiness each and every day. They gave us the gift of life in each of our children's birth, labor pains and carrying them through nine months. When was the last time you Thanked her for doing your laundry, a great meal waiting for you when you get home from work or even that Special Hug she gives you? Sure we work pay bills, cut the grass take out the trash, but our wives deserve all we can do for them. She helps me to stay on track, when I need it the most. She does the laundry and all of the household chores, and I Thank her all of the time. I make sure I give her a kiss in the morning before I leave for work. It starts my day off right, to be thankful for her and all that she does for me. I also thank God, for my children and my grandchildren's' health. I do miss my parents as well as my grandparents but I do Thank them very much for my faith and love for God.

I Thank God for the Knights Of Columbus. Someone stood on the Pulpit and gave a speech. My wife thought it would be a great idea to thank the guy that gave me this gift. Who knew that I would be writing this as a Navigator or even a Grand Knight? As I have received this gift, I have grown deep in Faith, Humanity, Country and Family. I have done more as a Knight then I could have by myself. It's the friendship, Loyalty to each other in the Knights of Columbus and the Church. I would like to Thank God for Father McGivney for the K of C, I thank God for friends that are Loyal and True. When I ask for advice, they give it to me from the "Hip". So if you find yourself as a friend to me, then I'm grateful. May God Bless You All!

We wish to Thank Joe Fenneken and Lady Charlene Core for the last year's Newsletter, for it won 1st Prize over all in the 4th degree Provincial. Thank you for your talent and dedication to the Knights. You have done well, Thank You.

I wish to Thank all of the Officers and their families for all of your hard work. Your work is valuable and serves God and the Church so rewardingly. You can all hold your head high and feel proud. The family of the Officers, Thank you for sharing your husband, brother, uncle or son, that is a true Catholic family. God Bless You One And All!

Thank You Father Bakel, you're a keeper. With God and you, we can't lose, for we are Winners all around.

Worthy Sir Knights, take inventory of what you have to be Thankful for. See where you can change your old habits and start new ones. Reach out to all, for we are Gods precious souls to be thankful for. THANK YOU GOD!

Communion, Ps. 106, 8 - 9.

Let the Mercies of the Lord, give Glory to Him and his wonderful works to the children of men, for he has satisfied the empty soul with good things. P. The Lord Be With You, and with thy Spirit.

*Fraternally yours,  
Ralph Blamer, Faithful Navigator*

### Faithful Friar

Rev. John Bakle

### Faithful Navigator

Ralph Blamer  
614-321-4303

rebtaz8456@wowway.com

### Faithful Captain

Vacant

### Faithful Pilot

Frank Shortridge  
614-238-0267

### Faithful Scribe

Ron Janning  
614-539-1629

rjanning@columbus.rr.com

### Faithful Comptroller

Larry James  
614-261-0120

ljames14@columbus.rr.com

### Faithful Purser

Carl Emmenegger  
614-418-5823

sonnycarle@sbcglobal.net

### Faithful Admiral

PFN Joseph Fenneken  
614-214-6504

jfenneke@columbus.rr.com

### Inner Sentinel

Ron Helber  
614-577-1707

### Outer Sentinel

Jim Hacker  
614-280-9866

jbhacker@columbus.rr.com

### Trustees

PFN Don Divney  
614-870-2770

ddivney@msn.com

PFN Greg Kostelac  
614-275-2460

PFN Dan Higgins  
614-263-7812

higginshotelnorth@yahoo.com

### Faithful Patron

Bob Brown

### Faithful Commander

PFN Dan Higgins  
614-263-7812

higginshotelnorth@yahoo.com

### Vice Commander

Vacant

**WORTHY MASTER  
FRANK IANNAGGI  
614-864-0797**

## The Captain's Corner

• **AN URGENT MESSAGE: YOUR ASSEMBLY NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

The Captain's position is still vacant. Your faithful Captain, Chuck Harris, moved to Texas. And Charlene Core stepped down from her position, effective September 1st.

**THEREFORE, A NEW CAPTAIN IS NEEDED.** Please, Sir Knights and Ladies, give some serious prayer and thought to this office. It is a very important one for the Assembly. If you have any questions about what the position requires, please give your Faithful Navigator Ralph Blamer ( 321-4303) or Charlene Core ( 860-1855) a call. Charlene said she will give the new Lady any assistance that she can to make her job easier but she also said that "assistance" is the operative word.

The following announcements are pertinent this month:

1. **The Top of the Month Dinner:** The Assembly has scheduled the TOTM at TAT Restaurant on the first Tuesday of the month for the next three months. Therefore, the next one is November 7<sup>th</sup>! Come join us! Please call Charlene, at (614) 860-1855 or you can e-mail her at core.home@juno.com to let her know if you are coming so she can give the restaurant an estimate of how many to expect. This is good PR for the Assembly and also gives us better service.
2. **POTLUCKS before the meetings:**
  - November – our Thanksgiving feast – the Captain's table will provide the turkey, mashed potatoes and dressing, and you are asked to bring the side dishes and desserts.
  - December – our annual cookie exchange.
3. Our annual gift exchange will take place after the business meeting; hopefully the meeting will be short. The helmet (men) and plate (women) need to be returned; remember it is a prestigious honor to wind up with the helmet and/or plate.

## *PILOT'S REPORT*

**Greetings, Sir Knights,**

The Commander and I would like to remind everyone that we must develop better means of communication. All deaths and funerals are to be reported immediately to the Faithful Navigator.

**Below is a list of the activities that are scheduled ahead so far:for October and November:**

DATE	PLACE	GATHERING TIME	EVENT	REQUIREMENT
Saturday, November 4, 2006	V A Hospital Chillicothe, Ohio	11:00 AM	V A Holiday Party & Luncheon	Color Guard by Assembly 809
Saturday, November 4, 2006	Grove City High School, 4665 Hoover Road	11:00 AM	Ohio State K of C Soccer Competition	Color Guard, Color Corps
Saturday, November 4, 2006	Elizabeth Seton Church, 600 Hill Road, Pickerington, Ohio	9:00 AM	Council 11187 Memorial Mass	Honor Guard
Sunday, November 5, 2006	Church of our Lady, 5225 Refugee Rd.	8:30AM	Council 11188 Memorial Mass	Honor Guard
Sunday, November 5, 2006	Holiday Inn, Columbus I-270 & US 23 North	7:30 AM	CH Network Conference-8 AM Mass <a href="http://www.chnetwork.org/deepinhistory.htm">http://www.chnetwork.org/deepinhistory.htm</a>	Color Guard
Friday, November 10, 2006	High Street starting at Nationwide Blvd	10:30AM	The Veterans Day Parade kicks off at Noon.	Color Guard, Color Corps
Saturday, 2 December 2006	Church of the Resurrection (Old Church)	2:00PM	District 3 Meeting, 2-5PM, Tux Required	Color Corp

At this writing, this is all that is on the schedule, but we ask you to check the web site for future postings.

*Respectfully & Faithfully yours, Frank Shortridge*

# EXEMPLIFICATION MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup> IN NEWARK

Yes, you did read that right! Our next exemplification will be in Newark the weekend of March 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>. It will follow the usual format and the actual exemplification will take place on Sunday morning, the 18<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars and make your plans now.

Since it will be earlier than usual, we need to start recruiting new members immediately. Let us make this an exciting time for the Fourth Degree and get as many Third Degree Knights as possible to commit to the Fourth Degree now. There are many out there who are not 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knights and only because they have never been asked to take that next step and join the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree. Maybe you can remember when you were asked – what an honor! And every measure was taken to make that time a special one for you. So do the same for your fellow Knights who may just be waiting for you to approach him. You need to take that next step and invite him to join our ranks and maybe that will be just the incentive he needs to take his next step.

There is no greater place to be in the Knights of Columbus than in the Fourth Degree. Get busy now and check your Council's roster and see who is still a Third Degree member and needs an extra push to join us.

Ask him now!!!

Your worthy and Faithful Master,  
**Frank Iannaggi**

## IMPORTANT DATES

NOV 01 -: ALL SAINT'S DAY  
NOV 02 – ALL SOUL'S DAY  
NOV 04 – Seton Parish Council 11187 Memorial Mass  
NOV 04 – VETERAN'S HOLIDAY PARTY  
NOV 04 – Ohio State K of C SOCCER COMPETITION  
NOV 05 – Church of Our Lady Council 11188 Memorial Mass  
NOV 05 – CH NETWORK CONFERENCE  
NOV 09 – VETERANS' DAY PARADE  
NOV 16 – BUSINESS MEETING  
NOV 23 – THANKSGIVING DAY

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Birthdays and Anniversaries	P 3
Calendar	P 4
Captain's Report	P 2
Exemplification news	P 3
Important dates	P 3
List of Officers	P 1
Minutes	P 7
Miscellaneous articles	P 6
Navigator's Report	P 1
Pilot's Report	P 2
Table of Contents	P 3
Veterans' Party	P 5

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

The officers of Assembly 809 would like me to include the birthdays and anniversaries of our members and their ladies in our newsletter. I can only do that with your cooperation.

Our faithful Comptroller has given me a list with the birthdays of all the members. Therefore, I would ask that each Sir Knight send me your anniversary date and the date of your lady's birthday, if you have not done so already.

Then I will compile them and post the birthdays and anniversaries that fall during the month of the newsletter's publication – see box at right.

Then we would ask that the rest of you to make a note of those birthdays and anniversaries and remember the recipients in special prayers on their special days. The power of prayer is awesome and this will be a holy endeavor for the Knights.

It will not cost any of us any money, but the rewards will be great.

You can mail the information to me, Charlene Core, at 2083 Birchview Rd., Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068, or e-mail it to [core.home@juno.com](mailto:core.home@juno.com).

Thanks for your participation

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nov 01 – Peter SanFelippo  
Nov 06 – Jack Balogh  
Nov 07 – Scott Burke  
Nov 09 – Pat Fahy  
Nov 11 – Neil Lonzo  
Nov 17 – Alex Boudreaux  
Nov 18 – PFN Larry Bales  
Nov 19 – Teresa Iannaggi  
Nov 20 – Daniel Krivicich  
Nov 20 – David Smithhisler  
Nov 20 – Carl Polito III  
Nov 21 – Ed Nelson  
Nov 22 - Calvin Williams  
Nov 23 – Jack Gookin  
Nov 25 – Forrest Sorensen  
Nov 25 – Rose Hahn  
Nov 30 – Rev Lawrence Reichert



*BEST WISHES TO  
EACH AND  
EVERY ONE OF  
YOU*

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

No anniversaries known for this month



Columbus Fr. Huber Assembly 809  
 4th Degree Knights of Columbus  
 Charlene Core  
 2083 Birchview Rd.  
 Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

Non Profit Org.  
 US Postage  
 Paid  
 Columbus, Ohio  
 Permit No. 85



 **NOVEMBER 2006** 

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1 All Saint's Day</i>	<i>2 All Soul's Day</i>	<i>3 First Friday</i>	<i>4 Veteran's holiday party Memorial Mass at Seton Parish 9 AM*</i>
<i>5 Memorial Mass at Church of Our Lady at 9:00 AM Mass * CH Network Conference *</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7 TOTM at TAT Restaurant</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9 Veterans Day Parade *</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12 *</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16 Business Meeting **</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18 *</i>
<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23 Thanksgiving Day</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>		<i>* See notes in Pilot's Report ** See notes in newsletter</i>

# Ohio State Council - Knights of Columbus



Dear Worthy Grand Knights and Diocesan Personnel

The purpose of this letter is to inform all councils of the Columbus Diocese about the V A program for this fraternal year.

This past year a number of councils have been involved in different programs with the veterans at the V A Hospital in Chillicothe. This involves visiting patients in an assigned ward every month and bringing them fruit, snacks, hot chocolate, etc.

Two luncheons were served to ambulatory veterans in the rec. hall. We also hosted Bingo games with various prizes donated by a number of councils. The veterans could also pick from a number of playing cards, toiletries, stationery, stamps, and other items donated by these generous councils. The veterans were so in awe of all the items available to them. They could not thank us enough.

During the first week in June, a festival is held with festival foods, games, and prizes for the veterans to enjoy. It is a really fun time for the veterans as well as the volunteers. A number of brother Knights helped out at this special event.

This year we plan to do as much, or more, for our veterans. For this reason, we are reaching out to all Diocesan Councils for your help. Any participation or donations that you can give would be most appreciated. If at all possible, we are asking a fifty- dollar donation from each council so that we can again supply and fulfill the needs of the veterans.

If you would like one of us to come and speak personally to your council about this very important program, we would love to schedule a date and time with you.

For any monetary donation, please send check to:

Greater Columbus Chapter K of C V A Program  
C/O Bob Neider, V A Diocesan Chairman, 2237 Bainter Ave.  
Grove City, Ohio 43123 (614) 277-9528

---

## V A HOLIDAY PARTY AND LUNCHEON

When: Saturday, November 4, 2006  
Where: V A Hospital- Chillicothe, Ohio  
Time: 11 :00 set-up  
1 :00-3 :00 Lunch and Activities  
Location: Rec Center Building 9

### ORDER OF EVENTS

1. Lunch
2. Vets choose gifts \*
3. Bingo

Questions? Contact:

Robert Neider: 614-277-9528  
Steve Pressler : 614-851-9377  
Craig Blackwell : 740-852-3090

Gift Suggestios:-See list in next column

### APPROVED V A GIFT LIST

1. Combs
2. Toothbrushes
3. Toothpaste
4. Shampoo
5. Deodorant
6. Shaving Cream
7. Stationary pads
8. Stamps
9. Envelopes
10. Phone cards
11. Knit Hats
12. Scarves
13. Deck of cards
14. Pens
15. Walk-mans
16. T-Shirts
17. Art & Craft Kits
18. Paint by number sets
19. Canteen books
20. Microwave popcorn
- 21 Mints – regular and sugar free
- 22 Hot chocolate—regular and sugar free
- 23 Anklet socks – NO TUBE SOCKS
- 24 Sweat pants/shirts
- 25 Towels and washcloths
- 26 Chips and Candy

If any council that would like to contribute any gifts, it would be greatly appreciated.  
Thank you for your donations: Please keep items donated in accordance with the V A approved lists.  
Do not donate any opened or used items.

## ASSEMBLY 809 MEETING'S TIME AND LOCATION

The Assembly meets on the Third Thursday of each month. Social meeting @ 7:00 PM & the Business meeting @ 8:00 PM. We meet @ St. Lad's Church at 277 Reeb Ave. Columbus, Ohio

Assembly 809 web site: [www.KofCAssembly809.org](http://www.KofCAssembly809.org)

REMEMBER: The 3rd Thursday of each month is the Social and Business meeting of the Assembly.

The social always starts with FOOD and it is served promptly at 7:00PM.

The Ladies enjoy a program while the Men hold their business meeting: starts promptly at 8:00 PM.

Come and join us for an enjoyable evening.

### Newsletter information and articles

This newsletter is published as close to the first of the month as possible. All articles must be in the Editor's hands **no later than the Tuesday after the business meeting**, so the date will vary from month to month. **Any and all articles are welcome** but no article will be printed if it does not have a name and phone number accompanying it. This is necessary in case we need to verify information, etc. However, we can and will withhold your name from the newsletter if you so desire. **We always reserve the right to edit — for brevity and for clarity.**

Contact the Newsletter Editor, Charlene Core, at 614-860-1855 or e-mail her at [core.home@juno.com](mailto:core.home@juno.com).

The Faithful Navigator, Ralph Blamer, has asked that you submit your e-mail addresses to the Newsletter Editor so that she can send you your copy of the Newsletter via e-mail.

We currently have 71 Sir Knights signed up on the e-mailing list.

This will get the news to you faster and save a little on postage.

E-mail your e-mail address to Charlene Core @ [core.home@juno.com](mailto:core.home@juno.com)

**IF YOU KNOW OF A BROTHER SIR KNIGHT WHO IS SICK OR IN DISTRESS,  
PLEASE CONTACT - Sir Knight Lou Burke  
Lou can be contacted @ [740-927-5965](tel:740-927-5965)**

#### IN MEMORIAM

John Breen

#### GOOD OF THE ORDER

Prayers are asked for:

Alex Boudreaux, Jack Kady, Laura Kent, Karen Kostelac, Don Divney, Mickey Fahy, all of our troops,  
Paula Blackhall Pete King Dave Smith family and John Breen family

For all the sick and suffering, especially those with terminal illnesses, those in hospitals and nursing homes, those undergoing or recuperating from any kind of treatment or surgery, for those suffering the loss of loved ones, and for all their care givers, that they may all feel the healing presence of God.

#### FLAG WINNER



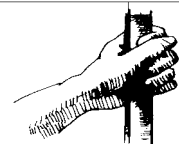
Tom Huth

#### 1/2 & 1/2 WINNER

Basilio Riel



**THE NATURAL  
CHOICE  
IS  
LIFE!**



**PRIESTS, BROTHERS, NUNS.  
THEY NEED US.  
WE NEED THEM.**

*Vocations Are Everybody's Business*

October 19, 2006 Meeting opened 8:00 P.M. by the Faithful Navigator

**Roll Call of the officers, present:** Faithful Navigator, Faithful Pilot, Faithful Comptroller, Faithful Scribe, Faithful Purser, Faithful Trustee 1st year, Faithful Trustee 2nd year, Faithful Trustee 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

**The Faithful Captain position still remains open – the assembly needs your help!**

**Reading of the Minutes:** There were no corrections to the minutes and a motion was made to suspend the reading of the minutes and to accept them as published. The motion was seconded and passed with no discussion.

- **Friar's Report:** No Report was given.
- **The following bills were read and referred:** Ohio Graving, Raffle Tickets, One Night at the Provincial for three people, Postage for Charlene, Postmaster for the newsletter, Lee Brock for the printing of the newsletter: motion was made for the bills to be presented to the trustees for their consideration. The motion was seconded and passed with no discussion.
- **Pilot's Report:** An attendance sheet was turned into the Historian. A report of the events to be held in October and November was handed out. Veterans' Day parade - be there at 10:30. Also attached to the report was a discussion of proper flag etiquette as provided by Lee Brock.
- **Captain's Report:** No report was given.
- **Admiral's Report:** No report was given.
- **Purser's Report:** All account balances were presented at the meeting and the report was placed in the book of the minutes of the meeting.
- **Comptroller's Report:** 231 members – with lots of outstanding dues. WARNING: all those that have not paid by January 1<sup>st</sup> will be suspended. Bi-Laws changes were presented and a motion was passed for them to be mailed to the members of the Assembly. Raffle tickets are available and the first turn in will be in December. The Provincial meeting was terrific. At the Provincial meeting a motivational speaker talked about how we often do the same thing over and over again expecting to not get the same results each time. We need to get serious about recruiting: we need to kick ourselves in the butt and get motivated to bring in a new member. We need to move forward, so let's aim high for recruiting! New applicant: James Baltzer to be brought in at Marietta. He and his wife will run the Captain's table next month for the Thanksgiving meeting.
- **Scribe's Report:** No report was given.
- **Commander's Report:** We must have better communication developed to make sure that everyone is informed. It is important that the Navigator is informed immediately when someone dies. A long discussion pursued with regards to the procedure for spreading the word. The result of the discussion was that the Navigator will inform the Pilot, who will inform the Inside and Outside Sentinels to spread the word. A suggestion was made that the Liaison of the various councils explain the proper procedure for them to communicate deaths to the Faithful Navigator. Send in your email address to the Navigator. Over 15 callouts so far this year. Deaths this year include: Ralph Montenaro 3/14, Dwight Conkey 7/4, David Smith 10/7, and John Breen 10/7.
- **Special Committees' Report:** VA hospital – Thursday 11/10 at 10:30.
- **Navigator's Report:** Assembly 2380 sent a thank-you letter for those that attended the banquet. Education Department sent a letter; K of C members are invited to the Audio Visual center, December 11<sup>th</sup>, for the diocese to see the results of donations made through the Measure-Up program. Thank-you, from Lee Brock, for the \$25 donated for the Rosary Day booklet. Thank-you card from Dave Smith's family. Program from the wreath laying ceremony on Columbus Day, it was caught on Fox 28. We have a copy of the memorial mass and the book distributed at the Provincial. We congratulate Charlene for the excellent job done in the newsletter. Our Assembly received the newsletter of the year award at the Provincial. Pope John Paul II assembly 2900 thanked us for the funding for the golf outing in remembrance of Joe Rossi. Thanks for the great turn out at the Family Rosary and the Living Rosary ceremonies. Columbus Day turn out was good also. Uncertainty around the donations needed for the plaque, for John Breen. Captain and Inner Sentinel positions are open. Don't forget the raffle tickets and the pumpkin festival. Looking for a good turnout for the Thanksgiving dinner and for the Christmas presents giving. Letters need to be sent to the widows for the memorial mass. St. Philips 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, 11/19-3PM Mass, be there at 2:30 – we have been invited to join the festivities at Berwick Party house after the function.

**New Business:** None was presented.

**Trustee's Report:** No report was given.

**Unfinished Business:** Pumpkin Festival is 10/22 – meet at Great Southern to carpool down to Circleville. Don't miss the free dinner.

**4<sup>th</sup> Degree Master's Report:** Please keep the Navigator informed of deaths so that we can be present for the family. Let us not wait for the family come to us, but let us go to them to see if they need our help. Need to approach members that have left their membership go unpaid, rather than just dropping them: see if they want to stay. Purpose of the assembly is to present out patriotism. Please be present for the Veteran's Day parade – it is a great public witness of our faith in action. Get out on 11/4 and show your support of the Veterans in Chillicothe (be there at 11:30). We need to be the purpose and motivation for others to be in the organization.

**Patron Report:** No report was given

**Historian Report:** No report was given.

**Good of the Order:** Alex Boudreaux, Jack Kady, Laura Kent, Karen Kostelac, Don Divney, Mickey Fahy, all of our troops, Paula Blackhall, Pete King, Dave Smith family, and John Breen family.

**Flag Winner:** Bill Munhall      **50/50 Drawing:** Basilio Riel

Respectfully submitted by Ron *Janning, Faithful Scribe*

# THE MONTH OF ALL SOULS

November is traditionally the month when we pray for those who have gone before us in death.

*The Catechism of the Catholic Church* (nos. 103-1031) states: "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but **after death they undergo purification**, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The Church gave the name Purgatory to this final purification."



**If we pray for our loved ones while they are still on earth, why not continue to pray for them after they die? We believe that they are part of the Communion of Saints.**

The Sacred Scriptures tell us that God wants us to be perfect, as He is perfect, so that we can live forever in friendship with Him, who is all holy, without sin or weakness of any kind. Frankly, heaven wouldn't be heaven unless those who lived there had been perfected. If we brought along all our vices and weaknesses, heaven would be just as troubled as our life on earth - and would last for all eternity

**Before we can go to heaven, then, we must be purified. That's why we pray and offer Masses for those in Purgatory .Our intercession helps them in their struggles now just as it helped them while they were on earth. That's why we read in 2Maccabees: "For it is ...a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins."**

---

## SHOES IN CHURCH

I showered and shaved...I adjusted my tie. I got there and sat...In a pew just in time.  
Bowling my head in prayer...As I closed my eyes. I saw the shoe of the man next to me...Touching my own.  
I sighed. With plenty of room on either side...I thought, "Why must our soles touch?"  
It bothered me, his shoe touching mine...But it didn't bother him much.  
A prayer began: "Our Father"...I thought, "This man with the shoes...has no pride.  
They're dusty, worn, and scratched. Even worse, there are holes on the side!"  
"Thank You for blessings," the prayer went on. The shoe man said...a quiet "Amen."  
I tried to focus on the prayer...But my thoughts were on his shoes again  
Aren't we supposed to look our best when walking through that door?  
"Well, this certainly isn't it," I thought, glancing toward the floor.  
Then the prayer was ended...And the songs of praise began.  
The shoe man was certainly loud...Sounding proud as he sang.  
His voice lifted the rafters...His hands were raised high.  
The Lord could surely hear...The shoe man's voice from the sky.  
It was time for the offering....And what I threw in was steep.  
I watched as the shoe man reached...Into his pockets so deep.  
I saw what was pulled out...What the shoe man put in.  
Then I heard a soft "clink"...as when silver hits tin.  
The sermon really bored me...To tears, and that's no lie.  
It was the same for the shoe man...For tears fell from his eyes.  
At the end of the service...As is the custom here, we must greet new visitors...And show them all good cheer.  
But I felt moved somehow...And wanted to meet the shoe man.  
So after the closing prayer...I reached over and shook his hand.  
He was old and his skin was dark...And his hair was truly a mess.  
But I thanked him for coming...For being our guest.  
He said, "My name is Charlie. I'm glad to meet you, my friend."  
There were tears in his eyes...But he had a large, wide grin.  
"Let me explain," he said...Wiping tears from his eyes.  
"I've been coming here for months...And you're the first to say 'Hi.'"  
"I know that my appearance is not like all the rest. But I really do try...to always look my best."  
"I always clean and polish my shoes...Before my very long walk.  
But by the time I get here, they're dirty and dusty, like chalk."  
My heart filled with pain...and I swallowed to hide my tears.  
As he continued to apologize...For daring to sit so near.  
He said, "When I get here...I know I must look a sight.  
But I thought if I could touch you...Then maybe our souls might unite."  
I was silent for a moment...Knowing whatever was said, would pale in comparison...I spoke from my heart, not my head.  
"Oh, you've touched me," I said..."And taught me, in part; that the best of any man...Is what is found in his heart."

**The rest, I thought, this shoe man will never know;  
Like just how thankful I really am...That his dirty old shoe touched my soul.**