



Fr. Leo Anctil Columbian Squires Circle #5211

March 2010 Newsletter

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March 2010



Lenten Prayer

Almighty and Everlasting God,
 You have given the human race
 Jesus Christ our Savior as a model of humility.
 He fulfilled Your Will by becoming Man
 And giving His life on the Cross.
 Help us to bear witness to You
 By following His example of suffering
 And make us worthy to share in His Resurrection.
 We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son.
 Amen.

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March Priest of the Month Father Robert Forcier



Father Robert Forcier was born on December 30, 1957, in Warwick, Rhode Island. He is the youngest of three siblings – two sisters and one brother. He was a parishioner of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Warwick where he. He feels very grateful to his parents for giving him a good, strong, faith-filled upbringing.

Growing up, Father Forcier instinctively knew that he wanted to serve God and was open to the call of the priesthood. As an altar server at St. Rose of Lima, he was positively influenced by the priests who served there. Unfortunately, at the age of 15, his father died of cancer. Although his father had been ill for a few years, his world, as he knew it was shattered. His discernment to the priesthood was now put “on hold” as he dealt his father’s passing. The priesthood represented tremendous sacrifice that he felt would take him away from his family support system. He felt that his responsibilities should be focused at home.

After graduating from Warwick Veterans Memorial High School, he was accepted into the Pharmacy program at the University of Rhode Island. He graduated with a BS in Pharmacy. After his graduation, he accepted a position as a Retail Pharmacist at Douglas Drug in Rumford. Even though he experienced material wealth, he felt emptiness inside. He started to question his lack of fulfillment. To
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P-BRUINS GAME – Friday, March 26!



VS.



The Circle Committee is happy to announce the second annual Squires Providence Bruins Game Outing on Friday, March 26th at the Dunkin' Donuts Center. The Bruins are taking on the Portland Pirates who will of course be cheered on by Mr. Tom. The game starts at 7:05PM. To buy tickets, please contact either Circle Committee Chairman Evan Patten (823-9699) or Circle Committee Counselor Neil Fidler (823-8526) with how many tickets you wish to buy. Squires' Families are most certainly welcome! Deadline to notify us with how many tickets you want to purchase is March Business Meeting – Friday March 5, 2010. We have also extended an invitation to our sponsoring K of C Council, so hopefully there will be some Brother Knights who will join us. Transportation arrangements will be made as we get closer to the date.

Membership Committee Update

First of all, I would like to extend special congratulations to Zachary Farrell. As most of you know, he received his official certificate of membership into the Squires at the dinner we held for Fr. Forcier on Wednesday, February 24. Congratulations Zack! In addition, I would like to remind you to continue recruitment efforts and asking your friends. Our circle can always benefit from new talents and ideas, and can only continue to exist as long as there are Squires joining.

Stephen Smith – Membership Committee Chairman

Spiritual Committee Update

Hello Brother Squires! This is spiritual chairman Alex Cote with an update on the Spiritual Committee. First off I would like to say Thank-you to Father Forcier for everything that he has done for us these past few years. Without his spiritual support and guidance and ideas, we would not have gotten as far as we have. It is with great regret that we say good-bye to someone who is extremely important to us and has played such a large part in our circle. Thank you Father Forcier for everything that you have done for us! Next up I was thinking that since it was the season of lent, maybe at one point we should either do the Stations of the Cross together, or we should attend mass as a group. I personally think it is a good idea that we could discuss at the meeting. If anyone has any suggestions, please feel free to contact me.

Alexander Cote – Spiritual Committee Chairman.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH BUSINESS MEETING

PLACE: K OF C BLESSING COUNCIL HALL

DATE: FRIDAY, 3/5/2010

TIME: 6:45PM

MARCH SOCIAL MEETING

PLACE: K OF C BLESSING COUNCIL HALL

DATE: FRIDAY, 3/19/2010

TIME: 6:45PM

PROVIDENCE BRUINS GAME

PLACE: K OF C BLESSING COUNCIL HALL

DATE: FRIDAY, 3/26/2010

TIME: 7:05PM

APRIL BUSINESS MEETING

PLACE: K OF C BLESSING COUNCIL HALL

DATE: FRIDAY, 4/2/2010

TIME: 6:45PM

APRIL SOCIAL MEETING

PLACE: K OF C BLESSING COUNCIL HALL

DATE: FRIDAY, 4/16/2010

Time: 6:45PM

Chief Squire's Corner

Hey Fellow Squires,

This past month we had a tribute to Father Forcier for his commitment and dedication as Father Prior of the Squires and his commitment to The Knights. We brought back memories of the past. He's a great person who is always there when we need him. He is a well-respected man in the community. We wish him the best of luck in the future!!!

Nick Parent (C.S.)

Service Committee Update

Brother Squires! We currently have two activities we're thinking about for service activities. The first one is some type of fundraiser for Haitian Earthquake Relief which we can discuss at the next business meeting. We're also thinking about the upcoming Tootsie Roll drive in May. Also, I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to Father Forcier for all you have done for our Circle. God bless you!

Josh Fidler – Service Committee Chairman

Father Forcier (Cont. from Page 1)

help him find his answers, he started attending daily mass to focus on one petition: "Lead me God to where you want me to be!"

In September of 1996, his mother died unexpectedly. She was his best friend, and her example inspired him to a deeper holiness and a more generous heart. After her death, Father began to reexamine his life. For many months, he more seriously discerned God's call. Finally, on Holy Thursday 1998 (the feast of the Priesthood) he felt he heard the Lord calling to him to vocation. The next day, he spoke with his pastor, Father Marciano, and told him of the call. After being contacted by the Vocations Office, he decided to apply to the diocese and begin his studies for the priesthood. On Easter Sunday, he told his sisters of his plans.

Father Forcier began his studies with caution as he had been out of the academic world for such a long time. After completing a pre-theology program and formation program which included classes at Providence College, he was assigned to Rome for major seminary studies. While living and studying in Vatican City for four years, he had many opportunities for travel and spiritual growth, including two private audiences with Pope John Paul II.

In October 2002, he was ordained to the transitional Diaconate at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. He served as a deacon at the US Naval Base in Gaeta, Italy. Shortly thereafter, he came back home to Rhode Island where his parish assignments within the Diocese of Providence included serving as a summer seminarian at Immaculate Conception in Westerly and at St. Teresa's Church in Pawtucket. He was ordained to the Priesthood on June 28, 2003, at the Cathedral of SS Peter and Paul in Providence. He was then assigned to St. Paul's Church in Cranston where he served for three years.

In 2006, Father Forcier was assigned to SS John and Paul Church in Coventry as an Associate Pastor. He arrived at the same time as the other Associate Pastor, Father Peter D'Ambrosia. The parishioners of SS John and Paul Church quickly came to love and appreciate both priests.

At SS John and Paul, Father Forcier was involved in the training of new Altar Servers and assisting with the Junior and Senior Youth Groups. He taught Religion to the 6th graders enrolled at Fr. John V. Doyle School. He also took a very active part in the Respect Life Committee and the Confirmation Program.

It was shortly after Father Forcier came to SS John and Paul Church when Grand Knight Tom Del Mastro, of our

sponsoring Council approached him and asked if he would consider becoming co-chaplain. The chaplain at the time, Father Leo Anctil who is our Circle's namesake, was in the twilight of his years and no longer able to attend meetings. Father Forcier graciously agreed to the Grand Knight's request and to meet with Father Anctil. With Father Anctil's blessings, he became the co-Chaplain of the Council and made his 1st degree. On March 23, 2007, Father Anctil went home to his Lord, and Father Forcier became the full-time chaplain of the Council.

Later on that year, the Father Leo Anctil Columbian Squires Circle was established, and in need of a Father Prior. Tom Del Mastro, then the Chief Counselor of your Squires Circle, asked Father Forcier to become the Father Prior of the Circle, and he also accepted.



Even with all the duties Father Forcier was responsible for at SS John and Paul parish, he devoted countless hours in working with the Knights and Squires. Both the Msgr. Blessing Council and the Fr. Anctil Squires Circle have benefitted from his guidance and grown spiritually. Father Forcier has also become a "Sir Knight" by achieving Fourth Degree Knighthood.

In July 2009, Father Forcier received word from the Diocese that he would be transferred to Holy Apostles Church in Cranston as the Associate Pastor there. Unfortunately, Father Forcier was not able to continue as the Chaplain for the Council and was succeeded by Father Peter Sheehan, the new Associate Pastor at SS John and Paul. Father Forcier did stay on as Father Prior for the Squires Circle until just recently when he announced he would stay on until the Circle found a replacement.

On Wednesday, February 24, 2010, Father Forcier was honored for his service to both the Msgr. Blessing Council and the Fr. Leo Anctil Squires Circle during the first joint Knights/Squires Social Meeting with a Pot Luck Dinner. We feel extremely fortunate to have had Father Forcier as our spiritual leader and wish him well on his future endeavors. We know that our paths will most certainly cross again.

An Interview with Father Forcier

Recently our Chief Squire Nick Parent conducted an interview with our Father Prior and March's Priest of the Month Father Forcier.

Chief Squire: What inspired you to pursue a career in the priesthood?

Father Forcier: I was inspired by both divine and human example. First of all, the call to the priesthood is a gift from God. God works mysteriously to invite men to prayerfully consider this life. Second, I was deeply influenced by the great examples of holiness found in my parents. They lived their faith beautifully by word and action every day. Growing up, I was also blessed to meet many wonderful priests who served in my parish of St. Rose (now Sts. Rose and Clement) in Warwick.

Chief Squire: What is your favorite hobby?

Father Forcier: I love to read, both fiction and nonfiction. I enjoy attending movies and plays.

Chief Squire: How did your education play an important role in obtaining your dreams?

Father Forcier: Education teaches you how to think. As long as I live, I learn. Hopefully, I continue to learn something new every day. After High School, I graduated from URI College of Pharmacy and worked in retail pharmacy for 16 years. In this way, my education allowed me the opportunity to have a well-paying, respected professional position. Once I entered seminary formation in preparation for the priesthood, I had to then learn about theology and philosophy. These subjects prepared me to understand some of what I would need to know to become a priest. Yet ultimately, education teaches you about yourself and your place in the world.

Chief Squire: If you weren't a priest, what would you like to do for a career?

Father Forcier: As I stated above, I would probably still be practicing pharmacy. Pharmacy gave me great opportunities to meet wonderful people. I am still licensed to practice pharmacy, but I have not done so since 1998.

Chief Squire: What is your greatest joy in life?

Father Forcier: My greatest joy is bringing the word of God and the truth of the faith to the people. There is no greater privilege or fulfillment that a priest has than celebrating the Sacraments (especially the Eucharist) for the people.

Chief Squire: What obstacles have you faced in becoming a priest and how do you overcome them?

Father Forcier: The obstacles that I have as a priest are the same that I had before I became a priest: avoiding sin and being faithful to the Gospel. The chief way that I try to overcome these obstacles is to be a person of prayer and receive the sacraments (including the Sacrament of Reconciliation) regularly. Also, I remember that God knows and loves me and wants me to deepen my relationship with him. He helps me to avoid evil.

Chief Squire: When listening to music, who is your favorite band?

Father Forcier: I love music, but I listen more to individual artists than bands. If I had to choose a band, it would probably be either Bruce Springsteen and the E-Street Band or the Dave Mathews Band.

Chief Squire: Recall the happiest time in your life. How have you been able to use past experiences to help people in their everyday lives?

Father Forcier: It is difficult to say that just ONE time in my life has been the happiest because I am looking to one day (please God) being in heaven where I believe I will experience the ULTIMATE joy - seeing Jesus Christ face-to-face and being reunited with all my loved ones who have died. However, I would say that I had a great childhood with my parents and 3 siblings (1 brother and 2 sisters). My parents taught me about compassion and joy and sharing with others. Also, I loved studying for the priesthood in Rome for 4 years with the opportunity for much travel throughout Europe. I visited 19 countries while I was there! Indeed, a happy time.

Chief Squire: Favorite computer Mac or PC?

Father Forcier: I have a PC so that is my current favorite.

Thanks to both Father Forcier and Nick for taking the time to put this together.