

WE WILL NEVER FORGET

My Dear Parishioners,

September 11, 2001, I was still working in the secular world at a firm in Horsham, right across Horsham Road from the Willow Grove Naval Air Station. I remember that morning as if it was yesterday. A co-worker walked by me and said that a plane had hit the World Trade Center in New York, and then continued walking. I pictured in my head a small plane hitting the building, and then continued with my work. However, things quickly changed.

Like many Americans that morning, I did not immediately understand what was happening. Like many Americans, I watched in disbelief as American planes were hijacked by foreign terrorists, buildings came crashing down, the Pentagon burned, thousands lost their lives, and our country was shaken at its very foundation.

There are those events that are so life-changing that it is impossible to forget where we were, who we were with, and even what we were thinking the moment when we first heard the news. Depending on our ages, these moments could include the attack on Pearl Harbor, V-E and V-J Days, the assassination of President Kennedy, the attempted assassination of St. John Paul II, and yes, 9/11.

On that day though, our faith and hope was restored by the selfless and courageous response by our police, our firefighters, our EMT's, our members of the armed forces, our chaplains. We can say that courageous and selfless service for God, Country, and others is faith and hope put into action. They showed us that evil would not triumph but that truth and justice would prevail.

We are so blessed this weekend to be Americans. We are also so blessed this weekend to be able to honor our first responders and to lift up in prayer those who died that day and who have died since.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank all of our heroes for who they are and for what they have done.

May God Our Father, through Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, look with mercy upon and richly reward our heroes of 9/11, and through His Grace may our nation always be the shining city on a hill.

**Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, pray for us!
St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, pray for us!**

Fr. Michael J Pawelko, pastor

Choosing Action in the Face of Evil

An Essay on Their Son by Beverly and Thomas E Burnett Sr.

Written Ten Years Ago, on the Tenth Anniversary

Ten years ago we suffered the most devastating loss imaginable — the death of our son, Tommy. It is still impossible to describe our grief. Tommy did not die in vain. While we would give anything to have him back, his final actions in life provide us with immeasurable hope and inspiration, a gift to a nation facing new and unprecedented challenges.

Tom was a hero on Flight 93. He and his fellow passengers were drafted unknowingly as the first citizen-soldiers in the war on terrorism. From the four telephone conversations Tom had with his wife Deena, he calmly assessed the life-or-death options they faced, developed a well-organized plan with his fellow passengers, and then acted.

Tom's last words were, "We're going to do something." And they did. Thanks to the extraordinary decisiveness, leadership and character he and his fellow passengers showed, thousands of lives were spared in Washington. Little more than one hour into the war, America won its first battle against terrorism.

Tom was a man of faith, integrity, wisdom, wit, compassions and courage.

He was born prematurely on May 29, 1963, at St. Mary's Hospital. He had to fight for his life in the beginning and he fought for his life on September 11, 2001. Tom was baptized, made his first Communion and was confirmed at St. Edward's Church, Bloomington, Minnesota. He attended Mass regularly, prayed and believed in prayers by others. He had a close relationship with the sisters known as Poor Clares, who received a letter from him on September 11, 2001.

Tom attended the Bloomington Schools, graduated with honors from Jefferson High School and played quarterback on the Jaguar football team. He was appointed to the Air Force Academy, graduated from the University of Minnesota, was president of the Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity and earned an executive MBA from Pepperdine University.

Tom would have been a success at whatever he chose in life. He was bright, driven and competitive. He had a very strong sense of right and wrong and was solidly grounded in the strength of his own convictions. He provided sound leadership as chief operating officer and senior vice president with Thoratec Corporation. Tom was very proud of his company and its mission in the medical device industry.

Tom always said the best summers of his life were spent as a child near Brainerd, Minnesota. He was an outdoorsman and enjoyed countless fishing and hunting trips with his father and a close family friend, Monsignor Joe.

Tom was an exceptional husband, father, son, brother and uncle. Even with a busy schedule and living on the West coast, he did whatever he could to minimize the distance. The frequent trips to Minnesota, phone calls and emails kept him close to his family in Minnesota.

Tom's keen wit and humor could lighten any situation. The impromptu impersonations of Bill Murray were a classic family favorite. Every Christmas, Tom would insist the family watch "It's a Wonderful Life."

In August 2001, Tom traveled to Minnesota. We were fortunate to have the time together as a family. That weekend, Tom truly touched each of us with his presence. He spent time at his farm with his father, dined with the entire family, cheered for his niece at a soccer game, attended church with his mother and shared a glass of wine, and sang and dance to a Neil Diamond program on cable. These recent memories live on in our hearts.

Tom was an avid reader, and family members could always expect his gifts would be books.

Tom passionately studied the lives of many great figures in history. One of his favorites was Winston Churchill. Tom appreciated his quote: "I am ready to meet my maker. Whether my maker is prepared for the great ordeal of meeting me is another matter."


Tom had just read a biography of John Adams, who once said, "A taste for literature and a turn for business, united in the same person, never fails to make a great man."

We hope every American finds his or her own way to contribute to the war on terrorism — and to act with the courage Tom showed from this day forward. "We're going to do something."

On this tenth anniversary, let us all pledge to "do something," something hopeful, something kind, something bold, and something right.

Beverly and Thomas E. Burnett, Sr. are the parents of the late Thomas Burnett, Jr., one of the heroes of the on-plane revolt against the hijackers of Flight 93, which crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The Burnetts are members of St. Dominic's Parish in Northfield, Minnesota.





President Bush: Address to the Nation on 9/11

Good evening.

Today, our fellow citizens, our way of life, our very freedom came under attack in a series of deliberate and deadly terrorist acts. The victims were in airplanes or in their offices: secretaries, business men and women, military and federal workers, moms and dads, friends and neighbors. Thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror. The pictures of airplanes flying into buildings, fires burning, huge -- huge structures collapsing have filled us with disbelief, terrible sadness, and a quiet, unyielding anger. These acts of mass murder were intended to frighten our nation into chaos and retreat. But they have failed. Our country is strong.

A great people has been moved to defend a great nation. Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shatter steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve. America was targeted for attack because we're the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world. And no one will keep that light from shining. Today, our nation saw evil -- the very worst of human nature -- and we responded with the best of America. With the daring of our rescue workers, with the caring for strangers and neighbors who came to give blood and help in any way they could.

Immediately following the first attack, I implemented our government's emergency response plans. Our military is powerful, and it's prepared. Our emergency teams are working in New York City and Washington D.C. to help with local rescue efforts. Our first priority is to get help to those who have been injured, and to take every precaution to protect our citizens at home and around the world from further attacks. The functions of our government continue without interruption. Federal agencies in Washington which had to be evacuated today are reopening for essential personnel tonight and will be open for business tomorrow. Our financial institutions remain strong, and the American economy will be open for business as well.

The search is underway for those who were behind these evil acts. I have directed the full resources of our intelligence and law enforcement communities to find those responsible and to bring them to justice. We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them.

I appreciate so very much the members of Congress who have joined me in strongly condemning these attacks. And on behalf of the American people, I thank the many world leaders who have called to offer their condolences and assistance. America and our friends and allies join with all those who want peace and security in the world, and we stand together to win the war against terrorism.

Tonight, I ask for your prayers for all those who grieve, for the children whose worlds have been shattered, for all whose sense of safety and security has been threatened. And I pray they will be comforted by a Power greater than any of us, spoken through the ages in Psalm 23:

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil for you are with me.

This is a day when all Americans from every walk of life unite in our resolve for justice and peace. America has stood down enemies before, and we will do so this time. None of us will ever forget this day, yet we go forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world.

Thank you. Good night. And God bless America.

**WE'VE
MOVED**

NEW LOCATION:

**Rectory Office
Parish Life Center (School)
100 Broad Street
Hilltown, Pennsylvania 18927**

Phone

(215) 822-9224

Email

olsh@comcast.net

Mailing

P.O. Box 31 • Hilltown • Pennsylvania 18927

Please continue to bear with us as we settle in our new location.



2021 Golf Outing Fundraiser

Knights of Columbus Councils
#9736 & #14731

Macoby Run Golf Course
5275 McLean Station Road
Green Lane, PA

Date: October 11, 2021
Check-in Time: 8:15-8:45 AM
Shot Gun Start: 9:00 AM

**** Lunch Buffet Immediately Following ****

Proceeds to benefit the Knights of Columbus
and Its Various Charitable Causes

Cost: \$85.00 per golfer

Questions:

Don Roberts (215) 990-5999 OR Hans Schmolk (215) 530-0282



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