



Happy Independence Day!

Knights of Columbus—Bishop Britt Council #8117

Bishop Britt Council #8117

July 2009



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Points of Interest:

*** Next Meeting ***
Tuesday, July 21
730pm - St Robert

Visit our website
www.kofc8117.com

Grand Knight Report

My heartfelt appreciation goes to each and every brother knight in our Council. I am so very proud of your strong commitment and dedication which resulted in an outstanding finale for the year. Through your volunteer efforts and leadership this year, our Council received the Star Award at the State Conference on Mackinac Island. This very prestigious award is given to those Councils who achieve the Columbian Award, the Father McGivney Award, and the Founders' Award.

Pope Benedict XVI has urged us as Christians to proclaim the dignity of life. Our Council has positively embraced this proclamation by supporting the needs

of families and community through our fundraising initiatives. We have been able to support two seminarians, gave three nursing scholarships, awarded four grants to organizations focusing on the mentally and physically impaired. The grant awards went to: Special Olympics; MOKA (Muskegon, Ottawa, Kent, and Allegan Counties), providing homes for youth with intellectual and physical disabilities; the Guardian Angel Homes, providing homes for impaired adults in Grand Rapids; and Equest Center for Therapeutic Therapy, providing therapeutic opportunities for impaired children through horseback riding. What an impact these gifts will make on the quality of life for individuals

with special needs in our community! The recipient organizations were most grateful and stated that given the economic environment, the gifts were most needed.

As brother knights, I encourage you to continue your commitment and dedication to the dignity of life for our families and community. It is a very noble cause, and we mirror the works of those first knights of the Round Table to uphold the teachings of our holy, Catholic Church. In continuing our commitment this year, Council 8117 leaves a worthy legacy for our families, community and Church.

Vivat Jesus!
 Your Grand Knight,
 Arnold C. Zueger

New Financial Secretary... but not a new Knight



I am happy to be the Council's new Financial Secretary and look forward to serving. I am a newer member of 8117 having transferred in from Council #12998 in Kalamazoo last year, but have been a Brother Knight since 2001. In the past I was proud to serve as the Faithful Purser for Fourth Degree Assembly #2135 for two years.

Faithfully yours,
Dan Baas

DGK report from Sean Gibbons

I am greatly honored to be your Deputy Grand Knight for an additional year. Last year, we accomplish many of our milestones such as scholarship awards, family assistance and many others. This year, in addition to last year's charity efforts, our worthy Grand Knight has requested that we have more involvement within our community and families. Your council is diligently working on suggestions to meet this vision. One objective is working with St. Roberts Boy Scout Council (#290), to help our elderly with yard work and improvements. Some other plans in the works include organizing a family night and casino

night, but none of these accomplishments can be done without your help.

As brother Knights, our council depends on each other to meet the needs of our families, church, and community. This year I am asking you, my brother Knights, for suggestions and interests that you may be willing to lead to further meet our goals this year. As always, I am confident that when there is a need to help your fellow man as Jesus has taught us, the Knights of Columbus will always be there.

Vivat Jesus!

Sean W. Gibbons, Your Deputy Grand Knight

July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

Supreme Star Council Requirements

- **Father McGivney Award:** Achieving a net gain in membership of 7% during the fiscal year.
- **Founders' Award:** Achieving a net gain in insurance membership of 2.5% during the year.
- **Columbian Award:** Council must conduct and report four major involvement programs in each category: Church, community, council, family and youth.

A Message from Field Agent Mike Taylor

A new fraternal year is upon us. Congratulations to Arnold Zueger, our newly elected grand knight, as well as the other dedicated brother Knights who will serve in either an elected and appointed leadership position in the coming year. I'm sure you have a list of goals and objectives that you intend to accomplish during the coming year. You have my assurance that I'm eager to help.

One of these goals is surely the attainment of the Star Council award as we did during our last fraternal year - the most prestigious award the Order offers at the council level. I'm certainly committed to helping on the insurance side, but I'll be glad to help on the membership side as well.

If you know an eligible Catholic man who might be interested in joining the Order (and who among us doesn't), he's probably just waiting to be asked. I can support you by providing the best in financial products that have provided other brother knights security – with no losses – that not only allow them to plan their future and allow them the peace of mind for their family desires. As always, I'm at your service.

Let's get an early start on attaining those goals and objectives that are so critical to the growth of any council.

THE FRATERNAL BENEFITS REPORT

Sometimes it is easy to overlook the simplest of things.

Take the beneficiaries on your life insurance policies. If your policy was applied for and issued several years ago, it could very well be that the person you originally selected as the beneficiary is no longer the person you would want to receive the policy proceeds. If you bought the policy when you were single, for example, you may have named your parents as beneficiaries. If you have since been married, that could be updated to reflect your spouse or your children.

Most people list a primary beneficiary – that person is specifically designated as the first in priority to receive policy proceeds. We also encourage the naming of a contingent beneficiary – an alternate person designated to receive policy proceeds, usually in the event that the original beneficiary pre-deceases the insured.

I routinely call all of our policyholders for review appointments, usually near the anniversary date of your policy or their birthday. One of the matters that I'll discuss during this review is the status of your beneficiary designations. If they need updating, and they often do, I can complete the paperwork during that appointment.

We can set a date for a review anytime during the year. Do not let the simplest of things be forgotten. Call me anytime. I look forward to meeting with each of you.

James Michael Taylor (“MIKE”) - Field Agent

(616) 356-1186 / taylorgr@tds.net or james.taylor@kofc.org

Report from your new Membership Director

First, let me congratulate the entire council for achieving Star Council status again, particularly thanking PGK Arnie Zueger, Membership Director Tom Heintzleman, and Insurance Field Rep Mike Taylor. As the GK points out in his report on page one, we achieved Supreme Star Council Award by receiving the Father McGivney Award, the Founders' Award, and the Columbian Award.

In future newsletters, I will expand on each of these awards, but briefly, it is this:

- **Father McGivney Award:** Achieving the net gain in membership required by Supreme.
- **Founders' Award:** Achieving the net gain in insurance membership required by Supreme.
- **Columbian Award:** Conduct programs in categories required by Supreme.

As you can see, we would not have achieved the Supreme Star Council award without the outstanding work of Arnie, Tom and Mike. Thank You Catholic Gentlemen!

We received our new objectives for obtaining Star Council this week and I included them at the bottom of page two of this newsletter. As Father Lou points out on page five and Mike Taylor points out on page three, part of our responsibility as Catholic, Christian gentlemen is to lead by example. We all know of men who are not Knights yet because they have not been asked. We are doing them a disservice by denying them benefits of membership in the Knights of Columbus, as well as protection for their spouses and children. Make it a point, soon, to ask men in your circle of friends to become Knights. I have a set modest goal of twenty (20) new men to become Knights in our council this fraternal year.

I also did not know that Supreme Council recognizes men who have recruited two or more members to become Knights. When you accomplish such a feat, you are recognized by Supreme as a member in the **VIP Club**. A special pin and certificate acknowledges men who have become members in the VIP Club and there is substantial recognition as you recruit additional members... just something to think about.

Remember for July and August that both our officer and general membership meetings both take place on the third Tuesday of the month. I hope to see you on July 21 and August 18, so you can catch some of the fire your new officers have for what we can do for our parishes, our youth, and our families.

Yours in Christ,

Mike

Thoughts for July...

† Some speakers need no introduction, they just need a conclusion.

† An optimist is someone who tells you to cheer up when things are going his way.

† O Lord, give me the courage to stand up for something. Let me not be content to wait and see what will happen but give me the determination to make the right things happen.

† One day your life will flash before your eyes. Make sure its worth watching.

Are you leading by example?

What are you witnessing to?

As Knights, we are called to lead and we lead most when we are the kinds of faith-filled men who can be a support to our world. Keep in mind that not only as baptized Christians, but also as committed Knights, we are to be front and center in our world as examples of faith. Of course as baptized Christians, we find out first call, “Come, follow me,” says the Lord. As Knights, we have another layer of responsibility in faith as our various degrees of membership point out.

What is that challenge or opportunity? First, to be witnesses to God’s love and compassion for all whom we meet. We dare not be any more selective in that witness than was the Lord Himself. Yes, that does mean that at times we have to fly in the face of the culture we live in, a culture that too often gives more values to certain of society’s members and much less to others, if at all. That is where baptized Christians must step forward. Everyone is equal before the Lord. Then as Knights, we are reminded that we are to lead in that witness. After all, as in Jesus’ time, not all disciples respond with the same urgency or with the same clarity of vision. History has shown that the Church itself and its members have overlooked opportunities for living the gospel in dramatic ways. Prejudice is not limited to race or religion; it is seen in the way we have more time and more resources dedicated to the folks and issues we like or identify with. We often bring a great deal of heat to those “preferences.”

Remember the Knights were founded with one of its goals being to care for widows and orphans. These two groups were very much marginalized in past generations. Slavery, even in this country, often extended to children sent out west to “serve” until they ran away, and widows were simply forgotten unless they inherited enough to take care of themselves. In our present economy, there are more than enough opportunities to care for those in need. In this economy, it is not simply a matter of various kinds of prejudice than can be an obstacle, it is often simply the mod reaction to suffering that can be a problem. They cry, “Every man for himself,” can overwhelm our Christian duty to witness to the Lord’s sacrifice, and only later, do we realize the hurt it caused.

Let us all try to bring the calm of the gospel to the store of our society today and sacrifice for the good of all.

God Bless,

Fr. Lou Stasker



Past Grand Knight and last year’s Membership Director, Tom Heintzleman, pose with Grand Knight Arnie Zueger and our District Deputy Doug Kokot. Tom, and his family, received the Family of the Year award for Council #8117 at our annual banquet on June 27, 2009. See more pictures from the banquet, read about other awards, and see how our charitable efforts rewarded four organizations with over \$4,700 on page five of the newsletter.

Banquet a Culmination of a Year's Success



At our annual banquet, recapping an entire year of successes for Knights of Columbus Council #8117, we took the time to honor Father Louis Stasker for being our council's Chaplain and to present checks to several, well-deserving organizations that benefit our parishes, our families and our community.

It was a special evening of appreciation, the culmination of many hours of selfless commitment and dedication that our brothers gave during the past fiscal year.



Jim Taylor accepts a check for \$793 on behalf of the Special Olympics of Michigan.

Special guests, in addition to our award recipients and honorees, included our District Deputy Douglas Kokot, and Ed Robell, the Grand Knight of Council #8291 of St. Paul's Parish.



Cathy from the Equest Center in Rockford accepts a check from GK Arnie Zueger.

Checks for \$793 were presented to Jim Taylor, on behalf of Special Olympics of Michigan, to Jerry O'Brien, representing MOKA (Muskegon-Ottawa-Kent-Allegan) for their service to group

homes for the mentally impaired, and to Cathy from the Equest Center for their work providing physical therapy to impaired children through therapeutic riding and exercise.

A whopping check for \$2,350 was presented to Robert and Victoria Scholz, on behalf of one of Father Stasker's favorite charities, Guardian Angel Homes. It was presented on behalf of our council, along with council 8291, to help support their four semi-independent homes for developmentally disabled adults.



Mr. Robert Scholz, representing Guardian Angel Homes, accepts a check from GK Arnie Zueger for \$2,350.

Also honored at the banquet was Brian Flanagan (below), our treasurer last year, as the Knight of the Year. The Family of the Year was awarded to the Thomas Heintzleman Family for Tom's great success in membership recruitment, his endless energy in council projects and his family's contributions to our many events.



Brian Flanagan accepts his Knight of the Year award with GK Arnie Zueger and DD Doug Kokot.

Communication Tools by Greg Apel, Chancellor

Communication channels are as diverse as they are effective. My experience ranges from long hand writing memos and being typed by a secretary, personal visits, pre-answering machines, to today's electronic and wireless technologies. What are the most effective ways to get your message out to our fellow Knights?

MOVABLE-TYPE PRINT: The Chinese invented movable-type print as early as the 11th century, but it was impractical for the Chinese character system. However, when **Johannes Gutenberg published his copy of the Bible in about 1450**, the modern movable-type printing press came into its own. Thus was born the first mass media.

PAPER BACK BOOKS: Literature for everyone with the coming of the industrial age, book publishing became industrialized. Bound books remained relatively expensive until steam-driven presses and cheap paper opened literature to the common folk. In the 19th century, "penny dreadfuls"- the precursors to pulp fiction - were available to even the poorest. Where would Steven King and John Grisham be without the mass-market paperback?

STANDARDIZED TEXTS: In 1828, Noah Webster published his dictionary, a momentous work in defining American English.

THE PHONOGRAPH: In 1877, Thomas A. Edison developed the first practical phonograph, originally used for taking dictation in offices.

THE TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH: The first stirrings of the global economy came in 1837, when Samuel Morse demonstrated his telegraph in New York. In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell beat Elisha Gray to the punch and patented the telephone. Transmitting voice signals over telegraph wires proved to be a fundamental communication tool in the 20th century. With the telegraph and telephone, the wired era was born.

ENCRYPTION: Encoded messages probably started the day after someone invented a written language, but in the late 1970s.

TELEVISION: On July 1, 1941, the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) started regularly broadcasting television signals, and hence was born what is to date the most powerful medium in all of human history. Developed largely by Philo Farnsworth and Vladimir Zworykin in the 1920s, television has redefined the rules of entertainment, culture, morality, journalism, and warfare, all in less than 100 years.

RADIO AND SPREAD SPECTRUM: James Clerk Maxwell proposed in 1864 that electrical signals could be sent through the air. Guglielmo Marconi then got credit for inventing the first modern radio in 1895. Finally, composer George Antheil and 1930s movie sensation Hedy Lamarr filed a patent for spread-spectrum technology, putting the final piece in place for a world of wireless communication.

MOTION PICTURES: The next time you're standing in line for a movie, be sure to thank the Lumiere brothers. Their film shorts, screened in Paris in 1895, heralded the birth of the multibillion dollar motion-picture industry, not to mention the first art form developed in the 20th century.

SONY WALKMAN: Electronics giant Sony introduced a novel concept in the late 1970s: a portable cassette player so small you could literally wear it. The separation between man and machine got a little more blurry, and an age of personal communication devices began.

PERSONAL COMPUTERS: Just after the end of World War II, the first general-purpose electronic computer - ENIAC - was born at the University of Pennsylvania. The first "personal" computer appeared in 1975.

POSTAL SERVICES: Before there was e-mail, there was plain old mail. A reliable, regular postal service run by a governing agency is a communication necessity that we now take for granted. Confucius said, "News of deeds travels faster than the mail" some 2,500 years ago, but modern postal agencies started appearing in the 1600s, notably in Denmark and, on a lesser scale, in Colonial America.

THE RISE OF THE VERNACULAR: Until the reform movements of the 14th to 16th centuries, if you lived in Europe and wanted to be educated,

you had to know Latin. But the Protestant Reformation and the belief that everyone should be able to read the Bible changed the language of education from Latin to the common tongue of the people.

THE GUY: Douglas Engelbart pioneered the concept, Xerox PARC played with it, but in the end, Steve Jobs secured his reputation with his graphical user interface, and Bill Gates made billions with his GUI. GUIs for computers put a friendly - or at least friendlier - face on computers for most people, giving them access to the primary tool of the information revolution.

DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM: There would be no information science without library science, and where would library science be without Melvil Dewey's 1876 invention, the Dewey decimal system? With it, books and other publications are classified with a number system by subject and topic. Although it has been largely supplanted today, would there be a Yahoo without it?

SATELLITES: When the Soviets put Sputnik I into space in 1957, it was the start of Arthur C. Clarke's decades-old science fiction dream: a world interconnected by communication satellites. Without the need for physical wiring or line of sight, today there is truly no place on Earth that is totally outside the realm of communication.

PHOTOGRAPHY: In January 1839, Louis Jacques Mandé Daguerre announced to the French Academy of Sciences his creation - which would be christened the daguerreotype - thus heralding the birth of modern photography. Daguerre's invention and its descendants have spawned a world wherein a picture truly is worth a thousand words, and the world's inhabitants are becoming more visually oriented, but also more visually dependent.

THE INTERNET: How to keep the flow of information moving reliably during a nuclear war: That was the dilemma facing the U.S. Department of Defense's Advanced Research Projects Agency... We still don't know the final impact of the Internet, only that it is the first media invented for the 21st century and beyond.

CELL PHONES, IPODS, BLACKBERRYS, & PDA's: We now send typed messages and pictures through the airwaves. Technology has come a long way from the humble beginnings of language, and basic communication. As we all have embraced the communications evolution, we need to do a better job of using these tools to communicate with each other.

MOST IMPORTANT: I have written this chronology to demonstrate just how far we have all come in the past millennium. As Knights of Columbus we have tried to implement email, websites, and good old fashion phoning from a device we carry around in our pocket.

We have developed a bulk email system, and need to keep it up to speed. I therefore humbly ask all of to respond to the next bulk email sent, to let us know you are receiving our communications. Please feel free to email me at greg.apel@att.net to make sure you are on the list, and will continue to be updated.

For your dedication and hard work, let me extend my many thanks. We truly have an extraordinary council, and continue to do our great work. I know in my heart, Father McGivney would approve of our progress. If he were with us today, I am certain he would also use these ingenious tools to communicate and build our organization even stronger.

**Best Regards from Your Fellow Knight,
Greg Apel**

References:

Dugan, S. M. [InfoWorld](#). San Mateo: [Sep 13, 1999](#). Vol. 21, Is. 37; pg. 92, 2 pgs ;
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**Knights of Columbus
Bishop Kevin Britt Council
#8117**

6477 Ada Drive SE
Ada, MI 49301

proudly serving:
St Robert of Newminster
and
St Thomas the Apostle
parishes

IMPORTANT DATES

July 21-Officer Mtg, 630pm;
General Membership Mtg,
730pm - St Robert

August 2: Rosary, 1030am, St
Robert Chapel

August 8-16: Knights of Co-
lumbus Family Week

August 12: Fr. Michael J.
McGivney's birthday

August 15: Feast of the As-
sumption

August 18: Officer Mtg,
630pm; General Membership
Mtg, 730pm; St Robert

September 6: Rosary,
1030am, St Robert Chapel

Donut Sunday - St Robert

September 8: Officer Mtg,
630pm, St Robert

September 15: General Mem-
bership Mtg, 730pm - St Robert
First Degree ceremony

September 19: Steak and
Corn Roast - St Robert

Your 2009-10 Officers

Chaplain	Fr. Len Sudlik	LSudlik@StRobertChurch.org	(616) 676-9111 x.22
Grand Knight	Arnold Zueger	arnoldzueger@sbcglobal.net	(616) 676-0827
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Treasurer	Paul Allie	famallie@comcast.net	(616) 676-3027
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Warden	John Fuhs	jncfuhs@yahoo.com	(616) 942-2884
Inside Guard	Paul Troutwine		(616) 774-3901
Outside Guard	Michael Trenshaw	Mike@AwardsPro.com	(616) 455-0540
Trustee One Year	Harold (Bud) Fulford		(616) 735-0133
Trustee Two Year	James Milanowski	jmilo24@cs.com	(616) 774-8471
Trustee Three Year	Richard Kleff	dickkleff@catholicweb.com	(616) 942-9676
District Deputy	Douglas Kokot	ddkokot@catholicweb.com	(616) 891-6922
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