



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Bishop Britt Council #8117

www.kofc8117.com

February 2010

GRAND KNIGHT REPORT

Brother Knights,

Our council is continually doing good works that reflect the mission of Father McGivney and the Knights of Columbus. As we serve donuts on Donut Sunday and breakfasts to our church family these upcoming months, we demonstrate our Christian love to others and serve as a wonderful model and inspiration. These loving acts of kindness are such a powerful example to young and old. With February focusing on Valentine's Day and showing loved ones how much we care for them, what a great time to celebrate all that you do as Knights!

During the first part of our fiscal year, we have already raised funds to help support two nursing students at Aquinas College through our Steak/Chicken Corn Fest. Funds raised for the Sweeney Fund aid two seminarians in their studies to become a priest as well as some other special requests. Our successful MI Drive in October enabled us to give gifts to Special Olympics, MOKA (Muskegon, Ottawa, Kent, and Allegan Counties providing homes for youth with intellectual and physical disabilities), and the Guardian Angel Homes for impaired adults. We celebrate and deeply appreciate our brothers who generously volunteer their time, talents and treasure to ensure the success of these endeavors!

It will be exciting for our council in the upcoming months to see the expansion of saying the rosary at 10:30 am on the first Sunday of every month to having the rosary prayed every Sunday at that time. Our council will continue to have the first Sunday of the month and other groups at St. Roberts will take the remaining Sundays. Also, our council will work with Father Len to plan a special celebration in May to honor our Blessed Mother. As Knights, we celebrate the growing awareness of our devotion to the Blessed Mother!

It is humbly gratifying to see our council membership grow. Your great example of serving family, church, and community has inspired the Christian men in our parishes to come forward to be a part of this worthy organization. We celebrate your many good deeds and generous heart!

Vivat Jesus!

Your Grand Knight,
Arnold C. Zueger



IN SERVICE

TO ONE.

IN SERVICE TO ALL.

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Please pray for:

Brother Harold Fulford is going in for an operation.

CHECK YOUR FOUNDATION

By J. Michael Taylor, Field Agent

When do you inspect your home's foundation for cracks?

- A.** Twice each year—in the early spring and late fall—as foundation experts suggest.
- B.** The first day you step into an inch or two of water on your basement floor after a heavy rain storm. Now, a more important question: When do you inspect your *financial* foundation? Economic storms have exposed cracks in the financial foundations for far too many of us in recent years.

Before the thunderclouds gather again, take a good look at what a solid financial foundation is made of:

Short-term spending habits built on long-term goals

Have you ever written down long-term goals for you and your family? It's easy to tell yourself you'll put five percent of every paycheck into savings. But if you don't attach that money to a long-term goal you can see clearly—a retirement home on the lake, say, or your child holding a college diploma—it's too easy to divert those savings toward a new plasma-screen TV.

Guaranteed income protection

If your family relies on your income, your foundation requires life insurance, period. At least a portion of it should be permanent (or "whole") life insurance, which guarantees a death benefit and builds cash value for as long as you live, without increasing in price. This protects your family during your working years. For your retirement, at least a portion of your income should come from a savings plan that is guaranteed to preserve your contributions. A Knights of Columbus annuity, for example, has guaranteed safety of the principal you contribute and a guaranteed minimum rate of return. You can also choose an option that pays you a set monthly amount for life.

With good spending habits and guaranteed income protection in place, you're protected from the uncertainty of investment funds and Social Security. Certainly, you should take advantage of opportunities to grow your money through tax-advantaged retirement plans such as a 401(k). Just make sure that you build your own sound foundation beneath benefits provided by an employer or the government.

The good news about foundation repairs:

Unlike home foundation inspections, financial foundation inspections are free. And paying for repairs simply means paying your future self, your family, and heirs. If you'd like help clarifying your goals and mapping out a path to reach them safely, please give me a call for a free financial review.

James Michael Taylor

"MIKE"

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SERVING BREAKFAST AT ST. ROBERT'S



GET PASSIONATE ABOUT WHAT WE DO!

By Michael Terwilliger, Membership Director

Vivat Jesus! Retaining members is an ongoing challenge. Great effort is spent recruiting new members, only to have many of them leave the Order later. Since I'm relatively new to the Knights myself, I've only heard horror stories of our Council (and others) calling/mailling many members in threat of suspension every fraternal year.

I've heard some reasons men want to drop, but the one that I really hope I don't hear is that "I wasn't asked to do anything." New members may not feel welcome at meetings and often they aren't asked to help on projects and council events. After awhile, with minimal contact with their council, they think 'Why should I belong?'

This is where I make the plea. "Get **passionate** about something the Knights do, something we stand for, something going on in the church, something that isn't happening in the church that you think your priest may want to see done, something the Knights aren't doing that we could be doing, something to help widows, orphans, mentally impaired, Catholics, Christians, youth, parishioners, or perhaps, comradery, social events, educational events, etc."

Our Chancellor, Greg Apel, sent a memo to the officers recently asking to cut back on his involvement with the Council. He was only involved in about forty events over one month. (Are you kidding me?) He rattled them off, it was astounding. It was also a little sad. I know many of you are reading this and saying, "Man, I wish I had a project. I wish I had a venue for my talents, time, and treasures."

Please let GK Arnie Zueger, DGK Sean Gibbons, or your Membership Director that you are available, interested, and looking to get involved. We need you, your church needs you, your parish needs you.

I currently wear the dual hat of Retention Committee Chairman/Membership Director. Unfortunately council retention committees often wait for two or three years, sometimes several years to ask the member to continue in the Knights. Obviously the member thinks, if it took the council this long to see why I don't participate, they don't care about me. This lack of contact and participation results in the majority of the 1200 members that leave the order each fraternal year. As soon as a member gets behind in his dues, the retention committee must call to see if there is a financial need, a family situation or some way the council can help. This lets members know they are valued. There are many, many new officers in your Council that don't have the history (which is a good thing), as to why some brother Knights are disenfranchised with the Council. There are several men that are members of our Council that I've never seen at a meeting or Knight function, yet I know these men to be awesome leaders, great businessmen and communicators, fantastic people... but there must be something that keeps them away. Let me extend the olive branch and invite you back.

I ask the question to each you, "Why do you still belong to the Knights of Columbus?" Reasons probably range from serving their church, community and youth; comradery with brother Knights; enjoyable social activities and educational events – a host of different reasons. Unfortunately, those men who haven't participated in their council for years haven't had these experiences. They lose contact with those events special to the Knights.

Every Knight has the responsibility to make new members feel welcome, invite and greet them at meetings, ask them to attend programs, call them to work on council projects. Proposers especially have this responsibility. Involvement gives meaning to belonging to the Order. There is a K of C booklet entitled "The Care and Feeding of Knights." It's intended to help councils prepare for social programs and events. That title should apply equally to retaining members. If councils don't show they care for new members, and they don't feed the interests and reasons the man joined, they are setting him up to leave prematurely.

Certainly new members share a responsibility also to make contact and volunteer their services, however human nature is such that people want to be called to help and feel a sense of unity and fraternity with a group they join. Upon reading this article, every Knight must commit himself to extend the hand of friendship, open lines of communication, and invite new members to join in the programs that make the Order great.

Please put three dates on your calendar. On Sunday, February 14, there is a First Degree, along with a Second/Third Degree, in Wyoming. The information is printed elsewhere in the newsletter. If you know someone interested in the Knights, please contact me. If you are currently a First Degree or Second Degree Knight and want to advance, please contact Arnie. The second date is Tuesday, February 16. It is our next General Membership Meeting. Please try to attend. Wednesday, February 17 is Ash Wednesday.

God's Peace and Blessings,

Mike

LOOKING AHEAD

February 7: Rosary, St. Robert's Chapel, 10:30 am

February 9: Officer's Meeting - St. Robert's 6:30 pm

February 14: Donut Sunday at St. Robert's

See page 5 for a degree celebration that requires a 2/7 RSVP!

February 16: General Membership Mtg, St. Robert, 7:30pm

February 21: Breakfast at St. Thomas

Blood Drive at St. Robert's

February 28: St. Robert's Breakfast

March 7: Rosary at St. Robert's 10:30 am

Donut Sunday at St. Robert's

March 9: Officer's Meeting, St. Robert, 6:30pm

March 14: Breakfast at St. Robert's

March 16: General Membership Mtg, St. Robert, 7:00pm, **First Degree**

Watch for next month's *BIG* raffle!



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications for the Ashley M. Janderwski Memorial Scholarship are now being taken.

The scholarship is given by the Michigan Knights of Columbus. See Mike Terwilliger for application details. The criteria:

1. The applicant must be a current Michigan High School Senior planning to pursue a career in teaching (special education given priority).
2. Selection will be on essays, scholastic achievements, teacher evaluations, extracurricular activities and recommendations by two (2) persons, non-relative, one being a teacher and the other a coach, mentor or advisor. Please provide contact information for each.
3. Selection will be without regards to race, religion, national origin or financial need.
4. All selections are final and scholarships are not renewable. Essays, recommendations by two (2) persons, G.P.A transcripts recent picture and parent or guardian signatures, must accompany the application.



All lined up at Donut Sunday!

RIGHT TO LIFE DINNER

March 25, 2010

Keynote Speaker:
Archbishop Allen Vigneron

Tickets Are \$50 Each; Table of 10 \$475
Burton Manor, Livonia

Dinner Reservation Forms Will be Mailed Shortly

For Additional Information Contact:

Paul & Sue Thorn. 248-852-1758

Where :

Bishop Haas Council
5830 Clyde Park Ave
Wyoming, MI

When:

Sunday 14 February
1st Degree at 10 AM
Major Degree at Noon
Dinner at 4 PM



Call

Grand Knight Ken
Skonecki at (616) 698 0380
or email to
gk4362@charter.net

Or

DD#71 Don Robinson at
(616) 277 – 1258 or email to
ltcr @live.com

Reservations are required

**No Later than February
7th!**

1st & Major Degrees

- 1st Degree – Candidates arrive 9:30 AM
- 2nd & 3rd Degree Candidates arrive 11:30 AM
- Celebration Dinner (Spouses are Welcome!) start 4:00
until 6:00 PM
 - *(Note there is a separate cost of \$15 each)*

Bishop Britt Council #8117

www.kofc8117.com

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Proudly serving:
St. Robert of Newminster
and
St. Thomas the Apostle

Visit us at:
www.kofc8117.com

Your 2009-10 Officers

| | | | |
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