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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

*ST. ANGELA MERICI COUNCIL NO. 14617
MISSOURI CITY, TEXAS*

THE KNIGHT RIDER
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

www.kofc14617.org

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT



My Brothers,

This is my attempt to do another newsletter for the council. I know it's been awhile since I have done one, but I hope to begin cranking one out on a more regular basis.

This year has been pretty busy for our council. We have done a lot of good work. We have grown to 91 members in our council. This is 360% of our goal set by Supreme and thus we will be awarded the Double Star Council Award for the 3rd year in a row. Congratulations to everyone of you as YOU are the reason for our growth. Your example is the best recruiting tool that we have.

We have brought in several new Knights to our Order. I have included a few pictures of new members in this newsletter however I know I have missed a few of you. If so please accept my apology as I did not have a picture to post.

Moving into the PLC has made a huge difference in our council. It has given us some facilities to work with, and the parish has grown to over 900 families. There are so many things this council has been involved with in the last few months. Thank you all for your Passion To Serve. Without you, things like Special Olympics, Camp For All, Impact A Hero, the Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday Doughnuts, Free throw Contest, the Astros game, and many more could not happen. So thank you all again.

In the last 3 years this council has almost tripled in size. Bigger things are ahead for us. As I said at the June meeting I feel like we got off the line good and shifted into 2nd gear. It's now time to hit 3rd and keep rolling. And I know we will do that and do it well. But it will take all of you supporting your council to make it happen. I invite all of our members but especially our new Knights to pick one of our programs that you are interested in and get involved. The next couple of months will be fairly low as many families take summer trips or get heavily involved in sports. But we will start getting busy again and will need your help. How is the best way to keep up with your council's activities and volunteer? The best way is to attend our monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of each month. Get to know the Director over a program you are interested in and sign up for that committee. Maybe there is a program that you are aware of that could use some help on a particular project or in general. Get on the appropriate committee and bring it up. Ask for help for them. If council doesn't know about it, we can't help. So if you are involved in some charitable programs, get your council involved too.

Page 2 of this newsletter is my farewell address to the council at our June meeting. I've included it because I wanted those of you who were not able to attend that meeting to read it. There are many people I want to thank for their hard work over the last 3 years. I was able to thank several of the key people responsible for establishing and growing our council from its start up to where we are today. But the reason our council is known throughout the Archdiocese and the State is because of each of you and what you have done for this council. And yes we are known at the State level. When I attend the State Conventions it is very obvious that St. Angela Merici Council has gained a reputation as a rising star in the State. And that is thanks to each one of you.

As I said at the meeting, it has been a privilege and an honor to serve as your Grand Knight for these last 3 years. I will miss the job but I am confident that our new Grand Knight SK Jerry Tomasello will have your support and with it he will lead us to the next level. I want to thank every one of you as your GK for your help and support. But I also want to thank you all as your Brother for your prayers and support for me and my family during some difficult times. It showed me one of the greatest benefits of being a Knight. One that we don't talk about enough. That's prayer. The power of the prayers from our council, our chapter and the State for our Brothers is unbelievable. My family and I can certainly testify to that. So thank you again. I can never repay you for all that you've done. But each of you and your families are in my prayers. God Bless you all. Your Brother in Christ. Gary

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GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

Delivered at June 1, 2011 Council Meeting:

Brothers

As this is my last regular meeting as your Grand Knight, I want to take a few moments to express my thanks to all of you for your support and dedication to this council over the last nearly 3 years. You have made my job an easy and enjoyable one and one I will miss. No Grand Knight has ever been more proud, more often as I have been of you.

There are several people I want to especially thank. You know in 1882, an ordinary Irish Parish Priest in New Haven founded the Knights of Columbus based on the principles of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. The original council consisted of some 75 members. And now our Order has grown to over 1.9 Million throughout the world. In 2008 a not-so-ordinary Irish Parish Priest was instrumental in starting this council. We started with 34 members and now have grown to 91. We absolutely would not be sitting here tonight without his total and unswerving support. Never has a council enjoyed more support from its priest. And so I want to say a very special thank you to our Worthy Chaplain and Brother Knight Father John Rooney.

All of the officers and Program Directors of this council have done a great job putting this council and its programs together. But one officer was on board from day 1. He was responsible for filing all of the paperwork and basically getting this council off the ground. Without his hard work we may not have gotten this council set up. And he made sure I got everything I needed, to do everything I was supposed to do and not get us in trouble. He continues to file all of the reports and forms to Supreme and to State that keeps us in good standing and wins us the numerous awards you see here on the wall. So I want to say a huge thank you to our Worthy Financial Secretary SK Ron Frerich.

The Knight that worked to get our council set up was our District Deputy Bro. Dennis Marek. Shortly after we got going, his work sent him to Thailand and he remains there still. He is scheduled to be home in November. So we owe Bro. Dennis a great deal for getting us started. Fortunately for me, when he left, his District Warden took over the job of District Deputy. He has been a great deal of help in guiding and advising me on many occasions and has been a great promoter of this council on a Diocesan and State level. And so I want to say thank you very much to our Worthy District Deputy Bro. Gary Blanchette.

And I wish to thank all of the officers of this council for your dedication and support. Your guidance and input has brought this council to what it is today. And I owe special thanks to our Worthy Deputy Grand Knight, and incoming Grand Knight SK Jerry Tomasello who stood in for me on several occasions when I was unable to be here. I know I am passing the gavel to very capable hands. I know bigger and better things are ahead for us. So thank you and congratulations Brother Jerry.

And finally I owe a big thank you to each of you. For your dedication, your fraternity and unity, your Passion To Serve, and your kind words and many prayers for me when I was going through my treatments and surgeries. I truly believe that without all of you I may not have made it through all of that. So again thank you all very much. It has been a privilege and an honor to be your Grand Knight.

God bless you all.



The Knights of Columbus insurance program passed a major milestone at the end of April when total insurance in force exceeded \$80 billion. The amount of life insurance in force has doubled in just over a decade, from \$40 billion in 2000.

The Knights of Columbus has more than \$17 billion in assets and ranks in the Fortune 1000 list of America's largest companies. It is one of only five insurers in North America to receive the highest possible rating for financial stability from both Standard & Poor's (AAA) and A.M. Best (A++).

The organization was established in 1882 as a fraternal benefit society, with one of its primary aims to enable members to protect their families with life insurance. Today, the K of C has more than 1.8 million members in the United States, Canada, Mexico and Central America, the Caribbean, Philippines and Poland.

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, who assumed the role of CEO in 2000, cites the record sales growth as resulting from the organization's philosophy of sustainable investment and ethical business practices.

"Despite the difficult economic conditions in the United States, the Knights of Columbus has maintained its strength, and has improved its standing relative to the insurance industry as a whole," Anderson said. "There is no higher rated insurer than the Knights of Columbus, and we have every confidence in our continued success because we have a fundamentally solid business model, which continues to serve us well."

One of the most active charitable groups in the United States, Knights of Columbus members last year set records despite the weak economy by providing nearly 69 million hours of charitable service and more than \$151 million in donations to charitable causes. Cumulative figures show that, during the past decade, the Knights of Columbus has donated more than \$1.36 billion to charity, and provided nearly 640 million hours of volunteer service in support of charitable initiatives.

NEWS FROM STATE

Two More for Father Jack!

By Tony Herreth, State Deputy

If you attended the State Convention, you heard the letter from our Associate State Chaplain, Father Jack Whitley. Father Jack missed his first State Convention as a result of a car accident that left him with cracked ribs and a month rehab in the hospital. He felt an obligation to attend this convention in order to lead his Brother Priests in the Clergy Seminar. But the Drs. told him that the distance was too far to travel.

Father Jack wrote a letter that was read at the business meeting. In the letter, he talked about the life of Fr. McGivney and the need for all of us to pray for his canonization. He explained the need to ask all Catholic families to be part of this Order.

In his talk to the delegates, Fraternal Services Director of the Supreme Council Lou Barbour explained that Texas was in danger of breaking its consecutive record of 23 years in the Circle of Honor. At the time of the Convention, Texas needed 1,000 members to accomplish its goal. Mr. Barbour challenged every council to recruit "TWO MORE FOR FATHER JACK".

You have been doing a great job, but there are 20 Districts which have not recruited anyone. Texas needs everyone on board to make this campaign a success.

I ask all members of your council to ask their friends to join. Make sure that the District Deputy arranges a First Degree in your District or an adjoining District. Then ask the Financial Secretary to submit the Form 100's by fax to Lou Barbour before June 30.

I cannot thank you enough for the support you have given me and my wife Marty this year. I hope your experience in the Knights of Columbus is as rewarding.

TWO MORE FOR FATHER JACK !!

Vivat Jesus.....

INSURANCE NEWS

Today you are giving your children the best education you can buy. Today your wife is living comfortably and not worrying about making ends meet. Will that be the scenario when you are gone?

If you have life insurance, the answer is a definite yes.

With life insurance your family is taken care of as if you are still with them. The family will not have the financial burden that comes with the passing of the breadwinner. Life insurance will be there to handle all the family financial needs. There is no undue stress on the family. Isn't that how you would want it?

The end result? Life goes on for your family almost as if you were still there. And that is a gift of love. Call Leo Lowdermilk at (832) 338-6269 or (800) 460-2706



COUNCIL PHOTOS



Our Brothers who took their Major Degree in Feb., 2011



Bro. James receives his Major Degree certificates



Bro. Paul receives his 1st Degree with his dad Bro. Joe



Bro. Jeff receives his 1st Degree certificate



Bros. Andy and Martin received their 1st Degree certificates



Bro.. Ron receives a Membership Award from our DD

Remember: If you participate in any Knights of Columbus events or activities and have pictures, please forward them to Gary Bentz at gsbent@flash.net so we can have them for our Council records and also so that they may be published in the newsletter.



COUNCIL PHOTOS



Our parish kids at the Freethrow Contest



Bro. Matt made patterns and painted STOP at the PLC



At the Good Friday services, Father John again asked the Knights to carry in the cross for the Veneration of the Cross Services. Our council's 4th Degree Sir Knights carried in the cross and held it for the services.



We had a good crowd for the Easter Egg Hunt at the PLC



Two of the children that were hunting Easter Eggs.

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COUNCIL PHOTOS



Impact A Hero



Our Knights setting up at 4:30 AM



The 5k race for Impact a Hero



Our Knights passing out water to runners



Bro. Ron and Debbie put together the trip to the Astros

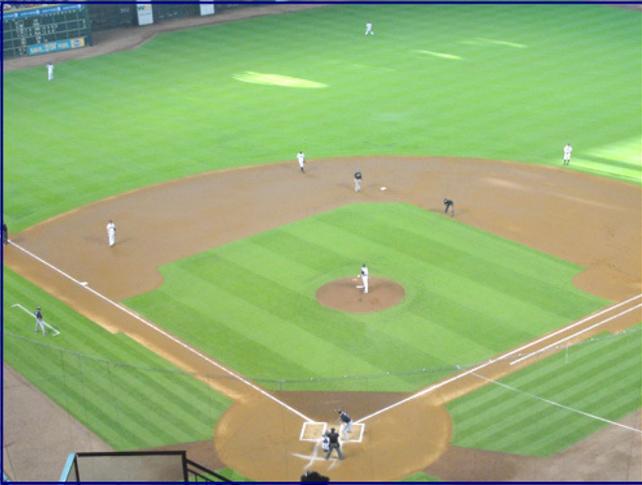


The bus ride to Minute Maid Park to see the Astros

Remember: If you participate in any Knights of Columbus events or activities and have pictures, please forward them to Gary Bentz at gsbent@flash.net so we can have them for our Council records and also so that they may be published in the newsletter.



COUNCIL PHOTOS



The view from our seats behind homeplate



After great fireworks we road home on the bus.



Our new 4th Degree SK Mark and SK Jeff with SK Fernando



Fr. John opens the Officers' Installation with prayer



Incoming officers line up for the ceremony



Mercedes puts jewel on SK Ed as DD, DW & GK look on

Remember: If you participate in any Knights of Columbus events or activities and have pictures, please forward them to Gary Bentz at gsbent@flash.net so we can have them for our Council records and also so that they may be published in the newsletter.



FATHER JOHN'S CORNER



BIBLE – Fact of Fiction?

The lead story in the December 18, 1995, issue of *Time* magazine read, “Is the Bible Fact or Fiction?” The Bible continues to be the most popular book and a controversial book as well. Each person approaches the Bible differently. The upcoming changes in the translation of the Mass is to bring us closer to the actual Biblical understanding.

To begin with, the Bible was not dropped from heaven. It came about over a period of fifteen hundred years! The Bible is the Word of God. When we turn the Bible into something it is not we create an idol.

The Bible is not a book about science, though some science is contained in it. It is not a book of astronomy, though it refers to the stars. It is not a book on archaeology, though it uncovers truth. The Bible is not a book of laws, though it describes the justice of God. The Bible does not tell us how to build things, or how to use the computer, but it does teach people that they must be responsible for their actions. That is why for us KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS we must be rooted in the Word of God!

The Bible is a collection of God's love letters to us. It is filled with wisdom and guidance. It is a record of the mighty acts of God, containing gifts to us God's children and how God's children responded to Him. The Bible is a book about faith. On the whole, the Bible was written by people of faith to arouse and nurture faith. Behind this ageless, holy book stands a person: JESUS CHRIST!

The summer is here. It is our time to relax and ‘smell the flowers’. It is time to sit back and put our feet up and make room for God. When we make room for God and God's Word our lives are a little more livable.

For us Knights the Bible is fact and not fiction. The most important fact contained in the Bible is that we are loved and that Jesus Christ is our Lord! Take time this summer and allow the gift of the Bible, God's love letters to each of us, to renew and deepen your relationship with God. Then go and share the good news with others! It is what we do as Knights of Columbus!

Peace

Fr. John



DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT



Worthy Brothers,

As the fraternal year comes to a close and we start to wind down for the summer I want to challenge each of you to finish this year strong. We still have a few weeks left to make a difference in the council, community and our order.

The Knights of Columbus Texas State Council is in danger of missing out on the prestigious Circle of Honor for the first time in over 20 years. The honor is given to those state councils who meet their recruitment and other goals. Our State Deputy, Tony Herreth, is from our own District. We must do all we can to support him in his efforts to build a strong state council and order. In the remaining few weeks I encourage you to invite a catholic man and his family to join our fine fraternity. Ask the question and see what happens! Remember the recruitment theme for the remainder of this year is "Two more for Father Jack" in honor of our Associate State Chaplin and local brother, Father Jack Whitley. To support you in your recruitment efforts we are holding a First Degree at Council 4204 in Sugar Land on Monday June 20th. The degree that night will be in honor of Father Jack so let's go out make a difference and bring in two more for Fr. Jack!

Many councils will be holding officer elections and installations this month. I congratulate and pray for the new leaders as they begin to take office. The key to a successful council is its members and its programs and as you prepare your calendar for your new fraternal year I hope that many of the members will turn out for the planning meetings to make sure the programs they want to participate in are considered. Each of these programs will need leaders and committeemen so please consider volunteering your time to make each program successful. You do not have to do all of them, just pick out one or two and make a difference in that program. The Knights have six program areas that need chairman; Council, Family, Community, Youth, Church and Pro-Life. Get with your Grand Knight and let him know that you want to be a director or committee member.

This will be my last newsletter input as your District Deputy. It has been my honor and privilege to serve you as District Deputy and District Warden for the past four plus years. I have made many new friends and will cherish all the great times we had together whether at meetings or at events, you made them special. The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Men's Fraternal Service Organization and you have taught me the meaning of the three main parts to that phrase; you have taught me to be a better catholic through prayer, you have taught me the meaning of fraternity and being a brother and you have taught me how to serve my fellow man. I thank all of you for that and for the opportunity.....

May God bless you and your families,

Gary Blanchette DD#74



OFFICERS FOR NEW FRATERNAL YEAR



Council Officers Information

Grand Knight	- Gary Bentz	gsbent@flash.net	281 778-9632
Deputy GK	Jerry Tomasello	jtomasello@rectorseal.com	281 778-7022
Chaplin	Fr. John Rooney	rjmerici@entouch.net	281 778-0400
Chancellor	Wes Kubesch	weskub@hotmail.com	
Recorder	Fernando Hess	fehess2@gmail.com	
Advocate	Tim Alcorn	tpalcorn@yahoo.com	
Lecturer	Kevin McCarthy	mollkev@aol.com	
Warden	Rene Broussard	tandpfan@aol.com	281 565-6661
O. Guard	Jerry Bishop	jerry.bishop@wholefoods.com	
O. Guard	Ed Cazanaz	eduardocazanaz@yahoo.com	
In. Guard	Matt Sasso	sassofamily@entouch.net	281 778-7703
In. Guard	Victor Bentz	vvillarreal12@sbcglobal.net	
Trustee 1 yr	Mark Montalbano	mmontalbano@entouch.net	
Trustee 2 yrs	Ed Petru	epetru2921@aol.com	
Trustee 3 yrs	Meco Choates	choates4@entouch.net	
Treasurer	Colin Kiernan	cmkiernan44@comcast.net	281 499-4067
Financial Sec	Ron Frerich	rjfrerich@earthlink.net	
Membership Dir	Jerry Bishop	jerry.bishop@wholefoods.com	
Insurance Agent	Leo Lowdermilk	leo.lowdermilk@kofc.org	800 460-2706

JUNE/JULY BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 01 NATHAN STOTTS, 02 STEPHEN PETRU, 03 ENRICO GIANNETTI, Jr., 04 DEACON KEVIN MC CARTHY, 09 JOHN HOPKINS, 21 EDWARD PETRU, 22 WILLIAM FRERICH, 24 EDUARDO CAZANAS, 27 JERRY TOMASELLO

JULY 04 TIM ALCORN, 05 MATT LEYDEN, 06 RENE BROUSSARD, 08 WES KUBESCH, 09 GARY BENTZ, 09 JASON WILDE, 14 CHRIS AGOSTNELLI, 26 PHIL SUMANG

Our Prayers Are With You



Please remember the following in your prayers:

The following family and friends who are fighting some form of cancer: Tony Yasilli, Jared Goolsby, GK Gary Bentz, Janet Frerich (Ron's sister), Bill Lackey, Bill Copenhaver, Marty Adrian, Sam Tramonte, David Harris, Phil Adamczak (Colin Kiernan's Brother in Law), Barbara Blandford, Jeanette Hottman, Courtney Cole, Lucien Rutkowski, Tom Johnson, Kathy Messina, Annette Sloss and Nancy Burchfield. Eva Izarraraz for kidney failure, Erin McGee to have a good child delivery and Tina O'Driscoll to recover from back surgery, Fr. Sinclair Oubre to recover from broken leg, Brother John Boettiger's extended family to heal from losing John, Sister Therese Cecilia, rest in peace, Lionel Nunenmacker for cancer, Jerry Bishop to recover from car accident ; Ed Petru for eye surgery, Fr Jack to recover from car wreck, Fr Roy for back surgery, Aime Bentz for healthy child birth, and Leona Flynn (Gary Bentz' aunt) rest in peace Vince Lamantia, Nooney Bishop, Carlota Hess,. And Verge Gallagher

Our Men and Women in uniform both living and deceased especially Bro Frank Simoneaux, and Gabriel Machado deployed in Afghanistan. Our Holy Father and all of the clergy. The innocent unborn. St. Angela Merici Parish. The intentions of all our Brother Knights.



- July 6—Regular business meeting at the PLC following 7 PM mass.
- July 12 - AGH Chapter meeting at Council 3077 at 7 PM.
- July 20— Officers’ meeting at the PLC following 7 PM mass.

July 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 <i>Regular Business meeting</i>	7	8	9
10	11	12 <i>AGH Chapter meeting</i>	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 <i>Officers’ Meeting</i>	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- Aug 3—Regular business meeting at the PLC following 7 PM mass.
- Aug 9 - AGH Chapter meeting at Council 3077 at 7 PM.
- Aug 17— Officers’ meeting at the PLC following 7 PM mass.
- Aug 21—VA Hospital visit. Meet at the church office at 7:30 AM

August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 <i>Regular Business meeting</i>	4	5	6
7	8	9 <i>AGH Chapter meeting</i>	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 <i>Officers’ Meeting</i>	18	19	20
21 <i>VA Hospital visit</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



May all of us have a safe and happy Summer. We pray that God will send us a little rain to help break this dry season. And we pray for those who have been impacted by the wildfires and dry conditions.

