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July, 2015



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

THE GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT



My Brothers,

Well I'm back and so is the newsletter! I hope everyone enjoys it and uses it to stay proud of what your council does, and stay informed so that you can get involved and participate. The summer months are always a little slow as so many of us are on vacation and busy with baseball and other family activities. But soon the kids will be back in school and the council will get busy again. It is my goal to keep everyone of you informed as to what we are planning and how you can help. We all joined the Knights with the intention of giving back in some way. Of helping our church, our community, and various organizations that have a special meaning to us. So take the time to see what we are planning. Take the time to come to our monthly meetings so that you can have a voice and offer your ideas to council. I have been a KC since 1969. I joined for the same reasons. But in the mid 1970's, I moved to Houston from Louisiana and spent most of my time out in the oilfield. I eventually went inactive as I was not a member of a local council and didn't have the time to be a part of one. I reactivated 20 years ago at St. Laurence's council and have stayed active ever since. In fact I've served as an officer for most of those 20 years. So I've seen both sides. I know that work and family comes first. I know there are times when you're just too busy at work or you just need some time to relax. But I know that there is a charity, or a special group, or the parish that this council is involved with that is meaningful to each of you. And I've always found that no matter how much effort you have to put into a project, because of that special meaning, you get back much, much more than you have to put in. So I ask you all to consider joining one of our committees. We have committees for council, family, church, pro-life, community and youth. These groups need members to sign up. Some of them need a brother to serve as their director. And remember a 1st Degree Knight can be a council director so every one is eligible. I don't want to see us fall into the place that I've seen so many councils fall into. The old "80/20 Rule". Where 80% of the work gets done by 20% of the council.

So yes you're going to get a newsletter every month. And probably several emails as well about upcoming events. But I hope you will step up and get involved. And remember, we are a men's group but we focus on family. So family members are always welcome to come with you and help except if there are safety concerns due to construction or something like that. It can be a great way to teach your family that helping others is important and very rewarding. So Brothers I don't want to be a pain. I just want to see us become a council that others respect and can depend on for help. I am looking forward to this fraternal year and the chance to get to know all of you and work with you. And if you have some advice to offer, email me or, if you haven't completed the council online survey please do so. Your input is very important. We have had 49 responses so thank you to those of you who completed it. It takes 3 minutes so it shouldn't be a problem. The link to it is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WVHVYWP>. Thanks brothers. See you soon. Gary Bentz. GK

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NEWS FROM SUPREME

The Knights of Columbus set a new all-time record last year for charitable donations and service hours with \$173,550,680 in donations and more than 71.5 million hours of service. The numbers were announced at the annual Organizational Meeting of State Deputies in New Haven. The number of service hours rose more than a million hours over the previous year's total, according to the Knights of Columbus Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity for the year ending Dec. 31, 2014. Donations grew by more than \$3.4

million since 2013, achieving an increase in giving for the 15th consecutive year. "These numbers show that the Knights of Columbus has the courage to make a witness to charity and to practice fraternal outreach to those in need," Supreme Knight Anderson said. Among its major donations in 2014, the Knights of Columbus made a gift of \$1.4 million to this summer's Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles. The funds cover the cost of transportation, housing and meals for the athletes, supplementing the K of C state jurisdiction's individual support to the Special Olympics athletes. Another unique initiative in 2014 was the Knights of Columbus Christian Refugee Relief Fund, which has contributed \$2.6 million for humanitarian assistance in Iraq and the surrounding region. "It has shocked the conscience of the world that people are systematically being purged from the region where their families have lived for millennia simply for their faith," said Mr. Anderson at the program's inception in August. "It is imperative that we stand in solidarity with them." The Knights continued to support their local communities in 2014 through such programs as Coats for Kids, the Food for Families initiative and blood drives. Knights also gave assistance to Habitat for Humanity, the Global Wheelchair Mission and other large-scale charitable organizations.

NEWS FROM STATE

In the past decade Texas membership has grown to 102,641 Knights and their families. The Order overall continues to grow and build upon its rich tradition of charitable work and spiritual formation. Various new charitable initiatives, as well as ongoing partnerships with organizations such as Special Olympics, have given Knights countless opportunities to practice what John Paul II called "a charity which evangelizes."

We continue working with our outreach program and pregnancy resource centers, providing greater spiritual support for men and women in the military and playing a significant role in World Youth Days are just some of the many ways that the Order has worked in recent years to promote a true culture of life. Our stance on Pro-life worldwide is unprecedented and as the Order grows so does the pro-life movement.

When it comes to helping those in need, our work has just begun. Our continued membership growth does make a difference in the charitable work of the Order, our church and community. We as an Order have contributed more than \$1.4 Billion in charitable contributions in the last ten years; 70 million hours of volunteer service; \$158 million in charitable contributions and 418,800 blood donors.

INSURANCE NEWS

Annuities are easily misunderstood, in part because of their name. When you "annuitize" the money in your annuity (the money you've paid in, plus the interest it has earned), you've chosen to receive monthly payments for life, or for a fixed period.

However, annuitizing this money isn't your only option. You may also treat an annuity like a Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC). That is, you can use the annuity as a way to accumulate savings and earn a steady interest rate. You can make withdrawals from the annuity for any reason, although you may then owe income tax on some, or all, of the withdrawal amount. And, if you do choose to annuitize, you also have several payout options.

The point is, these products are flexible enough to serve a variety of needs.

Contact me if you're interested in setting up an annuity as an RRSP, spousal RRSP, RRIF, a non-registered account, or a TFSA account. I look forward to meeting with you Call Leo Lowdermilk at (832) 338-6269 or (800) 460-2706. Or email him at Leo.Lowdermilk@kofc.org.



THE REPORT OF THE 4TH DEGREE ASSEMBLY



The 4th Degree

Thanks to Sir Knight Gary Bentz for allowing me space to discuss the 4th Degree of our Order. The 4th Degree is a special group of Knights that has its own organization, separate from the Council, called an Assembly. The Assembly that our Council belongs to is the Bishop John L. Morkovsky Assembly #2243. We meet monthly on the third Tuesday at the 4204 Knights of Columbus Hall at St. Theresa's in Sugar Land. We have our own set of dues and by-laws. The Assembly is set up very similarly to the Council and you would recognize the list of officer positions. Since the principal of the 4th degree is Patriotism, we try to have events that follow a patriotic theme. We also attend Masses and other events wearing our 4th Degree Regalia. We call those events "Turnouts" since we turnout in full regalia. Full regalia is the tuxedo, cape, sword, and chapeau.

If you want to join the 4th Degree, just ask any Sir Knight for a Form 4 application. We go through a similar entrance procedure as the Council. There are typically two 4th Degree Exemplifications per year. One in the Spring and one in the Fall. A Summer exemplification occurs infrequently.

We will usually have an open meeting the month before an exemplification so you can learn more about us and if you decide to join, you can turn in all of your forms and other paperwork. The fees are typically \$70.00 which includes a dinner banquet afterwards. The annual dues are \$30.00 and are prorated for the date you join. Next month I will go into more detail on what the 4th Degree does.

Ronald J. Frerich

Faithful Admiral

Bishop John L Morkovsky Assembly #2243



THE CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



Dear Brother Knights,

Recently our Holy Father, Pope Francis, wrote an important document to the Church entitled *Laudato Si*. This document was an exhortation to all humanity that we remember that the earth is our common home. The Pope charged us with recognizing our need to care for, protect, and share our planet and its resources. I realize that this is a lesson already learned in many ways by the Knights of Columbus as a whole and specifically by our council here at St. Angela Merici. To this date we have had to share a “common home” for all of our church ministries and functions. I know that has been a challenge but I also believe it has taught us some valuable lessons that will stand us in good stead as we move forward with expansion and growth as a parish. I am particularly grateful to the Knights for caring for our “common home” the PLC and even for my true home, the rectory. Your efforts have allowed the parish to dedicate needed resources in other areas of ministry and to reach out to our fellow parishioners, and indeed our community at large, in important and meaningful ways.

In this beautiful encyclical our Holy Father also challenged us to dialogue about ways we could improve in our habits and undertakings so as to better utilize the gifts our God has bestowed upon us. In particular, Pope Francis asked us to overcome an attitude of waste that is common in the world, but even more so in our culture. I would like to encourage the Knights to discuss potential ways in which we could cut down on waste. As current caretakers of our facilities I believe you are in a worthwhile position to note and bring to my attention ways in which we can eliminate waste. I invite you also to examine routines that the Knights practice that are themselves wasteful. I am really not addressing any specific concern here, but I do believe that as good Catholics we should heed the words of our Holy Father Pope Francis to at least discuss what we can do to overcome our culture of waste. It is something I plan to take to heart in my own life and I simply invite the Knights to do the same. I thank you for this ongoing opportunity to address you Brother Knights and as always know that you are in my prayers and that I am grateful for all that you do for the parish of St. Angela Merici and beyond.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. John E. Cahoon



COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

- Our new fraternal year began with our general meeting on July 2. At that meeting the council presented the Lady of the Month Award to Arlene Kircher and the Knight of the Month Award to Bro. John Ganguzza for their dedication and outstanding contributions to the parish and the council. See below.
- The morning of Saturday, July 11 our council had it's monthly PLC work day. Thank you to those brothers that showed up and helped to clean up, straighten all the chairs, change light bulbs, wash down the HVAC chiller unit coils outside, and load up several boxes and display pieces that were stored at the PLC, and haul them to the storage unit and put them in storage. We do this on the first Saturday of each month at 8 AM and it typically takes less than 2 hours. But the man-hours we contribute greatly help the parish and save the parish the money they would have to pay a contractor.
- On Saturday July 11th we celebrated our quarterly Corporate Communion at the 5 PM mass. Our Worthy Chaplain Father John celebrated the mass and our council was well represented by many brothers and their families. Our 4th Degree brothers turned out in their full regalia and as they always do, did a great job and made the mass a very special one. See pictures.
- Following 5PM mass on Saturday July 11, our council had it's officers for the new fraternal year installed in their offices. The ceremony was conducted by our Worthy Past District Deputy SK Gary Blanchette and our District Warden SK Joe Chirco. The ceremony was very well done and meaningful for the new officers and all who attended. See pictures.
- Following the Officers' Installation the council sponsored a dinner held in the meeting room at the PLC. Many Knights attended with their families. The dinner was catered by Spring Creek Barbeque and the food was delicious. Especially the peach cobbler! It was a great evening and a wonderful opportunity for everyone to get to know one another better. That's what our council is about. Fraternity, Unity, and Family. Of course the main pillar, Charity, was demonstrated earlier at the PLC workday. Thank you again to every one who turned out on Saturday. See pictures.



Our July Lady of the Month Arlene Kircher



Our July Knight of the Month Bro. John Ganguzza

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.



CORPORATE COMMUNION



The Council held it's Corporate Communion service at the 5 PM mass on
Saturday July 11, 2015

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OFFICERS' INSTALLATION



The installation ceremony for the new fraternal year was conducted by our PDD SK Gary Blanchette and our DW SK Joe Chirco Saturday July 11, 2015

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OFFICERS' INSTALLATION DINNER



After the Officers' Installation ceremony the council hosted a dinner for all members who were present and their families. The food was great!

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OUR NEW OFFICERS FOR 2015 - 2016



Council Officers/Directors Info

Grand Knight	Gary Bentz	gsbent@flash.net	713 283-4984
Deputy GK	Larry Prahin	LPRAHIN@YAHOO.COM	
Chaplin	Fr. John Cahoon	frcahoon@staericigh.com	281 778-0400
Chancellor	Tom Kircher	KIRCHER@ENTOUCH.NET	
Recorder	Bruce McVeigh	BMCVEIGH@MSN.COM	
Advocate	Tim Alcorn	tpalcorn@yahoo.com	
Lecturer	John Hopkins	HOPPER69247@GMAIL.COM	
Warden	Melwyn Machado	MELWYNMACHADO@YAHOO.COM	
O. Guard	Nelson Ventura	NELSONV4@GMAIL.COM	
O. Guard	Leonardo Alphonso	leoalphonso@Hotmail.com	
In. Guard	Paul Yasilli	paulyasilli@gmail.com	
In. Guard	Mark Ockenfels	markockenfels@gmail.com	
Trustee 1 yr	Jerry Tomasello	jtomasello@rectorseal.com	
Trustee 2 yr	Bill Tallas	rocky1@windstream.net	
Trustee 3 yr	Jerry Bishop	jerry.bishop@wholefoods.com	
Treasurer	Colin Kiernan	cmkiernan44@comcast.net	281 499-4067
Financial Sec	Ron Frerich	rjfrerich@earthlink.net	
Program Dir	Tom Robinson	trobinson7902@gmail.com	
Membership Dir	Jerry Bishop	jerry.bishop@wholefoods.com	
Insurance Agent	Leo Lowdermilk	leo.lowdermilk@kofc.org	800 460-2706

JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 04 TIMOTHY P. ALCORN,, July 05 MATTHEW T. LEYDEN, July 08 WESLEY J. KUBESCH, July 09 GARY G. BENTZ, July 14 Chris M. Agostinelli July 28 Joe Aranda, Jr., July 30 Gerald J. Lemire, July 31 David A. Sepulveda

Our Prayers Are With You

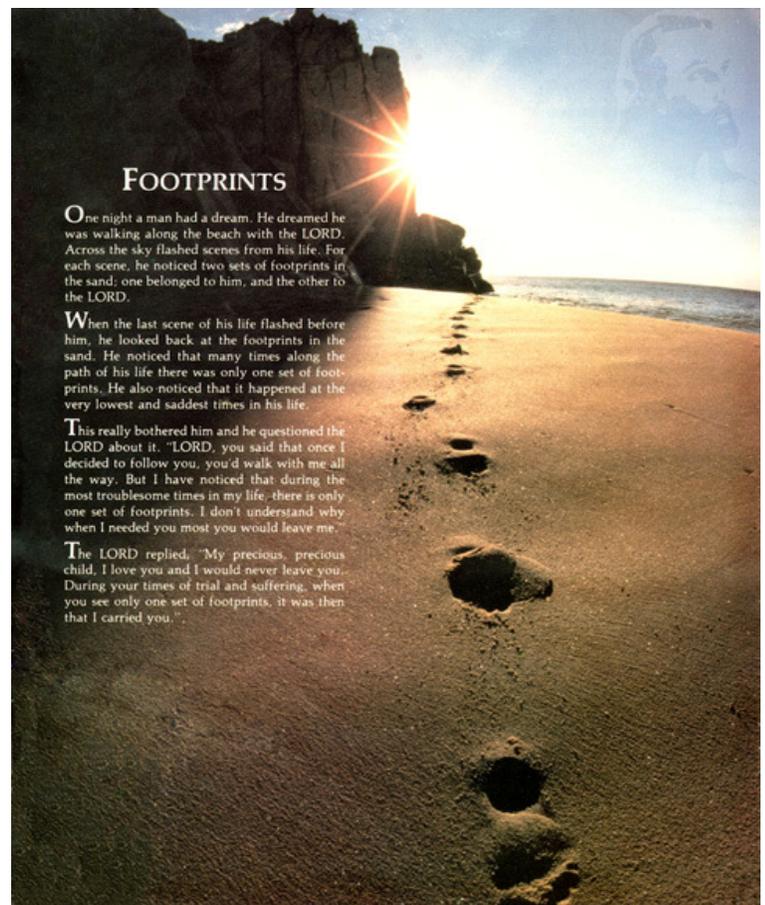


Please remember the following in your prayers:
 Our Men and Women in uniform both living and deceased
 Bro. Bill Copenhaver, Jared Goolsby, Michael Robbins,
 Marie Fuller, Victor Ellis, Tony Yasilli
 +Bryan Hickey
 St. Angela Merici Parish.
 The intentions of all our Brother Knights.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND VOLUNTEER OPPRTUNITES

- **VA HOSPITAL VISIT:** On Sunday, July 26 it is our council's turn to visit the VA Hospital in the medical center area. Bring your family with you if you wish and meet in the PLC parking lot before 7:30 AM. We will carpool to the hospital leaving at 7:30 AM. This is a chance to visit our veterans who are in the hospital many of whom need to interact with others as they may be from out of state and never have visitors. It is a great way to help those who have served out country. During the visit you will go down to the chapel and attend Sunday mass. You will be back by 11:30 AM.
- **PLC WORKDAY:** Our monthly workday is August 1. It begins at 8 AM at the PLC. The more help we have the sooner we finish. Basically we straighten chairs, change light bulbs, and do whatever needs to be done at the church. This service is very much appreciated by the parish as we maintain the building and save the parish a lot of money. So please show up and bring family.
- **COUNCIL MEETINGS:** Our regular monthly meeting is on August 6 and our Officers' meeting, which is open to all members, is August 20. Both meetings start right after 7 PM mass at the PLC
- **CATHOLIC FAMILY NIGHT AT THE ASTROS GAME:** This annual event takes place on August 21 and features the Houston Astros vs. the LA Dodgers. We have chartered a bus which will pick us up at the PLC and leave for the game at 6:15 PM. Drinks and hot dogs will be served on the bus. There are only 50 seats on the bus and it is on a first come first serve basis. So please email Gary Bentz at gsbent@flash.net and reserve seats for your family. Tickets are \$25 each which includes game tickets, the bus, and the food and drinks. You can pay at the August meeting by cash, check or credit card. Or by dropping a payment to the council off at the parish office.





- July 2—Regular business meeting at the PLC after 7 PM mass.
- July 11—PLC work day at 8 AM
- July 11—Quarterly Corporate Communion at the 5 PM mass
- July 11 -Officers' Installation Ceremony at the PLC after the 5 PM mass followed by dinner in the meeting room.
- July 14- AGHD Chapter meeting at Council 3077 Hall at 7:30 PM
- July 16 - Officers' meeting at the PLC after 7 PM mass.
- July 21—4th Degree Assembly meeting at Council 4204 Hall at St. Theresa at 7:30 PM
- July 25—1st, 2nd and 3ed Degree at Christ the Redeemer Church in Cypress, Texas. 1st Degree begins at 7:30 AM.
- July 26—VA Hospital visit. Meet at PLC and leave at 7:30 AM.

July, 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Regular business meeting 7:30 PM	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 PLC workday, Corp. Communion,
12	13	14 4th Degree meeting at 7:30 pm	15	16 Officers' meeting PLC 7:30 pm	17	18
19	20	21 4th Degree meeting	22	23	24	25 1, 2 and 3rd Degree at 7:30 AM
26 VA Hospital visit .Meet at 7:30	27	28	29	30	31	

- Aug 1—PLC work day at 8 AM
- Aug 6—Regular business meeting at PLC after 7 PM mass.
- Aug 17—1st Degree Exemplification at St. Theresa Parish, Council 4204 beginning at 6:30 PM
- Aug 18—4th Degree Assembly meeting at Council 4204 Hall at St. Theresa at 7:30 PM.
- Aug 20—Officers' meeting at PLC after 7 PM mass.
- Aug 21—Catholic Night at the Astros game.

August 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 PLC work-day
2	3	4	5	6 Regular business meeting	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 1st Degree at St. Theresa	18 4th Degree meeting	19	20 Officers' meeting	21 Catholic night Astros	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



May God continue to bless our Council and St. Angela Merici Parish. May He guide us and lead us to serve Him by serving our fellowman through our many council activities.

