percent of all sales will go to their council for Feed My Starving Children. Let’s support them by enjoying pizza, or their fabulous salads. Just mention the knights when you are making your purchase.

On January 28th, we are sponsoring a spaghetti dinner at St. Theresa in the lower Dolan. We will need your help as usual, as well as people to feed. Please come and enjoy the food, and camaraderie.

On January 30th, we will be having a 1st degree exemplification ceremony at St. Theresa in the lower Dolan center followed by Pizza and refreshments. Please consider attending.

Lead Me, Guide Me, Lord.

Vivat Jesus,

Jim Arns Sr.

Grand Knight
Please congratulate our newest 3rd Degree Brother!

Pictured: George Sokulski

After recently joining our Council in November 2016, Brother George Sokulski took another positive step forward and received full honors of Knighthood. On Saturday, December 17th, George journeyed to Elmhurst with Brother Jack McCarthy (George’s Council Mentor) and completed his Formation (2nd) and Knighthood (3rd) degrees. Along with Brothers from other Councils, George experienced and learned more of the Knights of Columbus’ core virtues of Unity and Fraternity.

Our Fraternal Order strongly encourages all 1st Degree Knights to complete their journey to full Knighthood. Remember – our Council pays for all fees for your 2nd & 3rd degree advancement! Please look elsewhere on these pages for a future opportunity to complete your full Knighthood.

Once again, a hearty congratulations to George!!!

Chaplain’s Corner

Peace and God’s continued Blessing to you in this new year. A new year means not only do we begin a calendar year, but we begin a new you also! It can be a great time to look at ourselves and see how we can become an even better gift to ourselves, our families, our friends, and, yes, even to God.

Resolutions or no resolutions, you still need to live your life for the Lord. Remember the simple saying - you are God’s gift to the world but what you make of yourself is your gift back to God!!

I encourage you to spend more time in prayer asking God’s help and grace to be the best gift you can be.

I would like to share this prayer –

**NEW YEAR’S PRAYER**

God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin a new with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time in this new year.

Rev. Thomas R. Rzepiela, Pastor
St. Thomas of Villanova Church
1201 E. Anderson Drive, Palatine, IL 60074-4155
847.358.6999
fathertom@stov.org

2017

HAPPY NEW YEAR
Holy Family Knights Café
Our brothers at Holy Family Parish, Council #11981, have a breakfast once a month and you are welcome to attend anytime.

The Knight’s Café is open after the 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 AM masses on Sunday, once a month. They typically start serving breakfast at 8:45, 10:15 and 12:15 PM, respectively. Hope to see you soon!

Dates of our Knight’s Cafe for the fraternal year 2016 – 2017:
Sunday January 29th
Sunday February 19th
Sunday March 26th
Sunday April 30th
Sunday May 28th
Sunday June 25th

Dine to Donate at Lou Malnati’s on Tuesday January 17th
Twenty percent of your purchase will support the efforts of Feed My Starving Children. Your support is welcomed and appreciated!

Upcoming Activities
Knights of Columbus Open House:
We will host an open house on Monday, January 23rd, 2017 at 7:30 PM. This will take place at St. Theresa Parish, in the Lower Dolan Center. The theme for the evening is “Each one, bring one.” See article and invitation in this issue of the Knightly News.

Spaghetti Dinner:
The Knights of Columbus Holy Ghost Council 4977 will be hosting a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017, from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM at St. Theresa Parish, 455 N. Benton Street, Palatine, Illin

Dinner includes: Salad, Minestrone Soup, Spaghetti and Meatballs, Sausage, Garlic Bread, Desserts and Beverages.

Enjoy a great meal and Italian music. We will have a children’s craft corner, so come on out & bring the family.

Prices: Adults $10.00, Children under 12 $5.00, and families of four $28.00.

Come and enjoy....
GOOD FOOD AND GOOD FRIENDS. ALL PROCEEDS GO FOR CHARITABLE CAUSES.

For more information call:
847-394-2154, 847-934-9896 or 847-359-8173

Pancake Breakfast: Our next pancake breakfast will be held on Sunday, February 26, 2017. Breakfast will be served from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM at St. Thomas of Villanova in the Rowley Activity Center. Proceeds support local charities, religious vocations and respect life initiatives.

Pumpkin or regular pancakes, eggs, sausage, corned beef hash, coffee and juice will also be served.

Prices: $8.00 per person, $20.00 per family and $6.00 for seniors.

Questions: Contact George at 847-991-0738.
Deputy Grand Knight’s Report

Vocations – Exceeded goal. Got $2,815.00 for 5 $500 scholarships.

Guest Spoke – Tom Van Havermaet is the Financial Secretary for the Schaumburg council. They are having a fundraiser to benefit Feed My Starving Children. Councils participating are 4977, 6964 & 7694. The fundraiser is a Lou Malnatis Pizza on NW Hwy in Palatine on Tues Jan 17th. 20% what we spend go to the benefit. You MUST mention flyer when ordering. Any questions, Tom can be reached at 708-203-7957 or via email thevans1988@sbcglobal.net.

Right to Life – There will be a mass with a candle light procession. 5:00 PM on January 21st.

ID Drive Update – The gross dollar amount is $27,424. The first week in December we will close all the sales.

Pass the Can – $130.00 was collected for the Vocation Raffle ($185 short before this amount), and $154.00 was collected for the St. Thomas food pantry. Thank you!

Kairos Prison Ministry – The weekend after Easter will be the next opportunity.

Newman Fund – No report.

Christopher Club – No Report.

Blood drive – 21 units of blood were donated.

Spaghetti Dinner – Was held November 12th at St. Theresa. 203 people attended and the profit was $1,111.13. January 28th is the next scheduled dinner.

4th Degree Exemplification – Will take place February 18th at the Sheridan in Lyle, or April 1st at the Hilton Oak Brook Hills Resort. Please contact Jim Hajost for details.

Chicago Chapter – Thursday March 30th will be Honor Night. $40.00 per person.

Eucharist Adoration – Please sign up.

Deputy Grand Knight’s Report (Continued)

St. Theresa’s 75,000 hours of service (75th year of St. Theresa) – Starts October 1st. Please track hours and get more involved. General Meetings do count. Please enter hours on website. We are short on the number of volunteer hours. Please give Larry Ruff your hours.

Ultrasound Initiative – Final paperwork sent in to Supreme for dollar match.

Christmas Party – Was held Saturday, Dec 10th. Much thanks to the volunteers. There was a special tribute to Joe Simeo. No final $$ are available yet.

Wreath Sales – sales were $1,264.

Retreat – A silent retreat will take place February 24th - 26th at Bellarmine Retreat House in Barrington. Friday evening meal to Sunday after lunch. $85 deposit to reserve spot. Money given after that is up to you, however, normally people give approximately $250. That being said, don’t let that dollar amount keep you from attending.

Speakers – Discussed whether or not we bring people in to talk about different subjects?

Something to Think About this January
Shared from the Book:

Reflections from Pope Francis
An invitation to Journaling, Prayer, and Action

5. Open Up a Horizon of Hope
Hoping against hope! Today too, amid so much darkness, we need to see the light of hope and to be men and women who bring hope to others. To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope. It is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds. It is to bring the warmth of hope.
Every Brother ... Bring Another

Holy Ghost Council #4977 “Open House”
Monday, January 23rd at 7:30 PM
St. Theresa’s Lower Dolan Center

Worthy Brothers ... ARE YOU SUPPORTING THIS HAPPENING?  This is a “don’t miss event”!

For our Inaugural Open House efforts to succeed, we are asking that each Brother commit to accompany 1 or more eligible gentlemen / wives to our event. Our Open House is being tailored to introduce prospective gentlemen, wives and families to our Family Fraternal Order; to highlight our Council’s good work; and to answer the question “Why Should I Become a Knight?”

All are welcome. The Open House is free and guests are under no obligation to join. Following the approximate 45 minute presentation, we will enjoy good fellowship with light food and refreshment.

Worthy Brothers – please note these key points:

- **Attend and support the Open House.** Your presence and welcoming support will help our guests better understand the Knights of Columbus and give them an increased awareness that they are important to us.

- **Invite your spouse!** Your joint presence and participation will help greatly in conveying an encouraging atmosphere to prospective gentlemen and their spouses.

- During the social time, **please mingle with our guests and encourage them to join the Knights of Columbus.** We will have nametags that will readily identify a guest. Reaching out with friendly conversation could make the difference!

- **Please print the last page of this month’s Knightly News** to assist you in extending the invitation. The last page has two (2) identical Open House Invitations and is designed to be cut in the middle.

- **1st Year Knights in pursuit of the esteemed Shining Armor Award!** Haven’t completed the milestone of recruiting at least 1 new Brother in your first year? We will look for opportunities for you to “meet and greet” unsponsored gentleman. Please contact Bob Novak promptly at saxonbob@gmail.com if interested.

Our Open House event is almost here! Please reach out; make the calls and share the Invitation to a Prospective Candidate.

Together – let’s make this inaugural Open House experience a proud success!
Insurance Check-Up for 2017
By Pierre Zermatten - Field Agent

Where did 2016 go? It seems like it was summer yesterday and Thanksgiving was last week. I hope you and your family had a great finish to 2016. Hopefully, you’ve established a few goals for this year. I’ve learned a great tip regarding resolutions. First, write them down. It’s not too late if you haven’t already done this. Commit your goals to paper and post it someplace you will see it often. Writing down a goal is the first step towards achieving it. It may not make sense at first, but I’m sure you have heard stories of the success this simple task can bring. Whether your goal is to exercise more, give more to charity, read more or watch less television, you’re more likely to accomplish it if you write it down.

Second, resolve to have an expert look at your finances. I recommend that you have a team of experts help you, and I would love to be the first you sit with. Let’s schedule some time to meet together, and I, your professional Knights of Columbus insurance agent, will provide an “insurance check-up” (at no cost!) that will evaluate any gaps in your family’s life insurance protection. Now might be the perfect time to fill those gaps, not later. Keep in mind that unlike many other products, you don’t just need money to obtain life insurance; you also need good health, and no one knows when your health could change. Did I mention my check-up is free of charge? When was the last time you received something for free that could provide value to you and your family for generations? Call me today.

Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House Event
An ignatian Silent Retreat for Men, “Becoming Christ for the World,” will be held February 24 - 26, 2017, at the Bellarmine Retreat House in Barrington, IL. The retreat Master will be Fr. David Meconi, SJ. Contact Jim Hoffman for details, or if interested in participating at (847) 359-5213.

Memorial Mass for the Unborn
A special Pro-Life Mass, immediately followed by a brief Candlelight Prayer Service in the church, will be held Saturday, January 21, 5:00 PM

This event is being held to honor the memory of over 58 million children who have been killed in the US since abortion was legalized 44 years ago this month, especially the 105 babies who die every day in Illinois alone.
- To offer hope and help to those suffering from the emotional effects of abortion, either their own or someone close to them.
- To inspire each one of us to be a voice for the voiceless for the biggest Civil Rights issue of today.

This event will take place at: St. Theresa Church 455 N. Benton, Palatine (Prayer Service will last about 10 minutes)

All are invited to be part of this unique first-time event.

Sponsored by St. Theresa/St. Thomas Respect Life Team
A Perfect Opportunity to Earn Full Knighthood!

Worthy 1st Degree Brothers... Let’s Do This!
There is a wonderful opportunity for you to complete your Formation (2nd) and Knighthood (3rd) Degrees. Major degree ceremonials are being conducted on Sunday afternoon, January 29, 2017 at the following super-convenient Knights of Columbus location:

Holy Rosary Council #4483
Knights of Columbus Hall
15 N. Hickory Ave.
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Candidates for these advanced degrees are requested to be at the Knights of Columbus Hall no later than 12:30 PM. [FYI: No NFL football - the Super Bowl is the following weekend].

Good News!!! This opportunity to advance to full Knighthood is provided at no cost to you! All fees are paid by your Holy Ghost Council #4977.

Bonus News!!! At your option, the Holy Rosary Council offers an excellent prime rib dinner after the ceremonials. If you would like to enjoy this feast with fellow Brothers, the dinner is also provided at no cost to you!

Worthy 1st Degree Brothers – please take advantage of this convenient (and free) opportunity to earn your advanced degrees; learn more of our Orders’ core virtues of Unity and Fraternity; and receive full honors of Knighthood! Should you need a ride, please contact Bob Novak at saxonbob@gmail.com

Upcoming Membership Drive
The Knights of Columbus are hosting a membership drive on February 4th and 5th at St. Theresa.
If available, please join us in the Gathering Area after all Masses to help answer questions and hand out membership materials.

Please remember that membership is open to all men 18 and older who are practicing Catholics. Come help us in growing Council #4977 in 2017.

Check out Our Facebook Page
All Council #4977 members are encouraged to check out our Facebook page.

https://www.facebook.com/kofc4977

You can also search for "Knights of Columbus Holy Ghost Council #4977" on Facebook. Give it a go and let us know what you think. Thanks!

Prayers for requested for the following Brothers and other individuals – Terry Tague, Mick and Sharon Lasiewicz, Carol and Gene O’Herne, Nancy Mikelisous, Bill Conforte, Ron Serwzel, Tony Pastore, and the John Ward family.

Please note new e-mail address!

Send any corrections or updates to sklundell@gmail.com
Important Information from your Council's Financial Secretary...

It’s that time of the year again. I bet you thought I meant Christmas. And while that’s true, what I am really talking about are your dues. They are, once again, $42.00.

We are doing something new this year. Rather than having to mail your dues notice to you through the mail, we are going to email them to you. The email will have the subject: *Dues Notice for Council 4977*. Attached to the email will be your dues notice. Please send your dues to me at the address shown on the notice.

For those members that we do not have an email address for, we will be mailing those through the U.S. Postal Service.

I Wish Every Brother Knight a Most Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

Deacon John Breit
Financial Secretary
Holy Ghost Council #4977
756 E. Carpenter Drive
Palatine, IL 60074-3710
847-346-4035 (M)
john.breit@gmail.com

Council Service Contacts
Please make note of the individuals responsible for various activities within our council. In the event you have any questions related to any of these activities, please reach out to this individual and copy the Grand Knight on all emails. Doing this will help avoid duplication of efforts and inconsistent messages going out from the Council. Thank you!

Chaplain: Fr. Tom Rzepiela

Program Director: Jim Arns, arns134@comcast.net

Church Director: John Breit, John.Breit@gmail.com

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For those members that we do not have an email address for, we will be mailing those through the U.S. Postal Service.

I Wish Every Brother Knight a Most Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

Deacon John Breit
Financial Secretary
Holy Ghost Council #4977
756 E. Carpenter Drive
Palatine, IL 60074-3710
847-346-4035 (M)
john.breit@gmail.com

Council Service Contacts (Continued)

Vocations Chairman:
Tom Nicholas, TGNicholas@msn.com

Community Director:
Mike McMahon, MMcMahon172@comcast.net

Culture of Life Director:
Tom Mullen, TomMullen20@gmail.com

Public Relations:
Frank Rehberg, frehberg@sbcglobal.net

Family Director:
James Kelligrew, jim.killigrew@comcast.net

Youth Director:
Dave Tuegel, DTuegel@comcast.net

Membership Director:
Bruce Aelsi, alesibruce@gmail.com

Recruitment Committee:
Layne Gabiner, CJGabi@sbcglobal.net
Bob Novak, SaxonBob@gmail.com
Jim Hajost, JHajost@comcast.net

Retention Chairman:
Jim Arns, arns134@comcast.net

Insurance Promotion:
Pierre Zermatten, pierrezermatten@yahoo.com

Field Agent: Pierre Zermatten FIC, MDRT, PGK, Pierre.Zermatten@KofC.Org

Lecturer: Bill O’Brien, Bobrien100@comcast.net

Culture of Life Chair People:
Jim Baur, JNG3306@gmail.com
Geniveve Baur, JNG3306@gmail.com

Facebook Administrator:
Matt Mitchell, statmattmitchell@gmail.com

Website Administrator:
Bernie Bojarski, bjboarski@sbcglobal.net

Knights of Columbus website:
http://www.kofc.org
Please join us for our Monthly Business Meetings the second Monday of each month, 7:30 - 10:00 PM.

Upcoming Business Meetings

February 13, 2017
St. Theresa Dolan Center, Lower Level

March 13, 2017
St. Theresa Dolan Center, Lower Level

April 10, 2017
St. Thomas, Meeting Rooms A and B

May 8, 2017
St. Thomas, Meeting Rooms A and B

June 12, 2017
St. Theresa Dolan Center, Lower Level

Upcoming Officer Meetings

February 6, 2017
St. Thomas, Meeting Room C

March 6, 2017
Festle Board Room

April 3, 2017
Festle Board Room

May 1, 2017
St. Thomas, Meeting Room C

June 5, 2017
Festle Board Room

Full calendar attached as a separate document.

Remember to invite friends and candidates to our open house on Monday, January 23rd at 7:30 PM
See invitations on last page of newsletter.

Coming up next month... Valentine’s Day!
What will you get your sweetheart?
OPEN HOUSE

This is Your Invitation!

The Holy Ghost Council #4977 cordially invites you and your family to join us for a short, informative evening to reflect on the idea of joining the Knights of Columbus. Guests will be introduced to (among other topics) the benefits of joining the largest Catholic Family Fraternal organization in the world; highlights of our Council’s charitable work; and answers to the question: “Why Should I Become a Knight?” Light food, refreshment and friendship immediately follow the approximate 45 minute formal presentation and Q&A session.

When: Monday, January 23rd at 7:30 PM
Where: St. Theresa’s Lower Dolan Center (below the gym)
Who: All Catholic Gentlemen over 18 years of age and Family

Please attend our Open House to discover why joining the Knights of Columbus is truly

“An Experience of a Lifetime!”