



**THE KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

NEWSLETTER

Council 9997, St. Thomas More, Austin, Tx

APRIL 2017

This is Council 9997's first quarter 2017 newsletter. We want to reach out to Council members routinely—both to keep everyone up-to-date on our many activities and to solicit your feedback on the Council and its direction. We're especially looking for comments from brother Knights who, for whatever reason, haven't been able to participate on a regular basis. During the upcoming months we're going to focus our efforts on supporting our parish. As part of that, we're determined to reach out to **every** member of the Council. We need your help to broaden participation in our activities and to bolster the spirit of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism that exemplifies the Knights of Columbus.

As you read through this newsletter, we hope you'll find something that draws you in for future events. Help us understand what you want Council 9997 to be. We're set on making the Council a place you and your family will enjoy. Also, please let us know if there is some reason that makes it difficult for you to join us for our meetings, socials, and charitable projects—whether it's something as simple as "I need a ride to the meetings and activities", or something more complicated. You can contact any Council officer through our website at STMKnights.org, either by email or phone.

ACTIVITIES IN QUARTER I OF 2017

Respect Life Observance Austin Area

Respect Life Sunday was held this year at St. Vincent de Paul's January 28. Our Council's 4th Degree members participated in a ceremonial

Fallout, and other members helped manage parking for the cars and buses that brought Catholics from all over central Texas. This deeply moving day drew a large crowd of those resolved to help protect human life at all its stages. Many thanks to all of our Knights who attended and helped at this important event.

Clergy Appreciation Dinner

The clergy appreciation dinner was held February 2. All the area's KoC councils combined to present a \$63,000 check honoring our local clergy.

Meals at Our Business Meetings

Thanks to Jim Ferguson and Steve Isaacson for preparing a fine meal of pasta and chicken, with salad and rolls for the January meeting. Everyone greatly enjoyed this special treat. We are fortunate to have Jim and Steve to come up with dinners like this. Safe to say, everyone enjoyed the food and the fraternity.

The attending members at the February meeting enjoyed a hearty meal of hot dogs and home-made chili with all of the fixings. Many thanks go out to Larry Payne and Jeff Mikolajek for their hard work that made the social part of our evening all the better.

Those who came to our March meeting enjoyed an excellent meal of pulled pork. Many thanks go out to Rodney Laurent for his hard work serving the meal and to Michael Kelly for preparing it. That smoky BBQ flavor was a real treat and as usual, the great food helped our spirits as we "broke bread together" and caught up with our brother Knights during the mealtime





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social.

If you have not been able to get out for a meeting, consider coming out and enjoying a meal and fraternity with your Brother Knights. Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month and start with the rosary at 6:30 PM, dinner follows and the meeting starts at 7:30 PM promptly. We are usually finished by 8:30 PM.

Membership

We had one application for membership, Louis Ramiro. He completed an interview with the membership committee and received his first degree. Louis has been an STM member for nine years, coming originally from El Paso. He was a Deputy Sheriff in Midland. He's joined the Knights out of a desire to contribute to our charitable activities. He likes to cook, and plans on completing his EIM training. Say hello and welcome to Louis. The council is pleased to have him join us.

Seminarians

We received two "thank you" notes from our seminarians, Enrico and Fernando, for the financial support we provided them. They were each presented with \$1,000 checks from funds raised at our annual holiday nut sales campaign.

Ethics and Integrity In Ministry

Steve Isaacson reminds us that the Diocese requires us to complete Ethics and Integrity Ministry (EIM) training if we are doing any work with children (including, for example, our teens or Special Olympics) or the elderly. Of our active members, only 22 are certified in EIM. Give a

couple hours to this training and be able to help out on activities where children or elderly are involved. See the Diocesan or STM websites-- or contact Steve Isaacson. Deacon Dan added that by doing so you are protecting our Bishop and Diocese from potential lawsuits and problems. Let's do it right!

Fish Fry

Our Lenten Friday Fish Fry to raise funds for scholarships for our parish youth (and possibly other parish youth activities) was a tremendous success. New this year was our online ordering system, developed by brother Knights Rob Marek and Brian Mego, and managed by Jim Ferguson. We had \$1,100 of online orders alone! We believe this greatly helped our parishioners—and it really boosted our take-out orders. We will be able to continue to use the great system Rob and Brian developed as we march on with future activities.

Annunciation Maternity Home Banquet

We have received an announcement regarding Annunciation Maternity Home Banquet. It will be held at St. Williams on May 11th (a Thursday night) with Father Bruce Nieland as the Keynote speaker. The reception starts at 5:30 PM. We approved the purchase of a table for eight for \$300. Since we've budgeted a total of \$600 for this worthy cause, we'll also donate another \$300. The per person cost is \$40.





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Special Olympics

A Special Olympics cycling competition took place on April 8th, Ed Konop, Tony Lioi, and Jim Ferguson attended. The event took place in the parking lot of the Circuit of the Americas. This year's tennis competition will be at Balcones Country Club on April 21st and 22nd, with the club tennis pro providing food for the Special Olympians. The Special Olympians "Bowling with Badges" event – featuring bowling with local law enforcement – will be held on April 23th. And this year's soccer matches are set for April 28th.

Food Preparation for a Special Mobile Loaves and Fishes Event –

Rodney Laurent reminded us of the special event on Easter Monday. We will cook a meal sufficient to feed 600 people, starting at 7 a.m. and finishing by 3:30 p.m. Food will be brought to Caritas to be served to the homeless, who seldom get a meal this good. Rodney is the cooking lead, but he needs a lot of volunteers. Rodney will feed the volunteers--so bring a container to take home your food!

Nominations of Officers for New Fraternal Year

Nominations begin during the April Business Meeting, and will continue through the June meeting where voting will take place. Please consider taking part as an officer. If interested, please contact David McLennan.

Golf Tournament

Our next annual Golf Tournament to raise funds for STM Mobile Loaves and Fishes will again be held on Columbus Day. Please consider joining the planning team. At this writing, David Sanchez and Dennis Robinson will co-chair the activity. There is a well experienced team coming back this year, but we need more brothers to help.

Habitat for Humanity

Brother Jeff Mikolajek updated the council on Habitat for Humanity's efforts. The most recent build started on February 4th in Elgin. Anyone interested in helping out with future builds, please email Jeff. Since property values are getting too high to be able to build economically in Austin, Habitat for Humanity will be focusing its efforts on outlying areas.

