



Knights *focus*

FR. EDWARD V. McCULLOUGH COUNCIL #7736

St. Jude Catholic Church

Mansfield, TX

APRIL 2012

What Exactly IS a Practical Catholic?

by Grand Knight Bill Tillotson

Membership in the Knights of Columbus requires that a Brother Knight be at least 18 years old and also be something called a “practical Catholic”. I have wondered for a long time exactly what that means. I have asked a lot of people – long time Knights, state offices and priests.

Every time I asked someone that question, they would start talking. I would agree with most, if not all, of what they said. And after a minute or two they’d kind of stop talking. But the answer was slightly different each time, so I never got a definitive answer.

Thankfully, the Knights of Columbus tackled this question a long time ago. From the Supreme Website:

<http://www.kofc.org/un/en/membership/join/prospective.html>

“A practical Catholic accepts the teaching authority of the Catholic Church on matters of faith and morals, aspires to live in accord with the precepts of the Catholic Church, and is in good standing in the Catholic Church.”

So it appears to me that there are three “gates”, if you will, that one must be able to pass through in order to be a member of the Order. And Supreme also states that we CANNOT add our own criteria in addition to these. So - let’s tackle them one at a time.

Firstly - *accepts the teaching authority of the Catholic Church on matters of faith and*

morals. OK – I accept the teaching authority, but I’ll readily admit there are some teachings on faith and morals that many of us struggle with. Do we accept the teachings on birth control? Do we accept the teachings on capital punishment? What does it mean if we struggle with some teachings?

Secondly – *aspire to live in accord with the precepts of the Catholic Church.* The precepts of the Church are the absolute minimum actions required of Catholics. They are (1) attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation, (2) confess your sins at least once a year, (3) receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season, (4) observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church, and (5) provide for the needs of the Church.

Note that the word is *aspire*. Hence, if we skip church one Sunday, we do not have to resign our membership in the Knights. However, we obliged to go to Confession as it is a grave sin to willingly skip Mass on a Sunday.

And third – *be in good standing in the Catholic Church.* In short – can you go to Communion on Sundays?

If you find that you have any struggles with any of these three items, I recommend you schedule some time to sit down with Father and discuss them. I have, and I’ll admit I’m a better Catholic for it.

***Vivat Jesus!
Bill***

Upcoming Events

- April 8 – Easter B’fast
- April 10 – Monthly Mtg
- April 14 – BINGO
- April 14/15 – Organ Donor Awareness Weekend
- April 16 – 4th Degree Mtg
- April 17 – Lady Knights
- April 21 – End of Life Planning Seminar
- April 24 – Council Planning Mtg
- April 27-29 – State KC Convention
- April 28 – Abortion Clinic
- May 4 – Confirmation Mass
- May 6 – Corporate Communion

Raffle Tickets

Our annual scholarship raffle has started up. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. First prize is \$100 cash, 2nd a diamond ring, and on from there. See Dave Tomlin for tickets. Drawing will be on June 3 after 7:45 A.M. Mass.

Fish Frys

Thanks to all who helped with our Lenten Fish Frys. These were perhaps our most successful Fish Frys ever. Special thanks to Larry Evans for heading up this event again this year. Job well done!

**Have the Knights
made you a better
Catholic?
Pass on the gift by
asking someone to
join the Knights!**

Bingo!!!

Our next Bingo is the evening of April 14 starting at 6:30 P.M. Please come out and help with the Bingo or the food sales. Or just bring your family out and play!

Easter Breakfast/Party

Don't forget that the Knights will do breakfast on Easter morning after 7:45 A.M. Mass. In addition, the Children's Easter Party, which culminates in the big Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 A.M. SHARP, will also be that morning.

End of Life Planning

An End of Life Planning Seminar will be held over in the Parish Hall on Saturday, April 21, from 9:00 A.M. to about 12:30 P.M. Agent Bob Hoholick has put together a great lineup of speakers to help us coordinate things in advance. I encourage all of you and your spouses to attend.

Organ Donation Awareness

On the weekend of April 14/15, the Knights will be sponsoring an organ donation awareness weekend at St. Jude. There will be people coming out to speak after all masses. We'll need Knights to hand out flyers after Mass. Please pencil that weekend in for this.

First Degrees

(all at 7:00 P.M. unless noted)

3/19 – Council 6269 in Arlington

Contact

Speedy Gonzales at 817-680-8240
or e-mail at speedyg@hotmail.com
if you have a lead on a new
member

RCIA Fair

On April 16, in the Parish Center, there will be a special Ministry Fair for the RCIA candidates who became Catholic at Easter. Consider coming out and helping talk to guys about joining the Knights. Let's help these new Catholics grow in their faith!

Website Award

Our website has been recognized by UKnight Interactive as being one of the three best Council websites in Texas! We will be recognized for this at the State Convention later this month in Houston. Please take advantage of our website to get all your Council information. Simply go to www.kofc7736.org and check out our cool website!

**ASK A FELLOW
CATHOLIC
GENTLEMAN TO
BECOME A KNIGHT!**

Monthly Awards

KNIGHT OF THE MONTH – Larry Evans – We had very successful Fish Frys this Lent. A lot of guys worked very hard, but no one put in more time than Larry Evans. Larry headed up every Fry this month and kept up a positive and cheerful attitude throughout! Thank you for all your hard work, Larry!

FAMILY OF THE MONTH – Amanda and Bob Kowalski – Amanda and Bob have been active parishioners at St. Jude for many years. Last month, Amanda was the driving force behind the Mansfield St. Patrick's Day Parade. This event gave the Knights a GREAT opportunity to be proud Catholics and support for our priest. Thanks to Bob and Amanda for all your hard work in our church and community.



Find out everything going
on with Council 7736 at
www.kofc7736.org

Council 7736 Upcoming Events

April 8 @ 7:00 A.M. – Easter Breakfast, followed by Children’s Easter Party and Egg Hunt

April 10 @ 7:00 P.M. – Monthly Business Meeting at Parish Center – Rosary at 6:30 P.M.

April 14 @ 6:30 P.M. – BINGO at the Parish Center

April 14 @ 6:30 P.M. – St. Matthew Ladies Guild Vegas Night at Council 6269 in Arlington

April 14/15 – Organ Donor Awareness Weekend after ALL masses

April 16 @ 7:00 P.M. – RCIA Fair

April 16 @ 7:00 P.M. – 4th Degree Meeting at Council 6269

April 17 @ 7:00 P.M. – Lady Knights Meeting

April 19 @ 7:00 P.M. – First Degree at Council 6269

April 21 @ 9:00 A.M. – End of Life Planning Seminar

April 24 @ 7:00 P.M. – Council Planning Meeting at Parish Center

April 25 @ 7:00 P.M. – Western Metroplex Chapter Meeting at Council 14679

April 27-29 – State K of C Convention in Houston

April 28 @ 8:15 A.M. – Pray at Henderson Street Abortion Clinic

May 4 @ 7:00 P.M. – Confirmation Mass

May 4/5 – Council 6269 Carnivore Cookout

May 5 @ 9:00 A.M. – Fourth Degree Car Show at St. Matthew

May 6 @ 7:45 A.M. – Corporate Communion

May 8 @ 7:00 P.M. – Monthly Business Meeting at Parish Center – Rosary at 6:30 P.M.

May 8 – SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE

May 13 @ 7:00 A.M. – Mother’s Day Breakfast

May 15 @ 7:00 P.M. – Lady Knights Meeting

May 21 @ 7:00 P.M. – 4th Degree Meeting at Council 6269

May 22 @ 7:00 P.M. – Council Planning Meeting

May 26 @ 8:15 A.M. – Pray at Henderson Street Abortion Clinic

June 2 @ 6:30 P.M. – BINGO!

Knights of Columbus Council 7736
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