



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 9997 NEWSLETTER
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This is the inaugural newsletter of Council 9997. 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. In this coming year, 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 the 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 IV OF 2016

Annual Council Golf Tournament

Our annual Council Golf Tournament was held on Columbus Day, October 10, at Twin Creeks Country Club. All net proceeds from the tournament went to our parish Mobile Loaves and Fishes group, which feeds the homeless. Steve Isaacson and Michael Kelly chaired the tournament. Special thanks go to:

- **Gerry Harmon** procured the donated Rudy's lunch and solicited Spirit 105.9 as our major sponsor. Spirit 105.9 ran three public service announcements daily promoting our tournament.
- **Don Smith** worked diligently on our Silent Auction which made over \$2,000.
- **Dick Janson** procured the snazzy golf cart on hole #11 for a hole-in-one-prize and

the beer glasses for the players.

- **Jim Ferguson:** Our IT guy. :-) Without his continual support on the golf website, on-line spreadsheets, etc. we would be in trouble.
- **Jeff Mikolajek** organized a team to take registrations, guide the golfers, etc. on tournament day that included: Jim Ferguson, Fred Negrete, Michael Yarberr, David McLennan, Patrick Larkin, Gabe Guardiola, John Smith, Tony Lioi, Bob Walcott, and Ron Cichocki.
- **Yada Yada (a social group of Council wives):** Kathy Urban, Shelly Kelly, Judy Carpentier, Ruth Isaacson, and Linda Mikolajek all worked hard to keep registration and the whole tournament running smoothly.

The weather was great and all 140 golfers, including our two priests, had a great time. Napa Flats Restaurant donated dinner this year, which really reduced our costs and boosted the amount we were able to give to Mobile Loaves and Fishes. All told, we raised more than \$14,000 for this wonderful charity—continuing the remarkable growth we’ve seen year after year.



Fr. Izzy and Fr. Ekka Enjoyed the Golf Outing With K of C Members and STM Parishioners

Communication Committee

This fraternal year the Council formed a new Communication Committee. Members include: Dennis Robinson, Jim Ferguson, Brian Mego, Rob Marek, Tony Lioi, Patrick Larkin, and Gerry Harmon. We're working hard to modernize and expand the ways we communicate to brother Knights. Our great new Council website came into play largely by the efforts of Brother Jim Ferguson. Two talented IT specialists, Rob Marek and Brian Mego, brought terrific experience to this project. So did Gerry Harmon, who has years of experience in radio and communications. Brian and Rob's work was instrumental in expanding the ways we can use our new website. They created special pages for the Golf Tournament and then our Thanksgiving and Christmas Nut sales fundraiser. They even developed online ordering for the Nut Sales—a technology we plan to use for future projects, including our upcoming Lenten Fish Fry dinners!

Business Meetings

In addition to organizing Council activities, our business meetings are a place for Knights to practice their Catholic Faith, and to enjoy a fraternal evening. Meetings are held in the Family Center on the second Wednesday of the month starting with a Rosary at 6:30 PM. Immediately afterward, we sit down together for dinner, and we've had some very fine meals prepared by several of our brother Knights (Rodney Laurent, Jim Ferguson, and Stan Urban provided truly awesome meals last quarter.) This is not the bologna and cheese sandwich some of you might remember from many years ago! This is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow Council members.

The business meeting itself starts promptly at 7:30 PM and we make every effort to keep it to just one hour. We have been fortunate to have Pastor Izzy drop by frequently to give us some much-needed spiritual inspiration. We've also had great input from Chaplain Deacon Dan Lupo. At our last meeting, Deacon Dan listed six ways that Pope Francis has singled out to improve our faith. He hopes to elaborate on these in upcoming meetings. Come on out and join us for a spiritual boost and an opportunity for fraternity with your brother Knights. We have recently moved the meetings to the Family Center, thereby avoiding the need to negotiate the stairs leading to the upper room.

Social Meetings

On the fourth Wednesday of many months, the Council also holds Socials—either in the Family Center or in the PAC. Centered around a potluck dinner, often with a fun theme, the Socials are open to Council members, wives, and children. The Halloween Social was a great example of the fun themes we have had, and included a Costume Contest. We always have a fantastic time at these events, and we'd love to see you there!



We had a great time at the Halloween Social. Even Willie Nelson showed up!

Annual Holiday Nut Sales

Our annual Holiday Nut Sales to support our seminarians (Ricaud Fernando and Enrique Sade Cuerto) and other worthwhile charitable activities kicked off on the weekend of November 12th and 13th, which also happened to be the Christmas Bazaar weekend. New brother Jason Ziegler chaired the activity of providing lunch for sale at the Bazaar. Tony Lioi chaired the overall project again this year, but with key support of Captains Steve Isaacson, David McLennan, Don Smith, Michael Yarberry, Pat Larkin, Jim Ferguson, and William Beall. Thirty-five Brother Knights supported this activity over four separate weekends in November and December. Through this amazing turnout, we

were able raise just under \$3,900, an increase of 11% over prior year. If you didn't get an opportunity to chip in this year, plan on coming out and joining the nutty crew and the Nut Commander next year for a lot of fun.

Hosting a Major Degree

Council 9997 hosted a major degree in October. 23 members from many councils received their 2nd and 3rd degrees in the Knights of Columbus. We registered the degree candidates, organized a special Mass before the ceremony, and provided a terrific lunch that earned praise from everyone there. Thanks to the following brothers: Fred Negrete, Michael Yarberry, Ray Minjarez, Larry Carpentier, Steve Isaacson, Don Smith, Jim Ferguson, David Sanchez, John Smith, Tony Lioi, David McLennan, Ted Herrera and son Chad, Bob Stokes, and Pat Larkin. Brothers Steve, Don, and Jim took on a double shift in the kitchen doing prep on Friday and service on Saturday.



Steve Isaacson, Jim Ferguson and Don Smith prepared dessert, Major Degree Meal



David Sanchez prepares the veggies, Major Degree Meal
Annual Christmas Party

Jack Josey and Mike Kelly prepared smoked turkey and ham as the highlight of a fantastic Council Christmas Party meal on December 7th, attended by over 40 Knights



Golf Committee Presents Check to Matt Figlan of STM's Mobile Loaves and Fishes

and their ladies. It was a great social evening that included a fun gift exchange, and presentation of the check to Mobile Loaves and Fishes from our Golf Tournament.

Setting Up Christmas Lights and Luminaries, Parking on Christmas Eve

Our Council performed the annual task of setting up Christmas Lights and Luminaries again this year. This activity helps our parish celebration and our thanks go to Dennis Robinson, Brian Mego, David McLennan, Jeff Mikolajek, John Smith, Pat Larkin, and Steve Isaacson for giving their time and talent to make this happen. Yet another Christmas event to serve the parish is that of providing parking control at the extremely busy Christmas Eve masses. Dennis Robinson chaired this amazing group of Knights who gave willingly of their Christmas Eve in order to serve the parish. A Big Thank You to his team consisting of: William Beall, Larry and Judy Carpentier, Ted Herrera, Pat Larkin, Don Smith, and John Smith. If any of you were at these masses you know how smooth the traffic flow was in spite of what must have been a record breaking crowd.

Service Hours 2016

We are continually trying to improve our record keeping and this year, through our website, we are tallying the service hours provided by our Council members. Many thanks to Jim Ferguson for his website work on this and many other issues. At this point we believe we may still be missing some of the hours volunteered as members get used to using the website to report. A conservative estimate of the Council volunteer hours stands at 1,489 for calendar year 2016. Come on out and join your Brothers in 2017 and enjoy making it an even greater success!

HAVE A HAPPY AND BLESSED 2017