



# Knights of Columbus

EASTHAMPTON COUNCIL, No. 1116  
 PO Box 176  
 Easthampton, Massachusetts 01027  
*"Making a difference for life"*

My Brother Knights,

During this special time of the year as we get into the Christmas Season, I hope to find you and your loved ones in good health. Let us pause and reflect to think about the real meaning of Christmas, how we have been able to help our fellow man and serve the Lord. It humbles me to think of all the special things that my Brother Knights have accomplished this year. Even when a call came in from the rectory that a parishioner had passed away with little or no family and pallbearers were needed to carry the coffin, several Knights volunteered and stepped forward to perform this duty. This is just one example of selflessly thinking of others and carrying out the Lord's will.

This year has been an especially busy year for the Knights. We have had new calls for service and new events put on by our council to raise awareness and involvement in the church. Below is a list of Council events that have taken place since June 2013 that your officers and members have been involved with. I am so proud of our Council.

<b>June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manned the 50/50 Booth at the Our Lady of the Valley Parish Festival.</li> <li>• On June 29<sup>th</sup>, the Leadership Conference that was held in Leominster, MA was attended by me and several of our Council's Officers. There were a number of diverse topics covered.</li> </ul>
<b>July</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On July 12<sup>th</sup>, we held our 1<sup>st</sup> BBQ right here at the outdoor pavilion. I myself, and I hope, everyone else that attended had as good of a time as I did. I wish to thank all who donated what they could for this event to make it such a pleasant time to enjoy the Brotherhood, camaraderie, and each other's company.</li> </ul>
<b>August</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We held our first "Polka Party" at the OLV Outdoor Pavilion. Brother Chet Ogulewicz was the chairman of the event and the Eddie Forman Orchestra was the entertainment. A great time and delicious American and Polish food was had by all. Half of the proceeds were donated to the OLV Church Beautification Fund.</li> </ul>
<b>September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, I, along with several other council officers attended the Western Regional Meeting that was held at the Fairview Council #4044 Memorial Drive Chicopee for District 1-9.</li> <li>• Responded to Pam Hibbard's request for help in painting and repairing the rectory in preparation for it to be the new Bethlehem House. Bethlehem House is a non-profit organization located in Western Massachusetts which offers free pregnancy resources for women and men in crisis. I was proud to see all the Knights and friends of the Knights come out in force with a common goal to help this non-profit organization get their new home prepared for habitation. Through all the plastering, patching and painting, <u>over 300 volunteer hours</u> were put in. THANK YOU!!!</li> </ul>
<b>October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our Citrus Sale was started and ran from Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> – Nov 17<sup>th</sup>. Sales were off somewhat this year and amounted to about half of last year's sale.</li> <li>• The refurbishment of the former Sacred Heart Rectory (soon to be Bethlehem House)</li> </ul>

	<p>was finally completed towards the end of month.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 12-13 we held our annual Tootsie Roll Drive. We also went to several stores for additional exposure. Brother Robert Williams and his wife Karen, spent an entire day outside a store in town for the cause. A JOB WELL DONE! \$ 602.65 was donated to the Massachusetts State K of C Charity Fund.</li> <li>• On October 20<sup>th</sup>, the bus trip the Knights sponsored to Mohegan Sun was arranged by John Pompei and went as planned. Fun was had by all who attended.</li> <li>• An OPEN insurance information session was held on Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM in the OLV parish hall. Our VERY knowledgeable insurance agent, Bill Wisniewski spoke to inform all those who attended, on the topics of Long Term Care, Finance, Estate Planning, Insurance, Risk Management, Asset Protection and New Retirement Opportunities, Coffee and dessert that were made by Knights' wives were available for attendees.</li> </ul>
<b>November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. a Memorial Mass was held for the deceased Knights of Columbus. It was really moving to see all the Knights gathered together to remember and pay respects to those of our Brothers who have passed away.</li> <li>• We collected \$ 300 at our last monthly meeting while passing the hat to be used at the Easthampton Community Center to purchase turkeys. The center distributes food to people in need. They have recently lost a turkey supplier that provided free turkeys for families. As such the donation we provided will be used to supplement some of the loss.</li> <li>• Approximately 2400 pierogi were made for our annual Christmas Pierogi Sale. The usual potato &amp; cheese and cabbage were made and we also experimented with making a limited amount of blueberry. The sale will be running from November 30<sup>th</sup> until we run out.</li> <li>• Our New Eyes for the Needy eyeglass program is still ongoing. To date, we have collected 213 pairs of glasses. New Eyes For the Needy is a non-profit organization that will test and distribute these glasses to those who need them, often the only pair they will ever receive. The collection box is in the Church on our Knights table next to the choir loft stairway.</li> </ul>

On an ongoing basis, our members have really been busy staffing the OLV Coffee Shop in the OLV Hall AND in helping serve meals at the Easthampton Community Center.

#### **NEW Members!**

Please welcome the following new members into our Council since July 1, 2013 - we now call them Brother Knights.

Thomas W Brown  
 Chann E Damon  
 Sean E McLaughlin  
 Morgan G Mitchell  
 Dennis F Renkowicz  
 Stephen C Scholar  
 Michael B Sniadach  
 William F Steplar  
 John F Tautznik

On November 12<sup>th</sup> at our monthly meeting, State Warden, Paul Flannigan presented our council with the prestigious "Double Star Council Award". This award is very difficult to attain as the Council must achieve 200% in membership growth and a 100% growth in K of C insured members. Our council is one of 344 councils that earned a "Double Star Award" out of over 15000 councils worldwide. Many thanks for the hard work of our insurance agent, Bill Wisniewski and to our Knights who diligently bring in new members. We could not have achieved this award without you.

## Upcoming Events

Nov. 30 / Dec. 1, 2013	The Holiday Pierogi Sale begins and runs until we are sold out.
December 13, 2013	The citrus for our Citrus Sale is <u>TENTATIVELY</u> supposed to arrive. We will send updates as the date gets closer.
December 14, 2013	Wreaths across America. Members will place wreaths in the Agawam Veterans Cemetery, honoring the men and women that served and protected this great country.
March 1, 2014	Irish Night to be held at OLV Parish Hall.
May 10-11, 2014	Knights of Columbus Mother's Day Rose Sale.
May 25, 2014	Veterans Day Mass and breakfast
May 26, 2014	K of C members marching in Memorial Day Parade

In other news, please find enclosed your 2014 dues notice. Dues are \$20.00 unless your bill indicates differently, and will cover you from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. Make checks payable to: Easthampton K of C Council #1116.

Also enclosed are the tickets for the Annual State Knights of Columbus Charity Raffle (see list inside cover). Sell one or sell them all and return the stubs with a check made out to the: Easthampton K of C Council #1116. Tickets are \$1.00 each or \$15.00 for the booklet. Our Council receives \$6.00 from every booklet sold, which enables us to make local donations when requested. We must have separate checks for your dues payment and raffle ticket payments. PLEASE return any UNSOLD tickets as well. There are always others looking for more tickets.

### NO CASH BY MAIL, PLEASE!

The 2013 "Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity" member worksheet is also enclosed. We are required by Supreme Council to report the number of volunteer hours that members have spent on different categories as listed on the worksheets. This report helps the Knights of Columbus keep its fraternal tax exemption in force. Due to the financial distress facing many state governments, we must be prepared to react quickly to any proposed legislation that would eliminate or weaken the current tax exempt status that we currently enjoy in all fifty states. For this reason it is critically important for all councils to report their charitable activities and contributions to Supreme Council so that we can prove to legislators and other public officials that these societies do in fact provide charitable contributions and volunteer time that is worth far more than the revenue that would be generated by taxing them. So please, do your best to calculate how many charitable hours you have donated. Your family members should be included as well.

Your membership dues, raffle tickets and activity work sheet are all due by December 31, 2013. Save time and money by returning all the above at our December 10, 2013 meeting to be held at the Sacred Heart School on Franklin Street at 7:00 p.m. Pay your dues, return your raffle tickets and survey form all in one trip, plus enjoy the comradeship with your Brother Knights both old and new. Decaf coffee and pastries will be served. See you there at 7:00 p.m. **SHARP!**

Most of you have an e-mail address or if you have a family member with an e-mail address that they would let you use, would you please put it legibly on your dues bill so that we can contact you sooner with things as they come up rather than depending on our monthly meetings or phone calls. This will help provide better communication to keep you in the know, and will allow us to use our money on charity purposes rather than on mailings. Don't worry, your information stays secure within the Council. It is not given out to anyone else or to any other organizations.

We are looking for a volunteer to do e-mail reports, relay information, and newsletters to the membership once a list of e-mail addresses is established. Please contact your Grand Knight, Frank Furman or Financial Secretary, Jean Duquette if you are interested.

Our Council has had a very active year so far. Membership recruitment is still our top priority, followed by fund raising so that we can continue with our charitable donations. We feel that keeping our contributions within our Community as much as possible is also very important.

We wish to thank our Pastor, Chaplain, Fr. Doug McGonagle and our Co-Chaplain, Fr. Piotr Pawlus for allowing us to conduct the many activities that we do, both at the church and at the Sacred Heart Campus. We also wish to thank all of our officers, members, their families and many friends who work hard at all our Council events and functions. We could not have done it without all of you.

Thank you all very much! We appreciate you and all you do for our Council.

REMEMBER your Council meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Sacred Heart Campus on Franklin St. at 7:00 p.m. Rides are always available if needed. Just give Bob Graham (413-527-5707) or Jean Duquette (413-527-2895) a call.

**WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY, HAPPY NEW YEAR. ALWAYS REMEMBER – “KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS” AND GOD BLESS YOU AND YOURS.**

Sincerely,

Frank w. Furman, III, Grand Knight  
92 Oliver Street  
Easthampton, MA 01027  
(413) 527-7400

Jean Duquette, Financial Secretary  
14 Line Street  
Southampton, MA 01073  
(413) 527-2895