



## JANUARY 2018

This is Council 9997's fourth 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. This fraternal year is again focused 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](http://STMKnights.org), either by email or phone.

## ACTIVITIES IN QUARTER IV OF 2017

### Holiday Nut Sales Raise Funds for Seminarians and Other Worthy Causes

Our Holiday Nut Sales project was a fantastic

success thanks to the outstanding effort made by the Knights of this Council, and the generous support of the Parish. We are pleased to report a year over year improvement in sales by unit of 13.9%, and more importantly, an improvement in funds raised year over year of 37.5%. After accounting for expenses, we raised \$4,964.13. Records show we just surpassed 2011 by \$24.28. As this accounting does not include contributions and "keep the change", the anecdotal reports from the Captains indicates we really brought in more than \$5,000. Thanks to this hard work of so many brother Knights, we can support three seminarians instead of our customary two.

### Breakfast with Santa

In a first of its kind event, our Council partnered with Mothers of Young Children to host a Breakfast with Santa Saturday on December 9th, 2017 from 9-11 a.m. in the PAC. We provided breakfast and our partners provided crafts for the children to enjoy while they awaited Santa's arrival. Each family had time to talk with Santa & take their own photos. We continue to look for new ideas to serve the younger members of our council and their families. If you have an idea for a new project or event, please contact the Grand Knight or any of the officers.

### Meals at Our Business Meetings

On a cool and rainy evening, the attending members enjoyed a hearty meal of Brother Knight/Past Grand Knight Stan Urban's famous chili. Many thanks to Stan for providing this treat. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month and start with the rosary at 6:30 p.m., dinner follows, and the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. promptly. We are usually treated to an inspirational homily by Deacon Dan Lupo, and we are almost always finished by 8:30 p.m. or shortly thereafter.

## **Chaplain's Reports**

November Chaplain's Report - Deacon Dan was unable to attend the November meeting, but sent an email out consisting of an article on Eucharistic Adoration, reproduced here as follows:

Reminder, Fr. Kurtis exposes the Blessed Sacrament **every weekday morning** around 7:30 a.m., and reposes just before 8:30 a.m. Mass. Later this month, Adoration will resume after mass (9ish) until 2 p.m. (for now) and will no longer be held in Fischer House.

Time spent with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is never wasted. I typically begin with a rosary, to settle myself, and then at some point She brings me to Him... ("do whatever he tells you"). I may or may not ever finish that rosary. But then I am focused on His presence.

And the conversation begins.

I talk to Him, thank Him for all He's given me, ask Him for help with growth in spiritual matters, ask Him for direction in worldly matters, plead with him on behalf of those who have asked me to pray for them . . . and then I shut up and listen. This is the hardest part. I just let Him direct my thoughts to wherever He wants them to go. And in that listening, He

reveals Himself to me, His answers, His affirmations, His concerns for me. His reassurance.

If you seek a bit of relief from the "noise" of your life, seek the quiet of Adoration. See you there...

Resources:

- <http://www.scborrowmeo.org/ccc/para/2628.htm>
- <http://www.stjoephx.org/Catechism>
- <https://www.saintwilliams.org/adoration>
- <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/eucharistic-devotion/index.cfm>
- <http://www.uscatholic.org/church/2011/02/whats-history-adoration-blessed-sacrament>
- <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/resources/prayers/adoration-to-the-holy-sacrament/24-reasons-for-spending-a-holy-hour-before-the-blessed-sacrament>
- <https://www.osv.com/Magazines/TheCatholicAnswer/Article/TabId/652/ArtMID/13618/ArticleID/10783/Eucharistic-Adoration-.aspx>

Appointment With Jesus at Adoration

CATHOLIC LIVING

Bill Zalot

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/appointment-with-jesus-at-adoration>

"As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (1 Corinthians 11:26).

Nearly each time I go to adoration, I am reminded of these words of St. Paul — for as St. John Paul II announced the Year of the





Eucharist June 10, 2004, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, he quoted that verse. Shortly after the special year began, I got in the habit of weekly visits before the Blessed Sacrament.

On Thursdays, I have an appointment with Jesus. It is one I've had for the last 13 years. I can't think of my week without this special time with Jesus.

Most times, I bring the prayer intentions of family and friends. For those whose intentions are unknown to me, I simply pray, "Jesus, give them what they need today." And who among us doesn't have family members or friends who have left the Church? These souls need our prayers, so I pray for them, too.

Christ wants to meet us in our brokenness. It is at that point he can touch, at the core of our being, the depth of our souls — the point at which Christ can heal our emotional and spiritual wounds. Those emotional scars may come from a hurt we can't let go of from the past. While sitting, standing or kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament, we can give such hurts to Jesus.

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith, so when I sit before Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, I am spending time with my closest friend.

Adoration also reminds me that human agendas are different from God's.

He tells us that in sacred Scripture. Isaiah 55:8-9 reads: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways — oracle of the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways,

my thoughts higher than your thoughts."

So often we think of decisions and plans without truly seeking God's will. Spending time with Jesus before the Blessed Sacrament allows us the time to see his will for our lives.

I come prepared to sit before Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, attempting to do his holy will. More than a few times, I have been surprised by what that is! Seeking Christ is an ongoing adventure — far beyond an appointment.

And, as Catholics, we have "a great cloud of witnesses" to help us on our journey of faith. They can intercede for us and for our loved ones. This is one of the realities of the awesome treasure of the Communion of Saints triumphant. They have served God well. Do you not think they have the ear of God?

There are times, as I sit before the Blessed Sacrament, that God prompts me to seek their intercession.

Sts. Paul and Maximilian Kolbe are among my favorites.

These martyrs' writings have inspired me. I took Paul as my confirmation name, and his letters in Scripture have been a wonderful source to build my faith.

Paul's letters are often used for one of the readings of the day that I may meditate on at adoration. And Maximilian said perpetual adoration is "the most important activity." When I make my weekly visit, I pour out my heart to Christ the King.

As he emptied himself for us, I attempt to do the same.





Through my weekly “visits,” Christ has become the center of my life.

*O Sacrament most holy,*

*O Sacrament divine.*

*All praise and*

*All thanksgiving,*

*Be every moment thine!*

Bill Zalot writes from Levittown, Pennsylvania.

#### January Chaplain's Report-

Deacon Dan told us the story of his “Christmas Vacation”. In the following, I place the story in first person and try my best to capture how much the experience meant to him, as well as the humor with which he told his story. Although I aim for accuracy, this is still “paraphrased” and not truly “quoted” per se. I hope I have done it justice, for it was a heart-warming story indeed.

My Christmas Vacation by Deacon Dan Lupo. - Last April, as many of you know, my wife was diagnosed with cancer. This was about the time we were scheduled for a pilgrimage to Rome, Lourdes, and Fatima. Of course, we canceled our trip, and she started an extended period of chemotherapy. The results, thank the Lord, were good, and as she began to feel better said to me “Let's go to Rome for Christmas”. This was a great idea, and so I went to the bishop's secretary and inquired how to get tickets for Christmas Midnight Mass at St Peter's. To my surprise, I found that I could actually serve at the Mass. Subsequent emails from a nun who coordinated tickets and a monsignor handling

those who serve at the Mass indicated “No” to tickets and “Yes” to serving at Mass. Wow, what a dilemma. I wrote to the sister and the monsignor, indicating to each the response of the other. Well, the monsignor came through with tickets and an official letter to be taken to the Apostolic Palace.

I borrowed the garments they indicated that I should bring, and learned that I was to go to St Peter's for rehearsal. But when I went to the altar, no one was there. Seminarians came in in black cassocks, so I asked them if they knew anything. To my surprise, one of the young men was from St. Louis Parish in Austin and thrilled to meet a fellow Texan. While we were talking, a monsignor showed up to give me my instructions. I was expecting to be told “you will sit or stand here or there” with other deacons, but he instead told me that I would be the Pope's body guard along with a Jesuit seminarian named Eric from Poland. I was to stay no more than four feet from the Pope during the entire mass!

I was told I had three things to do. First, after the procession in, go to the back of the altar and standing on one side of the Pope, venerate (kiss) the altar as he does. Second, hand him the incense and assist him in blessing the altar, etc. Finally, assist with the handshake of peace. I was instructed to come at 8 p.m. for the 9:30 p.m. Mass. I was handed a ticket for entrance through the side door of St Peter's and told to meet at Michelangelo's famous sculpture, the Pieta. I did as instructed, and as I put away my coat behind the glass wall that protects the Pieta, I found myself staring at the Virgin Mother's sash in awe... seeing Michelangelo's name carved along the sash.





Along with Eric, I got vested. Sister Maria selected the vestments and had no trouble fitting Eric. I, however, was a problem. Cardinals and bishops all were lined up waiting for Deacon Dan to get fitted, which finally happened with the help of Sister Maria. And then in came the Pope.

Now I was totally focused on doing my role, and not getting overwhelmed, and just staring at the Pope. Don't do anything stupid, Dan, I thought. Act natural and focus on the job. As the Mass started, I fixed my gaze forward and concentrated on my three tasks. We walk up the stairs, we venerate the altar, and when the Pope turns to get the incense from me, grab by the ring as instructed, and give it to the Pope. At the end of the incense veneration, he hands it back to me and that is when I finally allowed myself to look at the Pope. There were two other interactions with him, one at the handshake of peace. He says the "Peace of Christ be with you" in Latin and I freeze. I didn't know what language to use . . . English . . . a little Spanish? When I received communion from him, he used the intinction method. I managed to say "Amen", . . . oh good, a little Hebrew!

During his homily, which again was in a language I did not speak, I allowed myself to relax a little. Oh my ...I'm in St Peter's. My family got in line at 6 p.m., four blocks away, and I'm thinking and hoping that they got in, but could not know for sure. During Communion, I'm looking through the crowd hoping and praying I can find them. Although I could not spot them, while finally relaxing I felt a universal sense of God's love. I knew I didn't deserve this, but it felt really good. I wished my parents were alive to see this and immediately

thought "Mom probably had something to do with this."

At the end of Mass, during the procession, the Pope was surrounded by kids, while I'm trying to move carefully through them and stay four feet from the Pope...and avoid tripping on my cassock. I take off my vestments, the Pope shakes hands with cardinals and bishops and he waves and walks by. I get outside and feel like I'm flying, if my family weren't inside during the Mass, they wouldn't believe it all. I look around trying to find them and I hear my wife shout "We were there!" Thirty-five years ago, I spent a wonderful semester as a student in Rome. I wanted my daughter to get a little of the magic I felt. She bursts out of a cluster of people, runs over and throws her arms around me in a big bear hug and says "Oh, Papa!" She was full of joy, pride, and love. The bells were ringing in Christmas, there was the Christmas Creche, Christmas trees . . . what an overwhelming experience. I eventually was given a video copy of the mass. So...that's how I spent my Christmas vacation.

### **STM Was Lead Council to Raise Funds for Ultrasound Equipment for JPIL Center**

STM Council 9997 was the lead council to coordinate the collection and disbursement of funds for a fundraiser vital to the Pro-Life work of the John Paul II Life Center. All of the area councils raised money to help replace a failing 3-D Ultrasound Machine at the John Paul II Life Center. It was costing more to maintain the unit than it would to buy a new machine. Over 90% of mothers who see an ultrasound choose life for their child. Since this program started, it





has saved an average of one baby a day—more than 1,300 children in total.

Diocesan Deputy Kevin Brinkman presented a check for nearly \$56,000 to the JP II Life Center on Friday, November 10, 2017. Supreme also contributed \$38,000 in matching funds. We received “thank you” notes from the people at the center who described the new sonogram machine as truly amazing. Congratulations to our council for an outstanding job, particularly on such short notice. We not only met, but exceeded the goal!

**Parish Oktoberfest** - The Parish Oktoberfest replaced the “Funfest” and was held October 21. Knights turned out in fine fashion to run our Bingo games and to help with our food booth. Thanks to Rodney Laurent and Nick Villapando for leading the food crew effort, and Gabe Guardiola for chairing the Bingo portion of the event.



Gabe Guardiola and Pat Larkin prepare for Bingo.

Thanks also to the wives who raised \$3,700 with the silent auction. The Funfest overall raised \$11,000. We made a great contribution to the Parish with this outstanding effort, and demonstrated to the parish again the fine support our Knights provide. Handling both events simultaneously required a large number of volunteers, but our Council Knights, wives,

and families responded as they always do. Many thanks for all the help.

**Christmas Party** -Our council Christmas Party was held Wednesday, December 13th at the Oasis. We had a great room with a view of the lake from 5:30 p.m., available to us until 11 p.m. Dennis Robinson, Jim Ferguson, and Steve Isaacson, along with their spouses, made a careful study of possible venues and selected this one as the best option.

We had a marvelous buffet, and an environment that said “Christmas” everywhere you turned. We were also able to celebrate Brother Ed Konop's birthday, and virtually his entire family were able to join the celebration. It could not have been a more festive evening.



### **STM Knights of Columbus Life Saver Sundays Drive!**

-The Knights of Columbus are committed to participating in the 40 Days for Life. To support young mothers after the birth of their child, STM 9997 held a Life Saver Sunday Drive for the Annunciation Maternity Home in nearby Georgetown, TX! Every contribution was met with a “Life Saver” candy to symbolize that the donation was truly aimed at saving lives. Due to generous donations from the St





Thomas More parishioners, the Knights delivered approximately \$400 of baby supplies and a check for \$1,100 to the Annunciation Maternity Home in Georgetown! This could not have been done without the outstanding leadership of Brother Rick Pekkala. Rick brought this idea to the council, and then put in the preparation and hours to make it a big success. The council is very fortunate to have had Brother Rick lead this project!



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## Upcoming Events -

25<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Clergy Appreciation Dinner – The dinner will be Tuesday, February 6th. There are 500 seats. The State Deputy will be the Master of Ceremonies. Father Michael and Father Kurtis and all our deacons will be invited. Knights and their wives are encouraged to come, and other parishioners are welcome. Attend with our clergy and honor them. Cost will be in the \$20-\$25 range. We have reserved three tables with eight seats at each table. Money should be in by January 29. We will also present our two priests with gift cards.

Annual Lenten Fish Fry and Scholarships – We are again sponsoring our Knights of Columbus parish Scholarship Program. The application, an interactive form, will be available soon on [STMKnights.org](http://STMKnights.org). The basis for the awards will be on service (not academics), and an essay regarding service will be the fundamental basis of the form. The Knights thank the generous support of parishioners for our ongoing Lenten Fish Fry dinners.

All graduating high school seniors who are registered, confirmed, and active members of the parish can apply. Stay tuned for further announcements!

