



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

**NEWSLETTER**  
Council 9997, St. Thomas More, Austin, Tx

## JULY 2017

This is Council 9997's second 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. At this start of a new fraternal year, we're again 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](http://STMKnights.org), either by email or phone.

## ACTIVITIES IN QUARTER II OF 2017

### State Convention Highlights

Membership is one of the biggest challenges facing Texas Knights. Many hands make light work and the state's councils need to step up

their recruiting efforts. We fell 1,150 candidates short of being the top state. Everyone is struggling to find and recruit new members. Recommendations include using our council projects and worthy causes to draw potential recruits. Other ideas include inviting other ministries to work with us on joint projects. These can be a fertile field for finding new brothers for our council. There are 8 million Catholics in Texas and only 106,000 Knights. Ask a friend if he would like to join.

In the past year, Texas Knights donated \$10 million to charity, contributed five million man-hours of volunteer service, and allocated \$501,000 to veterans' affairs.

### Public Rosary at Harper Park

This took place at noon on Saturday, May 13. Coincidentally, this year it was on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the appearance of the Virgin Mary at Fatima. We had a great turnout of more than a dozen Knights. The Public Rosary is continuing at the same location (Harper Park on Lake Creek Parkway in the Gazebo at noon) on the 13<sup>th</sup> of each month through next October to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fatima. Our council joined this prayerful celebration again on June and July 13. All Knights are invited to join us for the rosaries from August to October.

### Meals at Our Business Meetings

Members at our May business meeting enjoyed a hearty meal of hot dogs, beans and chips, prepared by brothers Larry Payne and Jim Ferguson. Those who attended our June meeting enjoyed a special BBQ dinner prepared by brother Lance Speck. This was from his business, Bohemian BBQ. Lance recently





provided the food for a Life Teen event. This month, the meeting meal was a Ferguson Chili special prepared by Jim Ferguson with Caesar salad, appetizer, and dessert prepared by Steve Isaacson. Many thanks go out to Larry Payne, Jim Ferguson, Steve Isaacson and Lance Speck for such special meals to enhance our time for fellowship. 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 PM, dinner follows and the meeting starts at 7:30 PM promptly. We are usually finished by 8:30 PM.

## Chaplain's Reports

In May, Deacon Dan continued with his series of talks on the six ways to improve our faith highlighted by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. The focus this time was Marian Devotion. He read a letter that consisted of a touching story written from the experience of a very troubled man who turned in prayer to Mother Mary. This is a story of how Mary's presence was deeply felt in one man's life, and it can be felt by each of us if we turn to her. Prayer is not meaningless. One particularly important theme was that too often we pray without allowing time for silence and reflection.

In June, the Deacon's report focused on how we must deal with the adversities that come into our lives. He counseled us all to reflect on the Book of Sirach, Chapter II, with an emphasis on teaching therein such as "My child, when you come to serve the Lord, prepare for trials", and "Cling to the Lord ... accept whatever happens to you" for "in fire, gold is tested . . . trust in God". At difficult times, we need to trust in God, ask for his help, and then wait and trust in

his response. On Good Friday, the disciples ran away, but then three days later the most glorious thing happened. Be patient and wait for God's response to our prayers. He is always with us.

## National Evangelization Team Ministries

Miss Zoe Boucher gave a brief talk about this ministry. NET Ministries challenges young Catholics to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church. Every August, 175 young Catholics aged 18-28 leave behind their jobs, school, family, and friends to devote nine months to serving with the National Evangelization Teams (NET). Divided into 16 teams, they travel across the U.S. for nine months to share the Gospel with young people and their families. Since 1981, NET teams have led over 30,000 retreats and ministered to more than 1.8 million young Catholics.

NET Ministries fulfills its mission by:

- Proclaiming the Gospel of Christ through a personal witness of faith
- Inviting young people to live for Christ
- Forming young people in Christian character through the study and practice of their faith
- Equipping youth workers and young adults with the ministry skills needed for evangelization

The Council members approved \$200 to help Miss Boucher toward her goal of participating in this very worthwhile ministry. **Anyone wishing to make a personal contribution to NET can check their website at:** [www.netusa.org/donate](http://www.netusa.org/donate)





## **Best Wishes to Fr. Ekka**

We wish Fr. Ekka well on his faith journey and Safe Travels as he returns to India. We were indeed blessed to have him as our associate priest and brother Knight. On behalf of the Council, Dennis Robinson and David McLennan are shown in the attached photo presenting him with a token of our appreciation.



Presentation of Parting Gift to Fr. Ekka

## **Corporate Communion**

Corporate Communion was at the 9 AM mass on April 30 (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month). Many thanks to Gabe Guardiola for organizing this very successful event. We filled all of the reserve pews with members and family. We joined the Coffee and Donuts ministry after Mass and met with fellow parishioners in fellowship.

## **Grand Knight's Final Report**

Summarizing the events of the year, the outgoing Grand Knight listed many of the successful activities we have performed in the past year: our golf Tournament, Nut Sales, support of two seminarians, Christmas Bazaar cooking, and Bingo at the Funfest. We moved our meetings downstairs to accommodate disabled members, cleared our rolls of 28 members who wished to leave the council, cooked and served a dinner in appreciation of our parish's Religious Education teacher. We supported Mobile Loaves and Fishes with the proceeds from our Golf Tournament, cooked and served a dinner in appreciation of the dioceses Deacons. We also provided meals for prospective Seminarians and for the Light of the World retreat. We organized Christmas Parking and Easter Parking. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Team ran numerous exemplifications for candidates from around the Austin area. We hosted a 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> degree ceremony, organized 5 Fish Fry dinners to raise money for our Life Teen scholarship program, and set up luminaries for Christmas and Easter. We held a Youth Basketball event, helped with Pro-Life Day Parking, volunteered for Special Olympics events, helped organized a BBQ for Life Teen, held a joint crawfish boil with the Men's Club, Man-up, and the Parish Council,





cooked at Funfest, joined in the Public Rosaries at Harper Park, and started raising money to provide a replacement 3-D Ultrasound for the John Paul II Life Center. Congratulations and thanks to the council brothers for an active and successful year.

### **Installation of Officers for the New Fraternal Year**

Installation of Officers for the new fraternal year was held on Wednesday, June 28. The evening starting with a Council Social consisting of a pot luck dinner. Wow! We have some great cooks in the Council. Formal ceremonies then installed our new officers. Please keep the following in your prayers that they may serve the council well in the coming year. Your support of these men who are willing to give a special gift of time and talent to their brother knights will be essential to the council's success.

- Grand Knight – Dennis Robinson
- Deputy Grand Knight – Steve Isaacson
- Chancellor – Jim Ferguson
- Financial Secretary – Al Perez
- Warden – Ted Herrera
- Recorder – Tony Lioi
- Treasurer- Michael Yarberr
- Advocate – Gabe Guardiola
- Lecturer- Andy Mikla
- Inside Guard – John Smith
- Outside Guard – Ed Konop
- Trustee Year 1 – David McLennan
- Trustee Year 2 – Stan Urban
- Trustee Year 3 – Larry Carpentier

### **Knight of the Year, Family of the Year**

Michael Kelly is our Knight of the Year! Congratulations and many thanks to Michael for his outstanding service to the Council. Michael was co-chair and founding member of our very successful Golf Tournament fund raiser for Mobile Loaves and Fishes, and was an outstanding participant on virtually every Council activity this fraternal year.

Family of the year goes to the David Sanchez Family. David and his family are steady fixtures at so many of our Council activities, particularly the Fish Fries. If there is something going on, the Sanchez family is ready to pitch in, or to lead. Many thanks for their many hours of service.



Left: Knight of the Year Michael Kelly Right: Family of the Year, David Sanchez Family





## **Crawfish Boil**

Our first Crawfish Boil was a success and profits have been passed through to the Parish general fund. Michael Kelly led our team of Knights as the Men's Club, Parish Financial Committee, and Man-Up groups provided support.

## **Scholarship For Our Teens**

Scholarships were awarded for a total amount of \$5,000 to worthy STM graduating high school students. Five awards were made, one for \$2,000 to Gabriel Villarreal, \$1,000 to Edgar Bowers, \$1,000 to Hannah McQueen, \$500 to Faith Cox, and \$500 to Erica Munoz. The annual Fish Fry dinners will continue again next year to raise funds for this worthy cause.



Presentation of Scholarships

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

Diocesan Deputy Kevin Brinkman came to the council with a request for fundraising to replace a failing 3-D Ultrasound Machine at the John Paul II Life Center. It is costing more to maintain the unit than the cost of replacement. 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. The total replacement cost is \$75,000, but Supreme will cover half, and a local contribution of \$20,000 has already been made. This leaves \$17,500 to be raised by Diocesan Councils. We have been asked to do our share, and also to be the lead council to coordinate the collection and disbursement of the funds raised. The council voted to take on this responsibility.

Our Financial Secretary and Treasurer will handle the necessary set up of a separate bank account for this activity so that funds from all of the councils in the diocese are separated from other activities, are properly collected, and the monies disbursed to the John Paul II Life Center. Individuals wishing to make a personal donation can visit our website, [stmknights.org](http://stmknights.org).

## **Knights of Columbus at the Round Rock Express**

Knights of Columbus night at the Round Rock Express was June 19th. Around a dozen of our members and family enjoyed a discount on their tickets and a fun-filled evening. This event included the entire area K of C, and the fourth





degree presented the colors during the singing of the national anthem. We hope to have the same event next year. Look for announcements as next summer approaches.

### **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. 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.

### **Special Olympics**

Ed Konop reported at the May meeting that he, Jim Ferguson, Steve Isaacson, and Tony Lioi represented the Council as volunteers at the Special Olympics Track and Field Meet held at Leander High School. A large number of athletes competed in many events under clear blue skies and had a great time. It was a pleasure being able to help facilitate the event. If interested in helping at upcoming Special Olympics Events, please contact Ed or any of the other three members who took part.

### **Food Preparation for Religious**

### **Education Teachers Appreciation**

### **Dinner**

Many thanks to Rodney Laurent for leading the cooking crew for this memorable event. One hundred twenty-five people had a great meal of

smoked sausage, chicken and ribs, with sides of sweet potatoes, rice and green beans. This is a big-time effort that made a lot of our parish volunteers very happy.

### **The Don Smith Memorial Fund**

Around \$1,000 has been donated to the Don Smith Memorial Fund. The family has asked the Council to donate the funds to a worthwhile charity in Brother Don's memory. The Council will be donating the funds contributed to the memorial fund to the John Paul II Life Center to go towards the purchase of the much-needed replacement of their 3-D ultrasound machine. Many unborn lives will be saved as a consequence of the generous donations from our members and Don's other friends and family.

