



Council Matters



Saint Jude Council 6551

Fall 2008 Newsletter

Welcome Brother Knights

Thanks to all of you who have helped me transition to the role of Grand Knight. Your support has enabled our Council to get things moving once again this fall. We have been working to achieve our two most important objectives; increasing our ranks through the recruitment of new members and growing our treasury so that we can continue to perform the good works expected of Knights of Columbus.

In this edition of the newsletter you'll read about the new officer installation ceremony, the fall membership blitz, the Can Shake for Special Children, our support of parish baptisms and the New Eyes for the Needy Campaign.

While those activities made for a successful fall, many of our most successful Council activities are just around the corner; Breakfast With Santa in December and the local K of C free-throw tournament February.

Like all organizations, the more members we have, the more we can do. Suggestions are always welcomed... along with a willingness to

help see the projects through. Our meetings are on the second and fourth Thursday's at St. Andrew's parish hall at 8:00 PM.

Upcoming Activities

- Breakfast With Santa on December 7th
- Adopt-A-Family for Christmas
- K of C Free Throw Contest
- The 2nd Annual Hoagie Sales
- The awarding of the Alex Beden Memorial Scholarship at Eastern High School in June
- The awarding of the first annual Michael Flannigan Memorial Scholarship to a graduating 8th Grade parish member at St. Andrews

If you received this letter by mail, I don't have your email address. To save on postage and to keep you updated in a more timely fashion, please send your email address to me at gjstrain96@aol.com.

Fall Activities

New officer Installation - On Saturday November 20th our Council's new officers were installed. District Deputy Andy Julia presided over the ceremony. Our officers for the 2009 Columbian Year are:

Grand Knight – Gary Strain
Deputy Grand Knight – Osvaldo Agrait-Ruiz
Chancellor – Tom Booth
Recorder – Gil Scutti
Treasurer – Gary Tanner
Advocate – Jack Porcelli
Warden – Joe Turt
Inside Guard – Al Medzie
Outside Guard – Michael Cruz
Trustee – Bill Mafucci

Trustee – Vinnie Pauula
Trustee – Lance Beden

Awards and Recognition - At the conclusion of the Installation ceremony, outgoing Grand Knight Lance Beden was presented with a plaque from Supreme Council in recognition of our achievement of Star Council status in 2008. Star Council is awarded to those councils that reach their quotas for activities, membership and insurance during the Columbian year. Lance also was awarded a plaque from our Council acknowledging his outstanding leadership as Grand Knight over the past two years. I'm sure you join me in thanking Lance for his numerous contributions to our Council.

Membership Blitz – We held our fall membership blitz on Saturday November 15th and Sunday November 16th. We generated four leads for new members and were approached by three current Knights that would like to transfer to our Council. Thanks to all of you who volunteered your time to man our table.

Can Shake for the Needy – Our Can Shake was delayed this year as Canal’s Liquors, where we hold the vent, was undergoing construction this spring and summer, when we usually shake those cans. As the saying goes “better late than never” proved to be true. On November 1st & 2nd we raised over \$500 for Special Children! Thanks to Al Medzie, Jack Porcelli, Gary Tanner, Gil Scutti, Joe Turt, Tom Booth, Ben Vasta, Michael Cruz and Osvaldo Agrait-Ruiz for helping raise money for this worthy cause.

Roses for Baptism – Osvaldo Agrait-Ruiz has assumed leadership of the Roses for Baptism program established by Lance Beden last year. Osvaldo has presented roses to 25 mothers of children baptized at St. Andrew’s this summer and fall. He reports the moms are both surprised and thankful for this kind gesture. Thanks to Osvaldo for his work with this program.

New Eyed for the Needy – In September, Joe Turt took the lead for this project and his actions led to our Council donating more than 35 pair of glasses to New Eyes for the Needy in Short Hills, NJ. This group distributes used glasses to underprivileged men, women and children throughout the State of New Jersey. Thanks to Joe for his hard work on this project.

In Memoriam

It is my sad duty to report to you that Brother Knight Michael Flannigan passed away on November 7th. His viewing was held at Bradley’s Funeral Home in Evesham on November 11th. Joe Turt came through and arranged for the 4th Degree Color Corp to attend the viewing. Mrs. Flannigan requested that all donations in Michael’s name be made to Knights

of Columbus St. Jude Council. We have received numerous donations from Michaels’ friends and co-workers. We will use those donations to fund a memorial scholarship in his name to be awarded this spring to a graduating 8th Grade student from the St. Andrew the Apostle parish.

Upcoming Events

Breakfast With Santa - Our annual Breakfast with Santa is scheduled for December 7th after the 8:30AM and 10:00AM Masses at St. Andrew the Apostle. This is our largest fund raising event of the year and we need the help of all Brother Knights to make it a success. Please make every effort to join us. We’ll be setting up between 7:00AM and 8:00AM. Your participation will help to maximize the success of this year’s breakfast.



Santa, with fellow knight Greg Merlara’s son Vincent, at last year’s Breakfast

Adopt-A-Family – Once again this year our Council will participate in the Adopt-A-Family program at St. Andrew the Apostle. This year, Ray Rossignol, who along with Greg Malera is leading the project for the Council, learned that there is a family of seven in need of help this season. Ray suggested that we sponsor the large family rather than two families as we have in the past. So Ray and Greg will make sure that a family in our area has a much happier holiday this year. Thanks to Ray and Greg for their efforts.

From the Financial Secretary

Dues paid by Council members help underwrite our charitable activities, as well as our activities in support of the Church and the youth of the Parish.

What you may not know is that we are assessed each year by Supreme Council and the NJ State Council to help underwrite their charitable activities. (You can learn about them by visiting their websites.) We are required to remit for each member on our roster regardless of whether that member has paid his dues. Therefore, when a member does not pay his dues, he reduces the amount of money available to the Council for charitable acts.

Last year our Council was assessed a significant sum for members that did not pay their annual dues of \$25. Please keep this in mind when you receive your dues notice for 2009 in a few weeks.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties that prevent you from paying what you owe in past or future dues, please contact me.

God Bless,

Ben Vasta (856-627-2916)
(bvasta@comcast.net)



Lance Beden is recognized for his leadership as Grand Knight that led to Council 6551 earning Star Council Status last year



Gary Tanner is initiated a Treasurer by District Deputy Andy Julia as part of our recent Installation of Officers Ceremony