



# Knights News

Knights of Columbus Council 544  
Cathedral of the Incarnation  
Nashville, TN



## Grand Knight's Report

SK Dave Johnson, Grand Knight

615-585-3675, davejohnson2@comcast.net

Greetings Gentlemen,

I am humbled that you have placed your trust in me to lead the council this fraternal year. Especially considering the caliber of our council's leadership throughout our 116 year history. Big shoes to fill here! During my relatively short time as a knight, brothers O'Neill, Littleton, Mitchell, Latterell and McWilliams have led us toward tightly embracing our parish activities. To use the words of Pope John Paul II, Our council has enthusiastically embraced our role as "the strong right arm of the church." I love how nearly every activity that the Cathedral does is reinforced by our council. Through our council's good works, we are very well balanced in providing the core tenets of knighthood to our membership, parish and broader community.

My primary goal for this fraternal year is to expand the opportunity to serve to a larger group of new men and their families. I view new members and our efforts to find them as the lifeblood of our council's health and future. Harkening back to my Southern Baptist roots, I plan to incorporate an "invitation" to join us at every event. Here is a brief summary of my notes at the State meeting membership breakout session including what the Knights offer:

- Programs! It's all about programs – we can't receive/have/retain new members without lots of programs – Our council has more than 40 activities planned for this fraternal year.
- Knights make better neighbors, better husbands, better fathers, better Catholics!
- You can be a good knight without showing up at every event – there are MANY ways to serve as a brother knight.
- Camaraderie – there is nothing more powerful than Men sharing the love of Christ and meeting to serve him, his church and the community.

We have a lot to offer and I propose we become comfortable speaking to others about what we do and asking them to join. Let's work on our messaging. I urge you to internalize one that is comfortable for you! Here is mine.

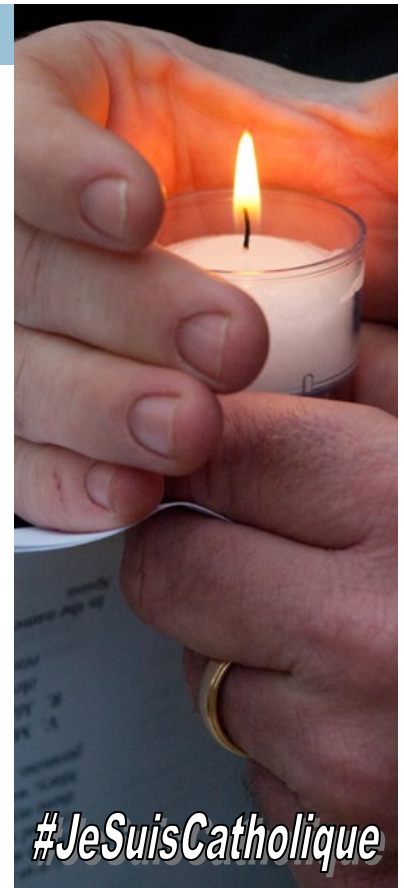
"Since 1900, our council has been providing charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism to our members, parishes and community. And we do it very well! We invite you to join us for a beverage or a meal to learn more about you and share what it means to be a knight."

My secondary goal is to fulfill Brother McWilliams vision of completing our well-planned, balance of council activities and documenting our awesomeness at these to receive the honor of Star Council.

I am truly excited about the opportunity to work with you guys this year and look forward to achieve our goals together. I look forward to seeing you at our August council meeting to share and plan some of the details surrounding how we will meet them.

Vivat Jesus!

Dave



#JeSuisCatholique

## July / August Issue 1

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### Highlights

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## Membership Director's Report

Terry Doherty, Membership Director

As we begin this new Fraternal Year at Council 544, we have been challenged by our new Grand Knight Dave Johnson to focus on increasing our membership numbers and I am happy and honored that he has appointed me as Chairman of the Membership Committee. Our committee will include brothers Tom Costa, Tony Roberts, and Ian Turnbull. Although for me this role will be new and challenging, I am confident that with a team effort and with our new focus on building the domestic church, we will be able to achieve our goals for new memberships and make 544 a Star Council! I will do my best to help make this happen. I am grateful for all the work that our worthy Grand Knight has already done to help make my transition into this role go as smoothly as possible.

We would like to start out by welcoming our newest member to council 544, brother Ed Stack who took his first degree on July 23! Thanks again to Dave Johnson for all the hard work to bring such a fantastic member of our Catholic Family into our flock. We also have two excellent candidates whose applications have been approved and are awaiting the next First degree exemplification, as well as two other names provided by Tony and Tom whom they feel would be excellent candidates. We will be scheduling lunches with them in the near future. This makes a total of potentially five new members within the few months of this year. Not bad! However, we need to get some local first degree exemplifications organized. The nearest one on our current calendar is September 14 in Dickson, hosted by St Christopher Council #8241.

I challenge all members of our council to continue to make K of C's presence known at not only the events that we host or sponsor, but at all gatherings and events at our parishes. By putting the flag there for all to see, I think we will naturally attract the good men around us to approach us about membership. This is especially true of the younger men in our parish. In addition, we will actively reach out to the men going through our RCIA program and to the individuals that we know through other parish services, especially the fathers of the children in our day school. We can all think of one individual who would make a good Knight; now imagine if *all* of us were successful at recruiting just that *one* person into the Knights of Columbus. That would put our numbers through the roof! I really do not think this is too far fetched. As I've learned, keeping our memberships strong is absolutely vital in helping us continue our mission of service and outreach to our community. So I also challenge each of you to bring the name of that individual that you think of, and I think that with the strength of this Council, it will not be hard to convince them of the value of becoming a brother Knight!

### Upcoming Dates

#### Council Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the Month  
7:00PM, Rm 305, St Albert Hall

#### Programming Meetings

4th Sunday of the Month  
9:30AM, Rm 303, St Albert Hall

#### Council Meeting

August 10th, 7 PM  
Room 305, St Albert Hall

#### Low Country Shrimp Boil

August 28th, 12 noon  
Fleming Center

#### Soup-a-thon

October 23, 12 noon  
Fleming Center

## July Awards

### Knight of the Month - SK Chris Crane

Chris's attention to detail is amazing! Not to brag but, I believe we are the only council ever to have a Harvard MBA as our Financial Secretary. When he is not coaching his son's baseball team or divesting unwanted Bank of America global assets, he is a Knights of Columbus paper processing genius. Navigating the Knights systems and processes are tedious at best. I am amazed by how smoothly Chris continually makes it happen. Chris has balanced our books to the penny, updated our membership rolls to reflect our actual membership, and keeps our council correspondences with the state and supreme 100% current and accurate. These are no small tasks and brother Crane is to be commended for such a difficult job being so well done!!



### Family of the Month - Terry Doherty Family

What a blessing to have the Doherty family as part of our order. Terry's enthusiasm is a great motivator to everyone around him. He is always so upbeat and smiling. No wonder! His beautiful wife Nicole and precious children are delightful and truly a joy to be around. Terry recently paid our council one of the nicest compliments I have heard. He shared that becoming a knight was one of the best things he has ever done. Beyond that, inside of one year, Terry has jumped in with both feet and agreed to serve as our membership director for the new fraternal year. The Dohertys are Cathedral fixtures who attend nearly every family event. Their kids are Cathedral weekday preschool students, also with a St. Bernard Bear in the mix as well. Go Bears! What a great model of a knights family!

## Back to School Shrimp Boil

SK Dave Johnson, Grand Knight

Sunday, August 28, 12 noon - 3 pm  
 Cathedral Fleming Center  
 \$10 per person / \$25 max per family

Our most popular annual event is back! Join us on August 28th along with Cathedral Religious Education and Weekday Preschool for our Back to School Bash Low Country Shrimp Boil. Good food, family, fun & games for the kids, and hot dogs (in case crustaceans are too creepy). The event is open to everyone and the more the merrier, so please invite your friends, family, and neighbors. We had a near capacity crowd last year and hope to break that record this year.



**Back to school Bash  
 Low Country Shrimp Boil**

Hosts: Knights of Columbus, Religious Education & Weekday Preschool  
 When: Sunday, August 28th after 11am mass  
 Where: Fleming Center  
 What: Fun & Games for Kids! Burgers & Dogs if crustaceans are too creepy

Cost: \$10 per person  
 \$25 cap per family

### Council Officers

**Grand Knight**

Dave Johnson  
 davejohnson2@comcast.net  
 615-585-3675

**Deputy Grand Knight**

Chris Beal  
 the5beals@gmail.com  
 615-767-3711

**Financial Secretary**

Chris Crane  
 christopher.e.crane@gmail.com  
 617-869-6345

**Chancellor**

Ken Duncan  
 kenrduncan@att.net  
 615-238-1582

**Recorder**

Dan Gibbons

**Treasurer**

Terry Hill

**Advocate**

Frank Steiner

**Warden**

Roy Silveira

**Inside Guard**

Stuart Littleton

**Outside Guard**

Tony Roberts

**One Year Trustee**

John Mitchell

**Two Year Trustee**

Mark O'Neill

**Three Year Trustee**

Bisell McWilliams



## San Gennaro Music Fest

Chad Wilhelm, Community Director

As the summer is quickly coming to an end, we have an exciting event coming up at our parish, and there are many ways that we can be involved. San Gennaro Music Fest at Midtown is returning for it's 3rd year on the weekend of September 24th and 25th. There will be more fun interactive events than in the past, but the main purpose of this festival remains community building within our parish and the Midtown community as a whole.

The things we can do to help are to promote this event to other KofC chapters and parishes, and to volunteer, as the festival is in need of more hands on help and volunteers this year. Other than the hands on help, the festival is in desperate need of landing financial sponsorships and contributions this year. We want to keep this event moving forward and help it grow, but it needs to be done without the finances of the church. GK Dave Johnson, will be smoking his award winning bbq which is always a big hit. Please plan on attending the event, volunteering for the event, and if anyone knows of some good sponsorship opportunities for the event, please reach out to me (chad.wilhelm@hotmail.com).

## Program Personnel

### Program Director

DGK Chris Beal

### Church Director &

### Vocations Chair

Tom Costa

### Community Director

Chad Wilhelm

### San Gennaro Coordinator

Chad Wilhelm

### Council Director

Andrew Lay

### Family Director

Mark O'Neill

### Youth Director

Stuart Littleton

### Boy Scout Leader

Dave Lavell

### Culture of Life Director

Roy Silveira

### Choose Life Sign

Stuart Littleton

### Membership Director

Terry Doherty

### Committee Members

Tom Costa

Tony Roberts

Ian Turnbull

### Retention Chair

Ken Thomas

### Committee Members

Trustees of Council 544

### Webmaster &

### Newsletter Editor

Bisell McWilliams

## 40 Days for Life

*SK Roy Silveira, Culture of Life Director*

From September 28 through November 6, you are invited to join other Christians across the nation in celebrating 40 Days for Life - 40 Days of prayers and fasting for an end of abortion. You and your entire family are also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil (7am-6pm) in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood, 412 Dr. DB Todd Boulevard. Please sign up for the times by going to [www.40daysforlife.com/Nashville](http://www.40daysforlife.com/Nashville). Please spread the word about this important community outreach.

***“The promotion of the culture of life should be the highest priority in our societies...If the right to life is not defended decisively as a condition for all other rights of the person, all other references to human rights remain deceitful and illusory.”***

*~ Pope Saint John Paul II*

## Guest Speaker Spotlight - Mathilde Mellon

*Mathilde Mellon, Mulier Care Founder & Director*

*Mathilde will be our guest speaker before the August Council Meeting. She will join us for the Rosary at 6:30pm, and then will speak for 15-20 minutes about her work with Mulier Care and their current efforts to fund a new mobile ultrasound unit for the Greater Nashville area.*

I have a BS from Georgetown University, MA from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and an MEd. from Vanderbilt. I worked in the financial services industry for 10 years (which brought me and my husband to Nashville from New York), and then I began a career in teaching adolescents with behavior disorders. In this profession, I saw many teens in unplanned and crisis pregnancies, so, after my son, Xavier, was born, I began to volunteer at Hope Clinic for Women. It was there that I designed, implemented, and managed their Hispanic Services Program. When this ministry was abruptly shut down, Father John Sims Baker (whom I have known for 20 years) and I founded a 501(c) 3 to provide for a continuum of care for women who are in crisis and unplanned pregnancies. This non-profit's mission is to not only assist the woman choose life, but to ensure that she is given the support she requires throughout her pregnancy in order that she may become a better parent. I then went to Grace Pregnancy Resource Center to offer Mulier Care's services, but they were in such desperate need for help with client advocacy, that I became a full-time (volunteer) client advocate. I was at Grace until it closed in 2014. (We are now members of St. Mary's Queen of Seven Sorrows Parish, where I am a member of the Legion of Mary).

Now, I can tell you all why we need this mobile ultrasound unit, and where we are with funding. The Knights have been very good to us, as they have been to other clinics (like Portico in Murfreesboro) which have buses. We absolutely have to keep the momentum going, because it is getting harder and harder to reach out to women from the sidewalks. We are being constantly challenged by other "pro-life" groups who use megaphones and egregious language to shame women as they walk into the abortion facilities. Planned Parenthood uses escorts with their clients so that they cannot even see us. We need a presence, and this bus will be that very presence.

## Voting Your Conscience

*SK Bisell McWilliams, Trustee*

In any election year—and especially in an election years as divisive as the one we are in now—faithful Catholics can find themselves faced with many difficult questions. Should I vote for someone just because they are a Catholic? Is it ever acceptable to vote for a pro-choice candidate? What if there are no pro-life candidates running? How do we respond to politicians who claim they can separate their personal convictions from their public policy? Is it wrong to abstain from voting? Can voting be an occasion of sin?



While these are hard questions that are not easily answered, the good news is that we are not left to ponder them without guidance. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has published an official teaching document on how a good Catholic is to engage with the political system. Entitled *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* (the entire text of which is available online at <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/>), this document delves into both the moral necessity and the moral implications of our involvement in politics. It is not there to tell us how to vote on particular issues, but rather to help us form our consciences and hone our understanding of Catholic morality in politics so that we can discern the holiest path.

We cannot stand idly by. As Pope Francis admonished us several years ago, “We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern.” We are called to be witnesses in the public sphere, and in the current political climate I strongly encourage everyone to go out to the USCCB website and review this wonderful document. If anyone needs a printed copy, please reach out to me (bisell3@gmail.com, 770-789-3355) and I will arrange to get you one.

***“Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.”***

*~ John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the United States,  
4th Degree Knight of Columbus, Bunker Hill Co. 62*

## Corporate Communion & Mass Intentions

*SK Bisell McWilliams, Trustee*

Our next Corporate Communion will be the weekend of September 18th. We will attend the 11AM Mass together, followed by lunch at a location TBA. With all of the new faces in our council, this is a great way for brothers and families to get to know each other. It is open to all Knights and their families (as well as any prospective Knights you’d like to bring along).

Please note, we *will* need RSVPs for this event so that we can reserve sufficient seating at lunch. Blackstone has been wonderfully accommodating of our spontaneity over the last few years, but as they are closed for remodeling we are (temporarily) switching our venue and need to make a good first impression. Please let me know by Sunday, September 11th if you are attending (bisell3@gmail.com, 770-789-3355).

Also, the 11AM Cathedral Mass on Sunday, September 4th will be offered for the deceased members of Council 544. Due to the holiday weekend we opted not to hold our Corporate Communion that weekend, but I still encourage you to attend that Mass if possible in memory of our brother Knights who have gone before us.



## Only Having Insurance “Through Work” Doesn’t Work

Do you know anyone whose life or career was drastically changed during the years of economic downturn? It’s very likely that someone in your immediate or extended family or group of friends is currently facing financial uncertainty. Maybe there’s a possibility that you (or your spouse) could change employers, or even lose your job.



Too many people have often relied on group term life insurance as their only safety net. Often, this insurance is an employee benefit provided at low or no cost. The existence of this coverage might convince someone that personally-owned life insurance is not necessary.

But only having “through work” insurance can leave you and your family vulnerable. Most group life insurance policies are limited in amount, which may be tied to salary or some other benchmark. These numbers are often capped, and this cap may be dangerously low when compared to your family’s actual needs. In fact, a detailed needs analysis that evaluates your specific situation, will likely show that any employer-provided coverage falls short.

In addition, the amount of group insurance offered is almost always reduced, sometimes dramatically, when you retire. You could one day find yourself without coverage, and if your health has changed (which it will as you age), you might also find yourself unable to secure individual protection. At the very least, it will definitely be more expensive.

While group life insurance can help, it does not replace the need for individually owned life insurance. I’ll be happy to meet with you and provide a no-cost needs analysis, so you’ll know exactly where you stand.

Daniel Schachle FICF, PGK  
General Agent  
102 Hwy 70 East, Suite 1  
Dickson, TN 37055  
615-441-8588  
www.kofcagency.com



## Officer Headshots at August Meeting

*Bisell McWilliams, Webmaster*

We will be taking headshots for the council website of all officers after the August council meeting. Officers, please plan to attend and to dress appropriately (minimum of business casual).

### Newsletter Delivery - Please Read

In our ongoing effort to manage expenses while continuing to promote communication with all of our knights who want to remain in active communication with the council, we are always reviewing our US Postal Service mailing list for this newsletter. We currently have about 120 knights who receive this newsletter electronically and about 15 more who get it via US mail. Most of those who get it via US Mail are Knights who we do not regularly see at meetings or events. To those Knights, if you can help us save money by switching to electronic delivery, please call or email Chris Crane. (Contact information is on page 3 of this newsletter)

## Fraternal Calendar 2016 - 2017

- August 10, 2016  
Installation of Officers (at Council Meeting)
- August 28, 2016  
Back to School Shrimp Boil
- September 24-25, 2016  
San Gennaro MusicFest
- October 23, 2016  
Soup-a-Thon / Fall Fest
- November 13, 20, 27, 2016  
See’s Candy Sale
- December 7, 2016  
Parthenon Towers Party
- December 10, 2016  
Council Christmas Party

## Third Degree Opportunity

The next Third Degree opportunity in Middle Tennessee will be on October 23rd, 2pm at St Edward Parish. Contact GK Dave or Membership Director Terry if you would like to participate.

## Fourth Degree Opportunities

There will be only two Middle Tennessee opportunity to take the Fourth Degree this coming year: Nov 5, 2016 in Clarksville, and March 11, 2017 in Murfreesboro. Contact GK Dave or Membership Director Terry if you would like to participate.

### Prayer Requests

- **Health and Healing for Brother Ken Thomas**
- **Rest of the soul of Fr. Jacques Hamel**
- **For an end to violence**