



# Knights News

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



## Grand Knight's Report

SK Dave Johnson, Grand Knight

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Greetings Gentlemen,

Past Grand Knight Stuart Littleton asked me to share my Catholic journey several years ago for the newsletter. I promised him that I would at some point so, here it is, years late.

I became Catholic in 1998. My beautiful wife Meg was the one who led me to the church. Not because she tried to but, because I wanted to go where she went and be with her completely. She was everything I was looking for. Fun, sweet, smart, loyal and a hard worker. She taught 1<sup>st</sup> grade at Christ the King and even drove an economy car. Here is a girl I could potentially make happy! We dated for a few years before we got married. We talked regularly about kids and where we would go to church and what we wanted our family to be like. More than anything, we just wanted our family to go to church together. We knew this even before we had a family.

So, we shopped around at different churches of various denominations for a new home. I liked everything and was willing to compromise and join just about anywhere. Meg, on the other hand was a cradle Catholic. Parochial schools all the way through. She was and is devout in her faith. Hard headed in fact! Me; I was far from devout. It's not that I had no faith or moral compass. I was certainly raised with these. I just wasn't active in a church. I wasn't doing anything spiritual. I certainly wasn't pursuing Christ or his teachings like I was taught to. And it showed. Who was I to tell Meg she couldn't be catholic anymore? Additionally, I could tell that leaving the Catholic Church was a non-starter for her.

I had experienced the value of a great church home as a kid. I knew that sharing faith and worshipping together, as a family, was important. Not only were my sister and I raised in the Baptist church, my Mom had me there every time the doors were open. Children's choir, Sunday school, church training, Royal Ambassadors, hand bells, Sunday morning & night services, trips, classes, Bible school, potluck suppers and ice cream socials were my life. And I loved it! I wanted my kids to have the same church family experience that I did. I didn't want there ever to be a time when they could remember not being active in church. So, I thought about it a lot and decided I wanted to be Catholic so our family could do everything together. How bad could it be?

(Continued on page 4)



July / August,  
Issue 1

## Inside this issue

Grand Knight's Report .....	1
Upcoming Dates .....	2
Awards .....	2
Membership Report .....	2
Chill & Grill .....	3
Program Personnel.....	4
GK Report (continued).....	4
General Agent Report.....	6
Christmas Save the Dates .....	6
Prayer Intentions.....	6

## Highlights

- Grand Knight's Report
- Membership Report
- Chill & Grill
- Christmas Save the Date

## Membership Report

*Terry Doherty, Membership Director*

This past Fraternal year was a great one for council 544 as we welcomed 13 new members. With the new Fraternal year upon us already, we obviously want to keep the momentum going. Already this year we have received interest from three new gentlemen that are interested in joining the Knights. I will be meeting with them soon over lunch or some other social setting to invite them to join us in one of our planned events. Any members who will like to join us are certainly welcomed.

Our latest member to join is Ted Karpynec. Many of you have already met Ted because he is a very familiar face at our Cathedral parish and has already jumped right in participating in our charitable and social activities. Ted is originally from Buffalo New York, but has lived in Tennessee most of his life. He is a graduate from UT with a major in History and currently does consulting work. He has a 7 year old son who attends St Bernard Academy and in his spare time plays, coaches, and enjoys all things hockey.

I would like to add that Ted actually represents the perfect example of the men in our parish who already believe and live by all of the values of the Knights, but have just never joined. I viewed his membership as a personal victory because I have been persuading him to join for quite some time. I knew that he would love it and feel right at home. And he has confirmed for me that he certainly does. How many other men do we know in our parish who are just like this? Probably a few. Let's challenge ourselves this year to ask at least one of those men "Why haven't you joined the Knights?" And let us continue to persuade them with our constant display of fraternity and charitable works!

## Financial Secretary Report

*Chris Crane, Financial Secretary*

Have you moved within the last year? If so, please be sure to notify FS Chris Crane of your updated mailing address, phone number or email so that you'll continue to get relevant mailings from Supreme and Council 544.

We still have about a dozen members with dues outstanding for 2017. Council is assessed \$20 annually per member by State and Supreme, regardless of whether dues are paid. That means we're in a deficit carrying these members. Please reach out to settle up.

### 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

#### Chill & Grill

Aug 27th, 12 noon  
Fleming Center

#### Next Council Meeting

Sep 13th, 7:00PM  
Rm 305, St Albert Hall

#### San Gennaro MusicFest

Sep 16th & 17th

## Monthly Awards

### Knight of the Month - Kellan McGavock

Kellan is hyper enthusiastic. He only joined a few short months ago and is active in nearly everything we do already. When we mentioned that we needed a recorder, he offered to serve immediately. He responded that he felt honored that we would entrust him with these duties and updated the template we provided him. He received his second degree (formation) on Saturday and is gung ho! Welcome Kellan, thanks and great job straight out of the gates. Congratulations on being Knight of the month!



### Family of the Month - Chris Beal Family

Chris should have been a marine. First to arrive and last to leave. He and his family are at the Cathedral every time the doors are open. If Chris is there, so is Patricia, Michael, Taylor and Mary. This month he organized and conducted the most successful pancake breakfast to date. It's not just this. I organize every pancake breakfast on a quarterly basis! Wow. Ken and he are working on a nice new "right sized" golf tournament. They are organizing monthly golf outings. The only fault I can find with Chris is his insane love for the University of KY. We are so blessed to have Chris as a leader in our council!

## Chill & Grill

Join us this coming Sunday, August 27th after the 11AM Mass for burgers and dogs as we celebrate back to school with the Cathedral Religious Ed and Weekday Preschool. \$10 per person, \$25 max per family.



### Council Officers

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#### Treasurer

Roman Pohlid

#### Advocate

Frank Steiner

#### Warden

Roy Silveira

#### Inside Guard

Stuart Littleton

#### Outside Guard

Andy Gamble

#### One Year Trustee

John Mitchell

#### Two Year Trustee

Mark O'Neill

#### Three Year Trustee

Bisell McWilliams

## 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

## Grand Knight's Report *Continued from Page 1*

We had been to mass at Cathedral several times with Meg's grandparents, who were parishioners there. I found the sanctuary and services beautiful. Fr. Fleming was so inspiring. "Let us pause to reflect on how we have offended God by offending others; in our thoughts; in our actions; in what we have done and what we have failed to do. Invariably it is always the ones we love the most that we hurt the most." Powerful stuff! I decided to enter the Cathedral RCIA program and signed up. Meg still uses Fr. Fleming's joke. "I captured a Baptist!" We had 99 people in my group which was the largest in the United States. Our director, Greta Menke, was an outstanding organizer. The classes and speakers were motivating. I was continually impressed by the formal process of faith formation. There were milestones, events and numerous reminders that we could leave at any point along the way. Learning the faith, tradition and history was and continues to be truly enjoyable. This journey came at a perfect time and served as a great complement to my childhood training. We love and serve Christ just like our Baptist brethren. I became very comfortable with my conversion. It hit home how important regular interaction with other faithful was to me and after 9 months I was confirmed Catholic on Easter, 1998.

Meg and I were married the following summer and went to Italy for our honeymoon and to soak up more church history on a Catholic pilgrimage. We went to mass there nearly every day and learned tons more about the church. We even had a semi-private audience with Pope John Paul II (4,000 people). I walked the same ground that St. Peter walked. I saw the same obelisk in St. Peter's Square that he saw. Peter was right there in the beginning and walked with Christ daily. This was special. I'm a member of his church. We returned to Nashville and the Cathedral inspired and kicked off our marriage at our church home. Meg and I added a couple of baby girls to our family and increased our joy and faith throughout our marriage for a decade. We regularly attended mass and did the occasional parish social event. We've always loved the Cathedral and had many casual acquaintances there. However, there was something missing. And I didn't even know it! Church was almost exclusively a spiritual inspiration for me. While this is certainly a key component of my faith, I certainly wasn't living the "all-in" church home experience of my childhood. My thoughts on the parish and conversations about it were primarily based on how good the homily was. My real friendships, support and inspiration came mostly from outside of the church. While I have some fantastic non-Catholic friends, I was just going through the motions at Cathedral and not really getting all I could out of my parish.

2008 was undoubtedly, the hardest year of my life. My Mom had an acute illness resulting in brain damage. She was bed ridden for the last 6 months of her life while her health steadily declined. While she could still recognize me and have some conversation, she was only a sad portion of her former self. She couldn't really engage in our normal sharp witted banter. My sister and I nursed her along as well as we could but, she eventually passed. God rest her soul. Losing her was especially tough on me because I am such a bonafide Mama's boy. When I told her that once, and she told me "you're also a bone-head!" I loved her left handed compliments like: "Son, you're a lot smarter than you look!" Nobody ever loved me more than her. She thought I was the smartest and most handsome boy ever. HA! Love is blind. She was always happy to talk as long as I wanted any time of day or night. And that's what I miss most. Being able to call her to share my success or disappointment. I know its cliché but, I'll never get over losing her.



I had heard about the Knights of Columbus before but, didn't know much about them. While I'd been at the Cathedral for a decade, it's a big enough parish that you can easily hide and not really be involved in much. Lots of stuff goes on that you might never hear about if you're not looking for it. I had an old acquaintance, Brother Andrew Lay that I would see out on the town occasionally, and regularly at mass. One day at coffee and doughnuts, we got to talking about the Knights. Andrew said I should join. The Membership Director, Roman Pohlid showed me the way and introduced me to the rest of the guys. My first event with the Knights was our council Christmas party in the rectory. The food and décor was fantastic. I met Jim Pareigis and his wife there. He had gone to Father Ryan with Meg and knew of her awesomeness. We hit it off immediately just because I was her husband. The whole group was really fun and welcoming. I've been a BBQ guy for a long time and cooked a batch for the knights Super Bowl party and met even more of the guys and their families there. Then, Stuart encouraged me to come to the business meetings. Worthy Grand Knight O'Neill blew me away with his well-organized meetings and council activities. I was impressed. After meetings, we would socialize after the meetings either there or at the corner pub. What a blessing, making real friends at church. People I wanted to hang out with. Everybody should be a part of this! So, I jumped right in as membership chairman. I was and remain absolutely hooked on the knights and our mission. "In service to one – In service to all!"

What started as an opportunity to share an occasional meal and have fun with some church friends and their families has evolved to mean so much more. It fulfilled my need to be a part of a fraternity. I'd loved Boy Scouts as a kid and Sigma Chi as a college student. And now I'd found the Knights of Columbus as a husband, father and catholic. When I come to church now, I feel like Norm on cheers... "DAVE!" Everybody knows my name and I feel loved. Most of my closest friends are my brother knights. If I have a problem, they want to know about it. When there is something I'm happy or excited about, they want to know that too. And it works both ways. I have befriended dozens of families that I care deeply for. I celebrate their joy and try my best to comfort their pain. While the Knights will certainly never replace my Mom; the peace and comfort I draw from these great friendships has filled a large void. There is nothing that forms a stronger bond than serving the greater good by working hard together with others. The Knights has certainly provided a great platform to serve and receive blessings. I pray that the Knights have and will serve you and your families the same way they have mine.

Vivat Jesus!

Dave

## San Gennaro MusicFest

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 4th year on the weekend of September 16th and 17th. 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. Dave Johnson, will be smoking his award winning BBQ which is always a big hit. We will need volunteers for four shifts (two each day) to help run the BBQ booth.



## Field Agent's Report

*Stephen Regan, Field Agent*

**70%** - of people over age 65 will need some type of long-term care services during their lifetime.

**3 Years** - is the average duration of long-term care needed per individual.

**\$83,000** - is the average annual cost of private nursing home care.

**\$60,000** - is the average annual cost of at-home nursing care.

**Can you afford not to be protected? Can your family?**

K of C offers top quality, flexible long-term care policies that you can customize to fit your needs.



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## Save the Date



**Boy Scouts Wreath Sale** - Sundays, Oct 22nd & 29th  
**See's Candy Sale** - Sundays, Nov 12th, 19th, & 26th  
**Parthenon Towers Party** - Wednesday, December 6th  
**Council Christmas Party** - Saturday, Dec 16th, 6PM  
**Breakfast with Santa** - Sunday, Dec 17th, 9AM—11AM

See our October Newsletter for full details on these (and possibly more) holiday events.

## Fourth Degree Opportunities

The only remaining Middle Tennessee opportunity to take the Patriotic (Fourth) Degree this fraternal year is November 4th, 2017 in Clarksville. The next Nashville ceremony is April 14th, 2018. Contact GK Dave or Membership Director Terry if you would like to participate.



### Prayer Requests

- For the Repose of the soul of Bishop David Choby
- For Fr Michael O. Johnston, Administrator of the Diocese of Nashville
- For the Holy Father's intentions