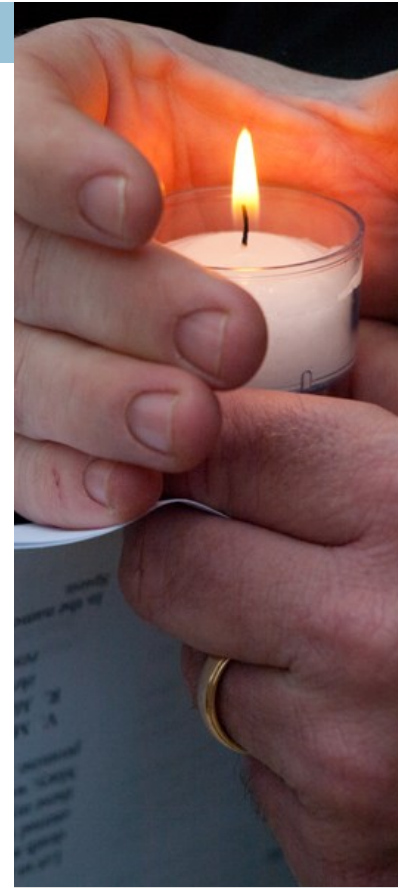




Knights News

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



Grand Knight's Report

Bisell McWilliams, Grand Knight
770-789-3355, bisell3@gmail.com



Greetings Brothers,

First, a note of apology. This is indeed the March / April edition of the newsletter, which means it is reaching you a month behind schedule. I claim no excuses on its delay beyond the insanity of having a three month old in the house.

Second, it is also true that when I did begin work on this issue, I debated whether I should even attempt to publish at all. These months are generally slow for the council and I anticipated a dearth of substantial content. Yet as I began to work, it amazed me how quickly the pages began to fill. For even in these "slow" months, our council has not slowed its contribution to our parish and community. Since our last newsletter, we have raised over \$800 for the MR Drive (pg 3), hosted a First Degree ceremony with our brothers at the Vandy council, and welcomed five new members to our ranks (pg 2). In the coming weeks we are preparing to erect once again our Choose Life Sign (pg 4), and are looking forward to contributing to the success of the District Deputies Banquet (pg 4) and the Seminarian Dinner (pg 4). And all along, we are continuing to grow in unity and fraternity, which are the focus goals of our waning Fraternal Year.

Thank you all for everything that you do for the council and for our parish community. I am proud to call you all my brothers, and I am excited to see what this coming fraternal year will bring.

Vivat Jesus,

Bisell



Brother Jim Pareigis works to break up the ice in the Cathedral alley after the winter ice storms.



March / April Issue 5

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Highlights

- New Members
- MR Drive

Membership Report

Please welcome new brothers Tom Costa, Terry Doherty, Nicolas Johnston, Bill Savage and Ian Pasek to the Knights of Columbus and to Council 544.

Updated Contact Information Needed

As we near the end of the fraternal year, we need to make sure that we have correct contact information for all of our members. Please take a moment to log in to the Members Only section of www.kofc544.org to view and update your information, or else contact FS Chris Crane. You need only your membership number and birthday to log in to the website.

Fourth Degree Opportunities

Calling all Third Degree Members. There will be only two Middle Tennessee opportunities to take the Fourth Degree this coming year: Nov. 7, 2015 in Clarksville, and Mar. 12, 2016 in Brentwood. Contact GK Bisell or Membership Director Dave if you would like to participate.

Annual Dues

Submitted by Chris Crane

2015 Dues notices went out on January 19th. For those who have not yet paid, Knight alert letters are going out soon. Regular members are \$36, Honorary Members are \$13, cash or checks payable to KofC 544. Prompt payment of your dues is appreciated as these funds are needed to cover the basic operating expenses of the council. Contact FS Chris Crane, christopher.e.crane@gmail.com.

Upcoming Dates

Council Meetings

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

Programming Meetings

4th Wednesday of the Month
7:00PM, Rm 303, St Albert Hall
(Alt. Location: Corner Pub)

Pancake Breakfast

May 17th

Seminarian Dinner

May 20th

Postulants Dinner

June 5th

Council Elections

June 10th

Corporate Communion

June 21st

March Awards

Knight of the Month - Joe Bednar

Brother Joe continues to faithfully represent the best values of the Knights through his leadership in the Cathedral's Room in the Inn program. Along with many other Knights, he went the extra mile and beyond in recent months as an unrelenting winter led to many extra nights of the Cathedral opening its doors to our homeless community.

Family of the Month - Bill Applegarth Family

Brother Bill is a long time Knight, and though he has only been a member of 544 for a handful of years, he has made a strong impression on all who have met him. He and Alice (who, sadly, passed away this month) gave so much of their lives to the church that they should stand as an example to us all.



April Awards

Knight of the Month - Jeff Duffield

Brother Jeff is a relatively new Knight, but in the time he has been with our council he has made a distinct impression as a man of integrity and compassion with a strong devotion to the order and to his brother Knights.

Family of the Month - Chris Beal Family

Brother Chris is an amazing man who puts his heart and soul into his service with the council and the youth of the parish. His service as our Youth Director is invaluable, as is his friendship, and it would not be 544 without him and the support of his family.

MR Drive Report

Submitted by Ken Thomas

A huge thank you to all Knights and their families and all others who helped make our MR drive a success. We raised over \$800 for the MR Fund. A special thanks to the captains for each Mass--Chris Beal, Terry Hill, Dave Johnson and Stuart Littleton--who took responsibility for organizing their Mass assignment. Thanks to John Jones who came to help in three of the masses, and thanks to Bisell McWilliams, our GK for his support in this project.

I have been asked several times to coordinate the MR drive at the Cathedral and each time it has been easy because our council members stepped up so willingly to help. I have often said that one of the best things about being a Knight was the association with some of the finest Catholic gentlemen I have known. Brothers, this MR drive is another example that makes my point. Many thanks to all of you.

Rosary Before Council Meetings

Submitted by Stuart Littleton

In keeping with our Grand Knight's goals, we will begin praying the rosary before our council meetings at 6:30 p.m. Father John O'Neill, the former Tennessee State Chaplain, has graciously accepted our invitation to lead the rosary this month. After leading us in the rosary, Father O'Neill will give a short talk about the importance of lay groups, like the Knights of Columbus, in the life of the Church. The council meeting will begin at the regular time, 7:00 p.m.

St Patrick's Day Cancellation

Submitted by Bisell McWilliams

Several of you have reached out to me with concerns about our late decision to cancel this year's St Patrick's Day Fundraiser, and I would like to take a moment to clarify why that decision was made.

When your senior officers and I met at the end of February, we reviewed the historical data for the event as well as the reservations to date, and determined that with two weeks to go we had barely passed 20% of the previous year's attendance numbers, and were not yet half-way to break even. (In past years, the two week mark has seen us at almost 90% of final reservation numbers.) With these numbers, it was clear that even the most optimistic projections would likely result in a loss to the council.

Why the low numbers? We had just come off a prolonged blast of winter weather, which hit squarely in the middle of our most crucial sales weeks. During that time the attention of our council and parish was necessarily directed to the care of our families and of our homeless community. Instead of gathering auction items and selling tickets, our brother Knights were running themselves ragged keeping the Room in the Inn doors open for nearly two weeks straight (as well as breaking up ice and spreading salt along the Cathedral walkways). Instead of pulling out their green party attire, our fellow parishoners were pulling out their parkas to go break up ice and tend to their less able family and friends. This redirection of focus was both necessary and proper given the emergency at hand.

While it is unfortunate that we were forced to cancel this event, I believe it was the right decision. Our regular donors and attendees have been very understanding, and despite the cancellation donated over \$550 to the cause. I am very proud of the hard work that our council has put in this year—especially with regard to all the work that was done for Room in the Inn—and I am excited to see what fruits that dedication will produce in the coming fraternal year.

Council Officers

Grand Knight

Bisell McWilliams
bisell3@gmail.com
770-789-3355

Deputy Grand Knight

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

Financial Secretary

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

Chancellor

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

Recorder

Dan Gibbons

Treasurer

Terry Hill

Advocate

Frank Steiner

Warden

Roy Silveira

Inside Guard

Chris Beal

Outside Guard

Jeff Duffield

One Year Trustee

Stuart Littleton

Two Year Trustee

John Mitchell

Three Year Trustee

Mike Latterell

Program Personnel

Program Director

DGK Ken Duncan

Church Director

vacant

Vocation Chair

Mark Cassman

Community Director

vacant

San Gennaro Coordinator

John Mitchell

Council Director

Andrew Lay

Family Director

vacant

Youth Director

Chris Beal

Boy Scout Leader

Dave Lavell

Culture of Life Director

Tony Grubbs

Culture of Life Chair Couple

Roy & Susan

Yes on 1 Campaign

Tony Grubbs

Hope Clinic Coordinator

Mike Latterell

Choose Life Sign

Stuart Littleton

Membership Director

Dave Johnson

Retention Chair

Ken Thomas

Choose Life Sign at St Ignatius of Antioch

Submitted by Stuart Littleton

We will put up our Choose Life sign with the Knights from St. Ignatius Catholic Community at their parish in Antioch on Saturday, May 16th. We will begin working around 9:00 a.m. St. Ignatius Catholic Community is on Bell Road, which will give the sign great visibility.

Seminarian Dinner

The Nashville Diocese annual Seminarian Dinner is May 20th, 2015 at Holy Family Church in Brentwood. Tickers are \$65 ea / \$650 table of 10. Contact Nancy Downey, 615-771-5088 or www.nashvillepriest.com. This event, sponsored by the Serra Clubs of Williamson County and Nashville and the Knights of Columbus, is a wonderful event to attend and a crucial piece of fundraising for our seminarians. Please consider attending or making a donation to the cause.

District Deputies Dinner

The District Deputies Dinner will be June 6th, 2015 at St Phillips Church in Franklin. Tickets are \$20 ea / \$160 table of 8. Please consider attending this wonderful event to help support our local postulants. Contact GK Bisell of DGK Ken for more information.

San Gennaro Music Fest

Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual San Gennaro Music Festival, September 19-20th, 2015. Our council will once again be providing concessions under the direction of Brother Dave Johnson.

Prayer Requests

- **Rest of the soul of Brother Mike Philbin.**
- **Rest of the soul of Brother Steve Hupka.**
- **Rest of the soul of Cheryl Beal, mother of Brother Chris Beal.**
- **Rest of the soul of Alice Appelgarth, wife of Brother Bill Appelgarth.**
- **Rest of the soul of Ken Boldman, great uncle of Brother Bisell McWilliams**

*Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.*

Newsletter Delivery

All members with an email address on file will receive the newsletter by email only. Please be sure to add kofc544@gmail.com to your address book to ensure that council communications are not caught by your spam filter. Those without an email address will continue to receive a paper copy in the post. If you do not currently have an email on file please send that info to kofc544@gmail.com. E-communications is more efficient and more economical.