



# Knights News

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

## Grand Knight's Report

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Greetings Brothers,

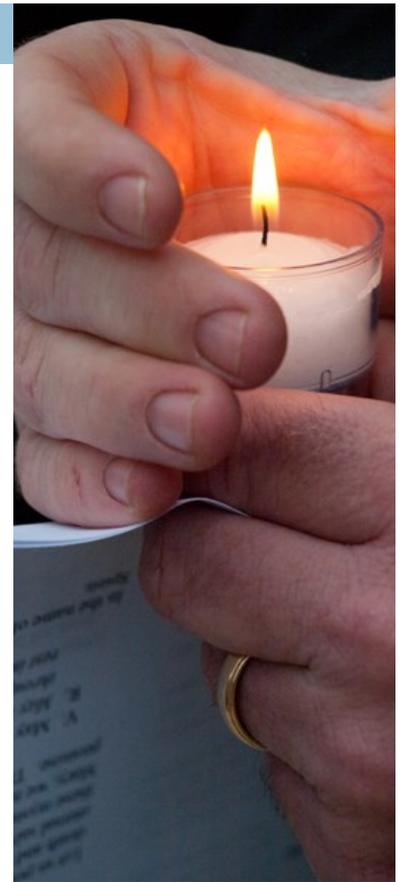
With the first quarter of our fraternal year behind us, our council has already made great progress in *Fraternal Renewal* and *Membership Growth*, which are our focus areas for this fraternal year. We have had three very successful fraternal events with our Fraternal Night at the Sounds, our Corporate Communion, and the General Jackson Cruise. More importantly we have strengthened the bonds of brotherhood through service, working side by side on many projects in support of the parish and the diocese. In the last three months alone, over two dozen of our 544 brothers have volunteered more than 160 hours of their time. In the growth category, we have welcomed several transfer members and already have some strong new member prospects for our Membership Blitz.

As we continue to pursue Fraternal Renewal in our council, let us never forget that the fraternity we seek as Knights is but an extension of the brotherhood of all Christians, rooted in the person of Christ who is made physically present in the Eucharist. In his encyclical *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, Pope Saint John Paul II writes: "The gift of Christ and his Spirit which we receive in Eucharistic communion superabundantly fulfils the yearning for fraternal unity deeply rooted in the human heart; at the same time it elevates the experience of fraternity already present in our common sharing at the same Eucharistic table..." In short, as a Catholic fraternal order, the strength of our fraternity can only come through our devotion to that which is "the source and summit of the Christian life." Indeed, with this understanding we see that when our Supreme Knight calls it a "moral obligation" for us to offer every Catholic man the opportunity of membership, is not a bold or presumptive statement. For if we are truly an order that builds its fraternity not merely from human social bonds, but instead draws on the example and presence of Christ as we seek to strengthen the faith and protect the families of our members, then should we not be compelled to offer those benefits to every man? Not every man is called to be a Knight of Columbus, but we cannot take the chance that anyone miss the opportunity simply because he was not asked.

With this in mind, our primary focus for the month of October is on Membership Growth. We have our Membership Blitz and Open House (pg. 3) for which we have set the ambitious goal of recruiting 12 new members to our council. If every active member brought in just one prospect, we could hit that goal with ease. We owe it to our Catholic brothers to offer them the opportunities that Knighthood has to offer, and we owe it to our parish to grow our council so that we can continue to run a full schedule of effective service programs for the benefit of the parish and the community. I am asking every member to contribute to this membership drive, whether it be through volunteering, bringing in a new prospect, or (most importantly) through prayer.

Vivat Jesus,

Bisell



September/October  
2014  
Issue 2

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### Highlights

- Yes on 1 Campaign
- Fall Membership Blitz
- San Gennaro Photos

## Amendment 1 - Vote YES on 1 on November 4

### Will Amendment 1 ban abortion in Tennessee?

The amendment restores the Tennessee Constitution to where it was prior to the 2000 Tennessee State Supreme Court decision by making the constitution neutral on the question of abortion. Abortion would not be banned and remains legal across the United States due to the *Roe v. Wade* United States Supreme Court decision in 1973

### What is the current abortion law in Tennessee?

Although Tennessee has historically been a national leader in the passage of protective, pro-life legislation, the TN Supreme Court stripped away many of these protections with its finding of a fundamental right to abortion in our state Constitution on September 15, 2000. As a result, abortion policy in Tennessee has become basically 'abortion on demand.'

### Why is a constitutional amendment necessary?

With the Tennessee Supreme Court finding that the Tennessee Constitution provides a fundamental right to abortion, any laws which are interpreted to impact a "fundamental" right must be very narrowly written as to avoid infringing on the protected right. As Justice William Barker pointed out in his dissent, only by amending the Constitution can pro-life Tennesseans hope to positively influence public policy again. (See Barker Dissent, Section II)

### How does the Amendment process work?

The language must be approved by 50% of those casting a vote in the Governor's race plus 1.

### How exactly does Amendment 1 read?

Nothing in this constitution secures or protects a right to abortion or requires the funding of an abortion. The people retain the right through their elected state representatives and state senators to enact, amend, or repeal statutes regarding abortion, including, but not limited to, circumstances of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest or when necessary to save the life of the mother.

For more information please visit [www.yeson1tn.org](http://www.yeson1tn.org) or [www.tennesseerighttolife.org](http://www.tennesseerighttolife.org)

### 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

#### Membership Blitz

October 4 - October 19

#### Titans Watch Party /

#### Membership Open House

October 19

#### See's Candy Sale

November 16 - December 22

#### Council Christmas Party

December 13

## September Awards

### Knight of the Month - Tony Grubbs

Brother Tony has been working tirelessly on the *Yes on 1* campaign, speaking and fundraising throughout the Nashville area. Through all of his work, Tony represents the Order's dedication to life, and is building an excellent network of contacts that will surely benefit Culture of Life efforts even beyond the November elections.

### Family of the Month - Dave Johnson Family

Brother Dave's family is honored not only to recognize Dave for his hard work for our council—both as Membership Director and go-to chef— but to recognize his family for letting us have so much of his time, and for putting up with random Knights showing up at all ours of the day and night when a BBQ project is in the works.



## October Awards

### Knight of the Month - Roman Pohlid

Brother Roman's years of experience with the order give him an insight and a capability as a Knight that makes him an invaluable asset to our council. Whatever the task, we know he will be one of the first to sign up when the call for volunteers goes out, and that he will make sure the job is done right.

### Family of the Month - Frank Steiner Family

Brother Frank not only served as an amazing grill master at the San Gennaro MusicFest, but brought along his wife and girls to help as well. Their service together was the perfect picture of the family-fraternal aspect of our order.

## Fall Membership Blitz

Contact Membership Chair Dave Johnson  
615-585-3675 or [davejohnson2@comcast.net](mailto:davejohnson2@comcast.net)

Our Fall Membership Blitz kicks off this week with several weekends of tabling after Mass, followed by an Open House and Titans Watch Party. We have set a high goal of 12 new members from this event, and we need everyone's support to reach that number.



The Open House and Watch Party will be October 19th in the Fleming Center starting immediately after the 11:00 Mass. We will be watching the Titans vs. Redskins on the big screen and serving classic tailgate fare for lunch. This will give our guests the opportunity to get to know us on a personal level, as well as hearing several presentations about both the Order itself and the personal experiences of our brothers. The event is open to the entire parish, including family and friends. We will have some door prizes as well.

There will be a First Degree ceremony following the Blitz, tentatively scheduled for Sat Oct 25th at 10AM. Please plan to attend so that we can all welcome our newest brothers.

What we need from the council:

**\*Prospects** - Take some time to think about the faithful Catholic men in our parish who would make good Knights. Pick at least one man as a prospect, talk to him about the Knights and invite him to our event on October 19th. Send the names and contact info to Dave Johnson who will be maintaining our prospect list for the Blitz.

**\*Tabling** - Spend a few minutes after Mass talking with prospective Knights. Answer their questions, take down their contact information, encourage them to find out more about the order and invite them and their families to the Open House.

October 4 - 5 after weekend Masses  
October 11 - 12 after weekend Masses  
October 18 - 19 after weekend Masses  
October 19 during the event

**\*Food** - Bring a dessert or side dish to the Open House, or volunteer to help prepare and serve lunch. We will be keeping it simple with basic tailgate food—hamburgers, hot dogs, etc.

**\*Door Prizes** - Consider donating an item for a door prize.

**\*Prayer** - As always, please keep the council, our activities, and all of your brothers in your prayers.

*“Knights have nothing less than a moral obligation to offer every eligible Catholic man the opportunity and the privilege of membership in our Order.”*  
- Supreme Knight Carl Anderson

### Council Officers

#### Grand Knight

Bisell McWilliams  
[bisell3@gmail.com](mailto:bisell3@gmail.com)  
770-789-3355

#### Deputy Grand Knight

Ken Duncan  
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615-238-1582

#### Financial Secretary

Chris Crane  
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617-869-6345

#### Chancellor

Dave Johnson  
[davejohnson2@comcast.net](mailto: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

## Degree Opportunities

If you have not yet completed your Second and/or Third Degree, please consider taking advantage of these upcoming dates to advance your membership. Contact GK Bisell or Membership Director Dave if you are planning to attend.

### Second Degree

Holy Name Parish - Hosted by Council 9211

Sat., Oct 11, 2014, 8:30 AM

### Third Degree

Holy Name Parish - Hosted by Council 9211

Sat., Oct 11, 2014, 10:00 AM

## See's Candy Sale

Our popular holiday fundraiser is back again this year. Sales will occur the weekends on November 16th, 23rd and 30th, with pickup the weekends of December 13th and 21st. Brother Terry Hill has done a fabulous job growing this sale each year since he introduced it, and we are looking forward to another successful year with a goal of 30% increase over 2013 sales. Sign-up sheets will be available at the November meeting, and beginning mid-October on the website, [www.kofc544.org](http://www.kofc544.org).

*“The gift of Christ and his Spirit which we receive in Eucharistic communion superabundantly fulfils the yearning for fraternal unity deeply rooted in the human heart.”*

*- St. John Paul II, Ecclesia de Eucharistia*

## Council Christmas Party

Mark your calendars for the 2014 Council Christmas Party, Saturday December 13th at 6:00PM in the Cathedral Rectory. With so many wonderful chefs in the council, we have opted to go “pot luck” this year and ask everyone to bring an entree, side or dessert. There will be a sign-up sheet at the November and December meetings to help coordinate and make sure that we have a good variety.



## Free Throw Contest

Brother Stuart Littleton is chairing the effort to add a Free Throw Championship to our council's Youth Program. The Free Throw Championship is a basketball challenge for boys and girls aged 9 to 14 years, with winners having the opportunity to move onto the district, regional and state level contests. Please contact Stuart if you can volunteer to assist with this effort. Our targeted event date is in January, so that winners will be able to advance to District competition in February.

## St Patrick's Day Fundraiser

This year's St Patrick's Day event will be a reimagining of our classic fundraiser. With lower ticket prices and a more family friendly atmosphere we are seeking to open up the event to a much larger segment of the parish demographic. We believe that this will not only lead to a more successful event, but will prove to be more in keeping with this year's focus on fraternity and growth. Stay tuned for more information in the coming months.

# San Gennaro MusicFest

Council 544 was proud to provide a variety of services for the first annual San Gennaro MusicFest, held September 20th & 21th at Cathedral. We sold food (including brother Dave's famous, championship BBQ), got dunked in the dunk tank, and even had a few brothers up on the stage performing. Here are a few pictures from Saturday's activities . More images available at [www.kofc544.org](http://www.kofc544.org)



Logo by Recorder Dan Gibbons



Advocate Frank Steiner & Chancellor Dave Johnson



Brother Tony Grubbs



GK & Mrs. Bisell McWilliams



Brother Roman Pohlid and Trustee John Mitchell

# Choose Life Sign

On August 23rd, Council 544 joined with our brothers at St Edward Council #9586 to install our Choose Life Sign in front of St Edward Parish on Thompson Lane. Stuart Littleton was joined by Roy Silveira, Bisell McWilliams, and John Jones.

On September 27th the sign was moved up the road to Our Lady of Guadalupe on Nolensville Rd. Our thanks to both parishes for their support, and to brother Stuart Littleton for chairing this effort.



Warden Roy Silveira, Brother John Jones, & Trustee Stuart Littleton



Roy Silveira & Stuart Littleton



John Jones, Roy Silveira & Stuart Littleton

## Ernest Plüs, Insurance Field Agent

Today, I want to address the growth of the Order. Membership growth is the fuel that keeps this great fraternal engine running. All of our charitable works at the council, state, national and international level are thanks to our hard-working members. And more members equals more charity.



We know that the membership blitz is a tried and true way for councils to get more men to join. We see these pushes often in March, in celebration of Founder's Day, and again in October. These drives are successful because brother Knights have increased visibility speaking or presenting during and after Masses and at special events. We must remember that we have a duty to ask each and every Catholic gentleman to join our ranks for the good of the Church, the community and the Order.

During the rest of the year, we often "forget" to ask men to join and to bring their families into the Knights of Columbus family. You probably know an eligible Catholic man you could ask today. What if the only reason he hasn't joined is because no one has asked him yet?

When telling a prospect about the strengths of the Order, don't forget our greatest fraternal benefit: our insurance program. This is often a "selling point" to a potential member who is on the fence. Many members become Knights simply to be able to buy coverage to protect their family. Soon after, they realize the good our charitable works do for their community, and they are proud to be members.

As your professional Knights of Columbus insurance agent, I look forward to helping us grow in fraternity in any way that I can.

**Ernest Plüs, PGK PFN FDD**  
Field Agent  
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Murfreesboro, TN. 37129 US  
[\(615\) 456-7587](tel:(615)456-7587) Mobile  
[ernest.plus@kofc.org](mailto:ernest.plus@kofc.org)

### Newsletter Delivery

Starting with this newsletter, all members with an email address on file will receive the newsletter by email only. Please be sure to add [kofc544@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:kofc544@gmail.com). E-communications is more efficient and more economical.

## Fraternal Calendar 2014 - 2015

- **September 28, 2014**  
**Corporate Communion**  
Attend 11:00 Mass together, followed by lunch at Blackstone
- **September 27—October 19, 2014**  
**Membership Blitz**  
Mass announcements and tabling in the Narthex to promote membership
- **October 19th, 2014**  
**Titans Watch Party / Membership Open House**  
Titans watch party in the Fleming Center, with recruitment presentations
- **November 16—December 22, 2014**  
**See's Candy Sale**  
Sales after Sunday Masses, Nov 16, 23, 30;  
Pickup after Sunday Masses, Dec 15, 22
- **December 13, 2014**  
**Council Christmas Party**

More programs to be announced, so stay tuned.

### In Memoriam

- **Brother John Seigenthaler**
- **Brother George E Barrett**

*May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.*

