

# KNIGHTLY NEWS

January 2020



**St. Stephen Council Hosts  
3rd Annual St. Nicholas Breakfast**



Last month, St. Stephen Council 14084 conducted the 3rd Annual St. Nicholas Breakfast for the parish. The hot breakfast (freshly prepared eggs, bacon, sausage and pancakes) was served to 485 parishioners of St. Stephen. The breakfast is a NO CHARGE event for the Parish. 27 Knights and 12 Columbiettes did the work, volunteering their time and talent to make the event successful.

Deputy Grand Knight Ed Skrobacz for the St. Steven Council 14084 Knights of Columbus presented the program which included the Knights of Columbus Consecration to the Holy Family. This prayer was led by Father Dermot Dunne, pastor of St. Stephen and was followed by his blessing of families who attended the event.

Included in the breakfast event was the opportunity for children to meet St. Nicholas and have pictures taken

and sent to them at no charge. Over 85 children met with St. Nicholas (thank you to Donald Amberg of Council 14084 who graciously served as our saint of the day).

Saint Nicholas was a Bishop in the early church who helped the needy. Over the years, stories of his miracles and work for the poor spread to other parts of the world. He became known as the protector of children and sailors and was associated with gift-giving. Over the course of the years, Saint Nicholas transformed into the character called Santa Claus, who brings Christmas presents to children around the world.

The breakfast was a tremendous success for the Council and was an event of fellowship, food and sharing with our Parish community.



# Worthy Grand Knight Report

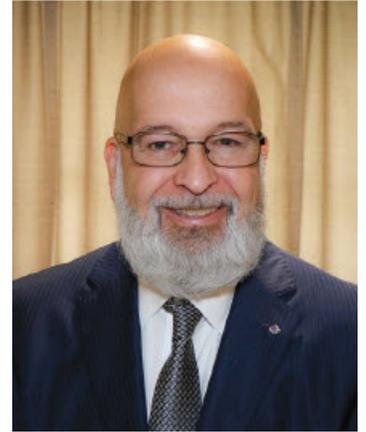
By WGK Alex Czopek

In our newsletter this month, there is an article from Msgr. Mike Heher. I'd like to begin my report with a quote from it:

*James Joyce, the renowned Irish writer, used to define the Catholic Church as "here comes everybody." It's a good description. Not only are we Catholic, we are also catholic, that is, a people of every age, education, status, ethnic background and whatever else may be, from crying babies to seniors with their walkers. We have rapt charismatics who speak in tongues and Trappist monks who rarely say or chant a word except in prayer. Some of us are fervent and devout, much like the canonized saints but without their haloes. But most of us are sinners too, even among the saints. We repent and are in need of God's merciful grace, every day, at every hour.*

brother in our Council. Let's congratulate this worthy family.

Our Knight of the Month is Paul Spinler. Paul has worked 8 events (and has signed up for a 9th) at Raymond James. He volunteers his time and equipment for major events of the Knights including preparation of the food for the successful St. Nicholas Breakfast. He is the vice-president of the St. Stephen school board. Let's recognize his significant contribution to our parish and to this Council.



Tom and Judy Doyle

At the business meeting on January 14th, we viewed a short video from our Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson, to explain a very significant change in the degree exemplification of the Knights of Columbus. It is a reflection of our need, as an order, to attract more men into our ranks.

It's really a matter of how the Knights can fill the need so apparent in today's society. Men who are younger, may have a different perspective, but can certainly benefit from our brotherhood and our order's principles: charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. More detail to follow on changes to our Degree schedule.

Our Family of the Month is the Doyle Family. Tom and Judy serve our parish in so many ways. Of course, Judy is involved in so many ministries. Tom is our parish manager, often a thankless job, and he works to serve St. Stephen every day. The Doyle family has also reached out to parishioners in need, and have made a very significant contribution (financially and by contributing time and labor) to the family of one



Paul Spinler



Dan and Pam Stamey

I'd like to inform the Council that we received a \$2,500 donation from a parishioner of St Stephen who wishes to remain anonymous. That donation is specific to one family of a distressed brother Knight. We are moving it to our account for distressed brothers. It will be used for specific assistance to that family, and if not fully used will be returned to the donor. Please contact me directly if you need more detail.

One more note: Supreme Council recognized Dan and Pam Stamey as "Family of the Month" for the Florida jurisdiction.



# Supreme Monthly Challenge

By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. (Gospel for Jan. 5, Mt 2:9-12)

**W**henver I meet a refugee, immigrant or traveler, I am reminded of things I take for granted. Those who come great distances to find something often draw our attention to the blessings we enjoy. Most of us are fortunate to have Jesus nearby, truly present in the tabernacle of our local church, but we take his close presence for granted all too easily. The Wise Men embarked on a difficult journey to encounter Jesus, but a five-minute drive can seem too far for us. May our daily familiarity with Jesus never result in indifference. May we instead, like the Wise Men, enter the Lord's house to do him homage.

## Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to take to heart the example of the Wise Men and go out of your way occasionally to visit the Blessed Sacrament in a local church. Second, I challenge you to participate in the Faith in Action March for Life or Novena for Life programs or to personally support a local pro-life initiative.

## Questions for Reflection:

What daily opportunities do you have to encounter Christ? Because gratitude counters our tendency to take things for granted, how can you demonstrate daily gratitude in your life? Why is it important to visit Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, and have you benefited from this experience?



*KNIGHTS APPRECIATED - Members of our council were presented with certificates of appreciation for their efforts last year in the Great American Teach-In. Color Corps members taught students at Progress Village Middle Magnet School of the Arts the history of and respect for the American Flag. The students learned the meaning and sacrifice given for them over the history of this great country by so many who served valiantly and boldly so they could enjoy the freedoms they have.*

# Changes to Ceremonials

By State Deputy Scott O'Connor

**H**appy New Year to each and every one of you. Hopefully, you all had a nice Christmas break and are ready and energized to reach our goals in the 2nd half of our Fraternal Year. In this article I want to talk about some of the important changes regarding ceremonials as well as specific duties and tasks that our District Deputies perform.

Our new ceremonial of Charity, Unity and Fraternity officially will be sent out on January 15, 2020, to the Jurisdictions. However, we have some advanced copies and for those of you who are ready with candidates, we can accommodate your needs. Just contact the State Ceremonial Director, Ron Brown, skronbrown@gmail.com for assistance. Here are some important things to remember:

1. The Financial Secretary of each candidate's home council needs to properly fill out the Form 100. The candidate needs to sign as well as the FS and GK. In the box for degree dates, all three degrees must be marked with the same date so that the form shows the candidate took 1st, 2nd and 3rd degree on the same dates and is a 3rd Degree member.

2. The councils admissions committee should meet with the candidate prior to the degree, collect the \$10.00 initiation fee as well as council dues. Note: If the candidate is an E-Member transferring into the council, the council should only collect the \$10.00 initiation fee.

3. The Recorder or Financial Secretary of the host council needs to present the constitutional (council) scroll to the candidates, prior to the ceremony, and have them sign it.

4. Councils should continue to order the First-Degree Kit from Supreme (on-line.) The kit contains the rosary and pin of the order.

5. During the ceremonial the warden shall hand out fibers to the candidates for the charge on Unity; the warden shall also hold the cable and demonstrate its strength at the appropriate time.

6. During the ceremonial the grand knight (or highest-ranking officers present) shall present the rosaries and lapel pins at the appropriate time. The warden shall assist him by carrying the rosaries and pins, handing them to the grand knight one-at-a-time. If there are a large number of candidates, additional officers may assist in the pinning.

7. At the conclusion of the ceremonial, the Council Financial Secretary should promptly submit the Form 100's to Supreme. This should happen no longer than 24 hours from the time of the ceremony. The district deputy for each council represented should immediately file the Form 450. Note: In the absence of the DD, the GK or FS of the council can file the Form 450. In no case should this take longer than 24 hours from completion of the ceremony.



State Deputy Scott A. O'Connor and Mary

Other things to consider when conducting the new ceremonial, when possible always try to have it following a Mass. Hosting a Corporate Communion Mass is a great way to show the parish what the Knights of Columbus are all about. Below is a suggested format for conducting a Corporate Communion Mass event and new ceremonial:

1. Contact the Pastor and get his permission to conduct the Corporate Communion Mass. If possible, provide him with the link or a copy of the Ceremonial of Charity, Unity and Fraternity and invite him to preview it so that he can fully understand what our new ceremonial will represent and how much time it will take to conduct.

2. Once the Pastor has given permission and a date has been selected, establish who the celebrant of the Mass will be. If the council chaplain is the pastor, ask him to be the celebrant and to give the opening and closing prayers during the ceremonial. If the council chaplain is another priest, consider having both present to concelebrate, with the Pastor being the principal celebrant.

3. At least two weeks prior to the Corporate Communion event, place ads in the church bulletin announcing the corporate communion and inviting all parish families to attend. Wording is available for a "pulpit announcement" offering the invitation for all families to witness the ceremonial of the Knights of Columbus following the Mass.

4. Arrange to have an "Open-House" with refreshments following the Corporate Communion Mass. Invite all to stop by and hear about the many benefits of being a Knights of Columbus Family, as well as meant the council members and officers, our insurance

representatives and our district deputy.

5. The week prior to the Corporate Communion, send out reminders to all council members and their families to attend and to wear their council shirts. Make sure you have plenty of literature on “Faith in Action” available and have tables at all the doors to the Church. Have member knights at each of the doors ready to hand out information and interest cards and to collect any cards that interested candidates drop off.

6. Any interested candidates who state that they would like to join our Order, should be signed up via the E-membership portal on the spot. Or, if it is before the ceremonial, they can be signed up either electronically or with a conventional Form 100.

7. After the Corporate Communion and the degree ceremony, invite all present to join you in hospitality at

the open house. This is the opportunity to introduce the new members to the existing council as well as to get them introduced to the Field Agent.

As we move into the 2nd half of our Fraternal Year, DD’s should focus their council’s attention on membership and roundtables. Every council should be focused on achieving the Star Council Award. This award recognizes the great contribution that the individual council has made to its parish community and the Order as a whole. We have many tools to help you. Ask and you shall receive.

Happy New Year. We thank you for your support, your thoughts and prayers. Know that you all are in our daily prayers.

## Knights Bring Relief to Puerto Rico

*By Andrew Fowlers*

**K**nights of Columbus members are coming to aid Puerto Ricans severely impacted by a series of devastating earthquakes.

Knights of Columbus General Agent José Lebron-Sanabria, who led the Knights’ recovery efforts after Hurricane Maria decimated Puerto Rico in September 2017, is coordinating assistance to those in need of the latest natural disaster. He is working with the Diocese of Ponce to bring food, water and nutrition drinks, like Glucerna and Ensure, to a religious monastery, home to 25 elderly nuns. Eight are bedridden and 17 require walkers. He is also working to transport them to safety from Guánica to Ponce.

Meanwhile, Puerto Rico State Deputy Jose Vazquez-Padilla and other Knights purchased 20 canopies to bring to the now homeless living outside of San Antonio Abad parish in Guánica. Not only are they providing immediate shelter, but more than 300 Knights will be cooking 1,000 hot meals for those affected by the earthquakes in Guayanilla on Sunday.

However, 20,000 people from the town of Guánica are living and sleeping outdoors, according to Father Segismundo Cintron, a Knight of Columbus from Don Juan Ponce de León Council 1719. Every structure in town has been deemed unsafe and uninhabitable in the aftermath of the earthquakes.

The island is home to 5,240 Knights and 81 councils. Eight councils in the southern part of the island have



reported urgent and immediate needs. However, the Puerto Rican jurisdiction currently has no money available in their disaster relief fund. Currently, Knights are providing aid out-of-pocket.

The Knights of Columbus are dedicated to helping those in need following natural disasters, donating \$2.7 million in total last year. Recent efforts include helping more than the 70,000 residents of the Bahamas impacted by Hurricane Dorian, the victims of historic flooding in the Midwest and donating more than \$200,000 to victims of the California wildfires.

Following Hurricane Maria, the Knights donated \$1.57 million with \$50,000 of that going to repair an orphanage and school for girls run by the Daughters of Charity.

# Who We Are as Catholics

*Seal Beach CA is one of my favorite places to visit, and St. Anne's one of my favorite churches. In this article, Msgr. Mike gives us a great perspective of who we are as "Catholics" and as "catholic". GK Alex*

**J**ames Joyce, the renowned Irish writer, used to define the Catholic Church as "here comes everybody." It's a good description. Not only are we Catholic, we are also catholic, that is, a people of every age, education, status, ethnic background and whatever else may be, from crying babies to seniors with their walkers. We have rapt charismatics who speak in tongues and Trappist monks who rarely say or chant a word except in prayer. Some of us are fervent and devout, much like the canonized saints but without their haloes. But most of us are sinners too, even among the saints. We repent and are in need of God's merciful grace, every day, at every hour. We even have a name for Catholics who rarely darken the church doors: we say they are "fallen away." Rarely do any of us renounce the faith and become an agnostic or an atheist. The "fallen away" have been known to come back from time to time, particularly at Christmas and Easter. We have to make allowances in such a demographically extensive



body. One way we did it in the past was for the Mass to be in the ancient language of Latin. At Vatican II, the bishops decided that it was better to allow for the Mass to be celebrated in a congregations' vernacular language so that we would have a better sense of what we are doing. We have our liturgies structured so that sacristans, celebrants, servers, singers, ushers and congregants all know what to say and do and when. Entering a church in Germany I was once handed a missal. The person next to me in the pew noticed that I was not using it and so he picked up the missal, found the proper place and handed it to me. I did not have the heart to tell him that I speak hardly a word of German. He wanted to help me join in the celebration. "The Church must be the place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven, and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel." Those words are from Pope Francis, giving a job description of who we are called to be as a community. So please chill when a baby wails. Give wide berth for those with walkers. Help the feeble to rise up from the pew at the proper time. In other words, keep up the good work. Msgr. Mike



## Columbiettes Donate Towels

Two HUGE boxes of towels just came in from the St Stephen Catholic Church Columbiettes. THANK YOU SO MUCH MY SWEET FRIENDS! The Columbiettes have done so much for us. May God bless that beautiful Ministry



# More Than Just Insurance

**H**appy New Year! As we begin the new year it's common to review the past year and look at what we'd like to accomplish in the new one. Already there's been much advertising and talk about 2020 and the relation to our eyesight...how we'll be able to see more clearly, look at the year with new vision, not be shortsighted.

Of course all this talk about the future brings us to the usual thinking about the new year...making resolutions. That is a good thing! All of us want to resolve to do those things that will lead to happier, healthier lives.

Some of the most common resolutions are to lose weight, get in shape and exercise more. Others resolve to stop smoking. If you think about the spiritual, many new year's resolutions concern having a more centered prayer life or receiving the sacraments more often.

Many of my friends think more about quality time... quality time spent with their family and friends; those that are most important in their lives.

As you think about family, one resolution I can help you keep is to update your Family Service Record and take stock of your financial goals. Are you where you want to be? Do you have a plan? With our professional approach using the Profiles+ Forecaster financial needs analysis you can see if there are any gaps in your coverage and how close you are to achieving your goals and aspirations.

Some members are not aware of all the products we have to offer: Life insurance, long term care insurance, disability income insurance and retirement annuities. These products can help protect your family in all the financial situations where you might find yourself. Life insurance protects your loved ones financially if you are not here to help provide.

The need for life insurance changes at different stages of a person's life: Young and unmarried members and the man retiring next month each have life insurance needs, but the type and amount may vary widely. I can give you some advice on that. Disability income insurance provides a paycheck if you are sick or hurt and can't work.

If your company offers some, do you know how much, for how long and is it taxable? I can help sort that out. Long term care insurance protects those assets you've worked so hard all your life to accumulate. Don't deplete all the family's savings for a care event when the Knights can take on that risk. With all the concern about market

volatility and the health of Social Security, our fixed rate annuities guarantee a minimum interest rate for life, the safety of conservative investment strategy and an income stream you cannot outlive.

What's most important to you and your family? There is no cookie cutter answer. That's why I meet with members and their spouses and first determine what issues are of most concern to you.

From there I can help analyze where you are in relation to your goals and construct a plan to get you where you want to go. All done in the comfort of your home and at your convenience.

As a brother Knight and your field agent I have so much more responsibility than a simple financial advisor or stock broker. We'll take a look at your dreams, goals and aspirations for 2020 and beyond. Resolve today to meet with me and ensure that at the end of this new year, your financial picture will be seen with 2020 vision.



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# Poster Contest Winners

By Community Program Director Ed Veronick



On January 7, 2020 the Council was invited to the St. Stephen Catholic School to present awards on the students "Morning Show". The Council was blessed to have "30" students participate in the annual "Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest."

We were introduced by Julianne Gonzalez, Art Teacher, Religious and Middle School Coordinator. The Community Program Director utilized "5" brother Knights to judge the posters; Brothers Mark Lovejoy, Julio Alvarez, Michael Melanson, Carl Alerta and our Grand Knight Alex Czopek.

Judging was for "3" groups of students, ages 5-7, 8-10 and 11-14. The 100-point scale focuses of "3" criteria; slogan, visuals, and overall impact to the reviewers. Our students all received a participation certificate and the 3 winners received a \$50 gift card.

Our winners were Zoe Gonzalez (5-7), Liam Gallagher (8-10), and Jamie Lu (11-14). Congratulations to all of our participants for the 2019 contest and to our 3 Council

Winners who have advanced to the Regional Competition!

It is my honor to chair this event each year and to see all of the talent we have at our St. Stephen Catholic School. With support, and effort provided to our council by our school staff this event continues to grow.



# The Power of Prayer

By Worthy Lecturer Roland Tiso

**A**s we enter a new year that ordinarily would be filled with promise, national prosperity, and continued efforts to achieve peace in our time, but unfortunately portends more divisiveness, political hatred, and the continued threat of civil and or global war, I thought I'd again turn our attention to the power of prayer.

On the day before the fateful airborne assault that would initiate the invasion of France in 1944, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Wolverton, Commanding Officer of the 3d Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment called his men together, and they stood in an orchard on either side of a low earthen mound which fenced the fields. The Colonel said:

"Men, I am not a religious man and I don't know your feelings in this matter, but I am going to ask you to pray with me for the success of the mission before us. And while we pray, let us get on our knees and not look down but up with faces raised to the sky so that we can see God and ask his blessing in what we are about to do:

*God almighty, in a few short hours we will be in battle with the enemy.*

*We do not join battle afraid.*

*We do not ask favors or indulgence but ask that, if You will, use us as Your instrument for the right and an aid in returning peace to the world.*

*We do not know or seek what our fate will be.*

*We ask only this,*

*that if die we must,*

*that we die as men would die,*

*without complaining,*

*without pleading*

*and safe in the feeling that we have done our best for what we believed was right.*

*O Lord, protect our loved ones  
and be near us in the fire ahead  
and with us now as we pray to you."*

Colonel Wolverton would be killed in action on D-Day. His words were cited by President Ronald Reagan in his 1984 speech from Normandy on the 40th anniversary of the invasion. When I read this pre-jump prayer it reminded me once again of the relevance and power of prayer.

If you reflect on his message, there was nothing personal or selfish about it...Only a request that he and his men go forth in battle and acquit themselves with honor and dignity to bring peace and justice to the world. We all know the result of the "Longest Day" and 11 months later the Allies triumphed over Nazi Germany.



Today, as we Americans face our national challenges and with the fate of our Republic on the line once again, let us as Knights look to God who, at key moments in our nation's history, has undoubtedly intervened to protect what many believe to be his last hope for the world. As flawed as it may be, America in its righteous might, continues to make a difference for a better world.

All of us need to pray; for our nation, its leaders, and for the unity of its people to confront the challenges that threaten our nation and the world. There is nothing arrogant or selfish in such a prayer.

Our nation's success; our Christian-Judeo culture, our fundamental way of life, and the peace we all seek depends on it.

*God Bless!*



**St. Stephen Council Officers  
Fraternal Year 2019-2020**

Chaplain

**Father Dermot Dunne**

Grand Knight

**Alex Czopek**

Deputy Grand Knight

**Ed Skrobacz**

Chancellor

**Chris Hobbs**

Warden

**Matt Preszler**

Advocate

**Mark Jovejoy**

Lecturer

**Roland Tiso**

Recorder

**Peter Depa**

Financial Secretary

**Nick Turco**

Treasurer

**Bill Ruppert**

Trustees

**John Berrie**

**Bruce Czaja**

**Guillermo Bambach**

District Deputy

**Ed Sleyzak**

Field Agent

**John Ruckart**

Guards

**Marc Dunne Carl Alerta**

**John Hollingshead**



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Program Director

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Faith

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Life

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**Monsignor John F. Scully  
Assembly #3418 Officers**

Friar

**TBD**

Faithful Navigator

**S/K Ed Sleyzak**

Faithful Captain

**S/K Mark Lovejoy**

Admiral

**S/K Steve Haines**

Faithful Pilot

**S/K Alex Czopek**

Faithful Comptroller

**S/K Nick Turco**

Faithful Scribe

**S/K John Berrie**

Faithful Purser

**S/K Ron Carlson**

Trustees

**S/K Rick Hughes**

**S/K Julio Alvarez, Jr.**

**S/K Pete Card**

Faithful Inner Sentinel

Faithful Outer Sentinel

**S/K Dave Furrugia**

Color Corps Commander

**S/K Rick Gnatowsky**

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Vicente Coronado, Wayne Larson, Chris Hansen, Gerald Coffey, James Brdar, Robert Davis, David Carter Timothy Dowd, Milton Ambrose, Christopher Caffall, Edward Dodenhoff, Greg Wilcoxon, Julio Alvarez Joseph Hagenbarth, Dennis Salathe, Edwin Skrobacz, Geraldo Barrett, James Kelly, Robert Ferry, Nicholas Faratro, Christopher Bauer, Michael Seifert, Jason Rock, Scott Schoenrock, Richard Whitlock, Robert Fisher, Benny Rodriguez, Arthur Killian, Christopher Hobbs, Timothy Childers, Zachary Ensley, Christopher Lewis, Bryan Rodriguez

## Upcoming Events

January 25	Free throw challenge
January 28	Planning Meeting
February 7	Squires Investiture
February 11	Business Meeting
February 18	Mass For People With Disabilities - Chapel
February 22	Men's Conference - more info to come Tootsie Roll Drive Feb. 22-23 Church
February 25	Shrove Tuesday Breakfast at Dinner, for St. Stephen School - FLC
February 28	IncrediBULL Games, Bloomingdale HS
March 29	Corporate Mass 9:30 am

Please check your Council website calendar for more details regarding these events: <http://www.kofc14084.org/>

## Are You A Member?

The Father Michael J. McGivney Guild serves as a source for information about the life, works and spirituality of Father McGivney.

The Guild distributes informational materials about him, receives reports of favors granted through his intercession and oversees the distribution of relics.

Guild members receive regular updates on the progress of Father McGivney's cause for canonization and are invited to participate in promoting



devotion to this Servant of God. Members of the Knights of Columbus are not automatically Guild members and must elect to join the Guild.

The Father Michael J. McGivney Guild Newsletter is published bimonthly except July- August, and is sent free to Guild members.

To join the Guild, register online at: <http://www.fathermcgivney.org/>

## KNIGHTLY NEWS

This newsletter is a publication of St. Stephen Catholic Church Knights of Columbus Council 14084. To make a contribution, submit an article or pictures, please send content to: [communications@kofc14084.org](mailto:communications@kofc14084.org) For more information on our Knights of Columbus Council, visit our website at: [www.KofC14084.org](http://www.KofC14084.org)

