



KNIGHTLY NEWS



JANUARY 2015 ISSUE

ST. STEPHEN COUNCIL 14084



Grand Knight's Report

Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism

My Brother Knights, as we head into the New Year I would like you to think about the reasons why you became a Knight.

Many of us joined because we wanted to give back to the Community as well as help our Church and the Parish. Of course that is what the Knights of Columbus *do*. Some of joined to become part of a group of men who have similar values and ideas. Of course that is what the Knights of Columbus *are*. Some of us joined because of the insurance programs that the Knights of Columbus have to offer. Most of us joined because we were asked by someone who was already a Knight of Columbus and we saw ALL of the great things that the Knights do in the Community, Church, for the Families, as well as for each other.

The Knights of Columbus is the largest fraternal organization of Catholic men in the world. Why? Because we care about each other and we take care of each other as well as taking care of those in need. How do we do this? We do these best when we have participation in the many activities that we have especially in our Council. Yes, we are a

Let it Begin with Me

Over the past few months, we have had several discussions

on how to get more of the 300+ members on our rolls more active in our Council activities. As many of us left Mass on January 1 – the feast of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God – fellow Knight and Music Director Chris Westfall led us in the familiar recessional hymn, “Let there be Peace on Earth” which ends with the line, “...let it begin with me.” These should be the watchwords for the Knights of Columbus Council 14084 in 2015.



Let it begin with me. Tell others what the Knights of Columbus do to support our Church, Parish, and Community. We perform many works of charity and service throughout the year. The money we raise through Raymond James Stadium, Spaghetti Dinners and Kasino Knight financially support the parish school and schools that educate those with special needs, Right to Life organizations and activities, Special Olympics, and Saint Stephen ministries that support the poor such as Saint Vincent de Paul Society and San Jose Home Makers.

Let it begin with me. Participate in at least one Council activity in the next 30 days. Attending a Business Meeting or a Degree Exemplification will recharge your battery and remind you of why you joined the Knights of Columbus. While there, talk to someone you don't know – you will make a friend for life and contribute to the vibrancy of our Council.

Let it begin with me. If you've sponsored someone, contact them and invite them to a Business Meeting. Invite them to Cards and Cigars or the KofC Council 14084 Day at the Lightning Game. If you see someone at work or at Mass and know they are a Knight who hasn't been to a meeting in a while, invite them.

This is why we joined the Knights – to serve God and our fellow men. “Let it begin with me” are appropriate watchwords that should move us to put our faith and principles – **Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism** – into action for 2015. †

busy Council and sometimes it can be overwhelming. Trust me when I say there are times when we, the Directors and Officers, have to step back, take a look at what we have going on and pass on opportunities that have been given us. We don't like to do that but it happens.

We have over 300 registered members in our Council at this point. On average we will have 40-50 members at a meeting, 40-60 at our socials and smaller numbers at some of the events that we have going on during year. Would I like to see all 300 show up at these events, sure, but I am a realist and I understand that this will not happen. I would, however, like to see more participation in the many events we have during the year. It's not that hard to participate, all you have to do is look at the website, www.kofc14084.org pull up the calendar and pick look. There are a lot of activities that you can participate in. We don't take down names and see who has and has not participated we are not like that. We want you to see you and your family! Of course we understand that you cannot attend everything.

With all this being said I am asking all the Knights of Council 14084 to get on the website look at the Calendar and to pick something that interests you and attend. If you cannot get on the website give me a call or email me and I will help you. It does not matter if you have not been around for 6 months, a year or even more! You are a Knight and you are our Brother. If you have an idea that you feel that we should participate in email me or give me a call and let's talk about it. If you are unhappy and disenchanted about the Knights call me and let's talk. If you don't want to talk to me just look around at the Masses and look for someone with a Knights Name badge and talk to them they will be able to help you I am sure. We have a lot of good things going within the Council and I am sure you would be happy to hear about them.

The bottom line is we care about YOU! You are an important part of this Council. I am looking forward to 2015 and to hearing from all of my Brother Knights.

Grand Knight *con't on page 5*

The Power of Jesus

This month, we observed the *Feast of the Baptism of the Lord*. This event in scripture marks the beginning of the earthly ministry of Jesus. John the Baptist indicates that Jesus is the Messiah, the one who was awaited.

This also gives us an opportunity to reflect on our own baptism. Our life of earthly ministry in the name of Jesus began when we were baptized, even if it was when we were infants! The power of the grace of the Sacrament of Baptism has been at work in us throughout our lives.

We continue the ministry of Jesus that he began through the Church. May this new year bring us many ways to be of service to the Lord!

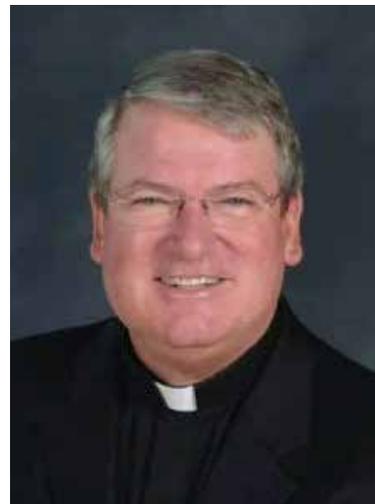
Congratulations also to our young people who were confirmed this Saturday! The Sacrament of Confirmation is a completion of Baptism and our youth are now sent forth with the power of Jesus into the world.

My thanks to all who helped in their preparation for the sacrament and for all parents and other family members who encouraged these young people to take this step of faith. May they be strengthened in their faith each and every day.

We also welcome Fr. Bob Porter to our parish for the winter months. Fr. Porter was with us last year. He is from the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. We are so happy to have his presence with us for the next few months. Welcome, Fr. Porter!

And let us continue to pray for one another. †

Fr. Robert J. Schneider, Pastor



Confirmation Mass Greeters

As we discussed in last week's meeting we have been requested to be greeters at the upcoming Confirmation Saturday January 10 and next Saturday January 17.

We need to have 6 Knights at each event which will give us two at each door. We will be handing out the Programs to the Families as they arrive. Please plan on being there by 9:00 am and you can leave as Confirmation starts.

The dress is Jacket and Tie preferably with of course your name tag. Please let Jim Pryor, Church Director, know if you are able to help. His email is church@kofc14084.org. †



St. Stephen Council Directors and Committees

Membership Director

Chris Klein

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Program Director

Mark Lovejoy

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Church Committee

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Community Committee

Gerry Coffee

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Council Committee

Bruce Czaja - Mickey Cronan

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Family Committee

Matt Corbo - Anthony Basilicato

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Youth Committee

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Squires

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Right to Life

Chris Lewis

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RJS Fundraising

Julio Alvarez

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Lecturer

Tom Cummings

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Degree Team Leader

Rick Hughes

rhughes14084@gmail.com

Help Make a Difference

As we discussed at our January Business Meeting we will be organizing on outreach effort to reconnect with some of our Members who have been out of touch for the last several months. We are calling this **Operation ReYouKnight**.

Re-invigorating KofC Council 14084 requires us to drop members who have no desire to participate or pay dues and reach out to Knights who want to participate, but have fallen into the habit of not participating. This strategy serves to eliminate the financial anchor of paying State dues and frees up time and energy to focus on projects that will keep the Council vibrant and relevant to our Parish. Sustainable membership growth will be a natural by-product of this strategy.

The Way Forward

Drop Knights whose dues are more than 1 year in arrears:

- 100% contact via e-mail and "ReYouKnight" phone tree initiative
- Require only one year's dues from delinquent Knights
- Follow process for dropping Knights off of KofC 14084 rolls – and be willing to take the political heat that will undoubtedly go with it.
- Contact dues-paying members and get them to commit to one Council Activity
- Tailor our efforts: Active Knights contact those they've sponsored and friends in the Parish
- Talk to fellow Knights at the Business Meetings, Exemplifications, and other activities

We've all disappointed when we hear about a new Knight coming to a meeting and being ignored. Let's keep the momentum going! We have done great things in the past and we have great things planned for the future. We want everyone to be optimistic... and patient

Operation ReYouKnight

We will be making calls from January 17th through January 31st. We will also, have two days where we meet as a group at St. Stephen school to make calls: January 17th @ 9:00AM and January 22nd @ 7:00PM. We already have (11) Knights signed up to make calls, but we'd like to get at least 20. It'll make the task so much easier if we all pitch in. So if you would like to assist please contact The Deputy Grand Knight by email: MarkCLovejoy@msn.com or call 813-495-3583. †

The Knights of Columbus Annual Survey

It is that time of year again to complete the Annual Survey. You probably received a letter in the mail showing with a copy of the survey. We have taken that survey and put it on the Website. All you need to do is go to www.kofc14084.org look at the top right hand corner of the home page and you will see the link.

If this is the first time on our website you should come back and keep up with it. It is updated on a regular basis so you can keep up with the Council and the Assembly. †



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

Friar

Fr. Bob Schneider

Faithful Navigator

S/K Julio Alvarez

Faithful Captain

S/K John Cirello

Faithful Pilot

S/K John Montaldo

Faithful Comptroller

S/K Alex Czopek

Faithful Scribe

S/K Mike Grogan

Faithful Purser

S/K Steve Haines

Faithful Inner Sentinel

S/K Ed Sleyzak

Faithful Outer Sentinel

S/K Pete Card

S/K Mark Lovejoy

Admiral

S/K Rick Hughes

Trustee - 1 Year

S/K John Berrie

Trustee - 2 Year

S/K Larry Evers

Trustee - 3 Year

S/K Mike Formato

100 Knights for Life

On Saturday January 10th we held a Pro Life Prayer Vigil at the All Womens Clinic at 3330 West Kennedy Blvd. Tampa 33609. As the 41st anniversary of the landmark Roe vs Wade decision approaches, our desire was to band together with a meaningful presence to pray in peaceful unity for the unborn or to provide counsel.

Despite the cold weather, we had a respectable - and difference making - presence at the abortion clinic. The pro life wishes to thank everyone who chose to stand against this atrocity against human life. We must always remember, life matters. †



A Child is Born



For 7 months the Knights have been hearing about a young lady named Allie who said yes to life. Her story is powerful. God can save the life of a baby through something as simple as a prayer warrior standing on a sidewalk in Tampa.

Will you be there for the next Allie who needs help?

Allie is the reason we stand out in front of the local abortion mills. Allie is the reason we pray in solidarity with others, asking the Holy Spirit to guide us to be the face of Christ and the truth of his love to women in unplanned pregnancies. Allie's story is what we pray and hope for each time we head to the front lines of life and death at the abortion mill. Allie and her baby are the answer to many prayers!

This past December, Allie delivered her little boy. He came into the world at 1:39 AM on December 9th, weighing 6 lbs 3 oz, and measuring 19 inches long.

Allie chose life for her baby boy on May 10th when she walked away from the abortion mill on Kennedy Blvd. during a St. Stephen Respect Life prayer vigil. That May day, she was there not wanting to disappoint her family who had sent money for the procedure, but knowing in her heart that abortion was wrong. When we saw her, she was clearly upset as she paced in front of the office door.

She responded to the prayer warriors offer of help and agreed to meet

A Child is Born con't next page

May God Bless you and may God bless this wonderful Council and the Knights of Columbus! †

Fraternally,

Ed Sleyzak

Grand Knight of Council 14084

grandknight@kofc14084.org

Precepts Of The Church

Being Catholic sometimes asks a lot of us. We are supposed to avoid sin, do good, and serve the poor and marginalized in justice and charity. Those are all things that are required of us by God, or because we are followers of Jesus Christ. But there are also some things we are required to do that have been decreed by the authority of the Church. These "positive laws" set forth five obligations called the Precepts of the Church. As found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, nos. 2042-2043, these precepts are:

- To attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and to rest from servile labor.
- To confess our sins at least once a year.
- To receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter Season.
- To observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence.
- To help provide for the needs of the Church.

It's good to know the minimum that's required of us. And God will always challenge us to do more than the minimum. Indeed, the words of Jesus in the Gospels, "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect," and "Love one another as I have loved you," set an ideal for us that we'll never completely achieve. But these ideals should keep us aiming high. The precepts of the Church are important statements of the Church's expectations of her members, but our faith will always challenge us to reach higher than the minimum. †

with them at a local coffee shop. She had no family member or mentor willing to show a wayward child the love, support and guidance she needed. She was desperate for help and living in her car as she had no home.

Clearly, the Holy Spirit was there during the dialog as it was discovered that she had an estranged sister in Orlando, and she might be able to stay at her sister's house temporarily. A cousin of one of the prayer warrior's worked at the very same Orlando area Catholic Church, Allie had occasionally attended and was able to connect Allie with a local pregnancy care center.

Kellie, from JMJ Life Center, took Allie under her wing as a big sister, mother, and mentor. She has guided Allie through the pregnancy and even helped her secure funding for housing and college courses through a state program designed to help young adults who have aged out of foster care. Allie now has a part time job and is taking online classes toward her goal of a college degree.

Thank you for all your support. Thank you for the gift of diapers and wipes, especially Tom Cummings' monthly bundle. Thank you for your donations of money toward baby supplies for Allie and others. Thank you for your prayers, and above all, for your time spent on the front lines as the face of Christ's love to others.

Please continue to pray for this young family! Join the effort at our monthly vigils on Kennedy Boulevard. Lives are saved by your presence and prayers.

May Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and all the Angel and Saints protect and guide Allie and her little one as they journey together in faith throughout their lives together as a family. †

Sunday Night Bowling is Back

The Knights of Columbus - St Stephen Council 14084 is starting up their 2015 Winter Spring Bowling League. This is an 14-week co-ed bowling league that will begin on January 18th and run through May 3rd, with bye weeks on February 1st for the Super Bowl and April 5th for Easter Sunday.



As usual, we will bowl a three game set on Sunday nights starting at 7:00 PM at the Alley of South Shore. The cost for each 3 game set is \$12.00 per person. If you do not have a full team of four bowlers do not worry. We will form new teams several days before the first night.

Please us know no later than 6:00PM January 12, 2015. if you wish to participate or if you wish to change from a sub and join a team.

Thanks so much for your participation. We know you will enjoy. †

St. Stephen Council January Birthdays

Julio	Alvarez	1/23
Milton	Ambrose	1/5
Geraldo	Barrett	1/17
Christopher	Caffall	1/5
Timothy	Childers	1/12
Gerald	Coffey	1/17
Vicente	Coronado	1/21
Paul	Crescimone	1/11
Robert	Davis	1/28
Reynold	De Marco	1/13
Zachary	Ensley	1/12
Robert	Fisher	1/27
Rich	Hamlin	1/23
Chris	Hansen	1/19
Christopher	Lewis	1/30
Patrick	Murphy	1/21
Jason	Rock	1/18
Joseph	Rynne	1/12
Michael	Seifert	1/14
Eric	Sessums	1/29
Christopher	Stockelman	1/13
Gregory	White	1/14/
Richard	Whitlock	1/17/
Jesse	Williams	1/6



Insurance Check-Up for 2015

Can you believe it will soon be 2015? I hope that 2014 was a healthy, prosperous year for you and your family. It's said that time flies, and the older we get, the more that statement seems true. As we review the past year and prepare to welcome a new one, we wonder where the time goes.

If you're like most people, you've made some resolutions for 2015. If I may, I'd like to make two suggestions regarding your resolutions. First, write them down. A resolution is really a goal for the year and, until you commit a goal to writing, it's nothing more than a wish. Writing a resolution down is the first step towards achieving it. Whether your goal is to lose weight, contribute more time and money to charity, read more or watch less television, you're more likely to accomplish it if you write it down.

Second, schedule some time to visit with me, your professional Knights of Columbus insurance agent. The "insurance check-up" that I'll provide (free of charge, by the way!) will quickly identify any gaps in your family's life insurance program. And you'll want to fill those gaps now, not later. Because unlike many other products, you need more than money to obtain life insurance. You also need good health, and no one will ring a bell warning you when your health is about to change.

Knights of Columbus life insurance offers something precious few other financial products can – guarantees. As long as you pay your premiums, the policy proceeds will be there for your beneficiaries should something happen to you. We call that peace of mind, and that's (as they say in the credit card commercials) priceless. †

Contact me at 813-728-5338 or Charles.Lusky@kofc.org. Let's talk.

Upcoming Mass Dates

Jan 24, 2015	4:00 PM 4th Degree Renewal of Obligations and 4th Degree Corp Mass (Saturday)
May 3, 2015	8:00 AM Corporate Mass (Sunday)

What is a Knights of Columbus Corporate Mass? Many Councils join together to share a Mass as a corporate body in order to strengthen our bonds of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. All are encouraged to attend these Corporate Mass' with their Families, as we celebrate and share our faith as one Knights of Columbus family.

Upcoming Dates

Saturday January 10	Foundations for Life Vigil
Friday January 23	Cards & Cigars
Saturday January 31	Lightning Game
Saturday February 14	Marriage Vow Renewal Day
Saturday February 21	Council Retreat at The House of Prayer

A Day of Reflection



St. Stephen Council Officers

Fraternal Year 2014-2015

Chaplain

Father Bob Schneider

Grand Knight

Ed Sleyzak

Deputy Grand Knight

Mark Lovejoy

Chancellor

Larry Evers

Warden

John Berry

Advocate

Rick Hughes

Recorder

Paul Spinler

Financial Secretary

Alex Czopek

Treasure

Bill Rupert

Trustees

**Steve Haines, Patrick Roach,
Julio Alvarez**

Guards

**Bob Murray, Pete Card,
Rich Sarkowski**

KNIGHTLY NEWS

This newsletter is a publication of St. Stephen Catholic Church Knights of Columbus Council 14084.

For more information or to offer a contribution, visit our website at:

www.KofC14084.org

The St. Stephen Knights of Columbus Council is having their annual Retreat, at Our Lady of Divine Providence House of Prayer, on February 21, 2015. Fr. Robert Credecha, the Pastor at Corpus Christi parish in Tampa, will be leading our Retreat. Fr. Credecha is an energetic up-beat speaker and I know this time together will be a very positive experience for all the Knights who are able to attend.

I am sure like me, sometimes we all have doubts about; Why am I a member of the Knight of Columbus? What do we really accomplish as Knights? How can we renew the motivation that caused us to want to be in the Knights of Columbus?

The goal of our Retreats is to come together as a distinct and unique Catholic Men's Group with a unified commitment to perform and support many charitable causes in our community. Through our common purpose, we grow stronger in our Knights' Council and benefit by working as a team.

Let's take a positive step together and reserve February 21, 2015 for ourselves and our Council as a Day of Renewal for all. The Retreat Center is located on the banks of Tampa Bay, in Clearwater, FL. The address is 702 South Bayview Ave. †

St. Stephen Groundbreaking

