



# CRUSADER CHRONICLE

Volume 1, Issue 3

October 2017

## GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Bill Bader

It is my hope that you and your families had a Blessed and Merry Christmas Season. As I write this it is the eve of the Epiphany, which is the feast celebrating the visit of the Magi or Three Kings reaching their destination after following the star to find the new born King. These men of prominence in their own land traveled great distances on an arduous journey to adore the Christ. Who they were, what they were exactly, where they came from and actually how many is a mixture of tradition and mystery, which adds to the richness and beauty of our Catholic Faith.

As we celebrate Christmas and the Feast of the Epiphany, we to must be mindful of our duty to adore our Lord through prayer, worship and self-sacrificing good works. St. Gregory Nazianzen (d. 389) preached, "Let us remain on in adoration; and to Him, who, in order to save us, humbled Himself to such a degree of poverty as to receive our body, let us offer not only incense, gold and myrrh..., but also spiritual gifts, more sublime than those which can be seen with the eyes" (Oratio, 19).

As a Council through our Giving Tree and Adopt-A - Family programs we gave to those in need, to those that humbled themselves to receive gifts and food from our Council, just as Our Lord humbled Himself to become a newborn child born in a manger to receive the gifts from the Magi. Charity (Love) is the First Principle of the Knights of Columbus, and the Crusader Council has lived out that principle in 2017. This was acknowledged by our Supreme Council as our Council was presented with the Columbian Award for fulfilling the requirements of service in the areas of Church, Community, Family, Youth and Culture of Life (Pro-Life). From our Developmental Disability

## Council Officers (2016 / 2017)

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Drives, Scholarships and support for Seminarians and St Simon Students, Youth Soccer and Basketball Challenges, Poster Contests, 5th Sunday Mass and Rosary, Light Up For Christ and the many other programs and volunteer hours by Knights and Ladies this Council lives out our call to Love our Neighbor. In the case of the Magi that distant neighbor was a newborn child and the Son of God.

We had a very successful 2017 in many ways, but it also was a year that we lost our Brother Sir Knight Lenny Meyer. Lenny was a dear friend and a pillar of our Council, who battled cancer heroically for many years. I was blessed as many of you were to know Lenny as a Brother Knight and through Parish functions including the ACTS Retreats. Lenny had a deep devotion and love for Our Lord and his beloved family. I know he was smiling down on all of us this Christmas, but especially on his dear Elizabeth who did an outstanding job as always leading the Adopt-A-Family program this year with help from the Sanfilippo's and the Thompson's. Barry and Pat as always did an outstanding job on the Giving Tree. In this newsletter there are some letters from the organizations and others that were grateful for the generosity of our Council.

I also want to thank all who helped make our Light up for Christ and Christmas Party/Dinner a success. Special thanks to Steve and Tracy Brokaw for their help in setting up and tearing down both events. They are quite often some of the first to arrive and last to leave our events, which I am very grateful for personally. The food was great from Orlando's thanks to one of our newest members Mike Orlando, who made sure we had plenty of great food.

Congratulations to our Knight of the Year for 2017 Brother Chris Keppler our Deputy Grand Knight. Chris has been an invaluable part of our Council the last few years and continues to take on more responsibility each year including taking over the Light Up for Christ after the passing of our Brother Joe Limmer. Joe would be proud of Chris for his efforts to keep this great tradition alive and to Joe's high standards.

As you all know this year Light up for Christ was a night we will never forget, as it went from joy and music to fear and prayer as our Brother Mark Sienkiewicz suffered a massive heart attack. Thanks to

Our Lord our prayers were answered as members of our Parish and Council jumped into action calling 911, running across the street to get the paramedics and most importantly getting the AED from the Church then Michele Snyder knowing how to use the AED after recent training to restart Marks; heart. The doctor said the AED saved Mark's life, so thanks to Michele and everyone who had anything to do with getting AED's in our Parish. Also a special thanks to the Mehlville Fire District First Responders that were there in minutes to take Mark to the hospital. We were blessed to witness a miracle of Christmas that night.

Let's have a great year in 2018 as we look to have a couple new events with a Car Show in April and a Washer Tournament on May 19th, but for these events to be successful they need for each of you to get involved on the committee and at the event. We also need to focus on getting new members to join our Council, because new members bring new ideas, new energy and their families to be part of our community. I am asking each member to reach out to a parishioner in the next month and ask them to join then sponsor them by accompanying them to the Admissions (1st) Degree and showing them how to be a Knight.

Finally I want to thank Corey Inskip for his great work on this Newsletter, which we had discussed for several years as a Council, but Corey made it happen. Also for his leadership on the Developmental Disability Drive and Kids Rock Cancer fundraisers.

Please keep our sick and homebound Brother Knights and Ladies in your prayers.

I wish all of you and your families a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Vivat Jesus!

Bill Bader

### GOOD OF THE ORDER

Youth of the Month: Owen Kepler

Knight of the Month: Frank Sanfilipo

Family of the Month: Thompson family

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Chris Hof

### Substance Abuse and Alcohol Awareness Poster Contest

The St. Simon 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be participating in the Substance Abuse and Alcohol Awareness poster contest this March, however, this contest is open to any ten or eleven year old. Contact Chris Hof ([hofcj1@gmail.com](mailto:hofcj1@gmail.com); 314-691-2727) for more information.

### Christmas Light Contest Winner

Like Christmas lights? Did you know that our very own Chris Hof won KEZK's Christmas Light contest for the St. Louis area. While the competition was pretty stiff, Clark, I mean, Chris was able to come out on top. This comes after placing in the top five last year. Be sure to stop by next year to experience the glow for yourself. Just look for the neighborhood where all of the other house's lights are dimmed really low.



## FROM SUPREME

Today, as the nation seeks a path through divisions, the need to rediscover the moral message of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is vital.

Dr. King's commitment to nonviolent protest was a principled response to the verifiable injustices and inequality faced by minorities, and continues to hold relevance today. His 1957 essay, "Nonviolence and Racial Justice," outlined the path for a love-based, nonviolent resistance.

"At the center of nonviolence stands the principle of love," Dr. King wrote in the essay. "In struggling for human dignity, the oppressed people of the world must not allow themselves to become bitter or indulge in hate campaigns. To retaliate with hate and bitterness would do nothing but intensify the hate in the world. Along the way of life, someone must have sense enough and morality enough to cut off the chain of hate. This can be done only by projecting the ethics of love to the center of our lives."

In a *Time* magazine op-ed, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and Pentecostal minister Rev. Eugene F. Rivers, III said if Dr. King were here today, he would have explicitly condemned all the forms of violent protest in modern society.

"The better path, the only path to our salvation as a country," they wrote, "was made clear by Rev. King in 1967: 'The beauty of nonviolence is that in its own way and in its own time it seeks to break the chain reaction of evil.' We can again break that chain reaction, and the prescription is the same one given by Rev. King. Now as then, religious leaders have taken the first step. For their own sake — and that of future generations — the rest of the country should do so as well."

## MEMBERSHIP

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson renewed a call to recruit younger members to the Knights of Columbus, saying the Order's future is at stake.

"This Order was started by a 30-year-old (Father Michael J. McGivney)," Anderson said at the Mid-Year Meeting of State Deputies in Washington D.C. "And you know, I have to believe that Michael McGivney was not the only 30-year-old who can make a contribution to the Knights of Columbus. That's why we are putting so much emphasis on bringing young men in. For the future of the Order we have to."

The mid-year meeting brings together state deputies and others from all of the Order's jurisdictions to discuss key issues. State deputies from 71 jurisdictions attended. Attendees participated in workshops and heard addresses from Anderson and Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori.

In his address on Saturday, Anderson laid out a bold vision of using technology and innovative approaches to attracting new members. The centerpiece of this is the Online Membership initiative that is being rolled out gradually across the U.S. This program allows men to join the Order online, with the goal of eventually bringing them into councils and the degree process.

Online Membership is a portal to bring in new prospects and introduce them to the Knights of Columbus, Anderson said.

"We have to do it because we owe it to them that they can invest in a solid insurance program that's going to protect their families; that they can get the spiritual formation and the spiritual strength that's going to help them lead their families.

"We owe it to them to open up the brotherhood of Catholic men who will be there to help them

and who they can help by their service. We owe it to them to open up for their membership an organization that's effective in solving problems in their neighborhoods. So, we have a mission."

As part of the strategy to attract younger men, the Order announced plans earlier this year to phase out the decades-old Fourth Degree uniforms in favor of a more modern look.

Anderson noted on Saturday that new additions to the Fourth Degree have nearly doubled from 2016 and that suspensions and withdrawals are significantly lower. Demand for the new uniform, meanwhile, has created a backlog. As a result, Anderson announced that the Order would extend the deadline for using the new regalia by one year to June 30, 2019.

It was the Online Membership program, though, that dominated much of the discussions during the weekend meeting. The program has been rolled out in seven states so far, with it being made available to another group of states in January. The program will be fully operational in the next fraternal year.

"If you want to know what the future is going to look like, it's going to have a greater reliance on technology via eMember-type approaches to bringing in members," Anderson said.

Online Membership will allow the Knights of Columbus to sell more insurance and to ensure it can fulfill its mission of charity, he said.

"It's about bringing in more members," he said. "It's about making our local councils more dynamic. It's about the good of the Knights of Columbus, and growing the Knights of Columbus in all its dimensions."



### **BIRTHDAYS/ ANNIVERSARIES**

Due to time constraints the January and February Birthdays will be included in the next newsletter.

Brother Mark Sienkiewicz' son Josh took his Simple vows at St Louis Abbey in December.

### **Crusader Council #11146**

11001 Mueller Road  
St. Louis, MO 63123

### **Council Business Meeting Schedule**

3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM

### **Council Officers/Directors Meeting Schedule**

1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM

### **Meeting Location**

St. Simon the Apostle Catholic Church  
11011 Mueller Road  
Saint Louis, MO 63123 US

### **Council Websites**

Crusader: <https://kofcknights.org/CouncilSite/?CNO=11146>

State: <http://kofcknights.org/StateCouncilSite/?CN=US&ST=MO>

Supreme: <http://www.kofc.org>