



**THE KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS**  
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

**NEWSLETTER**  
Council 9997, St. Thomas More, Austin, Tx

## JANUARY 2020

This is Council 9997's Fourth Quarter 2019 newsletter. We want to reach out to Council members routinely—both to keep everyone up-to-date on our many activities and to solicit your feedback on the Council and its direction. We're especially looking for comments from brother Knights who, for whatever reason, haven't been able to participate on a regular basis. This fraternal year is again focused on supporting our parish. As part of that, we're determined to reach out to **every** member of the Council. We need your help to broaden participation in our activities and to bolster the spirit of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism that exemplifies the Knights of Columbus.

**As you read through this newsletter, we hope you'll find something that draws you in for future events. Help us understand what you want Council 9997 to be. We're set on making the Council a place you and your family will enjoy. Also, please let us know if there is some reason that makes it difficult for you to join us for our meetings, socials, and charitable projects—whether it's something as simple as "I need a ride to the meetings and activities", or something more complicated. You can contact any Council officer through our website at [STMKnights.org](http://STMKnights.org), either by email or phone.**

## ACTIVITIES IN QUARTER IV OF 2019

### Grand Knight's Report

Public Rosary – Many thanks to Brother Rick Pekkala for his outstanding leadership in setting

up the public rosary in October. This was well attended and an excellent opportunity to demonstrate our Catholic Faith.

Diaper Drive – This was another very successful project on several levels. Steve Isaacson, John Smith and Kevin Brinkman brought a large delivery of donations to the JPPII LifeCenter from our parishioners. Many thanks also to Frank Kelly for handling donations at all masses all month. We partnered with the parish on this and want to continue such partnership on as many activities as possible. An integral part of the parish is our goal. The delivery participants toured the facility and as always were very impressed. The staff at JPPII noted that they were in danger of running out of many of the items we brought and thus it was particularly appreciated.

Funfest – First Saturday in May, May 2. This May include the Crawfish Boil.

Fish Fry – David Sanchez Sr. reported 15-16 members emailed him to volunteer. The last week of February is our first Fish Fry. There will be a Fish Fry meeting Jan 28 at Rudy's at 7 PM. We have permission to put up the roof over our outside cooking area. We need a day to clean the Fryers. This year, we want to get other ministries involved and will have the committee make such decisions when they meet. Man Up wants to help. We can get another ministry to take over the dessert donations, and can use help with clean up for sure.

Christmas Party - **The Christmas Party at the Oasis.** This was a wonderful time and we had a beautiful sunset for the occasion. Fr. Jared was able to attend for a short time before he had to go to St Vincent DePaul for the penance





service. Thank you for the Knights that attended.

Golf Tournament — On October 14, Columbus Day, we held the Annual Michael Kelly Golf Tournament to raise funds for STM Mobile Loaves and Fishes. The start was at 12:30 PM at Twin Creeks Country Club. We had a full slate of 145 players (actually one more than full). Thanks to the many volunteers who made this a huge success. Steve Isaacson reported that we raised almost \$14,000 for Mobile Loaves and Fishes and an additional \$2500 retained for other charitable activities of the Council.



The Knights Check-In Golf Participants

Holiday Nut Sales Fundraiser Campaign - Due to

the calendar, we started our campaign with the Bazaar weekend sales one week prior to two weeks in a row outside masses. We were privileged again to work with Brother Knight Matt Russell of Russell Pecans and Fine Candies in Waco, Tx. He kept us supplied with everything we requested, and held his costs to us to that of the prior two years.

We had a total of 36 Knights who helped out over the 5 weekends of sales, and are pleased to report that we raised just over \$5,000. This will be used to continue our support of three (3) seminarians and also to fund other worthy causes that come along during the year, particularly those unforeseen that require urgent attention. Thanks to all who were able to participate!

**Breakfast with Santa - December 14 from 8 to 11AM in the PAC.** The council served pancakes, sausage, fruit (grapes and apples), orange juice and milk to the children and parents attending the parish's Breakfast with Santa program. We teamed with the parish to put on this event and we had 9 Knights come out to help including our very own Santa. Great job on this project and we have gotten a lot of positive comments.

A Special Thanks from the Grand Knight: Dear Fellow Knights of Council 9997.

I just want to thank all of you for the efforts that were done by the Knights in the month of December, remember this was just one month

●The great Christmas Party for the Council at the Oasis.





- The distribution of Advent Giving Tree items to the 12 Non Profit Organizations. This was great
- The Breakfast with Santa which we helped put on by having our very own Santa there and the great breakfast that was done
- The Lights and Luminaries that were done to make the Church grounds look beautiful
- The excellent work that was done to park cars and help the cars to exit the grounds on Christmas Eve
- The number of Ministers that help make the Masses great during Advent and Christmas

God Bless you and your families

Kevin Brinkman CMA  
Grand Knight – St Thomas More Knights of  
Columbus  
PGK, FDD, FDioD

## Deputy Grand Knight's Report of Committees

The following plans and suggestions have been presented by the various Directors

### Community – Dan St Andre –

Essay Contest and Free Throw – Essay contest to be conducted at Life Teen retreat. Essays come to us and we judge. Free Throw will be done in conjunction with Game Night of RE. At the

meeting we approved \$400 for two additional hoops.

Wheelchair – We have already budgeted for one and have funds for another. We can obtain additional for \$150 each; bright yellow with K of C identification. First two will be prominently available at the PAC and Church. We would like to place a donation jar at our meetings to fund more than two.

### Faith – Michael Yarberry –

Clergy Appreciation Dinner: This event will be Feb 11 at St Helen's. We pay for Priests and Deacons, and their wives and include Fr. Elmer. Cost is \$50. We will pay the additional table cost of \$100 for a table of 8 (and reserve 2 tables). We will also have a gift card of \$25 for each priest and deacon. We had 10 of the 16 spaces taken as of the meeting. If you are interested, contact Steve Isaacson.

The Annual Catholic Men's Conference will be Saturday, February 8, 2020 from 8 AM – 4 PM. It will be held at 7311 Decker Ln, Austin, TX 78724; this is the Expo Center off Decker Lane. This is titled "No Man Left Behind – Go Make Disciples". Speakers will be Dr. Edward Sr, Fr. Ken Geraci, Curtis Martin, and Bishop Joe Vasquez. Get tickets at CENTEXCATHOLIC.COM. Cost is \$50 Regular Admission.

Family – David Sanchez Jr. - David reported on ideas being considered. First of all, Food for Families. This is part of the Columbian award, a subset of Star Council award. We must document everything, e.g. how many canned goods, etc. Also, it was noted that our donation to MLF from funds raised at the Golf Tournament qualifies as part of "Food for





Families". Also being pursued is the idea of awarding a Family of the Month Parish Wide. Recommendations would be solicited from each of the parish ministries and then a drawing would select the Family. We are scheduled to run this past Fr. Michael, of course. The submission should include the reason for nomination. Keep Christ in Christmas – We sold magnets Keep Christ in Christmas Magnets in conjunction with Holiday Nut Sales. Finally, there is a requirement for Consecration of the Holy Family. This would involve a mass and could combine with Faith in our Families.

Life – Interim Director Kevin Brinkman- We start with four key ideas. March for Life, January 24, 6+ Knights and 50 people overall, and perhaps inclusion of Life Teen can help with the numbers. Other Ministries include Respect for Life and Project Rachael. The march is downtown to the Capital. Choose Life signs are available free. Pregnancy Center Support. We can do the Lifesaver Sunday drive for Annunciation Maternity Home. Cost is minimal again, around \$100. Additional programs to the four above include a Mass for People with Special Needs, Fatima Rosary in the Park (Oct 12), Ultrasound, and Special Olympics (either \$2,000 or 200 hours). All of the above are listed under the Columbian Award.

Membership – David Sanchez Sr. - We made use of the Ministry Fair in September. There is also a video available, Why We Become Knights that describes projects and fraternity. We could hold a monthly Open House that would also bring in the wives of prospective members. We could have cake and coffee. Using the list of new parishioners as they come in, we could contact them. We could invite potential members to our social. Overall, we need a soft approach so we

know that potential members understand what we do and are committed to be a part of our activities, not just to get a name on the role. Everyone has someone they know who they can ask and sponsor, which represents a great potential.

Retention – Steve Haecker – Steve has pulled together a committee to make contacts periodically. We split up the membership list and each of the committee members is telephoning to inquire what we can do for them to get them involved with us again. We want to first of all determine if they are in need of anything, i.e. perhaps a health issue.

## Meals at Our Business Meetings

At the November meeting, Brother Deacon Dan Lupo brought us a fine Italian dinner of Rigatoni with sausage and peppers, completed by garlic break and Salad, with cookies for dessert. This was truly a special meal and we all thank Deacon Dan for going above and beyond to provide us with this marvelous meal.

At the January meeting, Brother Jim Ferguson brought us a tasty meal of meatball sandwiches that rivaled any of the best sub shops and restaurants, with a delicious side of macaroni and cheese with cookies for dessert. We all thank Jim for preparing this delicious meal.

If you have not been able to get out for a meeting, consider coming out and enjoying a meal and fraternity with your Brother Knights in the Family Center. Meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month and start with the rosary at 6:30 PM (or Mass), dinner follows and the meeting starts at 7:30 PM promptly. We are usually updated with a message from Fr.





Michael via our Grand Knight, an interesting lecture item from Lecturer Pat Larkin, and are usually finished by 8:30 PM or shortly thereafter.

to come in costume were welcomed, but not it was not a requirement. The only requirement is to come out, bring some food and yourselves to share, and have a good time!

## **Chancellor's Report**

EIM – Fifty (50) members have completed the training and thus are current.

Volunteer hours posted – We had 3100 hours posted in 2019. Last year we had 6000+. Jim is working to determine what might have been missed. It was suggested that a key difference was the fact we did not do a Fish Fry campaign in 2019.

The Grand Knight noted that part of the importance is to maintain our non-profit status with the IRS as it demonstrates our volunteer nature.

Finally, Jim thanked brother Brian Mego for his amazing support of our website. His contributions allowed for paying membership dues online, ordering holiday nuts, and ordering Christmas Party tickets among many other things.

## **Upcoming Events -**

**Join In For Socials** – The next social will be Wednesday, Jan 29, in the PAC. This will be a Fish Fry put on by the Fish Fry Committee. Usually we meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, but this is an exception and we will meet on the 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday. In part this provides a practice run to get ready for the Lenten Fish Frys. We try to make the socials a lot of fun. Usually they are a pot luck with a theme. As an example, last fall we had a Halloween social. Those who wanted



Brother Larry Payne  
in Costume at Halloween Social



Even Dracula Made an Appearance





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**Basketball Free Throw** – Sunday, Jan 12. Dan St Andre still needs volunteers for either a 2 PM preparation session or 5:30 to 9 PM for the event.

**Men's Conference** - The conference will be Saturday, February 8, 2020 from 8 AM – 4 PM. It will be held at 7311 Decker Ln, Austin, TX 78724; this is the Expo Center off Decker Lane.

**Clergy Appreciation Dinner:** This event will be Feb 11 at St Helen's.

**Fish Fry** – Planning meeting Jan. 28 at 7 PM at Rudy's. First Lenten Fish Fry, Feb. 28.

