



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

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

OCTOBER 2019

This is Council 9997's Third 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, either by email or phone.

ACTIVITIES IN QUARTER III OF 2019

Grand Knight's Report

Supreme Convention – At the August meeting GK. Kevin Brinkman thanked all for the

opportunity to attend the Supreme Convention in person. Approximately 120+deacons and priests and rows of Bishops and Cardinals were at the opening mass. Masses were presided over by Archbishops or Cardinals. A great deal of emphasis was placed on the places of persecution in the Holy Land, Syria and Iraq. Also, our Southern Border was prominent in the remarks made with \$250,000 contributed to help provide humanitarian aid at the border. The emphasis was on humanitarian aid and not the politics. Faith and Action was a priority, emphasizing for us to take our actions with Faith at the center. As with the time of our founding by Fr. McGivney, Catholics are being looked down upon at this time in our country. You can go online to the Supreme website and listen to Carl Anderson's speech.

Kevin had dinner with members from Maryland and Minnesota. Three Bishops and a Cardinal attended from our area. We had a strong organization from Texas. We want to be leaders in Texas. This starts in our Council. Kevin showed us a card "I am a Knight" that can fit in your wallet. We need to get some of these and use them when speaking to a potential new member, and for points to be made when talking to under utilized Knights.

Funfest – First Saturday in May, May 2. This May include the Crawfish Boil. The parish looked at a Live Auction in September. However, this was cancelled since in the past it has required more time.

September Report - We had a great month of August, highlighted by the Fr. McGivney mass which was a great success. We are continuing good discussions with the clergy and staff, and there is a good vibe developing with good





suggestions for ways the council can help the parish. The Grand Knight noted that the last meeting went too long, and that he wants to respect the time of the members. Therefore, meetings are targeted for approximately one hour, and to assure we don't go over too far we will start to wrap up any business meeting at 8:40 if we are still going, and will table remaining items for the next meeting.

Deputy Grand Knight's Report of Committees

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

Faith – Michael Yarberry – First of all, Michael noted that he is contacting seminarians for an update on their experience moving toward the priesthood. Regarding Adoration, it is possible that our role could be as “back-ups” for anyone who has to cancel, i.e. we would have our volunteers on a contact list as “back-ups” to be contacted anytime someone has to cancel. At this point, frequently the leader has taken it on himself.

Fr. McGivney Mass - Thirty-nine members attended the Fr. McGivney mass, a great turnout. Every area of the liturgical ministers had K of C representation. Fr. Michael gave several very supportive comments and explained our role in supporting the parish as well as highlighting our founder. The cake service afterward also supported “Community”. Finally, Michael is looking into a Mass for Families, traditionally held in December, demonstrating our Faith in the Church and Blessing the Family.

Thanks to all who attended the Corporate

Communion. We had 20 Knights and 12 spouses and 579 at mass. Although the next one is scheduled Dec 29, we will probably cancel since this is during the holidays and many are travelling. The next one is likely to be at a 7:30 AM Sunday mass, with the possibility of going somewhere for breakfast afterwards; look for this down the line. Following that, we anticipate holding one at the 5 PM Sunday Mass with the hope of capturing a younger crowd due to the Teen Mass.

Community – Dan St Andre – We are following the Star Council listing.

Anyone mechanically handy, we need help assembling two (2) portable basketball hoops/backboards 9 AM Saturday, October 12.

Involvement of Younger Knights – Goal is to involve other ministries. Essay Contest – These will be judged with prizes awarded. At the Life Teen Retreat in November, Teens will write their essays. They will be judged and passed to us for an expected 2nd round of judging. Free Throw- 3 or 4 Knights lead it, but with Religious Ed doing it as a part of their “Game Night”. Hopefully, we get some under 40 year olds involved. First step is preparing the existing hoops/nets, then running the contest, but with that it will be in cooperation with Religious Education Game Night. CPR/First Aid Class- we arrange and sponsor it and hopefully get 18-40 year olds out for this activity. Quarterly Social- Not on a weeknight, with something for young parents and something for kids and perhaps with Life Teens doing babysitting.

Helping Hands – This is a “Have to Do”. The challenge is identifying targets for us to serve. Examples are: Taking someone to a Doctor's





appointment, mowing someone's lawn who is unable to do so, etc., helping some of our Brother Knights needing assistance (e.g. those we don't see that we need to contact and identify those in need).

Under Columbian Award (a subset of Star Council) there are specific activities listed. This includes "Coats for Kids". Now through Nov – Solicit funds for children's coats, hoodies, sweaters. Consider placing collection points around the Parish campus. Plan: One Knight to lead and engage other Knights and Parish. Wheelchairs, Now through Nov – Solicit funds to acquire six (6) chairs for use at STM. Sanctuary 2; Brennan 1; PAC 1; Life House 1; RE 1. Chairs are \$150 each. Plan: One Knight to lead and engage other Knights and parish. Habitat for Humanity, Need to tap into those involved already, in council and in parish. We need to record additional service hours (looking for 200) and \$1,000. We need a captain. Dan needs a list. Finally, Disaster Preparation– How will the Council respond to a disaster that is local to our Parish?

- What resources can we bring to bear – people, equipment, facilities, etc.?
- Which services can we perform?
- What is the scope of our response? How quickly can we engage? How long will it take to deliver our services? How long can we stay involved?
- GK Brinkman has some forms
- Dan has Red Cross and Georgia community and state experience.

Plan: Dan & GK Brinkman to lead and engage other Knights and Parish. Collect skills and resources survey (See Note Below) from the Council Membership. Collect an inventory of resources available to and within the Council. Identify Amateur "Ham" Radio Operators within

the Council and Parish. Interact with the existing Parish Emergency Plans and Committee. Support GK Brinkman in his role as Diocesan KofC Disaster Prep Coordinator.

Note: This survey might support efforts of the Retention Program as an aid to making contact with Knights whom we have lost touch with. In addition, it might identify those Knights with personal or family issues that limit their participation in even simple Council activities especially our disaster response.

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 could partner with Respect Life for food drives. However, 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 will again sell magnets, and distribute pamphlets. 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. First, Novena for Life, a required program. This is from Sept. 25 to Nov 3 and requires 6+ Knights and the cost of Prayer for Life Prayer Cards. Other ministries would





include the Prayer Ministry and the Entire Parish. Second is the 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. Third, Silver Rose in November, requiring 6+ Knights, cost of \$100 for Silver Rose Prayer Service booklets. This is like a relay of a relic. Fr. Michael has to agree. Fourth, 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 is suggesting we create a phone tree of 20 people to make the contacts periodically. We would split up the membership list and then each of the 20 would

cross off those names of members that have been active and phone the rest 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. We can come up with a Script for callers to follow. We can also place something on our website asking if anyone needs help or a ride and link this to one responsible party.

Meals at Our Business Meetings

August Business Mtg Meal – A great Taco Salad with Nacho Chips on the side was prepared by Brother John Smith with serving assistance from Brother Frank Kelly. The meal was completed with ice cream sandwiches. Many thanks for a wonderful treat.

September Business Mtg. Meal - A great brisket dinner was prepared by Brother Louie Romero with serving assistance from Brother Rodney Laurent. Chocolate brownies provided a fine dessert. Many thanks to Brother Louie for a wonderful meal.

October Business Mtg. Meal - Brother Louie Romero with serving assistance from Brother David Sanchez Sr. brought us a fine Pizza, Salad and Chocolate brownies meal. Many thanks to Brother Louie for a wonderful 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 2nd 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.

Report From the Pastoral Council -

Brother Rodney Laurent is a member of the Pastoral Council and kindly provided us with an update.

August - Life Teen House had significant renovations and an Open House. There have also been renovations to the Family Center and Brennan to the kitchens. Although contributions to the parish have been down, these renovations were covered by previous fund-raising including funds raised and dedicated from last year's parish auction activity. Contributions in June/July were up a little compared to prior months. Upcoming is the Capital Diocesan Campaign. Please give it prayerful thought, discernment and consideration. A strong emphasis will start in early September and continue through December 1. The Ministry Fair is coming August 24/25 and RE Registration online starts August 20 at 10 AM. Please keep in mind that the Clergy Scandal has also affected our priests and keep them in your prayers. In General, the report from the pastoral council is that there has been a good atmosphere over the past couple of months.

September - As we all know, the Encountering Christ campaign is being emphasized now. There will be question/answer sessions held for anyone interested at 10 AM Sunday, at 7 PM Tuesday Sept. 17, and on Monday Sept 23 at 7 PM. Father Michael will answer any and all questions. RE registration is underway, including online for the first time. The parish has added Tuesday sessions this year. Live auction will not

be held this fall and is postponed until Fall of 2020. May 2, 2020 will be the FunFest. International food will be promoted for the FunFest. We should think about whether we can come up with something to participate. Long range planning is underway for Faith and Community. Fr. Michael is very pleased with the Knights stepping forward.

October - Note that the Love Ministry is sponsoring a valentine's dance; look for more information down the line. Rodney noted that the Love Ministry could be a good place for recruitment that we should pursue. On March 28 he will lead food preparation for them with Jambalya on the menu.

Chancellor's Report

EIM – The Point of Contact is Danielle White in the church office. As of August, we currently show 40 members are compliant with the training. This is a requirement for all ministries.

Posting Volunteer Hours on Council Website – Please post your hours. If you need any help, Jim Ferguson can be emailed and he will do it for you. Please help your council by tabulating your work. This information helps support our non-profit status and it is important to have a reasonable accounting by year's end.

Golf Tournament – October 14, Columbus Day, Start at 12:30 PM (volunteers by 11:30 AM), at Twin Creeks Country Club. We are full with about everything and ready to go. Fr. Michael will kick it off with an opening prayer, and will be there at dinner to say the meal prayer as well. We have a full slate of 145 players (actually one more than full).





We request that all volunteers staying for dinner donate \$18 each to cover the expense.
Sponsors:

Upcoming Events -

Grank Knight's List of Near Term Upcoming Events

- Saturday/Sunday in October – Check on the items for the **Diaper Drive for John Paul II Life Center all Masses**
- Saturday – October 12 – **Rosary at Harper Park** sponsored by the Knights at Noon – Watch the bulletin for more information.
- Monday – October 14 – **The Michael Kelly Memorial Golf Tournament at Twin Creeks**. This is to earn money for the Mobile Loaves and Fishes. Please be there by 11:30. If you want to sign up to help please contact Jim at jferg2015@yahoo.com
- Wednesday October 16 - **4th Degree Assembly Meeting** in the Family Center beginning with the rosary at 6:30
- Saturday – October 26 – The **Major Degree Ceremony being held in Burnet**. We are asking all 1st Degree Knights to be in attendance as well as those Knights that have not been to one recently. Why is this important, this is the 1st time in about 40 years that the Austin Diocese will have its own Major Degree team and 3 members of the team are from our

Council. Let's support them with a good turnout.

- Wednesday – October 23 – **Halloween Social Party in the Family Center**, wear your most spooky outfit. I will most likely come as myself since that is spooky in itself.
- Christmas Bazaar Nut Sales – Nov 9/10. Still taking volunteer commitments to help.
- There will be a 4th Degree Exemplification November 16th in Temple. An email will go out with more details.
- November Nut Sales – Nov 16/17 and Nov 23/24 after all masses. Stop by to help your fellow Knights raise funds for our Seminarians.
- Christmas Party at the Oasis – Wednesday, December 11.
- December Nut Sales – Dec 7/8 and Dec 14/15 after all masses. Stop by to help your fellow Knights raise funds for our Seminarians.

New to Our Council -

We welcome Michael Burke and David Noriega as new members. We also welcome Brother Aaron Dingler, a transfer to our Council. As you see these new members, introduce yourself and welcome them to the Council.

