



Grand Knight's Corner

Frank Kenney

Welcome brothers,

Another new fraternal year for the Knights and another Grand Knight. I am honored to serve this year and am looking forward to a great charitable year. It is better to give than to receive, so let's get those charitable hearts pumped up!

Our first and foremost duty as a Knight is charity, supporting our parish and community. Every penny from our events i.e., fish fries, dinner dance, baby bottle drive etc... goes to charity. But not just money but also our time, energy and talents.

I ask all brother Knights to get involved and be unified. Answer that call to service. Be a brother Knight and stand united in Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Another part of our service is fraternity, bringing together new brothers into our order. It is a necessity for all brother Knights to support our Faith, our Church, and our order, "To get one, ask one!"

The fourth tenet of our order is patriotism, and that is the theme of this newsletter, and two of our brother knights, both veterans, contributed articles I hope you enjoy.

Council officer's (planning) meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month and our business meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, both are at Prince of Peace classroom #5 in person and virtually for those that are unable to meet in person.

Stay tuned to your emails for further information.

CHARITY, UNITY, FRATERNITY, PATRIOTISM

Vivat Jesus!

Frank Kenney, Grand Knight

FAMILIES OF THE MONTH:

Jerry & Sandy Hart: March
Chris & Barbara Mulholland: April
Marty & Suzy Kelly: May

KNIGHTS OF THE MONTH:

Jacob Meats: March
Chris Janes: April
Brian Yetka: May

Events & News

KOVAR Collection

On July 29th and 30th, Council 8240 will collect for KOVAR after each Mass at Prince of Peace.

The Virginia State Council established KOVAR in 1971 to provide financial assistance through grants and home loans to tax exempt organizations providing training and opportunities to persons with intellectual disabilities.

Please wear a KofC shirt, and/or your name tag, then grab a canister and collect for this worth cause!

COR Breakfasts

Council 8240 is planning a COR (Latin for "heart") breakfast every month for members to gather to enjoy each other's company, share their faith, and deepen their faith. Look for it on the website (kofc8240.net) or contact a Council Officer for more information.

Council Officers

Our Officers were successfully installed on July 6th, 2023. For any brother knight that needs to contact one, just go to www.kofc8240.net, log into the Members Only Section (you need only your membership number and your DOB) and go to the Council Members List.

Chaplain: Father John Bosco Walumgembe

Grand Knight: Frank Kenney

Deputy Grand Knight: Mike Mastro

Chancellor: Ed Monacchio

Financial Secretary: Michael Yetter

Advocate: Marty Kelly

Treasurer: Jerry Hart

Warden: Jacob Meats

Recorder: Brian Yetka

Inside Guard: Frank Walter

Outside Guard: Larry Treveau

Lecturer: Vince Donnally

1st Year Trustee: Joe Branco

2nd Year Trustee: Vince Iannacito

3rd Year Trustee: Stephen Clock

For Love of Country

"...We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness..."

In these simple words from the Declaration of Independence which we may recall from our years in grade school are the forgotten words that form our Independence, celebrated on July 4th each year. While celebration with picnics, parades, and fireworks marks the beginning of our Nation and the freedom we enjoy, as a Catholic fraternal organization it is time for us to also reflect on our and the meaning of the Fourth Degree.

In Jared Staudt's article, [For Love of Country: A Catholic Patriotism](#) (2020) we can hear echoes of the sounds of freedom that kindle a movement for good, "Our country has been through a lot this last year, as we all know. As many people have reacted against the founding and history of the United States, I have found myself drawn towards greater patriotism. By this, I simply mean a deeper appreciation of what I've been given by my country and also a growing realization of the duty I have to work for the common good here, and now. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* speaks of this duty under the fourth commandment that enjoins honor not only to parents but also to anyone in authority. It is the duty of citizens to contribute along with the civil authorities to the good of society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom. The love and service of one's country follow from the duty of gratitude and belong to the order of charity. Submission to legitimate authorities and service of the common good requires citizens to fulfill their roles in the life of the political community (2239). Catholics, and all people of good will, are called to a love and service of country in order to work for the common good." This I believe is the very essence of what the Patriotic degree means to those of us who have achieved the level of commitment to Father Michael McGivney's vision of not only service to church and community but also to a Nation which so desperately needs men of good character, willing to work for the common good, faithful in promoting truth and justice for all.

As the fraternal year has come full circle and we are now in the annual turnover of Council Officers and Program Directors at the Council, District and even State levels. Let this turnover which takes place without much fanfare and in some ways mimics what our forefathers sacrificed for during our country's fight for independence. Let us be reminded especially of how July 4th not only celebrates our Nations beginning but in some small way it serves as a moment for all Knights to celebrate a new fraternal year and rededicate ourselves to the fundamental principles of our Order---Charity, Fraternity, Unity, and Patriotism, which we so proudly stand for as Catholic gentlemen of faith.

Vivat Jesus,
Joe Branco
Council 8240 PGK

denvercatholic.org/for-love-of-country-a-catholic-patriotism/

Of the Year!

Council 8240's annual recognition of exceptional service!

Young Man of the Year: Caedan Agustin

Caedan was nominated and selected as Young Man of the Year as a standout student among his peers, a leader, an athlete, and as an especially faith-filled young man. Caedan is a cross-bearer at weekly Mass, assisted at St Mary's Home for Children, supported CHKD efforts, and was a Vacation Bible School counselor. Was Treasurer for both his student council and the National Junior Honor Society, and played soccer, volleyball, and basketball for his high school and travel teams, all in addition to being an excellent student. Caedan is a 2023 graduate of Saint Gregory the Great School.

Young Woman of the Year: Jenna Powell

Jenna was nominated and selected as the Young Woman of the Year for outstanding academic achievements and contributions to our community. She excelled academically with an excellent GPA while taking all Advanced Placement (college level) courses. She was the Varsity Cheerleading Captain at GBHS and part of the Great Bridge State Championship Cheerleading Team, and went to the USA finals this spring. She was also involved in a national ambassador program where she was a mentor to underclassmen at her school. Jenna is a 2023 graduate of Great Bridge High School.

Family of the Year: Gerald & Sandra Hart

That PGK Jerry and Ms. Sandy were recognized as the Council 8240 Family of the year should not be a surprise to anyone. Our council is blessed with many amazing family teams, but this past year the Harts were amazing. They were part of pretty much everything there was to be part of. They support the parish's liturgical team, the worship space itself, all of its fundraisers, the Food Pantry, and Housing the Homeless. For the community they support cross-cultural efforts such as the Filipino ministry and its events, and all veteran's programs to include civic ceremonies and seasonal flag and wreath laying programs. For Council 8240, Jerry is a leader, a supporter, a volunteer, and with Sandy's help even decorates well. Sandy and Jerry are an amazing team, so no surprise they were also finalists as the State of Virginia Family of the Year .

Knight of the Year: Stephen Clock

PGK Stephen is a man that does not recognize "can't". Because if it needs to get done he's going see that it does! Stephen is the total package! He is an amazing supporter of our parish, he is an amazing dad to both his sons, and of course husband to Jenny, who makes all his contributions and achievements possible. Of special note is that Stephen's leadership and vision has been instrumental in all of Council 8240's charity events this year, and is also community glue, as he ties together KofC events with other community supporting organizations such as the Kiwanis and the JayCeas, continuously improving our Council, Community, Church, and the lives of everyone around him.

Patriotism

My online dictionary (dictionary.com) defines patriotism as “devoted love, support, and defense of one’s country; national loyalty.”

Patriotism is the hallmark of the Fourth-Degree order of the Knights of Columbus. We are addressed as “Sir Knights,” reminiscent of the men who fought for king and country in the past. We, too, fight for king and country, only our king is not an earthly king, but the King of Kings, Jesus Christ. I know many Sir Knights who have served our country either directly in the military or as civil servants in military organizations (and in some cases, both). People who join our nation’s military take an oath to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) says this: “It is the *duty of citizens* to contribute along with the civil authorities to the good of society in the spirit of truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom. The love and service of *one’s country* follow from the duty of gratitude and belong to the service of charity. ... service of the common good require citizens to fulfill their roles in the life of the political community.” (2239) And “those who are sworn to serve their country in the armed forces are servants of the security and freedom of nations.” (2310) Paragraph 2240 tells us that we have a moral obligation to defend our country. As such, the oath above is in consonance with Church teaching.

Today our Church and our nation are under attack, both externally and from within. So what do we, as Knights, do in order to defend both our Church and our nation. The Catechism tells us we have an obligation to be informed voters as well as to be informed about our faith so that we can stand up to those who attack both Church and state. We should all be familiar with our Constitution as well as the Catechism. Both are being attacked by the culture of death, including Catholics in government who are active proponents of abortion, transgenderism, racial inequality, attacks on the family, and so on. We must be informed so that we aren’t merely complying with the moral turpitude and relativism of today’s society. The Church is counter-cultural and so must we be.

As St. Paul said, “Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.” (Eph 5:11) “Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.” (Rom 12:2)

Brother Tom Klocek (Tom’s online blog is titled “Actually Catholic” : www.actuallycatholic.com)

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Gina Vendt, Rita Basile, Bob and Jo Stermer, Joe Schaffer, Lou Detore, Betancourt and Quinonez family, Leigh Trocine, Jack O’Connor, John Markham, Jack Gorman, William Duvall, Matthew Darnley, Marisa Rusillo, Marty Kelly, Alan Miles, Jerry and Sandy Hart, Chris Mulholland, Patricia Alvarado, Chris Stallings, Frank Kenny, Michael Hilton, Tiffany Volcker, and Sharon Rowland.

Members of the Armed Forces and other Americans in harm’s way.



Council 8240’s New Field Agent!

We found out in May that our new Field Agent is Sir Knight Ray Roenker.

Contact him at 866-868-1492 or at Ray.Roenker@kofc.org

From the Virginia State Council’s General Program Director.

Normally, when someone says they’re from a higher headquarters and that “I’m here to help” it’s time to run for the hills! However, the General Program Director is none other than our very own Council 8240 PGK Mark Zaccagnini! While he’s new to the job, he said he’s learning the ropes quickly and will of course look out for us. The Knights of Columbus, as a world-wide organization, is insured by Lloyd’s of London, and has to have members Praesidium trained. The intent of Praesidium training is essentially the same as the Richmond Diocese’s Virtus training, but Mark says that Praesidium training will be available online to individuals, and takes only about 60-70 minutes. <https://www.praesidiuminc.com/>

The other thing that Mark provided us is the State Deputy Award’s Checklist. As I understand it, this becomes a one-stop shop for all the KofC programs, admin requirements, and allows each Council to work their own path forward. At the end of the day, it’ll make Mark’s job a little hard to track the 150+ Councils in the state. Council 8240 has historically won awards NOT because the awards are our aimpoint, but because we do our best to espouse the Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism that the order is based on. This is found as an Announcement in the Members Only section of our website. <https://uknight.org/omdocs/>

Virginia Knights have raised over \$17 million since 1971, making it possible for KOVAR to help Virginians with intellectual disabilities.

Home Loans – Interest free loans to assist in the purchase of group homes.

Transportation – 20% funding assistance purchasing vehicles needed to transport persons with intellectual disabilities.

Group Home Support – Provides grants for furniture, remodeling and renovation projects such as new roofs.

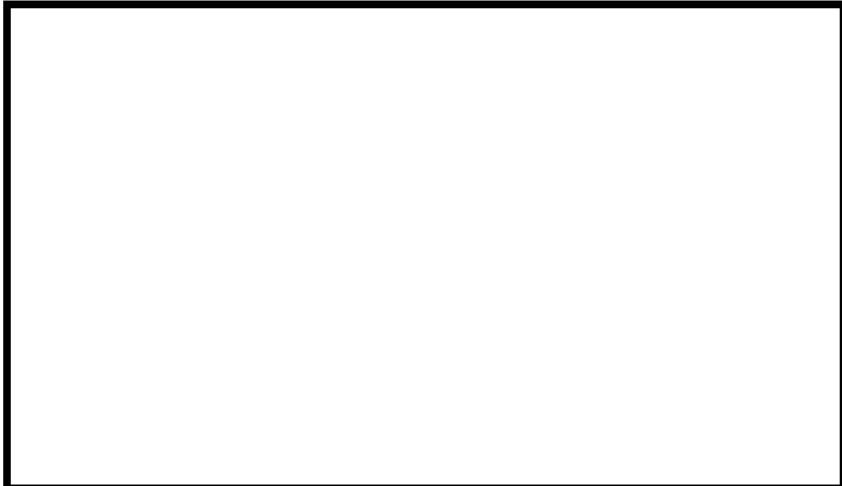
Training Programs – Funding for organizations that train the intellectually disabled to enhance their quality of life.

Job Skill Training Programs – Grants to organizations that provide life and job skills training for persons with intellectual disabilities.

Startup Programs – Grants to establish new and innovative programs designed to assist individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Special Olympics Virginia – Provides scholarship grants to the Summer Games and Fall Championships, enabling local programs to send athletes to the games.

PLEASE DO WHAT YOU CAN, WITH A CAN!!



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

To: *Council 8240*

Chesapeake, VA

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