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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

**ST. ANGELA MERICI COUNCIL NO. 14617
MISSOURI CITY, TEXAS**

THE KNIGHT RIDER
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

www.kofc14617.org

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

My Brother Knights

As our first fraternal year as a council comes to a close, I have been looking back over the past 9 1/2 months and reflecting on the many things that this council has done and worked on since last September and how far we have come. What began with a few meetings between a handful of people, has grown to a council of 51 Knights who have made their mark on several charitable organizations and our parish. A relationship that began with a few of us helping the Foundation For Life set up the ballroom at the Marriott for their gala, has grown into a wonderful parish wide program to support the Foundations Maternal Assistance Program with baby supplies. We have made a difference in young mother's lives. And although we certainly don't do these types of things to gain recognition for ourselves, the fact that our council received a Community Activities Award at the State Convention for our work with the FFL is quite remarkable. For a new council to be singled out in this manner by State is very rare. Every one of you should be very proud of your council. Not for the award. But for the fact that we have indeed made a difference in people's lives. We made such a difference that our Brothers at the State level saw fit to recognize our effort. My only regret is that each one of you could not be there when they called out our council's name and number for this award. And I wish we all could have gone up together and received the beautiful plaque from our Worthy State Deputy Brother Javier and his wife. It was a special moment for our council and our parish.

And I thought about unloading those 2 truckloads of bibles. The Brothers that went to Galveston and helped clean the halls and homes of our Brothers on the island after Hurricane Ike. Parking cars all weekend for the Sienna CASA Home Tour which raises money for neglected and abused children in our area. Mowing grass at the Vietnamese Sisters' convent near Holy Family. The Brothers who spent the day at Camp For All helping disabled children enjoy a day at camp. And of course chairs, chairs and more chairs at the PLEX. Cooking and selling turkeys and briskets. And just recently getting up at 3 AM and going to help with the Impact-A-Hero 5k run. Working together to do an Easter Egg hunt for the kids. And trying to figure out how we could put on the parish picnic even though Camp Sienna was flooded. And many other things that we all worked on that have brought us together and transformed a group of men into a Knights of Columbus Council that believes in our Order's principals of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. We've had a great start, but it's only the start. **Continued on Page 10**

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Points of Interest to all Council Members:

WEBSITE: If you have not already done so, please go to our new website at www.kofc14617.org and login using the password you were sent. You may change your password and also update your member profile to be sure we have your information correct.



NEWS FROM SUPREME

Fathers for Good Initiative Launched at Convention

In keeping with a longstanding commitment to build stronger marriages and families, the Knights of Columbus has launched a new initiative at the 126th Supreme Council Meeting, called Fathers for Good. The centerpiece of the initiative is an interactive Web site, www.fathersforgood.org.

"Fatherhood is a gift, a privilege and a responsibility," Anderson says in a special video message on the Web site. "The way in which we accept this gift, acknowledge this privilege and act upon this responsibility will determine the ways in which we will build up the good of our families and our communities." "By being faithful to our calling as husbands and fathers," he notes, "we are ultimately being faithful to ourselves."

The theme for the launch of the Web site is "A Father's Identity," which offers men resources on how to build a strong, loving and confident identity in a culture that often does not value fatherhood or masculine virtues. The theme of the site will be updated regularly, based on the votes for the next topic which visitors to the site will be able to cast.

NEWS FROM STATE

Pro-Life ACE Wings *By Tom J Clark, Pro Life Chairman*

The ACE Wings are 2" wide and 5/8" high and are metallic. The "Precious Feet" are the exact size and shape of an unborn baby's feet at 10 weeks after conception. Requirements for Receiving the Pro-Life ACE Wings Award

A minimum of 5 Public Pro-Life events are required to qualify for the Texas State Council Pro-Life ACE Wings Award. 4 out of the 5 must have to do with the unborn, such as; Pro-Life Masses, Pro-Life Parades, Pro-Life Rosary Processions, Pro-Life Award Dinners Pro-Life Sidewalk Counseling, Volunteer Work at Crisis Center, March for Life, Hike for Life, Run for Life, Etc, etc, etc. Pro-Life Sidewalk Counseling

The 5th item can be either a Pro Life item as described above, or it can be an item such as;

Volunteering for work at a Special Olympics event, Volunteering for work at a hospice, nursing home, or veterans hospital

Providing entertainment for the residents of a hospice, nursing home, or veterans hospital, Etc, etc, etc.

This ACE Wings Award Form is available on the Knights of Columbus web site, www.tkofo.org.

A Knight will not have to pay for his original set of ACE Wings. Additional sets of wings can be purchased for \$8 (includes shipping)

Columbian Squires may also earn the ACE Award. The sponsoring council will be billed \$8 for the wings.

INSURANCE NEWS

WE ALL WANT THE SAME THINGS

Most men worry about their families. If you are like most, there are so many demands on your current income that you find it difficult to set anything aside for the kind of future you would like to provide. If you are like most fathers, you probably want the same things:

- ... the respect of your family, your friends and the community in which you live
- ... a happy home with a family that is content
- ... a good house that will always be home
- ... the ability to help your children with their education
- ... enough money to make your retirement easier
- ... and enough money to be able to enjoy some of the better things in life.

With good fortune (and a long life), you will probably be able to accomplish most of these objectives. But if you are like most people, you would benefit from a plan to help you realize them.

I can design a plan that will help you realize your ambitions. Call me today, and we will work on it together. Call Leo Lowdermilk at 832 338-6269 or 800 460-2706.

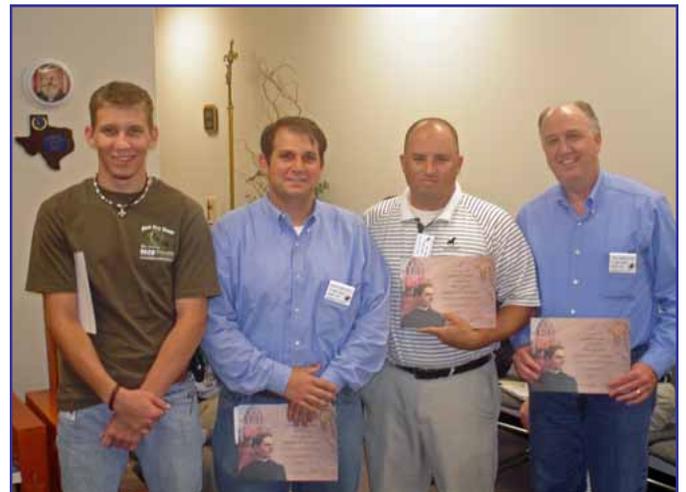


COUNCIL NEWS

- At our June meeting we presented the June Knight of the Month award to Brother Nathan Stotts. Brother Nate spent the day at Camp For All and worked with the campers there. He also worked all morning at the Impact-A-Hero 5k race . [See pictures below](#)
- Also at the June meeting we had 4 new Knights receive their First Degree Certificates. They are Brothers Will Frerich, Chris Agostnelli, Tom Sanford and Joe Scranton. [See pictures below](#)
- At mass on Saturday June 6th we presented Vicki Regan with our Lady of the Month Award. She is the cantor for Saturday masses and leads the children's choir. Because she is the cantor at this mass, we presented her award to her on Saturday so the Saturday congregation would be present for her award. [See pictures below](#)
- At mass on Sunday June 7th we presented the family of the Month Award to Paul and Cathy Yasilli. Brother Paul is a very active member of the council and helps with setup at mass and parking. Cathy has volunteered in the church office for the last year and does many other parish and community activities including Coordinating the CASA Home Tour last year in Sienna Plantation. [See Pictures below](#)
- On Saturday May 30th, we had about 14 Knights from our council come to Sugar Land and help with the Impact-A-Hero 5k run. Brother Will Frerich ran in the event and was the third highest fund raiser for the race. Many from our council sponsored Brother Will and donated to this great event. Not everyone who helped was able to get in the pictures we took. Some had to leave a little earlier and there was no sun at 4:30 AM to take their picture! Great job everyone. [See pictures on Pages 7 and 8](#)



Our June Knight of the Month Nathan Stotts



Brothers Will, Chris, Tom & Joe received their 1st Degree Certificates at the June meeting



Our June Lady of the Month Vicki Regan



Our June Family of the Month the Yasilli family.



FATHER JOHN'S CORNER



My Brothers. Please read the story of our Patroness, St. Angela Merici.

The Story of St. Angela Merici

Based on an [engraving](#) on the statue at Desenzano, Italy, Angela Merici's birth is set at March 21, 1474 in the province of Venice. Most biographers believe she was born on a farm two miles outside of Desenzano. The size, condition, and location of the farm, called Grezze, indicate that Merici came from moderate wealth, not from a peasant family as was traditionally believed. In addition, she was said to have a command of language characteristic of good breeding. In fact, Angela's mother came from a successful merchant family in Salo. Her family was [pious](#) and she was educated in religion. Her father read to her daily about the lives of the saints. It is believed that this is how she first learned about St. Ursula.

She spent the first ten years of her life in Desenzano, a town located on the western shore of Lake Garda in the [Lombardy](#) region. When she was young, Merici's beloved older sister died a few months after their father. Her sister's tragic death left Angela disconsolate because it occurred before her sister could receive the last sacraments of the Catholic Church.

For a period Angela remained alone with her mother at Grezze. She was still a child when her mother died, leaving her orphaned. She was sent to the town of Salo to live with her maternal uncle. The devout Angela eventually joined the third order of St. Francis and increased her daily devotions and prayer, asking God to give her a sign about the condition of her sister's soul. Eventually she had a vision that satisfied her that her sister was in heaven.

In 1794, when she was 20, Merici's uncle died and she returned to Desenzano. During this time she became concerned about the lack of religious training for young girls and the condition of the family and society in general. She converted her home into a school. There she gathered the young girls of the town and taught them the rudiments of Christianity, directing them to take her lessons back into their homes to share with their families.

A Vision

In 1506, while praying, Angela Merici was said to have had a grand vision in which angels and maidens descended from heaven and a voice instructed her to found an association of virgins under the guidance of St. Ursula. Ursula was a fourth-century virgin and martyr venerated as a protector of women. The order Angela was inspired to start would devote itself to both [bodily](#) and spiritual works of mercy, with an emphasis on the education of young women. [CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE](#)

Council Officers Contact Information

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Trustee 3 yrs	Wes Kubesch	weskub@hotmail.com	
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Insurance Agent	Leo Lowdermilk	leo.lowdermilk@kofc.org	800 460-2706

Discover a World of Good Things
in the Knights of Columbus

Our Prayers Are With You

Please remember the following in your prayers:



Our fathers, both living and those that have gone home to God.

The soul of Brother Matt Sasso's father-in-law. Rest in Peace.

Our Men and Women in Uniform both living and deceased especially Gabriel Machado deployed in Afghanistan

Our Holy Father and all of the clergy

The innocent unborn

St. Angela Merici Parish

The intentions of all our Brother KCs



FATHER JOHN'S CORNER CONTINUED



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Merici remained in Desenzano for the next ten years, establishing her community for religious training. In 1516, she was invited to the neighboring town of [Brescia](#) to start a similar school.

To fulfill her earlier vision, Merici gathered together a group of young women. A house was put at their disposal to allow them to continue their work. The citizens of Brescia began to consider her a prophet, frequently referring to her as Angela of Brescia.

The Miracle of a Pilgrimage

In 1524, Merici began a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, seeking to do [penance](#) and understand the will of God. While on the island of Crete or at some point between Crete and [Corfu](#), she was suddenly and inexplicably struck blind. Merici's devotion to her religion and her intense desire to visit the Holy Land made her determined to continue her journey. During her entire journey she remained blind and saw nothing of the Holy Land. However, she wrote that she "saw these places with the eyes of her soul as if she had seen them with her bodily eyes."

After she left the Holy Land, her [eyesight](#) suddenly returned. According to some accounts, it was restored while she prayed before the [crucifix](#) at the same old Venetian church on Crete where she had been struck blind. Returning to Italy, she went to Venice. There, local civic leaders, members of the Doge's Council, who had heard of her work in Brescia and Desenzano, asked her to take charge of the Hospital of Incurables. She refused, preferring to return to her work in Brescia.

In the following years she received invitations from the Council of Venice and the pope to work in Castiglione, Venice and Rome. On each occasion she refused, remaining in Brescia to complete her work. Merici made many pilgrimages throughout Italy during her life but none had the impact on her of her pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

The Founding of an Order

On November 25, 1535, in the company of her followers, Angela Merici formally founded the Order of St. Ursula in a small house near the Church of St. Afra in Brescia. In 1536, Merici laid down the rules of the Ursuline Order, clarifying her plan to restore the family and the [supremacy](#) of Christianity through the education of girls. In 1537 she was elected superior of the company by unanimous vote.

After founding the order she wrote *Testament and Souvenirs*, in which she directed her nuns to emphasize gentleness, the significance of the individual, and the consequence of using [persuasion](#) over force. Merici became ill toward the end of 1539, but even while sick she continued to receive visitors and hold religious discourse with them.

She died in Brescia, Italy on January 27, 1540. On January 29 her body was placed on a [bier](#) in the church of St. Afra and a continuous procession of villagers passed by to pay their respects. A dispute ensued over the proper burial place, but Merici had foreseen this problem and received special [dispensation](#) from the pope allowing her to plan her own funeral. She was buried at St. Afra. Merici was beatified by Pope Clement XIII in 1768 and canonized on January 24, 1807, by Pope Pius VII.

The Ursuline Order

Merici devoted her life to educating women at a time when girls were not considered worthy of education. She was fond of saying "disorder in society is the result of disorder in the family." She believed that by educating girls in a family setting that society would be improved and Christianity strengthened.

She encouraged those who followed her to understand the needs of their time and make changes accordingly. Her order set down no formal vows, but taught virginity, [obedience](#) and poverty as a way of life. Contrary to all religious teachings and orders of the day, this small group of young women at first did not take vows or wear habits and continued to live with their families.

The Ursuline Order would become the oldest teaching order of religious women in the Catholic Church. Although originally its members led a non-cloistered life, the Ursuline Order underwent change as it grew and spread throughout the world. In 1572 the nuns began to live in [secluded](#) communities in Milan and in 1596 in Avignon. In 1585 Pope Paul V issued a papal bull formalizing the Ursulines into a religious order of cloistered nuns taking formal vows.

By 1612 the Ursulines of Paris began taking [solemn](#) vows and soon similar convents were established elsewhere. By the 17th century, Merici's group was based primarily in France, forming the basis for orders founded in Quebec in 1639 and New Orleans in 1727. The order in New Orleans founded one of the first institutions of learning for women in America. After the War of 1812, the New Orleans school was converted to a hospital that nursed both American and British soldiers. Among the institutions of higher learning founded by the Ursulines in the United States are the College of [New Rochelle](#) in New York in 1898 and Ursuline College in Cleveland in 1871. In 1900 a congress of Ursulines met in Rome and established a single union of many congregations

Peace
Fr. John



- June 3—Regular Business meeting at the church office after 7 PM mass.
- June 9—AGH Chapter meeting at council 3077 at 7:00 PM
- June 13—Coin Collection 8AM to 2 PM at Hwy 9- and Hwy 99.
- June 13 & 14—Foundation For Life Diaper Drive at all masses.
- June 14—Council Quarterly Corporate Communion at 9 AM mass.
- June 17—Officer’s meeting at church office after 7 PM mass.
- June 20—Major Degree Exemplification at Epiphany of the Lord in Katy time TBA
- June 21—Father’s Day
- June 28—VA Hospital visit at 7:30 AM at church office
- June 28—Officer Installation after 11 AM mass at the PLEX

June 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Business meeting 7 PM	4	5	6
7	8	9 AGH Chapter meeting 7	10	11	12	13 Diaper Drive, coin collection
14 Diaper Drive Corp Communion	15	16	17 Officer’s meeting 7 PM	18	19	20 Major Degree
21 Happy Father’s Day	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 VA Hospital visit,	29	30				

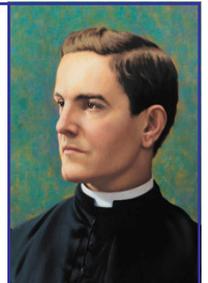
- July 1—Regular Business meeting at the church office after 7PM mass.
- July 14—AGH Chapter meeting at council 3077 at 7:00 PM
- July 15—Officer’s meeting at church office after 7 PM mass. All Knights are welcome..

July 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Business meeting 7PM	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 AGH Chapter meeting 7PM	15 Officer’s meeting 7 PM	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



My Brothers. I want to wish all of you that are dads and all of your fathers, a very blessed and Happy Father’s Day. Being a dad is our most important job in life. I remember the first Father’s Day after I became a dad. The day went from one that I would always buy a card for my dad, to a very, very special day. The feeling can’t be described in words. But the following little story says a lot of it.... One night a father overheard his son pray: “Dear God, Make me the kind of man my Daddy is.” Later that night, the Father prayed, “Dear God, Make me the kind of man my son wants me to be.” May God bless you and your dads on this Father’s Day.





COUNCIL PHOTOS—STATE CONVENTION



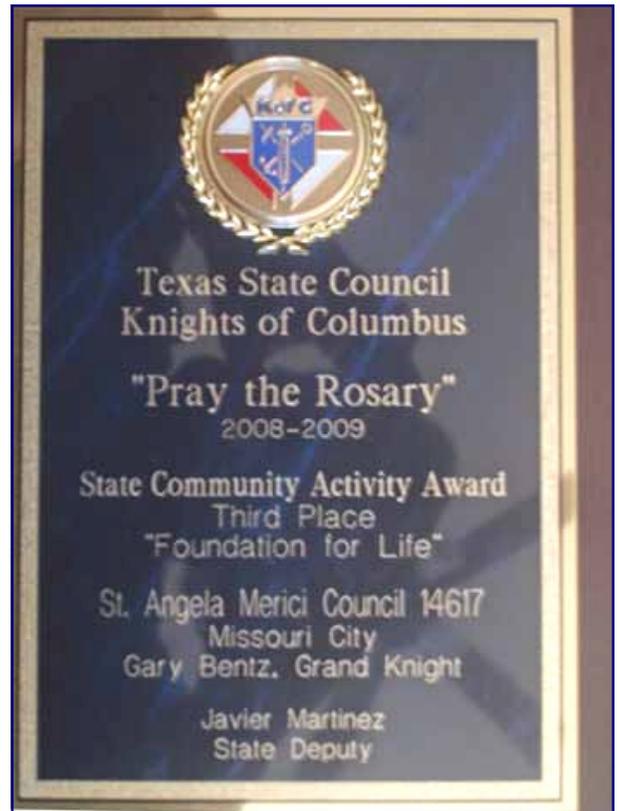
State Deputy Javier Martinez opens the convention



Our DD Gary Blanchette receives the 100% Quick Start Award for District 75



Our Council receives the State Service Program Award for 3rd Place in the Community Activities Program from State Deputy Javier Martinez and Mrs. Martinez for our Foundation For Life Maternal Assistance Collection



Our Council's State Community Activity Award

Remember: If you participate in any Knights of Columbus events or activities and have pictures, please forward them to Gary Bentz at gsbent@flash.net so we can have them for our Council records and also so that they may be published in the newsletter.



COUNCIL PHOTOS—IMPACT-A-HERO 5K RUN



Some of our council that helped set up for the day



Brother Rene helps the heroes with their racing chairs



Our flag proudly displayed by the Fire Department



The start of the 5k race



Our Knights wait with water for the runners



Brother Matt assembled the kids for their 1k race

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COUNCIL PHOTOS—IMPACT-A-HERO 5K RUN & GALA



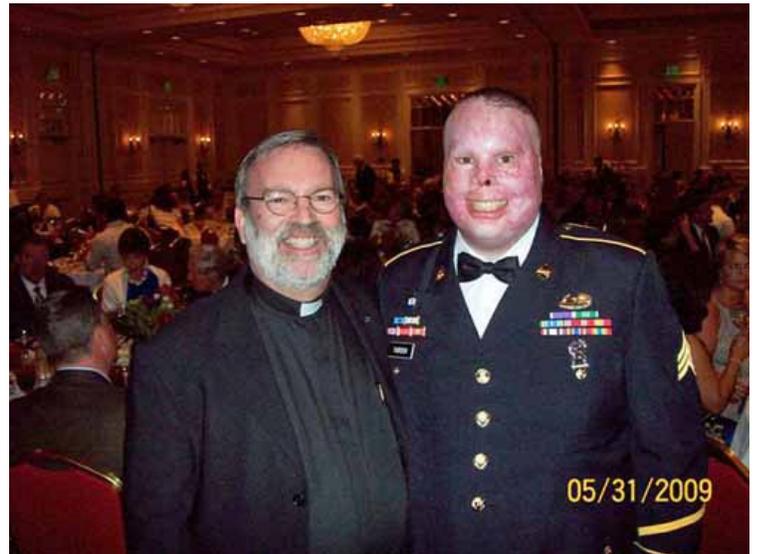
Brother Will with his awards from the 5k race



Some of our council that helped set up for the day



Father John opens the Impact-A-Hero Gala with a blessing



Father John with one of the Heroes at the Impact-A-Hero Gala,
Sgt. Rick Yarosh

Thank you to all of you who supported this effort by donating your time and treasure to the Impact-A-Hero weekend events. I know everyone of us that were there were greatly impressed and touched by the dedication and patriotism of these young service men and women who have sacrificed so much to keep us safe and free. I know our council will continue to support them in the future. And always keep them and their families in your prayers.

Remember: If you participate in any Knights of Columbus events or activities and have pictures, please forward them to Gary Bentz at gbsbent@flash.net so we can have them for our Council records and also so that they may be published in the newsletter.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FOUNDATION FOR LIFE MATERNAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COLLECTION: At the three weekend masses on June 13th and 14th our council will collect diapers and baby products for the baby pantry at Foundation For Life. They are in need of all diaper sizes but particularly sizes 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. They will gladly accept any and all sizes and any other baby products you may want to donate.

We will have our **QUARTERLY CORPORATE COMMUNION** at the 9 AM mass on that Sunday. Please attend with your family and bring whatever you can for the baby pantry. Let's make this a special day again.

MAJOR DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION: There will be a Major Degree Ceremony at Epiphany of the Lord Council No 9759 in Katy. A group will leave that morning from the office. Details will follow. If you wish to go. Please contact Brother Colin and make arrangements.

VA HOSPITAL VISIT: On June 28th, our council is scheduled to take a group to the VA hospital and visit the servicemen and women that are there and attend mass with them. This is a national program that councils all across the country participate in. Our council is scheduled to be there with 2 other councils from the Archdiocese and we need at least 4 Knights to volunteer to attend. If you can attend please contact Brother Dennis O'Driscoll and sign up for this program. The group will leave the office at 7:30 AM and have breakfast at the hospital. Mass is in the chapel at 10 AM. You will be back at the church office before noon. Please try to attend.

FRATERNAL YEAR 2009-2010 OFFICER INSTALLATIONS: The installation ceremony for the new council officers will be held on Sunday June 28th after the 11 AM mass at the PLEX. Please try to attend and enjoy this annual ceremony and show your support for your council and its leadership. You can visit the VA Hospital and still attend the ceremony as it will not begin until 12:20 or later.

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT—*Continued from Page 1*

So where do we go from here? I want to continue the momentum we have built and add more. At this point we need to add a little more organization to our programs. This gets more Knights involved, brings in new ideas, and keeps one person from being overloaded. These programs fall into the following categories; Church, Community, Council, Family, and Youth. We will discuss these more in the future but you might read over your "Surge..With Service" booklet to get some idea about these committees and which one you may want to be involved in. Get Involved. Your council needs you.

This month we have several activities planned. First we will have another Diaper Drive for FFL on June 13 and 14 at all the masses. We will hold our Quarterly Corporate Communion at the 9 AM mass on the 14th. Please be there a few minutes early to line up and of course bring your family and some baby items for the Foundation. We have the Major Degree at Epiphany of the Lord in Katy on June 20th. If you plan on attending as a candidate or as a supporter please contact Brother Colin and let him know. When we get more details on times I will let you know. Remember Father John is taking his 3rd Degree on this day so join us to support Father. Sunday the 21st is Father's Day. So may you all have a great day with your families. On June 28th after the 11 AM mass we will have our officers' installation ceremony for the next fraternal year. This is an impressive ceremony conducted by our Worthy District Deputy. Please try and attend 11 AM mass that day and stay and support your council's officers.

Also on the morning of the 28th our council is scheduled for its VA hospital visit. Brother Dennis O'Driscoll is the director of this program and will meet those that want to go at the church office that morning and leave for the VA hospital at 7:30. After arriving at the hospital you will have breakfast and then visit the veterans. You will attend mass with them in the hospital chapel and return to the office. You should be back about 11:30 AM. That still leaves you time to drive over to the PLEX and participate in the officers' installation ceremony. Brother Dennis needs at least 4 Knights to volunteer and go with him. If you can join this very worthwhile and rewarding program, please contact Brother Dennis and let him know you plan to go. His email is DODRISCO@houstonisd.org. This program is administered by the Archdiocese and they schedule 3 or 4 councils for each weekend on a rotational basis. So please sign up and join Brother Dennis for this important day. Many of these veterans are here in Houston without family around them so they greatly appreciate it when someone takes the time to visit with them and attend mass. I hope many of you will sign up and spend a couple of hours doing so. And again may you all have a Blessed and Happy Father's Day. Gary