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July 1, 2009



# 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 Brothers,

I hope everyone had a good 4th of July. I pray for our nation and it's leaders. May they recognize the principles that this great country was founded on. That we are "One Nation, Under God". And while we may differ on politics and policy, at the end of the day, no matter your faith, your ethnicity, your culture, or your politics, we are all Americans. Citizens of the greatest nation on earth. And we owe a tremendous debt to those that have served and defended our freedom in the past, and those that continue to do so today. Remember to pray for our servicemen and women and their families who sacrifice so much to keep us safe and free.

One recent reminder of those who have served this country was our council's visit to the Veterans Hospital on Jun 28th. A big thank you to Brother Dennis O'Driscoll, Lt. Col. U.S. Army retired, for his efforts in coordinating this program for our council. We had 5 Knights from our council that made the trip to the VA, and everyone came away with many emotions. The veterans we visited ranged from very talkative and appreciative men who were glad to have visitors and someone to talk to, to those less fortunate who barely realized we were there. Hospitals are not my favorite place to visit as I have many bad memories of them, but this is a special program that I will continue to be a part of, and I would encourage each of you to consider spending a few hours, one Sunday every quarter, visiting these patients. It's funny, I was at my neighbor's for a weekend barbeque. One of his friends he had invited and I got to talking as he is considering moving to Sienna. He was asking about the drive in to the Medical Center. After a bit I found out he is a doctor at the VA Hospital. So I told him our council was just there last weekend visiting patients. He looked at me and said, "That's wonderful. I know those guys really appreciated having someone to talk to. Many of them don't ever get visitors." It was special coming from a doctor that treats these veterans. So try to join us next time. We have 2 more dates this year. One in September and one in November. I will post information about the dates when they get closer.

Going back to mid-June, we had our Foundation For Life diaper drive. It was a great success again. Brother Jerry Tomasello coordinated the drive again and did a great job. He told me that this collection, far exceeded the one we did in January. The diapers packed his truck from front to back (see the pictures on page 6). The ladies at FFL were very appreciative. Again we have helped those in need, who have chosen life for their babies instead of abortion. So many thanks to **Continued on Page 9**

### Inside this issue:

Supreme & State News	2
Insurance News	2
Council News	3
Fr, John's Corner	4
Council Program Info	5
Listing of Officers	5
Prayer Requests, Births	5
Council Calendar	6
Council Photos	7 & 8
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES	9
Grand Knight's Report	9

### 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](http://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

The Knights of Columbus announced June 12 that it set new all-time records for charitable donations and volunteer service hours in 2008. Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson released the results of the Order's annual survey in a presentation to its board of directors and state leaders, meeting at its international headquarters in New Haven.

The results of the Knights' annual Survey of Fraternal Activity for the year ending December 31, 2008, indicate that, despite the economy, total charitable contributions reached \$150,036,865 – exceeding the previous year's total by more than \$5.1 million. The figure includes \$32,295,376 donated by the Supreme Council, and \$117,741,489 in contributions from state and local councils assemblies and Squires circles.

The survey also indicated that the quantity of volunteer service hours to charitable causes by Knights grew to 68,783,653 – an increase of 87,885 hours compared to the 2007 total. There were more than 413,000 Knights of Columbus blood donations during the year and, among the most common service programs, Habitat for Humanity received 156,295 K of C volunteer hours.

The Knights of Columbus has been promoting a Year of the Volunteer and sponsored a summit on volunteerism, A Nation of Neighbors Helping Neighbors, in New York Feb. 27, to promoted increased participation and collaboration in volunteer efforts from individuals and organizations.

Cumulative figures show that during the past decade, the Knights of Columbus has donated more than \$1.325 billion to charity, and provided nearly 626 million hours of volunteer service in support of charitable initiatives.

## NEWS FROM STATE

### A Message from State Deputy Javier Martinez... *"Welcome to the All New Texas State Council Online Community"*

We're proud to have launched the new Texas Knights of Columbus State Council Fraternal, Faith, Family, Online Community serving over 91,000 Knight members and their families from all over the great state of Texas and beyond, bringing them together in a virtual community to discuss and collaborate.

The Texas State Council Online Community is designed to bring our faith and fraternal community the daily catholic news, current information about our State Programs and Resources along with lively discussions, information, articles, photos, stories about our great Order and more. Please take a moment to register and join us Online!

The all new Texas Knights of Columbus website can now be accessed by entering [www.tkofc.org](http://www.tkofc.org).

## INSURANCE NEWS

### THE INSTALLMENT PLAN

Have you ever thought of buying money on the installment plan?

Most of us have bought, and are buying, several things on the installment plan. It is the accepted way to buy many large items – a home, a car, or some expensive household items.

Really, installment buying gives the average working person a chance to have many of the things not otherwise affordable. But – and it is a big important "but" – if you default on your payments, you may lose your equity. Isn't that right?

One of the things you can buy, and still retain your equity if you have to default on payments, is cash value life insurance.

Cash value life insurance means money for future needs. It can be purchased on the installment plan and come back in the form of cash to you or your family when it is needed most.

Call me so we can talk about money for your future. Call Leo Lowdermilk at (832) 338-6269 or (800) 460-2706



## COUNCIL NEWS

- At our July meeting we presented several awards to our members. First was our Knight of the Month. For July our winner was Brother Meco Choates. Brother Meco has been active in several council events including our Easter Egg Hunt, our coin collection, Impact-A-Hero race day setup and several other events. Congratulations Brother Meco [See pictures below](#)
- The next Certificates were presented to our new 3rd Degree Knights who took their 2nd and 3rd Degrees on June 20th at Epiphany of the Lord in Katy. It was a wonderful morning and it was great to see our Brothers finish their journey to full Knighthood in our Order. Brother Tim Alcorn also attended the Degree ceremony that day. [See pictures below and on Page 6.](#)
- In addition, 2 of our Knights received their certificates as members of the Knights of Columbus VIP Club. This stands for Very Important Proposer and recognizes these Brothers for their efforts to recruit new members to our Order. Any Knight who proposes at least 2 successful candidates for our Order is eligible for membership in this group. New certificates are presented when a Knight proposes 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 50, 100, 200, up to 500 new members. It was an honor to recognize PGK SK Ed Petru for his efforts in proposing 15 new members, and SK Ron Frerich for his remarkable work in proposing 50 new members to our Order. Brothers let these Brothers be an inspiration to us all. We are in a new fraternal year so let's all get out there and recruit new members. Wear your badge or council shirt to mass and be happy to discuss the works of our council and our Order with any one who might show interest in the Knights of Columbus. [See pictures below.](#)



Our July Knight of the Month Meco Choates



Brothers Jerry, Matt & Father John received their 3rd Degree Certificates at the July meeting



PGK, SK Ed Petru received his VIP Certificate for proposing 15 new members to our Order at the July meeting



SK Ron Frerich received his VIP Certificate for proposing 50 new members to our Order at the July meeting



## FATHER JOHN'S CORNER



### Crowns, Hearts, and FEET in the Bible

*I came across this story and it invited me to pause and take a breath. I share the story with you my brother Knights as summer slowly rolls around.*

"Several years ago, when my dentist put in my first crown, I suddenly noticed (for the first time) how many times the word "crown" appears in the psalms I was praying:

*You ... crowned them with glory and honor (Psalm 8:5).*

*You set a crown of fine gold on his head (Psalm 21:3).*

*You crown the year with your bounty (Psalm 65:11)*

In the same way, after I had an echocardiogram, I suddenly became aware of how many times the word "heart" also shows up:

*You have put gladness in my heart (Psalm 4:7).*

*My heart shall not fear (Psalm 27:3).*

*Create in me a clean heart, O God (Psalm 51:10)*

*Search me, O God, and know my heart (Psalm 139:23).*

*I suppose if I have foot surgery someday, I will notice the following lines in the psalms:*

*You have set my feet in a broad place (Psalm 31:8).*

*For you have delivered my soul from death, and my feet from falling (Psalm 56:13)*

*Your word is a lamp to my feet (Psalm 119: 105).*

The point is, we are not meant to read the psalms – or any other part of the Bible, for that matter – in a vacuum. We are meant to bring to our reading whatever may be happening in our personal lives. Reading scripture becomes fruitful only when we bring to it the events and concerns of our immediate experience."

This story really challenges me. Summertime offers you and me the opportunity to become "aware"; to "notice" and to "pay attention" to all the ways God is present in our ordinary lives. In praying with the psalms, or any other book of the Bible, you and I are invited to bring our very lives to our reading, to our praying.

Summer is our time to take a breath, pay attention and become aware of how wonderful and loving is our God. It is that season where we can put up our feet, open His Word and allow that Word of God to touch our lives. If you and I are willing to bring the events of our lives to the Word of God then we are giving God the space to touch, heal and strengthen us. Have a restful summer filled with crowns, hearts, and feet and all the "stuff" that makes up your life!

Peace

Fr. John



## COUNCIL PROGRAM INFORMATION

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR - Jerry Tomasello**

**CHURCH ACTIVITIES - Randy Yackley Director**

**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES - Matt Leyden Director**

**PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES - Fernando and Rosa Hess Chair Couple**

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES - Wes Kubesch Director**

**FAMILY ACTIVITIES - Matt Sasso Director**

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES - Victor Villarreal Director**

**MEMBERSHIP - Colin Kiernan Director**

If you have questions or want to participate in one or more of these committees, please contact the director and make arrangements to attend the groups next meeting. Their contact information is listed below.

### Council Officers Contact Information

Grand Knight	Gary Bentz	gsbent@flash.net	281 778-9632
Deputy Grand Knight	Jerry Tomasello	jtomasello@rectorseal.com	281 778-7022
Chaplin	Fr. John Rooney	rjrmerici@entouch.net	281 778-0400
Chancellor	Matt Leyden	mleyden@comcast.net	281 208-4593
Recorder	Fernando Hess	fehess2@gmail.com	
Advocate	Tim Alcorn	tpalcorn@yahoo.com	
Lecturer	Kevin McCarthy	mollkev@aol.com	
Warden	Rene Broussard	tandpfan@aol.com	281 565-6661
Outside Guard	Mark Montalbano	mmontalbano@entouch.net	
Outside Guard	Jerry Bishop	j-cbishop@msn.com	
Inside Guard	Matt Sasso	sassofamily@entouch.net	281 778-7703
Inside Guard	Victor Villarreal	vvillarreal12@sbcglobal.net	
Trustee 1 yr	Randy Yackley	ryackley@hotmail.com	
Trustee 2 yrs	Wes Kubesch	weskub@hotmail.com	
Trustee 3 yrs	Ed Petru	epetru2921@aol.com	
Treasurer	Mark Dixon	markdixon12@hotmail.com	281 778-3433
Financial Secretary	Ron Frerich	rjfrerich@earthlink.net	
Membership Director	Colin Kiernan	cmkiernan44@comcast.net	281 499-4067
Insurance Agent	Leo Lowdermilk	leo.lowdermilk@kofc.org	800 460-2706

### BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

On June 15, 2009 Connor Stotts was born to Brother Nathan and his wife Beth. He weighed 10 lbs 2 ozs.

### Our Prayers Are With You

Please remember the following in your prayers:



The soul of Rose Marra, the Aunt of Brother Jerry Tomasello who recently went home to the Lord. Rest in Peace.

Jared Eggemeyer suffering with cancer.

Luis Hess suffering with cancer.

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



- 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 26—Cardinal DiNardo will come to the parish and say the 11 AM mass.

# 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 Cardinal's visit	27	28	29	30	31	

- August 5—Open Social meeting at the church office after 7 PM mass.
- August 11—AGH Chapter meeting at Council 3077 at 7 PM.
- July 19—Regular Business meeting at church office after 7 PM mass. All Knights are welcome.

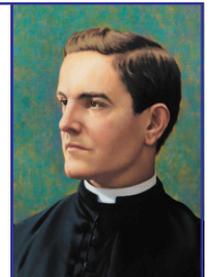
# August 2009

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



**Have a Great Summer!!**

*And please ask St. Anglia Merici and the Venerable Servant of God Father Michael McGivney, to pray for our council and our parish as we begin the capital campaign and move towards breaking ground for our first building on the church’s property in Sienna.*





# FFL DIAPER DRIVE AND CORPORATE COMMUNION



The Fourth Degree leads our council into mass.



Father John preaches at our Corporate Communion mass.



Our Knights present the gifts at the Offertory



Our parish donates diapers for our FFL Diaper Drive



SK Ron, Mark and Ed with some of the collected items..



Bro. Jerry's truck packed from front to back with diapers.

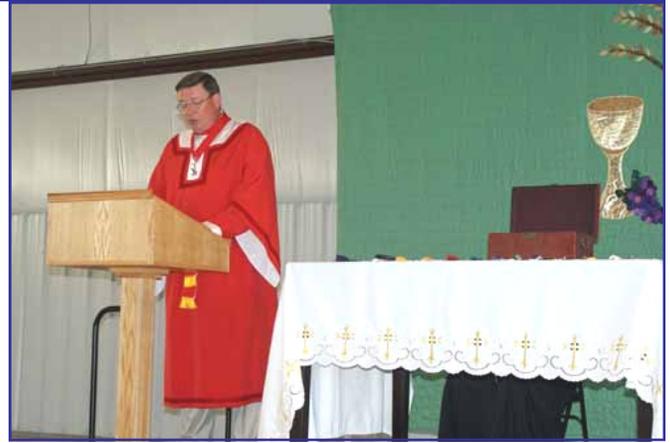
**Remember:** If you participate in any Knights of Columbus events or activities and have pictures, please forward them to Gary Bentz at [gsbent@flash.net](mailto:gsbent@flash.net) so we can have them for our Council records and also so that they may be published in the newsletter.



# COUNCIL PHOTOS



Father John and Brother Tim after their Major Degree on June 20th with their council supporters



Our Worthy DD Brother Gary prepares to install our new officers for the new fraternal year.



Our new officers are installed June 28, 2009



Our new Guards receive their instructions from our DD.



Your Council's Officers for Fraternal Year 2009-2010

**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](mailto:gsbent@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

**Daniel Cardinal DiNardo visits:** His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston will come to the PLEX for 11 AM mass on July 26th. Please attend mass in your council shirts and badges. Fourth Degree will turnout in full regalia.

**Open Social meeting:** Our August 5th meeting will be an "Open" meeting. Wives are welcome and please invite someone you know who is interested in joining the Knights. Our meeting will be conducted by our Lecturer Deacon Kevin. Deacon Kevin will led the discussion on the benefits offered to members of our Order.

### **GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT continued from Page 1.**

all of you that helped in this. Another great job. Also thank you to those that contributed to the FFL Emergency Fund to assist one of their volunteers who has been given 2 infants to care for. Our council and our parish were able to provide some much needed funds and baby clothes to her during this difficult time.

Also on Sunday June 14th, we held our quarterly Corporate Communion at the 9 AM mass. This is always a special day and it was made even more special by our 4th Degree Sir Knights who turned out in full regalia to celebrate with us. Thanks to everyone that attended. There is no greater display of Unity and Fraternity than attending mass together as a council with our families.

On June 13th, eight of our Knights joined our Brothers from Holy Family Council # 7728 and collected money on the corner of Hwy 90A and Grand Parkway. We started collecting at 8 AM and finished at 1 PM. It was HOT!! But most of the people were very nice and generous. After we were finished and split the money with our Brothers from Holy Family, we took in over \$ 900 for the council! So great job Brothers. It was a tough day but well worth it. A special thanks to our DD Brother Gary for helping to get us with Holy Family and for supplying the safety vests and collection cans for the day. He even came out and worked the corner with us for a while.

On June 28th after the 11 AM mass, our Worthy District Deputy Brother Gary Blanchette installed our new council officers for the new fraternal year. Again we have the best group of officers that I have ever been around. It was such a privilege to work with the officers last year. Most of them have "reupped" again for the new year and I am really looking forward to working with them again, and with our new officers who have stepped forward. Please give them all your support and your prayers. May Father McGivney guide us on our mission to lead this council wisely in the days ahead.

This year we are focusing on the establishment of the various Program Committees within the council. There was a great response at our July meeting to these programs and many Knights signed up to be on one or more of these groups. If you were unable to attend that meeting and would like to find out more on these programs, please contact our Program Director Brother Jerry Tomasello and he can direct you to the appropriate director. There are details about these programs in your "Surge With Service" brochure that you should have received and a list of our Directors on Page 5 of this newsletter. Please consider getting active on one of these committees as our council certainly needs your help and ideas. These committees will be instrumental in coordinating and directing all of this council's activities in the year ahead. So if you have some ideas and want to help, please contact Brother Jerry or one of the Program Directors listed on the Officers page on our website.

On July 26th, our parish will be honored by a visit from Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, for the 11 AM mass. Please try to attend and wear your council shirts and badges. Also there will be a 4th Degree turnout so if you are a 4th Degree, please attend in full regalia.

And finally, don't forget that our next regular meeting on August 5th will be an "open social" meeting which will be conducted by our Lecturer Deacon Kevin for The Good Of The Order. This meeting is "open" and therefore anyone may attend. This includes your wives and anyone who may be considering joining our council. The program will cover the many benefits that our Order has to offer and will afford you and your family an opportunity to receive a presentation and ask as many questions as you want. With so many young Knights with young children in our council, this meeting could be very important to you and your family. It's not just life insurance Brothers. Our Order offers many other programs that can be designed to fit your needs. Please make every effort to attend in August after 7 PM mass. It may be a little crowded in the office, but we'll make it work. I hope to see you all on August 5th. May God Bless You All. Gary