

Volume 2, Issue 4

OCTOBER, 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

A new chapter has begun for our Parish and our Council with the ground breaking for our first building in Sienna Plantation. What a great day and a huge milestone. The project is really going!! The trees are being cleared and dirt work is getting started.

What a great honor to have Archbishop Emeritus Joseph Fiorenza say mass and, along with Father John, turn over the first shovels of dirt on the construction phase of our facilities. Thank you to all who helped make the day a success. As always we were honored to have our 4th Degree Brothers turnout for mass and our own Sir Knights be present at the ground breaking.

Our Soccer Challenge was rained out again this year. Brother Victor and his committee did a great job of getting the word out and we had many kids signed up to participate. Unfortunately the Camp Sienna Curse struck again! But don't give up, the Free Throw Contest is coming and its INSIDE!

We were able to spread rock at the PLEX coming off the concrete parking lot onto the dirt to prevent cars from bottoming out on the curb. Special thanks to Randy Yackley and Steve Petru for coordinating the rock and working with the PLEX. Also thanks to Brother Ron Frerich for lining up a tractor. It turned a lot of work into much easier project.

"Team Merici" went to the convent and mowed the grass for the Nuns in Missouri City. We had a great turnout and our work got rave reviews. The coordinator of the program sent out a very complimentary email to everyone for the way we worked together and the great job that we did.

Several Brothers and their families joined the Chain of Life Day which stretched all the way down Hwy 6 from Hwy 59 to Settlers Way. It was a dramatic show of support for the innocent unborn and those that attended were blessed with abundant support from the motorists who drove by. A great opportunity for us to speak up for those innocent ones that have no voice and have no choice. Special thanks to Brother Fernando Hess for coordinating this day for the council.

We also sent a group to Burton, Texas to Camp For All. As you recall, this is a beautiful camp that is designed to allow every child, Continued on Page 12

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Points of Interest to all Council Members:

WEBSITE: If you have not already done so, please go to our website at www.kofc14617.org and login using the password your were sent. You may change your password and also update your member profile to be sure we have your information correct. If you don't have a password, login and check the don't remember box and one will be emailed to you.



NEWS FROM SUPREME

Tribunal Sends New Information on Purported Miracle to Vatican

Officials of a supplemental Tribunal constituted by the Archdiocese of Hartford have formally sent a new report to the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

The tribunal – a panel tasked with gathering additional testimony – interviewed additional witnesses, including several medical doctors, about the circumstances of a reported miracle attributed to Venerable Michael McGivney's intercession.

The report was signed and presented to Archbishop Henry Mansell on Sept. 22, 2009, and was affixed with the seal of the Archbishop of Hartford.

The postulator of the cause, Dr. Andrea Ambrosi, traveled from Rome to Hartford for the occasion.

The event was held in the chapel at the chancery of the archdiocese and was attended by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, other Supreme Officers, relatives of Father McGivney and archdiocesan officials.

NEWS FROM STATE

What a great START! Historical Membership Data!

Tuesday, October 06, 2009 (22:52:47)

By Terry Simonton,
State Membership Director



Congratulations to everyone throughout the State for the Best First Quarter Ever! For the first time ever, YOU recruited 1,055 new members in the First Quarter of our Fraternal Year. You also had the highest net membership with 726 net members. Great Job, my Brother Knights! Please thank everyone in your Dioceses, Districts, and Councils for a great job. With the current October Blitzes going on this month, we should really have a great month in recruiting. Texas is currently in the semifinals in the Supreme World Series of Membership. Let's keep on recruiting and let's show everyone that Texas is the Best of the Best.

I have posted the Historical Membership Data "[Recruitment History Data 96-09](#)". What a terrific year we are having, let's keep it up!

INSURANCE NEWS

A NEW WORLD OF PROTECTION

Many of you have asked about The Discoverer – one of the latest additions to the Order's portfolio.

The Discoverer is a new plan of insurance offered to you and your family. In a nutshell, it is the most modern method of protecting your life – a custom designed package of life insurance at low rates. You decide how much coverage you want. You decide on the amount of your premium. We will match the two, and The Discoverer will do the rest by blending whole life and term insurance just for you.

I would like to tell you about The Discoverer, and show you how it can serve your needs. Call me today for an appointment. Call Leo Lowdermilk at (832) 338-6269 or (800) 460-2706.



COUNCIL NEWS

- Our October meeting was held on the 7th and we were honored to have our Worthy Diocesan Deputy and Chapter Present Brother Cruz Hinojosa present. Also with us was our Worthy District Deputy Brother Gary Blanchette. Brother Gary presented our Council with our 2008-2009 Double Star Council Award from Supreme for meeting and exceeding our charity and council goals by 200 percent. Only 506 councils received this award in this fraternal year. That's out of all councils in the Country Brothers.! Congratulations to each one of you and keep up the great work we have begun. [See pictures below.](#)
- September 19th our Team Merici Mowing Team went to the Dominican Convent and mowed for the Sisters. We had a great turnout and the grounds looked terrific. Great job!! [See pictures on Page 9](#)
- September 20th was a banner day for the parish. It began with Bishop Fiorenza saying 11 AM mass and was followed by a great ground breaking ceremony on the property in Sienna. Thanks to the 4th Degree SKs for turning out and for all of you who helped make this event such a grand success. [See pictures on Pages 8 and 9.](#)
- Several Knights went over to the PLEX and spread gravel in the parking lot to stop people from bottoming out their cars upon leaving the concrete portion of the lot. A special thanks to Bros. Randy Yackley, Steve Petru and Ron Frerich for coordinating the purchase, delivery and tractor. [See pictures on Page 10.](#)
- On October 3rd, our council went to the Camp For All Work day in Burton and pressured washed the beautiful chapel there. It was a great day and great job by the group that went. There will be more opportunities to help this cause in the future, Special thanks to Brother Matt Leyden for putting this together. [See pictures Page 10.](#)
- October 4th was the Chain of Life March along Hwy 6., The chain extended from Hwy 59 all the way past Settlers Way and was a great display of support for the innocent unborn. Thanks to those that joined in. [See picture Page 10.](#)



DD Gary Blanchette presents the Double Star Award to our Council at the October meeting..



This beautiful award was presented to all of us and will be on display in the church office. GREAT JOB!!



FATHER JOHN'S CORNER



The Power of the Seed

“Jesus said, “This is how it is with the reign of God. A man scatters seed on the ground. He goes to bed and gets up day after day. Through it all the seed sprouts and grows without his knowing how it happened. The soil produces of itself first the blade, then the ear, finally the ripe wheat.” (Mark 1: 26-28).

One of the strangest seeds in the world is the seed of the Chinese bamboo tree. It lies buried in the soil for five years before any seedling or sprout appears above the ground. Think of it! Five years! All during these five years the seed must be cultivated, that is, watered, and fertilized regularly. Now for the big surprise!

When the bamboo seedling finally emerges from the ground, it grows to a height of nine feet in just six weeks. Why does the seedling take so long to emerge? Why does it grow so fast once it emerges? Plant experts say that during its first five years in the soil the bamboo seed is busy building an elaborate root system. It is this root system that enables it to grow nine feet in six weeks.

Does our faith have deep roots? How can you and I know? What is our root system that nourishes us spiritually every day? These are good questions as we enter this fall season. Each of us needs to make the space to reflect on the seed of faith that God has planted in each of our hearts.

Faith is a powerful seed. God places the seed within each of us. Our task is to nourish this seed of faith. We are the ones who must cultivate water and fertilize the seed of faith every day. We do this first of all through our regular prayer life. The celebration of the Eucharist is the primary way that you and I cultivate this seed of faith. It is always within the community of believers, gathered to give praise and thanks to God, that we best nourish and cultivate this seed of faith. As brothers in the Knights of Columbus we have the added blessing of being nourished as we live out our Charity, Unity and Fraternity.

In addition to our celebrating the Eucharist gathering as the people of God can be a cultivating event. When we gather with others and share our faith the seed cannot help but grow. Jesus himself promised that when two or three gather together in His name Jesus would be there in their midst. Studies have shown that remaining connected to others can make all the difference in living our lives in a healthy way. The same is true for cultivating the seed of faith within each of us. In the various gatherings where our faith is shared roots are planted firmly and the seed of faith is able to sprout and grow.

Make the most of the opportunities where your seed of faith can be cultivated. Make sure that you have deep roots like the bamboo tree. Make the most of it! The seed of faith is God's gift to us. Remember, what you and I choose to do with that seed of faith is our gift back to God!

Peace, Father John



PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT



The month of September was a milestone for St. Angela Merici. We finally broke ground to begin the first phase of our Church grounds. As a council, we had everything from Catholic Night at Minute Maid Park, thank you Brother Ron, VA Hospital visit, coordinated by Brother Dennis, and mowing grass at the convent for the Dominican Sisters where we had 8 brothers help. Thank you!

October began with a rewarding experience at "Camp For All". On Oct. 3rd seven Knights journeyed to Burton Texas for a work day in power washing the camp's Chapel. When we arrived, for those of us who have never been there, we realized this was not a typical camp you send your kids to during the summer. It is a camp for kids who are fighting cancer and other illnesses as well as kids physically challenged. There are medical facilities and cabins for the kids and their families. They even have a wheel chair accessible tree house! I was asked what was one thing I remember most of this day? With no hesitation I have to say it was the looks on the faces of all the kids and their families. Here we stood looking at them feeling so bad knowing that they all are facing some type of illness and they were running around, yelling, laughing, dancing...just having the time of their life. How special is that? Our work day was just fitting for any Knights of Columbus council and that was to help power wash the camp Chapel. Hard work...yes. Rewarding...absolutely! We will be having another work day at Camp For All in the near future and I would encourage all of you, and your families, to make time and participate. Thank you brother Matt Leyden for arranging this fun and rewarding experience.

On Oct. 4th, brother Fernando coordinated our participation in the Chain of Life. Talk about a powerful message. All along both sides of Hwy 6 from Hwy 59 to, well I could not see that far but it was at least to Dulles Ave, there were Pro-Life supporters holding signs in silence and prayer. There were horns honking, and thumbs up from drivers passing by and of course there were a few others who objected to our message giving us some gestures as well. All in all it was a peaceful display for Pro-Life.

On Sunday Oct. 11th, we are having a St. Angela Merici Picnic meeting at Camp Sienna (1:30 pm). Last minute details are to be finalized for the Nov. 1st picnic. If you are not on the planning committee, we still could use your help especially now that we have twice the number of families as we did back in May. PRAY there is no rain on Nov. 1st.

This coming Monday, Oct. 12th, we will be participating in the first annual District 75 Golf Tournament held at Sienna Golf Course. Our Worthy District Deputy, Gary Blanchette has worked hard in putting this together for all councils in the district to participate and raise money for our State Charity Goals. There is still time to sign up. If you don't play golf...no problem. They can still use your help.

The weekend of Nov. 7th and 8th will be another special weekend for our council and church. On Saturday the 7th, the Foundation for Life will have their annual fundraising Gala at the Sugar Land Marriott with award winning columnist and best selling author, Michelle Malkin as guest speaker. If you would like to attend please let me know. We will also have our quarterly diaper drive for the FFL on Saturday and Sunday and we will have our quarterly corporate communion during Sunday's 11:00 am mass.

On behalf of our Worthy Grand Knight and all council officers and committees, thank you for your participation and we look forward to volunteering, working and having fun with you in the future!

Vivat Jesu!



DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT



Worthy Brothers,

Fall is upon us and cooler weather is just around the corner. Fall also signals our time to go out and recruit new brothers with a Fall Recruitment Blitz. Many of you have already had blitzes and for this I congratulate you, but we must now take the time to get these new candidates into the order. I would like to challenge each council in District 75 to bring 5 candidates to the First Degree to be held on Monday, Oct. 19th at Council 4204. Let's try our hardest to make this the best degree in the Diocese.

October is also a good time to honor our Blessed Mother with a Rosary. October 7th is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary which was established in 1573. Let each council and brother show their devotion to our Blessed Mother and our Order by saying a Rosary this month, remember our Worthy State Deputy's theme for our fraternal year is "Pray the Rosary".

October 4th is Life Chain Sunday and Respect Life Sunday. This is not just a local event, it is nation wide. There will be a life chain held on Sunday, October 4th in Sugar Land at Hwy 6 and Williams Trace and Lexington from 2:00pm-3:30pm. Remember that participation in the Life Chain qualifies as a Church activity for the Columbian award and also counts toward your ACE Wings award. For more information please email Marie McCoy at mariemccoyprc@yahoo.com

October 9th is the deadline for all Football Sweepstakes tickets to be turned in so please remember to get your tickets sold and turned in before then. You have 9 chances to win each week with the highest total for the week winning \$400.00 and the lowest total winning \$60.00. Checks are mailed automatically so there is nothing to do but buy and ticket and root on your teams. Remember there are also valuable coupons when you log on to the website and \$1.00 of every ticket sold comes back to your council in the form of a credit against your state per capita. Good Luck!

Lastly, I just want to remind all the brothers that October 12 is Columbus Day and we will be having a District golf tournament to celebrate. The tournament is at Sienna Plantation and starts at 8:00am. All proceeds go to support each council's state charity goal. We still need golfers, door prize donations and hole sponsors. If you are interested or need more information, please contact me or your Grand Knight.

Pray the Rosary,

Gary Blanchette

District Deputy #75 gary_blanchette@comcast.net

Council Officers Information

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Treasurer Mark Dixon	markdixon12@hotmail.com	281 778-3433
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Membership Dir Colin Kiernan	cmkiernan44@comcast.net	281 499-4067
Insurance Agent Leo Lowdermilk	leo.lowdermilk@kofc.org	800 460-2706

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Oct 12--Thomas Zvonek

Our Prayers Are With You



Please remember the following in your prayers:

Jared Goolsby who is undergoing cancer treatments.

GK Gary Bentz who has throat cancer.

Raymond Tabor, Uncle of Bro. Chris Agostinelli, who has cancer.

Richard Hogan

Our Men and Women in Uniform both living and deceased especially Gabriel Machado deployed in Afghanistan and Corp. Casey Owens

Our Holy Father and all of the clergy especially Fr. Roy for his back procedure

The innocent unborn. St. Angela Merici Parish

The intentions of all our Brother Knights



- Oct 3—Camp For All work day for council. Contact Bro. Matt Leyden.
- Oct 4—Chain of Life Event Sugar Land 2—4 PM
- Oct 7—Regular business meeting at the church office after 7 PM mass.
- Oct 10—Diocesan Soccer Challenge. Details to follow.
- Oct 12—District 75 Golf Tournament at Sienna Plantation Golf Club. Tee off at 8:30 AM.
- Oct 13—AGH Chapter meeting at Council 3077 at 7 PM.
- Oct 16 thru 18—Fourth Degree Exemplification in Humble.
- Oct 21—Officer's meeting at church office after 7 PM mass. All Members are welcome at meeting.

- Nov 1—First Annual parish picnic at Camp Sienna.
- Nov 4—Regular business meeting at the church office after 7 PM mass.
- Nov 7—Foundation For Life Gala at Sugar Land Marriot Hotel. Set up at 10 AM and the gala is at 6 PM At all masses FFL Diaper Drive and Corporate Communion at 11 AM mass
- Nov 10—AGH Chapter meeting at Council 3077 at 7 PM.
- Nov 15—VA Hospital visit. Meet at the church office at 7:30 AM
- Nov 17—4th Degree meeting at Council 4204 at 7 PM
- Nov 18—Officers' meeting at the church office after 7 PM mass.
- Nov 23, 24 & 25—Thanksgiving Turkey cooking at St. Laurence and distribution at church office.

October 2009

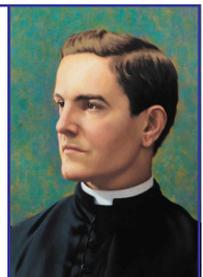
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Camp For All Day
4 Chain of Life Event	5	6	7 Regular Business meeting 7	8	9	10 Diocesan Soccer Challenge
11	12 District Golf Tourney	13 AGH Chapter meeting	14	15	16	17 4th Degree Exemplifica-
18	19	20	21 Officer's meeting	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Parish Picnic	2	3	4 Regular Business meeting	5	6	7 FFL Annual Gala
8 Diaper Drive & Corp Communion	9	10 AGH Chapter meeting	11	12	13	14
15 VA Hospital visit	16	17 4th Degree meet-	18 Officers' meeting	19	20	21
22	23 Thanks-giving Turkey cooking	24 Thanks-giving Turkey cooking	25 Turkey delivery & clean up	26	27	28
29	30					



*Happy moments, praise God; Difficult moments, seek God;
 Quiet moments, worship God; Painful moments, trust God;
 Every moment, thank God*





COUNCIL PHOTOS - GROUND BREAKING DAY



Our 4th Degree turned out to honor the Bishop



Our council's 4th Degree Sir Knights



The 4th Degree leads the procession into mass



Bishop Fiorenza preaches to the very crowded mass.



The gifts are presented to the Bishop



The Bishop and Father John celebrate mass with Deacon Kevin

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



Bishop Fiorenza and Father John break ground



Ground is broken in Sienna Plantation!



The crowd at the groundbreaking ceremony



The parish watches the groundbreaking ceremony



Team Merici mowed at the convent on Sept 20th



Members of the mowing crew clean up at the convent

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



The Knights spread crushed rock in the PLEX parking lot



No more bottom outs at the PLEX



Our Knights and families at the Chain of Life March



The chapel at Camp For All in Burton.



Bros. Greg from St. Laurence and Victor pressure wash



Brother Steve cleans the chapel floors at Camp For All

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.



Knights of Columbus
District 75
First Annual Charity Golf Tournament
Monday, October 12, 2009
 Sienna Plantation Golf Club — Missouri
 City, Texas



Entry Fee: \$100 per individual; \$400 per team.
 (Includes green fee, range balls, shared cart, lunch and prizes)
 Format: Four-Player Team Scramble
 (Men and Women / Teams and Individuals Welcome)
 8:30 A.M. Shotgun start followed by lunch, awards and prizes
 Please make checks payable to: **St. Angela Merici Council 14617**

Mail entry and checks to: Gary Blanchette DD#75
 4723 Stoney Point Ct.
 Sugar Land, TX 77479

For additional information contact:

Gary Blanchette (281-389-9672) Email: gary_blanchette@comcast.net

**There is an underscore after gary

<u>Gold Sponsor</u>	\$600.00	<u>Silver Sponsor</u>	\$450.00
1-4 person team entry fee		2-Individual entry fees	
1-Hole sponsor sign		1-Hole sponsor sign	
4-Tournament hats		2-Tournament hats	
4-Special goodie bags		2-Special goodie bags	

<u>Bronze Sponsor</u>	\$300.00	<u>Hole Sponsor</u>	\$100.00
1-Individual entry fee		1-Hole sponsor sign on tee box	
1-Hole sponsor sign			
1-Tournament hat & special goodie bag			

Beverage Cart Sponsor \$250.00

1-Special cart signage
 1-Tournament Hat

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT TEXAS STATE COUNCIL CHARITIES

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.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

District 75 Golf Tournament: On October 12th, Columbus Day, we are hosting the First Annual District 75 Golf Tournament at Sienna Plantation Golf Club. Information about the tournament and registration is on Page 11. Please sign up and play or sponsor. Get a company you trade with to sponsor. The money will go to our State Charity goal for this year. We need your support! Columbus Day—Where else would you rather be??

Parish Picnic: On November 1 we will host the First Annual St. Angela Parish Picnic at Camp Sienna. We need lots of help to set up, cook and serve. The parish has doubled in size we last attempted this event and I anticipate a large turnout. Please sign up to help. If you wish to help please contact Brother Matt Sasso and get on the committee.

Foundation For Life Gala and Diaper Drive Weekend: The November 7th and 8th week end is a HUGE one for our council's work with the Foundation. On Saturday they will hold their annual gala at the Sugar Land Marriott Hotel. Set up will be at 10 AM and the gala will follow that evening. We also are collecting diapers for the FFL at all masses. The Foundation is serious need of all diaper sizes as their pantry is empty. Please bring any diaper sizes to mass and leave them in the designated areas. This is a big help to these young mothers who have chosen Life for their baby but now need our help. Contact Brother Jerry Tomasello for information.

Corporate Communion: We will hold our quarterly Corporate Communion at the 11 AM mass on November 8th. Fourth Degree Sir Knights are asked to turnout in full regalia. Please assemble with the council family in the rear of mass around 10:45 so that we can process in together as a council family. All are welcome to join us. And again please be generous with your support of the diaper drive.

VA Hospital Visit: November 15th our council will visit the VA Hospital veterans for mass. We will meet behind the church office at 7:30 AM and drive to the hospital. Brothers this is another very rewarding ministry as many of these men are confined to their bed and have no visitors. Please consider spending the morning with them and attending mass in their chapel. Contact Brother Dennis O'Driscoll for details.

Thanksgiving Turkeys: This year we will again take orders and smoke turkeys for Thanksgiving. We will coordinate with our Brothers at St. Laurence council and use their smoker. We will need help to sell after masses, to go cook, to clean up, and to distribute the turkeys Please look for the dates and times as we finalize our schedule with St. Laurence. For information please contact Brother Jerry Tomasello.

Council Program Activities and Committees: Our various standing program committees are forming, meeting, and planning our upcoming events for the year ahead. If you want to be a part of the selection and planning of activities for our council in the areas of Church, Council, Community, Family, Youth, Membership or Pro-Life, contact the director listed on Page 6 of this newsletter and sign up today. They need your help.

Grand Knight's Report—Continued from Page 1

to enjoy a camp experience. It is a remarkable place and one I hope we can continue to build a long relationship with. Many thanks to Brother Matt Leyden for getting us together with them and thanks to all who went and worked to clean their beautiful chapel.

The golf tournament is in a few days and November will be a busy month. Now is the time to step up and be an active member of this council. **A Double Star Council!!** Take pride in what we have done, but strive to get even better. Remember the best recruiting tool we have is YOU! Always wear your council colors with great pride and talk to the young men in our parish about what we do and how they could get involved and help. We will have a Fall Blitz and I hope to expand our council's membership. There is much to do in the months ahead and we need to new members.

Finally Brothers thank you for all of your thoughts and prayers. You have all been a wonderful source of faith and support for me and my family. And if I screwed up something in the newsletter I hope you'll overlook it. Vivat Jesu Gary