

Volume 2, Issue 6

DECEMBER, 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

Again I should apologize to you all for getting the newsletter out a little late this month. I wanted to include the pictures of our awards from this past Sunday and it has taken me awhile to get the whole thing together but here it is. With this newsletter falling in the middle of holidays our council has not been terribly busy as we tend to slow down and enjoy the season. But we have had several events we have done and have several more coming up and in the planning stages.

On November 16th we had two candidates go through the First Degree at St. Thomas Aquinas and become Knights. Welcome to our new Brother Knights Mike Janik and Colby Castro. In addition to our two new Knights we had 9 Knights from our council who showed up to support them. Great job to all and the Degree Team from St. Thomas Aquinas did their usual great job. So let us all welcome our new Brothers and help to get them involved.

On November 23 through the 25th we smoked 54 turkeys and distributed them to the families that preordered them. It was a great team effort to sell the turkeys, prepare and cook them, clean the pit at St. Laurence and finally passing them out at the church office. And they were delicious. I received a really nice note from PGK Steve Hanshaw at St. Laurence that paid us a great compliment on our turn out and efforts to clean up and help them cook. So a job well done.. We don't have the final report yet but we did very well raising funds for our council's activities. So good job and get ready for Super Bowl Briskets!

Our regular meeting was on December 2nd. We were presented a plaque of appreciation from the local boys baseball team the Sienna Storm. Coach Murff and several ballplayers **Continued on Page 9**

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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 AND STATE

Food for Families Program

With the number of Americans and Canadians at risk of hunger far higher than usual and the number of those planning to give to charity at this time of year lower than usual, the Knights of Columbus has committed \$1 million and legions of active volunteers to its "Food for Families" program to collect food and financially support food banks in the United States and Canada this winter. Statistics released by the USDA show nearly 50 million Americans experienced "food insecurity" last year, while new numbers in Canada show those using food banks has increased by 18 percent in the past year.

The program encourages each state jurisdiction in the United States and each province jurisdiction in Canada to work with their local parish churches and other public places to collect food for food banks in their area. Those states and provinces in which a significant number of councils participate will then be allocated a portion of the \$1 million fund for food banks in their areas.

There are approximately 9,300 local Knights of Columbus councils in the United States and about 2,100 in Canada.

"At a time when record numbers are at risk of hunger, and with fewer able to give financially to charity, the Knights of Columbus hopes this program will help both to alleviate the problem, and to encourage other religious and charitable organizations - as well as businesses and corporations - to conduct similar programs," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, who announced the program this morning.

"People may not be able to give a lot of money to Charity this Christmas, but many can give a can of soup to help their neighbors, and the Knights of Columbus are committed to providing them the opportunity to do so."

"Food for Families" is one of the many projects in the Knights of Columbus "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" initiative. The initiative began at a summit on volunteerism as a response to the economic crisis, which the Knights organized in New York City in February. That summit drew leaders from scores of the nation's top charitable organizations, including: The Salvation Army, Volunteers of America, United Way, Catholic Charities, Points of Light, the National Fraternal Congress, and scores of other groups.

As part of the "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" program, this winter, the Knights of Columbus will also provide "coats for kids" in need throughout the United States and Canada, and will ask the public to "help a child in need" with television advertising.

INSURANCE NEWS

HAPPY AND HOLY HOLIDAYS!

I would like to extend to you my sincere best wishes for a holy and happy holiday season. I imagine you feel the same way about the Christmas season as I do – such a peaceful, happy time.

But just take one moment to ask yourself what your family's Christmas would be like if you were not here. This year, why not give them the most precious gift of all – a life insurance plan what will allow them to have, always, the kind of Christmas you want them to have.

We have plans that will guarantee income for your family's future – for just a few dollars a month.

Enjoy this season of celebration. Please call me for an appointment and we will discuss a gift of security and protection from you to your loved ones. Call me today. I want to hear from you. Leo Lowdermilk at (832) 338-6269 or (800) 460-2706



COUNCIL NEWS

- At our December 2 meeting, we were visited by representatives of the Sienna Storm Boys Baseball team. They presented us with a plaque which thanked our council for supporting them in their golf tournament. Thank you Brother Ed Petru for your participation. **See picture Page 7.**
- Also at our December meeting, we were able to pass out several Knight of the Month Awards to our very deserving Brothers. Brother Jerry Tomasello won the award in October, Brother Steve Petru won in November, and Brother Ed Cazanans won the award for December. I think all of us can agree that these 3 Knights are most deserving as they have been involved in practically every event we have had. Great job guys! **See pictures below.**
- And finally at our December meeting, we were able to recognize our two new Knights to our Order and our Council. They are Brothers Mike Janik and Colby Castro. **See picture below.**



Our Knight of the Month for October Jerry Tomasello

Our Knight of the Month for November Steve Petru



Our Knight of the Month for December Ed Cazanans

Our newest Knights Brother Mike and Colby receive their First Degree Certificates at the December meeting. Congratulations and Welcome!



FATHER JOHN'S CORNER



Brother Knights as we begin this Advent Season preparing for the great blessing of Christ born again in our hearts, I want to share with you a reflection I received. I offer it to challenge all of us to remember what this Season is about and how we are to give witness to the promise that comes from the birth of Christ.

"Twas the month before Christmas when all through our land, not a Christian was praying nor taking a stand. See the PC Police had taken away, the reason for Christmas – no one could say.

The children were told by their school not to sing, about shepherds and wise men and angels and things. It might hurt people's feelings; the teachers would say December 25th is just a Holiday!

Yet the shoppers were ready with cash, checks and credit pushing folks down to the floor just to get it! CD's from Madonna, an X Box, and an I-pod. Something was changing, something quite odd! Retailers promoted Ramadan and Kwanzaa.

As Targets were hanging their trees upside down, at Lowe's the word Christmas was nowhere to be found. At K-Mart and Staples and Penny's and Sears you won't hear the word Christmas; it won't touch your ears.

Inclusive, sensitive, diversity are words that were used to intimidate me. At the top of the government there arose such a chatter, to eliminate Jesus, in all public matter.

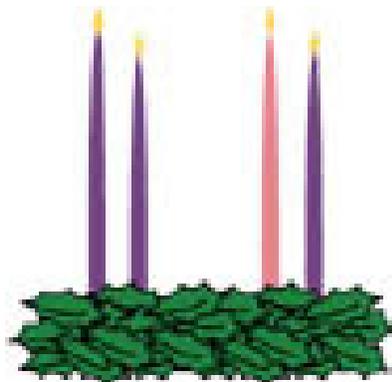
And we spoke not a word, as they took away our faith. Forbidden to speak of salvation and grace. The true Gift of Christmas was exchanged and discarded. The reason for the season, stopped before it started.

So as you celebrate 'Winter Break' under your "Dream Tree" sipping your Starbucks, listen to me, choose your words carefully, choose what you say. Shout MERRY CHRISTMAS not Happy Holiday!"

Thank God we Knights of Columbus are loud in offering Merry Christ-mass to all!

Peace and Merry Christmas to you all

Fr. John





DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT



Worthy Brothers,

The holidays are upon us and we **really** do have reasons to celebrate and be thankful. I know I am thankful for my Lord and Savior, my family, my friends, my job and especially my brother Knights. It has been a full year since I first took office as your District Deputy and I realize how grateful I am to have brothers who care about the same things that I care about. You have taught me many things and I thank all of you for that; I especially want to thank my wife Gerry for standing behind me in this endeavor and encouraging me to be the best that I can be as your District Deputy.

In the past month, District 75 has seen some awesome events take place. The District has held two first degrees in which we welcomed 20 new brothers to the order. We held a Squires Investiture at Council 7382 in which 4 young catholic men became members of the Squires. This could not have been possible without the help of Tony Miller of 7382 and John Clennan of 4204. Thanks to both of you and the boys! As I attended the council meetings in the district this past month I was able to pass out checks to each of the councils for their participation in the District Golf Tournament, man I really like handing out money! Hopefully next year we will be able to pay off every council's state charity goal. As you can see we have had a busy and successful few weeks but the icing on the cake came a couple weeks ago when it was published that District 75 made Star District for the last fraternal year. It has been a long time since this district was recognized as a Star District and I want to thank Immediate Past District Deputy Dennis Marek for getting the ball rolling and helping me get started. I also want to thank all of you for your hard work and dedication to our order. Congratulations to all the councils in District 75!

My brothers, as we wind down this calendar year, I hope that you look back on this past years accomplishments and say a prayer of thanks to God for all the blessings that He has given us. I also hope that you will commit yourselves even more to the coming year and all that it holds in store for us as catholic families and brothers.

May God bless you and your families this Christmas season,

Gary Blanchette

District Deputy #75

Council Officers Information

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DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dec 1—Kevin Corbett, Dec 14—Matt Sasso. Dec 15—Fernando Hess

Our Prayers Are With You



Please remember the following in your prayers:

The following family and friends who are fighting some form of cancer: Jared Goolsby, GK Gary Bentz, Janet Frerich (Ron's sister), Raymond Tabor (Chris Agostinelli's Uncle), Bill Copenhaver, Marty Adrian, Sam Tramonte, Bill Lackey, David Harris, Phil Adamczak (Colin Kiernan's Brother in Law), Jeanette Hottman, Dale Strasser and Elvin Bethea.

Sue Bishop (Jerry Bishop's sister in law) who is battling severe GI problems.. Hayden Agostinelli, Tino Cabello, Jim Hamilton, Rosie Ingle, and Carlota Hess.

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



- Dec 2—Regular business meeting at the church office after 7 PM mass.
- Dec 5—Special Olympics Bowling Tournament at Copperfield lanes.
- Dec 8— AGH Chapter meeting at Council 3077 at 7 PM.
- Dec 11 & 12—CASA Home Tour in Riverbend. Contact Paul Yasilli for information and to volunteer.
- Dec 15—4th Degree meeting at St. Theresa Council 4204 Hall
- Dec 16—Officers meeting at the church office after 7 PM mass.
- Dec 25—MERRY CHRISTMAS

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Regular business meeting	3	4	5 Special Olympics bowling
6	7	8 AGH Chapter meeting	9	10	11 casa Home tour	12 CASA Home tour
13	14	15 4th Degree meeting	16 Officers' meeting	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26
27	28	29	30	31		

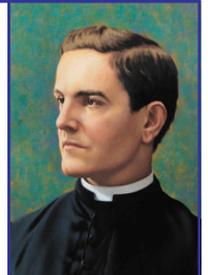
- Jan 6— Regular business meeting at he church office after 7 PM mass.
- Jan 10—KC Night with the Aeros. At Toyota Center at 7 PM.
- Jan 12—AGH Chapter meeting at Council 3077 at 7 PM.
- Jan 19—4th Degree meeting at St. Theresa Council 4204
- Jan 20—Officers meeting at the church office after 7 PM mass.
- Jan 29—Clergy Night at Stafford Center. Tickets still available. Contact Bro. Ron Frerich.

January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Regular business	7	8	9
10 KC Night at the Aeros	11	12 AGH Chapter meeting	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 4th Degree meeting	20 Officers' meeting	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Clergy Night	30
31						



MAY YOU ALL HAVE A VERY BLESSED AND MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.





COUNCIL PHOTOS



Getting the turkeys ready for the smoker



Brother Matt seasoning the birds



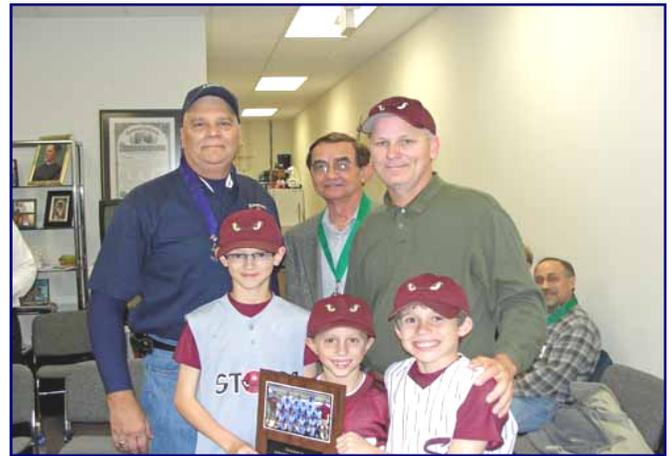
Brother Colin cleaning up the turkeys for seasoning



Bro. Ron unwraps a turkey



Our new Brothers Mike and Colby with their supporters at their First Degree at St. Thomas Aquinas



Coach Murff and the Sienna Storm presented a plaque to council for our sponsorship in their golf tournament

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



Our Family of the Month for September is the Dixon Family



The Lackey Family and their daughter Shannon are our October Family of the Month



Our Family of the Month for November is the Viro family



Five Sir Knights from our council present Father John's KC mass vestments at 11 AM mass



Father shows his new vestments to the congregation



Father receives his KC vestments from the council

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

CASA Home Tour: Our council has again volunteered to help with parking at the CASA Home Tour on December 11th and 12th. This event is the main fund raiser for this organization which cares for children that have been neglected or abused in the Fort Bend area. If you can help by working a shift please contact Brother Paul Yasilli at pauyasilli@gmail.com.

Clergy Night: On January 29th the Archdiocese of Galveston/Houston Chapter will host the annual Clergy Appreciation Night at Stafford Center. This dinner honors our local clergy and is a great time. We have reserved several tables but if you wish to go, please contact Brother Ron Frerich at rfrerich@earthlink.net. The cost is \$ 40 per person. Please contact Brother Ron immediately as there is very limited seating.

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—CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

attended and gave our council a very nice plaque with the team picture on it. Good job Brother Ed Petru for getting us involved with the league. We were also able to present Brothers Jerry Tomasello, Steve Petru and Ed Cazanias with their well deserved Knight of the Month Awards. Great job guys!!

At 11 AM mass on Sunday December 6th we were able to present several Family of the Month Awards to some very deserving parish families. The Dixon Family; the Lackey, Bowen Family; and the Viro Family were honored for their many contributions to our parish, council and community. We were also honored to present Father John with his Knights of Columbus mass vestments. These vestments were available through Supreme and Father had mentioned they would be nice to wear at KC masses. And so we were able to surprise him by having our 4th Degree Sir Knights present them to him at the end of mass. Father was surprised and happy to receive them and wore them during masses on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception as our Blessed Mother is the Patroness of our Order.

We have the CASA Home Tour going on this weekend. We have Knights signed up to help with the parking of cars and the loading of the shuttle buses. The CASA Home Tour is the major fund raiser for this organization which supports neglected and abused children in the Fort Bend area. Last year they were able to raise over \$ 240,000 for their organization and hopefully this year will be even better. Thanks to all of you who have signed up to help.

And finally on January 29th we will celebrate the AGH Chapter's Clergy Appreciation Night at the Stafford Center. We have a few seats still available for the evening. Tickets are \$ 40 each which includes dinner and a great evening. If you would still like to attend please contact Brother Ron Frerich and buy your tickets soon.

Finally my prayer for each of you is that you and your families have a Very Blessed and Merry Christmas. With so many distractions like Christmas lists, parties, fighting the crowds at the mall, or just shopping online for bargains, we can get caught up in the whole "Holiday" thing. Remember what Christmas is really all about. As our magnets say "Keep Christ in Christmas". Realize how much God loves us that He became one of us in body and soul with only one ultimate purpose. After a three year public ministry He was tortured and died on the cross for our sins and was raised from the dead to give us eternal life. No other Christmas gift could ever compare. My best wishes to each of you, Merry Christmas. Gary