

KNIGHTS
OF
COLUMBUS



Saint Thomas More
Council #14270
Kansas City, Missouri

2008-2009 OFFICERS

- Chaplain* Fr. Don Farnan
- Grand Knight* Gene Twellman
- Deputy Grand Knight* Jim Easley
- Chancellor* Brad Doty
- Recorder* Joe Haster
- Financial Secretary* Tom Steffens
- Treasurer* Jack Ryan
- Advocate* Paul Hentzen
- Warden* Don Doyon
- Inside Guard* Jim Wright
- Outside Guard* John Kelly
- 3rd Year Trustee* Craig Borgmeyer
- 2nd Year Trustee* David Long
- 1st Year Trustee* Tom Kenagy
- Program Director* Jim Easley
- Church Director* Joe Wynn
- Vocations Chairman* Phil Muellner
- Community Director* Joe Dyche
- Council Director* Tom Kenagy
- Family Director* Larry LeFebvre
- Youth Director* Doug Weishar
- Membership Director* John Kelly
- Recruitment Committee* Brad Doty
- Lecturer* Gene Gray

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Vivat Jesus!

Knights News



VOL. 2 NO. 1

JANUARY 2009

Grand Knight's Report

■ *Brother Gene Twellman*

Merry Christmas! I want to wish all my brother Knights and their families a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year!

I was extremely proud of my brother Knights at our business meeting in December. We were visited by a guest (no, not Santa), David Butel, the STM pastoral associate. David and Brother Larry Lefebvre had discussed the possibility of our council donating to some needy STM families. The charity committee had several worthy causes to consider, and the council voted to donate \$200 gift cards from WalMart to six different needy parish families. In addition, \$250 was donated to both Seton Center and Bishop Sullivan Center to assist other needy families in the Kansas City area. As you know, the first watchword of the Knights of Columbus is charity and I left More Hall after the meeting thinking that this was exactly what Fr. McGivney had in mind when he started the Knights of Columbus. Great job, men!

Almost all of the funds donated came from the annual dues paid by council members. While each person can do only a little, together we can truly do great things. Over the holidays please talk to a couple of gentlemen in the parish and ask them to join us. By increasing the number of our members we also multiply the good works that we can perform as a council.

At the Masses on the weekend of January 4-5, council members will be passing out the Roses for Life and asking parishioners to sign them so we can have them delivered to President-elect Obama. The plan is to have the Roses for Life cards to the president just a few days after he is sworn in to office.

Father Don urges support for the program, saying, "I am grateful that during the first days of 2009 the Knights will be present to promote life with the annual Roses for Life distribution. In this season of the Christ-child, season of light, hope & new life, it is the right way to focus our attention."

We have ordered 1,500 roses and cards. We need your help in passing them out and collecting them after Mass. Please agree to help out if you are called upon.

Let's start 2009 off with a bang!



Carlos Enrique Coquil Monterrey

One Hundred Godfathers

■ *Brother Larry LeFebvre*

Meet Carlos Enrique Coquil Monterrey, a seventeen-year-old from Peru, who is currently in his second year of sponsorship by our council. Last year our council decided to join hands with the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging by sponsoring a student. We chose Peru, and CFCA selected Carlos.

Carlos lives with his father and two-year-old brother, loves to play soccer, and hopes to one day become an engineer. He attends Our Lady of Mercy School and hopes to go to the University in Lima to pursue his career.

In a recent letter to our council, Carlos told us that during the two months that he did not attend school, he spent his days distributing advertising leaflets twelve hours a day in the hot sun. He said even though the work is hard, he loves it because he knows he is helping his father, who is unemployed. Carlos loves school and has lots of friends. He says that being a teenager and trying to support his family is tough, but made a lot easier by the support he receives from the Knights of Columbus, or as he refers to us, "my godfathers." Contact me for information about writing to Carlos.

A Knightly Gesture

■ *Brother Larry LeFebvre*

Charity is the first principle of the Knights of Columbus. St. James said, "faith without works is dead," and consequently, all Knights are committed to easing the plight of those less fortunate.

In keeping with that commitment, Council #14270 at the December business meeting came to the aid of six STM families by providing each with a \$200 gift card to help make their Christmas a little brighter.

Additionally, donations of \$250 each were made to Seton Center and Bishop Sullivan Center.

We also renewed for another year our sponsorship, through the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging, of Carlos, a young man from Peru, which began last year. Brothers Tom Simone and Craig Laird generously stepped forward to cover the \$360 yearly cost.

This donation, along with \$1,700 in council donations, brought the total for the meeting to \$2,060.

The other founding principles of our order are unity, fraternity, and patriotism. If you know of other men who subscribe to these ideals, ask them to join us and become a member of the Knights of Columbus.

MR Drive

■ *Brother Jack Ryan*

Thanks to your generosity and hard work, the MR drive this year netted \$2,134.46 for children who haven't been blessed with the same mental health that we have. The Missouri State Council will donate half of that to Missouri Special Olympics, and we can decide where to contribute our half of \$1,067.23. The Charity Committee will review requests and make a donation recommendation to be approved by council vote. Thank you for all your efforts for this worthy cause.

Membership Report

Welcome to our newest brother Knight, **Eric Melgaard!** Council membership now stands at **96**. Pick up some of the new Form 100s, and talk to your friends, neighbors, guys at your *That Man Is You* table, etc. about becoming a Knight.

**Visit the Knights of Columbus
website at KofC.org**

Insurance Report

■ *Brother Kevin Pierce, Field Agent*



This month's column is for the baby boomers. Do you know what that is sneaking up on you?

Retirement!

Ouch. I know. It's hard to believe isn't it? Seems like just yesterday . . . But it's coming—and coming fast. And that's actually the good news. Let me share with you some tidbits that may be of interest:

The trend by companies to freeze or end their employee pension plans may have a big impact on baby boomers now on the cusp of retirement.

Boomers with pension plans have counted on monthly retirement checks at the end of their career, but increasing numbers of employers are ending their plans or halting future benefit accruals. Those at greatest risk include boomers in their late 40s and early 50s who are still at least a decade from retirement but too old to save enough to make up the difference in their pension benefits.

An August 2005 survey by PricewaterhouseCoopers showed that nearly half of companies that expected to change their pension plans in the next year were considering freezing benefits for all employees. More than a third that offered pensions have already pared back these benefits over the last three years.

"This will definitely be a problem for baby boomers," says Karen Friedman at the Pension Rights Center. "You've been at a company under the plan and worked for years with that expectation, and then it's taken away."

Give me a call at 816-645-6961 or email me at Kevin.Pierce@kofc.org.

Items of Interest

■ Note the **new date** for the Council leaders meeting: Monday, January 5 at 7 PM.

■ Youth Director Doug Weishar needs volunteers for the upcoming Knights of Columbus **Free Throw Championship**, which will be held Sunday, January 18 from 1 to 5 PM in the STM gym. Volunteers can

contact Doug at 816-943-0609 or by e-mail at doug.weishar@kcpd.org. The District Championship will be held Sunday, February 8 at 1 PM at Coronation.

■ Invoices have been sent out for **2009 dues**. Please bring your check to the January meeting, or mail it back to Financial Secretary Tom Steffens as soon as you can.

■ **Family Outing** After the great time we had at the family dinner outing at RC's in October, we have had numerous requests to do it again. We are looking at sometime in January to once again get together and share the spirit and friendship with brother Knights and their spouses and families. If you have any ideas or suggestions please contact Family Director Larry LeFebvre at 941-9506 or laremara@aol.com.

■ Sunday, November 30 saw about 35 couples sitting together for **Fifth Sunday Mass**. Mark your calendar for the next Fifth Sunday, March 29. Plans are in the works for a possible breakfast following mass.

■ Advocate Paul Hentzen reports that the Knights of Columbus **Essay Contest** will be coming up at STM School after the Christmas break. Students in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades will participate.

■ An email went out recently to all current Council members about sending out a **list of members**, their phone numbers and email addresses for use in Council activities. This information will be sent out to current Council members only. Please respond to the email or contact Grand Knight Gene Twellman if you don't want your phone number or email address included.

■ As the **church construction** begins, there will be more masses and a greater demand for lectors, cantors, sacristans and ushers. Please be generous with your time, and contact the church office at 942-2492.

■ **Officer jewels** have been ordered for all officers and should be in prior to the January meeting. Would someone be willing to volunteer to build a storage box for them?

(continued on page four)

Calendar of Events

Monday, January 5	STM Council #14270 Leader Meeting <i>(first Thursday of every month)</i>	St. Thomas More Huhmann Room	7:00 PM
Thursday, January 8	STM Council #14270 Business Meeting <i>(second Thursday of every month)</i>	St. Thomas More More Hall	7:15 PM
Thursday, January 15	Fourth Degree Assembly #566 Meeting <i>(third Thursday of odd months)</i>	Raytown Council #4962 5101 Blue Ridge Cutoff	6:30 PM
Wednesday, January 21	1st Degree Ceremony <i>(third Wednesday of odd months)</i>	Belton Council #5586 700 Trevis Avenue	6:30 PM
Tuesday, February 3	1st Degree Ceremony <i>(first Tuesday of even months)</i>	O'Hara Council #4387 5111 E 112th Terrace	7:30 PM
Sunday, March 22	2nd & 3rd Degree Ceremony	Smithville Council #9262 700 Trevis Avenue	7:30 PM
Sunday, March 22	4th Degree Ceremony	Airport Hilton	
Sunday, March 29	Fifth Sunday Mass	St. Thomas More	9:00 AM

Belton Council is at 700 Trevis Ave, Belton MO 64012. Degree ceremony starts at 7 PM; candidates arrive by 6:30 PM.

O'Hara Council is at 5111 East 112th Terrace, Kansas City MO 64137. Degree ceremony starts at 8 PM; candidates arrive by 7:30 PM.

Items of Interest *(continued from page three)*

■ Council **name badges** are available for purchase. Pin-on and slip-on pocket badges are \$9 and magnetic badges are \$11. Order forms are available at each meeting, or call Brother John Kelly at 816-942-3226.

■ Not receiving the *Knights News* by email? Know of a brother Knight who isn't? Contact the editor to verify the email address, or if you don't have access to email, get added to the mailing list.

■ *Knights News* will be published on the last day of each month during 2009. Submit all newsletter items by the **fourth Thursday** of the month. An email reminder will go out to all members on the third Thursday.

KNIGHTS NEWS is the official publication of St. Thomas More Council #14270 of the Knights of Columbus. Contact the editor, John Kelly, at 816-942-3226 or JK@ReeceAndNichols.com.

January Milestones

KNIGHTS BIRTHDAYS

01 ... John Kohn	24 ... Dick Duncan
05 ... Lawrence Countee	26 ... Jim Easley
08 ... Bill Weishar	31 ... Gus Broockerd
10 ... Craig Borgmeyer	31 ... Marvin Lang
11 ... Lee Jones	31 ... Ross Marine
17 ... Tom Steffens	

SPOUSES BIRTHDAYS

03 ... Mary Maskill	24 ... Jennie Wynn
19 ... Camilla Vogl	

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

27 ... Rocky & Peggy Hembree

Compiled by Brother Tom Steffens. Email him at tomsteffens@charter.net with additional milestones.