

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 Harold Heiman
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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Knights News



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Grand Knight's Report

■ *Brother Gene Twellman*

Growth In general, growth means life. The St. Thomas More K of C Council is definitely full of life and is growing. We have surpassed 90 members, will soon exceed 100 and we'll be shooting for 150 in 2009. As we grow we will continue to evolve. One such outgrowth is this newsletter. We hope you will enjoy it and find it useful. If you have suggestions, please let us know.

Our Council exists today because our Chaplain, Fr. Don, wanted the St. Thomas More Parish to have its own Council. Organizational meetings took place in late winter 2007. By word of mouth, telephone calls and e-mails, new members joined and existing Knights transferred to our Council #14270. There are still plenty of gentlemen parishioners that should join our ranks. Please do them and us a favor by giving them a Form 100 and asking them to consider joining the Knights of Columbus and continue our growth.

The funny thing about growth is that it is never predictable. Just ask Larry LeFebvre, who witnessed the anticipated crowd at the Family Fun Knight grow from around 150 to around 300! From all accounts, the event was a roaring success and we will be able to present St. Thomas More School with a nice donation. Please pass along an "attaboy" to Larry—we hope to convince him to chair the event again next year. With this year's success, we can certainly anticipate a growth in the crowd for next year's event. We'll need the number of volunteers to grow as well. How does the last Friday of June 2009 look on your schedules?

The four watchwords of the Knights are Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. I am sure we all experienced a great sense of patriotism over the past Fourth of July weekend. The Family Fun Knight was a great indicator of our Unity and Fraternity. The gentlemen of Council #14270 came together as brother Knights and put on a great event for our Parish. As we grow in membership and the number of our fundraising events grows, we will have a greater ability to make charitable donations. Right now our Charity Committee is reviewing requests and thereafter will, from time to time, ask you to approve their recommendations. We are very fortunate at St. Thomas More to have ready access to More Hall for our meetings and events—rent-free. Without that expense, we are free to donate almost all of our proceeds for charitable purposes. Please do what you can to help our works of charity grow as we grow.

Lastly, as Catholic gentlemen, let us all strive to grow closer to our Lord. Whether that is through regular prayer, daily or weekly Mass attendance or participation in special events or programs such as "That Man is You!" May each of our lives include a growth in our Faith and love of God.

Chaplain's Message

■ *Father Don Farnan*

I am honored to write this brief note to you, my brother Knights, in this inaugural issue of *Knights News*. Over 130 years ago Father Michael McGivney of New Haven, Connecticut, formed a committee that he called "The Sons of Columbus" as a means to merge our culture and faith into one and care for those who were seemingly discarded within our society. That group, which evolved into the Knights, has spread to every State and Diocese of our great nation and continues to build confidence and integrity in American life and business, caring for workers and offering security to family members.

There was a book published earlier this year entitled *A Civilization of Love: What Every Catholic Can Do To Transform the World*. It was written by Carl Anderson, our Supreme Knight. It offers a marvelous summary of every Knight's mission as a Catholic and an American. It even has a beautiful section about our patron, Thomas More, who is among the greatest examples of what a Knight should be as a defender of human dignity and defender of the rights of (a well-informed) conscience. He understood the importance of the Christian family as the domestic church; and he understood that each worker is to serve as a witness to his faith. He was a servant to his nation but first to his God. I encourage you to read Anderson's account and be challenged to also live a Knight's tale.

Meanwhile, I thank you for all that you do to reveal your faith here in south Kansas City and for your visible signs of leadership and servant hood at Saint Thomas More Parish. As men of integrity and dignity, you will continue to inspire our community of faith. *Vivat Jesus!*

Father Michael J. McGivney Guild

The Father Michael J. McGivney Guild was established to promote the awareness of the founder of the Knights of Columbus and his cause for canonization.

Those devoted to Father McGivney are encouraged to join the Guild and regularly say the prayer for his canonization, which is available online and on a special prayer card. Members are asked to pray for Father McGivney's canonization, report favours received and assist in the advancement of the cause. Membership is free and open to individuals and households, but not to groups. Members may make tax-deductible contributions to assist in the Guild's work, but this is by no means required.

To register, fill the online form at: www.kofc.org/about/history/founder/participate/register.cfm



Council Charter

The council charter is now on display inside the entrance to More Hall. Sixty-seven brother Knights have their names inscribed on this document, dated April 10, 2007.

Thanks to brother Larry LeFebvre for his efforts in getting the charter framed.



Family Fun Knight Report

■ *Brother Larry LaFebvre, Family Director*

The STM Knights of Columbus held its first family activity on Friday, June 27. An old fashioned cook-out complete with hot dogs, hamburgers, Italian sausage and plenty of side dishes and desserts were served to approximately 300 parishioners and their families.

Tables were set inside More Hall as well as outside on the lawn where many people enjoyed the beautiful warm evening with temperatures in the 70s. Cold beer and soft drinks were provided for a donation, and games were organized for kids of all ages, with prize money for the winners.

A Karaoke machine was made available for both young and old to "belt out" their favorite songs, and the evening air was filled with the strains of "wannabe stars."

The festivities began around 6 PM and went until 10PM, with all proclaiming to have had a great and relaxing time.

Many members of the Knights, and their families, contributed food, time, and energy to make this event a success, and we are delighted that all who attended had a wonderful evening. We look forward to sponsoring more STM family events in the future. Be sure to join us at next year's Family Fun Knight in late June!

August Birthdays

02 ... VINCENT ACCURSO	09 ... JERRY HOLMES
02 ... CHRIS GAUGHAN	13 ... GENE TWELLMAN
02 ... MIKE MULLIGAN	14 ... TOM FRITTS
05 ... BOB SCHMIEDELER	17 ... BOB ROUND
08 ... TIM STEFFENS	17 ... FR. DON FARNAN

Would you like to see your anniversary in *Knights News*? Send it to the editor at: kellyjt@reeceandnichols.com.

For additional resources, visit the official Knights of Columbus website at KofC.org

91 Membership Report

On July 11, 2008, St. Thomas More Council #14270 membership was 91.

NEW KNIGHTS • Welcome to our newest brother Knights: Tom Heaphy and Rich Byrne.

TRANSFERS • Recent transfers to our council include Ed O'Reilly, Paul Becker, Ross Marine and Nikolaus Martin.

FORM 100s • The following gentlemen have indicated they intend to join by completing Form 100s: Mike Gaughan, Peter Gross, David Markus, Joseph Muraski, and Phil Paschang.

If you have the opportunity, urge them to get to a First Degree Ceremony, so they can start attending meetings and become active Knights. Better yet, go with them to their First Degree. You'll be supporting a brother Knight as he enters the order, and many Knights report they gain insight each time they attend a degree ceremony.

And make a point to invite someone you know in the parish to consider joining. Tell them why you became a Knight, and about the many activities available for members. The Knights of Columbus website says:

Knights are Catholic men, 18 years of age and older, who are committed to making their community a better place, while supporting their Church. Being a Knight is more than camaraderie; it is being involved with your community; it is supporting your local Catholic Church, while enhancing your own faith; it is about protecting and enhancing your family life.

The more we grow, the more we can accomplish!

Volunteer Service Sets Record

The Knights of Columbus announced June 8 that it set new records for charitable giving and volunteer service in 2006.

The results of the Order's annual Survey of Fraternal Activity for the year ending Dec. 31, 2006, show that total contributions to charity at all levels reached \$143,816,004—exceeding the previous year's total by more than \$4 million.

The figure includes \$35,133,393 donated by Supreme Council, and \$108,682,611 in donations by state and local councils, Fourth Degree assemblies and Squire circles.

The survey also shows that the reported number of volunteer hours by Knights for charitable causes grew to 68,270,432, up more than 4 million hours from 2005. There were 393,807 Knights of Columbus blood donors during the year, and Knights made more than 6 million visits to the sick and bereaved.

Insurance Report

■ *Brother Kevin Pierce, Field Agent*

There are many fine life insurance companies in the marketplace today. So why should you entrust your life insurance needs, and those of your family to the Knights of Columbus?

In their rating report on the Knights of Columbus, Standard & Poor's states that its 'AAA' rating is based upon the following strengths: extremely strong capital, very strong competitive position, extremely strong liquidity, and historically strong profitability.

I would suggest that a principal reason that we were able to achieve those accolades, along with what S&P described as "a distinct competitive advantage, a loyal customer base and a unique rapport with clients" is because we remain steadfastly committed to Father Michael J. McGivney's vision of "protecting families for generations" by means of "life insurance by brother Knights for brother Knights."

That commitment is a core value of the Knights of Columbus, and our core values permeate all levels of our marketing program. Our Marketing Code of Ethics is modeled after the Ten Commandments and includes statements such as "Thou shall present honestly and accurately, all facts necessary to enable a member to make an informed decision."

Our ethical principles for marketing are summed up by our Golden Rule: "In all my professional relationships, I pledge myself to the following rule of conduct: I shall, in light of all conditions surrounding those I serve, render that service which, under the same circumstances, I would apply to myself."

That's what you can expect from me, your professional Knights of Columbus field agent.

I welcome the opportunity to present to you and your wife, honestly and accurately, all facts necessary for you to make a sound life insurance decision. I will render that service which, under the same circumstances, I would apply to myself.

I'm at 816-645-6961 or Kevin.Pierce@kofc.org. Let's talk.



KNIGHTS NEWS

is the official publication of St. Thomas More Council #14270 of the Knights of Columbus. Contact the editor with comments or submissions:

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Calendar of Events

Thursday, July 17	Fourth Degree Assembly #566 Meeting <i>(third Thursday of odd months)</i>	Raytown Council #4962 5101 Blue Ridge Cutoff	6:30 PM
Sunday, July 20	Grand Knights & Financial Secretaries Meeting	Raytown Council #4962 5101 Blue Ridge Cutoff	noon
Monday, July 28	Kansas City Area Chapter Meeting <i>(last Monday of each month)</i>	St. Bridget Church 2103 N Lexington, Pleasant Hill	7:00 PM
Tuesday, August 5	1st Degree Ceremony <i>(first Tuesday of even months)</i>	Archbishop O'Hara Council #4387 ** 5111 E 112th Ter	7:30 PM
Thursday, August 7	STM Council #14270 Leadership Meeting <i>(first Thursday of each month)</i>	St. Thomas More Huhmann Room	7:00 PM
Thursday, August 14	STM Council #14270 Business Meeting <i>(second Thursday of each month)</i>	St. Thomas More More Hall	7:15 PM
Sunday, August 31	Fifth Sunday Mass	St. Thomas More Church	9:30 AM
Wednesday, September 17	1st Degree Ceremony <i>(third Wednesday of odd months)</i>	Belton Council #5586* 700 Trevis Ave	6:30 PM

*Belton Council is at 700 Trevis Ave, Belton MO 64012 (Hwy 58 just east of Belton on the north side of the highway, between the first and second roundabouts, or take Cleveland north out of the 2nd roundabout, then left on Trevis Ave to park at the door). Degree ceremony starts at 7 PM; candidates please be there by 6:30 PM.

**O'Hara Council is at 5111 East 112th Terrace, Kansas City MO 64137 (a block south then east of the intersection of Red Bridge and Grandview Roads). Degree ceremony starts at 8 PM; candidates please be there by 7:30 PM.

Council #14270 Name Badge Order Form

STYLE: *(circle one)* slip-on pocket (\$9) pin-on (\$9) magnetic (\$11)

EMBLEM: *(circle one)* 3rd degree 4th degree other _____

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

AMOUNT PAID: _____ cash check

*Order at any meeting or mail your check & order form to:
John Kelly • 11619 Locust KCMO 64131 • 816-942-3226*