

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Saint Thomas More
Council #14270
Kansas City, Missouri

2008-2009 OFFICERS

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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
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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



Knights News



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Grand Knight's Report

■ *Brother Gene Twellman*

Celebration of Life I sat down to write this just after returning from Brother Bill Weishar's wake. Somewhat like Bill's family (but obviously in a lesser way), I was torn between the sadness of losing a good friend and the happiness of knowing that Bill is with God now, and smiling down on us all. While walking toward the reception line I watched the photos of the many happy moments in the Weishar family history. (It seemed a familiar memory, having lost both of my parents within the last 8 years.) The pictures made me respect even more a man I liked, and am glad to have gotten to know. And I loved his "GO MIZZOU."

Bill Weishar was a charter member of our council and now is the first member of our council to pass away. But if not for Fr. Don asking us to help get the St. Thomas More Council started, I may not have ever gotten to know Bill.

Forming our council has been one of the most rewarding events of my life.

Because of the existence of our council, I am able to call about 100 more gentlemen, not only my Brother Knights, but my friends. I am able to participate in the celebration of the life of Bill Weishar, just as I hope other Brother Knights (who I hope are very young right now), will one day celebrate my life, and each of yours, when we pass on. I have had the pleasure of getting to know and work with some very wonderful people because of my involvement with the Knights.

By the way, if you missed the council's Sweetheart Dinner on February 16, you missed a great chance to celebrate life with your Brother Knights and their wives. We had around 60 in attendance and the food, drink and camaraderie was wonderful. We are blessed to have a great organizer in Larry LeFebvre and we are just looking for a good excuse to schedule another dinner out. Let us know if you have suggestions.

If you enjoy being a Knight of Columbus at St. Thomas More Parish like I do, please invite your friends, family and neighbors to join us. Let's spread around the celebration that is meeting new

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In Memoriam

William Thomas Weishar, 76, a Kansas City native, went to the Lord February 22. Visitation was Tuesday, February 24, at McGilley State Line Chapel, 12301 State Line Road. Funeral Mass was Wednesday, February 25, at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, with Fr. Michael O'Connor presiding. Burial was in Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family has suggested donations to the Knights of Columbus Council #14270 or St. Thomas More Church, 11822 Holmes, Kansas City MO 64131.

William was a 3rd degree Knight, a charter member of St. Thomas More Council #14270, and a member of the Knights of Columbus for 50 years. His son, Doug, is a member of our council.

William was preceded in death by parents, Paul and Kathryn Weishar; son, Daniel; and brother, James. He is survived by his beloved wife of 52 years, Irene; brothers, Paul and Larry; sister, Ann Reilly; four sons, Douglas and his wife Mary Jane, David, Donald and his wife Jean, Stephen and his wife Julie; daughters, Susan and her husband John Pegler, Deborah and her husband Alex Hamilton; and 16 cherished grandchildren.

William graduated from Glennon High School and served four years in the Air Force. He received a B.S. at his alma mater, the University of Missouri. William retired from Texaco with 30 years of loyal service. He was a devout Catholic, and a member of St. Thomas More Parish and the Knights of Columbus, and was also a dedicated volunteer at St. Joseph's Hospital. GO MIZZOU!

Membership Drive Update

Welcome to our newest Brother Knight: **John Pazell**.

We are now very close to 100 members, with several potential members having completed Form 100s. Let's have a good turnout at the next First Degree in Belton on Wednesday, March 18.

Invite someone you know to become a Knight and join our council. When asked why they joined the Knights of Columbus, a majority of men say, "Because I was asked."

Fifth Sunday

Sunday, March 29 will be the fifth Sunday of the month and Knights and their families will be attending the 9:00 AM Mass, and sitting together as a group. It is also Founders Day, marking the date in 1882 when the Knights of Columbus was chartered.

Plans are being made to get together for breakfast after Mass at a local restaurant. Details will be forthcoming at our general business meeting in March.

Knights Marshall Forces

■ *National Catholic Register*

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the catchphrase was "Buddy, can you spare a dime?" Now, in the current economic recession, it could be "Can you spare a day?"

That's according to Knights of Columbus Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, who pointed out that an hour of volunteerism a week is less than 10 minutes a day.

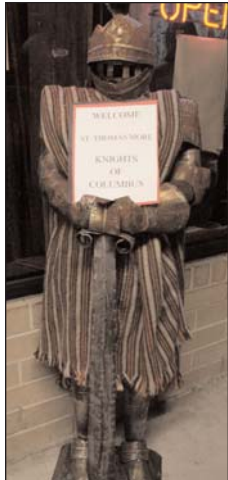
With millions of people losing their jobs and many losing their homes, nonprofit charities are feeling the pinch in decreasing contributions. To meet the challenge, Anderson is calling for a massive new volunteerism effort. The Knights, with the Center for Faith and Public Life at Fairfield University in Connecticut, held a volunteerism summit in New York City February 27.

Headlined "Neighbor Helping Neighbor," the summit included representatives from top charities and volunteer groups to find new ways to promote volunteerism to help more seeking assistance.

"This is a nation filled with imagination and with millions of people ready to step forward," said Anderson during a January 23 speech at Fairfield University announcing the summit. "If greed—one of the worst aspects of human nature—helped push us into this crisis, then one of the best aspects of our nature—generosity—will be necessary to help pull us out of it."

In 2007, the latest year for figures, the Knights not only donated \$145 million to charitable causes but provided 69 million hours of volunteer service "through an effective grassroots structure of thousands of active councils motivated by the Christian principle of charity," Anderson said.

Read more: www.ncregister.com/site/article/17259



Knights' Night Out

■ Brother Larry LeFebvre

A Mexican flair was in the air as our council held its second Family Dinner Night at Dos De Oros restaurant, located south of the border (STM being the border).

Fifty-seven Brother Knights, spouses and family members gathered under the rhythmic strains of mariachis to feast on Mexican cuisine and tangy margaritas.

The festivities began at 6:30 PM and lasted a couple of hours, giving everyone the opportunity to meet Brother Knights and their families. Brother Dave Long and his wife won the door prize: payment of their dinner tab. A good time was had by all and future family events are being planned.

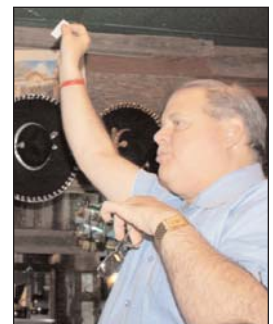


PHOTOS COURTESY LARRY LEFEBVRE



And the Winner is...

Larry LeFebvre announces the winners of the night's door prize: Dave and Katherine Long, who enjoyed a free dinner at the Presidents Day/Sweetheart Dinner festivities at Dos De Oros. *You could be next!*



The Freedom of Choice Act and Abortion Laws

■ *Missouri Catholic Conference*

Missouri's bishops as well as many other American bishops and other Christian leaders have been speaking forcefully in recent months about the threat to the right to life if the federal Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) is enacted into law. Pro-life groups have joined these religious leaders in attempting to explain the radical nature of FOCA and its potential dramatic and negative effect on unborn children, women facing difficult or untimely pregnancies, alternatives to abortion programs—even its effects on religious and not-for-profit institutions. But many citizens still are unfamiliar with what FOCA is and what it does. In simplest terms, if FOCA is signed into law it could negate most existing and future state and federal restrictions on abortion.

Read more: [www.mocatholic.org/News/Good News/2008/12-08-FOCA.html](http://www.mocatholic.org/News/Good%20News/2008/12-08-FOCA.html)

Construction = Changes

Due to ongoing construction, some meeting locations and dates have changed. Please make a note of the new schedule:

March 5	leaders meeting	More Hall C
March 12	business meeting	More Hall C
April 2	leaders meeting	Room A
April 16	business meeting	More Hall C
<i>(Note: moved from April 9 due to Holy Thursday events)</i>		
May 7	leaders meeting	Room A
May 14	business meeting	More Hall C
June 4	leaders meeting	Room A
June 11	business meeting	More Hall C

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.

Encounter With God's Call

Conception Seminary College hosts the Encounter With God's Call Weekend, where young men, age 18 to 35, who are considering a call to the priesthood spend a weekend geared toward helping them with their vocational discernment. It is an opportunity to meet and interact with other young men who are asking themselves the same questions, during a weekend of prayer and fellowship.

It is a compliment to share with a young man that you think he may be called to the priesthood. Encourage those who you feel may be called to consider the next Encounter Weekend, March 28–30. More information is available at college.soluitionssoftware.com.

Grand Knight's Report *(continued from page one)*

friends and enjoying life with them. We have ordered 100 of the new Form 100's and we need to pass them around and encourage others to join us. Lent is upon us and for any of you who are trying to decide what to give up for Lent or what special intentions to pursue, let me suggest that you try to ask one gentleman a week during Lent to join the STM Knights of Columbus. It will be your private little works to help our parish, our council and yourself by recruiting good men to assist us in making this world a better place. And while the Catholic Church does not promote celebrations during Lent, we can all celebrate the addition of another friend as a Brother Knight.

And lastly, in celebration of the life of Brother Bill Weishar, a great MIZZOU alumni, . . . here's a "health" to thee.

Items of Interest

■ More than 20 Knights turned out at the Sand Trap February 9 for the first **Knights Night Out**, featuring the victorious Mizzou Tigers on Big Monday.

■ Thanks to the **volunteers** who manned the info table at the Scouts Pancake Breakfast: Brad Doty, Jim Easley, Gene Gray, Lee Jones, Tom Kenagy, Larry LeFebvre, Don Loeffelholz, Dave Markus, Phil Mueller, Gene Twellman, Doug Weishar.

■ At the February meeting, the council half of the **MR Drive proceeds** were distributed: \$500 to F.I.R.E., \$300 to SPRED, and \$267 to Special Olympics.

■ A \$50 donation was made by the council to the **Savers of Life** program, which benefits pro-life projects in Missouri.

■ A \$50 donation was made to support the 17th annual Vocation Days, held February 17–18 at Archbishop O'Hara High School.

■ Our council Substance Abuse **Poster Contest** had 11 participants. Two council winners were selected. Their posters have been forwarded to participate in the District competition.

■ Volunteers are needed for one hour shifts to monitor the parking lot for the **Gospel of Life Convention**, which promotes the sanctity of life, to be held at St. Thomas Aquinas High School on Saturday, April 18.

■ The trustees report that the **audit** has been completed and filed with Supreme.

■ From Youth Director Doug Weishar: April 9 will mark the date of **award presentations** to STM students in their homerooms, from 7:45 to 8:00 AM. Several volunteers will be needed for this event. We will have over 20 awards to deliver to winners of four events. Ideally, ten K of C brothers will be needed.

On April 17 from 7 to 9:30 PM, we will host the **Spring Mixer** for 7th & 8th grade STM students, in Flanagan Hall. A minimum of 12 volunteers are needed for this event.

If you are interested in **volunteering** for these events, please notify Doug Weishar at 816-510-6477 or doug.weishar@kcpd.org.

■ From Melinda Smith: "Thank you again for the opportunity to conduct a **SWOT** (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) Assessment with the Knights of Columbus. Gina and I enjoyed being with your group and appreciated your input. I have attached the summary of the responses that we received from you. These will also be distributed to all the other Pastoral Council members." These have been emailed to all council members. You can reach Melinda at 816-942-7158 with additional comments.

■ Send your **birthday** (and your spouse's!), and anniversary date to Brother Tom Steffens at tomsteffens@charter.net, and look for it in an upcoming issue.

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Free Throw Winners

Out of 46 participants, 10 winners of the Knights of Columbus Girls & Boys Free Throw Contest advanced January 18 from the council level to district competition.

The District 9 Contest was held February 8 at a chilly Coronation of Our Lady Parish Gym in Grandview.

District winners from STM were: Jason Watson, Samantha Ruiz, Alex Countee & Lauren Ruiz.



PHOTO COURTESY DISTRICT DEPUTY TONY BERTER

Calendar of Events

Thursday, March 5	STM Council #14270 Leader Meeting <i>(first Thursday of every month)</i>	St. Thomas More More Hall C	7:00 PM
Thursday, March 12	STM Council #14270 Business Meeting <i>(second Thursday of every month)</i>	St. Thomas More More Hall C	7:15 PM
Wednesday, March 18	1st Degree Ceremony <i>(third Wednesday of odd months)</i>	Belton Council #5586 700 Trevis Avenue	6:30 PM
Thursday, March 19	Fourth Degree Assembly #566 Meeting <i>(third Thursday of odd months)</i>	Raytown Council #4962 5101 Blue Ridge Cutoff	6:30 PM
Sunday, March 22	2nd & 3rd Degree Ceremony	Smithville Council #9262	1:00 PM
Saturday, March 28	4th Degree Ceremony	Airport Hilton	
Sunday, March 29	Fifth Sunday Mass	St. Thomas More	9:00 AM
Tuesday, April 7	1st Degree Ceremony <i>(first Tuesday of even months)</i>	O'Hara Council #4387 5111 E 112th Terrace	7:30 PM
Friday, April 17	7th & 8th Grade Spring Mixer	Flanagan Hall	7:00–9:30 PM

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 five)*

■ **Officer elections** will be held at the June business meeting. If you are interested in a council office, or would like to recommend someone for an office, contact Grand Knight Gene Twellman.

■ Ed Thomas is a member of the **charity committee**, replacing Mike Begnaud.

■ Knights of Columbus Family Day at **Worlds of Fun** is August 15. Fliers are in the parish office.

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

■ If you're not receiving **Knights News** by email or want to be added to the mailing list, contact the editor.

■ *Knights News* is published on the last day of each month. **Submit newsletter items** by the fourth Thursday of the month. An email reminder will go out on the third Thursday.

March Milestones

KNIGHTS BIRTHDAYS

01 ... Joe Murphy	20 ... Tom McLaury
02 ... Mark Rogge	29 ... Steve Finger
18 ... Don Doyon	

SPOUSES BIRTHDAYS

01 ... Doris Petersen

MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES

60 years Ray Hense
50 years Ron Tavernaro, Bill Weishar
45 years Larry Mosnick

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

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