

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



Knights News



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Grand Knight's Report

■ *Brother Gene Twellman*

What to do with your free time after March Madness? It's been a fun March to watch and cheer for area NCAA college basketball teams. But now that their tournament runs are over, it's time for the players to go back to class and finish up this school year. For most of the seniors, their athletic careers are probably over. The underclassmen can re-start their efforts for next year. But what about the fans? What are we to do?

If you find that you have time on your hands, the Knights would love to be able to use up some of your free time. We still need volunteers for our awards presentations on Thursday, April 9 for STM students that participated in the Knights Soccer Challenge, Free Throw Contest, Poster Contest and Essay Contest. We also need more volunteers for the STM Mixer on Friday, April 17. We will also need a host of volunteers to ensure the success of our second annual Family Fun Knight on Friday, June 26. Please be generous with your free time and help us help the STM School!

Another area you can help our council is with the recruitment of new members. March is typically the "Blitz" month when Knights of Columbus councils make strong pushes for new members. Either encourage your friends, relatives or neighbors to join us or bring their names to members of our membership committee (Brad Doty, Jim Easley, and John Kelly) and we will contact them and put on the blitz. Just think of what we have done so far. If we double in size we can do at least twice as much good for our parish, our school and our community! This month, please try to contact (or provide the membership committee with the name of) at least three gentlemen you think would make good Knights.

Lastly, like the NCAA basketball season, we are quickly running down the last minutes of this Lenten season. I know that many volunteers are needed for Holy Week, so please help out if you can. One last thought for you to consider. My neighbor Mary Edith Burns told me she tries to stop by STM Church once a day just to stop in and say "hi" to a friend. What a great idea for a way to spend a little free time.

Let's try to finish out the Lenten season strong, and I wish everyone a very happy Easter.



Membership Update

Welcome to our newest Brother Knights (*from left to right above*): **Phil Kratofil, Gregg Whipple, and Fr. Thomas Haake**. They took the first degree March 18 at Belton Council. Fr. Haake took the second and third degrees March 22 at Smithville Council.

Upcoming Degree Ceremonies

There will be a Knights of Columbus 1st degree ceremony on Tuesday, April 7 at KCMO Council 4387 Hall (located a block south then a block east of the intersection of Red Bridge and Grandview Roads) at 8 P.M.; be there by 7:30–7:45 P.M. The address is 5111 East 112th Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64137.

On Sunday, May 3, there will be 2nd & 3rd degree ceremonies at St. Peter's Council starting at 1 p.m. (They ask you to be there by 12:30 P.M.) The ceremonies will conclude by about 4:30 P.M. and dinner is available after if you have time.

Invite someone you know to become a Knight and join our council, or encourage a first degree member to continue to full Knighthood. When asked why they joined the Knights of Columbus, a majority of men say, "Because I was asked."

Fourth Degree

Brother Knights Andrew "Lee" Jones and Larry LeFebvre became the two newest Fourth Degree Knights of STM Council. Lee and Larry joined over ninety Brother Knights from across the state at the ceremony held at the Hilton Airport Inn on Saturday, March 28.

Despite the surprise winter storm, a large contin-

gent of family and friends attended the half-day event which included afternoon Mass and a delicious evening banquet.

Lee and Larry both enjoyed the day and said the ceremony and events were very meaningful. They recommend that all Third Degree Brothers experience this patriotic degree of the Knights of Columbus.

Knights Caps and Shirts

■ *Brother Rocky Hembree*

There has been some interest from our council members about acquiring a Knights of Columbus cap and/or shirt. After checking with several suppliers, I have the following information.

Caps will be made of washed chino twill fabric with white cording along the front of the visor. They will have the Knights of Columbus emblem with St. Thomas More Council 14270 embroidered on the front.

Shirts are made of seven-ounce 100% cotton with a welt collar and cuffs. The Knights of Columbus emblem will be embroidered on the left chest side and the member's first name will be embroidered on the right chest side.

The supplier has given us a great price. Caps can be purchased for \$12 each, provided the council orders at least 48 caps. If less than 48 caps are ordered, the price will be higher. One size fits all.

Shirts can be purchased for \$18 each, and there is no minimum order to get that price. Please specify size when ordering.

At the next meeting, there will be pictures of the caps and shirts and a sign-up sheet for those interested. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please email Rocky Hembree at pegroc@aol.com.

Payment is not needed until we see how many members are interested.

Wouldn't it look good to have all members wearing their St. Thomas More Council caps and shirts at our Knights of Columbus events?

Reminder: the April business meeting will be on the third Thursday: April 16

Missouri Knights Job Bank

■ *State Program Director John Kolisch*

We have activated a new program for all Brother Knights, wives and widows of Missouri Knights in good standing: a free job bank service for Missouri Knights. This free service is now running on the MOKofC.org web site. If you know of any Brother Knight, wife or widow looking for a job, please direct them to our website. If you are an employer in Missouri or know of any job openings in Missouri, please use the employers forum or e-mail our webmaster with the information. I am asking all Brother Knights to spread the word of this new free service to all Knights in Missouri. And I ask you to pray for the success of this program. We know with the unemployment rate going higher every day our Brother Knights need all the help we can give. If we don't try, we let our Brothers down.

The Missouri State Council Knights of Columbus cannot and does not make any claim that submission of an application will result in employment.

Volunteers Needed

April 9 Volunteers are still needed to assist with youth activity award presentations at STM school from 7:30 to 8:00 A.M.

April 17 Volunteers are still needed for the STM 7th & 8th grade Spring Mixer at Flanagan Hall from 7:00 to 9:30 P.M.

If you have already volunteered or would like to, please contact Doug Weishar at 816-843-0609 or doug.weishar@kcpd.org.

Membership Blitz

■ *District 9 Deputy Tony Berter*

If you know of anyone that might be interested in joining "The Greatest Catholic Men's Organization in the World," contact your Grand Knight, Gene Twelman at 816-942-1473 or District 9 Deputy Tony Berter at 816-763-8289 for more information and a Form 100. We promise an exciting adventure!

Fifth Sunday

■ *Brother Larry LeFebvre*

Sunday, March 29 marked the Fifth Sunday of the month, and as is our custom, council members gathered with their families to attend the 7:30 A.M. Mass. Afterwards, most everyone gathered at Waid's restaurant for a delicious breakfast and warm fellowship. This was the first time we



have gathered for breakfast after a Fifth Sunday Mass, but everyone who attended indicated that they didn't want it to be the last.

March 29 was also Founders Day, commemorating the date in 1882 that the Knights of Columbus was chartered at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn. by Venerable Father Michael J. McGiveny.

The next Fifth Sunday is May 31.

Culture of Life Fund

■ *Donald R. Kehoe, Supreme Secretary*

Last August, the delegates to the Annual Supreme Council Meeting reaffirmed the Order's longstanding commitment to the Church's teaching on life and marriage by unanimously approving Resolution 302, which established the Culture of Life Fund and a special assessment of \$3.00 per member. It was anticipated that this Fund would support a broad range of initiatives that advance the Culture of Life. I am happy to report that the Fund has done just that. Two programs, one to assist men and women to cope with the traumatic aftereffects of abortion and divorce and one to help men be better fathers have been introduced. To date, the response to these initiatives has far surpassed our expectations.

In addition, our financial support last fall was vital to the passage of constitutional amendments protecting the sanctity of marriage in California, Florida and Arizona. Today, 30 states have such amendments. In January, we implemented our new initiative helping state councils provide pregnancy centers with ultrasound machines. The Supreme Council partnered with local Knights to put this life-saving technology in the hands of pregnancy centers in both Iowa and Florida. On a national level, the Board of Directors recently voted to provide financial support to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for a newly formed Task Force whose purpose is to promote the Church's teaching on marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

The Knights of Columbus has always been deeply committed to promoting racial equality and defending religious liberty as a basic civil right. In the United States today, the abortion lobby has indicated a desire to move the so-called "Freedom of Choice Act" (FOCA) through Congress. This radical piece of legislation would not only expand abortion "rights," but also force medical personnel morally opposed to abortion to violate their consciences and participate in abortions. In Canada, the Parliament has witnessed the introduction of a private member's bill that would legalize euthanasia across the country. On these and a host of other issues affecting the Culture of Life, the Knights of Columbus must be ready to educate the public about the need to support policies

and legislations that protect human life from conception to natural death.

Please remember that contributions to the Fund from councils or individual members remain in the country of origin and will only be used for projects in that country.

Family Fun Knight

■ *Brother Larry LeFebvre*

Plans are underway for the 2nd annual "Family Fun Knight," scheduled for Friday, June 26 from 6 to 10 P.M., in and around More Hall.

Menu items will include grilled hot dogs, hamburgers, Italian sausage, salads, desserts, and all the trimmings. Beer and soda will also be available for a nominal fee. Games will be held for kids of all ages, with cash prizes for the winners.

Ticket prices are \$5 per person or \$20 per family in advance. Prices at the gate will be \$7 per person or \$25 per family.

Volunteers are needed for various duties, so if you can help for an hour or two, please call Brother Larry LeFebvre at 816-941-9506. Additional information will be forthcoming at our council meetings and in this newsletter.

Gospel of Life Convention

■ *State Pro Life Director Rick Boyle*

Our diocese has asked the Missouri Knights of Columbus to work security and customer assistance in the parking lot for this important pro life event. It will be held on Saturday, April 18 at St. Thomas Aquinas High School, 11411 Pflumm in Overland Park. I am in need of 2 volunteers per hour from 7 A.M. to 7 P.M. If everyone volunteered for 1 hour each, I'd only need 24 men. Volunteers will get free access to the convention. Please ask your councils for volunteers. Have all volunteers contact me with the hours they want to work.

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

STM Knights of Columbus 2009 Essay Contest

■ *Brother Paul K. Hentzen*

Council 14270 conducted its second annual essay contest for the students of St. Thomas More School in February. The theme this year from the Supreme Council was "The Responsibility of the Catholic Citizen in a Free Society." All of the 51 essays submitted came from 6th graders at STM. Although this year's theme was pretty advanced for 6th graders, the essayists exhibited a great deal of thought and preparation in their writing and the quality of the essays was outstanding.

Hats off to our principal, John O'Connor, for his support of the contest. Special thanks goes to Laura Knapp who so enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to have her 6th graders submit essays. The council and the parish as a whole can be proud of the education that the teachers at STM School are providing to the young people of this parish. Ms. Knapp is a fine example of excellence in education.

This year's essay contest winners are:

1st Place Bailey Verhulst

2nd Place Megan Moriarity

3rd Place Abby Tarwater

4th Place Jennafer Bolton

5th Place Sam Krebs

The first place entry by Bailey Verhulst is reprinted below. Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to Laura Knapp and John O'Connor.

The Responsibility of the Catholic Citizen in a Free Society

As Catholics, it is our responsibility to be a positive force in the world. We are called upon by God to use our resources responsibly and wisely. Mother Teresa quoted, "We can do no great things; only small things with great love." One act of random kindness is the first step to changing the world.

One way to be a positive force in the world is by donating your time, money and talent to charity and those less fortunate. Giving of yourself helps build stronger communities. Donating brings us closer to God and makes us more thankful and appreciative for what we have. Statistics show when we help others it makes us happier people. Donating grows our faith, mind, spirit and heart. When we contribute our time,

money and talent, it sets a good example for others and motivates them to help, also.

As Catholics, it is also our responsibility to reduce, reuse and recycle energy and materials. We should start focusing on different alternative energies such as solar, wind, water and thermal energy. We also need to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels because we will eventually run out. There are many ways individuals can help reduce energy and materials. Turning down the thermostat a notch, carpooling and using the most environment friendly vehicle available are just a few ways to reduce energy use. Even simple things like turning off lights, using florescent light bulbs and unplugging appliances while not in use don't require much work. Reducing our consumption leaves us with more time for family, friends and community. We do not have to worry about working more hours to purchase more material belongings we probably don't need. Less pollution means less asthma, which has doubled since 1980 from 3.2 million to 6.5 million. Landfills are overflowing and we're running out of places to put all the trash. Americans throw away on average 200 million tons of trash each year. A way to make a difference is to donate our clothes to charities, thrift stores, and the less fortunate or pass them down as hand-me-downs. Approximately 242 million tires are thrown away each year and about 78% is sent to landfills. We could reduce this number by shredding them up and using tires instead of mulch, saving trees.

One final way to be a positive force in the world is to give a voice that life is sacred for those who can't voice it themselves. This would include speaking out against abortion, euthanasia, and fetal stem cell research. For instance on 9/11, approximately 3,000 + people were murdered. On any given day there are approximately 3,700 abortions performed. I believe the victims of 9/11 are no more important than the 3,700 babies aborted each day. Giving a voice is as easy as picketing an abortion clinic, volunteering at a nursing home or voting against embryonic stem cell research.

We need to make a positive force in the world, but how can we do this? Turn off water, computer, television and lights when not in use. Protest against abortion, euthanasia and stem cell and celebrate all forms of life. Donate old clothes, shoes and winter wear to charities. There are many simple ways to be a follower of Christ and all we have to do is act. If not you, who?

STM School Awards Presentation

■ *Brother Doug Weishar*

On Thursday, April 9, awards will be presented at STM School to the winners of Knights of Columbus youth activities. (*Essay Contest results are on page 5*).

Soccer Challenge

The Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge, held September 28 at Avila University, is designed for players to demonstrate the penalty kick. Open to boys and girls ages 10 to 14, each player is allowed 15 shots at the goal from the penalty line (12 yards from the goal).

This year's STM winners were:

Boys: Blaize Gassman, John Mullen,
Jacob Kamradt, Anthony Kotzias

Girls: Elizabeth Countee, Megan Ungashick,
Mackenzie Manning, Meghan Gordon

Free Throw Contest

Since 1972, councils have sponsored the Knights of Columbus International Free Throw Championship for boys and girls age 10 to 14. The council contest was held January 18 in STM gym.

This year's STM winners were:

Boys: Jason Watson, Austin Hamrick, Jacob
Wilson, Alex Countee, James Richards

Girls: Alex D'Alesio, Beth Borgmeyer, Samantha
Ruiz, Lauren Ruiz, Jessie Corbin

Poster Contest

Knights of Columbus Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest entries address Alcohol Awareness and Abuse or Drug Awareness and Abuse, and is open to boys and girls ages 8 to 14. Each poster must include a slogan reflecting one of the topics and an original visual image.

This year's STM winners were:

Mathew Rogge and Grace Haug

Items of Interest

■ *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.

Calendar of Events

Thursday, April 2 7:00 P.M.	Council 14270 Leader Meeting More Hall A
Tuesday, April 7 arrive @ 7:30 P.M.	1st Degree Ceremony O'Hara Council 4387
Thursday, April 16 7:15 P.M.	Council 14270 Business Meeting More Hall C
Friday, April 17 7:00-9:30 P.M.	7th & 8th Grade Spring Mixer Flanagan Hall
Sunday, May 3 arrive @ 12:30 P.M.	2nd & 3rd Degree Ceremony St. Peter's Council 13988
Wednesday, May 20 arrive @ 6:30 PM	1st Degree Ceremony Belton Council 5586
Sunday, May 31 7:30 A.M.	Fifth Sunday Mass Flanagan Hall

March Milestones

KNIGHTS BIRTHDAYS

03 ... Dave Mehl	17 ... Chip McKenzie
08 ... Harold Heiman	21 ... John Hess
11 ... Bob Easley	

SPOUSES BIRTHDAYS

21 ... Mary LeFebvre	30 ... Jacalyn Cahill
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ANNIVERSARIES

15 ... Larry & Mary LeFebvre (35 years)
19 ... Joe & Dolores Dyche (57 years)
30 ... Tyler & Laura Barr (4 years)

MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES

25 years ... Joe Murphy

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

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.