



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PIEDMONT COUNCIL 939

APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER

“The Official Publication of Piedmont Council 939 Knights of Columbus”

GRAND KNIGHT’S MESSAGE:

Good day brother Knights!

What a wonderful time of year! As we work our way through Lent, we are finally arriving at the most holy of seasons, Easter. With Easter comes Spring and a time for renewal and new life. Each of us should look without ourselves on how we can better give back and serve as brother knights. What impact have you had in your community? How can you best serve others? As we reflect on these questions, we also look toward the upcoming task of electing a new slate of officers to lead our Council for the new fraternal year. I thank those already on the proposed slate and would ask the rest of you to consider how you might impact others and better serve the greater good? Consider serving as an officer or committee chair. Be sure to attend the April 17th meeting and support the slate and have your voice heard (the slate of proposed officers is printed at the bottom of this newsletter).

May God continue to bless each and every one of you.

GK Josh Myers

THE POWER AND SIMPLICITY OF PRAYER

Don’t you love listening to a child pray? Many of us can remember praying as children. It was simple then because our young hearts approached God with sweet, unguarded directness. “Gentle Jesus meek and mild, look upon a little child.” As we grew up, our prayers changed. We looked to parents or other believers or church leaders for direction on the mature and ‘right’ ways to pray.

Sadly, many of us now find that the pure, clear communication with God we had as children has collected some static along the way. The business and perils of life have polluted our ability to speak to God and hear from him. Structure and intimidating labels like ‘intercessor’ and ‘prayer warrior’ have crept into our church culture, adding to the pressure. We’ve lost our own voice, and prayer now feels like a chore.

If we could only hear the heart of our Lord! “Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’” (Isaiah 58:9 ESV). “Turn and look,” he says, “I am here, beside you. Just call on me; no instruction or skillset needed.”

No matter how you pray — quiet meditation, songs of worship, journaling prayers, tearful conversations — the soul connection is the same. People around the world are praying right now. They are shouting, chanting, whispering in cathedrals and tents, penthouses and prisons. Some like to walk and pray; some can only sit and silently mouth the words. It doesn’t matter to God. What he loves is that we are acknowledging his presence and sharing what is in our hearts with him. As my friend Pastor Carter Conlon says, “To me, praying is as natural as breathing.”

Consider the words of David: "You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether" (Psalm 139:3-4). This beautiful chapter is a poem of praise to a God who knows us intimately and wants our companionship. Here I am. Talk with me.

Does your heart long to return to that sweet, unadorned relationship with God? Do you desire a prayer life that anchors and sustains you? You can have it today. Begin with an open heart and simple, honest words. He will meet you there.

March IN REVIEW:

The March O&D Meeting was held on March 6th. The Council's business meeting was held at St. Benedict's on Monday, March 20th. The Knights held our annual Lenten Fish Fry on Friday, March 3rd at OLG and had over 200 parishioners come out and support us. We had a great showing of support from our fellow knights in the set-up, serving and clean-up as well. With the funds raised from our fish fry, we'll be able to once again support 4 seminarian brothers through the RSVP program.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

April 3rd- Council O&D Meeting, 7:00 pm, OLG Parish Life Center, 2nd Floor, Executive Conference Room

April 17th- Council Business Meeting, 7:30 pm, OLG Parish Life Center, Banquet Hall (next year's slate of officers will be voted on)

April 28th-30th- NC KOC State Convention, Winston-Salem

DISTRICT DEPUTY INPUT:

RSVP - REFUND SUPPORT VOCATIONS PROGRAM (FEATURED)

Keep the faith alive by supporting our seminarians and postulants. As the strong right arm of the church, Knights of Columbus are committed to providing moral, financial, and spiritual support to our future priests and religious at all stages of their formation. As a featured program, RSVP counts for two credits toward the Columbian Award.

Knights of Columbus stand in solidarity with our priests and religious.

Through this program, council and parish families will raise funds to support seminarians in their local area.

For every \$500 given to an individual, the Supreme Council will refund the council or assembly \$100. The maximum refund a council or assembly can receive is \$400 per individual supported.

Though financial support is vitally important, it is not the only aspect of the RSVP. Councils are also called to provide their "adopted" seminarian or religious aspirant with moral support and prayers for their success.

Founded in 1882 by parish priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, the Knights of Columbus has always been a staunch defender of the priesthood and religious life.

As the strong right arm of the Church, Knights stand firm in their support of those in formation who will one day become the leaders of our faith.

After participating in RSVP, Knights of Columbus members and parishioners often reach new understandings in their own vocations as Catholic laity and people of faith. Together with their parishes, Knights and their families support the education and formation of priests and religious across the Order!

What are the RSVP funds used for?

RSVP is used by seminarians and those in religious formation to cover needs such as books, car insurance / maintenance, emergency expenditures and other living expenses.

What kind of moral support is given?

Knights of Columbus councils are called to aid their “adopted” seminarians and postulants with moral and emotional support as well as with prayers for their vocation and vocations throughout the church. This element is central to RSVP. Knights of Columbus councils provide support in a variety of ways including writing letters and birthday cards to their seminarian or religious postulant, sponsoring dinners to support them, and inviting them to fraternal events.

“The entire Christian community, with authentic missionary fervor, should recognize the seeds of vocation which the Holy Spirit never ceases to sow in human hearts!” — Saint John Paul II

Persons eligible to receive RSVP funds include:

- Especially Seminarians from your local parish.
- Seminarians who have been accepted by a diocese and are currently in their “spirituality” year.
- Seminarians attending major seminaries in preparation for priestly ordination.
- Seminarians in their “pastoral” year.
- Seminarians attending minor seminaries.
- Seminarians who belong to a religious institute and are currently in formation for the priesthood.
- Men and women who are postulants or novices in religious orders or religious communities.

Persons NOT eligible for RSVP funds include:

- Priests or religious seeking assistance for continuing education.
- Religious brothers not studying for the priesthood.
- Candidates for the permanent diaconate.

Funds donated to each individual must be vocation-related and amount to at least \$500 per individual.

The funds must be given directly to an individual and NOT to an institution or fund.

The funds must be paid with a check[s] drawn on the council’s account.

For RSVP resources, visit: www.kofc.org/rsvp

Help the Knights of Columbus stand in solidarity with our priests and religious. Support your local RSVP. Ask your Grand Knight how you can help.

Vivat Jesus- John Joyce, DD24

FIELD AGENT REPORT:

Brothers,

I would like to start out this newsletter by thanking you for all the prayers and condolences for my dad, who recently passed away on St Patrick's day. How appropriate that it was St Patrick's day. He always wanted his family to remember him by having a party instead of a traditional funeral. We will honor that wish with a memorial service/party sometime in June.

Now it would be nice to say he had all his final wishes and financial house in order, but that would not be the truth, in fact it was just the opposite. He never wanted to talk or think about it. So, in the months to come my family and I will be working thru the probate process and in NJ just to make things a little harder. Why do I tell you this? So that you learn from it!! Have that difficult talk with your family and please ask me for help. I have some excellent resources to make this much easier. Even those of you who think you are all set might benefit from a review of your plans from a brother Knight who is trained to avoid this unpleasant alternative.

I can't end this message without wishing all of you a very Blessed Easter! What a wondrous time in our liturgical year! While we celebrate Jesus' victory over death and his glorious resurrection, we remember that the raising from the dead came after humiliating abuse and an agonizing death. When I pray the rosary, I try (as Fr Larry Richards recommends) to meditate on a particular decade by placing myself in the scene of that decade. What a mighty God we have!

May each of you and your families experience the joy of this Easter season!
Vivat Jesus!

Ray Eveland

RECRUITING OPPORTUNITIES:

Whenever and wherever a Knights of Columbus meets a practicing Catholic man, eighteen years of age or older, there is an opportunity for recruiting a new Knights of Columbus. Wear your K of C nametag proudly, never reluctantly, and advertise for the Council.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:

Brother Knights Our council has open positions that need to be filled. Please investigate your hearts and ask the Lord if any of these opportunities would be right for you.

COMMUNITY DIRECTOR: Coordinates the "First Responders" Awards Presentation and Dinner program. Coordinates the management of the 3rd hole at the Wyndham Golf Championship. Along with other Community programs. Expert training will be available.

ADVOCATE: Become familiar with the councils by laws and keeps the council from going off script.

Please contact the GK.

For further information or to volunteer please contact me:

Grand Knight Josh Myers Joshuanmyers@gmail.com 336-698-5601

WIDOWS PROGRAM:

We do not forget the widows of our fallen Brother Knights. Widows are invited to Council 939 social events as our guests.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

IF YOU HAVE SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS, PLEASE PASS PRAYER REQUESTS TO THE GRAND KNIGHT AT HIS NUMBERS BELOW. APOLOGIES TO ANYONE OVERLOOKED IN THIS COUNCIL 939 NEWSLETTER.

Please keep the following in your prayers

Roy Berninger	Kitty Heath	Eveland Family
Dan & Nancy Camia	Betty D'Amello	Brunozzi Family
Fran Geoff	Antionette Cerrito	Grabasky Family
Jack Kealey	Marshall Perry's Father	Rich Stepnowski
Ernie and Cynthia Pancsofar	Lura Lyle	Rohan Family
Brian Dubicki	Lysiak Family	Fr. Coleman & Family
Gary Chapman	Edwards Family	Peter Marzullo
Kathy Chapman	Fr. David Hyman	Bob Camia
Dick Morrison	Sylvia Byrd	Brian Garrett
Bob Englert	Ben Malikowski	Jim Collins
Jerry Byrd		

Piedmont Council 939 Proposed Slate of Officers For Fraternal Year 2023 – 2024

Grand Knight	Evan Smith
Deputy Grand Knight	Mark Stepnowski
Chancellor	Robert Braden
Recorder	Jim Keaney, Sr.
Treasurer	Joe Walton
Warden	
Trustee for 1 Year	Jerry Byrd
Trustee for 2 Years	Dan Camia
Trustee for 3 Years	Josh Myers
Inside Guard	Jim Keaney, Jr.
Outside Guard	Michael Busch
Chaplain	Fr. Casey Coleman