



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PIEDMONT COUNCIL 939

AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER

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

GRAND KNIGHT’S MESSAGE

Good day brother Knights!

This newsletter marks the end of the first month of our new Knights year. As you are aware, we were unable to host the Officer’s installation on July 17th as planned due to last-minute illnesses and scheduling conflicts. We apologize to all who were inconvenienced by the situation, but we will schedule another installation as soon as we can align the schedule for our priest, State Officer(s), and council members.

On July 22nd, I had the pleasure of attending a KoC leadership seminar with Brother Robert Braden, Sr. We enjoyed the company of fellow Knights in the western half of North Carolina, shared strategies and challenges we faced, and learned a lot about the logistics of Knights councils. I hope to be able to better serve the council after this training. In addition, we earned a 1st Place Award for one of our projects last year!

We will be sending out communications on several exciting projects soon, including Donut Sunday, a membership/Rosary drive, and helping an OLG family with a special needs child clean up their yard. Please keep an eye on your email for more information on these events as they come closer to time.

Lastly, the council website will be handed over to me sometime in the next month or two. Thank you to Regional Deputy Walter Kulla for maintaining it all this time.

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

GK Evan Smith

DEVOTIONAL: TAKING UP OUR CROSS

When Jesus said, “Take up your cross and follow me,” he wasn’t speaking about self-flagellation. The cross is the Holy Spirit showing us how to live through the mind of Christ. It is a lifelong process of shedding our need for control and daily giving our will to God.

Say you’re a new Christian and are hit with a serious adversity, a life-threatening illness, tragedy or financial loss. Not only does it hit, but it begins to drag out. “This isn’t fair,” you might say. “I’m a little mad at God for allowing this to overtake my life.” We’re so full of questions and bereft of answers that we want to turn away. God seems insufficient and uninterested in our welfare.

Although we feel faithless, this is the time to stay faithful. These times of holding on to God rather than ourselves are when wisdom and maturity are established deep within us. This is the taking up of the cross of Christ.

Throughout our lives, giving up our own will and submitting to God will include seasons of heartache and soul-searching. There will be pressure from the enemy to pull away and reclaim our self-will. Satan wants

nothing more than to separate us from the power of the cross. It is a certainty that we will become discouraged, tired, frustrated and sorely tempted.

Jesus addressed this on two fronts. “He said to all, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.’” (Luke 9:23-24, ESV). First, he said to take up his cross every day. Our life in Christ is renewed every morning and requires the nourishment of prayer and time in the Word. This helps us to be alert to the nudges of the Spirit as well as the subtle attacks of the enemy.

Second, Jesus reminds us that the Christ-life is a kingdom upside down: controlling your own life will cause you to lose it; giving your will over to the mind of Christ will save your soul. The reward is a life rich with wisdom and the gaining of an understanding of God that is only accessed through adversity. Not only that, it provides us with opportunities to lift up fellow men and women who also struggle with letting go.

OUR COUNCIL IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Knights-led LAMB program, or “Least Among My Brethren”, has long been near and dear to Brother Walter Polchowne. Walter volunteers at Our Lady of Grace Catholic School, which has Quest and PACE programs for students with learning, intellectual, and developmental disabilities. This was a perfect opportunity for our council, led by our LAMB Director Walter, to raise funds to give to OLG School’s programs. Through months of giving out Tootsie Rolls and collecting donations outside of grocery stores and masses, our council managed to raise \$2,685 for the school! We are very thankful for Brother Walter and all the Knights who came out to help in this worthy endeavor. Our efforts were posted on the OLG School’s Facebook page and the OLG church bulletin on July 23. We look forward to another year of making a positive difference in our parish and community!



JULY IN REVIEW

The July O&D Meeting was held on Monday, July 10th. The Council’s business meeting/officer installation ceremony had to be postponed.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

August 7th- Council O&D Meeting, 7:00 pm, OLG Parish Life Center, 2nd Floor, Executive Conference Room.

August 21st- Council Business Meeting, 7:30 pm, St. Benedict's Church.

DISTRICT DEPUTY INPUT

The Making of a Saint

On May 26, 2020, Pope Francis approved a decree recognizing a miracle attributed to the intercession of Father McGivney and opening the way for his beatification. On Oct. 31, the Mass for Beatification was celebrated in the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford, Conn. An Apostolic Letter was read from Pope Francis that declared Father McGivney would now have the title of Blessed Michael McGivney. He is the third priest born in the United States to be raised to this honor, and the first priest to be beatified who spent his whole priestly ministry in a US parish.

The pope's Apostolic Letter stated that Blessed Michael McGivney's "zeal for the proclamation of the Gospel and generous concern for the needs of his brothers and sisters made him an outstanding witness of Christian solidarity and fraternal assistance."

The Cause for Canonization for Father McGivney was opened in the Archdiocese of Hartford in 1997, when he was given the title Servant of God. On March 15, 2008, his heroic virtue was recognized by Pope Benedict XVI, and Father McGivney was given the title Venerable Servant of God. This important step occurred after years of careful investigation of Father McGivney's life, spirituality and holiness by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. The declaration of Venerable confirmed what those who knew him in life, and others who call upon him since his death, have believed about Father McGivney: He lived a life of heroic virtue with an extraordinary love of God and neighbor.

Having been raised to the honors of the altar, Blessed Michael McGivney has an annual feast day of Aug. 13, the day between his birthday (in 1852) and the day he passed into eternal life (in 1890). His cause has now entered the final phase toward canonization or sainthood. One more confirmed miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney is needed for him to be declared saint.

All Knights and their families, as well as all those devoted to Father McGivney, are asked to pray for his intercession in their daily needs, especially in cases of serious illness, and to report any favors and healings to the Guild. You may submit your reports to:

<https://www.fathermcgivney.org/en/favors/ssl-index.html>

Here's what the McGivney Guild will ask you:

REPORT A FAVOR

Received through Father McGivney's intercession (Your post will be reviewed by the Father McGivney Guild staff before being made public.)

You will be asked for a description about the favors you have received through Blessed McGivney. Here are some examples of those favors:

<https://www.fathermcgivney.org/en/favors/ssl-view.html>

John Joyce (dd24@kofcnc.org).

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.

FAITH DIRECTOR: Coordinates the RSVP program (Seminarians), Holy Hours, Rosary Handouts, and various other events related to our Catholic faith and parish. Expert training will be available.

WARDEN: The warden is the "watchdog" for council property and degree paraphernalia, except the property of the financial secretary, treasurer and recorder. He is also responsible for setting up the council chambers for meetings and ceremonial work.

ADVOCATE: The advocate is the legal representative of the council and serves as the council's attorney at trials and investigations of any interest to the council. While he does not need to be a member of the legal profession, he should be familiar with the council by-laws, the Order's Charter, Constitution and Laws (#30), Methods of Conducting a Council Meeting (#1937), and Robert's Rules of Order.

Please contact the GK.

For further information or to volunteer please contact me:

Grand Knight Evan Smith SmithE7219@gmail.com 336-391-1114

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.

THIS LIST HAS NOT BEEN REVIEWED IN A WHILE. IF ANY LISTED PEOPLE ARE NO LONGER NEEDING OUR PRAYERS, PLEASE CONTACT THE GK TO MAKE THE LIST MORE COMPACT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

Please keep the following in your prayers

Bishop Jugis	Gary Chapman	Eveland Family
Dcn. Larry Lisk	Kathy Chapman	Brunozzi Family
Polchowne Family	Jerry Byrd	Grabasky Family
Joyce Family	Dick Morrison	Rich Stepnowski
Frank Family	Bob Englert	Rohan Family
Jim Keaney, Sr.	Kitty Heath	Fr. Coleman & Family
Lawrene Kirwan	Antionette Cerrito	Peter Marzullo
Smith Family	Marshall Perry's Father	Bob Camia
Roy Berninger	Lura Lyle	Brian Garrett
Dan & Nancy Camia	Lysiak Family	Jim Collins
Fran Geoff	Edwards Family	Parker Hahn
Jack Kealey	Fr. David Hyman	Barbara Ovittore
Ernie and Cynthia Pancsofar	Sylvia Byrd	Alice Schmidt
Brian Dubicki	Ben Malikowski	D'Amelio Family