



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PIEDMONT COUNCIL 939

JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

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

GRAND KNIGHT’S MESSAGE

Happy New Year Brother Knights!

I am very proud of what we accomplished in 2023. From my calculations, we made over \$14,000 in charitable disbursements and volunteered over 2,400 hours in total for Knights-related activities. We participated in at least 20 projects that impacted seminarians, parishioners, priests, the community, the souls of our departed brothers, the poor, students, the disabled, the homeless, the unborn, expectant mothers, and our Knights. We can rest assured knowing that we made a massive difference this past year.

Catholicism is a religion of faith and works. If you would like to do good works for great causes, the Knights of Columbus is your opportunity to do so. Please prayerfully consider helping us succeed again in 2024, whether it is through helping at events, volunteering for officer and director openings, attending meetings, etc. Every extra person counts. Please make this year count for us and our council.

Grand Knight Evan Smith

DEVOTIONAL: THE HOLY INNOCENTS

In Matthew 2:16-18, after the Holy Family was warned and fled to Egypt, we read, “Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ‘A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more.’”

The Church rightly commemorates these murdered children on December 28th, in the feast day of the Holy Innocents. While contemporary Catholic scholars place the number of children as “only” 50 or less due to the small size of Bethlehem and surrounding towns, it is a good reminder that the murder of innocent children is an abomination to the Lord. These children are considered martyrs even though they died before Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. This is because the Church considers their death to be a form of baptism by blood. They died without any knowledge of Christ or even Herod, yet they died because of Christ.

Herod ordered those infants killed because he saw one of them as a threat to his power and the stability of the whole region. Herod was ruthless and even prompted Caesar Augustus to note that it was better to be Herod's hog than Herod's son. Yet today, our society champions the murder of the innocents by the millions before they have the chance to be born. For what reason? Are we protecting royal succession from challengers? No. We murder our children because mothers and fathers consider them to be inconveniences. Our culture and Herod share a core value: an overwhelming desire to control every aspect of our lives and avoid responsibility, to the point of spilling innocent blood.

Holy Innocents, pray for us and intercede to end the slaughter of the innocents of today.

OUR COUNCIL IN THE SPOTLIGHT

On December 6th, Our Lady of Grace Church hosted the first annual St. Nicholas Feast Day Party. It started out with a potluck and fellowship among around 70 Catholics. Fr. Casey Coleman dressed up as Saint Nicholas himself, in bishop garb with a book in hand. The real fun for the kids started when Fr. Coleman read them a story. Afterward, the children were amazed to find that their shoes (left off in the hallway) were filled with chocolate coins and candy canes! The candy was provided by Council 939. We also helped set up and take down the room for the event.

Thank you to all our Knights and volunteers for making this a successful and exciting night!



DECEMBER IN REVIEW

- December 1st: Troubadour's Christmas Concert, 7:00pm, Carolina Theater, Fundraises for Room at the Inn
- December 4th: Officers and Directors Meeting, 7:00pm, Our Lady of Grace Parish Life Center, 2nd Floor
- December 6th: St. Nicholas Feast Day Event, ~6:30pm, Our Lady of Grace Parish Life Center, Banquet Hall
- December 8th: Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)
- December 18th: Council Business Meeting Followed by Christmas Party, 6:30pm, St. Benedict's Church
- December 25th: Christmas (Holy Day of Obligation in Addition to Sunday Obligation)

JANUARY ACTIVITIES

January 1st – Feast of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Not a Holy Day of Obligation This Year)

Note: **NO Officers and Directors Meeting** this Month

January 15th – Council Business Meeting, 7:30pm, Our Lady of Grace Parish Life Center, Banquet Hall

Other Events TBD

DISTRICT DEPUTY INPUT

Knights at the Start of the 20th Century

The Knights of Columbus grew dramatically in response to the needs of communities within the United States but well beyond. By 1910, councils had been chartered throughout the United States and Canada, and international expansion continued into Mexico, the Philippines, Cuba and Panama.

During this early period, the Knights also turned to college campuses. In 1904 Knights and their families attended ceremonies at the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C., in which the Order presented the school with a grant to establish a KofC chair of American history. Chartered in 1910, Notre Dame Council 1477 was the Order's first college council, launching college councils that today includes 244 schools worldwide.

1900: The first exemplification of the Fourth Degree takes place on Feb. 22, 1900, in New York City where 1,100 Knights receive the degree. The following May, another 750 Knights take the degree in Boston.

1904: More than 10,000 Knights and their families attend ceremonies at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., in which a check for \$55,633.79 is presented to the school for the establishment of a KofC chair of American history. From 1909 to 1913, Knights raise \$500,000 to establish a permanent endowment for CUA.

1905: The first council in the Philippines — Manila Council 1000 — is chartered after the Spanish-American War. The same year, the Order expanded to Mexico, establishing Guadalupe Council 1050 in Mexico City.

1906: The Knights of Columbus moves to a new headquarters in New Haven, right by the New Haven green.

1909: U.S. workers in the Canal Zone start Balboa Council 1371 in Panama City and San Agustin Council 1390 is instituted in Havana, Cuba.

1909: A reported 5,000 Knights meet James A. Flaherty's train in Philadelphia in 1909 when he arrives at the annual convention where he is elected Supreme Knight.

As membership in the Knights of Columbus grew, the Order became known as a force for public good. Following the dedication ceremony for the Christopher Columbus Memorial Fountain in Washington, D.C., in 1912, a reporter for The Washington Star noted the large number of Knights in attendance "marked anew the important position of the Knights of Columbus as an order in the social fabric of the United States."

During World War I, the Order provided rest and recreational facilities and social services to Allied servicemen of all faiths. K of C Huts throughout the United States and Europe provided religious services, supplies and recreation under the motto, "Everybody Welcome, Everything Free."

Everybody meant everybody. Whatever your race or creed, you were welcome at K of C facilities. In fact, the Order was praised by a contemporary African American historian of World War I, because "unlike the other social welfare organizations operating in the war, it never drew the color line."

As a result of the Order's wartime work, which earned high praise from Pope Benedict XV, nearly 400,000 men joined the Knights between 1917 and 1923.

1912: With support from the Knights, the Christopher Columbus Memorial Fountain is dedicated in Washington, D.C. Some 20,000 Knights attend the ceremonies, which are overseen by President William H. Taft.

1914: Tens of thousands of copies of a "bogus oath" are circulated to defame the Knights of Columbus. The Knights, in turn, lay the groundwork for a lecture series and educational programs to combat anti-Catholic hostility. Between 1914 and 1917, the number of anti-Catholic publications drops from 60 to fewer than five.

1917: When the United States enters World War I, Supreme Knight Flaherty writes President Woodrow Wilson telling him that the Order plans to establish centers to provide for the troops "recreational and spiritual comfort." The Knights' services, he says, will be offered "regardless of creed."

By the summer of 1917, the Order opens service centers, or "KofC Huts," in training camps and behind the lines of battle. The Knights and independent fund drives raise nearly \$30 million to finance the huts.

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 most dinners for fellowship of our Knights; helps OLG, OLG School, and St. Benedict successfully execute social events; leads the payment and disbursement of Coats for Kids and Global Wheelchair Mission; work with parish on Habitat for Humanity (if applicable); miscellaneous other community activities as directed by the Grand Knight and the Officers & Directors.

FAITH DIRECTOR: Coordinates the RSVP program (Seminarians), Holy Hours, Rosary Handouts, Communion Breakfasts, masses for our deceased brothers, and various other events related to our Catholic faith and parish.

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

Plocki Family – death of Olga (widow of Arthur)	Joyce Family	Fr. David Hyman
Marzullo Family – death of Peter	Jim Keaney, Sr.	Sylvia Byrd
Wachter Family – death of Mike	Lawrene Kirwan	Ben Malikowski
Dick Morrison – In Hospice	Roy Berninger	Eveland Family
Eastwood Family – death of Mary (widow of Bill)	Jack Kealey	Brunozzi Family
Chris Frank – death of mother, father undergoing cancer treatment	Brian Dubicki	Grabasky Family – death of Bob
Lyle Family – death of Lura (widow of John)	Gary Chapman	Rick Stepnowski – recovery from cancer
Flanagan Family – death of Bob	Kathy Chapman	Dcn. Rohan Family – death of Dcn. Tim
Kenneth Markowski – knee surgery recovery	Bob Englert	Fr. Coleman Family – death of father
Jerry Byrd – recovery from surgery	Kitty Heath	Brian Garrett
Fr. Joseph Wasswa – death of father (Henry Wasswa)	Antionette Cerrito	Parker Hahn
Schmidt Family – death of Alice	Perry Family	Barbara Ovittore
Bishop Jugis – poor health	Lysiak Family	D’Amelio Family
Dcn. Larry Lisk	Edwards Family	

Names in red mean a new entry from the past month

JANUARY IS DEVOTED TO THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

