



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PIEDMONT COUNCIL 939

JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

The Official Publication of Piedmont Council 939 Knights of Columbus

GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

As I write to you, it is Christmas still – I hope you have been feasting and celebrating! We just celebrated the feast of the Holy Family – consider meditating upon the life of St. Joseph. As we think about the life of the child Jesus during this time, consider how St. Joseph must have lived a life of quiet service to his wife and child. Living a life without grumbling, of cheerful and quiet service, doing what is necessary without complaint or being prompted, is an example to each one of us, the Knights.

It was wonderful to attend midnight mass at Our Lady of Grace for Christmas, and observe four seminarians assisting with the mass. What a gift to the whole church – coming from St. Paul's and Our Lady of Grace, these four men plan to serve the church here in North Carolina and in Alabama! This spring, we must redouble our efforts to support seminarians with prayer and their material needs.

Respect for life is important at the beginning of the year. Remember all the ways in which the dignity of life is not respected, and advocate – remember our commitment to life includes its beginning all the way to its natural end. Let us continue to pray that our elected leaders have courage and their hearts are converted. Some concrete steps are listed below.

There are also two opportunities quickly approaching to join the fourth degree. If you have not already, please consider joining soon!

Durante este tiempo de la navidad, espero que ustedes han celebrado con comida, y sus familias. Después de la fiesta de la santa familia, piensa de la vida de San José. Cuando Jesús era niño, S. Jose tenía una vida de servicio – de servicio alegre y tranquila, trabajando sin queja o pedido. Él es ejemplo a cada uno de nosotros, los caballeros

En la misa de medianoche vi cuatro hombres, seminaristas, quien vienen de Nuestro Señora de la Gracia y la iglesia de S. Pablo aquí en Greensboro. Ellos intenten servir la iglesia aquí en Carolina de Norte y en Alabama. Durante esta primavera, debemos hacer gran esfuerzo para ofrecer ellos oraciones y también con las necesidades físicas.

Respeto por la vida es importante durante este tiempo del año. Recuérdese de las maneras en cual la dignidad de la vida no se respeta, y aboga por ellos quien no pueden abogarse. El respeto por la vida incluye no solamente la empieza, sino también el fin natural. A la vez, debemos seguir nuestras oraciones que nuestros lideres tendrán coraje y que se convierten. Hay varias maneras para ayudar más adelante en este boletín.

También, hay dos oportunidades prono para unirse al cuatro grado de los caballeros. Espero que usted se unirá pronto.

Mark Stepnowski

Grand Knight

COUNCIL NEWS

At this time, pro-life advocacy is critical. The Charlotte March for life is January 10th, and the national march in Washington is January 24th. Think about pulling together a few friends and traveling to advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves.

At this moment, we have been asked to write to our state representatives and senators to amend the North Carolina Safe Surrender Act to allow the anonymous, safe surrender of a newborn infant, so that Councils across North Carolina will be free to provide their communities with Safe Haven Baby Boxes, or other approved safe surrender stations. Please contact your representative and senator and let them know of our support for this change! Your representatives can be found at [Representation - North Carolina General Assembly](#), and the last page of this newsletter includes two letters you can send in after adding their name and your contact information. It is important to include your address, so you know that you are able to vote for them.

There are two opportunities coming soon to join the 4th degree. If you wish, there is a special exemplification taking place on February 22nd, at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. It will celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus: [Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus | Knights of Columbus](#). Closer to home, there will be an exemplification on March 29th at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Charlotte. A flier is attached – please reach out to your Grand Knight or Deputy Grand Knight, Robert Braden, if you have any questions.

La marcha por la vida es el 10 de enero en Charlotte, y la marcha nacional es el 24 de enero, en Washington. Hay varias oportunidades asistir a estas protestas. También, hay una oportunidad para abogar al gobierno del estado para cambiar la ley de "Safe Surrender". Puede escribir a su representante con la tarjeta al fin de este boletín.

Hay dos oportunidades unirse al cuatro grado. En febrero, puede viajar a nueva york para celebrar 125 años del cuatro grado. También, el 29 de marzo, habrá una ceremonia en la iglesia de S. John Neumann in Charlotte. Hay más información en el volante. Por favor, hálame si tiene preguntas.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 6th, 7 PM: Officer's Meeting. Our Lady of Grace PLC Executive Conference Room

January 20th, 7:30 PM: Council Meeting. Our Lady of Grace PLC Banquet Hall.

Please expect to be notified of more events soon – the officers will be pulling plans together at their meeting in just a few days.

DECEMBER IN REVIEW

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 discern and ask the Lord if any of these opportunities would be right for you.

- 1. LAMB DIRECTOR:** Coordinates the LAMB (Least Among My Brethren) programs. LAMB is involved with helping those with intellectual disabilities. In years past, we have raised money for the special education programs at Our Lady of Grace Catholic School, but the director is free to choose any applicable cause. The director will facilitate fundraising, volunteering, and disbursement of funds for these activities.
- 2. LIFE DIRECTOR:** Organize events, fundraisers, and prayer to promote the cause of life, with particular attention to the unborn.

For further information or to volunteer please contact me:

Grand Knight Mark Stepnowski mstepnowski@gmail.com 336-875-2275

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

Please share prayer requests with the Grand Knight at 336-875-2275. We apologize to anyone overlooked in this newsletter. If anyone has recovered from illness, please inform the Grand Knight so that the good news can be shared with the council. Thank you for your help!

Please keep the following in your prayers

Bob Fitzsimons	Brandon Melchiore – father to a healthy daughter	Lawrene Kirwan
Jerome Dixon, PGK	Jack Kealey – Repose of Soul	Roy Berninger
John Polickoski and family – repose of his soul.	Tom Thompson – poor health, in need of calls and emails	Brian Dubicki
Simpson Family – death of son, Ben	Morrison Family – death of Richard	Bob Englert
Barbara Ovittore-Kemp – Recovery from surgery	Chapman Family – death of daughter	Antionette Cerrito
Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio (former Pastor, St. Pius X Parish and former KofC State Chaplain) – repose of his soul	Chris Frank – father undergoing cancer treatment	Lysiak Family
Michael Busch – Recovery from surgery	Eastwood Family – death of Mary (widow of Bill)	Edwards Family
Cynthia Perry – Recovery from surgery	Jerry & Sylvia Byrd	Fr. David Hyman
Nicolas D’Amelio & Family – birth of daughter Rosamund	Bishop Emeritus Peter Jugis – poor health	Ben Malikowski
Joyce Family – wife Janine recovering from surgery	Dcn. Larry Lisk	Eveland Family
	Joyce Family	Brian Garrett
	Jim Keaney, Sr.	Parker Hahn
		Grabasky Family

Names in red indicate a new entry from the past month; we remember the death of our brothers and family members for one year in this list.

Dear

Young women, and especially young teenagers, often face stigma and backlash from family and friends when they find themselves pregnant. Often they seek abortion rather than adoption and, in some cases, they are even too embarrassed to seek an abortion but instead leave their newborn baby in a dumpster, in a restroom, alongside a highway or on a doorstep. Usually such babies die, which is a tragedy regardless whether you are pro-life, pro-choice, Republican, Democrat or independent!

Although all fifty states have enacted "Safe Surrender" laws that allow a mother to relinquish her infant face-to-face to a qualified person, twenty states have recognized that such surrenders are embarrassing, intimidating and a deterrent to providing a safe surrender, and have modified their laws to permit safe methods for a mother to anonymously relinquish her infant. North Carolina is not one of those states. Therefore I request that you support adding language to our NC Safe Surrender Legislation that allows the anonymous surrender of a new born baby to a center equipped with a safe keeping infant facility that is occupied 24/7, such as those provided by Safe Haven Baby Boxes of Indiana.

Respectfully,

Dear

Young women, and especially young teenagers, often face stigma and backlash from family and friends when they find themselves pregnant. Often they seek abortion rather than adoption and, in some cases, they are even too embarrassed to seek an abortion but instead leave their newborn baby in a dumpster, in a restroom, alongside a highway or on a doorstep. Usually such babies die, which is a tragedy regardless whether you are pro-life, pro-choice, Republican, Democrat or independent!

Although all fifty states have enacted "Safe Surrender" laws that allow a mother to relinquish her infant face-to-face to a qualified person, twenty states have recognized that such surrenders are embarrassing, intimidating and a deterrent to providing a safe surrender, and have modified their laws to permit safe methods for a mother to anonymously relinquish her infant. North Carolina is not one of those states. Therefore I request that you support adding language to our NC Safe Surrender Legislation that allows the anonymous surrender of a new born baby to a center equipped with a safe keeping infant facility that is occupied 24/7, such as those provided by Safe Haven Baby Boxes of Indiana.

Respectfully,