



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PIEDMONT COUNCIL 939

JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER

The Official Publication of Piedmont Council 939 Knights of Columbus

GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Brothers,

As the new fraternal year begins, it seems appropriate to introduce myself to the council again, and describe my involvement with the order over the years.

As a child, I was introduced to the Knights of Columbus and Council 939 through my father, who remains a member of this council today. I have fond memories of picnics at the old clubhouse, spinning on the tire swing and enjoying children's Christmas parties. In 2012, I engaged in a slight rebellion, joining Auburn University Council 8696 some months after turning 18.

One of the highlights of my membership through college was the opportunity to attend the 2015 college council's conference in New Haven. If any of you have the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to the tomb of our founder at St. Mary's, I strongly recommend doing so! My visit enforced upon me the importance of our mission: understanding the work done to protect widows, orphans, and families so many years ago reaffirmed my understand of the work we do today.

Following college, I returned to Greensboro for work, and joined council 939. Over the coming year, I hope to enable each of you to more closely serve Christ in others and help the council to make a particular difference within the boundaries of the parishes we serve.

Vivat Jesus!

Mark Stepnowski

COUNCIL NEWS

Our Lady of Grace recently hosted Bishop Michael Martin for confirmation, and will soon welcome Fr. Elliot Suttle as its new parochial vicar. Fr. Joseph Wasswa has been reassigned to St. Aloysius in Hickory.

Our Lady of Grace's Sunday mass schedule changes July 21st. Mass will be said in the English, Ordinary form at 6:45, 8:30 and 11:30 each Sunday; in the extraordinary form at 1:30 PM, and in Spanish at 5 PM.

We are ordering new name badges! Fill out the form at <https://forms.gle/m3PvQz8vLwBnxNaYA>, if you are in need of one by July 20th. If your wife would might like a special badge to recognize her efforts, please have her fill out the form. If you are unable to fill out the form, contact the Grand Knight or Financial Secretary.

We have been asked to help with a reception for those discerning religious life – if you can help by bringing a dessert or with drinks, sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D45ABA62EAAFD0-50220132-vocations> More information is below.

JUNE IN REVIEW

Thanks to Marshall Perry, who organized a wonderful Father's day Communion Breakfast at the Franciscan center in downtown Greensboro June 16th.

Our Lady of Grace hosted its first annual midsummer festival, honoring St. John the Baptist June 23rd.

Knights pitched in all day long, and actively recruited while doing so.

Tony Briones, Matthew Wood, Jerry Walsh, Mark Stepnowski and Richard Stepnowski worked up a sweat beautifying the campus in the morning. In the afternoon, Frank Fratoni offered wonderful music, and Tony returned to help entertain everyone during the pie eating contest! When it came time to clean up, Jerry returned, and helped make short work of resetting the facility alongside Joe Walton and John d'Amelio. Thank you to everyone for making the day such a success!



July ACTIVITIES

July 1st: Officers and Directors Meeting, 7 PM, Our Lady of Grace Parish Life Center Executive Conference Room (2nd floor)

July 10th: Family Event: US Air Force Heritage Winds Quintet at the Eastern Music Festival, 8 PM. Free tickets must be reserved in advance: [Tickets – Eastern Music Festival](#).

July 15th: Officers Installation at 6:30 PM, in place of our normal business meeting. We request the presence of your wives and families as the new fraternal year begins.

July 20th: Officer training in Charlotte. A separate email has been distributed to the officers with instructions to register.

July 28th: Reception for Tony Briones, leaving for Seminary; 3 PM in the Our Lady of Grace Parish Life Center Banquet Hall. More details to come.



DISTRICT DEPUTY INPUT

2000-2009 THE NEW MILLENNIUM

On May 21, 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized 25 martyrs of Mexico, including six members of the Knights of Columbus. Less than one year later, Carl A. Anderson was installed as the 13th supreme knight in Mexico City and dedicated the Order and his administration to Mary under her title Our Lady of Guadalupe.

After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the Order delivered immediate assistance to the families of fallen first responders. When natural disasters struck, such as Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Knights similarly responded with immediate aid.

Finally, just as they responded to the forces of secularism and prejudice in the past, Knights have stood by their bishops and have witnessed to the importance of religion and religious liberty for society. As the cause for canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney moves forward, so too do his Knights, seeking to build a civilization of love.

2000 (left image): Pope John Paul II canonizes six Mexican priest-members of the Knights of Columbus who were martyred during the persecution of the Church there early in the 20th century. The following year, John Paul II beatifies Blessed Carlos Rodríguez, a layman from Puerto Rico and a member. Three additional members from Mexico have since been beatified, and one canonized.

2001: The Knights of Columbus Museum opens in New Haven. In addition to a permanent exhibit on the Order's history, the museum has featured numerous temporary exhibits and priceless works of art, such as Michelangelo's 16-foot wooden study model for the dome of St. Peter's Basilica.

2001: In response to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, on Sept. 12 the Knights establishes its \$1 million Heroes Fund. Checks for \$3,000 are presented to the families of all full-time professional law enforcement, firefighters and emergency medical personnel who lost their lives at the World

Trade Center and the Pentagon. Forty-five Knights were killed on 9/11.

2003: 100,000 copies of a pocket-sized prayer book, *Armed With the Faith*, are printed by the Order and the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, and sent to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, along with 10,000 rosaries.

2005: The Knights send 2,000 wheelchairs to land-mine victims and people with disabilities in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Through its partnership with the Global Wheelchair Mission, Knights have since distributed wheelchairs around the world.

2006: In its first international expansion in almost a century, the Order charters its first councils in Poland, beginning with John Paul II Council 14000 in Krakow.

2006: In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in the U.S. Gulf, Knights donate more than \$10 million and 100,000 volunteer hours to help rebuild Catholic churches and schools.

2007: The Knights of Columbus Incarnation Dome, a 3,780-square-foot mosaic depicting mysteries of Christ's life, is constructed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

2008: On March 16, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI approves a decree of heroic virtue for Father Michael J. McGivney, declaring him "Venerable."

2008: The Order is present throughout Pope Benedict XVI's pastoral visit to the United States. A K of C-commissioned plaque commemorates the pope's Mass at Yankee Stadium. It accompanies two similar plaques, which commemorate Masses that Pope John Paul II and Pope Paul VI celebrated there.

2008: McGivney Hall, the new home of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and

Family at The Catholic University of America, is dedicated Sept. 8.

2009: The Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative launches Jan. 22, 2009. To date, more than 1000 ultrasound machines have been purchased for pro-life pregnancy centers using matching funds from the Order's Culture of Life Fund, established in 2008.

2009: The Order hosts a "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" summit on volunteerism in New York and designates 2009 as the Year of the Volunteer. The Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids program launches; to date, the initiative has provided more than 500,000 winter coats to children throughout the United States and Canada.

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. COR DIRECTOR:** COR (Latin for "heart") is a new Knights of Columbus program which seeks to increase the faith life of participants through regular meetings containing prayer, Scripture reading, applicable video series, etc. It is not limited to Knights – anyone is welcome! The director will start, grow, and facilitate this fraternal gathering (preferably weekly or bi-weekly but at least monthly) so that more men grow in their spiritual lives.

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

<p>Michael Busch – Recovery from surgery</p> <p>Cynthia Perry – Recovery from surgery</p> <p>Bishop Michael Martin, OFM – new bishop of our diocese</p> <p>Nicolas D’Amelio & Family – birth of daughter Rosamund</p> <p>Joyce Family – wife Janine recovering from surgery</p> <p>Brandon Melchior – father to a healthy daughter</p> <p>John Polickoski – in hospital</p> <p>Tom Thompson – poor health, in need of calls and emails</p> <p>Morrison Family – death of Richard</p> <p>Chapman Family – death of daughter</p> <p>Plocki Family – death of Olga (widow of Arthur)</p> <p>Marzullo Family – death of Peter</p>	<p>Wachter Family – death of Mike</p> <p>Chris Frank – death of mother, father undergoing cancer treatment</p> <p>Eastwood Family – death of Mary (widow of Bill)</p> <p>Lyle Family – death of Lura (widow of John)</p> <p>Flanagan Family – death of Bob</p> <p>Jerry Byrd – recovery from surgery</p> <p>Fr. Joseph Wasswa – death of father (Henry Wasswa)</p> <p>Schmidt Family – death of Alice</p> <p>Bishop Emeritus Peter Jugis – poor health</p> <p>Dcn. Larry Lisk</p> <p>Joyce Family</p> <p>Jim Keaney, Sr.</p> <p>Lawrene Kirwan</p>	<p>Roy Berninger</p> <p>Jack Kealey</p> <p>Brian Dubicki</p> <p>Bob Englert</p> <p>Antionette Cerrito</p> <p>Lysiak Family</p> <p>Edwards Family</p> <p>Fr. David Hyman</p> <p>Sylvia Byrd</p> <p>Ben Malikowski</p> <p>Eveland Family</p> <p>Grabasky Family – death of Bob</p> <p>Dcn. Rohan Family – death of Dcn. Tim</p> <p>Fr. Coleman Family – death of father</p> <p>Brian Garrett</p> <p>Parker Hahn</p> <p>Barbara Ovittore</p>
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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.