



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PIEDMONT COUNCIL 939

MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER

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

GRAND KNIGHT’S MESSAGE

Good day brother Knights!

I would like to personally thank all the men who stepped up to being officers in our council starting July 1st. I wish you all the best of luck, and I know you will discharge your duties responsibly. Here is the list:

Grand Knight – Mark Stepnowski

Financial Secretary – Chris Frank

Deputy Grand Knight – Evan Smith

Chancellor – Robert Braden

Recorder – Jim Keaney Sr.

Treasurer – John D’Amelio

Advocate – Nicolas D’Amelio

Warden – Cesar Muedas

Inside Guard – Jim Keaney Jr.

Outside Guard – Mike Busch

One Year Trustee – Jerry Byrd

Two Year Trustee – Josh Myers

Three Year Trustee – Joe Walton

Please join me in congratulating these upcoming officers and intending to help them in their positions. Vivat Jesus!

Grand Knight Evan Smith

APRIL IN REVIEW

April 6th – 7th – Our Lady of Grace Ministry Fair following all Masses

April 8th - Officers and Directors Meeting, 7:00pm, Our Lady of Grace Parish Life Center, 2nd Floor

April 15th - Council Business Meeting, 7:30pm, St. Benedict's Church

April 20th – Street Cleanup, 8:30am, Meet at McDonald's on the Corner of Westridge and Battleground

MAY ACTIVITIES

May 3rd – 5th – North Carolina Knights of Columbus Convention, Raleigh, NC

May 6th - Officers and Directors Meeting, 7:00pm, Our Lady of Grace Parish Life Center, 2nd Floor

May 20th - Council Business Meeting, 7:30pm, Our Lady of Grace Parish Life Center, Banquet Hall

DISTRICT DEPUTY INPUT

1961-1978 A TRANSFORMED CHURCH

The early 1960s marked a period of transformation and upheaval for the Church and society, as the Second Vatican Council convened, and the civil rights movement emerged in full force.

At the 1966 Supreme Convention, Supreme Knight John W. McDevitt said it was time to see the Order as more than just “a fortress” for its members in a world hostile to the Catholic faith. In revising its admission policies and supporting several social justice initiatives, the Order took positive steps to eliminate racial discrimination.

During this time, the Order's insurance program began a period of dramatic growth. The amount of insurance in force tripled from \$1 billion to \$3 billion from 1960 to 1975. And in 1969, the Knights built its seventh national headquarters, its current location, to better serve the Order's members and their families.

1961: On Oct. 11, 1961, Supreme Knight Hart visits President John F. Kennedy — the first Catholic president — in the White House. Kennedy, a Fourth Degree Knight, reportedly greets Hart by saying, “Hello, Chief.”

1963: In the spring of 1963, Hart attends a special White House meeting of religious leaders to discuss civil rights.

1964: Supreme Knight John W. McDevitt takes office. His first priority is to amend the Order's admission policies to counter charges of racial discrimination.

1965: In April 1965, the Order co-sponsors with the Archdiocese of Hartford a Conference on Human Rights at Yale University in New Haven. More than 2,000 people attend.

1966: Supreme Knight McDevitt visits the Vatican Transmitting Center for the blessing of a new shortwave radio transmitter donated by the Knights. Pope Paul VI blesses the transmitter.

1969: The present Supreme Council headquarters is completed. Its four 320-foot towers symbolize the Knights' four principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

1969: The Order publishes a booklet on *Humanae Vitae*, Pope Paul VI's 1968 encyclical affirming the Church's teaching on marriage and procreation.

1971: The Order marks the achievement of \$2 billion of insurance in force; today that figure is more than \$113.5 billion.

1975: The Order agrees to fund “uplink” transmissions for major worldwide satellite telecasts from the Vatican; the program continues to this day with audiences estimated in the billions for Midnight Mass from St. Peter’s Basilica.

1977: Supreme Knight Virgil C. Dechant begins his administration with a visit to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, where he places the Knights of Columbus under the Virgin Mary’s protection.

1978: Beginning this year, each new First Degree Knight receives a rosary blessed by the supreme chaplain, a practice that continues to this day.

1978: Pope John Paul I receives Supreme Knight Dechant and other K of C representatives in the pontiff’s first private audience after his election.

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 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

Joyce Family – wife Janine recovering from surgery

Brandon Melchiorre – father to a healthy daughter

John Polickoski – in hospital

Tom Thompson – poor health, in need of calls and emails

Morrison Family – death of Richard

Chapman Family – death of daughter

Plocki Family – death of Olga (widow of Arthur)

Marzullo Family – death of Peter

Wachter Family – death of Mike

Eastwood Family – death of Mary (widow of Bill)

Chris Frank – death of mother, father undergoing cancer treatment

Lyle Family – death of Lura (widow of John)

Flanagan Family – death of Bob

Jerry Byrd – recovery from surgery

Fr. Joseph Wasswa – death of father (Henry Wasswa)

Schmidt Family – death of Alice

Bishop Jugis – poor health

Dcn. Larry Lisk

Joyce Family

Jim Keaney, Sr.

Lawrene Kirwan

Roy Berninger

Jack Kealey

Brian Dubicki

Bob Englert

Antionette Cerrito

Lysiak Family

Edwards Family

Fr. David Hyman

Sylvia Byrd

Ben Malikowski

Eveland Family

Grabasky Family – death of Bob

Dcn. Rohan Family – death of Dcn. Tim

Fr. Coleman Family – death of father

Brian Garrett

Parker Hahn

Barbara Ovittore

D'Amelio Family

Names in red mean a new entry from the past month

MAY IS DEVOTED TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

