



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PIEDMONT COUNCIL 939

NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

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GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

We're now in November, and the church year is quickly drawing to a close, with readings that will remind us of the end times. It's a wonderful opportunity to think on our lives. Are we spiritually ready? As knights we should consider that we know not the day or hour: Our Field Agent, Miguel Flores, is ready and able to make sure that we have the financial security to support our families and own health as that time approaches. We will remember members who died in the past year during the Thanksgiving Day mass at St. Benedicts.

El noviembre es el mes de los muertos, y como el año en la iglesia acerca al fin, con las lecturas del fin, debemos pensar en el fin de nuestras vidas. ¿Somos preparados espiritualmente? ¿Qué sobre financieramente? Miguel Flores puede ayudar con un repaso de su plan por la jubilación. Durante este mes, recordaremos nuestros miembros fallecidos durante una misa en la iglesia de San Benito el día de la acción de gracias.

Some of you may ask about the presence of Spanish in this newsletter – a contingent of men have committed to joining us who prefer Spanish, and as I am somewhat familiar with the language, I will attempt to include some communication in both languages going forward. Bienvenidos a algunos nuevos hermanos quién hablan español. Espero ofrecer algunas comunicaciones en español ahora y en el futuro. Si olvido, o si usted no puede comprender alguna noticia, por favor pregúntame, y traduciré. Pido perdón por mis errores – no escribo ni hablo el español todos los días.

Mark Stepnowski

Grand Knight

COUNCIL NEWS

- Relief Efforts for Hurricane Helene continue; read the attached letter to learn more!
- A good half-dozen men have recently stepped forward to join the Knights of Columbus! Please join us in welcoming them at an exemplification on November 18th!
- Election day is November 5th – Every citizen should plan to vote. As Catholic men, be sure to form your conscience with the guidance available from our pastors, theologians, and our bishop.

OCTOBER IN REVIEW

We kept busy in October! The month started with a wonderful Banquet to support **Room at the Inn** on October 3rd, and was followed up just a few days later by **Donut Sunday** at Our Lady of Grace October 6th.

On October 18th, we held a **Dinner at Our Lady of Grace**. It was wonderful to have the support of so many members who helped shop, cook, serve and clean, and who brought their families to enjoy a meal. As we hold events like this one more often, we can trust that they will be better attended and come together more easily!

Lastly, we held a **Recruiting Drive** October 27th. Migel Flores, a local field agent and Hispanic membership coordinator for the state, gave a stirring talk on the history and contributions of the Knights of Columbus!

FAMILY OF THE MONTH

As a council we have restarted the “Family of the Month Program”. While some of us may remember it as being limited to families who are knights, current guidance is that any family at a parish we serve is eligible. In October, we recognized the Longino family

In the coming months we will need to recognize many more families. If you would like to nominate one for this honor, please contact the family director, **Richard Stepnowski**.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

November 4th: Officers and Directors meeting, 7 PM. Our Lady of Grace PLC Executive Conference room.

November 9th: Day of Reflection at Our Lady of Grace. Join for fellowship, reflection and formation by Father Coleman. The day will start with mass at 8 am, and continue until roughly noon. **Contact David Kilcher**, kilcherd@yahoo.com to sign up.

November 16th: Church workday – we will continue to replant shrubs at Our Lady of Grace. Plan to start around 9 am, and continue through until 11.

November 18th: Exemplification, starting at 7 PM at Our Lady of Grace. Please attend, both to welcome new members and renew your own commitment to the principles of the Knights of Columbus. Plan to join us in the Parish Life Center following the exemplification for refreshments. Our Regular meeting will be cancelled.

November 28th: Annual memorial mass at St. Benedict’s. We will remember our members who died in the past year on the morning of Thanksgiving day.

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:

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

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.

Election Guidance

Brothers in Christ,

We are nearing the November election with early voting in North Carolina beginning on Thursday, October 17th. Absentee ballots are being sent in late September. It is our right to vote as Americans and our responsibility to vote based upon our consciences formed by Catholic principles. As such, your NC State Council, is providing you herein with information to prepare for your discernment and selection of candidates.

Information provided has been extracted from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC - <https://www.usccb.org/sites/default/files/flipbooks/catechism/>), the USCCB document “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship” (<https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/upload/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship.pdf>) and a new 2024 letter from the Bishops as an Introduction “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship” (<https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship-introductory-letter>).

Additionally, we have extracted information regarding the USCCB document from the St. Barnabas, Arden, NC summary document for Catholic Conscientious Voting. Quotations below indicate exact wording from the USCCB documents, unless otherwise indicated.

“We bishops do not intend to tell Catholics for whom or against whom to vote. Our purpose is to help Catholics form their consciences in accordance with God’s truth. We recognize that the responsibility to make choices in political life rests with each individual in light of a properly formed conscience ...”

“Our approach to contemporary issues is first and foremost rooted in our identity as followers of Christ and as brothers and sisters to all who are made in God’s image. For all Catholics, including those seeking public office, **our participation in political parties or other groups to which we may belong should be influenced by our faith, not the other way around.**”

A Well-Formed Conscience: “This statement highlights the role of the Church in the formation of conscience and the corresponding moral responsibility of each Catholic to hear, receive, and act upon the Church’s teaching in the lifelong task of forming his or her own conscience. Foremost amongst those teachings are **the four basic principles of Catholic social doctrine:** the dignity of the human person, the common good, subsidiarity” (larger institutions should not overwhelm or interfere with smaller or local institutions) “and solidarity” (the human family share fully the treasure of material and spiritual goods).

Dignity of the Human Person: “The dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. Direct attacks on innocent persons are never morally acceptable, at any stage or in any condition.”

Doing Good and Avoiding Evil: “The Church fosters well-formed consciences, not only by teaching moral truth, but also by encouraging its members to develop the virtue of prudence ... Prudence enables us ‘to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it’ (CCC 1806). Prudence shapes and informs our ability to deliberate over available alternatives, to

determine what is most fitting to a specific context, and to act decisively ... The Church's teaching is clear that a good end does not justify an immoral means."

"There are some things we must never do, as individuals or as a society, because they are always incompatible with love of God and neighbor ... These are called "intrinsically evil" actions. They must always be rejected and opposed and must never be supported or condoned. A prime example is the intentional taking of innocent human life, as in abortion and euthanasia ... Similarly, human cloning, destructive research on human embryos ... are also intrinsically evil. Other direct assaults on innocent human life, such as genocide, torture, and the targeting of noncombatants in acts of terror or war, can never be justified. Nor can... racism ... or redefining marriage to deny its essential meaning, ever be justified."

Voting: **"A Catholic cannot vote for a candidate who favors a policy promoting an intrinsically evil act, such as abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide ... if the voter's intent is to support that position.** In such cases, a Catholic would be guilty of formal cooperation in grave evil. At the same time, a voter should not use a candidate's opposition to an intrinsic evil to justify indifference or inattentiveness to other important moral issues involving human life and dignity." ... "When all candidates hold a position that promotes an intrinsically evil act, the conscientious voter ... may decide to take the extraordinary step of not voting for any candidate or, after careful deliberation, may decide to vote for the candidate deemed less likely to advance such a morally flawed position and more likely to pursue other authentic human goods."

"At all levels of society, we are aware of a great need for leadership that models love for righteousness (Wisdom 1:1) as well as the virtues of justice, prudence, courage and temperance. Our commitment as people of faith to imitate Christ's love and compassion should challenge us to serve as models of civil dialogue, especially in a context where discourse is eroding at all levels of society. Where we live, work, and worship, we strive to understand before seeking to be understood, to treat with respect those with whom we disagree, to dismantle stereotypes, and to build productive conversation in place of vitriol."

"Catholics from every walk of life can bring their faith and our consistent moral framework to contribute to important work in our communities, nation, and world on an ongoing basis, not just during election season. In this coming year and beyond, we urge leaders and all Catholics to respond in prayer and action to the call to faithful citizenship. In doing so, we live out the call to holiness and work with Christ as he builds his kingdom of love."

Please pray for proper voter discernment for our election and for those elected to follow Jesus Christ's example