



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PIEDMONT COUNCIL 939

### SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

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

### GRAND KNIGHT’S MESSAGE

Good day brother Knights!

September will be a busy month, but well worth our efforts. Please strongly consider participating in these activities, as each one will help us make our council’s future brighter and help the community and parish. See below for a list of what we’re doing this month.

May God continue to bless each one of you.

GK Evan Smith

### DEVOTIONAL: CONSTANT DISTRACTION DROWNS OUT GOD

In 1 Kings 19:9-13, we find that Elijah fled to Mount Horeb to escape King Ahab and his wife Jezebel. God said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” A strong wind passed, then an earthquake, and then a fire, but God was not there. But after the fire, there was “a sound of sheer silence.” God was found in silence, not the noise of the world.

The modern world is perhaps the most satiated in history. In developed countries, we (by and large) have plenty of food, clean water, limitless entertainment, infinitely diverse and constantly produced music, and so much more. Yet we are also one of the most miserable generations – depression, anxiety, and drug abuse are commonplace. Not surprisingly, religion is also on the decline. According to a Pew Religious Landscape study from 2014, 23% of Americans do not identify with any religion, and it is obvious that this percentage is increasing over time. We lack silence, where God is most often found. God is always present, but if we always drown him out with noise, worldly pleasures, and the like, we will never hear him.

To grow in prayer and the spiritual life, we need to limit distractions, give ourselves intentional periods of silence and contemplation, fast, do manual labor, etc. This is the model given to us by the monastic orders that have thrived for over a thousand years. All these activities are repulsive to those who are glutted on dopamine, but we need to take the “straight and narrow path” that Christ describes. Only then can we hope to live up to the life that Christ calls us to.

## OUR COUNCIL IN THE SPOTLIGHT

On September 2, three Knights arrived at the house of a local family in need. Mr. Mike Giurato recently relocated his family to a new neighborhood in Greensboro. Their youngest daughter has extreme special needs, which has caused them to start the process of obtaining a service dog. They fenced in the backyard, but it was in a very wild state after years of neglect from the previous owners. With busy jobs and their daughter's need for constant care, Deacon Jack Yarbrough asked the Knights to step up and prepare the backyard for children and the new dog. And Council 939 answered the call! We spent 5 hours at the house and the difference is night and day. Special thanks to Joe Walton and Jerry Walsh for their tireless labor. We cleared away weeds and debris, spread grass seed, and made the yard safe for the family. We have helped this local parish family thrive and have continued to promote a culture of life.

BEFORE (ONE PART)



AFTER





## **AUGUST IN REVIEW**

The August O&D Meeting was held on Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. The Council's business meeting was held on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES**

**September 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Helped Guirato family clean up their yard in preparation for a service dog. Their daughter has special needs, and this was a good opportunity to help a local parish family in need.

**September 10<sup>th</sup>** – Council will help OLG with Donut Sunday at the 7am, 9am, and 11am masses. Men will be needed to help make coffee, serve donuts and drinks, and arrange the room.

**September 15<sup>th</sup>** – Knights will help OLG School raise money for their security system by preparing the food and giving all proceeds to the school. Knights attending must be Virtus-certified through the Diocese of Charlotte.

**September 18<sup>th</sup>** – Council Business Meeting, 7:30 pm, OLG Parish Life Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Banquet Hall.

**September 24<sup>th</sup> (Tentative Date)** – Council Membership Drive/Knights Sunday

## **DISTRICT DEPUTY INPUT**

### **Working together with diocese to protect our children**

The Knights of Columbus has a new cooperative approach toward diocesan safe environment programs. It is expressed in our guidance to council leaders concerning member compliance with diocesan safe environment requirements.

The first requirement of our safe environment program is for our members to be compliant with diocesan safe environment requirements applicable to members' volunteer activities on parish property. We invite diocesan safe environment coordinators and victim assistance coordinators to contact us directly with all questions and concerns that relate to the Knights of Columbus.

The Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program is operated in conjunction with PRAESIDIUM, which specializes in preventing sexual abuse in organizations that serve youth and vulnerable adults.

Our online training modules cover sexual abuse awareness and prevention, reporting, and policies, and are available to all our members, but required for Council members in key leadership roles (GK, Program Director, Community Director & Family Director.) These Members are also required to complete a screening process, including a robust and comprehensive background check.

They are notified of their training and background checks by email, as soon as Council leadership names are submitted to Supreme each July. The Officers and Directors must complete their required training in 45 days after their email notification.

For more information on how Knights of Columbus and dioceses work together to protect our children and other vulnerable persons, visit this link: [Working Together with Dioceses to Protect Our Children Information Sheet](#) and this helpful [Diagram](#) .

### **MEMBER HELPLINE**

Phone: (203) 800-4940

Fax: (855) 845-3502

[YOUTHLEADER@KOFC.ORG](mailto:YOUTHLEADER@KOFC.ORG)

### **OFFICE OF YOUTH PROTECTION**

Phone: (203) 752-4558

Fax: (855) 845-3502

[OYP@KOFC.ORG](mailto:OYP@KOFC.ORG)

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 the "First Responders" Awards Presentation and Dinner program. Coordinates the management of the 3<sup>rd</sup> hole at the Wyndham Golf Championship, along with other Community programs. Expert training will be available.

**FAITH DIRECTOR:** Coordinates the RSVP program (Seminarians), Holy Hours, Rosary Handouts, and various other events related to our Catholic faith and parish. Expert training will be available.

**WARDEN:** The warden is the "watchdog" for council property and degree paraphernalia, except the property of the financial secretary, treasurer and recorder. He is also responsible for setting up the council chambers for meetings and ceremonial work.

**ADVOCATE:** The advocate is the legal representative of the council and serves as the council's attorney at trials and investigations of any interest to the council. While he does not need to be a member of the legal profession, he should be familiar with the council by-laws, the Order's Charter, Constitution and Laws (#30), Methods of Conducting a Council Meeting (#1937), and Robert's Rules of Order.

**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

Fr. Joseph Wasswa – father in bad health

Schmidt Family-death of Alice

Bishop Jugis

Dcn. Larry Lisk

Polchowne Family

Joyce Family

Frank Family

Jim Keaney, Sr.

Lawrene Kirwan

Roy Berninger

Dan & Nancy Camia

Fran Geoff

Jack Kealey

Ernie & Cynthia Pancsofar

Brian Dubicki

Gary Chapman

Kathy Chapman

Jerry Byrd

Dick Morrison

Bob Englert

Kitty Heath

Antionette Cerrito

Perry Family

Lura Lyle

Lysiak Family

Edwards Family

Fr. David Hyman

Sylvia Byrd

Ben Malikowski

Eveland Family

Brunozzi Family

Grabasky Family

Rick Stepnowski

Dcn. Rohan Family

Fr. Coleman Family

Peter Marzullo

Bob Camia

Brian Garrett

Jim Collins

Parker Hahn

Barbara Ovittore

D'Amelio Family

Names in red mean a new entry from the past month