



JANUARY 2019

This is Council 9997's Fourth Quarter 2018 newsletter. We want to reach out to Council members routinely—both to keep everyone up-to-date on our many activities and to solicit your feedback on the Council and its direction. We're especially looking for comments from brother Knights who, for whatever reason, haven't been able to participate on a regular basis. This fraternal year is again focused on supporting our parish. As part of that, we're determined to reach out to **every** member of the Council. We need your help to broaden participation in our activities and to bolster the spirit of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism that exemplifies the Knights of Columbus.

As you read through this newsletter, we hope you'll find something that draws you in for future events. Help us understand what you want Council 9997 to be. We're set on making the Council a place you and your family will enjoy. Also, please let us know if there is some reason that makes it difficult for you to join us for our meetings, socials, and charitable projects—whether it's something as simple as "I need a ride to the meetings and activities", or something more complicated. You can contact any Council officer through our website at STMKnights.org, either by email or phone.

ACTIVITIES IN QUARTER IV OF 2018

Meals at Our Business Meetings

At our November Business Meeting the twenty-eight attendees thoroughly enjoyed Al Perez's enchilada dinner. This was as good a meal as you could get at the area's finest Mexican or

Tex-Mex restaurants. Many thanks to Al for preparing the meal and getting it to us even though he was out of town on business for this meeting. Thanks to brother Ray Minjarez for heating up the meal and serving it.

January Business Mtg Meal - The thirty-two attendees were treated to Jim Ferguson's meat ball subs. Many thanks to Jim for preparing the meal. This was a real treat.

If you have not been able to get out for a meeting, consider coming out and enjoying a meal and fraternity with your Brother Knights. Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month and start with the rosary at 6:30 PM, dinner follows and the meeting starts at 7:30 PM promptly. We are usually treated to an inspirational homily by our Chaplain, an interesting lecture item from Lecturer Pat Larkin, and are usually finished by 8:30 PM or shortly thereafter. Many thanks to Al for the November meeting meal.

Knight of the Month & Family of the Month

Brother Rick Pekkala was honored with Knight of the Month for November. Rick is a very active member and did a fantastic job in arranging and leading the Rosary in the Park in October in honor of our Lady of Fatima. He has already reserved the park for next year. Many thanks to Rick for all he does, and for being a great brother Knight.

Brother Louis Romero and his wife Marie were honored as Family of the Month for November. Louis and Marie were particularly active in Funfest, taking on the tough job of cooking





hamburgers all day and also helping out with Bingo. Many thanks to Brother Louis and his lovely lady for all they do and for being a great Brother Knight and Knight's Lady.

Knight of the Month for December was Brother Tony Lioi for his work in leading the annual Holiday Nut Sales Fundraiser primarily directed to support our Seminarians.

For January, Knight of the Month/ Family of the Month – Brother Bob Bracht was honored with Knight of the Month. Bob was particularly active during the Christmas activities with Christmas Parking and helping with the Breakfast with Santa. Brian Mego was given an overdue Knight of the Month certificate from quite some time ago, June 2017, for his work establishing the Council Website and payment system for all our activities. Rob Marek and his wife Alexis were awarded Family of the Month in part of the Breakfast with Santa but also for his steadfast IT work for the Council.

Funfest - Thanks for all who turned out to help and who made this a great event! Parish Funfest was October 20th. Knights assisted with food prep again, burgers and hot dogs, and put on the Bingo. Rodney Laurent, Steve Isaacson, Dennis Robinson and Gabe Guardiola led us through this event. Look for more modern equipment for Bingo next year.

Water Distribution – During the recent Austin water crisis, the area of Williamson County impacted by the crisis reached out to the Knights to help distribute water to those in need. Kevin Brinkman organized this event on short notice and our council responded admirably with a dozen members. Forty-eight

Knights came out and distributed four cases of water every minute to vehicles as they came through the line. This was about 10 hours of steady work.



The Knights came through with flying colors.



The Knights Kept Things Moving!

Habitat for Humanity; a Faith in Action Activity – Four members of our Council (Jeff Mikolajek, John Smith, Jim Ferguson, and Steve Isaacson) and five from St Mary of the Lake cooked hamburgers and hot dogs for 60 people working on the houses on Nov 3. This was the first hot lunch provided





by any organization for about 6 weeks and was greatly appreciated by the crews. Together with emergency water distribution, our golf tournament, and Funfest efforts, this shows the amazing amount of activities we can accomplish by putting our fraternity into action working shoulder to shoulder with our Brothers.

Golf Tournament - David Sanchez reported on the successful rescheduled golf tournament held on Nov 5 at Twin Creeks. We had 83 golfers this round (86 on the original date). Since the original date used up our free lunch from Rudy's, a back-up lunch had to be configured. Matt Figlan of Mobile Loaves and Fishes loaded up their truck with multiple choices on sandwiches, crackers, fruit and beverages. This was also a great opportunity for everyone to see the MLF operation that the tournament was targeted to support. We plan to make this our annual lunch at the tournament. Michael Yarberry reported we will be able to present MLF with a check for around \$4600. Ron Cichocki's son (RJ) was our tournament photographer and captured some great photos. Steve Isaacson has sent out the individual photos of foursomes to the participants.



Lunch Provided by MLF



It was This Close to a hole in one!



This time we avoided the rain!

Chaplain's Report

November Report - Deacon Dan hit on several topics in his report:

The John Paul II LifeCenter Gala had an interesting story on Sonograms. First, the Knights were recognized for our major effort in raising funds last year to replace their primary sonogram. In a background presentation, it was highlighted that





Bernard Nathanson formerly of NARAL (National Association for Repeal of Abortion Laws) was completely turned around when he saw his first sonogram, stopped what he was doing and said “that’s a baby”. He realized this was not just some tissue that was not yet developed. He is now pro-life.

Another topic is that of the Church year; we are nearing the end of the liturgical year and approaching Advent. We will hear references to hard times and getting your house in order as Advent nears. In Advent we focus on the idea of quiet anticipation because all around us the hubbub of shopping and holiday parties and commercial aspects of the season. The Church says until Christmas Day we should have more of a contemplative approach, focusing more on all three of the comings; (1) history (Dec 25), (2) Mystery (the Eucharist, transformation of bread and wine into Christ’s Body and Blood), and (3) Glory and majesty of the 2nd coming, be mindful of it during Advent). Then, the Church says “celebrate” for the 12 days of Christmas, but take a low profile until Christmas.

The Crisis in the Church – Our Supreme Chaplain challenges us to go to the sacrament of reconciliation and to commit to this monthly for vigilant care over our souls. Of course, the STM routinely offers the sacrament and you can check the bulletin for times. Also, at the Cathedral, Monday thru Saturday prior to the 12:05 PM mass confessions start at 11 AM. Do the trifecta of confession at 11, rosary at 11:30, and mass at 12:05. On the first Friday, Adoration of the Eucharist is added. Deacon Dan suggests that if you are going, send an email out to Brother Knights and go together.

The apostolic nuncio to the US Bishops said “the

only way of reforming the vices of the Church is to lavish on her the example of one’s own most heroic virtues and to suffer for her”. Christ set the example. The Apostolic Nuncio wrote this to the U.S. Bishops to stay hopeful, vigilant, walk the walk.

Regarding the idea that the Church is being attacked by the enemy: Pope Francis in March published a call to holiness. God’s word invites us clearly to “Stand against the wiles of the devil” (Eph 6:11) and to “quench all the flaming darts of the evil one” (Eph 6:16). These expressions are not melodramatic, precisely because our path towards holiness is a constant battle. Those who do not realize this will be prey to failure or mediocrity. For this spiritual combat, we can count on the powerful weapons that the Lord has given us: Eucharistic adoration, sacramental Reconciliation, works of charity, community life, missionary outreach. If we become careless, the false promises of the evil one will easily seduce us. Celebrate the mass; the challenge first is to get there (mediocre), but the real challenge is how many days beyond Sunday we get there. We have a further challenge from Fr. Michael who wonders why the Knights are praying the rosary instead of attending Wednesday mass at the same time; mass and the Eucharist being the preferable worship and the most impactful spiritual thing we can do.

To deal with adversity is to get close to the Lord through the Eucharist and Eucharistic Adoration.

January Report -

More on “Faith in Action”. Luke 10 – Martha





and Mary. As they continued their journey Jesus entered a village where a woman whose name was Marth welcomed him. She has a sister named Mary who sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me." The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."

We are Martha because of our service and are busy "doing" yet the Lord says Mary is receiving from Me – Mary is doing the better part. Before you serve, come to the Lord and receive his grace and energy to serve. The Chaplain's duties should remind us to be grounded in the Lord so we can speak truth and love and not bitterness and hatred. Martha is using her own energy.

Knights in Action. Faith in Action. The Knights of Columbus offers men a place to lead their families and communities in faith and service and put their Faith into Action. Faith in Action involves four aspects: Faith, Community, Family and Life.

Faith comes before Service. Our goal is to strengthen men and their families in the Catholic faith. **Formation** in our faith goes beyond mere facts or religious practice to an authentic connection with a loving God and his son Jesus Christ. Programs in this category are designed to draw us closer to God and the Church in a tangible and meaningful way.

1. Building the Domestic Church Kiosk 5.

Refund Support Program (RSVP)

2. **Holy Hour** 6.

Rosary

3. Into the Breach

7. Sacramental Gifts

4. Marian Prayer for Persecuted Christians 8.

Spiritual Reflection

Spiritual Reflection is a key. Getting away and spending time meditating on, receiving information on an aspect of faith. If we embrace this retreat, Deacon Dan recommends offsite. Perhaps to a basilica or convent.

Other special emphasis is on Holy Hour, spending time with our Lord as present in the Holy Eucharist. Engage in contemplative prayer – make an effort to not pay attention to distractions of the mind. God speaks to us in quiet, in whispers. The Goal in Adoration is to be quiet with the Lord. There is an effect of praying in silence to the Lord and receiving what he has for us – the best discernment is in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

Report from our New Chaplain, Fr. Andrew -

First of all thanks to Deacon Dan for his faithful service to our Council. I feel I have big shoes to fill! I am grateful for this opportunity to journey with all of our members. K of C means right hand men for the parish; in every activity they are the front runners. Therefore, Mary and Martha, we are both. We need to be Mary first, grounded in the Lord and serve with purpose for Christ. We get our meaning there. I have talked to the Grand Knight and gone through the schedule of what we are doing for the future with a focus on the Mary part. I want us to focus on parish life first before the





larger community – grounded in God first, sit at Jesus' feet first and refocus. What does God ask us to do in Life. Grounded in the Lord and Peace so people can hear you and Love begins and no one can come back on us. God will guide us through the spirituality part. I would like to do a retreat, one before Easter and one before Christmas. Then go out to serve others with the K of C grounded in Church and in God. I want to be a tool to council us to the Pastor, Community and what we might need spiritually.

Members present seemed to prefer a “Day” retreat.

Corporate Communion - Our next Corporate Communion will be at the 5 PM Saturday Mass on January 26. A social will be held in the Family Center after the mass. Be sure to wear your council shirts and have your families seated alongside members in the reserved seating. We will be making an effort to rotate Corporate Communions through all of the masses. Thanks to Gabe Guardiola for coordinating.

Annual Christmas Party - The Christmas Party was held on Wednesday, December 12, at the Oasis on Lake Travis again. The atmosphere was terrific and there was plenty of good food. Most enjoyed the open bar and quite a few great dancers loved the after dinner dancing. This was a festive and wonderful way to celebrate another marvelous year.

Annual Holiday Nut Sales Fundraiser

We are pleased to report that we readily exceeded our goal and will again be able to

provide supplementary financial support to three seminarians this year. This was among the top years compared to prior year's data. Many thanks to the large number of brothers who stepped up and made this another success. With the funds that exceeded our goal, we will be able to continue with our traditional additional support of our clergy.

Breakfast With Santa - The event was held on Saturday Dec 15 and we were pleased to partner again with the Mothers of Young Children ministry. The Children and Families greatly appreciated the council prepared breakfast taco that were by the way delicious. Lots of smiling faces after visiting our own Santa Jim.

Ecumenical Service – It was STM's turn to host this event and it was held Tuesday before Thanksgiving, Nov 20 at 7:30 PM in Brennan Auditorium. Kevin Brinkman recruited a few Knights to help serve. The parish supplied the wine. We provided \$150 toward food. The Council was specifically asked to take charge of this and we came through as always. We were sure to have our banner there so that the types of activities we provide for the parish are visible to prospective new members.

Christmas Parish Support -Thank you to all of you that helped with Christmas Eve Mass Parking and those that help as lectors, eucharistic ministers, hospitality ministers, singers, and musicians for all the Masses. The Council also set up the luminaries outside the church during this Advent season.





Upcoming Events -

Special Olympics - Paul Gelencser has been doing a great job keeping us informed as our new Special Olympics Coordinator. Please see his emails as upcoming events and opportunities to volunteer become available.

Ethics and Integrity in Ministry – It is a requirement that any Knight working with children (including teens) or the elderly have completed a background check and safety and environment training. Please see the diocesan website (<https://austindiocese.org/eim>) for more information and to sign up for training. Brother Jim Ferguson is our contact if you need to discuss this, and he is keeping us up to date on the times and locations for training via emails.

Volunteer Hours Posted – For calendar year 2018, we had 5882 hours reported, posted by 31 of our roughly 200 members. If you still need to post 2018 hours, contact Jim or Dennis with an email and they'll include it in the report to Supreme.

Men's Conference – The Men's Conference will be February 23. Tickets are still available if you are interested.

Updating By-Laws - Under the guidance of G.K. Dennis Robinson the Officers are engaged in reviewing and updated the Council By-Laws including aligning them with “Supreme.” This effort will culminate with presentation to the membership in the coming months.

Clergy Appreciation Dinner – The event will be February 19 at 6:30 PM at St Helen's in Georgetown. Cost is \$30 a person. Contact Dennis Robinson or Michael Yarberry if

interested. They need to know before the last Monday of January.

Upcoming Masses in Memoriam for Brother Bob Walcott - Keep in mind the following dates for memorial masses: Sunday, February 10 at 10:45 a.m., Sunday, March 17th at 5 p.m., Wednesday April 10th at 6:30 p.m. before our meeting, and Saturday May 18th at 5 p.m. (Bob usually attended this mass). Commit to attend, with shirts and name badges the appropriate attire.

Fish Fry – First meeting will be end of January. Look for an email and join in on the planning. March 6th is Ash Wednesday with our first Fish Fry on Friday, March 8th.

