



JULY 2018

This is Council 9997's second 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 II OF 2018

Scholarships

We again sponsored our Knights of Columbus parish Scholarship Program for College and Vocational Training. Graduating high school seniors who are registered, confirmed, and

active members of the parish were eligible to apply.

The basis for the awards was on service (not academics), and an essay regarding service formed the heart of the application. The deadline was midnight, Monday April 16.

The Knights thank the generous support of parishioners during our Lenten Fish Fry dinners, the fundraiser used for our contributions to the scholarships. We raised over \$1,700 toward our scholarship fund. When this was added to the generous contribution of one of our parishioners, we were able to award three scholarships: Chad Herrera (\$500), Katelin Mastrodicasa (\$1,000) and Kyra Martinez (\$2,000). They received their awards on May 20th at the Life Teen Mass. Thank you to Scholarship Committee Members: Jim Crebbin, David Sanchez, Gabe Guardiola, and Larry Payne for all of their work on this project.



2018 Scholarship Recipients

Meals at Our Business Meetings

At our May Business Meeting, Jim Ferguson, assisted by Steve Isaacson, treated the group of hungry brothers to a fantastic Goulash dinner.





Many thanks to Jim and Steve for treating us to such a special meal.

At the June Business Meeting, attendees feasted on a great lasagna provided by Dennis Robinson. Many thanks to Dennis to providing us with good food to complement our fraternal gathering.

At the July meeting attendees were treated to Stan Urban's famous brats, accompanied by a delicious mix of peppers and onions. Many thanks to Stan for meeting the needs of the hungry group of brothers.

If you have not been able to make it to a meeting, consider coming out and enjoying a meal and fraternity with your Brother Knights. Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and start with the rosary at 6:30 p.m., dinner follows, and the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. promptly. We are usually treated to an inspirational homily by Deacon Dan Lupo, and we are almost always finished by 8:30 p.m. or shortly thereafter.

Religious Education Appreciation Dinner

Our Council again served this year's appreciation dinner for our parish Religious Education Volunteers. The dinner was held on May 17 at 7 p.m. A special thanks to Brother Rodney Laurent who planned the meal and led us in the effort. Also thanks to John Smith for dinner prep, including washing, peeling and cutting 35 lbs of potatoes. A big thank you to Brother Nick Villalpando for all his work on meal preparation, service, and clean up. Brothers Rodney, John, Nick and G.K. Dennis were there from 6 a.m. to closing. Brothers Larry

Carpentier, David McLennan, Jeff Mikolajek, Tony Lioi, and Jim Ferguson helped with the serving and clean up. It was a great event. All of the teachers, staff, and ministry leaders enjoyed the meal and seemed to have a good time. This service to our parish is a cornerstone of what it means to be a Knight.

Chaplain's Reports

In his May Chaplain's Report, Deacon Dan Lupo gave us a presentation on the True Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, based on historical accounts of miraculous manifestations of the True Presence in the Eucharist. These occurrences were: (a) Lanciano, Italy in the 8th century, (b) Tixtla, Mexico in 2006, (c) Legnica, Poland in 2013, (d) Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1996, and (e) Sokola, Poland in 2017. In all cases, there appeared to be blood and/or tissue either mixed in with the Eucharist or imbedded in the Eucharistic Hosts. Analysis by experts revealed the following:

(a) Analysis by experts in '70-'71 and again in '81 revealed "that the flesh is cardiac tissue which contains arterioles, veins, and nerve fibers. The blood type was discovered to be type AB." (b) The reddish substance analyzed corresponds to blood in which there are hemoglobin and DNA of human origin. The blood type is AB, similar to the one found in the Host of Lanciano and in the Holy Shroud of Turin. (c) In the histopathological image, the fragments of tissue have been found containing the fragmented parts of the cross-striated muscle...similar to the heart muscle with alterations that often appear during ... agony. The genetic researches indicate the human origin of the tissue. (d) the analyzed material is a fragment of the heart muscle found in the wall of the left ventricle close to





the valves. The heart muscle is in an inflammatory condition and contains a large number of white blood cells. What is more, these white blood cells had penetrated the tissue, which further indicates that the heart had been under severe stress, as if the owner had been beaten severely about the chest. (e) the structure of the transformed fragment of the host is identical to the myocardial (heart) tissue of a living person who is nearing death. The structure of the heart muscle fibers is deeply intertwined with that of the bread, in a way impossible to achieve with human means

“The Sokolka event ...confirms [what] The Church professes that, after the words of consecration, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the bread is transformed into the Body of Christ, and the wine into His Blood. ...”

This is My Body, this is My Blood, Jesus told the truth. Science is catching up with our faith. Think about receiving truly the Body and Blood of Christ.

State Convention - Steve Isaacson and Michael Yarberry were very pleased to have represented the Council at the State Convention. Noteworthy in particular were the masses on Saturday and Sunday, with Cardinal DiNardo on Saturday and Bishop Vasquez (State Chaplain) on Sunday, both presenting impressive homilies. It brought to mind how fortunate we are to have Deacon Dan as our Chaplain, and Steve thanked Deacon Dan for his steady and very active service to our Council.

Budget for 2018-2019 Fraternal Year - Steve Isaacson presented the budget to the Council for the last time at the June Business Meeting. As usual, expenses zero out with revenues, i.e. all funds raised go to charity.

One particular change since last year is an increase from 10% to 20% of the funds raised by our charitable activities will go to a separate charity fund for the unexpected items that come up during every year. This will enable us to make a much better response to unexpected charitable requests, especially when there is some urgency to those requests.

Another change is that the parishioner who has been making significant donations toward scholarships will be ending his participation next year. Funds raised from the Fish Fry have also been used for scholarships, but we will decide during the next several months whether to continue with scholarships or whether to direct them to another charitable cause.

We plan to do another pancake breakfast for JPIL Life Center.

We budgeted for 180 members, and after the upcoming suspension of over 20 members who are in arrears on their dues, we will be close to this 180 number.

The budget was voted on and approved at the June Business Meeting.

Officer Installation – New Officers were installed in a formal ceremony on June 27. The Officers for 2018-2019 Fraternal Year are: G.K. Dennis Robinson, D.G.K. Steve Isaacson, Chancellor Jim Ferguson, Warden Ray Minjarez, Treasurer Michael Yarberry, Recorder Tony Lioi, Advocate Gabe Guardiola, Outside Guard Ed Konop, Inside Guard John Smith, Trustee Year 3 David Sanchez. Trustee Year 2 is Larry Carpentier and Year 1 is David McLennan.





The evening also featured a social with smoked meats provided by the efforts of Rodney Laurent and Dennis Robinson. Participants brought a tasty selection of side dishes and Knights and their spouses greatly enjoyed getting together for this celebration.

Confirmation Fallout –

On April 17th, our 4th Degree Sir Knights had a Fall Out for the STM Confirmation. Our Sir Knights did a fantastic job!!! Thanks to the following Brother Sir Knights who add such dignity to this important event in the lives of our teens:

Fred Negrete, Steve Isaacson, Michael Yarberry, Kevin Brinkman, David Sanchez, Gabriel Guardiola, Jim Ferguson, Jason Melero, Dennis Robinson, Mike Valls (Council 70463)



Fourth Degree Knights Honor Guard

Corporate Communion -

We held a Corporate Communion at the 9 a.m. Mass on April 29th. Thanks to brother Gabe Guardiola for setting this up. The 4th degree Fallout for this event added dignity to the liturgy. Thanks to Sir Knights Stan Urban, Mike

Vall (FN), Ed Konop, David McLennan, and Jim Ferguson. A good sized group of Knights and family members were in attendance.

Pancake Breakfast - 40th Anniversary of STM Parish -

Fr. Michael called on our Council to cook and serve a pancake breakfast for the parish as part of the kick-off weekend to a year long celebration of STM's 40th anniversary as a parish. Our Knights responded in exemplary fashion. Starting at 6:30 am with preparation, we served pancakes and smoked sausage and a variety of breakfast beverages from 8 a.m. to noon on June 24th. An estimated 300 parishioners were treated to a free meal and a great opportunity to celebrate and socialize.



Steve Isaacson Preparing Sausage for Smoking





It Was a Busy Kitchen



Parishioners Enjoyed the Food

**Congratulations to Rodney
Laurent; New Pastoral Council**

Member – Brother Rodney Laurent is our first K of C member to be voted onto the Parish Council. We know you will do a great job!

Upcoming Events -

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

First Degree – The first degree will be next Tuesday, July 17th. Candidates should arrive between 6 and 6:30 PM. In addition to our one new member, there are likely to be 4 to 5 from other councils. Room 105 will be used to meet the candidates, with the ceremony in the usual place.

Corporate Communion - Fr. Michael has asked us to hold a Corporate Communion at the 9 a.m. Mass on August 12th in honor of the anniversary of our founder, Fr. Michael McGivney. It is very important for us to turn out. Please note that spouses, family members and friends are invited to join in and sit together in the reserved area. Please wear council shirts. The 4th degree will fall out. This replaces our July corporate communion. This is a great opportunity for visibility of the council within the parish. Fr. McGivney is officially noted as “Blessed” meaning he is on his way toward sainthood, and this will in part be an opportunity for parishioners to learn about our founder. Let's celebrate our founder with our participation at this important event.

Men's Mass – The annual Men's Mass will be held at St Elizabeth's in Pflugerville on July 21 at 10 a.m. Please consider turning out for this very worthwhile event. Wearing Council Shirts would be the appropriate attire.

Hosting the Austin Chapter Meeting – Our Council will host the Chapter Meeting on





August 27th. We expect about 40 people. We will need volunteers for meal prep for sure.

Hosting Major Degree – Council 9997 will host a major degree on Saturday, Sept. 8th. Brother Rodney Laurent has again volunteered to lead the food prep. We hope to have 50 people going through the degrees. The event will be 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and includes registration, Mass, and the two ceremonies. We'll need approximately a dozen Knights to volunteer.

Hero's Night Out – This will be held August 3rd and is a 4th Degree event for veterans and their families. Brother Rodney Laurent will coordinate the food.

Parish Funfest – Parish Funfest will be October 20th. Knights will do food prep again. There will also be a live auction associated with this event on September 28th, and food prep for about 200 people will be involved. Please watch for further information.

Golf Tournament – Our annual Columbus Day Golf Tournament to raise funds for STM's Mobile Loaves and Fishes is well into the planning phase. The website is active and can be used now for registrations. A few more tweaks may still be made. We can actively look for sponsors and prizes. Rodney Laurent will be doing the lunch. Spouses certainly can volunteer to help and are greatly appreciated. MLF's leaders and volunteers are full partners in this effort and are helping us with new ideas and work to find sponsors. If anyone has a contact regarding potential sponsors, please contact David Sanchez. We are still looking for a "Silent Auction" chairperson. Monica from MLF will coordinate volunteers. Brother David McLennan volunteered to co-chair the

volunteers. The tournament will again be held on Columbus Day at Twin Creeks Country Club.

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. Unfortunately, only 22 of our members are up to date on this 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 – Any volunteer hours, including travel to and from the event, as well as any volunteering for any church activity should be posted. Log onto stmknights.org and log your hours on the website. If you need help, Jim Ferguson has kindly offered his help in posting. Fifteen (15) members have logged 1602 hours, with another 124 hours for the recent Pancake Breakfast yet to be posted.

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.

Football Frenzy Tickets – We have 25 Tickets for sale at \$10 each and this enters you into 10 weeks of NFL competition with a potential \$400 prize each week. For each week the ticket identifies 4 teams and if those teams have the highest total score, you win. This benefits Special Olympics, Assistance to Infirm





**THE KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

NEWSLETTER

Council 9997, St. Thomas More, Austin, Tx

Priests, Educational Support, Disaster Relief and other State sponsored charitable activities. This also defers what would otherwise be a higher membership fee annually. Please join in and purchase a ticket for this worthy cause.

