



The Knight Watch

Our Lady of Fatima Council 9597 - Chartered June 24, 1987

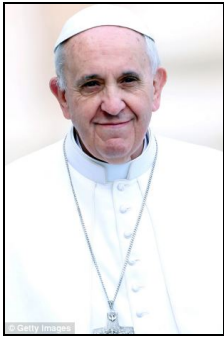
Newsletter Edition: December 2015

Regular meetings, 7-8:30pm: Business - 2nd Tuesday, Social - 4th Tuesday

1985 Miller Street, Lakewood, CO 80215 - Parish Hall, Knights Room



Grand Knight Michael Majeres 303.550.6632
Deputy Grand Knight Ken Klispie 720.341.2543
Financial Secretary Dale Culuris 303.619.0110
Program Director Dave Schneider 303.988.2510
Membership Director Dale Culuris 303.619.0110
Newsletter Editor Marcus Ritosa 330.212.8853



Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for December

That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving.

That families, especially those who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain hope.

Happy Birthday Brothers!

God has blessed the following brothers with another year of service to our Lord in December:

Paul Narey 12/2, Michael Whitefield 12/5, Lew Berger 12/9, John O'Grady 12/10, Gerard McClory 12/13, Tony Traverson 12/15, Dale Culuris 12/19, Steve Whitney 12/19, Karl Thomas 12/26



Years of Service Anniversaries



These brothers have completed years of service to the Order this month: Gerry McClory (18), John Browne (13), Stan Collins (13), Keith Mobley (11), Marcus Ritosa (6), Steve Whitney (4), Bob Burns (4), Michael Majeres (4), Paul Narey (4)

Grand Knight's Knots

Welcome to December and the Advent season. This month we, with our church, prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord. Look for our sign in front of the church reminding our community to "Keep Christ in Christmas." I hope you were able to join us on Dec 5th for our annual "Keep Christ in Christmas" dinner. This is always one of the highlights of our fraternal year! One important change this year: St. Nicholas was there, but he did NOT distribute gifts from the family to children this year. The planning team suggested, and the council agreed that we should do more to fight the secularization of the holiday, and this is a step in that direction.

The "Tootsie Roll" Program for People with Intellectual Disabilities has wrapped up with all paperwork submitted to the State Charities team for disbursement. If you haven't already, look on our council website for a story about one of our council's beneficiaries, Jack's Restaurant and Steamer's Coffeehouse. This is a good example of how our efforts make a difference.

I have to send out a huge thanks to those who are helping grow our membership. Whether you've recruited a member, sponsored a member for an advanced degree, or assisted at a 1st degree ceremony, you're expanding our council's ability for impact. I also loved the way our council has assisted in forming the new council at Queen of Vietnamese Martyrs parish. It shows the commitment we share to fraternity, not only in our parish, but state-wide. I'm looking forward to awarding our first "Shining Knight" award soon, and many after for new knights!

As always, I want to ask for nominations for Knight of the Month, and Family of the Month. The Deputy GK has taken on the lead for these awards, so let brother Klispie know who you think deserves this honor. This is an excellent way for you to recognize the amazing things your brother knights are accomplishing. You might want to nominate someone who has made you feel welcome, somebody who made a difference in one of our programs and didn't get enough credit from me and the other officers, or someone who did a great job at our last pancake breakfast. Make sure you are looking at KofC9597.org for the latest news and announcements of council activities. I'm trying to put more announcements there, so we don't need to send so many emails.

Have a good month, and make it a great month for Council 9597! Vivat Jesus!



Knights Support OLF School with Technology

by Stan Collins

On Nov 4, Grand Knight Michael Majeres and brother knights Tom Martinez and Stan Collins presented Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School Principal Lisa Taylor and students seven iPad tablets. Our Lady of Fatima Council 9597 donated the tablets in response to a plea from the school in an August parish bulletin. The iPads will increase the school's capability to take advantage of dozens of learning applications currently in use in schools across the country. The school's goal is to have some iPads in each classroom as well as a portable cart of 20 iPads for middle school students. This donation moves the school closer to that goal.

Funds in support of this effort came from four of the monthly pancake breakfasts put on by the council over the prior year.



Keep Christ in Christmas Party

by Lou Schornack

The Knights of Columbus are having their "Keep Christ in Christmas" party Dec 5th, 2015.



at 6pm in the parish hall. The Knights and their families of Council 9597 and Assembly 2551 are all invited. This will be a potluck dinner with the Knights providing the main course, wine, and beer. It will feature an appearance by "St. Nicholas" who will be bringing Christmas stockings filled with traditional gifts. Bring your family and hear stories about St Nicholas and the Baby Jesus.



Coming Soon: Annual Council Dues

by Financial Secretary Dale Culuris

As 2015 quickly comes to an end, we look forward to two events: Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our Lady of Fatima Box program provides each family an opportunity to share our blessings with our neighbors in need. Following Thanksgiving, we look forward to the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ on Christmas day and the days of Christmas that follow. Our Council has much to be "thankful" for, and all our programs have assisted Youth, Family, Council, Community, Culture of Life, and Church. And there is one more important event coming up: Annual Council Dues. **Most brother knights have their dues paid before January 31!** Annual dues for 2016 are \$40, and billings will be sent in December. Our Council dues cover the period from January to December, and membership cards are valid for the current year until thirty days into the new fiscal year. Look for this communication soon!

Into the Breach - Continued

by Lecturer Dcn Mike Daly

There is a war that is being waged against all of humanity. Although we can't see this war with our eyes, we are seeing the effects through the destruction of the family and social mores. Bishop Olmsted boldly stepped up and called all Catholic men to step up too, and get into the the fight, as we have been commissioned by our baptism. He goes on to speak of our responsibilities as Catholic men, whether we be single or married. He speaks to married men that we must actively stand up for our values. He talks on the value of manhood and not to be ashamed of it and not to fall into the false claim that men and women are at odds with each other, but that we complement each other. He speaks of many saints who are great role models and are present to intercede for us. He specifically noted seven practices that men should regularly engage in:

Daily or Weekly

- Pray everyday
- Examine your conscience before going to sleep
- Go to Mass, at least every Sunday, more if possible
- Read the Bible
- Keep the Sabbath (honor this day of rest)

Monthly

- Go to confession
- Build fraternity with other Catholic men (Knights of Columbus are the perfect example!)

He continues by challenging men to love, truly, self-sacrificially for others and in a particular way, to love their wives as they are and as a gift to their wives. Finally, he concludes with the importance of fatherhood and even grand-fatherhood. Neither can be neglected nor underestimated.

The full letter can be found at www.IntoTheBreach.org.



November Knight of the Month

by Deputy Grand Knight
Ken Klispie

I am pleased to name Brother Knight Lou Schornack the November Knight of the Month for a variety of efforts to move our council forward. Brother Schornack joined the Knights in July, and completed his first three degrees, he helped spearhead the effort to host our Council picnic and has taken on the Keep Christ in Christmas dinner. Brother Lou supported the Tootsie Roll drive and has been part of the numerous other Knight's volunteer opportunities within the parish. For these reasons, and the many ways Lou lives out our order's principles of Charity, Unity and Fraternity, I am convinced that Lou will be a worthy recipient of the honor.

November Pancake Breakfast

by Ken Klispie

We had another successful pancake breakfast on November 15th, serving three of the Sunday Masses at 7:00, 8:30, and 10am. Parishioners enjoyed the menu additions of hot apple topping and spiced apple cider alongside the already full menu. The proceeds from our council's efforts are being donated to our newest sister Council (in our district), Queen of Vietnamese Martyrs to assist them in their startup costs. We held a first degree ceremony following the November breakfast for nine new members of Queen of Vietnamese Martyrs which provided the additional membership to officially make them a council (20 members, minimum are required to start a council). Don't forget our upcoming pancake breakfast on Sunday, December 20th, any and all help is needed, we start at 6:30am with setup, and finish around 12:30pm.



What is a Financial Secretary?

by Financial Secretary Dale Culuris

The Financial Secretary (FS) is appointed by Supreme Knight for a three-year term based on the recommendation of the Council Grand Knight and Trustees. The FS job consists of collecting dues through billing; providing annual membership cards to Knights that have paid their current and past dues; reporting membership changes to Supreme and the State; assisting members with contacting our KofC insurance agent; ordering Council supplies from Supreme; receiving and recording funds that are turned over to the Treasurer; receiving bills (all sources) and preparing warrants (requests to pay these bills) to the Council/Grand Knight and Treasurer for authorization to issue payments; reporting the net results of projects (funds received minus costs of the events) to the Program Director, Grand Knight and Trustees; and finally, other requests from the Grand Knight. The FS's performance is rated the Grand Knight who sends this evaluation rating to the Supreme FS, District Deputy and the State Secretary.

Most of these duties has seen drastic changes over the last ten years. The old ways of the "paper world" have evolved to the modern "electronic" world of internet communication with Supreme for membership billings, receipts, issuance of current membership cards and changes to membership records (address changes, telephone/email changes, etc.). Now we can record all funds received and bills on the Supreme Membership Management program. Why do this? The basic answer is: Consolidated council records that can be accessed by the authorized Grand Knight and FS. Thus the Council will have its financial records protected from such tragic events of fire and personal computer failure. Our council has been "backing up" our financial records of bills and receipts on personal computers and "flash drives."

My second three-year term will end in September 2016. I have long contended that our Council needs to rotate the FS duties to qualified knights with computer skills and financial diligence. I am currently working with my replacement (who has been vetted by the Grand Knight and Trustees) to ensure a smooth, seamless, and painless transition.

One more note: PLEASE REMEMBER TO PROMPTLY PAY YOUR 2016 dues UPON RECEIPT OF YOUR BILL (\$40) either by mail or in person starting with our December business meeting (December 8th). Cards will be ready at the December business meeting. Thank you for all your support to all the Council programs!

Vivat Jesus!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Affix
Stamp
Here

Our Lady of Fatima Council 9597
% Our Lady of Fatima Parish
1985 Miller Street
Lakewood, CO 80215

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Newsletter Contributions

If you would like to submit something for printing in next month's newsletter, please send a draft, no later than December 29th, to Marcus.Ritosa@gmail.com



Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

by Tom Martinez

Are you preparing yourself for the holiday season? This time of year can be extremely busy with finishing projects, planning for next year, holiday parties, family gatherings, shopping, gift wrapping, festive cooking, house decorating, and on and on. Are you also preparing yourself for the birth of Jesus? You know the words "the reason for the season"; you probably reflect on their meaning and remind yourself of the message.

The Knights of Columbus provide many opportunities to focus our faith back to the center of our lives. You may have seen the print ads at bus stops reminding us to keep Christ in Christmas. Knights have established this slogan along with a poster contest to help everyone remember "the reason for the season".

Youth from 5 to 14 (as of Nov. 1) are invited to submit an original, solely created poster measuring 11x17 inches that displays the Keep Christ in Christmas slogan and an artistic display of what it means to focus on Jesus during this holy season. The posters will be judged for the use of the slogan, how well the visuals convey the theme, and the poster's overall impact. All entries will be separated into three age groups and one winner will be selected for each group. You can also participate by helping judge the posters. The deadline to submit entries is Dec. 11th, and our council will then schedule a time to judge the posters.

Please see a Knight for details and an entry form to submit a poster. Official rules are posted in Our Lady of Fatima School and Parish.