



The Knight Watch

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

Newsletter Edition: April 2016

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

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



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Grand Knight's Knotes

In most of the world, March enters like a lion and leaves like a lamb, but here in Colorado, we will get snow until the bitter end! As we enter April, Council 9597 isn't ending the fraternal year like a lamb either. We have a busy couple of months before we elect new officers for the 2016-17 term.

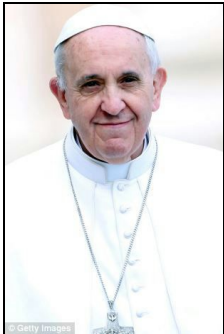


I mentioned the upcoming elections, and I am, like Uncle Sam, looking for a few good men. If you are interested in taking on some leadership opportunities and have received your 3rd degree (or will before 6/28), please reach out to me via email or telephone so that I can include you in our nomination slate. Nominations will also be accepted at our May 10 business meeting and before the election at the June 14 business meeting. As most of you know, I will NOT be standing for re-election as Grand Knight, but I can't express how powerfully enriching it is to serve this council and the great men who make it up. I encourage anyone with the time to seriously and prayerfully consider how you may be called to serve your brother knights.

Obviously, this month we have our biggest fundraiser: the "Cheers To Life" ultrasound fundraiser event on the April 23. You can read more about that in Brother Woody's article, but I want to emphasize how important it is that we get as much help as possible with this event, and how important the ultrasound program is for building a Culture of Life. We will, based on last year's program, be placing a machine at Lifechoices in Westminster in the near future. That machine was fully funded by our C2L efforts and the Supreme Council's match.

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.

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



Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for April

That small farmers may receive a just reward for their precious labor.

That Christians in Africa may give witness

to love and faith in Jesus Christ amid political-religious conflicts.

Happy Birthday Brothers!

God has blessed the following brothers with another year of service to our Lord in April: Lou Schornack 4/14, Harry Cigliano 4/20, Ben Lacrue 4/20, Michael Lynch 4/22, Joe Upshaw 4/22



Years of Service Anniversaries



These brothers have completed years of service to the Order this month: Pat McGee (44), John Bertheaud Jr (31), Dr Jacob Skokan (28), Rudy Martinez (7), Dwain Spreier (7)

Eucharistic Procession

by Woody Ritchie, Culture of Life
The Archdiocese of Denver, under the direction of Archbishop Samuel Aquila, held a silent prayer vigil and Eucharistic procession on Mar 5th at the Denver Planned Parenthood facility. The procession numbered close to 2,000 witnesses for the unborn and when the procession line was completed, it completely encircled the entire block of the PP facility.

The Knights of Columbus and Our Lady of Fatima parish were well represented with twenty fourth degree knights leading the procession of the Eucharist. Approximately thirty members of the OLF faith community were in attendance as well. It was a powerful witness to our commitment to protect life in all its stages, from natural conception to natural death. Pray that our efforts help change the hearts of those who view abortion as something trivial in their lives and out of convenience, choose to kill God's most innocent.



Cheers to Life!

by Woody Ritchie, Culture of Life

Our annual fundraising dinner for the purchase of an ultrasound machine for a Colorado pregnancy center will be held on Apr 23rd in the OLF school gymnasium. This year's event promises to be even more special than our previous years and we are excited by the prospects of being able to secure an ultrasound machine with the matching funds from Supreme. Planning is well underway and we are blessed to have such dedicated and capable brothers helping to lead the effort. Ken and Chris Klispie will be preparing the multiple courses for the evening and our own resident Cicerone, Br Tom Martinez is matching the beers for us. It will be a terrific evening of great food' superbly matched beers and fellowship for a wonderful cause.

We are in need of volunteers for the weekend and if you are able to assist, please contact Br Woody Ritchey at woody@tritchey.com or at 303.526.7733 to add your name to the list.



Planning Meeting Achieves Goal

by Dale Culuris, Financial Secretary

The old adage of "Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance" dictates that anyone or any organization must plan, risk poor performance, or worse, failure. Council 9597 held a planning meeting in lieu of a social meeting on Mar 22, 2016. Some fifteen Knights including the key officers started off the meeting with the Rosary. The Program Director then took the lead and called on the Directors for Church, Council, Community, Culture of Life, Family, and Youth to discuss these area programs. A vigorous discussion of possible events for each of the six areas followed and a schedule of dates was associated with each program. All areas had programs identified with tentative dates (some out to 2017) identified to ensure no conflicts with either Council or known Church events. The meeting lasted until almost 9pm but the "proper planning" was achieved. Each director was charged with follow-up actions to be completed with all results – positive or negative – to be reported back to the Program Director, Grand Knight, and the Deputy Grand Knight. The monthly calendar of events will be posted for all members to examine by going to the Council web site: kofc9597.org. Check out the upcoming events, and "seize the opportunity" to assist or manage an event or, hey why not, "events"! Be active and be a Knight of Charity!



Newsletter Contributions

If you would like to submit something for printing in next month's newsletter, please send a draft,



no later than March 29th, to Marcus.Ritosa@gmail.com.

February Knight of the Month



by Deputy Grand Knight Ken Klispie

I am pleased to name Brother Knight and past Grand Knight Russ Williams the March Knight of the Month for a variety of efforts to move our council forward. Brother Williams supports our council through his many volunteer activities, his active engagement in council functions, and his constant presence at council meetings. Brother Russ is an anchor to the pancake breakfast startup crew, has been part of the Tootsie Roll Drives, Peaches for Seminarians, 15th Place cleanup, Beer Pairing Dinners, Council Audits, numerous First Degree Ceremonies, and the list goes on. Further, Brother Williams has been a faithful representative of Council 9597 to the Cub Scouts and Gabriel House. For these reasons, and the many ways Russ lives out our order's principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity, I am convinced that Russ is a worthy recipient of the honor.

March Pancake Breakfast

by Ken Klispie

Back by popular vote, Corned Beef Hash in honor of St. Patrick was again lauded by parishioners as a favorite! We also



tossed in homemade cinnamon rolls. The results? Over \$770 making this past breakfast the highest in pancake breakfast sales, a new high mark to break with the upcoming April and May breakfasts. Please come out and lend a hand on Sunday, Apr 17 startup is at 6:30am and cleanup begins at 11am, and we need many hands to make cleanup quick and easy.

Easter Food Box Ministry Update

by Stan Collins, Community

The 2016 Easter Food Box Ministry was completed on Sunday, Mar 13. Our parish had 389 requests for family



food boxes which was a



record number for an Easter ministry. Dozens of parishioners, both veterans and first-timers, received, processed, and delivered an average of three boxes per family. Many council Knights helped further this community

outreach program which was initiated over thirty years ago by Sir Knight Deacon Joe Hawley.

You Should Join the Knights of Columbus

If you're reading this now, and you aren't already a Knight, we'd like to give you one good reason this month to join the Knights. If you are a Knight, you can use this as "one good reason" to pass along to another Catholic man you know:



The Heartbeat of the Knights of Columbus is Service. The Knights are one the largest charitable organizations in the world. Through a variety of fundraisers throughout the year, the Knights raise financial support for many charities, including the Special Olympics and the Global Wheelchair Mission. The service aspect of the Knights encompasses the Church, Community, Council, Family, Pro-Life, and Youth.

News from the 4th Degree

by John Collier, Faithful Navigator

The 4th Degree Knights salute the Brothers of Council 9597. We continue to be active as Honor Guards in the Metro area. Our members respond to many requests that are made for funerals, visiting icons, and salutes to those who need us. It is a marvelous



wonder to see the look on the faces of children as we march into the churches with swords drawn and our colorful capes on. Those of you who are at or near 3rd Degree, please consider joining your Brother Knights in the Mother Teresa Assembly. Think of it as your next step as a Catholic Gentleman.



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State Convention Update

by GK Michael Majeres

As we approach the end of the fraternal year, it is time for the State Convention. For those who have never attended, I want to share some of my experiences that may encourage you to attend this year, or in the future.

Like many large American organizations, the Knights of Columbus, is organized like a pyramid. At the top is the Supreme Council, led by the Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson, and the board of directors. We are most familiar with the grassroots level, the council. In between those two levels is the state council (and its subdivisions, the districts). The state council is made up of the Grand Knight, and a Past Grand Knight (or an alternate) from each council. It meets three times each year: at a July organizational meeting, a December mid-year meeting, and at the State Convention.

What kind of business is conducted at the State Convention? There are three items of business that require the seated delegates to vote. The first is resolutions, normally proposed by a resolution committee or by councils. Most of the time these are non-controversial, say, a resolution to appreciate our priests. Sometimes they require the state council to take specific actions.

The second item is the election of state officers. In Colorado the state council uses the "chair system" where there is a competitive election for Warden, and then after 2 years each officer moves "up a chair" to the next office. But there's nothing stopping a delegate from standing up and nominating someone else to serve in any office! The elected State Officers include a Warden, an Advocate, a Treasurer, a Secretary, and the State Deputy. The last piece of electoral fun is the selection of delegates from Colorado to the Supreme Convention. There are separate elections for insurance members and associate members to be chosen.

For attendees who are not seated delegates, there are a lot of things going on as well. They can attend all the business sessions as well as leadership training. There is an opening Mass, a memorial Mass, a clergy appreciation dinner, a formal banquet normally featuring a Special Olympian or another charitable effort recipient, and an awards ceremony. In the evenings, there are "hospitality suites" where knights and their spouses gather to visit, enjoy a cold beverage, network, and socialize.

Hopefully I captured in this brief write-up some of the fun (and a little bit of the tedium) of a state convention. If you have questions or have interest in attending, please see me anytime. It's one of my highlights of the fraternal year!

