



Father William P. O'Reilley Council #4967

## JUNE 2015 NEWSLETTER

### GRAND KNIGHTS MESSAGE:



"And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." Matthew 28:20

#### Brother Knights

I thought this would be my last monthly newsletter message to all of you, and I had planned a much different message than the one I am writing. However, our Worthy Past Deputy Grand Knight, Tom Carlson has taken on an excellent opportunity to serve our fellow Brother Knights as a Field Insurance Agent. This is a wonderful opportunity for Tom, and I ask you to keep him in your prayers as he embarks on this awesome journey presented to him. What that means for the rest of us is, barring any surprises at the officer elections June

15<sup>th</sup>, I will be serving as your Grand Knight for another year!

As I stick that last message away for another time, I am taking this opportunity to discuss a different, more crucial topic facing us not only as Knights, but as Catholics overall. Many of you likely saw the news headlines in early May about a recent Pew Research study regarding the changing religious landscape in America. The results were disturbing; the number of Christians in America is dropping, while those who do not identify any organized religion is growing. Between 2007 and 2014, the Christian share of the population dropped from 78.4% to 70.6%, driven mainly by declines in mainline Protestant and Catholic faiths. The unaffiliated experienced the most growth, up 6.7% in the same period. This affected all regions of the country, and all demographic groups, although the drop was more pronounced among younger adults.

What does this mean for us as Knights? We were blessed to have our Supreme Advocate, Brother John Marrella, at the State Convention in Duluth a few weeks back. During his speech at the convention, the Worthy Advocate mentioned this study, and called on the Knights, as defenders of the faith, to evangelize and reach out to those who may be or have been driven away from the faith to come back. Young people are eager to belong to something, and the Knights may be an opportunity for them to belong to something that promotes that faith, and keeps them in the faith.

Imagine a world without Catholicism, no Church, no God, no Jesus, and no Knights of Columbus. I can't, you can't, yet millions of Americans are moving towards just that; no religion, or some faith they are developing on their own. We need to give them a reason to practice the Catholic faith. We need to reach out, and let them know what is in it for them, and that God loves them so much, he gave his only son for them.

You have heard me the past two years stress the importance of recruiting and growing our order for a successful future. This year I am launching a new theme. We not only need to grow our order, we need to do the same for our faith. That said, the theme for our council for 2015-16 is Rejoice, Evangelize, Recruit! We need to defend our faith, help grow our faith, to ensure our order remains strong. There are efforts some of our Brother Knights right here in our council has undertaken to evangelize. You will hear more of their stories in the coming months, and how we as Knights can contribute to their efforts!

This is a critical time in the history of the church, and our order, but as the legendary Herb Brooks said, "great moments are born from great opportunity." That is what we have here, we have an opportunity to promote our faith, share our great works, and reverse the current trend our faith is experiencing. Most of all, I truly believe we have the right team on the field to do this!

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve another year as your Grand Knight, now let's go out there and make this a great year!

Vivat Jesus!  
- Jeff

#### 2014-2015 Officers

Chaplain Fr. Deziel  
Grand Knight - Jeff Schmidt 368-1699  
Deputy Grand Knight-open  
Recorder-Joe Morrisette 770-5203  
Advocate-Jim Hurt 777-5829  
Inside Guard-Mark Maurer 777-2617  
Outside Guard-Ray Stolz 777-5042  
Lecturer-Vacant  
Trustee Yr 3-Terry Thelen 245-0030  
Trustee Yr 2-Dennis Reber 777-2383  
Trustee Yr 1-Mark Slaikeu 777-5187  
Warden-Ben Rauen 777-9176  
Financial Sec-John Lawless 779-0917  
Treasurer-Mike Stahlmann 770-9148  
Insurance Agent-Dale Robinson 757-4400  
District Deputy-Mike Schilling 738-2636

## Our Mission Statement

*Provide a means by which Catholic men could Support the Catholic Church. To Provide Financial Protection to protect their Families. To Engage in works of Charity to Benefit the less fortunate.*



### Calendar of Events

- Officer Election June 15 during general membership meeting in Fr. Zac Fellowship Hall
- 1st degree Monday, June 15th at 6:30, general meeting to begin at 7.
- Polar Charities McKnight Concessions stand 6-9 p.m Wednesdays during softball season, call Frank Schultz 651-770-0749 if interested in working a shift.

### Officer Nomination for Fraternal Year 2015-2016:

Grand Knight-Jeff Schmidt; Chancellor-Walter Polchowne; Recorder-Joe Morrisette; Treasurer-Mike Stahlmann; Advocate-Jim Hurt; Warden-Mike Maurer; Outside Guard-Ray Stolz; Inside Guard-John Zakroczymski; 3 Yr. Trustee-Terry Thelen; 2 Yr. Trustee-Denny Reber; 1 Yr. Trustee- Mark Slaikeu

### **Knights Celebrate 55 Year Anniversary of Council 4967 at Past Grand Knights Dinner**

This year marks our 55<sup>th</sup> year as a council. A table was set up at our Past Grand Knights dinner with artifacts of the past along a newly framed copy of the original charter. The actual day of our anniversary was May 18 when the group picture shown below was taken of those at our May general meeting.

At the annual dinner, held at K&J Catering, awards were presented to Knights that demonstrated outstanding service for this past fraternal year. Pictured clockwise from the top starting with the birthday cake is Terry Thelen holding his award for Knight of the Year pictured with Grand Knight Jeff Schmidt and Treasurer John Lawless. The bottom picture is from our general membership meeting when Kimy Ounkong and Daniel Schultz holding our restored Charter were welcomed to our council. The picture on the left is of Ben and Benita Rauen as they receive their award for Family of the Year. Congratulations to all of us for a successful 55 years of service.



## Knights Honor Kathryn Lien!

St. Peter's Liturgical Director, Kathryn Lien, retired on June 14<sup>th</sup>! Kathryn was a huge supporter of the Knights and was a great partner in getting the Mass for the Deceased set up each year. We honored Kathryn at her sendoff ceremony after 10:30 mass June 14<sup>th</sup>!



### Consider A KC Annuity For Real Safety!

You may have heard that the Knights of Columbus have a GREAT annuity program, but what is an annuity and how does it work? A Knights of Columbus annuity is basically a retirement savings plan that provides you with various income options in retirement. There are two periods of time you should be familiar with:

**Funding and Growth period:** You may fund a Knights of Columbus annuity with systematic contributions or in one lump sum (such as a rollover/transfer from a 401k, a CD, IRA or Roth IRA.) Your dollars will earn interest and grow tax-deferred until you take them out.

**Distribution Period:** You may take your money out systematically (monthly, quarterly, semiannually or annually) or in lump sums of your choosing. Some people use annuities as a savings plan and will dip into the dollars only as they need it. Dollars that are left in the annuity are paid to the beneficiary of your choosing upon death.

Unlike many companies Knights of Columbus annuities do not have annual fees. Surrender charges will apply for a certain period of time and taxes are due on growth when monies are removed. If your money is "tax qualified" (i.e., an IRA), then principal and growth is taxed when removed. Call me for additional details.

Why should you consider a Knights of Columbus annuity? Here are some reasons:

- Guaranteed income and tax-deferred growth!
- Safety! There is no higher rated company than the Knights of Columbus and you will never have to worry about the volatility of the stock market. Compare us to your CD and savings account rates!
- Bypass probate! Annuities monies generally pass privately to your heirs without going through probate.
- You may roll your 401k, IRA, Roth IRA, SEP, or SIMPLE plan to the Knights of Columbus

Call or email me today to learn more and to determine if a Knights of Columbus annuity is right for you. As always, you will never be pressured into buying anything. I give you my word.

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