



**Knights of Columbus  
Msgr Clement Kern Council #8284  
555 S. Lilley Rd  
Canton, Michigan 48188-1103**

**January 25, 2014**

**Knight of the Month** - Congrats to David Trost, our January KOM!

**Family of the Month** - Congrats to the Randy Helms family, our January FOM!



*Randy receiving his  
Family of the Month  
award from GK Hans  
Hansen at our Jan 15th  
general meeting.*

**Pancake breakfast update** - Our January pancake breakfast was well attended and the council "net" was the best we've had in some time! We introduced French Toast as a new menu item and adjusted the pricing slightly as well. Those were certainly contributing factors. Then again, it may have been our even newer menu item that made the breakfast such a success, Teddy Bear Pancakes! Seriously, we had lots of great help from Brother Knights to make this breakfast a success. Thanks to all those who could help. We do it all again next month on February 9th.



**Membership update** - To date we have initiated 3 new brothers since the fraternal year began July 1st. That's the good news. The not so good news is that we need to initiate 7 more before the year ends on June 30th. Membership Director, David Lengel, has asked all of us to submit a candidates name to him. As a council, we will follow up and see how we do. Please consider those you know, friends, relatives, fellow parishioners, and approach them about joining our fine order. Nothing happens until we ask another man "Have you ever thought about joining the Knights of Columbus?". Expanding our membership ranks is the responsibility of all of us. Do you know a man who could join us? I'm sure you do!

**Council Free Throw Contest** - On January 19th we held our annual Free Throw Contest for boy & girls ages 9-14. We had another good turn out for this Youth event and Brother David Lengel did another great job coordinating the activities for us. Here are all our 2014 winners!



**Some Council History** - Founders Day is February 14th. That's the anniversary of the founding of our council on Feb 14, 1983. In recognition of our Founders Day, Past Grand Knight (and present Recorder) Ron Fournier has shared some information about how we became Msgr. Clement H. Kern Council #8284. At the time, a group of men from St. Thomas a'Becket parish who were also Knights got together with the thought of starting their own parish council. The District Deputy at the time asked if any of them were council officers in their present councils. Ron, who was a member of Immaculate Conception Council in Garden City then and serving as Recorder, raised his hand. The DD said..."Good. You will be the new Grand Knight here"! It then became Ron's responsibility to come up with a name. Canton #8284 just sounded too plain. Other names considered then included Blessed St. Mary, Holy Rosary, Sacred Heart and even St. Thomas a'Becket. At the time, Msgr. Clement Kern was quite a famous priest locally. He was the long time pastor of Most Holy Trinity Church in Detroit and an outspoken advocate for working people and their fair treatment. Ron thought it might be nice to honor him by naming our council after him. Msgr. Kern was still living at the time and Ron did not want to be presumptuous, so he met personally with the good father and asked for his permission. Msgr. Kern was most gracious and happy to allow us to use his name for our council. Msgr. Kern passed away just two weeks later. With the council's agreement, Ron submitted the paperwork to Supreme and we became Msgr. Clement H. Kern Council #8284! But the story doesn't end there.

A new 4th Degree Assembly connected with Robert Jones Council in Lincoln Park was also forming at the time and heard about our new council name. They did not like that because they wanted to choose Msgr. Clement H. Kern as their assembly's name too. They approached Ron and told him he could not have the name because it was what they planned to use. Ron's response was not so much "tough luck, buddies" as it was the question and statement "Do you have his permission? We do." That was the end of

that argument. The rest is history as they say. Msgr. Kern Assembly #1963 was chartered in January 1984 and exists today, but they can never claim to be the first with the name or to have had the good monsignor's permission to use his name. Only we can claim that!

Thanks again to our Charter GK, Ron Fournier, for this important bit of council history! See Pg 4 of this newsletter for more information about Msgr. Kern.

**Other Jan General meeting business** - We purchased a recognition plaque for Holliday Market to thank them for their continuous support with our Tootsie Roll Drives. Council officers will pick an appropriate time to present to them. New supplies need to be ordered before our next drive. We also agreed to again support Bunny Bonanza with financial support. New ideas need to be generated for fund raising with charity poker possibly going away in Michigan soon. We are looking at several new Special Olympics support possibilities. All council members should be reminded to buy or sell their State Council raffle tickets. Our council receives \$1 back for over \$5 in tickets sold. Continue to support our Baby Bottle program at our monthly meetings!

**Upcoming calendar dates:**

1/30 - Council audit committee meeting  
1/31 - Council Card Night, 7:00 pm, AFF room  
2/2 - Council Corporate Communion, 10:00 Mass STAB, breakfast to follow  
2/9 - Pancake Breakfast (after 8:00 & 10:00 Masses)  
2/13 - Kern Officers Meeting, 7:00 pm  
2/14 - Council Founders Day (1983)  
2/19 - Council general meeting, 7:30 pm  
2/26 - District Free Throw Contest, TBD  
3/5 - Ash Wednesday

**Let us pray** - Please remember all brothers of this council and others noted below who are sick or in distress in your prayers.

\* Prayers for Chaplain Fr. Tom Slowinski as he moves forward with his ministry.  
\* Prayers for the deceased and their families: all deceased Brothers of the Order.  
\* Fr. Noel O'Conner (medical issues), Joe Kelly (recovery from surgery), Eulalia (Euke) Rhein (mother of Tom Rhein, in hospice care), Jan Peters (wife of George Peters, recovery from surgery), Mike Riley (recovery from treatments), Sandy Pucci (wife of Paul Pucci, recovery from surgery), Bob Craighead (surgery recovery), Mother-in-law of Glen Rossow (fall and broken hip), Audrey Monaghan (wife of Steve Monaghan).

Note: If you have information, articles or pictures to contribute to this newsletter, please contact Ed Harkins, our Newsletter Editor, at [edward.harkins@gmail.com](mailto:edward.harkins@gmail.com) or 734-634-0929.

**Visit our website and Facebook page to stay current with your council! "Like" us on Facebook to receive notices in your Timeline!**

[www.kofc8284.org/](http://www.kofc8284.org/) (under renovation, will be back soon)

[www.facebook.com/pages/Knights-of-Columbus-8284-Canton-MI/235628156455332](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Knights-of-Columbus-8284-Canton-MI/235628156455332)

Read more about our council namesake, Msgr. Clement Kern in this article originally published in the Michigan Catholic in 2010.

## Msgr. Kern inducted into labor Hall of Fame

ROBERT DELANEY  
*The Michigan Catholic*

DETROIT – Msgr. Clement Kern (1907-83) became known as “Detroit’s labor priest,” and that reputation was honored May 20 when he was posthumously inducted into Labor’s International Hall of Fame.

As a young priest in the 1930s, he worked with Walter Reuther during the formative days of the United Auto Workers, then decades later he helped promote the work of Cesar Chavez as the United Farm Workers Union strove to improve conditions for those who harvest America’s crops.

And throughout all that time he was a champion of the labor movement, once even walking the picket line with the striking

“bunnies” of the Detroit Playboy Club.

Msgr. Kern’s induction into Labor’s Hall of Fame took place at a banquet in the GM Wintergarden at the Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit, along with fellow inductees John Cleveland and Mildred Jeffrey.

“His dad was a factory worker, and he worked hard back in the 1930s to spread the message that being pro-organized labor didn’t mean you were a ‘commie,’” says Fr. Russell Kohler, pastor of Most Holy Trinity Parish in Detroit’s historic Corktown district.

Then-Fr. Kern became assistant pastor of Most Holy Trinity in 1943, and was made its pastor in 1947. He served there until 1977, when he left to become pastor in residence at St. John’s Provincial Seminary in Plymouth Township.

But even though he left the parish, his legacy of outreach to the area’s increasing Hispanic population, programs to serve the poor and close cooperation with



**Laurie Papa, a niece of Msgr. Clement Kern, holds the award signifying her late uncle’s induction into Labor’s International Hall of Fame, which she accepted from Ed Scribner.**

the labor movement has continued under his successors.

Fr. Kohler could be said to have had special preparation for following in that tradition, Msgr. Kern having been his mentor at the seminary.

Although Msgr. Kern distinguished himself by his work in a very urban ministry, wrestling with problems associated with big city life, Fr. Kohler speculates that it may have been his small-

town background from growing up in Adrian that particularly suited him to work with people from all levels of society.

“I’m from Monroe, so I know how in a small town you know everybody, from the poorest to the richest,” Fr. Kohler says.

Laurie Papa, a niece of Msgr. Kern, accepted the award symbolizing his induction at the ceremony. “He thought so much of the labor movement, I know he would feel humbled to be inducted into Labor’s International Hall of Fame,” Papa says.

Since its founding in 1973, inductees have included labor leaders such as Reuther, Chavez, Samuel Gompers and John L. Lewis, political leaders such as President Franklin Roosevelt and U.S. Sens. Hubert H. Humphrey and Patrick McNamara, among others.

Papa’s memories of Msgr. Kern are of the kindly uncle who joined her family for Sunday dinner nearly every week as she was growing up – and of the guests he would



**Msgr. Kern**



**Badge**



**Fr. Kohler**

bring with him.

“He would bring anywhere from one person to a dozen, and we never knew in advance how many,” says Papa, a member of St. Regis Parish in Bloomfield Hills.

Her sister, Julie Badge, also fondly recalls those dinners, and how her uncle’s guests might be a visiting “bishop from Venezuela or a person from the street.”

She remembers how her mother, Msgr. Kern’s sister, Helen Morris, “would suddenly have to turn a meal that was meant for five into a meal for 20.”

And there were also the family vacations they would take to Mexico most years. “He spoke Spanish fluently, and he loved traveling to Mexico,” says Badge, a member of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia.

She also recalls the many trips down to Most Holy Trinity Church for special occasions. “We were all baptized there, and our kids were baptized there, and we got married there,” Badge adds.