



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

January 2020

## Grand Knight Comments

Brother Knights,

Welcome to a new decade of council activities, events and change. As you will see in the pages that follow, we continue to be very active with our activities and events. And yes, change also continues to happen. The most recent is at the Supreme level where a major change to the Knights' degree process went into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>. The name of the degree process has also changed to the "Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity".

There is no longer a Degree Team conducting a sequence of degrees before a man becomes a Knight. A practical Catholic man over the age of 18 can now obtain full Knighthood in a single ceremony that lasts about 30 minutes. The foundation for each degree remains a part of the ceremony with the focus on the pillars of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. The secrecy of the ceremony has been removed and new candidates will be able to obtain Knighthood in a public setting where their family and friends can witness and support them.

At the opening of the Diocesan meeting in early January, about 20 new candidates became full Knights in a 30-minute ceremony conducted by the State officers. As a council we can now host an Exemplification with our own team to expedite the process and provide new members the opportunity to join the order and get active. We also learned that membership at the State level is exceeding objective at 51%. On our council level we have some work to do at only 27% (3) of objective (11) and no insurance members. Let's take advantage of this new Exemplification and attract new members! Like me, I'm sure many of you were just asked. Try it out and just ask.

There were several things the council participated in this month. I would like to thank all of you that participated in and/or supported the following:

- Friday morning Mass (Faith)
- Coats for Kids – Parish drive & Free Throw Contest (Community)
- Family of the Month & Family Dinner Night (Family)
- 9 Day Novena for Life (Life)

Vivat Jesus!

*Remember to wear your RED shirts to mass and events!*

Larry Guastella  
Grand Knight  
[gk8284@mikofc.org](mailto:gk8284@mikofc.org)

## Awards and Recognitions

This month we recognized Gary Lee Martin as he reached Honorary Life status. He received award certificate and a round of applause from all the brothers at the meeting. Congratulations Gary!

Make sure to congratulate Gary the next time you see him. He is pictured (right) with Grand Knight Larry Guastella.



At the January general meeting we recognized our **Knight of the Month**. Ken Pietryga for his key role as the man in the red suit during the annual Breakfast with Santa event. Last year we were advised we would need a new Santa. This past fall Ken volunteered to fill those tall boots. He did a great job and gathered many Christmas lists as the children visited with Santa. Thanks to Ken, the tradition continues for our parish families as they prepared for Christmas.

Additionally, we recognized the parish Youth Ministry as **Family of the Month** for leading the Breakfast with Santa event. The annual event is a big hit and long running tradition here at St. Thomas a'Becket. This past fall we welcomed a new youth minister to our parish. He supported continuing the tradition and quickly put a plan into place.



The youth performed all of the duties for the pancake breakfast including preparing the food, serving it and cleaning up under the supervision of our council members. The youth also ran other activities for the children and families. There were more 150 people attending the event for children of the parish to share their Christmas list with Santa and raise funds for the youth program. We salute Patrick Gauthier and the Youth Ministry for a very successful event and recognize them as Family of the Month

## The Parish Coat Drive

This year we have changed up the Coats for Kids campaign approach for our council. In years past we have purchased coats through Supreme and donated them locally. Looking for ways to become better integrated with the various groups right here at St. Thomas a'Becket, I was able to meet with the ladies that organize and facilitate the parish coat drive, Stef Clewley and Cathy Bammel. After our discussion, we determined we have a common objective to collect coats and redistribute them into our local community. As a council, we donated \$1,000.00 to kick off the drive so coats be purchased over Black Friday weekend. We also pledged our time to help collect the coats, organize them and bag them for the various collection points that distribute the winter-wear in our community. These two ladies also host a bake sale while running the coat drive. Stef and Cathy work relentlessly to pull off this dual event weekend. In follow up discussions with Fr. Chris, Stef and I were able to get his permission to move the coat drive from January to October beginning this year to get a head start and get the coats to those in need prior to the onset of winter.

The parish coat drive is known as the "Be a Buddy" coat drive founded by parishioner Maureen Hassien in honor of her husband Buddy Hassien - he would give the coat off his back to someone in need! Friends and family of the late Buddy Hassien started this wonderful initiative back in 2007 and since then they have collected over 20,000 coats as well as thousands of hats, gloves and scarves for the surrounding communities! The coats requests are filled from our own parish first and then offered to local schools within the community.

Stef, Cathy and I want to thank all of you that helped work the coat drive and give the time you could to support this effort. This event fills a community need and supports one of our Faith in Action requirements. All in all, there were nearly 1,500 coats collected along with hundreds of scarves, mittens and gloves. The \$2,000.00 raised and donated from parishioners went to purchase addition coats for distribution back into the community.



## Novena for Life

This year's Culture of Life program for our council was coordinated with the timing of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops program known as the 9 Days for Life running from January 21 - 29. Our Life Program Director Bill Des Ormeau and his wife Mary designed a two-part plan inclusive of council members as well as the entire parish. Council members were provided with the information to sign up to receive an email each of the nine days featuring a different theme, Prayer, Reflection and Acts of Reparation. The parish wide participation provided parishioners with a single prayer to pray and reflect on each day for nine straight days. Thank you Bill and Mary!

### Pancake Breakfast

Started off the new year with resumption of our pancake breakfast after a month off. The participation started slow with the challenging winter weather deferring people to later masses. We experienced a big influx after the 10 am mass to rally the attendance and finish with a successful event. This month we featured the ginger bread flavored pancake and we will have the red velvet pancake back in February as our Valentine special flavor. Thanks to everyone for working the breakfast and help cleaning up!



### Keeping Christ in Christmas!

Last month we were in the process of evaluating all the posters submitted for the annual Keeping Christ in Christmas contest. This is always a fun activity as the children are in the excitement of the season and the parents make sure the posters get submitted. We received more posters than last year. The creativity is always amazing. After the winners were selected, PGK Mike Goodhart visited the winners during their religious education classes to make a special presentation. Thanks to Mike for continuing to lead this event. Here are a couple of the pictures posted on our Facebook page. Go to our Facebook page to see all of the winners.



CONGRATULATIONS  
to the winners of the "Keeping  
Christ in Christmas" Poster  
contest, sponsored by our Knights  
of Columbus!  
GREAT JOB!!



## Free Throw Championship



This year's annual Free Throw competition produced six winners. The youngsters each are required to take 25 shots to accumulate as many field goals as possible. Many of the competitors completed a high percentage of their shots. Congratulations to all the participants and thanks to their parents for bringing them out! We need your help in publicizing this event a bit more. It is open to the youth between the ages of 9 and 14 for boys and girls in and outside the parish. In years past we have had participation in the 20's. Thank you to David Lengel, PGK for leading this event again this year.

## Upcoming Council Birthdays

Here are our council member's birthday for the next month so you can wish your brothers a special "Happy Birthday" if you like! The following are the **February** council birthdays:

Paul P. Pucci Jr (2-11), Kenneth W. Pietryga, (2-17), Michael J. Riley (2-21), Vincent P. Ventura (2-24), David G. Pawczuk (2-25), Stephen J. Vargo (2-25), Glen H. Rossow (2-28).

## In Memoriam

We honor our council brothers who have preceded us in death by remembering the date that they went back home to the Lord. We recognize them on our council memorial tower as well.

For the month of **February**, please remember all of our brothers:

**Carl J. Krawczyk (2-1-2014)**

**Charles J. Mayfield (2-2-1999)**

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

## Let us pray

Please remember all council brothers and family members sick or in distress in your prayers.

**Council clothing** - Need some new council "threads"? Contact [Mike Goodhart](mailto:Mike.Goodhart@mikofc.org) ([md8284@mikofc.org](mailto:md8284@mikofc.org)) to place your orders or for any questions.

**Council website update** - Are you checking our council website regularly? If not, you are missing out on the latest news and information from the Knights of Columbus and your council. Find us at [www.kofc8284.org](http://www.kofc8284.org) . Also check out our **Facebook** page from time to time for updates. Be sure to "Like" our Facebook page and get updates automatically on your timeline!

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

**Note:** If you have information, articles or pictures to contribute to this newsletter, please contact Larry Guastella, our Newsletter Editor, at [lguastel@gmail.com](mailto:lguastel@gmail.com) or [gk8284@mikofc.org](mailto:gk8284@mikofc.org).

## 2019-2020 Fraternal Year Officers &amp; Program Directors

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Rick St. Peter	District Deputy	<a href="mailto:dd22@mikofc.org">dd22@mikofc.org</a>
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**Upcoming calendar dates:**

<p><u>February</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> - District Mtg Detroit 6:30 pm</li> <li>• 7<sup>th</sup> - Friday morning mass 9 am</li> <li>• 8<sup>th</sup> &amp; 9<sup>th</sup> - Membership drive after masses</li> <li>• 9<sup>th</sup> - Pancake Breakfast</li> <li>• 13<sup>th</sup> - Officers meeting 7 pm</li> <li>• 16<sup>th</sup> - District Free Throw</li> <li>• 19<sup>th</sup> - Rosary in Chapel 6:45 pm</li> <li>• 19<sup>th</sup> - General meeting 7:30 pm</li> <li>• 23<sup>rd</sup> - Corporate Communion 10 am</li> <li>• 28<sup>th</sup> - Game night</li> </ul>	<p><u>March</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6<sup>th</sup> - Friday morning mass 9 am</li> <li>• 8<sup>th</sup> - Pancake Breakfast</li> <li>• 12<sup>th</sup> - Officers meeting 7 pm</li> <li>• 18<sup>th</sup> - Rosary in Chapel 6:45 pm</li> <li>• 18<sup>th</sup> - General meeting 7:30 pm</li> <li>• 19<sup>th</sup> - Council Free Throw Contest</li> <li>• 21<sup>st</sup> - MI Drive Calls</li> <li>• 25<sup>th</sup> - Family Dinner Night</li> <li>• 27<sup>th</sup> - Game night</li> </ul>
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Watch your email for more details or changes. Any questions, email to [gk8284@mikofc.org](mailto:gk8284@mikofc.org)