



St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Community
Knights of Columbus
All Saints Council 9709

January 2007

COUNCIL APPROVES \$2,500 CONTRIBUTION TO ST. FRANCIS GIFT CAMPAIGN

The motion made in December and tabled for vote in January to make a \$2,500 contribution to the St. Francis Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) capital campaign passed unanimously at the Jan. 9 business meeting. The money will be distributed over a three-year period as determined by the Council's officers.

Prior to the vote in open session, St. Francis Director of Parish Operations Ben Whitehouse gave a presentation on the GIFT campaign.

The GIFT campaign's public phase will start in March 2007 when solicitations will be made to parishioners to support a \$13.5 million development project on the five and one-half acre parcel to the west of the main entry into St. Francis. Funding will come from pledges, savings from operating budgets and loans from the Diocese with contributions spanning over three years. Construction of new facilities is slated to begin in Spring 2009 and be completed by Spring 2010.

As the result of previous "listening" sessions with a variety of groups, the parish is focusing on three main areas: Growth, Spiritual Development and Social Outreach. The capital campaign is necessitated by the tremendous growth of the parish, which is netting about 200 new families annually. There are over 100 ministries active in the parish, all needing space to conduct their activities. St. Francis has long had a reputation for "reaching out" to those in need, something that was acknowledged by Bishop Michael Burbidge himself in his first visit to the parish on Jan. 6-7.

The log cabin home on the property, known as the La Verna Center, is currently being used for pastoral care activities. The other home on the parcel, the San Damiano Home, is being used as a group home for five women with developmental disabilities.

The first phase of the new construction will fund the Assisi Community Center, which will be located in the center of the five and one-half acre parcel behind the San Damiano Home. It will be a multifunctional facility with a seniors center, a youth center, and a gymnasium with bleachers on the west side and a stage on the east side. Additional parking for the facility will be sited north of the structure. Also part of this \$5 million first phase will be a renovation of Clare Hall to create a new Fellowship Hall and a covered drop-off area in the parking lot at the end of the main entrance to the sanctuary area.

The second phase of the plan will focus on expanding the Early Childhood Learning Center at the end of the current facility toward Leesville Road and Our Lady of the Angels Chapel to the west of the proposed Assisi Community Center behind the La Verna Center. The current ECLC is full with a waiting list, and the expansion is intended to satisfy more of the demand. The chapel will have seating for about 150 worshippers and will be used for small services. This second phase is projected to cost \$2.5 million.

The third and final phase of the plan will construct the Sienna Lifelong Learning Center just north of the covered walkway coming to the sanctuary from the Franciscan School parking lot. The center will provide nine classrooms during the day for the school's middle school grades that are currently housed in the modular temporary structures situated to the north and west of the school. Adult meetings and activities are envisioned for the evenings. Also part of the third phase is a second expansion of the ECLC from the west side of the current facility. Whitehouse confirmed that the maximum enrollment for TFS will remain 729 students from kindergarten to eight grade.

Whitehouse asked for the Council's prayers and support.

BROTHER KENT SIEFKES ELECTED CHANCELLOR

Brother Kent Siefkes was elected Chancellor of Council 9709 at the Jan. 9 business meeting to complete the term of former Chancellor Dennis Kelleher. Brother Siefkes will continue to serve as Chairman of the Community Programs for the Council as well.

Brother Kelleher's resignation was accepted by Grand Knight Dave Vogelpohl in December.

FROM THE GRAND KNIGHT:

Dear Brother Knights,

Happy New Year! On Jan. 6 and 7, Deputy Grand Knight Michael Darrow and I attended the State mid-year meeting held in Charlotte. While the fraternal year is half over, we have much more to accomplish in the next six months. One of our primary areas of focus in the coming months will be to increase our membership. A large part of the mid-year meeting focused on this topic.

You may be asking: why do we need to increase our membership when we already have over 140 members? The answer is fairly simple. As with any large organization, significantly less than 100 percent of the membership is active at any given time. We saw this in Operation Lamb where less than half of our Brothers were able to participate. By bringing in new members, we will have more men to support our activities, and as a bonus, we will be enriched by the new ideas that they will bring.

We will be sponsoring a membership drive on two weekends in January with an information night on Jan. 23 at 7:30 p.m. and First Degree to be held on Feb. 6 at our business meeting. We will also have a membership drive at the end of March. My request to each of you is to invite one person to our information night on Jan. 23. If they can't make it then but are interested, we'll have another opportunity in March.

Our goal is to add 15 new members over the next four months. With your help, I know we can do it.

*Vivat Jesus
Habe*

**COUNCIL 9709 BIMONTHLY
CALENDAR OF EVENTS****JANUARY**

- 13 - NC March for Life, 1 p.m., Nash Square, Raleigh
- 13-14 - Membership Blitz, all Masses
- 16 - Social Gathering, 7 p.m., Stella Mare Ristorante, 7713 Lead Mine Road
- 20-21 - Membership Blitz, all Masses
- 23 - New Member Information Night, 7:30 p.m., Anthony Hall
- 29 - Officers Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 404

FEBRUARY

- 3 - 3rd Degree, Father Price Council
- 6 - 1st Degree and Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Anthony Hall
- 17 - Youth Free Throw Contest, 9 a.m., TFS Gym
- 20 - Social Gathering, 7 p.m., Casa Carbone, 6019-A Glenwood Avenue Oak Park Shopping Center
- 26 - Officers Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 404

MARCH

- 6 - Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Anthony Hall
- 20 - Social Gathering, 7 p.m., TBD
- 26 - Officers Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 404
- 30 - Blood Drive, all Masses

FOR THE 1ST DEGREE KNIGHT . . . DUTIES OF COUNCIL OFFICERS:

Mike Wrezien
Warden KoC Council 9709

Warden - The Warden is the "watchdog" for Council property and degree paraphernalia, except the property of the Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Recorder. He is also responsible for setting up the Council Chambers for meetings and ceremonial work. During ceremonial exemplifications, he will appoint and supervise guards.



Emblem of a Knights of
Columbus Warden

RBC CENTER REVENUE STREAM AVERAGING OVER \$200 PER EVENT

Through 11 games this season at the RBC Center, Council 9709 has received \$1,598.47 for staffing Concession Booth 310. That's \$145.32 per game, and for the games that five rather than three Knights have worked an event, the average amount realized was \$202.82.

"Currently, we have 28 events scheduled, and if the average per event stays the same, we should be well on our way to taking in over \$5,000 for the Council," said Brother Ralph Guenther, who coordinates Council 9709's participation at the RBC Center. "And, if the Canes make the playoffs, there will be more events."

Some 33 Knights and family members have participated in this activity to date. Work involves standing for about four hours during the event, staffing a cash register, filling food and drink orders and general clean up. It's a great group of people to work with and everyone has fun.

"I am very pleased with the participation," said Grand Knight Dave Vogelpohl. "The workload is fairly evenly distributed among those who have signed up to date, and the feed back I've received has all been positive. It's fun, and we earn money to fund our activities."

Council 9709 was also recently asked to provide five Knights to staff the Concession Booth for the Billy Joel Concert on March 3, and more unscheduled events are anticipated in the coming months. Knights interested in getting involved should contact Brother Guenther directly at 919-572-5342 or via e-mail at ralph.guenther@prodigy.net.

"If you have not yet signed up, we still need volunteers, either as regulars or back ups," said Brother Guenther. "The more Knights we have available on the roster the better. It evens out the workload and could give us an option of furnishing more workers per event should the opportunity arise."

JANUARY 2007 NEWSLETTER FIRST TO BE DISTRIBUTED VIA E-MAIL ONLY

As announced in the December issue, Council 9709's monthly newsletter will be distributed via e-mail only unless a Brother Knight does not have an e-mail address. Currently, there are only 17 Brother Knights for whom the Council does not have e-mail addresses.

The newsletter is also available on the Council's website www.kofc9709.org in .pdf format and can be printed in color or black and white, if desired.

The decision to suspend mass mailing of the newsletter was taken at the Nov. 27 Officers Meeting as a cost-cutting measure. The suggestion at the July 10 Business Meeting to offer the membership the option of foregoing the paper version voluntarily in favor of the e-mail version only resulted in about 30 Knights asking that their names be pulled off the mailout list.

Council 9709's website also has added a Bulletin Board where news pertaining to the Council can be posted. Newsletter articles may appear first at that location, and articles that do not fit into the newsletter will appear there. Christmas party photos were posted on the website in December, and additional photos of Council activities will also appear on the website.



(L-R) Kent Siefkes, Marcella Stewart, John Stewart and Mike Andres serve customers at Concession Booth 310 during the NCSU-Boston College game Jan. 6.

BROTHER KNIGHTS AND CORPORATE DONATIONS BOOST OPERATION LAMB OVER \$21,000

Thanks to a generous outpouring from Brother Knights and some corporate matching contributions, St. Francis of Assisi's Knights of Columbus Council 9709 grossed \$21,272.04 for Operation LAMB in 2006.

“While we did not achieve our original goal of \$25,000, our results represent a 20 percent increase over 2005.” said Grand Knight Dave Vogelpohl. “I am especially grateful to Brother Knights and their companies who stepped forward at the end to get us over the \$20,000 mark.”

From Nov. 23 to Dec. 23, Brother Knights contributed \$775 in direct contributions to Operation LAMB. This was in addition to \$275 worth of direct contributions made by Brother Knights who made donations prior to Nov. 23. Council 9709 was also the beneficiary of \$1,100 of corporate contributions from Autofindr (\$500), GlaxoSmithKline (\$200) and Top 5 (\$400).

Some 69 Brother Knights worked shifts during the October campaign for a total of 184 hours. Four wives, seven children, four Scouts and four parents also worked shifts. While the participation rate of about 50 percent of the council was higher than 2005, the number of hours worked was less than half the number of hours and shifts available to be worked. Each shift involved two or three Knights, and management of the available personnel meant that most shifts were covered, albeit not with the desired number of Knights.

“We did cover most shifts, just not with the number of Knights participating on each shift that we would have liked,” said Brother Vogelpohl. “Overall, we did well, much better than last year. But, we can still do better for this worthy cause, which benefits the mentally handicapped in our community.”

During the Jan. 9 Business Meeting, splitting the Operation LAMB drive into two weekends, one in April and one in late September or early October was discussed. There is a drop of some 20 percent in contributions from one weekend to the next if the campaign is conducted over two consecutive weekends. More to follow.

Council 9709 raised \$17,760 for the 2005 Operation LAMB campaign.



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