COUNCIL WELCOMES FOUR NEW BROTHERS TO ITS RANKS

All Saints Council 9709 inducted four new members at a 1st Degree Ceremony conducted in conjunction with its Jan. 3 business meeting. Welcome to Brothers Derrick Cole, Frank Menius, Joe Mesiano and Ron Price. In addition two new Knights were exemplified from Our Lady of Lourdes Council 12025 in Raleigh.

The four new Knights bring the Council's membership total to 232; however, the Council's progression to Star Council status remains stymied as a result of 12 pending withdrawals and suspensions so far this year. The Council's goal for the McGivney Award for membership was 15 at the start of the fraternal year. The 12 Knights who withdrew their membership or were suspended upped the goal by that same number. Including the four new Knights brought in on Jan. 3, the Council has brought a total of 10 new Knights into the Order so far for the year, leaving it some 17 new members short of the goal.

The Council is also short on new insurance members. To achieve the requirement for the Founders Award for new insurance members, the Council needs to add six new insurance members. So far this year, the Council has added three, but one Knight dropped his insurance, which added an additional one to the overall goal. At present the Council still needs four new insurance members. The Council currently has 63 insurance members.

Star Council status is determined by whether or not a Council meets its goals for new members (McGivney Award), new insurance members (Founders Award) and documented participation in activities under the categories of Church, Community, Council, Family, Youth and Pro-Life (Colombian Award). The Council has never had a problem with meeting the requirements of the Colombian Award.

COUNCIL REPORTS COLLECTING $19,313.09 FOR OPERATION LAMB

Operation LAMB Director Brother Tim Stevens reported at the Jan. 3 business meeting that Council 9709 had collected a total of $19,313.09 for Operation LAMB in calendar year 2011. The total includes personal checks from Brother Knights totaling $3,025 received after the fall drive, including one very generous and anonymous donation for $2,400.

“This is well below our record collection last year of $27,666.87,” he noted. “Unfortunately, store policies restricting our ability to schedule dates as well as a soft economy have hurt our efforts. My special thanks to all those who contributed their time, talent, and treasure.”

Brother Stevens reported that some 57 Knights and 15 family members volunteered for a LAMB shift in 2011, and that he would try one and one-half hour shifts in 2012 to see if that might boost participation. For the 2010 LAMB drive, some 79 Knights and 30 family members volunteered.

Operation LAMB is run on a calendar year basis, and the Council's spring drive is tentatively set for Friday, April 20, and the weekend of April 28-29. Brother Knights interested in working for Operation LAMB will have the opportunity to sign up for shifts on the Council website.
FROM THE GRAND KNIGHT:

New Year's Greetings Brothers All!

Please join me in warmly welcoming our four newest members who celebrated their First Degree with us Jan. 3: Derrick Cole, Frank Menius, Joe Mesiano, and Ron Price. As stated in the membership article on the first page, we have 17 more to welcome! While that will be a challenge, I know of at least five more that would like to join us, so if we can welcome two additional members per month through June we will meet our goal. Please reflect, choose and pray for a fellow parishioner who you would think would be a good Knight and invite him to join, or provide his name to our Membership Director Tru Hall at (561) 436-9566 or truhall@aol.com.

I'd like to draw your attention to the article on Page 5, and thank Dick Bridges for his extraordinary work as editor of our Council's award-winning monthly newsletter as well as congratulate him on his recent appointment as District Warden. Dick's tireless dedication to timely publication of newsworthy articles of interest to our members has served the Council extremely well these past six years. He has certainly accomplished the goal of improving communication with our membership at large. We will miss him as our newsletter editor, but the opening is an opportunity for another Brother to step up and serve in this vital role.

I am working out the final details of securely publishing a contact list on our web site with web master Joe Azzopardi, and we hope to go live with this new service as early as Jan. 9!

Peace and God's Abundant Blessings for the New Year!
Vivat Jesus!

KENT

FOR THE FIRST DEGREE KNIGHT . . . OPERATION LAMB

Operation LAMB is the single largest charitable activity conducted by the Knights of Columbus. Brother Knights in yellow aprons have been soliciting donations from passers by and doling out Tootsie Rolls all across the nation since 1974. Since its inception, the Operation LAMB program in North Carolina has raised over $20 million for the intellectually disabled in the state. Thanks to the generosity of the state's residents, North Carolina Knights have been raising almost $1 million annually since 2008. Unlike most of the Knights' activities, Operation LAMB is conducted on a calendar rather than a fraternal year basis.

Brother Knights of Council 9709 solicit donations outside of grocery stores in the northwest Raleigh area. Eighty-five percent of what a Council collects is distributed to local charities. The remaining 15 percent is sent to the State Council where it is distributed to organizations supporting the intellectually handicapped in areas of North Carolina where no local Knights of Columbus Councils exist. Expenses for Operation LAMB are minimal consisting mainly of the purchase of aprons, collection cans and Tootsie Rolls.

For 2011 Council 9709 collected a total of $19,313.09, well below the 2010 record total of $27,666.87. All Saints will add its collection for 2011 to the coffers of Father Price Council 2456, Our Lady of Lourdes Council 12025, St. Luke the Evangelist Council 12455 and St. Raphael Council 9880 for distribution to local organizations in Raleigh. Charitable organizations apply for funds from the local Knights of Columbus Councils through a panel with members of each Council represented.

A total of $44,696.74 was distributed after the 2010 drive to the Arc of Wake County, the Bill Scott Endowment Fund, the Frankie Lemmon School and Development Center, Hilltop Home, Community Partnerships Inc., the Tammy Lynn Center for Developmental Disabilities, the Triangle Down Syndrome Network, the Wake Autism Society, Wake Enterprises, Learning Together and Nancy Frazier of Harris Creek Elementary School.

Operation LAMB derives its name from Christ's words in Matthew 25:48: “as you did it to one of the [L]east [A]mong [M]y [B]rethren, you did it to me.”

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(More details available at www.kofc9709.org)

JANUARY 2012

14 - March for Life, 1 p.m., Nash Square, Raleigh
17 - Social Gathering, 6:30 p.m., Capri Restaurant, 6325 Falls of the Neuse
18 - Abottswood Seniors Poker, 7:30 p.m., 7900 Creedmoor Road
23 - Right to Life March, Washington, D.C.
28 - State Midyear Meeting East, Washington, N.C.
31 - Officers Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Anthony Hall Conference Room

FEBRUARY 2012

2 - 2nd Degree Ceremony, 7:30 p.m., Room 403
7 - Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Anthony Hall Founders Room
11 - 3rd Degree Ceremony, Council 9499, Clemmons
15 - Abottswood Seniors Poker, 7:30 p.m., 7900 Creedmoor Road
18 - 3rd Degree Ceremony, Council 2546, Raleigh
21 - Social Gathering, 6:30 p.m., TBD
22 - Ash Wednesday
26 - Council and District Free Throw Championship, 11 a.m., Community Center
28 - Officers Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Anthony Hall Conference Room

MARCH 2012

6 - Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Anthony Hall Founders Room
10 - Adopt-A-Highway Trash Pick Up, 9 a.m., Jacoba Hall Parking Lot
20 - Social Gathering, 6:30 p.m., TBD
21 - Abottswood Seniors Poker, 7:30 p.m., 7900 Creedmoor Road
27 - Officers Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Anthony Hall Conference Room
COUNCIL CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS DEC. 17

Some 49 Brother Knights and their families along with Council Chaplain Fr. David McBriar and Fr. Emmet Murphy celebrated an early Christmas Saturday, Dec. 17, at the Crabtree Valley Marriott.

Fr. McBriar gave the blessing before the dinner. After dinner Mary Adoki, wife of Brother Akuro, provided the entertainment, treating the gathering to a medley of traditional and not so traditional Christmas songs. Grand Knight Kent Siefkes' daughter Jessica and Brother Steve Becker's daughter Allison joined Mary both for solos and as a trio during the songfest.

Brother Knights responded generously to the Council's appeal to bring gifts and gift cards for the Church's Duke Children's Hospital Ministry to the Dec. 6 business meeting instead of the Christmas party. Although attendance at the annual party was slightly down, the Council donated an estimated 15 wrapped gifts and 15 gift cards to the Ministry prior to the weekend of Dec. 10-11, when the Ministry conducted its main Christmas party at the hospital. The number of Knights' donations was up for this year, nearly equaling the number of gifts and tripling the number of gift cards. Total value of the Council members' contribution was about $600.

Grand Knight Kent Siefkes recognized and thanked Family Director Brother James Powers at the conclusion of the festivities for having organized and executed the annual Christmas party and the gift collection for the Duke Children's Hospital Ministry.

COUNCIL DECORATES CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Nine Brother Knights set up the Church's creche and strung lights on the Christmas tree Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 19-20. The Council is typically called upon for the tasks each year.

On Monday, Dec. 19, Brothers Dick Bridges, Brian Denison, Don Donaghy, Ralph Guenther and Dave Vogelpohl donated about 10 hours to set up the creche. Brother Dave Able from St. Luke's Council 12455, who had been involved with setting the creche up years ago before transferring to St. Luke's, also put in a good two hours. Brother Able also brought a copy of the original instructions on how to assemble the creche, which helped immensely this year.

On Tuesday, Dec. 20, six Brothers spent a total nine volunteer hours decorating the Church's Christmas tree with strings of white lights. Thanks go to Brothers Shawn Bayle, Mark Baumgartner, Don Donaghy, Ralph Guenther, Kent Siefkes and Bob Weisenberger.

A team of Brother Knights also decorated outside the Church. For the second year, the Council strung Christmas tree lights on the blue spruce in the Church courtyard outside of Anthony Hall. Thanks to Brothers Jerry Cucurullo, Tom DuPree, Jeff Rohman, Kent Siefkes and Mike Supianoski who donated two volunteer hours each to the task Friday, Dec. 23. The tree was planted "In Loving Memory of All Children Now with Our Lord" by "The Family of Kate Cherny."
BROTHER JOE & MARY KANE ARE JANUARY'S FAMILY OF THE MONTH

Council officers have selected Brother Joe and Mary Kane as January's Family of the Month for their extraordinary contributions to the Raleigh Community as well as the Council and Church.

Brother Joe was called home by the Lord on Dec. 8, but not before he and his family had baked cookies for friends, family and various charitable organizations in Raleigh. The Kanes began baking literally thousands of cookies for others in memory of Brother Joe's mother who died in the late 1990s, and the baking became a tradition that will be continued by Mary and their daughters, Kristen Rizzo and Susan Frizell (wife of Brother Dan Frizell) in Brother Joe's memory. The Kane family was actually baking cookies under Brother Joe's tutelage in the Wake Hospice before he died. The family's generosity was also documented in the Dec. 3, 2008, issue of the Raleigh News and Observer.

Brother Joe and Mary retired to Raleigh in 1994 after working for Sun Oil for 28 years and immediately became active members of the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Community. He served as a Eucharistic Minister for 37 years and was a Knight of Columbus for 53 years including having attained the 4th Degree. He and Mary were frequent volunteers for Special Olympics, Catholic Parish Outreach and the Salvation Army.

Brother Joe was born on Oct. 31, 1933, in Buffalo, N.Y., and spent four years in the Army before completing college and becoming a licensed funeral director. He was also an active volunteer firefighter.

Some 14 Knights representing four area Councils (nine from Council 9709) formed an Honor Guard at Brother Joe's Resurrection Mass held at St. Francis Friday, Dec. 16. There were at least that many Brother Knights from Council 9709 in attendance at the Mass.

BROTHER TROY CHAPUT IS JANUARY'S KNIGHT OF THE MONTH

Council Officers have selected Brother Troy Chaput as Knight of the Month for January for his efforts in setting up the recent Memorial Mass for deceased Council 9709 Knights.

Troy joined the Knights in June 2010, took his 2nd Degree in June 2011 and currently serves as the Council’s Church Director. He has served the Council through Operation LAMB, the RBC Center and the annual barbecue. Outside of Council activities, Troy coordinates the ushers at 11:30 Sunday Mass and is a member of the Liturgy Committee. Troy works as a consultant to the pharmaceutical industry.

Troy and Tanya Chaput moved to Raleigh from Michigan in 1994 and have been Parishioners at St. Francis ever since. Tanya serves as a teacher at the St. Francis Pre-School (four-year-olds) and has helped the Knights by organizing volunteers for the 2011 barbecue event.

They have four children attending The Franciscan School (TFS). Eighth grader Luke serves as an usher at 11:30 Mass and was a member of the undefeated league champion TFS soccer team. Sixth grader Kyra ran for the TFS Cross Country team, recently performed in “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” and is a member of the Art Club. Second grader Ian plays soccer and aspires to play drums and lacrosse. Kindergartner Taryn is a proud member of the TFS family as well.

Tanya's father, Kam Kewson, was the inspiration for Troy's joining the Knights. Kam has been a Knight for over 10 years and is a charter member/former Treasurer at the St. Fabian Council in West Bloomfield, Michigan.
COUNCIL SEEKING NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR

All Saints Council 9709 is looking for a new newsletter editor for its monthly newsletter. Brother Dick Bridges has accepted the position of District Warden for District #9 and, after six years on the job as the Council's newsletter editor, is looking to devote more of his time to State and District #9 duties. He will continue to edit the newsletter through June 2012, and anyone interested in volunteering will be able to work with him during that time.

Brother Bridges’ son Thomas has agreed to continue to serve as layout editor, so all the new editor will have to do is write and edit the articles and gather photos of Council activities. Unless the new editor wishes to change the format, editing also involves making sure the articles fit into the current six-page print format.

Anyone interested in taking over the newsletter duties can contact Brother Bridges directly at rbridges1971@aol.com or telephonically at 919-806-3816. Costs incurred as newsletter editor are covered by the annual budget. Typical costs include the purchase of stamps and printed copies of the newsletter for those still receiving the newsletter by mail. The budget for 2011-2012 is $150.00.

The Council newsletter has won third place in the annual State Duane Russell newsletter competition the last two years. The first issue of the newsletter was printed and mailed in July 2006. By the middle of 2006, the newsletter was sent out electronically to Council members by e-mail. There are still some 15 members receiving the newsletter by U.S. Mail.

The newsletter was expanded from four to six pages in October 2009 because of additional State requirements for items that should appear in a Council publication. Specific requirements imposed by State include having an insurance article and naming the Family and Knight of the Month in each edition of the newsletter. The newsletter is also tasked by State with charting the Council's progress toward Star Council status, its Operation LAMB goal as well as other activities. There are also a number of formatting requirements associated with the layout of the newsletter, all of which are current under the existing format. Copies of all newsletters published since 2006 are currently archived on the Council website under “Links and Newsletters” and “Newsletter Archive.”

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“The financial turmoil that began with the sub-prime mortgage crisis in 2007 continues to shake both the U.S. and world economies. But Knights of Columbus and their families who are protected by our life insurance policies need not worry, because ours is an insurance program that is designed by Brother Knights for Brother Knights.

“We put our more than $14 billion in assets in investment-grade bonds and the highest-quality equities. We avoid high risk investments, especially the complex products involving sub-prime mortgages, not because we don't understand them, but because we do understand them and know the risks they entail. Standard & Poor's, which has given us its highest rating for over 15 consecutive years, recently said that we have 'consistently generated good investment returns, with low exposure in credit risk.'

“We put your interests first, and because we earn an excellent return by relying on the highest-quality investments, we're able to provide you with a rock-solid foundation for building your financial future and protecting your family. This is our commitment to you.”

Adapted from Knights of Columbus Publication 9727-A 4-08, “A Benefit of Brotherhood: Life Insurance, Long-Term Care Insurance, Annuities.”

Council 9709’s Field Agent is Brother Tim Kilpatrick. He is always available at 919-880-3463 or Timothy.Kilpatrick@kofc.org.
COUNCIL TO TAKE PART IN PRO-LIFE MARCHES

All Saints Council 9709 will be participating in two major pro-life events in January, one in Raleigh and one in Washington, D.C.  Council 9709 will again take part in the Rally and March for Life beginning at Nash Square (Hargett and McDowell Streets) beginning at 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 14.  4th Degree Knights are encouraged to march in full regalia in the Honor Guard that leads the march (arrive at 12:15 p.m. and contact Sir Knight William Grimes at vowillie@nc.rr.com).  All Knights are encouraged to wear their Knights hats and name tags and march with the Council banner.

The relatively short, flat march proceeds at a leisurely pace from Nash Square to the House and Senate buildings on Jones Street and ends at the Raleigh Cathedral.  Refreshments are served at the end of the march.  Free public parking is available just north of Nash Square.

For those who wish to participate more fully in the day's festivities, there is an 8 a.m. Diocesan Respect Life Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael Burbidge at St. Joseph Catholic Church at 2817 Poole Road followed by the 13th Annual Prayer Breakfast beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the North Raleigh Hilton Hotel at 3415 Wake Forest Road.  The breakfast costs $25 per person, and reservations can be made by calling 800-392-6275.  The price of the breakfast increases by $5 after Jan. 11.  Featured speaker at the breakfast is Randall O'Bannon, Ph.D., Director of Education and Research at the National Right to Life Council.

A contingent of Brother Knights from Council 9709 will also go to Washington, D.C., Jan. 22-23, for the National Right to Life March and to visit seminarians supported by the Council's Refund Support Vocations Program.  The Knights will depart from the St. Francis parking lot at noon, Sunday, Jan. 22, for Holy Name College in Silver Spring, Md., to visit and attend evening Mass and morning prayer service with the seminarians.  Overnight lodging, dinner and breakfast is included free at the College.  Participants will then attend Mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception before the 39th annual National March for Life on the Capitol Mall.  Interested Knights should contact Grand Knight Kent Siefkes directly at vksiefkes@aol.com or by phone at (919) 846-9016.

NEXT 2ND DEGREE CEREMONY SET FOR FEB. 2

The next 2nd Degree Ceremony for District #9 will be held Thursday, Feb. 2, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Anthony Hall Room 403.  Interested Council 9709 1st Degree Knights should contact the 2nd Degree Team coordinator, Brother Dick Bridges, at rbridges1971@aol.com or Grand Knight Kent Siefkes at vksiefkes@aol.com to sign up for the ceremony.

All members of the District #9 2nd Degree Team are from All Saints Council 9709, which was certified last year by the State Ceremonial Chairman Brother Don Onofrio.  All but one of the 2nd Degree Ceremonies done since certification have been held at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.  The team has committed to doing quarterly ceremonies, and the next ceremony will be May 2012.

Knights interested in joining the team in either a major or minor capacity are welcome.  Contact any one of the members of the team:  Brothers Akuro Adoki, Tony Anello, Dave Bole, Dick Bridges, Ken Bridges, Jerry Cucurullo, Don Donaghy, Mike Darrow, Ralph Guenther, Dennis Kelleher, John Moster, Peter Oertel, Dave Phillips, Jerry Powell, Jeff Rohman, Kent Siefkes, Mike Supianoski or Dave Vogelpohl.

EIGHT CLEAN UP LEESVILLE ROAD DEC. 10

Eight Brother Knights from Council 9709 picked up trash and recyclables along Leesville Road from the Wake-Durham County line to the Citgo station near I-540 Saturday, Dec. 10, spending about an hour bagging six orange bags of trash and three blue bags of recyclables.

All Saints Council has participated in the North Carolina Adopt-A-Highway program for the past 10 years.  The Council polices its adopted stretch of Leesville Road once a quarter.  For calendar year 2011, Council members donated more than 28 total volunteer hours in collecting 25 bags of trash and 11 bags of recyclables.

A special note of thanks goes to Brother John Moster who coordinates the activity.  Thanks as well to the following Knights who participated in the project during 2011:  Akuro Adoki, Shawn Bayle (2x), Dick Bridges, Don Donaghy, Tom DuPree (2x), Ralph Guenther (3x), Tru Hall, Larry Mathiot, John Moster (4x), Joe Noonan (2x), John Pawlik, Mike Pfauth, Kent Siefkes (2x), Mike Supianoski (4x), Hadon Ware and Bob Weisenberger.