



THE ROUNDTABLE



MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. MATTHIAS OF SOMERSET COUNCIL #9925, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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ST. MATTHIAS COUNCIL IS STILL ALIVE

COMING EVENTS

DATE	DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
No events are scheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic!				

GRAND KNIGHT'S COLUMN

Change



Over the past 6 months the Council and its Brothers have experienced a lot of change. Things that we took for granted disappeared or were greatly altered. A trip to the supermarket became a hunt for toilet paper, hand sanitizes, and some food in general. The Council's meetings and activities were canceled by government authorities and by Supreme. Everything seemed to change.

Change is part of everyday life. Many years ago, my father took two large evergreen bushes down that were in front of our house in Willow

Grove. When I came home, I asked, "Where are we going to put the Christmas Lights?" My father replied, "Everything changes, we will figure it out".

We as a Council will also weather the storm of changes. Degrees have been changed from in person to virtual presentations. Our activities at the Parish and St. Matthias School have been put on hold. But, change will not deter our mission and goals. The Pancake Breakfasts will be back, Fantasy Football Draft will be back, and we will resume our monthly meetings when allowed.

So everyone "hang in there," there will be an end to this pandemic and shutdowns, etc. But what can be promised is the there will be changes in the future. As my father said

"Everything changes, we will figure it out".

Stay safe, and keep your neighbors and friends in mind.

SK Charles Hicks, PGK

CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

Does Corona Virus Help Family Life?



Dear Friends,

Knights of Columbus is well known for its promotion of families and family values.

Supporting the development of strong and faith-filled families is the need of the hour especially during this lockdown. A friend sent me a list of lessons that coro-

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- to share our joys and sorrows with our family.

When advanced technology and modern lifestyles have reduced the family into disconnected individuals under the same roof, coronavirus is forcing us to reconnect as never before. Those fathers and mothers who felt they could not give enough of their time to kids due to getting home exhausted after long and intense working hours, now have the blessing of being with the whole family. Working from home has forced us to look at each other and to be with one another as new normal. Let us make the best of this situation and enjoy our family.

If lockdown is creating a feeling of suffocation and conflicts for some in the families, how do we deal with it? Pope Francis has some wonderful advice: "More than anywhere else, the family is where we daily experience our own limits and those of others, the problems great and small entailed in living peacefully with others. A perfect family does not exist. We should not be fearful of imperfections, weakness, or even conflict, but rather learn how to deal with them constructively. The family, where we keep loving one another despite our limits and sins, thus becomes a school of forgiveness. Forgiveness is itself a process of communication. When contrition is expressed and accepted, it becomes possible to restore and rebuild the communication which broke down. A child who has learned in the family to listen to others, to speak respectfully, and to express his or her view without negating that of others, will be a force for dialogue and reconciliation in society."

Let us accept the limitations of the lockdown as an unexpected blessing that can help us to develop healthier

navirus is teaching us all. Many of those are related to rediscovering the beauty and goodness of family life. Coronavirus taught us that we need:

- to eat together with our family

- to communicate more with our family
- to pray and read Bible with our family
- to eat any food that's available, without being picky

connection within our families. Yes, Corona virus does help family life!

Remembering you and your families daily to the good Lord,
Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

PRIDE IN OUR PRIESTS DINNER

As of today, the Annual Pride in our Priests Dinner is still scheduled for October 28, 2020 at *The Imperia* on Easton Avenue in Somerset.

This annual event brings together His Excellency Bishop James F. Checchio and hundreds of clergy and religious from the Metuchen Diocese with brother Knights from all 62 councils in the diocese.

St. Matthias Council has reserved a table for 10 at this event. If you wish to attend, please contact **SK Frank Rees** at *frees814@gmail*. The cost is \$50.00 per person.

ST. MATTHIAS STUDENT WINNER IN POSTER CONTEST

Congratulations to **Natalie Quinn**, a sixth grade student at St. Matthias School who was a second place tie in the Metuchen Diocese’s Respect Life Poster Contest.



THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Here are 25 things every Catholic should know about this amazing organization!

1) It all started when a parish priest wanted to help Catholic families.

The year was 1882 and anti-Catholic sentiment was running high. Catholic immigrants faced hostility and were thrown into dangerous work conditions which could cause early deaths. So 29-year-old Father Michael McGivney gathered the men of St. Mary’s Church in New Haven, Conn., to establish a lay organization.

The goal? To unite men of Catholic faith and provide for the families of deceased members.

2) The Order is the world’s largest Catholic fraternal organization.

Today, with nearly 2 million members worldwide, the Order is still true to its founding principles of charity, unity and fraternity.

3) The Knights have councils in over a dozen countries.

Knights are active in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, Dominican Republic, Poland, Panama, Guatemala, Lithuania, Bahamas, Saint Lucia, South Korea, Ukraine and more!

4) The Knights stood up to ISIS.

The Order produced a 280-page report detailing the genocide against Christians by ISIS, which was decisive in getting the genocide recognized by the U.S. State Department.

5) The Knights are saving a Christian town in Iraq that was desecrated by ISIS.

They are raising \$2 million to save Karamles, a town recently liberated from ISIS.

6) Columbus was chosen as the Knights’ namesake because...

...the American public loved this famous Catholic explorer at a time of general antipathy towards Catholics. Today, many make him out to be a villain, but many of those claims are actually historically inaccurate.

7) The K of C emblem is literally everywhere at the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.

That’s because the Knights are one of the major supporters of the March for Life and the pro-life movement.

8) K of C has donated \$1.62 billion (yes, billion!) to charitable causes over the past decade.

As of December 2017!

9) They have swords!

Maybe the most important point.

10) The Knights of Columbus Fortune 1000 Insurance Company was born out of Father McGivney’s vision to help protect Catholic families from financial ruin.

As a seminarian, his father died unexpectedly. Father McGivney was convinced that there had to be a way to help other Catholic families facing similar financial troubles. He established the K of C insurance system that has evolved into a top-rated insurance program, with over \$100 billion of life insurance in force.

11) K of C founder Father McGivney may become a saint.

His cause for canonization is open, and he was given the title “Venerable Servant of God” by the Holy See in 2008.

12) Oh, and some Knights are already saints

St. Luis Batis, St. Rodrigo Aguilar, St. Miguel de la Mora, St. Pedro de Jesús Maldonado, St. José María Robles and St. Mateo Correa were martyred during the persecution of Catholics in Mexico in the early 20th century.

13) At the peak of the Ku Klux Klan's power, the K of C stood as its most vigorous opponent.

In one incident in 1924, hooded Klansmen abducted, severely beat and mutilated Father John Conoley in Gainesville, Fla. Knights armed with shotguns stood in the windows of the rectory, protecting another priest and the church itself from the Klan's threats to burn it.

14) The Knights have been a huge supporter of the Special Olympics since day one.

15) Babe Ruth, Vince Lombardi, and President John F. Kennedy were all members of the Knights.

16) Ever wonder how the words "under God" became part of the Pledge of Allegiance?

We can thank the K of C for that.

17) They have a long history with Mother Teresa.

Upon receiving the Knights' *Gaudium et Spes Award* she said, "I accepted to come, and to accept out of sheer gratitude, for they have done so much for our congregation and for our poor."

18) They're a major supporter of vocations.

K of C councils "adopt" one or more seminarians and provide them with financial assistance and prayer through the RSVP program.

19) Knights of Columbus has an investments business called Asset Advisors.

K of C's investment team manages approximately \$24 billion in assets in accordance with Catholic moral principles.

20) Both the first American and the last American to fall in World War I were Knights of Columbus.

21) They have a long tradition of supporting the military.

This year, the Knights sent more than 200 military personnel, their designated caregivers and volunteers to the Marian shrine in Lourdes,

France, for a time of rest, prayer and healing as part of the annual Warriors to Lourdes pilgrimage.

22) The Saint John Paul II National Shrine is a major initiative of the K of C.

23) There are 374 (and growing!) K of C councils on college campuses around the world.

The annual College Councils Conference is held in New Haven each fall.

24) The Knights are on a mission to save 1 million lives.

Little is more moving than seeing an image of a baby growing in the womb. Since 2009, the Knights have funded about 900 ultrasound machines at pregnancy care centers in all 50 states.

25) With the new Online Membership program, joining the Knights is easier than ever.

Practicing Catholic men 18 years of age and older can join at kofc.org/joinus.

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