



Father Vincent S. Sikora
Council 7992
Burke, Virginia

Inside this issue:

Announcements	2
Community	5
Family and Family	9
Stephen Ministry	10
Culture of Life	13
Put Your Loved Ones First	16
Appalachian Home Building	17
Admission Degree	
Exemplification and 3rd Degree	18
Pro-Life ACE Wings	19
Knights Helping Knights	20
Adopt-A-Highway	21
SUDS Presentation Resonates	22
Officers and Chairs	23
Calendar	24



The Sikorian

A Newsletter of the Knights of Columbus

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Grand Knight’s Report

Brothers,

January was very eventful as we entered the second half of our Fraternal year. You all continued to exemplify our Order’s principles of Charity, Unity and Fraternity.

Our Appalachia collection went well, and donations continue to come in. We are well positioned for another great house-building event this year. Our “road warriors” conducted a successful Adopt-a-highway event. The biggest Parish contingent in recent history participated in the March for Life: we filled 3 buses! And in all three of those buses was a healthy contingent of Brother Knights. A highlight was 18-year old Br. Mark Delatte (son of Br. Pat), who, after just joining our order and taking his First Degree on Tuesday, 21 January, participated just three days later as a March for Life Marshal! Related to the March for Life was our Novena for Life. Thank you to all the Brothers who participated in this 9-day prayer. Our Fraternal Committee presentation on Substance Use Disorder was most impressive and had a great turnout—61 people (great job PGK Rich Miserendino!). As we ran the Donut Sunday on 26 Jan, our recruiting efforts netted us 23 new prospects; thank you to the Brothers who engaged our Parish’s men. On the recruiting front, we made excellent progress: 4 candidates joined on 21 Jan during our Admission Degree Ceremony, and then, a days later, 3 brothers joined our Council via the new Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity.

The biggest January news was the change to our Degree ceremony conduct: replacing our Admission/Formation/Knighthood degree ceremonies is a single ceremony, named the Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. This approximately 30-minute ceremony distills all the substantive lessons from the previous 3 degree ceremonies, allowing brothers to achieve full Knighthood in a single ceremony. The other big news with this change is that there is no secrecy to the ceremony and family can attend. We are forming our new degree team and will henceforth perform the new ceremony for our new Knights. If you missed my email on this subject, go here to listen to Supreme Knight Carl Anderson’s explanation and watch the new ceremony: <https://videos.kofc.org/exemplification>

I’ve discussed the [SHINING ARMOR](#) award a lot this year. I am pleased to announce that we have our first awardee! Who is it? Find out at our 18 Feb business meeting. I’ve also mentioned [Pro-Life ACE wings](#)—and we have Brother Knights who have earned those as well.

With the 7 new Knights brought on in January, we are now at 15 new Knights against a goal of 35. We are well within striking distance of meeting that goal, and I ask everyone in the Council to recruit just one new Knight. If we can do that, we’ll hit our goal in no time.

February brings a full line-up of activities: Car Raffle envelope stuffing (in lieu of our first business meeting), blood drive (rescheduled from Jan), Free throw Contest (rescheduled from Jan due to weather cancel), Scout Sunday, St. Lucy Food Drive, the Virginia March for Life, and the end-of-month culminating event: our Art Auction! Finally: don’t forget to get your bride or significant other a Valentine’s gift on the 14th!

Continued on page 2

Check out our Web Site: <https://fathersikoracouncil.org>



Brothers, if Father Michael McGivney were alive today, he would be telling us how proud he is of all of the things our Council does. He no doubt looks down from Heaven with an approving smile.

Brother Knights, thank you for all you do. Christ is Alive! Let your Light Shine! Live the Dream!

Vivat Jesus!

John Ostrowski, Grand Knight

Announcements

February Council Meeting

February's council meeting will be on the third Tuesday, 18 February. Please join us at 7:15pm to pray the Rosary; meeting begins at 7:30. In lieu of our normal council meeting on the first Tuesday, please join us at 7pm to help stuff thousands of envelopes for the annual 5-car raffle.

Upcoming Degree Opportunities

The following degree advancement opportunities are scheduled for the Knights of Columbus. Please contact DGK Barry Basselgia at bbdgk7992@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity:

- Tuesday, 24 March, Nativity
- Thursday, 26 March, Nativity
- Tuesday, 21 April, Nativity
- Thursday, 7 May, Nativity

4th Degree (Exemplification):

- Saturday, 18 April, Virginia Beach

We're Social!

Our council has joined the world of social media. You can "like" and "follow" us on Facebook and Twitter.

- Our Facebook page is: <https://facebook.com/KofC7992>. Alternatively, brothers can open Facebook, search for "Knights of Columbus Father Sikora 7992," and find our page that way. Make sure to "like" and

"follow" us.

- Our Twitter handle is: [@kofc7992](https://twitter.com/kofc7992). Log on to your Twitter account and type our handle into the search bar. Once you come to our page, make sure to follow us by clicking "follow."

We will update both of those pages with useful event info, announcements, etc.

Food for Fellowship

Our Worthy Warden does an excellent job providing food for our after-meeting fellowship. In past years, other brothers have shown their culinary prowess by

providing food for a meeting. If you would like to treat the council to one of your favorite creations and whip up a few treats for us, we welcome that. Sign up at <https://signup.com/Activities#/2884282/jobs/edit> to lock in your meeting date! Thanks!

Name Tag Assistance

If you have not received a name tag, please send an email to the Worthy Warden, Dave Zivich, at davezivich@gmail.com. He will order one for you. Place the order.

Show your pride and wear your council name tag



Recent Council Awards



Above Left: WGK John Ostrowski recognizes Warden Dave and Rose Anne Zivich as December's Family of the Month.



Above Right: Br Russ Smith is recognized as December's Knight of the Month by WGK John Ostrowski. .

Below Left: WGK John Ostrowski recognizes Br Rick and Deborah Gallanti as November's Family of the Month.

Below Right: WGK John Ostrowski recognizes Br BJ and Lyn Dysart as Family of the Month.





Help Needed

Brothers, from Fr Vaccaro: "There is an elderly woman I know whose husband lives at the Fairfax Rehab facility on Rt. 236 near Old Town Fairfax. She is a woman of deep faith. However, she had to move up here suddenly from FL and has not been able to find a

place to live that is close to her husband. She was hoping a Catholic family in the Fairfax area with a spare room would let her rent."

If you can assist or know of someone who can assist, please contact John Ostrowski at JOGK7992@gmail.com

Happy Birthday, Brother Knights!

Please help us wishing "happy birthday" to our brother knights who are celebrating their birthdays in February: Elmer Marcos, Maiquel Sampaio De Melo, Jorge Hurtado, James Kady, Ariel Luna, David Shivik, George Teas, Armand Consoli, John Von Hoene, Joseph Ellis, Edward Nantamu, David Holtmann, Francisco Lozano, David Terhaar, Michael Ducharme, Joseph Shannahan, Sabah Yousif, Francis Loughney, Norbert Doyle, Dr Stephen Mango, Joseph K, Juan Merino, David Watson, Mark Altobelli, John Licud,

James Moody, Randy Morgan, Riccardo Olivieri, Jose Alvarado-Galindo, Kevin Wall, Colin Grote, and Neal Schmeidler.



Recruiting New Brothers

Do you know of someone who wants to join our council? Forward him the link below, A Faster Way to Join - One of the most common objections to joining the Knights of Columbus is "I don't have time."

Through Online Membership, a joining process that could take as long as two months now takes five minutes. Ensure he inputs our council number 7992. Please contact DGK Br Barry Basselgia with any questions or if you need a form 100.

<https://www.kofc.org/apps/newjoin/en/registration/index.html>

Policy for Accepting Council Checks

Checks should be made checks payable to "Knights of Columbus Council 7992" or "Fr. Vincent S. Sikora Council #7992" for all events and member dues except Appalachia, KOVAR, and the Car Raffle. Appalachia checks should be made payable to the "Church of the Nativity" or "Nativity Catholic Church;"

on the check memo line include "Appalachia Home Build." KOVAR checks can be made payable to "KOVAR" for member tax deduction purposes or "Knights of Columbus Council 7992" with no member tax deduction allowed. Car Raffle checks should be made payable to "All Saints Catholic Church," on the check memo line include "Car Raffle."

Honorary Membership — Silver

A member who has attained the age of 65 years of age and who has been a member of the Order 25

consecutive years shall be designated an Honorary member in his council. Member dues are reduced to \$10.00 per fraternal year.

Honorary Life Membership — Gold

A member who has attained the age of 70 years of age and who has been a member of the Order for 25 consecutive years or who has been a member of the Order for 50 consecutive years regardless of age, shall be designated as Honorary Life in his council. Priests

and religious brothers are permitted access to all KOC functions with only the Honorary Life membership card. Parish Priests and religious brothers are automatic Honorary Life Members and are treated as such. There are no member dues charged for Honorary Life members.



Community

Meal Support

Consider supporting Br Bob Doheny with meals. Charity is the first principle of our Order. We have been fortunate to have a core group of volunteers, but they need your help. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0c44acac2ea7fe3-meals>

5 Car Raffle Envelop Stuffing — 4 February

Yes, it's almost that time of year again. We will be stuffing ticket envelopes a bit earlier this year on Tuesday, 4 February at 7pm in the Parish Hall. We need as many Brothers to attend as possible so please mark the date on your calendar and plan on attending. This is truly a Council ALL HANDS event and we'll have pizza, snacks, and drinks for everyone. Please call PGK Sam Morthland if you have any questions, 703-455-2186.



Scout Sunday — 9 February

Our council will support Scout Sunday by provide a pancake breakfast after the morning masses on Sunday, 9 February. Br BJ Dysart will lead this. We'll need help in the kitchen and with serving. If you can help, contact Br BJ at bjdysart@cox.net. More details to follow as the time gets nearer.

Blood Drive — 22 February

We will have a "Home game" at Nativity, so we'll need help in the kitchen and with sign-ins. Please contact Br Mark Altobelli at mark.altobelli@gmail.com if you can help. SUG to follow soon.

Art Auction — 29 February

What better way to celebrate Leap Year than joining us for our 25th Annual Art Auction on 29 February. Tickets are on sale after all Masses beginning 6 Feb. Have empty wall space? There will be Art to fill that spot, plus great food, wine, door prizes. We will also need Brothers to help in a variety of capacities, and we welcome your assistance. Sign up to help here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A45A9A82AA3F85-leap> For more info, please contact PGK Tom Savage at tomkc7992@gmail.com.

Handy Knights Ministry

Fellow Knights — are you handy? Do you aspire to be handy? Do you have a few hours a month to volunteer to help parishioners who need a little bit of help in their homes? Sometimes it is just changing a lightbulb, sometimes it is helping to sort out a remote control for a TV, and mostly it is about spending time

with folks who are our parishioners who maybe are getting along in years and don't get to have much company.

I am looking to fill a roster with volunteers. If you are interested, please email me and tell me what your talents are and I will keep you on file when a job that fits your talents comes up.

Brother Bob Colella robert.colella.86@gmail.com



St Lucy Food Drive

The Council works closely with the Arlington Diocese Catholic Charities (St Lucy Project) by collecting food donations twice per year to help address food insecurity in the diocese. There are more than 200,000 people in the Diocese who do not know where their next meal will come from; nearly half of these are children. This is a very worthy cause, but it is also **very manpower-intensive**. In each of our last three drives, we filled two truckloads with food donations, and we remain incredibly grateful for every Knight who has helped us.

Our next food drive is in mid-February, and we could use your help again. During the long weekend of 15-16 February, we'll be handing out bags at the end of every Mass. If you are able to lend a hand, please meet the St Lucy team members in the narthex.

The more urgent need is the following weekend of 22-23 February, when **we will be collecting food donations before every Mass**. The St Lucy Team (Jim

Barrineau, Claes Lewenhaupt, and Jason Hines) will be present at every Mass to lead the effort, but we still need a **minimum of two able-bodied Knights for every Mass to assist with loading the trucks**. To volunteer, please use this link: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0D49ADAE29A6FE3-stlucy. If you have any questions, please contact Jason Hines at jason.hines@pm.me or at (571) 230-2804.



Fraternal Committee – Brothers helping brothers in need of assistance!

The Fraternal Committee was established with a goal of brothers helping brothers and their families in need of assistance or in distress. This includes a brother who is deployed or about to be deployed or the spouse of a recently deceased brother, who may need a helping hand.

Our **Outreach** brothers telephone or visit our brothers who are hospitalized or homebound and are no longer able to get out. The focus of this program is to help these brothers maintain a connection with the council and assure them that their brother Knights are thinking about them, praying for them and ready to help.

Our **Resources** brothers assist our brothers and their families facing daily life challenges by connecting them with a broad spectrum of county and community based safety net services and resources that range from providing supplies, financial aid, and

professional counseling to budgeting, resume writing, and job counseling. This referral assistance takes the hassle out of trying to figure out on your own where to turn for help when you need it the most.

Our **Yard Cleanup** brothers perform a spring time yard cleanup for brothers who can't do it on the own for health reasons and don't have the resources to hire someone. It's nice way of reminding a brother who may be hospitalized, recently hospitalized or in declining health that his home is still his castle.

If you know of a homebound or hospitalized brother who would like a visit **or** a brother who is facing some life challenges who could use a referral to a network of help **or** a brother about to be deployed or has been deployed who could use some assistance back home, please contact the Fraternal Committee at koc7992fraternal@gmail.com.

If you are a brother interested in helping your fellow brothers in any of these ways, likewise please contact the Fraternal Committee at koc7992fraternal@gmail.com.



St Patrick's Day Dinner Dance — 21 March

Our traditional celebration of the Patron Saint of Ireland will be held on Saturday, 21 March, at 6:30pm in the Fr. Martin Center. We invite all Knights and their ladies to be part of this fun-filled evening at a cost of \$30 per ticket. The Dinner Dance has always been a great social for the entire Nativity Parish. If you have not attended before, this would be a great year to start. We will have Irish Dancers and a DJ to provide music for listening and dancing. Many volunteers are always required to put on this special event (cooks, kitchen help, bartenders, bread cutters,

setup and cleanup). On Friday, 20 March, we will cook the corned beef (9am), pare the vegetables (1:30pm--with great help from the Ladies of Knock), and set up the center (6:00pm). Saturday, 21 March, we will trim the corned beef (9am), cut the bread (1:30pm), and finish cooking the meal. Kitchen help is needed to serve the dinner and of course last, but not least, do dishes and clean up the kitchen. Let's all be a part of a fun-filled evening of dining, dancing and entertainment. Br Gene McGrath (703-250-1281) will be soliciting volunteers through SignUpGenius and at the first meeting in March.

Lenten Fish Fry — Lead Needed

The two brothers who normally lead our two Lenten fish fries (this year scheduled for 6 March and 3 April) are unable to run these events this year. There is normally plenty of volunteers to help, so if you can step up to LEAD the event, please contact Grand Knight John Ostrowski at JOGK77992@gmail.com.

Fraternal Committee — Help Needed

The Fraternal Committee is seeking brothers to help with its outreach activities. Help includes making occasional phone calls to segments of our membership about upcoming presentations of interest; phoning homebound brothers to assess their needs and well-being and to keep them informed of council activities; and visiting

homebound and/or hospitalized brothers as an outward reflection of compassionate support for them and their families. Does not require a heavy time commitment. A good way for busy brothers to become involved. If interested or willing to help, please contact Fraternal Committee Chair, Br Rich Miserendino, PGK, at KOC7992Fraternal@gmail.com or 703-440-0991.

KOVAR — Combined Federal Campaign, United Way, and Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign

KOVAR is a Virginia Knights of Columbus Charity established in 1971 to provide financial assistance through grants and home loans to tax exempt organizations providing training and assistance to citizens with intellectual disabilities.

You can give to KOVAR through the various Charitable Campaigns. If you do donate this way, please send

PGK Mark Sawyer (sawyerkoc7992@verizon.net) a picture/copy of your donation so we can get credit for it.

- Combined federal Campaign (CFC) - #4256
- United Way Campaigns in Greater DC area - #883
- Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign -State Employees - #050735
- Campaigns with no code - enter KOVAR and use the address 16933 Four Seasons Dr, Dumfries VA 22025



Giant Food — Surplus Food Pick Up and Delivery to Food For Others Tues/Thurs

Fellow Knights,

We have an active ministry that recovers surplus food at two Giant locations in our area and delivers food to Food for Others in Fairfax. Last year we picked up over 20,000 lbs of food for distribution in our community.

On Tuesdays we pick up food from the Giant location on Burke Center Parkway, and on Thursdays we pick up from the Giant location at the University Plaza. You need to have a truck or van that can hold a large number of boxes as the volume and weight varies from week to week. Some weeks there is very little,

others there is a large volume of bread/bakery items and other weeks we get 600 lbs of frozen meat. It is rare that it requires more than one trip to make the delivery, but the boxes themselves can be heavy.

Pick ups are scheduled for 11am and if the load is substantial it can take until 1pm to be finished with the task.

If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Brother Bob Colella at robert.colella.86@gmail.com and he will coordinate a ride along to provide you with further training and will then add you to the Sign-Up Genius so you can schedule yourself into the ministry.

Vivat Jesus,
Bob Colella

Shining Armor Award

The Shining Armor Award is for everyone who became a knight in the past year. You get a lot of stuff when you first join and it can be a bit over whelming. I just wanted to make you aware of a program designed for members of our council to engage in and maintain an active level of participation in council programs and activities. You have to complete 5 activities within a Fraternal year to qualify for this award, many of which you have probably already completed:

- Be involved in at least 3 council service programs
- Attend at least 3 council business meetings
- Receive their Formation and Knighthood degrees
- Meet with your council's insurance representative
- Recruit at least one new member

Completing these are easier that you may think. If you've helped at any of our events, you're already on your way to achieving the Shining Armor Award. Information on this program was included in you new membership packet, which included a qualification Card to help you track the above activities. If you're interested in this program and need more information, please let me know. I'd love to be able to recognize you for becoming an active member in our council.



- DGK Barry Basselgia, email bbdgk7992@gmail.com



Family

Seeking Nominations for Young Man, Young Woman, and Family of the Year

We are accepting nominations for the young man, young woman, and family of the year. If you know of deserving nominees, contact GK John Ostrowski at JOGK7992@gmail.com. Nominees can be anyone in our parish. If you would like to submit a nomination, use the respective form attached in the Grand Knight weekly update email. Nominations are due no later than 28 February.

Faith

Join Nativity's Usher Ministry

Several weekend Masses at Nativity need additional ushers. The greatest need is at the 9am, 12:45pm, and 5:30pm Masses on Sundays. Nativity offers an

usher training program sponsored jointly by the Diocese and Nativity. If you are interested in joining the Usher Ministry, please contact Br Tom Wilder at wilderkofc@earthlink.net.

Prison Ministry

Fr Vaccaro is asking brother knights help in writing letters to those incarcerated. He has a list of names

whose lives might be impacted for the better with your correspondence. Please contact him if interested.

NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

“WE, THE PEOPLE OF NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH, BY OUR BAPTISM, ARE JOYFUL DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST. WE STRIVE TO LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, AND FORM NEW DISCIPLES. WE CELEBRATE JESUS CHRIST IN WORD, SACRAMENT AND SERVICE.”



Stephen Ministry — Consider Volunteering

Brothers, Fr Bob has enlisted the parish council to assess the possibility of establishing a Stephen Ministry in Nativity. This will be a parish program, and they are looking for volunteers from across the parish to join in this ministry. As Knights, our reputation for service precedes us, so Jim has asked that we canvass the council to see who can support as individual volunteers to serve as leaders and/or ministers. Contact parishioner Jim Crawford at jwcrawfordiii@gmail.com for more info or to volunteer.

Amplifying Information:

We live in a fast-paced and fragmented world. People suffer crises and tragedies, face difficult transitions, or other difficulties every day. In certain circumstances these people require professional services, but many times what they need is someone who can provide encouragement. In these times of stress a caring relationship with someone who will faithfully listen, empathize, pray with and for them, and encourage them with Christ's love and care can be a tremendous benefit.

Caring for people in need is at the heart of what we as Christians are called to do. Pastors, priests and parish staff can exhaust themselves trying to meet the needs of a parish the size of Nativity Catholic Church. As hard as they try every, single day, our priests and staff do not have sufficient reach to offer continuing care for all the people who are in need. However, while it is true that there are always more people who are hurting within a parish than we know, it is also true that there is an abundance of talented caring people within a parish capable of lending a hand - all you have to do is ask.

Given the kind of men in our Council, the Parish Council, on behalf of Father Cilinski, is asking our Council to consider volunteering in this ministry.

At the direction of Fr Bob, the Parish Council has been reviewing the potential of starting a Stephen Ministry in Nativity to assist our incredible priests, and staff to meet the needs within the parish. I have spoken to a few of the Knights about this potential ministry. After months of informal canvassing across the parish and a formal Open House held last November, it appears there is substantial interest in establishing a Stephen Ministry at Nativity.

Stephen Ministry is a proven system for training and organizing laypeople in a parish to provide quality Christian care to those experiencing life difficulties. In parishes everywhere, there are many people who are hurting. Pastors want to make sure these people receive the ongoing care they need, and Stephen Ministry offers an effective and biblical way to provide care that moves those people from brokenness to wholeness via the Cross of Christ, enabling them to move forward on their own healed and stronger in faith. With a team of trained lay caregivers, parishes can enhance the reach of the parish clergy and offer high-quality care to many more people in need.

The end result of a Stephen Ministry is that hurting people receive distinctively Christian care when they need it most. Laypeople use their gifts in ministry and see God work through them. The pastor and clergy can do more and touch more people in the parish.

Stephen Ministries is a not-for-profit Christian education organization founded in 1975.

- Stephen Ministry is a structured system designed for Christian congregations to employ formally trained teams to deliver one-to-one lay care and support to those who are hurting and in need - for whatever reason.
- Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers - called Stephen Ministers - to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.



Why the name "Stephen?"

In the book of Acts, Stephen was chosen to provide caring ministry to those in need.

Stephen Series System

- The overall ministry system-including training, resources, structure, and ongoing support- used by congregations to equip and empower a team of laypeople to provide one-to-one Christian care to hurting people in and around the congregation.
- Stephen Ministry is the caring ministry that happens when a congregation implements the Stephen Series system.

Points of Interest

- More than 13,000 congregations have Stephen Ministry.
- Over 170 denominations.
- All 50 states, all 10 Canadian provinces, and 30 other countries have Stephen Ministry. Many of these congregations have had Stephen Ministry going for more than 30 years.
- More than 1.5 million people have had a Stephen Minister to walk with them, providing one-to-one Christian care during tough times.

Reasons for Considering Stephen Ministry

- There are always many more people in need of care, both in the congregation and community, than a pastor alone can care for.
- There are always gifted laypeople capable of providing high-quality Christian care- if trained and organized to do so.

How Stephen Ministry Works

The best way to understand how Stephen Ministry works is to learn about three groups of people involved: Stephen Leaders, Stephen Ministers, and care receivers.

Stephen Leaders

- Establish and direct the overall ministry in the congregation:
 - build awareness of Stephen Ministry within the congregation and community
 - recruit and train Stephen Ministers
 - meet with potential care receivers to assess their needs
 - match care receivers with Stephen Ministers
 - provide Stephen Ministers with ongoing supervision and continuing education.
- People learn to serve as Stephen Leaders by attending a Leader's Training Course-a one-week conference that introduces the resources used to lead Stephen Ministry.
- Most congregations begin with two to four Stephen Leaders, typically including a pastor, possibly another church staff person, and one or more lay leaders - size of congregation and scope of ministry dependent.



Stephen Ministers (More than 600,000 have done so since 1975)

- Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by Stephen Leaders to offer high-quality, one-to-one Christian care to people going through tough times.
- A Stephen Minister usually provides care to one person at a time, meeting with that person once a week for about an hour.
- Twice a month, Stephen Ministers gather with their Stephen Leaders for supervision and continuing education

Care Receivers

- Care receivers are people-congregation members and others in the community-who receive care from a Stephen Minister. These are people struggling through a difficult time in life-experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or some other life crisis.
- Important guidelines for this caring relationship protect both the care receiver and the Stephen Minister:
 - the relationship between a care receiver and a Stephen Minister is confidential
 - men are matched with men; women with women
 - when a care receiver's needs exceed what a Stephen Minister can provide, the Stephen Ministry team makes a referral to an appropriate mental health professional or other community resource.

Way forward for Nativity

- Nativity is a parish of over 16,000 families.
- The parish council has partnered with Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Arlington as a Stephen Ministry mentor parish. Based on discussions with the Stephen Leaders in that parish it appears to the Nativity Parish Council the church would need four Stephen Leaders and 20 Stephen Ministers to have a viable start up program. It is anticipated the ministry would grow from this seed group as the ministry takes root in the parish.
- This means that 4 Stephen Leaders have to be identified and sent to training by the parish to start. Additionally, 20 Stephen Ministers have to be identified prior to sending of the leaders to ensure the Church was ready to commence training upon the return of the fully trained Stephen Ministers.
- The Church needs a balance of women and men to make this work, because Stephen Ministers are paired with Care Receivers by gender. This has proven to be the most effective way to assist those in need.

Stephen Leader Training Courses 2020 Schedule

It is the hope of the parish council to have sufficient numbers for a Nativity Stephen Ministry start up program to send 4 parish members to Stephen Leaders training for the June session in Orlando.

Orlando, FL January 12-18

Anaheim, CA February 16-22

St Louis, MO April 19-25

Orlando, FL June 7-13

Dallas, TX July 12-18

Pittsburgh, PA August 16-22



Culture of Life

47th Annual March For Life — 24 January

The participation of Nativity Parish at the 47th Annual March for Life was phenomenal! Led by Fr Bob and Fr Vaccaro, we had 3 chartered buses filled with parishioners who marched for life! Bishop Burbidge was on hand, and greeted our Nativity contingent as we passed by on our way to the Supreme Court. Early numbers indicate that as many as 60,000 to 70,000 attended the rally, with over 350,000 participating in the march, and some estimates reaching as high as 500,000. For the first time in the history of the march, a sitting president spoke at the March for Life rally, live, and in person. The president especially encouraged young marchers by stating that “[y]oung people are the heart of the March for Life — and it is your generation that is making America a pro-family, pro-life nation.” The President declared that “[u]nborn children have never had a stronger defender in the White House.” To find out more about how the march impacted our DMV area and the nation, read up on the most recent news here: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/marchforlife/>.





2nd Annual Virginia March For Life — 13 February

As you may have heard, Virginia voted into office a new 2020 Virginia Commonwealth General Assembly that is poised to propose and pass dangerous legislation that threatens to unravel all of the progress made in our fight for the rights of women and the unborn over the last several decades. These are dangerous times for women and the unborn in Virginia. For instance, SB 21 proposes to not only remove the mandatory 24-hour waiting period and ultrasound law, but also strip any requirement of parental consent before a minor can consent to an abortion. SB 733, in addition to removing the “Women’s Right to Know” Informed Consent law, also allows even nurse practitioners to perform abortions. SB 635 proposes to codify in Virginia the holding of *Roe v. Wade* and to force state employees to perform abortions even if they have religious and moral objections to the procedure, thereby removing any and all protections previously afforded by religious and moral conscience protections laws (see, 45 C.F.R. § 88). The General Assembly has already passed the pro-abortion “Equal Rights Amendment” (ERA) law, a law that in many other states is today cited as the legal basis justifying the use of taxpayer funds to pay for abortions. For more information, see www.vshl.org.

We must act now, otherwise what happened in New York, with passage of the “Reproductive Health Act” allowing abortion on demand up until birth, could very well happen in Virginia. Our voices must be heard. Please seriously and prayerfully consider joining Nativity Parish in their journey to Richmond on 13 February.

March for Life is excited to partner with the Family Foundation, the Virginia Society for Human Life, and the Virginia Catholic Conference to organize the official Virginia March for Life on 13 February in Richmond. Marchers will rally at the state capitol to call for an end to pro-abortion legislation.

The Virginia March for Life will start with a rally at the State Capitol at 11:45am, followed by a march at 12:45pm. There will be (at least) two Nativity buses going down to Richmond for the March for Life.

Mass will be celebrated at Nativity at 7:30am prior to bus departure. All are invited to attend. Instructions for those taking bus will be discussed after Mass. Buses will depart from Nativity at 8:30am and return by 5:00pm. Registration is required to ride the Nativity buses, see below.

Contact: ggetek@aol.com

Bus Sign-Up: <https://nativityburke.org/va-mfl/>

VIRGINIA
MARCH for LIFE

Join us in our fight for life in Virginia!

February 13, 2020

SAVE THE DATE
Richmond, VA

9:15 a.m.
Mass

11:45 a.m.
Rally at State Capital

12:45 p.m.
March for Life



“Unplanned” Screening at Nativity — 7 February

From the “*Unplanned*” website: “Unplanned brings us an eye-opening look inside the abortion industry from a woman who was once its most passionate advocate ... Unplanned is the most important movie you’ll ever see on the most controversial issue of our time. No matter which side of the fence you’re on, no one will leave this film unmoved by Abby’s journey.” The movie is based on the life of Abby Johnson, one of the youngest Planned Parenthood clinic managers, and her road to becoming one of the most well-known pro-life advocates. This groundbreaking movie overcame obstacles of an R-rating by the MPAA and having its ads banned on major television channels to ultimately gross over \$21 million worldwide (not including DVD and Blu-ray sales).

If you have not yet seen “*Unplanned*” yet, now is your chance! You can see it free right here at Nativity Church. “*Unplanned*” will be shown Friday, 7 February, at 7pm in the Parish Hall (cafeteria). Books and movies will be available for purchase afterwards.

Caution: this movie is rated “R” and NOT recommended for children under the age of 18 unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.



Newest March For Life Marshal

Just 3 days after becoming a Knight, Br Mark Delatte (son of Br Pat Delatte) jumped right into action and volunteered for duty as a March for Life Marshal!

Way to go, Br Mark!





Put Your Loved Ones First

During the month of January, we spend a lot of time thinking about ourselves. What will our New Year's resolutions be? How will we change our lives? What will 2018 bring for us?

But what about the ones you love? Is protecting them part of your plan for 2018? Sure, there's a lot that you can and do to protect your loved ones. You make sure they're safe. You make sure they're taken care of. You do your best to make them happy. But what if you weren't there for them? What if you couldn't be?

Many are afraid to think about life insurance because they're afraid of their own mortality. But life insurance isn't about dying, it's about helping your family to live if and when something should happen to you.

Life insurance allows you to continue providing for your family after you're gone, by seeing to it that they have the money they need to be as safe and secure as they have always been. It can provide mortgage protection, income replacement, retirement income, final expenses, and so much more.

And life insurance doesn't need to be a gift that you'll never see given. Your family can benefit from your policy while you're still here to see them enjoy it.

So this Valentine's Day, when you're out buying that box of chocolates or flowers for your wife to express your continued love for her, make a point to schedule time with me to get your wife a special life-giving gift

New Office to Serve You Better

Effective immediately, the new office for your Knights of Columbus field agent, Thom Harrington, is at 9720 Capital Ct, Suite 301, Manassas, VA 20110. This is in the four-story office building sporting the Prince

that will help you to protect her and your whole family for decades.

See and share more on this and other topics by "Liking" my Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/Thomas-Harrington-Knights-of-Columbus-Insurance-1185581764801211/>

Thom Harrington
703-810-3200



Thomas.Harrington@kofc.org

www.ThomHarrington.com

William Chamber of Commerce name across the top. You can quickly find the office through the website www.ThomHarrington.com or using your driver assist mapping device. Hours are by appointment only for the moment.



Appalachia Home Building

For the last 19 years, we have partnered with Appalachian Construction Crew, Inc. from Bellevue, Nebraska to build a home in Kentucky's McCreary county. We will partner with them again this summer to build our council's 22nd home (23rd counting the major addition) and the 35th for the Crew. Past participants have seen firsthand the severe poverty in Appalachia.

Based on our fiscal projections, we are looking to build one home in Whitley City, KY, approximately 570 miles from Burke, VA. The Good Shepherd Catholic Mission already selected the Marler family of five to receive the home.

We need to start planning who will be on this year's crew. **We are looking to build a Nativity crew of 15 (NOT including alternates).** As we did last year, we are looking to have a second crew come later and stay longer to help with finishing. Overall, we will be staying longer to do more of the interior finishing, like last year, to include hanging/finishing the sheetrock, installing the kitchen cabinets, trimming, and hanging all the interior doors. **We plan to finalize the final crew rosters by the end of March so alternates can make necessary plans.**

Given the **very strenuous** work involved, 12-hour work days, and summer heat, we ask that **only** those in **good** physical condition volunteer. Please talk to brothers who participated in the past to answer questions about physical demands. Priority goes to any brother who previously participated, other knights, family members, and any other volunteers that are interested and can be accommodated, in that order. **We also, if at all possible, want to include new brothers that have not participated in the past.**

In order to be ready for the plumbing inspector, we will again leave earlier as we did last year. **The deployment for Crew #1 is scheduled from Wednesday, 27 May to Wednesday, 3 June (weather permitting). Deployment of Crew #2 is scheduled from Tuesday, 2 June to Tuesday, 9 June. All dates include two days travel.** We will stay at St. Joseph's Inn for the duration and meals will be provided.

THIS IS THE ONLY CALL FOR CREW VOLUNTEERS. IF YOU THINK YOU ARE ON THE LIST, OR WANT TO BE ON THE LIST, CONFIRM WITH BOB CORSI BY 31 JANUARY. DO NOT ASSUME YOU ARE ON THE LIST—CALL BOB AT 703-239-2890!

Admission Degree — 21 January

We had an excellent Admission Degree Ceremony on 21 January. Welcome to our newest Council Brothers: Mark Delatte (son of Br Pat); David Chase; Ben Shealy (son-in-law of Br Sam Roberts); and Mark Corzine. Thank you to our degree captain, WPGK BJ Dysart, who as always, had everything set up just right. This was a milestone event, as it was the last Admission degree ceremony we'll do in the old format. From now on, new format is in effect!





New Exemplification — 25 January

New Brothers Tom Hydock, John Cassady, Matthew Pecoraro and first degree Brother Knight Mark Corzine achieve full knighthood via the new Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity



Knighthood Degree — 25 January

Brothers Ed Dauksz, Davis Holtmann, Tony Then, and Chris Odell achieved full Knight on 25 January after participating in perhaps the last “old school” Knighthood Degree ceremony at St. Leo’s. Br Joe McKane also attended as a sponsor/observer.





Pro-Life Ace Wings — Earn Yours!

Some days it seems like the country has gone crazy, particularly when it comes to Life issues and our faith. Virginia is a fair sized part of our country. Virginia also has a large Catholic population and likewise we have a large group of Knights, now more than 28,600 men.

As most of you may also know by now, our State Deputy Bob Szerszynski is a strong pro-life advocate and his sense is that we collectively want and need to do something this year to end this craziness - starting right here within our own local communities.

The ACE Wings program was initiated to recognize Pro Life warriors in our midst and hopefully encourage others to become equally energized to do good. Ace stands for Pro-Life without **A**pology, without **C**ompromise and without **E**xception. The “Precious Feet” on the ACE Wings pin are the size and shape of an unborn baby’s feet at 10 weeks after conception.

The ACE Wings program is not an end of year award but rather provides recognition when a sufficient amount of actions have been taken by an individual.

Take our faith and love to the point of action publicly - pray at Abortion Centers, provide assistance at pregnancy resource centers and homes for the aged, participate and or help with marches for life and life chains. The Virginia State Knights of Columbus has three Regional Life Representatives that can provide many more ideas for activities within your area of the state. Ideas for projects that are the right fit for your parish and faith community are only limited by your Councils imagination.

The requirements to earn your ACE Wings are below. More importantly our hopes are that your individual focused actions will result in large scale positive results for Virginia for years to come. Thousands of Wings recipients making a positive difference.

Pro-Life ACE Wings

The “Precious Feet” on the ACE Wings are the size and shape of an unborn baby’s feet at 10 weeks after conception.

Requirements for Receiving the Virginia State Council Pro-Life ACE Wings

A minimum of 5 Public Pro-Life events are required to qualify for the Virginia State Council Pro-Life ACE Wings. Our Holy Father has called us to be Pro-Life, from conception to natural death, therefore we must remember to include those who are forgotten and left to die.

Since it is legal to kill a baby in the womb we must keep this in the forefront, this is why in order to obtain the ACE Wings one must complete 4 items that deal with our most vulnerable, the unborn. The following items are common events, you may enter events other than these, however they will be reviewed to ensure they meet requirements.

Pro-Life Mass

Volunteer at Preg. Resource Center* Participate in the Silver

Rose Rosaries Outside Abortion Clinics.

(* Indicates the event can be repeated) (**This event will qualify for 2 events) (***)This event will qualify for 3 events)

Private Pro-Life events (such as saying the Rosary privately or at a Council meeting, or offering up a private intention at Mass), while always encouraged, **do not count as ACE Wings items.**

The 5th item can be either a Pro Life item as described above, or it can be an item such as:

- Special Olympics Volunteer
- Prayers during Inmate Executions
- Providing entertainment, working/volunteering at a hospice, nursing home, or Veterans Hospital
- Being part of any of the American Wheelchair Mission events.

Please Note:

1. A member may request a set of wings for his spouse/child (ren) (Children must be age 12 or older to receive the ACE Wings), the member will be required to pay \$7 (includes shipping) for each set of wings. Payment for these wings must be received in advance. The member will not have to pay for his original set of wings.
2. A Council may present the ACE Wings once a year to a non-Knight in their local community that has demonstrated a strong Pro Life stance. The Council will be billed for the wings. The Council will submit an ACE Wings recipient form to the Pro Life Chairman for tracking purposes.
3. Councils may elect their Parish Priest(s) and Deacon(s) to receive the ACE Wings. For a Priest or Deacon the Councils does not need to list 5 events/items that they have done.
4. The ACE Wings will be presented to the recipient by the District Deputy, Grand Knight or by mail.





Knights Helping Knights in Need

Several Knights responded to the recent Fraternal Committee call for lawn cleanup help for Br Bob Doheny. Gutters were cleaned, shrubs and trees trimmed, and leaves blown and bagged. Thanks to Brothers Art Rupinen, Pat Bradshaw, Bill Canavan, PGK, John Landy, PGK, Ben DeSantis, Dave Loesch, and Jerry Leonard.





Adopt-A-Highway — 11 January

The call went out for the “Elite Eight,” but met with a response of “Amen Ten.” On a balmy Saturday morning, Old Keene Mill Road was once again “policed” thanks to Chris Borer, Matt Bubak, Pat Delatte, Kurt Harris, Gene McGrath, Dave Pritchard, Denny Scott, and Mike Gallagher with his sons, James and Aiden. In less than 60 minutes, they filled several large bags and returned the roadside to pristine condition. A special Thanks! To Gene McGrath who led this effort

and all who participated in this ministry, practicing the Knights motto: “In Service to One, in Service to All.”

If you wish to join in this group of “Award-Winning Road Warriors,” mark your calendars now for the next pickup date and be prepared to quickly respond when the request for volunteers is published for Saturday, 18 April. Can’t wait? Sign up now: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080945aaab28a64-adoptahighway16>



Above Left: Brothers Gene McGrath, Chris Borer, Denny Scott, George Getek, Matt Bubak, Pat Delatte, David Pritchard, Aidan Gallagher, Kurt Harris, James Gallagher, and Mike Gallagher.

Above Right: Broth Kurt Harris proudly displays his bag of “trashsures.”

Below Left: Brothers Denny Scott and Pat Delatte— When asked how was business, they replied as one: “Picking up!”

Below Right: Brother Chris Borer displays his “quicker-pick-upper.”





SUDS Panel Presentation Resonates!

A superb Substance Use Disorder panel discussion sponsored by the Fraternal Committee took place on Saturday, 25 January. The well-attended presentation featured three highly trained and experienced speakers, lead by Br Mark Pizzo. Many thanks to all the Knights who manned the telephone tree and who helped with setup and take-down for the event!





If you would like to contact us, please send a note to gk7992@vakofc.org.

Knights of Columbus Council Officers 2019—2020	
Officer Positions	Name
Grand Knight	John Ostrowski
Financial Secretary	Paul Gorham
Deputy Grand Knight	Barry Basselgia
Chaplain	Father Bob Cilinski
Chancellor	Adrian Santillan-Lecaside
Lecturer	George Getek
Recorder	Vincent Augelli
Treasurer	Tom Goodwin
Advocate	Barry Rueter
Warden	David Zivich
Inside Guard	Victor Alderete
Outside Guards	Tom Siepmann Mike Adames
One Year Trustee	Michael Litzelman
Two Year Trustee	Carlos Perez Jr
Three Year Trustee	John Landy
Insurance Representative	Thom Harrington

Committee Chairs and Special Projects 2019—2020	
Project	Name
Program Director	Adrian Santillan-Lecaside
Faith Director	Bob Collella
Community Director	Russ Smith
Family Director	Tony Then
Membership Director	Barry Basselgia
Life Program Director	Tom Siepmann
Recruitment Committee	Barry Basselgia
Recruitment Committee	Adrian Santillan-Lecaside
Recruitment Committee	Russ Smith
Retention Committee	PKG Mike Litzelman
Retention Committee	PGK Carlos Perez
Retention Committee	PGK John Landy
Insurance Promotion	Paul Gorham
Vocations Chairman	Adrian Santillan-Lecaside
Health Services	Maiquel Sampaio de Melo
Fraternal Chairman	Rich Miserendino
KOVAR	Mark Sawyer
Newsletter	Jeremy Smith
Website Webmaster	MichaelM Bender
Facebook Administrator	Tom Siepmann

Monthly Newsletter Submissions

We need your help to make our award-winning newsletter better! Please submit announcements, articles, and pictures to Jeremy Smith at jeremy_d_smith@yahoo.com. Submissions for March's newsletter are due to Br Jeremy by Wednesday, 26 February. Thank you!



Mark Your Calendars

February

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Super Bowl	3	4 5 Car Raffle Envelop Stuffing	5	6	7	8 Free Throw Contest
9 Scout Sunday, Donut Sunday & USN Birthday	10	11	12	13 Virginia March for Life	14 Valentine's Day	15 St Lucy Bag Distribution
16 St Lucy Bag Distribution	17 President's Day	18 Council Meeting	19	20	21	22 "Home" Blood Drive & St Lucy Collection
23 St Lucy Collection	24	25 Mardi Gras	26 Ash Wednesday & Newsletter Submissions Due	27	28 Art Auction Prep	29 Art Auction

March

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Council Meeting	4	5	6 First Lenten Fish Fry	7 State Qtrly Meeting (Charlottesville)
8 DST begins (Spring forward 1 hr)	9	10	11	12	13	14 Spring Membership Drive
15 Spring Membership Drive	16	17 Council Meeting and St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21 St Patrick's Day Dinner Dance
22	23	24 Exemplification Degree	25 Newsletter Submissions Due	26 Exemplification Degree	27	28 Family Spring Event
29 Donut Sunday	30 Parish Lenten Mission	31 Parish Mission Day 2				