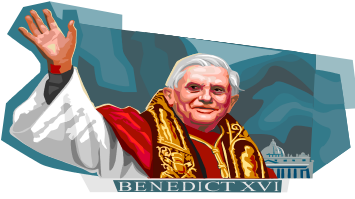


*Another New Council! Our Second One This Year... Congratulations to District 2 and DD Tony DiMaiolo & Welcome Council 15196*



# Tennessee Knights of Columbus

REPORT FROM STATE DEPUTY ROBERT H. ROUNSEFELL January 2011

[www.kofc-tn.org](http://www.kofc-tn.org)

*Responsibility – If It is to be – it is up to me*

**Our state goal is Circle of Honor, each Council's goal should be Star Council. If councils achieve Star then State will be in the Circle of Honor. That's the winner circle – Tennessee belongs there!**

## **Welcome Our Newest Council**

Our second new council of the year, Council 15196, Holy Spirit Council in Germantown, was born four weeks ago. It becomes Tennessee's ninety second council- joining a long line of dedicated Knights over the years. Grand Knight David Guntert and his merry men have set their sights high for the remainder of this fraternal year. They sprang from a roundtable sponsored by Germantown Council 7449, a council with a long history of winning and major accomplishments. Their goal is to have one hundred names on their charter by 31 January and I have a strong hunch that they will achieve that. Keep an eye on them! Starting a new council is always a lot of hard work. However, work is its own reward, as you can watch your efforts grow and spread much like planting a successful crop. I was involved in starting the parent council some thirty years ago and it is sort of like having a grandchild. It's always a lot of fun.

## **State Deputy's Corner**

I recently attended the semiannual meeting of State Deputies in Baltimore, Maryland. We focused heavily on membership growth during the meeting. The Order's new Senior

Vice President for Membership Growth, Mike Durbin, reminded us that one very powerful motivation for inviting men to join the Knights is that it helps make us better Catholics.

**“But one other reason that membership is so relevant and important is that it keeps us Catholic,” Durbin said. “If it keeps us Catholic, then we’re building up the body of the Church and that’s part of Father McGivney’s vision.”**

Durbin discussed the Order’s increased focus on 18 to 35 year olds the “Millennia’s” – and on the importance of youth programs that involve children in the middle school and high school years, preparing the way for recruitment when they reach their late teens and twenties.

It is for these reasons that we should make every effort to do the following:

- Take advantage of every opportunity to recognize Catholic Boy Scouts for their good deeds. Reward those for special achievements particularly Eagle Scouts.
- Arrange with your parish youth minister to have someone from the Knights come to speak about our organization and the opportunities that lie within, at the parish youth group meetings. It would be worth it to have your council provide refreshments for the youth at this gathering.
- Support the Columbian Squires in anyway possible and continue to seek opportunities for new Circles.

## **State Secretary Scribbles – Mike Wills**

I have one reminder and thought to share with you for January.

**The Reminder.** The Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (Form 1728) is due to Supreme by January 31, 2011. Councils use this form to report their hours of charitable works performed, blood drives supported, and dollars donated. The information you report on this form helps the Knights of Columbus retain its tax-exempt status. The information from your council is added to the information reported by other Knights of Columbus councils and the true extent of our Order’s charitable work and community activities publicized. Each council plays its part in the work the Knights of Columbus. Please, report you part. Remember, the cable is made up of many fibers. Submit the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity to Supreme by January 31, 2011.

**The Thought.** In December, I helped exemplify the principle of Charity. I stood on the street corner and collected funds for the mentally handicapped. I know all the reasons why it is important to help children with mental disabilities, but I always dread the street corner drive. In my heart, I have thought the street corner drive is an imposition on the driving public.

This year Council 5207 supported the drive in a big way. Lots of brothers came to work in the street. Other council members cooked food for those who worked the streets. Some saw to the administrative tasks making sure Tootsie Rolls were available and the money counted. It was cold enough that people took pity on us and opened their wallets and their car windows. The drive was almost festive.

I learned something this year that had escaped me in previous years. Dodging cars on a December morning isn’t just about the children we were helping. The people driving on

Kingston Pike appreciated the opportunity we gave them to be charitable. They didn't avoid us. They didn't turn around. They smiled, they talked, they said "thank you" and they wished us, "Merry Christmas". They truly appreciated the opportunity we gave them to help others.

Next December, Council 5207 will do another street corner drive, and I will dread it, but not as much as before.

## **New Second Degree Team in District VI**

Congratulations are in Order for DD Hal Bunjor and his hard working guys for putting together a second degree team for district 6. Another team was badly needed in central Tennessee and this is a big help. More are still needed! So, while this new team takes off some of the strain, other districts need to continue on certification – every district should have its own second degree team.

The new team members include: Gregory Orras DD; Hal Bunjor as GK; Chris Myers as Chancellor; William Young as Warden; Ed Wilson as FS and Domingo Gamez as Inside Guard.

Great work guys and welcome aboard!

## **From our General Agent – Dan Schachle**

A lot has changed in the past few years in the insurance industry. There were five life insurance companies with the highest rating from AM best and Standard & Poor's and IMSA only one year ago. Today only two are left out of 1800 companies that can say they are the Best of the Best in ratings and financial strength. YOUR company, the Knights of Columbus Insurance is one of them!

Remember, our products are available to members, their spouses and all dependent children. Take advantage and use the largest Catholic insurance company in the world to protect your family today.

**LIFE INSURANCE:** Get the protection that you need to put that safety net in place for your family. We give great term rates for pennies a day whole life permanent coverage that is guaranteed for life. Need to protect that estate? Ask us about our estate plan coverage. Uninsurable? The Knights, acting as our Brothers Keeper, offers a NEW guaranteed issue policy for members and their family from ages 0-65.

**ANNUITIES:** Want to protect your retirement funds? Ask us about our guaranteed rates. We can help you with your 401K, Roth Ira's and all retirement planning needs. Take the worry out and put your money with a safe and reliable company that invests in your Catholic values and guarantees that your nest egg is protected.

**LONG TERM CARE:** Do I really need long term care? 69% of people turning 65 will need some form of long-term care before they die. Protect your financial security with Knights of Columbus care. We will help you build a secure financial future.

How do we do so well, you might ask. It's easy when you are the largest Catholic life insurance company in the world with over 1500 full time, trained and licensed agents working full time for brother Knights and their families Knights have been protecting

families since 1882 and continue to follow Father McGivney's goal to "Protect our members and their families for generations to come."

Here in Tennessee, we are blessed to have highly qualified agents in the areas of life and long term care programs, as well as, retirement planning. They are fellow Catholics and brother knight's...not high pressure sales people. Your needs and your concerns are their concerns. They will sit down with you and do a complete family service record for your family. You can rest assured that when they propose a plan, it is the best plan for your situation and is backed with the best products in the industry. Remember, when you purchase insurance products through the Knights of Columbus, you are not only protecting your family - you are also helping Holy Mother Church by providing the Order with the liquidity to support her as we have vowed to do.

We have never met a widow who thought her husband was "over insured."

### **Tennessee's Family of the Month**

Not received from Supreme

Note: A month or so ago I made comments regarding the low participation of councils in the family of the month program strongly encouraged by Supreme Council.

I was taken to task by a Grand Knight who shall remain nameless. I guess in the whole scheme of things one of ninety two is not bad, though it does support our 19<sup>th</sup> president's expression about "some of the people some of the time ", etc.

He was most emphatic in telling me that his "guys" do not do things for recognition - they just quietly go about doing their various programs. He even offered to provide me with names and addresses so I could contact some of his people to verify that.

While that sounds good and very humble, unfortunately, he missed the whole point by a country mile. I did not say people work for recognition, but rather they need to be recognized. People like to know that their work is appreciated - that's how we get them to continue to participate. Look at it this way, the first male saint in North America, Brother Andre, was recently canonized for his great works. That is a form of recognition. Does anybody think that when he started his life he decided to build Saint Joseph's Oratory in Montreal? Or, do all the good things that are attributed to him solely for recognition? I hardly think so.

Gentlemen, simply put, recognition is a good thing. Take the time to recognize those in your council that deserve it!

### **Church Consultant Message- Michael McCusker**

Some years ago, a good friend and Franciscan priest once shared in his homily a very compelling question: Where was Thomas when the Risen Christ appeared?

We are all so familiar with the story of "doubting" Thomas, and so often, we do focus on the end of the gospel narrative of Thomas' return to faith because he had "seen." However, the point of my friend's homily was that it is more important to examine why, in the first place, Thomas had missed Christ's initial appearance, and in his analogy, he noted that there is a theological school of thought that holds that Thomas missed the Risen

Christ because in dealing with his grief of the Crucifixion, Thomas chose to deal with his grief alone.

In contrast, Christ appeared to the apostles that were gathered in the Upper Room because, in essence, Christ then and now makes Himself known to world through his Church. Indeed, it was to the assembled church that Christ first appeared.

My friend's homily went on to conclude that far too often we choose the solitary road, the road apart from others, even the road apart from the church, and like Thomas, the result becomes that we so often miss the Risen Christ in our midst, the Risen Christ revealed to the world through His Church on earth, through prayer, the Gospel and ultimately, the Eucharist.

As we begin this new year, let us, as dedicated Knights, look for those brothers among us who have chosen the solitary road, whether from our church or council. Let us dedicate ourselves in the coming year to reach out to them and bring them back to where they have always remained in our hearts, our minds and our prayers.

In doing so, we will restore the strength of our councils, lift up the glory of our Church, and ultimately, stand together as Brother Knights in the triumphant presence of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

## **A New Year**

A new year is upon us, and as I think of the road ahead of us, my thoughts drift to St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of my parish in Cordova. Towards the end of his life, Francis made this profound statement to his followers: "Let us begin again today because as of yet we have done nothing." Quite an ironic statement since Francis had already accomplished so much. He and his ragtag group of friars managed to convince the powerful Pope Innocent III to approve a new rule of religious life. He established a religious family, the Franciscans, that would grow to be one of the largest religious families in the Catholic Church. He had risked martyrdom to go and preach the Gospel of Christ to the Sultan of Egypt so that the Sultan, having been converted, there might be an end to the violence between Christians and Muslims. He accomplished so much and yet he told his followers, "Let us begin again today for as yet we have done nothing."

I liken that to the accomplishments of our State Council to date. Our membership is growing! We have started two new councils and reactivated another! We continue to open the door of Columbianism to our Hispanic brothers in Tennessee! We are moving forward with the Wheelchair program, the MR program, the ultrasound program and others. Yes, we have done a lot but in light of the whole it is appropriate to say, "Let us begin again today for as yet we have done nothing."

Vivat Jesus.

## A Vocations Prayer

God of all nations, we are grateful for Catholic missionaries who bring the treasure of faith to many lands. May the gospel, which shaped their lives, continue to shape our lives today. Bless every diocese with others to follow in their footsteps. Amen

*I am my brothers Keeper*

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Robert H. Rounsefell  
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