



SHINING ARMOR GAZETTE

Serve the Priest, Serve the Parish, and Build a Better Culture

Volume 2, Issue 8

Grand Knight Swinton W. Hudson, III

February 2011



UPCOMING EVENTS:

February

- 17 Social Meeting
- 26 4th Degree Exemp.

March

- 3 Regular Business Meeting
- 17 First Degree & Reception
- 25 Day of the Unborn Child
Mass and Soup Supper

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GRAND KNIGHT'S BRIEF

My most heart-felt thanks to everyone that helped with the Pancake Breakfast benefiting St. Joseph School. We had the best turn out of Knights, Columbiettes, friends and family members, and were able to raise \$600 after expenses towards this most worthy cause. That's almost double the \$320 we raised last year! There was a lot of excitement about our expanded menu and hours, and these seemed to make all the difference. Therefore, I propose that we continue with this recipe for success into the future!

Since joining this Council, I've noticed that our Social Meeting is not well attended. Within the past few months attendance is down further to an average of just 4 Knights. This is not acceptable. So, after much deliberation and consultation, I have come up with a plan. First, from this date forward, we will hold our First Degrees on a 3rd Thursday in conjunction with our Social Meeting. Immediately following the Degree, we will join with the Columbiettes and family members at a reception to welcome our newest members. This will not

only suffice as our monthly social, but will strengthen our retention program by allowing new members to interact with the membership in a warm and welcoming environment. Second, I'd like to see us incorporate the Family Card and Board Game Night, on a quarterly basis, into our social meeting mix. And last, for the several remaining meetings, we can continue with our traditional pot luck, but incorporate food distribution by last name to ensure a variety of food. But whatever we do, a change for marked improvement is in order.

A few other administrative changes are being incorporated this month as well. Gene Olona, our Council Director and Advocate, has taken over as Editor of the Council Newsletter. I really appreciate him volunteering to handle this vital Council function. Also, Troy Penny has been appointed as our Public Relations Chairman, and will work with our Programs Director to implement an effective public relations program to include bulletin announcements, communications with

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News Flash

At our February 3rd Business Meeting, we elected Robbie Wiggs as new Treasurer. The upcoming March Business Meeting will be elections for the vacant positions of Deputy Grand Knight and Advocate. Gene Olona has been nominated for DGK and Jack Davis was nominated for Advocate. Election will be on 3/3.

Please remember to **submit your dues** if you haven't already done so! If you are disabled, you may qualify for a waiver through Supreme Council. For those experiencing financial distress, your dues may be paid in installments. Contact FS Lester Johnson about these options. And always be sure to keep your email and phone number up to date so that we can ensure you are kept up to date and informed!

The **Ancient Order of Hibernians** will host its annual **Ceili** (kay-lee) on Saturday March 12 at the KofC Hall (Council 724) on Marion St. The celebration features Irish music and classic American rock n' roll; Irish step dancing from the Rince na h'Eireannan dance troupe. Tickets are available at Delaney's on Saluda Ave in Five Points for an advance purchase price of only \$5.00 each, \$10 will be charged at the door. Age 16 & under admitted free when accompanied with an adult. Food and beverages available at reasonable prices. A great and affordable evening of family fun. Contact Brother Knight Joe Kennedy at 803-414-1076.

Membership

March is Membership Blitz Month! A blitz will be held on March 13 after every Mass. If you have a prospect for membership, forward his contact information via a prospect card or Form 100 to Membership Director Fred Parsons (467-4755) or Grand Knight Skip Hudson (622-7932). We need 8 new members; they are the life blood of our Council!

Columbiettes

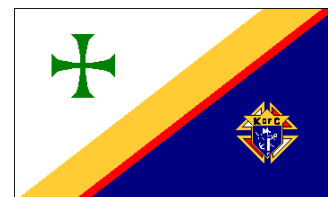
The ladies are still recruiting members for the Columbiettes Auxiliary, so let your Catholic wives, sisters, mothers, daughters, and friends know about this fantastic sister organization to the Knights. Twenty-five ladies must agree to join the Columbiettes before their charter will be granted. Contact Carrie Penny for more information, 803-743-9072 or carrie_penny@hotmail.com.



Ceremonials

First Degrees will **now** be conducted on the 3rd Thursday of the month as part of our Social Meetings. Immediately following the Degree, the Council will host a reception in coordination with our Columbiettes Auxiliary to welcome our new members. Seek out qualified prospects to fill these dates:

- March 17th
- May 19th



Rule changes by Supreme now allow for First Degree Team members to read their parts as needed. We still need alternates, especially at the key roles of Deputy GK and Financial Secretary. If you would like to serve the Council in this important role by exemplifying the First Degree, contact GK Skip Hudson at swhudson3@yahoo.com.

Programming Note

The Council will hold a Youth Free Throw Contest on Sunday, February 20th at 2PM in the Hall/Gym. We need Knights to assist with scoring, registration, and refreshments. Please arrive by 1:30PM!

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9th. The Council will again sponsor a Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, March 8th at 6 pm. Last year the Church saw nearly 700 attendees! We antici-

pate nothing short of the same this year. Therefore, we will need all hands on deck for this event. Please plan on attending and assisting in some capacity! Brothers Rob Wiggs and Dan Wagner are your main points of contact for more information.

Stations of the Cross and Lenten soup suppers begin Friday, March 11th. The Council will provide a Simple Soup Supper for the Parish on March 25th.

We will need help with serving and clean-up, so make plans to attend.

The South Carolina State Council 90th State Convention will be held in Myrtle Beach on April 29—May 1, 2011, at the Sheraton Convention Center. If you are a 3rd Degree Knight and would like to attend, contact Skip Hudson or Gene Olona for details and registration information.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

- 17 SOCIAL MEETING, 7PM, PARISH HOUSE
- 20 YOUTH FREE THROW CONTEST, 2PM
- 25-26 4TH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION, RADISSON HOTEL, COLUMBIA

MARCH

- 3 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING, 7:30 PM; DINNER, 6:30 PM
- 6 MONTHLY ROSARY AT SHRINE OF THE UNBORN
DISTRICT FREE THROW CONTEST, 2PM
- 8 SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER, 6 PM
- 9 ASH WEDNESDAY
- 12 STATE YOUTH FREE-THROW CHALLENGE
ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS ANNUAL CEILI
- 13 COMMUNITY SUNDAY MEMBERSHIP BLITZ
- 17 FIRST DEGREE AND SOCIAL MEETING, 7PM, PARISH HOUSE; *COAT AND TIE*
ST. PATRICK'S DAY
- 25 ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

K OF C DAY OF THE UNBORN CHILD AND LENTEN SOUP SUPPER, 6 PM MASS

- 29 FOUNDER'S DAY (FR. MCGIVNEY DAY)
- 31 5TH THURSDAY, KNIGHTS NIGHT, TBA

APRIL

- 3 MONTHLY ROSARY AT SHRINE OF THE UNBORN
- 7 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING AND FIRST DEGREE, 7:30 PM; DINNER, 6:30 PM
- 8-9 OPERATION HOPE DRIVE, WAL-MART, 9AM-6 PM
- 17 PALM SUNDAY
- 21 HOLY THURSDAY
- 22 GOOD FRIDAY
- 23 HOLY SATURDAY
- 24 EASTER
- 29-30 KOFC SC STATE COUNCIL 90TH CONVENTION, MYRTLE BEACH SHERATON HOTEL

MAY

- 1 KOFC SC STATE COUNCIL 90TH CONVENTION, MYRTLE BEACH SHERATON HOTEL

Saint of the Month by Deacon Charles P. Poole, Jr.

St. Peter Damian, February 21



Life: 1007-1072

Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Promoter of Religious Life

Peter Damian was born into a poor family in Ravenna, Italy, in the year 1007. He was a great reformer of the Church during a time of crisis. His parents died when he was still young, and his brother, who took charge of him, treated him like a slave. Later an older brother who was an archpriest at Ravenna, rescued him and had him so well educated that he became a professor. He lived an austere life with fasting and the wearing a hair shirt. He often invited the poor into his home to share his meals.

At the age of 28 he became a Benedictine monk and lived with some of their hermits practicing extreme austerities. He undertook the study of scripture and the Fathers of the Church, and became an expert in patristic theology. When the abbot died in the year 1043 he took charge of the hermitage with the title of prior general rather than that of abbot. He proceeded to found five other hermitages. Then he wrote a life of St. Romuald in which he recorded the ideals which motivated his life, namely his attachment to the solitary life and his feelings of urgency to reform the clergy. He acquired a reputation for holiness, and the reforming zeal with which he governed his religious houses did not go unnoticed.

He was very upset when he found out that Gregory

VI became pope after a rather large sum of money had induced the prior pope Benedict IX to abdicate. He then attempted to reform the procedures for electing popes, and considered a reformed papacy as the key for reforming the Church. Several successive popes made use of him in bringing about reforms. He campaigned against simony, the payment and reception of money for religious benefits. It was Pope Leo IX who proposed that popes be elected by the college of cardinals. In 1057 Peter became cardinal-bishop of Ostia, the seaport of the city of Rome. When a popular reform movement called Pataria was compelling reluctant priests to practice celibacy, and it threatened to become schismatic, Peter calmed them down. He took part in a Synod held at the Lateran which established that popes would henceforth be elected by the college of cardinals. This was done to prevent emperors from choosing future popes.

Peter represented the pope on several diplomatic missions. He campaigned for the suppression of all local liturgical rites and for the universal acceptance of the Roman rite. Only the local Ambrosian rite survived in the city of Milan, where it still exists. His philosophical and theological writings were highly critical of secular learning, and his spiritual writings were directed mainly to members of religious communities. He was never officially canonized, but was formally declared a Doctor of the Church in 1828.

Fathers For Good An initiative for men by the Knights of Columbus

son brother mentor
leader husband
father Man

Being A True Man

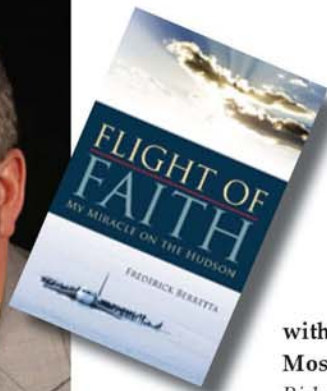
Catholic

The First Annual Charlotte Catholic Men's Conference

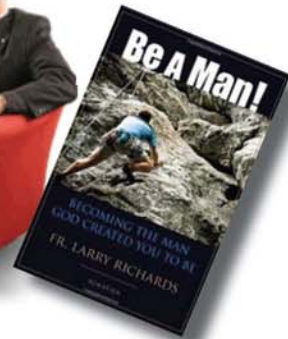
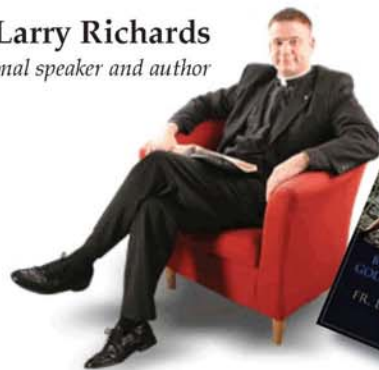
go to www.CltCMC.org for details

Saturday, February 19, 2011
 held at Charlotte Catholic High School
 featuring presentations by:

Frederick Berretta
Charlottean and author



Fr. Larry Richards
National speaker and author



with Mass celebrated by the
Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis
Bishop of Charlotte

Sponsored by:



4th Degree

BISHOP ENGLAND ASSEMBLY 1072



The next Exemplification of the 4th Degree will be held in Columbia at the Radisson Hotel on Bush River Road, February 25th and 26th. Friday night will consist of hospitality rooms hosted by each participating Assembly, and is open to everyone. Even if you're not a 4th Degree member, please come share in this excellent opportunity to socialize with Brother Knights from across South Carolina! Saturday will begin with Mass at 9AM followed by lunch and a ladies luncheon, the Exemplification, and then end with a Black Tie dinner and dancing at 7PM (tickets required).

Bishop England Assembly 1072 meets at 7:30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the old house next to Good Shepherd Catholic Church.

February Birthdays

9th Rick Coker
 13th Donnie Cooper
 26th Thomas Kahaly
 28th Al Alvarez

We wish all of our Brother Knights a happy and blessed birthday!



Brother to Brother

Please remember especially these Brother Knights in their time of illness.

Brother Damian Masse (776-2715) is suffering from tendonitis and is having difficulty getting around.

Brother Johnny Nix (783-0419) is recovering from multiple surgeries.

Brother Gerard Gener (447-3687) is recovering after complications from hip surgery.

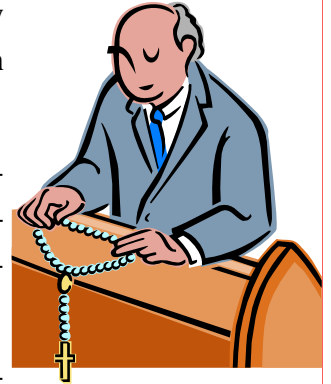
Brother Laddie Gatling (261-6883) continues his battle with MS.

Brother Byron Weston (256-4983 Room 115) remains in the nursing home.

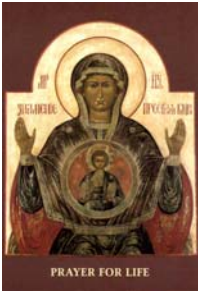
Let us join in prayer and ask God for His healing for those who are ill and to share His strength with them and their families.

O God, your Son accepted our sufferings to teach us the virtue of patience in human illness. Hear the prayers we offer for our sick brothers and sisters. May all who suffer pain, illness or disease realize that they are chosen to be saints, and know that they are joined to Christ in his suffering for the salvation of the world, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

Remember, Charity begins at home! If you know of a Brother Knight that is sick or in distress, contact PGK Jim Corbett at JCoressq@aol.com.



Upcoming Pro-Life Activities



The monthly Rosary at the Shrine of the Unborn is held at 9:30 AM on the 1st Sunday of each month. Our next opportunity to lead the Rosary will be on March 6th.

There is a Rosary Vigil every Saturday morning at 10AM outside the Planned Parenthood parking lot (2712 Middleburg Dr).

Thanks to all of the Knights and family members of Council 12554 that attended the annual Pro-Life March and Rally on January 15th at the South Carolina State house! Let's plan for an even better turn out next year.

Recruitment Incentive Announced



Beginning with our March Recruitment Blitz, Grand Knight Skip Hudson and Membership Director Fred Parsons have initiated a new incentive program for proposers. Every Knight that recruits at least one new member who takes his First Degree by June 16th will receive a Knights of Columbus emblem of the order lapel pin. For every Knight that recruits two or more new members, he will receive a lapel pin and a KofC logo hat of his choice in style and color. For every Knight that recruits three or more members, he will receive a lapel pin, KofC hat, and a custom Council 12554 golf shirt in royal blue or white. As an additional incentive, the single Knight that recruits the most new members to take their First Degree by June 16th, and who has recruited at least 3 new members during this campaign, will receive his choice of a water repellent lightweight jacket or Columbia fleece jacket (a \$50 value)!

If this program is effective, we will continue it annually, but change some of the awards as a way to keep the incentive fresh and appealing. As proposers, your ideas on future incentives are encouraged. But here's a recruiting hint: a lot of guys are just waiting for an invitation. So don't hesitate, "just ask him!"

Council Golf Shirt Reorder

We almost have enough requests to place our next order of the Council Golf Shirt which were debuted in action at the January 30th Pancake Breakfast by most of the crew. The shirts looked great and received a lot of compliments! For just \$20, you can have your own KofC St. Joseph Council golf shirt, in white or royal blue. If you'd like one or more of these shirts, please contact Grand Knight Skip Hudson (swhudson3@yahoo.com or 622-7932) with your size and color preference. Payment is due at or before delivery, which we anticipate being by mid-March.



Insurance



A tenth consecutive year of growth is a terrific topic for a column. 2010 was such a year for the Knights of Columbus Insurance program, which grew in every category. This is a pretty remarkable feat, especially considering the economic conditions of this past decade. Let me share a few of the Order's accomplishments with you.

- During 2010, the Order issued more life insurance than ever before in our history: \$7.77 billion.

Our total insurance in force reached a new high of \$78.9 billion. To put this remarkable number in perspective, consider that at the end of 2000, we stood at \$40.4 billion.

- Our field force continues to grow, and we finished the year with a net gain of new agents. We are continually looking for new agent candidates to serve our growing membership in the U.S. and Canada. The ultimate goal is to have all of our members served by a dedicated, full-time agent.

- In July, we held our second Field Agent Sales Conference in Dallas, TX, an event that gath-

ered a record number of field agents under one roof to learn from the best agents in the Order how to better serve their brother Knights and their families.

- During 2010, we celebrated an extraordinary seven months that were in the "best ever" category. Records were set in January, February, March, April, May, September and November.

- Our annuity business continued to grow from its record numbers in 2009. More than 20,000 new annuities were issued to our members and their families in 2010.

- Our AAA (Extremely Strong) rating from Standard and Poor's was reaffirmed for the 18th consecutive year and our A++ (Superior) rating from A.M. Best was reaffirmed for the 35th consecutive year.

- Members and their wives also accepted more long-term care policies in 2010 than they did in 2009. As the costs of care continue to rise, we expect that more and more clients will take advantage of our K of C Care product, which was designed with their needs in mind.

- Our number of associate members becoming insured members continued to grow, showing more of our brothers availed themselves to our products. In fact, the number of members moving from associate to insured status in 2010 was the highest in the past five years. We hope this trend continues and that more members understand the value of owning our products.

Please understand my purpose in sharing these statistics with you. First, take pride in the success your organization is having in fulfilling the vision of Father Michael J. McGivney by caring for the financial security of our members and their families. Second, I want to remind you that today is a great day to become an insured member or review the policies you might already have with us. Start a discussion with your Field Agent Peter Zeeff, 731-5107, today! You'll be glad you did.

Thomas P. Smith, Jr. is Executive Vice President for Agencies and Marketing.

Requiescat In Pace

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of our Brother Knight Lawrence Doolen. May his soul and the souls of all the faithfully departed, rest in peace. Amen.



(Continued from page 1)

our schools, and eventually the web site. From this point forward, all KofC bulletin or school announcements are to be funneled through Public Relations to ensure that they conform to Council, Church and School standards for publication, and that all deadlines are met.

Lastly, let me just say how appreciative I am of the many Brother Knights that have recently stepped up to the challenge to help lead our Council into the future. During the course of the next few months we will continue to make additional changes to our programs, administration, and personnel to ensure the most effective and responsive Council for our membership, parish and community. Most importantly, however, we must redouble our efforts at recruitment. Therefore, I am instituting an incentive program effective with our March Blitz. The member that recruits the most new members to take the First Degree by June 16th will win your choice of a lightweight water repellent or Columbia fleece KofC logo jacket or vest (a \$50 value)! More details are published elsewhere within this edition of the newsletter. As always, I appreciate your hard work and welcome your input and ideas!

Vivat Jesus!

Swinton W. Hudson, III

Grand Knight

Congratulations!

Knight of the Month for January was Rick Coker. As most of you know, Rick heads up the Council's annual USC Football Concession Stand Fundraiser. This year Rick and his crew brought in over \$3,300!

The *Shining Armor Gazette* is a monthly publication of the Knights of Columbus St. Joseph Council 12554. Distribution is via email generally on the Monday immediately following the 1st Thursday of the month.

The Council currently meets in the Parish House at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Columbia on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month, unless otherwise published. Regular Business Meetings, closed but to the membership, are held at 7:30pm on the 1st Thursday, preceded by dinner at 6:30pm. Social Meetings, open to all, are held at 7pm on the 3rd Thursday, and consist of a program that varies from month to month.

We are now on the Web! Check out our Council web site at www.kofc12554.org, and our Facebook page too.