



# SHINING ARMOR GAZETTE

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

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 2010



## UPCOMING MARCH EVENTS:

- 4 Business meeting
- 13 St. Patty's Parade
- 14 Membership Blitz
- 23 Rosary & Potluck
- 29 Founders day

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## GRAND KNIGHT'S CORNER



### IN MEMORIUM: ROBERT DANIEL FITZSIMONS

*(October 11, 1939 -  
February 26, 2010)*

Bob was a dedicated family man of faith who worked hard. He and Mary were married 49 years. He was involved with his children and grandchildren until his sudden death, often bringing them to Knight's socials and events. He had a passion for protecting the unborn. He found great fulfillment in this cause among the Knights, the newly formed St. Gianna Guild, and S.C. Citizens for Life. He was a mainstay in the Men's Prayer group at St. Joe's, studying scriptures and

Catholic writings and providing insights for all to contemplate as they sought the Truth. Bob was proud to be a patriot and a constant volunteer at the Dorn VA Medical Center providing untold amounts of comfort and services to his fellow veterans. As always, he looked to our Christian faith for guidance, not just for himself, but for everyone. He was the one in the crowd who asked for prayers for the unborn and especially for those dedicated to protecting them - and our priests. Bob enjoyed so much reading aloud the Word of God at Mass as a Lector and you could tell he viewed it as a privilege.

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## Birthdays

### February

- 4 Keith Seymour
- 7 Tim Adams
- 9 Walter Coker
- 13 Donnie Cooper

28 Alberto Alvarez

### March

- 12 Chris Slota
- 18 Ramon Frett
- 25 Johnny Nix

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Bob Fitzsimons served as Treasurer for our Council for years, using his talents behind the scenes to keep us stable and able to serve the Church and its community in a meaningful and multitude of ways, as well as attending and organizing events.

He was also known as "Mr. Fitz" to the children at St. Joseph's School, like my son Sean, who learned chess from him after "Mr. Fitz" started and ran the chess club. The group this year had to turn away children in younger grades because the upper grades quickly filled it up quickly.

His crowning achievement may be the Statute to the Unborn that the Knights of Columbus and some dedicated others in the parish helped make a reality - but they were led by Bob. It was deservedly dedicated in honor of Kathleen Poole, whose name is on the bench across from it. Typically, Bob had to be cajoled to get into the pictures taken at its dedication.

I believe there are many things he did in trying to follow his Lord and Savior that we will never know about, but we believe in our hearts that he did them. And as a true Irishman, Bob Fitzsimmons skirted the spotlight because he just wanted the chance to do some good for human kind while following the Lord.

Discussing the man, his actions and ideas will remind us of the lessons he learned and tried to pass on through his faith, hope and love.

## Membership Blitz

St. Joseph Council will sponsor the March 14<sup>th</sup> Community Sunday after all Masses. We are asking all Knights to wear your K of C pins and badges, and to help "show the colors."

We will have a table set up with brochures, prospect cards and membership applications. Knights are needed to help after each Mass with setting out the doughnuts, orange juice, coffee, and clean up afterwards. This will be our March Membership Blitz! It's a great opportunity to talk about the Knights.

Contact DGK Skip Hudson for more info, 622-7932.

## Knight and Family of the Month

Knight of the Month — Brian Casey  
Family of the Month — Dan Wagner

## Pro Life

The Knights of Columbus has been a leader in the pro-life movement for over 30 years. With the Knights of Columbus Day of the Unborn Child soon approaching on March 25, the feast of the Annunciation this year, Knights have the opportunity to stand up and speak out against the evils of abortion.

There will be a Mass

said for the unborn on Tuesday, March 23, at 5:30 PM followed by a Rosary at the Shrine of the Unborn (weather permitting). A pot luck supper will immediately follow in the gym. More details to come.

For additional information or to get involved in Pro-Life activities, contact John Staab, 803-381-3310.

# Welcome Newest Members!

Matthew Fecteau and Branden Conrad became the newest members of the Knights of Columbus when on March 4th, Council 12554 held a First Degree. Bill Cunningham has transferred into our Council after having recently moved to South Carolina.

Matthew T. Fecteau—Matt, a veteran of Iraq, is a Captain in the US Army and temporarily stationed at Fort Jackson for additional training before being redeployed overseas. He originally hails from Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and is interested in working with veterans at the VA Hospital.

Branden W. Conrad—A former walk-on Guard on the USC Men’s Basketball squad, Branden now works for BB&T after graduating with majors in business finance and real estate. He is originally from Charlotte, North Carolina where his family still resides, and he has interest in working with the youth.

William J. Cunningham—Bill and his wife Cecilia recently relocated their family of 9 to the Blythewood area after spending time in Tennessee, and Pennsylvania before that. He is a manager with New York Life.

Be sure to give a hearty and warm welcome to these three Catholic Gentlemen! Our next First Degree will be held on May 6th.

# Calendar of Upcoming Events

**MARCH**

- 4 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING & 1<sup>ST</sup> DEGREE, 7:30 PM; DINNER, 6:30 PM
- 13 STATE FREE THROW, GYM 9:30 AM
- 13 MARCH IN ST PATRICK’S DAY PARADE
- 14 COMMUNITY SUNDAY AND RECRUITMENT BLITZ AFTER ALL MASSES
- 23 MASS FOR THE UNBORN, ROSARY AT STATUE FOR THE UNBORN, COVERED DISH, 5:30 PM
- 29 FOUNDERS DAY

**APRIL**

- 1 HOLY THURSDAY
- 2 GOOD FRIDAY
- 4 EASTER, FEED THE HOMELESS, ST PETER’S CHURCH
- 9-10 OPERATION HOPE, WALMART GARNERS FERRY ROAD, 9AM-6PM
- 15 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING, 7:30 PM; DINNER,

6:30 PM

- 23-25 STATE CONVENTION, CLARION HOTEL, COLUMBIA
- 30 OPERATION HOPE, WALMART GARNERS FERRY ROAD, 9AM-6PM

**MAY**

- 1 OPERATION HOPE, WALMART GARNERS FERRY ROAD, 9AM-6PM
- 2 PANCAKE BREAKFAST, 9:00 AM-12:30 PM, GYM, TO BENEFIT CATHOLIC RADIO
- 6 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING, 7:30 PM, NOMINATIONS; DINNER, 6:30 PM
- 7-8 OPERATION HOPE, WALMART GARNERS FERRY ROAD, 9AM-6PM
- 9 MOTHER’S DAY
- 14 ALTAR SERVER APPRECIATION NIGHT, 6:30 PM, ROYAL Z BOWLING LANES
- 20 FAMILY NIGHT, 6:30PM, PARISH HOUSE, BLESSED MOTHER MARY THEME, COVERED DISH
- 31 MEMORIAL DAY

## Saint of the Month (February) *Deacon Charles P. Poole, Jr.*

**Saint Polycarp** (69 – 155AD), Bishop and Martyr, was one of the Apostolic Fathers of the Church, bishops who received their teaching directly from the Apostles or other disciples of Jesus. According to tradition, Polycarp was a disciple of John the Evangelist, the youngest of the apostles who also lived the longest. He was Bishop of Smyrna, a city on the west coast of Asia Minor, which is in present day Turkey. St. Ignatius, then Bishop of Antioch, met Polycarp at Smyrna during his final journey to Rome to be martyred. He asked Polycarp to take care of his church after he died. Ignatius wrote seven surviving letters to various Churches on his way to his death in Rome, reminiscent of what Paul had done years earlier. Polycarp also wrote many pastoral letters, and the only one that survives was written to the Philippians. This letter was occasionally read in various churches for the next three hundred years. It quotes from the First Letter of John. St. Irenaeus of Lyons (140 – 202AD approx.) knew Polycarp in his youth, and in his letters he mentions Polycarp's zeal for orthodoxy, and he also tells us about a trip that Polycarp made to Rome to visit Pope St. Anicetus. Thus, the apostolic succession passed from John to Ignatius to Polycarp to Irenaeus. This succession is one

of the four marks of the Church that are mentioned in the Nicene Creed, namely being: one, holy, catholic and apostolic.



Polycarp was one of the very early Christian martyrs, having been killed at age 86 during the reign of Emperors Antonius Pius or Marcus Aurelius. His death was reported as being quite remarkable in a surviving account (letter) of eye witnesses called the *Martyrdom of Polycarp*. When the executioners built a fire around him to burn him at the stake, the fire surrounded him like a vaulted dome, and did not consume him. He was then killed by the thrust of a sword through his neck, and a stream of blood came forth which quenched the fire. His bones were taken away as relics, the first known example of the cult of relics of martyrs. His martyrdom also initiated the custom of commemorating the anniversary of a martyr's death, which was designated as his *dies natalis* or birthday into heaven. Ordinarily, the day of a martyr's death became his feast day on the Roman calendar. After the martyrdom of Polycarp the persecution of Christians calmed down for a while.

## 4th Degree



### BISHOP ENGLAND ASSEMBLY 1072

A 4th Degree Exemplification was held on February 20th at the Radisson Hotel on Bush River Road followed by a banquet and entertainment. Two Brother Knights from St. Joseph Council, Andrew Nelson and Joseph Fixl, joined the 4th Degree and were bestowed with the title Sir Knight! Congratulations to Andy and Joe.

The 4th Degree is the Patriotic Degree, and the visible arm of the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Church. If you are interested in joining the 4th Degree, the next Exemplification is tentatively scheduled for August in Myrtle Beach. You must have completed your 3rd Degree, be a member in good standing, and have been a member of the Knights of Columbus for at least 1 year. Contact Tom Glynn or any Sir Knight for a Form 400.

## Did You Know...

**MARCH IS IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH** and the Ancient Order of Hibernians invite you to celebrate at the annual Ceile (kay-lee), Saturday, March 6th at the Knights of Columbus Hall on the corner of Marion & Blanding Streets. Doors open at 5:00 PM, Ceile starts at 6:00 PM. Advanced tickets are \$5.00; \$10.00 at the door. Ages 16 and under are admitted free with an adult. Advanced tickets are available at Delaney's, 741 Saluda Avenue in Five Points. Call Joe Kennedy 414-1076 for more information.



*The AOH is America's oldest Irish Catholic Fraternal Organization concurrently founded in the coal-mining region of Pennsylvania and New York City in May, 1836.*

## 89<sup>th</sup> State Convention

The South Carolina Knights of Columbus State Council has issued a **Call to Convention**.

The annual meeting of the South Carolina State Council will be held on April 23 – 25, 2010, at the Clarion Hotel, Columbia. Districts 2 and 7, will host the 89th State Convention. Our lo-

cal councils, in conjunction with the State Council, are planning a fun filled, exciting, and informative weekend for everyone!

This is a great opportunity for you to meet other Knights from around the state, and to experience the excitement, fraternity, and gala that is associated with

your annual state convention.

Volunteers are needed to help man the registration table, work the hospitality room, and set up/break down. If you would like to attend the convention or volunteer to help, contact GK Jim Corbett, 787-1075.

# For the Good of the Order

On Saturday, March 13, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. the Knights of Columbus in concert with the Ancient Order of Hibernians will once again lead off the annual St. Pat's First Citizens Parade down Devine Street in Columbia, South Carolina where one of the nation's largest St. Patrick's Day Festivals will begin its second event of the day.

The parade will assemble at Dreher High School and travel the Musical Mile down Devine Street into Five Points offering blocks of public viewing. After entering Five Points, the parade will wind its way down Devine Street and up Saluda Avenue, returning to Harden Street at the Five Points Fountain and concluding near Food Lion.

Join with your Brother Knights and fellow Catholics as we proudly display our Catholic faith and Irish heritage! Arrive early and be sure to wear your green.



## Insurance

The Knights of Columbus has adopted a new theme for its highly successful insurance program. The "Your Shield for Life" ads debuted in the February 2010 issue of Columbia magazine. The new symbol – a shield – and the new theme reinforce the standing of Knights of Columbus Insurance as

one of North America's most financially secure life insurance providers.

"The knight's shield has long been a symbol of strength and honor," Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson said. "And those are exactly



the words that best describe the Knights of Columbus insurance program. Especially in difficult economic times, our exceptional strength and our long history of integrity and service to brother Knights and their families, remind everyone that we provide the best protection available."

## Operation Hope

Operation Hope is the annual charity drive of the State Council, which benefits the Columbus HOPE Foundation (operated by K of C in South Carolina) to help those with mental disabilities.

**Council 12554 has met its obli-**

**gation for FY2009-2010!** Out of a goal of \$4,450, this Council raised \$4,741. That's 106.54% of our goal!!! Thanks to everyone that gave of their time (and sweat) to stand in front of our Church and Wal-Mart.

In anticipation of next year's obligation, we will be collecting donations again at the Garners Ferry Wal-Mart from 9am-6pm on the following dates: *April 9, 10, 30, and May 1*. If you can help, please contact Sam Kopack, 783-4056.

**OFFICERS OF ST. JOSEPH COUNCIL 12554**

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GRAND KNIGHT	JAMES CORBETT	787-1075*
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**DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN OF ST. JOSEPH COUNCIL 12554**

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ROUND TABLE, ST MICHAEL	ANDREW J. NELSON	787-3917
OPERATION HOPE	JOHN J. DAVIS	708-6167
SICK AND BREAVEMENT	JAMES G. KINARD	647-9886
VOCATIONS	DANIEL J. CASSIDY	546-4995
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\* Represents 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knight