

Knights of Columbus



Welcome To
North Ridgeville
Council 7970

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Council 7970 History

The North Ridgeville Council was founded in 1982, the Centennial year of the Knights of Columbus with a Charter Membership of 41.

Since its founding its' Chaplain and Spiritual Guide has been Father Richard Gonser the former Pastor of St. Julie Billiard Catholic Church.

Under the direction of it's first two Grand Knights Bill Commerford and Gary Crone the Council grew rapidly to a membership of 130. In 1985 it achieved a ranking of 9th in the State Program out of 200+ Councils in the State of Ohio. This ranking is based on six areas of achievement, Church Activities, Community Activities, Council Activities, Youth Activities and Membership Activities. It also received the Star Council award which is given out by the Supreme Council to the most outstanding Councils in the Order. From its inception the Council has been active in both Church and Community, striving to do good and render help where needed to the best of its ability. Its' members serve as Priests, Deacons, Lay Ministers, Lectors, Choir members, Ushers and are involved in all aspects of Parish and Community Life. The Council has donated both manpower and money to both St. Peter's and St Julie's Parishes to the limits of our resources. A special area of support from the Council since its beginning has been the Lucy Idol Center which provides services for those with disabilities. Each spring the Council solicits funds for this worthwhile cause.

Meetings are held the first (1st) Thursday of each month and begin with a rosary at 7:00 PM; meeting is called to order at 7:30 PM.

Locations are St. Julie Billiart on odd number months and St. Peter on even numbered months.

OFFICERS

Grand Knight- The Grand Knight (GK) is the highest ranking officer of the Council and is responsible for its leadership and welfare. He presides over council meetings, acts as an ex-officio member of all committees, appoints a membership and programming director, convenes officers for a monthly meeting, and ensures all necessary reports are submitted to the state and Supreme Council. He should also be aware of the council's financial status and ensure that his signature appears on all checks drawn. The GK is a member of the Advisory Board with general supervision of the council's Columbian Squire circle.

Deputy Grand Knight- The Deputy Grand Knight (DGK) is second in command. He assists the GK with council affairs and fulfills all duties assigned to him by the GK. Should the GK be absent the DGK will preside. He is chairman of the council's retention committee and also a member of the Advisory Board charged with overseeing the council's sponsored Columbian Squires circle.

Chancellor- The Chancellor has a variety of responsibilities. Primarily, he assists the GK and the DGK in the execution of their duties and oversees the council in both their absences. He is charged with strengthening the members' interests in council

activities. The Chancellor is chairman of the admission committee and a member of the Columbian Squires circle ceremonial team.

Financial Secretary- The Financial Secretary is appointed by the Supreme Knight, upon recommendation of the council. His main area of responsibilities is maintaining all financial and membership records. He collects and receives all moneys from all sources, including annual dues from council members. He also handles supply orders for the council officers and members, filing the Report of Officer form and submitting all membership transactions to the Supreme Council.

Treasurer- The Treasurer is responsible for the safekeeping and maintaining records of all council funds and accounts. He is responsible for depositing money into the council's accounts and provides a certificate of such monies to the GK. He is also responsible for payment of all expenses.

Chaplain- The Chaplain is the spiritual advisor of the council. He is expected to make a report at council meetings on religious matters. The GK appoints a priest in accordance with any rules established by the Bishop of the diocese to serve as council chaplain.

Recorder- The Recorder is similar to a court reporter or a secretary. He is responsible for maintaining a true record of all

actions of the council and its correspondence. A Recorder keeps the Minutes of each meeting.

Warden- The Warden is the “watchdog” for the council property and degree paraphernalia, except the property of the financial secretary, treasurer and recorder. He is also responsible for setting up the council chambers for meetings and ceremonial work. During ceremonial exemplifications, he will appoint and supervise guards.

Lecturer- The Lecturer is appointed by the GK to provide both educational and entertaining programs to the council. He is responsible for the “Good of the Order” portion of the council meetings. In order to provide members with informative and educational programs, he must be knowledgeable and aware of all council programming. Additional duties also include providing refreshments after meetings.

Advocate- The Advocate is the legal representative of the council and serves as the council’s attorney at trials and investigations of any interest to the council. While he does not need to be a member of the legal profession, he should be familiar with the council by-laws, the Order’s Charter, Constitution and Laws, Methods of Conduction a Council Meeting and Robert’s Rules of Order.

Inside & Outside Guards- The Guards have similar responsibilities, but distinct differences. The Outside Guard tends to the outer door admitting visitors and members to the inner door. Once at the inner door, the Inside Guard checks to make sure that their membership cards are current.

1 – 2 – 3 Year Trustees- The Board of Trustees consists of three members elected by the council and the GK, who serves as chairman of the board. They oversee the work of the Financial Secretary and Treasures, and with the DGK serve on the council's retention committee. During council elections, only the three-year trustee is voted on, with the others moving on to become two and one-year trustees, respectively.

DEGREES

The Order is dedicated to the principles of **Charity, Unity, Fraternity** and **Patriotism**. These are the virtues of the first through fourth degrees, respectively.

A First Degree exemplification ceremony, by which a man joins the Order, explicates the virtue of charity. He is then said to be a First Degree Knight of Columbus. After participating in the subsequent degrees, each of which focuses on another virtue, he rises to that status. Upon reaching the Third Degree a gentleman is considered a full member. Priests do not participate directly in Degree exemplifications as laymen do, but rather take the degree by observation.

The first ritual handbook was printed in 1885 but contained only sections teaching Unity and Charity. Supreme Knight Mullen, along with primary ritual author Daniel Colwell, believed that the initiation ceremony should be held in three sections "in accord with the 'Trinity of Virtues, Charity, Unity, and Brotherly love.'" The third section, expounding Fraternity, was officially adopted in 1891.

The Fourth Degree is the highest degree of the order and is dedicated to the virtue of Patriotism. It is the final step towards full knighthood in our order.

PROGRAMS

Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs- This program, originally spearheaded by deceased Brother Sir Knight Gene Barto, was created to help teach the importance of the dangers and consequences of using drugs. With the cooperation of the St. Peter school staff, children receive instruction on drug use. A group of Brother Knights from the council arrive at South Central Park lake and provide fishing rods, bait and instructions on the fun of fishing. Children walk from the school to the lake and are teamed together with upperclassmen from the school to help guide and assist the young one. The event takes place over the course of 5 Wednesdays (1 in the spring and 4 in the fall).

Free Throw- Since 1972, councils have sponsored the Knights of Columbus International Free Throw Championship for boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 14 (starting in the fraternal year 2013-2014)

The championship is set up to have the contestants compete within their own gender and age group. All competition starts at the local level. Winners move on to the district, regional, and state or provincial levels. From there, some make it to the international level for championship competition in their group.

To sponsor a competition, all your council needs is the Free Throw Championship Kit (#FT-KIT), a couple of basketballs, a hoop and a bunch of kids. It is a great way to get out into the public and introduce the Order to your community — while providing youths

with a rewarding activity that yields a chance for local, state or provincial, and international recognition.

Squires Circle-The Squires is an international fraternity of approximately 25,000 Catholic young men, ages 10 to 18, in over 1,500 circles worldwide. Circles exist, or have existed, throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Panama, Cuba, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and on U.S. military bases abroad. Local Knights of Columbus councils and assemblies sponsor Squire Circles, which may be based either in a council/assembly hall, in a parish building, a parochial, private, public or military school, or on a military installation. The Squires involves young men in programs to benefit the Church, the community, as well as in recreational and social activities.

Essay Contest-The theme of the essay contest is "The Importance of Religious Freedom." The contest opens the doors of young minds, enabling the entrants to be creative, thoughtful and introspective in their work.

1st place winners will receive a check for \$300, and 2 runners-up for each grade level will receive \$100.

As Catholics we are called to participate in the political life of our country. This can be difficult at times because our beliefs are often misunderstood and unpopular. Also, laws and regulations from our governments can be contrary to our beliefs and threaten to force us to violate our conscience. Discuss the challenges we face in this

area, the importance of religious freedom, and the idea of the Catholic in the public square.

The Order encourages all councils and assemblies to sponsor the Knights of Columbus Essay Contest at schools in their communities. The essay contest is a creative way to encourage young people to become citizens who are firmly grounded in the Faith.

Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest-

Entries in the Knights of Columbus Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest must fall under one of these topics: Alcohol Awareness and Abuse & Drug Awareness and Abuse. Each poster must include a slogan reflecting either of the topics and an original visual image. Posters may only be entered under one topic.

The Knights of Columbus Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest is open to all young people between the ages of 8 and 14.

Knightline- This program is designed to help any Brother Knight or his widow with needed work that they are unable to do themselves. It was started by Sir Knight Mike Malinas in 2012. Since, many members have contributed time and talent to painting homes, cleaning yards, stripping wallpaper, etc.

Soccer Challenge – The Soccer Challenge is a competition designed for players to demonstrate the most basic soccer skill – the penalty kick. Open to all boys and girls in the community, ages 9-14, where each player will be allowed 15 shots at the goal from

the penalty line (12 yards from the goal). Winners progress to the district, regional, state and international levels.

ACTIVITIES

Gene Barto Fellowship Day- Brother Knights come together for fellowship and food and beverage with the hope of also inviting a non-Knight and getting him to join.

Family Picnic- Held in mid-summer normally at the Rak Family farm; this is a free event for the entire family. Food, games, entertainment, pony rides and piñata are just a small part of the day. All are encouraged to bring a dish to share and the rest is “on the house.”

Donut Mass (St. Peter) - Brother Knights stand in the Apostles Room under St Peter Church and distribute donuts to the church members. During this time attempts are made to ask men to join our council.

Quarterly Communion- Four (4) times a year members of the council and their families gather at either St. Julie Billiard or St. Peter church for Mass and Eucharist. Later all reassemble at a neighboring restaurant for breakfast and fellowship.

Chicken BBQ- Brother Knights setup the BBQ pit in front of the gym at St. Peter on a weekday evening prior to the Corn Festival and then on Sunday of the Corn Festival they prepare and distribute BBQ'd chicken dinners to the public. Later on another evening they participate in the disassembling of the BBQ pit.

Usually there is some “fellowship” involved with the setup and take down of the pit.

Annual Rosary Walk for Deceased Brothers- Once a year Brother Knights and their spouses and families gather at St. Peter cemetery and pray the Rosary. While praying they visit the gravesites of all our deceased Brothers and place a flag marker at the site. A bag lunch is encouraged so fellowship can follow the ceremonies.

Annual Night out at Crushers baseball game- Brother Knights and their families and guests purchase discounted tickets to a Crushers ball game and all sit in the assigned section. Good fun and camaraderie follow.

Children’s Christmas Party-Held during the 1st or 2nd week of December; this party is for any Brother Knight’s children. Food and entertainment are provided and the children also have a visit with Santa.

Council Christmas Party- Annually, this party is a chance for the Knights and their spouses to get together and enjoy a meal and have refreshments along with much revelry. Songs and entertainment along with mystery gifts are all part of the evening to help kick off the Christmas season.

Keep Christ In Christmas- Magnets of a manger silhouette are sold and banners professing “Keep Christ In

Christmas" are placed at the entrances of St. Peter and St. Julie Billiard churches.

CHARITIES

Pennies For Heaven- This campaign collects pennies/dollars for the support of seminarians. A container for donations is carried to all council meetings and gatherings and made available for contributions by the membership.

Measure Up/Tootsie Roll- Brother Knights are asked to stand outside of churches and retail outlets one day a year for a couple hours and collect voluntary donations. Eighty percent of the monies collected are kept in the council and distributed to the Lucy Idol Home for the Mentally Challenged in Vermillion, Ohio. The other twenty percent is sent to the state for distribution to its centers.

Scholarship Fund- Money for (3) three \$500 scholarships to St. Peter school is raised from an annual Turkey Raffle. Money is divided equally to one student from St. Peter, one student from St. Julie Billiart, and one student of a Brother Knight.

Many Other Charities we have donated to:

Birthright of Lorain County

Families in need

Vacation Bible Schools in St. Peter and St. Julie Billiart

St. Peter and St. Julie Billiart General Funds (Annually)

Masses for our deceased members

Catholic Advertising

Culture of Life

Elyria Catholic

North Ridgeville Historical Society

Community Care

FUNDRAISERS

Turkey Raffle- Funds raised provide for 3 scholarships to students at St. Peter and they are families in St. Peter, St. Julie Billiart and a Brother Knight.

Measure Up/Tootsie Roll- Contributions are raised to support Lucy Idol Home for Mentally Handicapped in Vermillion and a small portion is sent to the state to supplement their charities.

Football Frenzy Tickets- Tickets are sold promising some money to be won by winning ticket buyers and funds go to state charities.

Bonanza Tickets- Tickets are sold annually to raise funds for the council and state charities. Ten winners are drawn on Memorial Day to receive winnings.

Pancake Breakfast- An "All you can eat" pancake breakfast is held yearly around Easter time to help support our Seminarians with much needed money to help them.

Council Bowling Outing- Funds raised here are used to help fill the money needed to do our Children's Christmas Party.

Aces Night Out- Besides having a great time and good food and drink, profits help to pay for the Children's Christmas Party

Night at the Races- Charities to receive funds are decided and voted on by the council. In the past we have helped Cleveland Clinic, St. Peter parish and St. Julie Billiart parish.

Spaghetti Dinner- Each year St. Julie Billiard serves Thanksgiving dinner to the North Ridgeville community. Funds raised from this Spaghetti Dinner provide for needed monies.

LADIES OF ISABELLA GUILD

The first circle of the Order was founded in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1897, as an auxiliary to the Rev. John Russell Council of the Knights of Columbus for the purpose of uniting all Catholic women in a sisterhood to achieve the following aims:

- To know one another better
- To extend our circle of friends
- To centralize all our resources to better help one another
- To be a greater force to contend with in the pursuit of good in our society

Today, it is one of the largest Catholic women's organizations, with a membership of over 60,000 women from the United States and Canada and has continued to prosper and establish bonds among Catholic women throughout the world. Members encourage each other's total development and foster growth of every aspect of life - spiritual, social and charitable--adding up to a more fulfilling life!

Our Mission: To provide for the general welfare of our members, both spiritually, and socially. We try to promote catholic action and education and engage in charitable works and assist the Knights of Columbus Council 7970 as needed.

Membership consists of spouses and fiancées and daughters of Brother Knights of Columbus.

Meetings: All meetings are held in the St. Peter Galilee Room (old convent) at 7:00 PM on the third (3rd) Monday each month except August and December.

4TH DEGREE - ASSEMBLY 3019

FR. VINCENT CAPODANNO

Any Third Degree member in good standing is eligible for membership in the Fourth Degree. The primary purpose of the Fourth Degree is to foster the spirit of patriotism by promoting responsible citizenship and a love of and loyalty to the Knights' respective countries through active membership in local Fourth Degree groups (called "assemblies"). Certain members of the Fourth Degree serve as honor guards at civic and religious functions, an activity that has brought worldwide recognition to the Knights of Columbus.

Twice a year 4th Degree Exemplifications are held.

This is the final step towards full knighthood in the Knights of Columbus and its highest degree.

