

# Knights of Columbus Council 7186

## Year End Status Report

### May 15, 2004



Worthy State Officers,

It has been a very active (read...BUSY!), vibrant, and rewarding second year for our Council. We have averaged involvement and/or coordination with at least one event a week. Good thing we've increased our Council membership by a net gain of over 20 members this year to handle this activity! Because of our increased visibility, the Saint Mary Magdalene Parish and School community has begun to look more and more to the Knights for assistance with events they have going on. Below is a summary of the major initiatives the Council undertook and/or completed, though it is not a complete list of all we accomplished or participated in.

#### ***Membership***

It's been another extraordinary year for us in this category with a net increase of over 20 gentlemen into our Council. And with over 85 members now in the Council, the good news is we've only scratched the surface with a Parish that has now grown to over 900 families! We could not have achieved such success without the diligence of each of our members, but in particular our membership Directors, Bob Annunziata and Tom Harmon.

#### ***Service***

As the Grand Knight, I have gone to great lengths to emphasize the need to include "family" in our plans and activities this year. This is most important in a Parish and Council that are dominated by families with school-age children. For example, we donated a Christmas tree to the school and hosted a father/child social where the kids made ornaments for decorations. We have contributed in many other ways, such as and setting up chairs for weekend masses in the multi-purpose room.

Youth. We have worked with the youth on several occasions this fraternal year. Our council hosted the local Free Throw competition and advanced one participant to the State competition. For the second year in a row, we also sponsored Scout Sunday, a recognition and celebration of our local Cub/Boy/Girl Scouts. We donated money for the awards, prepared refreshments, and attended the ceremony as a sign of support. At Halloween, one of the Knight's hosted a bonfire on his property for Knight's and their families.

Community. In only our second year, we tripled our OpLAMB collection efforts by raising over \$3900! Four of the five organization we donated this money too attended a social in their honor where checks were distributed. It was a very heartwarming night. The success of the Summer Read-A-Thon program last year dictated that we host this event again with funds going toward our OpLAMB contributions. Several of our members volunteer with Habitat-for-Humanity on local housing projects. The four blood drives we now sponsor each year have met with overwhelming success. At a luncheon held at Rex Hospital in February and attended by myself and my wife (she chairs this effort), we were awarded with a certificate that indicated we had helped save over 500 lives with the blood our many donators had

contributed! We are also now an official participant in the Adopt-A Highway program run by the state DOL.

Church. We adopted seminarian Rafael Antonio Leon-Valencia for the second year in a row. He'll be ordained in June. The Council participates in an hour of adoration that follows our chair setup for Mass once a month. We also helped with the setup for a Diocesan wide "Ignited By Truth" conference and made a monetary donation to assist in with the purchase for materials they needed for the event.

### ***Ceremonials***

The Council's 1st Degree team held four 1<sup>st</sup> Degrees this year. In addition, we sponsored two 2<sup>nd</sup> Degrees. Each degree team is led by our own Rick Lewis, who is also our District Deputy. Many thanks go out to each of the team's members for their hard work and long hours in making this a superb effort each and every time. It has been a wonderful process to see them improve with each degree.

### ***Audits/Finances***

Our council has the benefit of a knowledgeable and diligent Treasurer and Financial Secretary. When the Trustees met this January to audit the books, their job was made easy by these two men and everything was found to be in order.

We will end the year with over \$4,500 in the bank thanks to the generous contributions of our brother Knights and several successful fundraisers. This year the Council had a budget for the first time and did a tremendous job staying within the parameters of that budget. A committee will begin work soon to discuss a budget for next year to ensure we stay on firm financial ground and are able to contribute even more to the needs of our brethren.

### ***Summary***

It has been an honor and I am humbled to have been elected and served as the Grand Knight for the Fr. H. Charles Mulholland Council 7186. It really was one of my life's ambitions to have been a Grand Knight. My only hope is that I have served my Church, my Community, and my brother Knights well in this capacity. With the leadership we have within the Council I am comforted to know that we will have an active place in our Parish and school for years to come and will serve it well.

And in a year where I emphasized "**family**" and the notion of "**do what you can, when you can**", I am ever grateful to my wife, Dianne, for her love and tireless support during my tenure as Grand Knight. I could not have taken on this task and carried it out without her standing right by my side every step of the way.

Vivat Jesus!

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