



The Magnolia Knight

Serving the Mississippi Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus

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From the desk of the State Deputy, Noel Aucoin

*"Strengthening
Catholic Families."*

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William E. Lori**

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Brothers,

Greetings to you all. We are quickly approaching the deadline for Convention award submittals. If you have not submitted your Knight of the Year, Family of the Year, Best Council or Best Activities write-ups do that now. It's also the deadline for Convention booklet ads. These ads can make or break a host Council. They mean the difference between breaking even and losing money. Please get those turned as soon as possible. Don't forget to get your delegates registered and your Council Necrology turned in. We would very much like to

honor each and every Brother Knight that we have lost during the Fraternal Year.

As I stated last month, January was a slow month as far as recruiting goes. I'm happy to say that February was better and the first half of March even better. We had dropped out of the top ten, order wide, and got as low as number 15. As of the day this article was written, we had clawed back up to number 11 and have surpassed the 70% mark toward reaching our Supreme goal. Thank you all for your hard work.

We as State Officers, would like you to know just how much we appreciate your efforts. To do that, I would like to introduce you to our latest Membership Incentive Program. We want to send four of you on a 4 day cruise to Mexico. Here's how it will work. Any Council reaching Star Council status by June 16, 2017 will have your Council's name entered into a drawing. If you're your Council has already reached SC Status or you reach SC Status before June 16, an additional entry will be submitted for EVERY member you get OVER your Supreme quota. The winning Council will receive a Cruise on Carnival Cruise Lines out of New Orleans, for 4 days to Cozumel for 4 people. Your Council can do what you will with the prize. Award it to the Grand Knight and Membership Director, GK and your Top Proposer, Membership Director and Top Proposer, have drawing among Council members or use them to raise money for your council. So don't hesitate the sooner you reach Star Council status better chance you have of having multiple entries.

To wrap up this month, I'd like to express my sincere appreciation to the Biloxi Diocese Youth Director, Ray Lacy, for allowing me to speak at this year's youth rally. What an inspiring turn-out of dedicated Catholic youth. We were also allowed to set up a booth to inform and recruit. We recruited six young candidates that day from various councils to join the growing number of young Knights being brought in our ranks. We have recently formed a Round Table at St. Patrick's High School in Biloxi. We should have one stood up very shortly at St. Stanislaus in Bay St. Louis and expect to have one form at Resurrection high School in Pascagoula. Be looking for this movement to start heading northward as we learn better how these new type of Round Tables will work. Please be open minded when we come to your Council for sponsorship of this initiative.

Once Again thank you all for what you do and let's keep this new found momentum going.

Vivat Jesus,

Noel

What's in a Label?

3/1/2017

Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori



As Christians in the world, we must replace divisiveness and snark with charity and civility

LABELS ARE USEFUL. When buying milk, I look for a label that tells me it contains 2 percent milk fat. If I'm shopping for a shirt, I read the label to see the size and material. When taking medicine, I read the label to find out the dosage and possible side effects.

However, labels don't tell us everything. They won't tell me if a particular food is actually good for my health. They won't say who designed a product, how it was manufactured or how much it cost to make. In truth, labels often provide more hype than help, and many are misleading.

Labels can be even more inappropriate and misleading when they are applied to persons. Our society rightly rejects labels that demean or humiliate a person on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex, looks, mental capacity, illness, disabilities and so on.

The Church embraces societal efforts to speak with charity and goes further by teaching that a person is not the sum of his or her weaknesses or sins. No one's humanity should be reduced to and summed up by labels such as "cheater" or "liar" — even if one may be guilty of those offenses. Such labels do not do justice to the whole person, nor do they recognize the possibility of repentance and reform. Rather, they are a way of writing off that person as unworthy of our consideration.

IN THE TRENCHES

All around us, we find disparaging labels applied to others with little hesitation — and sometimes with outright enthusiasm. We saw this in the bruising 2016 political season and have sadly seen it even in some Catholic journalism. We who are consumers of the news media — both secular and Church-related — too readily apply pejorative labels to other people.

In the heat of political battle, for example, candidates often hurl epithets at one another and their supporters. Last year's presidential race in the United States gave us many painful examples of this. Ad hominem insults such as "crooked" and "deplorable" took the place of the reasoned political discourse that candidates owe to one another, to the electorate and to the country.

Of course, the fault for the negative personal tone of politics does not lie entirely with politicians. Rather, it reflects a society already accustomed to snarkiness.

Added to this are two other currents in political life. The first is to reduce an opposing point of view to a malevolent ideology. For example, Christian teaching on marriage and sexuality is increasingly labeled as bigotry, especially when Christians seek to live according to their beliefs. Indeed, a host of "isms" and phobias are tossed about and attributed to people with minimal regard for what these terms actually mean or for the persons so described.

Related to this is another current: so-called identity politics. It is, of course, reasonable that people with common backgrounds and interests who feel oppressed would come together to improve their lot in society. That has always been a part of politics. Yet this form of politics, which involves self-labeling, is now pursued so vigorously and single-mindedly that it has deepened divisions in the country along lines of racial, ethnic and sexual identity. It's as though we're all consigned to World War I-style trench warfare. This sort of "self-branding" actually discourages tolerance and compromise, especially when it slaps disparaging labels on those who seem to hold contrary views.

BUILDING BRIDGES

Unfortunately, the Church is not immune to all this. While not "of the world," the Church is most assuredly "in the world." The style and content of the speech all around us affects us deeply. Yet, if we are striving to follow Christ and live the Beatitudes, our regard for others should be markedly greater than what we find in the secular media. We should be very reluctant to pin labels on others.

Labeling a Church leader is a way of putting that person in a box so that one does not have to deal thoughtfully with what the leader actually says or does. For example, some parishioners may readily refer to their priest as "conservative" or "liberal" without ever really talking to him. Though labels may contain a grain of truth, they often short-circuit important conversations. And, sadly, ideological labels readily degenerate into uncharitable, ad hominem attacks on the integrity, abilities and worth of fellow Christians with whom we are supposed to be united in the Body of Christ.

The net effect of labeling our fellow Christians is to weaken the Church's mission by weakening the Church's unity. This unity is based on truth — not only the revealed truth but also basic truths about our common humanity and what constitutes a just and peaceful society. If, instead of building bridges, we find ourselves obscuring the truth by pitting Church leaders and fellow parishioners against one another, we are breaking down that oneness that the Lord willed for his followers — so that the world may believe (cf. Jn 17:21).

So, here's an idea for Lent 2017. Let's abstain from labels. Let's abstain from snarky, uncharitable speech. Let's contribute to making our society a less divisive place by making the Church less divided. Doing so will take a lot more grace, self-control and self-sacrifice than giving up candy, liquor or caffeine.

Yet, as winter gives way to spring, such a sacrifice will yield a harvest of truth, joy, peace and love.

Top Recruiter Contest

- **Monthly Cash Prize**

- First Place \$100 -Second Place \$65

Eligibility- Must be at least a First Degree Knight in good standing. Top recruiter must recruit at least 3 new members or reinstated members in a calendar month.

Verification of recruitment- The FS must submit form 100 to membership@kofc-ms.org & the Field Agent assigned to his council.

- MPC will send monthly report of recruiters for each month to SMD.

- SMD will verify that Supreme has received form 100 in the month specified to be counted as a new member for that given month.

- If no one proposer recruits 3 or more members in a one-month period, then the money is carried over to the next month and added to the pot.

- There will be no drawings! If there is a tie the money will be split.

Note: all form 100's send to membership@kofc.org, membership@kofc-ms.org, FA & DD.

KC Council 9094



Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094 held a Knighthood Degree in the Parish Hall on Sat. March 11, 2017 welcoming 3 new members who were exemplified into the third principle of the order - (Fraternity) Congratulations to (L to R) Frank Parisi, Steven Roberts and Chris Patti. Also picture (Back Row; L to R) Field Agent Renee Davidson, State Deputy Noel Aucoin, D.D. II Mark Fontenot, Master of the 4th Degree Jerry Schmuck, Conferring Officer Paul Mitchell, and State Treasurer Ben Mokery

Holy Savior Council 7854 Admissions Degree



Holy Savior Council 7854 held an Admissions Degree in the Parish Hall on Sat. Feb 25, 2017 welcoming 4 new members who were exemplified into the first principle of the order - Charity. Congratulations to Ed Nalker, Wes Stevens, Stephen Harper and Matthew Koury. After the ceremony a gumbo meal was served and 3 of the new members attended their 1st Council meeting which was held following the meal.

Front L-R: Ed Nalker, Wes Stevens, Stephen Harper, GK Steve Miller, Matthew Koury and District Deputy Charles Hahn

Back row L-R: Jim Sharp, Mike Kirby, PGK Lloyd Everhardt, PGK Chuck Weiss, Chris Halliwell, Past State Master Bill O'Connor and PGK Craig Harrell.

Bishop Gerow Assembly 554



Worthy Sir Knights from Bishop Gerow Assembly 554 stood as an Honor Guard for the Pro-Life Candlelight Vigil on January 21st at the State Capitol.

L-R: District Marshal Craig Harrell, Color Corp Commander Steve Miller, Sir Knights Allen Scott, John Wren and Jim Sharp.

Council 7854 and Ladies Auxiliary



Holy Savior Council 7854 and Ladies Auxiliary host Open House on Feb. 8th

Holy Savior Council 7854 constructs ramp



Holy Savior Council 7854 constructs ramp for Carmelite gift shop on Terry Road in Jackson.

Bishop R.O. Gerow Assembly 554



Faithful Captain Craig Harrell from Bishop R.O. Gerow Assembly 554 presenting a certificate of appreciation to Mr. Bill Meeks at Simmon's Catfish in Yazoo City, MS for his valuable contribution to the Retired Police Officers Appreciation Dinner fish fry.

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church's Total Youth Ministry (TYM) Knights of Columbus Council 10901



St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church's Total Youth Ministry (TYM) celebrated the beginning of Lent by sponsoring a Fat Tuesday, Mardis Gras Celebration in the Church Hall which was brightly decorated in the gold, purple and green of Mardi Gras.

About 100 parents, friends and parishioners attended and enjoyed a meal of traditional red beans and rice with pancakes and sausage and special King Cakes for dessert.

Proceeds from the dinner help provide funds for TYM members to attend the annual Steubenville Summer Youth Retreat held in Springfield, Missouri in July.

Red beans and rice, pancakes and sausage were prepared and served by the St. John the Evangelist Knights of Columbus Council 10901. King Cakes were baked by Michele Zerangue, a baker and member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, who also happens to be from New Orleans and husband is a Knight. Needless to say, the dozen King Cakes disappeared before the night was over.

TYM Directors, Mary and Scott Leary, wish to thank all who assisted in hosting the event, and especially those who attended and enjoyed the food and fellowship.

Left to Right: Home-baked King Cakes from the kitchen of Michele Zerangue, Young Mardi Gras Revelers decked in their Mardis Gras costumes, Dennis Lucker, (left) and Ron Knapp, (right), both expert flap jack flippers and members of KofC Council 10901.

Bishop R.O. Gerow Assembly 554



Worthy District Marshal Craig Harrell and Worthy Color Corp Commander Steve Miller from Bishop R.O. Gerow Assembly 554 in Jackson, MS stood as Color Guard for St. Joe's 1st home game of the season on Friday March 3rd at D. M. Howie Baseball Field at St. Joe's in Madison, MS.

Bishop R.O. Gerow and Bishop Brunini Assemblies



4th Degree Knights from Bishop R.O. Gerow and Bishop Brunini Assemblies led the annual Hal's St. Paddy's Day Parade in downtown Jackson, MS on March 18th. We were honored by the presence of our current State Master Jerry Schmuck who took part in the Color Corps activity.

Pic 1 L-R: Sir Knight Allen Scott, Color Corp Commander Steve Miller, Marshal Craig Harrell, Past State Master Bill O'Connor and Sir Knight Chuck Weiss.

Pic 2 L-R: State Master Jerry Schmuck, Sir Knight Allen Scott, Color Corp Commander Steve Miller, Marshall Craig Harrell, Sir Knight Chuck Weiss and Past State Master Bill O'Connor

Clinton's Holy Savior Council 7854



PGK Craig Harrell presents the Double Star Award to the Council.

KC Council 9543 The annual St. Joe drawdown



The annual St. Joseph Catholic School drawdown fundraiser raised over \$130,000 for the school and was again supported by the Knights of Columbus 9543 from St. Francis of Assisi in Madison. KC 9543 logged over 200 service hours as a collective unit, helping with set-up and take-down as well as preparing and serving food.

KC Council 9543



Over 120 residents of St. Catherine's Village enjoyed the annual Beer, Brats, and Bingo night put on by the Knights of Columbus 9543 from St. Francis of Assisi in Madison. Twenty Knights, spouses, and friends cooked, served food, and played bingo with the residents.

Knights of Columbus Council 10901



Once a year, Knights of Columbus Council 10901 at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, holds a Tootsie Roll Donation Drive where Knights and their families trade a Tootsie Roll or two for a donation to the Scott Center. All donations are passed directly to the Scott Center. The Knights have supported this special school for many years.

Photo 1. Nathan Zerangue, son of Michelle and Matt Zerangue of Oxford, is shown in his yellow vest soliciting contributions at Larson's Cash Saver last October. For a contribution to the Tootsie Roll Donation Drive, each person receives a nice thank you and one or two Tootsie Rolls. All donations benefit the Scott Center. The Knights in yellow vests will be soliciting for the Scott Center again next October. (Photo, Gene Buglewicz)

Photo 2. Mr. Ricky Berry, Knights of Columbus Council 10901, and coordinator for the Tootsie Roll Donation Drive, presents a check for more than \$500 to Kathy Howington, Principal of the Scott Child Development Center in Oxford. The funds are used to support student needs at the Scott Center. The money was collected during the 2016 Tootsie Roll Donation Drive, an annual community service project of the Mississippi and Oxford Knights of Columbus to support those with physical and intellectual disabilities. (Photo, Gene Buglewicz)