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Fr. Brian Norris

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GRAND KNIGHT’S MESSAGE

Brother Knights,

We hope this message finds you and your families in good health and spirits. As good stewards of our council's resources, we've made the decision to transition from our traditional mailed newsletter to a modern email format, effective immediately. This will be our last mailed Anchor!

The rising costs of maintaining our bulk mail permit and printing expenses have reached a point where these funds can be better utilized for our charitable works and community service projects. By moving to email delivery, we'll be able to redirect these resources toward the causes that matter most to our mission.

The good news? Our email newsletter will actually provide you with more timely updates, color photos of our events, and the ability to easily share information with potential new members and family members.

Here's how to stay connected:

Option 1: Send an email to kofc551@gmail.com with your name and mobile phone number, and we'll add you to our distribution list.

Option 2: Visit our website at www.kofc551.org/anchor and sign up directly through our online form. We’ll also continue to post the newsletter to the website.

We understand that some of our members may prefer traditional mail, and we respect that. However, we're confident that once you experience the enhanced email format—with its immediate delivery, interactive links, and rich content—you'll appreciate the upgrade.

If you need assistance with email or have questions about this transition, please don't hesitate to reach out to any officer. We're here to help ensure that no brother is left out of our council communications.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we embrace this positive change that will benefit our entire council community.

Vivat Jesus!

Bill
GK

COUNCIL UPDATES

Joseph D Tomlinson Memorial Golf Tournament – Our 2025 Joseph D Tomlinson Memorial Golf Tournament was held on Saturday, June 14th at King Valley Golf Course. Other than a few minutes of rain, we had a phenomenal day with a great turnout. Thirty-four teams registered for the tourney, and it was another competitive event as the team of Bill Crawford, Mike Cree, Kyle Goss, and Trent Myers walked away with the trophy with help from the blistering drives and incredible short games of their two young guns – Kyle & Trent (although I’m sure Billy & Cree contributed in between beers!) The tournament made almost \$9,000 which we donated to Saint Francis University, and it was added to our Joe Tomlinson Memorial Endowed Financial Award. This year’s recipient of the award, a sophomore SFU student, received approximately \$1,350. The recipient, awarded annually, is chosen based on recommendations from department faculty.

Council Building Repairs – Our Council home got some much-needed repairs this summer. Using grant funds received through the Altoona Redevelopment grant program, we were able to get the lintels above the windows in the ballroom replaced. This should help prevent water from leaking into the ballroom area. Butler Restoration completed the work. Later this fall, Butler restoration committed to assisting us with cutting out the brick and installing a door for the emergency exit from the basement to the 15th street side of the building. Once the emergency exit is installed, we can begin planning on the best use for the basement area for the betterment of our Council.

Upcoming Council Events

Council 551 Hoagie Sale – Council 551 will be holding its next hoagie sale on October 1st. Orders can be placed by calling the Council office at (814) 942-6262 and leaving a message with your name, quantity, and phone number. You can also place an order via email to KofC551@gmail.com with the same info. Orders are due Sunday, Sept. 28th by 9pm. Hoagies are \$6/ea. Orders should be picked up before 8pm on Wed. Oct. 1st. If you need to pick up on Thursday, Oct. 2nd, please call the office at (814) 942-6262 to get access to the building. Help is needed the afternoon of Wed. Oct 1st with bagging the lettuce, tomato, and onions, and again at about 5pm with the assembly. Your help for any amount of time is greatly appreciated!

Council 551 Rosary Rally – We are hosting a Rosary Rally in honor of Columbus Day and in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of our Council Building. The Rosary will be recited in conjunction with several other councils and will take place at the Heritage Plaza in Downtown Altoona at 12pm on Saturday, Oct. 11th. After the rally, Council 551 will host a luncheon at the council building. Help will be needed on Saturday (11th) to setup for the luncheon. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Council 551 Nite at the Races – Our next Nite at the Races is Saturday, October 25th. Doors open at 6pm and races start at 7pm. Tickets are available now and are \$50/for two people. Ticket price includes naming your horse which will be included in our race program, food, and beverages. Dinner is included, but feel free to bring snacks for before or during. We could use some help selling rip tickets during the event. We need about 10 people. Appreciate any help. Contact Frank Goss (814) 329-6049 or the club (814) 942-6262 to reserve your ticket. When reserving your tickets, please indicate your name, phone/email, quantity, and horse name for each horse. All Horse names are needed by Monday, October 20th to make it into the program.

Council 1st Fridays Live Music – Due to the success of our earlier live music nights, we’ve decided to host KofC 551 1st Fridays – Live Music Nights! On the 1st Friday of each month beginning in October, we’ll host 1 of 4 different bands. Bands will play from 7pm-10pm. We’re asking for a \$5 donation per person to cover the cost of the band. We’ll have a cash bar. Feel free to bring your own snacks or order from Heritage Pizza. The upcoming schedule is below:

- Friday, Oct. 3rd – Bill Hocherl & Mark Rossi
- Friday, Nov. 7th – Don Osborn & Bill Hunter
- Friday, Dec. 5th – John McKelvey & Andrea Schneider
- Friday, Jan. 2nd – American Mood
- Friday, Feb. 6th – Bill Hocherl & Mark Rossi
- Friday, Mar. 6th – Don Osborn & Bill Hunter
- Friday, Apr. 3rd – John McKelvey & Andrea Schneider
- Friday, May 1st – American Mood

Other Council Events

Knights of Columbus Msgr. Edward O’Malley Council #8075 is holding its annual Ruthie McConnell Memorial Golf tournament on Saturday, Oct. 4th at Scotch Valley Golf Course. The recent name change for the event honors Ruthie McConnell, the late wife of our brother and former District Deputy, Mel McConnell. The event has a shotgun start at 10am with registration and check-in starting at 9am. The entry fee is \$440 per foursome (\$110 for individuals). Registration includes green fees and cart, coffee and donuts in the morning, lunch and drinks on the course. Consider entering a team to help support the Council. The event is always a great time. For registration visit their tourney website at <https://knights-of-columbus-council-8075-golf-tournament.perfectgolfevent.com/> or contact Mike McAndrew at (814) 505-4971 or Michael.mcandrew@kofc.org.

Knights of Columbus Council 10376 Our Lady of the Valley (Clearfield) is hosting their 4th Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, Sept. 27th at Park Hills Golf Course in Altoona. The event begins with lunch at 11am, check-in at noon, followed by a shotgun start at 1pm. Entry is \$100 per team. Consider supporting our brother Knights by entering a team and enjoying a day of fun, food, prizes, and camaraderie. If interested in registering a team, sponsoring a hole, or have other questions, contact Jim Greslick (814) 553-6652 or email grizz5152311@comcast.net

Sick and in Distress

Continued prayers for:
Deputy Grand Knight Terry Anderson
Worthy Field Agent Mike McAndrew

District/State/Supreme News

Personal Contact, COR, and Creative Recruitment: The Path to Growth By State Deputy Gary Damich
"A council that goes two years without recruiting will almost certainly decline." Growth is the lifeline of our councils. Without new members, our ability to serve our Church and community weakens. A council that goes two years without recruiting is almost certainly headed toward decline — fewer hands to help, fewer ideas to share, and eventually, a loss of presene in parish life. The challenge is not that there are no good Catholic men left to join — it’s that we sometimes fail to truly connect with them. In today’s world, email inboxes are overflowing. Important messages get buried and forgotten. That’s why personal contact is so important. A handshake after Mass, a conversation over coffee, or even a simple phone call carries far more weight than an email blast ever could. A personal invitation says, “I see you. I believe you belong here. I want you with us.” That’s how men join — and stay.

Important Dates

- October 1st – Hoagie Sale (orders due Sun. Sept. 28th by 9pm)
- October 2nd – Monthly Meeting 8pm – Rosary at 7:45pm
- October 3rd – First Friday Live Music with Bill Hocherl & Mark Rossi
- October 12th – Rosary Rally (Heritage Plaza Downtown) followed by luncheon at Council home
- October 13th – Columbus Day
- October 25th – KofC 551 Nite at the Races – Doors open 6pm, Races start 7pm

Pleasant Valley Animal Hospital D.A. Stachmus, D.V.M. 808 Pleasant Valley Blvd. Altoona, PA 16602 (814) 946-0010 (Office Hours By Appt. Only)	Allegheny Glass & Mirror 701 Tenth Ave. Altoona, PA 16601 (814) 946-1546
Finelli’s Italian Villa 1808 4 th Ave. Altoona, PA 16602 (814) 943-8510	Furrer Beverage 132 Stroehman Road Altoona, PA 16602 814-944-4695
Kimmen Plumbing & Heating, Inc. 415 South Dartmouth Lane Altoona, PA 16602 814 942-8529	Pacifico & Sons Bakery 1208 Fifth Ave Altoona, PA 16602 814-943-3663
First Stop Shop Discount Grocery Outlet 1815 Union Ave. Altoona, PA 16602 814-944-3479	Spherion 3515 Sixth Ave Altoona, PA 16602 814-942-1199
5 Strong Apparel 1506 12 th Ave Altoona, PA 16601 (814) 932-0465 www.5strongapparel.com Custom Printed Apparel	
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Join Our Organization...

Membership in the Knights of Columbus is open to men 18 years of age or older who are practical (that is, practicing) Catholics in union with the Holy See. This means that an applicant or member accepts the teaching authority of the Catholic Church on matters of faith and morals, aspires to live in accord with the precepts of the Catholic Church, and is in good standing in the Catholic Church.