



THE SIKORIAN

A Newsletter of the Knights of Columbus

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 1

JULY 2011

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

My Worthy Brothers:

I thought that I would use this opportunity to recap my message at the installation on June 21st.

First of all I want to thank our District Deputy Frank Guest and our District Warden Tom Snee for arranging this installation and our Chaplain Father Wilson.

Next I want to thank all of the members of this council for giving me this honor. I hope that I prove to be worthy of your trust.

When I look out at my fellow officers, I am very optimistic that no matter what happens we will be able to have an exciting and productive year.

Most of all I need to recognize the families of the officers. I understand the sacrifice that you are making by having your fathers and husbands serving as officers. They will have to arrive at meetings a little earlier and stay a little later. They will have to attend special meetings. They will arrange special events. We have a special name for these men – we call them leaders. All of the time they are doing this they are not with you, but hopefully both their lives and yours will be enriched by the experience.

In particular I want recognize my dear wife Eileen, who have I cherished for almost 40 years. This next year will be especially stressful for us, but in few years when I am retired and with you 7 days a week 24 hours a day I trust that you will look back on this period as “the good times”.

I truly believe that this will be a good year! Remember that we meet on Wednesdays in July. Regular meeting on July 6th and ultra short business meeting to pay bills on July 20th when we take a break from working on the Yard Sale.

Final word. I really plan to begin the Rosary at 7:15. Please arrive on time (or a little earlier to help set up).

Final, final word:

The Yard Sale is Coming!

Phil Thompson
Grand Knight, Fr. Sikora Council 7992

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Day	Time	Place	Event	Point of Contact	
July 6, 2011	Wed	7:15 PM	Parish Hall	Rosary and Meeting	Phil Thompson	703-451-8626
July 9, 2011	Sat		Nativity	Blood Drive	John Landy	
July 14, 2011	Thur		Nativity	Yard Sale Collections Start	George Getek	703-978-6674
July 20, 2011	Wed	7:30 PM	Parish Hall	Meeting	Phil Thompson	703-451-8626
July 23, 2011	Sat	9:00 AM	Nativity	Yard Sale	George Getek	703-978-6674

SIMPLE ELEGANCE



Father Wilson expressed his thanks for the wonderful chalice and carrying container that the Knights gave to him.

He had it with him at the Officer Installation and we got to see it firsthand. It has a basic design that makes it very elegant.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

On Saturday, June 11th, at All Saints Catholic Church in Manassas, 106 2nd Degree Knights became full Knights of Columbus by completing their 3rd Degree exemplification. Five members of Father Sikora Council, Barry Basselgia, Thomas O'Malley, Paul Piraino, Robert (Bo) Reese, and Michael Abler, became 3rd Degree Knights. Tom Snee and Phil Thompson attended as observers. We are looking forward to these new Knights becoming our council leaders.

MEET YOUR NEW OFFICERS



GRAND KNIGHT - Phil Thompson

Phil came to the Springfield/Burke area in May 1981, on a one year leave of absence as a college professor to work at the Naval Research Laboratory as a research physicist, and never left. He just completed his 30th year at the lab where he supervises a research section on the growth and characterization of new materials for electronic devices. He has published more than 200 scientific journal articles and holds 9 US patents. Phil has been married to his lovely wife Eileen for 38 years and has a son, Patrick and a daughter, Elizabeth. He joined the Knights of Columbus about six years ago, and has served as an Outside Guard, Warden, Chancellor, and Deputy Grand Knight. In each of these positions he learned more about the Knights of Columbus and our council. He is looking forward to guiding our council in the following year.



CHAPLAIN - Fr. Cedric Wilson

Father Wilson joins us again as the Chaplain for Father Sikora Council 7992.



DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT - Sam Morthland

Sam is a 4th Degree Knight and has been active in the Knights since 2001. He has been a member of Councils in Monterey, CA (Financial Secretary), Chantilly, VA, RAF Mildenhall, UK (Charter GK) and now our Council (Chancellor, DGK). He and his family have been at Nativity since 2008 and are active in the parish ministries and RE programs. He recently retired from the Air Force after 22 years of flying MC-130P special operations aircraft and is now working as a Consultant with Whitney, Bradley, and Brown, Inc. (WBB) in Reston. He looks forward to helping the GK achieve his goals this year and to conducting an active Membership program with help from all of you over the next year so we can reach Star Council.



CHANCELLOR - Mark Sawyer

Mark has been a Knight for about five years, joining our Order to be part of its work helping the Church and the community. He and his bride of 17 years, Kathy, have two daughters, Maureen, 13 and Clare, 9. Mark lives in the Ponds neighborhood of Burke Centre. Originally from the Boston area, he has been in the DC area for over 22 years. Mark works for Analytic Services, a not for profit public service institute, in its ANSER operating unit where he supports a DoD client.

MEET YOUR NEW OFFICERS



TREASURER - Dave Johnson

Dave Johnson joins us for another year as the Treasurer for Father Sikora Council 7992.



FINANCIAL SECRETARY - Tony Adams

Tony is a retired Captain of the United States Coast Guard where he served as a fixed and rotary wing aviator for the multi-missions of that service. He has a Bachelor of Science in Engineering and a Master of Business Administration Degree. He has been a member of the Fr. Sikora Council since November 1991. He served as Treasurer for 10 years and Financial Secretary for the past 9 years. His plan is to serve another 3 year term as FS.



RECORDER - Nick Gurick

Nick Gurick has been a member of Nativity Parish since 1976 and a Knight for the past seven years. He is retired from the Food and Nutrition Service at USDA where he worked as a budget analyst for child nutrition programs. Nick and his wife Kay live in Springfield and have two daughters, Sandra and Stacy, and two grandsons, Nicholas and Nathan. In his spare time he enjoys traveling, working on projects with brother Knights and volunteering with Food for Others.



ADVOCATE - Carlos Perez

Carlos Perez is a fourth degree member of the Knights of Columbus. He has been a Knight for approximately four years. The Father Sikora Council is his second council. His first council was the Four Chaplains Council at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Carlos is also an active-duty colonel in United States Army and presently serves in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He is married to Patricia Perez and they have four children.



WARDEN - Chris Thomes

Chris is a 4th degree Knight with Msgr. Bradican Assembly and has been with Father Sikora Council for a few years now. He and his lovely wife, Heidi, have two young daughters with a third one due in August. Chris has a Computer Engineering Degree from Virginia Tech and an MBA from George Washington University. He currently works in the IT field and manages a group of engineers. For Father Sikora Council, he has served as Outside Guard and edited our newsletter this past Columbian year.

MEET YOUR NEW OFFICERS

INSIDE GUARD - Gary Mausolf

Gary has been chairing the Family Committee for Father Sikora Council and now joins us as the Inside Guard for the coming fraternal year.

OUTSIDE GUARD 1 - Brian Mahoney



Bro. Brian Mahoney, 39, was inspired by his father and great-grandfather, both Knights, to join the Order in 1992 while in college, but he has only actively participated since moving back to Northern Virginia from San Diego in 2003. Raised as a Navy brat, he counts the Burke/Springfield area as the closest to a "hometown" he has had, although he graduated from high school in Monterey, CA, and attended Iowa State University, where he majored in English, with a minor in French. He met his wife, Christine (an alumna of Hayfield Secondary and UVA) in 1998, when they were both working as contractors for the Navy in Crystal City. They married in Las Vegas in 2002, and have three children, Seamus (6), Saoirse (4), and Desmond (1). Bro. Brian supports his family by working for the Department of Commerce, in the International Trade Administration (ITA). A 4th Degree Sir Knight, he is a charter member of Msgr. Bradican Assembly #2996, of which he is a Past Faithful Navigator (PFN), and the current newsletter editor. His interests (time permitting) in addition to his family and the Knights include reading, astronomy, baseball, camping, fishing, genealogy, and history.

OUTSIDE GUARD 2 - Dennis Scott



Dennis will be joining us this coming fraternal year as the Outside Guard.

TRUSTEES - George Getek, Matt Smith, and Tom Savage



POSITION IN MANAGEMENT

Brothers,

We are still in need of a Council Chair. If any 3rd degree Knight is interested in stepping up and helping please get in touch with either our Grand Knight (Phil Thompson), our Deputy Grand Knight (Sam Morthland), or Chancellor (Mark Sawyer). They would be happy to provide more information and let you know what the position is responsible for.

All of their contact information can be found on the last page of the Newsletter.

INSURANCE UPDATE

The laws and rules of our Order, as well as state (provincial) laws, specify that the Knights of Columbus may accept insurance applications only from Knights of Columbus members. As a member, you may apply for insurance on yourself, your wife and your dependent, minor children.

The Order's Board of Directors has taken action, though, to assure that a brother Knight's widow maintains the right to purchase additional insurance for a limited time. This can be of great benefit and comfort to those we leave behind.

This "right to apply" is available only to the widows of insured members. If a member has not availed himself of our top-rated life insurance program, or purchased an annuity or long-term care policy, this benefit is not available to his widow.

But if the member was an insured member, his widow has the right to apply for additional insurance on her life and on the lives of the member's minor children. This right can be exercised for up to one year following the Order's receipt of proof of the insured's death.

Know two things. First, I'll assist your widow and children in any way possible if you should die, both with your Knights of Columbus insurance and any other life insurance you may have. Second, I'll provide them my best professional advice and service, to assure that they continue to have adequate insurance protection.

As a professional agent and a brother Knight, I have no greater responsibility.

PS: The Commonwealth of Virginia has approved the Knights of Columbus Disability Income Insurance to be sold. There will be more information available mid July.

Paul Hannan, FA

I'm at 703-444-6118 or paul.hannan@kofc.org. Call me – let's talk.

JUSTICE VS EQUALITY

A recent college graduate recently quoted in an alumni magazine stated that it was “unjust that low income students don’t have the educational opportunities that higher income students do.” This statement goes to the core of why people talk past each other in the debates over medical care, taxes and responsibility for our actions.

Justice according to the dictionary is a “moral principle determining just conduct.” As Catholics we recognize that the only true justice comes when we follow the revelations brought down to us through Natural Law. Our Founder’s believed in this principle so strongly that it is part of the Declaration of Independence! The moral principles of just laws do not change from generation to generation. Secondly a just society must apply equally these just laws to both the rich and poor.

Equality is the state of being equal through correspondence of quality, ability, power, status or degree. We each share an equality of our basic constitutional rights because according to the Founders of our country we are all children of God. These rights don’t differ because of our strength, gender or any other physical factor since they are God given.

In the physical world, we know we interact with each other in daily basis for business transactions or forming friendships based on how our natural abilities allow us to form relationships. We need strong people to move things, and wise people to guide us, and the list goes on and on. We also know that those who do not apply themselves will not use what talents they have to their fullest advantage. We also know that some are born into environments where advantages exist for them to take advantage of that others will lack.

The teacher made an observation that she notices an inequity in the world of resources available to “low income students” versus “higher income students.” This is a statement we can potentially agree on, because we know those with money can potentially obtain greater resources than those without. (We won’t go into reasons why this may not be reality everywhere...I’ll just go with it)

The teacher then attaches a moral principle determining just conduct to this observation. She says it is “unjust” for people to have different levels of resources in education based on the money either they personally have, or their families have. Just as I assumed no foul play is involved in the observation the teacher noted on resource availability, I will assume the resources obtained by the family are also obtained in a just manner. This is where the disagreement will start to form in our current national debates.

If I follow the teacher’s statement out to its logical conclusion, a family which earns itself a “just” profit cannot use it for its own betterment. Instead the “just” action for the high income family is divorce itself of its capital, and give everything to someone in low income. Following this logic, one must also assume that if the income is not freely given a state can justify itself in taking it from the rich and giving it to the poor. We know from human nature that the state will be forced to take the resources by force because the high income earner will attempt to preserve their assets for survival of their family.

Our nation’s Founders would call such a forced redistribution laid out by the teacher’s logic tyranny. They would cite numerous examples showing the teacher’s logic runs contrary to biblical guidance on how to conduct oneself in a society to please God.

In Proverbs the reader is instructed that those who make the most of what they have using the Wisdom of God will be rewarded. Those exploiting skills in a just manner get to keep their rewards with the pride. Yet Proverbs also instructs us to never neglect the poor in spirit with acts of charity. God is pleased when we care for one another out of love. This message is repeated several times by different authors in Proverbs. The same message also gets repeated in

JUSTICE VS EQUALITY - CONTINUED

the New Testament at least twice in the story of the bridesmaids and the absent landowner.

The Founders would point out the great challenge here is twofold. First challenge is to reject what would be popularly supported tyranny over the property rights of others who have higher incomes. The second would be to accept the tougher challenge from God to live our lives according to his sense of justice revealed by natural law. No one can reject the dignity of anyone deemed "poor." We must also help raise up the poor in spirit through acts of charity made possible by our surpluses.

A society embracing the higher God directed just calling of respecting hard work, and the responsibility of charitable giving, becomes stronger through unifying graces that result from such actions. A society that embraces theft of justly acquired resources to meet the needs of jealous masses, falls quickly into anarchy and slavery to other nations. Our challenge today is therefore to reject the distortion of our national culture and language through propagation of the faith in adults, to raise us all up closer to God and the justice of Natural Law he guides us with.

FN Eric Wojtkun

TWO WORDS - THE YARD SALE IS COMING

Nativity's Annual Yard Sale for Charity sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Father Vincent S. Sikora Council 7992, is **Saturday, July 23, 2011, from 9 AM until 3 PM.**

Volunteers are needed for donation collections beginning Thursday, July 14 and ending Thursday, July 21, weekdays from 5:30 PM to 9 PM, Saturday, July 16 - from 9 AM to 2 PM and Sunday, July 17, from 2 PM to 5 PM. This is an opportunity to provide service hours during an eight-day period for a very worthy cause: the objective of raising funds to help respond to the many charitable requests that the Council receives throughout the year.

Besides the usual labor (moving, packing, and sorting), help is especially needed in the following areas:

- Manning the telephone tree – soliciting help is a full time effort.
- Tents: Set Up - Sunday, July 17, 2-4 PM; Take Down - Saturday, July 23, after the Yard Sale at 4 PM.
- Furniture pickup – any time during the collection week July 19-22; those with pickup trucks are needed.
- Parish Hall Set-Up - making the hall and classrooms ready for the sale by arranging desks and tables and laying plastic covers on the classroom floors on Thursday, July 14, 6-9 PM
- Parish Hall Clean-Up, Sunday, July 24, 2-5 PM
- Pricing - Knowledge in evaluating sports equipment, electrical appliances and other items.
- Experienced Yard Sale Cashiers
- Sign making – artists please apply

Your volunteer help is needed and necessary for this labor-intensive effort.

Contact Brother George Getek at ggetek@aol.com let him know that you are ready, willing and able to assist in a leadership role. Don't wait. Volunteer now! Thanks!



YARD SALE
Church of the Nativity
Annual Yard Sale for Charity

Saturday, July 23, 2011 - 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Donations Collected in the Nativity Parish Hall
July 14 to July 21

COLLECTION HOURS

Monday – Friday 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Saturday, July 16 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Sunday, July 17 2 PM – 5 PM

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

Bedding (clean)	Electronics (working)	Books	Sporting Goods
Tools	Curtains	Household Items	Toys / Games
Dishes / Pots / Pans	Clothing (clean)	Small Appliances (working)	Furniture (undamaged)

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

Undergarments	Mattresses	Tires	Food	Large Ent. Centers
Drugs / Cosmetics	Large Appliances	Flammables		Shoes
Computers / Monitors	Computer Printers	Microwave Ovens		TV's

Furniture Pick-up Requests: 703-866-5217 or e-mail GK7992@VAKOFC.ORG

PLEASE NOTE: ALL ITEMS MUST BE IN GOOD CONDITION

For additional information please call:
703-919-6549 OR 703-451-3802

APPALACHIA HOME BUILDING - A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS

Brothers, we completed our 12th home, 1,000SF in size, in one of the poorest counties in our country from June 2-13. The house was built in McCreary County, KY, located in the SE part of the State, about 570 miles from Burke. We again had two crews this year to ensure that we were able to do more of the finishing work and at the same time achieve two benefits of reducing the home costs and getting the family in earlier. The weather was very challenging with hot days and some rain while the finishing crew was completing their work. Our goal was to complete the house with plumbing, electrical, sheetrock, doors, trim, painting and kitchen cabinets, and we succeeded! We again subcontracted with local licensed plumbing and electrical craftsmen who worked through the night over the first weekend to ensure we were done in time for the inspectors on Monday. While this adds significant costs to the project, we have built a tremendous partnership with the local craftsman...and more importantly it is keeping these skilled craftsman in the county. It all came together without any issues and we passed the inspections and were able to start the insulating way ahead of schedule. No matter how many build efforts I've been on, and I say it every year, the seamless team effort of the combined crews from Omaha, Virginia, Colorado (Gary Piper, former brother from Nativity, and son-in-law), and Ohio are truly a sight to see.

My thanks go to all the brother knights and family members that made this happen: Pat Colton (9th house) and son Eric (1st house), Bill Gordon (6th house) and son Tom (1st house), Art Rupinen (7th house) and daughter Patty (2nd house), Wally Mack (7th house), Pat Bradshaw (6th house), Dave Perales (6th house), Ken Seroka (6th house), Jerry Leonard (6th house), Thinh Nguyen (6th house) and our first time knight builders, Dennis Maloney and Tuan Tran. Our crew of 15 combined with 7 from Omaha, Ohio, Mississippi, Texas, and Colorado. We also had 3 cooks from Omaha and Colorado who kept the crew well fed with home cooked meals, and homemade breads and desserts.



Good Shepherd Mission selected the family. The Ridner family clearly had some huge challenges. The family of four has been living in two trailers literally taped together with no running water. The father, Rick, is near blind in one eye but was a tremendous help in the entire build effort...probably the best we've seen on recent years. He is on disability. Tabatha, the wife, has some significant medical issues. They have two children, Takelia, age 12, and Takayla, age 4. The family is living on disability payments.



Before we arrived, the subfloor was installed by a subcontractor and the plumbing rough-in was completed by another subcontractor. The site was about 20 miles from where we stayed and took us at least 30 minutes to get to the site. Our normal work day schedule was to be on the site at 6AM and depart between 5-6PM.

The site created was fairly level which facilitated the build effort and was built on an existing foundation which made the site very stable with fill-in required around the foundation. On Friday, the first day, we completed all

APPALACHIA HOME BUILDING CONTINUED

the interior framing, front porch framing, and siding commenced on the back of the house; we were in great shape time-wise for the next day. On Saturday, we raised the trusses, completed the roof sheathing and tar paper, completed all the rough framing for the front porch and made progress on the siding. On Saturday evening, Rick was able to have some friends put all the roofing materials on the roof which was a great time saver for the roofers. On Sunday morning, we started the roofing, framing of the porch roof, and continued on the porches, decks, and siding. We broke to attend mass at 11:30, and completed the porch roof framing, porches, and continued to make great progress on the siding. On Monday morning we completed roofing, passed all the inspections, and completed the insulation. Monday afternoon, we started with the sheetrock while we made great progress on the siding.



Early Tuesday, we completed hanging all the sheetrock and the first coat on all the joints, all the siding, and cleaned up the site for the house blessing. Literally, we completed all this work in 4 ½ days. We had the house blessing on Tuesday afternoon, led by Sister Nancy. That evening, the Crew hosted a dinner at St Joseph's Inn where we stayed for all the Ridner family, including one of their relatives. The presentation of the keys was made by Tom Gordon, the youngest member of the crew. This is always an emotional time for both the family and the crew. Rick, the father, got up and thanked everyone for everything. We want to give a very special thanks to Ann and Dave Benson and all the other knight's families and friends who again provided an entire pickup truck load of household items and toys to further help the family. The family was overwhelmed with the outpouring of help and the caring. We normally never open the boxes of gifts, but took the family back in the store room to see everything that we had for them. We opened the boxes for Takelia and Takayla, and Ann and Dave literally included everything the kids would need for school and many more essential items that they will need.



On Wednesday morning, the first crew departed and the finishing crew took over. From Wednesday thru Sunday, our finishing crew of four stayed to do all the finishing. Our hat is off to Ken Seroka, Dennis Maloney, Pat Bradshaw and Jerry Leonard, who partnered with George from Omaha, and Ken from Texas to do most of the finishing work. A special thanks to Jerry Leonard who stayed an additional 5 days to help the finishing crew. The finishing team completed all of the drywall finishing, painting, hanging doors, trimming, and installing kitchen cabinets. The finishing crew left on Monday. We expect the family to be in the house by the end of June given the progress made, the proactive help of Rick, the father, and the decision to make the

APPALACHIA HOME BUILDING CONTINUED

house a turn-key project with all new appliances because of the living conditions of the family and their ability to provide any appliances.

Brothers, this is what it is all about and without the caring and support of the volunteers who gave up over a week of their personal time, the Council, the Parish, and all the personal donations, this would not be possible. With over \$33,000 collected in our weekend collection, personal donations, and Council help to offset the driving and some meal expenses for the volunteers, and the fund raisers in Omaha that raised \$10,000 made this effort all possible. Mark your calendars, we are looking to deploy the first Thursday in June 2012 for next year.

Brother Bob Corsi



UPDATE - NVTC BLOCK PARTY





KofC Website Links

Supreme: <http://www.kofc.org>
 Insurance: <http://www.kofcinsurance.com>
 Virginia: <http://www.state.kofcva.org/>
 District 14: <http://www.kofc8600.org/dd14/>
 7992: <http://www.frsikora7992.org/>
 Facebook [Father Sikora FACEBOOK](#)
 LinkedIn group [Father Sikora LinkedIn Group](#)
 KofC World News: <http://headlinebistro.com>
 Fathers For Good: <http://www.fathersforgood.org/ffg/en/index.html>

Knights of Columbus Council Officers 2011-2012

Grand Knight	Phil Thompson	703-451-8626
Chaplain	Fr. Cedric Wilson	301-445-1681
Deputy Grand Knight	Sam Morthland	703-455-2186
Chancellor	Mark Sawyer	703-250-3984
Treasurer	Dave Johnson	703-455-3337
Financial Secretary	Tony Adams	703-569-3755
Recorder	Nick Gurick	703-644-1492
Advocate	Carlos Perez	703-866-7605
Warden	Chris Thomes	703-455-1858
Inside Guard	Gary Mausolf	571-405-0075
Outside Guard 1	Brian Mahoney	
Outside Guard 2	Dennis Scott	703-455-3876
Trustee Year 1	George Getek	703-978-6674
Trustee Year 2	Matt Smith	703-455-3197
Trustee Year 3	Tom Savage	512-983-5641
Insurance	Paul Hannan	703-444-6118

Committee Chairs and Special Projects 2011-2012

Church Program	Mike Muller	703-451-9386
Council Program	VACANT	
Youth Program	John Larvie	703-451-3477
Family Program	Gary Mausolf	571-405-0075
Community Program	Bill Canavan	703-866-5217
Membership	Sam Morthland	703-455-2186
Charity Committee	Art Rupinen and Pat Bradshaw	703-440-0149 703-866-0877
Pro-Life Program	George Getek	703-978-6674
KOVAR	Jay Hoffmeier	703-250-7753
E-mail Coordinator	Tom Wilder	703-250-8774
Newsletter	Chris Thomes	703-455-1858