



# Knights Echo



FATHER FRANCIS KOCH COUNCIL 6343

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Ken Riva, Grand Knight

Vol. I • No. 1 • Oct. 2009

## DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT'S LETTER

Tom Hayes, DGK

Dear Brother Knights:

In this my first letter to the council, my mind is drawn to a number of things which have occurred recently. As we all know the only constant in life is change. So we periodically we are forced to say goodbye to some people while at the same time welcoming other people as they fill the holes left behind by those leaving.

I would like to personally take this opportunity to say thank you to Father Sigmund Peplowski and Past Grand Knight Ed Viellette. It has been my pleasure to serve under their joint leadership for the past two years.

Father Steve, our new parish administrator, has graciously accepted an offer to be the Chaplin for Father Koch Council's. Father Steve is a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knight of Columbus. Father Steven Shadwell succeeds Father Peplowski as our Chaplin. We welcome father to our parish and *Our Council*.

Ken Riva was elected Grand Knight for this Columbian year during this past summer's election. Ken has served the council for many years, most recently as Deputy Grand Knight. Recently Ken was sworn in at an installation ceremony after the Fraternal Mass conducted during the evening of September 19<sup>th</sup> 2009. District Deputy Jack Reilly officiated at this installation ceremony. Jack installed Ken and the other council officers with the aid of the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Color Corp as is our custom.

I look forward to working with Worthy Ken and helping him attain his vision for *Our Council*. I pray God gives him the wisdom, the strength and the health to carry out that vision. I know we are in good hands and look to aid him in the stewardship of *Our Council*.

As a council we need to demonstrate the principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. The Fraternal Mass and PGK banquet allowed us to show our unity of purpose and our fraternal relationships to each other. It was a great example to see the entire Knights assembled in a common purposes and fraternity.

I want to thank all the Knights who participated in making these events memorable. But in particular I want to thank Ed Lane for arranging the participation of the Color Corp in the Fraternal Mass and Nick Mattera for his efforts in managing the Past Grand Knights banquet. Nick was identified as **Knight of the Year** for *Our Council* at the PGK banquet. Hooah...Nick.

Lastly; In keeping with the Grand Knight's objective to make this a better council I would ask you to take ownership of the Council and help him increase the participation of existing Knights. Please take an active role in improving *Our Council* and possibly recruiting a new Knight. Look around you for anything you can do. Also is there any Catholic who would make a good Knight? Maybe your son or grandson?

## FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT.

### Grand Knight's Welcome

It seems strange indeed to say that I'm already about to begin my fourth month as Grand Knight. Time does fly. Thanks to the contributions and suggestions of many of you, we have an ambitious Columbian Year still ahead of us planned.



Your Council's leadership including myself, Deputy GK Tom Hayes, and Chancellor Nick Mattera are

working together seamlessly in true 'team' fashion. I am most fortunate to be backed up by such talented and enthusiastic officers. In this spirit I have asked Tom to write the keynote letter for this edition of our Knights Echo.

A few key upcoming events worth mentioning: We will commence our "**Christmas Items Sale**" fundraiser that picks up where last year's successful "Keep Christ in Christmas" car magnet effort left off. This year we will expand our offering to include religious themed Christmas cards and ornaments. Also on two successive nights (October 22-23<sup>rd</sup>) we will conduct **First, Second, and Third Degree ceremonies** here at St. Joseph's. This will be a special event and if you haven't attended a degree ceremony with all its pomp and circumstance in a while, this is your chance! Lastly, please mark your calendar for the "**Tribute to Sisters Geraldine and Janet**" that will take place on January 31<sup>st</sup>. This will be a gala affair and an event not to miss!

Fraternally

Ken Riva, GK

### **FOOD PANTRY RENOVATION EFFORTS**

Tom Hayes, DGK

St. Joseph's food pantry recently needed some help, since their needs exceeded their storage capacity in Koch Hall. The Food Pantry Ministry sought aid in reconfiguring the Koch Hall building to better serve the needs of food pantry patrons.

The Koch Hall is pivotal to a number of organizations of which the Father Koch Council #6343 is one. Koch Council has *been dedicated* to ensuring the well being of St. Joseph's Church and its various ministries for close forty years. Because of this dedication, the Father Koch Council #6343 has been involved in *renovation and maintenance of the Koch Hall over the years*.

As a result of this involvement; it was natural for the Food Pantry ministry to reach out to the Father Koch Council #6343 for aid in this reconfiguration. Past Grand Knight Ed Viellette took ownership of the effort and interfaced with the Food Pantry as to their

storage needs. New storage areas were determined to be needed and Ed assisted in their layout and design. Once the design was agreed to Ed led a team of brother Knights in the construction and reconfiguration efforts. An additional storage area was constructed which almost doubled the available storage for use. Also a closet was constructed to hold several organizations materials.

The Knight of Columbus Father Koch Council #6343 team which performed the renovations work consisted of: Ed Viellette, Ed Lane, Mike Giannatasio, Nick Mattera, Phil Stoehr, Harold Farrington and Tom Hayes.



(Is it straight yet?)

### **KNIGHTS FIRST FRATERNAL MASS**

Tom Hayes, DGK

Father Koch Council had its first Fraternal Mass on September 19<sup>th</sup> 2009 during the 5:00 PM mass. Father Steven Shadwell (Council Chaplin) was the celebrant for the mass. More than twenty five knights supported this event. Representatives from the district and 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Color Corps participated as well.

The Commodore Barry Assembly's Color Corp escorted the assembled knights into St' Joseph's Church. Ken Riva led his complement of Knight into the church under the banner of Father Koch Council. The council occupied the front of the church with a throng of Knights and family members.

During the Mass a number of Knights performed various roles in our mass. Past Grand Knight Ed Vielle and Brendan Vielle brought the gifts forward to Father Steven. Grand Knight Ken Riva and District Deputy Jack Reilly acted as lectors for the Fraternal Mass. Also a number of Knights acted as Eucharistic ministers.

### **SUPPORT OUR VETERANS**

Roy De Franco, PGK, Veterans Chairman

Join the Fr. Francis Koch Council Knights at Lyons Veterans Hospital. Brother Knights Matt De Franco, Ed Lane, PGK and Phil Stoehr, PGK accompanied me on our visit to the Lyons Veterans Hospital on September 6<sup>th</sup> to assist our Catholic veterans to attend Mass. Since many of our veterans at Lyons Hospital do not have the ability to attend Mass on their own due to their various disabilities and since there are not enough staff at the hospital to bring the veterans to Mass, our Brother Knights provide the assistance needed. In addition to bringing the veterans to Mass, the Knights get opportunity to thank and offer comfort to our veterans who have served our country to preserve the freedoms that are so dear to us. There is no better way to thank our veterans. We must never forget them!



The Fr. Francis Koch Council Knights of Columbus visit the Lyons Veterans Hospital four times a year on the first Sunday of March, June, September and December. We depart from Koch Hall at 7:30am which gives us enough time to arrive at the hospital to get the veterans to Mass at 9:15am. After Mass, we bring the veterans back to their rooms and leave around 10:30am. Usually, we stop for breakfast before arriving back at Koch Hall. We are really looking for members to join us!

If you are interested in attending a veterans' Mass, please call me at 973-728-4696 or email me at [rdefranco@yahoo.com](mailto:rdefranco@yahoo.com)

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Phil Stoehr, PGK

This fraternal year our membership quota for the Father McGivney Award is 8 new members. If we're able to bring in that amount along with our insurance quota we will achieve Star council again for the third time in the past five years. At our membership drive in August a number of prospective candidates picked up applications along with literature explaining what our organization is all about. Many of those were from St. Joe's youth organization, a positive sign that our message is being spread to everyone.

We will be holding another drive on October 11, in conjunction with our pancake breakfast. Our new pastor and council Chaplin, Fr. Steven Shadwell, who himself is a 4<sup>th</sup> degree Knight, has agreed to speak at each of the masses about the importance of the Knights of Columbus, their values and the satisfaction one will receive by becoming a member of our fraternal organization.

We need everyone's help. Please talk to your friends, neighbors, sons, grandsons and anyone who you think would want to be part of the largest Catholic fraternal organization in the world. We will be conducting a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> degree installation on October 22 right here at the Koch Hall. It will be a great opportunity to bring in new members and once again march towards Star Council.

#### Degree Team

As you all know a few years ago we started our own degree team. We are now certified to conduct both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> degrees. This has enabled us to not only conduct degrees at our pleasure but has given us the convenience to conduct them in our own hall.

We are now looking for anyone interested in joining the team. We have speaking roles, non speaking roles and back up roles available. If you are interested please contact Phil Stoehr at 973-728-7686 or [prstoehr@optonline.net](mailto:prstoehr@optonline.net).

**KNIGHTS ECHO**

Peter Mack, PGK

Information and Articles to be included in future copies of the newsletter may be e-mailed to PGK Peter Mack (rpmack@optonline.net). Please update your council profile with a current email address.

Look for our new Council Web Site in the near future to see the most current council news and events.  
<http://www.kofc6343.org>.

To our Brother Knights who no longer live in the West Milford area: Please drop us a line and let us know how you and your family are doing. We look forward to hearing from you.

**FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

Ed Lane, FS, PGK

Well another year is fast ending which only means the Annual Dues Billing can only be around the corner!

The dues bills will go out around Dec. 15, 2009 for the 2010 Year. Also tickets for our annual raffle will be included. This raffle is our main source of income for our Rev. Sigmund Peplowski Annual Seminary Fund.

Please pay your dues in a timely fashion as this saves the council money and is a major source of income. Also, please buy whatever raffle tickets you can.

If any brother has a financial problem please feel free to contact the Grand Knight in absolute confidentiality and something can be worked out.

*Discover a World of Good Things in the Knights of Columbus*

**FATHER KOCH COUNCIL INSTALLS NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR THE 2009-2010**

District Deputy Jack Reilly conducted an installation of officers for the coming year. The District Deputy was assisted by Ken Cook District Warden during the installation. Father Shadwell addressed the Knight as part of the ceremony.

District Deputy installed Ken Riva as our new Grand Knight as well as the other officers. During the installation ceremony members of the Color Corps accompanied each officer to the podium while the DD addressed them individually.

The officers for the coming list are:

**Fr. Koch Council #6343**  
**Officers 2009-2010**

<b>Ken Riva</b> Grand Knight	<b>Tom Hayes</b> Deputy Grand Knight	<b>Nick Mattera</b> Chancellor
<b>Edwin Lane</b> Financial Secretary	<b>Peter Green</b> Treasurer	<b>Paul Kiel</b> Advocate
<b>Bob Sautter</b> Warden	<b>Roy DeFranco</b> Recorder, Delegate	<b>Christian Riva</b> Inside Guard
<b>Charles Carbone</b> Outside Guard	<b>Ed Viellette, Phil Stoehr &amp; Peter Mack</b> Past Grand Knights Trustees	

**NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD FUND RAISER**

Peter Green, Treasurer

Fund Raiser to benefit the Family Readiness Group of Company C 250<sup>th</sup> Support Battalion of the New Jersey National Guard.

On May 17 our council did a Pancake Breakfast to raise funds for the homecoming from Iraq celebration of this Company. The Company Commander is Steve McKenzie who is an active Knight in our Council. The breakfast was a great success, raising \$500 and an additional \$100 was raised at a second collection

at Mass that day. A check for \$600 was given to Tom McKenzie who is the Leader Major of the Family Readiness Group. The FRG does an incredible amount of work in support of the National Guard. Comprised of volunteers, deployed soldiers, family members and friends the FRG supplies Company C with a variety of activities items and needed resources both prior to deployment, during the group's service and after their return.

Our council is honored to support the efforts of Commander McKenzie and his entire company. We thank them for their sacrifices and service to America.

**PRIESTS, BROTHERS, NUNS.  
THEY NEED US.  
WE NEED THEM.**

*Vocations Are Everybody's Business*

### **BOB SAUTTER NAMED TO WARDEN POST.**

Ken Riva, GK

On Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, the Warden's position of our Council was filled when Brother Knight Bob Sautter accepted the appointment from GK Ken Riva.

Bob became a Knight in 1996 and has held various officers' positions since then. Bob is probably best known in recent years for all of the time that he has generously spent keeping the premises and grounds of St. Joseph's Church in good repair and appearances.

The Supreme Council describes the role of the Warden in part as follows: "The Warden is responsible for supervising and maintaining Council property and for setting up Council chambers for meetings and degree ceremonies. He assures that all members at meetings possess the current membership card. He is custodian of all Council property except funds and is in charge of properly setting up the

Council Chamber. He directs the activities of the Inside and Outside Guards."

Best of luck to Bob in this new assignment.

### **SKYLANDS FAMILY BASEBALL OUTING**

Ken Riva, GK

On July 28<sup>th</sup> approximately 50 parishioners and friends of St. Joseph's Church spent a fun filled evening at Skylands Park in Augusta, New Jersey to see the Sussex Skyhawks play Quebec of the "Can-Am Baseball League". The weather was perfect for baseball with clear skies in abundance.

Eight Knights of the Father Koch Council and their families were in attendance which constituted the bulk of the attendees from St. Joseph's Church.

Brother Knights Joe Alessio, Chuck Carbone, Harold Farrington, Mike Giannattasio, Bill McNeir, Ken Riva, Bob Roon and Bob Sautter were present in combinations of wives, children and grandchildren.

Despite a good effort, the local Skyhawks fell to Quebec by a score of 4-1 despite the Skyhawks making the only home run of the evening.

Following the game was an unexpectedly excellent fireworks display that closed out a great evening in the fresh air. Feedback from St. Joseph's attendees was positive and it is expected that this activity will be repeated again at least once or twice next season.



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**THE PAST GRAND KNIGHT'S DINNER**

Nick Mattera, Chancellor

On Saturday evening, September 19<sup>th</sup> 2009, Fr. Koch Council #6343 held its Annual Dinner to honor the Past Grand Knight's of our Council. This year our dinner was held at Joey's Casa Italiano's here in West Milford. There was a large turnout of Brother Knights and 9 Past Grand Knights of our council were present for the occasion.

After a few welcome notes from our new Grand Knight Ken Riva the stage was set and Our Council Chaplin, Fr. Steven Shadwell started the evening with a opening Benediction. A wonderful choice of dinner entrées was served by pleasant staff of Joey's. After enjoying a relaxing dinner, our outgoing Grand Knight, Ed Viellette was treated with honorary words of appreciation for the impact he had on our council. It also goes without saying there were also some humorous stories and gag gifts presented to our outgoing Grand Knight.

Ken Riva kept the festivities going by presenting awards to Brother Knights for all their outstanding service performed for the good of our Council and the Knights of Columbus.

An especially touching moment was at hand when our Veterans Affairs Director Roy DeFranco presented our Honored Guest, Tom McKenzie with a plaque for his outstanding help to our soldiers serving our Country abroad and especially to his son Steve (Our Brother Knight) who was also serving overseas. A proud 'to be an American' moment was felt by all.

As the dinner was near drawing to a close, a final award was presented. The 'Knight of the Year' award. This award is presented to a fellow Knight whose unselfish commitment to time, tremendous admiration toward his Brother Knights, and dedication to serving his Parish and Council. What's not surprising is that every active Knight in the Fr. Koch council has these qualifications but this year's award was surprisingly presented to me, Nick Mattera to which I was shocked, awed and

tremendously grateful to my Brother Knights for awarding this to me.

Thanks to all who participated making this a truly memorable Past Grand Knights Dinner!!!!!!



After the K of C Council Installation Mass 9/19/09



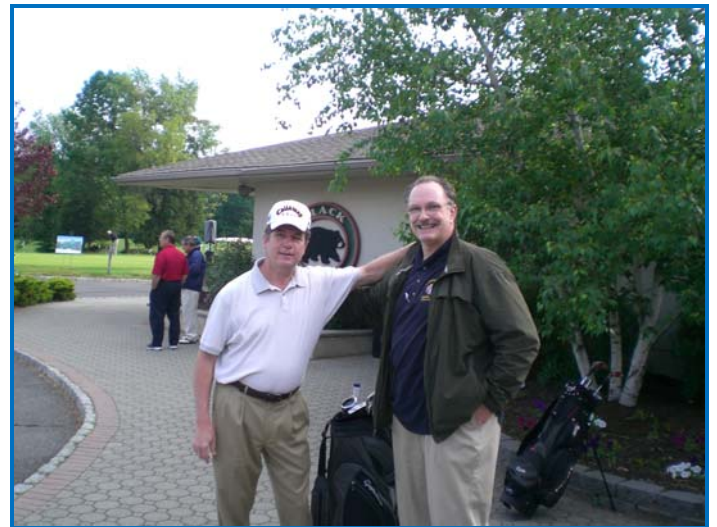
Fourth Degree Assembly 1561 Commodore Barry Color Guard at the Installation Mass on 9/19/09.

### **DRIVE for PEOPLE With DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

The annual Knights of Columbus Drive for People with Developmental Disabilities was held the weekend of April 28, 2009 from 8 am to 4 pm at the A&P in Hewitt.



Warden Nick Mattera and Grand Knight Ed Viellette



DD Jack Reilly and Chancellor Tom Hayes enjoying a few moments before teeing off at the St. Joseph Church and Knights of Columbus Council 6343 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing at Black Bear on May 28, 2009.



Memorial Day Picnic 5/25/09 after the Memorial Day Parade was over at DGK Ken Riva and Connie Riva's house for a BBQ and Fraternity.



Fr. Steve delivering a speech at the PGK Dinner held at Joey's Casa Italiano's on September 19<sup>th</sup>.