



April 2018

NEWS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST. LOUIS COUNCIL 3335



The so called Islamic State of Iraq & Syria (ISIS), an offshoot of al Qaeda, is the most radical of the militant Islamic groups. The withdrawal of American combat troops from Iraq in 2011 left a vacuum. By 2014 ISIS overtook the major cities of Kirkuk, Mosul, Tikrit, and Ramadi in Iraq; Aleppo and Raqqa in Syria; much of the northern part of both countries.....about 10 million people were under ISIS control. During that occupation ISIS conducted systematic genocide of Christians in the region, destroyed homes, desecrated churches, and persecuted them. Despite all the persecution, they were heroically faithful to the Church as are Christians in China, Pakistan, Africa, etc. How would we fare when we don't even make it for Sunday Mass every week?

U.S. trained Iraqi troops and bombing strikes turned the tide and 98% of ISIS occupied territory was recaptured. All of this left numerous fleeing refugees, some 6 million from Syria and Iraq. They lost their homes and almost all of their possessions. Muslim refugees received most international aid partly due to favoritism and the fact that Christians, fearing Muslim hostility, did not aggressively seek it. The Knights of Columbus responded with over \$1 million dollars in new aid, \$19 million since 2014.....food, clothing, shelter, and access to education and medical care. The KofC has committed \$2 million to rebuilding the predominantly Christian town of Karamles on the Nineveh Plain. That's where profits from our KofC insurance go and to other charities.

“Our people know that without the direct support from the Knights of Columbus to Christians in the region, and without its assistance in making our case to the United State government, Christianity might already have been driven out of Iraq completely,” said Bashar Warda CSsR Chaldean Rite Catholic Archbishop of Erbil. Syriac Rite Patriarch Ignatius Joseph III Younan wrote that he relied “on [the Knights’] compassion and understanding of our plight in the Middle East, particularly in Syria and Iraq.” K of C lobbying and fact gathering influenced the State Department to declare genocide in the region and increase U.S. aid to religious minorities impacted by ISIS genocide. In the photo above a refugee father does some babysitting for his children in a tent at a refugee camp.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR YOUR MARRIAGE TODAY? Pray for your wife every day. “Dear Lord, please help me to be a good husband. Help me to love her more. Help me to make her happy. Help me to give more of myself to her. Help me to be more sensitive to her needs, feelings, and desires. Give me the strength to die (to myself) for her everyday.....her needs over my needs.....all in the context of a good marriage and a holy family. Help us to be an example for other couples to follow. St. Joseph, model of a true man of God, pray for me. Mother Mary, pray for us.”

Knights of Columbus Insurance. Since our field agent resigned, General Agent James Valent is filling in for him. If anyone has questions regarding his own policy or would like to buy a new one, contact him at “James Valent – K of C General Insurance Agent” <james.valent@kofc.org>, Phone (740) 280-0280. Brother knight Nathan Frazee, the former field agent, is engaged in an entrepreneurial endeavor and is sorely missed. The position of field agent for our area remains open and would be a great *career opportunity* for a knight. Contact James Valent.

First Bonanza Raffle Turn-in – April 8. Proceeds support Knights of Columbus charities. This first turn-in is critical because it gives our Council the maximum rebate that we use to finance the scholarships we give to high schools seniors of our parish. So please be aggressive in selling the tickets and generous in buying as many tickets as you can to win \$50,000.....25 cash prizes worth \$108,000 in all. Contact any knight to buy a ticket. Turn in your tickets and money to Oscar or look for the box in the vestibule.

Graduating High School Seniors, who are active in the parish, may apply for a \$500 college scholarship. Obtain an application form from Mike Haas or from the parish secretary.

Recruit new members for our council. We need new blood, real men we can count on to actively participate, to come to meetings, to take leadership roles, and to pull their weight. Talk up the knights. Tell the guys about the great fellowship, opportunities to serve the parish and community, and the great life insurance program that we have. Then we'll be ready to send a delegation for the next official induction of new knights.

Activities and Announcements for the Month of April

1. **The Knights continue to sponsor and lead the rosary 25 to 30 minutes before the Masses of the first Saturday and first Sunday** of the month. For April it's *Sunday the 1st and Saturday the 7th*. The next rosary will be on the week end of May 5-6 during the beautiful month of Mary. After the Mass, the Rosary is the most perfect prayer which Mary herself gave us. Our Lady urges us to pray the rosary for peace daily; the need is urgent. Don't forget the First Saturday Mass at 8 am April 7. Live the Fatima message! Continue to offer your aches and pains, problems and frustrations, disappointments and failures to Jesus through Mary for the conversion of sinners and the poor souls in purgatory. First thing out of bed.....offer up your day.
2. **The next Eucharistic Adoration**, usually the first Sunday of the month, *is April 8, Divine Mercy Sunday*. Come as part of the Honor Guard. It's a relaxing and peaceful time with our Lord, one on one in silence, a break from all the noise, the stress of the hustle and bustle that we face in our daily lives. Tell him about your problems, your desires, and decisions you have to make. Ask for His will, which is for your best, and trust. Then listen. He will comfort you, guide you, and give you peace. Often He will heal you, inspire you, open doors, and tell you what to do. *The recommended community prayer intention for April* is for persecuted Christians and for the strength to deal with subtle persecution as ridicule when we practice our faith.
3. **K of C Breakfast to honor the children who will receive their First Holy Communion - Sunday April 22 after the 10 am Mass only.** Any money donated will help KofC charities. It will be great fellowship and delicious food with a lot of love added to it to strengthen our parish community. Bring your family and friends. Everyone in the parish is invited to celebrate and make this day special for the children.
4. **Monthly Business Dinner Meeting - Monday April 23 at 6:30 pm with Rosary at 5:45 pm in the Parish Hall Chapel.** We have great fellowship at dinner and the input of every knight is most valuable at the meeting as we make decisions regarding future activities. Our Council is as strong as each knight makes it. We cannot be an effective Council without the Lord's help and guidance together with your participation. *The next 4th Monday of the month Dinner Meeting is scheduled for May 28.*
5. **Knights of Columbus Fifth Sunday Mass – Sunday April 29 (next July 29) at 10 am.** The 4th Degree knights will process in full regalia and make the Mass more beautiful and impressive than it already is. The knights will do it all; Fr. Tom is also a knight. We will all *meet in the back of the church at 9:45 am.*