

St. John's Council #1345
Knights of Columbus

*100th Anniversary
Journal*



Saturday, October 18, 2008
Colonial Manor, Old Tappan, New Jersey



June 28, 2008 Centennial Celebration – Officers and guests.

Shown left to right:

PGK Matthew Hayes

John McGill

Severino Adel

Anthony Miele, PFN

Russell Petrocelli, PFN

Edward Kostka

Thomas Trank

David Benson

Anthony Tulli

William Horn – Robert (Bob) DeWald
immediately behind

PGK Ivan Hannibal

Louis Pidi

DGK Thomas Ciotti

Monsignor Richard Arnhols

Bishop Charles J. McDonnell

Father John F. Murray, SMA

Assemblyman John E. Rooney

State Senator Gerald Cardinale

Father Raymond Filipski

Father Robert LaFerrera – Thomas Hyer, FN,
directly to the right

PGK Philip Fredericks

PGK William J. Gilligan – S. Vincent Montagna, PFN,
directly to the right

PGK John R. (Bob) Dondero

PGK William P. Bochicchio

Michael Paul

William Connington, PFN

PGK Frank Messina



A Hundred Year Journey of: Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

What a long and arduous journey our Council has traveled. We have prospered and most importantly survived these hundred years where so many other endeavors have failed the test of time. Our membership has labored long and hard to keep our building intact and to protect our home for our present and future members. Our commitment to Our Lord and His Church has always been in the forefront of our actions, and in our commitment to our brother members and the parishes and communities we serve. Our charitable work is the tread that runs through all our activities and has become our trademark as an organization.

This journal is a tribute to all the members and families of St. John's Council. Those who gave so much of their time, talent and devotion to a dream started by Fr. Michael J. McGivney over 125 years ago in a the basement of a small parish church in New Haven Connecticut. Our Council has tried to follow in his footsteps and maintain the ideals of the Knights of Columbus over these last 100 years. The devotion to our Mother the Church, the works of charity, the assistance we have given to our local parishes, these are but a few of the great work of our council. There have been so many members who built this council, who maintained it through good and bad times. There are those who worked affairs, cooked in our kitchen, setup and rented our hall, and ordered food, and supplies. There are hundreds and hundreds of people who have done these and the many unseen jobs that have supported our Council and kept our building in the great condition it has always enjoyed.

To the leaders of our great council, to the many unnamed workers and their wives and families, who gave of their time so graciously, this journal is dedicated to you for your efforts and for those who will come after us. Long live St. John's Council #1345.

A special thank you to all who served on our Centennial Committee over the last 18 months.

Committee Chairmen:

Chairman	Bill Bochicchio, FDD, PGK
Co-Chairman	Bob Dondero, FDD, PGK, PFN
Religious	David Benson
Fund Raising	Phil Fredericks, PGK
Co-Chairman	George DiCostanzo, PGK, PFN
Historical Journal	Brian O'Dowd
Journal Ads	Phil Fredericks, PGK
Co-Chairman	George DiCostanzo, PGK, PFN
Publicity	Tom Ciotti
Finance	Bob DeWald
Open House	Nina DiCostanzo
Transportation	George Olszewski, PGK
MC	Bill Gilligan, FDD, PGK
Dance	Bob Dondero, FDD, PGK, PFN

Committee Members:

Dance	Barry Bernard, DD, PGK, PFN, Matt Connell, Edwin Orr
Historical	John McGill, Bob Armbruster, Dr. Geoffrey Sadock, Anthony Tulli
Journal Ads	Lou Pidi, Peter McHugh
Religious	Jim McEntee, Tom Ciotti

May God Bless our Council for the next 100 years,

Bill Bochicchio, FDD, PGK

Centennial Chairman



St. John's Council #1345
A Century of Service

It was an honor being the Grand Knight during the Centennial Year 2007-2008 serving St. John's Council #1345, our parishes and the communities of Bergenfield and Dumont. When I became a member of the Knights of Columbus in 2001, we were in the midst of the tragedy of the World Trade Center bombings and the chaos it brought to our nation. Those were very touching times and the Knights of Columbus did their part in assisting those heroes. I was empowered when helping in the kitchen and knew that the Knights were doing something to help. Since then I have seen our order grow, continue to be involved in community needs and thanks to our brother Knights before us we have kept the meaning of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism going strong. I especially want to give Thanks to all the members of the Centennial Committee for the time that they have given to make this Centennial the success that it is. God Bless you all, St. John's Council #1345 and Peace....

Ivan Hannibal
Past Grand Knight

I am honored and humbled to have been elected the Grand Knight of St. John's Council # 1345 for the Columbian Year 2008-2009. St. John's Council has prospered and served people of all faiths in the Communities of Bergenfield and Dumont since June 28, 1908. Our longevity can be attributed to the dedication of thousands of Catholic gentlemen throughout our history to the principles of our Order – Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. The vision that was the Knights of Columbus became a reality in 1882 thanks to our founder Father McGivney, and we all are better men for being Brother Knights.

It is indisputable that St. John's Council has continued the vision of Father McGivney. This Council's record of charity, assistance to those in need, love of the Church, its priests and community is unparalleled and it is because of this history of service that we can look with pride back on our 100 years of service and with anticipation to our next 100 years of service.

The Centennial Committee led by Bill Bochicchio has worked long and hard over 18 months to bring us to this day – a day of great joy, celebration and honor. The hours that have been spent by our Centennial Committee in preparing for the Centennial Celebration may be measurable, but what cannot be measured is the passion and dedication of these Brothers to the Knights of Columbus, and their love of this Council.

I know and trust that St. John's historic and unsurpassed record of service will continue and be recognized for another 100 years.

Vivat Jesus,
Steven Martin
Grand Knight



The charter for St. John's Council No. 1345 was signed on June 28, 1908 by Supreme Knight Edward L. Hearn. At the time, the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus was called the National Council.

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The Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus has grown from one local unit, or council, to over 13,400 councils in the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Panama, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Guatemala, Guam, Saipan, Cuba, Japan, and most recently Poland. While most councils are based in a given Catholic parish, others draw their members from several. Still others are based on college and university campuses and include Catholic students, faculty, and staff. Each reflects the diversity of the Church.

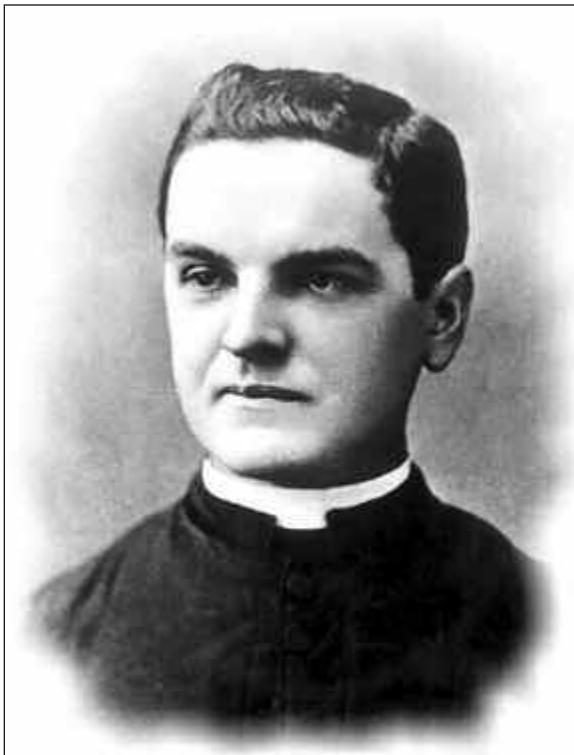
Membership includes over 1.76 million dues-paying members and their families—approximately 4.5 million people total—many of whom are actively involved in volunteer service programs for the Catholic Church, their communities, their families, young people, and one another.

In 2006, members reported over 68 million hours of volunteer service and \$143.8 million raised and donated to charitable and fraternal projects (\$1.1 billion in charitable contributions in the last 10 years). The Order has been praised by popes, presidents, and other world leaders for evangelization and Catholic education, for civic involvement and aid to those in need.

The Order's insurance program has more than \$61 billion of life insurance policies in force and holds the highest insurance ratings given by A. M. Best, Standard and Poor's, and the Insurance Marketplace Standards Association. The early system of fraternal benefits has grown into a top-quality life insurance society, offering diverse plans to members and their families. "Protecting Families for Generations" is a motto that captures the Knights' adherence to the legacy of its founder and fidelity to his vision.

HISTORY

On October 2, 1881, a small group of men met in the basement of St. Mary's Church on Hillhouse Avenue in New Haven, Connecticut, to discuss the formation of a fraternal benefit society. Convened at the request of Fr. Michael J. McGivney, a 29-year-old priest, this meeting marked the foundation of what has become the world's largest Catholic family fraternal service organization.



Fr. Michael J. McGivney

Four months after this meeting, the group adopted the name, "Knights of Columbus." Shortly after the turn of the 20th century, Knights could be found in every state of the United States, in most of the provinces of Canada, in Mexico, and in the Philippines, and would soon appear in Puerto Rico and Cuba.

Taking the name of Christopher Columbus, the Knights demonstrated their pride in America's Catholic heritage. To the Irish-American Catholics who incorporated the organization, the name evoked allegiance to the Church and affirmed the discovery of America as a Catholic event. This was a strong reaction to the anti-foreign (and therefore anti-Catholic) movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries known as Nativism. Thus, the Order promoted assimilation in the New World rather than looking back to Europe, whence the first members had come.



Outlining the organization's aims, Fr. McGivney wrote:

Our primary object is to prevent our people from entering secret societies by offering the same if not better advantages to our members. Secondly, our object is to unite the men of faith in the Diocese of Hartford, that we may thereby gain strength to aid each other in time of sickness; to provide for decent burial; and to render pecuniary assistance to families of deceased members.

For Father McGivney the fraternal Order was designed to protect faith through "Unity and Charity" (the Order's motto until 1885, when "Fraternity" was added). His concept was expressed through its sick benefits and life insurance coverage. Father McGivney sought to protect the faith by protecting families.

Although frequently amended during the first 15 years, the Order's constitution and authority structure has largely been preserved. The Supreme council is composed of Supreme Officers, State and territorial deputies, and the last living past State deputy of each jurisdiction and elected representatives from each State. This is the Order's highest policy-making and legislative body and meets annually in August.

Impact of the Knights of Columbus

Shortly after the United States entered World War I, in April 1917, Supreme Knight James A. Flaherty (1909-1927) wrote President Woodrow Wilson a letter in which he reported that the Order proposed "to establish centers for the large body of men who will be concentrated in training and mobilization camps." By that summer, the Knights of Columbus War Activities Committee was established. The Knights established service centers, or Knights of Columbus huts, in training camps in the United States; rest and recovery hostels in England and Ireland; huts behind the lines; and, after the war, in allied occupied areas in France, Germany, Italy, and even Siberia. Under the banner "Everyone Welcome, Everything Free," the Knights provided the servicemen with a wide range of programs including sports, music, and drama, while the Knights of Columbus chaplains ministered to their spiritual needs. The Order raised more than \$14 million on its own and was allocated nearly \$30 million from a combined national fund drive. After the war, unused funds were expended on a variety of K of C educational, vocational, occupational, and employment programs for veterans, while its evening school program enrolled more than 50,000 students in its 100 schools in 1920. Its correspondence school, administered by the Supreme Council office, enrolled 25,000 students, and the Order awarded more than 400 college scholarships to veterans. Nearly 400,000 men joined the Order between 1917 and 1923.



In response to a plea from Pope Benedict XV (1914-1922), who assumed personal charge of Vatican relief efforts during the War, the Knights established five playgrounds in Rome, still operated by the Order today at no charge. These youth recreation and education centers stimulated a growing interest in youth work at home.

The Great Depression caused a decline in Knights of Columbus membership and also hindered the growth of the Columbian Squires, since initiation fees and membership dues were difficult to raise.



In 1931, religious tensions in Mexico, which had been in check for several years, resurfaced. So, too, did the Knights of Columbus' support of the clergy and Church in Mexico, which had been suppressed by the government. Throughout that period, the Knights of Columbus in Mexico kept the faith and hundreds gave their lives to protect their beliefs, some as martyrs, others in the armed Cristero movement.

WORLD WAR II

Supreme Knight Francis P. Matthews (1939-1945) led the Order as it emerged from the Great Depression to enter World War II. The National Catholic Welfare Conference and its National Catholic Community Service branch formulated most programs of support for servicemen during World War II. The Knights were active in these programs and also spearheaded War Bond drives, blood donor programs, and similar efforts.

COLD WAR

With the end of World War II came the Cold War and expansion of communist power in Europe and Asia. Supreme Knight John E. Swift (1945-1953) oversaw the Order's varied responses to the communist threat, including speakers' bureaus, advertisements, pamphlets, and radio addresses. In the late 1940s, the Order sponsored 1300 educational discussion groups in the crusade against communism. President Harry Truman acknowledged the Order's efforts. Supreme Knight Luke E. Hart (1953-1964), worked to maintain the Order's anti-defamation character along with its patriotism and general promotion of Catholic interests. He also modernized the governing structure of the Order. Long associated with the Order's insurance program, he introduced innovations that improved family insurance plans. The return of prosperity and the revival of the Order's idealism in the post-War period fostered a rise in membership. With growth, several ambitious programs were launched to promote Catholic interests. In 1947, Hart founded the Order's Catholic Advertising Program, which became the Catholic Information Service.



Supreme Knight Luke E. Hart meets with President Dwight D. Eisenhower during the Order's drive to have the words "under God" added to the Pledge of Allegiance.

On Flag Day 1954, following a campaign spearheaded by Hart, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the resolution making official the addition of the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance.

In 1957 the Order's Board of Directors agreed to finance the *campanile*, or bell tower, at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The \$1 million, 329-foot bell-tower attached to the largest Catholic church in the United States, now a Minor Basilica, is known as the "Knights' Tower." The Order also provided a 56-bell carillon in 1963, and in 1988 renovated its operating system. Earnings on the \$500,000 Luke E. Hart Fund, established in 1979, go to the maintenance and operations of the National Shrine. In 2007, the Order underwrote completion of the magnificent mosaic of the Incarnation Dome.



In the turbulent 1960s and 1970s, Supreme Knight John W. McDevitt vigorously responded to the crises in society and to dissension in the Church, reiterating the Order's support of the hierarchy and Church teaching on contraception, abortion, and pornography. During this time, the present 23-story international headquarters of the Knights of Columbus was built in New Haven, Connecticut. The glass-faced building is a prominent feature of the city skyline, and is set off by four 320-foot towers symbolizing the Order's four ideals of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.

The Knights of Columbus continues to play a vital role in the technological development and global outreach of Vatican communications. The Knights funded the telecast of Pope John Paul II's installation around the world in 1978. Shortly thereafter, the Knights funded the production of a film about the pope's visit to Mexico City and the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the first pilgrimage of John Paul II's papacy. When the pope visited the United States in 1979, the Knights again financed the filming of his journey.

During the pontificate of Pope John Paul II, the Knights of Columbus was a major contributor to the renovations and additions at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. In 1981, the Knights collaborated with the Fabbrica di San Pietro in the construction in the grottoes of St. Peter's Basilica, including the building of a chapel dedicated to Saints Benedict, Cyril and Methodius, co-patrons of Europe, and the enlargement of the existing Chapel of Our Lady of Czestochowa, a Polish image of the Virgin Mary to which the Pope had a special devotion.



The Knight's of Columbus funded the first major restoration work in 350 years on the 65,000-square-foot façade of St. Peter's Basilica.

That was just the beginning. The first renovation of the façade of St. Peter's in 350 years was funded by the Knights (1985), who also supported the renovation of the 17th century atrium and the Holy Door of St. Peter's (1999) in preparation for the millennial Jubilee. Several restorations of Vatican art were paid for by the Knights, including the restoration of the ceiling of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in St. Peter's (1993) and of several artworks in the grottoes of the basilica (2002). In appreciation for the Knights' work on the façade, in 1985, the Pope sent the bronze cross, which had been held by the statue of Christ atop St. Peter's since 1614, to the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven. More than one hundred architectural artifacts and masterworks from Saint Peter's Basilica have been exhibited in the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven.

One of the most important initiatives of the Knights of Columbus in aiding John Paul II occurred in 1981, when they established the Vicarius Christi Fund, which provided an endowment of \$1 million, the interest from which was given to the Pope for use at his discretion. The fund has grown to \$20 million and its earnings have provided the Pope with \$35 million.

In December of 1997, the Archdiocese of Hartford formally opened Father McGivney's cause for sainthood. The archdiocesan phase of the investigation into his life and holiness concluded in 2000; since then, the Congregation for Saints' causes has continued the investigation. On March 15, 2008 Pope Benedict XVI approved a decree of "heroic virtues" for Father Michael McGivney. The Congregation for the causes of Saints in Rome is now considering his beatification, the final step before canonization.

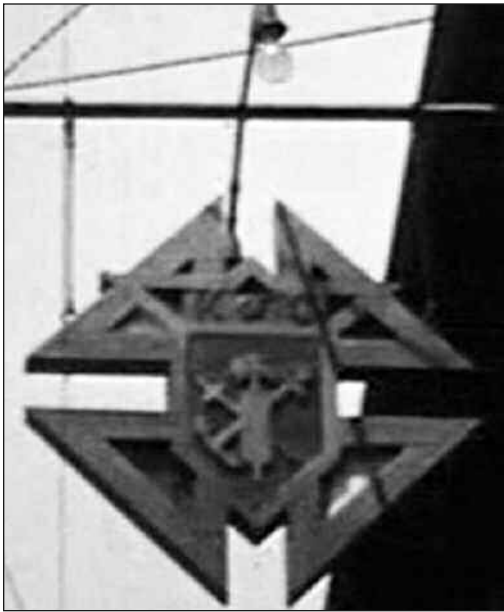
What started as a local attempt to protect immigrant widows and their children in a hostile and often prejudiced environment has become a worldwide beneficent institution, involved in multifarious charitable, cultural, educational, and community programs, indeed "the strong right arm of the Catholic Church."



The history of St. John's Council #1345

Our Council history illustrates how well we have kept the faith of our fathers, as embodied by Christopher Columbus and Father McGivney, for the last century.

When Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882, the area that is now Dumont and Bergenfield comprised the major portion of the town of Schraalenburgh. It took its name from the Dutch words for “gravel town” because of the gravel ridge that ran north and south. It was still populated mostly with Dutch, German, and French Huguenot descendents of the original colonists of the 1600s-1700s. This was not an area of many Catholics. After the building of the railroad, in the late 1800s, some developments were built east of Schraalenburgh Road, now known as Washington Avenue. The nearest Catholic churches were still far away in Hackensack and Englewood. In 1894, Schraalenburgh was incorporated as a borough. But the portion south of Maple Avenue (part of which has now been renamed Columbia Avenue), chose to form its own municipality. Since the railroad had named the station in the area “Bergen Fields,” Bergenfield became the new name. In 1898, Schraalenburgh was renamed Dumont after the first mayor, Dumont Clarke. This was the end of the Schraalenburgh era and the beginning of the Dumont and Bergenfield era. Both were to become homes for our council, our meeting places, and the parish churches which nurture us.



The sign from the original home of St. John's Council #1345 was a distinctive presence on Washington Avenue in Bergenfield.

Other areas in the state were starting to catch up with the Knights of Columbus. From 1895 to 1899, 15 Councils were founded in New Jersey. Most were in large cities with significant Catholic populations. None were in Bergen County.

As the area slowly developed, laborers were brought in to help with construction. Some were Italian and Irish Catholics. The railroad made New York, Jersey City, and Hoboken accessible. Catholic professional men, clerical workers, and tradesmen started to move into the area too.

As the new century dawned, Bergen County saw its first Knights of Columbus council founded in 1900 in Englewood. In 1903, a second was added in Hackensack. This year also marked the founding and construction of St. Joseph's Church in Oradell. Though this was still the horse-and-buggy era, Sunday Mass was at least a little more accessible to the few Catholic families in the area.

About 25 Catholic families – approximately 50 people – in Bergenfield and Dumont founded a “Catholic Club” in 1905, to foster Catholic interests and concerns. Their goal was to obtain their own church and pastor. They held their meetings in the first Bergenfield Town Hall. This was the Christie Building, at Main and Front Streets. Their intention was to petition the Most Rev. John J. O'Connor, fourth Bishop of the Newark Diocese, for the assignment of a priest, if only on a missionary basis.

Their prayers were soon answered; the Rev. John H. C. Rutten arrived on October 7th 1905. He had been born in Holland, and his last assignment was as a missionary in Canada. Our new Pastor was here at last!



The original St. John the Evangelist Church.

Lacking a church, the first Mass was said the next day, and, for the next two years, in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Edward W. Flood on Washington Avenue. The server was Mr. Harry J. Hautau, who became a charter member of our council. When the number of Catholics increased, the Masses were moved to Demarest Hall, on Main Street. Father Rutten roomed with several parishoners.

The cornerstone was laid for the new church on March 3, 1907 and the church was completed later that year. It was named for St. John the Evangelist, one of the original 12 apostles. Tradition tells us that he was the only apostle not to suffer martyrdom.

It didn't take long for a small nucleus of Catholic gentlemen to decide, the following year, that they wanted to establish a council of the Knights of Columbus in the area. Father Rutten was not only to be the first pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church,

he was also the first Chaplain of St. John's Council #1345. He signed the charter on June 28th 1908 as the Chaplain. The thirty charter members were:

Edward F. Bradshaw – Grand Knight

Felix Beadley – Recorder

M.F. Bradley – Financial Secretary

Joseph Brady

Joseph Burke

Thomas Byrne

William Cox – Outside Guard

Anton Emmerth – Warden

Harry S. Farrell

George Gingras

James Gleason – Trustee

Emil Goss

William Grimes – Inside Guard

Edward Harrison

Andrew Hautau – Trustee

Charles A. Hautau

Harry J. Hautau

John Hegerty* – Chancellor

Francis Hogan

Thomas King – Lecturer

J. F. Mulligan

Walter Murphy

Joseph O'Donnell

F. McCarthy

O. Mahoney

David Patterson, Jr. – Treasurer

Charles Ripee

George Sweeney – Advocate

Joseph Sweeney

James Wiley – Deputy Grand Knight

Later that year, A.J. Conlon joined the council and was appointed a third trustee.

* Originally from Council #177 in NYC – transferred to SJC #1345 as a charter member.

According to the Supreme Office in New Haven, St. John's Council was officially installed on June 28, 1908 in Dumont, New Jersey. The District Deputy was B. Jeffers of Hackensack, probably from Trinity Council #747. He conducted the Third Degree. There was a notation to this effect in the August 1908 *Columbiad*. For many decades, both the Supreme and State Councils referred to our council as the "Dumont" council, even though the council was chartered in Bergenfield. It took several decades before this was corrected.



Edward F. Bradshaw, one of the original members of the Catholic Club, became the first Grand Knight and resided on Druid Avenue, in Dumont. Many others were also from Dumont. Probably, through the years, the membership was approximately 1/2 Dumont, 1/2 Bergenfield. The Grand Knight was only 21 years of age.



For many years, the Catholics of the area used the old "Town Hall" in Dumont.

Most of the old records have been lost. It is possible that the early meetings were in Dumont. The only record that we have from this period is the program of the New Year's Eve Barn Dance on Dec. 31, 1908. The "Town Hall" referred to in the program stood on the Southeast corner of West Madison Avenue and the modern Park Avenue. This was built in 1896 as the Engine Company No. 1 firehouse. It also served for many years as the town public meeting hall and was used for dances. It was demolished in 1961 and replaced by the present structure.

The barn dance program shows that our founders had a good sense of humor and liked to socialize. The council prospered in Catholic action during this period. The Holy Father was Pius X. He reigned from 1903 to 1914 and was to achieve sainthood in 1954 as St. Pius X. From 1914 to 1922, they were inspired by the leadership of His Holiness Pope Benedict XV. In Newark, our distinguished Ordinary was the Most Rev. John J. O'Connor, who served from 1901 to 1927. St. John's Church had been able to build a rectory for our Chaplain, Father Rutten, in 1910.

The Catholics of Harrington Park met in 1910 to form an Association of Catholics of Harrington Park with the view of promoting a church fund for the establishment of a Catholic Church. The first Mass was heard in Harrington Park on Nov. 6, 1910 in the parlors of Mrs. E. W. Walters' home with 85 persons present. Among them were delegations from the Dumont and Hackensack Councils of the Knights of Columbus.

In August 1913, Bishop John J. O'Connor of Newark directed the Rev. Gedeone De Vincentiis, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Oradell, to conduct a survey of Dumont to determine whether consideration should then be given to the formation of a separate parish in Dumont. A committee was promptly formed of Catholic men and women who conducted a census. The result indicated that there was a real need for a church and Father De (as he was known by all) was instructed by Bishop O'Connor to proceed with the establishment of a mission. The men organized the Dumont Catholic Club and the women organized the Catholic Ladies Aid Society.

On October 5, 1913, the first Mass was celebrated in the old Town Hall. The attendance was so encouraging that Father De announced that no time should be lost in the preparation of plans and selection of an appropriate site for a church, which was to be known as St. Mary's. A few weeks later, on October 13, 1913, the lots on the southwest corner of Washington and New Milford Avenues were purchased from Leonard H. Wood.



St. Mary's original "old white church on the corner"



On May 10, 1914, at 3 P.M., St. Mary's entire congregation formed a procession from the old Town Hall, where Mass was celebrated every Sunday, up Washington Avenue to New Milford Avenue, where ground was broken and a sermon was preached by the Right Reverend Dean Conneely, pastor of Holy Trinity, Hackensack.

Father De continued as mission Pastor during this period. We know that the good father was friendly to our council and attended our Communion breakfast in 1925.

On April 1, 1917, the United States entered the Great War, later referred to as World War I. This had a remarkable effect on our area. To accommodate the housing of tens of thousands of troops from the Hoboken Port of Embarkation, Camp Merritt was built later in the year. It comprised 770 acres, mostly in Dumont and Cresskill. Council members and the Ladies Auxiliary were very active in assisting and providing comfort to the soldiers.

The Knights of Columbus Committee on War Activities began welfare work in Camp Merritt almost simultaneously with military operations. Permission was obtained from the Commanding Officer to use a barracks building. The building was finished in December 1917 and was officially dedicated on Feb. 3, 1918. On Sunday night, a solemn Pontifical High Mass was held. The Knights of Columbus State Deputy, John F. O'Neill, made the acceptance speech and Major General Haan, of the 32nd Division, represented Major General Shanks. The Knights of Columbus building was so well attended by the soldiers that two additional buildings were erected and an extension was put on the first one.



The Knights of Columbus building at Camp Merritt. The sign over the door read: Everybody Welcome – Everything Free.

Every Wednesday and Sunday afternoon, the Ladies Auxiliary visited the Knights of Columbus building to make hot coffee and serve the coffee and cake to the soldiers. Chaplains were at the buildings at all hours and Masses were said every week day and Sundays at 7, 8, and 9 A.M. The furnishings in the main building were given by the Ladies Auxiliaries of several councils, as were those in the library building. The Knights of Columbus buildings were open to all soldiers, regardless of religious belief. The signs over the doors proclaimed: "Everybody Welcome – Everything Free."

Between 1917 and 1919, more than a million soldiers passed on their way to and from the World War. Our council members must have been very busy during this period. Many soldiers came back to this area and some of them joined the Knights of Columbus because of their experiences at Camp Merritt.

On a sad note, in 1919 Father Rutten's health rapidly deteriorated and the Bishop transferred him to a convalescent home in Orange.

There were 120 men from Dumont in the service during the War. One, Karl G. Holt, gave his life. In Bergenfield, 39 parishioners went away to war. Fortunately, all returned. Regrettably, our records for our own members are not available for this period.

For the second resident pastor of St. John's, and the second official Chaplain of our council, Bishop O'Connor sent us the Rev. Thomas F. Morrissey, the chaplain at Holy Angels Academy in Fort Lee. The Academy had been providing two sisters from the School Sisters of Notre Dame each week for Sunday School for many years. We know that Father Morrissey was our official Chaplain, since it was mentioned in our minutes of 1953 on the occasion of his 50th anniversary in the priesthood.



St. John's Church did not as yet have a convent, hall, or school. The council's meeting places are not well documented, but were probably moved around various places in Bergenfield and Dumont.

The next twenty years were very active ones in the history of our council and of the two parishes. In December 1920, the Government put the now vacant Camp Merritt up for sale. The construction company that purchased the camp for \$550,000 had hardly started to demolish it for the materials, when disaster struck. A series of three large fires in 1921 burned most of the former soldiers' barracks. Some say squatters had taken over the buildings and this was undesirable. It was never proven who had actually set these hundreds of fires, but a local terrorist organization was suspected.



The St. John's Home Association building was originally a two story officers' quarters building at Camp Merritt. When it was moved to Washington Avenue near Hickory, it was placed on a foundation, which made it a three level building. Fred Jacobsen, a past grand knight, remembers entering the building as a child. You had to go either up or down stairs to get to a floor. The club had two bowling alleys, a kitchen, pool table, and meeting room tables but no bar, due to Prohibition. It was lost during the great Depression for what was believed to have been \$4,000 in debt.

Many of the remaining buildings were sold and moved to other locations by utilizing greased logs. Father Morrissey arranged to purchase the Visitors' Center for \$2,100 and paid \$5,000 to have it moved. This became St. John's first combination school and convent. In 1921, the trustees of St. John's Council purchased a two-story officers-quarters and moved it to Washington Avenue, near Hickory in Bergenfield. It was called the St. John's Home Association. Thomas J. Prime was the first President, and Edward Bradshaw, our first Grand Knight, was the Vice President.

This period witnessed rapid economic growth and generally affluent conditions. St. John's School enrollment increased from 66 to more than 240 students. Our council offered Fr. Morrissey the use of our hall for additional classrooms and the offer was readily accepted. Because of trouble with fire regulations, this arrangement had to be terminated.

Also in 1921, the SMA Fathers purchased the General James estate "Highwood" in Tenafly. They intended to establish a seminary for black priests. The same year, construction started on St. Mary's first Rectory.

St. Mary's first rectory was completed in 1923, and the Rev. John Woods was appointed the first resident pastor. Father Morrissey left St. John's Church in 1925, and Father Woods became our third official Chaplain. The records do not indicate the exact year of the Morrissey-Woods changeover. Father Woods arrived in 1922. It is safe to assume that this happened by 1925. Father Woods is listed as our Chaplain in the 1925 Communion Breakfast program.

Father Edward F. Hillock, who proved to be a great builder, succeeded Father Morrissey at St. John's. A new school was built in 1926, and a new convent in 1929. Though not our Chaplain, Father Hillock was a great friend of our council. Sadly, our first Chaplain, Father Rutten, died in Orange in 1925.

In November of 1924, a group known as The Columbus Cadets was formed, the first of several Youth Programs on which the Knights of Columbus would embark and bring to fruition. Membership was open to all Catholic youth between the ages of 12 and 16, the purpose of such an organization being the training of boys for future leadership roles as members of the Knights of Columbus. The cadets were very active here in the mid-to-late 1930s, and Father Hillock was their spiritual director.



The Columbus Cadets – Photo taken at the side of St. John’s school building.
Inset – Father Edward Hillock, spiritual director of the cadets.

The SMA Fathers closed their Tenafly seminary in 1926 as the “Great Experiment” had failed. In 1927, Bishop O’Connor died, and the local Fourth Degree Assembly was named after him. He was succeeded by the first Archbishop of Newark, the Most Rev. Thomas J. Walsh. The decade ended in October 1929 with the disastrous stock market crash, which triggered the Great Depression.

The advent of the Great Depression had an adverse impact on organizations such as the Knights of Columbus. Not only did many members drop out for financial reasons, but it was almost impossible to recruit new members. There was mass unemployment in the country for a decade. Property was lost through foreclosure, and many councils were disestablished, or combined with others.

Like so many others, the St. John’s Home Association building was lost. The exact date is unknown, but it is thought to have been around 1933.

Father Woods, our Chaplain and the pastor of St. Mary’s in Dumont, died in 1935. He was replaced by the Rev. Henry W. O’Neill. St. Mary’s Church basement would continue to serve as the meeting place of the council for the next 25 years.

During the 1938-1940 Columbian years, Grand Knight James Connolly saw many improvements in the Council and changes in the world. When his term began, there were 42 members of the Council.

In 1938, a Ladies Auxiliary was formed, which would turn out to have a significant impact on the Council as the world entered the dark period of the early 1940s.

On March 29, 1939 Fr. Edward F. Hillock, the pastor of St. John’s Church, died of a sudden heart attack in the rectory. He was 54 years old. All of the parish organizations came out in force to pay their final respects. The Knights and the Columbus Cadets also participated. As reported in the *Bergen Evening Record*, Thomas J. Kelly, a Past Grand Knight and the funeral director, estimated that at least 10,000 persons passed by the bier while the body rested in the rectory and later as it lay in state at the Church. At the time, this was roughly the total population of Bergenfield. Two of the honorary pall bearers were John P. Sheridan, our third Grand Knight and David Patterson, one of the charter members. Fr. Hillock was succeeded by Father Edward A. McGuirk.

Our District Deputy, Frank E. Safino, was the chairman of the New Jersey State Council Blood Donor group. His personal efforts in organizing blood donor groups statewide included St. John’s Council, which was noted in *The Columbiad* in 1940.



While most of the Council's records for the period prior to 1938 have been lost, the 1940 Treasurer's report lists the receipts of \$534.67 in 1935, \$594.41 in 1936, \$587.94 in 1937, \$693.48 in 1938, and a total of \$889.53 in 1939.

Pope Pius XI died on February 10, 1939, at the age of 81; it was the eve of the start of World War II in Europe.

The New York World's Fair opened in 1939. Metropolitan area Knights of Columbus Councils were involved in musical performances during the opening week ceremonies. There was also a Knights of Columbus Day in July of that year.

Charity and fraternity were in abundance, as the Council supported the attendance of two young men at Camp Columbus and provided basketball equipment to St. John's.

In January of 1936, the Supreme Council established the "Five-Point Program of Progress." Its aim was to provide councils with a framework for their activities. The five categories are: Catholic Activity, Council Activity, Fraternal Protection, Publicity, and Maintenance of Manpower. During the term of Grand Knight Edward Burke, St. John's Council began applying these principles to our activities and we gained our first Star Council award in 1942 for the Columbian year 1940-41.

From the Columbiad

July 7, 1941 – Brother Stephen Prime was feted on the eve of his departure for military training by St. John's Council No. 1345, Bergenfield, New Jersey. Chancellor Joseph Kraus presided and music was furnished by the glee club of St. John's Holy Name Society. Brother Prime was presented with a military set. Grand Knight Edward S. Burke and Brother Prime's father addressed the gathering.

From the Columbiad

Oct 20, 1941 – More than 300 persons attended the first annual dinner-dance of St. John's Council No 1345, Bergenfield and Dumont New Jersey. Grand Knight Edward S. Burke welcomed the guests and presented State Deputy John F. X. Landrigan, General Agent Francis X. Shoemaker, District Deputy Arthur Jerome and officers of several Councils. At the close of the dinner, Grand Knight Burke announced that he had received twelve applications. The Council more than doubled its membership last year.

The dinner-dance was held at The Swiss Chalet.

In December of 1941, the United States entered World War II, and St. John's Council prepared to assist those in need.

By 1943, the membership had grown to 150 knights. The war continued, and a resolution was passed for the Council to cover the dues of the many members who were in the armed forces. In support of member families with husbands in the service, babysitting was provided to allow wives to work in nearby war plants.

In 1943, a change was made which had a lasting impact on our Council: the meeting nights were changed from Wednesday to Monday nights.

On the social side, many opportunities were available for members to get together, including bowling at Klein's in Dumont and card playing in the Old House at St. Mary's. On June 26, 1943, the 35th Anniversary Dinner Dance was held at the Old Plantation Inn (later known as the Inwood Manor) in Teaneck.



On July 29th, 1944, our brother – Sergeant Guido Signoretti was killed in action. He was a B-17 bomber crew member on a mission to attack the well defended city of Merseburg. Located deep in the heart of central Germany, Merseburg became Hitler's most fortified stronghold in all of Germany. It was the site of Leuna, the world's largest synthetic oil refinery, and by mid-1944, the primary producer of oil for the Third Reich. Guido and eight other souls gave their lives when their plane was hit by flak.

In 1944, as the war continued, the Council began to recite a decade of the rosary before each meeting. One of our brothers, PFC Ray O'Hara, was wounded in action and came home.

Founded in 1894, the boroughs of Bergenfield and Dumont celebrated their 50th anniversary of incorporation in 1944. The Council participated in both celebrations.

Father Edward A. McGuirk, the pastor of St. John's Church and a brother Knight, transferred his membership to St. John's Council in December of 1944.

Hugh O'Shaughnessy transitioned from his two year term as Grand Knight into the post of District Deputy. Coincidentally, the Council voted by resolution to limit future terms of Grand Knight to one year.

In 1945, our Advocate, Charles J. Tyne, was appointed Assistant United States Attorney, based in Newark, N.J.

Knights of Columbus Councils that add 100 or more members earn the Order's prestigious Century Club Award. St. John's Council attained this award in 1945.

Father O'Neill's 10th anniversary as Pastor of St. Mary's Church and Chaplain of St. John's Council was held at the Casa Mana in November of 1945.

As World War II drew to a close, many of our brothers at war returned home. Altogether, Dumont lost thirty-three fine men. Our brother Guido Signoretti was declared dead in February of 1946, and a memorial Mass was said by Fr. Henry O'Neill in his honor. Thanks were expressed to members and the ladies for their participation in war relief activities.

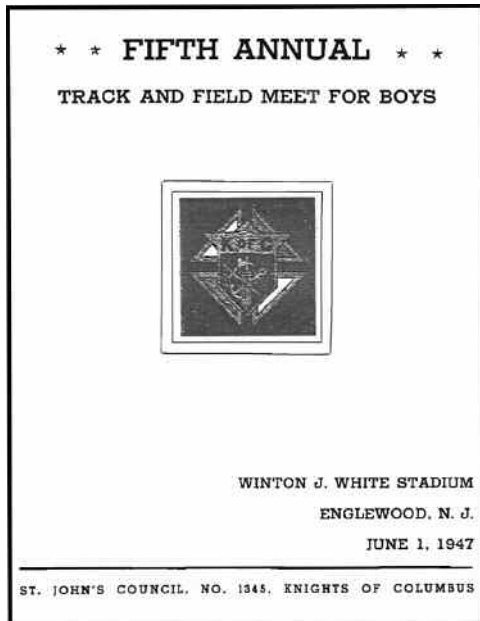
To insure the continued viability of the Council, dues were raised to \$9 in 1946.

From the Columbiad

April 12, 1946 – Founders Month was observed by St. John's Council No. 1345, Bergenfield, New Jersey, with the exemplification of the First, Second and Third Degrees and a Corporate Communion. Forty-seven candidates were in the Major Degree class.



As we moved away from a wartime footing and could again concentrate on our own development as a Council, athletics played a large role in our activities. Our boys' basketball program took first place; the men's baseball team played in the Northern Valley League and in the spring of 1947, the first *Guido Signoretti Trophy* was awarded for the 880 yard relay race at the CYO races held at Winton White Stadium in Englewood.



The first attempt at forming the Bergen Chapter of the Knights of Columbus was on May 28, 1931. At that time, five councils, including St. John's Council #1345, comprised the charter members. It isn't known why the Bergen Chapter ceased to exist after 1934. But it would be 14 years before the Chapter was revived in its present form, on March 12, 1948. St. John's Council again agreed to participate in this worthy organization. To date, the Chapter's Welfare Committee has distributed tens of thousands of dollars to brother Knights and the Death Benefit Fund provides a cushion of support to brother Knights and their families in times of bereavement.

As plans were made to celebrate the Council's 40th anniversary in 1948, athletics again played an important part in the life of our members, with a boys' basketball team being sponsored as well as another track meet in Englewood.

For many years, St. John's Council sponsored the Catholic High School track meets at Winton White Stadium in Englewood.

As the 1948-49 Columbian year started, devotion to our young people was again the major thrust of our Council. Eight boys were sponsored to Camp Columbus, and the Council decided to sponsor boys' admission

to the Dumont Swimming Pool (then located at the northwest corner of Columbia and Washington Avenues, where Stop & Shop is now). And again, the Council sponsored track meet was held at the Winton White Stadium on Memorial Day.

Father O'Neill, our Chaplain and the pastor at St. Mary's Church, had established the Boy Scouts at St. Mary's in 1939. Brother Ed DeWitte became the Scout Master of Troop #65 in 1949.

Ever since the Council's St. John's Home Association building was lost during the Great Depression, there was a desire to have another building to call home. While we were always welcome to meet in the basement of St. Mary's, it was felt that true growth of the Council couldn't happen until we again had a place to call home. As the Council's economic conditions improved, a fund was established for this purpose. On Dec. 5, 1949, a resolution was passed to acquire two lots on the southwest corner of River Edge Road and Prospect Avenue for \$1,600. On April 3, 1950, another resolution was passed to buy two adjoining lots on the southeast corner of Jones Place and River Edge Road, for \$1,650. This building project was subsequently abandoned because of restrictions on the property.

In April 1950, a dinner-dance was held at the Casa Mana, Teaneck, and a Communion Breakfast at the Clinton Inn in Tenafly. In June, 1950, the United States was again at war, this time in Korea.



After the great loss of property caused by the Depression, the Supreme Office in New Haven dictated that the Knights of Columbus subsidiary councils could not own property. Accordingly, a Columbian Club was formed to oversee the building and acquisition of property. This was to be a wholly-owned and operated subsidiary of the council, but would be semi-independent from it to satisfy the legal requirements. On Sept. 18, 1950, PGK John Kuisel was elected temporary chairman.

On Nov. 6, 1950, Father Anthony Bryce, a pastoral associate at St. Mary's Church, received his first degree. He was ordained on May 22, 1948 in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Newark.



**St. John the Evangelist Church,
Bergenfield**

In late spring of 1949, after only forty years of service, St. John's Church was torn down to make way for a more spacious structure that would better serve the needs of a growing Catholic community. The original church held only 250 parishioners at capacity and had outlived its usefulness. As late as 1939, serious plans were under way for a complete modernization, which would have cost five times what the original structure did. Since the expansion project had foundered, plans were made to build a new church better suited to the needs of a growing parish. The cornerstone laying and dedication for the new St. John's Church were held on December 9, 1950.

As the number of Catholics in the area grew, a need was seen for another parish to better serve the needs of the area. Ascension parish was established as a mission in 1952, and Masses were said in Steuben School, in New Milford. For over 30 years, St. John's Council would consider Ascension our third served parish.

In 1952, Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected president of the United States and served until 1960. The council engaged in various activities to aid the Korean War effort.

John Kuisel, elected as the temporary chairman of the Twin-Boro Columbian club, gave up his position to Thomas J. Prime, who became the new Columbian Club president. In May of 1953, the property purchased by the Council several years prior was sold for \$5400.

Msgr. Morrissey, then pastor of Madonna parish, in Fort Lee, celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination. The council honored him as a former chaplain.

During the term of Grand Knight William Haren (1953-1954), Brother Charles Conklin, one of the oldest members of the council from the founding days, died at the age of 96.

As St. John's Council continued to grow, we received the Certificate of Honor in 1953 from the Supreme Council recognizing our success in expanding our membership.

Grand Knight William J. Thierer witnessed a great deal of activity here in the Council as well as the Knights of Columbus in general. In October of 1955, a committee considered a name change for the council. While there is no record of what the proposed new name would be, we do know that no action was taken at the time.

Supreme Knight Luke Hart, who spearheaded the drive to have the Pledge of Allegiance changed, announced a drive to raise the rolls of the Knights of Columbus to one million members.



From the Columbiad

Jan 9, 1956 - Stamp Exhibit Planned at Bergenfield, NJ – St. John’s Council No. 1345, Bergenfield NJ will sponsor a junior stamp exhibition Feb. 10th and 11th for boys and girls between the ages of eight and ten. Formerly, the exhibit was held for adults only. Medals will be awarded to winners in each classification.

Brother Gerhardt “Bill” Kaufmann, an avid collector of stamps, began a short run of stamp shows called “Justex.” Beginning in 1956, he facilitated an unusual opportunity for youth to exhibit their collections beside recognizably impressive collections. There were several notable collections displayed over the three years of the shows, which alternated between Bergenfield High School and St. Mary’s school hall.

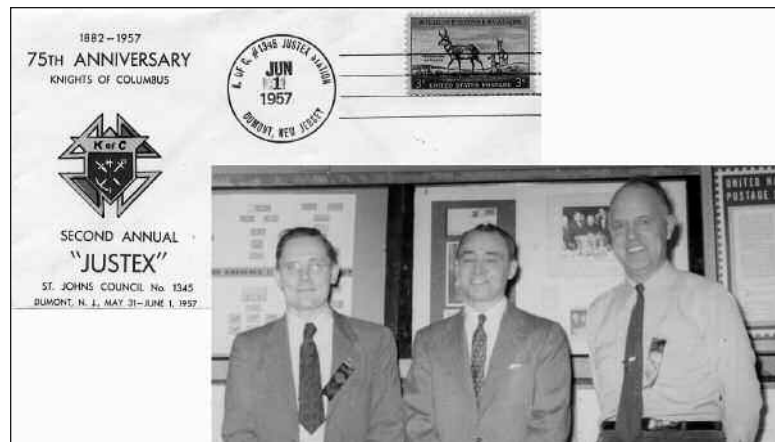
Francis Cardinal Spellman was an ardent stamp collector who built a famous collection of Roman States stamps and he is well remembered as a strong advocate of stamp collecting. He was given many special collections of outstanding material by heads of state and private citizens, and loaned parts of his collection to Justex for the first show.

Along with the collections of youth from our area, displays included one from the United Nations Postal Administration, the collection of Supreme Director Clarence Malone, and Bill Kaufmann’s own collection. There was also an exhibit of frames in memory of Admiral Richard E. Byrd, the famous explorer. The Dumont Post Office had a special philatelic window and cancellation for the 1957 show.

As John Kuisel took the reins back from Thomas J. Prime as president of the Columbian Club in 1956, the groundwork was laid for a permanent home for the Council as it made a loan of \$5,600 to the Club to obtain a building.

As we reached the end of the 1956-57 Columbian year, St. John’s Council again received a Certificate of Honor for the Insurance Honor Roll.

As part of the Council’s celebration of its 50th year, Grand Knight John E. Watson appeared along with Supreme Knight Luke E. Hart on the Tex & Jinx radio program, broadcast on WECA-NBC New York, on March 20, 1958. Jinx Falkenburg was a former “Rheingold Girl” who married radio host Tex McCrary and together, they co-hosted the “Tex and Jinx” radio show for many years. Discussed during the program was the closing of the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the Order, the operations and programs of the Knights of Columbus from the Supreme Council, State Council and local Council point of view.



Gerhardt Kaufmann, William Thierer and James Clark with philatelic displays at the 1957 Justex exhibition in Bergenfield High School.

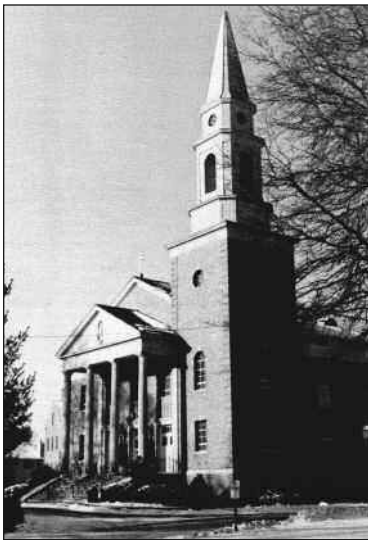


At the annual Communion Breakfast in 1958, Edward Bradshaw and Frank Hogan, two of our charter members, were the toastmasters. Sadly, PGK Hugh O'Shaughnessy died on May 27, 1958, after being elected State Deputy on May 19. Brother O'Shaughnessy served two terms as Grand Knight of St. John's Council and seven terms as a District Deputy. Since 1952, he had served as State Warden, State Treasurer and State Secretary. A Requiem Mass was celebrated by his brother, the Rev. Thomas O'Shaughnessy, of Youngstown, Ohio.

In the second and last debate on renaming the Council, consideration was given to renaming it to honor the late PGK Hugh O'Shaughnessy. O'Shaughnessy was elected to several state offices following his term, and he died just days before taking the position as State Deputy. After a long debate, the motion was defeated.

The 50th anniversary dance was held at The Suburban in Paramus on June 28, 1958. The anniversary Mass was held at St. Mary's Church.

Succeeding Pope Pius XII, Angelo Giuseppe Cardinal Roncalli took the name Pope John XXIII in October of 1958.



St. Mary's Church, Dumont

In 1959, Father Henry O'Neill petitioned Archbishop Thomas A. Boland for permission to conduct a fundraising campaign partially to fund the building of a new St. Mary's Church. While it was projected that the new church would cost approximately \$900,000, the goal was to raise about \$400,000 with the building fund appeal. John Kuisel, Walter Turbiak, and many other Brothers were on the building fund committees. The fundraising campaign offered many options for memorializing loved ones with a donation. St. John's Council pledged \$2,000 towards a "Knights' Altar" in the chapel or lower church.

The cornerstone for the church was laid in 1961, and the new church was dedicated on April 14, 1962. The Fourth Degree color guard participated in the dedication, and St. John's Council held a small reception for its members afterwards. A full schedule of Masses began the next day, Palm Sunday, at 7, 8, 9, 10, 11AM and noon.

In 1961, GK Sheehan made the redemption of the pledge to fund the Knights' Altar at St. Mary's a priority and created a special committee to work towards that goal. The August lawn party raised over \$1,400, which was put toward the pledge; after the party, he gave a check to Father O'Neill and dismissed the committee.

On July 22, 1959, the Columbian Club purchased the former Mailmaster Building in Dumont. Built in 1922 as a truck repair garage, the 80x150 foot plot was purchased for about \$18,000. Dozens of Brothers spent the remaining months of 1959 rehabilitating the building and getting it ready for the Council to occupy in January of 1960

Grand Knight Ferdinand J. Jacobsen Jr. presided over the first full Columbian year in the new clubhouse. As befitting something new, many firsts were established, including the first clambake in August of 1960 and the first Communion Breakfast in 1961. In September of 1960 a formal "Ladies' Auxiliary" was formed.

St. John's Council celebrated its fifty-second anniversary June 25, 1960 with a full day's program of activities. The program included a Mass in St. Mary's Church, followed by a blessing of the new Council home by the Rev. Henry W. O'Neill, Council chaplain. Many past Grand Knights were honored, and the Star Council Award was presented at a banquet in the evening. The guest speaker at the banquet was Past State Deputy Daniel McCormick.



Following the strong urging of the Supreme Council, St. John's initiated action in 1961 to form a Squires Circle. St. Dominic Savio Circle #1622 would become active by 1962. The coordinators of CYO locally, Fathers Edward Kavin from St. Mary's and Walter Genzlinger from St. John's, generally supported the founding of the Circle, as long as the meeting night didn't interfere with the CYO nights. Father Kavin, an assistant at St. Mary's, joined the council as a Brother Knight.

The newly established Ladies' Auxiliary wasted no time in raising funds for the Council. Janet Jacobsen, president, presented the council/club with \$500, earmarked for either kitchen cabinets or a dishwasher – at the club's discretion.

In 1961, John F. Kennedy became the first and only Catholic president elected. He was also the first Brother Knight and member of the Fourth Degree to obtain such a high office.



From the Bergen Evening Record

St. John's had a reputation for organizing and conducting the New Jersey Catholic High Schools Track Conference track and field championships and in 1962, celebrated twenty years of sponsorship. Our Brothers turned out *en masse*, bringing Columbian spirit to the tasks required. That year, the council tallied some impressive numbers. Applications had been received from 22 high schools, representing 620 entrants in the field events, and with the completion of the meet, another successful year passed.

Vatican Council II opened in Rome on October 11, 1962. In November, a motion was approved to sponsor a Squires Circle, and in January of 1963, 18 boys were initiated as Squires.

The first of many annual carnivals, a major fundraiser for the council, was planned and executed in less than ten weeks during the term of Grand Knight Gerry Oakley. It was held at the First National Store lot. For several years, the carnival was the major fundraising event,

During the term of Grand Knight Robert J. Ferguson, the Columbian Squires continued to excel. In addition to their other activities, they started a basketball team, which played in the CYO league. A Class "A" Circle certificate was awarded to them from the Supreme Council.

In November of 1963, President Kennedy was assassinated. Since he was the first Catholic president and a Brother Knight, a resolution was passed to dedicate the lounge of the clubhouse in his honor.

After much discussion, a resolution was passed in March of 1964 formally to inactivate the Ladies' Auxiliary. From that time forward, the ladies of the council would participate on an informal basis until 2005, when a chapter of the Columbiettes was established.

After requests to the Bergenfield and Dumont Borough Councils, Bergenfield finally approved the placement of directional signs on Prospect Avenue. Today, signs appear in both directions on the west side of Prospect Avenue directing travelers to our home on Armour Place.



In 1964, a movement began in Hasbrouck Heights, to have “One Nation Under God” banners flown beneath the American flag. St. John’s Council provided banners to both Bergenfield and Dumont, but only Dumont agreed to fly it.

Continuing our fundraising efforts, more than 350 Brothers assisted with the second annual Council carnival, netting a profit of \$3,500. Considering that membership in the council was in the range of 600 Brothers, this was an impressive turnout.

As the Viet Nam war gained the public’s attention in 1965, St. John’s Council took on the challenge of sending gifts to servicemen fighting in the field. Our Columbian Squires again took a Class “A” Certificate from the Supreme Council and two of our own Squires were selected as state officers.

In 1965, Past Grand Knight Thomas Prime celebrated his 50th year as a Knight. A tireless leader both on the Council and civic level, Tom Prime was honored for his many years of service to the Council at a dinner. Never missing an opportunity to serve his Brothers, he also took on the duties of State Deputy.

From the Columbiad

May 23, 1966 - Annual Memorial Day Track Meet Planned at Bergenfield, NJ – For the 24th year, and the ninth under the auspices of the New Jersey Catholic High Schools Track Conference, St. John’s Council No. 1345, Bergenfield-Dumont, NJ, will sponsor its annual track and field meet on Memorial Day at Paramus High School Field.

In addition to the Catholic High School Championships, there were CYO, parish and Columbian Squires relays. Entries were from schools throughout the state.

Father O’Neill, pastor of St. Mary’s Church and Chaplain of St. John’s Council since 1935, died after a long illness in July 1965. He was succeeded by Monsignor Thomas Gillhooly, who immediately took the degrees of Knighthood and became our new Chaplain.

As the Council settled into its new home, a proposal was made to acquire and display the photos of all Past Grand Knights. At the first Grand Knights Dinner following the proposal, all of the attending past Grand Knights were asked to participate in this endeavor. Today, photos of 70 of our 85 Grand Knights are on display in the pool room.

In August 1964, the Vietnam War began; it would last until 1973. By 1966, many of our Brothers were involved in the conflict. A partial list of members in the service during this time includes: Former Squire Nicholas Ariemma, Domenick J. Avalone, Pat J. Tierney, Michael Curran, and Robert Murphy.

On July 30 1967, the corporate Communion Mass held at St. Mary’s Church was dedicated to the memory of the late Thomas J. Prime.



THOMAS PRIME

K. Of C. Honors Former Mayor

Bergenfield – Former Mayor Thomas Prime was honored last night on his 50th anniversary as a member of St. John’s Council 1345, K. of C. at Council headquarters.

More than 100 members of the Council attended the dinner meeting for Prime, who was the second grand knight in the Council’s history. John Kischarito provided 75 pounds of venison from deer he tagged himself, and John Manno was master of ceremonies.

Prime was treasurer of the Council for 15 years, and has also served as State warden, district deputy, and first faithful navigator of the Bishop O’Connor Assembly 4th degree. He started the retreat movement in the local Council.

Guest speakers of the evening included three former grand knights: John Kinnel, Hugh Gillson, and Thomas Wolf, as well as current grand knight Michael Fiora. Other speakers were district deputy Vincent Baldassari and Charles Moore.



The State council of the K of C sponsored a parade in Newark for the support of our troops fighting in Viet Nam. St. John's Council participated in the parade, sending donations during this time to the State Committee in support of those involved in the war.

After much discussion, and several defeated proposals, the membership passed a resolution to offer the Council's scholarships to Catholic high schools to girls as well as boys.

As part of our support for the churches with whom we are affiliated, St. John's Council donated \$1200 for the construction of a pulpit at the new SMA chapel in Tenafly.

Five years after the establishment of the St. Dominic Savio Circle, five former squires took their first degree as Brother Knights in the 1968-69 Columbian year.

On Sunday, July 27, 1969, there was a ground-breaking ceremony for the reconstruction and expansion of our council's home. With the hard work of many of our Brothers, it was almost completely rebuilt, raised, enlarged, and modernized.

From the minutes of February 17, 1970: PGK Dominic Napolitano reported that the dedication ceremony of our beautiful new council building was a huge success. He thanked all of the Brothers who assisted him in this worthy project.

There was a contest to select a new name for the monthly council bulletin. The winner was *Knight Times*, still the name of the publication.



Grand Knight Dominic Napolitano presents a check for \$2500 to Rev. Thomas Conlon, pastor of St. John's parish. The check was a down payment for the Council's pledge of \$5000. In accepting the donation, Father Conlon expressed his appreciation for the generosity of the Knights, and stated that the donation would be used for the lobby and entrance foyer of the new parish center, nearing completion.

Shown left to right: Edward Miller, Martin Healy, Father Conlon, Dominic Napolitano, James McFadden. Back row: Richard Bocek, Frank Messina, Ferdinand Jacobsen, John Dillon, Joseph Magnotta, James Rush and Louis Monachelli.

The Council collected eyeglasses, usable frames, and lenses for the needy. Beginning in the early 1970's as a statewide charitable function of the K of C, members were asked to leave these items at the Council.

As part of the continuing support of our parishes during the term of Dominic Napolitano, St. John's Council donated \$5,000 to St. John's Church towards their new Parish Center and \$1,000 to St. Mary's School towards a new Gym floor. The coveted Century Club award was received that year for adding over 100 new members.

As Grand Knight Martin Healy began his term, he accepted the State Council Award on behalf of the Council. He also started his year with a fresh look when a new facade was installed on the Council building in the fall of 1972.

Begun in the early 1960s, the annual carnival provided the council with a major source of income to carry on our charitable work. In 1973, the council moved to a higher level of fundraising, a bazaar at the clubhouse. It was hoped that the bazaar would surpass the carnival as a fund raising activity.



Proclamation

Whereas, 1971 commemorates the 75th Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus in the State of New Jersey; and **WHEREAS**; Christopher Columbus was dedicated to the betterment of mankind, as are the members of the Knights of Columbus; and

Whereas, as the faithful navigator of those famous three ships the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria – set sail to discover the new world, the Knights of Columbus set out in their three ships – Charity, Fraternity, and Unity – in hopes of making a better world for all;

Now, therefore, I, Charles J. O’Dowd, Jr. Mayor of the Borough of Bergenfield, do hereby proclaim October 11, 1971 as **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DAY** in the Borough of Bergenfield.

Charles, J. O’Dowd, Jr., Mayor October 5, 1971

(A similar Proclamation was also issued by Mayor Robert C. Veit of Dumont)

St. John's Council  No. 1345 K. of C.

BAZAAR TIME

St. John's Council K. of C. #1345 will hold its first Annual Bazaar in the clubhouse from Aug. 14th to Aug. 19th. In so far as we all want to make this undertaking a huge success I am taking the liberty of assigning you to the following date.....
AUG. 16 1972

Report to Booth 52 at 5:30 on the above date.
Thank you for your co-operation.
385-4391

Jim Rush

was named Squire of the Year. Tom Ross was installed in his state office during a Mass at St. Mary’s Church in Dumont, followed by a reception at the clubhouse.

Roe v. Wade (January 22, 1973) is a controversial US Supreme Court case, a landmark decision regarding abortion. According to *Roe*, most laws against abortion in the US violated the Constitutional right to privacy under the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The decision overturned all state and federal laws outlawing or restricting abortion.

In 1972, Bob Murphy, a former squire, became the Chief Counsellor of the St. Dominic Savio Circle. In the nine years St. Dominic Circle existed, ten boys were elected to state office. In 1973, Tom Ross was elected Chief State Squire for the State of New Jersey, an outstanding accomplishment for our Circle and for Tom. At the annual convention in Atlantic City, attended by Squire Officers and Counsellors, Bob Murphy and John Attardo again took first place in the Squirerama competition. The newly elected Chief Squire of our Circle,

Vincent Patalano,



Back row: Martin Healy, Grand Knight, Joseph A. Olive, Joseph Luciano, State Advocate; Rev. John F. Murray, SMA, Clarence Huebner, Coordinator. Front row: Joseph Thebau, Ron Goglia, Kenneth Kasten, Dennis Episcopo, Francis DeSilva and Thomas Ross.



Grand Knight Martin Healy saw *Roe* as a challenge to the Council. He quickly formed a Pro-Life committee under the chairmanship of George Kress. The Pro- Life Committee, in conjunction with the state Council, was established to combat the problem of abortion in the State of New Jersey.

CBS broadcast a “Maude” episode in which the heroine believed she was pregnant and immediately sought an abortion to prevent this “tragedy.” As you might remember, “Maude” was considered a comedy, yet it treated abortion in a cavalier manner. The Council wrote a strong letter of protest to CBS denouncing “Maude” and its degradation of the Right to Life.



Winners of the essay contest “In Support of Life” sponsored by St. John’s Council receive engraved plaques at the clubhouse.

Shown from Left to right are Bill Kenny, Pro Life Chairman with Grammar school winners Philip Buchanan, 3rd place, Mary Trank, 2nd place, and Barbara Zylbert, 1st place; and high school winners Donna Balduino, first place, Peggy Kelly, second place, Theresa Naturale, third place, and Grand Knight Martin Healy. Barbara Zylbert and Balduino, winners in the grammar school and high school category respectively, also received \$25 savings bonds.

Edmund Burke observed, “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” GK Healy informed all Brothers of the activities of the Right to Life programs of the Council. Starting with a petition campaign at local churches, they began a quest for 25,000 signatures in support of a Constitutional Amendment to reverse the Supreme Court decision. An essay contest for students in grammar and high school, with prizes, was offered to encourage them to think about this issue and to seek advice from their parents, in the hope that it would involve and unite whole families in the cause. The essay contest, “In Support of Life,” was well received and generated considerable local publicity.

Considering charitable endeavors, two firsts occurred during the term of John T. Dillon, Jr.: the Tootsie Roll Drive and the Special Children’s Dance. To raise funds and to enhance our image in the community, we began what is today called the “shake the can” drive. These efforts bring a great number of Brothers together with a focus on charity.

For its efforts to raise funds for the disabled, the Council was honored by the Retarded Children’s Association during the term of Frank Messina. PGK Jim Rush was honored for chairing the successful “Special Children’s Dance” and John Dillon was again honored for conducting another successful “Tootsie Roll Drive”.

For a number of years, St. John’s Council has sponsored Little League baseball teams in Bergenfield and Dumont. Our team took first place in 1978 during the term of Louis Monachelli. Another big winner that year was the drive for special children, which brought in over \$6100 from the shake-the can drive and the dance.

Pope Paul VI left the Vatican for the Papal summer residence for the last time on July 14, 1978, uncertain of whether he would return. While Mass was being said for him near his bedside during the afternoon of August 6, the Feast of the Transfiguration, he became agitated, but managed to receive Holy Communion. He soon fell into unconsciousness and died of a heart attack. Pope John Paul I was elected but died shortly afterward. Pope John Paul II was elected on October 16, 1978, the first non-Italian Pope in 600 years.

In the Council minutes of 7/2/79, John Cronin, Squires Chief Counsellor, announced that the squires were having a most successful year, with 28 active members. The Council as well was having a great year, with 968 members.



The Campania–Basilicata earthquake of November 1980 was the largest (magnitude 6.9) and most destructive earthquake to hit southern Italy in over 100 years, killing more than 3,000 people. In February of 1981, the Council passed a resolution to contribute \$648, the proceeds of a recent raffle, to the victims of the earthquake.



L. To R.—Thomas Trank, GK; Bill Bochicchio, Chancellor; Dominick Napolitano, PGK, Carnival Chairman; Rev. Magr. Thomas J. Gillhooly, Pastor of St. Mary's Church; John Dillon, PGK.

Dumont Council #1345 Accumulates \$181,500 for St. Mary's Church

Dominick Napolitano, PGK, approached Council Chaplain Rev. Magr. Thomas J. Gillhooly, and Pastor of St. Mary's Church in Dumont, in 1975 offering the services of St. John's Council No. 1345 to utilize their Brother Knights to conduct Annual Carnivals to raise income for the Church to pay off outstanding debts.

These Annual Carnivals have involved many of the Councils PGK's, present GK and his Officers, Program Chairman as well as Brother Knights. In the past 6 years, St. Mary's Church has been the recipient of \$181,500.

Supporting St. Mary's Annual Carnival is the "expression of appreciation" to our Chaplain, Rev. Magr. Gillhooly for his interest and concern in his Brother Knights in Council No. 1345. We feel honored to have such a dedicated Chaplain who finds the time to conduct our Spiritual activities and joins us in Council affairs often.

Rev. Magr. Gillhooly has on various occasions expressed his sincere appreciation to his Brother Knights for their untiring efforts in year after year providing the personnel leadership that put on St. Mary's Annual Carnival.

Intent on making the 75th Anniversary of our Council in 1982 a night to remember, Grand Knight Thomas Trank called a committee to plan a gala celebration. Bill Bochicchio and Bill Murphy served as co-chairs.

When William Bochicchio assumed the position of Grand Knight, he relinquished his co-chairmanship of the Gala to Bill Murphy, his Deputy Grand Knight, who became chairman, along with Tom Salvo as co-chairman. The 75th anniversary dinner-dance was a tremendous success with many local dignitaries present as well as State and Supreme officers, who praised St. John's Council for its 75 years of outstanding charitable efforts.

Thomas M. Duffy, for several years the emcee of the special children's dance, died suddenly in 1985. Because of the high regard in which he was held, it was decided that the annual Special Children's Dinner Dance would be renamed in his honor.

Monsignor Gillhooly retired as pastor of St. Mary's Church and Chaplain of St. John's Council in April of 1986. Msgr.

Tom had been the spiritual anchor of St. John's Council and an advisor to all Grand Knights and members. To honor his service to the parish, a testimonial dinner was hosted by St. Mary's Church at the Tammybrook Country Club, in Cresskill. St. John's Council was well represented at the affair. Fr. John F. Murray was appointed chaplain, by Archbishop Peter Gerity to succeed Msgr. Gilhooly.

In recognition of increases of tuition costs at Catholic high schools, a resolution was passed in 1987 to increase the scholarship amount to \$1500.

As we welcomed Fr. Murray as our new Chaplain, we also welcomed Fr. Donald P. Sheehan, as the new pastor of St. Mary's Church. Fr. Sheehan transferred his membership in the Knights of Columbus to St. John's Council

Known for his skill in recruiting new members during our drives, Grand Knight Albert G. Breun presided over the Columbian year when we again achieved the "Star Council Award." He was presented with the award by Joe Canuncio early in Joe's Columbian year. Other awards received were First Place for the Bulletin, Top Proposer award from the Supreme Knight to Bob Sanders, Top Insurance award to the council, and the Star District award. St. John's Council supported the effort to add EWTN to local cable television offerings.



The installation of the Nativity scene by St. John's Council at the Dumont Borough Hall began in 1986 and continues today. Shown here are Bob Dondero (holding flashlight), Rev. John F. Murray, chaplain, and George DiCostanzo at the installation and blessing on Dec. 4, 2007.



By resolution in July 1990, donations were made to no fewer than 30 local churches, charities, and worthy organizations, totalling \$20,500. As the new year began under Grand Knight John “Bob” Dondero, many new programs were initiated. These included hungry and homeless and drug awareness. On November 10, Brothers loaded a truck with about 12 tons of clothing before it left on a second trip to the Appalachian region. The truck, arranged by GK John Dondero, was met in Welch, W.Va. by GK Russ Rice and members of Council #6180. We delivered men’s, women’s, and children’s clothing, including 1000 winter coats. Since there were only four coats in Welch, you can imagine how much we were appreciated. In addition, Phil Dursik made a large donation from the proceeds of the Tupperware Party he ran at a recent St. John’s Ladies Night.



The Communion Breakfast on March 3, 1991, was a success. The State Deputy attended, and the speakers were P.J. Carlesimo, Seton Hall basketball coach, Msgr. William Noe Field, and Brother Knight Congressman Torricelli. William Gilligan’s final message as Grand Knight in the *Knight Times* summed up well what St. John’s Council is all about: *The Retarded Citizen’s Drive produced another record breaking total of over \$11,500.00. Our hungry and homeless program has continued to help those in our communities who are so easily forgotten. The clothing drives have also benefited those less fortunate. Visits to the nursing homes, as well as the hospitals, were also a show of our devotion to help those in need. Our concern for the unborn was truly exemplified by our attendance at the March for Life in Washington, D.C., this past January.*

Because of tough economic times during the term of Grand Knight James Boyle, the State Council sponsored employment service received a substantial push. Future Grand Knight George Olszewski was the council’s contact for the program.

During the term of Donald Winant, the Respect Life program under PGK Al Breun was expanded. In addition to prayerful activities, the education of youth, Roses for Life, the annual March for Life, Share in Life, and Bells for Babes programs received special support. These activities were recommended by the State Council to help prevent abortions. The rose sales held at our parishes help defray costs for the bus trip to the March for Life

As Scott Manno’s term as Grand Knight began, he called upon his Brothers to help him reach three goals – membership, a successful Squires circle, and a carnival. After several years without a carnival, Scott brought back what in the past was a very successful fundraiser for the council. Held at Aladdin Field in Dumont over five days, the carnival yielded \$4600 in profit. In addition to the sense of brotherhood fostered by such an event, St. John’s Council again raised awareness within the community of the good works that we do.

In September of 1995, an Honorarium was held to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the appointment of Fr. John Murray as our chaplain. At an event hosted by PGK Bill Bochicchio, Grand Knight Andrew Hough honored Fr. Murray for his continued service to the Knights of Columbus and our Council.

It frequently happens that sons look to follow in their fathers’ footsteps. But here at St. John’s Council, we sometimes do things a little differently. In the first occurrence of father and son as Grand Knight, we were looked upon with good fortune to have Scott Manno as Grand Knight for the 1994-95 year, and his father Thomas Manno as Grand Knight for the 1996-97 year.



With the inspiration of State Father Prior John F. Murray, and the guidance of the recently appointed Chief Counselor Anthony Carpentieri, St. Dominic Savio Squires Circle was reactivated after a period of inactivity. As of December 1996, twelve young men took the first steps toward Columbian service during the term of Grand Knight Thomas Manno.

PGK Jim Rush was an avid golfer. His playing partner was his good friend PGK Marty Healy, who, with Matt Connell, ran a golf event for several years. After Jim died, it was suggested that the Council start a golf outing in his honor. The first annual Jim Rush Memorial Golf Outing was held in May of 1996. With 27 sponsors, sixty three golfers and 18 holes, a good time was had by all.

As Robert Cassidy's term as Grand Knight began, renovations were underway for the Kennedy room in the clubhouse. After the completion of the renovations in October of 1997, it was resolved to rename it The Rev. John F. Murray Room, in honor of our chaplain.

On April 22, 1998, Grand Knight Robert E. Cassidy died, the first Grand Knight to die in office. Deputy Grand Knight Paul Zakrzewski was elected to take his place. He reflected: *Bob exemplified every day, all of the principles of the Knights of Columbus; Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. Bob was very proud to be our leader, as he has mentioned to me many times. As I speak for all of my brother Knights at St. John's, we were proud to have him as our leader and are very proud of the nine years he spent as an officer of our council.* (from *Knight Times*, May 1998)

A Family Tradition

The new Grand Knight, Paul Zakrzewski, had been involved with the Knights of Columbus long before he turned 18. Being active with the Knights has been a family tradition. Paul is proud that his late father, Joseph, and his late brother, John, were also Grand Knights of St. John's Council. "My father was very active, and my brother and I helped him at all the events," Paul Zakrzewski recalled.

As a student at Dumont High School, he was a Columbian Squire of St. Dominic Savio Circle and had the distinction of being the circle's first Squire to become Grand Knight. As an undergraduate at St. Peter's College, in Jersey City, he served as Lecturer for the council when his father was Grand Knight.

He returned to the chairs in 1996-97 as Treasurer under Grand Knight Thomas Manno. In the Columbia Year 1997-98, he served as Deputy Grand Knight and as Grand Knight for the last few months of the year and then was elected to a full term as Grand Knight. Some 225 persons attended the installation.

In addition to working for the council, he was also a member of the Dumont Ambulance Corps and served as its chief.



John Zakrzewski, Paul Zakrzewski, Edward Vostinar

During his tenure as Grand Knight, the Council celebrated its 90th anniversary with a special Mass and dinner dance on Sept. 19, 1998. Paul compiled the journal for the 90th anniversary celebration and recalls the celebration as a great event. "I can't believe 10 years have passed so fast," he said.

Work on the monuments for the unborn took place during this year.

At the time of the 100th anniversary, Paul Zakrzewski sees the Council continuing as one of the largest and strongest in the state. "As each generation of knights comes through, the Council will always evolve, but the strong sense of charity, unity and fraternity



will continue to maintain the strength of the Council.” Looking back on his time as grand knight, he said, “I believe that if each grand knight can leave the council a little stronger at the end of his term, this is what matters. To me it was and is all about the great legacy of the council.”

Zakrzewski turned over the leadership to Thomas Kietur, who was installed July 10, 1999, at the Society of SMA house in Tenafly. Like all new Grand Knights, he appealed for greater involvement. “A head without a body cannot perform,” he said. “We must all work together as a team to insure our survival as a council ... Please help and have fun too.”

Monuments to the Unborn

Tom Kietur’s tenure saw the dedication of the Monuments to the Unborn. After 18 months of designing, meetings, fund-raising, and more meetings, the drawings and models became reality. Some 100 council members and parishioners of St. John the Evangelist Church in Bergenfield gathered after the noon Mass on Sunday, Oct. 17, 1999, with the pastor, Msgr. Richard Arnhols, to bless the new statue of Mary, patroness of the unborn. “Mary, Our Mother, Pray for all God’s Children Born and Unborn,” is inscribed beneath each statue.

Paul Zakrzewski was grateful for the prominent spot on Washington Avenue. “It’s not often a group gets the opportunity to show the world what it really stands for, but we at St. John’s Council were given the chance,” he said in *Knight Times*.

John and Paul Zakrzewski and Sal Maurice met “at all hours” to dig, pour foundations, and do brickwork. “We were able to do all of this using our own manpower,” Paul Zakrzewski said. “An incredible amount of money” was raised in a short time through the generosity of the council members and their support for the fund-raising. A second monument was dedicated later that afternoon at the council headquarters.

Pro-life activities continued. In April, Matt Hayes, Chancellor, noted the council was a participant in the Letters for Life program. Commenting on Oregon’s assisted suicide law, he said, “The fear in the pro-life community is that other states may follow. The law, if left unchallenged, may be expanded, and who will then decide life and death? As Catholics, life is God’s gift to us,” he added. “Do not fall for the emotional aspects. Our faith tells us what is right. God is the giver of life; we are to trust him. Life is sacred from conception to death (womb to tomb).”



Front Row: Paul Zakrzewski, Sal Maurice.
Back row: Luke Garripoli, Robert Rosica, Matthew Connell, Monsignor Arnhols, Thomas Kietur, John Zakrzewski, Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, William Horn, Matthew Hayes and George Olszewski appear at the dedication at St. John’s Church.



Paul Zakrzewski, Father Bob LaFerrera, Thomas Kietur and Matthew Hayes at the dedication of the monument to the unborn at St. Mary’s Church.



On May 7, 2000, the Rev. John F. Murray, our Chaplain, was among the concelebrants – with Pope John Paul II – of the beatification Mass for Francisco Marto and his sister, Jacinta Marto, two of the seers of Fatima. On June 19th, Father Murray attended the installation of Archbishop Edward Egan at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York. A 100-plus member K of C color guard led the procession of seven cardinals, 15 archbishops, 95 bishops, 700 priests, and over 200 deacons. This made it obvious, Father Murray said, that the Knights are “in solidarity with our priests.”

Not the least of the accomplishments of the Columbian year was that John J. Zakrewski, editor of the *Knight Times*, was able to thank “most of the officers of the council for getting me the articles for the bulletin on time this month.”

Right to Life Marches

Succeeding Kietur, Matt Hayes was installed as Grand Knight, along with his fellow officers, on July 10, 2000. Again, the Mass was at the SMA headquarters. Hayes’ longstanding commitment to the pro-life prompted him to emphasize this. He has taken part in the right-to-life march in Washington, D.C. for at least 10 years. He takes off from work without getting paid. Some years it has been freezing on January 22, but one year he remembers that it was very warm. “It felt like a spring day,” he recalls. “We started out all bundled up and then we were down to our T-shirts. That was probably four or five years ago.” That day, Hayes added, some knights became concerned that Father Murray seemed bothered by the heat. They took him to a stand-up ambulance where he was given water. When Hayes heard about it, he rushed to the ambulance, only to hear Father Murray complain, “I don’t know why I’m here. There are a lot of other people who should be here”— one of the Father Murray stories Council members love to tell.

Reporting on the 2001 march, Hayes said, it “was well attended and each year grows stronger. The increased number of schoolchildren and young adults is a sign our nation is turning back to God. The partial birth issue, the selling of baby organs has raised the level of thought ... More than ever we must stay the course. Don’t lose heart; stay inspired.”

The Atlantic City trip began as a fund-raiser for the council’s pro-life activities, Hayes said.

One of the challenges Hayes faced was to increase the charity funds. Another was tension between the council and Columbian Club. He takes pride in having significantly reduced that tension. Hayes began sponsorship of a membership booth at the Dumont Day celebration and is happy that activity continues. He also worked at increasing attendance at the dances and encouraged the serving of food at every council affair.



Frank Messina and Matt Hayes selling appliqués at the Rose for Life sale at St. Mary’s Church.

Hayes also envisioned reactivation of the Columbian Squires Circle. Noting the peer pressure on young people, he said, “By reinforcing the faith they learn in church and in the home, these young men will have the confidence to withstand the peer pressure they will face on the street. All young Catholic men between the ages of 12-18 are welcome.”

Edward Kostka, Outside Guard, asked Knights and family members to help the Eyeglasses for the Needy program. On Aug. 21, St. John’s hosted a first degree at our council in honor of Pope Pius X. There were 17 candidates, representing six councils.



Ted Dikeman, of the Sharing Network, who had received a heart transplant eight years earlier, made an appeal for organ donations for the many people who need them – “over 1800 are here in New Jersey.”

Bill Horn and John Stella, Loaves and Fishes chairmen, reported in March/April that the council had fed 98 hungry people “a wonderful turkey dinner” at the walk-in dinner in Hackensack sponsored by the Interreligious Fellowship for the Homeless of Bergen County. Donations totaled \$48.03, more than enough for turkeys for the next feeding.

At the Special Children’s Dance on April 21, Edward Vostinar and Francisco Filice were acknowledged for their 50 years as Knights.

John Zakzrewski, in the newsletter, reported on what happened to the last issue of *Knight Times*. “The Dumont Post Office, in their usual professional manner of handling the United States mail, lost it,” he said. “After a phone call each and every day, the bulletin was located in another post office and was then returned to Dumont to be delivered. Once again, thanks Dumont Post Office!”

Our Finest Hour

St. John’s Council’s finest hour came at a time of tragedy.

Becoming Grand Knight in 2001, Richard O’Connor certainly could not have foreseen the tragedy of September 11. Nineteen hijackers in four jet planes wreaked havoc on our country.

In the following weeks, large numbers of first responders worked feverishly in the rubble at the World Trade Center site. The council was not allowed directly to assist with rescue and recovery efforts but could help those who did. The Council prepared food for the workers for 31 consecutive days. Beginning on Sept. 14, eight to ten members of the council started preparing and cooking food in the late afternoon and early evening for the approximately 200-250 people who needed to be fed.



The Supreme Council’s International Service Program Award was presented to St. John’s Council for aiding the workers at ground zero.

Several Knights used their own vehicles to transport the food (180 degrees) to a site near the Jacob Javits Center and unload it in time for the 11 p.m. feeding. Our members prepared, cooked, delivered, and unloaded the food. Menus included sausage, peppers and onions, roast beef with gravy, chicken and baked ziti. In all, more than 50 Council members devoted over 200 hours. Council funds together with donations from other area councils, store owners, and others financed the project.

As Rich O’Connor recalled, the effort began when Jim Kelly and Bill Borrows decided they wanted to do something. “On the radio they were saying no food,” but they decided they would bring over hot food and ice in the hope they could get it to the people who would need it.

Phil Fredericks thought it was a great idea and began making calls for donations of food. “Within two or three hours we had people going out to establishments and picking up staples. We told them what we were going to do,” Fredericks recalled. There was a “fantastic outpouring” from the merchants.



“So many different people were offering to do things,” says Fredericks. “Everybody wanted to help out and take food over. Everybody got a taste of feeling good about themselves. Unless it was an emergency, nobody turned me down. I was very proud to be a member of this council.”

O’Connor still recalls the rescue and recovery workers “coming in physically and mentally drained.” On the way back to New Jersey, “You could hear a pin drop (after the knights got there and saw). I don’t think people understood the magnitude until they went there....The Knights in general stepped up to the plate,” O’Connor added. “It was a proud time. We kept saying we’re not doing it for the recognition but because it was the right thing to do. The recognition was the bonus for us afterward.”

O’Connor recalled the council’s being supportive of Jerry Flood’s pilgrimage group, which escorts disabled children to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, and of the Shake the Can effort to raise funds for disabled children. “I think we did okay” is the way he summarized his year in the top post – an understatement, surely.

Honor from Supreme Council

As Sean P. Sullivan, who often drove the food to the rescue and recovery workers, began his term as Grand Knight, he announced that the Supreme Council had sent good news. Past Grand Knight Richard O’Connor and his wife, Valerie, were invited – at the Supreme Council’s expense – to attend the convention in Anaheim, California., to receive the International Service Program Award on the council’s behalf. The award was for our aiding the rescue and recovery workers. “This is a tremendous hour for our council,” Sullivan wrote. “We should be extremely proud.”



At the Sept. 17, 2002 meeting a brother Knight who was a retired Port Authority police officer and who worked in the recovery efforts at Ground Zero, presented the council a 9/11 relic – part of a steel beam from the World Trade Center fashioned into a cross. “For St. John’s Council #1345 for their tireless work and exemplary manner in which they provided food and support to the many rescue workers after the attacks on the World Trade Center,” the inscription read.

Sullivan announced his goals: to get more people involved in our charitable efforts and in the activities of the Columbian Club and to expand the e-mail list, which proved useful in notifying members of wakes, last minute rentals, “help needed” items, and many other matters.

Father Murray participated with Pope John Paul II at the World Youth Day in Toronto.

PGK Bill Gilligan announced that renovations to the main hall were on schedule but appealed for more help. “Whether or not you have any skills, we still need a lot of manual labor to complete the work on time,” Gilligan said. “Please call me if you have any taping, spackling, wall-papering or painting skills.”

Sullivan announced that on September 11, the council would mark the tragic anniversary “in the best way we can as Catholics – with the sacrifice of the Mass. It goes without saying that it would mean a lot to see you and your families there to celebrate the Mass with us.” Father Murray offered the Mass for those who perished and for their loved ones and to pray that such a tragedy never happens again.



A Movement to Start the Columbiettes

George Olszewski, who served as Grand Knight in 2003-04, brought something of a unique background to leadership in the Knights of Columbus.

He grew up in New York as a member of the Polish National Catholic Church, founded in 1907 by Polish-American Catholics, under the leadership of Bishop Francis Hodur, who thought they were being discriminated against in the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. When Olszewski decided he wanted to become a Roman Catholic, the sacraments he received in the Polish National Catholic Church were accepted as valid in the Roman Catholic Church. Now, he says, the two churches are communicating. "All through life I was wondering what was the right way to go," he says. "I was a student of Buddhism and still am. True Buddhism is not a religion." He sees the eight-fold path of Buddhism as eight of the Ten Commandments.

For Olszewski, the Council's social activities were a big attraction. "They had an open house," he recalled. "Nobody asked me to come in. I joined by myself. I'm a lone traveler. I don't need someone to guide me where to go. I know where to go. Nobody ever asked me. I do what I want to do, period."

After his beloved wife, Charlotte, died, he decided to become active in the Council chairs. His path to the top post was unusual. When Robert Cassidy died and Paul Zarkzewski took over, "each meeting Paul appointed me as Deputy Grand Knight for the meeting. Finally, he inquired of New Haven whether he could appoint me as his Deputy Grand Knight officially." The response was yes, and Olszewski was officially Deputy Grand Knight for one month.

As Grand Knight in 2003-2004, he sought to bring about better communication between the Columbian Club and the council "because at the time there was a lot of animosity between the two." Although some members said, "we don't want to be bothered with Columbiettes," he started a movement to begin the Columbiettes. He takes pride in the fact that the Columbiettes became active with St. John's Council after 97 years. Olszewski sees the local establishment of the Columbiettes as one of the best things he's ever done. "The Columbiettes is a distinct, separate organization but they can only be affiliated with a council. They cannot be totally independent. Their responsibility is to support the council in any way they can. I feel they're doing a fantastic job. I'm so proud of what they have done."



George Olszewski and John Zakrzewski during John's installation dinner.

Looking toward the future, Olszewski hopes for a chapter of the Squirettes. "That will complete the entire family structure of the Knights of Columbus."

For many years, Olszewski has done the "sick and wake reports" and calls members to attend wakes for a knights who have died. He finds that the attendance of Knights at wakes supportive for bereaved families.

During his tenure as Grand Knight, the Borough of Bergenfield celebrated its 110th anniversary on Sunday, June 6, 2004, and sponsored a Founders Day celebration from 1 to 6 p.m. on the Bergenfield High School football field. The Council was invited to participate and accepted. The goal was to demonstrate our presence in the community and recruit new members. Thanks to Olszewski's early arrival, the Knights had the space closest to the entrance and a tent to stay dry under since it was raining on and off all day.

A sad event was the death of Columbian Club president Edward Vostinar on Monday, Sept. 8, 2003. Ed was not only an active Columbian Club president he was dedicated to the principles of Columbianism and the good of the council. He had been working hard at the council Friday night, Saturday and Sunday.



For more than 25 years, Olszewski has been retreat captain at San Alfonso Retreat House at the Jersey Shore, taking over from Tony Natale who moved to Florida. Olszewski invites more men to future retreats. Looking out over the ocean is renewing, he says. "You have an open horizon. It broadens your vision to the world. It's getting away from the busy schedule of the world, and total relaxation. I personally do not have a radio or newspapers with me. It's a total commitment to the retreat." He describes the Redemptorist retreat directors as excellent.

A Sad Day

John J. Zakrzewski (2004-2005) was installed at a July 17, 2004, Mass at the SMA house. In his first Grand Knight's message, he said, "We will continue to hold affairs every month. Members are encouraged to contact me with ideas they might have to build attendance at our dances and allow us to have a good amount of money to distribute at the end of the year...Soon we will be celebrating our 100th anniversary. Let's build on what we have learned over the past years," he said, adding that he had an advantage over most other Grand Knights. "I have worked closely with two family members who were also Grand Knights here at St. John's – my father, Joseph, and my brother, Paul."

Everyone in the Council was shocked and saddened when notified that John died suddenly on March 7, 2005. He had seemed to be in good health and was only 41. He was St. John's second Grand Knight to die in office. The first was Bob Cassidy, who was Grand Knight in 1997-1998.

Statue of Mary

Barry Bernard became Grand Knight on the sudden death of John Zakrzewski. He had no time to prepare for his duties. He had joined the Knights after his son, Joseph, joined the Squires when the group was reorganizing. Past Grand Knight Frank Messina had encouraged Bernard to become an officer. He became Outside Guard when O'Connor became Grand Knight. "As I came through the chairs, Past Grand Knight Tom Trank helped me with his advice and guidance," Bernard said.

He tried to make meetings more relaxing and informal. "Our Council has a good reputation as a friendly place to gather," he says, noting that in addition to the rentals, the clubhouse is used by the AARP and the Bergen Irish.



In his office as District Deputy, Barry Bernard installs incoming Grand Knight Steve Martin On July 19, 2008. In the center is Joseph Bernard, Barry's son who is the District Warden.

He regards the finishing of the statue of the Blessed Mother in front of the building as one of his best accomplishments. Mrs. Ann Funicelli made a very generous donation for the restoration in memory of her husband, PGK Ralph Funicelli, and their son, John. Mrs. Carmen Curran, a St. Mary's parishioner, repainted the all-white statue in color. A plaque was added to honor John Zakrzewski.

The Council held a pasta dinner to aid the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund of the K of C on Sept. 24, 2005. More than 70 members, family members and friends attended. Bernard thanked all who helped. "It was a very successful fund-raiser. We pray that with God's help the victims of this terrible tragedy will be able to put their lives back together." Earlier this year, Bernard, who is now District Deputy, said he sees the council being on the move, with young members willing to assume leadership.



“A Championship Season”

George DiCostanzo has used his leadership skills as a member of the Dumont Borough Council, Saint Mary’s Parish and the K of C. Early on in his life in Dumont, he had become a sports coach, volunteering with the farm team, the Little League and the Babe Ruth Division.

“Being an usher in church was a stepping stone to other involvements,” he said. “That got me to the parish council.” Then came the liturgy and social life committees. He is proud of the increase in social activities at St. Mary’s and especially of the International Night, which brought the various ethnic groups together.

He was president of the parish council when the Rev. Donald Sheehan left St. Mary’s for St. Matthew’s in Ridgefield and the Rev. Robert LaFerrera arrived as pastor. DiCostanzo’s presidency of the council also took place in the year that the parish began the sponsorship of a Kosovar refugee family, the Brahimis. “It’s the true American story,” he says. “They came to Dumont in November of 1999. Last September (2007) they moved into their own house in Dumont. They didn’t want to get too far from us.”

DiCostanzo had joined the Knights in February 1992. He was asked to join by a number of men, one of whom was Frank Messina. DiCostanzo began to go through the chairs when Sean Sullivan was grand knight. Asked to become membership chairman, DiCostanzo then became an Outside Guard, Warden, Chancellor, and Grand Knight.

As Grand Knight, his first goal was to make the Council as warm and welcoming as possible. “That was part and parcel to bring back people to our events,” he says. His second goal was to intensify spirituality. He is proud of the fact that he added Holy Hours at St. Mary’s and St. John’s to the schedule. The council also sponsored a Divine Mercy service as the icon of the Divine Mercy was circulating among members. His third goal was to treat everyone with respect.

Looking back, he says, “Overall, the entire year was a very successful year that I referred to as a championship season.” He is proud of the fact that the Council was able to restart the Squires Circle and that he was able to be of major assistance in establishing the Columbiettes, recruiting eight of the 15 women to make the minimum number. George’s wife, Nina, has been one of the most active Columbiettes.

His leadership is still felt through men, such as Ivan Hannibal and Tom Ciotti, whom he recruited to leadership posts. DiCostanzo, who has also been Faithful Navigator for the Fourth Degree, is proud that his idea of Parish Roundtables, where the council leadership meets with the pastors of St. John’s and St. Mary’s to determine how the Council can assist the parishes, has borne fruit. This has led to the painting of the St. John’s Parish Life Center and painting the kitchen in the basement of the church.

“We need to put ourselves out there and become better known,” he said, proudly pointing to the \$32,000 given to charity during his tenure.

When asked what he would like to do in the future, DiCostanzo said he would like to do “less stuff.” A few minutes later, though, he talked about starting a Bergen County chapter of the Cardinal Hayes High School alumni association.



Ivan Hannibal, Deputy Grand Knight, Barry Bernard, past Grand Knight and George DiCostanzo, Grand Knight at the Past Grand Knight’s celebration in November 2006.



As he looked to the future of the Council, DiCostanzo saw membership as a challenge. “Time is at such a premium for everybody. Both parents are working. Children are in school and they are involved in so many after-school activities.” For men from 35 to 55, their community involvement is usually with their children’s activities.” We’ve got to maintain some momentum in the council,” he reflected. “Treat people with respect. Give them plenty of food and they will come.”

The Centennial Year

Grand Knight during the centennial year, Ivan Hannibal had good experiences with the Knights as a Bronx boy. The Knights sponsored his Boy Scout troop at St. Angela Merici Parish, where he was an altar boy.

Suffering a brain hemorrhage in 1966 when he was 12 years old and in a coma for about eight weeks, he was visited often in the hospital by his scoutmaster who was a knight, and this left a deep impression on him. Ivan left the hospital paralyzed on his right side. But that did not keep him down. In 1968, he was studying karate, fell and was in a body cast for a long time. Again that did not keep him down and, with his family’s blessing, he attended Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx and graduated in 1972. He is quick to credit his family for their supportive, faith-filled environment. “My parents are Puerto Rican,” he says. “They were both very involved in the church.” His father, a merchant seaman, would help the priest when he came home from the sea.

At Fairleigh Dickinson University, Hannibal, an outstanding chess player, studied medical technology and then biology, but wound up as an elementary school counselor, the profession in which he continues today. He married his high school sweetheart, Donna, with whom he had kept in touch over the years.

They joined Saint Mary’s parish, where he became an usher and was asked to join the knights. He did so in October of 2001 and became somewhat involved in packing food into cars and bringing it to the Javits Center.

George DiCostanzo, like Hannibal a graduate of Cardinal Hayes High School, influenced him to become actively involved. He went through the chairs and as grand knight found that “the organization really runs itself.” He has found Msgr. Richard Arnhols of St. John’s to be very helpful with his “on-the-spot” responses to questions.



Ivan Hannibal left and Keith Hilcken, center, receive the charter for Troop #1345 from a representative of the Boy Scouts of America on June 8, 2008.

Under Hannibal’s leadership, the council has begun sponsorship of a Boy Scout troop, numbered 1345. Keith Hilcken, a police officer in Guttenberg, is the scout master.

Hannibal is happy he has been able to bring younger men into positions of leadership. Although there were stories decades ago of councils that did not have the greatest attitudes toward minorities, Hannibal, a black Puerto Rican with a disability, said he has never experienced any ill will or bad vibes and is hoping to increase the council’s ethnic diversity. He is also contemplating adding a charity to the list the council already supports.

Not the least of his accomplishments was presiding over preparations for the centennial celebration. At the centennial Mass on June 28, he was lector.



The New Grand Knight

Steve Martin, Grand Knight for 2008-2009, grew up on Tulip Street in Bergenfield. “There had to be 20 or 25 kids on the block,” he recalls. “I knew Bergenfield like the back of my hand.” He was an altar server at St. John’s and attended St. John’s School, Bergen Catholic High School, Manhattan College, where he majored in political science, and New York Law School.

Now a partner in a New York law firm, he “appreciates what the Knights of Columbus does for the Catholic Church, the priests and the community. The Knights of Columbus really is a community organization, which focuses on assistance to parishes, parish families and priests.”



Martin, who will lead with the help of e-mails and a cell phone, hopes to get at least 10 or 20 people more involved. He also hopes that the good work of the council is recognized. He also wants to expand the scholarship program. He is enthusiastic about the Parish Roundtables and hopes to continue this effort.

Martin says his wife, Patricia, has been very supportive, and he is involving his children, Erin, 11, Shannon, 10, and Connor, 7. “They are beginning to understand the concepts of service.”

In an interview, Martin said, “What I want to do is to get more people involved. I will be calling every member personally to invite them to get more involved, whether in one of our rentals, our Friday night socials, our parish roundtables, or just coming to the meetings. I want to get more people just to come down to the council to see who we are.”

Fun and Fund-raising

Traditionally the two biggest charity fund-raising activities of the council have been the annual Special Children’s Dinner-Dance and Talent Show and the annual Shake the Can Drive. Although these activities have been called by different names over the years, they have basically remained the same. In fact, it seems that the success of any Columbian year hinges on these two events. The key is the higher level of council participation.

Other social activities – with a fund-raising purpose – have included the Christmas Party, New Year’s Eve Party, Italian Night, Irish Night (St. Patrick’s Dance), Polish Night, German Night, Valentine’s Dance, Steak and Brew, Mothers Day Brunch, and Past Grand Knights Dinner Dance. Our Council was not afraid to try something new or to bring back a dinner dance tried years ago with varying degrees of success.

Family and youth activities, such as the Squires and the new Boy Scout troop, continue to be of paramount importance. The corporate communions continue to nourish us spiritually.

With the inspiration gained from our centennial Mass celebrated on June 28, 2008, by Msgr. Richard Arnhols, St. John’s pastor; Father Robert Laferrera, St. Mary’s pastor; Father John F. Murray, our chaplain; SMA Provincial Father Michael Moran; and Fathers Raymond Filipiski, Giandomenico Flora, and Manuel Duenas of St. John’s parish – and with Auxiliary Bishop Charles McDonnell presiding – the future looks bright.

The centennial gala will take place Saturday, October 18, 2008. Here’s to another hundred Columbian years of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.



Past Grand Knights assembled at the Centennial Celebration. Left to right, standing: William Bochicchio, William Gilligan, Ferdinand Jacobson, Martin Healy, Matthew Hayes, Ivan Hannibal, Thomas Trank, George Olszewski, John Dondero, Frank Messina, Louis Monachelli, Joseph Canuncio and Barry Bernard. Seated at the center is Father John Murray, Chaplain.



The concelebrants of our June 28, 2008 centennial celebration at St. John's Church.



Chaplains

Rev. John H.C. Rutten (1908-1919)

The Rev. John H.C. Rutten, the first pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Bergenfield and our first chaplain, signed the Charter for St. John's Council #1345 on June 28, 1908.

Because the area evolved from the Dutch settlement of Schraalenburgh, it was appropriate that Father Rutten was born in the Hague, Holland, in 1873. He studied in Holland at the College of the Fathers of the Company of Mary. Immigrating to Canada in 1899, he was ordained a priest in Ottawa in 1901. He was assigned to Bergenfield on Oct. 27, 1905, after having served as a missionary in Canada and as a curate at St. Rose of Lima, Long Island, and as Chaplain at the Academy of the Holy Angels, then in Fort Lee.

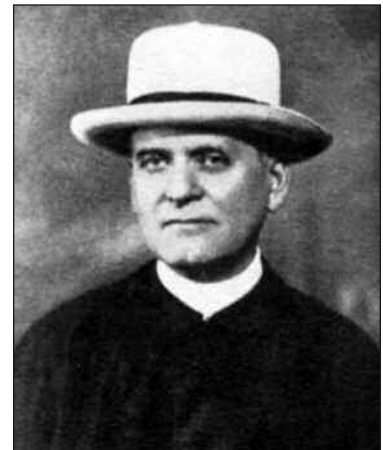
Under his leadership, St. John's built its first church. Father Rutten had to pay the mortgage on the church from his own funds in 1910. He also purchased lots which were allocated as a site for a parish hall. As our Chaplain during World War I, he assisted the council members in caring for the soldiers at Camp Merritt. In 1919, in ill health, he was sent to St. Venantius Convalescent Home in Orange. He died there in 1925 at 52.



Rev. Gedeone De Vincentiis

Although never officially a council chaplain, Father De Vincentiis is included in this list because of his close association with the Knights of Columbus of Dumont and the soldiers at Camp Merritt.

Born in Italy in 1867, he was ordained in Naples in 1890. Sometime during the next eleven years, he received medical training. In 1901, he came to the U.S. and served at Assumption Church, Morristown. In 1911, he became pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Oradell, which had been built in 1903. Almost immediately he began celebrating Mass for the Catholics of Dumont in the old "Town Hall" firehouse on Madison Avenue. When the first St. Mary's Church was built in 1914, he became pastor of the mission until 1922, when the rectory was built, and Father John V. Woods arrived.



Father "De," as he was called, served as a chaplain to the soldiers at Camp Merritt, both at the camp and at St. Mary's Hall. He frequently used his medical skill to alleviate pain and suffering. This was especially useful during the great Spanish Influenza Epidemic of 1918. He attended our communion breakfast at the Antler's Hotel in Haworth in 1925. He died October 24, 1930, at age 63.



Msgr. Thomas F. Morrissey (1919-1925)

Msgr. Morrissey took over at St. John's from Father Rutten and was our second Chaplain. Born in County Tipperary, Ireland, in 1880, he studied under the Christian Brothers and, at the age of 15, entered the seminary of the Society of African Missions in Lyons, France, where he was ordained in 1903.

Immediately after ordination, he received permission to come to America to visit his mother who was critically ill. Upon his arrival in Madison, N.J., his mother's first words were, "Now I can die in peace. I have seen you as a priest." He gave his mother the last rites and was at her bedside when she died. He then returned to Lyons and was assigned to the missions in Egypt. He also served as Chaplain to the British Army of Occupation.



Coming to the U.S. again, in 1913, he served in Kingston, NY, and as Chaplain at Holy Angels, and in 1919 was assigned to St. John's Parish in Bergenfield, where he was instrumental in obtaining and moving the Camp Merritt Visitors Center for St. John's School. He participated with several men of the parish in digging the foundation. He also obtained property for additional buildings and asked for, and received, permission from our council to use our home on Washington Avenue in Bergenfield for additional classrooms.

Father Morrissey, who had a reputation as a stern disciplinarian in all his assignments, left St. John's in 1925 to become rector of St. Vincent's, in Stirling NJ. We assume that he remained council chaplain until he left. Although it is possible that Father Woods assumed the chaplaincy before 1925, we have no accurate record.

Father Morrissey was incardinated in the Diocese of Newark in 1926, eleven years before it became an archdiocese. He is mentioned in our 1953 minutes as having been a former chaplain of the council. In 1929, he became pastor of Madonna parish in Fort Lee, where he remained for the balance of his career. He died in 1961 at age 80.

Rev. John Vincent Woods (1925-1933)

Father Woods, our third Chaplain, was born in Hanover CT, in 1882. His family moved to New Jersey, where he was confirmed at Sacred Heart, Bloomfield, graduated from St. Peter's Prep, Jersey City, and then from Seton Hall College. He was ordained in Newark in 1908.

After assignments at St. Nicholas, Passaic; Assumption, Morristown, and Immaculate Conception, in Montclair, Father Woods became St. Mary's first resident pastor in 1922. He purchased the land on which St. Mary's School would be built. Because of the Depression, he was not able to accomplish the actual building. He has been described as a very spiritual man who afforded the Council remarkable religious leadership. He is listed as our chaplain in our 1925 communion breakfast program. Often in ill health, he died in 1935. He was 53.



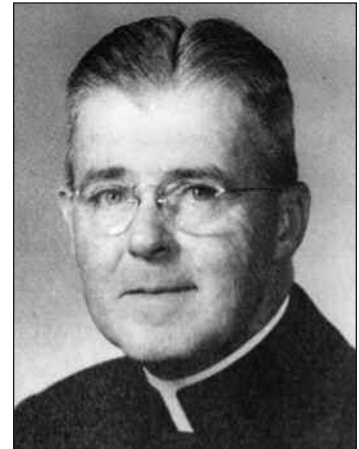


Rev. Henry W. O'Neill (1935-1965)

Father O'Neill became our fourth Chaplain when he assumed the pastorate of St. Mary's just before the death of Father Woods in 1935.

Born in 1891, he studied at Seton Hall College and was ordained in Newark in 1917. He served in Bayonne, Paterson, and Jersey City before coming to St. Mary's, where he was pastor for 31 years. He became a familiar figure around Dumont with his white bull-terrier, "Jumbo," always beside him.

Despite the Great Depression, he initiated a vast building program. He purchased the old McCormack House for use as a parish house. This soon became the center of the social activities of St. Mary's and also of the council. St. Mary's School opened in 1951 with 685 pupils enrolled. Father O'Neill had grown up in Morristown and so chose the American Colonial style for the school, rectory and convent. This style was also carried through when the present church was built in 1961-62.



The old white church, where the council had met for so many years in the basement, remained until it was demolished in the mid-1970s.

Father O'Neill received the title of pastor emeritus just seven days before his death at Holy Name Hospital, Teaneck, on July 9, 1965, after a long illness. The Knights and other organizations stood as a guard of honor overnight at his wake.

Msgr. Thomas J. Gillhooly (1966-1986)

Msgr. Gillhooly became our fifth Chaplain soon after he became St. Mary's pastor in 1966. Later in that year he took the degrees and became a Brother Knight. Somewhat later he became a 4th degree member, and was the Faithful Prior of Bishop O'Connor Assembly. He once said he had grown up in Harrison and would not have been able to attend Seton Hall College if it weren't for a scholarship from Kearny Council K of C.

Msgr. Gillhooly was ordained in Newark in 1937. His first assignment was St. Mary's in Plainfield. Two years later, he was assigned to Seton Hall and did graduate work at the Catholic University in preaching, speech and drama, and at Columbia University, in speech, speech therapy, and theater.



He served as chairman of the Seton Hall Communications Department, Dean of Men, and secretary of the university. He founded the Seton Hall radio station, WSOU-FM. When Seton Hall opened a Paterson campus, he served as executive dean from 1953 until it closed.

He led St. Mary's parish for 20 years, through good times and bad. The changes brought about by Vatican Council II were initiated during his tenure, an accomplishment of which he was proud. The Sisters of Charity left St. Mary's School in 1970, and it was a great challenge to keep the school open. But he did. (St. Mary's closed as a separate school in 2006 and has been merged into the new Transfiguration Academy, with campuses in Bergenfield and New Milford.)



Pope Pius XII named him a Papal Chamberlain with the title of monsignor in 1953. He was honored on his 40th anniversary as a priest on May 7, 1977, at the Imperial Manor. Many Knights were in attendance, as well as the late Archbishop Thomas A. Boland. He retired in June 1987 and died August 25, 1990, at the age of 79.

Rev. John F. Murray (1986-)

The New York Mets may have no more loyal fan than Father John F. Murray. He even has a Mets shrine in his room at the Society of African Missions headquarters in Tenafly.

But it was not always that way. He had grown up as a Brooklyn Dodgers fan.

He was able to transfer his loyalty to the Mets after the Dodgers moved to Los Angeles. But he has never veered from his fierce, lifelong loyalty to the Catholic Church.

That loyalty must have been in the genes. He was one of the ten children of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Murray. Their parish, St. Andrew Avellino, in Flushing, was perhaps the biggest producer of religious vocations in the country, and thus it should have been no great surprise that three of his sisters entered religious life.



A story in the Brooklyn-Queens edition of *The New York Daily News* in 1957 – shortly after Father Murray’s priestly ordination – quoted his mother as saying: “We didn’t always have all the luxuries of life, but we certainly never starved. We were lucky to have a steady income from my husband’s job (he was a foreman with the City Marine and Aviation Department) during the Depression, and don’t forget in those days you could feed a family on \$12 a week.”

After graduation from St. Augustine High School in 1941, the young John Murray enlisted in the Army three days after Pearl Harbor, even though he was only 17. He served a short time but was honorably discharged because of illness. He taught at St. Joseph’s House for Homeless Boys in Philadelphia for five years and attended Dunstan University on Prince Edward Island, Canada, for two years.

But a desire for the priesthood was always there. He entered the seminary of the Society of African Missions in Dedham, Mass., graduating in 1950. The SMAs had originally come to the U.S. to work among blacks in the South. Father Murray’s initial assignments were to St. Cyprian’s Parish, in Georgetown, SC.; to St. Augustine’s in East St. Louis, IL; and then as pastor of St. Anthony’s in Savannah GA. In segregated South Carolina, Father Murray recounts, he went to the theater with four Franciscan Handmaids of Mary, founded in the U.S. by black women. The sisters were going to the balcony, and the young priest was with them. An usher took him by the hand and said, “You can’t go up there.” Father Murray replied, “I go anywhere my nuns go.”

He then studied at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, from 1952 to 1957 and was ordained a priest at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

In 1959, he was assigned to Liberia – the longtime mission of the SMAs’ American province. The parish he served, St. Francis in Plebo, was the largest in the Cape Palmas Diocese. After two years of service, he contracted malaria and had to return to the United States. He has held various community positions, such as vocations director, and gave over 200 mission appeals for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. He assisted the late SMA Bishop Nicholas Grimley during at least 150 confirmations.



For 28 years Father Murray was Chaplain at Holy Name Hospital in Teaneck, a ministry he enjoyed. “You go into a room with a person who’s got maybe a couple of days to live. “You start saying, ‘Thank you, Lord, for making me so well that I can come here.’”



Shown above is Fr. John Murray with some of the Squires of the St. Dominic Savio Circle #1622 and Queen of Peace Circle #5070 at the annual Fr. Murray Scholarship Dinner, held in January of 2008. **One of Father Murray’s favorite quotes is of Bishop Thomas J. Walsh: “If the Knights of Columbus take care of the growing boy, the boy grown into manhood will take care not only of the Knights of Columbus but of the church and nation as well.”** The Father Murray Scholarship fund is available to any Columbian Squire in the state of New Jersey to support their attendance at a Catholic high school.

A strong proponent of devotion to Mary, Father Murray urges daily recitation of the Rosary. He has been involved with the Knights since he took his first degree in 1957. He served as chaplain of councils in Fort Lee and Englewood. In 1964, he became Father Prior of the St. Dominic Savio Circle of the Columbian Squires, and in 1968 state Father Prior of the Squires. In 1980 he was named Faithful Prior of Pope John XXIII Assembly in Cliffside Park, and in 1986 he was appointed chaplain of St. John’s Council #1345. According to the rules, three names for chaplain must be submitted. The Grand Knight at the time, John Walsh, submitted three names – John Murray, John Murray, and John Murray. Archbishop Peter L. Gerety said, “I’ll choose the first one.” Father Murray also became the first chaplain of St. John’s Columbiettes.

He has never sought recognition but has deeply appreciated it when it has come. The officers’ meeting room at the clubhouse has been renamed in his honor. In 2002, State Deputy William Kennedy established the Father John F. Murray Scholarship Fund to help deserving Columbian Squires attend Catholic high schools. Earlier this year Father Murray received a standing ovation at the Bergen County Federation’s “Pride in Priests” banquet.

He has participated in the Right to Life March in Washington, D.C. for 34 years. In recent marches, PGK Bob Dondero has walked next to him with a wheelchair. Father Murray, who has been to Ireland five times, has been a fixture of the Bergen County St. Patrick’s Day parade wearing his sneakers painted green. He says he feels “like a heel” now that he is driven two-thirds of the way. He has accompanied the Knights – wearing his apron – to the walk-in dinner in Hackensack at least 10 times, and he has celebrated the Saturday morning Mass at the Veterans Home in Paramus perhaps 80 times.



“I thank these volunteers for keeping the 25th chapter of Matthew alive – when Jesus says, ‘When you do it for the least of these brothers of mine, you do it for me.’ The veterans, of course, are certainly not the least of these brethren.”

It would be hard to find a heartier booster of the Knights of Columbus than Father Murray. “It’s the strong right arm of the Catholic Church,” he says, adding, though, that despite our numbers of 1 million men, we are not well enough known. But he is confident that the canonization cause of the founder, Father Michael McGivney, will help to make the Knights better known.

“He is the saint of our day,” says Father Murray. “He’s from immigrant parents. Three years after he founded the K of C they were giving out money to widows and children.” Father Murray says the Knights will grow stronger if we keep to the ideals of Father McGivney.

Father Murray, now 85, is very proud of the Knights’ charitable activities, and says there is hardly another fraternal organization in the country that has raised so much money for charity. Large amounts have gone to the pope’s charities, and TV broadcasts from the Vatican on EWTN are supported by the Knights. Locally, he says, no other organization comes close to St. John’s Council in charitable donations. He is proud of the Knights’ reputation as an insurance provider and is very enthusiastic about the new book by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, *The Civilization of Love*.

He is staunch in support of the papacy, frequently using the papal title “Vicar of Christ on Earth.” Not only have the last few popes been holy men, he says, they also have been brilliant men. One of his hopes for Pope Benedict XVI is that he will be able to strengthen the beliefs of most Muslims that there is no violence in God and that they will be able to steer radical Muslims away from such violence.

Looking to the future of the Church, he says, “We are going to learn real Catholicism, which is what our Lord says – to love Him and to love one another.



The 4th Degree Exemplification held in the fall of 2007 was in honor of Fr. John Murray, State Father Prior of the Columbian Squires. Dave Benson, Joseph Bernard and Thomas Ciotti were inducted into the Bishop O’Connor Assembly. Pictured left to right are: Front – Fr. John Murray, Fred Conforti – Master of the First NJ District (4th Degree) Rear – Dave Benson, Joseph Bernard, Tom Ciborski (State Deputy), Thomas Ciotti and Barry Bernard – DD, PGK.



Columbian Club

In its early days, St. John's Council wanted to establish a clubhouse where Council members could gather, conduct business, and pursue the goals of the Knights of Columbus: Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. It would be a place they could call home, and be managed by a Columbian Club.

In 1921 Father Morrissey, St. John's pastor, purchased the Visitors Center from Camp Merritt. The Trustees of St. John's Council also purchased the two-story officers' quarters from Camp Merritt. There is no record of the cost of our first clubhouse or of moving it to Bergenfield. However, St. John's Church purchased its building for \$2,100 and had it moved to Bergenfield, by a Nyack, N.Y., firm for an additional \$5,000. St. John's Council had to purchase the land on which our future clubhouse would sit. We have no record of the cost of that property. Although our clubhouse was a smaller building, this purchase was still a major expenditure for the Council. Records from Camp Merritt indicate that both buildings required the use of greased logs to transport them to their new locations. This explains why it cost twice as much to move the buildings as it did to purchase them.

The building was relocated to the east side of Washington Avenue, north of Hickory Avenue. The Council named the new clubhouse the "St. John's Home Association." A new first floor was built as part of the foundation, making the clubhouse a three-story building. Fred Jacobsen Jr., who remembers going inside the clubhouse as a child, describes the interior thus: There was a small foyer with stairways going up to the second and third floor. There may have been a small staircase going to the first floor as well. The first floor had two bowling alleys. The second floor had a large meeting room, and may have had a small kitchen. The third floor also had a large meeting room.

The building that St. John's Church purchased was used as both a school and a convent. In the fall of 1921, when St. John's School opened, it had an enrollment of 66 students. By 1923, the enrollment had increased to 240. St. John's Parish soon realized that the building was inadequate. They tried to purchase five additional lots to build a new school, but before the transaction could be completed, the owner of the property died. This delayed the sale of the property for four and a half years. St. John's Council, through its trustees, offered St. John's Parish use of the clubhouse for additional classrooms. Father Morrissey, also our Chaplain, accepted the offer. This agreement had to be terminated because of noncompliance with the town's fire regulations. Regular meetings were held at the clubhouse on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. It is believed that business meetings, dances, and other events were held at the clubhouse during this period.

St. John's Home Association officers for the Columbian Year 1925-1926 were Thomas J. Prime, president, Edward F. Bradshaw, vice president, Josiah Lewis, secretary, and Charles Masterson, treasurer. Thomas J. Prime was the only Columbian Club president and Edward F. Bradshaw the only vice president from 1921 to 1933. In that year, like other buildings in Bergenfield, St. John's Home Association was lost because its \$4,000 debt could not be repaid.

During the Depression, the Knights of Columbus suffered great loss because of financial indebtedness. The Supreme Council dictated that Councils could no longer directly own property. All property and building deeds had to be held by the Columbian Club, not the Knights of Columbus.

After World War II, as economic conditions improved, a fund was established to purchase a new clubhouse. The Twin-Boro Columbian Club was formed to acquire property and a building to be wholly owned and operated by the Club, as a subsidiary of the Council. It was established in January 1949 as a semi-independent corporation to satisfy the legal requirements set by the Supreme Council.



At the December 5, 1949, regular meeting, a resolution was passed to buy two lots on the southwest corner of Riveredge Road and South Prospect Avenue in Bergenfield for \$1,600. At the April 3, 1950, regular meeting, another resolution was passed to buy two adjoining lots on the southwest corner of Jones Place and Riveredge Road for \$1,650. At the May 2, 1953, meeting it was reported that the property for the new club was sold for \$5,400, realizing a profit of \$3,250. The Columbian Club sold the property because this location violated zoning restrictions.

Late in 1956, John Sheehan and Gerald Oakley championed the movement to establish a new clubhouse for St. John's Council. They gained the support of Deputy Grand Knight John Watson. The three became Grand Knights in only a few years.

From 1957 to 1958 a search was conducted to find affordable, suitable land and a building that might fulfill our needs. In February of 1959, Deputy Grand Knight Gerhardt Kaufmann alerted the trustees to an old truck garage, the Mailmaster Building, at 61 Armour Place, Dumont, N.J., which was for sale. The asking price was \$25,000. The Columbian Club committee determined the fair-market value was \$18,000. On March 3, 1959, the committee met with the seller's representatives, inspected the property, and entered into negotiations. After weeks of tough negotiation, the Club purchased the building for \$18,000, the original buyer's offer. The closing was in May 1959. A \$10,000 mortgage was secured to complete the transaction.

The cinderblock structure was built in 1922 as a garage to repair trucks. It stood on a 40x100 foot lot, was in disrepair, and needed a lot of work. It was really too small and ill suited for our needs. During the remainder of 1959, a huge undertaking was begun to transform this dilapidated building into an attractive, functional clubhouse. President, John Sheehan, vice-president, John Watson, and treasurer, William Thierer, joined by Fred Jacobsen Jr., Gerry Oakley, Bob Sullivan, Dick Leahy, Joseph Kraus, and Henry Griffin, organized this undertaking. A workforce made up of Brother Knights, many of them skilled building tradesmen, volunteered and worked long hours to rebuild our club. Dick Leahy was the project boss. The first week, he rounded up 150 volunteers. As the number of volunteers decreased in the ensuing weeks, many volunteers, among them tradesmen, stayed and got the job done. Most of the materials needed for this undertaking were either donated or purchased at cost.

As money earmarked for the project ran out, they needed to find new sources of income to keep the project going and still cover the Columbian Club's monthly expenses. The first thing the Columbian Club did was to charge the Council \$100 a month rent to defray monthly expenses. The Club then launched a bond drive and issued redeemable-bond certificates. The bonds were treated as donations, not investments. Bondholders were asked to turn them in without any reimbursement, though not all of them did. The bond drive raised about \$8,000. The Council felt the best way to raise funds, both for charity and to renovate the building, was to open the club as soon as possible. It persuaded the Columbian Club to open the club to the Council for regular meetings and fundraising events before the work was completed. The Club resisted at first, fearing safety and liability concerns. By late 1959, the Club raced to get the renovation finished so it could officially open by January 1960. The first regular meeting was held at the new club in early fall 1959. The place looked more like a construction site than a meeting hall. Several affairs were held at the club before the end of the year. Final touches on the building were completed after the first affair, a dance, had already started.

The Council celebrated the move into their new home with a New Year's Eve dance, ringing in 1960. It was a well attended, catered affair. The club obtained a liquor license and the bar was very busy. All of our early affairs were catered and well attended. Still, the Council was not making enough profit from these affairs to pay bills and donate to charity, the Council's first objective.



Fred Jacobsen (third from the left) and his staff at one of the early affairs.

President John Sheehan proposed that the Columbian Club rent the club to members and their families for banquets. The Columbian Club would provide catering. They organized and trained Brother Knights as bartenders, waiters, porters, dishwashers, and kitchen help, all of whom volunteered to work without pay. But we had no one to cook or to teach cooking. Fred Jacobsen Jr. volunteered, even though he didn't know how to cook. He taught himself as he went along. The early rentals served "cold platters" and sandwiches. As Fred expanded his cooking skills, simple hot meals were served. Fred remained our primary cook for seven years. Many of our volunteers were skilled or professional men who earned many times what the Council could afford to pay them for their services. Our volunteers soon got the reputation for being professional, and

because no one was paid, we suddenly became competitive. During the first year the club was operational, Fred Jacobsen Jr. was Grand Knight and the primary cook. The club got more Knights involved and the membership grew, and the Council made money. Within a few years, profit from rentals and other fund-raising efforts (including the bond sale) allowed the Council to give the Columbian Club enough money to pay off the \$10,000 mortgage. The Columbian Club then stopped charging the Council the \$100 monthly rental fee.

Friday night was social night at the club. The bar was the first thing to open on Friday night. The present card and pool tables were early additions. A formal Ladies' Auxiliary was started on September 6, 1960. Many of the members' wives belonged and came down on Friday nights with their husbands. Fred Jacobsen's wife, Janet belonged to the Ladies' Auxiliary. She claimed that was the only way she got to see her husband. She was their president around the time Fred was our Grand Knight. In 1961, on behalf of the Ladies' Auxiliary, she presented the Columbian Club with \$500 to help purchase kitchen cabinets and a dishwasher. Our Squires Circle was invested in 1963 and held their meetings at the club on Friday nights. Fridays have proven the best time Brother Knights have to exemplify fraternity, the third degree of our Order.


Our club was built by men of vision. Because of their self-sacrifice and the hard work of active members, and the guidance of men of vision, we have been able to accomplish great works of charity, stayed unified as a leading Council in the State of New Jersey, and remained the great fraternal organization that we are for the last 100 years. Our Columbian Club Presidents and Grand Knights have often worked together to make this so. Looking back on our best years, we see that the most successful Grand Knights have always had a cooperative Club president to work with. Together, they shared a vision of what it would take to make their Columbian year better than the last. Many of our most successful Grand Knights were also Columbian Club Presidents at another time. The list of Columbian Club Presidents resembles the list of our greatest Grand Knights. Grand Knights Thomas Prime, John Kuisel, William Haren, John Sheehan, John Watson, Robert Sullivan, Dominic Naplitano, Andrew Connolly, Thomas Trank, William Murphy, John Walsh, Albert Breun, Scott Manno, William Gilligan, and John R. "Bob" Dondero also served as Columbian Club Presidents. Columbian Club President Philip Fredericks served as Grand Knight while in his former council. Other Columbian Club Presidents, who served for years, included Ed Vostinar, Robert Sheridan, William Sanders, Ken Malesky, Art Rudolph, James Kelly, and Charles Dietz. Ed Vostinar was the only Columbian Club President to die in office. When his son Kevin Vostinar served as Columbian Club President (2005-2006) it marked the only time a father and son had held that position. These men had to bring together and motivate a significant number of members to participate and have fun doing it. The first vision was the club. They needed a building where members could feel comfortable and able to socialize. Next, the members needed a sense of purpose, charity, not just to one another but to their local parishes, and to the greater community. They needed



to offer charity to Catholics and non-Catholics alike, based solely on need. By providing a place to organize and run fund-raising events, they realized that dream. Finally, the building had to be up-graded and expanded. St. John's Council could never grow unless the club grew with them.

Rentals are the life-blood of the Council. The more rentals we hold each year, the more money we are able to raise for charity and offset club expenses. From the first year the Club opened, we strove to rent our hall whenever we did not have an event. The Columbian Club books at least twenty rentals a year. In a good Columbian year, we may have thirty or more rentals. The Club rents the hall to members and their families, often for wedding receptions. To this day preferential treatment is given to members and their families in booking rentals. All our rentals are professionally staffed by our members and everybody works for free. Presently Brother Knights, Columbiettes, and Squires work at Council events and rentals. Our goal is to provide enough staff to cover all of the events and asking members to participate at the hall sustains membership levels and camaraderie.

As the Council's membership increased and the club was used more, it became clear that it had to be modernized and enlarged. On Sunday July 27, 1969, a ground-breaking ceremony took place for the renovation of the club. Dominic Napolitano, Columbian Club president, chaired a building program with Robert Sullivan PGK, FCCP, and Fred Jacobsen Jr., PGK, FS. They did much of the designing, planning, and purchasing themselves. The west side of the building was extended ten feet, which enlarged the hall dramatically. The old storage shed at the rear of the building was torn down. A large portion of the back of the building was expanded to provide storage space. Many other improvements were made as well, with much of the work done by members, gratis whenever possible. The Columbian Club secured a \$100,000 mortgage to cover the cost. The Council pressured the Columbian Club to get the work done as quickly as possible so the Council wouldn't be disrupted for long. The work was done in record time Early in January 1970, the renovation was completed and a dedication ceremony was held. The Club pressured the Council to pay off the debt as soon as possible. Through the hard work of many of our members, the mortgage was paid off when John Dillon was Grand Knight. Dillon had a mortgage-burning ceremony in the parking lot, and in 1972 a new facade was installed, completing the make-over of our club.

<i>Mortgage and Rededication Ceremony</i>		PROGRAM (At Clubhouse)		MORTGAGE BURNING CEREMONY	
ST. JOHN'S COUNCIL NO. 1345		MASTER OF CEREMONY		James R. McFadden, P.G.K.	
		Past Grand Knight - - - James McFadden		Grand Knight John Dillon	
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS		PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE		Past Grand Knight James McFadden	
61 Armour Place		Warden - - - - - Lenia Muzichelli		Past Grand Knight Martin Healy	
Dumont, N. J.		INVOCATION		Past Grand Knight Dominic Napolitano	
SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1975		Rev. John F. Murray, S.M.A.		Past Grand Knight Richard Book	
* * *		REDEDICATION OF COUNCIL HOME		Past Grand Knight Ralph Fanciulli	
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS		Chaplain - - - - - Magr. Thomas J. Gillbody		President Vincent Marzelli	
MASS OF THANKSGIVING		TRIBUTES		Past President Ben Sforak	
2:00 P.M.		Columbian Club - - - - - Dominic G. Napolitano		Past President Andrew Connolly	
St. Mary's Church, Dumont		Grand Knight - - - - - John T. Dillon		Past President Basil DeSalvo	
Fourth Degree Color Guard		Squire/J - Bergen County - - - - - Joseph Job		Past President Frank Cella	
St. Mary's Choir		State Treasurer - - - - - Joseph Luciano		Past President William Kenny	
		Chaplain - - - - - Magr. Thomas J. Gillbody		* * *	
				INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS	
				Marin H. Healy, P.G.K.	
				* * *	
				BENEDICTION	
				Reverend George R. Trabold	
				Reverend Peter J. Zawadzki	
				St. Mary's Choir	
				* * *	
				MENU	
				Hot and Cold Buffet Supper	
				REFRESHMENTS	
				DANCING	

The Columbian Club has tirelessly maintained the property. In 1977 a judge ruled favorably on a court case concerning the faulty roof of the club, which had to be repaired many times. This was the only time the Council had a positive response to the problem of constantly repairing the flat roof. In 1977, when Thomas Trank was Columbian Club president, a decision was made to cater all events in-house. Prior to this time, Communion Breakfasts, Roast & Toast, and New Year's Eve parties were catered by outside vendors. This marked the start of Council members working all of our events and rentals.

Major repairs and improvements were made in the 1980s. The roof was repaired again, as was the front sidewalk. There were kitchen and plumbing repairs. When John Cleary was Columbian Club President, a new Shrine to the Sacred Heart was installed. The Statue came from St. John's Church, Bergenfield. In 1984 the bar renovation was completed and new swivel bar stools were added, when Brendan Thornton was Columbian Club President. In 1985 there was yet another roof repair.



In the 1990s the Columbian Club was busy. In 1991, when Scott Manno was Columbian Club president, the club got a new oven as well as the ice-maker that makes all the noise in the game-room. When Art Rudolph was Columbian Club President, the in-ground oil tank in our parking lot was punctured while PSE&G was digging there, causing a minor oil spill. Even though the damage was not the Council's fault, and the tank was no longer in use, the Columbian Club was held responsible for the clean-up. There was still enough oil in the tank to cause an environmental hazard. Once the Environmental people got involved, the cost of the clean-up escalated. The "contaminated" soil had to be removed, which cost the Council over \$12,000. A "death certificate" was required for the removal of the soil. This episode proved why the Knights of Columbus can't own property. A small Council faced with this expense might have gone under if it was not financially sound. In 1996, when Phil Fredericks was Columbian Club president, the J. F. K. Room was renovated. Brother Knight John Graham, a carpenter by trade, did the work. Phil was able to find new furniture for the space, which was renamed The Father Murray Room.



The latest renovation on the dining hall began in 2001, when William Gilligan was Columbian Club president, and was completed when Ed Vostinar was Columbian Club president, in 2002. The last renovation changed the dark wood paneling to lighter sheet rockwalls. New ceiling fixtures and wall sconces were installed, as were new ceiling tiles. Ed and Kevin Vostinar did a lot of the work. Gerry Flood and Phil Cassidy did much of the carpentry. When the State of New Jersey banned smoking in public buildings in 2006, Grand Knight George DiCostanzo felt that this was a good time to renovate

the bar area and the hallways in the front of the building. He worked in conjunction with Columbian Club president Bob Dondero to paint the dark wood paneling off-white. This change, considered unpopular when it began, was well accepted. The fresh paint obliterated the smell of tobacco, and the brighter color brought a lot of people back to Friday night socials. In May 2008, the facade of the building was cleaned along with the sidewalk, and in June, Columbian Club President Bob Dondero had a new rug installed in the vestibule proclaiming the 100th Anniversary of our Council, with the Knights of Columbus logo on it.

The Shrine to the Blessed Mother, Mary Queen of the Knights, has stood in a place of honor near the front entrance of our clubhouse for over 45 years. It is the most visible source of pride exhibited by St. John's Council. The Columbian Club has always gone to great lengths to embellish the Shrine to the Blessed Mother. The Shrine was dedicated on December 8, 1962, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Since that time, many dedications, rededications, and ceremonies have taken place there. On Sunday July 27, 1969, at 2:30 p.m., Msgr. Gillhooly blessed the Shrine at a ground-breaking ceremony. In January of 1970, he again blessed the Shrine for the dedication of the "new" building. In the summer of 1972, there was a dedication of the new facade. In June 1983 Msgr. Gillhooly rededicated the building, celebrating the Council's 75th Anniversary. Every time St. John's Council celebrates an anniversary or major improvement to the club, the shrine is the site of the memorial, and our present chaplain, Father John F. Murray, is there to bless it. Following the sudden death of Grand Knight John Zakrzewski, in 2005, when Bob Dondero was Columbian Club president, the shrine underwent further improvement. In memory of her husband, PGK Ralph Funicelli, and of their son John, Ann Funicelli donated funds for an additional plaque in memory of John Zakrzewski and a repainting of the statue by St. Mary's parishioner Carmen Curran. John Graham built a new glass enclosure. Flower arrangements were donated by Dunbar Landscapers, owned by a Brother Knight. New in-ground spotlights were installed by Kevin Vostinar. In May of 2008, the statue needed to be touched up by Mrs. Curran and John Graham had to upgrade the enclosure. Dunbar Landscapers donated new floral arrangements. The Shrine expresses our constant devotion to Mary Queen of the Knights.



The Columbian Club board is made up of thirteen trustees. Seven are elected by the membership at a time other than that when the Council elects its officers. They cannot serve their respective terms of office at the same time. The top six officers in the Council are: Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, Chancellor, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Warden. These men are trustees on the board with no officer functions at Columbian Club meetings. The four officers of the Columbian Club are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary; they are elected by the seven trustees of the Columbian Club. All third degree members in good standing, belonging to St. John's Council #1345, can become members of the club and can vote for the seven trustees on the board.

Today, as always, Columbian Club members are drawn from the same Council. No one who is not a member of the Knights of Columbus can become a member of the Columbian Club. Officers of the Columbian Club are comprised of the following traditional officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Council supplies the rest of the officers (seven of the top elected officers from the Council; The Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, Chancellor, Warden and the three Trustees) who sit on the board along with the four officers from the Columbian Club. Because this created an imbalance of power that favored the Council, things didn't always run smoothly. The by-laws were changed to allow the Columbian Club to hold the balance of power by eliminating the Council trustees from the board and allowing the Columbian Club to elect their own trustees. This ensured that the Columbian Club had more control yet the council was still well represented. This new arrangement has worked well facilitating better relations between the Council and Columbian Club in their number one function, promoting charity.

Today, St. John's Council, in conjunction with the Twin-Boro Columbian Club, is one of the largest charitable organizations in Bergen County. In recent years, we have raised between \$20,000 and \$44,000 for charity. Our clubhouse is a beautiful, well maintained building, the pride of the neighborhood, something of which we can all be proud.





St. Dominic Savio Circle #1622



In 1923 Christian Brother Barnabas McDonald, a noted expert on social welfare, was asked to create a youth organization for the Knights of Columbus. Brother Barnabas called for the formation of the Squire Circle as an elite group of boy leaders. On August 4, 1925, at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council, the first investiture was held and Duluth Circle #1 was instituted.

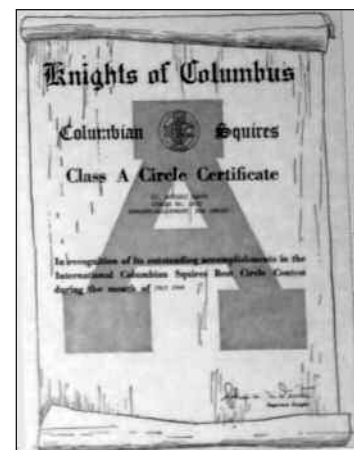
The purpose of the Columbian Squires program is to train young men as leaders who understand their religion, form a strong moral conscience about the Catholic Faith, and are ready, willing and able to succeed in life as informed Catholic gentlemen. The boys elect their own officers and plan and participate in their own activities. These are chosen from the following categories according to the guidelines of the Squires program: (1) Spiritual; (2) Civic- Cultural; (3) Social; (4) Athletic; (5) Service; and (6) Membership. All Squire Circles have six officers: Chief Squire; Deputy Chief Squire; Notary Squire; Bursar Squire; Marshall Squire, and Sentry Squire. These officers have the same duties as their Knights of Columbus counterparts.

At the Council's first general meeting (July 1, 1961), discussions about forming a Squire Circle were held. In 1962, James B. Clark was appointed chairman of the Columbian Squires committee. He announced that the Columbian Squires were an official organization of the Knights of Columbus that should not conflict with parish activities. The requirements specified that at least ten boys form a Squires Circle. A Chief Councilor, four other Councilors, and a Father Prior (Chaplain) were also mandated.

In November 1962 a motion was made by Brother Clark and approved by the Council to sponsor the Squire Circle. All the boys had to be covered by insurance. A second motion was made and approved for a fifty dollar advance to cover the initial cost of Squire activities. On December 9, 1962, the Squire kickoff -recruitment meeting was held, adopting the name St. Dominic Savio Circle #1622, under the guidance and approval of Supreme Council Squire representatives, who interviewed 25 candidates.

In January 1963, an investiture ceremony was held at St. Gabriel's Circle, Oradell, NJ. Eighteen young men were invested as Squires, and new officers were installed. From the start, our boys produced one of the best Squire Circles in the state. The new Circle met on Friday nights and was very active.

The Circle's first Father Prior was Fr. Fitzsimmons, SMA, from the Provincial Headquarters in Tenafly. Fr. Fitzsimmons, in poor health, died on March 2, 1966. Fr. John F. Murray, who sometimes substituted as Fr. Prior or as Chaplain, became the second Fr. Prior at this time. The first Chief Councilor of the Circle was James B. Clark. The Second was Ray Burzon. Some early Councilors were Vincent Manna, Dom Garofalo, Pat Cavouto, Buddy DeSalvo, and John Attardo. The Circle won the Class "A" Certificate award in Columbian years 1963-1964 and 1965-1966. Chief Squire Nick Ariemma was chosen best Squire in NJ for two consecutive years. In Columbian year 1966-1967, John Attardo, one of the earliest supporters of the Circle, became Chief Councilor. His Councilors were: Thomas Attardo, Dominic Garafalo, Vincent Manno, and Herman Haab. Bob Murphy was State Deputy Chief Squire, John Fiegel, State Bursar, and Jerry Murphy Squire of the Year. Our





Squires Circle won the Class A Circle Award in 1968. In Columbian year 1968-1969, five former Squires became Knights. Varied activities were conceived, planned, and implemented by the Squires. An early spiritual activity was rotating a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary among the Squires on a weekly basis. They worked at St. John's Council Carnival along side our Brother Knights in 1963. The Squires collected toys for Santa to give away at local hospital pediatric wards. In the summer of 1963, the Squires held Friday night dances. Our Squires formed a basketball team who played the Oradell Squire basketball team. In 1964, the Squires started playing other boys basketball teams in the CYO League. On January 3, 1964, our Squires hosted their first sports night. The Squires bought hot dogs, buns, and soda, and helped serve them at St. John's Council track meet starting in 1964. The Squires were invited to take part in the Knights' Communion Masses and helped serve at the Communion breakfasts at the Council. On Saturday August 21, 1965, our Squires competed in "A Battle of the Bands" at Dumont High School.

In May 1968, Fr. Murray was appointed State Fr. Prior by State District Deputy Frank Brady, who came to that meeting to bestow the honor. Thus, Fr. Murray became the only Squires' Chaplain in NJ to serve as Fr. Prior of a Circle and State Fr. Prior simultaneously. Fr. Murray stated that, for the first ten years of its existence, our Squires competed with the Lyndhurst Circle as either number one or number two in the State. At that time, there were about five active Squire Circles in the state. Today there are about twenty active Circles in the State.

Our Squires Circle during its first ten years averaged around twenty members a year. In 1972 Bob Murphy, a former Squire from St. Dominic's Circle, became Chief Councilor. The Circle now had 22 young men. In the Columbian year 1973-1974, Larry Huebner became Chief Councilor of the Circle and Charles Albanese, Chief Squire. One spiritual project the Squires conceived was to analyze the album "Aqualung," by Jethro Tull. In the Columbian Club year 1974-1975 the Circle was again rated No.1 in the state.

In 1976 John Cronin became very active in the Squires. For the next ten years he was Chief Councilor. This was the Golden Era for St. Dominic's. In 1984 the membership in our Squire Circle doubled to 44 young men. Although the membership varied from month to month in any given year, the average number was over 30.

The Squires rented an area of the Boy Scout Camp in Alpine, NJ, usually in the fall, and camped out on weekends. They planned everything and ran all their own activities. Fr. Murray came to the campsite to say Mass on Sundays.

On Friday nights the Squires went roller-skating at rinks in Montvale, Paramus, Bergenfield, and Englewood. They also went skiing in New York State. The Squires played "floor hockey" in St. Mary's School gym and parent-and-son softball games, which the sons usually won. They bowled at the Dumont Bowling Alley.

In the summer, the Squires went to Major League baseball games, more often at Yankee Stadium than Shea Stadium, which didn't please Fr. Murray. In the summer of 1985, the Squires went to Shea Stadium and saw Dwight Gooden (who won 24 games that year) pitch. Fr. Murray has no memory of it; maybe he was away at San Alfonso Retreat House.

For a number of years, the Squires went to West Point, where they visited the museum and saw the cadets play football. The Squires always went early in the college football season but never when Army played Navy.

A highlight was their annual Christmas-New Year's Dance, which ran from 7:30 P.M. to 12:30 A.M. It was always held on a week day during the boys' Christmas break from school. That way the dance did not interfere with a Council event held on a weekend and the boys could stay out late! Their best year, 1981, they drew over 90 boys and girls to the dance.



On the left and right, two of our Squires assisted at the 2008 Fr. Murray Dinner.

The Squires set up the annual Family Communion Breakfast and served as waiters and clean-up crew. In 1982, when St. John's Council invited 250 people to hear guest speaker Joe Walton (offensive coordinator of the New York Jets) speak, the Squires waited on them. The Squires sold Easter candy during Lent to raise money for charity. They helped collect money for the Annual Retarded Citizens Drive, better known as "the Tootsie Roll Drive."

The Squires held a "Mother's Day Craft Night," at which they gave handmade gifts to their mothers. Chief Councilor John Cronin's wife Pat usually obtained the materials needed for the project. They had a car wash to raise money for charity.

The Squires entertained elderly residents in nursing homes by singing songs and socializing. Councilor Joseph Zakrzewski and his wife Eleanor advised and assisted the Squires in this endeavor.

The Squires planned and organized spiritual activities, such as inviting Fr. Murray to hold a penitential service at the S. M. A. headquarters in Tenafly. Fr. Murray preached on the Beautitudes as a means to prepare the faithful for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. These activities were not only fun but taught the Squires what it takes to be leaders and how to plan successful projects.

Our Squires Circle won the *Corp d'Elite* Award in the following Columbian years 1979-1980, 1984-1985, and 1986-1987. Chief Councilor John Cronin had a lot of help from his Councilors, many of whom became Chief Councilors themselves. From the late 1970's to the early 1990's some of the Councilors were John Dudas, Joseph Zakrzewski, Al Breun, John LaRaia, John O'Brien, Tony O'Hare, Bob Sanders and John Attardo, who died suddenly in January 1986.

Among the Squires who became Knights were Nicholas Ariemma, Jim Boyle, Chris Breun, Ken Breun, James J. Kelly, Bruce La Raia, Tony LaGruth, Jeffrey Lyons, Jimmy McKeon, Bob Murphy, Paul and John Zakrzweski.

Membership in the Squires Circle declined in the early 1990s. By 1995, the Squires were inactive. Fr Murray mentioned in his Chaplain's Report, at the regular August meeting, that he was "saddened to hear about the Squires."

In the Columbian year 1996-1997 there was an effort to reactivate the Squires. Anthony Carpentieri became the new Chief Councilor, serving in that capacity for two Columbian years. Vincent Faulkner, Jr. was Chief Councilor during the Columbian year 1998-1999. Among Councilors at this time were Kevin Gynegrowski, Michael Licameli, Richard Serrano, Michael Avella, Richard O'Connor, Jim Kelly, and Sean Sullivan. At that time there were about 18 Squires in the Circle.

One noteworthy project the Squires embarked on at this time was to repair the house of an elderly gentleman. The house stood at the intersection of Washington and New Milford Avenues. It looked shabby; old paint was peeling off its walls. Several Squires, with the help of some adults, scraped the old paint off the house, then repainted it. They did a professional job.





Every Grand Knight since it was disbanded in 1999 expressed the desire to reactivate St. Dominic Savio Squires Circle. This was probably because of the insistence of Fr. Murray, who lamented the fact that the Circle became dormant while he was State Fr. Prior.

George DiCostanzo had a vision of the Knights of Columbus as a family that needed an active youth organization to teach boys the principles of our Order and leadership so they would in time become Brother Knights.

At the regular February meeting, George DiCostanzo introduced a resolution to reactivate the Squires Circle. A letter of intent to reinstate was prepared and sent to Supreme. Grand Knight Barry Bernard urged his Brother Knights to volunteer to fill the five adult leadership positions needed. In the May newsletter the membership was informed of the progress of the Squire Circle. The reactivation was approved by Supreme. Several Brother Knights tentatively accepted the position of Councilors but more were needed.

George DiCostanzo was elected Grand Knight for the Columbian Year 2006-2007 and immediately made reactivating the Squires Circle a top priority. He recruited both Squires and Councilors. In July 2006, information packages were mailed to a growing list of prospects. By September six boys signed up. By November 2006 the ten boys needed to reactivate the Squire Circle were enrolled. All five Councilors were signed up as well. Phil Fredericks agreed to be Chief Councilor. Paul Graynor, Jerry Passano, Willie Cintron, and Tom Formoso all signed up to be Councilors. Fr. Murray was still signed up as Fr. Prior.

St. Dominic Savio Squires Circle had its re-investiture ceremony and installation of officers on February 9, 2007 at the Council. This date was the actual 50th anniversary of Fr. John Murray's ordination to the Priesthood.

The 11 charter members are Steven Adel, Timothy Aron, William Cintron, Shane DeLima, Thomas Formoso Jr., Jack Fredericks, Joseph Fredericks, Matthew Graynor, Paul Olivo, Thomas Passano, and Anthony Vetere.

Chief Squire Steven Adel was elected NJ State Chief Squire in 2008. In May, 2008, he was invited to speak at the NJ State Knights of Columbus Convention in Wildwood. As a First Degree Knight, he had spoken at the Convention meeting without the meeting being adjourned. This was a unique experience for Adel; it was witnessed by all the Knights at the Convention.



Squires work as servers, waiters, and clean-up crews at numerous events and rentals; they run the cloakroom at major events; they prepare and serve pizza at our First Friday Pizza Night Social; they collect money at our Annual Retarded Citizens Drive; and they travel to Newark to feed the homeless. On Saturday June 7, 2008, they held a successful garage sale at the Council. Squires helped out at the 100th Anniversary Rededication Reception as waiters and clean-up crew.

St. Dominic Savio Squires Circle has been in existence for 45 years. For many of those years the Circle has been actively training and developing boys' leadership skills, giving them moral guidance to succeed in life, in the hope that they will grow up to be Catholic leaders. St. John's Council hopes that every Squire becomes a Brother Knight and exemplifies the principles of our Order throughout his life. St. Dominic Savio Squires Circle is the second oldest active Circle in NJ. As of June 28, 2008 there were 13 Squires in the Circle. Let us all encourage Catholic boys to become Squires. They are the future of the Knights of Columbus.



St. John's Columbiettes #1345

In 1939, Msgr. J. Francis McIntyre, Chaplain of the New York Chapter Knights of Columbus (later Cardinal Archbishop of Los Angeles), seeing great numbers of women coming out of a Communist rally at Madison Square Garden, conceived the idea of a ladies' organization to work with the Knights of Columbus. The New York Chapter formulated a plan to establish a ladies' auxiliary in each Council to be coordinated by a parent group. On March 2, 1939 the first Columbiettes were chartered in New York City. New auxiliaries were added, and State Councils and a Supreme Council were established.



In November of 2002, George Olszewski began exploring the possibility of Saint John's Council instituting a Columbiette auxiliary. The Council would need State approval and it would take at least 25 women to start. George knew it would be a fight, since a number of Brother Knights did not favor the proposal. He was determined to convince them that the Columbiettes would be an asset to the Council. The Columbiettes would have to enroll the required number of women in a prescribed time. The whole endeavor depended on recruitment. Embracing the principles and ideals of the Knights of Columbus, the Columbiettes would be self-governing but report directly to the Grand Knight.

In February 2003 it was resolved to explore the possibility of starting a Columbiette Auxiliary. The resolution states:

- Saint John's Council recognizes the remarkable contributions women have made in society and the important role they play in the world today.
- The chief purpose of the Columbiettes is to stand ready at all times to serve its affiliated Knights of Columbus Council.
- New members of the Columbiettes are to be initiated into the auxiliary.
- The Council recognizes the right of the Columbiettes to help raise funds for the charitable work of the Knights of Columbus, through fundraisers and other activities, under the authority of the Council.
- Saint John's Council endorses an exploratory committee to solicit and enroll at least the minimum required (25) candidates.
- If all of these requirements are fulfilled in the time prescribed by the Grand Knight, the Columbiettes can be chartered.

On March 3, 2003, the resolution passed.

When George Olszewski became Grand Knight, he held meetings to recruit enough women to meet the requirement. He warned that, if the minimum of 25 women was not met, the resolution would expire.

At the regular Dec. 15, 2003 Council meeting it was ruled that the resolution had expired. There was not enough support in the Council for the formation of our own Columbiettes. But Olszewski and a growing number of supporters persisted, and a new resolution was introduced. It was learned that the auxiliary could be started with only 15 women, provided that an additional ten were enrolled within a year. George Di Costanzo recruited another ten women. George Olszewski's vision of St. John's Columbiettes looked brighter.



This resolution did not specify which Grand Knight would judge whether the prescribed time had passed. Since George Olszewski, the current Grand Knight, would be in office for only the next six months, many members thought this was sufficient time to settle the matter. It was believed that the incoming Grand Knight, John Zakrzewski, who was not in favor of the resolution at this time, would dissolve the committee, thus ending the resolution. But they were wrong. He ultimately changed his mind.

What Fr. Murray said in the heated discussion of the motion on Jan. 5, 2004 may have changed some minds. Fr. Murray stated, "When the State Deputy suggests we look into forming the Columbiettes, they (the powers that be) are telling the Council to try really hard and form the Columbiettes."

On Feb. 17, 2004, State Council representatives were present to explain the bylaws. The meeting was open to all men and women at least 17 years old. More women expressed interest in becoming Columbiettes but not enough committed. Grand Knight John Zakrzewski endorsed the project and proposed that after the ceremony a dinner-reception be held. Sadly, he did not live to see it.

Columbiettes choose their own Spiritual Advisor or Chaplain. The founding Sisters, chose Fr. John Murray, SMA. He immediately accepted with characteristic grace and affection. His close spiritual guidance has proved essential to the success of St. John's Columbiettes.



Most of the founding Columbiettes are shown in this photo from their installation. From left to right in the front row: Sheila Tulli, Lisa Bernardo, Fr. John Murray, Mattea Griffin Truppe, Nina DiCostanzo & Michele Orsino. Center row: Janet Vostinar, Diane Wagner, Jill Moriarty & Barbara Santoro. Back row: Ann Schmidt, Laura Labetti, Michele Sciarrino (hidden), Donna Fredericks, Bridget Martin, Maureen Kostka, Anne Taxter, Eileen Burke, Patricia Martin, Mary Ellen Blake(deceased) & Kathleen Murray.



The institution and installation of officers was postponed because of bad weather and rescheduled for March 20, 2005. On Monday March 7, 2005 Grand Knight John J. Zakrzewski died. He was 41 years old. On Sunday, March 20, 2005 St. John's Columbiettes Chapter was officially chartered at St. John's Council Hall. Thirty Columbiettes were initiated and officers were installed by Deputy Grand Knight Barry Bernard. Mattea Griffin was elected president. A reception followed at the Council Hall. Third and Fourth Degree members of the Council attended.

Charter Members

Marichi G. Adel	Patricia M. Martin, Sentinel
Lisa M. Bernardo, Secretary	Kathleen Ann Murray
Mary Ellen Blake	Jill Moriarty, Vice President
Lisa Boyd	Michele T. Orsino, Financial Secretary
Eileen C. Burke	Ann Panfile
Josephine DeCristofaro	Kathleen Rhein
Nina DiCostanzo, Treasurer	Gloria R. Ricco
Donna M. Fredericks	Lesia Rossmann
Mattea Griffin, President	Barbara N. Santoro
Donna M. Hannibal	Andrea M. Schmidt
Mary A. Healey	Michele A. Sciarrino
Diane Kosior	Anne F. Taxter
Maureen Kostka	Sheila Tulli
Laura E Labetti	Janet R. Vostinar
Bridget Martin	Diane T. Wagner

The Columbiettes have two Degrees: a First Degree to initiate new members and a Major Degree allowing a Columbiette to hold office. Regular meetings were scheduled on the third Wednesday of each month.

At the May 2005 regular meeting, new Columbiettes discussed plans for future fund raising events, including the collection of soda can tabs for donation to Ronald McDonald House, which provides housing for parents with long-term hospitalized children.

On Saturday, June 4, 2005, the Columbiettes held their first successful fundraiser, a Flea Market Sale. On Sunday, December 4, 2005, they hosted a profitable holiday vendor's fair at the Council Hall. After the December meeting, the Columbiettes held their own Christmas party.

By February, 2006, membership had increased to 42. In March 2006 they hosted a successful Lenten dinner for more than 100 guests. A book-sale later in the month enabled us to donate \$25 each to the Dumont and Bergenfield libraries and to buy backpacks and school supplies for needy children.



The Central Chapter hosted a Major degree at our Council Hall on April 23, 2006, in which twelve Sisters received a Major degree.

In May 2006, at the 2006 Knights of Columbus State Convention, in Wildwood NJ, the Columbiettes received the following certificates of merit:

- Founders' Award for membership retention, achievement
- Feed the Hungry Award, achievement
- 100% plus participation in state charity raffle, achievement
- Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace Award.

In June 2006, Council #1345 thanked the Columbiettes for their support during “the shake the can” drive and the Special Children’s Dance. The Columbiette’s raffle held that month was also a great success. The Columbiettes received a plaque in recognition of their donation last year to the Fr. Murray Scholarship Fund at the 2008 Knights of Columbus Convention, in Wildwood, NJ.

They have engaged in numerous activities, including: a tricky tray dinner, pasta night dinner, a children’s Halloween party, a first Friday night dinner, children’s Christmas party, and a murder mystery show and dance. The Columbiettes have also participated in the St. Patrick’s Day parade in Bergenfield, marching with St. John’s Council.



Bridget Martin, Donna Fredericks and Donna Hannibal at the Council’s Centennial celebration.

By May 2008 there were 52 Columbiettes in the Order. They have grown in scope and service to St. John’s Council, working with the Knights in our many fundraising charity and community events. Columbiettes help at Council events as servers, cooks, and kitchen help. They collect money during our annual “Shake the Can” Drive. Talented Columbiettes perform in our Special Children’s Benefit Talent Show and help out at Dumont Day and at our Church Carnivals. In just a few years, the Columbiettes have raised over \$11,000 for charity.

In June of 2008, the Columbiettes hosted an open-house for the building rededication and centennial celebration of St. John’s Council. They not only prepared the dinner, but served it as well, so that their brother Knights could enjoy the day.



On March 20th, 2005, 32 Catholic women came together to be instituted as the Columbiettes of St. John's Council #1345. Mattea Truppe had the privilege and honor to serve as the first President of the auxiliary, followed by Jill Moriarty and Donna Hannibal. Mattea reflected:

"With the blessing of Our Lord Jesus and His Blessed Mother, the Virgin Mary, our Patroness, we have been mindful of our responsibilities to Holy Mother Church and loyal to the ideals of the Knights of Columbus and the Columbiettes. We have helped to raise money and, more important, have done good works side by side on the local and State levels with our Sister Columbiettes and Brother Knights. We have created friendships and formed tight relationships with each other. It is remarkable how we have grown to 52 strong and beautiful women in such a short period of time. Praise God for our dear Chaplain, Father John Murray, who has been a blessing and inspiration to us every step of the way." She concluded with this prayer: "May we Columbiettes and our Brother Knights continue to be a force for good in the church and in the world."



RIP Charter Members



Mary Ellen Blake (March 2007)

Gloria Ricco (April 2008)

1908



2008



Boy Scouts Troop #1345



St. John's Council has always been committed to supporting and sponsoring youth groups such as our own K. of C. Columbus Cadets, or Boy Scouts of America troops in our two Parish areas. In the late 1930's St. John's Council had its own Columbus Cadets, who were active in St. John's parish. Fr. Hillock, St. John's Pastor, was their Spiritual Leader. In 1939 St. John's beloved Pastor suddenly died. The new Pastor was not willing to make the same commitment to sustain the membership of the Columbus Cadets. Fr. O'Neill, the Pastor of St. Mary's Church, stepped in and, with the help of our council, chartered St. Mary's Boy Scout Troop #65, in Dumont, in late 1939. The Columbus Cadets of Bergenfield was deactivated in early 1940. St. John's

Church, with the help of our Council, chartered St. John's Boy Scout Troop #139 in early 1942.

Keith Hilcken, a member of our Council, no stranger to the Boy Scouts, has been actively involved in Scouting since 2001, when his oldest son got involved in Scouting. Keith was trained to be a Boy Scout Leader and became an Assistant Scoutmaster that same year in St. John's Troop #139, in Bergenfield. He remained an Assistant Scoutmaster there until 2006, when he left to become assistant Scoutmaster in Boy Scout Troop #180, also in Bergenfield.

In January 2008, Keith formed a new Boy Scout troop in Bergenfield. Seeking a place in which to hold meetings, Keith approached another member of our Council, Dave Lang. Keith asked Dave if he would approach someone from St. John's Council to set up a meeting to discuss the Boy Scout Troop. Dave contacted Grand Knight Ivan Hannibal, who found the time to get involved in yet another youth activity supported by our Council. Ivan brought these questions before the Council and the Columbian Club: was the entire Council in favor it and which night could the Boy Scouts meet? The Council was favorable, noting the only night the Council would not be open on a regular basis was Tuesday. After the Boy Scout meeting date was set for the first Tuesday night of the month, Ivan explored the feasibility of sponsoring the troop as our own St. John's Council Boy Scout Troop #1345 of Dumont. Since St. Mary's Troop in Dumont is inactive and St. John's Troop in Bergenfield is very active, this was received as a good idea.

In February, when the troop was chartered by the Boy Scouts of America, Keith, the Scoutmaster and his Assistant Scoutmaster, Ray Ziembra, had only three boys signed up. A motion was made to sponsor the new Boy Scout Troop and rename it as our own. In May, 2008 the motion was approved by the Council. By this time the membership had increased to six boys. Currently, the troop has grown to 13 boys and meets on Tuesdays at 6:30 P.M. The Scouts are very active, and helped out during our Annual Retarded Citizens Drive. They held a Spaghetti Dinner to help raise funds, and their leaders helped out in the kitchen for our 100th Anniversary Reception Dinner on June 28th. Summer camp ran from July 27 to August 2, 2008. It has taken nearly one hundred years for St. John's Council to get a Boy Scout troop of its own. As we enter our second century, it looks as if it was worth the wait!



Scouts and leaders of Boy Scout Troop #1345 of Dumont gather at the troop's first Court of Honor, at which the scouts received their rank advancement awards. With them at left is Keith Hilcken, Scoutmaster, second from left at rear is Ivan Hannibal, grand knight of St. John's Council #1345, Knights of Columbus, the troop's sponsor. On the right is Paul Fierro and second from the right at rear is Ray Ziemba, the assistant Scoutmaster.



Chronological History of St. John's Council #1345

Listed here are the facts and figures as they have been recorded in our historical records. You will also find the names of some of the people who have made St. John's Council what it is today.

Many of our officers have gone on to higher positions within the Knights of Columbus and many have become Faithful Navigators of a Fourth Degree assembly. Designations next to a name indicate the position held.

St. John's Council has always excelled in working with youth and with those in need through their activities and programs. Where no charitable contribution is shown, hard figures are unavailable.

Key to abbreviations: DD-District Deputy, FN-Faithful Navigator, SD-State Deputy, ST-State Treasurer, SW-State Warden SS-State Secretary, FS-Financial Secretary, DGK-Deputy Grand Knight
CCP-Columbian Club President, TBCCP-Twin Boro Columbian Club President

1908-1909 – EDWARD F. BRADSHAW¹ (#1)

FS – M. F. Bradley (#1)

DD – B. Jeffers

Membership: 31

DGK – James W. Wiley

1909-1910 – EDWARD F. BRADSHAW (#1)

FS – M. F. Bradley (#1)

DGK – James W. Wiley

1910-1911 – JAMES W. WILEY (#2)

FS – William B. May (#2)

DGK – John Sheridan

1911-1912 – JAMES W. WILEY (#2)

FS – William B. May (#2)

DGK – John Sheridan

1912-1913 – JOHN SHERIDAN (#3)

FS – Patrick F. McMahon (#3)

DGK – James Smith

1913-1914 – JAMES SMITH (#4)

FS – Patrick F. McMahon (#3)

DGK – William Carr

¹ Our First Grand Knight, Edward Bradshaw remains, after one hundred years, the youngest member of our council to become Grand Knight. He was only 21 years old when he was installed on June 28, 1908.



John Sheridan



Thomas J. Prime



Albert P. Ginoures



Clyde Foote

**1914-1915 – WILLIAM F. CARR (#5)**

FS – Patrick F. McMahon (#3)

DGK – James Wiley

1915-1916 – JAMES W. WILEY (#2)

FS – Patrick F. McMahon (#3)

DGK – Edward Bradshaw

1916-1917 – EDWARD F. BRADSHAW (#1)

FS – Patrick F. McMahon (#3)

DGK – Thomas Prime

1917-1918 – THOMAS J. PRIME² (#6) [DD FN SW]

FS – Patrick F. McMahon (#3)

DGK – Adam Ewald

1918-1919 – THOMAS J. PRIME (#6) [DD FN SW]

FS – Thomas F. Holland (#4)

DGK – Adam Ewald

1919-1920 – THOMAS J. PRIME (#6) [DD FN SW]

FS – Thomas F. Holland (#4)

DGK – Adam Ewald

1921-1922 – THOMAS J. PRIME (#6) [DD FN SW]

FS – S. Joseph Seco (#5)

CCP – Thomas J. Prime

DGK – Adam Ewald

1922-1923 – ADAMA. EWALD (#7)

FS – George F. Ruppert (#7)

CCP – Thomas J. Prime

DGK – Frederick Boyd

1923-1924 – ADAMA. EWALD (#7)

FS – George F. Ruppert (#7)

CCP – Thomas J. Prime

DGK – Frederick Boyd

² Thomas J. Prime will forever hold the record for the longest tenure as Grand Knight. He served for 7 Columbian years in parts of 3 decades.



Thomas J. Kelly



James J. Connolly



Hugh P. O'Shaughnessy



Joseph W. Kraus



John E. Murphy

**1924-1925 – FREDERICK J. BOYD (#8)**

FS – Joseph E. Kelly (#8)
CCP – Thomas J. Prime

DGK – Harry J. Horan

1925-1926 – FREDERICK J. BOYD (#8)

FS – Joseph E. Kelly (#8)
CCP – Thomas J. Prime

DGK – Harry J. Horan

1926-1927 – HARRY J. HORAN (#9)

FS – Joseph E. Kelly (#8)
CCP – Thomas J. Prime

DGK – Albert Ginoures

1927-1928 – HARRY J. HORAN (#9)

FS – Joseph E. Kelly (#8)
CCP – Thomas J. Prime

DGK – Albert Ginoures

1928-1929 – ALBERT P. GINOURES (#10)

FS – Joseph E. Kelly (#8)
CCP – Thomas J. Prime

DGK – T. C. McGuire

1929-1930 – T. C. McGUIRE (#11)

FS – Joseph E. Kelly (#8)
CCP – Thomas J. Prime

DGK – Clyde Foote

1930-1931 – CLYDE FOOTE (#12)

FS – Richard L. Caverly (#9)
CCP – Thomas J. Prime

DGK – Bert Lovett

1931-1932 – BERTRAM J. LOVETT (#13)

FS – Richard L. Caverly (#9)
CCP – Thomas J. Prime

DGK – Thomas Kelly



Nathaniel P. McCaffrey



Cornelius F. Griffin



John A. Kuisel Jr.



Edward J. McGraw



James I. Cleary

**1932-1933 – THOMAS J. KELLY** (#14)

FS – Richard L. Caverly (#9)
CCP – Thomas J. Prime

DGK – Bertram Landrine

1933-1934 – BERTRAM A. LANDRINE (#15)

FS – Maurice Kiely (#10)
CCP – Thomas J. Prime

DGK – Michael Cook

1934-1935 – MICHAEL J. COOK (#16)

FS – Maurice Kiely (#10)
CCP – Thomas J. Prime

DGK – Thomas Prime

1935-1936 – THOMAS J. PRIME (#6) [DD FN SW]

FS – Bertram J. Lovett (#11)

DGK – Lawrence Barbieri

1936-1937 – THOMAS J. PRIME (#6) [DD FN SW]

FS – Bertram J. Lovett (#11) DD – Frank Safino

DGK – Lawrence Barbieri

1937-1938 – LAWRENCE BARBIERI (#17)

FS – Bertram J. Lovett (#11) DD – Frank Safino

DGK – James Connolly

1938-1940 – JAMES J. CONNOLLY (#18)

FS – George F. Ruppert (#7) DD – Frank Safino

Membership: 42
DGK – Edward Burke

1940-1941 – EDWARD S. BURKE (#19)

FS – Stephen W. Prime (#12) DD – Robert J. Bell

DGK – Claude Rossignot

1941-1942 – EDWARD S. BURKE (#19)

FS – Fred J. Herles (#13) DD – Arthur Jerome

DGK – Hugh O'Shaughnessy

1942-1943 – HUGH P. O'SHAUGHNESSY (#20) [DD ST SW SS SD-Elect FN] Membership: 150

FS – Robert J. Hanneman (#14) DD – Dan McNulty

DGK – Joseph Kraus



Joseph V. McGraw



William P. Haren



William J. Thierer



Hugh M. Gillson



John E. Watson



1943-1944 – HUGH P. O'SHAUGHNESSY (#20) [DD ST SW SS SD-Elect FN]

FS – Robert J. Hanneman (#14)

DD – Frank Gonzalez

DGK – Joseph Kraus

1944-1945 – JOSEPH W. KRAUS (#21) [FN]

FS – Robert J. Hanneman (#14)

DD – Dan McNulty

DGK – John Murphy

1945-1946 – JOHN E. MURPHY (#22)

FS – W. Ward (#15)

DD – Joseph Martin

DGK – Nathaniel McCaffrey

1946-1947 – NATHANIEL P. McCAFFREY (#23)

FS – Robert J. Hanneman (#14)

DD – Joseph Martin

DGK – Joseph Seck

1947-1948 – JOSEPH G. SECK (#24)

FS – Robert J. Hanneman (#14)

DD – Joseph Martin

DGK – Cornelius Griffin

1948-1949 – CORNELIUS F. GRIFFIN (#25)

FS – Fred J. Herles (#13)

DD – Joseph Martin

DGK – John Kuisel Jr.

1949-1950 – JOHN A. KUISEL, JR. (#26)

FS – Fred J. Herles (#13)

DD – Joseph McGuire

DGK – Edward McGraw

1950-1951 – EDWARD J. McGRAW (#27)

FS – Fred J. Herles (#13)

DD – Charles Goebel

DGK – James Cleary

1951-1952 – JAMES I. CLEARY (#28)

FS – Fred J. Herles (#13)

DD – John Lammers

DGK – Joseph McGraw

1952-1953 – JOSEPH V. McGRAW (#29) [DD FN]

FS – Robert J. Hanneman (#14)

DD – Joseph Gunther

DGK – Bill Haren

TBCCP – Thomas J. Prime



Walter M Turbiak



Gerhardt W. Kaufmann



Ferdinand J. Jacobson Jr.



John J. Sheehan



Gerald J. Oakley



1953-1954 – WILLIAM P. HAREN (#30) [FN]

FS – Robert J. Hanneman (#14) DD – Joseph Gunther
TBCCP – Thomas J. Prime

DGK – B. L. Griffin

1954-1955 – BRYCE L. GRIFFIN (#31)

FS – Robert J. Hanneman (#14) DD – David R. Burke
TBCCP – Thomas J. Prime

DGK – William Thierer

1955-1956 – WILLIAM J. THIERER (#32)

FS – John F. Mahon (#16) DD – Frank Brady
TBCCP – John Kuisel

Membership: 403
DGK – Jim Clark

1956-1957 – HUGH M. GILLSON (#33)

FS – John F. Mahon (#16) DD – George Carter
TBCCP – William Haren

DGK – John Watson

1957-1958 – JOHN E. WATSON (#34)

FS – John F. Mahon (#16) DD – Edward Muller
TBCCP – William Haren

DGK – Walter Turbiak

1958-1959 – WALTER M. TURBIAK (#35)

FS – John F. Mahon (#16) DD – John Colaneri
TBCCP – William Haren

DGK – Gerhardt Kaufman

1959-1960 – GERHARDT W. KAUFMANN (#36)

FS – John F. Mahon (#16) DD – Justus Minella
TBCCP – John Sheehan

DGK – Fred Jacobsen Jr.

1960-1961 – FERDINAND J. JACOBSEN JR. (#37)

FS – James J. McDermott (#17) DD – John F. Houlihan
TBCCP – John Sheehan

DGK – John Sheehan



Robert J. Ferguson



Robert J. Sullivan



Michael V. Flora



George F. Kelly Jr.



Gerard T. Tibbs



1961-1962 – JOHN J. SHEEHAN (#38)

FS – James J. McDermott (#17)
TBCCP – John Watson

DD – John F. Houlihan

DGK – Gerard Oakley

1962-1963 – GERALD J. OAKLEY (#39)

FS – James J. McDermott (#17)
TBCCP – Robert Sullivan

DD – Raymond G. Jobst

DGK – Robert Ferguson

1963-1964 – ROBERT J. FERGUSON (#40)

FS – James J. McDermott (#17)

DD – Charles A. Teiffenbronner

Membership: 644

DGK – Robert Sullivan

1964-1965 – ROBERT J. SULLIVAN (#41)

FS – James J. McDermott (#17)

DD – Vincent Baldassari

Membership: 664

DGK – Michael Flora

1965-1966 – MICHAEL V. FLORA (#42)

FS – Martin H. Healy (#18)
TBCCP – John Watson

DD – Vincent Baldassari

DGK – George Kelly

1966-1967 – GEORGE F. KELLY JR. (#43)

FS – Martin H. Healy (#18)
TBCCP – Robert Sullivan

DD – Vincent Baldassari

DGK – Gerard Tibbs

1967-1968 – GERARD T. TIBBS (#44)

FS – Martin H. Healy (#18)
TBCCP – Robert Sheridan

DD – Charles Walkiewicz

Membership: 638

DGK – George O'Hare

1968-1969 – GEORGE L. O'HARE (#45)

FS – James J. M. Harriott (#19)
TBCCP – Dominic Napolitano

DD – Charles Walkiewicz

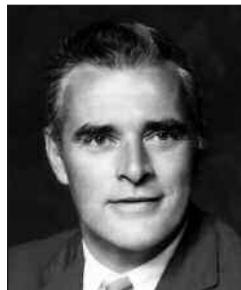
DGK – Ralph Funicelli



George L. O'Hare



Ralph O. Funicelli



Richard J. Bocek



Dominic G. Napolitano



Martin H. Healy



1969-1970 – RALPH O. FUNICELLI (#46) [FN]

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr.³ (#20) DD – Andrew P. Vasco
TBCCP – William Kenny

DGK – Richard Bocek

1970-1971 – RICHARD J. BOCEK (#47)

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Anthony K. Zally
TBCCP – George Coble

DGK – Dominic Napolitano

1971-1972 – DOMINIC G. NAPOLITANO (#48) [DD]

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Anthony K. Zally
TBCCP – Buddy DeSalvo

DGK – Martin Healy

Charitable Contributions: First payment of \$2500 to St. John's Church for new Parish Center and \$1,000 to St. Mary's Church for new gym floor

1972-1973 – MARTIN H. HEALY (#49)

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Raymond D. O'Brien
TBCCP – Andrew Connolly

Membership: 800 +
DGK – James McFadden

Charitable Contributions: Second payment of \$2500 to St. John's to fulfill Council pledge

1973-1974 – JAMES E. McFADDEN (#50)

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – John A. Ritter
TBCCP – Ben Sefick

DGK – John Dillon

1974-1975 – JOHN T. DILLON JR. (#51) [DD]

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Herbert S. Heaney
TBCCP – Vincent Marnell

DGK – James Rush

³ Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (Fred) retired as our Financial Secretary after serving for 38 consecutive Columbian years in that office. Fred's continual service as Financial Secretary encompassed 5 decades – a record that should stand the test of time.



James E. McFadden



John T. Dillon Jr.



James J. Rush



Frank Messina



Louis V. Monachelli

**1975-1976 – JAMES J. RUSH (#52)**

[DD]

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Herbert S. Heaney

DGK – Frank Messina

TBCCP – Peter Loguercio

*Charitable Contribution Total: \$10,000***1976-1977 – FRANK MESSINA (#53)**

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Joseph A. Coppa

DGK – Louis Monachelli

TBCCP – Jack Shields/Ed Vostinar

*Charitable Contribution Total: \$14,000***1977-1978 – LOUIS V. MONACHELLI (#54)**

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Joseph A. Coppa

DGK – Andrew Connolly

TBCCP – Thomas Trank

*The Tootsie Roll Drive yields \$3,452 and the Special Children's Dance nets a \$2,700 profit.***1978-1979 – ANDREW CONNOLLY (#55)**

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Joseph A. Coppa

DGK – Pat Fabrizio

TBCCP – John J. Walsh

*Charitable Contribution Total: \$12,972***1979-1980 – PAT FABRIZIO (#56)**

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Joseph A. Coppa

Membership: 968

DGK – Thomas Trank

TBCCP – Martin Lezette

1980-1981 – THOMAS V. TRANK (#57)

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Richard P. Tauscher

DGK – Andrew Salvo

TBCCP – William R. Murphy

*The Tootsie Roll Drive yields \$3,902 and Special Children's Dance nets a \$1,783 profit.***1981-1982 – ANDREW T. SALVO (#58)**

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Peter McWilliams

DGK – William Bochicchio

TBCCP – Albert G. Breun

Charitable Contribution Total: \$10,750

Andrew Connolly



Pat Fabrizio



Thomas V. Trank



Andrew T. Salvo



William P. Bochicchio



1982-1983 – WILLIAM P. BOCHICCHIO (#59) [DD]

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Peter McWilliams

TBCCP – John Cleary

Charitable Contribution Total: \$10,600

Membership: 979
DGK – William Murphy

1983-1984 – WILLIAM R. MURPHY (#60)

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Peter McWilliams

TBCCP – Brendan M. Thornton

Membership: 946
DGK – Joseph Matarazzo

1984-1985 – JOSEPH A. MATARAZZO (#61) [DD]

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Peter McWilliams

TBCCP – Mike Hulahan

Charitable Contribution Total: \$10,300

Membership: 977
DGK – John Walsh

1985-1986 – JOHN J. WALSH (#62)

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Joseph A. Matarazzo

TBCCP – William D. Sanders

Charitable Contribution Total: \$16,300

Membership: 959
DGK – Joseph Zakrzewski

1986-1987 – JOSEPH J. ZAKRZEWSKI (#63) [DD]

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Joseph A. Matarazzo

TBCCP – John R. Dondero

*Charitable Contribution Total: \$21,282***

\$3,716 collected during Special Children's Drive

Membership: 970
DGK – Albert Breun

1987-1988 – ALBERT G. BREUN (#64)

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Joseph A. Matarazzo

TBCCP – William D. Sanders

*Charitable Contribution Total: \$27,119***

The Special Children's Dance nets a profit of \$2,200

Membership: 1001
DGK – Joseph Canuncio



William R. Murphy



Joseph A. Matarazzo



John J. Walsh



Joseph J. Zakrzewski



Albert G. Breun



1988-1989 – JOSEPH S. CANUNCIO (#65)

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Joseph A. Matarazzo
TBCCP – Frank O’Leary
*Charitable Contribution Total: \$28,143***

Membership: 1027
DGK – Robert Sanders

1989-1990 – ROBERT J. SANDERS (#66)

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Joseph J. Zakrzewski
TBCCP – Kenneth Malesky
Charitable Contribution Total: \$20,500

Membership: 1037
DGK – John Dondero

1990-1991 – JOHN R. DONDERO (#67) [DD FN]

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Joseph J. Zakrzewski
TBCCP – Scott Manno
*Charitable Contribution Total: \$32,391***

Membership: 1050
DGK – William Gilligan

1991-1992 – WILLIAM J. GILLIGAN (#68) [DD]

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – John R. Dondero
TBCCP – Art Rudolph
Charitable Contribution Total: \$18,400

Membership: 1011
DGK – James Boyle

1992-1993 – JAMES J. BOYLE (#69)

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – John R. Dondero
TBCCP – Charles Dietz
Charitable Contribution Total: \$18,416
The Special Children’s dance nets a profit of \$3,100

Membership: 1006
DGK – Donald Winant

1993-1994 – DONALD E. WINANT (#70)

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – John R. Dondero
TBCCP – Joseph Sullivan
*Charitable Contribution Total: \$25,303***
\$13,000 collected during Annual Retarded Citizens Drive.

Membership: 990
DGK – Scott Manno



Joseph S. Canuncio



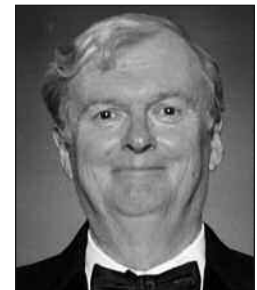
Robert J. Sanders



John R. Dondero



William J. Gilligan



James J. Boyle

**1994-1995 – SCOTT P. MANNO (#71)**

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – John R. Dondero

TBCCP – Kenneth Malesky

*Charitable Contribution Total: \$35,839***Membership: 969
DGK – Andrew Hogh**1995-1996 – ANDREW J. HOGH (#72)**

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Scott P. Manno

TBCCP – James J. Kelly

*Charitable Contribution Total: 26,700****Over \$12,700 collected during Retarded Citizens Drive*Membership: 959
DGK – Tom Manno**1996-1997 – THOMAS A. MANNO (#73)**

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – William J. Gilligan

TBCCP – Philip J. Fredericks

*Charitable Contribution Total: \$21,262*Membership: 961
DGK – Robert Cassidy**1997-1998 – ROBERT E. CASSIDY⁴ (#74)****1997-1998 – PAUL J. ZAKRZEWSKI (#75) [DD]**

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – William J. Gilligan/Scott P. Manno

TBCCP – Anthony Carpentieri

*Charitable Contribution Total: \$32,255***Membership: 934
DGK – Paul Zakrzewski**1998-1999 – PAUL J. ZAKRZEWSKI (#75) [DD]**

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Scott P. Manno

TBCCP – James Kelly

*Charitable Contribution Total: \$12,975***Membership: 918
DGK – Joseph Abou-Daoud

⁴ Robert Cassidy was our first Grand Knight to die in office; Deputy Grand Knight Paul Zakrzewski was elected to succeed him, finishing his term. The wake service was overflowing with State Officers in attendance as well as the Columbian Squires.



Donald E. Winant



Andrew Hogh



Thomas Manno



Robert E. Cassidy



Paul J. Zakrzewski



1999-2000 – THOMAS KIETUR (#76) [FN]

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Paul Zakrzewski
 TBCCP – James J. Kelly
*Charitable Contribution Total: \$23,832***

Membership: 865
 DGK – Matt Connell

2000-2001 – MATTHEW J. HAYES (#77) [FN]

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Paul Zakrzewski
 TBCCP – William J. Gilligan
*Charitable Contribution Total: \$25,804***

Membership: 871
 DGK – Richard O'Connor

2001-2002 – RICHARD J. OCONNOR (#78)

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Bill Bochicchio
 TBCCP – Edward Vostinar
*Charitable Contribution Total: \$12,615***

Membership: 826
 DGK – Sean Sullivan

2002-2003 – SEAN P. SULLIVAN (#79) [DD]

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Bill Bochicchio
 TBCCP – William J. Gilligan
*Charitable Contribution Total: \$33,773***

Membership: 827
 DGK – George Olszewski

2003-2004 – GEORGE J. OLSZEWSKI (#80)

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Sean Sullivan
 TBCCP – Edward Vostinar
*Charitable Contribution Total: \$17,174***

Membership: 804
 DGK – John Zakrzewski

2004-2005 – JOHN ZAKRZEWSKI⁵ (#81)

2005 – BARRY BERNARD (#82)

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Sean Sullivan
 TBCCP – John R. Dondero
*Charitable Contribution Total: \$42,735***

Membership: 797
 DGK – Barry Bernard

⁵ John Zakrzewski was our second Grand Knight to die in office; Deputy Grand Knight Barry Bernard was elected to succeed him, finishing his term.



Thomas Kietur



Matthew J. Hayes



Richard J. O'Connor



Sean P. Sullivan



George J. Olszewski



2005-2006 – BARRY BERNARD (#82) [DD FN]

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Sean Sullivan

TBCCP – Kevin Vostinar

*Charitable Contribution Total: \$22,817***

Membership: 786

DGK – Edward Kostka

2006-2007 – GEORGE DICOSTANZO (#83) [FN]

FS – Ferdinand J. Jacobsen, Jr. (#20) DD – Barry Bernard

TBCCP – John R. Dondero

Charitable Contribution Total: \$32,000

Membership: 792

DGK – Ivan Hannibal

2007-2008 – IVAN HANNIBAL (#84)

FS – Robert DeWald. (#21)

DD – Barry Bernard

TBCCP – John R. Dondero

Membership: 756

DGK – Steve Martin

2008-2009 – STEVEN MARTIN (#85)

FS – Robert DeWald. (#21)

DD – Barry Bernard

TBCCP – John R. Dondero

Membership: 721

DGK – Thomas Ciotti

** Charitable total shown is from the calendar year Council tax return – technically, the second half of the Columbian year listed and the first half of the next Columbian year.



John J. Zakrzewski



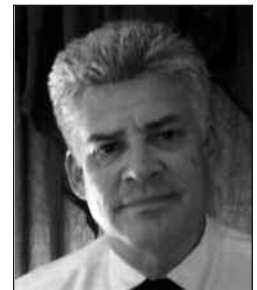
Barry Bernard



George DiCostanzo



Ivan Hannibal



Steven Martin



Interviews & Reminisces

Ferdinand [Fred] J. Jacobsen, Jr. – Grand Knight (1960-1961)

Fred has been an officer in the Council for 42 years, starting in the Columbian year 1956-1957. He was Lecturer, Recorder, Chancellor, Financial Secretary, DGK, and Grand Knight.

His father, Fred Jacobsen Sr., was raised in Jersey City. Fred's Mother, Susan Mahoney, was adopted as a baby by a Catholic family. They moved to 44 Phelps Avenue, Bergenfield, in 1920. They later moved to Porter Avenue. "I don't think my parents ever owned the house," Fred remarked. "Grandmother and Uncle did." Fred Sr. was the only Catholic in the family. Once a Lutheran, he became a Catholic when he married Fred's mother. Fred Sr. joined St. John's Council after moving to Bergenfield. He was Outside Guard in 1925-1926, then GK. He was warden for many years, until Hugh O'Shaughnessy ran against him and beat him. He was also a member of Bishop O'Connor General Assembly. Fred Jr. noted, "My father was a 'coat man.'" He marched in parades and other functions that did not require wearing a cape and other regalia. Fred Jr. has his sword from the 4th Degree Color Corps.

Fred graduated from St. John's Grammar School and from St. Cecilia's High School. He worked after school to pay the tuition of \$5.00 a month. He learned how to type on a neighbor's typewriter when he was in the seventh grade. His typing skills proved helpful during WWII. After serving in the Army Air Corps and regular Army, Fred worked his way through college. It took him seven years to earn a business degree from Pace College (1954). He also earned enough credits to qualify as an accountant or to take an insurance degree.

Fred entered military service in 1942. He served his tour of duty in the USA. His typing skills kept him stateside. He served as an administrative NCO, attaining the rank of master sergeant.

After high school, Fred worked for the N. Y. Central Railroad for 28 years. He always worked in properties. He was in charge of "rolling stock," trains, and ferryboats. He had to know the current value and cost of operating trains and ferry-boats, as well as their depreciation. Later he worked for ConEdison.

Fred and Janet were married in September, 1947. They had two sons, James and Charles, and a daughter, Suzanne.



Front, Fred Jacobson Jr.; Center, Robert Ferguson, Hugh Gillson, unknown; Rear, George Kelly

Both sons became Knights. The Jacobsens are the only family with three generations in Saint John's Council. His daughter's wedding reception was in our club (1981). Fred and Janet have four grandchildren, but no Knights among the boys yet!

Who and what prompted you to become a Knight? Fred answered, "My father. I grew up knowing much about St. John's Knights of Columbus. I also saw my father involved with the 4th Degree."

What challenges did you face? He answered, "I didn't join the Knights of Columbus until ... I was in my thirties. It seemed like I just graduated [from] high school and got a job; then I was in WWII, after [which] I got married, started a family, and worked my way through college. I didn't feel it was very hard. I felt I had it made. I was blessed. But I was very busy. I felt I didn't have any spare time to become a Knight. After I finished college, I felt it was finally the right time to join. I already knew some of the men at St. John's Council because of my father. They really didn't have to ask me to join. By this time I wanted to join. I was aware of St. John's Council my whole life."



What was your greatest accomplishment? Fred replied, “Rebuilding and opening the club. I threw myself into it. As soon as I became a Knight (1955), I became very active. I went through the Chairs. I had no official title or position in the Columbian club. A lot of us didn’t. We just helped out in ways we were trained in life to do. I was involved in renovating the Mailmaster building, especially with planning. We had a lot of great guys who worked very hard with me on the club. Gerry Oakley and John Sheehan came into the Knights just after me. They really pushed for the club. Both became Grand Knights. Bob Sullivan was my right hand man when the club opened. He also became a Grand Knight. Dick Leahy got involved. He was an engineer. He got the workforce together. George O’Hare was a good carpenter. He worked very hard. He also became a Grand Knight. I became Financial Secretary when he was Grand Knight. A lot of the guys who helped out later became Grand Knights”

What is your legacy? What do you see as the future of the Council? “My legacy has got to be... the club. That was what we worked hardest for when I was Grand Knight in 1960. As long as there is the club, we’ll be fine. If we don’t get enough young people to keep the club active... we won’t do well.”

What do you remember about Thomas Prime? Fred, “Years ago, somebody made a motion to spend \$5.00 or some ridiculous amount. He got up and said you can’t make a motion to spend \$5.00 because there is only \$4.50 in the treasury. I think he might have been treasurer back then. It sounds like a ridiculous amount but he was right. There wasn’t enough money in the treasury to cover it.”

Fred, “When they started cooking at the club, I was the only cook. We had rentals or affairs every week. I cooked there for maybe ten years. That’s when I learned how to cook. I had never cooked before. I never killed anyone! I spent a lot of time there. We always had mashed potatoes. I would cook them in a big pot, which got very hot; the mashed potatoes were dangerous to serve. That was the only way I knew how to cook potatoes. Ed Cassidy helped prepare the food I cooked. My wife, Janet felt like a Knights of Columbus widow. She complained I was never home! One time a little boy saw me leaving the building and said to his mother ‘There’s the man who lives in the Club.’ Bob Sullivan was the “outside” man. Bob was in charge of everything outside of the kitchen. There were two waiters I could depend on, Marty Healy and Jim Rush. When Hugh Gilson was Grand Knight, they had the shortest regular meeting in Council history, only 19 minutes. I was his Lecturer and my speaker said to me ‘I have to leave by 9:00 p.m.’ Often the meetings didn’t start until 8:30 p.m. The guest speakers talked in the cafeteria, not in the meeting room. I was not there in the meeting but getting things ready in the cafeteria when all the guys came in for the talk. The guy gave his talk and was gone by 9:00 p.m.”

John J. Sheehan – Grand Knight (1961-1962)

I thought it best to toss a sheet into the typewriter and reminisce on my forty years in the Order and in St. John’s Council.

As a PGK

1: **Tradition:** I became a GK in 1961 after coming up through the chairs. We were required by Nominating Committees in those days to agree to perform our assigned roles in the First Degree or else we would not be moved ahead. The feeling was that by exemplifying the First Degree as we moved through the chairs, we would learn more and more about the Order and grow in stature as we developed a greater sense of leadership as well as respect from our Brothers who would be proud that their officers were not merely engaged in the ordinary work of running meetings and committees.



2: Annual Statewide Track Meet: St. John's had a reputation for organizing and conducting the New Jersey Catholic High School Track Conference, track and field championships. It was a staggering burden in terms of



Bergen Evening Record, May 31, 1951. Edward J. McGraw, Grand Knight presents Dave Allen of Hackensack High School with a trophy emblematic of his victory in a senior one mile run at yesterday's Knights of Columbus meet at Englewood's Winton White Stadium.

money, medals, trophies, manpower, certified officials, and timers for the broad variety of events we conducted and the pick- and- shovel work of setting up, supervising, and knocking down hurdles and jumping pits as well as providing security for the pole vault, shot put, discus and javelin events.

We had to be careful in selecting qualified event timers, judges, and stop watches in order to secure official acceptance if some young fellow broke a local, county, state or national record. We had to be certain we could produce the cash to cover the numerous expenses. An important consideration was the provision of insurance to cover the athletes and the Council.

In 1962, when I was Grand Knight, we financed the twentieth annual track and field meet with an 8-1/2 x 11 sized, 60 page Journal. Sal Justini, Meet Business Manager, was in charge of the Journal while Marty Healy and Jim Rush, both of whom would become GK's, headed up the Youth Committee and produced the meet. The list of advertisers, including so many

local supporters and national companies, it took up three columns in the index.

We owed so much to so many, including a small army of brother Knights who sold advertising, collected tile money, and manned the meet, including Englewood, its Volunteer Ambulance Corps and its Board of Education which loaned the Winton White Stadium for the occasion and the schools, coaches, and athletes who competed. They came from the far corners of the state. It was a singular tribute to one Council's capability to create, finance, and produce such an event.

3: The Annual Communion Breakfast: St. Patrick's Day fell on Palm Sunday in 1962, the day of the Annual Communion Breakfast of St. John's Council. The Latin Mass was celebrated at St. Mary's Church, Dumont. It provided probably my single most prideful experience as a GK. Practically every Fourth Degree member was ceremonially dressed in tuxedo, baldric, and sword. We formed up outside the auditorium, then used as a church. I started the Color Corps in followed by the Council at about 8:45 AM for the 9:00 AM Mass. When the celebrant approached the pulpit, at about 9:15 AM, to read the Gospel, he had to wait until the last of our attendees cleared the aisles and were seated. What a turnout! It was truly a memorable occasion.

There followed the first Communion Breakfast to be held at our Council Home. The place was jammed with men. There were no women present. The Horn and Hardart Company, operators of New York's old Automats, did the catering through the good offices of a brother who ran a Horn and Hardart restaurant in Paramus. The big treat of the morning was our Chaplain Father Henry O'Neill, St. Mary's Pastor, who made a grand entrance in perfect timing from the rear of the chamber adjacent to the dais. On in years and somewhat handicapped, he had not been seen for some time. He brought the house to its feet and the applause was deafening, a moment to remember.



4: **The Knight's Altar:** In happy memory for me was the final, lump sum payment of our Council's pledge to fund an altar in the basement of the new St. Mary's Church. I doubt that many members will recollect that a Knight's Altar stands in that hallowed place. Some years before, the Council committed itself to this pledge but very little had been done to make good on the promise. Many members were unhappy about this turn of events. When I became the GK, my plans had already been made to produce a gigantic raffle in connection with the annual summer time family picnic. We raffled off a number of television sets, generated cash, and redeemed our pledge within a month of the election. Father O'Neill was delighted when I handed him a check for \$2000. And so was I. George Kelly, now a PGK, was chairman of the committee, and Lawrence Schilling was the welfare Committee chairman.



George Kelly, Father Henry O'Neill, John Sheehan and Larry Schilling. Grand Knight Sheehan is handing Father O'Neill a check fulfilling the Council's pledge for the Knight's Altar in St. Mary's lower church.

5: **The Annual Home Show:** As GK John Watson's Public Relations Chairman (1957-1958), he and I conceived the idea of injecting Catholicism into the Home Show, an annual affair at the Teaneck Armory. Each year we created an exhibit, offered informative material supplied by the Supreme Council for interested non-Catholics, and sold items to finance the project. The first year we obtained a shipment of very reasonably priced rosaries from Italy through the auspices of the then Bishop in charge of the North American College, Archbishop Martin O'Connor. Sold at the show, they helped produce some revenues and provided a change of pace at Council meetings. GK Watson would call for a P/R report and I would discuss the purchase and distribution of millions of rosaries to far flung places. I believe our exhibit that year showed a huge blow-up of Khrushchev surrounded by the shadow of a rosary created by the juxtaposition of a spotlight and an ordinary rosary hanging in front of the spot. During my term as GK, we again hosted an exhibit and sold an attractive ceramic house blessing.

6: **Retirement Dinner:** At my retirement dinner in 1962, I was given a beautiful Past Grand Knight's ring but the bright spot was the arrival of State Deputy Bill Boman and his wife, who traveled some distance from another affair, to honor me and my Council.

7: **The honorable Name Change Debate:** During John Watson's term as GK (1957-1953) Council member Hugh P. O'Shaughnessey, of Bergenfield, and then State Warden, died suddenly on the eve of becoming the State Deputy for New Jersey in 1958. Hughie, as he was called, was well loved statewide but particularly in Bergenfield and Dumont. A drive to rename St. John's council the Hugh P. O'Shaughnessey Council set strong and vocal forces on both sides of the debate. On final reading, the resolution to effect the change brought an outpouring of members to St. Mary's School basement where tension and emotion filled the air. There were those who sought to honor an outstanding brother Knight who was elected State Deputy at the state convention but did not live long enough to assume the chair in July. On the other side of the debate were those who felt that, while Hughie should be respected and remembered in a special way, it would be improper to remove St. John from his exalted position as the patron of the local Council. It was a memorable debate, heated at times, with many brothers offering their views. As it became clear that the plan was headed for defeat, proponents moved to table the resolution. However, the opponents led a fight to defeat the delaying tactic of the tabling motion and called for a vote on the name change resolution which was defeated as well. It was a healthy disagreement for the Council and did much to unite the brothers in recognition of the will of the majority but in some few quarters the wounds took a long time to heal, truly a memorable experience.



8: The Stamp Shows: PGK Gerhardt “Bill” Kaufmann, a noted philatelist, spent a lifetime amassing a valuable collection of stamps and special covers. He also became a trader in stamps and introduced many people to this gentle art. Bill produced several stamp shows that attracted the curious as well as the collector. A notable show was conducted by Bill at St. Mary’s School auditorium during the term of Grand Knight Hugh M. Gillson in 1956.

9: Irish and Italian Nights: It had been a tradition to hold an annual Irish Night in connection with a Council meeting. Considerable banter accompanied these affairs and much friendly abuse was showered upon the unfortunate brothers chosen to run the parties, especially about the quality and the quantity of the food and level of service.

In 1962 a group of Italian American brothers lobbied for an Italian Night during John Sheehan’s term as GK. Mike Flora, who would become a Grand Knight, assumed the chairmanship of an all-Italian committee and the Irish sector prepared to respond in kind. On the night of the affair, Mike presented a fine Italian-American speaker who was the principal of a public school in the Rutherford area. The ribbing began in earnest when dinner was delayed because the committee did not provide sufficient time to boil the pasta water in the club’s huge kettles. However, the dinner was a success and the committee felt secure in its accomplishment . . . that is until the GK announced, without mentioning his name, that he had procured an outstanding Irish tenor to render a number of Italian operatic selections. The hoots and catcalls of derision and unbelief from the Italian-Americans were deafening. However, the noise faded to embarrassment when the Irish-born provincial from the SMA Fathers, Father Michael Benedict Burke, after a masterful delay, rose and, with his music in hand, approached the piano. The audience thought it was all part of a gag until Father Ben’s melodious Irish voice expertly delivered the opening lines of the Toreador Song from Carmen in French with a slight touch of the brogue. He sang for an hour. The Italian brothers would not let him go home that night.

10: Saint John’s Fiftieth Anniversary: During PGK John E. Watson’s term, the Council marked its Fiftieth Anniversary in a very special way. The Communion Breakfast was highlighted by the presence of most of the founding members of the Council. A gala dinner dance brought a galaxy of state officers, including State Deputy Dan McCormick, who would become a Supreme Director, and several past state deputies. Public Relations Chairman John Sheehan arranged for a papal Blessing, which was duplicated and distributed to the membership.



Tex McCrary & Jinx Falkenberg, hosts of the Tex & Jinx show on NBC Radio.

The occasion was marked in a special way by the Council’s initiative in arranging for the appearance of GK Watson and SD McCormick on the very popular Tex McCrary NBC radio network show where they had an opportunity to deliver a strong Columbian message.

As President of the Columbian Club

Some historical background is in order: St. John’s Council had been without a home for many years. The original structure, located in

Bergenfield, was a World War I surplus wooden building that was relocated from Camp Merritt, then located in Cresskill, at the eastern end of Madison Avenue. Somehow, the Council lost its home as a result of the Depression, which began with the 1929 stock market crash.

During most of the interim period, the Council held its meetings in the basement of St. Mary’s School. Brother Claude Rossignot, then Church sexton, arranged the room for Council meetings and watched over the Council’s paraphernalia.



1: Preliminary Steps to a New Council Home: In 1956, two young Turks, fairly new in the Order, would harass the members of the Columbian Club Board of Trustees and their President PGK Bill Haren, a local builder, to institute action to move out of St. Mary's into a home of our own. They argued that a Council home would be a major key to the future growth of the Council; that a permanent Council home would create a better spirit among the members, inculcate a feeling of pride, and provide opportunities to establish new projects and programs to move Columbianism forward in our area. The two young Turks were John J. Sheehan and Gerard J. Oakley, both of whom would become Council GKs. They were supported by the then DGK John E. Watson, who would become Grand Knight in 1957.

There was a strong movement within the Council to do something about the building question. While it was a young men's movement that captured the interest of the younger brothers, it did generate support from the older members who saw the need for St. John's to find a home of its own. One could not fault the conservative, older members. They either knew about or had experienced the loss of the earlier Council home and they also felt that it would be most difficult to raise the necessary financing and the manpower to bring about a new facility.

2: A Building for sale on Armour Place: Sheehan and Oakley became members of the Club's Board of Trustees with a mandate to help make the dream a reality. The search began. In the late Winter of 1959, during Walter Turbiak's term as GK (1958-1959), Deputy Grand Knight Gerhardt W. Kaufmann alerted the trustees to an old truck garage for sale on Armour Place, Dumont. A Mr. Quinn, of Bergenfield's Christie Agency, represented a Mr. Cosby, the owner of the property.

The first formal discussion took place following a Council meeting on March 2, 1959, at St. Mary's School, Dumont. Trustees Bill Haren, John Watson, Bill Thierer, John Sheehan, Joe Kraus and Gerry Oakley discussed the asking price of \$25,000 for a 40 by 80 cinder block building on an 80 X 150 lot.

3: A Conditional Offer: On March 3, 1959, the same group, with the addition of Grand Knight Turbiak, a professional engineer and a trustee under the by-laws and Henry Griffin, also a trustee, inspected the property and agreed to consider a conditional offer of \$18,000, subject to approval by the Chaplain Father Henry O'Neill and authorization by the membership as well as other considerations including obtaining a mortgage commitment, further inspection and the possibility of obtaining another piece of property.

The initial inspection established that the property was being used by a mailing organization, Mailmaster, Inc. The front area was in use as business offices and a mailing assembly-line for workers. The rear was what one might expect to find in an old garage: factory-type windows cracked and broken, no heat, floors messed up with battery acids, and cracked in many places from the number of engine blocks that had been dropped on the concrete. There were some who saw it as a horror show, but the dreamers saw its potential as a home for St. John's Council.

4: Consultations: The board immediately looked into the building's potential, consulted with real estate advisee Mayor Joseph J. Hishon of Dumont, a brother knight, with PGK John Watson our insurance expert and member of the board, with Brother Dick Leahy, an engineer, who was in charge of development at Newark Airport for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, with Gerry Oakley, a professional architect, and board member and with Charles J. Tyne, a local attorney and Council Advocate. There were a number of problems, including a roof leak and other roof questions, the condition of the cement floors, the price of the property, and the cost of demolition, construction and renovation in order to turn this sow's ear into a silk purse. The overriding considerations: whether the Club could afford the costs, whether additional money could be raised, whether a mortgage could be obtained, whether the members would support a major do-it-yourself project and whether the board could develop sufficient monthly income to pay the bills and create a sinking fund for future capital improvements. The watch -word was let's make haste slowly.



5: **Planning Strategy:** The Chaplain was ill and GK Turbiak could not get an appointment for several days. In the meantime, President Bill Haren proposed a major reorganization of the board and the creation of a group with a diversity of educational and business experience to head up the building drive and to seek answers to the overriding questions.

6: **Board Reorganized:** Bill resigned as president but his experience as a builder would prove invaluable as a trustee. Also on the reorganized boards John Sheehan, a public relations professional, succeeded to the presidency. John Watson became vice president and started to examine the club's potential insurance liabilities. Gerry Oakley was asked to create a preliminary architectural plan to show the members how the new home might look and PGK William Thierer became club treasurer responsible for financial matters. Also on the founding board were PGK Joseph Kraus and Brother Henry Griffin, who would make possible the first major transaction by getting a 60% discount for the club's dinnerware. At about the same time, PGK Fred Jacobsen became a trustee and played a key role in the bond drive that was initiated almost immediately. Moving ahead, the board gave Brother Dick Leahy responsibility as Works Superintendent to boss the project if all worked out. Brother Bob Davidson was assigned to take some photographs of the building and site which would be blown up for a presentation to the membership at the proper time.

7: **A Re-offer:** On March 5th, meeting in John Watson's home, the board decided to place the \$18,000 offer for the property, subject to the specified conditions. On Sunday, March 8, the board received a re-offer of \$19,000 on an "as is" basis or \$20,000 if the owner replaced the roof. Meanwhile, Bill Haren reported receiving several appraisals in the \$18,000 area.

After considering the re-offer, the board decided to remain firm at \$18,000, again subject to the stated conditions. The owner asked for a meeting on March 10, but President Sheehan informed the owner that the board was adamant; and asked him to assume the additional cost of re-roofing, which had been estimated at about \$600. The owner refused.

8: **Historical Meeting Of The Membership:** On March 11th, the board learned the roof had been replaced on the building, insisted this had not been part of the understanding and prepared to hold an emergency membership meeting to seek authorization to proceed with the \$18,000 offer including the roof and to initiate a binder prior to a formal contract. Brother Harold Toner addressed the envelopes for the meeting alert, which was prepared by Sheehan. Things moved swiftly.

Several days later at a meeting in the basement of St. John's Church, Bergenfield, the members heard a presentation by Sheehan. Oakley reviewed the sketches and the Davidson photos. Watson outlined the financial considerations and Thierer discussed a possible bond issue. Many questions were raised. The assembled brothers gave the board a go ahead signal on the negotiations, approved a bond drive and made initial commitments. Negotiations were difficult. The board demanded a new roof, a lower price and other consideration.

9: **Purchase of the Building:** On March 12, 1959, Secure in the knowledge the board had ear-marked funds plus cash/commitments coming from the bond drive, the trustees took a \$100 check as a binder to the Christie Agency and resubmitted the \$18,000 offer including the price of the roof. The sale was finalized within a few days. Local financing was hard to find, but Dick Callahan, president of a nearby bank and a brother knight from another council provided a mortgage. The mortgage bore Watson's name because Sheehan could not make the closing which was held in May of 1959.



10: **The Bond Drive:** The club had funds totaling \$12,000 in a building account which had been so ear-marked but not enough to conclude the purchase of a building. The board created a bond drive, printed bond certificates in the denomination of \$100.00 and campaigned for additional cash. Ultimately, about \$8000 was raised through the sale of bonds. Of course, the board never expected to pay back any of the money and, at one time, asked for the bonds to be surrendered without remuneration.

11: **The Little Miracle on Armour Place:** The real work was just starting. As founding president, Sheehan organized twice weekly meetings of the Columbian Club Board. Monday nights were devoted to business and future planning. Thursday nights were spent on demolition and renovation work schedules and personnel assignments for the following Saturday. Jane Sheehan sent up hot food for the Saturday workers.

Columbian Club meetings became regular affairs as the board and the membership struggled with the mounting problems. The members came out in goodly numbers to respond to this classic do it yourself project. As project boss, Dick Leahy moved swiftly ahead. Numerous professionals in the building trades donated their expertise. The rest did what they were told. Pete Pigeon and Hugh Hoare did great work as plasterers. Bobby Simons performed admirably as the plumber. The late Ray McKenna, the late Henry Erickson, and the late George O'Hare did yeoman work as framers and carpenters. The late "Big Bill" Sullivan provided his electrical expertise. The late Charley Tinnelly and the late Connie Hoynes from Boyd Council in the Bronx, took special delight in demolition work, beginning with the task of removing the steel framed factory windows from the building sides. The late Frank Kistler was a jack-of-all trades as were most of the rest of the workers.

Numbers of items were either donated or obtained at low cost. The first bar was a combination of several bars located in various places. Insulation was donated by a brother. Another brother in the lumber business saw that we had good material at good prices. The board got the wood paneling through a national company at budget prices. The only job the members did not do themselves was the installation of floor tile. The board contracted for a guarantee that included the onerous task of repairing the badly damaged concrete surface and bringing the floor up to level prior to the installation of the tile.

12: **The First Council Meeting:** Everyone pressed the board to open the unfinished club to meetings and socials before the renovations were completed. Bill Kaufmann brought down the first gavel in the early fall of 1959. It was probably the first time a Council meeting was held with brothers sitting on two by eight by twelve foot planks atop concrete blocks and surrounded by wheelbarrows, material and building debris. No one seemed to mind the mess. The Council had a home of its own.

13: **The First Affair:** Fred Hollenstein chaired the first dance at the new facility. Having pressed very hard for the Columbian Club trustees to commit themselves to a target date, Brother Fred was in a bad state as the date approached and the chamber was not ready. It was touch and go down to the last minute. In November of 1959, as the first of the revelers arrived, they were treated to Ray McKenna hanging the door on the ladies room, Gerry Oakley hammering the bar on the floor.

14: **The First New Year's Eve Affair:** The Council greeted the New Year on January 1, 1960, with a sellout crowd and why not. The price was right, \$15.00 per couple, with the famous 'free flowing tap', a cold supper, two bottles of cheer per table and. a good band. A good time was had by all, but there were repercussions: led by GK Kaufmann at the next Council meeting, a storm of criticism was directed at the club trustees because they conducted a 50-50 raffle and thereby endangered the club's liquor license. The trustees claimed they were simply trying to raise some much needed funds for the renovation program – and anyway only friends were present. It was a hectic session. It did slam the door for a long time on the idea of a friendly, fund raising raffle.



15: The Monthly Expense Question: The board was very concerned about raising funds to meet the monthly expense burden. GK Sheehan discovered an old notebook that showed the following worrisome projection: Clubhouse monthly Expenses – mortgage (\$10,000. at 5% for 15 years) \$80; taxes, \$60; heat, \$60; fire insurance, \$8.; liability insurance (\$100. -\$300.), \$8.; electricity, \$15.; water, \$4.; repairs and maintenance, \$25.; personal property insurance, \$4 and supplies, \$20. The ‘nut.’ as it was called, totaled \$234. Thirty years later, it may not look like much of a burden. But it was a constant problem for the founding board which sought to conduct low cost affairs in order to attract the members and on the other hand had to face the reality of the ever recurring \$300 monthly “nut.”

16: The Date Night Dances: The trustees felt obligated to do everything possible to serve the membership. It was not easy for a young couple with several children, a mortgage and car payments. In order to provide a night out at low cost for the husbands and wives, the board invented the idea of a “Date Night Dance” at \$3.00 a couple on a members- only basis. There was a musical trio. The “free flowing tap” prevailed and a huge platter of salads, bread, cold cuts and coffee was placed on every table about eleven PM. The club did not make any money but everyone had a good time and that was the object of the occasion. It was a very popular event and it brought people together in a very special way. It was held every other month.

17: The Catering Business: But still the nagging “nut” faced the trustees every month, President Sheehan was in a position that brought him in contact with the catering business. He proposed that the Twin Boro Columbian Club offer its facilities to brothers and their families for weddings and banquets. The idea was to organize some of the membership as chefs, waiters, dishwashers and porters and provide an outstanding service that would be highly competitive because no one would be paid and everything earned would go toward paying bills. Later, as the club’s experience grew, these affairs would provide the basis for strong charitable giving by the Council.

The first of these affairs was Gerry Oakley’s brother’s wedding and the cook had an excellent shakedown. Sheehan cooked the roast beef and the highest priced waiters in the country served the dinner. A memorable comment was made by “Jake”. Sheehan returned to the kitchen after serving a table and expressed the thought that the peas were running low. ‘Jake’ responded; “Brothers, make every pea count.”

18: St. John’s Clambakes: Not to be outdone by Madonna Council, which produced a fine annual clambake, the board decided to go into the business to make some money. Brother Charles Reitano had considerable experience in running these affairs for Dumont’s Parkside Social Club and he became St. John’s bakemaster. The price was right, \$6.00 per person and the menu was top notch service started at one o’clock Sunday afternoon. For the entire day up until six o’clock, the crowd could have its fill of clams on the half shell, fresh shrimp, hot roast beef sandwiches, super hamburgers, Italian sausage with peppers and onions, clam chowder, corn on the cob and the ‘ free flowing tap’. At six o’clock, the club served a roast chicken dinner. It was a good thing that a heavy rain came down on the first bake because it covered up all the mistakes and brought the party indoors where the attendees made allowances for the errors. St. John’s clambakes became the talk of Columbian circles throughout the state.

Jerry Oakley – Grand Knight (1962-1963)

“My dad, Edward, was a member of E.G. Alberque, Sr. Council in Ridgefield Park, where I was a Squire during World War II. Lifelong friend Dick Leahy invited me to join St. John’s and guided me through the degrees ... Being a youngster as grand knight was one of the biggest challenges, and measuring up to all the great PGKs was a bigger one. Having PGK Tom Prime looking over my shoulder was a truly worthwhile experience...”



Robert Ferguson, Harold Wittenbauer, Hugh Gillson and Jerry Oakley man a booth at the carnival.

“Working with the Columbian Club on finding and rehabbing our new clubhouse with our 150-man “building committee.” Sixty percent showed up in week one, down to 20 percent a week later, etc. Then down to the “faithful few” – George O’Hare, Ray McKenna, Bill Haren and many other “weekend carpenters” led by these great construction men. Building the first corner bar was the most fun. We also ran the first charity carnival at the old Safeway site on Washington Avenue after almost breaking in to the old store to turn the electricity on the first night...

“All the past and future brothers and officers have made the true legacy of St. John’s Council #1345 and will continue to do so by working together in unity for all the principles of the Order in support of our Catholic Church.”

From the 1991 historical journal . . . We had just purchased the clubhouse from Mailmasters and much construction and improvements were needed. So we formed “Super” committees of over 45 members plus. . . . Great, true, Catholic Knights, many, if not most, of “Happy Memory”, did that so well, and with fun and fraternity. Carpenters: George O’Hare, Ray McKenna – Plasterers/Masons: Huey Hoare, Connie Hoynes and Frank Gambino. Electricians: Tom Sullivan, Joe Hager – Plumber: Gabe DeLorenzo – Engineers: Dick Leahy, Walter Turbiak – That great gang of back-up handymen: Bill Kaufmann (fell through the roof) and PGK’s Sheehan, Watson, Gillson, Sullivan, Jacobsen, Ferguson, and so many others. God bless you all! Great Brothers!”

I was very proud to be Grand Knight during those wonderful 1,000 days when Brother John F. Kennedy was President of the United States.

Bob Ferguson – Grand Knight (1963-1964)

“The most remarkable occurrence during my year was creation of the scholarship (then) to Bergen Catholic, which I presented on the Altar of St. Mary’s Church.” He also remembers dissolving of the formal Ladies Auxiliary “without being killed,” he adds.

George Kelly – Grand Knight (1966-1967)

“During my term of office we redeemed our pledge to St. Mary’s; I believe it was an altar in the chapel. We also donated a pulpit to the SMA and made a donation to the mother house of the Notre Dame Sisters. One of the most remarkable events – we may have been responsible for saving a member’s soul. He applied for membership but was a fallen-away Catholic. The screening committee put him in touch with a priest and he was reconciled to his God. He joined the Council and was a regular at Corporate Communion. A short time later, he passed away. I like to think that he died in the state of grace and that we were an instrument of that grace. Also during my term, we participated in our first Memorial Day parade. We had a float constructed by the members led by the late PGK. George O’Hare. I remember with pride all the accolades we received as we marched down the avenue. We were led by Father Benedict Burke, SMA and the then associate Pastor, Fr. John Bonner. Fr. Burke didn’t believe in parades but he told me that he was proud to march with the Knights. It. was all inspiring sight to see the great line of march led by the Color Corps of the fourth degree plus a band of pipers. Aside from that, we instituted the Budget Committee and the Sick Committee. We had great support from the membership.



Dominick Napolitano – Grand Knight (1971-1972)

“We received the Star Council Award. Also the Century Award (Recruited 100 or more new members). We were awarded the plaque of Christopher Columbus that hangs in the main hall of the council at the 1972 state convention. It was a time of change when the Supreme Council went from its’ old program to the new concept that is in use today. Because of the dedication and commitment of the officers, who served with me. We accomplished all of our goals and received many awards. While President of the Twin-Boro Columbian Club, we instituted the building program of which I was Chairman. Along with PGK Sullivan and PGK & FS Fred Jacobsen, we designed the new clubhouse and council chamber that St. John’s enjoys today. We spent many hours shopping for and purchasing all of the materials and equipment.



Past Grand Knights of St. John’s Council gather on April 3, 1967. Seated: Cornelius Griffin, John Kuisel, James Cleary, Joseph McGraw, William Thierer, Hugh Gillson. Standing: Walter Turbiak, John Watson, Gerhardt Kaufman, Thomas Prime, Ferdinand Jacobsen, James Connolly, Robert Ferguson, John Murphy, Robert Sullivan, Nathaniel McCaffrey, Michael Flora and George Kelly, Grand Knight.

Buddy Desalvo – Columbian Club President (1971-1972)

He remembers this occurrence: During the 1971 annual clambake attended by 400 plus people, we had an unbelievable rainfall that flooded around the council building. Two to three inches of water covered the dance floor. However, with all the great help that we had, we managed to run everything from the inside of the building while the “band played on“.

Marty Healy – Grand Knight (1972-1973)

Marty recalls the strong efforts that followed the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision on abortion. “The mayors of Bergenfield and Dumont rejected our proclamation that would have declared the week of May 13 as Right to Life Week”

During his tenure, the Twin-Boro News reported, “St. John’s Council actively started its campaign in Support of Life by soliciting signatures on petitions outside St. Mary’s Church in Dumont on a recent Sunday. Nearly 2,000 signatures were received in a matter of a few hours. Much of the efforts of St. John’s Council will be spent in educating and motivating residents of the community on the Right to Life issue.” (Twin-Boro News, March 14, 1973)

On the future of the Council, he says, “I think it’s going to survive. We do a number of things that will keep the council going. We’ve got some dedicated people who are interested in the welfare of the council. If we don’t lose sight of our obligations to the Church and to follow the directives of the state K of C, we will be okay.



Dominic Napolitano, Father Gillhooly and Martin Healy at Martin’s installation as Grand Knight.

“We’re not getting (enough) Filipinos and Spanish men into the council – very few. As the Caucasians bow out, they need to take over. That is what we have to be concerned about.”



James E. McFadden – Grand Knight (1973-1974)

“When I moved to Dumont in 1967, the council had a carnival going on at Columbia Field which I attended and met some of the Brother Knights who were running it. The next year, through the encouragement of my brother-in-law, I introduced myself to the Grand Knight at the time, the late George O’Hare, and proceeded to join the Council. The intent was very selfish, namely to “meet people.”

“The challenge I faced as Grand Knight was trying to unite the council and Columbian Club into a common goal, the betterment of the Knights of Columbus ...

“We did pay off the mortgage for the building during my year, a 15-year mortgage at the time, which was paid off in five years due to the combined efforts of the council and Columbian Club. I had a contest to “name” our bulletin – hence *Knight Times*. I was the editor of the bulletin for over 10 years and had a popular Kaycee Kapers column (popular to some). I cooked for the annual Irish Night dinner dance for over 20 years and was responsible for getting speakers for our annual communion breakfast, mostly sports celebrities, Bobby Thompson, Angel Bertelli, Dick Young, Art Rust Jr., Bill Chadwick, Randy Rasmussen, Gil MacDougal, to name a few, and from the political field, Sen. Robert Toricelli.

“My legacy I hope is that I was a good knight who tried to do my very best and who loved the many friends Judy and I made during those active years.



The annual Special Children’s drive, formerly the “tootsie-roll drive”, brings the Knights of Columbus out to “shake the can”. Shown is Ray Gorman in front of a local supermarket collecting for those with special needs.

John Dillon – Grand Knight (1974-1975)

“My grammar school basketball coach and I got my dad to join with me in New York in 1957.”

“During my year as Grand Knight we started what was called the Tootsie Roll Drive, which is still going strong. I also was the first Grand Knight to put the SMA on the same footing as the local churches. Last but not least, we started the Special Children’s Dinners, led by my DGK, Jim Rush, who went on to become a great Grand Knight in his own right. I had the privilege to be Grand Knight the year that the Columbian Club burnt the mortgage.”

“I see problems with the lack of active membership. All you have to do is attend a meeting, and you can see what I mean. I also hope that St. Mary’s stops trying to change our name. If they want a Council of their own, I’m sure the State would be happy to oblige them”

Frank Messina – Grand Knight (1976-1977)

I was trying to get into the Knights for one and one-half to two years before I joined up. An usher at St. Mary’s asked me if I wanted to become a Knight and I said yes. But he never went ahead to take me in. When my son George first went to St. Joseph’s High School, I met a fellow parent (Lou Scalia, a Knight at St. John’s). I told him my story and he signed me up the next morning.

Soon after I joined, Ralph Funicelli asked me if I wanted to get involved. I said I’d give it a try. He asked me to try Outside Guard. I liked it and moved up the chairs to become Grand Knight during the Bicentennial year of our country. After a couple of months I wanted to get even more involved, so I went to Eddie Dimitio who was in charge of the kitchen to work there. I was active in the kitchen up until just a couple of years ago. The last time I



worked in the kitchen was when George DiCostanzo was Grand Knight (Nov. 12, 2006). John Plescia and I cooked homemade egg omelets. They were a big hit. That was the last time in the kitchen for both of us. I can't do it anymore, and my good friend, John, died shortly after that.

Challenges as grand knight? Getting and keeping everybody involved in all the things we did. Making sure things were run right. Making sure the Grand Knight was seen at all the affairs. I used to go around to all the tables and greet people. That was expected.

Greatest accomplishment? “. . . being instrumental in starting the blood drive not only in the Council but the whole state K of C. In January 1974, I became blood donor chairman when Jim McFadden was Grand Knight. Nobody in the State K of C was doing blood drives. So I went over to Paramus (the Bergen Community Blood Center) to see about getting a blood drive started at St. John's Council. They said to me, if you can guarantee to get 100 for it, we will come to the council. We went to work signing up people to give blood, and by the time we had the first blood drive (John Dillon was grand knight) we had double that number signed up. We actually had 213 people signed up for the blood drive, and I believe most of them came out and gave blood. Our blood drives were so successful that if any of our members or their family needed blood, they could get it for free. We had the blood drives for years after that. I think the last one was when Joe Matarazzo was Grand Knight. When I was Grand Knight, Joe Luciano was State Deputy. He wanted me to be the blood donor chairman for the whole state. I had to refuse because I was working, and I had to raise my family. I still see Joe Luciano when I go to the State Convention.”

Editors Notes: Frank served in the Army during World War II, and made the first landing at Normandy – the 6:30 a.m. landing at Omaha Beach. He received the Bronze Star, the Battle Star and the Regimental Citation. After the war, he joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars, first in New York and then in Dumont and was recently the commander in Dumont. He is proud of the fact that a Third Degree on June 10, 1988, was named in his honor by the council. He worked on quite a few clam bakes and was in the kitchen in 1971 when everything was flooded.

Among his memories are the Bicentennial Dance at the Cotillion restaurant and the Knights' participation in the Bicentennial Parade in Bergenfield. When he was Grand Knight, the kitchen crew for the Beef and Brew were “the Rhinestone Cowboys.” The crew wore cowboy hats.

Louis Monachelli – Grand Knight (1977-1978)

“My brother-in-law Joe Brown invited me to join. PGK Dick Bocek was a large influence in my becoming actively involved. The program set up by the state, namely Journey through Knighthood, was a big challenge in order to win the award. Keeping the Columbian Club and the council working together was a challenge in itself.”

“As far as accomplishments, I was Grand Knight in 1977-78, District Warden for Joe Matarazzo for four years, bar chairman for six years, and softball manager for many years. I ran a softball marathon for the Bergen Community Regional Blood Center. I had a proclamation signed by the mayors of Bergenfield and Dumont designating the week of October 9 as Knights of Columbus Week.”

“As for the future of Council #1345, I foresee continued success in all their endeavors.”

Marty Lezette – Columbian Club President (1979-1980)

(from the minutes) Improvements this year: A new roof, a new sidewalk, a second exhaust fan in the kitchen, outdoor vapor lamps, outside paving, installed the new grotto, purchased 16 new tables.



Thomas V. Trank – Grand Knight (1980-1981)

In 1950, I was a 20-year-old growing up on Manhattan's West Side (96th Street). Having graduated from a Catholic high school, I was still involved with my church and church activities, especially the Holy Name Parish Gym as the unofficial opener and closer and the runner of the Friday night dances.

Someone asked me to join the Knights' local council, St. Nicholas Council #358, located in a loft building on Broadway and 103rd Street. I took my first and second degrees there in 1950 and my third in the famous Boyd Council on the Grand Concourse. I was never involved except to attend the meetings and drink their free beer.

In 1957, I married Joan, moved to the west Bronx, St. Margaret Mary's parish, became a reader in church and raised a family. I still kept my membership in the old council but never participated. In 1968, I moved to Dumont, Virginia Avenue, and it was my next-door neighbor, Jim Scarpetta, who was a teacher in Selzer School, who invited me to come down some Friday night and see his council. It was in Dominick Napolitano's reign that I transferred to St. John's, and it was Jim McFadden who asked me to become his outside guard.



Thomas V. Trank

Andy Connelly introduced me to the Columbian Club, starting as a pot washer. You have to start at the bottom. I stayed with the Columbian Club through the years, being its president in 1977-78. I think I was the one who suggested and ran the first New Year's Eve ourselves. Prior to this, it was bid out to local and council cooks to run. For a number of years, in addition to the dinner, we held a cold buffet and had fancy cakes and cookies at 1 a.m. We made a lot of money ...

As you know, many past grand knights and junior officers walk away after their term is over. I guess I found a home and good friends who I enjoyed being with all the years since them. My wife and I attend most Council social events, and I do miss those men and their wives we met over the years who have passed on ...

I've tried to work with each grand knight as best as I could. The secret is to suggest something and not to tell them what to do. Over the years it's worked most of the time. Even bartenders respond to this suggestion approach...

Over the years, our Grand Knights and Columbian Club Presidents have been praised and remembered for their actions and accomplishments. Behind the scenes, there was a steady group of men, who quietly helped them. Many of them went on to become Council officers or Columbian Club trustees. Some didn't, but they added much to the glory of the 100 years we now celebrate.

Frank Caruth, about 30 years ago, was a retired gentleman who had the time and the knack to set up the hall for our catered affairs. Most of us in those days were working full-time jobs, raising our families and our time was limited. Every day he would stop down and do a little cleanup or pick up as needed.

Then we had the cooks and kitchen staff. Ben Sefick was both our cook and in later years our buyer. He did his work quietly if you can call it that, having a deep bullhorn voice. There were times when he asked for a tank of gas, which he may have gotten, but when he asked for a set of tires for his car, laughter from all, as well as him, filled the room.

Jack Kahn was a great cook for both us and the National Guard. The only problem was when he tried preparing something new for us, from the Guard's cookbook, reducing the measurements from 1,000 men to 40 or 50 of us, it didn't always work.



Pete LoGueriso, another great cook, insisted on a clean and neat kitchen. Before he would serve the main meal and “cut the meat,” the floor had to be mopped. Everything stopped until that was done.

Vinnie Connors was a great calming voice in the kitchen. He was always working the sink, washing the pots and pans and dishes without a complaint.

Out on the floor, our members who worked in offices, drove trucks, climbed ladders or worked with their hands, waited on tables in a way that made guests feel that they were professionals. Among the many that did this over the years were:

Frank Hallamek, the floor manager we all remember. Many a bride and groom were escorted in by Frank in his black or white tux, as the season dictated.

Frank Riske, a teacher by day, who also ran the annual spelling bee for our council.

Tom Redden, an insurance man, would break out in an Irish song at the drop of a hat.

Marty Larsen, a master carpenter, was always there when needed. Bob Rosica, a printer by trade but a catering waiter on the side, always was around.

Behind the bar was also a talented group. Over the years, we had Jerry Libonati and George Clark, bar chairman who raised our level of service to match any local bar. Of course, we had many others who helped and spent endless hours setting up, serving and then cleaning up. Tom Duffy insisted his Tom Collins in summer was better than a cold beer or a bloody Mary to start the day. Funny thing was they were great.

Frank Salanie would do whatever was asked. He would open the place and only leave when his wife dragged him out. Frank, when upset would resign; when really upset he would throw his keys at the bar wall. A few minutes later, he would calm down and pick them up and keep going.

By now, you should realize that these “little” people have passed on and are no longer with us. But so many more were there week after week. Hopefully, Almighty God also knows what they have done without fame or fanfare.

In conclusion, when my time comes, and I pass over, I hope to see first The Holy Family and then my family and relatives welcoming me at the gate and if I raise my eyes, I hope to see a group, standing there on the side, of all these friends made over the years, smiling, and waving me over, for a cool one.

Andrew Salvo – Grand Knight (1981-1982)

We celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of our order in 1982. The Knighthood Degree was held in honor of all our past Grand Knights. PGK Al Breun was honored as Knight of the year. All State programs were completed. Pete McWilliams became our District Deputy. We beat the Bergenfield Elks in softball for the third consecutive year. Therefore, the Trophy will be retained permanently. There is a special edition of the “Cavalcade” depicting the 100th anniversary of the order and ribbons in the display case. Walt Michaels, Jets coach, spoke at our annual Communion Breakfast. The Columbian Award was received for 1981-1982. This was the finest group of officers the council ever had! The State convention was held in Cherry Hill, NJ. It was a big celebration – bands, a gala ball, a great time.



Bill Bochicchio – Grand Knight (1982-1983)

I first joined our Council in 1975, when Jim Rush was Grand Knight. My wife Angie and I had been guests, at Council dances, of Jim and Margie McEntee, my neighbor's cousin, who later invited me to join. Shortly after I joined, Grand Knight Frank Messina asked me to be an officer. He and Lou Monachelli took me under their wings and helped guide me along the way. I am very proud of the fact that all of my officers, except one, became Grand Knights.



The 75th Anniversary Gala at the Cotillion Ballroom, November 6, 1982

When Tom Trank was Grand Knight he appointed me chairman of the 75th Anniversary Committee. This was one of the toughest assignments I have ever had in the Council. With the help of a committee of 10 PGKs and my Deputy Grand Knight we were able to accomplish all of our goals. We had the 75th Gala at the Cotillion in Garfield; with over 230 people in attendance. We had a rededication of our Council, an outdoor Mass, a souvenir journal, and a raffle to help support these events.

Our Special Children's Dances always have a talent show and my wife Angie, and I have been part of this great show for years. The show has been in existence for over 32 years and the people who donate their time and talent, over and over again, never ceases to amaze me. Jim Kelly Sr. directed the show for the first 25 years or so and I have had the honor of directing it ever since, still with his help. The show is a tribute to those special children and adults who play such an important part in the life of St. John's Council's extended family.

During my term as District Deputy I had the honor of starting a new Council in Secaucus along with PGK Al Breun. This Council (#12769 Mary Immaculate) was started in August of 2000 and today is a vibrant council boasting over 145 members. They were set up and formed in the image of St. John's Council, and I hope they continue to follow in our Council's impressive footsteps.

PGK George DiCostanzo appointed me Centennial Chairman 18 months ago. I am again fortunate to serve on an outstanding committee which has already had so many great accomplishments. We have had a Rededication Mass and Open House for our members. The committee has run six raffles, sold centennial souvenirs, and is hard at work on a journal on the history of our council. On October 18, 2008 at the Colonial Manor we have planned a fantastic Centennial Gala. All of this has been done with tremendous effort and pride. Thus, the tradition continues.

St. John's has played a big part in my wife's life and mine, and we look forward to its continuing that way in the future. What a great opportunity to be a part of the "Strong Right Arm of the Church."

John Cleary – Columbian Club President (1982-1983)

"During my year as President of the Twin-Boro Columbian Club, a building fund was started. A statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was placed in the lobby in honor of our deceased Brothers. Brick facing was installed at a cost of \$7,800. New bar stools were purchased and the kitchen cabinets were Formica'd. The \$20,000 building improvements were completed by July 18, 1983. This included 7 major improvements both inside and outside the building."

Bill Murphy – Grand Knight (1983-1984)

He remembers that the State spelling bee champion was a girl from Ascension School, New Milford. The spelling bee was held in Haddonfield, NJ in May of 1984.



Joseph Matarazzo – Grand Knight (1984-1985)

“As Grand Knight I brought back the ceremonial teams. We did the first and second degrees at our Council. We traveled all over the state doing third degrees. We (the Council) would do a lot better if we could get back to doing the degree ceremonies at our own clubhouse. It’s better if a guy takes his degrees in his home Council. It makes a more lasting impression. A lot of guys on the degree teams also worked on the retarded citizens’ shows.”

“I’m also proud of the fact that my wife, Adelaide, suggested having cake and cookies at midnight on Friday nights at the Council. Concerned about the drinking and driving, she baked every Friday. She was also very good at fund-raising for our charities.”

From the 1991 journal . . . “We won the Supreme Council’s Columbian and Father McGivney Awards. The 1st and 2nd Degree teams (St. John’s), were re-established after a lapse of about 5 years. I was appointed to District Deputy immediately after completing the Grand Knight’s term. I may be the only St. John’s PGK to have completed 4 years as District Deputy along with PGK Dom Napolitano.” . . .

Brendan Thornton – Columbian Club President (1983-1984)

(from the minutes). More lights were installed in the Plaque area. There was a new fountain and an improved heating system. We repaired roof leaks, and had the driveway repaved in July 1984.

Mike Hulahan – Columbian Club President (1984-1985)

Mike was followed by Bill Sanders, 1984-1986, PCCP, both deceased, RIP (from, minutes). New rugs were installed in the Kennedy Room, and on the stage. A new roof/repair was performed. New cocktail tables were purchased for the Kennedy Room.

Al Breun – Grand Knight (1987-1988)

“I just wanted to get involved in an organization that was for Catholics . . . The Squires, membership and activities were among challenges. As Grand Knight, with the help of my officers and other members, achieving Star Council for the first time in 15 years was the greatest accomplishment.”

We received the “Star Council” award for the first time in 16 years. We also received the “Supreme Council” award for having obtained a level of 29+ new insurance members. For the first time, we received the “State Council” award for council bulletins, out of 200 entrants. We finally reached a membership level of over 1,000 members and held that number for over a year, for the first time. Brought the softball team back to our council, and thereby aided in increasing the young membership in the council.”

As Columbian Club President, the House Rules committee instituted new rules and a \$20,000 building fund was established for improvements to the building, which included heating and electrical improvements.

“The future of Council 1345 depends on how well we maintain the ‘Young Males’ staying active, while our membership committee continues to bring in new young members.”

Joseph Canuncio – Grand Knight (1988-1989)

“Through the efforts of many, we were able to donate the sum of \$21,600 to our churches and charities. As a council, we attained the “Bulletin Award, Reach For the Stars, and honorable mention for donations to Deborah Hospital and the Special Olympics. As effort was scored by the State at 100%, St. John’s scored 550, approximately third in the State. Although we did not attain the coveted Star Council award, it certainly wasn’t for lack of trying: 89 new members, 8 first degrees; 4 second degrees, 2 third degrees.”



Frank O'Leary – Columbian Club President (1988-1989)

With the great assistance of PGK John Dillon, we established a Computer Program for the Twin-Boro Columbian Club. Working very closely with the then Grand Knight, Joe Canuncio, we established a continuity in the Chairs of the T.B.C.C. similar to the Council chairs. We also completed a number of small, but important other projects.

Bob Woerner – Former Historian

From the 1991 historical journal . . . It is time to reflect on my . . . experiences in the Knights of Columbus in general, and St. John's Council in particular. The year was 1950 and I was one of those World War II "Retreads" who were recalled by the Navy to serve two more years during the Korean War. Late in 1951, we completed a tour on a carrier and were waiting at Cecil Field, Florida, for another ship. Chief Warrant Gunner Dan Morris rounded up all the Catholics from the Air Group and ran us all into Jacksonville to Father Maher Council #648's open house. Naturally, we joined, and my subsequent membership in the Order has been instrumental in sustaining me to remain the practicing Roman Catholic that I have been ever since. In February, 1952, we had our 2nd and 3rd degrees on the same day as part of the State Convention. Older members can appreciate what the degree team had to contend with, as 75 to 100 young, strong, Marines and Sailors, reacting to the Florida heat, exemplified the old third degree. As part of the ceremonies that year, we were supposed to have a "Living Rosary" with thousands of participants, in the Gator Bowl. A bomb threat by the Ku Klux Klan forced its cancellation. Dan Morris, who had signed up 50 members that year, shipped out to French Morocco while we sailed out on another ship. That ended my Father Maher Council #648 participation.

Back in New Jersey some years later, I married, settled in Rutherford, and transferred to Belleville Council #835 with other members of the Bendix Anchor Club.

In 1963, the real estate agent was taking us on a trip to see some houses, so that we could settle down and raise our family. The Dumont area was strange to us, but as I saw the old sign "K of C Hall" on Prospect Avenue two blocks from the house, I knew that we would be at home here. The old clubhouse was only a few years away from being the old Mailmasters building, but the outstanding Catholic gentlemen that I met there, exemplified the best in brotherhood and friendship! FS Jimmy McDermott processed my transfer paper-work, and I met Brother Frank Kistler who would become a good friend and Brother. We also became fellow officers in the Anchor Club. The Columbian Squires were getting very active, so I became involved with Youth work in the council. We took them over to the 1964 World's Fair, and they either lost us, or we lost them. As part of the cooking crew, I remember the Clam Bake that had the flood. We remained outside doing most of the cooking, while the rest of the operation was moved inside. When Bobby Sullivan was Grand Knight, we had a big carnival at the empty food store lot on Columbia and Washington. There was a huge chain around the parking lot which we weren't supposed to use, I guess. Bob handed me a hacksaw and said, "I won't tell you what to do, but when I come back, I don't want to see a chain".

Talk about the Ku Klux Klan! When I reconnoitered Dumont in 1963, I went into the Park Tavern to sample the local attitudes. Two guys wanted to enlist me in the "Knights". I said that I was already a member. Let's see your ID, they said. When they whipped out cards that read: "Knights of The Ku Klux Klan", I beat a hasty retreat. Mike Flora and Gerry Tibbs were Grand Knights, but they were also Scoutmasters in St. Mary's Boy Scouts Troop #65. They got me involved in Scouting, and Father Dick Ehrenberg, our beer drinking buddy, put me in the Catholic Committee on Scouting. Brothers George Idell, Joe Sullivan, Vince Conner, and others were also active at that time. When I first moved into Dumont, we couldn't get our oldest son Tim into St. Mary's at first. Father Sheehan may find this difficult to believe, but the school was full and there was a waiting list! But after a year, he was admitted and graduated in 1970 which was the last class before the sisters left. We had the track meets at Winton White Stadium in Englewood. I trained in 64 and 65. When my turn came in 66 to be Chairman, Winton White Track was condemned!



So I had to run around trying to obtain a new track which was approved by the Catholic High Schools Federation. No easy task. Through my boss at Bendix, who was from Paramus, we obtained Paramus High School Field. The Schools Superintendent was going to Europe on vacation. So he wasn't there to hear the abuse we received from some of townspeople for using a public school for an out of town Catholic activity.

In the early days, it was my pleasure to be on the screening committee. One of the Catholic gentlemen I screened was a young man who would become a distinguished Grand Knight in only a few years. He also followed me as Chairman of the Track Meet. I think his was at St. Joe's in Montvale. Also, he's been an active Trustee for over 20 years. His Name is Dick Bocek. A few years after we moved to Dumont, my lovely niece Virginia, daughter of my sister Vi, moved here also with her 3 children and her husband, Bob. After a couple of years of urging, it was my pleasure to propose him as a member of St. John's Council in 1970. He became a very active member in everything the council did for 20 years. Last year you elected him as your Grand Knight! His name is Bob Dondero.

Frank Kistler had been a very active member of St. John's. He lived at first in Bergenfield, and then moved to Dumont. During the renovation of the Mailmasters building to look something like a council, Frank became a very good mechanic, carpenter, and jack-of-all trades. It was hard to believe, since Frank was a white collar worker, a salesman in the envelope business. He died at his desk at Berlin & Jones in Carlstadt, in March, 1970, at the age of 58. Msgr. Gillhooly was able to give him the Sacrament of Extreme Unction before he expired.

John Attardo was a fine young man who joined our Columbian Squires and worked up to become one of our Brother Knights. Always interested in youth, he was active in all of the Council Youth activities including the Squires on the State level. He was on the Youth squad of the Bergen County Narcotics Squad for many years, and helped many an unfortunate victim of the scourge of drugs. His untimely death shocked us all. The Squires have established a scholarship in his name. He will not be forgotten.

These 28 years have been full of memories. Remember when PGK Ralph Funichelli was also Faithful Navigator of the Fourth Degree Assembly the same year that he was Grand Knight? It didn't slow him down as he had all our printing done for free over at the Railroad that he worked for in New York. As bar Chairman later, he was held up and shot outside of the council. Happily, the wound was not too serious, but missed his heart only by inches. We burnt flags, but honorably. The 4th degree ran them at the council on Memorial Day.

I did not know Father O'Neill in life, but as an honorary Knight guard of honor, I stood through the night at his wake in St. Mary's, at his death in 1966.

We didn't do it alone. Our spouses, our children, our relatives, our friends, and our clergy, were there when we needed them! We look forward to the next 83 years! TFMK

John R. "Bob" Dondero – Grand Knight (1990-1991)

"My wife's uncle, Bob Woerner, talked to me about joining and sponsored me. I came into the Knights in 1970. I always liked to help out people less fortunate than myself. I wanted to bring forth my talents as found in the ideals of our Order – the four degrees of our order – as well as in service to Church, youth and others...

"I was very fortunate to be Grand Knight when so many members were still very active. Supreme had a program "Navigating the Nineties" based on the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus. I felt I had to steer St. John's Council on its 1990-91 course. We had many aspirations and goals, and we began many new programs. Starting with the Council's involvement in "Dare," a wonderful program for our youth where our police made the children aware of the dangers of drugs. They taught them to stand up to their peers and 'say no'



to drugs. ... We also had fund-raisers for our trips to the Appalachia region that were highlighted by a Christmas Eve visit to David, Ky.”

“We came so close to winning the Star Council award. We met all the requirements of ‘Navigating the Nineties’ to qualify for it except membership. Supreme wanted councils to put special emphasis on a push for increased membership so that the total membership of the Knights of Columbus would reach two million. During my year we had the highest membership in the Council’s history – 1,050 members. The Council ultimately missed achieving the Star Council award by the narrowest of margins. We needed a net gain of 76 members to meet the last qualification for this prestigious award. We reached a net gain of 74 members, missing only by two.

“When I was Grand Knight, we reached out to the Spanish community at St. John’s Parish to join our Council, hoping to diversify our membership and to truly open it up to all Catholic gentlemen. We recruited about 15 Hispanic members when I was Grand Knight. Unfortunately, for some reason, they didn’t mix well with our older members and tended to stay by themselves. One of the first from the Spanish community to join when I was Deputy Grand Knight was Carlos Delgado. He became one of my outside guards when I became Grand Knight. He introduced the Spanish Night Dinner-Dance to our Council. Sad to say, he passed away in the spring of 1991 during his first term as an officer. We held a Third Degree at the Council in his memory. After Carl died, many of the others started to drift away from the Council. We lost that Spanish connection at St. John’s Council and were no longer able to recruit that many new members from St. John’s (church) Spanish community.



Bob Dondero and Bill Gilligan

Greatest accomplishment? Probably getting so many people involved in everything we did. We had really great turnouts for everything, for a wide diversity of things, accomplishing the true meaning of Columbianism. ... Maybe also the history that Ginny’s uncle, Bob Woerner, did of our council. It marked the first time a history was published about the Council. Not only past but present and future Brother Knights would have access to this written history. Bob said he spent over 500 hours putting the whole thing together. I was fortunate enough to get the history printed at no cost by Shulton Inc., Clifton, where I worked at the time. We distributed the history journal to our members, asking only a small donation, which was given to the Scholarship Fund.

“The future of Council #1345? We have a young nucleus right now, and as long as the membership and the youth continue to get involved, we will do well. As Father Murray often says, we need more members to stay active in the Council. We need to keep the youth involved in our Squires and now in our Boy Scouts. Also, we have to continue to sponsor youth-related activities for the youth of our parishes to take part in. Our Past Grand Knights have to stay active and involved so they can mentor the new members coming in.”

Bill Gilligan – Grand Knight (1991-1992)

“I was fairly familiar with the organization because my father has been an active Knight since 1962. But what actually prompted me was when a friend asked me to join to play on the softball team... My father told me when I joined that card-carrying members are a dime a dozen, active members are what keeps the organization alive. Hence, I became an officer less than six months after my first degree.

“The biggest challenge I had as I started my term as GK was convincing the older members that age does not necessitate experience. Although I already had served as an officer for 10 years, I was only 28 years old.



“Since our country was in a recession at the time, I believe the Council’s greatest accomplishment, not just mine, was keeping up attendance at our monthly dances and other charitable functions. We raised and donated in excess of \$20,000.

“I believe that our council’s future will be very prosperous. We need to continue to recruit as many quality members as possible, young and old alike.”

Charles Dietz – Columbian Club president (1992-93)

“Bob Dondero invited me to come down to the hall for the club’s affairs. I used to go to all their affairs with my wife. That was when we were young. I figured that because I was coming here all the time, I might as well join. In December 1988, when I was 70 years old, I did.

“It was probably about a year after I joined the Knights that I got involved with the Columbian Club. I’ve been there ever since. I never wanted to become an officer in the Council. I’ve been on the Columbian Club board since 1990. I started at the bottom as dishwasher chairman. I spent a couple of years there. Thus, you could say I went up the chairs in the Columbian Club. I was Columbian Club president in 1992 through 1993. I’ve been purchasing agent chairman for the last seven years or so.

“I don’t look at it as being challenging. I like what I’m doing. I spend a lot of time down here. I don’t think of it as working a job. When I save the club some money by volunteering down at the club, I’m working for charity. My wife, Dorothy, complained I spent too much time away from the house working at St. John’s. We got married on December 14, 1941, shortly after Pearl Harbor, but before I went into the service. We’re still married. I guess she’s accepted it now!

“I’ve been doing this so long that I know what has to be done and I do it. It keeps me active. I’ll keep working down here at St. John’s as long as I can. I was born on Oct. 6, 1918. I’m 90 years old now. Both my parents lived to be over a hundred years old. I guess you could say longevity runs in my family.

“I think the Council has a good future. There are some younger fellows coming up who seem to be interested in what they’re doing. I think they are going to keep the place going. We’ve got a good group of guys in the Columbian Club now. They work closely with the Council. This has been the best two groups who have worked together since I’ve been in. You can see it in the way we raise more money for charity now.”



Phil Fredericks (at right) with Knights from Welch WV, who are receiving a delivery of clothing sent down by St. John’s Council in 1991.

Phil Fredericks – Columbian Club President (1996-1997)

“I basically grew up in Dumont and graduated from Dumont High School. About 25 or 26 years ago I got a call from my brother-in-law who lived in Edgewater and asked me to join the Knights. I asked him what are the Knights. He invited me to Fort Lee – Holy Trinity Church – for a meeting. I became a charter member of a new council, Unity Council #8103. I went up the chairs and became Grand Knight.

(I became a K of C insurance agent) and I eventually took over as the agent for this Council because I lived in this town, and I was the number one field agent in this state. Then I became the general agent for 54 councils, all of Bergen and Hudson counties, over 10,000 families. After 20 years in Knights of Columbus insurance, I retired about three years ago.



“About 1990 I transferred my membership here. I’ve been doing the retarded children’s drive for years. This year I’m doing the fund-raising for the centennial and the journal ads.”

Matt Hayes – Grand Knight (2000-2001)

“I knew about the organization and knew a lot of knights, especially Frank Messina. Council #1345 was getting stagnated – looking too much to the past. (As Grand Knight) I wanted to make the council exciting again. Recruitment was a big thing. I felt we should also be out in the public square more, in the newspapers, media, etc. I started a booth for the Knights of Columbus on Dumont Day, which has lasted. Attempts at reviving the Squires (during my tenure) were not successful.

“Another challenge was the tension between the council and the Columbian Club. I feel I left an excellent working relation between the council and the club.

“There were many good moments. I had a great moment with my son, discovering that my son (when he worked on charity fund drives) cared for the less fortunate and for charity.”

Hopes for the future? Increase in membership, more involvement. Surpassing of Father McGivney’s vision. It’s on a good course.

George Olszewski – Grand Knight (2003-2004)

“The social activities were a big attraction. They had an open house. Nobody asked me to come in. I joined by myself. I’m a lone traveler. I know where to go. I do what I want to do, period.

“When my wife (Charlotte) died, I thought I might like to become a deacon or even a priest. I told a priest what I was thinking and was told ‘You’re too old.’ Since then I have read of men in their 80’s being ordained as deacons. So be it. I then decided to become active in the council chairs.”

The Rank and File

Brother **Herb Kimber** remembers joining the Council in 1927. “They had the old building on Washington Avenue that they moved down from Camp Merritt. It broke my heart when we lost it during the Depression.

Fred Herles remembered going to St. John’s School in that “other” building that was moved down from the camp. “It was so cold in winter that the ink wells froze”. Mrs. Herles grew up in Dumont, and remembers the Ku Klux Klan activity in the area. “They burned a cross in Bergenfield, but Father O’Neill ran them off St. Mary’s property when they tried the same thing in Dumont”, she relates.

Brother **Vince Conner**, who grew up in Dumont, remembers Father O’Neill, and the compassion that he showed to parishioners during the Great Depression. He also clears up the “Columbia Avenue” name change. In the fifties, he said, the Maple Street and Maple Avenue sections were confusing to firefighters and police, therefore, the change.

Father Murray makes the point: When Father Morrissey’s biography shows that he was a Missionary, he was an SMA Father, until he was incardinated into the Archdiocese.



Tom Ciotti – Deputy Grand Knight (2008-2009)

... calls himself a Catholic “revert.” He had nothing to do with the church for 25 years after graduating from Holy Cross High School in Flushing, but has returned with a vengeance.

“It was the charitable activities (that drew me to the Knights). A few years ago, Lou Pidi asked me to come to the council to play bass in the band for the special children’s dance. This happened to be the right place at the right time.

“After I joined the Council, George Di Costanzo asked me to go up through the chairs. He said, ‘Don’t worry about it. It won’t take too much of your time.’ It was a blatant untruth ... If I go up the chairs now, I’ll be finished when my son is 5.

“In the future, I would like to see (the Council) put a little more focus on the faith. I just think it’s been a little light on the things to celebrate our faith.”

Paul Grayner – Former council insurance agent

“I joined at St. Leo College in Florida. I had a strong Catholic upbringing in Washington, D.C. A few guys I knew joined. It was a Catholic organization – service-oriented. ... The Special Children’s Drive has always been good because people come up to you and say you are really doing a great thing. ... It’s always been a fraternal spirit. The guys you see doing things in the Knights of Columbus are the same guys that help out at the church, the carnival, the school. I got involved in the insurance because I was a longtime member. One of the rewarding things was being able to help widows ... when you go out and help the widow – bring her a death benefit check and maybe help her with Social Security – knowing who to call – because it’s a very stressful time.

“That (helping out on 9/11) was a most sobering experience, and I was only down there once...

“I’d like to see membership go back up, instead of down. We’re one of the few Councils that still has a building and hasn’t had to close it. “

Tom Schmidt

“It’s a great organization. It kind of becomes like a second family. The Columbiettes are very supportive. The Columbiettes are just as powerful as the men’s organization. ... The friends we have made. My wife and I consider this our second family.”

Anton Hartmann – Knight of our Century

Anton Hartmann was born in Germany, on February 14, 1908. He came to this country when he was seventeen, in 1925. He settled in Hudson Heights, NJ (now Cliffside Park). His wife Hedwig was born on April 30, 1913, in Philadelphia, PA. Her parents moved back to Poland when she was 6 months old but they all returned to the US, eventually moving to Hudson Heights, NJ.

Hedwig and Anton married in Sacred Heart Church in Hudson Heights on February 22, 1936. They were married over 72 years. They had no children of their own, but adopted two girls from Europe. Both adopted daughters are related to the family. Ingrid, from Germany, is related to



Anton and Hedwig Hartmann – 2008



Anton's family. Karen, from Poland, is related to Hedwig's. Anton provided both daughters with a fine Catholic education. They graduated from St. John's School in Bergenfield and from Catholic high schools and colleges.

The Hartmanns moved to Bergenfield in 1938. Anton bought a store at 30 North Washington Avenue, where he and his wife lived and operated an upholstery business. After he sold the business, he was employed elsewhere as an upholsterer. He then bought a house on Central Avenue in Bergenfield. They owned a place in Florida to which they moved permanently in 1995.

Anton became a Knight, 1st Degree, on October 1, 1942. He was in the Order for over 65 years. He and his good friend Charles Metzner were invited to join by Grand Knight Hugh O'Shaughnessy. He was drafted during WWII but was rejected because of his German background, his age, and his poor eyesight.

Anton remembered attending meetings, Communion Breakfasts, and helping with fundraising. He remembered that he won a car when Nathaniel McCaffery was Grand Knight.

Anton did some upholstery work for Thomas Kelly GK, who owned a funeral parlor. Charles Tyne, our advocate, was the family lawyer for many years. A member of the Holy Name Society, Anton marched in the Holy Name Parade in Hackensack.

He and his wife went to the 50th Anniversary dinner but he remembered nothing about it. He did remember going to Council dances. On August 13, 2008, one of his daughters informed Saint John's Council that its oldest living member had died. RIP



Vignettes

Retreats

What a view one gets of the Atlantic from the grounds of the San Alfonso Retreat House on Ocean Avenue in Long Branch.

“You have an open horizon,” said George Olszewski, a past Grand Knight and coordinator of the annual retreat for St. John’s Council. “It broadens your vision to the world. It’s getting away from the busy schedule of the world, and total relaxation.”

Deputy Grand Knight Tom Ciotti said the peaceful surroundings of San Alfonso, described as a place where God and sea meet, and “the very inspiring, holy people at the retreat house help me to come into Christ’s presence, and to stay in that presence” as much as possible upon his return.

Among the advantages of the retreat for Council member and former Dumont police chief Warren Kaine is the fellowship with other members of the Council. For 89-year-old Bill Hamilton, the retreat at the Shore was his annual vacation. In addition to the spiritual refreshment, he enjoyed “the good food.”

Hamilton was the oldest member of the Council at this year’s retreat. The youngest member of our group was Zach Ashare, a teenage parishioner of St. Mary’s, in Dumont, who came with his grandfather.

Knights from St. John’s Council have been making annual retreats at San Alfonso for decades. Participation began with the late Tom Prime as coordinator, continued for 44 years under the late Henry Moretti, then continued under the late Tony Natali, who was succeeded by Olszewski.

The theme of the retreat this year was the “Gospel of St. Matthew.” Other themes have included “God the Father,” “Jesus,” “the Holy Spirit,” “Lord, Teach us to Pray,” and “Hungers of the World.” The retreat begins with dinner at 6 p.m. on Friday and ends after lunch on Sunday. The Eucharist is offered each day.



Our 2008 retreat participants.

The present retreat house has 150 bedrooms, a large chapel and spacious conference and dining rooms. At the state K of C convention in May 1926, the Knights adopted San Alfonso, which opened in 1925, as the official retreat house of the Knights of Columbus.

Olszewski, who considers the Redemptorist retreat masters excellent, hopes more of St. John’s knights will attend in the future. To get the most out of the retreat, he suggests leaving newspapers and radio behind and making “a total commitment” to the retreat.





Scholarships

Started in the early 1960s as a single \$500 scholarship to Bergen Catholic High School, the scholarship programs at St. John's Council have evolved to afford tuition assistance for attendance at high school or college for children and grandchildren of Brother Knights.

While the initial scholarship program at St. John's Council included boys only, it was expanded in 1967 to include girls as well. Ever mindful of the increasing cost of a Catholic high school education, the scholarship program increased award amounts to \$1500 by the end of the 1980s.

Former Columbian Squire John Attardo, became a Brother Knight and counselor to our own Squires Circle. Later, he worked with troubled youth. After his untimely death, a scholarship fund was established at the state level in his name. The John Attardo Memorial Scholarship currently provides three \$1,500 scholarships for New Jersey Squires entering their freshman year in a college or university.

In 2002, the Father Murray Scholarship Fund was instituted under the leadership of the late State Deputy William Kennedy. It was established to provide \$500 scholarships to Columbian Squires, of whom Father Murray is the State Father Prior, entering a Catholic high school.



This year's winners of the Council Scholarship program, Douglas Horn and Alyssa Covino, were each awarded a \$500 toward college by Grand Knight Ivan Hannibal.

In addition to individual contributions, numerous New Jersey Councils, Assemblies, Districts, Circles, auxiliaries as well as our own Council, Squires, and the Columbiettes have contributed to the fund. St. John's Council hosts the annual Father Murray Scholarship Dinner in January, the proceeds going to the fund.

The current scholarship program at St. John's Council offers two \$500 scholarships to children and grandchildren of members entering their first year of college. As part of our commitment to the development of a charitable ethic, applicants must provide proof of service performed at a school, church, or in the community.



Papal Mass

Pope Benedict XXVI made a papal visit to the United States in April of 2008 and celebrated a Mass at Yankee Stadium on April 20. St. John's Council held a special event on the day of the Yankee Stadium Mass and opened its doors to members and their families to watch this historic event on a large screen. Close to fifty people came down to watch and pray with the Pontiff. Father Murray led the recitation of the Rosary before Mass began. Our event was covered by WMBC-Channel 20 and by News12 New Jersey, who covered us live and repeated the interviews several times.



Brothers Bill Horn and John McGill from St. John's parish, as well as Lesa Rossmann, wife of Brother Charles Rossman from St. Mary's, were among those selected to go to the stadium.

From Bill Horn: Upon arrival at Yankee Stadium at 9:20 AM, one could sense and see the joyful excitement of the arriving attendees, and of those already assembled. After all, we would be in the presence of our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI. On cue, his arrival in the Popemobile drew rousing cries of cheers, clapping and screaming PAPA and BENEDICT from all in the stands. Although I was sitting in the top deck along the third baseline, just being there with our awesome

and Holy Pope, made me feel closer to him. The hope and prayers he brings to all Roman Catholics, and all of good faith, as well as all mankind, are messages of LOVE AND PEACE. It was a thrilling and inspiring experience, never to be forgotten.

Appalachia Project

Started in November 1989, the Clothing Drives for Appalachia sent over 200,000 pounds of clothing and toys (over 100 tons) to people who struggle to live in the poorest areas of Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky. Begun as a service project at St. John's Council, it enlisted the help and support of Brothers in Madonna Council #520, EJ Burke Council #2229, and the Unity Council #8103. Greg Ryan, chairman of the Used Clothing Project, frequently thanked all the Brothers and their families for helping to make this charitable endeavor a success.



Clothing was sorted and stored in the old chapel of St. Mary's convent building.

Father Donald Sheehan, pastor of St. Mary's Church, allowed the use of the unused convent as a center for storage and sorting prior to transportation to the Appalachian region. The project solicited the donation of winter coats, shoes, bedding, used clothing, and toys.

To fund the cost of transportation, the Council passed several resolutions to run affairs and to earmark proceeds for the project. We also held garage sales over several years, the proceeds going to support the costs. In addition to money, many Brother Knights donated their time to make the trips at various times during the year. In 1991, one truck left Dumont on December 21, arriving just in time to make a delivery of clothing and toys to the St. Vincent's Mission, in David, KY by Christmas.



Temporarily out of clothing and knowing that the Knights in the Dumont area were collecting clothes, the Mount Carmel Guild contacted Father Sheehan to see if we could help them out of their bind. In March of 1991, two tons of clothing were sent to them with our assistance.

According to Greg Ryan, "Our work has brought some ray of hope to Americans whose hope is hard pressed and long in coming."

Veterans Home

Before Mass, John R. "Bob" Dondero speaks up.

"I try to tell the priests not to make the homily too long and to speak loud," says Dondero.



Mass is celebrated in the community room at the veterans' home. Bishop Charles McDonnell and Father John Murray concelebrated.

Of course, he was speaking about the weekly Saturday morning Mass – actually the Sunday Mass anticipated early – at the New Jersey Veterans Home in Paramus. The K of C involvement began in January 1995 when Dondero was district deputy of the Knights. The celebrant of the first Mass was our chaplain, Father John Murray.

The Knights of St. John's Council are responsible for the second and fourth Saturdays of the month, the Catholic War Veterans for the first, third, and fifth Saturdays. Help also comes from others including Chief Justice White Council of Teaneck.

Father Murray has been the celebrant most often. Other frequent celebrants are Father Ray Filipski of St. John's, and Father Joseph Cheng of Holy Trinity, Hackensack. Fathers Don McLaughlin and Ed Thompson celebrated when they were at St. Mary's, as did Father George Sharp when he was at St. John's Church. The late Msgr. William Noe Field of Seton Hall University, a weekend associate at St. Mary's, celebrated a number of times.

Auxiliary Bishop Charles McDonnell, pastor of Holy Trinity, Hackensack, comes usually in the Christmas season. When the bishop comes, a color guard from Bishop O'Connor Fourth Degree General Assembly or other assemblies participates. When requested, the priests celebrate the sacrament of anointing of the sick, and sometimes they hear confessions.

Knights and other helpers, including Boy Scouts from Troop 138 of Visitation Church, Paramus, usually arrive about 10 a.m. and begin wheeling residents who wish to attend up the ramp to the dining hall, where the Mass is offered. Dondero is hopeful that our reconstituted Squires and members of our new Boy Scout Troop #1345 will also participate. The Mass begins at 10:30 a.m. and usually concludes by 11:10 a.m.

Among the early Eucharistic ministers were the late Jim Flynn and the late John Cunneen. Among the most stalwart helpers in recent years have been John McGill and John Scalice, as well as Marty Healy and Jack Marsigliano. Don Cottrell of St. Joseph's, Oradell, was the cantor for a long time, with Ken Florio of St. John's taking over from him. Some members' wives also take part as do family members of some residents.



The vestments used at first were the K of C vestments donated in memory of Louis Zakrzewski by the late Grand Knight Joseph Zakrzewski. Gradually area parishes donated vestments, of other colors, that they no longer needed so the priests can wear the garb of the particular liturgical season or feast.



Other donations have been altar cloths, liturgical vessels, and cruets for the water and wine. Among the donors has been the Bishop O'Connor Fourth Degree General Assembly. The communion hosts – usually 85 or 90 are used a week – are donated by St. Mary's Parish, which the council repays with a gift.

John Scalice, who tries to help twice a month, says the majority of residents seem to enjoy talking to the visitors. He says he wishes more members of the council would participate and that it is desirable to have eight knights present each time.

If you do participate, you will want to come back, adds Dondero. "The residents can't thank us enough."

The Walk-in Dinners

Have a turkey you don't want to cook? Bill Horn will be happy to take it. For years now, Horn has been leading a group of Knights who provide the walk-in dinner in Hackensack four or five times a year.

Sponsored by the Interreligious Fellowship for the Homeless of Bergen County, the meal, which is now in its 17th year, serves some 80 or 90 persons a day on average, often more, 365 days a year. Horn took over the leadership of the council's participation from Andy Hogh. The late John Stella was for a long time Bill's co-chairman.

Horn and Bob Dondero, a professional chef, have the meal preparation down to a science. St. John's usually serves on Wednesdays. Before the scheduled date, Horn takes the turkeys out of the freezer and puts them in the refrigerator to thaw.



On the Monday night before the feeding, a couple of council members help him clean them. "On Tuesday Bob Dondero comes down," he explains. "We cook the birds and gravy and make the stuffing. That usually takes most of Tuesday. Wednesday morning I turn on the ovens. Usually about 15 brothers come down to carve them. We carve them up, put some gravy on them to get them hot again," he says. "We cut up the sweet potatoes. The vegetables are cooking. Then we cut up the lettuce and tomatoes and put the stuffing in the ovens."

"Usually we get the birds out of the oven about 12:30 or 1 o'clock," he adds. "The vegetables are heated up sufficiently in the cans. The sweet potatoes and the meat and the stuffing are heated up to at least 280 degrees," he says. "Then we put them in the warmers to keep them hot."



“At about quarter to 3 we head over to Hackensack to set up,” he notes. “They open at 4 to start serving. We stop serving at 5 and clean again and get back here about quarter to six. Bill Hamilton and John Scalice help clean up here.”

Bill was from St. Gregory the Great Parish in Manhattan. He spent from 1943 to 1946 in the Navy Air Corps, where he was a fighter pilot on a carrier.

Bill and his wife, Gloria, met at St. Gregory’s and were married there. Bill and his three brothers joined the Knights the same day in 1957 in Ridgefield Park, where his aunt’s husband was Grand Knight. In 1991, he joined St. John’s Council. He became lecturer in 1996 and treasurer in 2001.

Commenting on the work with the meal program, Gloria Horn says, “When Bill comes in (after serving the meal), he’s tired and wants to take a shower, but I never see him more happy and satisfied.” And Bill says he doesn’t know how he can thank enough all who help.

Right to Life

Sometimes January 22 is freezing; other times it’s unseasonably mild. Whatever the weather, it’s a memorable date for Knights who participate in the annual Right to Life March in Washington, D.C., which protests the United States Supreme Court decision of January 22, 1973 to legalize abortion.

For Barry Bernard, past grand knight and district deputy, the day is a religious experience from start to finish. It begins with a 6 a.m. Mass in St. John’s lower church, concelebrated by our chaplain, Father John Murray, and by Father Raymond Filipski, of St. John’s. Participants include members and other parishioners who want to pray and show support for the march even though they cannot make the trip to Washington. On the bus ride down, Father Murray gives a talk of encouragement and leads the recitation of the Rosary, and a pro-life film is shown.

What particularly struck Bernard was the sight of so many marchers expressing their support for the saving of the lives of the unborn and other life issues. He noted that the march at the Washington Mall begins at the Washington Monument.

“It’s exciting as you do the march,” he said. “There are thousands and thousands of people marching very quietly to the Supreme Court. It’s very silent. We bring huge Rosary beads. The greatest experience is when you get to the top of the hill and turn around and see all the people yet to come up. It’s breathtaking.” He’s been impressed with the number of young people taking part in the march and noted especially the delegations from secular, not just Catholic, schools.

Bernard, who has taken part for six years, also finds it moving to see Father Murray. “Every year he actually marches the whole way,” Bernard recalled. “He really is the inspiration” as far as St. John’s Council members are concerned.

“I’ve never met anybody who’s gone to this and says that he/she regrets it,” Bernard added. He noted that the council’s preparation begins before January 22. The march is held on January 23 or 24, if the Roe vs. Wade anniversary takes place on a weekend. He credits pro-life chairman Matt Hayes with publicizing the event and encouraging members to attend.

Like Bernard, Deputy Grand Knight Tom Ciotti has been impressed with the number of young people participating. He found the march “very moving, very peaceful. It’s really great to hold that big Rosary. The people who are there are very moved by it. You really feel good about what you’re doing. Ultimately,” he added, “it’s sad that we still have to go.”



The big Rosary that draws widespread attention was created by Matt Connell. “We were always crowded,” he said of earlier marches he attended. “I said we should make something big.” He used a rope 45 feet long. The beads are maplewood skee balls. “I had to get a special drill,” he recalled. “I drilled the holes first. I put them on steel rods so they would spin and I spray-painted them blue.” He bought a large crucifix for the cross from Sister Trinity of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters’ gift shop on Knickerbocker Road in Tenafly. It takes at least six people to carry the Rosary, which always draws a favorable response in Washington. Among the admirers has been Father Frank Pavone of Priests for Life. Connell has lent the Rosary to various parishes and groups. Youth groups like to use it on their retreats.



March for Life participants circa 1998. The large rosary can be seen near the center, rear hanging from poles.

Commenting on the march in *Knight Times*, Matt Hayes said, “We joined the multitude of thousands of marchers to voice our commitment to God’s precious gift of Life. The weather was pleasant, but the warmth of God’s love warmed us all.” A major complaint is the inadequate or absent coverage by the media.

Council members have participated in many other pro-life issues. During October, Respect for Life Month, the council conducts its annual rose appliqué drive and distributes prayer cards at St. John’s and St. Mary’s churches. Financial assistance has been given

to various pro-life efforts, such as the Turning Point Crisis Pregnancy Center on Washington Avenue in Bergenfield. Members have taken part in a march in Bergenfield to support Turning Point. The council has erected Monuments for the Unborn at St. John’s and St. Mary’s churches and at the Council hall (that story is told elsewhere in this journal).

The council’s efforts began with a strong push from Marty Healy, grand knight in 1973 when the Supreme Court rendered the *Roe vs. Wade* decision. Essay contests on the Right to Life were conducted for students, and the mayors of Bergenfield and Dumont were requested to designate the week beginning May 13 as Right to Life week. The effort was unsuccessful.

Healy still has a clipping from the March 14, 1973, *Twin-Boro News*, which reported: “St. John’s Council actively started its campaign in Support of Life by soliciting signatures on petitions outside St. Mary’s Church in Dumont on a recent Sunday. Nearly 2,000 signatures were received in a matter of a few hours. Much of the efforts of St. John’s Council will be spent in educating and motivating residents of the community on the Right to Life issue.” As Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said at a national convention to huge applause, “On abortion, we will never give in.”

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Council Awards

Columbian Award

1972-1973

Martin H. Healy

1975-1976

James J. Rush

1976-1977

Frank Messina

1977-1978

Louis V. Monachelli

1982-1983

William P. Bochicchio

1984-1985

Joseph A. Matarazzo

1985-1986

John J. Walsh

1992-1993

James J. Boyle

1998-1999

Paul J. Zakzrewski

2000-2001

Matthew J. Hayes

2006-2007

George DiCostanzo

Star Council Award

1941-1942

Edward S. Burke

1971-1972

Dominic G. Napolitano

1987-1988

Albert G. Breun

NJ State Council Insurance Promotion Award

2000-2001 – Matthew J. Hayes

1999-2000 – Thomas Kietur

1988-1999 – Joe Canuncio

1987-1988 – Albert G. Breun

International Service Program Awards

First Place – World Trader Center Relief

2001-2002 – Richard J. O'Connor

Challenge to Action Program

General Excellence in statewide Recruitment Activities

1972-1973 – Martin H. Healy

NJ State Council Bulletin Award

1996-1997 – Thomas Manno

1992-1993 – James J. Boyle

1988-1989 – Joe Canuncio

1987-1988 – Albert G. Breun

NJ State Council Service Award

1991-1992 – William J. Gilligan

1990-1991 – John R. Dondero

New Jersey Torch Run Committee

New Jersey Special Olympics

Columbian Founders Award

1993-1994 – Donald E. Winant

New Jersey State Council Program Director's Award

1992-1993 – James J. Boyle

New Jersey State Council Lecturer's Activities

1972-1973 – Martin H. Healy

New Jersey State Council Activity Award

1990-1991 – John R. Dondero

Top Proposer Award

1989-1990 – Bob Dondero

Century Club Award

1971-1972 – Dominic Napolitano

Columbian Club Award

1975-1976 – James Rush

State Award for Retarded Citizens

1996-1997 – Thomas Manno

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Degrees of Knighthood

There are four degrees of Knighthood in the Order. Initiation ceremonies into each of these degrees (the ceremonies themselves are also called degrees) are the only facets of the Order which are not revealed to non-members. Each degree is designed to exemplify one of the four Principles of the Order: Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. Degrees must be taken in order.

Every applicant must take the First, or Membership Degree, before he can be considered a Member of the Knights of Columbus. Once he has taken his First Degree, he becomes a member in good standing in the Order. To reach full Knighthood, members must also take the Second and Third Degrees, and all members are strongly encouraged to do so. Members must have taken the Third degree to be elected to Council offices or to take the Fourth Degree.

Once a man has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for a year and has taken his Third Degree, he is eligible to join a Fourth Degree Assembly. The Fourth Degree has its own structure separate from that of the Council. Fourth Degree Assemblies gain their membership from Third Degree members of several Councils within a larger geographic area. The most visible members of the Order are often the Fourth Degree Color Corps, with their colorful capes, chapeaux, and sabers. Third degree members from St. John's Council go on to become members of the Bishop O'Connor Assembly #647.

Council Officers, their jewels and robes

Each Council of the Knights of Columbus has a board of officers which manages the affairs of the Council. Candidates for office are selected by a nominating committee which presents the slate of officers to the membership. Each officer has his own ceremonial robe and a metal emblem, called a jewel, worn on a ribbon around the neck. Officers' robes are all of the same design, called the Columbus Robe. It is a flowing robe with inserted yoke, usually white.



The Chaplain provides spiritual guidance to the Council. The Chaplain is appointed by the local ordinary (bishop or archbishop) who selects the chaplain from a list of candidates submitted by the Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, and trustees. His emblem is the Cross, worn on a black ribbon. The optional robe is black with black trim and yoke with white projecting collar. The cincture is black with silver fringe.

The Grand Knight is the Chief Executive Officer of the Council and is responsible for all aspects of Council operation. He presides over Council meetings and is *ex officio* member of all committees. His emblem, the Anchor carried on a purple ribbon, is indicative of Columbus, the Mariner. It has also been a variant form of the Cross for centuries. His is a royal purple robe with white cincture with silver fringe. A purple mantle with white roll collar is also worn.



The Deputy Grand Knight acts on behalf of the Grand Knight in his absence and also serves as General Programs Director at St. John's Council. His emblem, the Compass, was also used by Columbus, the Mariner. The Knights of Columbus Compass, with its points being Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism, is known as the Compass of Virtue; its 32 flame-like rays represent the 32 virtues which may be possessed by men. It is hung from a purple ribbon. His robe is the same as the Grand Knight's, but without the mantle.

The Chancellor is the third ranking Council Officer. He is in charge of membership and recruiting, and serves as an advisor to the Grand Knight. His emblem is the Isabella Cross, with Skull and Crossbones; it is worn on a black over white ribbon. The Cross is self-explanatory, while the Skull and Crossed Bones are symbolic of man's mortality. The Chancellor wears a black robe trimmed with white and a white cincture with silver fringe. He also wears a black mantle with white roll collar.





The Warden 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. His emblem, an Axe Bound with Rods, known as a *Fasces*, was traditionally carried by the guards or protectors of Roman magistrates as a symbol of that authority. The Warden ideally exercises that authority. The ribbon is red over black. His robe is black trimmed with scarlet with a scarlet cincture with silver fringe.

The Financial Secretary records all money transactions, issues and collects bills, issues membership cards, and is otherwise responsible for all financial matters of the Council except those allocated to the Treasurer. The Financial Secretary is appointed by the Supreme Council. Candidates for the position are selected by a committee consisting of the Grand Knight and the trustees. The committee submits three names for the position to the Supreme Knight, who then selects one for a term of three years. The Financial Secretary serves at the pleasure of the Supreme Knight. His emblem is a Crossed Key and Quill. The Key has always been associated with an office concerned with money, safekeeping, and secrecy. The Quill is the symbol of a scribe – a record keeper – one who writes letters, documents, etc. This jewel is worn on a white over yellow ribbon. His robe is black, trimmed black, white cincture, silver fringe.



The Recorder keeps the minutes of the meetings, conducts correspondence as directed by the Grand Knight, and keeps official historic documents of the Council. Crossed Quills hung from a white over yellow ribbon are symbolic of his responsibilities for letter and document (records) writing and preservation. His robe is black, trimmed with black, with a white cincture with silver fringe.

The Treasurer keeps all funds, maintains the accounts of the Council, and issues Council checks upon receipt of a proper voucher from the Financial Secretary. Crossed Keys worn on a blue ribbon are symbolic of his complete authority over funds, particularly responsibility for their safekeeping. His robe is black, trimmed with black, and a white cincture with silver fringe.



The Advocate is the Chief Legal Officer of the Council, resolving procedural matters, acting as parliamentarian, and otherwise handling all legal activities. His emblem is the Scroll with Crossed Sword hung from a yellow ribbon. The Scroll is emblematic of legal literature and law, while the Sword indicates the power to defend and enforce the law. The Advocate's robe is black with golden yellow trim and yellow cincture with silver fringe.

Three Trustees oversee the financial transactions of the Council, review all bills and financial reports, and audit the Council's financial records semiannually. Their emblems, Crossed Key and Sword, indicate this financial authority and are worn on green ribbons. Trustees may wear black robes trimmed in green.



The Inside Guard (1) and Outside Guards (2) are charged with the security of the Council Chamber and assist the Warden in meeting the duties of his Office. Their emblems, Crossed Key and Axe hung from a white ribbon, represent their power as sentries at the door. Their robes are gray with black trim and yoke. The cincture is also black with silver fringe.



The Lecturer provides informative programs to the Council periodically during the Columbian year. The Lecturer is appointed each year, at the discretion of the Grand Knight. His emblem consists of Lyre and Scroll. These are traditionally symbols of music and literature and the arts. Hence, the Lecturer is in charge of entertainment. His ribbon is white over blue. The Lecturer wears a black robe with light blue trim and blue cincture with silver fringe.



In addition to the Chair Officers, there are appointed directorships and committee chair positions that handle the activities that make St. John's Council what it is today. These positions include programs, community affairs, family life, membership, youth activities, sick & wake, loaves & fishes, respect life, retention, retreat, ceremonial, hospitality, *Knight Times* newsletter, and others as deemed necessary by the Grand Knight.



The officers for the 2008-2009 Columbian year were installed on July 19, 2008 at the S.M.A. chapel. Shown left to right are, bottom row: Chancellor David Benson, Grand Knight Steven Martin, Deputy Grand Knight Tom Ciotti, Warden Lou Pidi, and Trustees George DiCostanzo and Thomas Trank; middle row, Treasurer William Horn, Advocate Edward Trawinski, Financial Secretary Bob DeWald, Lecturer Dr. Geoffrey Sadock, and trustee William Bochicchio; and, top row, District Deputy Barry Bernard, Outside Guard Edward Kostka, District Warden Joseph Bernard, Recorder Anthony Tulli, Inside Guard John McGill, and Outside Guard George Corbo.

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Acknowledgements & Resources

The Historical Committee would like to thank you, our Brother Knights, your families, and friends, who generously responded to our requests for information about St. John's Council. We appreciate the many photographs, clippings, booklets, pamphlets, letters, and other memorabilia that you have shared with us as we sought to document 100 years of history. Thanks also to all who have endured countless questions and seemingly endless interviews, and responded to our e-mails and phone calls with nary a whimper. We sincerely appreciate your help in making this journal more accurate and complete.

A century of history does not fit easily into such a limited space. We have amassed much more material than we can share in this journal. You can keep up-to-date with our future archival activities by visiting the Council's website.

The Historical Committee

Robert Armbruster, John McGill, Brian O'Dowd, Dr. Geoffrey Sadock, Anthony Tulli

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St. John's Church Souvenir Program: *Laying of the Cornerstone of the New Church*

St. John's Church Souvenir Program: *100th Anniversary Celebration*

St. John's Council #1345 *Minutes Books: 1938-2008*

St. John's Council *Annual Journals*

St. Mary's Church *75th Anniversary Journal*

The following websites supplied source material or substantiated facts already known:

aviationarchaeology.com	njkofc.org
b17sam.com	nytimes.com
bergenchapterkofc.org	rcaan.org
catholic.org	sjrc.org
churchoftheascension.com	stamps.org
footnote.com	stmarysdumont.org
hpboro.net	teaneck.org
law.berkeley.edu	wikipedia.org

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Knights in Service

At St. John's Council, unity and fraternity are the driving force behind our primary goal – charity. Throughout the year, our affairs, special events and community involvement bring out our best. Here are some of the people, events and the recipients of our charitable efforts.



Members staff the hamburger stand at Dumont Day.



French Night – September 1996

Local Community Charities

- Bergenfield Ambulance Corps
- Bergenfield Social Services Dept.
- Billy Hicks Fund
- Dumont Ambulance Corps
- Dumont Social Services Dept.
- Vantage Health System-Adult Day Care Program
- Family Assistance Center at the Teaneck Armory



The Council picnic is an event for families to come together to enjoy the close of the summer season.



John Scalice mans a booth at the St. John's Church carnival. The Council sponsors and staffs booths at both St. John's and St. Mary's church carnivals.



PGK's John Walsh and John Zakrzewski model the latest fashion at one of our fashion shows.

Religious Charities

- San Alfonso Retreat House
- SMA Fathers
- St. John the Evangelist Church
- St. John the Evangelist Church – Food Pantry
- St. John the Evangelist Church – Youth Ministry
- St. Mary's Church
- St. Mary's Church – Food Pantry
- St. Mary's Church – Youth Ministry
- Transfiguration Academy
- Bishop O'Connor Assembly #647



New Year's Eve at the Council is a top draw, as we ring out the old and bring in the new.



Service Charities

- Archbishop Boland Center
- Bergen County Foundation for Special Needs
- Bergen County Office of the Disabled
- New Concepts for Living
- New Day Community Center
- Tomorrow's Children Fund-Hackensack Hospital
- ASCPG-Am. Spec. Children Pilgrimage Group
- Deborah Hospital



St. John's Council marching in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Bergenfield.



Mr. & Mrs. Claus – Tony and Sheila Tulli

Education Charities

- NJ State Council – RSVP Vocations Fund
- NJ State Council Bishop Dougherty Scholarship Fund
- NJ State Council Fr. John Murray Scholarship Fund
- St. Johns Council Scholarship Fund



Father Murray, with his shillelagh and green sneakers, and Ivan Hannibal greet attendees at our annual St. Patrick's Day dinner dance



Santa Claus – PGK John Walsh

Respect Life Charities

- Birthright of NJ
- Rainbow for all God's Children
- Several Sources Foundation
- Turning Point Women's Resource Center



Randy Dunkin, a Dumont resident, had gastric bypass surgery with multiple complications. He accumulated a lot of debt over the long period of recovery and was about to lose his home. St. John's Council and the Dumont Lions joined forces and held a pancake breakfast for Randy's benefit at Dumont High School. 25 Knights, 6 Columbiettes, 4 Squires and 8 Lions worked the breakfast and together with the help of Frank Magda of Frech Funeral Home, who sold ads on the table mats, \$7800 was raised. The group served over 450 people on a snowy Sunday morning. Shown above: Lou Pidi, chairman of the event, Randy Dunkin, and Ivan Hannibal, Grand Knight.



Father Murray and his brother Knights prepare to serve a meal at the homeless shelter in Hackensack.



Special Children's Dance

The Thomas M. Duffy Special Children's Dance is held annually to raise money for the charities that provide for children with developmental disabilities. Past Grand Knight Jim Rush originated the format for the retarded children's show, now called the Special Children's dance, which began under the leadership of PGK John Dillon. The evening still includes a talent show, which brings out our best. The dance and the shake-the-can drive together represent our largest fundraising successes of the year.



The Kitchen Crew prepares for dinner. Shown left to right are John McGill, Bob Dondero and John Scalice.



Paul Graynor shakes the can.



PGK Bill Bochicchio has been the host of the Special Children's Dance for many years.



Dominic Panfile as a dwarf & Tony Tulli, as Snow White.



Jim Rush, James McFadden, John Dillon & Marty Healy

Charities – Drive for People with Dev. Disabilities

- NJ State Council Retarded Fund
- American Special Children Pilgrimage Group
- Bergen County Special School District
- Bergen Passaic Unit Retarded Citizens
- Bleshman School PTA Retarded Children's Fund
- Camp Fatima
- Felician School for Exceptional Children
- Institute for Educational Development (Autism)
- Transition Center at Wood-Ridge, Life Skills Program
- Rockleigh Rehabilitation Center
- Special Olympics
- Spectrum for Living
- The Child Center of Paramus
- Tri-Valley Academy (Autism)

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Congratulations St. John's Council #1345 On the First 100 Years

Twin Boro Columbian Club

President John (Bob) Dondero, PGK, FDD

Vice President Philip J. Fredericks, PGK, PCCP

Treasurer Anthony M. Schiralli

Secretary Jerry Passano

Reservations: John Orsino

Purchasing Agent: Charles Dietz, PCCP

Trustee: Peter McHugh

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TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF ST. JOHN'S COUNCIL 1345

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUOUS SUCCESS IN YOUR EFFORTS TO
PROMOTE COLUMBIANISM IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND CHURCH**

FROM YOUR STATE OFFICERS

MOST REV. CHARLES J. McDONNELL

THOMAS CIBORSKI

HERB MEYER

WAYNE McCORMACK, KCHS

DANIEL ROSSI

JOHN MOORE

STATE CHAPLAIN

STATE DEPUTY

STATE SECRETARY

STATE TREASURER

STATE ADVOCATE

STATE WARDEN

BROTHERS IN FAITH SHALL DO GREAT DEEDS

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BEST WISHES

PGK Ferdinand J. Jacobsen Jr. and Wife Janet R.

Bro. Knight James M. Jacobsen and Wife Linda

Bro. Knight Charles M. Jacobsen and Wife Linda

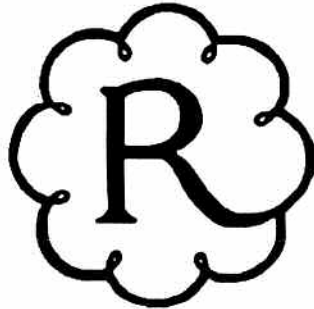
Gail Marie Jacobsen Sadowski and Husband Paul

Suzanne Louise Jacobsen Amitrano and Husband Dr. Robert

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Pastor

Rev. Raymond R. Filipski

Rev. Ernesto C. Tibay

Rev. Giandomenico M. Flora

Rev. Manuel Dueñas

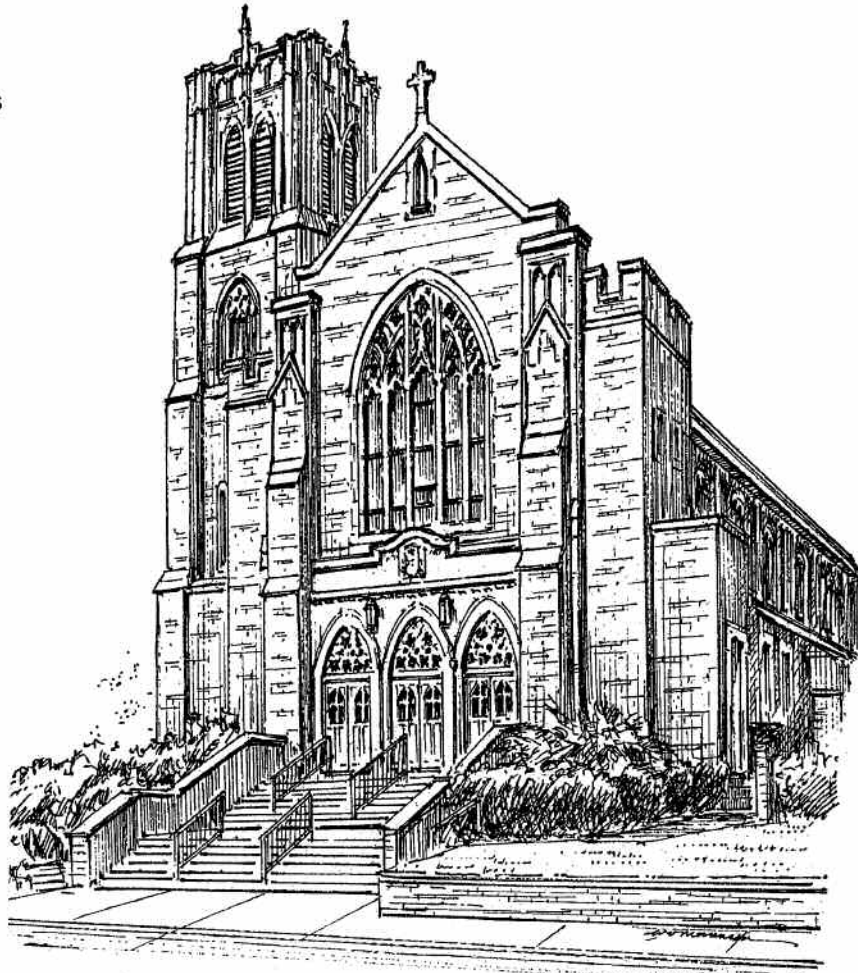
Parochial Vicars

Patrick Miney (retired)

Deacon

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO
ST. JOHN'S COUNCIL
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
NO. 1345.**

**MAY THE NEXT 100 YEARS
BE AS FAITH-FILLED
AS THE FIRST 100 YEARS
HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL!**



TRANSFIGURATION ACADEMY

Bergenfield	New Milford
Gr. Pre-K2+ - Gr. 4	Gr. 5 - 8
Sr. Madeline Hanson, SSND	Mr. Sal Tralongo
201-384-3627	201-836-7074
www.transfigurationacademy.org	

PARISH LIFE CENTER

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Rosemarie Flood	Eric A. Acosta
Director of Religious Education	Director of Youth Ministry
201-384-3601	201-384-2675
roflood@yahoo.com	ericacosta7@msn.com

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Mayor Matthew McHale

With the

Members of the Dumont Borough Council

Marty Caspare

Carl Manna

Bobby McQuade

Rafael Riquelme

Harry Stylianou

Ellen Zamechansky

&

The Dumont Democratic Organization

Salute the Knights of Columbus

St. John's Council No. 1345

*on their 100th anniversary and thank
you for your long tradition of service
and dedication to the entire Dumont
family.*

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Congratulations to
St. John's Council #1345
Knights of Columbus
on their
100th Anniversary
from the
Dumont Republican Club
and Council Candidates
Bob Dondero
Joseph Hakim
& Matthew Kruger

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Dollars donated to the American Special Children's Pilgrimage Group to help fund a unique Easter experience for special needs children and young adults ... tens of thousands.

Number of those special needs pilgrims who have been blessed to travel to Lourdes in the past decade because of Council #1345's incredible generosity ... about 18.

Brother Knights who have cooked, served, bartended and worked behind the scenes during the many ASCPG fundraisers and special events held at the Council hall ... must be over a hundred.

The Council's most recent donation to the brand-new ASCPG High School Youth Group, who will accompany the Easter 2009 pilgrimage ... \$1,200.

The truly heartfelt gratitude expressed to the St. John's Knights of Columbus by all who have volunteered with the ASCPG since it began in 1995 ... priceless.

May God Bless You on Your Centennial Anniversary!



AMERICAN SPECIAL CHILDREN'S PILGRIMAGE GROUP
PO Box 633, Bergenfield, NJ 07621
(201) 873-8054 www.ascpg.org

Gerry Flood, ASCPG Chairman
Bob Skok, ASCPG Treasurer
Brian Sullivan, ASCPG Volunteer Helper
(and proud members of St. John's Council #1345)

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Happy 100th Milestone

St. John's Council #1345

**Recognition and Gratitude to the Grand Knights,
Officers and Members who built our Council**

**Thanks to the Grand Knights, Officers and
Members who have guided us through our years**

**And Best Wishes to those to come that will take us
to our 200th.**

The Winant Family

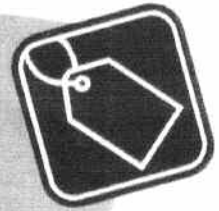
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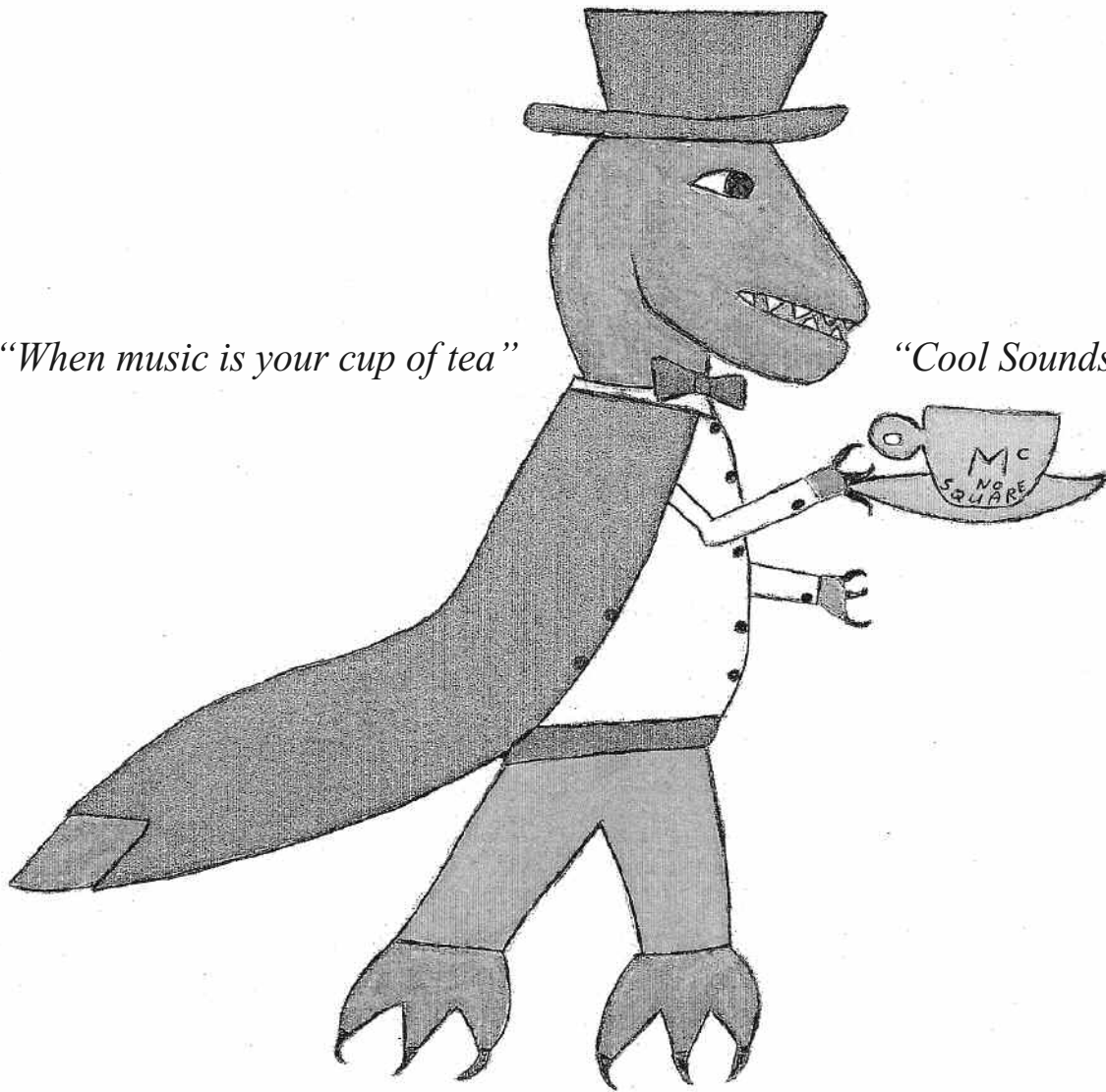
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John E. McGill



John E. McGill

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Pilot, Bishop O'Connor Assembly 0647.

Congratulations & May God Bless
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celebrating our 100th Year Anniversary

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I now live by the principles that
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*"So there abide faith, hope and charity, these three;
but the greatest of these is charity".*

St. Paul 1 Corinthians 13,13.



MARY, QUEEN OF THE KNIGHTS

Our lady, * Queen of the Knights, * bless all the activities of our order. * Keep
us true to the pledge * to extend the Kingship of thy Divine Son on earth *
through thine intercession, * win for us thy grace * ever to exemplify in
our public and private lives, * the virtues which should characterize
* those specially dedicated * to the service of the heavenly court. * Make us
always aware * that as your Knights * we are constantly observed, * our faith
judged * and our order appreciated. * Accept O Mary, * this renewed pledge of
fealty and devotion * of thy servants, * the Knights of Columbus. * *Amen.*

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Best Wishes for the next 100 Years

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<u>Faithful Inner Sentinel:</u>	SK Michael Paul
<u>Faithful Outer Sentinel:</u>	SK
<u>Faithful Trustees:</u>	SK David Kuhles, PGK, PFN (One Year)
	SK George DiCostanzo, PGK, PFN (Two Year)
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Vice President:	Roberta Elwell
Secretary:	Donna Fredericks
Treasurer:	Nina Di Costanzo
Financial Secretary:	Joan Winant
Sentinel:	Connie Reilly
Chaplain:	Rev. John Murray SMA

Congratulations to our Brother Knights on your 100th Anniversary

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Dee Altemberger
Estelle Annunziato
Madeline Banks
Patricia Barclay
Linda BeFumo
Lisa Bernardo
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Congratulations St. John's Council On 100 Years of Service



In Memory of:

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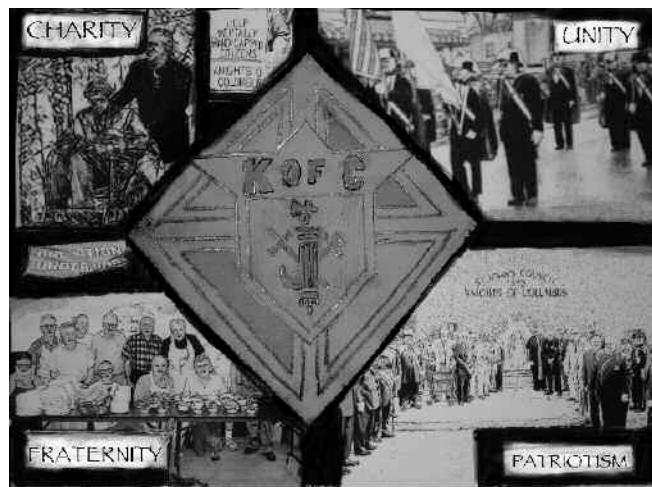
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May the Lord continue to bless the knights
and their work for God's people.*



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"one nation Under God".



SMA Fathers
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**In Loving Memory of
S.K. John J. Walsh
Past Grand Knight 1985-1986**

From his loving wife Joanne and Family
Liz, Vin, Matt, Anne, Joe, Larissa, Kayla, Jenna,
Suzanne, Julia, John, Melissa and Emma Rose

**Congratulations to St. John's Council #1345
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Happy 100th Anniversary**

Best Wishes for another successful 100 Years
Of Charitable Work, Fraternity, Unity and Patriotism.
The best years are yet to come.

In Memory of the Bochicchio and Giunta Families

S.K. Bill Bochicchio, FDD, PGK
Centennial Chairman and my wife Mary Angela
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On your 100th Anniversary

In Memory of
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In Our Hearts, Thoughts &
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Joanne and Mom

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***Peace...
To all our Fellow Knights
and Friends***

Congratulations

***Ivan and Donna Hannibal
and Family***

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO
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**VITA & ANDY
SANTULLI**

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100 Years of Service
to God and Country**

**In Memory of our
Dear Son Vincent Brennan
who passed away on
January 5, 1995
R.I.P.**

Patrick & Peggy Brennan

**In Memory of
John Cleary
and**

James I. Cleary, PGK

Happy 100th Anniversary

John & Gerri Cleary

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2008

*May God watch over and protect
St. John's Council and its endeavors
For many years to come*

The Daly's

*Michael, Mary
Mike Jr., Kris, Mike 3rd, Ashlyn
John, Patricia, Devin
Dennis, Nicole, Bryana, Mason*

Congratulations Brother Knights

Jim Kelly Sr.
Liberty Council – 1934-1959

Margaret Kelly
*Liberty Council (NYC)
Columbiette – 1940-1959*

Jim Kelly Jr.
*Liberty Council – 1946-1972
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In Memoriam

James Rush, PGK

*A fine Catholic Gentleman,
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beloved friend.*

Marty Healy, PGK

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Here's to another Holy
& Healthy 100 Years

CONGRATULATIONS
and
GOD BLESS

Dave & Grace Benson

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ON YOUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

IN MEMORY OF
WILLIAM H. ROGE

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& Lady Nina DiCostanzo
Proud member and Past Grand Knight
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Of this Great Council.**



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Knights of Columbus

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Best Wishes

Tom Lawlor

**In Memoriam
James F. Flynn
1914 - 2003
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Mr. Edwin G. Orr

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Life Member
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For the Next 100 Years!**

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Dan, Jennifer & Brendan**

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**Congratulations On
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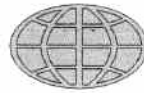
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Art Rudolph Past Columbian Club President 1991-1992

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Mr. & Mrs. Frank & Lucy
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Congratulations to St. John's
K of C Council 1345
On their 100th Anniversary

In Loving Memory
Of
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Columbian Club President – 1977-1978



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Frank Messina, PGK and his
wife Nina and family

Congratulate St. John’s Council and wish
continued success for the next 100 years.

In loving memory of our son Patrick

In Memory of Frank O’Leary

From His Family

Happy 100th Anniversary!

St. John’s Council #1345

**William J. Gilligan,
FDD, PGK, PCCP**

**Congratulations & God Bless
St. John’s K of C Council #1345**

Grace & Richard Bohan

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BENEFACTORS:

Our Lady of the Mountain Council #3533 Livingston, NJ

Michael & Mary Flanagan

Tom Gorman, Sr.

Eli & Jean DeFalco

James & Julia Farrell

George J. Olszewski

Edward V. Lane

Rita & Ted Hasert

Michael & Barbara Affrunti

Matt Connell

Grace G. Romanko

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Loretta Sparacio

Francis & Dolores Fiore

Jim and Marie McDermott

Arthur & Mary Rudolph

Mr. & Mrs. John Kerner

Rich Delia

Betty Delia

Evelyn Marnell

Louis Monachelli, PGK

Brother (1994 Deceased) Thomas E. Pichon

Tony and Sheila Tulli

Elizabeth T. Kay

Jeanne & John Laraia

Ann & Carl Buscher

Joe Carpanzano

Millie Carpanzano

Mr. & Mrs. August Triola

Russell D. Petrocelli, DD, PGK, PFN

In Memory of John P. Stella

Robert L. DeWald

Evelyn M. Rooney

In Memory of John Fedey

In Memory of Edward J. Rooney

Tom Ahearn

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