

St. Thomas More Knights

Celebrating Over Twenty Years of Service

by Bruce Tawson, PGK

Knights of Columbus Council 10205 quietly slipped past its twentieth year of existence in December 2009 and entered its twenty-first year of service to its parish, community and families. Fifty-one men are listed on the Council's Charter issued December 1989 by the Supreme Council. Today, nearly 300 members in a variety of membership categories are listed on the Council's rolls. Of the fifty-one charter members, nineteen remain members today. Raymond F. (Ray) O'Shea was "volunteered" to be the first Grand Knight and served two terms. Oddly enough, the Council's name was suggested by none other than Thomas More, a charter member, along with his son, Thomas More Jr., also a member. Father Michael Walsh was the Council's first Chaplain and remained so until he left the parish, retiring to Ireland. Father Walsh remains a member today.

The Ladies Auxiliary was established in 1992 to support the activities of the Knight's Council. Today, the Ladies Auxiliary continues to assist the Council, but the Auxiliary also has its own charitable and social activities.



K of C Financial Secretary, John Allen, presents a check for \$500 to Fr. Michael at the Samaritan House



The Knight's 4th Degree Honor Guard is ever-present at important parish celebrations.

Just what is the Knights of Columbus?

It's an order of Catholic gentlemen committed to the exemplification of its four basic principles: charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism; respect for life and defense of the priesthood. The Knights of Columbus was founded in 1882 by Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney, a parish priest at St. Mary's Catholic Church in New Haven, Connecticut. Father McGivney founded the order in response to radical prejudice against Catholics at the time. He also wanted to establish an effective response to the critical needs of widows and children of Catholic men who died unable to provide for their families.

20+ years of service

For over twenty years, the Knights at St. Thomas More have donated countless hours of service in support of the parish and local community. Specific areas of focus include church, youth, council,



Tom Piccone greets a customer at Kings Soopers.

community, and family. Members have raised and donated tens of thousands of dollars to the church, various charities and volunteer programs. Funds were raised through Council Bingo programs, Lenten Fish Fry, dances and raffles. Annually, the Knights collect tons of nonperishable food items and gift cards for local food banks. The Council's annual St. Patrick's Dinner Dance, fall Spaghetti Dinner and Lenten Fish

Fry have entertained parishioners for years. Donations to the STM's Youth Group, Pro Life Committee and Boy Scouts have helped those groups further their activities. Each year, the Council provides \$500 each to five seminarians for their support. In addition, each year, the Council's Knights get donations for the mentally challenged by handing out Tootsie Rolls at the entrance to local grocery stores.

Over the 20-plus years of its existence, the St. Thomas More Knights of Columbus have grown from a small group of spirited men to a vibrant, energetic force in the parish and the community. But the spiritual development of its Catholic men has always been a priority. Every meeting begins with the rosary and ends with the Lord's Prayer. Each year the Council holds a one-day retreat for its members at Mother Cabrini Shrine. Many members attend and participate in the Parish's "That Man is You" program. And on any given Sunday, member Knights are ushering, lecturing, distributing Holy Communion or singing in one of the choirs at St. Thomas More Church.



Youth from St. Thomas More and the surrounding community compete each year at the Knight' Free Throw contest.



Each Easter the Knights collect tons of food from the parish for area food shelters.



K of C provide many evenings of entertainment for the parish with their Lenten Fish Fry, Spaghetti Dinner and St. Patrick's dinner dance.



STM Knights gather each year at Mother Cabrini's Shrine for a one-day retreat.



Council 10205 gives \$500 to five seminarians each year. Above, Brother Dennis Gilmore gives a check to Deacon Bermudez, who was ordained a priest a few weeks later.



Director of Youth Activities, Benny Martinez gives a scholarship award to a winner of the annual essay contest for students from St. Thomas More Catholic.