

Knights of Columbus

For 125 years the Knights of Columbus have striven to promote charity, unity, and fraternity among Catholic men. The Council here at Notre Dame continues that goal. While the Knights support national and state programs, most programs are local programs carried out by our Knights here in Notre Dame Parish.

Probably the most visible activity of the local Knights is the monthly Corporate Communion when the Knights gather together to attend the 8:00 Mass as a group on Sunday. But that is not the only role of individual Knights in the parish. As you look around at any Mass, you see Knights serving the Church as readers, ushers, greeters, or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Knights play an active role in most parish organizations.

The local Council – the Knights of Notre Dame Parish – focuses its activities on four areas: youth programs, grants and donations to local charitable organizations, protection of the unborn, and support for parish activities.

Youth Programs

The Council's youth programs go beyond the parish to reach out to the local community. The Council sponsors a Pee Wee baseball team in the Parks and Recreation Summer League. Donation from the Council provides jerseys for the team and awards at the end of season celebration.

Every year the Council sponsors the Free Throw Contest for the youth of Greeneville. Local youth compete in Greeneville; and the winners progress to sectional, regional, and state competitions. Last year, local winners Savannah Ayers and Dylan Fields progressed to the state competition in Nashville. This competition began when local youth participated in the competition held at the YMCA. This year the Council will introduce a soccer competition. The Council provides competition transportation to out-of-town competitions, awards for the winners, and refreshments for the contestants and their families.

The Council sponsors the Boy Scout Venture Crew that is part of the Youth Ministry program of the parish. The Crew includes participants in the high-school program. They fundraise through their annual popcorn sale and expo tickets to cover their registration fees.

Charitable Activities

Every year the Knights have the Tootsie Roll Drive. This activity seeks donations to support individuals with mental and emotional disabilities. The Knights solicit donations outside local stores and offer each donor a Tootsie Roll as a "Thank You". The funds raised are pooled with donations from throughout Tennessee to

support organizations helping individuals. Many of the grants help these organizations with their transportation needs. Half the donations raised by the local Council are returned to the Council for distribution to help organizations here in Greene County. This year we made a grant of \$4,000 to ComCare.

Several other causes are supported during the year. Hardly a month goes by without some worthy organization seeking our financial assistance. This year the Council supported a national organization that provides wheelchairs for people who cannot afford them. Some of the recipients are in third-world countries while others are here in Tennessee. The Council contributed \$200 to the Relay for Life.

Protection of the Unborn

This year, the Council conceived, funded, designed, and installed the Memorial to the Unborn. This Memorial is located at the end of the current parking lot and provides a place where each of us can quietly reflect on the tragic effects of abortion on the fetus, the woman, and society. The Memorial was formally dedicated by Fr. John at Masses on Mother's Day. The project received a great assist from Henry Loewenkamp who used the project as part of his requirements for Eagle Scout. The walkway to the Memorial provides an opportunity for parishioners to remember or honor someone by placing a brick in the walkway. For more information, see the letter with attached envelope in the Parish Hall or contact Dick Nojeim at 639-4179.

Support for Parish Activities

This year, the celebration for the end of the year for high school religious education turned into a 40th birthday party for Fr. John to which the entire parish was invited. The Knights cooked hot dogs for the feast that was provided by funds from the parish social budget.

The Knights handled traffic and parking for the Parish Garage Sale and Pancake Breakfast in June. The Knights helped people coming to find that once-in-a-lifetime bargain locate a parking space on the field in front of church. The Knights created order from the chaos of zillions of people trying to get that elusive bargain.

Annual Fundraiser

Every year the Council has its Annual Spaghetti Supper and Auction in October. This is the primary fundraiser of the Council. The funds from this dinner make possible all the activities of the Council – the youth activities, the charitable donations, the Memorial to the Unborn, and support to parish organizations.

By Dick Toll