

St. Paul Catholic Church, Austin, Texas



# The Knight Newsletter

## Of S.K. Gerry Gauthier Council 10209



Volume 31, Number 3

[www.council10209.org](http://www.council10209.org)

September 2011

### **Grand Knight:**

SK Albert Villegas .....282-9330

### **Financial Secretary:**

SK Chris Jistel .....292-9729

### **Chaplain:**

Rev. Fr. James Martin, CSC .....280-4460

### **Deputy Grand Knight:**

SK Kevin Russell .....282-6863

### **Chancellor:**

### **Recorder:**

Craig .....282-9330

### **Treasurer:**

Bill Hoagland .....971-6822

### **Advocate:**

SK Bob Fonseca.....282-9330

### **Warden:**

My Van Dinh .....282-9330

### **Inside Guard:**

Anthony Palacios .....282-9330

### **Outside Guard:**

Carlos De La Garza.....282-9330

### **1-year Trustee:**

Carlos Mendoza .....416-7555

### **2-year Trustee:**

SK David Moore .....416-8731

### **3-year Trustee:**

SK Tom Natoli .....301-0215

### **Lector:**

SK Lee Jan .....291-4809

### **Insurance Agent:**

SK Brandon Kraft .....476-3761

### **Respect Life Representative:**

Bob Hecker .....282-9330

### **Newsletter Editor:**

SK Sean McGee .....280-6701

<mailto:sean@mcgeeclan.us>

Church Committee Chair .....282-9330

Community Committee Chair .....282-9330

Family Committee Chair .....282-9330

Council Committee Chair .....282-9330

Youth Committee Chair .....282-9330

### **MEETING NOTICE**

**K of C Council # 10209 Meets**

**Where: St. Paul Church-room 5**

**When: Monday, September 19th**

**Time: 7:00 pm**

**50/50 game jackpot is at \$121.00**

## Join the Yahoo Group!

Join the KofC10209 Yahoo Group and get email notices of upcoming events! Simply send an email to [kofc10209-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:kofc10209-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) and you'll be signed up!

### **Grand Knight Report**

Brother Knights,

I would like to thank everyone that participated in the installation and reception for Father Hector Vega. Although I was not present, I was informed that the installation and reception was well attended by Knights from our council and that Grace Hall was filled with parishioners. I understand that SK Kevin Russell did a great job leading the Color Corp and that the Ladies Auxiliary did an incredible job setting up the reception in Grace Hall.

I would like to welcome our newest Brother Knight, Ariel Sobrevege. Ariel was initiated at our August 1st Degree ceremony.

There are a few events coming up in September and we will need volunteers.

The 4th Degree admissions meeting will be held on September 11th at 7:00 pm at the Father Hal Zink room at St. Ignatius parish. Any 3rd Degree member interested in becoming a 4th Degree Knight please contact SK Robert Fonseca or myself.

Passbook Sales will be after all masses on September 17th and September 18th. Please contact Sean McGee if you can help with sales.

40 Days for Life prayer vigil will begin on September 28th. There are 3 locations in Austin where volunteers will be praying. The WEBSITE is [AUSTINCOALITIONFORLIFE.COM](http://AUSTINCOALITIONFORLIFE.COM)

St. Paul Parish Fair is September 30th and October 1st. Please volunteer some time to help with the fair set-up/clean-up as well as the set-up/clean-up and cooking for the Knights booth.

Finally, I hope everyone will have a chance to spend time with family and friends on Labor Day. Our general meeting will be moved to September 19th at 7:00 p.m.

Fraternally,

**SK Albert Villegas**  
**Grand Knight**

### Insurance Agent Report

What a month has it been! The debt-ceiling mess was figured out—for now—but not without S&P downgrading the United States' credit rating. There is simply no good news in a credit rating downgrade.

What about your Knights of Columbus Insurance? S&P has a policy that no insurance company can have a rating higher than the country they are based. This means, through no fault of the Knights and having nothing to do with our performance, our rating was modified to AA+, to match the rating of the U.S. S&P took this action against all of the highest rated insurance companies in the U.S., a small fraternity of great companies: Knights of Columbus, Northwestern Mutual, New York Life, TIAA and USAA.

The take away is that the Knights of Columbus, as it has been for nearing four decades, still has **the highest ratings of any insurance company in North America.**

But what about our numbers? Are we actually doing well? Yes. No qualifications needed. You and fellow Brother Knights have recognized *en masse* that the Knights' ethos of providing the best possible product for our family of Knights and doing so in an absolutely ethical manner. The Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson, recently sent a memo outlining our second quarter 2011 results and sharing with us the success of our last decade:

- Our six-month revenue increased by 8% and exceeded \$1B for the first time.
- Our earnings before dividends (what we return back to our members with permanent policies) was a record high \$214M, a 16% increase.
- Our total assets are at \$17.7B, 10% over 10 years

ago.

- Our surplus is at \$1.7B with a surplus ratio is at 12.3%, well above the industry's 11.1% average.
- The issuance of new insurance policies rose 4% last quarter with \$3.7B of new insurance issued.
- We reached a new milestone--\$80B of insurance in force, double where we stood 10 years ago.

In short, while times are tough for everyone right now, the Knights of Columbus is, as it always has, in the position to keep your money safe, guarantee that you won't lose any of it and guarantee that it will grow with us. When I look at my 401(k), I can't say the same.

On a personal note, I have greatly enjoyed serving as your field agent for nearly two years. A great joy. However, as our family continually discerns how to accomplish our family goals, we made the decision to take a new direction. With sadness, this will be my last newsletter as your field agent. We will remain in Austin (and I'll remain active with the Knights) and I hope to continue the friendships many of us have forged during this time.

For all policy matters, please contact Tom Supak at 979-968-9800 or 512-476-3761, option 2 (save the long distance!), until the new councils assignments have been finalized.

It has been a great pleasure serving you. Keep in touch! My e-mail address after Sept 1 will be [kraft@kofcaustin.com](mailto:kraft@kofcaustin.com) (notice .com, not the chapter website of [kofcaustin.org](http://kofcaustin.org)) or visit me online at <http://kraft.im>

God Bless.

**SK Brandon J. Kraft, FA**  
**Field Agent**  
**512-476-3761**  
**[brandon.kraft@kofc.org](mailto:brandon.kraft@kofc.org)**

### District Deputy Report

Brother Knights,

The year is off to a great start, every council have been active recruiting and planning their programs for the year. Please take time to meet with your insurance agent. We have excellent benefits to offer you, make sure to take advantage of them. I think each council in this district is again capable of achieving Star Council, with your help we will. Important dates for September:

- Monday, Sept. 5th: Labor Day
- Tuesday, Sept. 13th: 1st Degree at St. Ignatius
- Wednesday, Sept. 28th: 1st Degree at St. Catherine

**John Massey**  
**District Deputy 127**  
**Council 8156**  
**Assembly 1099**

### **For the Good of the Order**

#### **Fear – Faith -- Prayer**

We remember the story in Matthew, Chapter 14, about Peter walking on water, and when he becomes afraid, not of walking on the water, but of the storm around him, he begins to sink. He calls out in faith to Jesus to save him. After Jesus pulls him from the water he says to Peter, “Oh you of little faith why did you doubt?” What did Jesus mean? I believe Jesus was telling Peter -- telling us -- that ‘you’ who have just a little faith can do much – see what you did with your faith – you walked on water! But what happened, why did Peter begin to sink? He let fear replace faith!

With a strong faith we will not have fear. Faith replaces fear and as we see with Peter, fear diminishes faith. There is just not enough “room” for faith and fear to be in our hearts at the same time. We grow in faith through prayer, our communication with God. Sometimes when we pray we get a good “fuzzy-warm” feeling and other times maybe not so much. In fact we may recite or read a prayer and not remember what we prayed or even feel like we prayed. That’s okay, we should not judge our prayer – only God judges and who are we to understand how he judges? If we judge how effective our prayer is, then we judge God, since he is a participant in the communication of our prayers. We must let God be the judge.

I have personally experienced increased faith and subsequent displaced fear as I increased my prayer life. Over the years I have slowly increased prayer and communication with God. The other day I was thinking about when I actually began to make prayer a bigger part of my life and I realized my spiritual life and intimacy with God began after I became a regular participant in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during exposition. This regular visit with Jesus grew into frequent daily communications with my God. I am not saying everyone should do this (though it would not be bad if everyone did), but I mention it so I can tell you how I witnessed the results when the “storm” entered my life.

When Vicki experienced a life threatening anaphylactic reaction in mid-July, I came close to losing the most precious thing in my life – but never during the episode did I have a sense of fear. I was certainly shaken as I watched Vicki in distress and wanted to help her, but never feared that I would lose her. I do not recall asking God at the time to let her stay, but I am confident that because of my prayer and faith, God gave me what I

wanted most, even without my asking. He gave Vicki back to me. God answers our prayers with what we need when we need the answer. If I did not have a relationship with God, I probably would have turned to him and pleaded that he let her stay with me. But I did not feel a need to beg and plead; I knew and trusted God would do what was best.

Our parish has exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for adoration each First Friday of the month beginning after noon Mass and continuing until about 3:30 p.m. on Holy Saturday. Please consider participating regularly. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament deserves praise and honor of many, not just a few. If we truly believe Jesus is present in the Holy Eucharist, and we do by our faith and because Jesus told us he is there in the bread, we would be excitedly anticipating the next opportunity to adore him while he is physically present to us in the chapel. It is not a duty to adore the Blessed Sacrament, it is an honor and only available in a Catholic setting.

Last night on the news coverage of hurricane Irene on the east coast, they showed a soldier continuing the ever present 24/7 vigil at the tomb of the unknown soldier, even as the devastation of the storm was occurring all around him. Certainly the heroes honored by this tradition deserve this time honored memorial; doesn’t Jesus, who gave his life for the salvation of the world from the death of sin, deserve at least 39 hours of non-stop adoration at St. Paul parish?

There are other prayer opportunities to participate in as community at St. Paul parish. The Rosary is recited each Sunday before the 9:00 a.m. Mass beginning at 8:35 and each Thursday the Parishioners Praying for St. Paul parish meets at 6:30 p.m. to pray the Liturgy of the Hours. If you would like to join this group (we will provide books and teach you how), send me an email and I will add you to the list to which I send notice each week of the location where we will meet. We alternate meeting at the homes of some of our members and the chapel. After prayer, we socialize for a while and learn more about each other.

Peace.

-SK Lee Jan

### **Summer Coupon Book Fundraiser**

Brother Knights,

Please return any unsold coupon books at the September meeting. If you can’t make the meeting and have books to return please contact me directly at sean@mcgeeclan.us or 680-0367. An accurate tally is required of the total number of returned books and we will settle accounts with Entertainment this month to complete the fundraiser.

-SK Sean McGee

### Right to Life Activities

#### Austin Prayer Vigil

Austin Prayer Vigil is scheduled for Saturday, September 17th, at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 9500 Neenah Ave., Austin, TX. Mass will begin at 7 a.m. Following the Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be in the church and a car caravan will travel to International Healthcare Solutions where the Mysteries of the Rosary will be prayed at the site from 8:20 – 9:50 a.m. Benediction will follow at St. Vincent de Paul Parish at 10:30 a.m. Refreshments will be served at 10:40 a.m. Prayer Box

### Passbook Sales

Sales of the 2012 Austin area Entertainment Passbooks are now underway. Books cost \$30 and contain thousands of dollars in savings on groceries, fast food and upscale restaurants, area entertainment, travel, services, you name it and it is in there. We will be selling the passbooks as a council fundraiser until December 2011. Our council makes approximately \$5 from the sale of each book.

You can pick up one or two books to sell at work, to buy for yourself, or to give as gifts at our regularly scheduled meetings or by stopping by the table when we have a sale at Mass.

The next scheduled sale will occur on the weekend of 10/23 after all Masses. We also have 11/20 reserved for a sale.

Many of you have indicated an interest in selling passbooks to friends and family located outside of Austin. You can do that and still make money for our Council by visiting <http://sellersection.entertainment.com/> and creating a seller's account. The group ID number for our council is 686706 which you will enter while creating the account. This will tie any proceeds you generate from online sales to our council's account.

Once a seller's account is created you can import your email address book and send off some customized emails from entertainment letting people know that they can purchase a passbook for their area and benefit Council 10209 directly.

Thank you for your support of this fundraiser!

-SK Sean McGee

### Prayer Requests

Please Pray for: Fr. Barry, Fr. James, Our New Priests, Joe Reschmann, Louis Palacios, David and Mary Moore, Thomas Osceiera.

### Calendar Review

September 5, 2011 (Labor Day): Council 10209 General meeting will be moved to September 19, 2011.

September 8, 2011: Heroic Media's 2011 Annual Benefit Dinner: Going the Distance! Hilton Austin Downtown - 500 E. 4th Street, Austin, TX 78701

September 11, 2011: Assembly 1099 4th Degree Admissions Meeting: St. Ignatius Church, Fr. Hal Zink Room 126 W. Oltorf St. Austin, TX 78704

September 12, 2011: 4th Degree General meeting St. Ignatius Parish, Father Hal Zink room

September 14, 2011: College Football Frenzy tickets will be sent to the Texas State council coordinator.

September 17, 2011: Austin Vigil for Life St. Vincent de Paul Parish

September 17 & 18, 2011: Entertainment Passbook sales after all masses

September 19, 2011: Council 10209 General meeting St. Paul Parish

September 28, 2011: 40 Days for Life begins

September 30, 2011 & October 1, 2011: St Paul Parish Fair St. Paul Parish

October 1, 2011: Fourth Degree Exemplification St. Helen's Georgetown

October 3, 2011: Council 10209 General meeting- St. Paul Parish

October 8, 2011: Council 8156 Chili Cookoff St. Catherine of Siena Parish

October 10, 2011: Columbus Day

October 13, 2011 The Red Mass will be at St. Mary Cathedral at 6:00 pm

October 17, 2011 The White Mass will be at St. Mary Cathedral at 6:30 pm

October 17, 2011 Council 10209 Officer Meeting - St. Paul Parish

October 22, 2011: Annunciation Maternity Home March for Mothers San Gabriel Park, Georgetown

November 7, 2011 Council 10209 General Meeting St. Paul Parish

November 7, 2011: Annunciation Maternity Home 1st Annual Golf Tournament Berry Creek Country Club

November 8, 2011: Election Day

November 11, 2011: Veterans Day parade and  
Mass at St John Neumann Parish

November 21, 2011 Council 10209 Officer Meeting  
St. Paul Parish

November 24, 2011 Thanksgiving

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| <b>Newsletter Articles</b> |
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The next Newsletter Articles are due by Monday,  
September 26th. Submit your articles to Sean McGee at  
[sean@mcgeeclan.us](mailto:sean@mcgeeclan.us) or by calling 680-0367.