

REV. THOMAS F. CANTY COUNCIL
NO. 3197, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
P.O. BOX 207
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The KnightLetter

January – February 2025

GRAND KNIGHT - Patrick Mahon 908-884-3480

Council Phone (908) 688-3197
Hall Rental (908) 688-3197

Grand Knights Message

Brothers, Greetings:

I hope everyone had a wonderful, happy and joyous Christmas. Let's pray that 2025 starts off on a good note for everyone.

We concluded the calendar year with our PGK/Knight of the Year/Adult Christmas Party.

The evening started as we presented a \$1,000 scholarship to Roselle Catholic High School to Dakota Borys. She has been a fixture at many of our Council and Columbian Club activities. Lisa Bonanno was honored as our Robert Jotantos Columbian of the Year, the first time a non-member of our Council was so honored. She brought so much spirit and innovation to the front bar along with special meals and holiday observances. PGK Kevin McClave was named the A.J. DeVito Memorial Knight of the Year for all his contributions to the Council as well as for coordinating our 75th Anniversary Celebration which was a huge success! PGK Andy Wnukowski was given special recognition in what I called the "Knight of Many Years" award. Andy served an unprecedented six terms as Grand Knight leading us through Covid and getting the council back on firm footing after the pandemic. This year we initiated a new award called the Pillar award which recognized four women who have supported their husbands, the Club and the Council, Kerry DeVito, Cheryl Kaelblein, Tina McClave and Kathy Wnukowski. We cannot thank them enough for their efforts, dedication and patience over a lifetime of contributions by their husbands. I would be remiss if I did not thank those who worked behind the scenes to make this dinner a success- PGK Bob Kaelblein, David Large, Kat Wallace, Steve Karwowski, Rich Witting and Pete Kowalski.

The following day we held our annual Children's Christmas Party. The biggest hit of the afternoon was an appearance by Santa, delightfully played by Columbian Club Director, Mike Borys. Thank you to PGK Bob Kaelblein who served as Chef, Chris Lanzafama and Clare Eller Spears who purchased and wrapped the presents, Rich Witting and Steve Karwowski who cleaned up after the mayhem and Dakota Borys who helped wrangle and keep order as children enthusiastically played in the Bouncy House (donated by Guy Varady and John DeVito). Also, a shout out to Kerry DeVito who served as a shopping consultant to our team!

We will be having several events at the Council Hall in the coming months. Mike Niewinski Jr. professionally known as Michael Matthews, will be performing at our Council Hall on Friday, February 7 th from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. There will be a \$10.00 cover charge, and our bar will be open. You may bring your own snacks. The following Sunday, February 9th the Club and Hall will be open for Super Bowl festivities. In addition, on Friday March 9 th (the first Friday of Lent) we will be holding our Lenten Pasta Walk in Dinner. Chef PGK Bob Kaelblein will be providing some Italian specialties.

In more mundane matters, Dues notices have been sent out. We ask that you pay your dues in a timely manner and help prevent the second and third mailings of dues notices. The cost of postage has risen considerably and on a tight budget, each dollar saved is a small blessing. As members have aged and have moved on to other locales as well as a significant change in the demographics of the area, our membership has dwindled which we need to reverse to maintain our presence in

Hillside. If you know of a man who you feel would be a good candidate for our order, please put them in contact with me or any officer.

I wish everyone a healthy, happy and successful New Year.
May God continue to watch over and guide us.
Blessed Mary, Queen of the Knights, Pray for Us.

Fraternally Yours
Pat Mahon, Grand Knight
908-884-3480

COLUMBIAN CLUB

We are pleased to see the great response to our reopening of the bar. The improvements have paid off. Stop in if you are in the neighborhood. I recommend you take some time to enjoy a little refreshment and some time with your brother Knights. We have a few updates planned, primarily with our bathrooms. Concerning the hall it is important to state **“Please do not walk through the hall when parties are going on”** it is disruptive and inconsiderate to our guests.

HALL RENTAL

Please know that our hall is again available for rental within the parameters of the State and CDC guidelines and is ready for any member wishing to rent the hall for everything from Christenings, First Communion, Graduations or any family function. **The hall is being totally sanitized before and after each event and hand sanitizers are conveniently located for your use.** Contact the Club at 908-688-3197. Pictures are also available on our web site at <http://www.hillsidekofc.org>

MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE ~~November - December~~ ^{JAN - Feb}

Thursday January 9th –	Columbian Club Meeting at 6:00p.m. and Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Friday February 7th –	Singer Michael Matthews performs at the Council Hall 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 9th –	Super Bowl Sunday at our Club
Thursday February 13th –	Columbian Club Meeting at 6:00p.m. and Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
For Planning purposes -	Lenten Pasta Walk In Dinner will be held on Friday March 7 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

DUES

2025 Dues have been mailed. It is extremely important to health of our Council to pay your dues promptly. Second notices will be mailed the week of January 15th. If there are any questions concerning the status of your membership please contact our Financial Secretary, Robert Kaelblein at 973-663-2870 and leave a message. It may be also be possible to help those several years delinquent. He will contact you to discuss and/or make corrections.

If anyone no longer wishes to be a member, please state that in writing on your invoice or a signed note (a signature is required) and mail to Knights of Columbus 3197, PO Box 207, Hillside NJ 07205

COAT/CLOTHING DRIVE

Thank you to all who donated to our Coat drive that supported St. Joseph's Social Service Center and the Newark Abbey (St. Benedict's) Coat Closet. I have developed relationships with the staff's at these sites and can take gently used coats/clothing year round. Please contact me at PJMahon@Comcast.net to arrange a donation, pick up etc.

Walk MS 2025

A number of our Brother Knights and I along with their families will be participating in Walk MS 2025 which will be held on Sunday April 6 th at 10:00 a.m. Oak Ridge Park in Clark. We do this in support of PGK Dan Varady who continues his battle with this disease. Please google Walk MS 2025 Clark Nj to find out how to register and/or support TEAM DAN or an individual walker.

Michael Matthews Performance - Mike Niewinski Jr., who is locally known as musician Michael Matthews will be playing at our club on Friday February 7 th from 7:00- 10:00 p.m. It is an evening of guitar and soft music perfect for a date night. There is a \$10.00 cover charge, and the Club bar will be open. Hope to see you there.

Member Seeking an Apartment

Long-time member of the Council seeks a studio or 1-bedroom apartment in the area, preferably in proximity to Christ the King Church in Hillside. Non-smoker, with no pets; references available. Please contact PGK Steve Whoeler at 908-230-0613.

BAPTISMAL ROSE PROGRAM

The Council presents congratulatory roses to mothers of children baptized at St. Catherine's and Christ the King churches. If you can help with the presentation program let Angelo Bonanno, program coordinator at St Catherine's, or Andy Wnukowski, program coordinator at Christ the King, know of your interest. This is a well received program and a beautiful way to let parents-parishioners know about our Council.

A WORD ABOUT CHARITABLE SOLICITATIONS:

From time to time, many of you receive solicitations from the NJ State Knights of Columbus Council asking for donations to support their Charitable Projects. Please know that any money donated to the State Council is not shared with individual Councils. We are solely dependent on what we raise on our own to make our local donations.

COUNCIL WEBSITE

Please check out our still new website at <http://www.hillsidekofc.org> . NOTE: this is a great way to be informed and updated on all Council activities. If you wish to access the Knight letters click on tab for 'newsletters' and type in password 'hillsidekofc3197'.

KofC INSURANCE

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a joyous and merry Christmas.

All of us start the new year afresh. We make resolutions. Let's plan now to look back at the end of 2025 and be able to say, "I kept those resolutions to improve myself, to improve my relationship with my family and friends, and my relationship with God!" An improved prayer life is the goal of many. I know I've made that resolution almost every year. Some years I do better than others.

But here are few things I've found about making resolutions that helped me. First, I don't want to make a resolution that is not possible to keep. I've got to be realistic. I can't go to an extreme. For example, to improve my prayer life, I can't go from praying for 15 minutes in the morning to reading a chapter of the Bible, attending daily Mass, reciting the rosary, and saying the Liturgy of the Hours each day. For me, that's too much of a jump. I'm going to follow that for a day or two and then something will get me off track. Myself, I need to take baby steps. Maybe start with saying the rosary each day. I've got to make my resolution achievable.

The same is true of all those other resolutions we make. I can't go from being a couch potato to running six miles a day...but I could start by walking a mile each day as an achievable step in that direction. I can't starve myself trying to lose weight...but I could cut out snacks between meals as a start. Again, an achievable step. I might want to read more, so I can start by reading a chapter a day in a book. You get the idea. The resolution has to be reasonable, achievable, and specific.

Now here is one resolution that is reasonable, achievable, and specific: Resolve to meet with me to update the information on your family's financial needs analysis. (Or maybe you need to complete a financial needs analysis.) Let's see where you stand. Your financial health is critical to your family's future security. As your field agent I'm charged to meet with each of my members each year. We can take a look at your goals and aspirations and make sure you're on track to keep your family appropriately protected. Let's take the first step. Contact me and we will start with a good conversation!

Vivat Jesus!

KNIGHTLETTER PROGRAM

Material to be submitted in the March - April issue of the KL must be received NO Later than February 10th. Contact GK Patrick Mahon, 908-884-3480 or leave it in the wooden KnightLetter box at the bar. To place an ad, please call the Columbian Club at 908 688 3197.

(908) 353-2936

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