

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

July – August 2025

GRAND KNIGHT – Patrick Mahon 908-884-3480

Council Phone (908) 688-3197
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Grand Knights Message

Greetings Brother Knights and your families:

Since our last KnightLetter the Catholic Church buried Pope Francis and elected his successor Pope Leo, the first American Pope (and a Villanova University Graduate). This is an exciting time for the universal Church as Pope Leo brings a new vitality and energy to the leadership of the Church. It's no secret that the Church was deeply wounded by the Child Abuse scandals that reared their ugly heads during the 90's and the first twenty years of this century. Hopefully, the programs put in place to monitor the safety of children will help eradicate any tolerance of abuse within the church. Under Pope Leo's reign as Pope may we all come back to embrace the good works of the Church both spiritually and the social service/social justice ministries within our beloved Faith.

I write this KnightLetter as we here in New Jersey are going through a record heat wave and summer is truly upon us. Summer is traditionally a quiet time around our Council as Brothers and their families take well deserved vacations, play golf and softball as well as just Rest & Relax. However, during this time, behind the scenes our Council and Columbian Club officers will be preparing an exciting and activity-filled Colombian year. We will have Corn Hole Tournaments, Bingo nights, Charity Dinner Fund Raisers, Special Citizens Drives, Football Sundays, our annual Super Bowl festivities, and Special Sundays at the Bar arranged by our bar-tending team.

Please save the Date of Sunday August 17 th for our annual AJ DeVito Scholarship Dinner. We will honor our beloved Brother AJ, plus raise funds to keep his memory alive and may his legacy of kindness, compassion and the eternal goodness of his soul endure till the end of time. This dinner will be held from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Our Chef par excellence PGK Bob Kaelblein will be preparing a superb menu for this occasion. Please monitor our website in the coming weeks for further details.

Recently I had a daughter of one of our Brother Knights contact me to say her dad was confined to a Nursing Home and would love to have a visit from some fellow Knights. Hopefully we can visit this Brother and in addition, I thought this would be a good program to initiate within our Council. If you would be interested in piloting this program within our Council please let me know. Conversely if you or if you know a Brother Knight who would like a visit from our Council Brothers also reach out to me: PJMahon@Comcast.net.

As many of our Council Officers and Columbian Club Directors are on the "back nine" of the Golf Course of Life, it is imperative that we attract new members of any age but especially those younger folks who can ensure the ongoing sustainability of our Council and Club. If you know any men who would be interested in joining our Council please have them contact me or any Brother Knight of our Council.

Please stay safe in the Summer Sun and Fun. May God continue to watch over and guide us.

Blessed Mary, Queen of the knights, Pray for Us.

Fraternally Yours
Pat Mahon, Grand Knight

Brother to Perform in Red Bank NJ

Brother Joe Puleo a Life Member of our Council will be performing with his group "One Step Down" on Thursday July 24 th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Café Neapoli at 10 Wallace Street in Red Bank. Joe a 1968 graduate of St. Catherine's has been performing since the "Cake Sale and Bazaars" the school held in the 60's. With his move to Mayland it has been hard to see Joe play, but for one night he will be back in the Garden State. Please join Brother Knights, SCS grads and Roselle Catholic alums seeing Joe Puleo's great show.

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 - MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR LIFE

The Knights of Columbus offers a portfolio of products to help protect catholic families. The Rev. Thomas F. Cauty Council #3197 is serviced by the Robert J. McGeehan Agency. Our assigned representative is Michael D. Garofalo, Assistant General Agent. He can be reached by phone at (732) 397-4365 or by email at michael.garofalo@kofc.org .

I was recently informed that Mr. Garafalo qualified for the prestigious Million Dollar Round Table which puts him in the top 2% of Insurance professionals in the world.

Brothers,

This month is the start of our new Fraternal Year together as Knights — a big congratulations to all new council leadership! This is always a time of new beginnings, when councils can start fresh and reassess where they stand in relation to their goals. This should apply to us individually, too, including personal financial goals. Are you on track to reach them? Now is the perfect time to meet with me to review the existing insurance plan you have in place or to help you take the initial steps to create one. I invite you to meet with me every year as your family grows and changes, milestones are reached, and financial needs adjust.

As your brother Knight, it's my privilege to carry out Father McGivney's mission by serving your family and helping you gain a clear picture of your financial protection needs, no matter what your current situation. If I can be honest, I think this is one the most underappreciated benefits of membership in the Knights of Columbus, and if you've never taken advantage of getting a complimentary financial needs review, I encourage you to make this the year! With a personalized review using top-tier financial software, I can give you a transparent illustration of your finances with insights on how your current situation aligns to your future objectives. Together, we'll review your current coverage and identify potential protection gaps, ensuring your plan aligns with your goals. If you're interested in investments that are aligned with Catholic teaching, I can also connect you with Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors, which helps all faith-based investors prepare for retirement, build wealth and beat inflation with additional sources of income.

Knights of Columbus, your premier partner for financial services, is for brother Knights, by brother Knights. I'm here to partner with you. Please see me and we'll set up time to work together to financially safeguard your family.

Again, welcome to all our new council leadership! Thank you for serving in this role — I'm excited to work with Vivat Jesus!

KNIGHTLETTER PROGRAM

Material to be submitted in the September - October issue of the KL must be received NO Later than August 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.

ELECTED OFFICERS for the 2025/2026 Columbian Year.

At our June 12 th Council Meeting the following officers were elected for the 2025/2026 Columbian Year.

Grand Knight – SK, Pat Mahon
Deputy Grand Knight – Chris Lanzafama
Chancellor – Kevin Mc Clave Jr
Recorder – SK, PGK Steven Q. Whoeler
Financial Secretary – SK, PGK Robert Kaelblein
Treasurer – SK, Steve Karwowski
Advocate – PGK John Gross

Warden – SK, David Large
Lecturer – Steve D'Amato
Inside Guard – Chris Fronzak
Outside Guard – Paul Peyton
Trustee – SK, PGK Andy Wnukowski
Trustee – SK, PGK Kevin McClave
Trustee – SK Thomas Childers

COLUMBIAN CLUB

I am pleased to announce our elected Directors for a three year term. Please welcome PGK Kevin McClave, PGK Steve Q. Whoeler and David Large. Some improvements planned are new bar stools, Council hall entrance, and office remodel. We will keep you up to date as progress is made.

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. Contact the Club at 908-688-3197. Pictures are also available on our web site at <http://www.hillsidekofc.org> "Please do not walk through the hall when parties are going on" it is disruptive and inconsiderate to our guests.

DUES

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

MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE July and August

Thursday July 9th – Columbian Club (6:00 p.m.) and Council Meetings (7:00 p.m.).
Thursday August 14th – Columbian Club (6:00 p.m.) & Council Meeting (7:00 p.m.) Election of Officers @ this meeting.
Sunday August 17 th AJ DeVito Scholarship Dinner.
Saturday September 6 th - annual Family Picnic – Check our website in August for further details regarding pricing time etc.

AJ DeVito Scholarship and Valor/Community Appreciation Night – Thursday May 22nd .

During our May 22 nd Awards Knight we honored our late Brother, AJ Devito with presentations of scholarships in his name. My sincere thanks to Ben DeVito who helped present the scholarships, but more importantly spoke eloquently of his brother and the kind and beautiful qualities AJ possessed in his much too shortened life. Those awarded scholarships are listed below

- AJ Devito Scholarship Award Winner – Skylar McClave
- AJ DeVito Scholarship Award Winner – Susan Peterpaul
- AJ Devito Scholarship Award Winner – Dakota Borys
- AJ DeVito Scholarship Award Winner – Anais Giselle Argueta

We also revived the Council's tradition of recognizing Municipal employees that make Hillside a better place to live, work or be a member of the Father Canty Council of the Knights of Columbus. With sincere gratitude we honored:

- Hillside Police Dept Valor Award Recipient – Kevin Valentin
- Hillside Fire Department Valor Award Recipient – Anthony Hyatt
- Hillside Department of Public Works Community Appreciation Award Winner – Anthony Russomano

As mentioned above I would like to thank Ben DeVito for his help in putting this night together. In addition, my thanks and appreciation go to John DeVito, PGK Bob Kaelblein, PGK Kevin McClave, Steve Karwowski, Rich Whiting, and Mike Borys. Moreover, a huge thank you to Acting Hillside Police Chief Brother Matt Cove, Hillside Fire Chief Rashawn Carey, and DPW Director Anthony Russomano along with their brother/sister police officers, firefighters and DPW employees who assisted and/or joined us that evening. A special thank you to Hillside Councilpersons Lisa Bonanno and Andrea Hyatt for their presence at our ceremonies. It is great to know that members of the town government know about our efforts and our appreciation for the services provided.

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, no pets; references available. Please contact PGK Steve Whoeler at 908-230-0613.

(908) 353-2936

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