

REV. THOMAS F. CANTY COUNCIL
NO. 3197, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
P.O. BOX 207
HILLSIDE, NJ 07205



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The KnightLetter

January/February 2026

GRAND KNIGHT - Patrick Mahon 908-884-3480

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

Grand Knights Message

Greetings Brother Knights and members of your families,
I hope everyone has had a wonderful, happy and joyous Christmas. Let's pray that 2026 has started 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 an appreciation Plaque to our long-time chaplain the Reverend Luke Duc Tran. In addition to being our Chaplain, Father Luc serves as pastor of Christ the King Parish. He has an incredible life story from a Vietnamese boat person to a wonderful priest who enthusiastically serves many diverse communities of faith. Donald DeAugustine was honored as our Robert Jotantos Columbian of the Year, in recognition of his leadership and assistance in many physical improvements and repairs to our building. PGK Steven "Q" Whoeler was named the A.J. DeVito Memorial Knight of the Year for all his contributions to the Council as he serves as our Recorder both for the Council and the Columbian Club. Additionally, "Q" assists at every charitable event and serves as our Picnic policeman and a Bingo Night caller. This year's Pillar Award winners, which recognizes women who have supported their husbands, the Club, and the Council – were Joann Large and Kathy Childers. We cannot thank them enough for their efforts, dedication and patience supporting their husbands in their roles in our Council and Columbian Club. 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, Mookie Fronzak, 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 and Chris Lanzafama who served as chefs along with Rich Whiting 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 Brother's Guy Varady and John DeVito). Also, a HUGE shout out to Kerry & Jackie DeVito, the dynamic duo who shopped for and wrapped all the children's gifts.

We will be having several events at the Council Hall in the coming months. On Sunday January 18th, the Council in conjunction with Union County Sheriff Peter Corvelli will be saluting our Hillside Seniors. This event will run from 1:00 p.m. to 4 p.m. will feature lunch provided by Sheriff Corvelli, followed by several games of Bingo. Mike Niewinski Jr., professionally known as Michael Matthews, will be performing at our Council Hall on Friday, February 6th from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. There will be a \$10.00 cover charge, and our bar will be open. The following Sunday, February 8th, the Club and Hall will be open for Super Bowl festivities. In addition, on Friday, February 20th (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 which are detailed below.

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 being 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.

Fraternally Yours

Pat Mahon, Grand Knight

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.

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. 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. Contact the Club at 908-688-3197. Pictures are available on our web site at www.hillsidekofc.org

MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2026

January 8th	Columbian Club and Council meetings 6:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
January 18 th	Salute to Hillside Seniors Luncheon/Bingo 1:00- 4:00 p.m. (In Conjunction with Sheriff Peter Corvelli)
February 6 th	Michael Matthew Performance 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.
February 8 th	Super Bowl Party 3:00 p.m. till the end of the game
February 12 th	Columbian Club and Council meetings 6:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
February 20 th	Lenten Pasta Dinner

DUES

2026 Dues were mailed the week of December 14. Second notices will be mailed January 15. As our Grand Knight mentioned it is extremely important for the health of our Council to pay your dues promptly. 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. 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

A SALUTE TO HILLSIDE SENIORS

On Sunday January 18th the Council in conjunction with Union County Sheriff, Brother Peter Corvelli, will be honoring our local Hillside Seniors. Lunch will be served from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. which will be funded by Sheriff Corvelli. From 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Bingo will be played with total prize money of \$500.00. Admission to Bingo will be \$20.00 for 4 cards and \$5.00 for each additional card.

MICHAEL MATTHEWS PERFORMANCE

Michael Matthews, a well-known local musician, will be playing at our Club on Friday February 8th from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. It will be an evening of guitar and soft music, perfect for a date night. There is a \$10.00 cover charge per person, and the Club Bar will be open. Please feel free to bring your own snacks. A great night to get out of the house and beat the winter doldrums. Proceeds from this event will help subsidize our contribution to TEAMDAN organized by PGK Dan Varady that will participate in the MS WALK in Clark on Saturday April 18th.

LENTEN WALK IN PASTA DINNER

On the first Friday of Lent, February 20th, the Council will be holding our annual Lenten Pasta Dinner. Come enjoy a great meal and support our many Charities. The menu will include Penne with Vodka Sauce, Linguini with (red or white clam sauce), Manicotti or Eggplant Rollatini, plus salad, dessert, coffee and tea. Despite inflation we will keep our cost at \$15 for Seniors and \$18 for Adults.

TEXAS HOLDEM FUNDRAISING TOURNAMENT

Thank you to PGK Joe Cocuzza for originating, preparing for and running the Texas Holdem tournament. Despite the early winter snowstorm which limited the number of participants, a great day was had, and a nice sum was raised for our Charity Account.

IN MEMORIAM

Since our last Knight Letter, we mourn the loss of our Brothers, Lee Kieslor and Alzacio Ezpeleta. May their soul and all the souls of the faithfully departed, Rest in Peace Amen

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. We need additional help at St. Catherine's and if any Brother/family member can assist us, please contact me.

COUNCIL WEBSITE

Please check out our 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".

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.

KofC INSURANCE

The Knights of Columbus offers a portfolio of products to help protect catholic families. The Rev. Thomas F. Canty 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.

Brothers,

Happy New Year! The Knights of Columbus has very exciting news to share as we begin 2026! Beginning January 1, 2026, a dividend increase took effect for eligible participating insurance policies, for the second year in a row. What does an increased dividend rate mean for you? Dividends are amounts that may be paid annually from the surplus funds of the Knights of Columbus and are paid on an equitable basis by class as determined by the Board of Directors.¹

These dividends can be used in various ways, including:

- Purchase paid up additions, which is the default option.
- Place the dividends on deposit and earn additional interest.
- Receive the dividends in cash.
- Reduce billed premium.²
- Reduce an existing loan.

Guided by the vision of our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, we are dedicated to supporting the financial security of our members. Over the past 30 years, Knights of Columbus has paid more than \$8 billion in dividends to those we serve. I would love to sit down with you in the coming year to discuss how this dividend increase may help you achieve your financial security goals.

If you have any questions about this, or any of the benefits of having a Knights of Columbus insurance policy, please chat with me, and we'll schedule a time to meet. Thank you!

¹Dividends are not guaranteed.

²This option is not available on all policies, and not available if policy is paying premiums via a monthly EFT.

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. To place an ad, please call the Columbian Club at 908 688 3197.

(908) 353-2936

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