

REV. THOMAS F. CANTY COUNCIL
NO. 3197, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
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The KnightLetter

July/August 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,

As we close the books on the 2025/2026 Columbian year, I want to say thank you to those who made this such a successful year. Our Council was more active than ever in the post COVID years. So many activities took place and we were able to distribute \$5500 in scholarships in memory of our beloved Brother AJ DeVito. On a personal note, I want to personally thank Deputy Grand Knight Chris Lanzafama, and PGK Bob Kaelblein who stepped in for me when I missed several meetings and events due to my health issues. (A shout out to Brother John DeVito who drove "Mr. Daisy" to many of my appointments, procedures, and surgeries.) I am thanking God that I'm back on my feet and that I can enter my fifth term as Grand Knight.

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

Please save the Date of Sunday August 16th 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 summer menu for this occasion. Please monitor our website in the coming weeks for further details.

I recently attended the New Jersey State Knights of Columbus Convention and during one of the sessions they asked those in attendance to stand when their birth year decade was mentioned. Although I should not have been, I was stunned by the number of Knights in attendance born prior to 1970. I would anticipate if we did the same type of exercise among all the members of our council, we would most likely mirror the State Convention Demographics. It is very important to attract new members to keep our Council active, committed and involved so we can keep our Council Doors open. If you know of 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.

Fraternally Yours
Pat Mahon, Grand Knight

A.J DeVito Scholarship and Valor/Community Appreciation Night

During our May 21st Awards Night 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 – James Patrick Kirk
- * AJ DeVito Scholarship Award Winner – Alexander J. Niewinski
- * AJ DeVito Scholarship Award Winner – Amaya Presley
- * AJ DeVito Scholarship Award Winner – Dakota Borys

We also continued 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 Community Appreciation Award– Fazon Rock.
- * Hillside Fire Department Valor Award – Michael Moran
- * Hillside Department of Public Works Community Appreciation Award Winner – Greg Basara

A new Award was instituted this year, (Thank you PGK Kevin McClave), which recognizes the contributions of a Senior Citizen in our community. In its' inaugural year the Council awarded this honor to Mrs. Rae Deo.

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 Karwoski, and Rich Whiting, Moreover, a huge thank you to Hillside Police Chief 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 Councilperson Lisa Bonanno and Mayor 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.

COLUMBIAN CLUB

We still have a few major renovations needed one being major repairs to our roof. We have been playing around with quick fixes but it finally needs extensive repairs.

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. This applies to all members, including Directors, who are not involved running the affair and/or an invited guest of those holding the function!

Our Columbian Club Directors (3 Year Term): The following Brothers were elected to serve a three-year term(s) as Directors of the Columbian Club: Steve Karowski, Peter Kowalski and Mike Borys.

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 July & August 2026

Thursday July 9th – Columbian Club (6:00 p.m.) and Council Meetings (7:00 p.m.).

Thursday August 13th – Columbian Club (6:00 p.m.) & Council Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

Sunday August 16th AJ DeVito Scholarship Dinner.

Saturday September 12th - Annual Family Picnic – Check our website in August for further details regarding pricing time etc.

At our June 11th Council Meeting the following officers were elected for the 2025/2026 Columbian Year.

Grand Knight – SK. Pat Mahon
Deputy Grand Knight – Chris Lanzafama
Chancellor – Richard Witing
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 Tom Childers

AJ DeVITO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAISER WALK IN DINNER

Mark your calendar for August 16th for our annual AJ DeVito scholarship dinner. Our menu includes Soup of the Day, Salad, choice of BBQ Ribs and Chicken dinner, complete with Baked Beans and Potato Salad, or Roast Beef with Potatoes and Vegetables, or Manicotti with Sausage or Meatballs. As always Dessert. Coffee or Tea included. Cost will be \$20 Seniors and \$25 Adults. This is one of our largest fundraiser of the year. Hope to see you there.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Please keep Past Grand Knight Paul Moran in your prayers as he joined his beloved wife, Linda, in heaven on Sunday June 21st. In addition, please keep Past Grand Knight Andy Wnukowski in your thoughts and prayers as well. Andy has had more than his share of bad luck with a variety of injuries and illnesses. Moreover, our beloved Brother Knight, John DeVito, could use prayers and support as he confronts medical issues of his own. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus envelop and bestow blessings upon these men as well as any Brother Knights sick or in distress.

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 do need additional help at St. Catherines, please contact GK Pat Mahon if you can help.

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.

KoC INSURANCE

Brothers

This month, Americans celebrate and give thanks to God for the 250th anniversary of the United States. The American story is one of 250 years of great sacrifices, freedoms and the responsibility to bear those freedoms well.

I want to talk to you about a special kind of freedom - freedom in retirement. What do you want your retirement to look like? Maybe you'd like to spend more time with family, travel, volunteer or pursue hobbies. If you're already retired, you likely know how important it is to prepare financially for this period of life. Retired or not, have you considered just how long your retirement could be? It could, in fact, last multiple decades. Will you have enough money to cover the lifestyle you want for years to come?

Now, you might doubt that your retirement will span decades. But what about your family? Will their needs be taken care of when you're no longer here? What legacy do you want to leave your children and grandchildren? Don't miss the opportunity to prepare for the freedom of long-term financial stability in retirement.

While it's easy to get lost in the expenses in front of us right now, planning ahead with insurance and fixed annuities can pay off enormously for you and your loved ones. The hardest step may be making the initial decision to start. From there, it doesn't need to be intimidating.

I'm here to partner with you in finding insurance solutions. Whether you want to review the retirement plan you already have in place or are just beginning your journey, we can work together to make sure you have what you need. Let's schedule a time to meet and set your retirement goals in place, and let's continue to thank God for our nation and for all his blessings.

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

(908) 353-2936

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