

REV. THOMAS F. CANTY COUNCIL
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The KnightLetter

September/October 2026

GRAND KNIGHT - Patrick Mahon 908-884-3480

Council Phone (908) 688-3197
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Grand Knights Message

Greetings Brother Knights and members of your families,

When I was a young lad, the first sign that summer was waning was when we celebrated both the Feast of the Assumption and my mother's birthday which coincidentally both fell on August 15th. As I move on to my dotage years, our council's AJ DeVito Scholarship dinner is now another sign that summer is ready to start turning into Fall. Although it may mean the end of summer, the "AJ Dinner" is also our first major activity of the 2026/2027 fraternal year and what an occasion it was, as we honored the life and legacy of our late Brother. PGK Bob Kaelblein and his kitchen crew, (David Large, Steve "Q" Wheeler, and Pete Kowalski) prepared and served over 115 dinners. They were aided by Rich Whiting, PGK Kevin McClave, PGK Gary Williams, JP Varady, and Steve Karowoski in clean-up and other behind the scenes tasks that make an event like this run seamlessly. Chris "Mookie" Fronzak manned the front bar, and I am sure he was very tired the next morning. A huge shout to John DeVito, his grandson Anthony and my Clare who manned the entrance way selling tickets, raffles and accommodating special requests. In a tremendous act of CHARITY, PGK Gary and his wife Johanna Williams and their daughter Kelly donated the proceeds of a significant 50/50 win back to the AJ DeVito Scholarship fund. The Council also received donations from both those who attended the dinner as well as others who could not attend due to scheduling conflicts or who lived out of state. The funds generated from this event go directly to scholarships that aid students in high school or college. Last year the Council awarded \$5500 to deserving recipients and we hope to match or go over that total in this Columbian year.

The officers of both the Council and Columbian Club met in late July to plan events and activities, and they put together a plan for a very active Columbian year. Some of the highlights include the annual Family Picnic on Saturday September 12th, Bingo Nights, beginning in September, on the third Friday evening of each month, Bagels, Beer, Bloody Mary's and Football on Sunday October 26th, Deceased Members Mass on Monday, November 9th, a Charity Dinner on Sunday November 22nd and the Adult Christmas Party on Saturday December 19 followed by the Children's party on Sunday December 20th. Once the new calendar year begins, I will highlight 2027 activities in a future Knight Letter.

I "shamelessly stole" the following from the St. Theresa's Parish (Little Egg Harbor) Bulletin: A person asked God for a birthday cake. Instead, that person received flour, eggs, milk and all the raw ingredients needed to make the cake. The individual was frustrated that God didn't provide the cake that was asked for. Remember, God provides us with all the tools, resources, and opportunities (the ingredients) we need, and asks us to partner with Him through effort and faith to build the final result. Sometimes we become so distracted by what we DON'T have, that we don't realize what we DO have and overlook the blessings already bestowed us. Faith grows when gratitude becomes greater than our expectations. God has already placed countless blessings in our lives. Don't let the pursuit of more keep us from thanking Him for what we have. As I end most KnightLetters, our council needs new members, so that we can continue to serve our parishes and communities. Please reach out to me with anyone who could you recommend for Knighthood.

Please have a great start to the Fall season and may God Bless all our children/Grandchildren who are returning to school. May they do well in their studies and remain safe in their classrooms and campuses.

May God continue to watch over and guide us.
Blessed Mary, Queen of the knights, Pray for Us.

Fraternally Yours
Pat Mahon, Grand Knight

AJ DeVito SCHOLARSHIP

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who came out to support AJ's Scholarship Fund, as well as everyone who generously donated. Your support means so much to our family, and most importantly, helps keep AJ's memory alive. A special thank you to everyone who gave their time and helped make the evening possible, especially Bobby K, the best of the best.

The DeVito Family

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. The Directors continually work to keep our building in good shape. We appreciate all the help we receive from the Directors, Bar Tenders, and Members. Stop in for a visit and some refreshments. Your visits and support means a lot to us and the Council.

"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 in running the affair and/or an invited guest of those holding the function!

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

FAMILY PICNIC

Our Annual Family Picnic will be held on Saturday September 12th from noon to Sunset. For the ease of logistics as well as providing access to clean bathrooms and a possible respite from inclement or uncomfortable weather, the picnic will be held in the Council Parking Lot. The Hall will be open and the air conditioning running for those who need a break from the heat. The menu will include hot dogs, hamburgers, a London Broil or two along with a few surprises that our Chefs will prepare. Cold beverages will also be available that you and your guests can enjoy. Cost will be \$30.00 per family and individual tickets will be \$15.00. Come join us for an afternoon of fun, good food and Brotherhood

MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE September/October 2026

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

Saturday September 12th - Annual Family Picnic –@ the Council Hall and Property

Friday September 18th -Bingo Night at the Knights

Friday October 16th Bingo Night at the Knights

Sunday October 25th Bagels, Beer & Bloody Mary's for Sunday Morning NFL Football

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Since the publication of our last KnightLetter we have lost Brothers Angelo Bonanno and "Young" Jimmy Morris. We extend our condolences to the Morris/McKenna families as we all mourn the loss of Jimmy, who fought a brave and valiant fight against cancer. Our condolences are also offered to the Bonanno family, most especially his daughter Lisa who helped revitalize the Bar after Covid. In addition, please keep Past Grand Knight Andy Wnukowski in your thoughts and prayers as well. Andy has been hospitalized or in Rehab facilities, due to illness or injury much of this calendar year. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus envelope and bestow blessings upon these men, their families as well as any Brother Knights sick or in distress.

CHRIST THE KING PARISH GROUNDS CLEAN UP

The Council will be helping clean up the property and grounds of Christ the King Parish during the latter half of September. With a new pastor Father Gabriel Curtis taking over as Pastor of both Hillside churches, we will be endeavoring to strengthen our connections with our "home" parishes. We are tentatively looking at Saturday September 19th to begin this work. If you are interested in this project, please contact me or PGK Kevin McClave. Additional information will be posted on the Council Website as time draws near.

BINGO NIGHTS AT THE KNIGHTS

After a summer hiatus, Bingo Night at the Knights will resume on Friday September 18 and October 16 th . Join us as the Council celebrates the 8 th Sacrament of the Church and raises money for our Charitable Donations Fund. Don't miss out on hearing PGK Kevin McClave and other guest celebrities call Bingo in manner you might never have heard before!

BAPTISMAL ROSE PROGRAM

The Council has presented 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 me know. In the past it was handled by Angelo Bonanno for St. Caterines and Andy Wnukowski for Christ the King. This is a well received program and a beautiful way to let parents-parishioners know about our Council. I would appreciate input and volunteers to keep this program going. We can discuss at our next meeting.

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

Brothers

I want to start this month's message with an interesting, but lesser-known story about Father McGivney. We know our Founder cared deeply about the lives of his parishioners and strengthening their sense of community. He was also very practical about what a parish community most often needs: money.

One fall, with St. Mary's in debt to creditors, he led an ingenious combination fundraiser and social event. St. Mary's hall turned into a coffeehouse filled with music, dancing, skits, dessert and, of course, coffee, which was a profitable draw at the time. The party was only supposed to last one night, but the people of New Haven kept coming and drew it out for a week!

In the end, Father McGivney was able to pay down a good amount of the debt — and further solidified his reputation as a priest deeply embedded in the life of his parish. Father McGivney recognized and valued the things that really matter: God. Fellowship. A sense of belonging and the space to reinforce those ties of friendship, mutual support and common faith.

Brothers, September is Life Insurance Awareness Month, but what I'd like to propose is that we think of it as "The Things That Matter" Month. What does your family value? What are the pillars of your family culture? What do you want to preserve for them when you're no longer here? Life insurance can be a big part of that. Maybe you want to protect the home that shelters your family, that's set the stage for so many memories and is a safe haven for your children to return to. Maybe you want to ensure that your children — or grandchildren — will have access to high-quality education. Or maybe you want to safeguard a family business or a similar legacy that can continue to provide for your loved ones.

We can talk about these options and more, and whether they might best be covered by temporary or permanent policies. Ideally, I want to help you match your insurance coverage not just with your basic needs, but with the things that your family deems most important to preserve. This month, I challenge you to think about what those things are. And if you don't have a plan to protect them, give me a call. 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.

Michael Garofalo, (732) 397-4365, michael.garofalo@kofc.org

Vivat Jesus!

KNIGHTLETTER PROGRAM

Material to be submitted in the November/December issue of the KL must be received NO Later than October 10th. Contact GK Patrick Mahon. 908-884-3480. To place an ad, please call the Columbian Club at 908 688 3197.

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