

## **Knights of Columbus Council 7556 History**

Founded by Father Michael J. McGivney in March of 1882 in New Haven, CT., for the purpose of rendering aid and assistance to members and their families in time of need and for fraternal fellowship. Today the K of C is a worldwide society of Catholic men who have pledged themselves to give constant cooperation to our bishops and pastors in furthering the cause of God and His Church in our dioceses and parishes. The basic principles of the Order are Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. All members must pledge themselves to these ideals.

In 1979 several men of the St John's parish were having coffee and donuts after Sunday Mass, in the hall. A discussion of the Knights of Columbus was brought up. Several of those present were members of other councils, but were not active due to the time it took to drive to meetings in other towns and home again. Some had been members but were not current members. Msgr. Michael Schwarte was contacted and he gave his permission to start a Knights of Columbus council in the St Johns parish.

On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1980 a letter signed by Tony Leo went to all men of the St John, St Patrick and the Church Of The Assumption parishes. Announcing a meeting to be held at St. Johns Hall on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 1980 to explore the possibilities of organizing a local K of C council. District Deputy George Johns and several men from the Indianola council came and talked about the importance of starting a local council at St John's - Cumming.

The next organization meeting was held on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1980 for the purpose of a starting a K of C council in Cumming. At this meeting eleven men were nominated to be officers for the next year. With the election of officers was to be held at the next meeting, to be held on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 8PM.

On May 5<sup>th</sup> 1980 at 8PM election of officers for the next term year were held. Tony Leo was elected to be our first Grand Knight. Al Coleman as Deputy Grand Knight, Msgr. Michael Schwarte was elected Chaplain; we were deeply honored, as Monsignor was a member of the K of C's for 50 years. At that meeting an initiation was held in the first degree. The council chose to be named after the first

residency pastor at St Johns – Cumming, IA. Fr. James Quinn council.

The Supreme Council issued our Charter # 7556 Fr. James Quinn council on April 24<sup>th</sup> 1980. It has 56 Charter Member names slated on it.

Our first Tootsie Roll campaign was held Sept 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 1980 and every year since.

Our first exemplification into the second and third degrees was held in the parish hall on Sunday October 12<sup>th</sup>, 1980, for a class of Twenty-Nine men.

The Knights of Columbus Youth Group called SQUIRES. Was begun earlier about 1975, by Richard Harkin and assisted by Bill Hartshorn.

Our first Bingo was held October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1980.

Our first Lenten Fish Fry was March 6, 1981 and every Lenten Season to date. Our record attendance at fish fries was 570 served on March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1990 and 560 served on March 30<sup>th</sup> 1990.

Our first Steak Dinner was in October 1980.

Our first Corporate Communion was June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1981

Our first Dinner/Dance was June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1981 after the Corporate Communion. Two dinner/dances per year were held, helping our seminarians Tom Dooley (a member of our council) and Chris Hartshorn, both members of St. Johns and now both ordained priests.

Our first Free Throw Contest Both local and District contests have been held here at the High School since Jan 15<sup>th</sup>, 1983 and every year to date.

Our first annual Altar Server appreciation outing with the Iowa Cubs was July 15<sup>th</sup> 1988 and every year to date.

Perpetual memorial for all deceased member of our council was started in June 1992.

In 1992 Jim Cain was instrumental in starting a College scholarship fund for graduating High School Seniors. Starting with one \$300.00

scholarship per of year for three years. As more funds became available it has increased to giving five to six \$500.00 scholarships per year.

Our first Scholarship Fund Raiser Dinner/Dance was held April 24<sup>th</sup> 1993

Our first Scholarship was given to

- |      |  |   |
|------|--|---|
| 1993 | Amy Anderson,  |   |
| 1994 | Michelle Tracy,  |   |
| 1995 | Katie Sparks,  |   |
| 1996 | Rachel Moser   | Amy O'Brien   |
| 1997 | Derron Kitterman   | Jennifer Welp,  |
| 1998 | Nic Lyon   | Jill King   |
| 1999 | Patrick Weaver   | Natalie Struecker                                     |
| 2000 | Katie Mulfred  | Melanie Fredrick                                      |
| 2001 | Laura Pinneke,<br>Rebecca Larson                                   | Jeff Kluever  |
| 2002 | Jessi Knox,<br>Justin Moser,<br>Nicole Lewis                       | Rob Fox,<br>Peter Sand                                |
| 2003 | Chris Armstrong,<br>Dan McGonegle,<br>Hannah Packard               | Tiffany Keller,<br>Justin Ritchhart,<br>Kali Smrcina  |
| 2004 | Jessie Clark,<br>Nicole Cleveringa,<br>Matt Welp                   | Marissa Schmitz,<br>Shana Smrcina,<br>Tony Miller     |
| 2005 | Kayla Fleming,<br>Kelly McGonegle,<br>Mollie Sammon<br>Ryan Schall | Kelsey Loebe,<br>Katie Richardson,<br>Jessica St John |
| 2006 | Kaila Ballard,<br>Pamela Neubauer,<br>Cierra Stella,               | Jennifer Muto,<br>Shelby Sever<br>Sara Folsom         |

Our council #7556 has always supported our seminarians, priests, bishops and all church functions. Donations to the After Prom Party and Project Graduation, at Norwalk High School, scholarships for graduating seniors and many other civic and youth needs, E.G. Boy Scouts, Lions Club, and families in need, **and the list goes on.**

Many members of our council that have distinguished themselves are: Rev Fr. Chris Hartshorn, Rev. Fr. Phillip Lawler, Rev. Mr. Dave Miller, Rev. Mr. Steve VanKerckvoorde, Rev. Fr. Patrick Bacon was named State Chaplin Of The Year in 1985; Rev. Fr. Patrick Bacon and \*Charles Bell were elected at K of C State Conventions to be delegates of Iowa at K of C Supreme National

Conventions. Charles Bell was also a District Deputy for (4 years), and a Fourth Degree Faithful Navigator; \*Dave Knoblauch was Faithful Comptroller (4 years) and a Faithful Navigator the highest office held in Fourth Degree Assemblies; Other Fourth Degree members include; Rev. Fr. Patrick Bacon, Rev. Fr. John Ludwig, Rev. Fr. Tom Dooley, Tony Leo, \*Richard Stanley, Larry Hanrahan, \*Harold Harkin, Jim Cain, John Neifert, Mike Harkin, \*Paul Harkin, \*Al Coleman, \*Rev. Mr. Dave Miller, John Phillips, \*Bernard Murphy, \*Domonick Cimino, Ned Kluever, \*Ricardo Alverio, David Hanf, Terry McGonegle, Tom Lampe, Mark Burke, Matt Meneough, **\*Denotes:** That they are also members of the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Honor Guard – who attend many special events for the Bishops and priests on request, Corporate Communions, stand guard at fellow Fourth Degree members' funeral wakes, Parades and other events.

In 1988 Charles Bell was appointed to the State Family as District Deputy for four years. Charles Bell was also the first Knight from our council to serve on one of the four State Second and Third Degree Teams. Other team members from our council were Dave Knoblauch, John Casey, Jim Przykucki and Andy Tovrea.

Today there are 125+ members of the Knights of Columbus in our council. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 8 P.M. in the parish hall. Any Catholic male 18+ years old is welcome.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS of our council; Rev. Mr. Dave Miller, Dave Knoblauch, Jim Cain, John Casey, Richard Harkin, Bud Ewell, Terry McGonegle, Domonick Cimino, Dick Smrcina, Ted Moiser, Karl Ruszkowski, Jeff Morrissey, Jay Fredrick, Bernard Murphy, Mike Shoemaker, Tom Lampe, Mark Miller, Mark Burke, Justin Wiese, Tom Smolen.

**Grand Knights of our council:**

The following men have served as Grand Knights since our founding in 1980:

Tony Leo	1980 – 1981
Al Coleman	1981 – 1982
Tom Wiedmann	(2 terms) 1982 – 1984
Dave Knoblauch	1984 – 1985
Charles Brick	1985 – 1986
John Phillips	1986 – 1987
Larry Arnold	1987 – 1988
Steve VanKerckvoorde	1988 – 1989
Dave Cavanaugh	1989 – 1990
Paul King	1990 – 1991
Jim Cain	1991 – 1992
Charles Bell	1992 – 1993
Richard Harkin	1993 – 1994
Bruce Spurlock	1994 – 1995
Mark Brecht	1995 – 1996
Terry McGonegle	1996 – 1997
Mike Schall	(2 terms) 1997 – 1999
Fran Doll	1999 – 2000
Bud Ewell	2000 – 2001
Ned Kluever	2001 – 2002
Domonich Cimino	2002 – 2003
Steve Pemberton	2003 – 2004
John Casey	2004 – 2005
Ricardo Alverio	2005 – 2006
Tim Houk	2006 – 2007

**Deceased members of our council:**

Martin Hanrahan	8/8/84
John Harkin	3/09/85
Bob Belmonte Sr.	6/23/85
John King	10/13/85
Paul Harkin	5/12/89
Rev. Fr. Pat Bacon	5/18/89
Don Cameron	5/31/89
James (Larry) Hanrahan	8/17/89
Leonard Walsh	4/15/92
Richard Stanley	2/26/94
Frederick Kokke	8/27/95
Rev. Fr. Phillip Lawler	12/16/95
Harold Harkin	1/16/96
John Nemetz	8/25/96
Tony Leo	7/30/99
Al Coleman	12/4/99
Jim Przykucki	12/10/00
Richard (Earl) Webb	2/09/04
Charles Bell	12/14/04
Charles Pettit	12/09/05
Charles Brick	1/07/06
Leo Deters	5/31/06