



## **History of the Our Lady of Peace Knights of Columbus, Council #14282**

By: J. Michael Finn, Lecturer  
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### **The Knights of Columbus**

The Knights of Columbus was founded on the principles of charity, unity and fraternity on February 6, 1882 by Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut, and a group of parishioners. Blessed Father Michael McGivney, was beautified on October 31, 2020 and he is currently being considered for sainthood.

By 1910, councils had been chartered throughout the United States and Canada, and international expansion continued into Mexico, the Philippines, Cuba and Panama. The Order is dedicated to the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.

Today, there were nearly two million members around the world. There are more than 16,000 local Knights of Columbus councils.

### **Our Lady of Peace Council #14282**



Our Lady of Peace Parish was founded in 1946 as a parish within the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio.

The Our Lady of Peace Knights of Columbus Council was founded at Our Lady of Peace Parish in July 2007.

The pastor of OLP, at that time, was Father Kevin J. Kavanagh. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and he first proposed the idea that OLP should have a Knights of Columbus Council.

In early 2007 announcements were made in the Sunday Bulletin that Our Lady of Peace Parish was considering the possibility of starting a Council. The announcement encouraged any men of the parish who were interested in starting a Council to attend an organizational meeting in the Gathering Space.

The initial organizational meeting was held and was well attended. It was conducted by the District Deputy of the Knights, Edward Olenhouse and included Knights from the St. Brendan's and St. Michael Councils to assist him. Literature was distributed and a review of the history and mission of the Knights of Columbus was provided. The names of those interested in joining the new division were collected. Several organizational meetings followed.

New members were welcomed and initiated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree by the Knights of St. Joan of Arc Council degree team. St. Michael's Knights of Columbus Council purchased the first

officer jewels for the new Council. Volunteers for the various OLP Council officer positions were also solicited. The names of forty-eight interested members were recorded and they became Charter Members of the Our Lady of Peace Council and their names are inscribed upon the National Charter of the OLP Council.

After months of planning it was determined that the Council would officially begin on July 1, 2007, the beginning of the 2007-2008 Fraternal Year. The first formal meeting was held on Tuesday, July 17, 2007 in the Gathering Space; Grand Knight Thomas B. Scarpitti called the first meeting to order.

## Original 48 Charter Members of the Our Lady of Peace Council

Name	Name	Name
Rev. Kevin J. Kavanagh	Alfred J. Girlando*	Ted H. Morse
Rev. Edward McFarland*	Louis J. Griffith	Eugene J. Nolan*
Andrew J. Bott	Thomas V. Gulla	James B. O'Brien
Robert N. Brehm	Paul Huck	James T. O'Brien, Jr.
Frederick A. Brophy	David R. King	Timothy J. O'Brien
Paul J. Casper	Wayne C. King	Charles J. Ogden
Thomas N. Close*	William B. Kinsey	Edward J. Price
Joseph P. Conroy	Robert J. Krammer	Michael C. Rea
Terrence J. Deibel*	Jeffery E. Krause	Brien J. Reis*
Gregory T. Dettore	Michael J. Lang	Thomas B. Scarpitti
Arthur W. Ehlert	Terrence E. Lannan	Scott A. Schuler
Randy L. Ettter	Michael L. Learn	Michael J. Semon
J. Michael Finn	Rickey L. Lovell	Michael J. Vaeth
Michael G. Flack	William M. Mattes	Joseph C. Weithman
Gregory J. France	James E. McAdams	Joseph P. Yonadi
Robert J. Giesken	Kevin Miller	Ronald E. Zielke
<b>*Deceased</b>		



## Our Lady of Peace Council #14282 Founding Officers 2007

Office	Name
Chaplain	Rev. Kevin J. Kavanagh
<b>Grand Knight</b>	<b>Thomas B. Scarpitti</b>
Deputy Grand Knight	Louis J. Griffith
Chancellor	Robert J. Giesken
Financial Secretary	Ted H. Morse
Recorder	Thomas V. Gulla
Treasurer	James E. McAdams
Lecturer	J. Michael Finn
Advocate	William M. Mattes
Warden	Frederick A. Brophy
Inside Guard	Robert N. Brehm
Outside Guard	Edward J. Price
<b>Board of Trustees</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Year	Joseph P. Yonadi
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	Terrence J. Deibel
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	Rickey L. Lovell

## Grand Knights of the Our Lady of Peace Council #14282

Name	Term of Service
Thomas B. Scarpitti	2007-2008
Louis J. Griffith	2008-2009
Louis J. Griffith	2009-2010
Joseph P. Yonadi	2010-2011
Joseph P. Yonadi	2011-2012
Robert N. Brehm	2012-2013
Robert N. Brehm	2013-2014
David Davisson	2014-2015
David Davisson	2015-2016
Edward J. Price	2016-2017
Edward J. Price	2017-2018
Robert N. Brehm	2018-2019
Steven Gauntner	2019-2020
David Heilman	2020-2021
David Heilman	2021-2022

*Over the years since its founding the OLP Knights of Columbus have organized many projects, programs and events. The following are a few of these efforts, many of which remain as annual projects of the OLP Knights today:*

### **Charter Presentation**



On Sunday, April 20, 2008 following the 11:30 AM Mass, the OLP Council was formally presented with its charter. The Charter represents the authority from the Supreme Council that the OLP Council is recognized as a Council of the Knights of Columbus.

District Deputy Jim Cogan and Past District Deputy Ed Olenhouse presented the Charter to Grand Knight Tom Scarpitti.

Also present at the ceremony were the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus who escorted the Council members and their families to reserved seats at the beginning of Mass. The Charter remains on display in the OLP Council's award case located in the Gathering Space.

### **Regular Meetings**

Our regular monthly meetings were established on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. The first council meetings were held in the Gathering Space until May 19, 2015 when the meetings were moved to the Old Rectory. The Rosary is always said before each meeting. In 2020-21 due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Council temporarily converted to Zoom meetings.

### **The OLP Knights Newsletter**

The first Our Lady of Peace Knights Newsletter was published in August 2007. Its first editor was Lecturer J. Michael Finn. The newsletter has received several awards and recognitions by the State Council, as well as, from the OLP Knights Council.

### **The Parish Festival**



Even though the OLP Knights Council had just begun, the members participated in the July 20 and 21, 2007 Parish Festival, sporting their new OLP Knights tee shirts.

Brother Knights helped sell instant bingo tickets and the Knights also contributed two gift baskets to the silent auction.

For several years the OLP Council also successfully ran the Casino Night at the festival.

## St. Francis Mission, McArthur, Ohio

In the Fall of 2007 the OLP Knights agreed to assist the OLP St. Vincent de Paul Society with its annual collection of clothing and household items to benefit St. Francis Mission in McArthur, Ohio. St. Francis Mission provides clothing and other assistance to the poor of Vinton County.

The OLP Council took on the responsibilities of assisting in the collection and then driving the truck load of donations to St. Francis' Mission in McArthur. The first collection and drive to McArthur took place on September 29 and 30, 2007. Each year since then the OLP Knights have participated in the annual clothing drive, making the annual trip to McArthur with a truck load of clothing.



## The OLP Council Makes the News!

The OLP Council was featured in a *Columbus Dispatch* article on November 30, 2007 about the growth and popularity of the Knights of Columbus in Columbus, Ohio. The article included quotes from the Grand Knight Tom Scarpitti and Brother Knight Randy Etter. Following is the excerpt from the article that mentions the OLP Council:



“The chance to help his parish and community appealed to Tom Scarpitti (left). So when the Rev. Kevin Kavanagh, pastor of Our Lady of Peace, suggested the parish men start a Knights of Columbus council, Scarpitti agreed. The council has grown fast since starting in June, with 37 members and seven more applicants.

“It is nice to get the men of the parish involved in something,” said Scarpitti, a 37-year-old father who hopes his two sons follow his example when they are eligible to join at 18.

The blend of fundraising and fellowship also drew 49-year-old Randy Etter, who joined the new council at Our Lady of Peace.

“I like to stay active in the parish and community,” he said. “The Knights of Columbus has a great reputation for service.”

The article noted regarding the Knights, “Our main purpose is to be the strong right arm of the Church.”

## Donut Sundays for the Parish



Rectory or outdoors in good weather.

The OLP Knights began in 2008 providing donuts to the parish after Mass. The first Donut Sunday was held Sunday, January 20, 2008. These began in the Gathering Space and some were held outdoors in good weather. Since that time Donut Sunday has become a regular monthly feature of the OLP Knights service to the parish and is held in the Old

## Programs for Youth – Free Throw Competition and More

The OLP Council began its annual Free Throw Competition on January 19, 2008 for the youth of the parish. It was coordinated by Brother Randy Etter and there were 28 participants.

Since then the OLP Council has sponsored the youth Soccer Challenge and Pinewood Derby competitions for the OLP Boy Scouts. In addition, the OLP Council has worked in close association with the Our Lady of Peace School to provide gifts for students receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation and for graduating 8<sup>th</sup> Grade classes.



## Star Council Awards

Each year the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus recognizes councils that meet or exceed their membership and insurance quotas, while also conducting well-rounded programs. The prestigious Star Council award recognizes outstanding achievement in membership, insurance and service program activities.

The OLP Knights Council has been fortunate to receive this award every year since its inception. Only a few Councils in the country can make this claim. This is indeed a credit to our Grand Knights and, in particular, our hard working Council members who made the events successful.

Councils that achieve 200 percent of their goals are awarded the Double Star Council award. The OLP Council had the honor of receiving the Double Star Council award for its activities in the 2010-2011 Fraternal Year. Our many awards can be seen in the OLP Knights display case in the Gathering Space.



## Measure Up Campaign for Columbus Special Olympics

On Friday, May 23 and Saturday, May 24, 2008 the OLP Council participated in the first Measure Up Campaign. This outdoor collection was held at the Wal-Mart on Morse Road. The proceeds of the collection benefited the Columbus Special Olympics. Brother Chad Ogden headed up the first collection. Wal-Mart doubled the amount we collected that year.

Since then subsequent annual collections have been done at the intersection of N. High and Henderson Road. A check is presented each year to Columbus Special Olympics. Thanks to these collections the OLP Knights have raised thousands of dollars to support the Columbus Special Olympics.



## The Terry Deibel Fund



On February 11, 2015 our brother and friend Terry Diebel (1962-2015) passed away after spending the several months in and out of the hospital. Terry was a charter member, a third degree Knight and served as a Trustee of the OLP Council since its beginning. Despite Terry's physical limitations, he was able to attend most meetings and participate with the Knights in many of our activities. He was always proud to be an active OLP Knight and served as an example for his brother Knights.

When he died, his family, OLP parishioners, OLP Knights and friends donated to his memorial fund. After many discussions on how best to spend the money, it was suggested by our Financial Secretary Christopher George that the council establish a fund with the Catholic Foundation so that the Council could continue to make charitable donations each year on the anniversary of Terry's death.

The Mission Statement of the fund is: "To promote the spiritual growth and development of the Our Lady of Peace Knights of Columbus Council and its charitable activities in our parish, neighborhood, and diocese in memory of Terry Deibel."

Approximately **5%** of the capital balance of the fund is used every February to fund a charitable donation to honor his memory. The Council has used the proceeds to contribute to the Knights of Columbus Wheelchair programs as well as the OLP St. Vincent de Paul Society. Through the ongoing generous donations of the OLP Knights the fund continues to grow every year. Terry's presence in our Council is missed and we hope this ongoing memorial fund will continue to honor his legacy. Requiescat in pace.

## Operation Buckeye

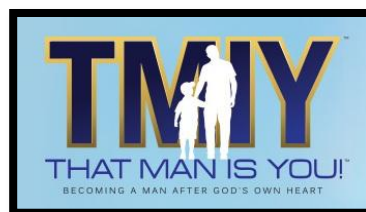


Assisting our troops overseas has been a priority with the OLP Knights. Beginning in November the Council partnered with Operation Buckeye, a local non-profit organization that sent care packages of various needed items (books, toiletries, candy, etc) to Ohio troops serving overseas.

Brother Wayne King originally suggested this project and ran the collection each year until Operation Buckeye was forced last year to cease operations due to the health of its founder.

## That Man is You!

On Saturday, September 17, 2011 the OLP Council began its support of a new program for men of the parish. The new program, called **That Man is You** was originally suggested by Ed Price and was a program he had noticed at a church in Florida. The first sessions at OLP were coordinated by Ed and Chris George, with Deacon Jeff Fortkamp serving as facilitator.



Our Lady of Peace Parish was the first parish in the Columbus Diocese to offer the program. Initial participants came from ten other parishes in the Diocese. Since then the program has been adopted by many other parishes.

## Right to Life Activities



To be a Knight is to be Pro-Life. The right to life is unlike any other right. It is the most basic right and the condition of all other personal rights, constituting the foundation of every human community and the political community itself. Pope Francis said, "If we deprive the weakest among us of the right to life, how can we effectively guarantee respect for every other right?"

The OLP Council has been active since its inception in supporting a Culture of Life. The Council has participated in the 40-Days for Life.

In addition, it has assisted the Columbus Right-to-Life at their annual Spiritus Banquet; and it has collected tens of thousands of diapers as part of our on-going Diaper Drive. Bob Giesken served as the prime mover for these Right-to-Life projects. The OLP Council was given a state award for its success with the Diaper Drive.



## Outreach to the Philippines



In July 2019, at the suggestion of Brother Greg Campbell, the OLP Knights Council decided to assist children in the Philippines who were in need. Greg contacted the Msgr. Vincente S. Fernandez Council #9101, Ambucay, Bataan, Philippines and found that they were conducting a campaign to aid children in the area. The OLP Knights Council partnered with the Philippine council. The project was to provide elementary school children with items to help in case of disasters such as floods and power outages. Items

provided to the children were boots, flashlights, raincoats and other safety items. The OLP Knights contributed to their campaign. We again partnered with Council #9101 in the Philippines in December 2020 to provide Christmas packages to Salian Elementary School in Abucay, Bataan. The 276 elementary school students were using an abandoned building as their school.

## Christmas Parties and Council Socials

Two important principles of the Knights of Columbus are Friendship and Unity. In order to foster these principles it is important for the work of the OLP Council that the OLP Council get together periodically for a social gathering. The OLP Council's annual Christmas Party, held at the Pizza House in December allows for the members to gather with their wives and celebrate the Christmas season. In addition, the Council has been periodically sponsoring socials during the year at a local restaurant, allowing members and their wives to get together in fellowship and enjoy each other's company.



## Conclusion

One of the problems with assembling this history was trying to make a decision on what OLP Knights projects to include in the history. The OLP Knights have accomplished much in the fifteen years and attempting to write a history of those years was indeed a challenge. **Thank You** to Brothers Bob Brehm and Lou Griffith for their assistance in assembling this history.

Amazingly, even during the very challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020-21 the OLP Knights have maintained their commitment to all of its projects and programs. With God's blessing the Our Lady of Peace Knights of Columbus will continue to grow in membership and prosper as together.

**Our Lady of Peace, Pray for Us.**

# OLP Knights 15 Years of Active Service to Our Parish and to Our Community



