

## **Montgomery Council #2323**

Our Council meets at 8 pm on the first and third Tuesday of each month at our council home, 17001 Overhill Road, Derwood, Maryland. Our Executive Officers meet the first Tuesday at 7:15 pm.

Our Officers were installed on Saturday morning, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at the Shrine of Saint Jude parish in Rockville, Maryland. Prior to the installation a Mass was concelebrated by our Worthy Chaplain Father Robert V. Zylla and Father John R. Clark of the Shrine of Saint Jude parish. We immediately convened for a reception at our council hall, with a lovely brunch of pastries and catered individual omelette's. At the reception we were honored by the wise words of our Worthy State Secretary Mr. Peter Davio.

### **Church Activities - John K. Leighton**

Our Council hosted four Masses - the Feast of the Assumption; a Council Memorial Mass in honor of our deceased members; a Joint Communion Mass and Breakfast with Mayanet and Peter Paul Maher councils; and our annual Shrove Tuesday Mass and pancake supper. We provided coffee, doughnuts, and hot chocolate after Thanksgiving Mass at each of our three parishes. We provided a stipend of \$500 each to three seminarians at Mount Saint Mary's. Many of our members work as ushers and Eucharistic ministers at their parish, and several perform usher duties at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. At every meeting we recite a decade of the rosary, pray for vocations, and for the Venerable Michael Joseph McGivney.

### **Community Activities - Calvin J. Ogden**

Our council provided critical support for the Saint Martin's Community Food Pantry. We were responsible for providing funds for 3,800 lbs of rice, and approximately \$1,000 worth of various canned foods. Thanks to Leo Snyder for organizing this effort. Several other council members work as volunteers distributing food for the pantry. We performed more than 200 hours of service collecting for the intellectually challenged during our annual Tootsie Roll drive. We hosted several parties for the Special Olympics - the summer barbeque; a dance party; and a Christmas party; and we sponsored them at the Tootsie Roll Awards banquet. We hosted an annual Spaghetti Dinner to benefit the St. Francis of Assisi Haiti Medical Mission, with net proceeds of over \$1,600 to the mission. We provided dinner and entertainment for over 200 Senior Citizens at our annual Senior's Dinner/Dance party. We donated \$1,000 to the Knights of Columbus Child in Need Program. Several Council members proudly marched with our Council Banner at the March for Life in Washington, DC.

## **Council Activities - Shannon H. Doherty**

We hosted an annual dinner to honor Past Grand Knights of our council, and were delighted by the words of our Worthy State Warden Steve Adamczyk. The Council Christmas Party was a great time, and over \$500 cash, plus gifts, were raised for the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center. Two very successful Fish Fries were held during Lent, a great opportunity for council families and friends to socialize, and to raise valuable Council funds. Thanks to Gary Palmer this was our best year ever for sales of 2009 Entertainment Books, netting a profit of \$2,797.50 for the Council. The Family of the Month, and Knight of the Month awards were a priority for the year. It was great to honor council members and families for extraordinary service. Our meeting attendance was up, attributable to new and energetic members.

## **Family Activities - Michael E. Bean**

Our families working together form the basis of our council. The monthly Family Night was the best new program for our Council, raising over \$7,800 for worthy charities, and boosting our membership potential. Special Thanks to Mike Bean and Pat Gilroy for co-hosting this series of events.

## **Youth Activities - Matthew E. Mongelli**

Our Council had wonderful Children's Christmas and Halloween Parties. We had three District level free throw champions, and the State winner (for two consecutive years) - in the 10 year old division. We donated \$12,000 to our parish schools (\$4,000 to each parish) for renovations of their own discretion.

## **Membership - Christopher H. Dierken**

We added more than our membership and insurance quota, but fell victim to attrition of members that failed to pay their dues. With continued effort, we should be at a pivotal moment of council growth.

## **Conclusion**

The Grand Knight thanks all the Officers, Directors, and Chairmen of the Council for their continuous support, and the directors of our Building Corporation for their extensive efforts with hall renovations and tireless support of Council functions. And special thanks to my wife Amanda for her support throughout the year. It was a pleasure to work with District Deputy John Durbin and District Warden Jack Giacalone, and all of the State Officers. This was a great year for our Council, and a wonderful experience for me, affording me both spiritual and emotional growth.