

Knights of Columbus

“Past and Present, Parallels and Prologue: the History of Longmont Council 1313, 1908-2008”

Foreword

Reviewing the history of Longmont Council 1313 of the Knights of Columbus on its 100th anniversary, one is struck by the parallels between past and present. History truly does repeat itself. The problems confronted by our forebears 100 years ago are remarkably similar to those we encounter today: issues of prejudice, the decline of morality, political conflict, war and disaster on the national and international level; problems with finances, recruitment and retention, and promoting participation at the parish and Council level. A pessimist might reasonably wonder: “What’s the point? Why do we continually face the same problems? Why is there no evidence of progress in the past 100 years?”

But the Knights of Columbus is not about pessimism.

The Knights of Columbus, organizationally, collectively, and individually celebrate and embrace the spirit of optimism. Faithful to the four basic principals of our organization, “Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism”, our brotherhood promotes that which is the best, the most uplifting, and the most promising in our Church, our Order, and our society. We look back on our history with pride in our predecessors’ accomplishments and look forward to honoring their legacy by living out our own commitment to unselfishly serving our parishes, our community, and our nation.

Vivat Jesus!

Foundations: 1882-1908

The Knights of Columbus was founded at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1882. Our founder, Father Michael McGivney, had a vision of a men’s fraternal organization that would answer the challenges of the time; one that would provide a Catholic alternative to the secular societies that were popular at the time, while promoting the stability of the family and support of the Church. Mindful of the impending 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus’ discovery of the New World (1492-1892), his affiliation with the Catholic Church, and the reverence with which he was regarded in America at the time, Columbus was chosen as patron of the nascent organization. While Father McGivney himself proposed the “Sons of Columbus”, the 24 original members of “San Salvador Council #1” chose the sobriquet “Knights of Columbus” as they felt it would

lend an air of nobility to the cause, emphasizing their commitment to service and spirituality.

The Knights of Columbus was officially chartered as a corporation by the State of Connecticut on March 29th, 1882. The premise of a fraternal social organization for Catholic men proved immensely and immediately popular. Within 15 years, Councils could be found throughout New England, the upper Atlantic seaboard, and in Canada. By the turn of the 20th century, the order had spread across the continent with over 500 Councils chartered across the United States and Canada. "Denver Council #539" was the first Knights of Columbus Council to be chartered in the State of Colorado (November 18th, 1900); others were quick to follow in Pueblo, Colorado Springs, and Leadville. Within the next ten years, the Knights of Columbus would nearly triple in size

At the turn of the 20th century, the town of Longmont, Colorado, was a bustling farming community of over 3,000 souls. Founded in 1871 by members of the Chicago-Colorado Colony, and supplanting the earlier settlement of Burlington, Longmont was ideally situated for continued growth with a temperate climate, stable economy, access to the railroad, and an industrious populace.

The small Catholic population of the community had been served by itinerant priests from Denver and Boulder and met in private homes or in a second floor suite of the newly constructed Zweck Hotel at 3rd Avenue and Main Street. However, the proud parishioners, most of whom were of Irish or German extraction, were not satisfied with these arrangements and concluded that they would build a church. A small, white 20x40 foot clapboard structure, surmounted by a Celtic cross, was promptly erected on two lots on the west side of Collyer Street, between 3rd and 4th Avenues. Though the Knights of Columbus was not yet a part of the parish family, its future members were: brothers Lawrence and William Mulligan, charter members of the Council-to-be, donated the two lots on which the original church was built. The new sanctuary was dedicated by Bishop Joseph Machebeuf on June 24th, 1882, and named in honor of the patron saint of the day, St. John the Baptist.

However, the new parish was too small to command a parish priest of its own, and the Catholic community continued to be served by Benedictine priests from Boulder and Ft. Collins until 1902, when Fr. Nicholas Seidl, O.S.B., was assigned as the parish's first resident pastor.

By 1904, the parish, now counting nearly 50 families on its rolls, had outgrown the tiny original church and the construction of a new edifice was undertaken. The old church was sold to a Norwegian Lutheran congregation and the money realized from the sale was used as the down payment on a new \$14,000 structure, built on the southwest corner of 4th Avenue and Collyer Street, less than a stone's throw from the original church. The new facility was constructed with a Gothic design of alternating courses of rusticated and smooth red sandstone quarried at nearby Lyons. The corner steeple rose 100 feet into the air, symbolizing the permanency of the parish and the pride of its congregation. Bishop Nicholas C. Matz dedicated and blessed the new church on July 22nd, 1905. Undoubtedly, the men

who were to establish Council 1313 in a few short years were among the parishioners whose support permitted the construction of the grand new church.



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church 1905 – 1962
(Photo Courtesy of The Longmont Museum & Cultural Center)

Future Knights played an important role in the establishment of a Catholic school in Longmont as well. In the oft-repeated story, Mother Thecla and Sister Celestine of the Sisters of St. Francis of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, came to Colorado in 1906, looking for a promising location for an academy. Directed by Bishop Nicholas Matz to Loveland, the sisters mistakenly got off the train in Longmont. Inquiring as to the location of the local Catholic church, the sisters encountered Thomas F. Mahoney, a parishioner of St. John's and the president of the local merchant's association (the equivalent of the Chamber of Commerce). Learning of their plans, Mr. Mahoney suggested that the sisters consider Longmont as a site for their academy. Though initially rebuffed by Fr. Seidl, who was apparently concerned that the school would draw needed financial support away from the church, the nuns persisted. With the assistance of Mr. Mahoney and Mr. David C. Donovan, president of the First National Bank of Longmont (and a parishioner of St. John's), they were able to purchase the old Presbyterian academy at 6th Avenue and Atwood Street. Re-opened as "St. Joseph's Academy", this became the predecessor of St. John's school.

April 26th, 1908: A New Council

On April 19th, 1908, a group of local Catholic men gathered in the Donovan Hall building, located at 3rd Avenue and Main Street, Longmont, to consider forming a new Knights of Columbus Council. The minutes of that meeting read as follows:

*Longmont, Colo.
April 19, 1908*

“A meeting was held in the Donovan Hall today, of the members who proposed forming a Knights of Columbus Council in Longmont. Mr. H.T. O’Riley president – J.N. McLellan was elected secretary. Motion by Dr. Doyle that a committee of five be appointed by the chair – three of this committee to be Knights and two to be applicants for membership – and the presiding officer to be one of this committee. The duties of this committee was to Select such persons for officers as in their opinion would be best fitted to fill the various offices, in connection with the new council. A recess was taken to give the committee time to make the report. The committee announced it was ready to report – and the report is as follows.

<i>Grand Knight</i>	<i>C.E. Smith</i>
<i>Deputy Grand Knight</i>	<i>J.F. Doyle</i>
<i>Chancellor (sic)</i>	<i>J.A. McHale</i>
<i>Recorder</i>	<i>Henry Schauer</i>
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	<i>Leo McLellan</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>J.N. McLellan</i>
<i>Advocate</i>	<i>L.T. Mulligan</i>
<i>Warden</i>	<i>S.P. Brosnan</i>
<i>Inside Guard</i>	<i>Frank Mulligan</i>
<i>Outside Guard</i>	<i>Martin Kinney</i>
<i>Trustees</i>	<i>Ed Sweeney, D.C. Donovan, Albert Schauer</i>

Delegates to State Council C.E. Smith (by virtue of his office), J.F. Doyle, alternates M. McCormick and Ed Donovan.

Frank Mulligan moved report of the committee be accepted and the secretary be instructed to cast the ballot of this meeting for the various candidates – motion carried – and the secretary announced the same as each name was called – a motion was carried at the beginning of the meeting – That the name of this Council be Longmont Council #1313.

Adjourned in due form

*Henry Schauer
Rec.”*

The following week, on April 26th, 1908, in ceremonies held at the local Oddfellows Hall, 47 Catholic gentlemen were initiated into the Knights of Columbus, and the Council was presented its charter by State Deputy John H. Reddin of Denver. Those initiated were:

George W. Akers	Merchant	Michael McCormick	Retired farmer
Henry S. Arnold	Farmer	John H. McDonald	Barber
John A. Bell	Farmer	John McDonough	Farmer
George Bloom	Farmer	J.A. McHale	Telephone lineman
W.J. Bloom	Farmer	J.N. McLellan	Grover
S.P. Brosnan	Telephone lineman	Leo McLellan	Clerk
Joseph W. Burtle	Farmer	E.J. Mulligan	Farmer
Matthew Byrne	Liveryman	Frank Mulligan	Carpenter
C.J. Clennon	Farmer	George Mulligan	Farmer
George Cluskey	Clerk	L.T. Mulligan	Farmer
Jules E. Collet	Traveling salesman	W.P. Mulligan	Farmer
D.C. Donovan	Lumberman	William C. Mulvaney	Farmer
E.J. Donovan	Machinist	James Murphy	Farmer
J.A. Donovan	Lumberman	Albert Schauer	Merchant
T.T. Donovan	Lumberman	Henry Schauer	Merchant
J.F. Doyle	Physician	Thomas Seckington	Steamfitter
William Griffin	Farmer	Rev. Nicholas Seidl	Priest
N.J. Grosjean	Dentist	C.E. Smith	Druggist
Thomas Howlett	Farmer	Leo Steensma	Farmer
Patrick Hurst	Farmer	John A. Steimel	Laborer
John Kennedy	Farmer	Edward P. Sweeney	Railway agent
Martin Kinny	Laborer	A.C. Ward	Bookkeeper
H.A. Major	Machinist	Daniel M. Ward	Carpenter
John McCormick	Farmer		



Fr. Nicholas Seidl, O.S. B.,
 Pastor of St. John's 1900 – 1924
 Charter Member of Council 1313
 (Photo Courtesy of The Longmont
 Museum & Cultural Center)



C.E. Smith
 Charter Grand Knight 1908

Most of the charter members hailed from Longmont and its environs, but a few resided in the neighboring communities of Lafayette, Erie, Berthoud, and Lyons. Their surnames indicate the influence of family in joining the Knights and the largely Irish Catholic composition of the parish, while their occupations reflect the extent to which Longmont's economy was based on agriculture. Nonetheless, these men represented a cross-section of the community and provided a solid foundation upon which the new Council, "Longmont Council #1313", would grow.

The Knights of Columbus

Longmont is to have a great day next Sunday. A council of the Knights of Columbus will be instituted in the Odd Fellows hall by Deputy M.W. Purcell of Colorado Springs.

About 500 visitors are expected, and as the Knights of Columbus is exclusively a Catholic society, they will be escorted to the Catholic church for worship and the celebration of Mass.

Forty-three candidates for admission to the Knights of Columbus are from Longmont, twenty five from Boulder and six from Denver. This division will be called Longmont Council No. 1313, and thirteen Councils will be represented from all over the state.

The following officers have already been chosen to save time:

<i>Grand Knight - C.E. Smith</i>	<i>Advocate - L.T. Mulligan</i>
<i>Deputy Grand Knight - Dr. Doyle</i>	<i>Warden - S.P. Brosnan</i>
<i>Chancellor - Joe McHale</i>	<i>Inside Guard - Martin Kinney</i>
<i>Recorder H. Schauer</i>	<i>Trustees - John Steiml, D.C.</i>
<i>Financial Secretary - Leo McLellan</i>	<i>Donovan, and Albert Schauer</i>
<i>Treasurer - Dr. Grosjean</i>	<i>Physician - Dr. Doyle</i>
<i>Lecturer - T.T. Donovan</i>	<i>Chaplain - Rev. Father Nicholas</i>

Dinner will be served to the Knights in St. Vrain hall in the afternoon, and to the ladies in Donovan hall. T.T. Donovan will be the toastmaster. Some singers will be among the visitors, Joe Newman being one of them, who will lead in singing one verse each of twenty-two popular songs.

In the afternoon the members of the Longmont Automobile Club has tendered their autos for the use of the guests, and the town will be lively with sightseers.

The Longmont Ledger
Friday, April 24, 1908

1908-1918: Establishing Roots

Once chartered, the Council set promptly to work. Dr. N.J. Grosjean resigned as Council treasurer at the second meeting (perhaps due to the fact that he resided in Lafayette) and was replaced by Mr. J.N. McLellan. A committee was appointed to develop by-laws for the Council, modeling them after those of neighboring Boulder Council #1183's. The members decided to meet on the second and fourth Thursday of each month and to assess individual dues of \$0.50 per month, payable to Fr. Nicholas Seidl, the Council's chaplain. The Council experienced rapid growth in membership following an active recruiting campaign that beat the bushes for candidates in the local neighborhoods as well as in Erie and Lafayette

The Council met in Donovan Hall. Seeking to educate and edify the membership, the officers organized catechism lessons taught by Fr. Seidl. One of the first programs offered was a debate between Fr. Seidl and Dr. J.F. Doyle about the relative merits of parochial and public schools.

A summary of the Council's bills from the December 10th, 1908, meeting gives a sense of the organization's early financial obligations and transactions:

\$16.00	to J.F. Doyle for initiation expenses
\$7.00	to D.C. Donovan for the rent of the hall
\$7.15	to the Longmont Call newspaper for the printing of post cards
\$9.00	to C.E. Smith for tickets
\$26.26	to Leo McLellan for stationery and one year's service as Financial Secretary
<hr/>	
\$65.41	TOTAL

The Council's first charitable donation of record was made in January 1909 for the "earthquake survivors". The minutes of the meeting did not elaborate further, but it may be surmised that the donation of \$0.50 per capita was made to assist the survivors of the December 28th, 1908 earthquake in Messina, Italy, which claimed an estimated 70,000 lives. In subsequent years, the Council became a regular contributor to the "University Fund", providing financial support (to the tune of \$17.50 per month) to the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

As with any new organization, the Council experienced growing pains. After the first blush of enthusiasm, several meetings in 1909 were canceled due to poor attendance and the lack of a quorum. Disciplinary issues, though rare, occasionally reared their ugly head and the minutes reflect that Brother Riordan was to be warned by Grand Knight J.F. Doyle that he would be "stricken from the rolls" if he didn't rectify his violation of unspecified "laws of the Lodge".

Nonetheless, the officers and brothers persevered and on April 12th, 1910, hosted a gala "open meeting" to promote interest in the organization. The evening featured a musical program with an address by a visiting brother about his recent trip to Rome. Supper,

dancing, and card games followed and the party finally wound down around midnight. With nearly 100 people in attendance, the evening was considered a great social success. This event became a model for future endeavors, and on January 24th, 1911, the Council sponsored a “tea” with “...supper, vocal and instrumental music, games and dancing. It was a success both socially and financially. The proceeds of the evening was \$121.06”

In 1910, a small parish was established in the nearby farming community of Mead. The parishioners bought the old Mt. Zion United Brethren church and, moving it a mile down the road, established a new Catholic community named in honor of the “Guardian Angels”. The Knights claimed a few members from Guardian Angels and assisted the pastor and parish where they could, but the emphasis of their efforts remained on St. John’s.

In 1912, the membership discussed furnishing a “club room” and allocated \$100.00 for the project. The trustees were authorized to contract with Mr. D.C. Donovan for the rental of a room in the “Donovan block” at the rate of \$10.00 per month. The Council re-located to the new facility (the first of many subsequent moves) on April 16th, 1912. The new club room proved to be eminently satisfactory as the Council chose not to re-locate again until 1929. Minutes of the meetings of the period typically closed with the comment “...refreshments and cigars enjoyed by all”.

The Council was active in the parish as well, sponsoring the first of many parish picnics to follow at Meadow Park in Lyons on July 14th that year. They organized a “Corporate Communion” Mass, marking Columbus Day in October 1913, the attendance at which was highly praised by Fr. Seidl as an example for the future. Acting upon his encouragement, the brothers organized a second Corporate Communion Mass the following May and a third in October (again, marking Columbus Day). A fourth Corporate Communion Mass was held on Sunday, May 23rd, 1915, with breakfast following at the Imperial Hotel (the northwest corner of 3rd Avenue and Main Street) at \$0.40 a plate. This was the first “Corporate Communion breakfast” of record and the predecessor of a later tradition that is still observed today.

In May 1918, Council 1313 was honored to play host to the State Convention of the Knights of Columbus. The State Council used the opportunity to report on their efforts to support those in military service, refuting popular allegations that Roman Catholics were less than patriotic. The Supreme Council established canteens for the benefit of servicemen, both in the United States and overseas, assessing members an additional fee to cover the costs.

Regrettably, the Council’s minute books from May 1916 through September 1923 are missing and presumed lost; consequently, few specific details are known of the Council’s activities of the period. It may be presumed, however, that the Council continued to grow (it claimed 70 members in 1916) much as the parish and community did. In 1920, Longmont’s population had grown to 5,848; St. John’s parish experienced similar growth, registering an estimated 125 families on its rolls.

1919-1928: Post-War Peace and Prosperity (and Prejudice)

The period between the end of the “Great War” and the Depression was largely one of growth and prosperity. In Longmont, it was also an era of prejudice.

Fr. Seidl had warned of the pervasive prejudices facing the Catholic Church in his sermons years earlier, and encouraged his flock to be upright and patriotic citizens so as to blunt the force of intolerance. Nonetheless, bigotry and religious prejudice were powerful forces in Colorado and throughout Boulder County during the 1920’s, particularly the brands of antipathy embraced by the Ku Klux Klan. Their influence was strong; so strong that in 1925, Longmont’s city council was composed entirely of Klansmen.

Additionally, the expansion of agriculture in the area, notably the sugar beet industry, led to an influx of Mexican migrant labor to plant, tend, and harvest the crops. With the migrants came the attendant problems of cultural conflict, intolerance, and poverty.

Fortunately, St. John’s and the Knights of Columbus were blessed with exceptional leaders: Fr. Seidl spoke out regularly and publicly against bigotry, while Grand Knight Thomas F. Mahoney (Grand Knight for an unprecedented five year period between 1922-1927) worked tirelessly to promote the interests of the Mexican immigrants. In 1924, he served as the state coordinator of a committee organized to protect the interests of the estimated 87,000 Mexican migrant farm workers living in Colorado. He was featured prominently in the Denver Catholic Register, proposing a four point program to address the injustices which the migrants faced: 1) Keep them in Colorado rather than bring in new immigrants every year, 2) Work with farmers to obtain better housing, 3) Develop a savings plan with local banks and, 4) Encourage corporations (eg. the Great Western Sugar Company) to build villages for their employees’ housing needs. Brother Mahoney was commended by the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus for his efforts... and teased by his brother Knights for his zealotry: the minutes of the meeting of January 8th, 1924 reported:

“Father (Nicholas) mentioned the success of the parish Christmas tree- next year he proposes to make it a double event- making the second evening for the Mexican children of the parish- this idea was supported by Grand Knight Mahoney- the very Brother we really thought might oppose it- as you know he is a stronger than Home made Horse Radish for the Mexican (sic) who are without friends- one thing you can say for our Grand Knight- he dreams, fights, and works for the uplift of the Mexican population of this district”

In a similar vein, the Recorder reported on April 1st, 1924, that:

“G.K. Mahoney felt very good over the Pope paying recognition in the way Colorado was handling the Mexicans, just leave it to Tommy (Mahoney) and the Mexicans will get there”

Sadly, Father Nicholas Seidl, OSB, the parish's founding pastor, was transferred from the parish in June of that year. The Knights felt so strongly about him that they petitioned the bishop to allow the beloved priest to return "home". Their plea went unanswered however, and Fr. Seidl, in declining health, passed away in Canton, Ohio, in December 1925.

Perhaps the most notable accomplishment of the period was the establishment of the "Corporate Communion Breakfast" in 1922. Before the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, church law dictated that every practicing Catholic had to receive the Sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist during the Easter season (referred to as the "Easter Duty"). To encourage the fulfillment of this obligation, Grand Knight Mahoney instituted the tradition of the Corporate Communion breakfast, wherein the men and boys of the parish would attend Mass as a body, receive Holy Communion, and then adjourn to enjoy breakfast together (a welcome treat after the mandatory twelve hour fast that was enforced before receiving Communion). The response was so positive that the practice became an annual local tradition and was soon emulated by other Councils. The concept was subsequently endorsed by both the Colorado State Council and the Supreme Council, and is now an annual event observed by Knights of Columbus Councils worldwide. This year, on the occasion of the Council's 100th anniversary, we will mark the 86th anniversary of the inception of the Corporate Communion tradition.

During the '20's, the brotherhood continued to meet at Donovan Hall, paying a monthly rent of \$25.00 for the privilege. The Council briefly flirted with the idea of re-locating its chambers to the new Catholic school, built in 1926, but concluded that they would remain in the rented premises they had occupied since 1912. An April 1926 inventory of the Council's property showed a net value of \$1,512.45 (including cuspidors). The largest asset was a Brunswick phonograph valued at \$150.00.

The Longmont Council shared a good-natured rivalry with neighboring Boulder Council #1183 (chartered to Sacred Heart of Jesus parish), and members of the respective chapters regularly visited each other's meetings en masse, and cooperated in hosting picnics, baseball games, and other special events. Members of Ft. Collins Council #1214 also came to call on occasion: 30 brother Knights from Ft. Collins participated in the May 1st, 1928, Council meeting, bringing their "orchestra and quartet" with them and providing entertainment after the evening's business was transacted.

In addition to the occasional musical interlude, entertainment at the meetings included short dramatic plays and the occasional boxing match put on by the boys from St. John's school. Short informative lectures were also popular. Topic suggestions for the Council Lecturer in 1928 included: "The Medical Examiner: Epidemic of Influenza", "The Pharmacist: Will America Lead in the Chemical Industry?", "The Musician: Race and Music", "The Labor Man: The Menace of Communism" and "Social Unrest and Tendency Toward Radicalism"

With such riveting programs, it's difficult to believe that attendance was an issue, but it was. Having 30 members present for a meeting was unusual enough that the Recorder would make note of it in the meeting minutes. To stimulate attendance, the brothers instituted an attendance raffle in May, 1928: everyone contributed \$0.10 and the first name drawn at the

following meeting would take the pot, provided he was present. Twenty members contributed at the first meeting, creating a pot of \$2.00, which Gary D. Davis won at the ensuing meeting. The second collection netted \$2.10, so it did increase attendance... but the third meeting only generated \$1.80.

The Longmont Federated Welfare Association was a frequent and favored recipient of charitable donations from the Knights. The Council also subsidized the purchase of the weekly publication, "Our Sunday Visitor", providing copies to parishioners after the Sunday Masses. This tradition continued until 1937 when the tight finances of the Depression led to its discontinuation. The tradition was resumed after World War II and continued again until 1967 when it again became financially untenable.

State Deputy Joseph Stanko visited Council 1313 in January 1925, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus in Colorado. He outlined his goal of registering 5,000 Knights in Colorado by year's end (it bears noting that Colorado did not register 10,000 members until 1999... 74 years later).

Unfortunately, as before, the meeting minutes for the period between September 1928 and December 1929 are missing. Their absence is unexplained as there is no appreciable gap in the minute book; it's as though the Recorder was on hiatus for 14 months, leaving the onset and immediate impact of the October 29th, 1929, stock market crash on local events largely unreported. However, the events of the ensuing years of the Great Depression are well documented.

In 1927, the May department store of Denver offered "full dress suits" to prospective Fourth Degree members at \$28.00 for a silk-lined coat and pair of pants, and a white vest for an additional \$5.00; the whole ensemble was advertised as ordinarily costing \$55.00.

1929-1941: The Depression Years

The Great Depression had an immediate and dramatic impact on Longmont, St. John's parish, and the local Knights of Columbus Council. Unemployment rates were high and jobs were scarce. St. John's school, while very popular, was also very costly, and the school, already feeling the pressure of significant debt, was forced to drop its high school curriculum.

The Council re-located from Donovan hall to a vacant room in St. John's School in 1929, presumably as a cost-cutting measure, as the pastor, Fr. Innocent Mangus O.S.B., didn't charge them rent. In December of that year, shortly after the October stock market crash, Fr. Innocent asked the Knights to support the parish Christmas party and gifts for the children as they had for the previous five years. The Council claimed poverty, but allocated \$25.00 toward the cause. Several individual Knights stepped up and assured Fr. Innocent that they would somehow come up with the necessary funds (and they did).

The following year, Fr. Urban Schnitzhofer O.S.B., who had been assigned to handle pastoral duties while Fr. Innocent was recovering his health, asked for the Knights' help in reducing the parish' indebtedness and announced a drive to raise \$3,000.00. The issue was debated among the Brothers:

May 20th, 1930: "Some remarks regarding the Knights duty as a body of supporting the drive, and vote some of the money in the Treasury toward the same – no action – except plain talk—" J.N. McLellan, acting Recorder

\$100.00 was pledged at the following meeting and the funds withdrawn from the Council's savings account (giving some idea as to the extent to which the treasury had been depleted): "Although it is a great sacrifice, it is our duty to help the church" said Bros. McLellan and J.M. Reinert. A \$300.00 loan to the parish was made in 1932, drawn again from the savings account.

In addition to providing financial support, the Knights were recruited to assist the parish in more fundamental ways. They poured new concrete sidewalks around the church, repaired and re-installed the school's playground equipment (left behind at the St. Joseph's Academy site when the school moved), painted the rectory and garage, and hosted social activities and promoted fundraisers. For example, the brothers competed against the Boulder Knights in an intra-parish baseball game, allocating \$2.00 for the purchase of a baseball, with the hope that the revenue generated from admissions would offset the expense. Hosting the traditional annual Christmas party for the children of the parish was a priority, but by 1932, the Council was forced to dip into their Reserve funds in order to pay the residual debt from the party. In 1933 the festivities were cancelled as the \$20.00 allocated was insufficient to host the 300+ children expected (the money was given to needy families to buy coal).

As the Depression deepened, the Council found itself in dire straits. Membership statewide dropped to about 4,500 Knights in 1930; locally, Council membership dropped as brother Knights were unable to afford their dues. Monthly dues were reduced in 1932 from \$0.75 to \$0.50 per month in the hope of persuading some members to return. Out of 75 registered members in 1934, only 52 were able to pay their dues. In 1935, the Supreme Secretary threatened to suspend the Council immediately if an unpaid "per capita" assessment of \$41.90 was not paid immediately. A year end audit found the Council \$165.00 in the red. Attendance at meetings dropped off; there were rarely more than 15 members present and several Council meetings were cancelled for lack of a quorum.

However, despite the economic hardships, all was not entirely bleak, and the Depression years witnessed a number of salient events:

In 1932, the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus celebrated the order's "Golden Anniversary". A program commemorating the founding of the order was aired nationally on March 29th over the NBC radio network. Locally, Council 1313 hosted their own celebration, recruiting State Deputy McGuire and District Deputy Callopy to serve as guest speakers.

The Council hosted its first annual memorial service for deceased brother Knights on January 26th, 1932, commemorating 30 members who had passed. Aside from a brief hiatus in the 1990's, the service is an annual tradition that is observed today.

In 1932, the Council hosted a complimentary Mother's Day breakfast for the ladies of the parish, paying for it with the proceeds from a Bingo party. Doing so became an annual tradition as well; in 1935, the Mother's Day breakfast drew 125 ladies, 20 members of an orchestra, and 30 cooks and kitchen helpers, all of whom were fed for \$23.07 (including \$1.50 for carnations and \$1.37 for laundry services). The custom evolved through the years, and today, the affair is hosted by the Altar and Rosary Society as the "Mother/Daughter Breakfast"; nonetheless, the Knights still prepare and serve the breakfast to the ladies.

In October 1938, 15 members of the Council volunteered for a blood donor's club. They were initially rebuffed by the Longmont Community Hospital over a dispute about the testing and typing of blood. 17 members thereafter pledged to do whatever was necessary to have their blood tested and typed. Today, that altruistic spirit is still in evidence as many Knights are regular blood donors, and the Council has an account with the Bonfils Blood Center of Denver.

The minutes of the Council meetings suggest that by 1938 the Council and Longmont had turned the corner, economically. Two years earlier, the Council had organized a club room and lounge and had equipped it with a billiards table, suggesting that the members had the time and means to enjoy leisure time activities. The parish picnic hosted by the Council in 1939 grossed \$150.71 and the Knights were able to purchase new uniform pants for their baseball team. In 1940, a car raffle sponsored by the Knights grossed \$2,662.60, which was used to offset the church's outstanding debt (indicating that parishioners had at least some discretionary income); the prize, a brand new 1940 Mercury sedan was valued at \$719.95.

The Council showed new life as well. By 1940, membership had grown to an unprecedented 86 members, and the treasurer had no difficulty paying the per capita assessment to the Supreme Council. Area Councils (Boulder, Ft. Collins, Greeley) sponsored inter-Council meetings with challenges as to who could get the most men to a meeting. In order to accommodate their swelling numbers, the Knights proposed that a wall between the Council chambers and the chemistry lab in St. John's School be torn down so as to expand the chambers. The Holy Name Society, Girls Study Club, and Altar and Rosary Society supported the proposal, as they also planned to use the renovated space. The project was completed in December with the blessing of Fr. James Maher, O.S.B., the new pastor.

Expanding in a different realm, the Knights proposed sponsoring a Boy Scout troop. The proposal had been first aired in 1931, but was actively discouraged by the pastor, Fr. Urban Schnitzhofer. However, the idea was resurrected, and by the late spring of 1940, a troop of eight boys had been assembled. Boy Scout Troop 65 was officially chartered to Council 1313 in October of that year. Archie Lamon initially served as Scoutmaster, but was succeeded by Brother George Pomainville, who grew the Troop to 14 Scouts and staged their first "Scout Circus" on June 13th, 1941. A Cub Scout pack was added in May 1945.

The Councils bills, as read and approved for the meeting on July 31st, 1941:

Two cases of beer (\$4.20) and one of soda pop (\$1.75)	\$5.95
Medical services for insurance examinations by Dr. White	4.00
Cigars from B-Rite drugstore	1.58
Services of Financial Secretary Joe Bley	8.33
Stamps	3.00
	<hr/>
	\$22.86

Fr. Martin Arno, O.S.B., the assistant pastor (and who was later destined to play an important role in the history of St. John's and Council 1313) was initiated as an associate member of the Brotherhood on August 19th, 1941.

All in all, things were looking up... then came December 7th, 1941.

1941-1945: World War II

As was frequently the case, the Council's Recorder did not document the momentous events of history. Just as there were no specific references to the stock market crash or the Great Depression, nothing was reported of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor or the United States' entry into World War II. Perhaps it was deemed superfluous to report on something that everyone knew about. Nonetheless, the minute books of the ensuing four years provide glimpses into life on the home front during the conflict.

The first documentation of the war's impact was the notation on January 20th, 1942, of a \$10.00 donation by the Council to the national War Fund. Shortly thereafter, on February 3rd, the acting Recorder reported that, as a result of "...many of our officers being drafted and in military service and many more moving", the vacancies would be filled prior to the regularly scheduled elections in June. The positions of Deputy Grand Knight, Chancellor, Recorder, and Warden, held respectively by Simon Brown, Jacob Tordoff, Jr., Francis Brennan, and Gerard Peters were thus filled.

That fall, the Council opted not to participate in the annual Armistice Day parade due to the number of members who were in military service or out of town. The Supreme Council per capita assessment was paid on the basis of 47 members (nearly half what it had been the year before); minutes from 1943 noted that 25% of the membership was serving in the armed forces.

In 1943, the Council chambers were relocated from St. John's school to the Neeley building on Main Street. In February 1945, citing the need for more space, they relocated again, this

time to the Weisberg Building at 358 Main Street. The chambers were located over Weisberg's dry goods store and afforded the Council a lodge and club room, kitchen, and reception room. The new facility was leased for \$11.00 per month.

The Knights evidently enjoyed themselves in their new quarters (or perhaps they were just celebrating the imminent end of the war), for on August 7th, Fr. Martin Arno, the Council Chaplain, felt compelled to lecture the assembled brothers about the Church's views on drinking and gambling. His sermon met mixed reviews however, for while the brothers decided to dispose of their slot machine, they opted to buy a bar from the Elks Club. They subsequently obtained a 3.2% beer license from the State and a liquor license from the City of Longmont. The bar was open on Saturday nights (and shortly thereafter, on Friday nights, too). The first of many beers was sold over the bar on October 2nd, 1945.

The Knights of Columbus was initially organized on three principles: Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. However, in the early 1900's, the Supreme Council instituted a fourth principle or "Degree": Patriotism. Hoping to promote love of country, special "Assemblies" of Fourth Degree Knights were organized, and in 1944, Longmont Assembly 0094 was chartered.

1946-1957: Post-War Prosperity and Promise

The end of the war signaled new optimism in Longmont and the Knights were part and parcel of it. The Council partook in the celebration of the City's 75th anniversary (1871-1946). 216 men attended the annual Corporate Communion Breakfast, one of the largest turnouts for the event to date. Additionally, signaling a period of new growth, the Council initiated ten new members in March 1946. 47 members attended that meeting, easily doubling the average attendance of the war years. It was no fluke, however, and the trend continued. The renewed interest in the Council (and fraternal organizations in general) spurred members to look for a bigger space in which to meet. In the interim, they sublet the hall to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Royal Neighbors, and the Neighbors of Woodcraft clubs.

Attendance at Council meetings regularly surpassed 50, with several visitors from other area Councils participating. Card parties were popular; 48 people attended one held at the hall on February 8th, 1947. Always the gracious host, the brothers purchased a cooler and a music box and installed a telephone in the club room. A new slot machine was purchased: Fr. Martin's 1945 lecture about gambling having evidently been forgotten (in 1951, Governor Daniel Thornton's office wrote, telling the Council to shut down its coin-operated slot machines under threat of "severe penalty"). It was a measure of the financial stability of the Council that the membership allocated \$50.00 to be spent on building a float for the annual County Fair parade.

In terms of service, the Knights annually sponsored scholarships for two students at St. John's school, contributed to the construction of the Mother Cabrini Shrine in Golden, and assisted with running parish carnivals and fundraisers (notably, "Turkey Bingo" fundraisers between Thanksgiving and Christmas). In a sign of the times, the Knights' 1946 parish

picnic was canceled due to a local polio outbreak. Boy Scout troop 65 was very active, though it periodically suffered from a lack of consistent leadership; Scoutmasters would come and go every few months. In November 1948, 26 boys presented themselves for inspection.

Brother Thomas Mahoney celebrated 50 years of Knighthood on May 30th, 1947. The minutes of a subsequent meeting reported a spirited discussion about Spanish membership. No details were provided, but subsequent meetings recorded the addition of several new members with Hispanic surnames. One can't help but believe that Brother Mahoney was still asserting his considerable influence.

In 1949, Fr. Martin Arno encouraged the Knights to think about purchasing a Council home. Discussion followed, but it wasn't until 1951 that the prospect of doing so was debated in earnest (occasioned by an increase in the monthly rent of the hall to \$30.00). A committee looked into available alternatives, but found nothing comparable for less than \$50.00 per month, so the organization stayed put for the moment. Nonetheless, the seed had been sown, and the Council organized a summer carnival to support a building fund for a true Council home. The event grossed \$1,281.67 and netted \$669.14 for the fund.

In 1952, the annual State Knights of Columbus convention (held in Walsenburg) provided an incentive to the Council's goal of procuring a home, announcing that the 1953 State Convention would be held in Longmont. Faced with the prospect of playing host to the state, planning began in earnest. The building fund monies were transferred to a new "K of C Corporation" which, acting on behalf of the Council, purchased the Walker Radiator Shop at 237 Main Street as a new home in July. Two months later, the officers of the Corporation reported that there was insufficient money to complete the required renovations.

Undeterred, the Council assessed itself \$30.00 a month to be paid to the Corporation as rent on the new (and as yet incomplete) hall. The Brothers hoped that the hall could be made serviceable as the registration headquarters for the Convention, while the event itself was held at the Imperial Hotel up the street. Brother Frank Murphy served as General Chairman of the Convention committee. The Convention was held May 17th-19th, 1953, and was deemed quite successful.

In the meantime, other fundraisers were undertaken to fund the renovations, including the rather novel idea of feeding out several steers on area farms and ranches and donating the profits to the building fund. Brothers Ted Rademacher and Bill Schell contacted area farmers, determining who would be willing to participate; Grand Knight Dean Seewald purchased 17 steers in October. The meeting notes for the next several months tracked the progress of the steers and the money their sales were generating. The last two were sold early in 1955. All told, the project netted \$1,667.36, allowing the Council to pay off a \$1,500.00 construction note. With that assurance, the committee solicited a bid for air conditioning, and in 1956 undertook an expansion of the hall.

The Knights made extensive use of their Council home, sponsoring regular “covered dish dinners”, the traditional Christmas holiday “Turkey Bingo” games, and monthly dances with a wide variety of themes: “Easter Monday” dance, “Bastille Day” dance, the popular “New

Knights of Columbus State Convention to Open Saturday

Fifty-second annual convention of the Colorado State Council, Knights of Columbus, will open a three-day session in Longmont Saturday of this week, with more than 200 delegates to attend from throughout the state.

Headquarters for the convention will be the Longmont Knights of Columbus hall at 237 Main Street. Registration will begin at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Opening activities will be a golf tournament at 2 p.m. Saturday at Longmont Municipal Golf course. A dance is scheduled for Saturday evening from 9 o'clock to midnight at the Elks Club, Third and Coffman.

Convention Mass will be held at 8 a.m. Sunday at St. John's church, Fourth and Collyer, Fr. Joseph F. Kane, O.M.I., Colorado Springs, presiding. Breakfast will follow Second Degree will be exemplified at 1:30 p.m. at the Elks Club.

The degree class will be named “Father James Maher Class” to honor the Longmont pastor for the work he has done in St. John's church here and the Knights of Columbus.

Ladies attending the convention will be entertained at luncheon and a fashion show at Callahan house at 1 p.m.

The convention banquet will be served at 7 p.m. Sunday at St. Vrain Memorial building. Dr. C.B. Kerrigan of Davenport, Iowa, supreme director of the organization will give the principal address.

P.R. O'Malley of Longmont, grand knight of the Longmont council, will preside as toastmaster. Archbishop Urban J. Vehr will offer invocation and present the message. Introductions are in charge of Carroll B. Dunn of Colorado Springs, state deputy.

The convention business meeting will open at 9 a.m. Monday in St. Vrain Memorial building.

A second ladies' luncheon will be held at 12:30 p.m. Monday at Callahan house. A reception for all new state officers at the Knights of Columbus hall will be held after adjournment.

*Excerpted from the Longmont Times-Call
Wednesday, May 14th, 1953*

Year's Eve” dance, and the like. As might be expected, the bar at the hall became a frequent topic of discussion at Council meetings as did the institution of “house rules” for the use of the facility. The membership sometimes played fast and loose with the law: Longmont's mayor reported complaints from citizens about the bar being open to everyone, and in 1957 the membership debated whether they were sinning by violating the civil law in promoting

bingo games. They evidently concluded that they were not, as they continued to play as an attendance incentive at meetings and covered dish dinners, and hosted a bingo fundraiser in January 1958 (40 games at 10 cents a card).

In other events of the period:

After several years of struggling to maintain consistent leadership, the sponsorship of the Scouting program was transferred to St. John's Parish in November 1953. Nonetheless, the Council continued to provide financial support to the troop.

There were 123 members on the Council's rolls in 1954. That same year, the Council took up the Supreme Council's initiative that the words "under God" be added to the Pledge of Allegiance, sending a letter of support to Colorado's congressmen. The Congress subsequently saw fit to enact the proposal.

The Council opted to sponsor a bowling team in 1954, the first of several over the ensuing years. Among their charitable activities, the Knights contributed to a fundraising drive by the Longmont community hospital and regularly supported "the Spanish boys" baseball team.

1958-1973: A Golden Anniversary and Tumultuous Times

1958 was a banner year for the Longmont Knights of Columbus as they celebrated the 50th anniversary of their founding, hosting a dinner and dance at the Council hall on April 26th . .

The Council was relatively flush with funds: the Financial Secretary presented the Treasurer with \$820.00 at the July 1st meeting, and Grand Knight Alex Bauer presented pastor Fr. James Maher with a check for \$1,000.00 as a contribution to the fundraising drive to construct a new convent. Additionally, the Council sponsored the showing of the film "The Lord's Last Supper", selling tickets to area merchants to give to their customers. The 25% share the Knights expected to receive was donated to the Longmont community hospital fund. \$345.00 was netted, of which \$250.00 was donated to the hospital.

Longmont Council 1313 Officers in 1957-1958:

Grand Knight Alex Bauer	Advocate George Pomainville
Chaplain Fr. Claude Roberts, O.S.B.	Warden Martin Boedecker
Deputy Grand Knight Joe Bley	Inside Guard Merce Vela
Chancellor Ed Mudd	Outside Guard Dave Sage
Recorder Leonad Karich	Trustee Ted Rademacher
Financial Secretary Walt Krueger	Trustee Bill Schell
Treasurer Sylvester Soucie	Trustee Joe Beilman
Lecturer Martin Bersano	

New Officers, 1958-1959

Grand Knight Earl Lewis	Warden Hillary Mudd
Deputy Grand Knight Willard Pilkington	Outside Guard Ray DeChant
Advocate Herb O'Grady	



Alex Bauer Grand Knight 1957 – 1958



Earl E. Lewis Grand Knight 1958 - 1959

Adding further luster to the accomplishments of the year, the Council's float won the "Grand Sweepstakes" and 1st place in the "Social Floats" category at the annual Boulder County Fair parade in August. The float depicted Columbus' ship the "Santa Maria" with the admiral himself guiding her down Main Street. A photo of the float was subsequently featured in "Columbia", the international Knights of Columbus magazine.



Council 1313's 1958 Boulder County Fair Parade Entry. The float, depicting Columbus' Flagship, the "Santa Maria", won 1st prize and was subsequently features in the Columbia Magazine

1959 was another proud year for the Council, particularly when they were awarded Supreme's prestigious "Star Council" award, recognizing their accomplishments of the previous year. Once again, Fr. Maher was presented with a check from the Knights for \$1,125.00 for the furnishing of the convent's chapel at the annual Corporate Communion breakfast. Later that year the Council paid for the students' of St. John's School (approximately 250 of them) admission to see the movie "Day of Triumph" and sponsored a



50th Anniversary Celebration, April 1958: Bus trip to Greeley to attend District meeting. The Council Hall at 237 Main Street, Longmont, is visible behind the buses. (Photo Courtesy of The Longmont Daily Times-Call)

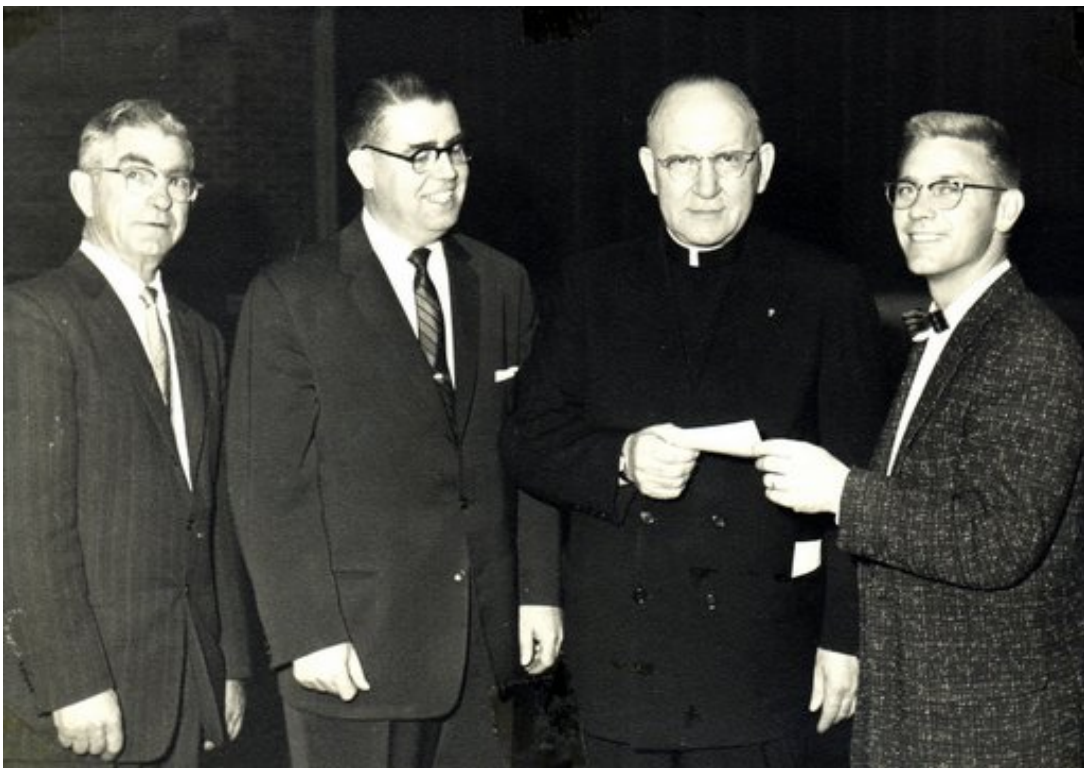


50th Anniversary Dinner in the Council Hall, April 26, 1958.

Christmas party for them in December. At year's end, the state of treasury permitted the contribution of an additional \$350.00 to the community hospital fund.

At least partially responsible for the financial stability was the fact that the state legalized charitable bingo games on January 1st of that year. The Knights were quick to capitalize on the popular fundraiser (which they had been conducting surreptitiously for several years) and the Council established a bingo committee to oversee the project. Public games were up and running in April. They realized a profit of \$168.00 after the first four nights of operation.

In June, the parish bid farewell to Fr. Maher, who had served as pastor for nearly 19 years, and welcomed former assistant Fr. Martin Arno, O.S.B., back as the pastor.

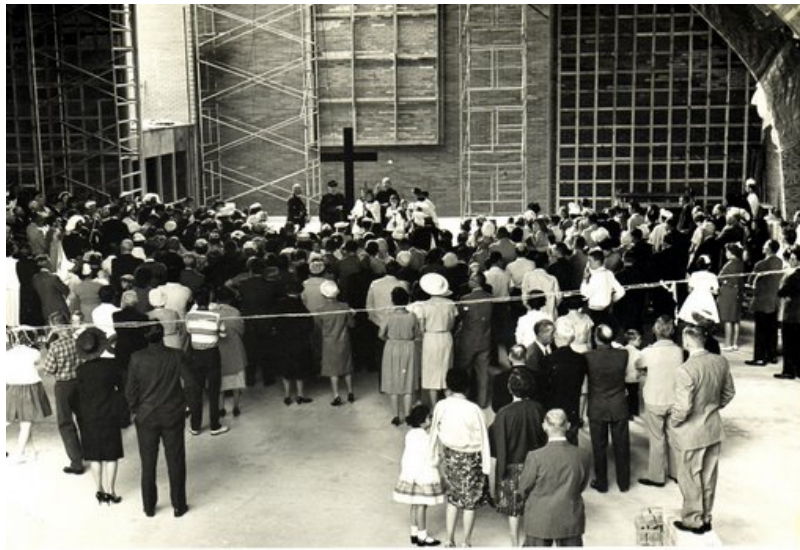


Willard Pilkington presents Fr. Martin Arno, O.S.B. with a contribution to the church building fund at the 38th Annual Corporate Communion Breakfast, March 1960. Brother Sylvester Soucie and Justice Edward Day of the Colorado Supreme Court look on.

Several events in 1960 foreshadowed a change in the fortunes of the Council. While the treasury supported the renovation of the Boy Scout's room at St. John's and the remodeling of the Club Room at the hall, finances soon became tight. The Council occasionally had to borrow money from the K. of C. Corporation to cover expenses. The bingo games which had initially proved so lucrative became less so as attendance dropped off. Bingo nights were reduced to one night per month initially and then dropped entirely pending a return at some future date.

Distressingly, the friendly card games that had once been the norm at the hall became less so. In April, a Brother Knight was called upon to defend himself for having “gotten out of line” after a poker game; it was noted “that it wasn’t the first time”. He was also accused of giving the Council a bad check at a poker game. According to the meeting minutes, the matter was “finished”, but that conclusion proved illusory as another brother subsequently claimed that the errant Knight had defamed him. A committee met with Fr. Martin and asked him to arbitrate the matter. The defendant was subsequently directed to apologize at a meeting for insulting his fellow Knight and warned to behave himself in the future.

Unfortunately, that was not the sole blemish upon the character of the Council. The late Brother Jim Lechman recalled there having been many high stakes poker games, in which hundreds if not thousands of dollars were wagered, and farms were literally won and lost. In 1962, the Council received a complaint from Supreme Knight Luke Hart chastising the Council for hosting illegal poker games; “Discussion followed” according to the Recorder, but evidently no immediate action was taken as the minutes of a meeting in January 1964 referenced the Council officers conferring with the Chief of Police regarding illegal gambling. A motion was made to exclude “non-members” from the card games; perhaps not surprisingly, the motion was defeated.



The Color Corps of Assembly 0094 stand as Honor Guard at the blessing of the steps to the new altar of St. John the Baptist Church. Circa 1962.

However, all was not bad news: in April 1961, Fr. Arno announced a campaign to build a new church, replacing the 56 year-old edifice which did not meet the needs of the expanding parish, which now counted over 2,200 congregants. The Knights were well-represented on the Church Planning Committee assembled by Fr. Arno; over half of the members were members of Council 1313. The Knights pledged themselves to giving the church building campaign \$50.00 per month and to request the same of the K. of C. Corporation. The following year, despite financial ups and downs, the Knights donated \$5,000.00 to purchase pews for the new church which was then under construction (the availability of funds due in part to the return of bingo). The facility was completed at a cost of nearly \$375,000; the first service held in the new church was Midnight Mass, December 25th, 1963.



4th Degree Honor Guard of Assembly 0094 forms the “Sign of the Cross” at the Dedication Mass of the new St. John the Baptist Catholic Church December 25, 1963.

In February 1963, the mortgage on the K. of C. hall was retired, and the Council held a mortgage burning ceremony to celebrate the occasion. However, though the Corporation was solvent, the Council itself was struggling financially. By August 1964, they were only able to pay a portion of the monthly bills; the balance on hand at the August 18th meeting was \$7.42. At the outset of the New Year, the Council started with \$5.12 in its coffers after all expenses were met. By April, they were operating in the red and had 54 delinquent members, owing \$1,109.00 in dues. Fr. Arno suggested that he cancel the Council’s pledged debt to the parish, but the Knights declined the offer and committed themselves to meeting

their obligation. By 1968, though the Council claimed 164 members, attendance at meetings was very poor (typically averaging less than 20), and the minutes of the October 1st meeting made the first mention of the Council giving consideration to selling the Council home.



Mortgage burning ceremonies in the Council Hall, January 1963. Pictured (left to right): State Deputy Thomas F. Hagerty, K of C Corporation President George C. Pomainville, Grand Knight John C. Spenner, Fr. Martin Arno, District Deputy Martin Bersano.

Financial problems notwithstanding, the Knights remained active in parish life. They co-sponsored the annual parish picnic in 1965 with the Altar and Rosary Society and Holy Name Society, and hosted a spaghetti dinner in honor of Columbus Day. They were instrumental in organizing a Nocturnal Adoration Society. In 1966, Brother Joe Giudice (known to many as “Rosary Joe” for his devotion to the rosary and the Blessed Mother) proposed hosting a monthly family rosary, beginning a Council tradition which is honored to this day. In February 1965, Brother Ray Miller was presented with the Boy Scouts of America’s “St. George” award, the highest Catholic award in Scouting, honoring his seven years’ service as Scoutmaster with Troop 65. During his tenure, 11 young men earned Eagle Scout honors, 18 received Ad Altare Dei awards, and four were presented Pope Pius awards.

The Council struggled along for the next few years, surviving as much on tradition as anything, as interest seemingly waned. Attendance at meetings hit new lows (only ten members at one meeting), yet they continued to host dances, covered dish dinners, and bingo (until the license was allowed to lapse in 1970). They undertook a few parish projects: painting the church basement and sponsoring picnics and other festivals (notably when other ministries failed to step up to the challenge). The local Elks Club challenged the other community fraternal organizations to mark Longmont’s centennial year in 1971 by participating in a beard growing contest. The Knights promptly accepted the challenge and

the resultant “dirty face club” was subsequently depicted in the Longmont Times-Call newspaper. The Council observed the Knights of Columbus’ 90th anniversary in 1972, marking their own place in the history of the Order by assembling a composite photograph of the Council’s past Grand Knights.

The Council home was sold in June 1973 after 20 years’ occupancy, arguably marking the end of an era of extremes (both high and low) for the Knights.



Grand Knight Walt Krueger behind podium in Council Hall Chambers



Council 1313’s Hall
237 North Main Street



Club Manager
Walt Krueger

1974-1989: Transitional Peaks and Valleys

The sale of the Council home necessitated a search for a new location in which to conduct business meetings and the Knights subsequently arranged for the lease of “meeting room #11” (in the basement of a house south of the church) with pastor Fr. Thomas Stone at \$10.00 per week. The Council’s traditional covered dish dinners and bingo fundraisers were held in the finished basement of the church, named “Martin Hall” in honor of former pastor Fr. Martin Arno, O.S.B. Fr. Arno died in 1974 in Lafayette, and when it was discovered in 1976 that no tombstone had been provided for his grave, the Knights underwrote the project, pledging more money than was needed. The balance was “put to a good cause”.

The Knights of Columbus in Colorado was struggling organizationally in the mid-‘70’s, too, and by 1975 suspensions statewide outnumbered new member initiations, putting the state “in the red”. By 1978, Council 1313 counted only 90 members on its rolls, down by nearly half its numbers of 10 years prior.

Rid of the albatross that the “home” had become, the Council scrambled to recover and to re-invigorate itself, becoming more active in parish affairs. Late in 1974, assistant pastor Fr. Jim Revello, O.S.B., asked for the Knights’ help in organizing a Fall Festival church bazaar. The Brothers jumped right in, setting up the games and displays, running the Bingo-Bacon Booth, and sponsoring a cash raffle (a \$1,000.00 prize) which grossed \$3,630.00 in sales. The bazaar itself grossed over \$8,000.00 and was considered a “huge success”. Ensuing Fall Festival bazaars were equally lucrative, and became a popular but short-lived tradition, that was canceled by pastor Fr. Walter R. Jaeger in 1981, and run only sporadically thereafter.

The annual Corporate Communion breakfasts were a mainstay of the organization during this transitional period, annually drawing over 300 attendees. The 58th Annual Breakfast, held in March 1980, was perhaps the most popular ever, enticing nearly 500 guests to come and listen to the Denver Broncos' head coach, Red Miller.

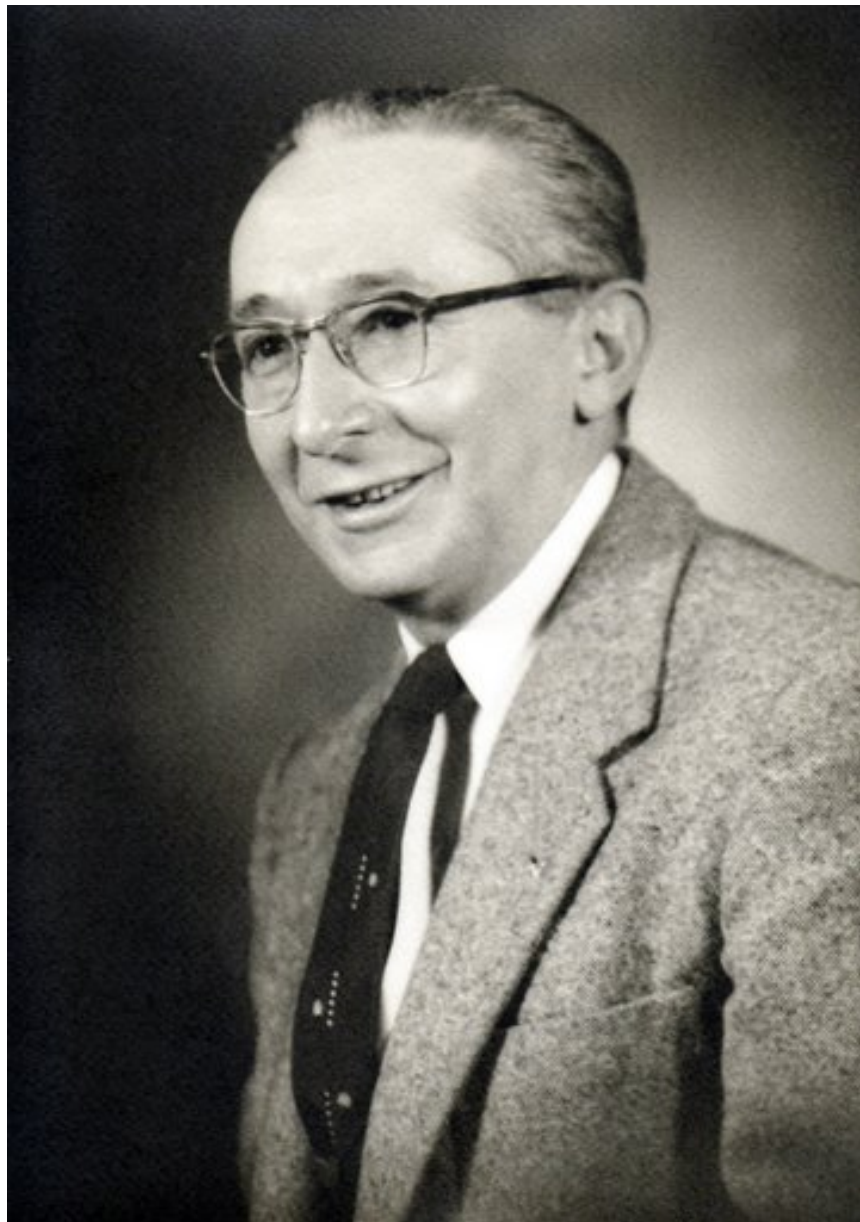
Longmont Council 1313 held its inaugural "Tootsie Roll Drive" to benefit the mentally handicapped in April 1975. The project netted \$1,109.86, and proved to be such a popular fundraiser that it became an annual event. Conversely, the traditional monthly "covered dish dinners" that the Council sponsored drew fewer and fewer people and were rarely profitable. The meals were discontinued in October 1976, ending a 25 year tradition. Council 1313 had a strong voice in state Columbian affairs during this period. Brother James Lechman, who had served as Grand Knight in 1969-1970, was elected State Advocate in 1975 (and re-elected in 1976).

The Council found a new temporary residence in June 1976, renting office space in the Beauprez Realty building at 436 Main Street at the very reasonable rate of \$7.50 per meeting (as opposed to the \$30.00 per month they had been charged by St. John's). However, the death of Julius Beauprez in August 1977 and the ensuing probate issues jeopardized this arrangement and by mid-summer 1978, the peripatetic Council was again on the road, looking for a place to meet. Fr. Jaeger suggested that the Knights consider occupying the basement of the Samaritan House, a facility operated by St. John's and located on the southeast corner of the parish campus. The Samaritan House supported the parish's outreach ministries and was the predecessor of the present day O.U.R. Center (Outreach United Resource Center). The brothers put an extensive amount of work into finishing the basement before moving into their new (albeit temporary) quarters in January 1979.

Assistant pastor Fr. William Buhmeier was appointed to serve as Council Chaplain in 1980 and took an active role in promoting Knighthood. Whether his influence prompted the latent enthusiasm of the brothers or whether something else provided the stimulus, the ensuing years witnessed a burst of creativity and commitment. The Knights sponsored a golf tournament and "Fun Night" that drew 70 golfers and 150 diners to an evening buffet, auctioned a beef at the Fall Festival, sold Christmas trees as a fundraiser, hosted a free throw tournament for the children of the parish (that drew only four competitors in its first year, but which emerged as another popular annual event), ran "Turkey Bingo" games to benefit the Samaritan House, sponsored a youth baseball team, assisted the Salvation Army with its annual holiday season fundraising drive, and organized a scholarship fund with the intent of awarding a \$250.00 college scholarship annually.

With regard to the latter: Brother Martin Bersano was recognized in May 1981 for his 58 years as a member of the Knights of Columbus. He served his Council as Grand Knight and in a variety of other positions, and served the state as District Deputy and as a state officer during his nearly six decades as a Knight. He died the following month, and his wife, Hildegard Bersano, made a contribution to the nascent scholarship fund in his memory. The Council's scholarship program was named in his honor, and commemorates him to this day. Lori Ann Ames received the first grant of \$300.00. Since its inception, the Martin Bersano

Scholarship Fund has grown, awarding over \$30,000 in the ensuing years to deserving area students. In 2008, the Council plans to award two \$1,000.00 college scholarships and one \$500.00 grant to an 8th grader entering a Catholic high school.



Martin Bersano Grand Knight 1955 – 1957; 1976.
Namesake of Council 1313's Annual Scholarship Fund.
Proud member of the Knights of Columbus for 58 years;
he also served as a District Deputy and State Officer

The Knights of Columbus celebrated their 100th anniversary in 1982; President Ronald Reagan congratulated the organization on its accomplishments, and there was talk at the Supreme Council of initiating a campaign for the canonization of Fr. Michael McGivney. Council 1313 marked its 75th anniversary the following year (1983), however, there were no

grand celebrations. Instead, the nomadic Council began considering its options for a new meeting place, as St. John's became increasingly crowded and demands for meeting space increasingly urgent. The newly established Catholic community, Spirit of Peace, was considered as a possible sponsor; however, that proved untenable as their Presbyterian landlords didn't allow cigarettes or beer on campus.

Longmont Council 1313 Officers in 1983
75th anniversary

Grand Knight Art Wong	Advocate Jim Lechman
Chaplain Fr. William Buhmeier	Warden George Van Etten
Deputy Grand Knight Maurice Ellinger	Inside Guard Ray Dechant
Chancellor Arnold Peter	Outside Guard John Strahan
Recorder: Patrick Sanchez	Trustee Bob Egan
Financial Secretary Frank Wessling	Trustee Russ Soraci
Treasurer Rudy Susa	Trustee John Spenner
Lecturer (vacant)	

The discussion continued into the following year. Fr. Buhmeier addressed the Council about how to go about re-vitalizing the Knights in the era of the "Me Culture". Not surprisingly, having a permanent Council home was the most popular idea, and one which Fr. Buhmeier readily endorsed. In the interim, the Council decided that they would meet in the Longmont Community Center on Meeker Street. Reflecting the Council's "ups and downs", the report of the 1984 State Convention indicated that Council 1313's membership was down and that it had "dipped to a low ranking" among the state's Councils.

In 1984, Fr. Jaeger suggested that the Knights host a monthly parish breakfast in Martin Hall, a project which they willingly undertook, sharing the profits with St. John's. In order to promote community and keep the meals affordable for large families, the Knights charged a nominal fee of \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 per child (nearly a quarter of a century later, the breakfasts now cost \$5.00 for an adult meal and \$3.00 for a child's portion: still an exceptional bargain).

1985 and the ensuing years marked a transition in Council 1313's fortunes, as membership gradually grew, attendance at meetings increased, and the treasury stabilized, assisted in part by the regular transfusions of cash from the monthly parish breakfasts. In addition to meeting its usual commitments, the Council purchased a new freezer for the rectory, organized a Bingo fundraiser for the Samaritan House, hosted Lenten soup suppers, and expanded the scholarship program, providing two scholarships each year. Adding to the Knights' visibility within the parish, the Fourth Degree provided an honor guard in full regalia at the 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass each week. As in years past, the Council co-hosted an annual parish picnic (with St. John's Parent Teacher Organization), and in December 1987, sponsored a dinner for migrants (brother Thomas Mahoney would be proud) which drew 158 attendees. By 1988, the Council, which four years before had been rated as being among the weakest in

the state, was ranked 11th among 56 Councils statewide, and received a Star Council Award from the Supreme Council, one of only 11 awarded throughout Colorado.

1990-1999: Solid Growth (and Growing Pains)

Throughout the last decade of the 20th Century, the brothers of Council 1313 conducted business much as they had in the preceding eight decades of their existence: they supported their Church, their favorite charities, and each other. Notable among their accomplishments were several awards from the Colorado State and Supreme Councils, culminating in back-to-back “Star Council Awards” in 1998-1999 and 1999-2000, recognizing overall achievement in membership recruitment and retention, insurance promotion, and “Surge... with Service” program activities. The activities included those traditionally associated with the Knights as well as several new ones: Council camp-outs, participating in the Longmont “Crop Walk” and annual “Longmont Life Chain”, hosting visiting pilgrims for 1993’s “World Youth Day” (held in Denver and presided over by Pope John Paul II), and fundraisers to benefit area charities like the Palmer Drug Abuse program and Longmont Crisis Pregnancy Center. In 1997, the Knights sponsored a special “Bingo” fundraiser to benefit ailing Boulder County Sheriff’s deputy Bob Meals, who was in need of a kidney transplant; \$2,400.00 was raised in a single evening. On May 15th, 1999, at the request of Reverend Mr. Bill Lee, and in recognition of National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial Day, the Knights sponsored the first Law Enforcement Memorial service in cooperation with the Front Range Police Chaplain’s Association. The Fourth Degree added to the pageantry with an honor guard and the rest of the Council provided lunch for the officers and guests in attendance.



Boulder County Sheriff’s Office
Color Guard: Deputies Jeanette Cunning,
Steve Aubry, Britt Fell and Tim Aguilar



Boulder County Sheriff’s Office Color Guard
leads the Color Corps of Assembly 0094 and
assembled peace officers to the annual Law
Enforcement Officers Memorial Day services
at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church.

May 15, 1999

The Council actively supported the parish, too, contributing to the replacement of the stoves in Martin Hall's kitchen, the repair of the ceiling over the church sanctuary when it collapsed unexpectedly late in 1991, and purchasing books and supplies for St. John's school. When Fr. James Fox, pastor of St. John's, proposed a 23,000 square foot expansion of the parish campus with the addition of office space, a chapel, a multi-purpose parish hall, and eight new classrooms for St. John's middle school, the Knights were among the first to contribute to the aptly named "Building for the Future" campaign. The Fourth Degree honor guard was present in force for the ground-breaking ceremonies in the fall of 1997, and, 18 months later when the new facilities were opened, the Council purchased crucifixes for each of the new classrooms and new vestments for the priest celebrating the dedication.

In 1990, it was suggested that each Council appoint a Historian. Brother Arnold Peter, a long-time member of the Council, undertook the challenge, and with the assistance of Past Grand Knight James Lechman and brother Maurice Ellinger, presented the Longmont Council with their first comprehensive organizational history in February 1991 (a work which constitutes the foundation of this updated history).

In 1994, the Knights were told that the room in the convent (converted to office space for the parish as it was no longer needed to house the nuns) in which they had been meeting was to be converted to a "youth room", necessitating another relocation. The Knights managed to remain on campus by changing their meeting night to Thursday, and began meeting in Martin Hall. However, this forced relocation (at least the 12th in their history) prompted renewed interest in finding a permanent home. Recognizing that the money realized from the sale of the old Council home in 1973 would never be sufficient to purchase an adequately sized space, given the effects of inflation and burgeoning real estate values, the Knights once again undertook a familiar fundraiser: bingo. Organizing two teams, the Council rented a time slot from Main Street Bingo, located in the Horizons Shopping Center at 21st Avenue and Main Street, and hosted sessions every Sunday night. The project proved popular and lucrative, and between the residual funds from the sale of the original Council home, the profits from Bingo (which ended in May 1998 with the closure of the Bingo hall), and informed investing strategies, the Knights had amassed nearly \$225,000 in the "home fund" by the end of 2000.

In 1998, the Council claimed 164 registered members, of whom 131 were deemed "active" (i.e. dues-paying), and was ranked 15th in the state. For the first time in its history, membership in the Knights of Columbus statewide surpassed 10,000, with nearly 1.5 million Knights world-wide. Founder Fr. Michael McGivney's cause for canonization was formally introduced by the Vatican. Brother James Rawlins introduced Council 1313 to the world, creating an Internet web-site for the council, <http://www.earthnet.net/kofc1313/>.

The following year witnessed the departure of long-time pastor Fr. James Fox, and the assignment of Fr. Brian Morrow to the parish of St. John's. In an effort to get off on the right foot with the new pastor, a delegation of Knights met with him prior to his transfer and pledged their support. The first significant event to follow was a parish "Feast Day Fair", held on the feast day of St. John the Baptist, June 24th. The Fair, organized by the Council, featured a dance, barbeque picnic, carnival games, and a few small carnival rides, and was

held on the re-dedicated (and re-sodded) parish “green” between St. John’s School and the new addition to the church.



Fr. Brian Morrow presides over the outdoor mass preceding the Feast Day Fair, June 24th 1999.

Aside from the other traditional annual projects and programs, a highlight of the year was a Knights’-sponsored trip to Coors Field for a Colorado Rockies’ baseball game. The Council treated the altar servers to the outing as their guests in recognition of their services. The annual fraternal survey compiled in January 2000 indicated that the Council had committed 6,132 volunteer service hours to parish and charitable activities.



Feast Day Fair Knights (left to right): Jim Hetherington congratulates another prize winner; Ardean Schultz supervises rookie chefs James Rawlins and Randy Schmidt; Carl Ribbing prepares another cold soft drink; Chris Massarotti watches the fun.

2000-2006: New Century, New Millennium, New Challenges

Longmont entered the 21st Century as a city of over 71,000 people. St. John's had experienced similar growth and claimed over 3,000 registered families. With the support of its new pastor, the Council was poised for growth, too. The Council instituted Lenten "Soup and Salad Dinners" on Friday nights, re-instituted a parish golf tournament and pig roast (with nearly disastrous consequences when the novice chefs inadvertently set the pig on fire), purchased a large canopy tent for use at parish functions, promoted a Second Annual "Feast Day Fair", and contributed \$20,000 to the "Building for the Future" campaign, funding the purchase of a stained glass window in the Adoration Chapel (which was dedicated to the memory of the deceased brothers of the Council). The Council was as active as it had ever been... which naturally prompted renewed discussion about the purchase of a home and the expenditure of the "home fund".

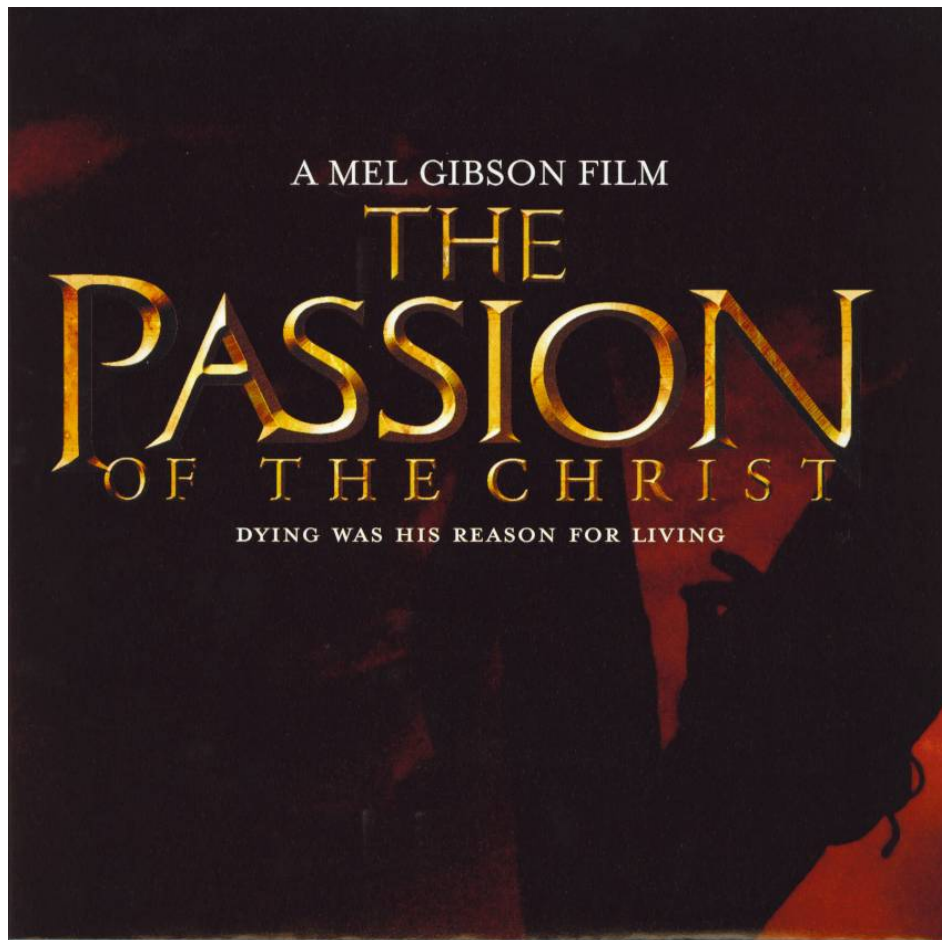
In the interim, recognizing that the school and gymnasium (built in 1926) was in an advanced state of disrepair and no longer adequately served the needs of the parish, Fr. Morrow proposed a new building campaign: a \$3.3 million dollar renovation of the school and former convent, incorporating the construction of a new gym and several additional classrooms. Seeing an opportunity, several members proposed that the Council donate the "home fund" to the parish in exchange for a permanent Council chamber to be built in the basement of the new gymnasium. A committee was designated to research the proposal, but ultimately recommended that the Council not pursue the plan as the Archdiocese of Denver was unwilling to commit to a long-term lease. Nonetheless, the debate continued throughout 2001.

Ultimately, the question was called and the Council met January 3rd, 2002, to decide the issue. It is a measure of the interest with which the brothers considered the proposal to note that 63 members attended that evening to cast their ballots; no other Council meeting ever recorded that many members present. After a spirited and sometimes rancorous debate, the issue was put to a vote and defeated summarily. The home fund remained intact, waiting for another opportunity to present itself.

No one at the time could have anticipated the impact of the decision, but it was a momentous one in Council history. Several members, discouraged at the outcome, quit the Council; Fr. Morrow resigned as Council chaplain, citing the discourtesy he witnessed at the meeting. In retrospect, much of the positive spirit and goodwill generated in the preceding years was spent that evening. The Council would spend the next few years under a cloud, attempting to restore the damaged relationships.

Not that they didn't try mightily: the Council involved itself in virtually every parish social activity, either hosting it, staffing it, or subsidizing it. Events included dances, parties, picnics, chili cook-offs, and notably, movies. In February 2004, the Council underwrote the screening of the new movie, "The Passion of the Christ". At the time, it wasn't clear that the film, which was being released on a limited basis, would ever be shown in Longmont. Fore-shadowing its ultimate status as a blockbuster, the Knights sold out one theater and had to rent another to accommodate the capacity crowd that appeared for the special one-night

engagement. Emboldened by this success, the Knights underwrote the screening of a second feature presentation in September, “Therese: The Little Flower”, a well-executed film biography of St. Therese of Lisieux.



Poster from the sneak preview screening held at Regal Cinema Theatres at the Twin Peaks Mall, February 23, 2004.

Other notable accomplishments included the lighting of the bell tower at St. John’s (completed in memory of late brother J. Philip Baca), the purchase of new readers for the kindergarten classes (funded with golf tournament proceeds), a \$10,000 pledge to the “Share the Vision” building campaign, several spaghetti dinner fundraisers for the Spirit of Peace Catholic Community, and the expansion of the Martin Bersano scholarship program to add a third \$500.00 award to a graduating 8th grader attending a Catholic high school. Following the dedication of the new gym, the Knights sponsored a Sunday night “Men’s 30 and Over” recreational basketball league in cooperation with the athletic program at Lifebridge Christian Church. The program has proven immensely popular, and is usually at maximum capacity from season to season.

A unique individual accomplishment was celebrated in June 2003 when brother Knight Mike Berens was ordained as a Deacon. The Reverend Mr. Berens was subsequently appointed by Archbishop Charles Chaput to serve as the Council’s chaplain.

Demonstrating that history repeats itself, the Council agreed to act as sponsor to a new Boy Scout troop, Troop 565, which was chartered in May 2004, and which presently claims nearly two dozen boys as members.

Similarly, repeating history again, the Council found itself on the move again in November 2005 when a remodel of Martin Hall at St. John's ousted the Knights from the meeting space they had occupied for 11 years. Temporary quarters were found at the V.F.W. hall on South Main Street, however, promptly proved inadequate and unpopular (due to the pervasive odor of cigarette smoke). A better facility was badly needed but wasn't found until 2007 and the establishment of a new parish in Longmont, St. Francis of Assisi.

2007-2008: The Year in Review, the Future in View

A summary of Council activities and events in 2007 can best give a sense of where Longmont Council 1313 stands on the eve of its 100th anniversary:

January:

- The Knights' donation of \$150.00 to the effort to purchase a small tabernacle for the chapel at St. John's allowed the project coordinator to make the purchase.
- Boy Scout Troop 565 expressed their appreciation to the Council for sharing \$200.00 from the proceeds of the December parish breakfast
- The Knights received a thank you letter from the Longmont Police Department for the assistance provided with preparing the food and beverages for the estimated 14,000 people who attended the annual Holiday Creek Walk along the St. Vrain River
- 24 competitors turned out for the Council's 27th annual Free Throw Challenge (despite a heavy snow)
- The Council was recognized by the Salvation Army for having raised \$7,005.00 in their annual Christmas fund drive. \$52,000 was raised city-wide; the Knights contributed 148 service hours to the project.

February:

- Several Brother Knights participated in the regularly scheduled blood drive at St. John's; Council 1313 has an account (#1977) with the Bonfils Blood Center
- The Council continued its long-standing tradition of hosting a "family rosary" at a member Knight's home once a month.

March:

- 175 people attended the 85th Annual Corporate Communion Breakfast in Martin Hall on March 4th. Ms. Shaun Boyd, reporter for KCNC-TV in Denver, spoke about the influence of her Catholic faith in her life, family, and profession.
- The Knights prepared and served a traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner to the 300+/- partygoers at St. John's annual "St. Patrick's Day" festival on March 17th. The Knights used the event as the focus of their annual scholarship fundraiser raffle, awarding a trip to Ireland to the lucky winner. Raffle ticket sales grossed \$7,538.00 for the scholarship fund.

April:

-The “Men’s 30 and Over Recreational Basketball League”, sponsored by Council 1313, was in full swing at St. John’s gym on Sunday nights. Since its return to St. John’s in the Spring of 2005 (following the completion of the construction of the new school gym), the league has provided a year-round recreational opportunity while generating over \$4,600.00 in revenue for the parish’s “Share the Vision” building campaign.

May:

- At the request of the Longmont Police Chaplain’s group, the Council hosted a luncheon for area police officers at the annual Law Enforcement Memorial service. The 4th Degree provided an honor guard in full regalia
- Honoring the late Martin Bersano, the Knights presented two \$1,000.00 scholarships to graduating high school seniors and a \$500.00 scholarship to an eight grader entering Holy Family High School in Broomfield
- Following a long-standing tradition, the Knights prepared and served breakfast at the Altar and Rosary Society’s annual “Mother Daughter Breakfast” (returning the favor granted by the ladies of the Altar and Rosary who prepared and served breakfast at the Corporate Communion Breakfast in March)

June:

- The Knights prepared food and beverages for over 700 people attending St. John’s annual parish feast day picnic (commemorating the parish’s 125th anniversary)
- The Council elected officers for the Fraternal Year 2007-2008

Longmont Council 1313 Officers for the Fraternal Year 2007-2008	
Grand Knight Robert Distel	Advocate James Rawlins
Chaplain Deacon Mike Berens	Warden Chris Tornow
Deputy Grand Knight Carl Ribbing	Inside Guard Joseph Gross
Chancellor Rich Chopyak	Outside Guard John Robisch
Recorder James Crowley	Trustee Bruce Doyle
Financial Secretary Mark Pilkington	Trustee Phil Lohman
Treasurer Tom Weber	Trustee Ron Webster
Lecturer Christopher Massarotti	

July:

- The Council counted 202 members on its rolls as of July 1st, 2007.
- The Council held their 24th annual garage sale, raising money to support the Council’s charitable activities. The project netted \$622.00

August:

- The Council hosted its annual Golf Tournament and Pig Roast on August 25th, the proceeds of which went to fulfill the Knights’ pledge to St. John’s “Share the Vision” building fund.
- Several Brothers assisted St. John’s Parent Teacher Organization with preparing food for the annual “Back to School” picnic.

September:

-After a summer hiatus, the Council resumed cooking the monthly breakfasts following the Sunday morning masses at St. John's.

October:

-Several Brothers assisted Fr. Frank Maroney and the parishioners of the new St. Francis of Assisi parish (formerly Spirit of Peace Catholic Community) with moving into their new, albeit temporary, facilities at 2410 Trade Centre Drive. The Knights provided financial assistance to the fledgling parish as well, contributing \$1,000.00 a month in exchange for meeting space.

-The Knights sponsored the 14th annual "Longmont Life Chain", a silent, prayerful, and public protest against abortion on "Respect Life Sunday", October 7th.

-The Fourth Degree provided an honor guard at St. Francis of Assisi's dedication Mass on October 14th and at St. John's 125th Anniversary Mass on October 21st. Archbishop Charles Chaput celebrated both Masses.

-The Knights' annual Tootsie Roll campaign, benefitting the mentally handicapped, netted \$5,275.00 for local charities. Since its inception in 1975, the project has generated nearly \$100,000 for state and local charities

November:

-Through the graciousness of Deacon Mike Berens, the Knights held their annual Memorial Service on November 3rd, following the First Saturday Mass, commemorating the brother Knights of Council 1313 who have died.

-The Council contributed \$500.00 toward the support of seminarian Mauricio Bermudez

-The Knights contributed over \$500.00 to "Southern Exposure's" home-building project, partially funding the construction of two simple cinder block homes in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Over the course of the year, a half dozen brother Knights participated individually in the builds.

-The Council donated \$100.00 to the "Mark Your Door For Mary" crisis pregnancy support program, sponsored locally by the Gabriel project

December:

-56 members of Council 1313 donated 128 hours over three weekends to staffing the Salvation Army's red kettles at the Walmart Supercenter, raising \$6,027.44. The Salvation Army set a new record for local contributions of \$64,855.73

-Planning began in earnest for the gala celebration of the Council's 100th anniversary in April 2008.

The annual fraternal survey for 2007 reported that the Council had 203 members, contributed \$15,502 to charitable endeavors, and committed over 12,000 hours of volunteer service. Cumulatively, nearly 1,000 men have been members of Longmont Council 1313 since its inception. They've contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to charity and committed untold hours of service to their parish and community.

Not a bad return on an investment of 100 years...

The Officers of Council 1313 for 2008



Bob Distel
Grand Knight



Carl Ribbing
Deputy Grand Knight



Rev. Mr. Mike Berens
Chaplain



Chris Tornow
Warden (Past Grand Knight)



Rich Chopyak
Chancellor



Jim Crowley
Recorder



Mark Pilkington
Financial Secretary



Tom Weber
Treasurer



James Rawlins
Advocate



Joe Gross
Inside Guard



John Robisch
Outside Guard



Ron Webster
Trustee (Past Grand Knight)



Phil Lohman
Trustee (Past Grand Knight)



Bruce Doyle
Trustee (Past Grand Knight)

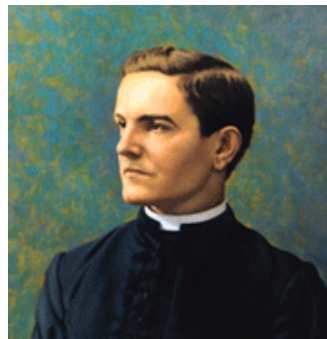


Chris Massarotti
Lecturer

Longmont Assembly



0094



**Knights of Columbus Founder
Father Michael J. McGivney**



Grand Knights of Council 1313

Apr. 1908- Dec.1908	C.E. Smith	1960-1961	Joseph Bley
1909-1910	J.F. Doyle	July 1961-Feb. 1962	Edward Mudd
1910-1911	T.T. Donovan	Feb. 1962-July 1962	Joseph Bley
1911-1912	J.N. McLellan	1962-1963	John Spenner
1912-1913	J.A. Donovan	1963-1964	Willard Pilkington
1913-1914	George Doyle	1964-Dec. 1965	Joseph Diedrich
1914-1915	Albert Schauer	Dec. 1965-1967	Walt Krueger
1914-1917	John Reinert	1967-Mar. 1968	Elmer Hart
1917-1920	Stanley Coffin	Mar. 1968-1969	James Hanley*
1920-1921	J. F. "Jack" Reynes	1969-1970	James Lechman**
1921-1922	John A. Donovan	1970-1971	Eldore Friese
1922-1927	Thomas Mahoney	1971-1972	Al Prom
1927-1928	Arnold F. Peter	1972-1973	John Kelly
1928-1929	E.P. Sweeney	1973-1974	Rudolph Susa
1929-1931	Gary L. Davis	1974-1975	George Van Etten
1931-1933	Reginald V. Batt	1975-Feb. 1976	Pat Sheridan
1933-1936	John Curran *	Feb. 1976-July 1976	Martin Bersano**
1936-1937	Edward Flaherty	1976-1977	Carl Burton
1937-1939	V.B. Stephan	1977-1978	Edward Johnson
1939-1941	Klarence Nesmith	1978-1980	Russell Soraci
1941-Feb. 1943	Jack Tordoff	1980-1982	Robert Egan
Feb 1943-Jul 1943	Franklin Murphy	1982-1984	Arthur Wong
1943-1945	Reginald V. Batt	1984-1986	Michael Kudla*
1945-1947	George Pomainville	1986-1988	Richard Papp
1947-1948	John P. Murphy	1988-1990	Edward Collins
1948-1950	Sylvester Soucie	1990-1992	Leonard Garvert**
Jul. 1950-Dec.1950	William Rose	1992-1993	Charles Mack
Dec. 1950- Jul. 1951	Leo Rademacher	1993-1995	Richard Rittenburg*
1951-1952	John Curran *	1995-1997	Robert Distel *
1952-1953	Paul O'Malley	July 1997-Sep. 1997	Don Koepp
1953-1954	Dean Seewald	Sep. 1997-1998	Robert Distel*
1954-1955	Sylvester Soucie	1998-1999	Michael Monares
1955-1957	Martin Bersano **	1999-2003	Christopher Tornow
1957-1958	Alex Bauer	2003-2005	Bruce Doyle
1958-1959	Earl Lewis	2005-2007	Ronald Webster
1959-1960	Theodore Rademacher	2007-	Robert Distel*

A Council history compiled in 1990 listed Frank Mulligan as Grand Knight from 1918-1921, however, a photographic composite compiled in the mid-'60's identified Stanley Coffin as Grand Knight from 1917-1920 and J.F Reynes as Grand Knight from 1920-1921. Similarly, John Venus was listed as Grand Knight from 1921-1922 while the composite reflects John A. Donovan as Grand Knight. Sadly, the minute books from that period (May 1916-September 1923) are missing.

* Denotes that the individual served at least one term as District Deputy

** Denotes that the individual served at least one term as a State Officer

Awards and Honors

1939-1940	Supreme Council Membership Honor Roll
1942	“Distinguished Service Award” presented to Joseph H. Bley by the Colorado State Council
1943-1944	Supreme Council Membership Honor Roll
1952	Supreme Council recognition for Past Grand Knight John P. Curran
1957-1959	District Award for Best Attendance at District Meetings
1958-1959	Supreme Council Certificate of Honor: Insurance Honor Roll
1959	Supreme Council “Star Council” Award
1965	“Distinguished Service Award” presented to Joseph H. Bley by the Colorado State Council (second award)
1970	John Curran recognized by Colorado State Council as “Top Recruiter” for the “J.F.K. Membership Campaign”
1986-1987	“Distinguished Service Award” presented to the Fourth Degree Assembly by the Colorado State Council
1987	Colorado State Council “Youth Award”
1987-1988	Supreme Council “Star Council” Award (one of 11 presented statewide)
1988-1989	Colorado State Council Division 2 “Membership” Award
1988-1989	Colorado State Council “Participation” Award
1989-1990	Colorado State Council “Participation” Award
1990-1991	Supreme Council “Fr. McGivney” Award
1990-1991	Supreme Council “Founders” Award
Nov. 1992	Colorado State Council recognized Leonard Garvert as the “State Knight of the Month”
1993	Colorado State Council “Participation” Award
1994	Colorado State Council “Participation” Award

1994	Colorado State Council “Vocations Support” Award
1995	Colorado State Council “Participation” Award
1995	Supreme Council “Founder’s” Award
1997	Supreme Council “Fr. McGivney” Membership Award
1998	Colorado State Council “Surge With Service” Award
1998	Supreme Council “Community Activity” Award
1998	Supreme Council “Council Activity” Award
Oct. 1998	Colorado State Council recognized Tom Weber as the “State Knight of the Month”
1998	Colorado State Council “Participation” Award
1998-1999	Supreme Council “Columbian” Award for Service Programs
1998-1999	Supreme Council “Star Council” Award
Oct. 1999	Colorado State Council recognized Terry Medearis as the “State Knight of the Month”
Nov. 1999	Colorado State Council recognized James Rawlins as the “State Knight of the Month”
1999	Colorado State Council recognized Rick Rittenburg as “Star District Deputy”
1999	Council 1313 ranked as 19 th in the state by the Colorado State Council
2000	Council 1313 ranked as 18 th in the state by the Colorado State Council
1999-2000	Supreme Council “Star Council” Award
2001	Colorado State Council “Surge with Service” Award
2001	Council 1313 ranked as 18 th in the state by the Colorado State Council
2001-2002	Supreme Council “Fr. McGivney” Membership Award and “Columbian” Award for Service Programs
2002	Colorado State Council “Participation” Award

2002-2003 Supreme Council “Columbian” Award for Service Programs

2003 Colorado State Council “Surge with Service” Award

2003-2004 Supreme Council “Fr. McGivney” Membership Award and “Columbian” Award” for Service Programs

2004-2005 Supreme Council “Fr. McGivney” Membership Award, “Founders” Award, and “Star Council” Award

Resources:

Longmont Council 1313's meeting minute books, 1908-2008

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church's 100th Anniversary (1882-1982) history booklet

"These Men They Call Knights", a Knights of Columbus publication

"The Life and Legacy of Father Michael J. McGivney", a Knights of Columbus publication

"Parish Priest: Father Michael McGivney and American Catholicism" by Douglas Brinkley and Julie Fenster

"Colorado Catholicism: The Archdiocese of Denver 1857-1989" by Thomas J. Noel

"1908 to 1991: Knights of Columbus Council 1313, Longmont, Colorado": a history compiled by Arnold A. Peter, Maurice Ellinger, and James Lechman

City of Longmont website: www.ci.longmont.co.us History by Erik Mason

Longmont Daily Times Call newspaper

Longmont Ledger newspaper

History written by Phil West. Edited By Phil West and James Rawlins.