



History of St. Joseph Council 1959-2009

We hope that you enjoy this "History of St. Joseph Council 1959-2009". This story is being written for you by Brothers Don Farinacci PGK, Joseph Ferrandina PGK, Jim Flanagan PGK, Ken McCormack, Charles Sorrentino PGK, and Jim Weis PGK. Please note that we used the history written by Rocco Bochetto PGK and Sherman Martin PGK 1959-1979 as well as the collection of Voyagers we have kept over the years. We hope that you enjoy it.

Reverend Michael J McGivney, curate of St. Mary's parish, New Haven Ct. saw a need for a fraternal society when, on January 9th, 1882 he called together a small group of men whom he had confidence. In general, the objectives were to provide a system of fraternal insurance to care for the widows and orphans of members; to provide fellowship among members; to aid the cause of religion; and to perform charitable, educational and patriotic works for the benefit of their fellow men and their nation. On this day the Knights of Columbus was founded as was Council number 1. Some seventy-seven years later council 4810 came into existence in Greenlawn New York with a charter of eighty-six men (see list of charter members). We were born.

In 1959 we were just becoming accustomed to the atomic age and were on the threshold of "Space Age". Dwight Eisenhower our 34th President would open the St. Lawrence Seaway while Alaska and Hawaii would be admitted as our 49th and 50th states. Elvis Presley, Charlie Connerly, Floyd Patterson, Ingemar Johansson, Fidel Castro and Richard Nixon were all household names. Jet airliners had just entered regular service in the United States the previous December, and a very young catholic from Massachusetts John F. Kennedy was preparing for his campaign for Presidency.

On a local level the population of Huntington was approaching 126,000 of which the community of Greenlawn comprised about 5,400. There was no Catholic church in Greenlawn as yet, the area being served by the parishes of St. Hughes in Huntington Station, St. Phillips in Northport, and St. Anthony's in East Northport. St. Francis and Our Lady Queen of Martyrs were still seven years in the future. The Knights of Columbus were represented in the Township of Huntington by the Gate of Heaven Council number 468 the first council in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, founded December 3rd, 1899.

Such was the situation as the "fabulous fifties" prepared to move into the "spacious sixties" and a vision were forming in the minds of catholic men. The idea of starting a separate council was in the minds of two members of "the Gate", Francis J. Fidgeon and John M. Marafino.

Before they knew it interest spread like wild fire with their inquiries. The list jumped to fourteen, soon to forty-four and on Friday June 5, 1959 the Supreme Office granted a charter authorizing the organization of a new Knights of Columbus council to be designated the name St. Joseph Council Number 4810, Greenlawn New York. It listed eighty-six Catholic gentlemen as charter members. Its first Grand Knight was Francis Fidgeon and its first Chaplain was Reverend Nicholas J. Sarli of St. Phillip Neri.

First Degrees became the first order of business with Formation and Knighthood degrees being done throughout the months of June and July 1959. The first official business meeting was held at Kerr's Inn later called the Greenlawn Inn. For the next eighteen months meetings were also held at the Greenlawn Firehouse, Old Fields Inn, and the American Legion Hall in Greenlawn. The first set of ceremonial robes and jewels were donated by GK Fidgeon's former council number 3733 in North Haven Ct. This was all done as GK Fidgeon appointed John Marfino and Joseph Doherty to head up a building Committee. As a result of the findings the council agreed to form a corporation for the purpose of acquiring property. The certificate of incorporation of the 4810 Corporation was filed with the Secretary of the State of NY on August 2nd, 1960. The present hall at 24 Boulevard Ave., Greenlawn was purchased on November 14th, 1960. The first meeting was held there on December 22nd, 1960 by the GK Frank Fidgeon and blessed by the Chaplain Reverend Sarli.

The first ladies Night Special held at the Lindberg Lodge in Huntington on August 28th, 1959 was enjoyed by 65 couples. Chairman Brother KJ Dow reported that at \$5.00 per couple the small deficit was understandable. The first council Retreat was

organized by Brother Jim Lavery held at Sag Harbor. Although attendance at this event was "very slim", it improved significantly there-after.

The first Installation of Officers was held on September 29th, 1959 at the Greenlawn Firehouse. The Sixth District Deputy John J Donohue presided. Not until 1966 were the rules changed so that families could attend. So many firsts occurred in 1959. Brother John F Martin held the first dinner dance, Brother John McDermott (a future GK) organized the first Thanksgiving Mass, Brother William Hammond became the first C and B chairman, and Brother Henry Jaekel became the initial chief counselor to a Columbian Squires Circle number 1261 that was formed. Brother Vincent Aiello held the first Christmas party on Dec 21st, 1959. John McDermott again organized the first Communion Breakfast held in March of 1960. The Guest Speaker was Supreme Court Justice Mario Pittoni.

Indicative of the multitude of talents at St. Joseph Council was the amateur acting group, the "Columbian Players". Their debut was the presentation of the "Caine Mutiny Court Martial" on May 20th, 1960 at St. Hughes auditorium.

In May of 1960 Mrs. John Marafino and Mrs. Harry Smith (St. Joseph's Betsy Ross girls) arranged and sewed together our fine satin banner.

More developed quickly. Participation in the Greenlawn parade and services began in May of 1960 followed by a cookout at the American Legion. The first St. Joseph Blood bank took place under the watchful eye of Vincent Aiello. Bowling teams, softball teams, and social clubs sprang up. John McDermott organized the first real fund raiser – the Baseball Pool which brought in a profit of over \$1,000.

By the end of Frank Fidgeon's second term, June 30th 1961 the membership grew to 159 men. It was no wonder that Supreme bestowed Star Council on St. Joseph based on its outstanding program activities and membership results. There would be many more to follow.

The original Board of Directors with the assistance of Brother John J Stewart, attorney engineered the purchase of a 24' by 36' four room houses at 24 Boulevard. An 8' by 18' porch was attached to the front of the building which sat on a 50' by 170' plot. A \$10,000 mortgage was arranged. This mortgage was subsequently paid off by a Bond Issue and income from John McDermott's successful baseball pools. The following spring (1961) an addition was started on the parking lot side of the building to provide space for a kitchen and bathroom. This was completed in November of 1962 but was barely enough room for the now 195 members. In August of 1966 a contract was signed with a local contractor for a 26' by 38' extension across the front of the building at a cost of \$21,828. Another mortgage, more bonds and more baseball pools. On May 28th 1967 GK Charlie Weizenecker presented the 4810 Corp President Don Newman with a plaque in appreciation for his efforts. The new building was dedicated and blessed by the new Chaplain Fr. Green. The membership was now at a very strong 285 men. The next several major construction jobs were spearheaded by Brother Bill Fields. Probably the most popular area in the hall is "Henry Yantz's lower Deck" decorated and furnished by Brother Henry Yantz. The area decorated in a "nautical motif" was originally named "Knights Nook" With Henry's passing in 1976 the name changed. Although most of what was done by these great men has been changed today their efforts will always be remembered.

There were so many new programs started, and our hall has been used by all sorts of groups, Boy Scouts, CYO, Babe Ruth League, Little League, CCD, Boys Club, American Legion, AA, and others. In keeping with our assistance to the local parishes our hall was extended to Our Lady Queen of Martyrs for Sunday mass starting in 1966.

On the evening of October 4, 1965 GK Charles Weizenecker represented our council at Yankee Stadium for a mass offered by His Holiness Pope Paul VI attended by 90,000 people.

St. Joseph Council Vacation Club got its start in November of 1969 when Brothers Bill Fields and Joe Faller launched the first Oceanic Cruise. Sixteen couples saved and saved and launched on April 24, 1971 for seven days in the sun. A second cruise left port on April 23rd, 1979 with twenty-two couples. In February of 1972 Brother Fields started the ever popular Eastover Ski Weekend. Remember John Johnsen; not until you get to Nassau County. Bowling leagues were formed, Golf tournaments, fishing trips- they had it all. The ever popular Grand Knight Roast – then called the Dinner Meeting was first held in June of 1964. That tradition still holds today.

In the fall of 1963 the Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict were in need (now called St. Joseph's home for the Aged). Brother Joe Drauch got the attention of his Brother Knights as they responded with manpower for car repairs, painting, electrical work, moving furniture, tearing down old buildings, clearing land for new, etc. In Oct of 1966 St. Joseph's organized a fundraiser drive to help

the Nuns put up a new building which was to be used for a home for the aged. Upon completion of the new building it was dedicated to Bishop Kellenberg on May 20, 1967 with a large contingent from St. Joseph present along with the 4th Degree Color guard.

In December of 1965 Brothers Bill Comiskey and Thomas McAuliffe initiated a program of providing food baskets for needy families at Christmas time. From 5 baskets the first year this has grown to almost 50 baskets that Joe Faller and his merry men gather up each Christmas now.

Throughout the years St. Joseph's became involved with several Charities, such as the K of C NYS C and B program. We have had many fine chairpersons throughout the years- the first was Howard Schramm when St. Joseph broke all kind of records on Long Island thanks to Jim McNiff and Dom Murdocca.

On August 28th, 1977 St. Joseph participated in a charity softball game with the New York Islanders – won by the hockey team 7 to 5. The real winners though were the Cleary School for the Deaf. This was repeated in 1978 with a double-header.

Although all of these events, workings, are impressive none is probably more impressive than the one started by Brother Mike McGeever in October 1969. Mike and his volunteers (and there have been dozens throughout the years) assist disabled veterans in attending mass and provide articles in the Chapel from time to time. Today, Mike McGeever still chairs this event- some forty years later. Amazing, just amazing.

From 1959 through 1979, our first twenty years, twenty-nine Brothers were taken by the Lord. All the deceased members of St. Joseph Council are listed in this history booklet.

During the Columbian year 1982-83, Ernie Rossi was Grand Knight and Don Farinacci was Deputy Grand Knight. The legendary Jim McNiff was still at the top of the heap as a C and B seller. McNiff and Murdocca blanketed the DMV, every bakery, every supermarket and every parish within a ten mile radius seven days a week. Our most outstanding individual sellers were Jim McNiff, Dom Murdocca, Art Carroll, Lou Pryor, John McDermott, Jim Moore, Jim Scalisi, Jack Reynolds, Matt Eicholz and Charlie Foskett. Over 1000 books were sold. Mike McGeever continued to anchor a well-manned team of volunteers in our program at the Northport V.A. Hospital. The project was tougher then because the patients were spread out throughout several buildings on different floors. The stalwarts of the team were Ben Cowan, Bill Comiskey, Paul Chery, Frank Brust, Roy Geiger, John Johnson, Joe O'Donahoe, Charlie Foskett, Pete Esteve, Ed Gradel and Charlie Weizenecker.

Joe Faller and Bill Fields did their usual excellent job in running the Michael Leonard Memorial Christmas Party for needy families of the parishes.

Ernie Rossi was a good money manager and knew how to promote fundraisers. The Council finished the year with a healthy balance in the bank.

Don Farinacci was Grand Knight for the 1983-84 Columbian years. His Deputy Grand Knight was Tony Garifo. The Council had no Communion Breakfast back then, so Donald made such an event one of the priorities of his term as GK. He ran into more resistance than he imagined because it was to be held at the Council Hall and many members were concerned that we would interfere with the Sunday morning mass held by Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs Parish, in our hall. A spirited debate ensued at a council meeting and a strong movement surfaced to make it a Communion Dinner. But, we prevailed by simply having the Mass said by Father Colgan after the OLQM mass. Thus, a tradition began. The C and B project reached its pinnacle with our council finishing number one in the state in councils with 200 to 300 members and Jim McNiff being the number one seller in the state in that same category of 200 to 300. Don's other priority was to organize a first degree team for the council. Up to that time we used a district team. In May of 1984, our newly-designated team conducted its initial First Degree. The team was composed of:

Grand Knight: Joe Faller

Deputy Grand Knight: Bob Higgins

Chancellor: Charlie Weizenecker

Warden: Don Farinacci

Financial Secretary: Paul Chery

Guards: Matt Eicholz and Dom Murdocca

Prompter: Jim Moore

Banner Bearer: Frank Desena.

The council finished the year with a 25th anniversary celebration at the Northport American Legion Hall, competently organized

and run by PGK Tom McKeown. Don was always grateful for the help he received in having a good social program from the late Tony Garifo, the late Frank Friedrich, and Charlie D'Eletto.

Eighteen Brothers went to our Lord between 1980 and 1984. Their names are listed on our listing of "deceased".

This span of time saw great leaps not only in our Country's economic expansion but also in our Council's growth in its attachment to the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. These cherished Knights of Columbus principles, meaningless rhetoric to most people, grew in both awareness and practice to the loyal Brothers of St Joseph Knights of Columbus during these years.

In February, 1984, with Don Farinacci as our Worthy Grand Knight (WGK), plans were already underway to celebrate the Council's Twenty Fifth Anniversary on June 8, 1984. Many of you may recall this celebratory event as we sit here to now commemorate our Fiftieth Anniversary. How time has past us so quickly. Mr. Farinacci made it a point throughout his Columbian year to emphasize our "Christian Charity" in our anniversary year. He certainly outperformed himself as Birthright and the St Patrick Day Dance were standout successes.

In 1984, the volunteer program at the V A Hospital in Northport, and spearheaded by Michael McGeever, was strongly entering its fifteenth year. Twenty six bucks got you into Bill Fields 300 Club which then also included a dinner and dance. What a bargain! Our 25th Anniversary celebration, chaired by the late Vince Pulito, concluded the Columbian year on a high note for all Brothers, wives and guests in attendance.

As we fast forward to September 1986, with Jim Moore as our WGK, social gatherings combined with fund raisings for lots of fun and care giving for those involved. The annual summer picnic saw Frank Desena, as he did several times; donate a TV to be raffled on this July 13, 1986 summer gathering. C&B raffles kicked off to a great start under the dedicated leadership of Jim McNiff and Dom Murdocca. They tirelessly volunteered their services seven days a week to raise money for the handicapped and support their Council in this annual appeal. Many of you will recall that in those days each Brother was rewarded with a spaghetti dinner when he sold two C&B raffle books.

Also, our newly formed softball team, in its second season, hosted a Nite at the Races which was a great fund raising event. The 1986 Christmas season, abundant in joy and giving, Joe and Jane Faller, as they still do to this date, hosted a sellout crowd as seventy five Brothers along with wives and friends attended the Michael Leonard annual Christmas party to raise \$1,330.50 towards food baskets for the needy families.

By 1987 it was time to prepare again for the annual Birthright, Communion Breakfast and St. Patrick Day fund raisers. Here is some trivia. Did you know that the first Communion Breakfast held by St. Joseph 4810 Council was hosted by the late John McDermott PGK on March 20, 1960?

As noted above, the St. Patrick's Day dinner, still a bargain at \$30.00 per couple then, saw its host Lou Pryor and wife Clara bedazzle the seventy two in attendance with their good ole corned beef (lean), green beer and an endless interlude of Irish tunes.

Speaking of Lou Pryor, Lou ushered in the 1987-1988 Columbian year as Grand Knight, the first of his two consecutive years as GK. He was off to a thunderous success as the summer 1987 Family Picnic brought a good size crowd, the St. Joseph softball team made the playoffs with a seventeen win season, and the Hank Schneider Golf Tournament was a "slam dunk" success with great weather and a tidy sum rose for charity.

Sadly, this year marked the only time in the history of the Council Hall that it sustained vandalism as a result of a break-in by thieves. The interlopers took the TV and the HI-Fi (remember those?).

By 1988 Lou was "motoring on all eight cylinders" bringing in new members and bringing acclaim to the Council with a Star Council award from Supreme. Lou didn't stop there, lest success rush to his head. Rentals increased at the Council Hall, Charlie Foskett's "Register Tapes" fund raiser was increasing and Frank DeSena's Pro Life Birthright Cocktail Party was a huge fund raiser.

Towards the close of Lou Pryor's 1987-1988 Columbian year a sad loss draped St. Joseph's Council with the passing of one of its most dedicated Brothers, Don Murdocca.

Lou Pryor's next term as GK for the 1988-1989 Columbian year mirrored his previous term although the membership could never figure out how his photo on the Voyager now made him appear at least ten years younger. We suspect it was his high school photo.

Nonetheless in this year Mike McGeever and Bill Comiskey were hard at work assisting our veterans at the Northport VA. Another full house attended both the eighth annual Michael Leonard Christmas Party and the subsequent St Patrick's Day Dinner Dance resulting in supplies and funds for the needy. We inaugurated the "baseball pool" through Charlie Caserona as, as time had passed, St. Joseph was now planning for its 30th Anniversary Gala for June 10, 1989. Also, how many of us remember Jim Moore's Father McGivney's Favorites held at the Council Hall every 3rd Tuesday of the month from 2PM to 4PM.

The 1989-1990 Columbian saw a grateful Peter Senatore installed as Grand Knight. This year was marked with a "Toast" to Jim McNiff and his family. Jim, a model Knight, was honored as "A Knight to Remember".

Who can forget the September, 1989 Clam Bake, also a huge fund raiser and social event.

Sadly, no sooner did we give honor and thanks to Jim McNiff that we mourned his passing in 1989. Jim gave his all for his Council. His tireless efforts to this day are a model for giving and charity that, to this day, enriches our Council.

The 1990- 1991 Columbian year open a new decade with the installation of the eclectic Walter Sherwood. Walter brought with him an energetic vibrancy as Grand Knight. Not afraid to try new approaches in his style as GK. Walter instilled a legacy unique and entrepreneurial coupled with steadfast dedication to charity, respect and loyalty. He remains a model Father McGivney Knight to this day. Walter's year as GK was indeed both quiet and meaningful with every objective he put forth. Selected deceased Brothers were announced and remembered by name at each meeting. C&B raffles improved as did the Softball team record and membership. At the 1991 Memorial Day outing, then held in the council backyard, all the widows in attendance received a plant. On October, 1991, Joe Ferrandina held a Columbus Day Italian Festival dinner night to a sellout crown. At \$15.00 per head, Walter proclaimed "if you can find a more delicious meal elsewhere with better ambiance for the price we'll pick up the tab." The Christmas adult party brought a then record number of food baskets raised for the needy. A historical landmark closed Walter's Columbian year as GK; the US Persian Gulf war came to an end and the late Bill Fields moved to the Carolinas (Walter took credit for neither occurrence). To this day Walter Sherwood denies that the photo of him displayed in the 1991 Voyager was not that of his First Holy Communion.

From July 1991 through June of 1993 the council was led by Grand Knights George Pozderak and Frank Desena. George and Frank tried to get the council a little closer to God during these two years. PGK Desena was a very busy man during this time period being the Pro Life chairperson under George, starting a bowling league as its President, and being involved with the Voyager as well. Although most of the normal affairs were held on schedule a couple of new ones were tried as well. Joe Theilmann held a Lobster and Steak night in the back yard at \$20 a head. Dick Brady was very active with his annual Holiday variety show at St. Phillips auditorium. George started an excellent program where the needy came in during Thanksgiving time and the Brothers spent the day cooking and serving them. This became very popular with the council. Jim Weis started his Christmas party for the children. These were children brought in that were not relatives of the council members but instead kids who did not have much to look forward to at Christmas. Mary Weis and Jim would seek contributions and go shopping for the kids. The wives would all come down and help wrap the presents while the husbands (all Brother Knights stood around looking helpless). Dick and Irene Francis did their part by bringing Military Bridge to the council.

During Frank's year of bring a Grand Knight Gerard Crosson helped him out by being our Pro Life Chairman. Frank tried to bring some younger blood to the meetings by changing the meeting night to Wednesday's. After a few attempts the return to Friday occurred soon afterwards. Joe Faller and his team reached a new milestone by having twenty baskets delivered after his Christmas party. Ken McCormack changed the 300 Club to a 200 Club as it was getting more and more difficult to sell out the 300 Club.

During 1992 Anthony Guagliano, Raymond Kelly, William Byrne, Donald Caldaralli, Joseph Keyes, and Americo Laurenzi went to the Lord.

In early 1993 our council was further honored by having Frank Brust, Joe O'Donahoe, and Ed Gradel were given the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor award for their years of dedication to the VA hospital under Chairman Mike McGeever. This was now in addition to the awards previously won by Mike McGeever himself, Ben Cowan and Joan Cowan, Ben's wife.

Rich Francis took over for a one year term in July of 1993. Rich got some pizzazz into the place by ordering new Jewels and embroider patches for blazers so that we could be identified proudly as Knights. John Bienkowski got us all hooting and hollering

as he ran a square dance. This went on for a number of years and was quite popular and profitable. Under Dick we had a fraternal weekend at the Granite Hotel, and Dick was the Grand Knight as we celebrated our 35th anniversary with a \$20 per person event at the council.

Times were getting tough for the Corporation. The Corp was having a hard time meeting its bills. A one time assessment was made by the Corporation to the council as "additional rent". By finishing out his term Dick made it a point to find a new sense of cooperation between the council and corporation.

During 1993 and early 1994 E.A. Riebesehl and Bernard Kelley, Jim Scalisi and Michael Suscello passed away.

In July of 1994 Jim Weis took over as Grand Knight. Jim pledged to make a Grand Knight's term two years in lieu of one. While attending the Gk indoctrination Bob Fallon our State Deputy at that time coined the phrase "Solidarity with our Priests". Some of the key events in 1994-95 were John Johnsen's family picnic at Camp McDonald's, a fishing trip by the new Corporation President Ken McCormack, and the first Christmas mass by our Chaplain Fr. Malachy Flaherty. We made an attempt to get brothers involved with ushering at St. Francis, teaching CCD, and becoming involved with the Special Olympics on Long Island.

In January of 1995 Mike McGeever received a letter from Francis Roque the Vicar of Veteran's Affairs thanking him for our council's now twenty-five years of service. Brothers Tony Loguercio and Lou Pryor won the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor award.

Between late 1994 and early 1995 we saw the passing of five brothers. Richard Spiegeleire, James Stewart, our Chef Frank Friederich, Gerard Passamano, and George Jackson left us for a better place.

The Voyager had a new "special man" each month. Starting with Lou Pryor, we added Bill Comiskey, John McDermott, and Mike McGeever as Knight of the month. Bob Wiggers took over the Bowling League in late 1995. The corporation still struggling monetarily imposed a one time assessment of \$62 on each member to help retire the outstanding bonds.

GK Weis attempted to form a Columbiettes council but was rejected by the wives who carefully explained to him that they did not need to be organized to continue to help our council continuously.

St. Joseph sent two teams to the Nassau-Suffolk Chapter Bowling Tournament but failed to place in its first attempt. Bill Comiskey started reporting in the Voyager about the Nocturnal Adoration society.

During Jim's second term John Bienkowski took over as the Welfare Fund Chairperson, and George Pozderak requested we bring canned food to meetings to help the poor. PGK Bill Christie passed away in July 1995.

In early 1996 we learned that Frank Friedrich included us in his last will and testament and donated \$5,000 to our council. This was certainly a blessing. Jim Weis's boss Michael Pascucci donated \$1,200 to the council. By now he had totaled over \$10,000 in donations over a number of years. Most of this money went to run the Children's Christmas party and purchase gifts for the children.

A dinner was held on April 19th, 1996 in honor of our fallen chef Frank Friedrich and a plaque was installed in the kitchen. Brother Joe Theilmann outdid himself in both cooking and serving for this affair.

Things were starting to come around for the corporation. Unity between the corporation and council was becoming evident. We were able to grieve our tax bill and saved \$2,100. John Johnsen our rental chairman set all sorts of records by bringing in \$11,500 for the year. For the first time in a long time the corporation was in the black by the end of the year.

After a long hiatus four brothers from St. Joseph, Mike Porto, Bob Moriggia, Ben Cowan, and Jim Weis made their 4th degree.

Brothers John McDermott and Ken Maione (GK Weis's stepfather) passed away in January and April of 1996 respectfully.

July of 1996 introduced new Grand Knight Joe Mule'. During Joe's one year as GK, Ken McCormack had a very popular "computer raffle". This was a huge success bringing the Corporation a profit of \$5,080. Michael Pascucci donated yet another \$1,200 to the council. Unfortunately the Christmas party did not happen due to lack of community involvement. Mary and Jim Weis used that \$1,200 to purchase toys and clothes and brought them to our local parish St. Francis of Assisi and to Huntington Hospital pediatric ward.

The council hall was now being utilized each Sunday for church services by the Fountainhead Congregation. They ended up doing this for a number of years until they grew large enough to purchase their own building. Proceeds from this continuous rental helped us to add a new cesspool, a new air conditioning unit, new walls, a drop ceiling and a fresh paint job. Meetings were getting better attendance so we installed Cablevision. The idea here was that the brothers would all chip in and it would have no cost to the council.

Past Grand Knight Charlie Weizenecker started collecting bar codes from Scott and Campbell products as well as soda tabs, stamps, and eye glasses. Scott products go to Ronald McDonald house so parents of terminally ill children can stay with them at Long Island Jewish Hospital. Campbell products are used to purchase all types of equipment for the care of these children and their parents. Stamps are sent to the V.A. Hospital in Wading River NY and missions sell these stamps to collectors around the world. Beer and soda tabs are collected & used to supply a Dialysis machine at a summer camp for children as well as sending children who suffer from Diabetes to this camp for free.

Joe Mule' was only able to go for one year as Grand Knight. The council was in a quandary as no one was able to step up. Thus began a challenging time in our existence to continue. Past Grand Knight, Former District Deputy and Past Long Island Conference Chairman Brian Greene stepped up and took over from July 1997-June 1998 while PGK Rich Francis became the Corporation President.

The corporations second major fundraiser ran by Ken McCormack were once again a great success. An "all expense paid vacation to Cancun Mexico including a limo pick up to and from the airport with spending cash" netted the corporation an additional \$3,800 in profits. The Corporation now embarked on a three year plan in unison with the council to identify the top three capitol improvements that needed to be done at the council.

Mike McGeever's team was once again honored as Marilyn Loguercio; wife of former Deputy Grand Knight Tony Loguercio received the distinguished "Legion of Honor Award" from the Veterans administration.

Jim Loughren stepped to the plate in July of 1998 and ran the council through June of 2000. Ben Cowan was our new Corporation President.

One of the biggest events during Jim's reign was of course our 40th anniversary party. Charlie Weizenecker was given the responsibility of being the Keynote Speaker, Walter Sherwood headed up the Journal team which netted a profit of over \$5,000 and PGK Jim Weis was named Knight of the Year.

Knowing that our future was in the hands of new members, Johnny Johnsen took over the Membership Director's job under GK Loughren.

Ken McCormack started the first of many bus trips to Atlantic City.

The council lost two more brothers Bill Fields and Dick Brady, both extremely active in the past. A memorial mass for brother Fields was held on Dec 17th, 1998 and members and friends made donations to Bill's parish in North Carolina.

PGK Bill Comiskey won the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor as Mike McGeever's crew was still going strong at the VA Hospital.

St. Joseph council placed a memorial for the unborn in front of St. Francis of Assisi Church. A ceremony including the council members, Fr. Patrick Armshaw, Pastor of St. Francis and the Honor Guard from the 4th Degree were present.

The corporation sensing frustration from the neighbors regarding parties held put a moratorium on outside renters.

The council won it's forth Star Council award over the past six years:

Charlie Sorrentino took over for us in 2000 and led us through June of 2002. A few more first's occurred in a relatively short period of time. The Corporation had its first "Maintenance Day" in July. All participants had a great time sprucing up the place, especially PGK Rich Francis who was chopping everything in site. Don Freese held our first Halloween party. That ended up being quite the evening as Mary Weis won best costume dressed as an old man chasing Don around all night. Everyone got a good laugh as no one knew it was Mary for hours.

PGK Frank Desena decided it was time to move and relax. As he left us and moved on to New Jersey the council suddenly needed a new Right to Life Chairman, a new Membership data base Chairman, a new Mailing List Chairman, and a new assistant editor for our Voyager? Thankfully Mike Lobasso stepped right to the plate and took over as Right to Life Chairman, a position he still hold today.

Our Chaplain Fr. Malachy Flaherty was named Knight of the year during Charlie's first term. It was actually in Charlie's second term; on 6/24/02 Fr. Malachy celebrated his sixtieth year as a priest at a solemn high mass at St. Francis of Assisi. The Fourth Degree from our Lady of Fatima Assembly provided the K of C Color Corp. for this event. A dinner followed at the council where Father was presented with a plaque to commemorate his sixty years as a priest.

Don Freese and his wife Christine did their best to spruce up the Voyager. PGK Weis formed a dart league among Suffolk County councils. This unfortunately fizzled out in no time. The corporation was busy again fixing a major plumbing repair and installing a new roof.

At the conclusion of 2001, the Corporation was at a dilemma. For years and years it had counted on Johnny Dio, a long time member and a resident of Boulevard Avenue to clean and keep the council hall stocked with goods. No matter how often we asked John to take some remuneration for this, he always denied us. After the passing of his wife Agnes, John decided to spend a lot of time in Florida. He would not be able to help us any longer. How we never realized just what a treasure that man was to us, until he wasn't there any more. After many corporation meetings it was decided that we would hire one of the member's wife, Sherri Sorrentino. Sherri is married to our member Chuck and also happens to be the daughter of long time member Matty and daughter-in-law of GK Charlie Sorrentino at that time. So Johnny, from all the members of St. Joseph Council, thanks you from the bottom of our hearts for everything you did for us.

It was during Charlie's second term that life changed for just about everyone. On September 11th, 2001 tragedy struck in New York at the World Trade Center, in Washington at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania with the crash of Flight 93. Life as we knew it would change.

PGK Joe Faller and his crew set yet another new record by delivering forty baskets after their December 2001 Christmas party.

Brothers Jerry Butler, Doug Harknett, PGK Rocco Bochetto, John J DeMayo and Peter J. Norton passed away.

Future author, PGK and current Advocate Don Farinacci wrote an informative article about the problems that the Catholic Church was facing in 2002. The corporation continued its efforts for building improvement by adding new siding.

The Supreme Council reported that over one million dollars was donated by Knights of Columbus councils after the devastating attack on 9/11.

Our council got some recognition from the Long Island Catholic and the Columbia magazine as a picture taken by Joe Faller of his crew delivering the Food Baskets was submitted to each. Both publications carried this picture and article giving us some notoriety.

Frank Brown a recent new member and now one of our most active instituted our Scholarship program. The first winners were two students from Northport High School.

Lou Pryor had to come back and help us as Grand Knight for one term again, this was now Lou's third term overall as we had no one to take over on July 1, 2002. Lou remained Grand Knight until June of 2003. Joe Ferrandina his Deputy worked very hard for Lou during this term.

On July 13, 2002 the council had a dedication service at the Greenlawn Memorial park when a brass K of C emblem donated by our council was added to the Veterans Memorial. Don Lammers was instrumental in this effort and in getting the Marine Corp. League to provide a Color Corp. for the event.

PGK Joe Faller was named Knight of the Year for the upcoming Columbian year for his years of dedicated service.

St. Joseph council continued to hold its normal events making sure that there was always something to do every month during the calendar.

During February of 2003 it was St. Joseph Council's turn to hold the Birthright party for the 10th District.

Brothers PGK Sherman Martin and Jim Slavin were laid to rest.

Some more regime changes took place on July 1, 2003. Our new Grand Knight was Joe Ferrandina who would hold this post until June 30th, 2005 and our new Chaplain was Fr. Gregory Yacyshyn. Fr. Malachy was given the title Chaplain Emeritus as his health began to fade.

Our Softball team led by Coach Bob Wiggers won their division that year despite their "gaining years".

Our council set a record when on October 15th, 2003 eight more members became part of Our Lady of Fatima Assembly as members of the Fourth Degree.

Two more Brothers, Peter Esteve and Thomas Schmit were awarded the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award", now bring the total to fourteen members and wives from St. Joseph Council.

A dinner was held on February 21st, 2004 recognizing the wives of all the Past Grand Knights. These amazing women were recognized and were honored with a plaque at dinner. Additional names are to be added to this plaque at the end of each Grand Knights term.

On August 6th, 2004 our esteemed Chaplain Emeritus Rev. Malachy Flaherty passed away at the age of eighty-seven. He was honored with a solemn mass at St. Francis of Assisi on 8/10/04. Other Brothers who passed away during this time period were Raymond Skizewski and William Mahoney.

During our installation ceremony PGK Charlie Weizenecker was named Knight of the year. It was during this ceremony that our Council was once again presented the Star Council award.

The Council for the first time applied for and received grants (from Senator Carl Marcellino and Assemblyman Andrew Raia) for council maintenance and repairs desperately needed. The proceeds were used to repair the main halls air conditioner, add air conditioning downstairs, renovate the ladies room, purchase new chairs, purchase a new boiler, and line the decaying chimney.

Joe Fallers "Michael Leonard Christmas party" team went over 500 baskets as they added an additional forty-two in December of 2004.

In early 2005 the number of Four Chaplain winners went to sixteen with the addition of Charlie Weizenecker and Don Lammers. Vincent Raia and Henry Brand passed away:

GK Joe Ferrandina with the help from all the wives held our first Garage Sale. Our new Fellowship Committee men were Charlie Weizenecker and Bob Bernhard, so that cards and notices for the sick or deceased could be sent out timely. PGK Weizenecker still holds this post today.

Our council now in its thirty-fifth year of service amassing over 50,000 hours of service awarded two certificates of Merit to two non-members for their help at the hospital. We also donated a kneeler for the small white chapel at the Hospital.

Ben Cowan became our Grand Knight from July 2005 through June 2006. It was at this time that the nominating committee was trying to make sure that we had our seats filled and ready for ten years running any time. GK Cowan and Deputy Grand Knight Jim Flanagan were the first to be a part of this long-term plan.

Forty-Five more baskets were given out in December of 2005 by Joe Fallers team.

Five brothers passed away during Ben's term, James Boyle, Arthur Michael, PGK Anthony Garifo, Eugene Sullivan and Joseph Tedesco.

With Jim Flanagan taking over in July of 2006 the council started to get more involved by E mail. We requested E mail addresses from as many people as possible so that we could send the Voyager out instead of by regular mail, but unfortunately not enough was received to continue with the idea.

A second grant was received from Senator Marcellino. This money was used to renovate the men's bathroom. All the work done with the acceptance of these grants were completed by Council members who put an exceptional amount of time in to complete these projects, especially Brother Bob Serrao, Peter Esteve, Ken McCormack, Rich Francis, and Charlie Sorrentino.

Although the Christmas party continued Brother Faller changed the idea of giving baskets to giving Food Coupons for the Churches to hand out to those in need. This year the council donated the equivalent of forty-seven baskets or \$2,350 in coupons.

During Jim Flanagan's term of GK we noticed that the hedges out front started to look miraculously better. It wasn't long that we realized that our new "First Lady" Judy Flanagan was making sure the place looked good. During Jim's term we held the Memorial Day picnic for the first time on Sunday in lieu of the Monday holiday itself. Golf shirts were sold to the members so that when we marched in the parade we looked professional. We still do that today and more and more brothers are purchasing them.

The AC trip featured the HOOTER Girls themselves Mary Weis and Denise Ferrandina as they sold chances. The new "main game" at the hall becomes "Texas Hold Em". Brothers Frank Brown, Chris Brown, and Jim Flanagan make this one of our constant money makers.

Four more Brothers joined the Fourth Degree in October of 2006, and as a matter of fact we almost had five. Also during October Mr. Lederhosen himself, James Feeley ran an excellent October-fest along with Brother Serrao. Richie Francis gets a new program going- The Theatre Group- Where we gather for a play at Smithtown Theatre and go for an abundant dinner afterwards. This proves to be a huge success.

Jim and Ann Moore celebrate 60 years of marriage as their children send us an update as to how they are faring at their new home in the "Arbors".

Dr. Bermanski of the Digestive Health Center donates money to the Council to help spruce the place up. Awards are handed out to Sherri Eicholz for her devoted service of making quilts for the Veterans, while Jim Hanley our new Chef Extraordinaire receives his official Chefs hat and apron.

The council starts its newest annual Picnic in the back yard for all who want to come in the district. Horseshoe Pits are installed – Jim Weis and Tony Hawkins can't stay away.

Our blessed Chaplain Fr. Greg moves further and further away from us becoming the Pastor of St. Jude in Mastic Beach. A number of Brothers and wives went out for his installation, and Ken McCormack starts a program where of seventeen volunteers one member will go out and be at Fr. Greg's mass each week. This way there will always be at least one member of the council to greet Fr. Greg at his mass each week. He truly gives us inspiration and spirituality.

Our new Corporation President is Joe Ferrandina who along with his microphone has done a tremendous job. On November 10th, 2007 our last AC trip is planned- who knows maybe it will return one day again. Through the efforts of Joe Faller and Mary Weis a big win is achieved during "round-up" where each person got to triple their initial \$25 investment.

Ken McCormack now retired, checks out the New York State website and finds "Unclaimed Monies" for many brothers- dozens were contacted and many were able to cash in. Kenny and Joe spend the year planning a Chinese auction which is to take place in September of 2008.

During the April 2008 retreat, now unfortunately dwindling in numbers the council had one of its craziest and funniest encounters of all time. Ask Joe Ferrandina about his encounter with Bud Abbotte.

The Veterans group now having logged over 60,000 + hours through Joe and Margie O'Donahoe present a SACRAMENTARY to Fr. Malone at the hospital.

The present Grand Knight Steve Eldridge started up in July of 2008. His first appointment was asking Jim Weis to become the 50th anniversary Chairperson. In September of 2008 Ken McCormack and Joe Ferrandina (AKA Dr. Fu) run an unbelievably successful Chinese Auction to help the Corporation out- always seeming to be close to debt. However St. Joseph continues to maintain our building and our pride, as we see so many other councils having to sell their buildings and go to the basement of churches.

So many wonderful programs are still in effect as we get to the conclusion of this history. All of the parties are run like clock-work. George Pozderak continues to bring us Seminarians to assist monetarily and spiritually. We look forward to the next fifty years ahead of us

During these past three years we have seen John Murtagh, Greg Sullivan, John Maury, Joe Porciello, Bill Sweeney, Jim Fox, Bill Comiskey PGK, John Timoney, Ralph Annunziata, James Reilly, Ettore Cianflone, Roy Geiger, Albin Page, Charles Foskett PGK, and Joe O'Donahoe meet Jesus.

We are sure a lot was missed along the way, but we hope that we have satisfactorily let you relive these past fifty years in print.