

Annual History Update Report
Council 760
St. Paul – Walnut – Erie Kansas



Fraternal Year of 2016 — 2017

Annual History Update Report – Council 760 St. Paul – Walnut – Erie, Kansas

Annual History Update Report Council 760 – St. Paul – Walnut – Erie Fraternal Year of: July 1, 2016 — June 30, 2017

1. OFFICERS

1.1 Council 760 Officers

- Chaplain Father David Michael Htun
- Grand Knight Matt O'Hara
- Deputy Grand Knight James Bradshaw
- Chancellor Dan Vitt
- Recorder Keith VanLeeuwen
- Fin. Secretary Scott Smith
- Treasurer Jeff Gard
- Advocate Jerry Church
- Warden Steve Harmon
- Guard – Inside Charles Schettler
- Guard – Outside Dan D. Spielbush
- Trustee – 1 Year Charles VanLeeuwen (Deceased June 27)
- Trustee – 2 Year Don George
- Trustee – 3 Year Bob Harmon
- Lecturer Mark Venneman
- Historian Ron Brogan

1.2 Members Serving in State or District Positions

James M. "Jim" Carlson, District 14 District Deputy is a member of our council.

2. SUPREME COUNCIL AWARD (STAR – COLUMBIAN – ETC.)

None

3. KANSAS STATE COUNCIL SERVICE PROGRAM AWARD

Not Applicable

4. KNIGHT, FAMILY RECOGNITION

- Council Knight of the Year — Dan Vitt
- Council Family of the Year — Matt and Julie O'Hara.

Annual History Update Report – Council 760 St. Paul – Walnut – Erie, Kansas

5. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP (AS OF JANUARY 1, 2017):

- Total 147
- Insurance 72
- Assoc. 71
- Honorary 7
- Honorary Life 31
- Inactive 4
- Disability 0

6. FIRST DEGREE DATES AND CANDIDATES:

None

7. COUNCIL HOSTED 2ND AND 3RD DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION:

None

8. DATES OF:

8.1 Corporate Communications

None

8.2 Memorial Service & or Mass for Deceased Members

The council assembled a Fourth Degree Honor Guard for the funeral of deceased Knight Charles VanLeeuwen who was a long time member, previous Grand Knight and the serving One Year Trustee. See paragraph 9.5 for further information.

8.3 Founders Day Program

None

9. CHURCH ACTIVITIES

9.1 Pro-Life Rosary & Social.

In October we supported the parish Pro-Life Rosary with a follow-on Ice Cream Social in our parish garden. Some Knights assisted with the setup of chairs and the garden audio system. Others made and served ice cream with other snacks in the parish garden shelter.

9.2 Fall Festival.

During November, our council supported the parish's Fall Festival by setting up games and tables; providing manpower for events including the parish auction and doing clean-up work after the event.

9.3 Feast of St. John Bosco.

On January 29 council members and their families supported a parish observation of the feast of St. John Bosco. The event included entertainment directed by Father David and visiting Father Crager plus pizza

Annual History Update Report – Council 760 St. Paul – Walnut – Erie, Kansas

and ice cream. The Knights helped serve ice cream, pizza, and other refreshments and assisted with hall cleanup after the event.

9.4 Parish Website Development.

During August of 2016 our St. Francis – St. Ambrose Stewardship Council decided to develop a joint-parishes website. Between August and December of 2017 one of our council members, working with a St. Ambrose parishioner, gathered information for the 30-page site. As part of the project, we set up a Knights of Columbus page that highlights Supreme Council, our local organization and our unique history; including a distinguished founder, William Whites Graves. It is also intended to be used as an advertising and recruiting tool - <http://www.stfrancis-stambrose.org/knights-of-columbus.html>. During early 2017 we added a Facebook product page and a very active “News” page that uses the blog format to keep members of our Facebook page informed of parish and area activity.

9.5 Funeral Honor Guards.

During 2017 Council 760 assembled two Fourth Degree Honor Guards for funerals. Honor Guard members were recruited from among our ranks and from nearby parishes including Parsons and Chanute. Each group consisted of from 12 to 15 Knights. The funerals were for the historic burial of a Passionist Priest and one of our own:

9.5.1 Historical Funeral of Father Joe VanLeeuwen.

Father Joseph Van Leeuwen C.P. was laid to rest in the St. Francis de Hieronymo Catholic Church Garden Cemetery on Saturday, April 1. Father Joe was the first Passionist Priest to be buried in our garden cemetery since Father Ferdinand Madl's death in June of 1972. Father VanLeeuwen was a missionary priest who had served several years in India. Refer to Attachment A for more information.

Council 760 assembled a Fourth Degree Honor Guard for the funeral and assisted the Altar Society and other groups in planning and preparation for the funeral and luncheon.

9.5.2 The Funeral of Past Grand Knight Charles VanLeeuwen.

On June 30, Council 760 assembled a Fourth Degree Honor Guard for the funeral of deceased Knight Charles VanLeeuwen. Charlie was a long time member, previous Grand Knight and was the serving One Year Trustee at the time of his death.

10. ADOPTED SEMINARIAN(S) – POSTULANT(S)



Deacon Schibi

Council 760 is continuing its support of Wichita Diocese Seminarian James Schibi by providing financial support for his studies. James attended High School in St. Paul and is presently a fourth-year seminarian who has studied at Mount St. Mary Seminary in Emmetsburg, Md. On May 20, 2017, he was ordained as a Deacon at the Church of The Magdalen in Wichita. This year our contribution to Deacon Schibi was \$500.

Annual History Update Report – Council 760 St. Paul – Walnut – Erie, Kansas

11. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

11.1 Benefit Breakfasts.

During the reporting period Council 760 sponsored nine benefit breakfasts for “in need” situations or for other purposes:

11.1.1 “Seven In Need” Breakfasts.

“In Need” benefits are held for area families with special financial needs brought on by illnesses, accidents or other catastrophic circumstances. In other cases, we make direct financial contributions without holding a dedicated breakfast.

Our “area” of coverage for benefit work includes St. Paul, Walnut, Erie, Galesburg and other regional people within a 10 to 15-mile radius of these communities. We hold benefits for both Catholic and non-Catholic individuals or families.

During this reporting period, all of our benefit breakfasts were for individuals with health-related issues such as an infant needing heart-surgery; two patients under the long-term rehabilitative care and a man recently diagnosed with ALS. Other benefits raised money for travel and subsistence for remote treatment of illnesses such as cancer. **During this period we held seven benefit breakfasts raising a total of \$32,423 for area families.**

11.1.2 Community and Emergency Fund Events.

In addition to the seven “In Need” benefits, we held two breakfasts to raise money for our own community and emergency fund. This fund provides working capital for Council 760 and is also a source of funding for smaller “In Need” contributions and community and school donations.

During the fiscal year smaller contributions, from our Community and Emergency Fund or Pennies from Heaven amounted to \$1,756. These contributions included our local 4-H group, Project Prom, Better Choice and assistance to a local family recovering from a house fire.

One of the two breakfasts was the “Kickoff” event for St. Paul’s May Mission Days celebration.

11.2 Smoked Rib Sales.

In November of 2016, Council 760 members purchased, smoked and sold more than 170 slabs of baby-back ribs. In addition to providing a good meal for community members, the ribs project also provides money for our Community and Emergency Fund.

11.3 Lenten Fish Fry’s.

Council 760 held community fish fry dinners on Fridays March 17 and April 17. While much of this money normally goes to Council 760 funding, most of this year’s proceeds went to our Catholic Youth Ministry (CYM) to support a summer youth conference (See 15.4)

12. COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

All activities are noted separately herein.

Annual History Update Report – Council 760 St. Paul – Walnut – Erie, Kansas

13. FAMILY ACTIVITIES

In September we held a parish Ice Cream Social in our church gardens. This was combined with a youth Pro-Life Rosary service.

We sponsored a Pittsburg State University football game and tailgate party for our parish altar servers.

The St. John Bosco event noted above is focused on our youth, but the entire St. Francis – St. Ambrose parish family is invited. It attracts parishioners from the youngest to our senior citizen community.

14. CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES

Our council has and will continue to support pro-life activities including, but not limited to, providing sponsorship to the annual Pro-Life March in Washington, DC.

15. YOUTH ACTIVITIES

15.1 Knights of Columbus Free Throw.

In January of 2017, we organized and ran our local KofC Free Throw Contest.

In February of 2017, we also staffed and ran the District Free Throw Contest from the St. Paul school facility. This was the tenth consecutive year that Council 760 hosted the District Contest.

15.2 Punt, Pass, and Kick.

Council 760 sponsored Punt, Pass and Kick Competition during a local High School football game.

15.3 General Youth Activity Support.

We provide financial support for youth activities like Christmas food baskets. We also provide funding, on request, for other CYM or Parish School of Religion needs.

15.4 Steubenville, Texas, Catholic Youth Conference.

As previously noted, most of the proceeds from our Lenten Fish Fry's normally go to the Council 760 Community and Emergency Fund. However, this year we teamed with our CYM youth and leadership to support a trip to the Steubenville Lone Star Conference 2017. A team of CYM members manned the serving line, the dishwasher and provided general help with setup and cleanup of the hall. In return, the council donated \$2,100 for their trip.

15.5 Youth Sponsorship

Junior-high or younger youth often come to events like benefit breakfast with fathers. These boys occasionally assist with chores like table set up or serving. Recognizing this as a means to build interest in the Knights for future recruiting, we adopted a simple youth incentive program during the past year. Noting boys who do help, we occasionally give them a \$5 or \$10 gift certificate to the local grocery store. In return for supporting the Knights, they can purchase soft drinks, ice cream, sandwiches, etc.

ATTACHMENT A – FUNERAL OF FATHER JOE VANLEEUEWEN



Father Joseph Van Leeuwen C.P. was laid to rest in the St. Francis de Hieronymo Catholic Church Garden Cemetery on Saturday, April 1. Father Joe was the first Passionist Priest to be buried in our garden cemetery since Father Ferdinand Madl's death in June of 1972, and the first since the Passionist Monastery was closed.

During his priesthood he served as Provincial Secretary, Associate Pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish in Chicago, Illinois; Pastor at Holy Cross Immaculata Parish in Cincinnati, Ohio; Newman Center Chaplain at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL.; and Pastor of the African American Parish in Birmingham, Alabama. He spent the past 20 years at the Passionist Mission in Southern, Kochi, India where he died unexpectedly on February 28. He was 81 years old.

Father Joe's funeral Mass was concelebrated by eight priests, including seven Passionist Priests who traveled to St. Paul from locations in the United States and India:

- Father Kenneth O'Malley, C.P.
- Father Joseph Moons, C.P.
- Father Thomas Rockey Kanjirathinkal, C.P.
- Father Justin Nelson Alphonse, C.P.
- Father Junesh Vakapadath, C.P.
- Father Giltus Mathias, C.P.
- Father Siby Padinjaredath, C.P.
- Father David Michael Htun, St. Francis Pastor

The services were attended by a fifteen-man honor guard made up of fourth degree Knights of Columbus from St. Ambrose, St. Francis and other area parishes. After the funeral, the Altar Society hosted a community luncheon at St. Francis Parish Hall. <http://www.stfrancis-stambrose.org/news/father-joe-van-leeuwens-funeral>