

ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN

COUNCIL 7547

ELIZABETH CITY, NC

Council 7547 in Elizabeth City, NC, was established on April 13, 1980, under the guidance of District Deputy Ralph Provost. The charter Grand Knight was Brian Williams and the other officers of the council were:

Chaplain – Rev. Raymond Yudin
Deputy Grand Knight – Buck Williams
Chancellor – Ed O’Conner
Financial Secretary – Rufus Abeyounis
Treasurer – Ray Rogerson
Recorder – Terrence Levesque
Warden – Ed Boncek
Advocate – William Bentley
Inside Guard – Small Olds
Outside Guard – John Kubanda
Lector – Fred Bauer

The council held its meetings at St. Elizabeth's Church until 1989. When the two Catholic Churches in Elizabeth City merged and formed Holy Family Catholic Church, which was built on North Road Street in Elizabeth City, the council meetings were held there. The council meets on the first Wednesday of each month in the church Social Hall. After starting out with a small group of 40 “Catholic Gentlemen” the council has now grown to a membership of 135.

As the council grew so did the number and types of activities and projects they undertook. On their initiation date they held a First & Second Degree. It was during a blizzard and they had 17 dedicated men make their First Degree and 37 men making their Second Degree. In May of 1980 thirty men made their Third Degree in Raleigh. During the May 1980 State Convention the wives of the council donated a statue of the Infant Jesus of Prague. That same month saw the beginning of the council’s weekly Bingo night. This was their first fund raiser. Later in 1980 they took part in their first L.A.M.B. project and held their first Christmas Dance.

By 1981 the Brother Knights had started participating in the yearly March for Life held in Washington, DC, making monthly visits to the prison in Maple. NC, and held their first Thanksgiving Dinner for Migrant Workers.

1982 the council began collecting and distributing clothing to migrant workers and with the first of the yearly Christmas Dinner for seniors. They finished out the year by manning the Christmas kettle for the Salvation Army.

In May of 1983 the council donated \$1,050.00 to the building fund. They also took part in the Annual Elizabeth City Christmas Parade.

The council first became involved in the K of C Free Throw Contest in January 1984. They have taken part in local, district and state levels. Since its inception we have hosted hundreds of student from Camden County, Elizabeth City Schools and Elizabeth City Boys and Girls Club. In February, they began providing regular janitorial and lawn care service for the church.

By 1990 the council had a standing pall bearer list, provided new tables and chairs for the church social hall and installed a new phone system in the new rectory.

January 1992 they started a project where Brother Knights would drive the church van to pick up senior citizens and take them to Mass. Unfortunately this was stopped a few years ago because the van became unreliable and replacing it was too expensive. Also, in January they started the tradition of providing coffee and donuts after Sunday Mass the first Sunday of each month. In December Brother Knights started providing a Santa Claus for the youth Christmas party.

The council began participating in the "Adopt-a-Highway" program in 1993 and that program continues to this day. Also, in May 1993 at the State Convention, our council introduced the idea of having a State License Plate with the Knights 3rd degree logo on it.

In 1995 the council started to support the Franciscan Seminarian and they also began to lead the Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent. Following the Stations they provided a soup supper in the social hall. Today we support two seminarians and continue our participation in the Stations.

Our council was one of the three councils that in June 1995 formed The Father Stanley Grubitz Assembly.

In 1996 the council won the State Scrapbook Award at the State Convention. They also dedicated a memorial to the Unborn with Father Joe Gaul, State Chaplin, presiding.

Two five hundred scholarships were begun in June 1997. In August the scholarships became the "Luke Dennison Memorial College Scholarship Fund" in the memory of a Brother Knight's son. In October one of our Brother Knights was one of the honorees at the Fourth Degree Exemplification. Today we are only able to sponsor one Luke Denison Scholarship award.

In May 1998 the council had the honor of hosting a reception for a Boys Choir of 50 youths from the country of Andorra. Ten Knights welcomed the boys into their homes for an overnight stay.

The council's first Awards Banquet was held in August 1999. That same fall the council collected water, bedding and food for the Flood Victims in Rocky Mount, NC. Many Brother Knights performed various home repairs for Flood Victims in Williamston, and Roberson, NC. In December they held their first Christmas Party for "Special Needs" Children and their first Health Fair/Blood Drive.

In 2000 our Brother Knights put together and distributed Easter baskets of toiletries to the residents of local Nursing Homes. They also held their first Youth fishing Tournament. In December, they participated in the Elizabeth City Christmas Parade with a float, 4th Degree Honor Guard and several Brother Knights marching.

The council began sponsoring a Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop in February 2001. Our sponsorship of the Cub Pack continues to this date.

At the North Carolina State Convention, June 2002, we were presented with the Family Activity Award for our "Kids Fishing Tournament and Family Picnic".

In August 2002 the council established a training program for altar servers.

In February 2003 they established an annual Marriage Vow Renewal for the parish.

At the North Carolina State Convention, June 2003, the Council was presented with the Community Activity Award for our “Special Needs Children Christmas Party”, State Council - State Deputy Award, Distinguished Council Award (16 consecutive years), Duane Russell Newsletter Award – First Place and the Council Website Award – Third Place.

In July 2003, PGK John Purcell and his wife, Barbara hosted a reception/picnic for the newly elected officers and their guests.

On October 5, 2003, Holy Family Parish held a Parish Picnic on church grounds, which has become an annual event. The knights cooked and served over 500 hamburgers and 350 hot dogs. The Bishop has visited several picnics.

In December 2003, brother knights from our council began an annual bell ringing event for the Salvation Army. Several thousand of dollars has been raised. We also hosted a Christmas Party for “Special Needs” children. This was our 4th year hosting the party and it continues to be very well attended.

In January 2004 we conducted the Annual Free Throw Competition. This year we held it at Camden Middle School and the Elizabeth City Boys & Girls Club. There were approximately 440 boys and girls participating.

In May 2004 we held our first spring L.A.M.B. drive. We handed out Tootsie Rolls and collected money at the three Elizabeth City Food Lions. The L.A.M.B. program has continued over the years to the present.

Also in May 2004 we took 6 men from one of the local Assisted Living Homes fishing. We took them to the boardwalk and fishing area behind the Camden Courthouse. Although none of the men caught any fish they all had a great time.

The council is also proud of some of its other accomplishments and projects that are ongoing annually, monthly or weekly. A few are listed below:

At each meeting a decade of the rosary is said.

Provide pallbearers for funerals of brother Knights of Columbus.

Participate in the March for Life in D.C.

Participate in a Memorial Mass for deceased Knights.

Conduct a Marian Hour of Prayer on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Used cell phones are collected and distributed to disabled people.

Yearly Youth Fishing Tournament followed by a Parish Picnic.

Conduct a prayer meeting and study hour each Wednesday and Communion Service every Sunday at the Local Maximum Security State Penitentiary.

Participate in the Flag Day raising ceremony in a local county.

The Knights Lantern Newsletter is published monthly.

Hold a yearly Council picnic at the local Coast Guard Base.

Sponsor a Corporate Mass with Knights providing all service needs.

Sponsored a party for Youth in the fall to raise money for needed youth projects.

Continue to support two seminarians.

In 2012, our council, along with the assistance of the Father Stanley Grubitz 4th Degree Assembly, Elizabeth City, and Mother Mary Council, Edenton, NC, raised enough money to purchase an ultrasound machine for the Albemarle Crisis Pregnancy Resource Center, Elizabeth City, NC. We also received financial assistance from Supreme.

A list of all the Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries follows:

YEAR	GRAND KNIGHT	FINANCIAL SECRETARY
1980-1981	Brian Williams	Rufus R. Abeyounis
1981-1982	Buck A. Williams	Rufus R. Abeyounis
1982-1983	Buck A. Williams	Rufus R. Abeyounis
1983-1984	Edward R. Boncek	PGK Linus G. Riehle
1984-1985	Henry Berard Jr.	PGK Linus G. Riehle
1985-1986	Edward V. O'Connor	PGK Linus G. Riehle
1986-1987	Edward V. O'Connor	PGK Linus G. Riehle
1987-1988	Rufus R. Abeyounis	PGK Linus G. Riehle
1988-1989	Harry J. Gaither	PGK Linus G. Riehle
1989-1990	Michael J. Barber	PGK Brian Williams
1990-1991	John A. Piotrowski	PGK Brian Williams
1991-1992	William J. Tuohy	PGK Brian Williams
1992-1993	William J. Tuohy	PGK Edward R. Boncek
1993-1994	John C. Purcell	PGK Edward R. Boncek
1994-1995	John C. Purcell	PGK Edward R. Boncek
1995-1996	Arthur J. Lamothe	Steven M. Shrum
1996-1997	Arthur J. Lamothe	Steven M. Shrum
1997-1998	Robert E. Wetzel	PGK John C. Purcell
1998-1999	Robert E. Wetzel	PGK John C. Purcell
1999-2000	Merlin W. Kingston	PGK John C. Purcell
2000-2001	Merlin W. Kingston	PGK John C. Purcell
2001-2002	Francis W. Willsey	PGK John C. Purcell
2002-2003	Francis W. Willsey	PGK John C. Purcell
2003-2004	David N. McGuire	PGK John C. Purcell
2003-2004	David M. McGuire	PGK John C. Purcell
2004-2005	David M. McGuire	PGK John C. Purcell
2005-2006	John (Jack) S. Ireland	PGK John C. Purcell
2006-2007	John (Jack) S. Ireland	PGK John C. Purcell
2007-2008	James L. Riley	PGK John C. Purcell
2008-2009	James L. Riley	PGK John C. Purcell
2009-2010	Douglas S. Gardner	PGK John C. Purcell
2010-2011	Douglas S. Gardner	PGK John C. Purcell
2011-2012	Francis (Marty) Mulholland	PGK John C. Purcell
2012-2013	Francis (Marty) Mulholland	PGK John C. Purcell