



“The Knights of Columbus Council 12165 and Assembly 0161”

Who are those men in their funny feathered hats?

Named in honor of Christopher Columbus, the Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal service organization of “practical Catholic” men aged 18 or older that was founded by the Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney in New Haven, Connecticut in 1882. Dedicated to the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism, the Knights historically acted as a mutual benefit society that provided care for widows and orphans of deceased Catholic men. Although that mission continues today – the Knights now provide care by offering an insurance program to its members – the modern day Knights are also well-known for their strong tradition of charitable giving.

Christ the King Council 12165 was formed to help meet the needs of our parish more than ten years ago. The Council is currently under the direction of its Grand Knight and Christ the King parishioner, David Jones. The Knights annually erect the Christmas crèche and the Easter Cross that is decorated with flowers by our parishioners. The Knights were directly involved in the creation of the Precious Life Tree that is located on the north wall of our chapel. The Knights conduct the Free Throw Contest for our youth, serve beer at our annual school carnival, provide food for RCIA sessions, and participate in an annual “Tootsie Roll Drive” to raise funds for intellectually disabled members of our community at large.

These “gentlemen” as they are called also serve our parish as Eucharistic ministers, greeters, ushers and as members of our choir. The Knights refer to themselves as the “strong right arm of the Church,” which in our parish simply means that they donate their time, talents and treasure “to get the job done.”

Another example of the Knights’ good work is the Annual Christmas Tree Sale that is currently underway. (As a reminder, all orders must be placed by November 14.) The Sale benefits Christ the King School and other select Catholic charities. The Knights do all of the work and receive none of the profits!

Our parish is also the home of the Father William Terrell, S.J. Assembly 0161 which consists of those Knights who are commonly referred to as “Sir Knights” who have achieved the highest degree of the Order, the Fourth Degree, which explicates the virtue of Patriotism. These are the men who wear the tuxedos, baldrics, capes and flowered naval chapeaus at a variety of Church events including member’s funerals. Their primary mission is to promote patriotism and good citizenship. The Assembly provides support to all of the Councils in its district and is currently under the direction of its Faithful Navigator and Christ the King parishioner, Don Nehrig. The Assembly is also involved in a number of district wide events, including an annual trip to Tropicana Field to watch our Tampa Bay Rays play baseball.

If you are interested in exploring membership in the Knights of Columbus please visit <http://www.kofc.org> for more information about this fraternal service organization. Membership is open to all practical Catholic men for a small fee and a commitment to serving our parish community. You can start your journey in this ministry by obtaining a Form 100 from a Knight who will serve as your sponsor and assist you in scheduling your First Degree exemplification ceremony. The First Degree which explicates the virtue of Charity will enable you to participate in all Council Events worldwide. Please contact David Jones, the Grand Knight of Council # 12165 for additional membership information at (813) 251-1711 or dwjones6@verizon.net