

# The Chester Light



Hudson Valley  
Knights  
of Columbus

## Hudson Valley Knights of Columbus St. Columba Council No. 8637

June/July 2017

“In service for our Parish”

### Greetings Brother Knights:

June is the time when all Councils take a step back and assess the past fraternal year and start to look forward as to what they wish to accomplish in the future. It has been my fortune to be your leader during a time that the Council has made great strides in establishing itself in the eyes of the Parish and the Chester community.

You can take pride in the support we have given to Father John in terms of direct financial aid for the religious school and underwriting the Wi-Fi access for both teachers and students. As they begin to rely on the service they will certainly find more ways to incorporate it in their teachings to the children. The Council has for the past six years provided monetary and emotional support for a Seminarian in Saint Joseph's Seminary in the Bronx, NY with worthy PGK Joseph Furey as our coordinator.

Kent D. Fletcher  
Grand Knight

Fr. John S. Bonnici  
Our Chaplain

Ron Nelson, Sr.  
Deputy Grand Knight

Carl D'Antonio  
Chancellor

Orlando Perez  
Warden

Joe Pipon  
Recorder

William Newell  
Financial Secretary

Jim Romito  
Treasurer

Joseph Maglio  
Advocate

Angel Bello  
Inside Guard

Sam DelGado  
Outside Guard

Arthur Connolly, Sr.  
Joseph Furey, PGK  
Anthony LaSpina, PGK  
Trustees

## Grand Knight's Letter



We have established new traditions in honoring our community first responders with the “Blue Mass” and honoring our deceased brother Knights in Chester with a memorial mass. Worthy Brother Bob Allen has been our chairman and he has done an outstanding job in coordinating, especially the Blue Mass this past January. We have also made a complete cycle of the Fifth Sunday Family Rosary program with the enthusiastic leadership of worthy Brother Joe Pipon.

Pope John Paul II spoke of the Knights of Columbus as “a strong right arm of the Church.” We have become that and more these past two years. Blood drives, our support of our fellow members in times of sadness, cash and food contributions for the community food pantry, and support of sports venues in town such as Chester Little League organized by worthy Chancellor Carl D’Antonio show what we have done and also where we can increase our presence and in turn, the Church’s.

Much of the credit for these accomplishments as noted goes to the officers of the council who have supported the efforts we have had over these past two years. They have been a staunch source of strength for me as well as each other and I cannot thank them enough for all that they have accomplished.

In closing it has been an honor to lead the St. Columba Council, but now it’s time for new blood and a fresh perspective. Our new Grand Knight with his new team of officers that we will be installing at this month’s meeting have all the experience and talent needed to lead us for the next two fraternal years.

Thank you all for the support you have given me, I look forward to seeing our Council grow in both membership and vision.

Yours fraternally,

Kent Fletcher

Grand Knight

St. Columba Council, 8637

**Schedule of Events for  
the Fraternal Year**

**In The News**

**2017**

All dates subject to  
Coordination with the Parish

**Dates to Remember**

- July 17 Council Meeting
- July 30 Family Rosary (5th Sun)
- August 5 Council BBQ  
Chester Commons
- Sept 16 C&B sales St Columba
- Sept 17 C&B sales St Columba
- Sept 18 Council Meeting
- Sept 24 Officer Installation  
After 12pm Mass
- Oct 7 Membership Drive
- Oct 8 Membership Drive  
Open House after 10:30
- Oct 14 C&B sales St Columba
- Oct 15 C&B sales St Columba
- Oct 16 Council Meeting  
1st Thanksgiving collect
- Oct 20 Chester Council 1st Deg

**Announcements**

New Slate of Officers to be voted on with final  
Vote at June 19<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting

- |                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Grand Knight -</b>        | <i>Ron Nelson Sr</i>   |
| <b>Financial Secretary -</b> | <i>Bill Newell</i>     |
| <b>Deputy Grand Knight -</b> | <i>Dan Seritello</i>   |
| <b>Chancellor -</b>          | <i>Joe Pipon</i>       |
| <b>Recorder -</b>            | <i>Vincent Finizia</i> |
| <b>Treasurer -</b>           | <i>Jim Romito</i>      |
| <b>Advocate -</b>            | <i>Joe Maglio</i>      |
| <b>Warden -</b>              | <i>Orlando Perez</i>   |
| <b>Inside Guard -</b>        | <i>Peter Puelzl</i>    |
| <b>Outside Guard -</b>       | <i>John Motz</i>       |
| <b>One Year Trustee -</b>    | <i>Anthony LaSpina</i> |
| <b>Two Year Trustee -</b>    | <i>Joe Furey</i>       |
| <b>Three Year Trustee -</b>  | <i>Kent Fletcher</i>   |

**K of C Insurance**

**K OF C: MOST ETHICAL**

5/2/2017



The Knights of Columbus has been recognized by the Ethisphere Institute as a 2017 World's Most Ethical Company for the fourth consecutive year. This recognition underscores the organization's commitment to leading ethical business standards and practices. K of C, known also for its extensive charitable activities, was one of only two life insurance companies to earn the designation for 2017.

**Good of the Order**

If a Brother Knight or a member of the family  
who is seriously sick, hospitalized, or has passed  
away, please call or email:

**PGK Joe Furey**  
845-469-2726 or furey68@optimum.net

### Food Pantry Needs Volunteers

The next date coming up will be  
*When announced by  
Church*  
Times: 4:00-5:30pm & 6:00-7:00pm

Contact Joe Maglio  
joemag33@hotmail.com



**Catholic Pulse - News**  
Catholics need to know  
catholicpulse.com

### The Cardinal's Annual Appeal

The Chester Council fully supports the St. Columba Cardinal's Annual Appeal. Please support our church and Father John who has supported our efforts since the Council was reformed.

You can make a contribution at church or at:

[www.cardinalsappeal.org](http://www.cardinalsappeal.org)

### Council Member Birthdays

Michael Grasso	06/07
Ron Nelson Jr	06/08
Frank Sambets	06/09
John Carway	06/14
Kerry Hannifan	06/17
Robert Espilliat	07/01
Robert Rodriguez	07/04
Edward Mariani	07/05
Kevin Moore	07/08
Orlando Perez	07/11
Vincent Begley	07/11
Angel Bello	07/18
Joseph Furey	07/19
Robert Allen	07/20
Ron Nelson Sr	07/26
Kevin O'Reilly	07/26
Raymond Buttigieg	07/28

Please submit articles or news to:

Ron Nelson Sr, Newsletter Editor  
via email at:  
[rn33@optimum.net](mailto:rn33@optimum.net)

## Democrats Have a Catholic Problem

Heath Mello has divided the Democratic Party. This is unusual, given his low profile: he is running for Mayor of Omaha, Nebraska. What makes him controversial among Democrats are his pro-life convictions. Senator Bernie Sanders, an Independent, has taken the high road, prudently saying that, although he favors abortion rights, there should be room for Mello in the Democratic Party. Tom Perez, the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, disagrees – there is no room for people like him. Perez speaks for the base of the Party. The Daily Kos initially endorsed Mello, but pulled its support once it learned that his idea of human rights begins when humans are conceived. NARAL Pro Choice America, the extreme pro-abortion organization, sided with Perez, calling Sanders' support for Mello “politically stupid.”

Is it ok to hold “personal beliefs” against abortion and be a Democrat? Perez says it is, just so long as those beliefs are not voiced. “If they try to legislate or govern that way,” he declared, “we will take them on.” In other words, keep your pro life ideas to yourself or else.

So whatever happened to those grand ideas about diversity and inclusion? Perez just blew them up. Where does this leave Catholics? It's been a long time since Catholics have been welcomed in the Democratic Party. Geoffrey Layman of Columbia University cites 1972 as the pivotal year when secularists took command. So do Louis Bolce and Gerald De Maio of Baruch College. That was the year Catholics were effectively driven out of command positions in the Party. After Senator Hubert Humphrey lost to Richard Nixon in 1968, the McGovern Commission was established to reform the way presidential candidates were chosen. “Catholics had made up about one in four Humphrey Votes in 1968,” observes author Mark Stricherz, “yet they received only one in fourteen slots on the commission in 1969.” When the voters went to the polls in 1972, secular Americans chose the Democrats by a margin of 3 to 1. Fast forward two decades to 1992. According to Layman, “The Democratic Party now appears to be a party whose core of support comes from secularists, Jews, and the less committed members of the major religious traditions.” Similarly, Bolce and De Maio said, “60 percent of first time white delegates at the [1992] Democratic convention in New York City either claimed no attachment to religion or displayed minimal attachment by attending worship services a ‘few times a year or less.’ Why did this happen? Mike McCurry, former Press Secretary to President Bill Clinton, explained it this way: Because we want to be politically correct, in particular, being sensitive to Jews, that's taken the Party to a direction where faith language is soft and opaque.” Now the “faith language” is just about gone. In the 2016 Democratic Party Platform, there are 14 sentences on specific rights for LGBT people. And two vague sentences on “respecting faith” at home. Though LGBT rights are nowhere mentioned in the Bill of Rights, and the First Amendment protects religious liberty, the Platform warns against “the misuse of religion to discriminate “ against LGBT persons. Religious rights are not mentioned at all, save for a line condemning ISIS. Mello and Perez are equally Catholic, though not all Catholics are equal. The Democrats need to decide if there is room in their increasingly shrinking tent to house practicing Catholics, the ones most likely to see abortion as “intrinsicly evil.”

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Hudson Valley Knights of Columbus  
St. Columba Council, No. 8637

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Please submit articles or news to:

Ron Nelson Sr, Newsletter Editor

via email at:

rn33@optimum.net

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## Council Meeting

Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup> 2017  
7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting  
Hap Murray Hall

*Note: The monthly food basket will be placed at the door,  
please bring a contribution to help make our goal*

