



BISHOP ODIN NEWS



607 EAST WHITNEY DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77022

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

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<http://www.kofc2917.org/>

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GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Oscar Ochoa, Grand Knight

My brother knights and ladies, may you have a safe and blessed Christmas and happy and peaceful Happy New Year. Christ was born 2005 years ago. May you have love in your heart on this special day. May this coming year bring you peace of mind and health of body. Thank God for all his blessings and all the good things you have, like being a member of Council 2917, your extended family. Father McGivney founded the Order 123 years ago. His intention was for the knights to be a family oriented organization. His main concern was for the welfare of the widows and children. Our objective is still the same today. We need to appreciate and thank our insurance representatives who are carrying on Father McGivney's objective.

I attended the senior Thanksgiving dinner prepared by Brother Jamie and his wife Elva. It was great. His brother helped also. We had about 60 members. A lot of the seniors were widows whose husbands were members, so you see we are still taking care of the widows just like Father McGivney intended.

As long as 2917 is going to exist, we will stand by what Father McGivney had in mind 123 years ago. I want to congratulate Brother Ed and Jamie Okonski on their 50th anniversary. I was happy to be a part of the celebration. I want to thank the Ladies Auxiliary for their tireless effort in supporting Council 2917. They have donated a total of \$8000 to the council. The last \$1000 was for the Save the Hall donation. They also will donate \$3000 to the food pantries of various churches. So when the ladies have a fundraiser, let's stand with them. As you can see, most of the money comes from us.

I want you to know we are trying to sell part of our property. We have almost 12 acres. About 5 of the acres aren't used, not even for parking. At this time, I am negotiating with O. K. Paper Company who is interested in the back 5 acres. I will keep you informed about the progress. What a blessing it would be to sell that property. That would enable us to have the funds to create a good parking area and have money to replace any air conditioners that are going to go out anytime. Our fear is that they could all go out at the same time. We also wouldn't have to worry about the bingo or the rentals, which at this time are keeping us in the black. It's been necessary to rely on the council for help. If we sell this property, it will be put in the council 2917 funds to be used for future needs. None of this money will go to any individual. Brother Sonny Kainer has already raised some money to save for our hall. I am asking all you Brother Knights and ladies to help us in this endeavor. We need to raise this money so we will have enough cash flow to keep this council going. It's too late to start after you're completely broke. If and when we do sell that property, all money donated to save the hall will be returned to you, including the \$1000 the Ladies Auxiliary gave us. With God on our side we will succeed.

God bless Council 2917 and please send our men and ladies back to their families.

BINGO EVERY FRIDAY 7:15 PM

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

DUES NEWS ALERT!

Brother Knights! I will try to explain this one more time. Your dues for 2006 are due NOW! Do not, I repeat, DO NOT wait until you receive a notice. The only reason I send a dues notice is when I don't receive your dues in time, and the time is January 2006. If I don't receive your dues by January 15, I start sending out notices. Don't wait for the notice, this is your reminder. Please pay your 2006 dues now, not next October. I am trying to save money on postage, it's going to be 39 cents in January for postage. You don't have to make a trip to the hall and pay in person, just send a check made out to the K of C Council 2917. I will send you your receipt and card. The dues are \$40 annually. If you are a honorary member, it's \$20. If you are an honorary life member, you don't pay anything. If you wish, you may do so or make a donation.

As you see in the Grand Knight's message, we are in the process of selling some of our open, unused property because of our decline in rentals. The Northside Columbus Club is in dire need of finances. We are unable to pay for fixing up the grounds or for repairs to the hall like replacing air conditioners or cleaning up the property.

There is also a fund raiser going on by Brother Sonny Kainer, called "Save Our Hall". So far approximately \$3000 has been raised, so feel free to donate whatever you can because this hall and Council means too much to let it get away from us. And when we do sell some of the property, your donations will be returned to you. All donations and names are kept on file.

Have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

SENIOR NEWS

Sonny Kainer, Coordinator

Our Thanksgiving meal at our November meeting was excellent. Thanks to Brother Jamie who fixed the turkey and dressing and sweet potatoes. We want to thank his wife Elvia also. I think she did most of it, just kidding Jamie.

For our December meeting we will have ham. Everyone else bring their favorite side dishes and desserts. I know it will be great.

All The Fun. Half The Price.

Entertainment Books!

Call Rita Rekieta
at 281-448-6623

\$25.00

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

We will have the Children's Christmas Party December 13 at 7:00pm. Bring your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Santa will be there! We will have punch and cookies.

MOON TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Paul Rekieta, Editor

October 31, first place went to Marion Lewandowski. Second place went to Victor Jozwiak. Coming in third was Daniel Bilski. November 7th winners were: first place, Joe Pavlik; second place, Paul Rekieta; and third place, Ed Okonski.

See you next time guys!

VA VISITATION

Anton Swiech, Chairman

Brothers who participated in the October 16th visitation were: Jim Bilnoski, Robert Miller, and Anton Swiech. Council 6826 had: Abner Brown and Alvin Brown.

Our next visitation will be December 25. 713-697-6846

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 2917

Carl Messana Remembrance
December 2nd and 3rd, 2005

Toys for Tots

Bar-B-Que / Chili Cookoff & Dance

Band "Telstars" in old Hall
Friday, Dec. 2nd - 8 pm - Midnight

Cookoff Dec 3rd

For more information contact:
David Willgus (713) 410-0643, Greg Okonski (713) 557-3382
Sonny Kainer (713) 880-5475

TRIP TO COUSHATTA — WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14@9:00 AM
TRIP TO COUSHATTA — WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11@9:00 AM
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEMBERS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS WELCOME!
YOU MUST BE 21 MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY!!
RITA REKIETA - 281-448-6623

IN MEMORIAM

Delphin James "DJ" Motal 11-18-05
Max L. McClosky 11-18-05
Our sincere condolences to their families.
We will certainly miss DJ on our monthly Coushatta Trips and Moon Tournaments, which he dearly loved.

UPCOMING EVENTS		PLEASE PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THESE DATES ALL MEETINGS START AT 7:00 PM (except where noted)			
Dec. 2 Toys for Tots dance in old Hall	8:00pm	Dec. 11 Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Party	6:00pm	Jan. 2 Domino Tournament	7:00pm
Dec. 3 BBQ Cook Off	All Day	Dec. 12 Regular Council Meeting	7:00pm	Jan. 4 Council Officers Meeting	7:00pm
Dec. 4 Adults Christmas Party in Pub	6:00pm	Dec. 13 Children's Christmas Party	7:00pm	Jan. 4 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting	7:30pm
Dec. 5 Moon Tournament	7:00pm	Dec. 13 Senior Get Together	9:30am	Jan. 9 Regular Council Meeting	7:00pm
Dec. 7 Council Officers Meeting	7:00pm	Dec. 21 Northside Columbus Meeting	7:30pm	Jan. 10 Seniors Get Together	9:30am
Dec. 7 Ladies Auxiliary Board Meeting	7:30pm	Dec. 26 No Annual Meeting			

LADIES AUXILIARY

Rita Rekieta, President

I hope all of you had a happy Thanksgiving with your families. It's hard to believe it's been here and gone. We had a great meeting in November with 50 members in attendance. All Saints Ladies with Beamuehr in charge and several ladies prepared our refreshments, which were great. This was their second round as they had prepared refreshments in September and the meeting was cancelled because of Katrina. Thank you to all the ladies for the wonderful spread.

We want to welcome Lydia Clifton in to the Auxiliary as our 154th member. Ladies, we are a very charitable group. Our biggest act of charity is the dinner we provide for a funeral for our members and their spouses upon their death. This is at no cost to the family. Some families do give a donation but that is not required. We do say the rosary for both and do a perpetual enrollment for the member. This month we donated \$1000 to the council which makes a total of almost \$8000 for 2005. In addition we will donate \$3000 to the food pantries of the churches in our area. We also donated \$800 to other charitable organizations totaling almost \$12,000 from our Fiesta proceeds. When you look at the above figures, you can see how important it is for us to strive to make our upcoming Fiesta a successful one. We still need items for our Cheer Baskets, Scratch-offs for our Mini raffle, Silent Auction items, door prizes, \$20 plus for our raffle prizes (which will get your name on the tickets). We also need ladies to chair some of the booths. Call Irma Gonzalez at 281-651-0502 to volunteer in some way. Mark your calendars for March 5, 2006. We will have BJ and the Cloggers.

This past month we lost two of our members, Angeline Amorelli, who has been a member for several years, and Eloise Castillo. We extend our sympathy to the families of Angeline and Eloise. We did participate in the rosary for Angeline with the Catholic Daughters. We also did a rosary for Eloise and since the reception was held at the council hall, we did take care of the dinner. The family provided four briskets and two honey baked hams. We provided fried chicken and our members brought the side dishes and desserts. We served about 100 people.

Our Christmas party for the Ladies Auxiliary will be held on December 11 at 6:00pm. We will not have a Mass. Drinks and appetizers will be served and a catered dinner will start at approximately 7:00pm. Members are free and spouses or guests will pay \$5. Reservations will be taken by Alice Heinrich at 713-861-9854. Deadline is December 4. If you make a reservation and an emergency arises, please call and cancel as we have to pay for the number we give to the caterer. Don't forget, you have a secret sister. Bring or send a gift. We also ask for voluntary items for the Office of Aging (senior citizens) and for Casa de Esperanza (infants to 10 years). Do not wrap gifts, put in bags and mark accordingly. We will need cookies for the Children's Christmas Party, home baked if possible, on December 13.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holy New Year. God Bless all of you and keep you in His care. Pray for our ill and deceased members.