



MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Knights of Columbus Council # 17304

Monthly Business Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, August 10, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM – 8:03 PM

Location: St. Martin de Porres Parish Hall

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **7:00 PM**, with **District Deputy Dominic Gervasi** presiding in the absence of Grand Knight Nathan Bernard and Deputy Grand Knight Mario Martinez.

2. Opening Prayer

The Council prayed the **Lord's Prayer**.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Council recited the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes from the **July 2026 Council meeting** were distributed to members and posted to the Council website.

Motion: Approve July minutes as posted.

- **Made by:** Ed Flanagan
 - **Seconded by:** Russ Woodford
 - **Vote:** Motion carried by voice vote.
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5. Chaplain's Report

Fr. Steven was absent.

6. Grand Knight's Report – Presented by Dominic Gervasi on Behalf of Nathan Bernard

Dominic presented several updates on Nathan's behalf:

- Thanks were extended to all Knights who attended the funeral of **Sir Knight John Franklin**. The Council and Fourth Degree were well represented, including members of the Color Corps and Knights serving as pallbearers.
 - Nathan thanked everyone who assisted with the recent **Bingo Night**, which had strong attendance and was financially successful.
 - The Council recognized **Rob Daleo** for his many years of service to Council #17304 and St. Martin de Porres as he transitions to St. Gabriel's. Rob has been an integral member of the Council since its early years and has served in numerous leadership and program roles.
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7. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report as of **July 31, 2026** was presented.

- **Chase Checking:** \$9,581.41
- **Chase Savings:** \$1,000.74
- **CDs:** \$12,454.32
- **Total Cash & CDs:** \$23,036.47

CD Allocations

Four CDs, each at **3.4%**, with the provided maturity date of **5/19/26**:

- \$3,113.58 – Crisis & Contingency Fund
- \$3,113.58 – Monument Fund
- \$3,113.58 – Monument Fund
- \$3,113.58 – Monument Fund / Grand Piano allocation

Outstanding Checks: \$0.00

Available & Unallocated: \$10,582.15

- Checking: \$9,581.41
- Savings: \$1,000.74

8. Membership & Admissions – Dominic Gervasi

Dominic reported that the Council's membership goal for the new fraternal year is **nine new members**. One new member has already been credited toward the goal.

Several prospects remain in the membership pipeline. Dominic highlighted newer prospects **Stephen Ibarra** and **Jack Wesbecker**, along with previously identified candidates.

The Council also discussed **Patrick Strait**, who has been in the prospect queue.

Motion: Conditionally approve **Stephen Ibarra** and **Patrick Strait** for membership, pending further interview and review by Council leadership.

- **Seconded by:** Ed Flanagan
- **Vote:** Motion carried by voice vote.

Dominic will continue working with prospective members and coordinating completion of the membership and exemplification process.

9. Program & Committee Reports

Faith

Rob Daleo provided his final Faith update before transitioning to St. Gabriel's.

Rob announced that **Ron Echevarria** has agreed to take over as the Council's new Faith Director.

Rob and Ron have already begun discussing the Council's Faith programs for the year.

One proposed Faith program involves supporting **Father David** in locally printing two books he has authored. Father David currently receives little financial benefit from sales through online retailers. Local printing would significantly reduce the cost per copy and allow proceeds from book sales to support Father David's charitable work in his home country.

The two books discussed were:

- A book centered on the **Ten Commandments and Christian virtues**
- A book reflecting on the **Hail Mary, the Rosary, and devotion to Mary as a path toward Christ**

Funding motions were addressed later under New Business.

Community

The Council discussed **Coats for Kids**, including the current buy-one-get-one opportunity and how the program could help satisfy one of the new Star Council program requirements.

No motion was made at this meeting.

Family

Family of the Month participation remains part of the Council's Columbian Award program requirements.

Life

No major update. A **Pro-Life Rally** is included in the Council's annual program plan for January 2027.

St. Lawrence Crew

The St. Lawrence Crew provided updates on upcoming food-related activities.

Taco Sunday is scheduled for August 16. Volunteers were requested for food preparation and related tasks.

Planning is also underway for the **Labor Day Bulk Meat Sale**, including:

- Meat preparation and smoking
- Slicing and packaging
- Pre-orders and QR-code ordering
- Sales surrounding weekend Masses

Members were encouraged to volunteer and coordinate availability with the St. Lawrence Crew.

Technology / AV

No formal update.

Fourth Degree – Report Presented by Brandon on Behalf of Ruben Diaz

Brandon presented Ruben Diaz's Fourth Degree update.

- Ruben completed staining the parish picnic tables as part of ongoing maintenance.
- Fourth Degree Color Corps members participated in Sir Knight John Franklin's funeral.
- Approximately **364 flags** were placed for the most recent patriotic holiday.
- The next Fourth Degree Exemplification will be held **August 29 in Greenville**.
- Michael Echevarria and Jerry Barta were identified as members planning to participate in the upcoming exemplification.

Members interested in joining the Fourth Degree were encouraged to reach out for additional information.

10. Insurance / Financial Advisor Report – Don Burks, CFP®

Don provided an update focused on **Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors** and investment diversification. He discussed the history and purpose of hedge strategies, explaining that hedging is intended to reduce the impact of significant market losses rather than simply maximize returns during rising markets.

Don explained that Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors incorporates hedging strategies into investment portfolios, including portfolios available to members who may not meet the very high investment minimums traditionally associated with hedge-fund strategies.

Members interested in investment performance information or learning more about Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors were encouraged to contact Don.

11. District Deputy Report – Dominic Gervasi

Dominic provided the District Deputy Report.

- Council #17304 helped the District earn **All-Star District** status for the previous fraternal year.
- Only a limited number of districts across Texas received the recognition.
- The annual **Priest and Religious Appreciation Dinner** was held July 27 at St. Jude in Mansfield.
- Approximately **\$69,000** was raised through the event in support of seminarians.
- Dominic continues to have **State Charity Pins** available for \$20. Purchases count toward the Council's State Charity goal.
- The Supreme Convention was held the previous week.
- State Deputy **Bob Goss** visited St. Martin de Porres and stopped by the Council's Bingo event while in the area.
- Dominic reminded members that prospective Knights can join online through **KofC.org/join** using Council #17304. The Council will also consider making QR-code access more visible on future handouts.

12. Unfinished Business

None.

13. New Business

Financial Secretary Report / Bills Presented

The Council remains in good standing with Supreme.

The Financial Secretary reported:

- Current Council rolls: **150 members**
- **40 members** have unpaid dues
- Outstanding dues total approximately **\$1,670**, representing about 27% of the Council.
- The required annual financial audit has been completed and reviewed and will be submitted to Supreme.
- New Chase banking tools now allow the Council to create QR codes for payments and donations, including use with the Council's charitable foundation.
- The Treasurer and Financial Secretary are seeking members interested in serving as interns during the year to learn those positions in preparation for future leadership transitions.

Bills Presented

- Supreme assessment / transfer fee: **\$5.83**
- Bingo expenses: **\$681.76**
- Funeral expenses: **\$136.94**

Total Bills Presented: \$824.53

Motion: Approve payment of bills as presented.

- **Made by:** Ed Flanagan
- **Seconded by:** Steve Bredeson
- **Vote:** Motion carried.

Father David – Ten Commandments Book

The Council discussed supporting local printing of Father David's book on the Ten Commandments. Local printing would allow a greater portion of sales proceeds to benefit Father David's charitable work. Printed copies will include acknowledgment of the support provided by Knights of Columbus Council #17304.

Motion: Approve up to **\$300** toward printing Father David's Ten Commandments book.

- **Made by:** Ed Flanagan

- **Seconded by:** Brandon Story
 - **Vote:** Motion carried.
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Father David – Hail Mary Book

The Council considered a separate request to support printing Father David's book on the Hail Mary.

Motion: Approve up to **\$300** toward printing Father David's Hail Mary book.

- **Made by:** Ed Flanagan
- **Seconded by:** Brandon Story
- **Vote:** Motion carried.

The Council clarified that these approvals are limited to the two current books and do not represent an ongoing commitment to fund future publications.

Neighbors Nourishing Neighbors

The Council discussed the ongoing expansion of **Neighbors Nourishing Neighbors**, including its move into a larger pantry facility and current fundraising efforts.

Members noted the Council's longstanding relationship with the organization.

Motion: Approve a **\$500 sponsorship** benefiting Neighbors Nourishing Neighbors.

- **Made by:** Rob
 - **Seconded by:** Ed Flanagan
 - **Vote:** Motion carried.
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Bingo Update

Thanks were extended to everyone who assisted with the recent Bingo Night.

Planning has already begun for the next Bingo Night on **October 24**, including consideration of requests from senior attendees regarding future programming.

14. Good of the Order

Knight of the Month

Ruben Diaz

Family of the Month

Flanagan Family

The Council also expressed gratitude for **Rob Daleo's** return following recent health issues and thanked him for his years of service to the Council.

15. Lecturer's Reflection – Jerry Barta

Jerry briefly reflected on Christ's words to Peter, **"Get behind me, Satan,"** and the challenge of conforming our own will to God's will rather than assuming our personal desires always reflect God's plan.

He emphasized humility, discernment, and the importance of seeking God's direction.

Monthly Challenge:

Study the life and example of **Blessed Michael McGivney** using the four-session guide available through KofC.org.

16. Prayer Requests

The Council offered prayers for:

- **Jason Campbell** – ongoing health issues
 - **Rob Daleo** – thanksgiving for his return and continued healing
 - **Tony** – prayer intention requested by Ron
 - **Carson Brotherson** – Steve’s 13-year-old grandson, who continues treatment for cancer and recently required hospitalization
 - The intentions of **Pope Leo**
 - Peace throughout the world
 - The intentions of Council #17304 and the Knights of Columbus
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17. Closing Prayer

The Council prayed the **Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney**, led by **Dominic Gervasi**.

18. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at **8:03 PM**.

Minutes prepared by:

SK Nick Cumberland, Recorder