



knights of columbus

Resurrection Council #11341
3175 Paulskirk Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21042



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FIRST REPORTING QUARTER OF 2014-2015



COUNCIL ACTIVITY REPORT

JOHN GARPSTAS

COUNCIL ACTIVITY DIRECTOR

Council Activity Report

First Reporting Quarter 2014-2015

Program Activity: Priest Appreciation Dinner

Date of Activity: August 11, 2014

Objective

Bring the council together to show our appreciation for the Resurrection Parish Priests and Deacons.

Overview

The Resurrection Council sponsored the Annual Priests Appreciation Mass and Dinner on Monday, August 11, 2014. The event was held at the Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center in Marriottsville, Maryland. Mass was followed by a buffet dinner and a presentation of gifts for the Priests and Deacons.

Planning

David Brown of our council volunteered to take the lead in organizing the Priest Appreciation Dinner. He was supported by many Brothers that had experience in organizing the event.

Planning consisted of:

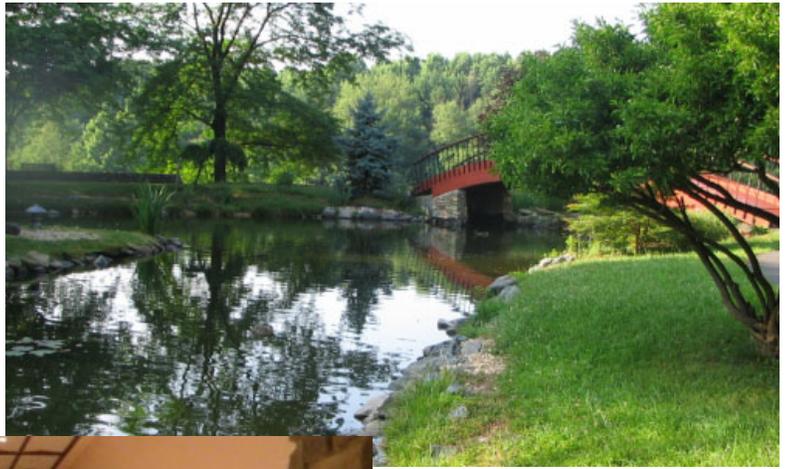
- Contracting with Bon Secours for the dinner
- Menu Decisions
- Organizing the Mass
- Promoting the dinner to the council
- Website coordination - registrations for the event
- Gifts for the Priests and Deacons
- Coordination the day of the event

Dave organized meetings and conference calls prior to the event to ensure that it went smoothly.

The Event

The Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center is located at the end of a winding road and surrounded by woods making for a beautiful and restful location. It was a nice evening for the event as attendees arrived for Mass at 6pm. The facility has a Chapel on the upper level and dining facility on the lower level making it a great location for this annual gathering.

The well-appointed grounds and beautiful Chapel of Bon Secours



Several members of the council arrived early to check on the dinner arrangements, help the Priest setup the Chapel for Mass and get the music organized for the service. The Mass was concelebrated by Father Canisius, Resurrection's new Associate Pastor, and Father Warren, the Council's Worthy Chaplain. Father Warren had been transferred to St. Mark's Parish in Catonsville, but was still technically the council's Worthy Chaplain so the Council had planned a special surprise for him for later in the evening. Our Grand Knight, Pat Brim on guitar, and Liz Coolahan on piano, provided music for the Mass.

Resurrection Council provided financial support to Father Canisius when he was a Seminarian. As this event was his first Mass with the Knights, he took the opportunity during his Homily to thank the members of Council for their support. The Council was very excited to welcome Father Canisius to Resurrection after his Ordination. Having supported Father Canisius it was very special to the Council that he had been assigned to our Parish. The mass lasted until about 6:30 and we all proceeded to dinner.

The dinner was buffet style featuring chicken marsala, sea bass, vegetables, bread and a variety of desserts. Drinks were provided and attendees were welcome to bring wine or their favorite beverages. The Council also provided several bottles of wine. It was a great atmosphere as

people got seated and then started through the buffet line. Everyone enjoyed the food and apparently the table conversation as it was a lively room with laughter and fellowship.



Mgrs. John and Father Canisius join the Collins' and Harris's



Father Ed enjoys dinner with the Garptas', Scurachios' and Souza's



Father Warren has dinner with the Gahagans, Gays and Souza's



Deacon Skip Comegna and wife Janet join the Lease's and Weiss'

Grand Knight Pat Brim was Master of Ceremonies for the presentation of the gifts to the priests. Each of the Priests and Deacon Skip received checks from the council. The presentation was very informal with a few jokes but with a focus on the Council's deep appreciation for all that

our Priests and Deacons do for the Church and Parish. As a Council the Grand Knight pledged our continued service and support.

Since the Council wasn't sure if Father Warren was going to be able to continue as the Worthy Chaplain, it was decided to purchase for him a custom stole as a token of the Council's appreciation for 2+ years of service to the organization. The stole was customized with a cross symbolizing the Resurrection, the Emblem of the Order and an inscription reading "'To Fr. Warren for your service and support, Resurrection Council 11341". Father was quite moved by the gesture, but it became humorous pretty quickly as PGK Roy Harris and Msgr. John began to recount the story of their plotting to get his measurements by taking some of his vestments. Father Warren is quite short, but fortunately Roy was able to find a company that specializes in stoles for short or tall Priests! Father Warren was his usual gracious and funny self and the entire group had a good laugh.



Father Warren shows off his custom stole from the Council

The dinner wrapped up around 9pm with everyone in great spirits from a fun evening. The nice weather we enjoyed upon arrival had turned to rain so several Knights shared umbrellas as they went to get cars to return and pick up their wives.

Results

Attendance was up from last year, as a total of 53 attended, including the Priests and Deacon Skip and his wife. Council members each paid for the event and the Council covered all expenses for our guests Msgr. John, Fathers Canisius and Warren and Deacon Skip and Janet. The costs for the dinner and gifts are a standard budget item for the Council. Surveying the attendees later in the week, the event got good reviews and we plan to return to Bon Secours next year.

Registrations for the event were coordinated through a new feature on the Council website which allowed Brothers to sign up on line and provide details on who would be attending. This certainly streamlined the effort and gave organizers an accurate online report of attendees.

On a very happy note, the Council was also informed a few weeks after the event that Fr. Warren will be able to continue as the Worthy Chaplain for Resurrection Council. We are truly blessed!

Council Participation

There was good participation from the Council for this event with 30+ Brothers taking part in aspects of the planning, promotion and execution of the event as well as attending. It was also a great opportunity to have the wives of the members out for the evening.

Promotional Details

The event was promoted to the members of the Council at our regular business meetings three months in advance, through email reminders and through an email flyer that was sent out to the members (see following attachment). In addition, registrations were done through our website which contained all of the relevant information for the evening.