

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF
ARCHBISHOP FULTON J SHEEN - COUNCIL 7547**

Council 7547 in Elizabeth City, NC was established on April 13, 1980 under the guidance of District Deputy Ralph Provost. The charter Grand Knight was Brian Williams and the other officers of the council were:

- ❖ Chaplain – Rev. Raymond Yudin**
- ❖ Deputy Grand Knight – Buck Williams**
- ❖ Chancellor – Ed O’Conner**
- ❖ Financial Secretary – Rufus Abeyounis**
- ❖ Treasurer – Ray Rogerson**
- ❖ Recorder – Terrence Levesque**
- ❖ Warden – Ed Boncek**
- ❖ Advocate – William Bentley**
- ❖ Inside Guard – Small Olds**
- ❖ Outside Guard – John Kubanda**
- ❖ Lector – Fred Bauer**

The council held its meetings at St. Elizabeth's Church until 1989. When the two Catholic Churches in Elizabeth City merged and formed Holy Family Catholic Church, which was built on North Road Street in Elizabeth City, the council meetings were held there. The council meets on the first Wednesday of each month in the church Social Hall. After starting out with a small group of 40 “Catholic Gentlemen” the council has now grown to a membership of 135.

As the council grew so, did the number and types of activities and projects they undertook. On their initiation date they held a First & Second Degree. It was during a blizzard and they had 17 dedicated men make their First Degree and 37 men making their Second Degree. In May of 1980 thirty men made their Third Degree in Raleigh. During the May 1980 State Convention the wives of the council donated a statue of the Infant Jesus of Prague. That same month saw the beginning of the council’s weekly Bingo night. This was their first fund raiser. Later in 1980 they took part in their first L.A.M.B. project and held their first Christmas Dance.

By 1981 the Brother Knights had started participating in the yearly March for Life held in Washington, DC, making monthly visits to the prison in Maple, NC. and held their first Thanksgiving Dinner for Migrant Workers.

1982 saw the council continue its charity work when they began collecting and distributing clothing to migrant workers and with the first of the yearly

Christmas Dinner for Seniors. They finished out the year by manning the Christmas kettle for the Salvation Army.

In May of 1983 the council donated \$1,050.00 to the Church Building Fund. They also took part in the Annual Elizabeth City Christmas Parade.

The council became involved in the K of C Free Throw Contest in January 1984. They took part in the local, district and state levels. In February they began providing janitorial and lawn care for the church.

By 1990 the council had a standing pall bearer list, provided new tables and chairs for the church social hall and installed a new phone system in the new rectory.

January 1992 they started a project where Brother Knights would drive the church van to pick up senior citizens and take them to Mass. Unfortunately this was stopped a few years ago because the van became unreliable and replacing it was too expensive. Also, in January they started the tradition of providing coffee and donuts after Sunday Mass the first Sunday of each month. In December Brother Knights started providing a Santa Claus for the youth Christmas party.

The council began participating in the "Adopt-a-Highway" program in 1993 and that program continues to this day. Also, in May 1993 at the State Convention, our council introduced the idea of having a State License Plate with the Knights 3rd degree logo on it. Eventually this was approved by the State of N.C.

In 1995 the council started to support the Franciscan Seminarian and they also began to lead the Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent. Following the Stations they provided a soup supper in the social hall.

Our council was one of the three councils that in June 1995 formed The Father Stanley Grubitz Assembly.

In 1996 the council won the State Scrapbook Award at the State Convention. They also dedicated a memorial to the Unborn with Father Joe Gaul, State Chaplin, presiding.

Two five hundred scholarships were begun in June 1997. In August the scholarships became the "Luke Denison Memorial College Scholarship Fund" in the memory of a Brother Knight's son. In October one of our Brother Knights was one of the honorees at the Fourth Degree Exemplification.

In May 1998 the council had the honor of hosting a reception for a Boys Choir of 50 youths from the country of Andorra. Ten Knights welcomed the boys into their homes for an overnight stay.

The council's first Awards Banquet was held in August 1999. That same fall the council collected water, bedding and food for the Flood Victims in Rocky Mount, NC. Many Brother Knights performed various home repairs for Flood Victims in Williamston and Roberson, NC. In December they held their first Christmas Party for "Special Needs" Children and their first Health Fair/Blood Drive.

In 2000 our Brother Knights put together and distributed Easter baskets of toiletries to the residents of local Nursing Homes. They also held their first Youth fishing Tournament along with a Parish Picnic. In December they participated in the Elizabeth City Christmas Parade with a float, 4th Degree Honor Guard and several Brother Knights marching.

The council began sponsoring a Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop in February 2001.

At the North Carolina State Convention, June 2002, we were presented with the *Family Activity Award* for our "Kids Fishing Tournament and Family Picnic".

In August 2002 the council held training for altar servers.

In February 2003 they held a Marriage Vow Renewal for the parish.

At the North Carolina State Convention, June 2003, the Council was presented with the *Community Activity Award* for our "Special Needs Children Christmas Party", State Council - State Deputy Award, Distinguished Council Award (16th consecutive year), Duane Russell Newsletter Award – First Place and the Council Website Award – Third Place.

In July 2003 PGK John Purcell and his wife, Barbara hosted a reception/picnic for the newly elected officers and their guests.

On October 5, 2003 Holy Family Parish held a Parish Picnic on church grounds. The knights cooked and served over 500 hamburgers and 350 hot dogs. The Bishop attended the picnic.

In December 2003, brother knights from our council rang the bell for the Salvation Army. In the two days we rang the bell we collected over \$1700.00. We also hosted a Christmas Party for "Special Needs" children. This was our 4th year hosting the party and it continues to be very well attended.

2004

In January we conducted the Annual Free Throw Competition. This year we held it at Camden Middle School and the Elizabeth City Boys & Girls Club; we had around 440 boys and girls participating.

In May we held our first spring L.A.M.B. drive. We handed out Tootsie Rolls and collected money at the three Elizabeth City Food Lions. In June we collected for L.A.M.B. at the Border Station. Then on the 30th and 31st we collected at Wal-mart.

Also in May and July we took residents from one of the local Assisted Living Homes fishing. We took them to the boardwalk and fishing area behind the Camden Courthouse. Although none of the men caught any fish they all had a great time.

On June 26th our Council celebrated our 25th Anniversary at our Annual Awards Dinner. Several dignitaries were present – State Deputy Dave Onofrio and his wife and DD Frank Jones and his wife. We also had several Charter Members attend: Terry Levesque, Fred Bauer, Fr. Klaus, PGK Brian Williams and FDD Ralph Provost. It was a GREAT party.

In August we had a “Family Night” and went to an ECSU Basketball game.

September found us holding a Council Picnic at the Coast Guard Base. Then on October 16th we held another “Family Night Trip” to the Go Cart races, followed by a “Harbor Cruise” in Norfolk on the 17th.

November found the Council once again collecting for L.A.M.B. This time on the 6th at the Food Lion stores in Currituck and on the 13th at Food Lion stores in Elizabeth City. We ended November with “Mexican Bowling” (Family bowling followed by a meal at 3 – Amigo’s). Our Memorial Mass was held on November 20th.

We ended 2004 with our Annual Parish Christmas Dinner Dance on the 3rd. The Council also marched in the Elizabeth City Christmas Parade earlier that same day. The next day, Dec. 4th, we held our Annual Special Needs Children’s Christmas Party. Then we rounded out the month by “Ringing the Bell” for the Salvation Army on the 16th and the 23rd.

2005

2005 started out with a bang. On the 14th we held a Free Throw Contest and a Spaghetti Supper; then Highway Clean Up the next day, Jan. 15th. There was another Free Throw Contest on the 21st, March for Life in D.C. on the 24th and the District Free Throw Contest on the 29th.

February found us holding a Blood Drive on the 5th, Stations of the Cross & Soup supper on the 11th and, on the 12th, we had a Family Trip to the VA. Air & Space Museum.

March was a little quieter; Easter Baskets for the Forgotten Seniors handed out on the 25th (Good Friday) and our Founder's Day Mass on the 29th.

In May we went the Fun Junction for a Kids Fishing Tournament/Council Family Picnic.

We ended the Fraternal Year in June with our Annual Awards Dinner.

July found us back at work with a tour of the Blimp Installation in Weeksville, a trip to see a Norfolk Tides Baseball game, a Blood Drive and a Family Night at Tony's.

We started out September by taking part in the 9/11 Flag Raising Ceremony at Camden Courthouse. We followed that up with L.A.M.B. Drives on the 23rd and 24th, and a Picnic at the Coast Guard Base on the 25th.

October 14 & 15 we held another L.A.M.B. Drive, went to a Hockey Game on the 15th, held a Spaghetti Supper on the 22nd and assisted with the TYM Fall Festival on the 23rd.

Once again we were at the Camden Courthouse to take part in a Flag Raising Ceremony on Veteran's Day 11/11. Then on the 13th we held a Family Bowling Party.

December finds the Council at the Elizabeth City Christmas Parade and the Council/Parish Christmas Party, both on Dec. 3rd. On the 10th we hosted the Annual Special Needs Children's Christmas Party.

2006

January is the month for the Annual Free Throw Contests and January 2006 found us at River Road Middle School on the 12th and in Camden at the Middle School on the 20th.

Following Mass on February 12th we held our Marriage Vow Renewal, District Free Throw on the 18th; we went to a Hockey Game on the 18th and rounded out the month with the GK attending the Blue & Gold Banquet for the Cub Scout Pack we sponsor.

In March the Council held "Stations of the Cross" and a soup Supper, had a Family Trip to Fort Monroe and the Casemate Museum and on the 28th sponsored our Annual Founder's Day Mass.

On April 14th (Good Friday) we took Easter Baskets to four local Nursing Homes and on the 23rd we had a Family Trip to the Norfolk Botanical Garden.

Our Annual Kids Fishing Tournament, held on June 3rd was a great success. A Family Picnic followed the tournament. L.A.M.B. Drives were held at the Border Station on June 16 & 17. And to put the final touches on another great year, we held our Annual Awards Banquet on June 24th.

On September 26 Bishop Burbidge visited Holy Family. The Council and Assembly took a very active part in the evening activities.

October was another of those busy months – Columbus Day Mass, Family Trip to the Norfolk Zoo, Spaghetti Supper, two L.A.M.B. Drives and a Blood Drive.

Again we went bowling and out to the 3 – Amigo's after. Also, on the 18th we held our Annual Memorial Mass.

December 2nd was the Elizabeth City Christmas Parade and our Council/Parish Christmas Party. We “Rang the Bell” for the Salvation Army on the 14th and the 16th. On December 17th, following Holy Family Choir's Cantata, our Council assisted the Catholic Daughters with refreshments. Three Brothers, dressed in their Tux, served the wine and beer.

2007

In January we attended both March for Life Ceremonies in Washington, D.C. and Raleigh, NC.

February 11th we held our Marriage Vow Renewal after the 10:15 Mass. On the 23rd the Council hosted the “Stations of the Cross” followed by a Soup Supper and on the 24th we hosted the District Free Throw Contest. We held a Family Trip to see a hockey game.

March was special. We has a record attendance at our “Stations of the Cross and Soup Supper. Then, on the 25th, we hosted a Lenten Pilgrimage to the Basilica Shrine. We held our Founder's Day Mass on the 29th.

We handed out our Easter Baskets for the Forgotten Seniors on Good Friday.

In May we held another Spaghetti Supper Fund Raiser, had a Highway Clean up and took the residents from the Carolina House fishing.

We held our Awards Reception in early June.

September found us, once again, picking up trash along highway 158.

In November we honored our departed Brothers at our annual Memorial Mass, on 11/11 we were at the Camden Courthouse for the Flag Raising Ceremony and we finished out the month with another Spaghetti Supper.

We closed out 2007 with by Ringing the Bell for the Salvation Army. It has become an annual event and again this year we were out there for two days.

2008

As usual, our Council sent representatives to both the Rally for Life in Raleigh, NC and the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

In February , Council 7547 presented Father Jim with a 22" x 36" check for \$5000.00. The check represented our total pledge for the Building Fund. Also we hosted the "Stations of the Cross and Soup Supper on the 15th.

March was another busy month. We held a Pancake Breakfast, attended a St. Patty's Day Party at the Carolina House and held a Spaghetti supper.

Once again, we handed out our Easter Baskets for the Forgotten Seniors on Good Friday. Also in April the Council finished construction of three closets in the Social Hall. The Council will have the use of two of them and the Catholic Daughters will use the third.

In May, Bishop Burbidge came to Holy Family to dedicate and bless our new addition. Several Brothers assisted in the evening's program. We also held another Spaghetti Supper.

We finished up the Fraternal Year with another Highway Clean Up, taking the residents of Carolina House fishing and our Awards Reception.

On August 8th we had a Family Social at Tony's Restaurant and had an exceptional turn out.

September was a very busy month. On the 3rd we held a Pot Luck Supper where the Catholic Daughters presented us with a certificate honoring our service to both the Church and the Catholic Daughters, on the 20th the Camden County Board of Commissioners presented Council 7547 with an award for our years of service as "Adopt a Highway" on the Camden Causeway, we held a Spaghetti Supper and the Council honored the Holy Family Altar Servers by presenting them with a Card for free Spaghetti Suppers and Pancake Breakfasts for one year.

In October, Brother Jim Jackson and the Red Cross held a Semi-annual Blood Drive in our new Family Life Center. We also held another Pancake Breakfast and a Family Social Brunch at Montero's.

In November we were, once again, at the Camden Courthouse for the 11/11 Flag Raising Service, we held our Annual Memorial Mass and State Deputy John Gouldie paid us a visit. Several Brothers took John out for breakfast.

The Council ended 2008 with our Annual Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army on the 11th & 13th. We were invited to have supper with the Girl Scout Troop we sponsor. The girls cooked and served a wonderful meal. Santa & Mrs. Claus visited Holy Family after the Sunday, December 7th 10:15 am Mass in conjunction with our pancake breakfast, Santa & Mrs. Claus handed out candy canes and parents were encouraged to take pictures.

2009

January is Free Throw Competition month and once again we were at Camden Middle School and River Road Middle School. We had a total of 502 students take part in the program. We ended the month with a Spaghetti Supper on the 23rd.

We started out February with a Pancake Breakfast on the 9th. Then we hosted the District Free Throw Contest in our new Family Life Center on the 21st. On the 22nd we held another Blood Drive and on the 27th we hosted the “Stations of the Cross and Soup Supper”.

On March 18th we assisted parishioners getting into and out of Church for the Healing Mass.

In April we held another L.A.M.B. Drive, handed out Easter Baskets to the Forgotten Seniors and held a Spaghetti Supper.

Another Fraternal Year comes to a close and we held our Awards Reception.

In August our Council was the first in North Carolina to receive the east coast “Silver Rose”. There were three Silver Roses that started in Canada and traveled across the US on their way to Mexico for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Several Brothers assisted in the September Healing Mass and we held a Spaghetti Supper Fund Raiser.

October was the month for our Semi-annual Blood Drive and we also held a L.A.M.B. Drive.

We held another L.A.M.B. Drive and Spaghetti Supper in November.

Again this year, we rang the bell for the Salvation Army and Santa & Mrs Claus made a visit to Holy Family.

The council is also proud of some of its other accomplishments and projects that are ongoing annually, monthly or weekly. A few are listed below:

At each meeting a decade of the rosary is said.

We provide pallbearers for funerals of brother Knights of Columbus.

We participate in a Memorial Mass for deceased Knights.

Used cell phones are collected and distributed to disabled people.

We conduct a prayer meeting and study hour each Wednesday and Communion Service every Sunday at the Local Maximum Security State Penitentiary.

We participate in Flag Raising Ceremonies at the Camden County Courthouse.

We ring the bell for Salvation Army for two days every December.

We continue to do our best to raise funds for our L.A.M.B. Program.

All widows of Brother Knights receive a special card that allows them into any Knights' function at no charge.

The Council places American Flags in the Memorial Garden on the following occasions:

**Memorial Day
Flag Day
Independence Day
Patriot Day
Columbus Day
Veteran's Day**

The Knights Lantern Newsletter is published monthly.

We continue to support a seminarian.