

Some Highlights during the first 100 years of the Pittsburgh Chapter Knights of Columbus

- **October 8, 1908.** The Grand Knights of eleven Pittsburgh area councils meet at the old Monongahela House to formulate a combined body of individual councils to better promote the good of the Order. The councils represented were: Duquesne #264, Allegheny #285, Monongahela #491 (later renamed Pittsburgh Council), Chartiers #875, Braddock #911, Latrobe #940 (later renamed Daniel P. Nolan Council), Monessen #954, McKeesport #955, Charleroi #956, Sharpsburg #972, and Washington #1083.
- **October 11, 1911.** Annual Columbus Day celebration inaugurated to honor our patron. This tradition is now in its 97th year.
- **The War Years 1914 to 1918.** World War I. The chapter activities were curbed and a full program was not in force until 1919. Membership fluctuated during these years and there were only 14 councils in 1920.
- **October 11, 1924.** The 14th annual Columbus Day Banquet was held at the William Penn Hotel. The Right Reverend Joseph Schrembs, D.D., bishop of Cleveland was the guest speaker.
- **The Big Brother Movement was started in 1925.** Brother Barnabas, the founder of the Squires Program, met with the members and gave a ten day course in child guidance. The Big Brother Movement was the forerunner of the Catholic Youth Organization. May 16-18, 1927 the chapter was represented at the State Convention in Altoona. In 1928 the Chapter was signally honored by an address made by Martin H. Carmody, the Supreme Knight.
- **Hard times brought a curtailment in chapter activities as well as a decided drop in membership during the Great Depression.** The attendance at the annual Columbus Day dinners was decreasing. The 1934 celebration was held at the Fort Pitt Hotel with guest speakers Rev. James A. Reeves, S.P.D., President of Seton Hill College, and John G. Bowman, LL.D., Chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh.

- **In 1942 the Chapter formed a Veterans Committee for the purpose of providing activities for the disabled hospitalized servicemen in local institutions.** There were approximately 1,200 locally at that time. During 1943 the Committee arranged for motion pictures and other forms of entertainment. They provided religious articles, Catholic literature, etc. Gift boxes of useful items were given to every soldier in the hospitals at Christmas time. Other forms of service were given in cooperation with the various organizations interested in soldier welfare.
- **1950 marked the Silver Jubilee of the Catholic Youth Organization and it was celebrated with a banquet on April 19 at the Pittsburgh Athletic Club.** Bishop Dearden was the principal speaker and he commended the association for its work with the youth. The 1950 Columbus Day celebration was in the form of a dance only in hopes of raising attendance and was held at the Sheraton Hotel.
- **The Supreme Convention was held in Pittsburgh in 1951 and the proceeds were presented to Bishop Dearden and closed the Visual Library Campaign begun in 1948.** The total sum realized was \$9,000.
- **The Chapter undertook, at the request of the bishop,** to financially assist the program for the Catholic Students attending secular colleges in their organization commonly known as APIFSCO@ - Pittsburgh Inter Collegiate Federation of Catholic Students Organization - to help underwrite the Newman Clubs.
- **Proceeds from the Columbus Day banquet** contributed toward the purchase of the old Stephen Foster School building in Lawrenceville from the Board of Education to the CYA for its general headquarters. The Chapter now consisted of 25 councils.
- **The formation of the new Greensburg Diocese** saw five councils transferred to the Greensburg Chapter and six new councils were added to the Pittsburgh Chapter.
- **1958 - fifty years after its inception** - found the Pittsburgh Chapter under capable guidance and looking forward to the Columbus Day celebration with confidence in the future for the Chapter.

- **January 1959:** John J. Wright appointed Bishop of Pittsburgh. The Knights assume the task of providing funds for the expansion of the St. Anthony School. The Christmas Seal program was the initial venture. By the fall of 1960 the Christmas Seal Project is made a permanent body within the Pittsburgh and Beaver Valley Chapters. The project is officially named The Bishop of Pittsburgh Project for Exceptional Children and continues to flourish.
- **1967 saw the Chapter take over sponsorship of the JFK Memorial Run.** The Tootsie Roll campaign initiated to provide additional funds for the Bishop's Project. The project thus far has turned over more than a half million dollars for use at the St. Anthony School and the McGuire Memorial Home in New Brighton.
- **The seventies brought quite a bit of exposure for the Chapter.** There were now 31 member councils, we continued to operate Camp Rosary for the Catholic Youth Association. In 1972 the Supreme Knight paid a surprise visit to a Chapter meeting, the Columbus Day Dinner Dance attracted 500 people. The Knights were honored at a Pirate game at Three Rivers Stadium. Chapter retreats at St. Paul of the Cross continue to attract brother knights.
- **On April 29, 1973 the Chapter took over sponsorship of the commemoration of the first Mass said at Fort Duquesne on April 14, 1754.** The Chapter joins the rest of the State Councils in supporting the A.R.C. Campaign. 1980 saw a record year for the Bishop's Project as a check for \$100,000 was turned over to Bishop Leonard.
- **The Seventies and Eighties were very productive for the Chapter as we reached a high of 31 councils and service to the Church and community was unmatched.** Programs like the JFK Memorial Run, Camp Rosary for the CYA, the K of C Federal Credit Union, the Bishop's Project, The Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics scholarships, Pirate-Knight games at Three Rivers Stadium, Columbus Day Dinner Dances, weekend retreats at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat House, the Order's commitment to the Pro-Life causes, the Bishops Project Award Banquets, and the Three Rivers memorial Masses at St. Mary's at the Point continued to prosper during this period.

- **The Nineties brought new growth as 13 new councils were formed.** An impressive Columbian Quincentennial banquet was held at the Sheraton Inn North in October 1992. The Pittsburgh Chapter hosted the Supreme Convention in August of 1994. This was a real showcase of the Western Hospitality. Shopping tours, boat rides, Kennywood Park, and a Pirate game were all offered to our guests. We were especially honored to have the *Lettermen* entertain us during the convention. We had an encore the following year when we hosted the State Convention. The Bishop's Project continued to raise funds for the McGuire Memorial Home and St. Anthony's School Program as we averaged \$147,000 per year to round out the decade.
- **The chapter donated two Pro-Life memorials during this era,** one in St. Mary of Mercy Church downtown and one outside of St. Paul Cathedral in Oakland. We continue to make donations to Mom's House (now Angels Place) and People Concerned for the Unborn Child.
- **Y2K brought us into the computer age and we survived it** These next few years brought a somewhat modest growth to the Order as eight new councils were formed most of which were parish councils.
- **The Bishop's Project continues to grow with the help of our neighboring councils in the Pittsburgh Diocese and, with this years' campaign, will exceed five million dollars.** Our dedication to the Church has been exemplified in our support of our seminarians through the RSVP program, support of Catholic education, Pro-Life causes, anti-pornography, morality in the media and, most recently, the Defense of Marriage Act.
- **Brothers, we can certainly be proud of our accomplishments, but we can't sit on our laurels.** We must be prepared for our next 100 years. *A council in every parish* - long a dream of our founder could become a reality. Our beloved founder, Father Michael J. McGivney has been declared a Venerable Servant of God by Pope Benedict XVI and could very well be canonized during our lifetime. There is still much work to be done - for our communities, our nation and our Church. With the grace of Almighty God we can do it.

Knights of Columbus

Pittsburgh Chapter



FORMER CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Dean Hayes	1908-1910	William F. Marm (491)	1964-1966
E. D. Nugent	1910-1911	Edward V. Goetz, Sr. (4029)	1966-1968
World War I		Pat Boccardi (4925)	1968-1970
T. F. Garrahan	1919-1924	Joseph F. Meehan (3902)	1970-1972
Charles J. Carr (911)	1924-1925	Paul Brannan (4029)	1972-1973
John M. F. Quinn	1925-1927	James J. Palmer (491)	1973-1974
Leo A. McMullen (1400)	1927-1929	Albert J. Benedetti (4210)	1974-1977
John M. Boissou	1929-1930	Theodore E. Ketterle (264)	1977-1979
Louis F. Cook	1930-1933	Joseph Schultz (6094)	1979-1981
Al Scholze (285)	1933-1935	Richard S. Miksic (4029)	1981-1983
Thomas M. Dugan (955)	1935-1937	Paul C. Varley (875)	1983-1985
Andrew F. Goyette	1937-1938	Jennery R. Falvo (4210)	1985-1987
Lawrence O'Toole	1938-1940	C. Don Salkeld (1400)	1987-1989
John F. Donley	1940-1941	Samuel J. Colega (491)	1989-1991
Jack McAvoy	1941-1943	Joseph A. Cummings (3907)	1991-1993
Paul McGann (875)	1943-1948	John J. O'Neill (5367)	1993-1995
Henry J. Wehner (285)	1948-1950	Anthony V. Daley (3868)	1995-1997
William J. Garrison (1400)	1950-1952	Charles H. Kane (285)	1997-1999
Carmen R. Capone (264)	1952-1954	Donald St. John (2555)	1999-2001
A. J. Flynn (955)	1954-1956	John R. Pischke (264)	2001-2003
Paul F. Murray (2555)	1956-1958	Eric C. Johnson (4242)	2003-2005
William B. Jones (3084)	1958-1960	Michael P. Lynch (4242)	2005-2007
Regis J. Sheehan (264)	1960-1962	Joseph S. Yourish, Jr. (5501)	2007-2009
John B. McMahon (3868)	1962-1964		

Pennsylvania State Council

Knights of Columbus

The following Brother Knights, with ties to the Pittsburgh Chapter have served as State Officers in the past 100 years.

- Most Rev. J.F.R. Canevin, – State Chaplain – 1902 > 1924
- A. S. McSwigan, Council #264 – State Deputy – 1913 > 1915
- F. W. Ries, Jr., Council #1400 – State Deputy – 1919 > 1921
- Leo Griffith, Council #264 – State Deputy – 1923 > 1925
- John M. Boissou – State Treasurer – 1928 > 1931
- Dr. F. C. Boucek, Council #285 – State Treasurer – 1937 > 1939
- Edward J. Kelly, Council #264 – State Deputy – 1941 > 1943
- Msgr. Andrew Paully, Council #264 – State Chaplain 1941 > 1942
- Henry J. Wehner, Council #285 – State Secretary – 1946 > 1948
- Dr. Daniel P. Nolan, Council #940* – State Deputy 1948 > 1950
- Thomas P. Conroy, Council #2602 – State Secretary – 1954 > 1956
- Thomas P. Conroy, Council #2602 – State Deputy – 1956 > 1958
- Rev. F. C. Streiff , Council #285 - State Chaplain – 1956 > 1958
- Carmen R. Capone, Esq., Council #264 – State Advocate – 1958 > 1960
- William J. Garrison, Council #1400 – State Treasurer – 1960 > 1962
- Leonard J. Orie, Council #4210 - State Secretary – 1962 > 1964
- Carmen R. Capone, Esq., Council #264 – State Deputy – 1964 > 1966
- Rev. Joseph Kletzel, Council #3868 - State Chaplain – 1964 > 1966
- William F. Marm, Council #491 – State Treasurer – 1968 > 1970
- Joseph F. Meehan, Council #3902 – State Deputy – 1972 > 1974
- Rev. William H. Schroeder, Council #3907 – State Chaplain – 1972 > 1974
- Regis J. Sheehan, Council #264 – State Deputy – 1980 > 1982
- Rev. Donald W. Wuerl**, Council #264 – State Chaplain – 1980 > 1982
- Earl J. Price, Council #3530 – State Treasurer – 1984 > 1986
- Joseph A. Cummings, Council #3907 – State Secretary – 1986 > 1988
- Albert J. Benedetti, Council #4210 – State Deputy – 1988 > 1990
- Rev. Robert M. Franco, Council #604 – State Chaplain – 1988 > 1990
- Theodore E. Ketterle, Council #264 – State Warden – 1990 > 1992
- Joseph A. Cummings, Council #3907 – State Deputy 1996 > 1998
- Rev. John M. O'Toole, Council #264 – State Chaplain – 1996 > 1998
- James L. Tishko, Council #955 – State Warden – 1998 > 2000
- Joseph S. Yourish, Jr., Council #5501 – State Deputy – 2004 > 2006
- Rev. J. Lawrence Bruney, Council #5501 – State Chaplain – 2004 > 2006
- Mark B. Peduto, Esq., Council #9984 – State Advocate – 2008 >

* Council #940 later became a Charter member of Greensburg Chapter in 1955

** Later become Bishop, then Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl

James J. Palmer Award

James J. Palmer 1910-1974 October 11
Married to Nora Davis April 11, 1934
Father of Four Children 12 grandchildren.
Joined the order in 1949.

Past Grand Knight of Council #491 Pittsburgh, President of the Pittsburgh Chapter, Manager of the Knighthood Degree Team of Western Pennsylvania, served as State Chairman, DD and Master of the Second Pennsylvania District Calvert Province Fourth Degree, General Chairman of three State Conventions. Served on the Board of the Bishop's Project, Director of Knights and Nobles Charities and delegate to the CYA.

He was an honest man. It is almost impossible to say anything higher or better about him.. He was a man whose anger we felt but whose love and warmth made the experience worthy it. He was a man who sought not self recognition, but whose concern was that the work of others not go unnoticed. He was a man who had a unique way of getting others to work for him because he didn't shy from it himself.

Such was the man we remember. Such was the man who has gone to God and left us a beautiful memory behind. The memory of a deep devotion to Christ, the memory of a warm love for family and friends, the memory of a remarkable openness to the world as God made it.

Let us hold on to that memory with gratitude –for all that he has given us; with affection – for all the love and warmth he shared with us; with very great pride of having had the privilege of knowing such a man as James J. Palmer, The Master.

Pittsburgh Chapter - Knights of Columbus

James J. Dalmer Award Recipients

1976 – John J. Land + - Council #491
1977 – Clayton J. Bossart - Council #4925
1978 – William Kish + - Council #2555
1979 – Henry Wehner + - Council #285
1980 – Rev. Leo R. Burchianti - Council #264
1981 – Albert G. Dietz + - Council #4210
1982 – George A. Beserock + - Council #2201
1983 – Theodore E. Ketterle, FSW - Council #264
1984 – Julian J. Yarnot + - Council #3902
1985 – Patrick J. Minahan + - Council #285
1986 – Joseph H. Romito - Council #5021
1987 – A. Gino DeSantis + - Council #875
1988 – Walter R. Brooks + - Council #3907
1989 – Joseph F. Meehan, PSD + - Council #11018
1990 – Earl J. Price, FST - Council #3530
1991 – Regis J. Sheehan, PSD + - Council #264
1992 – Samuel J. Colega - Council #491
1993 – Joseph A. Cummings, PSD - Council #3907
1994 – Thomas P. Conroy, PSD + - Council #2602
1995 – Rev. John M. O'Toole, FSC - Council #264
1996 – Eric C. Johnson - Council #4242
1997 – Joseph S. Yourish, Jr., PSD - Council #5501
1998 – Richard S. Miksic - Council #4029
1999 – Jennery R. Falvo + - Council #4210
2000 – Terrence R. Cummings - Council #11143
2001 – Michael J. Cantella + - Council #1400
2002 – John J. O'Neill + - Council #5367
2003 – Donald J. St.John - Council #2555
2004 – Frank J. Rozzo - Council #491
2006 – Regis H. Collins + - Council #4029
2005 – Robert M. Conroy - Council #2602
2007 – George M. Dellinger - Council #4029
2008 -- Pat Boccardi - Council #4925

+ = Deceased