



'I Can, You Can, We Can!'

Knights encourage Lenten almsgiving with 40 Cans for Lent food drives

By Cecilia Engbert

Dennis Chaput was lying awake at 4 in the morning in September 2010 when inspiration struck. As he tried to fall back to sleep after a diabetic attack, he heard God ask him to start a food drive with a simple but effective format: inviting parishioners and other members of the community to donate one grocery item for every day of Lent.

Chaput wasted no time bringing the plan to his brother Knights in Our Lady of Guadalupe Council 8306 in Helotes, Texas, and the council held its first "40 Cans for Lent" food drive at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in March 2011.

Thirteen years later, the idea of a "40 Cans for Lent" food drive has been adopted by K of C councils from Maine to Alaska, bringing in countless donations to feed hungry families. In that time, Council 8306 alone has collected approximately 221,000 pounds of food and more than \$56,000 in monetary donations for Archdiocese of San Antonio Catholic Charities.

"I didn't create this; I just listened," said Chaput. "Forty Cans for Lent is God's plan. When we do this food drive, we honor him because this is what he's called us to do. Our slogan is 'I can, you can, we can.' I can donate and you can donate, we all can donate and then we make a difference in this world for Jesus Christ."

Lent is an optimal time to hold a food drive since donations to banks and pantries sometimes dry up in the first months of the year, after the holiday giving season ends. At the same time, a food drive offers parishioners a concrete opportunity to fulfill their Lenten obligation to give alms. Contributors can bring their 40 items all at once or incrementally; some people are only able to donate a few cans, but each donation, no matter how small, is welcomed.



Members of Our Lady of Guadalupe Council 8306 in Helotes, Texas, kick off their 14th annual 40 Cans for Lent food drive with a special collection outside Our Lady of Guadalupe Church on Feb. 17. (Photo by Ethan E. Roewe)



A Message from The Grand Knight



Brothers in Christ,

We made it through March! It seemed to be more than we could handle, but you gentlemen, pulled through in grand fashion. Spaghetti Dinner, Superbowl Cookout, Baseball concession, Monthly and Lenten Fish Fries, St. Vincent De Paul Society, Ushers, Altar Servers, Lectors, Trivia Night Cooking, Adorations, Rosaries, Walks for life, St. Patrick's Dinner, Faith Formation Teaching, Choir members and Sound Technician for our dinners and Masses including the Adoration Procession, Free Throw Contests all the way to State, Holy Week services, St. Joseph Devotions, Stations of the Cross and more behind the scenes. Now that's something to be proud of.

We now have 6 new member Knights and Andy will be added on April 11th. The Council 13639 Family of Brothers are simply AWESOME!

I'm Honored and Grateful

Pat Thielen - GK



Knights of Columbus

Volume 1 – Issue 8

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs

April 2024



Council #13639 Meeting Schedule

Officer's Meeting

Rm 10 / 7pm

~~Tuesday, July 11, 2023~~

~~Tuesday, August 1, 2023~~

~~Tuesday, September 5, 2023~~

~~Tuesday, October 3, 2023~~

~~Tuesday, November 7, 2023~~

~~Tuesday, December 5, 2023~~

~~Tuesday, January 2, 2024~~

~~Tuesday, February 6, 2024~~

~~Tuesday, March 5, 2024~~

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Council/Business Meeting

Flynn Hall / 6:15pm

~~Thursday, July 13, 2023~~

~~Thursday, August 10, 2023~~

~~Thursday, September 14, 2023~~

~~Thursday, October 12, 2023~~

~~Thursday, November 9, 2023~~

~~Thursday, December 14, 2023~~

~~Thursday, January 11, 2024~~

~~Thursday, February 8, 2024~~

~~Thursday, March 14, 2024~~

Thursday, April 11, 2024

Thursday, May 9, 2024

Thursday, June 13, 2024

OLQM Council Officers

	Grand Knight	Pat Thielen		
	Deputy Grand Knight	Sal Antonicelli		
Financial Secretary	Kevin Oatman	Chancellor	Steve Dardinski	
Warden	Bob Petrelli	Recorder	Joe DeStefano	
Treasurer	Mario Gallo Jr	Advocate	Jack Mc Neeley	
Inside Guard	Franco Gagliardi	Outside Guard	Frank Grosso	
Lecturer #1	Don Daly	Lecturer #2	Eddy Zappacosta	
	Trustee (One Year)	John Fry		
	Trustee (Two Year)	Steven Anzalone		
	Trustee (Three Year)	Chris Maffettone		
	Chaplain	Fr. John Hoang		
	District Deputy	Kirk Brown		
	Benefits Advisor	Ron Moliterno		





Welcome New Brother Knights!

On Palm Sunday, we welcomed three new Worthy Brothers into our council!

Welcome Brother Knights:

Dr. James Bovienzo

Vincent Dmchowski

Stephen Smith

We look forward to having you as part of our council and are family.



Knights of Columbus

JOIN US!

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A KNIGHT?

We are Catholic Men who
LEAD, SERVE, PROTECT AND DEFEND.

We share a desire to be better
HUSBANDS, FATHERS, SONS, NEIGHBORS AND ROLE MODELS
and to put charity and community first.

OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS
COUNCIL #13639
BRADENTON, FLORIDA

Pictures courtesy of: Brother Don J. Daly



Spring Fashion Show



March was a busy month! The CCW (Council of Catholic Women) in our parish, held their annual Spring Fashion Show! Outfits and items on display were those donated to our Re-Sale shop! Before the show started, the ladies of CCW enjoyed a very nice and relaxing lunch, along with some beverages, while our Brother Knights willingly and happily served these fine, hardworking ladies.

A great time was had by all and the Re-Sale shop made some great sales! We look forward to doing this again next year. Attendance for this even was 100+! Great turn out ladies!



Pictures courtesy of: Brother Don J. Daly



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Saturday, March 16, the Ancient Order or Hibernians (AOH) held their annual St. Patrick's Day event. Close to 200 attendees packed Flynn Hall! Irish music through out the night, Irish Dancers and great food! Fun was had by all! Our brothers from Council #13639 worked in conjunction with the AOH brothers to pull off yet another spectacular event

Looking forward to their 'Halfway to St. Patrick's Day' event in September!

Erin Go Bragh!



Pictures courtesy of: Brother Don J. Daly



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Dennis Chaput, a member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Council 8306, stands with a cross that his son-in-law built to promote the 40 Cans for Lent food drive at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Helotes, Texas. Chaput brought the idea of 40 Cans for Lent to Council 8306, which held the first drive in 2011.

(Photo by Ethan E. Rocke)

"This year, our food pantry is really, truly being tested. There are a lot of people who are struggling to put food on the table," said Tara Ford, chief development officer of Archdiocese of San Antonio Catholic Charities. Building on Chaput's idea, the organization now promotes a 40 Cans for Lent drive throughout the archdiocese, which Ford said is "a critical campaign for us to stock our food pantry."

In Maine, three councils joined forces more than 10 years ago to organize a 40 Cans for Lent food drive in the Portland region. Last year, St. Maximilian Kolbe Council 11747 and Calvary Council 8144 in Scarborough and Cheverus Council 2344 in Portland collected more than 7,000 pounds of canned

food donations from members of St. John Paul II Parish in Scarborough; their goal for this Lent is 7,600 pounds. All donations go to the South Portland Food Cupboard.

"We try to help our community and our parish all year round," said Grand Knight Kevin Curtis of Council 11747. "But this particular project is very impactful — there's a big need. Our parishioners have come to know that it's going to happen and are very happy to support it."

The idea for the drive has even been taken up by other food banks and Christian churches in the area, Curtis added.

Councils can get creative in how they advertise the drive and attract needed items. In Helotes, the Knights have theme weekends, designating different Sundays of Lent as "Peanut Butter Sunday," "Mac 'n' Cheese Sunday" and so on.



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James Charvet of Our Lady of Guadalupe Council 8306 accepts a donation from a family outside Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Helotes, Texas, during the council's kickoff event for its 40 Cans for Lent food drive Feb. 17. (Photo by Ethan E. Roche)

Knights in Airdre (Alberta) Council 8045 involve several local Catholic schools in their 40 Cans for Lent food drive, and the schools encourage participation with promotions like “Caps for Cans” days, when students and staff can wear ballcaps if they donate.

“The students get a sense of involvement and charitable giving,” said Wayne MacGillivray, a member of Council 8045 who helped start the drive in Airdre. “Throughout the Lenten season, this teaches the kids to give service and demonstrate love for their community.”

With the support of the Catholic schools and St. Paul's Parish in Airdre, Council 8045 raised \$28,000 last year in food and monetary dona-

tions for the Airdre Food Bank, which feeds more than 600 families per week. The council has raised over \$120,000 since beginning the drive six years ago.

“We started it because we saw the need in the local area and wanted to help the food bank and families in need,” MacGillivray said. “It has gradually increased over the years, and we have tremendous support.”

Chaput encourages every council to consider running a Lenten food drive as part of the Order's [Food for Families](#) program, whether or not they adopt the “40 Cans” format.

“God has called the Knights of Columbus to fight hunger, and each council can do it their own way,” he said. “How you donate and how you distribute the food is up to you; find a food bank and donate locally. But just do it.”



April Birthdays

Richard Bandy

Dick Barker

Sal Bonfanti

Jerome Crowley

Paul Dowaschinski

David Heagerty

Donald Hess

Vincent Hogan

LaRosa

John Pardi

Thomas Mulushewa

“Vivat Jesus”

