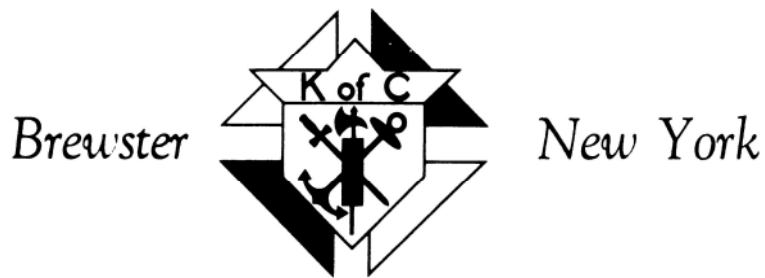


St. Lawrence Council
No. 1495
Knights of Columbus



An Historical Sketch
1910 - 1983

Volume 1 of 2

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1. Forward

The Knights of Columbus began officially on March 29, 1882, for on that date they were granted status as a corporation. We know that day, within the Order, as Founders Day.

National Headquarters suggested that all councils compile their particular history as an activity of the centennial year, 1982. Here at St. Lawrence Council, #1495, a committee was formed to gather all information from our past 72 years, and publish the council story.

Some of the looking-back procedures involved conversations with older members, including J. Leonard Ryan, Financial Secretary from 1915 to 1918, and Grand Knight from 1920 to 1923; and Robert J. Ross, Grand Knight from 1930 to 1939. The interviewing was done by Dominick Romano, who became Grand Knight in 1982, and Gerard Mergardt, Grand Knight from 1942 to 1947, and again in the 1949-1950 year. His father, Charles G. Mergardt, had been a member from the council's beginnings in 1910, had been involved with every phase of the early years, and Grand Knight from 1917 to 1920 as well as in the 1927-1928 year.

As chaplain, I was asked to put the history together. This was very convenient, for my retirement as pastor of St. Lawrence O'Toole Church in Brewster took effect in October of 1982, and my time was available for the project. Fortunately, at my disposal were the newspaper volumes of the Brewster Standard, which I proceeded to research from 1910 to the present. Through many of these years, there was little or no publicity about the council, or what was

found, were short accounts of card parties, dances, degree meetings, and routine Columbus Day affairs, which were not worth recording in detail. We have selected a number of items as unique historically. Here and there bits of local concern are included to catch the flavor of the times. Much of the material is quoted as it actually appeared in the newspaper, giving us the story as an eyewitness viewed it.

It was a delight to do, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be helpful. We hope it pleases.

Msgr. Edward A. McCabe

2. Birth of the Council

In April of 1910, the city of Danbury was full of excitement because its brand new hospital was dedicated. Built of red brick with white trimmings, this three story plain edifice was a far cry from the sprawling mass it is today, but it satisfied the needs of our area.

Here in Brewster, another event took place that year, on June 12th, the birth of St. Lawrence Council, Knights of Columbus. The Brewster Standard reports it this way: "Members of the Knights of Columbus from councils in the Harlem and Hudson valleys, from Brooklyn and elsewhere, visited Brewster on Sunday last and attended the celebration incident to the institution of St. Lawrence Council. The exercises were conducted so satisfactorily that the rain and delayed train, which tended to mar the occasion, passed off unnoticed.

Every train throughout the day brought visiting knights, and it had been arranged for a High Mass in St. Lawrence Church to begin at 11:45. The Knights of Columbus Special from Albany was expected to arrive at 11:30, and the Brewster delegation had planned to meet the guests at the depot and escort them to the church. Word came over the wire that a freight train blocked the track at Philmont and the train was an hour late. The Brewster body went to the church and a committee waited at the depot to welcome the visitors. They arrived about 200 strong, and in drenching rain marched to the church.

Reverend Richard J. Burns, pastor of the church, delivered a sermon on the gospel of the day and applied it to the teachings of the Order. He referred to the religious duties of

its members and to the importance to the welfare of the organization that the members live up to their obligations. The choir sang several hymns. Mass over, all marched to the Town Hall, where refreshments prepared by caterers O'Neill and Strang, were indulged in. The visiting knights, after satisfying the inner man, were not long in getting ready to confer the degrees.

Grand Knight William H. Kennedy of Hudson, with his degree team, came to confer the first degree, and they did the work most impressively. The second degree was in charge of Sir Knight William Lynch and his team from Albany, which was exemplified with equal impressiveness. Another season of refreshments intervened, before the third degree was conferred. State Deputy Daniel J. Griffen, whose team from Brooklyn is considered to be one of the best in the country, conferred the third degree, and it was done to perfection.

District Deputy William E. Carney of Philmont, and District Deputy H. J. Lynch of White Plains, assisted in the degree work which took place in the center of the ball-room. Fully 400 witnessed the conferring of the third. Over 50 candidates of Brewster council and about 75 members of neighboring councils received the third degree. Brewster council had been duly installed by 8 o'clock and the visitors from down the road caught the evening express. The Albany-bound Special, in charge of Conductor Stephen C. Backman, left Brewster at 9:30 p.m.

The first meeting of the Brewster council has been called for Wednesday evening June 22nd. At this meeting, organization will be perfected and officers will be elected. The meeting will be in the Town Hall."

3. The First Meeting

On June 24, 1910, the Brewster newspaper reported the population of the village as 1296, and the Town of Southeast as 3282. Also the specifications for the new prison at Wingdale, above Pawling, were finally ready for further discussion and decision by the State.

The first meeting of Brewster council, #1495, K. of C. was held on Wednesday evening, the 22nd, at Forester's Hall. The attendance was very large. William E. Carney of Philmont, District Deputy of the 25th District, which embraces this council, was present and explained the purpose of the meeting, the general workings of the lodge, and the duties of the members.

Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:

Grand Knight	Joseph A. Toy
Deputy Grand Knight	Patrick H. Cogan
Financial Secretary	Thomas L. Brennan
Recording Secretary	Daniel J. Ryan
Treasurer	William H. O'Neill
Chancellor	Peter H. Kipp
Lecturer	Samuel Ellis
Advocate	Anthony J. Forschner
Inside Guard	Joseph Scolopino
Outside Guard	James Durkin
Trustees	Charles Mergardt, Thomas Lynch, Terrence Gallagher
Chaplain	Rev. Richard J. Burns

After the officers had been elected, District Deputy Carney, assisted by ex-District Deputy James Cunningham of Pawling, and by Warden James Guilfey of Philmont, proceeded to install them. The new officers took their places and transacted business. Several committees were appointed. The next meeting will be at the call of the Grand Knight. Refreshments of ice cream and cake were served.

Besides the list of officers shown above, the official charter document, which hung on the wall of the Oak Street Home, contained the names of the following original members:

Thomas Toy	Arthur Forschner
Harold D. Shannon	Alfred J. Forschner
Edward Regan	William Fisher
John J. Phillips	John Fisher
John O'Connor, Jr.	Neil Nalloy
Patrick McNulty	John Gleason
Christopher McInerney	Michael Fallon
Patrick McInerney	William Maguire
John R. McGonegal	Geroge B. Pillion
John W. McDade	Michael Scolpino
George McCaul	George D. Miller
Charles Mathieu	John P. Gallagher
M. J. Manning	Matthew Bruen
John F. Lynch	Daniel Bruen
Michael Gould	William Spain
John Gallagher	Thomas J. Fennaughty
Patrick Ryan	

Note: The official charter now hangs in the school meeting room.

4. Reception for Fr. Phelan

Fr. Richard J. Burns, who had done everything he could to aid in the formation of St. Lawrence Council, died on February 17, 1912. The new pastor, Fr. Thomas P. Phelan, was appointed shortly afterwards. He had founded the Orestes Bronson Council, #419, and was engaged in many Knights of Columbus activities. The Order knew of him from all over the State. At a later date he would become the Chaplain of the State Council.

The occasion of his assignment to Brewster set up a celebration in his honor by his Knight friends, especially those of the New York City area. It took place on May 31, 1912, when over 300 men journeyed here by special train, among them many State and City dignitaries, political and otherwise. They moved in files of four from station to church, where a photograph was taken to record the event. Vespers followed with Fr. Phelan the celebrant. All moved to the Town Hall where William H. O'Neill showed a motion picture on the life and trials of Christopher Columbus. A supper in the basement of the Town Hall was catered by John O'Connor, proprietor of the Southeast House. Edward A. Arnold spoke on the deep affection all felt for their beloved clergyman, pointing out that so many came from so far away to indicate their personal feelings.

William F. Larkin reviewed the activities the Knights of Columbus had accomplished since their inception. Professor William F. Hirschmann and his son, from Holy Cross Church in Manhattan, began the entertainment with piano and vocals. Other speakers and entertainers followed. Near the end, Mayor Harry Wells, well-known in Brewster, was invited to say a few words. Finally, Dr. John G. Coyle, reputed to be

quite an orator, concluded the ceremonies. The Brewster Standard, expressing great admiration for his abilities, stated that it did not want to leave out a single word, and proceeded to print the entire speech. Peter H. Kipp, Grand Knight of St. Lawrence Council, reported the presence of James . Cunningham of the Pawling Council, members of the Florentine Council of Poughkeepsie, J. Vincent Ball of Cold Spring, and John J. Mylord, who is not only a Knight but the Deputy Attorney General of the State of New York.

5. Dedication of the New Church

The dedication of the present church of St. Lawrence took place on June 27, 1915. It was an exciting day, especially because the pews had not been installed. The newspaper reads: "Very early people were astir. In fact some had been astir since 2:30 a.m. Saturday, when a corps of carpenters began the work of putting together and setting in place one hundred pews, belated in transit from Detroit, and needed for the comely and comfortable celebration incident to the dedication of the new, beautiful and substantial church of St. Lawrence O'Toole. It took a mighty task but it was accomplished neatly and in good order, and every pew was crowded to capacity long before the organ announced the beginning of the exercises."

Fr. Thomas Phelan had been responsible for the building of the church,, and this was a very great occasion for him. In addition, his Knights of Columbus friends from New York, did not let him down. After the services in the church were finished, they met with him in the rectory. We quote the newspaper: "James T. Hallinan, 2nd Vice_President of the New York Headquarters, spoke as follows:

Reverend and dear Fr. Phelan. This assemblage today is under the leadership of the New York Headquarters of the Knights of Columbus of which you have been a director since its foundation more than 10 years ago. The men of this branch of the Order have long benefited from you advice and assistance, your kindly interest in the welfare of the Society, and your fine courtesy, as well as material assistance whenever the latter was needed. In common with a number of your friends in the great city, these Knights of Columbus are here today to assist in the dedication of this new church

of St. Lawrence O'Toole, which you have caused to be built for the Catholics of Brewster. Had sufficient time intervened between the fixing of the date and the actual occurrence to permit of other arrangements, such as we would have wished to make, there would have been 500 here from New York to testify by their presence their love for you and their appreciation of your character as a priest and a man. Those who are here gather to pay you a deserved honor. They testify to their Catholicity and their personal affection for you at the same time.

On behalf of the New York Headquarters, Knights of Columbus, I offer to you for use in this handsome temple of God, this monstrance, from which, when duly blessed and put to its sacred uses, the Divine Redeemer will, at your hands, give comfort, hope and benediction to the people who reverently kneel to the one true God."

6. 10th Anniversary of the Council

On June 11, 1920, St. Lawrence Council held its tenth anniversary celebration. The Brewster Standard gave it only a small notice, mentioning that Thomas Johnson, the supervisor of Spring Farm, surprised everyone by his dancing ability. In tip-top style, he executed a Tipperary breakdown with Mrs. Elizabeth Arnold, and then glided into a fisherman's hornpipe with Miss Della Monahan, as Professors Brennan and Davis looked on in amazement.

The same edition showed a picture of the new American LaFrance truck just received by the Brewster Fire Department. It is a combination pumping machine, chemical engine, hose car, of 105 horsepower, 6 cylinder engine, handling 750 gallons of water a minute. A demonstration would be held on September 12th. The cost was \$12,000.

7. Our Oak Street Home

The Brewster Standard tells us that four miles of sidewalks were laid out in the village in 1922. It also has a story, in the January 27th edition, about the buying of the Walter Brewster House by the Knights of Columbus. "For a transfer of \$10,000, Margaret Spence, the present owner, will turn over her Oak Street home, originally built by Walter Brewster, to the Order.

Since the Civil War and for years afterwards, this was the showplace of Brewster. The first tenant was Gail Borden of milk fame, rented to him by Walter Brewster. It was sold to Alanson Robinson, and was involved in long litigation after Coleman Robinson, Alanson's son, died. A compromise gave it to his widow, Florian Robinson, the oldest daughter of James D. Little of Carmel. The Little family was in possession in the 1870's. Fr. Patrick J. Healy, the first resident pastor of St. Lawrence O'Toole parish, bought it in 1886. His brother, Dr. Dennis Healy lived there only a few years before his death, and Margaret Spence, Fr. Healy's sister, made it her home from 1889 until this year 1922."

(The writer recalls that his father and Dennis Crowley, Fr. Healy's nephew, were in the habit of staying with Mrs. Spence on occasion, during the summer months in the 1890's. To compensate the lady for their stay on weekends, it was always deemed suitable to bring a gift of a bottle of Irish whiskey.)

"Originally, there was an extensive ball-room, carriage house and stables, but these latter were removed, when part of the property was purchased by the First Presbyterian Church. Other lots were sold and buildings erected on them."

Back in 1963, J. Leonard Ryan and John Lord, put together the story of the Knights of Columbus Home on Oak Street, from the time it was purchased from Margaret Spence until the time of their writing. We thought it ought to be included in this history of the council, but with a few deletions where its material had been already recorded in earlier sections of the history. Here it is.

It was Spring, 1922. While Brewster had become the "Hub of the Harlem Valley", progress had caught up with it. Ice was still hauled in from Tonetta Lake, but the Associated Gas and Electric Company had come to town and with it talk of refrigerated appliances. Out of the ashes of an inadequate wooden schoolhouse a brick building was to rise on Garden Street. From the New York Central's wooden station on Main Street ran a horse-drawn post office wagon carrying mail and transporting passengers at 25 cents a head to the New Haven station on the other side of the Village. Along the New Haven tracks chugged twice daily trains bearing passengers between Poughkeepsie and Danbury. On their way they crossed over the highway which wound along Sodom Road before curving into its northerly route past the once flourishing, now slowly declining, Kishawana Golf Club and through a stretch between Bog Brook and East Branch reservoirs. Newly designated Route 22, this road's emergence as a main artery would sound the death knell of the New Haven's passenger business and the blacksmith and carriage shops which stood on Main Street facing the Spence property. The smithy, the horse, the railroad, seemingly permanent, proved only temporary steps on the road of progress.

Twelve years had passed since that June day when the St. Lawrence Council had received its charter from the National

organization and had become Knights of Columbus Council #1495. The charter, hanging on the wall of a room on the third floor of the Forester's Hall on Main Street, listed those who had formed the council.

Some had been the laborers who shivering in winter's blasts, sweltering in summer's heat and working in spring's and autumn's rains, had piled stone upon stone to forge the Diverting Reservoir Dam as a major link in the New York City Water Supply System. Others were the railroad men -- the engineers, conductors, trainmen, gandy dancers and car knockers -- who had followed to Brewster the New York Central's roundhouse after its removal from Dover Plains. Others yet were the longtime residents proud to call Brewster their home. (We have left out the names here as they appear in the beginning tale of the Council's founding.)

By that Spring night in 1922, St. Lawrence Council had suffered the growing pains typical of a new organization and progress. Many of the construction workers had left seeking new dawns to build, new opportunities. Some remained and formed a solid nucleus. The many Knights who had been doughboys had come marching home. In replanting their roots they had not had much time for the council. The growing pains seemed to have subsided and the council showed the enthusiasm which befits a teenager.

This enthusiasm had prompted a strong minority to urge that the council should have a home of its own. It was not dissatisfaction with the Foresters who had generously permitted use of their meeting room, it was the disappointment of not having a place to call their own, the only sign of the durability of their organization.

Twice now had this minority been rebuffed. Finally their leader, Charles Mergardt, had taken things into his own

hands. He stood up at the meeting that Spring night and announced, "I have an option to buy Mrs. Spence's house on Main Street. I will let the council exercise this option; but if it does not, I will, and you can be assured I will have made myself a good deal." After a lengthy discussion rehashing the arguments on both sides, the members by a narrow margin, voted to buy the Spence property.

The house looked out over rain Street. It was a large frame building of two stories whose roof, suspended on majestic columns, was crowned with a widow's walk. A hallway painted white, whose width was broken only by a staircase leading from first to second floors, ran from front to rear, dividing each floor into two apartments. Within

each apartment were two rooms with ornate fireplaces of polished stone. The windows were framed by decorative panels. Chair rails ran along the walls which were embellished with plaster of paris figurines and fancy gaslights. Almost in mockery of the luxurious interior on the Oak Street side of the property stood a dilapidated barn and exterior toilet facilities.

And so in 1922 the council had as its home a building which had been a Brewster fixture before the council's birth, which Virginia Little and Florence Root has sold to Father Healy, and he had conveyed to his sister, Mrs. Spence, in 1889. Here was the external expression of the desired permanence of the council.

The members started immediate renovation of the building. Out came the gaslights; in went electricity -- the whole building being wired for \$42. Down came the ornate plaster of paris figurines. To accommodate the growing membership and provide needed meeting-room space the staircase's location was changed. A girder resting on lolly-columns

supported the east wall of the former hall, and the west wall was torn down.

In succeeding years the widow's walk was taken from the roof, central heating and internal sanitation installed and the Oak Street barn and outer buildings torn down. But with the depression the council came on hard times. To raise needed capital, the property bordering on Main Street was sold to the Forschner sisters. Improvements had to be forgotten.

By World War II the council had repurchased the Main Street property but retained its Oak Street address. After the war further improvements were made. Upstairs the interior wall of the former West apartment was torn down and a spacious TV and sitting room installed.

In the 1950's the two large rooms on the first floor were turned into classrooms because of overcrowding at the Brewster Central School. Additional toilet facilities were installed. Nevertheless, the Home had changed very little. Near the end of the '50's some members suggested expanding the Home by building an annex on the easterly side. Others recommended selling it. Both groups followed up on their plans but both were rejected by the membership.

In September 1962, forty years after the Home was purchased, the council members were urged by their recently elected Grand Knight, Jack Foley, to consider modernizing the building. A Home Improvement committee was formed with Robert Parsons as chairman. It recommended removal of the remaining wall on the first floor. This first cautious recommendation met with the approval of the members. After the wall had been removed, recommendations for further work soon followed. Caught up in the spirit of improvement, the members accepted each recommendation.

Now the work is done. The first floor is completely different. Where two apartments stood, there is now a tremendous room. Gone are the fireplaces and decorative window panels. Wooden panels close in many of the windows and cover the plaster walls. The basement has been refurbished with the addition of a new ceiling and recessed lighting. The exterior shines with its new coat of green and white.

It is 1963. We look about us and see the changes brought by progress. Diverting Reservoir and Dam form a small link in the New York City watershed. Once spacious, the Garden Street School has had to be supplemented by a new high school and soon to be built grammar school. The New York Central no longer owns its station. Between North Brewster and Poughkeepsie the New Haven runs on a single track. Once more than adequate Route 22 has succumbed to the pressure of heavy traffic and is soon to be replaced by a super-highway unwinding its ribbon of concrete north. The Foresters' hall has gone, its building now occupied by Putnam TV. The blacksmith and carriage shops have given way to the Brewster Iron Works.

But standing there overlooking Main Street, its vitality restored by interior construction and the cosmetic effect of a newly painted exterior, is the home of St. Lawrence O'Toole Council. It is a monument to the Knights of 1963; but more than that it is a memorial to the foresight of the Knights of 1922 and their strong desire that their council become a pillar of the community, and its Home, the symbol of its durability.

8. The “Follies of 1929”

The customary activities of a council took place over the years, degree work, Columbus Day affairs, dances, fund-raising occasions, etc. Some happenings left a bit deeper niche in the pages of memory, and deserve their own proportioned comment.

One of the rather unusual affairs conducted by the St Lawrence Council was their ‘Follies of 1929’. It seemed more like a parish or even community theatrical rather than just a K. of C. activity. Here it is as viewed from the pages of the Brewster Standard.

“Now that the “Follies of 1929” are over, and the members of the cast who took part in the recent K. of C. entertainment have resumed their proper names and stations, everybody is busy getting ready for Christmas. True, the applause the audience gave at the shows on Wednesday and Thursday evenings may be sufficient reward to the many who contributed to the success of the play, for there was every evidence of the spirit of cooperation and good-will on every hand, but it should be recorded that the Follies were a great success and gave evidence of the effort and enthusiasm that the cast put into every number.

A review of the individual numbers would be too extensive for this issue, but for the value of the record, to those who wished to take part, we are glad to publish the program.

Proprietor	J. Leonard Ryan
Waiters	Richard O'Brien Thomas Neary William Cunningham Ralph LaNere George Patterson Henry Hughes
Cigarette Girl	Margaret A. Hart
Opening Chorus -	"Break Away" "Here We Are"
Solo -	"Song of the Nile" Kathryn Mergardt
Dancing -	Miss Weld's class
Solo -	"Tip-toe Through the Tulips" William Kilcoyne
Piano Selections -	Mary Waters
Solo -	"Desert Song" Eleanor Callahan "Wedding of the Painted Dolls"
Irish Reels -	Two Colleens
Solo -	"Pagan Love Song" Margaret J. Connors
Trio -	Keane Brothers
Specialty -	Peggy O'Hara
Solo -	"I'll Close My Eyes" George L. Enright
Charleston -	"Tiger Rag" Kathleen McGarry
Solo -	"Mistakes" Beatrice Enright
Violin Solo -	John Dunford
Solo -	"Gypsy Love Song" Francis O'Brien
Closing Chorus -	"Hitting the Ceiling"
Fashion Show:	Alta Burns, Lillian Moroney, Kathryn Sherwood, Elizabeth O'Loughlin, Ella Fitzmorris, Marion Scolpino, Elizabeth Bennett, Rita Bock

“Wedding of the Painted Doll” –

Bride : Janet Corniskey
Bridegroom : Robert Smith
Parson : William Nurtha
Bridesmaids: Mary Johnson, Margaret Mergardt, Ruth
Gallagher, Joan Fennaughty
Chorus: Robert Scolpino, Laura Liddy,
Emmett Brennan, Shirley Durkin,
Thomas Farrell, Lucille Liddy,
Philip Sheridan, Ruth Scolpino,
John McNulty, Isabelle Bingham,
James Smyth, Bett Waters, Arthur
Elliott, Peggy Kelly
Children’s Dancing - Under the direction of Miss Lodice Weld
Fashion Show: Coats by Stanley, Inc. Danbury
Dresses: Genung, McLean Inc. Danbury
Stage Settings and Play – under the direction of W.J.
Connors of Danbury
Stage Scenery: By Beaumont Studies, New York City
Manager: Martin Kiely
Electrician: M. Dunford
Spotlight Operators - R.J. Ross and Andrew Papke
Ushers -
Joseph Scolpino, Jr., Clarence McLeod,
Jr., Bernard J. Hope
Program - Joseph Brennan

Chorus:

George L. Enright, Mary M. Waters, Al Keane, Marion Gemnaughty, Robert Frost, Lillian R. Icaroney, James R. Keane, Alma J. LaMere, Thomas Hughes, Margaret A. Hart, William G. Kilcoyne, Ella Fitzmorris, Maria Scolpino, Alta Burns, Joseph Keane, Kathryn McGarry, Agnes Ledley, John R. Kilcoyne, Alice Kiely, LeRoy W. Ledley, Rita Bock, Gerard Mergardt, Harold Frost, Margaret J. Connors, Peggy O'Hara, Kathryn Mergardt, John Dunford, Elizabeth Bennett, Everett LaMere, Beatrice S. Enright, Richard J. Cunningham, Kathryn Sherwood, Richard Harmon, Elizabeth O'Loughlin, Eleanor Callahan, Francis O'Brien, Frances Wood

Moonlight Serenaders –

J. Edson Fowler, Jr., E. Flat Sax; Herbert N. Turner, Tenor Sax; Harold French, Trip Drums; Lawrence Smith, Banjo; J. Alden Holmes, Violin; Thomas L. Brennan, Piano Miss Weld's Dancing Class - Roberta Buck, Norma Jane Beal, Ruth Scolpino, Natalie North, Laura Liddy, Jean Bove, Joan Ross Beal, Mary Grilil, Janet Comiskey, Dorothy Ruth North, Lucille Liddy.”

9. Highlights Through The Years

Although we think of ecumenism as something that began with the Second Vatican Council, back in the '30's Brewster had its ecumenical card parties, with the Knights, the Masons and the Odd Fellows taking turns hosting weekly get-togethers.

One of the most exciting periods in council history came in the late 1950's and early 1960's, largely through the personality of George N. Higgins, the Grand Knight from 1954 to 1956. Part of the growth then was due to the influx of people moving out of the city of New York. St. Lawrence parish had to build a ten-classroom school and auditorium. The parish was divided and the new Sacred Heart Church erected at Putnam Lake. A raft of new members poured into the council, mostly younger men, and activities blossomed. But the prime driving force was George, whose influence lasted for another dozen years.

Great interest was generated as the 1495 Club went into action. A weekly sweepstakes drawing of the Church of the North American Martyrs at Lake Peekskill in western Putnam attracted widespread attention. Because its weekly prizes were so excellent, and workers could obtain a worthwhile commission, a half-dozen council members took part. They distributed chance-books to bars and restaurants and other spots, collected them, made returns to Peekskill, and gave their earnings to the council. In three years, this amounted to over \$50,000. Worry about the view Supreme Headquarters might take toward the profits caused the creation of the 1495 Club, in whose treasury the funds were deposited. Later, the funds attained by selling the Home were added to this treasury, to be used in the purchase or building of a future

headquarters. Meanwhile monthly donations were made to St. Lawrence Church. In 1983, Fred Mancuso, a lawyer and the council Advocate, had the 1495 Club properly incorporated under New York State law with the title, "St. Lawrence Council No. 1495 Club, Inc."

Another outstanding program during the 1954 to 1964 years was the Annual Picnic at Camp Brady in the Bullet-Hole Road area near Towners. Paul St. Martin, Grand Knight from 1959 to 1961, was the custodian of the camp and made the necessary arrangements. It was always a crowded, joyous outing, but as time went on, a few incidents of youthful horseplay and a near serious mishap caused the authorities to discontinue their consent. Other picnics were held at the Elks Club on Route 22, but they never achieved the all-around family endearment of the Camp Brady affairs.

Hurricanes hit Connecticut and this edge of New York a number of times during those years, creating loads of damage and the need of assistance, especially in the Danbury and Waterbury sections. The council was ably represented in such rescue work by Thomas Flanagan, Grand Knight in the early 40's, who managed to direct a group of members, carting supplies and otherwise alleviating the plight of our Nutmeg neighbors. They were so good at it, that our relationship with councils there suddenly prospered, to the extent that invitations began arriving to attend various functions. One in particular was a monster parade and dinner in Waterbury. St. Lawrence Council did itself proud, marching with such a large turnout as to surprise the Bishop, his clergy and the laity of that lovely city.

An interesting element of many of the annual Communion Breakfasts, was the presentation of handsome engraved plaques to local citizens, at least one being a non-catholic,

recognizing their contributions to the community. Those selected were people whose efforts ordinarily would have gone unnoticed. These presentations served not only to publicize the breakfast, but brought the work of the Knights of Columbus to the attention of the general public.

The "Guide" began publication in the '60's, a monthly pamphlet of information about the Knights and also about the Catholic Daughters. It was particularly helpful to members of both organizations who were not always able to attend meetings, sustaining their interest in activities. It provided a calendar reminder of events to come, and a constant flow of Knights of Columbus news from New Haven. The format changed after a while, but the "Guide" has persisted even to these 1980's.

The Brewster Standard of May 1, 1958, reports the erection of a youth group, the Columbian Squires, as a new activity of the council. After this notice in the newspaper, there is never another word about this group. "On Sunday, April 27th, a Circle of Columbian Squires was initiated in Brewster. This is the youth program of the Knights of Columbus, and as such they participate in social, civic, cultural, athletic and spiritual activities. St. Lawrence Council sponsored the new Circle #1108."

The investiture was begun with a corporate Holy Communion at the 8 a.m. Mass in the Church of St. Lawrence, attended by the boys, their counselors, the 4th Degree Color Guard, and the individual members of the K. of C. After this service, a breakfast was served at the school hall.

At 2:30 p.m. the installation ceremonies were conducted by the Squires of Circle #183 of Tuckahoe, under the direction

of Chief Squire Bryan Slavin. Also participating was Vice-Chairman Robert Lossier of Tuckahoe, Frank McLaughlin, Grand Knight, and Edward Grant, Recorder, both of St. Lawrence Council, and other members of the local councils.

The following boys are charter members of Circle #1108: Thomas Hughes, William Failman, Richard Caesar, Daniel Griffin, James Duff, Renato Puiatti, Carl Fischer, Paul Babon, Paul Winsker, Edwin Castle, James Ferris, Lawrence Fischer, Ronald Sant, Raymond St. Martin, John F. Larkin III, John Castle, Francis McLaughlin, Jack Ledley, James Kerner, James Philyaw, Thomas Gallagher, Frank Duff, Thomas Sherwood, and Daniel McCarthy.

The members of the council who are counselors of the new group include Wallace Gibbs, Chief Counsellor, John Duff, Frank Gavaghan, Daniel Ledley, Eugene Linson, Lawrence, Edward Reilly, Vane Carr, John Rabusin, and George Martens.

Following the ceremonies, refreshments were served under the direction of Joseph Babon. Tuesday evening, April 29th, Circle #1108 will hold its first meeting at the Home on Oak Street. At that time the Squires will elect officers, appoint their operating committees, and begin their program of activities.

Wallace Gibbs, the Chief Counselor, was an excellent choice, with a background of Boy Scout experience and a great interest in K. of C. work. Unfortunately, circumstances forced Wally to move to the southwest of the U.S.A., and the promise of this set-up never really got under way. Within a

period of months the project was abandoned.

It should not be forgotten that St. Lawrence Council was the source from which other councils in the area grew. For a long time, it was the only arm of the Knights in these parts. Surrounding it today are the councils of Lady of the Lake in Carmel, the Fr.

John P. Mooney of Mahopac, the Msgr. Raymond Collins of Somers and Croton Falls, and the Fr. James T. Breen of Putnam Lake.

As the 1970's came along, the council seemed to be slipping into a decline. Membership dropped, activities lessened, and funding became a problem. To offset the financial losses, bingo games were tried. This required a weekly corps of volunteers, and they were not always forthcoming. To add to the difficulties, maintenance trouble developed in the roof area. The idea of selling the Home was suggested and found more and more backing.

To find a buyer was not too hard because of the history of the building itself, erected by Walter Brewster and lived in by Gail Borden, well-known in the milk industry, and less well-known as the Governor of Texas. The Landmarks Preservation Society of Southeast was quite excited about purchasing it. Negotiations with Mrs. Eleanor Fitchen, the group's president, resulted in its sale for \$40,000. The final payment was made on March 4, 1982. Since that time, a steady program has been conducted to return the Home to its original appearance by the Landmarks organization.

With no meeting place of its own, the council was invited to use the facilities of St. Lawrence School, which they did for a while. Thinking the atmosphere of the Veterans of Foreign Wars headquarters on Peaceable Hill Road would enhance

membership growth, the council moved there for a short time, but then returned to St. Lawrence School. At this writing, in 1983, the council meets in the school library.

A bit of a catastrophe attended the move from the Oak Street Home. The council records, minutes of meetings over the years, etc., were lost, and have not as yet been located. This is one of the reasons for using the pages of the Brewster Standard.

From 1977 until 1980, very few meetings were held, and the council had all but died. The writer, the pastor of St. Lawrence and the council's Chaplain, constantly seeing the council paraphernalia lying untouched in the rectory basement, began a little nagging campaign to arouse some members. In 1980, it began again with Frank McDonough as Grand Knight. It is moving along nicely.

Presently, a scholarship program is under way to encourage 8th graders to continue their Catholic education into high school. If all goes well, the council hopes to continue it indefinitely into the future, and, with the help of the good Lord, to improve on its benefits.

10. Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries

	Grand Knight	Financial Secretary
1910	Joseph A. Toy	Thomas L. Brennan
1911	Joseph A. Toyl	Patrick H. McNulty
1912	Peter H. Kipp	James P. McManus
1913	Peter H. Kipp	James P. McManus
1914	Peter H. Kipp	Patric H. McNulty
1915	James E. Durkin	Patric H. McNulty
1916	James E. Durkin	J. Leonard Ryan
1917	Charles Mergardt	J. Leonard Ryan
1918	Charles Mergardt	Thomas L. Brennan
1919	Charles Mergardt	Thomas L. Brennan
1920	J. Leonard Ryan	Thomas L. Brennan
1921	J. Leonard Ryan	Thomas L. Brennan
1922	J. Leonard Ryan	Thomas L. Brennan
1923	Henry T. Murtha	Thomas L. Brennan
1924	Henry T. Murtha	Thomas L. Brennan
1925	Clarence McLeod	Thomas L. Brennan
1926	Clarence McLeod	Thomas L. Brennan
1927	Charles Mergardt	Thomas L. Brennan
1928	William T. Gallagher	Thomas L. Brennan
1929	John O'Brien	Thomas L. Brennan
1930	Robert J. Ross	Thomas L. Brennan
1931	Robert J. Ross	Thomas L. Brennan

	Grand Knight	Financial Secretary
1932	Robert J. Ross	Thomas L. Brennan
1933	Robert J. Ross	Thomas L. Brennan
1934	Robert J. Ross	Thomas L. Brennan
1935	Robert J. Ross	Thomas L. Brennan
1936	Robert J. Ross	Thomas L. Brennan
1937	Robert J. Ross	Peter W. Bennett
1938	Robert J. Ross	Peter W. Bennett
1939	Francis O'Brien	Peter W. Bennett
1940	Thomas B. Flanagan	Mario Caruso
1941	Thomas B. Flanagan	Mario Caruso
1942	Gerard M. Mergardt	Peter W. Bennett
1943	Gerard M. Mergardt	Peter W. Bennett
1944	Gerard M. Mergardt	Peter W. Bennett
1945	Gerard M. Mergardt	Peter W. Bennett
1946	Gerard M. Mergardt	Peter W. Bennett
1947	Stephen D. Burke	J. V. Purdy
1948	Stephen D. Burke	James F. Sheppard
1949	Gerard M. Mergardt	James F. Sheppard
1950	Bernard J. Waters	James F. Sheppard
1951	James P. Duffy	James F. Sheppard
1952	Chester Angioletti	Peter W. Bennett
1953	Chester Angioletti	Peter W. Bennett
1954	George M. Higgins, Jr.	James F. Sheppard
1955	George M. Higgins, Jr.	James F. Sheppard
1956	Edward Kobacker	James F. Sheppard
1957	Francis McLaughlin	William F. Lynch
1958	John Larkin	William F. Lynch

	Grand Knight	Financial Secretary
1959	Paul St. Martin	William F. Lynch
1960	Paul St. Martin	Robert J. Madden
1961	Edward Grant	Robert J. Madden
1962	John Foley	Joseph J. Casey
1963	Joseph P. Jones	Joseph J. Casey
1964	Robert J. Madden	Joseph J. Casey
1965	Salvatore S. Sant	Joseph J. Casey
1966	John J. Lord	Joseph J. Casey
1967	Paul S. Brinser, Jr.	Joseph J. Casey
1968	George R. Brown	Joseph J. Casey
1969	Roger M. Preble	Joseph J. Casey
1970	Paul S. Brinser, Jr.	Joseph J. Casey
1971	Emanuel J. Vollaro	Joseph J. Casey
1972	Emanuel J. Vollaro	Joseph J. Casey
1973	Emil Novotny, Jr.	Joseph J. Casey
1974	Emil Novotny, Jr.	Emil Novotny
1975	Michael R. DiVenuto	Emil Novotny
1976	Matthew J. Migliaccio	Emil Novotny
1977	Matthew J. Migliaccio	Emil Novotny
1978	Matthew J. Migliaccio	Emil Novotny
1979	Matthew J. Migliaccio	Emil Novotny
1980	Francis D. McDonough	John J. Leahy
1981	Francis D. McDonough	John J. Leahy
1982	Dominick Romano	Patrick Ahearn

11. Chaplains

Rev. Richard J. Burns	1910 - 1911
Rev. Thomas P. Phelan	1912 - 1923
Rev. Thomas J. Barry	1924 - 1930
Rev. Lawrence J. Costello	1931 - 1933
Rev. Thomas G. Philbin	1934 - 1942
Rev. Joseph A. Heaney	1943 - 1953
Rev. Edward A. McCabe	1954 - 1966
Rev. Robert P. Arce	1967 - 1968
Rev. Edward A. McCabe	1969 - 1970
Rev. Edward J. Vaughan	1971 - 1973
Rev. Edward A. McCabe	1974 - 1983

St. Lawrence Council
No. 1495
Knights of Columbus



An Historical Sketch
1983 - 2010

Volume 2 of 2

Author: Tom Radak

Edited by Dominick Romano, Peter Persampieri

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13. Introduction

As one way of bringing our centennial into focus, and the connection we have with those who came before us, we already began sharing highlights of the history of this council with periodic articles in the church bulletin as well as our GUIDE. One of our previous pastors, Msgr. Edward A. McCabe, was not only the chaplain for our council, but also the Town Historian. His interest and dedication enabled him to assemble histories not only of this parish, but also of our St. Lawrence Council of The Knights of Columbus.

This history (1983-2010) is a continuation of Msgr. McCabe's work (1910-1983) and draws on more recent records, in particular our monthly council publication The GUIDE, to relate the significant events that have intertwined the K of C with our Parish, and community. This update was undertaken as one of the programs of the council's centennial celebration.

An interesting observation traces the recent 25 plus year trajectory and activities of this council with it's status at the time of the last history. The prior account, as related by Msgr. Edward A. McCabe, ends just as the council seems to be turning the corner from it's lowest levels of activity. It ends with an optimistic note since the beginning of it's revitalization in 1980, but much like a hopeful movie ending, the story ends and the true direction is not known. This updating of council history on the occasion of our hundredth anniversary chronicles the people, activities, and events of a St. Lawrence Council that did turn the corner, and has been a growing and more vital organization as the years have passed. This new document will create an inclusive narrative that incorporates Msgr. McCabe's excellent history with an account of the highlights that have taken place since.

It is a story our Brothers should be proud of, and it should serve as an inspiration for future goals and achievements.

14. The Revitalization

As was related by Msgr. McCabe at the end of his account, by the late 1970's "... the council had all but died." However, it did not. Monsignor's "nagging campaign" took root in 1980. At the wedding of Pete Tavino's daughter, Joanne, Pete together with John Lord, John Merlino, Joe Zema, John Gallagher and Carl LePere all agreed to give it a try. The tentative meeting they called brought out nearly 30 men. Fortunately, due to the persevering efforts of Matt Migliaccio, Paul St. Martin, and Emil Novotny, Council 1495 was maintained as an active entity on the books of the Supreme Council.

GK Frank McDonough (1980-1982) had the task of leading the council back from inactivity to a functioning organization once again. The early 1980's saw a succession of council activities revived and new programs created. About 100 members were on the council roster and they were organized to resume time tested activities such as: C&B Campaign, participating in Memorial Day Services and the St. Patrick's Day Parade, resumed publication of the monthly council newsletter (The GUIDE, a critically important communication vehicle and link to the membership on all our activities), hosted an annual dance with journal, conducted a membership drive, held an annual Communion Breakfast and co-sponsored the basketball free throw contests.

The foundation described above allowed still further activity led by GK Dom Romano (1982-1983). The council's progress included a district wide installation of officers ceremony, participation in a blood drive, creation of a telephone tree and council budget, a Christmas Social with members and wives. A program of particular importance,

the Msgr. Edward A. McCabe Scholarship Fund was established along with a spaghetti dinner to start funding the scholarship, and an award provided to a JFK HS graduate. A St. Lawrence Council History was published to coincide with the 100th Anniversary of the Order. In addition to the above an accounting system for council activities was established along with the annual Memorial Mass for departed brother Knights. The Council and the 1495 Club By-Laws were updated. An Acolyte recognition program was implemented, as well as a vocation program tied to the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, as well as funding for basketball uniforms for the 7th and 8th St. Lawrence School teams. Finally, a First Degree Team was formed and performed two exemplifications during 1982-1983, while one exemplification of the Third Degree advanced twelve members of St. Lawrence Council to full Knighthood.

Many of these activities and programs are still a part of our council fabric. As the story of our council proceeds an amazing array of new activities will be unveiled, once again displaying the almost limitless potential of a well functioning council. It is of interest to note that one of the 1982 meetings probably set a record for brevity, only 27 minutes, so that the members could get home to watch the final episode of M*A*S*H!

It is also important to note that during this transitional period the location of council meetings changed three times: from the school cafeteria, to the VFW Hall on Peaceable Hill Rd, to the St. Lawrence School library.

The focus of these efforts was on the core principles of the Order: Charity, Unity, Fraternity, Patriotism and all played an inspirational role in the growth of activities that would

define St. Lawrence council in the 1980's, 90's
and into the new millennium.

15. The 75th Anniversary

A snapshot of this important milestone comes from an unattributed article in the July 1985 GUIDE.

Diamond Jubilee Dinner Dance

It was an evening to remember! On June 8th your Council sponsored a gala dinner dance to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the St. Lawrence Council. We can't thank or praise Whitey Olenius and his committee enough for making it a truly first-class act. The hall was comfortably full (although a few more could have been squeezed in), the music was great and the sit-down prime rib dinner was served and prepared to perfection by Danny Ledley and his staff.

During the evening Whitey Olenius was presented with a justly-deserved "Knight of the Year" award. Jerry Mergardt accepted a handsome plaque in recognition of both his and his father's contributions to our council through the years and as a symbol of all the past Grand Knights. Albert Costello, our Conference Chairman, the new State Treasurer-elect, and State Deputy to be in 1989-90, attended as our guest. Frank McDonough was kind enough to spend much of the evening taking group and individual pictures.

It is important to mark the 75th Anniversary event because it echo's to this year's Centennial celebration. Though displaced by 25 years, Dom Romano happens to be the chairman of both events. This practice of repeated service by members, officers, and past Grand Knights, is one fo the enduring strengths of this council and serves as an inspiration to all our active brothers. Several outstanding examples from the past include Robert Ross, who served nine consecutive years as Grand Knight during the Great Depression era; as well as multiple instances of service as Grand Knight by both Charles and Gerard Mergardt, father and son.

16. Charitable Efforts

Charity, the first and foremost principle of the Order, has always been at the heart of the Knights of Columbus as an organization. Donations to support local charities became a regular annual event prior to the 75th Anniversary and was funded primarily through annual C&B ticket sales, as well as through dinners and other fund raising events.

Charitable works took a more direct form with the establishment of the Msgr. Edward A. McCabe Scholarship Fund, named in honor of our long time pastor who had worked tirelessly to expand and improve St. Lawrence O'Toole School throughout the 1950's, 60's and 70's. The fund was the creation of Joe Zema, Pete Tavino and John Merlino and the early committee soon expanded to include Dom Romano, Jack Whalley, Whitey Olenius, and Msgr. McCabe. Pete Tavino was the original chairman and held that role until it was assumed by Tom Radak in the late 1990's. Created in 1982, and funded by the use of a simple mass card equivalent, the original intent was to provide support for two deserving grade school graduates from St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish and continuing to a catholic high school. Over time it was determined that all recipients of this award would have gone on to catholic high school regardless of the support provided. As a result, by the late 1980's the annual 'scholarship' was evolving. In order to achieve the maximum benefit, the program evolved into a gift to the school for the purchase of specific educational aids or technical equipment that was above and beyond the existing school budget. The Scholarship Committee Knights would engage the principle and teachers for suggestions and then implement the acquisition, or provide funding. The first of the new general awards took place in 1988 with the audio visual language labs which were purchased and then

installed in the school library. Also, in those years \$50 savings bonds were awarded to local JFK High School graduates with the highest GPA.

The list of items the Knights have provided via the Msgr. McCabe Scholarship Fund, to improve the student experience at the Parish school, is long and impressive. It started with items such as the language labs, and included the mundane like rugs for the library and multiple hand made and finished tables for the computer lab. It also included TV/VCR/Cart combinations for use throughout the school, as well as technical teaching aids like self contained SRA Science Lab kits, large screen microscopes, a computer server, video tapes and books (including bibles for CCD) right through to maps and an upgraded sound system in the auditorium. The help by the Knights was evident in every classroom and grade level and was profoundly appreciated by the principle, teaching staff and students.

A word about Monsignor Edward A. McCabe seems appropriate at this point. He was a remarkable presence in St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish and in this council. A priest for 62 years, assigned to St. Lawrence O'Toole parish for 34 years, pastor for a remarkable 30 years, and all of that time he was closely involved with, or the chaplain of, the St. Lawrence council. Under his stewardship the school, gym and all the facilities we take for granted today were both envisioned and made real. He saw this council through it's ups and downs and was it was instrumental in it's revitalization. In an exceptional occurrence, he returned in his retirement to this parish he loved and helped build, and was chaplain again from 1992-1994. He was reunited with Our Lord on August 15, 1995 but remains a particular inspiration. His dedication to this community and this council is a continuing example to all of us of a life of service. For that reason, and because of his tireless efforts on behalf of

Catholic education, he remains an ideal emblem of our scholarship program.

In 2007, in an effort to further supplement the fine curriculum of the Parish school, a chess program was introduced, paid for, and led by the Knights. It was an overwhelming success with the large majority of upper grade students participating. Unfortunately this great program was underway only a year before the school was closed.

A more general and recent scholarship program was started by Peter Persampieri in 2005 focused on a Brewster High School senior by awarding \$500 at graduation. The candidate would have to be continuing to an accredited 2 or 4 year college and the family must be registered with St. Lawrence O'Toole parish. Qualifications are judged by academic average, volunteerism and a 500 word essay on "The Impact Jesus has had on My Life". As with other community organizations, the Knights play a part in supporting local students. The winners to date are: Ryan Gillette (2006), Blair Brendli (2007), Richie Grasso (2008), Alysia Radak (2009) and Rachael Sangalli (2010).

The most ambitious and yet little know effort by this council was a project that began at the end of the 1980's with the intention to build a non profit senior housing facility on Route 22 and within the village limits. The property was owned by Pete Tavino, and dependent upon obtaining the required variance to build, it would be sold to council and Pete would hold the mortgage. This was not merely a planning exercise. Five architectural firms were interviewed and a final set of plans were developed that would contain 40 units. Discussions and meetings with the Southeast Town Board and Planning Board were held over the course of nearly two years and \$20,000 was allocated to commence the project.

A zoning change for the property and variances were required. An open meeting was held with the surrounding neighbors providing an opportunity for them to voice their opinion – which was known to be in opposition to the proposal. In a public Board meeting in August of 1990, the Town Board denied the requested zoning and variance changes. The committee of Knights involved with this effort was comprised of about 25 members and was led by Pete Tavino as chairman. Dom Romano, a member of the committee led the public meeting and was assisted by Joe Zema, Justin Tavino, Ken Robinson and Jack Whalley. What would certainly have been a positive public works project was defeated by local home owners resistant to any change in their neighborhood.

The Saint Lawrence Council does not just consider raising money as the be-all and end-all of charitable work. This group of brothers has demonstrated time and again that it can organize and focus on a worthy project, and get it done. A great example from 2007 was the wheelchair accessible ramp that was built for James Malaquit, a 17 year old parishioner injured in a skiing accident and restricted to his wheelchair. The major participants from our council included Pete Sangalli, Bruce Colombraro and Chris Crozier, assisted by many others, while much of the material was provided through donations from Dill's Best, Burdick Blacktop and others. The very sturdy ramp finally enabled James independent access to his deck and backyard for the first time since his accident.

17. Fund Raising

The need to fund charitable efforts has always involved the volunteerism of the council members and resulted in the use of traditional programs and the creation of several new efforts that have become established traditions over the last 28 years.

The C&B (Charitable & Benevolent) program is run at the New York State level and provides the majority of the budget for the State Council and its' programs. Tickets for \$1 each and full ticket booklets are sold. At the same time, participating councils receive a portion of the ticket sales. When the council began to be revitalized in the early 1980's, the council's portion of the C&B sales made up the majority of the annual charitable giving. Even then, these gifts were being provided to primarily local organizations in conjunction with the Christmas season. Jack Whalley was the 1982 C&B chairman and 126 books were sold. Since then many members such as Tom Radak, John McCluskey, Dom Romano, Mike Galvin, Pete Tavino, Paul Giamundo, Chris Crozier, and most recently Pete Pastore - have taken a turn or a repeat turn coordinating this important annual effort.

Another tradition that predates this time span but has none the less spawned many other, and now regular, annual events, is the famous Spaghetti and Meatball dinner. A staple fundraiser for many community organizations, this dinner benefited from the expertise of our many brothers of Italian heritage. In the 1950's and 60's spaghetti dinners were a frequent event at the Council Home (The Walter Brewster House), but it was basically for the members and not a fund raising event. It is also fondly recalled by Pete

Tavino that Francis Palmer ate nearly as many meatballs as he made!

The Msgr. McCabe Scholarship committee of 1983 contains names that are well know and some who are still active right into recent years including Joe Zema, Pete Tavino and John Merlino. That 1983 spaghetti dinner, which provided the seed money for the Scholarship Fund; hosted 172 guests and yielded a profit of \$755 (also due to the generous donations of the Italian American Club!) an amount that would still be considered a success today. The Spaghetti Dinner became a truly regular Columbus Day event when the council ran one to mark the Quincentennial celebration of the discovery of America by our Order's namesake. The addition of Joe Zema's delicious cream puffs (he had been a baker at one time) became a staple of the Spagetti dinner, and even the sole reason some people attended!

The success of the spaghetti dinners soon spawned ideas for other theme dinners, and not just for the fundraising, but also as Parish community and family events. Many of these have since become new annual traditions. Interestingly, our first St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner, in 1992, was chaired by that well known Irishman: Bruce Colombraro. Fortunately he had the help of John Gallagher (and many other brothers) in putting together a great meal that quickly became a regular annual event. This dinner was then run for many years by Neile Riely, Larry Walsh, Joe Tyson, and more recently, Ed Lestrangle.

In this same spirit, our first Bavarian Dinner which became a seasonal Oktoberfest tradition, was initiated in 1993 by the not especially German - Pete Tavino ! Pete did soon pass the baton to Joe Zinter (of the appropriate nationality) and

Joe has been the chairman for this successful dinner for over 15 years.

Another event which began as a pizza dinner, at the instigation of Joe Zema, soon evolved into the regular Lasgana Dinner. After his passing, it was renamed the Joe Zema Memorial Dinner in 1997. Later still, in deference to the many cherished deceased Brothers, renamed simply to The Memorial Dinner. In recent years this inspiration has not always been brought to attention, but it is worthwhile to recall that is a way of reminding ourselves of deceased Brothers who all had a role in making this council a strong pillar of our parish and community.

Other venues were also tried, such as the family BBQ dinner, and even a parking lot "Pig Roast" held in September 1996. These may not have become long lived traditions, but they all had an important place in supporting the charities of that year and in bringing the parish together.

Our largest single fundraiser is the "Night Out on the Knights", and 100% of the profits are dedicated to charitable activities. It is hard to believe that this program was kicked off for the first time back in August 1995. It was the inspiration of Bill Brink, a new and active member at the time who has since moved out the area. In 1997 Tom Radak and Ken Robinson assumed chairmanship of the effort, and since Ken's passing, Tom has continued to chair the program. Although it was smaller at the inception, selling about 300 tickets, the structure of monthly drawings and exclusive prizes remains true today. Since then a second monthly drawing was added for a runner-up prize as well as a special grand prize (Mohonk Mountain House), to increase the opportunities for participants to win. Popularity led to increased enthusiasm and ticket sales eventually expanded

to 499 (in 2002) where it has been capped ever since. Even in its' debut in '95, the sales from this program provided sufficient additional revenue that it enabled the council to double it's charitable Christmas giving – that year it reached a then record \$8500. As a result of this program, the council's annual charitable donation level has never fallen below the amount given in 1995.

Other events that date back some time and are less familiar now include A Night at the Races. John Merlino hosted one in 1984 that had 71 guests and was dedicated to supporting the Parish Youth Group. He ran many more of these in the following years and in the early 1990's Tom Radak revived the program and also ran it on multiple occasions until it was supplanted by other fund raising activities. The Children's Christmas Parties, originated by Dom Romano and then run by Tom Radak, were regular annual events throughout the 1990's.

There were much bigger single events too, among them were the many golf tournaments over the years. An incredible amount of time and effort goes into pulling together an expensive, large-sized outing, not to mention the work of soliciting sponsors. In recent years Joe Tyson and his sons Matt and Conner co-chaired an annual tournament that has had successful outcomes.

18. The Council Home

The sale of the council home in 1978 (the Walter Brewster House), owned by St. Lawrence Council since 1922, marked a low point for the Knights of Columbus here in Brewster. Although painful at the time there was little choice but to sell the home. Without activities there was no income, and expenses such as heating, taxes, etc. were a continuing burden. Vandalism began after the live-in tenant departed. At the final all important meeting to determine the fate of the home, only four members attended. It was an unfortunate confirmation of the decline of the council at that time.

After the revitalization of the early 80's it was a source of thought and discussion, particularly for the members who had joined in the 50's and 60's. They recalled both the pride of the council of an earlier time, as well as the opportunities that a dedicated home provided to the membership for fundraising activities, opportunities for quick meetings, ceremonies, and informal fraternal get togethers. A housing committee was formed to consider the range of options open to the council in seeking a permanent home.

One early consideration was to create a council facility as part of the senior housing project. The demise of that project eliminated such an opportunity. During the following years many possibilities were considered and researched as it became known that various properties or buildings became available. At least twelve properties were thoroughly investigated. In all but one instance it was decided not to proceed with the acquisition when that choice was compared to the facilities available to the council at that time.

The location that generated the most sustained investigation and effort was a piece of property owned by the Diocese (originally purchased at the instigation of Msgr. McCabe), at the end of Eastview Avenue diagonally across from the school. In 1992 discussions began and a tentative agreement on the sale was reached. Once again, issues with the neighbors and right of way access had to be worked through. The final decision came in January 1994 at a full 1495 Club meeting. The fundamental consideration of the membership revolved around whether the financial and manpower obligations to maintain a fair sized property - whether these resources should now become the priority of the council, to the likely detriment of charitable giving and community efforts. The members were aware, especially those who served on the committee and had been in the building trades, the level of commitment a property and building would require.

It was a watershed decision for the council at that time – where to put your time, effort, and money. Although use of the school and parish facilities were not a guarantee they were still adequate for the events the council would likely host. In the end, the membership said no to a new home and decided on charity and service as the overriding priority. It is a decision that echoes the founding principles of the order and has had the most significant impact on the evolving character and activities of this council.

As our council continues to grow, evolve and change, it is possible that circumstances will also change and align in a favorable way toward a permanent council home. For that reason it will be prudent to maintain awareness of local properties and maintain an active building committee to analyze the possibilities.

The decision to relocate the council's meetings from the school library and into a more suitable location in the upper floor of the school (the old convent) came with the agreement of our pastor at the time Father DeJulio. In March 1995 the council began to use these larger facilities, including the old living room and kitchen, as our regular meeting area. In June of that year a team of our brothers worked to clean out the old incinerator room next door to the cafeteria, and once that space was available, we were able to purchase and store our own chairs and extra tables for use at our dinners. This was a tremendous help we now take for granted – it eliminated the need to bring all the necessary chairs and tables down from the gym, and then back up again with the post dinner clean up.

The last step in enhancing the current meeting room took place in July of 1999 when a resolution was approved to use \$4000 to renovate and expand into an appropriate sized meeting room. This was done in conjunction with reworking a storage room and the bathroom facilities. The work was completed by the end of September. This meeting room, along with the adjacent kitchen, storage rooms, bathroom facilities, along with the availability of the parish hall or cafeteria for occasional large functions presently affords ample facilities. As the current 'home' of this council, it was a long time coming, but in the end benefited many in the parish and enabled us to keep a focus on charitable giving. It continues as our meeting place in the form we are familiar with to this day.

19. Family and Community Events

Among the activities we would still find familiar 25 years ago were events such as the annual Christmas Party. In the 1980's it was a smaller group and everyone brought a plate of their own specialty. An annual dance was another event that was popular at this time, and also used as a fund raiser with sales to boosters.

The annual Communion Breakfast has been a regular tradition, and efforts were already being made years ago to coordinate with the Catholic Daughters. In 1984 the joint chairpersons of the event were Sal Patricolo for the K of C and Janice Duffy for the CDA. That year it was held at Scortino's.

The Knights were always active in parish events and often called upon to help run, cook or cleanup after them (sometimes all 3). We were often heavily involved in the Parish Picnic and similar activities.

One of these is the Thanksgiving Meals program. A project in partnership with the San Damiano Fraternity and coordinated primarily by Paul and Judy Bruen, this effort has had the full help and participation of the council, particularly in running the kitchen portion of the work, including preparing food, cooking, and clean up after the meals. The activity is performed Thanksgiving morning in the school cafeteria. The effort started in 1995 by serving meals for the needy in the cafeteria and then in 1997 it changed into delivering the meals. By 2007 a highpoint had been reached: 324 meals were prepared and distributed to 167

thankful recipients, and extra food was packaged and delivered to the needy in the village of Brewster.

A now regular Christmas tradition that joined our usual adult Christmas Party (as well as the children's party that was also held for many years), is another special event – the annual Christmas Caroling. The first time it was held, in 1996, it was already a family event. Everyone met at Benvenuti Restaurant and from there cars caravanned to the residences of the sick or homebound to bring them some holiday cheer. Issues of parking, weather and timing made such caravans difficult. When Putnam Ridge Nursing Home opened we began to meet there for caroling and then went to an informal pizza dinner or the annual Christmas Party if it could be arranged on that date. Bruce Colombraro and then Paul Giamundo coordinated it for many years and this simple event has provided a way for more and more of our brothers and their families to find the true meaning of Christmas.

Another effort to *Keep Christ in Christmas* has been the placement and lighting of a public display Nativity. This effort was already underway in our council when it was proclaimed as a worldwide event by the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus for the Millennium Christmas season. The worldwide lighting took place on December 5th 2000, and then became an annual event *Light Up For Christ*. St. Lawrence council participated, and with the help of John DelBono, continued every year using space he provided in front of Brewster Seafood (site of the current Dunkin Donuts across from Brewster Ford on Route 6). The first year the council erected and displayed our Christmas Creche, the Baby Jesus was stolen. This unfortunate event attracted news coverage from major TV networks and a generous caller from Far Rockaway, NY volunteered to pay for a replacement Baby. A plexiglas shield was then added to

the creche to prevent a recurrence. The project was a special focus of John McCluskey, Pete Sangalli, Ray Kerins, and others. After the closure of Brewster Seafood, our Nativity improved as it migrated to Route 22. It has now found a more permanent and prominent home on the broad lawn in front Beechers Funeral Home.

An interesting note to this story... The engineering expertise of this council was so amply demonstrated with the rework of our latest Nativity scene that Father Eric Cruz (one of our past RSVP seminarians) remarked on how such a creche would be a great replacement for a battered version at his new parish in the Bronx. The brothers swung into action and at the 2009 Clergy Appreciation Dinner it was made a surprise gift to Fr. Cruz that he and his parish truly appreciated, especially in the spirit of Christmas.

It is difficult to list the many volunteer driven activities this Council has sponsored over the years to benefit our community. There are many different events chronicled in the GUIDE. One of these past programs included the council's Adopt-a-Highway Program. Begun in 1993, John Pizzorusso ran this program on behalf of the council for several years – the adopted section stretched along Route 6 between Starr Ridge Road and the Connecticut state line.

Often, the events the Knights have conducted have had dual purposes – both as parish/community activities and also as charitable fund raisers. Some, although infrequent, involved very significant organizing efforts as well as large expenditures of money - and as a result have become particularly memorable events. Several shows have been organized over the years at the inspiration of, and with the driving force of Bruce Colombraro are examples. Many will remember that Bruce and his committee brought in the

professional off-Broadway show: Late Night Catechism. It was great interactive theatre, held in the Henry H. Wells Middle School auditorium in March 2001, with over 200 attendees. Bruce brought his team together again to present Mack The Knife, The Life and Music of Bobby Darin. That event was held in June 2005 and over \$3000 was raised, the majority of which was dedicated at the outset to the support of our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

These two shows illustrate that the Knights are really enablers and a key reservoir of manpower and talent that can be critical in bringing the creative ideas, the inspirations, the cherished projects of our members to life!

20. Youth

A State activity that this council has supported unfailingly over the years is the Basketball Free Throw Contest, run separately for boys and girls, and by age groupings from 10 to 14. Among the long time chairman of this event have been Mike Brady, Chris Traycheff, Paul Giamundo, and Chris Crozier.

A source of satisfaction, and a way to help reinforce our faith and charitable values in young adults, was the reactivation of the youth arm of the Knights and of this particular council - the Squires Circle #1108 at Kennedy Catholic High School in Somers. Many years of effort by our Youth Chairman Mike Brady and GK at the time Bruce Colombraro went into this effort and it was finally rewarded at the investiture ceremony in January 1996. It was no surprise that the initial and active leaders of the JFK Squires Circle were both sons of Knights Joe Zinter and Mike Nastasi; two catholic gentlemen who are great examples of faith and service in action.

CYO Basketball was another regular effort supported by this council and by brothers who were also coaches such as Mike Brady and Dave Quattrocchi. The council supported the annual St. Lawrence tournament during the late 1990's. Money was raised for awards and equipment by means of a Knights manned snack bar, and other efforts.

An event that started as a way to honor our Alter Servers was a yearly trip to a Renegades baseball game, paid for by the Knights. It since evolved into a larger family event also well attended by the brothers. The idea originated with Dom Romano in 1995 and it has been held every year since, with various chairmen such as Chris Caridi, Ed Lestrangle, and Chris Crozier.

21. Support of the Faith

One of the most important tasks as Knights of Columbus is our unstinting support of our Priests, Religious, and vocations. We've done this sometimes in subtle ways – such as an encouraging letter to annual recipients of the Sacrament of Confirmation here at Saint Lawrence O'Toole parish. Dom Romano has chaired this program since it's inception, and a short GUIDE excerpt from June 2007 is illustrative of exactly how this work has progressed:

Having started this program in 1983, this is the 25th consecutive year that our Council has sent a letter of congratulations to all of the confirmed. There are an average of slightly more than 100 confirmed each year, so that adds up to more than 2,500 letters sent over the years. The intention is to not only offer congratulations upon receiving Confirmation, but to perhaps kindle a leaning towards a vocation. We can only hope that the receipt of this letter by a young person has had the desirable effect of someday in the future giving thought towards a vocation.

Our work to help vocations has also had another concrete form in our financial and moral support of seminarians through the Knights of Columbus RSVP program. The St. Lawrence model is one of the most inspiring examples and has been made possible through the concern and attention of several members of the council. Of note has been the ongoing communication and coordination with members of the program provided for many years by Paul Bruen, a task he has recently passed on to Pete Persampieri.

St. Lawrence Council #1495 began participation in the program in 1995 by adopting one seminarian. The council

gradually increased its participation, until by 2000, four (4) seminarians had been adopted, a level of participation maintained since. Having an adopted seminarian in each of the four different years of study accomplishes a four-year identity with each seminarian, and as one is ordained each year, a new first year entrant is adopted. This program is one of the council's finest examples of our charitable efforts and for our support of ongoing vocations in the priesthood. The council proudly lists the priests that have been linked to the St. Lawrence Council through RSVP, in the appendix to this history

It is this council's particular honor that we have a young member, Fred Byron III (who is also the son and grandson of members of this council) now enrolled in the junior seminary. It will be a great pleasure to extend our council's support to him, now and in his years to come.

A very informal and enjoyable way the Council continues to show its' support for our priests is through the annual Clergy Appreciation Night. The hosts of this effort, individually or together, have been Jan Anthony, Bruce Colombraro, Dom Romano, Mal McCann and Ray Kerins. When this night out started it was typically a dinner at a restaurant, but since 2005 it has become a meal prepared by the Knights with not just our own parish priests invited but also our seminarians, deacons, and sometimes other dignitaries. A pattern has also developed, and now dinner is followed by the 'stand-up' prowess of any member of the council or guests with a dollar and joke to take the floor! And of course, all proceeds are split among our needy seminarians. Sometimes it is the simple things like a get together and a meal that bring home the idea that we are united. It is just another informal activity that this council excels at.

One way we can have a direct political impact is through attendance at the Prayer Rally in Albany, an annual effort that has been going on every year since 2003. Members and families from this council have attended, along with brothers and families from other councils and often a range of State and Supreme council officers. Both a spiritual and political effort, including praying the Rosary on the steps of that state capital, as well a practical effort in meeting and speaking directly to State Legislators to work for the Catholic agenda in Albany.

22. Fraternity

The ability to initiate new members into our council is a goal that continues to be important here at St. Lawrence because it demonstrates our commitment both to the values of the Order and to the dynamic involvement of our council. The present First Degree Team was formed in 1993 by Pete Tavino, the formal Captain of the team. Since then Bruce Colombraro and currently Chris Crozier have stepped into that important coordinating role. Tom Radak remains the one active original member of the team, GK at the time of it's formation and still performing the GK role for our new candidates.

A very noteworthy occasion for the Degree team and special honor for this council was our ability to conduct a First Degree in November 2009 that saw five seminarians and a lay member inducted into our council as a celebration of Pope Benedict's Year of The Priest. The ceremony was witnessed by New York State Deputy Arthur Harris, who was so impressed that he suggested that our team be certified by the State. A confirmation that was just recently received, and stands as an affirmation of the hard work and dedication of our Council, our Degree Team, and Chris Crozier as it's captain.

Often it is informal and purely social activities that help make a group close, supportive, and active – able to react when important challenges and projects come our way. Ed Lestrage and his ‘Sunday Night Volleyball’ is a perfect example of this. It gets our active members together, as well as non-members, in a venue where sport brings out the best (and the best trash talk!) in all of us. A successful group can’t be about all work, all the time. And the volleyball here has been played at its most enjoyable as well as a perfect advertisement for the vitality of our council.

23. Pro-Life

The Right to Life is a central theme for the Knights of Columbus and this council has worked to advance it's cause all through the years.

Frank McDonough coordinated our participation in the annual Respect Life March throughout the 1980's and 1990's.

In the late 1990's, at the request of our Chaplain Rev. Brian McSweeney, St. Lawrence council erected a Monument to the Unborn on the JFK High School campus. It can be visited from the main entrance on Route 138 and a walk on the short path immediately to the right. It is a handsome stone mounted plaque in a contemplative setting.

Jan Anthony has been an outstanding example to our brothers of commitment to this important principle. Jan and his family, through prayers, through organizing respectful protest at Planned Parenthood in Brewster, and through direct help of needy individuals, reinforce the importance of the Right to Life.

24. Knights Beyond the Council

One of the early pastors of the St Lawrence O'Toole Parish was Rev. Thomas P. Phelan who served as pastor from 1912 to 1924, and as chaplain for the St Lawrence Council during that same period. Prior to his coming to Brewster he had the distinction of serving as Chaplain for the New York State Council of the Knights of Columbus from 1906 to 1909. He must have brought a rich legacy of K of C experience to our council, newly formed only two years prior to his coming.

The Order, now comprising more than 1.8 million members, has an organizational structure to maintain itself, and to implement its programs. The New York State jurisdiction has similar needs, but on a smaller scale. The four years of service as State Chaplain to the NY State Council by Fr. Phelan is an example of service by a member to a higher jurisdiction, a service beyond your own council.

At St. Lawrence council, hard to believe, but there is no mention of any member serving a higher jurisdiction until 1967 when John Lord served as District Deputy. During this more recent period three of our members have served as District Deputies -- Dom Romano, Mike Galvin, and, Bruce Colombraro -- Dom Romano also serving as the Chairman of the Board of District Deputies, and as State Chairman. Numerous members have served as vice chairman or auxiliary chairman.

Other examples of service beyond the council include serving the Westchester/Putman Conference, and/or, Chapter as an officer, committee member, or as part of a ceremonial team member -- these additional members include Greg Miller and Chris Crozier. From the aforementioned five members, two have each served the Agency Department (Romano & Galvin) for more than ten years.

The richness of the Knights of Columbus experience is enhanced by meeting and working with fellow members from different areas, engaged in different activities and programs, all apart from, and in addition to, their own council.

25. The Centennial

The first activity in preparation for the council's 100th anniversary began in 1995, fifteen years prior to the anniversary date of June 12, 2010. As part of the 1995 Charitable Giftgiving Program, \$200 was earmarked for a designated "Centennial Fund" account. In every year following 1995, \$200 or more was similarly designated, the intention of the 'Centennial Fund' being a gift to the St Lawrence O'Toole Parish.

More recently, during a council meeting in May 2009, GK Greg Miller asked PGK Dom Romano to be chairman for the centennial event. Volunteers were requested at council meetings and in the GUIDE. Ten members attended the first organizational meeting, and discussed possible activities and events. Subsequently, specific committees were formed as follows: History, Tom Radak; Journal, Chris Crozier; Banquet, Bruce Colombraro, Picnic, Ed Lestrangle, and, Program, Dom Romano.

In order to raise 'seed' money to permit the planning for the scope of activities, council members were asked to "prepay" for a journal ad that was months away from publication. Very generously, 36 members assisted with \$2700, and the program was under way.

At this writing, only three days prior to the actual June 12th anniversary date, all plans look good and consist of the following: a composite 100-year council history, a Centennial Commemorative Journal, a June 12th Centennial Dinner-Dance with SD Arthur Harris as our guest. On June 13th a High Mass of Thanksgiving will be concelebrated by our Chaplain Fr. McKeon and about 6 priests associated with St Lawrence council, beverages and refreshments following the mass. On September 5th the council will host a picnic for St Lawrence O'Toole parishioners in appreciation for their support during the years.

A wonderful anniversary!!

26. Conclusion: A Century and Beyond...

One hundred years here at Brewster has shown that the Knights of Columbus are a critically important force for good in St. Lawrence O'Toole parish and the community.

In just this past year, the vitality and impact of this council has been redoubled by the continued commitment of long time members and the creative efforts of our newest members. The Knights spearheaded the organization and planning of cross community efforts to bring about a golf outing in support of the Grasso Family Education Fund. A 'monumental effort' in the words of our GK Greg Miller, that raised over \$30,000 to allay college costs for the family of our Brother Knight, so recently lost to a car accident. Our council provided critical participation in the parish carnival to support the summer theatre program for our youth. There were the Knights taking turns in providing supervisory help for homeless adults at the Brewster Emergency Shelter during the cold months of the winter. The efforts to cook for and support every Parish Catechesis event, and all the dinners, the fundraising, and the many programs large and small that we often take for granted.

We also cannot overestimate the active and vital role of our current Pastor and Chaplain: Fr. Robert McKeon. His efforts to engage with, integrate and support this council - through parish and other worthy activities - has had a galvanizing effect on all the brothers.

In summary, the Knights of Columbus, St. Lawrence Council No.1495, has never been more active and more needed in the community than it is now. The trajectory we are on today suggests another very busy and very memorable 100 years to come!

27. Appendix

13.1 Grand Knights, Chaplains, and Appointed Officers

	Grand Knight	Chaplain	Financial Secretary	GUIDE Editor
1982	Dom Romano	Msgr. Edward McCabe	Pat Ahern	Jack Whalley
1983	Jack McCahill	Fr. Owen Gartland	Carn Rafferty	Jack Whalley
1984	Jack McCahill	Fr. Owen Gartland	Carn Rafferty	Jack Whalley
1985	Mike Galvin	Fr. P. Holland	Pete Tavino	Jack Whalley
1986	Mike Galvin	Fr. Gerard Travers	Pete Tavino	Jack Whalley
1987	Pete Tavino	Fr. Gerard Travers	Jack McCahill	Jack Whalley
1988	Pete Tavino	Fr. Gerard Travers	Jack McCahill	Pete Tavino
1989	Pete Tavino	Fr. Gerard Travers	Jack McCahill	Pete Tavino
1990	Brian O'Meara	Fr. Gerard Travers	Sivert Olenius	Pete Tavino
1991	Deacon Ben Wallace	Fr. Gerard Travers	Pete Milano	Pete Tavino
1992	Tom Radak	Msgr. Edward McCabe	Pete Milano	John Pizzorusso

	Grand Knight	Chaplain	Financial Secretary	GUIDE Editor
1993	Tom Radak	Msgr. Edward McCabe	Pete Milano	John Pizzorusso
1994	Bruce Colombraro	Msgr. Edward McCabe	Ray Kerins	John Pizzorusso
1995	Bruce Colombraro	Msgr. Edward McCabe	Ray Kerins	John Pizzorusso
1996	Mike Brady	Fr. Brian McSweeney	Ray Kerins	John Pizzorusso
1997	Mike Brady	Fr. Brian McSweeney	Ray Kerins	Fred Byron
1998	Jan Anthony	Fr. Brian McSweeney	Pete Tavino	Fred Byron
1999	Jan Anthony	Fr. Anthony Marchitelli	Pete Tavino	Don Hosmer
2000	Jim Lawlor	Fr. Anthony Marchitelli	Pete Tavino	Don Hosmer
2001	John McCluskey	Fr. Anthony Marchitelli	Scott Warren	Don Hosmer
2002	John McCluskey	Fr. Anthony Marchitelli	Scott Warren	Pete Sangalli
2003	Fred Santi	Fr. Paul Yeboah	Scott Warren	Pete Sangalli
2004	Fred Santi	Fr. Paul Yeboah	Scott Warren	Pete Sangalli
2005	Joe Tyson	Fr. Rees Doughty	Scott Warren	Pete Sangalli
2006	Joe Tyson	Fr. Rees Doughty	Scott Warren	Pete Sangalli
2007	Dom Romano	Fr. Rees Doughty	Scott Warren	Pete Sangalli
2008	Greg Miller	Fr. Rees Doughty	Scott Warren	Pete Sangalli
2009	Greg Miller	Fr. Robert McKeon	Scott Warren	Pete Sangalli

13.2 Ordained Priests of the St. Lawrence Council RSVP

The following list includes the name and ordination date of the priests who received annual assistance with their expenses during their years in the seminary. It was the honor of this Council to provide any help, even in this small way, to the worthy cause of vocations.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>
Rev. Thomas J. Byrnes	1999
Rev. Stephen P. Norton	2001
Rev. Dennis A. Nolic	2002
Rev. Eric P. Cruz	2004
Rev. George F. Sears	2005
Rev. Arthur F. Rojas	2006
Rev. Justin S. Cinnante	2007
Rev. Ronald P. Perez	2008
Rev. Jacob Hausman	2009
Rev. Albert Osewski, CFR	2010