

## **PROLOGUE:**

This History book of the J.J. Fitzmartin Council and Assembly is the work of several members over the years. Originally David Couch in the 1980s started to assemble information for the project. Frank Yokubeak updated the project for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in 2009. The latest update was done at the request of James Patterson for a placement in the Waugh House Museum in 2017.

The document is an ongoing project. Any additions or corrections are welcomed. Please contact someone at the local council to get or give information for inclusion in this document.

Currently Frank Yokubeak has the files of this “History Book of the J.J. Fitzmartin Council 1446”



**Knights of Columbus  
Joseph J. Fitzmartin Council # 1446  
Greenville, PA**

Thanks to the efforts of Father Michael J. McGivney, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven and some of his parishioners, the Connecticut state legislature on March 29, 1882, officially chartered the Knights of Columbus as a fraternal benefit society. The Order is still true to its founding principles of charity, unity and fraternity.

The Knights was formed to render financial aid to members and their families. Mutual aid and assistance are offered to sick, disabled and needy members and their families. Social and intellectual fellowship is promoted among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and public relief works.

The history of the Order shows how the foresight of Father Michael J. McGivney, whose cause for sainthood is being investigated by the Vatican, brought about what has become the world's foremost Catholic fraternal benefit society. The Order has helped families obtain economic security and stability through its life insurance, annuity and long-term care programs, and has contributed time and energy worldwide to service in communities.

The Knights of Columbus has grown from several members in one council to 15,342 councils and 1.9 million members throughout the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Mexico, Poland, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Panama, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Cuba, Guatemala, Guam, Saipan, Lithuania, Ukraine, and South Korea.

Our charitable activities encompass an almost infinite variety of local, national and international projects. From international charitable partnerships with Special Olympics, the Global Wheelchair Mission and Habitat for Humanity to our own Food for Families and Coats for Kids projects and other local charities, the opportunity to work together with fellow Knights and their families is virtually endless. In 2016, the Knights of Columbus set a new all-time record for the 18th consecutive year. Our charitable donations increased from \$175 million in 2015 to a new total of \$177,500,673 in 2016. In addition, we achieved our highest level of charitable service in 2016, volunteering more than 75 million hours of service.

On November 7, 1909 the Supreme Council granted a charter for Council #1446 to 59 charter members. The first member listed on the Greenville membership is Benjamin F. Brown who had joined the Order in December of 1908, in Sharon. Brown served as the first Grand Knight of the local council. The first Financial Secretary was Frank A. Denslinger, and the first Warden was James Collinan.

The “Admission Degree”, was held in Greenville, and took place on November 11, 1909, at the hall of the Ancient Order of the Hibernian in the Christopher Building on Clinton Street, which was across the street from the Post Office, at the current site of the parking lot behind the Mechenbeir Building.

**Charter members of J.J. Fitzmartin Council #1446:**

Rev. John Kearnes; Rev. James Kearnes; B.F. Brown; P. Nagengest; G.A. Sidley;  
W. H. Rice; J. Clifford; M. Kane; J.P McAndrew; W.T.A. Brown; J.E. Dunlavey; F.H. Sheets;  
Jas. Cullinan; J.W. Peter; J.J. O’Donnell; T.F. Curtin; T.B. Cullen;  
Jno Daisy; W.H. O’Grady; F. Freeman; C.J. Dambacher; J.C. Babo; A.H. Schuhmacher; W.C.  
Hawes; E.E. Keane; J.L. Clifford; F. Husted; T.D. Callahan; E.W. Chambers;  
F.L. Gates; J.E. Watson; Wm. Crowley; M. Fitzmartin; H.E. Cullen; J.V. Brown;  
L.J. Junk; T. Landers; F.J. Clavin; M.J. Lynch; G. Curtin; J.F. Brown; C.W. Hawes; W.H.  
Doran; R.C. Kane; J.S. McGillicuddy; W.R. Jaxthimer; J.A. Doran;  
J.C. Crowley; J.J. Fitzmartin; Jas.L. Crowley; John Clifford; F.A. Denslinger;  
A.D. Christopher; W.A. Junk; J.H. Miller; T.A. Carberry; M.M. Callahan.

The Greenville Knights of Columbus had its first club room in the early 1920's over the T.C. Gibson clothing store, later to be the Penney's department store. This club room became one of the many casualties of the Great Depression. Starting in 1933 meetings were held upstairs of the building which housed Schiff Shoes. In 1935 the Knights of Columbus purchased the building at 145 Main Street, from William Reagle. This building later housed the State Store. The building was sold and the facilities were then moved to the Ghiates Building at the corner of Mercer and Main Streets in the early 1950's, where the club rented the upper two floors. The council offices and meeting area and lounge was on the second floor and third floor was sub-let to Mary Ann Brown's Dance Studio. It was also used for large meetings and council dances. A weekly teen dance was also held there on the weekends in the early 60's.

The Council 1446 continued to grow and increase in Membership and today has a membership of approximately 375 men. In 1965 it was decided to build a facility at 170 Clarksville St. At that time the council was named Joseph J. Fitzmartin Council 1446, in honor of a charter member who donated countless hours of service to the organization.

In addition to our Council's primary commitment to St. Michael Church, St. Michael School and St. Margaret Mission in Jamestown the Grenville Council is proud to help support many local community organizations, such as; The Good Shephard Center, Greenville & Jamestown Food Pantries, Willow Women's Center, Williams House, The Salvation Army, and A.W.A.R.E.

Our "Coats for Kids Program" annually donates 144 winter coats to the children of the Greenville area through the distribution centers of the Salvation Army and the Good Shephard Center. Our Forty Cans for Forty Days project during Lent, has provided thousands of pounds of goods for distribution to Greenville and Jamestown Food Pantries.

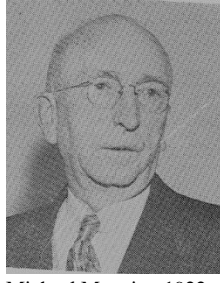
Annual Baby Bottle Campaign, this annual fundraiser supports the Culture of Life activities supported by our Council and Assembly. These activities include: the annual bus trip to Washington DC for the Pro-Life march in January on the anniversary of the Rowe vs Wade decision; The Missionaries of Purity program; The Ultrasound project at the Willow Women's Center in Transfer, William's House in Greenville and the Ultrasound initiative of the Supreme Council.

## **PAST Grand Knights of Council 1446**

1909 - 1911 Ben Brown	1958 – 1959 Paul L Birckbickler
1911 - 1913 T D Callahan	1959 – 1960 Charles McKenna
1913 - 1914 John Dempsey	1960 – 1961 Clifford Hurley
1913 - 1915 Joseph H. Eastlake	1961 – 1962 Regis Jonnett
1915 - 1917 W T A Brown	1962 – 1963 Alfred L Peden
1917 - 1918 Ted C Erlich	1963 – 1964 Carman A Surano
1918 - 1920 Norman Moss	1964 – 1965 James Clavin
1920 - 1921 Frank J Clavin	1965 – 1967 Edward Grecco
1921 - 1922 Michael Mannion	1967 – 1968 Dominic Giardina
1922 - 1924 Mark F Callahan	1968 – 1971 Dennis Brown
1924 - 1925 Basil L Junk	1971 – 1972 Charles Resinger
1925 - 1926 John A McLean	1972 – 1974 Donald Webber
1926 - 1927 G Charles Hoey	1974 - 1976 John M Miller
1927 - 1928 Albert Bronder	1976 – 1978 Walter F Watrobsky
1928 - 1930 William Saxe	1978 – 1979 Thomas Gessler
1930 - 1931 G Charles Hoey	1979 – 1980 Paul L Selnekovic
1931 - 1939 Frank M A'Hearn	1980 – 1981 Joseph Selnekovic
1939 - 1941 F William Reagle	1981 – 1983 Thomas Steiner
1941 - 1943 Paul L Moss	1983 – 1985 David Couch
1943 - 1944 Wallace Donovan	1985 – 1988 David Ferguson
1944 - 1945 Fred S Gillon	1988 – 1989 David Couch
1945 – 1946 William Jahn	1989 – 1991 Frank Yokubeak
1946 – 1947 Hugh H Becker	1991 – 1992 David Ferguson
1947 – 1948 Richard Hurley	1992 – 1993 Eugene Lengel
1948 – 1949 Martin Cheuka	1993 – 1994 Donald Webber
1949 – 1950 Frank Freeman	1994 – 1998 Dennis Brown
1950 – 1951 F William Reagle	1998 – 1999 Joseph DiFede
1951- 1952 Raymond Pierotti	1999 – 2001 Donald Webber
1952 - 1953 Raymond Pierotti	2001 – 2007 Peter Longiotti
1953 – 1954 Arthur Jordan	2007 - 2013 Sam Genovesi
1954 – 1955 Joseph Walton	2014 - 2015 Charles Surano
1955 – 1956 Donald Ray	2015 – 2016 Donald Webber
1956 – 1957 Norbert Mechenbier	2016 – 2018 Charles Surano
1957 – 1958 Michael Flack	2018 - Walter Beh



Ben Brown 1909



Michael Mannion 1922



G Charles Hoey 1930



Joseph H Eastlake 1914



Basil Junk 1924



Frank M A'Hearn 1931



W T A Brown 1915



G Charles Hoey 1926



F William Reagle 1939



Nicholas Moss 1919



Albert Bronder 1927



Paul Moss 1941



Frank Clavin 1920



William Saxe 1928



Wallace Donovan 1943



William Jahn 1945



F William Reagle 1950



Norb Mechenbeir 1956



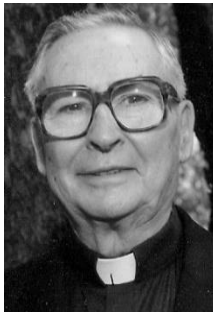
Hugh Becker 1946



Raymond Pierotti 1951



Michael Flack 1957



Bro. Richard Hurley 1947



Art Jordan 1953



Charles McKenna 1959



Martin Cheuka 1948



Joseph Walton 1954



Cliff Hurley 1960



Frank Freeman 1949



Donny Ray 1955



Regis Jonnett 1961



Alfred Peden 1962



Carman Surano 1963



James Clavin 1964



Ed Grecco 1965



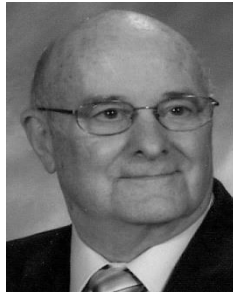
Dominic Giardina 1967



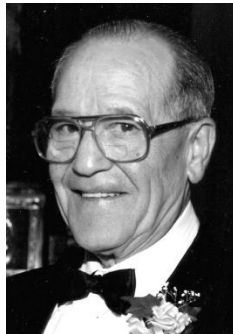
Denny Brown 1968



Charles Resinger 1971



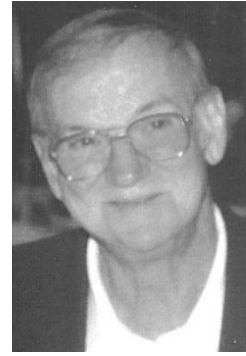
Donald Webber 1972



John Miller 1974



Walter Watrobsky 1976



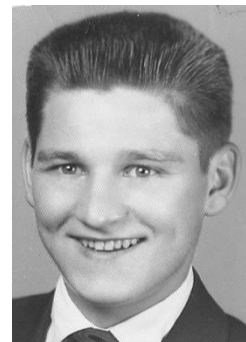
Thomas Gessler 1978



Paul L. Selnekovic 1979



Joseph Selnekovic 1980



Tom Steiner 1981





Dave Couch 1988



Joe DiFede 1998



Charles Surano 2016



Frank Yokubeak 1989



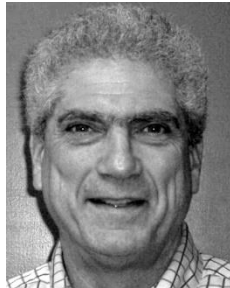
Peter Longiotti 2001



Donald Webber 2017



David Ferguson 1991



Sam Genovesi 2007



Walter Beh 2018

We are missing pictures of the following Grand Knights:

1911 T D Callahan

1913 John Dempsey.

1917 F C Erlich

1918 Ted C Ehrlich

1923 Mark F Callahan

1925 John A Mc Lean

1944 Fred Gillon.

1958 Paul Birckbickler.

1992 Eugene Lengle

Several of our members have served positions in higher offices in the order.

- 1948 William Jahn appointed District Deputy
- 1962 Clifford Hurley appointed District Deputy
- 1970 Carmen Surano appointed District Deputy
- 1970 Cliff Hurley appointed State Warden
- 1974 Donald Webber appointed District Deputy
- 1978 Donald Webber appointed State Membership Chairman
- 1980 Donald Webber appointed State Warden
- 1982 Tom Gessler appointed District Deputy
- 1983 Tom Steiner appointed District Deputy
- 1985 Eugene Lenge appointed District Deputy
- 2008 Frank Yokubeak appointed District Deputy
- 2010 Frank Yokubeak appointed Central West Regional Program Director



Knights of Columbus

**F O U R T H**  
**D E G R E E**

*Patriotic degree of the Order.*

**The triad emblem of the Fourth Degree:**

The emblem features the dove, the cross and the globe. The dove, classic symbol of the Holy Spirit and peace, is shown hovering over the orb of the Earth (globe). Both are mounted on a variation of the Crusader's cross, which was found on the tunics and capes of the Crusading knights who battled to regain the Holy Land from the pagans.

Spiritually, the sacred symbols on the emblem typify the union of the Three Divine Persons in one Godhead, the most Blessed Trinity.

- The Globe – God the Father, Creator of the Universe.
- The Cross – God the Son, Redeemer of Mankind.
- The Dove – God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of Humanity.

**The colors of the symbols are:**

- A blue globe with the land of the Western Hemisphere in white.
- A red cross with gold borders and gold knobs at the end of the points forming the ends of the arms of the cross, also known as the Isabella cross.
- A white dove.

Red, white and blue are the colors of the flag of the country in which the Knights originated. They are used to stress patriotism, the basic principle of the Fourth Degree

**Joseph J. Fitzmartin Assembly 967**  
**Chartered on September 26, 1954, by Supreme Council.**

**Charter members of Assembly 967**

Fr. John Keating, Alphonse Langiotti, Joseph Langiotti, Ray St. John, John Smith, Cliff Hurley, Michael Hurley, Joseph Giardina, Norbert Mechenbier, Arthur Jordan, Dennis Brown, Joseph Wilson, Joseph Neustupa, Frank Valentine, Daniel McDonald,, Philip Scibetta, Martin Cheuka, William Cheuka, Anthony Dalfonzo, Frank D'Urso, Joseph Travaglini, Frank Dulaney, Donald Ray, Donald Baskin, Dale Coombs, James Brown, John Ruhling, Al Stengl.

**Religiously Devoted, Patriotically Proud.**

For most men who follow Jesus, there comes a time when duty extends beyond our own lives, beyond how we lead our families, and into how we serve our fellow man. That's what the Knights of Columbus is all about. The Patriotic Degree allows K of C members to take this one step further. "Sir Knight" is more than a title — it's an honor.

**The Color Corp:** When knighthood was in flower, knights carried the sword to defend their God, their Church, their Country and their fellow man, according to the code of chivalry. Today, Sir Knights wear regalia and carry the sword to honor Christ and His apostles, especially on religious and civic occasions specified in "Color Corp" manual. Hence, the primary purpose of the Fourth Degree is to encourage active Catholic citizenship and foster the spirit of patriotism in members and the community at large.

They are most recognized by wearing of the Regalia, while participating in Church and Community events. The color of the Cape and Feather Plume denotes the offices they hold or have held.

Supreme Master & Former Supreme Master Dark Blue Cape and Chapeau/Dark Blue Plume

Vice Supreme Master & Former Vice Supreme Master Light Blue Cape and Chapeau/Light Blue Plume

District Master & Former District Master Gold Cape and Chapeau/Gold Plume

Marshal Green Cape and Chapeau/Green Plume

Faithful Navigator & Past Faithful Navigator White Cape and Chapeau/White Plume

Assembly Commander Purple Cape and Chapeau/Purple Plume

Color Corps Red Cape and Chapeau/White Plume

## **Faithful Navigators of Assembly967**

1954	A. Langiotti	1982	Donald E. Webber
1956	Raymond St. John	1984	Dennis G. Brown
1958	Frank D'Urso	1988	David K. Ferguson
1962	Carmen A. Surano	1989	David W. Couch
1963	Clifford Hurley	1990	Joseph L. Di Fede
1964	F. James Clavin	1993	Kenneth E. Hockett
1965	Leonard M. Grasso	1995	Joseph L. Di Fede
1967	Edward F. Grecco	1998	Eugene L. Lengel
1970	Donald E. Webber	2004	Charles A. Toth
1971	Robert A. Lowrey	2008	Peter J. Longiotti
1972	Kenneth R. McKay	2012	Joseph A. Presto
1973	Dennis G. Brown	2014	Sam Genovesi
1975	Walter F. Watrobsky, Jr	2015	Joseph A. Presto
1976	John J. O'Leary	2016	Dr. Walter Beh
1977	Carl A. Scott	2018	Joseph A. Presto
1979	Dennis G. Brown		
1980	Thomas E. Steiner		