

History of our Saint Clement Council 13604

Father McGivney started the Knights of Columbus in 1882 and that first council he formed would have had been described with the designation of "Council 1". Each subsequent Council that was formed gets the next higher number, such that on September 1st, 2004, *St. Clement of Rome Council Number 13604* was formed. So you can see we are part of a much larger organization that has a long history.

The history of Council 13604 started in 2003 when John Parker, a Knights of Columbus insurance agent, contacted Msgr. James Pieper, pastor of St. Clement, to inquire about forming a council in the parish. In turn, Monsignor Pieper was contacted by Charlie Schwartz, District Deputy, and Bob Karsznia, New Council Development Chairman for St. Louis - South in 2004. Charlie and Bob sent a letter to the State Membership Director and proposed the idea of a Knights of Columbus council to the St. Clement Parish Council. Charlie and Bob then began a direct mail campaign to the men of St. Clement's and spoke at all the Masses on July 17/18. The first charter meeting with 32 new members was held on August 22, 2004.

The first organized meeting to elect officers was held September 23. The new officers were Bob Olsen (Grand Knight), Tom Hughes (Deputy Grand Knight), John Parker (Chancellor), Mike Berra (Financial Secretary), Bob O'Neil (Recording Secretary), Bill Newman (Warden), Tom Gutman (Treasurer), Bill McNamara (Advocate), Frank Kilcullen (Trustee), Hoyt Reed (Trustee), Bob Swanson (Trustee), John Landgraf (Inside Guard), and Tom Daly (Outside Guard). The officers were installed on January 27, 2005. The charter was presented to Council #13604 on September 1, 2005.

Early meeting of the Council were held in Mary's Room and/or the cafeteria in St. Clement's School. Meetings later were held in the Music Room of the School, the current meeting place for the Council.

Hoyt Reed, Bill Meirink, Al Graf, Jim Klarsch, and Peter Baxendale have also served as Grand Knights since Council #13604 was founded in 2004.