

Knights Of St. John Launch Wide Membership Drive Here

Join National Move To Increase Order

Colonel Biel Names Representatives of Ten Commanderies To Promote Campaign Locally; Order Shown To Be Parish Asset.

By JOHN G. BITTNER
Quartermaster, Rochester Regiment

Determined to have Rochester Regiment, Knights of St. John up in the forefront in a current nation-wide membership campaign initiated by the Supreme Board of Trustees, officers of the Regiment are this week launching an intensive campaign for members in the Diocese of Rochester.

At a special meeting of the District Commandery held Friday, May 1, at the headquarters, St. Joseph's Hall, Franklin Street, the campaign was enthusiastically started.

Colonel Frank H. Biel, K.H.S., presiding, named a committee to work with the various commanderies in promoting the campaign. The committee is headed by Joseph F. Wendelgass, Commandery No. 9. He is being assisted by August Seuch, 17, Edmund Knickerbocker, 25, George A. Barker, 30, Walter J. Bayer, 30, John G. Jetter, 40, Secretary Frank X. Isenhardt, 43, Charles J. Kelly, 106, Max Strasser, 197, and Louis J. Kuhn, 272.

Selective Campaign
Delegates were instructed to refer to their respective commanderies and conduct a systematic and selective membership campaign commencing with their May meetings.

Qualifications for membership are that a man must be a practical Catholic of sound mind and body between the ages of 16 and 50 years. The application-blank must be filled by the parish priest before it will be considered by the local commandery.

Not only are the officers of the District Commandery desirous of increasing the size of the present membership but it is hoped that new commanderies will be organized in this connection pastures of the Diocese are invited to give the matter serious consideration.

Officers of the District Commandery who condescends with the Rochester Regiment are as follows: Honorary Colonel Joseph H. Weis, K.S.G. Colonel Frank H. Biel, K.H.S. Lieutenant Colonel William H. Rosenbach, Senior Major Fred J. Wegman, Junior Major, Fred J. Kuntz, Chaplain the Rt. Rev. Messrs. John P. Scheiborn, Assistant

Lead Knights in Member Campaign



HENRY A. LEUSCH
Supreme President



JOSEPH H. WEIS, K.S.G.
Honorary Colonel



FRANK H. BIEL, K.H.S.
Colonel

HOSPITALIER IDEALS INSPIRE SUCCESSORS

Ideals of the Knights of St. John today, essentially the same as those of the ancient order of Hospitaliers of St. John of Jerusalem from whom the present order gets its name will be stressed in the membership campaign now underway.

The military feature of the Order is the backbone of the Knights of St. John today. The knights of the present order get their name from the knights of old retaining in their equipment symbols of the armor and teaching of the men who secured the sick and wounded during the crusades.

The emblem of the order is the Maltese cross and its eight points stand for these aims: Poverty in spirit, meekness, sorrow over sin, passion for justice, mercy, cleanliness of heart, peace, suffering for Christ's sake.

The word represents the three cardinal virtues: faith, hope and charity. The chapeau signifies prudence. The letters P.D.E.P. stand for "Pro Deo et Patria" for God and country. The coat signifies the coat of mail worn by the ancient knights.

At the present time the Regiment consists of ten commanderies located in the following parishes: Commandery No. 9, St. Joseph's; Commandery No. 17, Holy Redeemer; Commandery No. 25, St. Boniface; Commandery No. 28, St. Peter; Commandery No. 38, St. Paul; Commandery No. 43, St. Michael; Commandery No. 106, St. Patrick; Commandery No. 197, Holy Family; Commandery No. 272, St. Francis Xavier.

NUMEROUS BENEFITS OFFERED BY KNIGHTS

Benefits deriving from membership in the Knights of St. John are being pointed out during the current campaign. These benefits include welfare of the members in the matter of sickness and death, social activities and sports.

Sick and Accident
Each Commandery of the Rochester Regiment provides the necessary committees for the proper protection of its sick and injured members.

Any member who by reason of illness or injury becomes unable to attend to his duties is entitled to benefits from the funds of the Commandery on the conditions and limitations provided for in the By-Laws. Such benefits are no longer considered a charity, but as a fulfillment of the contract the Commandery has made with each of its members.

Death
The majority of the Commanderies pay a death benefit to families of deceased members. In some commanderies a small amount is paid on the death of a member's wife.

Life Insurance
In connection with the Supreme Commandery of the Knights of St. John there is established an institution called the Widow and Orphan Department.

ORDER FIRST STARTED HERE

Knights of St. John Growth Widespread; Local, Record Cited

Organization of the Knights of St. John throughout the United States dates back to July 20, 1873 when there was organized in St. Joseph's parish, Rochester, N. Y. a society known as the "German Catholic Union of Knights of St. Mauritius." Shortly after it merged into a uniformed organization and members equipped themselves with tricorn hats, shoulder straps, swords and belts.

The principal purposes of this Order were music and literary entertainments for the members and their families, payment of death benefits to widow or relatives of deceased members, exercising in military movements and forming an important religious and civic events to add splendor and dignity to the occasion.

Impress Delegates
In June, 1874, the Catholic Central Veterans of America and its 200th annual National convention in Rochester and the German Catholic Union of Knights of St. Mauritius acted as escort to the delegates.

The Knights made such a favorable impression upon the delegates, both local and visiting, that many returned to their homes determined to form organizations of the same type.

During the "70s military societies were being organized in several of the Rochester parishes but they operated independently until 1879. In May of that year, the Most Rev. Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid returned from his first decennial visit to Rome. The occasion was one for a general demonstration of the various societies in a mammoth parade. The splendid showing that the uniformed societies made caused much favorable comment. The idea was conceived to form a central unit of all military organizations.

A meeting of representatives of various uniformed societies was held at the Knights of St. John Assembly Rooms July 13, 1879 and the Roman Catholic Uniformed Union organized. Colonel George A. Regy was selected as Commander-in-Chief of the Union and Colonel Louis Ernst of Civil War fame was chosen the first President.

Spreads to Other Cities
Following the Central Veterans Convention of 1874 the example set by Rochester was followed closely by Buffalo where it took firm root. Commanderies came into existence in Washington, D. C., Cincinnati, Baltimore, Detroit, Syracuse, Denver, Dayton, Toronto, Louisville and Columbus. Each commandery had its own individual laws and followed its own discretion in regard to uniforms and equipment. Some appeared with helmets of steel or brass bedecked with feathers of all possible colors, shining breastplates and enormous boots. On Oct. 16, 1879 a few men who were members of local commanderies of Catholic Knights in Baltimore, Washington and Cincinnati met at Baltimore to consider and discuss the question of the formation of a national organization that would result in a merger of union of the various bodies of Catholic Knights in this country. After due deliberation it was decided to form such a body with the election of officers and the selection of the name "The Roman Catholic Union of Knights of St. John."

The next convention was held at Cincinnati in 1880. Representatives were present from Rochester and other points. Commanderies of the "Flour City" became units of the national body.

Aid Widow and Orphan
Most successful conventions were held at Buffalo in 1881 and Cleveland in 1882 when delegates came from points as distant as Vicksburg and Jackson, Miss. At the latter convention the Widow and Orphan department was organized on the mutual insurance plan. Rochester was host to its first convention in 1883.

At the Chicago convention in 1885 a resolution was adopted to incorporate the organization under the name of "The Roman Catholic Union of the Knights of St. John." On May 9, 1886 an act was passed by the legislature of the State of New York a decade later at Evansville, Ind., a resolution was passed that in the act of incorporation the name be changed to "Knights of St. John."

An important feature of the Louisville, Ky. convention of 1888 was the adoption of a standard uniform for all commanderies.

Today besides the United States, commanderies are also in existence in Trinidad, Jamaica, Costa Rica and Panama Canal Zone.

Turn Out Often
Since the formation of the Rochester Regiment in 1879, the commanderies, both individually and collectively have participated in numerous religious, civic, military and social functions. At practically all of the church cornerstone layings as well as the cornerstone laying of St. Bernard's Seminary, July 23, 1923, Pole dedication at the Cemetery.

AUXILIARY TO AID CAMPAIGN

Supreme President Heads Rochester District Auxiliary Women

Headed by Mrs. Teresa Ganster who has served as Supreme President of the Ladies Auxiliary for 26 years, members of the Auxiliary here will co-operate in the Knights' campaign and will work actively to increase their membership.

Officers of the Ladies District Auxiliary are: Spiritual Advisor, the Rev. Bernard J. Gofoli; President, Teresa Ganster; Past President, Mary Hauke; First Vice President, Elizabeth Dent; Second Vice President, Mary Keller; Recording and Corresponding Secretary, Mary Dalton; Financial Secretary, Louis Honer; Treasurer, vacant due to the death last week of Elizabeth Gaffney, who held the office for many years; Messenger, Rose Fromm; Sentinel, Gertrude Beard; Guard, Ida Worthington; Board of Trustees, Zola Flannigan, Minnie Rosambach, Mary Trabold.

1891, the Knights participated. Knights of St. John conventions held in Rochester in 1883, 1898, and 1924 gained city-wide attention and mammoth street parades were viewed by thousands.

The Rochester Regiment has ever been willing to serve as escorts for other organizations. Conventions of the Catholic Central Veterans of America and the Knights of Columbus as well as the Holy Name Society rallies have found the uniformed knights considering it an honor and a privilege to assist other Catholic lay organizations.

Each year on a Sunday in June nearest to the Feast of St. John the Baptist, a Memorial Field Mass is offered at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery for the deceased members of the order. A beautiful altar is erected for the occasion. Graves of deceased knights are decorated with American and Knights of St. John flags. The Field Mass attracts a large throng yearly.

The Knights of St. John each year appear at the Blessing of the Graves ceremonies at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery to escort the Most Rev. Archbishop. This past year it was a distinct honor for the Regiment to assist the Monroe County branch of the American Legion at the Memorial Field Mass and Flag Pole dedication at the Cemetery.

Knights of St. John

Indorsed by the Catholic hierarchy and clergy of the country

America's largest Catholic semi-military organization invites every practical Catholic between the ages of sixteen and fifty to join its ranks.

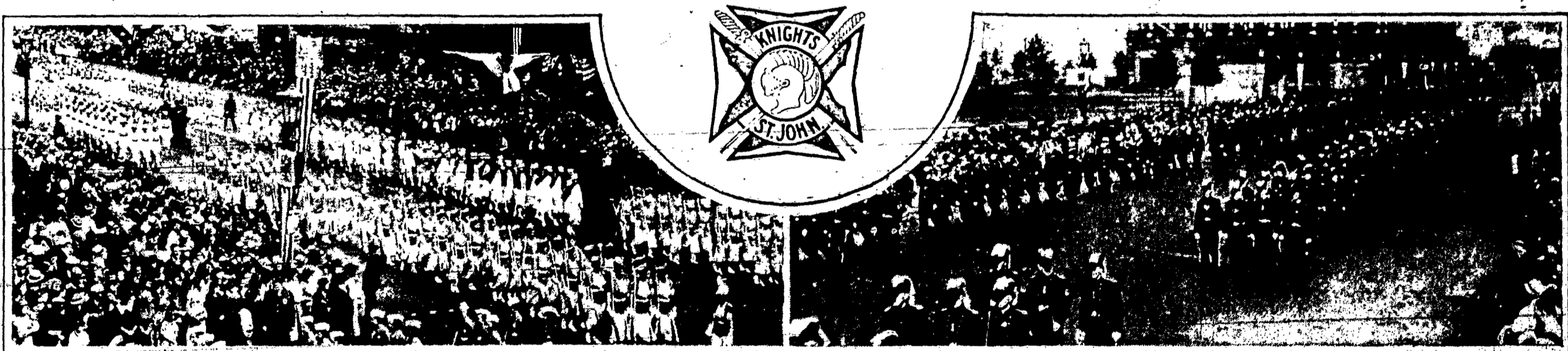
Initiation fees and dues reduced within reach of everyone.
Non-uniformed members accepted

Why Every Practical Catholic Man or Lady Should Be a Member of the Knights of St. John

- IT AFFORDS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTICE CATHOLIC ACTION, BY PUBLIC PROFESSION OF FAITH.
- It stimulates religious fervor by participating in religious functions.
- Broadens your acquaintance and friendships and affords an opportunity to associate with men and ladies of your faith, and to hear and take part in discussions on topics of general interest from a Catholic viewpoint.
- It provides protection and aid in the event of sickness or death.
- It provides for your enjoyment an abundance of social and athletic activities.
- The Military training assures physical development and manly bearing. It teaches self-reliance.

Indulged Prayers for the Knights of St. John

- Every time they don their uniform and say the prayer:
"May the Lord clothe me a new man, who is created in justice and truth."
300 Days
- Every time that for any function whatever they put on their cap or chapeau and recite the prayer:
"Place, O Lord on my head the helmet of Salvation, that I may overcome the assaults of Satan."
300 Days
- These indulgences to be gained at least with a contrite heart.—Plus XI, Nov. 13, 1923.



Pictures taken at the Seventh National Eucharistic Congress, held in Cleveland. All who attended will long remember the prominent part taken by the Knights of St. John and the Ladies' Auxiliary in this great event.

ITS HISTORY

The Knights of St. John have a long and illustrious history. The order was founded in Jerusalem in 1099 by the Crusaders. It has since spread throughout the world, and today it is one of the largest and most active of the Catholic orders. The Knights of St. John are known for their military and medical services, and for their devotion to the sick and wounded. The order has a rich tradition of service and sacrifice, and its members are proud to carry on the legacy of the original knights.

MILITARY FEATURE

The Knights of St. John are a semi-military organization, and as such, they have a strong military tradition. Members are trained in military drill, marksmanship, and other military skills. The order also has a long history of military service, and many of its members have served in the armed forces. The military aspect of the order is one of its most distinctive features, and it is a source of pride for its members.

JOIN NOW AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE REDUCED INITIATION FEE AND ENJOY THE MANY BENEFITS OF THIS GREAT ORGANIZATION.

HOW TO JOIN
Consult any member of the Knights of St. John and he will be pleased to give you all additional information you may desire and sponsor your application. Or fill out the accompanying coupon and mail it to the Secretary, Captain John G. Bittner, 120 Versailles Road, Rochester, N. Y.

COUPON
Name: _____
Address: _____
Age: _____
I am a member of _____ Parish

Social and Athletic Features

The Knights of St. John offer a wide range of social and athletic features for their members. There are many opportunities for social activities, such as dinners, dances, and other events. The order also has a strong athletic tradition, and many members participate in sports and other athletic activities. These features are an important part of the order's appeal, and they provide a great way for members to get to know each other and to enjoy the benefits of membership.

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

The Knights of St. John have a long history of providing insurance benefits for their members. The order's insurance department offers a variety of policies, including life insurance, fire insurance, and other types of coverage. The insurance benefits provided by the order are one of its most valuable features, and they provide a great source of financial security for its members.

NEW COMMANDERIES

A new commandery may be organized in any parish. It requires the signature of at least three practical Catholics men who have the consent of the Pastor. Anyone desiring to organize a commandery has but to fill in the accompanying coupon and mail it to the Secretary, Captain John G. Bittner, 120 Versailles Road, Rochester, N. Y., and he will be given every possible assistance by the officers of the organization.

Classes of Membership

Uniformed members are equipped and qualified to serve in the Uniformed Rank. Non-Uniformed members are not equipped with a Uniform. Active Membership dues entitle the member to all benefits and rights granted by his commandery.