

# K of C council to celebrate first year in Auburn

By Lee Strong  
Staff writer

AUBURN — When Father John Gagnier became pastor at St. Francis of Assisi Church last July, he immediately noticed one deficiency.

"The parish didn't have any men's organizations," the priest recalled.

Himself a member of the Knights of Columbus for 15 years, Father Gagnier quickly amended the situation.

A year later, the parish at 185 Clark St. has scheduled an outdoor Mass at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 14 to mark its first anniversary as the home for Knights of Columbus Council 10709.

According to Father Gagnier, Aug. 14 also marks the death in 1890 of Father Michael McGivney. The New Haven, Conn., priest created the fraternal organization in 1882 to meet the spiritual and social needs of Catholic men, and to provide them with low-cost life insurance.

Father McGivney's ideal, the Auburn pastor commented, "was having a council in every parish."

One council — 207 — served the entire Auburn community until Council 10709 was established.

"We felt that the City of Auburn was large enough to support more than one council," Father Gagnier said.

The priest then quickly gathered 38 prospective members to meet the requirement necessary to receive a charter from the national Knights of Columbus.

Peter DeBellis was one of the new council's charter members, serving as its deputy grand knight until earlier this summer.

DeBellis, who will attend St. Augustine College at the University of Toronto to study for the priesthood this fall, said he had been a member of Council 207 for approximately 15 years.

He joined the new organization, he said, because Father McGivney's emphasis had been on parish-based councils.



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor  
(Clockwise from top left) Peter DeBellis, Jim Lesario, Matthew Salemi and Frank Netti are among the 42 members of Knights of Columbus Council 10709.

In addition, he saw many benefits to St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

"We've tried basically to promote parish life and family life in the St. Francis community," DeBellis said.

Ed Guerrette, the council's grand knight and another charter member, joined the new organization even though he is a parishioner of St. Mary's Church, 17 Clark St.

"I was asked to join," Guerrette ex-



A statue of Christopher Columbus stands in a park across the street from the council's home, St. Francis of Assisi Church in Auburn.

plained. "I know a lot of individuals who go to (St. Francis of Assisi). I just like being involved in the community."

Thus far, Guerrette said, the new council — which has grown to 42 members — has focused on organization, recruiting and training.

The council has also taken part in clean-up activities around the church and the former school building — which now serves as the parish center — where the council holds its monthly meetings. In addition, members participated in the city-wide census Auburn parishes conducted this spring.

The new organization also plans to host a benefit spaghetti dinner in the parish center after the 5:15 p.m. Mass Aug. 8, noted charter member Matthew Salemi, who also interprets the council's laws as its advocate.

The dinner's proceeds will be used to help DeBellis as he prepares to study for service as a priest in the Rochester diocese, Salemi said.

DeBellis noted that, at first, Council 207 had feared that St. Francis of Assisi's organization would hurt its membership. On the contrary, the new group has bolstered interest in the Knights.

"They've increased their membership considerably," DeBellis said. "And there's a new council at Sts. Peter and Paul (Ukrainian) Parish. So there's three councils in Auburn, now."

Guerrette is looking forward to greater cooperation among the councils in the future.

"It's a fraternal organization," the grand knight said. "We hope to work together in order to achieve certain goals, for certain charitable functions, that the whole city needs."

Salemi, too, would like to see the Knights play a greater part in Auburn's Catholic scene.

"It's a Catholic organization, and we can always use more Catholic organizations," Salemi stated. "A Catholic organization like this is good for everybody."

## Diocesan Appointments

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the following diocesan appointment, effective Aug. 5, 1992:

Father Arthur Tuttle, C.Ss.R., assistant pastor in the Diocese of Erie, Pa., to parochial vicar at Our Lady of Victory/St. Joseph's Church in Rochester.

## New officials named to quadrant board

ROCHESTER — The Northeast Quadrant Governance Board has experienced changes in personnel over the past month.

Mark Greisberger, of St. Ambrose Parish, was elected the board's chairman, and Jane Neis, of St. Cecilia's Church, was elected secretary.

New parish representatives on the board are: Patrick Bates, St. Margaret Mary; Nancy Bentivega, Christ the King; Michael Bradshaw, Annunciation; Patricia Guiler, St. Thomas the Apostle; Eugene Oberst, St. Andrew; and Rodolfo Rivera, St. Stanislaus.

Floriana Leone, of Christ the King School, will serve as principal representative; Father John Quinn of St. Margaret Mary will serve as pastor representative; and Mary Jo Housel, Shelly Knapp and Ronald Passantino will each serve as parent representatives.

The positions take effect Aug. 1.

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- Sculpture
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- Folk Art
- Clay Flutes
- Basketry
- Metalsmithing

...more

### ENTERTAINMENT

#### SATURDAY

Sally Fox Stills Dancer Extraordinaire 10am  
Jack Mountain Cloggers 11am and Noon  
SageHeart Puppets 1pm, 3pm and 5pm  
The Woody's  
Rock-n-Rhythm Band 2pm and 4pm

#### SUNDAY

Sally Fox Stills Dancer Extraordinaire 10am  
Black Mountain Cloggers 11am and Noon  
SageHeart Puppets 1pm, 3pm and 5pm  
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