



ISSUE 001 APRIL./MAY 2007

KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA
THAMES VALLEY - PROVINCE 23
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THE VALLEY

NEWS AND VIEW FROM THE COUNCILS ~ DIDCOT . OXFORD
SLOUGH . WINDSOR . READING . HIGH WYCOMBE . STAINES . ASCOT .

Dear Brothers,

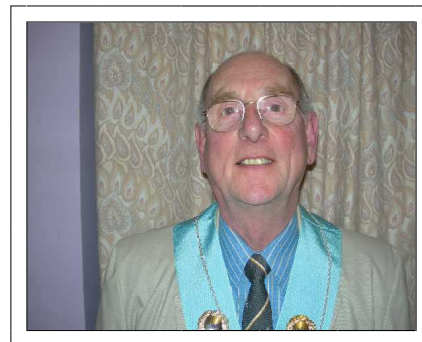
I would like to take this opportunity in the first issue of our new Provincial Newsletter to thank you all for deeming me worthy to be your Provincial Grand Knight. It is a great honour for me and I shall endeavour to carry out my duties in the spirit of Charity, Fraternity and Unity.

I pay tribute to the Provincial officers who were installed by Bro. Jim Wall on Monday 13th March. I thank them all for their willingness to take office, (in some instances 'again') and have all confidence that we can serve province well, AS LONG AS, we have EVERYONE'S support.

I would like to pay tribute to all our Ladies who support us and offer their encouragement which we can sometimes take for granted. Ladies, you are so important to the success of the Province and Order and we really do appreciate you and all your efforts.

I can only hope that all our Grand Knights will be feeling the same pride in their office, with a determination to lead their councils to continued success and sustainability. We have so much talent and enthusiasm in so many of our Brothers which we must try to tap in to so that we can drive the Province forward and all enjoy the fruits of our labours.

I am very conscious of all the real hard work by our provincial founders which enabled the Province to be started in the first place. We owe it to them to at least strive to keep our province buoyant and successful. There was a world of slower mail, slower transport, less



affluence and admittedly, much less distraction than we have now, but with exactly the same Aims and Objectives which are as relevant today as then. Maybe more so in fact.

We have some very exciting plans and I hope you will all respond in a positive way. It is amazing what a fantastic feeling "success" gives.

Brothers, we all belong to one Order and our province is an important element of our Order. If you think you need or want help-please ask.

Yours Fraternally,
Bro. David Sole
Provincial Grand Knight
Thames Valley - Province 23

Immediate Past Provincial
Grand Knight
Johnnie Johnson.

I would like to pay tribute to Brother Johnnie who stepped in to the breach at very short notice when Brother Gerry Glynn sadly went to his Eternal Rest. It was a difficult time and I know Johnnie would have really preferred to stay out of the limelight. But he took the task on and carried it out with vigour and

gentle enthusiasm while still giving full support to his own Council in High Wycombe. He visited most of the councils in Province offering encouragement and advice, and represented us at many meetings and functions during his term of office, including the Board/PGKs meetings, Supreme Council and regular meetings in London for the Southern area PGKs committee. I would like to think he can sit back and enjoy some peace, but I know he won't because there is always so much to do for someone with his experience. He led us through a very unsettling time when dissolution and or amalgamation of Provinces was being discussed by the Board. Thankfully for all of us that appears to have passed now and we can look forward to some regeneration of activity by all the councils in Province 23. Finally, a very big "thank you" to Sally who supported and encouraged Johnnie so much during his term in Office.

On behalf of us all in province Johnnie and Sally, many thanks for all your efforts.

David Sole. PGK Province 23.



MEMBERSHIP

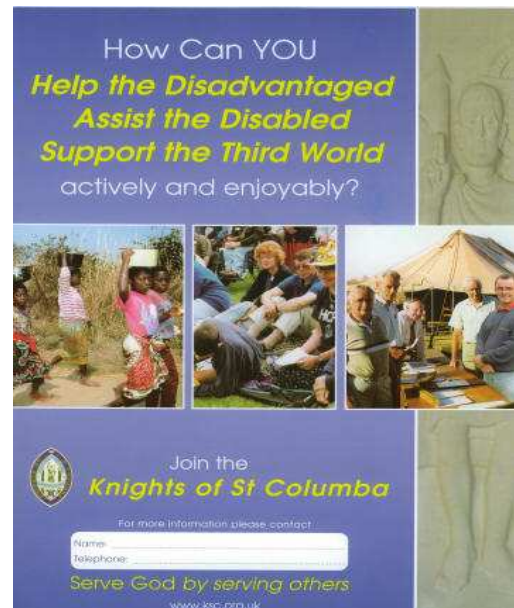
I feel honoured to have been asked to look after Membership and Development at Province 23, only a year after arriving here from Province 30 Westminster Western.

At 67 years old, I suppose one is considered a 'youngster' in the KSC, which says a lot for the way membership and recruitment has been declining in the Order. I do not profess to have any magical solutions to put this right, but I am going to give it a lot of my time in the coming year, to try and convince our current Brothers, that there is a way in which we can recruit some more brothers in each of the Councils, and in so doing, stem the downward slide and with God's help bring some more workers into the vineyard.

Talking and lamenting about problems do not do anything to correct them, and we all do a lot of talking. What one needs is **<ACTION>**. So the first thing I want to work at with you (all the brothers), is to start off by looking at what we have available.

The Order has overhauled its recruitment materials and now has a very presentable set of posters and flyers.

<ACTION>..... I want each Grand Knight in each of our eight councils to obtain a set of posters, write his name on each one and get the Parish Priest's permission to put these up in the porch of each and every one of the parishes in your area.



In addition... get six of the KSC flyers to each parish, with your contact details, and also have these on the tables in the porches.

The final part of this **<ACTION>** is to contact your parish secretaries, or the person(s) who prepare the Parish Sunday news letter, and have the following included in the Parish news letter for the next 4-weeks.

E.g.

THE KNIGHTS of ST. COLUMBA in (your own parish name) are looking for new members. Anyone interested, can pick literature/application form from the porch. Contact (your name) on (your phone number) or (your Email address).

This action can be carried out by anyone in your Council. The fact that the membership is small, or that the brothers are old or any other reason, should not stop you from taking this action in the next few days.

It is not too much to ask. It is less demanding than carrying out a recruitment campaign, and it reaches each and every member of the parish community in your Parish. This kind of recruitment is a kind of **modern day one-on-one recruitment.**

If you have 3-or more

parishes in your council area, you could be reaching hundreds of men. If for any reason you are not happy with putting your name and details, you are free to use my name and details (found at the end of DEVELOPMENT)....but please do something about it right now. I will be getting in touch with you in the near future to find out how its going, and hopefully at the next Provincial meeting you can all bring in your Parish News letter with the entry, and be able to report back that the initiative had produced results.

I have a good supply of the posters and flyers, if anyone cannot get them directly from Glasgow Head Office. Please call me and I will arrange to get some to you to help you launch the initiative.



Free Offer

BEING PREPARED.....

Nearly in every case, the first question a prospective recruit will ask you will be

“WHAT DO YOU DO ? “

Being a Knight is more than camaraderie;

I am sure you do remember when you were first recruited, the full program of activities that used to take place. The objective here is to get back to that over the next year or so. Remember a Council that does not do anything, or does not work in the Parish in **the name of the KSC** is on a slippery slope to anonymity.

I have a list of what the KSC does, which I will list down here to help, but I am sure I have left some out, so I invite you to Email me or call me with the

OTHER things we do. :

- We get involved in the community.
- We support the local Catholic church.
- The KSC helps to enhance our faith.
- We defend the sanctity of family life.
- We defend catholic convictions.
- We pray for deceased brothers.
- We look after and help Brothers widows.
- We support catholic organizations e,g,
SPUC HCPT PRO-LIFE etc
- We work with the schools and youth.
- We help local hospice.

I think this is a good start....I do not want to frighten you off.... But you will be hearing more about Membership and Recruitment in the next few months. Remember membership is the responsibility of each and every member of the order. The post of Provincial (Council) membership officer, is a token leadership title, the work is done by the troops, in the spirit of Unity, Love and Fraternity.

DEVELOPMENT

The other part of my Provincial brief is Development. I do not particularly like the term. It is another word for TRAINING, which is also another word that does not excite me very much in the current circumstances, when most of the membership have been Knights for years, longer than I have been in long trousers.

I do however think there is scope for the ‘spirit’ of the words and I intend to focus on converting the objectives behind the vocabulary into action. Province 30, where I come from is a much bigger Province that this one, and nearly double the number of Councils. Some of them were struggling in the same way some of our Councils are, but I believe that some (not all) of the malaise lies in the departure from the observance of some of the KSC chamber ceremonials.

The saying

If one does not fly like a duck
If one does not swim like a duck
If one does not quack like a duck
One is **not** a duck !! *Comes to mind.*

I am very concerned that some Councils may not be laying the council chamber out in the sign of the Cross, some may not be dressing the table, placing the cross and the gable, or may not be displaying their charter. This is not critical but a meeting that does not start in this way is not a proper Council meeting. I hope that in my visits to the



Councils of Province 23, I will be proved to be wrong in each of these observations. If not I may have a lot of work to do in convincing one, that preserving the Council chamber procedures and giving the opportunity to each office to present a report with substance, is really the beginning and the end of a council.

This kind of training is not really training, but getting ready to fulfill the promise we made when we were initiated. If you like, I am going to invite Brothers and Councils to renew the equivalent of their marriage vows !!.

BRO. Tony Berkeley
 Provincial Membership & Development
 THAMES VALLEY PROVINCE 23
 Email: twany11@hotmail.com
 Tel : 01344 883 363

THE PROVINCIAL PROJECT

There is a real need to promote the working together of the Councils of Province 23. This will strengthen our Fraternal ethos, while at the same time help put into practice some of the things we the Knights profess to do.

The main stepping stones to setting up a Provincial project is to make sure that all Councils will get a feeling of ownership and association. To achieve this, all the eight Councils are invited to put forward 'a cause or an organization' that they wish to fund raise for.

Obviously, if a Council wishes to champion a cause, that Council will be prepared to put together a presentation to the other Councils to explain what their cause/organization is all about. Bro. David Sole is therefore throwing open an invitation to every Council who wishes to sponsor a project, to put forward their presentation to the rest of the Councils. Each presenter will get about 5 minutes to make their bid towards the end of April. The presentation may take any form one wishes. This will give each Council an opportunity to discuss this at their April Council meeting. Participating Councils need to contact the Provincial Action (Youth and Social)

Officer, Bro John Lynn in writing/Email by the 30th April to announce their subject.

A presentation (at a date early May) will give Council representatives the opportunity to vote for the most popular cause/organisation. The launch of the Provincial Project in aid of the winning project will be announced at the Clergy's Dinner evening on 17th May 2007.

From that date onwards, all eight Councils will be asked to support the project for the coming 12-months. Different Councils will be free to organize their own fund raising events and the collective proceeds from all the Councils will go towards a presentation cheque at the following Clergy's dinner (2008) to which a representative from the selected cause will be invited.

The amounts raised are not the top objective, although it will be nice to have a reasonable cheque to present. In some Provinces this can be several thousands of pounds. All our Councils, I am sure will do their best. The main objective of the scheme is to promote ACTION in a spirit of Fraternity and Unity.

Depending on the circumstances at each Council, and being mindful that some councils are very low on membership, being small should not stop one from dreaming up schemes that will bring in funds. One is not restricted to one event, and several can be organized over the 12-months. If a Council feels it needs help from other Councils, there should not be any reason why one cannot ask.

A council with low membership may also find it useful to generate interest amongst other Non-KSC groups in your parish, to help you run the event(s) - the UCM, SVP, Youth groups and other parish groups may be invited to help. This will mean that you may have to return the favour when they are running events themselves..... But what's wrong with that?

I hope that by the next issue of The Valley, I will be able to announce the chosen project to be used in the inaugural run of the Provincial project.

DO NOT FORGET THE LADIES
They are invaluable team members.





COMMUNICATIONS

PROVINCIAL TEAM 2007 ~ 2008



On Monday 12th March, a new Province 23 team was installed. It is important that each Council have a record of who to call on, when they need help or wishes to discuss anything to do with the KSC.

Grand Knight :	Bro. David Sole	Email: david_sole@hotmail.com
	Tel : 01494 527 820	
DGK & Membership	Bro Tony Berkeley	Email : twany11@hotmail.com
	Tel : 01344 883 363	
Spirituality & Welfare	Bro. Tony O'Neill	Email : c/o gerardcashman@tiscali.co.uk
	Tel : 01189 873 784	
Treasurer	Bro. John Osborne	Email : blackbird@osbornejohn.fsnet.co.uk
	Tel : 01494 440 654	
Action	Bro. John Lynn	Email : jlynn@QinetiQ.com
	Tel : 01628 636 668	
Secretary	Bro. Peter Skinner	Email: peterskinner@chaseview.fsbusiness.co.uk
	Tel : 01628 634 333	
Social	Bro. Jim Webster	
	Tel : 01344 494 378	



FOR YOUR DIARY



FOR
FURTHER
DETAILS
CONTACT Bro.
Jim Webster
01344 494 378

Please pencil the following dates in :

It is important that as many Knights as possible participate in events and meetings - Please try and attend wherever possible.

SKITTLE & QUIZ WEDNESDAY 25th April

CLERGY DINNER THURSDAY 17th May

PROVINCIAL MEETING MONDAY 4th June

LADIES DINNER EVENING FRIDAY 20th July



Editor : Tony Berkeley 81 Ranelagh Crescent Ascot SL5 8LQ Tel : 01344 883 383 Email: twany11@hotmail.com

The Editor welcomes contributions for the next issue which should reach him by 15th May 2007.
Opinions expressed in articles and letters are those of the authors only.

PROVINCIAL MEETINGS

Province 23 and its Provincial Officers are determined that they will work hard for the good of the Councils they represent. We are all concerned at the drop in membership, while at the same time full of admiration for those Councils who even with a handful of Brothers are hanging on.

We would like ALL Councils to be represented at the Provincial Council meetings, by the Grand Knight and wherever possible for him to be accompanied by the DGK or other officer.

With this in mind - We want to hear from you and we will also be calling you to urge you to all send a representative to the next Provincial Council meeting at :

Our Lady of Peace Church
338 Wokingham Road
Earley Reading RG6 7DA
8:00pm on 4th June
(RSVP : David Sole PGK)



April Deceased Brothers

Bro.VG Mance 194 ; Bro J Hamill 301 ; Bro T Costello 194
Bro J Gordon 568 ; Rev Kirk 301 ; Bro J Flood 590
Bro. J :Law 301 ; Bro W Peachey 422 ;Bro W O Busfield 416
Bro SJ Carbacho 422 ; Bro. W de.Silva 590

May Deceased Brothers

Canon Longinotto 301; Bro. JJ Deegan 226 ;
Bro. E Fitzgerald 194; Bro. P O'Shea 568;
Bro. B Aggett 422 ; Bro. F Barter 416 ;
Bro.V Mather 593; Bro L Arnold PSK;
Bro. A Conway 194; Bro JC Mayne 416
Bro.P Austin PSK

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord
And may perpetual light shine upon them
And may they rest in Peace - Amen