

Knights of Columbus
Father Ragan Council
No. 3269



A
History

The
First 50 Years

Father Ragan Council
Charter Members

James A. Resar	Ralph J. Carlson
Robert P. DeChant	William Emling
R.J. Geib	Thomas B. Hricovec Sr.
Noel S. Ilg	Allan Klingshirn
Albert Knipper	Dominic Mass
Cyril Miller	Eugene Nagel
Adelbert Novotny	Louis Tarone
Joe Novotny	Don Urig
Ray Novotny	R. Pilarsky
Charles Vorisek Jr.	Patsy Gerrone
Charles F. Vorisek Sr.	Robert W. Burkhardt
Ray C. Vorisek	Norman Traxler
W. Vorisek	Rocco Gannelli
Clarence Alten	Al Hassel
William Bommer	T.J. Ridsen
Norman Ebach	Clifford Barschow
Clem Hassel	Elmer DeChant
Frank Krizek	John Goldbach
George Milbrandt	James King
Edward Surman	John McKimm
J.B. Hlebak	Jack O'Brien
B.J. Tadych	P.J. McKim

History Highlights of

- Jan. 15, 1950 Charter from Supreme Council.
- Jan. 19, 1950 First Father Ragan Council meeting held.
- Oct. 14, 1951 First Council Clambake held, at St. Joseph Parish Hall, Avon Lake.
- April 6, 1954 A Permanent Building Committee is appointed.
- August 5, 1954 Isabella Guild founded.
- January, 1956 The Columbian Club, Inc., formed
- May, 1959 The first Council Newsletter, the ***Knight Messenger***.
- July 1, 1959 The first payment is made to purchase five acres of property on Moore Rd. for the K of C Hall.
- May 4, 1961 Council votes to borrow an amount up to \$60,000 to construct a building.
- June 8, 1961 Roman Klingshirn appointed as Business Manager of the Columbian Club for construction of the K of C Hall.
- July, 1961 Construction of the K of C Hall begins.
- March, 1962 St. Patrick's Day dance held at nearly completed K of C Hall
- May 27, 1962 Dedication Mass for K of C Hall held at Holy Trinity Church, Avon; breakfast at the new Hall; Open House in afternoon; banquet in evening.
- April 5, 1966 The start of Bingo at our K of C Hall
- Jan. 15, 1967 17th Anniversary Dinner held.
- May 4, 1967 The start of honoring the council's Immediate Past Grand Knight.
- June, 1970 Father Ragan Council 150 Club is formed.
- May, 1972 The start of the council's Scholarship Program
- January, 1975 25th Anniversary Dinner/Dance held.

Father Ragan Council

- Sept. 1, 1976 Construction starts on the outdoor pavilion; completed in Spring, 1977.
- May 26, 1984 Father Ragan Council honored at State Convention as No. 1 council in State of Ohio.
- May 26, 1984 Father Ragan Council nomination of Avon Lake youth named Ohio's Outstanding Youth of the Year.
- May, 1985 Council Chaplain Rev. Edward Dickard honored as Ohio's Chaplain of the Year.
- December, 1985 First Senior Citizens Holiday Dinner served.
- July 31, 1986 A "joint venture" was started between Father Ragan Council and St. Joseph Parish, Avon Lake -- a picnic on the St. Joseph grounds for mentally retarded citizens of Murray Ridge Center, Our Lady of the Wayside and other agencies .
- March, 1990 Establishment of The Roman Klingshirn Distinguished Knight Award.
- May, 1992 PGK Tom Whitfield honored as Ohio's Knight of the Year.
- September, 1994 Queen of Peace Council No. 3576, Rocky River, merges with Father Ragan Council.
- September, 1995 Establishment of Father Ragan Council Charitable Foundation, Inc.
- April, 1997 Fr. Dickard Squires Circle of Father Ragan Council founded.
- May, 1997 PGK Ray DeChant honored as Ohio's Knight of the Year.
- June, 1997 Sister Dorothy Kazel Squirettes of Mary Circle of Father Ragan Council founded.
- May, 1998 Council Chaplain, Rev. Leo Dechant, honored as Ohio's Chaplain of the Year.

Organizing The Council

In the post-World War II years of the mid and late 1940's, Avon and Avon Lake remained basically rural communities.

Avon still resembled what German settlers found when they arrived in the early 1800's. It was a community based on farming.

Avon Lake, between Lake Erie and what then were the Nickel Plate Road tracks, was beginning to show some growth with the post-war housing boom and industrial explosion.

Two Catholic Churches, founded by different sects of German settlers, were located in Avon. Both included parochial schools. Holy Trinity Parish, founded in 1833, originally was located on Jaycox Rd., south of Detroit Rd. A new church later would be built at the northwest corner of Detroit and Lear roads. St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception was founded in 1841 along Stoney Ridge Rd., approximately five miles west of Holy Trinity.

For years, residents of Avon Lake had to drive to one of the Avon churches for Mass. But with the post-war boom along the lake, a new church was being founded. By 1948, St. Joseph Church stood facing Lake Rd., west of what now is Rt. 83.

Yes, there were many Catholic families living in Avon and Avon Lake.

Two Knights of Columbus councils in Lorain County were among the oldest in Ohio -- Lorain Council 637 and Elyria Council 774. They were the only councils in the county -- or for miles around, for that matter.

During an evening Knights of Columbus social function in Cleveland sometime in 1948, an officer of the Ohio State Council approached James Resar, who at that time was a District Deputy and Chancellor of Elyria Council 774.

"There are a lot of Catholic men in the Avon and Avon Lake area," he was told. "Perhaps they would be interested in joining the Knights of Columbus.

"Why don't you start a council for Avon and Avon Lake?"

Father Ragan Council Grand Knights

1. James Resar * **	26. Chris Hopiard
2. Al Hassel *	27. Fred Berner
3. John O'Brien *	28. Adam Abfall
4. John Gannelli	29. Jerry Briggs
5. Rocco Gannelli *	30. Tom Bruner
6. Walter Kowalski	31. Frank Konya
7. Tom Hricovec Sr. *	32. Ted Schmitz
8. Roman Klingshirn	33. James Treece
9. Al Boutin	34. James Bruder
10. Robert DeChant *	35. James Black
11. Edward Peters	36. Jack Newlin ****
12. William Mayton	37. Tom Czarney
13. Carl Rink Jr.	38. Vince Gargaro
14. Curt Marling	39. Tom Whitfield
15. John Holliday ***	40. Harding Christ
16. R.P. LaScola	41. Mike Abfall
17. Joseph Richvalsky	42. Ray DeChant
18. Bernie Bruder Sr.	43. Roberto Cobos
19. Larry Allen	44. Russell Wearsch
20. Vince Orlosky	45. Gene Arwood
21. Fred Mingoia	46. Ray DeChant
22. Ralph Reising	47. Joe Greiner
23. Frank Eber Sr.	48. Richard Stuart
24. Gerry Krebs	49. Dale Kirsch
25. William Korney	50. Vic Sedivec

* Charter Member

*** Served 1 month in office

** Served 2 consecutive years

**** Passed away in office ###

DD Resar thought about the idea and decided to give it a try.

Thus began the saga of Knights of Columbus Father Ragan Council, a council with a small band of 44 Charter Members when it received its Supreme Council Charter on Jan. 15, 1950, to a council that has grown to more than 450 Brother Knights, most from Avon and Avon Lake, but representation from many surrounding communities.

* * *

It was the summer of 1948 that work was started on forming a council -- work that would consume 18 months before the council would become a reality.

Brother Resar enlisted the help of Jake Light, the Knights of Columbus General Insurance Agent for the area. They, in turn, sought

See addendum for additional names

the help of Catholic parish pastors -- Fr. Leo Warth, of Holy Trinity; Fr. Sturber, of St. Mary's, and Fr. Carl Wernet, of the new St. Joseph Parish in Avon Lake. They also contacted the pastor of St. Teresa Parish, Sheffield.

"Would you help us start a Knights of Columbus council," the pastors were asked.

"Yes," was their united reply.

Brothers Resar and Light obtained the lists of men in the parishes, made contacts and met with them individually in their homes. They held meetings in the basement of the Holy Trinity Hall, with permission of Fr. Warth. They held meetings in the barn behind Brother Resar's home on Jaycox Rd., Avon Lake.

Fr. Warth was especially helpful, opening the Holy Trinity Hall for committee meetings without rent. Of course, he did ask a few favors, which the men could not refuse, such as putting a new roof on the Hall, and painting the Hall.

Other councils -- especially West Park Council, Lakewood Council and Elyria Council -- helped, through the transfer of members or enlistment of men in the area.

Finally, all was in place. Forty-four practical Catholic men had agreed to become the nucleus of this new council.

One other matter had to be completed: Giving the council a name. The candidates met at Avon Isle, which was a dance hall, meeting place and lounge. Three names were put into nomination. One of the names was that of Rev. Michael Ragan, nominated by Elmer DeChant.

"I had remembered this young assistant priest at St. Mary's Church. So many of us had liked him very much. He had been killed recently in an automobile accident."

Through a unanimous vote, the name of Father Michael Ragan became the name of Council No. 3269.

It was a cold Sunday morning in January, 1950 -- 6 degrees below zero -- when 44 candidates gathered at the Avon Isle for a combined First and Second Degrees. A Third Degree was held later that day at the hall of the sponsoring council, Elyria Council 774.



Rev. Michael S. Ragan

Fr. Michael S. Ragan was born in Youngstown, Ohio, educated at SS. Cyril and Methodius School and South High School. He entered St. Mary's Seminary, Cleveland, and was ordained a Priest in May, 1936, by Archbishop Joseph Schrembs. His first assignment was at St. Paul's Church, Cleveland.

On March 5, 1941, he became a Chaplain in the U.S. Army. He served with the Field Artillery Units at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and Barksdale Field, Louisiana, before transferring to the U.S. Army Air Corps, where he was assigned to duty at Kirtland Field, Albuquerque, New Mexico -- the largest bombardier training school in the United States.

Fr. Ragan was Chaplain of the 91st Bombardment Group (heavy) during World War II, stationed at the Royal Air Force (RAF) base at Bassingbourn, England, from 1942-1945.

U.S. servicemen of all faiths knew and respected Fr. Ragan at Bassingbourn.

"Many of us at Bassingbourn weren't Catholic," wrote a member of the 91st Bombardment Group (Heavy) Memorial Association many years later. "In fact, many had no religion. But when it came time to get in our planes and deliver bombs to Nazi Germany, we all

became religious. And we all listened carefully to the words of Fr. Ragan."

In the Memorial Association's April, 1987, newsletter, *The Ragged Irregular*, the following was printed:

"Generally morning light was dim and mist often blurred object outlines when a green flare's signal started engines at wartime Bassingbourn. Soon, more than a mile of 91st BG(H) B-17's lumbered around the perimeter, preparing to swing onto the runway and take off for another strike at Hitler's heartland.

"Sometimes crew members, happening to look in the right direction while their plane began the take-off roll, blinked their eyes in a double-take. There, just beyond the wingtip, at the edge of the grass, stood a priest brandishing a horseshoe!

"The 91st BG(H)'s Catholic Chaplain, Capt. Michael S. Ragan, of Ohio, was quite a guy! Easy going, informal, friend to all. His life was an example of selfless dedication to others. It didn't matter to him whether you were Catholic, of another faith, or "nothing at all". You were important.

"Even animals flocked to his charisma. As he walked around the base he usually was accompanied by tailwagging dogs. Hilary (Bud) Evers, of the 401st Squadron, remembers chancing upon Fr. Ragan on a base path. There was a large congregation of birds, between 25 and 50, clustered around him. As Evers approached, it was apparent that Fr. Ragan was talking to the birds.

"When he finally noticed Evers's presence, Fr. Ragan unabashedly said "Goodbye" to the birds. He then joined Evers, without a word of explanation, and chatted with him as the two continued together down the path."

After the war, Fr. Ragan returned to the Cleveland Diocese. He was assigned as an Assistant at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Avon. He remained at St. Mary's until 1948, when he was transferred to the position of Chaplain at the U.S. Veterans Administration hospitals in Greater Cleveland and Detroit, Michigan.

On August 17, 1949, the car which Fr. Ragan was driving on Brookpark Rd., Cleveland, veered off the road and struck a utility pole. Fr. Ragan was killed. Police said he apparently had fallen asleep at the wheel of his car.

To those Catholic men of St. Mary's Parish who would become

Father Ragan Council Charitable Foundation, Inc.

In 1989, Brother Knights of Father Ragan Council began discussing ways to better raise funds for distribution to charitable causes. It was decided to pursue formation of a charitable foundation.

In September, 1995, the Father Ragan Council Charitable Foundation, Inc., received IRS Section 501(C)(3) tax-exempt organization status.

Charitable distributions were begun in 1996. In the three years ending Dec. 31, 1998, the Father Ragan Council Charitable Foundation, Inc., distributed approximately \$250,000 to charitable causes. Most prominent among those causes annually are the four Catholic Churches of Avon and Avon Lake -- St. Joseph, St. Mary's, Holy Spirit, Holy Trinity -- and the three parish parochial schools of Avon and Avon Lake -- St. Joseph, St. Mary's and Holy Trinity -- as well as the PSR program of Holy Spirit.

Funds from the Charitable Foundation also are distributed as Catholic high school and college scholarships to the youths of our communities. Other distributions have included the Fathers of St. Joseph, who operate the St. Leonard Youth Retreat Center on their 30-acre campus on Case Rd., Avon.

Most all funds raised by the Charitable Foundation come from its Friday Night Bingo Program.

Charter Members of a council that was being formed, Fr. Ragan had left a lasting impression. His name was proposed as the name of the new council. By a unanimous vote of the newly formed Knights of Columbus Council No. 3269, it was named in honor and in memory of Fr. Michael S. Ragan.

"He had learned early in life to serve his fellow man," remembered Rev. Edward Dickard, who was at St. Mary's Seminary with Fr. Ragan in the 1930's. Fr. Dickard was Chaplain Rev. Edward Dickard, Chaplain of Father Ragan Council for more than 22 years, until his death in 1991.

The First Decade 1950-1959

Growing up, and finding finances

The early members of Father Ragan Council were, for the most part, men of the soil -- from grape growers to farmers. A few tradesmen were members, but the council had a rural flavor.

The council moved its meeting places in those early years. For the first three years, it met at the Holy Trinity Hall. Then, when Jack O'Brien became Grand Knight, the council began meeting at the Avon Isle Park. Then it moved to the Central Bank, located on Detroit Road in "downtown" Avon.

Money always was a concern. A bingo program was started at Avon Isle; other fund-raisers were initiated.

And there always was talk of building a hall.

In fact, the first recorded minutes of a council meeting are dated Jan. 2, 1950, when it was decided to hold meetings temporarily at Holy Trinity Hall. But it also was noted in those minutes that "The future of a K of C building was discussed".

James A. Resar, who as a District Deputy had "founded" the council, was elected the first Grand Knight. He would serve two consecutive fraternal years, 1950-1951 and 1951-1952.

The first slate of officers included Aloysius Hassel, Deputy Grand Knight; Jack O'Brien, Chancellor; Adelbert Novotny, Recorder; William Vorisek, Treasurer; Theodore Ridsen, Advocate; Jim Nagel, Warden; Robert DeChant, Inside Guard; Don Urig, Outside Guard. Trustees included Charles Vorisek, John Hlebak and Rocco Gannelli.

The Golden Years . . .

- Teen Dances of the 1960's
- Fish Fries of the 1960's
- The first Night in Rome, Chaired by R.P. LaScola, when the hall was decorated with Roman Pillars and hanging plants.
- The September Steak Roasts, when tickets had to be limited to 325.
- New Year's Eve parties -- when tickets were *limited* to 150 couples.

Chaplain was Fr. Leo Warth, pastor of Holy Trinity Church, and Financial Secretary was Louis Tarone.

In the early 1950's, the council enlisted the help of Brother Knights' wives. On Aug. 5, 1954, the Isabella Guild was officially formed with a meeting held at the home of its first President, Marguerite (Peg) Gannelli, wife of John Gannelli.

The council took its first official step toward realizing its dream of a K of C building on April 6, 1954, when it established a Permanent Building Committee. Members of that committee included John Gannelli, Rocco Gannelli, Adelbert Novotny, Julian Forthofer, Oliver Forthofer, Tom Hricovec, Frank Clements, John Riba, Louis Tarone and Bob Krumwiede.

The Columbian Club, Inc., of Father Ragan Council was incorporated on Jan. 10, 1956.

Then came the tedious task of finding and buying land for the building. Minutes of Columbian Club meetings through the next five years reflect the search. Some entries include:

"Brother Peters reports land available on Electric Blvd." (Oct. 18, 1956).

"Brother John Gannelli reports one parcel of land sold from under our nose. The other parcel is smaller in acreage and \$1,000 more in

price. Another parcel is reported available on Miller Rd. by Bob Krumwiede." (Feb. 21, 1957).

"Tom Hricovec reported two parcels of land available on Rt. 76. Both have woods." (May 2, 1957).

"Property on corner of Jaycox and Mills Roads available. Moved by T. Kuntzwell that lots, with details of location, facilities, price, etc., be submitted for review by last meeting of April. Seconded by John Gannelli. Moved by Mr. Kolarsky that minimum lot size would be two acres. Seconded by Pete Grubo." (March 6, 1958).

"American Legion Hall in Avon Lake is available for purchase. Approximately \$15,000." (April 17, 1958).

But the key came during that same April 17, 1958, Building Committee meeting, when it was noted:

"Another location consisting of five acres may be available. This will be investigated."

Minutes of the May 1, 1958, Columbian Club meeting stated that John Gannelli and members of the Building Committee had looked at the property. It was located on Moore Road, just north of Rt. 611, and was 325 feet frontage by 670 feet deep. It was determined that the sewage system could be hooked into the sewage plant, saving about \$3,000 that would be needed to build a septic tank."

"Lawrence Boutin moves we accept this property," continued the minutes. "Bud Novotny seconds. Unanimous."

So Father Ragan Council, through its Columbian Club Building Committee, took the first step toward building its Hall. The site was chosen because of its location, low-cost availability to water and sewers, and the reasonable price.

The property was owned by Mrs. May Bommer, widow of the late Father Ragan Council Charter Member William J. Bommer. She was very specific in her financial demands. She did not want the full price immediately, but requested \$1,000 each year for five years.

Next came the question as to what type of building to construct.

"We looked at a lot of buildings," said Brother James Resar. "Some members wanted a small building, just to hold meetings. Others wanted a large hall."

Brother Roman Klingshirn was most responsible for arranging for the financing.

It was determined that the organization didn't have sufficient assets for the financing. Brother Klingshirn went to the bank and negotiated loan terms that would allow the bank to loan a dollar for every dollar members would deposit in the bank.

Members couldn't come up with enough financing. Brother Klingshirn went back to the bank and transferred \$65,000 of his funds into the bank. Of the \$60,000 loan, he financed \$45,000 of it, with the bank financing \$15,000. Roman Klingshirn had taken ownership of the mortgage. A notation on the mortgage agreement stated that "Absolutely no information out on this participation to Mr. Klingshirn." He would, in coming months, put up his own money whenever it was needed.

Members were asked to loan money to the building project as costs kept rising. Some responded. Jim King, for instance, donated the first payment of the mortgage.

Social activities were conducted throughout the 1950's to raise funds for the council and to assist with payment of the property.

"We always had just enough money to survive," remembered Charter Member Adelbert (Bud) Novotny, who was Chairman of the Columbian Club's first Finance Committee.

Dances provided much of the income in those early days. They often were held at the greenhouse and picnic grounds of Jim Resar's father on East River Rd., Elyria.

Bingo was being played at the Avon Isle in Avon. The sale of Ohio State Council Youth Raffle Tickets also helped.

The Second Decade 1960-1969

Building a K of C Hall, starting activities

Property for the K of C Hall was purchased and paid for in December, 1960. Thoughts of the 131 members of Father Ragan Council turned to actual construction of the building.

Brother Rocco Gannelli obtained blueprints from a friend who was an architect.

In November, 1960, water and gas lines onto the property were approved by Avon Council, and necessary easements were obtained.

There was a discussion on how the council would meet its obligations for items such as pipe. It was suggested that it might be possible to enlist loans from members "until proceeds from the Youth Ticket Raffle sales would be received". Henry Boutin volunteered a \$400 loan to meet the December payment for the land. A number of members volunteered loans of \$10 each to help with other expenses.

On Dec. 12, 1960, Roman Klingshirn was asked to make a report to Father Ragan Council on the land situation, especially for the benefit of new members. He summarized that the Columbian Club purchased five acres of land located on Moore Rd., south of Rt. 611, for \$5,000. The last payment on this land was to be made in December, 1960. Sanitary sewer connection already had been made. Gas and water connections were being discussed by the parties involved.

Brother Klingshirn asked for volunteers to help with labor for the water and gas pipe work. Brother Knights Sandy Bordanaro, Bill Mayton, Ed Vargo, Norm Straub, Ted Rink, Frank Cihlar and Bob DeChant volunteered.

An Olympic Champion

Carmen Barth grew up in Cleveland, gaining quite a reputation as a boxer. He won many Golden Gloves and other amateur championships, and qualified to compete in the 1932 Olympics at Los Angeles, Calif. He won the Olympic Gold Medal as champion of the lightweight division. Carmen turned professional and fought throughout the United States. He met screen actor George Raft, settled in California for several years and had parts in a number of Hollywood movies.

Carmen and his wife returned to Greater Cleveland, settling in Avon Lake. He became a member of Father Ragan Council. In May, 1984, Father Ragan Council sponsored a "Carmen Barth Benefit Roast" to raise funds to allow him and his wife to travel to Los Angeles for the 1984 Olympics -- to relive the moments of his Gold Medal journey 52 years earlier. Carmen called it the thrill of a lifetime.

He passed away in 1985.

On Jan. 19, 1961, a report of the Building Committee showed that completed value of the building would be \$63,000. The size would be 120 feet by 60 feet. It would include a Main Hall, meeting room, office, kitchen, furnace room, coat room, restrooms and bar. It would be constructed of block with brick facing. Approximate cost of materials would be \$25,000.

In February, 1961, Brother Frank Cihler sent a letter to the membership asking for their support and how they could be of assistance with construction of the building.

On April 30, Roman Klingshirn reported that numerous bids had been obtained, and the "Building Committee finds that the original figure of \$30,000 was a little low. The final firm figure will be approximately \$38,000."

On June 8, 1961, Brother Roman Klingshirn was appointed Business Manager of the Columbian Club, in charge of the building project.

Ohio Chaplains of the Year

Two Chaplains of Father Ragan Council have been honored as the Ohio State Council Chaplain of the Year.

Rev. Edward Dickard ... 1984-1985 fraternal year

Chaplain: 1968-1991

Rev. Leo Dechant 1997-1998 fraternal year

Chaplain: 1995-present

See addendum for additional names

"Without Roman Klingshirn we would not have had a building," reflected PGK James Resar. "He was an organizer and a pusher. He did things right. It was Roman who was most responsible for getting the Hall built." Klingshirn was a farmer and grape grower in Avon Lake. He was a member of the original Charter Commission for the transition of Avon Lake from a village to a city, and was elected to three 2-year terms as an Avon Lake councilman.

The building project was announced Thursday, June 22, 1961, in a story in the *Avon Lake Press*, a weekly newspaper serving Avon and Avon Lake. An architect's drawing showed the building. The story read:

"The Father Ragan Council 3269 of Knights of Columbus will break ground for a new club house and meeting hall. They hope to break ground about the first week in July. The new building will be located in Avon, Ohio, on Moore Rd., just north of Rt. 611. This completely modern building will cover about 7,500 square feet, and when finished, will be leased out for banquets, parties, wedding receptions, etc. Ed Peters, Brookfield Rd., Avon Lake, is Grand Knight of the Father Ragan Council, which was organized in 1950 and takes in the Avon-Avon Lake area."

By July 6, the water line was installed and the footers were in. It was time to start laying the block -- and building the building.

One "key" to building the Hall was plenty of volunteer help. "There was a lot of free help," reflected Brother Resar.

Father Ragan Council Brother Knights and their families actively participated in the building project, supplementing the work of professional builders.

A work schedule was prepared by Roman Klingshirn. Most volunteer hours were done on Saturdays and Sundays, and on weeknights.

Charter Member Adelbert (Bud) Novotny, owner of Novotny Movers, Avon, a heavy equipment moving firm, brought a construction shanty to the building site.

Brothers Rocco and John Gannelli were masons, doing much of the block and brick laying. Rocco was the mason foreman. Joe Lach was a contractor.

Brother Carmen Barth, a Gold medal boxing champion in the 1932 Olympics, was a professional ironworker. He arranged with his fellow ironworkers from Cleveland Ironworkers Union Local 17 to help with construction of the roof trusses.

Other members were carpenters, plumbers, electricians and painters. They all helped.

So did men of other faiths -- those from area churches -- who joined the volunteering.

"The Catholic Knights may be building themselves a clubhouse in their spare time, but in order to accomplish such a project, it's taking the time and effort of many men who are not Catholic Knights," read a story in the *Lorain Journal*. "Some of these men who have been volunteering their time and special skills have been members of churches very dissimilar to that of the Knights. Yet in the spirit of friendship, fellowship of man, brotherhood, equality -- call it what you will -- prevails and the work progresses week after week."

As the building rose, Grand Knight Edward Peters estimated that the building cost would reach \$40,000 and the completed building would be valued at approximately \$86,000.

It wasn't all work and no play for the many construction volunteers.

Wib Novotny, a Brother Knight and professional caterer from Avon Lake, would deliver lunches and dinners to the volunteers. And Roman Klingshirn -- who grew grapes -- made sure that bottles of wine and a keg of beer always were available when the day's work was done.

Finishing touches were being put on the inside of the building during the Spring of 1962. Dedication ceremonies were scheduled for Sunday, May 27.

But before the building was complete, Brother Knights planned a St. Patrick's Day dance. And what an event it was! The place was packed with Brother Knights and their wives, friends -- those who worked to erect the building. There were few tables and chairs; the men used concrete blocks and 2 x 10's to make benches.

It was the first, and no doubt one of the finest, parties to be held in the place.

It was a sunny Sunday morning on May 27. A Dedication Mass was offered at Holy Trinity Church, Avon. A breakfast followed at the new K of C Hall, attracting a large crowd. An Open House was held during the afternoon and dedication banquet served in the evening, with dancing following. Guest speaker at the dedication was Rev. Joseph F. Eiringer, pastor emeritus of St. Teresa Church, Sheffield and St. Peter Church, North Ridgeville. Rev. Urban Reichlin, assistant pastor of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church, Avon, and Chaplain of Father Ragan Council, conducted the dedication and blessing of the building.

Officers of the Columbian Club during those construction days included Co-Presidents Frank Cihler and James Resar, Vice President Adelbert (Bud) Novotny, Treasurer George Gates, Secretary Robert Banker, Business Manager Roman Klingshirn, and Directors John Gannelli, Steve Shannon and Elmer DeChant. Others involved were William Bommer, Raymond Lotko, Clem DiFilippo, Henry Boutin.

Father Ragan Council Columbian Club

The Columbian Club was established as the Home Corporation for Father Ragan Council. All members in good standing of Father Ragan Council automatically are members of the Columbian Club.

The Columbian Club meets at the K of C Hall on the fourth Thursday of the month, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Election of officers is held once each year, on the Third Thursday of June, coinciding with elections of Father Ragan Council. Officers include President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and four Directors.

The Columbian Club is responsible for administration of the physical property of Father Ragan Council, including all building and grounds. The Columbian Club hires a Hall Manager to oversee maintenance of the building and grounds, to coordinate rentals, and to have the hall prepared for special events.

With the new Hall, members of Father Ragan Council expanded the social activities and fundraising events. Friday Night Fish Fries were held. In 1966, the council authorized the start of a Bingo Program at the Hall. A 17th Anniversary Dinner was held on Jan. 15, 1967. The council began, in 1967, honoring its Immediate Past Grand Knight, the first being Joseph Richvalsky. First and Second Degree Teams were established. The Steak and Corn Roast was one of the most popular September events. Of course, the Clambakes continued.

* * *

During the 1960's, one Grand Knight served only one month in office. John W. Holliday was elected Grand Knight for the 1965-1966 fraternal year. But after serving just one month, he was abruptly transferred by his employer, Fruehauf Trailer Corp., Avon Lake, to its facility in Delphos, Ohio. Deputy Grand Knight R.P. LaScola assumed the office of Grand Knight, serving 11 months.

The Third Decade 1970-1979

Continuing traditions, starting others

The 1970's was a period of "settling in" for the members of Father Ragan Council. So much had been accomplished during the 1960's, with construction of the K of C Hall and introduction of new social events.

Those social events and fundraisers continued through the 1970's -- the Steak and Corn Roast, Clambake, a Night in Rome, even a Night in Budapest. Quarterly Communion were conducted, whereby Brother Knights and their families met at one of the Avon/Avon Lake churches to celebrate Mass and then gathered at the K of C Hall for breakfast.

In June, 1970, the Father Ragan Council 150 Club was formed as a fundraiser. Reverse Raffles were sponsored by the council. Friday Night Bingo continued.

The start of Father Ragan Council's Catholic high school and college scholarship program came in 1972.

On Jan. 25, 1975, Brother Knights took time out for a gala 25th Anniversary Dinner Dance at the K of C Hall.

In the Spring of 1977, the outdoor pavilion was completed. A baseball diamond also had been in use on the property east of the Hall. An addition was constructed to the north of the building to be used for storage purposes.

A foyer was constructed at the main entrance of the building, with an overhang attached.

One of the council's most ambitious projects was undertaken in 1976, with Brother Jerry Briggs in charge.

Chaplains of Father Ragan Council

Rev. Carl Wernet	1950-1953
Rev. Leo Warth	1953-1957
Rev. Paul Zaring	1957-1960
Rev. Urban Reichlin	1960-1963
Rev. Joseph Foster	1963-1966
Rev. James O'Donnell	1966-1968
Rev. Michael Ondik	1968-1969
Rev. Edward Dickard	1969-1991
Rev. Arthur Egan	1991-1995
Rev. Leo Dechant	1995-Present

See addendum for additional names

Brother Knights built a float -- a replica of the "Santa Maria", one of Christopher Columbus' three ships. It was more than 40 feet long. It was self-propelled, using a 1969 Chevrolet truck chassis and engine. The hull once was a 25-foot cabin cruiser which was completely gutted. The center mast was a telescoping type that when fully extended was approximately 24 feet high. The flags flown aboard the "ship" were exact replicas of the original ships, handmade by wives of the members.

There were more than 300 man hours of labor and love put into the project, which took more than five months to complete.

On May 8, 1976, the "Santa Maria" replica was unveiled for public viewing at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

In the foyer of the K of C Hall today is a model replica of the "Santa Maria", made by master model shipbuilder Otto Kirchner, a member of Father Ragan Council.

The Fourth Decade 1980-1989

Excellence is achieved

As Father Ragan Council moved into the 1980's, it became more and more involved with programs of the Ohio State Council. During the fraternal year 1983-1984, the council reached the zenith of its history.

On May 26, 1984, during the Annual Convention of the Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus, Father Ragan Council was honored as No. 1 among more than 270 councils in the Ohio jurisdiction for the 1983-1984 fraternal year.

Grand Knight James Bruder and Deputy Grand Knight James Black strode to the podium to accept the coveted award, a five-foot high trophy that continues on display in the Council Chamber today.

It was a year when all council Chairmen put together programs that were given high marks from State Directors. They included Joe Commins, Youth Activities; Tom Whitfield, Church Activities; Greg Weiss and Vince Gargaro, Community; Gus Guthrie and Keith Dunnigan, Membership; Ray Manacci, Council, and Dick Harben, Family.

At that same 1984 State Convention, Father Ragan Council received another high honor. Its nomination for Youth of the Year -- Steven R. Koren, of Avon Lake -- was honored as Ohio's Outstanding Youth of the Year. Stephen, an Eagle Scout, ranked third in his class of 258 with a grade point average of 4.0782 at Avon Lake High School. His vast knowledge of computers is what caught the eye of the Ohio State Council judges. He was capable of programming sophisticated programs with computers in several different languages. He had written a program for the Avon Lake High School Guidance Department to compute grade point average and class rank. He was teaching adult computer programming at Avon Lake Public Library and Lorain County Community College. He developed a

Father Ragan Council: No. 1 in Ohio

It was at the Ohio State Council Convention on May 26, 1984, that Father Ragan Council received perhaps its highest honor.

That's when the council, led by Grand Knight James Bruder, was awarded the First Place trophy for the State of Ohio for the 1983-1984 fraternal year -- being recognized as No. 1 among more than 270 councils in the Ohio jurisdiction.

Accepting the trophy that evening were GK Bruder and his Deputy Grand Knight, James Black.

The award came during the Ohio administration of State Deputy Rocco Veneziano, whose "Many Hands Working Together" state program was the criteria used in selecting the number one council.

computer program for Todd Gauchat, a disabled man at Our Lady of the Wayside Home, Avon, to allow him to communicate with others.

A year later -- at the State Convention in 1985 -- Father Ragan Council Chaplain Rev. Edward Dickard was honored as Ohio's Chaplain of the Year.

The accomplishments brought a sense of great pride to members of Father Ragan Council, a sense that had continued through the 1990's as the council annually is among the top-rated in the Ohio jurisdiction.

In December, 1985, Father Ragan Council began sponsorship of a special Senior Citizens Holiday Dinner. That first year, approximately 75 senior citizens enjoyed the full-course turkey dinner. Every year since then, more than 300 seniors have packed the K of C Hall for the dinner.

On July 31, 1986, a special "joint venture" was started between Father Ragan Council and St. Joseph Church, Avon Lake, to entertain more than 400 mentally retarded citizens of the Lorain County Mental Retardation Center, Our Lady of the Wayside, Avon, and the Lucy

Ohio Youth of the Year

At the Ohio State Council Convention in May, 1984, Father Ragan Council not only was honored as No. 1 in the Ohio jurisdiction, but its Youth of the Year nomination was named Ohio State Council Outstanding Youth of the Year.

Steven R. Koren, of Avon Lake, received that honor for his dedication as an Eagle Scout, ranking third in his class at Avon Lake High School, and his work as a computer programmer, not only teaching adult computer programming at the Avon Lake Public Library and at Lorain County Community College, but also for developing a computer program that allowed a disabled person at Our Lady of the Wayside, Avon, to communicate with others.

Idol Center, Lorain. With the blessings of Rev. J. Norman Riley, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, the council for a number of years staffed carnival booths to allow the clients to enjoy games, while they also enjoyed the carnival rides on a day prior to the annual St. Joseph Parish Festival. The event was curtailed in the mid-1990's when the Festival was dropped.

Meanwhile, the council continued the many social activities and fundraisers that were begun earlier in the history of Father Ragan Council.

A note of sadness came in 1986, when Grand Knight Jack Newlin died while in office.

Ohio Knights of the Year

Two Brother Knights of Father Ragan Council have been honored as the Ohio State Council Knight of the Year, the top individual award given at the annual State Convention.

Thomas Whitfield..... 1991-1992 fraternal year

Grand Knight: 1988-1989

Raymond DeChant..... 1996-1997 fraternal year

Grand Knight: 1991-1992, 1996-1997

See addendum for additional names

The Fifth Decade 1990-1999

Becoming a complete family council

Father Ragan Council quietly celebrated its 40th Anniversary in January, 1990, when living Charter Members were especially invited to attend a council meeting and talk about the accomplishments in those early days.

On Jan. 18, 1990, a regular meeting night, a First Degree was held to induct new members -- just as 40 years earlier a First Degree brought to life Father Ragan Council. Following that degree, a special program gave more than 100 Knights present a sense of history about formation of the council. On hand were five Charter Members -- Elmer DeChant, PGK James Resar, Patsy Gerrone, PGK Rocco Gannelli and PGK Robert DeChant. A total of 18 Past Grand Knights were in attendance.

PGK James Resar outlined formation of the council; how the members were sought and how the idea for a council in the Avon/Avon Lake area originated. The others then began listing their recollections. PGK Robert DeChant remembered the First Degree held at the Avon Isle Dance Hall as the council was formed; Elmer DeChant told how the council was named in memory of Rev. Michael S. Ragan, who had been an assistant at St. Mary's Church, Avon; PGK Rocco Gannelli had thoughts about construction of the K of C Hall, and Brother Patsy Gerrone remembered how Brother Wib Novotny, a professional caterer, would make sure those volunteering on the K of C Hall construction project were well fed. He also remembered how Roman Klingshirn, Business Manager for the construction, made certain the workers were stocked with wine and a keg of beer after a day's work was done. Leading the discussion was PGK Tom Bruner, council Lecturer and unofficial historian.

During that program, Rev. Edward Dickard, council Chaplain for more than 21 of the 40-year history of the council, was honored for

Our council Measures Up

Each year since inception of the program advocated by Supreme Council, Father Ragan Council members have turned out to participate in the Measure-Up Campaign to raise funds for assisting mentally retarded citizens.

On a three-day period in late April or early May, Brother Knights stand in front of Avon and Avon Lake participating businesses, wearing the traditional yellow and red apron, and holding onto a cannister in which donors place their coins or bills. In turn, the donor receives a ruler, thanking them for helping the Knights of Columbus "Measure Up".

Most all funds collected go to a local agency named by the local council. Each year Father Ragan Council collections are given to either the Lucy Idol Center, Lorain; Our Lady of the Wayside, Avon; or Lorain County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

his service. He would be named named Ohio's Chaplain of the Month of February, 1990, by the Ohio State Council. With sadness, the council little more than a year later, in 1991, would grieve over the death of Fr. Dickard at the age of 78.

Two new Father Ragan Council awards were instituted in 1990. One, the Roman Klingshirn Distinguished Knight Award, was begun to honor the memory of Brother Roman Klingshirn, who had passed away in 1989. It would go annually to a Brother Knight exemplifying exceptional characteristics in a leadership role. In that first year, Charter Member Elmer DeChant and Brother William Bommer, whose mother once held deed to the land on which the K of C Hall stands, were honored. Also established that year was the Catholic Knight of the Year, an award to be given to a member who not only has helped his Knights of Columbus, but who has been exceptional in helping his Church.

At a special Valentine's Lecturer's Program on Feb. 15, 1996, 37 Brother Knights and their wives renewed their marriage vows during a Mass celebrated by council Chaplain Fr. Leo Dechant. On a Sunday in March, 1997, the council through a spaghetti dinner raised \$15,000

Father Ragan Council Knights of the Year

1970 R.P. LaScola	1985 Adam Abfall
1971 Roman Klingshirn	1986 Oscar Krebs
1972 Rev. Edward Dickard	1987 Rocco Gannelli
1973 William Korney	1988 James Bruder
1974 Fred Mingoia	1989 Ted Schmitz
1975 Fred Berner	1990 Frank Konya
1976 Jerry Briggs	1991 Harding Christ
1977 Gerry Krebs	1992 Tom Whitfield
1978 Tom Czarney	1993 Vince Gargaro
1979 Robert Banker Sr.	* 1994 Michael Abfall
1980 Bernie Bruder Sr.	1995 Bill Bommer
1981 Edwin Spaetzel	Clem DiFilippo
1982 Tom Bruner	1996 Pat Sweeney
1983 Jim Jacobs	1997 Ray DeChant
1984 Frank Eber	1998 Roberto Cobos
	1999 Charles Guthrie

See addendum for additional names

to help pay medical bills for the family of an Avon infant suffering from a rare genetic birth defect called Aperts Syndrome.

During the 1990's, two Brother Knights were accorded the highest honor that can be given to a Knight in the Ohio jurisdiction. At the State Convention in May, 1992, PGK Tom Whitfield was honored as Ohio's Knight of the Year. At the State Convention in May, 1997, PGK Ray DeChant -- who was one of only two members to serve two terms as Grand Knight during the first 50 years -- was honored as Ohio's Knight of the Year.

A Year later, at the State Convention in May, 1998, Father Ragan Council Chaplain, Rev. Leo Dechant, was honored at Ohio's Chaplain of the Year.

In 1990, a young member, Michael Liptak, looked around the K of C Hall when taking his Third Degree, wondering what he could contribute to Father Ragan Council. His thoughts also turned to another Brother Knight and close friend, Steve Giannoni, who died of head injuries after being beaten in 1988 when he, Brother Liptak and two other Brother Knights were in downtown Cleveland. Brother

The Roman Klingshirn Distinguished Knight Award

In March, 1990, Father Ragan Council established an award to honor Roman Klingshirn, a Past Grand Knight who was overseer of the planning and construction of our Knights of Columbus Hall.

The Roman Klingshirn Distinguished Knight Award is given annually to a member of Father Ragan Council for at least five years who has shown loyalty, been active in various ways and who has been in attendance regularly at council meetings. The recipient can receive this award only once. Previous Knights of the Year recipients cannot receive the award, although a Roman Klingshirn Distinguished Knight of the Year Award recipient may later be named Knight of the Year. Recipients of the Roman Klingshirn Distinguished Knight Award are:

1990	Elmer DeChant	1994	Al Kimmel
	William Bommer	1995	Bob Booth
1991	Charles Guthrie	1996	Walter Smith
	Stan Perusek	1997	Roberto Cobos
1992	Fred St. Cyr	1998	Bob Kall
1993	Clem DiFilippo	1999	Cy Bliss

See addendum for additional names

Liptak, a master woodworker, went to work planning and constructing a monument that continues to stand in the Council Chamber today -- a beautiful podium.

In 1993, Brother Knights of Queen of Peace Council 3576, Rocky River, began discussions with representatives of Father Ragan Council regarding a merger. Queen of Peace council no longer had the ability to recruit new members. Following lengthy negotiations involving officers of the Ohio State Council, a merger was granted in 1994, with Brother Knights of Queen of Peace Council becoming members of Father Ragan Council.

In the mid-1990's, Brother Knights established a Father Ragan Council Charitable Foundation, Inc., and applied to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for 501(C)(3) charitable designation. That designation was granted in September, 1995. Using the Friday Night

WWII fliers present plaque to council

In September, 1988, representatives of Father Ragan Council were guests of the 91st Bombardment Group (Heavy) Memorial Association at its biennial national convention in Chicago, Illinois, where a special remembrance of Fr. Michael S. Ragan was observed. The Knights joined 400 U.S. Air Corps veterans who remembered Fr. Ragan as a Chaplain at the RAF base at Bassingbourn, England during World War II who would stand beside the runway waving a horseshoe at the fliers as they began their bombing missions over Hitler's Germany.

Sam Cipolla, a member of St. Patrick Council, Chicago, and B-17 gunner on 36 missions, presented a plaque to Father Ragan Council. It hangs in our Council Chamber today.

Bingo Program, the Foundation has become Father Ragan Council's charitable fundraising arm of the council. In its first three years of charitable dispersements, the Father Ragan Council Foundation gave nearly \$250,000 to the Catholic Churches, Schools and PSR programs of St. Mary's and Holy Trinity in Avon, and St. Joseph and Holy Spirit churches in Avon Lake. In addition, the Foundation has supported individual charitable requests, and has supported the Fathers of St. Joseph, who operate a Youth Retreat Center on Case Rd., Avon. Council Chaplain Fr. Dechant is a member of the Fathers of St. Joseph.

Supreme Council long has suggested that local councils embody the entire family in its organization. In the 1990's, Father Ragan Council has done just that, becoming the first -- and only -- council in the Ohio jurisdiction that has organizations for the entire family. Father Ragan Council was established for the men, and the Isabella Guild was established for wives, mothers, sisters and daughters of Brother Knights. In the early 1990's, the Fr. Edward Dickard Squires Circle of Father Ragan Council was instituted to serve young men between the ages of 12-18. Already, several graduates of the Squires program have become Brother Knights of Father Ragan Council. In the mid-1990's, the Sister Dorothy Kazel Squirettes of Mary Circlette was established for young ladies between the ages of 12-18. The circlette was named in memory of a nun from the Cleveland Diocese who was murdered while a missionary in El Salvador.

Epilogue

From those humble beginnings in 6-below-zero temperatures on Jan. 15, 1950, when 44 Charter Members were initiated, Father Ragan Council has grown to more than 450 members today. Those members come mainly from Avon and Avon Lake, but also represent many surrounding cities and towns.

Father Ragan Council was established as a service organization for the Church, community and youth. Today Father Ragan Council continues in that mission as it ministers to the poor, assists the youth and is the "Right Arm" of our Avon and Avon Lake Catholic Churches.

Father Ragan has become a true Catholic, fraternal, family organization with its council, Isabella Guild, Fr. Dickard Squires Circle, and Sister Dorothy Kazel Squirettes of Mary.

We thank those 44 practical Catholic men who banded together to establish Council No. 3269 in January, 1950. Today we strive to continue their work.

Father Ragan Council Deceased Brother Knights

Listing includes members of Queen of Peace Council No. 3576 who passed away following the merger with Father Ragan Council in 1994. (Listing as of December 15, 1999).

William Bommer	1951	Edward Moran	1979
William Carman	1956	Joseph Roth	1979
Paul Voytek	1957	Joseph Monzel	1979
Frank Clements	1957	Stephen Shannon	1979
PGK Walter Kowalski	1957	PGK John O'Brien	1979
Rev. Leo Warth	1963	Russ Horning	1980
Richard Lutz	1964	Rev. Carl Wernet	1980
Henry Boutin	1967	Wilbur Novotny	1982
Robert Steadman	1967	Louis Cillo	1982
Ralph Carlson	1968	Louis Tarone	1982
James King	1968	Maynard Krebs	1982
Donald Haurin	1969	Tom Stuckart	1984
Norman Ebach	1970	William Schnell	1984
PGK Tom Hricovec	1971	Carman Barth	1985
FDD PGK Ray Saltis	1971	GK John Newlin	1986
PGK Aloysius Hassel	1972	Frank Kolarsky	1986
Edward DeChant	1972	Arthur Klingshirn	1986
Roland Buley	1972	Carl Meier	1987
PGK Ralph Reising	1973	PGK Fred Berner	1987
PGK John Gannelli	1974	Rev. Jerome Turins	1987
Donald Urig	1975	Lloyd Wearsch	1987
Wilfred LeCours	1975	PGK Larry Allen	1988
Cyril Miller	1976	Clement Hassel	1988
Ronald Cox	1977	Eugene Bartolotta	1988
Rev. Joseph Foster	1978	Steve Giannoni	1988

Over, please

See addendum for additional names

PGK Roman Klingshirn	1989	Fred St. Cyr	1995
Roman Burkin	1989	James Sweeney	1995
Adelbert Knipper	1989	Howard Filler	1995
George Milbrandt	1990	Elmer DeChant	1995
PGK Ray Domanski	1990	Philip Larson	1995
William Schmees	1990	Bernard Lucas	1995
Gerald Mudrock	1990	Joseph Kepic	1995
Eugene Traxler	1990	William Kleinhenz	1995
William Back	1990	Thomas Johnson	1996
PGK Bill Korney	1991	PGK Fred Mingoia	1996
Clarence Sumita	1991	Ernest Linden	1996
Edwin Spaetzel	1991	Peter Vaccaro	1996
Ralph Hoyt	1991	George Heine	1996
Joseph Kraig	1991	Harvey Hangauer	1996
Nicholas Mitock	1991	PGK Thomas Nickels	1996
Rev. Edward Dickard	1991	John Schloff	1996
Michael Lash	1991	Thomas Hricovec	1996
Stephen Lyon	1992	Leo Horton	1996
Ken Schmitz	1992	Charles DeChant	1997
Andrew Balinek	1992	Michael Radvan	1997
Alfred Gilles	1992	Michael Sabol	1997
Frank Kirchner	1992	Raymond Shubert	1997
PGK Gerald Krebs	1992	Robert Hlavaty	1997
Eugene Nagel	1993	Paul Rush Jr.	1997
Ben Wood	1993	Albert Collins	1998
Cyril Rieck	1993	Martin Patton	1998
Walter Brysacz	1994	John Gazer	1998
Henry Simon	1994	Francis Stark	1998
George Parks	1994	Robert Kall	1998
FDD Steve Radosevich	1994	Walter Price	1999
Dominic Mass	1994	PGK Adam Abfall	1999
Patrick McGreal	1994	Stephen Gdovin	1999
Joseph Martin	1994	Sante DeAngelis	1999
Joseph Klein	1994	Harold Payne	1999
Willard Nemec	1994	William Spierings	1999
Paul Quimper	1994	Robert Wood	1999

Queen of Peace Council 3576

Rocky River

When the membership of Queen of Peace Council 3576, Rocky River, in the early 1990's shrunk to the extent that recruitment efforts were failing, officers of that council approached officers of Father Ragan Council, requesting a merger. After many discussions, the membership of Queen of Peace Council was merged with that of Father Ragan Council in 1994.

Queen of Peace Council has a proud history, dating back to its formation in 1952. The first regular meeting was held on Nov. 18, 1952, at the parish hall of St. Christopher Church, Rocky River. Thirty-two Charter Members formed the council, plus 23 who were transferred or reinstated. Wilbur J. Schaefer, Sr., was elected as its first Grand Knight. He served two terms.

Charter Members chose the name, *Queen of Peace*. The council's founder, District Deputy George Blaha, of West Park Council, would state that "This was a very appropriate name and a wise and timely choice in these days of world chaos, and that the mother of God would surely look down on earth and bless this council and guide its progress."

A dream of having its own "home" was developed at that first regular meeting. A West End Knights Corporation was formed as its home corporation, and the dream was culminated when ground was broken on March 1, 1960, for a K of C Hall at 25737 Detroit Rd., Westlake. The Hall was dedicated on Sunday, Sept. 11, 1961. A Grand Opening Dance was held the following Saturday, Sept. 17. Chairman of that event was PGK Walter (Snuffy) Smith, then a member of Queen of Peace Council who transferred to Father Ragan Council in 1990. The building included a 60-foot x 60-foot main hall, office, lounge, kitchen, coat room, rest rooms and service bar. Besides K of C events, it was available for rentals. Several years later the Hall would be sold. It now is occupied by Jubilee Catering.

See addendum for additional names

Our Isabella Guild

The Isabella Guild of Father Ragan Council was founded on Feb. 26, 1954, when the first regular meeting was held in the home of Peg Gannelli, its first president. Purpose of the Guild was to be a "Catholic action charity, with our first obligation to the Knights (of Father Ragan Council), and the second to any charitable organization or project selected by the women".

On Aug. 5, 1954, the organization joined Supreme's Isabella Council, an action that would be withdrawn in February, 1960.

The ladies met in members' homes until Sept. 11, 1956, when the Central Bank, Avon, became their new meeting place. Then in September, 1962, with opening of the new K of C Hall, meetings were held there.

In 1972-1973, Isabella dues "went to \$3.00 a year", and in 1977-1978 they climbed to \$4.00. Today, dues are \$5.00.

In February, 1979, the Isabellas celebrated their 25th Anniversary at the K of C Hall with a catered dinner.

At that first meeting in the home of President Peg Gannelli, 19 ladies were present. Other officers included Vice President Lucille Tarone, Recording Secretary Mary Riba, Corresponding Secretary

Mary Miller, Treasurer Marguerite Jones and Trustees Justine Kovacs and Evelyn Shannon.

Through the years the Isabellas have worked side-by-side with the Knights at various social and fund-raising events. Isabellas have staffed the kitchen at Friday Night Bingo ever since it was started.

Each year the Isabella Guild gives approximately \$1,000 back to Father Ragan Council, usually requesting that it be used for a specific Hall improvement or kitchen equipment addition. The Isabellas also join the Knights in donating to the annual Catholic high school and college scholarships that are awarded. Each Spring the Guild also disperses approximately \$2,000 to individuals and groups in need.

The Isabellas continue a tradition of their Annual Membership Dinner in October, and May Crowning in May. And the Isabella Christmas Party is one of the social highlights of the year each December.

Isabella Guild Presidents

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Peg Gannelli | 16. Marie Mayton |
| 2. Evelyn Shannon | 17. Joyce Plas |
| 3. Jean Kolarsky | 18. Lenora Hopiard |
| 4. Lucille Tarone | 19. Marge Jacobs |
| 5. Bernice Hassel | 20. Lois Banker |
| 6. Evelyn Shannon | 21. Sylvia Schmitz |
| 7. Eileen Gannelli | 22. Rita Briggs |
| 8. Hermeline LeCours | 23. Charlotte Whitfield |
| 9. Dorothy Kohls | 24. Judi Roman |
| 10. Barbara Berner | 25. Eddie Guthrie |
| 11. Coletta Holowecky | Eileen Gannelli |
| 12. Mary Ann Czarney | 26. Ruth Uszak |
| 13. Mary Lou Korney | 27. Pat Christ |
| 14. Lois Shinko | 28. Vlasta Sedivec |
| 15. Ann Schneider | 29. Bobbie Bruder |
| | LaVerne Sedivec |

See addendum for additional names

Addendum to 50 Years of Ragan History

Grand Knight's

2000-01	Cyrus Bliss
2001-02	John Riba
2002-03	Vincent Tramontana
2003-05	Kenneth O'Connor (2 Years)
2005-08	Robert Schneider Jr. (3 Years)
2008-09	Scott Gedeon
2009-10	Michael Moore
2010-11	John T. Hricovec
2011-12	Frederick Metz
2012-13	Robert Y. Garrett Jr.
2013-14	John Wesner
2014-15	John Pabin
2015-16	Kevin McHenry
2016-17	Kevin McHenry
2017-18	James Brady

Chaplains

Rev Leo DeChant CSJ (1995-2008)
Rev. Gerard Gonda OSB (2008-)

Fr Ragan Knight of the Year

2000	Joe Greiner
2001	Bob Booth
2002	Dale Kirsch
2003	Vic Sedivec
2004	John Riba
2005	Cy Bliss
2006	Ken O'Connor
2007	Mike Moore
2008	Fr. Leo DeChant
2009	Bob Schneider Jr.
2010	Jim Bruder
2011	Harding Christ
2012	John Hricovec
2013	Joe Abram
2014	Vic Sedivec
2015	Mike Collins
2016	None
2017	Tim Hohman

Roman Klingshirn Award

2000	Dale Kirsch
2001	Ruben Herrera
2002	Bob Vielhaber
2003	Fred Stauder
2004	Bob Schneider Jr.
2005	Don Darkow
2006	Tom Dunegan
2007	John Hricovec
2008	Rob Garrett Jr.

2009	Marc Quayle
2010	Fred Metz
2011	Joe Abram
2012	None Selected
2013	Robert Trunk
2014	Dan Pulit
2015	Bill Greaney
2016	None
2017	Al Nugent

Ohio Knight of the Year

James Bruder 2009-2010 Fraternal Year
Grand Knight 1983-1984
Harding Christ 2010-2011 Fraternal Year
Grand Knight 1989-1990

Isabella Guild Presidents

1999-2000	Bobbie Bruder/Laverne Sedivec
2000-01	Elaine Cook/Natalie Treece
2001-02	Elaine Cook/Natalie Treece
2002-03	Mary Jane Morog/Natalie Treece
2003-04	Mary Jane Morog
2004-05	Mary Bliss
2005-06-07	Bobbie Bruder/Marilyn Misencik/Helen Lowe
2008-09	Marilyn Misencik/Betty Weimar
2009-10	Betty Weimar
2010-11	Chris Schneider
2011-12	Chris Schneider
2012-13	Debbie Berger
2013-14	Debbie Berger
2014-15	Debbie Berger
2015-16	Debbie Berger
2016-18	Debbie Berger

Deceased Brother Knights

1999 Richard B. Conroy
1999 Steven J. Gdovin
1999 Harold T. Payne
2000 Wilbur J. Schaefer FDD-PGK
2000 Peter E. Kopic
2000 James A. Resar PGK Charter Member
2000 Lawrence J. Tomasek
2000 Theodore T. Findora
2001 Robert H. Chapman
2001 Frank J. Drazdik
2001 Mathew B. Baker
2001 William A. Jacob
2001 Robert A. Prickett
2001 Adelbert A. Novotny Charter Member
2001 Lester A. Horwedel
2002 James C. Treece PGK
2002 Thomas A. Keefe PGK
2002 Joseph F. Hamilton
2003 Vincent M. Gagagro
2003 Leonard C. Eifel Jr.
2003 Timothy J. Bruder
2003 John R. Shutic
2003 William Hoover
2003 Donald F. Susat PGK
2003 Sam J. Fusile
2003 Donald J. Kehoe
2003 Glen J. Allen Jr.
2004 Walter P. Huhn
2004 Robert A. Sikora
2004 Norbert G. Werner PGK
2004 Carl F. Bramhall
2004 Russell J. Manternach
2004 John Yanikov
2005 Walter G. Rauscher
2005 Kevin C. Baker
2005 Rev Fr. John W. Krasen
2005 Joseph A. Cicerella
2005 Vincent Orlosky Jr. PGK
2005 Gene C. Miltner
2006 Frank J. Klimas
2006 Bert J. Casey
2006 Rev Fr. Urban A. Reichlin
2006 Anthony J. DeGennaro
2006 David E. Fischer
2006 John Lapushansky Jr.
2006 David J. Aslaksen
2006 James C. Black PGK
2007 John G. Fain
2007 Walter J. (Snuffy) Smith PGK
2007 Ralph Lyman
2007 Donald G. Uszak
2007 Clemente H. DiFillippo
2008 Frank D. Corso
2008 Robert A. Mason
2008 Harry D. Rees Jr.
2008 Charles R. (Gus) Guthrie
2008 Thomas Rieck
2008 Raymond J. Novotny Charter Member
2008 Andrew J. Rusnak
2008 Fred J. Stauder
2008 John Lynch
2009 Richard E. McNeeley PGK
2009 Stephen J. Tatalick
2009 William H. Bommer
2009 Otto Kirschner
2009 John Manecchi
2009 Bernard J. Benisek PGK
2009 Edward C. O'Malley
2010 Ronald G. Novotny
2010 James A. (Jake) Jacobs FDD
2010 Robert S. Smith
2010 Joseph Z. Novak
2011 Robert L. Urig
2011 William J. Hricovec
2011 Andrew Ladika
2011 Charles A. Stiles
2011 Patrick J. Sweeney
2011 Paul E. Keys
2011 Dominic D. (Red) DiLuciano
2011 Neil K. Sullivan
2011 Albert P. Kimmel
2011 Richard D. (Butch) Farner
2012 Ronald P. (RP) LaScola PGK
2012 Edward Kaspar
2012 Paul L. Macura
2012 Rocco J. Gannelli PGK Charter Member
2012 LaVern J. Forthofer
2013 Joseph M. Finnerman
2013 John R. McConley
2013 Donald P. Faulhaber
2013 Patsy Gerrone Charter Member
2013 Robert J. Balcik
2013 David C. Kilgore
2014 Robert J. Banker Sr.
2014 Paul W. Kopic
2014 Paul M. Szendrey
2014 John F. Mackin
2014 Raymond C. Vorisek
2014 Paul A. Larson
2014 George W. Kopic
2015 PGK Robert P. DeChant Charter Member

2015 Charles R McClear
2015 Michael C Pastorelle PGK
2015 James A Pease
2015 Aloysius G Weimar
2015 Noel Ilg
2016 Carl A. Rink Jr. PGK
2016 William J. Sexton
2016 John T. Morog
2016 John E. Haney
2016 Nicholas R. Aquino
2016 Cyrus H. Bliss PGK
2017 Richard J. Novotny
2017 Jacob K. Lundy
