



# KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA



SERVE GOD BY SERVING OTHERS

December 2011

ecolumba



## Mission Statement

We as Brothers of the Knights of St. Columba are resolved through our own efforts, prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to increase the membership of our Order so that we can more effectively work for Christ's Kingdom.

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The Knights of St Columba is an Order of Catholic Laymen dedicated to the Service of the Church and fellow man

The Order, which is non-political and essentially democratic, exists to support the mission of the Catholic Church and at the same time to work for the spiritual and material good of its members and their families

*In accordance with the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church, members will diligently work for the Moral and Social Welfare of our Country and in particular to help young people develop in the likeness of Christ. Members of the Order will strive to achieve these aims through the fundamental virtues of Charity, Unity and Fraternity.*

*The K.S.C. is completely open and potential members may attend meetings prior to joining.*

*If you would like to find out more, contact our head office at:*

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A SAVIOUR IS BORN FOR US

## New Supreme Knight elected in Glasgow

The Knights of St Columba launched an evangelising Initiative, began a new fundraising campaign and elected its new Supreme Knight at the recent Supreme Council meeting in Scotland.

The weekend began with a Mass on Friday at which the Order launched the Opportunity to Serve initiative through which it hopes to contribute 'to the Church's mission to evangelise.' Through this initiative, to be promoted in every parish, the Knights wish to 'promote and share not only what we have been doing but our vision of the future.'



Ron Lynch

With Supreme Knight JonJo McDonagh coming to the end of his term in office, the Knights elected Ron Lynch as his successor at the weekend. They also welcomed Archbishop Conti, Bishop McMahon, and representatives of the Knights of St Columbanus from Ireland to their Supreme Council dinner.

At the dinner the Knights presented a final cheque to the charity the group has been supporting for two years, Vision Aid Overseas, bringing the total amount to £30,500. Then in the presence of Lorraine McMahon, Aid to the Church in Need's head of operations in Scotland, and clergy supporter Fr Len Black—the Knights pledged to fundraise for and support ACN for the next two years.

Michael McGrath, director of the Scottish Catholic Education Service, another guest at the dinner, was also presented with a cheque for £9,000 from the Knights to support the Caritas award initiative in schools, which Pope Benedict XVI recently officially endorsed.

Moments of levity on the night came throughout the after dinner toasts and were capped by Archbishop Conti who, when called upon to speak at short notice, drew with great wit from his childhood before coming back to his serious point that, like members of the Catholic clergy and hierarchy, the Knights of St Columba must be 'ready for anything' in the society we live in and all the challenges that brings.

At the end of the dinner Bishop McMahon presented long-serving administrator Mary Cavan with a Bene Merenti medal from Pope Benedict XVI.

Tom Knight – KSC Press Officer



# KNIGHT LIFE

News from the Provinces

## Liverpool – Province Two

### Knights make Annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes



A group of Knights from Liverpool Councils 12/13, 493 and 584 travelled to Lourdes in July on their Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine. Our picture above shows them outside the Basilica of St Bernadette before going in to leave a lighted candle for present and deceased members of the Liverpool Province. The Order and its members are continuously engaged in raising funds to assist pilgrims wishing to visit Lourdes with the cost of their accommodation and travel. A recent example of this was Isle of Man Council, which raised over £2,600 from a sponsored walk in the Douglas and Peel areas. ☺

## Westminster Western – Province 30 Presentation for their Provincial Project



At the annual Provincial Presentation evening on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November, The Friends of Michael Sobell House, Northwood, Middlesex were the recipients of a cheque for £7,250.00 being the result of Province 30's Fundraising Action Project for 2011.

The presentation of the cheque by Provincial Grand Knight Brother Michael Bagness was made to Ophelia Chambers-Henry and Trish Mule, both representing The Friends of Michael Sobell House.

Picture left –right are Bro Martin Cook – Action, Youth & Social, Bro Michael Bagness – PGK; Bro Julien Melville – Finance & Administration and Bro John Collins – District Deputy. ☺

## Statement on The Sanctity of Marriage.

The Knights of St Columba, Britain's leading Order for Roman Catholic laymen, have issued a statement, expressing their strong opposition to the Government's attempts to change the very meaning of the word marriage, and to impose this new definition on religious groups.

A spokesman for the Order said:

*"It is, of course, right and proper that a same sex couple should be given the same legal rights under civil law as a male/female couple. If they wish to form a partnership to protect their civil or fiscal affairs then the right to do so is already covered in law. However it is not acceptable that any religious group should be asked, perhaps forced, to legitimise such a union with a Church service.*

*People of religious faith have the right to follow their own conscience – this is the potential affront here, as with the gross injustice over Christian adoption agencies – forcing Christians and others of religious faith to adopt a perspective that is at odds to their own. It is not progress in society to attempt to address a perceived unfairness to one group simply by imposing unfairness and injustice on another.*

*The proposal seeks to redefine the word "marriage" – indeed, to abolish marriage, and to create an entirely new institution with the same name. Marriage should remain what it has been historically, the bedrock of modern society – a union between a man and a woman.*

*The fact that Government seeks to twist the language in this way has sinister '1984'-type overtones: newspeak – black is white and white is black. We believe the agenda is not, as claimed, that of 'equal rights', but instead is an attempt to force a new consensus on the public about the 'normality' of homosexual relationships and their equivalence to a Christian marriage. This is something that can never be accepted by mainstream Christians, who for two millennia have looked on marriage as the union of a man and a woman, with the purpose of having children and bringing them up in the family of the Church.*

*The Roman Catholic Hierarchy has roundly condemned the proposal that marriage between persons of the same sex be legalised. They have strongly expressed the view that marriage can only be between a man and a woman, and that this is the natural and fundamental unit of society.*

*In Scotland the Muslim community has joined with Roman Catholics, the Church of Scotland, and those of other faiths in their opposition to the Scottish National Party's attempts to redefine marriage.*

*Christian values have for many centuries been the foundation on which our civilisation has grown. These values are now under attack in our increasingly secular society. The leaders of two of the three major political parties in Westminster are avowed atheists and cannot, therefore, be expected to enthusiastically protect, or indeed understand, the Christian values we espouse.*

*Our politicians would do well to remember that they have been democratically elected to represent all of their constituents and must not be cowed into submission by small, albeit noisy, pressure groups."*

Tom Knight  
National Press Officer  
Knights of St Columba

