

## **Knight of the Year Award 2017 – 2018**

The Knight of the Year Award is given to a brother knight in good standing with the council and recognized for his work for the Knights of Columbus, work for the church and work for the community.

This year's recipient meets these requirements.

- Council – He is a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree member in good standing with the council and has 22 years of continuous service with this council. He has served as the warden. He attends council meetings regularly and takes an active part in the meetings.
- He helps to promote the Annual Maryland State Council Incentive Program which is a car raffle fundraiser conducted for the benefit of the State Council's Scholarship and Charity Programs by helping to sell car raffle tickets after the weekend Masses at St. Ignatius, Hilltop and St. Catherine, McConchie.
- The Intellectually Disabled Program, better known as the Tootsie Roll Drive, has become one of the most prestigious and important programs conducted by the Knights of Columbus in the State of Maryland. All of the profits from this program are donated to local organizations who help the citizens of La Plata with mental retardation. He helps collect donation on weekends at several shopping centers and at St. Ignatius, Hilltop and St. Catherine's McConchie.

The following information was provided by Father Ken Gill:

- Church – He serves as an usher and is an active Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion not only at Mass but also bringing communion to the sick and home-bound of St. Ignatius, Hilltop parish when I'm unable to. He assists the volunteers with the weekly Sunday breakfast after Mass. He is St. Ignatius' defacto lead parish building and maintenance

volunteer coordinator who organizes the volunteers for physical care of the church and parish hall, and for the care of the church and cemetery grounds. All of the landscaping maintenance is done by volunteers and he helps to make sure that the buildings and grounds are well maintained.

- Community – For many years he has been involved supporting our backpacks for kids program at Nanjemoy Elementary School and along with his wife Mary Lee bringing Christmas presents and gifts to the Women's shelter in Hughesville. He has also been the lead on our parish recycling program, collecting aluminum cans from both St. Catherine and St. Ignatius parishes. He also helps us to raise money by collecting scrap metal for recycling. More recently he has been the point person for our new clothing recycle program. He also assists with our Shelves of Hope Food Pantry by picking up food and supplies from the Southern Maryland Food Bank making sure our pantry is well stocked. He has supported our Meals of Hope program since it began in June of 2017. So you can see that he is a very visible presence in our community.
- Faith – Through his can-do attitude and spirit of voluntarism and concern for everyone in our community he exhibits the kind of faith Jesus asks of all Christians in Gospel of St. Matthew chapter 25:40, “Truly, I say to you as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.” He exhibits a desire to continue to learn and grow in our faith through his participation in our parish Bible Study programs and most recently with our Life in the Spirit seminars.
- Finally, Youth Activities – He is a blessing to the youth in our community. Each year he helps with our Christmas and Easter celebrations for the children by dressing up as Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny. He also coordinates the St. Ignatius altar server ministry assisting with their training and scheduling, he demonstrates a particular care and concern for the children not only in our parish but also in the larger community for this we are all grateful.

The Knight of the Year Award is proudly given to brother John Minichino and it is a token of our appreciation and congratulations to 22 years of dedicated service.

John was not able to be here this evening because he had another commitment. He will receive the award plaque at our next council meeting.