

**December 30, 2014**

***What the Knights of Columbus do.....***

Perhaps you've seen some of us in our splendid capes and feathered hats in parades, at special church functions and at wakes, honoring our deceased brothers. These are the Knights of Columbus of the Fourth Degree. But what many never see are dedicated Knights of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree from Bishop Peterson Council right here in Salem, working hard to make life better for their neighbors, friends and total strangers.

"These are the men of Saints Mary and Joseph Parish who give so much time and effort to raise funds to further the work of our parish priests and Catholic leaders", says Grand Knight Bill Richards. "They put their heart and soul into every program, whether it's the Tootsie Roll Drive, the parish picnic, working at bingo and poker nights, the Christmas Parade or the Christmas Fund. Always volunteering, always helping those in need and always promoting the Catholic faith by their deeds and generosity.

Over the past two years alone, the Knights of Columbus of Bishop Peterson Council 4442, have donated \$250,000 to parish activities, the homeless and the hungry, young mothers struggling with pregnancy, and community programs such as the Boys and Girls Club and charities like the Kidney Fund, the Jimmy Fund and the Tootsie Roll Drive.

In our parish alone, the Knights, over the last two years have contributed to many important causes:

• Saints Mary and Joseph Parish operating fund	\$26,800
• St. Joseph's Food Pantry	7,000
• Saints Mary and Joseph Parish Fuel Assistance	2,000
• Parish Gas Conversion project	21,100
• Parish Picnic	2,225
• Honduran Mission	1,011
• St. Joseph's Regional School	17,100
• Racetrack ministry	4,500
• St. Joseph's Consolers Group	600
• Parish Bulletin	<u>332</u>
<b>Saints Mary and Joseph Parish Needs Total</b>	<b>\$82, 668</b>

• Right to Life Programs	\$26,460
• Catholic Education Assistance	\$17,000
• Seminarian Support	\$5,800
• New Hampshire Catholic Charities	<u>\$22,500</u>
<b>Other Catholic programs and causes Total</b>	<b>\$71 ,760</b>

• Salem Boys & Girls Club,	\$10,000
• Tootsie Roll Drive, benefitting intellectually challenged adults & children through Special Olympics, Play Among the Stars, Camp Fatima and the Kimi Nichols Center	\$24,000

- Coats For Kids \$9,245
  - Salem Caregivers \$1,400
  - Two dozen other Community and Charitable causes \$50,508
- Community Needs Total \$95,153**

**Total Salem K of C Donations 2013-2014 \$249,581**

*“Charity*, to all who we can help, is the foundation of the Knights of Columbus fraternity of Catholic men” said Richards. “We like to feel our efforts are making a difference. If you know of a person or organization that we might be able to help, please call us so that we can talk. If you’d like to become a member of this great fraternity, call me direct – Bill Richards (603) 893-1836.”