



KNIGHTLY NEWS

A Quarterly Digest

February 2020

Ridgewood Knights of Columbus, Council 1736

Making Modern Connections

A 25-year-old YouTube star on what it takes to reach and recruit younger people to faith, fraternity, and action.



When Lizzie Estella Reezay converted to Catholicism in 2018, one of the first organizations to congratulate her was the Knights of Columbus. Like most 25-year-olds, Reezay embraces social media—but has a larger audience than most young people. She is the star of her own YouTube channel, [LizziesAnswers](#). With 217,000 subscribers and 40 million video views, Reezay posted several videos about her conversion and, so, it was very public news.

The California native was raised in Church of Christ, a Protestant denomination. Growing up, Reezay was extremely involved in the church and wound up attending Pepperdine University where she studied philosophy and religion. But she experienced something unexpected: Many Church of Christ students at Pepperdine began converting to Catholicism, some of whom were close friends.

Shortly after graduating in 2017, Reezay started researching the Early Church and reading the [Church Father writings](#). She began to realize that Catholicism is truer to the word of the Bible than any other form of Christianity, she says. Before long, she was “enthusiastically” attending Divine Liturgy and Latin Mass every week. She progressed through the [RCIA program](#) as a prospective adult convert to Catholicism and by Easter Vigil in 2018 was confirmed into the Catholic Church and received her first communion.

One thing is for sure: Her videos—on topics ranging from Catholicism to theology to mental health—resonate with her young audience. Reezay spoke with [d nī](#) about making modern connections and how organizations like the Knights of Columbus can reach and recruit younger people to faith, fraternity, and action.

Social media and the web: Young people crave knowledge.

Some people subscribe to the stereotype that Millennial and Gen Z generations are obsessed with technology and social media. Reezay, however, is a staunch believer that making connections over social media is a positive thing, no matter a person’s age.

“While the internet and YouTube can be used for meaningless, shallow entertainment, the amount of theology and science and history and philosophy channels far outweigh the bad,” she says. Without websites like [New Advent](#), Reezay says she would not have had access to all of the Church Father writings, Augustine, Eusebius, the entire Summa, and the writings of the Doctors of the Church, which she read when she was deciding to be Catholic. Even the Vatican website can be “extremely helpful” in providing access Church documents, she says.

For Knights of Columbus councils, having an informative website and strong social media presence can be a critical first step toward attracting younger members. “Millions of young people are craving knowledge and using social media to learn more about the world,” Reezay says. “I receive messages every single day from people who have converted to Catholicism or come back to the Church because of watching my videos ... I keep up long-distance with friends from all around the world because of apps like Instagram and Twitter. I have become friends with many of my YouTube subscribers and it began by them finding one of my videos and direct messaging me on Twitter.”

Increasing young people’s involvement in the Church.

Reports show that [church attendance by Millennials is low](#) and that a [rise in secular ideas and lifestyles is keeping young people away](#) from religion altogether. Reezay suggests that many of the young people she knows who have stopped going to church have lacked strong support from their parents.

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A Brighter Vision

by **Grand Knight Ramon Hache** February 2020

Every new year brings hope, excitement, and anticipation. It provides an opportunity to start anew, to resolve to change, and to reassess our view of the world and our purpose within it.

When I hear the number 2020, I can't help but associate it with 20/20, the universally recognized measure of visual acuity. In this new year what is your vision? More specifically, what is your vision of what it means to be a Knight? As Knights we are called to be disciples of Christ. We fulfill our mission through love and humble service to others.

As the presbyopia of my 45-year-old eyes remind me, I can have 20/20 vision for distance while still needing glasses to see what is closer to me. We can all easily fall into the trap of thinking so far ahead that we fail to see what is directly before us. I challenge you this year to seize the daily opportunity to love and serve others. Will you help Shake the Can? Nominate a cause or organization to receive a donation? Volunteer at Good Counsel Homes? Serve at a food pantry? Convince a friend, neighbor, or relative [to join the Knights?](#)

Our church continues to face tough challenges and unprecedented attacks. Now more than ever we need to lead by the example we set through our charitable works. Any act of service, charity, kindness or mercy, regardless of how small or simple it may seem, can make all the difference in the life of the recipient. I invite you all to inspire and help set a new and brighter vision for 2020 and beyond.

Vivat Jesus!

Ramon M. Hache, Sr.

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Member Spotlight: Jim Roth



You might know him as the Brother Knight who spent nearly 40 years working for a Green Bay-based cheese company. Perhaps you know him better as the person who recently organized the purchase of our Knights-branded shirts and hats. But Jim Roth is much more than that.

Happy 2020! What's your favorite inspirational quote?

A favorite quote is actually a line from the play *Les Misérables*: “To Love another person is to see the face of God.” It brings a tear to my eye every time I hear it.

Also Faith, Family, Friends. It's not a quote but it is a blessing. I don't know how people survive with these three gifts.

What's the best thing about being a Knight?

I love that it is based in our Catholic Faith. I love that we pray together. I love that we serve our community. I love how I see the care we have for each other and our community.

I really have only participated in a limited number of events thus far (I'm a Second Degree). But I especially enjoy the camaraderie at the burger stand at the parish picnic. And I really get a kick out of Mike Dougherty's presentation every meeting.

What's something about you that our fellow Brothers might not know?

I studied to be a priest from 1975 to 1977 at Cathedral College of the Immaculate Conception in Douglaston, Queens. I did so until my then girlfriend (which I was not supposed to have) dragged me out of there.

I have beaten cancer seven times since 2005 and also underwent a stem cell transplant 2014. I am in remission since last summer. I also was diagnosed with Parkinson's about six years ago. The list goes on but I thank God every day for the blessings he has given me.

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by **Pete Bernardo**

The annual **Men's Cornerstone** retreat happened January 24-25. This was my third Cornerstone, but the first time I worked on the team, albeit a small role. I attended many years ago and after some time away, I attended again last year as a candidate, bringing a friend.

It's difficult to explain the experience. Those of my Brother Knights who have attended will understand. My first impression was how genuinely nice everyone is. Men attend for various reasons. We all arrive as strangers, but by the end of the weekend you have 80 new friends.

We are provided sustenance by a dedicated kitchen staff of Cornerstone Brothers and I must say we eat well. However, the real food you receive is food for your soul.

I recall my first Cornerstone was where I met our current Grand Knight, late in the evening after dinner. We spoke about the Knights, as did a few other Brother Knights and Ramon was filling out a Form 100 shortly afterwards.

The retreat was a very spiritual and emotional experience for me. It is every time I attend. Like-minded Catholic men, spending 26 hours together, in support of each other ... what can be better?

This latest retreat was a refreshing experience, both from the perspective of getting away from the daily routine as well as reaffirming my belief that there are really wonderful people in this world, right in our own community.

It is difficult to find a nicer bunch of men—except maybe in the Knights!

**Making Modern Connections, continued from Page 1*

“My parents made faith the center of everything we did and they were constantly having intense conversations with us about evolution, the meaning of life, Jesus, and sex,” Reezay says. “Not everyone’s parents need to be theology scholars and missionaries, but going to church every single week and throughout the week, praying together as a family every day, reading a lot and having continuous theology discussions is a good start.”



Charity should be exciting.

It doesn’t need to be exciting the way a theme park or concert might be. Still, too many young people Reezay knows feel “emotionally detached” about many types of charity, she says. Making a financial donation, for instance, can feel like an insignificant contribution—a drop in the bucket toward a cause you’re not connected to.

Whenever possible, Knights of Columbus councils should communicate the personal connections associated with their charitable initiatives. We should ask ourselves: What is the cause? Who are the people affected? How can we be involved and what difference will our actions make?

Reezay notes that the younger men she knows who are most involved in the Knights are excited about doing hands-on charitable work. “Working together at homeless ministries, visiting veteran hospitals, and doing building projects in impoverished areas seem to be the best ways to connect with each other,” she says.

And while council meetings and get-togethers with other men of faith are important for camaraderie, mentorship is another critical detail. “Forming stronger one-on-one relationships and spiritual direction” can only help with retaining members, she says.

Get Involved!

Upcoming events with the Knights, OLMC, and more.

- **Thursdays:** *Knights Socials*. Beer. Sports. Fraternity. Need we say more? See you at the Hall. 7:30 p.m.
- **February 23:** *Enrichment for Married Couples*. This one-day marriage enrichment offers time to look at where you are in your marriage, improve your basic communication skills, and revisit memories of your life together as a married couple. The cost for the day is \$50/couple which includes a light continental breakfast, lunch and presentation materials. Mass will be celebrated at the end of the day. It takes place from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Ave., Newark. For more information, email [Brian Caldwell](#), director of Family Life for the Archdiocese of Newark.
- **March 21:** *St. Patrick's Day*. You don't want to miss this evening of traditional Irish fare, music, prizes, charity, and community! Details TBD. [Email brother Knight Jeff Voigt](#) to find out how you can lend a much-needed hand.
- **April 24, 25 & 26:** *Shake the Can*. The annual collection to raise donations for people with special needs is coming up fast. Wearing yellow vests and holding buckets, Knights stand at OLMC parish, street corners, business establishments, and other public places in Ridgewood. The collected donations are distributed to selected qualified agencies whose mission is to help people with special needs. Ridgewood Council #1736 has successfully helped many agencies and individuals over the years. All the Ridgewood Knights are invited to come out in large numbers to help this worthy cause. [Email Deacon Bob](#) to find out how and when to volunteer.

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Upcoming Degree Dates

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On January 15th, Supreme Council announced changes to the Admission, Formation, and Knighthood Degrees. It is presumed that the effective date of these changes will be July 1, 2020.

[Click here](#) for information regarding the new Degree.

FIRST DEGREE (Admission Degree)

February 11: St. Thomas More, Council 2188, Westwood

February 17: Queen of Peace, Council 3428, North Arlington

March 10: St. Thomas More, Council 2188, Westwood

March 16: Queen of Peace, Council 3428, North Arlington

April 14: St. Thomas More, Council 2188, Westwood

April 20: Queen of Peace, Council 3428, North Arlington

SECOND DEGREE (Formation Degree)

March 5: Queen of Peace, Council 3428, North Arlington

April 7: Sacred Heart, Council 2842, Rochelle Park

THIRD DEGREE (Knighthood Degree)

February 7: St. John, Council 1345, Dumont/Bergenfield

February 21: Sacred Heart, Council 2842, Rochelle Park

[For times and contacts, visit the Bergen Federation website.](#)

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“If you have two shirts in your closet, one belongs to you and the other to the man with no shirt.”

~ St. Ambrose

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Ridgewood Knights of Columbus
 Council 1736
 31 S. Broad Street Ridgewood, NJ 07450