



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS District of Columbia State Council

To: Nicholas Shields, State Deputy
From: Terence Fitzgerald, District Deputy #1
Date: April 12, 2026
Re: 2025-2026 District #1 Report

Council 417 – St. Anthony

The Council is in good standing as of today—it is current with State and Supreme per capita payments; it is Safe Environment compliant; and it has submitted forms 185, 365, and 1728.

The Council is lagging on its membership target—it has recruited 2 of 7 (29%—the same rate as last fraternal year). The Council was active in the community—mainly through its Friday Fish Fry and its Coats for Kids distribution. Council leadership held regular business meetings—it had vigorous, open debate of issues and active involvement of its many officers.

For the upcoming fraternal year, the incoming officers must place due attention to membership growth and expansion. The Council is over-reliant on its group of dedicated officers and is at risk of stagnation unless it acts intentionally to attract new members that represent the diversity of the wider St. Anthony's church and Brookland community.

Council 433 – Potomac Council (St. Matthew, St. Patrick, and St. Mary Mother of God)

The Council is in good standing as of today—it is current with State and Supreme per capita payments; it is Safe Environment compliant; and it has submitted forms 185, 365, and 1728.

The Council has exceeded its membership target—it has recruited 7 of 5 (140%). This is the first time in several years that the Council has exceeded its target. The Council was active largely at St. Patrick's parish and largely through Cor. The Council was less active at St. Matthew's largely due to the continued indifference of Cathedral leaders to the Council. It has not yet reestablished its presence at St. Mary Mother of God, which was reabsorbed into the Council during the fraternal year. Council leadership held regular business meetings and reestablished the practice of in-person meetings and events.

For the upcoming fraternal year, the incoming officers must build on the good work of this fraternal year by providing (immediate) opportunities for its new members to have a positive experience; by adopting parish-specific plans for its three churches; and by expanding its officer base.

Council 3877 Bishop Patrick J. Byrne Council (Assumption, St Francis Xavier, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St Teresa of Avila)

The Council is in good standing as of today—it is current with its State and Supreme per capita statements; it is safe environment compliant; and it has submitted forms 185, 365, and 1728.

The Council is lagging on its membership target—it has recruited 2 of 7 (29%). The Council initiated Cor at St. Francis Xavier parish, provided financial and other support to its pastors and parishes, and held various community events.

For the upcoming year, the incoming officers must place due attention to membership growth and expansion. The Council is over-reliant on its small group of dedicated officers and is at risk of stagnation. The Council should determine realistic presence at and plans for each of its four constituent churches.

Council 11302 – Patrick Cardinal O’Boyle Council (St Dominic, St Joseph, St Peter, St Vincent de Paul)

The Council is in good standing as of today—it is current with its State and Supreme per capita statements; it is safe environment compliant; and it has submitted forms 185, 365, and 1728.

The Council has exceeded its membership target—it has recruited 11 of 10 (111%). The Council was active across its four parishes through a mixture of Council-specific events and Council support to parish events. Council leadership held regular business meetings that were well attended and organized—it is a very well-led and -run council.

For the upcoming year, the incoming officers must consider whether it can achieve even greater growth across its parishes—and to consider parish-specific engagement and growth strategies. The officers could also consider the merits of rotating business meetings across their four parishes to encourage greater attendance of and engagement with non-officer members.

Council 15795 – San Oscar Romero (Shrine of the Sacred Heart)

The Council is in good standing as of today—it is current with State and Supreme per capita payments; it is Safe Environment compliant; and it has submitted forms 185, 365, and 1728.

The Council is close to meeting its membership target—it has recruited 4 of 5 members (80%). The Council’s activities were severely curtailed by the political environment in the city and, in particular, the effects of immigration enforcement operations on the Latino community. In spite of these constraints, the Council was able to maintain business meetings, Cor sessions, and engagement with its community. The Council is to be commended for finding space to serve its members and its wider community in very challenging circumstances.

For the upcoming fraternal year, the incoming officers must ensure the Council continues to operate and find ways to support its members and its wider community.

Wider observations

1. Chaplains, GKs, officers, and members across District 1 Councils did great work in the fraternal year. It was a pleasure to serve them. I am particularly grateful to each of the GKs who bore that unique leadership role.
2. Councils have to maintain vigilance against stagnation, decline, and irrelevance in their communities. Leadership teams have to prioritize membership growth, membership engagement, and membership experience in general—and, for councils with multiple parishes—across each parish church. Grand Knights and District Deputies have to have frank conversations about these issues throughout the fraternal year.
3. Councils have to consider their virtual and physical presence in parishes. Not all Councils are visible on their parish websites or bulletins; and not all have either general or council-specific materials in their church buildings.
4. Councils with *in situ* Catholic schools (417, 3877, 11302, and 11795) have unique opportunities to partner with them to secure membership growth from families and staff and to provide programs for children. These councils should have an orientation toward and plans for engagement with their schools.