

HISTORICAL REVIEW
BISHOP ODIN COUNCIL #2917
607 EAST WHITNEY DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Prior to March 25, 1945, Council 803 was the only Knights of Columbus Council in Houston. It was prior to this date that Father Bruno Skweres, a dynamic assistant pastor at Christ the King Parish, had the foresight to envision the need for a second council in the city of Houston. It was primarily through the efforts of Father Skweres that Bishop Byrne gave his approval for the formation of a second council. Subsequently, several interested Brother Knights held a meeting with District Deputy R. Convoy Scoggins presiding.

With the approval of the District Deputy, efforts began to recruit Catholic men for membership in the new council. As a result of these efforts, one hundred and eleven Catholic men became members of the North Side Council #2917 on March 25, 1945. The institution of the new council took place at 2616 Louisiana, the home of Council #803. The charter members attended their first Holy Mass at Christ the King Church with Father Skweres as the celebrant. That evening a banquet was held at St. Joseph Church Parish Hall.

Having no council home of its own, Council 2917 held its meetings at the Polish Home on Studewood Street. Doctor W.H. Eaton was elected as the Council's first Grand Knight and Father Skweres was appointed Council Chaplain. Shortly thereafter, the membership chose to name its council in honor of the first Catholic Bishop of Texas, His Excellency, Bishop John Mary Odin.

On February 14, 1949, Council 2917 purchased the home of Brother Knight Joe F. Montalbano, which was situated on six and two thirds acres of land at 607 East Whitney Drive. In conjunction with the purchase, the Bishop Odin Home Association was incorporated with Dr. Eaton elected as its first President. The Brother Knights immediately constructed a hall, eighty feet by fifty feet, adjacent to the back of the Montalbano home. On September 12, 1949, Bishop Odin Council 2917, held its first council meeting in the new home.

On November 29, 1956, the Home Association purchased an adjoining six and one third acres of land, giving the council its present site.

As the council membership continued to increase, so did the need for additional facilities and activities. A barbecue pit with building was constructed in February of 1952. That same month saw the construction of a softball field dedicated to the memory of the Council's first Grand Knight, Brother W.H Eaton. In 1975, a new barbeque pit with building was constructed.

Throughout its existance, the council became increasingly involved in activities for its membership. In 1947, a bowling league, consisting of six teams, was formed. It has increased in size to a total of eighteen teams. In conjunction with the Knights' bowling league, a Better Halves league, composed of member's wives and daughters, was formed and presently has a total of ten teams. The young members of the council presently have four softball teams and one women's team composed of wives of council members. Council members are also involved in golf.

In January of 1957, the Bishop Odin Federal Credit Union was established with the late Brother Knight John Halick purchasing the first share. The Bishop Claude Dubuis Columbian Squire Circle #1732 was chartered at Bishop Odin Council in April of 1964. A Senior Member's Organization was formed and held its first meeting on November 10, 1964. January 15, 1975, saw the

institution of the Ladies' Auxiliary of Bishop Odin Council. The Ladies' Auxiliary has become a tremendously important part of Council 2917. On January 10, 1970, Council 2917 was distinguished as Brother Knight Chris Cole, a State Legislator, was sworn in as Governor for a Day for the State of Texas. Council 2917 sponsors athletic awards banquets for St. Pius X High School and Seton Junior High School. A scholarship to St. Thomas University is sponsored for children of Brother Knights.

In 1953, the council held its first bazaar with a new cadillac automobile given away as first prize. With the institution of additional councils in the city of Houston this has become an annual affair held the first Sunday in October. It is now sponsored by the Houston Chapter of the Knights of Columbus, but continues to be held on Council 2917 grounds.

Throughout its existence the council continues to be involved in many activities for its membership and the citizens of the community. Many charitable donations are made each year.

Today, April 2, 1978, we dedicate a New Council Home for Bishop Odin Council #2917. On this date, as in the past, we too look with great expectations to the future. Let us pray that God will bless us as we continue to support the principles of the Knights of Columbus: Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

L.B. GOLASINSKI, Editor

HOUSTON CHAPTER

Knights of Columbus

Congratulations

BISHOP ODIN COUNCIL 2917

Member Councils

803 - 2917 - 3077

3910 - 4550 - 4577

5077 - 5678 - 6527

6557 - 6826 - 6859 - 6878