From Activity to Mission

Chaska Council 9141's Transformation



Members and families gather for Mass, sharing the faith at the heart of council life.

Chaska Council 9141 was active. Its members held fish fries and pancake breakfasts, supported charities, cleaned roads, and hosted a member picnic. They were doing good work—but Grand Knight Bill Boecker believed the council could become something more.

The turning point came at a District Deputy meeting, where Bill learned that Star Council was achievable. The District Deputy offered guidance, and the District Warden offered help with electronic reporting. What had seemed overwhelming suddenly felt possible.

Becoming More Visible

Chaska began making intentional changes. The council eliminated an inefficient fundraiser, introduced modern shirts members enjoyed wearing, appointed an active membership director, and increased its presence at youth and family activities, Eucharistic processions, parish picnics, and other parish events.

Instead of waiting for people to attend a Knights function, the Knights went where parishioners were already gathering.

The parish began to see them not simply as an organization that raised money, but as a dependable partner in parish life.

Creating a Culture of Invitation

Recruitment had once been handled by only one or two men. Chaska began equipping more members to answer common concerns:

“I don’t have time.”

“I travel too much.”

“I can’t attend every meeting.”

Members learned to explain that every Knight contributes according to his talents, availability, and season of life. This gave them greater confidence to personally invite other men.

Their approach was simple:

“Are you looking for a way to give back to the Church and become more involved? We can help.”

They also learned not to pressure prospects or give up after an initial “no.” A man may need several invitations before he is ready.

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One way to serve: a volunteer prepares breakfast at Guardian Angels. Photo: Council #9141 Facebook.

Relationships Made the Difference

Chaska's most successful recruiting opportunities came through relationships:

• Fathers encouraged their sons to join.

• Knights met men and their families at coffee and donuts.

• Members supported youth and family activities and connected with younger parents.

• Brief, upbeat pulpit talks explained the Knights' mission.

• Wives and families were welcomed as partners in the council's work.

Recruitment became more than a membership drive. It became the natural result of visible service, personal relationships, and consistent follow-up.

Shared Leadership Created Momentum

Bill also learned that a Grand Knight does not need to do everything himself. He found members whose talents matched the council's needs and delegated technology, reporting, programs, and recruitment.

Once the council reached its membership goal, members realized Star Council was within reach. More men stepped forward, success created confidence, and confidence created momentum. Chaska ultimately earned Star Council in consecutive years.

But the award was not the greatest achievement. The real transformation was becoming a council the parish recognized, trusted, and expected to see serving.

Bill's message to other councils is clear:

"A small group of men can still be very visible. Whether the opportunity is big or small—be present."

Be present. Build relationships. Make the invitation. Keep inviting.

Story: Based on John Short's conversation with Grand Knight Bill Boecker. Photos: Knights of Columbus Council 9141 Facebook page.