**Star Council Award**

**LOCAL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 1649 RECEIVES TOP AWARD**

The Blessed Sacrament Parish Knights of Columbus Council 1649 in Hibbing, MN has received the distinction of Star Council, the international organization’s top award for local councils.

The Star Council Award recognizes overall excellence in the areas of membership, promotion of fraternal insurance benefits, sponsorship of faith formation programs and service-oriented activities.

The award is focused on 5 categories.

1. **Membership Growth –** The council achieved 200% of their membership growth quota for the fraternal year.
2. **Faith Programs –** The council with the help of fellow Knight Brad Steinbrecher established COR – Into the Breach which meets the first Sunday of each month after 10 AM mass to help men of the parish and of the community come together for prayer, formation, and fellowship. They also donated bibles to the 5th grade class at Assumption Catholic School as well as lead the rosary every 5th Sunday of the month prior to 8 AM mass.
3. **Family Programs –** The council sponsored and participated in the Keep Christ in Christmas event at Assumption Catholic School. Brother Knights Robb Bigelow, Todd Bigelow, and Josh Wopata started and lead Family Prayer Night once a month and many other Knight families participated. For Christmas, the Knights sponsored the Boxes of Joy program providing Christmas gifts for needy nations. The Knights also sponsored the Assumption Catholic School and supported them with a number of pancake breakfasts.
4. **Community Programs –** Every year the council provides coats and snowpants for children in the community as well as donating to the Safety Town program, the Assumption Archery Team, and assisting with the Thanksgiving Baskets that are provided by the parish to the community.
5. **Life Programs –** The Knights are very invested in supporting the Star of the North Home in Hibbing as well as the Family Life Center and the Special Olympics through their annual Tootsie Roll Drive.

This is the first time council 1649 has received this award. Congratulations go out to all brother Knights who through service, sacrifice, unity, fraternity, and charity achieved this prestigious honor.

For information on joining the Knights of Columbus and the benefits of membership, please contact Scott Ciochetto at Scott.Ciochetto@KofC.org or 218-969-3076.