

I don't have to remind my Brother Knights assembled here of the basic focus of the Knights of Columbus: Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

Our fraternal council meets in this room, we have a protocol, we have a name, we have a purpose and we support each other in good times and in bad. And each of us, I might add, have our own personality.

In some ways, and I apologize but I can't help it, it reminds me in a positive way of that fictional organization of the fifties that was a hit of radio and television: The Amos and Andy Show.

We are, of course, "The Knights of Columbus." Can anyone remember the name of Amos and Andy's fraternal organization? [The Mystic Knights of The Sea]

Our Knights of Columbus was founded, in part, because Father McGivney recognized that in the late 1800's Catholics were barred from many fraternal organizations and he wanted a place where Catholic men could experience that sense of fraternity. Without being explicitly expressed there is obviously a parallel with the television series.

Like the Knights of Columbus, the Mystic Knights of the Sea had their own administrative structure. Whereas we in our Council have offices such as Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, Financial Secretary, The Mystic Knights of the Sea had Kingfish, Whale, Mackerel, and so forth.

Remember the main characters of Amos and Andy? There was Kingfish, who was head of the lodge and was always trying to get his brothers involved in some scheme he thought up.

Andy: well meaning but gullible.

Amos: the philosopher of the group; a hard working family man and cabdriver for the "Fresh Air Taxi Company" so called because the cab had no roof.

Lighting: who was anything but fast.

"Brother" Crawford: a long suffering family man

Henry: a social-climbing real estate and insurance salesman

and Algonquin J. Calhoun: a semi-crooked lawyer.

(Resemblance to some of our Brother Knights is purely coincidental.)

And, although they were not called as such, there were the "Ladies" who were in some way related to the Knights: Sapphire, Madame Queen, Ruby.

As in any organization there were conflicts and disagreements. But the members of the Lodge never forgot they were Brothers and in the end always supported each other to work through problems, each adding a perspective from their own personality. In the end, that is also a strength of our organization.

In fact, I feel so strongly about this I would like to call on our new Grand Knight to entertain a motion to change the name of our organization to... “The Mystic Knights of the Sea.”

And, that he heretofore be addressed as “The Kingfish”

And if, in this Council we find ourselves struggling, we should recite this phrase: “Holy Mackerel! We have all got to stick together in this here thing -- remember: we are brothers in that great fraternity: The Mystic Knights of the Sea!”