

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 3956

Newsletter

St. Pius X, Southgate, Michigan Issue #16

AUGUST, 2020



GREAT NEWS FOR RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS TO OUR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS! Since July 1, eligible Catholic men in the United States and Canada can now join the Knights of Columbus online, in a simple, streamlined process that takes just five minutes. It would be great if each of us can recruit one member during this limited time opportunity to join. In some cases, their first year membership fee may be waived. We are looking for men of good faith who want to put that faith in action and eager to give back and serve our community.

To join, simply go online to [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org) and click the “JOIN” tab. Once a member, we can present our Online Exemplification and within 30 minutes, they are a 3rd DEGREE MEMBER OF OUR COUNCIL!!! GO GET THEM!!! If they have any questions or need assistance, feel free to reach out to Financial Secretary Ray Bilyk at [raybilyk@kofc3956.org](mailto:raybilyk@kofc3956.org) .

Since 1882, membership in the Knights of Columbus has been open to men 18 years of age or older who are practicing Catholics, accepts teaching of the Catholic Church on matters of faith and morals, and aspire to live in accord with the precepts of the Catholic Church.

## MOVING ALONG ON IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR CHURCH AND SOCIAL HALL

Fr. Suresh updated us on improvement projects underway in our church and social hall. “The outdated air-conditioning system...is being upgraded. We are undertaking a major painting project in the church and social hall as well as replacing the existing social hall windows with energy efficient ones”. Thanks to Jerry Wesselman who has undertaken the painting mission.



Thank you to Father Suresh and Brian Batko for sharing photos.

Father Suresh is requesting bids for replacement of the social hall ceiling lights as well as replacement of plumbing fixtures, flooring and repaint of the block and tiled walls in the restrooms. We encourage brother knights to consider helping, particularly those who have yet to “lend a hand” with your time and financial help. **Please contact the Parish Office...734-285-1100.** Once again, quoting Father Suresh, “May God Bless your generosity and may the gift be returned to you in the form of God’s abundant blessings to you and your family”.



#### ARE WE THERE YET?

How are we doing selling out those Grand Raffle tickets? Since the Parish Festival has been cancelled due to concerns relating to COVID-19, we are relying on the Grand Raffle to generate much needed income for St. Pius X. Please make an extra effort to help our parish by purchasing as many raffle tickets individually as we can and to sell them among our family, friends and acquaintances. Besides prizes awarded as much as \$12,000.00 to winners of the Grand Raffle, there are several seller incentives including \$500.00 to the seller of prize ticket and \$100.00 to the seller of the next three prize winners.

Besides tickets you should receive, additional tickets can be picked up at the parish office during business hours. We strongly encourage each brother knight to sell every ticket. However, any tickets unsold are required by the State of Michigan to be returned for record keeping.



Congratulations to Kiara Bilyk on her High School Graduation. She is the daughter of Jennifer and Ray Bilyk. We commend her many accomplishments and wish her much success and blessing as she moves to the next chapter of her life. Kiara has been a breath of fresh air to the ushers who she assisted and we all look forward to seeing her grow in her faith and life.

#### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THE LOSS OF MARK GARCELLANO'S FATHER

Condolences to Brother Mark and his family who lost their father Tomas Garcellano on July 23, 2020. He was born on December 21, 1934 and grew up in the Barrio of Iguig. A teacher, he and his wife Marietta immigrated to the United States in 1970. Mark tells a story of the payphone "miracle" when they first arrived in this country. Every time they put a coin in the slot, the phone would dispense many coins in the coin return. Again they would try and again it would dispense more coins. For them it was divine intervention for monetary help in order to start their new life in the States. Tomas earned a Master's degree in 1976 from Wayne State University in Education. He retired with 27 years as a high school biology teacher from the Detroit Public School System.

He was a jack-of-all trades. He knew electrical, carpentry, drywall and plumbing. He knew how to have fun; playing cards with relatives, gardening, fishing, and his home improvement projects. He was a quiet and patient man. Quoting Mark "he would nurture and grow his garden to eventually reap the benefits of his harvest in much the same way he would deal with his children... I find he that he is still teaching me...I am my father's son and he will carry on through me, through his children, and through his grandchildren".

## **SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP**

We have resumed our in person general membership meetings outside the Social Hall. We are anticipating our next meeting on September 2, 2020 to be there or inside a freshly spruced up Social Hall. An hour of fellowship will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by our meeting at 7:00. For the health and safety of our members and their families, members in good health with no underlying health concerns should attend. Social distancing practices are recommended. As you will see in our MESSAGE BOARD, there is quite a bit planned in the months ahead and we truly need your insight and time. An email prior to next month's meeting should be expected from our Deputy Grand Knight Bob Schooner ([rds11553@yahoo.com](mailto:rds11553@yahoo.com)).

## **MESSAGE BOARD**

### **Notes from our August Membership Meeting**

- For information regarding Michigan Right to Life Dinner in Troy on September 23, 2020, please search online at <https://rtl.org/event/k-of-c-respect-life/>
- Planning ahead, we are moving forward for the Seminarian Desert Meal. No date has yet been determined.
- The Motorcycle Blessing was suspended although one cyclist requested and received a special blessing from Fr. Suresh.
- An Easter Concert in 2021, possibly with Unspoken may still be planned.
- A Hot Dog Social is anticipated for next year
- A Children's Soccer Challenge is planned for discussion in September. Date to be determined.
- A Basketball Competition is another event we would like to be a part of with our St. Pius students. Date to be determined
- A Catholic Essay Competition is proposed for students in grades 8-12. The Essays may be limited to 500 - 700 words and be judged for clarity and spelling.
- We are looking forward to bring back "KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS", an event that would be open to all members of our St. Pius community.
- Home Brew Event is back in late September. It is a great recruitment opportunity.
- Doughnut Sundays planned to resume beginning September 14, 2020 may be a carry out event.
- Charity Family Breakfast planned to resume beginning October 18, 2020 may also be a carry out event.
- Our next Officer's meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 11, 2020. Location TBD. Grand Knight Bill Robert is looking into returning to the Wyandotte Council location at 3530 Biddle Avenue possibly before our next general meeting. For more information, please reach out to Bill at [billrobert218@gmail.com](mailto:billrobert218@gmail.com)
- We highly recommend all members keep informed by visiting our council's website at <https://www.kofc3956.org/>. Ray Bilyk our Financial Secretary and past Grand Knight and his crew of happy troopers have worked hard to bring this information to you.

## **DONATIONS ON HOLD**

At our August Business Meeting, Walt Kabalka addressed the council that due to fund raising activities having been suspended or postponed, we will be postponing as well donations to various organizations that we have partnered with in the past. We look forward to returning to our monthly contributions to these worthy charities. We encourage all members to give freely if you can to organizations such as St. Vincent DePaul, Right to Life of Michigan and other as your heart directs you.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

We would like to congratulate all members who celebrate birthdays in August:

- Henry Ibarra (August 4)
- John McFadden Jr. (August 5)
- Frank Allevato (August 10)
- Dennis Levko (August 11)
- Steven Crandall (August 13)
- Bruce Kresslien (August 25)
- GK William Robert (August 25)
- Benedict Vizachero (August 26)
- John Lazere Jr. (August 27)



Happy Birthday to Elizabeth (Liz) Ridenour, wife of Larry Ridenour who celebrated her birthday of August 6<sup>th</sup>!

## YEARS OF SERVICE

Congratulations to the following Brother Knights celebrating the anniversary of their membership to the Knights of Columbus O'Brien Council #3956 in August:

- George Kotronis 25 years
- Gerald Gonyea 7 years
- Robert Munroe 5 years
- Alexander Brown 1 years

If there are any missing wedding anniversaries, wife birthdays or ordination anniversaries you would like to share, please send them to Financial Secretary Ray Bilyk at [raybilyk@kofc3956.org](mailto:raybilyk@kofc3956.org) so they can be added to our list. We would love for this to be as accurate as possible. Thank you Ray!

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, August 9

Installation of K of C Council 3956 Officers after 11:30 Mass

Tuesday, August 11

Planning Meeting (August - December) Location TBD. Contact Bill Robert at billrobert218@gmail.com

Saturday, August 15

Assumption of Mary

Friday, August 21

Feast Day of St. Pius X

September Date TBD

Catholic Citizen Essay Contest (September)

September Date TBD

Soccer Challenge (September/October)

Wednesday, September 2

K of C Council 3956 Regular Business Meeting  
6:00 pm Fellowship, 7:00 pm meeting

Sunday, September 6

Council hosting St. Pius Parish Raffle 'Party' following 11:30 AM Mass

Monday, September 7

Labor Day

Sunday, September 13, Beginning with First Sunday Mass

Donut Sunday (after every Sunday Mass)

Saturday, September 26

Homebrew Demonstration (Recruitment Event).

For details, please Reach out to Financial Secretary Ray Bilyk at [raybilyk@kofc3956.org](mailto:raybilyk@kofc3956.org)

Sunday, September 27, Beginning with First Sunday Mass

Council 3956 Charity Family Breakfast

## FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Re-printed: We are still not back to business as usual as yet for safety reasons. All checks for the pantry should be left off at the parish office with Lou Butka. Dennis Hamilton will still pick up any food donations left in the library and make trips as needed. A big thank you to all Brother Knights/Ushers for their many generous monetary donations. Brother Dennis Hamilton has been generous with his time and will keep us all fully aware of future developments.

## REFLECTION

Our son Joey and his fiancé Catie are getting married next Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> on the Feast of the Assumption of Mary at the Cathedral of the Blessed in Detroit by Father Bob McCabe. It has been Catie's dream to marry there and Lord willing, they will. We all looked forward to a church full of family and friends, witnessing their union before God. We would then join them in a grand celebration at a reception full of fine dining, music and dancing. Well, the reality is...seating at the church will be limited to a percentage of the witnesses planned, whose smiling faces will be covered by masks. Their reception plans have gone awry as the original venue planned for nearly 300 guests, cancelled due to state orders and after cancellation at another venue, the celebrating will be outdoors under a tent with only immediate family and the wedding party. Over the years as we looked forward to this day, Joey lost his Grandfather, my dad, and Catie lost her Mom.

We didn't expect all this and we have been extremely stressed by the events that brought this on. It's only by placing our trust in God that can make the best of it. Yes, we are disappointed and we feel cheated. There have been tears and anger. As Father Bob told me, "we are not computers". We have feelings that sometimes challenge our faith. My mother, who is just as disappointed, particularly since this will be her first grandchild to marry, without her husband that she married over sixty years ago. She wisely reminds us that we are all in good health. This is going to be a celebration and regardless of the circumstances, our son is marrying a wonderful young lady. Please pray for them. Not so much because of the disappointments, but for their new life together. For good health, not just for themselves but for their families, including the children they plan to have.

We are not alone in this experience, Jennifer and Ray Bilyk's daughter Kiara and all the recent graduates who have finished high school and college, not at all as they planned, but without a ceremony worthy of their achievements with limited celebration if at all. Pray for them and all whose wedding plans, graduations and other life events have been altered. And for those whose circumstances are far worse than our own: Those with health, financial and emotional challenges. We need to always pray for them.

## PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

### Serenity Prayer - Full Version

God grant me the serenity To accept the things I cannot change;  
Courage to change the things I can;  
And wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;  
Enjoying one moment at a time;  
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;  
Taking, as He did, this sinful world

As it is, not as I would have it;  
Trusting that He will make all things right  
If I surrender to His Will;  
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life

And supremely happy with Him Forever and ever in the next. Amen.

Author - [Reinhold Niebuhr](#) 1951

Vivat Jesus

Anthony J. (Tony) Chirco,  
Brother Knight and Editor