

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 3956

Newsletter

St. Pius X, Southgate, Michigan Issue #20

DECEMBER, 2020



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

**AS WE REMEMBER THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
MAY WE BE DILIGENT IN CARE FOR OURSELVES AND EACH OTHER**

NOW IS THE TIME TO RECRUIT A NEW BROTHER KNIGHT!

We have only until the end of the year...and the end of the FREE 1st Year Online Membership offer! We need ONE MORE MEMBER added to our Council roster to reach membership quota!

Remember that when they go to <https://www.kofc.org/joinus> and sign up to be an online member with the Promo Code **MCGIVNEY2020**, they get their 1st year of membership for FREE! (Make sure they check that they are interested in joining Council 3956.)

Once they are an online member, they can sign up and attend an Online Exemplifications of Charity, Unity and Fraternity which takes about 30 minutes!) Family and friends are welcome to observe the ceremony as well! Is all of this hard to remember? Use these links to help...

- **Online Application Guide** - <http://www.kofc.org/en/resources/for-members/membership-growth/online-membership-application-walkthrough.pdf>
- **Invitation to Online On-Demand Exemplifications of Charity, Unity and Fraternity** - <https://www.kofc.org/apps/resources/invitation-en.pdf>

If you have any questions, please email membership@kofc3956.org



JANUARY 6th GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Our next membership meeting will be on Wednesday, January 6, 2020. Although, it is most probable that it will be a zoom meeting, there is still a possibility that it may be in the Social Hall.

Regardless, the meeting will begin at 7:00 pm. We will be sending a reminder by invitation with instructions. Please set this time aside to join in. Consider that we individually, and as a fraternity of hard working men need one another at this time.

USHERS NOTES

Specific instructions regarding ushers duties at the Christmas Masses will be posted in the Ushers room. Seating will be limited and every other pew will be roped off. We will need to remove the ropes at the conclusion of each Mass and place them on the alternate pews. In the event of an overflow crowd, we need to direct parishioners to the social hall where additional seating will be available. The Masses will be live streamed from the social hall. Our curtailed duties at the Masses are still in effect. We will only assist in seating parishioners and placing the collection in the safe. God Bless to all of you and Merry Christmas!



FOOD PANTRY

Every year, our Ushers and Brother Knights make a food and/or toiletry item donation to the Downriver Food Pantry during the holiday season. The donations were made at our annual Ushers Christmas dinner which, unfortunately, had to be canceled this year out of health concerns. The donations always exceeded expectations. Dennis Hamilton has proposed a "Pack the Pantry" donation initiative this year, basically a collaborative effort between the Ushers Club and our K of C council. He is asking all of our combined membership to please consider making a food/toiletry donation to the pantry this year. Specific boxes will be marked in the church library for this effort and keep a running tally of the poundage donated. If possible and in concurrence with you all and our members, this initiative is going through the week of January 3, 2021. Thank for your consideration. No donation is too small and the need of our neighbors is heightened during these challenging times.



COATS FOR KIDS WAS AN INSPIRING SUCCESS

The Coats for Kids Distribution was on Saturday, December 12th at the Basilica of Sainte Anne de Detroit, 1000 St Anne St, Detroit, Michigan. There were 8 cases of coats of all different sizes. A few coats went to one of St. Pius's own family in need. Thank you to all the Knights who helped in the collection of donation, logistics, and distribution. Special thanks to our parishioners' generosity.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DECEMBER KNIGHT OF THE MONTH: BRIAN BATKO

Brian has served as a Trustee in the past several years, and currently as Programs Director. Brian has been instrumental in many of our projects, including the Desert Meal for our Seminarians, the Holiday Religious programs and the Electronic Message Center to name a few.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DECEMBER FAMILY OF THE MONTH: RAY AND JENNIFER BILYK AND FAMILY

The Bilyks are always there to donate their time and resources to prepare and host many of our programs, including the recent Coats for Kids and Chili Cook Off. Besides serving as Ushers and Past Grand Knight, Ray stepped up at a most critical time when we lost our beloved Tony Cerezo to assume the responsibility of Financial Secretary.



GRAND KNIGHT COMMENTS:

Grand Knight Bill Robert also wished a Merry Christmas to all his fellow Knights.

Rosaries and Rosary prayer cards will be for sale on Sunday, January 31, 2021. Please join us with the Rosary Altar Confraternity in praying the Rosary that day.

Thank you to all who participated in the phone tree by reaching out to our fellow Knights had positive experiences. We updated them on the time and location of our monthly meeting. There were offers of rides to the meeting for members who can no longer drive due to health issues. They appreciated that the work they have previously done for St. Pius has not been forgotten, and they appreciated that we are checking in on them. The Leave No Neighbor Behind Phone Tree will continue next month.

Please mark on your calendars our next General Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 6, 2021. If we don't already have your email address, please reach out to either myself at billrobert218@gmail.com or Trustee and Newsletter Editor Tony Chirco at ajc@tm.net so we "keep you in the loop".

DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT: - District Deputy Dominic Raona

The District Deputy wanted to report that the overwhelming turnout of the O'Brien Council and a few others in his District have invigorated his efforts to serve. He expressed thanks to those who contributed and those who organized this year's Coats for Kids drive.

District Deputy Raona will work with Father Suresh to schedule a display of the St. Michael the Archangel icon during a weekend mass. The icon will be on display for the next 6 weeks throughout the district. District Deputy Raona wanted to wish a Merry Christmas to the Knights of the O'Brien Council and their families

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT:

Financial Secretary Ray Bilyk reported at our last membership meeting: we have a total of 118 Brother Knights in our St. Pius X O'Brien Council (39 Insured + 74 Associates + 5 Inactive). We have 9 Honorary and 26 Honorary Life members. The 2021 Dues Notices went out on or before December 15, 2020. Notices have been also posted in Ushers Room for pickup.

Reminder that we are also collecting funds for the State Council's Take 10 for Charity Program (suggested amount \$10) and the Sacred Heart Major Seminary Endowed Scholarship Fund (suggested amount \$6). These are voluntary requests.

Besides mailing in your dues/donations, you can also make your payment by credit card (for a \$2.00 convenience fee) by heading to <https://www.kofc3956.org/pay-dues/> If you have any questions, please free to contact me at raybilyk@kofc3956.org



K of C Leave No Neighbor Behind Masks are still for sale \$10 each. We encourage all members to where these masks to church. We would especially like to have all our ushers wear them. These face masks are of high quality and washable. Three washable filters and included. To obtain a mask or masks. Please contact Ray Bilyk at raybilyk@kofc3956.org

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Dave Sajdak / Recorder Robert Park

- New Knights? New Candidates? New Prospects?
- Tool to collect candidates: <https://info.kofc.org/us.htm>
 - Save link to your phone or PC
 - Preferred Council #: 3956
 - Council Contact Email: joinus@kofc3956.org
- **FREE E-MEMBERSHIP dues until December 31st enter code MCGIVNEY2020**

PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT:

Brother Brian Batko reported on the Desert Meal: The status of Seminarian fund raiser, one our flagship events, is up in the air due to Covid concerns. Without certainty that we could sell enough tickets to cover the cost of the venue, we are not moving forward with booking the Crystal Gardens February date at this time. Many of the attendees of our past events are in the highest risk demographic for negative outcomes if they contract Covid 19.

MESSAGE BOARD

Notes from Board Officers and our Membership Meeting



- 1st Annual Chili Cook-Off - District Deputy Dominic Raona won the Chili Cook-off. The Cook-off raised \$237.00 with 13-18 voters and participants.
- Spelling Bee - being held in 4th-8th grades at St. Pius School this month
- Essay Contest (December 2020)
- Free Throw Championship (January-February 2021)
- Keep Christ in CHRISTmas (KCIC) Poster Contest (last week of November 2020, due back by Monday, Dec 30, 2020)
- Consecration to the Holy Family (After all weekend Masses December 26th/27th) - Prayer Cards ordered and received
- Right to Life March for Life 2021 Spring MI Drive will be Palm Sunday weekend (March 26-28, 2021)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

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

- John C. Byers (December 1)
- George W. Kelly (December 4)
- Wesley B. Barnard (December 11)
- Frank Racano (December 12)
- James H. Higgins (December 17)
- Andrew F. Moul (December 22)
- John S. Molnar (December 28)
- David M. Sajdak (December 30)



YEARS OF SERVICE

Cheers to Brother Knights celebrating the anniversary of service to the Knights of Columbus:

- James L. Guyette (December 1) 37 Years of Service
- David E. Houston (December 1) 28 Years of Service
- Dennis E. Assenmacher (December 7) 4 Years of Service
- Guy A. Vitale (December 4) 1 Year of Service
- Kevin Martin (December 9) 1 Year of Service

IN OUR PRAYERS

PGK Bob LaForest
PGK Frank Racano
Trustee Dave Hughes
John Husar (might need rotator cuff surgery)
Robert Dorosz
Darryl Zilca
Father Bob's Brother Terry
Mother of Dan McGuire and Frank Racano
Chancellor Dick Gregoire's daughters
All those suffering from Covid

Please remember in prayer, all brother knights, parishioners, family and friends in need of God's mercy for whatever challenges they face, particularly those in poor health and in crisis.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 25, 2020

Christmas Day (MERRY CHRISTMAS!!)

Thursday, December 31, 2020

New Year's Eve

Friday, January 1, 2021

Christmas Day (HAPPY NEW YEAR!!)

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

K of C O'Brien Council General Membership Meeting (*Meeting may be via Zoom*)
7:00 pm. Meeting begins

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

The Epiphany

Sunday, January 10, 2021

Doughnut Sunday (after every Sunday Mass)

Sunday, January 17, 2021

TENTATIVE Charity Family Breakfast (after every Sunday Mass)

Monday, January 18, 2021

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

REFLECTION

THERE IS A LIGHT AT THE END OF THIS TUNNEL. Amid all the "Gloom and Doom" that 2020 has been to so many of us, there is indeed a light to look forward to. Some may say it's the fresh start of the New Year. Others may say it's coming spring when the sun will shine brighter and the weather starts to warm up. Still others (not all of us) may say it's the vaccine which is promoted to be over 90% effective against the virus. One bright illumination is certain; the Light promised to us by our Lord Jesus Christ. "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Amen

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Our prayer of the month comes to us from PGK and Financial Secretary Ray Bilyk, who reminds us the Feast of the Holy Family is the weekend of December 26 and 27th.

O Lord Jesus,
you lived in the home of Mary and Joseph in Nazareth.
There you grew in age, wisdom and grace
as you prepared to fulfill your mission
as our Redeemer.

We entrust our family to you.

O Blessed Mary,
you are the Mother of our Savior.
At Nazareth you cared for Jesus
and nurtured him in the peace and joy of your home.

We entrust our family to you.

O Saint Joseph,
you provided a secure and loving home for Jesus and Mary,
and gave us a model of fatherhood
while showing us the dignity of work.

We entrust our family to you.

Holy Family,
we consecrate ourselves and our family to you.
May we be completely united
in a love that is lasting, faithful
and open to the gift of new life.
Help us to grow in virtue,
to forgive one another from our hearts,
and to live in peace all our days.
Keep us strong in faith, persevering in prayer,
diligent in our work, and generous toward those in need.
May our home, O Holy Family,
truly become a domestic church
where we reflect your example in our daily life. Amen.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

Building the Domestic Church KofC.org/DomesticChurch

Prayer composed by Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, Supreme Chaplain. 10371 9/20

God's Blessing to all my fellow Brother Knights, their family and loved ones. May our Father in Heaven grant us health in our body and mind, peace in our lives, Love is our Hearts!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Vivat Jesus

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