

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 3956

Newsletter

St. Pius X, Southgate, Michigan Issue #22

FEBRUARY, 2021



## A HIGHER PURPOSE

Our Bernard O'Brien Council 3956 is hosting a FREE THROW COMPETITION for Boys and Girls ages 9 - 14 on Sunday, February 14, 2021 at the St. Pius Activity Center beginning at 12:30 PM. These kids really need this. They have been through so much this past year, being restricted from so many activities that we took for granted when we were young. We need your help in making this a fun and rewarding experience for our students. Please join us as we need help keeping score, retrieving balls, interacting with the parents and kids.

Since 1972, councils have sponsored the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship for boys and girls from the ages of 9 to 14 to provide an athletic outlet and encourage the values of sportsmanship and healthy competition. Kids compete within their own gender and age and progress from local level to district, regional and state/province competitions. This program is a great way to introduce the Order to your community and recruit faithful family men of service.

This will be an excellent recruiting opportunity as we expect many of the fathers to be in attendance. A table will be set up with information about the Knights of Columbus. The best way to encourage these men to join is by our interaction with them. We strongly encourage those members who have been involved with these types of activities to be present. Social distancing practices will be in place. We look forward to a great turnout!

More information is included in the flyer to follow. For details and question, check out <https://kofc3956/freethrow> or contact Ray Bilyk at raybilyk@kofc3956.org.

# FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

## NEWS RELEASE

### Southgate Knights of Columbus to Sponsor Youth Free Throw Championship

Southgate, Michigan – All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2021 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. The local competition will be held on Sunday, February 14th at 12PM (registration) at the St. Pius Activity Center, 14101 Superior, Southgate, Michigan. The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship is sponsored annually, with winners progressing through local, district, and jurisdictional competitions. International champions are announced by the Knights of Columbus international headquarters based on scores from the jurisdiction-level competitions. All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are eligible to participate and will compete in their respective age divisions. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. For entry forms or additional information, go to <http://www.kofc3956.org/freethrow> or email Ray Bilyk at [raybilyk@kofc3956.org](mailto:raybilyk@kofc3956.org).

### Please Spread the Word!

Bernard P. O'Brien Council 3956 in Southgate is one of 17,000 Knights of Columbus councils that make up the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. Founded in 1882 to assist working-class and immigrant Catholics in the United States, today the approximately two million members of the Knights put their faith into action through a broad range of charitable causes locally, nationally and internationally with financial contributions and hands-on service.





### NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY MARCH 3, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Our ZOOM meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup> went well. Deputy Grand Knight Bob Schooner took the gavel, stepping in for Grand Knight Bill Robert who is enjoying a well-deserved vacation in Florida with his family. Thank you to PGK and current Financial Secretary Ray Bilyk for the hard work preparing the agenda, presentation and power point slides during and after the meeting. Thank you also to all who participated.

Our next membership meeting will be on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 7:00. Plans are to return to live meeting if possible in the social hall. If that is the case, we invite members to come early and spend time getting back together. Social distancing practices will be followed. In the event it is again necessary for a virtual meeting, please anticipate an invitation via email prior to the meeting. Regardless of how the meeting will be conducted, a reminder will be sent to members. Please set this time aside to join in.

### FAITH IN ACTION

The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Rosary on January 31, 2021 was a good start for what we hope to be many more to come. Prior to each mass, including the Saturday evening, members of our K of C council supported the Rosary Alter Confraternity in reciting the Rosary. Individual and families in the parish including St. Pius students were invited to attend. Rosaries and Guides on "How to pray the Rosary" were distributed before the Rosary prayer. We would like this to be a regular event on several Fifth Sundays throughout the year. The next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday is May 30<sup>th</sup> and we may plan again to participate in the reading of the Rosary. Thank you to Brother Mark Garcellano for offering to chair this project and to our many fellow brother knights who participated.

### DOUGHNUT SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 21<sup>st</sup>.

The carry out version of our Doughnut Sundays have been well received. Ten boxes of the pastries were distributed and our parishioners were generous with their volunteer donations. \$206.50 was raised. Our next Doughnut Sunday is February 21, 2021 after the 9:00 am and 11:00 am masses. Come help and enjoy.

### IN PERSON EXEMPLIFICATION

Also on February 21<sup>st</sup> will be an opportunity for those brother knights who have not yet become a third degree knight to achieve this distinction in person without having to travel very far. The venue will be at Crystal Park Banquet Center and Hall on 7113 Champaign Road in Allen Park beginning at 10:00 am. Attire will be business casual. The event is open to families. The ceremony is expected to take between 30 and 45 minutes. Please arrive by 9:45 am. For more information, contact membership chairman Dave Sajdak at 313-415-6023. More information is included in the flyer to follow.



**Become a 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Knight of Columbus  
All in One Day!**

**Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> 2021**

10:00 am – NEW Exemplification Begins  
(Please have your candidates and their  
families arrive by no later than 9:45)

**WHERE: Crystal Park Hall, 17113 Champaign  
Allen Park**

All Families and 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Members seeking advancement are welcome to join us for the exemplification. It would be a good opportunity to meet some of the guys. If your sponsor is available, it is good for him to attend as well. *Do to COVID concerns; please attend Mass on your own prior to or after the Exemplification.*

**(Attire: Business Casual)**

**For More Information:  
Contact Your Membership Director  
Dave Sajdak at 313-415-6023**

## DISTRICT DEPUTY REPORT

Michigan District 5 will be having a Clergy Appreciation Dinner Monday April 19, 2021. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Ticket cost will be \$20.00 per person at Park Place, 23400 Park St, Dearborn, MI 48124. For tickets to the Clergy Appreciation Dinner, please contact Financial Secretary Ray Bilyk at [raybilyk@kofc3956.org](mailto:raybilyk@kofc3956.org).

We are waiting to see who our Seminarian will be for the RSVP Program. The District Deputy is appreciative of our council passing a motion to put aside \$500.00 for the Seminarian. Chancellor Dick Gregoire will try to find a worthy candidate to donate the funds to.

District Deputy Report is asking everyone to promote the E-designation. Use Promo Code McGivney 2020. For further explanation contact DD Dominic Raona at [dd105@mikofc.org](mailto:dd105@mikofc.org).

Fraternal Benefits Night is scheduled for Monday March 15, 2021, 7:00-8:00 pm. Link is being sent to members. Wills and Trusts-Representative from Thompson Morello Agency, Hosted by Tom Jackson. A flyer has been prepared and is included below



# DISTRICT 105 FRATERNAL BENEFITS NIGHT WILLS & TRUSTS

A Knights of Columbus  
Fraternal Benefits Seminar

**- EVERYONE IS WELCOME -  
YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A KNIGHT  
TO PARTICIPATE**

Featuring a representative  
*from The Thompson Morello Agency*  
Hosted by KofC Field Agent, Tom Jackson

Monday, March 15th 2021  
7:00 - 8:00 pm  
Virtual (please arrive by 6:50)



**FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT**

We can attend the drawing at DeCarlo’s Banquet Center in Warren Thursday April 15, 2021. The council will attend as a group because according the Michigan State Council Charities we are to receive an award. See more information blow:



Gary “Elwood” DeCarlo  
(586) 436-0121  
Kevin “Joliet Jake” Rowley  
(586) 596-8649

**Knights of Columbus  
2021 State Raffle**



Rev. Fr. Paul Ballien  
State Chaplain



**We Need You!**  
**Tickets Only \$5.00 ea.**

“We’re on a Mission  
from God”



**CHARITY - 1st DEGREE PRIZE**



**GRAND HOTEL, MACKINAC ISLAND**  
4 Guests / 2 Nights / 2 Rooms \*Includes Breakfast  
and Dinner \*\* Excludes Holiday Weekends  
**PLUS \$12,500.00 CASH**



**UNITY - 2nd DEGREE PRIZE**



**GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT**  
BAYVIEW ROOM – 4 Guests / 2 Nights / 2 Rooms  
**PLUS \$3,500.00 CASH**



**FRATERNITY - 3rd DEGREE PRIZE**



**BAVARIAN INN, FRANKENMOUTH / LITTLE  
BAVARIA – 4 Guests / 2 Nights / 2 Rooms & 4  
Waterpark Wristbands**  
**PLUS \$2,500.00 CASH**



**PATRIOTIC - 4th DEGREE**



**DEARBORN INN 4 Guests / 2 Nights / 2 Rooms \***  
**Includes Breakfast, Guest Passes to Henry Ford  
Museum, Greenfield Village Or The Rouge Plant**  
**PLUS \$1,500.00 CASH**

5<sup>TH</sup> – 10<sup>TH</sup> Prizes = \$300.00  
21<sup>ST</sup> -30<sup>TH</sup> Prizes = \$120.00

11<sup>TH</sup> – 20<sup>TH</sup> Prizes = \$180.00  
31<sup>ST</sup> – 40<sup>TH</sup> Prizes = \$60.00

Drawing: Thursday, April 15, 2021 Doors Open @ 5:30 pm Drawing @ 8:00 pm  
DeCarlo’s Banquet Center, 6015 E. 10 Mile Rd., Warren MI 48091 (586) 759-6500

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT



The banner features the Knights of Columbus logo on the left, which includes a shield with a cross and a sword, topped with 'K of C'. To the right of the logo is the text 'Knights of Columbus®'. Below the logo, it says 'Visit [kofc.org/joinus](http://kofc.org/joinus) use Promo Code **MCGIVNEY2020**'. Further down, it reads 'Now through June 30, 2021 enter code **MCGIVNEY2020** for FREE first year membership.' On the right side of the banner, it says 'Fr. McGivney Beatification Celebration!' followed by 'Become an Online Member for FREE.\*' and 'Preferred Council # 3956'. The background of the banner is dark blue with a photo of a man in a dark blue baseball cap and a dark blue t-shirt with 'KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS' on it, looking down at something in his hands.

THIS JUST IN: FREE online membership promotion has been EXTENDED UNTIL June 30, 2021!!

### BECOME AN ONLINE MEMBER FOR FREE!\*

Now through June 30th, enter Promo Code **MCGIVNEY2020** for 12 months of free online membership

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT

Although the Seminarians Desert Meal is postponed until 2022, we are pleased learn that many Seminarians are visiting churches to speak. We extend our best wishes to them.

Corned Beef and Cabbage night is planned for tentatively Saturday, March 13, 2021 at the Robert Jones Lounge. A time is yet to be determined. More information is expected to follow.

Our Tootsie Roll Drive is to be held the weekend of March 26, 27 and 28, 2021. We are encouraged that Southgate City Council will grant us permission to return to normal activities.

The Spelling Bee Competition is now scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 2021. More information will be shared as the event approaches.

Motorcycle Blessing David Haywood asked if there could be a Breakfast. We will wait one month until there is more clarity about the ability to gather together.

### KNIGHT OF THE MONTH:

Congratulations for Grand Knight Bill Robert who is our February, 2021 Knight of the Month. Bill has been an outstanding Grand Knight and a good friend. The award is well-deserved and long overdue!!

### FAMILY OF THE MONTH:

Two for two! The Bill Robert Family is Family of the Month! Thank you to Linda and their family for allowing Bill to work so hard for his beloved K of C Council. Thank you for your time and support.

## MESSAGE BOARD



- We highly recommend all Brother Knights to stay informed with our council activities by attending our monthly meetings and visiting our council's website at [www.kofc3956.org](http://www.kofc3956.org)
- If no other district competitions are being held for the Free Throw contest, the winners at St. Pius will automatically advance to the St. John Neuman competition.
- Our Bernard P. O'Brien Council is celebrating our chapter anniversary on February 27, 2021. We remain a proud and charitable fraternity, faithful to our God and community.
- For those who are making their contribution to the State K of C raffle, please put our council number 3956 on the memo line.
- Please ask professional and community people you associate with if they would welcome a copy of our newsletter via email to keep informed of our activities and events. These are people who can partner with us on fund raising for our upcoming golf outing and many other events to assist those in most need of our help.
- The K of C State Convention is May 22 - May 23, 2021 at the Grand Hotel. GK Bill Robert and FGK/FS Ray Bilyk were selected to attend. Brian Batko and Mark Garcellano are alternates. Expenses were approved by council at our last meeting.
- Good Luck to all the St. Pius participants in the Free Throw Competition.
- Quarterly Socials have been discussed to get re-acquainted with our current, newer and future brother knights. Parlor games have been suggested.
- Church Crawl is another idea mentioned by Program Director Brain Batko to learn more about the other parishes in our surrounding communities. Not only could this support our faith, but we may gain some insight and learn new ideas.
- The K of C Leave No Neighbor Behind Masks are available for sale. The masks are \$10.00 each and include three washable filters. To obtain a mask or masks, contact Ray Bilyk at [raybilyk@kofc3956.org](mailto:raybilyk@kofc3956.org).
- Our first annual Golf scramble is tentatively planned for this fall at the South Winds Golf Course and Grill on Dix-Toledo Road in Southgate. We are seeking sponsors and volunteers to make this event successful. Please help us with an early start.
- Please continue to support our Food Bank. Contact Lou Butka and the parish office or Chairman Dennis Hamilton if you need details on how and where to donate.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

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

- Lindsay P. McLean (February 3)
- Edward D. Stol (February 3)
- Deacon Scott La Forest (February 4)
- Robert M. Liddle (February 4)
- Michael J. Gyolai (February 7)
- John F. Astorino (February 16)
- John G. Husar Jr. (February 17)
- Robert J. La Forest (February 22)
- Catherine A. Chirco (February 22)  
(Wife of Joseph Chirco)



## YEARS OF SERVICE

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

- |                       |               |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| • Patrick J. Phillips | (February 20) | 58 Years of Service |
| • Dennis J. Levko     | (February 1)  | 38 Years of Service |
| • Michael J. Levko    | (February 1)  | 38 Years of Service |
| • Ray J. Bilyk        | (February 23) | 33 Years of Service |
| • Patrick D. Tidwell  | (February 1)  | 30 Years of Service |
| • James A. Kandrevas  | (February 14) | 26 Years of Service |
| • Brian T. Cronan     | (February 21) | 12 Years of Service |
| • Norman W. Lemay     | (February 19) | 8 Years of Service  |

## IN OUR PRAYERS



Please pray for the return of good health to:  
Past Grand Knight Bob LaForest  
Past Grand Knight Frank Racano,  
Brother John Husar Sr., Father of John Husar Jr.  
Trustee David Hughes

### Pray for healing of Family Members:

Kathyrne Robert, 26 Year old fighting cancer, Niece of Grand Knight Bill Robert  
Susan Pinkowski, Battling stage four cancer, Sister of Kevin Martin  
Daughter of Deputy Grand Knight Bob Schooner, Recovering from Covid-19  
Emily Foster, Daughter of Chancellor Richard Gregoire  
Mothers of Dan McGuire and Frank Racano  
Former Council Guard Darryl Zilka, Lung Cancer and brain tumor

Please remember in prayer, all those suffering from the Corona virus. We continue to pray for 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, February 14, 2021  
St. Pius Free Throw Competition in Activity Center beginning at 12:30 pm

Sunday, February 14, 2021  
Valentine's Day

Monday, February 15, 2021  
President's Day

Tuesday, February 16, 2021  
Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday)

Wednesday, February 17, 2021  
Ash Wednesday (First Day of Lent)

Sunday, February 21, 2021  
Doughnut Sunday (After each Sunday Mass)

Sunday, February 21, 2021  
Third Degree Exemplification beginning at 10:00 AM at Crystal Park Hall,  
17113 Champaign in Allen Park

Sunday, February 28, 2021  
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm. District 105 Free Throw Contest

Wednesday, March 3, 2021  
K of C Council 3956 Membership Meeting, Plan on either attending in person or participating via Zoom. Meeting will begin at 7:00 pm. We will attempt to keep all members informed if we will be able to gather in the Social Hall.

## THIS JUST IN: SUPREME KNIGHT TO RETIRE

The following are excerpts from a letter Supreme Knight Carl Anderson has written to us has he is to be succeeded by Grand Knight Elect Patrick E. Kelly.

*Dear Brother Knight,*

*It is my great honor and joy to announce that Deputy Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly has been elected to succeed me and become the 14th Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus.*

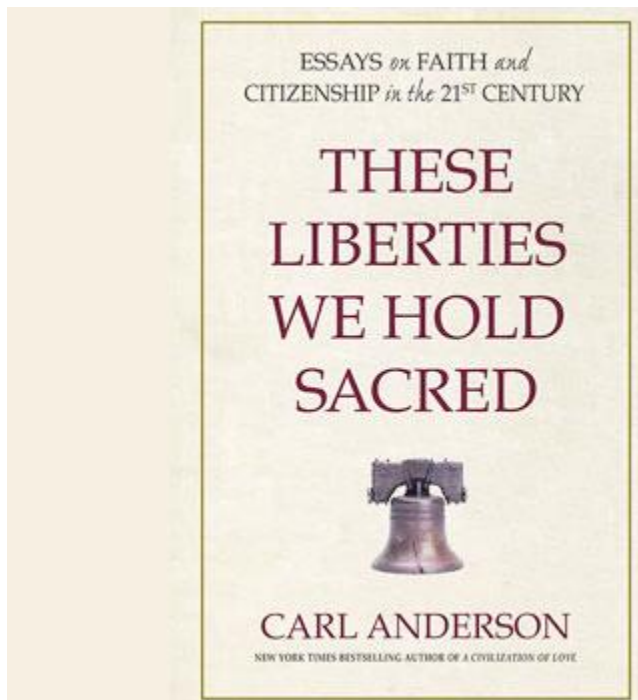
*..the by-laws of the Supreme Council require that Supreme Officers retire at the end of the month of their 70th birthday...the Supreme Directors are met virtually and have just elected Brother Kelly as my successor, effective March 1st.*

*We will be truly blessed to have Patrick Kelly assume leadership of the Order. His knowledge, experience and devotion to the faith make him exceedingly well-suited to continue our mission in these challenging times.*

*When I became Supreme Knight in 2000, I told my brother Knights that “the best is yet to come!”...I believe we can all still say that for the Knights of Columbus – the best is yet to come!*

*Fraternally,*

*Carl A. Anderson  
Supreme Knight*



Carl Anderson just recently authored a book entitled “THESE LIBERTIES WE HOLD SACRED”. His latest book features many of his speeches, essays and articles in defense of this “first freedom,” as well as on topics related to the sanctity of life, faithful citizenship and the family.

If anyone would like this book, please let me know as we have one copy left from our first order. If there is interest for more, a second order could be placed once we have five or more people committed to purchasing a copy. The cost with shipping is less than \$20.00.

## REFLECTION

We have a core group of men who make us the great Knights of Columbus that we are. Ray Bilyk has been the primary contributor to this newsletter since it started; Robert Park has minutes to me, literally within minutes of our meetings. A special contribution from Brian Batko who provides us with a reading from the Fourth Sunday of Ordinary time. He read it during our recent business meeting. I would like to share that with you here:

What can free us from being "anxious about the things of the world"? The authority of Jesus who "commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." The people in the time of Moses begged for such a prophet. That promise is fulfilled definitively in Jesus Christ, whose authority astonishes the assembled crowd. "If today you hear his voice,' adhere "to the Lord without distraction." "To him you shall listen," because obeying the authority of Christ makes us more human and fills us with a burning desire for things truly great.

## PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

Lord, forgive me for being so caught up in the dark shadows of the events of my life that I forget You are here, You can penetrate the darkness, and I can find hope in You. I praise You for the way You are working in every situation. You will protect me and guide me through everything. Amen.

Isaiah 9:1-7

Vivat Jesus

Anthony J. (Tony) Chirco,  
Brother Knight, Public Relations Director  
Newsletter Editor