

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 3956

Newsletter

St. Pius X, Southgate, Michigan Issue #60

APRIL, 2024



## OUR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL HOSTED WITH THE ST. PIUS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT OUR SECOND ANNUAL BRUNCH WITH THE EASTER BUNNY AND EGG HUNT

The story in pictures...





**WEDNESDAY April 3, 2024, MEMBERSHIP  
BUSINESS MEETING**



**K of C Council 3956 Business Meeting (St Pius Social Hall) Social Hour begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.**



**AGENDA ITEMS:**

Grand Knight's Report - Mark Garcellano

Desert meal was held on Sunday 2-18-2024 at Crystal Gardens. Approximately 300 people attended and \$8,700 was raised in total including donations received.

Corned Beef and Cabbage with Rueben dinner on March 9, 2024, after 4:00 PM mass.

Brunch with the Easter bunny is on Sunday March 10, 2024.

Treasurer's Report: Presentation of the monthly financial statement

Director Reports

Program Director- Ryan Daw

- Faith- Brian Batko
- Life- Bob Bailey
- Community- Dr. Stephen Gall
- Family- Robert Park

Membership Report: Congratulation to Tony Dault for bringing in our 7<sup>th</sup> Knight.

Community Director's Report

Newsletter Editor's Report

Faith Director's Report

Coffee and Donuts Chairman's Report

Family Breakfast Chairman's Report

Fourth degree Representative's Report

Insurance-Tom Jackson

District Deputy Message to Council

Good of the Order: Prayers for the Faithful.



### **ADDRESS FROM GRAND KNIGHT MARK GARCELLANO**

My Fellow Brother Knights! I would like to bring to your attention the upcoming council officer's election during the May Council meeting. I encourage all Third Degree Knights to please consider running for an elected officer's position. Our small council is active and vibrant due to the diverse Knights s who are willing to run for elected position or accept an appointed position.

In my view, our small council is respected by our Church, our School and our fellow Knights of Columbus Councils and State Leadership.

I want to thank our current council officers that have volunteered to share their gifts of leadership, skills, mentorship and support that make our success possible. With that being said, I would like to share the elected and appointed officers' duties. I have copied this from the Knights of Columbus Supreme website. Please read and consider running for one of these positions.

### **UNDERSTANDING COUNCIL OFFICER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Each year your council elects and appoints new men to take on leadership roles within your council. Sometimes these roles are well-defined while other times the role may be expanded based on that individuals' talents or interests. The following text offers an approach that may be helpful for new councils in appointing the first set of officers or for existing councils looking to expand the responsibilities of their existing officers.

#### **Elected Positions**

##### **Grand Knight**

The grand knight is the council's chief executive officer. He is responsible for setting council goals and ensuring that all officers fulfill their duties in reaching these objectives. He presides over all meetings; appoints program and committee directors as needed; fills officer roles in the event of vacancies; countersigns checks and orders for payment; and oversees the council's degree team. Ideally, the grand knight should be a junior so that as a senior he can serve as a mentor for the next grand knight. The grand knight must complete the Safe Environment training.

##### **Deputy Grand Knight**

The deputy grand knight serves as the grand knight's right-hand man and fills in for the grand knight when he is not present. Some deputy grand knights serve as their council's program director. Ultimately, he assists the grand knight in leading the council and reaching council objectives. In some councils, the deputy grand knight role might be used to groom a possible grand knight candidate for the following year. Finally, the deputy grand knight may serve as a liaison between the council and other groups that share similar interests (i.e. Newman Club, pro-life club, etc.).

## Chancellor

The chancellor assists both the grand and deputy grand knights in leading the council by engaging and strengthening the council's membership. His primary responsibilities include recruiting and retaining members and to this end he should set up events that display the values and principles of the Knights of Columbus. The chancellor should participate in the council's degree team and should serve on both the Admission and Retention committees.

## Treasurer

The treasurer is responsible for managing the council funds, whether in bank or school accounts. He receives money from the financial secretary and deposits funds into council accounts. He is also responsible for paying all council expenses. He also balances and verifies the ledger and keeps the updated budget approved by the council.

## Advocate

The advocate acts as council parliamentarian. He should be knowledgeable in *Robert's Rules of Order and [Methods of Conducting a Council Meeting \(#1937\)](#)*. He may seek legal assistance from the state advocate, should issues arise. The advocate should be able to take on additional responsibilities as the council deems necessary.

## Recorder

The recorder has the responsibility of recording all meetings and events held by the council. He should record minutes, conversations and other information helpful to the council and prepare them to be distributed to the membership in a timely manner. Additionally, he should help with council event notifications, council meeting reminders, and assist with council social media responsibilities.

## Warden

The warden is responsible for the property owned by the council. He is also in charge of setting up meetings and leads both the inside and outside guards. Many college councils utilize the warden and guards as custodians of the campus ministry property which may include raking leaves, shoveling snow and assisting with interior maintenance.

### **Inside/Outside Guards**

The inside and outside guards carry out tasks given to them by the grand knight and follow the warden's orders. They are responsible for checking membership cards and allowing entrance to meetings. Councils should consider appointing additional inside and outside guards, especially among promising freshmen, as this provides early leadership opportunities.

### **Trustees (3)**

The trustees advise the grand knight, supervise the council's financial matters, and conduct the semiannual audits. Usually, the immediate past grand knight will serve as a trustee. Some college councils utilize alumni members and/or university faculty members as the other two trustees to provide additional oversight and support.

### **Appointed Positions**

#### **Chaplain**

The chaplain is the spiritual leader of the council. He nurtures the faith in council members particularly through the sacraments but also through spiritual direction, retreats and other events and support. The grand knight should meet regularly with the council chaplain to see how the council can best support the Catholic community on campus.

#### **Financial Secretary**

The financial secretary is chosen by the trustees and the officers of the council for a three-year term and approved by the supreme knight. He provides continuity in the council and has the responsibility of collecting dues as well as ensuring that the council's financial recordings are kept up to date. Additionally, he ensures that membership records are current, issues membership cards, files regular reports to the district, regional, state and supreme offices and submits the annual 990 to the IRS. The financial secretary cannot be an undergraduate student, but ideally should be a member of the campus faculty or staff. If no one from the campus community can serve in this role, it should be an adult member of the neighboring community.

## **Lecturer**

The lecturer provides brief spiritual discourses and reflections during business meetings for the “Good of the Order”. If the lecturer cannot be present, he should appoint a council member to give a reflection for him.

## **Program Director**

Program director is appointed by grand knight and oversees the Faith in Action areas of Faith, Family, Community and Life. In some councils this may be the duty of the deputy grand knight. Program director ensures that all subordinate committees meet regularly and plan appropriate events. He communicates individual committee reports to the grand knight. Keeps accurate record of council programs for reporting on [Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity \(#1728\)](#) and the [Columbian Award Application \(#SP-7\)](#). Must complete required Safe Environment training.

## **Faith Director**

The faith director is appointed by the grand knight and reports to the program director. Responsible for all faith-based council programs. He should develop relationships with other catholic student center ministries to advance the needs of the whole campus ministry community at the pastor’s direction.

## **Family Director**

The family director is appointed by the grand knight and reports to the program director. Responsible for all family-based council programs. Knowing that most college knights do not have families of their own, the Supreme Council offers [5 college-specific family programs](#). Must complete required Safe Environment training and background check.

## **Community Director**

The community director is appointed by the grand knight and reports to the program director. Responsible for all community-based council programs. He directs programs that support and encourage service to the community that fight poverty, aid the individual, promote athletic events, and sponsor larger programs and campaigns. He should be comfortable contacting and coordinating with organizations that align in key areas of community assistance. Must complete required Safe Environment training and background check.

## **Life Director**

The life director is appointed by the grand knight and reports to the program director. Responsible for all life-based council programs. The individual appointed to this position should be comfortable discussing and planning efforts within the context of supporting and affirming life in all stages and in all conditions. Notably, he strives to promote programs that support and encourage the advancement of the pro-life movement, people with intellectual disabilities, and persecuted Christians.

## **Membership Director**

The membership director serves as the head of the Admission Committee and works to grow the council's membership through new and transfer members. He should actively identify potential recruits, plan recruitment programs, host informational meetings and encourage council members to seek candidates. In addition, the membership director should ensure that a council has access to frequent degree exemplifications (whether its own or local councils) and should work that each member reaches at least the third degree in a timely manner.

## **Retention Chairman**

The retention chairman works to keep the council's members active. implements programs and practices that provide mentors for new members and regularly communicates with the members to encourage their participation. When students graduate, the retention chairman helps them transfer to a council in their area. At times when a council wishes to suspend members, they must have the retention chairman reach out to members and ask them to keep their membership or to transfer to another council.

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It has been my honor to serve as our council's Grand Knight for the past 2 fraternal years. I hope I have set a good example to the next officers. I have found holding a council officer's position truly rewarding in many ways. Therefore, I ask again to please consider running.

Vivat Jesus!

Mark Garcellano, GK

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[gk3956@mikofc.org](mailto:gk3956@mikofc.org)





## MESSAGE FROM SDRR and FN0475 RAY BILYK

Please bring a K of C member candidate to our next District 105 Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity on Monday, April 8, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at St Pius X Catholic Church in Southgate. Hosted by our own Bernard P. O'Brien Council 3956.

Contact me, FS3956/SDRR Detroit-West Ray Bilyk by text/cell 313-247-2110 or by email [raybilyk@kofc3956.org](mailto:raybilyk@kofc3956.org) or [r.bilyk@mikofc.org](mailto:r.bilyk@mikofc.org) to indicate how many will be attending (Candidates, Sponsors, other Brother Knights, and family/guests). Remember to bring a Degree Kit for each candidate. The Exemplification is OPEN TO ALL to observe.

**The 46th Annual Respect Life Dinner is on Tuesday, April 9, from 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm at the San Marino Club, 1685 E Big Beaver Rd, Troy, Michigan. Social Hour at 6pm Dinner at 7pm Reservations: \$60 per person \$550 per Table of 10 Sponsorships available**

Our next Fourth Degree Exemplification is on April 20, 2024, in Sterling Heights, MI. There is no waiting period and members are encouraged to consider becoming a fourth degree Knight.

Congratulations to your O'Brien Council for hitting the membership quota of seven new members for the year!

The Catholic Men's Conference is at Eastern Michigan University and sponsored by the Lansing Archdiocese. For more details of dates email me [raybilyk@kofc3956.org](mailto:raybilyk@kofc3956.org) or [r.bilyk@mikofc.org](mailto:r.bilyk@mikofc.org)

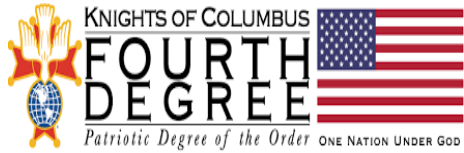
## **National Eucharistic Congress - Knights of Columbus Registration Discount July 17-21, 2024 - Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana**

Did you know that the Church in the U.S. is about to gather for the first National Eucharistic Congress in 83 years? Were you on the fence about attending? Maybe this will help!

As premier sponsors, the Knights of Columbus are deep into planning what will be the most significant national gathering of Catholics in a generation. They need us there, and they hope you can help them get our parishes there as well.

They are inviting the Fourth Degree to be part of a solemn Eucharistic Procession at the Congress, and they hope to have thousands of us there. Please register to help represent the Knights at this historic Congress.

The partnership allows them to offer all who are associated with the Knights of Columbus the opportunity to register for the National Eucharistic Congress using a code for a discount on your registration fee, paying only \$299 for adult general admission—discounted from \$360! Bookmark this page: <https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/knights> and sign up to receive the affiliate code, but don't wait too long - They need us to help make sure the Knights are represented well at this historic Congress!



General Assembly Meetings- 4th Tuesday of the month, 7:00 PM - 8:00PM @ Wyandotte K of C.

4<sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification scheduled throughout the year. For more information, please call Mark Garcellano at 734-968-6900 ([markgarcellano@yahoo.com](mailto:markgarcellano@yahoo.com))

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Establishing a uniform fund to support the Assembly.
- All third-Degree Knights are encouraged to join the Fourth Degree. Many of your fellow brother knights have joined.



#### NEW BEGINNINGS

William Shakespeare was quoted as saying “April hath put a spirit of youth in everything.” This couldn’t be more true as we leave March behind us, with its gloom of Lent, and the sorrowful Passion. March’s saving grace, the glory of the Resurrection on the last day, to which we shout for joy, He is Risen!

But what about us? Like Spring, April is meant for new beginnings. In many ways, through Lenten observance and prayerful contemplation of our Lord’s Passion, we’ve become a new creation. In her book, *Master*, Toni Sorenson writes, “Spring is far more than just a changing of seasons; it’s a rebirth of the spirit.” So, hopefully we are leaving behind drudgery, despair, and old sinful habits to start afresh.

As Catholic gentlemen and Knights we are called to have that Spirit of rebirth. To go forth and bring Easter Joy to the world. And we will, just as we have done in the past. Hopefully this Spring with more commitment and vigor while fully realizing not everyone shares our enthusiasm.

The wisdom of St. Augustine brings to reality time and time again, what lies ahead. He writes, “The joyful news that He is Risen does not change the contemporary world. Still before us lie work, discipline, sacrifice. But the fact of Easter gives us the spiritual power to do the work, accept the discipline and make the sacrifice.” And so, we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, knowing everything we do, every sacrifice we make is for the glory of God.

If we can keep this in mind, our endeavors will be fruitful. We need to plant the seeds and let the Holy Spirit do the rest. Jim Carrey put it best when he said, “Flowers don’t worry about how they’re going to bloom. They just open up and turn toward the light and that makes them beautiful.” Let us turn toward Jesus, the light of the world, and everything we do will work out. There will be beauty.

Vivat Jesus,

Deacon Chuck

## SHARING THOUGHTS FROM DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT DAVID KUDLA



### FROM BREAKFAST WITH EASTER BUNNY TO COATS FOR KIDS

Many of us knights have our favorite programs. Our recent Easter Breakfast is very popular with our membership. Dozens of knights worked in various capacities to carry the load.

Many hands make for light work is a popular quote we share among ourselves. I am proud to be a part of so many of our events. Since January, as a council we have hosted Donut Sundays, Charity Family Breakfasts, Exemplifications, Scripture Club, Shrines and Steins, Seminarian and the Lenten Fish Fry to name a few.

Coming up will be two April Christian Concerts and the Motorcycle Blessings. Many of our programs involve out St. Pius X School including the Free Throw Competition, Soccer Challenge, working with the school athletic department and Field Day before summer recess. At St. Pius Our school children with the help of their parents, and the school staff also donated to Coats for Kids.

Our annual Coats for Kids program begins in October of this year. I'm starting early because a few months ago while reading the Knights of Columbus magazine, the Colombian I got so very excited. I read in much detail all about the history of the program with the Knight of Columbus.

In our first year 100 councils donated more than 3,000 new coats. We have hundreds of councils throughout the US, all provinces in Canada, Ukraine, Poland and many other countries taking part in this drive. We here at St. Pius are only a drop in the bucket in this worldwide endeavor.

Now with such a vast array of councils we really make a big difference to kids in need of coats. In the past decade and a half, the number of councils and coats donated has snowballed. Last year in Denver Colorado a young girl was chosen from Annunciation Catholic School and was given a one-of-a-kind gold coat. This was the one millionth coat the Knights of Columbus gave away. One family had 3 children; they took turns going to school because they had only one coat to share.

These coats cost about \$20 a piece. We get them at near cost from the manufacturer because we order so many. What we are hoping is that when this program starts in October you will consider donating. Any donation helps, there is no such thing as too small or too big. Envelopes will be in the rear of the Church, put your donation into the collection basket marked K of C Coats for Kids.

As in past years that one drop which St. Pius puts in, helps make a full bucket possible. I hope we can count on many of your brother knights to help us with each of these very important and charitable programs.

Our next council business meeting is Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, in the Social Hall. We all get comfortable at 6:00 with food and drinks, then followed by a fairly quick meeting at 7:00. I'm glad I went to my first meeting, you will too. Thank you in advance for donating your time.

Respectfully,  
Dave Kudla,  
Deputy Grand Knight



## MESSAGE FROM PGK AND ADVOCATE BILL ROBERT

### RENEWAL

It's nice to see the weather beginning to change, trees budding out and flowers beginning to grow. For many of us it changes our mood and we become hopeful that good things are around the corner. The past few weeks at church our readings were preparing us for Christ's passion and death but also getting us ready for renewal of hope and rebirth! It's really amazing to think that Jesus Christ gave himself up to be humiliated, beaten, scorned and ask for forgiveness of his torturers while he endured unbelievable pain and ultimate death. He did this for US!

When you look around the world and see such hatred and strife, I sometimes wonder if Christ doesn't say why? Was it really worth it? But then I realize that I am missing the big picture. It has always been this way. I am viewing it through my life's lens, not God's. We are tasked to grow the body of the Church, spread the good word of Christ's salvation and treat our fellow person as we would want to be treated.

Sounds easy but in a Godless world in which many of us see our friends and children not attending church, it's a challenge. All we can do is prod them toward the good news Jesus offers and be the best role model to draw them back into the fold. Father Michael McGivney saw this need over a hundred years ago and through his foresight the Knights of Columbus are trying to live his vision. Have a wonderful Easter with your families.



## MESSAGE FROM TRUSTEE AND COR DIRECTOR BRIAN BATKO

**Men's Scripture Club** Started in January and continues each third Saturday in the Social Hall from 7:30 to 9:00am. We discuss that week's Sunday readings and reflect upon them. There is growing interest among many of us. Those that are attending mention that they better understand the readings by learning and sharing thoughts. Arrive a little early for coffee and donuts. Bring a friend or family member. You do not have to be a Knight of Columbus to attend. Open to all men!!!

We are looking forward to two Christian concerts in April. The first is local musician Mike Carey on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Mike has been a very popular artist in our community for a generation. We look forward to Mike and his faithful followers joining us in the Social Hall from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in an evening of inspiring entertainment!

On Friday, April 26, we welcome back popular Christian Entertainer Jon Troast beginning at 6:00 p.m. and continuing to 9:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. His repertoire of inspiring music has entertained crowds for years.

Coming up in May is our annual Motorcycle Blessing on May 11<sup>th</sup>. We invite all that have motor bikes to attend. Rain or shine, many cyclist look forward to this event. These riders have been loyal to many of our events, some were generous participants at our recent Fish Fry.

## APRIL CONCERTS AT SAINT PIUS

WELCOME POPULAR HOME GROWN MUSICIAN MIKE CAREY, APRIL 13<sup>th</sup>.



His musical talent shines on stage, captivating audiences with his soulful melodies and energetic performances. Whether he's strumming his guitar, tickling the ivories or belting out heartfelt vocals,

The versatile musician plays several instruments with skill and passion. As a guitarist, Mike Carey creates captivating melodies and harmonies. His guitar work adds much depth and emotion to his compositions. His keyboard skills allow him to explore various genres and create beautiful arrangements.

Mike's live shows are a treat for music enthusiasts. **His** contributions to the music world are truly remarkable! Mike Carey's rhythmic bass lines contribute to the groove and energy of his music. Whether in a band or as a solo artist, his bass playing stands out. Mike is not only an instrumentalist but also a talented vocalist. His voice carries emotion and connects with listeners. True mastery lies in his ability to compose and write songs. He weaves together melodies, lyrics, and harmonies to create memorable music. 🎵 🎸 🎹

## WELCOME BACK JON TROAST, APRIL 26<sup>th</sup>.



I'm a singer and songwriter. I grew up in the Midwest. I started playing coffee shops, bars, churches, building my repertoire. I did some recording on my own, but wanted to "do it right". Over the next couple years,

I recorded four length projects. Since then I've recorded ten Eps (A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I and J). and I'm continuing to work my way through the alphabet. Trying to get the essence of my work as a songwriter, I also started doing house concerts a while back.

You connect with your audience a lot more when you're singing in front of their fireplace and sleeping on their couch! The idea took off, and I've since played in hundreds of homes all over the country including one extended coast to coast tour of 100 concerts in 100 days.

In my songwriting, taking time to notice what's going on around you, taking time to notice what's important in life. I'm so grateful for the loyal and supportive people I've met along the way. People who listen to an appreciate the songs, but also who've given a lot back to me. As a musician, I'm pretty sure this is "Doing it right". 🎵 🎸



### MESSAGE FROM FINANCIAL SECRETARY RAY BILYK

116 members our on our council roster as of March 1, 2024. Each member that brings in a new member will receive \$30 off the next years dues.

An Exemplification is being held at St. Pius Church on March 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. before the end of the calendar year, club is looking to add at least 3 new members this year.

### ARTICLE FROM PROGRAM DIRECTOR RYAN DAW



Our next Coffee and donuts after mass will be held on April 14, 2024. Please consider stopping by and helping.

The Building Committee is investigating establishment of a legal entity for our building currently leased to Jim's Tuxedo. Most repairs have been addressed. The gutter repair will be completed as weather and circumstances permit.

Friday April 12, 2024, is the St Pius School auction. This is an important fundraiser for our school. Members are encouraged to attend. See Flyer on the next page.

Congratulations to Taylor Jarvis, our 7<sup>th</sup> new member for the year.

Thank you to all who helped make this year's Lenten Fish Fry was another great success for our school, parish and council.



**FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024**

**6:00-11:00PM**

**CRYSTAL GARDENS, SOUTHGATE**

**PIRATES IN  
PARADISE**

**LAST CALL TO GET YOUR AUCTION TICKETS!  
SALES END ON MARCH 26!**

**PURCHASE TICKETS >**

**CURRENT**

Couple: 2 Tickets \$150  
Individual Ticket \$80

**FUTURE**

Couple: 2 Tickets \$175  
Individual Ticket \$95

**FAMILY STYLE DINNER • APPETIZERS • OPEN BAR  
DESSERT ENTERTAINMENT • SILENT & LIVE AUCTION**

**SHOUT OUTS DONATIONS**

**AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE**

Create a custom "Shout Out" to celebrate your student or even recognize a special teacher, staff or friend. Shout outs due Mar. 15

**\$100 Full - \$60 half - \$35 Quarter**  
Shouts Outs will be printed in auction program book & displayed electronically during the event.

**PURCHASE SHOUT OUTS >**

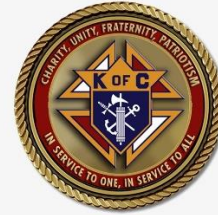
**WANTED!**

Seeking donations for silent auction items. Tickets, experiences, high-end gadgets are great items and nothing is too small.

Looking for ideas, check out our Amazon Wishlist and shipping is done for you! Your donation will be recognized on the auction site

**AMAZON WISHLIST >**

For questions: Email [auction@saintpius-x.org](mailto:auction@saintpius-x.org)



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR RICHARD GREGOIRE

*Editor's Notes: Last month Dick wrote of stepping out of our comfort Zone. We picked up the second half, saving the best for last. Thank you, Dick, for your patience with me and my editing.*

### OSCAR ROMERO'S PRAYER

This is a spiritual practice by Bishop Ken Untener, Dennis Linn, Matthew Linn, Sheila Fabricant Linn. Because we are so far from living out Jesus' dream for the future, does that mean both we and Jesus have failed? As if anticipating that His followers might be tempted to think so,

Jesus spoke often of inconspicuous beginnings ... the small amount of leaven that produces fifty pounds of bread (Matt13:33), the tiny mustard seed that grows into the largest shrub.

(Matt13:31) or the few seeds that land in good soil and produce an astonishing hundredfold yield (Mark 4:1-9)

Archbishop Oscar Romero, who (like Jesus) was killed because he dared to challenge the domination system of El Salvador, understood Jesus trust in small beginnings. The following prayer, "Prophets of a Future not Our Own," was written by Bishop Ken Untener in 1979, but is commonly known as "Oscar Romero's Prayer".

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is beyond our vision... This is what we are about: We plant seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our capabilities. We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for God's grace to enter and to do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.

Amen!

Thanks for the Encouragement Tony. Don't think I could or would write on my own.

God Bless us All  
Dick





### **Knight of the Month**

Since he joined the Knights of Columbus Deputy Grand Knight Dave Kudla has been as active as any brother Knight in the council. You will often see him manning the K of C table at St. Pius events such as the Fish Fry dinners, the Easter Bunny Brunch and serving in the front lines at Donut Sundays and Family Breakfasts. He and his wife Valerie have also volunteered at the St. Pius Field Day.

Dave answered the call early in his K of C career to serve as an officer on the council. He sets a great example as Deputy Grand Knight volunteering at most of our events. Dave and his wife Valerie have three grown children, Paul, Joanne, and Stephen. They are proud of their Polish Heritage and have given some great recommendations for Polish restaurants in the area. When you see Dave at the next meeting, tell him “Gratulacje” on being named Knight of the Month.



### **Family of the Month**

Please join us in congratulating the Burleson family as Family of the Month. Jake and Adrienne Burleson have been married for five years and have three children. Jake and Adrienne have been attending St. Pius X for four years. The thing they like best about our parish and community are the parents and people who volunteer with them. They feel it brings a sense of family and closeness. They would like to wish all of us a Happy Easter. The O'Brien council thanks the Burleson family all the other families who help out where they can.

## 2024 Edition of the Vivat Jesus Spiritual Planner is available for only \$6.00.

The Vivat Jesus Spiritual Planner is a pocket-sized prayer book and calendar for the year 2024. This book is designed to help men develop and maintain a daily prayer routine while also incorporating traditional Catholic prayers and devotions throughout the year for themselves and their families.

The Vivat Jesus Spiritual Planner for 2024 includes:

- Suggested daily prayer plans and practices.
- Space to build your personalized daily prayer routine.
- Weekly review of prayer life
- Monthly calendars with liturgical feasts indicated.
- Suggested devotions and prayers for each month including the Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge
- Collection of Prayers
- Guides for devotions and spiritual practices such as the Daily Examen and Lectio Divina
- Information about Blessed Michael McGivney and what it means to be a Knight.

On the Knights Gear website, they are selling for \$15.99 including shipping:

<https://knightsgear.com/products/copy-of-vivat-jesus-spiritual-planner-2024>

SDDR, FN and FS Ray Bilyk ( [raybilyk@kofc3956.org](mailto:raybilyk@kofc3956.org) ) is selling them for the LOW PRICE of only \$6.00!!! Please email, call/text (313-247-2110) or see Brother Ray to purchase one or more of these very helpful and divine books while supplies last!



## ARE YOU BUILDING YOUR FAMILY ON SOLID GROUND?

It's a question every Catholic man needs to ask - and answer. God calls you to love your wife, raise your children and provide for your family in good and bad times.

# BEGIN TODAY / BECOME AN ONLINE MEMBER

[www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/lead-with-faith/index.html](http://www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/lead-with-faith/index.html)

The Knights of Columbus is here to help. We offer the Catholic faith formation, financial protection, and family resources that can help you grow as a father, husband, and leader. With the Knights, you can become the man you want to be - and your family needs.

Right now, we are offering a FREE download of our annual prayer planner “*Vivat Jesus*” to help you grow in your faith and prayer life as you lead your family.

**Become a Knight Today!** Did you know that the international organization known as the Knights of Columbus is 139 years old? That we were founded by a parish priest, Blessed Fr. Michael J. McGivney? That Pope St. John Paul II called the Knights “the strong right arm of the Church”? Did you know that Knights change lives and save lives through our “Faith in Action Programs”?

You can be part of changing lives and saving lives by joining us. Go to <https://www.kofc.org/joinus> and become a Knight today. Online membership is **FREE** if you use the promo code **BLESSEDMCGIVNEY**. After joining us Online, our Council, **Bernard P. O'Brien/St. Pius X Council 3956**, will contact you so you can transfer into our Council.

If you have any questions, please can contact us directly at:

GK Mark Garcellano (734) 968-6900

[GrandKnight@kofc3956.org](mailto:GrandKnight@kofc3956.org)

SDRR Ray Bilyk (313) 247-2110

[RayBilyk@kofc3956.org](mailto:RayBilyk@kofc3956.org)



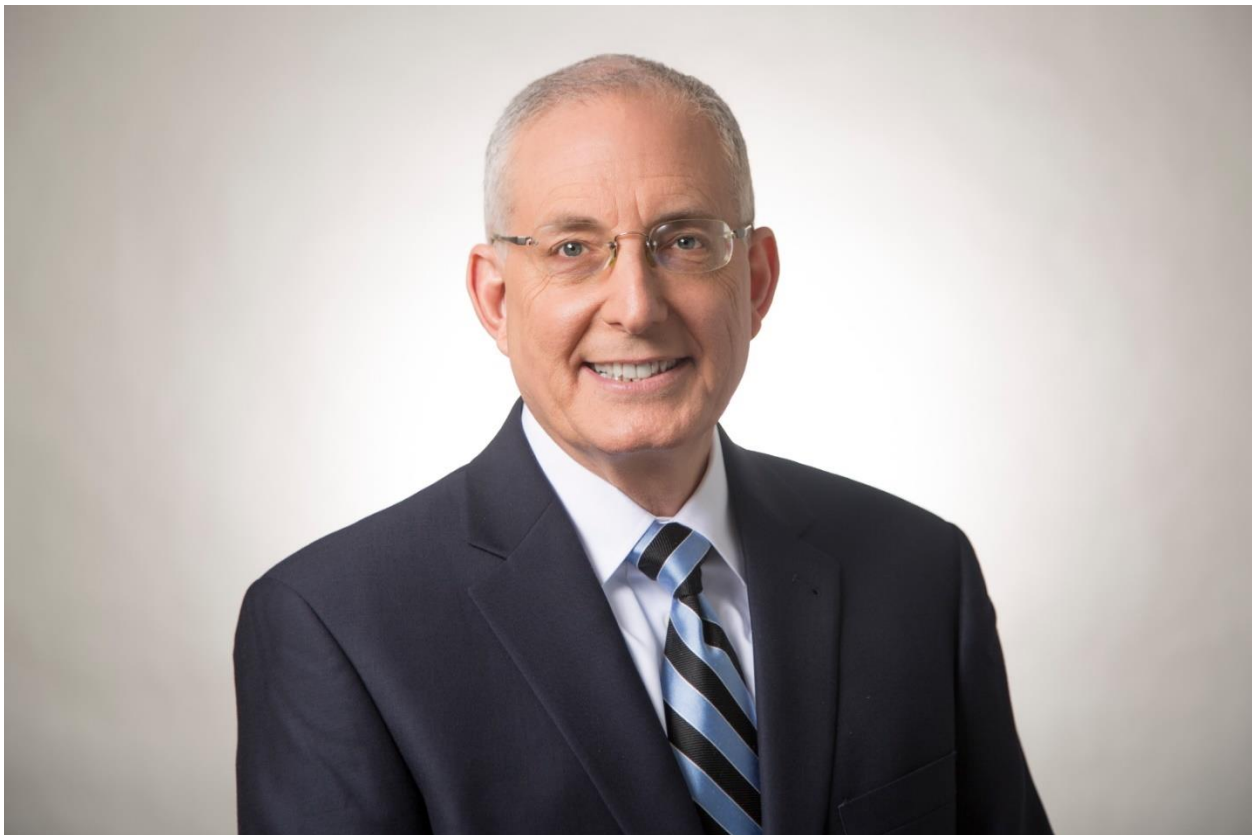
## Ed Slott, America's IRA Expert, presents, Retirement Savings and Distribution Planning

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

**8:00 PM EDT**

Ed Slott, television personality & best-selling author known for his unparalleled ability to turn advanced tax strategies into understandable, actionable and entertaining advice. Ed combines current research, in-depth expertise, and humor to teach viewers about the ins and outs of their retirements and distribution planning information.

You are invited to join our free virtual webinar featuring Ed Slott. Ed specializes in the latest retirement strategies and opportunities for 2024. Register today to reserve your spot.



To register cut and paste

[https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1655586&tp\\_key=c20e62135b](https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1655586&tp_key=c20e62135b).

Login will be available 15 minutes prior to the event start time. We look forward to your participation in this broadcast.

*No purchase is necessary to attend this event. This event is for informational purposes only and does not constitute financial, tax, or legal advice. A Knights of Columbus insurance agent may contact you following the event.*

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Retirement Savings and Distribution Planning Web Broadcast**

Tuesday, April 2 from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

See previous page flyer for details and registration.

### **K of C Council 3956 Regular Business Meeting (St Pius Social Hall)**

Wednesday, April 3, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. First nomination of officers on agenda.

Please come around 6PM to the St. Pius Social Hall for some socializing and perhaps some food. Meeting will start at 7PM.

### **Michigan K of C Fraternal Outing - Red Wings v Buffalo Sabres at Little Caesars Arena**

Sunday, April 7, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

All tickets may be sold. For further details, contact [raybilyk@kofc3956.org](mailto:raybilyk@kofc3956.org)

### **District 105 Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity**

Monday, April 8, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at St Pius X Catholic Church, 14101 Superior, Southgate, MI 48195, Hosted by Bernard P. O'Brien Council 3956. A reminder that the Exemplification is OPEN TO ALL to observe.

### **Fraternal Benefits Night**

Wednesday April 10, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. At Robert Jones Council, 3528 Fort St, Lincoln Park. *Spouses and Significant Others are invited to attend* our brief meeting at 7pm, and then participate in presentation on Elder Law which will answer many questions.

### **St. Pius X School Auction - "Pirates in Paradise"**

Friday, April 12, 6:00pm to 11:00 pm.at Crystal Gardens, 16703 Fort St, Southgate.

### **Mike Carey Show at St. Pius Social Hall (Music)**

Saturday, April 13, 7:00 to 9:00 pm at St Pius X Catholic Church Social Hall.

### **K of C Bernard O'Brien Council 3956 Donut Sunday**

Sunday, April 14, 2024 after 9:00 am and 11:00 am masses at St. Pius Social Hall. Doughnuts, coffee, beverages and socializing among friends. Excellent opportunity to learn how easy it is to become and prosper as a K of C member!

### **Men's Scripture Club**

Saturday, April 20, 7:30 am to 9:00 am. at St Pius X Catholic Church Social Hall.

We will meet once a month to discuss that week's Sunday readings and reflect upon them. Arrive a little early for coffee/donuts.

### **John Troast Concert at St. Pius Social Hall**

Friday, April 26, 6:00 to 9:00 pm at St Pius X Catholic Church Social Hall

### **K of C Council 3956 Officers Meeting**

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at Social Hall beginning promptly at 7:00 pm.

### **K of C Council 3956 Regular Business Meeting (St Pius Social Hall)**

Wednesday, May 1, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Final nomination of officers and election on agenda. Please come around 6PM to the St. Pius Social Hall for some socializing and perhaps some food. Meeting will start at 7PM.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

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

- Deacon Chuck Dault (April 1)
- Anthony M. DaPra (April 3)
- James H. Drumsta (April 4)
- Kevin Martin (April 4)
- Brian T. Cronan (April 5)
- David L. Houston (April 5)
- Patrick D. Tidwell (April 17)
- Gerald L. Gonyea (April 18)
- Robert R. Park (April 19)
- Brian J. Heasley (April 25)
- Nathan P. Neubecker (April 25)



## WIVES BIRTHDAYS

Our Better halves ... Behind every good man is a GREAT WOMAN indeed!



- Valerie Kudla (Wife of David Kudla) (April 18)
- Nancy Somenauer (Wife of Dan Somenauer) (April 28)
- Maria Vitale (Wife of Guy Vitale) (April 29)



## 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 April:

- |                        |            |                     |
|------------------------|------------|---------------------|
| • Ronald C. Cassette   | (April 23) | 57 Years of Service |
| • Darryl E. Zika       | (April 1)  | 52 Years of Service |
| • Henry A. Ibarra      | (April 11) | 40 Years of Service |
| • Matthew M. Dziewit   | (April 1)  | 37 Years of Service |
| • James M. Kuhlman     | (April 1)  | 37 Years of Service |
| • Lawrence J. Rossi    | (April 18) | 15 Years of Service |
| • Francis X. Cuschieri | (April 13) | 14 Years of Service |
| • Ryan D. Daw          | (April 16) | 4 Years of Service  |
| • Miguel Lugo          | (April 2)  | 2 Years of Service  |

*Happy Anniversary!*

## MEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- |                              |                |          |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| • Dan A. and Nancy Somenauer | April 19, 1975 | 49 Years |
| • Kurt N. and Barbara Enders | April 28, 1997 | 47 Years |

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.  
[Ephesians 5:25](#)

If there are any missing birthdays, anniversaries, wife birthdays or ordination anniversaries please send them to District Deputy and 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!



## GREAT NEWS FOR YOU AND A FRIEND!

Each member that brings in a new member will receive \$30 off next year's dues!

Interested in Joining Our Group Chat???



Our Council has started using **GroupMe** (<https://www.groupme.com>) to discuss and pass along timely information. It can be used only on your mobile device using text messaging, the GroupMe app or a web browser.

To join us, either go to the following URL:

[https://groupme.com/join\\_group/89941588/PMiLZWii](https://groupme.com/join_group/89941588/PMiLZWii)

or using your phone's camera with this QR code seen to the left...

You can also email your name, cell phone number and/or email address to [raybilyk@kofc3956.org](mailto:raybilyk@kofc3956.org) with the subject line: "Add to GroupMe"



### IN OUR PRAYERS:

Please pray for healing for our brother knights, family and friends:

- Jennifer Bilyk
- Lou Butka and family. Lou lost her husband Frank Sr. in February.
- James Garcellano, GK Mark Garcellano's brother
- Bill Robert's brother Rick, daughter Terianne, and son in law Michael
- Robert LaForest,
- Joe and Roger Hernandez
- Deacon Bob
- Manuel's Family
- Mel Jacobs
- Barb DeGroat
- Larry Rossi
- Alyssia Schooner and Daniel Schooner, Bob Schooner's Grandchildren
- Carol Kainz, Cousin to Angela Chirco, diagnosed with Stage 4 Cancer
- Valeria Kudla, Wife of David. Upcoming Surgery

*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.*





## REFLECTION

My brother-in-law and sister-in-law had a baby boy on Monday. My wife is overjoyed that our children have a cousin close in age. I believe that becoming a parent helps you to understand how much God loves us. A priest in a homily once said, "God delights in us as a father delights in his child." Our love is a fraction of what God feels for His creation. We take ownership in the creation of our children and feel a love that is boundless. God actually created us, our children, and His love is many times what we feel.

On Good Friday and Easter, we see how much God loves us. God sacrificed His only Son so that we could be forgiven. Every emotion that we feel towards our children is real, but human. Love, the desire to protect them, the pain we feel when they are hurting. Try to imagine those emotions scaled to infinity, then imagine God's mercy scaled to infinity, and God's capacity to forgive us for our sins. That was what happened on the first Easter.

Co-Editor Robert Park



## **EDITOR'S NOTE:**

*Our wives and significant others help us with our contributions to the K of C brotherhood. A great example is Phillis Cerezo, wife of our departed brother and friend Tony Cerezo. She participates in many of our fundraiser such as the Lenten Fish Fry where she helped sell pastries.*

*Yet, she thanks us. At the 11:00 am Easter Mass, I was approached by Phillis who gave me an Easter Card for our council. The card, received from her personal donation to the Salesian Mission, sends Easter Blessing to each of us brother knights.*

*Thank YOU Phillis! I have taken the inscription in the card as our prayer for the month. Thank you for all the blessings we receive from you. Happy Easter to my beautiful wife, my children and grandchildren and to all our family members! God Bless!*

## **PRAYER OF THE MONTH**

### **RISEN LORD,**

We greet you with joy this Easter Season and thank You for the gift of new life. Bless our Food, Our Family and our Friends, and help us to keep love in our hearts as we rejoice in the Good News of Your Resurrection. ALLELUIA

Inscribed in Salesian Missions Easter Greeting Card. "In gratitude for your loving care for poor and needy children"...

Vivat Jesus

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