



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

BERNARD P. O'BRIEN COUNCIL 3956

SOUTHGATE, MI

March 2026



Please submit all articles & announcements to:

kofc3956bulletin@gmail.com

By the 15th of the month prior to publishing

OUR MISSION

Together, we're empowering Catholic men to live their faith at home, in their parish, at work and in their community.

OUR FAITH

Our goal is to help men, their families and their parishes grow closer to Christ. Through our programs and resources, we provide opportunities to live and spread the Catholic faith.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A KNIGHT

We are Catholic men who lead, serve, protect and defend. We share a desire to be better husbands, fathers, sons, neighbors and role models and to put charity and community first.

FAITH, SERVE, PROTECT, DEFEND

OUR PRINCIPALS

CHARITY

UNITY

FRATERNITY

PATRIOTISM

WHO CAN JOIN THE KNIGHTS?

Men who are 18 years of age, and older, who is a practical Catholic.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Grand Knight

Anthony Chirco

Deputy Grand Knight

Ryan Daw

Financial Secretary

Ray Bilyk

Chancellor

Richard Gregoire

Treasurer

Steven Pochini

Advocate

Mark Garcellano

Warden

William P. Robert

Inside Guard

Dr. Stephen Gall

Outside Guard

Dr. Eric Mann

One Year Trustee

Thomas Monteleon

Two Year Trustee

Ronald Wagner

Three Year Trustee

Douglas Furtah III

Chaplain

Rev. Don LaCuesta

Lecturer

Deacon Charles Dault

MARCH

4th 6 PM - Council 3956 Business Meeting
SPX Social Hall

6th 4 PM - SPX Fish Fry
SPX Activity Center



13th 4 PM - SPX Fish Fry
SPX Activity Center

14th 5 PM - Council 3956 Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner
SPX Social Hall



15th - Donut Sunday
SPX - Social Hall



16th 7 PM - District 105 Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity
SPX - Church

20th 4 PM - SPX Fish Fry
SPX Activity Center

21st 7:30 AM - Cor Event
SPX - Social Hall



24th 6:30 PM - 4th Degree Rosary
K of C Wyandotte



24th 7 PM - Msgr Van Antwerp Assembly 475 4th Degree Business Meeting
K of C Wyandotte

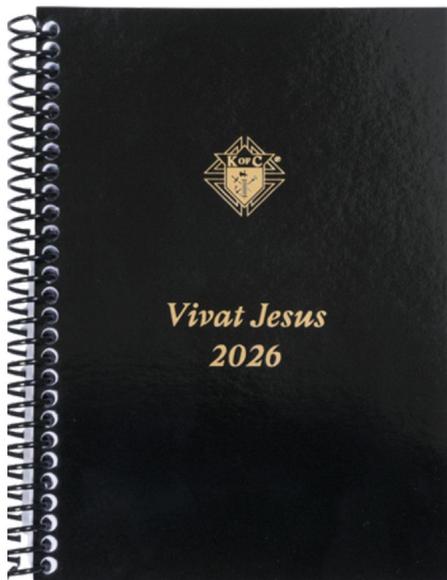
25th 6 PM - Council 3956 Officers Planning Meeting
SPX - Social Hall



27th & 28th Tootsie Roll Drive
SPX Social Hall

Vivat Jesus

The "Vivat Jesus" Spiritual Planner for 2026 is now available! It's designed to help men develop and maintain a daily prayer routine. This year's edition is updated with a special emphasis on giving men a space to plan their prayer routine. Additionally, the book is now in a larger format. Many men have reported to the Supreme Council how transformative "Vivat Jesus" has been in their faith life. Individual copies are available at shopcatholicinfo.com for \$7.99 each, or we have 19 copies available for \$5.00 each. Please contact FS Ray Bilyk by text 313-247-2110 or email at raybilyk@kofc3956.org and supercharge your prayer lives!



Invite a friend to be a Knight!

JOIN US! (BECOME AN ONLINE MEMBER FOR FREE!)



Free Gift!



SCAN ME

If you are interested in joining us, it's as easy as clicking on the link below:

<https://www.kofc.org/joinus>

For a **LIMITED TIME**, enter Agent Referral Code **TJACKSON** or Promo Code **BLESSEDMCGIVNEY** for **FREE** first year online membership.

Make sure that you select that your Preferred Local Council is 3956!

Brother Knights and friends of our council,

We received numerous compliments from so many people that attended our second Spaghetti Dinner in the Activity Center on February 13 th . They raved about the pasta sauce especially. The teamwork that promoted, prepared and served the dinner hit it out of the ballpark. You all deserve our gratitude. Job Well Done! The attendance was impressive! Thank you to everyone that supported this fund raiser. We hope to see you all and in May when we host the next dinner. Invite your family and friends to come as well.

Our St. Pius students, staff and council volunteers once again did a fantastic job. Thank you to the GR crowd, including the student volunteers that helped. Special thanks to Principal Dave Lopez and Dean of Student Anna Fidor for printing tickets, promoting through your resources, and encouraging parents and alumni to join this event, which raised \$2000 to start a scholarship program for St. Pius students attending Gabriel Richard Catholic High School this fall.

The bond between our Knights of Columbus council, St. Pius X church and school, and the GR community is solid. We expect to build on this relationship for many years. The impressive attendance at the dinner illustrated the love we all have for these great schools. We have a responsibility to keep these institutions successful for current and future students. My children graduated from both St. Pius X and Gabriel Richard schools. I expect their children to attend as well. My grandson will be enrolled at St. Pius soon.

I encourage all men who have not yet joined our O'Brien Council to reach out to me personally to learn how important our mission is. We need you as much as you need us. I can be reached by phone or text at 734-558-5446. You can also email me at gk3956@mikofc.org. Please also visit our website often to keep up to date on our activities. We are each individually and collectively committed to our God, our families and our community. You will like it here.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Desert Meal on March 1 to support our seminarians and the Corned Beef and Cabbage Charity meal on Saturday, March 14. We also need volunteers to help with the MI Tootsie Roll Drive Friday through Sunday, March 27-29 th to raise money for the intellectually and physically disabled in our community.

Finally, please read through this newsletter for our calendar of events, flyers detailing these events and the articles. Our membership director has prepared his first article, which I encourage you to read and ponder his message. Thank you to all our contributors!

Vivat Jesus,
Anthony (Tony) Chirco. GK
K of C O'Brien Council #3956
Gk3956@mikofc.org

Envy

One of the worse sins of self-infliction a person can fall into is Envy. Known as the Joyless sin, envy is unique among the seven deadly sins because it offers no immediate pleasure. While lust or gluttony provide temporary gratification, envy only creates internal misery and resentment.

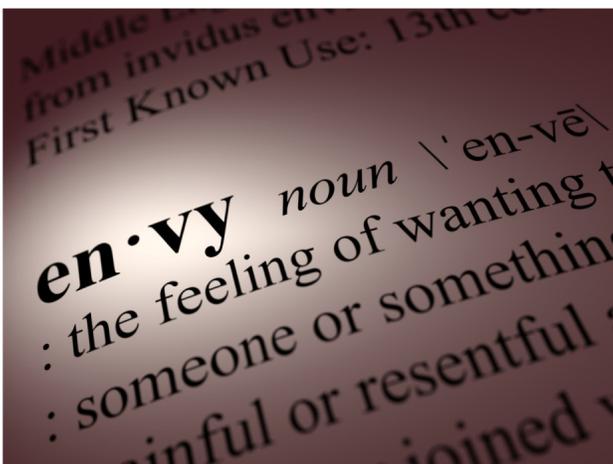
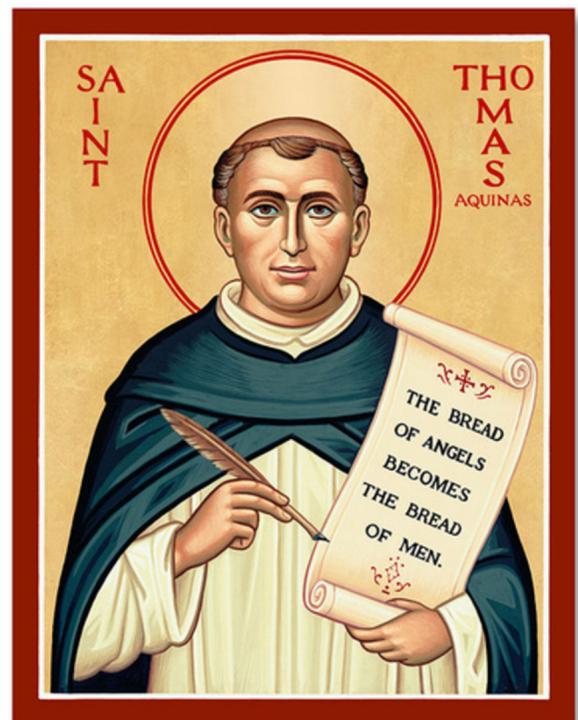
St. Thomas Aquinas described it as “sorrow for another’s good.” Unlike jealousy, which focuses on wanting what someone else has, true envy includes a darker side. Often, it isn’t just a matter of wanting the other person to *not* have it, but if left unchecked, it usually aligns itself to passions of wanting the person to fail or be harmed because of what they possess that you don’t.

Think of the last time you saw another belittled or suffer one-upmanship. Chances are it’s because of envy. The person inflicting the ridicule views that person’s success somehow diminishes their own self-worth and feel compelled to level the playing field so-to-speak. Envy not only craves what the other possesses, but oft times seeks to bring the other down. Well disguised, it is considered a root cause of other sins like gossip, theft, or even murder.

So the next time you feel disgruntled instead of joy for another’s good fortune, you might want to see if your completion is a bit green. To overcome this vice, both spiritually and psychologically, one need but focus on the virtues of humility, gratitude, and charity. Having what someone else has does not equate to a guarantee of happiness.

Vivat Jesus,

Deacon Chuck



I have been a Knight now for almost a year and so far my only regret is not joining our council sooner! Becoming a Knight had been something in the back of my mind for a few years and I knew that it was something I had wanted to do, but two things really drove me to join (aside from the inspiration and encouragement of our DGK and Faithful Navigator Ryan Daw). These two events happened simultaneously and helped light a fire for me to join. The first thing was that at the time I had been laid off of work and I submitted an application for the St. Pius Knights of Columbus Scholarship to try and help my family during that financial hardship. It was a big relief to my family when we found out we were being awarded one of the scholarships and the certificate that we received hangs on the wall in my home office as a reminder of what the good work of others can mean to people. Shortly after getting this good news I attended a town-hall style meeting at school in which a vast majority of people attending used to complain and spout vitriol for things they were based on rumors and hearsay. The room was full of anger and hatred that was aimed towards one person and I was deeply saddened and upset by the way these people chose to act. (In fact, this happened on Holy Wednesday prior to Easter and I found it ironic how an angry mob of people, who claim to be Catholic, directed their anger and ignorance at one person). The duality of these events struck me as odd. On one side there was a group of people who I had never met and interacted with who provided my family with such an amazing and selfless gift and on the other side was a group of people I knew very well who acted with such rage and selfish ideals about things affecting only their interests.

Because of these events I knew I had to make a change and joining our council of the Knights of Columbus was the key. One of the first things that helped me realize that I had made the right decision was the idea of how Knights are called to put their Faith In Action. In the past year I have seen our council exemplify this idea by raising well over \$15,000 (just an estimate based on my limited math skills!), provide support and health aids to our community, and help with many other charitable acts in our area. This was all done without the promise of a reward or even acknowledgment of good deeds done, just selfless acts of good work. Shortly after joining our Worthy Grand Knight, Tony Chirco, asked me to join the officers and directors as our council's Membership Director. I was nervous and felt unqualified for this position at the time but with everyone's support it is something I am glad I signed up for. A lot of members that have joined since then have said that they were inspired to join because we do such a great job of putting our Faith In Action with the events we host. This makes being the membership director a fairly easy job. Everyone contributes to recruiting efforts just by helping in some of the many different activities we do. To touch on that subject briefly, I wanted to remind everyone that participation with our work does not come with a quota. Whether you help run an event or just help sweep up a spill, all help is welcome. After all, one of the cores of our organization is fraternity and any help from a brother knight is welcome!

So as someone who used to be on the outside looking in, I say to you brothers, thank you. Thank you for inviting me to join, thank you for accepting me with open arms, thank you for encouraging my participation and ideas. Finally, thank you for choosing my family as a recipient of the St. Pius scholarship, it may not seem like a lot to some but for my family it was everything. This truly is a great group that I have witnessed do great things. As men it can be challenging to admit when something moves us or impacts our lives in a meaningful way. Since joining the Knights I feel such a stronger connection to our community and I feel a much deeper connection to my faith. Prior to joining I felt a small void and becoming a Knight has helped to fill that emptiness. There has never been a meeting or event that I have attended with all of you that I have regretted. If it has been a while since you have attended a meeting or event do yourself a favor and just show up, if you are not able to help then stay for the fellowship, we have plenty of both! I am excited to see what we can accomplish in another year's time. Let us continue to encourage good deeds and inspire deeper connections with those around us. It only takes a small spark to ignite something great.

Vivat Jesus!

Vince Barazsu

As usual, for me, for writing something on my mind, I don't know where to begin so let me Start at the beginning!

Genesis Chapter one, Verse one : "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth; The earth was waste and void; darkness covered the abyss, and the SPIRIT of God was stirring above the waters. God said let there be light and there was light." I hope you get the idea !

Wait, not done yet! Gospel of St. John chapter one, Verse one thru five:

IN THE BEGINNING was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him and without Him was made nothing that has been made. In Him was life, and the life was the LIGHT of men. And the light shines in the darkness; and the darkness grasped it not! Hello Jesus !

For believers the books that comprise the Bible is indeed the Word of God inspired by the Holy Spirit. Stories that speak of God's chosen people who had good or bad relationships with the Lord, faithful and unfaithful with its probable consequences. Books that teach about Love, Faith and Hope. Lessons... the Trinity teaching us on how to live and forgive. Books that we hope can lead us into a relationship with the God who loves us that is beyond my understanding and so we celebrate the wonderful mysteries! The Bible; "the BOOK" kind of like the ultimate instruction manual.

There was a time that I recall when I used to work for a living and I believe I was taught a very good lesson by a friend that I worked with. I was a maintenance and construction welder as was my friend and a very good welder. He will never know, I don't think, that I'm telling a story about him but God bless him. This event occurred when I, in my opinion, I was a pretty experienced Welder, probably about thirty years? Able to use most processes pretty good, Mig, Tig, Stick and others. Primarily, for years, certified pipe and structural steel welding. Anyways I don't remember the job assignment but it was out of my wheelhouse, that I remember. With the years of my experience I was embarrassed that I wasn't sure how to approach the task at hand that I was given. I asked my friend if he could help me out. And he did. Know what he said? I was embarrassed again! He said, check the BOOK ! So I did and everything worked out fine !

I am convinced that the answers that we need are generally in the book but after years of doing what you do and think you're doing just fine and believe you are at the top of your game, maybe not? Sometimes you just have to check the "BOOK". You know, the one that teaches you how to do stuff and do it right ! So I think that I have to go to the book," the manual",

much more often to become more acquainted with the lessons. I don't need the welding book anymore, not really as I have long been retired. But I'm still here living and in need of, " you know" "The BOOK"! Thank you Lord for this Grace and the Blessings!

I have run into problems in the past with needed documents for personal management and Needed to be corrected. On occasions I needed to go to the management to try and have it corrected and have been told it was too messed up and couldn't be fixed. WHAT!!!!???

Had to find another agent to help me out and they did Thanks be to God ! You know computer technology is so far beyond me! Know what they did ? I was told it was too messed up and couldn't fix it ! WHAT????!!! They said they would trash, cancel ? all the information that was in

The computer and start over again, fresh! Wow what a good idea ! Thank you so much!

Wow, Start over! Lost my Way !! Guess sometimes you just have to go back to the beginning !

I'm glad this assignment wasn't given with X amount of words I would have certainly failed ! We are blessed that God has given us the Word with the best of books ever to lead us, with the certainty that Faith, Hope and Love will lead us Home.

Thanks for the gifts Lord, and all the friends You have given me, that encourage me!

P.S. Sorry Dear Editors It always seems the story rattles on too long. I know people who would tell me to shut up but just one more thing I'm gonna say as long as I can.

GOD IS GOOD

ALL THE TIME

Dick Gregoire



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1- Timothy Barazsu
 3- David Gabel
 8- Mark Farrah
 8- Dan Somenauer
 8- Ryan Wallace
 16- Francis Cuschieri
 16- Matthew Wardell
 21- Keith Murray
 21- Larry Ridenour
 24- Sal DiPasquale
 24- Mark Garcellano
 29 - Matthew Dziewit

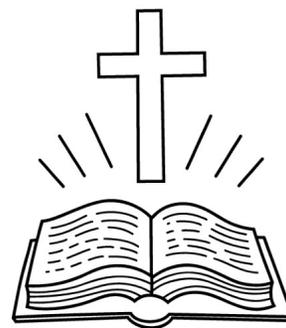
Anniversary

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

21 - Mr. & Mrs. Corso 28 Years
 22 - Dr. & Mrs. Unogu 26 Years

YEARS OF SERVICE

John Byers 59 Years
 Bruce Presutti 52 Years
 Christopher Poirier 48 Years
 Steven Crandall 44 Years
 Deacon Scott LaForest 37 Years
 Patrick Guentner 30 Years
 Steven Minella 25 Years
 Rev. Don LaCuesta 21 Years
 Daniel McGuire 10 Years
 Jacob Harpenau 3 Years
 Fred Tortonesi 3 Years



IN OUR PRAYERS

Quannah Stewart
 Mandy Borsenik
 Jennifer Bilyk
 Margaret LaForest
 Joe Hernandez
 Glenda Rossi
 Bob Schooner
 Alyssia Schooner
 Daniel Schooner
 Larry Ridenour
 Brian Batko
 Valerie Husar
 John Husar Sr.
 Norman LeMay
 Kelly Hernandez
 Dick Gregoire's Family
 Victoria Turnick
 Michael Morrin
 Jack G
 Andrea Ahan
 Zita Borrelli

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

We need to update our prayer list!
 Please email prayer requests
kofc3956bulletine@gmail.com

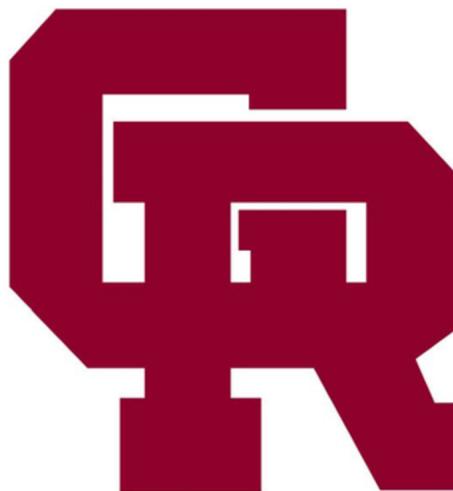
Congratulations

**KNIGHT OF THE MONTH****DR. ERIC MANNS**

We are proud to name Eric Mann as our February Knight of the Month. Eric's dedication to our parish is truly outstanding, evidenced by his consistent service as both a Knight of Columbus and a regular usher. He recently went above and beyond the call of duty by providing vital assistance during an emergency situation at the church. Eric is a powerful example of faith in action—an exemplary Knight and a role model for the young men in our community

**FAMILY OF THE MONTH****GR ALUMNI & STAFF**

A HUGE thank you to Gabriel Richard Alumni and Staff for helping make our Spaghetti Dinner such a success! From promoting the dinner to showing up and working the event, your support and dedication made all the difference. We truly could not have done it without you!



Welcome

Please join us in warmly welcoming our newest member, Greg Mahar, to the Knights of Columbus! We are proud to share that he was personally recruited by our Grand Knight, Tony Chirco, a testament to the strong leadership and personal invitation that continue to grow our council.

By saying "yes" to the Knights, he has committed himself to the principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. We are grateful for his willingness to serve our parish and community, and we look forward to working alongside him in faith and fellowship.

Welcome, Brother Knight! We are blessed to have you with us.



Holy Week will be here before we know it!

Join us each Friday at 7:00 PM in the Church for Stations of the Cross as we prayerfully prepare for Good Friday.

On Palm Sunday, all three Masses will begin in the Social Hall. Please refer to the Holy Week schedule below for the full list of Mass times and liturgies.

We will also have a Food Basket Blessing at 11:00 AM on Holy Saturday. Bring your baskets to be blessed as we prepare to celebrate the joy of Easter.

HOLY WEEK

MASS SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday (April 2nd):

7 pm

Reception of Holy Oils

Mass of the Lord's Last Supper

Adoration & Private Prayer until Midnight

Good Friday (April 3rd):

12 pm

Stations of the Cross, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet,

Mediation of Jesus' Last Words, Celebration or the

Passion of the Lord

Easter Vigil (April 4): (no 4 pm Mass)

8:30 pm

Service of Light, Liturgy of the Word, Baptism &

Confirmation, Liturgy of the Eucharist

Easter Sunday (April 5):

9 am & 11 am

Resurrection of the Lord

St. Pius X

14101 Superior St

Southgate, MI 48195

St. Patrick's Day Irish Feast



Hosted by:

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

BERNARD P. O'BRIEN COUNCIL 3956

Savory corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, and dessert as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day together. Mac & Cheese will be available as well!



SATURDAY

MARCH 14, 2026

**ST. PIUS X SOCIAL HALL
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

TICKETS

\$15

Advance ticket purchase is appreciated to ensure we prepare enough for everyone!

Tickets will be available after all Masses at St. Pius X and online!



Save the Date

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Save the date for our next Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser! More information will come out soon!



St. Pius X Activity Center

14101 Superior St. Southgate, MI 48195



May 29, 2029





HELP US HELP THEM

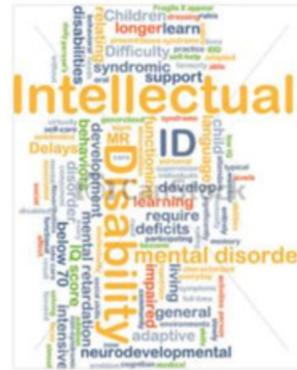
"Let me win. But if I cannot win,
let me be brave in the attempt."



54th Annual M.I. Drive



To Assist Michigan Citizens with
Intellectual / Developmental Disabilities



March 27-29, 2026
Palm Sunday Weekend



Enjoying a hot summer day at camp!



Developing Skills in the Community



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
MICHIGAN STATE COUNCIL