

Family of the Year

Entry Form

Council/Jurisdiction: Msgr. John A. Gabriels Council #11099/Michigan

Date: 4/11/22

INSTRUCTIONS

Local Councils: To enter your Family of the Year into jurisdiction competition, complete this form and forward it to the state deputy. Additional paper may be used if space allocated is not sufficient. Photographs, news clippings, letters of commendation or other special exhibits may be included. **Note: Individual jurisdictions set their own deadlines for state/provincial competitions, so watch for deadline dates or contact the state deputy, state program director, or state family director.**

A. PERSONAL DATA

Member's Name: Anthony Michael Cherniawski

4210701

(Membership Number)

Wife's Name: Suzanne Carol Cherniawski

Children/Ages:

Michael Anthony Cherniawski, 42 (Rochelle)

Stefan Andrei Cherniawski, 41 (Sarah)

Christian Alexander Cherniawski, 30 (Sonya)

Children/Ages:

Claire Marie Blemont, 36 (Christopher)

Maria Rose O'Brien, 30 (Todd)

David J. Cherniawski, 34/John-Paul R. Cherniawski, 26

Home Address: 2205 Hopkins Ave., Lansing, MI 48912

Home Telephone: 517-331-5200

Business Telephone: _____

Parish: Church of the Resurrection

Pastor: Rev. Steven Mattson

Address: 1514 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912

Telephone: 517-482-4797

B. KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DATA

Family nominated by Council 11099 in Lansing, Michigan

(Number)

(Location)

For how many years has husband/father been a member of the Knights of Columbus? 15

Positions (offices/program directorships/chairmanships/committee assignments) held:

Joined the Knights of Columbus at St. Peter Council #6534 in 2007 and was active in their various activities.
Transferred to Msgr. John A. Gabriels Council #11099 in 2016 and is currently the council treasurer.
Joined the fourth degree at Bishop Albers Assembly #0496 in 2015 and is a member of the honor guard.

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Explain the entire family's involvement within the Knights of Columbus:

The entire family has been involved with pancake breakfasts, Tootsie Roll Drives, parish festivals and auctions.

C. FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Explain the entire family's involvement within the Church:

Suzanne is a member of the Church of the Resurrection Altar Society and various women's groups. She helped her sister raise funds for an orphanage in Kenya for the past 10 years, Due to her efforts, a second orphanage and chapel for girls was built in 2020. Greater detail on family involvement is on attached pages.

Explain the entire family's involvement within the community:

The family was involved in helping refugees from Poland become settled in their Lansing parish community. They welcomed their children's fellow students from eastern Europe for the holidays while they attended Ave Maria University. The entire family had leadership roles at an ecumenical summer camp for children for the past 35 years. They also participated as a family at Catholic Familyland (Apostolate for Family Consecration) in Bloomingdale, Ohio and recruited other families to participate. Greater detail on family involvement is on attached pages.

Explain why this family was chosen as the model family in your jurisdiction. Why does this family deserve the distinction of being named Knights of Columbus Family of the Year?

Brother Tony and Suzanne have demonstrated from the start of their time together what it takes to make a family strong in its faith and serving others. They presented the example for their children and encouraged their participation in endeavors to serve God and others. This has been a 50 year process for Tony and Suzanne and 42 year process as a family that continues to this day with their 14 grandchildren.

FOR JURISDICTION USE ONLY:

This family has been chosen Jurisdiction Family of the Year.

Attest: Walter K. Winkle, Jr.

(State Deputy)

If this entry is selected as the Jurisdiction Family of the Year, please submit this winning entry form with the state deputy's signature or e-signature and all collateral material to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission along with your SPAW/STSP packet of International Award Winners. It is preferred that these be submitted electronically to fraternalmission@kofc.org. Jurisdiction Family of the Year submissions are due by June 1 for consideration in the International Family of the Year competition.

(Councils should retain a copy of this completed form for their files)

John C. Gordon
Grand Knight
117 N. Foster
Lansing, Michigan 48912
517-290-3955
gk11099@mikofc.org



Knights of Columbus

Msgr. John A. Gabriels Council #11099

April 11, 2022

Dear Reading Committee:

The Knights of Columbus, Council #11099 in Lansing, Michigan with 129 members serves the parish of Church of the Resurrection in our State Capitol. At the April 11 council meeting the officers have unanimously endorsed a motion to support our Treasurer, Anthony Cherniawski, for the Nomination for the Michigan State Family of the Year.

Brother Tony joined the Knights of Columbus in 2007 at St. Peter Council #6534 in Eaton Rapids, Michigan in 2007 and attained third degree. In 2015 he joined the fourth degree at Bishop Albers Assembly #0496 in Lansing, Michigan. Tony transferred to Msgr. John A. Gabriels council #11099 in Lansing, Michigan in 2016. He has been very active volunteering in many programs while a Knight. This fraternal year he was elected council treasurer and joined the fourth degree honor guard.

As you will see from his Family of the Year Application and portfolio Tony, his wife Suzanne and the entire family have been an integral part of a family worthy of Family of the Year from the State of Michigan. Tony's extensive involvement in promoting our faith through the Shroud of Turin presentations and The Holy Face Project, and his standing up for life and Catholic education with the assistance of his family demonstrate his belief, support, and commitment to our Catholic family fraternal service organization.

Tony and his family have, and continue to be, very much involved with the Church, community, youth, and the Knights of Columbus. Our council believes that he and his family would be a well deserving recipient of the Michigan State Family of the Year. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by e-mail at gk11099@mikofc.org or by phone at 517-290-3955.

Fraternally,

John Gordon
Grand Knight
Council #11099

4-4-22

To whom it may concern;

This a letter of recommendation for Tony and Suzanne Cherniawski for Knight, and Family of the year.

I have known Tony and Suzanne for approx. 40 years (in the Work of Christ Community as well as St. Peter Church)

They have always been leaders, and faithful members of the Catholic Church.

Tony has displayed (more than once) the inspiring display of the Shroud of Turin.

Tony and Suzanne have raised their children to be true Christians of the Catholic Faith; sending them (and accompanying them) to praise and worshiping gatherings at the University of Steubenville!

I highly recommend them to be "Family of the Year". Deacon Gideon Marsa



Tony Cherniawski & Suzanne Palid first met in March 1971 as student employees at the Veterinary Clinic at Michigan State University. What caught Tony's attention was that Suzanne had spunk when he told her that he was the eldest of 14 children. "So?" She wasn't impressed. It turned out that she was the fourth of seventeen children.

He was even more impressed when she fought for and was awarded equal pay for women employees at Michigan State University. That was the beginning of a relationship that has lasted over a half a century.

They were married in August, 1972. Tony immediately started to work while Suzanne finished school and pursued a singing career. The next six years were very busy with Suzanne working while finishing her Bachelor's degree at Michigan State and Tony building an insurance and financial services business.

While both Tony and Suzanne were brought up in strong Catholic families, life was too busy to pay much attention to their faith until a series of mishaps occurred that brought them to their knees in prayer. To their surprise, they found that God answered prayers in amazing and sovereign ways. They became members of the Church of the Resurrection and lived within two blocks of the church for the next twenty years.

While at Church of the Resurrection, Tony and Suzanne were active in an ecumenical community where they participated in weekly prayer groups. They have remained members of the ecumenical community for over 45 years. While members they (and their children) assisted at annual summer camp for children in 3rd through 6th grade as leaders and counselors.

During that time Suzanne gave birth to five rambunctious boys and two healthy girls. She took an active interest in her children's education and catechesis while sending them to Resurrection School and to Lansing Catholic Central High School. She became very involved with their education and eventually decided to home school the four younger children.

While Suzanne spent time with the children, Tony served the Resurrection Education Commission and Parish Council. He also worked on the planning commission for the new parish hall, which was eventually named Mercy Hall. Tony founded the Resurrection Education Foundation to stabilize the finances for Resurrection School in Lansing and promoted its funding. He was also a founding member of the Greater Lansing Catholic Education Foundation.

Tony was asked to join the board of Pregnancy Services of Greater Lansing in 1986 by a dear friend of the family. Pregnancy Services is located strategically across Grand River Avenue from the MSU campus. Its corps of dedicated volunteers counseled young unwed mothers and were known to save hundreds of babies from the abortion mills every year.

At the time, Pregnancy Services was in need of a leader with business skills, so he was asked to be president of the board in 1987. He accepted and stayed in that position for eight years. He raised funds for Pregnancy Services by organizing annual banquets that brought many nationally known pro-life speakers to the Lansing area.

On April 19, 1993, on the day that Sister Faustina Kowalska was beatified and the first Divine Mercy Sunday, Tony and Suzanne organized the first Divine Mercy Celebration in Lansing at the Church of the Resurrection. A special mention to Sister Faustina, whose intercession made it all possible. Later that month Suzanne delivered a set of identical twins who died of anencephaly at the delivery. "Our Blessed Mother comforted us the entire time of our grief."

In May of 1995, Tony brought the full-size replica and display of the Shroud of Turin to the Lansing Center and went on tour in mid-Michigan parishes and schools for five weeks. He has been touring with the Shroud of Turin Display throughout the Midwest during the Lenten Season every year until the Covid lockdown.

In 1996 with the help of Kenneth Watterson, a brother 4th degree knight, he created a website named, www.theholyshroud.net. In the fall of 2019, Tony and Phillip Campbell created a YouTube podcast series called, "The Mystery of the Shroud. Who is the Man in the Cloth?" on Good Shepherd Catholic Radio (WJKN 93.3 FM/1510 AM, Jackson, MI).

Tony giving a presentation on the Shroud of Turin at Lumen Christi High School, Jackson, MI



In August 1995 Tony and Suzanne moved to St. Peter Parish in Eaton Rapids where Tony served on the parish council and assisted in CCD classes. Suzanne joined the choir. Both served in various other capacities until 2016. Tony joined the Knights of Columbus at St. Peter Council #6534 in Eaton Rapids as a 1st degree member in 2007 and soon afterwards went through the

2nd and 3rd degree exemplifications. Tony went through the 4th degree exemplification in 2016 joining Bishop Albers Assembly #0496 and is a member of the honor guard.

Due to the lockdown in 2020, all of the Shroud of Turin expositions were cancelled. Tony began looking for an alternate media with which to bring Christ's Presence to the public. By December 2020 he raised funds to bring The Holy Face Project (www.theholysfaceproject.com) to the Lansing Area. Over the next six months, Tony brought 14 billboards with the Face of Christ to the Lansing area. He renewed the project in November 2021 and The Holy Face is prominent in one of the most travelled intersections in Mid-Michigan, with 342,000 viewers weekly. He is currently raising funds to promote The Holy Face in in other locations around the Lansing area during the Lenten and Easter Season.

Tony and Suzanne look forward to celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year during the 4th of July week as a testimony to the Sacrament of Marriage. They are grateful for the love of Jesus Christ and the graces provided by living an active life in a Christian Community. The Cherniawskis returned to Lansing in 2017 and live in a neighborhood close to their home parish, the Church of the Resurrection. Five of their seven children and 7 of the 14 grandchildren live in the Lansing area as well.

Supplemental information on Children:

Michael – Member, Knights of Columbus. He participated in a mission to Brussels, Belgium where he assisted in converting an abandoned hospital into a center for Bosnian refugees. He spent a year as a youth minister to Catholic and Protestant teens in Belfast, Ireland. He made multiple trips to Central America to assist priests at local parishes with renovations and youth & family ministry. He is married and has two children.

Stefan – Worked as a group leader in Christian Youth in Action in Monterrey, Mexico for a year. He worked a summer in Honduras installing/repairing water, sewage and electrical systems in and orphanage that was destroyed by a hurricane. He helped re-open a remote Catholic Church in the mountains that had not seen a priest in years. He also ran the audio-visual

presentations for an international youth conference in Acapulco, Mexico. He is married with three sons and a step-daughter.

Christian – Spent a year as a volunteer in an inner-city youth outreach in Detroit, Michigan. Organized and led activities for University Christian Outreach at Michigan State University. Participated in several missions to Central America helping priests in impoverished areas. He and his wife have four children.

Claire – Chartered a bus trip for a Catholic girls' high school in Rhode Island to attend World Youth Day in Toronto, Canada. After graduating from high school, she went on a year-long mission with the National Evangelistic Team (NET) conducting high school youth missions throughout the USA. She was President of the Leadership Academy at Lansing Community College. She served as a Chapter Leader for University Christian Outreach across Michigan college campuses. She organized an International Christian Women's conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan and served three years as music director for St. Nicholas Church at North Pole, Alaska. (Yes, there is a North Pole.) She and her husband currently live in Lansing.

David – Went on four mission trips to repair water systems for orphanages as well as painting and other renovations in Mexico. He helped build sanitary systems for remote villages in Honduras. On his last trip he helped build five cinder block houses for homeless families in Mexico. David lives near Modesto, California with his son.

Maria – Made several mission trips to southern Mexico to assist a Catholic Priest rescue homeless girls off the streets, giving them food, shelter and protection from the criminal element who preyed on children. She participated in the Leadership Academy at Lansing Community College. She also spent a year working with the National Evangelistic Team doing high school missions throughout the Midwest. She and her husband have three girls ages 5 and under.

John-Paul – Is a Knight in good standing and music minister at St. Gerard Parish in Lansing, Michigan. He participated in the Leadership Academy at Lansing Community College. He also made multiple mission trips to Central America, helping where he was needed. He helped

organize an International Youth Leadership Camp in Miami, Florida and spent a year with University Christian Outreach on college campuses in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The Cherniawski Family



Diocese of Lansing Facebook, March 18, 2022

READ: TONY'S PASSION FOR PUTTING THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS ON BILLBOARDS: Tony Cherniawski has a very singular Lenten resolution: That all may see the face of Christ and draw closer to his Divine Love. That's why the Lansing father-of-seven, and grandfather-of-14, is raising funds to pay for billboards featuring the Holy Face of Jesus throughout Michigan's capital city.

"The best advertising is repetition and, so, if you can have something in a place where people will see it on a consistent daily basis, eventually there will be an interaction – in advertising they call it brand recognition but, in this case, I call it 'Christ recognition'."

The face portrayed on Tony's billboards replicates the face depicted on the Shroud of Turin, the length of linen cloth that many believe be the burial shroud of Jesus Christ. The shroud has been kept in the royal chapel of the Cathedral of John the Baptist in Turin, in northern Italy, since 1578.

While the Church neither formally endorses nor rejects the veracity of the shroud, it has long been a source of inspiration and site of pilgrimage with Pope Francis describing it in 2013 as an "icon of a man scourged and crucified".

"For some people, the Holy Gospels are but words in a book; for others, they are even viewed as just a myth; but for many more, the Shroud of Turin makes it all real," says Tony who previously worked in financial services for four decades.

Tony first became interested in the Shroud of Turin in the early 1990's, not long after tests had been carried out upon it claiming it dated no further back than the 13th century.

"After much prayer and studying of the evidence, I became convinced that the Shroud of Turin was, in fact, the 'real thing' and made arrangements to have a photographic replica of the Shroud put on display Lansing residents to make up their own mind – over 2,500 visitors came to my display at the Lansing Center for a weekend viewing of the Shroud."

Since then Tony has taken his photographic display of the Shroud to the parishes and schools across the Midwest of the United States and, even, into Canada. In 2020, however, COVID-19 restrictions halted his touring and, so, Tony turned to billboards as a means of continuing to promote devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus.

"That face [the Shroud of Turin] is universally recognized as that face of Jesus Christ whether you are an atheist, a Catholics, a Protestant, a believer, a non-believer, whatever. It's also a face that often produces a comment, mostly positive but sometimes not."

With the help of the Knights of Columbus, last year Tony raised enough in Lenten alms to fund 14 billboards across the Lansing area. Tony is a Fourth Degree Member of the Bishop Albers Assembly 0496 of the Knights of Columbus and a Third-Degree Officer of the Monsignor John A. Gabriels Council 11099 in Lansing. Currently he has a billboard at the intersection of Grand River Avenue and the northbound entrance to US127. It is passed by an estimated 342,000 vehicles every week.

"The Holy Face stands as a reminder that Christ is with us," explains Tony, "For Catholics, it is a gentle call to prayer and the sacraments while, for others, it may be a powerful 'sign of contradiction' that draws them closer to Christ this Lent."

• Would you like to help Tony promote devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus? Go to <https://theholysfaceproject.com/> to find out more. You can also contact Tony at 517-331-5200.

The following three photos were included in the Diocese of Lansing Facebook article on Tony and The Holy Face Project.





