



Barry M. Borsenik  
State Deputy



My Brother Knights and Ladies,

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to our wonderful Knights of Columbus family! The fraternity we enjoy and the charity we share has been fully and personally experienced in the past months. My wife Mandy suffered a severe stroke on November 13<sup>th</sup> and nearly died. She is still in recovery with months of rehabilitation ahead but the outpouring of support and prayers for her and our family has been amazing. I am so grateful and hope you all know how much it means to us. At the same time, I realize that many others have their own suffering, hardship and loss. My daily prayers include thanksgiving for the love we receive, and intercessions for all of you.

The theme for the next six months is **Optimism**; the “O” in SOAR. Coincidentally, Pope Francis declared the Jubilee Year 2025, “A Holy Year of Hope.” I have reason to be full of hope for success of the Knights of Columbus in Michigan. Our level of activity within our councils continues to increase. Acts of charity and program participation are helping thousands of people less fortunate. We set another record distribution of Coats for Kids. The 100<sup>th</sup> ultrasound in Michigan has been approved and funded. The Cor Initiative is providing faith formation for catholic men. Membership is on a steady pace with men of all ages joining our order. I am very optimistic that 2025 can be a great year for your councils. There are many resources available and leadership to help you.

In December the State Board held our annual meeting with all the bishops of Michigan. This is an opportunity few, if any other state jurisdictions have. It is a chance for us to share directly, the programs and initiatives we are offering and to listen to what concerns or requests they have for us. One topic that stood out was The Cor Initiative. The bishops all support this effort and see it as a great opportunity for all parishes to strengthen our faith, increase evangelization and bring men and their families back to Mass.

At the Winter Leadership Conference we provided encouragement and instruction to all the volunteer leaders including District Deputies, Diocesan and State Directors. We will soon be visiting every diocese to share some of the same information. Every diocesan meeting has been scheduled so the bishop can attend. All members, but especially council leaders are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings. A meal will be provided.

I wish you and your family a “Year full of Hope.” I look forward to meeting many more of you as I continue to travel the state and attend council, diocesan and statewide events. I am optimistic that this second half of our fraternal year will see robust growth in membership and many of your councils meeting the activity requirements to achieve Star Council. Peace be with you.

Fraternally,  
Barry Borsenik  
Your State Deputy

## Successful Diaper Drive at 2024 Winter Leadership Meeting

The Winter Leadership Meeting held during the month of December resulted in a successful Diaper, Wipes & Gift Card drive for pregnancy centers across the state. In total over 11,000 diapers, 20,000 wipes and gift cards & checks totaling \$4,425 was donated at the Winter Leadership Meeting. A sincere thank you to all participating councils, district deputies and all others who supported this drive for newborns across the state.



Distribution of the donations were made to the following pregnancy centers:

- Archdiocese of Detroit - Planned Choices, Allen Park
- Lansing Diocese - Pregnancy Center of Eaton County, Charlotte
- Saginaw Diocese - LifeClinic Community Resources, Midland
- Grand Rapids Diocese - HELP pregnancy Aid, Grand Rapids
- Kalamazoo Diocese - Alternatives of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo

Gaylord Diocese - Options Pregnancy Century, Alpena

Marquette Diocese - Pregnancy Services of Delta County, Escanaba

Thank you to those that took the time to deliver donations to our pregnancy center partners! On behalf of each diocese an ASP application will be sent to the Supreme Council.

Below are a few notes of thanks for all your efforts,

PSDC Director

Oh my goodness!!! You guys are absolutely AMAZING !!!!!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Jamie Fisher, LAS

Executive Director

Pregnancy Services of Delta County  
2501 1st Avenue North Escanaba, MI 49829



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From The State Chaplain  
Fr. Andrew S. LaFramboise



### The Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope

We have entered into a Jubilee Year in the Church. The theme of the Jubilee Year is “pilgrims of hope.” In his bull announcing the year, taken from Paul’s letter to the Romans “Hope does not disappoint,” Pope Francis called us to remember that hope is an anchor (Hebrews 6:18-20). He said, “The image of the anchor is eloquent; it helps us to recognize the stability and security that is ours amidst the troubled waters of life, provided we entrust ourselves to the Lord Jesus. The storms that buffet us will never prevail, for we are firmly anchored in the hope born of grace, which enables us to live in Christ and to overcome sin, fear and death” (Pope Francis, *Spes Non Confundit*, 25).

Who is your anchor? We often find ourselves amidst troubled waters, and it can feel as if they are getting more troubling by the day. In the midst of the storm, it can feel like sinking is the only possible outcome. Remember, “hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (Romans 5:5). Jesus is with us! He is ever at our side!

Jesus inaugurated his public ministry by referencing the Jubilee when he preached at his home synagogue in Nazareth, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord” (Luke 4:17-19).

Embrace this holy year. Be firmly united to Jesus like an anchor to the floor of the sea. What are ways to participate in the holy year? Consider making a pilgrimage to a holy site. The cathedrals throughout the world have been designated as places of prayer and pilgrimage during the holy year. The Jubilee Year began at St. Peter’s Basilica on December 24th. On the Solemnity of the Holy Family, December 29th, bishops celebrated the opening of the Jubilee Year in their cathedrals. You could consider making a pilgrimage to your cathedral as a local council during the year. There is an opportunity to receive a plenary indulgence.

Wasn’t Blessed Michael McGivney a pilgrim of hope? We can think of the countless people he served. I think especially of the condemned prisoner Chip Smith, to whom he ministered up until the day of his execution. He brought hope to that young man. He died with hope in his heart and in a state of friendship with Jesus. All because Fr. McGivney was a pilgrim of hope to a dark place. Let’s pray for Fr. McGivney’s intercession for all of those who find themselves in dark places, beset by the storms and troubles of life. He cared for the families that he served. He cares for our families as well.

How will you be a pilgrim of hope this year? To whom will you bring good news? So much of our mission as knights consists in being pilgrims of hope to our parishes, communities and to the world. I invite you all to think about how you can integrate what you do in your councils with the Jubilee Year. Throughout the year, different groups are highlighted. There is a jubilee for those with disabilities, for health care workers, for seminarians, for priests, for bishops, for workers, for migrants, for young people, etc. Check out the calendar and prayerfully discern whether there is a way for your council’s activities to be integrated into the celebrations of this special year in the Church.

We are told that hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured into our hearts. Poured! We are not just given a drop. God is not stingy with us. He is not in danger of running out of his love and mercy.

We are not pilgrims of hope because we are naive about our problems or the problems in the world. Hope is different from optimism. Hope is a certainty that comes from the conviction that Christ Jesus has won the ultimate victory over sin and death.

In the four major basilicas in Rome, the holy doors will be opened during the Jubilee. It is symbolic of the Lord Jesus being the gate of our salvation. He is the one we walk to and through to receive the gift of salvation. The Jubilee reminds us that the heart of Jesus is an open door, beckoning us all to draw near. Not only to draw near, but to walk through as well. The Jubilee reminds us that Jesus seeks a personal encounter with each us. An encounter that is ever capable of transforming our lives and restoring our hope.

In Christ,

Father Andy LaFramboise

#### Au Lac Council 10724 - Star Council Award



Au Lac Council 10724 in Ira Township received the prestigious Star Council Award for the 2023-2024 fraternal year. District Deputy Matt Hoxsie presented the award to Grand

Knight Patrick A. Bohr with Fr. Joseph Esper in attendance. Congratulations brothers!

#### Holy Cross Cemetery



Escanaba Assembly 507, Sir Knights gathered at Holy Cross Cemetery to pray a rosary for their departed Sir Knights and Veterans on All Soul day.

Programs = New Members

#### Michigan State Council Knights of Columbus

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From The State Treasurer  
Vern Miron

Brother Knights and ladies,

When I pursued election to the State Board I did it to further serve and to educate myself and my wife, Christy, about the Knights of Columbus. We knew that the Knights are a fraternal benefit society that was formed by Fr. McGivney in the late 1800s to help widows and orphans and to protect families. But we have also learned how the order works to help our Catholic members to better know, love, and serve God, and how it can—and should—be a tool to help us save souls.

How does the order do this? Should we start at the top or the bottom? At the top we have the Supreme Council, which often seem so far removed from the **daily work of our council members. The order's bylaws require the Supreme Council to meet once a year.** Each jurisdiction sends delegates as determined by number of members. In Michigan we send 10 delegates: our state deputy, our immediate past state deputy, and eight delegates from the membership at large. These people do attend and are part of the work of our order on the international level. My own journey to state leadership started when Christy and I attended the Supreme Convention in 2002.

The lowest level—but no less important—is the local council. Local councils are asked to elect officers and are provided information on the duties of each officer. Councils are expected to meet monthly, and the council officers should meet once a month to prepare for each council meeting in order to help the monthly meeting of all members to run more efficiently. Supreme provides councils with guidelines and a format to follow to keep things uniform throughout the order.

In between our local councils and the Supreme Council is our state council. The bylaws of the Michigan State Council mandate a meeting at least once per year, which is our state convention on Mackinac Island. This meeting consists of our state board and our membership, which is accomplished by each of our 429 councils sending two members as delegates to the state convention. If each council sent their two delegates to this meeting, which is mandated by our bylaws, we would have 800-900 delegates in attendance. However, typical attendance is roughly 400 members in a non-election year and 500 in an election year.

Now, back to the local level. The jurisdiction of Michigan is divided into districts, each of which has a district deputy whose job is to help councils achieve their membership and program goals. District deputies are the link between the state council and the local councils. Some do a great job and some leave much to be desired. We also have diocesan and state directors that work with district deputies and councils, all of which are there to help the councils of Michigan achieve our goals. And the paperwork? It is necessary as the leaders in our order need to know who to communicate with and which helps us keep our tax-exempt status.

So what are our goals? As stated, to help widows and orphans, and help our Catholic faith to save souls. These are areas in which we desperately need help. Our parish congregations and our councils are aging, and we are losing two to three percent per year. So we need invite people to join us, especially young men with families. Our insurance/fraternal benefits have been improved to make them attractive to young families, and we owe it to young families to offer these benefits to them. And to attract people to membership in our order, we need activities and programs that are meaningful to them. There are many ideas presented, but we are not limited to these. We must offer activities that promote fraternalism and that help us to educate ourselves and others about our order and our Catholic faith.

Keep the faith,  
Vern

Programs = New Members

From The State Membership Director  
Douglas Kokot

Greetings Brothers and Ladies:

I hope you had a joyous and blessed Christmas as well as a Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that 2025 is upon us.

As you may recall, the leadership is using the tagline *SOAR*.

*SOAR*

Service – What Life is About

Optimism – The Faith that Leads to Achievement

Aspire – to Accomplish Great Deeds

Responsibility – to do Your Duty

For the first six months of this fraternal year, we have focused on Service. For the next six months our focus is on Optimism. This was almost a divine choice. We had no idea that Pope Francis was going to announce 2025 Jubilee Year theme: 'Holy Year of Hope'. **Pope Francis went on to declare this year's moto "Pilgrims of Hope". A synonym for hope is optimism**

What a better visualization; the Knights of Columbus as Pilgrims of Hope. We bring hope to the less fortunate through our many programs.

Knights of Columbus bring Hope and Optimism to men who are looking to grow their faith as each of our councils (with their parishes) rollout their COR initiatives.

The more men see our optimism for our faith and future, the more they will be encouraged to join with us.

**As we journey together through 2025, let's approach potential new members with optimism and hope.** Optimism that we can convey to them the true value of being a Knight and Hope that they will hear the calling to become a Knight of Columbus.

Our future growth: the growth of the Order, the growth of our Jurisdiction and **the growth of each council is left in our hands. Let's put our hands together and pray for the inspiration to invite men to come SOAR with us.** With the power of prayer and Our Lord Jesus Christ at our side, Optimism comes easy!!!

Fraternally

*Douglas D. Kokot*

Douglas D. Kokot  
State Membership Director  
Michigan Knights of Columbus

St Catherine of Siena Council 6980



St Catherine of Siena Council 6980 in Portage, MI just completed a very successful fundraiser for the Caring Network Pregnancy

Resource Center which is located in Kalamazoo, MI and is part of the Diocese of Kalamazoo Catholic Charities. We used the Heritage House Baby Bottles to collect coins, cash, and checks. The total amount for the fundraiser was \$7,282.61 which includes the \$400 that Supreme will contribute as part of the Aid and Support After Pregnancy program. We also asked for items needed by Caring Network and our generous parishioners responded with pack-n-plays, diapers and pull ups, wipes, and infant clothing. The entire St Catherine parish was involved including the following groups: Women of the Word, Respect Life Ministry, and the Middle and High School Youth. We held a formal check presentation before our monthly business meeting and served pizza afterwards.

From The State Program Director  
Matt Wierzgac

My Brother Knights and Ladies,

Vivat Jesus and Greetings! I hope all is well and you had a joyful and blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year! “For unto is a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

It’s hard to believe we are already at our halfway point of the fraternal year! It’s going by very quickly.

I want to thank everyone for all their hard work making our Coats for Kids program a great success! We ordered and issued over 15,000 coats this year! This has been our best turnout in a long time. I am proud of everyone who participated! Michigan finished in first place and had the best participation in the entire order! Great job everyone! It’s not too early to start thinking about the next fraternal year. Councils should consider starting to put aside or raise funds for coats for fall 2025. Supreme will likely continue its Buy One Get One Free (BOGO) promotion in the August/September timeframe. If you have any questions, please reach out to our State Community Director, Larry Herman, or me.

At our Winter Leadership meeting in December, we collected rough drafts of service program award entries from councils for community, faith, family, and life. Your State Faith in Action team is diligently reviewing them and are going to provide feedback to help maximize their chances of winning the award. If you were not able to submit your rough draft a month ago but would still like a set of eyes to review, I am offering you one last opportunity to submit one to me to review. You can send rough drafts to my email address at [m.wierzgac@mikofc.org](mailto:m.wierzgac@mikofc.org).

Final submissions of the State Program Award will be March 31, 2025. Remember you can submit an entry for each of the Faith in Action categories and are **NOT** limited to just one entry. Remember, our State is offering the following incentive to those who submit a State Service Award this fraternal year, by March 31, 2025:

Following the final submissions of the State Program Award on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, councils will be entered into a drawing for \$500 (Check to the council from the State)

Also at the Winter Leadership Meeting, we collected rough drafts for the State Family of the Year Award submission. Our State Family Director is reviewing these submissions to provide feedback.

Final submissions of the Family of the Year Award will be March 31, 2025. Incentive for those who submit a State Service Award this fraternal year:

Following the final submissions of the State Family of the Year Award on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, councils will be entered into a drawing for \$500 (Check to the council from the State)

During hospitality at our Winter Leadership meeting, we unveiled the new Hockey Challenge program amongst all the leadership and their wives. All participants were able to shoot at the net and be scored according to the same rules as our future young participants will be doing at your up-and-coming council, diocesan and state hockey challenges. We had a great time, and it went very well. The state bought a hockey net with already premade scoring holes according to the rules and regulations from Supreme. This net is not expensive and can easily be bought on amazon for \$250 or less.

The hockey challenge is for boys and girls ages 9-14 and does not require to be done on an ice rink, it can be done in a gymnasium, or park space using a rubber ball. Skates are not required either. Supplies, playbooks, brochures, certificates, posters are all available on the supreme website (kofc.org) through Supplies Online, and your Grand Knight or Financial Secretaries can order them. District Deputies can order medals through Supplies Online if they are going to hold a district level competition. I strongly recommend and encourage

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## Ladies Corner

Dear Ladies,

Thank you to all the ladies who attended the Winter Leadership Meeting held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Lansing on December 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. We had Averil Gibas, owner and head trainer at Unleashed in Chesaning speak at the Ladies Program.

A very special thank you to everyone who donated diapers, wipes and gift cards brought to the Winter Leadership Meeting. The items were disbursed to pregnancy clinics within the various dioceses and were much appreciated.

We ask that you continue to keep First Lady Mandy Borsenik in your thoughts and prayers. As everyone is aware, Mandy suffered a stroke in November, is improving but has a long road ahead of her. Please continue to pray for Mandy and her family and we look forward to her being back with us at the State Convention.

As you read this, the holidays are already past. It seems like before we know it, they are here and gone. The ladies of the Board love the holiday season, spending time with our family and friends. It brings back so many wonderful memories of making Christmas cookies and decorating them with our children. They are all grown now but those wonderful memories always make us smile and reminisce.

And in the blink of our eyes, it is now 2025. Where has the time gone? Just five months from now we will all be back on Mackinac Island for the 2025 State Convention at the Grand Hotel. Believe it or not, planning is already taking place. It is never too early to start thinking about the annual “Ladies Charity Raffle.” If you are able to donate an item or want to help in some other way, please sign up with Kara Fuller, the State Advocate’s wife, by emailing her at [k.fuller@mikofc.org](mailto:k.fuller@mikofc.org).

The ladies of the Board want to thank all the ladies for supporting the men in their involvement with the Knights. We hope that you, too, will be involved.

We would like to wish you all a healthy and happy 2025 and we look forward to seeing you soon.

God Bless,

The Ladies of the State Board

Mandy, Pam, Christy, Kara, JanMarie, J

## Successful Diaper Drive at 2024 Winter Leadership Meeting

This is fantastic, Ed! Thank you so much! We are so thank to be part of this!

Lori Drake

Executive Director

LifeClinic Community Resources

[LifeClinic.org](http://LifeClinic.org)

Hello Ed,

Thank you soo much! Our mission to women and families thrives because of generosity of the Knights of Columbus.

God Bless you and Merry Christman,

Paula Veneklas

Executive Director



Michigan Traveling Team Exemplification

We are halfway into the fiscal year 2024-25 and we have scheduled 13 Traveling Team Exemplification so far.

Our current State Deputy Barry Borsenik wants our staffs to help and train other Council Exemplification Staffs who need assistance so they can do their exempts in a more professional way. We all know that the first impressions of the Knights of Columbus are very important. We know that we have many teams that will put on their own exempts. This is all just great. However, so far, we have not had any local exemplification teams attend any of the degrees that the Traveling Team has put on. Not only that, but we have also had very few neighboring councils even bring a candidate to the exemplification.

The Traveling Teams will still be doing Exemplifications for any Council or District upon request as before. In addition to that, the Traveling Teams will go to a District or multiple Districts to put on an Exemplification, with other council exempting team members present to observe how they may do their own exempt more professionally. An Exemplification should be done from the heart with expressions and enthusiasm and not just simply reading the part. Our goal is to hopefully have better exempt teams and retain more new Knights that will be excited about the Knights of Columbus. We want them to get involved and become a long-time member of our council.

How this will work is I, as the State Ceremonial Director, will be working with the DDs to schedule these training exempts. When we schedule training exempts for one or more Districts, we want as many as possible council exempt team members present to observe how the traveling team puts on an exempt. There will also be some new candidates present to become new knights, as well as family and other knights. Team members can see how the Traveling Team prepares the chamber and how they work with the fibers, rosary and pins. When we get it done, the staff will answer any questions that may be asked and try to help them become an even better exemplification staff.

Gene Murawski, State Ceremonial Director

4<sup>th</sup> Degree Mike Sincic Receives Statewide Award



Mike Sincic, Fourth Degree Knight member of Council 9979, Christ The King Catholic Church in Acme, Michigan, received the 2024 Achievement Excellence Award from the Michigan Bureau of Services for Blind Persons. The award, presented at a ceremony in Kalamazoo with the State Bureau Director and Governor making the presentation, was given "In recognition of your commitment to excellence by pursuing and obtaining employment while maintaining an independent and productive life."



Mike is employed by Williams Chevrolet of Traverse City, Michigan as a community marketing specialist. He works the telephones all day answering customer inquiries and requests. His immediate supervisor and the General Manager of Williams Chevrolet, traveled with him to Kalamazoo for the Award ceremony. They both could not say enough

praiseworthy things about Mike's work ethic and performance.

To further recognize Mike, Council 9979 and CTK's Pastor Father Christopher Jarvis, hosted a surprise luncheon for Mike after the 11 AM Mass on Sunday November 10, 2024. Mike's supervisor, Mr. Dan O'Conner attended and addressed the over 150 parishioners who attended, once again speaking highly of Mike as an outstanding individual. Father Jarvis spoke of Mike as a real go to person when you wanted to get things done in the community and the parish.

Community Programs are in Full Swing.

As the first half of the Fraternal Year winds down, Community programs are in full swing. On October 5, 2024, the State Soccer Championships were held in Grand Rapids. Although the number of competitors was down from last year, there were nine champions from four dioceses. These champions have been submitted to Supreme for consideration for the International Awards.

The biggest effort throughout the first half of the year was the Coats For Kids program. This year, Councils have put forth an outstanding effort for this program.

For the 2024-2025 fraternal year, \$188,340 was raised. With the Supreme BOGO program, we purchased 1,488 cases (17,856 coats) and distributed throughout Michigan.

Over the last two fraternal years, our Councils raised \$327,955. One big reason for the success this past year is the increased participation by the councils.

On a District level, 60% of the districts participated.

In Detroit – 78% of the districts participated.

In Grand Rapids - 94% of the districts participated.

In Marquette – 75% of the districts participated.

In Gaylord – 44% of the districts participated.

In Kalamazoo – 50% of the districts participated.

In Lansing – 42% of the districts participated.

In Saginaw – 55% of the districts participated.

Another reason is the creativity of the councils to raise funds for the Coats for Kids program. Special recognition goes to Notre Dame Council 3021 of Detroit for raising \$10,483.

The Casey Bear program continues to be a success. Since the start of this fraternal year, 22 cases or 528 Casey Bears have been purchased by the councils for distribution. Please consider participating in this worthy program.

Upcoming events include the Essay Contest. Diocesan Level winners are due no later than January 4, 2025. Email the winners to l.herman@mikofc.org. All submissions must be electronic. Please do not snail mail them. The State Spelling Bee will be held on March 1, 2025 in Essexville. Please have your local competitions done and submit winners to your Diocesan Program Director. The State Free Throw Contest will be on March 16, 2025, in Mt. Pleasant. Again, please have your local competitions done and submit winners to your Diocesan Program Director.

Lastly, DO NOT FORGET TO RECRUIT all of your Community programs.

Have a Blessed Christmas and a Great New Year!

Larry J Herman  
State Community Director

Fr. George Ging Council #6824



19 Knights and two stalwart wives braved frigid snowy Thanksgiving weekend weather in our Annual CandyCane CHRISTmas Tree Farm Parking Lot Fundraiser. 33 shifts were filled, averaging 4 hours each for an estimated 250 volunteer hours. Coordinating a 100 car lot safely while spreading Christmas cheer is another example of inspiring community support from the Knights from Fr. George Ging Council #6824 in Ortonville Michigan

## Your 10 for Charities Gift is So Important

Dear Brothers and Ladies,

Joyce and I hope that you had a Merry Christmas with friends and family. May we have the Peace of Christmas this day and every day of the coming year.

As we begin the new calendar year, you and I and members of the Knights of Columbus throughout Michigan are receiving our annual dues notice from our council's Financial Secretary. Included with your dues notice is a yellow slip of paper. This slip includes a short description of the 10 for Charities Program and a partial list of the worthy charitable works that the 10 for Charities Program helps our State Council support. In the Spirit of Charity, the first principle of our order, I am asking you to help the 10 for Charities Program so it can continue to grow as a State Council resource for those in need.

*"Let us look once more to Jesus, who received everything from the hands of the Father, yet did not keep this treasure for himself..."*

-Pope Francis

Below is a sample of the yellow slip that you should have received in your dues. If the yellow slip is missing from your dues notice this will give you the information on the program and some of the charitable donations that the program helps and



how to contribute. *"Let us pray that each of us, according to the gift we received and the mission entrusted to us, may strive "to make charity bear fruit" and draw near to some poor person."*

-Pope Francis

Since the program's inception in 1977, this program has grown as a main source of charitable funds for the State Council. The State Council receives many requests all year long, and many of these requests are for an amount that a single local council or district could not possibly meet.

*"When we think of the immense numbers of the poor in our midst, the message of today's Gospel is clear: let us not bury the wealth of the Lord! Let us spread the wealth of charity, share our bread and multiply love!"*

-Pope Francis

To help we ask each Brother Knight for a \$10 contribution submitted with their dues payment. In turn your Financial Secretary will collect the members' individual donations and submit them to Charles McCuen, III, our State Secretary. In Unity, with over 55,000 Brother Knights in Michigan, this would give the State Council approximately \$570,000 in charitable funds to distribute. For the 2023-2024 Fraternal Year, due to your generous support, the Take 10 for Charity Program generated over \$150,000.00. The State Officers and I cannot thank you enough.

*"We have received from the Lord the gift of his love and we are called to become a gift for others. The love with which Jesus cared for us, the balm of his mercy, the compassion with which he tended our wounds, the flame of the Spirit by which he filled our hearts with joy and hope – all these are treasures that we cannot simply keep to ourselves"*

-Pope Francis

To meet the ongoing demands in charitable needs, we are again asking you to look at your dues notice, pay your dues, and add that donation to Take 10 for Charity. Your \$10 may seem relatively small, but just like a single drop of rain seems relatively small, taken with all drops together you get a downpour, your \$10, with 55,000 similar donations, will help us help those in need.

To recap:

- Included with your dues notice is a yellow slip detailing the Take 10 for Charities Program
- Please add \$10.00 to your dues amount, or make a separate \$10.00 donation, and mail to your Financial Secretary. Please note on your check the \$10.00 is for the Take 10 for Charities Program
- If you did not receive a yellow slip a copy is above for your information. You may contact your Financial Secretary for an original yellow slip as well.

Thank you in advance for your prayers and for your contribution. As Knights we do not keep our treasure to ourselves, we spread the wealth of Charity, we do not keep the gifts from the Lord to ourselves, but we strive to make Charity bear fruit. Together let's make our \$10 donation a part of the downpour that creates a new record of giving for this year.

Thomas M. Wegener, PSD, FSD  
Ten for Charities State Director

## Bishop Haas Council 4362

The last few years the Bishop Haas Council 4362 in Wyoming, MI, has donated a mass kit for traveling priests in Zimbabwe. The mass kit was blessed by the Council's Chaplain, Rev. John Vallier of St. John Vianney parish and presented to Sienna Mavima on November 24, 2024.



Bishop Haas Council 4362 Chaplain, Rev. John Vallier; Sienna Mavima; and Bishop Haas Council 43262, Grand Knight Nicholas Anderse

## CAMPAIGN BOOSTS SPECIAL OLYMPICS AND MORE



Rickey and Lourdes Carson of Queen of Apostle Council 6548 in Houghton Lake, Mich., solicit donations for the council's annual fund drive for people with disabilities. The drive raised \$4,400, which the council will distribute between Special Olympics Michigan and C.O.O.R. Intermediate School District.

## State Faith Director

## Brothers and Sisters

In the past we have discussed receiving Holy Communion and the use of the Orans Posture during Mass.

The next teaching moment I would like to discuss with you to hopefully bring the reverence and respect back into our Mass, concerns clapping/applause during Mass.

The question was asked, is it appropriate to applause during the Mass. The answer to this question is NO!, and here are some of the reasons why this should not be permitted. **There is no mention of applause in the Catholic Liturgy. When something is not mentioned, that means it is not allowed.**

Pope Pius X stated, "It is not fitting to applaud the servant in the house of his Master"

In Pope Benedict XVI's book, " Spirit of the Liturgy", he wrote, "Whenever applause breaks out in the liturgy because of some human achievement, it is a sure sign that the essence of liturgy has totally disappeared and been replaced by a kind of religious entertainment."

Even though our choirs do a beautiful job in singing hymns and our Priests have an excellent Homily that touches our very Soul, these are all forms of prayer and not intended to entertain us. The Mass with its Holy music is a prayer, not entertainment.

Our Holy Mother and Christ's favorite Disciple, John, did not clap at the foot of His Cross.

The only humans that clapped and danced during Christ's Crucifixion were His enemies celebrating His death.

If the overwhelming feeling of applause comes over you, this should only happen after the last Blessing is given, but this action should not ever happen in our Masters house for any reason.

During an ordination applause is called for during the election of the candidate. That is the one time that I am aware of where applause is mentioned in the liturgy. After the Gospel and before the homily, the candidates to be ordained are presented. The bishop says "We choose these our brothers for the order of the priesthood." The people respond, "Thanks be to God," and then applause is called for. Then the homily proceeds.

I would like to thank everyone for their questions and comments concerning our Faith over the past year and a half. These questions and teachings help us all learn more about our Faith and become more knowledgeable to where we can defend our Faith and work on becoming closer to our Holy Father through our actions and prayer.

We have an extremely important prayer service coming up this year on September 13, 2025. This prayer service is the Living Rosary on the Capitol Lawn in Lansing Michigan. Our Governor wants to make Michigan a State that anyone can come to and get an abortion and also allow assisted suicide. We must stand and fight for the innocent, we must fight as Catholics to defeat this Evil in our State and become a light or Christ for the rest of our Nation. We, as Catholics, can make a difference by standing and praying in force at the Capitol on the day of one of our Holy Mother's Apparitions. We need not only Knights of Columbus members but also their families, our Parish families and friends. Lets fill the Capitol with thousands of Faithful praying the Rosary to stop the murdering of innocent children. Please join myself, the State Officers and Priests on September 13th for a Righteous Battle.

PAX

Bob Bagley  
State Faith Director

## PUMPING BLOOD SINCE 1977

Father Flajole Council 2986 in Pinconning, Mich., has organized six blood drives every year for nearly 50 years, collecting about 8,400 pints of blood — enough to assist more than 25,000 people.

## Casey Bear



The response to the Casey Bear program this year has been overwhelming. The prices will remain the same this fraternal year. Please mail the form to the address below and I will arrange shipping or pickup. To avoid shipping cost there will be two options for pickup, one in the Archdiocese of Detroit and one in the Gaylord Diocese. Every council should have a case on hand to pass along at program events such as Coats for Kids or at membership drives.

- \$230.00 for a case of 24 Casey Bears
- Shipping Cost if need, is \$30.00

Larry J Herman, State Community Director  
501 Georgetown Drive Apt 17  
Traverse City, MI 49684

## St Patrick White Lake Council 13319 and Veterans and First Responders Dinner



St. Patrick Knights of Columbus Council 13319 of White Lake, Michigan, Knights of Columbus Assembly 3099 and Fr.

John A. Hardon hosted an appreciation dinner for Veterans and First Respond-



ers on November 9th at St. Patick's Catholic Church in White Lake Michigan. The dinner was well attended by about 100 people. Several videos were shown featuring Veterans and First Responders. The event gave people the chance to say THANK YOU to all of these brave men and women for all that they have done and continue to do for us.

## Au Lac Council 10724 - Youth of the Month Award - December 2024



Congratulations to Charlotte Barch for being named as our Youth of the Month for December 2024! Charlotte is the daughter of Richard and Kari Barch and a junior at Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School. She has been very active in the Youth Groups at our parish and other parishes. She has helped with many parish activities such as Vacation Bible School and the annual Parish Festival.

Charlotte is on the Principal's List at high school with a 4.0 GPA and received the Scholastic Gold Key Award. She has received medals in religion, history and photography while being a member of several clubs including National Honor Society, Choir Club, and Random Acts of Kindness Club.

Thank you Charlotte for being a great example of sharing and living your faith at school and in our parish!

## Escanaba Assembly 507



Escanaba Assembly 507, Sir Knights prepare for Confirmation Mass at All Saints Parish in Gladstone with Bishop John Doerfler.

## 100th Funded Ultrasound Unit



Friday, December 6, 2024, marked a milestone for the Michigan State Council at the Winter Leadership Meeting where the announcement and presentation was made for the 100th funded Ultrasound in Michigan.



This milestone was on behalf of the Oxford Pregnancy Center who received funding from the Fr. Thomas R. Carey Council #4764, Lake Orion, its supporting councils, the Livingston County Ultrasound Initiative and the Supreme Council Knights of Columbus.



The introduction of the presentation noted the first Ultrasound unit placement in Michigan by the Knights of Columbus took place at the Center for Women Pregnancy Services in Jackson in 2009 by the leadership of Former District Deputy Stephen Artz, along with now Deacon Tom Arehart and then Life Couple Paul and Sue Thorn. Past State Deputy (deceased) John

R. "Bob" Moody and Former Supreme Director Tom Wegener were both key in its placement.



Jeanne Tuski, Executive Director, of Oxford Pregnancy Center received honorary checks totaling \$18,536 from Tom Tiffany, Grand Knight; Jim Roback, Ultrasound Chairmen from Fr. Thomas R. Carey Council and \$18,536 from Christopher Kolomjec, Supreme Director

and Steve Cohen, Supreme Territorial Growth Director. All totaled a donation of \$37,072 marking this milestone. Jeanne Tuski shared an emotional example of how this Ultrasound placement has played an important part in the saving of baby's life since its use.

State Deputy Barry Borsenik concluded with his comments which included gratitude for all the council support for this and all Ultrasound placement, recognition of the past state deputies support Defending Life initiatives as well as that of the Livingston County Ultrasound Initiative.

SOARing for Life!  
Ed Strach  
Life Director

Programs = New Members

## Bishop Gallagher Council 2569

Parishes across the Archdiocese of Detroit witnessed the power of God's Mercy during the 2024 Annual Mercy in Action Service Day on Saturday, October 19. Volunteers engaged in Works of Mercy during the October Mercy in Action Day.

For its part, Knights of Columbus from Bishop Michael J. Gallagher Council No. 2569 in Royal Oak, under the direction of St. Mary Catholic Church, and led by Bob Corey, completed yard work at Sanctum House, a safe home for survivors of human trafficking to heal and rebuild their lives. Knights and family members worked vegetable gardens, flower beds and flowerpots, raked and bagged leaves, laid out 2 yards of mulch, and trimmed many bushes and trees. Effort also included obtaining 2 yards of mulch, and bringing home and chipping 4 yards of evergreen waste.

Many thanks went to volunteers Jeff Roland, Reese Roland, Andy Izydorek, Bob Corey, Mike King, Daryl Wood, Mark Baker, Bob Yoches, John Furton, Sean Dare, and Tim Gignac. Total effort was 11 persons, 10 Knights and one family member, for a total of 53 person-hours. Everyone brought tools and equipment to accomplish the yard work. In addition, leadership spent another 6 hours of planning and communication. Picture of the group is attached (Karen Moore, Executive Director is in picture, too).

Au Lac Council 10724 Spelling Bee Contest  
Winners

Lac Council in Ira Township held their K of C Spelling Bee Contest on November 10! Here are the names of the winners:

Grades 4-6: Maria Los (1st); Gracee Bowles (2nd); Jasmine Nowak (3rd); Nolan Yaros (4th).

Grades 7-8: Adam Homiak (1st); Asher Kelley (2nd); Adriana Durrenberg (3rd); Atticus Yaros (4th).

The winners will participate next in the Detroit Archdiocesan Spelling Bee Contest on February 8, 2025 at St. Peter Parish in Mount Clemens.

Thank you to Mr. Ricard and the teachers at Immaculate Conception School for holding a preliminary contest at the school in preparation for tonight's contest.

A big thank you to Jim & Janet Satchfield and Dr. Brian & Danielle Webster for serving as judges. Good luck to our winners in their next contest!



### Au Lac Council 10724 Third Youth of the Month Appreciation Dinner



Pictured L-R: Matthew Koles; Rocco Smith; Gordon Fields; Grand Knight Pat Bohr; Reese Warner; David Kunkel. Not Available: Danielle Ogilyv

Au Lac Council 10724 in Ira Township held their third Youth of the Month Appreciation Dinner on August 26, 2024. The council hosted a dinner for the January through June 2024 winners and their families. Grand Knight Pat Bohr thanked the winners for sharing their faith with others through service to our parish and community.

The Youth of the Month program was started by the council in January 2023. The purpose of the program is to recognize those students in grades 5-12 who demonstrate their faith in various ways whether it be assisting at weekend Mass, participating in school or youth group projects, or helping anyone in need. We are very proud of these young people who will be the leaders of tomorrow in our church.

### B.B.Q. For The Vets



On September 11, 2024, the John Hardon #3099 Assembly hosted a B.B.Q. for the homeless Vets at the Piquette Square where the vets live. There were thirteen members and some wives who did a super job.

In the picture is Harold Steward, Mike Mack, Mike Alder, Gus Laruffa, Doug Sordyl, John Rogers and Emily Madden, Manager of The Piquette Square and three of the Homeless Vets.

I would advise if you are a 3rd Degree Member to join the 4th Degree, the Patriotic Degree of the Knights. You just may meet someone you served with.

John Rogers

### Father Edmund Battersby Council 7586



For many years Father Edmund Battersby Council 7586 has been putting crosses out on the front lawn of St. Joseph Catholic Church in

South Lyon, Michigan in October for the unborn.

Chairman S.K. John O'Dowd PGK decided last year to manufacture 1800 crosses for Father Edmund Battersby Council 7586. A group of Brother Knights came together to make the crosses in the parish garage. The crosses can be rented for to any council for their use.

Programs = New Members

### New Supreme Directors, State Deputy Installed



Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly prepares to confer medals of office on (from center) Supreme Director Christopher Kolomjec, Supreme Director Herbert Yang and Puerto Rico State Deputy Carlos Hernandez-Santiago on Oct. 11 in the Cathedral Dulce Nombre de Jesús in Caguas, Puerto Rico. (Photo by Miguel Angel)

By Cecilia Engbert

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly formally installed two new supreme directors and a new state deputy during the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors meeting in Puerto Rico earlier this month.

Christopher Kolomjec, past state deputy of Michigan, and Herbert Yang, state deputy of British Columbia, were [elected](#) to the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors during the 142nd Supreme Convention in August and began their three-year terms Sept. 1. Carlos Hernandez-Santiago was recently elected as the new state deputy of Puerto Rico following the sudden death of State Deputy Eric Colón-Rodríguez on Oct. 2.

The supreme knight conferred on each their medal of office Oct. 11, at the conclusion of a votive Mass of Blessed Carlos Manuel Rodríguez Santiago, who was a lay catechist and Knight of Columbus known for his love of the Eucharist. Bishop Eusebio Ramos Morales celebrated the Mass at the Cathedral Dulce Nombre de Jesús in Caguas. Dominican Father Jonathan Kalisch, director of chaplains and spiritual development for the Knights, concelebrated and served as the homilist.

Before receiving the promises of the new supreme directors to fulfill their duties, Supreme Knight Kelly reminded them to remain worthy of the trust placed in them by their fellow Knights.

“Above all, be loyal to your brothers. Only then can you expect their loyalty in return,” he said. “You will be successful in these tasks only insofar as you are loyal to our Church, our Holy Father and bishops; and steadfast in advancing the enduring principles of the Order.”

Supreme Knight Kelly then acknowledged the untimely death of State Deputy Colón-Rodríguez, who was buried Oct. 8.

“This meeting ... has taken on new meaning,” he said. “As we did at this Mass, we keep the soul of our brother in prayer, and we pray for [his wife,] Rosa María, for their children and family. We also pray for all our brother Knights of Puerto Rico.”

Supreme Knight Kelly commended the work that has been done by Puerto Rican Knights since the Order was established in the jurisdiction in 1911. Puerto Rico has regularly produced strong, faithful leaders, and to that end we have with us the newly elected state deputy of Puerto Rico, Carlos Hernandez-Santiago, and his wife, Jessica,” he said. “It is my pleasure to install Carlos as

continued on page 16



For more than 75 years, Holy Cross has been dedicated to serving our brothers and sisters in need, answering the call of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As the number of those in need continues to grow each day, we pray that you will remain by our side with your support and prayers as we continue to care for them.

Those who turn to Holy Cross face real and serious issues on a daily basis and we believe in providing care, making connections and instilling self-worth in each and every person regardless of their story. **Helping them is our purpose.**

We specialize in empowerment and trauma recovery for children and families who find themselves in adverse living situations. We support our neighbors to end their episodes of homelessness. We also believe in uniting families whenever possible and preserving the dignity of every child, man, woman, family and veteran who comes to us in their time of need. Whether seeking emergency shelter, a hot meal in our community kitchen, foster care, support for youth aging out of the foster care system or a hand up rather than a hand out, Holy Cross is here for them.

None of the work we do would be possible without the support of our friends and donors, and we are profoundly grateful for the contributions and assistance that have enabled us to do the work that we do, bringing hope to people who are struggling.

Please consider helping us change, save, and transform lives by making a generous donation today. **Help us reach our Giving Goal of \$250,000 this fall by scanning the QR code or visiting [www.holycrossservices.org](http://www.holycrossservices.org).**

May God's blessings be with you and your loved ones.

Deacon David Drayton  
Chairman, Board of Directors

**Last year alone, Holy Cross:**

- Visited 2,700+ foster homes to support families and the children in their care.
- Created 1,000+ treatment plans for families, caregivers, and youth.
- Led 10,500 hours of life skills coaching sessions for teens aging out of foster care.
- Reunified 73 youth with one or more parent.
- Served 55,000+ meals to those experiencing hunger.
- Provided 21,000+ bed nights in our shelters.
- Kept 102 children, over half of the children we support, with their families or supportive adults.
- Assisted 72 veterans who proudly served our country and defended our freedoms.



**LOVE, COMPASSION  
& EMPOWERMENT**





Follow us on Facebook for more inspiring stories.

## BRIGHT NEW PATH FOR THOMAS

At just 13 years old, Thomas was removed from his home by Michigan's Department of Health and Human Services for his safety. A year later, his parents relinquished their parental rights, leaving him a state ward at age 14. Over the years, Thomas cycled through foster homes and detention facilities, struggling without guidance or stability.

In August 2023, Thomas was referred to the Holy Cross Services Independent Living Program (ILP) in Saginaw. Despite his challenges, the ILP team saw a spark of hope in him and gave him a chance. For the first time, Thomas found stability, support, and a place to call home. With guidance, he achieved

milestones like earning his driver's license and creating a care plan for his future.

Now 18, Thomas has learned something about God's provision and grace.

"These kids are our kids. We cry when they cry. We are scared when they are wavering. We care and are invested," said Shawn Knodel, Associate Director of the ILP Program. "We help them become self-sufficient and independent."

Thanks to HCS ILP's support, Thomas is on a path to a brighter, self-sufficient future.

## The 2025 Holy Cross Giving Calendars are NOW AVAILABLE!

Your calendar comes with a registration card attached for the drawing. Your raffle number is on the card and on the back of your calendar. Detach, fill out, and return the card to Holy Cross Services with payment. Once received, it will be placed in the raffle drawing. Drawings are held at HCS on the first working day of the month between 9a and 10a. Winners will be notified by mail and also listed on HCS social media platforms. Grand Prize Winner will be announced on December 1, 2025. All numbers are eligible for all prizes and are eligible to win more than once.



To order your 2025 calendar or for information email [lgordon-arnold@hccsnet.org](mailto:lgordon-arnold@hccsnet.org)



1030 N. River Rd., Saginaw, MI 48609

1-855-38-HEART (43278)

[www.holycrossservices.org](http://www.holycrossservices.org)



MICHIGAN COLUMBIAN  
**AROUND THE STATE**

Father Edmund Battersby Council 7586



Father Edmund Battersby Council 7586 held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Heritage Polish Festival at St. Joseph Church, South Lyon, Michigan, on the second weekend in September.

300 volunteers signed up to support this year's festival.

With their support, the festival was very successful.

St. Kieran Council #13983



On Friday, Oct. 4, 2024, the St. Kieran's Knights of Columbus Council #13983 presented the Shelby Township Fire Department, three dozen "KC / Casey" fluffy teddy bears. The donation was in memory of deceased Brother Knight / STFD Battalion Fire Chief Mark Semaan. The teddy bears are to be given to traumatized children at fire and auto accidents scenes. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> year that the Council has donated KC Bears to the first responders in Shelby Twp. Pictured from left to right are Joe Vogel (#13983 Community Director), Spencer Steward (STFD First Responder), Ryan Moravicik (STFD First Responder), Jim Finn (#13983 Grand Knight), Brian Werner (STFD Deputy Fire Marshal).

St Catherine of Siena Council 6980



St Catherine of Siena Council 6980 in Portage, MI just completed another very successful MI Drive. We collected donations after the weekend Masses on

October 12/13 and then at two stores on October 18/19. The total amount collected was \$4,197.00. 48 of our members participated. Since 2010, the council has conducted 18 MI Drives and the total collected is over \$65,000

Au Lac Council 10724



Congratulations to Josie Peterson and Alexis Kiley for winning 1st Place in Au Lac Council 10724 K of C Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest! Their essays will

be forwarded to the next level of the competition to be held later this fall.



Congratulations also to all 16 students in the 8th grade at Immaculate Conception School for submitting essays in the contest. Thank you to Mrs. Jenkin, Mrs. Yaros and Mr. Ricard for your support. Our council treated the 8th grade class to a pizza party on October 30th to celebrate their efforts. Thank you to the good citizens of tomorrow!



Au Lac Council 10724 Fall Cleanup

Members of the K of C Au Lac Council 10724 at Immaculate Conception Parish in Ira Township conducted their fall cleanup along Dixie (M29) Highway on September 28. A total of 8 bags of trash were collected for disposal. The council conducts three cleanups each year in the spring, summer and fall.

The Adopt A Highway program has been conducted in the state of Michigan since 1990. The Au Lac Council has been active in the program since 1995. This year is their 30th year of participation. PGK Jim Zeck has been the chairman since 2009 and has compiled the following statistics.

Since 2009: 288 participants; 548 bags collected; 401 hours worked.

Estimated numbers (1995-2024): 544 participants; 1044 bags collected; 762 hours worked.



District 118 District 118 held a Charity/Unity/Fraternity ceremony on November 19 and welcomed two new

Knights to our Order. Todd Bont joined Au Lac Council 10724 and Jason Harvey joined Anchor Bay Council 5981. Congratulations brothers!

The Rosary Garden



The Garden Ministry at St. Joseph Parish in South Lyon, Michigan suggested a Rosary Garden along the classroom wing of the parish building. Father Edmund Battersby Council 7586 donated money for the first Glorious Mystery "The Resurrection".

The Glorious Mysteries were made by a former parishioner. All the materials used are compatible with the "Michigan" weather. The plant material is an autumn clematis surrounded by roses.

"First Responders"



Father John A. Hardon S.J. Assembly 3099 and Father Edmund Battersby Council 7586 co-hosted the annual First Responders Appreciation Dinner on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at St. Joseph Church in South Lyon, Michigan. An invitation went out to the South Lyon Police and Fire Departments, Oakland County Police and Lyon Township Fire Departments, and Green Oak Police and Fire Departments. Including K9-Georgie, Comfort K-9 Unit, Breed -Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Oakland County Sheriff Office, Lyon Township, Michigan

John Cardinal Dearden Council #744



On Saturday November 23, 2024 members of John Cardinal Dearden Council #744 along with the Color Corp marched with Fr. John Marksym and the St. Peter's Parish in the annual Mt. Clemens Santa

Parade. The Knights passed out Tootsie Rolls to the children along the parade route through downtown Mt. Clemens.



# St. Louis Center

## Thriving with Help from the Brother Knights

Dear Brother Knights,

The Christmas season at St. Louis Center had an early start thanks to the generosity of Knights of Columbus throughout the state. Many members gave their time to conduct the Tootsie Roll Drive in October, help with parking at St. Louis Center's annual Trunk or Treat in late October, organize Christmas gift drives, and be present at our Fall Dinner Auction on November 9th. Your visible witness is a spark that inspires so many others to give generously.

Members of the State Council lead the way in this spirit of charity. Vern and Kristy Miron, Charles and Pam McCuen, and Joel and JanMarie Kendzorski, (pictured (pictured left) helped the St. Louis Center surpass its fundraising goal at the 2024 Fall Dinner Auction paddle raise. Thanks to your generosity, residents are benefitting from a well-equipped, newly renovated



kitchen, 15 residents will be able to attend St. Francis Camp on the Lake next summer, and several off-campus adventures will be planned. Past State Deputy Kenneth Unterbrink and his wife Eleanor were honored that evening with the St. Louis Center 2024 Founder's Award for their many years of dedication, commitment, and support.

As this beautiful season unfolds, we are encouraged by the residents' enthusiasm for the coming of Christ. Whether decorating their homes, making crafts and gifts, or volunteering with Meals on Wheels, their joyful spirit is contagious. Indeed it is the very mission of the Center to ensure that each individual who is entrusted to our care is provided the opportunities and activities necessary to live the most independent and full life possible.

Thank you, my dear Brothers, for supporting St. Louis Center through your prayers and gifts of time and other resources.

Wishing all of you - and your families - a blessed Christmas season.

*Fr. Satheesh*

Fr. Satheesh Alphonse, SdC



Read more about the history of the Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive and St. Louis Center here:  
[bit.ly/SLC-tootsie](https://bit.ly/SLC-tootsie)

### MEET THE RESIDENTS

#### Jacqui Pampuch



Jacqui has lived at St. Louis Center for 3 years. She was involved with Special Olympics before she arrived at the Center, and continues to enjoy the Summer Games each year. She is grateful for the support the Knights of Columbus provide to make the opening ceremony so special. Their commitment

to people with I/DD has inspired her.

For the past 2 years, Jacqui has been the treasurer of the St. Louis Center Aktion Club. They sell Christmas cards each year to raise funds for charity. This year they sold out before December even started. The Club intends to help support Special Olympics and Faith in Action with some of the funds they raised.

Jacqui works part-time in the Center's kitchen, she enjoys attending Lansing Lugnuts games, and she is grateful for the continued support of the Michigan Knights of Columbus.

### Upcoming Events

#### PASTA DINNER WITH THE PRIESTS

##### An Evening at St. Louis Center

Join the Italian American Club of Lansing for "Una sera Italiana" – a night of authentic Italian cuisine and musical entertainment.

**Date:** Thursday, February 27, 2025

**Place:** St. Louis Center  
16195 W Old US Hwy 12  
Chelsea MI 48118



To register or learn about all of our events, visit our website: [stlouiscenter.org/have-fun-here/events/](https://stlouiscenter.org/have-fun-here/events/)

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16195 W. Old US Hwy 12 • Chelsea, MI 48118 • 734-475-8430 • [stlouiscenter.org](https://stlouiscenter.org)

### Monroe Knights of Columbus Council #1266

On November 23, 2024, Monroe Knights of Columbus Council #1266 hosted a Coats for Kids event for the kids of Monroe County, MI. On a cold Fall morning, 252 children were given a brand new coat to help keep them warm this winter. In addition to a beautiful new coat, the children also received a new pair of mittens. Thanks to the generosity of Bombas, and the involvement of one of our devoted knights, the children also received 2 pairs of new socks. Finally, before walking out with their new treasures, the parents were given a Happy Thanksgiving / Merry Christmas greeting card from the Knights of Columbus while their young ones all got religious stickers and a new bracelet which

said "Jesus Love You". It is our belief that as Catholic men, we should clothe our children, not only physically, but we must clothe them "spiritually" as well. Thus, all the kids walk out with a warm coat and a warm heart - knowing Jesus is with them as they go back to their homes.

Over 30 brother knights, wives and family members volunteered to help set up and distribute the coats at this wonderful event. Our local caterer even made breakfast for all the workers that morning. The kindness, unity and charity of council #1266 never ceases to amaze me. I am so proud to be a part of this deeply Christian, Catholic organization!

**NOTE: FOR GRAND KNIGHTS AND COUNCIL PR CHAIRMAN**

In each issue of the Michigan Columbian we print the Current Knights of the Month as designated by the local councils in the State. These men deserve State wide recognition. We appreciate your help in keeping this information current. A copy of the names of the Knight of the Month need to be sent direct to:

James J. Kelley, State Council Family Director, 7263 Village Square Dr., West Bloomfield, MI 48322

\*cfy - council knight of year, send a copy of the names to the Michigan Columbian.

## Families of the Month

Lansing Council 788 Rick & Darlene Szadlak Andy Goeddeke family Dave Schertzing family Portland Council 2168 Bryan & Karen Scheurer Terry & Carmen Austin Douglas & Grace Smitgen Derek & Jennifer Brown Howell Council 2659 Deacon Jasen & Heather Wright Fernando & Amy Horta Standish Council 2724 Roger & Mary Ann Hus Jerry & Carol Brown Westphalia Council 2890 Zach & Beth Schneider Dan & Marcia Hengesdach Utica Council 2950 Ken & Kathy Meyers Terry & Debbie Lagrosso Roy & Tina Attard Pinconning Council 2986 Walter & Sandra Gromaski John & Moureen Duley Mark Konwinsli family Robert & Carol Phinney Dan & Joy Mckoen Larry & Rita Revord Jeff & Kim Hartley Dennis & Karen Tremble Richard & Ilene Byrne Danny & Theresa Helm Fremont Council 3111 Dan & Dawn Soules Mark & Teresa Robinson Southgate Council 3956 Larry & Glenda Rossi Bill & Patti Hand David & Valerie Kudla	Livonia Council 5492 Bob & Diane Walters Don & Margaret Anderson New Baltimore Council 5981 Mark & Angela Laesch Duane & Cheryl Gaedcke Brian & Debbie Yacks John Austin family Swartz Creek Council 6694 Wayne & Mary Ann Deshano Portage Council 6980 Richard & Carol King Pat & Kathy Larkin Wayne & Toni Leblong <b>Pat &amp; Sharon O'Connor</b> Michael & Diane Fieldbrandt Dan & Kathleen Dunn Doran & Tammy Lafaive Romeo Council 7018 Mark & Nancy Boxey *cfy Macomb Council 7200 Chijioke Oparaji & Marsha Gilbert Dennis & Cheryl Jarzombek Birch Run Council 7233 Norm & Joyce Rushton Bob & Cathy Muehlfeld Vana Haley & Family Kirk & Angela Dupuie Milford Council 7444 Kevin & Cherie Makie Jerry Klemmer family Ken & Dorothy Gregory Dale & Colleen Nordstrom Larry & Becky Paffi Mike & Julie Adler Bill & Debbie Beningo South Lyon Council 7586 Lenny & Stacie Earls Dan & Kit Martin Ken & Patti Lacross Dan & Karen Marceau	Hillman Council 8041 Daniel & Nicole Orr Angela & John Godfrey Ray & Maragaret Selesky Sanford Council 8043 Roy & Sue Ellen DeWyse, PGK Howell Council 8169 Tom & Carol Gourlay Paul & Francine Funk David & Marge Kleiner Saad & Lamya Karroma Auburn Hills Council 8659 Matt & Beth Fuhrman Charles & Winifred Kemler Timothy & Michaela Sinawi Saginaw Council 8808 Mitch & Barbara Lenczewski Temperance Council 8902 Phil & Lois Wesley Tony & Linda Holmoka Nancy Glynn family Mason Council 9182 Terry & Susan Domzalski David & Linda St. Amant Mark & Linda Leigh Eugene & Rita Murawski Charli & Karen Heiler Kalamazoo Council 9962 Robert & Dawn Flach Dale & Suzy Boone Larry & Andrea Cooke Jeffry & Theresa Cypher Ira Township Council 10724 Richard & Laura Gordon David & Georgene Ebner Franklin & Jacqueline Mackenzie Ann Arbor Council 10963 Eric & Heidi Zachmann Mac & Honora Gillis Joseph & Rebecca Lussier Marc & Jennifer Holody	Bernie & Jane Kranz Lansing Council 11099 John & Elizabeth Gordon Russell & Marcia Pate Edward & Michelle Rivet Loren & Mary Deyoung Lansing Council 11694 Ben & Charlene King J.J. & Margie Glennon Mike & Terri Hecksel Joachin & Henrieta Mbonu Ryan & Jackie Timmer Patrick & Connie Gartlitz Lenny & Lynne Burns Port Huron Council 11756 Bill & Trish Spencer Frank & Debbie Stein Sterling Heights Council 13799 Mike & Deborah Bradford White Cloud Council 13939 Tom & Mary Eggleston John & Susan Osterman Herman & Marissa Becker Virgil & Ines Houle Steve & Mary Bleiler Lake Odessa Council 14404 William & Colleen King Mike & Judy Rodriguez Chris & Darla Vinton Andrew & Dana Coates Comstock Park Council 15548 Chris & Jessie Comden Mike & Peggy Marshall Philip & Cynthia Cole Adan & Becky Bauer Canton Council 16169 Don & Lorraine Zaksek Jim & Theresa DiMaria Dan & Connie Vella Vince & Jahna Kotcher Dan & Pam Timmerman
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## MICHIGAN MEAL POWERHOUSE



Grand Knight Brian Klopp of St. Michael Council 7311 in Grand Ledge, Mich., and his daughter Reagan prepare food packages during a Cross Catholic Outreach packing event in Lansing. Local Knights, family members and other volunteers packaged nearly 62,000 meals for families in Guatemala. In the past fraternal year, Knights in Michigan worked with Cross Catholic Outreach to prepare more than 180,000 meals for families in need around the world. (Photo by Erica Baker)



Members of the Au Lac Council in Ira Township and other volunteers participated in the St. Gertrude

prayer vigil in the Immaculate Conception Parish cemetery on November 1st. A total of 1250 prayers were said which helped to release 62 million souls from Purgatory. God bless you for your prayers on behalf of our departed brothers and sisters.

**NOTE: FOR GRAND KNIGHTS AND COUNCIL PR CHAIRMAN**

In each issue of the Michigan Columbian we print the Current Knights of the Month as designated by the local councils in the State. These men deserve State wide recognition. We appreciate your help in keeping this information current. A copy of the names of the Knight of the Month need to be sent direct to:

Larry Herman, FDM, State Council Community Director, 501 Georgetown Drive Apt. 17, Traverse City, MI 49684  
 \*cky - council knight of year, send a copy of the names to the Michigan Columbian.

**Knights of the Month**

Lansing Council 788  
 Matthew Crippen, Tony Klop  
 Frank Cherniawski  
 Monroe Council 1266  
 Shawn Piedmonte, Timothy Ochs  
 Francis Martin, Robert Martin  
 James Christensen\* cky  
 Portland Council 2168  
 Rick Vallier, Daniel Arwood  
 Dale Kramer, Keith Cook  
 Howell Council 2659  
 Spencer Malley, James Penn  
 Michael Sage, daren Quigley  
 Livonia Council 2690  
 Gary Long, Matt Schiffman  
 Mike Maher PGK  
 Standish Council 2724  
 Robert Gomez  
 Westphalia Council 2890  
 Austin Thelen, Neil Wirth  
 Utica Council 2950  
 Steve McKay, Harry Kuk  
 Ray Lope, Don Heydens  
 Pinconning Council 2986  
 Alan Guzdial, Owen Bush  
 Marty Schultz, Richard Maida  
 Rex Konwinski, Gerald Courer  
 Southgate Council 3956  
 Robert Park, Stephen Gall  
 Larry Rossi, Ron Wagner  
 Waterford Council 5436  
 Wayne Johnson, Thomas Seral  
 Tom Kendziorski

Livonia Council 5492  
 Tom Lamacchia, Dan Brown  
 Tom jacckett, PGK  
 New Baltimore Council 5981  
 Ron Demick, Steve Huber  
 Ronald DePestal, Bryan Laesch  
 Swartz Creek Council 6694  
 Robert Weld  
 Ortonville Council 6824  
 Chris Apcynski  
 Portage Council 6980  
 Steve Borchert, Paul Dyskiewicz  
 Terry Haas, Bob Woloben  
 Jim Sasena, Brian Wrozek  
 Joe Magalski  
 Romeo Council 7018  
 Fr. Vito Martinez \*cky  
 Gregory Slubowski \*cky  
 Macomb Council 7200  
 Dennis Jarzombek, Philip Walenga  
 Birch Run Council 7233  
 Mike Rocha, Bob Frank  
 Ray Reyes, Ken Bezemek  
 Milford Council 7444  
 Bob Timma, Mike Opalko  
 Mark Churay, Joe Ciurlino  
 Joel Snyder, Steve Thome  
 John Kelly  
 Freeland Council 7582  
 Harvey Kuehne, Mark Vinson  
 Ed Marx, Brin Heremski  
 South Lyon 7586  
 Michael Pieper, Craig Lukomski  
 Chris Meloche, Todd Montrieff

Ron Kampsen  
 Hillman Council 8041  
 Tom Bouchey, Alan Morrison  
 Paul Gressick  
 Sanford Council 8043  
 Frank Manley  
 Howell Council 8169  
 Mike Mayer, Deacon William Russell  
 Walt Czop, Brian Sherman  
 Auburn Hills Council 8659  
 Fred Fisher, Karl Chase  
 Michael Macauley, Michael Kurkowski  
 Temperance Council 8902  
 Deacon Marty Selmek  
 Fr. Patrick Rogen  
 Art Piotrowski  
 Mason Council 9182  
 Michael Domzalski, Jerry Baldwin  
**Scott Dane, Jerry O'Shesky**  
 James Kenyon  
 Kalamazoo Council 9962  
 Matthew Eickholt, Rev. José Haro  
 Robert Flach, Adam Knott  
 Ira Township Council 10724  
**John O'Gara, Anthony Jubinski**  
 Rene Meldrum  
 Ann Arbor Council 10963  
 Michael Laird, Vincent Brighton  
 Eric Strauss, Steve Willacker  
 Jim Stephenson  
 Lansing Council 11099  
 Matt McKune, Joel Stanewich  
**Kenneth Corrigan, Brian O'Neil**

Clinton Township Council 11689  
 Jerry Hund  
 Lansing Council 11694  
 David Garlitz PGK, Gabrriel Ishimwe  
 Clifford Farr PGK, Adam Pavlick  
 Timothy Perrone PGK,  
 James Martellini, Mark Johnston  
 Port Huron Council 11756  
 Jim DeLuca, Jeff Szostek  
 Tony Paladino, Brian Karamon  
 White Lake Council 13319  
 John Milne, George Orow  
 Alvin Dabish  
 Sterling Heights Council 13799  
 Eric Corbin  
 White Cloud Council 13939  
 Rick Heuvelman, Man Dinh  
 Tom Carpenter, Bill Koch  
 Matt Bleiler  
 New Buffalo Council 14366  
 Thomas Folliard, Richard Wiet  
 Albert Wahmhoff, Jom Gow  
 Lake Odessa Council 14404  
 Brian Haskin, Andy Snider  
 Comstock Park Council 15548  
 Joe Brechting, Gary Green  
 Canton Council 16169  
 Larry Redman, Ron LeTourneau  
 Ron Budzisz, Ron Kretschmer

**MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILY NIGHT DINNER AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Brother Knight Mark Hiller, Kim Donahue, Religious Formation Director, and Jim Chuck, Grand Knight collectively assembled the annual Middle School Family Night Dinner and Community Service. Mark also belongs to the Rotary Club in town.

**Father Edmund Battersby  
 Council 7586**  
 Brother Knight Mark Hiller, Kim Donahue, Religious Formation Director, and Jim Chuck, Grand Knight collectively assembled the annual Middle School Family Night Dinner and Community Service. Mark also belongs to the Rotary Club in town.

**MICHIGAN COLUMBIAN PUBLICATION SCHEDULE  
 COPY DEADLINE MONTH**

**MARCH 1st..... APRIL 2025**  
**JUNE 1st..... JULY 2025**  
**SEPTEMBER 1st.....OCTOBER 2025**  
**DECEMBER 1st..... JANUARY 2025**

PLEASE SEND ALL COPY MATERIAL TO:  
 GARY M. KOLBICZ  
 39373 DURAND DRIVE  
 STERLING HEIGHTS, MI. 48310  
 RES. 586-939-3886

E-MAIL – [g.kolbicz@mikofc.org](mailto:g.kolbicz@mikofc.org)

### New Supreme Directors, State Deputy Installed

state deputy of Puerto Rico this evening, along with our supreme directors.”

The Mass concluded the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors' visit to the Cathedral Dulce Nombre de Jesús, where they paid tribute to Blessed Carlos Manuel, sometimes called “Blessed Charlie.” Born in Caguas in 1918, Blessed Carlos Manuel was an active member of Pope John XXIII

Council 2033 and dedicated much of his life to evangelization. He died of colon cancer in 1963, at age 44, and was beatified in 2001; his remains are now interred in the cathedral.

In his homily, Father Kalisch pointed to the life of Blessed Carlos Manuel as an example for Knights, describing how he was strengthened through a life of great physical suffering by devotion to the Eucharist and the liturgy.

“He always remembered even the smallest details of his first holy Communion,” Father Kalisch said. “He said he could still feel a love that lasted a lifetime. And again, that love helped him during the trials and sufferings [of his life]. . . . Those who knew him said despite the illnesses, he always smiled.”

The next day, Oct. 12, the board of directors attended Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral Basilica of San Juan Bautista in San Juan, the second oldest cathedral in the Americas. The Mass, which was celebrated by Archbishop Roberto Octavio González Nieves of San Juan, marked the 40th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's 1984 pastoral visit to Puerto Rico.

### Queen of Apostles Council 6548



L-R: Knight Ron Hasso, Tootsie Roll Chairman 2023, Knight Larry Meier, Grand Knight Clyde Straub, Deputy Grand Knight Steven Sandoval, Dr. James Mangutz, Coor Board president, Oscoda County, Nancy persing, Coor Board Vice-President, Crawford County.

The Knights of Columbus of Houghton Lake, MI are recognized with an award for supporting Coor Intermediate Schools, Special Olympics and ROOC workshop since 1976. The proceeds generated by the Council's yearly sales of Tootsie Rolls has amounted to over \$100,000 for the needs of COOR, Special Olympics and the ROOC workshop over the last forty-eight years. The Knight's Council recently celebrated 50 years of their founding in 1974. The Knight's support over fourteen different charities in the greater Roscommon community area.

Larry Meier, a knight of this council, was the director at ROOC and was instrumental in starting the ROOC workshop with a matching grant and the support of the Houghton Lake Knights in 1977. Knight Larry was instrumental in starting the Special Olympics at that time.

### Escanaba Assembly 507 Fall Fest Spaghetti Dinner



Escanaba Assembly 507 held a Fall Fest Spaghetti Dinner for their Sir Knights and family. A evening to celebrate Columbus Day.

### From The State Program Director Matt Wierzgac

that both councils hold a competition, as well as District Deputies hold a district level competition. More information to come in our Constant Contact and through our MIKOFc email distribution. Stay tuned for more information. If you have any questions, you can contact me or our State Community Director.

Just a friendly reminder to submit those 10784's in as soon as possible after the event has been completed. I know it's very easy to forget a lot of the finer details as time goes on, so considering making it easier, please spend the 15-20 minutes and get it done.

Thank you to my State Faith in Action Team for all the hard work you do daily! You help drive this great state in leading this great organization in doing great things! Keep up the hard work!

I also want to continue encouraging everyone to keep up the good work, stay motivated, and promote the faith by putting our Catholic Faith into ACTION! Now that football season is almost over, let's take all that energy, enthusiasm, optimism and passion when leading our councils to success. Don't forget to invite those men who haven't been asked yet to join us. By inviting men to join us, we can continue the legacy of Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney who was inspired by the Holy Spirit to not only support the widows in need, but to also be a holy man of God! I am looking forward to seeing all the great programs to come in this last half of the fraternal year. If you ever need any guidance or have any questions, please feel free to contact me or my state faith in action team!

VIVAT JESUS!

Matthew J. Wierzgac  
State Program Director

### St Patrick White Lake Council 13319 and Coats for Kids



St. Patrick Knights of Columbus Council 13319 of White Lake, Michigan, delivered coats to children in need at Dublin Elementary and Keith Elementary schools. The donations were made possible by the generous support of several worthy Brother Knights. This continues the tradition of our Council delivering coats to those in need as the winter approaches.

### Au Lac Council 10724 Breakfast With Santa



Au Lac Council 10724 in Ira Township hosted their annual Breakfast With Santa event for families on December 15th. Brother Knights cooked a delicious breakfast of sausage, pancakes and French toast while the children got to see Santa Claus and receive a present. The event was held in the Immaculate Conception parish hall and very well attended. The money collected was donated to the Land of Peace organization which held their annual exhibit of religious artwork made in the Holy Land. The funds will go to help the needy Christians living in Jerusalem. The Knights and Land of Peace thank everyone for their generosity!





**Anchor Bay Council 5981  
Appreciation Dinner**

On Thursday evening, September 19th, Anchor Bay Council 5981 hosted its annual Council Appreciation Dinner where we honored the charities and causes that we supported in the 2023-2024 Fraternal Year. All Brothers and Ladies were invited to attend, as well as any Widows from the Council, and any Grand Knights and members of the Clergy in District 118.

During the evening, many of the charities that we supported were invited to speak and explain on how the Council 5981's supported and helped them and their communities. Many of the charities that were mentioned were: St. Louis Center, Anchor Bay Special Education Programs, Immaculate Conception K-8 and Cardinal Mooney Catholic High schools, the Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team (MCREST), St. Vincent DePaul, and many more.

The Compassion Pregnancy Center in Clinton Township was presented with a \$1,000 gift during the evening as a part of the Council's ASAP efforts, and the St. Mary Queen of Creation Food Pantry was notified that they were receiving another \$500 in donations as well as 96 coats from Anchor Bay Council's participation in the State Council "Coats for Kids" program BOGO program.



Worthy State Deputy Barry Borsenik and Worthy GK Richard Burke presented the Knight of the Year and Family of the Year awards to Wayne Miller, Jr and to Dale and Donna Valliere respectively.



Brother SK Arvin Stephenson was the keynote speaker for the evening and spoke of his journey into the Permanent Diaconate. Brother Arvin will be ordained as a Deacon in the Archdiocese of Detroit on Saturday, October 5th at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. The Council presented Arvin with a gift of an Anchor Bay Council jacket as a sign that no matter where his journey in the Diaconate takes him, he will always be a member of Council 5981.

The evening ended by our Worthy State Deputy making final remarks and thanking the Council for its service to its many charities and doing the good work of the Order.



Many thanks to all of the dignitaries and charities that were able to join us and make the evening special, including State Deputy Barry Borsenik, His Excellency Most Reverend Bishop Robert Fisher, Fr. Franklin Arockiadoss (St. Louis Center), Fr. Nick Zukowski (former Council Chaplain), Diocesan Membership Director Walter Papciak, and Diocesan Program Director Ron Depestel.

**OVERDOSE CROSSES IN SEPTEMBER**



On September 12th, 736 crosses were displayed on the front lawn of St. Kieran Church in Shelby Twp, Michigan. Included on the crosses were the names of those who have died by an overdose and installed in alphabetical order. The St. Kieran Knights of Columbus Council #13983, and the Jackie Salo volunteers, thank the more than 30 Council and Parish volunteers who came to set up, take down, view the crosses and participated in the liturgical rosary that day. These crosses remained in place on the front lawn for more than one week.

In 2023 there were 107,543 deaths in the United States equates to 293 deaths per day while in Michigan there were 2993 deaths which is just over 8 deaths per day.

**Au Lac Council 10724 Youth of the Month - September 2024**



Pictured L-R: Patrick A. Bohr (Grand Knight); Molly Timmons; Fr. Joe Esper (Pastor)

Congratulations to Molly Timmons on being named as our Au Lac Council Youth of the Month for September 2024! She is the daughter of Kenneth and Amanda Timmons and an 8th grade student at Anchor Bay Middle School.

Molly helped at the parish festival, came to our summer service day and attended Our Assumption Experience that entailed learning about the Blessed Mother and giving our lives to Jesus through her intercession, ending with giving Our Lady roses in the Grotto. She received the Student of the Month award at school, Certificate of Scholarship for Medical Detective, and attended summer camp for Air Force Junior ROTC.

Thank you to Molly for sharing your faith with others by your service to our parish and the community!

**Youth of the Month - October 2024**



Pictured L-R: Patrick A. Bohr (Grand Knight); Katrina Foster; Fr. Joe Esper (Pastor)

Congratulations to Katrina Foster for being named as our October Youth of the Month! She is the daughter of Mike and Christina Foster and a sophomore at Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School in Marine City where she is an

honor student. She is very involved in our parish youth group and many other parish activities. We thank Katrina for demonstrating her faith by service to our parish!

**Youth of the Month - November 2024**



Pictured L-R: Patrick A. Bohr (Grand Knight); Joseph Sebastian; Fr. Joseph Esper (Pastor)

Congratulations to Joseph Sebastian on being named as our Au Lac Council Youth of the Month for November! Joseph is the son of Bryant and Ashley Sebastian and a 6th grade student at

Immaculate Conception School. He is a frequent altar server at weekend Masses, weddings and funerals. He has helped with many parish activities such as parish festival, cemetery cleanup, Wreaths Across America, power wash the school and rectory, Outdoor Knights, and helps lead the Rosary for our Wednesday Rosary Prayer Group. At school he received the Principal's Award for Academics, is the 6th grade Student Council Representative and is on the cross country and basketball teams. He is also very active in 4H and has received many awards. Thank you Joseph for sharing your faith with our parish!

Programs = New Members

Upper Downriver Right to Life



The 2022 *Dobbs* Decision which reversed the *Roe v. Wade* ruling was remembered by Upper Downriver Right to Life with a Life Walk and Pro-Life Picnic held at Bishop Park in Wyandotte on Saturday, June 22.

The Fundraiser also raised awareness of the value of each human life from conception to natural

death. Participants carried balloons and signs proclaiming "Choose Life!" The fifty one participants included some who made donations to sponsor the walkers while others, unable to walk, shared in the potluck picnic.

John Quaine, representing the Knights of Columbus Father Saylor Council, carried the K of C "Love LIFE/Choose LIFE" flag. He also presented 10 baby blankets from the Knights embroidered with the K of C logo and the words, "Created in the image of God." They will be delivered to Guadalupe Workers for the moms of new babies.

Participants carried "Passports" which were stamped by "Life Defenders" on the route: Wyandotte Hospital Heart to Heart Memorial Garden, St. Patrick Catholic Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, and St. Joseph Catholic Church. Those with filled "Passports" were entered into the raffle. The first prize of a fleece blanket with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe went to Katie Marcero. Leona Deszi received the book "Christitutionalist Politics" donated by Wyandotte author Joseph M. Lenard.

Upcoming Right to Life events include an entry in the Wyandotte Independence Day Parade, an information booth at the Wyandotte Street Art Fair and the September 18 Focus on Life Dinner at the Grecian Center featuring internationally known speaker Steve Ray. Information is available at FocusonLife-Downriver.com or call 734-282-6100.

Fr. Peter Robertson Council #7582 First Eucharistic Procession



The Fr. Peter Robertson Council #7582 and parishioners of St. Agnes in Freeland, MI planned, organized and led the first Eucharistic procession for St. Agnes in Freeland on Sunday, June 2nd during the Feast of Corpus Christi.

Fr. Christian Tabares and 75 parishioners brought Jesus in the Eucharist to the people of Freeland. The 1.2 mile procession started after the 9:30 Mass and concluded with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the sanctuary. Fr. Christian invited everyone present to come and touch the monstrance, corporal or altar while asking for blessings or healing according to God's knowledge of our needs.

The planning team did a great job to ensure even the smallest details were attended to. A special thanks to the Knights of Columbus honor guard who was represented by Mike Metiva, Mitch, Lenczewski and Ray Gehlman.

Another word of thanks is owed to the Tittabawassee Township Police Department for their help with safely crossing some of the busy intersections and Jeff Stewart, owner of Stewy's carts for the loan of one of his eight passenger carts and for driving the cart.

In addition to leading the procession planning, Council 7582 also purchased the processional torches and the canopy for the procession and Brother Knight Jerry Keel made the poles for the canopy.

This definitely was a great opportunity to bring Jesus to our community and remind ourselves and others that the Eucharist is the source and summit of our life.

Father Edmund Battersby Council 7586



Father Edmund Battersby Council 7586 presented Warden Dave Huck with the 2024 "Knight of the Year" award for his corporal and spiritual ministry to the council, parish, and community.



"Family of the Year" couple Cheryl and S.K. Marc Daniels P.G.K. with District Deputy Alan Darish, Grand Knight Jim Chuck, and Deputy Grand Knight Bob Donehue

Programs = New Members

Council 4764 Exemplification



At a Council 4764 Exemplification held September 3 at Christ The Redeemer Church, Lake Orion, the following Knights were inducted: Gerardo Mendez, Agustin Arroniz, and Jose Narro.

GK Tom Tiffany and District West Membership Chairman Tom Kendziorski welcome new members: Gerardo Mendez, Agustin Arroniz, and Jose Narro.

May They Rest In Peace

West Branch Council 2022  
Casimir Maciejewski  
Greenville Council 2084  
Thomas Russell, PGK  
Standish Council 2724  
Aronld Provo  
Gaylord Council 2781  
Frederick Abeel  
Westphalia Council 2890  
Rederick Thelen

Plymouth Council 3292  
Frank Pawelak, FDM  
Southgate Council 3956  
Norman Lemay  
Farmington Hills Council 4401  
Gerald Hayden  
Portage Council 6980  
Donald Beckley  
Birch Run Council 7233  
Terry Jentzen

Milford Council 7444  
Robert "Bob" Sobczak  
Robert "B0b" Surma  
Jenison Council 7487  
David Husted, PGK  
Douglas Leatherman  
Temperance Council 8902  
Ralph Wenski  
Port Huron Council 11756  
Gary Wayne

Grosse Pointe Farms Council 12121  
Vito Cusenza, PGK  
Sterling Heights Council 13340  
Richard Doyle  
Byron Center Council 14642  
Fr. Donald Weber

QUEEN OF APOSTLES, COUNCIL 6548

The Knights of Columbus, Queen of Apostles Council 6548, celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 19, 2024, commemorating the council's charter in 1974. At that time there were sixty-four men from the parish of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic church in Prudenville, at Houghton Lake that were inducted as first and third-degree Knights to form the Queen of Apostles Council 6548.



Now fifty years later, there are eight living Knights. Five of them were able to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration that was held at St. James Church parish hall. They were Casey Kronner, Jim Tyo, Jim Bishoff, Roman Pacella and Art Gonzalez. Those who could not attend are Terry Anderson, Judge Frank Walsh, and Norman Kristianse.

The celebration consisted of refreshments at three with dinner at four and the program of celebration at five o'clock. Some of the dignitaries present were Bishop



Jeffery Walsh from the diocese of Gaylord, Fr. Peter Eke, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake, St. James and St. Hubert churches. Fr. Peter Eke is also the chaplain of the council. Fr. Rolando Silva as the associate pastor for the three cluster parishes as well. Fourth degree Knight Walter Sappington who was instrumental in the chartering of the Queen of Apostles Council, credited Fr. Joe Reitz, at that time, pastor of Our Lady and Vernon Bernard Anderson, the first Grand Knight for getting the council started.

Also present were a fourth-degree honor guard and fourth degree master Larry Herman, and Michigan Knights of Columbus Knight Joel Kendzorski, State Deputy Regional Representative.



There were a total of one hundred and ten participating in the celebration which included six Knight's widows of this council. The five charter members were recognized by the council's Grand Knight, Clyde Straub. All guests received a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary lapel pin and a coffee mug with logo and anniversary date.

The Deceased charter members were recognized by master of ceremonies fourth-degree Knight Mike Miller who individually recited the names of the fifty-eight deceased charter members as the honor guard rang a bell in recognition of each one of them.

A presentation was made to the council by K of C State Deputy Regional Representative Joel Kendzorski to acknowledge the 50 years of service to our Orders principles of Charity, Fraternity and Patriotism on behalf of Holy Mother Church, our country and fellowman. The award was from K of C Supreme and accepted by

the council's Grand Knight Clyde Straub.

Fourth Degree Master Larry Herman gave a talk about the importance of fourth degree knights in our council. Bishop Jeffery Walsh gave the council some inspirational words as the celebration came to a close.

The Knights of Columbus of Houghton Lake is a Catholic Fraternal organization that is known for its charitable works in our community. It currently has one hundred and eight-three members and welcomes any new members that would like to join in their works.

St. Patrick White Lake Council 13319 – Meditation Gardens



St. Patrick White Lake Council 13319 has constructed Meditation Gardens on the St. Patrick parish grounds. The gardens were designed for several purposes. Teachers at the parish school are now able to take their students into the outdoors to pray, reflect and continue

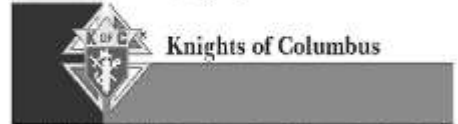
building on their faith. It is also a place for individuals to get away and meditate in private and to speak with the Lord. The gardens include a walkway with the Stations of the Cross, which is another way for people to reflect and strengthen their faith. The entire gardens are paved so people with walkers or wheelchairs can easily move around.

This project spanned multiple years and included the incorporation of Eagle Scout projects in order to complete the gardens, in addition to the many hours put in by the Knights.

Online Membership



A Program for Recruiting and Engaging New Members



Knights of Columbus

Lead with Faith Perfect Your Family Take Office Defend Your Values

MICHIGAN STATE COUNCIL CONTACTS



These directors can provide additional information about E-membership: Doug Kokot, State Membership Director [d.kokot@mikofc.org](mailto:d.kokot@mikofc.org) 616.634.2400

James Escott, State "E" Membership Director [e.escott@mikofc.org](mailto:e.escott@mikofc.org) 248.345.8533

YES I wish to enroll in the Guild and to receive the newsletter. Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Country \_\_\_\_\_

Please list below the names and addresses of any family or friend who might be interested in the Guild's work.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address City/State/Country \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address City/State/ \_\_\_\_\_

MONTHLY MASS FOR GUILD MEMBERS

Michigan State Council  
Knights of Columbus  
6025 Wall Street  
Sterling Heights  
MI 48312



### Michigan Knights of Columbus

#### 2024- 2025 State Raffle

Michigan - Come Soar with Us

**Tickets  
ONLY  
\$5.00**



**1st PRIZE "CHARITY"**  
**\$12,000.00 Cash**  
And  
**GRAND HOTEL VACATION**  
Mackinac Island Michigan  
4 Guests / 2 Nights / 2 Rooms



**2nd PRIZE "UNITY"**  
**\$3,000.00 Cash**  
And  
**SOARING EAGLE  
WATERPARK & HOTEL**  
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan  
4 Guests / 2 Nights / Eagle Suite



**3rd PRIZE "FRATERNITY"**  
**\$2,000.00 Cash**  
And  
**HOT AIR BALLOON RIDE**  
Sky Adventures  
Oxford, Michigan  
4 Guests with Champagne  
Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner Included



**4th PRIZE "PATRIOTISM"**  
**\$1,000.00 Cash**  
And  
**DETROIT HELICOPTER TOUR**  
Detroit, Michigan  
2 Guests  
Includes Champagne & Souvenir Pkg.  
Restrictions May Apply



5th - 10th Prizes = \$400.00

11th - 20th Prizes = \$200.00

21st -30th Prizes = \$150.00

31st - 40th Prizes = \$100.00

Drawing: Thursday, April 10, 2025 Doors Open @ 5:00 pm Drawing @ 8:00 pm  
St. John Neumann Parish, 44800 Warren Rd., Canton, MI 48187 (586) 436-0121

License # R77583

Membership Tribute Banquet

Honoring State Chaplain  
Rev. Andrew S. LaFramboise  
Saturday, February 22, 2025

**Zuccaro's Banquets & Catering**  
46601 Gratiot Ave.

Chesterfield Twp., Michigan 48051

Starts at 5pm

Dinner at 6:15pm with program to follow

\$40.00 per person

Reservations are available through the Michigan State office on a first come , first served basis. A check or money order must accompany all reservation requests. Make all checks payable to the Michigan State Council /memo line- Tribute Banquet Tickets. Checks are to be mailed to the Michigan State Council office , P.O. Box 1027, Sterling Heights, Michigan 48311-1027. No Tickets sold at the door.

ADMITTANCE BY RESERVATION ONLY