



# Knights of Columbus Bernard P. O'Brien Council #3956

Charity Unity Fraternity

## August 2024 Issue 64



**Wednesday September 4, 2024,  
MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETING**

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

## August September Events Overview

### Monday, August 5

142nd Annual Supreme Convention held in Quebec, Canada

### Tuesday, August 6

142nd Annual Supreme Convention held in Quebec, Canada

### Wednesday, August 7

142nd Annual Supreme Convention held in Quebec, Canada

6:00pm

K of C Council 3956 Regular Business Meeting

### Thursday, August 8

142nd Annual Supreme Convention held in Quebec, Canada

### Monday, August 12

Blessed Michael McGivney's Birthday (1852)

### Tuesday, August 13

Blessed Michael McGivney Feast Day

### Wednesday, August 14

Blessed Michael McGivney's Anniversary of Death (1890)

### Thursday, August 15 Assumption of Mary

### Saturday, August 17

1:10pm

Michigan State Council Fraternal & Family K of C Tiger Day 2024 (Detroit Tigers vs NY Yankees)

### Sunday, August 18

12:00pm

District 105 - Installation of Eppenbrock Council (after 11am Mass)

### Wednesday, August 21 Saint Pius X Feast Day

### Thursday, August 22

7:30pm

Detroit Archdiocesan Vocations League (DAVL) Meeting

### Saturday, August 24

11:00am

18th Annual Downriver Knights of Columbus Family Picnic

### Tuesday, August 27

7:00pm

Msgr Van Antwerp Assembly 475 General Membership Meeting (In person and virtual)

### Friday, August 30. St Pius Festival 2024

### Saturday, August 31 St Pius Festival 2024

### Sunday, September 1. St Pius Festival 2024

### Monday, September 2. Labor Day

### Wednesday, September 4

6:00pm

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

### Friday, September 6

5:00pm. River Rouge Days

### Saturday, September 7

12:00pm. River Rouge Days

### Sunday, September 8

1:00pm. River Rouge Days

### Ongoing: Recruitment Drive

Throughout August, we are focusing on growing our council. Encourage fellow parishioners to join the Knights of Columbus and become part of our mission.

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## Grand Knight's Message for August 2024

We are blessed to have among us, brother knights that have the will and skill to meet the greater needs of our community. Our latest example is our Fourth Annual Tony Cerezo Memorial Golf Tournament on Saturday, August 3rd. We have more golfers and more sponsors than years past, and our goal next year is to exceed this year's participation by at least 50%. We have the membership to reach this goal. If we plan ahead and get a little help from more people, it will be easy to achieve. Thank you to Past Grand Knight and District Deputy Mark Garcellano who once again chaired this event and to each brother knight and spouses who prepared and executed the plan. I'm sure you can agree that it was time well spent.

My goal as Grand Knight is to get as much time, talent, and energy out of as many of our brother knights as possible to meet the needs of our community. Looking forward we have next the Coin Toss and Cheap Eats booths for our annual SPX beginning August 30th and the Rouge Beer Tent Friday, September 6th - 8th that can help raise money for a St. Pius X scholarship. This very necessary program helps families that want their children to attend our great school but need financial help to do so. We have a link on our website at [kofc3956.org/signup](http://kofc3956.org/signup) to volunteer.

Other events are coming up like Coats for Kids which will start soon and the MI (Tootsie Roll) Drive to raise money and awareness for the intellectually and physically disabled. I believe if we are capable, then we are obligated to help those less privileged than ourselves. Who could not agree with that? Please read our website each month, read our newsletter, and find the tab to sign up for what time you can work into your schedule.

Remember to attend our council business meeting on August 7<sup>th</sup>, in our Social Hall beginning with food, snack, and beverages at 6:00 p.m. followed by our meeting at 7:00.

Come share your thoughts. Each of us can make a positive difference.

I'm reaching out, especially to those who have helped in the past but not as much so lately. Also, to those who have joined in the past few years and know they should be doing more and of course our active members. Many of you will be getting calls or messages to come to a meeting or to volunteer for one of our charity events. I encourage you to be receptive to the request and to be a good example to your family and a testament to your community that a little effort can go a long way. We all need to be responsibly active in whatever ways we can with our time, talent, and energy God gave us to spend. Spend it wisely!

Peace,

Anthony (Tony) Chirco, GK Council 3956

- **Wednesday, August 7, 2024: K of C Council 3956 Regular business meeting in Social Hall, 6:00 pm Social Hour and 7:00 pm meeting**
- **Saturday, August 17, 2024: Michigan K of C Fraternal and Family Tiger Game (vs. New York). Details to be discussed.**
- **Friday, Aug 30th - Sunday, Sept 1st: St Pius Festival. Volunteers needed. Sign up online or attend meetings for details.**
- **Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024: K of C Council 3956 Regular business meeting in Social Hall, 6:00 pm Social Hour and 7:00 pm meeting.**
- **Friday, Sept 6 - Sept 8: River Rouge Beer Tent. Volunteers needed. Sign up online or attend meetings for details.**
- **Other important events to our calendar will include: Coats for Kids and Halloween Party will follow. Note that our October Business Meeting may be moved to Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, same time and place.**

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## **Gone but not Forgotten**

There's a lot of history at St. Pius X Church and the Bernard O'Brien Council of the Knights of Columbus. Many parishioners and brother knights made vital contributions to the Church. Someone always picks up the flag to carry after they are gone. I have only been a member of St. Pius for six years. I've been a member of the O'Brien council for less time. Many people have come and gone during that short time.

There were a few times during the annual Tony Cerezo golf outing that I overheard conversations about Tony, previous brother knights, or previous Pastors at St. Pius X. These men held prominent roles in the Church. We get preoccupied with the urgency of everyday life. It's nice to have occasions like the Golf outing where we remember the significant contributions of brother Knights like Tony Cerezo. We'll all be gone one day. Hopefully we can contribute enough of our time and talents to be remembered fondly when our fellow brother Knights and parishioners gather together.

**Robert Park, Recorder, Editor in Chief**

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### **Special Thanks To The Hole Sponsors:**

Downriver Veteran's Honor Guard

Larry & Glenda Rossi

Mobil Naim's Oil Inc.

Fudgy's Ice Cream

Fully Promoted

Eureka Farm Market

Angelina's Mexican Restaurant

Alex Kabob House

The Cerezo Family

Anthony & Angela Chirco-Chirco Construction

Jabro Carpet One

E.W. Grobbel-Food for Generations

The Daw Family

The Ibarra Family

Ray & Jennifer Bilyk

Tom Jackson-K of C Field Agent

Thirty-One- Becky Hernandez

MetalFab Inc.

Van Antwerp Assembly

Carter Lumber

Mayor Joseph Kuspa

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## Choosing The Better Part

Things I shoulda, coulda known but did not. I'm slow and always trying to catch up, Went to Mass a week ago and it was the feast day of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, formerly just St. Martha, Pope Francis Jan 26, 2021, decided it should be a memorial for all three beginning July 29, 2021. Now I know and think that is pretty cool! The good and faithful friends of Jesus. The Gospel story speaks of the time Martha invited Jesus into their home for a meal. I guess we all know the story. Mary spending time with Jesus and Martha thinking she could use help and even wanting Jesus to put in a word for Mary to help her.

Okay, now here is the thing for me Jesus tells Martha she's anxious and worries about many things. Okay, that sounds like me big time! Jesus, He's got my number! Now here's the thing. My wonder--- Jesus says there is need for only one thing and Mary has chosen the better part.

So what is HE talking about? Is it one thing or two things or two things about this one thing. Now it is known I can be a little slow and I never thought about this before. I think I figured it out. Tell me if you think I have it right. The only thing that is needed is to be welcoming and hospitable. Yeah, some have to do the cooking and cleaning and some spend time getting to know the welcome guest. Right? I think that's it!

When I volunteered to work for CAP (Christian Appalachian Project ) (out of my comfort zone) I was always anxious to get the job done and get it right. Even the student volunteers could get distressed. What I was told was to take a break and do some porch sitting spending time with the homeowners sharing a little about ourselves and our Faith. "The better part" The Spirit of God always helps "No doubt" with the rest. I just have to have a little Faith! What do you think? Just let the Spirit move as it does and try to pay attention. Love is always the answer.

God is Good All the Time and All the Time God is Good! May the Lord Bless us and keep us May the Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious to us and may the Lord look upon us kindly and give us Peace.

**Dick Gregoire, Lecturer**

## Lecturer's Reflection

As we journey forward this year with our many projects and aspirations, we must always stay focused on this simple yet profound verse from Psalm 127: "Unless the LORD build the house, they labor in vain who build. Unless the LORD guard the city, in vain doe the guard keep watch."

My brothers it's not enough for any organization to just do things, to fill the void, or satisfy the reason for getting together. Though there are many good causes and justifications for gathering, ours must have a solid foundation.

As Knights, if those projects we undertake do not help build God's kingdom on earth, fail to spread the Good News, or are void of goodwill toward our fellow man, we have to wonder why we are doing them at all.

If what is done is done for the sake of man, sadly our work will be in vain, our council and eventually our order will stray or flounder, or worse still, will be no more. I'm sure many of us have belonged to something that just petered-out.

So what's the secret to building right? What helps us to keep vigilant of what the Lord asks of us? How do we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus among the many distractions of our life?

The answer is this...**All we do must come from prayer**...Our lives!...must be grounded in **prayer**...The fabric of our being!...should testify to the relationship we have with **our Lord**...a relationship built on our **diligence to prayer**...coupled with a continual study of the Word.

This gentlemen...**PRAYER**... is the key that will help us better understand the direction we are to travel! A voyage we will take together with Godspeed.

Vivat Jesus.



**Deacon Chuck**

*O glorious prince St. Michael,  
chief and commander of the heavenly  
hosts,  
guardian of souls, vanquisher of rebel  
spirits,  
servant in the house of the Divine King  
and our admirable conductor,  
you who shine with excellence  
and superhuman virtue deliver us from  
all evil,  
who turn to you with confidence  
and enable us by your gracious  
protection  
to serve God more and more faithfully  
every day.*

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## **Knight of the Month**

There is only one member of the council who has the Knights of Columbus emblem permanently tattooed on their body. It's a sign of Ray Bilyk's dedication to our organization and our council. When presented, he never wants recognition for his work as Financial Secretary, Past Grand Knight, District Deputy, SDRR or any number of titles he's held in order to keep the trains moving on time. Most importantly he is the coffee and donuts chairman.

The institutional knowledge that Ray possesses and freely gives to the officers of the council is a constant surprise to us. Ray gives of his time and talent with a cheerful heart. His role requires him to attend many meetings. Ray is always acting as an advocate for our council and the parish. We're proud to call him a friend and this month, we're proud to name him Knight of the Month.

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## Family of the Month

Franz Albright family of the month

Franz and his wife Glenda have been married for over 30 years. They have three children and two grandchildren. They have been members of St. Pius X for over 15 years and have been running the rummage sale for over 5 years. This year the St. Pius Rummage Sale raised over \$8,000 for the school and the church.

When I asked Franz and his family what he liked best about being a member of St. Pius X, he said the people and the community of the Church are his favorite because they are so friendly. Franz said the St. Pius is a terrific school, and a terrific Church for anyone who is or wants to become Catholic. He thanked his Brother Knights for their involvement in the cleanup of the rummage sale. In a rare display of modesty, he told us it wouldn't have been possible without the help he received. We are recognizing the Albright Family for all of their hard work during the rummage sale and naming them as the O'Brien Council Family of the Month!



## A Matter of Trust

Over the course of the year I've seen the negative intensity of the political atmosphere increase and with it, division. Opposing ideologies have given rise to incivility which benefits no one, especially when among family, close friends, and colleagues.

As Knights who pledge fraternity; that quality of shared interest for a common purpose, namely acts of charity, we must never let our opposing views affect that which we hold most dear. It's Ok to agree we disagree, without letting strife ensue and discord creep into our order.

The Psalms help to put in perspective, letting us know where our loyalty should reside:

Put no trust in princes, in children of Adam powerless to save. Who breathing his last, returns to the earth; that day all his planning comes to nothing. Blessed the one whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD, his God. (Ps 146:3-5)

So, whether your flavor is democrat, republican, or independent, male or female. This voting cycle will come and go just like all the previous ones before. Some things will be better, some worse. But all in all, we must remember who is really in charge, and from who we should not waver, neither in word, deed, or principal. Jesus tells us:

Do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?...Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. (Mt 6:25, 33)

It's easy to get caught up in all the maligned rhetoric that's being flung all around the political field. But before engaging in such degrading behavior we should try to practice what our Lord preached:

I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, That you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.

Being mindful of his teachings and our corps principals, we can easier stay united while exercising our patriotic duty as good American citizens. It's a long way to November so if your attitude is wavering, pray for yourself too.

Vivat Jesus,

Deacon Chuck



## Organizations

It seems no matter what group or organization you join there is always a clash of personalities. We are all different and each of us have differing talents to offer. Egos and personalities can get in the way of accomplishing the goals set for the Knights. We must remember that we are working for the greater good and while an individual may rub you the wrong way, we are Christian brothers caring out Jesus Christ's message of love, charity and building the Church. This sounds easy but in reality it is the source of conflict in the world. Jesus told us it would be hard! When we work together and overlook others' faults (and our own) we can accomplish great things. Just look at the Knights of Columbus growth and leadership. It is truly inspiring.



## In Our Prayers

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

- Jennifer Bilyk
- James Garcellano, GK Mark Garcellano's brother
- Bill Robert's brother Rick, daughter Terianne, and son-in-law Michael
- Robert LaForest
- Joe and Roger Hernandez
- Deacon Bob
- Manuel's Family
- Mel Jacobs
- Barb DeGroat
- Larry Rossi
- Bob Schooner
- Alyssia Schooner and Daniel Schooner, Bob Schooner's Grandchildren
- Carol Kainz, Cousin to Angela Chirco, diagnosed with Stage 4 Cancer
- Antonietta (Dolly) Chirco, who is recovering from a stroke, Mother of GK Tony Chirco
- Liz and Larry Ridenour

We continue to pray for brother knights, parishioners, family, and friends in need of God's mercy for whatever challenges they face, particularly those in poor health and in crisis.



KofC #3956



Join on GroupMe

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













## Member Birthdays

### August

Name	Birthday	Age
Henry A Ibarra	08-04-1960	64
John F McFadden Jr	08-05-1944	80
Frank A Allevato	08-10-1940	84
Dennis J Levko	08-11-1957	67
Steven R Crandall	08-13-1959	65
Mr Josef Chlebek	08-14-1980	44
Bruce J Kresslein	08-25-1960	64
William P Robert	08-25-1952	72
Mr Jacob Harpenau	08-26-1983	41
Craig McKinney	08-26-1973	51
John M Lazere Jr	08-27-1982	42
Dr Stephen A Gall	08-28-1969	55



### Years of Service

August

Name	First Degree Date/ Re-entry Date	Years of Service
George E Kotronis	08-08-1995	29
Gerald L Gonyea	08-03-2013	11
Robert C Munroe	08-12-2015	9
Mr Alexander W Brown	08-26-2019	5
Mr Fred Gerring	08-27-2023	1



### Wife Birthdays

August

Member's Name	Wife's Name	Birthday
Larry C Ridenour	Elizabeth Ridenour	08-06
Dr Okechukwu Unogu	Francess Unogu	08-07
Mr Chuck P Degroat Esq	Barb Degroat	08-21
Dennis J Hamilton	Debra Hamilton	08-23





## Member Wedding Anniversaries

### August

Name	Date	Wife's Name
James L Guyette	08-11-1973	Betty Guyette
Joseph Chirco	08-15-2020	Catherine Chirco
Harold G Paddock	08-25-1962	JoAnn Paddock