



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

Charity Unity Fraternity

November 2024 Issue 67



**K of C Council 3956 Business Meeting
December 4th (St Pius Social Hall)
Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m.**

Refreshments and snacks served at 6.

Grand Knight November Message to Council

We got an early start to the holiday season the week of November 9th as we hosted our council's first tailgate party. The social was preceded by a rescheduled business meeting which was brief, yet comprehensive. More about that in a minute.

We invited several recent brother knights to the council as well as those considering joining our amazing O'Brien Council. Two of the candidates joined us. Several others could not make it but will still be on our radar to welcome.

Thank you to everyone that helped put this together, particularly our wives that were great company. Special thanks to brother Richard Gregoire who brought our favorite homemade chili to go with Foggia's pizza, assorted beverages, cookies and chips.

The tailgate party went into the evening. Aside from a U of M loss, a good time was had by all. We missed brother Ray Bilyk and his wife Jennifer. A special prayer was said for Jennifer as we look forward to her full recovery.

As mentioned, we had a meeting before the tailgate social. Lessons learned; we can have a brief and productive meeting when we stay on point.

Saturday, November 16th was the Coats for Kids distribution at St. Anne Basilica, 1000 St. Anne St, Detroit. We asked those who volunteered to assist with the distribution to be at St. Anne's at 9:00 a.m. Distribution will began at 10:00 a.m. or until coats run out.

Thank you for the generosity from our loyal parishioners, whose donations well exceeded last year. St. Pius X staff and students with help from their parents were amazing once again as they raised over \$1300.00. With encouragement from Fr. Don and Deacon Chuck during masses, solicitation of local businesses, donations from brother knights and school, the total is anticipated to be over \$6500.00. That helps to purchase over 250 coats and backpacks for less privileged children in our neighboring communities. God Bless all who helped.

Brunch with St. Nick returns to the St. Pius X Activity Center on December 8, 2024, after 11:00 a.m. mass. Chuck Degroat has agreed to chair the event again this year. Chuck will be working with School A.D. Victoria Dudek. Ryan Daw has agreed to assist. Preparation of event includes pre-sale of tickets to determine the number of people to anticipate.

Look for signup schedule on our website. We also encourage signing up in advance at our meeting. We need help cooking, serving, cleaning, announcement, assisting St. Nick. Advance sales will help determine the number of attendees and the amount of food to purchase. This is a fun event as we participate and mingle directly with our parish and school.

Our O'Brien Council Annual Christmas Gathering is Saturday, December 14, 2024. Dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. Hungarian Rhapsody Restaurant, 14315 Northline Road, Southgate. We encourage all brother knights to join the festivities.

A great meal, drinks and desert are just part of the social as we enjoy each other's company and look ahead to a great new year approaching. State of the Council will be provided by your truly. We are collecting \$30.00 per person. \$20.00 for those who pay on or before our December 4th business meeting. Please RSVP to Tony Chirco by text to make arrangements at 734-558-5446 or email at ajc@tm.net. So, we can provide the restaurant with a total, please arrange to make payments in advance. If possible, at our next business meeting on December 4th.

St. Pius X school principal Ms. Furtah discussed our scholarship offer with Father Don, Brian Wolff, and the School Advisory Committee. All seem to agree that offering scholarships (in \$500 or \$1,000 increments) to incoming kindergarteners (and possibly incoming 6th graders) would be a good idea to both help families commit to starting (or staying) in Catholic School and to help the school keep its enrollment numbers high.

Another suggestion was to use some of it to enter any new student who enrolls at our Open House into a drawing for a scholarship. (Maybe \$500?) They think this might be successful in encouraging people to enroll at the event. She states what stipulations we put on the scholarships are up to us.

Thank you to Dr. Stephan Gall for his work as our liaison to the school. I encourage brother knights to give him help with manpower needed with events including: Free throw Competition, Volleyball Challenge, Keep Christ in Christmas Poster competition, Citizenship Essay, and Spelling Bee.

Remember our upcoming meetings...

Our Council's December general business meeting is scheduled to meet in the Social Hall Wednesday, December 4, 2024. This will be a very important meeting to attend as we plan our Christmas party and to share thoughts about events planned in the new year.

Peace!

Anthony (Tony) Chirco, Grand Knight
K of C O'Brien Council

#3956

Text: 734-558-5446

Email: ajc@tm.net

Corporal Works of Mercy-Clothe the Naked

Coats for Kids is one of the main events that the Knights of Columbus put on. Many people contributed to making the Coats for Kids drive a success. Father Don announced after Mass that we should make it a parish project. The parishioners were exceedingly generous with donations. The students of St. Pius and their families donated over \$1,900. The eighth graders and their parents volunteered at the distribution at St. Anne De Detroit. Between a third to half of the people helping were from our parish. Michigan had the largest donation to the Coats for Kids Drive throughout the country. Our parish donated over 56 cases of coats. The Church teaches us the seven Corporal Works of Mercy.

1. Feed The Hungry
2. Give Drink to the Thirsty
3. Clothe the Naked
4. Shelter the Homeless
5. Visit the Sick
6. Visit the Imprisoned
7. Bury the Dead

It's important to focus on these activities going into major events of the liturgical year such as Easter and Christmas. That may have contributed to Father Don's announcement to make the Coats for Kids collection a parish project. It isn't something you do every day. Now our young people have had the chance to see the gratitude in a child as they pick out a coat and try it on. We get so much personal reward in seeing these things up close. Feelings of pride rise up on our chests when we see the participation among our parish. It feels selfish not to share that gratitude with others who made it possible. We thank the parish for their generosity. We thank Father Don and the school faculty for their leadership. We thank the students and their parents for sacrificing their Saturday morning to help others.



Wiggle Room

I can't eat that, it has too many calories. I can't buy that, it costs too much. Certainly, I don't even have time for that event! Well, if I eat a little less here and there, I CAN have that ice cream. I do like those sunglasses, if I shave off some coffee runs, it wouldn't be a problem to pay for them. And, really, I could get moving on a Saturday morning and go meet my friends for the COR meeting.

Small adjustments we make give us the wiggle room to do the things we want to do. A fairly easy adjustment could be waking up early for one Saturday a month, get out of bed to joins some friends for coffee, donuts and fellowship. You will strengthen your friendships and your faith at the same time. I encourage you all to grow your bond with God and your friends at the same time. Look at it this way- driving to COR once a month, you are almost guaranteed an easy drive in, every time.

Ryan Daw

Faithful Navigator

Knights of the Month

Larry Rossi and Ron Wagner



This month we are naming two Brother Knights as Knight of the Month.

Larry Rossi was instrumental in laying the groundwork for the MI drive. He obtained permission from Sam's Club and the City of Southgate to be able to request donations. He's been a stalwart of the council for many years. He is an usher and a veteran of the United States Navy. We've written about Larry and his wonderful family before. Larry asked us to publish a poem by Peter Dale Winslow title "The Man In the Glass." It gives us a glimpse into what motivates one of our Brother Knights and a man we're proud to call a friend.

Ron Wagner Knight of the Month



We don't have a photo of Ron (right) working at the MI Drive because he was out on the streets by himself the Friday of the MI Drive. This photo is from the Rouge Days Beer tent where he worked multiple shifts and called in additional volunteers.

During the Mentally Impaired Drive, Ron took the initiative to take the day off of work on Friday. He also took additional shifts on Saturday to make the MI Drive a success. Combined with the students, we were able to raise over \$1,900 dollars for the MI Drive due in large part to the efforts of Brother Ron Wagner.

Family of the Month



Family of the Month-The Kudla Family.

Dave and Valerie Kudla have three children, Joanne, Paul, and Stephen who all attended St. Pius. They have four grandchildren. They have been members of St. Pius since around 1993.

You might recognize Dave and Valerie from one of the many events they help with: Donut Sundays, Family Breakfasts, St. Pius Field Day, the St. Pius Festival Dime Toss, and most recently Coats for Kids. Dave took a lead role in organizing the collection for St. Pius parishioners to purchase the coats we distributed. Of course that meant that Valerie was also instrumental in the collection and delivery method for the coats.

Every family of the month is deserving of the recognition. This month I've had the unique pleasure of getting to know not only Dave, but Valerie and a few members of their extended family. Valerie is a graduate of the Catholic Biblical school of Michigan where two of her sisters also graduated. Their sister Anne was also an instructor at the school. If you're counting that is four sisters total. Valerie's father recently celebrated his 100th Birthday. He's a veteran of World War II and was at the Battle of the Bulge. Their entire family is proud of their Polish heritage. Dave has given great recommendations about where to get the best Pierogis and Paczkis. This month we are proud to recognize one of our hardest working families. Please thank Dave and Valerie Kudla the next time you see them and congratulate them as November's Bernard O'Brien council family of the month.

Falling Leaves

I was looking out my window today admiring my neighbor's maple tree and the vibrant, red colors of its leaves. Most of the leaves have fallen to the ground but there still remains some holding on for dear life. Soon the tree will be bare bringing to close another season. It got me thinking about the liturgical year of the Church and how November signals it's final month.

I pondered how that tree looked healthy enough and how I've seen it grow over the last seven years I've lived here. This in turn made me wonder, like that tree, is my faith healthy? Has it grown over the years, or

like those leaves, hanging to my former self? Have my branches spread any farther?

I've seen my neighbor out there, spraying, feeding, and mulching around its base to keep it healthy. What have I done to keep away the things that are not good for me? How have I fed my mind with the things that promote spiritual growth? Have I allowed God to cultivate me, like my neighbor and his tree? When people gaze at me do they see the splendor of God's creation? Am I spiritually healthy?

December will bring in the new liturgical year with the beginning of Advent. A new beginning and outlook. I will start preparing for Christmas as I do the coming winter as I did the year before, and the year before that, and the year before that. But I have to ask myself, am I better prepared than last year? What have I truly done, just in case I never see the buds of spring?

Vivat Jesus,

Deacon Chuck



In Our Prayers

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

- Mandy Borsenik
- Jennifer Bilyk
- Robert LaForest
- Joe and Roger Hernandez
- Deacon Bob
- Manuel's Family
- Mel Jacobs
- Larry Rossi
- Bob Schooner
- Alyssia Schooner and Daniel Schooner, Bob Schooner's Grandchildren
- Carol Kainz, Cousin to Angela Chirco, diagnosed with Stage 4 Cancer
- Antoinetta (Dolly) Chirco, who is recovering from a stroke, Mother of GK Tony Chirco
- Liz and Larry Ridenour
- Valerie Husar
- Norman LeMay

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.



Family Breakfast



Presentation of the check from the students to the O'Brien Council



SDRR Ray Bilyk presenting the Star Council Award to District Deputy Mark Garcellano

Click to sign up to our Council GroupMe text chat:

https://groupme.com/join_group/89941588/PMiLZWii

QR CODE:



Click to order attire from our Council 3956 online store:

<https://knights3956pius.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

QR CODE:





Years of Service

November

Name	First Degree Date/ Re-entry Date	Years of Service	
Cary J Polaski	11-01-1977	47	
Harold G Paddock	11-06-1977	47	
Deacon Charles G Dault	11-06-1998	26	
Kurt N Enders	11-01-1999	25	
Sal D DiPasquale	11-02-2009	15	
Scott A Corso	11-05-2014	10	
Burrell Hughes	11-05-2014	10	
Dr Okechukwu Unogu	11-10-2014	10	
William R McLaury	11-12-2014	10	
Ronald J Wagner	11-25-2014	10	
Christian S Abello	11-08-2015	9	
Dr Stephen A Gall	11-01-2020	4	



Member Birthdays

November

Name	Birthday		
Robert D Schooner	11-05		
Nicola Vignola	11-06		
Richard M Gregoire	11-07		
Franz Albright	11-09		
James A Kandrevas	11-09		
Michael J Levko	11-10		
Mr Joe Schwartz	11-17		
Ronald J Wagner	11-24		



Wife Birthdays

November

Member's Name	Wife's Name	Birthday	
Harold G Paddock	JoAnn Paddock	11-04	
Matthew M Dziewit	Kimberly Dziewit	11-13	
William P Robert	Linda Robert	11-30	



Member Wedding Anniversaries

November

Name	Date	Wife's Name	
Guy A Vitale	11-10-2001	Maria Vitale	
Robert C Munroe	11-23-2009	Angela Munroe	

Total: 2