



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

Charity Unity Fraternity

December/January 2025 Issue 68



**K of C Council 3956 Business Meeting
Wednesday February 5th (St Pius
Social Hall) Meeting begins at 6:00
p.m.**

**Refreshments and snacks served
afterwards at 7.**

Grand Knight December, 2025 Message to Council

Greeting to all my brother knights, family and friends,

As we approach the Christmas season and the New Year, we are also reaching the mid-term of our council year. Since July, we have been very active starting with the Downriver K of C picnic, our annual Memorial Golf tournament, First Rouge beer tent fund-raiser, participation in the coin toss and cheap eats at the St. Pius Festival, MI Drive, Coats for Kids campaign, Trunk or Treat contribution, Brunch with St. Nicholas and our annual Christmas dinner at Hungarian Rhapsody.

Sprinkled along the way have been many other large and small undertakings that have benefited each other and our parish community including: COR Scripture gatherings, Donut Sundays, Charity Family Breakfasts, and a very successful recruitment drive. So successful, we have reached our membership goal on-target to again achieve Star Council.

These programs have helped support our wonderful St. Pius Catholic School with a revamped Scholarship program, academic and sports programs such as Soccer Challenge, Free Throw competition, Keep Christ in Christmas poster program, and others with the help our brother knight Dr. Stephan Gall and St. Pius Coach Mike Camilleri. We continue to support: Right to Life, The Pregnancy Crisis Center, Special Olympics, the mentally and physically challenged. These are just a few of the initiatives that receive our assistance. None of which could be possible without the

time and talents of our brother knights and their supporting families.

Thank you to the tremendous and relentless help from our SDRR/Financial Secretary Ray Bilyk and District Deputy/Advocate Mark Garcellano. Both men along with Bill Robert are Past Grand Knights who have not rested on their laurels but continue as active members of this council. At our recent Christmas party all three men were recognized for their contribution to our council.

We now look forward to getting to know and work with our newly exemplified brother knights. I hope you each know how grateful we are to have you among us. We look forward to getting to know each of you. Coming up will be our Council general business meeting and fraternity social on January 8, 2025 beginning with the meeting at 6:00 p.m. followed by food and refreshments at 7:00 p.m.

We will be planning our next series of events including an invitation to the Archdiocesan Winter Meeting on January 15th, Hockey Night at Little Ceasars Arena on February 8th, and Desert Meal to support our Seminarians. This spring we also plan another tailgate party during March Madness, Motorcycle Blessing, and a series of our anticipated FUNdraisers.

I am blessed to have a very talented team of officers and directors that work hard. You are a shining example of a great Knights of Columbus council. I am asking you each to pray for a good friend of ours, Larry Rossi who has been facing some serious health issues. At this writing, he is in hospital and needs an outpouring of our prayers. Larry

serves as our Warden, but he is much more than that. He is among my most precious friends. They refer to him as "Iron Man", a well-deserved reference to this tenacity and personality. We love you Larry and wait with anticipation to your return.

I hope you are all full of the spirit of Christmas as it was meant to be, focused on the celebration of Jesus born among us. My prayers go to all our brother knights, their families and friends, that the new year will bring good health, fulfillment of your faith and peace to you and your loved ones.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:13

Peace,

Anthony (Tony) Chirco,
Proud Grand Knight, K of C Council
#3956
Text: 734-558-
5446
Email: ajc@tm.net

Schedule of upcoming meetings

- Archdiocesan Winter Meeting, Wednesday, January 15th at Sacred Heart Seminary beginning at 5:30-9:00 p.m. We currently have eight brother knights committed to attending.
- COR scripture meeting on Saturday, January 18th at 7:30 a.m. in Social Hall. Meeting will follow monthly reading and reflection of the week's Scripture passages.
- Officers meeting currently scheduled for Wednesday, January 29 may be moved to other day. Possibly Saturday, January 18th at 9:00 a.m. after COR, the following Saturday, January 25th. (time to be agreed upon).

OFFICERS MEETING WILL DISCUSS FUND RAISING PROJECTS. *DIRECTORS ARE INVITED. ALL PLEASE COME PREPARED WITH PROJECTS IN MIND WITH WORKING DETAILS.

More Upcoming Events

Donut Sunday (Tentative). Sunday, January 19th, after 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Masses. Need consent to schedule. We need help preparing coffee and juice for distribution and handing out donuts.

District 105 Exemplification of the Third Degree, Monday, January 20th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Pius church.

K of C Council 3956 Business Meeting. Wednesday, February 5th at 6:00 p.m. in Social Hall followed by Social Fraternal Dinner at 7:00 p.m. Menu to be determined.

Knights of Columbus Hockey Knight at Little Ceasars Arena. (Detroit Red Wings vs. Tampa Bay Lightning). Saturday, February 8th. 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for Desert Meal for Seminarians pilgrimage. Dinner is planned for Sunday March 2nd at Crystal Gardens on east side of Fort Street, north of Pennsylvania Road in Southgate



Robert Joseph LaForest

1950 - 2024

Tribute to Past Grand Knight Bob LaForest

Our K of C O'Brien council lost one of our most beloved members Bob LaForest passed away in late December.

He served as our Grand Knight for nine terms. The demands of this position require a great amount of dedication and love for your council and its brother knights. He mentored numerous men who today are the backbone of our council.

I first met Bob 25 years ago long before joining the Knights of Columbus. Bob was the custodian at St. Pius while my kids were attending school. We hit it off immediately. Knowing I worked construction, Bob would ask me for materials he needed for the school and church. Like any responsibility he took on, Bob gave 100%+.

Each of us that have received the blessings of being a Knight of Columbus, particularly our O'Brien council, owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to Bob LaForest.

At times Bob and I would talk about the Knights of Columbus. I would tell him, I will join soon enough. He encouraged me and told me I would one day be a Grand Knight. I loved him, but thought to myself, I could not step into those shoes. Well, here I am Bob. I hope I can do you justice my friend.

Anthony(Tony)Chirco, Grand Knight,

I was honored to call Bob a friend. I knew Bob as a fellow usher at St. Pius and as a Brother Knight and Sir Knight. Bob always exemplified the best in Christian values. RIP my good friend.

God Bless, Dennis Hamilton

I enjoyed playing euchre with Bob when he used to attend Monday Night Euchre at St. Pius. I will always cherish the boot knife he gave me for my cowboy boots. May he rest in peace.

Scott Beaudrie

We are so sad to hear of Bob's passing. We got to know Bob and Margaret through the Knights of Columbus. We very much enjoyed their company at the KofC State convention on Mackinac Island for several years. He was a very good man and will be much missed. May his soul rest in peace with Our Good Lord, and our sympathies to Margaret and family.

Barbara and Richard Lambrix

Bob was Grand Knight of the O'Brien Council when I first joined. He guided the council for many years. He was a strong leader and a good man. I heard many stories about Bob after the Knights led a Rosary for him. He was admired as a family man and a good catholic. When you walk by the hedges in the front of the Church, remember that Bob was the one who trimmed them to say "St. Pius X".

Robert and Pauline Park

Editors Note-

I combined the December and January Newsletters. There were a lot of heartfelt and sincere contributions from our Grand Knight Tony Chirco, Dick Gregoire, Past Deputy Grand Knight Dave Kudla, and Deacon Chuck. They had real insight about the end of 2024 and the Christmas season. I took a few of Deacon Chuck's words to heart and gave the gift of self to my family this Christmas. My children really enjoyed Christmas this year and I spent time with relatives visiting from out of town. That's why the December and January issues are combined. My brother Knights and contributors delivered their messages on time with a wonderful message. Brother Knight Dick Gregoire's article about the Holy Spirit spoke to me in a very personal way. I've always found the concept of the Holy Spirit the most difficult to understand. When other people talk about the effect of the Holy Spirit on their lives, I always pay a little more attention to see if it will help me understand more.

It was great to see those who could attend the Christmas Party at the Hungarian Rhapsody. Spending time in fellowship with our wives is truly a blessing.

We are starting to promote one of the O'Brien Council's premier events held in February. The Desert Meal is the event that makes me most proud to associated with. We have raised tens of thousands of dollars to give to Seminarians in our Diocese for a pilgrimage. Please help out in any way you can.

We lost a good man in December with the passing of Past Grand Knight Bob LaForest. Bob was Grand Knight when I joined the O'Brien Council. Seeing how much he loved Margaret and his family was an inspiration to someone at the beginning of that journey. It was an honor to be able to pray the Rosary at his memorial. He had so many friends and he will be missed.

Attending a 4th Degree Memorial or Funeral Mass is something that makes me want to join the 4th degree. A Sir Knight's name will be engraved on a chalice and given to a priest around the world. He will be prayed for at every mass the priest celebrates. We know that Bob loved being a member of the 4th degree, this is one of the reasons why.

The Straight Path

The time of preparation for the first and second coming of our King, Advent, is done. The joy and wonderment of his past arrival, Christmas, has been celebrated. The hope of the promise of redemption for all peoples, Epiphany, is announced. Still, some may wonder, where that leaves us in 2025?

From the perspective of our secular world, a new Commander and Chief with an encourage of administrative changes and policies; each with the promise of prosperity and a better tomorrow. From a Liturgical perspective, a new cycle of reading from the Lectionary Year C. From a personal perspective, a commitment to change self for the better.

As we delve deeper into the year, both physically and spiritually, we will be presented moments of joy and happiness as well as difficulties and crosses to bear. As we journey, one might view these situations as cross-roads, demanding us to choose a path to keep moving. Even if we don't budge and stay put, that is still a choice. The question is, how do we navigate our way rightly? We have been told by John the Baptist to "prepare a way for the Lord, make straight his path" (Lk 3:4).

One way that I've found helpful is to rely on the roadmap of Scripture followed by prayer when possible or faced with difficult decisions. If you delve into them on a more consistent basis, you will find the answers to the many questions life presents as well as knowledge enabling you to strengthen the Cardinal Virtues of Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, and Temperance. As you grow in these virtues, you will find the decisions of life will be made easier and your path straighter. If you're in the habit of making resolutions this time of year, I can think of none better than reading Scripture and prayer.

Vivat Jesus
Deacon Chuck



Knights of the Month

December- Dick Gregoire

The Holy Spirit

Two turtle doves comes to mind from the song, "Twelve days of Christmas". It makes me think about the offering of two turtle doves that Mary and Joseph made at the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple, 40 days after his birth because of the purification time. The Christmas story amazes me with all the work and preparation with all the busy business of Angels and the Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God for His wonderful plan of His salvation for us by sending His Son! Hosanna in the Highest! I mean what a story! Age old stories about God's People waiting for their Messiah and now it's unfolding. an angel visits Zechariah telling him that his elderly wife would answer their prayers and have a son who would be filled with the "Holy Spirit" Then Zechariah filled with the Holy Spirit prophesied about his son John would be the prophet of the Most High and go before Him to prepare the Coming of the Lord!

And then- Mary gets a visit from the angel Gabriel and tells her she is to conceive a Son and don't be afraid because the Holy Spirit will come upon you and the Power of the Most High will overshadow you and the child will be called Holy, the Son of God.

Okay more JOYFUL mysteries.

Mary decides to make a run to visit her cousin Elizabeth because the Angel Gabriel tells her she has also conceived a son. Whaat! God in His Glory and Mercy is somehow unfolding His Plan! When Mary greets her cousin Elizabeth, Elizabeth filled with the Holy Spirit cries out "Blessed are you among women and Blessed is the fruit of your womb! Okay, one more Joyful!

The Presentation. The Holy Family came to Jerusalem to present Their Son to the Lord and

offer two turtle doves and there they met a man named Simeon, devout and looking for the consolation of Israel, and the "Holy Spirit" was upon him. It was revealed to him that he would not see death until he had seen the Christ of the Lord. And by inspiration of the Holy Spirit he came to the Temple. He received Jesus into his arms, blessed God saying, Now you can dismiss your servant Lord according to your word in peace; because my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared for "all peoples" a light of revelation to "the gentiles" and a glory for your people Israel.

More Thoughts, my thoughts, on this past advent and this Christmas season

God the Father sends His Son into the world to be like us, to help us, to teach us, to redeem us, to mend us, to heal the broken-hearted, to forgive us, to reveal Our Father's love. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. One God forever Amen!

Never sure how I am going to be able to properly prepare for the coming of Christmas Day. I know that Confession is certainly the first and best, but I am coming to a realization that I can't even do this without the help of Almighty God! I need a helper and Jesus left Him here with us, an Advocate; the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Holy Trinity, isn't it said that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and then , Jesus "Emmanuel", "God is with us", Our Father, Hey we're all here. Come Holy Spirit and fill the Hearts of your Faithful and kindle in us the fire of your Love.

I know the Holy Spirit, our helper, moves about in wild and crazy ways to help us with understanding and Wisdom and Knowledge, counsel fortitude{courage} piety and awe; all good stuff! He can come in Fire and wind, Just like at Pentecost. What happens when He comes around? OK, He's always around but when do we see Him, hear Him, do we call on Him? We know wonderful things happen to fulfill God's will when He descends or when we call on Him or when we are Filled with the Spirit.

We know what happened at Pentecost, Right? Well, I bet you are glad that I may be finally getting to the point of this article. I have dear Family friends that would possibly just tell me to shut up! There were Jews from every nation under heaven and were able to understand the apostles as the Holy Spirit prompted them to speak, remember that?

What do you think about maybe a good or better way to communicate? I know what I think. I believe that when the Holy Spirit works through us, it is a universal language that is used in many wonderful gatherings I think everyone understands it. There are wonderful people who know it, create it, speak it sing it.

What about King David? Uh Oh I just gave it away! Yes, it's **Music!** the poets, the singing. We all understand Love, heartbreak, forgiveness, joy, happiness, blessedness. So much to learn to know to share. I think it's an unwritten gift of the Spirit? Or at Pentecost did the Apostles sing of the wonderful works of God! Acts2:11

Anyone who knows me knows I'm hearing impaired and sometimes slow at processing things said, or sung for that matter.

I went to a Christmas concert that my youngest grandchild sang in and it was a wonderful thing for me for my Christmas preparation. The singing was beautiful, for real, I understood what they were singing although i couldn't make out all the lyrics the music was beautiful and I am certain

this is what they sang! And I am certain I understood!!!

PEACE ON EARTH AND GOOD WILL TO MEN!

Merry Christmas
Richard Gregoire



Knights of the Month

January - Mitchell Garcellano

Mitchell has recently begun to take over duties as our PR Director. He stepped up when called upon and we appreciate his efforts.



Mitchell at the Cerezo Golf Tournament this summer (Third from right).

January -The Concepcion Family

Carmen Concepcion and her family work tirelessly for the Parish at St. Pius. Carmen leads the Rosary in prayer. She also helps out with the Rosary Altar Confraternity to decorate our Parish at Christmastime. It's a Blessing to have the Concepcion family in our Church.

Family of the Month

December -The Garcellano Family

We could recognize the Garcellano Family every month for the work they do for the O'Brien Council of the Knights of Columbus



and St. Pius X Parish. We've run out of things to say about how much they do for the Church. The one thing we'll always say is that we're proud to call them friends and proud to be able to follow the great example they set in serving the Church.

I Really Felt Good

Many years ago, my mother kept important papers in a metal box in her closet. In this box there was a metal religious artifact which she told me was from my brother's casket. I never knew this brother because I was born 20 years after he died. He died as an infant only a couple months in age. This was 1934 during the Great Depression. Not many people had extra money to buy a grave marker, so all he had was a cement circular number marking his grave.

I decided to take action. I went to the store which made grave markers. A woman rose from her desk and I asked her if she was open. Her response was "I am now". I showed her my brother's funeral card which was almost 50 years old. It had the cemetery, section number and grave which my brother was buried at. My mother told me that back then when an infant died the priest blessed the casket at the funeral parlor and off they went to the cemetery. No Mass was said because an infant. Is totally innocent of all sins.

I spoke to our parish priest and had a Mass scheduled for him. It was a couple of months after I bought the head stone, so all of this coincided very nicely. On a Saturday morning my parents attended a Mass for my brother; and Sunday afternoon we all went to the cemetery.

And there it was right in front of us with a head stone with a baby angel on it. This stone was smaller than most because it was located in the cemetery's old babyland.

My mom had tears in her eyes, my dad bowed his head, made the sign of the cross and said a silent prayer. My mom then turned to me and said "thank you".

After all these years this project was finally completed.

Eugene, I hope you like your gravestone. We all left for home! I really felt good on this Sunday afternoon.

Respectfully,
Dave Kudla.

Vivat Jesus. Merry Christmas to all!



The Gift

It's that time of year when many scramble to find the perfect gift for a loved one, a co-worker, or a friend. It seems we always strive to look for a material thing, whether it be some extravagant or expensive want or a simple card with a wistful saying. In the end, the happiness fades from those type gifts, just like the memory of receiving it.

Think about what you received under the Christmas tree when you were 8, or as recent as say 10 years ago. What did last year's Christmas card you received from a close relative say? What was on the front cover? Most of us wouldn't be able to recount the gift and even the ones we do, couldn't remember exactly what year it was. Most of us couldn't recite what was on the card. But something spiritual on the other hand, that's different because it builds lasting memories.

What I'm talking about is the gift of self. Being there for that other person. Spending time, whether it's having them over, or a simple phone call. Taking the time out of this busy season to let them know they meant enough to be thought of or engaged with. Those are what build lasting memories. I'll bet many of us have fond memories

of Christmas' with family members, who was there, or a particular event that stuck in our mind.

If you doubt me, think of our Savior's gift of self. We still are talking about it some two millennia later, with great detail too. This Christmas let us strive to share our self with others, especially those who need it more than the gift we thought they really wanted.

Perhaps what we give them will be re-gifted in mutual love to us and others. Don't worry my brothers if your list is long, we have an entire season to do this, not just one day. Merry Christmas.

Vivat Jesus,

Deacon Chuck



In Our Prayers

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

Mandy Borsenik

Jennifer Bilyk

Margaret LaForest

Walt Kabalka

Joe and Roger Hernandez

Deacon Bob

Manuel's Family

Larry Rossi

Glenda Rossi

Bob Schooner

Alyssia Schooner and Daniel Schooner, Bob Schooner's Grandchildren

Carol Kainz, Cousin to Angela Chirco, diagnosed with Stage 4 Cancer

Liz and Larry Ridenour

Brian Batko

Janice Tatman

Jason Dawe

Valerie Husar

Norman LeMay

Kelly Hernandez

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.



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:





Member Birthdays

December

Name	Birthday	Age	
John C Byers	12-01-1944	80	
Mr Brian J Shafer Esquire	12-03-1978	46	
George W Kelly	12-04-1932	92	
Wesley B Barnard	12-11-1964	60	
Mr David M Kudla	12-11-1954	70	
James M Higgins	12-17-1946	78	
Chris Strzalkowski	12-20-1985	39	
Mitchell E Garcellano	12-25-2000	24	
John S Molnar	12-28-1944	80	

Total: 9



Wife Birthdays

December

Member's Name	Wife's Name	Birthday	
Brian T Cronan	Debbie Cronan	12-12	
Patrick D Tidwell	Deborah Tidwell	12-23	

Total: 2



Years of Service

December

Name	First Degree Date/ Re-entry Date	Years of Service	Address
James L Guyette	12-01-1983	41	
David L Houston	12-01-1992	32	
Dennis E Assenmacher	12-07-2016	8	
Guy A Vitale	12-04-2019	5	
Kevin Martin	12-09-2019	5	
Joseph Chirco	12-27-2020	4	
Henry Pochini	12-21-2021	3	
James H Drumsta	12-13-2022	2	
Mr Amadeo Ricardo Pentecost-Gonzales	12-06-2023	1	