



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

Charity Unity Fraternity

April 2025 Issue 69



**K of C Council 3956 Business Meeting
Wednesday May 7th (St Pius Social
Hall) Meeting begins at 6:00 p.m.**

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

Grand Knight April 2025 Message to Council

Greetings to all my brother knights, family, and friends.

Our K of C O'Brien council celebrated its 70th anniversary on February 27th. For all the years this council has been in existence, it is still thriving. Our council continues to collect Star Council awards for our achievements in gaining new brother knights and hosting numerous key events throughout the year. Programs such as our recent St. Pius X Free Throw competition coordinated by Stephen Gall, our Charity Family Breakfasts chaired by Chuck Degroat were some events we hosted in February. Brian Batko represented our council as he organized the February annual Desert Meal to support the seminarian pilgrimage.

We are currently working with Fr. Don to bring to St. Pius X parish the Pilgrim Icon depicting the Most Sacred Holy Heart of Jesus. This would not be possible without the dedication of our own Ray Bilyk (PGK and SDRR), who brings the Icon first to St. Pius. Also in March, on Saturday, March 15th, before St. Patrick's Day we organized another Corn Beef and Cabbage meal and social after 4: 0 p.m. mass. We are grateful to brothers such as Ryan Daw, Rich Gregoire, Bill Robert, Dave Kudla, Robert Park and others who prepared and hosted the dinner.

This past weekend, April 11th-13, we had a tremendous spring MI (Tootsie Roll Drive) to support the mentally handicapped. This event was mentored by our beloved Larry Rossi and arranged with help from Mark Garcellano (PGK and DD), Ron Wagner, Bill Robert, Robert Park, Fred

Gerring, Eric Mann, Dave Kudla, Richard Greoire, Nico, yours truly and other dedicated brother knights. Just as important, the fundraiser was successful with help of our outstanding students of St. Pius X school, working towards their service hours. The students have proven to be great partners.

Special Thanks to Southgate City Clerk for permitting us to work the intersection of Dix-Toledo and Eureka, and to Lowes management at Trenton and Pennsylvania who allowed us to work the entrance and exits.

Let me finish by welcoming a few good men who are in various stages of their fellowship with our council. Brandon Malinowski and Doug Furtah have been installed as a First-Third Degree Knight. Both are friends with many of our brother knights. Kevin Van Boxell joins us currently as an e-member awaiting his upcoming exemplification. Kevin shared a long friendship with Larry Rossi. Also, we welcome back Dan Somenauer, who is a long-time member of this council. Dan volunteered at the Free Throw competition. Thank you to all our new and rejuvenated brother knights

There are many more brothers to name, may yours be one of them as we continue our mission to support the needs we as a council see necessary to meet.

Peace,

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



LARRY ROSSI

1945 - 2025

Obituary

Tribute Wall

Memorial Video

Obituary of Larry Rossi

June 14, 1945 - March 20, 2025

Larry Rossi. Age 79 of Southgate.

Beloved husband of Glenda. Loving father of Michelle (John) Chevillot and Kevin (Jessica) Drugalis. Dearest grandfather of Ryan, Alexsis (Michael), Savannah, Macie, Ike, JC, Cadee, Ellie, and Bubba. Great grandfather of Annabella. Godfather of Tish Couter and Isabelle Rossi. Dear brother of Robert (Tina), Barry "Shorty", Coreen, and the late Mickey (Pat). Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by his parents, Barry "Bud" and Isabelle Rossi. Larry will be dearly missed by his friends and family.

Our Council lost another titan this past month with passing of our beloved Warden Larry Rossi. Larry was a dear friend and mentor to many officers on the council. In the last few years, Larry grew particularly close to Grand Knight Tony Chirco and Stephan Gall. He and Glenda were the driving force of many successful Tootsie Roll Drives for the Mentally Impaired raising thousands of dollars for charity. Larry was a proud veteran of the Navy, a member of the downriver Honor Guard, Captain of the 11am ushers, and a fourth-degree brother Knight.

Larry's most important role was that of a devoted husband to Glenda. Larry shared that he told Glenda every day that he loved her.

The 11am mass on May 18th will be celebrated in remembrance of Larry. He will be greatly missed.

IGNITE CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE.

The event took place on Saturday, March 22nd at the George Gervin Game Above Center on the Eastern Michigan University campus in Ypsilanti. This one-day event touched men's minds and hearts to better activate their wills to exercise their mission for spiritual leadership. We were excited that the Diocese of Detroit, Archdiocese of Detroit, the Knights of Columbus, and Inferno Michigan partnered to host this event.

What did participants encounter? • The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Boyea • Confession and prayer -Rosary throughout the day • Eucharistic Adoration • Inspiring speakers including Matt Birk (Super Bowl Champion and devout Catholic), Dr. Jonathan Reyes of the Knights of Columbus, Peter Herbeck of Renewal Ministries, and our own Father Joe Krupp, who was a big hit at last year's conference. • Interactions with a host of Catholic businesses and providers who financially supported this event • Brotherhood - interactions with men from the Diocese of Lansing and Archdiocese of Detroit to strengthen our walk with Christ.

Thank you, and God bless you all
Grand Knight Tony Chircco

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, April 21

7 – 8pm

District 105 Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity
St Pius X Catholic Church, 14101 Superior St & Longtin st,

Tuesday, April 22

6 – 6:30pm

4th Degree Officers Meeting

Knights of Columbus Wyandotte Council, 3530 Biddle Ave,
Wyandotte, MI 48192, USA

Tuesday, April 22

6:30 – 7pm

4th Degree Rosary

Knights of Columbus Wyandotte Council, 3530 Biddle Ave,
Wyandotte, MI 48192, USA

Tuesday, April 22

7 – 8:30pm

Msgr Van Antwerp Assembly 475 4th Degree Business
Meeting

Knights of Columbus Wyandotte Council, 3530 Biddle Ave,
Wyandotte, MI 48192, USA

APR 23, WED

6 – 8pm

Council 3956 Officers Planning Meeting

St Pius X Catholic Church, 14101 Superior St & Longtin st,
14101 Superior St, Southgate, MI 48195, USA

APR 26, SAT

7:30 – 9am

Men's Scripture Club (Cor Event)

St Pius X Catholic Church Social Hall, 14101 Superior St,
Southgate, MI 48195, USA

APR 27, SUN

9am – 12:30pm

Donut Sunday (after every Sunday Mass)

St Pius X Parish, 14101 Superior St & Longtin st, Southgate,
MI 48195, USA

APR 30, WED

All day

St Pius X Blood Drive (until 7pm)

Wednesday, April 30

6 – 8:30pm

Council 3956 Officers Planning Meeting

MAY 6, TUE

6:30 – 8pm

KofC #3956 Rosary, Mass and May Crowning

St Pius X Catholic Church, 14101 Superior St & Longtin st

MAY 7, WED

6 – 9pm

K of C Council 3956 Regular Business Meeting (St Pius Social
Hall) Meeting at 6pm, Food and Socializing following

MAY 10, SAT

8 – 10am

Annual Motorcycle Blessing (hosted by Bernard P. O'Brien
Council 3956)

MAY 17, SAT

All day

Fr. Don A Lacuesta's Birthday

Saturday, May 17

7:30 – 9am

Men's Scripture Club (Cor Event)

St Pius X Catholic Church Social Hall, 14101 Superior St,
Southgate, MI 48195, USA

Saturday, May 17

9 – 11am

Council 3956 Officers Planning Meeting

St Pius X Catholic Church Social Hall, 14101 Superior St,
Southgate, MI 48195, USA

MAY 18, SUN

11am – 12pm

**St. Pius X Mass at 11am in memory of SK Larry Rossi
(from Ushers Club)**

MAY 19, MON

7 – 8pm

District 105 Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity
St Pius X Catholic Church, 14101 Superior St & Longtin st,
14101 Superior St, Southgate, MI 48195, USA

MAY 21, WED

All day

Michigan Knights of Columbus State Convention (Day 1/3)
Grand Hotel, 286 Grand Ave, Mackinac Island, MI 49757,
USA

MAY 22, THU

All day

Michigan Knights of Columbus State Convention (Day 2/3)
Grand Hotel, 286 Grand Ave, Mackinac Island, MI 49757,
USA

MAY 23, FRI

All day

Reflection: What Did You Give Up for Lent?

Lent being a time of change and renewal is new to me. The concept of metanoia had a profound effect on the significance of the season to me. It had always been a time of sacrifice before Easter. It's easier for children to understand the concept of "giving something up," than a lasting change meant to draw us closer to God.

Going to mass more often, going to confession, contributing more to the parish and community are all great things to take up for Lent. In speaking with friends, they've also been difficult to stick with in recent years. This Lent I am back to "giving something up." I am weeding the garden of some bad habits. If you are doing this too, try to be intentional about what you replace these activities with. Think about planting seeds that will be fruitful in bringing you closer to God with the extra time you have on your hands. It's been easier for me to stick with this year, and changed my focus to having a transformational Lenten Season. I hope this suggestion brings you a joyous Easter.

Vivat Jesus!

Editor Robert Park

A Bird in Hand

There once was a man in a small town everyone considered wise. There was a young boy in that town who set out to prove he knew better. He told his schoolmates to follow him to the edge of town where the old man lived. He would present him with the question of whether the bird he was holding cupped in his hands was alive or dead? If the old man said dead, he would open his hands and let the bird fly away. If he said alive, he would flatten his hands swishing the life out of the bird. Thus, the boy thought he would prove he was the smarter person.

As they walked down the street the people in the town noticed the group of boys and started following them. As they went through town the crowd kept growing until most of the town folk found themselves on the outskirts standing in front of the old man's porch. The old man stood up from his rocker and inquired, "What's all this?" To which the boy gave the snarky reply, "The bird I'm holding in my hands, it is alive or dead?" The old man paused, looked around at the anticipation on the crowds faces and replied, "Son, it's what you make it."

So, it is with the practice of our faith as Catholics and Knights. God will never make us do anything. But rather, he gives us free-will because he loves us so much. It is up to us to decide how to live and respond to that love.

Vivat Jesus,

Deacon Chuck



Knight of the Month

March- Brian Batko

Brian Batko has been the primary facilitator of the Desert Meal to raise money for the Seminarians of the Archdiocese of Detroit. Through his efforts, we have been able to raise over 75,000 to send Seminarians to the Holy Land and the Vatican. Our association with this event makes us proud to be members of O'Brien Council 3956.



This was written about the Rossi Family last September.

Family of the Month-Rossi Family

The Rossi Family has been named Family of the Month. Larry and Glenda Rossi have been married for 37 years. They have 4 children together, 8 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild. The members of the Rossi family find many ways to serve the church. Larry is captain of the 11:00 ushers and he serves as Warden of the O'Brien officer's council. In the past he's been in charge of the Family Breakfasts and been a Catechism instructor. Larry has also proudly served our country in the United States Navy. You will often see the Rossi family working together at 11:00 mass with Larry ushering, Glenda serving as a Eucharistic Minister and, their grandson serving alongside as an usher.

Larry got the nickname Iron Man sometime before I got to the council. I've seen his toughness and resolve firsthand. He and Glenda came right from the hospital after a health event to help out at this year's golf outing. They also helped Father Don move into the residence a day after Larry underwent a heart procedure.

Larry once told me that he thought his boxing background helped him recover from past health issues. I think it's because God has given him the talent of leading others through the work Larry does. When he talks, other men listen.

It's how our council has been able to secure permits and permission to request donations at the Mental Impairment drive. The M.I. Drive is another event that Larry and Glenda head up.

There were two separate parts of mass this Sunday that are emblematic of the Rossi family. The second reading was James 2:14-18. It is about Faith and Works. The last passage reads, "I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works." The second part was the



closing hymn, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” This is certainly true of the Rossi family.

Larry and Glenda accepting Family of the Month September 2024

Metanoia

On Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent (March 5th), we will start our journey once again to the Cross and eventually the joy of the Resurrection. We’ve done it time and time again, year after year, but when we arrive, we have to ask ourselves, “am I closer to the foot of the Cross or, like all but three, watching from a distance or hiding out?”

When I was a kid, when we received ashes, the priest said, “remember man that you are dust and into dust you shall return.” It was an awakening to the fact that time was limited to get right and stay right with God. Not just believing, not just being sorry, but modeling our lives after Jesus, changing what needed change.

Today when we receive ashes, at most parishes we hear, “repent and believe in the Gospel.” Now I’m not saying we shouldn’t repent of our sins, while at the same time believe in the Good News. What I’m saying is, this change in words and meaning has confused many Catholics into believing they can stay at the same distance from the Cross as they currently are, without a sense of urgency to get any closer.

Sure, we all want to be forgiven and sin free. Sure, we need to believe in the Gospel. Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life” (Jn 14:6). But our faith doesn’t stop there, it never has. There was a time when the need for a fundamental change in thinking that led to a fundamental change in behavior was prevalent and a matter of urgency, “go and from now on do not sin anymore” (Jn 8:11). That change was known by the Greek as “Metanoia.”

Today, it seems the meaning of “metanoia” (change) has been replaced with the meaning of “repentance” (a sincere regret for past actions). Remorse for sin is needed but does little to move us closer to the Cross. Being an agent-of-change, on the other hand does. It is a metanoia that will keep us from the need for continual remorse for the same old failings. It is metanoia that turns the average person into a saint.

If we let the true meaning of metanoia take root in us this Lent, then we too may experience that same phenomenon as did another. “What happened then? Well, in Whoville they say – that the Grinches small heart grew three sizes that day.” (*How the Grinch Stole Christmas* – Dr. Seuss) May this Lent transform us into agents-of-change on our way to sainthood.

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

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

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.

Seminarian Desert Meal





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:

