



# New York Knight Life

November 1, 2023 Vol. 1 Edition. 5 Official Newsletter for the New York State Knights of Columbus

*"I invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens." – Abraham Lincoln*

## **STATE OFFICERS**

State Deputy

**Anthony Ippolito**

State Secretary

**James McCue**

State Treasurer

**John Sowinski**

State Advocate

**William Stewart**

State Warden

**Daniel Keenan**

Administrative State Chaplain

**Rev. Brian McWeeney**

Associate State Chaplain

**Rev. Michael Gelfant, Pastor**

Associate State Chaplain

**Rev. Christopher Costigan**

Associate State Chaplain

**Rev. Bret Stockdale SJ**

Associate State Chaplain

**Rev. Michael Johnson**



The New York State Knights of Columbus suffered a great loss with the passing of our Major Event Coordinator, Ted Newkirk, on September 28.

Ted was a very active member of the Knights of Columbus. He served as Grand Knight of the William A. Daly Council in Manhasset, and only eight years later he was elected the Nassau Chapter President.

His energy, enthusiasm and desire to raise money for charity, tremendously improved the fundraising results of the Chapter.

Ted's exemplary service was further recognized when he received the Tom Kopetic Knight of the Year award and the Robert Hartman Lifetime Achievement Award.

Ted had a larger-than-life personality and was known to bring people together. His tag line **"It's all about the love"** was commonly recited by his family, friends and brother Knights. In fact, his quote is on this year's New York State Council pin!

Ted was a great brother knight and friend. He will be missed by all who knew him.

May he Rest in Peace.

**Tell others about Knight Life...** Forward this newsletter to Catholic men interested in the Knights, and let them know they can become a member for free online at [kofc.org/join](https://kofc.org/join). You can also share your questions, feedback and story ideas by emailing [mb1122@msn.com](mailto:mb1122@msn.com)

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**PUBLISHED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS STATE COUNCIL**

## *State Deputy's Message*



Dear Brother Knights,

Last month, I requested that we all get out and support our patron and namesake, Christopher Columbus, by marching in the Columbus Day Parade. The response was great, so a big thank you goes to everyone who participated in this event.

The 4th Degree, the marching members, the band, and the float took up a city block! Several members were seen on TV!

When the parade ended, we went to St. Agnes Church (home of Father Brian) and we all enjoyed socializing over a light meal. I would like to thank Joe Peluso who did a great job in organizing the New York State Council for this event. Additional thanks goes to the Baron De Kalb Council for towing the float, and to Columbus Council for their outstanding turnout. Again, thank you to all who participated in making this day a success. Bottom line: We looked good! If you couldn't make it this year, try to make it next year, and be a part of our success.

Speaking of success, The New York State council's newest fundraiser, the "Football Sweepstakes", was a big success in its first year. Further details will be provided at the Mid-Year meeting. In the meantime, I would like to thank the Fundraising team, the District Deputies, and all the councils that participated, for their support. I am confident, that this fundraiser will continue to be successful in the years ahead.

However, let's not forget our biggest fundraiser is still our C&B Program. There is only one month left to the program. But if history has taught us anything, it's that November has generally been a strong month for us. I'm asking all the councils to continue to put their best foot forward for the last month. C&B sales can be a big help in supporting your councils charitable programs. So, let's make it happen! As usual, I would like to thank all the councils and members for their continued support to our charitable endeavors. Your support is truly appreciated.

Keep up the good work. I am rooting for you!

Fraternally,

Anthony Ippolito, State Deputy

# ***NYS Administrative Chaplain***



My Brother Knights,

As Fall advances and we witness dying of nature recognizing that it will return in glorious color in just a few months as a gift from the Divine Creator. But November is also a time in which we reflect on those who have gone before us and we will see again only on the Day of the Lord.

Two thoughts come to mind at this time. Too often Catholic families put off the recognition of the fragility of life. They do not prepare for the final moments of our earthly existence. For our families we should not hesitate to make a will. We owe it to those we leave behind to express our desires for the distribution of our goods, to remind them to pray for the deceased. As my family has passed I decided that I should have a health proxy if I became unable to establish my intentions for treatments. The Church believes a health proxy is superior to the so-called "living will". Another document should call for the preparation of the funeral mass and burial. I am concerned that too often good families hesitate to call the parish. They say they don't want to upset their loved one. For their eventual journey all people deserve the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, the Holy Eucharist, and the Absolution for their sins.

Second, all brothers should make an effort to create and attend a Mass for our deceased Brother Knights. On a Council or Chapter level we should remember those who formed us as knights and participated with us in works of faith and charity. Their families as well appreciate that their beloved are remembered by the Church and Order they served.

Let us rejoice in the God who creates, redeems, and awaits to embrace us all with His divine mercy.

Vivat Jesus,

Father Brian E. McWeeney D.Min(Prin)  
Administrative State Chaplain

# Important Announcement!

**Brothers, Due to the untimely passing of Secretary to the State Deputy Norman Wagner and Major Events Coordinator Ted Newkirk, the following updates have been made to the State Deputy's Staff:**

## **Chief Advisor to the State Deputy:**

**Damiano Coraci** - This position provides assistance to all state Program areas including Membership, Fundraising, Training & Programs. Damiano will also be involved in special projects spearheaded by the State Deputy.

**Secretary to the State Deputy:** **Thomas Moran**

**Major Events Coordinator:** **Gary Leonardo**

## ***New appointee:***

**Administrative Assistant to the State Deputy:** **James McCabe**

James is a Former Chairman of the Nassau Board of District Deputies and in addition has successfully run various programs for the Nassau Chapter. He and his wife Noreen will be welcomed additions to the State Deputy's staff. Congratulations James!

I know you will join me in wishing everyone well in assuming their new assignments.

VJ,  
Anthony "Tony" Marengo  
Chief of Staff



I hope everyone is well! It's November and we begin the Month off as always with all Saints Day and all Souls Day. All Saints day is pretty cool and it's a Holy Day of Obligation, but it's all Souls day that kinda creeps me out a little. All Souls' Day, also called *The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed*, is a day of prayer and remembrance for the faithful departed, in other words, the dead. In Mexico it's known as *Día de los Muertos* or the Day of the Dead. It is believed that the dead are still members of the community, kept alive in memory and spirit, and during the Day of the Dead, they temporarily return to Earth. Again, creepy. I suppose it's because of this that many of our Councils hold their Memorial Masses in November in honor of their fallen Brothers.

At least the month gets better at the end when we get to celebrate Thanksgiving, one of my favorite days of the Year. Thanksgiving was always a great day, even as a kid (especially a fat kid like me). You got to spend the day with family and friends, Mom always had all kinds of goodies around, candy and nuts and stuff, mostly for company, but I'd always get a few handfuls when she wasn't looking. And we watched "March of the Wooden Soldiers", "King Kong" and "Mighty Joe Young". And then there was football too. Every couple of years my Birthday even fell on Thanksgiving and It would get even better. Like the Butt Fumble, that was on my Birthday. It doesn't get any better than that. Nowadays most of the family from back then is gone. And we miss them of course. Mom and Dad, Aunts and Uncles. But thankfully we have a new crew of little ones around now, and they keep things fun.

So I suppose it's good to honor the dead, those who have fallen and we miss. And to remember the good times we had. And it's ok to be a little sad about it. But we always have to remember to give thanks too, for all we **DID** have, and all we **DO** have. And all the people around us now. And it's good for the Soul to give thanks.

M. Boehm  
Editor

# State Program Director's Message - November 2023

My Dear Brother Knights,

Thanks to you we are on our way to a very successful 2023 - 2024 Columbian Year. In order to continue this success we all need to make sure that our (YOUR) programs are successful. The most important part of success is reporting your programs. We have given you a simple outline below to guide you.



- Have you submitted your council's forms that were due up to this point?
- Have you already put into place the steps to insure that a Star Council Award will be waiting for you at the end of this Columbian year?

To our Grand Knights - - please encourage YOUR District Deputy to attend the Upcoming midyear meeting in December. When we meet with the District Deputies again in December we will once

again evaluate our plan to make it an even more simplified process to achieve -

**"Success in Programs"**

Faith in Action -

- Continue to act on programs that best fit the needs of your parish and your community. All required up-to-date information and forms for these programs are on the Supreme website [kofc.org/fiaresources](http://kofc.org/fiaresources).
- Don't forget to Work with your Pastor to plan events in your parish. Get your parishioners and parents involved in your programs. Run active quality programs. Active programs give people a role and responsibility. Good programs drive membership - Good programs retain membership - Good programs lead to healthy councils.
- Order your kits today for your November/December programs - Keep Christ in Christmas, etc. All program kits must be ordered by the Grand Knight or Financial Secretary through Supplies Online via Officers Online.
- Continue using your Fraternal Planner 2023-2024 to help in planning your program calendar.
- Recommended second quarter programs:
  - Faith - Pilgrim Icon: St. Joseph, Into the Breach, RSVP, Rosary Program, Blessed Michael McGivney Prayer Hour.
  - Family - Keep Christ in Christmas, Consecration to the Holy Family, Family of the Month, Food for Families, Family Prayer Night.
  - Community - Coats for Kids, Free Throw Championship, Global Wheelchair Mission, Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest, Soccer Challenge.
  - Life - Novena for Life, Special Olympics, Mass for People with Special Needs, Blood drives/ donations.
- All the key resources for planning and success of Faith in Action and Leave No Neighbor Behind programs are on the Supreme website - [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org) or <https://www.kofc.org/en/index.html#fiaresources> or [www.kofc.org/formembers](http://www.kofc.org/formembers)



### **Form #10784 - Fraternal Programs Report Form**

- Once your council has completed a program(s) please complete Form #10784 Online and email a copy of the completed form to the New York State Council and Brian Langdon
- Form #10784 is available online at <https://www.kofc.org/en/index.html#resources>.
- Many council submissions for Family of the Month on the Fraternal Programs Report Form #10784 are incomplete. All councils should ensure that fields such as name (first and last), address and month are filled out entirely.

### **Columbian Award**

- Columbian Award - councils are required to complete 16 programs - 4 in each category of Faith, Family, Community and Life. There are 4 featured programs in each of the categories, making it much easier for all councils to achieve the Columbian Award.

### **Past Due Supreme Forms - Please Submit These Important Annual Forms:**

- Form #185 - Report of Officers Chosen for the Term - due June 30.
- Form #365 - Service Program Personnel Report - due July 1. This form is critical to starting the process of safe environment certification.
- Form #1295 - Semiannual Council Audit Report - due August 15.

### **Safe Environment Compliant:**

- Safe Environment Program - a requirement for 4 positions:
  - Grand Knight - training
  - Program Director - training
  - Family Director - training and background check
  - Community Director - training and background check
  - Councils need to be Safe Environment compliant early.
  - Safe Environment compliance is required for all awards, including the Star Council award.
  - Updated Safe Environment requirements (see [kofc.org/safe](https://www.kofc.org/safe) for details).
- Vivat Jesus-

Brian Langdon  
NY State Council Program Director

## NYS Membership Team



My Brother Knights,

I hope you and your families are doing well as we move into the Holiday season and some of our more active months. Growth is extremely important to our Order and our Councils. We all have a solid approach and foundation for increasing membership- these are tried and true methods of doing things. However, we should all look for ways to think out of the box to stimulate growth.



I always recommend looking at your community, to understand new ways to involve your Council in different programs or activities. You may want to first focus on Catholic schools and getting your Council involved with CCD programs (for example, and don't forget about the *NYS Matching Fund Program*)). The ability to talk to parents, especially fathers, stressing the importance of joining the Knights of Columbus and the example it will provide their children, not to mention the NYS High School Tuition Scholarship Program available to children of members. You may want to reach out other organizations like the Veterans (VFW/AMVETs), Sons of Italy, or PAL to name a few. Ideally start talking and learning about their roadblocks and potentially doing joint functions or providing them with help and support for events or activities. You may want to reach out to local municipalities to volunteer for an upcoming event. This will give you the opportunity to expand your reach, and drive awareness of the Knights of Columbus (especially to non-practicing Catholics)- remember: **EXPOSURE, EXPOSURE, EXPOSURE**. You can always ask to set up a table to provide material about the Knights of Columbus, benefits of being a Knights, information about your Council.

Unlocking doors to new membership opportunities also allow you to position your Council Halls for functions and new revenue possibilities. Partnering with businesses and organizations could create new channels for donations and support for your activities. These are examples of new ways to think about growing membership and your Councils. Sometimes our beliefs and views scare people who don't understand- but don't let that stop you from trying. It becomes important to focus and stress the similarities we all have within our communities and not the differences.

On behalf of the NYS Membership Team, I would like to wish you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving! I also want to thank you for all your efforts in driving membership! We have great momentum and need to keep the focus on growth. Don't forget to explore new ideas and ways of driving membership. **The Membership Team is here to help you succeed!** if you have any questions about new ways to drive membership, create new outside relationships, or need any help, please feel free to reach out to me or one of the other members of the Membership Team.

Vivat Jesus!

SK. Charlie Collora, PGK  
NYS Chairman, Strategic Alliances  
ccollora@verizon.net



We are fast approaching the end of the calendar year, and will soon be preparing for Thanksgiving and Christmas. These holidays bring fond memories, as well as an excited anticipation of sharing time with family and those close to us. The season of giving also reminds us of those in need, and the importance of the charitable mission of the

Knights of Columbus. Help end hunger in communities across our State. Many people in our communities are struggling through hardship and unable to provide food to their families. Food for Families ensures that as few as possible go to bed hungry each night. A featured program, **Food for Families counts for two credits toward the Columbian Award.**



The generosity of our Councils provides a large impact on reaching many who would otherwise be hungry. Please go to the link for all the information you need regarding the Food for Families Program <http://www.kofc.org/food> and encourage our parish and community partners to join us in this most charitable endeavor. Vivat Jesus

Fraternally,

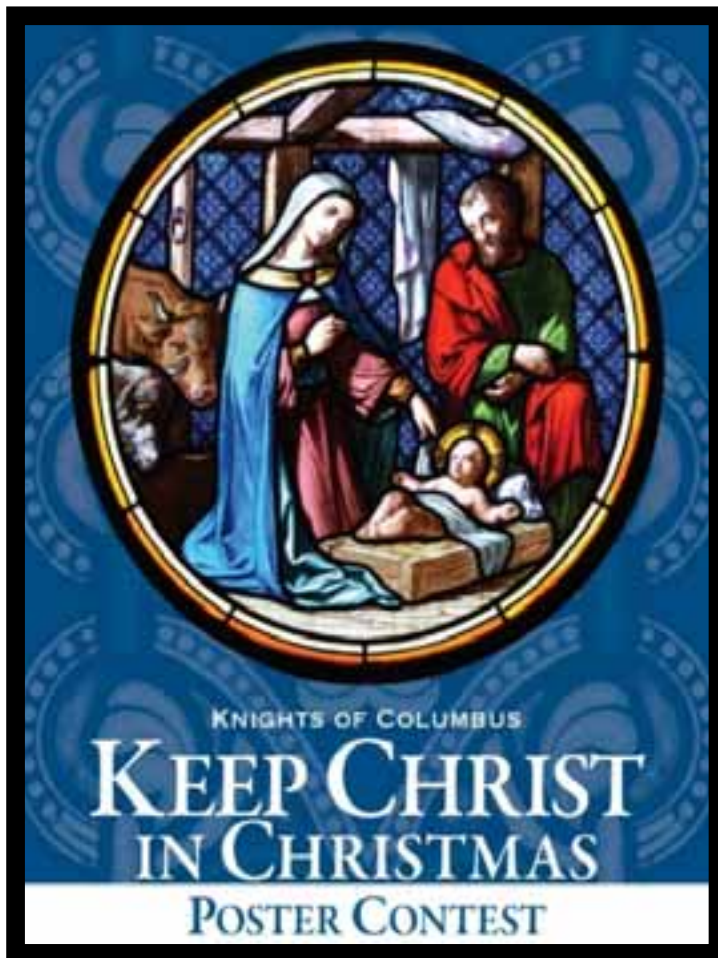
Darren M. Gamma, PGK, PFN, FDD, PCP  
NYS Chairman - Food for Families



## A HIGHER PURPOSE

Form men in spirituality and the Catholic vision of marriage and family life with the highly-acclaimed Into the Breach series and discussion. View the original Into the Breach or the new Into the Breach: The Mission of the Family with a group from your council or parish community.

Into the Breach video Series can be found on the Homepage of the State Web Site [www.nykofc.com](http://www.nykofc.com)



Now is the time to start thinking about the ***Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest***. It is a relatively easy Program to do, especially if you have a local Catholic School in your area. Just reach out to the Principal or Art Teacher and they are generally eager to get involved with this. Here is a link for the Guide Book. It has everything you need. Order a Kit & you are on your way!

<https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/faith-in-action-programs/family/keep-christ-in-christmas/5024-kcic-poster-contest-guide-book.pdf>

Here is another link to view Last Year's Top Winners, I think you'll be impressed:

<https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/faith-in-action-programs/family/keep-christ-in-christmas/2023-kcic-contest-winners.pdf>

Have fun with it and continue to add points towards your **STAR COUNCIL AWARD!**





As we enter the final 5 weeks of our largest State Run Charitable Program just a few reminders:

- Do you know your council quota?
- How close are you to bonus levels?



Each Grand Knight needs to look at the current standing for their Council and determine how they are going to reach the finish line in meeting both the 1st and 2nd levels of bonuses.

It is not too late; a final Church Drive, an arrangement with a local restaurant for give back on K of C food business, selling at supermarkets. These are a few ideas but not limited to endless opportunities to sell more books and enhance our charitable giving efforts.

I am still concerned with the councils that have not sold any books. The State's Charitable Programs depend on money raised through the C&B Program. I know all councils do a variety of fundraisers and are generous in their own areas. We need to take the next step and be part of the State Program or the programs and needs that are supported cannot be achieved on a local level.

Your Major, Minor Coordinators and I are available for any assistance needed. The bonus money earned will facilitate your Councils charitable efforts. To date Councils have earned over \$33,000 in bonus money. Do not lose this opportunity to grow your Charitable money.

Thank you for your continued efforts and as one team let us produce strong sales numbers to be able to help those in most need during these trying times in our world today. Thank you.

Kenneth Karchiniski  
Assistant Fundraising Director

Brothers:

Great things are happening with our NYS Training Program!  
I told you it was going to be HUGE!

The Team has completed training sessions in Brooklyn,  
White Plains, Nassau County, Suffolk County.  
The trainings have all been very well attended!



We also offered simulcast trainings via Zoom. Well to be honest, it was offered, but it bombed due to many factors: Internet strength, sound, light, and camera issues ... to put it mildly. I was relying on the Technology to pull it together, but that did not happen. But.....

For those that did try to attend the simulcast trainings, my thanks for attending, and my promise the issue is being resolved.

OK. Here's the fix! We are recording separately, in a controlled environment, new presentations that will include all the in-person trainings, and in a more detailed format. We are also adding more modules to the website over time that have been requested by Brother Training attendees. You will be able to go to the new website, (should be live on or about November 1st, watch for announcement on news website) and pick the presentations you are interested in. So, we are dealing with the simulcast issue and the website will be open to all members throughout New York State.

Regarding the Electric Bike Lottery Giveaway: ALL persons that attended in-person trainings and those that registered on the news website to attend in person or simulcast are included in the FREE Lottery, as well as all the Brothers that helped present the training. The winner will be drawn at the Mid-Year meeting at the Villa Roma in Early December.

[Please visit \*\*www.nystrainingnews.com\*\* for more up-to-date and detailed information. Look at the date stamp at the top for the latest update information.](http://www.nystrainingnews.com)

\*\*\*More training dates have been added\*\*\*

Again, our trainings are HUGE!!!! And it's a GREAT YEAR TO BE A LEADER IN THE NYS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS!

Lastly, Thanks to Mike Boehm for the GREAT Job he does getting our message out to our Brother Knights and Columbiettes! Keep up the Great Work. Communications are so important!!!

Fraternally,

Steve Driscoll  
NYS K of C Director For Training





The NYS Eucharistic Congress was held October 20-21-22 at Our Lady of the Martyrs Shrine in Auriesville NY. For those of you who have never been there before, such as myself, I strongly urge you to make an effort and go visit this amazing Shrine that is as full of history as it is beautiful. So many people worked so hard to make this event happen, including PSD Carmine V. Musumeci and his wife Claudia and Special Asst. to the State Deputy and newly named Major Events Coordinator Gary Leonardo. I am happy to say that even the damp weather could not keep the thousands and thousands of Pilgrims away. Bus load after bus load of our Catholic Brothers and Sisters of all ages came out to proclaim their Love & Devotion to the Holy Eucharist. In addition, there were many special Guests, including our Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly and at least 150 Priests and a couple of dozen Bishops from all over New York. What a pleasure it was to get to spend some time talking to so many of them. And of course many members of the NYS Council were there as well. Of course our SD Anthony Ippolito was there, as was State Secretary James McCue, State Warden Daniel Keenan, Chief of Staff Anthony Marengo. Assistant Membership Director Paul J. DiOrio & Administrative State Chairman for Recruitment James Funaro were busy manning the Membership Table and working hard signing up new members and promoting our Order along with Field Agent Greg Mattes. Also in attendance was Administrative State Chairman for New Council Development Carl Schneider, Administrative State Chairman for Faith John E. Piropato and Administrative State Chairman for training Robert Graziano, just to name the few that I saw. I am sure there were many others as well, not to mention all of the Grand Knights, Officers and Members from all over the State. And special shout out to all of the Fourth Degree Brothers who worked hard all weekend as well!









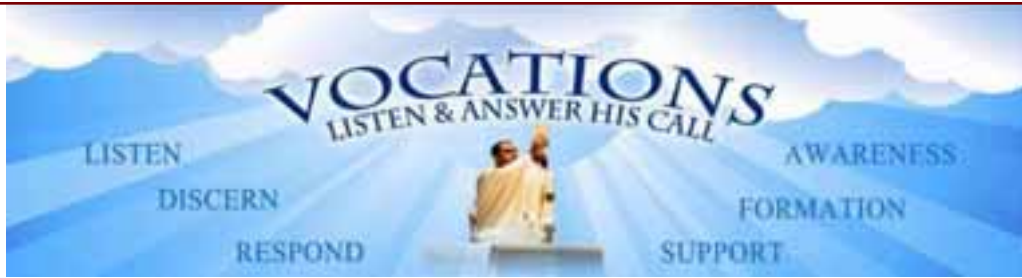
## All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day: What's the difference?

All Saints' Day is a day Catholics offer prayers to those in purgatory. All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day are related, but they are two separate celebrations. On All Saints' Day there's a call to live as saints, to remind us how we're supposed to live. On All Souls' Day, we're talking about all souls and asking God's mercy for them. "We're talking about those people who have died before us, and their process of getting to heaven, through Christ ... It has its roots all the way back to the fourth century." It is on this day that the Book of the Dead is opened to allow parishioners to write the names of relatives to be remembered. Reverend Richard Donohue, the vicar of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Birmingham, described that the book is "placed near the altar" and "That's done all through November. It's an All Souls' tradition..."

All Souls' Day is a commemoration of the faithfully departed and is observed primarily in the Catholic Church. Its origins date back to European folklore related to customs of veneration practiced worldwide through events like the Mexican Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) or the Chinese Ghost Festival. To remember the departed, many cultures prepare meals for the souls of the dead, light candles or leave flowers on relatives' graves and some anoint tombstones with holy water or pour milk over them. All Souls' Day is celebrated November second and if that day happens to fall on a Sunday, the Mass is of All Souls and Morning and Evening Prayer (Lauds and Vespers) for the Dead can be said while people participate. This explains why so many of our Councils hold their Memorial Masses in November.

Each celebration touches on cultural beliefs about the spirit world, honoring the dead and their feasts.





November begins the second third of the Columbian Year. Perhaps it is time to see what we as Knights of Columbus have done to promote Priestly Vocations. It is not hard to remember the admonition of Father Brian in July, “My brothers we are in difficulties as to priestly vocations. No priests No Eucharist. No Eucharist No Church ... As Knights let us respond to this crisis.”

Have we supported an activity to promote attendance at Mass by the youth in our parish. Fall brings parish classes to train Altar Servers. Why not present an “Altar Servers” pin to each new server as a sign of our support. Perhaps a call to the Pastor to see if there is a family or individual who cannot afford the Religious Education class fees. Maybe your council can help. It is the youth in the pews and those who are an active part of the Parish community where they meet our priests and religious and possibly hear a call to priestly or professed service.

Have we done anything at our Council, Assembly, or Chapter meeting to promote vocation awareness? There are many presentations, discussions and videos dealing with vocation awareness that are appropriate for the “Good of the Order” at a meeting. Numerous videos and DVDs can be found on your Diocesan Vocations Website, the National Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops Website ( <https://www.usccb.org>), Serra Clubs International Website, (<https://serrainternational.org>) or most Religious Order’s Websites.

Invite your Council Chaplain to speak to the council about how he heard Christ’s call. Do you have a member whose son is a priest? Maybe he would be willing to share with you how his family reacted to his call.

Let’s not forget the seminarians. How about a note of encouragement and reminder that you are praying for them. You might ask them to share their first days at the Seminary this year. There have been some changes in the formation process for priesthood. “What are you studying?” “How’s the food?” “What is your parochial assignment for the Fall? How is it going?” His response can be a great story for your Council, Assembly or Chapter newsletter.

In today’s Church the job and spiritual and temporal responsibilities of a priest are momentous. Perhaps your Pastor is the only priest in the parish. Perhaps he has the responsibility for neighboring parishes without a Pastor as well. Wouldn’t it be nice to encourage your members to be an active part of the life of the parish. Remind them to say hello to Father at the end of Mass. Does the parish need ushers, Eucharist Ministers or other help? One less job to worry about can be a great sign of support for the Pastor and his ministry.

Prayer at home and at meetings help to make these happen!

Austin Cannon Jr.  
STATE CHAIRMAN Vocations/RSVP



Though it began as Armistice Day in 1919 (celebrating the end of World War I), November 11 has been celebrated as Veterans Day in the United States since 1954. Many people observe the day with ceremonies and parades that honor the sacrifice and dedication of those who have served in the armed forces of the United States. It can also be honored through Veterans Day prayers.

There may be no better way to honor a veteran than in prayer.

God of peace,

We pray that you bless all those who have served their country through service in the armed forces. Grant healing to those veterans who have been wounded, be it in body, mind or soul. We pray especially for those young men and women who come home to lives of suffering and loneliness. Offer them the solace that only You can, and may we pray for them often, especially when they feel they cannot pray. Echoing John Paul II, as a way to honor all the veterans of past wars, we ask for an end to wars and the dawning of a new era of peace. Lord, have mercy. Bring peace to our hearts, the hearts of all veterans and to the regions in which they fought. Grant, we pray, the creative vision to see a world that, weary with fighting, affirms the life of every human being and so moves beyond war.  
Prince of peace, hear our prayer, Amen.



*O Gracious God, we give you thanks for your overflowing generosity to us. Thank you for the blessings of the food we eat. Thank you for our home and family and friends. Thank you for our health, our work and our play. Thank you for the opportunity that you give us to serve you and to serve others through our work in this Order. Thank you for your protection. Please send help to those who are hungry, alone, or suffering from physical or mental illness or suffering from war and violence. We ask that you open our hearts to your love. We ask for your blessing through Christ your son.*

*Amen.*





The LaFarge Council #4012 was instrumental in organizing and preparing zeppole sales (YUM) at the Yorktown Heights San Gennaro Festival. The Knights and members of many ministries helped St. Patrick's Church raise funds celebrating 125 years of the Parish serving the needs of the community. Great Job Brothers!



Congratulations to the Eugene J. Reilly Columbian Squire Circle #5612 of St. Paul the Apostle, Brookville, N.Y. on receiving **The Brother Barnabas Award** which is given by Supreme to the top 25 Circles around the world and **The Corps d'Elite Award** which is a prestigious award given by Supreme to an outstanding Circle who goes above and beyond. Well done, Squires!

Front row: Chief Squire, Nick Carone, Sebastian Reale, Adrian Reale, Rev. Msgr. James F. Pereda, Pastor, Thomas Ondocin and David Ondocin. Back row: Donald P. Cavanaugh, NYS Squires Chairman and Kevin Spillane, Chief Counselor





The New York State Knights of Columbus Council made a great showing at the Columbus Day Parade in NYC on 10/9. Worthy State Deputy Anthony Ippolito, along with State Associate Chaplain Rev. Bret Stockdale & PSD Carmine Musumeci

by his side, were accompanied by their own personal float and band. A special thank you to Vice Supreme Master Joe Peluso for arranging for the float and the band and contacting so many of the Color Corps members who represent over nine Counties from New York State, and to Master of the First NY District Michael Tully. A great turnout to celebrate and honor a Great Man!

The St. Joseph Assembly (Spencerport) of the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree of the Knights of Columbus in conjunction with the Assemblies of St. John Fisher (Pittsford) , Bishop James E. Kearney (Rochester) and Rev. Paul J.

Cuddy(Webster) held a golf tournament to raise support for the Veterans Out Reach Center. The tournament was held on Sunday August 6 at Timber Ridge Golf Course in Brockport, NY. Lee Arbegast PFN of St. Joseph Assembly and Dan Dwyer PFN of the St. John Fisher Assembly chaired the tournament. Through the efforts of the 4 Assemblies, they were able to raise \$6,500 to donate to the VOC!





Eric Mazzone, Grand Knight of Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine Council 16861 sent in these pictures from the spring -fall 2023 showing progress on the Rock Garden sign that the members of the Council constructed spelling out AURIESVILLE SHRINE. Knights from the council who helped were Patrick Zeigler, Joe Dopp, Ken Mazur, William Zeigler, James



Feisthammel and Michael McGovern. They also had help from youth volunteers from the Amsterdam and Immaculate Conception. What another great example of our Brother Knights in Action!



# NY STATE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 2024 LENTEN RETREAT

FRIDAY, MARCH 1 - SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024

MOUNT ALVERNIA RETREAT CENTER  
158 Delavergne Avenue  
Wappingers Fall. NY

**REV. ALONZO Q. COX**

Pastor, St. Martin De Porres

**REV. MICHAEL GELFANT**

Pastor, Blessed Trinity



## REGISTRATION OPEN

- \$275/per person - private room with toilet and shower
- Friday, March 1 (3PM) - Sunday, March 3, 2024 (11AM)
- Includes lodging and 5 meals (1 Friday, 3 Saturday, 1 Sunday)
- Opportunities for Confession, Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel Talks, Private Prayer, Consultations, Fellowship and Mass

Please complete the form below and return it with your nonrefundable payment:

- Check for \$275 payable to "New York State Knights of Columbus," and "2024 Lenten Retreat" in the memo field
- Mail check and registration to: SK Joseph Cerato, 93 Rapelye St., #5B, Brooklyn NY 11231
- Questions: [jcerato@ix.netcom.com](mailto:jcerato@ix.netcom.com)



NAME:

COUNCIL #:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS (IF ANY):

ACCESSIBILITY/PHYSICAL RESTRICTIONS (IF ANY):



# Empire State Bulletin

October / November 2023



## New York State Council KNIGHTS • OF • COLUMBUS SOCCER CHALLENGE STATE FINALS



The New York State Soccer Challenge Finals will be held on;  
Sunday, November 12, 2023 at West Point Military Academy.

### EVENT ADDRESS:

**UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL (USMAPS)**  
950 Reynolds Road, West Point NY  
Ask directions at gate to USMAPS

### Check in times will be:

Downstate Participants: 8:30am  
Upstate Participants: 9:30am  
Long Island Participants: 10:30am  
We will be starting at 9:00am **SHARP!**

### PLEASE NOTE:

**All persons entering West Point must visit the West Point Visitor Control Center and present proper ID to obtain a visitor day pass.**  
Visitor Center open from 6:00am – 10:00pm  
**WEST POINT VISITOR CONTROL CENTER**  
2107 New South Post Road Highland Falls, NY (845) 938-0392

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Platé, email; [pjplate94@yahoo.com](mailto:pjplate94@yahoo.com) or cell; (845) 774-9964





# New York State Knight of Columbus



**THE NEW YORK RANGERS  
VS.  
THE COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS**



**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12TH, 2023**

**AT 7:00 PM**

**MADISON SQUARE GARDEN**

**\$115 Per Ticket ACT FAST!  
LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE**



**Blessed Michael J. McGivney  
Church Statue  
Fundraiser**



**MAIL FORM with PAYMENT TO:**  
TONY VESCO  
1015 - 73RD STREET  
BROOKLYN, NY 11228  
**ATTN: RANGERS**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**  
TONY VESCO (646) 642-9145  
EMAIL: TONYVESCO481@GMAIL.COM



Make Check or Money Order payable to:  
NYS COUNCIL, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS. In MEMO Please put RANGERS

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ (Print Clearly)

# OF TICKET: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$115 each

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# JOIN THE KING'S COUNTY CRUSADERS

## STATEN ISLAND POLAR PLUNGE

**Sunday, December 3, 2023**

**Midland Beach Parking Lot #8**

Registration is between 10-11am / Plunge waves start at 11:00am

Join us and help raise money for the athletes of Special Olympics New York by asking your friends, family, co-workers, etc. to support you in taking the PLUNGE! #FreezinForaReason

**Every Plunger that raises \$150 receives an official Plunge sweatshirt.**

**All students will receive community service hours!**

Contact Information:

Team Captain: Donald Bailey at [donaldbaileysr12@gmail.com](mailto:donaldbaileysr12@gmail.com)

Event Manager: Caitlin Anderson at [canderson@nyso.org](mailto:canderson@nyso.org) or 646-233-4879







## Did you know Thanksgiving is a Catholic holiday?

True, it's not on the Church calendar. And it is celebrated only in America, whereas Church holidays are universal. Our national holiday is certainly an event that has taken on a life of its own, with an established tradition involving turkey and mashed potatoes, football, shopping, and a four-day weekend—which is fascinating since none of those things have anything to do with the original event that gave rise to annual celebration on the fourth Thursday in November. But any time a nation does anything in unison that involves families getting together and counting their blessings, it is a good thing. “Thanks,” says G.K. Chesterton, “is the highest form of thought.” And he mentions the fact that the worst moment for an atheist is when he is thankful and suddenly realizes he has no one to thank.

But what is the origin of this holiday?

What most people believe is a variation on what I was taught in public school in the 1960s. The Pilgrims came to Plymouth on a ship called the *Mayflower*. They were the first English settlers in America. They came for religious freedom. And they had a big feast with Indians, and that was the first Thanksgiving. That about sums it up. And that is what Chesterton calls “The Myth of the *Mayflower*.” First of all, they were not known as “pilgrims” till about 200 years afterwards. They were Puritans, a radical Anglican “low church” sect that loathed the “high church” Anglicans that happened to include the King of England. In fact, about 30 years after the Puritans arrived in America, some of their fellow Puritans back in England arranged for King Charles I to have his head chopped off.

Secondly, there were at least nine other British settlements before the Plymouth colony. In fact, one of them was at Plymouth. All but one of them failed, including the first settlement at Plymouth. The Puritans who came to Plymouth in 1620 almost didn't survive. Half the settlers died the first winter. They were saved by a Native American named Squanto, who taught them how to hunt and fish and grow corn.

But here's what is really interesting: ***Squanto was a Roman Catholic.***

In 1614, he had been captured by an English party led by Captain John Smith (of Pocahontas fame) and taken on a ship to Spain where he was to be sold as a slave. He was rescued by some Dominican friars who instructed him in the Catholic faith. He told them he wanted to return to his people in America. They helped him get to England, where he met John Slaney, who taught him English and arranged for him to get to Newfoundland. Squanto served as an interpreter between the English and the

Indians and crossed the Atlantic six times. He was never able to return to his own tribe, because they had been wiped out in a plague.

After he came to the aid of the Plymouth settlers, helping them grow their own food, he arranged for a joint harvest feast with the local Wampanoag tribe. It was this event that is the basis of our Thanksgiving holiday. So Thanksgiving was started by a Native American Catholic. Ironically, the Wampanoag tribe later took Squanto hostage because they distrusted him, and he was rescued by the English. It is possible that the Indians poisoned him, which led to his death shortly afterwards in 1622. And then there is this other thing we never learned in school: In 1621, the year after the Puritans arrived at Plymouth, another group of English settlers arrived in Ferry, Newfoundland. The land had been granted to George Calvert, the First Baron of Baltimore. Calvert's son, Cecilius, the Second Baron of Baltimore, was granted another chunk of the New World, which he settled in 1632. He called it Maryland. Why did England give this land to George Calvert and his son? As compensation for the fact the George Calvert had been stripped of his title of Secretary State. And why had he been stripped of his title? Because he declared that he was a Roman Catholic. Maryland (named for some woman whose name was Mary) was the first English Catholic settlement in the New World, and one of its founding principles was... freedom of religion.

The Puritans up the coast get all the credit for establishing freedom of religion, but they did not do it. They were actually quite opposed to the idea. They were anything but tolerant. In fact, it was their intolerance that caused them to come to the new world, not persecution. England was not Puritan enough for them. They did not think the Stuarts had gone far enough to do away with the elements of Catholicism that still remained in the Church of England. Puritan intolerance led the eventual execution of King Charles I (whose wife and children were Catholic). Puritan intolerance was further demonstrated by a course of events in another Puritan settlement established just six years after the one in Plymouth, just down the road, had there been a road. It was called Salem. It was there that anyone who departed from a strict Puritan practice was in danger of being burned as a witch. Chesterton points out that the Puritans lost their belief in priests but kept their belief in witches.

So the Catholics deserve the credit not only for the first Thanksgiving, but for the first real religious freedom in America. Not the Puritans whom we call Pilgrims. It is perhaps why G.K. Chesterton says that England should also celebrate Thanksgiving—in thanks that the Pilgrims *left* England!

(This essay was originally posted on November 25, 2015 by Dale Ahlquist , president of the Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton)



Avoid the **HORROR** of arriving one hour early for Church on Sunday Morning Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>! Remember to turn your clocks back at 2 am. And don't forget to change your Smoke and CO alarm batteries too!

**CELEBRATING BLESSED MICHAEL J. McGIVNEY**  
ON THE PATH TO SAINTHOOD

**BRINGING HIS STATUE TO EVERY DIOCESE IN NEW YORK STATE**  
TO PROMOTE HIS LIFE, MINISTRY AND SERVICE

**INSPIRING BROTHERHOOD, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY TODAY**  
SO WE MAY CONTINUE HIS CHARITABLE WORK  
FOR THE NEEDY AND THE OUTCAST

**BLESSED MICHAEL J. McGIVNEY**  
**2023 CHURCH STATUE FUNDRAISER**

Father Michael J. McGivney was a Catholic priest who lived in the late 19th century. He founded the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic fraternal organization that helps people in need and supports the Church.



Father McGivney believed that by creating a strong sense of community and brotherhood among Catholic men, he could help them become better fathers, husbands, and citizens. He also wanted to provide financial assistance to the families of deceased members, so they would not be left in poverty.

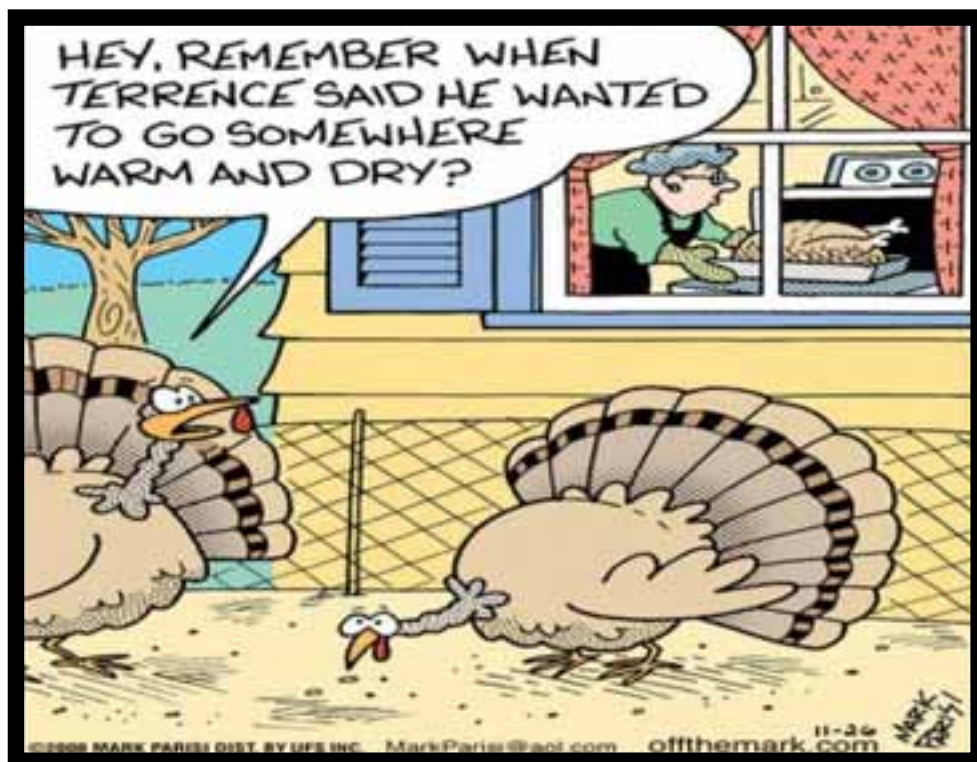
**DONATIONS**



- Individual: \$50. Knights of Columbus Councils: \$100.
- Checks should be payable to:  
"New York State Council Knights of Columbus"  
(memo field: "Blessed McGivney Statue Fund")
- Please send checks to:  
**Louis Pepe (93 Rapelye St. 4D, Brooklyn, NY 11231)**



## Comic Corner





<https://www.facebook.com/groups/624362663090112/members>

**Facebook Group of New York State Council Knights of Columbus.**  
**Posts should be limited to the Knights of Columbus. As a member of the**  
**Knights of Columbus, you have access to resources, such as social**  
**media, to help you grow deeper in your faith, stay informed about the**  
**Order and connect to your Brother Knights.**



**In order to have enough time**  
**to get everything ready for**  
**the Newsletter, Please send**  
**your Articles and Photos in**  
**NO LATER than the 20<sup>th</sup> of**  
**EACH MONTH.**

**Send them to the Editor at**  
**[mb1122@msn.com](mailto:mb1122@msn.com)**

**We are very pleased with the**  
**response that we have been getting and all of the Council activities that**  
**you have been sending in. Keep them Coming!**



We are very excited to announce that the NYS Council has a Brand New Website

[www.nykofc.com](http://www.nykofc.com)

Communications Director Ralph Cefalo along with Web Site Chairman Brian Ennis have been hard at work to get this up and running and it shows! They are constantly updating information and content! Soon all the

information that you need regarding the NYS Council will be only a “click” away! We have recently added a “**FORMS**” tab where you can find many important Supreme Forms as well as **UPDATED NYS COUNCIL Forms** such as Grants, Scholarship and Matching School Support! Also, the **MEMBERS ONLY** Tab will give you access to the NYS\_2023 - 2024 State Directory. It is for NYS COUNCIL MEMBERS ONLY and is PASSWORD PROTECTED. While we were sworn to secrecy not to reveal the Password outright, we are prepared to pass it along in a very cryptic and sophisticated code. Some of you will crack the code quickly, some of you will need to phone, or email, a friend. And some of you will be forced to break out your 1936 Little Orphan Annie de-Coder Badge (if you don’t have one just ask around your council, one of those old timers probably still has his). So, in my best Alan Ludden voice, the Password is: **ble\*\*edmc\*\*\*ney**. All lower case.

We hope that you keep checking the Website often to see all of the updates!



JOIN OUR



<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/cREyUxb>

Some of you are still getting our Newsletter forwarded to you by your DD or GK. If you want to get the NYS Newsletter Directly - as well as other important news and information from the NYS Council - just click the link above and register. It's easy!





**November 5th!**



**November 7th!**  
**Get out and VOTE!**



**November 10th!**



**November 23rd!**



## Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, **Blessed Michael McGivney**, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify **Blessed Michael McGivney** on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request). Through Christ our Lord. Amen



The Father Michael J. McGivney Guild promotes the cause for sainthood of the founder of the Knights of Columbus, who was beatified on Oct. 31, 2020. Members of the Guild, and anyone devoted to Father McGivney, can play an active role in the cause by praying for his intercession in times of need, especially in cases of serious illness, and reporting to the Guild any favors received.

Membership in the Guild is free and open to anyone who is devoted to Father McGivney and wishes to invoke his intercession and assist in his sainthood cause through prayer. Members receive a quarterly newsletter and are remembered in a weekly Mass offered for their intentions.

Catholic men who wish to live out the vision and mission of Father McGivney are invited to join the [Knights of Columbus](#) and become part of a network of charity, unity and fraternity that serves local parishes and communities. Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882 in New Haven, Conn., and died at the age of 38 in 1890. His cause for sainthood was opened in 1997, and his heroic virtue was recognized by the Vatican in March 2008, when he was declared a Venerable Servant of God by Pope Benedict XVI. On May 26, 2020, Father McGivney took another step toward sainthood when Pope Francis approved the promulgation of a decree recognizing a [miracle attributed to his intercession](#). With the approval of this miracle, he was beatified on Oct. 31, 2020, with the title of Blessed.

Another miracle through his intercession is needed for him to be canonized as a saint.

Those devoted to Father McGivney are encouraged to recite regularly the prayer for his canonization, which is available online and on a special prayer card. You may Report favors through this website or by email or regular mail at the addresses listed below.

To request a third-class relic or to order devotional items, click on the [online form link](#). Print out the form, fill it out and mail it to the Father McGivney Guild.

The Guild has more than 176,000 members, and you are encouraged to join by filling out and submitting the [online form](#). Please assist in the cause of Father McGivney by spreading the word about this holy and blessed priest.

For more information or to request a prayer card:

Father McGivney Guild, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510

Tel: 203-752-4087

Email: [guild@kofc.org](mailto:guild@kofc.org)