Prayers for the Cannonization of Father Michael J. McGivney

God our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Father Michael J. 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 outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify your venerable servant Father Michael J. 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.

Our Father  Hail Mary  Glory be to the Father
Grand Nights Notes....

Brother Knights,

As I reflect on the final days of 2021 and start of 2022, the first thing that comes to mind is how life is like "walking on sheet of ice". At times the ice is transparent, beautifully reflects the light and often allows us to glide across the good days of accomplishments with family and friends. At other times, the ice is cold, slippery, and painful when we fall in our intentions and results.

Just recently I have seen ice blocks used to creative some amazing sculptures at winter festivals and community celebrations. However, without much notice that same sheet of ice can crack open and a Brother Knight is no longer walking with us in our journey to serve and protect.

Everyone has a different way of navigating across their patch of ice. The one thing in common with all the successful attempts is that you need to keep moving in order to get across it. Without any movement, the experience of standing still on ice is frigid, unproductive and you're likely going to fall. I would like to add that the journey across "the ice" is more enjoyable and safer if you have someone to walk with and hold on to.

I share this thought with you, because as a council we have experienced some unfortunate cracks in our "ice of life" during the past year. Despite the slips, I am proud to proclaim that as a group we have kept moving forward. When one reviews our fraternal service hours we just submitted, collectively it is easy to see how much we accomplished and how many we served. If you look at the parish and community programs, we are hosting in the first quarter of 2022 (baby bottle campaign, Our Marriage Prayer, St. Joseph Icon Portrait, Food Pantry support, St. Stephen’s 175th and many others – we are starting to speed skating across the ice.

Let us continue to pray for those we miss and celebrate the new additions to our families and council. Like many baseball fans do well during the icy winters, think positively of warmer weather with visions of walks on grass are just a few days away.

It is my privilege to represent and serve as Grand Knight of Council 16821. I thank all of you who support the parishioners of St. Stephen and the needs of our community. As Grand Knight, my only ask is that we continue to invite our fellow parishioners, family members and friends to join the Knights in our journey of moving forward.

Good health and good ice skating to all our Brother Knights.

Mark F. Missurelli – Grand Knight
Financial Secretary
Quarterly Report
As of 12/31/2021

Our Council’s hard work raising funds over the summer at Sendik’s paid off this quarter, with the highlights detailed below.

- As was reported in the previous newsletter, we were able to raise $2,057.63 in Tootsie Roll funds to Support Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities. We remitted the amount raised to the State Council and are waiting for the State to issue checks made payable to the five charities that our Council voted to Support. These organizations are Broadscope Disability Services, Curative Care Network, Enfield Children’s Center, Milwaukee Center for Independence, and Mental Health America of Wisconsin. Each will receive equal amounts.
- Our Council voted at the November meeting to complete the $5,000 commitment we had made to the Knights of Columbus Charities Persecuted Christians fund. We voted to pay the remaining $2,142.00 that was owed in three installments through the end of the fiscal year. The first check totaling $711.00 was sent this quarter. Hopefully by the Fall we are able to resume our Pancake Breakfast which was our primary source of funding for this charity.
- We were proud to present a check for $500 to our very own Brother Knight and Seminarian Timothy Sanchez at our November meeting. This donation was part of the Knight’s Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP). It was great to see Brother Timothy and to hear how his time at the Seminary is going.

As of the end of 2021 we had 47 members of our Council which was down one from the beginning of our fiscal year. We have a goal of adding 3 new members this fiscal year, so we have some work to do. The State Council has let us know that if we are able to add 2 new members, we will receive 50% off our State per capita amount that will be billed on 4/1/2022. If we are able to add one new member, we will receive 25% off the per capita.

Due to the busy calendar at St. Stephen, it was decided that the baby bottle campaign will take place in January. The bottles were distributed after Mass on January 8th/9th, and January 15th/16th and will be collected the weekend of January 29th/30th. I will have an update on how much we were able to raise in the next newsletter. The Council has voted to donate the proceeds of the campaign to the Women’s Care Center and Milwaukee Birthright. These are two well regarded local organizations and also the two organizations we supported with last year’s campaign.

Dave Egan
Financial Secretary
Pastors Message

St. Stephen the Martyr Council # 16821

February 1, 2022

Before we know it, it will be Wednesday, March 2nd, Ash Wednesday, and we begin our Lenten journey! There are a couple of questions we might want to think about as we begin the season of Lent.

“What do the crosses we carry look like and how are we carrying them?” Do our crosses look like sickness in ourselves or someone close to us? Does it look like too little money, or long hours at work, or strain in our family relationships? Maybe we have more than one cross we are carrying. Sometimes our crosses may be heavier than other times. Let us stop for a moment and think about what our crosses are today.

Now, how are we carrying them? Are we angry about them? Resigned? Impatient? Resentful? Jesus tells us, his followers, we are to pick up our crosses daily. Yet carrying them for one day can be a burden....and day after day....can be exhausting. And if we are trying to do it all ourselves, we are adding burdens we might just be able to take off our shoulders.

Is Jesus helping us carry our cross? Absolutely! Remember, he had Simon of Cyrene to help him carry his wooden cross to Calvary, not because he couldn’t do it himself, but because having Simon do so was important. In the same way, Jesus is here to help us carry ours. We may find it hard to ask for help, though, but just as Jesus was humble enough to accept Simon’s assistance, so can we be.

Each day we can examine the cross we need to bear and ask Christ’s help. We can accept the day’s cross for His sake, which is also for OUR salvation. We can accept it with love and humility, and look for ways Jesus can help us lighten the burden throughout the day. It may not be easy at first, but Jesus is patient and understanding. Hopefully, we may find that understanding by Easter, where we will have found a new way to see God’s love through the burdens he asks us to carry day by day. After all, we are God’s Easter people!

Father Robert
Men of Christ Conference

On Saturday January 15th at St. John Vianney parish men from 65 parishes gathered to pray and brainstorm.

The day started with a rosary and then mass. The conference highlighted comments by archbishop Jerome Listecki and Dr. Peter Kreeft.

Because of the ongoing pandemic discussions centered on small parish conferences to be held in March as was done last year.
Faith in Action

One of our goals as Catholic men is to spread the word of God in as many ways as possible. Our council decided to again sponsor a Keep Christ in Christmas campaign. Our hopes were to get as many parishioner’s as possible to proudly display their beliefs for all to see. We purchased yard signs, magnets and stickers that we offered for a free will donation. Our event was a great success. We distributed 50 yard signs and over 250 magnets and stickers! Thanks to all for helped make this a success.

Congratulations to the McHugh Family

Born to our brother knight Dylan and his wife Emily on Thursday January 6th at 1:56 pm at 8lbs. 4.5 ounces we welcome John William McHugh.
The Voyage to Lourdes

The two main characters in this true story are Dr. Alexis Carrel (1873—1944) pictured left and Marie—Louise Bailly.

Dr. Carrel was a Nobel prize winning doctor for his work on organ transplants and co-inventor of heart pump. Dr. Carrel was not a religious person and did not believe in miracles.

Marie Bailly was a 23 year old with pulmonary tuberculosis and was near death as she decided to go to Lourdes to be cured. This story documents their journey there together.

This story begins with Marie Bailly who was near death with tubercular meningitis and pulmonary tuberculosis. Marie’s parents both died of the same disease along with two of her brothers. She had two other siblings who did not contract the disease. Marie was a devout Catholic who wanted to go to Lourdes as she believed she would be cured. So she booked passage on the train from Lyon, France to Lourdes. When she was placed on the train on May 27th, 1902 she had not eaten in four days and was in extreme pain. Doctors who cared for her believed she would not survive the 450 mile trip.

Dr. Alexis Carrel was working at a hospital in Lyon and was not scheduled to travel on the train to Lourdes. However the doctor that was scheduled had a family emergency and could not make the trip. Dr. Carrel was asked to make the trip instead. Dr. Carrel agreed but made it perfectly clear he did not believe in these miraculous recovery stories coming out of Lourdes. He stated before he left that unless he sees a one armed person enter the baths and come out with both arms intact he would not believe. Dr. Carrel had his medical bag and a note book to document what he saw on the trip.

During the 450 mile trip stops were made at each town to pick up other passengers. At one of these stops Dr. Carrel was notified that a young woman was unconscious and needed assistance. Dr. Carrel then saw Marie for the first time and noted her condition was grave and he did not believe she would survive. Marie’s body was filled with tumors and her stomach was bulging out in pain.

Miraculously Marie survived the trip to Lourdes and Dr. Carrel accompanied her to the Lourdes hospital. Doctors examining her decided it would not be in her best interest to go to the Lourdes baths as she was unable to stand or walk. Marie was asked to write a final goodbye note to her surviving siblings. Marie refused saying: “I will write them after I am cured”. The Mother superior at the hospital spoke up to the doctors saying that this woman needs to go to Lourdes baths as she truly believes she will be cured. Marie was carried to the baths on a stretcher.

Dr. Carrel accompanied Marie to the baths although she was unable to walk in on her own, water from the baths was brought to her in a pitcher. The water was poured on her stomach and Marie stated it felt like her stomach was on fire. Another pitcher was poured on her stomach, this time with a soothing feeling according to Marie. It was then that Dr. Carrel noticed Marie’s distended abdomen flattened. Marie said she felt fine, had no pain and said she was cured. Marie was taken to the hospital and it was determined she was in good health and could return home.

Dr. Carrel noted all the events of his time with Marie. He went from a non-believer to a vocal supporter of Lourdes. Dr. Carrel joined the Catholic Church and died a devout Catholic.

You can read the full account of Dr. Carrel’s journal in the book “The Voyage to Lourdes”.
MEMBERSHIP

Are you old enough to remember when someone told you that you sound like a broken record? I suppose today a broken Mp3 player or USB stick! It means that you are repetitious and that can become annoying and boring saying the same thing over and over. I do not want to be annoying or boring. So I found a little ditty to share with you:

Ten members stand in a line. / One disliked the Council and then there were Nine. / Nine ambitious members offered to work late. / One forgot the promise and then there were Eight. / Eight creative members had ideas as good as heaven. / One lost enthusiasm then there were Seven. / Seven loyal members got into a fix. / They quarreled over programs, then there were Six. / One member moves away then there were Five. / One becomes indifferent then there are Four. / Four cheerful members who never disagree. / Till one complained at a meeting then there were Three. / Three eager members, what do they do? / One got discouraged then there were Two. / Two lonely members, our rhyme is nearly done. / One joined a cribbage club then there was One. / One faithful member was feeling rather blue. / Met with a neighbor then there were Two. / Two earnest members each enrolled one more. / Bringing up the numbers now there are Four. / Four determined members just couldn’t wait. / Each one got one more and then there were Eight. / Eight excited members signed up Sixteen more. / In another six verses there will be ONE THOUSAND TWENTY FOUR.

The lesson here is your enthusiasm and dedication will go a long way in bringing in new members. You joined for a reason, what was it? Do you know what the Knights are about? What do you know about our Faith in Action programs? Do you know you can find many of these answers online at https://www.kofc.org/ or for Wisconsin State Council at, https://uknight.org/StateCouncilSite/index.asp?CN=US&ST=WI what is stopping you from inviting more men to join? Let your faith and enthusiasm show and they will see that and respond. Invite a new person to attend a meeting with no obligation to check us out.

The online MCGIVNEY2020 free one year membership has been once more extended. Ask someone to sign up free for a year and see what we are all about. You and they have nothing to lose!

Hopefully later this spring we will be able to host a church drive. We will need at least 1 member to speak at each mass and two or three to hand out literature and invite prospective men / families to a short 10-15 minute presentation after mass with the possibility of them winning a door prize. When we know when we can host that event I will send out an e mail requesting volunteers. Last fall’s attempt failed because of lack of response from our members to volunteer. Let’s not let that happen again. Our council’s future is in your hands.

Feel free to contact me with your membership questions.

Tom Ludka
Get to Know a Knight

There is one special person that some of us know, and I feel all of us would benefit from meeting. Alex Feltz was, at the time, the youngest member and one of the founding members of our council. He volunteered to be our first Deputy Grand Knight.

Alex grew up in the small town of Bremen, Ohio. He played golf, baseball and was on the swim team. After High School, he picked up a side job a Master of Ceremonies and is still active in that today. He started his career in the Milwaukee area in Human Resources. Living in Oak Creek, Alex found St. Stephen, and was happy to discover that we were forming a new K of C council, since he was previously a knight in Ohio. Alex adds: “I can still not thank enough St. Stephen and this Council for helping me through my time in Wisconsin, as I moved away from my family and friends. I certainly gained new and continued friendships and a greater reappreciation for my faith”. Eventually, the company that Alex works for relocated him back to Ohio, where he recently married Kate.

Asked about any insights he might have to help other knights in their personal life or raising children, Alex replied: “The biggest lesson/story I can give on framing my personal life and how I will raise my kids came in college working for a Psychology lab. We tested mothers and how their interactions affected an adolescent child’s stress hormone, cortisol. What we were discovering is that the way we celebrate successes is extremely important. Being able to help my future children understand their stress and how to cope with it and additionally how to remember and celebrate our successes is extremely important for growing up. Looking back after and during this lab I discovered and realized how easy it is for us to get stuck on the bad in our lives and forget to remember and celebrate the good. While there are psychological implications to this, I want to always remind myself to remember those good times in my life and forget the bad. For that reason, I live by the motto of don’t make the same mistake twice and keep a golfer’s memory and forget the last hole.

As Deputy Grand Knight, Alex brought his experience in the workplace to our council and reflects on how each group has its own strengths and challenges. Alex responded: “Through work in Human Resources, I have learned the strength of observing and building cultures. I have been a part of a number of different teams and each one had its own culture and personality. Through my observation skills I have been able to grasp the good and the bad and come up with plans to increase that cultural bond that they have had. In addition, I have learned a lot about different cultures and how we can all live together and have those strong bonds despite differences that are there. I am not always that first person to speak up, but because I sit back and listen and observe I can tend to come up with different ideas that can help my teams grow in most cases.”

Alex allows time to recoup and refocus with friends playing video games, movies or just being together. Though we have some distant members, there is a lot that we can gain from each other. Afterall, the future of our council, and that of the Church lies in these younger members.

Bob Fischer
Council 16821 Recorder
Dates to Remember

**Family Life Center** trucks of food to unload from Hunger task force 9:30 am at St., Stephens.

Tuesday February 8th, March 8th and April 12th.

**Men of Christ Conference** Saturday March 26th

**Knights council meeting dates.** Tuesday February 1st, March 1st and April 5th

Open Council Positions

Please consider volunteering to fill one of the following positions:

**Outside Guard an Inside Guard:** the inside and outside guards carry out tasks given to them by the grand knight and follow the wardens orders. They are responsible for checking membership cards and allowing entrance to meetings.

**Family Director:** Responsible for family based council programs

The Catholic Herald

Catholic News

At your fingertips

See how your parish school and community proclaims Christ and how you can join the mission.

CatholicHerald.org/subscribe
Saint Stephen's

Save The Date
Sunday
June 5th 2022
Prayer Requests

Please keep the following in your prayers

- St. Stephens parish for a successful 175th anniversary
- In Memory of William Wagner our brother knight
- Health and well being for all our brother knights and their families
- In memory of Dwight Majeres our brother knight
- Prayers for the Hernandez family

Our Prayers and deepest sympathy on the passing of Sister Mary Alice Walters on November 4th 2021.

Our Prayers and deepest sympathy on the passing of our brother Knight Mike Spanke on November 13th 2021.

Our Prayers and deepest sympathy on the passing of our brother Knight Robert Janto on January 21st 2022. Keep his daughter Carolyn and son Phillip in your prayers.
Pro-Life Campaign
Baby bottle Boomerang
January 2022

Join the Knights of Columbus in...

"Changing Lives"

Take home a Baby Bottle and return it to St. Stephen's on Jan. 29th or 30th and your efforts will help change a life

100% of all donations will go to:
Milwaukee Birthright & Women's Care Center

Change-A-Life Goals:
Distribute 175 Baby Bottle Banks!
Raise $3,175 or more in donations!

Our yearly campaign to collect donations in support of Pro-Life facilities began in January. We will be donating 100% of the money collected to the Women's Care Center and Milwaukee Birthright.
Supreme Chaplains Monthly Challenge

February 2022

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell to his knees of Jesus and said “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man”. For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, “do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” (Gospel for Feb. 6, Lk 5:8-10)

Simon Peter recognizes Jesus for who he is and deems himself unworthy to be in his presence. Jesus, in calling the fishermen to follow him, tells him not to fear. Every one of us is a sinner, and yet Jesus calls each of us to follow him. It is not our own virtues or qualifications, but rather Jesus who empowers us with his grace to respond to his invitation. Brothers, remember St. Paul’s words: “I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me” (Phil 4:13).

This Month I challenge you to go to confession and attend at least one weekday Mass, offering it for the intention to fearlessly answer Christ’s call to follow him. Second, I challenge you to participate in or consider starting the Faith in Action into the Breach program.

Questions for reflection:

Are you sometimes afraid to follow Christ more closely because you consider yourself too sinful or unworthy? Do you truly believe in and experience Christ’s mercy and seek to forgive yourself as well as others? Do you stay to the sacrament of penance in order to do battle with your own sinfulness and allow God’s grace to strengthen you for spiritual combat?

Editors Message

We are starting our 5th year as a council. Looking back we have made a difference for a lot of groups and individuals in need. Pro-Life, Persecuted Christians, the developmentally disabled, feeding the hungry through meal program and the food pantry. We have also made a difference in spreading the word regarding our faith and supporting our parish.

We will have many more opportunities to lead by example in our faith. One of those opportunities is coming up in March this year. It is “Men of Christ conference”. The Laity and more importantly the men will need to step up and lead by example for our families and fellow parishioner’s to keep our faith in God alive and vibrant in the future. More information on this conference will be shared with you later. Please consider attending when you see the information posted.

Vivat Jesus,
Dennis