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
Knight of the Year

Jim Lampe was honored at our June Meeting as Knight of the Year. Jim was presented with a plaque by Grand Knight Mark Missarelli.

Jim has been active in our parish and council, from being the official greeter at our parish with a smile and a little hand sanitizer, to soloist at mass. If there is a cooking event Jim is always on hand, from Sendiks grill event to dishwasher after a church meal program. We thank Jim for all his involvement in our council and our parish!

Membership Goals Surpassed

Grand Knight Mark Missarelli and Membership director Tom Ludka, proudly display two membership awards to our members. Mark holds up the 2020–2021 State Membership award. Tom holds the 2020–2021 Archdiocese Membership Award. These plaque awards are given to the council with the highest percentage achieved over goal.
Silver Rose Service

On August 12th we participated in a rosary prayer service at Knights Council 1709 in South Milwaukee. Below is the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Early on a cold Saturday morning (Dec. 9,1531), Juan Diego, baptized in the faith as an adult in 1523, was on his way to assist at Mass about 2.5 miles from Tlatelolco, where there was a church. Suddenly he heard beautiful music and a woman’s voice calling to him from the top of Tepeyac Hill. At the top he saw a beautiful woman who revealed that she was the Blessed Virgin Mary. She instructed him to visit the bishop to tell him that a shrine should be built in her honor at the base of the hill.

Juan Diego immediately went to Bishop Juan de Zumarraga, who received him kindly but was reluctant to believe the story. Juan Diego returned to the hill to report his failure. The Lady told him to return to the bishop repeating the request.

On Sunday (Dec. 10) Juan Diego returned to the bishop who-after many questions—said he needed a sign before believing that it was really Our Lady who appeared. Juan Diego relayed the message to the Lady who told him to come back on the next day, and she would fulfill his request. On Monday (Dec. 11), however, the Uncle of Juan Diego became gravely ill, so he was unable to return to Tepeyac.

After a day of fruitlessly searching for someone to help his uncle, Juan Diego told him that he would bring a priest the next morning, so his uncle could make his confession and die at peace. Very early Tuesday morning (Dec. 12), rushing toward Tlatelolco to find a priest, he passed Tepeyac Hill. Thinking it better not to let the Lady interrupt his errand of mercy, he decided to go around the other side of the hill. But the Lady came down the hill to meet him.

After listening to his explanation for not keeping the appointment, she told him his uncle would not die of the sickness and that he was healthy. (That same morning, the Lady appeared to his uncle and cured him.) Juan Diego was greatly relieved. The lady told him go to the top of the hill and gather the flowers he would find there. Upon arrival at the top, he found in the frozen earth a miraculous garden of roses not native to the area. He gathered some and then brought them to the Lady, who arranged them in his cloak. She told him to take them to the bishop as the sign he had requested.

When Juan Diego arrived in front of the bishop, he opened his cloak, and the roses fell to the floor. At that moment, they both discovered something even more wondrous: a remarkable portrait of Our Lady was imprinted on the fabric of the cloak.

In 1946, Pope Pius XII declared Our Lady of Guadalupe Patroness of the Americas, and in 1990, St. John Paul II beatified Juan Diego. On July 31, 2002, the late Holy Father visited Mexico City and declared sainthood of Blessed Juan Diego. Today the Feast Day of Saint Juan Diego is Dec. 9. The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated on December 12th. The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is still celebrated by pilgrims year-round.
The catholic mens conference we hosted on Friday August 6th was attended by 70 men. It started with a 5:30 pm mass led by Father Robert Kacalo.

After Mass a dinner was provided to all in attendance. Followed by three breakout sessions, each designed to help men build and develop a dynamic men's group.
St. James Grill Event

We received an opportunity to do a Sendiks grill event at St. James Parish. We approached this opportunity with great preparation and responsibility to represent Sendiks and Knights of Columbus brand and patrons at St. James in Franklin.

We ran the Sendiks grill event from 10am—4pm Friday, Sept. 17th and Saturday, Sept. 18th. The weather was perfect for grilling both days. Patrons were pleasantly surprised to have fresh hot food during their shopping experience.

Our in store grill events in the past prepared us for the first on the road grill event. We invested many hours of preparation and another two hours to tear down after the event. This was a logistical challenge for us with everything running smoothly. We feel confident that we could in the future do another on the road cookout.

Financially, the two day event was a success. After some small expenses were covered or donated, we brought in $788.00 in food sales and another $200 in tips. The event also allowed us to promote our Knights Council and recruit some new members.

The council would like to thank Mike Spanke for making the connection with St. James Rummage sale leaders. Also thank you goes out to Jim Lampe grill master, Gary Kitterman for use of his trailer, Ron Schwenn for the tent to keep us out of the sun. Thanks to our Sendiks support team in Franklin. Especially David Sorenson and his team of customer service associates.
School Supply Drive

Family Life Center school supply drive for 2021 was a big success! Many parishioners and our Knights council donated school supplies. More than 70 children were helped by the generosity of all.

The backpacks were filled with much needed school supplies. Backpacks were distributed to our family life center children and to our sister parish the Congregation of the Great Spirit.
Our Knights of Columbus Rosary

Saturday October 16th

Oak Creek Police Department

We had approximately 20 people join us in saying the patriotic rosary. This was our second annual event in support of our police department. We thank Police Chief Steve Anderson for giving us permission to hold this event in front of police headquarters. Also special thanks to Jim Lampe for making the contact with the police to hold this event.
......from the desk of the Pastor

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to Church every Sunday. He wrote, “I’ve gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can’t remember a single one of them. So, I think I’m wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all!”

This started a real controversy in the “Letters to the Editor” column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: “I’ve been married for 30 years now. in that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to Church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!”

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical and spiritual nourishment!

Father McGivney and the first members of the Knights of Columbus Order faced serious challenges to their Catholic faith and family life. Yet, from those hardships, they built an organization that gives every man, to include you, brother Knights, the opportunity to advance God’s kingdom here on earth.

- **We must be men of prayer.** “Christ is the vine, we are the branches (Jn 15:5)”
- **We must never lose hope.** Bearing the title of “disciple” we need to show a healthy love for both God and country.
- **We must show our friends and neighbors a better way.** We are called to be the husbands and fathers whom God has called us to be in the realm of our influence.
- **We must be active and practical.** We are the foot soldiers, guided by the teachings of the Church, to work for the common good. That means volunteering, donating and supporting our local council with our head, our heart, and our hands. If we let others do all the work, they will become burned out and the Knights organization suffers. If we step out of our comfort zone and work together side-by-side, our council will thrive. Don’t be afraid to raise your hand, and say, “I can do that for the good of the order!” See you at Mass for that strength and nourishment!
The Father McGivney award for membership and insurance was presented to our Council at our October meeting.

Award was presented to us from District Deputy Les Kostera. Accepting the award from our council was membership director Tom Ludka.
Get to Know a Knight

Ray & Mary Bailey

Ray had a typical childhood in the 1950’s. He played sports on the school teams and even played high school football. Ray made spending money by mowing lawns and had a paper route. In those days, on any given street, there were only a few houses that did not get the paper. Six months out of high school, Ray joined the US Air Force and was trained in radio electronics. This was the start of his career that led to working for the Department of Defense and Federal Aviation Administration. Ray said those repair techniques transfer well into many areas and even now help greatly working with St. Stephens building and grounds committee. Ray’s grandkids think he can fix anything, they gave him a T-shirt that reads “If Grandpa can’t fix it, nobody can”.

Thinking back on Ray and his wife Mary’s married life, Ray commented on how things have changed in a moments notice. “You have made a down payment on a 1975 Kawasaki 1000... you then find out a month later that your going to have a baby! He said they got the $100 back and bought a Hoover canister vacuum instead. He said that vacuum lasted 20 years. He said the moral to the story is Be Ready for the unexpected.

Ray mentioned two miracles that their two grandsons were both preemies! One weighed 3lbs 2oz, and the other 2lbs 3oz. Both flourished and we thank God for this gift of new life.

What brought Ray and Mary to St. Stephens parish was just that we were looking for a new place to worship. We feel at home here at St. Stephens! We are getting to know more great parishioners than at our last parish.. I learned about our Knights of Columbus council by the events like the baby bottle campaign for pro-life, the tootsie roll campaign to support those with developmental disabilities and the pancake breakfast in support of persecuted Christians. After joining the Knights Ray also became a usher at the 4:30 mass on Saturday. Since joining Ray now feels he is a part of a great group of brothers.

As for current activities that make life enjoyable, Ray likes golfing and miniature golfing with his youngest grandkids. He also enjoys watching his granddaughter play soft pitch softball. She loves to play pitcher, 1st and 3rd bases. He watched her team win a couple tournaments. Ray and his Son enjoy trout fishing, wading rivers and creeks fly fishing or using spinner baits.

Ray adds life to our council, and we are so grateful he is a part of our brotherhood.

Respectfully submitted

Bob Fischer, Recorder
Hello brother Knights! Last years COVID pandemic cancelled many of our meetings. However you came through and helped us recruit 11 members. That put us at 400+% for that fraternal year. We received an additional award for highest membership growth in the 10 county Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Thanks again!

This year we have been tasked to recruit 3 new members and so far we have recruited 1. Unfortunately we failed to recruit the three members needed before October 1st. That could have saved us some of the per capita dues we pay the state organization. However, we can still save some of those payments if we recruit 2 new members before December 31st.

Since the free online membership offer was extended to December 31st, go out and recruit! It is not just about the number of bodies but the ability of our council to have impact through our programs in the parish, communities and the church at large.

If you have a cell phone save the KC landing page https://info.kofc.org/us.html using that landing page you can simply ask if a person would like to have info on the Knights sent to them. Note that by submitting this information does not make them a member. When they fill it out and you hit submit, they and I will receive an email and I will follow up with them. You need to fill in the council number 16821 and my email tludka@wi.rr.com

If they are not a member and want to join they can do that online and receive a FREE one year membership until December 31st. Look around you at mass and see who is there on a regular basis and participates. Approach them and ask them to consider joining. There are informational brochures located in the narthex by the bulletin boards. Ask your friends, family and fellow parishioners if they would like to help out the parish and get to do it for free. A one year free membership gives them an opportunity to see what we are all about. Please help promote this and see if we can pick up at least 2 new members by December 31st. Go to https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-the-knights.html Use the MCGIVNEY2020 code for the free membership.

When you join you are considered a 1st Degree Knight. We would like you to participate in becoming a 3rd Degree Knight. Since the COVID situation began the Knights have offered an online exemplification ceremony. We have several members who have not yet taken the opportunity to participate. It is a 30 minute program to watch on your computer and you can do that when it is convenient for you. Go to https://kofc6527.org/exemplification/ Please take the time and watch it with your spouse or entire family. If you have completed the 2nd and 3rd degree and your name still shows up on the list, then contact the FS Dave Egan and he can update the roster and give you a new membership card.

**Members still needing to complete their 2nd and 3rd degree exemplification are:** Ray Bailey, Tom Denzien,Robert Fleck, Enrique Hernandez, Juan Hernandez, Dennis Kosloske, Kevin Laskaskie, Cyrrille Monatshebe, Ron Schwenn and Gerald Walloch. Welcome aboard our newest member Gerald Walloch.

If you have any questions pertaining to membership please call me at (414) 423-9203. Or email me at tludka@wi.rr.com

Peace be with you,

Tom Ludka

Membership Director
Prayer Requests

Please keep the following in your prayers

- Sister Mary Alice Walters who is battling cancer
- 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
- Health and well being for the Enrique Hernandez family
- Robert Janto who is battling cancer
- In memory of Dwight Majeres our brother knight

Dwight Majeres has now been reunited with his beloved wife Elayne in our Lords place of peace and light. Dear Lord call them to be numbered in the fellowship of your saints. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Family Life Center Support

Our St. Stephens family life center continues helping those in need. The food pantry gives out food to low income families in our community. We as knights are called once a month to give a helping hand to unload the hunger task force truck. If you are available on the following dates at 9:30am it would be appreciated.

November 9th
December 14th
January 11th
Financial Secretary
Quarterly Report
As of 9/30/2021

Our Council had success raising funds to start our fiscal year with Sendik’s grill events at both the Greenfield and Franklin locations as well as a grill event for two days at the St. James Rummage Sale in September. These grill events allowed us to net a total of $1,938.14 which will allow us to fund operations and contribute to causes we choose to support. We also were able to raise $2,057.63 in Tootsie Roll funds from these events which has been designated to five charities that help people with intellectual disabilities. Thank you to all the Knights that participated in these events. If you haven’t volunteered at one of these events, I encourage you to give it a try. I have enjoyed the times I have helped out; it really is nice to be outside serving up some good food and enjoying some quality time with my brother Knights.

As of the end of September we had 48 members of our Council which was unchanged 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. Our District Deputy Les has encouraged us to recruit at St. James in Franklin and I have had discussions with the Grand Knight about different ideas as to how to best approach that. Outreach has been attempted at St. James in the past but they now have a priest supportive of the Knights so it may be better timing to try again. We have also talked about reaching out to members of St. Matthew as well.

I was honored to attend the Silver Rose ceremony that was held on August 12 in South Milwaukee. This was my first time attending the ceremony and I look forward to attending next year. There is an amazing background to this ceremony, and I would encourage everyone to learn more about it. This link explains more about the event.


Due to the busy calendar at St. Stephen, it has been decided that the baby bottle campaign will be pushed off until after the first of the year. January is the month Roe vs. Wade was decided so that could be a good tie-in to our campaign this fiscal year.

Dave Egan, Financial Secretary

Supreme Chaplains Monthly Challenge

This month I challenge you to review your charitable giving and pray about whether God is asking you to contribute something more. Second, I challenge you to participate in your council’s Food for Families or Coats for Kids Faith in Action program.

Vivat Jesus

Archbishop William Lori
Brother Knights, I would like to share with you my recent learning of St. Joseph by participating in the Consecration to Joseph which was hosted by Barb and Tom Ludka at St. Stephen Parish.

It was a blessed opportunity to learn about the wonders and greatness of St. Joseph, especially during his year of honor as declared by Pope Francis and the Catholic Church. I was fascinated to learn of miracles and guidance provided by St. Joseph to those who prayed for his intervention.

The St. Joseph insight and testimonials from other saints are too numerous to mention in this address. If you are looking for some miraculous stories on his intervention, search the internet for articles on the “Miraculous Staircase in New Mexico” and “The Holy House of Loreto, Italy. These two and many others unpublicized stories are fascinating examples of miraculous connections to St. Joseph.

The more I learned about St. Joseph during this Consecration to St. Joseph the more his life reminded me of Blessed Michael McGivney and his Knights of brotherhood. Their common missions of “Protector of the Family”, “Defense of Marriage”, “Guardian of the Church and Christian virtues” and “Terror of demons” are very similar. This binding statement on the two saints has often been publicized by Knights of Columbus leaders, “St. Joseph shows us what to do and Blessed Fr. McGivney shows us how to do it.”

The name “Joseph” means “to increase”. What a great tribute to St. Joseph and Blessed Fr McGivney it would be if our Knights (Council #16821) follows that path given to us by those two saints. Increase our membership, increase our love of our spouses, increase our acts of kindness, our guardian of family, our support of others and increase our Christian faith and devotion to Jesus.

My overall knowledge and understanding of St. Joseph are still minuscule, but I am looking forward to discovering more. It was rewarding to learn about St. Joseph’s spiritual leadership as Father to Jesus and Patron of many things to the entire world. St. Joseph is the greatest of all saints and protector to all who seek his intervention. If I can share one key take-away from the Consecration to St. Joseph with my Brother Knights, it’s that St. Joseph is a pathway to Our Mother, Our Lord and to Everlasting Life.

I encourage you to learn about and pray to St. Joseph for his intercession in your life and for the “increase” our Knights council. When you do, you are welcome to join me in my person proclamation that St. Joseph, most brave, most loyal, most prudent, most obedient, most chaste, and most just is the “Original Knight of Columbus” Good health and good year of St. Joseph to all our Brother Knights.

Mark Missurreli- GK
Persecuted Christians

A couple of years ago your Knight of Columbus Council was asked to support our Christian brothers and sisters in Iraq whose parish was destroyed by ISIS. We were asked to make a $5000 commitment to help out. In the past our pancake breakfast fundraisers would go to that cause. Obviously due to COVID restrictions we have not been able to hold those fundraisers for almost 2 years. To date we still have a $2142 commitment to help our sister parish in Iraq. They are also hurting and a whole lot worse than us. We are asking if you can, please go to this website and make an online donation and help us help them.

Whatever we do for the least of our brothers we do for Christ!

Go to: https://donate.kofccharities.org/team/242794

Editors Message

I hope you are all enjoying our quarterly newsletters. Please save these newsletters to your computer for future reference. Also feel free to share your newsletter with family and friends. If someone asks you what are we all about please forward them the newsletter and hopefully it will be a recruitment tool for new members.

Wishing you and your families a wonderful Thanksgiving and a Blessed Christmas!

Feel free to contact me for any ideas on how we could make our newsletter even better. Our next issue is due out February 1st 2022.

Dennis Laskaskie

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