

FR. MCCORMICK COUNCIL 3880

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 3880, CRYSTAL LAKE, IL 60014

KNIGHT LIFE



ISSUE NO 11 | MAY 2026

| VOLUME 30



TOPIC 01

Next Month's Newsletter should reflect your current position.

TOPIC 02

Officer slate for Fraternal Year is a MUST read on page 4.

TOPIC 03

Page 8 shows DGK, Bill Bransley accepting a State Award.

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT



Ello, Brother Knights,

As we reflect on this past month we look back on where we have contributed to our community:

- Kishwaukee Food Truck event supporting the Woodstock KofC council
- Monthly breakfast
- St Thomas Field Day cookout
- Caballeros Round table event
- Food pantry

Equally important this month is our 5th Sunday mass. We come together to honor and pay respect to our Brother Knights who have passed.

- "tempus fugit, memento mori"- "time flies, remember death"

This happens to fall on the same weekend where we honor our Military service members who fought for this country and paid the ultimate sacrifice.

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Grand KNIGHT FROM PAGE 1

As we gather together this weekend please make time to attend the 5th Sunday mass at 9am.

As always, if you know of someone who feels left out, please reach out to me at 847-341-1727.

God Bless.

Vivat Jesus

Cesar Jimenez
Grand Knight

DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

Greetings Brother Knights from Springfield, Illinois; where I had the honor and the privilege to attend the 128th Knights of Columbus State Convention. The weekend as a whole reminded me of a Clint Eastwood movie. There were some good moments, some bad moments and some ugly moments. There were numerous opportunities to enjoy camaraderie with the other councils within the Rockford Diocese as the various District Deputies brought us together to meet and to share our success stories. Our DD, Andy, asked me to share how our council was able to sell over 300 vocational raffle books. He would tell anyone we met about what council #3880 was able to accomplish. I did not think it was that big a deal until our council was called as the third best in the state for this initiative.

The convention has the usual pomp and circumstance with the parade of council banners. This was fun as there were some many different types of banners from all over the state. Some councils were celebrating 125 years and enjoyed the generous applause of the audience, but the loudest applause was for a brand-new council that brought in 193 new members. Then the awards ceremony started and I noticed that the same councils kept getting their names called within each of the programs. The programs were the five disciplines: Membership, Charity activities, Intellectual Disability Drive, Newman Fund and Vocational Raffle.

The theme for the convention was "Be the Difference". The State Deputy explained this mission to mean each of us has something to give in support of others. Knights of Columbus members serve together in service to their respective churches and communities. The various speeches stressed Faith and Friendship within each council and reminded their brother knights that the Knights of Columbus is about Unity, Charity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

The weekend was really an extended council meeting as there was an opening prayer, an insurance report, a Knight of the Year award, a Family of the Year award, voting on several resolutions, old business, new business and a closing prayer. A lot of it was a blur; a lot of it was exciting and awesome and then there was the frightening part as I realized what expectation there are for our council next fraternal year. The only ugly part was the \$40 lunch where they ran out of food before everyone ate.

Let each of us make a commitment for the next 12 months to "Be the Difference".

Vivat Jesus

SK, Bill Bransley

CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN



A remarkable thing has been happening in the Catholic Church in the United States over the past few years: GROWTH! The absolute number of Catholics remains level, largely because more Catholics are dying than are being baptized. Among adults though, it looks like many more people are converting to Catholicism than leaving it. Dioceses across the country have been reporting a significant uptick in people joining the Catholic Church since 2024. The wave of new Catholics is disproportionately youthful, full of millennials and zoomers – who, polls suggest, show some signs of gravitating back toward religious belief. It is still far too early to say this represents a clear trend, since the numbers are so new that the Official Catholic Directory has yet to compile the most relevant data. Still, it is a sign of hope for the Church when people seek out faith. Recent evidence indicates that many young Americans still want to be Catholic.

This pattern of conversion-based growth, especially among the young, is fairly unprecedented in the history of American Catholicism. Historically, the American Church has fought hard just to retain its membership, building its own institutions and social networks to keep immigrants and their descendants from assimilating into the larger Protestant culture. In the past, when membership increased, immigration and natural growth through children born into Catholic families have always been the driving factors.

After a brutal quarter-century of marked decline, things began to change in 2023. The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) classes started to fill. Around the country, parishes and university campus ministry programs have been reporting large numbers of catechumens. Mass attendance has been rising and starting to finally show some signs of recovery from the post-pandemic slump.

Truth has become a precious commodity in modern times, not in spite of but because of the flood of information that most of us have at our fingertips 24 hours a day. It turns out that giving people access to vast stores of unfiltered “content” does not necessarily help them to live grounded, purposeful lives. Although Catholicism has always attracted a fair number of intellectual converts, most people probably do not come for the philosophy or the doorstep-sized catechism. However, ordinary people do want answers to life’s most defining questions. Why does my life matter? Is there a way to find value in suffering? How can I be a better person? How can my faith provide deeper relationships, greater community, strong social ties? Only time will tell if this is a lasting trend. I believe we must see this as a great opportunity for Evangelization. If God is calling us to be *LIGHT* to our compatriots, we need to do our utmost to answer that call.

Peace, be with you, Fr. Bob Jones



2025-26 OFFICERS

- Grand Knight (847) 341-1727
J. Cesar Jimenez
- Deputy Grand Knight (815) 793-3595
William Bransley
- Chancellor (815)-404-6072
John Carzoli
- Lecturer 815-477-2241
Vito DeFrisco
- Chaplain 815/455-5400
Rev. Bob Jones
- Advocate (847) 338-1772
Stuart Liegel
- Treasurer 574-850-1053
Ned Holland
- Financial Secretary (815)-679-6596
PGK, PFN John Stefani
- Recorder 773-641-6601
Sam Evans
- Warden 815-893-4061
Pat Slowey
- Inside Guard (815) 382-4528
Tim DeLance
- Outside Guard (815) 263-0177
Paul Tagatz
- 3 Year Trustee
PGK Pat Maguire
- 2 Year Trustee 815 354-668
Joseph Scherb
- 1 Year Trustee 815 354-6686
Mike Bradley
- Membership (815) 528-3491
Robert Kosin
- Newsletter (815) 790-5191
PGK, Tim Hicklin



LECTURER'S REFLECTIONS

Worthy Brother Knights, as we **gather** at our future business meeting, we **look** to the Saint of the Day for May 5, Saint Hilary of Arles. Although Hilary was born into an aristocratic family with great wealth, he voluntarily gave up his privilege to serve the Church. As a young bishop, he was famous for doing manual labor to earn money for the poor.

As Knights of Columbus, our first and foremost principle is Charity. St. Hilary reminds us that charity is not just an afterthought—it requires real labor, sacrifice, and rolling up our sleeves. As we **look forward to** discussing our council's budget, business, and upcoming projects at **future meetings**, let us ask ourselves how we can better give of our own time and resources to those in our community who are captive to poverty, loneliness, or despair. Saint Hilary of Arles, pray for us

Vito C. DeFrisco

FROM THE DESK OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY



Fiscal Year 2026 - 2027 Officer Slate

Grand Knight	William Bransley	(has agreed)
Deputy Grand Knight	John Carzoli	(has agreed)
Chancellor	Stuart Liegel	(has agreed)
Advocate	Pat Slowey	(has agreed)
Treasurer	Ned Holland	(has agreed)
Recorder	Paul J Cuchna II	(has agreed)
Warden	Dan O'Connell, Jr	(has agreed)
Inside Guard	Tim DeLance	(has agreed)
Inside Guard	Paul Tagatz	(has agreed)
Outside Guard	Don Shaw	(has agreed)
3 Year Trustee	Cesar Jimenez	(has agreed)
Continuing on as:	(non-elected)	
2 Year Trustee	PGK Pat Maguire	
1 Year Trustee	PGK Joseph Scherb	

In accordance with rules and requirements by the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus, and at the direction of the Grand Knight of Fr. McCormick Council 3880.

Submitted by the appointed Nominating Committee:

Past Grand Knight Michael Bradley _____ **OK** _____

Past Grand Knight Timothy Hicklin _____ **OK** _____

Past Grand Knight Joseph Scherb _____ **OK** _____

Past Grand Knight John Stefani _____ **OK** _____

MAY BREAKFAST

Another great Breakfast, feeding over 200 happy friends and customers! Noticed and talked with a few new faces again, hoping they will become regulars. Food costs still seeing more increases again, outweighing the downward items. And just to help keeping it aggravating, our main Vendor still keeps showing more items as “not available” or worse yet, “this item no longer available, this is the replacement”. One of those was the steak we use for the Steak & Eggs... the current one is a little smaller... by an ounce, so that works in our favor as our price is so low, we can use the smaller one but keep the price the same. Since our item is so under market everyone still wins. But then again the potatoes hit us this month. Did not have our regular cubed skin on item, but substituted a diced, skinless, variable sized item. They were very small and disrupted the serving size. These came in at \$76, per case versus \$116. per case for the normal ones... So need to watch which are available next month and see where we need to adjust... or think about going back to the hash browns we used in the past. This is a never ending battle, just like we all see for our home grocery shopping. Even eggs again... last month \$13.00 for a case of 15 dozen... but got an early morning email saying they didn't have any eggs! We almost went to Sam's right away but delayed that, fortunatley, because when the order came in there were the eggs! If we had bought them at Sam's, their cost was \$13.00 for a case of 7 1/2 dozen. But even then, the ones they sent were Large, vs our normal Medium... but the Large where cheaper at \$11.00 for the case... not that I need any help losing my mind!!! This does take a few extra hours of my time every month going back and forth checking these things out. Sure glad I'm retired!!

Hope to see you there on June 14th, a week earlier than normal so we get to spend the regular 3rd week with our families for “Father's Day!

one side of the counter or the other...

John

**MEMBERSHIP COLUMN****AIN'T THAT THE TRUTH**

Familiar phrases such as “we always do it” or “everyone knows” are common in both everyday conversation and formal decision-making. Yet a closer look often shows that accepted assumptions can obscure a richer and more meaningful history.

As the Nation observes its 250th anniversary, many traditions are practiced as though they date directly to July 4, 1776. While commonly associated with the founding, some came about much later. For example, the 31-word Pledge of Allegiance was not recited on that day, nor was the Betsy Ross flag raised as part of the events in Philadelphia.

By the time the Pledge was first stated, the Nation had already existed for 116 years. Another 60 years would pass before the phrase “one Nation under God” was added. After its inclusion, President John F. Kennedy echoed the same conviction in his inaugural address when he said that our rights as Americans “come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God.”

With the Knights of Columbus efforts to add that phrase to the Pledge, their commitment before and after to Faith and Charity has remained constant. Their witness can be seen in many places, including support for people affected by the war in Ukraine to local service through efforts such as the Crystal Lake Food Pantry, offered without regard to race or creed.

So, when the Pledge is spoken, remember that there is a group of Catholic Gentlemen who take its meaning to heart and welcome others to join them in service to their Faith. Vivat Jesus.

So, say "Vivat Jesus"

Robert Kosin

3880 Council Store



Fr. McCormick Council 3880
Knights of Columbus Apparel Store
SHOP ONLINE FOR COUNCIL POLOS & SHIRTS

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SHOP

Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge

This Month's Challenge – June 2026

“[W]hoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.” (Gospel for June 28, Mt 10:38)

Our fallen human condition involves a measure of suffering and trials. Our commitment as disciples of Jesus, Scripture tells us, necessarily means taking up our own crosses willingly. God will grant us the strength to endure all trials if we remain faithful, and our suffering can prove redemptive if we accept it and unite it to the passion of Christ. This doesn't mean we can't take steps to alleviate our suffering, but we are called to courageously bear our crosses, even when faced with persecution, and to thereby participate in the saving work of Christ.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet each day with the intention of uniting your daily sufferings with Christ's passion and in solidarity with all persecuted Christians around the world.

Questions for Reflection:

Do you carry your cross willingly, or do you feel it is forced upon you? Where do you turn when you need help with the weight of your cross? To prayer and the sacraments? To your family, friends and brother Knights?



Our next Exemplification of Patriotism will be Saturday, June 27, 2026, at St. Norbert Catholic Church in Northbrook, IL and will be Ty Simmons last official one as Master. Host Assembly is Bishop Hillinger #1595. Bishop Boylan Assembly still has only **one candidate** for the event, and we would like to see many more especially from Council #3880 who is at zero candidates. If you know a brother 3rd Degree knight that should step up, invite him to do so. Just like recruiting members to the Council, if you don't invite them, why should they come? Time is short so let's help our brother knights complete their journey in knighthood.

The Assembly is running a fundraiser to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our great nation. We have designed a custom T-shirt with graphics celebrating this auspicious occasion and referencing the Knights and our patriotic tenet. You do not need to be a Sir Knight to order one. The eagle emblem shown is emblazoned on the front and the KC logo is on the left sleeve. Shirt colors will be red or royal blue and dri-fit material. The price is \$30 with proceeds after costs going to support veteran programs. If interested, please let me know or scan the QR code to see the shirts and order.



The Assembly has two (2) uniform allowances of \$200 left for this fraternal year. It is on a first-come, first-reimbursed basis. You must submit a **paid receipt** along with the reimbursement form to receive payment. You can order the uniform [here](#). The sword and scabbard package can be found [here](#). Our Council has a \$100 allowance uniform allowance as well (5 available) so you could get up to \$300 back on a uniform purchase. Hurry before the Assembly runs out their allotment.

If you haven't been out to the Assembly website in a while, you can find it [here](#). We are updating it with Council events going on with those Councils who make up our Assembly so check it often.

PRO-LIFE REPORT

AI Overview

Progress in respect for life and human dignity is primarily measured by quality of life, peace, and individual freedoms. Broadly, regions showing the fastest positive changes involve developing economies, while established high-ranking nations continue to refine their robust protections. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)]

Specific regional and global trends indicate where these improvements are unfolding:

1. The Global South and Emerging Economies

- **India, Vietnam, and Indonesia:** Driven by massive infrastructure investments and rapid digital inclusion, these nations are drastically lifting millions out of poverty, improving basic living standards, and enhancing life expectancy. [[1](#)]
- **South America:** According to the Global Peace Index, this region has been a standout in recent years for positive peace trajectories, with nations like **Peru** and **Argentina** recording the most notable improvements in societal safety. [[1](#)]

2. Established Leaders in Well-being

- **Nordic Countries (Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Sweden):** These nations consistently dominate global indices (like the UN's Social Progress Index) for environmental quality, access to healthcare, and overall life satisfaction. They represent the global benchmark for respect for both human rights and individual autonomy. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#)]
- **Estonia:** Ranking at the top of the European-centric [Human Rights Index](#), Estonia has shown exceptional progress in civic freedoms and personal liberties over the past decade. [[1](#)]

3. Track Records in Peace and Security

- **Iceland and New Zealand:** These countries have topped the [Global Peace Index](#) for several consecutive years, maintaining environments with extremely low rates of violent crime and high standards of social cohesion. [[1](#), [2](#)]

If you are looking to track exact metrics, you can explore the [World Justice Project](#) or the Good Country Index to see exactly how individual nations prioritize human equality and long-term societal well-being. [[1](#), [2](#)]

Respectfully submitted, Pete Harren, ProLife Director

Pro-Life Connections

	<p>Corporate Office: 2600 State St., Suite E Alton, IL 62002-5172 (618) 465-BABY ifrlalton@ifrl-pac.com</p>	<p>Legislative Office: 308 Monroe Springfield, IL 62701 (217) 544-LIFE legofc@ifrl-pac.com</p>	<p>McHenry County Right to Life: www.righttolife-mc.org McHenry County Right to Life PAC: www.prolife-victory.com</p>
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Chancellor's Report

Uncertainty

The months of May and June often bring about anxiety with the busyness of graduations, proms, the end of the school year, figuring out summer (if it ever comes!) vacation plans, priest relocations, and the secular push to emphasize things other than what these two months represent. The month of May is of course the month of Mary, and the month of June is the month of The Sacred Heart of Jesus.

By now you should be aware of the various priest movements and hopefully you were able to attend some of the events centered on Mary these past few weeks such as the Rosary and May Crowning earlier this month. But looking ahead, hopefully you can get involved in some of the June activities or at least quietly show your neighbors what the month of June should really be focused on by getting yourself a nice "June is the month of the Sacred Heart" bumper sticker/magnet. If you are interested, I can tell you where I got mine.

Corpus Christi Sunday is coming up on June 7, and St. Thomas will have a procession after the 4:30pm mass on June 6. Come and participate while wearing your council shirt and dress pants.

Another, more private or personal thing to do is to become more familiar with the devotion to the Sacred Heart by perhaps reading some books on how this came to be through the influence of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in the seventeenth century and the 12 promises of the Sacred Heart if one completes nine first-Friday devotions. The following article from Catholic Answers is a good resource:

<https://www.catholic.com/tract/the-sacred-heart-of-jesus-catholic-answers-guide>

Going a little deeper, you could read *The Devotion to the Sacred Heart* by Fr. John Croiset, S.J. which details the life of St. Margaret Mary, the visions she had, the sufferings she endured, and how she came to understand the promises of the Sacred Heart. Perhaps June 5th can be your first of nine first-Friday devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus if you haven't already started this practice. Either way, delving a bit into this deep and mysterious symbol of the Church might help us stay focused in this, sometimes confusing, month of June.

God Bless,

John Carzoli,
 Chancellor

State Award

DGK Bransley accepting an award for Vocations Raffle success from State Deputy Lloyd Reinkensmeier.



For the Good of the Order

MAY 2026

Knights Birthdates	Knights Continued	Wives Birthdates	Anniversaries
PGK Jeff T Faye 06-02	Donald Furlano 06-17	Diane A Santinello 06-14	Mark & Angel Allen 06-09
Harry P Blus 06-05	Dennis J Amato 06-18		Daniel & Annette O'Connell 06-16
Michael J Chmiel, Jr 06-06	Kevin F Scanlan 06-22		John & Tricia Carzoli 06-21
Jerzy Czaplak 06-07	Michael R Lunebach 06-24		PGK Vincent & Kathryn Esposito 06-22
Charles E Leahy 06-07	Don Shaw 06-25		Robert & Mary Kunz 06-25
David Nastali 06-07	Michael A Jasinski 06-27		
Lawrence Marruffo 06-08	Kevin Castillo Rodriguez 06-29		
John W Erickson 06-11			
Richard W Heuer 06-11			
David J Miloch 06-11			

*FIFTH SUNDAY – MAY 31, 2026 – 9:00AM (MARCH 29 IS PALM SUNDAY)

5th SUNDAY May 31, 2026

Sunday May 31, 2026, is a Fifth Sunday of the month for which the 9AM Mass is in memory for the Deceased Members of Council 3880 including our namesake Father Edwin A. McCormick. Please consider attending in your Black or Blue Council Shirt and for those Past Grand Knights, the White Shirt as a worthy memento of your service to the Council. But attendance should not limit the moment of prayer on that day. As well as attending or streaming Mass that day, find a place to hear an inner voice or view of His creation and if the weather is conducive, stand outside on that Sunday, long enough to say a decade.



Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

And from the gentle repetition of each prayer be mindful of our deceased members, their faith in their clergy, love of Our Lady and how each lived a life in recognition of Tempus Fugit, Memento Mori.

Robert Kosin

COUNCIL NEXT THREE-MONTH CALENDAR



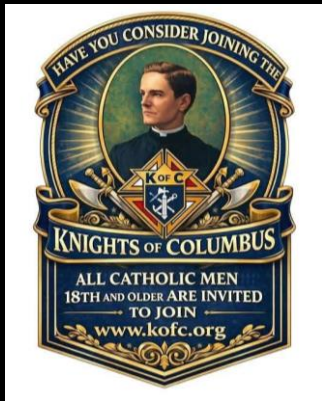
Visit us at KofC3880.org.

Fr. McCormick Council 3880
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 225 N. Main St.
 Crystal Lake, IL 60014
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MAY/JUNE 2026	JULY 2026	AUGUST 2026
5/25 Memorial Day 5/26 Officers Meeting 5/28 Food Pantry 5/30-31 Mini Kermes 5/31 5 th Sunday <hr/> 6/2 Business Meeting Officer Elections Marian Scholarship 6/6 Corpus Christi Procession 6/14 Breakfast 6/14 Trolley Food Truck Event 6/16 Officer Installation 6/17 Caballeros De Colon 6/20 CLB Food Truck Event 6/21 Fathers Day 6/25 Food Pantry 6/30 Officers Meeting	7/4 Independence Day 7/7 Business Meeting 7/14 250 th USA Anniversary Rosary 7/15 Caballeros De Colon 7/16 Lippold Park (Baseball event) 7/18 Regatta 7/19 Breakfast 7/23 Food Pantry 7/28 Officers Meeting	8/4 Business Meeting 8/10 Exemplification 8/15 Blood Drive 8/16 Breakfast 8/19 Caballeros De Colon 8/25 Officers Meeting 8/27 Food Pantry 8/29 Rosary 8/29-30 Mini Kermes 8/30 Donuts 5th Sunday

Prayer for the Canonization of Fr. Michael J McGivney

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Fr. Michael J. McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and 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 your venerable servant Father Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, bless our parish, our Knights of Columbus Council and Lady's Auxiliary. Amen.



Pope Leo XIV



Sponsored by The Knights of Columbus

Make the Right Choice. Life is not Your Choice.
It's Your Responsibility!

National Election is 11/3/2026,

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.