

FR. MCCORMICK COUNCIL 3880

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 3880, CRYSTAL LAKE, IL 60014

KNIGHT LIFE



ISSUE NO 3 | SEPTEMBER 2025 | VOLUME 30



TOPIC 01

This Newsletter is
Chock full of news...
10 pages AGAIN!!!!

TOPIC 02

Archbishop Lori's
Supreme Chaplain
Challenge for
September 2025

TOPIC 03

The Financial Secretary's
column is especially relevant
for wives.

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT



ello Brother Knights,

What a great month to be part of our council. September 6th we launched the month with the annual Parochial Picnic. With our food truck and a taco truck there was plenty of food to go around for all of the invited parishioners from both parishes. Thank you to those of you council Knights who made this a success.

Equally important was the support of Knights and families from both St. Thomas and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton for the IDD Tootsie Roll drive. Another successful event this year.

Let's not forget our monthly breakfast the day after. We had wonderful patronage from our Parishioners.

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GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT **From Page 1**

who came in for a bite. And let's hear it for Brother Rob Kunz who skillfully sold the remaining 6 cases of Tootsie roll, one bag at a time in the Narthex. All sales go to the IDD fund. Nice Job Rob!

It's through our Brotherhood and with you that we can accomplish so much. Therefore, if you hear about a future event, please consider donating some time to assist.

For example:

- Thursday September 25th – Food Pantry
- Saturday October 4th – St Thomas Alumni "Trojan Tailgate fest"

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

Thank you for all that you do to support this council. Your contributions make us who we are.

God Bless.

Vivat Jesus

Cesar Jimenez
Grand Knight

DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

The K of C annual Vocation Raffle has begun. Just a reminder that books are no longer mailed to all knights. Please come to a monthly breakfast or meeting to obtain your tickets. Your support is vital, please act today.

For over 25 years, the Knights of Columbus Fr. McCormick Council #3880 and the St. Thomas the Apostle parish have been providing a yearly stipend to seminarians within the Rockford Diocese. Typically, the seminarians who receive this stipend are ones that worked at St. Thomas. Lately, as the best council in the state of Illinois; we have been asked by the Rockford Diocese to provide for all the seminarians. This number is usually between 8-10 future priests.

The funds for this endeavor are generated via the Vocational Raffle held each fall. In the past, the knights have sold tickets after masses; during monthly breakfasts; to family, friends and neighbors; and at our monthly meetings. This year, the Illinois State Council has changed the program slightly. It is with this change in mind that our council has decided to try a different approach.

Our council #3880 separated all the books into individual raffle tickets and put them into envelopes. Each envelope contains a \$5.00 raffle ticket along with instructions on how to participate in this charitable event.

I am requesting that all knights obtain an envelope or two. Please contact me at 815-793-3595 or email me at webnd78@yahoo.com and I will get tickets to you. With your help, the future of the Catholic Church will continue as the Knights of Columbus will generate enough funds to assist all our seminarians.

Vivat Jesus,
SK, Bill Bransley

MEMBERSHIP COLUMN



JUST ASK

Questions are asked throughout the day. What's the weather like ? How are you feeling? At the Masses on Saturday October 11th and Sunday October 12th, the Knights have been given the opportunity to address the Parish about the membership of the Knights of Columbus. The target audience is not just a recruitment of new members but speaking to existing members in Fr. McCormick Council 3880.

Every month the officers of this Council write in Knight Life, not about their accomplishments, rather how a group of Catholic men came forward or will come forward to fulfill the principles of the Knights of Columbus, Charity, Unity and Fraternity. All are Principles founded by Blessed Father McGivney and pursued by Council 3880 for some 70 years. No one member is the Council, each was asked or asked to join including Fr. McCormick.. So instead of relying on those digital tools of communication, take the opportunity to directly ask your fellow Knight, what's new? Or ask your fellow parishioner at Mass, if he is a Knight and depending on the answer, ask would you like to join the number one Council in the State of Illinois? After all, who do you know, with prayer, can move mountains. SK, Robert Kosin

CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN



Many of you have likely felt sickened by the recent tragedies that have rocked our nation. The assassination of Charlie Kirk, on the heels of the mass shooting at the Catholic Elementary School Mass, in Minneapolis, are the type of events that definitely trouble the soul. These two incidents along with many other killings and acts of violence might make us feel somewhat helpless and completely vulnerable. What are we to do? How are we to respond?

Personally, I have found the Serenity Prayer to be quite helpful. It provides an excellent road map for helping us sort through the issues at hand while remaining centered in God during stressful, divisive, and troubling times.

The Serenity Prayer is attributed to Reinhold Niebuhr, a twentieth-century Protestant theologian who taught for thirty years at Union Theological Seminary in New York. The first three lines of the prayer are very well known, often featured on wall plaques and prayed by Twelve-Step recovery groups worldwide:

*God grant me the Serenity to Accept the things I cannot change,
 Courage to Change the things I can,
 And the Wisdom to Know the difference.*

*Living one day at a time, Enjoying one moment at a time,
 Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,
 Taking as Jesus did, This sinful world as it is, Not as I would have it,
 Trusting that You will make all things right, If I surrender to Your will,
 So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,
 And supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen!*

There is no denying that this world is sinful, broken, and unjust. But it is the only world we have. Isn't this a powerful prayer, especially in light of what may trouble us. What gives you the hope and strength to live lovingly and courageously? What part of the Serenity Prayer is the most difficult challenge for you to live? Take some time to consider how you might live more peacefully and joyously. Ask God for the grace to do so.

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

FINANCIAL SECRETARY



Hello Knight's Wives!

(If you are a Knight, STOP READING! This isn't for you!!)

Again, Hello, ladies! Many of you know me, but for those who don't, I'm John and among many other things for the Council, I am the Financial Secretary, and included in that job is the fact I am the "Keeper of Records!" But I don't have unrestricted control of that... sometimes your better half gets involved in that... or doesn't!

Hopefully he shares this Award Winning Council **Knight Life** newsletter. I know a lot of you do read it to keep up with what we are doing all the time. Have you ever read the section towards the back that lists the upcoming month's Knight's Birthday? And wife's birthday? And wedding anniversaries??? And have you by any chance seen **YOUR birthday or anniversary** missing? And asked why it wasn't there??? If you have, I don't know what kind of an answer you have gotten, but **I'M INNOCENT!**

You see, in order for the Editor to list them, he needs to get the info from the Official Record person.. Me! But when I started helping **Past Grand Knight Tim Hicklin**, the Editor, put this together, I noticed that the wife's info was kind of scarce... so I printed out the list of every one of the almost 300 Members to include their name, their birthday, and their Wife's birthday. My list showed barely a couple dozen dates... even less for anniversaries!

So, I put together a list and passed it out at meetings to get some updates. But in reality there are only about 20% of the Members who come to meetings... so I sent out some other requests for info, but would you believe... never got too many answers. Well, I **DID** get a few answers and then got a panicky phone call or two saying, oops... no that was our kids date not the wife's! LOL!!!

So here is the point of this article... would YOU please help me update our records? If you have seen your dates missing, please send them to me!!! You can do it with a text or email to the below... or if you are at one of the Breakfasts' pop into the kitchen and hand me a note!!!!

... I may be reached by phone / text at (815) 679-6596 or jstefani44fs3880@aol.com John

MONTHLY BREAKFAST REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER



Greetings! Well, summer is over and here we are again... everything is both the same and different!! The true story of the Monthly Breakfast! Last month we had so few items we needed so we didn't place a food order with our vendor and the profit to the council skyrocketed out of sight with a bigger than usual crowd... just wonderful! AND we had a very large turnout to eat... so this month I needed to place a very large order... and we had the more normal number of people eating... so, we made a profit, but it was extremely small... in spite of the fact that I was forced to raise the price of our very well liked Steak & Eggs menu item. Last month we served a record high 20 of them... this month a still respectable 14, even with a \$3.00 increase in cost. I had a large sign on the door announcing the increase, but based on the crowd, it didn't make a difference, it still sold! Based on our menu and door counts, the difference was based on the much smaller post 10:30 Mass attendance. It is really amazing the numbers we get to look at the stats. If you aren't aware, **Annette O'Connell** takes all of the used menus and provides me with a list showing how many of each menu items we sold, what meat they had and so on. Then we get from both her and the parish office the number of people attending each mass so know the percentage of people coming to the breakfast. These numbers are shared with the crew so they can keep track and of course then use them for bragging rights!!!

For the next breakfast, on October 19th, we have 2 additional items... the first is the Annual SPRED Breakfast. Each year for some time now we offer a free family style breakfast to the SPRED Team. This area is separated from the main seating and served after the 9 AM Mass. Pete Harren, the Life Director, helps coordinate this event and the set-up and serving, and always enjoys help with this. We will also have the students from St. Thomas School Athletics helping to serve! This has been a treat for us in the past as they are SOOOO quick and excited in doing it... the smiling faces add a little more to the breakfast and we look forward to their being there!

See you next **October 19th** ... Hope to see you there... one side of the counter or the other!

John



FOURTH DEGREE REPORT

Not to sound like a broken record but, the next Exemplification of Patriotism for the Rockford Diocese will be held at Saint Margaret Mary Church in Algonquin on October 25th. If you are a 3rd Degree Knight and looking to join the Patriotic Degree, ask one of the many Sir Knights in our Council to be your proposer. Families are also now able to attend and view the Exemplification and see you knighted into the 4th Degree. Time is getting short to register so take action if you are interested. The registration packet can be found [here](#).

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 will continue the \$100 allowance (maximum 5) so you could get up to \$300 back on a uniform purchase. Hurry before the Assembly runs out their allotment.

The Assembly has been busy providing honor guards at various events and will be starting the Color Guard at Marion Central home football games on Friday nights. If you are interested, please let me know and I can get you contact information. A uniform is required (see below on how to get one). 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.

Our next Assembly meeting is on **October 8, 2025**, at 7:30 PM at Holy Apostles in McHenry. If you are a Sir Knight and are not receiving the meeting invites or other Assembly emails, please let me know and I can update your email address to rectify the situation. If you have purchased the uniform for the 4th Degree and are not receiving the Honor Guard callouts, please let me know as well so I can add you to that list.

God bless you and your families and God Bless the United States of America.

Vivat Jesus! SK, Dan O'Connell

CHRISTMAS TREES 2025

I can't believe it's that time again!! I thought I would list some important dates for you to help with Christmas Trees 2025.

Good news we are able to get 7'-8' Fraser Firs trees this year!!! Also, will be selling Advent Wreaths and candles at Pierson and Oak Street churches again.

Some Important Dates for you to mark on your Calanders

- Tree Lot Set-up November 8th, 2025 - Need Help!!!!
- Wreath Pick-up November 8 & 9, 2025 Info only
 - Wreath Blessing November 9, 2025– Info only
- Install Bows on Wreaths week of November 9, 2025 – Need Help!!
- Advent Wreath sales start November 9, 2025 on weekends till November 30th Need Help!!!
 - Tree Delivery: Last year was Saturday 11-23-24.
It's normally the week of Thanksgiving. Will keep you posted on date!!
 - **Tree Hours – Help Needed Two Hour Shifts**
 - Monday – Friday Hours 4:30pm – 7:00pm
 - Saturday & Sunday Hours 9:00am – 7:00pm
- Sign up sheets will be at the business meeting for Tree set-up, Tree off-loading and working the tree stand. And going forward sign-up sheets will be at the tree stand trailer for you to sign up to work.

Thanks for All You Do !!

The Christmas Tree Committee 2025

SK, Bob Wyman

September 2025 Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge

“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.” (Gospel for Sept. 7, Lk 14:27)

Suffering is an inescapable part of human life, a consequence of the fall. When we deal with our suffering in a virtuous way, we unite ourselves to the cross of Christ. In fact, Jesus tells us that taking up our cross is an essential condition for being his disciple. The wonderful thing is that God will supply whatever grace and strength we need to carry our cross, if only we ask for it in faith. May we always carry our cross daily with courage as faithful followers of Christ.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, as we celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross on Sept. 14, I challenge you to undertake some sacrifice or mortification — such as abstaining from meat one or two days a week — to strengthen your willingness to carry your cross daily.

Questions for Reflection:

What are the crosses you must carry in your life? Which do you struggle with the most? Do you faithfully and regularly seek strength from Christ in carrying your cross in prayer and the sacraments?

3880 MEMORIES



SK, Matt Carzoli ... Knight of the Month - August



SK, Robert Kosin ... Family of the Month- Sept



Tim DeLance ... Knight of the Month - Sept

3880 MEMORIES



Fr. Bob (middle) and his Knights Helpers



3880's Caballeros De Colon at Pierson Street's Mass for Departed Brothers – Aug 31.



During the Weekend of September 19-21, The IDDF Drive took place, Above are some of the participants.

Right: Ned Holland's Daughter helps out at the tables making them ready to go. A true Family Event!!!



PRO-LIFE REPORT

POPE REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR PROLIFE.

(Updated 4:31 AM CDT, May 16, 2025)

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Leo XIV affirmed Friday that the [family](#) is founded on the “stable union between a man and a woman,” and that the unborn and elderly [enjoy dignity](#) as God’s creatures, articulating clear Catholic teaching on marriage and abortion at the start of his pontificate.

Leo, [the first American pope](#), also called for reviving multilateral diplomacy and promoting dialogue between religions in the search for peace, in his first meeting with the Vatican diplomatic corps. The audience was private, but the Vatican released Leo’s prepared text and that of the dean of the diplomatic corps.

The encounter is one of the protocol requirements after a conclave, allowing a new pope to greet representatives of world governments ahead of his formal installation Mass this Sunday. The Holy See is a sovereign state under international law, has diplomatic relations with over 180 countries and enjoys observer status at the United Nations.

Leo, a member of the Augustinian religious order, has emphasized peace as a priority of his pontificate, from the first words he uttered on the loggia of St. Peter’s Basilica after his May 8 election, “Peace be with you all.”

In his remarks, he said the search for peace was one of the pillars of the papacy. He insisted that peace isn’t just the absence of conflict but a “gift” that requires work, from an end to the production of weapons to choosing words carefully. “For words too, not only weapons, can wound and even kill.”

He said it was up to governments to build peaceful societies “above all by investing in the family, founded upon the stable union between a man and a woman.”

“In addition, no one is exempted from striving to ensure respect for the dignity of every person, especially the most frail and vulnerable, from the unborn to the elderly, from the sick to the unemployed, citizens and immigrants alike,” he said.

Pope Francis strongly reaffirmed core Catholic teaching opposing abortion and euthanasia, saying they were evidence of today’s “throwaway culture.” But he also made [reaching out to LGBTQ+ Catholics](#) a hallmark, insisting they are welcome in the church. He never changed church doctrine defining marriage as a union between man and woman and homosexual acts as “intrinsically disordered.”

As the then-head of the Augustinian order, the Rev. Robert Prevost in 2012 criticized the [“homosexual lifestyle”](#) and the role of mass media in promoting acceptance of same-sex relationships that conflicted with Catholic doctrine. A decade later, during Francis’ pontificate, he acknowledged Francis’ call for a more inclusive church, and said he didn’t want people excluded just on the basis of their lifestyle.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete Harren, Prolife Director, Sept 2025

PRO-LIFE ORGANIZATIONS



Corporate Office:
2600 State St., Suite E
Alton, IL 62002-5172
(618) 465-BABY
ifrlalton@ifrl-pac.com

Legislative Office:
308 Monroe
Springfield, IL 62701
(217) 544-LIFE
legofc@ifrl-pac.com

McHenry County Right to Life:
www.righttolife-mc.org
McHenry County Right to Life PAC:
www.prolife-victory.com

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

OCTOBER 2025

Knights Birthdates	Knights Continued	Wives Birthdates	Anniversaries
Geraldo Espindola 10-03	Hon Michael J Chmiel 10-21	Sheri Kebr 10-11	Robert & Pamela Wyman 10-08
Christopher J Keen 10-03	Alfonso Correa 10-21	Kathy Esposito 10-15	Jim & Lynnette Stefani 10-15
Sam Evans 10-05	Peter M Mateljan 10-27	Emily Holland 10-18	
Patrick D Kenneally 10-05	Joseph Gottemoller 10-29	Vicky Kosin 10-25	
Luis Merino 10-10	PGK Daniel P Maguire 10-30		
Rev. Charles P Fitzpatrick 10-14	Jasper Pitrello 10-31		
Vito C. DeFrisco 10-16			
Elias G Rendon 10-16			

FIFTH SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 30, 2025 – 9:00AM

5th SUNDAY November 30, 2025

Sunday November 30, 2025 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,

Vocation Raffle Tickets

IF you would like Chance Booklets see or call Chancellor, SK, William Bransley (815) 793- 3595



COUNCIL NEXT THREE MONTH CALENDAR



OCTOBER 2025	NOVEMBER 2025	DECEMBER 2025
10/4,11,18,25 TMIY 10/4 Octoberfest 10/7 Business Meeting 10/13 Columbus Day 10/15 Caballeros De Colon 10/19 Breakfast + SPRED Breakfast 10/23 Food Pantry 10/28 Officers' Meeting 10/31 Halloween 10/31 Vespers Mass (Hispanic)	11/1-2 All Saints and All, Souls 11/1,8,15,22 TMIY 11/4 Business Meeting 11/7 Daddy Daughter Dance 11/11 Veterans Day 11/15 Wreath Pick-Up and Sales 11/16 Breakfast 11/19 Caballeros De Colon 11/20 Memorial Mass 11/25 Officers Meeting 11/28-11/30 Christmas Tree Sales	12/1-12/20 Christmas Tree Sales 12/2 Business meeting 12/6,13 TMIY 12/16 Christmas Party 12/17 Caballeros De Colon 12/20 Christmas Tree Sales End 12/21 Breakfast with Santa 12/24 Christmas Eve 12/25 Christmas Day 12/30 Officers Meeting 12/31 New Year's Eve

Visit us at KofC3880.org

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.



Francis



Sponsored by The Knights of Columbus

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



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