

FR. MCCORMICK COUNCIL 3880

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 3880, CRYSTAL LAKE, IL 60014

KNIGHT LIFE



ISSUE NO 12 | JUNE 2026

| VOLUME 30



TOPIC 01

Next Month's Newsletter Starts the next Fraternal Year, 2027

TOPIC 02

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

TOPIC 03

Round-up of Events for FY 2026 are covered.

JOHNNY APPLESEED
Sept 26, 2026!!

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT



Ello, Brother Knights,

As I look back on this past month's council achievements I can't help but reflect on these past two years serving as your Grand Knight.

I have just been the liaison between the officers and your council to lead you forward. YOU have brought the energy. YOU have brought the strength at every event. It's through your efforts that we continue to celebrate why we were selected as "Council of the Year" two years ago.

As I pass the "torch" to your next Grand Knight take comfort that he will bring fresh ideas and new energy to our council.

For me it has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as your Grand Knight. As any Past Grand Knight will tell you, this position takes a lot of effort. But, it is a worthwhile opportunity to learn about your council from within. And you have a lot of support from your team.

>> 2

Grand KNIGHT FROM PAGE 1

Keep doing what you are doing. Your community benefits from the contributions that you bring through your council.

In closing, I want to thank you all for your support these past few years. I look forward to our new leadership including the contributions of our new officers Paul J. Cuchna II, and Don Shaw.

As always, if you need someone to talk to, please feel free to reach out to me at 847-341-1727.

God Bless.

Vivat Jesus

Cesar Jimenez
Grand Knight

DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

Patriotism is the feeling of love, devotion and a sense of attachment to one's country. In this case, the United States of America. This year the country will be celebrating 250 years since our forefathers broke away from England to form a new republic.

I am writing this article on June 14th which is flag day. A day where the country proudly displays the colors (red, white and blue) in many forms. In fact, this whole summer will be a display of our patriotism starting with Memorial Day and ending with Labor Day. A total of 106 days to truly show people the kind of person you are or want to be.

I had the honor and the privilege to wear the colors of the Knights of Columbus as a 4th degree knight at a funeral recently. It was my first time, and it was such a huge experience for me. I stood outside the church entrance with my sword, beret, white gloves and the sash with the K of C logo. Many people took the time to thank us. I am sure there will be numerous opportunities in the future, but nothing beats the first time.

I can only imagine that this was the same feeling our forefathers felt when they formed this new democracy, under God, with liberty and justice for all. These words are part of the country's pledge of allegiance to our flag.

I am asking that each knight in Fr. McCormick Council #3880 try and be passionate this summer about the Knights of Columbus and get involved. There are so many opportunities to do so with breakfast, rosary, meeting or food truck. Check out the calendar and I will see you out there.

Vivat Jesus

William Bransley

Worthy Grand Knight Elect

CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN



Human welcome is one of the greatest gifts everyone hopes for. It says that others open themselves up to us in hospitality. Hospitality is one of the most foundational virtues of all Christian worship. It is so important to create a spirit of hospitality and welcome to newcomers, catechumenal candidates, young families with small children, the elderly who may need assistance, and the handicapped who enter our circle of worship.

It may seem it costs something to be hospitable. The woman of influence offers table sharing and a room of hospitality to Elisha. The Gospel continues this Jewish sense of hospitality by indicating that Christians are to welcome the holy person and are to offer a cup of cold water "to one of these lowly ones because he or she is a disciple."

Some people seem to have a natural sense of welcome and hospitality. But it costs something to forget oneself for the sake of another. We have to put ourselves out. Sometimes the cost seems minimal – a gesture of courtesy, a moment to pause and greet another, a door to open as someone approaches our church building. But the cost can be deeper than meets the eye. Authentic hospitality means dropping the socially learned attitude of suspicion of others, especially those very different from our tastes or backgrounds. It also means allowing the other person room and space so that we do not become overly intrusive in their lives. The cost is presence without intrusion and an attitude that Christ is present in the guest.

In Fr. Aaron Downing's farewell last weekend, it was clear that he felt a definite spirit of hospitality from the people of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. He stressed that this sense of hospitality helped him grow not only as a priest and preacher, but as a disciple. What a wonderful compliment to the people of St. Thomas. I recall similar sentiments coming from Fr. Andrew Hernandez and Fr. James Linkenheld after they had served here at St. Thomas, during my five years as your pastor.

This weekend, we welcome newly ordained Fr. Mike Wojnarowski, who has been assigned to serve our Faith Community. I know we will extend this same spirit of welcome and hospitality to him as he begins his priestly ministry. Thirty-four years ago, I was blessed to begin my priestly ministry, also right here at St. Thomas. This parish helped get my priesthood off to a good start. I am confident the same thing will happen for Fr. Mike.

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

“Whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.” — Matthew 10:38

As Catholic men and Knights, we know that every person carries a cross. Some crosses are visible; others are carried quietly in our hearts – our crosses are all different: illness, family struggles, financial concerns, loneliness, grief, or uncertainty about the future.

Jesus does not promise us a life without suffering. Instead, He invites us to follow Him through suffering with faith and courage. The cross is not simply something forced upon us; it can become an offering when we unite it with Christ's own passion.

That is why prayer, the sacraments, our families, and our brother Knights are so important. None of us is meant to carry our burdens alone. Through fraternity and faith, we help one another remain strong.

This month, Archbishop William Lori challenges us to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet daily, uniting our sufferings with Christ and praying for persecuted Christians throughout the world.

As we reflect, let us ask ourselves:

1. Do I carry my cross willingly and faithfully?
2. Where do I turn for strength when life becomes heavy?
3. How can I help lighten the cross carried by another brother or neighbor?

May we continue to walk together in faith, trusting that Christ walks with us, and we must always remember our shared mission to live our faith and serve our families, parish community, and country.

For the sake of his powerful passion, have mercy on us and the whole world.

Vivat Jesus!
Vito C. DeFrisco
Lecturer
Council 3880

FRATERNAL YEAR 2027 OFFICERS

Fraternal Year 2026 - 2027 Officers

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Grand Knight | William Bransley |
| Deputy Grand Knight | John Carzoli |
| Chancellor | Stuart Liegel |
| Advocate | Pat Slowey |
| Treasurer | Ned Holland |
| Recorder | Paul J Cuchna II |
| Warden | Dan O'Connell, Jr |
| Inside Guard | Tim DeLance |
| Inside Guard | Paul Tagatz |
| Outside Guard | Don Shaw |
| 3 Year Trustee | Cesar Jimenez |
| 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.



JUNE Breakfast

We once again hit an even 200 patrons this past breakfast... Even better, it seems our income has matched last month which was a great number. Seeing so many familiar faces while also seeing new ones coming thru the doors! Even with another event for the Brat Mobile happening the same day and time, breakfast went off without a hitch... as usual. The team was there in full force, and even though a couple workers went the other way, slack was picked up... even to the point of **Brother Dennis Holm**, who has been full force doing dishes and pots and pans for some time now, decided we had a couple of down times, so he was out cleaning tables for the next mass. All of this on top of the fact we did the second Sunday of the month as is normal each year, so everyone can spend Father's Day with family. Yet the faithful showed up to eat. We are truly blessed with our parishioners and friends who support us all year long. We also see many younger families with a lot of kids coming in... soooo many chocolate chip mini pancakes going out the kitchen! And, the takes out have been increasing... we always have several every month, but we had a dozen at one mass alone this time. We even had that one special Brother who is always there with his wife, they both enjoy the breakfast, and then take several more to-go orders for some more breakfast during the week!

See you next on July 19th for our regular 3rd Sunday Breakfast. Until then, keep cool, be safe and enjoy the summer! One side of the counter or the other...
John



MEMBERSHIP COLUMN

Sacred Honor

Of all the documents present during the Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity, none seems to carry a more lasting weight than the Constitutional Roll. It not just a record of names; it is a pledge of service. When Candidates add their signature, they affirm, before God and their brothers, their fidelity to the laws of the Order, to the Catholic faith, to good citizenship, and to the enduring call of patriotism.

Our Council's Roll, in its current form, is now thirty-six years old, yet it has a longer history. Since 1954, it remains the oldest continuous record of our Council, guiding the actions of its members and preserving the evidence of promises made in fraternity and faith.

When our newest member, Luke Polston, signed near the end of pages filled with names from years past, he did so in the presence of a lineage he is only beginning to know. Among those names was the signature of his father, who attended the Exemplification. Nearby were the names of men, he will come to recognize as Officers in the new Fraternal Year, and the names of Brother Knights who have gone before us, remembered now in prayer and spoken again during the Memorial Mass.

There was not enough time to pause over every name, nor to give each memory the reverence it deserved. Still, the familiar signatures stirred something deeper than recollection. They reminded us that our own names, too, will one day be found by another Candidate, someone who may wonder who we were, what we believed, and how faithfully we lived, what we pledged. Tempus fugit, memento mori. After signing the Roll, there remains the solemn question: how will our membership in the Knights of Columbus be recalled? Will it be remembered through lives of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity? There is still time to answer that question. Vivat Jesus.

Robert Kosin



Luke Polston is now a member of Council 3880.

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

Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge

July 2026

“While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat and then went off. When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well.” (Gospel for July 19, Mt 13:25-26)

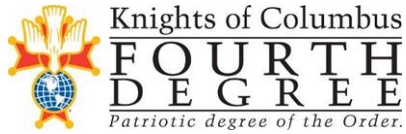
In the midst of his suffering, Job asked, “Why do the wicked keep on living, grow old, become mighty in power?” (Job 21:7). It seems to human eyes an injustice: the good suffer while the evil prospers. But Jesus explains that God “makes his sun rise on the bad and the good and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust” (Mt 5:45). He is a patient God, and we must “consider the patience of our Lord as salvation” (2 Pt 3:15a). God is patient with sinners — including us.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to reach out to a family member or friend and invite them to go to the sacrament of penance.

Questions for Reflection:

In what way are you like wheat, and in what ways are you like weeds? Are you envious or disturbed by those who lead unholy lives but seem to prosper? Do you find it difficult to love the “weeds” in your life, to pray for and work toward their salvation?



The new officers for Bishop Boylan have been elected and will be installed on July 8th at 7:30 pm at Holy Apostle. We will have a short business meeting starting at 7 PM in our usual meeting room. A list of the new and returning officers is below and all Sir Knights are invited to attend. Our Worthy Past Grand Knight Joe Schreb is our new Faithful Navigator. Please make sure to congratulate him on his new position with the Assembly.

| Position | FY '26-'27 |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Faithful Friar | Fr Moises Apostal |
| Faithful Comptroller | Dan O'Connell Jr |
| Faithful Navigator | Joe Scherb |
| Faithful Captain | Tony Lemont |
| Faithful Admiral | Mark Kuczera |
| Faithful Pilot | Frank Falbo |
| Faithful Purser | Stan Penczak |
| Faithful Scribe | Chris Bednarek |
| Faithful Inner Sentinel | Paul Skowronski |
| Faithful Outer Sentinel | Tomas Alva |
| Faithful Trustee 3 yr | Bob Schafer |
| Faithful Trustee 2 yr | Greg Schuring |
| Faithful Trustee 1 yr | Andy Voloch |

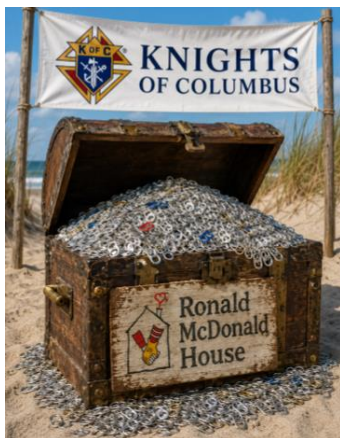
The Exemplification of Patriotism will take place Saturday, June 27, 2026, at St. Norbert Catholic Church in Northbrook, IL and it will be Ty Simmons last official one as Master. Host Assembly is Bishop Hillinger #1595. Bishop Boylan Assembly has **one candidate** for the event. If you know a brother 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? Our next Exemplification will be October 24th with further details to come.

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 **July 8th, 2026, at 7:00 PM** at Holy Apostles in McHenry with installation of officers to follow. 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.

God Bless you and your families and God Bless the United States of America. Please pray for those service personnel who gave all for our freedom and protect our troops who are protecting us now.

Do we have a MILLION?



PRO-LIFE REPORT

Escalating living costs increase the likelihood that pregnant individuals will seek abortions, as many cite financial instability as the primary reason for terminating a pregnancy. Conversely, in regions with strict abortion bans, high living costs often force women to carry unintended pregnancies to term, which frequently leads to worsened, long-term poverty. [1, 2, 3]

Religious groups, particularly the Catholic Church, address this by providing material, medical, and emotional support to pregnant women who choose to carry their babies to term. [1, 2]

How High Living Costs Affect Abortion Decisions

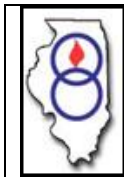
- **Affordability concerns:** The cost of diapers, formula, housing, and childcare drives many low-income individuals to seek abortions because they simply cannot afford to raise a child. [1, 2, 3]
- **Record surges:** In many developed nations, periods of severe economic inflation and cost-of-living crises have correlated with record-high abortion rates. [1]
- **The "Turnaway" effect:** Research consistently shows that women who are denied abortions due to restrictive laws or financial barriers are three times more likely to be unemployed and face significantly higher rates of poverty and eviction. [1, 2]

How the Church Addresses the Issue

- **Crisis Pregnancy Centers:** The Catholic Church operates and funds a massive network of pregnancy resource centers that offer free diapers, clothing, baby formula, and medical care to pregnant women in need. [1, 2, 3, 4]
- **Maternity homes:** Church-backed organizations run housing facilities for homeless or vulnerable pregnant women, providing a safe place to live during and immediately after the pregnancy. [1, 2]
- **Parish support programs:** Many local parishes run initiatives like the [Gabriel Project](#), which pairs pregnant mothers with mentors who help navigate financial hurdles and provide essential community support. [1]
- **Financial assistance:** Ministries and charities (such as [Catholic Charities](#)) distribute direct material and financial assistance to help with living expenses. [1, 2]

If you or someone you know is facing a difficult pregnancy or financial hardship and needs support, you can find local, faith-based and community resources on the [Catholic Charities USA](#) agency locator [1] or the Council's Financial Secretary.

Respectfully submitted
Pete Harren, ProLife Director



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

The Crystal Lake 26th Annual Heritage Trolley Tour

Homes of Our Civil War Veterans

Bob Kosin and (myself) Bob Wyman are members of the Crystal Historic Preservation Commission. The HPC is committed to documentation, landmarking and protection of landmarked properties in Crystal Lake. This year we have teamed up for the 1st time with the Crystal Lake Historical Society to do the tour. The society preserves and presents through education the history of Crystal Lake. The council has been supporting the trolley tour for years by purchasing an ad in the booklet you receive when you take the tour. And the last two years we have been providing food and drinks through our food trailer at the Historic Palmer House. This is a very special year due to our country is celebrating 250th anniversary of its founding.

The theme in this year's tour (06-14-26) was homes of our civil war veterans which was very interesting. Crystal Lake and vicinity sent 240 men to the Civil War, of whom 53 were killed in action or died in service. More than 100 returned sick or disabled.

The homes of the men featured in the book represent 15 different regimental units from Illinois and other states. One regiment, the 95th Illinois Infantry was mainly raised from McHenry County. The 95th was divided into seven companies, with an initial total of 673 men. Company I of the 95th Illinois Infantry was led by Captain James Nish of Cary. Many of the men from the immediate vicinity of Crystal Lake served under Captain Nish. Nish Road is named after this gallant leader of men.

If you want to know more about this heritage tour and past ones. All the booklets from past tours are in the Crystal Lake Public Library for your viewing.

Without the past there is no future!

Chancellor's Report

Under God

Many things in our world today seem to speak loudly against the idea of the existence of God. The religion of many is government. The focus of many is on self. For example, there are those pushing to have "In God We Trust" removed from our currency and some are suggesting changes in the Pledge of Allegiance, such as what was proposed by film director Michael Moore: "I pledge allegiance to the people of the United States of America. And to the democracy for which we all stand: One person, one vote, one nation, part of one world, everyone! A seat at the table! Everyone! A slice of the pie! With liberty and justice, equality, and kindness and the pursuit of happiness for all." Where is God?

Similarly in the 1940's and '50's with the rise of communism the world seemed to be removing God from the center of our lives and replacing Him with various forms of atheistic government. The Knights of Columbus, through many petitions to various senators and representatives, were largely responsible for the introduction of a bill by U.S. Rep. Louis Rabaut, D-Mich., to add the words **"under God"** to the pledge.

In 1954, President Eisenhower wrote to Supreme Knight Luke Hart:

"We are particularly thankful to you for your part in the movement to have the words **'under God'** added to our Pledge of Allegiance. These words will remind Americans that despite our great physical strength we must remain humble. They will help us to keep constantly in our minds and hearts the spiritual and moral principles which alone give dignity to man, and upon which our way of life is founded. For the contribution which your organization has made to this cause, we must be genuinely grateful."

As we celebrate our nation's 250th birthday, let's keep in mind, and help others to do the same by our example, that we are a nation under God and, as such, we should act with humility knowing that there are spiritual and moral truths that transcend any secular government.

Oh, and don't forget to come pray the Rosary for our nation's 250th birthday on July 14 at 7 p.m. in Birdie's Garden at the Oak Street church.

God Bless,

John Carzoli,
Chancellor

For the Good of the Order

JULY 2026

| Knights Birthdates | | Knights Continued | | Wives Birthdates | | Anniversaries | |
|-----------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|
| PGK Michael Kebr | 07/01 | Robert Kunz | 07/17 | Lynnette Stefani | 07/28 | Edward "Ned" & Emily Holland | 07/03 |
| Jesus Lopez | 07/02 | PGK J Cesar Jimenez | 07/19 | | | Martin & Marilyn Weniger | 07/20 |
| Anthony Montanaro | 07/03 | Michael Klepitsch | 07/19 | | | | |
| Kenneth Rebholz | 07/06 | Gregory Waggoner | 07/20 | | | | |
| Deacon Neal Carpenter | 07/09 | Dr Thomas Jackson | 07/21 | | | | |
| Jose Garcia | 07/09 | Dylan Krambeer | 07/23 | | | | |
| James Kratochvil III | 07/10 | Charles Feck | 07/25 | | | | |
| David Waggoner | 07/10 | Dennis J Holm, Sr | 07/25 | | | | |
| Michael Fisher | 07/11 | James L McManus | 07/25 | | | | |
| Ralph Gebert | 07/11 | Gregory J Ives | 07/29 | | | | |
| Joseph Letizia | 07/14 | | | | | | |
| Tad M Walters | 07/14 | | | | | | |
| Jared Santiago | 07/15 | | | | | | |
| Peter H Harren | 07/16 | | | | | | |

*FIFTH SUNDAY – AUG 30, 2026 – 9:00AM (MARCH 29 IS PALM SUNDAY)

5th SUNDAY Aug 30, 2026

Sunday Aug 30, 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



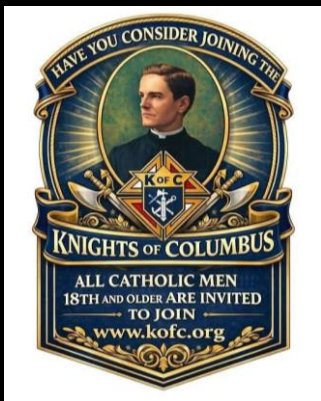
Visit us at KofC3880.org.

Fr. McCormick Council 3880
 c/o PGK, Tim Hicklin
 225 N. Main St.
 Crystal Lake, IL 60014
thicklin@aol.com

| JUNE/JULY 2026 | AUGUST 2026 | SEPTEMBER 2026 |
|---|--|---|
| 6/21 Father's 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 7/25-26 Mini Kermes 7/25-26 Church Drive (Oak Street) 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 | 9/1 Business Meeting 9/10 Rosary 9/12 Parish Picnic 9/14 Exemplification 9/16 Caballeros De Colon 9/18-19 IDDF Tootsie Roll 9/20 Breakfast 9/24 Food Pantry 9/26 Food Truck 9/26 JOHNNY APPLESEED 9/29 Officers Meeting |

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



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

National Election is 11/3/2026,

