



Knights of Columbus

Knight Life a Monthly Publication

By Tricia Carzoli



GK, Bill Bransley

Ramblings of a Grand Knight

Hello, my name is Bill Bransley, and I am the newly installed Grand Knight of Fr. McCormick Council #3880. I have been a knight for nearly 25 years having joined in Georgia before moving to Crystal Lake in 2002. My wife, Ann and I have been married for 37 years and were blessed with two daughters.

Our oldest, Alyssa lives in Greenville, SC and travels a lot both states side and international. Colleen, who is married, resides in Kalamazoo, MI. She and her husband Tom were blessed with a son on May 2, 2026, Westley Finn. This is our first grandchild, and he is not spoiled at all, also had our monthly breakfast. We still have the Membership Drive coming up on the weekend of July 25th/26th at all masses.

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DGK, John Carzoli

Brain Fog from Wildfire Smog

I'm sitting here recovering from a really busy couple days after we had the food truck at Lippold Park for the baseball tournament on July 16th and then at the Regatta on the 18th. Several of you put in much longer hours than I did, and then you helped with the breakfast which I heard had quite a large showing after the 9am mass. Maybe all that wildfire smoke on Thursday is still making my brain fuzzy because I was struggling to figure out what to write about. Usually something is percolating in my mind for a week or so, but not this time; there's nothing. Well, not completely nothing because I have been thinking about how everything just seemed to work out these past few days, at least from what I saw. Teamwork was the key and without all the helping hands we never could have done all we did these past few days. Sure, there were hiccups, but we pulled through and it seemed like we had a lot of happy customers.

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Chaplain, Fr. Bob Jones

Little Christopher

The "Little Christopher's Shop" located on 469 Lake Street has provided an important ministry for our parish and local community for over 50 years. It is a resale shop that has provided quality clothing and goods for lower prices, which is of great benefit to many people in our local community. It also supports St. Vincent de Paul neighbors in need. The shop was originally located in downtown Crystal Lake, but as parish priorities shifted it moved to an initial parish site (which has since been torn down), and then to the present parish site. We now find ourselves in a similar position and another transition is needed.

On June 5, 2026, Theodore J. Carlson, a licensed Structural Engineer in the State of Illinois, inspected the commercial building located at the above address. where the original section of the building meets the addition.

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2006-2027 Fraternal Year Officers

Grand Knight William Bransley
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Deputy Grand KNIGHT JOHN
CARZOLI (815)-404-6072

Chancellor Stuart Liegel
(847) 338-1772

Advocate
Pat Slowey 815-893-4061

Lecturer 815-477-2241
Vito DeFrisco

Chaplain 815/455-5400
Rev. Bob Jones

Treasurer 574-850-1053
Ned Holland

Financial Secretary (815)-679-
6596

FS, PGK, PFN John Stefani

Recorder 815-893-9323
Paul Cuchna

Warden 224-456-5098
Dan O'Coinnel

Inside Guard (815) 382-
4528
Tim DeLance

Outside Guard (815) 263-
0177
Paul Tagatz

Don Shaw

3 Year Trustee 847-341-1727
PGK, Cesar Jiminez

2 Year Trustee 815 354-668
PGK Pat Maguire

1 Year Trustee 815 354-6686
PGK, Joseph Scherb

Membership (214) 704-2000
Christopher Keen

Newsletter (815) 790-5191
PGK, Tim Hicklin

From Page I Ramblings of a Grand Knight

If we have never met or even seen each other in awhile; please come and re-introduce yourself and ask me, "HOW CAN I HELP!"

From Page I Brain Fog from Wildfire Smog

If you missed all the excitement of these past few days rest assured that there will be more opportunities to get grease on your council polo in the next several weeks. See the calendar of upcoming events and/or come to the next meeting where you can hear great tales of bravery and sacrifice about the Knights of the Food Truck battling wildfire smoke and midwestern heat!

On another note, watch for news about a contest to see who can spot the most hidden nuggets in the newsletter and business meeting minutes. Details have yet to be worked out but stay tuned.

Finally, if you have been following the Holy Father's Catechesis on Vatican II documents on Wednesdays since January, you might be interested in the Dei Verbum study by Word On Fire Institute. Each week starts with a video introduction, some relevant readings, and then a summary video. I've done Week 1 and found it to be well-done and educational. Here is a link: <https://institute.wordonfire.org/wof-dvrc-week-1-intro> Check it out!

Have a great rest of your July and I'll see you at the meeting on August 4.

Vivat Jesus!

John Carzoli ~ Deputy Grand Knight



Feeding the visiting Baseball Players!!

Late evening on Thursday at Lippold Park still feeding the Baseball players from around the world!

From Page I Little Christopher

This original section of the building is approximately 130 years old and is not considered safe for occupancy in its present condition.

I would like to see "Little Christopher's" ministry continue. As I write this column there may be an opportunity for us to lease a site very near to our Parish Office and School Campus. The site is located at 384 W. Virginia Street, and it has a parking lot, so people do not have to park on Route 14. If people are interested in keeping this ministry alive, Saint Thomas Parish will commit to paying the lease for one year. This would allow us time to see if we can make a go of this ministry at a new location. Of course, new leadership and many dedicated volunteers will be needed for us to make this commitment.

Transitions are never easy but can be a time of great opportunity. I trust and pray that many of you will embrace this vision for a new chapter in the life of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, and also possibly for a continuation of the "Little Christopher's" ministry. For all who do see the positive possibilities this situation presents us, your contributions of time, talent, treasure, and your prayers will be greatly appreciated.

I am grateful to all who have been running the "Little Christopher's" ministry, and to all who have been committed to it in its over 50 years of operation. That is no small thing, and I do understand the sadness this brings to some who have given so very much of themselves to this ministry. My prayer is that time will ease this pain and present us with wonderful new possibilities for growth in ministry here at St. Thomas the Apostle.

Peace, be with you, Fr. Bob Jones

Fr. McCormick Council 3880

Knights of Columbus Apparel Store**SHOP ONLINE FOR COUNCIL POLOS & SHIRTS**

July 2026 Breakfast FS, John Stefani

Interesting Sunday! The Council had such a heavy duty weekend, first with the MCYSA Baseball Tournament for our Brat Mobile on Thursday, 6 AM until 10 PM! A lot of Brothers and wives working that, many all day long! Then Saturday it was the annual Crystal Lake Cardboard Regatta from very early until after 4 with the clean-up finishing it off... again, many Knights helping. Maybe not enough at either event, really, but it got done! Hope you were one of them... then Sunday of course the Breakfast! We had the full crew there as usual, well, minus a short stay at the front table by the Worthy Treasurer who took that great Family of the Year up to the Dells for a well earned vacation... but he did work the 2 earlier events first... as usual... when don't you see him at everything?? With at least some of his kids.. but with the 8 or 10 he seems to have, who can keep count?? But okay, not that many, but always everyone is so happy to see any of them, always smiling and giggling and working away... what we didn't have was any of the crowds from either event where we had a sign about the Breakfast and offered a 10% discount to whoever came... But still a great turnout, 209 happy eaters. And as I had announced at the last 2 meetings, I did raise the prices across the board, so that certainly helped our bottom line. And with the Brat Mobile being busy, some of their food is ordered thru our breakfast vendor, so that allowed me to keep our order short, so again, helped the bottom line with a nice net to the Council.

See you next at the August 16th for our regular 3rd Sunday Breakfast. Until then, keep cool, be safe and enjoy the summer! And also hope to see some of you at the next couple of Brat Mobile outings coming up!

They are fun to work!

John

Membership

Our first drive will be July 25 and 26. Help is needed everywhere manning the doors BEFORE mass. Help is also needed to prepare the handouts. Come grab a bundle to assemble at your leisure. Available at church Tuesday either 8-11 am or 6-9 pm. Vivat Jesus. WGK. Bill

Food Pantry

Brothers, Our council is working the Crystal Lake Food Pantry this Thursday, July 23rd. We are covering this time slot every 4th Thursday of the month and can use your help.

There has been an increase in the number of neighbors being served recently which has increased the need for volunteers.

Please do not wear sandals or open toes shoes as this is a safety issue at the food pantry.

We are in **need of 12-14 volunteers** to help serve our neighbors at the pantry.

Date: Thursday July 23

Time: 4:30pm -7:30pm

Please RSVP if you can make it.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Mike Kebr 815-814-7395

See you there. Mike Kebr



Knights of Columbus
**FOURTH
DEGREE**
Patriotic degree of the Order.

The new officers for Bishop Boylan Assembly 0198 have been installed, and we are off to a new fraternal year. The budget for the year has been approved, which includes 5 - \$200 uniform allowances for this fraternal year. Now would be a good time to consider getting your uniform and take advantage of the Council's \$100 allowance (5 of them) to get \$300 total off of the cost. Here are the links for your convenience: [Uniform](#) [Sword](#) Purchase the uniform, submit your receipt and the money is yours.

The Assembly does have a few 250 Anniversary T-shirts left if you are interested: XXL in Blue - 8 shirts, XXL in Red - 6 shirts, L in Pink - 3 shirts. Cost is \$30. If interested, please let me know and we can make arrangements to get you one.

The Exemplification of Patriotism took place Saturday, June 27, 2026, at St. Norbert Catholic Church in Northbrook, IL and we welcomed 66 new Sir Knights into the Patriotic Degree. Bishop Boylan Assembly ended up the three new Sir Knights joining our ranks. 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 at St. Peter Catholic Church in Batavia. Registration forms will be forthcoming shortly.

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 **August 12, 2026, at 7:30 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.

Happy birthday to America. I hope each of you has a safe and wonderful 4th of July weekend. SK Robert Kosin has informed me that we are within 100 lbs of achieving one million tabs. Please look around during the very busy weekend and collect them. Bring them to the July 19th breakfast.

Vivat Jesus. WGK

July 2026 Pro-Life

The pro-life theme during times of war emphasizes the sanctity of all human life, advocating for peace and opposition to violence. This perspective is rooted in the belief that being pro-life extends beyond opposition to abortion to include a commitment against war and violence, as articulated by various religious and ethical leaders.

Key Points

- **Opposition to War:** Many pro-life advocates argue that true respect for life must include opposition to unjust wars. John Paul II famously stated, "No to War!" emphasizing that war is never inevitable and should be resisted.
- **Consistent Life Ethic:** This philosophy posits that all forms of violence, including war and capital punishment, contradict the pro-life stance. It challenges individuals to maintain a holistic commitment to protecting life.
- **Current Conflicts:** In light of ongoing global conflicts, such as those in Ukraine and Gaza, the pro-life movement faces challenges in addressing the implications of war on human life. Advocates argue that the suffering caused by war must be acknowledged and addressed as part of the pro-life mission.
- **Moral Dilemmas:** The intersection of pro-life beliefs and support for military action raises complex moral questions. Some argue that it is possible to support just wars while maintaining a pro-life stance, but this remains a contentious issue.

In summary, the pro-life theme in times of war calls for a comprehensive approach to valuing human life, advocating for peace, and addressing the moral complexities surrounding conflict.

This small passage reminds us on the severity of war and violence and ways we can deal with these areas under our prolife banner. In these days where cavalier attitudes are often expressed regarding war and violence, this passage helps us to align more in the direction of "God's track"



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Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge

August, 2026

He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." (Gospel for Aug. 30, Mt 16:23)

Who knows the mind of God? God is beyond human understanding, yet he has revealed himself to us most perfectly in the person of Jesus Christ. Through prayer we can come to know God more fully, and we grow in understanding of his plan when we make a habit of conforming our will to his holy will. We follow Christ in discipleship when we pray daily to the Father as he did: "Not my will but yours be done" (Lk 22:42).

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to study the life and example of our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, whose feast day is Aug. 13. Use the *Blessed Michael McGivney Cor Session Guide* (freely available at kofc.org/shopcis), noting in particular how Father McGivney always sought to align his will with that of God.

Questions for Reflection:

How can you strive to better understand things from God's perspective? How can you discern when your thoughts are merely human thoughts and not of God? What virtues of Blessed Michael McGivney can you imitate in order to submit yourself more fully to God's holy will?



One Nation, Under God

From defending religious freedom to serving local communities, the Order carries forward Father McGivney's vision of faithful citizenship

By Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly

July 1, 2026

Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly (Photo by Michael Collopy)

In May, I traveled to France to attend Warriors to Lourdes — our annual pilgrimage co-sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. There, wounded, ill and injured veterans seek healing and peace from the physical and psychological effects of war. It was a moving experience to accompany these men and women who have sacrificed so much in service to this nation.

It was also an opportunity to reflect on the 250th anniversary of the United States and the contributions the Knights of Columbus has made to our nation over the years.

Blessed Michael McGivney founded the Knights to unite the men of St. Mary's Parish in faith and service during a time of great division. The Civil War was still fresh in the minds of Father McGivney and the early Knights. The Industrial Revolution had brought dangerous working conditions and little support for workers injured or killed on the job. Catholics faced widespread discrimination and social barriers that limited opportunity and forced many into isolated communities. The dominant Protestant culture often viewed them with suspicion and questioned whether Catholics — most of them immigrants — could be loyal American citizens.

In the decades that followed, the Knights of Columbus proved its worth. We fought and died for our country in times of war and promoted its ideals in times of peace. We championed religious freedom and funded the U.S. Supreme Court case that struck down state laws aimed at banning Catholic education. We worked for racial equality when many others looked the other way.

Because of our history, religious freedom has always been a central concern. In 1954, the Knights played a key role in adding the words “under God” to the Pledge of Allegiance. To this day, the United States remains “**one nation, under God.**”

For the Order, patriotism is more than a sentiment. It means helping to build a just and flourishing society. By strengthening families and serving our communities, we help shape the culture of our nation.

The Order has contributed greatly to the good of our nation. Yet perhaps our most important contributions are those that often go unheralded. I am speaking of the daily work of our local councils and assemblies — bringing men and families together in service to their parishes and communities. This work strengthens social bonds, assists those most in need and supports people living on the margins. It fosters solidarity and civic virtue, helping us become better citizens and contributing to the common good in ways that cannot be measured.

For this reason, it is not a stretch to say that patriotism is in the DNA of the Knights of Columbus — and that to be a Knight is to be a patriot. Some may hesitate to use that word, fearing it implies blind allegiance or political partisanship.

But that is not how the Church — or the Knights — understands patriotism. At its core, patriotism is a rightly ordered gratitude. It is the duty of allegiance we owe our nation in recognition of the blessings we have received — gratitude to God and gratitude for a country that has allowed so many good things to flourish: our families, our Church, our councils and our communities.

For the Order, patriotism is more than a sentiment. It means helping to build a just and flourishing society. Through our principles and service, we help shape the character of our members, which in turn shapes the character of our families — the fundamental cell of society. By strengthening families and serving our communities, we help shape the culture of our nation.

As we celebrate this nation's 250th anniversary, let us do so with gratitude for the many gifts God has given us. And as an Order, let us renew our commitment to the work before us, helping ensure that our country will always remain one nation, under God.

Vivat Jesus!

Good of the Order

For the Month of August

Knights Birthday		Knights Birthday		Wife Birthday		Anniversary	
George M Laudermith	08/02	William R Sudbrook, Jr	08/14	Britta DeFrisco	08/27	Stuart & Kristin Liegel	08/07
Nabor Huerta	08/03	Daniel J O'Connell, Jr	08/16				
Kenneth S Schutz	08/04	William H Tillman	08/17				
PGK John R Stefani	08/04	William E Keehan, Jr	08/21				
Rick E Oliveira	08/06	Richard W Wolk	08/22				
Robert M Gray	08/07	Mark G Benkert	08/23				
William A Cotugno	08/08	Kenneth J Diana	08/23				
Fr. William Tunarosa	08/08	Dennis V McCoy	08/23				
PGK Timothy J Hicklin	08/12	Christopher E Krambeer	08/26				
Jonathan C Kosin	08/12	Fr. Charles A O Warren	08/30				
Mark Lee Allen	08/13	Joseph A Smith	08/31				
Brian R Mulville	08/14						

FIFTH SUNDAY – AUG 30, 2026 – 9:00AM

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

Four-Month Council 3880 Calendar

August	September	October	November
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	10/01 Crosses for Life 10/03 Food Truck 10/06 Business Meeting 10/12 Exemplification 10/16 Italian Dinner Setup 10/17 Italian Dinner 10/18 Breakfast (SPRED) 10/21 Caballeros De Colon 10/22 Food Pantry 10/27 Officers Meeting	11/03 Business Meeting 11/09 Exemplification 11/14 Tree Lot Setup 11/15 Breakfast 11/17 Memorial Mass 11/18 Caballeros De Colon 11/24 Planning Meeting 11/27 Tree Sales 11/28 Festival of Lights 11/29 Donuts

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.



PGK, Tim Hicklin
 225 N. Main St.
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Web Site;
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Pope Leo XIV



Make the Right Choice.

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

National Election is 11/3/2026,