Knights of Columbus

Knight Life a Monthly Publication

By Tricia Carzoli



GK, Bill Bransley
From the cluttered desk and mind of the Grand Knight.

This time of year, is one of my all-time favorites. It begins on October 31st – Halloween and ends on January 1st – New Year's Day. I know what people are thinking as they read this. They think about all the costumes and candy at Halloween; the turkey and stuffing and Thanksgiving; the songs and gifts at Christmas and finally, the fireworks, cheering and drinking to celebrate as a new year dawns. These are all good things, don't get me wrong. But maybe they are not quite the end all or most important.

Halloween, if you recall your history, was once called All Hallow's Eve. It was, and is still today, the evening before All Souls Day. All Souls Day is when each of us takes the time to reflect on the people closest to us who have joined Our Heavenly Father in His eternal kingdom. These people helped mold us, shaped us and are responsible for who we are today. I am talking about our families. They include grandparents; parents; brothers and sisters; aunts and uncles; etc. We truly loved them and miss them as well as pray for them.

Continued Page 2

DGK, John Carzoli
Your Memorial

Last night we held our annual Memorial Mass where we honored and prayed for all the deceased members of Council 3880. It was a beautiful mass in the presence of several widows, wives and other guests. Our Worthy Chaplain, Fr. Bob, spoke about memorials and cited several prominent ones such as the Washington Monument, the Taj Mahal, and the Great Pyramids. He mentioned other memorials such as leaving flowers at a gravesite, or paintings that depict someone's life. But then he asked, "What kind of memorial will we raise to our loved ones?" This question suggests that we also think about what kind of memorial we would like our loved ones to raise for us.

What do you want your memorial to be? How do you want to be remembered? Fr. Bob mentioned a book titled *Memento Mori*, by Muriel Spark. In the book a group of friends start receiving ominous phone calls where the caller says, "Remember, you must die!" This brings old secrets, rivalries, and vulnerabilities to the surface as the characters begin reviewing their lives.

Continued Page 2

Chaplain, Fr. Bob Jones
Chaplain's Message

Please save the date of Monday, November 30, at 7:00 PM, for a Town Hall Design Presentation from Architect – JNKA – Jaeger, Nickola, Kuhlman & Associates, Ltd. The presentation will begin in our Community Room. The Fourth Wave of the Diocesan Capital Campaign, *"You Will Be My Witnesses"* is set to begin in January and our parish will be part of that wave. This Design Presentation will present our Dream for renovations to our current Oak Street Church, Narthex and Community Room

Our dream is to enhance the safety, beauty, and dignity of our Oak Street Church, Sanctuary, and Nave with a complete restoration of our existing Altar, Ambo, Tabernacle Stand, Sanctuary Chairs, Baptistry, Pews, Kneelers and Choir Chairs, Stations of the Cross and adjacent corridors. This will include new tile flooring, carpeting, wall repairs, painting and updated lighting of the overall worship space.

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2006-2027 Fraternal Year Officers

Grand Knight William Bransley (815) 793-3595

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'Connell

Inside Guard (815) 382-4528
Tim DeLance

Outside Guard (815) 263-0177
Paul Tagatz

Don Shaw (561) 309-4868

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 and Web Site
(815) 790-5191
PGK, Tim Hicklin

From Pag

From the cluttered desk and mind of the Grand Knight

Thanksgiving is a tradition that started with our founding fathers – the Pilgrims when they first settled here in America. They risked an unknown ocean and a wild wilderness to obtain religious freedom; to escape oppression and tyranny and have a better life. What they found was hardship, loneliness and death. But they persevered and after that first year got together with the Indian friends to celebrate survival; friendships and a way of life they never saw coming. For these early settlers, it was a time to give thanks, to pray and to look forward to the future. So at this year's Thanksgiving feast; ask the people you are gathered with what they are thankful for. Don't forget to include your own thoughts. Please try and be a little creative as most people mention family, home, health, etc.; but I would include a chance to make a difference in a stranger's life; the ability to use my time, talent and treasure to assist the poor, the downtrodden and the abandoned of our society and also to always, always wear a smile on your face because you never know who might benefit.

Christmas stands for the mass of Christ. It is the birthday of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. This alone means so much to me, my family and others around the world. It is way we have the saying, "Jesus is the reason for the season". I love to listen to Christmas songs as early as possible – though before Halloween is a little crazy. I typical start on November 13th, which is my first child's birthday, so it is easy to remember. The songs get me in the mood to start singing, sharing and wishing people all the best. Then each Sunday in Advent, I get to sing my heart out (off-key, of course) and very loud. This last part has my wife cringing a lot. Our family traditions mean spending a couple of hours rings the Salvation Army bells; wrapping gifts for the giving tree or other worthwhile organization and maybe helping neighbors prepare the house for winter with leaf raking of moving stuff around. It all comes down to what Christ said, "I have come to serve; not to be served".

Finally, New Year's Day arrives and with it – a new year dawns. It is a time to start fresh; to begin anew and make new year's resolutions. If you are like any typical person, the first things that come to mind are exercise more; eat healthier or go on a diet. These are all good things for your physical life but what about your spiritual life. Maybe you could pray more, say the rosary one a week or even daily, give to charity (time, talent or treasure), spend one hour a month or even a week in the adoration chapel, the best would be to support your KofC Council in their many events throughout the year.

As always, I am forever grateful for this opportunity to lead such a worthy group of knights.

Vivat Jesus, SK, Bill Bransley

From Page 1

Your Memorial

Maybe with Advent around the corner, now would be a good time to reassess where you are and where you want to go. Have you decided on a prayer plan or something to make this Advent better than previous? Maybe start an Advent devotional or commit to a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament once or twice per week. There are many ways to make this Advent truly a time of renewal. Dynamic Catholic has several ideas listed here:

https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent/about-advent.html

Whatever you do, I pray your Advent is blessed with a deep sense of renewal in your prayer life, good health, and quality time with family.

Oh, and don't forget to sign up to help sell Christmas Trees! ☺

God Bless!

John Carzoli ~ DGK

John Carzoli
Deputy Grand Knight
Vivat Jesus!

From Page 1

Chaplain's Message

The total estimate for the entire renovation of our Oak Street Church is about $2,400,000. To accomplish a project of this magnitude, we will work with our architect to establish phases for the project. This ensures as a parish we are able to begin renovations and work toward completing the restoration over

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November 2026 Breakfast

Back in the saddle again! The November Breakfast just completed yesterday as I write this showed we served 206 guests! A couple of interesting comments…
I have not added many new items to the menus recently but one I had been thinking about has finally landed.

the *Italian Omelet!*

It is a large 3 egg omelet stuffed with Mozzarella cheese, a large Italian Sausage link and sautéed green peppers, then topped with a seasoned red sauce and topped with mixed Italian chesses! And for a first time offering it did well sell 13 of them to go along with a record 15 Steak & Egg combos! This went well with 24 of the traditional 60 omelets being the Garbage! We served 26 different items during the breakfast from the 10 different menus we use! This variety is what keeps them coming back! Then to add to this, one of our regular wives came up and handed me her menus and walked back to her table… the 2 grill guys then said what she ordered… but to their surprise, I said no and read the menus!!! But then she came running back and said she knew she marked it wrong!!! What she wanted was exactly what Bob and Jimmy said it was! So do we know our clients!!! But on the other hand, we had soooo many menus turned in we had to send them back because they had multiple items selected… even though it says one item per menu… but a lot whereby kids with big appetites and parents not looking first! And honestly, we had very few of our regular people in front of the counter who check the menus as they are handed in… all the little things that make an event like this run smooth… or cause hiccups! But we got through with everyone served and happy, and the usual, and appreciated nice comments as people walked out at the end!

The next opportunity for others to discover us, and come back for a great breakfast, will be on always spectacular Breakfast with Santa on December 20th. As always that will be the biggest with an annual crowd of over 300 to 350 coming in… So, we can certainly use help that day. for an hour or more if you can… put it on your Calander now, please! All are welcome!! Thanks, John

Lecturer Reflection

> Second only to the Holy Bible in sales and popularity with Christians, "The Imitation of Christ" is a Catholic based book Written in the 15th Century by Thomas Kempis, a German Dutch Canon of the Augustinians. The book continuously sites Bible passages to support spiritual topics in which we're called to pattern our daily habits, speech, and thoughts after Christ, measuring success not by worldly standards but by radical humility and simplicity. For example, this quote; "Be not angry that you cannot make others as you wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself as you wish to be."

The book is divided into four distinct parts or books, each focusing on a specific dimension of the spiritual journey:
Book 1: Focuses on renouncing worldly vanities, embracing humility, and establishing a daily habit of prayer.
Book 2: Directs the reader toward inner peace, purity of heart, a good conscience, and patience through suffering.
Book 3: Is the longest section, written largely as a dialogue between Christ and the faithful disciple, emphasizing deep trust and divine grace over self-sufficiency, such as;
"My child, I am the Lord Who gives strength. Your tardiness in turning to prayer is the greatest obstacle to heavenly consolation, for before you pray earnestly to Me you first seek many comforts and take pleasure in outward things. Thus, all things are of little profit to you until you realize that I am the one Who saves".
Book 4: Centers on the Sacrament of the Eucharist, reflecting on the profound spiritual strength, comfort, and union with Christ found in Holy Communion.

I highly recommend The Imitation of Christ and leave you with this quote which struck me as an example of you, my brother Knights.

"Whoever loves much, does much."

Vivat Jesus,

Don Shaw

Knights of Columbus
FOURTH DEGREE
Patriotic degree of the Order.

Please congratulate our newest Sir Knights: Sir Knight Paul Cuchna, Worthy Recorder and Sir Knight Christopher Keen, Worthy Membership Director who attended the October Exemplification. We had a total of 48 new Sir Knights join the Patriotic Degree at the October event. Both of our new Sir Knights have purchased the 4th Degree uniform to participate in Honor Guards for Confirmations, deceased Knights and other Color Guard events.

With a new Master comes new ideas. The largest change will be the timing of our Exemplifications. While the Degree itself cannot change, the timing of when they are to be held can change. With that in mind, the February Exemplification of Patriotism will be held on February 6, 2027, at St. Christina Church located at 3342 W 111th Street, Chicago, IL 60655. The big change is the time for the Degree. The day will kick off at 8:30 AM with the Master's Meeting and the Exemplification will begin at 10:30 AM. It will wrap up with a luncheon at 1:30 PM after Mass. This timing has done well across the United States, and the Master would like to try it here. Registration forms will be out on the Master's website shortly.

If you know of 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? If you need a Form 4 to sign them up, you can find it here.

The Assembly has one $200 uniform allowance for this fraternal year. The Council has three $100 uniform allowances remaining. Here are the links for your convenience: Uniform, Sword. Purchase the uniform, submit your receipt and the money is yours. If you have questions about the process, please reach out to Dan O'Connell.

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 **December 9, 2026,** 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.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours. We have much to be thankful for. God Bless you and your families and God Bless the United States of America. Please pray for those serving our country in the Armed Forces, police, fire and first responders who are all keeping us safe.

November 2026 Life

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) teaches that human life begins at the moment of conception and must be respected, valued, and protected from conception to natural death. [1, 2]

Key aspects of this teaching include:

- **Beginning at Conception:** The USCCB states that a fertilized egg, embryo, and fetus are living human beings at early stages of development rather than potential life or mere cell clumps. [1, 2, 3]
- **Equal Dignity:** Terms like zygote, embryo, and fetus describe developmental stages—similar to infant, toddler, or adult—and do not lessen the moral value or personhood of the individual. [1]
- **Consistent Ethic:** This perspective guides the Church's opposition to abortion, embryonic stem-cell research, and in vitro fertilization (IVF), while emphasizing support for both mothers and unborn children. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

This is a very short note and reminder to all of us on the sanctity of a fetus as full life. It's a straightforward message to us that there is no ambiguity in the treatment and views towards the fetus. This matter of life is subject to a voluminous amount of discussion, debate, dissension, and many forms of dialogue. This message comes right from the top: Pope Leo.

This note is a reminder for all of us to keep the "right" message of life in our hearts.

Respectfully,

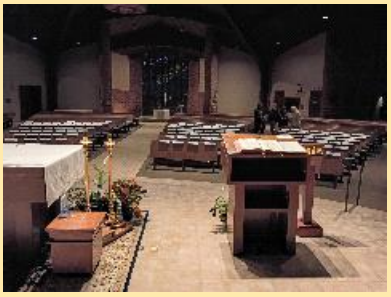
Pete Harren

Prolife Director

Respectfully submitted. Pete Harren, Life Director

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3880 Photos Memorial Mass 11/17/2026







Membership

Christopher Keen

Each year, Thanksgiving is a perfect reminder that gratitude grows when we share it. When we give thanks, we prepare our hearts to welcome the newborn Christ throughout the coming Advent season. What does that mean for us as Knights? It gives us an opportunity to reflect on our blessings, our faith, our families, and the communities in which we belong. As Knights, we take that extra step and put our faith into action, which is strengthened when we all contribute.

At Council meetings or when helping with a KofC event, I continually find myself asking the question, "How did I get here?" I joined Koc because, while I was at a breakfast that was hosted by our Council, a Knight asked me personally to join. All it took was one Knight's willingness to put himself out there to change my future. During this upcoming season of light and wonder, as we follow the Holy Family's journey toward Bethlehem and the birth of our Lord, help others start a journey of their own as brother Knights.

Next month, our Council is celebrating our Christmas party on December 15th at 7 pm. All current Knights and families are invited, and we also welcome fellow parishioners who might be interested in joining our Council. If you know someone who is interested, please offer an invitation to them and their family to attend. There will be dinner, drinks, and games (including a white elephant gift exchange for those who which to participate). We'd love the opportunity to share what we offer as an organization with potential new members and their families.

Our next Exemplification will be January 25, 2027, at 7 pm at our Oak Street location. We will also be holding an informational session for interested future Knights in January (date and time to be decided).

May your hearts be filled with the gratitude of Thanksgiving every day, and may Advent inspire you to help others grow closer to our newborn King through service, fellowship, and faith.

Vivat Jesus!

From the Desk of the Financial Secretary

Worthy Brothers… Here is a very interesting, curious and non-KofC question…

How many of you have school age children (ok, or grandchildren) who go to St. Thomas Church, not necessarily school, who are NOT Altar Servers? My curiosity, well, actually concern, is how many the Parish does NOT have… Just came back from the 4:30 Saturday Mass and there where zero Altar Servers. This is certainly not the first time I have seen it… in fact, thinking about it, there have been many masses I have attended without three servers! And I'm also asking as an OLD Altar Boy as you can see in this 70-year-old photo!

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



Knight of the Month



Chris Keen

Family of the Month



Dan O'Connell

Christmas Trees 2026

I can't believe it's that time again!! I thought I would list some important dates for you to help with Christmas Trees 2026.

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

Some Important Dates for you to mark on your Calanders.

- Tree Lot Set-up November 7th, 2026 - Need Help!!!!
- Wreath Pick-up November 7th, 2026, Info only
- Wreath Blessing November 8th, 2026– Info only
- Install Bows on Wreaths week of November 8th, 2026 – Need Help!!
- Advent Wreath sales start November 8, 2026, on weekends till November 29th Need Help!!!
- Tree Delivery: Last year was Saturday 11-21-26??

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. Also, you will be able to sign-up on-line to help.

Thanks for All You Do !!

The Christmas Tree Committee 2026

Grand Knight Christmas Tree Delivery & Sales Message

Brother knights:

The Xmas trees are being delivered this Saturday November 21st.

We will needs of help to do this.

Watch this space for the time.

Vivat Jesus
WGK Bll

For the Month of December

Knights Birthday		Knights Birthday		Knights Birthday		Wife Birthday		Anniversaries	
Matthew C Walsh	12-03	Brian Dasenbrock	12-17	Ron Jordan	12-28	Susan Stefani	12-01	Pat and Dee Slowey	12-18
Michael J Baietto	12-04	Justin M Hansen	12-17	Paul J Cuchna II	12-30	Yvonne Scott	12-13		
Eugene Ziemba	12-05	Richard E Kendzior	12-18	Jaun Lope	12-30	Susan Gawart	12-16		
Rev. John Evans	12-08	James V O'Reilly	12-18	Timothy DeLance	12-31				
Stuart J Collar	12-10	Mark Polston	12-18						
Robert L Cormier	12-11	Thomas M Fraser	12-19						
Thomas J Bieschke	12-12	Chris Jackson	12-25						
PGK Mark Daniel	12-12	PGK John M Orso	12-25						
Richard F Wojcik	12-13	Mark S Steadman	12-26						
Thomas P Cieslewicz	12-15	Ryan Krambeer	12-27						
John R Sinski	12-15								

Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge

Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge

December, 2026

But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" (Gospel for Dec. 20, Lk 1:34)

Earlier in Luke's Gospel, when the angel appeared to Zechariah to announce that his elderly and barren wife, Elizabeth, would bear a son, Zechariah expressed disbelief — and was struck mute as a result. Mary's question here is not one of doubt; she accepts what the angel has revealed and wishes to further probe the mystery. We, too, sometimes wonder about particular aspects of our Catholic faith. Following Mary's example, it is good for us to ask questions in a spirit of trust so that we might better understand what has been revealed to us.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, as you ponder the mystery of the Incarnation, I challenge you to place your trust entirely in God's hands as Mary did, and pray the Angelus each day to fully submit — mind, heart and soul — to God's holy will.

Questions for Reflection:

Do you, like Mary, trust God at his word? What fears and obstacles stand in the way of your full submission to his holy will? What questions for God arise in your mind regarding how he is asking you to serve him?

Food Pantry

Our council is working the Crystal Lake Food Pantry this Thursday, January 28, 2027. 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 January 28, 2027
Time: 4:30 pm-7:30 pm
Please RSVP if you can make it
If you are interested or have any qurstions, please contact SK, Mike Kebr 815-814 7395

5th Sunday - November 29, 2026

5th SUNDAY Nov 29, 2026

Sunday Nov 29, 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

From Page 2

Chaplains Report

time.

The first phase of our project will focus on new lighting and electrical upgrade for the Sanctuary and Nave. Improved lighting and electrical upgrades will enhance safety and visibility throughout our worship space, particularly in areas that are currently insufficiently lit. These improvements will provide clearer, safer pathways for all who come to worship. This phase includes updated cove lighting in the nave, enhanced lighting around the new corona, and illumination of the Stations of the Cross. The project will also add lighting to the new corona in the Baptistry and backlight the stained glass by the Baptistry. The total cost of this first phase is $933,954. This number represents about 40% of our total Capital Campaign goal. So, if we meet our goal, which I am confident we will – then we can tackle this phase.

If we exceed our campaign target, then we will be able to address more of our dream. Phase Two would focus on the Sanctuary and Baptistry Flooring and Pews. Phase Three would focus on upgrades to Sanctuary Furnishings, and Altar Furnishings. Phase Four would be a Narthex Remodel, and Phase Five would be the Community Room Remodel. Please try to come to this Town Hall so you can begin to see the possibilities of this Dream for our Worship Space. The Parish Building Committee, Finance Council, Pastoral Council, and many of our generous benefactors are excited about the plans. I hope you will be able to be present on November 30.

Peace, be with you, Fr. Bob Jones

Four-Month Council 3880 Calendar

November	December	January	February
11/18 Caballeros De Colon 11/24 Planning Meeting 11/26 Thanksgiving 11/27 Tree Sales 11/29 Donuts	12/1 Business Meeting 12/15 Christmas Party 12/16 Caballeros De Colon 12/19 Tree Lot Takedown 12/20 Breakfast with Santa 12/25 Nativity of Jesus 12/29 Officers Meeting 12/31 New Years Eve	1/1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God 1/5 Business Meeting 1/9 Blood Drive 1/11 Exemplification 1/17 Breakfast 1/20 Caballeros De Colon 1/22 Polish Dinner Setup 1/23 Polish Dinner 1/26 Planning Meeting 1/28 Food Pantry 1/31 5th Sunday Donuts	2/2 Business Meeting 2/6 Free Throw Contest 2/8 Exemplification 2/13 NAMI Breakfast 2/17 Caballeros De Colon 2/21 Breakfast 2/23 Officers Meeting 2/25 Food Pantry

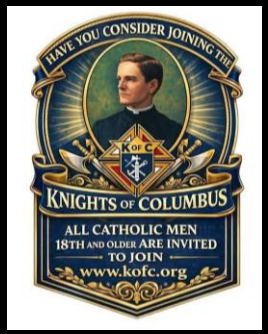
Prayer for the Sainthood of Fr Michael J McGivney



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.

PGK, Tim Hicklin
225 N. Main St.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Web Site;
www.kofc3880.org



Pope Leo XIV





Make the Right Choice.

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

National Election is 11/7/2028!