



# New York State Knight Life



*"In Service to One. In Service to All."*

July 1, 2025 Vol. 2 Edition. 7

Official Newsletter for the New York State Knights of Columbus

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. - Psalm 118:24

## **STATE OFFICERS**

**State Deputy**  
Gary Leonardo

**State Secretary**  
Brian Langdon

**State Treasurer**  
Peter Lehr

**State Advocate**  
Robert Graziano

**State Warden**  
Keith Kemp

**Chaplain**  
Cardinal Dolan

**Associate Chaplain**  
Bishop Colacicco

**Associate Chaplain**  
Fr McWeeney

**Associate Chaplain**  
Fr Michael Gelfant

**Associate Chaplain**  
Fr. Christopher Costigan

**Associate Chaplain**  
Fr. Michael Johnson

**Father Prior of Youth**  
Fr JP Seon

**Deacon for the State Council**  
Deacon Charles Esposito

**Deacon for the State Council**  
Deacon Daniel Rodriguez



P.O. Box 8, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533 • Office: 516-900-5632 • Email: [NYSKofC@aol.com](mailto:NYSKofC@aol.com) • Website: [newyorkknights.com](http://newyorkknights.com)

**Tell others about Knight Life...** Forward this newsletter to Catholic men interested in the Knights, and let them know they can become a member for free online at [kofc.org/join](http://kofc.org/join). You can also share your questions, feedback and story ideas by emailing [mb Boehm1122@msn.com](mailto:mb Boehm1122@msn.com)

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**PUBLISHED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS STATE COUNCIL**

# State Deputy's Message

"As the sun rises each day without fail, so does our hope in Christ.  
We walk as pilgrims, not in darkness, but toward the light,  
with hearts lifted by the promise of a new dawn."

**Pilgrims of Hope, Jubilee 2025**



Brother Knights,

This month, I begin my role as State Deputy with great humility and a heart filled with deep gratitude. I proudly stand with each of you, in perseverance and in dedication to the remarkable legacy of the Knights of Columbus.

I welcome you as my Brothers, but I also welcome you as **Pilgrims of Hope**. Together we are united in a mission of faith, discipleship, charity, mercy and hope. My new pin captures this theme with the perfect image of a sunrise. As men of unshakable faith, we know and we believe that just as dawn breaks through the darkness, casting light on the path ahead, as we draw closer to Christ, the rising sun who dispels the night.

As my companions on this journey, we will together deepen our faith through selfless acts of charity and service, and fortify the bonds of our cherished fraternity. As **Pilgrims of Hope**, we will bring hopefulness to those sorely needing hope, as we together witness and evangelize to the values of our Catholic faith.

We hear this quite often but it is especially true here: we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. This is certainly true for me. Allow me to recognize those leaders who have preceded me. Their tenacity and dedication have laid a foundation for us to strengthen and to build our Order. I am grateful.

**Pilgrims of Hope:** I am so humbled to have you on this journey with me. Let us rejoice in this time of renewal, and recommit to our Councils, parishes, and communities. Stand proudly with me as Knights of Columbus, united in faith, driven by purpose, and resolute in our collaborative mission.

When we wear this pin, let us remember, that the sunrise represents hope. That each new day brings fresh mercy, as the Jubilee invites us to trust again in God's promises. The dawn symbolizes God's faithfulness. No matter how dark the night, the sun always rises — just as God remains constant, guiding His people in every age.

Let us continue in the footsteps of Blessed Michael McGivney and glorify his model and example.

**Pilgrims of Hope:** may God bless our Order and guide us in all that we do.

GARY J. LEONARDO  
State Deputy  
NY STATE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



My Brother Knights,

I was privileged to participate in the Exemplification of the Fourth Degree on June 14, Flag Day. It was the first one available since its introduction at Saint Patrick's Cathedral on the 125th anniversary of its beginning. The Rite now public is a fine successor of its predecessor which I experienced over 50 years ago in 1973. From the first moment of its presentation I felt every Catholic should reflect on what was presented to us as new Sir Knights. Further, I have tried since then that every one of our brothers should be exposed to its truths. Many of us who went to parochial schools are reminded of the words we saw in stone over entrances "For God and Country". This degree symbolizes its meaning.

From the beginning of the exploration of our hemisphere courageous men and women came and served not only the purposes of their countries but also their duties as believers. As Christopher Columbus prayed each day the Salve Regina with his sailors they did not know what risks were ahead but they trusted it was God's will. From Florida to California priests and people established missions. Others from other countries exploring aided the spreading of knowledge and faith. Some lost their lives: Jesuits, Franciscans, and laity including converts.

With the settlement of our colonies and latter, states, came our ancestors who recognized that this nation must support human dignity. Though looked down on by some, Catholics fought for religious freedom, civil rights, care for those in need. Our children were educated by Religious brothers and sisters. Their names are known like Mother Seton, John Neumann, John Hughes, and Charles Carroll, the sole Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence. So many more nurtured the seeds they sowed. And when the nation was threatened Catholics defended its prerogatives throughout history.

History will note that the American Catholics would not be content with thinking only of their times and country. They built churches, schools and hospitals. They built seminaries and convents that those who grew here could spread the divine charity of our community of faith to the civilized world with sacrifice.

As I close can I encourage families to seek out the sacred places of history in our community? Perhaps in the heat we are enduring read the stories of those who gave their all to rage Gospel. I hope that summer will be a source of rest and relaxation and inspiration that we might do what others have done cry out

Vivat Jesus!

Father Brian E. McWeeney D.Min(Prin)  
Administrative State Chaplain

Worthy Brothers,

As we embark on this new fraternal year, I am honored to address you as your State Membership Director. Our mission is clear: to strengthen and grow our councils across New York State, fostering vibrant communities rooted in charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.



### **A Vision for Growth and Excellence**

Our goal is to enhance the vitality of every council in New York State. We aim to achieve this by increasing membership, supporting council leadership, and promoting programs that reflect our core principles. Strong councils are the backbone of our Order, and together, we can inspire men to join our ranks, engage in meaningful service, and deepen their faith. This year, we will focus on:

**Recruitment:** Inviting Catholic men to join our mission and live out their faith through action.

**Retention:** Strengthening brotherly bonds through engaging events and spiritual growth opportunities.

**Revitalization:** Supporting struggling councils with resources, training, and mentorship to ensure their success.

### **Time for Reflection and Renewal**

As we look forward to the installation of council officers across our state, let us reflect on this passage from the installation guide. In the life of every man, there arise many opportunities to take stock of his advancement, both in the spiritual and material sense, to repair omissions, to correct errors, and to plan for a brighter future. This moment marks a new beginning for our councils—a chance to assess our progress, recommit to our mission, and chart a path toward a stronger, more vibrant future.

### **Call to Action**

I urge every brother Knight to take an active role in your council's growth. Reach out to a friend, neighbor, or fellow parishioner and invite them to join our Order. Share the impact of our charitable works—whether it's supporting local families, aiding our parishes, or serving those in need. Together, we can make a difference, one council, one community, one life at a time.

Vivat Jesus!

Carl Schneider  
State Membership Director



The 2025 C&B drive is in full swing with over 120,000 books out to local councils for sale!! As we begin this new Columbian year and new Administration, I would like to thank our new State Deputy Gary Leonardo for reappointing me and keeping the C&B team together for this year and wish him the best of luck for a successful year

The Major Coordinators are Jose Ruiz, Long Island, Charlie Nesto Downstate, Roman Zguta Western and Finger Lakes, Ed Smith Northern and Central and Lloyd Ippolito as Secretary -Treasurer.

We are approaching the first drawing of the year QUICK START on Sunday July 20,2025 at Villa Roma. The winners from each Conference are drawn from the back covers only. It is your best chance to win. In addition, the council of the top winner in each Major Conference if that council makes bonus a \$200 check will be sent to the Charity of the Council's choice. This year we have initiated a District Deputies Challenge for each Minor Conference and will recognize the top DD at the 2026 Convention whose District has the highest growth rate in books per member.

To ensure books are received in a timely manner, books can be mailed to the New York State Council Knights of Columbus P.O. Box 6407890 Oakland Gardens Station Oakland Garden, NY11364-0789. They should be mailed no later than July11. They can be given to a DD or State Officer attending the Organizational Meeting. After July 11 they can be mailed to the Villa Roma 356 Villa Roma Rd .Callicoon ,NY attn K of C -Ken Karchinski.

All info on this year program is on -line on the State Website under C&B please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions and need assistance. Your quota will be available in early July based on your Membership number from Supreme of as July 1.

Our C&B team is here to support your efforts and ensure each Council maximizes their bonus opportunities which enhances the amount of money they have for their local charities

Good luck to you and your Councils for a great 2025-2026 in all your endeavors.

Ken Karchinski  
Director-C&B





As we embark on a new year filled with promises and opportunity, it is a fitting moment to reflect on the vital role the Knights of Columbus programs play in enriching our councils, supporting our community, and deepening the spiritual life of our parish. These programs, grounded in the guiding principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism, are the lifeblood of our mission and the cornerstone of our efforts to serve as Christ's hands and feet in the world. Within the Knights of Columbus, our councils are more than just an organization—it is a brotherhood united by faith and dedicated to service. The programs we champion provide avenues for every Knight to actively participate, grow in leadership, and make a meaningful contribution. Whether it is organizing fundraising events, spearheading charitable initiatives, or fostering spiritual growth among members, these programs strengthen the bonds that tie us together and invigorate our shared mission. By participating in these activities, we deepen our camaraderie, build lasting friendships, and inspire one another to live out the values of our order. Let us take this new year as an opportunity to engage more fully, to encourage our fellow Knights to join us in these efforts, and to ensure that every member finds a way to contribute their unique talents and time.

The Knights of Columbus is called to be a beacon of hope and charity within our community. Through our programs, we address the needs of the vulnerable, advocate for the dignity of every human life, and provide tangible support to those facing hardship. Whether it is through food drives, coats for kids initiatives, blood donation campaigns, or disaster relief efforts, our work reflects the light of Christ's love to the world. This year, let us aim to expand the reach and impact of our programs within the local community. By working together with determination and compassion, we can make a profound difference in the lives of families, individuals, and neighbors who need us most. The good we achieve as Knights not only transforms the lives of others but also strengthens the moral fabric of our society.

At the heart of every Knights of Columbus council is its parish, the spiritual home where we gather to worship, seek guidance, and grow in faith. The programs we undertake play a crucial role in supporting the life and mission of the parish. From organizing spiritual retreats and prayer services to assisting with parish events and providing financial support for church initiatives, our efforts help to build a vibrant and thriving faith community. As we begin this year, let us renew our commitment to being active participants in the life of the parish. May our dedication serve as an example to others, encouraging greater involvement and unity among parishioners. In doing so, we not only support our pastor and church leadership but also nurture the spiritual growth of all who call the parish their home. As we stand at the threshold of this new year, let it be a time of renewal and rededication to the values and mission of the Knights of Columbus. Our programs are more than mere activities; they are living expressions of our faith, our love for our neighbors, and our commitment to building a better world. Together, as a state council, we have the power to make a difference—not only within our ranks but also in our community and parish.

Brothers, let us face this year with enthusiasm, unity, and a steadfast commitment to the principles that define us. May our efforts bring glory to God, strengthen our bonds as Knights, and leave a lasting legacy of service and faith. May this year be one of growth, impact, and blessings for all.

Vivat Jesus!

SK Thomas Moran

NYS Director of Programs



As we begin another Columbian year, I wish to thank our State Deputy Gary Leonardo for the opportunity to head the training team for this year. The aim is to get training down to the council level. This will be accomplished by utilizing existing teams in each of the minor conferences. This will allow the training to be geared to the need for instruction as well as issues pertaining to each area within the State.

Each Conference has unique qualities that can be addressed more easily by Brothers who are aware of these challenges. The ability of all to get training may need a second method. Within the State Website there will be a section for training. A part will contain videos for a Brother to watch as needed. I have found the Supreme Website contains a great amount of material to advance any Brother in his Knight's knowledge.

The training team consists of 4 major Conference Coordinators, and they are:

John McArdle – Northern and Central

Kevin Fitzpatrick – Finger Lakes and Western

Charles Nesto – Downstate

John Arcardi – Long Island



Please note that Upstate Conference has been split in two. This is needed due to the vast area of the Conference. These 4 Brothers will help to oversee the training in their respective areas. The team will also have minor Conference Coordinators to oversee their individual area. As of the writing of this article I was not able to get all the names, but they will be made known in the very near future.

Another aspect is having minor Conference Brothers available to answer questions regarding Financial Secretary issues. The requirement for these Brothers will be to have a good knowledge of Member Management and are serving as an FS or have been an FS. This is being handled separately due to the unique work of being an FS.

This gives you a look at the beginning of this journey. I look forward to working with all who will serve on this team and the success we will have in moving training to the guts of the order, the **COUNCILS**!

Always call me with any questions and I will be happy to help

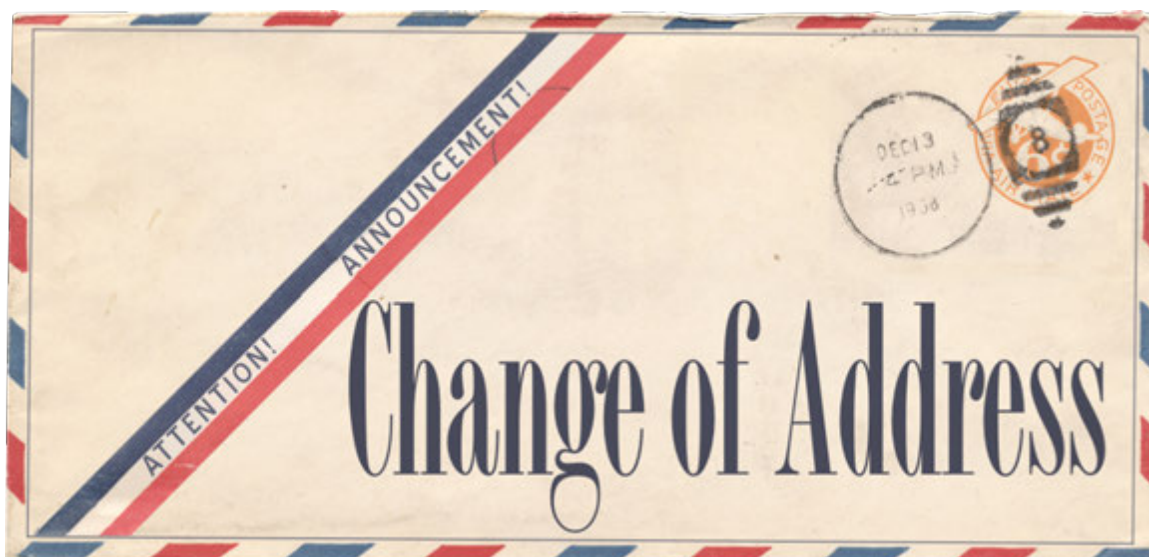
[dkeenankofc@gmail.com](mailto:dkeenankofc@gmail.com)

(845) 401-6304

Vivat Jesus -

Daniel T. Keenan, Sr





**All to become effective July 1, 2025**

- N. Y. S Council K of C  
Post Office Box 8  
Hopewell Junction, N. Y. 12533-0008
- Email address [NYSKofC@aol.com](mailto:NYSKofC@aol.com)
- Phone number - 1-(516) 900-5632
- Fax: 914-470-0615
- New NY State website will  
be: [newyorkknights.com](http://newyorkknights.com)

**Please help spread the word!**



We thought we would take a few minutes to introduce you all to our New Slate of State Officers. Here is a brief introduction!

## *State Deputy - Gary J. Leonardo*



Gary J. Leonardo was born in the Bronx, New York, and began his education in the Catholic school system before moving to Yorktown in Westchester County, where he continued his studies in the public school system. After graduating from high school, he attended Westchester Community College and soon after enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. During his four years of service, he worked as a Flight Line Jet Engine Mechanic on B-52 and KC-135 aircraft, serving overseas in Thailand and attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant. Upon his honorable discharge, Gary pursued further technical training and graduated from the Teterboro School of Aeronautics. He briefly worked in general aviation before beginning a career with the U.S. Postal Service, where he served faithfully for over 30 years.

Gary has been married to his wife Lilli for 48 years. Together, they have four children and six grandchildren—with a seventh expected in January. A devoted Catholic, Gary has been deeply involved in his parish community for over four decades, serving as Chairman of the Respect Life Committee, an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, and a certified Religious Education Catechist. A proud Knight of Columbus for 36 years, he has served in all positions at the Council, Conference, and Chapter levels, including as State Advocate from 2015 to 2017. He currently serves as Financial Secretary of Council #462 and is a Past Faithful Navigator of the Joseph Damin Assembly #718. Gary is also a member of the Peekskill American Legion Post #274, a former board member of both the Westchester Foundation for Autism and the Keon Center, which provides services to adults with special needs. Gary now enjoys retirement while providing childcare for his grandchildren. He looks forward to continuing his lifelong service as the State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus.

## *State Secretary - Brian Langdon*



"Worthy Brothers All,

As always, I look forward to the New Columbian Year! As State Secretary of our great jurisdiction of New York, this year has a special significance to it. I have accepted a responsibility that is not of little significance. I am to be the right-hand man of our Worthy State Deputy. I don't take this mandate lightly. I will work side by side with our Worthy State Deputy Gary Leonardo and all of newly elected officers.

I was asked let you know a little bit about me. I have had a wonderful and fulfilling life thus far. As the fourth child in a

family of 11 children I was taught at an early age how to be kind, caring and a good babysitter.

At a time when most men are starting to think about retirement planning I was considering a new career. Miller Brewing Company in Fulton where I had been employed for 17 years was closing. So back to school it was. At the age of 40 I graduated from Syracuse University with a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. God is great!!

I have been married to Cindy since August 1977, we have three children and four grandchildren.

I retired from my wonderfully fulfilling career as a Pediatric Oncology Nurse in 2018 after nearly 20 years.

In 2003, I created Brian's Kids. It is a charity (501C3) that provides comfort items to children and their families undergoing treatment at the Golisano Children's Hospital in Syracuse NY.

I have been a Knight since June of 1974. I have been in just about every position available to Brother Knights within the Knights of Columbus. Each position has been a learning and teaching experience. I strongly recommend that every Brother Knight serve in as many of the positions as they can.

I thank you for your confidence, blessings and support throughout my mission to this point in the New York State Council Knights of Columbus.

I look forward to your continued confidence, blessings and support for the upcoming Columbian Year.



## *State Advocate - Robert Patrick Graziano*

My father joined the Knights of Columbus in 1971 the year I was born, as a way to help my brother get into Catholic High School. I knew many of the members in St. Ambrose Council #1463 from childhood. When I started working in the bus company is when my father sponsored me as I took the First Degree in 1994. I completed my Third Degree that same year and joined the Fourth Degree in 1997. Over time I was able to get more involved in the council holding various council officer positions. During my first year as Grand Knight we made Star Council. That first year was very special because that was the year of my marriage to Beth. The second year we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the council. One year after that I became District Deputy winning Star District. My service in the Knights increased to serving on the Queens County Conference in various positions only to leave the conference to serve as State Treasurer. I held several State positions including State Training Director & State Program Director as well as Admin. For Training and Administrative Assistant to the State Deputy. I look forward to serving this Great State again as State Advocate. This organization is so special to my heart. The Knights of Columbus has helped bring me closer to God! I look forward in sharing my faith with all of you! May God Bless you!!





## *Peter Lehr – State Treasurer*

Peter Lehr grew up in the beautiful town of Kings Park Long Island, where he still lives with his wife, Diane and his daughter. Peter joined the Knights of Columbus in 2011 because he wanted to help serve his Parish, St. Josephs, and his Community. He quickly got involved and served his Council Fr. Seyfried #821 in many different capacities, eventually becoming Grand Knight. Following his term of Office as GK, and because of his outstanding Leadership abilities, Peter was immediately asked to become a District Deputy, where he served as the DD of the 9<sup>th</sup> NY District for four years, including serving as Chairman of the Board. Following his term of service as a DD, he was elected to serve the Suffolk Conference as Warden. He continues to serve the Conference and currently holds the position of Vice Chairman.

Recognizing Peter's talents, PSD Charles Esposito asked him to serve as Administrative State Chairman of Membership for his Administration, where his hard work was a major reason that the NYS Council was able to achieve the prestigious Circle of Honor award for Membership. He continued to serve the NYS Council under Immediate PSD Anthony Ippolito, this time as Membership Director. Peter is humbled and honored to be able to bring his abilities once again to the NYS Council and serve proudly as Treasurer!



## *State Warden - Keith Kemp*

Keith A Kemp Sr. was born in Plattsburgh NY. Upon leaving High School he joined the Us Air force. After retiring from the Air force after 23 years he retired from the New York State Department of Corrections with 25 years of service. He is married to his lovely wife Shirley and

together they have 8 children and 10 Grandchildren. Keith has been very involved in Scouting where he has been a Den leader, Cub master, Scout Master and a committee Member. Keith and his lovely wife have attend Boy Scout camp with the scouts for over 20 years. Keith joined the Knights in 03/24/2008 In Peru NY Council 7273 where he served as Chancellor, Deputy Grand Knight, and Grand Knight as well as District Deputy for District 97. Keith and Shirley now Live in Mooers NY where he is a member of Council 6136 and serves as Deputy Grand Knight and is also the District Deputy for District 99. He is also the representative for the north east area of the Northern Conference. Keith and Shirley are looking forward to serving as your new State Warden.



Happy New Year!  
I know what you are thinking. New Year is January 1<sup>st</sup>. He's nuts. Well maybe. But that is beside the point. Today is July 1<sup>st</sup>, and it is the start of the *New Columbian Year*! It is always an exciting

time in the Knights of Columbus. We have a lot of very happy Brother Knights who are embarking on new journeys. Some becoming Officers for the first time, some who are moving into a new position, and some who are looking forward to having that most sort after title - PGK or FDD, or maybe even PSD? They may be the happiest guys of all! But whatever direction the New Year takes you, always try to remember two important things.

1. If you are going to take the Job- than DO the Job. There aren't any no-show jobs in this Order. If you are going to take on the role on an Officer or Chairman in your Council or Assembly, than make sure you put in the work and do the job to the best of your ability. If you can't do that - don't take it.
2. Ask for assistance or advice if you need it. Please, don't be embarrassed or too proud to ask someone who has already done that job for help if you aren't sure about something. All of us, every one of us, has that guy, that Brother Knight who we view as a mentor, our go to guy who we can ask for advice. Now whether or not you take the advice is an entirely different matter. But it's always good to get another point of view. In the end it's your name attached to it.

So good luck to you in all you do this upcoming year. Don't worry, you'll be great! Always have faith in yourself and in God !!

Michael Boehm

NYS Newsletter Editor

## State Deputy



Pictured here are Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori and Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly with this year's new State Deputies who were officially installed at St. Mary's Church of Blessed Michael McGivney Parish, the birthplace of the Knights of Columbus. There's our Worthy SD right over Bishop Lori's right shoulder! They always put the big shots in the first row right behind the Officers!!





On Thursday May 29, 2025 in the Finger Lakes we were honored to present on behalf of the New York State Council, and our Worthy State Deputy Anthony Ippolito and the State C&B Team not only One but Three awards for Outstanding Performance during the 2024 C&B Season.

The First Award was 4th Place in Sales in the State. The Second Award was for Highest Sales in the Upstate Conference. The Third Award was for Highest Books per member as they Sold 13.8 Books per

Member Fr Wm Devereaux Council # 7980 is a Consistent Top Producing council in the Finger Lakes. Ken Moyer was recognized and Thanked for his many years of acting in the capacity of council C&B Chairman as well as Past FL Minor Coordinator C&B and Most Importantly for being the Top Council and Conference Seller. May God Bless Brother Ken with Good Health and Many Years.

Pictured Left to Right are Richard Whelehan DD District 93 and COB, Thomas Krenzer GK Fr William Devereaux Council # 7980, Ken Moyer PGK and Past Minor Coordinator C&B FL Chapter, and Roman Zguta PGK Major Coordinator Upstate C&B.



Glens Falls, N.Y. – A silver rose on a nine-month pilgrimage was the centerpiece of a special prayer service at Our Lady of the Annunciation Church in Queensbury, N.Y. on May 31st, 2025. The program was sponsored by the Glens Falls Knights of Columbus Council # 194 to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe and express both international unity and dedication to the sanctity of human life.



Fr. John LaFarge Council 4012 of Yorktown Heights NY ran the "Mini-golf Booth" as part of the Yorktown Fam Jam May 10, 2025 benefitting the Yorktown Volunteer Fire Department and other charities. A total of \$375 was made and given to the St. Patrick's Parish Good Samaritan Fund, C&B Books were sold, and other donations received.

## DECLARATION OF DEPENDENCE A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



© 2010 Michael D. Waters  
www.joyfultoons.com

My salvation and my honor depend on God;  
he is my mighty rock, my refuge.

— PSALM 62:7 NIV



# Stop Physician-Assisted Suicide in New York

**New York is on the brink of legalizing physician-assisted suicide. Bill A136 has already passed the Senate and Assembly. The only thing standing in its way is Governor Hochul's veto – and she needs to hear from you.**

This bill would allow doctors to prescribe lethal medication with the sole purpose of ending a patient's life. It puts the most vulnerable among us – the elderly, people with disabilities, and those facing emotional or financial despair – at even greater risk. **Suicide is not healthcare.**

**We must speak out to protect the dignity of every human life.** Assisted suicide is a dangerous and deadly path – one we must not go down.

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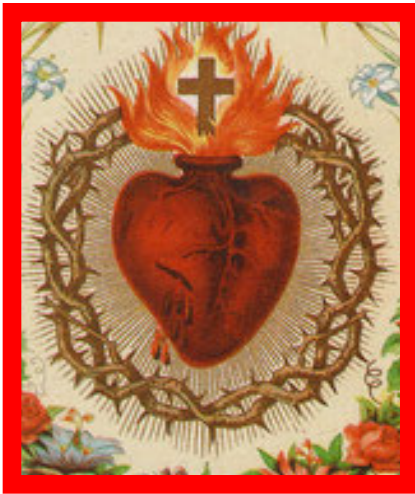
## Take Action!



Contact the Governor's office now to oppose this deadly practice! Visit [bit.ly/veto-pas](https://bit.ly/veto-pas) or use the QR code.







Brothers, At the risk of overstepping, I felt it necessary to start the new Columbian Year with a refresher course on COR. It is such a vital Supreme initiative with the potential to have a huge impact in strengthening and possibly reviving our faith. So here's the first installment. Be sure to appoint an Evangelization and Faith Formation Director. Let's begin the NEW YEAR with a leap in the right direction!!

### Why COR?

**The Knights of Columbus empowers Catholic men to live their faith and serve their family, parish, community, and country.**

Why? Because families need strong husbands and fathers, and the world needs courageous witnesses to Jesus Christ. Through *COR*, men will be formed and sharpened as disciples of Jesus, who are committed to serving him and willing to boldly live and share their faith. It is the mandate of every Catholic man to bring Jesus to a broken world. To live his faith and engage in this mission, every Catholic man needs a strong relationship with God that is rooted in prayer and the sacraments. Catholic men need to proactively invest in their ongoing faith formation, to be a part of a dynamic brotherhood that supports, sharpens, and strengthens them to be holy men, husbands, and fathers, and to engage in the mission of the Church.

The mission of *COR* is to refocus Catholic men on Jesus Christ and to form and strengthen them in faith and virtue through a brotherhood committed to **prayer, formation, and fraternity**. The goal of each *COR* gathering is to provide the opportunity for men to encounter Christ, to pray together, to be formed in their faith, and to strengthen their bonds of brotherhood, preparing them for courageous leadership and the **mission of evangelization** for their families and communities.

Dan Clifford, Downstate COR Coordinator



Pilgrimages have always been a significant part of the life of the Church. They are moments of grace and conversion. By journeying to a shrine, the pilgrim expresses his faith in a God who is present in history and in the Church.

*POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II*

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## 2025

Saturday, July 12	Blessed McGivney Statue Dedication (4PM Mass – St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg, NY)
Sunday, July 13	St. Anne's Shrine (12:15PM Mass -- Isle of La Motte, VT)
Wednesday, August 13	Blessed McGivney Feast Day (7PM Mass – St. Joseph's Co-Cathedral)
Wednesday, September 3	Blessed McGivney Statue Dedication ( 5PM Mass -- St. Joseph's Seminary)
Saturday, September 20	Shrine of the North American Martyrs (Auriesville, NY)
Saturday, October 18	Our Lady of Fatima Shrine (Youngstown, NY)



## NY State Council Knights of Columbus FAITH ACTIVITIES & SHRINE PILGRIMAGES

## 2026

Sunday, January, 18	Pro Life Mass (10:15AM Mass – St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, NY)
Sunday, January 25	Pro Vita Mass (11AM Mass – St. James Cathedral, Brooklyn NY)
Sunday, March 29	Founder's Day
Sunday, May 17	Our Lady of the Island Shrine (10AM Rosary, 11:30AM Mass – Manorville, NY)
Sunday, July 12	St. Anne's Shrine (Isle of La Motte, VT)
Saturday, July 25	Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine (Middletown, NY)
Thursday, August 13	Blessed McGivney Feast Day (7PM Mass – St. Joseph's Co-Cathedral)
Saturday, September 19	Shrine of the North American Martyrs (Auriesville, NY)
Saturday, October 17	Our Lady of Fatima Shrine (Youngstown, NY)

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Pilgrimage is a symbol of life. It makes us think of life as a walk, as a path. A path to meet Jesus.

*POPE FRANCIS*

You can now dedicate a statue of  
the founder of the Knights of Columbus,  
Blessed Michael McGivney,  
in your Council or parish.

After 10 statues of Blessed McGivney  
were dedicated in the 8 Cathedrals and  
2 Co-Cathedrals of New York,  
a limited number are now available for purchase.



The parish priest who changed the world.



Blessed McGivney Statue: \$6,000.00

For more information,  
please contact Louis Pepe  
at [bigloupepe@gmail.com](mailto:bigloupepe@gmail.com) or 646-773-4028

Msgr. Sherman Council No 5103, Knights of Columbus

***These traditional O-Gauge trains are manufactured by Lionel exclusively for the Knights of Columbus. They are produced and sold with permission from the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council.***

***All profits from our model train programs are donated to suitable charities.***



**NEW 2025 KofC  
FOURTH DEGREE 125th  
ANNIVERSARY BOXCAR  
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# This Fourth of July, we honor Our Catholic Founding Family!

George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, James Madison, Patrick Henry, Benjamin Franklin. Nearly every schoolchild recognizes them as the Founding Fathers, signers of the Declaration of Independence, framers of the Constitution, and heroes of the Revolutionary War. There were a great many more Founding Fathers, however, even if their names are not so familiar as the above. Several of those lesser-known men who played key roles in the creation of the United States of America were Catholics. Chief among them were three members of the Carroll family of Maryland: Charles Carroll, the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence; his cousin Daniel Carroll; and Daniel Carroll's brother John Carroll, who became America's first Catholic bishop. In honor of the Fourth of July, we thought we would tell you a little more about these Great Catholic Founding Fathers.

## The Catholic Part In the American Revolution



Charles Carroll   Daniel Carroll   John Carroll

**Charles Carroll** of Carrollton (1737-1832) was the most illustrious and best-known of the Carrolls. He was the only signer whose property Carrollton was mentioned in the Declaration of Independence. Carrollton was the 10,000-acre estate in Frederick County, Maryland, that Charles Carroll's father had given him on his return to America from his education in Europe.

*At the time he signed the Declaration, it was against the law for a Catholic to hold public office or to vote.* Although Maryland was founded by and for Catholics in 1634, in 1649 and, later, in 1689 after the Glorious Revolution placed severe restrictions on Catholics in England, the laws were changed in Maryland, and Catholicism was repressed.

Catholics could no longer hold office, exercise the franchise, educate their children in their faith, or worship in public. With the Declaration of Independence, all this bias and restriction ended. Charles Carroll first became known in colonial politics through his defense of freedom of conscience and his belief that the power to govern derived from the consent of the governed. He was a staunch supporter of Washington, and when the war was going badly at Valley Forge, he was instrumental in persuading the Revolution's Board of War not to replace Washington with General Horatio Gates. Carroll supported the war with his own private funds; he was widely regarded as the wealthiest of all the colonists, with the most to lose were the fight for independence to fail. On July 4, 1826 - the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence - one of the most amazing coincidences in U.S. history unfolded. On that day, Thomas Jefferson, the Declaration's author, and John Adams, perhaps its greatest advocate, died within hours of each other. The deaths of those two Founding Fathers left just Charles Carroll of Carrollton as the sole survivor of the 56 men who had boldly added their signatures to the charter dated July 4, 1776, and the Marylander used that national spotlight to promote religious freedom, which he said was a central message of the new nation's founding document.

*"(I) do hereby recommend to the present and future generation the principles of that important document as the best earthly inheritance their ancestors could bequeath to them, and pray that the civil and religious liberties they have secured to my country may be perpetuated to the remotest posterity and extended to the whole family of man."*

**Daniel Carroll** of Rock Creek (1730-1796) was a member of the Continental Congress (1781-1783), and a signer of the Articles of Confederation. He was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention and one of only two Catholic signers of the United States Constitution. (The other Catholic signer was Thomas Fitzsimons of Pennsylvania.) At the Constitutional Convention, Daniel Carroll played an essential role in formulating the limitation of the powers of the federal government. He was the author of the presumption enshrined in the Constitution that powers not specifically delegated to the federal government were reserved to the states or to the people.

Daniel Carroll later became a member of the first United States Congress (1789-1791). He was also a member of the first Senate of Maryland, where he served up to the time of his death. He was appointed by Washington as one of the first three commissioners of the new federal city that is now known as the District of Columbia. In today's terminology, he would have been considered the mayor of Washington, D.C.

**John Carroll (1735-1815)**, Daniel Carroll's younger brother, was educated in Europe, joined the Jesuit order, and was ordained a priest. He founded a private school for boys and named it after the town where it was located, Georgetown, a port on the Potomac River that later became part of Washington, D.C. He went on to be elected by all the Catholic priests in America to become America's first Catholic bishop. He later became archbishop of Baltimore. In any procession of American bishops, the archbishop of Baltimore always goes last in recognition of its role as America's oldest diocese. In 1789, John Carroll founded the college in Georgetown that later became known as Georgetown University.

During a period when the Revolutionary War was going badly, Washington asked John Carroll to join a mission to Canada to seek the support of the French for the colonies. Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Chase, and Charles Carroll of Carrollton were the others on the four-man mission. While it failed, it established a relationship with the French, much influenced by the Catholic faith they held in common with the Carrolls. It bore fruit years later at Yorktown, where the largely Catholic-financed French fleet cut off supplies to British general Charles Cornwallis, and Washington was able to force Cornwallis to surrender and bring the war to an end.

John Carroll was an intimate of Washington. He wrote a prayer at the time of Washington's inauguration asking God's blessing on the president, Congress, and government of the United States a prayer still very much in use today. Out of gratitude for John Carroll's support during the war, Washington gave a modified version of the seal of the United States to the institution that is now Georgetown University, and that seal is still in use.

Despite their enormous contributions to the American founding, the three Carrolls somehow fell below the radar screen of recognition as full-fledged founding fathers. Perhaps that was because they were Catholics in a country and a culture that for many years was overwhelmingly Protestant.

American Catholics were a very small percentage of the population of the 13 colonies, 1.6 percent, but were overwhelmingly patriots and played a role in the American Revolution out of all proportion to the small fragment of the American people they represented. A very proud heritage indeed.

*Their blood flowed as freely (in proportion to their numbers) to cement the fabric of independence as that of any of their fellow-citizens: They concurred with perhaps greater unanimity than any other body of men, in recommending and promoting that government, from whose influence America anticipates the blessings of justice, peace, plenty, good order and civil and religious liberty. - Archbishop John Carroll*

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**BLESSED MICHAEL J. MCGIVNEY**

Parish Priest

Founder

Knights Of Columbus

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Celebrate Blessed Michael McGivney's profound impact on the Catholic Church  
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Commemorate this humble parish priest, who founded the Knights of Columbus  
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## **Contributions**

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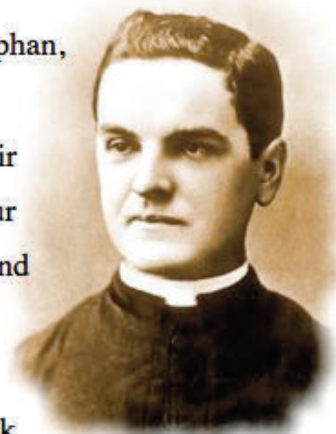


**Independence Day July 4th**



## Prayer for the Canonization of **Blessed Michael McGivney**

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, **Blessed Michael McGivney**, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to 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 **Blessed Michael McGivney** on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request). Through Christ our Lord. Amen



The Father Michael J. McGivney Guild promotes the cause for sainthood of the founder of the Knights of Columbus, who was beatified on Oct. 31, 2020. Members of the Guild, and anyone devoted to Father McGivney, can play an active role in the cause by praying for his intercession in times of need, especially in cases of serious illness, and reporting to the Guild any favors received.

Membership in the Guild is free and open to anyone who is devoted to Father McGivney and wishes to invoke his intercession and assist in his sainthood cause through prayer. Members receive a quarterly newsletter and are remembered in a weekly Mass offered for their intentions.

Catholic men who wish to live out the vision and mission of Father McGivney are invited to join the [Knights of Columbus](#) and become part of a network of charity, unity and fraternity that serves local parishes and communities. Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882 in New Haven, Conn., and died at the age of 38 in 1890. His cause for sainthood was opened in 1997, and his heroic virtue was recognized by the Vatican in March 2008, when he was declared a Venerable Servant of God by Pope Benedict XVI.

On May 26, 2020, Father McGivney took another step toward sainthood when Pope Francis approved the promulgation of a decree recognizing a [miracle attributed to his intercession](#). With the approval of this miracle, he was beatified on Oct. 31, 2020, with the title of Blessed.

Another miracle through his intercession is needed for him to be canonized as a saint.

Those devoted to Father McGivney are encouraged to recite regularly the prayer for his canonization, which is available online and on a special prayer card. You may Report favors through this website or by email or regular mail at the addresses listed below.

To request a third-class relic or to order devotional items, click on the [online form link](#). Print out the form, fill it out and mail it to the Father McGivney Guild.

The Guild has more than 176,000 members, and you are encouraged to join by filling out and submitting the [online form](#). Please assist in the cause of Father McGivney by spreading the word about this holy and blessed priest.

For more information or to request a prayer card:

Father McGivney Guild, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510

Tel: 203-752-4087

Email: [guild@kofc.org](mailto:guild@kofc.org)