

## **St. Thomas Council Meeting Minutes - May 5, 2025**

### **Meeting Called to Order**

Following a Third Degree Exemplification, the regular St. Thomas Council # 13861 meeting was called to order by Grand Knight John Chandonnet at 7:23 pm on Monday, May 5, 2025. 23 knights were present.

### **Decade of the Rosary**

Chancellor Ron Robichaud led the council in a decade of the rosary to lead our country to a culture of life.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Grand Knight John Chandonnet led the council in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Officer Roll Call**

The officer roll call was taken and recorded by Recorder Jonathan Brock. Attendance was as follows:

Grand Knight, John Chandonnet:	Present
Deputy Grand Knight, Greg Cyr:	Present
Chancellor, Ron Robichaud:	Present
Chaplain, Fr. Bill Labbe:	Excused
Financial Secretary, John Greenlee:	Present
Recorder, Jonathan Brock:	Present
Warden, Aaron Downs:	Excused
Treasurer, Matthew Pettine:	Present
Advocate, Richard Caroti:	Present
Outside Guard, Rene Robichaud:	Present
Inside Guard, Gerry Newport:	Present
Lector, Kevin Neely:	Present
3rd Year Trustee, Jerry Nulton:	Excused
2nd Year Trustee, Terry Sylvanus:	Excused
1st Year Trustee, Ray Sargent:	Present

### **Reading of the Previous Month Meeting Minutes**

Rick Southwick motioned to accept the April council meeting minutes as submitted. Gerry Newport seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The April 2025 minutes were accepted as presented.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Matthew Pettine reported:

Adjustments to March 2025 Report:

Draft Ending Balance from Report:	7392.55
Adjustment to Deposit (fish deposit was 1234, not 1334) -100	
New Ending Balance:	7292.55

April 2025 Treasurer's Report:

Starting Balance:	7292.55
Disbursements:	
Hannaford	20.25
St. Therese (ACTS)	250
Brothers (Br. Monday)	500
St. Thomas	100
Expense	35.58
Liturgical Publications	809
Walmart	346.04
Walmart	227.88
Shelves	122.49

Receipts:	
From J. Chandonnet	100
Dues	450
Supper	921
Lions Donation	200
50/50	13
Donation	13
Supper	1410
Adj Supper Deposit	10

Ending Balance:	7998.51
Christmas Party:	317.88
Food Pantry:	50.00
General Fund:	7630.63

**Financial Secretary's Report**

FS John Greenlee reported:

144 Total Membership  
80 Associate Members  
56 Insured Members  
8 Inactive Members  
1 Honorary Member  
31 Honorary Life Members  
5 Exempt Members

Dues: since last meeting we collected dues from one member, now less than 20 members are unpaid. Approximately five members are expected to pay soon and a couple members have requested withdrawal.

### **District Warden's Report**

Jon Dicentes thanked the Sanford Council as well as brother knights and notified us that he will resign from his duties in order to care for family.

### **Grand Knight's Report**

Grand Knight John Chandonnet reported:

"Both Ray Sargent and John Chandonnet attended the 130<sup>th</sup> Annual Maine Knights of Columbus State Convention at the Hilton Garden Inn in Auburn Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup>. John Chandonnet prepared a report; but in an effort to expedite this meeting, will include it with the minutes.

Terry Sylvanus would like to extend his sincere thanks to all who participated in our Lenten Haddock Dinners.

Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup> is Mother's Day and the official kick off our "BOTTLE DRIVE" in support of the ALPHA Pregnancy center. We will need volunteers to hand out the bottles at 4pm 5/10/24 and 10am and 5pm on May 11<sup>th</sup>. I am in the process of getting the bottles labeled and will be back by 5/10/24.

We received a food pantry donation from one of the St. Thomas Knights in the amount of \$2400. I was asked to pass this along to be reported to the State District for matching. John Greenlee will submit a request to Supreme.

A Knight also wanted me to pass along his Sponsorship of children in Haiti and requests that I challenge my brother Knights to sponsor some of the students in Haiti. Per Tom Cannon, sponsorship forms are available in the Holy Family Church vestibule. Haitian children can be sponsored for \$10 per month.

Ray Wallace sent an email soliciting donations of various food items needed for the upcoming Women's ACTS Retreat, May 15-18, 2025. Financial Secretary John Greenlee will pass this email on to all brother knights"

### **130th Maine State Council Knights of Columbus Annual Convention Report**

April 25-27, 2025

Prepared by: John Chandonnet

St. Thomas Council #13861 delegates Grand Knight John Chandonnet and Past State Deputy/ Secretary to the State Deputy Ray Sargent attended the 130th Maine State Council Knights of Columbus Annual Convention at the Hilton Garden Inn at Great Falls Plaza in Auburn, Maine from Friday, April 25th through Sunday, April 27th.

All delegates, upon checking in, presented their membership card, acquired their convention materials and delegate badges.

State Faith Director Robert Dumond led a prayer service with the Sacred Heart of Jesus icon at 4:30 pm that Friday afternoon.

A Welcome Dinner followed at 6:00 pm. There was a presentation of various awards following dinner. The St. Thomas Council received an award for an outstanding Life program. This award was for the Baby Bottle Drive last May, where \$2,200 was raised to benefit the Alpha Pregnancy Center in Sanford.

Committee assignments were organized following the awards presentations. John Chandonnet was assigned to the Resolutions Committee, chaired by Advocate Gary Boynton. The committee reviewed and made minor changes to four proposed resolutions to be voted on at Saturday's business meeting to be presented to the Supreme Council. John Chandonnet was also appointed as the spokesman for the committee.

A buffet breakfast was served at 7:00 am. Saturday morning.

Following breakfast, State Deputy Michael Giroux called the Business Meeting to order at 8:30 am. Only card-carrying Knights with a Delegate badge were allowed to attend.

Committee reports were presented John Chandonnet delivered the Resolutions Committee report.

The four Resolutions were each presented and voted upon. All four resolutions will be presented to the Supreme Council. The resolutions were as follows:

**Be it resolved** that the members of the Knights of Columbus Council 1934 propose shoes to boots as an addition to the Coats for Kids program and that the name, Shoes to Boots, at the supreme level be made available to councils to enable to bulk purchase of footwear to be distributed by the councils to those in need.

**Be it resolved** that the Knights of Columbus will promote cultural exchange and dialogue among its members, fostering mutual respect and understanding across national borders.

**Be it resolved** that the Knights of Columbus encourages its members to engage in mentorship and outreach initiatives with younger generations and inviting them to participate in the life of the church.

**Be it resolved** that the Knights of Columbus encourages all its members to pray for the Pope's intentions and to support his ministry through charitable works and acts of service, such as volunteering at local parishes or donating to Catholic charities.

Election of state officers followed. Since all state officials served the first year of their two-year term, all seven officers were re-elected. Elected state officers included:

Michael Giroux, State Deputy  
Gilman Berube, State Secretary  
Gilman Ouellette, Sr., State Treasurer  
Gary Boynton, State Advocate

Fr. Nathan March, State Chaplain  
Michael Foster, State Warden  
Jon Harvey, Immediate Past State Deputy

Following the officer elections, various speakers delivered their presentations:

- Dan Lalond spoke about prospective knights joining the order online and occasional spam mail, those abusing the system and how to possibly reduce the occurrences of such.
- A spokesman from Supreme spoke about membership growth and "inviting" others to join our ranks.
- Field Agent Bill Weiss spoke about the Knights of Columbus insurance program.

Election of delegates to the Supreme Convention in Washington, D.C. on August 5-7, 2025 followed. Voted delegates included:

- State Deputy Michael Giroux
- State Secretary Gilman Berube
- Immediate Past State Deputy Jon Harvey

Voted alternate delegates included:

- Dwayne Belanger
- Phil Lizotte

There was also a Passing of the Hat for the ASAP program. A total of approximately \$12,000 was pledged and/or collected. John Chandonnet donated \$200 on behalf of the St. Thomas Council.

The business meeting concluded with a prayer led by Fr. Nathan March. Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

A buffet lunch was served at 1:00 pm. Family time followed from 2:00 to 3:00 pm.

A Necrology Mass and Installation of State Officers at St. Peter and Paul Basilica in Lewiston followed at 4:00 pm. His Excellency, Bishop James Ruggieri celebrated the mass and officiated the installation ceremony. John Chandonnet was among the honor guard serving the mass.

A buffet banquet, back at the hotel, followed at 6:00 pm. The honor guard escorted all dignitaries to their places. Dignitaries included all state officers, past state deputies, Supreme representatives and Bishop James Ruggieri.

Dancing followed from 9:00 to 11:30 pm, rounding out the evening.

On Sunday morning at 7:00 am, State Faith Director Robert Dumond led a rosary service honoring Blessed Carlo Acutis.

A breakfast buffet followed at 8:00 am. All state officers then delivered their closing remarks and the 130th Maine State Council Knights of Columbus Annual Convention concluded.

### **Upcoming Events:**

5/26	Memorial Day Parade
6/2	Assembly and Council meetings. Assembly 6:15, council 7:00 pm.
Installation of officers will occur at both the Assembly and Council meetings.	
6/6	Sanford Mainers concession stand
6/7	Waypoint Music Fest at 4:00 pm
6/12	Sanford Mainers concession stand
6/16	Sanford Mainers concession stand
6/18	Sanford Mainers concession stand
6/23	Sanford Mainers concession stand
6/30	Sanford Mainers concession stand
7/7	Council meeting 7pm
7/16	Sanford Mainers concession stand
7/22	Sanford Mainers concession stand

### **SURGE Hours Update:**

Faith: 300 service hours  
Family: 496 service hours  
Community 558 service hours  
Life: 93 service hours  
Total: 1447 service hours

### **Lecture**

Lector Kevin Neely gave a presentation:

"Thank you Worthy Grand Knight.

Happy Easter season brothers! My question for you tonight is, who is your **go to** saint? Who do you talk to the most? Who do you pray to the most? Who do you get the most spiritual nuggets from?

Obviously, we have a lot to choose from. The apostles come to mind; Peter, who denied Jesus three times; even on the night before he was killed, yet Jesus still forgave him. James, his cousin, who traveled with him for three years and then hid away for at least a week after Christ was resurrected from the dead. Jesus forgave him too, and he later became Bishop of Jerusalem. How about St. Anthony? I always call on him when I am looking for something, or even when I am looking for guidance on how to do something. He always comes through for me. St. Padre Pio, St. Augustine, Pope St. John Paul II. Mother Therese (now known as St. Therese of Calcutta). St. Francis; ....the list is endless actually. But who is your go to saint? If you don't have one yet, you need to get busy and find one :-)

Last Sunday, we celebrated Mercy Sunday. You probably know that it was instituted by Pope St. John Paul II. It came about because Jesus began to visit a young nun in Poland between the first and second world wars. When Jesus began to speak with Sister Faustina, she didn't quite know how to react. Jesus had an urgent message that he wanted her to share with the whole world. How would your friends react if you told them that Jesus stopped by for lunch at your house today, and last week? So, she told her confessor, the priest that she shared the

Sacrament of Reconciliation with. At first, he tried to ignore her. Then, when the messages continued from Jesus, the priest told her superiors to have her checked out by a psychiatrist! She was tested, and her results came back normal. She was deemed mentally stable. Then the priest told Sister Faustina to write down everything that Jesus was telling her. That is how the *Diary of Divine Mercy* came into being.

It is the story of her lifelong journey with Jesus. It contains the story of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and the famous painting of Jesus that we see in Holy Family Church by the confessional. It has words, "Jesus, I Trust in You!" written on the bottom of the painting.

The diary goes on to quote Jesus in His quest to convince all of us that nothing, **ABSOLUTELY nothing** we do in our lifetime can make Jesus ever lose his love for us. But there is more! So much more. Jesus allowed Faustina to visit Heaven and Hell, and Purgatory. It is a literal manual on how to grow closer to God, day by day.

Just some of the nuggets:

- 1) **Receive Holy Communion reverently:** *She wrote: "The most solemn moment of my life is the moment when I receive Holy Communion" (Diary, 1804)*
- 2) **Increase your prayer time:** *"because... the realization of God's great plans depend mainly on prayer"*
- 3) **Become a person of mercy** Do you pray for your enemies? Do you wish well to those who have caused you sorrow or offended you? Know that whatever good you do to any soul, I accept it as if you had done it to me."
- 4) **There are three essential virtues:** The first is humility, the second virtue, purity; the third virtue, love of God.
- 5) **Finally: Trust Jesus.** Jesus told Faustina that "The more a soul trusts (in me), the more graces it will receive (*Diary*, 1578).

There you have it: a roadmap to eternity, one day at a time. And that is the way I read it, just like a diary, one day at a time. Don't let the size of the book throw you off. It is well worth your time. I highly recommend it...and I hope you all have a success finding YOUR go to saint, whomever it will be. **Vivat Jesus!"**

### **New Business**

Election of Officers -- The below list of officers were elected by the Council for the 2025-2026 fiscal year:

Grand Knight	Greg Cyr
Deputy Grand Knight	John Chandonnet
Chancellor	Ron Robichaud
Chaplain	Fr. Wilfred Labbe
Financial Secretary	John Greenlee
Recorder	Jonathan Brock

Warden	Bob Demers
Treasurer	Matthew Pettine
Advocate	Richard Caroti
Outside Guard	Rene Robichaud
Inside Guard	Gerry Newport
Lecturer	Kevin Neely
1st Year Trustee	George Kanelos
2nd Year Trustee	Rick Southwick
3rd Year Trustee	Ray Sargent

Disbursement of monies from Haddock Dinners: Ray Sargent motion trustees discuss matter to provide recommendation, Greg Cyr seconded. The motion passed.

Treasurer reimbursed Grand Knight John for purchase of stainless steel shelving, approximately \$122.

Gerry Newport is planning for Children's Christmas Party fundraising. Planned dates are Saturday, July 12 and Sunday, July 13 at Shaw's Supermarket. Both days there are two shifts: 9am - 1pm and 1pm - 4pm. Need two knights for each shift.

Gerry Newport notified the council that on May 24 at 9am we will be at St Ignatius Cemetery working with other organizations to put flags on veterans' graves. Flags will be taken down May 31, with a rain date of June 7 (at 9am).

Gerry Newport notified the council of our plan to participate in the Memorial Day parade. Parade starts at 10am. Knights to meet at 9am at Number One Pond. Prior to the parade, we will be putting up a wreath and having a prayer ceremony at 7:45 am at St. Ignatius cemetery, then several cemeteries after that, the Number One Pond.

Ray Wallace sent email soliciting food items for upcoming Womens' ACTS Retreat. Contact Ray Wallace.

### **Field Agent Report**

Aaron Weiss shared experience of his past weekend. Aaron swore into the Air National Guard and had his first drill weekend. Young men are looking for mentorship, also mentioned by our Bishop. Aaron also shared a story that highlighted the importance of insurance to take care of family financially, in the event something happens to a father.

### **Knight of the Month**

Kevin Neely was selected as the Knight of the Month.

### **50/50 Drawing**

Gerry Newport won the 50/50 drawing. The amount was \$15, which Gerry donated to the Childrens' Christmas Party.

### **Good of the Order**



The following prayer petitions were presented:

Erica Dientes  
Tyler Patterson  
Jen Patterson  
The Papal Conclave  
The Brothers of Christian Instruction in Alfred  
Wayne Demers  
Cathy Neely  
Michael Roy  
Dennis Roy  
David Roy  
Nancy L'Heureux  
Louis Melanson  
Steve Gannaway  
Alex Pettine  
Jerry Nulton  
Rob Martin  
Paul Cunningham  
Paul McNutt  
Shirley Sheehan  
Joe Sylvanus  
David Wright  
Connie Littlefield  
Steve Taylor  
John Gagnon

### **Closing Prayers**

Both the Blessed M. McGivney prayer and the Bill Sheehan prayer, which were recited by the council, were dedicated to the above prayer petitions.

### **Next Council/Zoom Meeting**

The next council meeting will be on Monday, June 2 at 7:00pm.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.**

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Jonathan T. Brock  
Recorder*