

PRESS FORWARD AND FEAR NOTHING

Keystone Knight

Pennsylvania State Council Knights of Columbus

Editor and Distribution: Rick Terroni FSS

Volume # 1 Issue 1 August 2025



FROM THE DESK OF GARY J. DAMICH STATE DEPUTY

The State Deputy Report is on the next two pages. The picture below was taken of our State Deputy Gary Damich and our First Lady Sandy Damich at the supreme convention banquet.



STATE DEPUTY REPORT

Personal Contact, COR, and Creative Recruitment: The Path to Growth

By State Deputy Gary Damich

"A council that goes two years without recruiting will almost certainly decline."

Growth is the lifeline of our councils. Without new members, our ability to serve our Church and community weakens. A council that goes two years without recruiting is almost certainly headed toward decline — fewer hands to help, fewer ideas to share, and eventually, a loss of presence in parish life.

The challenge is not that there are no good Catholic men left to join — it's that we sometimes fail to truly connect with them. In today's world, email inboxes are overflowing. Important messages get buried and forgotten. That's why **personal contact** is so important.

A handshake after Mass, a conversation over coffee, or even a simple phone call carries far more weight than an email blast ever could.

A personal invitation says, *"I see you. I believe you belong here. I want you with us."* That's how men join — and stay.

Always Be Ready With Your Outreach Speech

Many councils have a short "church recruitment talk" — like the one often delivered after Mass — that clearly explains who we are, what we do, and why we need new members. This is an incredibly effective tool, and it should not be limited to church settings.

The same speech can be used at parish festivals, pancake breakfasts, community events, school fundraisers, fish fries, sporting events, or even local civic gatherings. Anytime Catholic men are gathered, you have an opportunity to stand up, share the message, and invite them to join.

When you deliver the talk, remember the power of the **pause** — especially when asking men over 18 to stand. That moment of visible participation makes the invitation more real and more personal.

The COR Advantage

One great way to put this into action is through the **COR initiative**.

COR is built on three pillars — **prayer, formation, and fraternity** — and it creates natural opportunities for inviting men into our brotherhood.

Invite a fellow parishioner to a COR gathering, follow up with a personal call, and show him what living faith in action looks like. That's recruitment without pressure — just authentic connection.

Continued on next page

STATE DEPUTY REPORT CONTINUED

Seasonal & Themed Recruitment Ideas

Keep outreach fresh and memorable by tying it to events and feast days throughout the year:

Columbus Day – *"Invite a family to a new beginning in faith — just as Christopher Columbus brought the Catholic faith to the New World."*

Blessed Michael McGivney's Feast (Aug. 13) – *"Honor our founder's vision — bring one new brother into the Order this month."*

Thanksgiving – *"Give thanks for your brother Knights — and invite one more man to join our table of fraternity."*

Advent – *"Prepare the way for a new brother to grow in faith and service."*

Christmas – *"Give the gift of faith, fraternity, and service — invite someone to join the Knights of Columbus."*

New Year – *"Help a brother start the year with faith and fraternity."*

Lent – *"Invite others to walk the journey of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving with us."*

Easter – *"Bring new life to your council and parish."*

Independence Day – *"Serve God and country through the Knights."*

Parish Festival – *"Faith, family, and fellowship — invite your neighbors to join the Knights today."*

Quick Tips for Immediate Action

Call a man you've seen at Mass but haven't met yet.

Personally invite him to your next council or COR gathering.

Deliver your outreach speech — at church *and* at any public event.

Follow up within a week to answer his questions.

Viva Jesus!



Gary Damich

State Deputy

2024-2025 STATE FAMILY

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St. Thomas Aquinas Church 150th Anniversary

The Sesquicentennial (150 years) Anniversary of the dedication and consecration of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Archbald was recently celebrated with a well-attended mass at the church with the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, as the principal celebrant and homilist along with concelebrants Rev. Ryan Glenn, Pastor and Rev. Michael Amo Gyau, Parochial Vicar of Christ the King Parish. Bishop Bambera was accompanied by an honor guard from Knights of Columbus Council 7622. A catered meal in the parish center followed the mass.

Photo, l to r, rear, Faith Director George Palickar, Grand Knight Kevin Pittack and member George Siracuse. Front, Scribe Dave Rowlands, Past Grand Knight Tony Spataro, Bishop Bambera, member Rich Ercole and Financial Secretary Ron Ryczak.



ARTICLES AND PICTURES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2025 EDITION OF THE KEYSTONE KNIGHT ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 10, 2025. SEND THEM TO: rickterroni@comcast.net. LET'S SHOW EVERYONE WHAT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN THE STATE OF PA ARE DOING! PLEASE TRY TO SEND A PICTURE WITH YOUR ARTICLE! PLEASE TRY TO SEND ARTICLES IN WORD FORMAT AND PICTURES IN JPG. SEE SCHEDULE FOR THE KEYSTONE KNIGHT FOR THE 2025-2026

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STATE CHAPLAIN REPORT

Rev. Pierre "Bud" Falkenhan Jr.

Dear Brother Knights,

I hope and pray that you and your families had a fun and restful summer, with the parish festivals and council family picnics that were on your schedule as well as family vacations.

But soon school will start and state and council activities will be upon us and even if your council might still have been active over the summer months, we still have challenges ahead of us. To begin with we need to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ through the examples that we live in our lives, like being seen and active in our parishes as ministers (Ushers, Lectors, or Lay Eucharistic Ministers) at the weekend Masses. When we happen to talk to the men of our parish we can invite them to join our councils and help the State of Pennsylvania to obtain Circle of Honor for the third year. It won't be long before councils are working with the Soccer Challenge, Pennsylvania March for Life, leading the rosary at our parishes in October, Cor, Keeping Christ in Christmas program and other things that will end the calendar year. In 2026, we have the Free Throw Tournament, State Convention and other matters of interest, so as you can see, our schedules can be full, but that is what makes the Knights of Columbus so interesting. This might not seem like the best Spiritual Message, but keep in mind that the Lord works in mysterious ways and all I suggest is that we do our best to be open to the Spirit in the month ahead and live the virtues of Charity, Unity Fraternity and Patriotism as best we can and thus be the best Knights of Columbus that we can be.

Vivat Jesus,

Fr. Bud Falkenhan
State Chaplain



From The Desk of Brother George Shaheen State Membership Director






FIRST QUARTER MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVES **Effective July 1 – October 1, 2025**

Encouraging Growth • Rewarding Commitment • Building the Future

PROPOSER INCENTIVE

Recruit a Member – Win Cash!

- Propose a new member in **July, August, or September.**
 - Get entered into a **monthly drawing:**  **10 winners each month**  **\$50 per winner**
- Entries based on Supreme's monthly proposer report.


 **Total Monthly Awards: \$500**

COUNCIL INCENTIVE

Reach Membership Goals – Get Rewarded!

- For every **25% of your council's membership goal** reached in Q1, earn **one entry** into a drawing.
5 councils will win \$500 each!


 **Total Q1 Awards: \$2,500**


 Based on Supreme's Q1 membership report.

NEW COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT

Build a Council – Earn Support!

Open to: **District Deputies, Directors, Chairmen, State Family**


 Submit a proposed new council + 10 members =

 **\$100 for the individual**

 If the council is officially implemented by **October 1, 2025:**

 **Extra \$200 for the individual**

 **\$200 for the new council** to help kickstart activities

 *These rewards are in addition to Supreme's startup incentives!*



Let's grow our Order together—every effort makes a difference!
Questions? Contact your State Membership Team.



From The Desk of John Fitzpatrick, FM State Awards Chairman



Safe Environment Program Compliance

Why is Safe Environment Compliance important? Most councils host a family picnic and host of other family activities over the summer. Our youth soccer challenge is coming up shortly. During these events and other interactions with our parishes and community, the Knights want to ensure the safety of our children and those who are vulnerable, including the elderly. Additionally, councils must be SEP compliant in order to qualify for Star Council.

A council cannot be Safe Environment Program (SEP) compliant without submitting their Form 185 and Form 365, and all SEP roles (Grand Knight, Program Director, Community Director, and Family Director) are filled and compliant. When the new fraternal year started July 1st, the Supreme Office reset all council officer and program personnel positions. Although the Grand Knight may also hold one of the program roles, there must be three (3) different members assigned to the Program, Family, and Community Director roles.

Newly elected Grand Knights or appointed Program Director, Family Director or Community Director will require Safe Environment training and/or background check. They should have received an invite to take the required training from Praesidium Academy and/or background check (Family and Community Directors only). If you are assigned one of these roles, check your SPAM folder. If you have not received an invite, please reach out to oyp@kofc.org.

Newly assigned members with an SEP role will be placed in a PENDING status until they complete the training and/or background check. It is important to note that there are two training assignments: Preventing Abuse and Protecting Those We Serve. District Deputies and Grand Knights can track member and council SEP compliance in Officers Online. They should take note of any suspense dates for pending members as well as those who may require retraining or a new background check during the year.

If a member's training/background check suspense date passes and they become non-compliant, they will need to reach out to the Office of Youth Protection to get reset. The contacts are:

*Lee Ann Harper, Director, Office of Youth Protection, O: 203-752-4640, oyp@kofc.org

*Sherry Mazyck, Office of Youth Protection, Phone: 203-752-4554, oyp@kofc.org

Can anyone take the training if they are not in an SEP role? Currently, within the council, ONLY those appointed key safe environment leaders (Grand Knight, Program Director, Community Director, and Family Director) will be able to access and complete their safe environment training assignments. This is because the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program self-registration portals are currently unavailable. The Order's IT department continues to work to restore this functionality as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact me at jlfitzpatrick83@gmail.com or 484-201-9188.

Fraternally,

John Fitzpatrick FM, FST
Star Tracker Chairman



From The Desk of Jim Banks State Family Director



One of the greatest responsibilities we have as Knights is to create a loving, spiritual, family environment. The Family Fully Alive Program accomplishes this important task. The Family Fully Alive program asks families to invite God into their homes and cultivates each family as a miniature domestic church. The program helps families place God and the Catholic faith at the center of their lives. Using the Family Fully Alive Booklet as a devotional guide, this program provides monthly themes, reflections, meditations, and group projects. The Family Fully Alive monthly devotions are concrete ways that Knights of Columbus, in solidarity with our previous Holy Father, Pope Francis, is utilized to support the growth of holy and loving families in the Church. Through prayer and reflection, each family can grow in holiness together. This is a flexible program that can be started at any time of the year and continues year-round. Councils will order physical booklets to distribute or direct parish families to program resources on kofc.org. If your council starts this program, I would love to hear feedback from you to share with others.

[#10606 Guide Sheet](#)

Vivat Jesus,

Jim Banks
State Family Director
banksjt1965@gmail.com

CARDINAL DOUGHERTY ASSEMBLY 913 LEADS CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION



Members of the Cardinal Dougherty Assembly 913 lead the Corpus Christi procession at St. Charles Borromeo church in Drexel Hill, PA. To the left is Msgr. George Majoros holding the Blessed Sacrament. To the right are members Faithful Pilot Jeff Spina (front left), Sir Knight Leo Witkoski (front right), Faithful Navigator Chuck Bradford (back left) and Past Faithful Navigator Rick Terroni FSS.



From The Desk of John Cocco State Community Director



Coats for Kids 2025: Let's Keep the Momentum Going!

It might be hard to think about winter coats when it's 80 degrees outside, but the time to act is now! The **Coats for Kids** program is officially underway, and we're excited to continue our mission of distributing coats to children across Pennsylvania.

What's New This Year?

We've made a few important updates based on your feedback:

Earlier Timeline: You asked for coats sooner—and we listened. To meet this goal, we've moved up our ordering, payment, and distribution schedule.

Slight Price Increase: Like many other goods, coat prices have risen slightly. But our commitment to serving children in need remains unchanged.

Key Deadlines

To participate in the **State BOGO Program**, please follow these deadlines:

Order Deadline: Submit your order by **September 1** using the form sent via Constant Contact or available on the **State Website** under the Coats for Kids page.

Payment Deadline: Ensure payment is received by **September 15**. These dates are firm —no exceptions can be made.

Missed the Deadline?

If you miss the cutoff, you can still order coats directly through the **Knightsgear website**. However, these orders won't be eligible for the matching program.

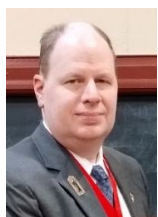
Don't Forget Form 10784

Whether you participate in the State Program, order directly from Supreme, or run your own local initiative, **Form 10784 must be submitted**. Please send a copy to:

✉ Pennsylvaniaform10784@gmail.com

Please reach out to the State Community Team with any questions

Vivat Jesus
John



From The Desk of David J. Bloomer Deputy State Life Director



Brothers...

Through August and September, the 2025 Silver Rose will once again grace the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This year, thanks to Life Director Dave Spacht's efforts, we will have a wonderful Our Lady of Guadalupe banner to exhibit with the Rose while it is in Pennsylvania.

The journey starts around August 10, when Brother Andy Nowak from Morgantown, West Virginia, hands the Silver Rose off to Brother Mike Lynch. The Rose will then make its way through the other Dioceses as seen on the schedule. Then on September 13, the Silver Rose will be handed off to our Brothers in New Jersey by Brother Rick Ray.

Diocese:	2025 Dates	Coordinator:	E-mail:
Pittsburgh	08/10 – 08/14	Mike Lynch	shanghailynch@gmail.com
Greensburg	08/15 – 08/18	Jeff Peterinelli	peteyfire8@aol.com
Erie	08/19 – 08/22	Dave Spacht	spacht1@yahoo.com
Altoona-Johnstown	08/23 – 08/26	Lionel Bassett	lfb10@comcast.net
Harrisburg	08/27 – 08/31	Fred Prestine	Fred.Prestine@gmail.com
Scranton	09/01 – 09/04	James Marino	James25m@yahoo.com
Allentown	09/05 – 09/08	John Fitzpatrick	jlfitzpatrick83@gmail.com
Philadelphia	09/09 – 09/13	Rick Ray	rick.ray@spyinspections.com

On behalf of State Life Director Dave Spacht and the state council, I'd like to thank all who are reverently handling the Silver Rose with diligence and care while it is in Pennsylvania. I hope many Knights and their families will be able to see the Silver Rose and participate in the associated programs in your area.

To learn more about our commitment to life and the significance of the Silver Rose, please visit <https://www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/faith-in-action-programs/life/silver-rose.html?1tab=1tab0>.

Vivat Jesus! Viva Guadalupe!

Dave Bloomer

Deputy Life Director



From The Desk of
Fran O'Hara, FSW
State COAL Chairman



Chance of a Lifetime (COAL) 2026 Fact Sheet

General

The COAL Program has two objectives: funding the State Council Scholarship Program and providing an easy Risk-Free opportunity for Councils to raise money.

Prizes

There will be 16 cash prizes totaling \$65,000.

1 st Prize \$15,000	2 nd Prize \$10,000	3 rd Prize \$7,500	4 th Prize \$5,000
5 th Prize \$5,000	6 th Prize \$5,000	7 th Prize \$2,500	8 th Prize \$2,500
9 th Prize \$2,500	10 th Prize \$2,000	11 th Prize \$2,000	12 th Prize \$2,000
13 th Prize \$1,000	14 th Prize \$1,000	15 th Prize \$1,000	16 th Prize \$1,000

Tickets

Tickets will be available early fall. Order now. Form is available on the State Council website, kofcpennsylvania.org or email Fran O'Hara at coalchairman@gmail.com. Include shipping and contact information.

Discount Date - April 1, 2026

Councils pay \$2.50 for each paid TICKET received or postmarked by April 1, 2026 (\$.50 per ticket discount). Tickets received after April 1, 2026, are \$3.00 each.

Mailing Instructions

Checks should be drawn to "State Council Charities" and sent to one of the addresses below.

Fran O'Hara, 524 Lindsay Street, Ridley Park, PA 19078
Joe Caromano, 1906 Robinson Avenue, Havertown, PA 19083

Checks must accompany all stubs not paid for in advance. Councils are encouraged to send checks and tickets together. Please ensure to use a quality envelope in good condition. Last year we experienced an increase in damaged envelopes. Arrangements can be made to deliver sold books in person through one of the Chairmen listed below. Tickets can also be turned in before dinner on Friday at the Convention.

Fran O'Hara 610 733 1812 / coalchairman@gmail.com
Joe Caromano 610 449 4778 / joecaromano@verizon.net

Drawing - Friday May 15, 2026 - 9:00 PM
Pennsylvania State Council Convention
Doubletree by Hilton, Pittsburgh, PA

Saints Simon and Jude Council #11564 Celebrates 30th Anniversary



The picture above shows the members and their ladies of Saints Simon and Jude Council #11564 celebrated their 30th anniversary on June 22, 2025. Grand Knight Gordon Jefferes FSA is in the back row to the left.

OUR LADY OF THE LAKE COUNCIL 13752 PURCHASES A TV



Our Lady of the Lake Council Council 13752, Pocono Pines, purchased and installed a TV message system in the parish narthex. Pictured are knights from the council with the TV in the background.

Knights of Columbus Council 12788 Supports Parrish 75th Anniversary Picnic



Council 12788 Knights prepared and served lunch at St. Joseph Parrish's 75th Anniversary Picnic to several hundred parishioners, despite the rain's failed attempt to dampen spirits.



In addition to enjoying the opportunity to meet with Bishop Senior, the Columbiettes and Knights and Parishioners recognized Fr. Roth at the Picnic for his outstanding leadership of the parish, as he was departing for reassignment to St. Joseph's parish in Danville.



Council 12788 was thrilled to Support this momentous celebration providing the tents and honoring the rich history and legacy of the Parrish community. Members of the council contributed their time and resources to ensure the picnic was not only a success but a joyful, family-friendly event for all attendees.

COUNCIL 7141 ANNUAL MAY PROCESSION AND SCHOLARSHIPS



Shown are pictures of the Council's annual May Crowning and Council Scholarship Award winners. Picture #1 (top left) is of Council 7141 Knights carrying Our Lady Queen of Peace to be crowned in the Atrium of the church. Picture #2 (top right) is of the 2 scholarship winners Jacob Chechel and Hannah Kennedy who both were awarded \$1500 scholarship. The 3rd picture (bottom left) is of the Grand Knight, John Blundetto and Deputy Grand Knight Bob Bonno with Jacob's Family. And the 4th picture (bottom right) is of the Grand Knight and Deputy Grand Knight along with Hannah's Family.

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COUNCIL 1426 MAKES A DONATION TO LOURDESHOUSE MATERNITY HOME

Representatives of Knights of Columbus Chambersburg Council 1426 of Corpus Christi Parish made a sizable monetary donation to Lourdeshouse Maternity Home in Harrisburg on June 24, presenting a check for \$6,000 to help benefit the women and babies who reside at the home, operated by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Council 1426 made the donation from monies raised through its Baby Bottle Campaign, which encourages benefactors to fill baby bottles with cash and coins to help support pro-life causes including mothers and infants in need.

At Lourdeshouse, pregnant women, mothers and babies receive love, care and support as the women work to gain self-sufficiency with medical care, employment and housing. Two new babies were born this week.

Learn more about Catholic Charities at www.cchbg.org.



Photo by Rachel Troche, Diocesan Multimedia Producer for Catholic Witness.

Pictured from left in the photo are Greg Rettger, Trustee; Jessica Dobinson, Lourdeshouse Program Director; Kelly Gollick, Executive Director of Catholic Charities; Joe Bonhage, Treasurer; John Putko, Grand Knight; Jacob Vanier, Financial Secretary; and Tara Benkovic, Catholic Charities' Director of Development.

SOCKS FOR SOULS

PARISH NEWS

Week of May 25, 2025

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

The Knights of Columbus Council 3440 will be having a *New Member Initiation Ceremony* on **Sunday, June 1** at the Council Hall, 2086 Smith Township Rd., Burgettstown. All men of Saint Isidore the Farmer Parish are eligible to attend. Candidates are asked to be there at 6:00pm with the ceremony, which will last approximately thirty minutes, beginning at 6:30pm. Dress code is business casual and this is a family friendly event. Light refreshments will be served after the event. To register, please contact Christopher Scott at 412-389-1460 or ghmeese@hotmail.com by May 29.

Knights of Columbus Bishop Hugh C. Boyle Assembly #922's **2025 Socks for Souls Drive** will be held **June 1-15**. Our Knights are working in cooperation with the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) with a goal of providing new socks to all veterans in our region who need them, and we could use your help. When you go to Mass during the weekends of June 7-8 and June 14-15, look for the Socks for Souls collection boxes. The donated socks must be new. In 2022, our first Socks for Souls Drive collected 2,705 pairs of socks for our veterans and their families, but this is an ongoing, high-priority need for our veterans and, thus, our Knights of Columbus Assembly will make this an annual charitable program. Donation drop-offs by special arrangement can also be made by contacting Socks for Souls Chairman Christopher Scott at 412-389-1460 (or email ghmeese@hotmail.com).



Alternative Sites: Donated socks may also be dropped off in-person during Knights of Columbus meetings on Wednesday, July 2, from 7:00pm to 8:00pm at Immaculate Conception Church hall (119 West Chestnut Street, Washington, PA 15301); Wednesday, July 9, from 7:00pm to 8:00pm at the Knights of Columbus #3440 Pavilion in Burgettstown (2086 Smith Township State Road, Burgettstown PA 15021); and Thursday, July 10, from 7:00pm to 8:00pm, at New Hall of Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 246 Muse Bishop Road, Muse, PA 15350.



Saint Fidelis Assembly 929 Supports Corpus Christi Processions

The Sir Knights of Saint Fidelis Assembly supported two Eucharistic Processions to celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi. In conjunction with Council 6177, Sir Knights led a procession at Saint Gregory Church - Divine Grace Parish in Zelienople, PA. Also, in conjunction with Council 866, Sir Knights led a procession from Saint Paul Church to Saint Peter Church - All Saints Parish in Butler, PA. In addition, the GK of Council 866, Ed Smith, and his wife, Sherrie, gifted All Saints Parish a new Eucharistic Procession Canopy.



District 54 Annual BBQ

John Paul II Council 13935 in Milford hosted the entire district to the first ever district wide BBQ on July 5th at St Patrick's Community Hall. Brothers from Our Lady of the Mountain Council 9832, St John Neumann/Good Shepherd Council 12571, and St John Council 11935 were also in attendance. It was a great time of fraternal camaraderie and communal bonding. District Deputy Lawrence Commisso spoke about his pride in our district being the 11th for Membership this year and the majority of councils earning star council. Grand Knight Joseph Saski thanked everyone for comings out and looks forward to another amazing fraternal year.

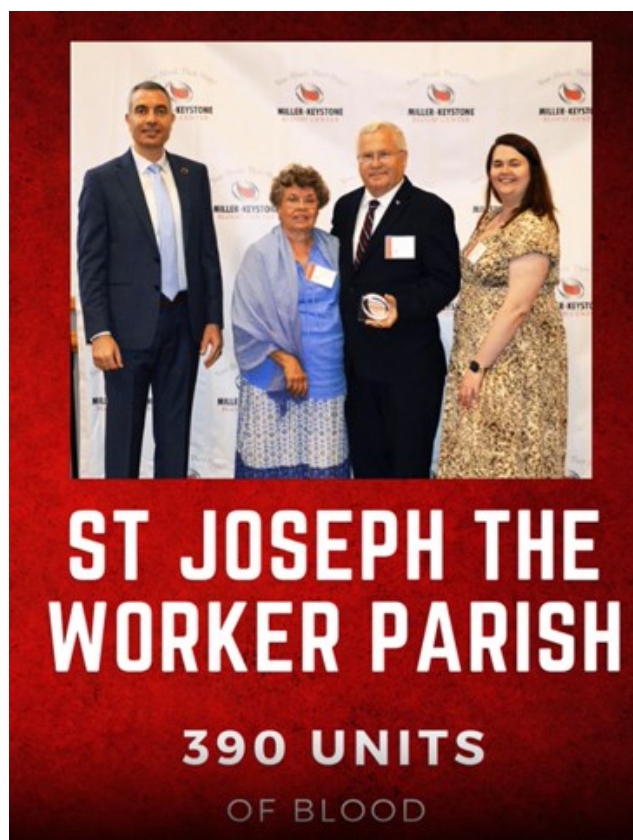


Miller-Keystone Blood Center Local Leader

Miller-Keystone Blood Center is proud to partner with the community to maintain a safe and stable blood supply through Blood Drive events.

In 2009, Monsignor Wargo, former pastor of St Joseph the Worker, Orefield, asked the local Knights to coordinate parish blood drives. St Joseph the Worker Council 10921 gladly accepted the challenge and has brought the program to new heights. Since 2009, the council has organized 31 blood drives. The council coordinates the parish drives through pulpit talks, donor recruitment, and drive promotion. Members arrive first thing in the morning on the day of the drive to help blood center staff unload the truck and set up. Once the drive is complete, members return to help the staff disassemble equipment and reload the truck. Council members also contribute through individual donations.

Miller-Keystone Blood Center recognizes organizations that go above and beyond the call of duty to support its life-saving mission by collecting at least 200 units in a single year. St Joseph the Worker parish was recognized again as a Local Leader in 2024, collecting 390 units of blood, the most units collected in the Lehigh Valley and second most in a twenty county area. In addition, during the Allentown Diocese wide St Januarius Blood Drive, September - December 2024, the parish collected the most units as well.



Congratulations to our 2025 COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS at Council #1333!

On June 29, The Knights of Columbus, Council #1333 in West Chester had the privilege and honor to award two scholarships as part of our 9th Annual Council Scholarship Program for the 2024-2025 Fraternal Year, which offers to help students to pay for college through essay-based scholarship contests on faith and service. Those recipients were:

Mairead McGill – Mairead graduated from Merion Mercy HS and is attending The University of South Carolina and will study International Business. Mairead cofounded the Bible Study Group and was very active in Women for Life and Love.

Mack Manley – Mack graduated from Bishop Shanahan High School and will attend The Catholic University of America in the Fall, as a Business Finance major. He will also play for the lacrosse team. He was very active in The Faith in Action Group (service group) which directly impacted the community. He was a student leader for Kairos. Mack started The Pickleball Club which allowed people who weren't active in competitive sports to have fun and build friendships.

Both Mairead and Mack took part in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. for the past 2 years.

All of our worthy recipients plan on continuing their service work with various groups on campus. Congratulations and good luck in your future endeavors, Mairead and Mack! Well done! Thank you as well to our dedicated Scholarship Committee who does a great job in reviewing the essays and identifying potential candidates every year; Nick Palczuk, Jim Hennessy, Art Treston, Jim Cushwa, Joe Dugan, Jerry DiBello, and Gary Novinskie. We are very proud to be able to offer this opportunity to our members and their families, from fundraisers such as C.O.A.L., Football Sweeps, and many other local council efforts. In addition to the various events we host to raise money for these scholarships, our Council distributes notifications with dues notices that gives members the ability again to support our Scholarship Program with an optional donation as well. Our council's unofficial motto is "*Faith in Service.*" As we encourage our members and families to live this motto, we asked the candidates to describe what this means to them, how they have demonstrated this so far, and how do they plan to build upon their experiences as they continue their education. To learn more about how you can join The Knights and our Council at #1333 in West Chester, please contact Grand Knight Raul Morales at raulmorales80@hotmail.com



Palmyra Knights of Columbus Usher In New Leadership for 2025-2026

The Knights of Columbus Council 10502, serving the Church of the Holy Spirit in Palmyra, recently held their annual installation ceremony to welcome officers for the 2025–2026 fraternal year. The event drew a crowd of around 75 members and guests, including State District Deputy Patrick Sweeney, who offered inspiring remarks to mark the occasion.

 *Pictured are the newly installed officers.*

Strengthening Community Through Service

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of a \$5,000 donation to the Caring Cupboard, a local nonprofit that has long benefited from the Council’s charitable efforts. Grand Knight Mike Serio presented the check to Executive Director David Fitzkee and Operations Manager Allison Zimmerman.

Beyond financial support, the Council made a significant impact over the past year by donating more than 15,000 pounds of food and volunteering over 1,800 hours to the Caring Cupboard—demonstrating their deep commitment to serving those in need.

The Council also awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Andrew Johnson, who will begin his college journey this fall. The scholarship underscores the Knights’ dedication to supporting youth and education.

Honoring a Son of the Parish

The Council proudly recognized Brother Knight and Palmyra native Rev. Cole T. Mase, who was ordained to the priesthood on June 7. He celebrated his first Mass at the Church of the Holy Spirit the following day, June 8. *Pictured with Father Mase is Holy Spirit Pastor Father DiJo Thomas.*

Celebrating Dedication and Service

Bernie O’Hern was named **Knight of the Year** for his outstanding contributions to the Council and the parish. Although Bernie was unable to attend due to a recent stroke, his years of leadership and service were warmly acknowledged and deeply appreciated. Additional awards presented during the evening included:

Award	Recipient
Volunteer of the Year	John Ciardullo
Commitment to Service	Pat Dinunzio
Rookie Volunteer of the Year	Walt Myslinski
Unsung Hero Award	Phil Serio

The Grand Knight Volunteer Commitment Award was presented to Dave Wolfe and Dane Schoenbaum.

Welcoming New Members

The Council also celebrated growth and renewal, recognizing 25 new members who joined over the past two years. Each was presented with a lapel pin, a rosary, and a Knights of Columbus cap as a warm welcome into the brotherhood.

Founded on February 6, 1882, by Blessed Father Michael McGivney, the Knights of Columbus is a global Catholic fraternal organization rooted in the values of faith, family, community, and the sanctity of life.

See Photos on Next Page

Palmyra Knights of Columbus Usher In New Leadership for 2025-2026 (CONT.)



**PRESS
FORWARD
AND
FEAR
NOTHING**



**2024
-
2025**

Congratulations to State Deputy Gary Damish and the State Team and all the Knights in the State of PA for helping the The KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PA STATE COUNCIL reach their goal for the Circle of Honor for the 2024-2025 Fraternal Year! The following article and pictures were from the District Deputy Seminar which was held at the Penn Stater on July 11-13, 2025. There was a lot presented and hopefully by now the District Deputies have met with their Councils to review the information.



The photographs were taken at the DD Summer Seminar. The top row were taken at the ladies luncheon showing the crafts that they made. The middle picture is our State Deputy Gary Damish and PSD and Executive Secretary Stanley Glowaski. The bottom row—left shows our 2 faithful bartenders Father Bud and Hospitality Chairman Adrian Gordon. The bottom photograph shows a panel discussion on membership that was presented at the seminar.



DISTRICT DEPUTY SEMINAR—CONT.



The photograph on the top row is of our state family. The second row l-r is of the color corps that was at the seminar mass, our Chaplain Father Bud celebrating the mass, our new State Secretary Jim Nardone being installed. The bottom row l-r shows the new district deputies that were installed and our State Deputy and State Chaplain performing the installation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SIR KNIGHT MICKEY AND HANNA KELLY WHO WERE MARRIED ON JUNE 13, 2025! SEE PHOTO BELOW OF THE 4TH DEGREE KNIGHTS WHO WERE THERE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EVENT!



OLPH Council 18424 Hosts Sacred Heart Holy Hour



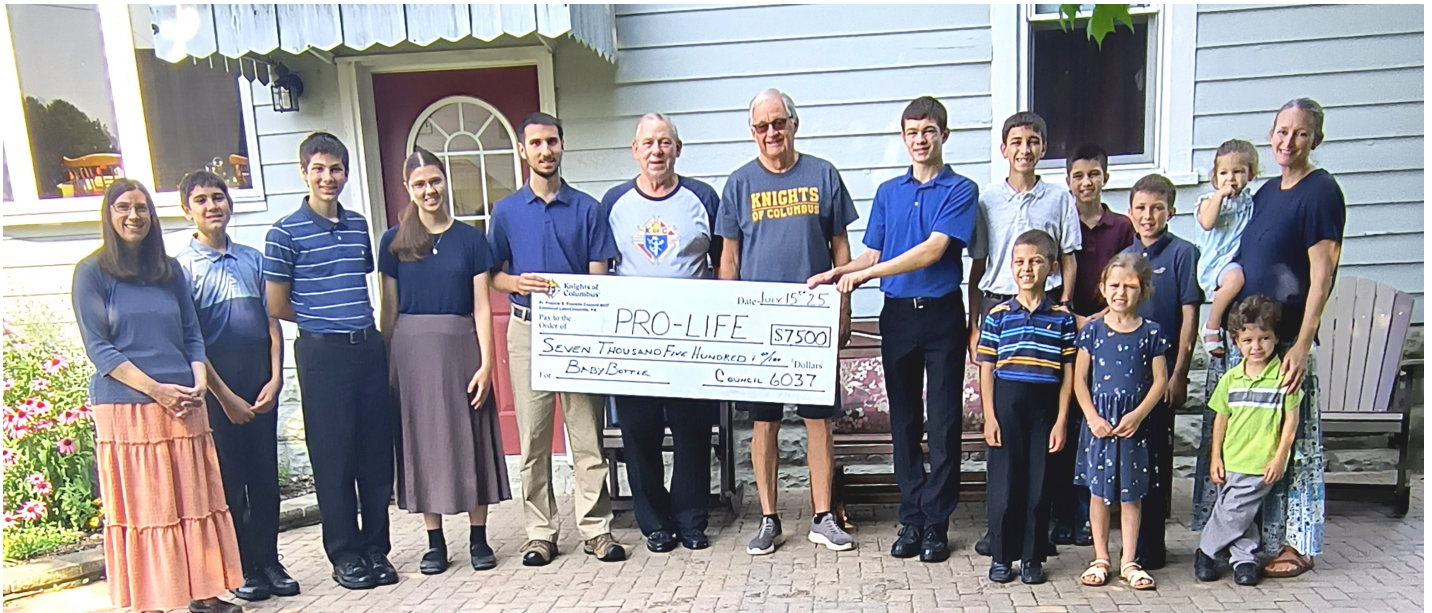
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council 18524 of Bethlehem hosted a Sacred Heart Holy Hour at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on Monday July 14, 2025. An icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was the centerpiece of a special Sacred Heart Holy Hour.

During the holy hour, an icon depicting the most famous image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, painted in 1767 by Pompeo Batoni and now venerated in the Church of the Gesù in Rome, was on display. This reproduction of the original image bears the blessing of Pope Francis and is one of more than 300 icons traveling across the world as part of the Knights of Columbus Pilgrim Icon Program.

The Sacred Heart Holy Hour included readings from Sacred Scripture and reflections from Pope Francis on the Sacred Heart of Jesus, as well as the Divine Mercy Chaplet, prayers to the Sacred Heart, and time for silent prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The prayer service led all present to grow in their love of God and devotion to his Most Sacred Heart.

Depicted in the photo are members of Council 18424 along with their Worthy Chaplain Fr. Marty Kern.

ERIE COUNCILS CONDUCT BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN



For the past four years 24 K of C Councils in Erie and Crawford Counties join forces to collect monies through a Baby Bottle campaign for the Erie Women's Care Center and The Pregnancy Center of Meadville. Baby Bottle Co-Chairman Phil Legler noticed that over the last three years that K of C Council 6037 (Linesville / Conneaut Lake) has always been the first Council to report exactly what was collected. When asked, we told him we had a secret weapon, or actually 12 secret weapons who's two fathers are members of Council 6037. Their mothers thought it would instill a good lesson of the importance of Pro-Life to gather around the dinning room table as a family unit to empty the returned bottles, separate, then count the coins and currency after each Sunday's Mass.

When he traveled over 50 miles to thank each family member for their effort, Mr. Phil (right side of ceremonial check) was impressed to learn that just an hour earlier little Zeke (front row wearing a blue stripe shirt) served his first Mass as an Alter Server, joining his four older brothers (standing behind him) and his three cousins (standing to the left of Council 6037 Baby Bottle coordinator PGK Jimmy McAnalley). Currently, just Zach (standing next to PGK Jimmy) is old enough to join the Order, which he did the same week he turned 18.



Cardinal Dougherty Assembly Leads Procession For New Pastor

Members of the Cardinal Dougherty Assembly #913 were at Church of the Sacred Heart in Oxford, PA. to lead the procession for the installation of the new pastor Rev. Anthony Raymundo. The installation was done by Bishop John J. McIntyre. Chuck Bradford, Faithful Navigator was also in attendance.

COUNCIL 15478 PARTICIPATES IN CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION



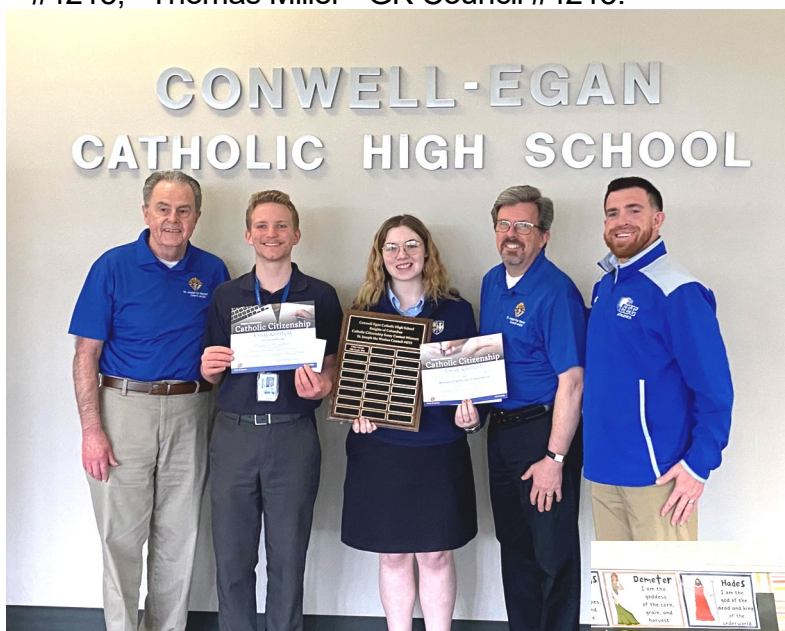
On Saturday, June 21, **St. Bede the Venerable Council 15478 (Holland, PA)** sponsored an Annual Corpus Christi procession that was held at Northampton Township Municipal Park. Parishioners from St. Bede, joined with members from Assumption BVM (Feasterville, PA), St. Vincent, de Paul (Richboro, PA), and Nativity of Our Lord (Warminster, PA) parishes for a procession commemorating the solemnity of the body and blood of Christ. The procession featured the Knights of Columbus Icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It was a hot day, but hundreds of people from our community came together in prayer, professing our faith.

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER COUNCIL 4215 PRESENTS AWARDS TO STUDENTS

The St. Joseph the Worker Council #4215 of Levittown, PA presented awards to students who participated in the 2024 Knights of Columbus Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest. At Holy Family Regional Catholic School, Ian Lee was awarded first place and Amalia Olenga was awarded second place for 8th grade. At Conwell Egan Catholic (CEC) High School, Chloe Secoda was awarded first place and Brayden McGuckin was awarded second place for 10th grade. Congratulations to Chloe Secoda who went on to win first place at the Pennsylvania State level, and she was the runner-up at the International level!

Pictured below left (left to right): Ed Patton - PGK Council #4215, Brayden McGuckin - 2nd place winner, Chloe Secoda - 1st place winner, Thomas Miller - GK Council #4215, and Josh Bower - Principal of CE High School.

Pictured below right (left to right): Ed Patton - PGK Council #4215, Landon McCaughan, Amelia Olenga - 2nd place winner, Ian Lee - 1st place winner, Jazmin Morris, Gabriella Uslin, Larry Cook - Chancellor Council #4215, Thomas Miller - GK Council #4215.



Council #6353 St. Joseph Parish East York Delivers Check-Christmas Gifts & Song



The proceeds from the 9th Annual K of C Charity Golf Tournament were delivered to Marion Bittner, Administrator, Misericordia Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, on Wednesday, August 20, 2025. The amount delivered this year was \$22,000. Pictured left to right are Hugh Benedict, #6353 Trustee, Kelly Brown, #6353 Trustee, Pat Workinger, #6353 Lecture, Marion Bittner, Mel McConnell, #6353 Trustee, and Frank Kibler, #6353 Deputy Grand Knight. Missing from the picture is Sean Brennan, #6353 Program Director, and all of the volunteers who made this year's tournament a success.

The Knights of Columbus via Santa Claus, brought 50 gift bags for the residents. Yes, everyone received a Teddy Bear!



Council #6353 timed the delivery in coordination with a special group who stops by and sings songs with the residents, every two weeks. A special thanks to Vittoria Lorelli, Choir Director, Nancy Eaton, Pianist, and choir members June Blum, Win Bradley, Roberta Wills, Sue Marchese, Carmel Smith, Connie Miklasek, Karen Ellinger, Pat Juliana, Richard Lorelli, Robert Piccolo, Hugh Benedict, Mel McConnell and Santa Claus-Frank Kibler.

St Joseph Icon presented to Rev Joseph Elston on 40th Anniversary of his Ordination

Sunday, August 10, a Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated at St John the Evangelist Church, followed by an outdoor reception marking the 40th priestly ordination of Rev. Joseph Elston.

State Secretary Jim Nardone, FST, gifted the icon to Fr Elston. The State Secretary was joined by brother Knights from councils 372 and 16701 in Pittston during the presentation.

Father Elston is the pastor of Our Lady of the Eucharist, St John the Evangelist, and St Joseph Mareello parishes, all in the city of Pittston. Father has served many parishes throughout the Scranton Diocese. He is a member of St Joseph Mareello Council 16071.



ST. JOHN PAUL II COUNCIL HONORS ALTAR SERVERS AND A BAPTISM CELEBRATION

Knights of Columbus St. John Paul II of the Poconos council 4159 recently honored their altar servers at all the masses at Most Holy Trinity Parish. They received certificates of appreciation with 25 dollar gift cards. Also welcomed a new member to their Parish at their Baptism given a keepsake rose and rosary beads.



CHECK PRESENTED TO BISHOP PERSICO



Bishop Lawrence Persico of the Erie Diocese is presented checks from the State by Dr. Ken Grugel, PHD, PSD, State Advocate Doug Fleming, State Life Director Dave Spacht and CW Membership Chairman - Erie West, Lew Nordin

ST. GABRIEL'S PRESENTS NIGHT AT THE RACES



Knight's at the Races Saint Gabriel's Norwood



Saturday, October 11th @ 7pm (doors open 6:30)

Pub Food Buffet/NON ALCOHOLIC BEV/BYOB

Tickets \$25

Name a Horse \$20

FOR TICKETS CONTACT RAY at:

rayhjohnston@gmail.com

OR 610-314-6336

NORTH EAST HOLDS A FOURTH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION

Master Brian Hallock, along with the Fourth Degree Knights of the Pennsylvania Central District, had the great honor of recognizing His Excellency Bishop Alfred A. Schlert, Bishop of Allentown, during the Exemplification of Patriotism—a moving ceremony that welcomed 24 new Sir Knights into the Fourth Degree.

We were blessed to be joined by Rev. Michael Boris – District Friar, Rev. Keith Mathur – Chancellor for the Diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania State Deputy Gary Damich, Vice Supreme Master Fritz Leach, Master Chris Powers of the Archdiocese of Washington, Master Ken Grugel of the Pennsylvania West District, and Pennsylvania State Secretary Jim Nardone whose presence brought honor, encouragement, and inspiration to the day's events.

Following this powerful moment of unity and commitment, Bishop Schlert presided over a solemn Pontifical Mass concelebrated by Rev. Michael Boris - District Friar and Rev. James Paisley - Pastor at the majestic St. Ann's Basilica in Scranton—a celebration that lifted hearts and deepened our devotion to both Faith and Patriotism.

The evening came to a joyful close with the Exemplification Banquet at Arcaro & Genell's in Old Forge, where brotherhood, fellowship, and gratitude filled the room.

What a blessing it was to see families, clergy, and Knights come together in this 125th Anniversary Year of the Fourth Degree, carrying forward the vision of Blessed Michael McGivney—strengthening faith, serving Church and country, and inspiring future generations.

VAUS

Congratulations to our 24 new Sir Knights! Welcome to the ranks of the Fourth Degree—you are now a visible sign of Patriotism and Faith in action.

Vivat Jesus!

Diocese of Allentown Diocese of Scranton Arcaro & Gennells St. Ann Monastery Basilica Parish.



A YARD SALE OF SELLING LOVE

No space is left unfilled, and then the siege of love occurs. That is what happens every August, since 2015 in Bethlehem, PA, when St. Anne's Council 15188 holds their annual yard sale. At 8 a.m., the members of the council are already hard at work checking out patrons with their newly acquired treasures. Anything and everything has been sold at the yard sale, from Christmas decorations to a 15-foot fishing boat. This year's sale held on August 9th and 10th raised over \$8,500 during the two-day event.

But the yard sale's planning begins early every year. While many are dreaming of the vacations they will be taking, members of 15188 are thinking ahead for their yard sale. The hard work all starts in early July when a storage pod is obtained to keep larger items. Members then dedicate early Saturday mornings to the collection of yard sale items, including furniture, housewares, toys, electronics, books, outdoor equipment, jewelry, and religious items. All the items are donated by the parish and surrounding neighborhood community. They also put-up signage and advertise through bulletins and social media platforms. Then St. Anne's Community Center in Bethlehem is transformed into a sales floor like no other. "The dedication of our members is unmatched! Our visibility is important; we are known throughout the community, not just the parish. It comes down to their belief in the mission of the Knights of Columbus" said District Deputy James Baron.

The yard sale is a labor of love and takes approximately 365 service hours for Council 15188. "We are active. We are visible. Men see us performing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy in the parish and beyond. We pray at our meetings and we surrender ourselves to Christ through the intercession of Blessed Father Michael McGivney" said Mark Napierkowski Trustee. Napierkowski credits the organization of the yard sale to District Deputy James Baron, who has historically been the point man for the event.

It is an "all hands-on deck" affair. We get help from basically every member, from the young to the senior guys. The oldest members are working the checkout tables, while younger members help patrons bring items to their cars or work the sales floor. Items are not priced, but priced to sell! Members negotiate with the patrons and come up with a fair price for all items bought. Sometimes people will donate more out of kindness. In the 2023-2024 year Council 15188 had \$13,800 in charitable giving. "Our yard sale funds about half of our charitable giving" said Financial Secretary Stephen Ressler. "Last year we took in \$9,560 at the yard sale and did a total of \$19,078, a 38 percent increase in charitable giving" Ressler said. He also said, "Through communication and engagement with the parish, we send a message that we are a well-run mission-focused organization. Good people are drawn to organizations that run effectively and do good work."

Formed in 2010, St. Anne's Council 15188 is among the smaller area councils, but it has made a huge impact since its formation. Each year with the help of the yard sale their charitable giving has increased, and membership continues to grow. Currently the council has 66 members. St Anne's Church Bethlehem is home to approximately 1,500 families. In the end, all of the proceeds go to charities including Cay Galagon Life House Bethlehem PA, a local shelter dedicated to homeless pregnant women



Addressing your IRA RMD while supporting the Pro-Life Cause



***The Olde St. Thomas Knights of Columbus
can now accept Required Minimum
Distributions (RMDs) from Individual
Retirement Accounts (IRAs) that meet the
requirements for a tax deductible Qualified
Charitable Distribution (QCD)!***

A QCD is a tax-advantaged way for individuals aged 70½ or older to donate to a charity directly from their IRAs. QCDs can satisfy RMDs, potentially lowering your taxable income.

For more detailed information please see:

<https://kofc11051.org/Donate.html> or contact:

Webmaster@KofC11051.org

- This is not meant as a solicitation or tax advice. You should always check with your tax advisor before making any tax decisions.



The Olde Saint Thomas Council 11051 created a not for profit entity through the "Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund" <https://www.knightscharitable.org/>

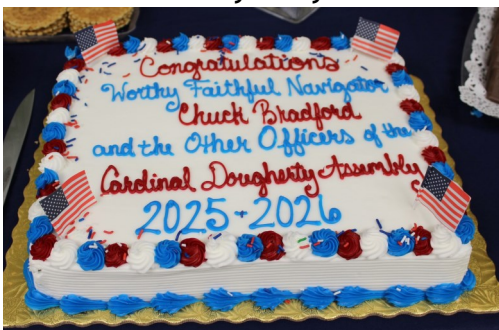
This fund can accept donations that are tax deductible and meet IRS requirements for a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from a donor's IRA. This donation may address the donor's Minimum Required Distribution (MRD). Funds are centrally managed by the Knights of Columbus Charity Fund (KCCF), a tax-exempt, public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Olde Saint Thomas Knights, "not for profit" was created specifically to support pro-life pro-catholic 501(c)(3) charities that support our mission to change hearts and minds about abortion.. This includes Pro-life / Pro-catholic health care facilities, pregnancy resource centers, and maternity homes. Council 11051 would be happy to speak with any council that may have an interest and questions. Please contact, webmaster@kofc11051.org

Above is information recently highlighted in Saint Thomas Parish's weekly bulletin.

CARDINAL DOUGHERTY ASSEMBLY 913 INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS 2025-2026



The Cardinal Dougherty Assembly held its Installation of Officers on Thursday evening, August 21, 2025 at St. Charles Borromeo church in Drexel Hill, PA. Above is a picture of the Officers that were installed from left to right. Faithful Scribe Fran O'Hara FSW, Faithful Inside Sentinel Mike Weber, Faithful Outside Sentinel Ken Babicki, Faithful Trustee Joe Chiaravalloti, Master Jim McCarthy FST, Msgr. George Majoros, pastor, Faithful Navigator Chuck Bradford, Faithful Admiral Bob Owsiany, Faithful Comptroller Jack Cruice, Faithful Purser Joe Paoletti FM, FST, Faithful Trustee Mike Yuknek SW, and Faithful Trustee Tom Begley. The installation was proceeded by a mass celebrated by Msgr. Majoros and a reception followed the installation. Not present were Faithful Pilot Jeff Spina and Faithful Captain Jon Menta. Photos by Mary Ann Bradford.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 143rd SUPREME CONVENTION



The Knights of Columbus opened their 143rd supreme convention on August 5, 2025. As you can see from the photographs above that PA was well represented and a good time was had by all!

**KEYSTONE KNIGHT SCHEDULE
2025-2026**

ARTICLES DUE	PUBLISHED DATE
SEPTEMBER 10, 2025	SEPTEMBER 17, 2025
OCTOBER 10, 2025	OCTOBER 17, 2025
NOVEMBER 10, 2025	NOVEMBER 17, 2025
JANUARY 10, 2026	JANUARY 17, 2026
FEBRUARY 10, 2026	FEBRUARY 17, 2026
MARCH 10, 2026	MARCH 17, 2026
APRIL 10, 2026	APRIL 17, 2026
JUNE 10, 2026	JUNE 17, 2026

