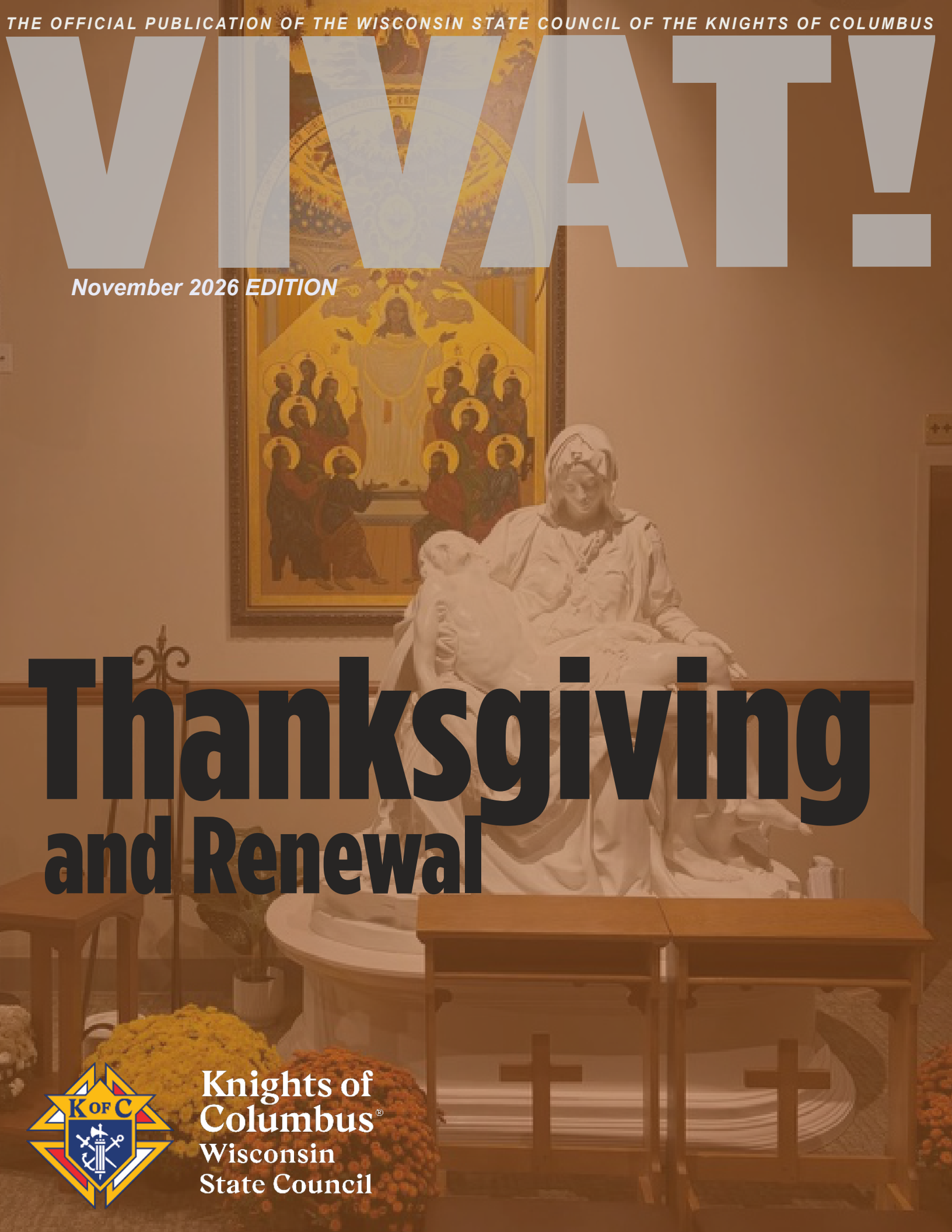
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WISCONSIN STATE COUNCIL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

VIVAT!

November 2026 EDITION



Thanksgiving and Renewal

Knights of Columbus®
Wisconsin
State Council

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Unlocking Gratitude

Every November, families across Wisconsin gather around a table, bow their heads, and say grace. It is one of the few moments in American life when an entire nation pauses to say thank you. As Catholics, and as Knights, we know gratitude is not a seasonal habit. It is the key that unlocks the whole spiritual life.

St. Paul put it plainly to the Thessalonians: “In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thes 5:18). Not in good circumstances. In all of them.

St. Ignatius of Loyola went further. Writing to his friend Simão Rodrigues in 1542, he called ingratitude “the most abominable of sins,” because it is a forgetting of the graces and blessings we have received. Forgetfulness is the real enemy. We rarely set out to be ungrateful. We simply stop noticing.

Pope Benedict XVI, reflecting on the ten lepers Christ healed, only one of whom returned to give thanks, taught that the grateful man shows he does not treat everything as his due, but as a gift from God. Then he offered a line worth taping to every refrigerator: “What a treasure is hidden in two small words: ‘thank you’!”

Pope Francis, who wanted “please, thank you, and sorry” written on the door of every home, reminded us that gratitude “stands at the very core of the faith of the believer.” He also pointed out that the word Eucharist itself means thanksgiving. Every Mass is our Thanksgiving dinner.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux, near the end of her short life, summed up a lifetime of small and hidden sacrifices in three words: “Everything is grace.”

And our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, speaking in Beirut to a people who have known war and loss, urged them to “cultivate always an attitude of praise and gratitude.” Cultivate is the right word. Gratitude is grown, not found.

So how do we unlock it? Brothers, we are men of charity, and charity begins with seeing what we have been given. This Thanksgiving, I challenge you to three things.

First, before the turkey is carved, name one specific blessing out loud, and invite everyone at your table to do the same.

Second, thank someone who rarely hears it: your pastor, your council’s Financial Secretary, the volunteer who runs the fish fry, your wife or your mother. Put it in writing. A handwritten note outlasts a passing word.

Third, attend one more Mass this week than you normally would. There is no greater act of thanksgiving than the Eucharist itself.

Gratitude is a choice we make every day, and a door that opens onto joy. The key is already in our hands. Let us turn it.

Dustin Beth is Director of Content for Communications for the Wisconsin State Council of the Knights of Columbus.



Thankful Hearts, Watchful Hearts:
From Thanksgiving to Advent



As Thanksgiving approaches, I invite every brother Knight and family across Wisconsin to pause and recognize the abundant blessings God has placed before us and for us. As Catholic gentlemen, we are grateful for the gift of faith, for the families who support our Knighthood, for the priests who shepherd our parishes, and for the fraternity that unites us in charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. Even amid the uncertainty of 2026, gratitude turns our hearts toward God and reminds us that every gift is entrusted to us for a purpose.

Throughout Wisconsin, Knights live that purpose in practical ways. Councils collect food for local pantries, prepare community meals, support pregnancy resource centers, assist veterans, visit the homebound, and work the “Father Knows Best” program to stand with our parish family and share our blessings. These works may not always attract attention, but they reveal the quiet strength of Catholic men who see a need and respond. This Thanksgiving, I offer my sincere thanks to every member, spouse, child, chaplain, and volunteer whose generosity makes this mission possible.

Our celebration of Thanksgiving should move us beyond appreciation and into action. However, even before the Thanksgiving table is set, the Church leads us into Advent, a season of watchfulness, repentance, and hope. Holy Mother Church gives us the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. The gift of this solemnity, first given to us by Pope Pius XI, was his response to the craziness he saw in the world of 1925. The war-torn world had lost God and embraced secularism and atheism. Sounds like 2026 to me. Christ the King marks the end of the liturgical year. While the world often rushes immediately toward Christmas, filling our calendars and homes before our souls are ready, Christ the King sends us into Advent. It asks us to slow down and make room for the Lord. For Knights, this is an opportunity to renew our commitment to daily prayer, frequent participation in the sacraments, Scripture, and spiritual leadership within our families.

Brothers, Thanksgiving and Advent belong together. Gratitude helps us remember what God has done; Advent teaches us to trust what God will do. May we carry thankful hearts into this holy season and become visible witnesses of hope. When our councils pray faithfully, serve generously, welcome new members, and place Christ at the center of family life, we help prepare not only our homes but also our communities for the coming of the Lord. In the One, we are One.



Rockwell's 1943 quintessential "Freedom from Want" is a poignant reminder of important things during Thanksgiving.

On behalf of the Officers of the Wisconsin State Council, we wish you and your families a blessed Thanksgiving and a prayerful Advent. May Our Lady of Champion guide us, may Blessed Michael McGivney intercede for us, and may Christ renew in every Wisconsin Knight the joy of serving with faith, courage, and love.

Ross Larson is State Deputy of the Wisconsin State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Our Lady of Champion

I am very thankful to all the Knights of Columbus, their families and relatives, and to the many other people who came to visit the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion on Sunday, October 25. I am sure that other Knights of Columbus were interested in joining us but were prevented from attending. Thanks must also go to our Worthy State Deputy, Ross Larson, for his leadership and vision concerning the pilgrimage. Finally, I would like to recognize the contribution that was made by the State Officers and Directors in making this pilgrimage happen.

The month of October is one dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God and our Mother in the order of grace. As we begin the month of November, we need to consider two liturgical celebrations that mark this month. The first is All Saints' Day. The Second is All Souls' Day. The Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, is also our Mother. It is in the 'womb' of the Church that we are formed as children of God. It is also true that the liturgy of the Church serves primarily as the highest form of worship of Almighty God, but it also serves as a 'pedagogue', or teacher. As such, the liturgical celebrations of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day provide us with opportunities to learn about our eternal destiny.



NOVEMBER 1. ALL SAINTS' DAY

The celebration of Mass on All Saints' Day begins with the Entrance Antiphon, "Gaudeamus", "Let us rejoice". We rejoice in the fact that so many of our ancestors, marked with the sign of faith, have entered into eternal joy. They participate in the beatific vision and will forever live life to the full. Throughout the liturgical year we celebrate particular saints' days. These are the saints who have been inserted into the General Roman Calendar, as they had a significant impact in the life of the Church in their time with us and continue to intercede for us now in heaven. All Saints' Day was established as a day to recall that there is a great multitude of saints, most who remain unknown to us here and now, but who are at home with God. This is truly a celebration for us, for it gives us great hope that we can, in fact, live a virtuous life which gives glory to God. It provides a certain hope that Christ is calling us to sanctity, or "saintliness".

NOVEMBER 2. ALL SOULS' DAY

The "Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed" is a special opportunity for us to recall our beloved dead: those whom we have known, those who are unknown to us, those who died many years ago. We recall them and pray for them. The souls of the faithful in purgatory are undergoing purgation, or purification, for the sins that they committed during this life. They died in the state of sanctifying grace, in friendship with God, but they are needing to be cleansed by God's love, which is described in Sacred Scripture as a purifying fire (Hebr. 12:29). By visiting a cemetery from November 1—8 and by praying for the souls of the faithful departed, a plenary indulgence, applied to the faithful departed, can be obtained under the normal conditions (sacramental confession within 20 days, reception of Holy Communion, prayers for the Roman Pontiff, and detachment from all sin, including venial sin). I encourage the Knights of Columbus to consider doing this together, and to pray for our brother Knights who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.

Vivat Iesus! Semper.



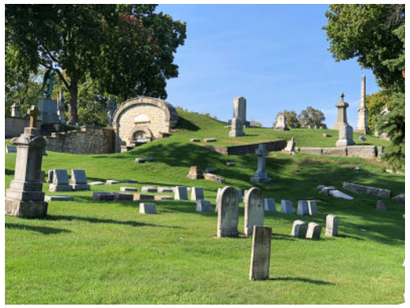
Reverend Father D. Joseph Redfern is State Chaplain for the Wisconsin State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

ACROSS THE DIOCESES

Where Milwaukee Remembers

On All Souls Day, 1857, Archbishop John Martin Henni consecrated a 55-acre tract of wooded hills west of Milwaukee as holy ground. Calvary Cemetery has received the city's Catholic dead ever since.

It was not the city's first Catholic burial ground. That was a plot near the lakeshore in the First Ward. A second cemetery on West Wisconsin Avenue opened in 1844 and filled within about a decade, and its burials were moved out to Calvary. Today Calvary is the oldest Catholic cemetery still standing in Milwaukee, with an estimated 80,000 people resting on its 75 acres. By 1880 more than 10,000 burials had already been recorded.



Walk it and you walk through the city's history. Solomon Juneau, co-founder of Milwaukee and its first mayor, lies here with his wife, Josette. So do brewer Frederick Miller and meatpacker Patrick Cudahy. So do victims of two of the city's worst disasters: the 1860 sinking of the Lady Elgin, which drowned more than 300 members of Milwaukee's Irish community, and the 1883 Newhall House hotel fire. Priests and members of religious orders rest here too.

Two buildings by the Milwaukee firm of Erhard Brielmaier and Sons frame the visit. At the entrance stands an 1897 wooden Gothic gatehouse with a four-story tower and an arch over the drive. It once held the cemetery office and the superintendent's apartment. It has seen hard years, and the city approved repairs in 2024 to stop further decay. On the hilltop sits the chapel, a Romanesque building of cream brick with a rose window and three rounded apses. It was dedicated on All Souls Day, 1902, forty-five years to the day after Henni blessed the ground.

In the late 1800s, Milwaukee families came out to Calvary for All Saints Day and Corpus Christi. Once the streetcar arrived, the grounds became a picnic spot. A cemetery was a place you visited, not a place you avoided.

That custom is worth reviving. From November 1 to 8, the Church grants a plenary indulgence, applicable to the souls in purgatory, to those who devoutly visit a cemetery and pray for the dead, under the usual conditions: confession, Communion, prayer for the Holy Father's intentions, and freedom from attachment to sin.

Pick a name off an old stone and pray for that soul. Chances are no one has in a hundred years.

ARCHDIOCESE of MILWAUKEE

Established
November 28, 1843

Archbishop
Jeffrey Grob

Diocesan Seat
Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist

Patron Saint
John the Evangelist

Parishes
102

Catholics
509,903

Area
8,070 sq miles

State Officer Designee
State Secretary Ernie Reinhart

Diocesan Director
Don McInnis

Councils
69

PLAN YOUR VISIT

West Bluemound Road @ North Hawley Road, Milwaukee

Congratulations, Sal Frelick!

2026 World Series Champion

Congratulations to Catholic superstar Sal Frelick and all of the Milwaukee Brewers on their 2026 World Series win!

Thankful for You!

As we enter the month of November and prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to each of you for the tremendous work you have done since the beginning of this Fraternal Year.

Across Wisconsin, I have witnessed councils and districts embracing opportunities to serve their parishes, communities, and families. Whether through charitable outreach, faith-filled programming, membership growth efforts, or supporting those in need, your dedication continues to demonstrate what it means to live our principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. The success we have achieved so far this year is a direct result of your commitment, leadership, and willingness to serve.

As we continue moving forward, I encourage every District Deputy and Grand Knight to adopt the **Team of Teams** approach that we discussed during our Summer District Deputy Meeting and the Diocese Tour Meetings. No one Knight can accomplish our mission alone. Our greatest successes come when leaders empower others, share responsibilities, and build strong teams that work together toward common goals.

A Team of Teams mindset creates stronger councils, more engaged members, and better outcomes for the people we serve. By identifying leaders, delegating responsibilities, and encouraging collaboration, we create an environment where every brother Knight has an opportunity to contribute his talents and gifts. Together, we can accomplish far more than any individual working alone.

As we gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, let us also remember those who may be struggling, those serving our nation, and those who cannot be with their loved ones. May we be thankful for the many blessings God has given us and continue to be His hands and feet in service to others.

On behalf of Lady Melissa and myself, thank you for all that you do for the Knights of Columbus and for the people of Wisconsin. We are grateful for your friendship, your leadership, and your unwavering dedication to our Order.



May you and your families have a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving.

Ernie Reinhart is State Secretary for the Wisconsin State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

OUR SAFETY NON-NEGOTIABLE

60%

of our councils need to finish OYP Compliance

How to Get OYP Compliant

- ENSURE that your Grand Knights, Program Directors Family Directors, and Community Directors have taken this required training!
- If you didn't receive the link, check Officer's Online to ensure that appropriate email is where the link is being sent.
- Make the time and take the training. It's incredibly important to our commitment to faith & family.
- Do not make excuses, get it done!

Questions? Reach out to your District Deputy or State Advocate James Vosters if you have questions.

Renewed Sense of Christ's Deep Love

On Sunday, October 25, nearly 100 Knights of Columbus and their families gathered at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, where Wisconsin Knights consecrated the State Council to the Blessed Mother at the grave of Servant of God Adele Brise.





The shrine holds a unique place in American Catholic life. In 1859, the Virgin Mary appeared to Brise, a young Belgian immigrant, and in 2010 the Diocese of Green Bay formally approved the apparitions. Champion remains the only Church-approved Marian apparition site in the United States.

"We are blessed to be very geographically close to a holy place that our Blessed Mother has seen fit to visit and perform a miracle," said Andy Orgovan, State Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation.

The pilgrimage is the second in a series launched by the state Evangelization and Faith Formation (EFF) team. Last year, Knights traveled to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse. Next year's pilgrimage will go to the Basilica and National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians at Holy Hill.

This year's attendance was slightly higher than last year's, with pilgrims arriving by car and coach bus from four of Wisconsin's five dioceses, including a group of 24 from Wisconsin Rapids.

Planning took about three months, led by Orgovan, State Chaplain Fr. D. Joseph Redfern, and the Diocese of Green Bay EFF team, with support from the shrine staff. Rather than charge a set fee, organizers asked pilgrims for a donation so that anyone who wanted to make the trip could attend.

The day opened with a talk from Fr. Anthony Stephens of the Fathers of Mercy, who care for the shrine, on its history, the apparitions, and the miracles reported there. Fr. Redfern then celebrated Mass for the Knights, with a Fourth Degree honor guard present. His homily focused on the right order of three loves: love of God, love of self, and love of neighbor.



After Mass, the Knights led the shrine's regular Sunday rosary procession, open to all visitors that day. More than 20 Sir Knights took part, two of them carrying a statue of Our Lady while Fr. Redfern led the rosary.

"It was great to see the Knights lead ordinary devotions for the Shrine in an extraordinary way," said Connor Schlaack, a District Deputy and Diocesan Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation for the Diocese of Green Bay.

The afternoon included boxed lunches, time to visit the grounds and apparition oratory, confession, and adoration, before pilgrims joined other visitors for the 3 o'clock Divine Mercy Chaplet and benediction.



Young families, single adults, and college-aged Knights all took part. Fr. Redfern spoke warmly of the children during Mass, and two young fathers served in liturgical roles.

Looking ahead, the EFF team hopes to involve local councils more directly in planning future pilgrimages.

"It is my prayer that every pilgrim who attended came away from the experience with a renewed sense of Christ's deep love for them," Orgovan said.

Hope: End the Stigma

For those of you I haven't had the pleasure of meeting yet, my name is Rebecca Larson, wife of your new State Deputy, Ross.

Over the past several State Conventions, you have done a tremendous job donating baby items during the Ladies Luncheon. Your generosity has made a real difference, but this year, I am asking that we pivot our focus to another deeply important cause.

When Ross and I were in New Haven for his installation, we were repeatedly asked one question: **"What is your why?"** While the question was intended for the new State Deputies, I took it to heart as well.

This topic hits so close to my home and my heart. If you haven't experienced it personally, chances are you know someone who has. That is why our theme for the Ladies Luncheon at the 2027 State Convention in Madison will be **HOPE: End the Stigma,** focusing on Teenage Mental Health.

My daughters and I designed a special t-shirt to support this mission. We will be selling these t-shirts for $20 each, with $11 from every sale directly donated to Teenage Crisis Centers across Wisconsin—one in each diocese. The officer wives and I have been researching local organizations, and here are the centers we will be supporting:



Superior Diocese: TBD

La Crosse Diocese: North Central Health Care, Youth Hospitalization

Green Bay Diocese: St. Elizabeth Hospital (Appleton, WI)

Madison Diocese: TBD

Milwaukee Diocese: TBD



Participation & T-Shirt Incentives

We encourage everyone to wear their t-shirt to the Ladies Luncheon at the State Convention! When you wear your shirt to the luncheon, you will receive:

- An extra basket raffle ticket.
- An entry into an exclusive drawing for a special Mental Wellness Basket my daughters and I created.

Please click on the t-shirt for details on how to order. First round shirt orders are due by 11/13. I ask that you truly consider joining us to support teenagers navigating mental health crises.

May Saint Dymphna, patron saint of mental health, watch over all children and adults experiencing mental health challenges.

Rebecca Larson is First Lady of the Wisconsin State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

ACROSS THE DIOCESES

The Grave Beside the Chapel

Servant of God Adele Brice, National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, Diocese of Green Bay

In October 1859, a 28-year-old Belgian immigrant named Adele Brice reported seeing a lady near her family's farm in the woods of northeastern Wisconsin. On a later walk, on her way home from Mass, the lady spoke.

"I am the Queen of Heaven, who prays for the conversion of sinners, and I wish you to do the same." Then she gave Adele a task: "Gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they should know for salvation."

Adele spent the rest of her life doing exactly that. She had come from Dion-le-Val, Belgium, with her family in 1855, and a childhood accident with lye had left her blind in one eye. She had no training as a teacher. She went house to house on foot teaching children the faith, and later opened a small school. Other women joined her and lived under the Rule of the Third Order of St. Francis, wearing habits though they never took vows as religious sisters.

On October 8, 1871, the Peshtigo fire swept through northeastern Wisconsin, killing more than a thousand people and burning more than a million acres. Hundreds of neighbors fled to the chapel built where Adele had seen the Lady, and they prayed through the night. Rain came early the next morning. The flames scorched the fence but spared the chapel and everyone sheltering there. Father Peter Pernin, an eyewitness, wrote that it was the only land spared for millions of acres around. Every October 8, the shrine still marks the night, and pilgrims pray until morning.

Adele died at the chapel on July 5, 1896, and was buried in the small cemetery beside it. Her parents rest just down the road at St. Joseph's.

For more than a century she was a local story. In 2010, Bishop David Ricken declared the apparitions worthy of belief, the first Marian apparition approved by the Church in the United States. The U.S. bishops raised the chapel to a national shrine in 2016. In January 2026, Bishop Ricken concluded the diocesan investigation of her life, and she now carries the title Servant of God.

Go in November, when the summer crowds are gone. Stand at the grave of a woman who walked these roads teaching children, and ask her to pray for the children you know.

Diocese of Green Bay

Established
March 3rd, 1868

Bishop David Ricken

Diocesan Seat
St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

Patron Saint
Saint Francis Xavier

Parishes
193

Catholics
361,500

Area
10,724 sq miles

State Officer in Charge
State Advocate James Vosters

Diocesan Director
Raymond Berres

Councils
71

PLAN YOUR VISIT

4047 Chapel Drive, Champion

Grounds open 7 am – 7 pm.

Website: championshrine.org.

Stronger Together:

A Partnership Focused on Serving Wisconsin's Councils

Since assuming the office of State Treasurer on July 1, my priority has been clear: deliver timely, personal service to every Wisconsin council and make sure every financial matter receives careful attention and a clear path forward.

Working side-by-side with Frank Hoppe, our State Executive Secretary, we have approached the role as a true partnership, pairing Frank's deep knowledge of council operations and the State Office with the Treasury's focus on accuracy and follow-through.

Working Directly with Councils

Over the past three months, Frank and I have collaborated with councils on:

- Council Charity Grant distributions
- Intellectual Disabilities (Tootsie Roll) allocations
- Grant check status and reissuance
- Raffle rebate questions
- Grant request form tracking
- Allocation reviews and corrections
- Historical accounting questions and record reconciliation

Rather than offering generic replies, we have worked with each council individually, examining records, reviewing documentation, researching transactions, and identifying practical solutions together.

Examples of Issues Addressed

During the first quarter of the fraternal year, we resolved numerous council concerns, including:

- Locating and replacing uncashed Intellectual Disabilities grant checks, verified with the bank, so charitable organizations could receive the funds intended for them.
- Researching, reconciling, and documenting Intellectual Disabilities allocation questions involving prior-year distributions and council calculations so councils could move forward with clarity.
- Identifying missing Intellectual Disabilities allocations and generating corrective blue sheets so recipient organizations received their proper funding.
- Addressing printing, mailing, and check-production items involving Council Charity Grant checks and other payments, including voiding and reissuing checks when required.
- Researching raffle rebate questions, including one case where reconciling a council's reported sales against State records identified a discrepancy and led to an additional payment to the council.
- Reviewing Council Charity Grant forms needing additional routing or documentation, locating supporting materials and validating submissions so councils receive the grant funding to which they are entitled.

A Shared Commitment to Responsiveness

The strength of this partnership shows up most clearly in how we respond. When a concern reaches the Treasury, our shared goal is immediate engagement, open communication, and timely closure. Whether that means researching prior-year transactions, coordinating with committee directors, reviewing bank records, updating QuickBooks entries, or preparing replacement checks, Frank and I stay with each item until it is resolved.

Looking Forward

For the remainder of the fraternal year, the Treasury Office, supported by close collaboration with the State Executive Secretary, will continue to:

- Provide one-on-one assistance to Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries, and Treasurers
- Improve tracking and accountability for grant programs
- Strengthen communication between councils, committees, and the State Office
- Ensure Council Charity Grants, Intellectual Disabilities allocations, and Culture of Life distributions are processed accurately and on time
- Address remaining historical questions while refining procedures that support smooth, reliable service going forward

Every council deserves prompt service, clear communication, and confidence that their concerns are heard. When you contact the Treasury Office, you are not receiving a form response. Your matter is being reviewed by a team committed to finding answers and delivering results.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your State Treasurer. It is an honor to work alongside Frank and all of you as we strengthen the financial stewardship of our Order and support the charitable mission of councils throughout Wisconsin.



Dr. David Kreutz is State Treasurer of the Wisconsin State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

From State Deputy to Immediate Past State Deputy

Some may assume that a State Deputy's responsibilities and time commitments decrease dramatically when his term ends and he becomes Immediate Past State Deputy.

To some extent, that is true. I no longer begin each morning with 50 to 60 new emails from State and Supreme Office staff and other organizations, all requiring an immediate reply or action.

The time required to meet the demands of the State Deputy role has also decreased significantly—from 40–50 hours across a seven-day week to about 20 hours across a five-day week.

The daily volume of email and the hours required to respond promptly to needs across the state were simply part of the job. It was a rewarding two years that I will always cherish.

How I Continue to Serve

- Much like council trustees—who are generally Past Grand Knights and support a new Grand Knight—I assist the new State Deputy wherever needed during his transition.
- I remain a voting member of the State Officer Team. I also serve with the four most recent Past State Deputies on the committee of consultants established in our State Bylaws.
- At the request of our new Worthy State Deputy, I serve as the State Officer in Charge of the La Crosse Diocese, working with the Diocesan Director and the councils in that diocese.
- Finally, Worthy State Deputy Ross has appointed me as State Training Director. In this role, I will help ensure that council officers receive the additional training they need to succeed in their appointed or elected positions. For more information about the department's activities and goals, please see my separate State Training Director article in this issue of Vivat.

Although the pace has changed, my commitment to serving the Knights of Columbus in Wisconsin remains strong. I look forward to supporting our State Deputy, diocesan leaders, councils, and officers in these roles.



Patrick Reiff is Immediate Past State Deputy & State Director of Training for the Wisconsin State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Volunteers Needed

Financial Secretary Trainers & Training Coordinators
Join Our Five-Diocese Training Team. Will you share your knowledge and experience to help new and current council officers succeed?

Why is your help needed?

- Many new councils have been established across Wisconsin.
- New and experienced Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries need practical guidance.
- Your expertise can help them carry out their responsibilities with confidence.
- Each diocese needs local contacts who can provide timely support and answer questions.

We are seeking volunteers with the following experience. Additional training will be provided as needed.

Training Coordinator

- Working knowledge of council, district, and Supreme operations
- Familiarity with fraternal operations and bylaws
- Experience with protocol, meetings, and ceremonials
- Strong fraternal planning and time-management skills

Financial Secretary

- Working knowledge of Officers Online functions and reporting
- Ability to navigate Member Management
- Ability to navigate Member Billing
- Experience exporting data and using the Officers' Desk Reference

Ready to support your Brother Knights?
Contact me to discuss how you can make a difference through this rewarding opportunity.

In Service to One, In Service to All
Patrick Reiff, State Training Director
PReiff@wikofc.org
(C) 414-403-7504



Recruit 2 Men Between September 1 & Dec 31st

You'll be entered into a drawing to receive a cash prize of $2,000*!

10 Second Place winners will receive a customized Knights of Columbus branded football jersey!

RECRUIT 4? You'll be entered into the drawing **TWICE!**

More Knights, more mission. Go big this season- extend the invitation and extend it again. **Go for TWO more!**

***For insurance jurisdictions only. Other restrictions apply.**

Your November Programs

Rounding it up!

You should be well into planning/doing the following programs: Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest, Father Knows Best, Free Throw, Knowledge Contest, Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest, Culture of Life. Note: Because of timing issues, the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest will **not** be a multimedia competition.

Also, we need to be planning/implementing the following: Sentiments for Seminarians (need to be brought to the December DD meeting), RSVP, Sacramental Gifts, Mass for Remembering Our Faithful Departed, Our Marriage Prayer Masses, Family of the Month/Year, Tootsie Roll program, and any other programs you have coming in the next three months.

Please let me or the FIA Directors know what you think about us going to T-shirts and Hoodies as awards instead of medals in some of the competitions. We are hoping the competitors will like having something different.

Brothers, please keep sending in your 10784s and keep up the good work. Strong Programs always lead to strong Membership. And remember to keep using the Wisconsin KofC website, it is full of a lot of good information.

May GOD guide us in all that we do.



Scott Frome is State Director of Programs for the Wisconsin State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

STATE PROGRAMS

Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest
Going multimedia: (explained at Diocesan Meetings)
Write: October 1—November 30, 2026
Councils collect: December 1—December 15, 2026
Judging: December 15—December 31, 2026
Due to FIA Chairman: January 1, 2027
Winners announced: February 1, 2027

Father Knows Best (Newly added)
Council: November 23, 2026—March 1, 2027
District: March 5—March 21, 2027
Diocesan: March 22—April 19, 2027
State – TBD (April 24 or May 1, 2027)

Hockey - Only Local Competition
Window: October 1, 2026—May 31, 2027
State: NO State Competition (explained at Diocesan Meetings)

Free Throw
Council: November 23, 2026—March 1, 2027
District: March 5—March 21, 2027
Diocesan: March 22—April 19, 2027
State – TBD (April 24 or May 1, 2027)

Knowledge Contest
Council: December 1, 2026—March 21, 2027
Results due to DPC by March 24, 2027
Diocesan: March 25—April 18, 2027
Reports due FIA Community Director: April 21, 2027
State – TBD (April 24 or May 1, 2027)

Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest
Council: December 5—December 31, 2026
Council winners due to DD: January 1, 2027
District winners due to DPC: January 15, 2027
Diocesan winners due to State: February 1, 2027
State winners announced – Feb.-Mar. 2027

Culture of Life Essay
Going multimedia – explained at Diocesan Meetings
Writing: January 1—March 19, 2027
Councils collect and judge: March 27—March 31, 2027
Deadline for Councils to submit to Diocesan level: April 4: 2027
Council Participation Report due: April 15, 2027
Deadline Diocesan winners submitted to State: April 30, 2027
Diocesan winners announced: May 9, 2027
State winners announced: May 16, 2027
Recognition – State Convention

Soccer – Spring
Council: March 1—May 23, 2027
Diocesan: June 5—June 20, 2027
State: NO State Competition (explained at Diocesan Meetings)

A Chapel Lit Only By the Sun

ACROSS THE DIOCESES

Diocese of La Crosse
Serving the 19 counties of West Central Wisconsin

Established
March 3rd, 1868

Bishop Gerard Battersby

Diocesan Seat
Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman

Patron Saint
Saint Joseph & Saint Francis of Assisi

Parishes
166

Catholics
156,000

Area
15,078 sq miles

State Officer Designee
Immediate Past State Deputy Patrick Reiff

Diocesan Director
Tim Pierce

Councils
62

PLAN YOUR VISIT

519 Losey Boulevard South
LaCrosse, Wisconsin



Nobody knows exactly when the first Catholic was buried in La Crosse. A fire destroyed the cemetery's early records. What survives is the land itself, donated by Joseph Ebner in the early 1850s, and gravestones from the middle of that decade.

The cemetery grew with the city. Parishes bought more land in the late 1800s, and the grounds spread south toward Mississippi Street. Around 1881 some residents pushed to move the whole cemetery out near Oak Grove. The plan failed, and the Catholic dead of La Crosse stayed put.

What turned a burial ground into a place of prayer was one man. Erhard Reisinger became the first full-time sexton in 1883. He planted trees, put up an iron fence, and laid out roads. In 1891 he built Stations of the Cross and four grottos, so that a visit to a family grave could become a walk through the Passion.

That same year the cemetery got its chapel. The Chapel of the Blessed Virgin of the Seven Dolors, known today as Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel, was dedicated in November 1891, a few months after the death of Bishop Kilian Flasch, the diocese's second bishop. It is a small Gothic Revival building of pointed arches, a steep roof, and buttresses. Inside are a carved wooden altar, oak woodwork, vines painted along the walls, and stars painted across the ceiling. There is no electric light. On a sunny day, the stained glass does the work.

Beneath the floor is a crypt with room for about 20 burials, built for the bishops and priests of the diocese. Burials there continued into the 1930s or later. In 1962 some of the remains were moved to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral.

The chapel has weathered vandalism and hard winters, and restoration work in the 1950s and 1980s kept it standing. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1986 and is a City of La Crosse Historic Site. It is also a stop on the Footsteps of La Crosse "Sacred Spaces" tour.

Plan on seeing it from the outside. Summer tours have not been offered for several years, so the interior is rarely open. That is no reason to stay away. Walk the grounds Reisinger laid out, find the oldest stones you can, and pray for the people whose names went up in that fire.

November has been well thought of as Remembrance Month. It is a chance to honor our fallen Sir Knights and honor veterans of our military that served.

Memorial Masses have been done at both the Council and Assembly levels for many years and should be continued. Consider helping at both. Color Corp call outs for both events are encouraged and will help add to the specialness of the Mass.

Assemblies should reach out to VFW and American Legion posts and assist in any local Veteran's Day celebrations. Having a special celebration for these veterans that the Assembly sponsors should also be done. A meal or a special Mass could be done by the Assembly to honor the living and fallen soldiers that have sacrificed to protect our freedom.

December brings two events that reflect "Jesus is the light of the world."

Light Up for Christ is celebrated globally on the first Tuesday of December. This year the date falls on December 1, 2026. This is an annual tradition organized by local councils of the Knights of Columbus to launch the Advent and Christmas seasons. The ceremonial switching on of lights symbolizes Jesus as the "Light of the World."

The Solemnity of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be commemorated on Saturday, December 12, 2026, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in LaCrosse. On this day, the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Saint Juan Diego will be observed. This event is seen as an "event that brought the light of the Gospel to the Americas." Mass will be held at 1:00 PM. Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke will be the Celebrant. We welcome and encourage all Honor Guard from Wisconsin to participate. You need to arrive by 12 noon. Contact District Master Tom Eder at ddtweder@gmail.com or 715-456-6646 or FC Charlie Peters at cjpeters2011@gmail.com or 612-760-6192 if you are planning to attend.

Be active as an Assembly and as a Patriotic Citizen.

Vivat Jesus!



God Bless all of the Knights of Columbus!

SK Jack Wrbanich and SK Tom Eder serve as Masters for the 4th Degree of the Wisconsin State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Before You Put the Camper Away

As Wisconsin's camping season winds down for many of us, here is something to put on next year's calendar!

As your newly appointed State Camping Coordinator, I first want to thank Brother Joe Huser and his wife, Mary, for their many, many years of dedication to our state camping program. Their time, work, and hospitality have brought Brother Knights and families together and built friendships across Wisconsin. Joe and Mary, thank you for keeping this tradition going!

The 2027 Wisconsin Knights of Columbus Campout will be June 25–27 at Lakeside Fire Campground, located in Central Wisconsin near the Wisconsin River and Lake Petenwell.

Reserve your site now by calling 715-886-3871, and tell them you are with the Wisconsin Knights of Columbus.

Stay connected and watch for updates by joining our WI KC Campers Group on Facebook.

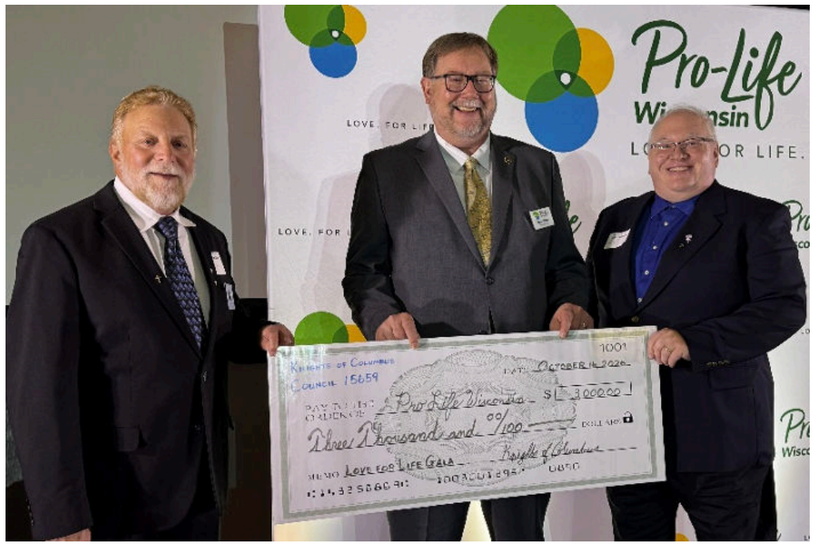
Whether you have camped with us for years or will be joining us for the first time, we look forward to seeing you around the campfire!

Drop us a line or call if you have questions.

Jack & Lisa Wrbanich
920-246-4281
wrbanich@att.net

UPCOMING November 14th Marquette University — Eastern Wisconsin District College Exemplification

SPOTLIGHT



Knights of Columbus Council 15659 presented a check to ProLife Wisconsin State Director Dan Miller at the Love for Life Gala on Friday, October 16, 2026. Funds for the presentation were made possible by the generous contributions of St. Lucy and St. Sebastian church members during the 2026 Lenten Baby Bottle Change for Life campaign. Thank you to all who contributed to support life affirming efforts. Pro-Life Wisconsin exists for a singular purpose: to restore and protect the inalienable right to life of all citizens of our state, whether born or preborn, young, old, disabled, or terminally ill. More information can be found at prolifewi.org.



The **Bishop Messmer Assembly 1201** from Kenosha Wisconsin, recently Co-Sponsored with the City & County of Kenosha Wisconsin a 25th Anniversary of 9/11 Memorial Service on Friday September 11th at 1 pm at the Sesquicentennial Bandshell at Pennoyer Park.on the shores of Lake Michigan, where their were over 300 in attendance. This was the 3rd event that was co-sponsored by the KC Assembly and City & County of Kenosha.

Knights of Columbus John C. Burke Council 4897 Waupun help move several tons of landscape rock to help out with an Eagle Scout project in front of Saint Joseph's Catholic Church.

The Eagle Scout project is headed by Anna Reilley. Many members of the council along with their wives came out to help place the rocks around the plants and areas in front of the church. Thanks to their efforts the landscaping project is near completion, and the front area of the church will be greatly enhanced after large trees were removed early this year.



The Parish That Would Not Let Go

ACROSS THE DIOCESES

DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR

Established
May 3rd, 1905

Bishop James Powers

Diocesan Seat
Cathedral of Christ the King

Patron Saint
St. Augustine of Hippo

Parishes
106

Catholics
78,826

Area
15,715 sq miles

State Officer in Charge
State Treasurer Dr. David Kreutz

Diocesan Director
Mark Rasmussen

Councils
40

PLAN YOUR VISIT

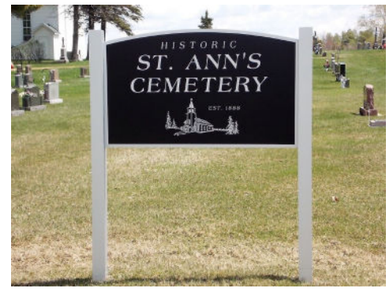
W3963 Brehm Avenue, Town of Greenwood, south of Rib Lake and north of Medford.

In 1963, the Diocese of Superior closed St. Ann's, a country church in the Town of Greenwood in Taylor County. After 75 years of Masses, there were not enough priests to staff it. That should have been the end of the story. Twenty years later, when the question became whether to tear the building down, the old parishioners said no.

The people who built St. Ann's came from the borderland between Bohemia and Bavaria. Mostly German and German-Bohemian farm families, they settled this corner of Taylor County between 1881 and 1883. In 1884 the Wisconsin Central Railroad donated an acre for a church. Work on the church and cemetery began in 1888, and the first Mass was offered on September 25 of that year.

St. Ann's became the center of a small, nearly self-contained world. There was a school, and a general store with a post office. Services were held in German until 1915. When the new Diocese of Superior was created in 1905, St. Ann's came under its care.

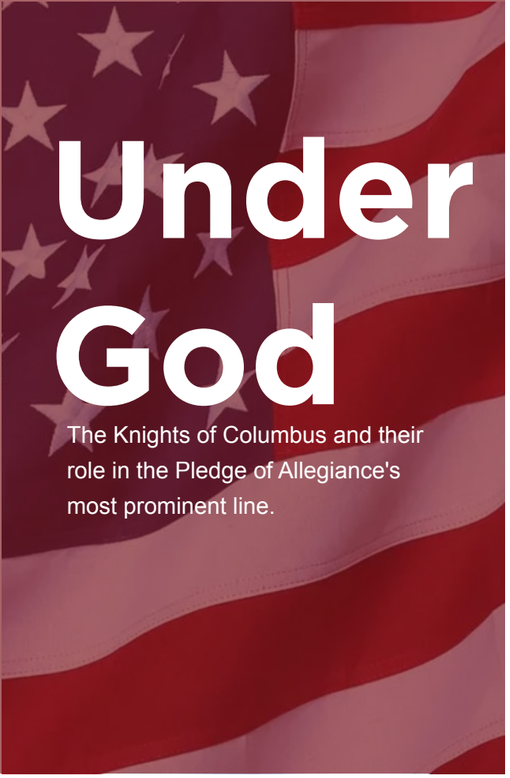
The cemetery behind the Late Gothic Revival church tells the rest. The oldest graves date to 1887, a year before construction began, and many belong to the founders. Two are marked by ornate iron crosses made in the style these families had known in the old country.



After the church closed, its people kept coming back. In 1983 they chose to form a nonprofit to maintain it rather than lose it. Local preservationists joined former parishioners to buy the church and cemetery, and Historic St. Ann's Inc. was incorporated in 1988. Volunteers still care for the grounds through annual work bees. It is a rare case of a closed church rescued by the people who once filled its pews. In 1995 the church and cemetery were added to the National Register of Historic Places.

There is a lesson here for every council and every parish. Old buildings survive only when someone decides they matter, and then keeps deciding. The people of Greenwood have kept deciding for more than forty years.

Stand among those iron crosses this November. Pray for the founders who cleared this ground, and for the volunteers who would not let their graves be forgotten. And if there is a church in your own town that needs friends, consider becoming one.



Under God

The Knights of Columbus and their role in the Pledge of Allegiance's most prominent line.

The words “under God” were added to the Pledge of Allegiance by an act of Congress that President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed on Flag Day, June 14, 1954. Francis Bellamy’s 1892 pledge did not include the phrase. The change grew out of a Cold War effort to distinguish the United States from officially atheistic communism.

In 1948, Illinois attorney Louis A. Bowman began inserting “under God” when he led the Sons of the American Revolution, drawing on Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address. The Knights of Columbus took it up formally: in 1951 the Order’s board added the words to the pledge at Fourth Degree assembly meetings, and in 1952 the Supreme Convention in Los Angeles urged Congress to amend the national pledge.

Representative Louis C. Rabaut (D-Michigan) introduced legislation in the House; Senator Homer Ferguson (R-Michigan) filed a companion bill on February 10, 1954. Momentum grew after the Reverend George Docherty’s February 7, 1954 sermon in Washington, which Eisenhower attended. Congress passed the change with essentially no opposition, and Eisenhower signed it on June 14, 1954 (Public Law 396, 83rd Congress). In a later letter he credited the Knights and said the words would remind Americans of “the spiritual and moral principles which alone give dignity to man.”

In 1956 he also signed the law making “In God We Trust” the national motto.

Joe Uchytil is a Sir Knight of the Wisconsin State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Every Roll Counts

As your new Intellectual Disabilities Chairman for this Fraternal year, I want to begin by extending my heartfelt gratitude to every brother Knight and local council across the state. Whether standing outside storefronts in brisk weather, coordinating aprons and coin boxes, or engaging our communities with a warm smile, your hard work and dedication continue to be the heartbeat of our Order's mission of charity.



Thanks to your tireless commitment, our local councils collected an incredible total in excess of $400,000 over the past year through the Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities—our beloved Tootsie Roll program. That remarkable milestone speaks volumes about your generosity and leadership in our parishes and neighborhoods. I also want to sincerely thank everyone for your continued patience, flexibility, and good humor as we roll out updates and improvements to our administrative processes this fraternal year. Streamlining our operations ensures that every dollar collected makes an even smoother, faster transition into meaningful assistance.

The true beauty of the Tootsie Roll program lies in where these funds go and the lives they touch. While local councils directly assist organizations in their own backyards, approximately $125,000 of our total proceeds went toward funding the Knights of Columbus State grant program. These state grants provide vital support to exceptional organizations dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental challenges, including St. Coletta of Wisconsin, Life Navigators, The Threshold, Inc., and many other inspiring programs across our state. These funds help provide compassionate care, job training, independent living opportunities, school ID programs, and much more.

As we look ahead, let us carry forward this fantastic momentum. Every canister shaken and every Tootsie Roll handed out represents our faith in action and our shared belief in the dignity of every human life. Thank you for your continued service, your brotherly support, and your steadfast commitment to making a tangible difference.

Andrew Wurster is Intellectual Disabilities Chair for the Wisconsin State Council of the Knights of Columbus.



To every veteran who stood watch so that we could kneel in peace: the Knights of Columbus of Wisconsin are grateful. Your sacrifice, and that of your families, is remembered at our altars and in our prayers.

Knights of Columbus®
Wisconsin
State Council

With these strong and encouraging words, Pope John Paul II, ushered in his new pontificate and a new era of the Church, soon to be called the **"new evangelization"**.

Be not afraid, Open Wide the Doors for Christ!

As I reflected these words during the feast day Mass of St. Pope John Paul the Great, on October 22, I realized that the biggest obstacle to our mission of evangelization as Knights of Columbus is not so much a lack of interest, lack of resources, or even the strong opposition from a secular world, but rather, it is ***fear***.

Over the last couple of years, I have often heard brother Knights express concern (fear) that they are not equipped or "gifted" enough to be an evangelist (missionary disciple). They are often tempted to withdraw into a "safe" spiritual space where they can show their love for Christ through their charitable good works alone. It is true that as Knights we are called to put our faith into action such that the "witness of charity leads to faith" in others. This will always be a major part of our mission. But we are also called to be disciples that use words to invite others into a relationship with Christ, ***"Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence…".*** 1 Peter, 3: 15-16. In other words, all of us are called "to be ready" to share the reason, "for our hope" in Jesus Christ. John Paul II put it this way, ***"Once this Gospel has been accepted as the "good news", it demands to be shared. All baptized Christians must commit themselves to evangelization, conscious that God is already at work in the minds and hearts of their listeners…".***

Be not afraid!

SK Andy Orgovan is State Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation for the Wisconsin State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

"The Heart of the Gospel Retreat"

This pre- packaged retreat can be conducted using one-, two-, or three-day formats. Open to all men 18 years and older. Its goal is to introduce the gospel message in such a way that we recognize that it is our mission to share that message to those around us. This is an ideal way to evangelize Catholic men when used in conjunction with Cor.

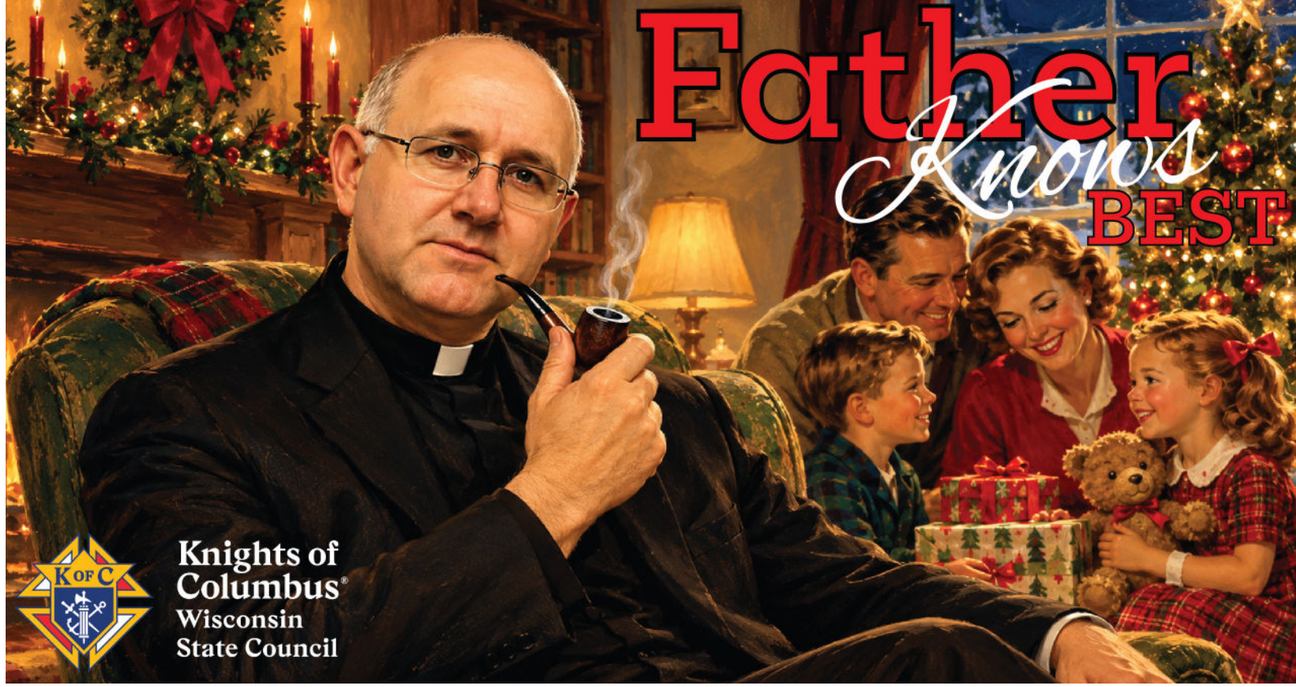
Get It Here

K of C Leaders Formation Days

This was introduced in last month's VIVAT. This is missionary discipleship training in the context of Cor and is targeting all K of C leaders, especially those planning and leading Cor sessions in their parishes.

The goal is to have four different half-day training sessions in each diocese.

First Event is November 21st at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Green Bay. More Info Soon!



INTRODUCING: OUR NEWEST PROGRAM

Wisconsin's newest program: A very special Christmas

- **Qualifying Faith in Action Program**
- **Applicable for Charity Raffle Grant dollars!**
- **Makes for a great Christmas Fundraiser Program.**

Support a Family in Need

Partner with your Parish Priests

Promote Family & Unity

- **Meet with your priest to identify a family experiencing need.**
- **Ask Father for anonymous details only: ages, gender, needs, and wishes.**
- **Include gifts for children & parents. *Remember, parents often go without.***
- **Plan for food support including Christmas dinner and additional meals while children are off at school.**
- **Coordinate a drop-off location and time with Father**
- **Ask Father to deliver gifts and meals to family.**
- **Always respect the privacy of the family and the anonymity of giving.**



FAMILY UPDATES

As October 2026 is in the books, we have been experiencing some beautiful weather! The farmers & gardeners are having another exceptional year in both the growing season and the harvest.

As we approach November, the "Gratitude Month," we are reminded of all the wonderful gifts GOD has bestowed upon us. For me, Gratitude begins with my family. I can't begin to tell you all the incredible things my wife & children do for me! You all probably enjoy the same effect your families have on you! This month, please take time to reflect & remember: "GOD IS GOOD, ALL THE TIME & ALL THE TIME, GOD IS GOOD!"

Below are some great opportunities to spread our GRATITUDE through the ACT OF SHARING this November and beyond! That's all for now; until we meet again, Take Care, Stay Healthy & God Bless Us All! VIVAT JESUS!

Jim Hooyman is Family Director for the Wisconsin State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Faith Programs

Viva Cristo Rey
This 9-day digital novena tells the story of the nine Knights of Columbus Mexican Martyrs and calls upon their intercession. Anyone can register to receive the daily prayers by email, and councils can run a printed version using booklets from Supplies Online. Suggested dates include the Solemnity of Christ the King and the November 20 feast, observed in some dioceses, of three Knight martyrs.

Imitating Saint Juan Diego
Councils can bring Our Lady of Guadalupe to every family in the parish with family rosary booklets, consecration prayers, and posters explaining the Secrets of Her Image. Featured dates are December 9, St. Juan Diego's feast, and December 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Spiritual Reflection: Heart of the Gospel
This new Spiritual Reflection option is a ready-to-use retreat on the core of the Gospel for the men of your parish, presented in seven videos by Fr. John Riccardo. Learn more at kofc.org/gospel.



Family Programs

Remembering Our Faithful Departed
In early November, councils are encouraged to visit cemeteries and pray for the souls in purgatory. Parishes with Hispanic communities can also build ofrendas to honor their faithful departed. A Memorial Rosary and prayer cards are free on Supplies Online.

Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest
Invite CCD programs, Catholic schools, and parish youth groups to have children create original artwork showing Christ at the center of Christmas. Review the KCIC Poster Contest Guidebook to get started.

Food for Families: Join & Serve Challenge (Deadline November 30)
Councils that fill their entire membership quota by November 30 (counting intake from July 1, 2026) and take part in Food for Families will win eight custom embroidered KofC aprons and eight baseball hats, a $250 value. Submit photos of your gear in action for a chance at a $200 Knights Gear gift certificate. New this year: Cross Catholic food packing events now qualify for Food for Families refunds.

New Family of the Month Form
Submit all Family of the Month entries using the new Family of the Month Form, not Form #10784, which has known online issues.

A Stone Church Across the Road

A mile west of the crossroads of Denzer on County Highway C, a yellow limestone church stands alone in the Sauk County hills. Across the road, against a wooded bluff, lies its cemetery. The oldest stone there is dated 1862.

Honey Creek began in 1852 as a mission of St. Aloysius Parish in Sauk City, serving German settlers who had come to farm the area. Their first church, built of logs in 1867, burned soon after. In 1880 they built again, this time in stone.



Look closely at the walls. The limestone was laid at random, then the builders drew mortar lines across it so the walls would look like cut blocks. It is a farm community's idea of a cathedral, with lancet windows, a rose window, and an octagonal steeple. Inside stands a Gothic altar installed in 1883 and 1884 by Erhard Brielmaier, the Milwaukee craftsman whose firm also designed the chapel at Calvary Cemetery. The original pews remain, and so do the painted and stenciled walls, with faded inscriptions in German and Latin.

Though the mission was founded for German settlers, the cemetery shows the Irish and English farmed here too. It is the plainest record of who these people were. Wrought-iron crosses stand beside simple slabs and modern stones. The names run from Bethscheider and Mettel to McKenna and O'Neill, and the German, Irish, and English graves are generally grouped in their own sections. Even in death, the old neighborhoods held together.

The congregation thinned over the twentieth century. Monthly services ended in 1942, dropping to a few a year, and the mission closed in 1960. In 1973 Robert Jaedike bought the church for $1,500, and two years later he gave it to the Sauk Prairie Historical Society, which cares for it today. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1990. The church now hosts weddings and opens as a museum on summer Sundays.

That means a November visit is a visit to the cemetery and the outside of the church. It is enough. The valley is quiet, the trees are bare, and the iron crosses are easy to find.

Walk the rows, German side and Irish side. Read the names out loud. Pray for the families who built this church and then, one by one, filled the ground across the road.

ACROSS THE DIOCESES

DIOCESE of MADISON

Established
January 9th, 1946

Bishop Donald Hying

Diocesan Seat
St. Bernard Catholic Church

Patron Saint
St. Raphael

Parishes
102

Catholics
166,923

Area
8,070 sq miles

State Officer in Charge
State Warden Justin Knapp

Diocesan Director
Dale Emmerton

Councils
66

PLAN YOUR VISIT

County Highway C, about one mile west of Denzer, Town of Honey Creek, Sauk County.

Your Pro-Life Check In

We pray that the month of October left your council's checking account empty after giving away all your money to pregnancy centers in your area. For every $500 your council or assembly donates to a pregnancy resource center or maternity home (up to $2,000), the match it with $100. But, you have to apply for it! You only need two forms, a Donation Receipt Letter and a W9.

Choose Life Wisconsin Grant Fund

Any pro-life pregnancy center or maternity home can apply for a grant from Choose Life Wisconsin, the Choose Life Plate People! Apply here any time.



You can also purchase Pro-Life license plates. The more plates we have on the road, the more the pro-life message will be shared, and the more money there will be for the Pregnancy Resource Centers. The extra $25 you pay for the plate is tax deductible if you itemize on Schedule A. More information here.

Vivat Jesus!

Dan Miller is Life Director for the Wisconsin State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Need Help With Ultrasound Fundraising Campaign?

There is a great pro-life organization out in Yelm, Washinton called 4US. They will help with 25% of the cost of the ultrasound. Yes! Half of your council's obligation! Here's their website.

We have no Ultrasound Projects going on at this time! Thank you for your support in this area! If you are thinking about heading one up, I have one for you to do in Uganda! Contact me here.

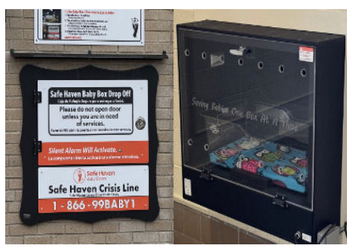
Want to get involved in purchasing a Baby Box for a Milwaukee Firehouse?

Contact Dan Miller for more information.

LIGHT ON LIFE

A newborn girl was safely and legally surrendered on Sunday, September 27, in the Safe Haven Baby Box at Racine Fire Station 4, 3829 Washington Ave. It is the second surrender since the box went into service in December 2024. On-duty firefighters and emergency medical personnel assessed the baby, who was found to be in good health, and she was taken to Ascension All Saints Hospital for evaluation. She is now in the custody of child protective services, which will begin the process of finding her a permanent adoptive home.

Racine's box, blessed and dedicated at a ceremony on December 10, 2024, was the third in Wisconsin after Reedsburg and Elkhorn, and the first in the state sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.



It followed a bipartisan bill Governor Tony Evers signed on December 6, 2023, expanding Wisconsin's Safe Haven law. Since 2001, parents could surrender a baby up to 72 hours old in person to law enforcement, EMTs, or hospital staff. The new law allows anonymous surrender through baby boxes at hospitals, fire stations, and law enforcement buildings.

Division Chief Josh Weber said Chief Steven Hanson proposed pursuing a box shortly after the law passed, and Ascension nurse Abigail Jameson reached out about one a week later.

The box is kept at 75 degrees, has no exterior cameras, and locks once a baby is placed inside. A sensor detects the infant and, after 60 seconds, alerts Sentry Security, which contacts 911 dispatch.

Knights of Columbus Council 15659 funded the purchase through its Lenten Change for Life Baby Bottle drive, supported by parishioners of St. Lucy and St. Sebastian, in partnership with Pro-Life Wisconsin, which contributed $2,500. The box cost $15,500, and Wisconsin Right to Life offered to cover the $500 annual service fee.

Safe Haven Baby Boxes offers an anonymous crisis line for parents: 1-866-99-BABY-1.

FROM THE EDITOR

It's the favorite endless question of youth: Why? Every explanation you could possibly provide can still be answered with "why?" It's infuriating. You wonder how you can possibly make what you're trying to say any clearer and yet the persistent question "why" keeps us from resolving anything.

Why Be Catholic?

However, if there is one truth to this, it is that it makes you go deeper into the topic at hand and makes you think. When you really think about it, is that so bad? Knowing your why keeps you from becoming complacent. If life becomes confusing, if your prayer becomes stagnant, if your family becomes broken, ask yourself why.

This year I was asked to be a small group leader for my parish's confirmation students. Lately, I've found that they don't know their why's. They say they believe in God, trust Him, and want Him to be a part of their life, but yet they find it difficult to answer the why's.



Perhaps it is up to us to remember our why's. Why are we Catholic? Why do we believe in God the way we do? Why do we go to church every Sunday? Why do we celebrate All Saints and All Souls Day? Why, why, why?

And if you're gutsy enough, throw in a few "How's?"

But why...?

Joshua Hopper is Editor of Vivat! The Official Publication of the Wisconsin State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Let's hear from you.

Do you wish to submit a column, recommend a news story, or propose a story?

Email the content team at publications@wikofc.org with your idea, news story, press release OR use our virtual submission form, www.wikofc.org/vivat.

Articles must be submitted by the 15th of the month to be considered for the next month's publication.

Please keep word counts to 500 words or fewer for columns and no more than 1,000 words for press releases.

For feature pieces, we will contact you.



ABOUT THE PHOTO: The future of the Knights of Columbus is bright. On October 12th, Marquette University played host to an exemplification of 30+ young men. Archbishop Grob celebrated the occasion with these young men, Brother Knights, and several State Officers.