

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Ontario State Bulletin



SUMMER 2023

The Saint Kateri
Story

page **15**





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SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA (1656 – 1680)

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WHY I JOINED THE KNIGHTS

BEING BORN INTO A FAMILY with a proud Italian heritage, my great-grandfather Sir Knight Tomasso Bubba was strong in the Catholic Faith. Sadly, the rest of my immediate ...



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

By: State Deputy, Bruce S. Poulin

This will be my last message as the Editor of the State Bulletin. Brother Marcel Gauvin, who has held this position before, will resume this position and we will be well served by his writing acumen, in both official languages, and I wish him Godspeed.

As we begin a new Fraternal year, I need not remind our brother Knights about the importance of membership. This must not be seen as just a case for growing the order, rather its main driving force is to help as many Catholic men and boys make society a better place for their families to live freely in a more prosperous tomorrow. This distinction is important: we are structured to help all Catholic men. They are our customers and our primary focus. It's about service to others and not about the Order itself.



As we strive to help other Catholic men, our parishes and communities, we need to be innovative in what has become a very competitive and secular society with a seemingly endless supply of organizations competing for the same volunteers.

One way to become more competitive and innovative is to share ideas and success stories. Seen from this perspective, it should be the determination of every member, new and old, to subscribe to the Ontario State Bulletin. Only through this medium of our own published word can we gather a conception of what the organization is doing everywhere throughout Ontario.

The Knights of Columbus has reiterated time and time again at its Annual State Convention that it desires to operate the State Bulletin for the purposes of presenting to Catholic men clear and unvarnished facts on Catholic matters. That being so, the Knights of Columbus – and that means every member of the organization in Ontario – has a direct and definite obligation to subscribe 100 percent of its paid-up membership and read the State Bulletin. So be it.

Membership *Statistics*

Ontario Snapshot as of July 1, 2023		GOAL
Membership Intake this Fraternal Year	1,871	1,910
New Councils	3	4
Total Membership	54,688	

Like gasoline is the lifeblood of a car, new members are the lifeblood of a Council.

Invite your friends and family to join!

Vivat Jesus!



Year in Review: Ontario Knights of Columbus Celebrate a Year of Success

By: State Deputy, Marcel Lemmen

As the Fraternal Year draws to a close, we look back on twelve months filled with remarkable achievements, unwavering dedication to the mission of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario, and a strong sense of service to our Church and community. Throughout the 2022 - 2023 Fraternal Year, we have demonstrated our commitment to faith, family, and service, leaving an indelible mark on the lives of countless individuals across the province.



One of the highlights of the year was a very successful Wheelchair Program where we raised funds and delivered 272 Wheelchairs to Ukraine, in partnership with the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation, and in record time. This initiative was launched at our April 2022 State Convention. It usually takes a year and a half to raise the money and deliver the wheelchairs to their destination; however, the response from Councils and individuals to the plight of disabled Ukrainians was so great that the money was raised in under four months. Our CWF partners sourced the wheelchairs in Europe which slashed shipping times. The wheelchairs arrived in Lucknow, Poland by mid-September and were in Lviv, Ukraine a few weeks later: an incredibly short five months from launch to delivery! Our Brother Knights in Ukraine have been distributing wheelchairs to the needy in that war-torn country ever since. European wheelchairs are more expensive than the ones we usually source and we are very grateful to Supreme Council for making up the difference in cost!

The Knights of Columbus also made significant contributions to charitable causes throughout our province. We set a new record for the number of coats distributed this past winter in our Coats for Kids Program: 8,784 across the province. Besides providing warm winter coats to needy kids, this program is also a collaboration between our Councils, General Agents and Field Agents and does much to promote goodwill and cooperation between our Fraternal and Insurance Programs.

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Our Ontario State 50/50 Lottery raised funds for Homeless Shelters, Food Banks, and Special Olympics across Ontario last year while returning a majority of the funds raised to participating Councils for their charitable distribution. Council's unwavering commitment to helping the less fortunate was exemplified through their numerous fundraising events, which benefitted Parishes and various charitable organizations. From food drives to clothing donations and disaster relief efforts, Ontario Knights went above and beyond to lend a helping hand to those facing adversity. Their generosity and selflessness inspired others to join our noble cause, further amplifying the impact of their charitable endeavours.



Year in Review: Ontario Knights of Columbus Celebrate a Year of Success

By: State Deputy, Marcel Lemmen

Moreover, the Ontario Knights of Columbus spearheaded several community initiatives that fostered a sense of unity and fellowship. Our Basketball Free Throw Competition reappeared after the pandemic hiatus and attracted over 18,000 participants this year! Ottawa Council 485 solicited support from Councils across the province for their "Under One Roof" fundraiser to help the Jobin family of Barry's Bay care for their disabled daughter. Their success was featured in a June 2023 Columbia magazine article.



In recognition of their exceptional service, many Councils in Ontario received accolades throughout the year. Their dedication and commitment to our Order's core principles have not gone unnoticed, and we anticipate that many of them will be honoured with the prestigious Star Council Award. This recognition highlights a Council's excellence in leadership, programming, recruitment, and charitable endeavours, cementing its position as a force for good in the province.

In addition to charitable and community efforts, Ontario Knights made significant strides in promoting our Catholic faith and values. Our travelling St. Joseph Pilgrim Icon Program reached many Parishes across the province with prayer and devotion to the Patron Saint of Canada. Holy Hours, a Lenten Spiritual Retreat and Monthly Virtual Rosary were broadcast via the internet to Ontario and around the world. Through various faith formation programs, Councils provided members with opportunities for spiritual growth and deepening their understanding of Catholic teachings. These initiatives not only strengthened the faith of individuals but also fostered a sense of unity and solidarity among the Knights.

Looking ahead to the coming year, the Knights of Columbus of Ontario are well positioned to expand our reach under the leadership of State Deputy Bruce Poulin, and all Officers of our State Board. The members in Ontario, through their convention delegates, have done a great job in electing a superb team of men to lead the province this year. I wish the new board every success as we prepare to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Columbianism in Ontario!

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In conclusion, the Ontario Knights of Columbus can proudly reflect on a year filled with remarkable achievements and unwavering dedication. Through our commitment to faith, family, and service, we have left an indelible mark on the lives of countless individuals and families across the province. I am incredibly proud of our members! As we move forward, our unwavering spirit and commitment to our mission will undoubtedly continue to inspire and uplift parishes and communities, making Ontario a better place for all.



Vivat Jesus!



Ontario State Council Chaplain Returns

By: State Deputy, Bruce S. Poulin

Born on 1963, in Saint Joseph, Manitoba, Archbishop Marcel Damphousse was ordained a priest on June 28th, 1991, for the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface. He served in a number of French and English parishes throughout the Archdiocese before being appointed Rector of the Cathedral in 2008. He earned a Bachelor's degree in psychology in 1984 at the University College of Saint-Boniface, followed by a Bachelor's degree in theology in 1989 from Saint Paul University, Ottawa.

His Grace received his formation for the priesthood at Saint Paul's Seminary, Ottawa. In 2002, he earned a licentiate in spiritual theology from the Teresianum in Rome.

For a number of years, Most Reverend Damphousse taught at the Manitoba Catholic School of Evangelization, and was vocations director for more than 12 years. Before being appointed Rector of the Cathedral, he was chaplain at St. Boniface Diocesan High School for five years.

He gained experience as a member of the Diocesan Finance Committee, of the Presbyteral Council and of the Diocesan Commissions for Liturgy and for Catechesis. He also served as the spiritual director of the TEC (To Encounter Christ) movement for eight years.

On June 28th, 2012, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI appointed the Reverend Marcel Damphousse as Bishop of Alexandria-Cornwall. He was ordained bishop on September 2, 2012, in St. Finnan's Cathedral in Alexandria, ON. On November 12th, 2015, His Holiness Pope Francis appointed Archbishop Damphousse as the sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada.

On May 6, 2020, Archbishop Marcel Damphousse was named the coadjutor archbishop of the newly created Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall. He succeeded Archbishop Terrence Prendergast following the latter's retirement on December 3, 2020

His Grace joined the Knights of Columbus after he turned 18 years old in Manitoba. The Association of Catholic Bishops (ACBO) appointed Archbishop Damphousse as the State Chaplain for the Ontario State Council in 2015 where he served in that capacity for five years before retiring to assume his duties in Sault Ste Marie. After he assumed the duties of Archbishop for the Diocese of Ottawa-Cornwall, he graciously accepted to return as the Ontario State Chaplain to help with the preparations leading up to the 125th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario in 2025.



Vivat Jesus!



New Associate State Chaplain for Ontario State Council

By: State Deputy, Bruce S. Poulin

Born on his mother's birthday August 21, 1961, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Joseph Bayda became the third of six children that God entrusted to his parents Joseph and Florence (Niedzielski) Bayda.

Bishop Bryan particularly loves writing songs and his Redemptorist training deepened his thirst for preaching as he encourages others to be Missionary Disciples.

The motto on his coat of arms - You Will Be My Witnesses - is based on Acts 1:8 "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and You Will Be My Witnesses."

A special devotion to Mary as the Mother of Perpetual Help and as Our Lady of Guadalupe sustains him in his Ukrainian Catholic faith since She is key in understanding the Good News of Jesus Christ.

On May 2, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI appointed him as Bishop and on June 27, 2008, he was ordained bishop of the Eparchy of Saskatoon covering the province of Saskatchewan.

On November 9, 2019, he was appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Eparchy of Toronto and Eastern Canada. On June 27, 2022, he was emeritus of Saskatoon and enthroned as Eparch of the Eparchy of Toronto and Eastern Canada.

Bishop Bayda has served on the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops as a member of the Episcopal Commission for Doctrine (2011-2017) and the Consultor of the Commission for Evangelization and Catechesis (2017 - 2020). He was elected to represent the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church bishops at the 2018 Papal Synod in Rome on Youth, Faith, and Vocational Discernment.

During his 14 years in Saskatoon, he served a total of 10 years as the Knights of Columbus State Chaplain for Saskatchewan.

In late June 2023, the Association of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO) agreed to appoint Bishop Bayda to a new position for the Ontario State Council - Associate State Chaplain. In this capacity, Bishop Bayda would help our returning State Chaplain Archbishop Marcel Damphousse support as many activities and events as possible as we begin preparations leading up to the 125th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario in 2025.



Vivat Jesus!



Past State Deputy Arthur Peters Elected Deputy Supreme Knight

By: State Deputy, Bruce S. Poulin

The Knights of Columbus Supreme Board of Directors elected Supreme Director Arthur L. Peters of Brampton, Ontario as Deputy Supreme Knight effective September 1, 2023.

Arthur joined the Columbian Squires in 1980 as a member of Circle 2041 in Brampton. He served as Notary Squire and Chief Squire of the Circle, and as Chief Squire of the area investiture team before being elected as Provincial Bursar in 1986.

Arthur joined the Knights of Columbus in 1986 as a Charter member of Father Clair Tipping Council 9235 in Brampton, Ontario. He served numerous officer positions for his council; District and the Ontario State Council, which he led as State Deputy from 2010 to 2011. When the 134th Supreme Convention was held in Toronto in 2016, he served as host committee chairman. Arthur is presently in his third three-year term on the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors, update which elected him Deputy Supreme Knight. In the second highest fraternal leadership role within the Supreme Council, Arthur will assist Supreme Knight Kelly; his duties will include serving as Chairman of several board committees and principal liaison to the more than 200,000 Knights in Canada.



Arthur has worked in the non-profit sector with Youth Assisting Youth, which provides mentorship and tutoring, and with the Canadian Red Cross. For 15 years, he was a member of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and served as its vice chair and chair, the first graduate to serve in this position.

He is an active parishioner of St. Anthony's church in Brampton.

Since 2005, Arthur has worked as the director of development for the Archdiocese of Toronto, a position he will retain during his mandate as Deputy Supreme Knight (Arthur heads up ShareLife of the Archdiocese). He is married to Angela, an executive in the non-profit sector.

Arthur credits his election as Deputy Supreme Knight to his parents, Cecil and Mary Lou Peters, who did so much for their parish and the Order, and to Eddy Kasprzycki, the Area Chairman for the Squires who encouraged him to run for the Provincial Board. He views his service in the Knights as a way of giving back to an organization that has given so much to him.

Vivat Jesus!



125th Anniversary Jewel

By Joe Mathews, Vice Supreme Master

Worthy Sirs,

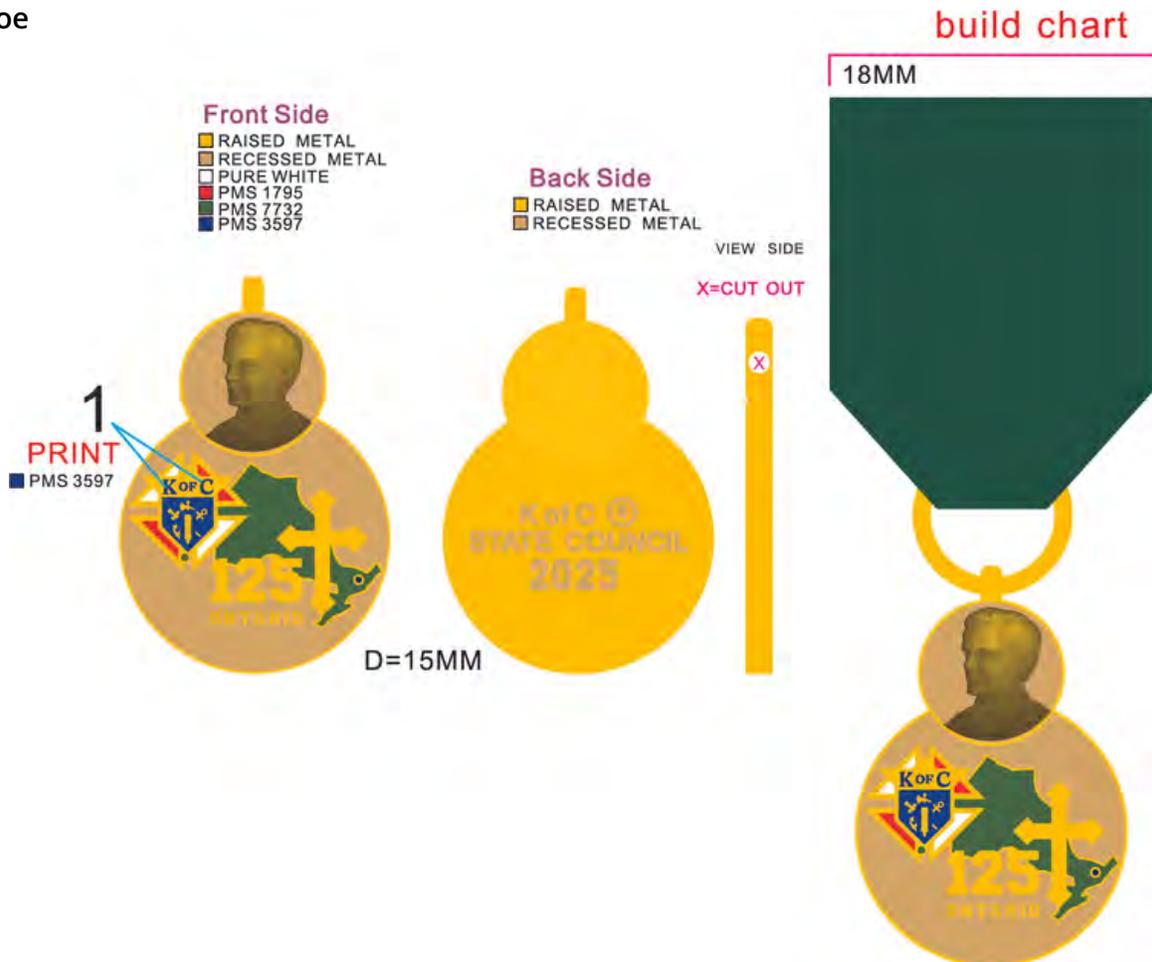
The Knights of Columbus in Ontario will be celebrating its 125th Anniversary in 2025 and to commemorate this important occasion, in the next two years, the Ontario State Council will be making available a miniature jewel.

I believe that this miniature jewel will be a popular item and will be worn proudly by both 3rd and 4th degree members across the province.

As it pertains to the Fourth Degree, to answer the question that will surely be asked, "When can I wear this miniature jewel?" The only restriction with regards to wearing this miniature jewel is that it cannot be worn on the official uniform of the Fourth Degree as outlined in the Color Corps Drill Manual.

Should you have any questions regarding the wearing of this miniature jewel, please feel free to contact me.

Fraternally,
S. K. Joe



Vivat Jesus!



In the News: Installation of New Ontario State Deputy

Bruce S. Poulin and Lady Zoye were officially welcomed in New Haven, Connecticut between June 6 and 11, 2023. During this organizational meeting, Bruce was officially installed as the new State Deputy for the jurisdiction of Ontario by Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly commencing July 1, 2023, until June 30, 2024.

Bruce Poulin, born in Ottawa (Vanier), whose 40-year career has included stints as an Officer in the Canadian Armed Forces and NATO, before working as the Manager of Communications for the Royal Canadian Legion national headquarters and later senior communications representative for Lockheed Martin Canada.

He graduated with First Class Honors from the Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston and received a full academic scholarship to complete a master's degree from the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University, Washington, DC., specializing in International Relations majoring in finance and conflict management.

He joined the Knights of Columbus Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes de Cyrville, Council #8679 in 2007. Thereafter, he served as the Grand Knight of Jean Paul I, Council #8585 and Faithful Navigator of Louis St.-Laurent Assembly #1697. He also completed a term as District Deputy #54. He was elected to the State Board in 2015 where he has served in every elected position before being elected to the highest position in Ontario. He is currently a member of Ottawa Council #485 and Cartier Assembly #860.

He is married to his loving spouse, Zoye. They are active members of the Holy Spirit Church in Stittsville, and they have five children, Jean-Mathieu, Dayna, Olivier, Rylan, and Catherine. His hobbies include building scale models and playing hockey. He is currently writing a book on the 125-year history of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario which should be available in January 2025.

Fraternal organizations, youth clubs, Church activities, neighborhood, and civic associations, pro-life, sports and recreational activities have long been a staple in Bruce's life. Indeed, he has more than 30 years of community service. Of note of his exceptional community work, Bruce was awarded Queen Elizabeth Golden and Diamond Jubilee medals in 2002 and 2012, respectively. In 2016, Bruce also received the Sovereign's Medal for volunteers.



Vivat Jesus!



MEET THE POULIN ADMINISTRATION – PART ONE

PROGRAM DIRECTOR – Denis La Salle

Born and raised in a good catholic family in the Ottawa Valley. Encouraged and supported by his beautiful spouse Claudette Blais. Denis La Salle lives in Sturgeon Falls, Ontario. He completed 2nd year of business admin, at Seneca College. He served in the Canadian military for 23 years before retiring and running a number of successful small businesses. He joined the Knights in 2009 where he has held a variety of Council and Assembly positions, including PDGK-PGK- FDW-FDD-FTMW- Former Controller, Commander 4th degree, Captain 1-2-3-degree teams. Many will recall Denis as the Executive secretary at the Ontario State Office where he worked for several years before retiring in 2022.

His stated goal for the coming fraternal year is to listen to our leadership team, to provide a strong leadership example and to inspire all to reach individual and team-set goals on behalf of our State Deputy and Ontario State as a whole.



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR – Vincent D’Souza

Vincent has served many positions in the Order including District Deputy, District Warden, Grand Knight, and Deputy Grand Knight. He is also an active member of the 4th degree, having previously served as Scribe, Pilot and Captain. Vincent was the first certified Color Corps Commander in Nova Scotia and served as CCC for three years before moving to Ottawa.

Vincent has extensive knowledge of the products the Knights of Columbus offers to members and their families and stands ready to help them achieve their financial goals. Vincent was the Field Agent of the year for Madore Agency of Eastern Ontario for 2019 and again in 2020 as well as Field Agent of the year for Ontario for the year 2020-2021. Vincent is a member of MDRT (Million Dollar Round Table) Club which recognizes the top performers in the insurance industry.

Vincent is married to Christine for 42 years , worked together for 32 years, and has 2 daughters and 2 grandchildren.



NEW COUNCIL DIRECTOR – Denis Bélanger

Anne and Denis were married in Montreal 35 years ago and have 9 children, 4 grand children, and attend St Mary’s Parish in Ottawa. By trade, Senior IT Project Manager specialized in Infrastructure and IT Service Management mainly to the Government of Canada. Council 14727 Charter Member of 18 years, in numerous leadership roles, notably State Membership and Program Director and also as Supreme Associate Regional Growth and Training Director. His stated goal is to provide you with the guidance and support resources required to assist in furthering the impact of the K of C by starting a new council. We have inaugurated a new NCD Form to help gather the pertinent information to thus begin the process of identifying, promoting, building, launching, training, and mentoring a new council in your districts.





MEET THE POULIN ADMINISTRATION – PART ONE

COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR – Jerry Hayes

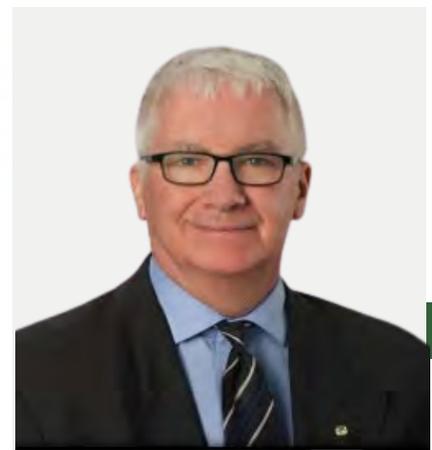
Beyond serving as Communication Director now under four State Deputies, I have had a variety of roles in the Order since joining in 1974 to support this appointment. Beyond the many council positions, I undertook which led up to the role of Grand Knight that I held for two years, I have also accepted various roles at the Assembly level which culminated as the Faithful Navigator for an equal two-year term. Beyond the Council and the Assembly, I also served as Comptroller of the Second Ontario District, for many years which is the largest fourth-degree District in Ontario. Supplementary to this role I was also the Fourth Degree Exemplification Chairman for over fifteen years. Other roles included District Deputy, a position I held for four years, and I attained Star District in three of those four years. I was also the Diocesan Director for the Archdiocese of Toronto for four years as well. Also interspersed with the above, I served as Awards Director for Ontario State for yet another four years.



Beyond the Knights I am also involved in vocations work with Serra Canada. I have been President of my club as well as the Program Chairman for a major annual dinner gathering in support of our seminarians for the past fifteen years. This dinner usually attracts approximately two thousand attendees. Although I am now retired, I spent thirty-five years in the financial world with one of the major Canadian chartered banks. Included in my outside interests are my family consisting of my wife Joan, three adult children, and six grandchildren. We have a cottage in Central Ontario and enjoy spending as much family time as possible there during the summer months. Over the coming year, it is my sincere hope to create greater cohesiveness between our councils and the administrative team at Ontario State through increased opportunities for ongoing effective communication at all levels of the Order.

PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN – Claude O. Poirier

I've been a member of the Knights of Columbus for nearly fifty years. Having first joined the Order as a Columbian Squire. On the executive of Ontario Council 755, I have served numerous roles including that of Grand Knight. A member of Bishop Brodeur Assembly. I have spent a good part of my working life managing recreational and hall facilities. I am recently widowed having lost my wife of 37 years Anne-Marie last September. Albert Schweitzer once wrote "that among us those who will truly be happy will be those who will have and found how to serve". I have found that happiness in the Knights of Columbus. As Provincial activities chairman for the 125th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario. It is my hope that with your assistance, we will commemorate the enormous contribution our Order has made to the Catholic community and life of our province.



COMMUNITY PILLAR – Daniel Mainville

I've been involved with the Knights of Columbus for over 36 years starting as a Squire at the age of 12 and transitioning to the 3rd degree at 18. Held many office positions at my local council including Grand Knight for 8 years. I'm also a Past Faithful Navigator and Former District Deputy. I've recently finished a four year term as District Master for the Fourth Degree as well. I'm currently the Membership Information Officer Territory 5 in Northern Ontario. I will be getting married to the lovely Lynn Leblanc this coming August and we have a total of 3 children all attending post secondary schools. My goal as Community Director is to bring fresh ideas and a commitment to growing the order with our programs.





MEET THE POULIN ADMINISTRATION – PART ONE

FAITH PILLAR DIRECTOR – Joseph Remedios

Married to his wonderful wife, Bernadette, of 36 years, Joseph and Bernadette are blessed with two sons and are extremely proud grandparents of two grandsons. Joseph has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for 23 years, having previously served in many roles including District Deputy, Grand Knight and Faithful Navigator. Currently, Joseph serves in dual leadership roles as the Ontario State Faith Director, and Comptroller of the Second Ontario District (Fourth Degree). In addition, Joseph is highly active within his home Parish and Council – St. Francis Xavier, Mississauga. Joseph’s goals, while many, are primarily focused on increased participation by all members and families at the monthly Online Rosary Devotion (every second Saturday of the month), and for a commitment by all to spend one hour per week in the presence of our Lord in the Tabernacle.



LIFE PILLAR – Alex Schadenberg

Brother Alex Schadenberg is serving his 6th term as Life Director, he served one year as Membership Director, served as District Deputy #51 and is the current District Deputy #22. Alex was Grand Knight of Council 06495 West Lorne (5 years) and he is proud to be serving the current State Deputy, Brother Bruce Poulin.

Alex is married to Susan and they live in Glencoe Ontario. They have six grown children and three grand-children. Their four sons are all members in good standing, their son-in-law, Tery is an active member and his future son-in-law, Lawrence, is also an active member of the Knights of Columbus.

Alex became a member while at Kings College (Western University) and was an active member of the college council. Before that he was a Columbian Squire in Woodstock Ontario. Alex is proud to say that the Knights of Columbus was important to his father and has been a central part of his life.

In his day work, Alex is the Executive Director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and does approximately 75 presentations in Canada, the US and Europe every year.

FAMILY PILLAR – Jaime Libaque

Graduated with honors from an Engineering Program. Licensed as a Professional Engineer in Ontario since 1982. Worked for Ontario Hydro and its successor companies for 32 years. In June 1998, earned an MBA degree from the University of Toronto.

For 2023-24 he will be leading the Family Pillar at Ontario State. Member of the Knights of Columbus for approximately 20 years. A Chartered member of the St Lawrence Council in Scarborough, Joe led his home Council successfully for 5-time Star Council Awards and several other awards from Ontario State. He has served as District Deputy, Faithful Navigator, Chairman of the Toronto East Diocesan Zone; and four terms as Director/Chairman at the Ontario State Board.

A Community Leader for over 30 years, he has served in various Volunteer positions in the Hispanic Community and in the Scarborough community. Has been awarded the Queen’s Jubilee Pin, the Ontario Citizenship Medal, the Professional Engineers Award for Citizenship and others.



Renovations for the State Office

By: State Secretary, Bruce Poulin

In January 2023, the State Board adopted an ambitious plan to renovate and repurpose some of the office space currently being leased by the Ontario State Office. This decision was precipitated by the departure of the Neil Bouvier Insurance Agency in September 2022 which had been a subtenant of some of our office space for several years.

The lease agreement did not allow for us to sub rent to any other entity except for a Knights of Columbus agency or organization. Therefore, it was decided to make the office space more efficient and practical.



State Deputy office



J.P. Dunne Board Room.

To that end, the project included three major projects. First, was the creation of a meeting room which will be named the JP Dunne Boardroom in honour of the first Canadian State Deputy for Ontario (1902-1904). This new board room can accommodate the entire State Board as well as VIPs and some directors if needed. This will save on renting office space in hotels when the State Board and various directors meet in Hamilton. This decision also allowed for greater space in our warehouse room so that we may carry more inventory and increase our sales.

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The second major project was the establishment of an office for the State Deputy. Currently, visiting State Deputies use a table and a cafeteria chair in one of the employee offices. This made it very awkward for everyone. To compound this situation, the State Board officers also recognized that a more permanent office setting would be needed to accommodate future State Deputies who may not live close to the Hamilton area and will be coming to Hamilton for a couple of days at a time. The new State Deputy office will allow for more professional meetings and business dealings.

The third and final major project was to move the servers from their current location, which was in a common area, to a more secure room, away from the public eye and therefore provide further protection against intrusion, sabotage or breach of privacy information held at the State Office.

Vivat Jesus!

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha (1656 – 1680)

By Faith Pillar Director: Joseph Remedios

As a long-standing tradition within the Order, our new State Deputy, Brother Bruce Poulin, who recently took office on July 1, 2023, has dedicated his term to the ‘Lily of the Mohawks’ – Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.

With this issue of the State Bulletin being the first under Brother Bruce’s leadership as our Ontario State Deputy, it is only appropriate that this background information is provided, so that all Brother Knights in Ontario have a better understanding, and ultimately, develop a deeper relationship, with Saint Kateri Tekakwitha:

Kateri Tekakwitha (baptized Catherine), known as the “Lily of the Mohawks,” is the first North American Aboriginal person to be elevated to sainthood.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, every year, an estimated 25,000 people visit a little shrine in Kahnawake, (near Montréal) dedicated to Saint Kateri. It is estimated that more than 300 books in 20 languages have been written about Saint Kateri since her death. Not to mention that several High Schools in Ontario are dedicated to her.

Background

Her life was both short and relatively “normal” and unremarkable. What really stood out occurred at the time of her death when witnessed noticed something very unusual – her transfiguration. Since then, thousands of miracles have been claimed by pilgrims to the site.

It is known that she was born in 1656 in an Iroquois village called “Ossernon” (now Auriesville, New York). Her father was an Iroquois chief. Her mother, an Algonquin from Trois-Rivières, Québec, had been taken prisoner by the Chief during one of their tribal wars and subsequently married her. Kateri’s tribe was decimated by smallpox between 1661-62. Her father, mother and younger brother all died from the disease leaving her an orphan. She survived but was permanently scared all over her face as a result. Her eyes were so weakened from the disease that she had to wear a blanket (shawl) over her head to keep direct sunlight away from her eyes for the rest of her life.

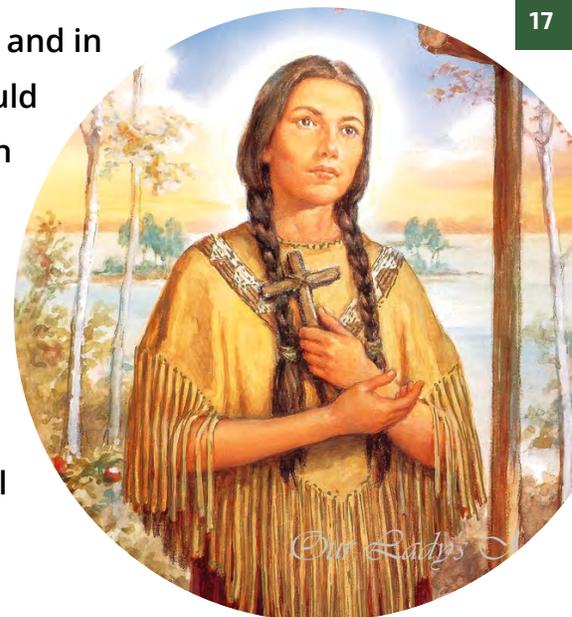


Saint Kateri Tekakwitha (1656 – 1680)

In 1666, her village was burned down by French Forces during a punitive expedition. So, she went to live with her aunt and uncle, a Mohawk Chief in Fonda, N.Y. Following the arrival of three Jesuit missionaries, one of whom was Jacques de Lamberville, Kateri asked to be baptized a Christian. What followed was 6 months of catechization and her baptism on Easter April 18th, 1676. She was 20 years old. She was given the Christian name of Catherine in honour of Catherine of Siena, a 15th century Italian mystic. Following her conversion, her adoptive parents and her tribe ridiculed her and called her “the Christian” which, at that time, was a term of disdain[i]. She also refused to accept any arranged marriages and work on Sundays[ii]. At times, she was pelted with rocks, and mud, deprived of food and jeered. She was subsequently threatened with torture. One year after her conversion to Christianity she fled her village.

She fled her home, with the help of a visiting Oneida Chief in 1677. She made her way to the St. Francis Xavier Mission at Sault St. Louis, New France, now Kahnawake, Quebec which was a haven for First Nations who had accepted the Christian Faith. On March 25th, 1679, she asked the mission priest Father Pierre Cholenec (1641-1721) to administer her vow of perpetual chastity thus becoming the first native-born North American Indigenous maiden to do so[iii].

While at the mission, she could often be seen walking barefoot and in chains in the snow to prove her devotion. Other times, she would engage in self-flagellation. Father Pierre Cholenec mentioned in a confidential letter to his superiors that Catherine was surrounded by a mysterious light during these sessions of self-flagellation, which he had never seen or encountered before. Her intense version of Catholic mystic asceticism also included frequent fasts, swimming in the St-Lawrence River in the winter and placing hot coals between her toes until they burned out[iv].



Saint Kateri Tekakwitha (1656 – 1680)

In the Spring of 1680, she predicted that she would die during Holy Week[i]. She died on Holy Wednesday April 17th, 1680. Father Cholenec, her confessor, who had also witnessed her death wrote: “But within a few minutes of her death, she became, almost instantly, very beautiful and fair.[ii]” By 1715, Father Cholenec wrote that all French people and Aboriginal had a great veneration for her, calling her Saint Kateri, and many have been healed on the spot. Her remains came to rest in St. Francois Xavier Church in Kahnawake in 1717. From there a group took half of her remains (including her skull) to St. Regis Catholic Church, Quebec (now called Akwesasne). Regrettably, this church burned, and the relics were destroyed with it in the fire[iii].

Father Claude Chauchetière (1645-1709), who also worked at the mission wrote: “Everything which she had touched, for example, the crucifix which he had in her hand when they buried her, has served to work cures. Even her coverlet, the earth around her tomb, the little plate from which she ate, have wrought certain healings.[iv]”

She was so revered in the area around Montréal, that even the gigantic Saint Lawrence Seaway construction plans had to work around and avoid disturbing her burial site which was relatively close to the Saint Lawrence River[v].

Sainthood

She passed the first step toward sainthood on January 3rd, 1943, when Pope Pius XII bestowed the title of venerable upon her. Pope John Paul II beatified her on June 22nd, 1980.

December 19th, 2011, Pope Benedict XVI acknowledged a miracle attributed to Catherine, that of healing a young boy in Washington State in 2006. The boy, Jake Finkbonner, had contracted necrotizing fasciitis; also known as “flesh-eating disease” and was cured after Blessed Kateri was asked to intervene through prayer and holding a relic of her to his chest. On October 21st, 2012, Blessed Kateri was elevated to sainthood and became the first North American Indigenous person to be canonized.



Saint Kateri Tekakwitha (1656 – 1680)



Saint Kateri is not Canadian, and she is not American. She is North American because she was part of both the Algonquin and Mohawk tribes which were part of the Six Nations Iroquois Confederation which had, at its apex, ran from the shores of the Saint Lawrence River to the Laurentian mountains to the North and Albany, N.Y., to the South.

Her feast day, 17 April, was entered into the liturgical calendar of the Catholic Church in 1980.

- [i] "The Lilly of the Mohawks" St. Louis Dispatch (Saint Louis, Missouri) February 19, 1956, p. 122.
- [ii] "The Saints Among Us" The Ottawa Citizen, 13 October 1997, p. 4.
- [iii] "Humble Indian Maid May Become a Saint". The Ottawa Citizen, 25 January 1961, p. 30.
- [iv] "Mohawk Tekakwitha to be Canada's first Aboriginal saint" The Ottawa Citizen. 20 December 2011, p. 3.
- [v] "Humble Indian Maid May Become a Saint". The Ottawa Citizen, 25 January 1961, p. 30.
- [vi] "Pray Indian Maiden Will Be Canonized." The Ottawa Citizen, 26 July 1956, p. 30.
- [vii] "Kateri's Long Road to Sainthood". The Ottawa Citizen, 20 October 2012, p. 53.
- [viii] "The Lilly of the Mohawks" St. Louis Dispatch (Saint Louis, Missouri) February 19, 1956, p. 122.
- [ix] "Humble Indian Maid May Become a Saint". The Ottawa Citizen, 25 January 1961, p. 30.

FAMILY PILLAR

The Family Pillar for 2023-24 is being revitalized

By Family Director Jaime Libacque

The Family Pillar for 2023-24 is being revitalized, with new programs and eight new Chairmen:

Family of the Month/Year	Kris McKeown
Family Prayer Night	Jacques Girouard
Consecration to Holy Family	Jaime Libacque
Family Week	Reid Robertson
Family Fully Alive	Jacques Girouard
Good Friday Family Promotion	Bud Duguay
Keep Christ in Christmas	Steve Caza
Food for Families	Robert Bentley

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Over the next few weeks, more information will be distributed to the District Deputies and Grand Knights, with more details on the programs...stay tuned!

And please, let's start thinking of various ways to get our catholic families engaged in our Service Programs

Vivat Jesus!

COMMUNITY PILLAR

Why I joined the knights

By Bro. Ethan J. Bubba

BEING BORN INTO A FAMILY with a proud Italian heritage, my great-grandfather Sir Knight Tomasso Bubba was strong in the Catholic Faith. Sadly, the rest of my immediate family have lapsed in the practice of the Faith, which led me to become religiously indifferent, and at times, hostile towards religion. When I was thirteen, I started to become curious about religion, and after much searching, I began following Protestant beliefs.

When my great-grandfather passed away, the Honour Guard prayed the Rosary at his wake, and at his funeral I received his Faithful Navigator's sword. These experiences moved me deeply and sparked a desire for the practical Christian life which was exemplified by the men they call Knights. Soon after, I embraced the Catholic Faith and returned to communion with the Catholic Church.

I was inspired by my great-grandfather's practical Catholicism and became determined to join the Knights of Columbus and serve the Church in his footsteps; this decision stayed with me through high school and into university. As a new parishioner at St. Clement Parish in Ottawa, I saw the local Knights of Columbus in action.

Before a Sunday sermon, my pastor announced that the Knights were organizing a Hike-for-Life. When I left the church doors, I met the Knights and expressed my interest in serving the Church by taking a leading role in parish events and defending my Catholic Faith in the world today. Later that day I was invited to join the Knights, and I answered the call to action!

My Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity ignited my passion for our Order—I entered a room of strangers and left with a band of brothers dedicated to serving the Church and defending Catholic family life.

Today, I have the honour and privilege of serving my Council as our Lecturer and Faith Director—and more importantly—have discovered what it means to be a practical Catholic, actively involved in my parish and local community.

I encourage all practical Catholic men who have a desire to serve the Church, better their local parishes, and defend the Catholic Faith in their communities to answer the call to action and join the Knights of Columbus today!

Vivat Jesus!



Why should we be concerned about Life?

By Life Director Alex Schadenberg

There are several important Life programs such as: Aid and Support after Pregnancy (ASAP) program, Roses for Life, March for Life, Special Olympics, Christian Refugee Relief and more, but why are the Knights of Columbus so committed to life?

Our faith teaches us that human life is a gift from God and that we should cherish and protect it. This is a central theme of our faith. I found my inspiration in our Saviour's parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25 - 37).

Remember, the parable of the Good Samaritan was a response from Christ to a challenge by an expert in the law who asked him: "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Our Lord responds by telling the story of the Good Samaritan. We all know the story, but the Samaritan went above and beyond in caring for a stranger. Further to that, Samaritans were not loved and respected by the Jewish people.

The ending of the parable gives us our direction as to why Life programs are important. The Lord asks the expert in the law: "Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

When we participate in the Life Programs we are fulfilling Christ's mission to us: "Go and do likewise."

In particular, we want every council to participate in the ASAP program in some way. We suggest that this can be accomplished by combining the Roses for Life program with the ASAP program. By participating in the Roses for Life program the council can raise money for donating to a qualified pregnancy center or maternity home. If a council cannot donate \$500 the council should combine efforts with another council in their District.

Remember, for every \$500 donated to an approved pregnancy center or maternity home, Supreme will top up the donation and donate \$100 to the same charity. The maximum per year is \$2000 donation from a council which is then topped up with \$400 from Supreme.

It is the goal of your State Deputy and myself that Ontario be the best jurisdiction in Canada in its support for the ASAP program.

Vivat Jesus!



WHY I SERVE AS A FIELD AGENT

Mullin Agency Field Agent, Kim Pacis



In just three years as a Field Agent with the Knights of Columbus, my success story has been transformative. Through dedicated efforts, I have been able to touch the lives of numerous families, providing them with valuable insurance and financial solutions that have secured their futures. By understanding their unique needs and goals, I have guided them towards comprehensive plans that offer protection, peace of mind, and a solid foundation for their loved ones. Witnessing the positive impact on these families' lives has been immensely rewarding and has strengthened my passion for serving as a trusted advisor.

One of the things that really resonates with me was the issuance of the guaranteed issue Disability Income. I had a client who qualified for this, and we were able to get an application in immediately, hassle free! After a few months his health rapidly declined, shortly thereafter, he was making claims towards the disability policy. If it wasn't for this guaranteed, value-added benefit, he and his family would be without his income stream. This was a member that attended a Fraternal Benefit Event in 2021, and I was able to subsequently recruit as an e-member, then write an appropriate policy a few days after.

Another amazing situation that happened was meeting a priest who just newly arrived in Canada. He was able to hear about the fraternal benefits being offered by the Knights of Columbus during one of the Fraternal Benefit Events, and he mentioned that he had no insurance at all! Furthermore, because he was a diocesan priest, his life insurance benefits were minimal. After signing up Father as an e-member, I saw him in person, and he was about to take out a Whole Life Policy for himself that would cover his final expenses. Again, this was a client that I would have otherwise not met unless it was through a Fraternal Benefit Event.

Lastly, I had a situation with a client who was desperately seeking Long Term Coverage. He had attended a virtual Fraternal benefit event through the invitation of a close family. He had almost given up hope in looking for Long Term Care coverage, because LTC stopped being offered in Canada, but I mentioned to him that the Knights of Columbus was still offering it and is indeed the only insurer in Canada that still did. I signed him up as an e-member, and we then proceeded with filling up a Long-Term Care application that covered both himself, and his wife! Again, this was a client that I would have never got a hold of unless it was through an FBE!

In conclusion, being a Knights of Columbus Field Agent has been an immensely rewarding and fulfilling experience. Through the provision of insurance and financial services, I have had the privilege of protecting and supporting families within the community. Witnessing firsthand the positive impact of our work on individuals and their loved ones has been truly inspiring. The Knights of Columbus commitment to serving others and ensuring the well-being of families is deeply rooted in the principles of charity and unity. As a Field Agent, I have been able to contribute to this noble mission while building meaningful relationships and making a difference in the lives of those I serve. The opportunity to safeguard families through insurance has given me a sense of purpose and satisfaction that is truly invaluable!

Vivat Jesus!



FR. MCGIVNEY LEADERSHIP QUIZ

- How old was Fr. McGivney when he finished high school?
 - 23
 - 18
 - 16
 - 13
- How old was Father McGivney when his father, Patrick, died?
 - 38
 - 24
 - 20
 - 16
- Who supported the McGivney family after the death of Patrick McGivney?
 - Mrs McGivney (Mother of Father McGivney)
 - Fr. Michael McGivney
 - The Catholic Community of Waterbury
 - Father McGivney's younger sisters Mary and Rosanne and his brother-in-law Michael Lawlor.
- What religious order(s) educated Father McGivney during his seminary studies?
 - Jesuits
 - Diocesan Priests
 - Vincentians
 - Sulpicians
 - A & C
 - All of the above
- St Mary's church in New Haven had how much debt when Fr. McGivney was assigned to it?
 - \$30,000
 - \$50,000
 - \$100,000
 - \$200,000
- The initial death benefits for Knights of Columbus members were equivalent to how much money in current dollars?
 - \$500
 - \$1000
 - \$10,000
 - \$25,000
- At the founding of the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Foresters (a Catholic fraternal society located in Boston) offered to open one of its local courts in New Haven to organize the Catholic men of St-Mary's, but Father McGivney refused their invitation.

True False
- Father McGivney was the first director of a public play in 19th century New Haven to:
 - Advertise a play in a newspaper
 - Charge money for a performance to raise funds
 - Cast women in roles as female characters
 - Also play a starring role in the play
- Before founding the Knights of Columbus Father McGivney led the groups that sought to fight against the social ill of:
 - Poverty
 - Illiteracy
 - Drunkenness
 - Prostitution
- At the founding of the second Knights of Columbus Council, Fr McGivney sought to convince the parish priest at the new parish by:
 - Giving a guest homily to the parish about the virtues of the new organization
 - Promising half the proceeds of any Knights of Columbus fundraisers to the new parish
 - By sending the lay-men of the first council to speak to the pastor

ANSWERS:1d, 2c, 3d, 4f, 5d, 6d, 7 false, 8c, 9c, 10c

Latest Podcasts



TK32 Marketplace with Joseph Carbonetto

Here is a Council that is Doubly benefiting their community.



TK33 Knights on Bikes with Dennis Mailloux

An episode that you certainly will not peddle your way through.



TK34 Community Christmas Dinner with Grand Knight Dean C. Black from Council No 1916



TK35 Latin Mass with Grand Knight Brandan Tran from Council No. 17725 in Ottawa



TK36 Our Lady Seat of Wisdom in Barry's Bay with Dr. Christine (Marlin) Schintgen



TK37 Community Outreach in Cornwall

Ontario Council 755 working with local schools in exciting ways.



TK38 TV Bingo

Council TV Bingo that has been running for 40 years in Ontario.



TK39 2023 Annual State Convention

A comprehensive look at all the activities associated with this spring's Annual Ontario Knights of Columbus State Convention to be held in April

Vivat Jesus!

Let's Play Bingo!

By Anna Kocmarek

Many Councils host bingos in church or Bingo halls. Some run TV bingos or radio bingos. Now we have Convention Bingo! Every member who registers at the Annual State Convention will receive 2 bingo cards. One Convention Bingo card will be played at the Convention and one Bulletin Bingo card to take home and play when the summer, fall and winter editions of the State Bulletin comes out.

That's four chances to win \$200.

Convention Bingo - Completed! Congratulations to Michael Lobsinger from Council 1431 in Kilroy who had fun playing bingo at the convention and won \$200.

Bulletin Bingo - Let's play Game 2!

Ani and Liane from the State Office have drawn 10 numbers.

B - 3 | B - 8 | B - 14 | I - 22 | I - 24 | N - 34 | G - 50 | G - 56 | O - 69 | O - 74

Game 2 - 10 Bingo numbers will be drawn and posted in the Summer Bulletin. If you have a line or 4 corners, email Anna at anna@ontariokofc.ca letting her know that you have a winning card. Please include the red card number found at the top of your card as well as the number found under the free spot.

Bingo can only be claimed for 1 week after the bulletin is published.

If we have multiple winners, they will share the \$200 prize.

If we have no winners, then the \$200 prize will go to towards game 3 in the Fall bulletin.

Please don't dab... use a chip, or coin to record the numbers.

Game 3 - use the same card as game 2 and same rules as Game 2. Numbers will be found in the Fall bulletin. If we have no winners, the prize will go toward game 4 in the Winter bulletin.

Game 4 - use the same card as game 2 and same rules as game 2. Numbers will be found in the Winter bulletin. If we have no winner, the prize will be drawn at the 2024 Convention.



Vivat Jesus!

Take control of your retirement.



We understand how hard planning for retirement can be. That's why the Knights of Columbus offers annuity solutions that are simple and secure. You can grow your retirement account with guaranteed interest and create a lifetime of income.

Contact me to learn more about our annuity solutions.

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