

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Ontario State Bulletin



SUMMER 2024



The Founding Officers of The Knights of Columbus Council 1412 in Chatham, 1909

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On reaching Circle of Honour
for the 2023-2024
Fraternal Year**





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CONTENTS



15 RESTORATION OF TOMBSTONES OF STATE DEPUTIES & CLERGY IN OTTAWA



25 THE SHROUD OF TURIN - A MESSAGE FOR US!

The Carbon-14 Dating experiment of 1988 concluded that the shroud (the burial cloth of Jesus) originated in the 14th century. By 2008, over thirty-two research articles had been written ...



28 FAITH PILLAR - A LABOUR OF FAITH

Several years ago, Marcel Vaillancourt, a brother Knight of Council 12401 in Russell, Ontario and a member of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal had an inspiration. ...

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

- 04** Editor's Message
- 05** The Fraternal 2023-2024 Year in Review
- 13** A New Fraternal Year Awaits Us!
- 14** State Bursary Winners for 2024-2025
- 20** Christopher Columbus: The Patron of the Knights
- 26** Blessed Michael J. McGivney Guild
- 29** Family Pillar
- 32** 2024 Ontario State Convention
- 36** Faith Pillar - A new Chapel for Lamorito, Guimba, Philippines
- 38** Community Pillar - Food Drive in Thunder Bay
- 39** Knights of Columbus Ontario - 125 Years Strong
- 41** Life Pillar - Ultrasound Machine
- 43** Let's play Bingo!
- 44** New partnership between K of C and Moores Clothing



By: State Deputy, Bruce S. Poulin

Editor's Message – A Great Year Just Got Better!

It is with great pride and excitement that extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the officers and brother Knights on achieving Circle of Honour for the 2023-2024 fraternal year.

This State Bulletin is dedicated to all those who, through hard work, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to excellence through this past fraternal year, achieved this important milestone.

As your State Deputy and Editor, I am privileged to have witnessed the remarkable dedication demonstrated by all of you throughout Ontario. This achievement proves that, with belief and effort, anything is possible.

As we embark on the next chapter in the 2024-2025 fraternal year, I encourage you to carry forward the values instilled in you as brother Knights. Let our cardinal virtues of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism guide your actions as we venture into new opportunities, both within our Order and as proud Catholics in the broader community.

We're just getting started.



Membership *Statistics*

Ontario Snapshot as of July 1, 2024		GOAL
Membership Intake this Fraternal Year	0	2,301
New Councils	0	4
Star Councils	0	71

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!



The Fraternal 2023-2024 Year in Review

By: State Deputy Bruce S. Poulin

“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path, and leave a trail.”
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Economists, like the old joke goes, have successfully predicted nine of the last 5 economic recessions over the past century. Likewise, some anti-Catholics have adopted a narrative that have tried to scotch the Knights of Columbus since it was established in Ontario on January 28, 1900, yet here we are, almost 125 years later, still helping, still impactful and still making a difference. To be sure, our capabilities must match our rhetoric if we are to defeat the narrative of high winds, rough seas and daunting waves when it comes to the future of Ontario’s greatest and largest Catholic fraternal service organization. So let us take a moment to review our recent achievements in the 2023-2024 fraternal year with a view on how best to build on these successes, because, as the old saying goes: “The best way to predict the future is to create it!”

Awards:

Community Service Award: The Ontario government recognized our legacy of service. The Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Hon Michael Tibolo, a brother Knight, honoured us for our commitment to community service.

Fast Track Award: 130% (13 Councils in Q1)

Sprint to Founder’s Award: 130% (30 Councils in Q2 and Q3)

Spring Membership Challenge Award: 100.15%
(689 New members in Q4)

Social Media:

Thus far, in this fraternal year, our Facebook page (“Knights of Columbus Ontario State Council”) has gone from 2.1K followers to more than 5K followers.

Visits to our FB page have increased by 160%.

Currently, we have 1,617 followers on “X” (formerly Twitter) with more than 10K impressions.

Likewise, on Instagram, we have 452 followers, and the number of visits has increased by 124%.



Membership

Round tables:

Under the stewardship of Dan Pergolesi, we have exceeded our target of roundtables this year by two for a total of 34. They will feature prominently in our Strategic Action Plan for the 2024-2025 fraternal year.

Online Membership:

While online membership accounts for almost 80% of our total intake, our online membership team, chaired by Dem Magmanlac, was very successful in converting almost 55% of these online members to regular membership (e.g. transfer to a subordinate council as an active member). We have also benefited from having one of the lowest rejection rates in the Order. The online membership portfolio is the centre of gravity for the entire Strategic Action Plan for the upcoming fraternal year.

Regular & Online Membership

Our final official total for this past fraternal year stands at 2,184 new members for a total membership of 55,709 members in the Order in Ontario. Put differently, this is our best intake in 17 years and much of this credit goes to our Membership team led by the Membership Director, Vincent D'Souza

Fraternal Year	Membership Total	Yearly Intake
2023-2024	55,709	2,184
2022-2023	54,688	1,871
2021-2022	54,653	1,348
2020-2021	55,121	1,875
2019-2020	55,292	1,731
2018-2019	55,548	1,962
2017-2018	55,478	1,601
2016-2017	55,726	2,073
2015-2016	55,635	1,808
2014-2015	55,560	2,024
2013-2014	55,452	1,833
2012-2013	55,785	1,674
2011-2012	56,198	1,826
2010-2011	56,530	1,925
2009-2010	56,765	2,085
2008-2009	56,924	2,141
2007-2008	57,104	2,216
2006-2007	57,136	2,272

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THE LILY OF THE MOHAWKS - LE LIS DES AGNIERS
1656 - 1680**

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The Fraternal 2023-2024 Year in Review

New Council Development:

This past fraternal year there were five new councils established in Canada (80% of all new Councils in Canada). The jurisdiction of Ontario accounts for four of them. They are:

- St. Gaspar del Bufalo Council 18384 in Toronto
- Sacred Heart Council 18397 in Paris
- St. John the Baptist Council 18495 in Oakville
- Blessed Alojzije Cardinal Stepinac Croatian Council 18496 in Burlington

Perhaps of even greater significance is the high number of prospect new Councils – some of which have already ordered they New Council Development kits. They are:

District	Parish	City	Form 133
24	Ethnic parish	Etobicoke	
39	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Windsor	Y
65	St. Fidelis	Toronto	Y
77	St. Elizabeth of Hungary	Toronto	Y
90	St. Joseph - Nigerian Community	Scarborough	Y
92	Blessed Sacrament	Ottawa	
94	St. Jane	Toronto	
95	St. Boniface	Scarborough	Y
98	St. Monica	Nepean	
108	St. John the Baptist Northern Chinese Catholic Mission	Newmarket	
FA	St. Nicholas of Bari (working with DD Son Tran)	Toronto	Y
FA	St. Wilfred (working with DD Robert Pella)	Toronto	Y
MIO	St. Leopold Mandik Croatian Church	London	

Faith in Action Pillars;

Ultrasound Machine:

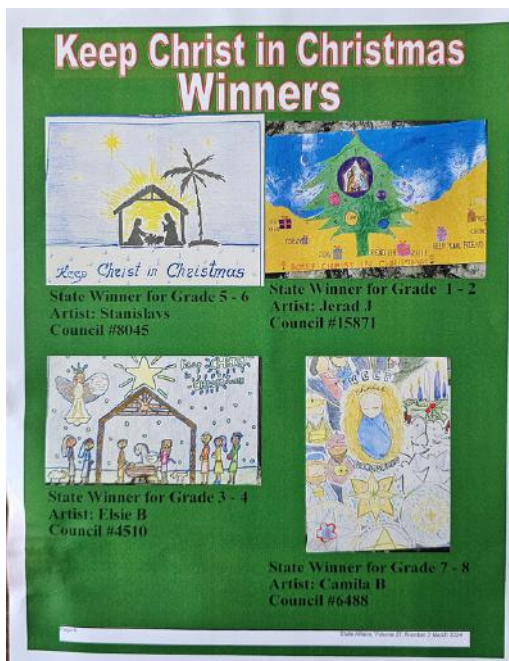
Congratulations are warranted for our life Director, Alex Schadenberg and our State Treasurer Joe Bodnar for leading the effort to secure an ultrasound machine for Brampton this past year. This is only the second such machine the Knights of Columbus have been able to donate to a pro life medical clinic in our history (the first one being in 2019).

Efforts are underway to secure another ultrasound machine for the City of Hamilton in the upcoming fraternal year.

Holy Hours:

Our Faith Director, Joseph Remedios was successful in hosting the three Holy Hours required by the supreme Council for the 2023-24 fraternal year. It is our intention to execute this program the same way in the next fraternal year.

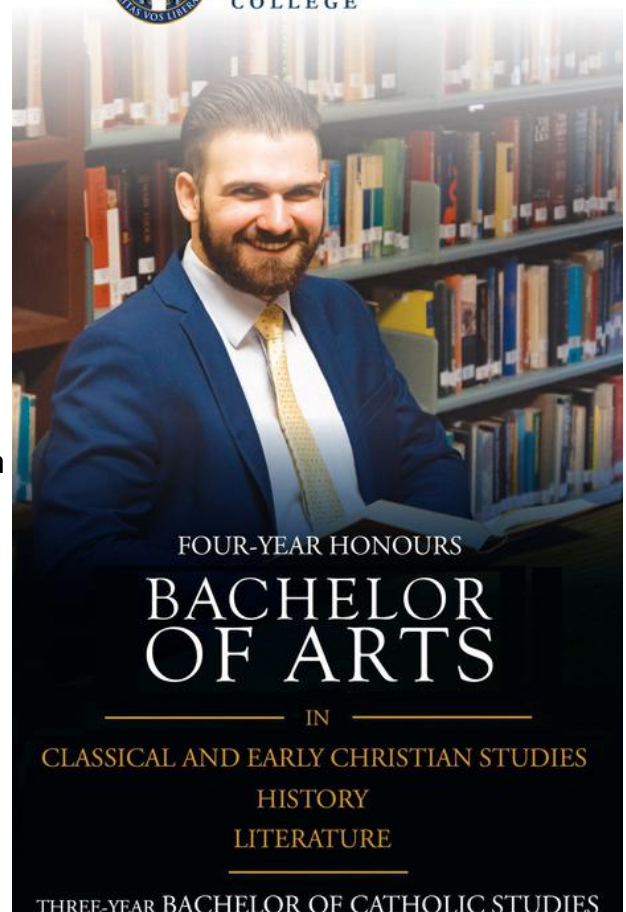
This fraternal year we will also be embarking on a restore our faith initiative involving the blessing of restored tombstones of six of our deceased state deputies and Re. J.J, O’Gorman the spiritual founder of the Canadian Catholic Army Huts program during the Great War (1914-1918); the restoration and rededication of the KofC Carhagouha Cross in Midland; the restoration and rededication of the KofC Pray for Peace Monument in Dieppe Park, in Windsor; and the unveiling and dedication of the cenotaph at Veterans House Canada for Veterans without shelter, in Ottawa.



Finally, there will also be a new travelling icon introduced in January 2025. It will be the Sacred Heart of Jesus portrait.



OUR LADY
SEAT OF WISDOM
COLLEGE



Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest:

Our Family Director, Jaime Libaque, supervised a very successful campaign which saw one of our grade 10 submissions winning the runner-up poster contest in the Order.

Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addiction, Michael Tibolo has also asked to start formal discussions about a partnership between the Ontario government and the members of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario concerning disaster relief.

Coats for Kids:

Our community programs, shepherded by Daniel Mainville, are doing well. Our Coats for Kids program, in particular, has become our flagship community activity. Indeed, for the first time since we adopted this program in 2008, we not only reached but surpassed our original goal of distributed 10,000 coats in one year. In fact, this past fraternal year saw the members of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario donate more than 11,000 coats. Our special Projects Coordinator, Anna Kocmarek is to be commended for her help with this project over the years. To date, the Ontario Knights of Columbus have donated approximately 100,000 coats for kids. Anyone interested in supporting this initiative are invited to visit our website, under donations, and find the coats for kids' icon.



Cenotaph for Veterans House Canada:

As part of our legacy of support for our servicemen and women who were cared for through the Canadian Catholic Army Huts programs during the Great War (1914-1918) and later the Canadian Army Huts of the Second world War (1939-1945) the officers of the State Board have committed to erect a cenotaph at the Veterans' House Canada as a place of sanctuary for our Veteran community to find peace and solitude. A fundraising initiative to raise the necessary \$50,000 will begin shortly. We are already accepting donations through our website under the cenotaph icon.



Coats for Veterans:

Ontario State Council convinced the Supreme Council to undertake a new initiative to donate winter coats to homeless Veterans. This new program will be launched officially in the Fall of 2024. This program became a reality in large part to the support received by our Executive secretary, Mario Duguay, and Deputy Supreme Knight, Arthur Peters.



Flying Fathers Hockey Tournament in Support of Special Olympics:

The members of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario have been official supporters of Special Olympics since 2007. It only stands to reason that we should be celebrating our 125th anniversary in 2025 with a major fundraising effort in support of Special Olympics. A game between Knights of Columbus and the Flying Fathers takes place at the end of the Annual State Convention held in Ottawa on Sunday April 27 at 2pm at the Jim Durrel Arena.



Global Wheelchair Program:

We have covered new ground this year by donating some 110 wheelchairs to Puerto Rico for the first. The effort proved so successful that our brother Knights want to start their own local global wheelchair donation campaign and have asked our Wheelchair Chairman, Francisco Naar Chang to mentor them. Since this program begun, Ontario has donated approximately 1,500 wheelchairs.

This fraternal year, it is our intention to visit Panama where we will be donated another shipping container of wheelchairs.



Inaugural Fourth Degree Assembly in Panama:

For the first time in our history, we will be establishing and mentoring the first Fourth Degree Assembly in Panama. An exemplification has already been held this fraternal year and we are planning to hold an installation ceremony in Panama in February 2025 – to coincide with the donation of wheelchairs in that country and to mark the 125th years since the Fourth Degree was established. Vice Supreme Master Joe Mathews and Sir Knight Francisco Naar Chang are coordinating this effort.

Your State Deputy in Action

The example we have shown our brother Knights across the Order has been echoed by your State Deputy. There are no more hapless spectators from an ancient régime. We have put our proverbial shoulder to the wheel and moved forward.

State Deputy by the Numbers (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)
Kilometers travelled within Ontario: 36,949km
Kilometers travelled outside of Ontario: 19,368km
Councils visited at least once: 90
Assemblies visited at least once: 13
Special <u>KofC</u> Events: 47



The Fraternal 2023-2024 Year in Review

In addition to my duties and responsibilities and hitting the hustings as your State Deputy, the class of 2023 State Deputies elected me as their class president. A position, I have been told, is for life! Finally, the Columbus Knights Association of Canada (CKAC) elected me as the Vice President for 2023-2024 with a view of being acclaimed as President for the 2024-2025 fraternal year at the Annual Supreme Convention in Quebec City.

Fiscal policy

Part of this rejuvenation of the Knights is the new approach to its finances. Gone are the days of a solely subscription based organization. Other sources of revenue have been added. They include booklets at various events which, through advertising, not only pay for themselves but also generates revenue dedicated to the operations of the Order in Ontario. Likewise, extra tickets have been sold at the DD Banquet Dinner on Saturdays to local members of the Knights generating revenue. The promotion of 125th anniversary swag has also been a reliable source of revenue as has the opening the market square during the DD Workshops and similar big events. Also keep in mind that achieving a record intake of new members also means an additional \$44K in per capita.

Finally, thorough the yeoman work of our State Treasurer, Joe Bodnar, we have reduced the subordinate council arrears by 90%.

Summary

Looking back, we cannot point to anyone single item that makes the whole thing work so well, it's the entire team, all the pieces working together to create an overall effect that leads to enduring greatness. Like the great works of art, God is in the details.

As we prepare to celebrate our 125th anniversary, never forget those pioneer Catholic men who established the Order in Ontario on January 28, 1900. They conquered the obstacles of bigotry, communications and transportation in a country affected by four seasons.

Today, we now embark on my second term with a sense of unbridled optimism because we are regaining our voice and becoming courageous enough to be authentic again in our Faith armed with the belief that the Order does not have to be perfect to be wonderful.

To paraphrase Walt Whitman, we are here, life exists, the powerful play goes on and you may contribute a verse. So, I ask you, and what will your verse be?

Vivat Jesus!

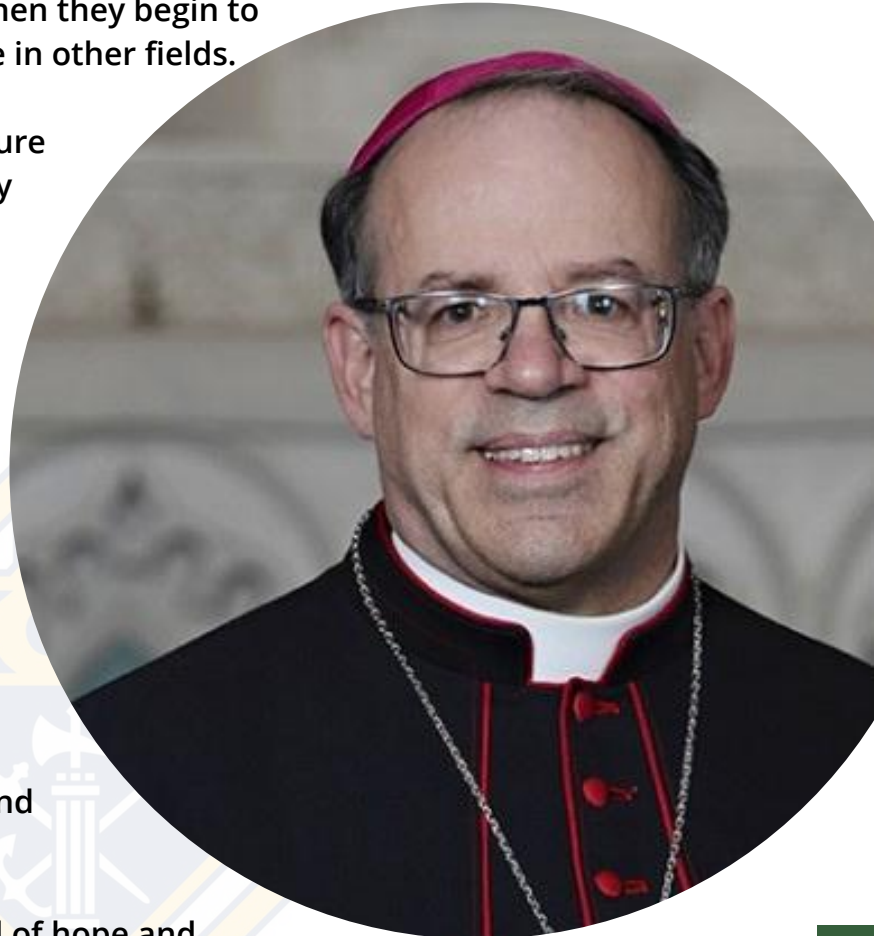
By: State Chaplain, Archbishop Marcel Damphousse

Ignorance in matters of Faith, as in all things, is not sufficient for those who are trying honestly to live a full and worthwhile life. For many people, education on matters of Faith and morals only happens at the time when they begin to mature and to increase their knowledge in other fields.

Knights are urged to become more mature and “grown-up” in their Catholic Faith by broader selected reading, informal and formal discussion, and through a closer examination, an understanding of the Life of Christ, as expressed in the liturgy of the Mass at Church. It is only in these three ways that The Way of Christ may be truly and fully expressed and continued in our matured Faith.

As our Faith increases in scope we will find our personalities more fully developed, and capable of greater Christian expression in all our actions and aspirations.

As we embark on this new fraternal, full of hope and optimism as we celebrate our 125th anniversary milestone, do not limit your religious life to Sundays, but to practice its principles throughout the week. To live our lives fully in a Christian way as a true fulfilment of our lives.



Stay Connected



Vivat Jesus!



State Bursary Winners for 2024-2025

By: State Treasurer, Joe Bodnar

As the State Bursary Chairman, I would like to thank all the graduating students that sent in an application for consideration of winning one of our (5) \$1,000 State Bursaries. These are awarded to students of active Knights who are entering their first year of full-time studies at an accredited Ontario university or college.

This year we received a record number of applications and after reading the 32 applications, reference letters and personal biographies, the committee made their choices.



Maya Blais
Hearst



Gabriel Gormley
Oshawa

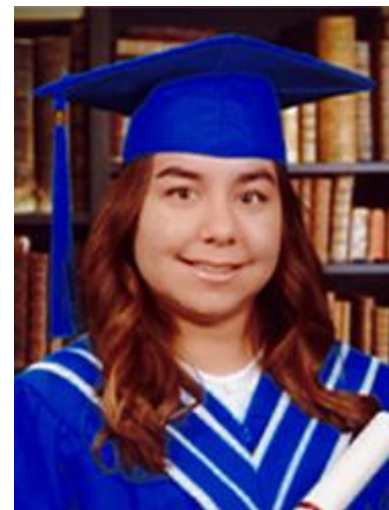


Congratulations!
to our
5 winners

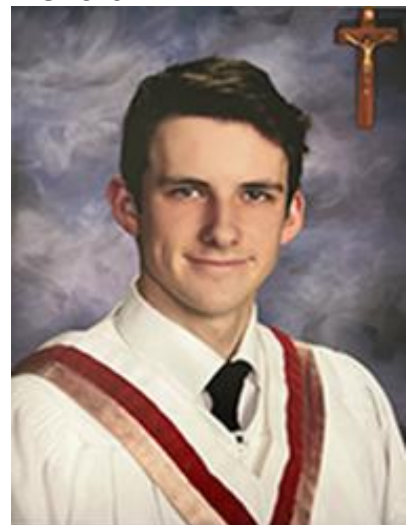
Kyle Sequiera
Mississauga



Grace Starcevic
Burlington



Caleb Temple
Kenora



Here is the link to the Bursary page: <https://ontariokofc.ca/programs/faith-in-action/community/bursary/>

Vivat Jesus!

Restoration of Tombstones of State Deputies and Clergy in Ottawa

By: State Deputy, Bruce S. Poulin

State Council, on behalf of the fifty-six thousand members of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario are paying homage to some of our past state deputies and two members of the Clergy who are buried at the Notre Dame Cemetery located at 445 Montréal Road, Ottawa. This memorial restoration project is being done in anticipation of the 125th anniversary celebrations being planned later this fraternal year in Ottawa.

This restoration project harkens back to a time when this would be considered a pious habit inspired by love and a sacred memory of our dearly departed. Whether they lived to a venerable old age or whether their lives had been cut short by sudden death, we noticed that the simple mention of their names was the occasion for a brief but simple prayer for the repose of their souls. "Lord have mercy on his soul." In many ways we seem to have lost this custom; a loss which suggests a tendency to forget and neglect Holy Souls.

On August 12, and especially during the month of November 2025, we are reminded of our duty in this regard. To pray for the Holy Souls is a duty because these Souls His elect, His children, called to bless Him eternally. He would delight to introduce them to Heaven but His justice and His Holiness require that all satisfaction be paid. We are bound to increase the Glory of God and if our efforts release a Soul from Purgatory there would be one more Saint in Heaven to sing His praises. We owe it to our brother Knights; in charity. We know that they suffer great pains and cannot help themselves. Their cries move us to compassion. Where is our charity if we refuse to help them?

We owe it to ourselves. The motive is not selfish. It is wise to consider our own interests because a Soul once freed from pain will not forget the benefactors.

The best way to answer their plea of "Have pity on me," my friends for the Hand of the Lord hath touched me is to put into practice these resolutions

1. Have a more devout momento to the Souls during Holy Mass
2. To put more sincerity in our prayers such as the Holy Rosary
3. To perform some other good work each day on their behalf such as the restoration of their tombstones.

Following the clean-up and restoration, a memorial service will be held on August 12, 2024, with a moment of silence. The ceremony will be lead by our State Chaplain, Archbishop Marcel Damphousse. Those gravestones being restored as follows:





John Patrick "John" Dunne, Ogdensburg, New York, well-known member of the Knights of Columbus died in 1924. John Dunne was born in Québec City, Québec and moved to Ottawa, Ontario with the rest of his family in 1866. A graduate of the Lisgar Collegiate Institute and St. Michael's College School, he was a career public servant. Dunne was the founding Grand Knight (1900-1902) of pioneer Council 485 of the Knights of Columbus in Ottawa, Ontario. First Canadian-born State Deputy of Canada and Newfoundland which included Ontario (1902-1904). In 1921, he was appointed Special Supreme Agent for Canada and Newfoundland and remained in that position until he died in a train accident. He is the father of the Order of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario.

Michael James "Mike" Gorman, KC, the dean of the legal profession in Ottawa died in 1935 at the age of 79. Native of Douglas (Renfrew), Ont., he received his education at the University of Ottawa and Osgood Hall, Toronto where he graduated with a law degree. He practiced law for the rest of his life. Gorman was a prominent member of the Knights of Columbus; he was a founding member of pioneer Council 485 of the Knights of Columbus in Ottawa, Ontario. He was elected Grand Knight of the Council for one term (1902-1903). Gorman was the first Ontario State Deputy (Jul.1, 1904-Feb. 28, 1905). In 1922, he was the founding Faithful Navigator of pioneer Fourth Degree, Cartier Assembly 860 in Ontario. He was a member of the Order of the Knights of Columbus until his death.

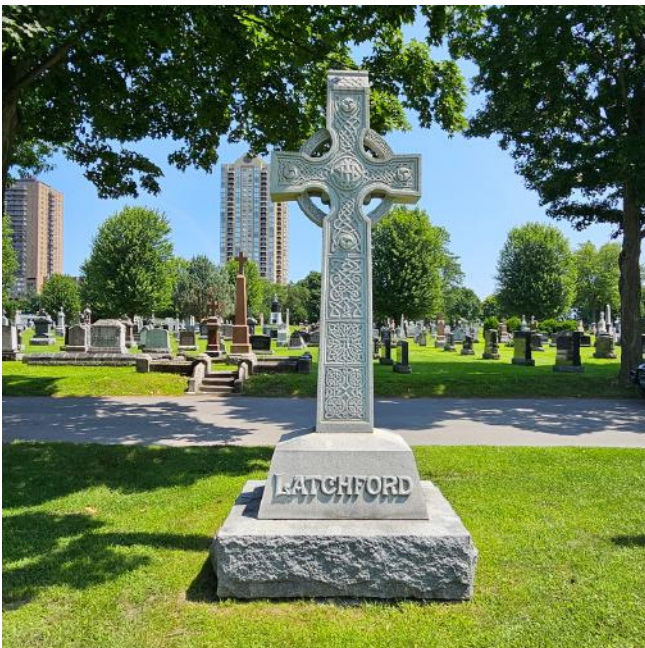




Ontario Chief Justice, Honourable Francis Robert "Frank" Latchford, KC, a native of Aylmer, Québec. Justice Latchford was educated at the University of Ottawa, and Osgoode Hall in Toronto. A member of provincial Parliament (1899-1905) he spent the rest of his life practicing law. In 1908, he was appointed to the Ontario Supreme Court where he remained until his death. He was a founding member of pioneer Council 485 of the Knights of Columbus in Ottawa, Ontario and he was the first District Deputy for Ontario (1904-1905). Between March 1, 1905, and June 30, 1905, he was appointed as State Deputy for Ontario. He was elected Grand Knight of Council 485 (1905-1906). He was a member of the council until his death.



Thomas Edward "Tom" Brown, born in Perth, Ontario and graduated from the University of Toronto after which he moved to Ottawa in 1902 where he lived for the rest of his life. He was a career public servant working in the topographical section of the Natural Resources branch of the Department of the Interior. He holds the distinction of being elected Grand Knight of Knights of Columbus Council 1812 in Ottawa, Ontario a total of five times. He was elected State Deputy and served for two consecutive terms (1930 - 1932). He was a member of the Order of the Knights of Columbus until his death at age 71.





Rev. Fr. Matthew James Whelan, St Patrick's parish priest died in 1922 at the age of 69. He was born in Bytown (now called Ottawa), Ontario. He was a University of Ottawa alumni and the fifth pastor for St. Patrick's parish where he served for 41 consecutive years (1881-1922). He also served as the founding chaplain for pioneer Council 485 of the Knights of Columbus in Ottawa, Ontario until his death.



Major Reverend Father John Joseph O'Gorman, OBE, the spiritual founder of the Canadian Catholic Army Huts during the Great War (1914-1918) died in 1933 at the age of 49. He was born in Ottawa and lived here his entire life. He was a member of pioneer Council 485 of the Knights of Columbus in Ottawa, Ontario. He joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force as a military Chaplain and was wounded during the Great War at the Battle of the Somme. While convalescing in Ottawa in 1917, he became the spiritual founder for the Knights of Columbus Canadian Catholic Army Huts that were established that same year. He was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his work with the Canadian Catholic Army Huts during the Great War (1914-1918). He remained a member of the Order of the Knights of Columbus until his death.



Allow me to conclude by quoting from Faithful Friar, Rev. Mark Poulin from Rt. Rev. Wilfrid J. Langlois Assembly #1789:



“My Brother Knights, as we are to start a new fraternal year together as men of God let us recognize the saints who are living amongst us and thank God for their presence. Also, let us never forget the faithful brothers who have served with us and gone before us along with their wives and families because they too are on the pathway to the Heavenly Jerusalem.”

We gathered to pay tribute to those illustrious men who so truly laid the foundation for the great Order of Columbianism which today, extends all over the world.



Blessed Michael J. McGivney Honoris & the Guild

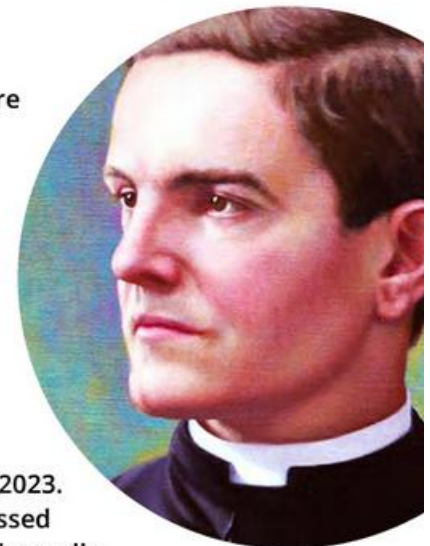
By: Honoris Chairman: Michael O'Neill

In addition to his role as parish priest and spiritual founder of the Knights of Columbus, Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney has embarked on a post-mortem journey toward sainthood since 1996. On March 15, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI declared him Venerable and, on October 31, 2020, the Venerable Michael McGivney was beatified.

Blessed Father McGivney's ability to intercede in our daily lives has been recognized at the only Honoris in Canada located at St. Patrick Basilica where a "Request for favours box" has been installed. This is a very private and confidential part of The Honoris, but it is made available to the faithful who may wish to send a request for favours. You may send a request by mail or via email which will then be printed and placed in the box.

In both cases, should you so desire, you may include a return email address for us to confirm that your request has been received and placed in the "Request for favours box" located at the Honoris. Every day, members of our Honoris Committee pray on behalf of all those requests received and placed in the "Request for favours box."

A fundraising initiative has also begun with an official launch date of July 1, 2023. This initiative consists of a seven-day candle which features a picture of Blessed Father McGivney with the prayer for his canonization on the other side. Each candle sells for \$20. Pre-orders are available now.



By: State Deputy, Bruce Poulin

There was an interesting article in the Columbia Magazine dated September 2017 called “Christopher Columbus and Fake History.” Its opening paragraph made no apologies about political correctness and partisan academics and activists going on to say “...it has become fashionable in recent years to criticize Christopher Columbus and the holiday named in his honor. A closer look, however, reveals the famed explorer to be a man of faith and courage, not a monster.”

The jurisdiction of Ontario has not been immune from this controversy surrounding Columbus. As a result, it would be of some use to revisit the history of our Patron using excerpts from the unofficial History of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario 1900-1962 that is scheduled for publication in 2025.

In the fifteenth century two events changed the course of human history. First was the invention of the movable type by Johannes Gutenberg, who quickly set about printing Bibles in 1455.[1] The second event that changed human history occurred in 1492, when a Catholic navigator, by the name of Christopher Columbus, with the help of a Catholic Queen, Catholic money, the Catholic Church, and a Catholic priest, embarked on one last “Catholic Crusade.” Both events helped spread Catholicism. One opened religious thought to Humanity, while the other brought Catholicism to an indigenous population living in spiritual darkness. “Going therefore, teach ye all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.[2]”



Christopher Columbus spent ten years of his life trying to convince stakeholders to finance his vision of realizing a faster and more expedited way of reaching the East. From Portugal to Spain, to Italy, to France, to England and back again, Columbus crisscrossed Europe until the Spanish Crown finally agreed to sponsor his venture. Some members of the Hierarchy supported Columbus' vision in the hopes that he would find the legendary Christian patriarch, Prester John, who was thought to be in Ethiopia.[3] From there, it was hoped that Columbus would form an alliance with him and free the Holy Land.[4]

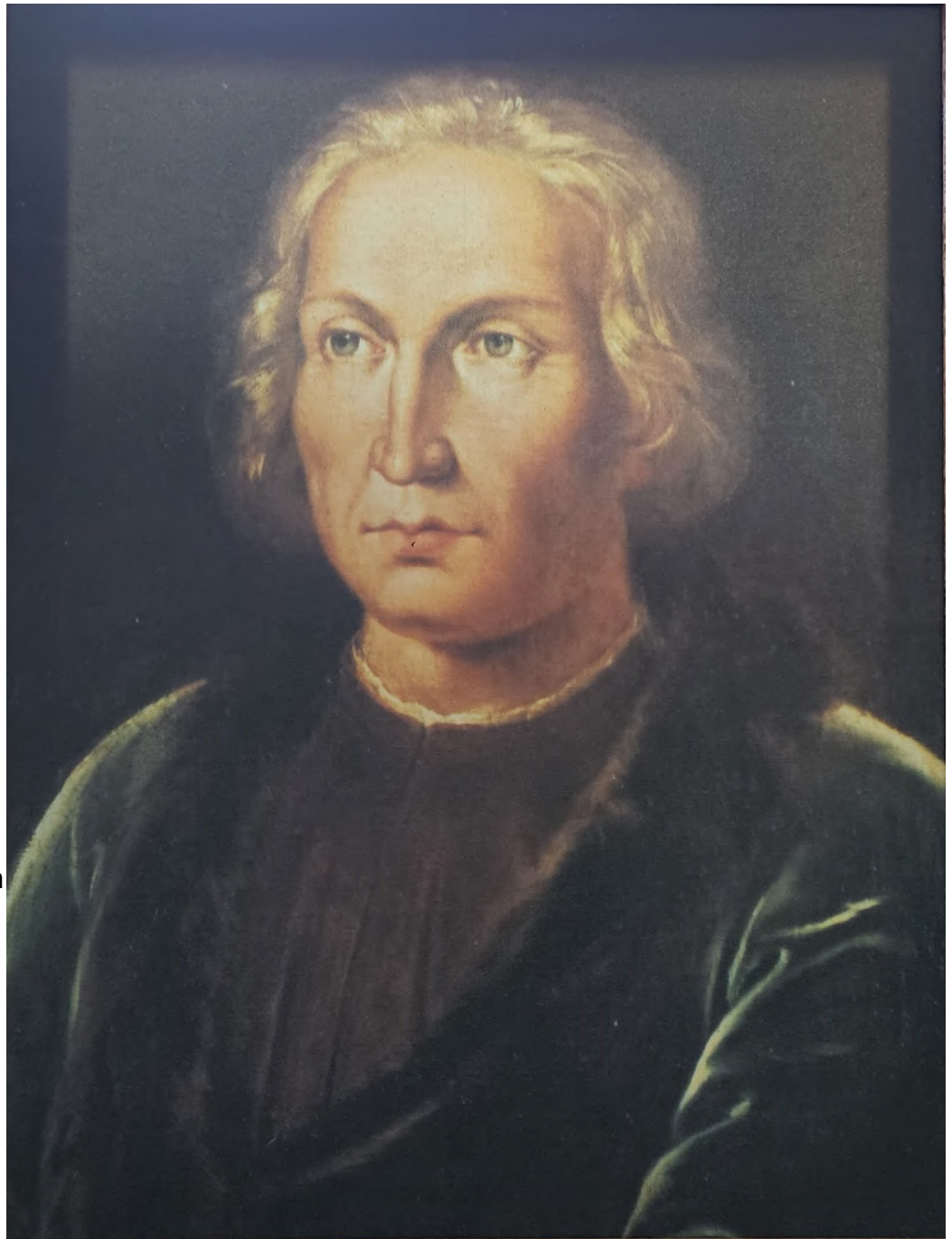
Acclaimed scholar and author, Paolo Emilio Taviani mirrored this assertion in his exhaustive book, *Christopher Columbus – The Grand Design*. "In July of 1489, two Franciscan friars from the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem, arrived at the court of the Catholic monarchs. They had been sent by the Great Saladin of Egypt to the Pope, who duly referred them to the rulers of Spain. Unless the war in the Iberian Peninsula was suspended and lands taken from the Muslims in Andalusia returned, Saladin threatened to take reprisals against Christians and their property in Palestine. Some historians maintain that it was this very episode that first put into Columbus' mind the idea of reconquering Jerusalem and the Holy Sepulchre. It was an idea that never left him and that in later years became an obsession." [5]



Columbus was also familiar with the 13th century Catholic Venetian merchant, Marco Polo, alluded to lands situated east of India and Japan. But it fell to Columbus to find these lands. Columbus justified his original intent by referencing a quote by the prophet Esdras. "On the third day you commanded the waters to be gathered together in the seventh part of the earth, but six parts you dried up and kept them so that some of them might be planted and cultivated and serve before you" [6] In other words, there are six parts of land to every one part of water. As such, Columbus believed, that based on this "probanza," [6] there had to be more land that needed discovering. In the end, he set sail but went off course, arriving on a new continent in the West rather than in the East.

There should also be no doubt as to his true intentions upon arriving at his destination. In one of his letters to Pope Alexander VI, Columbus wrote, "I trust that by God's help I may spread the Holy Name and Gospel of Jesus Christ as widely as may be." [7] Like Moses leading his people across the open desert, Columbus led his men across an open uncharted ocean. It was his fate, like other "...men superior to their fellows in object, grasp of mind and grandeur of idea." [8] This was no small feat for this humble man from Casale Monferrato, Italy. [9]

Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas on October 12, 1492, at the age of 41, bound together in an unprecedented way the story of Western Europe and the Americas. Neither the Indigenous Americans, the Catholic, Leif Erickson, and his Norsemen, [10] nor the Celts, nor anybody else for that matter, had been able to achieve such unification between the continents. The reason was simple; Columbus ensured that bringing Catholicism to the Americas took precedence over everything else. Only then were both worlds able to engage in the most basic of customs, which involved the kind of trading that heralded the Renaissance Age.



For Canadian Catholics, the exchange of cultures begun by the Christ-Bearer, as his name signified, was the precursor to the Catholic Church's stronghold in Canada, which dates to July 7, 1534, when a French priest celebrated the first mass on the shores of the Gaspé Peninsula, in Québec. In Ontario, the first Catholic Mass was celebrated by Father Joseph Le Caron, on August 12, 1615, in the presence of French explorer, Samuel de Champlain. Mass was celebrated at Carhagouha, the Huron/Wendat name for what is now known as Midland, Ontario.

The Irish American founding members of the Knights of Columbus chose an Italian mariner, who was in the service of the Spanish Monarch, not because of his nationality, but rather because of his Catholic zeal. It was this vision of a shared Catholic heritage that would later transcend all geographic, linguistic, and racial borders, making the Order an international fraternal organization.[11] Seen from this perspective, it should come as no surprise that on Saturday June 8, 1912, approximately 20,000 Knights of Columbus from all over the world, joined in the celebrations surrounding the unveiling of the Christopher Columbus Memorial Statue at Union Station in Washington, D.C..[12]





Christopher Columbus The Patron of the Knights

U.S. President Howard Taft, as well as Chief Justice Edward D. White of the U.S. Supreme Court, (1910 – 1921), were at the ceremony, as were thousands of Army and Navy personnel who participated in the massive parade.[13]

Former Knights of Columbus National Director and Justice of the New York Supreme Court, Victor J. Dowling, (1905 – 1931), stated at the unveiling of the statue ceremony: “Here was no Alexander sighing for new worlds to conquer, but here was the apostolic spirit for one who sighed for quicker ways to make known to distant lands the sweetness of Faith and the light of Hope. Here was one who, like Napoleon, believed in his star; but the star of Columbus was the star of Bethlehem.”[14]

The current trend to attack Christopher Columbus should be seen for what it is: one facet of a more generalized attempt by non-Catholics to use our Catholic Faith as an excuse for division, exclusion and attacks. In some respects, this tactic may be succeeding. A report released by Statistics Canada on August 2, 2022, shows a 260 percent increase in anti-Catholic hate crimes in the past year (from 43 incidents in 2020 to 155 in 2021). This rise in intolerance is more than ten times higher than all other hate crimes combined for the same time period.

Ian Dowbiggin, a professor in the Department of History at the University of Prince Edward Island, offered this advice in The Catholic Register article titled "Staggering Rise in Anti-Catholic Hate," dated September 4, 2022. He stated, "If anti-Catholicism and hate crimes against the Church still occur today, and the media won't report them, it is due to a large extent because Catholics themselves do not push back and defend their Faith." This article is but one humble attempt to pushback and defend our Faith and our Patron.

[1] Gutenberg's movable type allowed him to produce 3,600 page per workday while hand-printing usually yielded about 40 pages per workday.

[2] Matthew 28:19. The Holy Bible, Douay-Rheims Version.

[3] The story of Prester John was made famous by such authors as former Governor General of Canada, John Buchan who wrote a book called Prester John in 1899.

[4] Morison, Samuel Eliot. Christopher Columbus, Mariner. A Mentor Book, New York. 1956, p.17. See also "KofC Council 37th Anniversary." Ottawa Citizen. Ottawa. October 17, 1956, p. 39.

[5] Taviani, Paolo Emilio. Christopher Columbus – The Grand Design. Orbis. London, 1985, p. 79.

[6] The Spanish word "probanza" indicate a body of evidence that supports the truth of an assertion or a deed. Taviani, Paolo Emilio. Christopher Columbus. Orbis. London, England. 1985, p. 391.

[7] Gerke, Bishop Daniel. "The Christian Knight." Columbia Magazine. Knights of Columbus. New Haven, Connecticut. September 1926, p. 14.

[8] Murray, John O'Kane; Campbell, Philip. Christopher Columbus. Volume 1. Cruachan Hill Press. Grass Lake, Michigan. 2021, p.57.

[9] "Documents Reveal Where Columbus Born. Montréal Star. Montréal, Québec. April 13, 1953, p. 23.

[10] The Norseman Eric the Red asked his son Leif Erickson to go to Greenland to establish Christianity there. Erickson ended up off course and landed in Newfoundland (L'Anse aux Meadows) in AD 1000.

[11] Kauffman, Christopher J. Faith Fraternalism: The History of the Knights of Columbus 1882-1982. Harper & Row publishers, New York, 1982, p. 121.

[12] Kauffman, Christopher J. Columbianism and the Knights of Columbus. Simon and Schuster, Toronto, 1992, p. 56.

[13] Reception for Supreme Knight: Ottawa Knights of Columbus Honored Head of Order. Ottawa Citizen, Ottawa. October 3, 1912, p. 5.

[14] Kauffman, Christopher J. Columbianism and the Knights of Columbus. Simon and Schuster, Toronto, 1992, p. 54.

Vivat Jesus!

By: Grand Knight Council 2444, Pierre Chartier

The Carbon-14 Dating experiment of 1988 concluded that the shroud (the burial cloth of Jesus) originated in the 14th century. By 2008, over thirty-two research articles had been written that questioned the validity of this study. Moreover, four other research methods have revealed that the shroud dates to the time of Christ.

Some of the fascinating findings of this most studied artifact in the world are the following: The image is 1/10th the thickness of a human hair fiber and is uniform in density. The image contains 3D qualities, the only one of its kind in the world. One of the researchers of this study, Peter Schumacher who was not religious before his analysis, became a Deacon in the Catholic Church in 2008!

And what does the image tell us about the excruciating suffering of the “man of the shroud”? The shroud shows a crucified man with over 400 blood markings. Mark Niger notes that there were 30 wounds over the whole head that would suggest a “crowning cap” of the crown of thorns.

Fascini and Fanti count over 150 scourge marks on the front and over 200 on the back side of the whole body.

It does not matter whether you believe that the shroud is

an icon or a relic. What matters is its message. As defenders of the faith, we believe that Christ suffered for us, and we, too, should offer up our personal sufferings for others less fortunate than us.

Indeed, as Thomas McGovern (author of “What Christ Suffered”) says: “Through Jesus’s passion, he showed us how to be compassionate.”

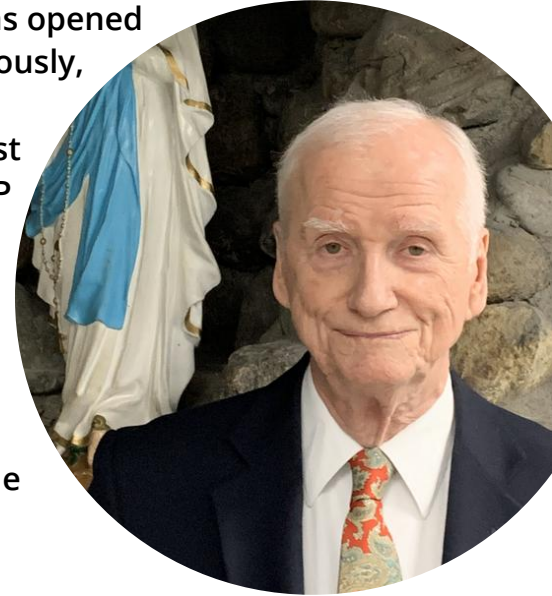


Model of the “Helmet of Thorns” displayed at the Jerusalem Centre.

Vivat Jesus!

By: Honoris President, Michael O'Neill

The cause for the canonization of Blessed Michael J. McGivney was opened by the Archdiocese of Hartford on December 10, 1997. Simultaneously, the Blessed McGivney Guild was established to gather and disseminate information on the life and legacy of this parish priest and founder of the Knights of Columbus. Fr. Gabriel O'Donnell, OP is the postulator of McGivney's cause as well as director of the Guild.



On March 15, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI approved a decree recognizing the heroic virtue of Blessed Michael J. McGivney. The pope's declaration significantly advanced his process towards sainthood and gives Blessed McGivney the distinctive title of "Venerable Servant of God."

To quote Past Supreme Knight Carl Anderson at the time, "All of us who are members of the knights of Columbus are profoundly grateful for this recognition of the holiness of our founder. The strength of the Knights of Columbus today is a testament to his timeless vision, his holiness and his ideals."



If you are not a member of the Guild, you can become one by going to the Blessed McGivney Guild link to participate in promoting devotion to this Servant of God, or complete the application found in every issue of Columbian magazine. Anyone can join the Guild – encourage family members, prayers groups and friends to join us. Favours received through Blessed McGivney's intercession are signs of God's love manifested through the holiness of his life. The Guild serves as a source for information about the life, works and spirituality of Blessed McGivney.

Consider this as a suggestion for you to consider that this year we encourage every Council promote the Blessed McGivney Guild at every Exemplification and every meeting. We especially encourage having sign-up sheets and application forms at every Degree Exemplification. Each council will be responsible for ensuring the information is properly submitted to the Guild.

The Guild distributes information materials about Blessed McGivney, receives reports of favours granted through his intercession and oversees the distribution of relics. Guild members receive regular updates on the progress of Blessed McGivney's cause for canonization, the Honours of the Altar and are invited to participate in promoting devotion to this Servant of God. His cause for sainthood needs your prayers and involvement even more today than ever. Become part of the effort for the canonization of our founder by joining the Guild today.

Grand Knights are asked to become aware of those Knights in their Councils that are not currently Guild members and be prepared, with an application, to encourage them to become members. It is highly recommended that Grand Knights or their delegate approach each new Knight and enthusiastically offer Guild membership. Knights can become members by signing up online.

God bless the efforts of our Guild members, Venerable Servant of God, Blessed Michael J. McGivney, pray for us.

For information about the Blessed Michael J. McGivney Guild and Blessed McGivney's spiritual influence, faith, legacy, life and cause for canonization visit the Father McGivney Web site on the Supreme website.



Visit the Honoris website: <http://www.michaeljmcgivneyhonoris.ca>

Vivat Jesus!

A Labour of Faith

By: Grand Knight Council 12401, Michael Adams

Several years ago, Marcel Vaillancourt, a brother Knight of Council 12401 in Russell, Ontario and a member of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal had an inspiration.

From his 10 X 10 storage shed converted into a small workshop, he started building wooden crucifixes to be donated to the yearly First Communion recipients. His view was that for many of these children, this cross might very well be the only cross their home will ever see or have.

Marcel made this endeavor of faith a ministry of his for several years. Over the years Marcel said he probably made over 500 crosses from his tiny workshop in the backyard.

As time moved on, Marcel aged gracefully but started to have life challenges that forced him to consider hanging up his tools. At the request of Council 12401, Brother and former Grand Knight, Jean Paul Vincelette agreed to take on the construction of the wooden crucifixes. With the help of Marcel and a couple of workshop sessions later Jean Paul officially took over Marcel's ministry as his own and for the past 10 years has been continuing his labour of faith.

Jean Paul says he will probably continue making the crucifixes until a time or life challenges him to "hang up his tools". At that time, he plans on passing on the torch to the next part time woodworking hobbyist touched by the holy spirit as he was.



Marcel Vaillancourt,

The creator of the wooden crucifix, Council 12401



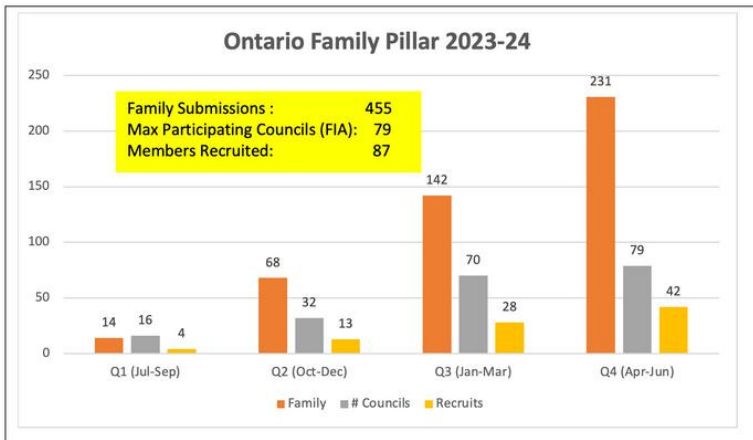
Jean Paul Vincelette in his workshop with some of his home-made crucifixes

Vivat Jesus!

By: Family Director, Jaime Libaque

As we begin the new Fraternal Year 2024-25 it is appropriate to look back at what happened during 2023-24. For the Family Pillar, there were both successes and challenges; they will be described in this article.

The graph below shows data, collected by Supreme, from submissions by Ontario Councils. It's organized by Quarters and three sets of data are presented: # of Family program submissions; # of participating Councils in the FIA; and # members recruited.



- The # of submissions for various Family Programs increased (exponentially) over time, from 14 to 231. A question / challenge / opportunity is whether the submissions could be re-distributed from the last Quarter (las minute rush) to earlier in the year.
- The # of participating Councils also increased and reached a maximum of 79. Assuming 468 active Councils, this represents less than 20% participation rate. And this is a challenge. We can do better!
- The # of new members recruited through the Family programs increased over time, for a cumulative total of 87. Program activities help recruit members. Active Councils recruit members through activities.
- The overall graph provides actual operational experience and a baseline (which we did not have at the beginning of the previous year). This is good news. The results are understated because some of the activities are not reported, which presents an opportunity for the new fraternal year.



FAMILY PILLAR

By looking at the composition of the submissions by programs, three programs stand out:

- Family of the Month / Year (FOM/FOY)
- Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest (KCIC)
- Food for Families (FFF)

The following are the Family Of the Month (FOM) winners in Ontario:

Month	Name	Council #	Location	District #
July 2023	Todd Noftall	11525	Scarborough	95
Aug 2023	Diego A. Quesada	17065	Markham	63
Sep 2023	John "Jack" Turner	13417	Scarborough	107
Oct 2023	Robert Campbell	11886	Kingston	20
Nov 2023	John Hawkins	1626	Barrie	86
Dec 2023	Alphonse Ainsworth	6361	Bowmanville	48
Jan 2024	Joe Johnston	10873	Lambton	40
Feb 2024	Rolson Quadras	13417	Scarborough	107
Mar 2024	Daniel Dooley	1626	Barrie	86
Apr 2024	Peter Bhatti	12909	Etobicoke	24
May 2024	James Morrison	1626	Barrie	86
Jun 2024	Mike Kushaba	12909	Etobicoke	24

- 8 Councils / 8 Districts participated. A total of 40 submissions were made. Council # 1626 had the most winners (3), followed by Council # 13417 (2) and Council # 12909 (2).
- A total of 6 submissions were received for the Family of the Year (FOY). Council # 1626 was the winner. An Award was presented to Brother David and Michelle Wright, at the past April Convention.
- As a featured program (2 credits towards the Star Council Award), the FOM remains underutilized. It's both a challenge and an opportunity to do better for 2024-25.

Information on the Keep Christ in Christmas (KCIC) poster contest and the Food For Families (FFF) will be provided on future issues of the Newsletter.



FAMILY PILLAR

The following is the list of the Chairmen of the Family Pillar. They have graciously volunteered to be resource people for the District deputies, Grand Knights and Brother Knights in general. Feel free to contact them and invite them to your Council, District, Assembly, Diocesan Association meetings.

Family Pillar Chairmen (2024-25)

		home/work	cell	email address
Family of the Month/Year (FOM/FOY)	Alastair McLeod		705-728-4076	esl2@rogers.com
Family Prayer Night	Dr Jason Kwok		416 716 3872	jasonkwok@rogers.com
Consecration to Holy Family	Robert Sykes		705-529-6718	rsykes000@gmail.com
Family Week	Jacques Girouard	613-837-9516		jacgirouard@sympatico.ca
Family Fully Alive	Jacques Girouard	613-837-9516		jacgirouard@sympatico.ca
Good Friday Family promotion	Bud Duguay	705-734-2701	705-305-7694	bduguay76@gmail.com
Keep Christ in Christmas	Wayne Castannette		1 519 832 6585	wcaskanette@outlook.com
Food For Families (FFF)	Reid Robertson	905-509-3177	289-923-9226	reidrobertson82@gmail.com

In closing, 2023-24 was a year of experimentation regarding targets and tracking activities and results. We have tangible results; we have also learned about the challenges ahead.

We can do better! The Family of the Month program lends itself as a very simple and practical tool to recognize families for their contributions. It begins with a charitable mindset, do I know a family that my Council could recognize? If the answer is Yes, write down the name and contact us; we can help you or your GK or your DD to complete the nomination form.

The larger challenge is to transform our organization into a truly Family service organization, as we are called to be; “the Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Family organization...”. Let’s engage and include Families into all of our Programs.

Vivat Jesus!

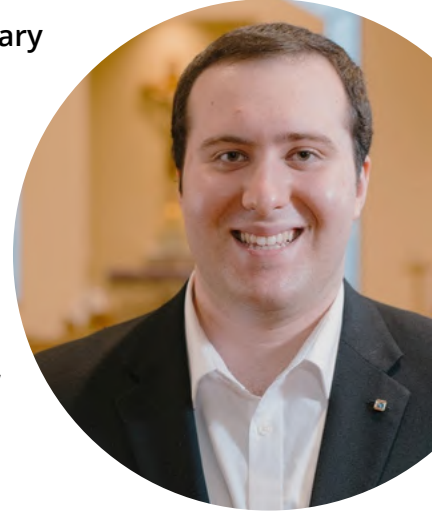


2024 ONTARIO STATE CONVENTION

By: District Deputy 1, Nicholas Quadrini

The 2024 Ontario State Convention was held on April 26-28, 2024, at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel in Niagara Falls. This convention was the last to be held in Niagara Falls for the foreseeable future, as the convention moves in 2025 to Ottawa to mark the 125th Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario.

The Convention began on Friday with the Memorial Mass for Deceased Knights of the Order, with a wreath laying ceremony to remember all our fallen brothers who have gone before us and now rest in the mercy of God. This was followed by a Holy Hour, where Archbishop Damphousse and the ladies of the State Board led delegates and guests in Eucharistic devotionals, the rosary, and benediction.



Following Mass and Holy Hour, the Friday evening session began, with State Deputy Bruce Poulin welcoming Knights and their families from across Ontario and celebrating the achievements of the last fraternal year. This year's convention theme was "Like Father, Like Son", and speakers throughout the weekend focused on how the Knights of Columbus can support our families in a world that has lost the bonds of fatherhood. After listening to a message from the Supreme Knight, the first set of awards were presented to councils that went above and beyond the call of duty to serve their communities. These included the winners for the Basketball Free Throw and other sport competitions hosted by the Knights. Friday night concluded with an exhilarating dance floor hosted by SK Dom Cianflone at the Hard Rock Cafe. Many delegates, including several state board officers, had a great time dancing the night away!

Saturday morning was a full day for the delegates and ladies alike. Brother Knights began the morning business session with a speech from our Worthy State Chaplain Marcel Damphousse, who discussed the role of the Knights in proclaiming Christ to a pagan world, and doing so with the conviction and spirit of Blessed Father McGivney, who spent his life witnessing to Christ. In a similar way, we as Knights are called to help those people who hunger for God, by providing them with access to the Holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church.



Following the State Chaplain’s address, reports were shared from State Officers. These reports (published in the State Convention book), highlight the accomplishments from the past fraternal year, along with opportunities and changes coming for the next one. This gave delegates a good opportunity to review “the state of the state” and ask questions of board officers regarding finances, membership, and other items of interest. Many of these reports got encouraging feedback from the floor, along with constructive criticism. The details of these comments will be made available in next year’s convention minutes.

Following State Reports, the election to State Officers took place. This year, all existing officers were re-elected by acclamation. State Deputy Bruce Poulin will lead his team consisting of:

State Secretary David Gelinas, State Advocate Henry Miller, State Treasurer Joe Bodnar, State Warden Earl DePass



Elections were followed by Resolutions. Each Columbian Year, councils from across Ontario are given the opportunity to submit resolutions that pertain to amending the laws of the order, expressing the order’s view on a particular subject, or amending Ontario State’s By-Laws/positions on policy. This year, 25 resolutions were received. The State Resolutions Committee (comprised of an MIO, DDs, GKs, and past officers) was chaired by State Advocate Henry Miller and worked over two days to review the resolutions and offer constructive revisions/recommendations. These amended resolutions were then put to the floor for consideration and a vote.

Some of the notable resolutions that passed include:

- Expressions of Support for Military Members
- Increasing mileage from \$0.15-\$0.25/km for each council’s first voting delegate to a State Convention (in line with Supreme’s expense allowance)
- Encouraging support for seminarians that have graduated from Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College in Barry’s Bay
- Condolences on the passing of Past State Deputy Paul Crawford
- Continued funding for Catholic schools
- Greater public awareness of the Holdomor
- Measures to address homelessness
- Opposing further changes to Canada’s National Anthem
- Welcoming New Life through Baptismal Gifts

Following the conclusion of resolutions, reports were shared from the Vice Supreme Master, State Treasurer, General Agents, the Special Olympics Chairman and the State Squires Chairman. A motion was also adopted to ratify the list of Supreme Convention delegates nominated by the diocesan associations. This year's delegates from Ontario are:

Delegate	Name	Spouse	Council #
State Deputy	Bruce S. Poulin	Zoye	485
IPSD	Marcel J. Lemmen	Charline	14421
Timmins	David O. Gelinias	Lori	8233
Toronto West	Gary R. MacDonald		14968
Toronto North	Ron Frank	Tracy	10614
St. Catharines	Martin L. Marko		17273
Sault Ste. Marie	Rino J. Dube	Mariette	11559
Peterborough	Mike Perreault	Gail	1124
Ottawa	Alain G. Gratton	Francine	6237
London East	Michael P. Whelan		12996

Following the conclusion of reports, delegates prepared for evening mass. The mass was organized by Faith Director Joe Remedios and a team of Fourth Degree Sir Knights who provided the Honour Guard. Brother Knights and Squires also served as ushers, lectors, and altar servers.

Following Mass, the Saturday banquet dinner got underway, with delegates and guests dressed in their finest. This year, the State Council had the pleasure of welcoming two special guests, namely Ontario's Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Michael Tibollo, and President of the Catholic Women's League of Canada Shari Guinta. Both spoke on this year's convention theme of "Like Father, Like Son", and how the government and the lay ministries of the Catholic Church can work to strengthen the bonds of fatherly love in a world that continues to struggle with keeping families together. They further described the impacts of the absence of good fathers on childhood developmental and spiritual growth. Worthy State Deputy Bruce presented Minister Tibollo and President Guinta with Ontario KofC 125th anniversary memorabilia to thank them for giving their time to this year's convention.



Ontario's Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

Michael Tibollo



President of the Catholic Women's League of Canada

Shari Guinta



2024 ONTARIO STATE CONVENTION

During the evening, the State Deputy also recognized Knights who provided outstanding service to the order and the church this past fraternal year. The State Deputy presented a commemorative 125th anniversary coin to Matthew Ducharme, a Past Provincial Chief Squire of the Ontario Squires Provincial Board, for his efforts in growing the program and giving selflessly to support the young boys who are being trained to one day become Knights. Many other brother knights and outstanding councils were recognized for their efforts.

At the conclusion of the evening, Knights, ladies and families enjoyed the lighting of Niagara Falls in the colours of the Ontario State Council (Green and Gold) in honour of our 125th Anniversary in 2025. It was a great way to end an exciting day! Dancing continued on Saturday night with music from “The Soul Connection” at the Hard Rock Cafe.



The convention concluded on Sunday morning with the Squire Raffle Draw, an opportunity for Ontario Squires to fundraise for their annual convention and other yearly events.

With business concluded, the 2024 Ontario State Convention came to a close, with delegates and guests equipped with knowledge and useful insights that they took back to their councils. We look forward to seeing all councils at the 2025 Ontario State Convention from April 25-27 in Ottawa, where Ontario Knights and Squires will hold their convention jointly in recognition of the 125th Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario.

Vivat Jesus!

A new Chapel for Lamorito, Guimba, Nueva Ecija, Philippines

By: Vice Supreme Master, Joe Mathews

In 2013, while on my first trip to the Philippines, we visited Lady Ruby's hometown in Lamorito, Guimba, Nueva Ecija. There we noticed that the Chapel in this farming community was not in good condition, and it was very small with a capacity of about 20 people. At that time, we promised ourselves that we would try to help the community by repairing and expanding the existing Chapel.



However, after much discussion, and with the assistance from both Lady Ruby's brother, who donated a parcel of land, and the local government official, who offered to assist onsite with the construction, along with the agreement of the people, we decided to build a new chapel for the community, just down the road from the existing one.



Over the past ten years, using social media, we were able to oversee the construction of the Chapel. Though no work was done for two years due to Covid, the Chapel is now fully operational, and we continue to do the work that still needs to be done.



Several councils and assemblies in the Toronto area have sponsored the construction of the pews for the Chapel, while several Brother Knights helped with the purchase of the Stations of the Cross and a few other items, including the outdoor speakers that allow the farmers to follow the Mass while out in the fields planting and maintaining their crops.

On our next planned visit, we will be placing a plaque at the entrance of the Chapel recognizing the Knights from Ontario and others who helped build this Place of Worship for a community in another country 13,000 km away.



Vivat Jesus!

Food Drive in Thunder Bay

By: Michael Quibell, Executive Director

By MIO 4, Mike Meady on behalf of Michael Quibell, Executive director for the Dew Drop Inn, Thunder Bay.

I always attempt to keep my expectations lower which is difficult to do when the Knights of Columbus are involved especially with your exceptional track record with previous food drives. I thought this year could be challenging with the Posties hosting their annual food drive on the same day. Either way the Dew Drop Inn is always incredibly grateful for what comes our way, and we sincerely appreciate our partnership with the Knights.

In keeping with tradition, the Knights of Columbus and their team once again exceed all expectations. This year we had many sorters in the afternoon who had all of the tables bare before the last deliveries arrived. If you have seen our video on our Facebook page you will see the Dew was running out of room to place the final truck loads. A quick count of the cash and gift cards came very close to a total of \$7,000 which is the highest amount collected for this food drive. Another WOW moment created by the Knights.

I want to acknowledge and thank everyone who was associated with this food drive. You are the reason the Dew Drop Inn is able to serve a good meal daily. Times are tough out there for so many in our community especially with the high cost of everything. We guesstimate our numbers could reach 175,000 by the end of 2024. Community support provides this opportunity, and we are grateful for it. Congratulations on this incredibly successful food drive and please pat yourselves on the back for a job well done. Definitely something to be proud about.

The Dew Drop Inn has so much to be thankful for including our partnership with the Knights. We are blessed to have you on our team. A simple thank you feels inadequate but thank you, thank you, thank you.



Vivat Jesus!

By: Membership Information Officer Mike Meady

"For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me."

Matthew 25:35-40



Brothers, these truths ring as clear today as they did over 2,000 years ago. We are our brothers' keeper.

As Brother Knights we were drawn into a fraternity that cherishes these truths and make good on our commitment to all those in our community. The poor, the hungry, the lonely, the imprisoned, the elderly, and the lost. We see them and like the "Good Samaritan," we do something to aid them.

In this 125th year of Knights of Columbus in Ontario let us celebrate the good works in our order. Not to take a bow, not for pride or bolstering, but to remember what we were placed on this earth to do as Knights of Columbus. Make a difference, inspire and lead, live our faith, and lift others up, as our founder the Blessed Michael J McGivney foresaw.

Below you will find a couple of examples of our ongoing faith & commitment to all those in our communities.

- A testimonial from the Executive Director of the Dew Drop Inn. A Catholic nonprofit organization in Thunder Bay that receives no government funding but feeds thousands of needy every year with our help. In 2023 alone, Knights of Columbus food drives provided over 23 tons of nonperishable goods and \$19,000 in cash and gift cards to this organization.
- A photo from last fall showing how The Knights of Columbus members were able to provide the Mikinakoos Children's Fund with 90 boxes of coats for kids and adults (1200 coats). The coats were distributed among three different First Nations organizations in Northern Ontario!

"Moms, Dads, and especially their children were able to stay warm this winter and next because of the good works of our order! As our Lord and Saviour taught us all:

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40

Brothers, this year, our 125th in Ontario, let us rise up and show those around who and what we are. A band of Catholic gentlemen willing to put our faith in action for all!



"Coats for Kids Arrives for the First Nations"

Members of the Knights are there to help sort the 1200 winter coats for 4 separate First Nations communities and schools.

In the picture from right to left are: Mike Meady-MIO#4, Bishop Fred Colli-former State Chaplin, Craig Murphy GK of 7332, and Bruce Sutton DD for 14.



"12 Tonnes of Food for the Hungry"

Members of the Knights deliver the 12 tonnes of food for the Dew Drop Inn centre from the May food drive to feed the needy in Thunder Bay.

In the picture from right to left are: two of the Dew Drop's volunteers, Brother Bryan from 8602, Past Grand Knight of 1130 Joe Bischette, Mike Meady MIO#4, Bryan Price 8602, and DD #14 Bruce Sutton.

Vivat Jesus!

Ultrasound Machine

By: Life Director, Alex Schadenberg

Due to government regulations, it is more difficult to provide an ultrasound machine to pregnancy centers in Ontario, but we can provide an ultrasound machine to an approved medical clinic.

Since the Knights of Columbus is involved with the ultrasound machine program in order to save lives, we have been seeking pro-life doctors who are willing to provide an ultrasound and who are working with pregnancy centers. In other words, a pro-life doctor who is committed to helping a woman, who may be considering an abortion, in order to help her choose life.



In 2019, a pro-life doctor in Ottawa received an ultrasound machine through the Ontario State Board. This was the first successful case where the Knights in Ontario were able to donate an ultrasound machine. This past June, for the second time in our history we are able to finance the purchase of another ultrasound machine destined for Brampton Ontario in early October.

But this is no time to rest on our laurels. We have the opportunity to donate another ultrasound machine for another clinic in Hamilton. We need your support. The Knights of Columbus Ontario Charity Foundation must raise half of the cost of the ultrasound machine, which will be around \$25,000. Supreme will cover the balance.

This can be done by one council donating \$25,000 or this can be done by many councils making large donations \$1000 and more, to The Knights of Columbus Ontario Charity Foundation.

We will be transparent with the donating councils, but we must raise the money before we purchase the ultrasound machine.

Ultrasound machines save lives. This is a fact. Please join us in helping mother's choose life.

Vivat Jesus!



Ultrasound Program Saving the Unborn



Help us Bring a Message of Hope for the Unborn.

Access to abortion does not save lives; it takes lives. Providing resources for mothers and their preborn babies means saving lives. One of the most powerful tools in our pro-life arsenal is the **ultrasound machine**. It gives the mother a window into the womb, allowing her to see her baby and hear the heartbeat. Often, this is a life-saving moment.

We have a medical clinic with a pro-life doctor in Hamilton that needs our help to acquire an ultrasound machine.

Let us work together, put our Faith in Action, and give hope to the unborn.



To make donations, visit
<https://ontariokofc.ca/donate/>

Veterans' House Canada Cenotaph Project



Canada's veterans are seeking our support for the erection of a cenotaph at Veterans' House Canada.

This cenotaph will allow the tenants, regardless of creed, gender, race or ethnicity, to find spiritual comfort and opportunities to commemorate their legacy.

The Knights of Columbus in Ontario have a proud legacy of supporting our military during wartime through the Canadian Catholic Army Huts during the Great War, the Canadian Army Huts during the Second World War and now, during peacetime, with the cenotaph at a veterans' homeless shelter in Ottawa.

The completion of this project will coincide with the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario in the Spring of 2025.



For more information or to donate,
visit ontariokofc.ca/donate/

By: Anna Kocmarek

Let's Play Bingo



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

That's four chances to win \$200.

Convention Bingo – Completed!!!

Game 1 – Drawn on Sunday morning at the State Convention... winner of \$200 was John Schrembri.



Bulletin Bingo - Let's play Game 2!

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

B12, B13, I23, I24, N34, N36, N45, O69, O71, O73

Game 2 – 10 Bingo numbers will be drawn and posted in the Summer bulletin. If you have one 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 2 weeks 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 bingo chips, coins or cheerios to mark 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.





New partnership between Knights of Columbus and Moores Clothing

By: Supreme Master, Michael McCusker

To: District Masters & Faithful Navigators - Canada
Cc: Vice Supreme Masters & State Deputies - Canada

Worthy Sir Knights,

I am pleased to announce a new partnership between Knights of Columbus and Moores Clothing.

This August, Moores will become the exclusive supplier of the Fourth Degree uniform in Canada. We will send an update as soon as we know the exact date Moores will begin accepting orders.

Fourth Degree Knights looking to purchase the uniform will need to visit a Moores store in order to be measured and place their order. There are more than 100 Moores locations across the country – [click here](#) to find your closest store.

Please note that while Moores will supply the uniform package – blazer, trousers, necktie and beret – Fourth Degree swords and baldrics will continue to be sold through The English Company.

Please refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions sheet](#) for additional information.

An email announcing this new partnership will be sent to all Fourth Degree Knights soon. Thank you for your continued dedication to the Fourth Degree in Canada!



Vivat Jesus!