

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Ontario State Bulletin



SPRING 2026



# *Easter 2026*



*He is risen*

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Comments welcomed at [stateoffice@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:stateoffice@ontariokofc.ca)

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# EDITOR'S MESSAGE

## Spreading the Message... 'Readers are Leaders'

By: Bulletin Editor, Jerry Marcotte

For any parents or grandparents reading this message and who may have witnessed young, voracious readers who are in perhaps grade 4 or 5 and are plying their growing reading skills...their example is worth mimicking. They will often seize a free moment and be peering into one of many books they may have on the go. Their world is still before them and they may be reading about all manner of the wonders of nature or topics that may interest them in the realm of career choices. 'I want to become an Olympian, or I want to become an astronaut!'

If only a measure of that youthful curiosity and penchant for reading remained in our membership or of our K of C friendly connections!

For a council or assembly publishing a bulletin or newsletter, it is sometimes painfully obvious that it has remained unread, as when queries arise about happenings or topics of what may have been recently published. It is disappointing to be disposing of unread publications such as our bi-monthly bulletins that fail to be snatched up from the holders at the doors of the church before the next issue needs the space.

At times, it seems, the appeal to collect one's email address so as to have the electronic version sent regularly and promptly is not as complete as it could be. It is hoped that our more senior members, or those busy with family needs or jobs, would keep up with the goings-on of the council through an online look at the bulletin.

As well, for those keen on this idea, you are encouraged to look up local Councils and Assemblies who have an online presence as well as reading the Ontario State's Quarterly Bulletin that is accessed conveniently from the Ontario State Website. I know from my area of the province that only a few councils or assemblies operate uKnight sites. Even when an electronic site is being used as outreach and a tool to encourage participation, it sometimes is not kept current. My advice, would be to let the council or assembly's 'webmaster' know that you engage and rely on the site so as to encourage the update of motivational happenings.

Getting current information out promptly in this fashion, keeping abreast of the activities of the council can assist with the impact of and enthusiasm for our council and its good works. The same interest in remaining up-to-date on the provincial 'state' level also applies. State Deputy David Gelinas assesses what should be on the minds of fellow knights when he puts out an appeal for articles. Just like in appeals for written articles in one's bulletin, someone is eventually investing their time to report or create. You can, therefore, give the proverbial 'tip-of-the hat' to a brother or SK by reading his article! So, if you are perusing the State Bulletin and hence reading this article, that's great. No sense in preaching to the choir! Let your enthusiasm rub off on others! May the great hope of Easter be in us all...

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



# Membership Statistics

## Year to Year Growth Comparison

	2024-2025	2025-2026	Pace Comparison	% of Quota
July	88	99	11	5.00%
August	114	116	2	8.80%
September	194	259	65	20.20%
October	283	311	28	34.40%
November	283	265	-18	46.90%
December	120	125	5	54.70%
January	205	155	-50	63.30%
February	211	247	36	74.94%
TOTAL	1498	1577	79	

Like gasoline is the lifeblood of a car, new members are the lifeblood of a Council. Invite your friends and family to join!



# State Deputy's Easter Message

By: State Deputy, David O. Gelinas

My dear brother Knights,

At the time of this writing, we just began Lent and we wait in anticipation for the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings.

My wife Lori and I pray that each of you and your family experience a Blessed and joyous Easter.

As former State Chaplain, now Bishop of Hamilton, once said "Jesus, by his passion, death and resurrection, offers each of us His mercy, love and forgiveness. He invites us to become like the apostles, courageous witnesses of his resurrection, love, compassion and mercy".



The Knights of Columbus have been compared to messengers of hope and heralds of the Good News. Remember we have the ability to reach out to others, provide them with comfort and kind words, to give people hope and inspire them to join the Order and develop a closer relationship with Jesus.

Let us continue to pray for healing, pray for good health, pray for peace and good will, pray for freedom and protection and pray for those who do not know the resurrection of Jesus is for all who seek Him and ask Jesus to come into their life.

Jesus is the true healer, miracle worker, our defender and protector against Satan and promise keeper of salvation and life everlasting with God and Himself. Our faith provides us hope, love and peace with Jesus our King of kings.

I pray that Easter and Pentecost will be extraordinary in 2026.



Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



# McGivney Relic Tour

By: State Deputy, David O. Gelinas

Brother Knights,

As I reported in the December State bulletin, Ontario has been blessed to have a First-Class Relic of Blessed McGivney. The relic was in Ontario from mid August until the first week of November. It passed through 9 District Deputies to give to their Councils that requested the relic. Having received a summary report from little over half of them, there were 25 Councils and 1 Assembly involved with over 1,400 people attending special healing masses and other opportunities with the McGivney relic. I am sure there were many others involved and it is hard to count how many people came out for these healing masses. I thank all the council chaplains and parish priests that made special effort to display the McGivney relic in their parishes. I personally brought it over to Michigan one Sunday to visit the State Deputy and his wife who is healing from a severe health injury. There are two favours that have been reported and a parish priest is investigating these favours. Ontario was given the relic again in mid January and another tour has been scheduled for the relic for a second time. This tour will be completed at the April State convention in Ottawa. I encourage Grand Knights and other delegates to visit with the Blessed McGivney Relic when you are at the convention.



Caption: Relic visit to St John Evangelist Church in Woodslee. (left to right) SKs Ron Barnhard, Denis Coutu, Gord Edwards, Fr. Danny Santos, Laverne Martins, Jerry Marcotte and John Chenier.



McGivney Relic visits the coveted Statue Site that Bears his Name in September 2025, the McGivney Statue Site Steering Committee met at a Heavenly Rest Cemetery in Windsor to acknowledge the relic. The Committee oversees the wellbeing and engages in promotion of the site.

To the right of the relic, is shown one of the 12 inch replica statues which are available to purchase. Left to right are: SKs Jerry Marcotte, Gord Edwards, John P. Semaan, Ken Bosse, Carl Baillargeon and Paul Brownlie.



# McGivney Relic Tour

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Bro. Matthew Demeter, holding the McGivney Relic, shares a moment with his brother Christopher at the Joseph Brant Hospital in Burlington, Ontario. Matthew was a school teacher and a parishioner at St. John the Baptist Church in Burlington. Bro. Matthew died on December 29, 2025. May his memory be a blessing to all who knew him.



DD Ken Bosse offers the McGivney Relic to a parishioner at St. Michael's Church in Leamington. The relic received numerous displays of reverence.



Parishioners approach to encounter the McGivney Relic.



Relic visit to St. Clement Church, McGregor, FDM Gord Edwards, Fr. Danny Santos and DD Ken Bosse.



Honour Guard assisting are SK Renfred D'Souza, PFN, and SK Ray Stephensen, PGK, PFN, Bishop Reding Assembly 1981, Oakville.



Fr. David Twaddle of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Oshawa, is shown with the McGivney Relic as State Secretary, Joe Bodnar, on the right, along with members of Council 9989 gather in support. State Secretary Joseph presented the relic after each mass and 350 faithful approached to touch or to pray with it. The poppies worn by a few of the brother knights coincide with photo being taken on November 9, 2025, just prior to Remembrance Day, 2025.



Fr. Nelson Cabral, of St. Micheal's Parish, Leamington, acknowledges Mc Givney Relic in September 2025 as presented by DD Ken Bosse. Formers District Master Gord Edwards and Reg Campbell from Maidstone and Essex assist as Honour Guard. In the foreground is State Deputy David Gelinias.



DD Ken Bosse is shown in procession with the McGivney Relic at St. John de Brebeuf Church in Leamington. State Deputy David Gelinias is shown on the left. The relic visited numerous sites in Essex County.

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



# Warriors to Lourdes Program

By: State Deputy, David O. Gelinas

Brother Knights,

His Excellency, The Most Reverend Bishop Scott McCaig the Military Ordinate of Canada since April 2016 has presented information and an appeal to the Canadian Association Knights of Columbus regarding the Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage for Canadians.

The 2026 Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage occurs during the 66<sup>th</sup> International Military Pilgrimage from May 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

The Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage allows all military personnel to travel to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France. The International Military Pilgrimage was established in 1946 to promote reconciliation and peace after WWII. Lourdes has become a place of prayer and healing for active-duty military and veterans alike. No one understands the value of peace better than those who endured war and conflict.

On behalf of Bishop Scott, I am petitioning Councils, Assemblies and individual Knights to make a donation toward the Canadian Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage. Your donation will help our warriors who have been selected across Canada to experience a spiritual journey of a lifetime.

Keep in mind that many countries will be sending active-duty military and veterans but Bishop Scott is looking for financial support toward our Canadians. Unfortunately, the Federal Canadian military cannot financially help this important Pilgrimage so for Canadians, therefore, it must be supported at the grass roots level.

To read an article from the Catholic Telegraph about this Warrior to Lourdes Pilgrimage, click this link.

<https://www.thecatholictelegraph.com/the-2026-warriors-to-lourdes-pilgrimage/102856>

You can send a cheque to the "Ontario Charity Foundation", in the memo line "Warriors to Lourdes" or make a donation at the State website with a note "Warrior to Lourdes".

Click for the State donation page. [Donate – Ontario Knights Of Columbus](#)

For E-transfers use: [payments@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:payments@ontariokofc.ca)

All funds raised in the next month will go towards the 2026 Pilgrimage.

I thank you for your consideration of this worthy program for our active and our veterans.



Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



# Ontario State Chaplain Easter Greetings 2026

By: Ontario State Chaplain , Bryan Bayda, CSSR, Eparchial Bishop of Toronto and Eastern Canada

Dear Brother Knights and Families; Christ is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen!

Simple is not always easy. The Good News is simple: Jesus Christ is Risen from the Dead! Yet understanding the Good News and the significance of this is one small part of our journey. The other challenge is taking it deep into our hearts. Actually, it is a great challenge that we take up for our entire earthly lives. Ultimately, each of us truly strives to REJOICE in this Good News as we proclaim it.



So where are you at with this mystery right now? Are you merely aware of this Good News (compliant with seasonal traditions and routinely going through the motions); intellectually aware perhaps (so that you could explain it to a child); emotionally aware so that you could lift up the heart of someone else who feels down and out (ready to talk to someone about the Resurrection and what it means for us); or ON FIRE and not able to keep quiet about it?

Jesus said, "This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in Him may have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day." Jn 6:40 So, how do you SEE the Son or BELIEVE in the Son at this time?

Join me reflecting on this - "Eternal Life is to participate in the community of the Divine Trinity, the Life of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit". Becoming aware that already you eternally belong to them and are with them is eternal life. Jesus loves you with the same perfection and intensity that He loves and the Father and the Spirit. However, to reject this invitation and awareness is to reject life itself and simply taste death. How are you aware that you are participating in this life even if you don't feel it? How are you called to believe in this profound truth?

We are invited to participate in this eternal community in several ways. Like those on the way to Emmaus, we can share with each other, reflect together with wives and our family members, phone a brother, visit a person that is ill or shut-in, take someone for coffee, etc. The fruits of this charitable activity are cherished over time.

Jesus says, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Jn 6:53 We are invited to go beyond just a 'mental exercise' or personal spiritual 'act of faith' and respond to the invitation to commune with the Risen Lord through the reception of Holy Communion. Let's admit there are many ways to commune with God that are far above our emotional awareness. The Mother of God is always ready to assist.

Mother Teresa, St Teresa of Calcutta, reminds us to "be happy in the moment". Further, to find God in the vulnerable and suffering person is to allow the Risen Christ to work through you. Archbishop Fulton Sheen explains that the Incarnation, the Death and Resurrection of Christ continues to happen through you as a member of the Body of Christ. Indeed, Jesus is being born, dying and rising in you. Jesus has risen and is alive in you! We don't have to always fully understand this mystery to celebrate it, yet the more we appreciate it we come to realize it as a gift of the Holy Spirit.

Let us look at the paradox of those in Ukraine, the Middle East and elsewhere in the world at this time. Amid the suffering and death, there are those through whom the Risen Lord is alive and truly visible. We witness significant or perhaps small humble acts of great faith and heroism, despite the clouds of doubt, destruction and death. One person may have little or no hope in life, yet another comes to their side to witness to the Risen Lord. Likewise, He invites you to be that vessel as well for those nearby.

May the Holy Spirit use you to spread the Good News, regardless of your level of awareness of this mystery. As members of the Body of Christ, may God bring hope to others through you and through each of us, through our families, our councils and through our communities so that we may build up the Kingdom of God here on earth. Through the intercession of the Mother of God and Blessed Michael McGivney - Rejoice in our Resurrected King!

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



# ONTARIO KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 50/50 RAFFLE

By: Henry Miller, State Treasurer

We Ontario Knights of Columbus brothers enjoy working with passion, determination and creativity to support our councils, parishes and communities. Raising funds for charity is a very important part of this support. Across our province, we work best when we strive together, efficiently and effectively, at both the local council and State levels to advance our programs and achieve results that we could not achieve otherwise.



Our Ontario Knights of Columbus 50/50 Raffle is an excellent example of this kind of determined and creative cooperation and is a well-respected element of our continuing success.

For the raffle that ended with final draw on December 30, 2026, together we generated a record-breaking pot just shy of \$50,000 (\$49,270) with the lucky winner, Thomas Krueger, taking home \$24,635. Congratulations Thomas!

For the current raffle, with final draw to take place at the 2026 Ontario State Convention on Sunday April 26, the pot and the excitement continue to build. For this raffle's \$500 early bird draw, which took place on Tuesday February 17, 2026, the fortunate winner was Wayne Caskanette. Congratulations Wayne! The pot for this raffle is already in excess of \$17,000. Let's aim for and achieve a total pot of \$100,000 or more for the final draw!

Through our raffle-focused newsletter, The Raffle Rouser, distributed to all Ontario Knights, we actively promote raffle ticket purchases. The Raffle Rouser also is strategically released just before major gift-giving opportunities. In this gift-giving vein, we have worked with our raffle service provider, rafflebox, to enable purchase of 50/50 raffle tickets as gifts, e.g. for birthdays and wedding anniversaries.

Currently, some 298 councils out of some 460 active councils participate in the 50/50 Raffle (65%). Together, we can increase participation, benefiting both individual councils and Ontario State. It's also very important to keep in mind that increasing participation means increasing both the number of councils participating and the number of tickets that each participating council sells.





# ONTARIO KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 50/50 RAFFLE

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Tickets easily can be purchased on-line at [ontariokofc.ca](http://ontariokofc.ca). There are four ways to pay for purchases: debit, credit card, Google and Apple Pay. The more tickets you buy the lower the price of each ticket. You can buy 10 tickets for \$10, 40 tickets for \$20, 125 tickets for \$50 and 300 tickets for \$100.

Importantly, councils customarily receive a commission of 25% on their tickets sold, which is an excellent source of revenue for funding councils' charitable programs. Using rafflebox as our on-line service provider is Canadian, easy to use, user-friendly and extremely cost effective, with fees of only 5% of ticket price.

To further assist councils with raffle ticket sales, for example, in conjunction with council events, Point of Sale (POS) handheld devices are available for rent or purchase (\$35 per month rental plus \$125 activation fee). Ontario State Office is also strongly committed to supporting councils with their ticket sales by offering councils free use of a POS machine for two-week periods. State Office is happy to assist and provide further details.

Let's keep working together to make our 50/50 Raffle ever more successful, especially for the 2026 Ontario State Convention!

 Ontario State Council  
Knights of Columbus

\$100 for <b>300</b> Tickets	\$50 for <b>125</b> Tickets	\$20 for <b>40</b> Tickets	\$10 for <b>10</b> Tickets
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**Grand Prize Draw**  
April 26, 2026

**Early Bird Draw**  
February 17, 2026 at 9:00 am  
\$500 Cash Prize

**50/50  
RAFFLE**

License #: RAF1526797

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



# BURSARY PROGRAM & CANADIAN UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

By: State Warden, Donny Thivierge



The Ontario Knights of Columbus are proud to support Catholic education through the Ontario Knights of Columbus Bursary Program, a long-standing initiative designed to assist students pursuing post-secondary education.

This bursary program reflects the Knights of Columbus' commitment to faith, service, and community by helping ease the financial burden faced by students and families.

The Bursary Program provides financial assistance to eligible students who are continuing their education at a recognized college, university, or post-secondary institution. Bursaries are awarded annually and are intended to support students who demonstrate academic effort, church & community involvement, along with financial need.

## Congratulations to Last Year's Bursary Winners

The Ontario Knights of Columbus are pleased to extend our sincere congratulations to last year's Bursary Program recipients, namely: Alyssa Gill – Orillia, Claire Bui – North York, Anthony D'Allessandro – Alymer, Jole Menezes – Thornhill & Dimarco Castellani – Stoney Creek

Applicants must meet the eligibility criteria outlined by the Ontario Knights of Columbus and submission of a completed application and supporting documentation by the stated deadline of May 1, 2026

Bursary applications are available through: [https://ontariokofc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Bursary\\_English.pdf](https://ontariokofc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Bursary_English.pdf)

We are proud to support students like this year's winners as they pursue their educational goals and work toward a bright future. Their success reflects not only personal hard work, but also the strong support of family, faith, and community. We wish them continued success in their studies and future endeavors.

## Canadian Undergraduate Scholarships

Canadian scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic excellence. This scholarship program, funded by the Fourth Degree, is available to families of all members of the Knights of Columbus in Canada and is not limited to families of Fourth Degree members.

History: Fourth Degree Pro Deo and Pro Patria (Canada) Scholarships.

At its 1969 meeting in New Haven, Connecticut, the Supreme Council established a fund to provide four scholarships for members, and children of members (including children of deceased members in good standing at time of death) of Canadian councils who attend universities in Canada. The number of scholarships has been increased over the years, and in 1991 the award was increased from \$1,000 per year to \$1,500 per year.

<https://www.kofc.org/resources/scholarships/canadian-undergraduate-scholarships/>

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



# EVERY COUNCIL HAS A VOICE – SEND YOURS TO OTTAWA!

By: Todd Cowan, Convention 2026 Chair

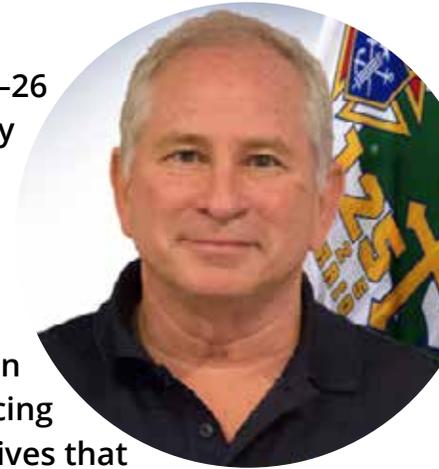
Dear Brother Knights,

As we look ahead to our Annual Ontario State Convention, April 22–26 at the Westin Hotel in Ottawa, I want to personally encourage every Council to make plans to send a delegate.

I still remember my very first State Convention. I arrived not entirely sure what to expect — a little curious, slightly cautious, and hoping I had packed the appropriate tie. What I quickly discovered was that I had stepped into something much bigger than a meeting. I met Brother Knights from across Ontario who were facing the very same challenges my Council was facing — membership drives that needed a boost, fundraising ideas that looked brilliant on a flip chart but less brilliant at 6:30 a.m. on event day, and the ongoing effort to keep men engaged and inspired.

It was both reassuring and energizing to realize that our struggles were not unique. I came home with fresh ideas, renewed enthusiasm, and friendships that continue to this day. There is something powerful about sitting down with men who understand the mission and share the same commitment to faith, family, and fraternity.

The Convention also gives you the opportunity to meet our State Board of Directors and better appreciate what happens at the State Office level. It's one thing to receive correspondence and updates; it's another to meet the men who serve behind the scenes and see firsthand how they support Councils across Ontario.





# MARK YOUR CALENDARS, BROTHER KNIGHTS – OTTAWA AWAITS!



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And gentlemen, let's not forget the Ladies Program. Our wives are warmly welcomed with a wonderful program of their own — and if history tells us anything, they usually have more fun than we do! While we're debating resolutions, they're building friendships and enjoying Ottawa in style. Somehow, they always return smiling... and possibly better organized than when they left.



There are reports, yes. But there is also laughter, fellowship, and those late-night conversations where we solve every problem facing the Order — at least until breakfast.

Every Council deserves a voice. I encourage you to register early and join us in Ottawa. You will return home grateful you came — and maybe even with the right tie this time.

**123rd Ontario State Convention**

**The Annual  
State  
Convention**

**April 24, 25 & 26**

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



# OUR SUPPORT OF VETERANS CONTINUES

By: Bruce S. Poulin, IPSD

Members will recall the official unveiling of a cenotaph at the Andy Carswell Building (Veterans' House Canada) located at 745 Mikinak Road, Ottawa, on April 24, 2025 – the day before our 2025 Annual State Convention, also held in Ottawa.

Then State Deputy, Captain Bruce S. Poulin (ret'd) from Council #485 in Ottawa wanted to commemorate 125 years of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario during his term in office by promoting our Knights' historical support for our military and veteran communities during times of war and in peace.

After much consultation with the local veteran community, it was agreed to build a cenotaph (at an approximate cost of \$75,000) for our homeless veteran community residing at the Andy Carswell Building. Its purpose is to provide a place for the residence to find some solace and a focal point for community outreach events.



This project was parsed three ways. The first major part was the construction and unveiling of the cenotaph on April 24, 2025. The next phase saw the burial of a time capsule in October 2025. The third and final phase relates to the groundskeeping and the memorial bricks.

These custom-engraved heritage bricks will become part of the walkway at the cenotaph and will enhance this prayerful site. As we complete the final touches, we invite you to promote the legacy of support between our Veteran community and the Knights of Columbus in Ontario by purchasing one of these bricks while there is still some place available.





# OUR SUPPORT OF VETERANS CONTINUES

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You do not have to be a member of the Knights of Columbus to purchase a heritage brick. All funds will be managed by the Ontario State Office.

Our State Advocate, Captain Earle DePass (ret'd), is the point of contact for these memorial bricks, should you have any questions. SK Earle may be reached via email to; State Advocate@Ontariokofc.ca or on (613) 363 8884.



Yes - I/We would like to purchase one brick(s) at a cost of \$100.00 for a 4" x 8" brick or \$150.00 for an 8" x 8" brick. (Please complete additional sheets for each additional brick.)

Please complete this order form and make cheque payable to: KofC Veterans' House Canada Bricks, c/o Ontario State Office, Knights of Columbus, 393 Rymal Road West, Hamilton, ON, L9B 1V2, (905-388-2731), For information please e-mail: stateoffice@ontariokofc.ca

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ Town, PostalCode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name or Names to be engraved: Max 3 lines with 16 characters per line 4" x 8"; Max6 lines with 16 characters per line 8" x 8". (K of C Emblem is also available.)


Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



# SONNY SANGEMINO CANADIAN AGENCY EXECUTIVE CONSULTANT & GENERAL AGENT

Brothers...

Tax season is here! In Canada, taxes must be filed by April 30th, 2026. Whether you're ahead of the game and done filing, or you're putting it off for another couple weeks, this time of year is a good opportunity to consider whether your tax rate or bracket has changed. If so, do you know the implications for your long-term financial strategy?

People can end up in a higher tax bracket than they anticipate when their income fluctuates — for example, if your salary changed, or if you retired and are drawing on different income sources. Paying a higher tax rate may mean less disposable income or less money to leave to your family as you planned.

You can protect yourself against these potential losses and build dependable cash value through permanent life insurance with the Knights of Columbus.

Permanent life insurance allows you to build cash value that you can access up to the Adjusted Cost Basis tax-free while you're alive. You can also create an income tax-free inheritance for your loved ones after you pass allowing permanent life insurance to be useful in a range of situations.

Of course, we always recommend that you work with a qualified tax advisor or CPA in addition to your KofC Agent

By helping to secure your financial future and legacy with the Knights of Columbus, you're living out the vision of Blessed Michael McGivney, who founded our Order 144 years ago this month. His mission of protecting Catholic families is as important today as it was for the first members who gathered all those years ago.

I'd love to talk more if you have any questions. Please come chat with me and we can schedule a time to meet.

Thank you!




**Knights of Columbus**

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