

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Ontario State Bulletin



SUMMER 2026



**Martyrs' Shrine  
celebrates  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



# Review your situation today.

## One of your most valuable Fraternal Benefits is your KofC Field Agent.

The Order provides your Knights of Columbus Agent with NaviPlan, a highly rated financial planning software. Your professional Field Agent can perform a simple needs analysis or a full review of your finances. Call your Field Agent today to take advantage of this complimentary member benefit.



LIFE INSURANCE • DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE • LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

**Contact your local agency office to learn more:**



**Sonny Sangemino**  
CHS, FIC, CPCA  
RAEC / General Agent  
1-855-803-0448 - Office  
sonny.sangemino@kofc.org



**Dan Duval**  
FIC  
General Agent  
1-877-326-5632 - Office  
daniel.duval@kofc.org



**Michael Mullin**  
CLU, FIC, CPCA  
General Agent  
1-888-363-4755 - Office  
michael.mullin@kofc.org



**Knights of  
Columbus®**

Discover our Catholic difference.

Knights of Columbus ("KofC") offers life insurance, annuities, long-term care insurance and disability income insurance products. For costs, terms, conditions and complete details regarding these products, please contact your agent directly or call KofC at 1-800-380-9995. Products may vary by state. Insurance solutions are available to eligible KofC members in the U.S. and Canada. Knights of Columbus is located at: 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

- 04** EDITOR'S MESSAGE
- 05** STATE DEPUTY'S YEAR IN REVIEW
- 08** COR
- 09** EARLE DEPASS RESOLUTION
- 10** WHY YOUNG FAMILIES NEED K OF C
- 12** FAMILIES THAT PRAY, PLAY, AND VACATION TOGETHER OFTEN GROW STRONGER TOGETHER
- 13** PAPAL MEDAL - BRUCE POULIN
- 14** MARTYR'S SHRINE - 100 YEARS
- 16** INTERNATIONAL FREE THROW & INTERNATIONAL SOCCER CHAMPIONS
- 20** 50/50 RAFFLE
- 24** GIVING GIFT OF LIFE: ST. EDITH STEIN COUNCIL'S 24-YEAR COMMITMENT TO CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES
- 26** FROM ASSOCIATE TO INSURED: THE BENEFIT YOU ALREADY HOLD



### CANADA DAY FLOAT PARADE ENTRY

Members of the Fr. McGivney Statue Site Steering Committee in Windsor, prepare the 20 foot float for Windsor's Canada Day Parade on July 1st. A 10 ft. high maple leaf with the wording '.....the...



### K OF C NIGHT AT BARNSTORMERS' BASEBALL GAME ON JUNE 9TH AT THE FERGIE JENKINS FIELD IN CHATHAM

Honour Guard from Essex and Kent Counties gathered to ceremoniously open the game at which State Deputy...

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

393 Rymal Rd., West, Suite 201, Hamilton, ON, L9B 1V2  
Toll Free: 1.800.759.0959 | [OntarioKofC.ca](http://OntarioKofC.ca)



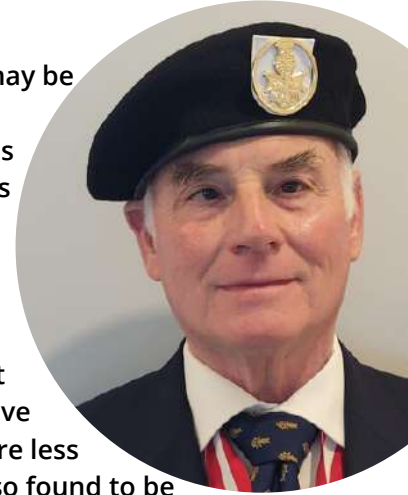
# EDITOR'S MESSAGE

## Beneficial Social Aspects of Fraternity in the Order

By: Bulletin Editor, Jerry Marcotte

"The corollary of good works and involvement .... benefits can accrue to the member"

It seems that at this time of the year when the fraternal year is closing in and councils may be hustling new members to meet their quotas, much of the hype that is built is that more new members are needed to support the projects at their church, to come onboard so as to fulfill some goals of the pastor, that more are needed to increase the charitable works of the council and to meet other goals. All these reasons may be valid in trying to entice new members. Perhaps that it is a function of my age and with many enjoyable years in the order, but little is said of how the meeting of new acquaintances, developing new friendships and of spending time in the presence of other like-minded individuals, men who are comfortable in their faith, can have a hard-to-quantify sociological benefits that actually enhance one's physical and mental outlook. Recently various genre of media have espoused the values of socializing and interacting with others. By the stats, older men are less likely to continue and foster social contact than women. This non-socializing factor is also found to be detrimental to young men whomay feel isolated as they spend time alone with their computers.



We hear that when men whose main focus was their work and interaction in the work-place, that they can become lonely and lack purpose which affects their wellbeing. Of late, with many local councils having dinners and events, dinner barbeque meetings, that it becomes a great opportunity to remain in direct contact with others. In the Windsor area, this has included several opportunities for those in the Honour Guard of their assembly, to heed the request to join in local ceremonies with neighboring assemblies so as to increase the impact with greater numbers. I find this type of participation to be both meaningful and rewarding..... and it is great to see new knights joining the Honour Guard of their respective Assembly. Yes, sharing in an Honour Guard event can be an emotionally beneficial experience. A few such events such as Honour Guard at a Barnstormers' Baseball Game in Chatham, a Special Olympics event in London or an ordination of a new Bazilian at the historic Assumption Church in Windsor are but a few examples. A few photos elsewhere in this bulletin may attest to these types of gatherings.

In essence then, the valuation of these opportunities for connectedness and the fostering of same, be it in the Third or the Fourth can be seen to be a reward for any member of the order who chooses to engage. All those in positions of leadership, should do their best to 'draw members out' so all can taste the fraternalism that is a 'corollary' to being active as a knight. May you seize the opportunity for association with others.

Thank you for reading the online bulletin. Hopefully it helps to keep you attuned as to the progress of the knights in Ontario.

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!

04

## 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%     |
| March     | 247       | 206       | -41             | 84.20%     |
| April     | 189       | 320       | 131             | 98.94%     |
| May       | 284       | 211       | -73             | 109.11%    |
| TOTAL     | 2218      | 2314      | 96              |            |

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



# Year In Review

By: State Deputy, David O. Gelinas

My dear brother Knights,

At the July 2025 DD organizational meeting we welcomed our new Regional Growth Director (RGD) William “Bill” Chasse, Past State Deputy from Michigan. We were assigned a new RGD after Supreme made adjustments to the territories including a shuffle of State Councils within each new territory. The ten Canadian State Councils were no longer one territory. Our previous Canadian Growth Director was Paul Perry, PSD from Nova Scotia. Paul was assigned to Ontario for 7 or 8 years and we do thank him for his service, friendship and wonderful happy spirit.



There were new positions created for this fraternal year with the agreement with the Board officers that will follow me, I discontinued the MIO (Membership and Information Officers) and replaced them with two different group of chairmen that concentrated on two objectives. Regional Chairmen (10) led by Regional Director Gord Edwards to focus on missing forms, Safe Environment progress and tracking the progress toward Star Council Awards. The other team led by Membership Director Dem Magmanlac are the (10) Regional Membership Chairmen (RMC). These RMC are all District Deputies themselves who have a good track record of growth and were willing to assist other District Deputies with membership growth.

There were two mergers in the fall that began earlier in the calendar year that were approved by Supreme. Council 8191 into 1398 and Council 9239 into 3349. Currently there are two more councils awaiting approval by the Supreme Directors, Council 8619 into 1398 and Council 8961 into 7570. There are more mergers awaiting Supremes’ approval.

In August, Supreme sent a Blessed McGivney relic to Ontario and that 1st class relic visited over 25 councils and their parishes until I had to return it in early November. I received notice, in mid January, from Supreme that we could have the Blessed McGivney relic again until the State convention in April then it has to be returned to Supreme. The fall tour of the relic was seen by over 1,400 people. I received a report from a pastor in Essex County that interviewed a woman that claims she was cured of an affliction of chronic pain that is documented for the past 20 years. She received the Eucharist the day of her visit with the relic of Blessed McGivney and let’s pray that this favor is heard by Supreme and the Vatican.

In autumn, it is our annual Coats for Kids program and with the leadership of our Coats for Kids chairman, Mario Duguay and all three office staff, Ani Kaluzny, Liane Dumas and Todd Cowan, Field Agent Jay Nelligan and many others, we reached a first time highest record of 20,760 coats. How significant is this milestone. In 2016 our first goal was 1000 coats and Ontario reached 2676. The bar was raised in 2017 to 3000 coats and we attained 5256 coats.



con't

In 2018 the goal was 7000 coats and we reached 6859. Then for 5 years from 2019 through 2023 the goal was 10,000 coats and the results were 7956, 8292, 7260, 8784 and finally in 2023 we surpassed our goal and reached 11,004 coats. In 2024 the new goal was 12,000 coats and Ontario reached an incredible 18,696 coats. This target was greatly surpassed with the help of BOGO (buy one get one free) cases from Supreme. Supreme offered BOGO again this fraternal year, with limits, a goal of 15,000 coats was set and the team and councils reached an incredible 20,760 coats. Congratulations to all the Councils that purchased these much needed coats in communities all across Ontario. Great team work.

At the first District Deputy meeting in July, I stated that my focus for my term as State Deputy was for more Councils reaching the prestigious Star Council award. Immediate Past State Deputy Bruce Poulin made big gains with Star Councils and Ontario reached 46 councils in his first term then hit 65 Star Councils last year. At the time of writing this report, June 19th, Ontario has 138 councils with 100% and greater of their membership quota, from which 34 are greater than 200%, 8 greater than 300%, 4 greater than 400% and 1 at 600% of their yearly quota, and 35 councils between 75% and 99%. My goal of 70 or more Star Councils is very possible as long as all the other requirements are met. The reason I created the Regional Director and 10 Regional Chairmen (RC) was to help councils to avoid disappointment if they reached their membership quota but failed to achieve the other requirements for the Star Council Award. I hope all councils that brought new members into their council to the level of 100% or more of their quota, submitted all the required forms and made their council compliant with the Safe Environment program and will be awarded the Star Council Award. They deserve this recognition.

Of course, I have membership quota for Ontario set by Supreme but that conversation is between Bill Chasse (RGD) and my Membership Director Dem Magmanlac and his two online chairmen, Chris Dunn and Knolly Burnham. We began the fraternal year with a quota of 2350. After reaching two important goals of 20% by September 30th and 50% by December 31st, we were awarded two 2.5% reductions and we have a current quota of 2165. Ontario reached those goals on September 30th and December 11th. Ontario then qualified for the third goal of 75% by April 1st, and we reached that target on March 2nd, 29 days early. We will earn another 2.5% reduction from our year quota and something special for Ontario this fraternal year. On May 4th, Ontario achieved 100% of our membership quota. Supreme offered cash incentives to councils for membership growth between July and October, named the Fishers of Men, and eight Ontario Councils were in the top 25 councils that earned \$250 for reaching 100% or better by October 31st. How impressive is this? There were approximately 2700 councils in the Alain Cayer territory and Ontario had the most of any State jurisdiction with 8 councils in the top 25.



# Year In Review

con't

Congratulations again to Councils 1388 (Toronto), 17065 (Markham), 17397 (Burlington), 9873 (Peterborough), 5073 (Burlington), 18772 (Ottawa), 16746 (Milton), & 14749 (Brampton).

The first container of 280 wheelchairs, destined for Mexico City, that order was placed by the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation (CWF) in early fall and the final paperwork is nearly complete for the wheelchairs to be shipped to Mexico City in April and our expected delivery of wheelchairs to deserving people in Mexico is sometime in mid August. The last report I received from CWF, we already have more than half of wheelchairs needed for the second container needed for Mexico (West) in 2027.

In March I had the opportunity and privilege to meet two Knights that turned 100 years of age, both in March. I met brother Arthur J. Beaudry from Council 1467 from St Thomas. In two days, time from writing this report, I leave for Toronto then to Sudbury where I plan to meet brother William R. Los a member at Council 6074 in Sudbury. As State Deputy I receive many invitations to attend Council anniversary celebrations, help with church drives and other special council events and it's times like meeting Knights like brothers Arthur and William make great memories for me when I travel the roads of Ontario.

The theme for this year's State convention was, Jesus The Name Above All Names. Let us always be joyful witnesses to our Catholic faith and ever mindful of the Good News of the bible. I am truly blessed to work with all the great Knights on the Ontario State team, that include the elected State Board Officers, the District Deputies, the State Directors and State Chairmen and our Office Staff in Hamilton. They work with great enthusiasm and dedication to the care and betterment of the Councils and Assemblies in Ontario State.

You can read other great stories of Knights works in Ontario in all four quarterly State Bulletins and on our State social media.

## Year IN REVIEW

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



By: Marcel Lemmen, Director, Evangelization & Faith Formation

**Cor**, which is Latin for “heart”, is the name of men’s prayer and formation groups, organized by Knights of Columbus councils, that focus on men finding Jesus through Christ-centred brotherhood. **Cor** is a flexible framework that adapts to the spiritual and fraternal needs of the group of men who meet regularly. Each **Cor** gathering lasts 60 to 90 minutes and consists of three components: prayer, formation, and fraternity.

**Cor** has been steadily expanding its reach in Ontario as more and more councils have implemented it in the parishes that they serve. Our goal is to have **Cor** established in every council. As **Cor** grows, we have found a need to add infrastructure to support this growth. Last September, Supreme announced the new position of Diocesan Evangelization and Faith Formation (EFF) Coordinator. There are twelve dioceses in Ontario and eight of them are now represented by an EFF Coordinator. We hope to have the other four positions filled by the start of the next Fraternal Year. The Diocesan EFF Coordinator is responsible for communicating information about **Cor** to the councils in the diocese as well as coordinating efforts between councils and the diocesan office responsible for Evangelization and Catechesis.

All councils should identify a Council EFF Director, regardless of whether they have implemented **Cor**. This position is responsible for promoting and implementing **Cor** at the council or coordinating efforts between the council and existing men’s groups. We will be contacting councils that have not yet identified an EFF Director and urging them to do so as soon as possible.

**Cor** answers the spiritual and faith formation needs of our members as well as the other men of the parish. It also fosters a strong sense of brotherhood among the participants which spills over into more participation in Church and community programs. Many new members have recently come to the Knights of Columbus because of the positive experiences that they have had with **Cor**.

Vivat Jesus!  
Brother Marcel Lemmen  
Director, Evangelization & Faith Formation  
Ontario State Council  
Knights of Columbus



Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



# Earle DePass Resolution

Many thanks to all who helped to make this year's resolutions activity a success.

Thanks to those councils who took the time to submit the 23 resolutions we initially received, as they allowed us to get a sense of the tone and feelings of our members across Ontario.

Thanks to those Knights who offered to sit on the Resolutions Committee during State Convention 2026...I had to select 5 members from the 10 who offered to sit on this year's Committee.

Special thanks to those 5 members who were:

Bro Kevin Belanger, RC 10,  
Bro. Ken Cavanagh, DD 36,  
Bro. George Savage, Council 15999,  
Bro. Carl Baillargeon, GK, Council 4375, and,  
Bro. Roland Besner, GK Council 755.

I also very much appreciated the assistance of:

- Bro. Henry Miller our State Treasurer who acted as our Parliamentarian during the Committee meeting and at the time of discussion and voting during the State Convention 2026, and,
- District Deputy 1 – SK Nicholas Quadrini filled in as a great resource at both.

Without their help things would not have gone as smoothly as they did during the very lively discussion and voting session of State Convention 2026.

Of the 16 approved resolutions at State Convention 2026:

- 9 were pertinent to Supreme and sent to Supreme on May 7, 2026. They included; 7 congratulatory resolutions, an expression of support for our military, veterans and First Responders and a recommendation to make it easier for e-members to direct their applications for membership to a specific council,
- The remaining 8 resolutions which are State-related included; removal of the Ontario Squires annual levy, Building Up Ontario Charity Foundation Revenue, Congratulations to the Organizers of the 2025 Annual State Convention in Ottawa, Enhancing French-Language Services and visibility within the Ontario State Council, Championing Women's Health and expressing concern for Christians in Beit Sahour. These will be addressed over the coming months

Arising from the new business session of the State Convention 2026 we have three potential resolutions for State Convention 2027.

Fraternally,  
Earle.



Earle DePass

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



# WHY YOUNG FAMILIES NEED THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

By: Family Director Fr. Paul J.F Wattson Council 8919 in Windsor | Field Agent with Sangemino Agency

In today's world, young families face a unique set of challenges. Busy schedules, financial pressures, and a culture that often pulls them away from faith and community can make it difficult to stay grounded. In the midst of all this, the Knights of Columbus stands as a powerful support system for father, husbands, and their families.

The Order was founded by Blessed Michael McGivney with a simple but profound mission to protect families and strengthen faith. That mission is just as relevant today as it was in 1882, and perhaps even more so.

I can speak to this personally. There have been moments in my own life when the weight of responsibility as a father felt heavy especially navigating the challenges that come with raising a family. In those moments, it was my brother Knights who showed up. Not in grand gestures, but in steady, faithful ways. A call to check in. A conversation after a meeting. A willingness to listen, to support, and to remind me that I was not carrying things alone.

Just as meaningful has been the way my daughters have been embraced by this brotherhood. Evelina, who is non-verbal, is met with genuine love, patience, and attention from the men in the council. They speak to her, include her, and treat her with dignity in a way that goes far beyond words. That kind of presence matters more than most people realize.

My youngest daughter, Calisi, has also found a place within this community. The brothers go out of their way to include her, to let her participate, and to make her feel welcome and important. She looks forward to it. She knows she belongs. Something as simple as heading out for coffee after a meeting at Tim Hortons has become something she genuinely gets excited about, because she knows she is part of something bigger.

That brotherhood has meant more to me that I can fully put into words, and it has made me a better man for my family.

Young fathers are often searching for direction. They want to lead their families well, but many are doing it without strong support or mentorship. The Knights of Columbus provides something rare, a brotherhood of men striving toward the same goal, to be better husbands, better fathers, and better Catholic men.

Through the council, young fathers are surrounded by men who have walked the path before them. They gain guidance, encouragement, and accountability in a way that cannot be replicated in isolation.





# WHY YOUNG FAMILIES NEED THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

con't

The Knights is not just about meetings; it is about living the faith. For young families, this is critical. Children learn what matters not from what we say, but what they see lived out each day in the home.

When fathers are involved in the Knights, their children see faith in action through service, charity, and commitment. Whether it is helping those in need, supporting parish life, or simply showing up consistently, these actions leave a lasting impact on the entire family.

The Order places a strong emphasis on family life. Events, programs, and initiatives are designed not just for members, but for their spouses and children as well. For young families, this creates opportunities to grow together both spiritually and socially. It provides a community where families can connect, support one another, and build lasting friendships rooted in shared values.

Our council is also striving to continue growing in this area by creating new programs and initiatives that are intentionally family oriented and attractive to young families. The goal is to provide a safe and welcoming space where Catholic families can come together, enjoy time with one another, and participate in activities without concern about their children being exposed to values that contradict our faith. This kind of environment is not only needed, but also something many young families are actively searching for.

If the Knights of Columbus is to remain strong, we must be intentional about inviting young men to join. More importantly, young fathers need what the Knights offers. They need brotherhood. They need formation. They need a place where faith is lived, not just talked about.

As members, it is our responsibility to extend that invitation not as a recruitment effort, but as an act of service. We are offering something that can truly change the trajectory of a man's life and, in turn, the life of his family.

Let us be intentional in reaching out to the young fathers in our parishes and communities. Invite them, walk with them, and show them what it means to live a life of faith, service, and fraternity.

The future of the Knights, and more importantly the strength of our families, depends on it.

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



# FAMILIES THAT PRAY, PLAY, AND VACATION TOGETHER OFTEN GROW STRONGER TOGETHER.

By: Denis Belanger, Family Director

Healthy families result in healthy parishes. Families that pray, play, and vacation together often grow stronger together.

Family prayer can take many forms, but the Family Rosary is one devotion that has truly stood the test of time through the centuries. As we unite together under our one Father in Heaven, we are drawn closer to Him and grow in intimacy with Him, much like a close friendship. June 12, the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, is an excellent opportunity for councils to hold the Consecration to the Holy Family program.



Summer brings many opportunities for families to enjoy outdoor activities together. Councils are encouraged to organize family-oriented events such as an afternoon at the park, a beach outing, attending a sporting event, or even a pickup soccer game where all family members are welcome to participate. These activities help strengthen family bonds and build stronger parish communities.

During the summer months, many students who benefit from the School Lunch Program may require additional support through the Food for Families program. Your continued generosity and involvement are greatly appreciated. Councils can also continue supporting families through the Knights of Columbus Family of the Month program. We congratulate the Du Quesnay family on being selected as the 2026 Ontario Family of the Year and encourage councils to consider nominating a family for next year's award.

As you vacation and spend time together this summer, we pray that God will keep you safe in your travels and bless you with His rest, peace, and joy.



Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



# PAPAL MEDAL PRESENTED TO BRUCE POULIN FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THOSE MOST IN NEED

Bruce Poulin, a highly decorated veteran, communicator and non-profit leader, received one of the highest honours of the Catholic Church on April 24, 2026 – the Benemerenti Medal, bestowed by Pope Leo XIV in consultation with local bishops, at the Knights of Columbus Ontario State Convention held in Ottawa. Bruce and his wife Zoye have been residents of Stittsville since April 2014.

“Each year, the Holy Father chooses to highlight the exemplary actions of Catholics who exemplify what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ,” says Archbishop Ivan Jurkovič, papal ambassador in Canada who presented the medal to Poulin. “Bruce has demonstrated exceptional selflessness over the years, and it’s a joy to be able to deliver this recognition to him among his fellow Knights, with whom he has done so much of his good work.”

Poulin has enjoyed a lengthy and noble career with the Canadian military, National Headquarters for the Royal Canadian Legion and Lockheed Martin Canada. In 2007, he joined the Knights of Columbus, the world’s premier lay Catholic men’s organization that has been involved in charitable efforts in Canada for 129 years. From 2023 – 2025, Poulin served as State Deputy for the Knights of Columbus in Ontario.

In 2025, after completing his term as State Deputy, he began working as senior representative for Eastern Canada of the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation, a registered charity that provides free, new wheelchairs to people who lack mobility, restoring dignity and independence.

“The gift of a new wheelchair is so much more than providing mobility, a gift which more often than not was beyond peoples’ dreams,” says Christiana Flessner, Executive Director of the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation. “We witnessed how touched Bruce was by making dreams come true, restoring hope and faith. We congratulate Bruce for this great honour.”

In March 2022, Poulin suffered a sudden heart attack which required emergency open heart quadruple bypass surgery at 59 years of age. The incident gave him a second lease on life, inspiring him to invest even more time and energy into helping Canadians and those in need across the world. Poulin has also been awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal (2002), the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012), and the Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers (2016) and the Queen Elizabeth II Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship (2025) for his significant contributions to Canadians living in Ontario.

Established in 1832, the Benemerenti Medal is bestowed by the Pope upon clergy and laity in recognition of their service to the work of the Church – service to those in need. In March of 2025, Bruce received the Queen Elizabeth II Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship and at that time we recognized his achievements.

(Bruce Poulin, CD, OMC, of Stittsville, received the Papal Benemerenti Medal from His Excellency, The Most Reverend IVAN JURKOVIČ, the Apostolic Nuncio for Canada on April 24, 2026, at the Knights of Columbus convention in Ottawa. PHOTO: Poulin family archives.)





# MARTYR'S SHRINE TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS

Compiled by Jerry Marcotte, Editor, from their website

"Over 100,00 people will visit the shrine this summer, and that includes large pilgrimage groups including everyone from ethnic Catholic groups to school groups and lots of families as well" said Fr. John O' Brien , Director of the Shrine.

"They come primarily for spiritual reasons and to be blessed by the intercession of the martyrs. We have the bone relics of Brébeuf, Lalemant, and Grenier and through the five masses a day on weekends, there are blessings for healing by the relics of the people." Martyrs' Shrine commemorates the 400-year -old mission of the Jesuit missionaries in Canada.

It pays homage to the eight French missionaries (six Jesuits)—St. Jean de Borevbeuf, St. Gabriel Lalemant, St. Isaac Jogues, St. Charles Garnier, St. Noel Charbanel, St. Antoine Daniel—who laid down their lives during the late 1600s missioning to the Wendat (Huron) people.

In 1994 Pope John Paul II celebrated a Mass at Martyr's Shrine during his papal visit to Canada. Although events have been taking place over the last number of months, a Centennial Mass was scheduled for Saturday, June 27th at 1:30 p.m. Preceding the mass, a procession including Knights of Columbus Honour Guard was to flow to the Polish altar. The mass was to be celebrated by the Very Rev. Donald Bolon, Archbishop of Regina. At 5:00 p.m. a concert featuring LEAHY as the headliner was to take place.

Fourth Degree Honour Guard were invited to take part in this event. It is hoped to have an Honour Guard of 100 SKs. We hope that a good turnout resulted helped to celebrate the anniversary.

Events at the Shrine will continue throughout the summer. For knights and their families, it may be a meaningful destination. The Midland area is also most welcoming in the summer months as you and your family recall some of our Canadian and religious history. You may wish to visit the Martyr's Shrine website for information.

14





# MARTYR'S SHRINE TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS

con't



Knights of Columbus Honour Guard, in good numbers, lead the celebrants and servers in a procession to the Polish Altar to commence the 100th Anniversary Mass. It is good to witness an increasing number of Honour Guards gathering in support of religious and community events.



This photo depicts the well attended 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass that took place on the Polish Altar at Martyrs' Shrine, Midland. The guest celebrants were Most Rev. Donald J. Dolen, Archbishop of Regina and Bishop John Boissonneau, the Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto. Thank you to Fr. John O'Brien, S. J., the Director of Martyrs' Shrine and to Bro. Paul Rozario for sending these photos at 'press time' for the State Bulletin. We appreciate that this Anniversary year is a busy time for Shrine.

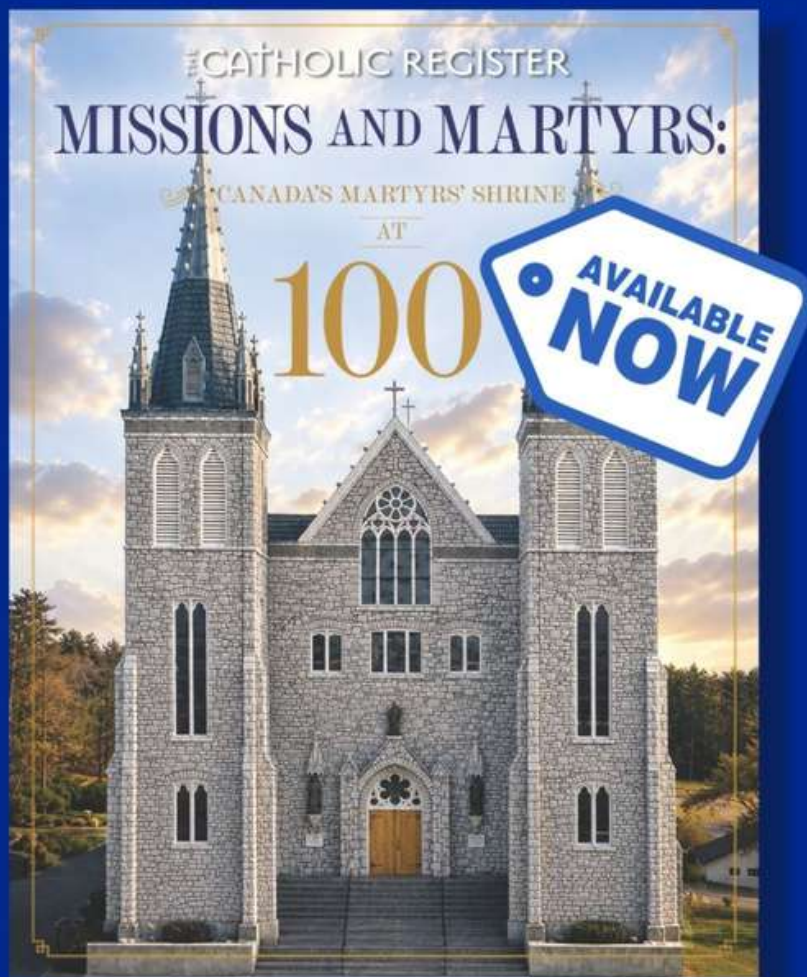
14A

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!

# THE CATHOLIC REGISTER

## MISSIONS AND MARTYRS:

CANADA'S MARTYRS' SHRINE AT 100



This year marks a profound period for commemoration of Catholic life in Canada, and *The Catholic Register* is delighted to partner in celebrating it.

Working closely with the Martyrs' Shrine director, Father John O'Brien, and his team, we've produced a 56-page full-colour magazine to honour the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Shrine's opening in 1926, and the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of St. Jean de Brébeuf and his Jesuit companions.

### ORDER TODAY!

*Quantity is limited.*

**\$10/COPY**

(includes tax/S&H)



[CatholicRegister.org/Shrine100](http://CatholicRegister.org/Shrine100)



[Shrine100@CatholicRegister.org](mailto:Shrine100@CatholicRegister.org)



1-855-441-4077 Ext. 1



1155 Yonge Street, Suite 401,  
Toronto, ON, M4T 1W2



The Canadian Saints, Martyrs' Shrine Commemorative Medallion from a few years ago. The K of C has assisted in the rebuilding of the Saints Lookout and the Papal Altar.



Peaceful Settings,  
Invite Summer  
Visits.

The serene beauty  
of Martyrs' Shrine  
and its extensive  
property as well as  
the nearby attraction  
of 'Sainte- Marie  
Among the Hurons'  
can make for a  
memorable and  
engaging family visit.



This ad was published in the Shrine 100th Anniversary Book as a gesture of support from Ontario State.

We joyfully extend our heartfelt  
congratulations to **Martyrs' Shrine**  
on the occasion of its

## 100th Anniversary

To the Martyrs' Shrine Director,  
Rev. Fr. John O'Brien, and to all  
missionaries and pilgrims who have  
visited these holy grounds at the  
Midland Shrine:

May God's love and mercy shine upon  
you as we celebrate this historic  
Centennial year. May the Holy Spirit  
guide and protect you on your journey  
as you continue to spread the  
message of Jesus Christ,  
our Saviour and King of Kings.

With gratitude and best wishes,  
**Knights of Columbus Ontario State Council**



Most Rev. Bishop  
Bryan Bayda  
*State Chaplain*



David O. Gelinas  
*State Deputy*



Rev. Branden Gordon  
*Associate  
State Chaplain*



Henry M. Miller  
*State Treasurer*



Joseph M. Bodnar  
*State Secretary*



Earle DePass  
*State Advocate*



Bruce S. Poulin  
*Immediate Past State Deputy*



Donny Thivierge  
*State Warden*



# International Free Throw and International Soccer Champions

By: Anthony Viresi, FDD, Ontario State Youth Sports Chairman



## International Basketball Free Throw

Cruz Tucci  
Sponsored by Council 13443 in Kleinburg  
10-year-old category (23/25)

Amara Cooper  
Sponsored by Council 17065 in Markham  
11-year-old category (25)

Gavin Arnold  
Sponsored by Council 1124 in Lindsay  
14-year-old category (25)



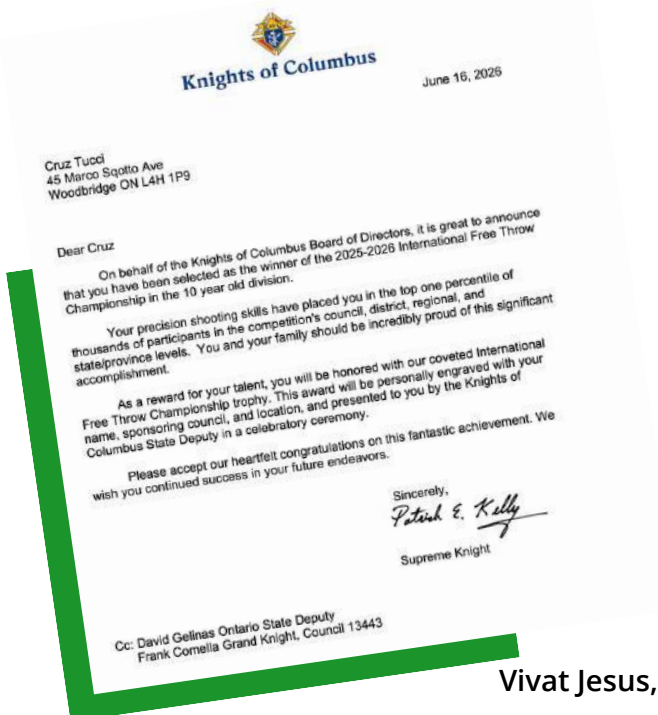
## International Soccer Champions

Boys 9  
Zion Sadiq – Council 11271 – Nepean

Boys 10  
Drew Lamarche – Council 11271 – Nepean

Girls 10  
Adele Morgenstern – Council 11670 – Kingston

Boys 11  
Rowan Furtado – Council 8233 – Kingsville



Letters such as the one shown on the left,  
were issued from the Supreme Knight to  
all the international winners

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



# Coats for Kids

By: Mario Duguay, Coats for Kids Chaiman

The 2026 Ontario Children's Coat Program is underway, and coats will be arriving in our Ontario warehouse soon, waiting for your order. We did it! Last year, we distributed over 20,000 new winter coats to children, and our goal for 2026-2027 is 22,000 coats. We can do it! With your help, 22,000 new coats are within reach! This year, the need will be great! With rising costs due to inflation, many more families are struggling to choose between food, shelter, and clothing, and we anticipate a much higher demand for our coats this year. Let's help these families in need. Remember, every box you buy keeps 12 children warm.



We ask you to be generous and help us meet this increased demand.

As many families continue to struggle during these difficult economic times, there has never been a better time for Knights of Columbus councils to help by providing warm winter coats to children in their communities through the Coats for Kids program.

## **BUY ONE GET ONE FREE (BOGO) PROGRAM**

For 2026-2027 campaign, just like last year, we are promoting the State Council BOGO incentive program from Supreme. Supreme will match the number of coats purchased by the state council as part of the coat distributions that take place. To qualify the Council, District or Diocesan Association, etc....must purchase the coats through the State Council and complete the BOGO Proposal Form. Once approved by the State Office the form will be sent to Supreme, and the coats will be delivered to the address indicated on the form.

We have a maximum of 20 BOGO forms attributed to Ontario and 700 free boxes. That represents 8,400 free coats that we can take advantage of. This is a generous donation of \$276,500 from Supreme to Ontario. Due to the limit of 20 possible requests the State Office will evaluate the forms and select the biggest orders to receive the greatest number of free coats. It is important to note that all the coats ordered on a BOGO form can only be delivered to one physical address. Supreme does not permit more than one delivery address per form. You can download a copy of the form at the following link: [BOGO Form](#) or you can contact me at [marioduguay.kofc@gmail.com](mailto:marioduguay.kofc@gmail.com).

We recommend that you pull your order together with other councils, districts or with your K of C Diocesan Association and get the coats delivered to a central area. For example, this year, the Ottawa Diocesan Association has agreed to coordinate the orders for their councils and the coats will be delivered to the appropriate school board. This will allow us to maximize the 20 BOGO forms allowed by Supreme for this campaign. It would be a shame if Ontario did not take advantage of the 700 free boxes attributed to us for the 2026-2027 campaign.



con't

It is very important that you budget early your Coats for kids donation for this campaign because the State Office will be evaluating the proposals received as a first come first serve. If you completed a form last year and want to take advantage of the offer this year, you simply need to update your form with the new quantity of coats and send it to the State Office. If you did not take advantage of the program last year and want to take part, please submit your BOGO proposals by September 10. The reason for this, is so they can be reviewed, approved and sent to Supreme by September 15. After this date, Supreme will reallocate the unclaimed boxes from our cap of 700 free boxes to other jurisdictions. The BOGO form can be sent to me earlier and paid later. State Office and Supreme's Fraternal Operations Department need to approve all BOGO proposals before September 15.

The purpose of the BOGO incentive is to donate coats AND to invite men to join the Order during membership drives. All proposals must describe how the jurisdiction's Black Friday or Boxing Day distribution will achieve those goals.

Details:

1. The Coats for Kids program is one of the pillars of the community. To earn the Colombian Award, councils are required to purchase 4 cases.
2. Coats can be ordered now and delivered starting the 1st week of September.
3. Each box is a standard prepackaged box, either a box for boys or a box for girls. Each box contains 12 coats in a variety of styles and sizes in the following size ranges:  
Toddlers, Youth, Teen, or Adult
  - Children - Sizes 4-6x for toddlers up to second grade.
  - Junior - Sizes 7-16 for children from second grade to seventh grade.
  - Teen - Sizes S-XL
  - Adult - Sizes S-XXXL

Please note that each box will only contain coats for girls or boys in the selected size range.

1. Cost: \$395/box of 12 coats (includes taxes and Shipping charges)
- Council purchases can be made online: <https://ontariokofc.ca/community-pillar-coats-for-kids/>
- If paying by check, please order online and print a copy of the form to include with your check. Make checks payable to:

Knights of Columbus Ontario Charity Foundation

(Include Coats for Kids in memo and your council number) and mail to:



# Coats for Kids

con't

Ontario State Office – Coats for kids 393 Rymal Rd. West, Suite 201 Hamilton, ON L9B 1V2

- Credit card payments are accepted.
- Electronic transfers can be made to: [payments@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:payments@ontariokofc.ca) (Indicate Coats for Kids and your council number in the notes section).
- 1. Individual donations can also be made. A charitable tax receipt will be issued. (min. \$20)
- Coat boxes can be ordered online: <https://ontariokofc.ca/community-pillar-coats-for-kids/coat-for-kids-orders-form/>
- Individual donations of any amount can be sent to the following address: <https://ontariokofc.ca/coat-for-kids/coats-for-kids/>



## Timeline:

To qualify for the Buy one get one free program, the best time to submit your BOGO form is the end of August or 1st week of September. Payment does not need to be made with the form. It can be received at a later date. Send the completed form to [marioduguay.kofc@gmail.com](mailto:marioduguay.kofc@gmail.com) with a cc to Ani at [ani@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:ani@ontariokofc.ca). You can start ordering your coats in August for the 2026-2027 campaign, so that the coats are ready and available for the children before the weather starts to get cold.

If you have any questions, please email [marioduguay.kofc@gmail.com](mailto:marioduguay.kofc@gmail.com) or contact me at 613-227-5331.

For more information on coats, order forms, and other details, please visit: <https://ontariokofc.ca/community-pillar-coats-for-kids/>

## Report your activity:

Immediately after each session of your program, complete the Fraternal Programs Form (No. 10784).

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



# ONTARIO KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 50/50 RAFFLE

By: Henry Miller, State Treasurer

Our Ontario Knights of Columbus 50/50 Raffle nicely highlights how well we can work together, as Knights, at both the local council and State levels, to advance our programs and achieve results that we never could achieve otherwise.

In that vein, our final draw Grand Prize pots for the past two raffles have been at breathtaking, record- breaking levels of almost \$50,000 (December 30, 2025: \$49,270 and April 26, 2026: \$47,360).

The April 26, 2026 final Grand Prize draw offered the added excitement of taking place at the Ontario State Convention with Thomas A. Doyle winning \$23,680. Congratulations Thomas!



For the current 'summer' raffle, the Early Bird draw took place on June 22, 2026, with Joanne Petrisano winning \$500. Congratulations Joanne! The final Grand Prize draw for this raffle will be happening on Monday August 31, 2026. The final Grand Prize pot for this raffle surely can exceed \$50,000. Why not \$100,000?

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, wedding anniversaries and graduations.

About 65% of councils, some 298 out of some 460 active councils, participate in the 50/50 Raffle. 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.

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.



# ONTARIO KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 50/50 RAFFLE

con't

To further assist councils with raffle ticket sales, for example, in conjunction with council events, Point of Sale (POS) handheld devices are available to borrow, for free, from Ontario State Office 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  
more and more successful!**

**Remember.... The winner gets one half!  
At June 25th, the Jackpot was at \$12,830.00**

The graphic features a blue background on the left and a large yellow ticket shape on the right. The ticket has a serrated edge on its left side. Text on the blue background includes the K of C logo, the Ontario State Council name, and ticket price options. The yellow ticket contains the large text '50/50 RAFFLE' and a license number.

 Ontario State Council  
Knights of Columbus

|                                    |                                   |                                  |                                  |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| \$100 for<br><b>300</b><br>Tickets | \$50 for<br><b>125</b><br>Tickets | \$20 for<br><b>40</b><br>Tickets | \$10 for<br><b>10</b><br>Tickets |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|

**Grand Prize Draw**  
August 31, 2026

**Early Bird Draw**  
June 22, 2026 at 9:00 am  
\$500 Cash Prize

**50/50  
RAFFLE**

License #: RAF1526797

21



Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



## CANADA DAY FLOAT CONSTRUCTION



Members of the Fr. McGivney Statue Site Steering Committee in Windsor, prepare the 20 foot float for Windsor's Canada Day Parade on July 1st. A 10 ft. high maple leaf with the wording '.....the True North strong and free ....' will be accompanied by a rotating K of C emblem. Two long fishing poles with foam cubes suspended with carry a mosaic of K of C images. Another large graphic entitled 'Fishers of Men' and picturing young knights will help to carry an inviting message. The float is equipped with its own sound system to play our national anthem as well as other Canadian selections. The names of the provinces and territories will be attached along each side. A banner from the Sangemino Agency covers the back skirting. Honour Guard from District Michigan 1, will be joining in the parade.

Third and Fourth Degree Knights are asked to accompany the float. A large Canadian Flag will be carried horizontally by Third Degree members. Following the parade, a light luncheon hosted by Dean Wagner Assembly 0862 will ensue at St. Alphonsus Church.

Pictured in the photo, front, Dan Pergolesi and Carl Baillargeon.

On the float: Ken Bosse, Gord Edwards, Gail Harrigan, Jerry Marcotte and Michael Harrigan. (Absent are John P. Semaan and Paul Brownlie). Photo by Karen Baillargeon

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



## K OF C NIGHT AT BARNSTORMERS' BASEBALL GAME ON JUNE 9TH AT THE FERGIE JENKINS FIELD IN CHATHAM!

Fraternalism in Practice via the Honour Guard.



Honour Guard from Essex and Kent Counties gathered to ceremoniously open the game at which State Deputy David Gelinas threw the first pitch. The E-K Barnstormers beat the Welland Jackfish 10 to 6.



Left to right are: Carl Baillargeon, Frank Lazzarin, John Chenier, Adriann Pieters, Larry Lamphier, SD David Gelinas, Joe Legue, Gord Edwards, State Warden Donny Thivierge, DM Paul Johnston, Mike Dodock, Ron Barnhard, Pat Rivard, Ken Bosse, Tony Waddick, Dan Pergolesi, Jerry Marcotte and Steve Ilijanich. DD Gerald Moynahan was an organizer of the game.



Ordination of Fr. David Basil, CSB, on June 13, 2026 at the Historic Assumption Church. Seventeen Honour Guard attended the ordination which was presided by Bishop Ronald P. Fabbro and about 45 other clergy concelebrated. An outdoor reception ensued on the front lawn of Assumption Church which is located on Riverside Drive in Windsor.



Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



## GIVING THE GIFT OF LIFE: ST. EDITH STEIN COUNCIL'S 24-YEAR COMMITMENT TO CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES

For more than two decades, the members of St. Edith Stein Council 13049 in Rockland, Ontario, have quietly lived out one of the fundamental principles of the Knights of Columbus—charity—by supporting Canadian Blood Services and helping to save lives throughout Canada.

Since 2002, Brother Knights, assisted by their spouses and family members, have volunteered at the five to six blood donor clinics held annually in Rockland. Their role may seem simple, but it is an important one. Council members staff the Recovery and Refreshment Area, where they welcome donors after their donation, offer refreshments, thank them for their generosity, and encourage them to return for future clinics.

These volunteers provide more than coffee and cookies. They offer gratitude, encouragement, and a warm community presence that helps make every donor feel appreciated for sharing their precious Gift of Life.

The impact of this long-standing commitment is truly remarkable.

Over the past 24 years, the Rockland clinics supported by St. Edith Stein Council have held an estimated 132 donor clinics. Based on historical collection averages, these clinics have likely collected between 13,000 and 15,000 units of blood.

The significance of these numbers becomes even more impressive when one considers that a single blood donation can be separated into components such as red blood cells, plasma, and platelets. These components are often used to help different patients, meaning one donation can potentially help up to three people.

As a result, the blood collected through these clinics may have helped as many as 40,000 to 45,000 Canadians facing surgery, cancer treatments, traumatic injuries, chronic illnesses, and other medical emergencies.

Behind every unit collected is a story: a child undergoing treatment, a mother requiring emergency surgery, a cancer patient receiving life-sustaining transfusions, or an accident victim whose life depends on the generosity of strangers.

The need for blood remains constant. Every day, Canadian hospitals rely on voluntary blood donations to meet the needs of patients across the country. While collection targets may fluctuate from clinic to clinic, the demand never stops.

Brother Tim Halderson and Brother Glenn Standen  
at a clinic in 2004





## GIVING THE GIFT OF LIFE: ST. EDITH STEIN COUNCIL'S 24-YEAR COMMITMENT TO CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES

con't

That is why the partnership between Canadian Blood Services and St. Edith Stein Council remains so important. Through their faithful volunteer service, Council members help ensure that these community clinics continue to succeed and that donors are welcomed and appreciated.

The Knights of Columbus are often recognized for their visible works of charity, but sometimes the most profound impact is measured not in dollars raised or buildings constructed, but in lives touched and lives saved.

For 24 years, the members of St. Edith Stein Council 13049 have helped make that impact possible—one donor, one clinic, and one life at a time.

As Knights, we are called to serve our neighbours in need. Through their unwavering support of Canadian Blood Services, the Brother Knights of St. Edith Stein Council have demonstrated that service in one of its purest forms: helping to provide the gift of life to tens of thousands of Canadians.



This was a very successful clinic with 109 units of blood collected.

The October 2020 Blood Donor Clinic was held at the River Rock Inn in Rockland. The Covid-19 pandemic restrictions meant that only 2 volunteers were required. DGK Tim Halderson and his niece Mireille assisted with donor check-in and refreshments. Tim did a great job organizing the snacks!

25



Brother Knights volunteering at a clinic in 2018



The April 2022 Blood Donor Clinic was held at the River Rock Inn in Rockland. The Covid-19 pandemic restrictions mean that only 2 volunteers were required. PGK Carl McDiarmid and his wife Bev assisted with donor check-in & refreshments.

This was a very successful clinic with 108 attendees and 90 units of blood collected.

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!



## FROM ASSOCIATE TO INSURED: THE BENEFIT YOU ALREADY HOLD

Michael Mullin, CLU, FIC, General Agent

This spring I knelt at the tomb of Father Michael McGivney, in St. Mary's Church in New Haven where our Order began. At the end of Mass, the priest looked out over a sea of name badges, General Agents and Knights who had travelled from every corner of North America, and said something I haven't been able to set down since. Wherever you've come from, he told us, here, you are home.



Father McGivney built that home for a reason. In 1882 he gathered working men around a single, unbearable question: if I am gone tomorrow, who will protect my wife and children? The Knights were his answer. Insurance wasn't an add-on to the Order — it was the reason for it.

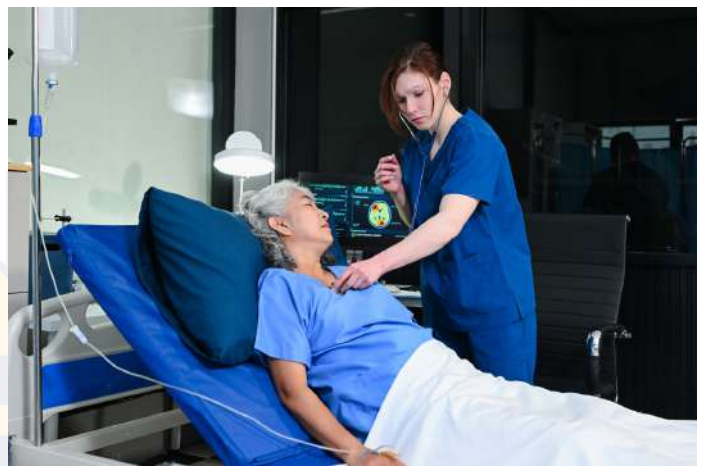
This is why the Founder's Award matters, and why its 2026–2027 requirement is worth understanding plainly. A council earns it when a number equal to 10% of its associate members, counted on the July 1 roster, sit down individually with a field agent for a financial review. The floor is five reviews; the ceiling is fifteen. And here is the part worth underlining: the award is earned by the meeting, not the sale. Not by who buys. Not by who converts. By who shows up to the conversation. A council earns full credit whether or not a single policy is ever written.

So, what actually happens in that financial review? Let me take the mystery out of it, because the unknown is the only thing that keeps a good man from saying yes. What to expect. It runs about 20 to 30 minutes, and it's exactly what it sounds like, a personalized check-in. You don't bring documents. You don't need to bring a cheque book. Your agent looks honestly at where your family stands today, helps you spot any gaps that have opened up since you joined, and walks you through the benefits and financial-protection options available to members now. At the end he asks one question, would you like to explore solutions for this? Say yes, and you keep talking. Say no, and the review ends, with no pressure and no obligation. That's the whole promise.



## FROM ASSOCIATE TO INSURED: THE BENEFIT YOU ALREADY HOLD

Why make yourself available? Because many associate members have no idea what they're entitled to. You joined the Knights for the faith, the fraternity, the charity — and the founding benefit, the one McGivney built the Order around, sits unclaimed. Scripture is blunt about the stakes: "Whoever does not provide for relatives, and especially for his own household, has denied the faith" (1 Tim 5:8). Twenty minutes is a small price to know, with certainty, that your household is covered. These reviews can happen at your kitchen table or over a screen — whichever is easier on your family.



To our council leaders: this is the gentlest ask we will ever make of our brothers — invite them to a table where nothing is required and everything is offered. Two things make it work. First, lead by example: when the Grand Knight, the Deputy Grand Knight, and the Financial Secretary sit for their own reviews first, no new member ever again hears from leadership that he "doesn't need to meet with an agent." Second, reviews count toward the award when they're with new or associate members, and it's the council's job to report each completed review as progress. Some brothers will walk away insured; many won't, and that's fine — the credit is in the conversation.

That priest in New Haven was right. Wherever a man comes from, here, he is home. Let's make sure every associate member knows that home was built to protect him.

Michael Mullin, CLU, FIC  
General Agent  
[Michael.mullin@kofc.org](mailto:Michael.mullin@kofc.org)

Vivat Jesus, The King of kings!