

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249

St. Jerome's Catholic Church 10895 Hamlin Blvd. Largo, FL

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## Knights of Columbus Reach Milestone in Coats for Kids Initiative



The Knights of Columbus reached a major milestone in November when they donated their one millionth coat through their Coats for Kids initiative.

During an event held at Annunciation Catholic School in Denver, Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly took part in the distribution of nearly 1,000 new coats to underprivileged children in five Denver Catholic schools. The donation of coats was accompanied by a donation of \$10,000 to each of the five schools involved.

Since 2009 the Knights have provided high-quality, new winter coats to children in need, with coats being distributed in 49 U.S. states and all 10 Canadian provinces. Coats have also been distributed on U.S. military bases and Native American and First Nation reservations in the U.S. and Canada.

"It really is in keeping with who the Knights are," Kelly added. "Since our very beginning with Father Michael McGivney, we were in service to fam-

ilies, and so it's very much in keeping with our founding vision of serving the family and our founding mission of charity."

He went on to point out that the Knights are seeing an increased need for coats this year. In 2023, more than 1,500 Knights councils will distribute over 200,000 coats.

"Charity really is part and parcel of who Christ calls us to be," Kelly said. He shared that many of the teachers at the event told him about the "tremendous need" many of the low-income families have and how essential a coat is for their children.

The Coats for Kids program helps to "take the burden off the parents," Kelly explained, by having the Knights provide coats for their children.

So, who received the millionth coat? "We gave it to this wonderful little girl who was so happy to have the coat," he shared. "The coat that we gave her was a golden coat, and we said we gave it to her because she has a heart of gold."



FROM AROUND THE WORLD  
OF INTEREST TO CATHOLICS

Pope Removes Texas Bishop Who's  
Been a Frequent Francis Critic

*The Word on Fire* Bible Now  
Available

Five Catholic activists arrested at  
US Capitol as part of protest for  
Israel-Hamas cease-fire

New book tracks history of *Amazing  
Grace* hymn

Pope's major Vatican summit ends  
without action on women deacons  
or mention of LGBTQ Catholics

Traditional Irish Wake Highlights  
Importance of Praying for De-  
parted Souls

Since Benedict XVI'S Death,  
Vatican Monastery Is Being Con-  
verted To Become Home for Ben-  
edictine Nuns

Religious Sisters Who Fight Hu-  
man-Trafficking Are Honored For  
Their Work

# FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Pete McCabe

Happy New Year! The first half of our fraternal year is over, and this is a good time to reflect on what we have accomplished as a council from

work of our bingo volunteers who commit time each week to help the council raise this capital. We need to continue to be good stewards of this money and get it in the hands of those who need it most. Please provide your good ideas by submitting a motion form (which can be found on the council website, HOME (knight-sdmoj17249.org)) prior to the officers' meeting (1st Wed of each month) for consideration. So, what plans do we have for 2024? We will continue to support our Life programs such as Kimberly Home, Foundations of Life (Catholic Charities), and Special Olympics; our Family programs such as St Jerome's Early Childhood Center and other Catholic education; our Community programs such as the Blessing Bags and St Jerome Lifeline ministry; and our Faith programs such as seminarian support, Alpha, and Legion of Mary. But we need your good ideas moving forward. Please work with our four program directors: Kevin Manning (Life), Mike Kesser (Family), Pete Ganio (Community), and Pete Nunes (Faith) and provide them with your good ideas. Together we can make the first half of 2024 a blessed and fruitful new year. Thanks for all you do!

July to December and what we hope to accomplish from January to June. There are numerous opportunities to volunteer, and you have stepped up in so many ways. From July to December our council has accumulated 941.5 man-hours in various council activities. Starting with our 4th of July celebration to our most recent Knights' breakfast. This commitment to our council says a lot about you and your desire to assist our parish and community. During this same time period, we have expended a total of \$13,778 in charitable contributions. Within our four program areas (Faith, Family, Life, and Community), this breaks down into the following: Faith: \$3,377, Family: \$3,787, Life: \$3,322, and Community: \$3,292. This is made possible by the hard

"Stressed" is just "desserts" spelled backwards.

Stupidity knows no boundaries, but it knows a lot of people.

Television is a medium - anything well done is rare.

The best part of going to work is coming back home at the end of the day.

The first five days after the week-end are the toughest.

The leading source of computer problems is computer solutions.

The only time where you really need a landline today is when you're trying to find your cell phone.

The perfect man doesn't swear, doesn't smoke, doesn't get angry, doesn't drink. He also doesn't exist.

The road to success is always under construction.

The shortest horror story: Monday.

Snorers are always the ones to fall asleep first.

The true nature of a human being clearly shows when the supermarket opens a second checkout lane.

There are days when you just want to envelop everybody with light and warmth... preferably through the use of a flamethrower.

## The Most Pro-Life Coca-Cola Commercial You'll Ever See

A 10-year-old Argentina Coca-Cola commercial (released only in Argentina), recently resurfaced on social media and completely hits the nail on the head with parenthood, depicting a pro-life message.

The ad, which advertises its drink, "Coca-Cola Life," begins with a woman holding up a positive pregnancy test to show her husband. In pure excitement, they embrace the news.

It then flashes to a scene of them holding their new baby in the living room.

The following scenes depict tired parents awakened at night to care for a fussy baby, a dad stepping on toys all over the floor, lugging baby bags everywhere, the baby accident-

tally ruining dinner with everything falling to the floor, and so on.

Essentially, we witness the shift from a married couple to a new family, who now hold the responsibility of caring for a child and all that comes with it.

Toward the end of the commercial, after the father takes a sip of a "Coca-Cola Life," he is surprised by his wife once again holding a positive pregnancy test. He immediately screams ready to face the newborn life all over again, and grabs his wife to rejoice. Upon seeing his reaction, she also rejoices as they hold their now toddler.

Watch the video:  
<https://twitter.com/i/status/1732428634219254185>

Two of the greatest qualities to have in life are:

**PATIENCE**  
and **WISDOM**

# Council 17249 Holds Annual Christmas Party

On Wednesday evening, December 13, the Knights and Columbiettes gathered for our annual Christmas party in the Parish Center. It was a great time. One hundred folks showed up, which included, Fr. Blum, Sr. Lucia, Pete Grasso (District Deputy) and his wife Dawn, and Past Grand Knight Bill McClelland, and his wife Claudia (President of the Columbiettes).

Additionally, we had international guests from Germany and Canada as well as new Knights. The food was catered from Cracker Barrel and the desserts were plentiful and delicious. There was a special presentation announcing the Star District Award which is a reflection of our great council. Additionally, all evening we listened

to Christmas music courtesy of Brother Ralph Frizzle while watching a slide presentation of our Council's year-in-review. Finally, Brother Tom Kurt and Brother Gregg Appel performed some holiday favorites. Overall, it was a great way to socialize and enjoy time with our Brother Knights, their spouses, and Columbiettes.

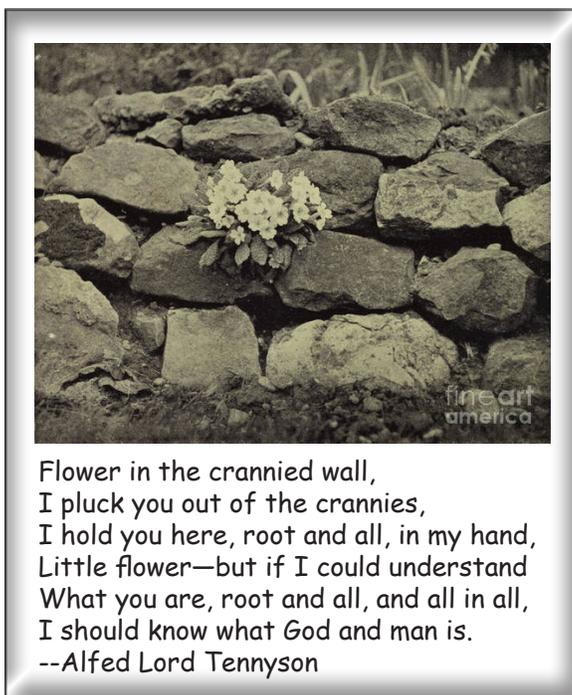


## DMOJ Council 17249 Continues to Provide Breakfast on the Third Sunday of the Month

Every 3rd Sunday of the month after the 7:30, 9, and 10:45 Masses, the Council cooks up a delicious breakfast of pancakes, scrambled eggs, and bacon for the parish community. On Sunday, December 17, the crowds were a bit down due to the storm but those that did swing by for breakfast enjoyed the food and festivities. The leftover food was taken to the local VFW by our PGK Bill McClelland. Please remember, all Knights are welcome to volunteer in the kitchen or swing by to have a great meal and conversation.



Knights taking a break between crowds: Bill Bannon, Joe Zwissler, Dan Timmons, and Tim Condron.



Flower in the crannied wall,  
I pluck you out of the crannies,  
I hold you here, root and all, in my hand,  
Little flower—but if I could understand  
What you are, root and all, and all in all,  
I should know what God and man is.  
--Alfred Lord Tennyson

## The Beautiful Christmas Letter Pope Benedict XVI Wrote to Baby Jesus as a Child

Pope Benedict XVI (also known as Joseph Ratzinger) passed away on Dec. 31, 2022, at age 95. While we remember him as our beloved Pope and Saint John Paul II's close confidant, he also led a beautiful life before these monumental years.

In 1934, little Joseph Ratzinger wrote a beautiful Christmas letter to the Child Jesus at age seven. The letter was found in 2012 during his childhood home's restoration, which was transformed into a museum dedicated to the former pontiff.

Here's a photo of the letter:

"Dear Baby Jesus, soon you will come down to earth. You will bring joy to children. You'll bring joy to me too. I would like the "Volks-Schott", a green chasuble for mass and a Sacred Heart of Jesus. I'll always be good.  
Joseph Ratzinger  
Christmas 1934

## The American Medical Association Will Soon Consider Assisted Suicide

Soon the AMA (American Medical Association) will discuss two major revisions to its policies regarding assisted suicide.

The first resolution, proposed by medical students, calls for an end to "criminalizing" doctors who perform assisted suicides, as well as patients and families who request the procedure. It also calls for striking current language in the AMA's policy which condemns the practice and replacing the phrase "assisted suicide" with the term "Medical Aid In Dying" (MAID). MAID is the term used in Canada, where assisted suicide is legal.

A second resolution calls for the AMA to adopt a neutral stance regarding assisted suicide.

What's troubling," Dr. Tim Millea told Catholic Vote, "is that this is coming from the younger generation. As far as a medical career is concerned, they have not yet been in the real world. To me, "he continued, "assisted suicide should make doctors angry, because why would you tell people 'you have two choices: either suffer or die'? We go to school for a long time and spent hundreds of thousands



of dollars getting an education. Why would anyone want to take the easy way out? It just seems like dodging responsibility, and I think it's very short sighted."

# Pope Francis Admits to Bullying as a Child

Pope Francis highlights the dignity and value of all human persons, denouncing "body-shaming" and admitting to bullying an overweight boy as a child.

Francis said that body-shaming is "something artificial" that disrupts the ability to live in harmony with your hearts. "It's not only a question of measurements or sizes, it's a harmonic beauty that every woman, every man, has, and we have to cherish that," Francis said. "I recall a friend of mine, who was a bit fat, and we would actually mock him and bully him," the pope said. One day, Francis said that he and his friends once hit him and he fell down. Upon learning of the incident, Francis said his

father made him go to the bullied child's home to apologize.

Years later, the pope said he re-connected with the friend who had since become an evangelical pastor. "It was beautiful," Francis said, "He had overcome all his trauma, all his bullying, all his body shame."

The pope also said that plastic surgery "serves no purpose because beauty is going to fade eventually."

"There was a famous actress, Anna Magnani, and when talking about her wrinkles she said: "No, I won't get rid of them. It costs me to get these wrinkles, they are my beauty."

"So, we all have our beauty, and we have to accept it and we have to live in harmony with it," he concluded.



Anna Magnani

## The Miracles of Lourdes, Part 4 of 5

*Editor's note: The stories of the miracles at Lourdes are very inspirational. I will include one at a time for the next few newsletters.*

St. Bernadette of Lourdes was also called Saint Bernadette Soubirous. She was born January 7, 1844, Lourdes, France, and died April 16, 1879. She was canonized December 8, 1933. She was a French saint whose visions led to the founding of the Marian shrine of Lourdes.

Frail in health, Bernadette was the eldest of nine children from a poverty-stricken family; her father was a miller. She contracted cholera in the epidemic of 1854 and suffered from asthma and other ailments throughout her life. Between February 11 and July 16, 1858, at the age of 14, she had a series of visions of the Virgin Mary in a nearby grotto. Mary revealed Her identity with the words "I am the Immaculate Conception" and, among other messages and affirmations, told Bernadette that a chapel should be built there. Bernadette steadfastly defended the genuineness of these visions despite strong opposition from her parents, the lo-

cal clergy, and civil authorities, and she faithfully transmitted Mary's messages.

To escape public attention, she became a boarder in the local school run by the Sisters of Charity. In 1866 she was granted admission into the novitiate in the motherhouse. There she completed her religious instruction and passed her remaining years in prayer and seclusion, happy and loved for her kindness, holiness, and wit, despite almost constant sickness and pain. She died in agony, willingly accepting her great sufferings in faithful fulfillment of her "Lady's" request for penance. She was canonized by Pope Pius XI, who authenticated her visions and



the veneration of Mary as Our Lady of Lourdes which is a major pilgrimage center for those seeking healing. The chapel of the St. Gildard convent which contains her body which is said to be incorrupt.

Prior to the Second Vatican Council, altar candles had to be pure beeswax. Today, altar candles are typically 51% beeswax.

When you have the option of being right or being nice, choose nice.

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams

"I recently took a DNA test and learned that God is my Father."

Prayer should be our first response, not an afterthought.

Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.

## After-School Satan Club Targets Rural Connecticut School with Christian 'Good News' Club



Parents and faith leaders in Lebanon, Connecticut, are outraged that satanists are planning an after-school club for elementary school children in their town beginning December 1. A representative of The Satanic Temple's (TST) After School Satan Club says Connecticut's first such club was requested by a parent whose child attends Lebanon Elementary School as an alternative to the Bible-based Good News Club. "This particular parent was aware of the Good News Club and did not feel

comfortable sending her children to the Good News Club and was more closely aligned with our seven tenets and our beliefs," said The Satanic Temple's Campaign Director June Everett of Colorado. "So she reached out and asked if we can start an After-School Satan Club at her kid's elementary school, and so we went through the process and lined up our volunteers to help with the club." Everett added. "And, of course, the school district understands constitutional law and the First Amendment, so they approved us without any issues." A post on TikTok revealed an ad that reads "Hey Kids! Let's have fun at After School Satan Club." The announcement, which targets elementary school-age children and their parents, continues: The Satanic Temple is a non-theistic religion that

views Satan as a literary figure who represents a metaphorical construct of rejecting tyranny and championing the human mind and spirit. "I always have to explain to the Christians that you don't have a monopoly on Satan," Everett said. "We understand that he is a triggering, evil, terrible being in your biblical world. But in our world, we look to him differently. And we consider him the embodiment of standing up to radical authority." Lebanon Public School District Superintendent Andy Gonzalez said in a statement that the district must allow the satanists' club: Prohibiting particular organizations from accessing our school buildings based on the perspectives they offer or express could violate our obligations under the First Amendment and would not align with our commitment to non-discrimination, equal protection, and respect for diverse viewpoints. Everett confirmed the satanists' clubs are only organized where there are faith-based clubs in operation. The issue will be discussed at the town's next school board meeting.

## Pope Francis Celebrates 54 Years As a Priest



On Dec. 13, 1969, just four days before his 33rd birthday, Jesuit Jorge Mario Bergoglio — who today is Pope Francis — was ordained a priest by Archbishop Ramón José Castellano, archbishop emeritus of Argentina. That day, 54 years ago, was a Saturday, the eve of the third Sunday of Advent. Francis discovered his vo-

that initially his mother did not support his decision to enter the priesthood, even though she was a devout Catholic. However, when her son was ordained, she accepted his call and asked for his blessing at the end of the ceremony. Bergoglio continued his Jesuit formation from 1970 to 1971 in Spain.

cation to the priesthood while on his way to celebrate Gaudete Day. When he passed by a church in the Buenos Aires neighborhood of Flores to go to confession, he received special inspiration from the priest who welcomed him. On another occasion, the Holy Father recounted

On April 22, 1973, he made his perpetual profession in the Society of Jesus. When he returned to Argentina he served as a professor at the San José School of Theology, and on July 31, 1973, at the age of 36, he was appointed provincial of the Jesuits in Argentina. On May 20, 1992, Pope John Paul II appointed him auxiliary bishop of Buenos Aires, and he received his episcopal consecration on June 27 of that year. Bergoglio was appointed archbishop of Buenos Aires on June 3, 1997. He assumed the pastoral government of the archdiocese in February 1998. Then, in the consistory of Feb. 21, 2001, he was made a cardinal by Pope John Paul II. As a cardinal he participated in the conclave that elected Benedict XVI in April 2005, and on March 13, 2013, he was elected successor of Peter, assuming the name Francis. He turned 87 on Dec. 7. He reigns as the oldest pope in the past century and one of the oldest popes in the church's history.

## Priest Delivers Twin Babies Outside Cathedral in Washington State



A young priest recently helped a distressed homeless woman bring two young lives into the world. He now is wondering what God was trying to tell him through experience. Father Jesús Mariscal is the parochial vicar at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima, Washington. He stepped out of the rectory for what he thought would be a quick trip to buy doughnuts for a marriage preparation meeting with an engaged couple. As he walked past the statue of the Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception he noticed a homeless woman

and helped the woman lie down. He put his phone on speaker and placed it on the ground so he could follow the 911 operator's instructions. Within seconds the woman gave birth to a baby boy. Mariscal handed the crying boy to the woman. "I'm having another!" she shouted. Mariscal helped deliver the second boy. He told the 911 operator the child was still in the amniotic sac, the protective membrane that surrounds a child in the womb. Mariscal saw the baby moving inside it. The 911 operator told him to break it

in distress standing near it. She was screaming frantically, "I need help! I'm having a baby!"

Mariscal couldn't believe it at first. But he looked closely and saw blood at her feet. She cried out, "I'm having it now! He called 911

open. This proved more difficult than expected. With precious time evaporating and no tools at his disposal, the priest was finally able to burst the sac with his hands, only to find the tiny infant wasn't breathing. His umbilical cord was wrapped around his neck.

The operator told Mariscal to lay the child on his side and gently tap him on the back.

After a few terrifying moments, the baby started to cry, announcing his arrival into the world. Mariscal placed the second child in the woman's lone free arm. The morning air was chilly, so he ran inside to get towels. Finally, the paramedics arrived.

Mariscal texted the couple he was supposed to meet for marriage preparation. "I'm sorry I'm late for our appointment. I was just helping a lady deliver twins," he wrote.

Assuming it was a joke to excuse his tardiness, they responded: "LOL Father. You don't have to lie."

The woman and twin boys were taken to the hospital. The babies were born prematurely, at 30 weeks.

The priest has visited them in the hospital, and they are doing well. He does not know the exact nature of the mother's situation in life. She left the hospital a few hours after being admitted, and as far as anyone knows she has not yet returned.

## The History of the Candy Cane



Years ago, a candy maker wanted to make a type of candy that would be a witness for his savior, so he made the candy cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ with a stick of pure white candy. The white symbolizes the virgin birth and the sinless nature of Jesus. The hardness of the candy symbolizes the solid rock (1 Corin. 10:4), the foundation of the church (Matt. 16:18) and the firmness of the promises of God (Psalms 18: 30-32). The candy maker made the candy in the shape of a J to represent the precious name of Jesus who came to earth

to be our savior (John 3:16) and a symbol to represent the staff of the good shepherd (John 10:14).

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, he decided to stain it with 3 small, narrow stripes, representing the stripes of the scourging Jesus received prior to his crucifixion (Mark 15: 15-20) for our healing (Isa. 53:5). The large red stripe represents the shedding of His blood on the cross for our salvation (Romans 5:9).

Unfortunately, the candy cane has lost its traditional meaning and is just a decoration seen only at Christmas time. But we can pray that the symbol will once again be used as a witness for the glory of our lord and savior Jesus Christ.

# Miss Universe Shares Her Catholic Faith with the People of Nicaragua

On Nov. 18, 2023, Miss Nicaragua Sheynnis Palacios made history as she was crowned Miss Universe in San Salvador, El Salvador. She is the first Nicaraguan woman to win the title.

The people of Nicaragua currently suffer under the dictatorship of Sandinista President Daniel Ortega and his wife, Vice President Rosario Murillo. The Ortega-Murillo regime often targets the Church with imprisonment, harassment, and financial freezes of clergy members.

Nicaragua consistently makes international headlines and generates social media buzz for the regime's attacks on religious freedom and, more recently, the political imprisonment of Bishop Rolando Alvarez.

In a frightening political and economic climate in Nicaragua, the significance of this epic win means everything, and the weight of this triumph is not lost on Palacios.

The 23-year-old Managua, Nicaragua, native graduated from the Universidad Centroamericana in Managua. She is an audiovisual producer and mental health care advocate, a cause she hopes to continue support-

ing during her reign. Her pageant interest first began in 2016 when she won the Miss Teen Nicaragua title. She was later crowned Miss World Nicaragua 2020, then Miss Nicaragua 2023, and now, Miss Universe 2023.

"I just feel happy for my country. This is a victory for us, my people. In my country all the people go to the street and celebrate the moment with the flag. It gives us happiness, it gives us hope, it gave us a real victory," she said. "I am a Christian person, Catholic person and to me, prayer is a way that makes me feel more comfortable. When I say thanks, it is because this crown is not mine, it's for God. It's for all the delegates and it's also for my country and my family."

Recently, President Ortega expelled the Missionaries of Charity, banned public religious processions, shut down Caritas Nicaragua (a major Catholic charity), closed the John Paul II University, and moved to suspend all diplomatic relations with the Holy See, thereby closing the embassy to the Holy See in Managua. Given the horrifying news of the



"When I say thanks, it is because this crown is not mine, it's for God." Sheynnis Palacios

Nicaraguan government's recent actions, it is very unsafe to be outspokenly Catholic or publicly express the faith in Nicaragua, as it may very well be portrayed as direct opposition to the Ortega regime.

Palacios making such a bold statement highlights her Catholic faith and prayer, and openly calls attention to the Glory of God. It shows that regardless of current fear, faith will triumph.

It was Saint Catherine Laboure who first received this devotion in 1830. She provided instructions to have a medal made with the image, explaining that great graces are given to those who wear the medal with confidence.

The medal was originally referred to as the "Medal of the Immaculate Conception," which foreshadowed the declaration of the official Marian dogma of the Immaculate Conception by Pope Pius IX.

However, it soon became known as the Miraculous Medal due to the miracles that followed.

Both the front and back of the Miraculous Medal are rich in symbolism. Knowing the meaning behind the Miraculous Medal makes wearing one even more special.



## Front of the Medal

1. Prayer  
"O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee!"
2. Rays  
Through her intercession, she sends God's grace to the world.
3. Feet on Globe and Serpent  
The globe represents the world and the serpent is Satan. Mary helps the world fight against evil.
4. The Year 1830  
The Blessed Mother gave Saint Catherine Laboure the design of the Miraculous Medal in 1830.

## Reverse Side of the Medal

5. Twelve Stars  
There are twelve Apostles, representing the Church.
6. Letter "M" with the Cross  
The "M" of Mary and the Cross of her son, Jesus Christ, are intertwined, representing their union.
7. Two Flaming Hearts  
The left heart circled with thorns represents the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The right Heart, pierced by a sword, represents the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

# Iowa Satanic Temple Display Not Protected by First Amendment, Catholic Legal Expert Says



The Satanic Temple display in the Iowa state capitol building is not protected by the First Amendment, a Catholic legal expert has said. Andrea Picciotti-Bayer, a legal analyst said that the display was installed at the request of a prominent

atheist group and is not a religious expression but rather about making a mockery of religion.

The temporary statue, which portrays a larger-than-life-size goat-headed figure cloaked in red and black and surrounded by candles, was erected at the request of Iowa's Satanic Temple (IST) alongside several religious holiday displays. Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds called the display "absolutely objectionable" and encouraged "all those of faith" to join her in "praying over the Capitol and recognizing the Nativity scene that will be on display — the true reason for the season."

Others such as Iowa state Rep. Jon Dunwell, a Republican and a pastor, have said that the Satanic display is protected by the free exercise of worship and religion clause of the First Amendment.

Though he said he personally objects to the monument, Dunwell said: "I don't want the state evaluating and making determinations about religions."

Picciotti-Bayer, who is the director of the human and religious rights group the Conscience Project, said the First Amendment "absolutely"

does "not protect this kind of offensive and irreligious display."

She explained that because the group has publicly admitted that it is primarily composed of atheists and does not believe in the existence of Satan, the display does not constitute genuine religious expression. Instead, she said it is meant to make a mockery of religion and is part of a "concerted effort to undermine the fabric of American society."

"Even though the leaders and the founders of The Satanic Temple disavow Satanism, the minute you let Satan in, we all know all sorts of havoc ensues," she said.

"The other thing is, I do think we can't diminish the importance of prayer," she went on. "Even though the founders of The Satanic Temple claim not to really be Satanists, it's something that we need to use our most powerful weapon, which is prayer, to fight against."

## Support Pours in For Man Who Beheaded Satan Statue in Iowa



Navy officer Michael Cassidy

Thousands of people have united to give financial and moral support to retired Navy officer Michael Cas-

sidy, hours after he beheaded a "holiday Satanic display" at the Iowa State Capitol.

After destroying the Satan statue Thursday, Cassidy promptly turned himself in to police. He was later charged with fourth-degree criminal mischief.

Cassidy explained that he tore down the display to "awaken Christians to the anti-Christian acts promoted by our government." Many observers instantly hailed him as a hero.

The Republic Sentinel Editor Ben Zeisloft announced a campaign on

the Christian crowdfunding platform GiveSendGo to help raise money for Cassidy's legal defense. Zeisloft's publication initially broke the story of the act.

Less than two hours after the journalist posted the fundraising link, Cassidy stated that he was "overwhelmed" by the amount of support pouring in for him.

"People have been asking me and yes, the below GiveSendGo link is legitimate," he noted.

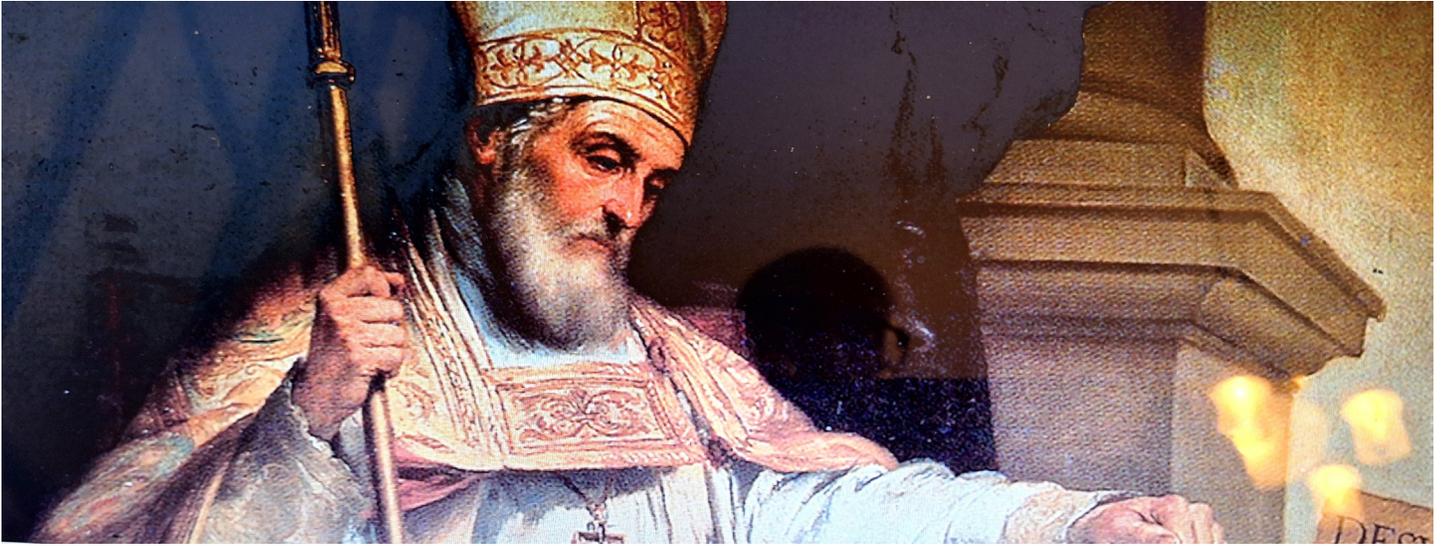
"We're going to win," Cassidy added. "God bless America."

How cool is it that the same God who created mountains and oceans and galaxies looked at you and thought that the world needed one of you too!

"The bad news is that time flies. The good news is you're the pilot."

"Keep your face always toward the sunshine, and shadows will fall behind you."

## How Is Someone Named a Doctor of the Church?



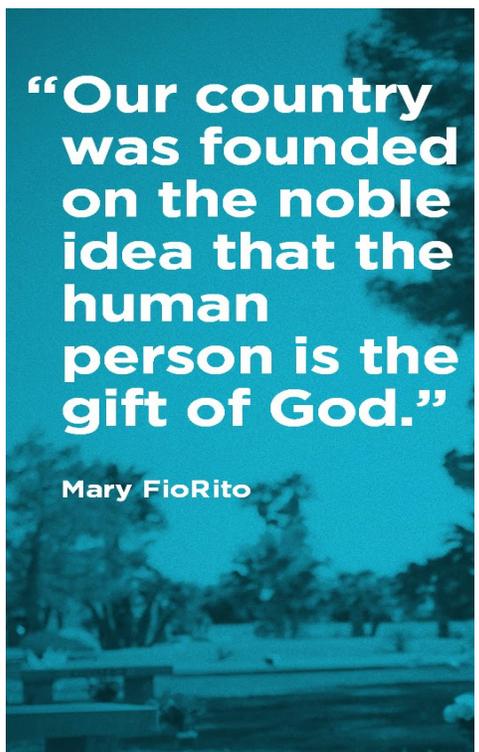
The Doctors of the Church are teachers of the faith who have demonstrated exemplary holiness and have deepened the whole Church's understanding of the Catholic faith. They must be officially declared doctors by a papal proclamation. Such men and women also are known particularly for the depth of understanding and the orthodoxy of their theological teachings.

Though their teachings are not infallible, being a "doctor" means that

they contributed significantly to the formulation of Christian teaching in at least one significant area in a way that has impacted later generations.

Through the Middle Ages, the title and process of being named a doctor remained a fluid and informal one. In the 13th century, however, the Church formalized the process by which the Church could honor persons with the title and then put out the first official list of Doctors of the Church.

There are three requirements for being named a Doctor of the Church. First is great sanctity. Thus only those who have already been declared to be saints by the Church may be named a doctor. A second requirement is eminent learning. This is often demonstrated by the fact that they were known to be great teachers of the Faith. The third requirement is a proclamation by the Church. Usually, such proclamation is made by the pope.



# The Astonishing Power of One Hail Mary

Did you ever think about or realize what the power of one Hail Mary can do?

On a Saturday morning, a man whose last name is Petrovich was running, as usual, in a Pittsburgh neighborhood. On his route, he passed a house where there was an ambulance in the driveway. The house's front door and garage doors were open.

"Growing up, every time I heard any type of siren — ambulance or police car — I made the Sign of the Cross and said a prayer for those in need and protection for those involved. That was second nature to me," Petrovich said.

"One thing different on that occasion was I always said that prayer but never felt compelled to say a particular prayer. That was the one thing that was different than anything else. And the first prayer that came to mind was the Hail Mary."

Petrovich thought of stopping and helping, but since he has no first-aid training, he decided to keep running, although he wondered if he was wrong not to stop. Yet he prayed: "God, if that ambulance is still parked in that driveway, I will stop and see if I can give assistance." On his run back, he reported, "The ambulance was not there, there were no lights in house, the garage door was shut, and the front door was shut."

The following Thursday, after work, Petrovich was running in the same neighborhood.

Approaching the house where he had seen the ambulance, he saw a lady at the edge of the driveway of that house, and she started waving her hand at him and said, "Please stop."

So he went to the edge of the driveway, and she said, "Thank you for stopping, sir. I need to talk to you. I want to thank you because you saved

my life."

Puzzled, Petrovich asked, "How did I save your life?"

"Let me tell you what happened to me last week. Alone at home, I suddenly started feeling strange and blacked out. I thought I was dying."

She told Petrovich how, before finding herself in a hospital bed and about to regain consciousness, she had a vision of Jesus who came to her, and said, "It's okay. Everything is going to be fine. You're going to be fine because this person prayed for you."

"On the palm of His hand was your face," she told him, recounting what went through her mind. And she thought, "I have to thank him for saving my life."

Petrovich concluded by saying, "How do you react to something like that? I was speechless. I didn't know what to say, except, "Thank you."



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



### Council 17249 Divine Mercy of Jesus Officers for 2023-2024

Worthy Chaplain  
Worthy Grand Knight  
Worthy Deputy Grand Knight  
and Program Director  
Worthy Chancellor  
Worthy Recorder  
Worthy Financial Secretary  
Worthy Treasurer  
Worthy Advocate  
and Membership Director  
Worthy Warden  
Worthy Inside Guard 1  
Worthy Inside Guard 2  
Worthy Outside Guard  
1-year Trustee  
2-year Trustee  
3-year Trustee  
Worthy District Deputy  
Field Agent  
Newsletter Editor

TBD  
Sir Knight Pete McCabe  
Sir Knight Bill Bannon  
  
Sir Knight Greg Musick  
Sir Knight Rocco Totino  
Sir Knight Fred Belzel  
Knight Richard Pettit  
Sir Knight Gregg Appel Pgc  
  
Knight Gene Sanders  
Knight Dave Unkrich  
Knight Ed Wirth  
Sir Knight Joe Moore  
Sir Knight Rick Hendrickson  
Sir Knight Jim Patton  
Sir Knight Bill McClelland  
Sir Knight Pete Grasso Pgc  
Knight Tony Crevello  
Knight Jim Hand