

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

*Divine Mercy of Jesus* Council 17249



St. Jerome's Catholic Church 10895 Hamlin Blvd. Largo, FL  
September 2020 Volume 2 Issue 6

## Council 17249 *Divine Mercy of Jesus* Receives Star Award



FROM AROUND THE WORLD  
OF INTEREST TO CATHOLICS

Abortion pill has killed 3.7M unborn babes over 18 years

Ireland: COVID forces Knock shrine to close

Lockdowns cause large decrease in premature births

Hospital worker: China forces abortion, infanticide on Uyghurs

Eucharist processed through torn-up downtown of Wisconsin's capital

Priests in Santa Fe have been given a 5-minute limit on homilies

Knights of Columbus donating \$250,000 after Beirut explosion

Infanticide ok with 90% of NICU docs and nurses in Belgian survey

Please see page 3 for more details.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Pete Grasso

Brothers:

We are entering September with no end in sight of this horrid COVID-19. I know there are many conspiracies and those theories may be true. The reality is that there are people dying and I know many are frightened to come back to gatherings, not knowing what is real or not. My reality is what I keep sharing: the deaths have been real and have been horrible. Also, the separation from family is true.

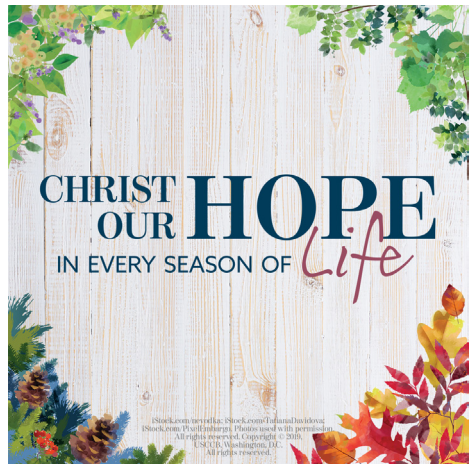
We will continue to be vigilant and follow Fr. Tom advice regardless of our own thoughts and desires. He is ultimately responsible for the safety of us all, and Fr. Tom

is not going to let us down.

We shared a wonderful time together last month with Brother Gregg's idea of praying the rosary together after our general monthly Zoom meeting. It was great. My wish is that everyone will continue to pray for each other, our wonderful priests, deacon and sister, the church staff; and our church family.

God bless you all.

Pete



## FROM THE DESK OF OUR PASTOR



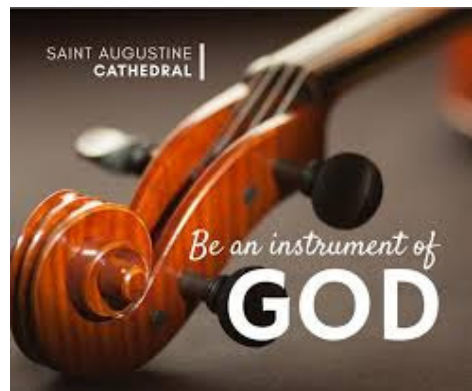
Fr. Tom Morgan

Dear Friends:

We read in Hebrews 8:10: "This is the covenant I will establish with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their minds and I will write them upon their hearts. I will be their God, and they shall be my people." I have listed the 10 Commandments below. While they can be written in our hearts, it may also be helpful to cut out these 10 Commandments and place them on your refrigerator or some other place in your home as a constant image of God's love for us.



- ### THE TEN COMMANDMENTS
1. I AM THE LORD THY GOD: THOU SHALT NOT HAVE STRANGE GODS BEFORE ME.
  2. THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN.
  3. KEEP THE SABBATH HOLY.
  4. HONOUR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER.
  5. THOU SHALT NOT KILL.
  6. THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.
  7. THOU SHALT NOT STEAL.
  8. THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST THY NEIGHOUR.
  9. THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHOUR'S WIFE.
  10. THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHOUR'S GOODS.



*CHARITY-UNITY-FRATERNITY-PATRIOTISM*




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















**LOCAL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #17249 RECEIVES TOP AWARD**


The **K of C Divine Mercy of Jesus, St Jerome Catholic Parish, Largo FL**  **Council #17249** has received the distinction of Star Council the international organization's top award for local councils.

The Star Council  Award recognizes overall excellence in the areas of membership, promotion of fraternal insurance benefits, sponsorship of faith formation programs and service-oriented activities.

Upon request from our Pastor Sir Knight Fr. Tom Morgan to create and form a Knights of Columbus council within St Jerome Catholic Parish in Largo, FL, our new council was chartered in April 2019. We started with 18 Knights, who transferred from other Councils. Under the leadership of our Worthy Sir Grand Knight Pete Grasso Jr and a team of dedicated Council Officers, presently our council's membership exceeds 80 Knights, including our Knights from our Parish Clergy.

Some of our 1<sup>st</sup> year Community Events consist of the following:

-  We enjoyed our brotherhood with several evenings of Family Mass and Corporate Communion
-  We are known as the "Sea of Blue" Knights in our new Council's royal blue polo shirts
-  We helped to organize and provided Knights for St Jerome Parish Community Trivia Night
-  We assist the St Jerome's Community Food Pantry in our Parish's Ed Kilroy building
-  We supported the Parish's annual children & family costume Halloween festival, music & candy
-  We provide shuttle assistance from parking lot to the Church for our congregants during Masses
-  We held several successful membership drives within the Parish
-  We hosted our council's first Knight & families Christmas Carols sing-along Holiday party
-  We held monthly community breakfasts with a worker teams of 10-15 Knights serving & cooking
-  We sponsored a video Order of Exemplification Degree Ceremony for current or new Knights
-  We provide traffic control for Saturday confessions and drive thru distribution of communion
-  We note in memoriam: four of our beloved Knights are now in Our Lord's Army of Knights: Worthy Warden Knight Alfonso Ramos, Knight Mayor (Bob) Robert DiNicola, Sir Knight (Bill) William C. DeVarti, and this month Sir Knight (Charlie) Charles S. O'Toole

For information on joining the  Knights of Columbus contact local **Membership Director:** Sir Knight Gregg P Appel PGK, [karokeya1@gmail.com](mailto:karokeya1@gmail.com) , (727) 244-2832.

# MEET MARGARET SANGER, THE FOUNDER OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Margaret Sanger was an American birth control activist, sex educator, writer, and nurse. Sanger popularized the term "birth control", opened the first birth control clinic in the United States, and established organizations that evolved into the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

In 1916 Sanger opened the first birth control clinic in the United States, which led to her arrest for distributing information on contraception after an undercover policewoman bought a copy of her pamphlet on family planning. Her subsequent trial and appeal generated controversy. Sanger felt that in order for women to have a more equal footing in society and to lead healthier lives, they needed to be able to determine when to bear children. She also wanted to prevent so-called back-alley abortions, which were common at the time because abortions were illegal in the United States. She believed that while abortion was sometimes justified it should



generally be avoided, and she considered contraception the only practical way to avoid them.

In 1921, Sanger founded the American Birth Control League, which later became the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. The clinic was staffed by all-female doctors, as well as a clinic in Harlem with an all African-American advisory council, where African-American staff were later added. In 1929, she formed the National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control, which served as the focal point of her lobbying efforts to legalize contraception in the United States. From 1952 to 1959, Sanger served as president of the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

She died in 1966, and is widely regarded as a founder of the modern birth control movement.

Below are some of her infamous quotes.

*"No more children should be born when the parents, though healthy themselves, find that their children are physically or mentally defective."*

-- Sanger, Margaret. (1918) When Should A Woman Avoid Having Children? Birth Control Review, Nov. 1918

*"No permit for parenthood shall be valid for more than one birth..."*

-- Margaret Sanger, "America Needs a Code for Babies," Article 6, March 27, 1934.

*"My own position is that the Catholic doctrine is illogical, not in accord with science, and definitely against social welfare and race improvement."*

-- Margaret Sanger, "The Pope's Position on Birth Control," Jan. 27, 1932.

*"No woman shall have the legal right to bear a child, and no man shall have the right to become a father, without a permit for parenthood."*

-- Margaret Sanger, "America Needs a Code for Babies," Article 4, March 27, 1934

## 7 Reasons Why Planned Parenthood Should Not Get Government Money



### ONE

Planned Parenthood has become a billion-dollar organization on the backs of taxpayers. They earned \$128 million in revenue with over \$1.4 billion in net assets last year. In the same year, federal and state governments gave them over \$528 million to fund their lucrative programs.

### TWO

Planned Parenthood performs one in three abortions in the U.S. They reported performing 327,653 abortions

last year. Former employees have even made allegations that there are mandatory "abortion quotas" each affiliate must meet.

### THREE

Planned Parenthood emphasizes abortions instead of preventative care.

They made only 1,880 adoption referrals and just 18,684 prenatal services last year. Even cancer screenings at Planned Parenthood have decreased 50 percent since 2004.

### FOUR

Planned Parenthood has been accused of financial fraud with taxpayer dollars. In 2013, an affiliate payed a settlement of over \$4 million to Texas for Medicaid fraud. Similar investigations revealed over \$8 million in possible fraud across nine states.

### FIVE

Planned Parenthood fights laws that protect women and children. They have opposed legislation that would protect infants born alive after failed abortions and tried to derail an anti-human trafficking bill because the legislation included a longstanding and widely-supported policy against taxpayer funding of abortion.

### SIX

Planned Parenthood stands accused of jeopardizing the health and safety of women and girls. They have been accused by pro-life advocacy groups of abetting the sex trafficking of minor girls and at least four affiliates have been similarly accused of neglecting the health and safety of patients.

### SEVEN

Women can receive wider range of care at other centers. In addition to roughly 1,200 federally qualified health clinics there are over 2,000 pregnancy centers that provide medical testing, prenatal care, ultrasounds and child-birth classes, among other services to women facing unplanned pregnancies.

# Dutch Bill Would Allow Assisted Suicide for Healthy People over 75



A proposal in the Netherlands to allow assisted suicide for healthy individuals over the age of 75 has drawn criticism for offering death rather than social support to people who are lonely and depressed, according to Dr. Gordon Macdonald, head of the UK-based alliance Care, Not Killing. "The slippery slope is real and the Dutch euthanasia law has already been massively extended," he said in a statement. Assisted suicide became legal in the

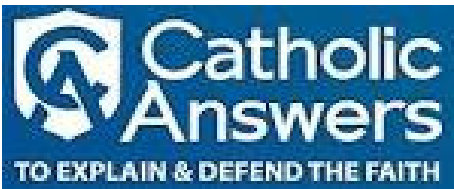
Netherlands in 2002 for terminally ill adults who are mentally competent. Since then, the law has been expanded to encompass individuals with non-terminal chronic illnesses and disabilities, as well as mental health problems. Children as young as 12 and seriously ill infants may also be euthanized. Currently, the quickest growing category of euthanasia deaths in the Netherlands is people suffering from a mental illness but no physical impairment, Macdonald noted. "To now consider extending the euthanasia law to people who are just tired of life, and may well be depressed, is highly irresponsible, immoral and dangerous," he said. Opponents of the legislation have argued that it preys on lonely and possibly depressed elderly people, who need support and resources rather than offers of suicide. Assisted suicide laws in the Netherlands have been a subject of contro-

versy, as critics argue that safeguards intended to protect the vulnerable are not always followed.

Earlier this year, a doctor in the Netherlands was cleared of murder after euthanizing a woman with advanced Alzheimer's who repeatedly said that she did not want to die.

Macdonald warned that the latest proposal "would further liberalize the most liberal assisted dying laws in the world and risks introducing euthanasia on demand for anybody at any time. No doubt those advocating for this change will try to talk about safeguards, but these are illusionary and temporary," Care, Not Killing, the alliance which Macdonald heads, unites more than 40 health care groups, disability rights organizations, faith-based groups, and other entities to promote palliative care and oppose the weakening of safeguards against euthanasia and assisted suicide.

## WHAT IS THE CHURCH'S TEACHING ON ASSISTED SUICIDE?



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Those whose lives are diminished or weakened deserve special respect. Sick or handicapped persons should be helped to lead lives as normal as possible.

Whatever its motives and means, direct euthanasia consists in putting an end to the lives of handicapped, sick, or dying

persons. It is morally unacceptable. An act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder gravely contrary to the dignity of the human person and to the respect due to the living God, his Creator. The error of judgment into which one can fall in good faith does not change the nature of this murderous act, which must always be forbidden and excluded.

Discontinuing medical procedures that are burdensome, dangerous, extraordinary, or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be legitimate; it is the refusal of "over-zealous" treatment. Here one does not will to cause death;

one's inability to impede it is merely accepted. The decisions should be made by the patient if he is competent and able or, if not, by those legally entitled to act for the patient, whose reasonable will and legitimate interests must always be respected.

Even if death is thought imminent, the ordinary care owed to a sick person cannot be legitimately interrupted. The use of painkillers to alleviate the sufferings of the dying, even at the risk of shortening their days, can be morally in conformity with human dignity if death is not willed as either an end or a means, but only foreseen and tolerated as inevitable.

## What Are the Warning Signs of Suicide?

The behaviors listed below may be signs that someone is thinking about suicide.

- Talking about wanting to die or wanting to kill themselves
- Talking about feeling empty, hopeless, or having no reason to live
- Planning or looking for a way to kill themselves, such as searching online, stockpiling pills, or newly acquiring potentially lethal items (e.g., firearms, ropes)
- Talking about great guilt or shame
- Talking about feeling trapped or

feeling that there are no solutions

- Feeling unbearable pain, both physical or emotional
- Talking about being a burden to others
- Using alcohol or drugs more often
- Acting anxious or agitated
- Withdrawing from family and friends
- Changing eating and/or sleeping habits
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge
- Taking risks that could lead to death, such as reckless driving
- Talking or thinking about death often

- Displaying extreme mood swings, suddenly changing from very sad to very calm or happy
- Giving away important possessions
- Saying goodbye to friends and family
- Putting affairs in order, making a will

### *Editor's Note:*

A few years ago during my attendance at a Small Faith Community meeting, I was very surprised to learn that 60% of the attendees had had a suicide in their family.

It was a very sad discovery.

# FAMOUS CONVERSIONS TO CATHOLICISM

**Tony Blair** (b. 1953): British Labour Party leader and prime minister from 1997 to 2007, he was the youngest prime minister since 1812. His wife, Cherie, is also Catholic.



**Dave Brubeck** (1920-2012): One of the most renowned American jazz musicians. He converted in 1980 and was commissioned to compose the Mass to Hope.



**Tim Conway** (b. 1933): American comedian best known for his role on the television programs McHale's Navy and The Carol Burnett Show.



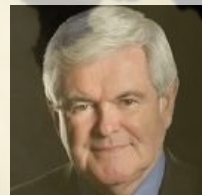
**Gary Cooper** (1901-1961): American actor who earned three Academy Awards, including "Best Actor" for Sergeant York and High Noon. He had a powerful meeting with Pope Pius XII in 1953 and formally entered the Church in 1959.



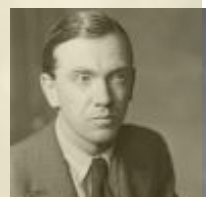
**Dorothy Day** (1897-1980): Writer, social activist and co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement



**Newt Gingrich** (b. 1943): Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1995 to 1999 as well as an author, presidential candidate and historian.



**Graham Greene** (1904-1991): British writer best known in Catholic circles for his novels Brighton Rock, The Power and the Glory, The Heart of the Matter and The End of the Affair.



**Scott Hahn** (b. 1957): Biblical theologian, apologist and prolific writer and speaker. His wife, Kimberly, is also a convert.



**Norma McCorvey (1947-2017):** The anonymous woman in Roe v. Wade in the Supreme Court Case of 1973 in which ant-abortion laws were deemed illegal. She converted to Catholicism in 1998, calling her participation in the case the worst mistake of her life.



**Joyce Kilmer (1886-1918):** American poet, journalist and editor, best known for his short poem Trees (1913). He was killed in 1918 at the end of World War I.



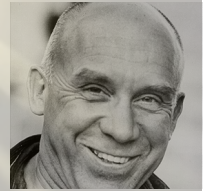
**Dean Koontz (b. 1945):** Prolific novelist who has sold more than 450 million copies of his books.



**Clare Boothe Luce (1903-1987):** The first American woman appointed to a major ambassadorial post abroad, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1943 to 1947, writer and playwright.



**Thomas Merton (1915-1968):** American Trappist monk and priest as well as a poet, social activist and one of the most famous and controversial Catholic converts of the 20th century.



**Patricia Neal (1926-2010):** Academy Award-winning actress for her performance in Hud (1963). She converted to Catholicism a few months before her death.

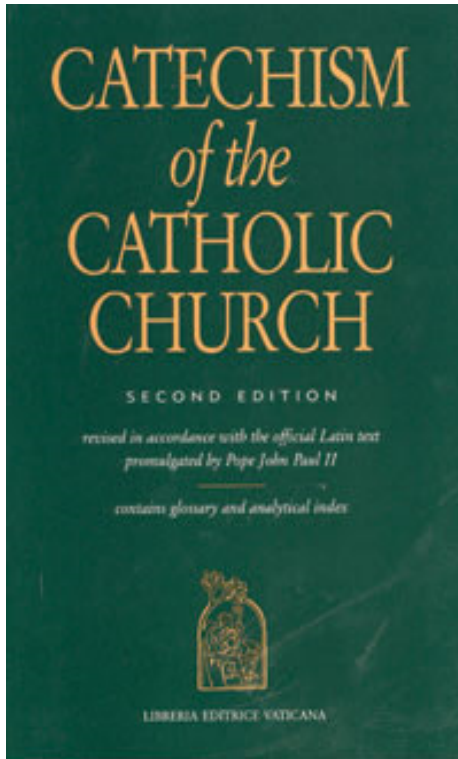


**Knute Rockne (1888-1931):** Norwegian-born coach of the Notre Dame football team from 1918 to 1930 and considered one of the greatest coaches in sports history.



**John Wayne (1907-1979):** Academy Award-winning actor beloved for his roles in westerns and war movies. He converted to Catholicism in the final days before his death from cancer.





## What Does the Catechism Say about One's Conscience?

1795 "Conscience in man's most secret core and his sanctuary. There he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths."

1796 Conscience is a judgment of reason by which the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act.

1797 For the man who has committed evil, the verdict of his conscience remains a pledge of conversion and hope.

1798 A well-formed conscience is upright and truthful. It formulates its judgments according to reason, in conformity with the true good willed by the wisdom of the Creator. Everyone must avail himself of the means to form his conscience.

1799 Faced with a moral choice, conscience can make either a right judgment in accordance with reason and the divine law or, on the contrary, an erroneous judgment that departs from them.

1800 A human being must always obey the certain conscience of his judgment.

1801 Conscience can remain in ignorance or make erroneous judgments. Such ignorance and errors are not always free of guilt.

1802 The Word of God is a light unto our path. We must assimilate it in faith and prayer and put it into practice. This is how moral conscience is formed.