

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249
October 2025 Volume 5 Issue 9



FEAST DAYS IN NOVEMBER



All Saints' Day
Saturday, November 1,
2025

All Saints' Day is a feast day observing the lives of the many saints for whom there is no specific feast day during the year.



All Souls' Day
Sunday, November 2,
2025

All Souls' Day is a feast day observing those who have died within the Catholic Faith.



FROM AROUND THE WORLD
OF INTEREST TO CATHOLICS

Dems unlikely to enjoy
comeback in 2026

Falling birthrate linked to
falling religiosity.

Torture is used against reli-
gious groups throughout the
world.

Scott Hahn, a former prot-
estant, gives St. John Paul
II partial credit for his con-
version.

Americans are getting reli-
gious.

Catholic school dismisses
teacher who issued false
alert.

Scientific evidence is begin-
ning to prove that there is
a God.

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



GK Rocco Totino

Brother Knights,

I want to thank everyone for all of your support with council events over the last few months.

October is a busy time for our council. At our

General meeting, our new insurance agent John Rucher gave an overview of insurance and investments offered by the Knights of Columbus. Thank you to the twenty-three brother Knights who stayed after the general meeting to listen to John Rucher's presentation.

We now have met this year's Fraternal Benefit Event requirement. (The rules set by Supreme are for the GK and DGK to meet individually with the insurance agent and then invite him to make a presentation at our council with at least fourteen Knights in attendance.)

The church interior renovation and lights replacement is completed. On October 11th, eight Brother Knights joined Columbiettes and other ministries that volunteered to clean inside the church. After three hours of elbow grease, many commented the church has never looked so good.

Over the summer Bingo continued to do well, thanks to our guest players and volunteers. We are blessed to serve our community. Many of our players are regulars, and over the last three years we developed a bond with them. Bingo is more like a ministry, helping others to come together for a day in a safe, relaxed environment. I confess in my earlier years I never played Bingo, although I knew many parishioners who did. Now I look forward to Bingo day at St Jerome, to greet and be greeted by so many.

On October 13th, several officers attended the District 42 meeting at Blessed Sacrament, chaired by our Worthy District Deputy Bill McClelland and W District Warden Andre' Luiz Kuhner. Blessed Sacrament GK Thomas J. Marrah, Fr, Lopez GK Paul Fleming and Blessed Sacrament Chaplain

Fr. Rick attended the meeting. Several Knights from BS and St Jerome were also present.

The next District 42 meeting will be hosted by our council on Jan.

16, 2026 @ 7:00 pm. Officers and Knights are welcomed to attend.

We welcome our two new transfers to our council. Mark Cayne and Thaddeus Wexler are both fourth-degree Knights.

Our new Brother Knight Clint Walker did his live exemplification last month and agreed to serve as Inside Guard along side with Wayne Nunez and outside Guard Joe Moor.

We are happy to welcome our three candidates who will soon join our council: Bruce Villeneuve, Philip Campanella and Thomas Urban. Live exemplification is scheduled at Blessed Sacrament on Dec. 4, 2025 @ 7:00 pm. Please mark your calendar to support our new knights. Wives and friends are welcomed to attend 1-3 degree exemplifications.

Note that a few years ago only Brother Knights were allowed to attend exemplifications.

Several brother Knights helped to make the Alpha Pasta and Meatball Dinner a success. Fr. Blum gave a blessing to the workers and led the opening prayer. The Alpha team was happy with the fundraiser with 150 tickets purchased for this event.

Our council's breakfast was held the same weekend as the Alpha dinner. We managed to accomplish both with minor issues to overcome in the kitchen area. Thanks to all the knights that helped Sunday morning, making coffee, cooking scrambled eggs, pancakes. A special THANK YOU! to Bill and JoAnn Bannon with help from PGK Pete McCabe to cook 35 lbs of bacon on Friday morning. The bacon was outstanding.

October is Respect Life month. Brother Kevin Manning organized the baby bottle distribution at all weekend Masses. Thank you to all our brother Knights who helped with this event. At the following weekend at all Masses Knights will assist Kevin in collecting full bottles. 100% of the donations go to Foundation of Life Pregnancy Center.

The Christmas Party is scheduled on Dec. 10, 2025; planning is underway. Please reserve the date. Tickets will be sold at our November general meeting until Dec. 4th. No tickets will be sold at the door. Please volunteer for this event. Several Columbiettes have offered to help.

Vivat Jesus,
Rocco

LAUGHTER is the best MEDICINE

Why don't they play poker in the jungle? Too many cheetahs.

What do you call a group of mobsters who start a singing group? The Sopranos!

I'm going to write an article about procrastination. I'll begin writing in a day or two.

I googled for the definition of telepathy, but before I could send it, it had already been answered.

They say writing is like riding a bike. All I have to do is figure out how to engage my chain of thought.

A farmer is a man outstanding in his field.

I feel like Rodney Dangerfield: I get no respect. The letter I got today was addressed to Dear Occupant.

How do you make a poodle float? Add root beer and a scoop of ice cream.

My apartment is so small, even the dust bunnies have to live in a bunk bed.

Why did the duck get a second job? He had too many bills.

Why did the peacock cross the road? To prove he wasn't chicken!

Why did the bicycle fall over? Because it was two tired!

During Audience at Vatican, Pope Leo Commends the Knights of Columbus for Pro-Life Work

Last month, Pope Leo received the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors in audience and expressed gratitude for their generosity toward projects at the Vatican and in pro-life initiatives in their local communities.

The board members and their families were in Rome for a Jubilee Year of Hope pilgrimage, which is a spiritually rich journey that tens of millions of other Catholics have also undertaken this year. Pope Leo thanked the Knights for their support of various projects to restore works of art which would not have been possible without their generosity.

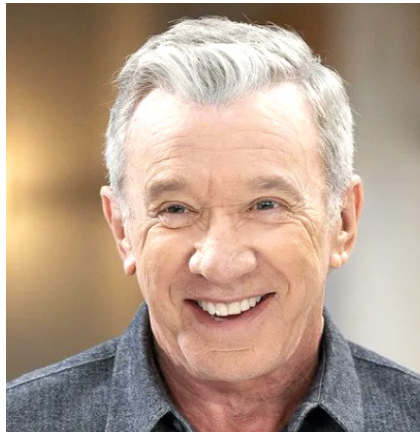
For many years, the Knights have also supported other initiatives of the Pope, such as a fund that supports the poor and vulnerable across the world, Pope Leo added.

"Through a variety of initiatives undertaken by local Councils, you and your brother Knights also seek to bring the compassion and love of the Lord into your local communities, in-

cluding through your efforts to uphold the sanctity of human life in all of its stages, to assist victims of war and natural disasters and also to support priestly vocations," he said. "For



Actor Tim Allen reveals Erika Kirk forgiving her husband's killer moved him to forgive the man who caused his own father's death. "I have struggled for over 60 years to forgive the man who killed my Dad. I will say those words now as I type: 'I forgive the man who killed my father.'"



We would like to introduce all council members to St. Jerome's new Youth minister. His name is André Kühner.

He also took on the role of Warden for District 42. In this position he represented DD Bill McClelland at our last council meeting.



Fr. Mike and Susan Readon having fun at Bingo.

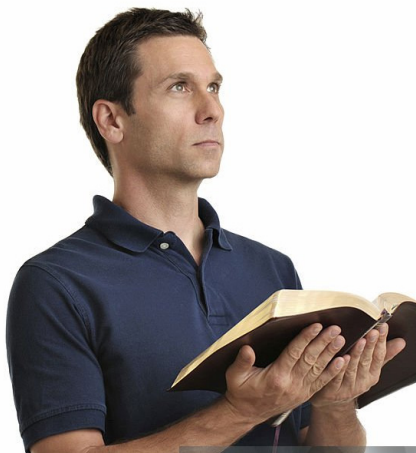


The Differences between Evangelizing and Proselytizing

There are five indicators to keep in mind to know whether you're evangelizing or falling into proselytism, a behavior far from authentic apostolic zeal.

What are the nuances of the negative meaning of the term proselytism? What indicators, what clues could one observe to determine what proselytism is in order to distinguish it from one's zeal?

Pope Francis has said that being a missionary is not the same as being a proselytizer and that Pope Benedict XVI taught that the Church grows through witness, not through proselytizing..



Here are the five indicators:

1. Evangelizing respects where the person whom one is talking to is at. A bishop explained that "...we must not overwhelm a person but rather wait for the time of grace that the Lord has for him or her, because there is a time of grace that God has for us, for our conversion.

By not taking this into account, the proselytizer lacks the ability to accompany the other person, to listen to his or her concerns, and lead the person to an encounter with Jesus.

2. Proselytism often doesn't place any importance on witnessing. The proselytizer focuses more on his or her presentation than on bearing witness that the encounter with God changed his or her life.

3. Proselytism believes more in the efficacy of one's own reasoning than in the action of the Holy Spirit. While the experience of evangelization teaches that it's important to

prepare what to say, the proselytizer isn't quite convinced that it is the Spirit who moves hearts and that the fruit of evangelization is a gift from the Holy Spirit.

"Therefore, you must be praying at the same time you're evangelizing. Proselytism forgets this

4. Proselytism does not sufficiently respect freedom. The proselytizer seeks to impose rather than propose, despite the fact that Jesus is infinitely respectful: "Behold, I knock at the door. If you hear my voice, if you open the door, I will come in, and we will dine together."

5. Proselytism will only help the person who is part of his or her flock. Sometimes proselytizers tend to condition their offer to help a person out on adherence to the message of faith, when true evangelization, true witness, is to love freely, without asking: "Do you belong to our group or not?"

Don't look down on
someone unless you
intend to help him up.

Don't stop when you're
tired.
Stop when you're
done.e

Catholic Sister Who Is Chaplain for Loyola Basketball Team Retires

Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, a Catholic religious sister known across the country for her role as team chaplain to Loyola University Chicago's men's basketball team, has officially retired at the age of 106.

Sr. Jean, a former basketball player who joined Loyola's ministry in 1991, spent over three decades in campus service. She rose to national prominence during the university's 2018 Final Four run, becoming a recognizable courtside figure and spiritual companion to the team.

Her retirement was confirmed by Loyola University earlier this month, according to ABC News. Christian Andersen, vice president of communications, stated in an email to the student newspaper The Loyola Phoenix that "Sister Jean is retiring and stepping back from official duties

at Loyola." The message did not provide further detail out of respect for her privacy.

Sr. Jean signaled her declining health as the main reason for her retirement. She wrote that she was unable to celebrate on campus due to a bad summer cold and other health issues.

Despite her absence, she encouraged students to embrace the start of the school year.

"Make new friends. Talk to your old friends. Enjoy your move-in and your preparations for class," she said. "I will be with you in spirit and love and prayer."

Reflecting on her time at Loyola, she added, "It's been wonderful for me to be with you these years and to watch you grow spiritually, intellectually, and so-



cially, and to see the friends you've made." Her message closed with characteristic encouragement: "Let your dreams become reality. Don't let anybody stop you."

Pope Leo: Vatican to Hire People with Disabilities

Pope Leo XIV has approved new measures to promote the hiring of people with disabilities in the Vatican, saying their condition does not prevent them from serving in Church institutions.



The updated regulations require Vatican offices to welcome and support

employees with disabilities, including by providing accommodations where needed, "since the condition of disability does not preclude suitability for work," the new provision states.

Health requirements for job candidates have also been revised. In-

stead of demanding perfect health, the focus will be on whether a person is fit for the specific duties of the job, with certification provided by Vatican health services. The changes apply both to the Holy See and to Vatican City and take effect immediately. They follow another papal decision in August, expanding family benefits for employees, including paternity leave and extra support for parents caring for children with disabilities

The Journey Toward Sainthood for Fr. Michael McGivney

The men weren't coming to Church. Father Michael J. P. could see that clearly enough from the pulpit every Sunday. In 1882, in the pews of his Connecticut parish, women and children abounded, but men were few. McGivney knew the danger for families and communities that would follow as men drifted away from the Faith. He also recognized the danger for the men themselves, who were instead gravitating toward saloons and anti-Catholic fraternal societies such as the Freemasons. At the same time, McGivney was also concerned with the parish's widows and children, who were often left impoverished by the sudden death of the family breadwinner.

As a young man, that same fate had nearly been McGivney's. His father's death in 1873 forced him to leave seminary to care for his mother and six younger siblings. If not for the generosity of his sister's new husband, who helped pay Mrs. McGivney's bills after their wedding,

and the Diocese of Hartford, which paid his way through seminary (something rarely done at the time), McGivney never could have pursued the priesthood.

To both bolster the declining faith of men and help the impoverished bereaved, McGivney decided his parish needed to form its own fraternal society, something that could connect men more closely to the Church through brotherhood and faith formation, while at the same time offering life insurance and sick benefits to its members.

With a small group of parishioners by his side, the 29-year-old assistant pastor founded the Knights of Columbus in the basement of St. Mary's Church, New Haven, in March 1882. The term "Knights" was meant to call the men on to greatness, while "Columbus" celebrated America's Catholic roots.

By the time McGivney died of pneumonia on August 14, 1890, the Knights of Columbus had grown to



6,000 members. Today, it has nearly two million members. McGivney's cause for canonization was opened in 1997, and he was declared "Venerable" in 2008.

He was beatified at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Hartford, Connecticut, on October 31, 2020.

About 800 Martyrs Die for Christ in 1480

About eight hundred people, who survived the siege and invasion of Otranto, were beheaded near a city. They refused to renounce their faith and died confessing the risen Christ. Where did they find the strength to remain faithful? Precisely in faith, which allows us to see beyond the limits of our human eyes, beyond the boundaries of earthly life, to contemplate "the heavens opened" - as St. Stephen said - and the living

Christ at the right hand of the Father. May we conserve the faith that we have received and that is our true treasure. Let us renew our fidelity to the Lord, even in the midst of obstacles and misunderstandings. God will never allow us to want for strength and serenity.

As we venerate the martyrs of Otranto, let us ask God to sustain those many Christians who, right now, still suffer violence, and give



them the courage and fidelity to respond to evil with good.

Catholic Artist Creates Charlie Kirk Sculpture for Ave Maria University

Timothy Schmalz, whose Catholic and pro-life sculptures are displayed around the world, created a memorial sculpture of Charlie Kirk that soon will be displayed at Ave Maria University.

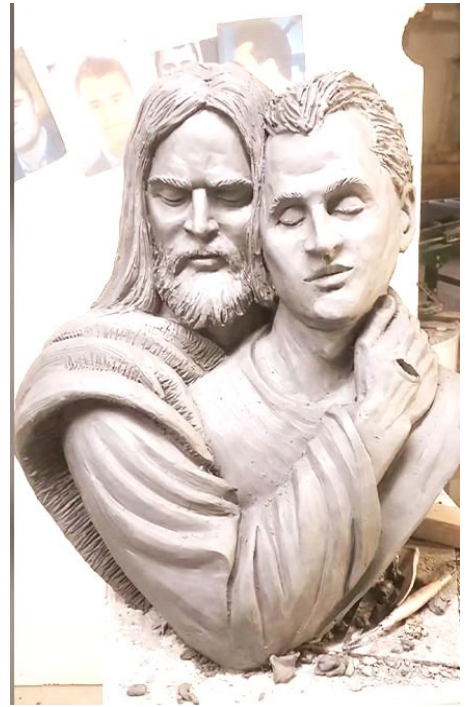
"The days after the murder of Charlie Kirk, Pope Leo was quoted saying he was praying for him and his family."

"The day after this tragedy I started this sculpture of Charlie. This is in a sense my visual prayer. It is

now finished and ready to be cast in bronze."

Kirk showed an interest in Catholicism, and in the wake of his tragic murder, people across the nation returned to church or started attending Mass for the first time in their lives.

Schmalz's sculptures in the U.S. include one soon to be displayed in the state capitol of Texas depicting the Blessed Virgin Mary pregnant with the child Jesus.



As you make your plans
for the day,
remember that God
holds an eraser.

Don't worry.
God has gone before
you
and prepared the way.
Keep walking

Do Animals Go to Heaven?

No theologian likes being asked about the mortal fate of beloved pets, as it's sure to hurt feelings. With the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, it's appropriate to wade into this increasingly sensitive topic.

Having lost a sense of our own dignity, we view ourselves more like animals and, in turn, view them more like humans.

In *The Descent of Man*, for instance, Charles Darwin stated that the difference in mind between man and the higher animals, great as it is, is certainly one of degree and not of kind. "Animals can perceive, feel, remember, and respond to their surroundings, reacting to pleasure and pain in ways that seem familiar to us.

What Darwin, and many others, miss, however, is the nature of human intelligence, which constitutes a leap from the material to the immaterial. Animals are moved by instinct in how they respond to sensory perception, unable to move beyond it. They can perceive the difference between things but could never explain it rationally. They might figure out how to overcome obstacles to what they want but could never imagine and

pursue something beyond their instincts and experience. They remain confined to the world of sense, incapable of thinking about or freely choosing things that go beyond it.

You might wonder what makes human beings so different, as we, too, are animals. Aristotle deemed us rational animals with a soul, a living principle within us, that does more than animate our bodies. We are transcendent beings, with a mind and soul that can reach beyond the world of sense, contemplating the stars and even what lies beyond them. God has breathed his life into us, making us in his image, so we might be capable of friendship with him, one that would endure into eternal life.

Animals have souls, too, of course, as all living things do; that's what



makes them animate. But these souls are natural, bound to the world of matter and sense, which they cannot transcend. Simply by looking at what animals can and can't do, we can perceive that their souls are unable to persist after death.

BITS AND PIECES

Pope Leo XIV has announced that he will confer the title of Doctor of the Church on Saint John Henry Newman on Nov. 1.

Students at Catholic schools in the Diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania, are academically outperforming state and national averages.

A California high school forfeited its girls' volleyball match rather than face a team with a transgender-identifying male athlete.

A Catholic school in New Jersey placed a kindergarten teacher on leave after she revealed she is serving as a gestational surrogate.

Wisconsin Planned Parenthood is halting all abortions.

Church in Ireland reports small but steady growth in seminarians.

Saint John Henry Newman helps us return to the purpose and rich breadth of higher education.

The Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael are the only angels named in scripture.

A tragic shooting incident took place at a Michigan church affiliated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, commonly known as the Mormon Church.

Our Lady says we can conquer darkness with prayer and fasting.

Student missionaries help revive Catholic education in Iraq

Crime rates plummet in DC after federal takeover

What is transhumanism?

St. Vincent de Paul is the Patron Saint of the poor, the marginalized, and Catholic charities.

New York is a state where abortions are legal.

Clarence Thomas: "I Would Probably be a priest if Georgia's bishops had taken a stronger stand against bigotry."

Pope Leo meets with Supreme leader of the Knight of Columbus chaplain.

The Knights of Columbus draw inspiration from Korean War martyrs.

Trump on efforts for peace in Ukraine: "If I can get to heaven, this will be one of the reasons."

Thirty-seven Planned Parenthood abortion clinics have closed since January 2025.

Stella the Messenger

Some time ago, Joseph, my son-in-law, was visiting Barbara, his sister, and Artie, her husband. Joseph also had with him Stella, his dog. Sitting around the dining room table, they began to have a conversation about religion. Artie said he believes in God, but he's not sure about Jesus, the bible, the Holy Spirit, etc. There was so much he didn't know, he said, he was near the point of giving up. Barbara, a cradle Catholic, is pretty good at defending her religion. Joseph also loves the topic of religion. He began to notice that Barbara was beginning to get steamed about how Artie was expressing his doubt about almost everything. She had been praying for him to receive the gift of faith.

Although Joseph personally believes in Christ, he thought that we should respect other peoples' opinions. Barbara agreed with that but also said it is illogical to be an atheist. She said you either believe that God is the prime mover who set things in motion or you believe in regression, which she saw as illogical. The discussion

was getting louder and louder.

Artie happened to glance up at the few steps that led up to his and Barbara's library, and there stood Stella with a large piece of paper in her mouth. It was a white piece of paper folded in half, and she was gripping it in her mouth. Joseph called her over to him and began to jokingly say, "Stella wants to know where the treats are kept. She's hungry." After he stopped laughing, he actually looked at what was written on the paper. In utter disbelief, he read aloud a sentence from scripture that was printed on the paper. It was from John 16: 12-13: "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth."

Mouths fell open; jaws dropped. How could this be? Joseph showed Artie and Barbara the paper. She had books and papers from bible studies, but everything was neatly put together in her library. She went upstairs to check and came back saying, "There's nothing out of place. No books or papers have been touched."

Joseph read it aloud again, this time slowly. No one could deny that it pertained to exactly what they had been talking about but had no idea how to react to it.

Artie was shaken. He said that he thought that he had just encountered the Holy Spirit. No one could deny its relevance; no one wanted to call it a coincidence. They were too overcome with amazement to continue their discussion about religion. There was too much to think about.



Joseph and Stella

What It's Like to Be a Priest

It Can Be Like a Job

Running a parish means handling budgets, maintenance, schedules and paperwork. This leaves less time for conversations, study and reflection that drew them to priesthood. It's a constant juggling act between the spiritual leadership they love and the operational demands they can't ignore.

They're always on call

A priest's phone can ring at any hour — a parishioner in the hospital, a grieving family, a sudden emergency. Even their days off can disappear in a moment. They can't fully relax knowing the next knock at the rectory door might bring news that demands their immediate attention. It's hard to find true rest when your role never really stops.

They Absorb Other People's Pain

From confessions to bedside visits, priests hear stories of loss, fear, and heartbreak every week. They offer comfort, but the weight of those conversations doesn't disappear. It sometimes makes sleep hard to find. They can't vent the details to friends or family, so the emotional load is theirs alone to manage.

Loneliness Is a Constant Battle

Life in ministry means giving to others constantly. Evenings can be especially quiet: no spouse to talk to about the day, no children running through the house. While they're surrounded by people on Sundays, the solitude between those moments can feel sharp. Many learn to mask it, so no one worries.

They Face Unspoken Expectations

Priests are expected to be endlessly patient, wise, and available. People want answers to theological questions, support in personal crises, and presence at community events. Falling short in any area can bring disappointment or criticism. The pressure to meet every need — without showing stress or fatigue — can quietly wear down their energy and spirit over time.

Finances Can Be Tight

Many assume priests are financially secure because housing and some expenses are provided. But personal budgets are often slim, with modest stipends and few ways to build long-term savings. Unexpected costs — a car repair, a trip home for a family emergency — can be stressful. They rarely mention it, not wanting to seem ungrateful for the support they do receive.

They Struggle Spiritually Too

Despite their role, priests aren't immune to seasons of doubt, spiritual dryness or feeling distant from God. They still have to lead services and preach hope even when their own faith feels strained. Admitting this to parishioners can feel risky so they wrestle with these struggles privately, relying on prayer and discipline to carry them through.

Criticism Can Cut Deep

It might come in the form of a side comment after Mass, a letter left in the collection plate or a conversation in the church hall. Even when it's phrased politely, repeated criticism

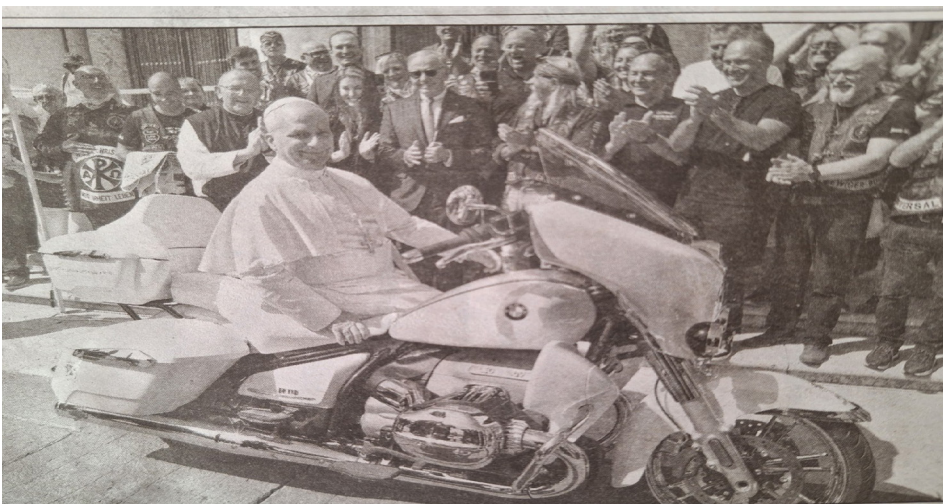
can wear down confidence. Priests know they can't please everyone but hearing negative feedback week after week still stings — especially when it's about something they poured effort into.

Administrative Work Pulls Them Away From Ministry

Running a parish means handling budgets, maintenance, schedules and paperwork — work that can eat up hours each week. This leaves less time for the conversations, study and reflection that drew them to priesthood. It's a constant juggling act between the spiritual leadership they love and the operational demands they can't ignore.

Burnout Often Goes Unnoticed

Priests are skilled at keeping up appearances, so even close parishioners may not see when they're worn down. They keep preaching, visiting the sick, and attending events, all while feeling increasingly drained. Taking a break can seem impossible when the community depends on them, so they keep pushing forward, sometimes to the point of real physical and emotional strain.



Pope Leo XIV sits on a modified BMW R18 presented to him by Jesus Bikers from Germany.

The bike will be auctioned off by Sotheby's and the money will go to help build a school for children who work in the mica mines in Madagascar.

Pro-Lifers Warn of Danger Posed by Incapacitated, Late-Term Abortionist in DC



a history of malpractice — is reliant on a cane and a caregiver.

Kristin Turner, the regional organizer for *The Survivors* DC, said she was shocked by his condition when she saw him step out of his car in

front of his facility, on his way to perform high-risk, late-term abortions. "He was dazed, confused, and he couldn't walk without help from his cane and caretaker, his right arm was in a full cast, and clinic staff met him at the door with a wheelchair," she said. "I've encountered him sev-

eral times in the last 3 years, and I've never seen him in worse condition. The complaint from *The Survivors* calls for an immediate suspension of his license, citing his malpractice history, eyewitness testimony, and the newly released video footage.

In 2022, the remains of five babies were recovered from Santangelo's facility. The DC Metropolitan Police refused to perform autopsies, despite the fact that the evidence indicated that the children may have been killed in violation of the federal ban against partial-birth abortions. In a partial-birth abortion, a baby who is able to survive outside of the womb is partially delivered and then killed.

Rep. Riley Moore, called on Attorney General Pam Bondi to launch a full investigation into the deaths of these infants. Bondi stated that there was an ongoing investigation.

A pro-life group filed a complaint to the D.C. Board of Medicine over Dr. Cesare Santangelo, who continues to perform late-term abortions despite having obvious and severe physical handicaps.

A pro-life organization, *The Survivors*, said that Santangelo — who has

New Film Depicts the Selfless Death of St. Maximilian Kolbe

The horrors of twentieth-century totalitarianism caused many to ask the ancient question of how a loving God could allow His children to suffer. A new film, *Triumph of the Heart*, depicts the last days of the life of St. Maximilian Kolbe, who proved that in Auschwitz God was present in acts of heroic kindness.

The story of St. Maximilian Kolbe is well known. This Franciscan friar, known for his devotion to the Blessed Mother and entrepreneurial evangelism, was something of a Polish Mother Angelica.

Before Auschwitz became the world's biggest Jewish cemetery, it was built by Nazi Germany to terrorize the conquered Polish population. As a punishment for the escape of one prisoner, at roll call, German SS men selected ten random prisoners to be killed. Among them was a man who pleaded to be spared, because he had a wife and children. Maximilian Kolbe offered himself in place of Gajowniczek, saying he was a celibate Catholic priest. The SS consented to

Kolbe's request and sent him to the starvation bunker with nine other inmates; ultimately, an SS man killed St. Kolby with an injection of carbolic acid.

Kolbe is played convincingly by Polish actor Marcin Kwaśny, who nevertheless looks little like the saint, especially once his trademark perfect circle glasses are removed. Another outstanding performance is English actor Christopher Sherwood and his depiction of Auschwitz commandant Karl Fritzsche who was driven to madness by Kolbe's witnessing.

When Maximilian Kolbe was canonized, some accused him of antisemitism, as his newspapers had published articles associating Jews with Freemasonry or calling for the boycott of Jewish businesses. However, Maximilian's views on the Jews changed over time. Before his arrest, Kolbe sheltered hundreds of Jewish refugees,



Actor Marcin Kwaśny as Maximilian Kolbe in *Triumph of the Heart*

where he even held Hanukkah celebrations for them. Many Jewish survivors of Auschwitz recalled Kolbe as kind and helpful.

Also, it is unfortunate that *Triumph of the Heart* did not mention the later fate of Franciszek Gajowniczek, the man Kolby replaced. Gajowniczek survived Auschwitz and lived to be ninety-three. He attended Kolbe's canonization and was forever grateful, travelling all over the world to tell of the Franciscan's sacrifice.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit
Replace the tension with us with a holy relaxation.
Replace the turbulence within us with a sacred calm.
Replace the anxiety within us with quiet confidence.
Replace the fear within us with a strong faith.
Replace the bitterness within us with the sweetness of
grace.
Replace the darkness within us with a gentle light.
Replace the cold within us with a loving warmth.
Replace the night within us with Your day.
Replace the winter within us with Your spring.
Straighten our crookedness.
Fill our emptiness.
Dull the edge of our pride.
Light the fires of our love.
Quench the flames of our lust.
Let us see ourselves as You see us,
That we may see You as You have promised us
And be healed, according to Your word.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



Council 17249 Divine Mercy of Jesus Officers for 2025-2026

Officers for fraternal year. 2025/2026

Chaplain:	Fr Mike O'Brien
Grand Knight:	Rocco Totino
Deputy Grand Knight:	Rick Hendrickson
Chancellor:	Joe Coyne
Recorder:	Bob Jodal
Financial Secretary:	Fred Belzel
Treasurer:	Rich Pettit
Advocate:	Pete Nuñez
Warden:	Joe Ghezzi
Inside Guard:	Wayne Nuñez
Outside Guard:	Joe Moore
1- Year Trustee:	Jerry Kleber
2- Year Trustee:	Bill Bannon PDGK
3- Year Trustee:	Pete McCabe PGK
Lecturer:	Tim Kunish
Program Director:	Rick Hendrickson
Membership Director:	Jim Cullinan
Faith Director:	Pete Nuñez
Family Director:	Mike Keeser
Community Director:	Pete Ganio
Life Director:	Kevin Manning
District Deputy:	Bill McClelland PGK
Field Agent	John Bucher
Newsletter Editor	Jim Hand