

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249

St. Jerome's Catholic Church 10895 Hamlin Blvd. Largo, FL  
December 2023 Volume 4 Issue 10



## CHRISTMAS 2023



# FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Pete McCabe

Thank you all for your help during our inaugural membership drive. It was a success, and we look forward to welcoming those that are transferring into our council and also new 3rd degree knights. As a reminder, the December officer and general meetings are cancelled since we are having our Christmas party on December 13. I hope to see you all there. Even with the holidays, December is still a busy month for the council. On December 2 we are meeting at

10:30 a.m. to change out the missals for Advent in the church and chapel. Hopefully, with enough volunteers it should not take too long to finish. Additionally, Bingo will be conducted every Thursday this month. With the addition of the Columbiettes volunteers, we should have more than enough workers to handle the increasing size of our playing crowd. The next general meeting will be Wednesday, January 10 and we will be discussing and voting on a number of additional charitable donations. Let's make sure we continue to be good stewards of our money and help as many folks as possible within our parish and community. Finally, Denise and I want to thank you for your continued support of our council and wish you and your family a very blessed Christmas season. Merry Christmas!

# LAUGHTER is the best MEDICINE

I used to think air was free until I bought a bog of potato chips.

It's better to understand a little than to misunderstand a lot.

Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.

Take my advice — I'm not using it.

Love may be blind but marriage is a real eye-opener.

If Plan A doesn't work, the alphabet has 25 more letters. Keep calm.

If you're not failing every now and again, it's a sign you're not doing anything very innovative.

If you cannot convince them, confuse them.

Keep the dream alive: Hit the snooze button.

Silence is golden. Unless you have kids. Then it's suspicious.

Of course I talk to myself. Sometimes I need an expert opinion.

Whoever said, "Out of sight, out of mind" never had a spider disappear in their bedroom.

When people tell me, "You're going to regret that in the morning," I sleep until noon because I'm a problem solver.

If you're not supposed to eat at night, then why is there a light bulb in the fridge?

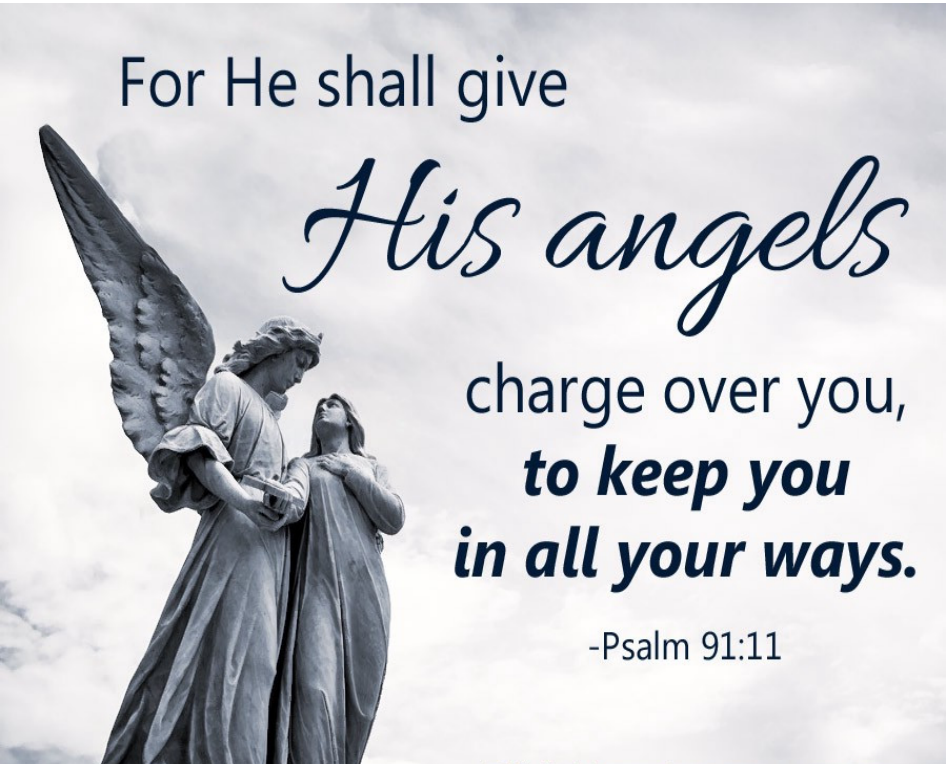
Doesn't expecting the unexpected make the unexpected expected?

Beauty fades. Dumb is forever.

I'm glad I don't have to hunt for my food. I have no idea where sandwiches live.

They say don't try this at home... so I went to my friend's home!

The more people I meet, the more I like my dog.



Thanks to Brother Kevin Manning for sending this web site on Prenatal Diagnostics. Please take the time to read it. It is a sad but true eye-opening article on what parents-to-be are being told from a prenatal diagnosis. <https://www.wordonfire.org/articles/prenatal-diagnostics-caught-between-horror-and-hope/>

## Br. Jason Peterson OFM Shares His Journey of Faith

Br. Jason here! I am currently one of three in the novitiate at the Old Mission in Santa Barbara, California. I have been here since July 15th. In my time here, I have resumed my studies and started my ministry for the year at a homeless center called the Cordano Center.

Every Thursday I make food for the guests, offer spiritual advice, clean the seating areas, and most important listen to the guests. The rest of the week is filled with classes where we learn about the history of Christian spirituality, how to communicate within the friar community and the larger community as a whole, and how to preach.

We have also been studying the Psalms, the Old Testament, and the history of the Franciscan Order. These are just some of the wonderful classes I have had this year.

In the remaining months of our novitiate year, my classmates and I will go on retreats, attend the Religious Education Conference, visit San Francisco ministries, and so much more. It is truly an exciting year.

In October friars from all over the

United States traveled to Kansas City, Missouri, for the Chapter of Unity. At this conference, the six provinces from across North America ceased to exist and more than 800 friars are now united under one province called the Our Lady of Guadalupe province.

Another milestone in my journey happened on November 1st (All Saints Day) when I received the Franciscan habit in a special and private ceremony called investiture. The habit is similar to something St. Francis and the early followers wore. The shape of the habit if fully opened resembles the shape of the Tau cross. Another important feature of the habit is the cord. If you look closely you will see that there are no knots in my cord. This is because while I am officially a brother in the order, I have not taken the vows of poverty, chastity, or obedience yet. This major milestone will happen on July 2, 2024.

When I am home for my next vacation break I will have the habit and a cord with knots.

In my remaining time here I look

forward to the different ways I will grow and the new things I will learn. Please continue to pray for me and be assured of my prayers for you.

Pax Et Bonum, Br. Jason Peterson, OFM



Five young shepherds hurried to the stable to see the newborn king. Each hoped to outdo the others in offering gifts for the baby. But one, the poorest shepherd, had nothing to offer. He kept his distance, feeling unworthy and ashamed. Receiving the gifts, Mary's and Joseph's arms were filled, and there was no place to lay Jesus.

Our Lady noticed the poorest shepherd in whose arms she placed the child. Suddenly, the one who had nothing to offer was aware he'd be given everything, for his empty hands now held the greatest gift of all time.

Filled with love and joy he eagerly began showing Jesus to the others, for he longed to share with them the gift of all gifts: God Himself.



# Our Council Continues to Keep Very Busy, Serving the Church and Community

## Ministry Fair

On Sunday, November 12, the Knights of Columbus, along with other St Jerome Ministries, manned a table at the Ministry Fair in the Parish Center. This was open to all parishioners after each of the morning masses.

Thanks to the Knights who showed up to man the table or just show their support by wearing their blue shirts. This was a great chance to talk to other St Jerome ministries as well

as recruit new or transfer members. Our active council has a lot to offer the men of this parish. Please feel free to ask a fellow Catholic gentleman if he would like to become a Knight of Columbus. Remember you can access an electronic form 100 on our council website at: <https://knightsdmoj17249.org/forms-1> and can email the completed form to: [knightsdmoj17249@gmail.com](mailto:knightsdmoj17249@gmail.com) or drop it off at the parish office.



## Grotto Cleanup

On Saturday, 11 November, our council conducted a grotto cleanup. Huge thanks to Rocco Totino, Bill Bannon, Tim Condron, Rick Hendrickson, and Pete McCabe, for all their hard work. They power washed the entire grotto area, installed new engraved bricks, and weeded the surrounding flower beds. The goal is to make this a monthly event and with more volunteers involved, it should go much faster. Maintenance of this area is critical to any future projects at the grotto. The church manager has made it clear that any future improvements or growth at the grotto is dependent on keeping the grotto clean and tidy. Other possible cleanup tasks could include bench repair and repainting, purchasing a

small shed for cleanup tools and supplies, and tree trimming. Have other ideas? Please make those known by attending a general meeting or sending an email to [knightsdmoj17249@gmail.com](mailto:knightsdmoj17249@gmail.com).



## Hand/Push Goodbye

On 25 October, our council said goodbye to two very special people. Brother Jim Hand and his wife, Jean, moved north (many were questioning his sanity) to New York. Of course, their decision, while sad for us, makes perfect sense since they are moving closer to family. Luckily for our council, Brother Jim decided to stay with our council and remain the newsletter editor.

Their presence at Bingo will be missed since they were very popular with our players. Jean was a selling machine for our pull tab game at halftime. Father Tom and Sister Lucia's presence at the event made it very special.



Over 80 friends and family were there to say goodbye. While we will miss seeing them in person at our



events, it's great to know they are both where they should be - with family.

Continued on next page.

## Trunk or Treat

On 27 October, our council helped with the annual Trunk or Treat event. As usual, we cooked hot dogs and provided those with chips, candy, and juice/water for the families that attended. Our music man (Brother Ralph Frizzle) provided appropriate Halloween tunes for the kids to dance to and work off all that sugar! Additionally, our knights in their yellow vests helped park the cars to keep everyone safe. Overall, it was a huge success.



## Tree Cleanup

On Wednesday, 15 November, a few knights (Dan Timmons, Edgar Lecuyer, Bill Bannon, Rick Hendrickson, and Pete McCabe) gathered with chain saws in hand to help the parish. The parish manager asked our council to remove some trees around the parish campus. On this particular day, despite the misting rain, these knights tackled a very difficult palm tree that was up against the white fence along the northern border of the property. It was also situated by some wires which is always tricky. But due to the skill of Dan (Cutter) Timmons and advice of Edgar (Wisdom) Lecuyer, the tree dropped right where they intended. There are other smaller projects we will tackle in the future such as clearing out bushes and brush along the north fence as well as trim back some branches that overhang too far. These types of activities are part of our Faith Program by helping our parish save some money and take some load off of the maintenance staff. In the future, these types of events will be combined with the grotto cleanup (assuming we have enough volunteers). Finally, all are welcome to help even if you are not wielding a chain saw. We need someone to drive the golf cart filled with brush to the dumpster or just rake/sweep the debris. Any help is appreciated.



## Membership Drive

Our council conducted its first membership drive, November 18-20. Select Knights spoke before each Mass, others manned a table in the gathering space or engaged with interested Catholic gentlemen at the various church entrances.

All Catholic gentlemen were invited to attend the Fraternal Benefit Night on Monday, November 20, where our insurance agent, Tony Crevello, gave a presentation on the various benefits of being a Knight. The final numbers of the membership drive are not known at this time since prospective members still need to either fill out form 100, receive the exemplification, or pay dues.

Additionally, the council has gained a number of transfer members which is always welcome.

The final tally will be known in January when the council votes on the new/transfer members at its regular general meeting on January 10.

A huge thank you to the numerous Knights who helped out in so many ways.

Finally, thanks also to our membership director, Gregg Appel.



## Bodies of Indigenous Children Suspected to Be Buried Near Indian School



Children's red dresses are staked along a highway near the former Kamloops Indian Residential School where flowers and cards have been left as part of a makeshift memorial created in response to media reports that the "remains" of 215 children have been discovered buried near the facility, in Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada, on June 2, 2021.

No human remains were found in last month's excavation of a Catholic church basement on Pine Creek First Nations lands in Manitoba, Canada, after the community asked a Brandon University archaeological team to conduct excavations in the search for any missing children who might have died decades ago in the community's former residential school.

In the summer of 2022, ground-penetrating radar discovered 71 anomalies on the lands of Pine Creek First Nation, also known as the Mine-

goziibe Anishinabe. Most anomalies were located in known burial areas on the grounds of the former Catholic-run Pine Creek Residential School. The community was surprised to find 14 of these anomalies in the basement of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Catholic Church, prompting fears the church held possible graves and a crime scene. However, excavations from late July to mid-August of this year failed to find any human remains.

Chief Derek Nepinak of Pine Creek First Nation said: "The results of the excavation take nothing away from the difficult truths experienced by our families who attended the residential school in Pine Creek. "As a community, we identified the possibility of something very tragic and difficult for our families, and we pursued the truth of it with no certainty about the outcome."

The First Nation community is still deciding how to respond to the other 57 anomalies in the known burial areas.

Their search effort comes as Canada is reckoning with the history of

its government-backed residential school program to assimilate Indigenous people. The schools were operated by Catholic and Protestant groups.

About 150,000 children attended the schools in the 19th and 20th century, often with Indigenous children from other communities far from home. More than 4,000 children died, according to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. Diseases such as tuberculosis and influenza were the major killers. A 2015 government inquiry recorded many former students' testimonies of abuse, substandard living conditions, family separation, and policies of "cultural genocide" to eliminate Indigenous culture.

Many children who died were buried on school grounds, in non-school community graveyards, or on hospital grounds in graves that have since faded from memory and lost any perishable markings. Students were given new non-Native names and parents were not always notified of the children's deaths and places of burial. Poor recordkeeping and lost or destroyed records have compounded the problems.

Indigenous communities are now using ground-penetrating radar to try to locate potential grave sites while also drawing on surviving records and the testimony of community elders.

## Twins Baptized by Twins: Babies Welcomed into Church by Priest, Deacon--Twin Brothers

Twins Gianna and Andrew Renwick were born on July 18, 2023, each weighing slightly less than 6 pounds. One month later, on Aug. 20, they were baptized at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Reynolds-

ville, Pennsylvania, by Father Ben Dagher and Deacon Luke Dagher, clergy from the Diocese of Erie who happen to be twin brothers. Luke and Kristin Renwick are parents to four under 4: Arthur, Grace, Gianna, and Andrew. The Catholic couple said that they always prayed for twins knowing that it runs

in the family. Kristin's mom is a twin and her mother's grandfather was a twin. But, after suffering a miscarriage last fall, twins were not on the Renwicks' mind.

"When we got pregnant again, we were blessed with twins, so we ended up doubling the family," Luke Renwick said.

Kristin added: "We had always prayed for twins. You just never actually think — will God grant us these prayers? But, certainly, prayers were answered, and God is good."



Parents Kristin and Luke Renwick with Father Ben Dagher, Deacon Luke Dagher, and their baptized twins, Gianna and Andrew Renwick

# Satanic Temple Loses Lawsuit against Indiana Pro-Life Law

A group of Satanists lost a lawsuit against a major pro-life law in Indiana recently after a judge threw the case out for lack of evidence.

The Satanic Temple had filed a lawsuit in 2022 against Indiana's Gov. Eric Holcomb and state Attorney General Todd Rokita, challenging the state's sweeping pro-life law that year that largely outlawed abortion except in narrow circumstances.

The Satanists had claimed that the state's ban violated constitutional law as well as the state's religious freedom law. Their suit argued that abortions constitute an "exercise of [the] religious beliefs" of Satanists and that the pro-life law thus infringed on that right.

In her ruling, District Court Judge Jane Magnus-Stinson tossed out the lawsuit, claiming that the Satanic Temple had failed to show it had any standing to bring it in the first place. "The Satanic Temple had an opportunity to submit evidence. It had notice of its standing defects. And it was

given the opportunity to cure them. It has failed on all fronts," Magnus-Stinson said.

"Ultimately, the Satanic Temple has failed to prove by a preponderance of the evidence those facts essential for granting standing," she wrote.

The temple had "fail[ed] to prove it has suffered any injury from the abortion law, the judge said.

In a press release following the ruling, Attorney General Rokita declared that his office had "beat the hell out of Satanic Temple's efforts to sacrifice the pro-life law."

"This lawsuit was ridiculous on its face, but this court decision is important because it sustains a pro-life law that is constitutionally and legally



Mischief Madness wears a custom-decorated mask with a pentagram on it at Satan Con in Boston, Massachusetts

sound," he said.

"We Hoosiers continue to build a solid culture of life whether satanic cultists like it or not," Rokita concluded.

# Lawmaker Warns of Chinese Communists Changing the Bible

The chairman of the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) warned of efforts from the Chinese government to subvert Christianity by changing parts of the Bible.

"The Chinese Communist Party is rewriting the Bible," Rep. Mike Gallagher, R-Wisconsin, said to the biannual gathering of the Parliament of the World's Religions held in Chicago.

Gallagher discussed two examples in which the Chinese government has rewritten parts of the Bible and taught it as fact. In one example, he noted a misrepresentation of the account in the Gospel of John in which Christ says, "Let he among you without sin cast the first stone" when a woman is accused of adultery.

"It's a beautiful story of forgiveness and mercy — unless, of course, you're a CCP official," Gallagher said. "Then it's a story of a dissident challenging the authority of the state. A possible sneak preview of what a Bible with socialist characteristics might look like appeared in a Chinese universi-

ty textbook in 2020. The rewritten Gospel of John excerpt ends not with mercy but with Jesus himself stoning the adulterous woman to death."

The textbook falsely asserted that the story ends with Christ stoning the woman to death, declaring himself to be a sinner and saying, "If the law could only be executed by men without blemish, the law would be dead."

In another example, Gallagher said CCP officials in the Henan province of China forced churches to replace displays of the Ten Commandments with quotes from President Xi Jinping. "Quotes like 'Thou shalt have no other gods before me,' became 'Resolutely guard against the infiltration of Western ideology'. Xi Jinping has no problem with the First Commandment just so long as he and the CCP are playing the role of God."

Gallagher noted that the CCP only legally recognizes five faiths but that less established religions face even more persecution than the legally recognized ones. For example, he not-



ed that "At times, half of the population of China's reeducation through labor camps, or modern gulags, were Falun Gong adherents, and thousands were reportedly tortured to death." He also referenced the persecution of Buddhists and Muslims in the far west of the country [who] are facing, quite simply, the attempted annihilation of their faith and in some cases their population.

"I've heard unthinkable stories of religious persecution," Gallagher said. "But I've also listened to accounts of underground churches, brave clergy, and steadfast believers every bit as courageous as saints of the early Church."

## Our Lady of Guadalupe Statue Untouched by Hurricane Otis' Destructive Winds in Mexico

A statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe, including a cloth mantle, was left intact amid the devastation caused by Hurricane Otis, which struck the coastal city of Acapulco and other areas of the Mexican state of Guerrero with wind gusts of up to 200 miles per hour.

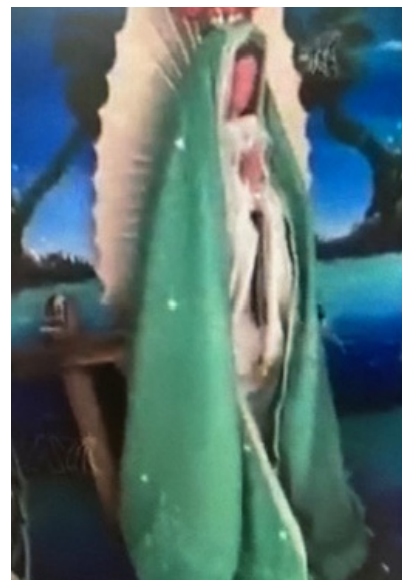
The Category 5 hurricane, which made landfall near Acapulco left at least 46 dead and serious damage to hotels, homes, and businesses throughout the state.

La Quebrada is a 148-foot-high cliff on the shores of the Pacific in Acapulco. Since 1934, young divers have leapt from the height to plunge into a channel 23 feet wide and 13 feet deep, a very popular spectacle among tourists. Before each jump, the divers cross themselves and commend themselves to the Virgin of

Guadalupe, whose image was installed at the location.

In 2022, Father Eduardo Chávez, one of the greatest experts on the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe, blessed the image placed on the cliff. Reporter Edgar Galicia of Azteca Noticias recently toured the area and discovered that the small statue placed in the grotto had not suffered any damage during the passage of Hurricane Otis. The only damage observed from the storm, which had winds exceeding 185 miles per hour, was to some of the lights that adorned the image.

"It's truly a beautiful thing," Galicia said, "to know that this Virgin, who for many years has 'made the sign of the cross' over many divers here, is because it's from here where they throw themselves into the sea."



## Brooklyn Bishop Disciplines Pastor Who Allowed Woman to Dance on Altar

The Diocese of Brooklyn has announced that a local pastor who allowed a pop star to shoot a lewd music video in the church no longer has administrative oversight over the parish. Additionally, the diocese said that Brooklyn Bishop Robert Brennan celebrated a Mass of reparation at the church in response to the desecration. "Through the offering of this Mass, Bishop Brennan has restored the sanctity of this church and repaired the harm," the diocese said in a statement.

The music video, which has amassed over 3.6 million views, shows pop star Sabrina Carpenter dancing provocatively on the altar at the historic 19th-century Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Brooklyn.

The release of the video triggered an uproar on social media and calls for a reconsecration of the church and prayers of reparation. "Who is the pastor? Why did he allow this?" one social media post asked. "How on earth did the diocese allow this to happen?" another post asked.

The pastor, Monsignor Jamie Gigantiello, did not respond to a request for comment. Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church merged with the nearby Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church to form Our Lady of Mount Carmel-Annunciation Parish in 2018.

Brennan said in a Nov. 2 statement that he was "appalled" to learn of the video and would investigate how it was allowed to take place.

The diocese said that "a review of the documents presented to the parish in advance of the production, while failing to depict the entirety of the scenes, clearly portray inappropriate behavior unsuitable for a church sanctuary."

"In light of this," the statement continued, "Bishop Brennan has appointed



Father Michele Vricella (center) and Deacon Michael Chirichella (left) assist Monsignor Joseph Grimaldi, vicar general of the Diocese of Brooklyn, in stripping and preparing the altar to be blessed.

Auxiliary Bishop Witold Mroziowski as the temporary administrator of Our Lady of Mount Carmel-Annunciation Parish."



# The Miracles of Lourdes, Part 3 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.*

John Traynor was born in 1883 in Liverpool, England. His mother died when he was very young, but her lasting memory lay in the faith she instilled in him which he carried throughout his life.

Traynor joined the Naval Brigade of the Royal British Marines and fought in WWI. During an unsuccessful mission, the Siege of Antwerp, he sustained an injury: shrapnel to the head. He remained unconscious for five weeks but eventually rejoined the war efforts.

While in Egypt, he was wounded by a bullet in the leg. Later, in another unsuccessful campaign, the Dardanelles Campaign, Traynor joined a bayonet charge where he sustained a series of machine gun bullet wounds. He was wounded in the head and chest with a bullet lodged under his collarbone after the bullet went through his upper right arm.

Resulting from the wounds of the

Great War, Traynor's right arm and legs were left paralyzed, and he became a victim of epileptic seizures, sometimes three episodes a day. After four unsuccessful operations, he was discharged from the service since he was completely disabled.

In April of 1920 (due to all the epileptic seizures), Traynor underwent surgery on his brain. Unfortunately, the operation did not help his epilepsy. In fact, it left a hole in his head where you could see his brain pulsating through it! A metal plate was then inserted to protect the brain.

In July of 1923, Traynor decided that he wanted to make a pilgrimage to the Grotto of Lourdes. He made the difficult trip with a saved gold sovereign and against the wishes of his wife, friends, doctor, and a priest. On the journey, the train staff wanted to admit Traynor to a hospital three times, but there was no hospital at any of the stops. By the time

he reached Lourdes, he was closer to death than he was to life. He was so dire that one woman took it upon herself to write Traynor's wife, informing her of his worsening condition and that he would be buried at Lourdes. After nine water baths in the Grotto of Lourdes, during the Eucharist procession, he could use his arms to make the sign of the cross—using his right arm, which had been paralyzed for eight years. Later that night, he could leave his bed and go down to the Grotto. It was there that he prayed and gathered quite the crowd.

Being healed of his ailments, he did what his mother had taught him: made a sacrifice to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He had no money, so instead, he gave up cigarettes.

John Traynor's miracle at the Grotto of Lourdes reminds us of one of St. Bernadette's many lessons: the importance of holding on to your faith in Him.

# The History of the Altar Rail and the Catholic Church



The altar rail was a mainstay in Catholic churches up until the '60s and '70s, when the influence of Vatican Council II, although perhaps unintentionally, caused bishops and priests to get rid of them, seeing them as a hindrance to the congregation feeling welcomed and part of the liturgy. However, the altar rail is there to remind the faithful that there is a separation between them and the priest, and between the space where they are sitting and the sanctuary. This is not done to exclude the faithful but to remind them of the sacredness of the area where the altar and tabernacle are located and to bring them to a greater sense

of reverence for and understanding of the space where they are and what is taking place.

The sanctuary, the area where the altar is located, is sacred as the area where the sacrifice of the Mass takes place and also where the tabernacle is located. It can be seen as sort of the equivalent to the Holy of Holies, the area in Jewish temples that contained the Ark of the Covenant. It was located in the back of the temple and was separated

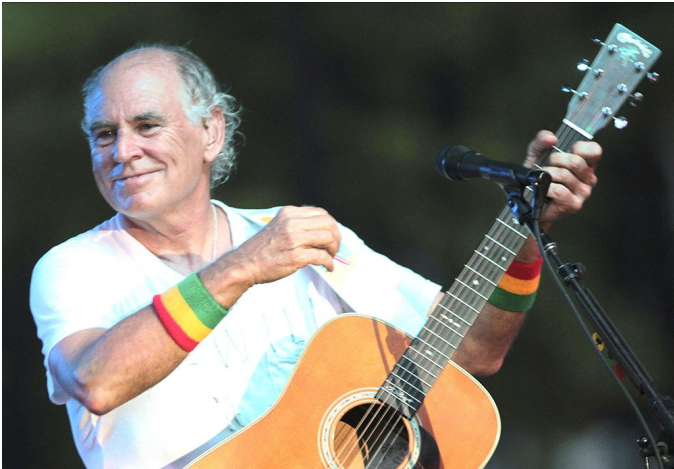
from the rest of the temple by a large veil. The equivalent of the large veil in Catholic churches that separates this sacred area from the rest of the church was the altar rail. According to Jewish law, only the high priest was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies and only once a year, on the Day of Atonement. This highlights what a sacred place it was and the communion rail in a church is meant to signify the sacredness of the sanctuary and remind the faithful that it contains the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ and that it is the area where the sacrifice of the Mass takes place. This also echoes the Holy of Holies, as the high

priest would burn incense and offer the blood of a sacrificed animal in atonement for the sins of the Israelites inside this area on the Day of Atonement.

The altar rail also gave the faithful an appropriate way to receive Communion (hence the term communion rail) by providing them an area around the altar to kneel while they receive. Kneeling in adoration and humility in front of the God who set us free by sacrificing His life for us shows that we know who we are and that we are in need of His mercy and forgiveness. He is God, and we are not, and being separated from the sanctuary reminds us of our unworthiness to receive Him and His mercy in uniting Himself with us nonetheless.

Using an altar (communion) rail was not meant to be seen as excluding the faithful from the Mass or making it seem as if they aren't important, but rather it is there to highlight the sacredness of the area of the sanctuary, where the tabernacle containing Our Lord is located and where the sacrifice of the Mass is offered for the people and the worship of God. Its use needs to be brought back in more churches and the reason why it is there taught to the faithful so that they may understand its importance.

## The Oft-Missed Catholicism of Jimmy Buffett's Music



Buffett — and is there something deeper at play in his songs?

Many outlets were fascinated to find that Buffett was raised Roman Catholic. "I was supposed to have been a Jesuit priest," he once said. Is that surprise correlated to a feeling of board, shorts, frozen cocktails, and toes in the sand —

In the wake of a celebrity death, people become inherently curious about the person beyond their most public contributions, and one of the most pressing questions becomes about their faith. Were they religious? Did they believe in an afterlife?

That conversation began anew as music fans mourned the death of famed beach-bum bard Jimmy Buffett. It felt almost too providential that Buffett — who made it feel like summer all year round — passed on to eternal life on Labor Day weekend, heralded in the United States as the official end of summer.

It played at something deeper in all of us than just the death of a fun-time-generating musician, which led to bigger questions. Why do so many resonate with the music of Jimmy

could not connect with a sense of the divine? Was the world Buffett's music akin to the kingdom of God?

The truth is that many people find that type of bliss to be incredibly spiritual. Buffett's presentation was of serenity as a spiritual pursuit, through simple avenues: a boat at sea; a lost shaker of salt; or a ground beef patty layered with lettuce, tomato and Heinz ketchup.

In our capitalist society, driven by how much we can produce, Buffett's music challenges us to slow down, to set aside productivity in exchange for rest and renewal, and to see the beauty in the seemingly ordinary. His storytelling crafted a universe in which that slower pace becomes like a retreat, where turning off the noise and intensity of life allows for

the voice of peace to be heard. Listeners can find Buffett drawing us even deeper beyond relationships with one another, into a relationship with something bigger and broader. He invited listeners to be aware of the world around them, respectful of nature and the presence of God alike. Less intensely identified might be a sense of spirituality and soulful tranquility that ran through other Buffett hits. Arguably his most famous hit, "Margaritaville," challenges the conscience to accountability (through the avenue of a blender rendering a frozen concoction).

"Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes" is practically Ignatian in its detachment to adjust "if it suddenly ended tomorrow" and consistently pointing to laughter in the spiritual life.

"Breathe In, Breathe Out, Move On" reminds the listener to set aside stress and worries, not allowing grudges to steal our proverbial oxygen. Might there be remnants of "turn the other cheek" from another famous seaside preacher?

In the end, none of us can speak to Jimmy Buffett's spiritual state at the end of his life. We can only see the spirituality that ran through his music and the world he tried to create: one with less noise and stress, more peace and attentiveness, less hurt and grudges, more celebration and sunsets, and the occasional cheeseburger in paradise.

## Statue of Korea's patron saint to be permanently installed at St. Peter's Basilica



The Vatican will dedicate a new statue of the patron saint of Korea, St. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, at St. Peter's Basilica soon.

Born in 1821, Tae-gŏn was the first native Korean priest and one of the country's earliest martyrs.

The statue of the Korean martyr was proposed by Cardinal Lazzaro You Heung-sik, a Korean prelate and prefect of the Dicastery for the Clergy, and approved by Pope Francis, according to the Holy See's news arm, Vatican News.

The pope has pointed to Tae-gŏn's missionary zeal as a model for all Christians to follow.



## Knight of the Month



Jim Hand



# 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  
 Sir Knight Paul Lee  
 Sir Knight Gregg Appel Pkg  
  
 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 Pkg  
 Knight Tony Crevello  
 Knight Jim Hand