

Knights of Columbus Pennsylvania State Council

John Fitzpatrick
Awards & Forms Chairman
513 Steeplechase Lane
Allentown, PA 18106
484-201-9188
jlfitzpatrick83@gmail.com



Gary J Damich
State Deputy
122 Warren St
Bentleyville, PA 15314
(724) 255-9173
gdamich@gmail.com

State Award Cover Sheet Form

Please attach a copy of this form, totally filled out, to each award category entry.

Category Life - Memorial to Unborn Children

Council # 17417 District 16 Region East

Council Name Our Lady of Grace

Number of Council Members 96 Division 2

Name of Grand Knight Charles E. Duke

State Council Program Awards

Entry Form

For Supreme Award Submission Only

ENTRY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE STATE COUNCIL TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE COMPETITION

THIS REPORTING FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY EACH COUNCIL AND FORWARDED TO THE STATE COUNCIL.

(A separate reporting form should be completed for each program category.)

CATEGORY (MARK ONE): Faith Family Community Life

COUNCIL INFORMATION:

1 Council Number: 17417 Total Council Members: 96
Grand Knight: Charles E. Duke E-Mail: chipd906@gmail.com

PROGRAM INFORMATION (complete all sections):

2 Program Title: Memorial to Unborn Children - Marian Statue Dedication Program Date: 9/07/2025

Participation: $\frac{51+30}{\text{Members}} + \frac{\quad}{\text{Non Members}} = \frac{81}{\text{Total Participants}}$ $\frac{100}{\text{Total Volunteer Hours}}$

Program Planning: $\frac{0}{\text{Costs}}$ & $\frac{70 \text{ hrs}}{\text{Time}}$ Members Recruited: 3 Donations: $\frac{\$15,180}{\text{Local Currency}}$

3 Describe the program in full detail using the space below and on page 2. Programs must be organized by the council or involve significant participation by council members to qualify. Programs must also engage members by enhancing faith and spirituality, serving a charitable purpose, or a combination of the two. Program descriptions should reference how they meet these criteria. *Along with the description of the program, provide the program's purpose, goals, accomplishments and why it deserves to win the award.*

Supplementary material may be submitted along with the nomination. Accompanying materials can include letters, testimonials, news clippings, photographs, pamphlets, etc. Do not submit tapes, videocassettes, DVD's, display materials, films, etc., as they will not be considered in judging the nomination.

Life Award - Memorial to Unborn Children - Marian Statue Donation and Dedication - Our Lady of Hope

This idea was born in 2020 from a discussion with our Grand Knight, John Krakowiak, Financial Secretary, Bob Higman and our chaplain and pastor, Monsignor Joseph Prior. Originally, we had thought of a memorial plaque, but Monsignor expressed the idea of something more eye catching like a statue. As our newly formed council grew, so did our confidence to take on a more challenging project that would be special to the parish.

DO NOT SUBMIT THIS REPORT FORM TO SUPREME COUNCIL

MAIL ORIGINAL TO: State Deputy or State Program Director

COPY TO: Council File

Available in electronic format at www.kofc.org



(continued on reverse)

Continue your program description in the space below.

We regrouped as a team on Saint Patrick's Day of 2023 to discuss a Marian Statue. To promote the pro-life message, we arrived at having a beautiful, youthful statue of Mary with child as our goal. We made some important decisions about the statue. We wanted a grand statue of Mary with child, and we were going to fund it 100% with donations and pledges from our Brother Knights. No outside funds. We wanted that this as a gift to the parish and to Monsignor and Father Nasta who have been staunch supporters of our Council.

Our Financial Secretary, Bob Higman, helped us set up a donation and pledge program. No contribution was too small, and Brothers gave from their hearts. Over the course of the next year 51 Brother Knights donated \$15,180 to cover the cost of the Marian Statue. A small subcommittee researched our options, and we agreed upon a five-foot, 1,000 lb. statue carved from White Hunan Marble. Our subcommittee worked with a designer on a clay model that was approved by Monsignor. The final statue was carved overseas and shipped to us on May 20, 2024.

We have several Knights that serve on parish council and the finance committee for the parish. Timing was fortuitous as we were working on a much-needed redesign of our Church parking lot. With the redesign, Monsignor decided that the statue donated by the Knights would become a centerpiece for the new parking lot. We also have a Brother Knight that manages a construction company, so he donated materials, craftsmen and time to assist with the foundation for the statue.

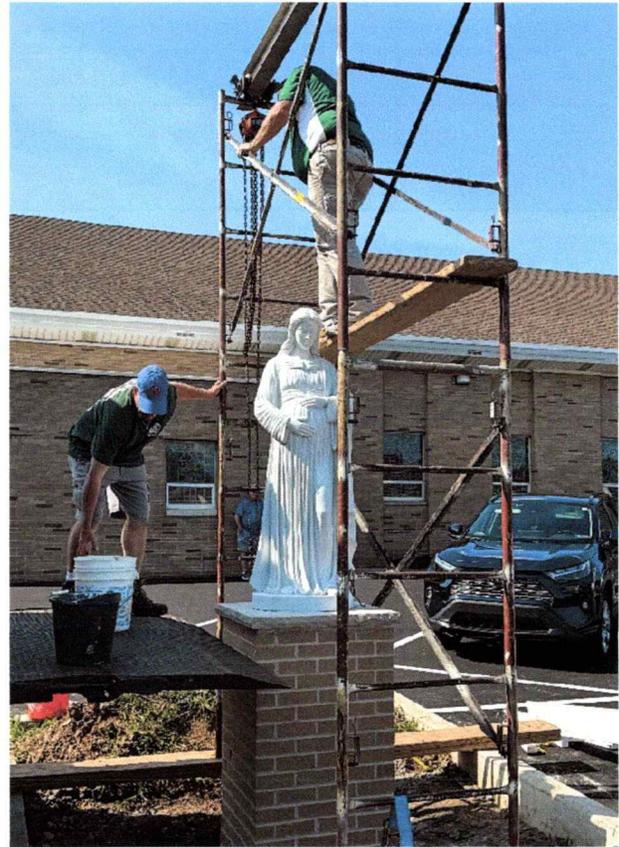
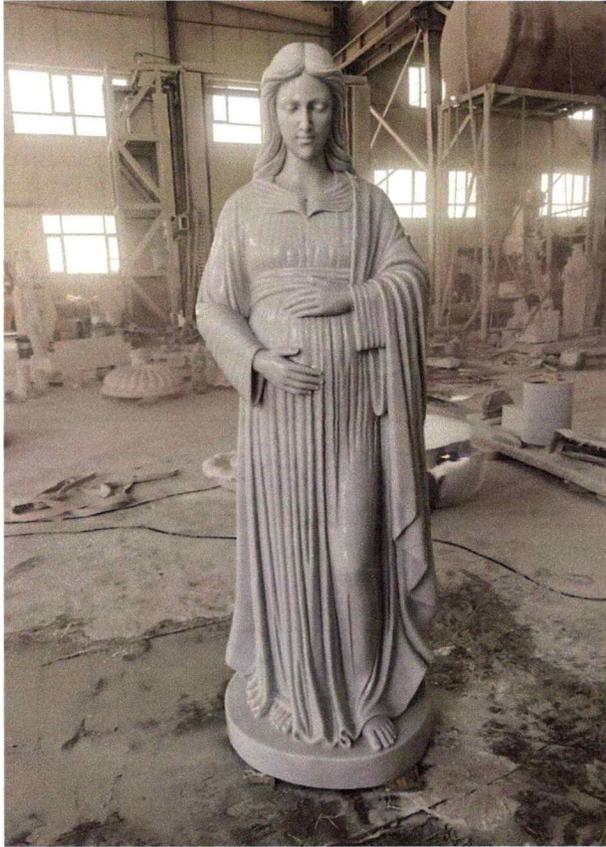
In our photo supplement, you can see the finished statue when it was ready to ship to the states. The installation was on July 23, 2025. We coordinated the movers, installers and the final masonry work needed to make the location ready for the next step.

The Blessing and Dedication took place on September 7, 2025, after the 10 am Mass. There was light rain so the Knights provided a tent for the eighty parishioners that attended. Monsignor prepared a short service and performed a blessing. There was a reception in the rear vestibule after the ceremony.

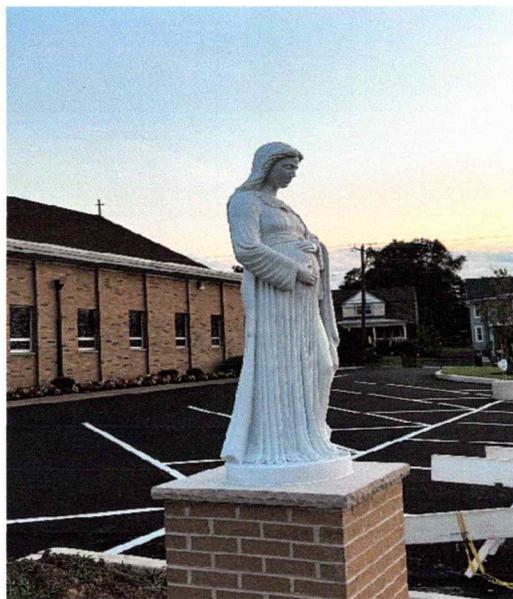
This was a special day as it was the culmination of a three-year effort that will have a lasting impact on the parish. Monsignor dedicated Her as Our Lady of Hope, and she will be beacon of Life and Hope for generations to come.

Signed: Charles E. Duke 3-08-2026
Grand Knight Date

Our Lady of Grace Council 17417 – Marian Statue Donation and Dedication – Our Lady of Hope



The first photo was from the final marble finished product just before it was shipped to our Council in May of 2024. The photo to its right was part of the installation day on July 23, 2025. Our Bother Knight Paul Di Donato provided the materials and craftsman to create a suitable base for Our Lady of Hope.



Now we were ready for the Blessing and Dedication.

Blessing & Dedication

of the new

*Statue of
Our Lady*

and the Refurbished

Church Parking Lot

Sunday, September 7

10-15 minutes after the
10:00 AM Mass

Location:

OLG Church Parking Lot



Our Lady of Grace Council 17417 – Marian Statue Donation and Dedication – Our Lady of Hope

We had about 30 Brothers in attendance on September 7th for the Blessing and Dedication. Monsignor blessed and dedicated our Marian Statue as ***Our Lady of Hope***.



Our Lady of Grace Council 17417 – Marian Statue Donation and Dedication – Our Lady of Hope



Monsignor shared that the Lord provided a light drizzle to assist in the blessing of the statue and the new parking lot. We had over 80 parishioners in attendance. Monsignor officiated the dedication and Grand Knight, Chip Duke, gave a short address on behalf of the Knights. There was a small reception after sponsored by the Knights in the rear vestibule of the Church.

There is even special lighting to illuminate the statue at night. Mary is a beacon for Life and Hope, and this will be a positive symbol for many years to come.