



# THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Roanoke Council #562 Newsletter

August, 2024

## Upcoming Events

**7/29 (Monday)** July 4th Degree meeting. **Note change of normal meeting date.** Installation of officers for Fraternal Year 2024-25. Dinner served at 6:30. Meeting at 7:15.

**8/5 (Monday)** August Council Business Meeting. Dinner served at 6:30. Meeting at 7:30.

**8/6-8 (Monday - Wednesday)** KofC Supreme Convention, Quebec City (highlights broadcast on EWTN).

**8/10 (Saturday)** Color Corps training - Roanoke Council Home 9:00

**8/13 (Tuesday)** Feast of Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney

**8/19 (Monday)** Installation of Council Officers - details TBA

**8/26 (Monday) August** 4th Degree meeting. Dinner served at 6:30. Meeting at 7:15.

**8/28 - 9/11** Silver Rose in District 33

**9/2 (Monday)** Labor Day

**9/3 (Tuesday)** September Council Business Meeting. **Rescheduled due to Labor Day.** Dinner served at 6:30. Meeting at 7:30

Please also refer to our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/RoanokeKnights/> for additional announcements

## Grand Knight's Report



Brother Knights,

On July 1 I attended the VA State organizational meeting and the 10<sup>th</sup> National Eucharistic Congress. The organizational meeting was a great kickoff to the new fraternal year and focused on many of the practical works and programs we have planned. All of you should have an email listing council activities in August and if you have not received it, please reach out to me and/or our Financial Secretary, Brian Ripple, so we can confirm the contact information we have for you.

All our charitable works are necessary, yet we should always remain grounded in our Catholic faith. The Eucharistic Congress was an extraordinary call to renewal of our Catholic faith and many attendees, including my wife and I, witnessed this. The mission we have now is to spread this call to renewal. How does this renewal happen? To borrow the words of Fr. Mike Schmitz's keynote speech: "you can never have revival without repentance". This is a reminder for me and all of you to go to regular confession. What do we do next? Per Bishop Robert Barron's closing from his keynote speech:

"Your job: bring the lumen to the gentes. Bring the light of Christ out into the secular world. This great  
(Continued, P2)

# July Business Meeting Highlights

- The Grand Knight thanked brothers for their support. He mentioned that he will aim to keep meetings brief and on track, and asked brothers to follow proper procedures. Charitable requests are to be submitted in advance to the charity committee (trustees). He also urged members to try to get inactive members re-involved.
- Two transfer members were welcomed into the council: Juan Garcia and Zack White.
- Color Corps training will be conducted at the council home on Saturday, August 10.
- Help is needed with KCIC at the state meeting on July 13 (Saturday).
- Installation of council officers is planned for Monday, August 19 (details TBA).
- The council budget is in preparation. Increases in donations to KOVAR and VKCCI are anticipated.
- KOVAR drives are planned for August 30-31 and November 29-30. Help is needed; please plan to participate.
- The Lecturer reflected on where we came from as Knights of Columbus. Fr. McGivney had a vision to create a mutual aid society for Catholic families. The Knights of Columbus was founded on March 29, 1882 at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, CT and Fr. McGivney's vision became a reality. The need for the Knights of Columbus is still acute in the 21st Century. Brothers are encouraged to promote our order and get/stay involved in the upcoming fraternal year. (Read the Lecturer's full message on pp 6-7.)



GK Report (Continued from P1)

revival will have been a failure if we don't change our society, if we don't stream forth from this place with the Light of Christ. Become the people you're meant to be. Catherine of Sienna said it: 'become the people God wants you to be and you will set the world on fire'".

James Valenzuela, Grand Knight

## In This Issue

Upcoming Events	P1
Grand Knight's Report	P1
July Business Meeting Highlights	P2
In This Issue	P2
Wednesday Grill Nights	P2
Beatification of Fr. Michael McGivney	P3
August Birthdays	P3
Saint of the Month	P4
Prayer Requests	P4
A Message from the State Deputy	P5
Silver Rose	P5
Inspiration for My Brother Knights	P6-7
Officers and Committees	P8
In Case of Emergency	P8

## Wednesday Grill Nights

Every Wednesday during the summer months (weather permitting) is grill night at Olympic Park Pool. Grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats are available from 5:00 until 7:00 PM.

Pool membership is not required, and there is no charge for entry if you do not plan to swim. Come out and enjoy good food and fellowship.

Help is needed for this endeavor. Please come on out and help if you are able.



# Beatification of Fr. Michael McGivney

On May 26, 2020, Pope Francis approved a decree recognizing a miracle attributed to the intercession of Father McGivney and opening the way for his beatification. On Oct. 31, the Mass for Beatification was celebrated in the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford, Conn. An Apostolic Letter was read from Pope Francis that declared Father McGivney would now have the title of Blessed Michael McGivney. He is the third priest born in the United States to be raised to this honor, and the first priest to be beatified who spent his whole priestly ministry in a US parish.

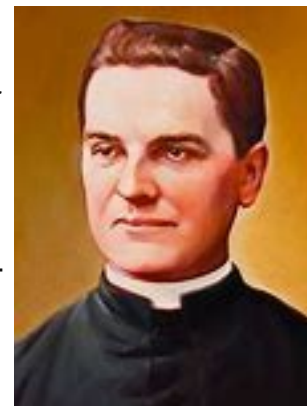
The pope's Apostolic Letter stated that Blessed Michael McGivney's "zeal for the proclamation of the Gospel and generous concern for the needs of his brothers and sisters made him an outstanding witness of Christian solidarity and fraternal assistance."

The Cause for Canonization for Father McGivney was opened in the Archdiocese of Hartford in 1997, when he was given the title Servant of God. On March 15, 2008, his heroic virtue was recognized by Pope Benedict XVI, and Father McGivney was given the title Venerable Servant of God. This important step occurred after years of careful investigation of Father McGivney's life, spirituality and holiness by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. The declaration of Venerable confirmed what those who knew him in life, and others who call upon him since his death, have believed about Father McGivney: He lived a life of heroic virtue with an extraordinary love of God and neighbor.

Having been raised to the honors of the altar, Blessed Michael McGivney has an annual feast day of Aug. 13, the day between his

birthday (in 1852) and the day he passed into eternal life (in 1890). His cause has now entered the final phase toward canonization or sainthood. One more confirmed miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney is needed for him to be declared saint.

All Knights and their families, as well as all those devoted to Father McGivney, are asked to pray for his intercession in their daily needs, especially in cases of serious illness, and to report any favors and healings to the Fr. McGivney Guild (to join, go to: [www.fathermcgivney.org](http://www.fathermcgivney.org)).



## August Birthdays

Birthday wishes to the following Brother Knights with birthdays in August:

Walter Lee IV	August 1
Edward Aesy	August 3
Matthew Skelton	August 7
Ronald Kleba	August 8
Francis Otto	August 11
Frank Cummings	August 13
Brian Brindle	August 14
Ronald Mc Ginn	August 15
Gerry Waddell	August 17
Stephen Clements	August 18
Michael Herron	August 20
Peter Radjou	August 26
Mark Noell	August 27
J Scott Sexton	August 28
Patrick Crowe	August 31
James Johnson	August 31

# Saint of the Month

## Bernard of Clairvaux

Bernard was born into a noble family in Burgundy in 1090 – the third of seven children. Both his parents were exceptional models of virtue. During his education with priests, he often thought of becoming one. After his mother died in 1113, Bernard and thirty other young noblemen of Burgundy sought admission into a new monastery living according to a literal interpretation of the Rule of St Benedict called the Order of Cistercians. His example convinced many, including his siblings and his widowed father, to join the monastic life.

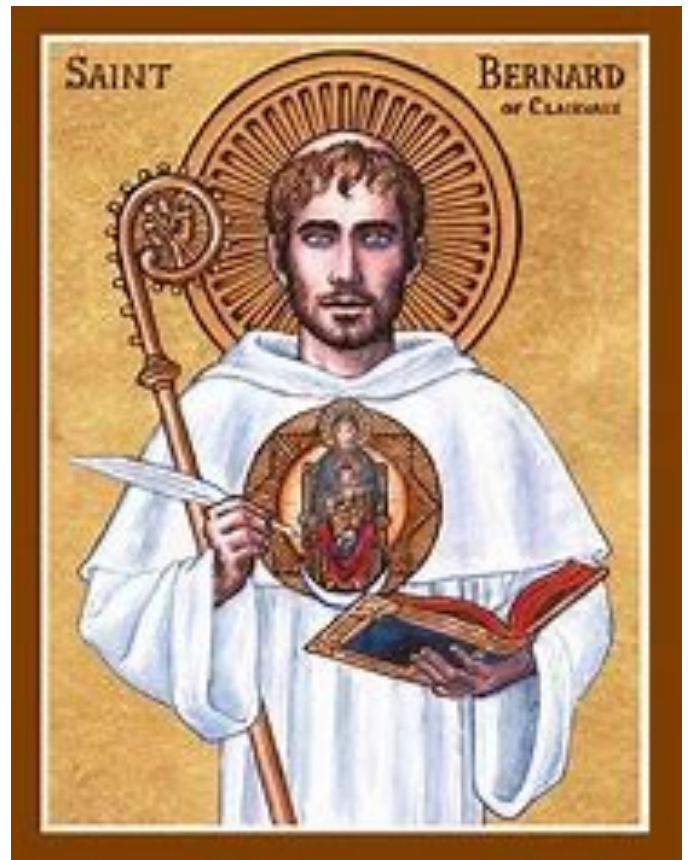
In 1115, Bernard was sent with a group of twelve monks to found a new house at Clairvaux; Bernard was named as Abbot. His Influence grew, and his reputation for learning, wisdom, and preaching spread throughout Europe. Clairvaux became the mother house of 68 Cistercian monasteries.

In the year 1128, Bernard attended the Council of Troyes, at which he helped to found the Rule of the Knights Templar, which soon became an ideal of Christian nobility. In 1146, Pope Eugene III he was successful in enlisting crusaders for the cause of protecting the Holy Land from Muslim possession.

Bernard was frequently called upon to settle disputes; most notably in 1130 two men were claiming to have been elected pope. Pope Innocent II was ultimately recognized as pope, after advocacy by Bernard. He is also regarded as one of the most prolific mystical writers and preachers of his time; numerous writings, sermons, and letters still exist.

Bernard died at Clairvaux on August 20, 1153. His feast is August 20. He was canonized in 1174 by Pope Alexander III. In 1830 Pope Pius VIII declared him a Doctor of the Church.

Bernard was proclaimed *Doctor Mellifluus* by encyclical of Pope Pius XII on May 24, 1953.



## Prayer Requests

Please keep Brother Knights and their family members in your prayers:

- Jane Wills, mother of BK Steve Wills.
- Donnie and Betsy Ratliff, parents of BK Stephen Ratliff.
- BK Paul Miller.
- BK Leon Vinci.
- BK Chris Sheets.
- Lynn Bertolacci, wife of BK Al Bertolacci - deceased.
- BK Bob Poole - deceased.



# A Message from the State Deputy

Worthy Brother Knights and Families,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your State Deputy for the fraternal year 2024-2025 as we celebrate the Virginia State Council's 125th year! The jurisdiction of Virginia has a legacy of strong leaders who embraced and promoted the guiding principles of the Knights of Columbus: charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. I will do my best to follow in my predecessors' footsteps and continue Virginia's proud tradition of being the best jurisdiction in the Order.

Lisa and I are very proud to be representing the jurisdiction of Virginia this fraternal year. As we have already attended a few Installations of council officers, it is clear that there is a great deal of positive spiritual energy throughout the state of Virginia. We are so much looking forward to traveling the state and visiting as many councils as we can.

As most of you know "Have Faith and Fear Not" is the theme for this year.

For over 40 years, rooted in words spoken by the Lord Jesus in the gospels, this theme has echoed and re-echoed in my mind and heart.

We know not what the future will unveil for us in our personal lives, within the family, in our beloved church, and in this nation founded on the belief in God with liberty and justice for all. But, whatever comes, we cling to the fact that God is with us and will never abandon us.

Pope Francis has proclaimed this the Year of Prayer. What better way to deepen our faith than to pray to God daily and in every circumstance of life. Prayer is essential because it draws us closer to God, and also leads to enduring faith and hope. When we pray, we are opening our hearts to Him so that He can work in us and through us.

My Brothers, as we begin this new fraternal year, we know not what we will encounter. But this we know with absolute conviction.

Our God is with us, made visible through his Son Jesus Christ who says to us: "Have Faith and Fear Not."

Thank you all again and I look forward to seeing all your councils' successes and seeing more families joining your council as part of the Knights of Columbus.

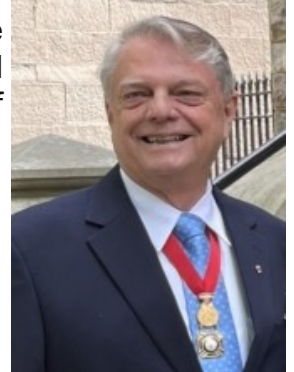
May God Bless you, the Knights of Columbus and the United States of America.

Vivat Jesus!

Fraternally,

Bob Jones,

State Deputy



## Silver Rose

Each year, from early March through mid-December, Silver Roses are stewarded by Knights of Columbus councils along routes from Canada to Mexico. Every stop the Silver Rose makes throughout the pilgrimage is a rosary-centered occasion for Knights, parishioners and community members to pray for respect for life, for the spiritual renewal of each nation, and for the advancement of the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The Silver Rose will be in our District from August 28 thru September 11 this year. Share the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe and promote respect for life by participating in this meaningful pilgrimage. The Silver Rose program demonstrates the unity between Knights of Columbus in Canada, the United States and Mexico, through a series of prayer services promoting the dignity of all human life and honoring Our Lady.



# Inspiration for My Brother Knights

## Lecturer's Report from the July 1 Meeting

Brothers, sometimes it helps to know where you came from to know where you're going. Tonight I want to take you back to our orders founding in 1882. America was not welcoming to immigrants seeking a new life. New Haven Connecticut was typical of American cities throughout New England. Catholics were not welcomed. Anti-Catholic prejudice was common in employment, housing, education, and in the social groups of the day. There was poverty, alcoholism, and pressures to forsake the Catholic faith in hopes of greater opportunity for employment or social standing. Dangerous factory working conditions left many families fatherless. Families who lost the bread winner were quickly broken up by the welfare system of the day which put the children into orphanages unless a means of support could be found.

In the midst of this, Father Michael J. McGivney, the 29-year-old assistant pastor at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn saw the needs and challenges his parishioners faced. Calling a small group of men to a meeting in the basement of Saint Mary's Church he shared his vision with them. He proposed establishing a lay organization to unite Catholic men and prevent them from abandoning the faith, from joining secret societies hostile to Church teaching, and helping the families of deceased members avoid poverty and stay together. His dream and vision became a reality. Brothers we are his dream and vision. We are The Knights of Columbus.

Brothers as we meet here this evening, 142 years later, things have not really changed that much. We still face anti-Catholic prejudice. Speak out in defense of Catholic teaching on Marriage, abortion, Women Ordination, or sexuality and be prepared to be attacked verbally, on social media, and face the possibility of losing friends, family, and employment.

We are losing young Catholic men into society. They are forgetting their faith, the faith of their fathers, to fit in with society. They are no longer identifying as Catholics preferring to use the phrase, "I'm spiritual but not religious". We seem to be doing better with the untimely deaths of the family bread winner, but we still see families being broken up by divorce with single mothers struggling to keep their family together, fed, and cared for.

Brothers, the point I want to make is that even after 142 years there is still a need for the Knights of Columbus. That same need Father McGivney saw. In some ways that need may be even more pronounced than it was in 1882. It was a small band of dedicated men that gave the dream life. It's up to us, a small band of dedicated men to keep that dream alive.

Brothers this is the start of a new fraternal year. Remember the lessons you received, the lessons on Charity, Unity, and Fraternity.

Charity is a matter of time, talent, and treasure. If you truly believe in Charity, then give of your time or your talent. That is the truest charity. A charity that gladdens the heart of the giver. Money is not

the answer. Saint Mother Theresa of Calcutta once refused a check from Supreme admonishing the Supreme Knight that what she needed was volunteers from the Knights, not money.

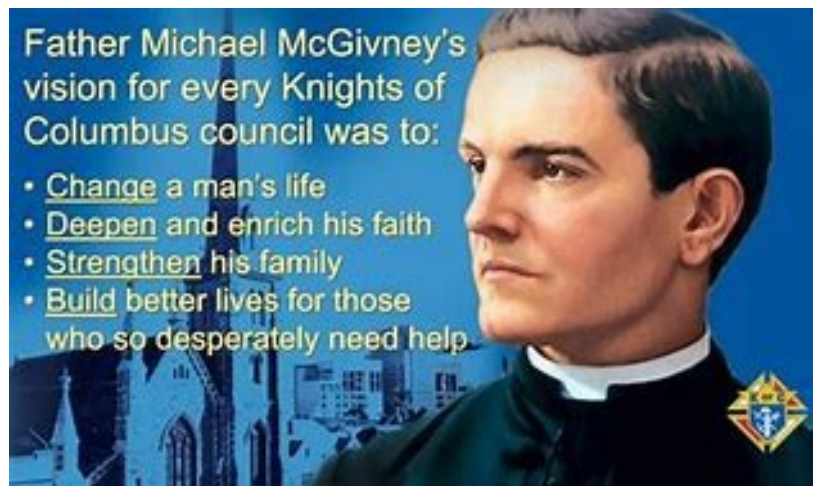
Every fraternal year we have program chairs that are never filled. We have committees that never get formed. If you are asked, step up. Be the difference. Make your charity a gift of time or talent.

If you believe in the strength that comes from Unity then recruit a Knight. Promote the Knights. We can save our fellow Catholics by bringing them into OUR society. A society of believers. A society of Faithful Catholic men. That was Blessed Father McGivney's dream. Men who embrace marriage and fatherhood. Men who pray the Rosary. Men who willingly stand with others in defense of the faith and the Church's teaching on moral issues. Who stand against bigotry and injustice. It was the unity of the Knights that faced down the Ku Klux Klan over the legitimacy of Catholic Schools all the way to the Supreme Court. It was the unity of the Knights that had Under God added to the Pledge of Allegiance. It was the unity of the Knights that gave us Columbus Circle in Washington DC. We need this unity today more than ever.

And finally, if you believe in Fraternity, then show it. Social events are important. Where are the Past Grand Knight Dinners? Where is the Christmas Party? Where is any party for that matter. Or baseball outings, or Hockey outings where we can involve our families. The events we have had were poorly attended. Fraternity involves friendship and a sense of belonging. We need to get that back.

Brothers it's a new Fraternal year. Another chance to make a plan and promote programs that will bring us back into the Churches. There is an old saying that No one can do everything, but everyone can do something. Brothers the Church needs us, Catholic men need us. Recommit yourselves to the pledges you have taken in the Degrees. Let's make this Fraternal year Our fraternal year. The year we bring the dream alive. Blessed Father Michael McGivney Pray for us.

Thank you Brothers,  
Dave Chopski, PGK  
Worthy Lecturer



# Roanoke Council 562 Officers 2024-25

Grand Knight	James Valenzuela	301-806-3920
Deputy Grand Knight	Open	
Chancellor	Chris Johnson	540-589-3567
Warden	Stephen Ratliff	540-774-4796
Financial Secretary	Brian Ripple	540-797-5823
Chaplain	Fr. George Zina	407-758-8855
Treasurer	Val Bernys	540-798-3128
Recorder	Jan Hodnett	540-819-5456
Advocate	Nate Griffith	804-837-8874
Outside Guard	Jean Saade	540-355-0585
Inside Guard	Tom Huck	540-597-2121
Trustee, 3 Year	Clyde Moak	540-418-5148
Trustee, 2 Year	Bill Howard	540-989-9399
Trustee, 1 Year	Rich Whitney	443-465-7742

## Corporation Board 2023-24

President	Roger Vest	540-520-8520
Vice President:	James Valenzuela	301-806-3920
Treasurer:	Jan Hodnett	540-819-5456
Board Member:	Val Bernys	540-989-9282
Board Member:	Clyde Moak	540-418-5148
Board Member	Bill Howard	540-989-9399
Board Member:	Dan McBride	540-389-5903
Board Member:	Paul Miller	540-339-8657

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**In case of illness, need, or death, please notify one of the following:**

**Grand Knight**  
**Clyde Moak**                   **540-418-5148**  
**Financial Secretary**  
**Brian Ripple**               **540-797-5823**  
**Fraternal Benefits**  
**Jack Clarke**               **540-204-4984**  
**Jack.Clarke@KOF.C.ORG**

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### Disclaimer

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