



A Knight's View

The Newsletter of the Rhode Island State Council
Knights of Columbus

formed in 1893 as the first State Council

**Serving the Church and Community through Charity, Unity, Fraternity and
Patriotism since 1893**

June 2020

Volume 3, issue 12

MIRACLE APPROVED! FATHER MCGIVNEY TO BE BEATIFIED!

The Vatican announced on May 27th that Pope Francis approved the promulgation of a decree recognizing a miracle attributed to our founder, Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney.

The pope's action means that Father McGivney can be declared "Blessed", the step just prior to sainthood. An additional miracle attributed to Father McGivney's intercession will be required for his canonization as a saint.

The miracle recognized as coming through Father McGivney's intercession involved an unborn child in the United States who in 2015 was healed in utero of a life-threatening condition after prayers by his family to Father McGivney. (Further evidence that life begins in

the womb – which we as Catholics faithfully attest).

A date will soon be set for the beatification Mass, which will take place in Connecticut. It will include the reading of an apostolic letter from the Holy Father and the bestowing of the title "Blessed" on Father McGivney.

State Council News

As we are in election season and gathering restrictions are beginning to ease, we should also begin to think about Installations of Council & Assembly Officers. Supreme guidance regarding this is to be aware of your Jurisdictions guidelines for gathering (given that there will be differences from state to state).



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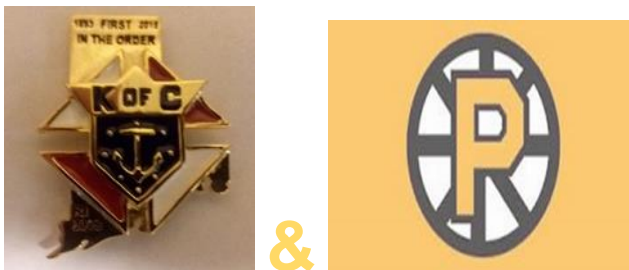
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June 2020

Volume 3, issue 12

K of C Hockey Ticket Refunds Reminder:



In order to refund those who purchased tickets, please mail your tickets along with the food coupon, and your return address to the State Office:

RI State Council, 3200 Pawtucket Ave., Riverside, RI 02915, ATTN: SD Mike Dziok

Charity: Our First Principle

As you know, this year we were unable to physically come together to conduct our Annual State Convention.

And while we were able to handle the necessary business

such as the election of State Officers and the budget approval utilizing the virtual convention format developed by Supreme, our annual banquet and awards programs, and the fraternity and good-will of our council hospitality suites were victims of the Covid-19 pandemic. There was another significant loss caused by this cancellation. Councils and Assemblies were unable to make their annual contribution to the Bishop's Catholic Charity Fund Appeal, this during a time when the resources of the Diocese are being stretched to its limits.

Therefore, SD Mike Dziok is asking that Councils and Assemblies now consider making their donations to this Fund. In as much as the RI K of C normally makes a consolidated donation, we now ask that those making a donation forward their checks (payable to the *Bishop's Catholic*



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Charity Fund Appeal) to the State Office (3200 Pawtucket Avenue, East Providence, RI 02915) to the attention of the State Secretary. For those councils that may have already made their contributions to this Appeal please advise the State Secretary with your contributed amount so that our records may reflect the total participation state-wide.

State Meeting Advisory

State meetings to resume on-line. See the article below for details.

Membership News

Supreme is continuing to schedule on-line Exemplification in English, Spanish and French. Here is the current schedule: (N.B. the 1st listed is for tonight)

Week of May 31, 2020

English

[Tuesday, June 2 -
7:00 PM EDT](#)

[Tuesday, June 2 -
10:00 PM EDT](#)

[Thursday, June 4 -
7:00 PM EDT](#)

[Thursday, June 4 -
10:00 PM EDT](#)

Spanish

[Sunday, May 31 -
10:00 PM EDT](#)

[Wednesday, June
3 - 9:00 PM EDT](#)

Week of June 7, 2020

English

[Tuesday, June 9 - 7:00
PM EDT](#)

[Tuesday, June 9 - 10:00
PM EDT](#)

[Thursday, June 11 - 7:00
PM EDT](#)

[Thursday, June 11 -
10:00 PM EDT](#)

Spanish

[Sunday, June
7 - 10:00 PM
EDT](#)

[Wednesday,
June 10 -
9:00 PM EDT](#)

French

[Saturday,
June 13 -
11:00 AM
EDT](#)



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June 2020

Volume 3, issue 12



[Tuesday, June 23 -
10:00 PM EDT](#)

[Wednesday, June
24 - 9:00 PM EDT](#)

[Thursday, June 25
- 7:00 PM EDT](#)

Week of June 14, 2020

English

[Tuesday, June 16 -
7:00 PM EDT](#)

[Tuesday, June 16 -
10:00 PM EDT](#)

[Thursday, June 18
- 7:00 PM EDT](#)

[Thursday, June 18
- 10:00 PM EDT](#)

Spanish

[Sunday, June 14 -
10:00 PM EDT](#)

[Wednesday, June
17 - 9:00 PM EDT](#)

French
[Tuesday, June 16 -
10:00 PM EDT](#)

English

[Thursday, June 25
- 10:00 PM EDT](#)

French

[Wednesday, June
24 - 7:00 PM EDT](#)

Week of June 28, 2020

Spanish

[Sunday, June 28 - 10:00 PM EDT](#)

Making Councils Stronger

**Strong Councils through
Membership Growth &
Engagement**

Week of June 21, 2020

English

[Tuesday, June 23 -
7:00 PM EDT](#)

Spanish

[Sunday, June 21 -
10:00 PM EDT](#)



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Volume 3, issue 12

News from Supreme

Awards Criteria Adjustments

The Supreme Council has adjusted the criteria for earning of Supreme's annual recognition Awards. **This is a one-time change for the current year only.** Please note the adjustments below:

- **Columbian Award**
(Programs). Conduct 10 programs; At least 2 in each category of Faith, Family, Community and Life; At least 2 additional in any category; Specific programs are no longer required
- **McGivney Award**
(Membership). 40% reduction in quota
- **Founders Award**
(Insurance). 50% reduction in quota, or host a benefits

seminar with field agent by
June 30

Star Council Award.

- Achieve the revised Columbian, McGivney, and Founders awards.
- Payment of Supreme assessments and per capita are not required for this year
- All other Star Council requirements (reports, safe environment, etc.) remain in effect

Message from the State Deputy

Brothers & Friends,

The month of May gave us as Knights some good news despite the long impositions to our lives caused by Covid-19. On Monday 5/27/20 the Vatican announced that it has recognized a miracle



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Volume 3, issue 12

attributed to our founder, the Venerable Michael J. McGivney. The pope's action means that Fr. McGivney can be declared "Blessed", the step just prior to sainthood. An additional miracle attributed to Fr. McGivney's intercession will be required for his canonization as a saint. Let us to continue to pray that his sainthood is soon realized. (see also the lead article above - editor)

Other changes recently announced by the Supreme Council was the lowering of each Council's membership requirements by forty (40) percent, and a relaxation of many of the *Faith In Action* program requirements, thus making qualification as a Star Council more readily attainable. These actions were done in recognition of the restrictions the coronavirus situation has imposed upon local councils. This has also affected

council qualifications for the State Membership Incentive outlined this past January. This information will be updated at the next State Council meeting on Friday June 5th at 7:30 PM, to be held on the Go-To-Meeting virtual platform. Please check the state website for meeting access details

Due to the fact we were unable to have a live State Convention, there were several check presentations normally made, that had to be cancelled. One such donation is that made to Our Lady of Providence Seminary reflecting the return in the State Council's investment with Supreme's Christopher Fund. I am pleased to announce that a check in the amount of \$3,987.46 has been mailed to the seminary. A second presentation made annually is to the Special Olympics Rhode Island organization, the amount which is determined as a percentage of the



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Volume 3, issue 12

investment by our local and state councils during the past year.

Thanks to your generosity, Supreme has generated a check for \$5,100.00 to SORI.

Brothers, as my term as your State Deputy quickly draws to a close, I am humbled when I think of all the support and cooperation I have received the past two years. When I began my term, I explained that my goals were to see that each council take the steps to grow stronger. Councils were reminded that conducting business “as usual” should not be allowed to continue. I believe that many councils embraced that philosophy and took the steps necessary to review their rosters, as well as take the steps necessary to increase their visibility in their respective parish and local communities. Please remember that this visibility must continue and grow throughout the lives of every council. But this not something I did

personally, I was blessed with an extraordinary group of gentlemen who accepted my challenge to serve as your District Deputies. They each were charged with the responsibilities of instructing and advising their respective councils of the programs and changes being put in place by both the State and Supreme Councils. When I think about what we had to face the last 24 months, that was not a small task. Gentlemen, you have earned my undying respect, thanks, and gratitude for your dedication to the Order.

I would be remiss if failed to acknowledge the group of men who stepped forward to serve as program and committee chairmen administering the oversight and completion of both State and Supreme Council programs and directives. Many assumed fund raising efforts to support State Council activities for charities. Not



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Volume 3, issue 12

to lessen the importance of any of these men or the positions, but I must acknowledge the work of Membership Director, PJ Shea, Program Director, Jeff Gaulin, Degree & Ceremonial Director, Robert Lynch, and our District Master of the Fourth Degree, Robert Gallant. These men clearly demonstrated the ability to perform effectively on an ever changing playing field.

Then there is my slate of State Council officers who were there to freely offer their advice and guidance during my administration. Because of their support, I never felt left on an island, wondering what was the next step that should be taken. We truly performed as a TEAM. Gentlemen, I look forward to your continued success in your future leadership of the K of C in Rhode Island.

I cannot forget the guidance given to me by our State Chaplain,

Fr. Joseph Paquette. His support, perspective, advice and yes, his prayers have not only aided me, but I believe the entire K of C membership statewide. No one can deny the effect he has had on each one of us. We have been Truly Blessed with by the opportunity to have him working with us.

I must acknowledge PSD/FM Stephen Ciolfi who agreed to serve as the Advisor to the State Deputy. His no nonsense, yet realistic approach to a particular matter or to situations that have arisen has provided me the necessary advice and guidance in their ultimate disposition.

And finally, I must recognize the one person who has been with me in every step of my Knights of Columbus journey. My wife Vicky encouraged me in running for local Council officer positions all the way through to that of the State Deputy.



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Volume 3, issue 12

None of this would have been possible without her support and love. I am extremely grateful and very lucky to have her always at my side.

My brothers, thank you for letting me have the keys to your car for the past two years. I may have left a few scratches, but still runs well. It is a keeper. I am proud to hand the keys over to our State Deputy – Elect, David Quinn. I know under his leadership along with support of our newly elected State Council officers, our Councils and Assemblies will continue to thrive in Rhode Island.

Vivat Jesus!

Michael Dziok

State Deputy



Message from the Master

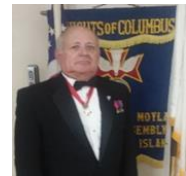
Brothers,

I'm probably being overly optimistic, but I feel I have to. In the hope that things will continue to move closer to normalcy I am going to try to set up an Exemplification of the Patriotic Degree for late August. Easier to cancel then to wait till the last minute.

So, the more the state is able to open, the more this may be possible.

Be aware that if this can happen, I will need the help of all my Brothers to get the word out and to get candidates. I will inform as to date, time, and location as soon as I can.

Be safe, stay healthy,



Robert (Bob) Gallant

4th Degree District Master,
Rhode Island



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Volume 3, issue 12

General Agent

Brothers,

I pray that you and your families are well and are managing through these unprecedented times. As this Fraternal Year comes to an end and given the state of our country; the Knights have adopted a contingent process to help councils make Star. Some of you may have already participated in one of the On-Line Fraternal Benefit Nights. If you have not, I encourage you to contact your local agent for details and set one up very soon. There is still time if you act quickly! For any council that has not met your "Insurance" quota for this fraternal year, you will get credit for having met the number if you either get 50% of quota or have a Benefits Night with your agent. I hope to see a record number of Star Councils

and Star Districts this year and this option should allow for you all to achieve this goal.

I wish you all the very best and good luck on your council & district goals.

Vivat Jesus and God Bless!



General Agent John Ruffo is available for all your Fraternal Benefits questions. He can be reached at john.ruffo@kofc.org or by phone at 860-807-3234 (office) or 860-866-8712 (cell)

Editor's reminder – Fraternal Benefits include much more than Life Insurance



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Volume 3, issue 12

Programming Activities

All our State sponsored and promoted activities can be used to satisfy requirements of the Columbian Award. Note also that some of our biggest State initiatives began as a local Council activity (e.g. – Operation R.O.V.A.C.). Supporting the causes of other Councils will also get them to reciprocate and support your causes.

**- Fraternity begets Unity
and together lead to an
increase of Charity.**

Events of Note

- June 14th – Flag Day
- June 21st – Father's Day

Check the State Website regularly for details and new listings.

Milestone Celebration



Woonsocket Council #113, whose 125th Charter Anniversary date was January 27th, has again postponed their Gala Celebration. The new date is October 3rd. It will still begin with the 4 pm Mass at All Saints before proceeding to *St. Ann's Arts & Cultural Center* on Cumberland Street in Woonsocket (just down the road from the Council home @ All Saints Church). With questions, or to participate, contact State Program Director Jeff Gaulin (event chair) at jagaulin@verizon.net or District Deputy Jack Tracy at jklmc.tracy@att.net.



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Volume 3, issue 12

So also, Faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (Jas 2:17)

State & Local Happenings

Below are just a few of the many activities held by Councils around the State. Many of our functions build a spirit of Fraternity.....



Photo from a Woonsocket Council fundraiser for New Beginnings Soup Kitchen in 2018

.....while doing good works.

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? (Jas 2:14)

Community Activities



The needs of the less advantaged in our communities have not diminished. I encourage each of your Councils to continue your assistance programs. I highlight the work of Lincoln Council which has been collecting food and other essential supplies with such success that they have been able to assist 2 food pantries each week for the last month. And, recently Stop & Shop in Lincoln has jumped on board to assist by placing a dedicated collection bin in the store. Great job gentlemen.



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Volume 3, issue 12



In a similar vein, St. Pius XII Council #5295 has continued its *Mealtrain* efforts. I highlighted this program in a previous edition. But, in addition they have also enacted additional programs. The Knights also have the “Stop & Shop Gift Card Program,” where they gather gift cards from parishioners to give to Father

Marcel Taillon so he can hand them out to families in need of food. When the parish property came to be in need of attention, the Knights launched “Operation Lawn Care” to have multiple teams care for the outside facilities at both St. Thomas More and St. Veronica Parishes. For Mother’s Day they held a “Pansy Drive.” The Knights handled the delivery of 80 pots of pansies each with a note of love and appreciation for somebody’s wife, mother, or grandmother. These and other efforts were recently recognized in an article in *National Catholic Register*. Great work Brothers!



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June 2020

Volume 3, issue 12

Life Activities



We must always be vigilant when it comes to Life issues. Never be afraid to engage your local, State and National officials in a dialog of truth. While we should always be respectful and civil in this dialog, we need not fear the truth regarding the sanctity of life.

Servants of Christ for Life recently sent out a letter from Kara Young, widow of Chris Young. Many of us knew Chris through mutual Pro-Life efforts. The following is from Tyler Rowley of *Servants*:

Dear Friends,

Three months ago, we lost a local pro-life hero and you responded with prayers and kindness, raising over \$43,000 for Chris Young's wife (Kara) and

daughter (Mary). Kara wanted to pass along the following message to everyone:

"Mary and I have been overwhelmed and overjoyed by the outpouring of generosity from everyone. It was surprising and also so very helpful to us. We are so grateful to God and to pro-lifers across Rhode Island for doing this for us!

We are doing well, although I am still in shock and can't believe Chris is no longer physically here. We are doing Mary's kindergarten distance learning daily and Mary is truly doing fantastic! And Mary and I are getting outside to do some bike riding, playing soccer in the yard, etc. We're doing plenty of indoor fun stuff too like making homemade pizza. Most importantly, we are praying together.

Truly, we want to say thank you to everyone who has prayed for us,



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attended Chris' services, sent cards, and contributed to the GoFundMe page. I thank God for you."

Tyler continued with the following:

We are only \$6,655 away from our initial \$50,000 goal. Please consider helping us reach that goal for Kara and Mary.

Chris died mere minutes after giving a powerful pro-life testimony at the State House. You can read Chris' testimony, as well as watch it, and contribute to the GoFundMe campaign by going to

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/chris-young-family-memorial-fund>

Tyler Rowley
President



Chris Young during one of his many presentations

Always remember that the fight to protect life never ends. Whether it is end of life causes, treatment of the living in this world (social justice issues) or treatment of the not yet born.

Faith Activities



Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not; In all your ways be mindful of him and he will make straight your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)



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Volume 3, issue 12

As we begin to “re-open” the Church buildings many of our Councils are assisting our Pastors with logistics, cleaning and other needs. In addition to being the right thing to do this fits in to the *Leave No Neighbor Behind* concept and the general mission of the Order.

Family Activities

Youth Recognition



Hannah Kline 2019-2020 Youth of the Year

Meet Hannah Kline, the RI Knights of Columbus 2019-2020 Youth of the Year (photo above). Hannah hails from St. Philip Parish in Greenville and is completing her Senior Year at Bishop Feehan High

School. Hannah has been quite active in her school and community as evidenced by the following resume items:

Campus Ministry Student Associate (CMSA)

Retreat organizer and Campus ministry leader

Mother of Life Center Youth Liaison for Pro-Life Events

Sunshine and Hospitality Club President

P.A.W.S. President

(Praise, Adoration, and Worship through Song)

“See You at the Pole” Campaign

Coordinator (National prayer program)

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Parish High School Leadership Team

Student Ambassador/Big Sister Mentor

Campus tour guide, open house speaker and mentor to incoming Freshman students

Youth Choir Section Leader

Bishop Feehan Women of the Year Award 2020

RI Right to Life Oratory Contest Winner 2019



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Volume 3, issue 12

Scholastic Silver Key Art Award

Blessed Mary Award 2017

Karen Young Endowment Scholarship
Winner

And those were just the
highlights. Congratulations!
Hannah. Job well done.

Youth Scholarship & Book Awards

Deadline for Scholarship &
Book Awards has been extended
to July 15, 2020.

This was determined to be
appropriate given the impacts of
the current coronavirus situation,
and to be in line with extended
national and state tax filing
deadlines.

Applications can be found on
the Site website under Links of
Interest. (www.kofcri.org) for more
information.

Fraternal Training and Communication

With the many changes that have
occurred during this Fraternal Year,
some permanent while some are
temporary, it would be wise to re-invest
in your training. There are numerous
webinars available and we have a
superb advisor in State Training Director
Steve Ciolfi. Please avail yourselves of
both. (see also the next article).

Training

A notice regarding Supreme Website Training platform

As of May 26, 2020, you will no
longer be able to access our online
training courses hosted on SABA.
As we look to improve the
resources available to our fraternal
leaders, the Supreme Council will
now be hosting our training
materials directly on the For
Members section of KofC.org. The
fraternal training portal link found
through Officers Online will now



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redirect there. Updates to the For Members pages will provide you with the most current resources for your officer role. Content will continue to be added through the start of the new fraternal year. Should you have any questions, please reach out to us at fraternaltraining@kofc.org. Your feedback on future training and video topics will be essential as we move forward.

There are many training opportunities throughout the year (see the Supreme Website – www.kofc.org), they are open to any Brother Knight who may be interested. You can register from the Home Page of the supreme website: go to Members, Resources & then the Fraternal Training tab. You must register to participate, but once registered, you do not have to view it live. Rather, you can view it later at a time of your convenience.

Additionally, the State Council has a Training Officer available to assist with any topic. PSD FM Steve Ciolfi is here to help. You can reach him at stevec618@aol.com.

State Website

Check out the State Website at www.kofcri.org. It is connected to UKnight Interactive (kofcknights.org) and allows connection to any local Council website that is also a part of the UKnight family. There are also links to other sites of interest such as Fathers for Good, the Supreme Council et alia.

State Newsletter

Reminder: I include as much as possible in this newsletter. But I need your help by sending me information & photos from your events.

News items for the newsletter can be sent to me at rikofcnewsletter@gmail.com, through your DD, who will forward it to me, or the various program Directors.

State Meeting

The next State Meeting will be held on **June 5th at 7:30 pm** in your home. That's right, it will be a virtual meeting.

State Meeting Fri, Jun 5, 2020 7:30 PM - 10:00 PM (EDT)



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Volume 3, issue 12

Please join The State Meeting
from your computer, tablet or
smartphone. Here is the log-in
information:

[https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/
414516533](https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/414516533)

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app
now and be ready when your first
meeting starts:

[https://global.gotomeeting.com/inst
all/414516533](https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/414516533)

You can also dial in using your
phone.

(For supported devices, tap a one-
touch number below to join
instantly.)

United States: +1 (872) 240-3212

- One-touch:

tel:+18722403212,,414516533#

Access Code: 414-516-533

If you are new to GoTo meeting,
please contact Joe Carrigan at
401-523-0728 for help PRIOR to
the Friday meeting. You can also
enter the meeting as early as 7:00
for help.

A Note of Fraternal Concern

Brothers, as noted previously, our
membership is older, with an average age of
62. Implicit in that average is the fact that we
have many older Brothers. These Brothers
often are unable to regularly attend meetings
and functions. This can lead to Councils losing
track of them and, unfortunately, should they
pass away we fail to recognize their
significance and membership in our Order.
I am asking that the word be spread among
your membership and families to be vigilant to
the passing of a Council member or Council
family member and relay the information to the
Grand Knight

*Regardless, we must be informed to
properly **Honor the Dead.***



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Volume 3, issue 12

Prayers Requested



Many of us know people who have contracted the Corona Virus (COVID-19). Please pray for them, their caregivers, and families. Below find a prayer for protection distributed by Supreme:

O Mary, you always brighten our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain while remaining steadfast in faith. O loving Mother, you know what we need, and we are confident you will provide for us as at Cana in Galilee. Intercede for us with your Son Jesus, the Divine Physician, for those who have fallen ill, for those who are vulnerable, and for those who have died. Intercede also for those charged with protecting the health and safety of others and for those who are tending to the sick and seeking a cure. Help us, O Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who took upon himself

our sufferings and carried our sorrows, so as to lead us, through the Cross, to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen. Under thy protection we seek refuge, O Holy Mother of God. In our needs, despise not our petitions, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Please pray for the repose of:

Raymond Gauvin (father of Ernest Gauvin of Feeney Council)

Winona Irene (Duphiney) Sebastianelli (mother of St. Philip's Council FS Walter Sebastianelli)

And God's comfort to their families

Prayers are requested for Orlando Giasanti. Ongoing prayers are also requested for Bishop Louis Gelineau, Fr. Dennis Reardon, Fr. Robert Bailey, PGK Daniel Danis (Blessing Council), Kristen Jarret, FVSM Michael Donnelly, GK Joseph Bedard (Pascoag Council), Becca and Brianna Arel (granddaughters of Woonsocket Council Chancellor OJ Auger), Phil Shea Jr., Patricia Moran (grandmother of Membership Director PJ Shea), Gerry



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June 2020

Volume 3, issue 12

and Pat Desmarais (St. Eugene Council), Barry Chevrette (Pascoag Council), Matt Parent, Nancy Forest (wife of PGK Richard Forest), Pat Logan (wife of PGK Greg Logan), Cheryl Tedeschi (wife of FDD Anthony Tedeschi), PSD/FVSM Sav Giusti, FDD Ray Riel, PFN Rick Regan, Roger Depot, Executive Secretary Mike Krzywonos, PGK/PFN Ernie Pennine, PGK/PFN Walter Jalbert, PGK/PFN Stanley Eason (Woon. Council/ Moylan Assembly), GK Jerry Marra, Ellen and PSD Normand Charpentier, Bob Jackson (St. Francis Council), Mike Magill, DD Alan Lamake, David Riendeau (John Paul II Council), FDD Dave Lucas, and FDD George Plante as they each deal with various health concerns.

I am sure I am missing others, and for that I apologize. Please feel free to add them to this list of those we pray for and remember.

And I (selfishly) ask for prayers of thanksgiving and health for the pregnancy of Kara (Tracy) & SK Jonathan Taft.

(to have someone mentioned, contact me at rikofcnewsletter@gmail.com or ask the state to add to them to the prayer list on the website)

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A Knight's View

The Newsletter of the Rhode Island State Council Knights of Columbus

formed in 1893 as the first State Council

**Serving the Church and Community through Charity, Unity, Fraternity and
Patriotism since 1893**

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Contact information of subcommittee chairmen
and other State Staff can be found on the State
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Remember, these men are here to
help you and your Council. Do not be
afraid to contact them for help or with
any questions you may have.



Vivat Jesus!