



The Gavel

MAY 2024

Volume 2024, Issue #5

NEWSLETTER FOR K OF C COUNCIL 839

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mary, Virgin and Mother,
you who, moved by the Holy Spirit,
welcomed the word of life
in the depths of your humble faith:
as you gave yourself completely to the Eternal One,
help us to say our own "yes"
to the urgent call, as pressing as ever,
to proclaim the good news of Jesus.

Filled with Christ's presence,
you brought joy to John the Baptist,
making him exult in the womb of his mother.
Brimming over with joy,
you sang of the great things done by God.
Standing at the foot of the cross
with unyielding faith,
you received the joyful comfort of the resurrection,
and joined the disciples in awaiting the Spirit
so that the evangelizing Church might be born.

Obtain for us now a new ardour born of the
resurrection,
that we may bring to all the Gospel of life
which triumphs over death.
Give us a holy courage to seek new paths,
that the gift of unfading beauty
may reach every man and woman.

Virgin of listening and contemplation,
Mother of love, Bride of the eternal wedding feast,
pray for the Church, whose pure icon you are,
that she may never be closed in on herself
or lose her passion for establishing God's kingdom.

Star of the new evangelization,
help us to bear radiant witness to communion,
service, ardent and generous faith,
justice and love of the poor,
that the joy of the Gospel
may reach to the ends of the earth,
illuminating even the fringes of our world.

Mother of the living Gospel,
wellspring of happiness for God's little ones,
pray for us.

— Amen. Alleluia!

Month of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Easter season ends on Pentecost, May 20, which is represented by the liturgical color white — the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence (absolute or restored). The remainder of the month (beginning the Monday after

Pentecost) is in Ordinary Time which is represented by the liturgical color green. This symbol of hope is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection.

The world is resplendent with Spring's increased light and new growth. It is Mary's month in the Easter season and all of nature rejoices with the Queen of heaven at the Resurrection of the Son she was worthy to bear. During the remainder of Easter time, let us endeavor through the prayers of the Holy Liturgy and the Holy Rosary to deepen our gratitude for the mystery of our Baptismal rebirth in Christ.

"The month of May, with its profusion of blooms was adopted by the Church in the eighteenth century as a celebration of the flowering of Mary's maidenly spirituality... With its origins in Isaiah's prophecy of the Virgin birth of the Messiah under the figure of the Blossoming Rod or Root of Jesse, the flower symbolism of Mary was extended by the Church Fathers, and in the liturgy, by applying to her the flower figures of the Sapiential Books—Canticles, Wisdom, Proverbs and Sirach.

"In the medieval period, the rose was adopted as the flower symbol of the Virgin Birth, as expressed in Dante's phrase, 'The Rose wherein the Divine Word was made flesh,' and depicted in the central rose windows of the great gothic cathedrals—from which came the Christmas carol, 'Lo, How a Rose 'ere Blooming.' Also, in the medieval period, when monasteries were the centers of horticultural and agricultural knowledge, and with the spread of the Franciscan love of nature, the actual flowers themselves, of the fields, waysides and gardens, came to be seen as symbols of Mary..." —John S. Stokes

Pentecost, the birth of the Church, is also among the celebrations of May. Though sprung from the side of Christ on the Cross, the Church marks as her birthday the descent of the Holy Spirit on Mary and the Apostles. At the 'birth' of the world, the Holy Spirit — the Breath of God — was the "mighty wind [that] swept over the waters" (Gen 1:2); at the birth of the Church He is present again "like the rush of a mighty wind" to recreate the world in the image of Christ through His Church (Acts 2:2).

We, the members of Christ's Mystical Body, are the present-day disciples sent by the Holy Spirit to bring Christ to the world. May we go forth as did Mary, who set out in haste to assist St. Elizabeth (feast of the Visitation, May 31). Come upon us, O Holy Spirit, so that, with Mary, we may proclaim the greatness of the Lord who has done great things for us — for his mercy endures forever!

"In the hierarchy of holiness it is precisely the 'woman,' Mary of Nazareth, who is the 'figure' of the Church. She 'precedes' everyone on the path to holiness; in her person 'the Church has already reached that perfection whereby she exists without spot or wrinkle'". —John Paul II *Mulieris Dignitatem*, 1988

Feasts for May

1. Joseph the Worker, Opt. Mem.
2. Athanasius, Memorial
3. Philip and James, Apostles, Feast
5. SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, Sunday
10. Damien de Veuster (USA); John of Avila, Opt. Mem.
12. ASCENSION SUNDAY or the SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, Solemnity
13. Our Lady of Fatima, Opt. Mem.
14. Matthias, Apostle, Feast
15. Isidore the Farmer (USA), Opt. Mem.
18. John I, Opt. Mem.
19. PENTECOST, Solemnity
20. Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church; Bernardine of Siena, Memorial
21. Christopher Magallanes & Companions, Opt. Mem.
22. Rita of Cascia; Ember Wednesday, Opt. Mem.
25. Bede; Gregory VII; Mary Magdalene de Pazzi; Ember Saturday, Opt. Mem.
26. TRINITY SUNDAY, Solemnity
27. Augustine of Canterbury, Opt. Mem.
31. Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Feast

The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of May

For the formation of religious and seminarians: We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

Grand Knight's Digest

Brother Knights,

I find myself reflecting on the profound connections between the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Church's dedication of the month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary. In this month, we are reminded of Mary's example of faith, obedience, and unconditional love, virtues that are foundational not only to our faith but also to the principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity.

The Knights of Columbus has always championed devotion to Our Lady. As Knights, we are called to emulate Mary's strength and compassion, to be steadfast in our faith and service. This special month gives us a unique opportunity to renew our commitment to these ideals. Our works, from supporting our parishes to aiding the less fortunate, are reflections of Mary's own acts of love and service.

We also recognize Mary as the Queen of Peace, a title that resonates deeply with our mission of promoting peace and understanding within our communities. During May, as we engage in various Marian devotions, we affirm our dedication to being men of peace and principle, standing as beacons of hope in a world that often seems devoid of both.

In these times, where challenges to our faith and to our communal bonds surface all too frequently, the Blessed Virgin's guidance is as crucial as ever. She teaches us to listen, to trust, and to obey God's will, even when the path is uncertain. Let us take this month to deepen our devotion to Mary and, through her, to strengthen our resolve to live out the virtues she embodies.

May our actions reflect her humility and her unwavering faith. May our Council continue to grow in unity and charity, inspired by Mary's example. And may we, as Knights, always find in her a model of service and sanctity, drawing others to the love of Christ through our words and deeds.

In this blessed month of May, let us recommit ourselves to Mary and to each other, bolstering our bonds of fraternity and our commitments to the principles that define us as Knights of Columbus.

Vivat Jesus,
Kent Stein
Grand Knight, Council 839
Email: kent.stein@hey.com



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Council Notes

- **Go to our Website and share it with friends!**
kofc839.org
- **Go Green with the Gavel in Your Inbox.** Go Green with the Gavel in Your Inbox. There continues to be requests from members who wish to receive The Gavel as a PDF file. If you wish to receive The Gavel in this form, please send your e-mail address to kent.stein@hey.com. Please use the phrase GO GREEN GAVEL in the subject line. We will send you a confirmation upon receipt, and you will receive a monthly PDF starting with the next edition. Please also indicate whether you wish to continue to receive the Gavel though the mail as well.
- **Voting for the 2024/2025 Council 839 Officers:**
For members of Council 839, the website (kofc839.org) will open a section for nominations to officer positions with voting commencing at the end of next month. Please login in April and place your nominations. They are anonymous.
- **4th Degree Exemplification:** Exemplification in New Richmond, WI on Sat. May 18th (Letter from Western District Master SK Duane Zaborowski). Send email to 3rd degrees for 4th degree exemplification.

Community Notes

- **Ultrasound Initiative:** Hope's Door Pregnancy and Family Resource Center merger with Alliance Women's Center of Kenosha/Racine, WI on May 9th. La Crosse location: 600 3rd St. N., La Crosse. Ultrasound machine has been secured through Pre-Born.
- **Council-sponsored Blood Drive at Newman Center on May 6th from 11 AM to 4 PM.**
Thanks to SKs Terry Gamoke and Joe Z. for their assistance in my absence. Next Council-sponsored Blood Drive will be Monday, June 24 from 11 AM to 4 PM at Blessed Sacrament Parish.
- **Pilgrimage to St. Maximilian Shrine:**
Bus Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe at Marytown in Libertyville, IL, on Saturday, July 27th. Widows, widowers and veterans are guests of the Assembly (no charge). A donation of \$25 per person is requested of all others to cover bus travel and lunch. Contact: SK Charlie Peters 612-760-6192 or cjpeters2011@gmail.com

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Web Sites ... Our Council and Assembly Web site, <http://kofc839.org> invite you to further check out our newsletters. You'll find there the Gavel (current and previous months), the Assembly's Newsletters, and many other links and items of interest. Submission and comments should be sent to: **Nathan Smith**, 425 State St., #712, La Crosse, WI 54601 email: nathansmithkofc@gmail.com

MAY 2024 Activity Calendars JUNE 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 3pm Chaplet Henry Althoff	3	4
5	Newman Center Blood Drive	6	7	8	9	10
12	13 Rosary & Council 839 Meeting	14	15	16 3pm Chaplet Volunteer	17	18 4th Degree Exemplifi- cation Richmond, WI
19	20	21	22	23 3pm Chaplet Larry Hubert	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 3pm Chaplet Steve Lee	31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6 3pm Chaplet Volunteer	7	8
9	10 Rosary & Council 839 Meeting	11	12	13 3pm Chaplet Joe Znidarsich	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 3pm Chaplet Volunteer	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 3pm Chaplet Bill Jaekel	28	29
30						