



# THE POTOMAC DISCOVERER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
POTOMAC COUNCIL #9259

## Meeting Times

Officers Meeting: Second  
Thursday of each month, 7-8 p.m.

Council Meeting: Fourth Thursday  
of each month, 7-8 p.m.

## Where are we?

We meet in the basement of St.  
Francis of Assisi Catholic School.  
18825 Fuller Heights Rd., Triangle,  
VA. 22172

## Join us

We are always looking for Catholic  
gentlemen 18 years or older to  
help our mission of Faith,  
Community, Life and Charity. It is  
great for you and your family to  
participate and you can participate  
at a level you are comfortable  
with.

## K of C Financial Advisor

Jeff Ghering  
866-868-1492 Ext 1706  
[jeff.ghering@kofc.org](mailto:jeff.ghering@kofc.org)

## Musings from the Grand Knight

Brother Knights,

I hope you and your families have all been well. We are rounding the corner from summer towards autumn and with it, the beginning of school and Religious Education. Some of our first programs of the year are to engage with the Parish School for the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest, where 8<sup>th</sup> grade students can compete for prizes and the chance for their essays to be advanced to State and even national competitions. Similarly, the Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest will take place over the next few months where all students will be able to compete for prizes. These are both great activities to help foster a closer relationship between the young students and their Catholic faith.

On September 28th, we will be hosting our first Benefits Night for the Fraternal Year. This is open to anyone who would like to attend. Please sign up using the QR code or links indicated in the event announcement later in this newsletter. Please note that the offerings have expanded greatly from the traditional insurance products and I highly encourage everyone to take the opportunity to learn more at this event.

And last but not least, Donut Sundays are back! We'll be serving delicious donuts, coffee/tea, and juice after the morning Masses on September 17th. Stop by after Mass with your families for the opportunity to say hello to your Brother Knights!

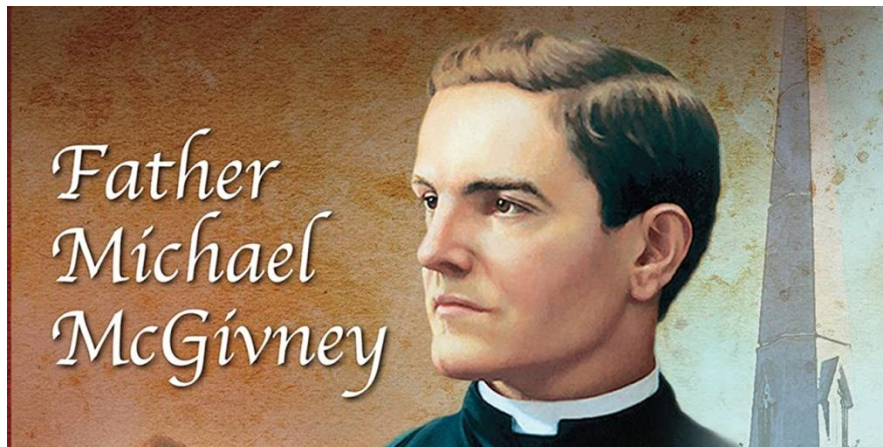
Thank you all for your service to our faith, our parish, and our community.

*Vivat Jesus!*

Alex D'Agostino  
GK, Potomac Council

---

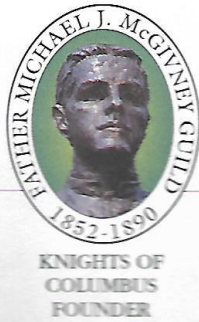
## Servant of God Michael McGivney Relic



Brothers,

A second class relic, a piece of Father McGivney's cassock worn at his burial, has come into the possession of Br. SK Jim Casey. Our Grand Knight would like us to make honorable use of this relic, which could include a nine-day novena. Your suggestions are welcomed.





## FATHER MICHAEL J. MCGIVNEY GUILD

1 COLUMBUS PLAZA • NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06510-3326 • (203) 752-4087

### CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

This certifies that the attached relic case contains an  
authentic piece of the clothing of the  
Servant of God, Father Michael J. McGivney,  
worn by him at the time of his burial.



*Fr. Gabriel B. O'Donnell, O.P.*

Rev. Gabriel B. O'Donnell, O.P.  
Postulator

Relics are used to remind us of the presence and spiritual friendship of those who have gone before us into eternity. The attached reliquary contains a fragment of the cassock Father McGivney was wearing at the time of his burial in 1890. It is a second class relic, i.e., a piece of his clothing. It can be used as a form of intercession for his help and aid. Besides praying for his intercession, the relic can be placed on or near a sick person as a sign of confidence in God's power at work through his servant, Michael J. McGivney.





# Financial Seminar & Social

Join us for an informative live presentation from The Abbate Agency, Knights of Columbus. Learn about insurance and other financial products from an organization that is aligned with your faith. Social sponsored by Knights of Columbus Potomac Council #9259.

**All are invited**  
**to better understand the benefits available to**  
**Catholics through the Knights of Columbus. This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone**  
**to learn and to enjoy good company during the social! It is open to the entire community.**

The Abbate Agency, a consistently high performer for the Knights of Columbus and its members, offers the knowledge and experience to help you best leverage our insurance products<sup>1</sup> and fraternal benefits.

The Knights of Columbus has once again earned AM Best's A+ (Superior) Rating for Financial Strength\*. In addition, Knights of Columbus was designated by Forbes as one of "America's Best Insurance Companies"<sup>2</sup> and Standard & Poor's ranked us among the strongest life insurers financially in North America<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>As of December 2022

**Thursday, September 28, 2023**  
**7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**  
**at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**  
**18825 Fuller Heights Rd, Triangle, VA 22172**  
**RSVP: <http://Sept28Potomac.abbatekofc.com>**



No purchase necessary.



**Knights of  
Columbus®**

**The Abbate Agency**  
**[www.abbatekofc.com](http://www.abbatekofc.com) – 866-868-1492**

You will also learn about how Catholics now have an opportunity to work with Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors (KoCAA) through one of our **Financial Advisors**.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Insurance products are offered through Knights of Columbus, One Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510.

<sup>2</sup>Knights of Columbus ranked #26 in the permanent life insurance category on Forbes 2023 America's Best Insurance Companies list. Forbes partnered with Statista to independently survey more than 16,000 customers who owned at least one insurance policy across 7 insurance product categories.

<sup>3</sup>Standard & Poor's AA+ Rating North American Life Insurance Companies from Strongest to Weakest by S&P Global Ratings. As of January 25, 2023.

<sup>4</sup>Investments are offered through Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors, information found on [www.kofcassetadvisors.org](http://www.kofcassetadvisors.org).



Enjoy a non-contact Autumn Wreath purchase from the comfort of your home. There are 8 items available, four of them in 2-packs. The Wreaths you purchase for yourself, family, and friends will be delivered via Fed-X in September and October. Shipping included. Please order online at [www.GiftItForward.com](http://www.GiftItForward.com) and use our coupon code **KNIGHTVA003**. St. Francis' Knights of Columbus Potomac Council THANK YOU!

---

Knights of Columbus agencies are offering new financial informational webinars for 2023. These online seminars feature industry leading speakers who will touch on various topics of value to our members and their families: the importance of life insurance, retirement planning, savings and more!

Click [HERE](#) to find a seminar offered in your jurisdiction. Promote your online seminar to your members and encourage them to register today. Space is limited.

---

## **KNIGHTS' CHAPLAIN'S CORNER SEPTEMBER 2023**

### **POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST**

Take a look at Pope's Francis' prayer request for this month:



**THE POPE VIDEO**

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



## 1-INTENTION

Let us pray for those people on the margins of society in subhuman living conditions, that they may not be neglected by institutions and never be cast out.

## 2-VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zkmvm8DU1Fg>

Fg



## 3-ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & REFLECTION

Pope Francis – September 2023

A homeless person who dies on the street will never appear among the top stories of search engines or newscasts.

How could we have reached this level of indifference?

How is it that we allow the “throwaway culture” – in which millions of men and women are worth nothing compared to economic goods – how is it that we allow this culture to dominate our lives, our cities, our way of life?

Our necks are going to get stiff from looking the other way so we don’t have to see this situation.

Please, let’s stop making invisible those who are on the margins of society, whether it’s due to poverty, addictions, mental illness or disability.

Let’s focus on accepting them, on welcoming all the people who need it.

The “culture of welcoming,” of hospitality, of providing shelter, of giving a home, of offering love, of giving human warmth.

Let us pray for those people on the margins of society in subhuman living conditions, that they may not be neglected by institutions and never be cast out.

# Pope Francis requests prayer and action for those “living on the margins of society”

- - In **The Pope Video** for the month of September, Pope Francis asks us to pray “for those people who live on the margins of society in subhuman living conditions, that they may not be neglected by institutions and never be cast out.
  - **Pope Francis** asks, “How is it that we allow the ‘throwaway culture,’ in which millions of men and women are worth nothing compared to economic goods, to dominate our lives?
  - “Please,” the **Pope** implores, “let’s stop making invisible those who are on the margins of society, whether it’s due to poverty, addictions, mental illness or disability.”

(Vatican City, 29 August 2023) – “How could we have reached this level of indifference?” This is the question **Pope Francis** asks in **The Pope Video** for the month of September in which he asks us to pray “for people living on the margins” of society through the **Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network**. “A homeless person who dies on the street will never appear among the top stories of search engines or newscasts,” the **Holy Father** notes at the beginning of the prayer intention he shares with the **Universal Church** this month.

**Those forgotten by the press** It is specifically for them, those forgotten by the press, that this month’s video seeks to draw attention to. The images accompanying **Pope Francis’s** words show homeless people – alone or in small groups, at times almost stepped on by passersby – on the sidewalks of Canada, the United States, Kenya, Cameroon and India; street children who spend their day washing the windshields of cars stopped at stoplights in San Salvador; people with different disabilities in Spain, the Philippines and Central America; shantytowns near skyscrapers in Vancouver, and near buildings in Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro.

Various types of people live on the margins of our society. Their numbers are much higher than we think. In fact, according to the United Nations, more than 700 million (10% of the population) live in extreme poverty, facing major difficulties in obtaining basic necessities, such as healthcare, education, access to water and sanitation. The UN also adds that around 1.6 billion people live in inadequate living conditions, including in the most industrialized countries. Similarly, reports from the World Health Organization reveal that one of every eight persons lives with a “mental disorder,” and that 16% of the world’s population lives with a “serious disability.”

## **“Culture of welcoming” rather than a “throwaway culture”**

“How is it that we allow the ‘throwaway culture,’ in which millions of men and women are worth nothing compared to economic goods, to dominate our lives, our cities, our way of life?” **Pope Francis** continues to ask. Sadly, he acknowledges, “our necks are going to get stiff from looking the other way so we don’t have to see this situation.” The **Pope** invites us to “stop making invisible those who are on the margins of society, whether it’s due to poverty, addictions, mental illness or disability.”

“Let’s focus on accepting them,” he urges, “on welcoming all the people who need it. The ‘culture of welcoming,’ of hospitality, of providing shelter, of giving a home, of offering love, of giving human warmth.” And so, he asks all believers to mobilize in prayer “for those people who live on the margins of society in subhuman living conditions, that they may not be neglected by institutions and never be cast out.”

**Welcoming is more than helping** “Prayer brings to light what is hidden in the heart. Therefore, those living on the margins, as if invisible, must find room in our hearts. They are in the heart of the Church: a heart of flesh and not of stone. A heart of stone casts out; a heart of flesh welcomes,” says **Cardinal Michael Czerny**, Prefect of

the **Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development**, about the Holy Father's video for the month of September. He adds, "**Pope Francis** is aware of the educational power of prayer and through it, he invites us to develop a culture of welcome. 'The stone rejected by the builders has become the corner stone.' This message will be strong and credible if, even today, we give a voice to the outcasts, if we recognize the indelible dignity of those who have been crucified by a ruthless economy, by harassment or by indifference. Welcoming is more than helping: it means putting the other person at our level, rediscovering a sister or a brother we have lost. We are transformed into one Body through prayer."

**A "culture of welcoming"** **Father Frédéric Fornos S.J.**, International Director of the **Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**, comments: "How is it possible to find a tangible solution to the millions of outcasts who often meet only with indifference, or even annoyance, in response? **Pope Francis** invites us to approach poverty and exclusion differently. This means praying, since prayer transforms our hearts, it changes our outlook and opens us up to others, in particular, to the most vulnerable. Let us pray with Pope Francis for a 'culture of welcoming,' so that everyone who needs it might find welcome, shelter, a home, love, and human warmth."





## FOR PEOPLE LIVING ON THE MARGINS OF SOCIETY

"We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance."

- Pope Francis -

**Challenge for humanity and the Church's mission – September 2023**

### WHO DOES THE POPE CONSIDER TO BE THE "OUTCASTS"?

"Those who are on the margins of society, whether it's due to poverty, addictions, mental illness or disability."



#### POVERTY



**1,6 M**

1 out of 5 children lives in extreme poverty.

1,600 million people in the world live in inadequate housing conditions.

#### ADDICTIONS



Approximately 300 million people in the world use drugs.



Among people between the ages of 15 and 65, the consumption of illegal substances has increased by 26% in the last decade.



#### MENTAL DISORDERS



1 out of 8 people lives with a mental illness – anxiety and depression being the most frequent.



Schizophrenia affects approximately 1 in 300 people throughout the world.

#### DISABILITY



1 of every 6 people suffers from a severe disability.



In developing countries, between 80 and 90% of working-age people with disabilities are unemployed.

## WHAT DOES POPE FRANCIS ASK US TO DO FOR THE OUTCASTS OF SOCIETY?



- To stop making "invisible those who are on the margins of society" and to assure that institutions do not neglect them.
- To promote their participation in the community, in the parish, in movements, in public and private institutions, and in the working world.
- To promote "the 'culture of welcoming': of hospitality, of providing shelter, of giving a home, of offering love, of giving human warmth".

*"For us, as disciples of the 'forsaken' Lord, no man, woman or child can be regarded as an outcast, no one left to himself or herself. Let us remember that the rejected and the excluded are living icons of Christ."*

**POPE FRANCIS**

Images, text, & video: <https://www.popesprayer.va/>

## SUPREME CHAPLAIN'S MONTHLY CHALLENGE

### Archbishop William E. Lori

"Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Gospel for Sept. 10, Mt 18:20)

Christ is present to us in many different ways: in his Word, in the Mass, in the community of believers at prayer, and in the poor, vulnerable and suffering among us. He is especially present in the Eucharist, his true body and blood, soul and divinity. Let us also be mindful of his presence in the person of his priest, who is an alter Christus (another Christ), as he offers the sacraments to the faithful. May we always be aware of Christ's presence with us.



#### 1-CHALLENGE

This month, I challenge you to support your parish priest in some tangible way, even by simply writing a note to tell him that you appreciate his service and sacrifice. Second, I challenge you to support the Faith in Action Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP).

Are you aware of and grateful for the sacrifices the priests in your life make to serve the Church? Do you seek to support priests in their vocations, whether through prayer or in other ways? How can you better incorporate praying for our priests into your prayer life?

Images, text, & video: <https://www.kofc.org/en/who-we-are/our-faith/monthly-challenge.html?1tab=1tab0>

*peace & all that is good, friar Chris*

*864-202-8740 [cdunn@stfrancis.org](mailto:cdunn@stfrancis.org)*



## News and Links of Interest

### **St. Francis of Assisi Parish**

I'm sure I'm not the only one that has noticed the continuous improvements made to the St. Francis of Assisi parish website. It is a great resource to learn about events at our church, and to connect with the broader community through ministries, learning, and special programs. Please take a few minutes to browse the site here: <https://stfrncis.org>.

### **Knights of Columbus News**

Get the latest new about the Knights of Columbus here: [Recent News - News Hub | Knights of Columbus \(kofc.org\)](#)

### **News from the Arlington Diocese**

Find the latest news releases from the Arlington Diocese here:  
<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/pressreleases/>

## Prayers

Please remember those in need of prayers – our brothers and sisters impacted by war, disasters, disease, and all those who are marginalized in our world.