

THE COMPASS



February, 2021

Volume 23, Number 8

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND KNIGHT

Miracles come in many shapes and forms.

On October 31st, 2020, during a Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford, Connecticut, Knights of Columbus founder Father Michael McGivney was elevated to the title of “Blessed,” the second-to-last rung in the ladder leading to sainthood in the Catholic Church. This elevation resulted from years of study by Vatican theologians and medical professionals concerning the healing of a Down Syndrome child in his mother’s womb that was declared miraculously effected by the intercession of Father McGivney. The Holy Spirit spoke through these experts just as surely as that same Holy Spirit guided in the formation of the Scriptural Canon and has served to direct the guidance of the Magisterium in matters of faith and doctrine.

This declaration by the Vatican should give every member of the Knights of Columbus validation that we also are performing the work of the Holy Spirit when we gather to help promote the Kingdom of God in our communities. Our Council has matured now for twenty-four years. In that time, a group of men who otherwise would not have banded together have served thousands of Special Olympics athletes, hosted thousands of parishioners and residents of senior living facilities with bingo, helped hundreds of students compete in the Free-Throw tournaments, awarded scholarships, celebrated Veterans, flipped burgers, heated tamales, tooted train whistles, hit long errant tee shots in support of the White Rose...

The members of our council have accumulated a wealth of experiences, all inspired by Father McGivney. Are they miraculous? That a group of individuals came together to accomplish something good, and, in the process, enjoyed hanging out with a bunch of good guys? Miracles come in many shapes and forms. If we believe in the miracles,

odds are the Spirit who effected the miracles, no matter how large or small, will also believe in us.

Vivat Jesus,

– Bill Eldridge

FAMILY OF THE MONTH

The patriarch of this family turned 89 on the 22nd of January. He is no stranger to accolades for his service. In fact, he’s long been the exemplar for service in our parish. Back in the ‘90s he was selected as the Knight of the Year for the Diocese of Dallas. He raised a son who is now the pastor of St. Jude’s in Allen, Texas. He and his wife and son had a photo taken with St. John Paul II after the ordination at the Vatican. This patriarch, though, is still at it. Three days a week, he and his helpers, another son, Carl, and a daughter, Marlene, make a pick-up at Whole Foods and another at Tom Thumb in North Dallas and make two round trips to the Bridge Homeless Recovery Center in downtown Dallas. They make auxiliary drop-offs at the St. Paul Convent as well as at a Pregnancy Center in Plano. So, if you’re wondering how **Joe Semler** is getting along, he is going strong. He and his family still challenge us when it comes to humble service. Now Joe has a walking device with hand brakes, but if you see him coming, you’d best stand aside because he is on what seems like a perpetual mission of service. He knows everyone he passes by name. And they stand back and offer him a nod of respect which this man has earned many thousands of times over.

Joe, we love and admire you and your family for the inspiration you provide for everyone who has been blessed to have crossed your path.

KNIGHT OF THE MONTH

You could say there's not a shy bone in **Deacon Bob Bonomi's** body. He proclaims both life and

faith with a confidence that makes us stronger. One of the remarkable things about Deacon Bob, though, is that his sense of humor, his hearty laugh, belies a part of him that sometimes comes out from both the pulpit and in group discussions. That part of him is his eclectic thinking. Bob has read more than you can imagine. A couple of years ago, he challenged the parishioners to read Victor Frankl's classic *Man's Search for Meaning* about the author's Holocaust experiences viewed through the eyes of a psychiatrist. In a weekly prayer group of ACTS members, Bob led a discussion of the Matthew Kelly book *I Heard God Laugh*. Recently, he challenged the same group to delve into Pope Francis's Encyclical Letter "On Fraternity and Social Friendship" (Fratelli Tutti). No doubt, Deacon Bob will open our minds and our eyes to a new and challenging way of viewing the world.

Then there's the W.W. Jacobs short story "The Monkey's Paw." Bob mentioned this text in passing during one of our discussions. This is a story that few who are not Literature professors would reference. It begs the question, "What is the cost of attempting to manipulate the future?"

Deacon Bob, you would have been an excellent professor. Our diocesan elders and the Good Lord, however, had other plans. Please keep laughing, keep waking us up during the homily, and keep sharing your enthusiasm for life in search of the footsteps of Jesus Christ.

NO NEIGHBOR LEFT BEHIND

Assuming a second vote passes on amending the by-laws at our February 4th Membership Meeting, our council will adopt an assistance fund for members experiencing financial difficulty. The fund will offer up to \$250 to any member whose appeal is approved by our elected trustees. The appeal can come from one of our members or from another member on behalf of a member of the council. Confidentiality will be honored.

This by-law change is part of an effort to bring our members into a stronger community. Each of you gave the council your support by joining. We have an obligation to respect your support by reaching

out to see how you're faring and to offer what assistance we can, be it a shoulder to lean on, a sympathetic ear, a ride to the grocery store, or a financial boost.

We pray that our dedication to each other will sustain the vision of Father McGivney and of our Savior.

FEBRUARY 4TH MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND FOCUS MISSION DINNER

On Thursday evening, February 4th, our council will prepare and serve a tamale dinner for a group of UNT students attending a conference organized by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS). FOCUS leader Krysta Orscheln, who grew up in our parish, describes the event as an opportunity "to build and prepare college students to become the future leaders of the Catholic Church." Chris Curto and Ed Long have agreed to prepare the meal. If you would like to help serve, please show up at the Parish Center around 5:00 p.m. that evening.

As this event winds down, we will have our monthly council Membership Meeting via Zoom beginning at 7:00 p.m. We will open with a few words from Krysta about her ministry. After that, we will commence the praying of the Holy Rosary asking our Blessed Mother for intervention for our varied concerns as well as for the convening of our members in a meaningful forum. The meeting will consist of the brief reports of our key officers, the presentation of the Knight and Family of the Month Awards, the second vote for the aforementioned by-laws amendment, and an opportunity for our group to visit with each other in fellowship.

Here is the code and password for access to the meeting at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 4th:

88292049171 / Password 647240

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
Thu, Feb. 4 th , 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Dinner for FOCUS Conference
Thu, Feb. 4 th	February Membership Meeting Zoom Format, Rosary at 7:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
Thu, Feb. 18, 7:30 pm	February Officer Planning Meeting (Place and Format TBD)
Thu, Mar. 4 th	March Membership Meeting Zoom Format, Rosary at 7:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
Sat, Mar. 6 th , 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Bingo and Dinner in the Parish Center



February 3: **Oscar Valdez**
 February 4: **Dennis Epping**
 February 4: **Dave Kosanda**
 February 7: **Michael Pinto**
 February 7: **Juan Vazquez Estrada**
 February 12: **Ron Kormos**

February 15: **Jesus Olivarez**
 February 16: **Michael Crowley**
 February 18: **Dan Schmoll**
 February 19: **Jerry Coen**
 February 20: **Michael Darling**
 February 27: **David Schirm**

REGULAR FUNDRAISING

Our regular fundraising endeavors:

Donating Blood:

We are number 22058 with Carter Blood Care

Tom Thumb:

Good Neighbor Program No. 54476

Albertsons:

Community Partner No. 49000119848

Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation Program:

Bar Code No. 10000081304

Compass Bank:

When opening an account refer to our Affinity code 87719

Forms for all of the above are available at each meeting from our Financial Secretary.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 12021 • ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEEMEN 2020-2021			
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