



CATHEDRAL of SAINT PETER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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The Knights of Columbus: *Serving for Faith, Family, Community, and Life*

For over 140 years, the Knights of Columbus have faithfully served our communities and provided assistance to those in need. Established in 1882 by Fr. Michael McGivney in New Haven, Conn., the Knights of Columbus organization was founded with a mission of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. There are now Knights councils across the world, serving in various capacities

to their own communities and parishes.

Our Knights of Columbus council at the Cathedral of St. Peter was established in 2013. Larry Koesterer serves as Grand Knight for Council #15746.

“There are many ways that the Knights of Columbus help members and their families grow closer to Christ,” Larry says. “Most revolve around the

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The Knights of Columbus *continued from front cover*

Knights' core programs of faith, family, community, and life. Often, our activities overlap in two or more of these areas."

For example, the Knights in our parish community hosted the Silver Rose program, a prayer service to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe and reverence for life. This bilingual service was open to all families and community members of both our parish and diocese.

"While this was a faith program, it also promoted family, community, and life," Larry says.

Prayer is a regular part of the council's meetings, which reinforces the importance of prayer as a part of our daily lives. The men themselves receive some formation and fellowship through the council.

The Knights of Columbus serve our parish and community in many ways — practically, spiritually, financially, and more. Some of these services are more behind the scenes, wherein the Knights complete projects that are less public than others.

"The Knights host the Sunday morning Donuts Ministry as an extension of the stewardship principle of hospitality, and to strengthen fellowship and community," Larry says.

The Knights served the diocesan Serra Club in August at the Priests' Picnic and will be assisting at the Cathedral Truckfest later this year. For the last two years, they have also supported the 24 Hours of Mercy during Lent, having Knights present during the entire 24 hours and providing snacks and refreshments.

"The Knights of our parish also cleared the church grounds of snow and ice this past winter, and did the spring weeding and mulching around the church," Larry says.

Other annual initiatives include the Coats for Kids program, Refugee Relief, Pregnancy Center Support, the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest, the Baby Bottle Boomerang, and sales of roses on Mother's Day in support of the Pregnancy Care Center.

"We also provided financial support to Ukrainian children who were evacuated to the U.S. due to the war in



their country, through the St. Nicholas School in Chicago," Larry says.

Larry's path to the Knights of Columbus began when his father suggested he consider joining the Knights, which eventually led him to join in 2020.

"I wish that I had joined a long time ago, but I think that the saying 'better late than never' is true," Larry says. "I joined because I wanted to do more to serve others, especially with a group of great men in our parish, and in unity and fraternity with other Catholic men throughout our country and the world."

Serving and participating in the Knights of Columbus provides the opportunity to serve God and His people in the Church.

"We do big things and little things, spiritual things and manual things, visible things and not-so-visible things, individual things and community things," Larry says. "Not all of our Knights participate in every activity, but we do a lot of activities that resonate with our members. All of this is to live the words of the Lord's Prayer, 'Thy Kingdom come'; the Prayer of St. Francis, 'make me an instrument of Thy Peace'; and the Prayer of St. Ignatius, 'teach me to serve You as You deserve.'"

Meetings are held in the Cathedral Undercroft, typically at 6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month — only members and invited guests may attend the meetings.

Men who are interested in joining the Knights of Columbus may contact the rectory at 618-234-1166 or receptioninst@cathedralbelle.org, or Larry Koesterer at 314-520-7895 or lkoesterer@swbell.net.

A Letter from Our Cathedral Rector

Nurturing the Spirit of Stewardship Through the Rosary

Dear Parishioners,

With Fall in full swing and October upon us, I am filled with joy and gratitude for the opportunity to share with you the profound significance of this month as the Month of the Most Holy Rosary. October is a time when we, as faithful Catholics, are called to deepen our commitment to living out the principles of stewardship and discipleship, guided by the beautiful devotion of the Rosary.

The Month of the Most Holy Rosary holds a special place in our hearts and our Church calendar. It is a time when we are invited to meditate upon the mysteries of our faith through the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Just as the beads of the Rosary are intricately woven together, so too are our lives woven into the fabric of God's plan for each of us. By contemplating the joyful, sorrowful, luminous, and glorious mysteries, we are drawn closer to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Stewardship is a concept deeply rooted in our Catholic faith, reminding us that all we have is a gift from God, and it is our responsibility to use these gifts wisely for the service of others and the glory of God. The Rosary, a prayer that encompasses the entirety of Christ's life, is a perfect tool for nurturing the spirit of stewardship within us.

As we reflect on the joyful mysteries, we are reminded of the gift of the Annunciation and the humility of Mary's "yes" to God's plan. This encourages us to be hospitable and receptive to God's will in our lives, just as Mary was.

The sorrowful mysteries teach us the importance of self-sacrifice and compassion, as we meditate on the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus. This prompts us to consider the ways we can alleviate the suffering of our brothers and sisters in need.

The luminous mysteries remind us of Christ's public ministry and the importance of sharing the Gospel with others, motivating us to be active disciples who spread the message of love and salvation.

Finally, the glorious mysteries inspire us to look forward to the eternal rewards that await us, motivating us to live lives of faithful stewardship in anticipation of God's heavenly kingdom.



In this Month of the Most Holy Rosary, I encourage all of us to take up this powerful devotion as a means of deepening our stewardship and discipleship. Set aside time each day to meditate on the mysteries, allowing Mary to guide you in embracing your role as stewards of God's gifts and as dedicated followers of Jesus. As we offer our intentions through the Rosary, let us also pray for the grace to live lives that reflect the love and mercy of Christ, reaching out to those in need and shining His light in a world often filled with darkness.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary intercede for us as we embark on this journey of stewardship and discipleship through the Rosary. May her example inspire us to live lives that bear witness to the transformative power of faith and prayer. And may our commitment to the Rosary lead us closer to Christ, guiding us in our mission to be faithful stewards and devoted disciples.

Peace,

Fr Godfrey OSB

Very Rev. Godfrey Mullen, OSB
Cathedral Rector



Secular Fr

Imbued by the Gospel, Living o

In our Catholic faith, we often encounter a quote from St. Francis of Assisi — “Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words.” These are words by which St. Francis lived his mission, preaching Christ to all by the simple way he lived. St. Francis lived solely for Jesus, calling himself and others around him to follow Christ more deeply.

This mission lives on through the branches of the Franciscan Order that St. Francis founded — men and women preaching the Gospel with their lives in a simple, loving, and self-giving manner as priests, brothers and sisters, and even as laity. The St. Peter Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order works to carry out Francis’ mission right here in Belleville.

“It is our mission to live from the Gospel to life and from life to the Gospel,” says Mary Ellen Herrmann, a St. Peter parishioner and professed Secular Franciscan for over 40 years. “We are daily entrenched in the Gospel and

are called to live it out.”

Secular Franciscans, while they are a true order recognized by the Church, live in the world rather than in the monastery. They are lay men and women, and sometimes even diocesan priests who live according to the Rule of St. Francis while also living independently. They pray daily on their own and come together to pray monthly.

“Prayer is a big part of our lives as Secular Franciscans,” Mary Ellen says. “We are encouraged to pray the Liturgy of the Hours daily, although it isn’t a requirement that we pray that specifically. We also commit to learn about St. Francis and St. Clare and to live with the Gospel as our guide to life.”

Mary Ellen became a Secular Franciscan after she had read a book about St. Francis. However, she is quick to point out that her life as a Secular Franciscan began as a call from the Lord, rather than simply as a personal decision.

“I really believe the Lord was calling me,” Mary Ellen



The St. Peter Fraternity of Secular Franciscans

Franciscans: About Christ's Call to Discipleship

“My prayer life has deepened tremendously because of it. And having the support of others in the order, knowing they are always there and that I always have the undergirding of their prayers, is such an encouragement and a support.”

— Mary Ellen Herrmann

says. “Almost immediately after I read the book about Francis, I was in a church in Colorado, and as I looked around I noticed that the stained glass images depicted things about Francis’ life. I was looking at images about which I had just read!

“Then, shortly thereafter, my neighbor invited me to a Secular Franciscan meeting!” she adds. “I, of course, said ‘yes.’ I felt like God was saying something to me. I went to that first meeting, and I knew that’s where God wanted me! He wanted me to live as a Secular Franciscan, and it remains a great joy in my life to do so.”

Mary Ellen says she draws great strength from being a part of the order.

“My prayer life has deepened tremendously because of it,” she says. “And having the support of others in the order, knowing they are always there and that I always have the undergirding of their prayers, is such an encouragement and a support.”

The St. Peter Fraternity, which currently consists of about 25 professed members within the Belleville area, meets one Sunday a month — usually the third Sunday, though sometimes that changes — at St. Teresa in their parish center. During the meetings, members pray together

and share their lives with one another. They spend time talking about their own spiritual journeys and encouraging one another along the way.

If you are interested in joining them, Mary Ellen encourages you to attend a meeting.

“Anyone is welcome,” she says. “The meetings take place at 2 p.m., and we simply ask newcomers to show up about 10 minutes early so we can talk with them a bit beforehand.”

Of course, given that the Secular Franciscans are an order of St. Francis, the journey to final profession involves more than just a monthly meeting. Those in formation take classes prior to profession so that they are well aware of the commitment they are making because, as Mary Ellen emphasizes, once you take your final profession as a Secular Franciscan, it is a lifelong commitment. But attending a monthly meeting is the best place to start.

We are all called to live the Gospel — that’s what it means to be a Christian disciple! And doing so as a Secular Franciscan offers those called to that order a particular grace with which to do so. May we all seek out God’s particular call on our lives and strive to live for Him in everything we say and do!

If interested in attending an upcoming meeting, contact Mary Ellen Herrmann at 618-234-4945 or 618-250-4568 — she will provide you with the necessary information.

Pro-Life Ministry:

Upholding the Sanctity of Life in Our Community and Beyond

As Catholics, we recognize the sanctity of life and strive to uphold the gifts of life, from birth to natural death. Here at the Cathedral of St. Peter, the members of the Pro-Life Ministry seek to be witnesses to the gift of life at all stages. The group provides visibility of pro-life issues to parishioners and beyond, through activities in the parish and through the Knights of Columbus Council.

“Those involved want to do more because we know there is no end to those who need help,” says Deacon Doug Lugge. “Our bishop and priests have been very supportive of our efforts in their own witnessing of life, through intercessory prayers, in homilies, et cetera. We know we are witnessing for Christ in this ministry.”

During October, Respect Life Month, the group engages in the 40 Days for Life — which also occurs during Lent — and Life Chain campaigns, respectively.

“There may be no greater support for the poor than for an expectant mother who does not have the means and care for her pregnancy and raising a child,” Doug says.

But the Pro-Life Ministry prioritizes life issues all

year round. This ministry, with the Knights, sells roses on Mother’s Day weekend, donating all proceeds to our local Pregnancy Care Center (PCC).

“We also do a baby bottle drive between Mother’s and Father’s Days that also provides financial support for the PCC,” Doug says. “We also communicate legislative activities happening at the local, state, and federal level for supporting life.”

The group has also recently begun witnessing at our State March for Life in Springfield. Many of the group members are also involved with the St. Vincent de Paul Society, assisting with providing breakfast every Saturday morning to those in need.

Doug got involved when his oldest daughter was 12 years old and they attended the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

”With the help of my wife, Jill, I continued to ‘captain’ a bus of youth and young at heart who wanted to be witnesses at the March for Life for the next 15 years,” he says. “I’ve been the Pro-Life representative for our parish and Knights council for the past 10 years or so.”

For more information about the ministry or to get involved, please contact Doug at jdlugge@gmail.com.

“Those involved want to do more because we know there is no end to those who need help. Our bishop and priests have been very supportive of our efforts in their own witnessing of life, through intercessory prayers, in homilies, et cetera. We know we are witnessing for Christ in this ministry.” — Doug Lugge



Adult Altar Servers

Participation in the Mass Leading to a Flourishing Faith Life

Altar servers are blessed to have a view of the Mass that many of us never experience. While serving in a lay capacity, they have the gift of an up-close perspective during the most profound moments of the Mass. If you are an adult who has never served, you may think you have missed your opportunity, but this is not the case. Adults are welcome to be trained as altar servers, as well.

Adults can serve alone, with others, or as a team with their children. All that is needed is a willingness to serve and learn a few simple processes. Fr. Godfrey Mullen would be grateful to see more adults step forward as altar servers.

“In the early 20th century, some wise priests taught that ‘passive spectators’ are not what is needed at Mass, but

active participants,” Fr. Godfrey says. “Generally, active participation would include paying attention, singing and responding to the prayers, and having ourselves involved with what is going on at Mass.”

We are all called to be actively engaged and prayerful throughout Mass, worshipping as a community and opening our hearts to the graces poured out to us through the Eucharist. Altar servers take that participation one step further.

“Service is a different way of participating actively,” Fr. Godfrey says. “It requires a bit more attention, but it’s the same principle — full and active participation in the Mass. When we are engaged more completely, we’re more likely to notice and hear details otherwise not observed.”

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— Fr. Godfrey Mullen



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Adult Altar Servers *continued from page 7*

It's difficult to be so close to the altar during the Consecration without your faith being impacted. So, through direct participation, servers develop an appreciation for all that goes into the Mass — from the aid of the sacristans to the prayers of the priest. In turn, the faith becomes even more real.

Parent-child teams are a unique gift. While the parent can help a child who might be more nervous, children can draw their parents into deeper participation and awe.

“Parents and children serving together would be helpful in that the parent can often assist the children in carrying out their responsibilities — carrying the candles in

the procession, bringing the book to the priest, helping set up the altar for the Eucharistic liturgy, ringing the bells, and on solemn feasts, helping with incense,” Fr. Godfrey says. “Keeping the details straight can be a challenge, especially for younger servers or those who find managing details difficult. They can help each other remember what needs to happen.”

Anyone 8 years and up is welcome to be trained as an altar server. If you are looking for a way to enter more deeply into the Mass and become more active in your participation, consider giving your time in this unique way.

To learn more or to be trained, contact the parish office at 618-234-1166.

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m. | Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

Weekdays: Monday-Friday 6:45 a.m., Friday School Mass 8:15 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (CONFESSIONS)

Monday through Friday: 7:15 a.m., Thursday: 6-7:00 p.m., Saturday: 3-3:45 p.m.