



# Cowboy Bulletin

## Wyoming Knights of Columbus



June 2024

### Feast of Corpus Christi

Knights from Assembly 1224 in Casper lead a Eucharistic procession across town from St Anthony of Padua Church to St. Anthony Tri-Parish School. An estimated 300 Catholics from around the area gathered for the event that culminated with benediction at the school. After-march burgers and dogs were prepared by Knights members from Councils 1563 and 9917. Father Linh Vu, Father Ray Rodriguez and Father Clark Lenz represented the three Casper parishes. This is planned to be an annual event on the feast of Corpus Christi.





**FATHER OGG MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

St. Paul's Newman Center and Laramie council 2720 would like to thank the Wyoming State Knights of Columbus for helping to sponsor the Fr. Tom Ogg Memorial golf tournament on August 31, 2024, at Jacoby golf course in Laramie. For more information go to [newmancenter.org](http://newmancenter.org). You can also contact me. The website has all updated information Thank you again to the Wyoming Knights of Columbus.

**UPDATE**

***Laramie needs golfers to sign up for Fr. Ogg golf tournament.***

***To sign up: Contact***

***John J. Van Heule Jr.  
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307-399-5924 Cell***

***Thank you.***

**SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

Please feel free to make any submissions to [wyokcnews@gmail.com](mailto:wyokcnews@gmail.com). I will do my best to put out an issue of The Cowboy Bulletin every month, but I need your help to know what's going on out there. Upcoming events, council projects, and sharing ideas that could benefit other councils are all things we as Knights are interested in hearing about. Remember that we are Brother Knights, united in one cause.

Vivat Jesus

Steve Grapes



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## June 2024 Council Message

Brothers, This month is Father’s Day. Every year at this time, I think of my father and all the father figures I’ve had in my life – spiritual fathers like the great priests who have helped shape me into who I am. My membership in the Knights of Columbus has given me incredible examples of men who have dedicated their lives to the service of others and in their example, made me a better man.

Being a Knight truly is to live a life of service. To give of one’s self.

When I think about the many ways our Order contributes to our parishes and to our communities, I’m reminded of what St. Paul tells us about giving: “Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:7).

“A cheerful giver” — that perfectly describes what it means to be a Knight.

As a Knights of Columbus field agent, I see in my daily life how Knights give of themselves with joy. When a brother Knight chooses to protect his family through Knights of Columbus insurance, he does so out of love. He wants to make sure his loved ones are taken care of when he’s gone.

And I remind him that he’s not only protecting his family. He’s furthering the charitable mission of our Order. That’s what sets Knights of Columbus apart. Members who’ve purchased a Knights of Columbus insurance product or invested with Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors are doing business with an organization that aligns with their Catholic faith.

Through the business activities and the contributions of state and local councils, Knights of Columbus was able to donate more than \$185 million to charity last

year alone. To be a Knight is to be part of a culture of giving – and in terms of

business, it’s a culture that turns insurance premiums into charitable impact.

Whether it’s supporting new mothers in need, delivering Coats for Kids, bringing relief after natural disasters, or supporting seminarians, the number of people who depend on our help is countless. And the extent of our reach would not be possible without our insurance program.


As the Fraternal Year comes to a close, I want to congratulate you all for the many successes you’ve achieved as a council. When we come together under our principles of charity, unity and fraternity, we truly make a great impact.


Thank you, and I wish all of the fathers here many blessings this Father’s Day. Vivat Jesus!

<https://www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/live-your-faith/index.html>

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# Insurance & Investments

We stand with our troops because they keep our families safe. Yet as Catholic men, we all have a duty to protect families. Father McGivney built the Knights around this truth. And he charged us with caring for widows and orphans through our life insurance program. When the first Knights pooled their money for mutual aid, they put their faith into action. So do we, and we've taken our founding vision into bold new territory.

We've been a *Fortune* 1000® company for 14 years in a row. We continue to earn superior ratings from AM Best (A+) and Standard & Poor's (AA+). And for the second year in a row, *Forbes* has recognized us as one of America's best life insurance companies. For us, being first in faith and charity also means being first in Catholic finance.

We answer God's call to protect families and care for mothers and children. And we help families secure their financial future. Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors empowers Catholics to invest in line with our faith. We started offering our investment services to Catholic institutions in 2015, and two years ago we made our mutual funds available to members and non-members alike. Today, we manage more than \$2.3 billion for Catholic families, religious communities and dioceses.

It's clear that Catholics want to carry their faith into their finances. And the same is true of their charitable giving. Generous individuals and families have now entrusted more than \$100 million to the Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund. KCCF donor-advised funds help you support the charitable causes that matter to you — while fully upholding the Catholic faith. Last year alone, donors to the Charitable Fund distributed nearly \$21 million to worthy charities.



David St. Hilaire, a field agent with the Swanson Agency in Nebraska, visits with a K of C family about their insurance needs.

There is much more I could say about the faith foundation of our business. But this year, I want to do something different. I want to describe the faithful men who personify our business. Behind every purchase of a life insurance policy, and every sale of an investment product, is a brother Knight. We have nearly a thousand agents who strive every day to be first in faith and charity. This isn't just their job. It's their calling.

A recent story reminded me of this. One of our agents came to the job late in his career. He was tired of business as usual and he wanted to put his faith into action. It wasn't long before he got the worst kind of call. A brother Knight had died, and his grieving widow was desperate for help. The agent rushed to her house. She didn't know how to process her husband's K of C insurance policy, so he did it for her. Then she told him that her husband had four policies with other companies. She didn't know what to do, or where to start.

Our agent spent the rest of the day calling those companies and completing the paperwork. He lifted a burden from her shoulders and carried it himself. This agent is here with us today. Bob Gordon, thank you for embodying the best of the Knights of Columbus.



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1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510



### THOUGHTS ON EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES

Brother Knights,

As many of you are aware, Brother Mike Pexton has been circulating posters of the Eucharistic Miracles around the State for a few years. Have you been following the Sainthood progress for Carlo Acutis, the young man who started the research on the list of EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES? ARE YOU AWARE OF THE MIRACLES AND SOME OF THE MOST RECENT ONES? What a great OPPORTUNITY FOR THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS in the state of Wyoming to make this a FEATURED PROJECT!!!!

With the emphasis on the Eucharist this year and having the posters and internet access to the Eucharistic Miracles, we now need the WYOMING KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS TO STEP UP WITH A STATE PROGRAM!!!!

The summer meeting is a tremendous opportunity to launch this project!!!

A special prayer is probably a great way to start. Please add:

***“Father McGivney and Blessed Carlo Acutis, we thank you for this wonderful opportunity to serve the Catholic Church and give us the grace and guidance to inspire spiritual growth through the EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES. Amen”***

Vivat Jesus,

Jerry Hoefler.

Retired Wyoming Field Agent and member of Council 6623, Torrington



## SUPREME CHAPLAIN'S MONTHLY CHALLENGE JUNE 2024

He took the child by the hand and said to her, “*Talitha koum,*” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise!” (Gospel for June 30, Mk 5:41)

Jesus restores the young girl to life by his word and touch. He restores us to life through the sacraments, particularly the sacrament of penance, with the words of absolution pronounced by his priest. We too can improve the lives of those in need around us, extending to them Christ’s love through our own words and works of charity.

### Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to find one way each day — even a small way — to concretely share Christ’s love with those you meet.

### Questions for Reflection:

Do you recognize that your charitable works are an extension of Christ’s mission of healing and compassion on earth? How does that awareness affect the work that you do? How might you recognize little opportunities to be a “Christ for others” to people you encounter each day?

## FAITH IN ACTION PROGRAMS FOOD FOR FAMILIES (FEATURED)

### A HIGHER PURPOSE

Help end hunger in communities across North America. Many people in our communities are struggling through hardship and unable to provide food to their families. Food for Families ensures that as few as possible go to bed hungry each night. A featured program, Food for Families counts for two credits toward the Columbian Award.

### OVERVIEW

Knights of Columbus are committed to helping end hunger through the Food for Families Program which has donated millions of dollars and millions of pounds of food toward this cause. Council and parish families will raise funds to support their local food pantries, food banks and soup kitchens. For every \$500 or 1,000 pounds of food donated, the Supreme Council will refund \$100 back to the council – up to a maximum of \$500 per council per fraternal year. Though in-kind donation of food is valuable, leaders of hunger-relief organizations often comment that financial contributions can be stretched even further and allow nonprofits to procure the exact items needed by the organization and its clients.



**SEMINARIANS OF THE DIOCESE OF CHEYENNE**

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## Wyoming Knights of Columbus—For the Good of the Order

### Deceased Knights

- [Alfrio “Al” Martinez](#) of Council 1563 in Casper passed away July 7, 2023.
- [Dennis Eckhardt](#) of Council 4031 in Cody, passed away June 8, 2023
- [Ken Piazza](#) of Council 4031 in Cody, passed away July 12, 2023
- [Fr Tom Ogg](#), past Wyoming State Chaplain, passed away August 23, 2023.
- [Mike Varney](#) of Council 6623 in Torrington, passed away May 3, 2023
- Andrew Stropka of Council 2578 in Thermopolis, passed away June 4, 2023.
- [Cole Fitsimmons](#) of Council 6623 in Torrington, passed away December 23, 2023.
- [Robert Johnson](#) of Council 11292 in Saratoga passed away on December 28, 2023
- [Gary Klispie](#) of Council 8635 in Worland passed away January 6, 2024

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Please pray for our Brother Knights:

Please send any future prayer intentions to  
[wyokcnews@gmail.com](mailto:wyokcnews@gmail.com)





## Blessed Father Michael McGivney



### Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney

*Founder of the Knights of Columbus*

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (*here make your request*). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Please report all favors received:** The Father McGivney Guild  
1 Columbus Plaza  
New Haven, CT 06510-3326 • USA  
[www.fathermcgivney.org](http://www.fathermcgivney.org)

Painting by Chas Fagan © Knights of Columbus  
10502 10/20

### *A Prayer for Study*

Lord, give us a mind that is humble, quiet, peaceable, patient and charitable, and a taste of your Holy Spirit in all our thoughts, words and deeds.

O Lord, give us a lively faith, a firm hope, a fervent charity, a love of You. Take from us all lukewarmness in meditation and all dullness in prayer. Give us fervor and delights in thinking of You, Your grace and Your tender compassion toward us.

Give us, good Lord, the grace to work for the things we pray for.

— Saint Thomas More (1478-1535)

To aid blind or low vision members in your council or parish, direct them to [xaviersocietyfortheblind.org](http://xaviersocietyfortheblind.org) for audio and braille versions of many Catholic books and references.

If any member of the Knights of Columbus (or anyone else, for that matter) missed the beatification Mass of Father McGivney, you can still view it at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMF2aOZBQ3M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMF2aOZBQ3M).

### Join the Father McGivney Guild

As the sainthood process for Blessed Father Michael McGivney continues, it becomes ever more important to increase membership in the Father McGivney Guild. Membership stands at over 171,000, but only 464 listed to be from Wyoming. There are 2600 members shown in Wyoming.

Please encourage every Knight in your council, and their families, to join the McGivney Guild. Membership is open to everyone, not just Knights and families. It is easy to sign up at <http://www.fathermcgivney.org/en/index.html>. And please continue to pray the canonization prayer for Father McGivney.

Shawn Moody

Father McGivney Guild Chairman

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