

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249

St. Jerome's Catholic Church 10895 Hamlin Blvd. Largo, FL
February 2025 Volume 5 Issue 12



Soccer-Loving Nun from Brazil Tops List of World's Oldest Living Person at Nearly 117



Her nephew spends time with her every Saturday and sends her voice messages between visits to keep her spirits up. "The other sisters say she gets a jolt when she hears my voice," he said. "She gets excited."

Canabarro was born on May 27. Her great-grandfather was a famed Brazilian general.

She took up religious work still a teenager and spent two years in Montevideo, Uruguay, before moving to Rio de Janeiro and eventually settling in her home state of Rio Grande do Sul. A lifelong teacher, among her former students was Gen. Joao Figueiredo, the last of the military dictators who governed Brazil. She was also the beloved creator of two marching bands at schools in sister cities straddling the border between Uruguay and Brazil.

For her 110th birthday, she was honored by Pope Francis. She is the second oldest nun ever documented, after Lucile Randon, who was the world's oldest person until her death in 2023 at the age of 118.

A soccer-loving nun from Brazil is believed to have become the world's oldest living person at nearly 117.

Sister Inah Canabarro was so skinny growing up that many didn't think she would survive childhood.

An organization that tracks super-centenarians around the globe released a statement declaring the wheelchair-bound nun the world's oldest person.

In a recent video the smiling Canabarro can be seen cracking jokes, sharing miniature paintings she used to make of wildflowers and reciting the Hail Mary prayer.

The secret to longevity? Her Catholic faith, she said.

"I'm young, pretty and friendly - all very good, positive qualities that you have too," the nun tells the visitors to her retirement home in a southern Brazilian city.



FROM AROUND THE WORLD OF INTEREST TO CATHOLICS

Vatican says 13 missionaries were killed in 2024

Despite fear in Ukraine, keep going, pope tells Cardinal Krajewski

Jesus' crown of thorns returns to Notre Dame Cathedral

Relics of Canadian Martyrs will tour western Canada for jubilee year

Pope Francis encourages blind young people to be pilgrims of hope

Roof of 400-year-old church in Mexico collapses

Spanish bishops condemn mockery of Sacred Heart of Jesus on Spanish public television

'Rosary in a Year' podcast is No. 1 on Apple charts

Christian faith a hallmark of former president Jimmy Carter's life

Tattoo artist sentenced to prison for trafficking human remains

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Pete McCabe

Before we get too far into 2025, I want to look back at 2024 one more time.

One of the many forms I need to submit to the Supreme Council is Form #1728, the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity which covers the council's charitable disbursements and hours of service from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. I work with our Treasurer, Brother Rich Pettit, and the Deputy Grand Knight, Brother Bill Bannon, to accumulate the data. I won't bore you with all the minute details, but our council has been very generous and busy. For example, here's how it broke down in our four program areas.

In **Faith** activities we gave away \$22,780 and 589 hours of service. You might remember we donated \$10,000 to the Church Roof Fund alone.

Family activity contributions were \$2,502 and 236 hours of service. Some examples include Lifeline, Boy Scouts, and the Trunk or Treat event.

The **Community** activities totaled \$5,774 and 1,525 hours of service. Examples include the Coats for Kids program, lots of disaster relief efforts, and other community events.

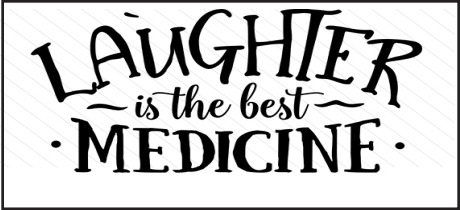
Life activity contributions were \$5,080 and 82 hours of service. The council supported Special Olympics and pregnancy support to Foundations of Life.

Everyone should be proud of our council's efforts in 2024. Of course, much of this (at least the monetary donations) is possible due to our Bingo operation. Bingo is our main source of income which allows us the flexibility to help so many worthy causes. In 2024, we conducted 43 weeks of Bingo and cancelled 9 times due to holidays or hurricanes. The total revenue (before expenses) was \$38,427. Of course, we have to subtract the cost of donuts (\$3,204), supplies (\$3,559.25), and church (\$6,332.75). Council proceeds equal \$25,331. But wait, there's more! Our council contributes 20 percent (\$5,066.20) of that to the Columbettes for their help with Bingo. As you can see, we are still left with over \$20K to fund our four program areas. Our Bingo game hosted 3,058 players and the majority of them are regular players each week. That is the strength of our game. We provide a fun and friendly game that builds a sense of community. Let's hope 2025 is as successful.

Thanks for all you do!



A statue of the Virgin Mary was discovered untouched in the ruins of homes destroyed during the Los Angeles fires.



"It is useless to try to hold a person to anything he says while he's madly in love, drunk, or running for office."

"I remember it like it was yesterday. Of course, I don't really remember yesterday all that well."

"The reason I talk to myself is because I'm the only one whose answers I accept."

"I'm not superstitious...but I am a little stitious."

"Here's something to think about: How come you never see a headline like 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?"

"I'm sure wherever my dad is, he's looking down on us. He's not dead, just very condescending."

"When my kids become wild and unruly, I use a nice, safe playpen. When they're finished, I climb out."

Due to my time alone, I finished three books yesterday. And believe me, that's a lot of coloring.

What did our parents do to kill boredom before the internet? I asked my 26 brothers and sisters and they didn't know either.

There's nothing scarier than that split second when you lose your balance in the shower and you think, "They are going to find me naked."

Today, I melted an ice cube with my mind just by staring at it. It took a lot longer than I thought it would.

Struggling to get your wife's attention? Just sit down and look comfortable.

Just sold my homing pigeon on eBay for the 22nd time.

One minute you're young and having fun. And next, you're turning down the stereo in your car to see better.

Not in jail, not in a mental hospital, not in a grave—I'd say I'm having a good day.

Council Holds Ministry Fair

On Sunday, January 19, St. Jerome's held its annual Ministry Fair. This gives the parishioners a chance to talk to members of the numerous ministries and hopefully enlist new members. Our council is no different.

This was a great opportunity to setup our Knights' table and talk to the men of our parish. The table was manned by our membership director, Brother Jim Cullinan, and various volunteer Knights.

Thanks to all who participated.



The trouble with
giving away good deeds
is that
they are always
returned to you.

To Ensure You Get to Mass and Fulfill the Obligation, Here Are the Holy Obligation Days in 2025

1) **Thursday, May 29, 2025** - Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter)

2) **Friday, August 15, 2025** - Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

3) **Monday, December 8, 2025** - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Patronal Feast of the United States of America

4) **Thursday, December 25, 2025** - Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Important Notes Regarding Holy Days of Obligations in 2025

Vigil Masses cannot be celebrated before 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 1, 2025 - the Solemnity of All Saints - is not a Holy Day of Obligation in 2025.

Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, and the Solemnity of Corpus Christi falls on Sundays, already making them obligatory.

See you in the Eucharist!

Note: Purposely missing Mass on a Holy Day of Obligation, just like Sundays, is considered a mortal sin.



Brothers, Please review and assist where you can.

Saturday, 1 Feb, 9a: ECC and Grotto cleanup (bring gloves)

Sunday, 2 Feb, after 12:30 Mass. Pilgrimage to Epiphany of Our Lord Ukrainian Church (reservations required.)

Wednesday, 5 Feb, 7p: Officer's meeting, PC

Thursday, 6 Feb, 11a: Bingo (Team B), PC

Wednesday, 12 Feb, 10a: Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage, Church (reservations required)

Wednesday, 12 Feb, 7p: General meeting, PC

Thursday, 13 Feb, 11a: Bingo (Team A), PC

Sunday, 16 Feb, 6a-1a: Knights Breakfast, PC

Wednesday, 19 Feb, 4p: Reset PC for Bingo

Thursday, 20 Feb, 11a: Bingo (Team B), PC

Saturday, 22 Feb, 5p-9p: Columbi-ette Trivia Night

Wednesday, 26 Feb, 4p: Reset PC for Bingo

Thursday, 27 Feb, 11a: Bingo (Team A), PC

Thanks.

Pete McCabe, GK

Knights of Columbus Launch Program Featuring the Sacred Heart of Jesus



The Knights of Columbus recently unveiled its latest pilgrim Icon Program, an initiative centered on devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The

program was launched at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut, the birthplace of the Knights of Columbus.

At the core of the Knights' initiative is a reproduction of the iconic 1767 painting of the Sacred Heart by Italian artist Pompeo Batoni. This image is featured on more than 300 replicas of the icon, each blessed by Pope Francis, that the Knights will take to parishes worldwide, encouraging Catholics to grow closer to Christ's love and mercy.

"As my brother Knights of Columbus bring reproductions of this beloved image to parishes around the world, I hope that they will invite their fami-

lies — and all families — to consecrate their homes and themselves to the Sacred Heart," Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly said. "In the heart of Christ, we see the heart of the Father. And we ask Our Lord to help us make His heart our own, so that we may see and love in others what he sees and loves in us."

The program's launch began with a Mass for the feast of the Holy Name of Jesus, celebrated by Father Ryan Lerner of Blessed Michael McGivney Parish. During his homily, Fr. Lerner urged attendees to draw closer to Jesus and His Sacred Heart.

"The name of Jesus casts out fear, anxiety and distress; reminds us of our need for a Savior; instills trust, brings peace, and unites our hearts more closely to His Most Sacred Heart," Fr. Lerner said in his homily. Following the Mass, a Holy Hour featured prayers, Scripture readings, and reflections from Pope Francis' new encyclical *Dilexit Nos* ("He Loved Us"). The prayer service also included the Divine Mercy Chaplet, time for silent adoration, and excerpts from the Knights' Sacred Heart holy hour booklet, also blessed by the Pope.

JUBILEE 2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Pilgrimage Tour Schedule

All are welcome

***Enrich Your Faith *Restore Hope and Trust *Attain Spiritual Renewal and Rebirth**

Epiphany of Our Lord Ukrainian Church Sunday 2/2/2025

St. Jerome, Largo, Wednesday, 2/12/25, Lourdes Virtual Tour

St. Leo Abbey, St. Leo Saturday, 3/8/25 (pending)

St. Raphael St. Petersburg, Sunday, 4/6/25

Blessed Sacrament, St. Petersburg,(Site of Narvez Landing), Sunday 5/25/25

St. Ignatius of Antioch, Tarpon Springs, Sunday, 6/22/25

Holy Family, St. Petersburg, Sunday, 7/13/25 (pending)

Our Lady of Divine Providence House of Prayer Clearwater, Tuesday, 8/26/25

Eucharist Encounter, Tampa, Saturday, 9/13/25

Espiritu Santo, Safety Harbor, Sunday, 9/21/25 (pending)

St. Patrick, Largo, Sunday, 10/12/25

Mercy of God, Polish Mission, St. Petersburg, Sunday, 11/23/25 (pending)

Cathedral of St. Jude, the Apostle, St. Petersburg, Sunday, 12/14/25

St. Jerome, Largo, Sunday, 1/11/26 Closing Ceremony

***Plenary Indulgence is available.**

Please email St.JeromePilgrimages@gmail.com or call 727-595-4610 to reserve your spot on the pilgrimage.

We can accomodate 14 passengers in the church van. Also, we will have car pools available for those in need. Please let us know if you can be a driver.

Pro-life Group Asks Supreme Court To Throw Out Abortion Buffer Zones Law



Sarah Richardson, a sidewalk counselor with Coalition Life in Carbondale, Illinois

A St. Louis pro-life group has petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to declare unconstitutional a rural Illinois town's now-defunct "buffer zone" law, which previously impeded the group's peaceful protests and counseling outside the town's abortion clinics.

The case, *Coalition Life v. City of Carbondale, Illinois*, concerns a law

restricting protests outside three abortion clinics in Carbondale, a small college town about two hours south-east of St. Louis and three hours north of Memphis, Tennessee, both major cities in states that currently have strong pro-life protections in place.

In 2019, Planned Parenthood opened an 18,000-square-foot, \$7 million "mega" abortion clinic in southern Illinois just a dozen miles from downtown St. Louis, originally expected to see 11,000 patients a year.

A St. Louis-based pro-life organization has been engaging in peaceful sidewalk counseling of women outside Carbondale's abortion clinics, offering information about free ultrasounds and pregnancy tests, STD testing, and recommending counseling at a pro-life pregnancy center.

The pro-life group was engaged in this work until the town, citing what people associated with the abortion clinic described as "aggressive and misleading tactics," amended its disorderly conduct ordinance to criminalize approaching within eight feet of another person without their con-

sent for purposes of protest, education, or counseling within 100 feet of a health care facility.

This past July the Carbondale City Council quietly and unanimously repealed the buffer zone language from its disorderly conduct code which was never enforced.

Coalition Life argues in its petition to the Supreme Court that its case presents a clear opportunity to correct a flawed precedent that continues to undermine First Amendment rights.

"It took four minutes to repeal that idea, and assuming that we stop fighting about it, it will take us four minutes to put the buffer zone back in," Coalition Life founder Brian Westbrook told Capitol News Illinois.

Fear
ends
where
faith
begins

Trump Issues Pardons for Pro-lifers



President Donald Trump has issued pardons for 23 pro-life activists, fulfilling a promise he made during the presidential campaign.

Trump signed the pardons in the Oval Office of the White House on the day before the March for Life to be held in Washington, D.C., according to the Thomas More Society.

clude grandparents, pastors, a Holocaust survivor, and a Catholic priest. All are selfless, sincere patriots," the petition from the Chicago-based law firm reads.

Those who judge you
won't ever
understand,
and those who do
understand,
won't ever
judge you.

The religious liberty law firm petitioned the incoming president to issue 21 individual pardons for pro-life advocates who were arrested for violating the federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act and "Conspiracy Against Rights" statute while peacefully engaging in protests at abortion clinics.

Several of those convicted and imprisoned were elderly and in poor health. At least two times during his 2024 campaign for the presidency, Trump said he intended to release pro-life activists who are currently imprisoned.

"These peaceful pro-life Americans mistreated by President Joe Biden in-

When you have nothing
left but God,
you have
more than enough
to start over again.

BITS AND PIECES

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) has thousands of churches around the world, but only 170 temples. Temples are reserved for special occasions.

The Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine in St. Augustine, FL, is the oldest continuous church congregation in the continual US. It was established by the Spanish on Sept. 8, 1565.

A reliquary is a small shrine that houses a relic. Usually located in the confines of a church, mosque, or temple, depending on the religion.

St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City is ranked as the largest Christian church in the world.

Jesus cured so many people that he had to climb into a boat to escape the press of the crowd.

If you doubt that miracles of physical healing still take place in the life of the Church, you should read Craig Keener's book *Miracles* or visit the Church in Africa, Asia, or Latin America, where the expectation of the miraculous is taken for granted.

The Church also brings healing to mind, soul, will, and imagination. The Bible knows that sin has done tremendous damage to us, and anyone involved in pastoral ministry knows what this looks like: broken minds, divided hearts, addicted passions.

Notre Dame QB Says Team's Bible Study Attendance Is One of Their Biggest Bragging Points



Riley Leonard

University of Notre Dame quarterback Riley Leonard proudly shared one of the standout features of the Fighting Irish football team: their high attendance at bible study sessions.

Leonard noted that approximately 40 players join the study every week, a significant increase from its humble

beginnings with just five participants. "One of the biggest bragging points about this team is that we have like 40 guys show up to our bible study every Thursday," Leonard said. "And that's really a credit to them."

He shared that the growth of the group reflects the strong sense of community within the team. "This team is just so close, and everything we do we do as a unit," he said.

Leonard, whose Instagram biography states, "No Jesus - No Peace, Know Jesus - Know Peace," recently led the team to a dominating 23-10 playoff victory over the University of Georgia in the Sugar Bowl.

During a postgame interview on ESPN, he expressed gratitude to Jesus for his success, saying, "First and foremost, I want to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Without Him, I wouldn't be here, and we wouldn't be here as a whole group."

Soon-to-Be Priest Killed in Tractor Accident



With great sadness, we commend to your prayers the repose of the soul of Charles Outtier, a French seminarian of the Institute of Christ the King in Gricigliano, who was killed on January 15 in a tractor accident on the seminary grounds while he was performing his duties.

Charles Outtier was a deacon preparing for priestly ordination this coming July. His unexpected and tragic death has plunged the seminary into mourning.



Ohio Pro-Lifer Arrested for 'Annoying' Those Outside Abortion Facility

A pro-life activist protesting outside an Ohio abortion facility was detained by police and charged with disorderly conduct because of the volume of the megaphone the activist was using to provide a Christian witness to the women entering the facility.

The man, had been standing on a public sidewalk in Cuyahoga Falls and used the megaphone to tell women, "There's hope in the Gospel of Jesus Christ for all of you. I want it for you, but I can't force you to take it and He won't force you to take it. But you will have to stand before Holy God one day and answer for it. I love you enough to tell you the truth. Jesus Christ came to Earth to save sinners like you."

The pro-life activist, Zack Knotts, was protesting outside an Ohio abortion facility and was detained by police and charged with disorderly

conduct on account of the volume of the megaphone the activist was using to provide a Christian witness to the women entering the facility.

Police then approached Knotts and ordered him to go with them, initially refusing to tell him why. When Knotts insisted on being told the reason, the officers stated it was on account of his "disorderly conduct" that had caused them to receive complaints of him causing "inconvenience, annoyance, or alarm" to those around him. "The charge was based on the claim that my preaching 'annoyed' passersby, which is an entirely subjective basis for restricting free speech," Knotts said. "This action was taken despite my clear constitutional right to free speech and religious expression, and we firmly believe it violates my First and Fourth Amendment rights."

His actions reportedly violated the

city's disorderly conduct ordinance, which bans individuals from generating unreasonable noise or loud sound which is likely to cause inconvenience or annoyance to persons of ordinary sensibilities by using electronics, sound amplifying devices, musical instruments, or other tools.

Knotts said that the ordinance has no objective standard and allows for enforcement based purely on per-



Zack Knotts

sonal annoyance. He added that similar cases have previously been struck down by the Supreme Court.

Pilgrimage to St. Therese

In mid-January, some council Knights joined other St. Jerome parishioners on the inaugural 2025 Pilgrimage of Hope Pilgrimage.

To help celebrate the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis has called on Catholics to become "pilgrims of hope," emphasizing that "hope and kindness touch the very heart of the Gospel."

In answer to that call, St. Jerome has planned a full year of pilgrimages to various churches around Pinellas County. The first church on that list is St. Therese Byzantine Church in St. Petersburg. Approxi-

mately, 35 pilgrims gathered to pray and learn more about the Byzantine Church. Fr. Mike O'Brien gave a short history of the differences between the Latin and Eastern rites which included an example of their songs of praise.

The pilgrims were given the opportunity to ask questions and also

explore the beautiful interior of St. Therese Byzantine Church. The room of icons was especially noteworthy.

The next pilgrimage is scheduled for February 2 at the Epiphany of Our Lord Ukrainian Church in St. Petersburg. Those wishing to join a pilgrimage can email stjeromepilgrimages@gmail.com.



The mayor of a small town in southern Italy has issued a proclamation that bans residents from falling ill. About 1,300 people in Belcastro have been ordered to avoid contracting any illness that requires medical assistance, due to the town's inadequate access to healthcare.

The Doomsday Clock is a symbolic clock which was devised in 1947 to predict how close the Earth is to doomsday, with doomsday being midnight. Presently the clock is set at 90 seconds to midnight, the closest it has ever been.

The great Chilean earthquake of 1960 is the greatest earthquake ever recorded, registering 9.4 on the Richter Scale. The quake caused a tsunami and mudslides.

Check Out This Short Account of a Human Helping One of God's Creations

And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." 21 So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." Genesis 1:20-22

Officer Givens was on his daily drive, checking things here and there when he saw a goose that seemed to want his attention. He threw food out for her, thinking that's what she wanted, but she didn't take it.



She continued to peck and quack, then walked away, stopped, and looked back at Officer Givens. Then she went back to his car and pecked at it again. She made it very obvious that she wanted Officer Givens to follow her, so he finally got out of his car and did just that.

The goose led him 100 yards away to a grassy area near a creek. Sitting there was one of her babies, tangled up in a balloon string. The baby was



kicking its feet, desperate for help. Being wary of helping the baby on his own, and worried that the goose might attack him, Givens called for help from the SPCA, but no wildlife rescuers were available at the moment.

Luckily, Givens' colleague, Officer Cecilia Charron, came to help. She began to untangle the baby, and the mother goose just stood there and watched, quacking. She didn't become aggressive, and just let Officer Charron do what she had to do to set the baby free.

It was like the mother goose knew they were helping. Once Charron



untangled the baby, she put it down and it ran right to her mom, and they went right to swimming in the creek. Charron teared up and said it was the highlight of her 24 years on the force.

"It seems like something made up. It was just incredible," Givens said. "I honestly don't know why I decided to follow her, but I did. It makes me wonder - do they know to turn to humans when they need help?"

We may never know the answer to this question, but what we do know is that Officer Givens was in the right place at the right time to help these geese!

How Often Should a Person Go to Confession?

While not a strict requirement, many parishes encourage going to confession as a way to prepare the way for the Lord.

In many parishes throughout the world there are special times to go to confession. Often this includes a communal prayer service where multiple priests come together at a single location to hear individual confessions.

This gives busy people the chance and opportunity to receive the sacrament.

How will you prepare for Jesus? The Gospel brings to the forefront that child-like joy of being in the presence of Jesus. While many children in today's world care more about presents than they do about the cel-

ebration of Christ's birth, their joy and anticipation for material goods should make us step back and reflect on our own lives.

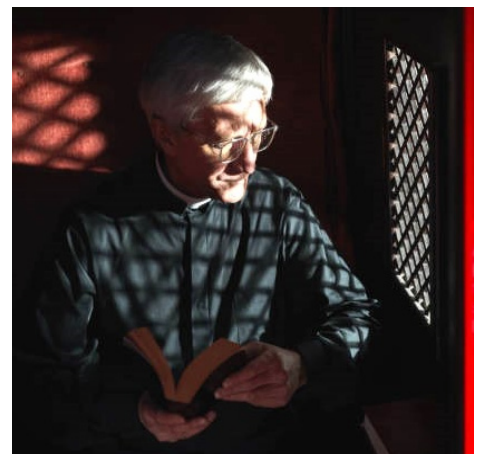
Do I have that same joy when I look forward to the coming of Jesus? Or more important, will I be as joyful as St. John the Baptist was when he was brought into the presence of the Savior?

Do I look forward to that decisive day when God calls me home? Or am I afraid and ashamed of my sins?

Each of us must determine when a perfect time to stop and examine our own spiritual lives is, discovering the state of our soul and asking ourselves if the thought of seeing Jesus today would bring joy into our lives.

If we are ashamed at all of our sins,

we should take advantage of our local parish offerings for confession and let God cleanse our souls so that we can truly pray, "Come, Lord Jesus!"



Pro-life Ministry Wins Legal Victory Against Minneapolis' Restrictive 'Buffer Zone' Ordinance



A Minnesota-based pro-life ministry won a legal victory against the city of Minneapolis when the city amended an ordinance that had barred pro-life advocates from sidewalk counseling outside abortion facilities.

The Thomas More Society, a non-profit law firm representing Pro-Life

Action Ministries, stated that attorneys secured entry of agreed judgments to settle the lawsuit. The agreed judgments give the pro-life organization a full victory against the City of Minneapolis, on all claims made in their complaint.

Peter Breen, Thomas More Society's executive vice president and head of litigation, stated in the release that the judgment is a total victory against this sort of discrimination.

"Minneapolis thought it could get away with targeting pro-life speech by creating an unconstitutional, content-based no-speech zone — crafted exclusively for the purpose of pro-life sidewalk counseling efforts outside of the city's Planned Parenthood abortion facility, he stated, later adding that pro-life advocates can now go about their life-saving efforts without fear or threat of penalties for sharing their life-saving message.

Prior to the lawsuit, the "buffer zone" ordinance had barred pro-life advocates from standing on the sidewalk that crosses the Planned Parenthood driveway to engage in sidewalk counseling and conversations with women seeking abortions.

Because the sidewalk outside the abortion facility is a public space, attorneys for Pro-Life Action Ministries argued that the ordinance unconstitutionally restricted the advocates' rights to free speech and freedom of religious expression. The updated city ordinance exempts organizations like Pro-Life Action Ministries or those engaging in constitutionally protected activities from abiding by the "buffer zone" around abortion facilities.

"With litigation settled and the city's buffer zone ordinance amended, pro-life sidewalk counselors in Minneapolis are again free to share their message of hope with abortion-minded women," the release stated.

Pro-Life Action Ministries CEO Brian Gibson called the decision a "win for the unborn babies."

Atheist Reverts to Catholic Faith

My return to the Catholic Church from atheism was a gradual process, involving years of spiritual exploration. Raised in a culturally Catholic family, we attended church on major holidays but lacked deeper involvement in religious teachings. This led to my eventual indifference towards the faith as I grew older.

By middle school, my family had stopped attending church, and my exposure to scientific concepts like evolution contributed to my dwindling belief in God. Over time, I adopted an atheist perspective, viewing religion as superstitious and an obstacle to human progress.

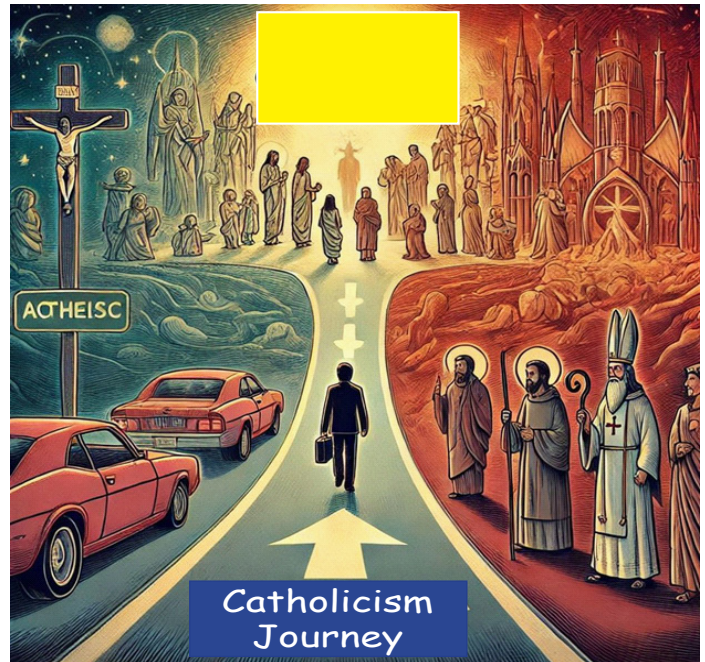
Studying various atheistic philosophers eventually led me to realize that rejecting the concept of God could result in nihilism, a view that denies inherent meaning or purpose in life. This realization prompted me to explore other philosophical and spiritual viewpoints.

In my quest for understanding, I studied Buddhism, which helped me reconnect with a sense of spirituality through practices like meditation. However, Buddhism did not address fundamental existential questions such as the existence of God.

Further philosophical studies introduced me to Aristotle and subsequently St. Thomas Aquinas, whose rigorous arguments about God and the virtues profoundly influenced me. After years of contemplation, I found Aquinas's reasoning compelling and became convinced of the existence of God.

This intellectual journey led me to reconsider Christianity, particularly the figure of Jesus Christ. Examining historical and theological aspects, I concluded that Jesus's claims were either entirely false or foundational to understanding human existence.

Eventually, I decided to recommit to Christianity. The next step was determining which denomination best aligned with my newfound beliefs. Through careful comparison, I found the



doctrines of the Catholic Church to be consistent with both Scripture and scientific understanding. My re-conversion involved both intellectual acceptance and spiritual commitment. Seeking a personal relationship with Christ, I began praying regularly. On Christmas Eve, attending Mass and witnessing the consecration of the Eucharist solidified my conviction and reaffirmed my faith.

Biden Gives Nation's Highest Civilian Honor to Pope Francis 'With Distinction'

As one of his last acts in office, outgoing President Joe Biden awarded Pope Francis the Presidential Medal of Freedom with Distinction. "This is the first time that President Biden has awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom with Distinction," a spokesperson said. The medal is the nation's highest civilian honor, presented to individuals who have made exemplary contributions to the prosperity, values, or security of the United States, world peace, or other significant societal, public or private endeavors.

As a young man, Jorge Bergoglio

sought a career in science before faith led him to a life with the Jesuits. As Pope Francis, his mission of serving the poor has never ceased. A loving pastor, he joyfully answers children's questions about God. A challenging teacher, he commands us all to fight for peace and protect the planet.

A welcoming leader, he reaches out to different faiths. The first pope from the Southern Hemisphere, Pope Francis is unlike any who came before. Above all, he is the People's Pope - a light of faith, hope, and love that shines brightly across the world.



Babies Who Survive Abortions Can be Left to Die



Senate Democrats blocked the advancement of the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, halting efforts by Republicans to pass legislation mandating medical care for infants born alive during attempted abortions.

The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act would have mandated that health-care providers administer the same level of care to infants born alive after an abortion as they

would to any other child born at the same gestational age.

The attempt to advance the anti-infanticide bill, which required a threshold of 60 votes to move forward, failed 52-47. Although Republicans hold a majority in the Senate with 53 seats, they were unable to secure enough votes to overcome the Democratic opposition.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune had predicted a poor outcome regarding the vote.

"Democratic senators will vote against protection for a living, breathing newborn baby simply because that child has been born alive after an attempted abortion," he said.

"Democrats are afraid that by recognizing the humanity of a newly-born child they will inadvertently point to

the humanity of any unborn child," Thune said.

"I do understand where they're coming from," Thune added. "After all, once you recognize the humanity of a newly-born baby, it gets a little harder to say that that child wasn't human just a few moments ago, simply because he or she wasn't yet born."

The legislation would also have required abortion survivors to be transported to a hospital for further medical treatment.

Democrats criticized the bill as unnecessary, arguing that federal law already prohibits infanticide.

The timing of the vote coincided with the 52nd anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the landmark abortion ruling that was overturned in 2022.

Pro-lifers are gathering for the annual March for Life.

Brother Knight, John (Jack) Bordeaux Dies



Brothers,

One of our own, Brother John (Jack) Bordeaux, passed away earlier this week. The Funeral Mass will take place on Saturday, February 8th, 2025 at 1:00PM. Fr. Mike will be the Officiant for the Funeral Mass. Please plan to attend if able and wear your blue shirt.

There will be a gathering in the Parish Center after the Mass.

Please keep the Bordeaux family in your prayers.

Thanks.

Pete McCabe, GK

What Is It Like Being a Priest These Days?

It is sometimes sitting in a folding chair listening to school kids singing Christmas songs.

It is sometimes standing by the bedside of a man drawing his last breath in this life.

It is sometimes being amazed that you are holding the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ at Mass.

It is sometimes feeling totally unworthy to do so.

It is sometimes being in the pulpit wondering if anyone is listening.

It is sometimes being in the pulpit being very aware that people are listening.

It is sometimes being the strong one in a room full of grieving people.

It is sometimes resting your head on your steering wheel trying to collect yourself after such moments.

It is sometimes the joy of a baptism.

It is sometimes the sorrow of a funeral.

It is sometimes eating a great meal at a parishioner's house.

It is sometimes getting to the end of the day trying to remember if you've eaten anything.

It is sometimes the joy of helping the prodigal son come home.

It is sometimes the sorrow of watching a defiant prodigal son leave.

It is sometimes the hours of prayer which keep you afloat.

It is sometimes the pain of scandal which drags you down.

It is sometimes getting up and knowing you are stepping onto a battlefield.

It is sometimes moments of incredible grace.

It is sometimes moments walking in the valley of death.

It is sometimes being respected.

It is sometimes being scorned.

It is sometimes speaking words of comfort.

It is sometimes saying unpleasant words in order to call people to conversion.

It is sometimes being praised for your service.

It is sometimes being called every name in the book for telling the truth.

Lived correctly, it is always about being a servant in Persona Christi.

It is difficult but rewarding.

It is a constant call to give witness.

It is about dying to self intentionally every day.

It is about making God's grace available as much as possible.

It is not for the thin-skinned or faint of heart.

It is not for the worldly and ambitious.

It is not a job or career.

It is a way of life,

And I would have it no other way.

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS



The Greek Liturgy asserts that Herod killed 14,000 boys, the Syrians speak of 64,000, and many medieval authors speak of 144,000. Modern writers reduce the number considerably, since Bethlehem was a rather small town.

This cruel deed of Herod is not mentioned by the Jewish historian Josephus, although he relates quite

a number of atrocities committed by the king during the last years of his reign. The number of these children was so small that this crime appeared insignificant among the other misdeeds of Herod. When Augustus heard that among the boys of two years and under Herod's own son also had been massacred, he said: "It is better to be

Herod's hog, than his son" alluding to the Jewish law of not eating, and consequently not killing, swine. The Middle Ages gave faith to this story, and Abelard inserted it in his hymn for the feast of Holy Innocents.

It is impossible to determine the day or the year of the death of the Holy Innocents, since the chronology of the birth of Christ and the subse-

quent Biblical events is most uncertain. All we know is that the infants were slaughtered within two years following the apparition of the star to the Wise Men. The Church venerates these children as martyrs. They are the first buds of the Church killed by the frost of persecution; they died not only for Christ, but in his place.

The Latin Church instituted the feast of the Holy Innocents at a date now unknown.

The Roman Station of December 28 is at St. Paul's Outside the Walls and is believed to possess the bodies of several of the Holy Innocents.

A portion of these relics was transferred by Sixtus V to Santa Maria Maggiore. The church of St. Justina at Padua, the cathedrals of Lisbon and Milan, and other churches also preserve bodies which they claim to be those of some of the Holy Innocents.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



Council 17249 Divine Mercy of Jesus Officers for 2024-2025

Chaplain
Grand Knight
Deputy Grand Knight
Chancellor
Recorder
Treasurer
Advocate
Warden
Inside Guard
Outside Guard
1 Year Trustee
2 Year Trustee
3 Year Trustee
Program Director
Membership Director
Faith Director
Family Director
Community Director
Life Director
District Deputy
Field Agent
Newsletter Editor

Fr. Mike O'Brien
Pete McCabe
Bill Bannon
Greg Musick
Rocco Totino
Rich Pettit
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Joe Ghezzi
Wayne Nuñez
Joe Moore
Rick Hendrickson
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Jim Patton
Bill Bannon
Jim Cullinan
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Mike Keeser
Pete Ganio
Kevin Manning
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