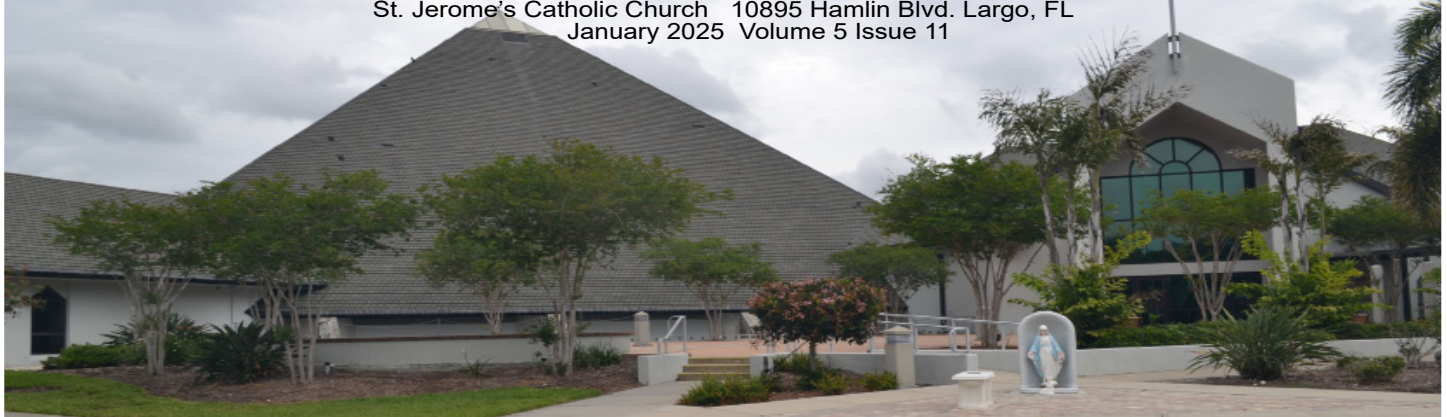


# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

*Divine Mercy of Jesus* Council 17249

St. Jerome's Catholic Church 10895 Hamlin Blvd. Largo, FL  
January 2025 Volume 5 Issue 11



## Welcome to 2025!

It's almost 2025. The old is gone and the new has come! After the rollercoaster ride of 2024, you may be more than ready to move into a new year. New opportunities, a fresh start - the new year shines before us like freshly fallen snow with no tracks on it. Here are some Christian New Year's resolutions to help you set goals and establish a spiritual tone of the new year for yourself and your family.

### 1. Set Goals For The New Year

The new year is one of our favorite times of the year. It's a chance to bring all our hopes, dreams and challenges before the Lord and seek His guidance and input. But doing so doesn't do any good unless we give Him the chance to respond and guide us in the right direction in order to fulfill His will. That's why we must not only set aside a quiet time to come before God with your Bible, a notebook and pen - we must also take the time to listen.

Setting goals for the new year, as Christians, means setting them with God, not just for His name's sake. Ask God what He wants you to focus on in this new year. Is this the year to start working on your master's degree? Launch that new business venture you've been dreaming about? Consider a new school for your kids? Let God guide you as you make plans and set goals for the new year.

Inviting God into our new year resolutions shows Him that we are willing and ready to be His disciples, being guided by His Spirit. Ask God to help your eyes, ears and heart to be open this new year in order to hear His word and feel Him moving you in a certain direction.

### 2. Find A Bible Reading Plan

Now that you've set goals for the new year, you're going to need God's wisdom, strength and courage to see it through! If you've been struggling to read your Bible, the new year offers a chance to reset and find a Bible reading plan that works with your lifestyle and give you some spiritual discipline. Choose an online Bible app or download an audio Bible you can listen to in the car as you take the kids to school, on the way to work, while on a walk on the treadmill or as you make supper.

God's word is there for us not only to read His story but to strengthen us and give us hope and courage throughout the days of our lives. Reading the Bible daily is a good practice to make sure you always keep God's will and grace in the forefront of your mind. God's wisdom will bear good fruit in your life all year long.

### 3. Do Healthy Things

You probably knew this one was coming! Most of us could eat healthier, but instead of feeling like you need to diet or exercise more, consider

(Concluded on page 3)



#### FROM AROUND THE WORLD OF INTEREST TO CATHOLICS

How to accompany cancer patients

Historic Chair of St. Peter on public display in Vatican basilica for first time in 150 years

Notre Dame bells ring for the first time since devastating fire 5 years ago

Catholics in England and Wales encouraged to defeat assisted suicide bill

Catholic group urges Biden to commute federal death sentences before Trump takes office

Mexican bishops mobilize against legalization of abortion in Mexico City

Archdiocese of New Orleans will release personnel files of clergy accused of sex abuse

Priest avoids jail after stealing money from own church's donation pot

## FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Pete McCabe

Happy New Year! The year is changing from 2024 to 2025 and at this time of the year we always have a chance for renewal. We can shed those things in the previous year we want to put behind us and look forward to changes that will make this current year even better.

In the Knights of Columbus, the fraternal year runs from July to June. That means we are halfway through our fraternal year. This is also an excellent time for review, refresh, and renewal.

Two major hurricanes disrupted many of our planned programs so we need to start this next year with even greater fervor to help others. For example, early in the year on January 4th, we'll conduct our usual Grotto cleanup but also help St. Jerome's Early

Childhood Center with some of their projects. This would be a great time to get involved and help our own at St. Jerome's.

As you may know, Pope Francis has declared 2025 as a Jubilee Year of Hope that started on Christmas Eve at the Vatican with the opening of the Holy Door of Mercy. To help celebrate, St. Jerome is conducting local pilgrimages around Pinellas County. The first one (sponsored by our Knights of Columbus Council) is scheduled for January 12th. On that day we'll visit St. Therese Byzantine Catholic Church in St. Petersburg. This is the church Fr. Mike (our chaplain) supports on Sundays. It would be great to have a good showing of Knights in blue shirts that day. Whether it is these previously mentioned events or others such as bingo, breadfasts, attending monthly meetings, etc. I encourage all of you to get involved in the council some small way. Thanks for all you do!

Here is the January list of events (so far):

Wednesday, Jan 1 - Bingo setup, 4 pm, PC  
Thursday, Jan 2- Bingo, 11 am, PC  
Saturday, Jan 4 - Grotto Cleanup and ECC Chores, 8 am  
Saturday, Jan 4 - Pilgrimage Opening Dinner, 5 pm, PC  
Tuesday, Jan 7 - Nativity Scene take down, 10 am, church  
Wednesday, Jan 8- Officers' meeting, 7 pm, PC  
Thursday, Jan 9- Bingo, 11 am, PC  
Sunday, Jan 12- Pilgrimage to St Therese Byzantine, after 12:30 Mass  
Wednesday, Jan 15- General meeting, 7 pm, PC  
Thursday, Jan 16- Bingo, 11 am, PC  
Sunday, Jan 19- Breakfast, 6 am-1 pm, PC  
Wednesday, Jan 22- Bingo setup, 4 pm, PC  
Thursday, Jan 23- Bingo, 11 am, PC  
Wednesday, Jan 29- Bingo setup, 4 pm, PC  
Thursday, Jan 30- Bingo, 11 am, PC

*Editor's Note: Fr. Mike, the Council's Chaplain, has told me that he will no longer be able to write the Chaplain's Column because of future commitments. I will find articles of interest to replace his comments. --Jim Hand*

You probably know the Dominus vobiscum from its common response: "And with your spirit."

It's usage in the liturgy most likely goes back to the earliest Apostolic days of the Church.

But where did this ancient greeting and blessing that is so ubiquitous in the Church today actually come from?

It's taken from just two verses in the Latin translation of the Bible, the Vulgate: "Soon, along came Boaz from Bethlehem and said to the harvesters, 'The Lord be with you,' and they replied, 'The Lord bless you.'" - Ruth 2:4

"The Lord is with you when you are with him, and if you seek him he will be found; but if you abandon him, he will abandon you." - 2 Chronicles 15:2

The phrase also appears twice elsewhere, but used in a different context.

"Do not go up, because the Lord is not in your midst; do not allow yourself to be struck down by your enemies." - Numbers 14:42

"Saul answered David, 'Go! the Lord will be with you.'" - 1 Samuel 17:37

Usually, the Dominus vobiscum is said by at least a deacon. Its response is also usually "and with your spirit," but in the Eastern Catholic Churches is replied with the Sign of the Cross too.

The Knights of Columbus Council 17249.....January 2025.....page 2

**LAUGHTER**  
~ is the best ~  
**MEDICINE**

Why do you need a driver license to buy liquor, but you can't drink and drive?

Why do they put Braille on the drive-up window of the ATM?

Why do we drive on parkways and park on driveways?

Why is it that when you transfer something by car it's called a shipment, but when you transfer something by ship, it's called cargo?

Why can't they make an airplane out of the same material they make that little black box?

How does the guy who drives the snowplow get to work in the morning?

Brain cells die, skin cells die, Even hair cells die, but fat cells must have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior because they seem to have eternal life.

Where there's a will, I want to be in it.

I still miss my ex, but my aim is getting better

Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.

To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.

A clear conscience is a sign of a bad memory.

Don't be mad at lazy people. They didn't do anything.



## Welcome to 2025!

### (Concluded from page 1)

making an exchange. A burger on the grill instead of fast food. A walk around the block to re-energize instead of another cup of coffee.

Look for things that are not only better for you physically but mentally and spiritually as well. Perhaps that's spending less time on social media in order to make more time to read your Bible, pray or journal. That doesn't mean you have to cut social media out entirely - just exchange half an hour of the time you usually spending scrolling for some quiet time with the Lord.

#### 4. Listen More

We mentioned taking time to listen more to God, but what about our family, friends and community God gave us for our journey? It's also important to take the time to listen better to your spouse or your kids or your friend who's been texting you that you know you need to get back to. We're also here to be like Jesus to others, and Jesus is the best listener of all.

When you're with your loved ones stop what you're doing and really listen to their heart. Get down on your child's level and look into their eyes as they speak. Sit down with your family for a meal instead of setting it before the kids while you wash dishes. Make eye contact. Relax. Listen. Stay present when you're with others and see just how much stronger it makes your relationships.

## Mercedes-Benz Gifts Pope Francis Electric Popemobile



closely with Vatican representatives. The vehicle features several custom elements, including a rotating seat, hand-crafted interior furnishings, and all-wheel drive designed for the low speeds typically

Mercedes-Benz has been providing popemobiles for nearly 100 years. The first one was given to Pope Pius XI in 1930.

The new popemobile, gifted on the occasion of the 2025 Jubilee Year, is set to make its debut at papal events during Jubilee of Hope celebrations.

The design and development of the new popemobile took almost a year, with a team of specialists from various Mercedes locations collaborating

cally seen during public audiences in St. Peter's Square.

Despite its modern enhancements, the new popemobile maintains traditional elements, including its white color and the iconic license plate "SCV 1" (State of Vatican City).

Pope Francis' current popemobile is gasoline-powered, but the new model aligns with the Vatican's goal to transition all vehicles to zero emissions by 2030.

## UNITED AIRLINES FIRES CATHOLIC EMPLOYEE WHO CRITICIZED 'PRIDE'

United Airlines fired Catholic flight attendant Ruben Sanchez after he criticized the LGBTQ movement during a flight. CatholicVote Vice President Joshua Mercer stated: "It appears that a Catholic flight attendant was fired for simply sharing his Catholic faith."

## OUR LADY AND JESUS WERE ON THE USPS 2024 CHRISTMAS STAMP

A student of the Catholic Marian University in Indianapolis helped restore a 17th-century painting of Mary and the Child Jesus that the United States Postal Service (USPS) selected as the image for its 2024 Christmas stamp. "The stamp was seen around the world," said Marian senior Allie Miller. "It feels like you're going to inherently have a connection with her."

## TEXAS BRINGS BIBLE BACK TO SCHOOL IN NEW CURRICULUM

The Texas State Board of Education approved a new curriculum for schools that includes biblical references in art, history, and English classes. The new curriculum, approved in an 8-7 vote, is optional. However, schools are financially incentivized to adopt it.

## NOTICE

Brothers,  
Since the first Wednesday in January falls on New Years Day, I am moving the Officers' meeting to January 8th and the General meeting to January 15th  
Pete McCabe GK

Without dreams,  
we reach nothing.  
Without love,  
we feel nothing,  
and without God,  
we are nothing.

## Can Non-Catholics Go to Heaven? This Is What the Catechism Says



According to the Catechism, the Church teaches that salvation comes through Christ and His Church. However, salvation is possible for

non-Catholics under certain conditions.

"Those who, through no fault of their own, do not know the Gospel of Christ

or His Church, but who nevertheless seek God with a sincere heart and moved by grace, try in their actions to do His will as they know it through the dictates of their conscience—those too may achieve salvation.

Knowingly turning away from Christ and His Church is different from those who have never had the opportunity to know Him. Sincere seekers of God may attain salvation, even if they are not part of the Church. This comes from the concept of 'invincible ignorance' of Christ.

Even though God can save whomever He wants, the Church still has the command and the right to evangelize

all people because this is the truth—this is the Church founded on Peter. While God's mercy is boundless, it doesn't diminish the Church's obligation to guide others toward salvation through the Sacraments.

The Church also teaches that evangelization plays a part in salvation. The direction of the Church to those outside of it should be to bring them into it—it shouldn't be to tell them they're okay where they are.

Sharing the faith lovingly and truthfully is the best way to lead others toward Christ.

Understanding these teachings will help Catholics better share our faith.

## 3 Hidden Catholic Practices You Didn't Know Existed

### 1) Secret Symbols and Rituals

Throughout history, Catholics had to be resourceful to stay safe while practicing the faith. Early Christians used the symbol of the fish to discreetly identify one another.

By simply drawing an arc in the sand, believers could confirm their faith. A Christian would come along and say something like, "What's going on?" And just with their foot scratch a little arc in the ground...if the other person completed it and made a fish, you knew that they were a Christian."

### 2) Creative Ways for Celebrating Mass

In times of severe persecution, priests often had to resort to clever tactics to bring the sacraments to the faithful. Blessed Faas the Miguel Pro during the Cristero War in Mexico donned various disguises, like a mechanic or even a clown, to secretly celebrate Mass.

He was doing all this so that he could secretly minister to Catholics.

### 3) Modern-Day Underground Worship

Even today, there are places where Catholics must worship in secret. In countries like Saudi Arabia, where religious practice outside of Islam is forbidden, over a million hidden Catholics continue to celebrate Mass in private homes. There are houses identified and it is determined who goes to what house. Each mass is usually attended by 80 people.

### What Did You Do with Your Day?

Did you make someone happy or someone sad?  
What have you done with your day today?

God gave it to you to do as you would.  
Did you do what was wicked or what was good?

Did you lighten the load, or some progress impede?  
Did you look for a rose or just gather a weed?

Did you hand out a smile, or just give someone a frown?  
Did you lift someone up or push someone down?

What did you do with your beautiful day?  
God gave it to you. Did you throw it away?

### Words of Wisdom

Every strike brings me closer to a home run.

We cannot solve problems with the kind of thinking we employed when we came up with them.

Learn as if you will live forever, live like you will die tomorrow.

When you give joy to other people, you get more joy in return

Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts.

It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation.

Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it.

Brothers,  
Please see the attached flyer about an upcoming pilgrimage to St. Therese Byzantine Church on January 12. This is the church our chaplain, Fr. Mike, assists on Sundays. This should be a great opportunity to understand the difference between the Roman and Byzantine rites.  
Please RSVP. I hope you can make it.  
Thanks.  
Pete



## **JUBILEE 2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE PILGRIMAGE**

**With support of the Knights of Columbus**

**Sunday, January 12, 2025**

**All are welcome**

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

12:30 PM    Mass at **St. Jerome Catholic Church** 10895 Hamlin Blvd, Largo to begin the pilgrimage

1:40 PM    Depart for **St. Therese Byzantine Catholic Church**  
4265 13th Ave. N., St. Petersburg

2:20 PM    Brief tour of the parish to learn the history, begin prayer devotions and cantoring

A free will offering will be taken up in thanksgiving for St. Therese Byzantine for their hospitality in making the church available for our pilgrimage.

3:35 PM    Depart for **Portillo's** 2302 Tyrone Blvd N, St. Petersburg for a fellowship dinner. You will pay for your own meal.

Please email **StJeromePilgrimages@gmail.com** or call **727-595-4610** for dinner reservations by Friday, January 10, 2025.

We can accommodate 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.



# BITS AND PIECES

Millions of tons of coal ash left over from burning the planet's dirtiest fossil fuel are sitting in ponds and landfills, able to leach into waterways and pollute soil. But this toxic waste may also be a treasure trove of the rare earth elements needed to propel the world toward clean energy.



IF EVERYONE SIMPLY DID HIS CHRISTIAN DUTIES, WE WOULD NOT HAVE SO MUCH HATE AND MISTERY IN THE WORLD.  
Blessed Karl of Austria

Those who judge you  
won't ever under-  
stand,  
  
and those who do under-  
stand,  
won't ever judge  
you.

## Council 17249 Participates in Our Lady of Guadalupe Festival

For the Our Lady of Guadalupe Festival, St. Jerome celebrated Our Blessed Mother with a Rosary Procession around the Parish. Four Knights (Joe Zwissler, Rick Hendrickson, Dave Unkrich, and Pete Nunes) carried the statue of Mary during the procession. After the procession, there was a Mass with a Mariachi band followed by a celebration in the Parish Center. That meal was assisted by other Knights (Pete McCabe, Bill Bannon, and Tim Kunish) working in the kitchen. The festival consisted of Mexican dancers as well as Mexican music and food.



Rick Hendrickson, Pete Nunes, Joe Zwissler, and Dave Unkrich

## Uses of Holy Water Every Catholic Should Know

Have you ever wondered why Holy Water is considered holy? You probably haven't. Holy water is something that we often take for granted.

As a sacramental, holy water plays a huge role in several Catholic rites. It signifies repentance, rebirth, commitment, and devotion among other things. By virtue of Christ's baptism, that water has become an instrument of God's grace.

Remember that the priest is God's representative. Therefore, the blessing rite he said over the water is made on behalf of God. In short, God's blessing flows through that water making it holy.

sign of the cross before entering the church, the priest also bless mass goers before and after the mass.

### Blessing the Sick

First of all, blessing the sick is different from the sacrament of anointing the sick. The latter is given to those who are at death's door and uses a holy oil. When you bless the sick with holy water, it simply means that you are invoking God's healing presence.

### Cleansing of Sins

The holy water is a powerful symbol of repentance. When you dip your fingers into the holy water basin and use it to make the sign of the cross, it's not just an empty gesture. It symbolizes our desire for God's forgiveness and cleanse ourselves of sin. The holy water used in baptism is also meant to cleanse us of the original sin that we are all born with.

Aside from yourself, you can also sprinkle some holy water on your family members every day. You can do it in the morning before they head down to work/school or before they go to bed at night. It not only gives them spiritual protection but also strengthens your faith as a family.

### Common Uses of Holy Water

#### Baptism

During baptism, the priest pours holy water over the person's forehead. This signifies not just their acceptance of Jesus as their savior. It also confers the promises of baptism which includes renouncing Satan and disdaining sin.

#### Blessing Mass Goers

This is, perhaps, one use of holy water that all Catholics are familiar with. Aside from using it to make the

## Meet the Pro-Life Prisoners Whom Trump Is Expected to Pardon



Left to Right: John Hinshaw, Jonathan Darnel, Lauren Handy, Joan Bell, and Jean Marshall

More than a dozen pro-life activists are still in prison or awaiting sentences on federal charges brought by President Joe Biden's Department of Justice (DOJ) for protests at abortion clinics — but President-elect Donald Trump has signaled he will likely grant them presidential pardons.

Under the current administration, the DOJ increased its prosecution

of pro-life activists under the 1994 Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act. The legislation was designed to increase penalties for people who obstruct access to abortion clinics or pregnancy centers.

During Biden's tenure as president, the DOJ has brought FACE Act charges against more than 30 people who took part in pro-life protests at abortion clinics. Most of the charges

were linked to four demonstrations: in Nashville, Tennessee; Mount Juliet, Tennessee; Washington, D.C.; and Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Some protesters were spared prison sentences, but several have been sentenced to at least two years in federal prison, with the longest being four years and nine months. Several of those who are imprisoned are senior citizens, and many are Catholic.

## What Is Palliative Care?

Palliative medicine is not focused on a patient's dying. It is focused on a patient living—living the best they can despite a serious illness.

Years ago many medical students had not even heard of palliative care. They went to medical school, to be able to understand the human body's function, diagnose when it dysfunctions, and work to treat and correct it if needed to return to health.

Sooner or later, they will discover these issues. They may not be immediately fatal, but they will substantially affect how people live with them. The field of palliative medicine, which is a medical subspecialty focused on the care of people with serious or chronic (often incurable) medical problems. Think of issues like congestive heart failure, strokes, dementia, kidney failure, lung problems, and many cancers. With the way



healthcare technology has evolved, many people find themselves living for years with medical issues.

One common misunderstanding is that palliative medicine is the same as hospice care. This is not true. One should think of palliative care as a big umbrella of care and that hospice is a subset within it. Hospice is a type of palliative care, but not all palliative care is hospice care.

Palliative medicine is not focused on a patient's dying. It is focused on a patient living, living the best they can despite a serious illness. It works to understand a patient's goals and values and guide toward medical care that is aligned with that. Studies show that for patients dealing with a lot of medical problems, the

support of a palliative care team can help them live longer and spend more time out of the hospital.

Having a palliative care team in your corner as you journey through a serious illness takes nothing away from your care. It only adds support and help from professionals trained in helping manage issues common to what you may be experiencing.

By Dr. Natalie King



## French News Channel Fined 100,000 Euros for Listing Abortion as Leading Cause of Death



A French news channel was fined 100,000 euros for listing abortion as the leading cause of death worldwide. The French Media Regulatory Authority (ARCOM) charged the conservative channel CNews Nov. 13 for an episode that aired Feb. 25.

ARCOM accused the channel of failing in its obligation of honesty and rigor in the presentation and handling of information.

The infographic presenting abortion as a leading cause of death showed that in 2022, 73 million babies were killed by abortion, accounting for 52% of deaths. The infographic compared the number to cancer deaths, numbering at 10 million, and tobacco-related deaths, numbering at 6.2 million. The numbers were based on data from the World Health Organization. Jean-Marie Le Méné, head of a research foundation dedicated to caring for those with disabilities, re-

sponded to the ruling in an editorial in the French magazine *Valeurs Actuelles*.

Le Méné argued that ARCOM ruled that abortion cannot be reported as a leading cause of death because that would indicate that abortion is murder.

"In order for abortion to be practiced with a clear conscience, it is forbidden to say that abortion takes life," Le Méné said. "Otherwise the keystone of the system collapses. But who believes this fiction? Abortion, the leading cause of death in the world, is unfortunately a fact, not an opinion."

## Why Does a Priest Mix Water and Wine During the Eucharist?

In the Catholic sacrament of the Eucharist, the mixed chalice is the mixture of blessed water and blessed wine.

In preparing the sacrament, the priest blesses the water to represent the divine grace of God bestowed during baptism with water. The holy water is then mixed with red wine, which symbolises the blood of Christ, so as to represent the uniting of man-seeking-God (Baptism) and God-reaching-out-to-man (the Pas-

sion). In the same way, the Mass is a communion with the whole Christ: Jesus's Incarnation, ministry, Passion and Resurrection. The mixed chalice also represents the hypostatic union, God incarnate, that subsists in the Trinitarian view of Christ.



## Healing of Soldier at Lourdes Declared Miraculous

The healing of a British World War I soldier at the Marian shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France has been proclaimed as the 71st miracle attributed to the pilgrimage site. Archbishop Malcolm McMahon of Liverpool in England declared the miraculous healing of John Traynor, a soldier of the British Royal Navy at the feast of the Immaculate Conception and the 81st anniversary of his death. The Church has not recognized a miraculous event at Lourdes since 2018.

Investigations uncovered numerous files in the archives at Lourdes that included the testimonies of the three doctors who examined Traynor

before and after his cure, along with other supporting evidence.

The investigation concluded during a canonical commission that based on the evidence assembled by Moriarty, Traynor's healing was indeed miraculous.

"Given the weight of medical evidence, the testimony to the faith of John Traynor and his devo-



John Traynor

tion to Our Blessed Lady, it is with great joy that I declare that the cure of John Traynor, from multiple serious medical conditions, is to be recognized as a miracle wrought by the power of God through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes," an archbishop stated.



## Council Christmas Party Great Success

The Council and the Columbiettes held their annual Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 11th, in the Parish Center. Over 100 people bought tickets for this festive occasion. Our special guests were Fr. Blum, Fr. Mike, Sr. Lucia, Chris Biegel, and Annemarie Barkman. The food, from Belleair Market, was delicious and there was plenty of it. The dessert table was overflowing with tasty treats. The music was provided by Happy Days, a two person band, who sounded great. So many in attendance insisted that we book them again next year! The evening began with our greeting card mixer and three teams won prizes while everyone had fun trying to find their match. The raffles throughout the night kept everyone wondering how many waffle makers we were giving away. The 50/50 was a big hit with a prize of \$147. Needless to say, the evening was a big success. A huge thanks to all the volunteers who made this event possible.  
Pete McCabe, GK





## Mystery Hero Decapitates Satanic Statue Holiday Display Outside New Hampshire Statehouse



An unidentified hero destroyed a statue of Baphomet—the symbol of the Church of Satan—set up as a holiday display outside of the Statehouse in Concord, New Hampshire. The Satanic Temple, which is based in Salem, Massachusetts, placed the statue near a Nativity scene outside the Statehouse. The officials allowed the display to avoid litigation. The statue of the goat-headed occult symbol included yellow eyes, upside-down crosses, and a display of

the Satanic Temple's tenets. The statue was found nearly completely destroyed. Only the legs were left standing. The head had been removed, and everything else was left scattered across the ground. Police are investigating who destroyed the statue, but they are not treating the act as a high crime. The Satanic Temple was founded in 2013 and is an atheistic organization. State Rep. Ellen Read, D-Newmarket, had requested that the Satanic Tem-

ple display its statue near the Nativity scene to symbolize our pluralistic society.

Read said that she is a long-time supporter of the Satanic Temple's belief and work. While Read is not officially involved with the Satanic Temple, she signed up as a member online, and she was present at the unveiling of the idol.

"There was nothing inherently offensive about the display. There were accusations that it meant to denigrate Christians," Read stated, "but there was nothing about it that was denigrating Christians. If you don't want to allow it for all religions, then you don't have to allow religious displays."

Concord Mayor Byron Champlin criticized the display, and he said at a meeting, after the statue was destroyed, that he would have preferred to oppose the Satanic Temple's permit.

"I oppose the permit because I believe the request was made not in the interest of promoting religious equity but in order to drive an anti-religious political agenda and because I don't respond well to legal extortion, threat of litigation," Champlin stated.

## The Satanic Temple Reappears with Statue of Baphomet



The Satanic Temple has set up another goat-headed, yellow-eyed statue of the idol Baphomet outside of New Hampshire's Statehouse a week after the initial idol was destroyed.

A group of local artists who wish to remain anonymous rebuilt the idol. The group said, "Violence and vandalism are not valid responses to something you don't fully understand. This is the Live Free or Die State."

Previously a person who has not been identified beheaded and toppled the statue Dec. 9. It was on display near a Nativity at the Statehouse.

New Hampshire State Rep. Ellen Read stated that she received death threats over email for promoting the statue. She said she was also called a "Satan worshipper" who will "burn for an eternity in hell."

Read, though not "officially involved" with the Satanic Temple, signed up online to be a member and was present at the idol's unveiling. She

argued that the Temple and Christianity share values, like helping the disadvantaged.

Concord Mayor Byron Champlin opposed the display and criticized the City Council for approving it, stating that it is a political organization, not a religious one, since it advocates for secularism.

"This is about an out-of-state group cynically promoting its national agenda at the expense of the Concord community," he said.

Read stated that the display was not "inherently offensive."

"There were accusations that it meant to denigrate Christians, but there was nothing about it that was denigrating Christians," she said. "If you don't want to allow it for all religions, then you don't have to allow religious displays."

The Satanic Temple is based in Salem, Massachusetts, and describes itself as a non-theistic organization.



## Faithful Parishioners Sue over Destruction of Consecrated Host in an Investigation of a Possible Eucharistic Miracle

The investigation began after a particle of the Eucharist was found in a pew on at St. Mary of the Assumption parish in Savarna, Italy. The sacristan placed it in the ablution cup or "lavabo" bowl, which the priest uses to cleanse his hands before consecration.

In a few days the particle turned red, and the parish priest, Fr. Nicolò Giosuè, decided to keep it at a local convent. After the specimen did not decay, Fr. Giosuè took it to a laboratory. Dr. Cristina Antonini tested the sample and discovered traces of blood. After the doctor stabilized the host, she found traces of granulocytes, red blood cells and white blood cells in a condition considered exceptional.

Dr. Antonini also found that the consecrated host showed no signs of degeneration.

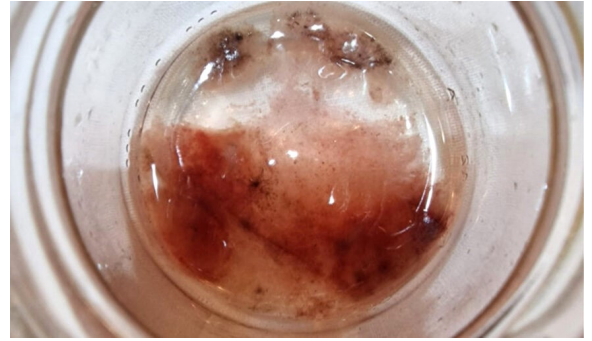
After these tests, Bishop Lorenzo Ghizzoni sent the sample that Dr. Antonini had stabilized and the rest of the host to the Pievesestina labo-

ratory, where it was tested by the local health authority.

The tests found no presence of blood, which the lab communicated to the Bishop. Subsequently the samples were destroyed.

As a result, faithful members of the Assumption parish in Savarna, Italy, are suing through lawyer Francesco Minutillo for "insulting the Catholic religion by denigrating or damaging sacred objects." If the destruction of the artefacts had indeed taken place without adequate documentation or supervision, this could indicate a violation of the transparency and traceability protocols expected in a case of such importance.

"We will not stop until we know what happened to the biological samples of the Eucharist," lawyer Minutillo continued. "We have demanded that any remaining residue be confiscated im-



mediately."

"Strictly speaking, according to legal logic, these are objects of worship (the Real Presence of Jesus Christ, because they come from a consecrated host that was carelessly dropped after communion.), central symbols of the Catholic faith, which as such must be treated with respect and certainly not as material to be disposed of without transparency and respect."

The story is ongoing.

## The Wages of Sin

After years of bankruptcy litigation, a diocese has just agreed to a record \$330 million payout to victims of sexual abuse by clergy. The Archdiocese of Los Angeles made even that hefty sum look small with an \$880 million settlement. In these and many other cases, all of the diocese's parishes will be forced to contribute to the debt, which means parishioners will be paying for the sins of their priests.

Many Catholics are as angry as our Lord was when He chased the money changers from the temple. Why should the innocent pay to cover the sins of the guilty? This conundrum reformulates an old question that cries out with the blood of Abel and continues until today: Why does a good God allow the innocent to suffer?

Sin destroys the innocent far more rapidly than the sinner. The drunk driver kills an ordinary pedestrian. The philanderer tears out his wife's heart. The sexual abuser shatters his victim physically and emotionally.

The effects of sins ripple outward; they impact family, friends, and parishioners - and even people many degrees removed from the sinner.

But there is a compelling reason not to turn away from God. He may not be forthcoming with straightforward replies, but He is not a hypocrite. He personally entered our messy human life and suffered unjustly as our sins put Him on a Cross. "For our sake

[God] made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

We do not entirely understand what this means. By suffering without needing God touches us deeply. With that assurance, we can grow to trust Him, to believe that, somehow, His plan may work out because He, too, has suffered for the sins of the guilty.

The innocent suffer from the sins



The sacrificial lamb of God

of the guilty. But redemption comes through the innocent, when they open themselves to God and, rather than returning evil to the guilty, offer their sufferings for them. The Church in America, hemorrhaging members and bereft of vocations for years now, needs this moment of redemption. It's not time for the faithful to walk away. It's time to come forward and lead the charge for spiritual renewal.

## Pope Francis Prays That Pres. Biden Will Commute All Death Sentences before He Leaves Office in January



Pope Francis has prayed that President Joe Biden will commute or change all federal death penalty sentences before leaving office in January 2025.

The Pope offered his prayer during his Angelus address, asking listeners to join him in praying for the death row inmates. "Let us think of these brothers and sisters of ours and ask the Lord for the grace to save them from death," he said.

A group that advocates for the abolition of the death penalty in the U.S. has also called for Biden to commute the federal death penalty sentences. Should Biden heed the calls for pardon and decide to commute the federal death penalty sentences, the action would only affect a small portion of death row inmates across the U.S. Only 40 men are currently on federal death row, compared to the 2,213 death-row sentences in individual states as of July 1.



# 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  
Peter Nunes  
Joe Ghezzi  
Wayne Nuñez  
Joe Moore  
Rick Hendrickson  
Bill McClelland pgk  
Jim Patton  
Bill Bannon  
Jim Cullinan  
Peter Nunes  
Mike Keeser  
Pete Ganio  
Kevin Manning  
Bill McClelland pgk  
Tony Crevello  
Jim Hand