



THE ROUNDTABLE



MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. MATTHIAS OF SOMERSET COUNCIL #9925, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

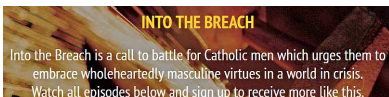
VOLUME 7, NUMBER 1, June 2020

ST. MATTHIAS COUNCIL IS STILL ACTIVE

COMING EVENTS

DATE	DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
No events are scheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic!				

INTO THE BREACH



Inspired by the Apostolic Exhortation for Catholic men written by Bishop Olmsted of Phoenix, the Knights of Columbus has produced a video series which seeks to answer the question of what it means to be a man and how to live as a man in today's world.

The Knights of Columbus, known for its legacy of charitable giving and service, launched a new resource to help men on their spiritual journeys.

In a 12-episode online video series titled *Into the Breach*, the Knights address many of the challenges mod-

ern men face, including fatherhood, marriage and leadership.

The series was inspired by Phoenix Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted's 2015 document, "Into the Breach: An Apostolic Exhortation to Catholic Men," which called men to be prepared for the spiritual battle for their souls and the souls of their families.

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson commented, "Catholic men and fathers shoulder a great responsibility. Our role in evangelization is indispensable, especially within our homes — building the domestic church."

He added, "Our families and our parishes need our faithful witness more than ever. As Catholic men and as Knights of Columbus, it is our duty to 'step into the breach' and play our

part in the renewal of our families and the Church."

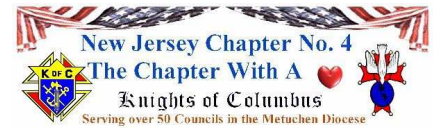
The series builds off the success of the K of C's "Everyday Heroes" series that focused on remarkable Knights whose courage, faith and commitment to charity show that heroism is attainable to the everyday man. The *Into the Breach* series contends that men are made for greatness and that the true expression of that greatness is to be heroically virtuous — to have a character marked by goodness and truth, strength and courage, in imitation of Christ.

Through *Into the Breach*, the Knights of Columbus is seeking to offer Catholic men tools and opportunities to grow in their faith, pursue Christ-like virtue, and become better Catholics, husbands and fathers. Contributing commentary to the series are Phoenix

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All videos and resources can be found at kofc.org/intothebreach.

CHAPTER 4



The organization known as the New Jersey Chapter No. 4 of the Knights of Columbus consists of the 62 councils of the Order within the Diocese of Metuchen.

The primary purpose of the Chapter is to promote the well being of the Order within the Chapter boundaries. The object of the Chapter is to consider all matters of Catholic interest, to adopt such measures that protects and promotes these interests, the general welfare of the councils comprising the Chapter

Since February, 2020 all Chapter 4 meetings have been conducted virtually.

MIRACLE APPROVED! FATHER MCGIVNEY TO BE BEATIFIED!

ROME – The Vatican today (May 27) announced that Pope Francis approved the promulgation of a decree recognizing a miracle attributed to the intercession of the founder of the Knights of Columbus, Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney, a Connecticut priest who served his flock during the pandemic of 1890, before himself becoming ill and dying of pneumonia.

The pope's action means that Father McGivney can be declared "Blessed," the step just prior to sainthood. An additional miracle attributed to Father McGivney's

Bishop Olmsted, prominent author and theologian Dr. Scott Hahn, prominent Catholic speaker Father Mike Schmitz, former NFL player Matt Birk, and FOCUS founder Curtis Martin.

The episodes include: "Masculinity," "Brotherhood," "Leadership," "Fatherhood," "Family," "Life," "Prayer," "Suffering," "Sacramental Life," "Spiritual Warfare," "Evangelization," and "The Cornerstone."

intercession will be required for his canonization as a saint.

McGivney is best known for founding the **Knights of Columbus** in 1882. Nearly a century before the Second Vatican Council, his prescient vision empowered the laity to serve Church and neighbor in a new way. Today, the **Knights of Columbus** is one of the largest Catholic organizations in the world with 2 million members in North and Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, and Europe.

The miracle recognized as coming through Father McGivney's intercession involved an unborn child in the United States who in 2015 was healed in utero of a life-threatening condition after prayers by his family to Father McGivney.

A date will soon be set for the beatification Mass, which will take place in Connecticut. It will include the reading of an apostolic letter from the Holy Father and the bestowing of the title "Blessed" on Father McGivney.

Earlier this year, in an address to the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors, Pope Francis said the organization has been faithful "to the vision of your founder, Venerable Michael McGivney, who was inspired by the principles of Christian charity and fraternity to assist those most in need."

"Father McGivney has inspired generations of Catholic men to roll up their sleeves and put their faith into action," Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson said. "He was decades ahead of his time in giving the laity an important role within the Church. Today, his spirit continues to shape the extraordinary charitable work of Knights as they continue to serve those on the margins of society as he served widows and orphans in the

1880s. Father McGivney also remains an important role model for parish priests around the world and left us a transformative legacy of effective cooperation between the laity and clergy.

Born of Irish immigrant parents in 1852 in Waterbury, Connecticut, Father McGivney was a central figure in the dramatic growth of the Church in the United States in the



late 19th century. Ordained in Baltimore in 1877, he ministered to a heavily Irish-American and immigrant community in the then-Diocese of Hartford. At a time of anti-Catholic sentiment, he worked tirelessly to keep his flock close to the faith in part by finding practical solutions to their many problems – spiritual and temporal alike. With a group of the leading Catholic men of New Haven, he founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882 at St. Mary's Church to provide spiritual support for Catholic men and financial resources for families that had suffered the loss of their breadwinner.

The fledgling group soon became a major force in the areas of evangelization, charity, racial integration, and the defense of religious freedom.

Father McGivney spent his entire priesthood in parish ministry and died of pneumonia on August 14, 1890—two days after his 38th birthday – after falling ill amid a pandemic. Recent scientific evidence indicates that pandemic – like the current one – may have been caused by a coronavirus.

Known by his contemporaries for his devotion to the faith and his embodiment of the characteristics of the "Good Samaritan," his cause for sainthood was opened in the Archdiocese of Hartford in 1997. St. John Paul II – who was pope at that time – lauded Father McGivney's principles, stating in 2003, "In fidelity to the vision of Father McGivney, may you continue to seek new ways of being a leaven of the Gospel in the world and a spiritual force for the renewal of the Church in holiness, unity and truth."

In March 2008, he was declared a Venerable Servant of God by Pope Benedict XVI, who during his visit to St. Patrick's Cathedral cited the "remarkable accomplishment of that exemplary American priest, the Venerable Michael McGivney, whose vision and zeal led to the establishment of the Knights of Columbus."

THE NEW EXEMPLIFICATION OF CHARITY, UNITY AND FRATERNITY (CUF) DEGREE



Degree ceremonies impart lessons that inspire men to serve. This new ceremony teaches our time-honored principles in a way that is appropriate for today. It presents the lessons of charity, unity and fraternity in powerful contemporary language. It will significantly enhance a man's first impression of the Order. It will do the same for his family and friends.

The most recent Supreme Convention adopted a resolution from Illinois to consider combining the current First, Second and Third degree ceremonies into one and

removing the condition of secrecy. Following the Supreme Convention's action, the Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson, directed an in-depth review of the ceremonials with an eye toward staying true to the Order's roots while at the same time presenting the principles of charity, unity and fraternity in a more clear and convincing way.

The result is a new ceremony that stays true to the Order's traditions while addressing the needs of our times. Instead of having separate ceremonies, all three degrees can now be conferred in a single ceremony.

The new exemplification focuses on the history and principles of our Order. It presents a fuller and richer understanding of who we are, what we stand for and what we are called to be. It hearkens back to the simple ceremonies of unity and charity first approved by Father McGivney.

**CONGRATULATIONS
BR. TOM AUSSEM**



Brother Tom Aussem was the first member of the Council to receive the honor of full knighthood through

the new online CUF exemplification described above.

**CATHOLICS WHO HAVE
SHAPED AMERICA**



When George Washington became the first American president, prominent Catholics, including Fr. John Carroll (future bishop of Baltimore) and his cousin Charles Carroll, signer of the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Senator, sent him a note of congratulations.

Washington, known for his friendships with Catholics and admiration for their Church, replied, "I presume that your fellow-citizens will not forget the patriotic part which you took in the accomplishment of their Revolution, and the establishment of their government; or the important assistance which they received from a nation in which the Roman Catholic faith is professed . . ."



In Memoriam

The following members or family members have passed away since the last publication of *The Roundtable*.

Br. William Oberlander
January 1, 2020

SK Martin Engelhardt
January 23, 2020

Anna (Sacetti) Graziosi
Wife of SK Giuseppe Graziosi
March 5, 2020

Br. Joseph Troisi
March 30, 2020

Elizabeth "Bess" Haefner
Mother of Rev. Doug Haefner
April 12, 2020

SK Edward Ratchilla Jr
April 16, 2020

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