

Knights of Columbus Council 1394

The Vanguard

235 Church Street St. Catharines ON L2R 3E8

Website: kofccouncil1394.org



Your Council 1394 Executive 2024 to 2025

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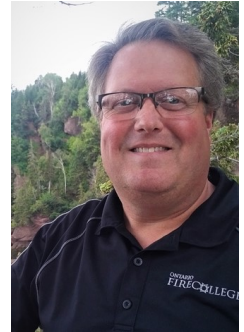
Dear Brothers and Sisters;

On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank Brothers Brian Whittaker and Geoff Haines for making this edition of the Vanguard possible.

The 2023-24 Term of Office has been quite busy:

- We mourned the lost of 6 Brothers: George Lopinski, Adolph Martin, Rev. Father Charles T. Moser, Alcide (Sid) Michaud,
- Stanley Jesik, and Gregg Sunstrum
- Our Council participated in the Coldest Night of the Year 5 Km. Walk, February 24, 2024, and hosted the following events:

- BBQ at Mount Carmel Retirement home, September 21, 2024
- Annual Christmas Dinner Party, January 6, 2024
- Sponsored Walk in our hall, February 25, 2024
- Pasta Dinner Saturday, April 20, 2024
- Installation of Executive Officers for the 2024-25 Term of Office, June 12, 2024



- We've made donations to: Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, St. Mary's Church, St. Vincent De Paul, Coats for Kids, to Community Care of St. Catharines and Thorold, Hotel Dieu Shaver Health and Rehabilitation Centre, The Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate, and presented High School Graduation Bursaries (6) and Culture of Life Awards (3), ... to name a few.

I wish to thank our past Executive for their contributions to the Council and welcome our incoming Executive for the 2024-25 term of office.

Vivat Jesus,



Photo Above- Council 1394 Chancellor Geoff Haines (right) and Advocate, Mike Carroll, present St. Mary's Church St. Vincent De Paul representatives Bannet Carroll (2nd from right) & Louise LiBrock with a cheque in the amount of \$1400.00, raised from the Council's Sponsored Walk in February.



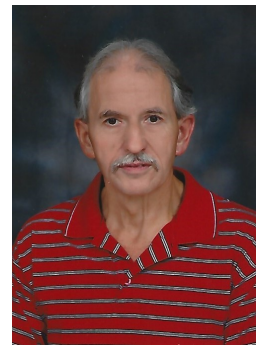
Photo Above: Grand Knight Carl Pearson (left), Financial Secretary Don Mikulinski (2nd from right) & Bingo Chairman Walter Cybulak, Present Coats For Kids to Betty-Lou Souter, (centre) CEO of Community Care of St. Catharines and Thorold. These coat donations are made possible with monies earned through our member's work at Delta Bingo in St. Catharines!

The Bingo Account is used to help many organizations. The biggest recipient is the Ozanam Centre which is part of the St. Vincent De Paul Society. They use our hall to feed the needy individuals on the street and those people who are hungry. The number of people that are helped at the Ozanam Centre continues to grow. The daily numbers have totalled as high as 185 during the month of June. Other funds were sent to Community Care, St. Alfred's Church, Food Bank and St. Mary's Church SVDP who also feed the hungry. The next large project was the program operated by Ontario State Knights of Columbus, Coats for Kids. The Bingo Account purchased 12 dozen coats of various sizes for children who are in Grades two to eight. Three boxes of coats were also shipped to the Ukraine for the needy children. The Bingo Account helped Niagara Health Centre, Hotel Dieu Shaver Rehab Centre and the Walker Cancer Centre, they were able to purchase equipment that was needed to help individuals that use their facilities. Each of the Churches that are in our area also received Donations to help their parishioners who needed assistance. The Churches are St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Julia's, Star of the Sea, and St. John's Ukrainian. Students at the 3 Catholic High Schools in St. Catharines received monetary awards at their recent Graduation Ceremonies. The high schools are; Denis Morris, Holy Cross and St. Francis. A male and a female student at each school receive a K of C Award. One student at each school also receives the Respect for Life Award. These monetary Awards are possible because of the Bingo Account. The Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate and the Sisters at Mount Carmel also were recipients of funds in the past. They need help to help other people. Another worthy group that we have supported is Loving Outreach, this organization was started by our Brother Walter Chemerika and his wife Lucienne. They have helped many individuals dealing with the loss of a loved one through suicide. This Group needs our help to keep doing their important good work. The Bingo Account makes it all possible.

Don Mikulinski Financial Secretary



Four Brothers from our Council hosted a free BBQ at Mount Carmel Retirement home in St. Catharines on Sept. 21st., for 62 residents including 2 priests & 6 nuns.



Please check out the link below for the Loving Outreach Website! Founded by our Brother Walter Chemerika and his wife Lucienne.

A support group that helps those who have lost someone through suicide!

www.lovingoutreach.org

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED...

- Shock
- Denial
- Relief
- Depression
- Anger
- Preoccupation
- and, hopefully, Acceptance

There are many variants and additional responses which the surviving victim may experience; some are the "bad" or "wrong". It is a violent, very personal loss which affects each survivor differently and, most likely, has the effect of causing a lasting change in the survivor's life.

Visit us online at:
WWW.LOVINGOUTREACH.ORG

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT:
Bethany Community Church
1388 Third Street
St. Catharines
Room #117

LOVING OUTREACH FOUNDERS:
Lucienne and Walt Chemerika
Nagasaki Organization

HOPE AWARD
Parkstone Health Foundation 2017

LOVING OUTREACH
A support group for people who are living with loss of a loved one through suicide.

WWW.LOVINGOUTREACH.ORG

Brother PGK Vivian Pereira

In December 2004, Brother Vivian joined the Knights of Columbus as part of Heartlake Council in Brampton , which is associated with the Church of St. Leonard . In 2005, He received his Second ,and Third Degree exemplifications. In June 2005 Vivian became a Fourth Degree Knight.As a Sir Knight he participated in 70 to 80 Honour Guards at funerals, some weddings and even a few Remembrance Day parades. These are all special to him. As a Third Degree Knight, Vivian has held various positions with Heartlake Council, such as; the Council's Recorder, and later a Trustee.

In February/March 2009, A few of the Heartlake Council members associated with Saint Anne's Church were asked by the Pastor, Father Damian Ali to form a new K of C Council #14749, under the Patroness of Saint Gianna , Beretta Mola in April. Nominations were held and in May, Vivian was elected Deputy Grand Knight. In 2010 he was elected Grand Knight of the Council. During his tenure as Grand Knight, Vivian oversaw the Council's receiving a bingo license which the Council still uses today. In 2010 , the Council Received the Columbus Award, which is given to Councils **who exhibit, through their programs and events, focus on Culture of Life, Youth, Family, the Council, service to the Community and the Church.**

In 2011 Vivian moved to Mississauga and transferred to St. Francis Xavier Council #12067. In 2012, he served the Council as Lecturer and a year later he was appointed by State Deputy Brother Kevin Daudlin, as District Warden for District #43.The following Year, then State Deputy Brother Allan Cayein, appointed Vivian, District Deputy for two years. In August 2019 Vivian moved to St. Catharines and transferred his membership to St. Catharines Council #1394. Following the COVID 19 outbreak, Vivian Volunteered to be the Recorder for the Council Executive. In May 2024 Vivian was elected Deputy Grand Knight and is looking forward to serving the Council to the best of his ability.

Chaplin's Reflection: Rev. Father Chad Grennan

From the end of July to the end of August of this liturgical year (B), the Gospel readings for the Sunday Masses are taken from St. John's Gospel, Chapter 6. This is the Chapter containing Our Lord's famous Eucharistic Discourse, where He tells His followers (and that includes us today): "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you." These words, unsurprisingly, were shocking to His hearers. They ask, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Many of his followers abandoned Him as a result. He asks His Apostles "Do you also wish to go away?" Peter gives a powerful reply: "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life."

Faith in the Real Presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Eucharist is at a low level even among practicing Catholics. Our Lord is emphatic that He is truly present in this Sacrament, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. We can ask ourselves in our nightly examination of conscience: do I believe that my Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the Holy Eucharist? If not, am I asking Him to increase my faith? Do I prepare well to receive Him at Mass? Do I recollect my thoughts, ask pardon for my sins, and thank Him for coming to me under the appearances of bread? Do I live the entirety of my life as a follower of Jesus, attending Sunday Mass, following His teachings, praying daily? Or do I think of Him only for an hour on Sunday at Mass? May we ask Our Blessed Mother, the Virgin Mary, to pray for us, that she obtain the graces we need to increase our faith in Christ and in His Real Presence in the Eucharist, and that we live our entire lives as an offering to Jesus Christ, united to Him at every moment.

My regards!

Chaplin Father Chad Grennan



June 2024 Installation of Executive officers

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I got thinking about the letters I've read out from Community Care expressing their gratitude for our donations of cash and Coats for Kids. I got thinking about all the wonderful volunteers they have to help the unfortunate, then I got maudlin, thinking back to the early years of my own volunteer history. When first arriving in St. Catharines and not knowing anyone other than at work, we first got to know friends from attending St Alfred Church. Then, Canadian Martyrs School, as my wife Bernadette signed up to assist the Kindergarten years and do Pizza days for the PTA.

That led to other church related activities like spending a weekend locked in Holy Cross High School with some troubled teens, and a great teen group of caring kids on a COR weekend. (Christ in Others Retreat). We were guest mum and dad and happily spent the weekend singing and chatting and helping the kids that were having a tough time. After a few years of this, we were approached to join Marriage Encounter weekends as a couple from a mixed faith marriage. It is tough to sit in front of younger engaged couples and tell your history and how we got the mixed faith issues resolved.

Around 2005, my work place, Ferranti-Packard, closed down, leaving 200 or so people looking for work. This time, the volunteering occurred in an Action Centre, where myself and a few others spent hours searching for suitable jobs, posting them on our bulletin board and calling people in to check the latest openings. It was very rewarding to help some of my former work associates find new positions.

At about this time, with little else going on, I decided to try volunteering at the Red Cross as a driver. It was so good to be busy, driving out into the gorgeous orchards of the region and taking seniors around Niagara to doctors appointments, visiting friends or just going to the hairdresser. These people who were shut in were grateful I could help them regain some independence and mobility again.

Once, I picked up an old British gentleman who wished to visit his wife in a home in N.O.T.L. We got to chatting and I found out he was a veteran of the RAF and had flown Hurricanes in the Battle of Britain. Well, that got me thinking and I took him to the Russell airfield at Sodom Road in Chippawa and we got to see Ed Russell's collection of a Spitfire, Hurricane and a German ME109 fighter. They were arranging an Airshow and needed volunteers so...I signed up and spent days driving in fence posts for the parking, cutting grass, painting booths, then, I was working in the parking lot, with great views of all the planes coming and going. Great fun. Then, Des Kennedy at St Thomas Aquinas Church asked me to become a Knight of Columbus! I signed on and then the volunteering really took off! Kitchen work for breakfasts, St Paddy's Dinner, BBQs, selling car tickets at the mall, Basketball free throw at Holy Cross, walking round the Hall for sponsorship, working at Delta Bingo. Always something to do.

And that's where you come in, my Brother Knights.

Nobody expects you to spend weekends locked in a High School, or drive fence posts at an airshow, or drive seniors around. But everyone can do something, as most of us are retired and have some amount of spare time. Our bingo volunteers are the biggest source of charitable income that our Council has coming in. We are in danger of losing some of this important source of funds, so I respectfully ask you to consider signing up for working some sessions, and we may be shorthanded. Just call Walt Cybulak or Don Mikulinski and ask to receive the very easy training required. Thank you, my Brother Knights.

In June, we had our K of C Installation of Officers for the next year, and we wound down our activities for the summer. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all of our Elected Council 1394 Officers for volunteering their time to serve our Council. I am looking forward to the September resumption of our activities.

Now I'm off to put in a shift at the Warehouse of Hope....yes, as a volunteer! Phew!

May God Bless you all
Geoff Haimes, Chancellor, Council 1394



In Memoriam

Vivat Jesus

Saint Mary's Church

New Haven

Connecticut



George Z. Lopinski Deceased May 15, 2024 worthy member for 47 years.

Adolph Martin Deceased April 14, 2024 worthy member for 54 years.

Reverend Father Charles T. Moser Deceased November 23, 2023 worthy member for 25 years.

Alcide (Sid) E. Michaud Deceased October 17, 2023 worthy member for 13 years.

Stanley A. Jesik Deceased August 11, 2023 worthy member for 56 years.

Gregg D. Sunstrum Deceased August 7, 2023 worthy member for 5 years.

Stephen A. Pluhar Deceased June 3, 2023 worthy member for 7 years.

William H. Grodesky Deceased February 24, 2023 worthy member for 38 years.

Pieter D. Buis Deceased May 20, 2022 worthy member for 57 years.

Frank B. Dombek, Deceased May 22, 2022 worthy member for 66 years.

Gordon C. White Deceased April 21, 2022 worthy member for 48 years.

Benjamin W. Doliszny, Deceased January 30, 2022 worthy member for 64 years.

Most Reverend, Bishop John A. O'Mara Deceased February 16, 2022 worthy member for 45 years.

Feature story of a Worthy Knight of Columbus

Desmond “Des” Kennedy

On September 1st 1942, towards the end of WWII, Des was born to Parents Jack and Peg Kennedy, the second youngest of 6 siblings in the City of Lurgan, Northern Ireland. By the age of 13 he was already working as a part-time helper on a bread truck. Thus, started Des's unquestionable work ethic that would enrich his whole life! It was also at this time when he met future girlfriend and wife, Isobel McGeown who lived just down the street. At age 21 Des operated a mobile shop in a van that complimented his parent's store in Lurgan. He was responsible for ordering and buying all merchandise for the van and shop. On the 10th of July 1965 Des and Isobel were married in St. Peter's Church. In April 1966 they welcomed their first child Paul. In 1968 Des & Isobel welcomed their second child Lorraine. Des went to work at the Good-year Tire & Rubber Company in Lurgan where he later rose to the position of Plant Superintendent until the plant's closing in the 1970's. Their Second son Des Jr. was born December 1970. After Des worked at various jobs locally, Des & Isobel applied for emigration to Canada. On July 1st, 1979 the Kennedy Clan arrived in Canada and settled down in Mer-ritton in St. Catharines Ontario. After commuting to Toronto to work for four weeks, Des began a new career in Niagara Falls at Ferree Leather Products, a manufacturer of many things leather, such as purses wallets belts etc. In 1986, Des's good friend, Doug Luey Invited Des to join Knights of Columbus Council 1394 in St. Catharines and later on, Des became a Fourth Degree Knight. As we all know, this started Des on a new life of volunteerism with the Council where, over the years he has chaired numerous initiatives such as; the Centennial Committee for our Council and various other endeavours; like Turkey Roll Fundraisers, Breakfasts, Card Nights, Ticket Sales at malls, organizing the annual St. Patrick's Day Dinners and various BBQs. Over the years, Des has been an invaluable member to our Council. Unfortunately, many health issues, such as battling prostate cancer and mobility issues have slowed Des down. The love of his family and his friends keeps him going. He wishes he could be more involved in Council affairs, but recently, he has been unable to live on his own at home. Des now resides at Garden City Manor Long Term Care Residence on Scott Street in St. Catharines just down the hall from his wife Isobel who has Parkinson's disease. Des and Isobel are proud great grandparents and will celebrate 60 years of marriage on July 10th 2025. May God Bless the Kennedys and grant them healing in the years to come.

The Editor



Feature story of a Worthy Knight of Columbus

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PGK Michael K. Carroll

On December 21st, 1951, the first born child of Kevin & Edna Carroll, Michael, was born in Cornerbrook, Newfoundland. Mike would become the older sibling to 6 brothers and 2 sisters. In a chance meeting, Mike met Bannet Butt in 1972, whom he married on July 14th 1973 After finishing high school. In 1974, Mike's good friend Charles Gregory, invited him to join the Knights of Columbus Council in Cornerbrook. Mike was one of about one hundred other men who took their first, second and third degree exemplifications at the same time altogether there. Not long after, Mike & Bannet left for Kitchener Ontario where Mike would work as a welder at Budds' Automotive Canada for Six months until that contract ended and he was laid off. Not one to sit around and wait for a job to come to him, Mike enrolled at Conestoga College in Kitchener in the appliance repair training course. Upon completion of his training, Mike was placed at Inglis Home Appliances in Stoney Creek. It was at this time (1976), that Mike moved to St. Catharines to make the commute to work easier. In 1977 Mike & Bannet welcomed their first daughter, Madonna Marie. After two years at Inglis, Mike moved on to Sears as an appliance repair technician where he remained for 33 years until his retirement In 2011. During this time, the Carroll's welcomed their second daughter Cassie Anne in 1979. In the 1980's, Mike became a Fourth Degree member of Monsignor Morris Assembly #0864, and in 1991 until 1993 was Faithful Navigator of the Assembly.

Mike is a Charter Member of St. Mary of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church in west end St. Catharines. Mike has always been a very active member of Knights of Columbus Council 1394. He was Grand Knight from 2008 to 2010. He was on the Centennial Committee and has been involved with; St. Patrick's Day Dinners, Sunday Breakfasts, an organizer of Wells of Hope fundraising Dinners, Columbus Day and Christmas Dinners. Mike has also been involved with the Turkey Raffles, Soup and Games Nights, Poker Nights, and Seniors Coffee, just to mention a few. Mike has often been elected to be on the Council's Executive Committee. In June of 2022, Mike was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and has been valiantly and courageously battling it for the past two years.

The love of his Family, his Catholic Faith and the love and prayers from his Brother Knights keeps him going.

Mike & Bannet are proud Grandparents of 3 grandchildren, (2 boys & 1 girl) and will celebrate 51 years of marriage in July 2024.

When asked of his greatest accomplishment with the Knights of Columbus, Mike said "it was being the Centennial Grand Knight,"

'We formed a committee with Des Kennedy as Chairman and we made many decisions without the Council's okay. Things had to be done this way, or we would have spent too much time chasing our tails. We spent over \$250,000 to bring our hall into the Twenty First Century.' Before my three year term as GK was up, we had repaid every cent we owed. We had a very busy three years...which brings me to my next point. Brothers, We, the active group of Knights who keep the hall going, are in trouble. Some of us are unable to perform various duties because of old age, poor health or death. The latest function in the hall may very well be our very last. The Council needs your help and we need new members to carry on the great work our Council does. Our building is a ROCK in the community. In 2023 the folks of Ozanam served over 30,000 meals and our Council donated over \$30,000 to different charities in the area. This is only a small part of what our Knights do.

I ask all of our members to please come out and become a part of a great group of men and women, (our behind the scenes partners). I hope to see some new faces at our first meeting in September. May God Bless you all. PGK Mike Carroll.



Officers for 2024 - 2025

Chaplain: Rev. Father Chad Grennan
 Grand Knight: Carl G. Pearson
 Deputy Grand Knight: Vivian Pereira
 Financial Secretary: Don Mikulinski
 Treasurer: Derek Pavlakovich
 Recording Secretary: Open Position
 Warden: Frank Koch
 Advocate: PGK William Perry
 Lecturer: PGK William Mathie
 Chancellor: Geoff Haimes
 Inside Guard: PGK Michael Carroll
 Outside Guard: Conrad Kubica
 Outside Guard: Michael Washkevich
 3rd Year Trustee: Brian Leblanc
 2nd Year Trustee: Walter Cybulak
 1st Year Trustee: Johnson Moraes

Columbus Club 2024- 2025

President: TBA
 Secretary: TBA
 Treasurer: Don Mikulinski
 Director (3) Years: TBA
 Director (2) Years: Conrad Kubica
 Director (1) Year: Brian LeBlanc

Miscellaneous

Pro-Life Coordinator: William Mathie
 Senior's Coffee: PGK Mike Carroll
 Upcoming Degree Ceremonies: PGK Vivian Pereira
 Visitation: Mike Inneo
 Vanguard: Brian Whittaker, Geoff Haimes

THE VANGUARD

Knights of Columbus

St. Catharines Council 1394

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**CHARITY
 UNITY
 FRATERNITY
 PATRIOTISM**

