

# Knights of Columbus Council 1394

## The Vanguard

235 Church Street St. Catharines ON L2R 3E8

Website: [kofccouncil1394.org](http://kofccouncil1394.org)



**Fall 2025 Edition**

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The pillars of the Catholic Church, as defined by the Catechism of the Catholic Church, are often considered to be the Creed, Sacraments, Prayer, and Christian Living (Morality). These pillars provide a framework for understanding and living out the faith.

1. **Creed:** The Creed, also known as the profession of faith, outlines the core beliefs of the Catholic Church, derived from scripture and tradition.
2. **Sacraments:** The Sacraments are sacred rituals through which God's grace is made visible and tangible, including Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony.
3. **Prayer:** Prayer, in its various forms (e.g., vocal prayer, meditation), is a crucial means of communication with God, fostering a relationship with Him. Acting in accordance with Christian values like love, justice, and compassion.
4. **Christian Living (Morality):** This pillar emphasizes living according to the teachings of Christ, including the Ten Commandments and other moral principles, and acting in accordance with Christian values like love, justice, and compassion.

Additionally, some discussions also include the three pillars of the Church: Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the Magisterium, which form the foundation of Catholic teaching and authority .

1. **Sacred Scripture:** Sacred Scripture refers to the Bible, including both the Old and New Testaments. Catholics believe the Bible is the inspired word of God. It is the foundational text for Catholic faith and morals, read and interpreted within the context of the Church’s Tradition and teaching authority.
2. **Sacred Tradition:** Sacred Tradition encompasses the living transmission of the Church’s doctrine, life, and worship, handed down from the Apostles through their successors. This includes practices, customs, and teachings not explicitly found in Scripture but passed down orally. Tradition complements and clarifies the understanding of Scripture, ensuring that the teachings of Jesus and the apostles are faithfully transmitted through generations.
3. **The Magisterium:** The Magisterium is the official teaching authority of the Catholic Church, consisting of the Pope and bishops in communion with him. It interprets both Scripture and Tradition authentically. The Magisterium provides authoritative guidance on issues of faith and morals, ensuring that the Church’s teachings remain consistent and true to the apostolic faith.

Practical Steps for Catholics

Catholics are called to engage with all three Pillars of our faith. This means:

1. Regularly reading and studying Sacred Scripture.
2. Learning about and living out the Traditions of the Church.
3. Listening to and following the teachings of the Magisterium.



By embracing all three Pillars, we can deepen our understanding of God’s revelation and live out our faith more fully. This holistic approach helps us avoid the pitfalls of personal interpretation alone and ensures we remain connected to the living tradition of the Church handed down through the ages.

In Memoriam

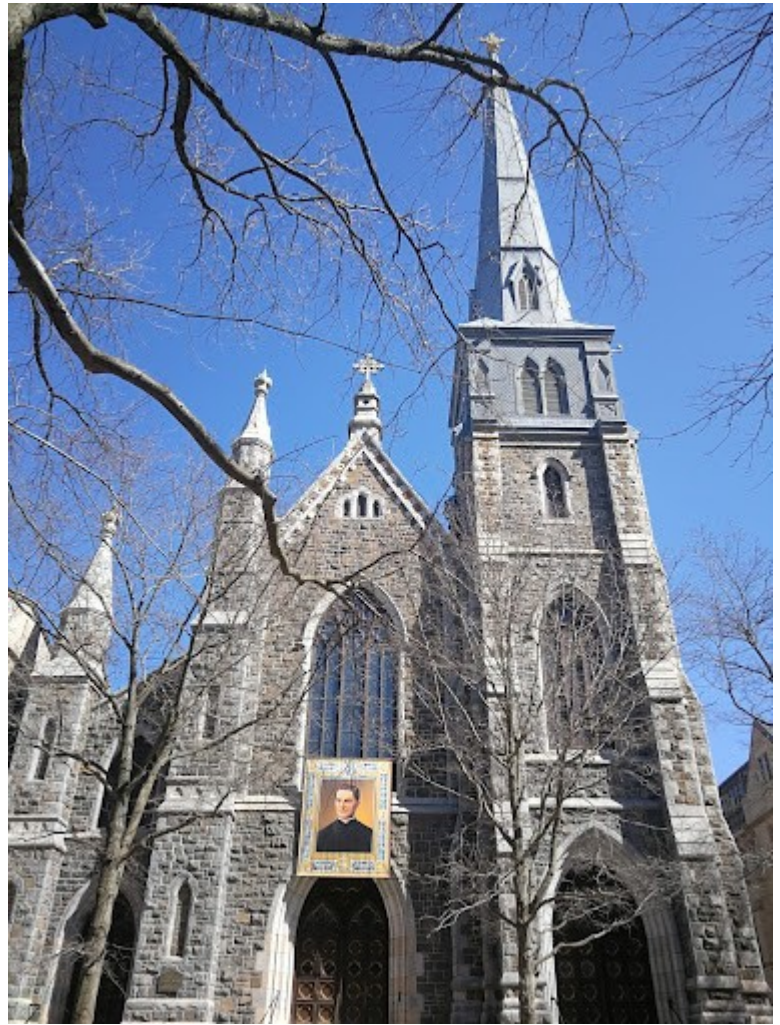
Vivat Jesus

**Saint Mary's Church**

**New Haven**

**Connecticut**

Our dearly departed Brothers are remembered at daily Mass at Saint Mary's Church. The home of our order.



Monsignor Dominic Pizzacalla Deceased July 26, 2025 worthy member for 63 years.

Frank Koch Deceased April 19, 2025 worthy member for 11 years.

Walter P. Cybulak Deceased February 14, 2025 worthy member for 36 years.

PGK Michael K. Carroll Deceased December 21, 2024 worthy member for 50 years.

PGK DR. Andy Reyes Deceased October 30, 2024 worthy member for 37 years.

Desmond P. Kennedy Deceased October 16 , 2024 worthy member for 38 years.

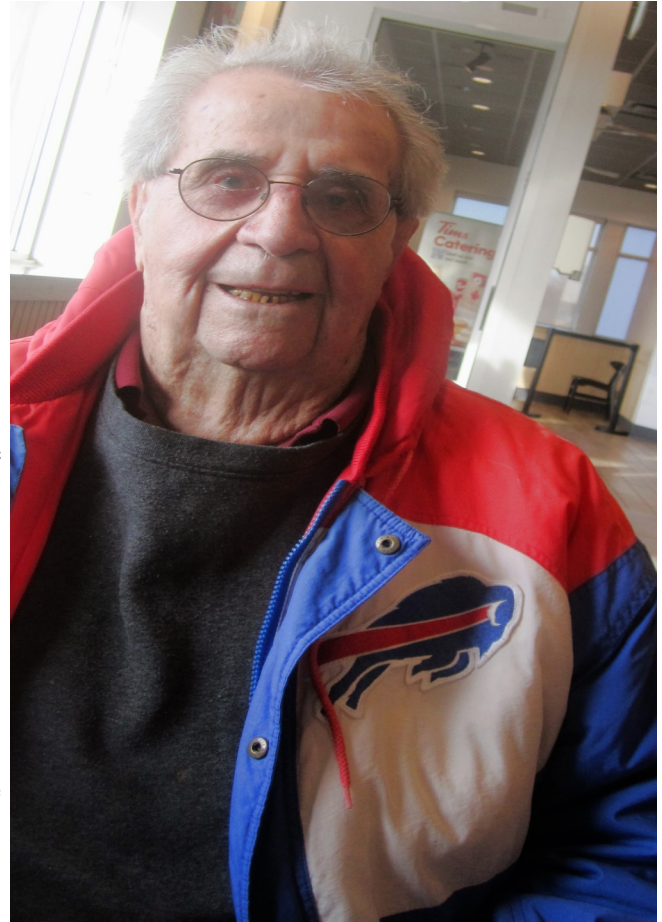
George Z. Lopinski Deceased May 15, 2024 worthy member for 47 years.

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



## Feature story of a Worthy Knight of Columbus, Monsignor Dominic Pizzacalla

Dominic was born and raised in Thorold Ontario, the youngest of 5 boys to Parents Luigi & Maria Pizzacalla on October 1st 1934. He also has two younger sisters. After completing high school, he entered St. Augustin Seminary in Toronto. After seven years of studies there, Dominic was part of the first class of ordained priests for the new Diocese of St. Catharines. His Ordination was performed by then Bishop Thomas McCarthy at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria on May 23, 1959. Father Dominic was then posted to St. Alfred Parish as Assistant Pastor to Father Schwalm for seven years. In 1966 Father Dominic transferred to Holy Rosary Parish in Thorold, again as Assistant Pastor to Monsignor Clancy until 1969. One year later, Father Dominic was posted as Assistant Pastor to St. Thomas Moore Parish in Niagara Falls for another year. In 1970 Father Dominic then moved to St. Mary Parish in Welland as Assistant Pastor. In 1972 Father Dominic moved to St. Joseph Parish in Grimsby to become Pastor there. Simultaneously he was also Pastor for St. Helen Mission Church in Vineland. In 1979 Father Dominic's life came full circle to St. Thomas Moore Parish in Niagara Falls, but as Pastor this time. Ten years later (1979) Father Dominic was transferred to St. Michael Parish in Fort Erie to become the new Pastor there. During this time, in 1984 Father Dominic celebrated his 25th Anniversary as a priest by applying to request a private meeting with the Pope in Rome, which was accepted! He and then, Bishop Tonnos traveled to the Vatican and met Pope John Paul II. While there, Father Dominic was invited by the Pope to say Mass in the Pope's private chapel. An experience of a lifetime! In 1992, Pope John Paul II elevated Father Dominic to Monsignor. In 1995 Msgr. Dominic was again transferred, this time to St. Julia Parish in St. Catharines as Pastor until his retirement in 2009. Monsignor has been a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus for a long time. For twenty-five years he was the Chaplin for the Second Ontario District for the Fourth Degree. Msgr. Dominic has been an avid traveler and has been across Canada and the U.S. as well as Australia, New Zealand and Europe as well. Family has always been important to him. Msgr. started a tradition where family would get together a few weeks before Christmas. Because the family is spread across Canada, not everyone can always attend. As a young priest, Father Dominic was introduced to the game of golf. From then on, he became passionate about the game, and played when time allowed. Then on April 29th, 1986, after a Priest's meeting at Mount Carmel in Niagara Falls Msgr. Clutterbuck talked Msgr. Dominic into playing some golf at Niagara Falls Club before going home. Father Dominic wasn't really up for it, but played anyway. Wouldn't you know it, Msgr. Dominic had a Hole In One on one of the par three holes and received a plaque commemorating the experience. What a surprise, he didn't see the ball go in, but Msgr. Clutterbuck did. Truly another day to remember. All his life, Monsignor Pizzacalla has been a really big fan of many sports, tennis and hockey and especially, the Toronto Maple Leafs. College & Pro football are important too, University of Notre Dame and the Buffalo Bills to name a couple of favourites. Unfortunately, On Saturday July 26, 2025 Monsignor Dominic passed away peacefully, surrounded by Family. May he rest in Eternal Peace in Heaven.



## Learning about our New Holy Father in Rome, Pope Leo XIV



**Pope Leo XIV greets the faithful at the conclusion of his inauguration Mass on May 18. He wore a chasuble once used by St. John Paul II, who was born exactly 105 years earlier, and carried the late pope's distinctive ferula. (Photo by Paul Haring)**

**“I was chosen, without any merit of my own, and now, with fear and trembling, I come to you as a brother, who desires to be the servant of your faith and your joy, walking with you on the path of God’s love.”**

Pope Leo XIV is the first pope born in the United States and the first member of the Order of St. Augustine ever elected to the papacy. A native of Chicago and a former missionary bishop in Peru, he most recently served as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops.

In his first official address to the College of Cardinals on May 9, Pope Leo spoke of his decision to take the name “Leo,” citing inspiration from Pope Leo XIII and his 1891 encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, which addressed the social impact of industrialization.

“Sensing myself called to continue in this same path, I chose to take the name Leo XIV,” he explained. “In our own day, the Church offers to everyone the treasury of her social teaching in response to another industrial revolution and to developments in the field of artificial intelligence that pose new challenges for the defense of human dignity, justice and labor.”

Formerly Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, Pope Leo XIV made clear from the beginning his vision for a Church united in peace and centered on Jesus Christ.



Your Brother and editor, and webmaster, Brian Whittaker.



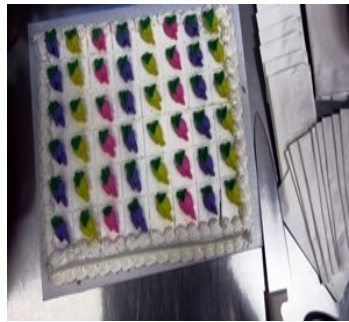
## INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2025—2026 JUNE 11, 2025



Service Awards Presented by  
Grand Knight Vivian Pereira



Financial Secretary Don Mikulinski



Past Grand Knight Johnson Moraes



Congratulations to Brother John  
Fajta Who celebrated his 99th  
Birthday on March 9th, 2025



Past Grand Knight Carl Pearson



The other day I was sat out in the back garden struggling to come up with a topic for my Chancellors report when it flew right over me! The iconic Avro Lancaster from the Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton. This beautiful aircraft, still flying despite being built in Toronto at the Victory Aircraft Plant 80 years ago, is dedicated to the memory of one of only four Air force Victoria Cross's awarded to Canadian aircrew during WWII.

Andrew Charles Mynarski was born in Winnipeg and served in the Royal Canadian Airforce. He was an air gunner serving with 419 Moose Squadron, based in England and flew missions over occupied Europe and Germany. On the night of June 12th 1944, shortly after D-Day, he was on board his usual aircraft, Lancaster VR-A, as a Mid Upper gunner. The raid was on the rail yards of Cambrai, France to prevent German re-enforcements being moved up to attack the Allied landings in Normandy. As the Lancaster prepared to drop its bombs a German Night fighter attacked it. Cannon shells ripped into the Lancaster from underneath and set the two left engines on fire and then the main fuselage. The Captain ordered everyone to bail out and Andrew Mynarski gathered his parachute and got to the rear escape door going through flames as he got there. Just before jumping, he spotted his friend Pat Brophy stuck in the rear turret, trying to get his escape door open, but it was jammed. Mynarski fought through the flames and attempted repeatedly with an axe to get his friend out but could not. His friend screamed at him to get out. As he returned to the open escape door Mynarski, turned and saluted his friend, then with his chute and clothing still on fire plunged out into the night sky. He landed heavily and lay in tremendous pain until rescued by French farmers and was taken to hospital, where he died soon after. No one would have known of his heroic action but by some miracle, Pat Brophy, the rear gunner, survived the crash landing and subsequent bomb load explosion. He eventually made it back to England and was able to relay the incredible story of Andrew Mynarski's bravery.

Andrew Charles Mynarski was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross in 1946.

The Lancaster in Hamilton is officially called the "Mynarski Memorial Lancaster" and carries the aircraft number KB726 and the squadron code VR-A, which was Mynarski's aircraft.

Pat Brophy, the surviving rear gunner, after finding out that Mynarski had died, wrote to Andrew's parents and said "Greater love hath no man than to lay down his life for his friend" From John : 15.

Bomber Command had 125,000 aircrew and had 55,573 killed and 8,325 wounded.

They all laid their lives on the line, night after night, fighting for the freedom of Europe and world peace. American losses over Europe were also devastating as they flew mainly in daylight.

We should not forget what all these heroes did for our countries. We shall Remember them.

The Mynarski Memorial Lancaster, with the Memorial Plaque it carries.



Pilot Officer, Andrew Charles Mynarski VC



Mynarski's Memorial Lancaster, affectionately known as Vera



## A contribution courtesy of PGK Johnson Moraes.

### The founding of the Knights of Columbus

Late-19th century Connecticut was marked by the growing fraternal benefit societies, anti-Catholic prejudice and dangerous factory working conditions that left many families fatherless. Recognizing a need in his community, Father Michael J. McGivney, the 29-year-old assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn., gathered a group of men at his parish on Oct. 2, 1881. He proposed establishing a lay organization to prevent Catholic men from entering secret societies antithetical to Church teaching, uniting Catholic men and helping families of deceased members.

To demonstrate their loyalty to their country as well as their faith, these men took Christopher Columbus — recognized as a Catholic and celebrated as the discoverer of America — as their patron. The Knights of Columbus elected officers in February 1882 and assumed corporate status on March 29th.

In addition to the Order's benefits, Catholic men were drawn to the Knights because of its emphasis on serving one's Church, community and family with virtue. Fraternity and patriotism were added to the Knights' founding principles of charity and unity in 1885 and 1900, respectively.

1882: The Knights of Columbus is born on Feb. 6, 1882, when the first members choose Columbus as their patron. Immediately after the Order's March 29 incorporation, Father McGivney sends a diocesan-wide appeal for new members to priests.

1886: By the end of his four-year term as supreme knight, James T. Mullen presides at the institution of 22 of the first 38 councils. John J. Phelan is elected and is the first supreme knight to see the Order's future as a national society.

1890: Father McGivney dies Aug. 14, 1890. 1892: The Order passes laws allowing noninsurance (associate members) to join.

1892: 6,000 Knights march in the New Haven Columbus Day parade to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of the New World.

1895: The Vatican's first acknowledgment of the Knights comes when Archbishop Francesco Satolli, apostolic delegate to the United States, writes a letter extolling the "merits of this splendid Catholic organization" and giving the Order his apostolic blessing.

1897: On November 25, 1897, Canada's first council — Montreal Council 284 — is chartered.

1909: On March 29, 1909 St. Catharines first council St. Catharines Council 1394 is chartered



## A Bingo report from our Financial Secretary; Don Mikulinski

The Bingo Charity Account is doing quite well at this time. We are still attending three dates per month and our times are really great. The time slots have been well represented by our group of volunteers and the slots fill up quickly. Mike Coakley has been doing a fantastic job with the scheduling and making sure the volunteers show up on time. We have just recently made donations to Hotel Dieu Shaver, The Niagara Health Foundation, St. Alfred's Church and their Food box program and the Ozanam Centre. Plus, just recently, the Bingo Charity Account donated \$500.00 each to seven Catholic High School Graduates who were chosen for their work at the three Catholic High Schools. (Denis Morris, Holy Cross, and St. Francis.). We are looking forward to the Fall months when we will be purchasing the Coats for Kids through Ontario State. Last year we purchased 24 dozen coats. We still need more volunteers to lighten the load at Bingo. So please contact Mike Coakley and he will direct you to the training link. A big thank you to our volunteers for their commitment to the Bingo program. They make all this happen for the community. I hope you a great Summer, Don Mikulinski Co chair, Treasurer Bingo Charity Account.



## A report from our newly elected Grand Knight, PGK Vivian Pereira

Thank you for this prestigious honour, that you have bestowed upon me. May I live up to the responsibility of being a good Grand Knight. One that will not let this Council down in any way or form. My plan, is a simple one. This term, I wish to recognize and honour the ladies of our Brother Knights who, for so long have donated their time and energy to make our Council what it is today. The way I plan to do so, is to provide a Social Evening sometime during the year, with some light refreshments and pleasant company. Another event I have in mind is to have the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass celebrated at our premises to commemorate our beloved deceased Brother Knights in November. Next year, in March we will be celebrating the 117th anniversary of Council 1394. Perhaps, we could celebrate this milestone with the recitation of the Holy Rosary followed by a Holy Mass in honour of our deceased Brother Knights and their ladies. I am also working on the idea of having a Christmas Dinner on January 10th 2026 (Please keep this evening free). The Bishop will be in attendance.

These are just a few of my plans. I am counting on your assistance my Brothers, to bring these ideas to fruition.

May God Bless you all. Your Grand Knight and Brother. PGK Vivian Pereira.

## Officers for 2025 - 2026

Chaplain: To be announced

Grand Knight: PGK Vivian Pereira

Deputy Grand Knight: PGK Carl Pearson

Financial Secretary: Don Mikulinski

Treasurer: Derek Pavlakovich

Recording Secretary: Larry O'Malley

Warden: Michael Coakley

Advocate: PGK William Perry

Lecturer: PGK William Mathie

Chancellor: Geoff Haimes

Inside Guard: Joseph Pizatti

Outside Guard: Conrad Kubica

Outside Guard: Walter Chemerika

3rd Year Trustee: Rene Ongcango

2nd Year Trustee: PGK Johnson Moraes

1st Year Trustee: Brian LeBlanc

Vanguard: Brian Whittaker, Geoff Haimes

Webmaster : Brian Whittaker



# THE VANGUARD

## Knights of Columbus

St. Catharines Council 1394

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### Facebook:

<https://facebook.com>



**CHARITY  
UNITY  
FRATERNITY**

