

Knights of Columbus Council 1394

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The Vanguard



Welcome to the fall 2026 edition of the Vanguard!

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Page-11. Honours, Presentations and other good news.

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Page:13. Editor's Contribution: owning, restoring & cruising around Niagara in a classic automobile.

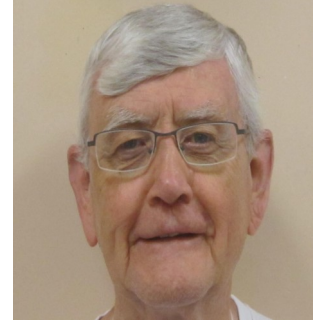
Page:14 & 15. Council 1394 Test Breakfast pictures June 14th.

Page 16: The last page Our Council Executive for 2026-2027.

What's Inside This Issue

On the front page, is the wonderful Council 1394 newly installed officers for the upcoming new Fraternal year. Brother Derek Pavlakovic was excused due to a family illness.

Ok, left to right: Daniel White (Chancellor), Al Craig (District Warden), Greg Lyons (District Deputy), Carl Pearson (Deputy Grand Knight), Geoff Haimes (Grand Knight), Rene Ongcangco (Trustee), Larry O Malley (Recording Secretary), Don Mikulinski (Financial Secretary), Walter Chemerika (Membership advisor), Vivian Pereira (Lecturer), Rev. Father Paul McDonald (Chaplain), Joe Pizzati (Guard), Conrad Kubica (Guard) (Hall Manager), Michael Coakley (Warden, Membership Director and Bingo Coordinator), Johnson Moraes (Trustee), Michael Van DeWiel (Guard), Bill Perry (Advocate), Jay Nelligan (Insurance Agent), Brian Whittaker (Vanguard & Photographer) Brian LeBlanc (Trustee)



I am humbled by the trust and responsibility these fine gentlemen have placed upon me as I assume the Grand Knight position. What a wonderful, energetic and dedicated group of Noble Knights we have working for our Council this new Fraternal Year!

Our new Fraternal Year took only three days to bear fruit! The Sunday following our Installation, we held our first Breakfast in our Hall in over five years!

The Covid outbreak disallowed gatherings for several years, and during this hiatus our Council suffered the loss of several Exemplary Knights. Some of the most reliable and dedicated workers that supported our endeavours were gone.

Since that time, we have discussed and dismissed our regular breakfast events in our Hall. Too much work, too expensive, not enough helpers. In a bout of optimistic expectation, I attempted to organize a breakfast tailored to suit our helpers, with a reduced menu, and lower expectations.

Initially, we planned a menu for June 7th. Brian LeBlanc and I travelled around noting prices, sizes and servings of various foods. A few helpers signed up, but not many customers. We postponed it to June 14th and more of our Worthy Knights signed up. Partners, relatives, friends were invited to come and help and it took shape. We anticipated 19 breakfasts at \$8 would break us even. Seems like we might get more, so we increased the menu to include scrambled eggs and Fruit Cocktail. Also added was a 50/50 draw to generate some more money for our Council.

The day went really well. Chris on the grill, Larry and wife Connie cooking eggs, Walter taking the toaster on, Brian cranking out coffee and tea, Bernadette delivering it to clients. With Vivian, Jay Nelligan and Dina serving, it was a well oiled machine in operation!. Joe Pizzati and Conrad sold breakfast tickets and 50/50 tickets.

Brother Brian Whittaker did his usual good work with his camera. We welcomed three deceased Knight's widows, namely Donna Gazzola, Kate Michaud and Gertrude Koch. We also welcomed two Knights and their wives from St Mary's Council. A big Thank You for your support.

Big thanks to Julie, Joe Pizzati's daughter who brought croissants and muffins for the dessert table, and her family to support Joe in this worthy event. A special shout out to Jay Nelligan, our Insurance Agent who drove down from Burlington and worked from 7:30 am right until the end!

Brother Don Mikulinski was there and we were both very happy with the event. The food was great, everyone enjoyed their meal, and the bottom line looked promising.

Later, I confirmed with our Worthy Financial Secretary Don, that we sold 36 meals and brought in just over \$400 and netted a profit of around \$200 for our Council.

A Report on Bingo Activities by Michael Coakley, Bingo Coordinator.

As we are all enjoying the Summer of 2026 the Knight's of Council 1394 are busy working at Delta Bingo to ensure funding is available for the 2026 Coats for Kids Campaign. Last year, our Council donated Children's winter coats to the following schools; St. Nicholas, St. Denis and St. Christopher in St. Catharines to name a few. Then, Council 1394 also donated an equal number of coats plus a \$1000.00 donation to St. Catharines-Thorold Community Care. My brothers, the need in our community is growing. On behalf of our Financial Secretary, Don Mikulinski, Thank you to the Bingo volunteers from our Council who are taking time out from their summer to support our fundraising for the charities we support.

Vivat Jesus. Brother Michael Coakley, your Bingo Coordinator.



June 2026

June 11th - Installation of Officers, Social afterwards. ***Was very Successful***

June 14th - Breakfast in our Hall, ***Was very Successful***

July –Dec - Ongoing Work at Delta Bingo. ***Critical Fund Raising***

August- Well earned break before new Fraternal Year starts

September- 2nd - First Executive Meeting, 7pm in our Hall. ***Welcome Back!***

September -9th-First General Meeting, 7pm in our Hall.

Welcome to our new Chaplain, Worthy Reverend Father Paul McDonald

September 12th Saturday K of C Seminar In Hamilton. For Grand Knights & Deputies & Financial Secretaries.

September 27th Sunday Mass and dinner at St. John's Church on Lakeshore Rd. At 3:00pm \$45p/p for meal.

October- Sunday Morning Breakfasts- 11th, 18th, 25th.- ***Full served, like June was!***

November-TBA-Mass in our Hall for Deceased Members, Widows and Families.

Coats for Kids to be delivered by our Council to Community Care.

December- TBA

2027

January, TBA Out of the Cold Walk, Warming Station in our Hall?

February, Sunday 14th? Pancake Breakfast, Support St Thomas CWL.

March Sunday 14th? Memorial Lunch for All Knights, immediate Family and Widows of Deceased Members. Afternoon Social after.

March 28th, Easter Sunday

April 4th Sunday afternoon. PGK Michael Carroll Memorial Walkathon.

April, Breakfasts, 11th, 18th, and 25th.

May - Elections

June ? Clergy Appreciation Dinner, in our Hall, Catered

Every month, starting on September 24th a Coffee Social will be held in our Hall,

On the last Thursday of each month. 2.30pm- 3.30pm

Greetings Brother Knights. I hope you enjoyed the summer months. The past three months have flown by rather quickly. It will be September soon and we will be back to our monthly meetings.

June featured student graduation at our three local Catholic High Schools. Brother Mike Van De Wiel (Denis Morris), PGK Vivian Pereira (Holy Cross) and Brother Mike Coakley (St. Francis) attended the high school graduation ceremonies. Certificates and cheques of \$500 were presented to each of the students who were chosen for these awards, seven in total.

Grand Knight Geoff Haimes and myself attended a Strawberry Social at Hotel Dieu Shaver in June. A cheque was presented to them of the good work they did with an engraved



in the amount of \$1,000. As a result of our continuous support do, they recently advised us that they will be adding our Council plaque to their Donor Wall.

July found Grand Church at a member-literature and pamphlet cheque of \$500 was

Knight Geoff, Brother Mike Coakley and myself at St. Julia's ship drive. We spoke to many parishioners and handed out our pamphlets explaining who we are as Knights and what we do. A cheque was presented to Father Ron.

August began with our Council's "BOGO" September to be distributed to the Niagara District School Board and to Community Care.

Councils' order for the "Coats for Kids" program and Supreme offer was completed. We will receive 24 boxes (288) coats in



In Memoriam

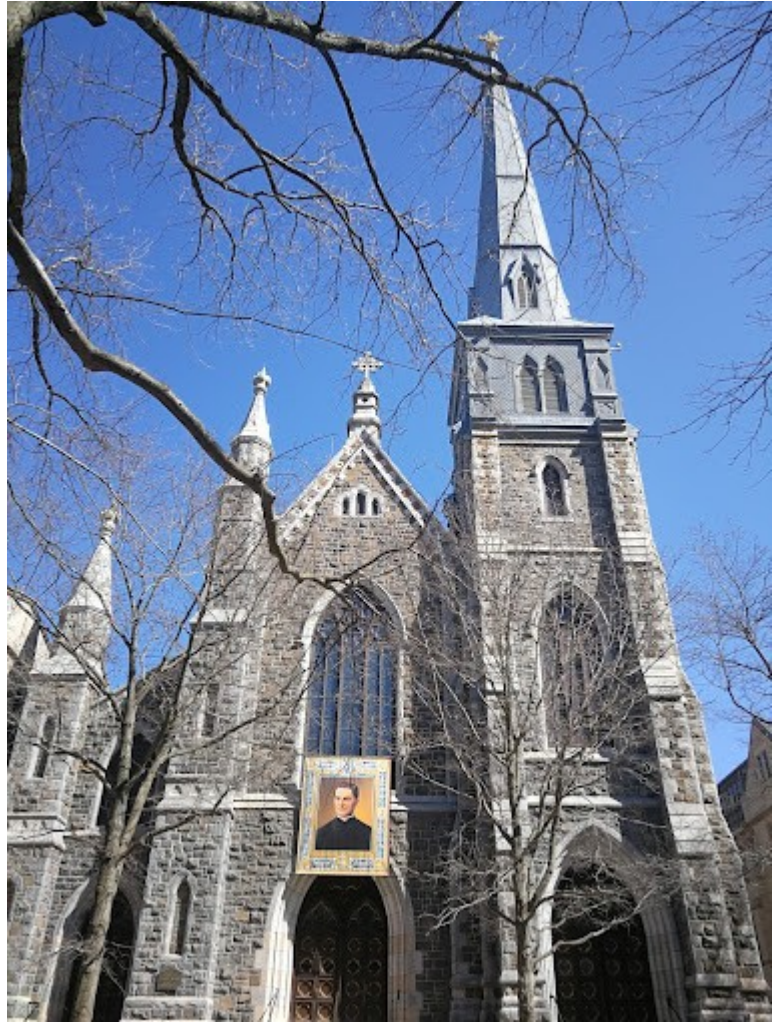
Vivat Jesus

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.



PGK Ronald W. Adams Deceased April 23, 2026 worthy member for 22 years

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.

Our Brother John Fajta, pronounced Fay- tah, was second youngest of five sons born to parents Lorinc and Anna, in the city of Dunaharaszti Hungary, just south of Budapest on March 9th, 1926. At fourteen years of age, John worked in the pattern shop at a factory owned by a British company called, Vickers- Armstrongs who made parts for tanks, airplanes, armoured cars and artillery shells. In 1944 he received his certification papers in pattern making for molds. When the war was over, John went to work for a Hungarian government owned company. In 1948, Hungary became a Communist country. In 1949 John became a Technical trades instructor. For one year, he was responsible for training future government technicians, designers and engineers. It was during this time that John married Elizabeth Mayer. In 1950, They welcomed their first child, daughter, Elizabeth. In 1952 John Jr. was born. Because John & his wife were religious, the government was always eager to transfer them to other more remote areas of the country. But John always fought the idea of moving. In October of 1956 Hungary underwent a revolution, a sudden, spontaneous uprising by the people opposed to Soviet imposed government and Soviet occupation. Led by students and workers, the short-lived revolt demanded freedom and neutrality. The revolt was crushed by Soviet tanks, resulting in thousands of deaths and 200,000 refugees. The rebellion was suppressed by November 10, leading to mass arrests, executions and a major refugee crisis as 200,000 people fled, mostly to Austria. This included John and his young family. It was the first major, violent challenge to Soviet control in Eastern Europe after World War II. Despite its failure, it exposed the brutal nature of Soviet rule and served as a precursor to the eventual fall of the Soviet Union decades later. The event is commemorated as a national holiday in Hungary on October 23. In Austria, John had heard about Canada and everything good the country stood for, peace prosperity and opportunity. As a refugee, John went to the Canadian consulate to find out more about going to Canada. He applied to emigrate to Canada. His application was accepted, but before they could go to Canada, they first had to go to Holland for a time. There, they were well looked after. In 1957, they finally boarded a ship and headed for Canada, arriving in Nova Scotia. At this point John did not speak or understand English. John only spoke Hungarian and German. A Jesuit Priest John met, helped him translate his resume to get a job and place to stay in Toronto. John Quickly made a move to St. Catharines where he started working at St. Catharines Brassworks. After a few months, John started commuting to International Harvester in Hamilton to work in their foundry. In 1958 son George was born and in June, John joined Knights of Columbus Council 1394 in St. Catharines. Getting tired of commuting to Hamilton, John applied to General Motors in St. Catharines and began working in the foundry at Plant 2. His third son, Frank was born in 1959. After working in the foundry for a few years, John moved upstairs to the office in the design department until his retirement in 1988. John was not retired for long. Almost immediately, He got another job at Grimsby tooling until permanently retiring in 1991. Brother John has been an active member of K of C Council 1394 for almost 60 years. Over the years, John's family has steadily increased in size. He has five grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Sadly, John's wife Elizabeth, passed away on December 6, 2016 after 67 years of marriage. Over the years, John has endured some health challenges, Broken bones and arthritis in his knees to mention a few. But after 100 years on this earth, these kind of things do happen. John's 100th birthday occurred on March 9, 2026. all of his Brothers at Council 1394 wish him many happy and healthy returns.

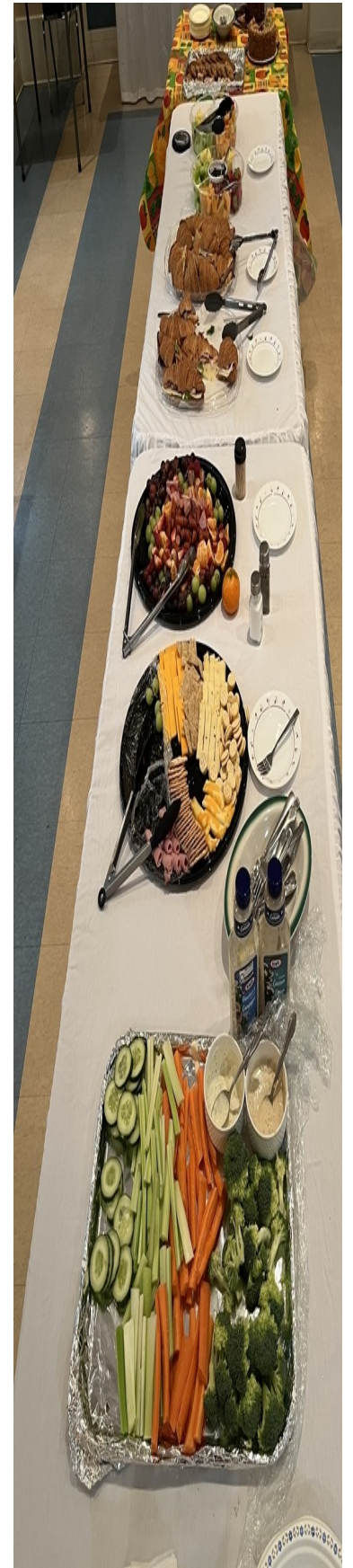


John receives a certificate of congratulations recognizing his 100th birthday from Supreme Council in New Haven CT. Presented to him by District Deputy Greg Lyons. At a recent meeting of our Council.



From left to right: Grand Knight Vivian Pereira, John and Past Grand Knight Carl Pearson. On John's 100th Birthday

Council 1394 Social event in honour of our Council's widows on March 8th 2026 in our hall. 7



On November 13th, 2025, Lynn, our son John, and I flew from Toronto to Houston (4 Hrs.); Houston to Auckland (15 Hrs.); Auckland to Whangārei (1 Hrs.) and in total, we had approx. 10 Hrs. in layovers... Total travel time from Niagara to Whangārei was approx. 31 Hrs. With time change (New Zealand is 18 Hrs. ahead) we arrived before lunch on November 15th.

Confined to a seat for more than a day, arriving at Catherine and Bruce's house (Sister/Brother-in-law) we were anxious to get outside and explore! On the very first day we went to the Whangārei Town Basin, a popular destination featuring a marina, art galleries, diverse cafés, restaurants, and unique boutique shops.

Every morning, we were up around 5:30-6:00 a.m., brewed a fresh cup of cappuccino and watch the sun rise over the mountains. Catherine pattered around the kitchen every morning and serve a gourmet breakfast (bacon & fried eggs; poached eggs on rye, fruit crumble... Every morning was a great surprise!).

Most mornings included a 7 Km walk along Beach Road, or a preplanned destination like the Town Basin, or Whangārei Falls (an 85-foot waterfall located on the Hātea River in Tikipunga).

Lynn and I were married on Taiharuru beach in Whangārei Heads on February 19, 2000. On our second day, the seven of us ventured back to Taiharuru and commemorated this occasion with a picnic lunch and champagne.

With John leaving New Zealand on November 26th for work we tried to pack in as many adventures as possible; the seven of us drove down to Waitomo for a tour of Ruakuri Cave and we stopped at the Hobbiton Movie Set for lunch on our way to Hot Water Beach in the Coromandel Peninsula.

Ruakuri Cave is a 2 hour underground walk along a river with limestone formations, crystal tapestries, and glowworms.

Hot Water Beach is on the east coast of the Coromandel Peninsula; it's name comes from underground hot springs that filter up through the sand between Low & high tide. Beachgoers use shovels to dig a hole in the sand, the hot spring leaches into the hole and make a pool of geothermic water. Bucket(s) of water from the ocean are used to adjust temperature in your pool.

Prior to John's return to Canada... On November 25th we celebrated Christmas, it was a delightful evening with food, drink, and laughter. We did not have enough wrapping paper, so we had to use bath towels. I received two Christmas themed **Hawaiian shirts** from my sister! (I now have a small collection of Hawaiian shirts).

It was a tearful good-by when John boarded a plane for his 30 Hr. journey back to Niagara by himself. He was nervous and we suffered from a bit of separation anxiety. During his short visit he really connected with his cousin Briar and her daughter Riley! Everyone was having such great fun!!!

Lynn and I still had another 18 days in the land of the long cloud.

During this vacation, we visited no less than 17 beaches, not returning to the same one twice. My favorite beach was Cathedral Cove; at one end it had a rock formation with a cathedral peek you could walk through and at the other end was a waterfall with tree foliage overhang... just breathtaking!

My second favorite beach was Ruakākā, located in Bream Bay. Catherine challenged me to walk as far as I could and said I would never reach the end. After 4-5 Km. I turned around... the tide was working its way out and I was walking on fresh beach and sand dunes. It was a brand-new landscape, fresh, untouched... it was mine for the moment!

Another neat adventure was in Whananaki where we walked across the longest footbridge in the southern hemisphere at 395 metres. The original construction was completed in 1947 using locally sourced timber and labour. Its construction enabled the children living in Whananaki South to attend school in Whananaki North. Previously, the school teacher rowed a boat across the estuary twice a day to ferry the children across. We used it to get Ice Cream!!!

My Brother-in-Law Bruce and I gave the ladies a break and spent an afternoon at the Packard & Pioneer Museum in Maungatapere. This museum features a large collection of Packard automobiles (roughly 60, spanning 1919–1958) alongside British vehicles, motorcycles, tractors, and machinery. I'm amazed how many unique vehicles have made the voyage to such a remote location in the world.

Beyond Cars the museum features a diverse range of items, including British vehicles, classic motorcycles, tractors, earth-moving machinery, old phones, lawnmowers, and general household "pioneer" artifacts. <https://www.packardmuseum.co.nz/>

One of our daily walks took place in the Whangārei Quarry Gardens, a subtropical oasis created by volunteers in the remnants of a former stone quarry in Te Tai Tokerau (Northland), Aotearoa (New Zealand). We had lunch at the Quail Café, located on the premises. The Quarry Garden is known for its annual art show; several artisans have left large scale artworks on the premises as a gift.

Beyond the trip to Waitomo, and during the vacation we wanted to stay relatively close to Catherine and Bruce's house and enjoy the region they live in. I am amazed we never had a dull moment, and lost count of how many beaches we went to, destination walks we went on, artisan exhibits viewed, and restaurants we ate at. We were up by 6:00 am and in bed by 9:00 pm after each full day.

Everyday was an opportunity to meet family and new friends... many new friends!

A bonus was that our Niece Briar and her daughter Riley had just moved back home from Australia, we spent premium time together and had opportunity to bond, it was wonderful! We accompanied them to several Open Houses and had the opportunity to see what the real estate market is like.



Whangārei Town Basin



Catherine & Bruce's house on Beach Road (Sister/Brother-in-law)



Whangārei Falls



View of the beach from the house

Pearson Family Trip to New Zealand continued



The longest footbridge in the Southern Hemisphere.



Carl and Lynn at the the Whangārei Quarry Gardens,

Honours & presentations and other good news at our Council

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Hello Brothers: I hope your summer was great. I was just reading my parish bulletin, and noticed a blurb about our Brother, Brent Faubert. You may not remember him well, as he was only active for a few months before he moved to the United States. He's doing great, and will formally join the Augustinian Order on August 1st (see attached). Very happy for him. See below.
Brother Derek Pavlakovich, Treasurer.

FIRST PROFESSION OF VOWS

Next Saturday, August 1 at St. Thomas of Villanova Church (on the campus of Villanova University, Philadelphia), the Augustinians of North America will see four novices make their first profession of vows -- including "our own" Brent Faubert! Along with the others, he will vow poverty, obedience, and chastity, and don a black habit to formally become a brother in the Augustinian Order (the order Pope Leo XIV belongs to). Brent plans to be here during September's 200th anniversary events so we as a parish can extend to him personally our prayerful best wishes. You can read about Brent's vocation journey at www.beafriar.org



An Exemplary Worthy Knight, Walter Chemerika

Brother Walter Chemerika stepped down from our Council 1394 Executive after serving an incredible 39 years of faithful service, including positions as President of the Columbus Club, Chairman of Car Raffle sales, working in the Free Throw School competitions, Helping cook numerous St Patrick's Day dinners, Breakfasts, BBQ's and has been a Guard for several years.!

Walter, we are astounded by your Loyalty, Dedication and Work Ethic, over the past 39 years.

But, you don't get away that easy! Knowing you wouldn't be on the executive any longer and with all of his experience, I approached Walter about assisting Worthy Knight Michael Coakley with Membership recruiting. Walter agreed, with no requirements to attend meetings, unless he wished to, he will start another new chapter in his career with Council 1394, While continuing his shifts at Delta Bingo. Walter, our hearts are happy knowing you are still involved with Council 1394. Your first new contribution was assisting our Membership Drive at St Julia's in early July.

We look forward to having your experience and knowledge as we attempt more drives at other parishes in our Diocese as the year unfolds. Thank You "Walt".

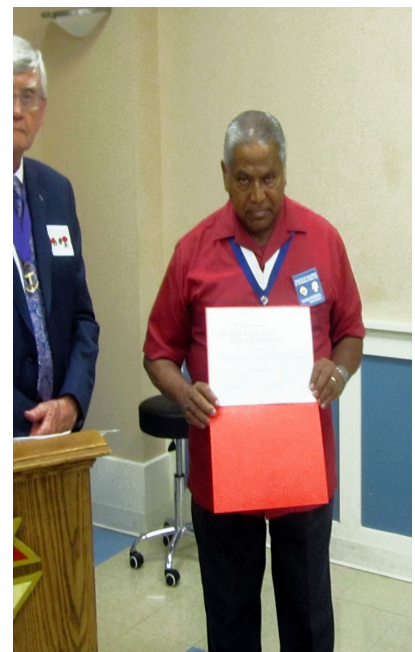
Grand Knight Geoff Haimes.



Grand Knight Geoff Haimes. Presents Brother Walter with a Service Award for all of his hard work and dedication for Council 1394. Congrats & thank you .Walter



Picture at right: Grand Knight Geoff Haimes. Presents outgoing Grand Knight PGK Vivian Pereira with a Service Award for all of his hard work and dedication as Grand Knight for Council 1394. Congrats & thank you Vivian.



My dear Brothers, the Walkathon was our best in several years! We had twelve walking participants including Peter Appleman, a Brother Knight from St Mary's Council 8378. He raised money for St Mary's Food Bank, and stated it was a great afternoon demonstrating Charity, Unity, and Fraternity between our Councils. We raised about \$2400.00 which was split amongst three charities we had chosen beforehand; St. Mary's Foodbank, The Ozanam Soup Kitchen and Community Care. St. Mary's received \$1145 due to Peter walking on their behalf. In the end, Ozanam & Community Care each received \$1000 due to a top up donation by our Financial Secretary Brother Don from monies previously earned by our Council's members who volunteered to work at Delta Bingo. We had some great food donated by Grand Knight Vivian, Bernadette Haimes and Julie Pizzati. A big thank you to Brother Brian LeBlanc who looked after setting up the hall and took charge of the tea and coffee. Special thanks also to Brother Joe Pizzati for donating one of his beautiful hand-painted art-works for auction, which raised an additional \$75.00. Brother Joe also raised additional funds by walking the floor numerous times. A huge thank you Joe. You are an inspiration to all of us. In May, Financial Secretary Don Mikulinski and I presented Cheques to the folks at Ozanam, Community Care and St. Mary's Food Bank. Remember, when all of us get together and contribute to a cause, it truly is very heart warming. Seeing the happy smiling faces of those organizations receiving donations makes the effort all worthwhile. So, I thank everyone who made this endeavour a great success. Special thanks to our friends at Delta Bingo, without whom we could not support these charities.

May God Bless all of those who were involved.

Chancellor Geoff Haimes.



Reverend Father Paul Joseph Martin McDonald

It is with great delight that we welcome back Reverend Father Paul McDonald to our Council.

He was in attendance at our Installation of Officers and did a wonderful job of Officiating our Event.

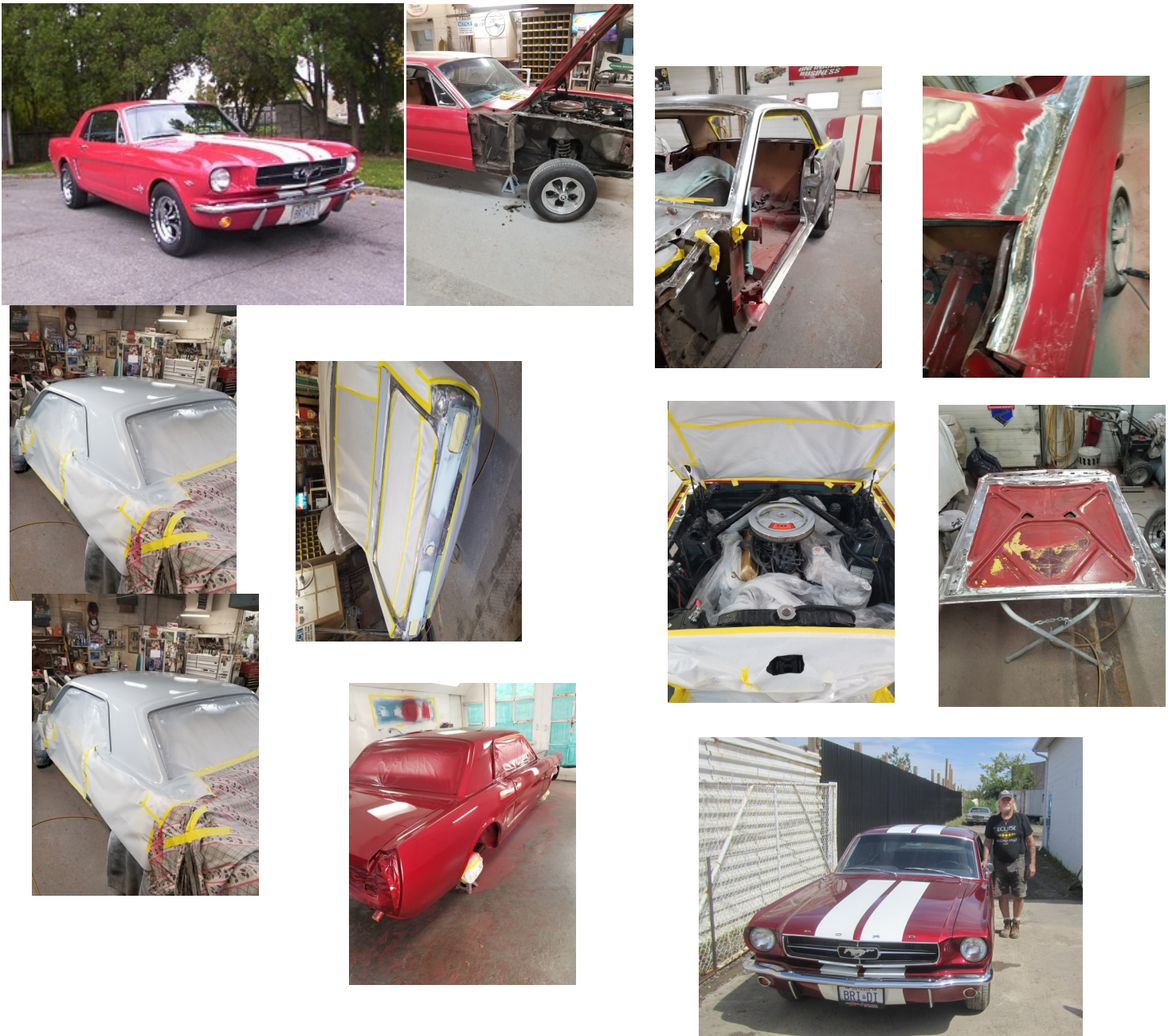
The evening was concluded with a social get together during which PGK Vivian Pereira chatted with Father Paul. The outcome was wonderful as Father Paul McDonald agreed to become our Chaplain for the upcoming year! Ordained in 1988, Father Paul has successfully added Facebook and X(twitter) to his well supported Youtube chats; "Ask Father. We are truly Blessed to have him commit to supporting our Council and all of our endeavours.

Geoff Haimes Grand Knight



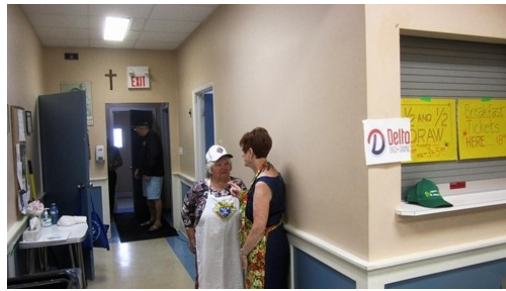
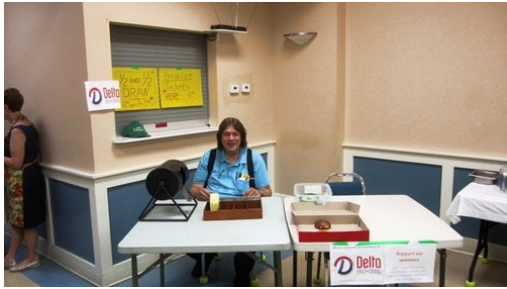
Usually, by mid-summer, Diana and I are often cruising around the Niagara region in our 1965 Ford Mustang coupe. However, this year has been totally different. The Mustang was in need of some serious restoration. So, at the end November of 2025, instead of storing the car in a barn for the winter, I drove her to JJ's Customs & Restorations on Cushman Road in St. Catharines. I dropped off the car to John Jasevicius's shop on a cool dry day. Great timing, because the next day, we had a few inches of snow. Within a few days JJ started taking the car apart and looking for any problems that had to be repaired. There were a couple of small holes in the floor; rusty fenders, a leak in both the windshield and rear window and some rust issues in those areas. Those two pieces of glass had to come out. Below are photos of before, top left, and during the restoration process which meant taking most of the car apart, including the whole interior. The Bottom right photo shows JJ with the finished product outside his shop on August 26th, 2026.

Your editor, Brian Whittaker



The finished product after 9 months.

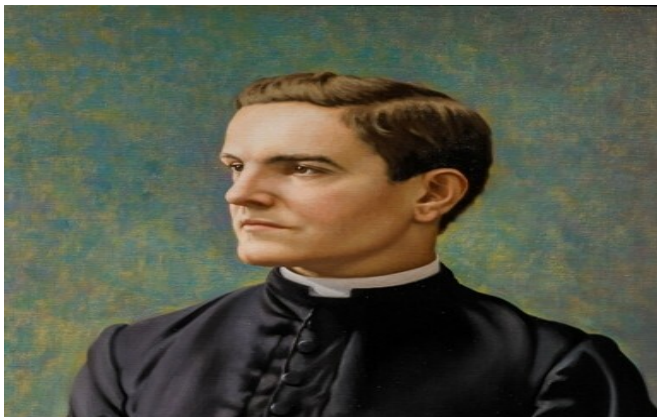
The rebirth of my baby!





Officers for 2026- 2027

Chaplain: Reverend Father Paul McDonald
 Grand Knight: Geoff Haimes
 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 Vivian Pereira
 Chancellor: Daniel White
 Inside Guard: Joseph Pizatti
 Outside Guard: & Hall Manager- Conrad Kubica
 Outside Guard: Mike Vande Wiel
 3rd Year Trustee: Brian LeBlanc
 2nd Year Trustee Rene Ongcango
 1st Year Trustee: : PGK Johnson Moraes
 Vanguard: Brian Whittaker, Geoff Haimes
 Webmaster : Brian Whittaker



Blessed Michael McGivney's Feast Day is August 13th.

THE VANGUARD

Knights of Columbus

St. Catharines Council 1394

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CHARITY

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PATRIOTISM

