



COMMUNION

Monthly Periodical of Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council 1467
265 Wellington Street. St. Thomas, Ontario N5R 2S6

June 2024



GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

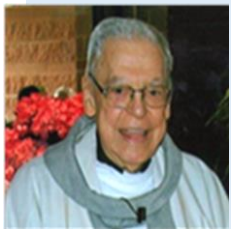
Dear Brothers: As the Fraternal Year winds down, I've reflected on our many achievements to serve the needs of our parishes, our community, and our own fraternal relationships. We are a strong Council and while we number about 200 members, we are also an aging group. Our Council, like many others (including even secular service clubs), continues to experience the challenges that come when many of our fellow Brothers have reduced capacity to participate in Council events and activities. I look forward to our continued success in FY 2024-25 and call on us all to work together to renew and enhance our service to others as we strengthen our fraternal bonds. I pray you and yours enjoy a safe summer and continue to grow in your own personal grace.

Fraternally, GK Ray Bernicky, gk1467@ontariokofo.ca

THANKS & SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER

This issue of Communion is the final one for the 2023-24 Fraternal Year. While the 2024-25 FY begins July 1st, we traditionally do not resume publication until September's issue (prepared in August). As editor, I want to recognize and thank the many folks that help produce **COMMUNION** each month, especially **Bro. SK Dennis Collins** for contacting sponsors as well as managing mailing lists, address wraps and postage forms; and **Bro. SK Henry Poirier** for folding and wrapping 4th Degree issues and also delivering the entire lot to the Post Office. I also thank all the regular contributors of reports and articles (named herein). Of course, communication of Council matters doesn't stop entirely over the summer and you should expect to receive occasional and timely e-blasts to inform you of key events and announcements (as long as you and your fellow brothers request same to be issued by Bro. SK Martin Evers). Have a great summer my friends!

- Fraternaly, Harald Schraeder, DGK, PGK



Father Ernie Deslippe (1929 - 2011) served as Council chaplain for over 46 years. He was born in Harrow Ontario on March 20, 1929 and was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop John C. Cody on May 27, 1961 at St. Peter's Basilica, London Ontario. He celebrated his first Mass at St. Anthony of Padua parish in Harrow. Through his 50 years of ordained ministry, he served as associate pastor, Holy Angels' Parish, St. Thomas; and Administrator, St. Joseph Mission, Port Stanley. He was an inspiring priest, a leader with fortitude. Throughout his life he was a comforting power for disadvantaged people helping them to find a clear path to follow. He was a dedicated member of the Knights of Columbus who stressed that prayer is a vital tool. It helps to become confident, to see things in proper perspective, to give us vision, courage, strength and endurance, and to erode our impure motives.

He said holiness is not something we do for ourselves and instead something that God does in us. He invited us to open our hands to allow what we have to be shared, to flow out of us and we watch it multiplied. He understood that giving, not getting, is the generosity begets generosity. He pointed out that paying attention is one of the greatest compliments we can pay to another human being. Father Deslippe exemplified the mission of the Church to guide its followers to a fulfilling life. He was a great spiritual leader dedicated to prayer and always striving for virtue. Fr. Ernie was a strong advocate of learning and so Council awards a \$1000 scholarship in his name each year to a student that demonstrates the values and principles of the Gospel and is pursuing post-secondary education.

The Knights of Columbus (K of C) is a fraternal benefit society that was established in 1882 thanks to the efforts of **Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney**, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut. The K of C has grown from several members in one council to more than 14,000 councils and approaching 2 million members world-wide. The Order holds true to its founding principles of **Charity, Unity and Fraternity**.

Bulletin submissions deadline: 25th of the month (Sept-May inclusive)

COUNCIL OFFICERS 2023-24

- Ray Bernicky, Grand Knight
gk1467@ontariokofc.ca
- Fr. Peter Keller, Chaplain
- Harald Schraeder, Deputy GK
- Blair Ferguson, Chancellor
- Robert Weir, Recording Secretary
- Regis Trudel, Financial Secretary
- Orio Ortins, Treasurer
- Jim (Simon) Vink, Advocate
- Luc Audet, Warden
- James Dewan, Trustee (3 yr.)
- Roy Esbaugh, Trustee (2 yr.)
- Steven Wachowiak, Trustee (1 yr.)
- John Kana, Inside Guard
- Francis Dadzie, Outside Guard
- Patrick Houston, Lecturer
- John Noonan, Insurance Agent / Fraternal Advisor

ESTEEMED PARTNERS

- Alex Schadenberg, District Deputy
- Henry Poirier, Faithful Navigator, Bishop Cody Assembly
- Sandi Hoffer, President, Ladies Auxiliary
- Roy Esbaugh, President, Columbus Club

COUNCIL BULLETIN: Harald Schraeder (hschran623@rogers.com)

WEB SITE ADMINISTRATOR
(www.KofC1467.com): Martin Evers
(martin.evers53@gmail.com)

COLUMBUS CLUB MANAGER:
[vacant] (226-927-0375)



Join Us!

<https://www.kofc.org/en/who-we-are/about-membership/index.html>

COUNCIL OFFICERS 2024-25

The following brothers were elected / acclaimed at the May 27th Business Meeting:

GK: **OPEN¹**

DGK: **OPEN**

Chancellor: **OPEN**

Recording Secretary: **Rob Weir**

Treasurer: **Orio Ortins**

Advocate: **OPEN**

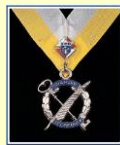
Warden: **Luc Audet**

Trustee 3 year: **Armand Matte**

Guards: **John Kana & Michael Kilborn**

Financial Secretary Bo. Regis Trudel continues in his appointment as does **Lecturer Bro. Patrick Houston**.

¹ 'OPEN' signifies that nominees did not allow their names to stand at the May Business Meeting. Resolution of these potential vacancies is pending further discussion by the current executive at their June meeting and subsequent calling for nominations and revisiting of nominees' intentions at the June Business meeting.



FS CHAT

HAPPY SUMMER BIRTHDAYS!!!

JUNE: Malcolm Beckwith, Justin Buchanan, Randall ('Otis') Clifton, Roy Ewart, Malcolm Gooding, Robert Grindon, Joe Hicknell, John C. Jakobi, John W. Jakobi, Greg Ladd, Bryan Lee, David Lomond, Steve Miloloza, Mathew O'Gorman, Peter Ostojic, Doug Pardey, Carl Pearson, Jim Sheridan, Jan Sumera, Oscar Sunil & Sean Thomas.

JULY: Harold Berger, Ray Bernicky, Richard Borecki, Roberto Dala, David Elford, Roman Kuchmak, Ronald Kunz, Patrick McKenna, Jerry O'Brien, David O'Connor, Daniel O'Neil, David Regan & Ed Steer.

AUGUST: Steven Bailey, Ron Buchanan, William Bynsdorp, Murray Clarke, Dennis Collins, Ken Couchman, Phil East, Wayne Elliott, Blair Ferguson, Joe Filipovic, Bill Hall, James Kennedy, Michael Keogh, Andrew O'Connor, Orio Ortins, Harald Schraeder, Alois Van Hooydonk & Peter Vergeer.

Supporting our local Schools

As we come to the end of our Fiscal Year in June, we are pleased to continue to show our support for our local schools with our Charity donations: St. Joseph's Scholarships, St Joseph's Spring Awards, and St. Anne's & Monsignor Morrison Hot Dog Days

2024-25 Budget ...

Your Executive will be reviewing the results of our Fraternal Year 2023-24 General & Charity Budgets over the summer and discussing our priorities and plans for the FY that begins July 1st. If you have any suggestions or ideas for your Executive to consider, please forward them to me.

Have a safe, fun and blessed summer!

Regis Trudel, FS1467@ontariokofc.ca; 226-688-6060



June Assignments

- 9th, Sunday, 12-2 p.m.: Jim Dewan & Al Baca
 - 20th, Thursday, 4-6 p.m.: Bill Walker & Tom Carr
 - 24th, Monday, 2-4 p.m.: Randall (Otis) Clifton & Dennis Collins
- Please arrive 10 minutes before your assigned time.

NOTE: Fall / Winter bingo shirts have been ordered and should arrive by mid-June.

Did you know the Bingo crew generates well over half of Council's Charity giving each year? Thanks to Jackpot Time for giving Council the opportunity to raise funds to help the needy in our community.

MARK THE DATES JUNE EVENTS

All events take place at the Columbus Club at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

- 3rd: Bishop Cody Assembly mtg.
- 5th-8th: **St. Anne's Festival**
- 9th: **FED Scholarship application deadline**
- 10th: FED Exec. Meeting / Ladies Auxiliary
- 12th: Evening with Fr. John (**6:30 p.m., SA**)
- 13th: St. Anne's Hot Dog Day (**10 a.m.**)
- 16th: Father's Day
- 17st: Columbus Club Directors
- 19th: Soup Brothers (**9:00 am**)
- 21st-22nd: **SUMMERFEST**
- 22nd: Columbian Service Day (**London**)
- 24th: Msgr. Morrison Hot Dog Day (**10 a.m.**)
- 24th: FED Business Meeting

Timely notices of events can be arranged by contacting PGK Martin Evers by email (martin.evers53@gmail.com) and requesting an eblast.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS:

The following motions were recorded at the May Business Meeting and are subject to seconding, debate and vote at the June Business Meeting.

1. **Summer Charity Donations** (Moved by FS Regis Trudel): Whereas our Fiscal Budgets approve expenditures from July 1st to June 30th each year, and whereas the Fraternal Year 2024-25 budgets will not be approved prior to the October 2025 Business Meeting, I move that Council Executive be authorized to spend up to **\$10,000** from Council's Charity Accounts during the period July 1, 2024 and the October Business meeting.
2. **Special Holy Angels' Restoration Loan Donation** (moved by FS Regis Trudel): Whereas there is still an estimated \$500,000 outstanding debt on the Holy Angels' Restoration Loan, and whereas the Parish is restricted in obtaining further loans from the Diocese to undertake necessary capital works until the loan is re-paid, and whereas there will be a surplus of Council Charity Funds at the end of the current Fraternal Year ending June 30th, I move that a donation of **\$5,000** be awarded from Council's Charity Account to reduce the Holy Angels' Restoration Fund debt balance.

Please Pray for the Intentions of:

Malcolm & Gary Beckwith, Ron & Barry Buchanan, Randall (Otis) Clifton & his daughter Genevieve, Richard Cochrill, Gerry & Miriam Costello, Case Hoffer's niece Robin DeLeemans, Jim Dewan's wife Susan, Martin Evers, Jean Goddeeris, Adam Hicknell's Oma, John Jakobi Sr, Carl & Barb Kroeplin, John Laverty, Jim Lumley, Cliff Marentette, Barry MacMillan, Madeline McIntosh, Matthew O'Gorman, John Nolan, Dan O'Connor, Doug Pardey, Carl Pearson, Louise Perrier, Jack Sims, Darryl Sullivan, Alan Taylor, Case Terpstra, Joan Vachon, Bro. SK Simon Vink's sister Jennifer Salomon, Steve Wachowiak, Rob Weir & Priests and ERCFP staff. Please also pray for condolence for our widows and surviving family members.

Please pray for all our recently faithful departed, especially **Bro. Regis Trudel's niece Laura Church**, **Bro. John Kana's brother-in-law Tom Parrish**, and **Bro. Roy Esbaugh's father-in-law Charles Beckett**, that through God's mercy they be welcomed by Jesus and are at peaceful repose in Heaven.

Please pray as well for our brother Knights and their families impacted by the war in the Ukraine.

PASTORAL MESSAGE: Membering and re-Membering

I am struck again and again by little sparks of God's grace evident in our parishes and which stand out in stark contrast to confusion and cynicism of our world. As we celebrate **Pentecost**, we look to the Holy Spirit to give birth to the life of the Church. This Spirit not only fuels us but more importantly transforms us, so the Spirit continuously renews the Church and her members.

I tend to avoid bad grammar, yet two artificial words keep coming to mind when contemplating what is important in the years to come in our parishes. For me, **Membering** speaks the activity of encouraging new people to be part of our community while **re-Membering** speaks to the need to re-engage the whole community in the life of the Church. The play on words is intentional. I truly believe we all need to remember the original drive and zeal that first brought us to the faith and then to welcome others into the continuous process of being formed in the Church.

After a year of prayer and discernment, our Pastoral Council and associated Pastoral Team have discerned a way forward for continual growth in faith in our community. We are planning a cycle of continual renewal of our parishes as Eucharistic Communities. Our goal is to lead all to a more active participation in Sunday Eucharist as well as small faith sharing communities where all can gather to know and grow their faith together.

We have come up with three elements which lead us to continual growth in faith:

1. **Stepping Stones** – An initial shallow end experience of faith like Alpha or the Recue Project.
2. **Deep Dive Retreat** - An overnight Men's Retreat and an overnight Women's Retreat.
3. **Into the Deep** – Building on the previous elements and starting with small groups' experiences, developing long-term and stable faith-sharing communities.

We all need to grow in faith, and I encourage all to participate in the various programs, retreats and small groups planned. There is but one Lord, one faith and one baptism, and it is my hope, therefore, that we can encourage one another to **Know, Love and Serve the Lord**.

Sincerely,
Fr. Peter Keller, Pastor
Elgin Roman Catholic Family of Parishes



Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Matthew 18:19-20

Pope Francis' June Intention For migrants fleeing their homes

We pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys full of danger and violence, find welcome and new opportunities in the countries that receive them.

HELP WANTED ... URGENTLY

The **Columbus Club** is required by provincial law to use individuals with a current **Smart Serve Certifications** to serve alcohol or in the sale of drink tickets. Only one member of Council 1467 has responded to our recent appeal for assistance.

In total we have 5 Council members and 3 other individuals with Smart Serve Certifications. While this may seem adequate, people have busy lives and are not always available for this very part time work. Other than for Council events, this is a paid service. If you know someone that would be interested in periodic bar tending or hall supervision during a rental, please have them contact **Joe Fleming** (joe.fleming@rogers.com).

Thanks!



COMMUNITY PROGRAM

SOUP BROTHERS: The Soup Brothers made **91 containers (32-oz) of Chicken Vegetable Soup** for the St. Thomas - Elgin Food Bank on May 15th. The next soup day is **Wednesday June 19th**, 9 a.m. at the Columbus Club ... all are welcomed!

ELIMINATION DRAW: The winners of our \$50 weekly draws in May were: 6th: **Neal Ambrose** Ticket #178; 13th: **Tony Busch** Ticket #175; and 20th: **Karen Rivers** Ticket #225

May 24th Final Draws Grand Prize winners were:

- \$3,000 Grand Prize split (\$1,000 each): **Avery Colledge** # 66; **Nancy Butler** #196; **Ernie Fougere** #342
- \$100 for 1st and every 100th ticket drawn: **Art Beaudry** #182; **Allan Hughson** #263; **Mark, Adam & Matt Brisson** #346 & **Adam Swales** #288
- \$50 for every 25th ticket drawn (other than as above): **Gerry Costello** #133; **Nancy Bourque** #29; **Sarah Coleman** #25; **Steve Peters** #97; **Katherine Corroll** #270; **Dave Chaplow** #162; **Lesley Buchanan** #279; **Roman Kuchmak** #33; **Michelle Sylvester** #163 & **John Karn** #5.

GK Ray Bernicky extends his sincerest appreciation to everyone that helped with this annual project, from ticket sales to preparing and serving the dinner to running the final draw and awarding prizes. Our collective efforts netted several thousands to increase our charity funds that we distribute to support to needy causes in our community throughout the year.

GRACE CAFÉ CANADA DAY BBQ: **Bro. Harald Schraeder** will be reaching out to a small crew of his fellow brothers to cook and serve burgers on **Saturday June 29th** in the morning.

HOT DIGGITY DOG DAYS: The first **Hot Dog Day** this year will be at **St Anne's** on **Thursday June 13th** and we're expecting to serve 900 students & staff. The second will be at **Msgr. Morrison** on **Monday June 24th** for 600. We'll need members at each event at **10 a.m.** to get prepared. Thank you in advance and we look forward to a good turnout. For more information or to confirm your attendance, please contact **Bro. Bill Walker** (519-633-5367)

COLUMBIAN SERVICE DAY (June 22nd): A full day of service culminating in a Mass and dinner at various locations in London. Please contact **Bro. Martin Evers** (519-878-2313) for more details and about participating in some or all of the planned activities.

115TH ANNIVERSARY: Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council 1467 will be marking its 115th anniversary in January 2025. **Bro. Martic Evers** (see contact above) is establishing a team to coordinate a celebratory event and invites interested brothers to join the team. Further details will be shared when available.

2024 Father Ernie Deslippe (FED) Scholarship

The application deadline is **June 9th**. Please refer to the Council website FED Scholarship page (<https://www.kofc1467.com/fed-scholarship>) to access the **Application Form** and **Application Guidelines**.

FEEL LIKE TAKING A WALK?

When I look at tasks, I often look at them from a military perspective. I have no idea why but suppose it comes from what I mostly read. What did it take to plan the D-Day landings or the taking of Vimy Ridge? Those were huge tasks that required thousands of men performing various roles. How about the three wise men? I know what you're thinking, the heats got to me. But really think about the story of the Magi.



As the story goes, three wise men are out for a stroll, all by themselves, traveling across a bandit-infested desert while carrying three of the most expensive and sought after items of their time: gold, frankincense and myrrh. When I read the account of the three wise men this is what I think: They left out a lot of the players involved in this undertaking. First off, these men are Kings in their home countries so would have had at least a platoon of chosen men guarding them and then double that to take into account that they are in possession of items well worth risking one's life for. Secondly, they were riding camels and since beasts need to eat, they'd have to have taken fodder with them (and that fodder would have to be carried on either other camels or donkeys ... which also require fodder). They travelled across the desert so they needed water ... and more camels to carry enough for the whole entourage. Are the kings cooking for themselves on this journey? I hardly think (present-day monarch) **King Charles III** knows how to make wiener and beans over a fire and so chances are neither did the Magi. Then to consider they are on foreign soil and would need local guides to direct them to watering holes and best camping sites. The list could go on and on but I hope I've made my point that for the three wise men to have traveled to visit the birth of our Lord and Saviour, they weren't alone and it would have taken an army of other individuals to help them achieve their goal.

This coming year is the year of pilgrimages. One of the most incredible journeys is the **Santiago de Compostela** or the Way of St. James. As you can well imagine, even though the pilgrimage is, or can be, set out by an individual seeking this deeply religious and moving experience, there is still an army of like-minded people helping them along the way. I'll get back to that shortly but first let me give you some background information about this **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. The tomb of St. James was discovered in 814 AD by **Saint Pelagius the Hermit** after he witnessed strange lights above the forest of Libredon. He reported his discovery to his Bishop who in turn informed King Alfonso II. The King ordered a chapel built on the site and the King was its first Pilgrim. By 899 AD, a Romanesque church had been built by King Alfonso III and it quickly became a popular pilgrimage site for the Christian world. Unfortunately, while the church was burned by Muslim raiders, the tomb was left untouched. It wasn't until King Ferdinand III took back Spain 1236 AD that the pilgrimage site was restored. Construction of the present Cathedral began in 1075 AD and was completed in 1122 AD.

The entire walk, referred to as the Camino de Santiago or simply 'the way', is just over 800 km (500 miles) through some of Europe's most beautiful landscape. You walk through France over the Pyrenees mountains into Spain. Words simply escape how to fully describe this scenic journey and I'm pretty sure I will never be able to experience this walk personally. Imagine walking in the footsteps of millions of Christian pilgrims over the last 1200 years seeking a spiritual awakening, including famous ones like St. Francis of Assisi, St. Pope John Paul II and a host of others.

One of our own has done the way. **Brother and PGK Peter O'Donnell** walked the entire journey over a period of a month at the age of 65. I spoke with Peter about his trip and the subsequent training he has undergone to become a Hospitaleiro (remember the whole it takes an army thing). Peter is now qualified to be one of the people who help pilgrims along the way as others did for him when he did the walk: directing him to the nearest hostel, where to shower, where to do laundry, covering all the basic necessities on every step of his own spiritual awakening. That's how Peter explained his original Camino: A spiritual awaking. That speaks volumes coming from a man who has been a devout Catholic his whole life, from being an Altar Boy as a child in the old Latin Mass to becoming a teacher with the Catholic school system, as well as a practical Catholic husband and father. Peter told me of his experiences including how he met people from all over the world. He'd be walking along and someone from Germany would appear beside him and they'd talk for a few miles. Further along, someone from Ireland, England, Scotland, USA, Mexico, African countries or you name it would be a companion for a bit. To be sure, not everyone is on a spiritual journey and some walk it just for the exercise and to take in the scenery. World-famous physicist Steven Hawking, for example, went on the walk and one wonders whether he had anything spiritual in mind.

[continued]

[Walk continued]

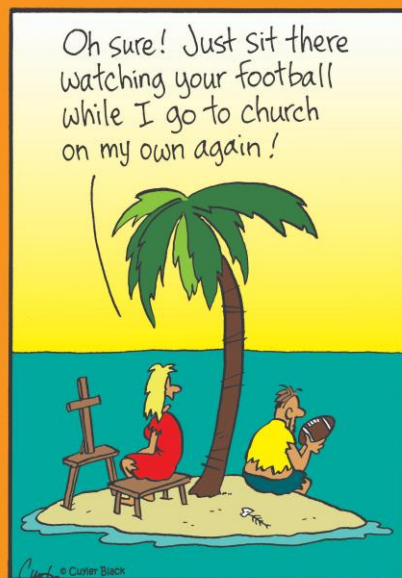
Peter also talked about the comradery that developed at the hostels where, upon arrival, the first thing everyone wanted to do was shower and second wash their cloths. Remember, you're not traveling with a suitcase and instead a backpack and that's it. So, after cleaning up and hanging your clothes on the line to dry, everyone would take part in preparing the meal together. Imagine the eucharist type environment as people from all walks of life, from all different countries come together to cook and then eat together. Many hostels are connected to a church or chapel where the pilgrims can attend Mass and receive communion.

At the end of his month-long walk, Peter attended Mass at the **Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela**, a building of majestic beauty built over a thousand years ago and containing the relic bones of the Apostle St. James the Greater, along with many other Saints and noteworthy Catholics. His wife Jennifer flew over to meet him at the end of his journey and they attended Mass together. Peter said that after he'd received communion, after the Mass had ended, he sat in that beautiful building devoted to God and wept. Peter said he cried like never before, not out of sadness or even joy but simply because he was overwhelmed by the recognition the journey had changed his life. The pilgrimage did what it is supposed to do: open one's heart and soul to one's fellow man so as to see everyone as a brother or sister in Christ. There is no simply 'going through the motions' for the 800 km trek; you have to be all in or you'll end up baling.

Peter plans to return this coming April or November to be a Hospitaleiro, helping others in the true sense of Christian brotherhood along on their way of the Pilgrim. Like I said, I'll never be able to go to this pilgrimage site or any other such as Lourdes, Fatima or even the shrine of Guadalupe in Mexico, and have definitely ruled out the Holy Land, so what's left? Where can someone like me go to seek a spiritual awakening? Well, it just happens there are many places right here in Ontario, even a few right here in our proverbial back yard. There's Our Lady of Grace Shrine at Marylake in King City, the Shrine to Saint Therese of Lisieux in Niagara Falls, Our Lady of the Rosary Diocesan Shrine in Kent County, and of course the Martyrs Shrine in Midland dedicated to the Jesuit Martyrs. The first three can all be done in a day and even day-tripping to Midland is certainly doable.

Summer is upon us and as this is the last issue of Communion until September, I encourage you to consider a trip for the purpose of spiritual awakening, perhaps not the same as Peter's but something involving one of our local pilgrimage sites. Come September, I'd like to work with Father Peter Keller in organizing a pilgrimage to one of Ontario's sites for the entire family of parishes and sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. It would be great if the Knights could act in a sort of Hospitaleiro capacity, helping others along on our collective spiritual journey. Until then, have a great summer and may peace be with you all.

Fraternally, SK Blair Ferguson, Faith Director



Why can't we all just get along?
- Rodney King

Reflection

Having reflected upon the secular world's seeming obsession with *diversity*, *equality* and *inclusivity* (DEI), I've been thinking it's really too bad not more people are focused on the third petition in the Lord's Prayer, "*Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven*". Perhaps DEI, at its root, reflects societal frustration over the loss of a sense of Common Good. Those that advocate for DEI are often agents for the marginalized (if not the marginalized themselves) who feel not very good at all about being considered 'uncommon'.

Look, I get why people dedicate their lives to DEI. Hasn't an '*us versus them*' mentality plagued humanity since the dawn of 'civilization'? Didn't even God side with His Chosen People against pretty much everyone else inhabiting the area? "*Behold, I will drive out before you the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Per'izzites, the Hivites, and the Jeb'usites. Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither you go, lest it become a snare in the midst of you. You shall tear down their altars, and break their pillars, and cut down their Ashe'rim (for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and when they play the harlot after their gods and sacrifice to their gods and one invites you, you eat of his sacrifice, and you take of their daughters for your sons, and their daughters play the harlot after their gods and make your sons play the harlot after their gods.*" (Exodus 34:11-16) Not a very DEI-aligned people, the Chosen, it would appear.

Fortunately, New Testament writings effectively 'soften' Old Testament perspectives about 'others'. For example, St. Paul's first epistle to the Church in Corinth (1 Corinthians 12:12-27), familiar to all Catholics, reminds us how a society bound in One Spirit should not need the remedies to social ills that DEI seeks to provide ...

*"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and **all were made to drink of one Spirit**. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the organs in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single organ, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body which seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those parts of the body which we think less honorable we invest with the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. **But God has so adjusted the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior part, that there may be no discord in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.** If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."*

Given the current state of things, we should pray that more people find the time to focus more on what binds us in common, namely, to live a life dedicated to complying with Jesus' second greatest commandment, "***You shall love your neighbor as yourself.***" Failure to do so is only very likely to lead to bad outcomes; to paraphrase: *Divided we are conquered.*

Fraternally,
Harald Schraeder, DGK, PGK

Catholic Corner

In previous communications, I have stated how I am here for you, my Brothers and Sisters, and I mean it. This month let me share a little insight into me and my situation. On May 20, 2019, five years ago, I lost my father at the age of 85. He had been sick for some time and slowly weakened suffering from congestive heart failure. At first, it didn't seem to greatly affect me. However, a few months later I felt like I hadn't properly grieved. This was my first parent to pass away and I didn't really know how to feel. Add to that, he was my best friend who I loved spending time with him. I was confused, sad, and unable to cry, which is not like me. By November of 2019, it had hit me and hit hard. Couple that with personal struggles and staffing issues at work, and it all caught up to me. My personal health had taken a beating as I had lost over 30 lbs prior to my dad taking ill and since his passing I had put on 50 lbs. My blood pressure was very high and rising with each check up. It was at this time I was diagnosed with type II diabetes. My doctor was very concerned for my health and she prescribed 30 days off work. I protested in vain as I had work to do, projects to be completed, and could not afford to be off work. Those 30 days turned into 4 months and was much needed. At the outset, I was exhausted and slept most of the month. Then I began reaching out for assistance. I reached out for counselling, both through my doctor and my work. I found a personal trainer and a naturopath, who, together with the counsellors, were amazing. I had time to grieve, rest, de-stress and work on myself. I ended up returning to work on March 13, 2020, the day the world shut down because of COVID. While not exactly the best day to come off a leave to start work again, I had tools including self-awareness to allow me to stay at work. It was at a Knights' meeting in January when I put my hand up during the Good of the Order to ask for prayer for myself.

To this day, I do not know why I put my hand up. I had been keeping my time off to myself and family but it was the best thing I ever did. I believe deeply in my faith and felt it was the Holy Spirit lifting my arm that evening. Immediately after talking about my situation, I felt a huge weight lifted. At the end of the meeting, everyone in attendance came up and hugged me or shook my hand. Everyone offered their support. Many shared similar experiences and I took them up on their support. My brothers were there to pick me up and they kept checking in on me. It was a huge turning point for me in terms of getting out of a dark place and feeling sorry for myself. On top of my Brothers, **Nancy Butler** and **Pat Vanderveen** reached out asking if I was ready to attend a bereavement¹ group. While I was hesitant at first, I finally agreed and can not recommend this service highly enough. It was such a great group session and I was fortunate to have a great group of members.

I am not telling my story looking for sympathy or support but rather to encourage others who are suffering with their own challenges and issues to reach out and talk to someone about it. If I can be that ear for you to talk to, I am always available and willing to listen. If it is a death that has you feeling unwell, please reach out to Pat or Nancy as they are both wonderful at their roles. If you're uncomfortable with telling a Brother, then please reach out to a family member or your doctor. The key is to just reach out and not feel that you are letting others or even yourself down. You will feel so much relief sharing with like-minded people and experts. I know I did and I can not thank my Brothers and all who supported me enough. It made all the difference for me. Reach out, I am here for you as you have been for me!

Faithfully Your Brother,
SK Rob Weir

¹ To learn more about the ERCFP Bereavement Ministry, visit: <https://elginrcparishes.ca/bereavement-group>

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30



The Elgin Patriot

Bishop John C. Cody Assembly 0879 / June 2024

Membership consists of Sir Knights from Councils 1467, 4189 & 6495



Sir Knights:

Correction from the May Patriot: The July 1st picnic at the Terpstra's is a Pot Luck (not a Pot Roast) and everyone is asked to bring food to share. No one will go home hungry! The picnic will run 3 – 7 p.m. As for directions: go south on Imperial Road from Aylmer to Jamestown Line at the hamlet of Copenhagen, turn right (west) on Jamestown Line and the Terpstra's are the 2nd house on the north side.

Congratulations to the Sir Knights elected to next year's executive (see the list below) and all positions have been filled!

This is my last year as Faithful Navigator. I thank the Assembly for their support and cooperation. I also wish the Assembly a fruitful and successful year of fraternity! Happy Summer Holidays!!

Fraternally,
SK Henry Poirier FN, PGK, PFN, PDD

Spanish MASS at St Mary's West Lorne

Our plants, fruits and vegetables grown on local farms are the result of seasonal immigrant workers, who labor in the fields so that we can benefit from the fruits of their labour. Separated from their families, friends, parish and culture, for 6 months or so each year, it is a blessing that locals provide them a monthly Spanish mass and meal together. Locally, this occurs at our St. Mary's parish, with Sunday mass at 5:00 p.m., followed by a fellowship dinner at St. Mary's hall.

But they are in need of transportation to and from St. Mary's which is being organized for this sector of the province by Deacon Tony Hogervorst. As fellow Brothers in Christ, we have been called upon to provide this necessary transportation for our local farm workers on the following Sundays this summer: June 2, July 7, August 18, September 8 & October 6.

Please consider this act of charity and let me know when you would like to help.

Regis Trudel
FS1467@ontariokofc.ca; 226-688-6060

For These We Pray: SK Maurice Brennan, SK Ron Buchanan, SK Gerry & Miriam Costello, SK Dino DeAngelo, SK Jim Dewan's wife Susan, SK Case Hoffer, Fr. Johnson's mother, SK Jim Kennedy's wife Pauline, SK James Lumley, SK Barry MacMillan, SK Larry McCaffery as well as his relatives Leo and Evie, SK John Nolan, SK Doug Pardey, SK Alan Taylor, SK Joe Vachon's wife Joan, SK Louis Van Hooydonk, SK Simon Vink's sister Jennifer Salomon, SK Steve Wachowiak, as well as for our deceased members, especially SK Charles Beckett, their spouses and family members, who we pray have been embraced by God in Heaven.

Faithful Friar Fr. Peter Keller

Navigator Simon Vink

Captain Dennis Collins

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Admiral Joe Fleming

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I pray you all enjoy a blessed and safe summer and are provided time to spend with family and friends.

Fraternally, John P. Noonan, FIC, CPCA, 519-870-9675; john.noonan@kofc.org




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My how time flies. I doesn't seem like ten months ago that I wrote my first newsletter report as Club president. As most of my reports pretty much had the same theme, I felt it right to finish the same way.

The Columbus Club had a reasonably successful year. Since COVID, it took some time to build up customers' interest in going out in the public, let alone having family gatherings and social events. As the fall and winter months went on, we saw a change in people's attitudes and realized things weren't so bad after all. Business increased as March, April and May were busy with rentals and events such as the dinners that were put on that really added to our success. Your participation was and continues to be greatly appreciated.

Summer always slows down as people are either outside gardening, just taking in the sunny days or away on a well-deserved vacation. But so that you are aware: We are still open for business. One last thing I want to mention is our Summerfest so please check the poster for details and note that all proceeds will go to the Hospice of Elgin. In closing and on behalf of the Columbus Club, I wish all of you a safe and wonderful summer.

Fraternally,
Roy Esbaugh, President



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The Columbus Club requires **Smart Serve Certified** help. Training is available online from the AGCO and the certification will be good for several years. Please consider getting involved to support your Columbus Club and contact **Brother Joe Fleming (519-633-0335)** if you would be willing to become Smart Served!



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