



# COMMUNION

Monthly Periodical of Fr. Ernie Deslippe Council 1467 (est. 1935)  
265 Wellington Street. St. Thomas, Ontario N5R 2S6

September 2025



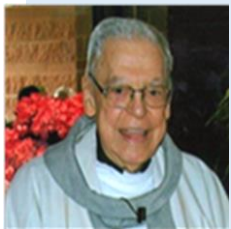
## GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

**Brothers:** As summer winds down, marked by **Labour Day** on the 1<sup>st</sup> of this month, we turn our attention to reconnecting in fraternity and performing works of charity. Your executive has not been entirely idle since the beginning of the Fraternal Year on July 1<sup>st</sup> and I invite you to come to this month's business meeting to learn about our proposed annual budgets that were prepared by **FS Regis Trudel** in consultation with Council Officers. Once adopted at our October Business Meeting, perhaps as amended to reflect Council membership's interests and priorities, we can all focus on our non-financial services to grow the faith and improve the lives of our fellow brothers, their families, and our neighbours and friends.

As I write this, I'm reminded of one of our Pastor's, Fr. Peter Keller's, answer to how we will succeed in our parishes' mission to save the souls of Elgin County [i.e., all and regardless of faith orientation], "**by continued development of Lay Leadership which focuses on Pastoring** (drawing out the gifts of others)."

We Knights are especially called to actively pastor, both within our own ranks and to those we invite to join us. It is no secret that we need to renew our ever-aging membership and to draw from both **established** as well as (perhaps more importantly) **newly arrived** men that attend our local churches that are seeking like-minded men with which to socialize and share in their personal faith development. Let us remember, therefore: We are not just another service club. Our specific mission is **to empower Catholic men to live their faith at home, in their parish, at work and in their community**. With your help, we can achieve great things for each other, for those that choose to join us, and for all souls in our community.

Fraternally,  
Harald Schraeder, GK, 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 2024-25

- Harald Schraeder, Grand Knight  
[gk1467@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:gk1467@ontariokofc.ca)
- Fr. Peter Keller, Chaplain
- John Kana, Deputy GK
- Patrick Houston, Chancellor
- Robert Weir, Recording Secretary
- Regis Trudel, Financial Secretary
- Orio Ortins, Treasurer
- Donald Henry, Advocate
- Luc Audet, Warden
- Peter Kuntz, Trustee (3 yr.)
- Steve Wachowiak, Trustee (2 yr.)
- Jim Dewan, Trustee (1 yr.)
- Michael Kilborn, Inside Guard
- David Primeau, Outside Guard
- E.J. Adiole, Lecturer
- John Noonan, Insurance Agent / Fraternal Advisor

## ESTEEMED PARTNERS

- Raymond Bernicky, District Deputy
- Simon Vink, Faithful Navigator, Bishop Cody Assembly
- Sandi Hoffer, President, Ladies Auxiliary
- David Warden, President, Columbus Club

**COUNCIL BULLETIN:** Harald Schraeder  
([hschran623@rogers.com](mailto:hschran623@rogers.com))

**WEB SITE LINK:** [kofc1467](http://kofc1467)

**SITE ADMIN:** [martin.evers53@gmail.com](mailto:martin.evers53@gmail.com)

**COLUMBUS CLUB MANAGER:** Laurie Elford (226-927-0375)



# Join Us!

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

The members of Father Ernie Deslippe Council 1467, Knights of Columbus, of St. Thomas, Ontario, are pleased to announce the names of graduating high school students who received scholarships and bursaries from our donations to St. Joseph's Catholic Secondary School. **Anthony D'Alessandro** and **Christy Jijo** each received a **\$1,000.00 Fr. Ernie Deslippe Memorial Scholarship**.

We awarded an additional **\$2,000.00 as Spring Awards** to the school that was distributed as \$500.00 each to the following deserving students: **Paula Brailovsky**, **Caleb Gallagher**, **Gavin Morningstar** and **Elijah Yi**. We are blessed to have the opportunity to contribute to offsetting the post-secondary expenses our local youth will incur as they attend college or university. We especially thank Jackpot Time, St. Thomas, for allowing us to earn funds for our charitable mission in our city.



Shown are (L to R): Council Financial Secretary Brother Regis Trudel, SJHS Principal Mr. Jim Sefaldas, SJHS Teacher / Department Head Mrs. Brescia VanVelzer, and Council Bingo Coordinator Bro. Jim Dewan.



## FS CHAT

## HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!!!

David Anderson, Frank Artibello, Barry Buchanan, Michael Carroll, Erik Flock, John Goossens, Richard Haasen, Donald Henry, Rev. John Johnson, John Kana, Michael Keays, Heinrich Kemmerling, Michael Kilborne, Armand Matte, David St. John, Regis Trudel & Jeff Yurek

## 2025-26 Budget ...

The proposed Council General & Charity Budgets will be presented at the September 22nd Business Meeting. They will then be moved for seconding, discussion and voting at the October 27th Business Meeting.

Fraternally, Regis Trudel, [FS1467@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:FS1467@ontariokofc.ca), 226-688-6060

**Have you moved or changed your contact information?** If you change your home address, email address or phone numbers, please remember to email your updates to [FS1467@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:FS1467@ontariokofc.ca).



## September Assignments

- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>, 5 – 7 pm: Jim Dewan & Dennis Collins
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> 1 – 3 pm: Bill Walker & Al Baca

Please arrive 15 minutes before your assigned time.

*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.*

*Volunteers make the ordinary extraordinary.*

## MARK THE DATES SEPTEMBER EVENTS

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

- 2<sup>nd</sup> (**Tues**): Bishop Cody Assembly mtg.
- 8<sup>th</sup>: FED Exec. Mtg / Ladies Aux
- 10<sup>th</sup>: Evening with Fr. John (**6:30 p.m., St Anne's**)
- 10<sup>th</sup>: Ladies Aux. Potluck (**6 p.m.**)
- 15<sup>th</sup>: Columbus Club Directors
- 17<sup>th</sup>: Soup Brothers (**9 a.m.**)
- 22<sup>nd</sup>: FED Business Meeting
- 27<sup>th</sup>: Family BBQ (**4-7 p.m.**)
- 27<sup>th</sup>: Catholic Men's Faith Series (**8 a.m. @ HA**)

Time-sensitive announcements can be e-blasted to members. Should you require this, please email the relevant information to GK Harald Schreder ([hschran623@rogers.com](mailto:hschran623@rogers.com))

## Knights of Columbus Weekly Rosary

Every Tuesday at 1 p.m., Brother Knights join together on ZOOM to pray the Knights' Spiritual Rosary. If you would like to join whenever you are available, please email Bro. Regis ([registrudel@rogers.com](mailto:registrudel@rogers.com)) to request the weekly ZOOM link.

## Ladies Auxiliary

Hope and pray that everyone enjoyed a restful summer.

Please plan to attend our Potluck on Wednesday September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Club, beginning with mass at 6 p.m.

Blessings,  
Sandi Hoffer, Past President

## Please Pray for the Intentions of:

His Holiness Pope Francis, Gary Beckwith, Ray Bernicky's mother Marion, Maurice Brennan, Ron & Barry Buchanan, Randall (Otis) Clifton & his daughter Genevieve, Gerry & Miriam Costello, Dino DeAngelo, Jim Dewan's wife Susan, Martin & Marilyn Evers, Jean Goddeeris, Adam Hicknell's Oma, John Jakobi Sr, Fr. Johnson's mother, Jim Kennedy's wife Pauline, Michael Kilbourne, Dean Kitt's wife Ria, Carl & Barb Kroepelin, John Laverty, Michael Lukasik, Jim Lumley, Cliff Marentette, Barry MacMillan, Larry McCaffery as well as his relative Leo, Madeline McIntosh, Matthew O'Gorman, John Nolan, Doug Pardey, Carl Pearson, Louise Perrier, Peter Sowinski, Darryl Sullivan, Alan Taylor, Case Terpstra, John Thomas, Joe & Joan Vachon, Alois (Louie) Van Hooydonk, Steve Wachowiak, Rob Weir, and 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 SK Case Hoffer's niece **Robin DeLeemans**, and SK Rob Weir's wife **Lisa**, 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.





# Harvest Gala

Saturday November 1, 2025  
St. Anne's Centre

Food, Live and Silent Auction, Dancing

6:30 p.m. doors open

Tables of eight can be reserved for \$800  
or \$100 per ticket

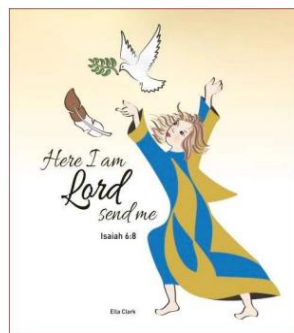
Purchase your tickets by contacting  
Marlene Vizcarra at [mvizcarra@dol.ca](mailto:mvizcarra@dol.ca)  
e-transfer, cash or cheques accepted



## Knights of Columbus Ladies' Auxiliary POTLUCK DINNER Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Columbus Club of St. Thomas

265 Wellington Street



*Join us for an  
evening of faith, fun  
and fellowship*

**Begins with**

**Mass at 6pm**

❖ Followed by  
potluck

❖ Bring your favorite dish to share!

❖ ***Please remember to bring your own plate, cutlery & mug.***

Hosted by the Brothers of Father Ernie Deslippe Council 1467, Knights of Columbus.



## FAMILY BBQ

Saturday Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>  
4- 7 p.m.

Featuring Family-oriented Games & Prizes

COLUMBUS CLUB  
265 Wellington Street  
(free parking)



**TICKETS \$5 (Individual) / \$20 (Family)**

*Advance only & while supplies last & available from:*

- Columbus Club (519-631-2166)
- Donald Henry (647-764-2114)
- Harald Schraeder (519-318-4189)
- Regis Trudel (226-688-6060)

*Spend some quality time ... with quality people ...  
and enjoy some quality eats!!!*

### Catholic Men's Faith Series

LET'S COME TOGETHER WITH OTHER MEN  
TO LISTEN, LEARN, AND DEEPEN OUR FAITH.  
(Welcoming all men 16 and older.)



### ETERNAL REST: THE ART OF DYING WELL

*(A four-part series from The Augustine Institute)*

**Where:** Holy Angels' Church and Hall

**When:** Mass at 8:00 a.m., then gather downstairs for  
refreshments and our morning's session, ending by 11:00

**Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup>**

**The Story of Death**

■ **Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup>**

■ **The After Life**

■ **Saturday November 22<sup>nd</sup>**

■ **The Hour of Our Death**

■ **Saturday November 29<sup>th</sup>**

■ **The Faithful Departed**

To assist in preparation, we would appreciate you notifying us  
of your planned attendance by contacting:

Bob Bray. [bob.bray@ymail.com](mailto:bob.bray@ymail.com) 226-376-6157.

or

Regis Trudel [registrudel@rogers.com](mailto:registrudel@rogers.com) 226-688-6060





Summer is always a busy time for Council! At left, **SK Jim Dewan** awarding Council's donation to ERCFP Business Manager **Stephen Huver**. At right, a crew of Brothers helping out at the Canada Day BBQ at the Grace Café.



## COMMUNITY PROGRAM

**SOUP BROTHERS:** The Soup Brothers made **116 containers** (24-oz) of **Vegetable Soup** for the St. Thomas - Elgin Food Bank on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The next soup day is **Wednesday September 17<sup>th</sup>**, 9 a.m. at the Columbus Club and all are welcome (no soup in June due to Club kitchen use for food preparation for Summerfest).

**MIGRANT WORKERS MINISTRY:** The Diocese's **Migrant Workers Ministry** provides an opportunity for Migrant Workers from Mexico to attend a monthly Spanish mass and enjoy a dinner with fellow workers from the area. Locally, we organize drivers to take workers from Canadale Nursery to a monthly Sunday evening Spanish mass & dinner at St. Mary's in West Lorne. If you are able to occasionally assist to drive them to and from St Mary's, as well as enjoy the dinner, **please contact Bro. Regis Trudel at 226-688-6060**.

**ELIMINATION DRAW:** Tickets are ready to be sold for the 2025/2026 draw, so your ticket seller will be getting a hold of you starting in September. We have 3 tickets that are not spoken for at this time. If you are interested in obtaining an Elimination Draw ticket, please let one of the Knights of Columbus members know or contact the Columbus Club. Thanks, SK Ray Bernicky, Elimination Draw Chair (PGK, DD District 22)



A table full of beautiful ladies enjoyed the annual **Ladies Luncheon** hosted by Council 1467 on Thursday August 21<sup>st</sup> at the Columbus Club. Many thanks to **Bro. Gary Clarke** for arranging the catering and assembling his team of servers, and to **Bro. Roy Esbaugh** who always attends in his finest as befitting to tend bar for our Council's fairest members.

**FAMILY BBQ:** Plan to join us at the Columbus Club on **Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup>** from 4-7 p.m. for some fun and fellowship. See poster in this issue for additional details.

# A Farewell

I pray you all had a wonderful summer and enjoyed some time with friends and family. I certainly did, hanging out with my wife at our favorite place in the world: our home. Before I sat down to write this, I figured out how many times I previously poured out my thoughts for you and would you believe this is my fortieth Communion article. Over the past 39 issues, I have covered a wide array of topics. I wrote about the lives and times of many of our faith's beloved Saints. If you read any of them, you would know of my love of hagiology (reading and studying of the lives of Saints) and due in large part to the fact very few of them began their lives as Saints, having begun their lives far from the behaviours and deeds that earned them Sainthood. **St. Augustine**, for example, had a child out of wedlock and dabbled in paganism (including forms of Christianity that were deemed to be Gnostic and contrary to teachings of the church). Even so, he ended up as a Doctor of the Catholic faith and is recognized in both the Latin and Eastern churches. Taking him as model by which to live our lives would help us know that we are indeed all sinners, that no one is perfect, and that all we can do is strive to do the best we can to adhere to the teachings of Jesus as our guide. We will fail but so will others so let's lift each other up and not ridicule one another for those failings.

While **St. Thomas Aquinas** changed the world we live in with his teachings, probably 90 percent of the folks whose jobs are directly based on STA's writings have more than likely never heard of him. Perhaps that is best: to be part of everything and yet not seen. After all God is like that: all around us and part of everything we see, touch, smell and taste. God is the world around us but only a select few have ever seen him and, even then, only appearing as a flaming bush or voice from a cloud. I think we often want to be seen more than we want to be heard in today's society. Social media (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, etc.) are all about "*Look at me, look at me*" and save and except a few rare occasions is it "*Please listen to what I have to say*". Perhaps going forward we can all strive to be part of everything that is good in this world and not worry so much about being seen doing it.

I have over the past few years told you of how our parishes figured into our military past. Military history is a big part of my life and I can't stress enough how important it is to know and understand what happened in the past and the effects those actions had on our present day. Sadly, I see history being repeated and I pray it can be averted before war is thrust on us once again. I've mentioned in the past how priests from Holy Angels left their parishioners to go to war-torn battlefields to offer spiritual aid, guidance, say Mass and give last rites to the fallen. I can tell you that I know of no other church the size of Holy Angels that has produced so many military padres. Prior to World War I, **Father Thomas J. McCarthy** spent some time at Holy Angels before his ordination. He then went to Sarnia for a short time before the battlefields of Flanders called his name. Father McCarthy would end up earning the Military Cross (MC) for bravery on the battlefield of the Somme by crawling out into no man's land, under barbed wire and with German machine guns spitting bullets at him, to pull wounded men back into the trenches to relative safety. He performed this not once but numerous times. Once can be chalked up to an unconscious action but during the second and third he would know the fear, understand the consequences and yet still go ahead. That is what bravery is all about. When WWII was declared, Assistant Priest **Father Wilfred O'Rourke** from Holy Angels also went to Europe to be present for those who were most in need. By the end of the war Father O'Rourke was in Buckingham Palace standing in front of King George VI being awarded the Member of the British Empire medal (MBE) for his devotion to duty. Remarkably, even in our own life time a priest from Holy Angels volunteered to go to foreign shores to stand up for those being oppressed. **Father Mark Sargent** has been deployed to conflicts around the world: Bosnia, Yugoslavia, Somalia and many others. While I could fill pages on why Father Mark is indeed a hero who walks among us, I'll simply recommend you to go to the National Film Board website and search for the documentary "*In Gods Command*", by Garth Pritchard, or search on YouTube for Father Mark's more recent interview by Ryan Goldsworthy, curator of the Military Institute of Canada, about Canada's involvement in Somalia. Watch them both because Father Mark is far too humble about his accomplishments and his commitment to helping his fellow man to ever say anything himself. Know this if you see him in his military uniform wearing his rack (military term for medals): he has earned every single one and then some. Holy Angels lost many parishioners in both world wars that I've often written about around Remembrance day. I love military history but hate war. Please pray daily for peace around this world, no one wins in war. Families are torn apart, children grow up without a parent, emotional scars are carried for the rest of those who fought in them and the civilians who lived through them. Countries also are changed and often never go back to what they once were. The term Holy War has often been thrown around; I can tell you there is nothing holy about any war.

In past issues, I have opened my heart and soul to you about a great many of my personnel experiences and what brought me to be who and what I am. I've told you about my illness and brush with death, how sickness effects all those around you. I've told you about how I feel about a great many topics, male emotions, inner conflict, questioning ones faith, living as a man with faith in today's age; I even told you that I sought out the help of a psychologist to help me with what turned out to be PTSD. What I hope you men took from all those personal experiences is that, first, it is perfectly OK for a man

[continued]



[Farewell ... continued]

to show emotions, in fact having a good cry is greatly beneficial. It's 2025, not 1925, and bottling up your feelings is only going to lead to you popping your lid one day, either in the form of an emotional breakdown or, in a worst-case scenario, a stroke or heart attack. God gave us these emotions for a reason, so use them. Having emotions doesn't make you less of a man; it makes you a better man. It shows others that you're comfortable with who you are, so let go of the tough guy macho act. People see through it like a clean window.

I've written about some really controversial issues that we face as Catholics in today's age. Homelessness has come up more than once or twice. Sadly, it's a problem that isn't going away. We are always way too quick to judge and that's the last thing we should do. Jesus said "*what you do to the least of my brothers you do onto to me*". Well, I'm pretty sure that these folks are exactly what He had in mind as some of the least of our brothers and sisters. They need our help and our love not our scorn and ridicule. Listen, I know it's not easy and admit it's easier to cross the street when you see someone yelling at a trash can. I've done it myself. I guess as long as we don't do it every time. A great Catholic friend of mine told me he was buying prepaid Tim Horton's gift cards so that if someone asked for money, he would hand them one and know it was going towards food and not drugs or alcohol. I did research into the cost of living in St. Thomas. It's scary to me how expensive living is and I'm surprised there's not more people living on the streets. I can assure you that no first-grade teacher that asked "*What do you want to be when you grow up*" ever heard: "*A drug addict*", "*A street person*" or "*A hooker*". These are all our brothers and sisters in Christ. Let's try to remember that.

M.A.I.D sure was, and is, a hot topic among people of faith. It saddens me the number of Catholic brothers I have known who have chosen this way out (they all got a diagnosis of stage 4 cancer). I know from personnel experience that cancer is a bitch, no other word for it. I've watched my mother, a brother, a sister, a brother-in-law, my father-in-law and my mother-in-law all battle cancer and lose. It's tough on everyone, friends and family alike. From personnel experience, I treasured every day I had with those folk. It wasn't always easy and, in the end, it tears your heart right out of you and leaves you crushed. Eventually you pick yourselves up and over time you forget those last days of torment and remember the better times. M.A.I.D. is with us to stay and because of that we need to be there for those around us who face pain and disease, to let them know that they're not alone and we'll be there to help in any way we can. If someone we know does choose M.A.I.D., still be there for them, be there and pray with them and for them. Finally pray that if you are ever faced with dilemma that you will have the strength to fight till the bitter end.

The other topic I wrote about that would divide a room instantly is Homosexuality. I wrote about a fellow Knight who was from a different council, had been a 4th degree for years and was a leader not only in his council but also in his church. No one knew he was gay and he never brought it up. He came to every meeting and attended Mass every Sunday. Everyone cherished this man as a friend, fellow Knight and fellow Catholic until the man who everyone thought was just his good friend passed away and his obituary listed him as being the deceased "life partner". That's when his council lost all sense of direction. They wanted to hold a special meeting to vote this man out of the Knights. Now as I stated in the article, I wrote that I was raised to think that homosexuality was wrong and an abomination in the eyes of God. People will often take portions of scripture out of context to prove their point about gayness, but a friend of mine who is a priest attended that special meeting carrying a bucket of rocks that he distributed to every Knight as they came into the meeting. The meeting never occurred because they all got the point loud and clear: don't throw stones!! How often do we forget that little thought in our head "What would Jesus do?" I don't know exactly what Jesus would do but I'm pretty darn sure he would not encourage you to throw stones. We all forget that Jesus preached love and understanding of one another, to care for everyone regardless of nationality, race, creed and faith. He encouraged people to follow him through His love. Let's not be slow learners anymore. In all seriousness, we all tend to listen well and act not so well. Should we be hard on ourselves? No, we're human and, as such, prone to fail. Failing isn't a bad thing if we learn from it.

I want to say that writing these bulletin articles has been a great pleasure. The number of people I didn't know at the time that have come up to me to compliment me on my writing has been overwhelming. There have been one or two that didn't like what I wrote but we can't make everyone happy all the time. I've been deeply touched by folks telling me that they look forward to reading my article every month or that my writing has taught them or even changed their minds. In a nut shell I couldn't have asked for a better audience and I want to thank you all for your love. This, however, has always been the most difficult part of writing an article: the ending. This time even more so because this is the end as I will no longer be sharing my thoughts with you every month. This was not an easy decision, I've thought and prayed about it all summer and even come to the decision to withdraw from the Knights for a deeply personal reason that I wish to keep to myself for the time being. My decisions notwithstanding, if you ever want to discuss a topic of faith, have a history question, or just want to talk, please approach me and do so ... I'm easy to pick out in the crowd. I'll leave you with my love and my prayers.

Your brother in Christ,  
Blair Ferguson, Faith Director

# Reflection

May You Rest in Peace JahVai  
... and all like you.

As reported by CTV News on August 16, 2025: “*An eight-year-old boy was struck and killed by a stray bullet while in bed in his North York home early Saturday morning in what police described as a “cowardly and disgusting act of violence.” The boy has been identified by his family as JahVai Roy.*” The story elaborated that JahVai was in his bed, too excited to sleep as he anticipated going to his friend’s birthday party the following day. His mother, as most are apt to do, was laying down with him to help settle him for a good night’s sleep. Read that again: his mother was right there to witness the extinguishing of her son’s life by a bullet that entered their safe place for no good reason. Some would call this an example of ‘*collateral damage*’, occurring as a result of gang violence. Others might observe JahVai was ‘*an innocent bystander*’, where they would have to stretch that to include those preparing to sleep indoors and not actually ‘standing by’ to be killed. Sadly, these are terms we use to reflect how we are becoming increasingly sensitized to ‘*unplanned*’, ‘*unforeseen*’ and (worse yet) ‘*accidental*’ outcomes of violent enterprises. Sad too that a common response to events that are proverbial ‘*wake up calls*’ is to press the snooze button, assured that another alarm is soon to follow anyway.

While you won’t find collateral damage in the bible (I searched), I came across a few articles that suggest we self-impose collateral damage when we sin. One author took the view that Jesus’s crucifixion was an act of collateral damage caused by the need to redeem our sins. Interesting take to say the least and I’ll leave it to our spiritual guides to help us with that. The closest I found was what can also be taken as Jesus’ famous admonishment (Matthew 25:40), “*Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.*”

As we are all too familiar, many assert the ‘root causes’ of violence (indiscriminate or otherwise) include poverty, abusive upbringing, lack of opportunities, and many other related factors. While we’re often told “*It’s complicated*”, none seem to focus on the essential root cause: irresponsible lack of empathy for others (psychopathy); the incapacity to tell right from wrong and to modify one’s behaviour accordingly. That basic human quality - to know the difference - is supposed to separate us from animals.

It really is demoralizing to experience the moral decline of society. It seems we have forgotten that undesirable consequences require responses and not simply to accept or condone acts that do not serve the Common Good. Have we become too complacent? Has our ability to contribute to safeguarding civil order become so atrophied that we prefer to be housebound rather than engage our civic duty to ensure everyone understands ‘the boundaries’ of acceptable behaviour?

As Catholics, we are called to understand that life is not to be witnessed as some sort of spectator sport. We are called to spread the Good News. God knows the world needs to hear more of it ... *and then abide by it.*

Fraternally, Harald Schraeder, GK, PGK

## Prayer for Holy Innocents

We remember today, O God, the slaughter of the holy innocents of Bethlehem by King Herod. Receive, we pray, into the arms of your mercy all innocent victims; and by your great might frustrate the designs of evil tyrants and establish your rule of justice, love and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the union of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Pope Leo’s September Intention:  
That the world might grow in compassion

Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus and, from his heart, learn to have compassion on the world.



# Remember: A Tool is Not a Craftsperson

A quote from Arthur C. Clarke, “*Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic*,” [1] which could apply to many things in our current world, especially one quite prominent technology, **Artificial Intelligence** (a.k.a. AI). It is something that can be quite interesting, while at the same time can be quite overwhelming to understand, and observing some of the amazing results it can sometimes provide. There are actually many different forms of algorithms that would fit this category, however, that discussion is probably outside of the scope of this article. The reason for this particular article is to draw attention to some important writings, specifically with Catholic perspectives.

The first paper was published by the Vatican, “*ANTIQUA ET NOVA, Note on the Relationship Between, Artificial Intelligence and Human Intelligence*,” [2] which describes the place of this technology as a tool for humans to use for the advancement of mankind. It is an extensive paper that includes topics about moral and ethical use of the technology, as well as the misinformation potentials, and other risks. The 46 page paper covers a lot of detail, and this mention of it does not intend to trivialize it. For anyone interested, it is a very thorough document.

There is a very informative article [3], which many astute brothers have probably read in the recent May issue of Columbia Magazine, earlier this year. The article [3] titled, “*A Voice for Humanity*”, is an interview about Artificial Intelligence, and makes reference to the Vatican paper [2]. It also provides an example of a risk presented by content (p.17) generated quite convincingly by AI tools. Considering that this interview is with one of the Bishops involved with the Note [2] from the Vatican Dicastery, it highlights many of the important points from the document [2].

The Vatican article [2], on its own is very thorough and informative, however, the motivation for writing this article appeared on a different path. During the homily [4] for the Daily TV Mass, June 25<sup>th</sup> of this year, Monsignor Bianco talked about an article from the Catholic Register [5] by Sister Burns, May 29<sup>th</sup> edition of this year. Both articles are cautionary tales about how real the technology can appear, if or when humans interact with it. This is a similar theme, even with the Columbia Magazine article [3], and Sister Burns’ article [5] further articulates clues to watch for when viewing content that appears to be real, only to possibly later find that it was false, and intentionally misleading.

Why are these articles important? First of all, they provide a perspective from Church leadership, and provide clear advice about how to work with the technologies. While there could be doom and gloom around the technologies, there are also good examples of where they are being used for the purpose of improving humankind. Why should we care about these articles and the messages that they provide? It seems that our society is currently placing emphasis toward Artificial Intelligence (AI) through many services and tools that we may see, or experience, or other people talk about. With some awareness of these tools, their potential capabilities, and their ultimate place in our world, we can better understand how to interact with them (or not). Ultimately, we need to know that there is a certain amount of fact checking that needs to occur, where once we may have not known that extra scrutiny would be required.

The Vatican document summarizes the situation quite well, which is to say that AI is a tool which should serve humankind, and not the other way around. It is not magic, even though it might demonstrate fantastic capabilities.

Fraternally, Bro. David Primeau

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## References:

[1] D. Lu, (n.a.), “Clarke’s three laws,” [Online] Available: <https://www.newscientist.com/definition/clarkes-three-laws/>

[2] Víctor Manuel Card. Fernández, José Card. Tolentino de Mendonça, Msgr. Armando Matteo, Most Rev. Paul Tighe, (January 2025), “ANTIQUA ET NOVA - Note on the Relationship Between Artificial Intelligence and Human Intelligence,” [Online] Available: [https://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_dcf\\_doc\\_20250128\\_antiquaet-nova\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_dcf_doc_20250128_antiquaet-nova_en.html)

[3] n.a., (May 2025), “A Voice for Humanity,” Columbia Magazine, Volume 105, Number 4

[4] Msgr. Sam Bianco, (June 25, 2025), “Homily,” [Online] Available: <http://dailytvmass.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/JUNE-25-2025-MSGR.-SAM-BIANCO.pdf>

[5] Sr. Helena Burns, Masters in Media Literacy Education, (May 29, 2025), “Caution: your tech bro might be Beelzebub,” [Online] Available: <https://www.catholicregister.org/item/2289-caution-your-tech-bro-might-be-beelzebub>



# The Elgin Patriot

Bishop John C. Cody Assembly 0879 / Sept. 2025

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



Sir Knights:

I gather that we have all been enjoying this summer weather and that hopefully it will continue for a while longer. Many thanks to **Joe & Lorraine Fleming** for hosting the July 1<sup>st</sup> picnic which was a success in all respects. I will be attending my last horse show (unless I find some newfound energy) at the end of August. That will lighten my load substantially now that we are back in the throw of things.

Our first meeting will be Tuesday September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm and pizza will be served. So, please plan to spend some time socializing with your fellow Knights. Our meetings are done within an hour or less and will continue to be held to that. The 4<sup>th</sup> degree will soon be taking over arranging for volunteers for funerals and pallbearers, so please think of how you might assist us in moving forward. I have sent out a # of eblasts in the past month to which I have had almost no replies. Sir Knights, this is not a good start!

1. **4Life London** is looking for volunteers at the Western Fair Sept 5 – 14. As well, it is not too early to sign up for **40 Days for Life** from Sept 24 - November 1 at Wellington and Commissioners intersection in London.
2. **Installation of Officers** will be held in Stratford on Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and we need to confirm those attending beforehand.
3. An **Exemplification** will be held in Chatham, Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup> for **Brother 'EJ' Adiole**. Please come out to support our new member in attendance or as an Honour Guard.
4. The **Memorial Mass** will be the 9am mass at Holy Angels on Sunday November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please pass along to anyone you know that may not receive the Communion or the Patriot.
5. **Evening with Father John** will occur Wednesday September 10<sup>th</sup> (Confessions 6:30 pm / Reflection 7pm).

I am sure I have missed some things but we can all catch up at the upcoming meeting. The newsletter will be posted earlier as an email and later in the Patriot due to time sensitive dates.

**"For in everything, O Lord, you have exalted and glorified your people, and you have not neglected to help them at all times and in all places."** (The Wisdom of Solomon 19:22)

Fraternally yours, SK Simon Vink FN



The photos attest to fun many brothers and their family members enjoyed at the Canada Day festivities at the home of SK Joe & Lady Lorraine Fleming.

**For These We Pray:** *[Please refer to the prayer intentions section of Communion]*

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**Website & Historian** Martin Evers  
**Commander** Larry McCaffery / Jim Dewan



Brothers:

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over and boy has it been hot but remember what is on the horizon.

I would to thank all those individuals involved in another successful SummerFest. It is a lot of hard work and the committee is to be thanked for their time and effort. A very nice cheque will be presented to the St. Thomas Elgin Food Bank on behalf of the club.

I have started to review the club bylaws which are outdated and, in some cases, need to be changed. I will present proposals to the club's Board of Directors this month.

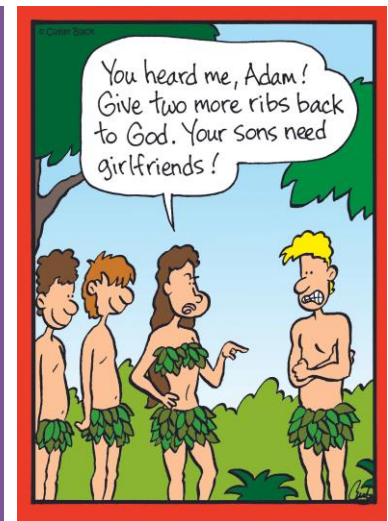
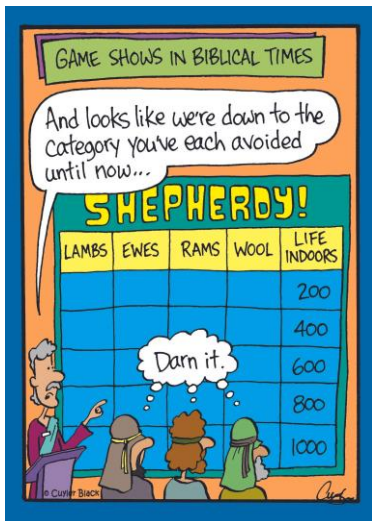
Things are a bit slow for the club over the summer months but this has allowed us to do some work in the building. How about the Lounge? It looks great! A special thanks to those that were involved in sprucing it up. Further improvements to the facility are coming.

We have lots of bookings for the fall season and could always use volunteers and support.

As always, please plan to drop in your club during the 'After 4' every Friday to connect with friends, take a chance at the meat draws, or simply enjoy fellowship and complimentary snacks.

The very best of health and happiness to all!

Fraternally,  
Bro. Dave Warden, Club President





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