

## St. Thomas Council Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2021

### Meeting Called to Order

The regular St. Thomas Council #13861 meeting was brought to order by Grand Knight Denis Breton at 7:02 p.m. on Thursday, August 12, 2021. There were 21 members present.

### Warden's Report

Warden Kevin LaChappelle attested all in attendance were in possession of a current membership card and rosary.

### Decade of the Rosary

Chancellor Ron Robichaud led the council in a decade of the rosary for Pro Life.

### The Lord's Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Grand Knight Denis Breton led the council in reciting the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Officer Roll Call

The Officer Roll Call was taken and recorded by Recorder John Chandonnet. Attendance was as follows:

Grand Knight	Dennis Breton	Present
Deputy Grand Knight	Don Leeman	Present
Chancellor	Ron Robichaud	Present
Chaplain	Fr. Bill Labbe	Excused
Financial Secretary	John Greenlee	Present
Recorder	John Chandonnet	Present
Warden	Kevin LaChapelle	Present
Treasurer	Matt Pettine	Present
Advocate	Jeff Russell	Excused
Outside Guard	Rene Robichaud	Present
Inside Guard	Rob Martin	Absent
Lectorer	Br. Jerome Lessard	Present
One Year Trustee	Herb Littlefield	Present
Two Year Trustee	Gerry Newport	Present
Three Year Trustee	George Kanelos	Present

### Recognition of Distinguished Guest

Grand Knight Denis Breton recognized:

- Brother Jerome Lessard
- District Deputy Ray Sargent

### Review of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Don Leeman made a motion to accept the July 8, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Rick Southwick seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The meeting minutes were accepted as presented.

### Admissions, New Members and Transfers

Membership Chair Terry Sylvanus reported that the council has five new members, four of which took their Charity, Unity and Fraternity Degrees at the July 25th exemplification ceremony:

- Jason Rice
- Sean Wiegand
- Leslie Studer
- Elijah Alexandre.

### Treasurer Report

Treasurer Matt Pettine stated the following disbursements and receipts:

Starting Balance: \$13,876.11

Disbursements:

Badges	\$ 65.50
Refreshments	45.86
St Thomas	3978.00

Receipts:

Convent	\$ 250.00
Convent	175.00
Mainers	500.00

Ending Balance: \$10,711.75

Bells: 2,367.00

General \$ 8,344.75

Don Leeman made a motion to accept the Treasurer report as presented. George Kanelos seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

### **Financial Secretary Report**

Financial Secretary John Greenlee reported:

- 153 Total Members
- 68 Insured Members
- 79 Associate Members
- 6 Inactive
- 3 Honorary Members
- 35 Honorary Life Members
- 4 Disability Members

Don Leeman made a motion to accept the Financial Secretary report as presented. Gerry Newport seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The Financial Secretary report was accepted as presented.

### **Chaplain Report**

None given.

### **Grand Knight Report**

Grand Knight Dennis Breton reported the following:

- Father McGivney Feast Day will be on Friday, August 13, 2021.
- The Road for Hope walkers will arrive in Sanford on Tuesday, August 17, 2021. The council will feed them a spaghetti dinner. The walkers will stay overnight at the gym.
- There will be a District 15 Meeting at the Parish Hall on Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 6:30 pm.
- Father Alex Boucher will be celebrating the first anniversary of his ordination on August 22, 2021.

### **Program Director Reports**

- Faith Program Director Kevin Neely reported:
  - a. Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney Feast Day Celebration.  
Fr. Alex Boucher will celebrate a Votive Mass on Friday, August 13, 2021 at 7:30 am.
  - b. The Holy Rosary and Litany of the Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney.

1. Volunteers for the Rosary are requested.
  2. Honor Guard is requested.
- c. New volunteers for Eucharistic Ministries for the homebound are requested.
1. Training will be made available. Please see Kevin Neely after the meeting.
- d. TMIY is starting a new semester in September. Over 15 men, on average, meet each Saturday through the Summer to increase their Faith Walk with Jesus. Please pray about joining them.
- e. Monthly challenge by Suopreme Chaplin Archbishop William E. Lori:

*And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant." (Gospel for August 15th, Lk 1:46-8.)*

- f. Praying together brings families closer to God and closer to each other. When Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, the first thing they do is pray: Mary responds with a hymn of praise called the Magnificat. Blessed Michael McGivney, whose feast day we celebrate August 13th, came from a prayerful home, and because of his work to strengthen families, we call him the "apostle of Christian family life." May we seek to make our own homes places of prayer to strengthen our families and draw nearer to God.
- g. This month, I challenge you to pray every day as an individual or as a family, asking the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney to live in a more prayerful home, perhaps using prayer for his canonization.
- Community Program Director John Chandonnet reported:
    - a. 197 Faith Service Hours
    - b. 928 Family Service Hours
    - c. 818 Community Service Hours
    - d. 5 Life Service Hours
    - e. For a total of 1,948 Service Hours
  - Life Program Director Ray Sargent reported:
    - a. There will be a Maine Special Olympics fund raider at Old Orchard Beach on Saturday, August 21, 2021. Volunteers will be needed.
  - Family Program Director Dennis Guay reported:
    - a. The St. Thomas Council has worked the Sanford Mainers concession on eight scheduled dates. The St. Thomas Council will be paid \$800.
    - b. The St. Thomas Council has agreed to work the entrance gates at the upcoming Acton Fair from August 26<sup>th</sup> thru 29<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers will be needed to fill slots from Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>.
    - c. St. Thomas Council will be collecting for the Tootsie Roll Drive at Shaws Supermarket on September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Deputy Grand Knight

No report given.

## Old Business

No Old Business.

## New Business

The following items of New Business were conducted:

- Ray Sargent motioned that the council appropriate \$200 to cover food for the Road for Hope Walkers. Don Leeman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed.
- Rick Southwick suggested that the council suspend members whose dues are in arrears. Don Leeman motioned that the suspensions take effect. John Chandonnet seconded the motion. There was discussion, and this item of business was tabled.
- Gerry Newport mentioned that there will be a Childrens' Christmas Party on Saturday, December 11, 2021. Gerry Newport motioned that the council appropriate \$100 to cover the cost of raffle tickets in order to raise funds for the party. John Chandonnet seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed.
- Dennis Guay motioned that the council donate \$200 to go toward the roof repair on the home of Felix Goodrich. Kevin Neely seconded the motion. There was some discussion. According to Dave Murphy, \$2,500 has been raised so far. A contractor will perform the labor free of charge. Mary Ganaway had set up a "Go Fund Me" account for Felix. The motion was declined.

## District Deputy

District Deputy Ray Sargent reported:

- There will be a District Meeting at the Parish Hall on Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 6:30 pm.
- There will be a Maine Special Olympics fund raiser at Old Orchard Beach on Saturday, August 21, 2021. Volunteers will be needed.
- There will be a 4th Degree Exemplification on Saturday, September 11, 2021 in Frenchville, Maine.
- There will be a Memorial Mass to honor all deceased knights on Sunday, November 7, 2021 at Notre Dame Church in Springvale, Maine.

## Report of the 4th Degree

- W. Robert Bachelder 4th Degree Assembly Faithful Navigator Don Leeman noted that there will be an assembly meeting on Monday, September 6, 2021.

## Lector Presentation

Brother Jerome Lessard delivered the following presentation:

- Blessed Michael McGivney (Feast Day - Aug.13.)
- Big event tomorrow, August 13<sup>th</sup>, the first church celebration of the new blessed Michael McGivney
- We recognize that it was his holiness that made him a fit candidate for sainthood, more than being the founder of the world's largest Catholic fraternal organization.
- Blessed Michael practiced the corporal and spiritual acts of mercy to a heroic degree as was stated by Pope Benedict XVI in March 2008 and repeated by Pope Francis when he approved his beatification in 2020.
- Born in a large immigrant family (survivors of the Irish potato famine), Michael interrupted his seminary studies to help his widowed mother raise 6 of his surviving younger siblings.
- As a result of this experience the young priest felt called to provide mutual aid for widows and orphans. Blessed Michael was known as a man of the people, a good Samaritan, the protector of widows. A sad fact: Widows often loss their children to a public system of guardianship.
- This was carried out in the midst of anti-Catholic discrimination... New Haven's St. Mary's church was considered "a blemish" in the upscale neighborhood.
- Always of frail health, his early death of consumption/pneumonia at 38 resulted from his overwork.
- Not only did he urge his knights to practice the acts of mercy, he modeled what this meant. He showed how the love of God and of neighbor is carried out, in practice, thus demonstrating to society that Christianity is relevant. His Knights should make a difference.
- Out of a life of deep prayer, his concern for others led him to be among the people as Pope Francis urges us to do. Christ reaches out to others through us. There is a striking incident.
- In 1881 Fr. McGivney befriended Chip Smith a prisoner. This resulted in the man's transformed life.
- Pope John Paul stated that Catholics are called to be a bridge to Christ.
- These days I sense he would have great sympathy for immigrants and refugees thus living the Biblical injunction: befriend the alien.
- When we pray for his canonization, let us honor him all the more by a life of charity that he expects of us.
- *Vivat Jesus!*

### **Knight of the Month for August**

St. Thomas Council awarded Knight of the Month for August 2021 to Kevin Neely, who has been a knight in the St. Thomas Council for the past four years.

Kevin was very instrumental in the success of our convent liquidation sale, setting up all the ads on Craigslist and the Marketplace/FB. He responded to several inquiries and sold many items. The liquidation sale netted almost \$4,000! All proceeds from this sale will go to St. Thomas School.

Kevin is very involved in RCIA, ACTS, TMIY, the Haiti committee too. Kevin also serves as Eucharistic Minister, Lector, and altar server.

Congratulations to our August Knight of the Month, Kevin Neely, for his hard work and dedication to the St. Thomas Council and to St. Therese of Lisieux Parish!

### **Knight of the Year**

This year's Knight of the Year has answered the call every time there was a need. In fact, many times he took the initiative to begin a program or project.

Rick has been very involved and committed to our council's "Leave no Neighbor Behind" program, ensuring all our Brother Knights received a "check in" call during the year. He also instituted and coordinated a program to send Christmas cards to all our brothers and took charge of our retention program.

Rick has been a leader of our kitchen team, ensuring the facility upkeep was maintained, spending many hours installing a new sink and cleaning the stove and griddle. In March he dedicated many hours planning and organizing our first ever "drive through" haddock dinner. He also manufactured a rolling stand for a pizza oven that was donated.

Rick offered and brought his backhoe and trailer when we created a new garden for the rectory. Rick has volunteered many hours for our "sanitizing team", our church cleaning and seasonal decorating teams. He, along with his wife Becky, have volunteered at the concession stand at the Sanford Mainers games and at the Acton Fair.

As Deputy Grand Knight, Rick has provided his support and ideas to the Grand Knight either at council meetings or on many phone conversations, making the Grand Knight's job easier. For that, the St. Thomas Council is grateful.

With great pride, the St. Thomas Council congratulates Rick Southwick, Our Knight of the Year!

### **50/50 Raffle**

- Don Leeman won the 50/50 raffle for the month of August. The amount was \$22, which Don donated back to the council.

## Good of the Order

The following prayer petitions were presented:

- Charlotte Brant
- Felix Goodrich
- Manny DeAmaral
- Becky Southwick
- Joe Legrand
- Brian (Kevin LaChappelle's coworker)

## Closing Prayers

Both the Father J. McGivney prayer and the Bill Sheehan prayer, which were recited by the council, were dedicated to the above prayer petitions.

Blessed Michael J. McGivney Prayer:

*God our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue may we follow your son, Jesus Christ more closely in fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his body which is the church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your Holy Will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here we make our request) through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Bill Sheehan Prayer:

*Glory be to you Father, Creator of the world. Praise be to you Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of the world. I exalt you Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the world. Please bless, heal and save all those on our K of C prayer line.*

**Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.**

## Next Council Meeting

The next Officer's zoom meeting will be held on Sunday, September 5, 2021

The next council meeting will be held on Thursday, September 9, 2021.