

April 5, 2021

Mr. Jim Saenz  
Grand Knight  
Knights of Columbus Council 2473  
Arlington, VA 22207

Dear Worthy Grand Knight Saenz:

We the undersigned, members of Council 2473 Naming Committee, are pleased to provide you with this update on the committee's work.

As of March 1, the deadline for submitting new names, we had received 35 submissions from council members. We wish here to express our sincere gratitude to all who submitted names, and especially to those who provided supporting materials and thoughtful comments.

After eliminating duplicates and names in ineligible categories (prominent Catholic laymen, deceased knights, clergy) the Committee then carefully reviewed more than 20 viable submissions according to the selection criteria announced in the January 2021 *Knight Life*.

Following a full discussion and prayerful consideration, four names emerged as the strongest contenders for our Council's new name. The Committee unanimously recommends submitting these names to our fellow Council Members for a vote:

**Arlington Council**  
**Blessed Michael McGivney Council**  
**Immaculate Heart of Mary Council**  
**Saints of Service Council**

We believe that each of these names adequately represents our values as a Catholic organization, is rooted in the principles that guide us as Knights of Columbus (charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism), and reflects and enhances our reputation within the community. Any one of these would be an excellent new name for our Council.

Below please find (a) brief Talking Points in support of each name and (b) a description of the voting process.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Wanek, Chair, DGK  
Steve McTeague, PGK  
Joe McClanahan, PGK  
John White, PGK  
John Dresden, Chancellor  
Greg Strizek, Columbus Club President  
John Kalitka  
Greg Landrigan  
Thomas W. Skladony

### **Arlington Council**

- This name recognizes our Council's important and historic geographic location and evokes service and patriotism through its association with Arlington National Cemetery.
- The Council and constituent parts (such as the swim team) have been known informally as the "Arlington Council" and "Arlington Knights" for decades. For many fellow Knights around the state we already are the Arlington Council.
- Many councils in Virginia use city or regional names, and many geographic names include multiple councils.
- St. James Parish, while not in Arlington County, is within the diocese of Arlington.

### **Blessed Michael McGivney Council**

- The name honors the founder of the Knights of Columbus, known and revered especially for his ministry to the young, the poor, widows and orphans, and those imprisoned.
- Additional details of Blessed Michael McGivney's life and good works are recounted in the November 2020 issue of *Columbia*, available here: <https://www.kofc.org/en/news-room/columbia/archives/110120.html>.
- Although Father McGivney technically belongs in the category of Catholic clergy, the naming committee unanimously agreed to consider this nomination eligible because: a) Michael McGivney is the founder of our Order and b) Michael McGivney's life and works were vetted extensively by the Vatican prior to his beatification, making future challenges to this name extremely unlikely.
- In the event of canonization of Michael McGivney, for which we pray, the Council would apply to rename itself Saint Michael McGivney Council.

### **Immaculate Heart of Mary Council**

- This name honors the Blessed Mother of Our Lord and Patron of the Knights of Columbus
- IHM Sisters teach at two local schools – Bishop O'Connell High School (since 1957) and St. James Catholic School (since 1923) – and have educated many Council members and families.
- Our chaplain, Father Joseph Giordano, is a Missionhurst-CICM (Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary) priest; as is Father Mel Portulo, pastor; and Father Leo Sanggaria, parochial vicar; both of St. Ann Catholic Church.
- Missionhurst-CICM maintains a headquarters in Arlington that supports missionary priests working in our diocese.

### **Saints of Service Council**

- This name honors saints and blesseds who were Knights of Columbus, as described in the article "Saints of Service; The saints and blesseds of the Knights of Columbus are models for the Columbian virtues of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism" in the November 2007 *Columbia* magazine, available here: <https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/mexican-martyrs/ColumbiaMexicanMartyrsExtract.pdf>
- This name would be a living and growing name, just as our council is living and growing.
- No other council in the Order honors all the Knights of Columbus's seven current and possibly twelve future saints.
- With this name we not only honor the current saints but when/if our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, is canonized we will automatically be including him in our name.

## **Voting Procedures for Renaming of Council 2473**

All current members in good standing (i.e., 2021 dues paid in full) of Council 2473 of the Knights of Columbus are invited and encouraged to participate in a vote to select a new name for the Council.

Council members will vote for one of the four names proposed by members that were vetted and approved by the Naming Committee as eligible new names of the Council. The winning name must be supported by a majority of voting members of the Council.

**Start Date:** Voting will begin on May 7, 2021.

**Methods of Voting:** For the great majority of council members, voting will be conducted electronically by Mail Chimp/Survey Monkey, the same way the vote was conducted in the fall to adopt the temporary name of Council 2473.

Council members unable to vote electronically may vote in person at the Columbus Club.

Any council member unable to vote by one of these methods may contact the Deputy Grand Knight to discuss alternate procedures.

**Membership # Required:** Each council member must include his current membership number on his ballot, regardless of voting method. Members of the Naming Committee will confirm that all votes are cast by eligible members and that no member votes more than once.

**End Date:** Voting will end on May 17, 2021 and all votes will be counted. If a single name receives a majority of votes cast that name will become the new name of the Council.

**Runoff Election:** If no name receives a majority of votes in the initial vote, a runoff will be held between the two names receiving the greatest number of votes using the same voting procedure that was used in the initial vote. The name receiving the majority of votes in the runoff election will become the new name of the Council.