Knights of Columbus®

Richard Council #788
July 2026 Newsletter

Grand Knight's Message

Dear Brother Knights:

The office of the Grand Knight is one of profound history and responsibility - one that I humbly accept with the sincere hope of honoring the rich legacy that comes before me. I am deeply grateful to all of the Knights, and especially to the members of Council 788 for your confidence in my dedication to the Knights of Columbus, and I will do my very best to not only continue but also to expand upon the incredible traditions that are well entrenched in our council's heritage.

I approach the 2026-2027 fraternal year with more excitement and enthusiasm than I can put into these short paragraphs, tempered only by a concentrated focus on three critical goals for this year:

1. **Above all else, my primary goal is to increase member-involvement.** We have hundreds (literally hundreds) of Knights who are members of our council - many of whom have never been welcomed, approached, or even asked to be a part of our numerous events and activities throughout the year. Conversely, we have a blessed Band of Brothers who have become the backbone of Council 788. It is my primary goal to balance out that curve by reaching out and greeting every single member of our council, individually or as a group, throughout this coming year.

2. **We have made significant strides toward automating some of our processes and incorporating the benefits of technology into our council.** For example, we now offer the convenience of paying membership dues online (please see https://kofc788.org/online-payments/ for more details); certainly a leap into the world of online functionality. With the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus, increasing the mandates of online form submission and online resources, my secondary goal is to bring Council 788 in-line with our powers-that-be.

3. **Finally, my tertiary goal is one of internal organization.** While it may or may not be common knowledge, our council has well over 100 years of history to its name! Those who have come before us, are an invaluable source of support and information, and yet there is a knowledge gap between the new and the wiser members of our council; a gap that I aim to close. I have deliberately listed this as my tertiary goal, not because it is the least important, but because I am cognizant that accomplishing this goal, will take time, concerted effort from our legacy members, and input from a variety of stakeholders in addition to our council members. *(Continued on page 4)*

RICHARD COUNCIL 788
HONOR ROLL

STATE OFFICIALS

State Deputy

Barry Borsenik (Fr. Norman Van Poppelen Council #7233, Birch Run, MI)

District Deputy

David A. Zerbe (St. Michael Council #7311, Grand Ledge MI)
(Councils #788 Richard, Lansing, #7311 St. Michael, Grand Ledge, #11099 Msgr. John A. Gabriels, Lansing, #11694 St. Mary Cathedral, Lansing)

Lansing Diocesan Chaplain	Rev. Robert Bacik
Former Supreme Director and State Director, 10 For Charities	Thomas M. Wegener, PSD
Past State Deputy and Supreme Regional Growth Director	William H. Chassé, PSD
Past State Deputy	Richard F. McCloy, Sr., PSD
District Deputy, District 515 (Councils #6534 St. Peter, Eaton Rapids, #9182 Fr. Ken MacDonald, #11875 St. Mary, Charlotte, #13516 Ss. Cornelius and Cyprian, Leslie)	Michael C. Schaefer, PGK
State Director of Evangelization, Faith and Formation	Christopher Wegener, PGK
Supreme Council Field Agent	Brennan Hayden (517-505-7300)

RICHARD COUNCIL 788 OFFICERS

Officers meeting: First Tuesday of every month, 6:30 p.m.
Business meeting: Second Tuesday of every month, 7:00 p.m.

Grand Knight	Brendon Basiga	517-282-8351
Co-Chaplains	Rev. Robert Bacik	517-323-2379
	Rev. Jon Bokuniewicz	517-323-2379
Deputy Grand Knight	Brian McLaughlin	810-618-3236
Chancellor	PGK John Vatter	517-214-1397
Recorder	Ken Watterson	517-881-0812
Financial Secretary	Richard Bierwagen	314-540-1726
Treasurer	PGK Daniel Beachnau	517-712-4146
Advocate	Mike Guyeskey	517-230-8965
Warden	Don Cooper	517-648-1672
Inside Guard	Eric Wegener	517-583-0934
Outside Guard	PGK Randy LaLonde	906-370-3759
1 Year Trustee	PGK Michael H. Wegener	517-331-3959
2 Year Trustee	PGK Ken Morrison	517-719-4047
3 Year Trustee	PGK Chris Wegener	517-528-5970

COUNCIL DIRECTORS & CHAIRMEN

Membership Director	PGK Chris Wegener	517-528-5970
Recruitment	All Officers & Members	
Retention Captain	PGK Chris Wegener	517-528-5970
Retention Team	PGK Ken Morrison	517-719-4047
Retention Team	PGK Michael H. Wegener	517-331-3959
Retention Team	PGK Chris Wegener	517-528-5970
Faith Director	Mike Guyeskey	517-230-8965
Vocations Director	Mike Guyeskey	517-230-8965
Community Director	Eric Wegener	517-583-0934
Pro-Life Couple	PGK Mike & Patti Schaefer	517-242-4961
Family Director	(vacant)	
Matthew 25:40	PGK Mike & Vickey Wegener	517-331-3959
Youth Director	PGK Dane Jurković	517-203-9227
Newsletter Editor	Don Cooper	517-648-1672

LANSING COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION

Meeting: Third Wednesday of every month, 7:00 p.m.

President	Andy Goeddeke	517-202-3618
Vice President	(vacant)	
Secretary	Steve LaMacchia	517-323-2463
Treasurer	Jay Corey	517-974-6501
Director	Dave Schertzing	517-204-4959
Director	Tony Kolp	517-706-9242
Director	Mike Arens	517-230-6531
Dir. GK	Andrew Oliver	989-430-2008

Our 2026 Columbian Patrons

Albright	Chris	Fedewa	Ronald	Ozanich	Walter
Basiga	Brendon	Ferro	Francis	Pavona	Nicholas
Beachnau	PGK Dan	Freund	Luke	Pollack	Bernard
Becht	Dennis	Garcia	Joseph	Powers III	John
Beckwith	Clyde	Garcia, Sr.	Daniel	Reyes	Rosendo
Bleicher	James	Goeddeke	Andrew	Robitaille	Robert
Bollman	James	Goeddeke	Drew	Roznowski	Frank
Brickner	Robert	Goerge	Hilary	Rybicki	Richard
Brogan	Steve	Gonzalez	James	Ryczek	Richard
Bruner	Ronald	Grades	Ronald	Schertzing	Brian
Caporale	Vincent	Green	James	Schertzing	David
Carey	Mark	Headley	Don	Schrauben	PGK Lawrence
Chassé	PSD William	Hedley	Joseph	Shaw	William
Cherniawski	Frank	Holmes	Edward	Shepard	Michael
Claeys	Jeffrey	Johnson	Gary	Sickler	William
Cole	Scott	Johnson	Terrance	Simon	Harold
Cooper II	Don	Jusino	Richard	Sohn	Ken
Corey	PGK Jay	Kellogg	Mark	Stafford	Edmund
Corey	Val	Kolp	Anthony	Stotenbur	Daniel
Costigan	Christopher	Krause	Richard	Suckow	John
Costigan	Patrick	LaLonde	PGK Randy	Swiderski	Joseph
Cotter	Charles	Livingston	PGK Corey	Szedlak	Richard
Crippen	Matthew	Luedtke	PGK Dave	Tellier	Gary
Daiss	Timothy	Macksood	Steve	Theis	Dennis
Dalimonte	Lawrence	McCloy Sr.	Richard	Thelen	David
Dart	Douglas	McCrackin	Michael	Vedder	Erich
Dewitt	Mark	McDonald	Robert	Warriner	Keith
Diaz	Justiniano	McLaughlin	Brian	Watterson	Ken
Diaz	Mario	McQuillan	Edmund	Wegener	PGK Chris
Downey	Frank	Melton	Phillip	Wegener	Eric
Doyle	Michael	Miller	Todd	Wegener	FDD Michael
DuMont	Mike	Minich	PGK Thomas	Wegener	PSD Thomas
Ellsworth	Michael	Nicholson	Robert	Wittkowski	Paul
Endres	Richard	Noirot	George	Yarsevich	Carl
Fedewa	Duane	Ockert	Gerald	Zerfes	Ron

Your generous sponsorship allows the Council to print and mail newsletters to those members who do not have access to email or the internet, as well as to distribute a supply of printed newsletters which are displayed in information racks at St. Gerard Church and Columbus Hall. Thank you for your support!

(Names listed by Last, then First. List updated June 1, 2026).

Grand Knight's Message Con't

I pray that my exuberance at serving in this new position, spreads throughout Council 788 and serves to invigorate or re-invigorate everyone (not just members) who have been, and who will be, a part of our incredible organization. I am honored by your faith in my leadership, and I am ecstatic about our coming fraternal year. Let us all exclaim together: VIVAT JESUS!

Yours most truly,
Brendon Basiga
Grand Knight - Council 788
(517) 282-8351 (cell phone)

Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge

"Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." (Gospel for July 13, Lk 10:36-37)

In the parable of the good Samaritan, we again witness the Lord's call to put our faith into action. Neither the priest nor the Levite stopped to render aid to alleviate the injured man's suffering. The true act of love came from an unexpected source: a Samaritan, a person with whom a practicing Jew of those days would not ordinarily associate. Let us be good Samaritans when we encounter others in need, remembering that we are called to love and serve all people in need.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to serve as a good Samaritan to others with whom you might not normally associate — whether it be people who are homeless, the poor, the homebound or others.

Questions for Reflection:

Who is your neighbor? Have you found yourself ignoring those in need when it is inconvenient for you to assist them? How can your response to the needy you encounter more closely reflect the example of the good Samaritan?



2025-2026 Membership Appreciation Dinner

On Tuesday, June 23rd the Annual Membership Appreciation Dinner was held at Columbus Hall. A great crowd was treated to a wonderful dinner, and an informative program hosted by Grand Knight Andrew Oliver.

The council has 24 living Past Grand Knights and we recognized the 8 Past Grand Knights who were in attendance. Past Grand Knights Ray Scodeller and Michael Schaefer were unable to attend due to illness. Please pray for their full recovery. Past Grand Knight Corey Livingston's father passed away on the morning of the 23rd. Please pray for the Livingston family.

Recognition was held for the Council Members with **50 or more years of service in the Knights of Columbus**. Those over 50 years are recognized at the 55, 60, 65, 70, etc. year mark. The brother knights with these years of longevity are:

Member's Name	**Years of Service**
Adrian Ahern	65
Bernard Pollack	65
Hilary Goerge	60
Richard Thelen	60
E. Gerald Holmes	50
PGK Lawrence Schrauben	50
Phillip Melton	50

When the Knights of the Month and Familys of the Month were recognized, a special tribute was read for the Thomas and Donna Baker Family. Their impact on Richard Council 788 began with the transfer of Past State Deputy Thomas M. Kavanagh from Carson City Council 2198 to Lansing Council 788, when his political career began. After his wins as Michigan's Attorney General, he was elected a Michigan Supreme Court Justice and served two terms Chief Justice. It was while he was a member of Richard Council 788 that he was elected as a K of C Supreme Director and served from 1968 to 1974. Tom was 788's first Supreme Director. Tom Kavanagh's daughter, Donna, married Tom Baker, who became a 788 Grand Knight, and their son, Mark, became a 788 Grand Knight, and their son-in-law Dan Beachnau was a Grand Knight as well. The entire tribute is posted on the council's website, https://kofc788.org.

The council formally presented the Knight and Family of the Month certificates and announced the Knight and Family of the Year. The **Knight of the Year is Dave Schulte (awarded posthumously)** and the **Family of the Year is the Matthew Crippen Family**. Congratulations to all.

Additional announcements were made for those members who achieved **Honorary and Honorary Life membership.** Those in attendance were presented their certificates with their new status.

- The following members received their **Honorary Member** certificate for a minimum of 25 years of continuous service and attaining 65 years of age: Jimmie Davis, PGK Randy LaLonde, Michael McManus, Carl Schafer, Wayne Umholtz

- The following members received their **Honorary Life Member** certificate for a minimum 25 years of continuous service and attaining 70 years of age: Louis Garbarino, Christopher Jenkins, PGK Brian Killian, Michael Peruchietti.

Financial Secretary Richard Bierwagen narrated a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the council's charitable dollar and hourly donations, membership gains, and financial status. A check made possible through the proceeds of the council annual golf outing for $2,500.00 was announced for the St. Gerard youth group for use in their upcoming mission trip this year. Additional donations to Rainbow Homes and the Equine Center for Learning (previously the Beekman Center) made possible by proceeds from the MI Drives held this past fraternal year. A total of over $35,000.00 was raised for many council charities in this fraternal year. The largest dollar charity event the council has is the Matthew 25:40 (formerly Francis O'Donnell) chaired by Mike and Vickey Wegener, assisting families in need at Christmas. A big THANK YOU to those who worked on the events and those who donated to these worthy causes.

With all the programs that the Council performed under the direction of Deputy Grand Knight Brendon Basiga, Program Director, the Council qualified for Supreme Council Columbian Award. Additionally, the council qualified for the Founder's Award for completing our Fraternal Benefits requirements and McGivney award for membership, combined as the Star Council Award.

As a finale Grand Knight Andrew Oliver received his Past Grand Knight Lapel Pin from Immediate Past Grand Knight Andrew Wegener. A tradition of the dinner exemplifying the transition from one Grand Knight to the next.

Council Chaplain Fr. Bob closed the evening with his remembrances of his five years as Council Chaplain, and an admonishment to continue to be involved in our vocation as Knights. We then prayed the new Knights of Columbus Prayer for Pope Leo.



Grand Knight Andrew Oliver received his Past Grand Knight Lapel Pin from Immediate Past Grand Knight Andrew Wegener.

A great evening of reflection, information, and recognizing just some of those who assisted your Richard Council 788 in this successful past fraternal year. Many thanks to Richard and Doreen Bierwagen for their exhaustive help for the Fraternal Year highlight presentation and all the data from the year, and to Mike, Vickey and Eric Wegener for the fantastic dinner had by all. Thanks to Andy Goeddeke, LCA President for the usage and set up of the A/V equipment and for the LCA review of the past year. The next Membership Appreciation Dinner is slated for Tuesday, June 22, 2027. See You There!

	Knight of the Month	**Family of the Month**
	Jeff Corder	*Josh Riley and Family*

Prayers for Sickness and Distressed

We firmly believe in the power of prayer, and ask that your prayers go out to those who are going through difficult times – whether that is as a result of illness or other serious life struggles. Please pray for:

Mike Arens	Terri Becht (wife of Dennis Becht)	Jim Beckwith
Ron Cook	Bob, Pam, Robert, and Jessica Davies	Chris Fox
Matt St. Germaine	Patricia Humpsch	Joann Klein (wife of Thomas Klein)
Wanda Hicks (wife of Richard Hicks)	Tony Kolp	Robert Nelson
Joe Kobus	"Pete" Pline (wife of John Suckow)	Mike Schueller
Kristen McCue (wife of Michael McCue)	Dave Thelen	Ron and Joan Zerfas
Kathy Stoffer	Tim Powell	

If you know of someone who is ill and recovering, or has passed away, please contact Grand Knight Andrew Oliver by email at gk788@mikofc.org or at 989-430-2008. You can reach our Financial Secretary, Richard Bierwagen, at 314-540-1726 or via email at fs788@mikofc.org or rjbierwagen@hotmail.com.

Call for Volunteers

We are always in need of volunteers. Simply put – none of our events, nor any of our programs would succeed without the incredible man-hours donated by our volunteers. All are welcome and all are encouraged to get involved. Even an hour of your time, can make a World of difference to someone in need. So, if you find yourself called to serve during please contact Grand Knight, Brendon Basiga at (517) 282-8351.

From the Newsletter Editor

July 20 2026 is the deadline for content for the August 2026 newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact Don Cooper at 517-648-1672 or djcooper517@gmail.com.

"CANS FOR COATS"

Richard Council 788

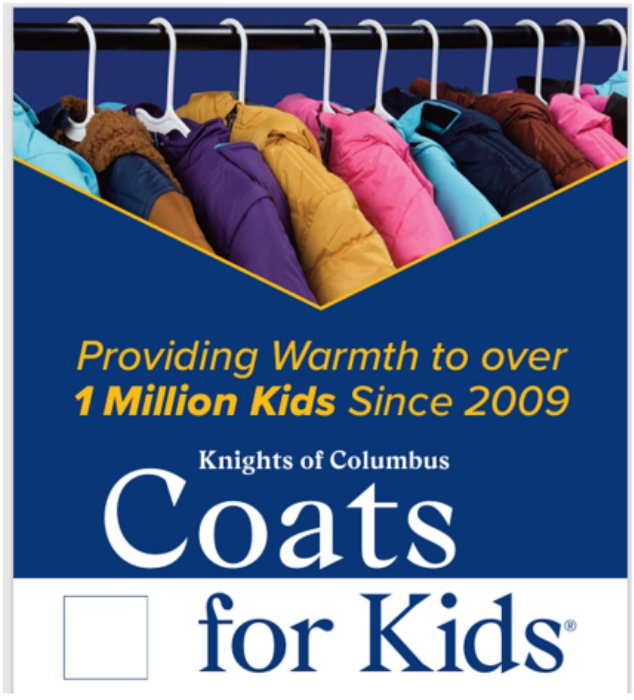
Coats for Kids

Fundraiser

Cans for Coats program at 788 is a convenient way for ***you*** to dispose of your returnable cans and bottles while supporting ***Coats for Kids.*** Please place the plastic bags, filled with cans and bottles, in the bins behind the Club building. Volunteers will collect the refundable deposits, and the Council will use those funds to buy the coats, which will be distributed to needy kids in the area.



$ = $



LCA CORPORATION

Columbus Hall
Annual Car Show

5300 N. Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906

Saturday, September 12, 2026

Car Show from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Registration from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM



$15.00 Registration Fee

Registrants receive a Burger Basket

Trophies for People's Choice Award & Top 10 "Best of Show" Trophies

FOOD & BEVERAGES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Air Conditioning & Restrooms Inside Hall

50/50 Raffle and Other Door/Raffle Prizes

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS !!!!

Car Show, Food and Beverages, and All Prizes Provided by the Lansing Columbian Association

Follow us on facebook @ Knights of Columbus #788-Columbus Hall



Richard Council #788
July 2026
Calendar of Events



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28 Club Closed	**29** Club Open 4-9 pm	**30** Club Open 4-9 pm	**1** Club Open 4-9 pm	**2** Club Open 4-9 pm	**3** Club Open 4-9 pm	**4** Club Closed
5 Club Closed	**6** Club Open 4-9 pm	**7** Club Open 4-9 pm	**8** Club Open 4-9 pm	**9** Club Open 4-9 pm	**10** Club Open 4-9 pm	**11** Club Closed
12 Club Closed	**13** Club Open 4-9 pm	**14** Club Open 4-9 pm **General Council Mtg. LCA Meeting 7:00-8:00 pm**	**15** Club Open 4-9 pm	**16** Club Open 4-9 pm	**17** Club Open 4-9 pm	**18** Club Closed
19 Club Closed	**20** Club Open 4-9 pm	**21** Club Open 4-9 pm	**22** Club Open 4-9 pm	**23** Club Open 4-9 pm	**24** Club Open 4-9 pm	**25** Club Closed
26 Club Closed	**27** Club Open 4-9 pm	**28** Club Open 4-9 pm	**29** Club Open 4-9 pm	**30** Club Open 4-9 pm	**31** Club Open 4-9 pm	**1** Club Closed

ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT COLUMBUS HALL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Knights of Columbus®

Richard Council 788
5300 N. Grand River Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48906

Chartered May 30, 1903



Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney

Founder of the Knights of Columbus

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, 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 the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present *(here make your request)*. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please report all favors received:
The Father McGivney Guild
1 Columbus Plaza
New Haven, CT 06510-3326 • USA
www.fathermcgivney.org

Painting by Chas Fagan © Knights of Columbus