

## Knights of Columbus History

Founded by Father Michael J. McGivney, curate at St. Mary's Parish in New Haven, Conn., the Knights of Columbus was chartered on March 29, 1882, in the State of Connecticut.

As the priest explained to a small group of men at a meeting in the basement of St. Mary's Church in October 1881, his purpose in calling them together was manifold: to help Catholic men remain steadfast in their faith through mutual encouragement; to promote closer ties of fraternity among them; and to set up an elementary system of insurance so that the widows and children of members in the group who might die would not find themselves in dire financial straits.

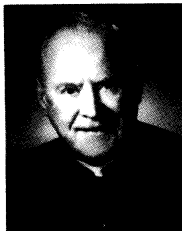
The founders and first officers of the organization chose the name "Knights of Columbus" because they felt that, as a Catholic group, it should relate to Christopher Columbus, the Catholic discoverer of America. This would emphasize that it was Catholics who discovered, explored and colonized the North American continent. At the same time "Knights" would signify that the membership embodied knightly ideals of spirituality and service to Church, country and fellowman.

By the end of 1897 the Order was thoroughly rooted in New England, along the upper Atlantic seaboard and into Canada. Within the next eight years it branched out from Quebec to California, and from Florida to Washington.

From such promising beginnings Father McGivney's original group has blossomed into an international society of more than 1.5 million Catholic men in some 11,100 councils who have dedicated themselves to the ideals of: Columbianism; Charity; Unity; Fraternity and Patriotism.



Office of the Bishop, 1070 Waterloo Street, London, Canada N6A 3W2



March 26, 1993

My Dear Brother Knights:

*It is with great pleasure that I greet the members of the Knights of Columbus Council in St. John the Divine Parish on your Charter Night, Saturday, May 29, 1993.*

*The lamentable absence of any effective parish organization of men has, for a long time, weakened the apostolic work of the Church, therefore, the development of Knights of Columbus Councils which are parish based, is a very important development for the Diocese of London and for the Church in general.*

*The establishment of your Council in St. John the Divine Parish fulfils my hopes of seeing established on the parish level, a men's organization with a history of genuine commitment to the development of our Catholic faith, to the support of those in need, the sacredness of life and promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life.*

*I congratulate you and ask God's blessings on your Council as you work faithfully with your pastors and bishops in the Church's mission of preaching the Gospel.*

Gratefully in Christ,

*J. M. Sherlock*  
Most Rev. John M. Sherlock, D.D.  
Bishop of London.

## Knights of Columbus

COLUMBUS PLAZA  
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06507-0901

May 29, 1993

Mr. Frank McMorrow  
Grand Knight, Co. 11053  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
405 Ferndale Avenue  
London, Ontario  
CANADA N6A 5P3

Worthy Grand Knight and dear Brother McMorrow:

I take this opportunity to express my sincere congratulations and a heartfelt fraternal welcome to you, the officers, and to all the Brother Knights and their families of St. John the Divine Council 11053 on the occasion of the awarding of your Charter.

Your council enters the ranks of the Order at a time of renewed promise and heightened enthusiasm. You join our Knights of Columbus family of councils during a very challenging era, one in which we are re-invigorating our Order's service to the Church, our communities and fellowman. The officers elected for the 1993-94 fraternal year will provide the leadership and the direction to successfully achieve the council's goals and objectives over the short term period and for many years to come.

May the significance of this historic occasion remain with you all as a source of ongoing zeal and inspiration. May it also serve to encourage you as you go forward together, working hand-in-hand to bring the ideals of Columbianism - Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism - into a world sorely in need of them.

With best wishes and personal regards, I am

Fraternally and sincerely,

*Virgil C. Dechant*  
Virgil C. Dechant  
Supreme Knight

VCD/jkh



Raymond Braun, K.S.G.  
1727 Rodin Way  
Orleans, Ont. K1C 4Y9  
(613) 830-9554

CONSEIL D'ÉTAT DE L'ONTARIO

Mr. Frank McMorrow  
Grand Knight Council No. 11053  
London, Ontario.

May, 1993

Worthy Grand Knight  
Dear Brother Frank: CONGRATULATIONS!

It is with much joy that I welcome your new Council to the Knights of Columbus Family of Ontario. With this ceremony of the presentation of your Charter, you will now be a full fledged member of the great Order founded by Father McGivney.

I wish at this time to congratulate all those that worked so hard to get the Council established in St. John the Divine Parish of London. Their labour is now bearing fruit and they deserve the accolade of the State officers.

I wish to thank the brothers that have accepted to form the first executive of this new Council. In giving of themselves and their time a community will reap the benefits of counting an active Knights of Columbus Council among its organizations.

One very important task at this time will be to recruit new members so that you will have more people to help you implant the Order's program. Once you realize how good the Knights of Columbus are for your community I am certain that you will want to share it with every eligible catholic men in your parish. That is how your Council will grow strong and take its place among the leaders in your District. VIVAT JESUS!

Fraternally,  
  
Raymond Braun, State Deputy

**Knights of Columbus**  
**St. John the Divine Parish**  
**Council #11053**  
**Charter Members**

Ken Alexander	John Allen
Ron Anglestad	Bill Arbuckle
Chris Arntz	Greg Baltzer
Mike Baluk	Tom Baluk
John Cassidy	Bob Castonguay
George Champagne	Pete Connell
Ed Czach	Guy D'Avirro
Mike Diteljan	Lloyd Eaton
Norman Fitzpatrick	Thomas Fitzpatrick
Joe Ginty	Bill Grenier
Allan Hayman	Max Heidel
John Hricina	John Humston
Steve Jordan	Dave Judge
Pat Kennedy	John Krasinkiewicz
George Krieger	Paul Loreto
Vince MacDonald	Walt McKenna
Frank McMorrow	John Mielnick
Mike Morelli	Pete Mosey
John Oliver	Richard Ostrowski
Rev. John Pirt	Bob Potvin
Lino Prelazzi	Michael Quinlan
Mike Rosebrugh	Finn Ryan
Mike Semenuk	Walt Simler
Gerry Slattery	Julian Smith
Dennis Soanes	Clarence Thibert
John Van Grinsven	Francis VanBommel
Gary Vanden Boomen	Rene Versaevel
John Vitez	Gerard Waller
Brian Walsh	Robert Worthy
Mike Zabehaylo	John Zadorsky



St. John the Divine Parish  
Knights of Columbus Council 11053  
London, Ontario

May 18, 1993

Dear Brother Knights,

This past year has been an eventful one indeed from the initial thoughts and desires of forming a Knights of Columbus Council at St. John the Divine Parish in London through to tonight when you are celebrating the receiving of your Council Charter. This means that you are now, officially, entitled to all rights and privileges enjoyed by the other 1.5 million Knights in the world.

Under the direction of Grand Knight, Frank McMorrow and under the care of their parish priest and Chaplain Fr. John Pirt, this group of 60 men have already embodied the principles of the Knights of Columbus - charity, unity, fraternity, patriotism.

As your District Deputy, I am very pleased to officially welcome this Council into the folds of our organization and, more specifically, into District 83 with your Brothers in Councils 8339, 9607, 10630 and 10843. Please remember that each of us is there to help you whenever you need us.

I am personally very proud to call each of you "My Brother Knights".

God Bless,

Pat Lavigne,  
District Deputy 83

**Knights of Columbus**  
**St. John the Divine Parish**  
**Council #11053**

**Executive for 1993 - 94**

Chaplain	Father John Pirt
Grand Knight	Frank McMorrow
Deputy Grand Knight	Brian Walsh
Chancellor	Joe Ginty
Warden	Bill Grenier
Treasurer	John Mielnick
Financial Secretary	Steve Jordan
Recorder	Gary Vanden Boomen
Lecturer	Pat Kennedy
Advocate	Ken Alexander
Inside Guard	Greg Baltzer
Outside Guard	Clare Thibert
Trustee 3rd Year	Mike Semenuk
Trustee 2nd Year	Walter Simler
Trustee 1st Year	John Humston
Insurance Representative	Roy Mantle

**Service Program**

Program Director	Ed Czach
Council Director	Bob Potvin
Family Director	Norm Fitzpatrick
Community Director	Richard Ostrowski
Church Director	Peter Connell
Youth Director	Mike Zabehaylo
Membership & Retention Director	Greg Baltzer



BISHOP'S OFFICE  
75 GREENE AVENUE  
BOX C  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11202



## Message from the Grand Knight ...

May, 29, 1993

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

It is with great joy that I congratulate the members of the Knights of Columbus Council of Saint John the Divine Parish, London, Ontario, Canada. While I am not able to be present with you this evening, you are in my prayers in a special way.

The beginning of a new council of the Knights of Columbus is a significant event. It marks the start of a group that commits itself to the ideas of Unity, Fraternity, Charity and Patriotism. Such ideals are lived in the Communion of the Catholic Church with Jesus Christ Himself as the primary goal. The Council which you charter tonight undertakes this task and lifestyle in the Parish Community of Saint John the Divine. I pray that all of the members of this new council as well as your families will be enriched by the ideals of the Knights of Columbus and grow in holiness and faith.

I, again, greet and congratulate you on this happy occasion. I assure you of my continued prayers and of a special remembrance at the Altar.

With every prayerful wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ

Most Reverend Thomas V. Daily, D.D.  
Bishop of Brooklyn

**The Most Reverend Thomas V. Daily  
is our Supreme Chaplain.**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all Brother Knights, their families, friends and guests to our Charter Night celebration.

Charter Night is an important event in the history of every Knights of Columbus Council. Tonight, we officially join our Knights of Columbus family of Councils around the world with a membership of over 1.5 million.

We are a Catholic, family, fraternal service organization. As such, we strive to respond to the needs of our parish and community. There are many challenges facing our world but as Knights, with the support of our families, we can help to make our community a better place to live.

At the suggestion of our pastor, Father Paul Crunican, we adopted St. Marguerite D'Youville (1701-1770) as our patroness. Marguerite and her Order of Grey Nuns dedicated their lives to serving the poor and the infirm. The Knights of St. John the Divine have already begun to follow the example of St. Marguerite by their willingness to respond to the needs of our parish and community with loving Christian service. I consider it a privilege to be able to serve with such a fine group of dedicated men.

Yours in Christ,

Frank McMorrow  
Grand Knight



*The Corporation of The City of London*  
*The Office of The Mayor*  
Tom Gosnell  
Mayor



As Mayor of the City of London, it gives me great pleasure to extend congratulations as you celebrate your new Charter.

St. John the Divine Parish is another fine example of how the Knights of Columbus fosters a special group of individuals, who, without question of monetary reward, are willing to serve their church and community. The citizens of London are fortunate to have such caring volunteers whose efforts make our community a better place in which to live.

On behalf of London City Council, I wish your Charter every success in the coming years as it serves a broad base of parishioners and the City at large.

Sincerely,

Tom Gosnell  
Mayor

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**St. John the Divine Parish**

390 Baseline Road West  
London, Ontario N6J 1W1  
(519) 471-7022

May 20, 1993

### WELCOME!

On behalf of the community of our whole Parish, I welcome the Knights of Columbus Council of St. John the Divine. We are counting on many wonderful things from our new council, and we are confident that the generous spirit of the Knights of Columbus will flourish here.

As a parish family we pledge our support and encouragement to the efforts of the council. Once again, Welcome!

Fr. Paul Crunican, Pastor



## ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITALITY CENTRE

St. John Divine  
Knights of Columbus  
Council 11053

Dear Members of Council 11053 -

Congratulations on the formation of your new Council. You are wished every blessing on your future endeavours.

Along with many others, we have been the recipients of very generous donations from the Knights. We extend our sincere thanks to you for your giving and your support for which we are most grateful, since we do not receive city or government funding.

May the loving generosity which you have shown to many needy people in the city of London be returned to you, during the beginnings of your new Council.

Sincerely,

Srs. Marcelline  
& Marilyn

707 Dundas Street East  
London, Ontario  
N5W 2Z5  
Phone: (519) 432-0660