

‘Hardwired for Mission’

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly says men find meaning in ‘making sacrifices’ at the Symposium on Young American Men

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly delivered opening remarks and participated in a panel discussion at the inaugural Symposium on Young American Men, held Nov. 3 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The daylong symposium, organized by the Lafayette Company, was a bipartisan gathering of lawmakers, researchers and leaders of men’s organizations convened to address the crisis of isolation and the search for meaning among young men in the United States.

“It’s no secret that many young men in America today are struggling,” Supreme Knight Kelly said in his opening remarks. “Plenty of experts, scholars and observers have explored the reasons behind this crisis. At the Knights of Columbus, we’ve encountered the crisis firsthand, and I believe our experience shows a way to help young men move forward.”

He noted that since its founding in 1882 by a Catholic priest in New Haven, Connecticut, the Knights of Columbus has united men in faith-based fraternity and helped them find purpose through charitable service.

“We are hardwired, as men, for purpose and mission,” Supreme Knight Kelly said. “That’s why, last year, our members contributed more than 48 million hours of volunteer service. By serving shoulder to shoulder and making sacrifices to help those in need, men find the meaning they’re looking for.”

Continued on page 3:

Minutes of the November Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM on November 11 by Grand Knight Waverly. Guest DD Morris was present at the meeting. The Deputy Grand Knight, Chancellor, Warden, Trustee one year and Trustee two year were excused. Roll call followed our Chaplain leading us in prayer. The Warden led the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes from October were approved as written.

Membership Report

One candidate was interviewed on November 11, and several others are prayerfully considering membership. An exemplification may be scheduled in January.

Grand Knight Report

Bob and Jenny Dobbs celebrate 50 years of marriage and there will be a celebration after the 10AM mass on Sunday November 23.

The cook was thanked for the delicious dinner.

Chaplain’s Report

No report

Continued on page 2:

November Meeting Minutes**Continued from page 1:****Treasurer Report**

Checking account balance - \$12,736.85

Financial Secretary Report**Income –**

Dinner - \$20.00

Tootsie roll donation - \$75.13

Oktoberfest food sales -\$40.00

Bills –

Annual donations – checks will be presented on Giving Tuesday: Interfaith food bank - \$1000, ATCA shelter - \$1000, Stars -\$1000, Operation Care - \$1000, St. Vincent De Paul - \$1000, , Pregnancy and family help center - \$1000. SKD facility annual fee - \$625, Hospitality Sunday - \$152.15 – Brother Simpson, Movie night supplies – Brother Renzelman \$78.53 – Brother Waverly

Communications

No communications this month

Programs Director Report

Donut Sunday is hosted by the council on the first Sunday of each month after the 10:00 AM Mass. Volunteers are needed to help set up, serve and clean up. There was a recap of the movie viewing of A Man for all Seasons. The recitation of the rosary is scheduled for the Tuesday before the first Wednesday of each month at 5:15. Veterans Day potluck was a success. Giving Tuesday is scheduled for December 2. Set up and tear town help is needed at 10AM and after 8PM. The foundation will pay \$600 for those services. K OF C 1849 Christmas potluck is scheduled for Friday December 6. A chair is still needed to organize the event. Advent celebration is scheduled for December 8 after the 8:00 and 10AM masses. Plan to attend and fellowship with friends.

New Business

On December 27 there will be a Christmas party for the parish and to celebrate the Feast of St John the

Evangelist. Help will be needed, look for an email or phone call. It was M/S/A to donate \$499.99 to ARC in lieu of the usual tootsie roll donation funds.

Advocate Report

After a brief discussion with Father Ryan, it was M/S/A to donate \$250 for a set of new matching vestments.

Fourth Degree Assembly

Meetings are in Placerville on the fourth Thursday of each month, and attendance is growing at meetings. The Veterans Day parade on November 11 in Jackson was well attended by several members of the Color Guard. A Fourth Degree Exemplification is scheduled in the Spring in Elk Grove. Everyone is invited to SK Mahers' home on December 14. Contact JD for more information.

District Deputy Report

DD Morris gave a brief report including. The next Chapter meeting is in Marysville on November 15.

Good of the Order

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Al Shindler and Mathew John Blanch. Pray also for all Veterans, Joyce and Jim McGee, Lynette Headings, Jaqueline Henss, Kathy Trassare, Cathy Burr, Deacon Jaime, John Edwards, and Fr. Arlon.

Lecturer Report

A video presentation was shown about the rosary and miracles.

Chaplain's Summation

The meeting was closed in prayer.

GK Waverly closed the meeting at 8:07.

Respectfully submitted by David Sanders

Continued from page 1:

The supreme knight stressed young men’s need for authentic human connection rather than its digital surrogates. “Many are drowning in the depths of the internet and social media,” he said, noting that many young men are now turning to artificial intelligence and “chatbots” for companionship.

“These are AI tools that tailor their responses to the emotional needs of the user, and they offer comfort, support and validation — but it’s not real,” he explained. “This isn’t the road to friendship and meaning. It’s the road to further isolation.”

To overcome such isolation, Supreme Knight Kelly said, the Knights of Columbus helps men find authentic fraternity centered on their faith and identity in God. He highlighted *Cor* — Latin for “heart” — the Order’s faith-formation initiative that brings men together in more than 6,000 parishes worldwide. “It connects men with the truth about themselves, their world and their Creator,” he said. “Ultimately, these men grow together as friends, pursuing a life of virtue.”

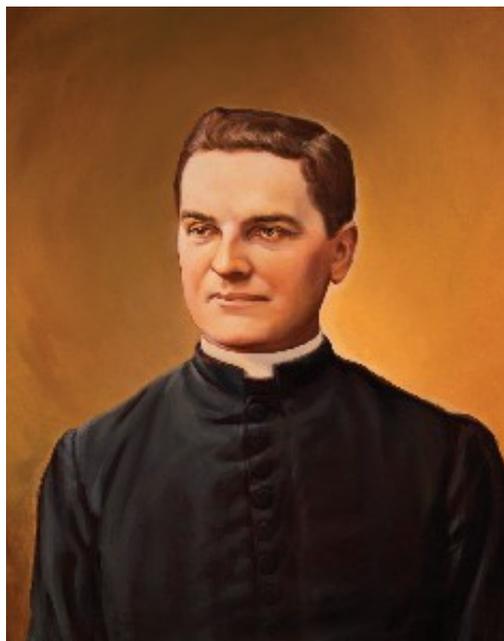
Survey data released in conjunction with the symposium by the polling firm Cygnal found that 48% of Gen Z males have two or fewer friends, with 11% reporting they have no friends at all. Of the 1,000 males ages 16 to 28 who were surveyed, half said they spend more than five hours a day streaming content, using social media, playing video games or engaging in other online recreational activities. Young men who participated in single-sex or coed organizations reported better

mental health than their non-affiliated peers, and those who identified as religious were more likely to report stronger well-being than those who did not.

In the afternoon, Supreme Knight Kelly took part in a panel discussion titled “The Role of Faith and Civic Institutions in Restoring Male Community,” together with U.S. Sen. James Lankford of Oklahoma; Larry Wiese, executive director of Kappa Alpha Order; and Michael DeVaul, national director of the YMCA’s Boys and Young Men of Color program. The panel was moderated by Michael Mayer, chief executive of Theta Chi Fraternity and a member of Father M. Joseph McDonnell Council 11044 in Carmel, Indiana.

During the panel, the supreme knight emphasized that many young men are seeking an antidote to relativism in organizations such as the Knights of Columbus, which is on pace to welcome 100,000 new members this year. “A lot of young men are coming out of their parents’ relativistic view of life,” he said. “It’s those men who are yearning for more of an institution — and yearning for moorings.”

In response to a question about changing attitudes toward organizational membership among Gen Z and millennial men, the supreme knight noted that the Order has expanded its digital presence and adjusted membership requirements to accommodate busy family schedules. Equally important, he said, is what has not changed. “We haven’t changed the fact that we’re a service organization — that we believe, based on our faith in Jesus Christ, that we are in service to others.”



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.

The Officers of Council 1849

Grand Knight Matt Waverly

Spiritual Advisor Deacon Jaime Garcia

Deputy G.K. Phill Gonzalez

Chancellor Steve DeBenedet

Warden Jacob Schmidt

Treasurer Bob Strazzo

Recorder Dave Sanders

Advocate Mark Koenig

Inside Guard George Hoover

Outside Guard Brian Bulger

Trustees

Three Year Stan Renzelman

Two Year Jack Magee

One Year Stephen Frias

Financial Sec. Tim Burr

Dist. Deputy Steven Morris

Field Agent Art Aguilar

All Council Officers can be reached by email. Use the first letter of their first name, the entire last name, followed by: @kofc-1849.org

Sample: mkoenig@kofc-1849.org

December Calendar of Events

Tuesday, December 2: Rosary on KVGC Radio at SKD at 5:30 PM.

Wednesday, December 3: Planning Meeting at St. Patrick's Hall at 6:00PM.

Friday, December 5: Christmas Party at SKD at 6:00 PM.

Sunday, December 7: Knights Donut Sunday at SKD after the 10 AM Mass.

Tuesday, December 9: Business Meeting at Saint Katharine Drexel at 7:00 PM. Dinner at 6:00 PM.

Amador Knights Reporter: David Sanders, phone 209 245-3482, email Dsanderson@kofc-1849.org, Editor and Publisher: Joe Trassare, phone 916 296-9557, email jtrassare@kofc-1849.org

Published Monthly. All news items may be emailed to news@kofc-1849.org. Photos need to be jpeg, set at no less than 150 dpi, and no larger than 800kb; send photo files to news@kofc-1849.org. @Amador County Council 1849 Knights of Columbus, December 2025, P.O. Box 1436, Sutter Creek, Ca 95685

All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without permission. For inquires, email: news@kofc-1849.org