

The Shield

September 2025

Knights of Columbus
Fr Thomas A Brandon Council 451
P.O. Box 15296,
Ft Wayne, IN 46885-5296
Phone: 260-438-3112
Office: 260-484-3392 x347
E mail: Knights451fw@gmail.com



Grand Knights Message

Brothers:

Summer is just about in our rear-view mirrors and it's been busy for Council 451. Most recently, we're coming off the tail of another successful Big Boys Tools and Toys sale. Cardinal Fest is coming up shortly. Thanks to all brothers that assisted or will assist at these events. We have a number of upcoming events being developed. Do you know how to make meatballs? Be sure to monitor your emails for information on our calendar and sign-up opportunities. We love seeing fresh faces!

By now you're probably aware we lost Sir Knight Don Luther on August 20. Don was a long-standing 4th Degree Knight, who served in about every capacity as an officer. Be sure to remember him and his family in your prayers.

Finally, the FY25/26 budget will be voted on on September 8 at our member meeting. Details were sent with last month's Shield.

Vivat Jesus!

Dennis Holp
Grand Knight, Council 451

	September		October
3	Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon	1	Mass at the VA Hospital - Noon
5-6	Cardinal Fest	4	Blood Drive
6	Mushball Tournament	6	6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center
8	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights	13	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights
8	6:45 PM Monthly Meeting - Hession Center	28	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights
21	St. Vincent DePaul walk/run		
23	8:15 AM Mass followed with breakfast with brother Knights		
27	St. Charles Young Adults Retreat Lunch at St. Felix's in Huntington		
27	Gibault Envoy Conference at Terre Haute, IN		



Deceased Member

Please remember **Don C. Luther** and all the deceased brother Knights in your prayers.

We are looking at resurrecting the rosary call list for our fallen brothers. We will call when a brother has passed, and we will be saying a rosary for the repose of his soul. Generally, this will be at the funeral home. The times will vary depending on the wishes of the family. We started this practice with the recent death of Sir Knight Don Luther. If you received a call or message on Don's behalf, then you are on our current list.

If you would like to be added or removed, simply send an email to knights451fw@gmail.com or text Joe Mikolay at 260-34-9416. Please include your name and the phone number you would like to use to be contacted.



Prayers for Brother Knights

Brother Knights, please pray for the following Brother Knights or family members:

Mike Bonaham, Larry Delaney, Teri Dennison, A J Drew, Elsie Faghih, Justin Fralick, Michael Friend, Caroline Grote, Dave Grote, John Hackman, George Kessen, Sr. Mirian Kessens SSND, Jo Ellen Koehl, Patty Kohrman, Tony Kraft, Lillian Krider, John Londt, Sharon Luther, Kathleen Magasam, Family of Jay Nelson, Bill & Kathy Palmersheim, the Tom Pycz family, Jill Redding, Brock & Lynda Rittenhouse, Keith Robertson, Janet Rose, Carl Sabo, Emily & John Sasser, Ann Schwartz, Ray & Tony Shot, Colin Smith, Roger Steup, John Thieme, Barbara Tratnyek, Janet Waldschmidt, Richard Wallace, Ed Welling, Sheila Welling and Frank Yeranko.

Pray for all the brother Knights sick or in distress, those confined to nursing homes and all deceased brother Knights.

Pray for all the Priests of our Diocese and for all Seminarians studying for the priesthood.
Please pray for our military.

If there are changes to this list, (additions or deletions), please notify any officer.



First Wednesday of The Month Mass

The first Wednesday of each month Steve Lutz, State Knights of Columbus Veterans Affairs Chairman and Dr. Thomas Ryan PGK sponsor the noon Mass at the Fort Wayne VA Hospital at 2121 Lake Avenue, Ft. Wayne, IN 46805.

They would like for you to join them on September 3, 2025 and each following month. Steve will greet you at the main entrance and direct you to the Mass location. Brother Knights from other Councils have been attending and they look forward to seeing you.



Monthly Mass & Breakfast !

Our monthly Knights Mass and Breakfast has expanded to the second Monday and forth Tuesday of the month. We meet at St. Charles for 8:15A.M. Mass, and follow Mass with breakfast at Lakeside Cafe. All Knights and potential Knights are welcome to join us for this faith and fellowship opportunity.

If you have any questions, call or text Darren Schortgen at (260)385-7603.

Please join us on Monday, September 8 and/or September 23, 2025

Happy September Birthdays

Robert Burton
Theodore Campbell
John Delaney
Daniel Distelrath
Robert D'Souza
David Fairchild
Larry Fisher
Mark Graf
Nick Groves
Jeffrey Henry
Noah Isch
Maurice Linder
Michael Niese
Frederick McNulty
Joseph Mikolay, Jr.
Joseph Reifel

Steven Richard
Joseph Ruden
Thomas Ryan
Stewart Schenkel
Andrew Schneider
Daniel Schneider
Robert Silva
Timothy Slater
Steve Straessle
Greg Sult
Ed Toby
Michael Vanderpool
Mark Venderley
Vincent Wallace
Michael Wass
Carl Wilt





Can Crushers Schedule

Aug 24 - Aug 30 : Joe Mikolay
 Aug 31 - Sept 6 : Joe Lauer
 Sep 7 - Sept 13 : Rolland Taylor
 Sept 14 - Sept 20: Dave Lothamer
 Sept 21 - Sept 27: Tom Lothamer
 Sept 28 - Oct 4 : Sean Digan
 Oct 5 - Oct 11 : Jim Pifko
 Oct 12 - Oct 18 : Eric Seely
 Oct 19 - Oct 25 : Chuck Smith



If you would like to volunteer your time to help crush can please contact Jason Gabet at 260-403-6230 or gabet60@aol.com.

Remember all funds collected from the cans go to support Gibault.



Shining Armor Award

Jeff Henry and Jason Wampler received their Shining Armor Awards at the August 11th council meeting. They were not able to attend the June Appreciate/Awards Dinner.



Photo provided by Doug Baisinger



Anthony Wayne Assembly Fourth Degree News



Sir Knights,

As the summer starts to draw to a close, we will begin having some activities. On Tuesday, September 9, at 7:00 pm we will have our installation of officers. Our District Master, Patrick Glavin will conduct the ceremony. The installation would seem to be a very routine matter, but it is an important time to ask God's blessing on our assembly and its officers. I hope you can attend.

Two days later Thursday, September 11, we will have a Blue Mass to pray for our Law Enforcement and Emergency Personnel and give thanks for their valuable service to our community.

For God, Country, and Neighbor
 Mike Blankman, Navigator
 Anthony Wayne Assembly 239

Meetings are held at the Saint Mother T. Guerin Chapel basement on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.
 The Patriotic Rosary begins at 7:00 PM and the meeting begins at 7:30.

Summer Landscaping Projects

The summer months bring lots of opportunities to work on landscaping projects. On the church campus, Council 451 is responsible for the beds along Trier Rd. Once school was out, the Knights gave priority to painting the second-grade school desks losing most of June. All the while, the weeds and grasses in this area really took hold and things were looking a bit jungle like. Father Tom helped out early by trimming many of the bushes. Finally in July, a team was organized on a hot humid 90-degree evening. The Knights gained the upper hand. Our thanks to Jack Wehrly, Tom Richter, Tom Hope, Chris Boersma, and Dennis Redding for plowing through.

We also received a request from one of our parishioners asking us to assist in laying mulch and stone on her property. The volunteers for this project were: Geary Hoy, Jim Keefer, Joe Lauer, Jim Pifko, Tom Richter and Dennis Redding.

Finally, on **Saturday, September 20th** at 8:00 am, the Knights will assist in planting new landscaping on the north and south sides of the school where the new windows have been installed. This project will include planting numerous bushes and plants, spreading a good deal of mulch and topsoil. It is estimated we will need 20 – 25 members. Please bring wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes, etc. If you can help, contact Dennis Redding at 615-1692 or email [djrr0155@yahoo.com](mailto:djr0155@yahoo.com).



Tom Richter and Tom Hope at work on a weedy area.



Chris Boersma digging away.



Jack Wehrly on bended knee going at it.



Joe Lauer, Geary Hoy and Tom Richter laying down the ground sheeting.



Jim Keefer working the edges.



Jim Pifko mulching around all the bushes.



The team: Geary Hoy, Tom Richter, Jim Pifko, Jim Keefer, Dennis Redding & Joe Lauer

Photos provided by Dennis Redding

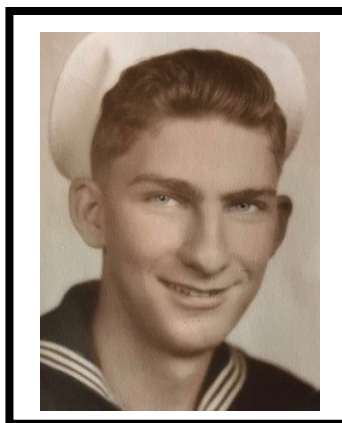


Knights Helping Neighbors

We have covered numerous stories regarding the Knights helping SVdP move a neighbor being evicted. This request started a little differently in that the YWCA reached out to our St. Charles SVdP council asking for help in moving a mom with three kids. Council 451 is about the only ministry at St. Charles with the necessary manpower to respond on short notice. We quickly formed a team and were able to move the few possessions this family had to a storage facility. Knights involved were: Dennis Holp, Chris Wroe and Dennis Redding.

US NAVY 1946-47

**Don C. Luther
COUNCIL 451 – FORT WAYNE
Anthony Wayne Assembly 239**



Don C. Luther and a fellow Fort Wayne friend decided to leave High School and join the United States Navy - enlisting together on January 17, 1946; reporting for duty on February 7, 1946. He left Fort Wayne and went to Indianapolis, IN for his physical, followed by Boot Camp at Camp Perry, Virginia. After Boot Camp, Don served on the Navy Cruiser USS Spokane CL 120, and then the Destroyer, USS Meredith DD 89.

Don was Apprentice Seaman, Seaman Second Class, Seaman First Class and Store Keeper Third Class. While serving onboard the USS Spokane, the cruiser visited England, Scotland, Norway, Denmark, Ireland, France, Portugal and Gibraltar. Don's service in the United State Navy concluded on December 8, 1947 with an honorable discharge, and awarding of the World War II Victory Medal.

Before Don entered the service, and while he was a student at Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne, he worked as a tailor at Richman Brothers. Following his return to Fort Wayne after the Navy, Don completed requirements and graduated from Central Catholic High School. He worked at Wolf & Dessauer for five years before returning to Richman Brothers for 37 years - as a tailor and eventually Store Manager. Upon his retirement from Richman Brothers, he greatly increased his volunteer work with Knights of Columbus Council 451.

Don joined the Knights of Columbus in 1948 after his brothers Dick and Bob had joined. He played on the K of C softball & bowling teams, and enjoyed playing Pinochle and Euchre. The only Council Don has ever been a member of is 451, and the only Assembly is #239 Anthony Wayne. During his 72 years as a Knight, he served as Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, Trustee, Advocate and Warden. Don has also held all the Chairs in the Anthony Wayne 4th Degree Assembly. Don served as Council 451 Envoy to Gibault for many years, and continues to support Gibault today.

Don's wife Sharon served as the President of the Columbian Ladies, and his son Chuck has been a member of Council 451 for 40 years. His son in law, Brian Ault, is also a member of Council 451, and, while the Council owned a building on Reed Road, was the Cook, Lounge Manager and Co-Chair of Bingo - in addition to his full-time job outside the Knights.

Don and Sharon were married August 23, 1958 and have four children: Sue Ault, Janet Shovlin, Don C. "Chuck" Luther II and Kathy Childers. Don and Sharon have only had one pet, a dog, Mitsy - a miniature poodle.



Over 35 Brother Knights from Council 451 paid their respects at the rosary said for Don.



The rosary was led by the following Knights: (front to back) Joe Mikolay, Gary Mackela, Mike Maskel, Darren Schortgen and Dave Stevens.

Photos provided by Doug Baisinger

Don Luther Rosary continued . . .



Knights
and
friend's
attending
the rosary



Anthony Wayne
Assembly 239's
Honor Guard (left
to right) Mike
Brandel, Doug
Baisinger, Pete
Duran, and
Richard Burton

Photos provided by Doug Baisinger



Monsignor Thomas Showmaker

Bishop Rhoades officially presented to Monsignor Shoemaker the Vatican decree making him a Chaplain of His Holiness. The presentation took place during sung vespers, fittingly, on the feast of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests (August 4th).

This is also a very special and unique event as both Bishop Rhoades and Monsignor Tom are members of our council 451. If you could not attend, this very respectful and beautiful event was livestreamed. You can still watch by using the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/HTq5R69R7QQ?si=UvqmNBGP065gK8Yc>



Pictures are from the St. Charles Facebook page

Fiscal Budget 2025/2026

July 1, 2025 thru June 30, 2026

PROJECTED INCOME FISCAL 2025/2026

Annual Dues	\$10,000
Checking Account Interest	\$100
Donations to Council	\$5,000
Fish Fry	\$10,000
Gibault Donations Income	\$3,800
Interest & Principal Reed Road	\$19,000
Membership Donation	\$5,000
Memorial	\$5,000
Seminarian Support	\$4,500
Shirt Sales	\$500
Spaghetti Dinner	\$5,000
Misc. Income	\$250
Special Events Income	\$3,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$71,150

St. Charles Borromeo

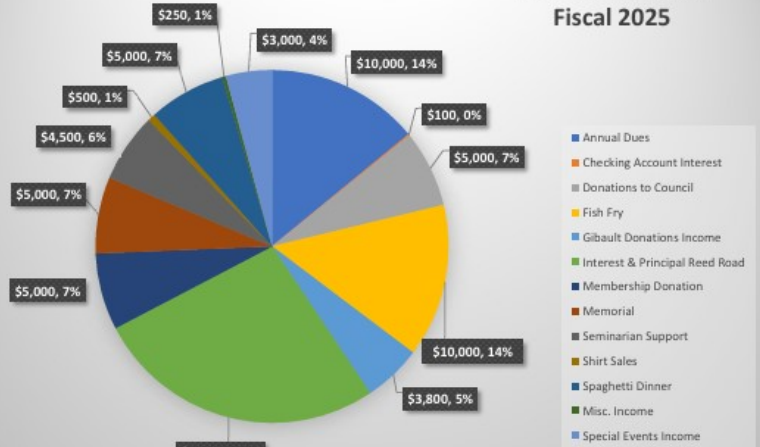


PROJECTED EXPENSES FISCAL 2025/2026

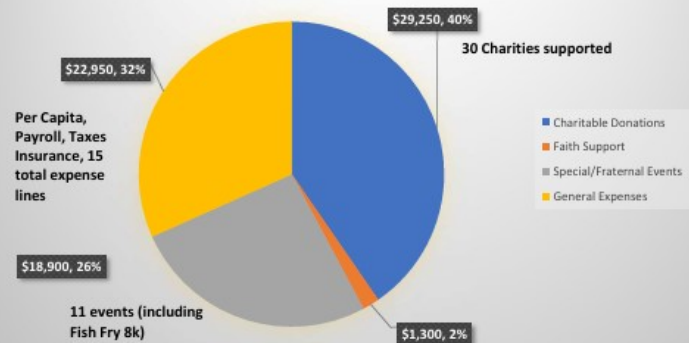
Charitable Donations	\$29,250
Faith Support	\$1,300
Special/Fraternal Events	\$18,900
General Expenses	\$22,950
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$72,400

7/29/2025

Projected Income Fiscal 2025



Projected Expenses Fiscal 2025



Fiscal 2025 Budget vs Actual

	7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025 Budget	7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025 Actual	Difference +/-
INCOME			
Annual Dues	\$9,500	\$10,250	\$750
Checking Account Interest	\$100	\$64	-\$36
Donations to Council	\$4,000	\$7,023	\$3,023
Fish Fry	\$12,000	\$10,626	-\$1,374
Gibault Donations Income	\$3,900	\$4,711	\$811
Interest & Principal Reed Road	\$12,500	\$18,500	\$6,000
Membership Donation	\$5,000	\$7,833	\$2,833
Memorial	\$5,000	\$0	-\$5,000
Misc. Inc	\$300	\$448	\$148
Seminarian Support	\$4,000	\$4,712	\$712
Shirt Sales	\$500	\$210	-\$290
Spaghetti Dinner	\$5,000	\$5,037	\$37
Special Events Income	\$500	\$0	-\$500
TOTAL INCOME	\$62,300	\$69,414	\$7,114

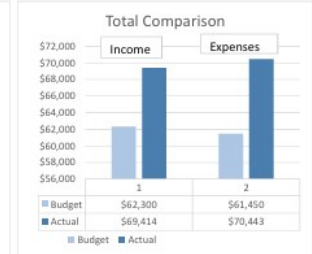
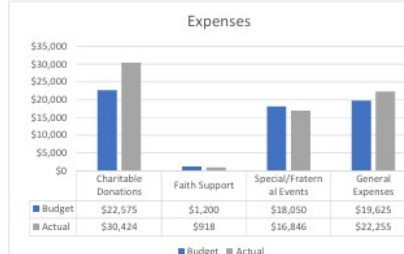
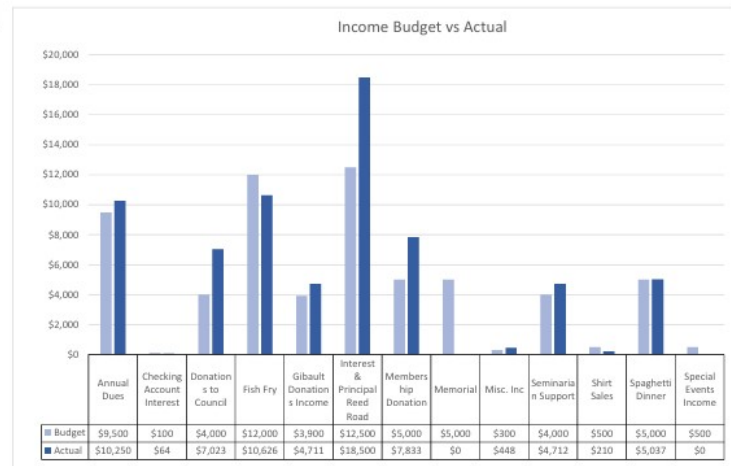
St. Charles Borromeo



	Fiscal 2024/2025	
EXPENSES		
Charitable Donations	\$22,575	\$30,424
Faith Support	\$1,200	\$918
Special/Fraternal Events	\$18,050	\$16,846
General Expenses	\$19,625	\$22,255
TOTAL Expenses	\$61,450	\$70,443

7/29/2025

Income	\$69,414
Expense	\$70,443
Difference	-\$1,029





The 143rd Supreme Convention



Sunday August 3, 2025, Norma and Doug arrived at the Hilton in Washington DC, for the 143rd Supreme Convention. We went to Mass at The Basilica of The National Shrine of The Immaculate Conception. After Mass we were able to tour the St. Pope John Paul II Shrine.



The Hilton Hotel where the Supreme Convention was held.



Welcome to 143rd Supreme Convention at the Hilton Hotel in Washington DC.



Statue of Blessed Michael McGivney at the Basilica



The entrance to the Basilica



Mass in the Basilica of the National Shrine of The Immaculate Conception



Norma and Doug Baisinger outside of the St. Pope John Paul II Shrine

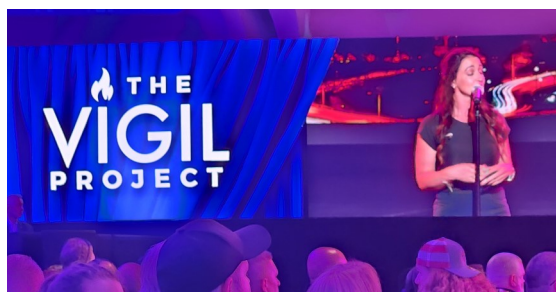
Monday August 4th. During the afternoon we visited various state hospitality rooms and later in the afternoon many of the convention attendees got together to trade State Pins. The idea was to try to get as many pins from all the other states and countries that were attending the Convention. We were able to get 67 of the 75 available pins. Monday evening we attended the Supreme Awards program and after the awards were presented there was a concert by The Vigil Project, a Christian music group.



Picture of many people trading state pins.



Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly and his wife presenting various awards.



The Vigil Project

*Photos provided by
Doug Baisinger*

The Vigil project playing music for the attendees.



Supreme Convention Cont. . .



This is the morning of Aug 5th. We started with mass in the morning at the Basilica of The national Shrine of The Immaculate Conception. Supreme based over 2000 people to the Basilica and back. The procession of 110 4th Degree Knights as the Honor Guard, 125 priests, over 50 Bishops, and 10 Cardinals was a spectacular sight.



Attendees leaving the hotel to board buses to go to Mass



Knights and family taking their seats before the Mass



4th Degree Honor Guard



Fr. Gregory, Indiana State Chaplain processing into Mass



Priests coming in to celebrate Mass



Cardinals & Bishops coming in to celebrate Mass



Attendees leaving the Basilica to go back to the hotel

Tuesday Aug 5th, Morning Business session. Supreme Knight Kelly gave the "State of the Knights Address". He said that the Knight's had their best year ever, the Order grew by 96000 new Knights, and we now have 2.2 million members worldwide. Pope Leo addressed the convention and praised the good works that the Knights do. This was the first time in over 20 years that a Pope had sent a message to the Supreme Convention.

Tuesday evening was the State Dinner. There were over 1500 knights and family members in attendance. Everyone was dressed in white coats and the ladies had on their finest dresses. It was a fun night and everyone got excited when the band played their state song.



Supreme Knight Kelly giving his State of the Knights report



Pope Leo addressing the Delegates



Norma and Doug going to the State's Dinner



Part of the Indiana State delegation at the States Dinner



Indiana Delegation standing to sing "Back Home in Indiana" at the Dinner



Other States celebrating when their State song was played

Photos provided by Doug Baisinger

Supreme Convention Cont. . .



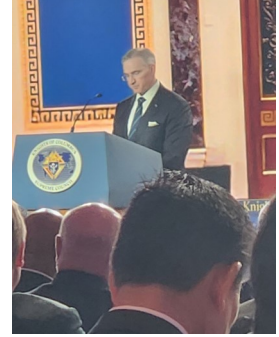
Wednesday Aug 6th, Mass was held in ballroom with 1500 Knights & family attending. Cardinal Tobin was the celebrant for the Mass. The business session followed, with each State and Country telling how many delegates they had with them. There were 551 delegates present at the convention. Various resolutions were presented and voted on.



4Th Degree Honor Guard leading the precession in for the morning Mass



Cardinal Tobin celebrating the Mass



Supreme Knight Kelly opening the Business session



Indiana State Deputy Gil Spisak reporting that Indiana had 10 delegates present



Indiana Delegate Nation Rhorer seconding one of the revolutions



Indiana's row of seats at the business meeting



Wednesday night Aug 6th. Indiana delegation went to dinner together to celebrate a good convention. There were 23 attendees to the Supreme Convention representing Indiana.



Indiana delegates meeting in the State Hospitality room before leaving for dinner



One table of the Indiana delegates and wives



Other table of the Indiana Delegates and wives.

Photos provided by Doug Baisinger

Supreme Convention Cont. . .

Last day of convention Aug 7th. Morning started off with a beautiful Mass. There were over 25 relics processed into the ballroom ahead of the regular procession of 4th Degree Honor Guard and clergy. The last business session was held and the Convention was officially closed. Next year's convention will be in Denver, CO. This was a great opportunity and experience to be able to attend the convention as an Indiana delegate.



One of the many relics



Relic of St. Pope John Paul II



Relic of Blessed Fr. McGivney



Maybe my next position in the Knight's (just Joking)



Photos provided by Doug Baisinger



2025-2026 Officers
Council 451

Chaplain

Deacon Robert Lortie

Grand Knight

Dennis Holp 438-3112

Deputy Grand Knight

Sean Digan 417-0216

Chancellor

Jason Gabet 403-6230

Financial Secretary

Doug Baisinger 486-8533

Recorder

Michael Ripley 205-3689

Warden

Gene Delaney 750-7600

Treasurer

Joe Mikolay 348-9416

Trustees

3 Jack Wehrly 414-0421

2 Bruce Bennett 409-0229

1 Dennis Redding 615-1692

Advocate

Vince Lochbihler 515-7870

Inside Guard

Blane Ryan 615-1728

Outside Guard

Charles Smith 403-7792

District Deputy

Tom Ryan DO

District14@indianakofc.org



2025-2026 Directorships:

Membership and Public Relations Director

Justin Purdy 410-3125

Fraternal Director

Gene Delaney 750-7600

Fraternal co-Director

Tim Isch 715-5984

Life Director

Kirk Crosby (865) 399-3052

Family Directors

Sam Sliger 750-8657

Gibault Envoy

Mike Smith 479-7199

Faith Director

Tony Hasselschwert 413-5310

Community Director

Dennis Redding 615-1692

Anthony Wayne Assembly
2025-2026

Faithful Friar

Rev. William Kummer 574-780-0824

Faithful Navigator

Mike Blankman 260-413-6376

Faithful Captain

Mark Steiglitz 505-710-1553

Faithful Pilot

Pete Duran 260-579-6054

Faithful Scribe

Blane Ryan 260-623-6808

Faithful Comptroller

John Murray 260-486-6870

Faithful Purser

Loren Nichter 260-413-1463

Faithful Inside Sentinel

Mike Shane 260-246-1117

Faithful Outside Sentinel

Dennis Redding 260-615-1692

Faithful Trustee

1. Ed Koehl 260-338-0743

2. Rick Jennings 260-494-5982

3. Mike Descala 217-553-2572

Faithful Admiral

Richard Burton 260-432-7030

Faithful Honor Guard

Pete Duran 260-579-6054

peteduran@frontier.com

Master IN District

SK Pat Glavin 773-954-3975

master@indianakofc.org

Master Sir Knight IN District

Michael R Ticich 773-447-7587



Please bring your cans to the Knights of Columbus shed!
We will crush the cans and recycle them
for cash to be donated to Gibault!

**PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE ALUMINUM FOIL
OR ALUMINUM PANS—ONLY CANS.** Thank you!



**Have you recently
moved or are you
moving?**

If so please advise us by
emailing your new
address to:

Knights451fw@gmail.com

or send a note to:

P.O. 15296

Fort Wayne, IN

46885-5296.

Thank you!!!



Your Insurance Agent
For The Knights of Columbus Insurance is:
Nicholas Goralczyk
574-457-8111
nick.goralczyk@kofc.org