

**Knights of Columbus
Light of Christ Council 8726
40th Anniversary Celebration
Sunday August 25th**



Council instituted June 3, 1984

**40th Anniversary Celebration for
Light of Christ Council 8726
August 25, 2024**

Cocktails	3:00 PM
Opening Remarks	Jim Nawa
Invocation	Father George
Pledge of Allegiance	Jim Nawa
Blessing	Father George
Dinner	
Presentation of Pins	TBD
Remarks	Open to the Floor
Closing Remarks	Jim Nawa
Benediction	Father George



A message from our current Grand Knight

To all our past and present Knights of Columbus, let me congratulate you and thank you and honor you for your time and efforts put into making the 40-year mark for the Light of Christ Council 8726.

For those that came before our current members, they laid the groundwork to support our Parish, School and Community. The current members have continued that work growing the council and building upon the 4 principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

I am very proud to serve and lead an exemplary group of men and this great organization.

History of the Council

In January 1983 there were only three Knights of Columbus councils serving the vast Berks County community. Michael D. O'Reilly, who was at the time General Agent for Knights of Columbus Insurance, approached his Pastor, Rev. J. Pascal of St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, Singking Spring, PA with a proposition to form a new Knights of Columbus Council that would serve the parish. O'Reilly also approached Father William J. Nessel of St. Francis de Sales parish in Robesonia for the same purpose, Both Father Pascal and Father Nessel were agreeable and O'Reilly turned to District Deputy John L. Schum to proceed with the paperwork, and preparations were made to contact the parishioners of both parishes. At that point, the process hit a snag; apparently there were members of the three councils who objected to new councils being established in Berks County due to competition. A complaint was issued to then State Deputy Basil Desiderio who referred the complaint to Henry J. Mullen, State Membership Director for investigation. The allegation of too many councils turned out to have no merit and the process of obtaining new members continued very slowly.

Then, two things happened to hasten the development. On August 15, 1983, St. Ignatius Loyola Parish got a new Pastor, Rev. Msgr. James A. Treston. Shortly after that, on October 1, 1983, Henry J. Mullen, who had been following the progress in the area, was transferred from Pittsburgh to Singking Spring and became a member of St. Ignatius Loyola Parish. Mullen contacted John Schum and Mike O'Reilly and called an organizational meeting of all who had expressed interest in the new councils. There were fourteen from St. Ignatius and four from St. Francis de Sales. Thirty is the number required by the Knights of Columbus to form a new council. It was decided to combine the applications from both parishes and go from there. A second organizational meeting was held in February 1984. After a lesson on what the Knights of Columbus is about, many of the attendees took membership applications in order to recruit new members, and it was agreed that Mr. Mullen would send letters to members who belonged to councils outside the state but lived in Berks County.

At that meeting it was evident that several of the men interested in the council were skilled leaders from other councils. We were able to form a slate of probably leaders for the new council. One member in particular, John Sadowski, stood out and was able to recruit several more members. In April 1984 we had secured enough applications to proceed with a First Degree Exemplification which was performed by members of Council 793 and 7179. In May 1984 after securing the required 30 members, we submitted the applications to the Knights of Columbus Supreme headquarters in New Haven, Connecticut, and on June 3, 1984 we received the Council number of 8726 and officially became a Council of the Knights of Columbus. John Sadowski was elected Grand Knight of the new council and Henry Mullen was appointed District Deputy of the Berks County # 20 councils. At a later date, we chose our name and received our Charter. During the first years of the council, meetings were held on the 2nd and 3rd Monday of each month. The first meeting of the month was held at Saint Ignatius Loyola Rectory basement, and second meeting of the month was held in St. Francis de Sales Rectory basement. At the time, St. Francis de Sales parish did not have a building to celebrate Mass so the parish's Masses were held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Robesonia. Our first Installation of Officers ceremony was held after Saturday night Mass in that facility. After our first year we obtained a Star Council Award in recognition of our recruiting and programming efforts.

More recently, our council has initiated a number of projects including hosting the Vatican International Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition during a July weekend in 2023 in our School Gymnasium. With the leadership of former Grand Knight Fred Henrich, we had over 300 people visit the exhibition comprised of 152 posters highlighting the miracles and the tests performed to validate them. And during Covid, former Grand Knight Dan Wozniak came up with the idea of hosting an annual Golf Tournament (this year being our 5th year) with all proceeds going to the St. Ignatius School's Scholarship program, John Paul II Center, Mary's Shelter and Opportunity House. We have raised over \$55,000 dollars in the first 4 years and this year's event will be just as good in early September 2024. And the council continues with many other programs to serve our Parish, School and Community, some that were started back in the early days of the council.

Light of Christ Council No. 8726 Knights of Columbus
Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania
Date of Institution June 3, 1984

Charter Names

Ralph Alesin	James C. Nawa
Ronald W. Beck	Rev. William Nessel, Chap.
Ronald J. Burst	Dennis L. O'Brien
Brian P. Carron	Robert Ricco
Edward J. Cavanaugh	John M. Romanofsky
David Cech, I. Guard	Harold J. Romar
Rev. Robert Cofenas	John S. Sadowski, GK.
Deacon John A. Coffin	Leo R. Saweikis, Chanc.
Arthur F. Doherty, Treasurer	Edwin Shields
John F. Dougherty	Eugene T. Slegowski
Christopher Falencki	James L. Smith, O. Guard
Francis S. Gardner	Joseph L. Sonsini
Ralph Giangiacomo	Harry L. Staubach
Glen Gutzler	Ronald E. Swope
Richard H. Hartlieb	Msgr. James A. Treston
Charles Hummel	Robert F. Visbisky, DGK
Joseph F. Jakobowski	James M. Weaver
Richard Laffredo	Alden D. Wunder, Ward.
Melvin L. Losovsky, Fin. Secy.	Edward J. Zinn, REc. Secy.
Henry J. Mullen, Advocate	

Our Council have grown from 39 members in 1984 to 170 members in 2024.

Light of Christ Council 8726 Officers

	Then ... 1984-1985	... and Now 2024-2025
Grand Knight	John S. Sadowski	James M. Nawa
Deputy Grand Knight	Robert Visbisky	Michael Hauser
Financial Secretary	Melvin Losovsky	Joseph Kots
Chancellor	Leo Saweikis	Kerry Williard
Recorder	Edward Zinn	Frank Sarnes
Treasurer	Arthur Doherty	Frederick Henrich
Chaplain	Rev. William Nessel	Rev. Thomas Bortz
Warden	Alden Wunder	Joseph Bononno
Inside Guard	James Smith	Rodney Baumert
Outside Guard	David Cech	John Volpe
Advocate	Hank Mullen	Ronald Keating
One Year Trustee		Terrence Williams
Two Year Trustee		Daniel Wozniak
Three Year Trustee		Raymond Newmaster
Lecturer		Bernard Deren

Past Grand Knights



John S. Sadowski
1984-1985



Robert Visbisky
1985



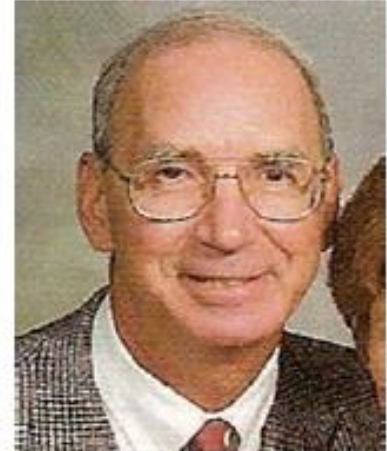
Robert P. Ricco
1985-1987



John F. Dougherty
1987-1988



Donald G. Hoshauer
1988-1989



John Gajewski
1989-1991



Ralph C. Alesin
1991-1993



Gary L. Reinert
1993-1995



Albert J. Pilarski
1995-1996

Past Grand Knights

		
<p>John J. Godack 1996-1998</p>	<p>Richard A. Weinoffer 1989-1999</p>	<p>Michael F. Votodian 1999-2001</p>
		
<p>Frederick P. Henrich 2001-2003</p>	<p>John J. Kuzio 2003-2004</p>	<p>David S. Gerhard 2004</p>
		
<p>Charles E. Walden 2004-2006</p>	<p>Kenneth A. Lytz 2006-2008</p>	<p>Kerry L. E. Williard 2008-2010</p>

Past and Present Grand Knights



Anthony A. Calderoni
2010-2012



Ronald Keating
2012-2015



Robert J. Houlihan
2015-2017



Terrence P. Williams
2017-2019



Daniel Wozniak
2019 - 2021



Raymond Newmaster
2021 - 2023

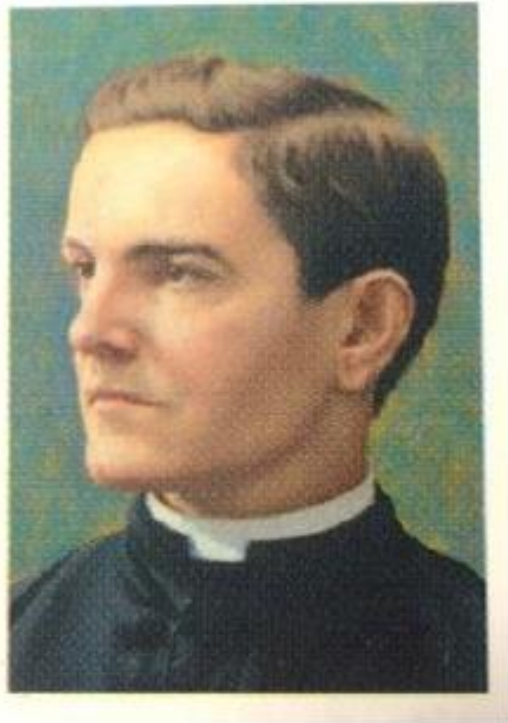


James M. Nawa
2023

We will forever remember our former members who have passed away. Their contributions to and participation in our Council activities have helped to make the Light of Christ Council what it is today. Please keep them in your prayers.

Member	Date of Death	Member	Date of Death
Joseph F. Bononno	7/16/2024	Charles W. Hoshauer	7/16/2015
John L. Miller	7/1/2024	John M. Romanofsky	6/21/2015
Gary D. Good	4/27/2024	Richard D. Hessler	5/29/2015
William C. Carroll	3/29/2024	Joseph A. Gillen	4/21/2015
Ronald E. Swope	2/8/2024	Robert P. Chilcote	2/15/2015
Ronald A. Billey	4/10/2023	Russell P. Rothenberger	11/4/2014
Vincent J. Scardina	2/13/2023	Michael D. O'Reilly	9/26/2014
Pete A. Marabella	1/10/2023	James E. Kilduff	8/9/2014
Donald R. Hess	11/17/2022	Shannon M. Corey	3/1/2014
Peter P. Ragonese	5/23/2022	John Sammataro	8/12/2012
James E. Walsh	2/24/2022	Joseph K. Delapp	10/15/2011
Henry J. Trexler	10/8/2021	Dennis E. Mann	8/7/2011
Michael D. Mellon	5/24/2021	John G. De Bree	7/28/2011
John J. Godack	4/2/2021	Andrew B. Brynildsen	4/4/2011
Edward M. Walukonis	1/15/2021	John F. Mc Goey	11/14/2010
Thomas J. Lenovich	11/22/2020	Edward J. Gilden	1/2/2009
Woodrow L. Edinger	7/21/2020	John F. Dougherty	10/30/2008
Sam L. Giarratano	2/5/2020	John A. Setticerze	10/30/2008
John D. Buser	12/9/2019	John R. Mc Mahon	10/11/2008
John E. Mc Guire	6/11/2019	Thomas A. Lynskey	6/9/2008
Joseph M. Mc Gee	3/20/2019	Gerard J. Bosch	12/25/2006
John Machuzick	3/8/2019	Stephen J. Levanti	8/15/2006
Barry H. Miller	2/8/2018	Peter M. Barbernitz	7/7/2006
Timothy A. Reiver	2/8/2018	John A. Coffin	4/9/2006
William J. Pochuski	8/13/2017	Frank T. Novelli	5/27/2005
Stanley J. Dykty	8/8/2017	Joseph H. O'Neill	4/3/2005
Leo R. Saweikis	5/25/2017	Frank J. Camillo	11/4/2002
Earl Bohanak	12/22/2016	Ralph C. Alesin	6/2/2002
Edwin F. Chimahosky	11/21/2016	William F. Ormandy	1/9/2002
Jody W. Weidel	10/22/2016	Joseph C. Hughes	8/1/1999
Michael T. De Maio	5/14/2016	Harry L. Staubach	4/1/1999
Gary L. Reinert	5/5/2016	Joseph F. Jakobowski	4/23/1998
Gustav W. Johnson	2/29/2016	Martin J. Holleran	8/10/1996
John F. Garszczyński	2/13/2016	Joseph J. Shivers	6/14/1995
Kenneth M. Holl	1/15/2016	Brooke A. Kunkleman	9/1/1994
Rudolph E. Donnelly	12/13/2015	Glenn F. Gutzler	9/1/1992
Joseph W. Arbegast	12/3/2015	Arthur F. Doherty	10/20/1987
Fernando Pierorazio	9/7/2015	Harold J. Romar	8/1/1986

Our Founder, Father Michael J. McGivney



Our Catholic Faith

As Knights of Columbus, we all share our common Catholic faith and our solidarity with the clergy and hierarchy of the Catholic church. The truths of our Catholic faith inform and inspire all that we do as Knights in support of our Church, our communities, our families and our brother Knights.