



FROM THE HELM OF:
THE FAITHFUL
NAVIGATOR



S.K. Tony **Arrinelli**

As 2025 quickly draws to a close, I’m reminded of how fast time passes. I’m writing this column from a fast-food restaurant while waiting for my granddaughter’s cheerleading lesson, surrounded by wall-to-wall Christmas music—even though Thanksgiving hasn’t yet arrived. Soon January will be here, along with the resolutions we promise to keep (and often break).

There is one resolution I intend to keep: to reignite enthusiasm within our Assembly. That has been my focus throughout this Fraternal Year. My approach has been to drive programs that inspire involvement and growth. When men see what we’re doing, they’ll want to join us—and lately, we’ve been doing quite a lot.

Faith and Fellowship

Before our November meeting at St. Lawrence, seven of us attended the 6:30 p.m. Mass together. At a lightly attended service, our presence was noticeable—and meaningful. I found great value in worshipping alongside my brother Knights, and I hope the others did as well. We’ll continue this practice at St. Lawrence, and I encourage more of you to join us.

Programs of Service

We’ve made a strong effort to publicize our programs and schedule. Highlights include:

- **Corporate Communion**
- **Volunteering at the USO**
- **Wreaths Across America**

Each of these offers a chance to serve and grow together. Volunteering at the USO can be challenging since it’s during the week, but it’s deeply rewarding. Wreaths Across America is equally powerful - laying wreaths on veterans’ graves and offering a prayer is a meaningful way to spend a December afternoon.

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**From the Desk of the
The Faithful Captain**



Reflecting on Gratitude in Service, Unity, and Charity Robert Barnard:

As the autumn leaves fall and families across America gather to celebrate Thanksgiving, we are reminded of the power of gratitude—both as a virtue and as a call to action. For the Knights of Columbus, this season offers a profound opportunity to reflect on our mission and renew our commitment to the principles that unite us: charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.

The Spirit of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is more than a holiday; it is a spirit that calls us to recognize our blessings and to share them generously with others. As Knights, we are called to live out our faith in concrete ways, serving our families, parishes, and communities. In this way, every act of service becomes an expression of gratitude for the gifts we have received.

Charity: Giving Thanks Through Action

The foundation of the Knights of Columbus is charity. During Thanksgiving, we are especially mindful of those in need—the hungry, the lonely, and the forgotten. Our charitable works, whether they involve organizing food drives, serving meals at shelters, or supporting families in crisis, are tangible ways to give thanks by giving back. It is in serving others that we best express our gratitude to God and to our fellow **man**.

Unity and Fraternity: Gathering as One

Thanksgiving brings people together, just as our order gathers men in brotherhood. The bonds of unity and

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Honoring Our Brothers: The Color Corps

You've likely noticed our growing Color Corps. Just recently, I served with six other Knights from several assemblies at the funeral for John Davidson at St. Oliver. The pride you feel when the family of a fallen brother walks beneath a canopy of drawn swords is indescribable. Yes, we participate in patriotic and civic programs, but one of our most important roles is to honor the memory of our brothers.

We will continue to train after each meeting. If you have a sword and baldric, please bring them. If you're not yet a member, you're welcome to train with us—we have spare swords available. Thanks to permission from St. Lawrence, we can train in the sanctuary, which provides a powerful setting. As I often say, *you practice like you play*. Training in the sanctuary prepares us for the real occasion, and when you see how much the Color Corps adds to our ceremonies, I hope you'll be inspired to join.

A Call to Action

The point is clear: **we are raising the level of activity in our Assembly.** None of us joined the Fourth Degree simply to attend monthly meetings—we joined to make an impact.

If you've been on the sidelines, I invite you to take a fresh look at what we're accomplishing. Make the commitment to get back in the game. Your participation matters, and your help is needed.

Fraternally,
Your Faithful Navigator

fraternity are strengthened as we work side by side, sharing in the joys and burdens of service. Our unity provides strength, our fraternity offers support, and together we build communities rooted in compassion and respect.

Patriotism: Gratitude for Our Freedom

As we give thanks for our many blessings, we also remember the gift of freedom and the responsibilities it entails. The Knights of Columbus have a proud tradition of supporting veterans, honoring those who serve, and promoting responsible citizenship. Our patriotism is an expression of gratitude for the liberties we enjoy and our commitment to preserving them for future generations.

A Call to Thanksgiving Every Day

While Thanksgiving Day is a special time to pause and reflect, the Knights of Columbus are called to live in a spirit of thanksgiving every day. By embodying charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism, we transform gratitude into action and make a lasting impact on our world.

As we gather with our families and communities this holiday, let us remember the words of Blessed Michael McGivney, our founder: "Let us be faithful and

persevering in the path of duty." May our thankfulness inspire us to greater service,

deeper unity, and unwavering devotion to the mission of the Knights of Columbus.



Happy Thanksgiving to all brother Sir Knights and their families!



It's Thanksgiving. Time for families to come together and enjoy the company of those you love.

Or is it?

The government set a new record for shutdowns. We have a bicameral form of government and have two major political parties. Neither can get along with the other which partially led to the shutdown. The real reasons are too numerous to explain here. We are the Knights of Columbus and politics have no place in our halls or periodicals.

However, this isn't about politics, but the arguments of the two parties seems to somehow come to our communal tables.

We all have that one crazy family member that thrives on controversy. We tiptoe around them trying not to get them started on confrontational topics.

Families sit down together before you know it someone has hit upon that one topic that will start the disagreements. The rest of the family grimaces while the table takes sides.

So much for Thanksgiving.

The celebration traces its origins to a three-day feast in 1621 between the Wampanoag and the Plymouth colonists to celebrate a successful harvest after a difficult winter. The Wampanoag helped the colonists by teaching them how to grow crops like corn, and both groups shared a meal of venison, fowl, and other foods. Thanksgiving has evolved over the years, but its roots are deeply connected to this early celebration of cooperation and gratitude. In 1863, amid the Civil War, Lincoln issued a proclamation designating the last Thursday of November as a national day of Thanksgiving.

As Catholics Thanksgiving is a time for families to come together and enjoy the company of those they love. It is a time to give thanks for the blessings we have received throughout the year.

As members of the Knights of Columbus, Thanksgiving is a time for gratitude, service, and community. As Brothers we celebrate God's provision and recognizing

the importance of giving thanks to the Father.

Thanksgiving is a special time for our families to come together, share meals, and strengthen our bonds through cherished traditions and memories. The holiday promotes a spirit of fellowship and togetherness, which is a central part of our values.

My family has made it a tradition for each one at the table to express something that through the past year they are thankful for.



So, after the parade and before football, think about those loved ones who have passed, the ones that can't be with you this year and



give thanks for all the blessings the Lord has bestowed on us.

"Lord Jesus, on this Thanksgiving Day, let this dinner stand as a symbol of all the blessings you have given us this year. Thank you, Lord, for this beautiful turkey, reminding us that you always provide. Thank you for the potatoes, the fruit of the earth, and for the cranberry sauce, which is sour but sweet like life. Thank you for the pumpkin pie, an American fruit in a European shell, a symbol of our country. Thank you most of all for the love of all of those gathered at this table."

From Our Family to Yours

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving

Frank & Ellen Montelione



Archbishop Gregory J. Hartmayer of the Archdiocese of Atlanta's Thanksgiving reflections focus on giving thanks for God's grace and using it to serve others, finding joy and hope amidst difficulties, and remembering the community's prayers and support. He has previously encouraged the faithful to pray for others, especially brothers and sisters in Christ, and to find a reason for gratitude even when facing challenges. His reflections are centered on faith, service, and recognizing God's presence in all circumstances. His message emphasizes that gratitude is a commitment to accept God's gift of grace and to respond with heartfelt joy. He has encouraged finding joy and hope even in times of brokenness and difficulty, suggesting finding one thing for which to be thankful. Thanksgiving is seen not just as a feeling but as a call to action—to use God's grace to serve others. He has expressed gratitude for the faithful members of the church, whose prayers and support are vital to ministry. He has called for the faithful to keep their brothers and sisters close in prayer, particularly during Thanksgiving.

November: A Month of Hope and Remembrance

As we enter the month of November, we are reminded of the profound spiritual significance this time holds for the faithful. This is a month dedicated to remembering and praying for the souls in Purgatory, a temporary state of purification for those destined for heaven. While these souls endure suffering, they are filled with hope, knowing that salvation awaits them. At the end of time, Purgatory will cease to exist, and all souls will stand before the Final Judgment.

Our Role as the Faithful

As members of the Church Militant, we are called to assist the Church Suffering through various acts of love and devotion. These include praying for the departed, offering sacrifices, and participating in the Holy Mass, which is the most powerful act of intercession. In November, these acts of mercy carry profound spiritual weight.

Indulgences for the Holy Souls

During this special month, the Church grants indulgences to the faithful. A partial indulgence can be obtained by praying at a cemetery for the dead. A plenary indulgence is granted to those who visit a cemetery daily from November 1st to 8th and pray for the departed, or to those who visit a church on November 2nd and pray the Our Father and Creed. Additionally, the faithful are encouraged to recite a daily prayer for the departed: "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen."

A Call to Knights

As Knights of Columbus, we are men of faith and charity. November presents us with a special challenge. We are encouraged to offer Masses for deceased members of our councils, organize rosaries or cemetery visits, and educate our communities on indulgences and the theology of Purgatory. By lifting souls toward heaven, we embody the mercy and fraternity at the heart of our Order.

Closing Thought

November is not only about remembering the dead; it is about living with hope. In praying for the departed, we strengthen our own faith, deepen our charity, and remind the world that love is stronger than death. Let us continue our journey with hearts full of compassion and hope, knowing that our prayers and acts of love make a difference in the lives of the souls in Purgatory.

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Looking Ahead At December



Unto us a child is born

As we approach the holy feast of Christmas, our hearts are filled with joy at the coming of the Savior. The birth of Christ in Bethlehem is more than a story we recall each year—it is the living reminder that God chose to enter our world in humility, bringing light into darkness and

hope into despair.

Christmas is a time when families gather, parishes rejoice, and communities unite in celebration. Yet it is also a time when we, as Knights of Columbus, are called to reflect deeply on our mission. The virtues of charity, unity, and fraternity are not seasonal; they are the very fabric of our Order. But at Christmas, they shine with particular brilliance:

Charity reminds us to reach out to those in need—the poor, the lonely, the sick, and the forgotten. Just as the shepherds hurried to the manger, we too must hasten to bring Christ’s love to others.

Unity calls us to strengthen the bonds of family and parish life. In a world often divided, Christmas is a powerful witness that true peace begins in Christ.

Fraternity urges us to support one another as brothers, sharing not only in celebration but also in the burdens of life.

The first Christmas was marked by simplicity: a manger, a mother’s love, a father’s protection, and the presence of angels and shepherds. Yet in that humble setting, the glory of God was revealed. May our actions this season reflect that same humility and joy, so that others may see Christ’s love through us.

Let us also remember our departed brothers and their families, keeping them close in prayer during this season of hope. And let us recommit ourselves to the work of the Knights—defending the faith, serving the Church, and building a culture of life and love.

On behalf of our council leadership, I wish you and your families a blessed Christmas filled with peace, hope, and the joy of the Savior’s birth. May the Christ Child guide our steps in the year ahead, and may we continue to be faithful witnesses of His love.

CATHOLIC NEWS AND INFORMATION



Clarifying Marian Titles: The Vatican's Doctrinal Text (from [Vatican clarifies Marian titles](#))

The Vatican’s Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith recently released a doctrinal text titled “Mater Populi Fidelis,” which aims to clarify the use of certain Marian titles and deepen the understanding of Marian devotion in light of Christ’s unique mediation. This document emphasizes Mary’s role in relation to Christ as the sole Mediator and Redeemer, specifically rejecting the titles “Co-Redemptrix” and “Mediatrice of All Graces” to avoid confusion about Christ’s unique salvific role.

The purpose of the document is to address longstanding questions about Marian devotion and to provide clarity on the use of certain titles. The text has been studied over 30

years and was approved by Pope Leo XIV. Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández presented it in Rome in 2022, highlighting its significance in the ongoing theological discourse.

One of the key aspects of the document is its focus on Mary’s motherhood to believers. It describes Marian devotion as a treasured expression of God’s love, especially among the poor. However, it also cautions against certain groups that propose dogmatic developments causing confusion. The text underscores the importance of understanding Mary’s role without diminishing Christ’s unique mediation.

The document reviews biblical and church teachings, noting Mary’s cooperation in salvation through her “Yes” and presence at the cross. It aligns with Vatican II’s view of Mary as a free cooperator in salvation, emphasizing that her role does not rival Christ’s sole mediation. This historical and theological context is crucial for understanding the church’s stance on Marian titles.

The rejection of the title “Co-Redemptrix” is a significant point in the document. This title emerged in the 15th century but was avoided at Vatican II for doctrinal reasons. While St. John Paul II used it, Cardinal Ratzinger and Pope Francis opposed it, emphasizing Christ as the only Redeemer and warning that the title obscures this truth. The document reiterates this stance, ensuring that Christ’s unique role in salvation is not overshadowed.

Similarly, the document provides clarification on the title “Mediatrice.” It stresses Christ’s exclusive mediation and advises prudence in applying this title to Mary. Vatican II uses subordinate terms like “maternal intercession” and “help,” underscoring Mary’s cooperation in grace without rivaling Christ’s unique role. This careful distinction is essential for maintaining theological clarity and avoiding misconceptions.

The text also addresses the importance of authentic Marian faith. It warns against views that place Mary on equal footing with Christ, affirming that devotion to Mary leads believers closer to Christ and the Gospel. Mary is seen as a reflection of God’s grace and the mysteries of faith, guiding believers in their spiritual journey.

In conclusion, the Vatican’s doctrinal text “Mater Populi Fidelis” provides essential clarity on the use of Marian titles, emphasizing Mary’s role in relation to Christ’s unique mediation. By rejecting titles like “Co-Redemptrix” and advising caution with “Mediatrice,” the document ensures that Christ’s unique salvific role remains central. This text is a valuable contribution to the ongoing theological discourse on Marian devotion, offering guidance for believers and theologians alike.



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This is probably one of the most common questions we

Is the Church Infallible?

Strictly speaking, it is not the Church that is infallible but its teaching authority, and this only when engaged in solemnly defining what pertains to doctrine and the life of faith.

According to the Catechism, The pastoral duty of the Magisterium is aimed at seeing to it that the people of God abides in the truth that liberates. To fulfill this service, Christ endowed the Church's shepherds with the charism of infallibility in matters of faith and morals (890).

In other words, the gift of infallibility is given to the shepherds of the Church for the specific intention of guarding the truths necessary for salvation. This gift can be exercised in a few different ways.

First, by the pope when he proclaims by a definitive act a dogma pertaining to faith or morals. These solemn papal declarations are called ex cathedra teachings—formally given “from the chair” of papal authority. Two examples of this kind of infallibility are Pope Pius IX's definition of the Immaculate Conception and Pope Pius XII's definition of Mary's bodily assumption into heaven. Both dogmatic definitions are infallible and unchangeable.

But ex cathedra teachings are not the only source of dogma. A teaching can also be defined as infallible by the ordinary and universal teaching authority of the Church, such as the universal witness in ecclesial documents that killing innocent human beings is wrong. Or it can be defined through the canons of an ecumenical council.

The Catechism gives a helpful summary of the charism of infallibility and the ways in which it is exercised for the benefit of the faithful:

“The Roman Pontiff, head of the college of bishops, enjoys this infallibility in virtue of his office, when, as supreme pastor and teacher of all the faithful—who confirms his brethren in the faith—he proclaims by a definitive act a doctrine pertaining to faith or morals.” “The infallibility promised to the Church is also present in the body of bishops when, together with Peter's successor, they exercise the supreme Magisterium,” above all in an Ecumenical Council. When the Church through its supreme Magisterium proposes a doctrine “for belief as being divinely revealed,” and as the teaching of Christ, the definitions “must be adhered to with the obedience of faith.” This infallibility extends as far as the deposit of divine Revelation itself (891; Lumen Gentium 25).

Some critics claim that the Church is not infallible because it has changed teachings that were supposedly unchangeable. Such criticism can usually be resolved simply by a better understanding of the processes by which doctrine is developed over time and the distinction between matters of dogma, doctrine, and discipline in the


Church.

Others claim that the Church cannot be infallible because its leaders have made errors in their personal lives or errors of prudential judgment. This, however, is to misunderstand the charism of infallibility. Infallibility on matters of faith and morals when solemnly defined does not mean that Church leaders are otherwise inerrant (without error) or are personally impeccable (incapable of sin).


Nor does it mean that the Church has an infallible ruling on every point of theological or human interrogation. However, when divergent interpretations arise touching fundamental truths of the faith, there arises the need to settle opposing views authoritatively. This is where infallibility is particularly valuable.

AROUND THE ST. OLIVER PARISHES

St. Oliver Plunkett



COFFEE AND DONUTS
Sunday, November 30th
After 8am and 9:30am Masses
Kane Beltran Center

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus 



**MONASTERY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
MONK MADE GOODIES AND TREATS & KEEP
CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS PRODUCTS**

For sale after Masses on:
November 29/30
December 6/7
December 12/13
Sponsored by the Knights of
Columbus
Cash or Card Accepted 

St. Lawrence



ENCOUNTER CHRIST

CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPES
Honor your loved ones, whether living or deceased, by making a contribution in their name for the flowers that we shall use to adorn the church during the Christmas season.

Use the envelopes from the table in the Narthex QR
Scan the QR code HERE (Select **Christmas Flowers** from drop-down)


CARE FOR CREATION MINISTRY
Adopt a Road
Care for Creation Ministry invites you to care for our Lawrenceville community! We'll pick up trash on Gwinnett Drive, our "adopted" road, after morning Mass on Saturday, December 6. Teens between the ages of 12-17 can participate but must be accompanied by a parent!
All are welcome! Please RSVP to careforcreation@saintlaw.org


Electronics Recycling

On Saturday, December 6 we will be hosting an electronics recycling day from 9am to 1pm. We will have a U-Haul truck parked by the side parking lot to collect old computers, printers, ipads, phones, chargers, tablets, and laptops. If you have any questions, email careforcreation@saintlaw.org

Please no tube-style CRT monitors, lead acid batteries or any batteries that have been bloated or damaged, as these can start a fire.

CARTOONS AND COMICAL CLOSUR

Adam's Ribs

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week, his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said, 'Johnny, what is the matter, young boy?' Little Johnny responded, "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

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Applying the 10 Commandments

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to 'Honor thy father and thy mother,' the teacher asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

A Miracle?

Father O'Malley was driving down to Boston on Christmas Eve when got stopped for speeding in Medford. The highway patrol officer smelled alcohol on the priest's breath and then saw an empty wine bottle on the floor of the car at the church outreach event.

He said, 'Father, have you been drinking?'

'Only water', replied Father O'Malley.

The policeman asked, 'Then how come I can smell wine?'

The priest looked at the bottle and said, 'Good Lord! He's done it again.'

