



Patuxent Ripple

Patuxent Council 2203 Knights of Columbus • Laurel, MD



Grand Knight's Report by Augustine Nwabueze



Worthy and Dear Brother Knights,

I would like to thank you all for a successful year despite the Pandemic and hope and pray for great success in 2022. Please continue to keep well and safe with your families by following the stipulated State and County orders on Covid-19 so we can hopefully be free of these inconveniences in 2022.

I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas. A Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. Cheers!!!

I am also sharing my end of year message to the Council below. Members also received a copy of this message with their dues mailing this month.

Dear Brother Knights,

I hope you and your families had a happy and blessed Thanksgiving Day celebration. We now find ourselves in the Advent Season as we prepare for Emmanuel's Coming and the celebration of the Christmas Season. As our parish and community continue to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, our Council has remained active and steadfast in its support of St. Mary of the Mills and the Greater Laurel Area. We have shown the virus that we serve a Living God who is above everything and anything in the world.

Following are highlights of just some of the many events and programs we undertook in 2021:

FAITH

- The Council provided financial support to Seminarian (now Deacon) Tom Robertson and Seminarian Braden Lynch in the amount of \$500 each to assist with their educational expenses during formation
- We held our first-ever Blessed Michael McGivney Prayer Hour in honor of the first Feast Day of our Order's founder on August 13th
- Fr. Christian hosted our 3rd Annual Lenten Men's Retreat, during which he guided attendees through two sections of Bishop Thomas J. Olmstead's Apostolic Exhortation Into the Breach

- Council members volunteered in support of the Haiti Twinning Block Party and the Parish picnic
- Drive-Thru Lenten Fish Fries raised a record-breaking \$5,600 in support of St. Mary's and our Council's charitable programs
- Operated a monthly drop-off center to collect goods and funds to support the Little Sisters of the Poor

FAMILY

- Knight/Family of the Month/Year – The Council recognizes Brother Knights and families for their outstanding service to the Council, parish, and community; this year, the family of Brother Jimmy Williams was selected as Maryland State Council Family of the Year
- Our Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest was held in conjunction with St. Mary's School; we had 36 participants, with the winning entries forwarded to the State Council for further consideration
- The Food for Families Program has collected more than 1,000 pounds of food per week from local grocery stores to donate to local food pantries
- Hosted a Family Trivia Night in September

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Council Meetings: Planning - 1st Tuesday; **Membership** - 2nd Tuesday; **Social** - 3rd Tuesday; **All Meetings 7:30 p.m.**

Meeting Location: Kutzera Room of the Keesler Parish Center, 800 Main Street, Laurel, MD 20707

Mailing Address: K of C Patuxent Council 2203, P.O. Box 95, Laurel, MD 20725

Grand Knight's End of Year Message continued from page 1

COMMUNITY

- Our SHARE Food Program celebrated its 25th anniversary, surpassed an estimated \$1 million worth of food distributed, and has, through November, distributed an estimated 42,000 pounds of food worth more than \$56,000 this year
- 120 new winter coats were purchased through the Coats for Kids Program for distribution this winter
- Our 5th annual Box of Joy Drive collected 123 Christmas gifts from Brother Knights, the Ladies of Charity, and parishioners to help children in developing countries experience the joy of Christmas
- The Council hosted a Blood Drive which yielded 29 Units of blood to help an estimated 87 patients
- The Council conducted its first Socks for Souls Drive, collecting 251 pairs of socks

LIFE

- The Silver Rose Icon returned to St. Mary of the Mills for a prayer service hosted by the Knights to encourage Respect for Life
- A Cemetery of the Innocents was erected outside St. Mary of the Mills Church as a memorial to children killed by abortion
- The Council conducted a Novena for Life to build up a culture of life in our parish
- The Council sponsored a weekly, Virtual Rosary for Life from January through October

This year also saw the return of our UMD Concessions Fundraising Program. The Council has realized several thousand dollars through the end of the football season and looks forward to the forthcoming basketball season. I encourage all Brother Knights who are able to support this critical Council fundraising program this winter to volunteer for at least one game.

As we have continued to emerge from the pandemic, we have been able to refocus on Council growth. We resumed Exemplifications of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity in July and have welcomed 5 new members this Fraternal Year. Additional Exemplifications are planned in the new year, with the next on Tuesday, January 18th. I encourage all current 1st and 2nd Degree Knights to participate in an upcoming Exemplification. Please also note the MCGIVNEY2020 free online membership offer has been extended through June 30, 2022, so please encourage a friend or family member to join our Council family and receive a year of free membership!

I would like to congratulate all the Chairman of all our Programs, Brother Knights and their families and friends, and all the non-Knights volunteers who helped to make this year a success. Everything from volunteering for various events and program activities to paying your dues all help in making our Council successful. Thank you.

It is now time to pay your annual dues for 2021. Your dues provide the resources necessary to make our programs possible. Worthy Financial Secretary Bob Tenney has recently mailed dues notices to all billable members. Dues remain \$38 for 2021. We are again offering all members the opportunity to include a voluntary donation to benefit the Council's Good of the Order Fund (the GOTO Fund). All GOTO money received will only support members of Patuxent Council who find themselves in urgent, temporary financial need.

Both dues and/or your GOTO donation can be paid by cash, check, or online via PayPal at <http://kofc2203.org/Dues2203.aspx>. Please note, if you choose to pay online, the Council is subject to a service charge from PayPal. Payment of the service charge is not mandatory, but I encourage individual members to pay it when possible. Otherwise, these fees will be covered by Council funds that could be used for our myriad service programs. Please make checks payable to Patuxent Council 2203 and mail to Knights of Columbus Patuxent Council 2203, P.O. Box 95, Laurel, MD 20725. If your GOTO donation is by separate check, indicate "GOTO Fund" in the check memo.

I am very excited for another great year in 2022. May God's Blessings rest upon you and your families all though the New Year!

Vivat Jesus,
Augustine Nwabueze
Grand Knight
Augustine.Nwabueze11@gmail.com



2021 Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest By Rick Novak, Coordinator

The children of Saint Mary's of the Mills school and Parish were invited to participate in the "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest. The contest was open for all children, ages 5 through 14. By engaging the talents of our young people, we hope they will come to a deeper understanding of the true meaning of Christmas, and that their artwork will bring others to remember Christ in Christmas.

The event began on October 13th and final judging was conducted on November 20th after the SHARE food distribution. The volunteer judges were Mary Walker, Kay Decker and Mark O'Dea. Judging was based on a 100 point scoring; Slogan 30 points, Artistic Merit 30 points and Overall Impact 40 points.

A total of 36 participants submitted their posters, and received a certificate signed by our Grand

Knight, Augustine Nwabueze. The three winners were Cassie Fokwa Kengne (division 5-7), Teresa Sullivan (division 8-10), Nmesomaeh Agoh (division 11-14). Each winner was awarded a \$25.00 Amazon gift card.

The winning posters have been forwarded to the State levels for the next step in the process.



2022 Council Dues Payable By Robert Tenney, Financial Secretary

It is dues time in Council 2203. It will be very helpful to the council and to the Financial Secretary if you pay dues early rather than waiting for the snail mail billing now in process.

For calendar year 2022, dues are:

Regular Member: \$38.00

Honorary Member: \$9.00

Clergy and Honorary Life Members: Do not pay dues

You will notice that the council has voted to forgo the usual \$2.00 Good of the Order (GOTO) assessment that has complicated things administratively in the past when it has been included in dues bills.

Good of the Order (GOTO) donations are welcome and needed, just no longer billed.

Payment via the Council 2203 PayPal account is encouraged. **PLEASE PLUS UP YOUR PAYMENT TO COVER THE SMALL PAYPAL FEE.**

Pay via PayPal at <http://kofc2203.org/Dues2203.aspx>

Checks are to be **MADE PAYABLE TO:**

KofC Council 2203

MAIL TO: Robert Tenney
KofC 2203 Financial Secretary
9226 Bluebird Terrace
Gaithersburg, MD 20879-1739

Concessions Report: December 5, 2021 by Stan Potter, Ways and Means

Thanks very much for volunteering to work concessions for the gametoday. There were only six of us. The University provided 6 paid professionals to increase the staff to 12. Stan Potter performed opening and closing inventory while Doris Stevick managed the money. In addition to Stan and Doris, Scott Hansen

Jr, Austin Nwabueze, Mike Goerling, and Tom Dera-mo ran the registers. Paid staff worked in the kitchen and as runners. The concessions went well enough, though not very busy. We had \$6,031 in sales and took away \$32 in tips. After penalties for being short on volunteers, we expect to reap \$260 from this event.

Annual Memorial Mass by Bill McMahon, HLM, FDD, PGK, PFN

On November 16th our Chaplain, Fr. Larry Young, celebrated our annual memorial Mass to remember all our deceased brothers and family members. It began at 7:30PM in the Pallotti chapel. Father was assisted by our

altar server, David Magno. Refreshments followed in the Wilson room of the Keesler center where we usually meet.

Our widows who were able to attend were: Phyllis Williams, Vitaline Handy, and Carol Klein.



For our sick

We pray for the healing, comfort and consolation of our sick, and their caretakers:

Chet Higdon

John Kish

brother-in-law of Rick Krutz

Debbie Boone - former Palotti Day Care employee

Phyllis Chrimer - mother to Ron Chrimer

Christina Gambogi

For our deceased

We offer prayers for the repose of their souls. May they rest in peace:

Alice Towle - mother-in-law of PGK Pete Monti
Yolanda Cardamone - widow of Brother Mike Cardamone

Magdaline Isama

Robert Cohen - father of PSD Steve Cohen
Walter Park - grandfather-in-law of Gina Iampieri

Lorinda Baldwin - friend of PGK Steve Hubbard

Tony Baxter

Robert Dole - family friend and combat veteran

Patuxent Council 2203 Distributes More Than 9,000 Pounds of Food for Thanksgiving

by Jimmy Williams, PGK, PFN

On Saturday, November 20th, 20 Brother Knights from Patuxent Council, 28 family members and friends, and 12 volunteers from Emmanuel Baptist Church of Laurel came together to execute the largest SHARE Food Distribution in Patuxent Council's more than 25 years as a SHARE Host Site, distributing an estimated 9,019 pounds of food just in time for Thanksgiving to individual clients and the food pantries at LARS, Elizabeth House, and St. Mary of the Mills.

The day began at 7:15 a.m. when a team of eight volunteers led by Brother Knights Rick Askins and Jimmy Williams departed for the SHARE Warehouse in Landover. To accommodate such a large order, the City of Laurel assisted the Council by providing a box truck to transport all the food, which included 292 Thanksgiving turkeys, whole chickens, imitation crab, breakfast sausage, macaroni, and assorted fruits and vegetables.

The transport team returned to the Keesler Center at approximately 9:30 a.m. Under the direction of Brother Jimmy and his mother, Lady Phyllis Williams, the 60 volunteers present sprang into action, unloading the truck in a matter of minutes. Food for the pantries at LARS and Elizabeth House was staged outside the Keesler Center, while additional food was staged on an assembly line inside the Keesler Center to prepare 100 individual Value Packages, 51 for our Host Site and 49 for Emmanuel Baptist Church. Each Value Pack contained an average of 20 pounds of food. Turkeys and Thanksgiving dinner boxes for the St. Mary's parish pantry were stored in the Keesler Center kitchen for distribution later in the week.

Following Value Pack assembly, the remaining bulk food was organized and loaded into trucks for transport to LARS and Elizabeth House. Another Brother Knight and his wife departed to make deliveries to two local convents and a home-bound individual client. Shortly after 10 a.m., individual SHARE clients began to arrive to pick up their packages. Volunteers efficiently moved

from car to car, loading each client's Value Packs and turkeys with care and wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. The program concluded shortly after 11 a.m.

Our 60 volunteers collectively worked 147 hours on the morning of the distribution, with Co-Coordinator Phyllis, Jimmy, and Rick putting in many additional hours of planning to ensure a successful morning.

Council Distributes Further 6,100 Pounds of Food During Christmas SHARE

On Saturday, December 18th, 12 Brother Knights and 27 family members and friends came together to distribute an estimated 6,100 pounds of food during Patuxent Council's Christmas 2021 SHARE Food Distribution.

Included in this distribution were 51 turkeys and 186 spiral hams. All individual clients received a spiral ham with their Value Pack(s) this month, and the pantries at St. Mary's and Elizabeth House collectively ordered more than 150 hams to be distributed to their respective clients during the week ahead.

The City of Laurel again provided a truck to assist with this distribution, which was one of our largest on record. Our Council's SHARE team is grateful to the City of Laurel, Mayor Craig Moe, and all the city employees who have assisted with the SHARE Program this year.

In 2021, we distributed an estimated 24 tons (48,099 pounds) of food through our SHARE Host Site worth at least \$65,988. Both totals are about 40 percent higher than a typical year and are a testament to our Council's increased level of effort to support those in our community impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to everyone who volunteered in support of the SHARE Program this year.



Patuxent Council Celebrates its Centennial by Jimmy Williams, PGK, PFN

On Saturday, November 13th, nearly 100 Brother Knights, family members, friends, and guests of Patuxent Council came together to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Patuxent Council.

The evening began with the Vigil Mass celebrated by Cardinal Wilton Gregory, who chose the occasion of our Council's 100th Anniversary to make his first visit to St. Mary of the Mills. Cardinal Gregory focused his homily on our Centennial celebration and, after the Mass, provided the Council with a signed copy and granted permission to reprint his remarks in this edition of *The Ripple* [See page 8].

At the end of the Mass, Cardinal Gregory invited all members of Patuxent Council in attendance to join him for a photo. Cardinal Gregory, Fr. Larry, and Fr. Christian presented a Papal Blessing to Grand Knight Augustine Nwabueze. Finally, Maryland State Deputy Vince Grauso presented the Maryland State Council's Resolution in recognition of the Patuxent Council Centennial to Past Grand Knight Kyle Hubbard.

After Mass, the celebration moved to the Keesler Center for the banquet. Following a cocktail hour and a delicious meal prepared by Maryland Country Caterers, attendees enjoyed a program during which several additional accolades were presented to the Council.

Laurel Mayor Craig Moe presented a Mayoral Citation

and a City of Laurel Challenge Coin. State Deputy Grauso presented a letter and certificate from Past Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, who was the Supreme Knight on November 28, 2020, the Council's official 100th birthday. Grand Knight Nwabueze and Fr. Larry also gave remarks, with the Grand Knight giving special thanks to the Centennial Committee led by Chairman Jim Gordon. District Warden Jimmy Williams and his wife, Lady Sarah, won a \$50 gift card to Red, Hot, & Blue, which the restaurant donated as a door prize.

In addition to the presentations during the program, the Council received a Governor's Citation from Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, a Citation from Prince George's County Councilman Tom Dernoga, and a letter from Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly, all of which were displayed for viewing throughout the evening.

Following the program, the dance floor was officially opened and cake from Cakes Plus was served. Attendees danced and socialized until the end of the evening. Although the celebration was delayed by several months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was worth the wait, as all present enjoyed the festivities and the opportunity to be together in person at the Council's largest social event since the onset of the pandemic.





Homily for the Centennial Mass by Wilton Cardinal Gregory, Archbishop of Washington

33rd Sunday of the Church Year [B]
13 November 2021

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The scripture lessons from the closing weeks of November are not a very opportune point of reference during which to celebrate a happy or joyous event! Admittedly, we are about to enter the season often referred to in our secular world as “the holidays,” the readings from Sacred Scripture that belong to this time of the year are not very user-friendly, for happy events. The Church is well aware of the closing of the liturgical year and those times are given over to calling to mind that this world, as we know it, will pass away. The Word of God that we have just heard is rather frightening and not truly reflective of the joyous spirit that the members of the Knights of Columbus celebrating their centennial anniversary want to remember this evening.

Yet, if the pioneer members of the Patuxent Council were here present to observe the 100th Anniversary of their establishment, they would be astounded by the changes that have taken place not only for the Knights of Columbus but also for the entire Catholic community that is now the Archdiocese of Washington. They would note that the world has changed tremendously in the years that separate them from us. Much of the world that they knew has, in so many different respects, passed away.

Change is an unavoidable part of living. Some people would say that change is all there is to living. We see the seasons come and go. We witness the great advances that have been made in science, in medicine, in the arts and in literature. Change is the way that we mark time. Yet there is also something equally profound that occurs during the process of growing old - we bring with us things of enduring value, our precious treasures, our established principles, and, most importantly, our Faith. These treasures are carried forth from one generation to the next.

It is that strange mixture of things that have changed wedded to those things that cannot change that we celebrate this evening in Faith on the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the Patuxent Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Relatively few people live to be 100 years of age - even in an age when people are living longer more productive lives and according to a recent US Census Bureau Report, there are more than 72,000 people living in the United States who are over 100 years old! When we discover someone who has managed to reach that goal, we tend to make a big thing of the event. Now and again local newspapers make note of even those ordinary and simple folks who reach such a milestone

in their life. When a person is 100 years old, even when their health is relatively robust, we often treat them as though they were weak or delicate. Folks who live to be a 100 are quite robust people - they had to have been so in order to survive! Yet we still tend to treat them with extra tenderness. We think of people who are 100 as somehow fragile and easily breakable.

Institutions that reach the century mark, however, are not seen as delicate and fragile, but as vigorous and strong. Institutions that past the mark of 100 years become signs of stability. However, in truth, there are many important similarities that might be made between people who are 100 and institutions that celebrate a centennial jubilee. First of all, 100 years whether measured in the life of an individual or in the history of an institution is a moment to be celebrated. Living to be 100 years means that a person or an institution has seen a lot of life. In 100 years, many changes have occurred. Some of those changes were life giving and some were marked with sorrow.

There are also the treasures that a person and an institution bring with them that need to be recognized when they celebrate their century moment. It is the Faith in God's Word and the Sacramental Life of the Church that we celebrate this evening in honoring the Patuxent Council of the Knights of Columbus. Catholic Mass is the same, although now we offer our prayers in English. The Sacraments are the same as they were 100 years ago although those of us who may now share them perhaps are new to the faith. The Word of God is the same though we apply it to different life-issues. The people who gather in prayer are different from those who first began this council although the Lord who gathers us together is the same. 100 years has brought many changes, but left some things unchanged.

Our jubilee celebration this evening is also about tomorrow. Just as the readings, that the Church proclaims to conclude the liturgical year can be stark or even alarming; our thanksgiving this evening for the century of Faith and changes that have marked the history of the Patuxent Council of the Knights of Columbus is also a time to look toward tomorrow. Few of us will be able to even anticipate being present throughout the next century. Although there may well be a toddler or child here present who will live to see the year 2121. Nonetheless, we can take great hope that the Church's Faith will endure all of the many challenges that humanity will face during this next century. It is that anchor that gives courage to our hearts - the same courage that marked the generosity and determination of the pioneer founders of the Patuxent Council and laid the foundation for the joy that we witness and exchange this evening. A 100 years is a very long time, but for folks with Faith, not a frightening time but one of joy!



A Council History Prepared By Jimmy Williams, PGK, PFN • November 13th, 2021

Patuxent Council 2203

100 Years of Faith, Fraternity, and Service to St. Mary of the Mills and the Greater Laurel Area

In 1920, Fr. Joseph A. Myer, Pastor of St. Mary of the Mills, invited a group of Catholic men to the rectory for the purpose of planning a men's organization for the parish. Attendees decided to form a Knights of Columbus Council. The Council was named Patuxent after the river that flows near St. Mary's. The Supreme Council granted the Charter for Patuxent Council 2203, the 20th Knights of Columbus Council to be chartered in Maryland, on November 28, 1920. Brother John F. Curtin was elected Charter Grand Knight. Fr. Myer continued to provide leadership and spiritual guidance to the Council until his death in October 1943.

From its inception, Patuxent Council has diligently served St. Mary of the Mills and the Greater Laurel Area with a variety of religious, charitable, civic, educational, and family activities. In all its undertakings, it has faithfully adhered to the Knights of Columbus guiding principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

Patuxent Council has never wavered in its support of St. Mary of the Mills. In 1936, amid the Great Depression, the Council paid tuition to keep three students enrolled in St. Mary's School. By the mid-1940s, Patuxent instituted First Friday Communion Breakfasts for students, which became a long-running Council program. In 1947, the Council helped organize three major events, an oyster roast, a supper and bazaar, and a dance at the Laurel Armory, to raise a combined \$10,000 (the equivalent of more than \$120,000 in 2021) for the construction of the current St. Mary's School building, dedicated in 1952.

In 1945, Patuxent gifted a 33-piece silver set worth \$101.35 (more than \$1,500 in 2021) to the rectory. In the late 1950s, the Council contributed to the "New Church" addition to St. Mary's Church, dedicated June 14, 1959, by Archbishop Patrick O'Boyle and St. Mary's Pastor Fr. Hugh Breen. The Council donated a stained-glass window depicting Christ the King to the new church.

More recently, the Council has for many years staffed the concessions stand at the annual Parish Christmas Bazaar, donating all profits to the parish. The Council has provided sponsorship and volunteers, including TIPS-certified

bartenders, for major parish events, such as the 2018 Gala celebrating the 175th anniversary of St. Mary's Church and the 125th anniversary of St. Mary's School, and the new St. Mary's School Bull Roast. The Council also donates a significant portion of the proceeds from its annual Lenten Fish Fries to the parish.

Patuxent is particularly proud of its support for its country and the armed services during World War II. Many Council members, including two Past Grand Knights, served during the war, as did many sons and daughters of Brother Knights.

On the home front, Patuxent was a leader in providing entertainment and support for members of the armed forces, hosting numerous dances and other events for military and civilian personnel who passed through Fort George G. Meade.

In the beginning, Patuxent was associated with two parishes in Laurel and Jessup. As the Laurel area grew, the Council likewise expanded. In 1963, residents of Maryland City formed a new parish called Resurrection of Our Lord. During construction of the parish church in 1969 and 1970, Patuxent donated funds towards the construction of the Memorial Chapel. Following its opening in 1967, the Council donated a tabernacle to St. Nicholas Church and in subsequent years contributed additional funds for a baptismal font and sanctuary furnishings.

In the 1950s, the Council purchased and renovated a building, now recognizable as the old Perone Performance Products Co. building on Route 1 South in Howard County, for use as a Council home. In the early 1970s, Patuxent outgrew this building and began to meet at St. Mildred's, then in use as the St. Mary's parish hall. The move was mutually beneficial: the Knights provided funds and labor for renovations and leased the lower level. Patuxent undertook a second renovation from 1991 to 1994 and contributed funds to pave the parking lot.

The Council continued to use St. Mildred's until Fall 2009, when it vacated the building to make way for demolition and the construction of the Msgr. Robert Keesler Parish Center. The Council and its members look back fondly on the many Council events and programs con-

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ducted at St. Mildred's over the years, such as Halloween and Christmas Parties, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinners, Open Houses, Grand Knight Appreciations, SHARE Food Distributions, and many more too numerous to list.

In June 2012, Patuxent donated \$80,000 from its Building Fund toward the construction of the Keesler Center. Many Brother Knights and families also made individual contributions. Some Brother Knights gave of their talents to support the project in ways such as electrical consulting and architectural and design work. The Keesler Center was formally dedicated in September 2015. The Council has a permanent office in the building and meets in the Kutzera Room, named for Past Grand Knight and St. Mary's Facilities Manager Don Kutzera.

Patuxent's Knights have always been incredibly active in parish and community service. From the "5 Points Program" framework in the early years, to "Surge...With Service" in the latter half of the 20th Century and into the 21st Century, to the current "Faith In Action" framework implemented in 2018, the Council has strived to run relevant, effective programs in the service of St. Mary's and its parishioners, as well as the community at large. In recognition of its programming successes, Patuxent routinely earns the coveted Columbian Award recognizing excellence in Council programming and has earned a reputation for conducting some of the best programs in the State of Maryland.

In the area of Faith Activities, the Council promotes religious vocations and annually contributes funds to at least two Seminarians to assist with expenses as they work toward the priesthood. The Council recently revived its Men's Retreats, conducting an annual Lenten Retreat since 2019, annually participates in the Icon Program, which features St. Joseph in 2021-2022, sponsors an annual Vocations Roundtable for the Parish Youth Group, and prays the Rosary frequently. Many Brother Knights serve as ushers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and in numerous other liturgical ministries at St. Mary of the Mills.

Recent years have brought a renewed focus on Family-oriented programming as the Council seeks to have Brother Knights and their families take an active part in Council life, as well as to support families in the parish and the larger community. The Council annually sponsors a Consecration to the Holy Family on the Feast of the Holy Family. Youth of the parish annually compete in the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest, which now routinely draws more than 60 entrants. The Council selects Families of the Month and a Family of the Year. Another significant Family program is Food for Families, through which Brother Knights pick up food items at two local grocery stores on a weekly basis for donation to local food pantries.

In the area of Community Activities, Patuxent continues its strong track record of community support. Many members and their families volunteer their time in support FISH

of Laurel/Elizabeth House and Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services (LARS). In collaboration with the Laurel Police Department, LARS, and local schools, the Council annually distributes Coats for Kids to children in need of a new, warm winter coat. The Council collects and distributes wheelchairs to those in need and contributes funds for the purchase of new wheelchairs through the Global Wheelchair Mission. Parish youth compete annually in the Basketball Free Throw Championship. Each year, Patuxent presents awards to outstanding graduates of St. Mary's School and Laurel and Pallotti High Schools. The Council annually honors community leaders, including a Law Enforcement Officer, Catholic School Teacher, CCD Teacher, Firefighter, EMT, Citizen, and Healthcare Worker of the Year, through the Community Awards Program. Since 2017, the Council has participated in the Box of Joy Program, packing and collecting shoebox-sized Christmas presents for children in developing countries.

Patuxent Council and its members remain incredibly active in the support and defense of Life in all its stages. In 1987, Brother Knights assisted in the establishment of a Memorial to the Unborn, believed to be the first memorial of its kind in the country, in the St. Mary of the Mills cemetery. In 1993, Patuxent held a rededication ceremony for the memorial. In 2018, 25 years after its first rededication ceremony, the Council cleaned and rededicated the memorial again and now assists in its regular maintenance. The Council conducts Novenas for Life and Brother Knights regularly participate in the National and Maryland Marches for Life. The Council provides annual financial support to the Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Program, which assists in the placement of new ultrasound machines at pregnancy centers, as well as to organizations such as Gabriel Network and Mary's Home. Annually since 2016, the Council has hosted a Silver Rose Prayer Service. Beginning in 2019, the Council revived its annual blood drive. The Council uses proceeds from its annual Tootsie Roll Drive to support organizations which serve the intellectually disabled, including programs through the Catholic Coalition for Special Education and Special Olympics of Maryland.

Over the last 25 years, Patuxent Council has established two signature programs of which it is particularly proud. The first is its SHARE Food Distribution Program. Established in 1996, the Council's SHARE Program has grown to distribute an average of 15 tons of food worth more than \$40,000 annually to individuals and families facing food insecurity, as well as to the food pantries at LARS and Elizabeth House. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, SHARE has taken on an even greater importance for our community. In November 2020, the Council surpassed an estimated 750,000 pounds of food distributed over the lifetime of the program. In March 2021, Patuxent surpassed an estimated \$1 million of food distributed.

The second signature program is the Council's Univer-

sity of Maryland Football and Basketball Concessions Fundraising Program. Since the mid-1990s, Patuxent has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in support of its charitable activities and programs. It is not an exaggeration to say, without the UMD Concessions Program, many of the Council's charitable endeavors over the past 20+ years would not have been possible. This fundraising program currently nets more than \$20,000 annually, which is split between Patuxent Council and numerous organizations that partner with Patuxent to staff the stands, including other local Knights of Columbus Councils; local Boy Scout, Girl Scout, and American Heritage Girls Troops; the St. Mary's Youth Group; and more.

Brother Knights, wives, family members, and friends have forged many close friendships by participating in various fraternal and social activities sponsored by the Council. Events enjoyed over the years have included bowling, softball, golf, baseball games, theater outings, the annual Maryland State Council Columbus Day Gala, family trivia nights, Christmas parties, and more.

Patuxent Council has earned a strong reputation for developing successful fraternal leaders. As of 2021, 10 members of Patuxent Council have held the post of District Deputy, eight of these in the past 27 years. At the Fourth Degree level, more than 25 percent of the 61 Faithful Navigators of Curley Assembly 383 have come from Patuxent. Sir Knight Phillip L. Nelson served two terms as Master of the Archdiocese of Washington Fourth Degree from 1992 to 1996. Many members have been active in State Council leadership roles for many years, serving in support of several State Deputies in capacities too numerous to create an exhaustive list. Such involvement has been repeatedly recognized by State Council leadership in recent years, which is a credit to the men of our Council as we embrace new talent and new ideas to help develop the fraternal leaders of tomorrow.

Members of Patuxent Council have also been integral to the growth of the Order, particularly right here in Laurel. In the latter part of the 20th Century, the Knights of Columbus began to shift its focus from regional Councils to parish-based Councils. Members of Patuxent Council helped to institute Deacon John Lynn Council 11619, officially chartered June 26, 1995, at St. Nicholas. Eleven years to the day later, on June 26, 2006, Resurrection of Our Lord Council 14099 was chartered at Resurrection of Our Lord. At both Deacon Lynn and Resurrection, many of the Charter Members were former members of Patuxent Council. Those former members of Patuxent Council helped these Councils establish themselves and grow to directly support their parishes. Following the establishment of Councils 11619 and 14099, Patuxent Council became the Council specifically associated with St. Mary of the Mills.

Many of Patuxent Council's achievements over the years would not have been possible without the support of the

wives and girlfriends of our Brother Knights. While the Council's Ladies Auxiliary is no longer active, the Ladies of Patuxent Council still actively participate in many programs and events. Additionally, over the last several years, Patuxent Council has conducted several joint programs and events with the St. Mary of the Mills Ladies of Charity, of which many Ladies of Patuxent Council are members. These joint events have proven quite successful, including a 2019 Christian Refugee Relief Dinner that raised \$1,000 and was recognized by the Supreme Council as the best Life Program in Maryland for the period March 2019-February 2020.

The Council's accomplishments over the years could not have come about without the support of many Brother Knights. Credit must be given to those who faithfully serve as officers and chairmen, leading the Council as it conducts numerous events and programs every year. Not to be overlooked are the members who are always available to perform the many time-consuming and thankless tasks. Every Brother Knight and family member of the Patuxent Council family should take pride in the successes of the Council as we come together to celebrate our Centennial and look with hope toward the next 100 years.

Patuxent Council 2203 Officers

Chaplain Fr. Larry Young	frlarry21@gmail.com
Assoc. Chaplain Fr. Christian Huebner	chuebner@stmaryofthemills.org
Asst. Chaplain Deacon Bob Gignilliat	ginlet@verizon.net
Asst. Chaplain Deacon Jim Munno	jim@munnofamily.com
Grand Knight Augustine Nwabueze	augustine.nwabueze11@gmail.com
Deputy Grand Knight Richard Stevick	dickstevick@outlook.com
Chancellor Patrick Onyekweli	pokweli@yahoo.com
Recorder Frederick Krutz Jr	rkrutz@comcast.net
Treasurer Marc Alvarez	alvarez3m@aol.com
Advocate Ted Gambogi	tedgambogi@hotmail.com
Warden Habib Konate	sirkonate@gmail.com
Inside Guard Adam Novak	beastno@yahoo.com
Outside Guard Eloka Ifudu	elokaifudu@gmail.com
1-Year Trustee Gerard Gager	ggager@verizon.net
2-Year Trustee Stephen Hubbard	hubbs99@verizon.net
3-Year Trustee Kyle S Hubbard	hubbard.kyle@gmail.com
Financial Secretary Bob Tenney	roberttenney@msn.com
Lecturer Stephen Hubbard	hubbs99@verizon.net
Field Agent Matt O'Hare	matt.ohare@kofc.org

Patuxent Council 2203 Calendar (as of December 20, 2021)

All dates are tentative due to the COVID-19 crisis

December

- 28 UMD Concessions - MBB vs Loyola (2 carts)
6:30 pm to 11:30 pm
- 29 Elizabeth House Dinner Prep
4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

January

- 04 Planning Meeting - Physical / Virtual 7:30 pm
- 08 Red Cross Blood Drive 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
- 08 State Mid Term Meeting
Cardinal Gibbons Council 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
- 09 TBD UMD Concessions - MBB vs Loyola
- 10 Ripple Newsletter Articles Due 7:00 pm
- 11 Business Meeting - Physical / Virtual 7:30 pm
- 15 Little Sisters of the Poor 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
- 15 Respect Life - Prayer Service
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- 15 Respect Life - Gabriel Network Fundraiser
5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
- 16 UMD Concessions - WBB vs Michigan
3:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- 18 2203 Exemplification of Charity,
Unity and Fraternity 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
- 21 DC March for Life 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
- 21 Novena for Life 11:00 am to 8:00 pm
- 23 UMD Concessions - WBB vs Northwestern
11:00 am to 4:00 pm

February

- 12 Drive Thru: Chili 11:00 am to 3:00 pm
- 15 Social Meeting - TBD 7:30 pm
- 19 Little Sisters of the Poor
10:00 am to 12:00 pm
- 19 Patuxent Council Free Throw
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- 19 Fourth Degree Exemplification
Jesus the Good Shepherd
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
- 26 St Joseph Icon Prayer Hour after 5pm Mass

December Birthdays

Mr. Kwasi Antwi	December 2
Edward J. Wassell III	December 2
Chester Ryan Bourne	December 4
Tomy Joseph	December 5
William A. Middleton	December 6
Samuel A. Shreve	December 8
Perry A. Comeau	December 14
Paul M. Moran	December 14
Richard C. Higdon	December 19
Wendell Belizaire	December 20
Jeffrey M. DuBrul	December 26
Thomas S. Carmody	December 27
Steven A. LaValle	December 27
Gregory E. Magno	December 28

Submissions

This newsletter is published on or about the 15th of every month. If you have an article you would like to submit for publication, please submit to:

GK Augustine Nwabueze at augustine.nwabueze11@gmail.com and **Brother Erik Washam** at ekwasham@gmail.com for review. Please limit submissions to 250-275 words.



Blessed Michael J. McGivney
1852-1890
Founder of the Knights of Columbus

Centennial Swag!



Close-up of emblem

A



B



Back of hat



C



D

Front

Back

- A.** Dark blue pocket polo\$42.00
Shirts are available in size medium through 2X
- B.** Dark blue hat20.00
Hats are adjustable
- C.** Glass10.00
- D.** Christmas ornament\$15.00

ORDERING:

To order any of these items, please contact Brother Knight Jerry Gager at ggager@verizon.net or **202-340-6545** or see him at any Council meeting or event.

Cash or check accepted.

**Checks should be made payable to:
Patuxent Council 2203.**

ANNUAL SURVEY OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITY

20__ INDIVIDUAL MEMBER WORKSHEET

INSTRUCTIONS TO FINANCIAL SECRETARIES / FAITHFUL COMPTROLLERS / BURSARS

Note: Knights should separate reported assembly activities from their reported council activities.

Located on the lower portion of this page are individual Member Worksheets to assist you in determining the number of hours of volunteer service expended by members during 20__.

To help prepare our Fraternal Survey for the Supreme Council office, please complete the information requested below and return it at our next meeting. This information will assist us in determining the total number of hours of community service volunteered by our members.

COUNCIL HOURS

FAITH ACTIVITIES (where applicable) HOURS OF SERVICE

- a. **RSVP Program**
- b. Church Facilities
- c. Catholic Schools/Seminaries
- d. Religious/Vocations Education
- e. Prayer & Study Programs
- f. Sacramental Gifts
- g. Miscellaneous Faith Activities

FAMILY ACTIVITIES (where applicable)

- a. **Food for Families**
- b. Family Formation Programs
- c. Keep Christ in Christmas
- d. Family Week
- e. Family Prayer Night
- f. Miscellaneous Family Programs

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES (where applicable)

- a. **Coats For Kids**
- b. **Global Wheelchair Mission**
- c. **Habitat for Humanity**
- d. **Disaster Preparedness/Relief**
- e. Physically Disabled/Intellectual Disabilities
- f. Elderly/Widow(er) Care
- g. Hospitals/Health Organizations
- h. Columbian Squires
- i. Scouting/Youth Groups
- j. Athletics
- k. Youth Welfare/Service
- l. Scholarships/Education
- m. Veteran Military/VAVS
- n. Miscellaneous Community/Youth Activities

LIFE ACTIVITIES (where applicable)

- a. **Special Olympics**
- b. **Marches for Life**
- c. **Ultrasound Initiative**
- d. Pregnancy Support
- e. Christian Refugee Relief
- f. Memorials to Unborn Children
- g. Miscellaneous Life Activities

OTHER FRATERNAL COMMITMENTS:

- Visits to the Sick
- Visits to the Bereaved
- Number of Blood Donations
- Hours of Fraternal Service to Sick/Disabled Member and their Families

TOTAL 0

ASSEMBLY HOURS

FAITH ACTIVITIES (where applicable) HOURS OF SERVICE

- a. **RSVP Program**
- b. Church Facilities
- c. Catholic Schools/Seminaries
- d. Religious/Vocations Education
- e. Prayer & Study Programs
- f. Sacramental Gifts
- g. Miscellaneous Faith Activities

FAMILY ACTIVITIES (where applicable)

- a. **Food for Families**
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- f. Miscellaneous Family Programs

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