

Knights of Columbus

St. Luke's Council #16053

Business Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: July 22, 2026

Call To Order Time: 7 p.m.

Location: *St. Luke's Catholic Church Main Hall* (basement)

Officer	Name	Attendance (Present, Excused, or Absent)
Grand Knight	Joe Lofgren	Present
Chaplain		
Deputy Grand Knight	Paul Languirand	Excused
Chancellor	Matty Blake	Excused
Recorder	Greg Funaro	Present
Financial Secretary	Doug Johnston	Present
Treasurer	Chris Ernster	Present
Advocate	Walt Rok	Present
Warden	Bob McGovern	Absent
Inside Guard	Jim Cunha	Present
Outside Guard	David Roach	Present
Trustee 1	Tony Ballirano	Present
Trustee 2	Joe Palazzolo	Excused
Trustee 3	Rich FitzGerald	Present
Lecturer		
Program Director	Joe Lofgren	Present
Membership & Retention Director	Matty Blake	Excused
Evangelization & Faith Formation Director	Paul Languirand	Excused
District Deputy	Sean Andrade	Excused

Other Council Member Attendees: Present, Excused, or Absent

Name/Attendance		Name/Attendance	
Chuck Arneson	Absent	Dave Pearson	Present
John Beaulieu	Excused		
Michael Canini	Present		
Bill Donohue	Absent		
Ed Fitzgerald	Present		
Ted Lally	Absent		
Paul Maloney	Present		
John McAdams	Present		
Bob Nichols	Absent		
Ted Paull	Present		
Chris Salvadore	Absent		
David Seel	Excused		

1. **Call to Order:** Joe Lofgren called the meeting to order.
2. **Opening Prayer:** Joe Lofgren led the prayer – Our Father
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Joe Lofgren led the pledge, opening remarks about meeting protocols, logistics going forward.
4. **Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting:** No minutes taken from June meeting.
5. **Chaplain's Message:** N/A tonight. Explanation of normal procedure surrounding this going forward. Joe's hope is that this is a regular component of future meetings.
6. **Grand Knight's Report:** Joe Lofgren.
 - Explanations of: meeting format per Supreme, 3 minutes per report, standard meeting minutes format, etc.
 - Question of whether to archive minutes for public or private access only.
 - Explanation of planning for calendar, etc.

7. Financial Report

- **Financial Secretary:** Doug Johnston, nothing new to report re finances. Ideas for planning next exemplification for new and existing member(s) to advance in degrees. Joe Lofgren explained differences between degrees, etc.
- **Treasurer:** Chris Ernster. As of June 30, 2026: Balance \$7392.48 Reserves \$1263.00. Available Funds \$6129.48. Treasury report approved/accepted.
 - Ernster mentioned Knights' support of Father Tim's going away party.

Treasurers Report			
Jun-26			
Account	June 30th 2026	Reserves	Available Funds
Operating	\$3,496.57	\$ 613.00	\$ 2,883.57
Member Dues	3,895.91	650.00	3,245.91
Total	\$ 7,392.48	\$ 1,263.00	\$ 6,129.48
\$463 reserved to fund jacket campaign as directed by BD			
Catholic Charity \$150 reserved.			
\$115.69 expense for Fr Tims Ice cream party.			

8. **Programs.** Joe Lofgren, Columbian Award format changes, appears to be easier, but we will continue doing what we need to do in order to achieve this honor.
 - **Faith:** Dave Pearson, momentum to build on from last year, happy to serve, honored, etc. Joe Lofgren mentioned RSVP program/earmarking money for seminarian (\$500 for Alex Richardson).
 - **Family:** Doug Johnston. Joe Lofgren proposed to Ed Fitzgerald and Doug to repeat Food for Families program procedure/success from last year. Keep Christ in Christmas. Pine Car Derby. Doug suggestions/ideas for some more ideas to get families together at the Church (movie night, game night, etc.)
 - **Community:** Rich Fitzgerald. Some Home Mission details, Backpack Drive logistics/locations, etc. Question about Knights' contribution to backpack purchase. Motion to repeat last year's donation of \$500 for backpacks. Motion approved/accepted. Report on RI Health Department's crackdown on Loaves & Fishes food truck, operation moved to St. Brendan's kitchen (which is certified). Brief discussion of other events (Fish Fry, etc.) and what to do to avoid Health Department in the future.
 - **Life:** Christ Ernster. (See handouts below for details). Announcement of Rachel's Vineyard event, request for nominations for Human Life Guild Recognition Award. September, National Day of Remembrance, 40 Days for Life, more activities in October (again see handouts for details).
9. **Membership & Retention Committee:** Joe Lofgren announcement of Doug and Matty leading this. Target is to get us to five new members by spring. Also new Church drive process, perhaps, involving the insurance representatives.

10. **Evangelization & Faith Formation Committee:** Joe Lofgren announcement of Dave Pearson and Paul Languirand leading this committee. Target: Cor (per Supreme). Joe L. suggestion to offer Heart of the Gospel Retreat for men of the parish.
11. **Program Planning Committee:** Joe Lofgren announcement of Ted Paull and Joe Palazzollo leading committee to come up with best practices to enhance efficiency, participation in programs, etc. Presented some new ideas as well as entertained input from others (St. Luke's festival day, Eucharistic Procession, Station of Cross in Community, etc.). Request to look at events like Fish Fry, St. Gabriel's Drive, etc., to attract participants and make them more efficient. Tony Ballirano brief discussion about other ideas for presentations to involve community.
12. **Insurance Agent:** N/A tonight, but brief discussion whether to invite agent to every meeting; with no objection made, Joe will contact Jim Fielding to coordinate his attendance at future council meetings. Joe Lofgren discussion about changes/ requirements for members to attend insurance sales pitches, etc. See Joe for details, and he will approach members as usual to fulfill these requirements going forward.
13. **District Deputy:** N/A tonight (Sean Andrade). Joe Lofgren Installation of new officers in September. Joe will send flyer for information re Mother of Life Barbecue, Family Picnic, Golf Tournament.
14. **Unfinished Business** (motions carried over from previous meetings): N/A tonight.
15. **New Business** (new motions): N/A tonight.
16. **Good of the Order:** Joe Lofgren request for information re members' awards, recognitions, birthdays, etc.
17. **Lecturer's Reflection:** N/A tonight, explanation of what this is, and request for someone to fill this position, or whether we should rotate this. Joe Lofgren request for us to look up what is First Friday, First Saturday, etc.
18. **Grand Knight's Summary:** Joe Lofgren will look out for what we need to do to achieve Star Council throughout the year.
19. **Closing Prayer** (including intentions for sick or distressed members): Joe Lofgren led the Prayer for Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney, and prayers for others.
20. **Adjournment Time:** 7:59pm

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 (Installation of Officers at 6:30 p.m.)

Drafted by Recorder Greg Funaro; attested by Grand Knight Joe Lofgren



DIOCESE of PROVIDENCE

OFFICE OF LIFE AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Join us as we gather for LIFE!

*Peaceful, prayerful and respectful activities for life -
supporting the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception to natural death*

2026 Human Life Guild Award Nominations

Nomination forms due Fri., Sept. 11. Mail to Life & Family Ministries, One Cathedral Square, Providence, RI 02903. Awarded annually to outstanding Catholic individuals, High-School aged to adults, who are "People of Life." Award criteria and nomination form available at dioceseofprovidence.org/LIFE.

National Day of Remembrance Prayer Vigils

Sat., Sept. 12 | Solemn gatherings dedicated to prayerfully remembering all babies lost to abortion, miscarriage, stillbirth or infants that have died after birth. Three locations: St. Columba Cemetery, 465 Brown Lane, Middletown, Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 550 Wampanoag Trail, East Providence at 10 a.m. and Resurrection Cemetery, 261 W. Wrentham Rd, Cumberland at 12 p.m., with special guest, Bishop Bruce A. Lewandowski.

40 Days for Life Fall Campaign Kickoff and Jericho Walk

Sat., Sept. 19 | 10 a.m. from St. Patrick Church, 244 Smith St., Providence to the Rhode Island State House. 40 Days and Jericho Walk are held in cooperation with RI Right to Life - together we walk to the Rhode Island State House and prayerfully encircle the perimeter three times for the protection of human life and for the conversion of our elected representatives. For more information contact, info@rirtl.org.

40 Days for Life Fall Campaign

Wed., Sept. 23 through Sun., Nov. 1 | Public right-of-way outside the abortion facility, 175 Broad St., Providence. 40 Days of peaceful prayer vigils and Rosaries for life and for an end to abortion. Held in collaboration with RI Right to Life. Sign up your parish /group for a day to pray at <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/providence>.

2026 Human Life Guild Day - Together we renew our commitment to life!

Sat., Oct. 10 | 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, Providence
RSVP by Fri., Oct. 2 | \$35 per person includes brunch and speakers | Advanced registration required
Holy Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m. by Most Rev. Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, C.Ss.R. Human Life Guild Awards will be presented after the Mass. For registered guests, brunch and presentations will proceed in the lower Cathedral. Topic: The Gift of Children and Assisted Reproductive Technologies, Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., Senior Ethicist, National Catholic Bioethics Center.

Respect Life Sunday / Life Chain Sunday

Sun., Oct. 4 | 2-3 p.m. | Diocese-wide locations listed on our website
A peaceful and prayerful gathering and a public witness to the sanctity of human life and for the end of abortion.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat/Retiro del Viñedo de Raquel

Fri., Oct. 23 through Sun., Oct. 25 | A post-abortion healing retreat en Español/Un retiro de sanación and Fri., Oct. 30 through Sun., Nov. 1 | A post-abortion healing retreat in English. This weekend is an opportunity for any woman, man, couple, grandparent or sibling struggling with the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion, providing the time and space to enter the grieving process. All inquiries confidential. Este fin de semana es una oportunidad para cualquier mujer, hombre, pareja, abuelo o hermano que lucha con el dolor emocional o espiritual del aborto, brindando el tiempo y el espacio para entrar en el proceso de duelo. Todas las consultas confidenciales.

Contact Jean Ernster, jernster@dpvd.org, Office of Life and Family Ministry 401-278-2518 | Helpline 1-888-456-HOPE | Help or be helped at dioceseofprovidence.org/LIFE

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

Christ our Hope in every Season of Life in all circumstances . . .
Come to a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat "A Journey to Healing for Anyone after Abortion"



When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed."

- Mark 27-28

Many women and men have walked down the same path as you and have experienced the mercy, compassion and healing power of Jesus through a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. A Rachel's Vineyard Retreat is an opportunity for any woman, man, couple, grandparent or sibling struggling with the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion. The weekend provides the time and space to enter the grieving process, to identify effects of the abortion, and to release deep feelings of anger, shame or guilt.

Upcoming Fall 2026 Retreats

In Spanish: October 23-25

In English: Oct. 30 – Nov. 1

Call for more information on a confidential retreat or for a confidential consultation:

English Retreat - Jean, 401-278-2518

Retiro en Español – Loren, 401-742-1510 or Rosa, 401-688-4687

***Remember, Jesus is reaching out with open arms
to all who are hurting from an abortion experience!***



Rachel's Vineyard is a post-abortion support program of the
Diocese of Providence, Office of Life and Family Ministry
One Cathedral Square, Providence, RI 02903
Jean Ernster, coordinator | 401-278-2518 | jernster@dpvd.org
More at dioceseofprovidence.org/life



Diocese of Providence
Office of Life and Family Ministry
**Human Life Guild Recognition Award
Nomination Form**



*"The new evangelization calls for followers of Christ who are unconditionally pro-life:
who will proclaim, celebrate and serve the Gospel of life in every situation."
- John Paul II, St. Louis, 1999*

The **HUMAN LIFE GUILD RECOGNITION AWARD** is an award given by the Diocese of Providence on an annual basis to outstanding individuals that are Catholic who have a willingness to accept the invitation to be "People of Life," to have an unconditional commitment to human life, to promote and defend human life at every stage, in every condition, through **thought, word, deed and prayer**. This zeal for human life must be displayed in a particular way on a parish, school or community level that focuses on one or more of the four major areas of the Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities.



The criteria for the Human Life Guild Award:

- **Education:** Does the nominee have an awareness and understanding of what is happening on a day-to-day basis in our society that directly and indirectly affects human life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death? In what way is the youth creating a greater awareness among his/her peer group?
- **Pastoral Care:** What does the nominee do in compassionate and caring outreach efforts to help women in crisis pregnancy, by visiting the sick and the elderly and others with special needs in the parish or neighboring communities?
- **Public Policy:** Does the nominee write letters to the editor or to our elected officials on various laws and issues that are a risk to all human life from abortion to end of life issues?
- **Prayer and Worship:** Does the nominee participate in prayerful events for all human life at their parish, at vigils held at local abortion clinics, and in individual prayer?

*Nominations must be received at the Office of Life and Family Ministry **by Fri., September 11.**
Please contact the office at 401-278-2518 with any questions.*

(Instructions and Nomination Form on page 2)

Human Life Guild Nomination Form

Return completed form to: Jean Ernster, Office of Life and Family Ministry, One Cathedral Sq., Providence, RI
JErnster@dpvd.org | 401-278-2518

Nominee is (please circle one):

- Adult (male and female)
- Youth (male and female)
- Project Rachel
- St. Gabriel's Call

Name of nominee: _____ Gender: ☐ female ☐ male

Nominee address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parish of nominee: _____

Nominated by: _____ Nominator phone number: _____

Nominator email: _____

Nominator signature: _____ Date: _____

- Please be specific with your responses. This award is not geared toward quantitative hours of service, but to the integrity of the individual and how well he or she is perceived as outstanding as set forth by one or more of the four areas of the Pastoral Plan.
- This award will be presented on Sat., October 10, 2026, by Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, C.Ss.R. at the Human Life Guild Mass for Life at 9:00 a.m. in the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, Providence. Pastor of nominees' parish will be notified and invited to attend Human Life Guild Day.

Education (create an awareness):

Pastoral Care (outreach):

Public Policy (advocacy):

Prayer (prayer participation):

Other: