The Crusader 

The Day of Our Lord August and September 2025

Official Publication of the Knights of Columbus-Waverly Council #1556

**Grand Knight’S Message**

Dear Brother Knights,

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. I would like to sincerely thank everyone for their involvement with the busy Waverly Daze and breakfast events. The events were well attended and very successful for our Knights of Columbus Council. The earnings will be put to good charitable use!

I would also like to remind everyone about our St. Mary’s Fall Festival scheduled for September 6th and 7th. A work schedule is attached and we hope everyone can be available to help with this important event for our parish. Please contact your captain in the event you are not available. Once again, THANK YOU!

Sincerely,

Clint Fall

Grand Knight

COMING EVENTS

August 28 – COR Meeting. 6:15pm. KC Hall.

September 2 – Officers and General Meeting. TUESDAY. 6:30pm. KC Hall.

September 6/7 – St. Mary’s Fall Festival. SEE ATTACHED WORK SCHEDULE.

October 12 – Officers and General Meeting. 9:15am. KC Hall.

November 9 – Officers and General Meeting. 9:15am. KC Hall.

November 13 – KC Memorial Mass. 6:00pm. St. Mary’s Church.

November 16 – Pancake Breakfast. Proceeds to Youth Group. 8:00 – 11:00am.

November or December - Special Olympics Bowling.

December 7 – Officers and General Meeting. 9:15am. KC Hall.

**YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** Randy Hasse, Dorothy Novak, Mary Sandquist, Cassie Spike, Dennis Lorentz, Natalie Caouette, Vince Halliday, Aggie Schmitz, Jen Remer, Diane Blake, Agnes Smith, Jonathan Padden, George Althoff, Julie Winsperger, Diane Carlson Evans, Carolyn Nieman, Brenda LePage, Jason Mader, Louis Taylor, Mary Martin, Carol Pollock, Rosie Jacobson, Ken Schoenfelder, Brinlee Dongoski, Gracelyn Schwindel, Amber Schwindel, Garrett Dongoski, Mary Klingelhoets, Geri Smith, Walter Marketon.

Remember in your prayers: **our priests,**those on our parish prayer list, our veterans and service men and women.

knight light –

You know it’s fall when you need a hat and scarf in the shade and shorts and sandals in the sun.

**Knights of Columbus 50/50 Raffle**

**Please support the KC's and St. Mary's Church by purchasing 50/50 raffle tickets.**

**Attached is a form explaining our KC Raffle.**

**Winner to be drawn on Sunday, Sept 7 at St. Mary's Fall Festival.**

AGENT’S MESSAGE - -

Joe Remer – Field Agent

(612) 272-8635

Lecturer Wayne Arnold’s Message – Synod 2025

Today I want to give you an update on the Archdiocese Synod held this past June. Here is a little history for those that may not have heard about the Synod: Beginning before Covid in 2018, all parishes in our Archdiocese were instructed by Archbishop Hebda to identify the most important issues facing our local churches and then what was needed to help our local parishes

grow rather than shrink. Many hundreds of discussion sessions were held all over our Archdiocese including right here at St. Mary’s. Even though interrupted by Covid shutdowns, parishes sifted and discussed and argued and re-sifted this information until it was distilled down to 40 major concerns, called “propositions.” In 2021, the Archbishop then requested each parish

identify two of its members who would attend a 3-day Synod in St. Paul to discuss and vote on which of the 40 were the most important that we believed the Holy Spirit was calling the Archdiocese to work on.

In 2022, Gloria Janikula and I were asked by Father O’Hotto to represent St. Mary’s at this Synod. After many months of training and many preparation sessions, we and two parishioners as well as many priests, deacons, and nuns from each of the 200+ parishes in our Archdiocese met in St. Paul. About 500 Minnesota Catholics were there. The Synod was three long days of prayer and meetings. The longest single session spanned 14 hours. In groups of six per table at Cretin Derim Hall, we discussed, argued, and finally voted on what each of us believed to be the most important things that our respective Parishes needed help with. The total votes each proposition received was then given to the Archbishop. After another year of additional discussion between the Archbishop and priests, Archbishop Hebda wrote a 100-page pastoral letter to all

parishes telling us which propositions he had chosen for us to work on in our parishes starting late 2023 through 2025. The idea was all parishes would focus on the same problem during the same year. The Archdiocese would provide materials and support. All parishes, including ours, were instructed by the Archbishop to create a Synod Evangelization Team of 12 members to help their parish begin implementing the new priorities from Archbishop Hebda. St. Mary’s created its team.

The Archbishop then told us what the three projects he had chosen for the Archdiocese to work on:

**1. Small Groups – “Create or grow a small group ministry at every parish that fosters personal relationships, builds community and provides formation to help parishioners learn about their Catholic faith and grow as disciples of Christ.”**

St. Mary’s synod team helped create a number of small groups to add to those that were already in our parish. While Knights are encouraged to join any of the small groups that have been started in our parish, we felt that we needed to create a unique men’s small group where both Knights and other Catholic men can eat, drink a beer, learn about our faith together and

openly talk about it with other men. We chose the KC program called COR that Supreme started last year. COR was strongly endorsed by Pope Leo and our Supreme Knight just last month. Our council launched its first COR meeting in early 2025.

The second major priority from the Archbishop was:

**2. Education for the Mass – “Educate God’s people on the beauty, form and meaning of the Mass, with special emphasis on the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.”** This proposition is currently being worked by many parishes. It is critical we Knights learn the deep spiritual meaning of what happens at Mass. The more we know about this gift from Jesus, the

more we and our kids and grandkids will love it and they will be less likely to quit our faith after Confirmation.

**3. Parents as Primary Educators – “Teach and inspire parents to understand and fulfill their responsibility as the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith.”** This topic from Archbishop Hebda is just in the beginning steps of being rolled out. We are very fortunate to have Rochelle, Jesse and many parish volunteers that are already working hard to inspire parents to participate and help teach their faith to their children. We need to help them.

So these are the first “big three” actions from the first Synod. Last year Archbishop Hebda also decided that while parishes were working on these first three, he wanted another Synod in mid-2025 to again call upon the Holy Spirit for guidance on what the next three things that parishes in the Archdiocese should focus on during 2026 to 2029. Father Blake asked LuAnn and me to be delegates to this second Synod which was held two months ago on June 7. Just like the first Synod, this one had much prayer, discussion, and debate on the key challenges that each Catholic parish needs to solve so that they thrive and grow. During the 13-hour session, we prayed, discussed, argued of course, and then voted three separate times on what the Holy Spirit was telling us that the Archdiocese and our parishes need to focus on the next three years. Archbishop Hebda is currently reviewing the results from Synod #2 and will again write a letter regarding which priorities he selects for all parishes to work on. But before I tell you about the top vote getters at the Synod, I need to stop and answer one question you likely are asking yourself right now. Why should you care? Why are we talking about this today? Answer: When we became Knights we raised our right hands and promised to be the arms and legs to help our priests and Bishops defend and spread our Catholic faith. We also pledged to protect our parishes and our families. That promise was not just for the ceremony. Our Archbishop is asking us to walk our talk and help our parishes draw a firm line in the sand against the pressures of

modern society that wants a world without God. If we Knights won’t step up to this, who will?

OK, so back to the 2025 Synod vote results. The top vote getters were: **1) Discipleship in Daily Life – “Teach individuals and families the art of Christian living in the modern world to be a witness of the abundant life for which God created us.”** What

these fancy words mean is Catholics need to walk our talk. For example, we need to keep Sunday holy instead of treating it like any other work day. Another example would be how do we keep our kids and grandkids from being drawn away from the Catholic faith by social media and the secular public school system. These are examples of Catholic Discipleship.

**2) Adult Faith Formation – “Create or strengthen an intentional formation plan at every parish to help adults and families in all stages of life to live and witness to the faith in our culture today.”** This one is not rocket science but is very important: If we don’t know why our Catholic faith is special, how can we tell our kids and grandkids to keep them from walking away

to some other religion that has softer chairs and fewer rules? How do we keep our kids from having no faith at all but instead believe only in Tik-Tok, Facebook, and whatever else their cell phone teaches them? All adults, parents, and grandparents must learn our Catholic faith so that we can then tell our children and grandchildren why the Catholic faith IS SPECIAL.

And the third top vote getter at the Synod this year was**: 3 )Welcome and Hospitality – “Foster an intentional culture of welcoming and hospitality that seeks to encounter people where they are and open wide the doors to Christ for them.”** This means that a welcoming church is one that works hard to bring back fallen away Catholics. Our parish’s job is finding and helping lost sheep to come home. We do not judge, we welcome them. Brother Knights, these are the top three from the 2025 Synod. As more news comes out from the Archbishop, I will update you. So let me close with one final thought. It is really important that every Catholic and every Knight continues to grow in faith no matter how old they are. Treading water and doing the same old-same old is not what Jesus taught his disciples to do. One easy way to get involved in our beautiful faith and also support our Archbishop’s synod mission is please consider joining a St. Mary’s small group and/or come to our KC COR men’s group meetings. COR is fun, costs nothing, and we try hard to share something interesting about our Catholic faith each session. It is also a safe place to ask any question you may have about the Mass or our faith. Come and learn!

Brother Knights, Show me your Rosary! Pray it often!

**ATTENTION KNIGHTS** – You can also read the Crusader on the St. Mary’s website: [www.stmarys-waverly.net](http://www.stmarys-waverly.net). Under the Get Involved tab you will be directed to open the attachment for the latest Crusader.



ONCE AGAIN, PROUD TO CARRY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PRO-LIFE MESSAGE IN AREA PARADES.

Special “Thank you” to the guys who walked the parades in the heat and gave out the Tootsie Rolls!

knight light –

Charles Plumb, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, was a jet fighter pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent six years in a Communist prison. He survived that ordeal and now lectures about lessons learned from that experience.

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, “You’re Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!”

“How in the world did you know that?” asked Plumb.

“I packed your parachute,” the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, “I guess it worked!”

Plumb assured him, “It sure did – if your chute hadn’t worked, I wouldn’t be here today.”

Plumb couldn’t sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, “I kept wondering what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform – a Dixie cup hat, a bib in the back, and bell bottom trousers. I wondered how many times I might have passed him on the Kitty Hawk. I wondered how many times I might have seen him and not even said ‘Good morning, how are you,’ or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot, and he was just a sailor.”

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn’t know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, “Who’s packing your parachute? Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day.”

**Take time out to encourage and thank the people who provide the parachutes in your life.**



