

John Fitzgerald

# THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

FITZGERALD COUNCIL 833  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
July 2025 Newsletter

"A Pioneer Catholic of Lincoln"



## A Message from our Grand Knight:

Fellow Knights,

I hope everyone enjoyed their 4th of July! Our beautiful country is on the threshold of becoming 250 years old! This great experiment has had its trials and tribulations but always manages to come out for the better. Let's continue to work, serve and pray for our awesome United States!

As you should have read already in your email, PGK Ron expressed his disappointment at the number of Knights we had help out at the fireworks tent. He beat me to it so I decided not to send my own. To help close the tent down, we had 7 Knights and two wives. Of those 7, we had three with bad knees, one with a bad foot/ankle, the youngest was 55 and the oldest was 76! We still got out of there by 1AM but this cannot continue. We will have to make a tough decision on whether we will continue this fundraiser next year. Next year could be a really good year for sales and who knows, perhaps expanded days, etc. with all the festivities but that would only be even harder on those same souls if we cannot get more guys to pitch in. We make a lot of money in these three days!

We have lots of folks that come to us looking for funding. Scouts for Eagle projects, FOCUS kids, we'll be feeding TOTUS TUS soon, we just gave CGS thousands, etc. Sure there are outside groups asking too but a lot of you have kids that have been the beneficiaries of Knights funding but yet you don't lend a hand.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Upcoming Events:

**July 12th:** Leadership Seminar  
**July 16th:** 833 Council Meeting 7:30pm  
**July 19th:** 4th Degree Dinner  
**July 28th:** Officer Meeting 7:30pm  
**August 3rd:** CSS Food Drive



## POPE LEO XIV RECEIVES K OF C LEADERS IN AUDIENCE

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly and Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori met with Pope Leo in a private audience at the Vatican on July 4. The visit was an opportunity to inform the Holy Father about the Order's works of charity and faith formation, and to assure him of the Knights' prayers for his Petrine ministry.

**SEE INSIDE!!**

### OFFICERS:

**Chaplain:**  
Father Kipper  
**Grand Knight:**  
Matt Schafers  
**Dep. Grand Knight:**  
  
**Financial Secretary:**  
Tony Schafers  
**Treasurer:**  
Philip Paitz  
**Recorder:**  
Barry Butler  
**Chancellor:**  
Nathaniel Cunningham

### Warden:

Ron Wortman  
**Advocate:**  
John Lenich  
**Lecturer:**  
Mike Szatko  
**Inside Guard:**  
Cliff Henggeler  
**Outside Guard:**  
Reese Meyer  
**Trustees:**  
Ron Schinkel  
James McCarville  
Randy Polak

## CONTACT US:

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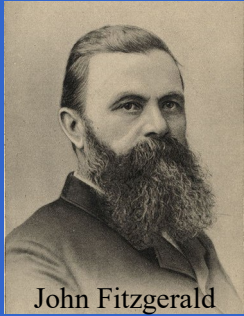
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Council 833



## OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

"We are a Catholic fraternal order, whose principles are based on the vision of Father Michael J. McGivney, to extend to each and every eligible man our faith and opportunity to become a member of this great organization and to utilize his God given talents for the betterment of Church, Family, Youth, Community, and Council."

**Knights of Columbus Hall : 6044 South Street : Lincoln, NE 68506 : 402-488-1415**



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You know who you are. Without fundraising efforts, we will not have the money to dole out for these worthwhile asks, and it will come to an end. That would be a pity. All because we couldn't get men to help out once in a while. Yes, the 4th is a major holiday, we know that. But we need men over only three days to be available for a shift and the tent is right in our own backyard at 50th and O! Its not at West O anymore and those excuses are made.

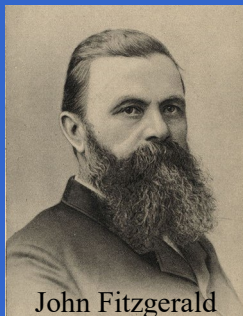
We'll be talking about it at length over the coming months. Come to a meeting, get enlightened, grow spiritually, enjoy some comradery with our motley crew! Share your point of view and let us know if you are willing to help out to go forward.

Semper

Matt Schafers  
Grand Knight 833







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## Pope Leo Meets with Supreme Knight, Supreme Chaplain

Fourth of July audience was K of C leaders' first with new pontiff

7/7/2025

As the United States celebrated Independence Day last week, Pope Leo XIV received Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly and Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore in a private audience at the Vatican. The July 4 audience was the first meeting of the U.S.-born pope with the leader of the Knights of Columbus and the chief shepherd of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, which in 1789 became the first diocese in the United States.

During their visit, the supreme knight and supreme chaplain pledged the Order's loyalty to Pope Leo and promised ongoing prayers and support for his pontificate. They also provided the Holy Father with an overview of the Knights of Columbus, highlighting the Order's charitable activity and men's faith formation programs.

Archbishop Lori, [speaking afterward with the Catholic Review](#) in Baltimore, described the meeting as “an opportunity to present kind of a comprehensive picture of who the Knights are and what the Knights do and what some of its current initiatives are.”



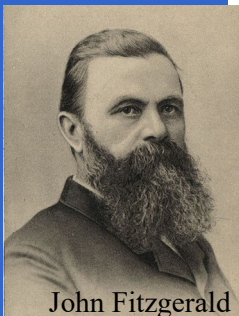
Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly and Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori discuss the Order's priorities and top initiatives with Pope Leo XIV during a July 4 private audience. (Vatican Media)



Supreme Knight Kelly presents Pope Leo XIV with a photo of the tank-landing ship the pontiff's father served on during World War II. (Vatican Media)

“He asked some good questions about aspects of the work of the Knights,” the supreme chaplain continued, “particularly the Cor program.”

Supreme Knight Kelly presents Pope Leo XIV with a photo of the tank-landing ship the pontiff's father served on during World War II. (Vatican Media)



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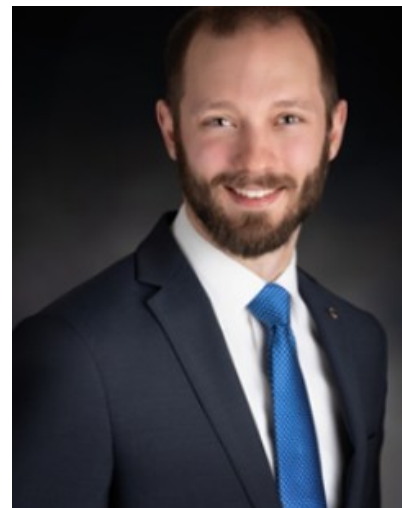


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## Insurance Questions? Contact our Knights of Columbus Field Agent:

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**402-413-0110**  
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