

The Witness of the Saints

From Knightline <knightline@kofc.org>

Date Tuesday, July 7th, 2026

News for Knights of Columbus



VOLUME 44 | NUMBER 27 | JULY 7, 2026

Today, the Church observes the feast of the Ulma family, a Polish Catholic family martyred for sheltering a Jewish family during World War II. Following their beatification in September 2023, Pope Francis expressed his hope that these martyrs would be “a model to imitate in striving for goodness and in the service of those in need.” In Poland and the United States, Knights are spreading devotion to the Ulmas, looking to them as witnesses of heroic charity and sacrifice — an example of what it means to love one’s neighbor despite the cost.



Depictions of St. René Goupil and St. Kateri Tekakwitha adorn the sanctuary of the Coliseum Church at Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine in Auriesville, N.Y. (Photo by Paul Haring)

American Saints and Blesseds

The history of Catholicism in the United States is reflected in the lives of saints and blesseds whose stories intersect the American experience in diverse ways. From missionaries and martyrs to educators and founders, the Church in the United States has been shaped by a long succession of holy men and women spanning more than four centuries.

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Knights of Columbus Field Agent Christopher Copley and his family pray the rosary in the presence of relics of Blessed Michael McGivney and the Ulma family at their home in Marion, Ohio, on March 14. (Photo by Spirit Juice Studios)

The Cost of Saying Yes

The Ulma family of Markowa, Poland — Józef, Wiktoria and their seven children — were martyred in 1944 for sheltering their Jewish neighbors during World War II. Beatified together in 2023, they continue to inspire growing devotion around the world through their witness of courageous charity rooted in faith.

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Participants gather at the conclusion of the 60th College Councils Conference in New Haven, Conn., on Sept. 28, 2025. (Photo by Paul Haring)

‘Fraternity Gives Flesh to the Mission’

Each of the Order’s four principles — charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism — uniquely contributes to the Knights of Columbus’ mission. Bishop James Ruggieri of Portland, Maine, argues that fraternity is essential to evangelization and inviting men to a deeper life of faith. Addressing the 130th Maine State Convention in April, he emphasized that fraternity “is a bond of brotherhood rooted in Christ. It is the conviction that we do not walk alone, that we do not serve alone, that we do not carry our burdens alone, and that we do not grow in holiness alone.”

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Seminarians from Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., participate in the annual St. John Vianney Soccer Cup at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore in March.

Fraternity on the Field

Seminarians gathered at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore in March for the St. John Vianney Soccer Cup, an annual tournament that brings together future priests from seminaries across the Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia region. Supported by local Knights of Columbus councils, the event united seminarians from diverse backgrounds in faith, fellowship and friendly competition.

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