

Heart of the Nation

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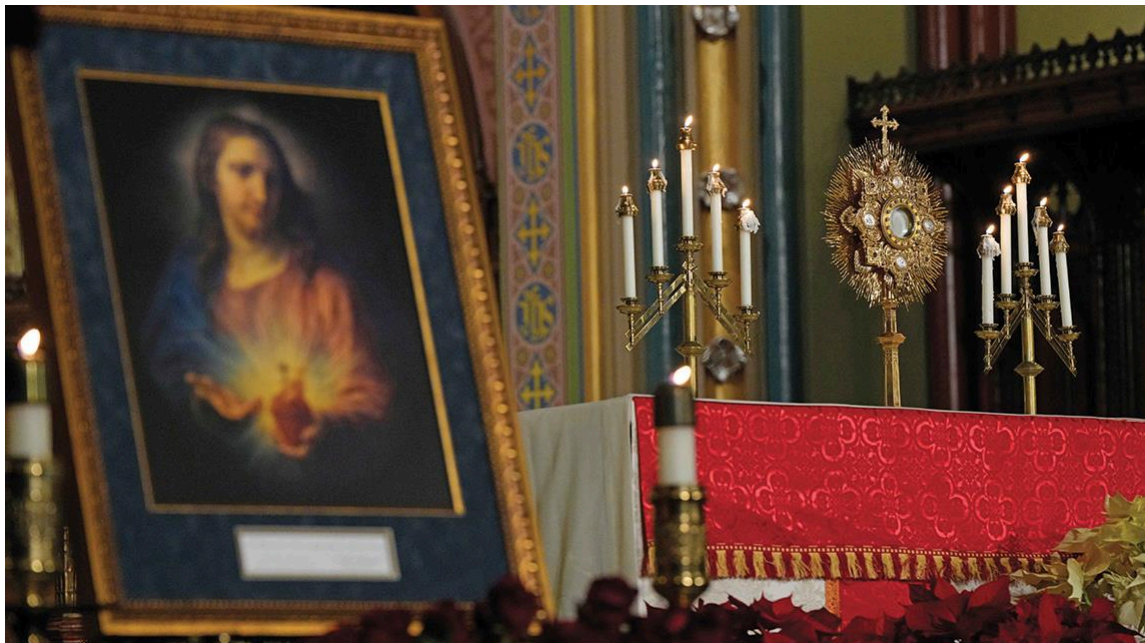
Date Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026

News for Knights of Columbus



VOLUME 44 | NUMBER 22 | JUNE 3, 2026

Leading up to the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, the U.S. bishops will consecrate the nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 11, the eve of the solemnity of the Sacred Heart. Knights and their families are encouraged to participate by [praying a novena](#) June 3-11. "Our hope is that greater charity will be exercised throughout our country, and that in the heart of Christ we will rediscover the unity that seems to be slipping away from us in today's divisive culture," said Archbishop Alexander Sample of Portland, Oregon, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Religious Liberty and a longtime Knight. "That in the heart of Christ we will find ourselves to be friends again, even with those with whom we disagree."



The Order's Sacred Heart pilgrim icon is displayed during a Holy Hour at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn. (Photo by Paul Haring)

Heart of the Nation

Archbishop Alexander Sample of Portland, Oregon, a member of St. Mary's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Council 15295 in Portland, recently spoke with *Columbia* about devotion to the Sacred Heart, the upcoming consecration of the United States and the role of religious liberty in American society. "The Church's life flows from the Eucharist, but it also flowed from the heart of Christ on the cross," the archbishop said. "If there is to be spiritual renewal in our time ... it will flow from the heart of Christ."

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A Knight from All Saints Council 9709 in Raleigh, North Carolina, has his blood drawn during a drive hosted by the council.

A Life-Saving Impact

For more than three decades, All Saints Council 9709 in Raleigh, North Carolina, has partnered with the American Red Cross to hold blood drives, accumulating more than 5,000 units of donated blood. Their sustained efforts have impacted as many as 15,000 lives over the past three decades. "It takes a really small amount of your time," said Chris Miranda, a member of Council 9709, "but it can affect so many people in so many ways."

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Members of Blessed Michael McGivney Council 17759 at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Md., prepare to make a diaper delivery to Gabriel Network, a maternity home program based in Maryland.

Preparing for Priesthood With Father McGivney

At St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Blessed Michael McGivney Council 17759 continues the legacy of Father McGivney, who received formation at the seminary in the 1870s. Recognized as an outstanding college council of the year in 2024, the seminarians live out the mission of the founder through service, deepening their brotherhood in prayer and fellowship while preparing for the priesthood.

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Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore (right), Archbishop Mieczysław Mokrzycki of Lviv and Olha Vorobiova pray at the grave of her husband, Oleh Vorobiov, a fallen Ukrainian soldier and Knight, in Lviv in October 2024.

To Lay Down One's Life

Among the hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians serving in the Armed Forces of Ukraine are about 150 Knights. Eight brothers have made the ultimate sacrifice, and at least five remain missing in action, leaving their families to wait and pray in painful uncertainty. "Being a Knight today," said Father Vasyl Demchyshyn, chaplain of St. Michael the Archangel Council 18257 in Chemerivtsi, Ukraine, "means a readiness to sacrifice oneself for the sake of one's neighbor, one's family, and one's motherland."

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