

September 2022

THE BEACON

A Publication of the St. Albert Knights of Columbus Council #4742

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Grand Knight's Report

Brother Knights,

It's time.

This year, more than ever, we need to hit the ground running. It's time to reunite in charity and fraternity and show the world what real men look like. Now more than ever, the world needs Catholic gentlemen.

Meek is one of my favourite words. Meekness is used to describe the warhorse, who can charge into the fire and maintain her resolve and protect her rider. Christ was meek and we need to be meek. To be meek means to offer yourself to the world with gentleness while being courageous, strong, and upright. Weakness doesn't have the ability to be strong, it is simply weak. Meekness is strength and power under control. Our strength comes from God, and because of that, we will be hated and ridiculed, but, if God is for us, who can be against?

This time last year, we began our Columbian year with an abundance of caution, and at that time that was what was required. There is a great yearning in the world, and we must be Christ's hands and feet to deliver the love that is needed.

One doesn't have to look far to see the need for men of integrity. Leave mediocrity behind, be bold, strive for perfection, and set the world right.

I will close with a strong endorsement of the *Into the Breach* video series in **September's Supreme Chaplain's challenge...**

"I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance." (Gospel for Sept. 11, Lk 15:7)

This Gospel reading links the parable of the lost sheep with the parable of the prodigal son. Together these parables remind us that God constantly seeks us whenever we go astray. We are all sinners, and like the prodigal son we must

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wake up, repent and return to the Father. When we do this, we find that he runs to meet us. My brother Knights, let us create some joy in heaven. Let us recognize that we are sinners in need of repentance and ask the Father for his forgiveness.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to watch the “Sacramental Life” episode of the *Into the Breach* video series, particularly reflecting on the importance of the sacrament of reconciliation. Second, I challenge you to participate in the Faith in Action Sacramental Gifts program.

Questions for Reflection:

Are there ways you see yourself as a lost sheep, a prodigal son? What concrete steps can you take to overcome sinful habits and avoid temptations? Do you “come home” to the Father to receive his mercy and forgiveness in the sacrament of reconciliation?

In Christ through Mary and Joseph,

Brother Brent Heit - Grand Knight



Chaplain's Corner

Brothers,

The beginning of the school year in September functions in many ways like a new beginning for many organizations. The beginning provides an occasion to reflect on what is ahead.

The Knights welcome this year a new parish team; Fr. Jack Herklotz, OMI and Fr. Wes Szatanski, OMI.

Among the many activities of the Knights, collecting food for food banks, Pancake Breakfast for the life of the parish, Blue Sunday to honor many who serve the community, I think most important is contact with the young in schools.

There is already a good connection with the collection of food but I suggest Knights publish their works and the reasons for them in school bulletins and also visit once a semester each class in our schools from grade 3 up for fifteen minutes to half an hour. Visiting is by far the most important .

Someone can reap if you have sown.

Fr ED, OMI

Stories from the Papal Visit 04 August 2022

Appears in: **Archdiocesan Website News** (<https://caedm.ca/category/archdiocesan-news/>)

Share your story!



The Papal Visit was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for most Catholics. The Archdiocese has heard many stories and unique experiences from guests, volunteers and staff. Now they want to hear from you!

What is your strongest memory from the Papal Visit? What touched you most? What will you tell your grandchildren?

Your story doesn't have to be polished – a few sentences or bullet points is all you need.

Submit your story by email to the Archdiocese of Edmonton website page <https://caedm.ca/tag/memories/>



**WALKING
TOGETHER**
POPE FRANCIS CANADA 2022



The following Brothers have reached a milestone within the Knights of Columbus...

Honorary Membership: members who have attained the actual age of 65 years and who have been members of the Order for 25 consecutive years are designated as honorary members

Br. Larry Tutt
Br. Glenn Demong
Br. Brian Rauw
Br. Brian Huxley

Honorary Life Membership: Members who have attained the actual age of 70 years and who have been members of the Order for 25 consecutive years, and those who have been members of the Order for 50 consecutive years, regardless of age, are designated as honorary life members.

Br. Richard Cattafi
Br. Terrence L'Hirondelle
Br. Robert Lema
Br. Gerald Soetart
Br. Rene Victor
Br. Donald Degenhardt
Br. Thomas Thackeray

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!



The following article, published on July 27, 2022 is being reprinted upon the authorization of the *St. Albert Gazette*

“Gerry Buccini: the life and legacy of an educator and musician”

Gerri Buccini, 75, a devoted family man, educator, musician, sports supporter, and card shark, never tired of praising his adopted hometown and sharing his passion for life with people living here.

Whether teaching prepositions in English class, performing with the St. Albert Community Band for Queen Elizabeth, or dealing blackjack at Century Casino during retirement, Buccini journeyed through life with a cheery smile. Simply put, he naturally lit up the lives of people around him.

“He was a gatherer. He liked gathering people together. He was all about introducing people, and watching people at a party and making sure they were not alone,” said daughter Andrea Daly. “He was a community builder, whether coaching kids or playing in the band. He had to bring people together.”

Buccini had intelligence, a shy charisma, good looks, idealism, the courage to take risks, and a strong sense of honour. Although some consider honour an old-fashioned concept, it was part of his world view, one he put into practice daily in dealings with people around him.

The circumstances of Buccini’s death were tragic. He passed away June 1 after a two-year battle with mesothelioma, a cancer in the lining of the lungs caused by asbestos exposure.

Buccini’s primary focus was teaching, working 35 years at St. Albert Public schools before retiring in 2005 at age 58. He taught at Sir Alexander Mackenzie Elementary and Lorne Akins Junior High before spending the last 23 years of his career sharing the role of vice-principal/teacher at William D. Cuts Junior High.

“He was offered the position of principal multiple times, but he refused. He wanted to stay connected with kids,” Daly said.

“He wanted to keep in touch with what was important in education,” said Buccini’s wife Anne, who was also employed in a dual position as teacher/librarian with the Edmonton Public School Board, and now works exclusively for the St. Albert Public Library. “He was very much a people person, and loved kids.”

Despite a schedule filled with long days, Buccini was also responsible for many extraordinary accomplishments outside the class. In 1970, he co-founded the St. Albert Community Concert Band with a team of dynamic, community-minded men including Jerry Wennes, John Kaminski, and William Cuts.

His other contributions included two stints as Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, President of Sir George Simpson Music Society, School Reach coach, and tournament moderator, as well as his son Tony's baseball coach.

“He needed to keep busy. He was a very organized person. That’s what made him so good at his job. But he wasn’t fond of technology. If he could avoid technology, he would avoid it if possible,” Anne explained.

Former mayor Nolan Crouse presented Buccini with the golden Keys to the City at the St. Albert Community Band’s 40th anniversary concert. Crouse noted that the Key to the City is a symbolic representation recognizing individuals who invest a great deal into building the community.

“Gerry was committed to education, and he was a long-serving band president. He was a community builder and without Gerry, the band would probably not have continued as long as it has. He was a leader in education, music, the community, and he was influential in the Knights of Columbus,” Crouse said.

The former politician laughs when he recalls a memory of his first meeting with Buccini.

“He was vice-principal of Cuts when my son got into a fight with another boy at school. He was very gracious about it, and how he treated the boys. He was so kind and caring, even though the fight took place off school property after school hours. I believe because of how he treated them, the boys ended up becoming fast friends and later played hockey together.”

As an educator, Buccini gave his students a special gift. He inspired youth to realize their capacities are limitless, and that future problems, no matter how hard, could be solved.

Upon the announcement of his death, online accolades and well-wishes to the family poured in from across North America. Many friends, colleagues, and former students shared inspirational memories, and many were written with reverence given to a natural leader.

Buccini, always very proud of his Italian heritage, remained grounded in the importance of family.

“He was such a family guy. He was well-known as a teacher and band president, but family was the centre of his universe. He was his grandchildren’s number-one cheerleader. He went to every recital and awards night. If the kids were featured in a big way, he was there,” said Daly.

Born in Calgary in 1946, the Buccini family moved to Trail, B.C. when he was a toddler, after his father found employment at a smelter. John D’Arcangelo, Buccini’s best friend from Grade 8, described him as a go-getter.

“Gerry was always outgoing, happy, and he knew a lot of people. He was a fun guy,” D’Arcangelo said. “He was fanatical about baseball and hockey, and he was a big hockey fan of Jean Béliveau. He was an athlete, good and fair in sports. He enjoyed music. Anything he did, he did extremely well. There was never a dull moment. Gerry was an achiever.”

As a teenager, Buccini taught himself to play the clarinet and was part of two bands: The Underwear Band that performed at the Trail Smoke Eaters hockey games, and later with the Trail Maple Leaf Band.

Buccini also enjoyed playing baseball, curling, and golf.

“Once we were on the golf course and I heard a yell,” D’Arcangelo said. “I later found out he scored a hole-in-one. It was a real achievement. Not many people get a hole-in-one.”

Both D’Arcangelo and Buccini indulged in a shared passion for Vegas shows and would fly south for weekend trips. Buccini saw artists that ranged from Elvis, the Beatles, Sammy Davis, and Liza Minnelli to Dean Martin, Wayne Newton, Red Skelton, and Johnny Carson.

After high school, Buccini moved to Edmonton in 1965 where he met Anne Krzywkowska at the University of Alberta. He was in the University of Alberta Concert Band and the University of Alberta Marching Band.

“He wanted me to join the marching band. I could play the piano, but I didn’t have a brass or woodwind instrument. So, he lined me up with a glockenspiel,” laughed Anne. “He was gregarious and that appealed to me. I was much shyer.”

The couple married July 4, 1970, the same year Buccini agreed to become president of the newly-formed St. Albert Community Band and created the band motto “Music is for life.”

“It was an opportunity for adults to practice what they learned as children. He liked the idea of continuing to learn through music. He encouraged young people to join. It started with 25 members. Currently there are about 70, and at one point there were 83,” Anne said.

The band’s first concerts were held on a covered bandshell in Lions Park and in schools. When the Arden Theatre was built, the band was the first act to perform in it.

“Gerry was so excited. They had never sold out a show before.”

Derek Chaston, who plays tenor saxophone and bass clarinet, joined the band three years after its formation. He described Buccini as someone who encouraged musicians to keep taking those small important steps to keep improving.

“Generally speaking, I was not good at reading music, but I had a lot of encouragement from Gerry,” said Chaston, who added there was a void when Buccini retired from the band.

Dale Rokosh, who played the tuba in the band’s early years and later joined Buccini playing for Edmonton School Boys Alumni Band, first met his mentor in the 1970s at Lorne Akins Junior High as a parent visiting his daughter’s teacher.

“He encouraged younger people to join after high school to continue their enjoyment of music, and he encouraged some in their 70s and 80s. The musicians enjoyed socializing as a group, but they also took trips out of province on a cruise up to Alaska and on a trip to Europe,” said Rokosh.

“He was band president for 40 years. He was an anchor because he developed it from the start. He told me he struggled with music, but that didn’t stop him. He was a fighter to the end.”

Not only did Buccini build a career. He built a legacy that will endure through the people he inspired. Whether it was personal charm, timing, luck, or old-fashioned ingenuity, he was a man able to get people motivated when they needed it most.



Knights of Columbus Honor Guard at Br. Gerry Buccini’s funeral



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August 23, 2022

Dear Worthy Brothers:

We are once again in the process of beginning sale of tickets for our annual Charities Appeal Raffle.

This Raffle has proven to be beneficial in helping the Foundation, State Council and, of course, individual councils carry out their projects and donate substantial contributions to many worthwhile charities.

I appeal to all our brothers and their councils to get behind the raffle and help all of us to successfully reach our goals. Please remember that the councils share in the 50% of the net, after expenses, profits generated by the sale of tickets to be used for their own charitable causes.

Our Charities Appeal Chairman, Ray Martin would like to see our sales plateau in this Columbian year. Please convey the appreciation of the State Board to all Brother Knights and their families who helped with ticket sales in the past. If we as individuals make an extra effort this year all councils will have more funds to meet their charitable commitments.

Fraternally,

Gaston Launière
State Deputy

GL/sml

Listen. Learn. Lead.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2022

- 3 – Saturday, 10AM – Noon, Food Collection/Grocery Card Sales
- 11 – Sunday, Pancake Breakfast after 9AM and 11AM masses
- 12 – Monday, 7PM Executive Meeting
- 17 - Saturday, 10AM – Noon, Food Collection/Grocery Card Sales
- 21 – Wednesday, 7PM General Meeting (Pizza Supper at 6:30PM)

October 2022

- 1 – Saturday, 10AM – Noon, Food Collection/Grocery Card Sales
- 2 – Sunday, Pancake Breakfast after 9AM and 11AM masses
- 3 – Monday, 7PM Executive Meeting
- 15 – Saturday, 10AM – Noon, Food Collection/Grocery Card Sales
- 19 - Wednesday, 7PM General Meeting (Coffee & Donuts)
- 29 – Saturday, 10AM – Noon, Food Collection/Grocery Card Sales

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Food Drives – Grocery Gift Cards

**Food Drives and Grocery Gift Card sales continue every second Saturday from 10AM until Noon in the Parish Hall.
Thank-you to everyone who supports the Drive and
Grocery Gift Card sales**



FIELD AGENT

C O R N E R

A message from Br. Kevin Paish...

Every September a non-profit organization known as *Life Happens* coordinates the Life Insurance Awareness Month campaign.

This campaign is dedicated to informing people about how important life insurance is to protect their families. Life insurance is a cornerstone of a family's future financial security. Blessed Michael McGivney certainly knew how important life insurance was to a family. But many members don't understand how involved Fr. McGivney was in developing the Order's insurance program. According to Christopher Kauffman, the author of the centennial history of the Order, Faith and Fraternalism, The History of the Knights of Columbus 1882-1982, one of Fr. McGivney's two main reasons for founding the Order was "*the need to protect families during sickness and death.*" (pg. 17) Kauffman goes on to say that Fr. McGivney "*spent his energy in promoting the insurance feature.*" (pg. 35) Originally, when the Order was founded, there was no such thing as an "*associate member.*" Everyone was insured; that was one of those two primary reasons for joining. While the Order is now well known for its charitable works and strong advocacy for the most vulnerable, strengthening men in their faith and protecting them and their families with life insurance were twin catalysts in forming the Order. While young Catholic men still seek to strengthen their faith, we know families still need protection from untimely death. This mission remains just as important today.

In an attempt to make every member and every eligible Catholic man aware of how important life insurance is, the Order has made a substantial investment. The Order has provided me with a high-tech, state of the art financial needs analysis platform that can help us determine where you stand today. It can help me formulate a strategy for you and your family and offer meaningful insurance and financial solutions... a strategy specific to your family and your situation.

The analysis can be done in the comfort of your home or virtually. What can life insurance provide? Peace of mind and security.

Vivat Jesus!

Your Field Agent,

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Good of the Order



Keep in your prayers our Brothers Charlie McGregor, Joe Radosh, Moe Douville, and Fred Esslinger.

Pray for those Brother Knights that have passed away recently; Br. Gerry Buccini and Br. Adelard Ouimet.

Hopefully we can soon return to visiting our fellow Brothers who are ill and in continuing care. Till then please call Br. Tony Csilics at (780) 458-0065 if you are aware of a Knight who is ill or who has passed away.



NEW GUIDELINES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS

Please take the time to review these guidelines in advance of our first General Meeting of the 2022-23 Columbian Year (scheduled for September 21st). If everyone is informed of the Meeting Procedures it will make for an efficient and informing meeting and allow more time for socializing afterwards.

**The New Guidelines for Council Meetings can be found here;
<https://www.kofc.org/un/en/resources/for-members/webinars/new-guidelines-for-council-meetings.pdf>**

