



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

FATHER THEOBALD SPETZ COUNCIL 5135

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

FRATERNAL YEAR 2026-2027

OFFICE	OFFICER	OFFICE	OFFICER
WORTHY CHAPLAIN	Fr. Phil Reilly, C.R.	TREASURER	Mike Seymour
GRAND KNIGHT	Todd Cowan	WARDEN	Rick Collins
PAST GRAND KNIGHT	George Dubé	INSIDE GUARD	Stanley Gabriel
DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT	Chris Kleisath	OUTSIDE GUARD	Marcel Sawyer
CHANCELLOR	David Haid	THREE-YEAR TRUSTEE	Peter Guinta
ADVOCATE	Al Kroetsch	TWO-YEAR TRUSTEE	Luke Cowan
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Joel Noel	ONE-YEAR TRUSTEE	Barry Hinschberger



FAITH • FAMILY • FRATERNITY • PATRIOTISM
Put Your Faith in Action.

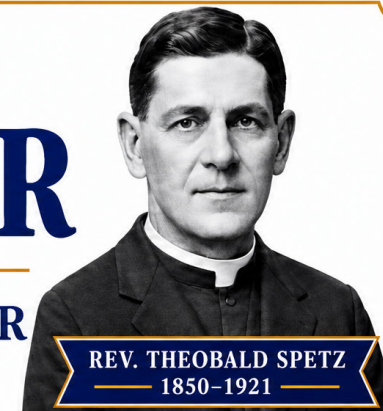
COUNCIL
5135



The COUNSELLOR

COUNCIL 5135 NEWSLETTER

In Service to One. In Service to All.



REV. THEOBALD SPETZ
1850-1921

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS | FATHER THEOBALD SPETZ COUNCIL 5135

◆ CHARITY ◆ UNITY ◆ FRATERNITY ◆ PATRIOTISM ◆

October 2026 Edition



Grand Knight's Message

An Ambitious Year Ahead for 5135!

Brothers,

We have an ambitious fraternal year ahead for Father Theobald Spetz Council 5135. In fact, after looking at everything we have planned.

The big event will be our **65th Anniversary Dinner on Saturday, October 17th**. For 65 years, Council 5135 has served our parishes and community, supported charities and families, strengthened our Catholic faith, and provided plenty of fraternity along the way. Sixty-five years is something worth celebrating—and at our age, we should celebrate anniversaries whenever we can remember them!

We are honoured to have **His Excellency Bishop Wayne Lobsinger** as our guest speaker. Joining us will be Deputy Supreme Knight Arthur Peters and Ontario State Deputy David Gelin. It promises to be a wonderful evening celebrating the Brothers who built our Council and those who continue their work today.

But the anniversary is only the beginning.

Your Executive has already started planning a full year of fundraising, fellowship, community service and faith-building. There will be plenty of opportunities to get involved—and I promise, volunteering for one event does not automatically put you on a committee for life. At least, that's what I've been told.

And Brothers, if you haven't been to a meeting or Council event for a few years, maybe this is the year to come back. Don't worry about how long you've been away. We don't take attendance, there are no late slips, and you won't be asked to explain yourself at the door.

Vivat Jesus!

Todd Cowan

Grand Knight Father Theobald Spetz Council 5135 grandknight@waterlooknightsofcolumbus.com

Inside this Issue:

- A Guy Named Murray
- October Calendar
- 65 Years and Counting
- Installation of Officers
- Keep Your Fork!
- General Meeting Notes



Knights of Columbus®

Council 5135 Fr. Spetz, Waterloo

— October 2026 —

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 <i>Morley Schwartz</i> Fish Fry Fridays 5:00pm	3 <i>Sebastian Malton</i>
4	5	6 <i>Daryl Schnurr</i>	7	8 <i>Michael Kapshey</i>	9 Fish Fry Fridays 5:00pm	10 <i>Timothy McElroy</i>
11	12 Happy Thanksgiving No Executive Meeting	13	14	15 <i>Doug Fisher</i>	16 Fish Fry Fridays 5:00pm	17 65th Anniversary Dinner Guest Speaker Bishop Wayne Lobsinger
18	19	20 <i>John Muldoon</i> <i>Gaetan Paquette</i>	21 <i>Lawrence Missere</i>	22 <i>Howard Dietrich</i>	23 Fish Fry Fridays 5:00pm	24
25	26 Council Rosary 7:00pm, followed by General Meeting 7:30 pm	27	28 <i>John Nguyen</i>	29 <i>Paul Wideman</i>	30 <i>Ron Reeney</i> Fish Fry Fridays 5:00pm	31

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



**Knightly
Notions**

If you want
to be remembered,
polish your
character more
than your
armour.



PROCEEDS SUPPORT
COUNCIL 5135
KNIGHTS
CHARITIES

*Faith in Action
Serving Our Community*

CRIBBAGE

TOURNAMENT

Great People. Great Cards. Great Times!



NEXT TOURNAMENT:
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH
COLUMBUS CONFERENCE CENTRE
ON DEARBORN PLACE, WATERLOO



HELD EVERY MONTH!
The Cribbage Tournament is held on the Third Saturday of every month.



ARRIVE BY 11:30 AM TO REGISTER
Registration closes at 11:45 am.



TOURNAMENT STARTS 12 NOON SHARP
Be seated and ready to play on time.



WE CAN ACCOMMODATE 18 TABLES = 36 TEAMS (72 PLAYERS) in our big hall.



\$20.00 PER TEAM (TWO PLAYERS)
All registration fees go to cash prizes.



50/50 DRAW!



TOP 2 TEAMS EACH MONTH
★
MOVE ON TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT in January!

PRIZE MONEY FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT IN JANUARY

1ST PLACE	2ND PLACE	3RD PLACE
\$400.00	\$200.00	\$100.00

FIRST AND SECOND PLACE FINISHERS OF EACH MONTHLY TOURNAMENT MOVE ON TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP!

FOOD AVAILABLE!
Derek the caterer at the Knights makes Subs to sell to the players.
Also Sandwiches sometimes.





Fun. Friendly. Competitive.
COME OUT AND PLAY!

— SEE YOU AT THE TABLE! —

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!”
— Psalm 133:1 —



Council 5135 Waterloo



FISH & CHIPS

Every Friday





5:30 PM



DINNER IS SERVED AT 6:00 PM

BATTERED HADDOCK

1 PIECE	2 PIECES
\$18.50	\$23.50

TAKE OUT Available!

CALL FOR RESERVATIONS **519 884-2060** | OR TAKEOUT **226 748-8378**

Large groups welcomed!

COLUMBUS CONFERENCE CENTRE
145 Dearborn Place, Waterloo

Installation of Officers 2026

FATHER THEOBALD SPETZ COUNCIL 5135 • WATERLOO

The officers of Father Theobald Spetz Council 5135 were installed on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at St. Louis Parish in Waterloo, following the 5:00 p.m. Mass. District Deputy Dave Obermeyer conducted the installation, welcoming the Council’s officers to their roles for the new fraternal year. We thank District Deputy Obermeyer and District Warden Mike Sabo for leading the ceremony, and Father Phil and the parish for hosting us.



Father Phil Reilly is installed by District Warden Mike Sabo and District Deputy Dave Obermeyer.



Brother Al Kroetsch is installed as Council Advocate.



The installed Council 5135 officers with Father Phil Reilly at St. Louis Parish.

I Knew Him as Murray

Todd Cowan – Grand Knight



Back in 2012, I was given a piece of advice that would ultimately change my life: if I truly wanted to make a difference in the lives of people who were homeless or marginalized, I first needed to understand their world. So, I decided to volunteer.

I visited several shelters and soup kitchens throughout Waterloo Region finding my way to St. John's

Kitchen, operated by The Working Centre. Something about it told me that this was where I needed to be.

I will admit that I arrived with some fear and uncertainty. I had lived a fairly sheltered life, and I had never been exposed so closely to that degree of poverty, addiction, mental illness, hard drug use or violence. It was a world I knew very little about. But as the fear began to fade, something else took its place.

I began to know people. I got to know members of the homeless community not simply as 'the homeless,' but as individuals—with names, personalities, struggles, humour, pain and stories. I also began to know the volunteers, and I learned by watching how they treated the people who came through those doors.

One volunteer in particular stood out. His name was Murray. Murray often worked near the dish area, where the dirty plates were returned and scraped before being washed. It might not have been the most glamorous job in the kitchen, but from that spot he seemed to quietly keep an eye on everything around him.

When a fight broke out, or someone experiencing the effects of drugs or mental illness became angry or violent, Murray would calmly step in. He was a large man, and certainly his physical presence helped. But looking back, I don't think it was really his size that calmed people. It was his presence. There was something peaceful about him. He didn't approach people with anger or judgment. He simply stepped into the chaos with calmness, dignity and respect.

After lunch, the volunteers would sit down together to eat. Murray was always adamant about one thing: we should eat the same meal that had been served to everyone else that day. Why should our meal be different? Why should we somehow suggest that what was good enough for the people we served wasn't good enough for us? It was a simple lesson, but it stayed with me.

Murray never lectured me about serving the poor. He never gave me a theological explanation of human dignity. He never preached a sermon to me about loving our neighbour.

He simply showed me.

Over the years, through his words—but much more through his actions—Murray helped me understand what it meant to meet marginalized people with unconditional love, respect and, perhaps most importantly, without judgment.

When COVID-19 arrived in 2020, my years of volunteering at St. John's Kitchen came to an end. Then, in 2022, I began working at the Erb's Road transitional housing project operated by The Working Centre.

The faces were different and the circumstances had changed, but the lessons I had learned at St. John's Kitchen came with me.

So did Murray.

His example helped shape how I approached the newly housed community I was now working with, meet people where they are, listen and do not judge, respect their dignity; and remember that compassion isn't something we talk about—it is something we do.



Then came one of the great surprises of my life.

In 2024, I was elected Deputy Grand Knight of our Knights of Columbus Council. Our longtime chaplain, Father Ray Reitzel, was being succeeded by a new chaplain.

When the new chaplain arrived, I couldn't believe it.

It was Murray. Except now he was wearing a Roman collar.

Father Murray McDermott.

For approximately eight years, I had worked alongside this man at St. John's Kitchen. We had served meals together, cleaned up together, dealt with difficult situations together and sat down to eat together.

And in all that time, he had never felt it necessary to tell me he was a priest. Suddenly, so much made sense. Father Murray had never needed the collar to show me who he was. His priesthood had been visible all along.

It was there when he stood peacefully between two people fighting. It was there when he treated a person struggling with addiction with the same dignity he would offer anyone else. It was there when he insisted that we eat the same food as those we were serving. It was there in the dirty dishes, the noise, the anger, the laughter, the brokenness and the humanity of St. John's Kitchen.

Pope Francis famously spoke of shepherds having 'the smell of the sheep.' Father Murray certainly did. His flock included people whom much of society would rather avoid—the addicted, the unhoused, the troubled, the forgotten and those whose lives had become terribly complicated.

Father Murray didn't shy away from them. He walked beside them. He ate with them. He listened to them. He loved them. Remarkably, he did it without drawing attention to himself.

Father Murray passed from this life on August 28, 2026. I know that his death leaves an emptiness in the hearts of many people who loved him. But I also know that his life continues in the countless people who encountered his kindness, compassion and quiet witness.

I am one of them.

When I think back to the day I discovered that Murray—the man I had worked beside for all those years—was actually Father Murray, I can't help but think of Cleopas and the disciples on the road to Emmaus. They walked beside a stranger. They talked with him. They listened to him. And only later did their eyes open and they recognize who had been walking beside them all along.

In a small way, that is how I felt. For eight years I thought I was simply volunteering beside a good man named Murray.

Only later did I understand that I had been witnessing something much deeper: a priest quietly living the Gospel in one of the places where Christ told us we would find Him—in the hungry, the poor, the forgotten and the stranger. Perhaps that is Father Murray's greatest lesson to me.

We don't need titles, collars or recognition to tell the world that we are Christians. People should be able to recognize Christ in us by the way we live. By how we treat the person everyone else avoids. By how we respond to someone who is struggling. By whether we judge or listen. By whether we walk past suffering or enter into it. By whether our lives speak of compassion before our mouths ever do.

Father Murray taught me that without ever sitting me down to teach it. He simply lived it.

I will forever be grateful that, for a little while on my own journey, I had the privilege of walking beside him.

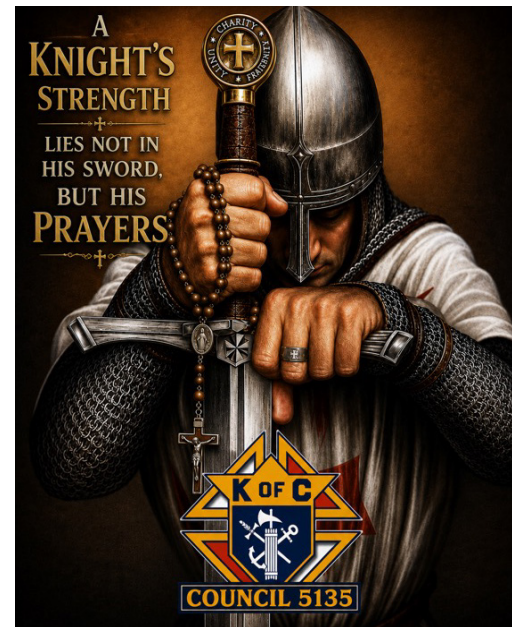
Rest in peace, my dear friend, Father Murray.

Thank you for showing me—and so many others—what it means to recognize Christ in one another, and what it means to let others recognize Christ in us.



Please Remember in Your Prayers:

Ed Girodat & Family Bishop
Crosby Br. Marcel Sawyer Br. Chris
Kleisath Br. Luke Cowan Worthy
Chaplain, Fr. Phil Reilly Continued
direction & growth of 5135



General MEETING NOTES

General Meeting – September 28, 2026

Important Points

- ★ **Minutes** will now be circulated in advance rather than read aloud at meetings.
- ★ **Coats for Kids:** The Council has committed to purchase two cases of coats at a cost of \$395 each. They will be distributed through the school systems for kids in need. The funds needed to purchase the cases will come from the meat draw proceeds.
- ★ **Meat Draw** fundraiser has restarted; the first recent draw raised about \$418. A 50/50 draw also supports charitable activities.
- ★ **Toy Drive** planning is underway, with interest in forming a committee to help organize it.
- ★ **65th Anniversary** celebration is coming up on October 17. Volunteers are needed for sponsorships, ticket sales, registration, contacting priests, and event-day help.
- ★ **Council** is working toward holding an in-person exemplification for new members.
- ★ **Financial update:** bank balance was reported at \$3,868.80; about \$481 from the recent meat draw is still to be deposited; approximately \$312 is owing for Supreme per capita.
- ★ **Chris Kapron** was unanimously accepted as a new member, with exemplification to follow.
- ★ **Faith of Our Fathers** will restart in November, meeting on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., using *Into the Breach* as the Cor format.
- ★ **Maple Syrup** fundraiser will expand into local parishes in January, subject to discussion with parish priests.
- ★ A new annual **Grant Ertel Service Award** has been created, with the first presentation planned for the 65th Anniversary celebration.
- ★ **Motion passed unanimously** to direct \$2,500 in Anniversary Dinner profit to the Out of the Cold meal program.
- ★ **Members** were asked to reply to council communications with at least a yes, no, or acknowledgement.

Father Murray McDermott

JUNE 30, 1948 – AUGUST 28, 2026

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WATERLOO COUNCIL 5135

Faith ♦ Family ♦ Community ♦ Service



Anniversary DINNER

Join us as we celebrate
65 years of Faith,
Fraternity and Service
to our Community.

*Good food, Great fellowship,
A stronger tomorrow.*



Saturday, October 17th
Columbus Conference Centre
145 Dearborn Place, Waterloo
Reception 5:45 PM ♦ Dinner 6:45 PM

TICKETS
\$65 each

COUPLES
\$120

HONORARY LIFE
MEMBERS
\$50

SPECIAL GUESTS



His Excellency
Bishop Wayne Lobsinger



Deputy Supreme Knight
Arthur Peters



Ontario State Deputy
David Gelinas

*All are
Welcome!*



For tickets or more information:

GrandKnight@waterlooknightsofcolumbus.com



519 496-9648

Serving our Community since 1961



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Keep Your Fork

The best is yet to come

Todd Cowan, Grand Knight

Since the last edition of The Counsellor, our Council has suffered the loss of two Brother Knights — Father Murray McDermott, C.R., and Brother Ed Girodat. Their passing has been a difficult reminder that none of us truly knows how much time we have. We make plans, fill our calendars, attend meetings, volunteer, laugh with friends and family, and assume there will always be another tomorrow. Then suddenly, someone who has been part of our lives is gone.

At Brother Ed's funeral Mass this past week, Father Jeff shared a simple story that stayed with me. For those who have never heard it, this is a retelling of its beautiful message.

A woman facing a terminal illness invited her priest to help her plan her funeral. They discussed the hymns and Scripture readings she wanted. As their conversation ended, she added an unusual wish: when she was laid in her coffin, she wanted a fork placed in her hand.

Seeing his puzzled expression, she explained that she had spent many happy evenings at church suppers. Once the main meal was finished and the plates were being collected, a familiar instruction would travel around the tables: "Keep your fork."

Those three words always made her smile. Dinner might be over, but there was still something delicious ahead — perhaps chocolate cake or apple pie. The fork was a little promise that the meal's final treat had yet to arrive.

She wanted that same small object to speak for her after she died. If mourners wondered why she was holding it, the priest could explain that she was looking forward with faith to what God had prepared for her. Her earthly life was ending, but her hope reached beyond it. "Keep your fork. The best is yet to come."

The priest left deeply moved by her trust. Later, at her funeral, visitors noticed the fork and asked about it. He shared their conversation, turning an unexpected detail into a message of comfort. Her final request gave those who mourned her something hopeful to carry home.

That little story seems especially meaningful after losing Father Murray and Ed so close together.

As Catholics, we grieve the loss of those we love, but our grief is not without hope. We believe that death is not the end. Our faith teaches us that there is something beyond this life — something greater than we can fully understand.

Ed Girodat



It is with immense sadness that we announce the sudden passing of our beloved Papa, husband, father and brother, Edmund Girodat.

Ed was the devoted and loving husband of Janet Girodat (MacKenzie) and a proud father to Michelle Paleczny (Ron), James Girodat, and Alisha Paleczny (Larry). His greatest joy was being "Papa" to his cherished grandchildren, Julia, Thomas, Victoria, William, and Nicholas, who brought endless pride and happiness to his life.

Ed was predeceased by his loving parents, Thelma and Patrick, his sister Philomina, niece Carman and nephews Michael and Robbie.

He will be lovingly remembered by his siblings, Mike Girodat (Marg), Rose Kieswetter (Bob), and Pauline Bogue; his many nieces and nephews, to whom he was affectionately known as Uncle Eddie; his dear friends and travelling companions, Carol and Dennis Nafzinger and Jim and Sheree Drago; his longtime neighbours and friends, Ron and Julie Hopkins; and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

A dedicated educator, Ed was a proud graduate of St. Jerome's High School and the first member of his family to earn a university degree, receiving his Bachelor's degree from the University of Waterloo and a Master of Education from the University of Western Ontario. These accomplishments paved the way for a distinguished career in education. As a teacher and respected principal with the Waterloo Catholic District School Board, Ed spent many years guiding and supporting students, staff, and families. His leadership, compassion, and commitment to education left a lasting impact on the school communities he served until his retirement from St. Teresa's Elementary School, Kitchener in 2010.

Known simply as "Papa" to those who loved him most, Ed will be remembered for his unwavering devotion to family and perhaps the occasional sip of Baileys and the endless search for the perfect butter tart. Though a man of few words, Ed's actions spoke volumes. His steadfast devotion to his beloved wife, Janet, his children, and his grandchildren was reflected in the quiet strength, love, and unwavering support he provided throughout his life. One of Ed's greatest joys was cheering on his grandchildren. Together with Janet, he was a constant presence at countless games, activities, and special events. Papa's weekends revolved around family, and he rarely missed an opportunity to be in the stands, proudly supporting his grandchildren and celebrating their accomplishments. His presence in the stands, his encouragement, and his quiet pride will be deeply missed.

Ed had a passion for books focusing on WWII, conspiracy and espionage, his Corvette, and travel. He was always willing to lend a hand and took great pride in his backyard, where he could often be found tinkering, building, and working on his latest project. Those closest to him will fondly remember his sense of humour, his genuine kindness, and his ability to make family and friends feel welcomed, valued, and loved. Above all, Ed's legacy is one of love, dedication and family. He leaves behind memories that will be treasured forever and a lasting influence on all who knew him.

To our Papa, Dad, brother and husband - We love you

As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Discalced Carmelite Nuns Carmel of St Joseph and Waterloo Knights of Columbus Toy Drive would be appreciated by the family. Donations may be made at the funeral home or online directly through the charity's website. Please call the funeral home 519-749-8467 to inform the family of your online donation.

Visit www.henrywalsler.com for Ed's memorial.

Both Father Murray and Ed gave many years of service, friendship and faith to those around them. We will miss their presence, their humour, their example and the many ways they contributed to our Council and our community.

Their deaths also remind each of us to make good use of the time we have been given — to say the things that need saying, forgive when we need to forgive, help when we can, and never take the people around us for granted.

And when our own time eventually comes, perhaps we can remember that simple image from Father Jeff's story.

Keep your fork. The best is yet to come.

May Father Murray McDermott and Brother Ed Girodat rest in the peace of Christ, and may perpetual light shine upon them.



Father Murray McDermott, C.R.



The Congregation of the Resurrection announces the death of Father Murray Francis McDermott, CR on Friday, August 28, 2026, of Resurrection Manor, Waterloo, Ontario. He was 78 years old, in his 59th year of religious life and 50th year of ordained priesthood.

Fr. Murray is predeceased by his parents Frank and Shirley (nee Soehner) McDermott and brothers Barry and Kevin. He is survived and lovingly remembered by his brother Jeff and sister Sandra (Murray) MacDermott, nieces Jennifer (Mike), Laurie (Simon) and Bridget (Justin), and nephew Peter (Amber), and many great nieces and nephew and friends.

Fr. Murray professed his religious vows in the Congregation on August 22, 1968 in Dundas, Ontario and was ordained to the ministerial priesthood on May 14, 1977 in Kitchener.

Fr. Murray began his ministry as Associate Pastor at St. Louis Parish, Waterloo for 2 years. In 1980 Fr. Murray began his apostolic work at the Children's Aid Society in Stratford, residing first at St. Aloysius Parish and later at Louis Hall. He became involved with Food for the Poor in 1988. Fr. Murray became a fulltime staff member of Children's Aid Society in 1988 and devoted his life to helping the children and youth until his retirement in 2014. He was highly respected by the L'Arche Community and loved working/living with the people there. Fr. Murray was deeply involved in his religious community; he served on numerous committees and served as a Provincial Councillor. In 2012 Fr. Murray took over the role of Vicar Provincial and in 2014 was elected Provincial Superior. He then served as Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Kitchener and continued as Priest in Residence after he retired. He was also House Superior for St. Jerome's University House, and recently was Chaplain for the Waterloo Knights of Columbus.

A man filled with hope, and rooted in faith and compassion, Fr. Murray's life of service touched the lives of his brother religious, family and those he encountered during his life of dedicated ministry. Fr. Murray enjoyed filling in for weekend Masses at our various parishes and at St. Jerome's University Catholic Community. Fr. Murray was a man with a big heart when it came to those in need of compassion, his family and his community members. He loved going to plays/musicals and in particular the Stratford Festival. He enjoyed skiing, spending time at the Resurrectionist cottages and was devoted to his family members.

We wish to express our gratitude to Dr. Thomas O'Brien for his years of care. visit: www.erbgood.com for tributes.