



Pictured (in 2019): Crown Point Mayor David Uran (left), Crown Point Fire Chief Dave Crane, CEO/founder of Safe Haven Baby Boxes Monica Kelsey, and Grand Knight Dave Stephenson stand in front of the new Safe Haven Baby Box.

Contributing sources were ABC7, NWI Times and the Post Tribune

In 2019, Cardinal Stritch Council #4620 donated funds to two community projects that were designed to give women a healthy alternative to pregnancy termination.

Council #4620 Right To Life Committee chairman John Pisowicz introduced council members to The Women's Center of Northwest Indiana in Crown Point, who were in need of a

new ultrasound.

Established in 1989, the Women's Center of Northwest Indiana (formally the Lake County Women's Center) is a non-for-profit organization whose goal is to show the love of Christ in our communities by tending to women who are considering or vulnerable to abortion. The Center promotes the value of unborn human life, and make available all the means necessary to

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What is Indiana's Safe Haven Law?

The Indiana Safe Haven Law enables a person to give up an unwanted infant anonymously without fear of arrest or prosecution.

As long as there are no signs of intentional abuse on the baby, no information is required of the person leaving the baby.

Once the baby is examined and given any needed medical treatment, the Indiana Department of Child Services will take the baby into custody through Child Protective Services where it will be placed with a caregiver.

- IC 31-34-2.5 Chapter 2.5. Emergency Custody of Certain Abandoned Children



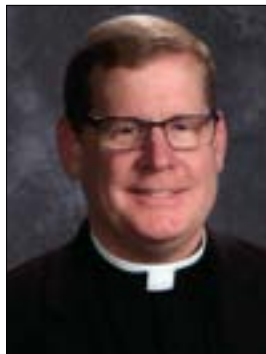
Pictured (in 2019): Grand Knight Dave Stephenson (left); Ms. Jackie Moffitt, Women's Center of Northwest Indiana director; Craig Hanusin, 2019 Indiana State Deputy and Dan Rettig, Financial Secretary.

What's New in the Council

New Pastor has ideas for the Knights of the Cardinal Stritch Council in 2022-23

In August, we had a chance to sit down with pastor Father Kevin Huber in the backyard of the rectory to discuss what he expects from the Cardinal Stritch Council #4620.

Father Kevin, a fourth-degree Knight, knows the value of a healthy and active council can do to the growth of a parish as big as St. Mary's. He expressed the need for this council to have a bigger profile in the parish. Father said he wants everyone to know that St. Mary Church has a very active Knights of Columbus council.



Father Kevin Huber

Since he was formally installed as the new pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in 2021, he said he was excited to see the participation the members of Council 4620 has shown. Not only pouring coffee and lemonade at parish functions, but bringing their families to our Corporate Communion and answering the call to duty without hesitation.

For the May Crowning held at St. Mary Church, Father Kevin had the statue of Our Blessed Mother carried into the church by the Knights of the Cardinal Stritch Council #4620.

Father Huber, who previously served as pastor at Queen of All Saints Church in Michigan City, is only the sixth pastor in the long history of St. Mary's. He was appointed to succeed the retired Father Patrick Kalich.

The first thing he agreed to was that our council would use Hammes Hall for our monthly meetings.



Welcome to the Order

Cardinal Stritch Council #4620 welcomed new members **Joe Genovese**, **Joe Santelik**, and transferred members **Paul Poparad** and **Lucio Faberecino**.



If you have paid your dues for this year are still waiting for your 2023 membership card, contact **Financial Secretary Dan Rettig** at kofc4620fs@gmail.com.

2022-23 OFFICERS

GRAND KNIGHT
Dave Stephenson

DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT
Dan Marcotte

CHANCELLOR
Nick Berns

RECORDING SECRETARY
[Vacant]

TREASURER
Eric Jaworski

ADVOCATE
John Petrovic

WARDEN
Rusty Kruger

INSIDE GUARD
Bryan Baker

OUTSIDE GUARD
Sal Schipani

TRUSTEE (1 year)
Roger Zellers

TRUSTEE (2 year)
Larry Biegel

TRUSTEE (3 Year)
Jim Landers

APPOINTED OFFICERS

CHAPLIN
Fr. Don Lewandowski

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Dan Rettig



CARDINAL STRITCH COUNCIL #4620

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Crown Point, IN
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Council 4620 to Sponsor Two Seminararians

From the Diocese of Gary website

The Cardinal Stritch Council recently voted to sponsor two seminararians from the St. Mary parish.

Ryan Pierce is presently a College II seminararian at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona, MN.

He is the son of Ivan and Brianna Pierce from Crown Point.

"I am the 3rd of 5 kids, whom my parents all raised Catholic. I want to give my life to proclaiming the Kingdom of God. One great role model for me has been my Dad because he has brought me to love prayer."



Ryan Pierce



Leo Marcotte

The other seminararian from St. Mary's who has made the next step on his vocation journey is Leo Marcotte. This fall, the 18-year-old son of our Deputy Grand Knight Dan Marcotte and his wife Maura is entering Immaculate Heart as a College I.

"I would like to help glorify God by celebrating the sacraments. I have always enjoyed helping people in their day to day lives. It really makes me happy; however, I know that most of the things I do to help people are only temporary fixes, and I would like to minister to their eternal needs as a priest."

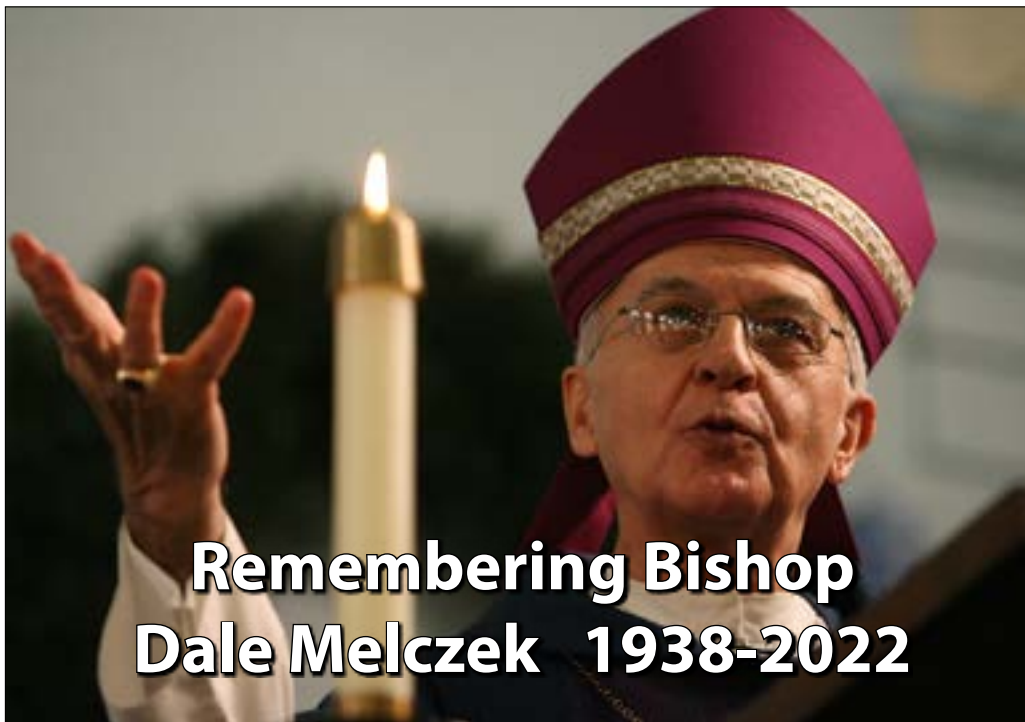


Photo courtesy of the Diocese of Gary website

Contributing sources were Associated Press and Catholic News Wires and the Diocese of Gary website

Bishop Emeritus Dale Melczek, D.D., who led Gary's Catholic Diocese for more than two decades, died on August 25, 2022 at age 83.

Melczek was born in Detroit in 1938. In June of 1964, he was ordained as a priest by Cardinal Dearden. John Paul II appointed Melczek as the third bishop of Gary on June 1, 1996. The Gary Diocese that covers four counties in northwest Indiana and it's about 160,000 Catholics.

The fifth and current of Bishop of Gary, Bishop Robert J. McClory described Bishop Melczek as a "true shepherd who loved his flock in the Diocese of Gary."

"He was a tireless servant and a compassionate pastor. We have been blessed tremendously to have such a hopeful and caring leader. Until his last days, Bishop Melczek was still looking forward for new ways to share the love of Jesus in Northwest Indiana," he added. "We now entrust him to the love of Jesus so that he may be drawn forward into the Lord's eternal embrace."

During his time, Bishop Melczek has served on many national and international committees and councils. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Human Values Committee, the Committee on Social Development the Committee on Marriage and the Family, and World Peace, International Policy, Administrative Board.

While he was a member to the Board of Catholic Relief Services, Bishop Melczek made many summer trips on behalf of CRS from 1997 to 2002. He spent two weeks in the Philippines, visited Myanmar and Cambodia, visited the Catholic Relief Services' projects in Indonesia and East Timor and visited the Democratic Republic of Congo and Congo Brazzaville. He visited Angola and Tanzania.

From 2002-2005, he served as Chairman of the Bishops' Committee on the Laity.

Bishop Melczek also served as a member of the Joint Committee of Roman Catholic and Orthodox Bishops. He served the National Association of Catholic Chaplains as episcopal liaison from 2002-2007.

As co-chair of the Race Relations Council of Northwest Indiana, he two issued pastoral letters advocating diversity and denouncing racism in northwest Indiana; "The Many Faces of Our Church: a Pastoral Letter on Cultural Diversity" in 2002 and "Created in God's Image: a Pastoral Letter on the Sin of Racism and a Call to Conversion" in 2003.

Upon his retirement in November 2014, Bishop Melczek said he hoped to be remembered for taking steps fighting racism.

In his retirement, he served as administrator of the parish of St. Mary of the Lake in Gary.

He is interred in the east transept of the Cathedral of the Holy Angels.

Tempus Fugit, Memento Mori

Our council has had to bid farewell to a group of Catholic gentlemen of St. Mary's Church who were beloved brothers.

RICH SCHWITZER

Rich was a founding member who passed away in 2020. Rich served our council with devotion and honor as he held many offices including serving as Grand Knight twice.

DICK LAMERE

Dick left us in June of 2020. He's remembered for his sense of humor and that smile.

JOHN SEDLAK

John became a Knight of Columbus of the Cardinal Stritch Council in 2003. He served our council with pride. John died in 2020.

BILL GATES

Bill made quite an impact on our council in a short amount of time. before he left us in 2019. Bill got our council involved the Habitat for Humanity ministry at St. Mary's.

PAT PARKS

Our beloved brother Pat passed away in 2019.

DON DERUNTZ, SR.

Don loved serving the Council deeply and will be remembered for his smile and his passion. Don passed away November of 2018.

We join the many that loved these men as we pray for their families.

from the front page

those making hard decisions about the life of their unborn child, including free limited services like ultrasound examinations.

The Cardinal Stritch Council and the Indiana Knights of Columbus State Council, through Culture of Life Director Mike Velasco, with other benefactors assisted the Center with donations making it possible to purchase a new ultrasound for the Crown Point center.

Women's Center of Northwest Indiana director Jackie Moffitt said that with Crown Point getting a new ultrasound, it makes it possible another location to obtain an ultrasound. According to Ms. Moffitt, the new ultrasound was instrumental in changing the mind of the first client examined with it.

Shortly after the council helped the Women's Center, we were approached by Dave Crane, the Crown Point Fire Chief, who informed us that they were in the process of installing a Safe Haven Baby Box in the fire station.

Although the initial funding for the baby box project was made possible by a very generous donation from an anonymous donor, they needed one more sponsor to get donate the remaining funds for this installation to be completed. Council #4620 unanimously voted to donate to finish it.

The Crown Point Safe Haven Baby Box is the 19th Safe Haven Baby Box located in the state of Indiana and is the first box



Photo provided to the Post Tribune by Steve Strayer

Pictured (in 2020): Steve (left) Charlotte and Jennifer Strayer pose for a photo at their house.

installed with bilingual instructions.

“Once the mom shuts the door, the door will no longer open until we clear the alarm, so that no one in the meantime can take that infant out,” said Crown Point Fire Chief Dave Crane. “When she opens the door there’s a pamphlet that drops out and gives her information and gives her more choices and avenues for help.”

Two months after being installed in the wall of the fire station, a healthy newborn baby was surrendered safely into the Crown Point Safe Haven Baby Box. At the time, it was the fourth baby surrendered in a baby box since 2017 according to Monica Kelsey, CEO and

founder of Safe Haven Baby Boxes.

On August 31, 2020, Steve Strayer and his wife, Jennifer, officially adopted the baby, Charlotte Sue Ann Strayer.

Steve is the Crown Point High School varsity baseball head coach.

“She could have aborted her,” Coach Strayer said. “We think this is a great thing. A lot of people that have abortions feel guilty afterward or wonder what the baby would’ve been like. There are a lot of people that want babies that can’t have them. Her mom is the real hero. We give glory to God. We are fortunate. She’s been a blessing to us. She’s absolutely adorable.”

Keep up with us.

Find out what's going on in St. Mary Church's Knights of Columbus council. Check out upcoming events, latest news and read some interesting articles and blogs.

Visit our website at www.cpkofc4620.org