

Welcome to Fr Ragan Council 3269

1783 Moore Road (Off Rote 611 Next to BJ's)
PO Box 224
Avon, OH 44011-0224
(440) 934-4253

- **Regular Council Meetings**
held at 7:30 PM on the First and Third Thursdays of every month.
- **Officers Meeting**
is held at 6:30 PM on the first Thursday of each month prior to the regular council meeting.
All members are welcome to attend.
- **The Fr. Ragan Charitable Foundation**
meets on the Second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM. *All members are welcome to attend.*

Officers for Fraternal Year July 2011 through June 2012

Chaplain	Father Gerard Gonda, O.S.B.	
Grand Knight	Fredrick G. Metz	(440) 963-0747
Deputy Grand Knight	Robert Y. Garrett, Jr.	(440) 933-7898
Financial Secretary	Timothy J. Hohman	(440) 937-9532
Chancellor	Paul W. Green	(440) 933-4062
Recorder	Robert A. Booth	(440) 610-9838
Treasurer	Joseph R. Abram	(440) 522-5828
Advocate	Paul C. Nelson	(440) 930-0608
Warden	Joseph R. Laforet Sr.	(440) 937-0054
Inside Guard	Michael P. Collins	(440) 930-7293
Outside Guard	Mark D. Weidig	(440) 937-6948
Special Guard	Theodore J. Kocab	(440) 835-9938
Trustee 3 Years	John T. Hricovec	(440) 242-7894
Trustee 2 Years	Michael H. Moore	(440) 933-9957
Trustee 1 Year	Scott W. Gedeon	(440) 823-7788
Lecturer	Theodore J. Schmitz	(440) 937-6402

Check out our Website -

<http://frragan.com>

It's loaded with information & pictures about our activities. It has the history of the Knights of Columbus and history of Fr Ragan Council. You can get information about our **Ladies Auxiliary**, the **Isabella Guild**, whose membership is open to any Catholic woman. You can use it to access the current and archived monthly newsletters (**Ragan Report**) as well as contact your council officers. Links are also provided to both the **Supreme & State Councils** as well as our affiliated **Fourth Degree - Lt. Francis McManus Assembly 811**

Clip on dotted line and carry in your wallet

A PRAYER FOR OUR PRIESTS

We thank you, God our Father, for those who have responded to your call to priestly ministry. Accept this prayer we offer on their behalf: Fill your priests with the sure knowledge of your love. Open their hearts to the power and consolation of the Holy Spirit. Lead them to new depths of union with your Son. Increase in them profound faith in the Sacraments they celebrate as they nourish, strengthen and heal us. Lord Jesus Christ, grant that these, your priests, may inspire us to strive for holiness by the power of their example, as men of prayer who ponder your word and follow your will. O Mary, Mother of Christ and our mother, guard with your maternal care these chosen ones, so dear to the Heart of your Son. Intercede for our priests that, offering the Sacrifice of your Son, they may be conformed more each day to the image of your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Opening Ode (Tune of "O Tannebaum")

Sing ye his praises loud and long,
And let the unenlightened know.
In ev'ry echo of your song,
The great deeds done, tho' long ago.
By Columbus of the valiant soul,
Who first old Neptune had controlled.
Despite of envy, intrigue, gold,
In the dim past of long ago.
With vessels three o'er stormy sea,
He thrilled the world of long ago.
While wisdom linked with destiny,
In justice scales its weight did throw.
We are his heirs; we wear his name;
We boast his deeds;
we spread his fame.
Our order is the shining flame
That lights the gloom of long ago.

Closing Ode

(Tune of "America")

Now our evening's work is done,
Then let us ev'ry one,
Join in a song.
Long may our order stand,
Foremost in this free land,
Ready with heart & hand
to right each wrong.
We have a mission great,
True to our church & state,
onward we move.
We dry the mourner's tear,
The tired heart we cheer,
Faith in our works appear,
Upheld by love.

Reverend Father Michael S. Ragan

Reverend Father Michael S. Ragan was born in Youngstown, educated at SS. Cyril and Methodius School and South High School in Youngstown. He entered St. Mary's Seminary, Cleveland, and was ordained in May, 1936, by Archbishop Joseph Schrembt. His first assignment was as an assistant at St. Paul Church on E. 40th Street in Cleveland.

On March 5, 1941 he joined the U.S. Army as a chaplain, serving with the 91st Bombardment Group (Heavy) stationed at RAF Bassingbourn, England. After World War II, Fr. Ragan was appointed assistant at St. Mary's Church in Avon, where he served until 1948. He was reassigned as a chaplain at Veterans Hospitals in Detroit, Michigan and Brecksville, Ohio.

It was on a trip from Detroit to Brecksville that Fr. Ragan was in an automobile accident on Brookpark Road. He apparently had fallen asleep at the wheel. His car veered off the road and struck a utility pole. Fr. Ragan died in the crash on August 17, 1949.

The following remembrance of Fr. Michael S. Ragan, in whose honor Father Ragan Council was named, was published in the April, 1987, issue of "The Ragged Irregular," a publication to keep alive the spirit and maintain fellowship of all those who fought together from RAF Bassingbourn.

"Generally morning light was dim and mist often blurred object outlines when a green flare's signal started engines at wartime Bassingbourn. Soon, more than a mile of 91st BG(H) B-17's lumbered around the perimeter, preparing to swing onto the runway and take off for another strike at Hitler's heartland.

Sometimes crew members, happening to look in the right direction while their plane began the take-off roll, blinked their eyes in a double-take. There, just beyond the wingtip, at the edge of the grass, stood a priest brandishing a horseshoe!

When the planes returned, the same priest awaited their crews in Operations, offering support, encouragement, cocoa; and any diversified, imaginative solace deemed suitable at the time. While the planes were away he had circulated throughout the hangars and hardstands with friendly, bolstering words for the ground crews burdened with endless workloads.

The 91st BG(H)'s Catholic Chaplain, Captain Michael S. Ragan of Ohio, was quite a guy! Easy going, informal friend to all, his life was an example of selfless dedication to others. It didn't matter to him whether you were Catholic, of another faith or "nothing at all." You were important

Even animals flocked to his charisma. As he walked around the base he usually was accompanied by tail-wagging dogs. Hilary "Bud" Evers of the 401st Squadron remembers chancing upon Fr. Ragan on a base path. There was a large congregation of birds, between 25 and 50, clustered around him. As Evers approached, it was apparent that Fr. Ragan was talking to the birds.

When he finally noticed the somewhat discomfited Evers' presence, Fr. Ragan unabashedly said, "Goodbye!" to the birds. He then joined Evers, without a word of explanation, and chatted with him as the two continued together down the path.

Also recalled are the occasional "striptease" shows Fr. Ragan performed. Those who attended received an education. Before his audience he divested himself of all his clerical raiment -- one item at a time while explaining the significance of each piece. At the end of this "striptease" his exposure consisted of regulation U.S. Army attire."



Father Ragan Charitable Foundation

The building known as Fr. Ragan Hall and its grounds are owned and operated by a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Ohio Corporation; Father Ragan Charitable Foundation.

It was established to manage the hall and property and to raise and distribute funds to various charities with special emphasis on the Catholic Churches & Schools of Avon & Avon Lake.

Its main sources of income are hall & pavilion rentals and charitable bingo.

As a member of Fr Ragan Council, you are also a member of the Foundation and are entitled to participate in meetings and decisions as provided in the Foundation Charter and By-Laws.

Workers are always needed and welcome to help out at our Friday evening bingo sessions.



Aerial View of Fr. Ragan Hall & Grounds Showing Pavilion

Clip on dotted line and carry in your wallet

Prayer for Canonization of Fr McGivney

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify your servant Father Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present, Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Knights Prayer

Our Lady, Queen of the Knights, bless all the activities of our order. Keep us true to the pledge to extend the Kingship of thy Divine Son on earth. Through thine intercession win for us the grace ever to exemplify in our public and private lives, the virtues which should characterize those specially dedicated to the service of the heavenly court. Make us always aware that as your knights we are constantly observed, and our faith judged, and our Order appreciated. Accept O Mary, this renewed pledge of fealty and devotion of thy servants the Knights of Columbus—Amen

Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, Bless your Church with an abundance of holy & zealous priests, deacons, brothers & sisters. Give those you have called to the married state and those you have chosen to live as single persons in the world the special graces that their lives require Form us all in the likeness of your Son so that in Him, with Him, and through Him we may love you more deeply & serve you more faithfully always and everywhere. With Mary; we ask this through Christ our Lord - Amen