

Branches on the Vine

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD

SEPTEMBER 5 - 11, 2026

New Haven Exhibit Reflects on Terrorist Attacks of 9/11

- Story by Joe Pisani

They called him “the elevator man.” He was Charles “Chuck” Costello Jr., who on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, went from the hotel in lower New York City’s SoHo, where he worked as an elevator technician, to the World Trade Center to help in the rescue effort after the terrorist attacks.

He left his truck on the street, ran into the burning North Tower about 9 a.m. and is credited with saving hundreds of lives. On Jan. 6, 2002, his remains were found beneath the South Tower. A member of the Knights of Columbus St. Ambrose Council 6424 of Old Bridge, N.J., Costello is one of 46 Knights memorialized in a temporary exhibit currently on view at the Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center in New Haven.

The exhibit, “Remembering 9/11: 25 Years Later,” marks the 25th anniversary since the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, when four planes were hijacked, two of them striking New York City’s twin towers. Another plane crashed into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and the fourth into a Pennsylvania field after the passengers attacked the hijackers.

In total, 2,977 people were killed, thousands were injured, and many more died in the years that followed due to health issues.

The local exhibit honors all the victims, their families and those heroes who risked their lives to save countless others, according to Bethany J. Sheffer, curator and registrar of the pilgrimage center.

“This tragedy is part of our history, and it’s important for us to remember those whose lives were lost,” Sheffer



Through Oct. 11, a temporary exhibit at the Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center remembers all the victims, their families and the heroes who saved the lives of countless people on Sept. 11, 2001. PHOTO BY JOE PISANI

says. “And it’s equally important for us because we are honoring those Knights who died and played a role in the relief efforts.”

In the exhibit, a sequence of photos narrates the events of the day. The exhibit also provides brief biographical information about the 46 Knights of Columbus members – including firefighters, police officers and civilians – who perished in the terrorist attacks.

Some of the items on display include a fragment from one of the towers, a replica firefighter helmet given by the Fire Department of New York, and a FDNY cap that belonged to Father Mychal Judge, a Franciscan friar, who was chaplain of the department and was the first officially recorded fatality of the attacks.

There are rosaries that were distributed to the firefighters and law enforcement officers during the rescue response and a gas mask worn by then-Supreme Chaplain Bishop Thomas V. Daily of Brooklyn, N.Y., when he visited Ground Zero.

Also on display are prayer books and programs from a solemn Mass of Remembrance at the Basilica of the

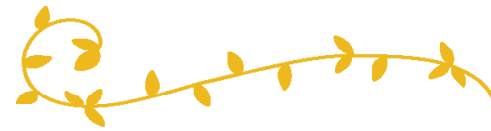
National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., attended by 1,100 Fourth Degree Knights on the first anniversary of the attacks.

As part of the museum’s permanent Wall of History for Sept. 11, other items related to the terrorist attacks are on display. They include two twisted beams from the World Trade Center, a severed street lamppost from a neighborhood close to the World Trade Center and information about the Heroes Fund project that provided immediate assistance to families of emergency responders who lost their lives in the rescue and recovery efforts.

Through Oct. 11, “Remembering 9/11: 25 Years Later,” is on display at the Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center in New Haven. This temporary exhibit supplements the permanent memorial to the Knights of Columbus who perished on that day. To learn more, call 203.865.0400 or visit michaelmcgivneycenter.org.



Upcoming Events



SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER DATES
THE POWER OF A PRAYING PARENT
St. Catherine of Siena, West Simsbury

Do you worry about your children or grandchildren? Join us for a four-session retreat to discover the power of a praying parent who creates a sacred space for God in their home. "Come" (Matt. 14:29). Email kostelni@cua.edu or scan the QR code to register. Morning session offers a light lunch; evening session offers hors d'oeuvres and small plate meal.



Sept. 23, 30, Oct. 7, 14 @ 10AM – 12:30PM OR
Sept. 26, Oct. 3, 10, 17 @ 6:15PM – 8:30PM



SEPTEMBER 19 @ 4PM
**OUR LADY OF SORROWS CHURCH
ANNIVERSARY MASS AND GALA**
Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Hartford

Vigil Mass at 4:00 PM. Hors d'oeuvres starting at 5:30 PM and gala dinner at 6:00 PM in the Church Hall. Come celebrate the conclusion of our 130th anniversary year with a special Mass and gala. We will be honoring all our past Saint Joseph Medal recipients. Tickets are \$50.00 each. Contact Joanne Whitehead (860) 202-7118 or Ana Alfaro (860) 881-6088 or the Parish Office (860) 233-4424 to purchase tickets.



SEPTEMBER 22 @ 10AM - 11:30AM
**FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT, THE HEART OF
JOHN'S GOSPEL**
Archdiocese of Hartford Pastoral Center,
Bloomfield

Join us for a mini course on the Gospel of John - Tuesday mornings at the Pastoral Center in Bloomfield beginning September 22. Email Dayanee.Olivieri@aohct.org to register. The spirituality of this Gospel unfolds gradually as each character encounters Jesus, whose mission is sustained by the abiding presence of the Spirit - a presence that strengthens us in our own daily struggles with the world.



SEPTEMBER 20 @ 7:15PM
**FOR HUMANITY'S SAKE: POPE LEO XIV
AND THE AI REVOLUTION**
St. Thomas More Golden Center, New Haven

A public discussion of Magnifica Humanitas, the pope's long anticipated response to the breakneck advance of artificial intelligence and the implications for human flourishing. Join us for this multi-sided conversation with a panel of distinguished experts about the document's premises, arguments, and response thus far, as well as its potential influence on the most consequential technological development of our time. Visit stm.yale.edu to reserve a spot.



SEPTEMBER 18 @ 6PM
FACES OF HOLINESS: SAINTS THROUGH THE AGES
Saint Patrick's Church, Collinsville

An evening of faith, community and art. Learn the inspiring stories of 12 saints expressed through visual art. Each work invites us to reflect on the profound faith, history and spiritual witness of these holy men and women. Feel free to drop in for as long as your schedule permits. Refreshments will be served.



SEPTEMBER 18 - 20
**RETRouvaille MARRIAGE
WORKSHOP WEEKEND**
Windsor

If your marriage has become distant, troubled, unloving or uncaring; if you are divorced or separated but want to try again, Retrouvaille can help. Retrouvaille provides tools to communicate better, resolve conflicts fairly, and re-discover why you fell in love in the first place. Contact us today at helpourmarriage.org or (860) 837-0447 for information or to register.



SEPTEMBER 15 @ 7PM
**HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS
AND PREVENTION PRESENTATION**
St. Paul Parish Hall, Kensington

Join us for a human trafficking awareness and prevention presentation sponsored by the Culture of Life and Social Action Ministries at St. Paul Parish. A member of the Human Trafficking Task Force of the Archdiocese of Hartford will provide an overview of human trafficking and introduce a prevention framework for engaging parishioners in this important work. Participants will learn about key elements of prevention and practical steps that parishes, ministries, and individuals can take to reduce vulnerability and strengthen their communities.



OCTOBER 17 @ 4PM
Mary of the Americas / María en las Américas
The Shrine of María Reina de la Paz, Hartford

Mary of the Americas is an Archdiocesan multicultural Marian celebration that brings together Hispanic Catholic communities and participating parishes from across the Archdiocese of Hartford. The event will include the Holy Rosary and a bilingual Holy Mass, followed by cultural and gastronomic presentations representing various countries of the Americas. Through prayer, faith, music, and cultural traditions, the celebration honors the Blessed Virgin Mary while highlighting the unity and diversity of the Church. All are welcome!

2026 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Scan the QR code to learn how you can make a lasting impact!

10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%



Total Goal: \$10M 99.06% as of 8/20/26

\$9,905,885.63 in pledges from 27,456 generous donors



*This figure does not include bequests given to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal

www.archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal

