

# INVOCATION

APRIL 2024



**Serving Church  
And Community**



# Serving Church and Community



**O**ur Lady of Hope Assembly 2794 representing Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church in Port Orange recently made a presentation at the Fourth Degree Biennial Meeting with details of its successful flag program, which is sold out through mid-2025.

Each month, the Assembly hosts a brief program to change the American flag which waves between the church and Father O’Leary Parish Center. While the honoree is not necessarily a veteran, 80-percent of the flags have honored military veterans and their families. A plaque at the base of the flagpole is changed monthly with information about the honoree.

The charge is a nominal \$35, which can be waived by the Assembly’s Veterans Committee. The program is currently sold out through June 2025.

“This program was not started as a money maker, but rather as a service to our church and community,” FN Bob Gillikin said. “Our flag ceremony is very simple and an easy to start

patriotic program. Our Pastor, Father Matt Mello, has allowed our Assembly to use the flagpole to salute a deceased relative or friend.”

At the first of every month at 10 a.m., rain or shine, the Assembly team gathers for the ceremony. When honoree for the previous month is a veteran, former Army trumpeter SK Andy Duzyk plays the appropriate service song before the flag is lowered, and then plays “Retreat” as the flag is taken down. At the raising of the new flag, the appropriate service song is played, followed by “To the Color.” The new family is then presented with a placard with the information, which is then placed in a weatherproof frame. The retired flag is then folded and presented to the family, along with the placard from the previous month. Before the conclusion, there is a hand salute, recitation of the Hail Mary and the singing of God Bless America.

The program is administered and controlled by the Assembly’s Veterans Committee, led by chairman SK Ray Zall. It is publicized in the parish bulletin and video screen displays prior to weekend Masses.

# Pray For Those Who Persecute You

By State Deputy Richard Hughes

**W**ith Easter season, we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and our renewed hope for sharing eternal life with God in Heaven. It is amazing enough that God's Love is so great that he created us in his image and likeness, and that he took on our humanity, suffering humiliation and death on the Cross for our redemption from sin. But through the Resurrection, he has also shown us that "death does not have the final word", and that we are called to share in the divine life, body and soul, to be with Him in all eternity. Just contemplating this reality should overwhelm us with awe and humility.

This view of human life is a fundamental part of our Catholic beliefs, and underlies the Order's service to the most vulnerable in our society—people with special needs, those that lack the basic necessities of life, women needing assistance to care for young children. But the right to human life itself, particularly for the unborn, is especially important. As the Florida Bishops have put it, "... the respect for human dignity and the fundamental value of human life is of grave importance to both our Church and our state."

A proposed amendment to the Florida Constitution, which will appear on the ballot on November 5, 2024, will effectively permit abortion in Florida in nearly all circumstances. Our Bishops have already issued an eloquent statement in opposition to this amendment, and I certainly cannot improve upon that statement. But the question is—what should we as Knights do?

First, pray. If you already pray, pray more! Our Bishops have already composed a prayer for this specific issue, and I encourage all Councils to make use of this prayer.

Second, support our Bishops and, by extension, all our parishes and our clergy as they work to educate and communicate the position of the Church here in Florida on this proposed amendment

and on abortion. Let's work with them and remember that the laity, in particular, are called to the mission of evangelization in the secular world that we inhabit.

Third, encourage all Knights—and all Catholics—to register to vote, and to vote "No" to this proposed amendment in November.

As we go about this mission, we are bound to encounter those who support this amendment and oppose our position—and perhaps oppose the Church more broadly. We must remember that they too are created in the image and likeness of God, and that God calls them to divine life. And so even those that oppose us with every fiber of their being deserve to be treated with dignity, charity, and patience. The best guide to this is the words of Jesus Himself:

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy'. But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:43-45)

One final admonition: in supporting an issue of such grave importance, it is tempting to bring partisan politics into the fray. Councils and members must remember the strict prohibition of engaging in partisan politics as Knights. As individuals, members are free to exercise their rights and participate in partisan political speech and activity. But when doing so, do not wear the emblem of the Order in any way (such as Council polo shirts or even lapel pins), and do not represent yourself as a Knight.

Veni Sancte Spiritus.



State Deputy  
Richard Hughes



# Draw Strength From the Eucharist

*By State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor*

“We must obey God rather than men. The God of our ancestors raised Jesus, though you had him killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as leader and savior to grant Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins. We are witnesses of these things, as is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.” - Acts of the Apostles (Third Sunday of Easter)

**T**he liturgies of the Easter season are my favorite. They capture the great transformations in the first followers of Jesus from a fearful group hiding in the upper room following Jesus’ crucifixion to courageous dynamos spreading the Good News following his Resurrection and the reception of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. I have seen this transformation in men and women of our time too. Some of them are Knights of Columbus and Columbiettes. You can see it in their lives and actions.



It takes courage today to be a disciple of Jesus and a faithful Knight these days. Our ultimate mission as both is to bring people to Christ on a journey to heaven. This can get lost in the weeds of everyday council meetings and the routine duties our positions entail in the Knights. But, but small things like inviting men to the Order, preparing or serving food at a parish event, attending prayer events, and responding to the charitable needs of our community define who we are.

The Gospel of John which we hear so much

from at Eastertime presents choices to be made between light and darkness, good and evil, faith and unbelief, life and death. In a world where evil is often presented as good, the Gospel is what guides us and offers corrective light to the world. It is the key to happiness and salvation. As Knights, we must carry that light to a darkened world and stand up for what is good and true. It’s not an easy task and we must rely on one another for strength.



*State Chaplain  
Very Rev. Bob Kantor*

Where do we get this strength? A glance at our state pin will remind us that strength comes from the Eucharist. Men fed from the table of our Lord are men of faith. Men of faith have the power to overcome

whatever society throws at us. Working together we too will see the great gains in faith experienced in the Acts of the Apostles if we only persevere in courage. As we grow in faith together, so will our order. So will our Church. And the world will be better for it. Vivat Jesus!

# Passover, Passover

By Former State Chaplain Reverend Salvatore Pignato

**F**or centuries, the Hebrew people celebrated Passover in remembrance when Moses led the Hebrews out of Egypt. In reading the Old Testament, we can see the history of sacrifice starting with Abraham himself. It was the shedding of the blood of the lamb that was acceptable to God.

Again, looking at the Exodus event, Moses told the Hebrews in Egypt to put the blood of the lamb on their door jambs so that the angel of death would not harm them. In the Exodus, you could say that the blood of the lamb on the doorjamb was a saving action for the Hebrews. The word Passover was chosen to celebrate the Exodus in the form of a meal in order to commemorate the angel of death who "passed over" the Hebrews who put the blood of the sacrificial lamb on their door jamb. This is the background Jesus was born into. This Hebrew religion and its rituals is what Jesus lived and practiced.

In the New Testament, we see Jesus celebrating a Passover meal. This was His thirty-third one. Only this time, something else was going to happen. Jesus instituted the Eucharist. The next day, He shed His Blood for forgiveness

of sin, our inherited sin of Adam and Eve that we call Original Sin.

On that Good Friday, Jesus became the final and totally acceptable Sacrifice to God. Passover, Passover! On Holy Thursday and Good Friday Jesus, that acceptable Sacrifice to God became for us our



Former State Chaplain  
Rev. Salvatore Pignato



own Passover. The Blood of the Lamb of God was shed for our salvation on the Cross for our salvation and for the forgiveness of sin. The Son of God passed over us, and also on the Cross and also in His Resurrection opened, once again, the Gates of Heaven for us.

We are still celebrating this Passover of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus until Ascension Thursday. Let us continue to be joyous then, singing Christ is Risen because Jesus died and rose for us. Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!



# We Are an Easter People

by State Treasurer Joseph Coicou

**I**n the grand tapestry of Catholic organizations, the Knights of Columbus have emerged as a dynamic force, embodying the spirit of Easter through their commitment to faith, service, and community. As we delve into the transformative power of the Easter message, we explore how the Knights can continue to be what Saint John Paul II called us Catholics an "Easter people" by embracing the values of resurrection, hope, and renewal.

## **A Foundation of Faith:**

At the core of the Knights of Columbus is a steadfast commitment to the Catholic faith. To truly become an Easter people, the Knights can deepen their spiritual roots by fostering a culture of prayer, reflection, and theological understanding. Regular spiritual retreats, Bible studies, and personal and communal prayer opportunities can strengthen their connection to the resurrection narrative, infusing their actions with a more profound sense of purpose.

## **Charity as a Resurrection Act:**

Easter is a celebration of new life, and the Knights of Columbus have a rich tradition of charitable work. To fully embody the Easter spirit, they can expand their charitable initiatives, focusing on projects that bring transformation and renewal. Whether supporting local communities, aiding refugees, or championing pro-life causes, the Knights can channel the resurrection message into concrete acts of love and compassion.

## **Building Stronger Families and Communities:**

Easter is a gathering time, and the Knights of Columbus can strengthen their commitment to family and community life. By fostering family-oriented programs, supporting local initiatives, and actively participating in community events, the Knights can create spaces where all tangibly experience the Easter message of love, unity, and renewal.

## **Defenders of Hope:**

In a world often marked by challenges to faith and hope, the Knights of Columbus can be defenders of hope by actively engaging in conversations that promote understanding and unity. Interfaith dialogues, participation in social justice movements, and advocacy for religious freedom are powerful ways the Knights can stand as witnesses to the transformative hope found in the Easter message.



State Treasurer  
Joseph Coicou

## **Educating and Inspiring:**

As an Easter people, the Knights of Columbus can inspire others by actively sharing the beauty of the resurrection message. Educational programs, seminars, and outreach efforts can be powerful tools for spreading the Easter spirit beyond the Knights' membership, encouraging individuals and communities to embrace the transformative power of faith and hope.

## **Conclusion:**

In a world hungering for the message of Easter, the Knights of Columbus have the potential to be a radiant example of an Easter people. By deepening their faith, expanding their charitable endeavors, defending hope, strengthening families and communities, and actively educating and inspiring others, the Knights can ensure that the transformative message of Easter is not only celebrated within their ranks but is a beacon of light for all. As they continue their journey, the Knights of Columbus can embody the Easter spirit, bringing renewal and hope to a world in need.

# Assembly Supports Veterans



**F**or the sixth consecutive year, Msgr. John F. Scully Assembly 3418 of Riverview, FL, provided an annual dinner for the residents of the Fisher House located at James A. Haley VA Hospital at 13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., in Tampa, FL. The Fisher House Foundation provides comfort homes where military and veteran families can stay free of charge while a loved one is in the hospital. Meals are not provided, but volunteer groups, such as the Knights of Columbus, often bring in large dinners for the residents.

This year the Assembly Dinner consisted of two 11-12lb.Hams, eight Oven Baked Roasted Chickens, Mac and Cheese, sides, salads, drinks and desserts. The VAVS staff reported that they served at least 50 people and residents were still coming into the dining room at 800PM. One lady was so very grateful for the meal, that she said she had a very long and hard day and this is what the Fisher House is all about. She added “The motto is, "A Family's love is good medicine".... but I'll

add, good food around the dining room table sure is comforting too”. Another lady was reported to have cried when she saw the spread of food. This type of feedback is deeply rewarding and makes us proud to be members of the Knights of Columbus and proud and honored to serve our Veterans and their families. Special Thanks to SKs Jerry Coffey, Rich Sarnowski, Roland Tiso and Mark Lovejoy who provided the manpower for this worthy event.





# Supporting Warriors to Lourdes



On Tuesday, April 16th, twenty men from Assembly #2709 Our Lady of Peace held a fundraiser at Drive Shack in West Palm Beach, Florida. Proceeds go to support the assembly's backing of the Warriors to Lourdes Program at Supreme. For a couple of hours in the morning, brother Knights came together to hit some golf balls from the range and share in some fraternal fellowship. Past Faithful Navigator William "Bill" Blakely organized the event which saw the Assembly raise the funds in order to send Supreme the full \$3000.00 that it takes to sponsor a Warrior this year. This maintains the goal that Assembly #2709 has each year to assist veteran-focused charities like this one. The event was attended by Knights from Council #8419 M.J. Benvenuti in Wellington, Council #12376 Our Lady Queen of the Apostles in Royal Palm Beach and Council 8017 Sacred Heart in Okeechobee. Bragging rights were provided through the various interactive games which kept the competitive spirit lively for everyone involved. Light refreshments were served, courtesy of Drive Shack, which helped to make the event a hit. Afterwards, brother Knights left, looking forward to next year's event, which will hopefully be an even greater success.

Each year, the Knights of Columbus works in partnership with the Archdiocese for the Military Services to send non-wounded, wounded, ill and injured United States veterans on a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France for a period of prayer and spiritual guidance. Support from the councils and assemblies throughout the country helps Supreme to provide this admirable service. This year, the Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage will take place May 21-27, 2024. We pray for the safe travels of all involved and particularly pray for healing, through the intercession of the Blessed Mother, for all those veterans who have served our country with honor.





# Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

*By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori*

“By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.” (Gospel for April 28, Jn 15:8)

**H**ave you noticed the progression in the challenges over the past months? If we recognize who Jesus truly is, we must listen to him and serve him. We have St. Joseph as a true model of that faithful service and discipleship. Now we are told that the Father is glorified through our discipleship and the fruit we bear. By being faithful disciples of Christ, may we bear much fruit and so glorify the Father.

## **Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:**

This month, I challenge you to prayerfully ask yourself if you are bearing much fruit as a disciple of Christ and then identify and undertake one way you can be more fruitful.

### **Questions for Reflection:**

What fruit do you currently bear — in your marriage and family, in your relationships at work or among friends, and in the broader community? Are you mindful of the needs of those around you and the opportunities they present to bear fruit? Are there things you can do to become still more fruitful in your Christian witness?

## Are You A Member?

**T**he Blessed Michael J. McGivney Guild serves as a source for information about the life, works and spirituality of Father McGivney.

The Guild distributes informational materials about him, receives reports of favors granted through his intercession and oversees the distribution of relics.

Guild members receive regular updates on the progress of Blessed Michael J. McGivney's



cause for canonization and are invited to participate in promoting devotion to this Servant of God. Members of the Knights of Columbus are not automatically Guild members and must elect to join the Guild.

The Blessed Michael J. McGivney Guild Newsletter is published bimonthly except July - August, and is sent free to Guild members.

To join the Guild, register online at: <http://www.fathermcgivney.org/> †

**D**id you know that the State of Florida Council has a YouTube Channel? Well, we do! This is a place where we can put in videos of the all the great things that we do as Knights in the State of Florida.

During the State Convention we took video interviews of some of the Dignitaries that honored us with their presence. You can

see the videos by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Please be sure to subscribe to the channel so you will be notified when new videos are added. If you have any videos that you would like to add that shows your Council doing good works please email Jim Clark, Broadcast Media Relations and Production Director at [jclark1@gmail.com](mailto:jclark1@gmail.com).



# Knights Support Laps For Life

**M**ore than 50 members of the Knights of Columbus were joined by walkers of all ages at the eighth annual Terry Cassidy Memorial Coastal Laps for Life on Saturday, March 23 at Father Lopez Catholic High School.

The initiative has placed 13 ultrasound machines to date in faith-based women's pregnancy centers. This year's event raised funds to place additional ultrasound machines along with the newest KofC program, Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP).

The event was hosted by Our Lady of Hope Council 8086 of Port Orange and Father Downey



Council 4934 of New Smyrna Beach, joined by Knights from the Ormond Beach and Orlando areas.



*New Smyrna Council helps veterans with doctor's visits  
Chancellor Patrick Clark of Father Downey of Council 4934 of New Smyrna Beach recently presented a \$250 donation check to American Legion Post 285 Honor Guard Captain Myron Gorski. This will assist in their Transportation Van expenses that carry Vets to and from doctor's visits.*





# Knights Support Wellness Seminar



**K**nights of Columbus, Blessed Mother Council 13338 of Emmanuel Parish in Delray Beach continued with its wellness seminars presenting its third in a series with: “Mending the Heart Physically and Spiritually.”

This meaningful presentation occurred on March 10th, 2024 at our Church’s Columbus Hall and we were privileged to have two highly respected individuals: Dr. Kushagra Katariya, MD, FACS, and Rev. Fr. Gaudioso Zamora, to address the 100+ parishioners who attended this seminar.

Dr. Kush, as he likes to be called, is a Cardiothoracic Surgeon, a Diplomate in the American Boards of Surgery and of Thoracic Surgery, and in practice for more than 20 years. His extensive medical education began at the University of Delhi, India, through many medical centers including internship and Chief Resident at New York’s Albert Einstein College of Medicine

and a Fellowship in Miami’s Jackson Medical Center/University.

Father Zamora is Pastor at Emmanuel Church; he is our parish spiritual director and Chaplain of our Knights of Columbus, Blessed Mother Council.

Dr. Kush provided an audio/visual presentation of several critical areas of importance, relating to medical heart issues dealing with mitral and aortic valve surgery, and of particular interest, the advances in Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement.

He described the need to avoid certain heart disease risks that contribute to heart damage, which have the potential to impact quality of life. Those risks included: smoking, stress, alcohol, lack of physical activity and high cholesterol, among others, mentioning that heart disease kills more people than cancer.

He spoke of varied treatments available to heart patients, such as angioplasty, stenting, bypass



surgery, valve repair. But of particular interest was his explanation of the Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement procedure - (TAVR), which is now offered as a unique advanced heart surgery option.

Earlier aortic valve replacement required open heart surgery with its obvious risks and complications. With TAVR, as a minimally invasive procedure, a catheter with the replacement valve at its tip is inserted into a blood vessel, usually in the groin or chest area, and then guided with imaging tools to the valve location in the heart. With the new valve securely in place, the doctor then removes the catheter - really quite remarkable.

Many questions arose that concerned ct scan imaging, EKG problems, by-pass surgery, and one woman even brought up an issue about a “broken heart.” Dr. Kush explained that indeed there exists a medical term called: “broken heart syndrome.” He said that instances of this syndrome resulted from very deep emotional feelings, and in some cases involving heart transplants, the recipient inexplicably seemed to inherit the feelings of the donor’s heart, which is also quite remarkable.

Really, we were all enlightened with Dr. Kush’s vivid talk and presentation and pleased to know that medical advances have given us the potential of lengthening and improving our lives.

Yet, while it’s understood that our body’s physical side needs attention, our bodies also do indeed have a spiritual side that require care and healing, which brought us to the next aspect of this wellness seminar and which Fr. Zamora so prominently addressed for our benefit.

As pastor and spiritual leader, he brings, through the sacraments, a keen spiritual direction both to our council and our entire parish. He shepherds our parish which celebrates decades of serving the community, and which he specifies: “Our vision is to make our parish a family.”

In his presentation, Fr. Zamora explained how life is a gift, given to us by God, through whom we have freedom and free will. It is by this free will that we must look to protect, not just our body, but our soul, our spirit, which too can be sick, through prayer and sacramental healing.

Sacramental healing, he said, can be achieved through imploring the Holy Spirit, through the anointing forgiveness of the sick, and also through confession and absolution, each of which will help to bring us to higher understanding and strengthening of our spiritual life.

Fr. Zamora explained that Jesus, during his ministry, performed many healing events, all of which required on the part of the person to be healed, first a desire for healing and then a belief in the healing. The most important aspect centered on the faith of the person that he will indeed be healed, which Fr. Zamora emphasized equally applied today to each of us.

Fr. Zamora completed his presentation with healing prayers followed by anointing, which sacrament for healing consists of three distinct parts: the prayer of faith, the laying-on of hands, and the anointing of oil of the head and hand. All participated and we were all indeed grateful for the experience.

As part of the afternoon program, refreshments were served to which we owe appreciation to our Membership Director, Chuck Dolce, for a wonderful choice of Danish pastries.

Our thanks also especially go to all who attended to help make this event a true success, which was organized by the Florida State Council, Region 6 PR Coordinator and our Council’s Faith Director, Armando Minutoli, along with co-chairmen, Peter Cavanaugh and Dominic Scaduto. We received many positive remarks from those present and it was a distinct pleasure for us to have the opportunity to have so important a topic presented by Dr. Katariya and our Pastor, Fr. Zamora.



# Knights Respond for Haiti Rescue

The news from Haiti was dire: government collapse, gangs in the streets, shooting victims left to rot, kidnappings and ransom demands, missionaries and aid workers hiding from the carnage.

When pleas for help from the U.S. government were rebuffed, two Florida Knights of Columbus came to the rescue with a daring midnight helicopter rescue of 10 aid workers: noted American columnist and author Mitch Albom, his wife and eight volunteers at a Port-au-Prince orphanage.

Albom, who wrote movingly of caring for a Haitian orphan in *Finding Chika* and his best-selling memoir *Tuesdays With Morrie*, was unable to flee the unrest or get help until reaching out to Florida congressman Cory Mills.

Mills, who served in the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division from 1999 to 2004, personally mounted an overland rescue of a family of four from Afghanistan during the chaotic American withdrawal in 2021. This time, he turned for help to Anthony Marinello, owner of Tropic Air Charters in Fort Lauderdale. And Marinello, a former Army First Sergeant and New Jersey State Police helicopter pilot, enlisted his friend with a similar service and pilot background, Benny Matos of Jupiter.

Marinello and Matos, both members of the Knights of Columbus, agreed to pilot a Tropic Air helicopter for the rescue mission to Haiti March 11, quickly settling on a high-risk night flight over the border from the Dominican Republic.

“When I heard American citizens and orphans, I knew I had to go,” Matos recalled.

They timed their run to be over Port-au-Prince at 3 a.m. Flying above cloud cover until the last



moment, they dove down to skim rooftops looking for the target building flashing pre-arranged signal lights, hoping the deafening noise and low altitude would confound any belligerents. They quickly slid-landed in front of the orphanage and scrambled to help the 10 on board, barely meeting weight limits. They were back in the air in two minutes.

“The bad guys wouldn’t have time to put on their shoes before we were gone,” Marinello said.

Back again above the clouds, they put down in an abandoned airfield in the Dominican Republic, where Congressman Mills and Special Forces veteran Brian Young and the passengers – including a Canadian and Frenchman -- deplaned to catch commercial flights back to the States.

Oblivious to his passenger’s notoriety at the time, Marinello recalled Albom shaking hands on his way out. “Hi, I’m Mitch,” he said. Hi, I’m Tony, I replied.”

Matos, who is a financial field agent for the Knights since moving to Florida and was ordained



to the Catholic permanent diaconate in 2023, noted Mills' rosary arm tattoo when they met. "I opened my shirt to show him the rosary I wore around my neck," Matos said. "We have that in common."

Mills called on Matos to pray with the group before takeoff.

The dramatic rescue was followed by stories in the Detroit newspapers, where Albom lives, and the Washington Post. But the pilots went unrecognized. Marinello, who is using the former military helicopter to mount an airborne ambulance service to the Bahamas, said he's received more requests for help from Haiti, but doubts that a second run could be as successful.

"Next time, the bad guys would be ready for us," he said.

Meanwhile, the U.S. embassy in Haiti March 16 announced plans to help other Americans escape Haiti and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis arranged for chartered flights.

Postscript: Marinello apparently had a change of mind. On March 20, he and Matos returned to Haiti and rescued another 14 Americans – eight children and six adults. This time Matos had to fight off two men who tried to stop him from returning to the helicopter before takeoff.

Matos is a KofC field agent for Council 4955. Marinello has transferred to 4955.

They were honored guests at the council's St. Patrick Dinner Dance March 16 at St. Ambrose Church in Deerfield Beach.

## Saint Vincent DePaul Food Drive

The Knights of Columbus, Saint Patrick council 10853, in Mount Dora just completed their annual food drive for the Saint Vincent DePaul Society. On March 2-3 at each of the weekend Masses, brother Knights were handing out paper bags to the parishioners as they left Mass and were instructed to bring the bags back the following weekend full of non-perishable items.

These food donations were then collected on March 9-10 and put into a transport truck. The food was then sorted and stocked at the Saint Vincent DePaul office at the Saint Mary of the Lakes Parish in Eustis.

"This is a program that our council and brother knights can really get behind, because we are supporting the needs of our community" remarked Grand Knight John Bottoms. "The guys really did a great job over both weekends making sure everything was taken care of."

Saint Patrick's parishioners did an amazing job supporting us with their generosity of 285 bags



collected. The council also welcomed a "special guest" who was visiting Mount Dora and attended the 9:30 Mass. State Warden Ed Sleyzak and his wife Tina spent time before and after Mass meeting the local council members and they both thanked the council for a job well done.



**FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS**  
*The nonpartisan public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Florida*

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**Florida Bishops Oppose Extreme Abortion Amendment**  
***Vote No on Amendment 4***

Florida Amendment 4, which will appear on Florida’s November 2024 ballot, is an extreme proposal that legalizes full-term abortion with no protections for the preborn child, including when the child is capable of feeling pain. This proposed amendment to our state constitution would prohibit all restrictions on abortion before viability and create a broad exception that any healthcare provider could exploit to allow abortion up to birth.

Furthermore, the amendment would effectively overturn or seriously jeopardize common-sense state laws that have regulated abortion for years. These include basic health and safety requirements for clinics where abortions are performed, requiring a physician to perform abortions, informed consent requirements, laws limiting public funding of abortion, and parental consent requirements before a minor’s abortion.<sup>i</sup> These risks demonstrate the extreme nature of the amendment.

We urge all Floridians of goodwill to stand against the legalization of late-term abortion and oppose the abortion amendment. In doing so, we will not only protect the weakest, most innocent, and defenseless of human life among us but also countless women throughout the state from the harms of abortion.

Human life is sacred. The dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision of society. Direct attacks on innocent persons are never morally acceptable, at any stage or in any condition. In our state, human life is repeatedly being destroyed by abortion. Over 84,000 vulnerable and voiceless children were aborted in Florida in 2023.

This matter concerning the respect for human dignity and the fundamental value of human life is of grave importance to both our Church and our state. The threat of abortion remains our pre-eminent public policy priority. Therefore, we support a coordinated campaign to mobilize against the proposed amendment. To this end, we offer this prayer to defeat Amendment 4:

*Ever-living God, you give life and desire a future for all your children. Take hold of our nation, state and community and awaken in every heart awe for the gift of life. Send your Spirit to strengthen us with wisdom and fortitude as we defend mothers and children in Florida from laws that disregard their health and safety.*

*Mary and Joseph trusted in you and welcomed Jesus into our broken world. God Almighty, we ask their intercession to protect the preborn and their mothers, and to guide all parents in raising their children. May they help us build a civilization of love by upholding the sacredness of life and accompanying pregnant women in need.*

*We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

*Our Lady, Mother of the Family, pray for us! St. Joseph, Protector of the Unborn, pray for us!*

**Most Rev. Thomas G. Wenski**  
 Archdiocese of Miami

**Most Rev. Gerald M. Barbarito**  
 Diocese of Palm Beach

**Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane**  
 Diocese of Venice

**Most Rev. John G. Noonan**  
 Diocese of Orlando

**Most Rev. Gregory L. Parkes**  
 Diocese of St. Petersburg

**Most Rev. William A. Wack, CSC**  
 Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

**Most Rev. Erik T. Pohlmeier**  
 Diocese of St. Augustine

**Most Rev. Enrique E. Delgado**  
 Archdiocese of Miami

<sup>i</sup> Florida law distinguishes between parental *consent* prior to a minor’s abortion (Ch. 390.0114(5)), which would be invalidated by Amendment 4, and parental *notice* of a minor’s abortion (Ch. 390.0114(4)), which would be retained.





**CONFERENCIA DE OBISPOS CATOLICOS DE LA FLORIDA**  
*La voz no partidista de la política pública de la Iglesia Católica en Florida*

201 West Park Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-7715 \* (850) 205-6820 \* www.flaccb.org

**Obispos de la Florida se Oponen a la Enmienda Extrema sobre el Aborto**  
***Voten No en la Enmienda 4***

La Enmienda 4 de la Florida, que aparecerá en la papeleta electoral de la Florida en noviembre de 2024, es una propuesta extrema que legaliza el aborto a término sin ninguna protección para el niño antes de nacer, incluso cuando el niño es capaz de sentir dolor. Esta propuesta para enmendar la constitución de nuestro estado prohibiría todas las restricciones al aborto antes de la viabilidad y crearía una amplia excepción que cualquier profesional de la salud podría aprovechar para permitir el aborto hasta el nacimiento.

Además, la enmienda anularía o pondría en grave peligro las leyes estatales de sentido común que han regulado el aborto durante años. Entre ellas se incluyen los requisitos fundamentales de salud y seguridad para las clínicas donde se practican los abortos; la necesidad de que sea un médico quien realice los abortos; los requisitos de consentimiento informado; las leyes que limitan la financiación pública del aborto; y los requisitos de consentimiento parental antes del aborto de una menor.<sup>1</sup> Estos riesgos demuestran la naturaleza extrema de la enmienda.

Exhortamos a todos los floridanos de buena voluntad a que luchen contra la legalización del aborto tardío y se opongan a la enmienda sobre el aborto. Al hacerlo, no sólo protegeremos las vidas humanas más débiles, inocentes e indefensas entre nosotros, sino también a innumerables mujeres de todo el estado contra los daños del aborto.

La vida humana es sagrada. La dignidad de la persona humana es el cimiento de una visión moral de la sociedad. Los ataques directos a personas inocentes nunca son aceptables moralmente, en ninguna etapa ni condición. En nuestro estado, la vida humana se destruye repetidamente por el aborto. En 2023, más de 84,000 niños vulnerables y sin voz fueron abortados en la Florida.

Este asunto sobre el respeto de la dignidad humana y del valor fundamental de la vida humana es de gran importancia tanto para nuestra Iglesia como para nuestro estado. La amenaza del aborto continúa siendo nuestra prioridad preeminente en la política pública. Por lo tanto, apoyamos una campaña coordinada para movilizarnos contra la enmienda propuesta. Con este fin, ofrecemos esta oración para derrotar la Enmienda 4:

*Dios eterno: Tú das la vida y deseas un futuro para todos tus hijos. Apodérate de nuestra nación, estado y comunidad, y despierta en cada corazón la admiración por el regalo de la vida. Envía tu Espíritu para reforzarnos con sabiduría y fortaleza mientras defendemos a las madres y a los niños de la Florida de las leyes que desprecian su salud y su seguridad.*

*María y José confiaron en ti y recibieron a Jesús en nuestro mundo quebrantado. Dios todopoderoso, pedimos que ellos intercedan para proteger a los niños por nacer y a sus madres, y dirigir a todos los padres y madres en la crianza de sus hijos. Que nos ayuden a construir la civilización del amor al defender el carácter sagrado de la vida y acompañar a las mujeres embarazadas que así lo necesiten.*

*Te lo pedimos por Cristo, nuestro Señor. Amén.*

*Nuestra Señora, Madre de la Familia, ¡ruega por nosotros! San José, Protector de los No Nacidos, ¡ruega por nosotros!*

**Reverendísimo Thomas G. Wenski**  
Arquidiócesis de Miami

**Reverendísimo Gerald M. Barbarito**  
Diócesis de Palm Beach

**Reverendísimo Frank J. Dewane**  
Diócesis de Venice

**Reverendísimo John G. Noonan**  
Diócesis de Orlando

**Reverendísimo Gregory L. Parkes**  
Diócesis de St. Petersburg

**Reverendísimo William A. Wack, CSC**  
Diócesis de Pensacola-Tallahassee

**Reverendísimo Erik T. Pohlmeier**  
Diócesis de St. Augustine

**Reverendísimo Enrique E. Delgado**  
Arquidiócesis de Miami

<sup>1</sup>La ley de la Florida distingue entre el consentimiento parental previo al aborto de una menor (Cap. 390.01114(5)), que sería invalidada por la enmienda 4, y la notificación parental del aborto de una menor (Cap. 390.01114(4)), que permanecería.

# INVOCATION

## Knights of Columbus Florida State Council Newsletter How To Write an Article

**Newsworthy • Broad Appeal • Concise • Complete • Factual • Accurate**  
**Answers the Questions: Who, What, When, Where, Why & How**

**INVOCATION reports on local council activities throughout the entire State of Florida**

- Article size: **300 words** ideal (half page) to 500-600 words max (full page)
- Articles submitted as an attachment in Word format - not in the body of an email
  - PDF submissions are for ads or promotions - not articles
- Pictures need to be sent separately as an attachment and the original pictures **Please do not format them in any way, we will do it**-- not embedded in a Word document
- **Articles need to be brief, highly relevant and actionable**
- **At a minimum, Who, What, When and Where needs to be in the first paragraph,**
- Articles need to be brief, to-the-point and **of interest** to the entire State Council
  - What is the event/activity about?
  - Whom did it benefit?
  - What was the result?
  - Who are the key players/Knights?
- **Similar story** submissions will be consolidated/batched into one article by the Editors
- Authors must submit on time per the Editor production calendar- **Deadline 1<sup>st</sup> of each month**
  - Late submittals will be placed farther down the newsletter or not published.
- Proof your article carefully for spelling and grammar before sending (**use spellcheck**)
- Document filename should reflect the office/title, i.e. State Deputy article
- Every Region needs to participate – one page of the Invocation will be dedicated to each Region respectively
  - If a region does not submit content their page will be eliminated from that issue
- Cover story submissions need to be submitted ahead of the deadline due to special photo editing
  - Cover story photos – in portrait style at least 1mb in size - not formatted or resized
  - filename “Cover Story”

Send all information:

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Region 2: [Invocation@floridakofc.org](mailto:Invocation@floridakofc.org)

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For general information or questions email: [invocation@floridakofc.org](mailto:invocation@floridakofc.org)





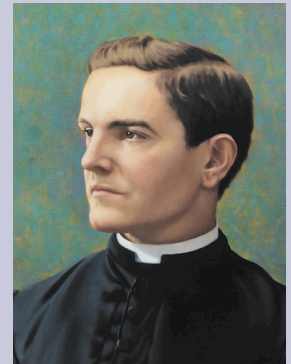
**Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael J. McGivney**

**G**od, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed 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 venerable servant Blessed Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will.*

*Through His intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request).*



## Is Your Personal Information Accurate?

**E**very member of the Knights of Columbus in the Florida jurisdiction is listed on the Florida KofC website. Financial Secretaries update council lists on the Supreme and State websites at least quarterly. To ensure your information is correct, please review the brief YouTube video link below to confirm that your personal information and your preferred contact information is correct.

The 5-minute video describes how to log on or gain initial access, and reviews how to correct or confirm your personal information.

Please note that if you are a State, Assembly or Council officer, chairman or director, you must remain subscribed to the State Council's email list. Failure to do so will result in you missing important communications concerning your position and may result in your forfeiture of that position.

Follow the instructions on the video <https://youtu.be/IVS3XkgiUs> and while you are on the site, check out the other good news and information is available to you with just a click or two.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL  
MISSION STATEMENT

Evangelize and proclaim our faith, protect families, and perform works of charity.

Through our witness and deeds attract Catholic men to our Order.

Build the Domestic Church through service, support our parishes, clergy, and communities.

Incorporate principled fiscal responsibility for charitable giving.

## The Florida State Logo





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## Florida State Council Social Media

Your State Council is now on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and You Tube. We need all Brother Knights to participate and Let Your Light Shine.

- Go to Facebook and "LIKE" the page
- Go to Twitter and Instagram and "follow"
- #LetYourLightShine @KofcFlorida



## Knightline

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.  
ESTABLISHED 1971 • Volume 24 • Number 1 • www.kofc.org

Check out the current issue of **Knightline**, a monthly resource for local KofC leaders. It is designed to help council officers plan events and activities, meet quarterly goals for the fraternal year and learn about Orderwide news. [CLICK HERE](#) to download the issue.

## COLUMBIA

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the online version of **COLUMBIA** Magazine, a publication for the Knights of Columbus.



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— THE —  
*Catholic*  
**DIFFERENCE**