

# INVOCATION

JUNE 2023



## Military Chaplains

# Serving Those Who Serve

*This article by Gregory N. Todd of the Religion News Service will be of interest to every Knight, especially members of the Fourth Degree.*

All three sea services need more chaplains — but the recruiting deficit is extreme.

Not since the end of the Cold War has the Department of the Navy wanted to increase the size of the Chaplain Corps: Those religious ministry professionals dedicated to the well-being of sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and their families.

And yet, that's where we are today: All three sea services want and need more chaplains.

It's not that the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard have prescribed religion. The federal government and the U.S. Military, while deferential, are agnostic to faith and religion. This is as it should be; one's faith and one's soul are too important to allow the government to have a say. It's personal, and it's sacred.

Our leadership, though, recognizes that when human beings attend to all aspects of their humanity — mind, body and spirit — they are happier, more resilient and more ready to face the challenges of military service.

Sound like a concept cooked up by the Chaplain Corps or maybe a philosophy class? Not so. More than 30 years of peer-reviewed research from

Columbia University, Duke and Harvard in mental health, epidemiology and spirituality demonstrate the value of the spiritual for human flourishing. For example, those engaged in spiritual practices (including religion) are 50-80% less likely to die by suicide, 60% less likely to suffer depression, 80% less likely to suffer addiction and 70% less likely to participate in risky behaviors.

Dr. Lisa Miller, of Columbia University, has spent a career researching how spiritual practices impact depression and other disorders, most

notably the rise in suicide among young adults. She states that there is no protective factor identified by the clinical sciences that in scope or scale compares to the protective benefits of religious and spiritual engagement against suicide.

Our leaders' desire for more chaplains in the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard is purely a matter of taking care of people. Chaplains have proven themselves as a resource to

strengthen the force and are outstanding partners with mental health professionals to get people the help needed should they find themselves in crisis. More chaplains simply means more care for our people.

Throughout our history, America's religious organizations have encouraged the Navy to adequately provide for the religious needs of sea service personnel, but we cannot provide for their needs where there are no chaplains.



## INVOCATION

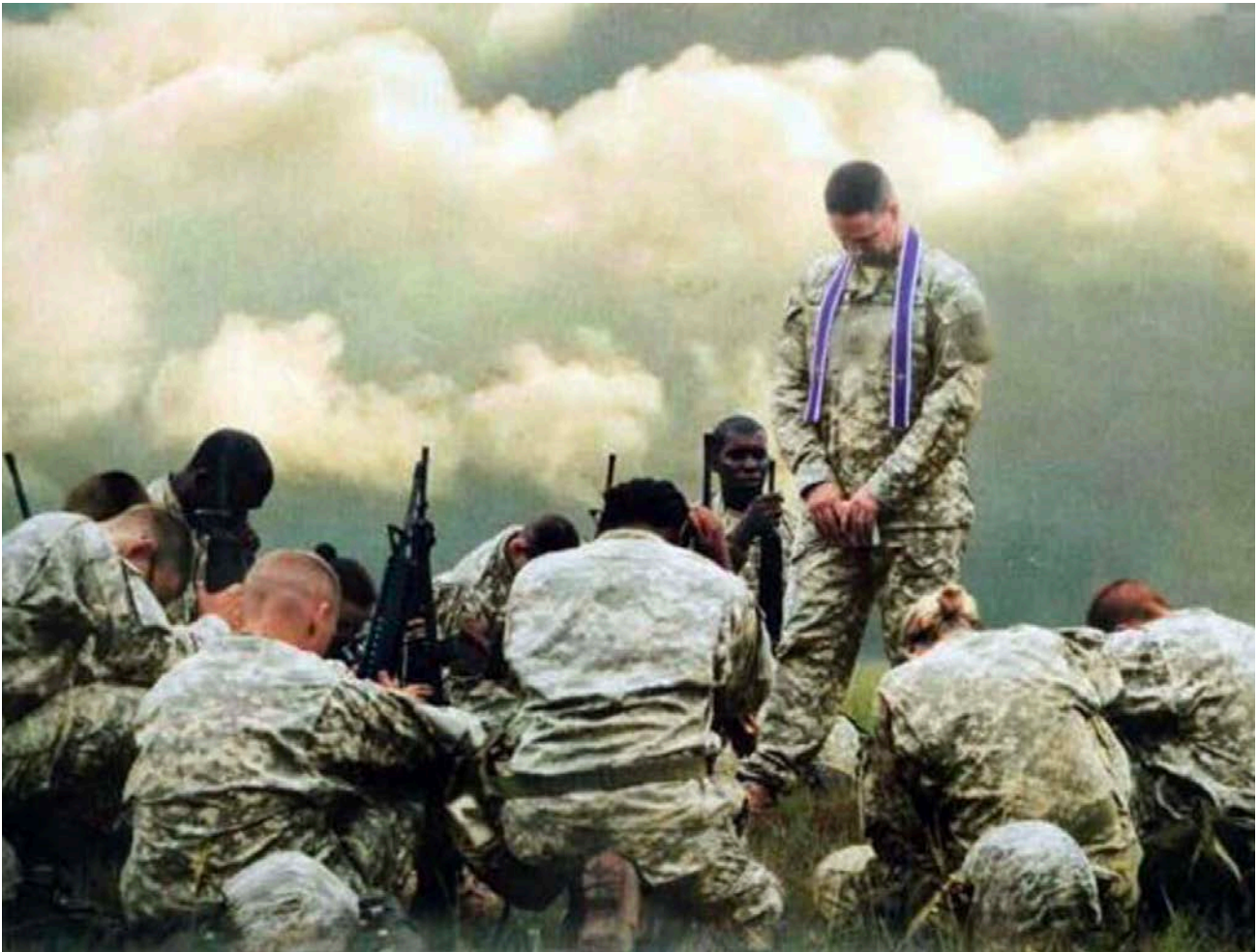


In order to care for the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, the Navy needs chaplains, and, despite the Department of the Navy asking for more, the recruiting deficit is extreme. In this fiscal year, the Navy needs 70 new chaplains for active duty. So far, we've only brought 18 on board. For the Naval Reserve, we need 20 new chaplains,

but only 12 have become part of the team. This puts the Navy Chaplain Corps at a disadvantage in caring for the religious and spiritual needs of sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and their families.

I am appealing to America's religious organizations and their leaders to prioritize ministry to the Americans who have chosen to serve our nation. The bulk of our "flock" are 18- to 25-year-olds, often faced with adult challenges for the first time in their lives. We need more chaplains to care for these young people and their families. I consider these young people America's greatest treasure, and it is a sacred honor and privilege to care for them.

Please, send the Navy more of your best and brightest to serve as Navy chaplains. (Rear Admiral Gregory N. Todd is chief of Navy Chaplains)



# Final Thoughts

By State Deputy Rob Urrutia

**W**ow, what a ride it has been. The past 8 years have been filled with excitement and joy. And yes, some downtrodden times as well. But the good outweigh the bad. I was able to meet many great people throughout my travels.

From the Panhandle to Miami and everything in between. Unfortunately, I did not make it to Key West and the Bahamas. I am hoping that I can make it down there sometime in the next year or so.

My top 3 things I got to be a part of was the following. Having 9 Past State Deputies attend the convention. It was an honor to be with many Past State Deputies that helped make Florida what it is today. 2nd thing that was special to me was this past State Convention and having our Supreme Secretary Patrick Mason, Our Immediate Past Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, and our very own Supreme Master Emeritus Dennis Stoddard in attendance.

Having these Sir Knights in attendance was a lot of fun. My 3rd is a tossup between throwing out the first pitch at a Miami Marlins game and attending the Coke Zero 400 for Special Olympics. There are so many more, but not enough space to write them down.

As we start June we are almost at our goal for membership. Just because the convention is over doesn't mean we are finished for the year. We need to continue to press the rest of the month to

get our numbers and to continue the momentum to the new fraternal year. If every district gets 4 new members in June we will reach the pinnacle level at Supreme. That is a lot but achievable for Florida. We need to be on top so we can walk even taller at the Supreme Convention in Orlando.

This year's Supreme Convention is in Orlando. Please make sure you register for the hospitality opportunities we have. From 4th degree, to Transportation, and for greeters. We need a lot of support and help. Don't delay register today!

I would like to congratulate Brother Rick Hughes as our new State Deputy. He is the right man at the right time as we continue to grow the order in membership. Please give him as much support and prayers as you gave me. Congratulations to the other elected officers. State Secretary Mike Gizewski, State Treasurer Joseph Coicou, State Advocate Robert Rasch, and State Warden Ed Sleyzak. May our prayers continue to lead them these next few years. Make sure you reach out to them and congratulate them all.

I would like to Thank my staff these past 2 years for making them successful and rewarding. It takes



State Deputy  
Robert Urrutia



a team to knock down goliath and achieve success. Specially like to Thank Fr. Robert Kantor for his prayers, Spiritual guidance, and a Friend. Danny McIntyre for doing an exceptional job in leading our membership efforts. Rich Dahn for keeping Charities heading in the right direction and to Kris Elliott for all the work he put in for the Programs team. The board members Rick, Michael, Robert, Joseph, Ed for supporting me during these past 2

years. To Brother Lorenzo for making the small things happen and to the Master John O’Toole for the work he done for us. Brother Bob and Tuey for making these events seem seamless. Thank you Thank you Thank you,

From my Wife Lucille and I one last Thank you for all your love and support. Remember we are not done yet. We have 29 days to go!

# Newly Elected State Officers

Congratulations to the new officers elected at the 119th Florida State Council Convention May 2023 Please keep them in your prayers as they lead the Florida State Council for the next 2 years.



State Deputy Richard Hughes



State Secretary Mike Gizewski



State Warden Ed Sleyzak



State Advocate Robert Rasch



State Treasurer Joseph Coicou

# Rely on the Holy Spirit

*By State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor*

**“He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” - John 20:22**

**O**ur recent celebration of Pentecost was a great reminder that it is the Holy Spirit who inspires all that we do as Catholics and Knights of Columbus. This year, Memorial Day weekend coincided with Pentecost at the Florida State Council Convention where the Sunday Mass readings took on special meaning. The post-resurrection appearance of the risen Christ in the upper room and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost brought about powerful effects ... peace, courage, the ability to communicate across all boundaries, and being sent on mission. Pentecost is not a one-time action. The Holy Spirit brings the same gifts to us today.

Times of transition are inescapable in life. They often challenge us, bring us out of our comfort zones, and stretch us to new horizons. Some changes, like the loss of a loved one, sting. Life brings other such transitions like moving away to college, the military or a first job, marriage, children, retirement, illness, and yes, even death. Change is not easy. But it is in the times we encounter it in our lives that we often experience the greatest growth. Change is not something to be feared but rather expected and embraced. One great adage of St. John Henry Newman’s was “To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.”

Not all change is inspired by God. Sometimes we can look at our world and see transitions that

are not to our liking, including movement from a Judeo-Christian to increasing secular society and ideologies and outlooks on life and the human person that are contrary to our beliefs. Some changes are normal, cyclical, and expected, and yet still bring challenges of their own. Newly elected and advancing officers in our Order have new responsibilities to embrace. And while the names change, the common goals that invite us endure.

Life changes can mean the end of something familiar, and perhaps even well loved, giving way to something new and often unanticipated. For the first followers of Jesus, it was no different. Imagine walking the face of this earth was Jesus for three years only to lose him tragically to a violent death, death on a cross. Then followed the sorrow of three days that must have seemed like an eternity transformed into joy by the wonder of Resurrection. But the post-resurrection encounters of Jesus would not endure forever. The Ascension brought another farewell and change to the lives of Jesus followers, with the promise of something great to come. We celebrate that gift in the wonder of the Holy Spirit always breaking into our lives. The



*State Chaplain  
Very Rev. Bob Kantor*



same Spirit we received at Baptism, bolstered in us at Confirmation, the indwelling God, in imperfect human vessels, fed and strengthened around the Eucharistic table.

Soon we will transition to a new State Deputy, our Worthy State Secretary Rick Hughes succeeding Worthy State Deputy Rob Urrutia. I am so grateful to Rob and his lovely wife Lucille for the kindness and support they have shown me in my two years as State Chaplain. The gifts of the Holy Spirit shared by these two men are considerable. Each brings their own unique talents, reminding us that there is a diversity of gifts in the same Spirit. Please join me in praying that the Holy Spirit continues to guide them in support of our fellow Knights and goals of our Order.

May we all serve in humility with an openness to God amid the changes we face, transitions that always include an invitation to embrace new ways to express the hallmarks of our Order ... to allow the Holy Spirit to breathe in Charity ... Unity ... Fraternity. Fear not, and trust in the Holy Spirit! The unpredictable road of a disciple of Jesus and an active Knight is not always easy, but it is an exciting adventure that brings satisfying fulfillment and a peace the world cannot give.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the Earth!

## Knights Help a Brother In Need

Several members from Church of the Epiphany Council 12569 recently got together to help our a brother in need. SK Jim Gallagher led the Port Orange council top Three-Star Council a year ago.

While he was reelected as Grand Knight for the current Coilumbian Year, he was forced to step down early in his term due to an aggressive schedule of chemotherapy treatments. Recently, new Grand Knight Bob Reiderman, was joined by FS Ken Reiderman and brother Knights Phil Parisi, and Jim McBride to repair Gallagher's lawn sprinklers.

"Due to my poor physical condition my lawn has been neglected for almost a year," Gallagher said. "My brothers came out to repair my lawn sprinklers. They replaced heads and lines and got the system back up. The lawn was dying and looked terrible. Words cannot express my gratitude for brothers helping a brother in need."



# Strength Through Faith

*By Former State Chaplain Reverend Salvatore Pignato*

**I**n today's world, strength seems to be the buzzword. Whether we are speaking about the government, the military, industry, the economy, or our individuality, strength seems to be the underpinning for the survival of all these life endeavors. But, when we fully examine these endeavors, we see the focus of all of them lies in the temporal world, that, as we well know, will someday dissolve into nothingness.

It is very important that we attend to these temporal issues, but we have to ask, "What is the cement that actualizes these life issues into something focused in receiving Divine Grace for our own lives. What kind of strength and faith are we looking for. If we are talking about Divine Grace, then the cement in obtaining this Divine Grace is the Triune God. Strength, in any of the life issues just discussed is in "faith" itself. The next question, then, is faith in what or whom. To ask this question as to "what or whom" indicates that there is something missing in our lives that was once there.

One of the things missing today is a belief in God. To know God takes time and patience. It also demands a surrender of self to Him, which modern society is having a difficult time grasping. The second reality is belief in the Eucharist and in the real Presence of Christ in His Body, Blood Soul and Divinity. When these two things are missing, the person and the world falls into

chaos, self-determination, and the corruption and dissolution of the Laws of God. Instead of perfecting our humanity, we are destroying it. The human family effectively has killed God in their lives and have excluded Him in their daily living. But hope is eternal because the Triune God is Eternal. There is hope for us and the world in the strength of the body of Christ bound together in faith.

In today's world, our ministry is very clear. If we are looking for peace, tranquility, freedom, and unity, it is in God and the Eucharist. We as Catholics must bring back to the people of God the reality of a living and eternal God. It is imperative that, by our lives and witnessing to the reality of the Eucharist, we bring others back to the belief in that Eucharist so they, as did St. Thomas, cry out when they see the Eucharist, My Lord, and my God.

Only then, as it says in the Book of Isaiah, will the lamb lie down with the lion.



*Former State Chaplain  
Rev. Salvatore Pignato*

**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).



# Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

*By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori*

At the sight of the crowds, [Jesus'] heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. (Gospel for June 18, Mt 9:36)

**T**he Gospel read at Mass uses the word “pity,” but other Catholic translations use the word “compassion,” which means “to suffer with.” When we suffer with others, we are naturally moved to comfort them; we are motivated by love to relieve and redress their suffering. In sharing the suffering of the afflicted and aiding them in word and deed, we demonstrate the love of Jesus — and thereby reveal to them the Good Shepherd.

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

This month, I challenge you to show compassion and Christian charity for others by serving the poor, the sick, the lonely or those in need in a direct and tangible way. Second, I challenge you to aid in the Faith in Action Global Wheelchair Mission, Habitat for Humanity or Helping Hands program.

## **Questions for Reflection:**

Does the plight of others move you? Do you see suffering and go about your business, or are you moved to provide real assistance? Do you pray for others who are suffering?

## Council Supports The Arc Gateway

**M**embers of Council 8589, Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel, in Pensacola, FL donated the money collected through the annual Tootsie Roll campaign to The Arc Gateway. The council presented a check for over \$540. The Arc Gateway provides life changing programs and services for more than 1,200 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



These council members making the presentation were given a tour of the facilities that include classrooms for children with different disabilities and areas for adults to have a quiet, safe place to relax. Of real interest are the products that are produced to provide a work environment that will help people with disabilities

find employment with local businesses. Some of those products include shredding paper and other materials, creating artwork for sale, concrete products and more.

# Family Of The Year

**O**ur jurisdiction's Family of the Year began its association with the Knights of Columbus 13 years ago. He has served his council as Deputy Grand Knight, Warden, Chancellor, Program Director, and Membership Director.

The family is a consistent participant in the Parish's Wednesday Night Rosary and they consistently assist the Pastor in numerous church projects. He is a Team Member of the Parish Safety/Security Detail, keeping a watchful eye over all large assemblies at the church and surrounding area.

The Detail during the recent pandemic worked with the pastor to set up "drive-up communion," people travelled as far as 80 miles to receive communion at this setup. The wife in this family is a member of the Parish

Ladies Sodality Group, responsible for many social functions such as picnics, parish dinners and other events. She is a Parish Rosary Maker where the members make and distribute thousands of rosaries. Last year her group distributed an estimated 15,000 rosaries. She is also an usher at the church.

The couple hosts an annual picnic for handicapped members of a local mental health facility. His involvement has spread to the Council and the activity has the Council preparing food and serving it. Over 40 residents and 22 staff members were served meals in this past year's event.

He organized the Christmas Angel Tree Program last year and ensured 100% participation.

Our Brother Knight is a lifetime member of the AMVETS, American Legion and a Muscular Dystrophy Association coordinator for the US Postal to get a good turnout. Recently, he Service Union. The family donates to several charities, to include, Little Sisters of the Poor, EQTN, Catholic Sharing Appeal, Fisher House and St Jude Hospital. They sponsor a child in Africa through the Unbound Program. These examples, however, do not adequately chronicle the many kindnesses and good works done by this family in secret.

The family was selected as the model family for the Council because they are always there to help others, always thinking of ways to get people involved in the love of God, love of family, promoting the church, and, of course, the Knights of Columbus. This family has been involved in



community and life activities their entire marriage. When new members join the Council and when they observe and spend time with this family and their passion for love, family and God they want to be a part of what this family is doing. We believe that this family and this Brother Knight are models for the Florida State Council and Knights of Columbus and its virtues of Charity, Unity and Fraternity.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to introduce the Florida State Council's 2023 Family of the Year, the Bevel family of Franklin, his wife Joanna, members of Fr Howard J. Lesch Council 7667, Todd Alber, Grand Knight.

# Knight Of The Year

This Brother Knight has been recognized by his brothers in the Council as the epitome of servant leadership. He fully embodies the core Knights of Columbus principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism - and he embraces the Faith-in-Action programs that bring these principles to life.



Each year, including this Fraternal year, he selflessly donated over 1,000 hours of his time to lead and serve in his Council. He has developed effective tools and processes to help others to seamlessly take on leadership roles. He is very comfortable with leading, sharing his wise and prudent ideas, and making timely decisions - while at the same time rolling up his sleeves and getting things done.

This Knight is a true role model in both word and action, inspires those around him, and mentors so many of the less experienced Council members. In response to the COVID pandemic and Hurricane Ian, he developed new programs to help the parish and community - while fulfilling the objectives set forth by the Supreme and Florida State Councils, in a very active Council, with over \$250,000 of income, about 200 events and activities, and roughly 30,000 service hours. This Knight has led or been actively involved in nearly all of these events and activities!

This Knight is actively involved in the Naples Community - whether acting as a Knight, as a member of the parish, or as a citizen. His selfless devotion in leading his Council and parish effort to help those impacted by Hurricane Ian was truly remarkable and inspirational. The Ian relief efforts

resulted in over 4000 volunteer hours from his Council, provided food and supplies to hundreds in the community, and assisted the St. Vincent de Paul Society to help many others.

He worked with the VFW to support Wreaths Across America, and worked with Wounded Warriors of Collier County to help locate and provide services and material support to homeless veterans in the Naples area. His work with the No Neighbor Left Behind Program has helped many in the community.

In addition to Mass ministry, such as ushering, this Knight has been the Catholic Adult Organization (CAO) lead in his parish for the past four years. In this role, he helps to organize parish-wide events and helps coordinate programs like bocce, trivia night, and bingo. He works with the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) to support various Basketball and Golf events. This Knight served on the parish Finance committee and is a co-leader of parish Emergency Preparedness efforts.

His strong relationship with the parish makes his Council stronger. He leads the Altar Server Awards program, and has helped to plan and execute Retreats, Days of Recollection, and Family Prayer Nights. He does much to build fellowship and community in his Council and parish.

This Knight has been the backbone of his

Council, with involvement in most of its 70+ programs. In addition to his strong leadership as an Officer and Director, he leads numerous council programs. This included Hurricane Ian relief efforts, where he directed Council members who volunteered about 4,000 hours for cleanup, salvage and support services - along with food & supply collection and distribution.

He leads the No Neighbor Left Behind Program, chaired two major 2023 fundraisers, handles Council communications, and maintains the Council Directory. He introduced Caring Calls, Blood Drives & many other programs, and developed effective program management tools

and templates to help others seamlessly take on leadership roles.

Whether he is chairing a program for the Council, attending daily Mass, leading a group in prayer, or greeting those around him, it is obvious that he is a model Knight and a worthy recipient of the Florida State “Knight of the Year!”

It is my pleasure to present the Florida State Council’s 2023 Knight of the Year Award to Brother William Warvel, Past Grand Knight of St. John the Evangelist Council 11281.

## Blessed Michael McGivney Award

The Florida State Council Chaplain of the Year recipient has been a priest for 44 years and the Chaplain of his Council for 4 years. This Parochial Vicar teaches sound Catholic doctrine from the pulpit, always referencing the Holy Scriptures and their context, and is a respected leader of the Parish RCIA classes. His teaching is heartfelt. He inspires others to love Jesus more and become better Catholics.

His Masses are always full, as people flock to hear his homilies. He is an outstanding and popular confessor, both at church and men’s and women’s Emmaus Retreats. His counseling and compassion have led many to change their lives to become more holy. He often hears confessions late into the evening.

He demonstrates the highest integrity and does not exploit his position of authority. In small prayer groups he listens attentively and carefully



when others are sharing. He lets people talk without judging, and willingly shares his own insights.

He is a loving and caring shepherd, especially when his parishioners are at their most vulnerable and in their times of greatest need. He visits many of the sick in their homes at all hours, at the hospital, and at hospice. He supports Catholic education and is the Chairman of the Board for Trinity High School, Ocala, Florida. He volunteers at his Council charitable fundraisers and is often one of the biggest donors.

In spite of his exceptionally busy calendar as Parochial Vicar, with his full Mass load and weekly reconciliation schedule, and as Chairman of the Board for Trinity Catholic High, Fr. John makes time to attend all our meeting and Council events. His presence energizes our members. he provides information to us about our Parish and our community, and presents opportunities for our brother knights to strengthen their faith.

He emphasizes the need to spend time with the Lord in silence at Holy Hour and at Adoration. He shares his time and wisdom as a spiritual advisor to us as individuals and to the Council as a whole.

He gives of his time and presence as the Celebrant of Council Officer Installation Masses, Memorial Masses, Mass for the Feast of Blessed Michael McGivney, and at the Funeral Masses of deceased brother knights. His homilies are always personalized, and beautiful.

He joins in to help at fundraisers when he can, and lifts everyone's spirits around him. The

Council's District Deputy has often commented on how fortunate the Council is to have such an active, present, and supportive Chaplain, and wished his other councils could be so blessed. He has done all this in spite of ill health. His Brother Knights are grateful for him and are blessed by his leadership and support.

He is a selfless, humble, holy shepherd, who is admired and respected by all who encounter him. His Council feels truly blessed to have him as its Worthy Chaplain. He is loved by all members of the Council.

It is my pleasure to present the Florida State Council First Annual Blessed Michael McGivney Award for 2023 to Reverend Father John E. McCracken, St Vincent DePaul Catholic Church, Our Lady of Mt Carmel Council 13300, William Wirtz, Grand Knight.

## Council Sponsors Parish Family Cookouts

**S**t. Vincent Ferrer Council 13996, along with their Chaplain and Pastor Father Dennis Gonzales in Delray Beach, believe that hosting a parish family cookout would provide an opportunity for families to come together and get to know each other. It is their belief that in today's fast-paced world, it can be challenging to find time to connect with others, and that the cookout provides the perfect opportunity to do so. "It is a time to put aside our busy lives, enjoy good food, and enjoy each other's company," said Worthy District Deputy, and council member Christopher Beckett. Adding, "The event, on May 18th, was an excellent way to build a sense of community within the parish. When families come together to share a meal,



they create a sense of belonging and unity. It is an opportunity to strengthen relationships and build lasting friendships. Our Council plans to do this monthly."

# Councils of the Year



*Division 1  
Saint Jude of Marion  
Oaks Council 15644,  
GK Rogelio Perez, DD  
21 Weldon Watkins*



*Division 2  
San Lorenzo Ruiz  
Council 14866, Jimmy  
J Hundley Jr Grand  
Knight  
DD 12 Gregory Bell,  
RA William Kelly*



*Division 3  
Saint John Council  
11281  
Raul G Curtis Grand  
Knight  
DD60 Jeffery Vespo*

# Knights Donate Two Ultrasounds



**G**rand Knights from five Brevard County councils got together at the 2018 Florida State Convention and decided to work together to raise funds to purchase an ultrasound machine.

This process started in May, 2018. Money was raised by Baby Bottle Drives, Dinner Dances, and Brevard Laps for Life. Knights of Columbus Supreme Council provided matching funds for the two machines after approving the project on April 23, 2019.

After delays due to the Covid shutdown, dedication took place on Thursday, March 23. Father Frankline Rayappa, Chaplin of St. Joseph Council 7408, Palm Bay, presided at the dedication, and was instrumental in the Liturgy of the Word, blessing of the ultrasound machines, and blessing the entire facility.

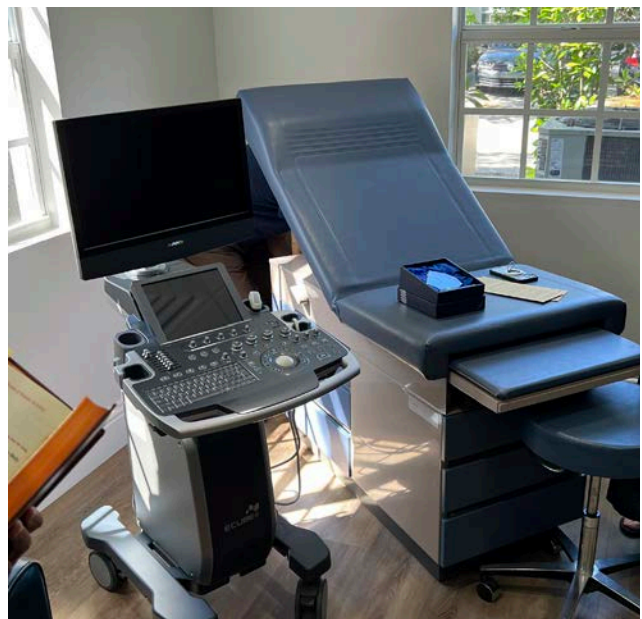
Joining forces with Council 7408, GK Michael R. Deschaine, were Father Gabriel Council 3746 of Melboirne, GK Frank A. Meyer Jr.; Bishop Verot Council 5845 of Indialantic, GK John R Casey Jr.; Our Lady of Grace Council 13243 of Palm Bayt, GK Daniel B. Fisher; and Monsignor Martin P. Power Council 14573 of Melbourne, GK William F. Quinn.

The Brevard Count Councils were able to raise \$13,400. On September 19, 2019, they received a check from the Supreme Council matching that

amount.

Central Laps for Life of Orlando donated \$13,400 toward the purchase of the second ultrasound machine and it was matched by Supreme as well.

The installation and dedication of the two machines were originally scheduled for April 2020, but due Covid-19 Pregnancy Resource Center Board of Directors in compliance with the center's Medical Doctor was forced to shut down. When the Center reopened, it relocated to 1678 Hibiscus in Melbourne.



# Council Supports Cradle Care



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Council 13300 in Wildwood once again focused efforts to help support Hands of Mercy Everywhere (H.O.M.E.) in Belleview. The mission of H.O.M.E. is to provide a Christian-based residential group home for teenage girls and pregnant or parenting teens in the foster care system.

The council's efforts are focused in support of the "Cradle Care" they provide. As stated on their website, "being a mother is one of the toughest jobs in the world, and it feels almost impossible when you are young and don't have a solid support system, and H.O.M.E offers a safe, nurturing, and Christian environment to raise their child."

Moms in the "Cradle Care" program are provided with baby strollers, car seats, diaper bags, diapers, and other baby gear. This is where our Council and Brother Knights provide resources to assist in their needs.

For our current fiscal year, July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, the Council utilized two parish collections – one in October, 2022 and one in April, 2023. To do this, they requested parish approval to advertise the event three weeks prior to the collection and then, on that day, Brother Knights assisted parishioners by taking their donations. As they have two Masses

on Saturday and four Masses on Sunday, several brothers were required to volunteer their services before and after each Mass.

At the end of each service, the goods collected were transported to Brother Sir Knight Mike Grindel's garage, where the baby diapers and wipes are separated and inventoried. In addition, there were many baby clothes, baby equipment, etc. collected that requires them to be priced out, and with the assistance of his wife, Cece, and relatives, they end up with a total value of goods and money donated.

Once the entire collection is complete and priced out, a special day is set aside for delivery to H.O.M.E. in Belleview. This facility is approximately 17 miles from the point of inventory, so several brothers were required in participating by utilizing their cars or trucks to assist in the numerous items to be delivered. They typically require from 10 to 12 vehicles to accomplish the delivery. Once all vehicles arrive at H.O.M.E., Brothers unload all items into categories and the residents take care of moving them into their facility. In addition to dropping off the baby goods, they also present the Director of the facility with a check resulting from the cash donations.

The council is extremely proud and grateful to



say they had an exceptional year of support. For the October, 2022 event, the total collected was \$9,375 in baby goods and \$4,243 in cash donations – for a total of \$13,618. The April, 2023 event was even better, collecting \$11,634 in baby goods and \$4,655 in cash donations – for a total of \$16,289. So together for the fiscal year, they collected just short of \$30,000.

As we evaluate the importance of our mission to support H.O.M.E. with these events, we believe we are accomplishing our goal of changing the hearts and minds of society about abortion by showing that we love both mother and child before and after birth.

One final quote from the H.O.M.E. website, and why we are so blessed to have them nearby: “With

the Lord’s guidance, the teen, the child, their family and our community will be blessed and become what God intended. We are here to build positive relationships and help families grow in love and through Christ. Our program has given many teen moms and their babies a successful beginning to a new life.”

We want to thank those who participated in the scheduling and follow-up required for this event, as well as all our Brother Knights who participated in and assisted with this event. And most importantly, we thank all our dedicated parishioners for their continued unselfish donations that make this support program entirely possible.

## Annual State Bowling Tournament

**O**n the weekend of April 22 & 23, 2023, Brother Knights, their significant others and in some cases, families, gathered together for the 69th Annual State Bowling Tournament in Orlando. The tournament was hosted by your Florida State Council Bowling Association. Tournament Director was Worthy Secretary/Treasurer, Brother Mike Schrader of Council #3724, Coral Gables. Beneficiary of this year’s tournament was Florida K of C Charities – Special Olympics Bowling. The tournament was fully sanctioned by the USBC (United State Bowling Congress) and subject to USBC rules.

Participants began arriving on Friday evening, April 21 and were greeted with a welcome social at the Boardwalk Entertainment and Bowling Center, which was the site of the weekend long event.

Saturday morning started at the Boardwalk with a welcome by Association President, Brother Bill Jarema of Council #13341, Sts. Cosmos & Damian, then a moving and heartfelt message

of thanks of great family news by Worthy Vice President, Brother Gerald Grillo of Council #14575, Monsignor Martin B. Power. Brother Grillo then led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. After that we got rolling! First with a singles set, followed by a doubles set.

Right after Saturday bowling, our annual meeting was held and chaired by Florida State Bowling Association President Jarema. Then it was off to Mass, dinner and an enjoyable evening in the greater Orlando area.

Sunday morning was kicked off by President Jarema, with the announcement that next year, the 70th Annual Tournament, will be held in Lakeland and hosted by Council #4726, Dr. Lawrence J O’Rourke. Brother Tom Berdis, Jr. (an Association Director), will be the Tournament Director. Dates will be April 20 & 21, 2024. Brother Grillo, then led us with in Prayer and our National Anthem. Afterwards, we proceeded with the team event and at the end, we all said our farewells until next year.

Results, with handicaps:



Singles: Brother Phillip Sanchez bowling with Council #3274, led the way with a 797, followed by Brother Doug Welser of Council #4727, Bishop W. Thomas Larkin.

Doubles: Brother Tom Berdis III and his wife, Jenna, of Council #4726, Monsignor Martin B. Power were high with a 1,470, followed by Brothers Robert Consolo and Daniel Gonzalez of Council #6624 St. Cloud Kissimmee, with 1,367.

Team: The Team of “We Are Family”, Brothers Gerry Kistka, John Klinkenberg, Burch Ferrizzi and Chris Ferrizzi took first with a 2,902, followed by Team “4727”, consisting of Brothers Tom Guggisberg, Doug Welser, Bryan Guggisberg & Tom Heuser placed 2nd with a total of 2,787. All 8 of these bowlers represented Council #4727, Bishop W. Thomas Larkin.

A special thanks goes out to Tournament Director, Brother Mike Schrader for a job well done. It should also be noted that Brother Ralph Mosley and his wife Shirley (Council 4727, Bishop W. Thomas Larkin) did a tremendous job in running the raffles, 50-50, etc.

Please join us next year the weekend of April 20-21, 2024 in Lakeland. Council #4726, Dr. Lawrence J O’Rourke, led by Tournament Director, Brother Tom Berdis, Jr., will host the event at Maple Lanes.

For further information, please feel free to contact State Bowling Association President, Bill Jarema (jaremabeach@yahoo.com) or Worthy Association Secretary/Treasurer Michael Schrader (mfschrad@bellsouth.net).

## Assembly Donates Gift Cards

Monsignor Scully Assembly 3418, located at St. Stephens Church in Riverview, FL decided to show their appreciation to their local fire and rescue personnel by presenting Hillsborough County Fire and Rescue Station 16 with three \$100.00 Publix gifts cards to allow each of the three shifts to purchase food or a hot meal at the local Publix that would fit their schedule.



Other activities in support of the community and veterans that the Assembly participates in is Operation Code Vet. Working with the County Code Enforcement Division, properties belonging to military veterans that may need sprucing up to avoid receiving a violation, particularly if the veteran is disabled or elderly, are given to volunteer groups who may be able to provide some manpower to fix the property. The Sir Knights of Msg. Scully have been called out and gladly helped in this endeavor.

Another project both in funding and manpower

that the Assembly has supported over the years with funding and manpower is My Warriors Place in Ruskin, prior to its relocation. Each year prior to Thanksgiving, working with the local councils and Assemblies in the area funds are raised to provide dinners for families of veterans, especially those families whose loved ones may be deployed.

In further support of veterans, the Assembly provides a meal each year to the Fisher House, which supports families of veterans who are in the VA hospital. Supporting veterans, and their families, as well as first responders, is something the Sir Knights of Msg. Scully Assembly are most proud of.

# Stoddard Returns To His Roots

**S**ir Knight Dennis Stoddard's career with the Knights of Columbus has come full circle. Prior to serving as Florida State Deputy, on the KofC Board of Directors and as Supreme Master of the Fourth Degree, SK Stoddard joined the Knights at Bishop W. Thomas W. Larkin Council 4727 in Jacksonville, where he's called home since 1964.

Now, he's eager to get back to the basics with his Brother Knights.

"I want to get back in my own council, back in my local community," Stoddard said at the recent Florida State Convention. "I dearly missed being with my brother Knights, because it's been so many years I've been on the road, and I've had very little time in my hometown. It's going to be great to be back with the boys."

"I want to get back in our programs, particularly at my local council," he added. "We do so much with our community and our church {Christ the King Catholic Church}, and we have a wonderful group of men. We have a small council – 200 members – but like any other council, you have the same 35-40 guys that show up each week for the meetings. They work so hard, they really put 100-percent into their programs. That's where I want to get involved; I want to get back into it."

He is also a member of Father Timothy Vakoc Assembly 3213 of Fernandina Beach since 2004 but may eventually transfer to an assembly closer to his home in Jacksonville.

"I've belonged to that assembly because that's where I used to work when I was a teacher," he said. "I'm still a member of that assembly."

Shortly after joining the Knights, Stoddard's grand knight put him to work. He gradually moved up through the various chairs of office – all the way up to serving as Florida State Deputy from 1999-2001.

His climb didn't end upon attaining Florida's highest office. Little did he know, but he was only at the beginning of his career in the KofC.

"During my first year as State Deputy, then-Supreme Knight Carl Anderson came to my State Convention," Stoddard recalled. "It was also his first year, and my wife Linda and I got to meet with him and his wife Dorian, and we started a good relationship. When I got out of office, he asked me to become a Board of Director. From there, he

asked me to serve as Supreme Master, as well. I had 23 years of service on the board of directors and the Supreme Master position."

During his term as Supreme Master, Stoddard has been an integral part of many important initiatives, from Get out the Vote to disaster relief. He led fundraising efforts for the Knights of Columbus Incarnation Dome at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., and for the Military Chaplains Fund, which benefits the co-sponsored seminarian program of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. As supreme master from 2010



through March 1, 2023, he served as the chief administrator of the Fourth Degree.

“I have been very blessed to have been part of a lot,” SK Stoddard said. “I implemented the disaster relief program for the Knights of Columbus; I started the uniforms; I started the military chaplain’s scholarship fund, so we can get chaplains into our military; when they opened up the seminary in Cuba, I implemented a plan to get 60 chalices for the 60 seminary candidates in Cuba. There’s been quite a few things. That’s not everything that I’ve done; that’s a collective organizational plan where we’ve put our heads together and we’ve worked. But I had an instrumental part in every bit of that – all of the planning and the following through of those programs.”

Another program is the military Warriors to Lourdes Program. “I’ve been with that since we started that in 2014,” he said. “I’ve been to Lourdes, France, every year since then, except for the two years when we were out with the Covid. We take 200-220 military personnel – wounded and retired – to Lourdes for healing. I have a deep devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes, because I’ve had some good blessings from her.”

Ironically, he did not wear the Fourth-Degree regalia until taking the position of Supreme

Master, when he took up the plumes, sword and cape.

“I donated my original regalia to the Knights of Columbus Museum, where it’s the only Supreme Master regalia on display in New Haven,” he said. “Naturally, I have my new uniform, and I will certainly be dressing out for events. I hope to participate in local events, and I will be dressing out for the upcoming Supreme Convention, as well.”

Stoddard and current Supreme Master Michael McCusker are the lone Knights who wear the dark blue baldrics signifying current or past Supreme Masters.

“It’s been a great career with the Knights of Columbus,” Stoddard summed up. “I would tell any young man today that if they enjoy the Knights of Columbus, if they enjoy being around faith-filled people, if they want a good position in life, the Knights of Columbus is the place to get it. You could not find a better company to work for if you want to get involved at that level, to get involved in the Supreme Council. You could not find a better place to work.”

---

## Carl Anderson Honors Stoddard at State Convention

*Remarks at the Florida State Convention by  
Immediate Past Supreme Master Carl Anderson*

**I**want to talk now for a few minutes about one of the great fraternal leaders of our time, and I would say, of any time.

That’s your Past State Deputy, Former Supreme Director and Supreme Master Emeritus, Dennis Stoddard.

He was a great State Deputy here in Florida. I knew he was a great Supreme Director when I was Supreme Knight, and he’s been a terrific

Supreme Master. In fact, Dennis was one of four longest-serving Supreme Masters in the history of the order, nearly 13 years. His legacy of service to the Knights of Columbus is going to benefit every single member of the order, and do that for years to come.

As Supreme Master, Dennis oversaw the tremendous growth of the KofC Fourth Degree in the Philippines; he helped introduce the Fourth Degree into Poland and into Korea; he helped the modernization of the Fourth Degree in the United States. This weekend will have the first

Exemplification of the Fourth Degree in Ukraine.

Our veterans are tremendously important to us and must never be forgotten. Thousands of our veterans benefit at those VA facilities because of the volunteer services of the Fourth Degree that Dennis was so instrumental in putting together.

Our Military Chaplains have been supported in service, supplies, vocations, and most importantly, with the more than \$2 million that the Fourth Degree has raised under Dennis' leadership for that combined seminarian program.

One of the things that Dennis and I talked about was the shortage of Catholic Chaplains in the military. We put men on six-month deployment in harm's way without any chance of a Catholic Chaplain. One of our programs was to make sure that our Catholic men and women would have chaplains on deployment, which is most important things of the Fourth Degree to accomplish moving forward.

Thousands of veterans and active military personnel have benefited spiritually, spiritual healing, through the Warriors to Lourdes Program.

As you know, leadership in the Knights of Columbus is not only a matter of the programs we have in effective leadership. It's a matter of integrity, a matter of character, a matter of the type of men Knights will follow eagerly and willingly. By that measure, our Former Supreme Master has set a very high standard. The Knights of Columbus was born at a time when it was necessary to make evident to the nation that faithful Catholic men are also patriotic Americans. To make evident one thing more, that Catholic men were willing to stand up to defend their faith, to defend their church, and to defend their nation. To make that reality evident was the reason why the Fourth Degree of our order was established. Through all his years



of leadership to the Fourth Degree, Dennis has been clear-sighted as to this irreplaceable mission of our Sir Knights, and to the sustainability and future growth of the KofC.

For all these reasons and more, at the last board meeting I had the privilege to chair as Supreme Knight, the board voted to confer upon Dennis our St. Michael Medal for extraordinary and distinguished service. Then the board took the unprecedented action when it named Dennis Supreme Master Emeritus of the order.

So I am especially proud today, on behalf of the two million members of the KofC and especially myself, to give you – in front of your brother Knights of Florida – a deep thank you and express our gratitude for the tremendous job you've done and service to the Knights of Columbus.



# Past Supreme Knight Anderson Back in Spotlight

**A**fter more than 11 years in the spotlight as Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson has resigned from that position, with Patrick Kelly assuming that role.

Now, Anderson remains active in the Knights, and has not quite stepped out of the limelight.

The Immediate Past Supreme Knight as a special guest at the recent 119th Florida State Convention. He spoke to the assembled officers and delegates on Saturday afternoon, and took time to pose for pictures and meet with fellow Knights.

“It’s still an exciting time for the order,” Anderson said following the Saturday session. “I still serve on the Board, so I have one oar in the water to help the new Supreme Knight, so that’s great.. After you’ve been at the helm for many years, you’re really concerned to make sure that the transition works well and your successor is the right one. I’ve got every confidence in our Supreme Knight moving forward. He’s already got a great record of achievement.”

Anderson was at the helm as Supreme Knight from Oct. 1, 2000, through Feb. 28, 2021. During his time in office the Knights of Columbus saw growth in membership, insurance and charitable giving as well as the institution of many new initiatives.

His achievements include:

- Establishing the Heroes Fund to provide immediate assistance to the families of first

responders who lost their lives in the terrorist attack on Sept. 11, 2001;

- Establishing the \$2 million Pacem in Terris Fund, the earnings of which are used to promote peace initiatives in the Holy Land and to assist the Latin Patriarchate in supporting the Christian community there;

- Financially sponsoring the 2004 Papal Concert of Reconciliation;

- In partnership with Project Medishare, establishing the Healing Haiti’s Children program, which has provided approximately 1,000 victims in Haiti with prosthetic limbs in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake that devastated that country; and

- Launching the Christian Refugee Relief Fund, a charitable fund that has raised more than \$25 million to benefit

persecuted Christians in the Middle East. These funds are used for food, housing and other basic necessities for those in the region who have fled their homes.

During his tenure, Anderson met with many VIPs from around the world, including multiple meetings with three popes.

“I had the privilege of representing the order for three popes, St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict and Pope Francis,” Anderson explained. “They each in their own way had tremendous leadership and each very much appreciate the work of the Knights of Columbus. St. John Paul II especially, he wanted us when he went to Poland. When I spoke to





Pope Benedict about how we had expanded the order into France and into other countries, he was encouraging. Pope Francis really is enthusiastic about what the order is doing for charity, what we are doing in Iraq and now in Ukraine. What's close to his heart is getting laymen at the grassroots level to reach out and help people in need. And that's the hallmark of the Knights of Columbus."

Anderson attended the Florida State Conventions in 1988, shortly after beginning work with the KofC as Vice President for Public Policy. He also attended the 2001 event during his first full year as Supreme Knight.

This year's event was his first visit to the Florida State Convention since then. He's hoping to attend other state conventions, and hopefully other events in our state.

"Right now, I'm trying to spend as much time in Florida as I can," he said. "We still have our house in Connecticut, but Florida is really attractive. And it's been a leader jurisdiction for many years. With all the growth that's coming into Florida, I think it's a great time for the Knights of Columbus."

Following are the remark by the Immediate Past Supreme Knight on Saturday afternoon of the convention:

**Carl Anderson remarks to the attendees of the 119th Florida State Convention**

I cannot tell you how happy I am to be in

Florida at this convention. When I just came to work for the Knights of Columbus in 1988 as the Vice President for Public Policy, my first convention was the Florida State Convention. Frank Scandone was the State Deputy, and I remember Al Fortunato and a lot of great Knights. I remember that convention really, really well.

Then, my first year as Supreme Knight, I came to the Florida State Convention, and that was a really great experience for me.

And now, as Past Supreme Knight, I'm back here in Florida, and I'm very, very happy to be here with you.

There are a lot of strengths in the Knights of Columbus; a lot of great things we do. But when I came through the Panhandle in 2018 after Hurricane Michael, in Mexico Beach and Panama City, I was with our Supreme Master (Dennis Stoddard) at the time. It was just really uplifting to see how our brother Knights were rolling up their sleeves and making such a huge difference in the lives of their fellow Floridians. I have always been very, very proud of that.

This morning, we just had a brief glimpse of the great programs that we have in the Knights of Columbus: Special Olympics, founded by a great brother Knight, Sargent Shriver in 1968, and Florida was at the very beginning by helping them. We heard about the Wheelchair Program, a really

fantastic program. We looked at the Ultrasound Initiative, where Florida has done such great work by being a leader, and Vocations – you go right down the list. You tell me what other organization there is that changes thousands of lives, saves thousands of lives every year, and Florida is right at the top in a leadership role. It really is a great record of achievement that we're all very proud of.

I also want to say that the way Florida has stepped up and supported the KofC Insurance program is really something special. I think every brother Knight can be very proud of that. They can be very proud of the insurance leaders we have in this state – the General Agents and Field Agents here. I want you to think about this when you think about KofC Insurance. I think it's a very important thing of which we can all be proud of. When you think about the KofC as a company, we are the largest Catholic company in the world, that every day goes into the free market system and competes with all the big boys – and we're top rated. We have over \$100 billion of insurance in force, we have over \$30 billion of assets that the men in New Haven manage, and we have basically 1,000 Catholic businessmen that go out every day into the market place. They say, 'We stand or fall on Catholic values and Catholic principles.' I think that's something we can be proud of. You just have to open a page of the Wall Street Journal

to see all the problems – you don't see that about the Knights of Columbus. I believe the reason you don't is the genius of Father McGivney, and his genius was this: we don't have customers; we don't have stake holders; we don't have shareholders; we have brothers. When you think about running a business to do the best you can for your brothers, it puts you in an entirely different category. And that's what I think is the success of KofC Insurance, and I think it's the success of the Knights of Columbus. I think the new worthy State Deputy Elect's motto (Veni Sancte Spiritus), Come Holy Spirit, that is through and through the Knights of Columbus. That's why, in the Knights of Columbus, friends become brothers. That makes all the difference.

I think the other thing that is really a tremendous genius of Father McGivney is that he trusts Catholic men. He trusted Catholic laymen of integrity, of character, of dedication to be the leaders. He could have been Supreme Knight. Brother Knights wanted him to be Supreme Knight. He could have made priests the State Deputies. He could have made priests to be the Grand Knights of their mparish-based councils. But he didn't. He chose laymen, because he trusted laymen, and he saw the future of what the laity could do as leaders. And we have so many great leaders that have come out of Florida.

## 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.

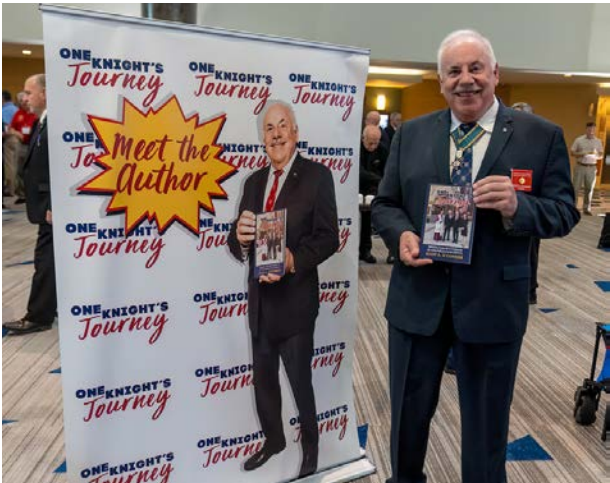
Please note that if you are a State, Assembly or Council officer, chairman or director, you must remain subscribed to the State Council's email list. Failure to do so will result in you missing important communications concerning your position and may result in your forfeiture of that position.

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.



# 2023 State Convention Pics

If you would like to see more pictures of from 119th Florida State Convention, Click here:  
[2023 Florida State Convention - Images of the KofC Florida State Council \(kofcfoto.website\)](http://kofcfoto.website)



INVOCATION



# Cruise With the State Chaplain

**W**e are excited to announce our upcoming fundraiser for the Florida K of C Charities Inc. Vocations Fund, a cruise trip to the Southern Caribbean on Celebrity Beyond, the newest ship of the Celebrity fleet. The trip will be nine nights long, departing on November 13, 2023, from Fort Lauderdale, Florida and stopping at Grand Cayman, Aruba, Curacao, and Bonaire.

This trip will give us the opportunity to join in the celebration of the 25th priesthood ordination anniversary of our State Chaplain and Pastor of St Agnes Catholic Church in Naples, FL, Fr. Bob Kantor, and include several Masses onboard with him.

This is an excellent opportunity for our organization to raise funds, while also offering a fun and memorable experience for you, your friends, and family. The proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to support our religious vocations fund, and we hope you will consider joining us on this exciting adventure.

The trip includes a good number of amenities and activities, with plenty of opportunities to relax, explore, and make new friends. We have also arranged for special group rates, making this an affordable way to enjoy a luxurious vacation. The rates require prompt action, therefore, act now to place your deposit by May 16, 2023, to be able to obtain additional benefits. Click Cruise Details to get all the information and to reserve your spot to enjoy this great cruise. . If you have any questions regarding the cruise, please contact



H & E Smart Travels, Inc.

Your participation in this fundraiser will make a significant difference in the lives of those we serve, and we thank you for your support. Please share this letter and its purpose with the members of your Council, Assembly, and your Council sponsored Columbiettes Council.





**Cruise in support of the Florida K of C Charities, Inc. Vocations Fund  
and in celebration of State Chaplain and St. Agnes Pastor Fr. Bob  
Kantor's 25th Anniversary of Ordination**



**Father Bob Kantor, State Chaplain of the Florida State Council and  
Pastor of St. Agnes Catholic Church in Naples, Florida, and the  
Knights of Columbus' Florida K of C Charities, Inc. invite you to enjoy  
this cruise in support of Florida K of C Charities, Inc. Vocations Fund.**

**Join us aboard the Celebrity Beyond from Monday, November 13,  
2023, to Wednesday, November 22, 2023, departing from and returning  
to Fort Lauderdale, Florida**

**For more information on the Cruise [www.floridakofc.org](http://www.floridakofc.org), services,  
online forms and scroll down to Charities.**

**You can also reach out:**

**H&E Smart Travels, Inc., West Palm Beach, FL\* Evelio J Sardiña,  
FDD, PGK, PFN [smarttravelcruising@gmail.com](mailto:smarttravelcruising@gmail.com) 941-400-0320**



**F**rom August 1-3, 2023, the Florida State Council will have the honor of hosting the 141st Supreme Convention in Orlando at the Marriott Orlando World Center. In order for us to successfully host the Supreme Convention, we will need a large number of volunteers, particularly from the Orlando area, from Saturday, July 29 through Friday, August 4. The areas for which we will need help are:

- Welcoming Committee
- Transportation Committee
- Hospitality Registration Committee
- Tour Committee
- Color Corps for Masses and Adoration Chapel

We ask that you prayerfully consider helping in this most important endeavor. We suggest that you volunteer in Council or Assembly groups and carpool to the hotel for your shifts, and that you consider volunteering for multiple consecutive shifts.

Please go to <https://www.floridakofc.org/>

Volunteers to find out more information and to see the sign-up lists. We are using Signup Genius to schedule volunteers.

Fraternally,  
 Robert S. Urrutia, State Deputy  
 Richard P. Hughes, State Secretary



# 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:

Region 1: Robert C. Guillery [rag130@outlook.com](mailto:rag130@outlook.com)

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

Region 3: John O'Malley [jomalley1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jomalley1@cfl.rr.com)

Region 4: [invocation@floridakofc.org](mailto:invocation@floridakofc.org)

Region 5: [invocation@floridakofc.org](mailto:invocation@floridakofc.org)

Region 6: Armando Minutoli [alminutoli146@gmail.com](mailto:alminutoli146@gmail.com)

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



## Support Florida K of C Charities Inc.

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com),  
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

amazon smile

Do you shop on Amazon? If so, you can now have .05% of your purchases donated to Florida K of C Charities! All you need to do is use the link for Amazon Smiles. To activate this on your Amazon account just click on this link [AmazonSmile](#) that's all you have to do!

**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 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 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





## Florida State Council Officers

### STATE DEPUTY

**Robert S. Urrutia**

*Robert.A.Urrutia84@gmail.com*

### STATE CHAPLAIN

**Rev. Robert Kantor**

*frbob@stagnesnaples.org*

### STATE SECRETARY

**Rick Hughes**

*rhughes14084@gmail.com*

### STATE TREASURER

**Michael Gizewski**

*mpgizewski@gmail.com*

### STATE ADVOCATE

**Robert Rasch**

*robertwraschlaw@gmail.com*

### STATE WARDEN

**Joseph W. Coicou**

*jcoicoukofc@gmail.com*

### IMMEDIATE PAST STATE DEPUTY

**Scott O'Connor**

*scottoconnor@gmail.com*

### STATE EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

**Lorenzo Rodriguez**

*lorenzoarodriguez@gmail.com*

### STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

**Danny McIntyre**

*danmci@aol.com*

### STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

**Kris Elliot**

*kris.elliott@1980.usna.com*

### STATE CHARITIES DIRECTOR

**Richard E. Dahn Jr.**

*rdahn32@gmail.com*

### STATE MARKETING DIRECTOR

**Ed Sleyzak**

*esleyzak@outlook.com*

### PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

**John O'Malley**

*jomalley1@cfl.com*

## INVOCATION

**Publisher- Ed Sleyzak** *esleyzak@outlook.com (Position open)*

**Scott Huetteman** - Technical & Layout Editor *Scott@engage360.us*

**Harry Rother** Photographer Website: [www.kofcfoto.website](http://www.kofcfoto.website)

### Regional PR Coordinators

Region 1 Bob Gualtieri *rag130@outlook.com*

Region 2 (Open)

Region 3 John O'Malley *jomalley1@cfl.rr.com*

Region 4 (Open)

Region 5 (Open)

Region 6 Armando Minutoli *alminutoli46@gmail.com*

Region 7 (Open)

Region 8 (Open)

## 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.

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.



**DISCOVER**  
— THE —  
*Catholic*  
**DIFFERENCE**