

INVOCATION

DECEMBER 2023



Coats For Kids

Knights Break Donation Record



Our Lady of Hope recently completed its biggest Coats for Kids drive to date, donating more than 600 coats valued at \$11,500 to deserving students at nine area schools.

The donation helped the Knights of Columbus' international program reach the donation of million coats since its inception in 1989. The KofC is on pace to distribute 200,000 coats in 2023.

More than a dozen Knights distributed the coats at Sugar Mill Elementary, Horizon Elementary, Spruce Creek Elementary and Port Orange Elementary in Port Orange; South Daytona Elementary and Turie T. Small in South Daytona; Holly Hill Elementary in Holly Hill; and Father Lopez Catholic High School and West Side Elementary in Daytona Beach. This was the first year that Father Lopez participated in the drive.

The successful Duck Derby in late October, in addition to a new Council initiative volunteering at events at Daytona International Speedway, allowed the Knights to expand the drive.

Roger Packard is the Grand Knight of Council

8086. Tony Manzolillo is the council's point of contact for Coats for Kids, with Tim Mell the council's Program Director.



Prepare The Way

By State Deputy Richard Hughes

Advent is a time to “prepare for the way of the Lord, make straight his paths”. December tends to busy with end-of-year celebrations, setting up decorations, and finding those special gifts to give at Christmas. But it is also a time of reflection, on getting our own spiritual house in order. I hope and pray that each of you takes the time for prayer and reflection and not let the business of the season make you forget what Christmas is all about.

As I considered my message to you this month, I remembered an article that I wrote some years ago in the Invocation that provided a reflection on what it means to be a Knight of Columbus, and in particular, why Order’s founders chose to be called Knights. I believe it is just as fitting today as it was then.

In the Middle Ages, a Knight was more than just a pious soldier who defended Church and country. A true Knight lived according to a set of ideals and defended those who could not defend themselves by performing works of mercy. This concept is explained in an excellent article in the June 2016 issue of the Columbia magazine entitled “Knights, The Servants of Mercy.” The author, D.C. Schindler, who is an associate professor at The Catholic University of America, states that

“...the knight served an ideal as he strove to conform himself to the perennial values of justice, truth, and honor. This entailed, above all, a willingness to sacrifice himself in order to protect the defenseless, the weak, the poor, and the innocent . . . the knight understands himself as serving something higher and more important than his particular self-interest. He is not just an individual, but part of a greater whole.”

The author goes on to connect knighthood with the gift of mercy:

“[The Christian chivalric orders] were orders of knights, many of whom took vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience, like monks. But unlike

monks, they lived those vows through direct service to people in the world, carrying out what came to be called the ‘works of mercy’ . . . Mercy is ultimately the expression of a love that is poured out beyond measure: not ‘tit-for-tat’, but grace unbidden . . . Knighthood and mercy go together because they are both expressions of sacrificial generosity. The knight is someone given a special honor, lifted up beyond his natural status, and he lives that honor by lifting up those around him.”

It is this concept of knighthood that Father McGivney and the founders of our Order adopted, and one that all of us should understand and embrace.

So, when a good Catholic man asks why he should be a Knight of Columbus, the answer is because of who we are and what we stand for. And who are we? We are a group of Catholic men, founded by a parish priest in 1882, devoted to serving our Church and our country, dedicated to living the Principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism, and united in serving Jesus Christ and the people to whom He came to save, out of gratitude for the charity and mercy we ourselves have received.

Melodee and I wish each of you and your families a blessed and joyous Christmas season!



State Deputy
Richard Hughes



Two Ways to Prepare for Christmas

By State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor

Jesus said to his disciples: “Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.”
– Mark 13:33-34

Advent is that four-week approach to Christmas meant to prepare us for the celebration of the Incarnation at Christmas. But is there more to it? There’s a clue in the readings of the season. They focus on readiness alright, but it is a readiness for the second coming as well as the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Before we get to accounts of the manger and shepherds, we are given a steady diet of spiritual advice to keep us on our toes for the return of Jesus.

We know as Catholics that Jesus, with the Father from all time, came into the world as one like us, except for sin. We also believe that he will come again at the end of time. That puts us firmly in the “in between” time. Such times are a mix of anticipation, uncertainty, and mystery. If you think about it, you have probably been there before: the diagnosis that had to wait for a treatment and hopefully healing; the game plan or strategy that had to be executed before the outcome is known; and for those of you Knights who are married, the wait for a response after you asked your intended bride to marry you. For the last example, hopefully the period was short and the answer affirmative. These examples give us an idea what this Advent “in between” time is all about.



So, how do we make the most of Advent as a faithful Catholic and Knight? First, don’t rush Christmas. It is a whole season that only begins on Christmas eve. The secular, commercial world can’t wait for you to rush into Christmas and the spending that goes with it, but the flurry of activity can make it more difficult to have a spiritually fruitful Advent. Think about decorating closer to Christmas and keeping decorations up through the season’s ending at the Baptism of the Lord on the second



*State Chaplain
Very Rev. Bob Kantor*

weekend of January. It always confounds me to see Christmas trees in my neighborhood discarded curbside on December 26th! Don’t buy into a commercial schedule and forget the beauty of the Christmas “season.” Second, lead your family into a spirit of prayer. Gather them each Sunday for the lighting of the next candle in a home Advent wreath. Participate in an Advent Penance Service or take your children or grandchildren to church for Confession. May your preparations go well, both for Christmas and for our Lord’s second coming. May our Savior who came humbly as a baby and will come again in glory bless you and your family this Christmas!

December Feasts

By Former State Chaplain Reverend Salvatore Pignato

In 1945, a movie came out with the title "The Song of Bernadette" It was based on a book, "The Song of Bernadette," written by Franz Werfel. At the very beginning of the movie, a very profound statement was made that laid the foundation and mindset of those people who may be viewing the movie. The statement was this: For those who believe in God, there is no explanation necessary. For those who do not believe in God, no explanation is possible."

This profound statement applies to the two wonderful Feasts that we celebrate in December and does not need an explanation for us because we are people of faith and believe in God's revealed Word. I do think, though, that a review

as to the genesis of these two Feasts needs to be presented. In the book of Genesis, God says to the serpent, "I will put enmity between her seed and your seed, and you shall lie in wait for his heel." This statement by God to the serpent announces the vehicle by which the Messiah would come into the world. In the New

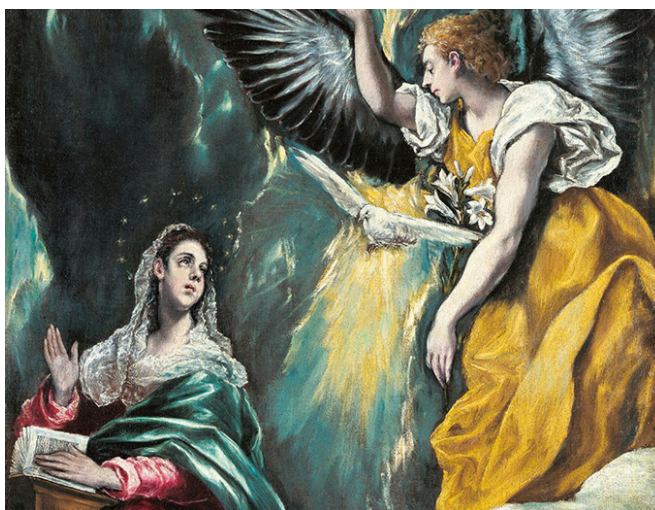
Testament in the Gospel of Matthew, the Angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she would be that seed, the "Theotokos" the God bearer, and the name of the child of her womb that was conceived by the Holy Spirit would be called Emmanuel, God with us. This event announces the birth of the Messiah promised to Adam and Eve by God in the Garden of Eden.

This is the foundation that was laid out by God that took twelve generations to accomplish. The completion of that salvation promised by God came Firstly through the Conception of Anna celebrated by the East and which is also called the

Immaculate Conception in the Latin Church, and both celebrated on December 8th. Truly, "for those who do not believe in God, there is no explanation." There is no explanation because our faith consents to God's Word that Mary, as prophesied in the Old Testament, would be born sinless, perfect. Yes, an act of God. She was preserved from the



Former State Chaplain
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sin of Adam and Eve. Secondly, the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary the "Theotokos" that she would bear the Son of God. Again, only by faith that God reveals His Word to us that we accept the birth of His Son Jesus Christ, celebrated on December 25th, as the Messiah, that person who would crush the head of Satan.

We can entitle the month of December as

the month of the Grace of God, the beginning of our salvation promised by God, and finally, that salvation that is finally established and realized on earth. These two Feasts are a time of joy. They are a time of fasting. They are also a time of feasting because God loves us, has found favor with us, and has sent His Only Begotten Son to save us. Or, as St. John puts it so eloquently in his Gospel, "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, and the Word became man and dwelt among us."

Our Work Always Continues

by State Treasurer Joseph Coicou

As we close 2023 and enter 2024, Brother Knights should take the time to reflect on the council's mission and goals. Preparing for the remainder of the fraternal year as members of the Knights of Columbus involves several vital steps to ensure that the organization's goals are met and that members continue actively engaging in their charitable, community, and spiritual endeavors. Here are some steps that members of the Knights of Columbus can take:

1. **Review Goals and Objectives:** Evaluate the progress made towards the goals set at the beginning of the fraternal year. Identify areas where the organization might fall short or additional efforts are required.
2. **Plan Activities and Events:** Organize and plan activities, charitable events, fundraisers, and community service initiatives for the remainder of the fraternal year. Coordinate with local chapters, councils, and community partners to schedule events that align with the Knights of Columbus' mission.
3. **Recruit and Engage Members:** Actively recruit new members and encourage existing members to participate more actively. Engage members by communicating the organization's vision, upcoming events, and the impact of their contributions.
4. **Financial Planning and Fundraising:** Assess the organization's financial status and plan fundraising activities if needed to support ongoing charitable efforts. Ensure proper budgeting for upcoming events and initiatives.
5. **Promote Faith and Service:** Emphasize the importance of faith and service within the

organization. Encourage members to deepen their spiritual commitment through prayer, participation in religious activities, and supporting initiatives that reflect the Catholic faith's teachings.

6. **Training and Development:** Provide training opportunities for members, especially recruits, to familiarize them with the organization's principles, values, and activities. This could include Mid-Year District meetings, leadership workshops, educational seminars, or skill-building sessions.

7. **Evaluate Impact and Recognition:** Assess the impact of the organization's activities on the community. Recognize and appreciate the efforts of members who have contributed significantly to the Knights of Columbus' mission and goals.

8. **Plan for Transition:** If applicable, prepare for the transition of leadership roles or responsibilities at the end of the fraternal year. Ensure a smooth handover process and continuity in the organization's activities.

By following these steps, members of the Knights of Columbus can effectively prepare for the remainder of the fraternal year, ensuring that the organization continues to uphold its values, serve the community, and make a positive difference in the lives of others.



State Treasurer
Joseph Coicou

Silver Cross Reliquary



SK David Miller, current Grand Knight of Fr. Philip de Carriere Council 10484, began planning the celebration of the KofC Mexican Martyrs during his term as Chancellor in May 2022. His council ordered 1,000 prayer cards and 10 prayer books to celebrate the May 21 Feast Day of the K of C Mexican Martyrs at the Council's home parish, St. Ann Catholic Church in Haines City, and set up viewing of the KofC documentary, For Greater Glory, in both English and Spanish.

St. Ann's Pastor Alfonso Cely decided to move the program to September 7 for the full movie For Greater Glory in English and September 14 in Spanish, so that the Knights documentary would be shown on the feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross.

In August, Supreme's Luis Guevara Lara, Executive Director for Hispanic Development, offered to host the silver cross reliquary of the

Knights of Columbus Mexican Martyrs, and personally brought the reliquary to Haines City. About 20 Knights attended both events, venerating the silver cross reliquary. Deacon Jairo Rosario assisted in carrying the reliquary in the Sept. 14 procession.

Looking to build a greater audience for the reliquary, Father Cely asked Guevara if he would consider bringing it back to the parish on Christ the King weekend Mass to show to the parishioners. Miller also asked Guevara if the reliquary could be brought to the Mission of Guadalupe in Wahneta on Saturday, Nov. 25. The Fourth Degree members of San Juan Diego Council 14975 belong to Archbishop Fulton Sheen Assembly 3200 in Haines City and Council 14975 received permission from their pastor, Father Delvis Mederos, to have the reliquary at their parish at the Christ the King vigil Mass on Saturday, November 25, if the reliquary could make the trip to central Florida.

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In mid-October, Guevara wrote that he wouldn't be able to bring the relics personally this time, but Brother Alton Pelowski, Editor of the Columbia magazine would be available to bring them to cover the two proposed events.

On Nov. 25, Pelowski arrived at the Wahneta Church about 6:30 p.m. and brothers from Council 14975 and Sir Knights and Color Corps Assembly 3200 as well as Father Mederos welcomed him. Preparations continued for including the reliquary in the procession at the start of Mass and displaying the reliquary next to the altar during Mass. About 400 people attended the 7 p.m. Mass, and most venerated the reliquary at the end of the Mass. Veneration lasted for about one hour after Mass.

On Nov. 26, Pelowski arrived at St. Ann's Church for the 10 a.m. Mass. Deacon and SK Frank Morano carried the reliquary to and from the altar in the 10 a.m. Mass processions. About 400 people attended the 10 a.m. Mass, celebrated

by Father Cely, and most venerated the reliquary at the end of the Mass.

Guevara arrived at St. Ann's about 11:30 a.m. while veneration was ongoing after the 10 a.m. Mass. He met Father Jose Luis, a recent addition to the St. Ann's Church pastoral team, who would celebrate the Noon Mass. Guevara asked Father Luis if he could make a presentation at the end of Mass about the reliquary and the Knights of Columbus to which Father Luis agreed. Deacon and SK Steven Ramos carried the reliquary to and from the altar in the Noon Mass processions, with the Color Corps led by Florida State Marketing-Brands Director SK Weldon Watkins III and Color Corps Commander Robert



Higgins.

Father Luis asked to join Council 10484 after the weekend Masses, with Council officers pursuing inquiries from other Hispanic men who attended the Noon Mass wishing to join the Knights after Guevara's presentation.

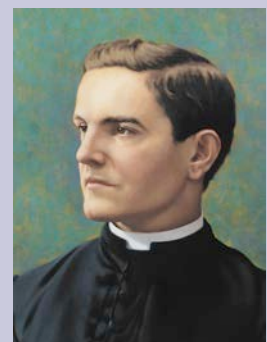
Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael J. McGivney

God, 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).



Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

Jesus rebuked him and said, “Quiet! Come out of him!” The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. All were amazed and asked one another, “What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him.” (Gospel for Jan. 28, Mk 1:25-27)

The unclean spirit immediately recognizes Jesus as the Christ and is aware of his power. As St. James tells us, “You believe that God is one. You do well. Even the demons believe that and tremble” (Jas 2:19). We must not take for granted who Jesus is, his presence in our midst and the power he has to help us. Let us always recognize that Jesus is

actively working in our lives and seek him daily in our prayer.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to attend Mass and receive holy Communion more often than just on Sunday — daily if possible — to grow in awareness of Jesus’ presence and power in the Eucharist.

Questions for Reflection:

Do you take the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist for granted? Does the way you dress for Mass reflect that Jesus is present? Do you remain conscious throughout each day of Jesus’ activity in your life and turn to him frequently in prayer?

Raise The Roof Fundraiser



Knights of the Father Downey Council 4934 recently held a “Raise the Roof” fundraising picnic for Sacred Heart Parish in New Smyrna Beach.

The event on a rainy Sunday, Nov. 12 attracted more than 40 Knights and 500 parishioners, raising \$27,000. An additional council donation of \$20,000 will join that total to fund putting a new roof on Father Burke Hall – used for Council

4934 meetings and other parish functions. That total puts the project past the halfway mark.

A highlight was the bailout of Paston Father John Tizio, C.Ss.R., who attended the function in prison garb. Among the successful auction items was a painting donated by Council Chaplain Father Aldrin Nunez. Festivities also included games, fun, food, drawings and a silent auction.

Council Hosts Blood Drive



Prince of Peace Council 8791 of Ormond Beach is holding its final blood drive of 2023 on Sunday, Dec. 10, looking to achieve its goal of 120 pints of blood donated during the 2023-24 Fraternal Year. The Big Red Bus at our Prince of Peace parking lot from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

“There is a lot going on in the parish during the month of December and I don’t want to see us lose the momentum that we have this Fraternal Year for this important Community Program,” said Blood Drive Chairman Mark Leary. “Are you looking for a Christmas charitable gift that you can give to our Community from you, our parish, and your Prince of Peace Knights of Columbus that is in keeping with the gospel for the Solemnity of Christ the King? “And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen I say to you whatever you did for

one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me’” (Mt 25:40).

Giving blood with "One Blood" is safe and controlled and includes a Wellness Checkup. One Blood is also offering a \$20 eGift Card and a "One Blood" blanket in December in response to the critical need for blood in our area. Simply click on this and pick an appointment time that works best for you: https://donor.oneblood.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/1279274.

Appointments are highly encouraged to reduce wait time, but walk-ins are also welcome. Walk-in times, however, may be delayed by restrictions on the maximum number of donors allowed on the bus! Don't forget to bring a picture I.D

Disabled Physically (But Not Spiritually)



In 2017, things were going well for Paul Boehnke. He was an ex-athlete who had played baseball and football at Bishop Kenny High School in Jacksonville. He remained physically fit, he was married, had two kids, and a good job as a nurse at Memorial Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida. Life was good.

All that changed on August 5, 2017, when he had a severe car accident. As a result, Paul had a spinal cord injury that left him quadriplegic, losing use of his arms and legs.

District Deputy 13 John Hashtak and his wife Bernie met Paul a couple years later when they were taking Holy Communion to Catholic patients at Baptist South Hospital. They quickly became friends with Paul as they visited every week. After a year, Paul was no longer there and John and Bernie later found out Paul had been moved to a rehabilitation facility in Macclenny, Florida, located about 45 minutes west of Jacksonville.

During a visit to see Paul, John asked him if he would be interested in becoming a Knight. Paul was surprised to be asked and said he couldn't because he couldn't move. John told him he could do a lot of good for others with his prayers. John also told him that he could provide hope to others in need and work with the Council 10850's Community Director in the "Brothers Helping Brothers" Project. The more Paul learned about the Knights, he realized that it could give him a new purpose in life, so Paul agreed to join Council 10850. That's when things took an unexpected turn for the good.

A while later Michael Bleacher joined Council 10850. He was an on-line Information Technology Professor at Valdosta State University. John asked him if he had any ideas how he could use his skills to help Paul. Michael started to join in the weekly visits to Paul and quickly saw opportunities to help him, beginning with the idea for a hands-free

Alexa phone. He also saw the opportunity that a computer would also help. The idea was presented to the Brother Knights and a fund raiser quickly provided over \$6,000. The first step was providing the Alexa Phone. Paul could simply say, "Alexa, Call John," and it would provide Paul a chance to call out without asking a nurse to hold the phone for him. It opened a new world for Paul.

The council then purchased Paul a computer. We tried voice activated computer Dragon software, but it did not work due to the excessive background noise. Michael then got a mechanical mouthpiece that attached to an articulated arm reaching out from the headboard of Paul's bed. Paul controls the computer arrow by using his tongue to move two separate ball-like devices in the mouthpiece. He now can compose email messages. Paul also has reached out in prayer for a Brother with stage four cancer. That Brother tells me Paul's prayers are like medicine for him. The ultimate goal is to have Paul reach out to other Brothers in need throughout the State of Florida and beyond.

Paul also received special help from Mary, Mother of Mercy Council 11566 in Macclenny. We

contacted them and asked if our Councils could work together for the benefit of a Brother in need. We specifically were looking for a local Brother who had computer skills and was a Eucharistic Minister who could bring Paul Holy Communion. Brother Jim Palesci fit the bill. Jim lives near the rehab facility, visits Paul three times a week, gets him groceries, and contacts father Raj when Paul wants confession. Paul is also blessed to have weekly visits from Karen Dougherty, the wife of Council 11566 Grand Knight Michael Dougherty, and she reads the Bible to him.

Paul told us that his wife and son visited recently and saw the Knight of the Month Certificate on the wall. Paul received it from Council 10850 in recognition for Paul's outreach efforts to other Knights in need. Paul said it made a big impression on his family to see the support from Paul's fraternal Brothers. Paul told us the Knights gave him a reason to live, and he tells others that although he can't move his arms or legs, he still has a soul, and he looks forward to be the role model of inspiration for those in need of prayers.



Knights help neighbor in need

The St. John Council 11281 Knights of Naples were recently asked to help a neighbor in need.

The person was disabled and was threatened by the home association for various housekeeping violations. Unable to respond to the allegations, the neighbor called on the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which reached out to the Knights to respond. Eight members of Council 11291 responded to the call, and repaired and cleaned up all of the violations that were given to the homeowner, who was greatly appreciative to the KofC.

Safe Haven Baby Box



Notre Dame Council 10514 at the Santa Maria del Mar Church in Flagler Beach teamed with the local Kiwanis Club to provide for a Safe Haven Baby Box.

In their roles as longtime Kiwanis members, Knights Frank Consentino, Bill Klinkenberg and Mike McElroy presented a \$5,000 check to Council 10514 at the December meeting for the installation of a Safe Haven Baby Box, which the council is spearheading, and which will be installed at the Station 25 Firehouse on Belle Terre Parkway in Palm Coast.

In their roles as longtime Knights, SK Frank is the Faithful Captain and the Color Corps Commander for Assy 2810, SK Bill belongs to

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Council 17480 and Assembly. 2810. Brother Mike recently transferred into Council 10514.

Many of the programs that the Knights support have parity with the Kiwanis Mantra, "Children are Priority One"!

"There is still more fundraising to be done for this program to reach the \$15,000 cost of installation, but we are well on our way," said SK Consentino, who serves as the region's CCC. "If together we can prevent even one baby from being abandoned in a dumpster, we will have done our job!"

A Busy October For Council



Council 13300 in Wildwood FL has a long history of supporting many of the Faith In Action categories within our community. That was never more evident than in the month of October, where through a series of fundraisers and events, we were able to achieve outstanding contributions in the Life, Faith, and Family categories, as well as achieving a significant increase in our membership.

We began the month by holding our annual “March for Life” in front of the Wildwood City Hall on October 1st, with the goal of encouraging others to choose life through our public support of pro-life causes. Life Director Garry Mang organized this event, and Brother Knight Deacon Dan Miller led a group of 57 brother Knights, spouses, and parishioners in reciting the rosary with the specific intention of a greater respect for all life from conception to natural death. In addition, we recited the divine mercy chaplet, all while holding signs along busy highway 301 in Wildwood. It was a very prayerful and successful event.

That same week, 25 brother Knights participated in a living rosary at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church to celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. This event was also dedicated to a greater culture of life in our society and our world. Additionally, a Parish Ministry Fair was held that weekend in the Family Life Center. Fourteen Knights supported Chancellor and Membership Director Gerry Haggerty in staffing a table for the Knights of Columbus at this event, and in

doing so, recruited a number of new members and transferees.

On October 17, the council supported Life’s Choices Women’s Clinic in Clermont Florida at its annual fundraising banquet. Our council has long supported this wonderful women’s center with financial support, and with assistance resulting in the purchase of their two ultrasounds. We raised more than \$5,000 for them, and still have another fundraiser scheduled in the coming year to help them with their wonderful life-affirming work. We are proud to support this extremely worthy charity which provides pregnant women the ability to view their unborn child via the ultrasound equipment. Their Executive Director, Marcia Marron, stated “The Knights of Columbus consistent support, kindness and dedication help us to continue our vital work and strive for greater achievements. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Knights.”

The weekend of October 21-22, we held a membership drive weekend in conjunction with hosting a coffee and donut social after all five Masses in our parish’s Family Life Center. This was another very successful event, supported by Program Director Jim LoBue’s excellent organizational effort. Sixty-four brother Knights and their spouses helped with the organizing and serving at the coffee social – providing a strong, friendly, and positive presence. Our Deputy Grand Knight, Ken Rabideau, put together a great PowerPoint slide presentation featuring our Council and Brother Knights at work in the community, which ran on two large video screens

throughout the social. Another 14 Knights supported the various tables set up around the church's family life center for membership recruitment. Again, we recruited a number of new Knights and another large number of transferees. As of the close of our report on November 15, we now have 15 new Brother Knights in this fraternal year, and these two events helped us immensely to do so.

On October 25 we held one of our more popular fundraisers, called "Night Golf." Program Director Jim LoBue and Faith Director Greg Mroczkowski co-chaired this event which involves playing golf at night after dark, with flags, holes and golf balls using glow sticks. Skill is certainly not a prerequisite for night golf! Everyone had a great time, resulting in our raising over \$2300 for two charities: Kids Central, Inc., and Shop with a Wildwood Cop, both of which will use our funds to provide Christmas toys for needy children in our area.

We also made the time during this very busy month to hold our final two "Tootsie Roll" collections to support Florida Special Olympics, The Arc Nature Coast, and St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church's Spiritual Friendship Club; all organizations that work with, assist, and enable those with mental and physical disabilities. Our brother Knights collected more than \$3,600 for these very worthy causes, helping to celebrate the intrinsic worth and dignity of every single human being.

In the final weekend of the month, we collected diapers, baby clothes, supplies, and cash for the young mothers at Hands of Mercy Everywhere (HOME), a local pregnancy support center for unwed teen moms who had the courage to say "yes" to life. These young women have earned our admiration, respect, and support. The response was overwhelming due to the excellent pre-communications with the Parish, and due to the support of our priests, deacons, parish office and parishioners. We were able to collect over \$12,000 worth of diapers, wipes, baby clothes, and baby goods, in addition to over \$8,000 in cash donations. It was an outstanding effort involving over 40 brother Knight volunteers and well over

100 volunteer hours to collect, inventory, and distribute the items to HOME – an incredible effort led by Sir Knight Mike Grindel and supported by the entire parish. HOME's Founder and CEO Diane Schofield stated that, "This is so exciting. I never feel alone or that we can't do what we need to do to serve God knowing that you Knights are in my corner. Thank you."

And finally, to end our busiest month of the year in a prayerful fashion, our Council's Grand Knight, Past Grand Knights, and Faith Director had the privilege of leading the entire parish in the recitation of the Holy Rosary prior to all five masses during the weekend of October 28-29. It was a very beautiful and prayerful way to help enable our parishioners to prepare for the celebration of the Mass. Based on the Knights leading the parishioners in the recitation of the Holy Rosary on "Fifth Sundays" prior to the 8am Mass, our Pastor, Father Kenny Aquino was so impressed with our Council's leadership and with the favorable response of the Parishioners, he asked us to work with other parish ministries to lead the Rosary before all Parish masses during the advent season, starting Dec. 2-3 – a huge compliment to the service our Council provides to the Parish, to our Ministry leadership, and to our devotion to The Blessed Mother.

Our Council is very proud of the service it has provided to others in the busy month of October and we continue to pray for a greater culture of life in our community and around the world.



Council Honors Veterans



Knights of Columbus Assembly 2794 and Council 8086 recently hosted their fifth annual Veterans Italian Dinner at the Our Lady of Hope Parish Hall in Port Orange.

The military-style dinner paid tribute to the many local veterans and active duty military personnel. Veterans were joined by a sellout group of 225 parishioners and community members who enjoyed a spirited evening of good food and camaraderie.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of Quilts of Valor. SK Art Hobbs, a 99-year-old World War II veteran and very active member of Sacred Heart Father Downey Council 4934, was presented with a home-made quilt by Quilts of Valor Foundation Florida coordinator Terry Burchell. Other quilts were presented to SK David Dollieslager (Korea), SK Tom Mies (Vietnam) and SK Phil Collea (Persian Gulf). The mother and daughter of Anthony D'Agostina were presented with a Gold Star quilt and the 20th

anniversary of his death in action.

SK Michael Godbout was presented with the Order of St. Maurice Legionnaire for distinguished service by the National Infantry Association.

Modeled after the military Dining-Out, a ceremonial tradition in all branches of service, the dinner was steeped in military history and customs, combined with some good old-fashioned fun. This year's keynote speaker was Retired USMC Colonel Maureen Wojciechowski, PhD, who served in both Vietnam and the first Gulf War. Her many accolades include the Navy Commendation Medal. Entertainment was provided by Pastor Father Matt Mello, whose impersonations included Elvis Presley, Ross Perot and several Presidents.

SK Dr. Ernie Jackson was the point of contact for the project, and was joined in running the ceremony by Assembly 2794 FN SK Bob Gillikin. PGK and Air Force veteran SK Tim Mell served as the Master of Punch.

Great Accomplishments for November



The Fourth Degree Northeast Regional Color Corps had a busy month of November, leading the procession for two Masses of Remembrance, the return of a Veterans Day Parade, Christ the King Eucharistic Procession and other activities, coordinated by Corpus Christi Assembly 2810 Color Corps Commander Frank Consentino.

The Annual KofC Mass of Remembrance for Our Deceased Brothers at Prince of Peace in Ormond Beach was held on Tuesday, Nov. 21, with 10 SKs in attendance from three assemblies. SK Bob Knapik of home Bishop Grady Assembly 2901 made his first appearance in regalia. He is a state officer for Florida Knights on Bikes.

Santa Maria del Mar in Flagler Beach held its Mass of Remembrance on Nov. 2. The Color Corps had 15 SKs from two assemblies. The Color Corps also attended similar Masses at St. Mary's in Bunnell, with eight SKs from two assemblies, and at Our Lady of Hope in Port Orange. District 18 Deputy Chuck Armstrong and District Warden Harold Bennett conducted the roll call.

Flagler Beach revived a tradition with its first Veterans Day parade. The Color Corps had a car in the event, with SK Mike Greene providing his

Buick. Following the parade, five SKs stood for the annual Veterans Day Ceremony, which included Congressman Michael Waltz and guest speaker William May, the Commander of DAV Chapter 86. Eight SKs led the Christ the King Eucharistic Procession at Our Lady of Hope in Port Orange, which was held indoors due to rain.

Other events included the funeral Mass for SK E.Y. Walter of Corpus Christi Assembly 2810 at Santa Maria del Mar. The family was pleased with the turnout of 19 SKs from two assemblies, and especially with the roll call, led by Notre Dame Council 10514 GK Bob Conochalla.



Orlando Fourth Degree



The Florida District of the De Soto Province continued a cherished Fourth Degree tradition by holding a Thanksgiving Weekend Exemplification in the Orlando area.

The ceremony was held at a new location, Resurrection Catholic Church in Winter Garden, and added 111 Sir Knights to the Florida roster under the leadership of Florida Master John O’Toole.

Immediate Past State Deputy Rob Urrutia was the degree honoree at his home parish, and helped oversee preparations for the event.

SK Daniel Barton made his first official Florida appearance as the recently appointed Vice Supreme Master of the DeSoto Province. The South Carolinian had attended a recent Florida State Convention.

The Degree followed the new format used for Florida Exemplifications. Rather than using a large hotel, degrees are held at churches. Following 9 a.m. registration, Mass is held for the candidates, with the church used as the antechamber. Candidates then process to the parish hall for the ceremony at noon. Following a brief happy hall to reset the hall, the banquet is then held at 3 p.m. in the parish hall.

SK Gary Gnidziejko, former District Master of the Far East and Former District Deputy of Europe, made his debut with the Florida Degree Team in the role of Historian. Other Exemplars included John O’Toole, Master; Father Chris Hoffmann, Faithful Friar; Ron Brown, Registrar and Exemplification Director; Scott O’Connor, Narrator; Charles McLaughlin, Defender of the Faith; and James Ball, Expositor of the Constitution. Danny McIntyre served as Marshal, assisted by Bruce Winner and Ken Jeffres. Weldon Watkins, Bob Higgins and William Cosgrove handled the event logistics and technical support.

Details will be announced shortly for the first Fourth Degree Exemplification of 2024, which is expected to be held in the Tampa-Bradenton area in March.



Knights Sponsor Wellness Seminar

“Improving Emotional and Spiritual Aspects of Celebrating the Holidays.”

This long title was intended to cover what many people experience, particularly during the holiday season and with the intention of providing a sense of ease in dealing with the stress and pressures that seem to arrive at this time of the year.

Council 13338 was privileged to have two highly respected individuals: Dr. Elssy Oms, MD and Father Timothy Canaan, M.Div., M.A., to address this seminar to the many diverse parishioners who attended.

Dr. Oms is board certified in General Psychiatry and Child Adolescent Psychiatry and has previously served as the Vice Chair of Psychiatry at JFK North Medical Center in West Palm Beach.

Father Canaan has served the Diocese of Ogdensburg as Vocations Director, Director of Admissions of Wadhams Hall Seminary and as College and Director of Campus Ministry. He has preached numerous parish missions including at Emmanuel Parish where we are proud of his weekly participation at our weekly and Sunday masses.

Dr. Oms provided an introspective audio/video presentation of several topics dealing with emotions and feelings and ways to reduce stress usually experienced at this time of the year.

In one of her topics, Dr. Oms explained that not all stressors are within our control, but some are that putting too much on your plate may increase one’s stress load and limit the amount of time spent on self-care. One way she emphasized to help reduce stress may be to say “no” more often. This is especially true if you take on more than you can manage because juggling a number of responsibilities, especially during this Christmas season, may leave you feeling overwhelmed. Indeed she went so far to say that “NO” is in fact a complete sentence requiring no further detail or explanation; that creating boundaries — especially

with people who add to your stress levels — is a healthy way to protect your well-being.

She also went on to explain that exercise, a balanced diet, and more time out for meditation and prayer along with more time with family and friends could and would go a very long way to dealing with and reducing stress.

Even Father Canaan recounted to us that he himself went through some difficult and troubling periods in his life, But in the telling us of his personal experiences and struggles he indeed provided emotional and spiritual encouragement to all of us listening to what he had encountered and how he overcame them particularly through prayer and the help of the Holy Spirit.

It was a very uplifting and rewarding seminar. Dr. Oms and Fr. Canaan were indeed connected with each of us attending and their answers to questions were concise and on point. In addition to them both, much thanks also need go to our Faith Director, Armando Minutoli, who chaired the occasion and to our Council Treasurer, Peter Cavanaugh, who co-chaired along with Past Grand Knight and Membership Chairperson Chuck Dolce who arranged for the refreshments.

Overall, the seminar was an enormous success, close to one-hundred fifty knights and parishioners attended and all left with a strong feeling of composure, with a heightened sense of well-being and gratitude to what had been presented and with what each of those in attendance experienced. Brother Armando, who was exceedingly happy about the turn-out, said that they intend to promote similar events in the future that encourage physical and spiritual well-being for the knights and parishioners alike.



Assembly Delivers Turkeys



On November 20, 2023, the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Assemblies 1850 (Bishop Chales B. McLaughlin, Nativity Catholic Church) and 3418 (Monsignor John F. Scully, St. Stephen Catholic Church) Delivered 240 complete turkey meals to VAVS facility at Fowler and 46th Street.

This is an annual project undertaken by these two Assemblies. The donated food provided

allows needy veterans and their families a chance to celebrate Thanksgiving. This is an excellent example of two Assemblies working together to benefit veterans in need. The Faithful Navigator for Assembly 1850 is SK Luis Perez, and the Faithful Navigator for Assembly 3418 is SK Mark Lovejoy.



*On November 18, 2023, at the 12th Annual St. Thomas the Apostle Dinner Dance, **Sir Knight Charlie Mattingly** was honored for 75 years of service to the Knights of Columbus. In front of the assembled parishioners, including the Pastor Fr. Glenn Diaz, and Monsignor Joe Sobiesiak, Grand Knight Joseph McEvoy of Council 15154, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Charlie. Every year the Knights organize a dinner for the parishioners. Charlie made his First Degree on October 25th, 1948. He is a Charter member of Council 15154 and a founding member of Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic church. At 94 years old, he is still active in the parish, attending daily mass, and in the community.*

Council Hosts Car Show



Church of the Epiphany Council 12569 recently held its annual car show in the parish parking lot in Port Orange. The council's largest annual fund raiser featured new awards, crafted from used engine parts of various cars. Ken and Christi won Best of Show with a Plymouth Prowler. Ken Kersh won People's Choice with a 1960 Corvette, and the Ford Mustang Club had the best car club representation. The council also donated \$2,850 to the Pregnancy Crisis Center of Daytona Beach.



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 1st 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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For general information or questions email: invocation@floridakofc.org



Are You A Member?

The 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/> †

Did 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.

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.

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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