



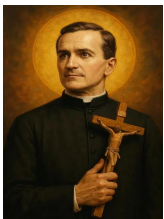
DISTRICT 53 KNIGHTLY NEWS

AUGUST 2026



August 15 Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Holy Day of Obligation

The Assumption is one of the oldest holy days in the Church. It recalls both the happy departure of Our Lady from this earthly life and the lifting of her body into heaven. It provides a foretaste of our own bodily resurrection at the end of time. Some people think Catholics believe Mary “ascended” into heaven. That’s not correct. Christ, by His own power, ascended into Heaven. **Mary was assumed**, or taken up into Heaven, by God. She didn’t do it under her own power. On Nov. 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII declared that it is a dogma (a belief declared as unquestionable truth) of the Church “that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory.” The Assumption is a truth of salvation history that requires our belief and assent. In doing so, we imitate Christ in honoring His mother.



August 13 Feast Day of Blessed Michael McGivney

On March 29, 1882, the then 29-year-old assistant pastor of St. Mary’s Church in New Haven, Conn., gathered a group of parish men to found a lay organization with the goal of uniting men in the Catholic Faith and protecting the families of deceased members.

Through that act, the founder of the Knights of Columbus, Father Michael McGivney, became a central figure in the growth of Catholicism in America, and remains a model today of faith in action. His example of charity, evangelization and empowerment of the laity continues to bear fruit and guide Knights of Columbus around the world. Pope Francis set the annual feast day for Blessed Michael McGivney as August 13, the day between Father McGivney’s birthday (in 1852) and the day of his death (in 1890).

August 6 - The Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

Our divine Redeemer, being in Galilee about a year before His sacred Passion, took with him Sts. Peter, James and John, and led them to a retired mountain. Tradition assures us that this was Mount Tabor, which is exceedingly high and beautiful.



While Jesus prayed, his whole body and face were altered and shone as the sun, and his garments became white as snow. Moses and Elias were seen by the three apostles in his company on this occasion, and were heard discoursing with him of the death which he was to suffer in Jerusalem.

There came a sudden, bright shining cloud from heaven, an emblem of the presence of God's majesty, and from out of this cloud was heard a voice which said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him"

New Bishop for the Diocese of Venice

Bishop Emilio Biosca Agüero, OFM Cap. was installed as Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida on July 11, 2026. Our Councils were privileged to participate in the solemn ceremony with the Fourth Degree Color Corps and a number of members were able to be in attendance.

Council Rosters should be uploaded monthly. The date to upload your roster this month is **August 11**. Supreme updates all transactions submitted by Financial Secretary's throughout the Order after normal business hours every Monday. Therefore, if you update your council Member Management on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, your council membership roster will always be up to date. **Put a note on your calendar to complete this important task!**

Annual Audit is due August 15 All the councils in District 53 have completed their audits on time. **Well done!**

The Florida State Raffle is back! Tickets are available for purchase at all councils. The split this year is 50/50 between Councils and Florida Charities.

The District Organizational Meeting was held on 18 JULY at St Maximilian Kolbe Parish Hall, Port Charlotte. The Deputy Grand Knight at St Max Council 11483, Paul

Versnik shared his program for increasing membership engagement and retention. A very special speaker, Joseph McGivney, gave an inspirational and informative talk about his miraculous recovery and discussed Recovery Sunday fundraisers for The Guest House treatment center for clergy and religious.



Star Council Criteria: Major changes have been made to the requirements for the Star Council Award. Here are a few highlights of the requirements for the new fraternal year.

There are no changes for the McGivney Award for membership growth. Councils must attain 6% intake growth based on July 1st council membership with a Minimum of 5 new members and a maximum of 15.

The Founders Award for insurance is changed significantly. Fraternal Benefit Events will not be required but Open Houses may still be scheduled. The new criteria is that a number of associate or new members equal to 10% of the membership on July 1 with a minimum of 5 and maximum of 15 must meet individually with our Financial Advisor, Alan Kotlarski, for a financial review. There is no need to purchase insurance.

The Columbian Award has been simplified to emphasize quality over quantity of programs. Councils should conduct *Cor* monthly providing the name and email address of the EFF Director or conduct three unique activities that build fraternity, serve the community and parish and bring men closer to Christ. Councils will be required to make at least one \$500 donation to any of the following programs: ASAP, Coats for Kids, RSVP, and Food for Families. Finally, Councils must complete four programs with at least one in each of the categories of Faith, Family, Community and Life.

FOURTH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION: August 29 Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, 4675 Clyde Morris, Blvd, Port Orange, FL. Contact your Faithful Navigator for further information if you would like to attend.

Fourth Degree St Jude Assembly 1750

Quarterly Memorial Service – August 21, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. Jacobson Veterans Home, PC

Fourth Degree Meeting – will be held on August 27 with a social hour at 5:00 p.m. The business meeting will commence at 6:00 p.m. San Antonio Parish Center, Rooms 1 & 2.

Fourth Degree Ice Cream Social, August 27, 2026 at 2 p.m. Jacobson Veterans Home, Port Charlotte.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE DISTRICT

Ponce de Leon Council 8074



16 August Corporate Mass 9 am

CUF -- 3rd Wednesday of each month as needed

26 August Social TBD

St Maximilian Kolbe Council 11483



14 August Feast Day of St. Maximilian Kolbe 8 a.m. Mass

CUF 2nd Wednesday of each month as needed

San Antonio Council 12456

August 21, 6:00 p.m. Past Grand Knight Dinner Maple Leaf Golf & Country Club, 2100 Kings Hwy, Port Charlotte



September 13 6:00-8:00 PM Concert “Simply Sixties” at Holy Trinity Event Center, 24411 Rampart Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL.

CUF 1st Wednesday of each month as needed

St Charles Borromeo Council 5399

Installation of 2026-2027 Council Officers – July 16, 2026 (Below Right)



Officers of St Charles Borromeo presented a check to Heartland Council 7567 in Arcadia to help get the council a head start on reactivation. (Above Left)

Heartland Council 7567 (Arcadia)

The soon to be reactivated council in Arcadia hosted a membership drive featuring home baked cakes and pastries.



Thank you for all you do for the Order and the Church.

Gary D. Miller

District Deputy, Dist 53

Vivat Jesus!