



Knights of Columbus®

ST THOMAS MORE COUNCIL #7826

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“WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL, THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED, BY THEIR CREATOR, WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS, THAT AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.”

Thomas Jefferson

Chaplains Message

CHAPLAINS MESSAGE -

Dear Brother Knights, I hope this newsletter finds you all well. A special recognition and congratulations to our new Grand Knight Scott as he officially begins his tenure leading our council into a new year of serving our parish and local community. I've just returned from leading highschool juniors and seniors on a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi for the Jubilee year of Hope and one of the major highlights was getting to stand only a few feet away from Pope Leo as he passed by in his Pope-mobile during his Wednesday audience. Let us continue to keep our new Pope in prayer as he begins his ministry and one another with whatever each one of us may be going through - there is power in prayer and no greater gift we can give to one another. Be assured of my own prayers for each one of you

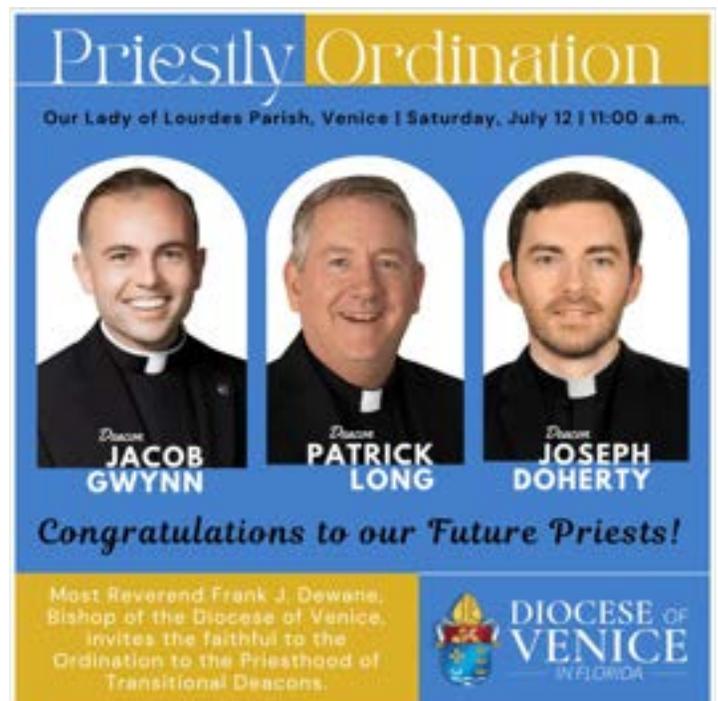
DEACON PAT LONG'S ORDINATION & 1ST MASS -

“Deacon Patrick Long is a member of the Knights of Columbus Council # 7826. Deacon Pat grew up in Sarasota and graduated from St. Martha's Grade School and Cardinal Mooney High School and eventually Florida State University with a degree in Marketing. Deacon Pat states, “I was always active in the Church, as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, Religious Education teacher, Youth group leader and Pro-life work. I believe God was calling me to the priesthood and after a few years of theological formation and some very good spiritual direction, I entered seminary. I completed my theological studies at Pope St. John XXIII Seminary outside of Boston. In my free time, I enjoy getting together with friends and family, as well as rowing, racquetball/pickleball, hiking or anything outdoors.”

YOU ARE INVITED . . .

Deacon Pat has invited every member of our Council to attend his Ordination at Our Lady of Lourdes, his first Mass at STM, and his dinner reception in the Chelsea Center. All are welcome to share in these joyful celebrations of Christ's priesthood! Here are the details for each event:

1. Ordination at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Venice with Bishop Dewane on Saturday, July 12th, at 11:00 a.m. A reception will follow immediately after the Mass in the parish hall.
2. 1st Mass at STM later on July 12th at 4:00 p.m. A reception will follow in the parish hall after the Mass, where Fr. Pat will offer his First Blessings.
3. Dinner reception on July 12th at 6:00 p.m. in the Chelsea Center. Please RSVP to Brother Dave and Sue Bracy at 941-966-7692 if you plan to attend.



Grand Knights Report

COUNCIL AWARD

During the June 12th Council Meeting, we celebrated our council’s many fraternal year accomplishments and thanked our out-going Grand Knight, Ralph Neller, for his leadership the last two years. In addition to our council meeting the requirements for the Star Council Award, the FL State Council selected our council as the FL State “Council of the Year”. This is a remarkable achievement that we can all be proud of. Our District Deputy, Jon Engel, presented Grand Knight Ralph Neller with the Council of the Year Award.

Additionally, Grand Knight Elect, Scott Deahna, who attended the FL State Council Convention, discussed our councils “Program Plan” contained within the councils Faith in Action Plan. The strength of our councils programs in the areas of Faith, Family, Community and Life lead to our councils significant recognition at the FL State Convention.



Grand Knights Report

COUNCIL OFFICERS -



The Grand Knight thanked the officer team for their support and presented each officer with a “Carolingian Crucifix” and a thank you note.

The Council thanks the following outgoing officers for their service: Dr. Steven Wyer (advocate), David Bracy (Warden), Charles Ballschmider (inside guard) and Hank Peppard (outside guard).

At the end of the Council Meeting a ceremonial “passing of the gavel” was presented to the Grand Knight Elect, Scott Deahna.

The Council welcomes the following Knights to the 2025 / 2026 Fraternal Year Officer Team: Ed Powers (recorder), Lynn Quartermaine (inside guard), Joe Pelletier (outside guard) and Laurence Hall (three year trustee). The full 2025 / 2026 Council Officer Team is shown on Pg. x.



The Officer Installation Ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, August 9th in the Spirt Center following the 4:00 pm Mass. The Councils Celebration Dinner is scheduled for Friday, August 8th at the Stoneybrook Country Club.

Grand Knights Report

NEW FRATERNAL YEAR -

The Council wished our Chaplain, Fr, Daniel a Happy 30th Birthday and celebrated with birthday cake.



As we move into the next Fraternal Year, our “Program Directors” will be discussing our Council’s Programs in more detail and we will be updating our council’s committee lists. If you are a new member, please review the councils Faith in Action Plan (emailed to council members on 6/7/25) and identify a couple of programs you would like to participate in.

As a reminder, the council has established the following monthly base schedule:

- 1st Wednesday – Knights Mass (8am), Officers Meeting (7pm).
- 2nd Tuesday – Council Meeting (7pm).
- 3rd Tuesday – 3rd Degree Exemplification (6:30pm).
- 4th Thursday – Prayer Walk

The monthly Knights Mass is dedicated to the Good of the Order. The Knights Mass is preceded by a Rosary Prayer at 7:30am. Adoration follows the mass.

The 4th Degree Assembly (Patriotism) meets the second Monday of the month at 7pm. The Assembly is a group of Knights from the St. Thomas More Council, the Incarnation Council and the St. Patrick’s Council. If you are interested in joining the 4th Degree Assembly, please attend a meeting or contact Steve Wyer (Faithfull Navigator).



As we begin the next fraternal year we plan to continue our strong Program Plan. Our 2025 / 2026 Faith in Action Plan has been completed and issued to the members. During the June Council Meeting, the 2025 / 2026 fraternal year budget was “read in”. The budget will be approved at the July Council Meeting.

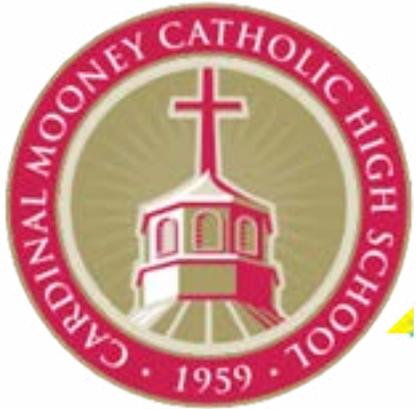
Last year’s Council Fundraisers exceeded expectations. Therefore, we have increased several charitable contributions this year and plan to “drawdown” the councils operating account due to its significant balance. The budget details have been emailed to the members. If you have any questions, please contact Steve McElroy (Financial Secretary).

Faith In Action

SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION -

The Knights of Columbus Council 7826 Scholarship Awards Program was held on June 10, 2025.

The program was hosted by Steve McElroy, Scholarship Program Chairman. Father Daniel Scanlan provided the Invocation. Father Nick Thompson provided the closing prayer. The council thanks John Koitsch for the photos and Jack Rodman for the special celebration cake.



The Scholarship Awards were presented as follows:

- The Lance Corporal Patrick Ryan Adle Memorial Scholarship was presented by Jim Meyd to awardee Hadley Paben.
- The Hank Peppard Family Memorial Scholarship was presented by Hank Peppard to awardee Wyatt Liott.
- The Knights of Columbus Council 7826 Scholarship was presented by Ralph Neller to awardee Julia Pygott.
- The Knights of Columbus Council 7826 Scholarship was presented by Ralph Neller to awardee Genevieve White.
- The Richard A. Schwehr Memorial Scholarship was presented by Ann Johnson & Kathy Schwehr to awardee Ava White.



Faith In Action



Worthy Ralph Neller and Larry Hall thank Ann Johnson and Kathy Schwehr for the Schwehr Families generous support of the Councils Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School Scholarship Program.



Faith In Action

COUNCIL SOCIAL -

The Council’s June Social was held on Friday, June 20th at Miguel’s on Siesta Key. The social was attended by 46 Knights and family. Father Nick Thompson led the evening prayer.

This was the last Council Social for this fraternal year. Worthy Ralph Neller thanked Sue and Dave Bracy for their support and leadership coordinating the Council’s social events the last several years. Worthy presented Sue and Dave with a token of the Council’s grateful appreciation for their service to the Council and announced the Bracy’s have been selected “Family of the Year” by the Councils officers.

Worthy announced Jack Rodman has been selected “Knight of the Year”. Jack led the Knights kitchen staff during all Knights events at STM and during Parish events supported by the Knights.

The next fraternal year’s social committee will be led by Judy and Kevin Deady and Nancy and Larry Hall.

Worthy Ralph Neller presented the FL State “Council of the Year” award and thanked all of the wives for their support of the Council during the fraternal year.



Faith In Action



Faith In Action

4TH DEGREE ASSEMBLY -

The 4th degree Assembly Celebration Dinner was held on Friday evening, June 13th at Stoneybrook Golf and Country Club with 42 attendees. The Celebration Dinner was hosted by the Faithful Navigator, Dr. Steven Wyer. Father Nick Thompson attended.



The Assembly made a Fraternal Year Contribution of \$4,500.00 to Operation Warrior Resolution.

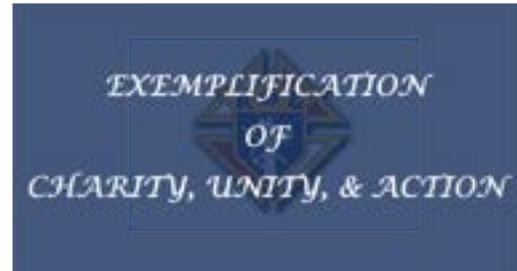


Check Presenters pictured from Left to Right Dr. Steven Wyer, Robert Ward, Wayne Brewer, Recipient Kendra Simpkins Walsh, and Steve McElroy.

Faith In Action

JUNE EXEMPLIFICATION -

There was no exemplification held in June. The July exemplification is scheduled for July 15. The Council anticipates several new member candidates to participate.





KNIGHT / FAMILY OF THE MONTH

KNIGHTS OF MONTH - HANK PEPPARD

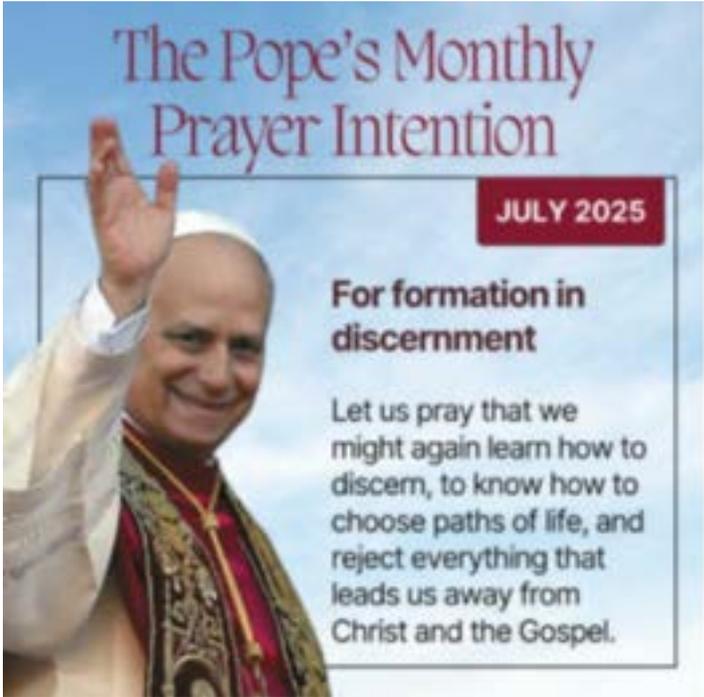
Hank Peppard was presented with the Knight of the Month Award. Hank has served the Council Officer Team for several years as the Outside Guard and helped to coordinate the council's hospitality at all of the council's functions. Congratulations Hank!

FAMILY OF MONTH - STEVE & DEBORAH MECCHOIRE

Steve Melchoire was presented with the Family of the Month Award. Steve and Deborah Melchoire coordinated the successful Cruise Raffle Council Fund Raiser. The Cruise Raffle Fund Raiser provided a net \$7,959.50 to the council's general operating fund. Congratulations Steve and Deborah!



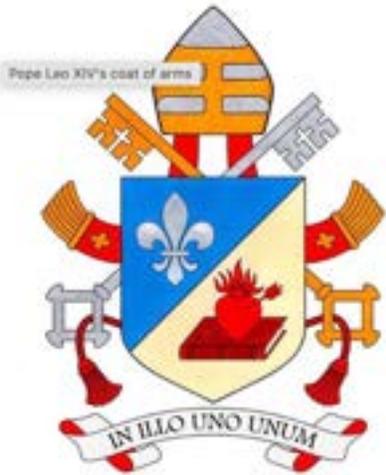
Parish News



FOOD PANTRY -

Thank you to all the Food Bank volunteers and their spouses for your in-person participation and your monetary support. As you may know, the supply chain remains a challenge, and food supplies are still in short supply.

Given today's economy, we have 75-100 families in need every week. The weekly bulletin lists the items we critically need. Your donations are greatly appreciated by the pantry and those families we serve.

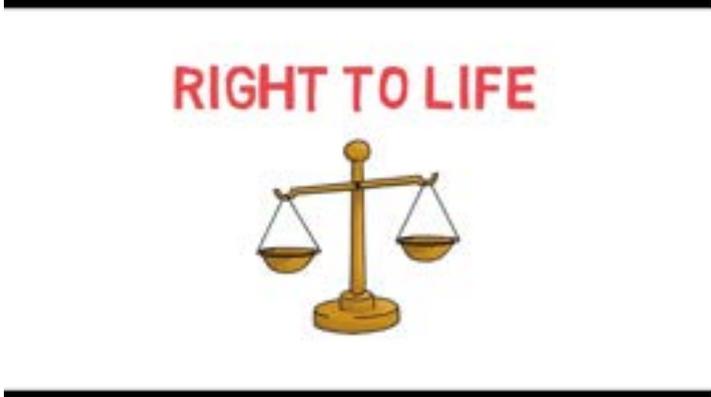


POPE LEO XIV'S COAT OF ARMS



Committee Corner

RIGHT TO LIFE MINISTRY -



Brothers, please consider coming out for one hour on Thursday, July 24 between 9 -1 to peacefully pray. We have many prayer warriors who are away or convalescing but we do have some stalwart prayer warriors that would welcome your presence! Check out this recent family save below - Your presence and prayers truly work.



"We were blessed with a particularly poignant save this week. Jack encountered a couple whom he spoke with at some length and ended up bringing over to the CPC. What made the save particularly blessed was the husband confiding in Jack that they were looking for a sign... and they got one! This is so reassuring to us as counselors, as advocates for life (and as prayers), knowing that our being there has directly resulted in a precious new life coming into the world. If Jack had not been there, there would have been no sign... and the baby would very likely have been aborted this day. Praise God that we can be His Hands and feet, His presence on the sidewalk outside the gates wherein all hope is lost."

For Life,
Neil & Brian

Committee Corner

SPECIAL OLYMPICS -

Swim Competition:

Join us as a volunteer at our upcoming swimming event! Help out with staging, timing, awards, and logistics while supporting our incredible athletes.

Date: Saturday, July 26
 Location: Selby Aquatic Center
 8501 Potter Park Drive,
 Sarasota, FL 34238
 Time: 7:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.



Special Olympics is looking for additional volunteers to join the 2025 North Sarasota Swim Program. The Swimming is twice weekly to prepare for the competition at the end of the season. Volunteers can call Alyssa Isaksen at 941-404-0361 or email Alyssa at - alysisaksen@sofl.org.

They are looking for help each week and you don't have to make a commitment for every week. Arlington Park is at Arlington Street just before Waldemere off of Tuttle.

Stand-Up Paddle Board Competitions:

We're looking for volunteers to help with timing, staging, awards, logistics, and board handling at our upcoming Stand-Up Paddle Board Competitions. If you're signing up for board handling, please note that lifting is required and you'll be in the water'

Regional Stand-Up Paddle Board Competition

Date:
 Friday, July 11 and Saturday, July 12
 Location:
 Nathan Benderson Park
 5851 Nathan Benderson Circle,
 Sarasota, FL 34235
 Time:
 Friday- 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. |
 Saturday: 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



State Stand-Up Paddle Board Competition:

Date:
 Saturday, August 16
 Location:
 Nathan Benderson Park
 5851 Nathan Benderson Circle,
 Sarasota, FL 34235
 Time:
 Morning Shift: 6:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Committee Corner

Bowling Competitions:

We're looking for volunteers to support our upcoming bowling event! Help as a lane monitor, assist with awards, and keep things running smoothly with logistics.

Date: Saturday, August 2

Location: Bowlero Bradenton

4208 Cortez Rd W, Bradenton, FL 34210

Time: 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Date: Saturday, August 9

Location: Bowlero Coral

42 Mid Cape Terr. Cape Coral, FL 33991

Time: 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

If you are interested in bowling in particular please contact Al Ferrigno. His e-mail address is as follows A72342@gmail.com

These events are all about celebrating our athletes, and we need YOUR help to make them truly unforgettable. As a volunteer, you'll play a vital role in supporting our athletes, cheering them on, and assisting behind the scenes to ensure everything runs smoothly. This is a fantastic opportunity to give back, make a difference, and be part of something special!

Mail question to this email address:
Savannahrock@sofl.org



Special Olympics



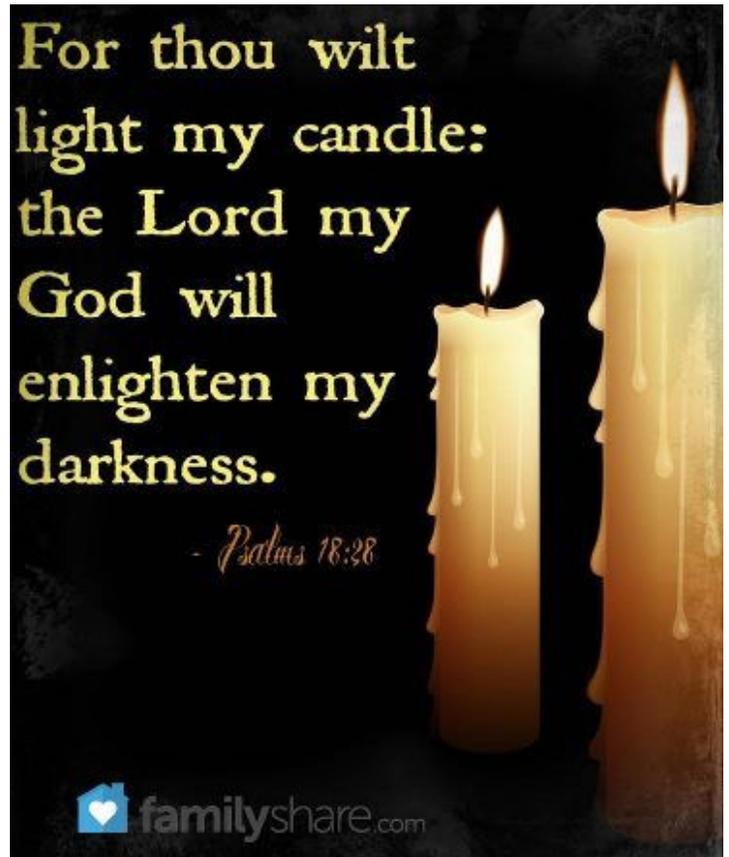
Special Olympics Florida provides year-round sports training and athletic competitions in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. We rely on more than 51,000 volunteers each year, who serve as coaches, help with events, assist on committees, and so much more. Help athletes achieve their dreams -- get involved today!



Council Good of the Order

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

Charley Baldelli
 Ken Berberich
 Ted Bogusz
 Dave Bracy
 Pat Cesare
 Neil Corrado
 Ed Cox
 Cindi Culkin (wife of Charlie)
 Judy Deady (wife of Kevin)
 Susan DeBlauw (wife of Brian)
 Jean DeVito (wife of Corey)
 Gary Ellis
 Ken Gaasch
 Madeleine Garvey (wife of Gary)
 Jerry and Annie Hayes
 Jan Jakubiuk
 John Koitsch
 Ted Kovacic
 Richard Lamb and daughter Megan Brown
 Don Leonard
 Roy MacGillis
 John & Kay Maier
 Ron McCluskey
 Carol McElroy (wife of Steve)
 Thomas Nate
 Margie Noll
 Hank Peppard
 Christopher Peppard (son of Hank Peppard)
 Ed Plankey
 Tom Reed
 John Regan
 Nancy Risbano
 John & Craig Spinale (John's son)
 Johnnie Turner
 Cheryl Vignola (wife of Michael)
 Kim Wojtyna (daughter of Carol)
 Donna Woodford (wife of David Woodford)



Please keep our recently departed Brothers and their surviving spouses in your prayers: Stephen Fenner, John McAlonie, Tony Picozzi, Victor Ferrulli and James McNamara.

If you know of any Brother Knight in need, let us know, and we will make sure that he is contacted. If you have any questions or needs, please contact (Ralph Neller, Grand Knight) at his email address rneller65@outlook.com or my mobile 513-708-0528.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Brothers James Alexander and Dan Martin for their kind assistance with this Newsletter!

Council Birthdays

JULY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



July 1 – A Roy Mac Gillis
 July 11 – Donald J Leonard
 July 14 – Mitchell G Mauer
 July 15 – Jamie Paul Holahan
 July 16 – Richard J Marcella
 July 17 – Dr. Steven M Wyer
 July 18 – Thomas S Kennedy Jr
 July 22 – Thomas S Kennedy Jr
 July 23 – Albert Ronald Ferrigno
 July 23 – Mr Joseph G Mizii PGK
 July 27 – Mark R Lawrie
 July 27 – Richard E Riley
 July 29 – Kevin G Deady

K of C #7826 OFFICERS 2025 - 2026

Fr. Daniel J Scanlan – Chaplain
 Scott T Deahna – Grand Knight
 Francis S McElroy - Financial Secretary
 John T Spinale - Deputy Grand Knight
 Kevin G Deady – Chancellor
 Ed J Powers – Recorder
 Kenneth H Berberich – Treasurer
 Daniel J Bulinski – Advocate
 Stephen M Melchiore – Warden
 Lynn A Quartermaine - Inside Guard
 Joe Pelletier Jr - Outside Guard
 Corey M Devito - One Year Trustee
 Ernest J Dean - Two Year Trustee
 Lawrence S Hall - Three Year Trustee
 Derek J Noll – Lecturer

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 mcelroyfs@verizon.net
 jtspin912@gmail.com
 KEVINGDEADY@GMAIL.COM
 EPOWERS@GDSCONNECT.COM
 berberichken@yahoo.com
 danb6002@comcast.net
 STEVEMELCH@VERIZON.NET
 LynnQuartermaine@yahoo.com
 JOPELLETIERJR@GMAIL.COM
 CMDEVITO@KAIGHNCO.COM
 EJDEAN99@VERIZON.NET
 hallorhall@gmail.com
 DEREKJNOLL@GMAIL.COM

Council Upcoming Events

Thank you for your support of these future events!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Our monthly “Knight’s Mass will be on Wednesday, July 2nd, at the 8:00 a.m. Mass.
- The Officers’ Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Spirit Center.
- The July Council Business Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Spirit Center.
- Deacon Pat Long’s 1st Mass will be held at St. Thomas More on Saturday, July 12th at 4 pm.
- Our Lady of Charity Assembly Meeting (4th Degree) will be held on Monday, July 14th, 7 pm. at St. Patrick’s.
- Our monthly Exemplification Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, July 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the Spirit Center.
- The monthly Right to Life Prayer Walk will be on Thursday, July 24th between 9:00 - 1:00 p.m. in front of Planned Parenthood.
- There is no Council Social scheduled in July.



Insurance Advisor

NEWS FROM OUR FRATERNAL FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Being a Knight truly is to live a life of service. To give of oneself.

When I think about the many ways our Order contributes to our parishes and to our communities, I’m reminded of what St. Paul tells us about giving: “Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:7). “A cheerful giver” — that perfectly describes what it means to be a Knight.

As a Knights of Columbus field agent, I see in my daily life how Knights give of themselves with joy. When a brother Knight chooses to protect his family through Knights of Columbus insurance, he does so out of love. He wants to make sure his loved ones are taken care of when he’s gone.

And I remind him that he’s not only protecting his family. He’s furthering the charitable mission of our Order.

That’s what sets Knights of Columbus apart. Members who’ve purchased a Knights of Columbus insurance product or invested with Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors are doing business with an organization that aligns with their Catholic faith.

Through the business activities and the contributions of state and local councils, Knights of Columbus were able to donate more than \$185 million to charity last year alone. That doesn’t even include the nearly \$21 million distributed through Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund via grants by donor clients. To be a Knight is to be part of a culture of giving – and in terms of business, it’s a culture that turns insurance premiums into charitable impact.

Whether it’s supporting new mothers in need, delivering Coats for Kids, bringing relief after natural disasters, or supporting seminarians, the number of people who depend on our help is countless. And the extent of our reach would not be possible without our insurance program.

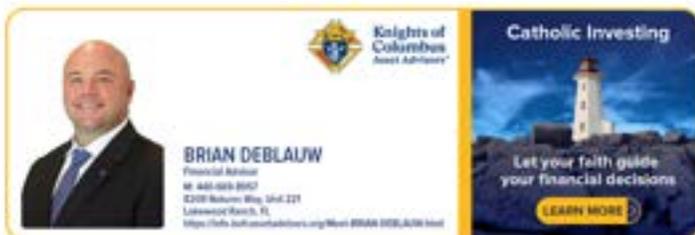
As the Fraternal Year comes to a close, I want to congratulate you all for the many successes you’ve achieved as a council. When we come together under our principles of charity, unity and fraternity, we truly make a great impact.

Thank you,

Vivat Jesus!

God Bless!

Brian DeBlauw



Calendar - JULY, 2025



Knights of Columbus®

ST THOMAS MORE COUNCIL #7826

The screenshot shows a Google Calendar interface for July 2025. The calendar grid includes the following events:

- July 2: Early Rosary @ 7:30, KofC Mass @ 8:00AM, Officers Mtg @ 7:00
- July 10: Council Mtg @ 7:00
- July 12: Father Pat's 1st Mass
- July 14: Assembly Mtg @ St.
- July 15: Degree Exemplificat
- July 24: Prayer Walk at Plann

At the bottom of the calendar interface, there is a link "Add to Google Calendar" and the "Google Calendar" logo.

For more details on calendar events please visit the Council website:
<https://kofc7826.org/calendar/>