

THE PATRIOT'S CALL: *United in Faith & Freedom*

ASSEMBLY 1818

July 2025



Faithful Navigator
Bernie Lanza 941-441-8892

Comptroller
George Barbiero 203-885-8238

Captain
Tony Hopfinger 412-496-6776

Admiral
Tony Salvucci 617-320-1759

Purser
Vinnie Gelsomino 815-409-2385

Pilot
Rick Anderson 321-303-8172

Scribe
Vince Hagerty 609-805-7704

Inner Sentinel
Chuck Woodrum 304-282-8733

Outer Sentinel
Bill Blanchard 732-841-6074

One Year Trustee
Ed Farrell 941-223-6321

Two Year Trustee
Richard Kunzier 973-903-1226

Three Year Trustee
Kevin Szopinski 603-277-1367

Faithful Friar
Rev. Januszc

Greetings, Brother Knights,

July is a month known for fireworks and barbeques in celebration of the birth of this great nation. We are blessed to live in the United States of America and enjoy the liberty and freedom that are the legacy of the courage and sacrifice of generations.

As Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, this spirit of patriotism holds a special significance. While the principles of our beloved Order—Charity, Unity, and Fraternity—form the foundation of our commitment to Christ and His Church, the Fourth Degree elevates us to a distinct and profound purpose. We stand as examples of Catholic men dedicated to our faith and devoted to our country.

Brother Knights, we are also reminded of the ongoing sacrifices made to preserve it. We are blessed to participate in the *No Veteran Forgotten* ceremony held monthly. It is our pledge that the valiant men and women who have defended our freedoms will never fade from memory. Each salute, each prayer, and each moment of silence are a living tribute to those who gave their all.

I hope *The Patriot's Call: United in Faith & Freedom* serves as a powerful reminder to continue our patriotic service, honoring God and strengthening our nation. I welcome your feedback and suggestions to help us improve this newsletter for future editions. You may email me at gebarbiero@gmail.com

Vivat Jesus!

George Barbiero



A Message from our Faithful Navigator.....



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ASSEMBLY 1818

Sir Knights and Invited Spouses:

The installation of Assembly 1818 Officers, Knights of Columbus is scheduled for July 23, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel. The dress code for the incoming officers will be 4th Degree Uniforms (less, Beret, sword, and gloves). If not a CC member, new officers should wear Assembly shirts nice slacks. Your spouse will be involved in your installation, and she will place the officer jewel of your office upon you.

Following the formal services, all are invited to lunch at the British Open Pub in the Library which is a private room. Each party will be responsible for their own lunch and beverages. For your convenience a gratuity of 20% will be added to each check per the restaurant policy. If you wish to join in the luncheon, please let me know as soon as possible, so I may provide the restaurant with a head count so staffing will be adequate to meet our needs for an enjoyable communion and religious event.

All other members of the Assembly are cordially invited and encouraged to attend to support your Officers. Please wear appropriate meeting attire, Assembly shirt, and slacks. NO SHORTS.

SK Bernie Lanza

Faithful Navigator
Bishop Charles McLaughlin
Knights of Columbus Assembly 1818
941-441-8892
majlanza@icloud.com
Vivat Jesus

Upcoming Events: Join Us in Fellowship and Service

Our Assembly is excited to present a calendar filled with opportunities for fellowship, spiritual growth, and service. These events aim to promote unity among our Brother Knights while helping the community. We encourage all members to review the upcoming schedule and participate as actively as your time and talents allow. We look forward to seeing you there.

Knights of Columbus Assembly 1818 Monthly Meeting



Please mark your calendars for the upcoming monthly meeting of Assembly 1818. The meeting will be held on **Thursday, August 21, at 512 Substation Road, Venice, Florida**. The schedule for the evening is as follows:

*(Installation of Officers on **July, 23** is in lieu of July monthly meeting)*

- **5:30 PM:** Rosary
- **6:00 PM:** Dinner
- **6:45 PM:** Meeting

Upon arrival, a **Prayer List** will be available for sign-up. In the spirit of Christian charity and brotherhood, please add the names of those in need of our prayers when you sign in. Through our collective prayers, we can offer support and solace to those who are suffering or in need of divine grace. We will also be holding a **50/50 drawing**, so come prepared to participate!



The **No Veterans Forgotten Ceremony** will take place this month on **Wednesday, July 9, 2025**. We ask all participants to meet by 8:45 AM. We head to the Internment Shelter at Sarasota National Cemetery at 8:50 AM, with the service beginning at 9:00 AM. Please wear your assembly shirt, and invite your spouses, friends and neighbors to join us as we stand together to remember the legacy of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

Color Corps requested at Ordination on July 12, 2025



Bishop Dewane has requested that the Sir Knights of the Color Corps Assembly 1818 participate in the ordination of Transitional Deacons Joseph Doherty, Jacob Gwynn, and Patrick Long to the Priesthood at Our Lady of Lourdes, 1301 Center Road, Venice, FL. Members of the Color Corps are asked to arrive at 10 AM in the church cry room prior to mass. There will be a reception that follows in the parish hall.

Knights of the Third and Fourth Degree are encouraged to attend. Please wear your Assembly or Council Shirt.

JUNE 19TH Special Monthly Meeting – Charitable Donations 2025



Assembly 1818 held a truly memorable Special Meeting on Thursday, June 19th, a wonderful evening that brought together our Brother Knights, their spouses, and representatives from the various organizations we were privileged to support.

After the posting of colors, SK Bob O'Brien led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Master of Ceremonies SK Tony Hopfinger began the evening with a special remembrance dedicated to the [Missing ManTable](#) in the center of the room. This table was in honor of our missing veterans who are with us in spirit always.



Tony also shared some exciting Assembly news. For the first time Assembly 1818 received the Civic Award from the State Assembly. We were also informed that we would be given the coveted Star Award in the near future. A special thanks to SK Mike Milak for his hard work in pursuing these honors.

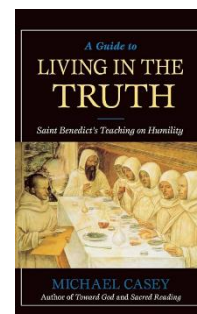
SK Marty Reis read the prayer list followed by Faithful Friar Fr. Jay Jancarz who gave the blessing. Fr. Jay read [The Prayer for Protection](#) written by James Freeman for all of the soldiers who served during World War II.

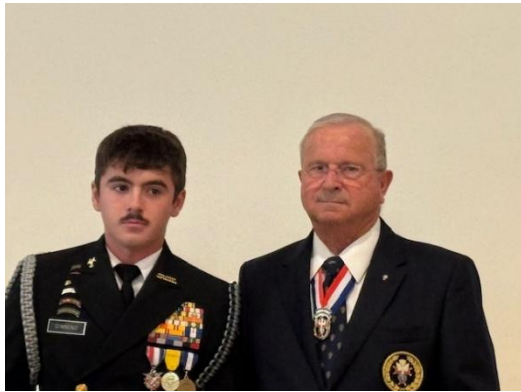


Guest Speaker Monsignor Robert Cannon, representing the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA was unable to attend in person this year. Thanks to the technical expertise of SK Mark Crews, Msgr. Cannon joined us via Zoom and, once again, gave an outstanding presentation. Msgr. Cannon spoke about the impact of moral injury calling it “the real deal” and stressing that this trauma was not limited to soldiers. He told the audience that, as Catholics, we had the advantage because we could experience the forgiveness, mercy and love of God through the sacrament of reconciliation. He concluded by encouraging us to be attentive to family and friends, be willing to listen to them and

to walk with them through this difficult journey.

During his presentation, Msgr Cannon shared excerpts from *A Guide to Living in Truth. Reflections on Saint Benedict's Teaching on Humility* by Michael Casey. Here is the [link](#) if you wish to purchase a copy





It was a profoundly gratifying occasion as our Faithful Navigator, Bernie Lanza, presented donation checks to the following organizations as SK Lou Nagy shared information about each group. This year, The following organizations were recognized. Click on the links if you would like to learn more about them.

[North Port High School ROTC](#)



[Southwest Florida Honor Flight](#)



[Douglas Jacobson Nursing Home](#)



[Canines for Heroes](#)



[Veteran s Ranch](#)



[Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA](#)

We all felt tremendous pride knowing that we made a difference in our community, The evening ended with singing of the National Anthem led by SK Bill Jagenow. We would like to thank our incredible volunteer chefs and bakers, led by Kathy Malik and Diana Hopfinger, whose culinary talents provided a delicious dinner.

Fourth Degree Exemplification



We are honored to welcome new Brother Knights Steven Vacca and Nicholas Colavito who were exemplified at The Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida this month. We thank fellow Knights Tony Hopfinger, Marty Reis and George Barbiero who attended the ceremony.

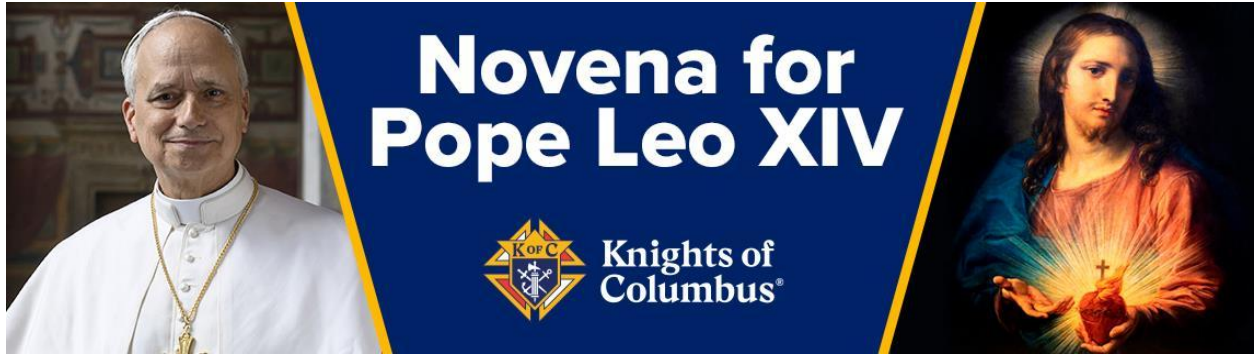


At our June Special meeting Faithful Navigator Bernie Lanza presented five new Brothers with their exemplification certificates. Pictured here are Brothers Ray Benkosky, John Kesich, Steven Vacca, Bernie Lanza, Nicholas Colavito, and Tim Marzano. Fourth Degree exemplification is a powerful and inspiring ceremony where a Knight takes on the added principle of **Patriotism**. It is an opportunity to publicly declare one's unwavering loyalty to both our Catholic faith and our beloved nation.



If you are a Third Degree Knight seeking to deepen your commitment and proudly demonstrate your patriotism, we invite you to learn more about this distinguished degree. The Fourth Degree offers a unique avenue for service, allowing us to actively uphold the values that bind us as Catholics and as citizens. We encourage all eligible Brothers to consider this important step in their Knights of

Columbus journey. If you are interested, please contact Membership Chairman Marty Reis at 209-480-6043



The Supreme Knight called for the Order-wide novena to the Sacred Heart for the intentions of Pope Leo XIV last month beginning on June 19. “Our new Holy Father can count on the loyalty and prayers of the Knights of Columbus- now and always.” the Supreme Knight wrote in his recent column in *Columbia*.



“Let us pray for His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, that the Lord may grant him a spirit of courage, wisdom and strength to lead those entrusted to his care, for many years to come.”



Our Brother Knights of the third and fourth degrees ensured a safe and welcoming environment for the children and families attending the Vacation Bible School the week of June 16th at OLOL Education Center. Their presence was both reassuring and symbolic, embodying the values of service and community that the organization holds dear. The Knights assisted with various tasks such as greeting families, walking the perimeter, and helping at the waterslide. Their efforts contributed to the organization and support of the event.



Milestones of our Brother Knights This month, we extend our warmest wishes to those brothers observing a birthday, and we also recognize those who are celebrating an anniversary of their commitment to the Fourth Degree. Please join us in offering congratulations and prayers for these esteemed members



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Name	Date	Age
Salvatore Vergona	3	80
Charles Donelson	4	76
Bernard Keefer	12	73
Russell Ballagh	14	74
Robert Crowley	15	92
Patrick Keigher	16	86
Harold Lloyd	16	87
Ronald Doorenbos	18	67
John Gallagher	19	73
George Meekins	22	83
Daniel Phillips	26	78
Leon Alvarez	28	73
John Staas	28	83



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Years
Kenneth P. Conroy, Jr.	57
Charles F. Deroo	1
Thomas P. Festa	1
Edward W. McManus	1

Prayer LIST

This prayer list is a testament to our commitment to one another, a space where we can place the names of our fellow knights, cherished family members, and dear friends. Whether facing health issues or grappling with personal challenges, each person needs our heartfelt prayers.

- Father of Mark Uebelacker
- William Gordwin, son-in-law of Jim Lakatos
- Paul Patterson Jr.
- Dan Lanktree
- Rick Miller
- Connie Smith & Jerry Smith
- Jim Russell & Pam Russell
- Armand padula
- Robert Reamer & Bobbi Reamer
- Ed McManus
- Joanne Palotano
- Mick Johnson
- Richard Bok
- Linda Montemarano
- Kevin Wolak
- Olivia Wolak Russo
- Jennifer Crews
- Jonathan Milak
- Robert Szopinski & Nicole Szopinski
- The Veterans Ranch
- Mike Poznanski
- Janet Burke
- Jim Lakatos & Gail Lakatos
- Peder Christensen

Call to Service: The Color Corps



The Color Corps serves as an honorable presence at both civic and religious functions, from solemn celebrations and dedications to patriotic events honoring our veterans. The Color Corps adds reverence to every occasion. We invite those who feel called to contribute to this



essential and highly visible arm of our Assembly to join our ranks. For more information on how you can become a part of this esteemed group, please contact Color Corps Commander Marty Reis at 209-480-6043. Your commitment strengthens our ability to serve and glorify God and country.

Call to Service: No Veterans Forgotten Ceremony



The *No Veterans Forgotten Ceremony* is a heartfelt tribute to honor and remember the brave men and women who sacrificed everything in service to our nation. We gather at the Internment Center of [Sarasota National Cemetery](#) every second Wednesday of the month promptly at 9:00 AM. With reverence and gratitude, we pay tribute to those fallen heroes whose sacrifices remain forever etched in our

hearts. The American Legion, Knights of Columbus, Knights on Bikes and Color Guard participate in this solemn occasion. Every veteran's name is read aloud by our Brother Knights of Columbus. We observe the time-honored tradition of a gun salute, followed by the playing of taps, echoing honor and remembrance. The stirring sounds of bagpipes add a poignant touch to the solemn proceedings.

Gear Up, Brothers



Looking to show your Knights of Columbus pride? You may purchase shirts and caps at *Designer Tees* located at 565 Paul Morris Dr, Englewood. They may be reached at 941-272-8672. If you're looking for a wider selection of Knights of Columbus merchandise, including a variety of accessories and apparel, be sure to visit at [Knights Gear](#) online. They offer a range of items to help you display your dedication to the Order. Finally, for our esteemed Color Corps members, uniforms may be purchased directly at [Knights of Columbus | Supply Room](#) and [Home - Knights of Columbus Supplies](#)



We are pleased to present a list of Knights of Columbus members who have been appointed to serve in key positions. These individuals have consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to our principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism, and their dedication serves as an inspiration to us all. We are grateful for their service.

Color Corp Commander	Martin Reis	209-480-6043
Cemetery Activity Coordinator	Rick Anderson	321-303-8172
Meeting Communications Coordinator	Michael Cleary	734-623-1046
Membership Chairmen	Martin Reis	209-480-6043
	George Barbiero	203-885-8238
Retention Chairman/Bereavement/ Birthdays /Anniversaries	Charles Woodrum	304-282-8733
Valentines For Veterans	Tony Hopfinger	412-496-6776
	Mike Milak	941-380-7248
	Martin Reis	209-480-6043
Football Commissioner	Richard Kunzier	973-903-1226

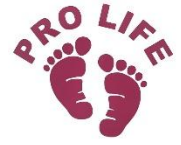


I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Mike Milak, who is stepping down as Faithful Comptroller. Mike poured countless hours into keeping us informed and connected through his excellent work sending emails as well as the Knights of Columbus newsletter. His commitment and effort have been invaluable. I have tremendous shoes to fill and hope I can do it justice. I know the entire membership feels the same.

George Barbiero



Council Updates & Family and ProLife News



Below you will find the websites for each of the third-degree councils that contribute to our Assembly. Although each Council is unique, they all share the core values of charity, unity, and fraternity. We encourage you to explore each website as well as Deacon Rich's *Family and ProLife News*.



[Click here](#) for Council 7997 San Pedro.



[Click here](#) for Council 15821 Our Lady of Mount Carmel.



[Click here](#) for Council 9924. Our Lady of Lourdes.



[Click here](#) for Council 7052 Epiphany Cathedral.



[Click here](#) for the monthly *Family and ProLife News Briefs* from Deacon Rich.