

INVOCATION

JANUARY 2022

Coats For
Kids

Knights Pool Coats Efforts



The Knights of Columbus (KofC), Council 11668, Mary Queen of Heaven, spearheaded by GK Patrick Bock and DGK Rick Williams, conducted the Coats for Kids program in Jacksonville.

The council realized due to the costs of purchasing six cases of coats, totaling almost \$1800 including taxes, that the council would not be able to raise this on their own. Like many parishes, church attendance was down almost 50%.

With this in mind, District Deputy Tom Scherch suggested working with other councils within District 10, including Council 7399, Orange Park, led by GK Vincent Reilly; Council 12619, San Jose, led by GK Dave Pendergraft; Council 17029, Most Holy Redeemer, led by GK Brian Philips and Council 15132, St. Paul's, led by GK Mike Kelly. Each of these councils offered

\$300 in donations towards the endeavor. Through generous donations and by pre-selling tickets for a take-out spaghetti dinner, Council 11668 was able to raise over \$1500 on their own. Through the generosity of all involved, they were able to purchase the required cases.

The coats were donated to Guardian Catholic School, for their underserved students in need. The various councils were able to distribute the much-needed coats to the kids on December 10. The students were so grateful, beaming from ear to ear and everyone had a great time as this really helped to bring home the real reason for the campaign. All the remaining funds will be used to run a similar campaign next year.

Keep The Momentum Going

By State Deputy Rob Urrutia

I hope that 2022 brings you much happiness, Stay Healthy and be better than 2021! We are now halfway into the fraternal year. Please make sure all your year-end reports are completed by the end of January!

Do not forget to fill out the Special Olympic form that is due on January 30th. Speaking of Special Olympics, we are just a month away from the annual Polar Plunge benefiting Special Olympics. Please make sure to donate or support this momentous event.

We finished strong the last few weeks of December in our council and state goals. Do not let the momentum slow down. Keep up all the challenging work everyone is doing. I am extremely appreciative of the efforts everyone is doing. I know we will finish strong!

I have been asked what we can be doing on the council level for incentives for the members. I told them they should look on the website under merchandise and look at what Blue Ocean has for us to offer our members. Take a moment, check out the website, and see what the GK could use as

incentives or just gifts for new members who join.

Please remember that the dates for our convention have changed. The new dates are the 13th through 15th of May. That is 2 weeks earlier than normal. Which means all the reports for rewards and registrations will be moved up as well.

Let us Start 2022 off with a bang! Make sure we are checking in on our neighbors and to grow our faith.



*State Deputy
Robert Urrutia*



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/> ✚

Prayer and Action for Life

By State Chaplain Rev. Robert J. Kantor

“**T**he first and most fundamental of all human rights is the right to life, and when this right is denied all other rights are threatened ... A society will be judged on the basis of how it treats its weakest members; and among the most vulnerable are surely the unborn and the dying.” – St. John Paul II (May, 2000). The anniversary this month of the tragic Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision places the cause of life at the forefront of our thoughts and prayers in January.

As Knights of Columbus, we are challenged to address society’s failings in the respect of human life with prayer and action. On the action front, many Florida councils have funded ultrasound machines for maternity clinics in our state, allowing mothers to see the wonder of life developing in their wombs. Many have turned away from potential abortions as a result, saving countless lives. Our involvement in Special Olympics celebrates the intrinsic worth and dignity of every human being. Runs and walks for life organized by our councils call attention to and raise funds for life causes.

Prayer is another way to unite in support of life. Our Supreme Chaplain, Archbishop Lori, has challenged us this month to pray one decade

of the rosary each day, individually or as a family for the intention of life. He also challenges us to participate with our brother Knights in the Novena for Life, March for Life, and/or Pregnancy Center Support Faith in Action programs. Our nation’s Bishops encourage us to pray for life January 21-29. For the USCCB’s 9 Days for Life Novena, click here: <https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-sign-up>. You can receive it via email or text in English or Spanish.

Whether done individually, in your families, in a group of brother Knights, or in your parishes, these prayers and programs communicate to God and neighbor our commitment to life. May our Lord bless your families with good health and much happiness, and a growing faith that brings you closer to our God this New Year!



*State Chaplain
Rev. Robert Kantor*

Holy Family offers breakfast and photos with Santa. Knights of **Holy Family of Dr. Phillips Council 11488** of Orlando held Breakfast with Santa following all of the Sunday Masses on Dec. 12.

The Knights provided Krispy Crème donuts, coffee, orange juice and lemonade.

In addition, a photographer took pictures as an added value, charging \$5 for a 5x7 photo.



A Chance to Live

By Msgr. Thomas J. Skindeleski, Florida K of C State Chaplain Emeritus

Welcome to the beginning of a brand-new year! I sure hope that the scare of another strain of Covid will not dampen the spirits of all God-loving members of our fraternity and in general, our society. We begin the new year with the Solemn feast of Mary, Mother of God (Jan. 1), and it would be wonderful if all our brothers and their family members would pray, especially as a family, to our loving Mother Mary, for the grace of health and protection from the power of evil that seem to permeate so much of our world today.

Last September 15th, Pope Francis stated in no uncertain terms, “Abortion is murder... whoever performs an abortion kills. ... It’s a human life, period!” The Holy Father added, “Scientifically, it is a human life. Is it right to take it out to solve a problem? That is why the Church is so harsh on this issue, because if it accepts this, it is as if it accepts daily murder.”

So, it was very disturbing that just a few days later, on September 24th, the U.S. House of Representatives voted 218-211 in favor of an abortion bill with the misnomer, “Women’s Health Protection Act” (WHPA), which misrepresents the reality and has nothing to do with protecting women’s health and hides the fact that it has everything to do with promoting abortion. The WHPA would impose abortion on demand nationwide at any stage of pregnancy through federal statute and would invalidate state laws banning abortion at any stage of pregnancy,

including laws that require parental notification and that prohibit abortion based on race, sex, disability, or other characteristic. The WHPA would also threaten state and federal conscience laws that protect the right of health care providers and professionals, employers, and insurers not to perform, assist in, refer for, cover, or pay for abortion.

Our second Catholic President Joe Biden “strongly supported House passage of H.R. 3755, the Women’s Health Protection Act of 2021.” Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi expressed her support for this bill, praising it as “legislation that can become law.”

Several U.S. Senators and Representatives who claim that they are Catholic also support this egregious error in judgment. In light of Pope Francis’ unambiguous statement that “abortion is murder.” Wouldn’t that mean that these Catholics are accomplices to murder?

When it comes to Covid-19 and the

resultant strains of that virus, these politicians are fond of saying “follow the science!” Well, as Pope Francis has pointed out, science tells us that human life begins at conception; so, proponents of easy access to abortion are being selective in not following the science nor the explicit teachings of the Catholic Church but are basing their radical arguments on purely political grounds.

Now I am not calling out these pro-abortion politicians in order to condemn them, but rather to call them to conversion. We seriously need to pray



for them to have a change of heart, so that instead of condemning so many unborn babies to death, they will seek their protection and give them a chance to live, as you and I have been blessed by God to live out our lives here on earth.

January 22nd marks the sad 49th anniversary of the infamous 1973 Roe v. Wade decision of the U.S. Supreme Court that allows the killing of unborn children. In many cities and dioceses there will be Masses, prayer services and silent rosary demonstrations in favor of the protection of the unborn. I ask you, as brother Knights, to find out where in your diocese or area such public witness is taking place, and then make the effort to join in solidarity to pray that the current membership of

the U.S. Supreme Court will render decisions that are favorable to the cause of protecting unborn human life.

One such case, Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health, has been argued recently and will be decided probably by June. Though it may not directly overturn all aspects of Roe v. Wade, it can severely weaken it and begin the dismantling of legal safeguards for abortion in our country. Please pray that a majority of these nine justices will render a favorable decision for the protection of human life from conception to natural death. Then the future unborn will be able to join us in celebrating many New Year's Days to come. Happy New Year! Vivat Jesus!

Council Holds Blood Drive

Prince of Peace Council opened its 2022 fraternal activities with a Blood Drive in the parish parking lot on January 2. The drive was safe and controlled, and included a Wellness Checkup. One Blood also offered a \$20 eGift Card and a long sleeve One Blood T-Shirt in response to the critical need for blood in our area.

Council 8791 also began its annual Citizens with Disabilities Fundraising Campaign, passing out Tootsie Rolls in front of major outlets in exchange for donations for KofC programs.

This is the most extensive program for every Fraternal Year.

"If you can participate in only one program as a Knight this year, this should be it," said program chairman Mark Leary. "The need for volunteers is great and the commitment of time is small and well defined."

While Walmart has temporarily suspended solicitations due to the pandemic, Publix is now



allowing solicitations at all four locations within parish boundaries (Towne Square, The Trails, Holly Hill and Latitude Landings). Please see Leary for hours needed for volunteers.

One hundred percent of donations to the Tootsie Roll Campaign go to Special Olympics of Florida, the ARC of Volusia and five area elementary and middle schools (Ormond Middle, Pathways, Pine Trails, Tomoka and Osceola Elementary, for their Exceptional Student Education for Children with Disabilities Programs. This is part of the Life section of the Knights' Faith in Action program.

Dedicated to Service

By Former State Chaplain Reverend Salvatore Pignato

On January 1, 2022, we began a new year and a new day. The past year has been wiped away and we begin with a new and clean slate. What a wonderful feeling of freedom. But this freedom comes with renewed commitments to our ministry in the Lord.

It was the Tradition in the Hebrew Faith to bring every male child, after birth, and present him to God for His service. In the Gospels we read where Mary and Joseph fulfilled that Tradition and brought Jesus to the Temple to present Him to God for His service. Reading the Gospels more fully, we see what that presentation developed into for Jesus in His life. A number of things happened in the life of Jesus. Simeon the prophet, when he saw Jesus in the Temple, said two things about Him. He said He would be a contradiction to the Hebrews and a folly to the Gentiles.

He was a contradiction to the Hebrews because what He sometimes preached sounded like blasphemy to them and sometimes contrary to the laws of Moses. No wonder they had difficulty believing. They were unable to open their hearts to Jesus. That did not deter Jesus. He never swayed from His teaching but did lament one day sitting on a hill overlooking Jerusalem and said about Himself, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, a great light has shown, and you have not seen it". The Gentiles, and in this case, the Romans, believed in many gods. So, in looking at Jesus, He was a folly to them. They mocked Him on that Good Friday. And yet again, Jesus said to His apostles in regard to His teaching, "Will you too leave me". Whether a contradiction or a folly, Jesus had every intention to fulfill the Promise of God to Adam and Eve that He would send a Savior to repair the damage they did and give to them and to us the forgiveness of their sin. All this history is a presentation of Salvation History to prepare us for the final question that touches each one of us. The question is very simple. "Where do each one of

us, as the people of God, fit into Salvation History and the ministry of Jesus Christ?"

This article is titled "Dedicated to Service". Jesus was brought to the Temple and "dedicated to service of God". You and I were brought to Temple, our church, and baptized in "Service to the Lord". So, our baptismal vows are our credentials for "service" and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in chrismation/confirmation are the tools to implement our baptismal vows. The circle is now complete and we become part of Salvation History and with Jesus "dedicated" to the "service of God" and helping others. We know this to be true because in His Ascension Jesus said to His apostles, and disciples, "Go teach all nations". We are part of that discipleship by baptism. We become part of Salvation History and a minister of the Gospel.

This is a New Year and a new day. We have been given a clean slate to write on. Iconographers who write icons write the life history of the image on wood. With our clean slate of a new year, let us begin to write our own life icon in the Lord. Let us become more committed to the ministry of Jesus Christ. The apostles imitated Jesus Christ and changed the face of the earth. Let us begin to write our life icon by using the apostles and the Epistles as our blueprint in living in the Lord each day. In the end, and completing our life icon, we will present that icon to Jesus and all He will see is the image of Himself on that piece of wood. What a great day that day will be, because we will have begun a new eternal day in the Lord, where there will be no pain sorrow or mourning.



*Former State Chaplain
Rev. Salvatore Pignato*

Respond, Don't React

For many years, I have taught clients the value of writing a letter, but not mailing it until at least the next day when their emotions cool down. With technology developing faster than the COVID variant Omicron is spreading, sending a text message, SMS or email is instantaneous and cannot be retrieved (also, be careful where copies are going!). Now, in litigation, I find that there are very few actual letters being sent, but emails, texts and SMS have taken over. So often, I see communications that people wish they had never sent, but were sent in the heat of the moment without fully thinking of the consequences. I have taught for many years not to write something that you would not want to see published in the local newspaper. However, I have to bring that advice up to date: Don't write something or speak into your phone something you don't want to see repeated in any form, whether in a post, on TV or other media. "Respond; don't react" is a motto that is equally, if not more applicable today, with the speed of communications. "Think twice; text once", to paraphrase an old carpentry idiom.

As Knights of Columbus, we have all committed to the virtues of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. However, in the heat of the moment, how really committed are we to those virtues? Or have we allowed our egos to get in the way? When we react instead of respond, we often lose sight of these virtues and write things about a Brother Knight that simply do not reflect these virtues. Too often, Brother Knights allow their emotions to trump their commitment of the core virtues of our Brotherhood.

In my role as State Advocate, I receive all the formal complaints filed by Florida Knights against a Brother Knight in accord with the procedures spelled out in the Supreme Constitution. Too often, reading between the lines reflects that the filer should have investigated the facts more thoroughly before he filed the formal complaint, or attempted to amicably resolve the dispute short of a formal

complaint. My initial role is to act as a mediator – to explore all possible avenues of reaching an amicable resolution of the dispute without having to conduct a formal hearing.

I encourage all of us, before we file a formal complaint against a brother Knight, that we do the following:

1. Write up the facts as soon as possible (before we forget), but don't do anything with the write-up for 2 days; then reread it when you cool down;
2. Investigate all of the facts to determine if you can ascertain more facts that you had not previously taken into consideration;
3. Evaluate accounts provided by other Knights to determine if they have an "axe to grind" in providing you the factual account;
4. Seek wisely counsel from brother Knights that you trust to give you honest and helpful feedback (not just a man who will tell you what you want to hear) and
5. Then, after taking these steps, explore with the brother Knight you seek to charge with a violation of the Supreme Constitution to ascertain if there is a possible resolution of the dispute short of a formal complaint.

If you have taken all of these steps prior to filing a formal complaint, know that I will challenge you on each step. If you have done your homework and touched all of these bases, know that I will process the complaint as fairly as possible with an unbiased approach.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in 2022. Let's focus on doing the will of our Father while leaving our egos behind us. Vivat Jesus.



*State Advocate
Robert Rasch*

Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. (Gospel for Jan. 2, Mt 2:9-11)

In so many ways, Jesus was not what was expected. He came to us not as a powerful earthly king or military leader, but as the helpless child of a poor family. Even so, the pagan Magi recognized the child as a newborn king. The true dignity of all human beings can at times be difficult for us to see and recognize. But, like the Magi, may we look past appearances and see the true worth of every human person — and rejoice in the gift of life.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to offer one decade of the rosary each day — individually or as a family — for the intention of life. Second, I challenge you to participate with your brother Knights in the Novena for Life, March for Life, and/or Pregnancy Center Support Faith in Action programs.

Questions for Reflection:

How can you live your life in such a way as to inspire a change of hearts and minds to a pro-life position? What concrete actions can you take to build a culture of life, such as supporting pregnancy resource centers? How can you better incorporate praying for life into your own prayer life?

Continuing an initiative than began in 2009, **Our Lady of Hope Council 8086** recently spent a productive morning cleaning a one-mile stretch of Clyde Morris Blvd. north of the parish church as part of its Adopt a Highway program.

The Council began the program under the direction of Bob St. Amand and the late John Ingria. Ray Zall and David Dollieslager were among the initial volunteers. They both went on to serve the Council as Grand Knight, and continue to be active with the program.



Each year, **Councils 7667 and 13527** of Niceville, FL enter the city Christmas parade pulling a float with a Nativity scene and leading with the banner “Keep Christ In Christmas.” The entry is sponsored by Assembly 3236. Knights trail alongside the display tossing candy to the viewers. The parade was especially well-attended this year since it was cancelled last year due to weather.

Amazing December for Sacred Heart



Fr. Downey Council 4934 kept the pace going with a busy month of December. Early in the month, the Council wrapped up its Baby Bottle Ultrasound Fundraiser with the generous parishioners donating nearly \$5,000 to this lifesaving cause.

In a new initiative, Keep Christ in Christmas magnets were purchased by the Council and made available at no cost to the Parishioners at Sacred Heart and St Gerard Churches.

Also in early December, the Council hosted its annual Christmas Dinner/Dance. The attendees were encouraged to bring in a new unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots Program. The honored guest for the evening was USMC Staff Sargent Villarreal. Staff Sargent Villarreal is the Marine representative for the Port Orange/New Smyrna Beach area. Pictured is Sargent Villarreal with Brothers from Fr Downey Council Knights at the table of toys donated by the guests.

The Council followed up with the Keep Christ

in Christmas Poster Contest involving over 60 children from the Sacred Heart School and the Sacred Heart Religious Education Program. Judging was difficult because of the great job all the children did with the posters. However, winners were selected in each of the three age brackets, and they received their awards and winners checks from the Grand Knight at the annual Breakfast with Santa event.

On December 19, Fr. Downey Council hosted its annual Breakfast with Santa event for the families of the parish. Nearly 80 people attended and over 35 children sat on Santa's lap and received gifts. A free full breakfast (scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, biscuits and gravy, potatoes, waffles, and donuts were served to all that attended.

The Council took taking a break over the Christmas Holidays. But they are already preparing for a full 2022, kicking off with the Free Throw Competition, helping with Catholic Schools Week, and much more.

Knights Remodel Tower



During the early days of the pandemic, Pastor Father Alfonso Cely approached Grand Knight Ed Leo with the proposition of remodeling the Prayer Tower outside St. Ann Catholic Church in Haines City.

“The reason that this prayer tower was remodeled was that during the early days of the pandemic the Church was closed, and Father wanted a place the people could pray if the Church ever had to be closed,” said Leo, the current GK of Father Philip de Carriere Council 10484 of Haines City. “We are very humbled that Father asked us to prepare a place for people to pray. Council 7091 was asked to help us, and with the help of Grand Knight Ed Luteran and Faithful Navigator Ruben Sanabria, we were able to move forward and complete this project.

Council 10484 worked with Knights from Cypress Gardens Council 7091 of Winter Haven, along with Frank J. Durbin Assembly 2608 of

Winter Haven and Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Assembly 3200, of Haines City, in a cooperative project to remodel and rededicate the Prayer Tower.

The Knights also donated four statues for the



Prayer Tower: Blessed Michael McGivney, St. Claire of Assisi, St. Dominic and St. Jude.

Members of Council 10484 working on the project included Fr. Alfonso, Jesús Garcia, Juan Carlos Gil, Felipe Pineda, Edgardo M. Gallo, Theron Love, Jesús Trejo, Adam Altamirano, Stephen Curcio, Glenn Nalls, Jose Cantero and Deputy Grand Knight Osbel Benitez, who chaired the project.

Members involved from Council 7091 were:

Ruben A. Sanabria Ramos, Faithful Navigator; Billy Bob Morris, Charity Committee; Edward Luteran; Grand Knight, 2020-21; and John Tardif, Grand Knight, 2021-22.

“Council 7091 supplied a generous amount of money to the project and Council 10484 was blessed with amazing carpenters to perform the work,” Leo said. It was beautiful and a great blessing to work with each other to achieve this great accomplishment.”

Christmas Big-J Project

Knights-of-Columbus Council #11125 just completed its second annual “Christmas Big-J Project” -- an unusual, if not unique, Christmas project.

Twenty-three families received a Christmas card saying: “Just a small reminder that God will always walk by your side.

Merry Christmas from Knights of Columbus - #11125” -- and enclosed was a \$100 Walmart gift card.

Knights from the Council individually donated, and asked family and friends who would be willing to donate.

No Council money was involved. And the Christmas “help” is therefore given directly to families “with need”; truly a person-to-person outreach. Also, there are no administrative costs: ALL money (100%) goes to the families.

The council members raise the funds, purchase the gift cards, and add the Christmas wish and gift card in the Christmas cards. Then the Christmas cards are given to an organization who works to help “families in need” all year long. That way the no one knows which families will receive the Christmas cards. The gifts are given with total anonymity. And because the “other” organization works with families-in-need all year long, we have

good reason to believe that the gifts will genuinely go to appropriate families.

Totally anonymous giving from Knights themselves “directly to” families in need. No paperwork (other than the Christmas cards). Good assurance that these go to appropriate families. The recipients had no pre-knowledge, and were called (unexpectedly) to the organization’s office “to come receive a Christmas gift from the Knights” only a couple of days right before Christmas. And you can only imagine the emotional lift that the receiving families got for Christmas. Merry Christmas to ALL! It was a great way to recognize the birth of Jesus.



Toys for Arnold Palmer Hospital



result of this effort was enormous – collecting over 1,400 toys for the Arnold Palmer's Hospital for Children, with an estimated value of more than \$11,100.

On December 11, a band of Brother's collected all the toys at Joey's home, packed 11 cars, and transported the 109 bags to the APHC in Orlando. They then hand delivered the bags of gifts to the "Santa Trees," where they are inspected, separated, and personalized for each patient. And because there were so many toys, those that will not be used for Christmas will be utilized throughout the coming year to fill their "Welcoming Packets" for new patients. Overall, the staff at APHC was overwhelmed with this outpouring of gift giving.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Council 13300 recently collected toys for the Arnold Palmer's Hospital for Children (APHC) and the Wildwood Community – both of which were impacted by COVID-19 throughout the year.

The annual "Putting on Smiles" program led by Brother Advocate Joey Hidoc was again suspended for 2021, and many families within the Wildwood Community were impacted as well. So as to not disappoint our precious children, Brother Joey again assembled a team of Brother Knights in September to lead the effort of collecting as many toys as possible in support of those in need.

The assembled team of Brother Knights, led by Brother Bob Cunningham, worked out the plans to spread the word at our Council meetings; incorporated the collection at various fundraising events; and advertised in the Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church bulletin for its parishioners. The

The story does not end there, as our Council made contact with Officer David Perry, Community Outreach Officer for the Wildwood Police Department. Officer Perry is in charge of the "Shop with a Cop" program, where Police Officers take groups of 10 children at a time on a shopping trip to the Walmart on SR 466 in The Villages. This year, a total of 44 children were



participants on December 18. Funding for this event comes from Community Donations, Police Golf Tournament, and Local Fundraising. Council 13300 participated in the local fundraising and provided a check to Officer Perry for the children.

Last, but not least, Council 13300 provided a check to Kid's Central, a State Agency for Central Florida. Yvonda Sensa, Kindship Navigator, coordinated the efforts to provide gifts to 144 kids in our Wildwood community for this Christmas. Additional funding was provided to Kid's Central from the Angel Tree Gifts giving program at Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church as well as the CCW (Council of Catholic Women) adopting five families in helping with their Christmas giving.

Council 13300 is blessed to have been part of an expanding effort to insure our children are never forgotten, especially at Christmas time. It is with this that we want to send our appreciation to all those who participated in making this happen, and all the organizations that shared in this effort. It is truly comforting to know we are making a difference.

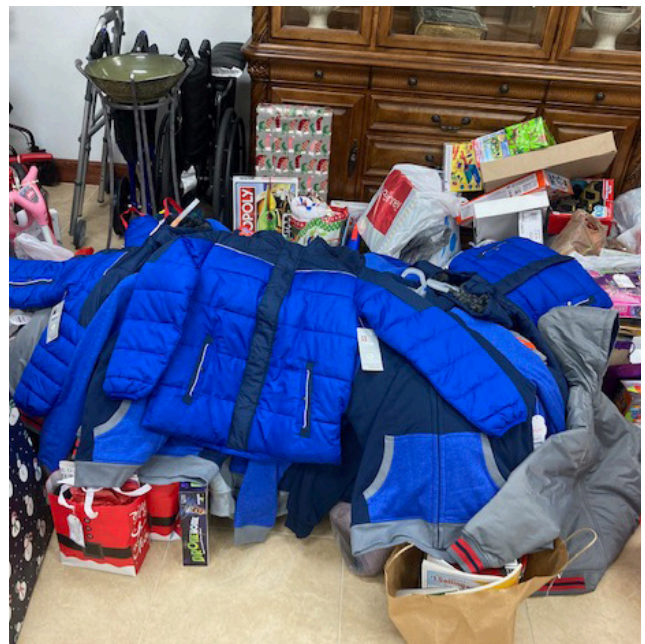


Council Donates Coats

Church of the Epiphany Council 12569 followed up its very successful car show by donating 30 jackets to the Parish Giving Tree project as part of its annual Coats for Kids Drive.

Grand Knight Jim Gallagher explained that the project provided toys for kids in need in the area, with the council providing the jackets.

Other projects the Council is currently undertaking include: guidance books for this year's Confirmandi, along with monthly donuts and breakfast following Sunday Masses. The Council will be sending a bus to St. Augustine for the annual March for Life. Additional projects in the works include donating clothing and bibles to prisoners, and a Knights' Knight at McKenna's restaurant in Port Orange.



Family Needs Program Grows

During the holiday season of 2020, the members of Council # 8419 at St. Rita Catholic Church in Wellington decided to start a Families in Need program.

Pastor Fr. Mario Castañeda and his staff provided a list of ten families who were in most need of help. Taking the first steps of outreach, Grand Knight John Kingston and Deputy Grand Knight Manny Zapata visited each of the ten homes with gifts of wrapped toys for the children and gift cards to the parents. They shared that the response they received was emotional and heartwarming.

Inspired by that experience, four brother knights: Ken Deischer, John Kapos, Ivan Barin, and George Barin, suggested in May that the same program be continued for Christmas 2021, but expanded. Stablishing an initial goal to raise \$20,000 to fund the program, which they established and called "Help Us Help Families in Need." Committees were formed, which also included volunteers' members of The Council of Catholic Women and the work began. The Knights fundraising efforts included:

- Members donated what they could.
- Donation solicitation teams were set up with Publix for eight days at four separate locations.
- The Council initiated a drive-through dinner with the proceeds going to this program.
- Teams requested donations after all masses on two weekends.

These combined efforts raised over \$25,000. Fr. Mario Castañeda and his staff, provided a list of 19 families in need, with 42 children under 12 and twelve children 13 and above. All of the received an invitation to dinner on December 3 at the parish Hall.

Father Mario welcomed them for a turkey dinner, which included mashed potatoes, green



beans, rolls, and desert. Council members John Bosso and Edgar Burroughs led a group of knights who prepared the meal, which included the preparation of 13 turkeys.

The Council of Catholic Women decorated the stage and purchased three gifts for each child under 13. The stage decorations consisted of three Christmas trees and other adornments to make a beautiful setting for Mr. and Mrs. Claus, their family of elves, a reindeer and the infamous Grinch.

After dinner, each family was called on to the stage where they were greeted by Santa and Mrs. Claus and their entourage. The children under 13 received their wrapped gifts. The older children and their parents received gift cards.

It was an uplifting evening for everyone: visitors, volunteers, and brother knights.

Council Honors Member Service



A special recognition luncheon was held to honor Notre Dame Council 10514 members that had 15 – 67 years of membership in the Order. Membership Director Bryan Taylor prepared personal invitations that were sent to all council members and their families so they could R.S.V.P. their attendance. Brother Taylor also ordered KofC membership pins, printed ‘Years of Service Certificates’, and prepared a printed program for all attendees.

The Knights of Columbus members were recognized by Chaplain Fr. Manny Lopez at the conclusion of the 11:00 AM Sunday Mass. He asked all Knights to stand. Fr. Manny then invited all men of Santa Maria del Mar Parish to seek out anyone wearing a green Knights of Columbus shirt after Mass and learn more about becoming a member of the Order. Three new candidates completed Form 100’s to join the council.

Fr. Manny began the luncheon with ‘Grace Before Meals’ and offered a special blessing to all Knights of Columbus members and their families. He thanked them for their service to the church and community. Speciality deli sandwiches, chips, cookies, and refreshments were then served to all present.

GK Paul Gloekler was the Master of Ceremonies. In his remarks, GK Gloekler thanked

all of the members being recognized for helping to build the council and the Order into a strong organization. The world today needs Catholic men dedicated to the ideals of the Order’s four principals of the Faith in Action Program; Faith, Family, Community, and Life.

DGK Bryant Perszyk announced each member’s years of service. Each member, accompanied by his wife and/or family member were presented with a Years of Membership Service Certificate as well as a Knights of Columbus ‘Years of Service’ membership pin by PGK Ron Wolak. A total of 59 Knights were recognized. Brother Angelo Cutillo was the last member to receive his certificate and pin. He has been a Knights of Columbus member for over 67 years.



Knights and Council Host Luncheon



Pastor and Brother Knight Rev. Tom LaFreniere hosted a holiday luncheon for homeless men and women of West Palm Beach. It was modeled on the Gospel of St. Luke, Chapter 14, Verses 7-14, where Jesus us teaches on pride and humility. In support, Council 12322 Brothers acted as parish hosts for this joyful and inspiring event.

Kate Devine of the St. Vincent de Paul Society coordinated the occasion by inviting a group of 27 homeless men and women to share a meal with the parish community. Ms. Devine also made her facility available for the personal needs of the enthusiastic guests prior to transport by bus from the downtown West Palm Beach to the St. Paul's parish hall in North Palm Beach.

Upon arrival, more than parishioners welcomed and ushered them into the hall ceremonially past two 4th Degree Brother Knights in regalia, who saluted them with swords as they entered.

Father Tom formally greeted the guests and led the opening prayer. The invitees were all smiles as they sat at specially decorated tables. Parishioners

cordially served the hot luncheon that was proudly prepared by the knights.

After the meal, there was a Christmas carols songfest, led by members of the parish choir with everyone participating. Afterwards ice cream sundaes were served for dessert. The guests lined up to meet Santa Claus portrayed by Past Grand Knight Tim Wengerski, and who also gave out presents.

Father Tom expressed his appreciation of all the support, including the involvement by the Knights, and plans to make this an annual event.



Pro Life Activities

January is a busy month for the Knights of Columbus Life Programs. While all activities are important, here are highlights of some which are upcoming.

ULTRASOUND: There is an initiative to place 1500 ultrasound machines nationwide by January 21, 2022, the National March for Life in Washington, DC. Our goal is 125, since Florida is the Order's leading State.

While that is a good goal, it does not address the reason. 42.6 million babies were murdered by abortion in 2021, globally. Also, Abortion is the leading cause of death. Corona virus deaths get a lot of attention but it pales by comparison at 3.5 million deaths and abortion accounts for 46% of all deaths worldwide.

We focus on the ultrasound for a good reason. When an expectant mother has a chance to see their baby, they choose Life. So, as Knights, we need to work together to help this process. There are a number of ways we can do this.

Have your council promote the purchase and placing of a machine. Promote other fundraising events. One that is becoming more popular is the Laps for Life.

Support the new initiative: The Resource Card. We encourage councils and individuals to purchase and distribute the Resource Card so that, anyone needing advice and assistance can reach out to Women's Help resources in their local community. The Ultrasound will convince someone to not abort a child and the Resource Card can be their ticket to that Ultrasound.

NOVENA FOR LIFE & MARCH FOR LIFE: Related to the Ultrasound initiatives, we as Catholics and Knights believe in the power of prayer and engage in evangelizing our Faith. Participating in these activities demonstrate our beliefs.

Why is January so important for this? January follows the Birth of Our Savior, and it was in January that the presentation of the Christ Child was made to the Magi, which presented Him to the Gentiles.

January was when the Supreme Court case Roe vs Wade was decided, which put us onto the path of legalized abortion on demand.

All Knights are encouraged to get involved in these Life programs, as an individual or group. Two points to consider:

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops offers the Annual Novena For Life. By signing up on their website, you will receive daily prayers, reflections and ideas for further activity.

While all may not be able to participate in the March For Life in Washington, DC, local marches can be organized and councils can consider joining a local march, as well.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS: As we move into the new year, Knights, especially those in Florida, should consider getting involved in working with Special Olympics projects. Why Florida? Orlando will be hosting the 2022 USA Games. We need to assist this worthwhile program. As Knights, we have been involved with Special Olympics from its start. If you are not familiar with the history, please look it up on the Supreme website.

There are also 3 Polar Plunge fundraisers in the next 3 months:

ORLANDO: February 12, 2022, Aquatica Orlando, 5800 Water Play Way, Orlando, FL 32821

TAMPA: March 5, 2022, Adventure Island, 10001 McKinley Dr, Tampa, FL 33612

ST. JOHNS: March 26, 2022, Beachwalk Club Crystal Lagoon, 100 Beachwalk Club Drive, St. Johns, FL 32259

Finally, get involved at your local level. You can support the Olympians, financially. But, just as important: Get out to their events. Cheer them on. Hand out their medals for participating. **GET INVOLVED WITH THEM.**

If you have any questions, contact either Pete Chiaravalle (flkofcdd72@gmail.com) or John Gearon (johngearon@yahoo.com) for assistance.

For any assistance on Life topics, please feel free to reach out to the State Life Director, Bill Sodan (ph: 561-880-1691) or email: dd66billsodan@gmail.com)

An Interview With The McGivneys

Recently, Scott O'Connor conducted an interview with Mr. Joseph "Joe" and his son, Colin McGivney, relatives of our Founder, Blessed Michael McGivney

Mr. Joe McGivney joined the order on August 2, 2021. His son Colin joined on October 18, 2021, just six days after his 18th Birthday. Both Joe and Colin are distant relatives of Blessed Michael McGivney and as such continue the legacy of McGivney involvement in the works of the Order.

The interview was conducted by Scott O'Connor, IPSD, Florida and current Supreme Director. Mr. O'Connor was part of the degree team that exemplified the degree of Charity, Unity and Fraternity for Brother Joe McGivney and he was present during the degree ceremony in which Brother Colin participated.

"So Brother Joe, I wonder if you remember that I was present when you took your degree of Charity Unity and Fraternity, I think at that time that I commented on your family name and legacy. Did you know much at that time about your family history and your link to Blessed Michael McGivney?"

"I knew a little bit, it occasionally came up in family conversations, that we were related to Fr. McGivney, especially in the last decade or so. I do remember reading Parish Priest, I think my father recommended I get the book, probably around 15 or 16 years ago. Beyond that I did not have any other real information on Fr. McGivney, St. Mary's or founding the Knights of Columbus."

"This question is to Joe, earlier we had a brief conversation about what first made you aware of the Order and of your connection to the founder, you mentioned that you had a cousin that had done extensive research on the family genealogy and determined that you were direct relatives of Blessed Michael McGivney. Can you share



some background on your cousin who did the investigation and tell us anything about the family history?"

"Sure, I have a first cousin on the McGivney side of the family who has been doing research on the McGivney family genealogy for many years, she and her husband even traveled to Kilnaleck, County Cavan, Ireland, where my great grandfather Andrew McGivney was born. Unfortunately, during the war for independence (Ireland) a lot of birth records were burned or destroyed so there is not a lot to go on. Reportedly, my great grandfather was either a cousin or 2nd cousin to Fr. McGivney."

"This question is also for Joe, you had mentioned to me earlier that prior to becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus you were not exactly an active Catholic, but that during a serious health issue, in which you knew of other family members praying for the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney to ask God to heal you, that your prayers had been answered. You said that the story had been brought to the McGivney Guild for investigation. Can you talk about that experience, walk us through what you were going through and how this experience supported your decision to become more involved with the Church as well as to join the Order?"

[Click here to see the complete interview](#)

[Click here to see the Video of the Interview](#)

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Manual open, 52" diameter, 60" arch.
Two color combo, fiber glass shaft with
EVA handle. Windproof, lightning safe
with sleeve included.



Explorer Mug
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Is Your Personal Information Accurate?

Every member of the Knights of Columbus in the Florida jurisdiction is listed on the Florida KofC website. Financial Secretaries update council lists on the Supreme and State websites at least quarterly. To ensure your information is correct, please review the brief YouTube video link below to confirm that your personal information and your preferred contact information is correct.

The 5-minute video describes how to log on or gain initial access, and reviews how to correct or confirm your personal information.

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

Follow the instructions on the video https://youtu.be/_IVS3XkgiUs and while you are on the site, check out the other good news and information is available to you with just a click or two.

Winning the State Newsletter Contest

The State Newsletter Competition is judged annually prior to the State Convention. Some councils do not even bother to enter because “we just can’t compete against those councils that have all that design talent.” Whether in print or online, the following guidelines apply.

Design, photography and artwork only account for 20 out of the one hundred points used to determine the winning newsletters. Half the points have nothing to do with appearance. Fifty points are awarded on the basis of the amount and type of information in the newsletter. Focus is on what is contained instead of how it looks.

Thirty out of 100 points are awarded on the coverage of council activities and programs. Points are awarded for a monthly letter or article from the Grand Knight, deputy or chaplain, like the Grand Knight’s and Chaplain’s report in council meetings. Articles or announcements supporting the Catholic religion, life of a saint, and a calendar of upcoming events completes the criteria for 30 points. An additional ten points each are awarded for newsletter support of state or district programs and for support to supreme objectives.

An attractive and pleasing appearance does account for 20 out of 100 points. Artwork should enhance, not detract from the information contained in the newsletter. Photos should show action and recognizable faces. In journalism, “rule of thumb” means that the persons face should be as large as your thumbprint. Of course, thumb sizes vary, but the faces should be large enough to recognize. Action photos should show council shirts or the KofC logo. Avoid showing backs. The back of a person making a donation to the council’s Tootsie Roll drive is fine, as long as the photo shows the faces of the Knights as well as their yellow vests.

Ten points are awarded solely on the basis of legibility. Regardless of your software program, there are numerous fonts and font sizes available. Script or curly fonts may look nice at first, but in

general, are more difficult to read. Your council likely has a number of members whose eyes are older than yours and they may not be able to easily read some of the more artistic fonts. Stick with the simple, most common fonts and use at least 12-point, but never smaller than 10-point.

Finally, use spell-check and then read it again to ensure that your meant write instead of rite or right, words that spell-check won’t catch. Over the past several years, excellent council newsletters lost points and the award because of bad grammar and misspellings.

If you want to ensure that you won’t win, then include some politically slanted information or jokes in poor taste. The newsletter should always reflect the high standards expected of a fraternity of Catholic gentlemen.

The chart on the next page is a copy of the actual scoring guide that is given to the judges of the state newsletter competition. How does your council newsletter measure up?



Florida State Newsletter Competition 2022

*Newsletters will be judged prior to the State Convention. To qualify for the State Newsletter Competition, Councils must have **a minimum of six newsletters** dated from May through April **posted on the Florida State Council website** prior to April 15. Paper copies are not accepted.*

Division 1 (0-75 members) _____
 Division 2 (75-150 members) _____
 Division 3 (more than 150 members) _____

Criteria and scoring guidelines:

Communication to Council Membership:

- Council activities & Programs..... (30 pts. max)
 - Coverage of Council charitable, church, family programs, pro-life, community
 - Letter, article or statement from Grand Knight, deputy or chaplain
 - Support of the Catholic religion, e.g., prayer, life of a saint, etc.
 - Calendar of upcoming events
- State Council & District Programs..... (10 pts. max)
 - Announcements supporting State and District activities or programs
- Supreme Council Programs..... (10 pts. max)
 - Announcements supporting Supreme activities or programs
 - References to *Columbia* or *Knightline* articles or Supreme E-mails
 - Article by Fraternal Benefits Advisor

Design & Artwork

- Artwork..... (10 pts. max)
 - Is the artwork tasteful and appropriately used?
 - Does it detract from other parts of the newsletter?
- Photography..... (10 pts. max)
 - Are photos appropriately used and properly identified?
 - Are the faces large enough to easily identify the individuals?
- Legibility..... (10 pts. max)
 - Is the newsletter easy on the eyes, or is it difficult to read?
- Neatness..... (10 pts. max)
 - Neatness counts
- Grammar & Spelling..... (10 pts. max)
 - Are there grammatical or spelling errors in the articles
 - Does the tone of the articles reflect the K of C in a positive light?

Total Overall Points **(100 pts. max)**

INVOCATION

Knights of Columbus Florida State Council Newsletter

How To Write An Article

Newsorthy • 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”
- “Florida Knights in Action” section is new - GKs submit brief 1or 2 paragraphs only
 - The new section is similar to the in the Columbia magazine. Every council is doing something each month. Here is where it is shared. Pics would also be great.

Marketing Department Information

[2020 Organizational Meeting Presentation](#)
[Supreme Public Relations and Publicity Guide](#)
[FSC Council PR Handbook](#)

[FSC Marketing Team](#)
[How to Write for the Invocation](#)

With the onset of the Pandemic and Virtual meetings we are supplying you with fillable form 100's and Form 4's. These are in English and Spanish. You will need to Download the forms and save them on your computer prior to filling them out.

[Form 100 English](#)

[Form 100 Spanish](#)

[Form 4 English](#)

[Form 4 Spanish](#)



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

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 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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Region 5 (Open)

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Region 7 (Open)

Region 8 (Open)

Florida State Council Social Media

Your State Council is now on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and You Tube. We need all Brother Knights to participate and Let Your Light Shine.

- Go to Facebook and "LIKE" the page
- Go to Twitter and Instagram and "follow"
- #LetYourLightShine @KofcFlorida



Knightline

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Check out the current issue of **Knightline**, a monthly resource for local KofC leaders. It is designed to help council officers plan events and activities, meet quarterly goals for the fraternal year and learn about Orderwide news. [CLICK HERE](#) to download the issue.

COLUMBIA

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the online version of **COLUMBIA** Magazine, a publication for the Knights of Columbus.



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