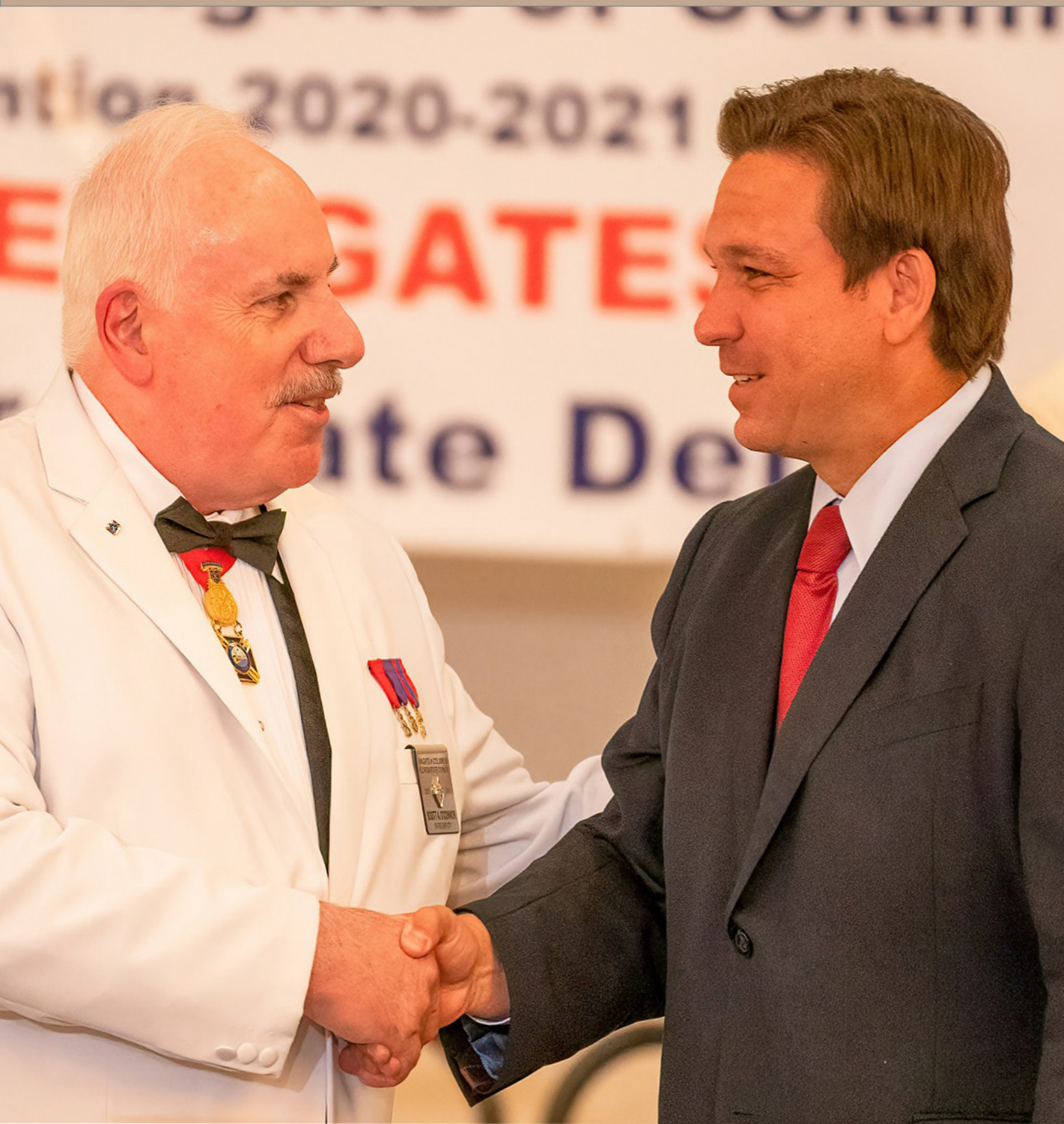


# INVOCATION

JUNE 2021



# My Brother Knights and Families

*By State Deputy Scott O'Connor*

**D**uring the week of May 27-30, 2021 we gathered for the 117th Annual Meeting of the Florida State Council, Knights of Columbus, or “State Convention”. We had over 500 in person attendees, even more joined us virtually for this very special “highbred” meeting.

Our events began on Thursday, May 27 when Most Reverend Thomas Wenski, Archbishop of Miami, himself a 4th Degree Knight and a member of “Knights on Bikes” (a sister organization) opened the first annual “Ride for Vocations” Event. The archbishop was Principal Celebrant at a special Mass. The Mass concelebrated by Bishop Enrique Delgado, was conducted at St. Katharine Drexel parish in Weston, Florida.

Following the Mass, the Archbishop and about twenty other riders departed the church and made their way to the Alligator Alley Harley-Davidson dealership along I-75. At the dealership, the riders were given gift bags (courtesy of Harley-Davidson) and were treated to a luncheon provided by local Chick-Fil-A franchisers Jude and Felix Hodges – both 4th Degree Members of the Knights of Columbus and local council 12240, home council of the State Deputy.

After lunch, the riders proceeded to follow route 27 up through the center of the state, passing Lake Okeechobee, traveling through several other towns along the route. The riders arrived at Council 6624 (St. Cloud Kissimmee) just about 6:00 PM. The riders were treated to a barbecue dinner, and many participated in the Scotch and Cigar fundraising event, which took place during the ride. All proceeds were to go toward the Marybeth O'Connor Holy Angels fund for support of Vocations. At the time of this article the final accounting of the donations collected had not been completed, however, prior to the ride, donations to the vocations fund had exceeded \$80,000 for the year.

Our State Convention began on Friday, May

28 with several one-hour seminars dedicated to specific training programs. A seminar put on by Supreme Vice President, Hispanic & Ethnic Membership Growth, Jose Jimenez, addressed “how to recruit into the Hispanic Community” another seminar featured our State Membership Director Jorge Ibacache, focusing on recruitment incentives and ending the year on a strong note.

We also had seminars for Grand Knights on “how to conduct a council meeting” and a seminar for Financial Secretaries on proper methods. Following the seminars, we had the opening Mass. The Mass’s Principal Celebrant was Most Reverend Thomas Wenski, Archbishop of Miami, with Concelebrants Very Reverend Thomas Skindeleski, State Chaplain and Reverend Fr. Robert Kantor, Diocese of Venice and Reverend Fr. Timothy Cummings Diocese of St. Petersburg (Diocesan Chaplains).

Following the Mass, the State Deputy presented Archbishop Wenski with three checks of \$10,000 each. One for St. Vincent DePaul Regional Seminary; one for St. John Vianney College Seminary and one for the Archdiocese of Miami vocations support. After the concluding rites, the degree of Charity, Unity and Fraternity was exemplified by the 2021 All Star Exemplar Team, made up of members from the Regional Certified teams. The State Deputy and State Chaplain presented the emblem of the order (pin) and Rosary to the candidate.

On Friday afternoon, the opening session of the 117th Convention began with the traditional procession of council banners into the chamber, followed by the State Officers, Directors and



*State Deputy Scott A. O'Connor*



Dignitaries. The State Executive Administrator, Deacon Paul Koppie, PSD, acted as Master of Ceremonies, conducting the opening. Following the opening the State Deputy was introduced for the State of the State Address ([Click to read](#)). After the State of the State, the ladies were excused, and the business session began.

On Friday evening, there was an appreciation event in which the 2021 appreciation gift was unveiled, this year it is a special statue commemorating the Beatification of Blessed Michael McGivney. Statues were not ready for the event, due to an outbreak of COVID-19 at the manufacturer, however, they will be sending the gifts out by mail in the near future. On Saturday, May 29, the opening Mass had Most Reverend Frank Dewane, Bishop of Venice, as Principal Celebrant, with Monsignor Thomas Skindeleski, Fr. Tim Cummings, and Fr. Robert Kantor as concelebrants. This is our annual memorial mass to remember all Knights who had passed during the prior Fraternal Year. Our State Awards presentation followed with many councils present to receive awards in Membership, Programs and Charities.

The State Deputy also presented several awards for Excellence. The State Deputy awards recognized exceptional service during the past two-years. Award recipients included: Deacon Paul Koppie, PSD, Doug Murray, PSD, Rick Hughes, State Treasurer, Mark Lynn State Vocations Chairman and George Hayek, State Marketing & Brands Director. Saturday afternoon business session included the election of State Officers for the 2021-2022 Fraternal Year, we saw Rob Urrutia elected as the 60th State Deputy of the Florida Jurisdiction, Richard Hughes – State Secretary; Michael Gizewski – State Treasurer; Robert Rasch – State Advocate; and Joseph Coicou as State Warden. Scott O'Connor moves to the Board of Directors as Immediate Past State Deputy and Donald Kahrer, moves off the state board.

In addition, the delegates elected eight delegates to represent the Florida Jurisdiction at the 139th Supreme Convention and two alternate delegates for the State Deputy and Immediate Past

State Deputy. At the end of the business session, the outgoing state deputy handed the gavel to the State Deputy Elect, Rob Urrutia, for the closing of the 117th Business Meeting.

Saturday evening started with a special reception in the hotel foyer, followed by processing into the banquet hall. State Deputy Scott O'Connor then delivered an introduction for the Keynote Speaker, the Honorable Ron DeSantis, Governor of Florida. The Governor delivered a state of the state address and commented on how our organization can continue to help in the recovery efforts post, pandemic. He addressed many concerns we have regarding local government and what we can expect going forward.

Following the speech, the Governor was surrounded by cheering fans and stayed for another 10 minutes taking photos with enthusiastic attendees. Following the banquet, the State Deputy Elect, Rob Urrutia and his wife Lucille, welcomed well-wishers to their reception, across the foyer. A celebratory cake was cut, and all had a good time.

On Sunday, more than 300 attendees made their way to the Basilica of Mary, Queen of the Universe, in Orlando. A Corporate Communion Mass was conducted with Principal Celebrant Most Reverend John Noonan, Bishop of Orlando and concelebrated by Very Reverend Thomas Skindeleski, State Chaplain, Very Reverend Robert Webster, Rector of the Basilica, Fr. Robert Kantor, Diocesan Chaplain and Fr. Tim Cummings, Diocesan Chaplain and Father Wilfredo Contreras, Chaplain of Council 16980 San Isidro.

Bishop Noonan delivered a historical accounting of the Knights of Columbus and in particular what we are all about. The Basilica is visited by many international visitors, on this day more than half the shrine was filled with people who got to witness a glimpse of the Knights of Columbus in action. Over 30 Color Corp were present to add to the ceremony. Bishop Noonan has given permission to the Florida State Council to proceed with the development of a permanent museum at the Basilica. Work is underway and the opening will take place hopefully, within the next administration.

My time as your State Deputy is coming to a close, I pledge to continue working on behalf of Florida Knights, right up to the last day of June, in fact, we have scheduled membership rallies for the week following the convention in region 2 and 3 and we will be participating in others throughout the month.

Remember our June Membership Incentives – FOR INDIVIDUALS: Bring in two (2) new members, either E-Member or CUF Degree, place your member number on the candidate's application as "Sponsor" and you are entered into a drawing for \$1,000.00. COUNCILS: Recruit ten (10) new or reactivated members through the Degree of CUF or added to the council roster (reactivation) prior to June 30, 2021 and verified on Form 450 and your council qualifies for a drawing for \$5,000.00. The drawings will take place at the Organizational Meeting in Orlando, July 16, 2021.

Let's keep the momentum going – remember your smart-phone address book may contain the names of several candidates that you could call, invite to join and become a member this month. You may even want to remind your prospects that if they join as an E-member before June 30, they pay no dues for their first year of membership.

I want to thank all the State Officers, Directors, Chairman, Coordinators, Regional Administrators, District Deputies, and leadership of the Florida State Council for their support over the past two years. We have been through more than many could endure, but we did it together. The Holy Spirit was always present guiding us along and making sure that we could feel his presence, so as not to lose hope. At times I felt like Peter, trying to walk across the water to join the Lord, sometimes wondering if my faith were strong enough to see it through, or if I would go under, but he sustained me and gave me strength. You all sustained me and through your support and encouragement we together did make a positive difference.

I thank Deacon Paul and Teri Koppie, for their friendship and all the help with bringing the Ladies events back to a high standard. Thank you, Brother George Hayek, for your leadership and your devotion to making our marketing and

branding something we can all be proud of. I thank Ron Brown our State Ceremonials Chairman and his team for delivering the virtual live exemplifications, leading the Order in innovation. I want to thank Mark Lynn for his vision of the Marybeth O'Connor Holy Angels Fund for Vocations – I know that she is smiling down from Heaven in approval of this worthy cause.

I thank Ed Sleyzak and his team for delivering our beautiful "Invocation" news publication, truly the best in all the jurisdictions. I thank Monsignor Thomas Skindeleski for all his many years of service to the Church, to the Order, to the State Jurisdiction but most of all I thank him for his friendship and support during my late wife's final days, words cannot describe the comfort he provided her as well as me during the most difficult time in my life. There are many more who contributed at a high level, many were recognized during the convention, for more information read the awards section, posted on the state website.

I also want to thank my local 12240 Council Brothers at St. Bonaventure, Davie for all their support and encouragement through the years that I have been involved at the state level. I love you guys and could not have done it without your support. Thank you to Father Ed Prendergast for his support and friendship as well as Father Frank Roof, our council Chaplain, friend, and Brother Knight.

Finally, it has been the honor of a lifetime to serve as your 59th State Deputy, I thank you all for your kindness, your support, and your friendship. I pledge to continue to do what ever I can to support our incoming Administration. I pray for their success as well as the success of our great Florida State Council.

May God Bless you and keep you, and may God Bless the Florida State Council, Knights of Columbus.

To see the complete State of the State address click here: [FSC State of the State](#)



# Many Fond Memories

*By State Chaplain Monsignor Thomas Skindeleski*

**D**ear Brothers in Christ and Families, this is the last Knights of Columbus newsletter column that I write as State Chaplain. Beginning on July 1st, I will pass the baton onto Father Robert Kantor, Pastor of St. Agnes Church in Naples, and Diocesan Chaplain of the Diocese of Venice, who becomes your new State Chaplain. It has been a wonderful opportunity for me to serve in that capacity for a dozen years, and I'm truly grateful to State Deputy, Scott O'Connor and the Florida State Council, to be honored with the title, Chaplain Emeritus.

It has been a pleasure to serve you these years, and I hope that I will be able to be of some service in the years to come. I especially thank State Deputy Scott O'Connor for allowing me to return these last two additional two-years as Chaplain; and I welcome my worthy successor – a most capable man and fine priest - to his new position. May he enjoy the kind support of his fellow Knights as I did.

Undoubtedly, I will carry many fond memories, especially our annual Knights' mission trips to the jungles of Guatemala, the pro-Life gatherings, the quarterly meetings and the annual State and Supreme conventions, the celebrations of Mass and leading us in prayer. All of these were wonderful opportunities to enjoy the fraternity of brother Knights and their families and to help build up the Body of Christ in our midst.

After nearly sixteen years at the helm there, I will also be stepping down in September as Pastor of St. Vincent Ferrer Parish in Delray Beach, where I have served for. There I was able to form a Knights Council shortly after arriving and am glad to see it thriving today. I think it will be good for me now, especially health-wise, to have some of the burdens of responsibility taken from my shoulders and allow me some time to read and travel, assisting occasionally in different parishes

and dioceses while still having the energy and sufficient health to do so.

I will be forever grateful to you, my brother Knights, for all the kindnesses and respect you have shown me over the years. I will remain a member of my current council in Delray Beach, and I look forward to the opportunities of being among you at various times and in various ways that will be presented. May God bless and protect you and you families and help to grow the Order.

Thank you one and all! Vivat Jesus!



*State Chaplain Monsignor  
Thomas Skindeleski*



# Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

*By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori*

“To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade.” (Gospel for June 13, Mk 4:30-32)

**E**very gardener has witnessed how great things can come from small beginnings. Planted in its proper season and cared for over time, the tiniest seed can blossom into a glorious plant. Parents, teachers and mentors responsible for the moral and spiritual formation of children know well the value of “planting seeds.” Instructing children in virtue at a young age gives them a firm foundation of faith as they mature. May we be intentional in our instruction and example to our children and others, knowing small actions can have great influence.

## **Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:**

This month, I challenge you to share your faith and beliefs in at least one conversation with your children or friends. Second, I challenge you to join with your brother Knights in planning and participating in the Faith in Action Family Prayer Night program or Holy Hour program.

## **Questions for Reflection:**

What “seeds” of faith did your own parents or others plant in your life as a youth that blossomed later in life? What are some of the concrete ways (even small ways) you can share your faith with your family and friends? What role does your witness — attending Mass, going to confession, serving others and being willing to discuss your faith — play in helping to strengthen the faith of others?

## Are You A Member?

**T**he 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/> †



# An Eastern View of Confession

*By Former State Chaplain Reverend Salvatore Pignato*

**I**n my May article I spoke about salvation and reconciliation. The death of Jesus was that acceptable Perfect Sacrifice that cleansed us from that Original Sin we inherited from Adam and Eve. But, unfortunately, the death of Jesus did not restore to us that original "perfection" that Adam and Eve were created with and lost due to their disobedience to God. Jesus, although human, but created perfect and without sin, understood our fallen nature and left us the greatest gift to strengthen our spirituality and offered to us a vehicle for the forgiveness of our personal sinfulness. It is called the Mystery of Confession.

In the Gospels Jesus said to a man looking for healing, "your sins are forgiven". The Pharisees said to themselves, "He blasphemes! Only God can forgive sin". They were absolutely correct. Jesus, the Son of God, clearly used this power. We see Him forgiving very often in the Gospels as when He said to the adulterous woman, "Your sins are forgiven. Go and sin no more".

The important question is did Jesus share this power with the Apostles and to their successors. This is an extremely important question because in the answer lies the reality of this power of forgiveness and the actual eradication of sin as a personal belief and reality. Thus, the authority for administering the Mystery of forgiveness rests on the commission of Christ to the apostles to remit and retain sin. That commission is an historical fact. St. John

in his Gospel writes, "Jesus came and stood before them and said: As the Father sent me, I am sending you...He breathed on them and said receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain they are retained."

In order to emphasize the transfer of this divine power, Jesus made it a solemn ritual. His breathing on the apostles symbolized the Holy Spirit in which they were receiving. His words show that He is acting with supreme authority. He is the authorized Legate of God, sent from the Father. Forgiving sin belongs to God, but God can delegate it. By His solemn formula, "As the Father sent me, so am I sending you" Christ makes known that He is doing so. He is delegating that power. Therefore, this Mystery of confession is irrefutable. The reality and actuality of the forgiving or retaining sin is irrefutable.

In our baptismal vows we have been commissioned to preach Jesus and to lead others to the forgiveness of sin. This is the perfection that Jesus speaks of when he said be perfected as my Father is perfect in Heaven". And, perfecting ourselves through the



*Former State Chaplain  
Rev. Salvatore Pignato*



cleansing absolution of the priest in the Name of Jesus, we continue the ministry of Jesus and the apostles. But, we cannot do this ministry to others unless we ourselves are forgiven sin. If we do not ask for the cleansing forgiveness of confession, we will simply become clanging symbols as St. Paul said in one of his Epistles. Confession becomes the vehicle for every Catholic to be that light of Jesus for others and to bring to others who are in the grip of sin the gentle touch of the forgiveness of Jesus. Without the cleansing words

of absolution of Jesus, we simply become as Jesus called the Pharisees, "whitened sepulchres" and our ministry will become hollow. We must use the Mystery of confession with the same humility of the publican, who, when he stood in the back of the Temple said to God, "Forgive me for I am a sinner". Only then will our ministry in the Lord become believable because we have joined the struggles of humanity.

## State of the State Address

Worthy State Chaplain, members of the Clergy, Supreme Master, Supreme Director, Past State Deputies, State Officers, Delegates, Dignitaries Wives and Guests. I welcome you to the 117th Florida State Convention. I begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to our State Chaplain, Monsignor Tom Skindeleski, for his leadership and support this past year, as well as to congratulate him on celebrating his Jubilee – 50 years in the Priesthood.

2021 will probably be remembered as the "Virtual Year" or the year of "virtual operations". Transitioning our operation not only allowed us to continue conducting our business but, in many cases, has created new ways to reach out to even more of our members and their families, than ever before. This was made possible through live streaming and other social media outlets.

This past Fraternal Year was filled with challenges, even greater than those we faced the previous year, the COVID-19 Pandemic changed the world forever. However, despite all these challenges, we have been able to adapt to this "new normal" we have kept the faith, knowing that God does have a plan for us and knowing that we must remain open to it; we trust in our Faith, for it is strong and we have acted upon it, practicing the virtues of "Leave no Neighbor Behind" and "Faith in Action."

This year has also been a challenge for many of our Programs, more than 1/3 of our local councils have been dormant during the pandemic, but we have still managed to accomplish much good:

- In Ceremonials – The degree of Charity, Unity and Fraternity, has been conducted live, every Thursday, through virtual presentations conducted by six certified teams in the English language, and another certified team presenting the degree in Spanish.

Candidates and their families can participate in the degree from their homes. I am proud that Florida, was the first jurisdiction to offer this format, which is much more personal than watching a taped presentation.

At the conclusion of each virtual degree, I as State Deputy, personally welcome each new member and acknowledge his wife or family member, if present, this gives that "personal touch" which means a lot to the people taking the degree.

- Our website was recreated by "NonProfit Websites" a professional team, under the direction of our State Treasurer, Rick Hughes and our Marketing Director, George Hayek. This project required thousands of programming hours and significant effort on the part of the team, we can all be proud of the new site which is a great tool.

- Our State Newsletter "The Invocation" continues to be one of the finest examples of a



monthly publication in the Order, with exceptional articles and stories of activities throughout the jurisdiction, we can all be proud of the work that the staff have put in to making our publication truly, a first-class operation.

- Our virtual Meetings and Convention have evolved into highbred functions. The Marketing Team and support staff have worked hard to produce high-quality streaming presentations. These take many hours of planning and development as well as significant training for those in the various areas of production and support. I congratulate the staff for their efforts and for the rapid transition to this new world of communicating to the widest possible audience.

- Many Council meetings are returning to live, in-person events. Even after the imposed restrictions due to COVID-19 are lifted, we anticipate that the streaming of meetings and events will continue, allowing greater accessibility to all members, especially those who may be homebound.

- With churches reopening and people attending Mass in person again, Knights continue to help their parishes with many functions including:

- Directing traffic, sanitizing the churches between Masses, Ushering, Lecturing and other support services; all of which has contributed significantly to our Holy Catholic Church.

- Florida Knights continue to help those most in need. Recently, more than 100 Knights and their families, gathered at St. Vincent Ferrer Parish in Delray Beach, to package more than 40,000 meals, going to Guatemala, for distribution to people most in need.

- A recent project with the Louisiana jurisdiction resulted in the transfer of more than 10,000 Meals Ready to Eat (MRE's), to Florida. We were able to ship these meals to the Bahamas, where people are still suffering from the devastation of hurricane Dorian.

- Our Silver Rose for life program was able to continue with the help of the Knights on Bikes organization and The Archbishop of Miami, Most Reverend Thomas Wenski. The Silver Rose traveled throughout the Florida jurisdiction by

motorcycle procession, lending credence to the importance of this cause.

- For the Marian Icon Prayer Program, the Florida Jurisdiction had three of five icons of “Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians” continue their pilgrimage throughout the State, the issuance of the new Icon for this Fraternal Year, is delayed due to the pandemic. However, the current Icon continues to be used and has brought much comfort to those who have been in its presence.

- Florida youth excelled in several competition categories this year even with the challenges of the pandemic. The International level in the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest, encourages today's youth to be more connected to their community and their faith. The essays were exceptional, and we had two contestants named at the international level. One of our contestants, Joseph McFadden, sponsored by Council 14132 was named the international winner in the 11-year-old category. Andrea Banaszek was named the international runner-up in the 10-year-old category. It is estimated that over 1000 school students in the State of Florida participated.

- The Basketball Free-throw Competition was held unfortunately, the Chairman, Dick Cunningham, was not able to be present, but he wished all the contestants well. This also happens to be the 50th anniversary of the world championship win of the Milwaukee Bucks, the NBA team that Dick was part of, we congratulate him on this occasion.

- I would like to thank all the Councils that hosted Regional and District competitions this past year, truly an amazing effort.

- These are just a few of the successful programs we have conducted this year in General Programs; other results are listed in the Convention Report Booklet. There is one very special program that every Knight is proud to promote. It is part of our Pro-Life Program; called the “Ultrasound Initiative”. We are proud to report that since August of 2020, due to the pro-life efforts of many Councils throughout our jurisdiction, the Florida State Council was able to complete 10 projects this fraternal year bringing our program total to 109 Machines placed. Total helping life Fund

donations received as of April 30, are valued at over \$263,000.00.

Florida leads and will continue to lead all other jurisdictions in this very worthy program. You can be proud of what your efforts have accomplished and the number of lives you have saved.

In the area of Charity: Florida programs include:

- Citizens with Disabilities – Under this category we have Special Olympics and the Wheelchair Program which received over \$20,000 in donations this year.

- Our Vocations program, supports priests, religious, and seminarians. Vocations received over \$78,000 in donations with more expected as a result of our Ride for Vocations event.

- Even in these challenging times, we were able to start some new initiatives. The First Annual Ride for Vocations event with proceeds to benefit the Holy Angles Fund in the name of Marybeth O'Connor, was conducted prior to this convention. Another new initiative to raise funds for military chaplains, dedicated to Nadine O'Toole, the late wife of Florida District Master, John O'Toole, was initiated this year. These are all outstanding accomplishments, ones that we can be proud of. Pope St. John Paul II often said, "There is no Church without the Eucharist and there is no Eucharist without the priest." Support of vocations is vitally important to our mission as Knights of Columbus. Brothers and sisters, we need priests. As Knights of Columbus, it is our task, our responsibility, to promote priestly vocations and to support them in their discernment and formation. We do this with our prayers and also with our financial support. We must focus our efforts in supporting our priests and seminarians; they depend on us. Please, consider increasing your personal donations and/or raising additional monies for vocations through council fund raisers and events. I thank our State Vocations Fund Chairman, Brother Mark Lynn for his commendable efforts and for leading the development of the "Holy Angles Fund".

- Our Christopher Fund and other charities accounts, will again provide funds that we will be presenting to each of the Jurisdiction's dioceses for vocations support in the amount of \$10,000 per

dioceses. In addition, St. John Vianney College Seminary and St. Vincent De Paul Regional Seminary will each receive checks for \$10,000 to help where need is the greatest.

- General Charities, which includes Disaster Relief and others accounted for over \$153,000 in donations. Each of these programs depends on individual donations and donations collected by local councils conducting their own fund raisers and events, with support from the State Council.

- A complete breakdown of all financial accounts can be found in the Reports Book.

This year has been filled with many difficulties. But, despite these difficulties, Florida Knights, and their families, have risen to the challenge and overcome adversity by finding ways to help brother knights and their families and those in our communities who are in need. We mentioned last year that we were working on a plan to assist our brothers in the Bahamas, who had experienced extensive damage to homes, schools, and Churches, as a result of Hurricane Dorian. Unfortunately, travel was restricted after the onslaught of the pandemic. We continue to work with Archbishop Patrick Pinder, Archbishop of Nassau, coordinating relief shipments and donations. I assured all our brothers in the Bahamas, that we will not forget them, and we will stand by that commitment!

During the pandemic, we have reached out to those who are quarantined, distributing food, picking up and delivering prescriptions, and maintaining contact by phone, email, or other virtual means. Knights have put together phone trees to call those who are homebound to check on their status and to let them know they are remembered, and we continue to go out to serve food to the needy to those in the hardest hit areas of Florida. Some have lost their jobs and cannot buy food even if it were available. The State Council has provided financial support for many charitable events during the pandemic. Knights are always finding ways to help. It does not matter what the challenge is, we Knights will follow the example of Blessed Michael McGivney, serving Christ by serving others.

In the area of membership, Knights in the Florida Jurisdiction despite the limitations



imposed by the pandemic, have recruited more than we did in the previous year, in fact, Florida has recruited more members than all but two Division 1 US jurisdictions. Our efforts to ensure that every eligible Catholic man has an opportunity to serve others and to protect their families from the possibility of financial ruin, are paying off. We have taken to using social media platforms to get our messages out, we have utilized the media productions of “Into the Breach” to demonstrate to prospective members and their families the value of being part of us. Using video conferencing, our Thursday evening degrees average five new members who are personally welcomed. Local councils continue to hold meetings to conduct business and plan recruitment and service opportunities using video conferencing. Knights’ business has continued and will do so no matter what the challenge is.

However, the Florida jurisdiction may not meet its goal in recruitment. Some councils have decided that now is the time to clear the books of members who have not paid their dues. Even though the Supreme Council waived the Per Capita for this fraternal year and we asked all councils to show their Charity by forgoing suspensions for non-payment of dues, during the pandemic. Sadly, this has not been the case with many councils dropping 50 or 100 members, which can also affect their families. While there might be an occasion for suspending a brother for not paying his dues, a full and sincere effort must be made to contact that brother to find out why he has not. Way too many times we at the State level hear from a suspended brother who said he was never contacted. Way too many times we hear of a brother who is 80 or 90 years old who is in a rehabilitation home and could not afford to pay and was dropped. Where is the fraternity? Where is the charity? Why do you think these councils have missed the virtues of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity? If this trend continues, where councils purge a third or more of their members, and without recruiting any new members, then these councils will surely die. I again ask you all present to please focus your efforts on attracting new members, not getting rid of the one’s we have.

As mentioned earlier, we have many successful accomplishments, but how much more could we have done if we had reached our goals and had more men serving others? How many more Catholic men and their families could have been helped if only we would have asked them to join our order? If this trend of not reaching our membership goals continues, what accomplishments we have today will diminish. Is that how we serve our Church and neighbor? Please make a concerted effort in your own life, to help us reach our goals.

I want to thank our State Membership Director, Jorge Ibacache, Vice-Membership Director, Doug Murray, PSD and the team for their gallant efforts to put the Florida Jurisdiction in a position to reach its established goals. This is easier said than done, but I know they are up to the challenge of finishing our year on a strong and positive note.

This has been a challenging year; we accepted the challenges that were presented and somehow have produced solutions needed at the right times! The Florida State Council, consisting of all the local councils in the Florida jurisdiction, has led the way in being Christ to others. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patron of the Americas, with our Mary at our side, what challenges can we not overcome?

Seeing my brother Knights putting their Faith in Action this past year, being present to witness the many great acts of charity and unity that were on display by our councils as they responded to calls for help and support from the Church was truly inspiring. Watching the evolution of our great state council as it found ways to rise up from the limits of the pandemic, to open up its councils, help open up Churches and schools, help feed the hungry and cloth those in need, these things and more were truly remarkable accomplishments.

But we have more to do, the Florida State Council needs to continue growing in membership, bringing in Catholic men into the Order who are motivated to live the virtues of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism, who are willing and wanting to share with others the blessings God has given them, men and their families who are not afraid to enter into the breach, men who want to protect their families, men who want to

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deepen their faith and want to be part of a great organization for God and Country.

While there are so very many people I would like to thank for their efforts and service during my administration, there just is not enough time to do so. Our current state officers and board of directors should be recognized for their outstanding effort and support both for me personally and for our state council. I also want to personally thank Teresa Koppie, wife of PSD Deacon Paul Koppie, for her stepping "Into the Breach" and coordinating the Ladies events on behalf of my late wife Marybeth. She never complained, and she made the Ladies events fun and enjoyable. Deacon Paul even helped with the resurrection of the "Ladies Button" on the state website, which provides much needed information to all our ladies.

Finally, I wish to thank all our Clergy for their support and dedication as well as our Fraternal Benefits Advisors and General Agents, they are the unsung heroes who labor long into the night so that new and existing members can benefit from our products and services. I thank our

state Directors, chairman, coordinators, district deputies, grand knights and council leadership for your support, your efforts and most of all your prayers. It has truly been an amazing experience leading the Florida Jurisdiction for the past two years, together we have experienced the highs and the lows, we have laughed together, and we have cried together. We experienced the loss of family members and friends but seen the birth of new life and a new generation. We have witnessed the amazing stamina of our jurisdiction and through all of this, our love for one another and for our Church and our Order stands strong. It has been a great honor for me and my family to serve the Florida State Council, over the past decade. Truly the honor of a lifetime, as we enter into the final month of the Fraternal Year, I offer my full support to the next administration, with new momentum let us all pledge to support the officer's directors and members as they prepare to assume their new duties.

May God bless all of you and your families. May God bless this great country. And may God bless the Knights of Columbus.



*Knights of Columbus Prince of Peace Council 8791 hosted the parish's annual picnic on Sunday, May 16, on the church grounds in Ormond Beach. It was the first parish-wide social event since the pandemic restrictions went into effect more than 14 months ago and was attended by approximately 250 parishioners. In past years, the picnic was a potluck event, with the parish providing only hot dogs and hamburgers. This year, due to COVID precautions, the Knights prepared and plated all of the food, sides, desserts, and beverages. Thirty Knights assisted with the project. The picnic coincided with the year-end closing ceremonies for the parish's religious education program and the blessing and crowning of an outdoor statue of our Blessed Mother Mary. Prince of Peace Council 8791 was established in 1984 and has approximately 215 members. The Grand Knight is Charles Armstrong and the Deputy Grand Knight is William Whelan.*



# State Councils of the Year

The Florida State Council of the Knights of Columbus named three councils as Council of the Year in their respective divisions at the fraternal organization's annual convention here on Saturday.

The Division 1 winner with less than 75 members was St. Thomas A Becket Council 16236 of Orlando

The Division 2 winner with between 75 and 150 members was San Patricio Council 13654 of Miami Beach.

Taking the top award in Division 3 for councils with more than 150 members was Our Lady of Hope Council 8086 of Port Orange.

Each year, the Florida State Council selects the councils of the year based on the councils' scores in the areas of membership growth, charitable giving and service programs. Councils obtaining the highest composite score in their respective divisions and then named Council of the Year.

Under the leadership of Michael Coleman, grand knight, the Orlando-based council is in its first year of existence, yet managed to support Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity, Laps for Life and raised \$15,000 to donate an ultrasound machine to a pregnancy center. The council also supported two seminarians by hosting monthly



*Council 8086 Our Lady of Hope*

luncheons. The Council supports Incarnation Catholic Church in Orlando.

The Division 2 Council of the Year, San Patricio Council 13654 in Miami Beach achieved 1,000 per cent of their membership quota. The St. Patrick Catholic Church-based council, under the leadership of Grand Knight Alvaro Carbonell, was cited for its support to Special Olympics, the Blood Bank, and Food for Families program.

The council hosted Family Rosaries and monthly Corporate Masses, and raised funds and helped other councils raise funds for intellectually challenged individuals through the Tootsie Roll drive.

Our Lady of Hope Council 8086 in Port Orange took the top honors in Division 3 under the leadership of Grand Knight John J. O'Malley. The Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church-based council was recognized for its strong support of the Blood Bank, Food for Families program and Florida Special Olympics

The council purchases Bibles to give away, hosts a clergy and altar server recognition program, and is heavily involved in the Keep Christ in Christmas program.

Council awards are based on individual council's applications for awards in membership, charitable giving and service



*Council 13654 San Patricio*

programs for the period April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

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*Council 16236 St. Thomas A Becket*

## Council Knight and Family of the Year



**B**asilica of St. Paul Council 1895 of Daytona Beach recently held an Appreciation Dinner for the work the Knights have been doing behind the scenes during the pandemic.

The Knight of the Year Award was split between two members, Financial Secretary SK Russell Wetherington and Grand Knight SK Bob Schornstein.

Family of the Year went to the Schornsteins, home of our Grand Knight and Warden John Schornstein. A very special thank you was given

to Ms. Elizabeth Schornstein for all of her hard work backing our Grand Knight this year.

The awards were presented by Deputy Grand Knight Ernest Tiesner. Council Trustee SK Joseph Ronca served as the Dinner Committee Chairman and was Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

A highlight of the affair was the singing of the National Anthem by SK Alberto Basalmo. Many of the dinner guests at Mario's Restaurant in Ormond Beach stood and joined in the singing, and gave AK Alberto a standing ovation afterwards.



# State Family of the Year

**A**ntonio and Maria Pagan Jr. of Orlando were named Saturday as the Florida's Family of the Year by the Florida State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

The Pagans were selected by the 55,000 member Florida jurisdiction of the international fraternal organization for their service to their council, their church and their local community.

Antonio Pagan is a member of the Monsignor Bishop Council 2112 in Orlando. He serves as president of the Pastoral Council at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Orlando and his wife Maria serves as secretary of the council.

All members of the family, including Cristina Maria and Antonio III are active in church ministries and activities including Mardi Gras and Our Lady of Guadalupe celebrations Easter egg roll for the children of the parish among others.

Antonio was a member of the Jersey City Police Department and has been a Knight for 25 years, beginning in New Jersey before moving to Orlando. Since arriving in Orlando, both has served in the Orlando public school system.

Antonio is the behavioral interventionist and Dean of students at a Magnet School of nearly 800 students. He coordinates all support and incentive programs to improve academic and emotional excellence in the students.

Maria recently retired from the Orange County Public School System.

The family prepares and shows the family youth movie every month and serve refreshments. Although the Covid pandemic necessitated a pause in this monthly activity, it was resumed this



past November.

The entire family is involved in a variety of community, life and youth activities and their passion for family and faith has inspired many new members of the council.

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# State Knight of the Year

**C**arlos D. Coton of San Marcelino Champagnat Council in Miami was named Saturday as Florida's Knight of the Year by the Florida State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Coton was selected by the 55,000 member Florida jurisdiction of the international fraternal organization for his service to his council, his church and the local community.

He is an active member of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, the National Kidney Foundation of Florida and La Liga Contra el Cancer among his many philanthropic activities, has served as a referee for high school basketball and football games for nearly three decades, instructs new referees and teaches at several local colleges.

Colon, a member of St. Brendan's Catholic Church in Miami, is very active in parish life, serving as the trainer and scheduler for Church Lectors and Ministers of the Holy Eucharist. He is a certified Catechist instructor and a certified facilitator for the Diocesan Safe Environment Program.

He spearheaded the effort to assist the church pastor to successfully reopen the church to regular weekday and weekend Masses by marking usable pews, planning parishioner flow and helping to enforce the Center for Disease Control's COVID-19 guidelines.

He currently serves as his council's Grand Knight, leading the council to exceed previous levels of support in many charitable and faith activities, including food for the needy and toys to unfortunate children.

This Knight has a strong commitment to financially and spiritually support seminarians



studying for the priesthood in Florida and in Venezuela, the home country of the Council's Chaplain.

Because of his leadership of the council, he was unanimously nominated by his council members and past grand knights to the Florida State Council for this honor.

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# Council Hosts Clergy Appreciation Dinner

By WGK Alex Czopek



**W**riters, poets, men and women far more eloquent than I have written about the hope of springtime, that season of light that follows a long, cold winter.

On the Feast of Pentecost, as a parish we celebrated that light after a long, cold period in our lives. The Knights of Columbus Council 14084 is pleased that we could sponsor the Clergy Appreciation Dinner.

I thank our clergy for all they have done for this parish community through the long, cold months of the pandemic.

Father Dermot, we thank you for all you have done to bring the light of Christ into our lives.

Father Tim, we will miss you. We wish you well in your new assignment.

Deacon Mike Sweeney, you keep our church alive with music. And you are the

best webmaster ever!

Deacon Mike Ryba, we deeply appreciate your contributions to our parish, and to the efforts of the Knights of Columbus.





## INVOCATION

This dinner would not have been possible without so many dedicated volunteers. Ted Russell, thank you for all your hard work in coordinating and setting up the facility. To all the men and women who helped that evening with preparation,

serving and cleanup: My personal thanks. And last, but most important to me, my wife Diana who has put up with me for this event and so many other events in the past. Thank you dear!





# Knights on Bikes

*By Archbishop Thomas Wenski*



**O**n the Thursday before Memorial Weekend, Knights on Bikes – almost 30 strong – rode up the spine of Florida, US-27, to support the vocation ministry of the Knights of Columbus. Funds raised through this ride will support the Knights’ efforts to promote vocations through the Mary Beth O’Connor Holy

Angels Memorial Fund, named for the deceased wife of State Deputy, Scott O’Connor.

Promotion of Vocations to the priesthood and religious life has long been a priority of the Knights who do appreciate their chaplains and local parish priests. And this appreciation was readily apparent as my fellow Knights on Bikes allowed me to be the lead rider as we left Alligator Alley Harley Davidson where we were treated to lunch after Mass at St. Kathryn Drexel in Weston. (Thankfully, I did not get lost – we ended at the K of C Hall in Kissimmee; and the Knights did keep up with me –at least most of the time.)

The last year and a half have been difficult for all of us. The pandemic has disrupted all of lives – even if we were not “infected”, we were all “affected”. Part of that disruption was the weeks in which we were “locked down” and regular Masses with congregations were suspended and our Lenten Fast of 2020





included extended fasting from Holy Communion well into the Easter Season when finally, we were able resume our participation at Mass with social distancing and mask wearing. Hopefully this temporary Fast stimulated in us a greater hunger for the Eucharist and the other sacraments. And even when public Masses were suspended for a while, our priests were “on the job” in their parishes learning in many case new technologies to remain present to their people, through livestreamed Masses, ZOOM bible studies, and in many other ways. Our priests who continued to celebrate daily Mass throughout the pandemic offered all of us the “essential service” of their prayers.

At Friday’s Mass during the State Convention in Orlando I was able to thank all my brother Knights for being Catholic men of faith and action. You do this through your promotion of religious liberty both at home and abroad, your defense of the values of marriage — understood correctly as a permanent union between a man and a woman, for your protection of life, your work with our diocesan Respect Life ministries – and, of course, for your promotion of vocations.

Thanks to the wide availability now of COVID-19 vaccines, we hope to put the pandemic in our rear-view mirror. But, as I sped up US-27, I was happy to have the Knights on Bikes, in my rear-view.

I tell my seminarians at the beginning of their summer vacations, “Remember, guys, there’s no vacation for a vocation”. A ride up US-27 wasn’t a vacation but it sure fun – made all the so knowing the Knights had my back.





# Infinity Knights Target Young Members



This is an exciting way to help them learn about our activities in Charity, Unity and Fraternity, the three principles of our order. Without brotherhood, we can't be the Knights of Columbus."

Godbout is a teacher-coach at Father Lopez Catholic High School in nearby Daytona Beach, and has recruited several recent graduates to join the Knights.

**L**ooking to keep younger members of the Knights of Columbus active in the organization, Our Lady of Hope Council 8086 recently formed the "Infinity Knights" program for members aged 18-25.

Council 8086 has recruited more than 30 members for the 2020-21 Columbian Year, achieving Double-Star Council for the second-consecutive year. Nearly half of the new members are under the age of 30, prompting Council Chancellor Dr. Ernie Jackson to launch the new initiative.

The Infinity Knights recently held its first activity, a kayak trip, originating at Port Orange Riverwalk Park. The group also meets regularly for breakfast or lunch to share ideas.

"I've been with the Knights for 15 years, and our Council and many Councils are missing the younger crowd," said SK Mike Godbout, director of Infinity Knights. "This program is designed to target those individuals, and give them new ways to participate in our Council. We're looking for the younger guys – particularly those aged 18 to 25 – to help our Council grow. Starting these guys out earlier in learning what the Knights of Columbus are all about is vital for the growth of our Council for years to come.

Future Infinity Knights activities will include a visit to a shooting range.

"The kayak trip was designed to be the first of many events for the newer Knights coming in," Godbout said. "This was all designed by them – this is what they want to do. The Knights have many programs, but this is something to get them interested in making the first steps in our brotherhood and being productive members of the Knights of Columbus."

For additional information about the Infinity Knights, contact Godbout at [godboutmg@gmail.com](mailto:godboutmg@gmail.com).





# Council Donates to Pro Life Center



Continuing its annual tradition even during these unusual times, San Marcelino Champagnat Council 10055 met with the South Dade Pro Life center administration headed by Angela Curatelo and Angelica Duarte last week to present them with a contribution of \$1,000 for mothers in the center and \$500 toward the salary of the ultra sound technician. This is a tradition the council has maintained and hold during May, the month of Mothers, every year, with this year's being the most unusual.

The contributions were presented in an informal fashion as there were no families in attendance since the center is only now beginning to re-start but the contribution will be there when the mothers do arrive for services. The center will then allocate

funds to as many families as the contribution will allow. In years past, we were able to provide layettes to as many as four families utilizing discounts from local vendors. With the current process, the council tendered the contribution to the Center and they will determine the logistics for the distribution of the layettes.

The second contribution tendered was for the ultra sound technician who was invited to attend the meeting for the distribution. The administrative staff of the center and the ultrasound technician are seen with the Council's Grand Knight, Dr. Carlos D. Coton in the action picture. PGK Orlando Valdes was also present in the distribution and cannot be seen behind the camera

# Warrior Weekend Program



**C**hurch of the Epiphany Council 12569 of Port Orange will be holding a fundraiser on Monday, August 16, on behalf of the Warrior Weekend Program.

The event will be held at McKenna's Place at the corner of Nova and Dumlawton in Port Orange, from 5-8 p.m. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Knights for the Warrior Weekend Program. In addition, 50-50 and raffle tickets will be sold at the door.

"This program caters to recovering soldiers from the Middle East conflicts and other actions around the world," said Jim Gallagher, Grand Knight and Senior VP of the Warrior Weekend Program. "Please check out our site [www.warriorweekend.net](http://www.warriorweekend.net), and see where we go, what we do, and how much the troops enjoy this opportunity. Remember these troops we serve are from all over the country, some have been from Florida!"

The mission of the Warrior Weekend program is to provide a weekend of rest, relaxation, and

fun for those injured heroes, and their spouses and families, who are recovering from injuries sustained while serving on military duty from the Iraq War to the present.

The Warrior Weekend Program is not associated with either the Wounded Warrior Project or The Warrior Weekend Foundation. The Administration and management of the Warrior Weekend Program is conducted entirely by volunteers. Every dollar received goes 100-percent directly to the program and the care and welfare of our wounded heroes.



# Knights Supporting SVDP

**W**e regularly report on how Knights of Columbus Council 13300 in Wildwood, Florida have supported our local community and its many worthy charities throughout the year, giving credit and recognition to those Brothers involved. But we would also like to give credit to the many Knights who give numerous hours of their time to support essential Ministries at Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church.

Looking back at 2020, there were over 4,600 hours of Knights' support provided to the Liturgical and Outreach ministries as well as Our Mother's Attic.

Within the Liturgical Ministries, our Knights provided a total of over 2,550 hours of support as Ushers who welcome parishioners, assist with seating, manage the offertory collection, distribute bulletins, and provide assistance to anyone in need; Altar Servers who assist the presider at Mass; Readers who proclaim the Word of God, Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion who assist in the distribution of Holy Communion; and the Choir which provides the encouragement needed by the congregation to sing and pray the Mass together.

The Outreach Ministries include both the Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen where over 1,600 hours were dedicated by the Knights in 2020. For the Food Pantry, many parishioners drop off canned and packaged goods prior to Mass for later distribution to those in need. All these donations must be transferred to the pantry, inventoried, and

placed on shelves for later distribution. The entire pantry has to be inventoried every other week, and prior to providing to the needy, all food items must be packaged prior to distribution. All this effort is done behind the scenes to make this such a successful operation. The Soup Kitchen serves the poor, the hungry, and the lonely by providing healthy, nutritious and appetizing meals to all who come to them. Volunteers assist in preparing meals and delivering them to shut-ins and others who are unable to travel.

The final ministry is Our Mother's Attic, where they collect donations of mostly household items, antiques/collectables, furniture, appliances, and much more. Our Brothers provided 450 hours of support in 2020 as caring volunteers dedicated to helping those in need. Proceeds from this ministry help support Our Mother of Mercy's Food Pantry, the Wildwood Soup Kitchen, and the

Lazarus free medical clinic.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, KOC Council 13300, would like to publically acknowledge our thanks to all our Brothers who do the above charitable work selflessly throughout the year and especially during the times of major disruptions caused by the Covid – which impacted everyone!





# The Eunice Kennedy Shriver Award

*By Pete Chiaravalle, FSC Special Olympics Chairman*

**T**his month congratulations are in order for all of YOU as we received the Eunice Kennedy Shriver (EKS) Award from Special Olympics Florida. The award was presented to our Worthy State Deputy Scott O'Connor by the President of Special Olympics Florida (SOFL) Sherry Wheelock.

The Eunice Kennedy Shriver Award from Special Olympics Florida is presented to a person or company who has played a role in furthering the vision of the charity's founder, Eunice Kennedy Shriver. Ms. Shriver was a pioneer in the worldwide struggle for rights and acceptance for people with intellectual disabilities. As many of you know, Sargent Shriver was a 4th Degree Knight (as was his brother in law- President John F Kennedy) and he enlisted the help of the Knights right from the start so we have a long relationship with Special Olympics. To show the "company" the Florida State Council is in, recent winners include Proctor and Gamble, Disney and Publix. So kudos to all of our Brother Knights on earning this award.

In addition to the EKS Award, Sherry Wheelock also presented the Challenge Cup Award to the winner of our Regional Polar Plunge Contest. Our inaugural winner is Region 3's Gorgeous Grillo's Rocket Plungers, led by none other than RA "Gorgeous" Gerry Grillo. The Polar Plunge competition was created as a way for councils to have a friendly competition with other Regions to support their area's Special Olympics. It also supports Special Olympics at the State level through the efforts of our Worthy State Deputy elect Brother Rob Urrutia. Councils are asked to donate \$50 to each Plunge effort. With over 300 councils in the State this can easily grow into a major fundraising effort. An advantage to the Polar Plunge is that the web page is on the SOFL site, and can be linked to Facebook so family and friends can get in on the gift giving and greatly increase the donation potential. We're also trying



to make it simpler for councils to participate in fewer fundraising programs while increasing the visibility so we "Let our Light Shine".

The Coke Zero race event in August is growing. The Daytona Hilton has added a room package for those who would like to make it a multi day event. We're working from that to provide activities over the course of the weekend. Starting with Friday evening, there will be a Knight mixer on the back deck of the Hilton. Daytona Beach hosts live music every weekend during the summer so you will be able to enjoy live music along with the drinks. On Saturday morning the Hilton hosts a brunch, then you can do a beach walk on your own before heading over to the race in the evening. Be sure to get there early to enjoy the tailgate event. Sunday morning the Hilton hosts brunch again before you head out for mass at any of the many local churches. A complete breakdown of the weekend's events will be published on the FSC and Special Olympics' websites soon. Sign up to get your personalized Race Day Program by going to the Special Olympics website and signing up to be a Gold or Silver sponsor at Race Day Program Individual Sponsor.

As always, may God reward you for your support of our special athletes and I welcome any suggestions you may have. I can be reached at [flkofcdd72@gmail.com](mailto:flkofcdd72@gmail.com).



## In the Trenches

June 6, 2021

Hello Worthy Brothers,

I have received many emails concerning eMember Dues Forgiveness. While Supreme has not addressed a specific procedure they do provide a process. Since this is not one of our frequently used procedures I have provided a Training Video that demonstrates this procedure. I use the “Training” application so if you feel unsure or are not familiar with using the “Adjustments” portal then you should also use training application. Once you are confident with what you did then repeat the procedure in the “Live” application.

Here’s the link: [How to Access eMember Dues](#)

Additionally:

1. You can now assess your dues. Remember to update the “Billing Period” for the coming year and the “As of Date” for June 15, 2021. If you are asking for a voluntary assessment use the “Assess Other” link.
2. If you have not reported your taxes to the IRS they are due now. This assumes your council is on a calendar year reporting period with them.
3. The *Columbian Award Application* (#SP-7) is due by 06-30-2021.
4. Your “*Report of Chosen Officers for the Term*” (185) is also due by 06-30-2021 for both Supreme and the State.
5. Your “*Service Program Personnel Report* (#365)” is due by 08-01-2021 for both Supreme and State. Your GK is responsible for choosing these positions, but you are responsible for the reports.
6. The “*Semiannual Audit*” is due by August 15, 2021
7. For District Deputies your ‘*District Deputy Semiannual Report* (#944B)’ is due by 06-30-2021.

This iteration of “In the Trenches” will be sent to all Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries, District Deputies” and Regional Administrators on record as of May 15<sup>th</sup>. Our State Officers are also copied. My next two video subjects will be “Reporting a Member Death” on Supreme and “Adding a Subclass for Active Military and Deacons” in the event you want to honor their service be forgiving their dues.



**MEMORANDUM RE CONTINUED MASK-WEARING****JUNE 7, 2021**

We have all been watching the local and national news about the fact that the COVID pandemic seems to be dissipating. As a result, many states have lifted mask-wearing requirements, while many private businesses still require them.

The Catholic dioceses in the State of Florida also still maintain varying policies on the continued mask requirement, some not requiring the wearing if vaccinated, while others continue to mandate the wearing of a mask for everyone on church property, whether vaccinated or not.

As Knights of Columbus, irrespective of what our home bishop has decreed, we must abide by the bishop's most recent decree of the jurisdiction in which we may be visiting. If the bishop continues to decree mask-wearing on church property, then all Brother Knights should comply with that decree and wear a mask, whether a member of the Color Corps or not. Remember, we are to support our bishops and priests, not act in contradiction of their decrees.

While the State Council recognizes an individual's right to decide whether to be vaccinated or not, we strongly recommend that each brother Knight who chooses not to be vaccinated continue to wear a mask during Knights events or when on church property in a diocese that still mandates mask-wearing. While none of us enjoys wearing a mask, it's a small price to pay to ensure that we are protecting ourselves and others from the possible spread of the virus. Also, while there is some controversy as to whether the mask-wearing was ever appropriate or effective, wearing a mask may alleviate a concern of other Knights or parishioners' concerns of possible spread of the virus.

Let's remember that our hallmark is charity, and it is the charitable thing to do to wear a mask to ensure others are not fearful of contracting the deadly disease irrespective of whether you believe that fear is well founded or not.

Vivat Jesus.

Bob Rasch

State Advocate





## It's Time to Start Planning

Spring is here, we have a new season, and after a blessed Easter and a beautiful Eastertide, it's time to start planning again. With spring and some break in the weather, I've started to put together the honey-do list that will take me outside into the sunshine. At least I hope it's going to be sunny when I get outdoors to do all these chores.

I don't know about you, but this time of year seems to energize me. After being cooped up all winter, and this year being cooped up, I've been able to think of all the things I need to get done. Some of that includes physical repairs around the house, getting the lawn and flowerbeds ready to go, maybe even washing some windows. I've had some estimates for work I need to be done around the house. Every craftsman has told me their business is booming. So many people have noticed things that need to be done around the house since they've been inside for the better part of a year.

And as you sit around and consider all the things that you need to get updated, let me make a suggestion that may put your mind and your family's mind at ease. We know this year has been unpredictable in many ways, but let's be honest, pandemic or not, life is unpredictable. We can't see what the future will bring, but we can plan for the unexpected. Remember that as members of the Knights of Columbus, our Field Agents are your partner on your journey to prepare for and face the unpredictable.

Just as we take stock of the physical changes that need to be considered, I'd suggest that you take stock of where you stand protecting your family. The Knights of Columbus has partnered with industry leader Advicent to help us help you. Our Agents can use Advicent's state-of-the-art software to provide you with a comprehensive financial needs analysis. With it, they can help you take stock of where you are today, where you want to go, and how close you are to achieving your goals. They can help you identify any gaps in your coverage or issues you should address. This will give you a comprehensive look at where you stand. While many other companies charge for this kind of service, the Order has invested in this software to help our agents help our members. This financial needs analysis is FREE of charge as a fraternal benefit of membership.

I feel our Agents have a special bond of brotherhood with all our members, and they are committed to helping protect Catholic families... your family...while furthering the vision of Blessed Michael McGivney. Please take time to meet with your Agent and take advantage of this FREE benefit of membership.

# Florida State Newsletter Competition

**N**ewsletters 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. There will be no paper copies accepted at the Convention.

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.)

- 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.)

- Announcements supporting State and District activities or programs
- Supreme Council Programs (10 pts. max)
- Announcements supporting Supreme activities or programs
- oReferences to Columbia or Knightline articles or Supreme E-mails
- Article by Fraternal Benefits Advisor

Legibility (10 pts.)

- Is the newsletter easy on the eyes, or is it difficult to read?

Neatness (10 pts. max)

- Neatness counts

Grammar & Spelling (10 pts.)

- 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)**

### Design & Artwork

Artwork (10 pts.)

- 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?



# THE FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL

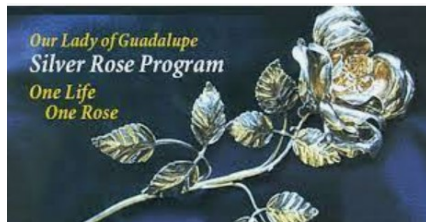
## PRESENTS THE 2021 SILVER ROSE PROGRAM

The Silver Rose is coming back to the State of Florida compliments of your Florida State Council. Act now to secure your spot on our upcoming schedule. Thoroughly review the Silver Rose Guide sheet (#10625) available at [www.kofc.org/rose](http://www.kofc.org/rose). Then meet with your pastor in advance to receive his approval **BEFORE** registering to receive the Silver Rose. Reservations will be taken on a first come first served basis but the final schedule will be determined by location and logistics. The tentative schedule is as follows:

July 12, 2021 through July 18, 2021	Diocese of St. Augustine
July 19, 2021 through July 25, 2021	Diocese of Orlando
July 26, 2021 through August 1, 2021	Diocese of Palm Beach
August 2, 2021 through August 8, 2021	Archdiocese of Miami
August 9, 2021 through August 15, 2021	Diocese of Venice
August 16, 2021 through August 22, 2021	Diocese of St. Petersburg
August 23, 2021 through August 29, 2021	Diocese of Pensacola / Tallahassee

No reservations will be taken after June 12, 2021 and the final schedule will be announced on June 27, 2021. The Silver Rose will be delivered to the address shown on your reservation form no less than one hour prior to the start of your prayer service. Transportation and logistics to all churches is being provided by the Florida Knights on Bikes.

Reservations will **ONLY** be accepted by online reservation. No other method of reservation will be accepted. **ONLY AFTER** your council receives approval from your Pastor should you visit [www.konbfla.com](http://www.konbfla.com) and click on the "UPCOMING EVENTS BLAST" tab. Fill in all of the data fields and hit submit. You will receive an email confirmation that your reservation has been received within one week of submission, but final acceptance will not be made until the schedule is final on June 27, 2021.



For more information contact:  
 Stephen R. Bell, PGK, PFN  
 Silver Rose Director and President of the Florida Knights on Bikes  
[knightrider1997@comcast.net](mailto:knightrider1997@comcast.net)





**MONTHLY**  
**Florida State Council**  
**Top Recruiter**  
**\$500**  
**DRAWING**

Every active member of the Florida Jurisdiction, in good standing, who is the registered proposer of a minimum of Two (2) prospects, during any given month of the incentive, will qualify for entry into the monthly drawing.

Visit [FloridaKofC.org](http://FloridaKofC.org) for more information

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](#)

## Subscribe to Weekly News

In October of 2020 the Florida State Council created a weekly newsletter called the "Weekly News". This newsletter was created to help keep the Officers of the Councils informed of upcoming events as well as important information. This was designed to help reduce the number of emails that were being sent out on a weekly basis. Obviously, we still need to send out separate emails on occasion from the State, not Supreme as we cannot control that.

If you are a Grand Knight or Financial Secretary, you should be receiving this every Friday. If you are not, you can subscribe by using this link [Subscribe to Weekly News](#). This is not just for the Officers. Any member can subscribe if they wish to receive the weekly email.

[Click this link](#) to view the Weekly News April 30th, 2021 Weekly News

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.
- **Editor**
- **Open**
  - John Gearon [johngearondd51@yahoo.com](mailto:johngearondd51@yahoo.com) Districts 49-61
  - John O'Malley [jomalley1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jomalley1@cfl.rr.com) Districts 20,29-30,62-69
  - Weldon Watkins [tuewowiii@hotmail.com](mailto:tuewowiii@hotmail.com) Districts 1-17, 21
  - Steven Cunningham [sdcunningham54@gmail.com](mailto:sdcunningham54@gmail.com) Districts 33-48
  - Ed Sleyzak [esleyzak@outlook.com](mailto:esleyzak@outlook.com) Districts 70-87
- **Districts 19,21-28,31-32**

### 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](#)





## Support Florida K of C Charities Inc.

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com),  
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

[amazon smile](https://smile.amazon.com)

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!

The Knights of Columbus VAVA Volunteers of the year have been announced. Please congratulate SK Michael R. Sedor, Council 12322 and Mrs. Norma G. (Tracy) Doherty from the WPB VAVS for the honor in their selections

for the 2020 KofC VAVS Volunteers of the year. To read the announcements click in their names below.

[SK Michael R. Sedor Council 12322](#)

[Mrs. Norma G. \(Tracy\) Doherty](#)

## 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



*The logo was updated to include the initials "MO" in tribute to Marybeth O'Connor.*

**The Fish** –Jesus said “Come, follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

**The Colors** –Red = Hardiness, Bravery, Strength and Valor; White = Peace and Honesty; Blue = Vigilance, Truth and Loyalty, Perseverance & Justice

**Our Motto** –“For God and Country” as in the time of the founding we put God first but we also show allegiance to our country.

The Bahamas and St. Lucia = A part of us



## Florida State Council Officers

### STATE DEPUTY

**Scott O'Connor**

*scottaconnor@gmail.com*

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### STATE SECRETARY

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**Weldon Watkins** *tuewowiii@hotmail.com* Districts 1-17, 21

**Steven Cunningham** *sdcunningham54@gmail.com* Districts 33-48

**Ed Sleyzak** *esleyzak@outlook.com* Districts 70-87

**Harry Rother** Photographer Website: [www.kofcfoto.website](http://www.kofcfoto.website)

## 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.



**DISCOVER**  
— THE —  
*Catholic*  
**DIFFERENCE**