



# The Compass

John A. Hill Council 4955 / Chartered 1960

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May / June 2024

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 FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR John Yardley, PGK..... 954-798-8596  
**DISTRICT 71**  
 DISTRICT DEPUTY John Yardley, PGK..... 954-798-8596

### PAST GRAND KNIGHTS

1960 Louis Georgen +	1973 Eugene Ciotoli +	1986 Thomas Armento +	1999 Donald Tomlin +	2012 Daniel Davis +
1961 John A. Hill +	1974 Edward Millar +	1987 Richard Chisholm +	2000 Prospero "Nick" Pavia +	2013 Daniel Davis +
1962 Edward A. O'Neil +	1975 Earl Sloane +	1988 Jim Salisbury +	2001 Gerald Sherlock +	2014 Leon Lacroix +
1963 Walter A. Millar +	1976 James W. Cupp +	1989 Richard A. Fetchik Sr.	2002 Tom Miller +	2015 William W. Whiting
1964 Thomas Brown +	1977 Jack Spanola +	1990 Dave Kacprowicz	2003 Ray Peglow +	2016 Donald W. Macejko
1965 Robert Dugdale +	1978 Charles Schramm	1991 Dave Teitz +	2004 Martin Gabriel +	2017 Miguel Dorante Ramia
1966 Fred Lassiter +	1979 James Zilai +	1992 Jack Chadwick	2005 Don Scalzo +	2018 Kyle D. Riebel
1967 John Bussen +	1980 Jose Vales +	1993 John Papetti +	2006 Charles Monteforte Jr.	2019 Terence M. Sheen
1968 Steve Santa Lucia +	1981 Frank Braun +	1994 Frank Ricciardelli +	2007 Martin Dunne III	2020 John G. Yardley
1969 Robert Sorrelle +	1982 Rocco Bochetto +	1995 Raymond Drew	2008 Charles Monteforte Jr.	2021 John G. Yardley
1970 Joseph Massarella +	1983 Edward Joncas +	1996 Walter Kuhn +	2009 Daniel Davis +	2022 John G. Yardley
1971 Albert Vincent +	1984 Raymond Gauthier +	1997 Tom Miller +	2010 Leon Lacroix +	
1972 Ed Gross +	1985 George Vargo +	1998 Mack Courson +	2011 Daniel Davis +	

*Dated Material  
Please Rush!*

Knights of Columbus 4955  
 St Gabriel Parish  
 731 N. Ocean Boulevard  
 Pompano Beach, FL 33062

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 JOHN A. HILL COUNCIL 4955**

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## 2024 Disabilities Drive nets \$8,643 for five charities

Council 4955's annual Disabilities (Tootsie Roll) Drive January through March raised \$8,643 from donors at five parishes. The drive resulted in donations to five charities in support of people with intellectual disabilities: \$500 Sallarulo Race for Champions, Special Olympics Florida.

- \$2,036 ARC of Broward Alzheimer's Support Group.
- \$2,036 BPAN Foundation Medical Research Support.
- \$2,036 Dynamos of Pompano Beach Support Group.
- \$2,036 Equine Assisted Therapies of South Florida.

The drive was chaired by Council Warden Guy DeJohn and Trustee Don Macejko. It's the council's biggest charity initiative, made possible by the support of our pastors and their generous parishioners: Very Rev. Michael Greer (Assumption), Rev. Dariusz Zarebsky (St. Ambrose), Rev. Fenly Saint Jean (St. Elizabeth of Hungary), Rev. Sahayanathan Nathan (St. Gabriel) and Very Rev. Willie Dever (St. Paul the Apostle).

Volunteers included: Ralph Amato, John Brogan, Anthony Brogna, Mike Charles, Steve Cole, Robert Daw, Guy DeJohn, Matt Donohue, Richard Fetchik Sr., Matthew Flynn Sr., Matthew Flynn Jr., Steve Foley, Ernesto Gonzalez, Jeff Graham, Kurt Kohler, Paul Ludwick, Don Macejko, Leo Macinnis, Kyle Riebel and family, Dave Rouchard, Ken Staab, Mike Stock, Bill Whiting, Susan Whiting, John Yardley.

LOCATION	AMOUNT
Assumption	\$ 1,479
St. Ambrose	\$ 2,207
St. Elizabeth	\$ 1,099
St. Gabriel	\$ 2,197
St. Paul	\$ 1,661
Total	\$ 8,643

## In our prayers

**For healing:** Rev. Thomas G. Streit, Rev. Kenneth D. Whittaker, Frank Laverty, Larry Martin, Tomas Vazquez, James Blaine, Roger Harris, Vincent Casale, Jeff and Paula Graham, PGK Chuck and Mary Monteforte, Lynn White, Joe Dziminski, Beverly Cunningham, Joseph D'Jay, Bill Farrington, Mark Ardis, Margaret and Herb Hays, Joseph Smith, James Walker.

**If you know a member who needs help,** is ill, or has passed away, contact Bill Whiting, 561-368-6531, or email kofc4955@yahoo.com.

**Local Shirt Vendor:** Council 4955 red golf shirts \$37 at Monograms Plus, 716 E. Atlantic Blvd., Pompano Beach, FL 33060; 954-785-4725.

## Calendar of events

APRIL			
Tue	4/9/24		St. Joseph Icon @ St. Gabriel
Thu	4/10/24		St. Joseph Icon @ Assumptiom
Sat	4/12/24		St. Joseph Icon @ St. Elizabeth
Mon	4/15/24		St. Joseph Icon @ St. Gabriel
Tue	4/16/24		St. Joseph Icon @ Our Lady of Mercy
Sun	4/28/24		St. Gabriel Coffee, Donuts
MAY			
Sat	5/4/24	4 PM	Fr. Nathan Anniversary Mass and Dinner @ St. Gabriel
Mon	5/6/24	6:30 PM	Officers Meet
Sun	5/12/24		Mothers Day
Mon	5/13/24	6:30 PM	Council Meet/Election
Wkd	5/24-26/24		State Convention
Sun	5/26/23		St. Gabriel Coffee, Donuts
Mon	5/27/24		Memorial Day
Thu	5/30/24		Corpus Christi Feast
JUNE			
Mon	6/3/24	6:30 PM	Officers Meet
Mon	6/10/24	6:30 PM	Council Meet
Fri	6/14/24		Flag Day
Sun	6/16/24		Fathers Day
Sun	6/23/24		St. Gabriel Coffee, Donuts
Sat	6/29/24		St. Peter & Paul Feast



Council members attended Mass at Our Lady of Mercy February 25 to present Father Paul VI Karenga with a certificate of appreciation and check for \$2,491, the net proceeds of the Night in Napoli dinner co-sponsored by the council February 3. Council member James Olsen provided music for the occasion, which drew more than 100 guests.

## 5 seminarians get \$500 grants

Council members in March approved \$500 grants to five seminarians. They include:

- St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary:
  - Deacon Milton Martinez
- St. John Vianney College Seminary:
  - Cristhian Mendieta
  - Alejandro Molina
  - Gerald Permenter
  - Tomas Salom

The Knights of Columbus promotes religious vocations with a \$100 rebate for every \$500 donation.

# Knights respond to pleas for Haiti rescue

The news from Haiti was dire: government collapse, gangs in the streets, shooting victims left to rot, kidnappings and ransom demands, missionaries and aid workers hiding from the carnage.

When pleas for help from the U.S. government were rebuffed, two Florida Knights of Columbus came to the rescue with a daring midnight helicopter rescue of 10 aid workers: noted American columnist and author Mitch Albom, his wife and eight volunteers at a Port-au-Prince orphanage.

Albom, who wrote movingly of caring for a Haitian orphan in *Finding Chika* and his best-selling memoir *Tuesdays With Morrie*, was unable to flee the unrest or get help until reaching out to Florida congressman Cory Mills.

Mills, who served in the U.S. Army 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division from 1999 to 2004, personally mounted an overland rescue of a family of four from Afghanistan during the chaotic American withdrawal in 2021. This time, he turned for help to Anthony Marinello, owner of Tropic Air Charters in Fort Lauderdale. And Marinello, a former Army First Sergeant and New Jersey State Police helicopter pilot, enlisted his friend with a similar service and pilot background, Benny Matos of Jupiter.

Marinello and Matos, both members of the Knights of Columbus, agreed to pilot a Tropic Air helicopter for the rescue mission to Haiti March 11, quickly settling on a high-risk night flight over the border from the Dominican Republic.

“When I heard American citizens and orphans, I knew I had to go,” Matos recalled.

They timed their run to be over Port-au-Prince at 3 a.m. Flying above cloud cover until the last moment, they dove down to skim rooftops looking for the target building flashing pre-arranged signal lights, hoping the deafening noise and low altitude would confound any belligerents. They quickly slid-landed in front of the orphanage and scrambled to help the 10 on board, barely meeting



**Knights Anthony Marinello, left, and Benny Matos, center rear, piloted a Tropic Air Rescue helicopter into Haiti March 20 to rescue 14 stranded Americans. They were able to board another rescue flight to Sanford.**

weight limits. They were back in the air in two minutes.

“The bad guys wouldn’t have time to put on their shoes before we were gone,” Marinello said.

Back again above the clouds, they put down in an abandoned airfield in the Dominican Republic, where Congressman Mills and Special Forces veteran Brian Young and the passengers – including a Canadian and Frenchman -- deplaned to catch commercial flights back to the States.

Oblivious to his passenger’s notoriety at the time, Marinello recalled Albom shaking hands on his way out. “Hi, I’m Mitch, he said. Hi, I’m Tony, I replied.”

Matos, who is a financial field agent for the Knights since moving to Florida and was ordained to the Catholic permanent diaconate in 2023, noted Mills’ rosary arm tattoo when they met. “I opened my shirt to show him the rosary I wore around my neck,” Matos said. “We have that in common.”

Mills called on Matos to pray with the group before takeoff.

The dramatic rescue was followed by stories in the Detroit newspapers, where

Albom lives, and the *Washington Post*. But the pilots went unrecognized. Marinello, who is using the former military helicopter to mount an airborne ambulance service to the Bahamas, said he’s received more requests for help from Haiti, but doubts that a second run could be as successful.

“Next time, the bad guys would be ready for us,” he said.

Meanwhile, the U.S. embassy in Haiti March 16 announced plans to help other Americans escape Haiti and Florida Gov. Ron Desantis arranged for chartered flights .

**Postscript: Marinello apparently had a change of mind. On March 20, he and Matos returned to Haiti and rescued another 14 Americans – eight children and six adults. This time Matos had to fight off two men who tried to stop him from returning to the helicopter before takeoff.**

Matos is a KofC field agent for Council 4955. Marinello has transferred to 4955.

They were honored guests at the council’s St. Patrick Dinner Dance March 16 at St. Ambrose Church in Deerfield Beach.

## *4955's crucifix inspired in the past and will inspire more in perpetuity*

The only thing missing from our beautiful hall was a proper crucifix. We had a tiny, illuminated, "roll-away" one for decades, but Brother Nicholas Mastrocinque recognized something far more prominent was required. He commissioned a custom-made 4' x 5' crucifix and presented it to Grand Knight Thomas Armento on March 9, 1987.

It was prominently placed on the center back wall going from the main hall into the lounge. As both child and teenager, I was inspired the countless times I walked by or underneath it at KofC events. I've never seen, anywhere (in person or online), a crucifix like it before, **or since**.

In March 1998, our hall had a generic makeover to increase revenues from private rentals, and, most-regrettably, the "Catholic" and "KofC" items were moved. After the Archdiocese of Miami purchased our land and building in 2000, the Brazilian Mission specifically asked to purchase the crucifix, along with nearly all of our furnishings (we moved from a 17,000-sq.-ft. hall to an 825-sq.-ft. storefront, so we lacked storage). Our crucifix became central for their new sanctuary (our old stage) in masses and most other events.

Fast-forward two decades. I was just assigned by Bishop Barbarito to Holy Redeemer in Palm City, and immediately recognized that the only thing missing from the beautiful church sanctuary was a proper crucifix. I was convinced that our old crucifix would be the perfect fit. As the Brazilian Mission merged into St. Vincent's Margate in 2009, I searched diligently with the help of any priest and parish who had any remote connection to the Brazilian Mission. Even Fr. Leonardo Siqueira (who was a centrally active member of the Brazilian Mission while located in our hall), could not locate it despite his continued-contact with most of the Mission's families.

After exhausting any chance of finding the crucifix, I decided to commission an exact replica. After researching several companies, I contracted with King Richard's Liturgical Design on February 9, 2024. It is expected to be completed and delivered this August, after which Bishop Gerald Barbarito will bless it.

## *Respect Life director thanks council for \$2,000 donation*

Dear Brothers in Christ,

Thank you so much for your generous donation to support the Archdiocese of Miami Respect Life Ministry! We are so grateful for your support and prayers.

In 2023, our three archdiocesan-owned pregnancy help centers had close to 7,000 visits, serving 2,424 families who received 17,000 life-affirming services! Your generous donation has helped us to continue to serve the many families that come to us for these free and confidential services, which include free pregnancy testing, limited ultrasound options, counseling, adoption referrals, parenting classes, material assistance, post-abortion healing, and miscarriage ministry.

Our new post-abortion, healing program "Entering Canaan" continues to bring hope and healing to those who have suffered an abortion experience. To date we have served 54 women and our men's ministry, which began last May, has

Not only will the crucifix be prominently displayed in Holy Redeemer's sanctuary **for perpetuity**, but all newly baptized will receive their salvation immediately under it, as it is through Baptism that we share in Christ's salvific death. I'm most honored to play a part in this perpetual legacy for Council 4955 and its members--past, present, and future!

**Rev. Martin Dunne, PGK Council Historian**



**Brother Mastrocinque presentation of 4955's crucifix 1987; Many of the very-best members of 4955 and Ladies' Auxiliary under the gaze of Christ's Cross, 1989.**

ministered to 13 men! We have also recently launched our new Sts. Gianna and Pietro Mola Miscarriage Ministry and even had St. Gianna's daughter, Gianna Emmanuela, here at our special mass to launch the ministry! Our goal is to accompany those who have suffered the loss of a child due to miscarriage by offering peer counseling, a burial vessel for their child, a service at one of our Catholic cemeteries and, coming soon, a "memorial wall" for parents to remember and honor their child lost due to miscarriage.

For more information on Respect Life Ministry and our pregnancy help centers, please go to [www.respectlifefemiami.org](http://www.respectlifefemiami.org).

Again, I thank you for your generosity and prayers, which help us to continue doing God's work!

Yours in Christ,  
Angela Curatalo