

INVOCATION

AUGUST 2023



Memorial Flag Program

Council Honors Veterans

Assembly 2794 instituted a memorial flag program back in 2021 to honor fallen brother Knights and Veterans. The original program flew a flag in that person's honor for three months for a \$75 donation.

The program has proven so popular that the flag will now be flown for one month at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church in Port Orange, for a \$35 donation, and commemorates a deceased relative or friend, or a celebratory event such as Baptism, Wedding or Anniversary.

While the flag is flying, a memorial placard is displayed at the base of the flag pole announcing the name and event for the memorial.

At the end of the month, the flag is ceremonially presented to the family or individual as a remembrance.

SK Ray Zall, the Assembly's Veterans Activities Director, said that the program has proven so popular that all months are already scheduled for 2024 and the next available month is now January, 2025. Flags can be scheduled by emailing SK Zall at thatzall1914@gmail.com.



The Assembly, led by Faithful Navigator Bob Gillikin, also honors Veterans with monthly bingo at the Emory Bennett VA Nursing Home in Daytona Beach; biannual picnics for the VA residents and staff; flag placing and clean-up at local cemeteries; and an active Fourth Degree Color Corps.



Life Matters to the Knights of Columbus!

The Most Rev. Archbishop Thomas Wenski of Miami led a strong presence by the Knights of Columbus at the reopening of the South Dade Pregnancy Help Center on Saturday, August 5.

Members of Councils 4772 Father Lawrence Flynn of Hialeah; 14390 St. John XXIII of Miramar; 17477 Mother of Our Redeemer of Hialeah; and 1726 Miami of Miami joined the Florida Knights on Bikes at the ceremony, which included the presentation of a check for \$2,000.

A Successful Supreme Convention

By State Deputy Richard Hughes

We are coming off a very successful Supreme Convention held in Orlando August 1-3. I personally want to thank the many, many volunteers who helped to make our hosting functions for the Supreme Convention successful. I have received nothing but compliments for our execution and the dedication of our volunteers.

I especially want to thank our Committee Chairman--State Advocate Bob Rasch and District Deputy 29 William Cosgrove, who headed up the Transportation Committee, working long hours to coordinate drivers and escorts for our Convention VIPs; District Deputy 65 Richard Gallant, who organized and ran our Hospitality desk; Past State Deputy and Former Master Tony Fortunato, who headed our Welcoming Committee volunteers; District Deputy 28 and State Photographer Harry Rother, who, organized our tours for the Delegates, which by all accounts were well-received; State Marketing Director Tuey Watkins and State Logistics Coordinator, who showcased Florida with a fantastic, well-organized Hospitality Suite for our Delegates; Master of the Fourth Degree John O'Toole, and his Marshals Danny McIntyre and Ken Jeffres, who coordinated and executed the Color Corps support throughout the Convention; and our State Secretary Michael Gizewski, who made sure the needs of our volunteers were met; and finally, our Immediate Past State Deputy Rob Urrutia, who worked closely with me over the last eighteen months in developing our support plan, and personally organized our Convention Fraternal Dinner at Medieval Times. These Chairmen and the volunteers who supported them made Florida shine at this Supreme Convention—it will be hard for another Jurisdiction to top this!

If you have not had a chance to see some of the proceedings of the Supreme Convention, I strongly encourage you to view the materials on the Supreme website. I especially recommend that you watch or read the Supreme Knight's State

of the Order address. It is a very good view of where we are as an Order and gives the Supreme Knight's direction for the Order as we move forward.

Last month, I talked about the Cor program. By now, each Grand Knight and Council Chaplain should have received a letter concerning the Cor program, including

references to a wealth of material available on the Supreme website. Faith Formation of men is a part of our charter as Knights of Columbus gives us a way to work in concert with our pastors to enhance the spiritual development of Catholic men. I ask all of you to really examine this initiative and, working with your pastors, see how Cor can be implemented in your Councils and parishes.

Lastly, I strongly encourage all of you to complete the administrative requirements needed for the beginning of the Fraternal Year, so that all of us can focus on serving our parishes and communities and grow the Order. Make sure your budgets are in order for the Fraternal Year, and that you have scheduled the facilities you need for your meetings and events. Key Council personnel should complete their Safe Environment training as soon as possible. Work with your Field Agents to get your Fraternal Benefits Nights on the calendar. And everyone should understand the requirements for your Council to achieve Star Council. Remember that Star Council + Faith Formation = a Successful Council.

I hope to see as many of you as possible as the State Membership Director and I travel the State on our Spirit of Unity tour. Stay tuned for more information!



*State Deputy
Richard Hughes*

First in Faith and Charity

By State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor

At the 141st Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus in Orlando, Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly set the theme of “First in Faith and Charity,” by outlining the great work of Order and highlighting the renewed emphasis on the spirituality of men. As he is fond of saying, “If we get the man right, we get everything right – the marriage, the family, the parish, the community.” He challenged each of us to say “yes” to our calling, noting that powerful things happen when men respond in faith.

I was able to observe and sometimes assist our dedicated Florida Knights in everything from stuffing convention bags and manning the hospitality desk, to transporting Cardinals, Archbishops, and other honored guests from the airport and welcoming delegates and their families to the Sunshine State. The first official duty for me was concelebrating the Vigil Mass celebrated by our Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori at Mary Queen of the Universe Shrine, at which our Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly rededicated himself to the work of the Order. It was a time for Florida to shine as our State Deputy Richard Hughes was the lector for the Mass, Past State Deputy Rob Urrutia presented the prayers of the faithful, and I had the privilege of proclaiming the Gospel.

One of the refreshing things to see at the Supreme Convention was the number of Knights whose families also came and participated in everything from the beautiful liturgies to the States Dinner. Many of our Supreme Officers are husbands and fathers of young children, and it was a powerful witness to everyone present to see some of those children serving at the Masses during the convention. It was an embodiment of the message that our Order will be strengthened by drawing more faithful men at younger ages into the Knights.

PSD Urrutia had the privilege of accepting the award for bringing the Florida State Council back

into the Circle of Honor for the preceding year. His leadership and your efforts brought that about. All that we do as Knights must be intimately tied to our Catholic faith. Faith without action ignores our Lord’s commission to serve God and neighbor. Action without faith can lead us to think it is all about us rather than the God we serve, and the

Christ made present through works of charity and mercy when connected to the practice of our Faith.

To integrate faith more fully into everything we do as Knights, the Order is promoting a new initiative called Cor, Latin for heart. In cooperation with pastors and parish faith formation staffs, it will allow all men of the parish, Knight or not, to gather for prayer, faith related content, and small group discussion. Men of the Word, a Catholic men’s bible study, was introduced at the Supreme Convention. It will serve as one of the resources that can be presented through Cor.

These are exciting developments because the more we can reach out and help men become stronger Catholics, the more our families and communities will thrive. In turn, faithful men who are not already Knights of Columbus will seek solid organizations like ours to more fully live out that faith, and our Order will continue to be “First in Faith and Charity.” Vivat Jesus!



*State Chaplain
Very Rev. Bob Kantor*



A Practical of the Transfiguration

By Former State Chaplain Reverend Salvatore Pignato

On August 6, 2023, the whole Catholic Church of the East and West celebrated the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In the life of Jesus, He gave us many signposts of who He is. Looking into the Gospels, we can see many signposts that Jesus left us. We see Jesus healing the sick and infirm, the dying and the raising the dead. We see His preaching as a signpost.

We see how he speaks and how He communicates with His Father, which, again, shows us a sign of who he is. When we look at His baptism, we see a new signpost which shows forth that He is the Son of God.

In the Feast of the Transfiguration, we see a new moment in the life of Jesus. We see a new and sacred image. He shows to Saints Peter, James,

John and to the whole world the greatest signpost,

His Divinity. The Feast of the Transfiguration gives us an understanding of the Incarnation of God Himself, uniting Himself to humanity in that Golden Vessel that the Prophets speak of in the Old Testament. God condescended to

unite Himself to the Womb of Mary, the Theotokos, for the salvation of His people. The Angel

Gabriel came to Mary to announce great news, the signpost of God's love for His people. The Angel Gabriel announced that signpost and said to the Theotokos, "You will have a Son and call Him Jesus, and He will be the Son of the Most High

God." This was a sign of God's love, a signpost of the forgiveness that He promised to Adam and Eve. The signpost of the most glorious Inarnation is exposed to the apostles and eventually to the world.

When Jesus was transfigured on that mountain of Tabor, the apostles saw the divinity of Jesus Christ. A sight

that was so powerful that the apostles has to lower that faces to the ground in awe and fear. It was a signpost that gave them full knowledge that Jesus



*Former State Chaplain
Rev. Salvatore Pignato*



was true God and true man. As Knights, united with the body of Christ we should be delighted to celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration because it firms up the faith given to us by God. It confirms and fully solidifies for us who Jesus is. He is true God and true man, the Savior, the

Messiah.

However, we must look at humanity itself. Peter, James and John were born into a sinful world. Each of us has been born into a sinful world. When we compare ourselves with understanding the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor, Peter, who said he would never leave Jesus, the man who saw

Jesus in the fullness of His Divinity, was able to deny him three times. Fear overtook him in that moment and he denied knowing Jesus three times. St. Peter was weak at that moment a that weakness can be seen at other moments in the Gospel. Again, you can see that weakness as St. Peter was running from Rome, and yet returned to be crucified in the Name of Jesus Christ. He overcame that weakness.

We need the Transfiguration for ourselves because we are at times, like St. Peter, weak in our faith and sometimes our commitments to Jesus. At times we may have been fearful to speak the name of Jesus in the world. We may at times have hidden our Christianity from others who may not believe or have rejected God. We sometimes demand things

from God. God never answers demands. He only answers requests. The Transfiguration is Christ sharing His Divinity with His apostles and with you and me. In the Transfiguration you and I must learn how to love, share and become one with the body of Christ. This is what synodality is about. The Transfiguration in practicality is for us to love God, to preach God, to love each other and to offer our lives in His Name. The Transfiguration offers each of us eternal life which was accomplished through the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Transfiguration of Jesus is our signpost, window and door to eternal life.

Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

But the woman came and did Jesus homage, saying, "Lord, help me." He said in reply, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." (Gospel for Aug. 20, Mt 15:25-27)

Jesus heals the daughter of a Canaanite woman and speaks of her great faith. Our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, was an advocate of strong, faith-filled families. Do we share our Catholic faith with our own families and friends, or do we neglect this vital responsibility? May we commit ourselves to building strong families and friendships in faith by our word and deed.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to introduce devotions to Blessed Michael McGivney — such as the Blessed Michael McGivney Novena — into your prayer life. Second, I challenge you to participate in the Faith in Action Family Prayer Night program, incorporating devotions to Blessed Michael McGivney such as the Blessed Michael McGivney Prayer Hour.

Questions for Reflection:

Do you seek to share your faith with others? What are some practical things you can do to strengthen the faith life of your family and friends? Do you talk about the Catholic faith with your friends and family so as to help strengthen their belief?

Council Supports Special Olympics

Our Lady Queen of Peace Knights of Columbus Council #11680 recently donated \$5,377 to Pasco-Special Olympics to support local athletes with the equipment and training they need to be competitive. This money was raised from the Knights “Tootsie Roll Drive” this past Spring and donations from the Nature Coast Parrot Head Club. Local Special Olympics athletes helped the Knights raise this money at the Publix (Southgate Center) and Walmart (Port Richey) locations.

Accepting the donation on behalf of Pasco-Special Olympics were a group of athletes and Ms. Amy Selvey, Senior Manager, Sports Training and Competition. Ms. Selvey, stated “Special Olympics provides an opportunity for athletes to succeed in sports that may not otherwise be possible. And we are extremely grateful to the Knights of Columbus for their efforts and generosity.” Steve Early, Chair of the Knights Special Olympics initiative, explained “It is important to recognize and celebrate the intrinsic worth and dignity of every single human being and Special Olympics-Pasco has an



amazing track record of doing this and deserves to be supported.”

Special Olympics-Pasco serves 1,700 athletes in 19 sports. For further information on Special Olympics-Pasco contact Amy Selvey at amyselvey@sofl.org

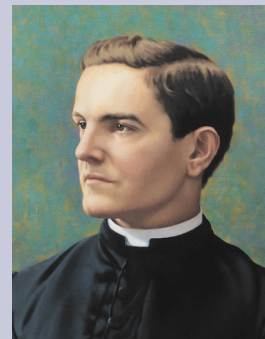
Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael J. McGivney

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael J. McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor.

Through the example of His life and virtue may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling His commandment of charity and building up His Body which is the Church.

Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue His work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify your venerable servant Blessed Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will.

Through His intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request).



Silver Rose Program



The Florida State Council participates in the Order's Silver Rose Program each year. Silver Roses travel throughout North America to help spread the gospel of life. Every stop throughout the Silver Rose pilgrimage offers an opportunity for Knights, parishioners and community members to pray for the respect for life, for the spiritual renewal of each nation, and for the advancement of the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

"Through [the Silver Rose Program] we honor not only Our Lady of Guadalupe and express the unity of the [the Knights of Columbus], but we also reaffirm [our] dedication to the sanctity of human life. It is to the Blessed Mother that we turn in prayer as we work to end the Culture of Death that grips our society. As we think in terms of 'One Life, One Rose,' it is most appropriate that we turn to Our Lady of Guadalupe who made known her

will through Juan Diego and the miracle of the roses." (Past Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson)

Notre Dame Council 10514 conducted the Silver Rose Program at Santa Maria del Mar in Flagler Beach. The Silver Rose was brought to the church by 'Knights on Bikes' member Hector Ortiz-Vazquez. Copies of the Silver Rose Prayer Service Booklet were distributed to attendees. In addition, copies of Saint Pope John Paul II's 'Prayer for Life' were disseminated to parishioners as they entered the church.

Music Director Kim Cazzaniga (wife of Bro. Vincenzo Cazzaniga) accompanied by Alicia Melendez (daughter of Bro. George Melendez) led the congregation in song as the Silver Rose was processed through the church. Following the solemn procession, Bro. Hector Ortiz-Vazquez prayerfully offered the Silver Rose to the parish's patroness, St. Mary of the Sea. He held the Silver

Rose in front of the Statue of the Blessed Mother while DGK Jim Butler addressed the congregation and gave a brief overview of the history of the Silver Rose.

Grand Knight Bob Conochalla led parishioners of Santa Maria del Mar in the 'Prayer for Life'. Parishioners could either pray along with the prayer sheets previously passed out or follow using the prayer sheets displayed on the large screens in the church. Pastor & Chaplain Fr. Manny Lopez and Deacon Stephen LaBrie accompanied the Grand Knight as he led the prayer. This was followed by Holy Mass.

At the conclusion of the Mass, Brother Ortiz-Vazquez, carefully packed the Silver Rose in its special carrying case. He collected the Silver Rose Prayer Service Booklets and 'Prayer for Life' sheets and boxed them. All of the materials were loaded on his motorcycle so he could carry them to the next stop on the pilgrimage, which was to the Orlando Diocese with visits to St. Brendan the Navigator in Ormond Beach; Incarnation Catholic Church in Orlando; Epiphany Catholic Church in Port Orange; and Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church in Port Orange. The next visit of the Silver Rose was to the Diocese of Venice.

Prayer for Life

O Mary, bright dawn of the new world, Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life: Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born, of the poor whose lives are made difficult, of men and women who are victims of brutal violence, of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy. Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the Gospel of life with honesty and love to the people of our time. Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift ever new, the joy of



celebrating it with gratitude throughout their lives and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely, in order to build, together with all people of good will, the civilization of truth and love, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. Amen.

~ St. John Paul II Evangelium Vitae, 1995





Brothers-

As you all know we are always called to help those in need and currently our brothers and citizens in Hawaii are in desperate need of our help. Several of you have already reached out to us and asked what you and your Councils can do to help and support those who have suffered this devastating loss in Hawaii. In the past we have done some individual fundraising for multiple disasters around the world, and I applaud all of you who have given so generously of your time, talents, and donations. Our recommended path to enable the best and most immediate distribution of funds for what is needed in Hawaii, is to utilize the link below and donate through the Supreme website. You can make notes for Hawaii Relief efforts as part of your donation in the Disaster Fund tab on their website. Florida continues to set the pace for others to follow and we offer our thoughts and prayers along with whatever donations that can be made to assist those in need at this time.

<https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/donate/disaster-relief.html>

Fraternally,

Rich Dahn

Richard E. Dahn Jr.
Vice President
Florida K of C Charities, Inc.

The 141st Supreme Convention



First off, I want to thank Richard Hughes, our State Deputy, and Robert Urrutia, the Immediate Past State Deputy, for giving me this unique and rewarding opportunity to attend this year's Supreme Convention as a Supreme Delegate at the World Center Marriot Resort in Orlando. On my first day, I was able to meet Patrick Kelly, the Supreme Knight and Archbishop Lori, the Supreme Chaplain, for the first time and that set the tone for the whole convention.

Tours: As Tour Director, I was asked to set up tours for the delegates and their families before the Supreme convention. We offered tours to St. Augustine, Kennedy Space Center, the Basilica, Mary Queen of the Universe Shrine, and an Airboat tour. The tours had a few bumps in the road, so to speak, but all the delegates and family members gave rave reviews of their experiences. Indeed, one of our Canadian delegates summed it

up best. "Thank you so much for setting up these tours. Some of them were on my bucket list." I want to thank all the volunteers who made our tours successful.

Behind the Scenes Access: Thanks to Joe Martin, a Brother Knight from my host St. Cloud/Kissimmee Council 6624 and a contractor at every Supreme Conventions since 2006, I was given unprecedented access and approval to



take photographs during the convention. It was amazing to watch the many technicians work tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure that everything ran smoothly during the Masses, the Business Meetings, and States Dinner. Everyone from the Supreme staffers to the professional photographers were very gracious and accepted me as one of their own.

Masses: From the Saturday Vigil Mass at the Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine to the daily Masses during the Supreme Convention, I was thunderstruck by the

powerful, spiritual, and life-changing services. The colorful procession of the Color Guard, the priests, bishops, archbishops and cardinals was so much more inspiring in person than watching it on line and a tremendous way to begin this year's Supreme Convention. Master of the Florida District John O'Toole, the District Marshals Danny McIntyre, Ken Jeffres, Jr., John Shelton, and all the Florida Sir Knights did a stupendous job both as part of the Color Corps and in the Adoration Chapel. I have never seen so many gold and green baldricks in one procession.

The Florida State Volunteers: It was a pleasure to meet and work closely with the other volunteers at the hospitality registration desk, the welcoming community, and all the State officers. Once again, it was a group effort, and we were able to extend a warm Florida welcome to every guest at the convention. One Supreme staffer told me that he wished the Supreme Convention would be held every year here in Florida. We have so much



to offer. Who knows, perhaps soon we will be hosting another Supreme Convention.

Vivat Jesus! Harry Rother

An Act of Fraternal Charity

It's an exciting time to be part of the Knights of Columbus," KofC Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori said during the 141st Supreme Convention in Orlando.

"I'm all behind the new programs," Archbishop Lori continued. "Our worthy Supreme Knight is leading the order in a wonderful way, putting faith and evangelization in the forefront as the basis for charity. It helps to support one another as husbands and fathers fraternally, but also in growth in faith. We're seeing growth in membership, and we're seeing great strength across the order."

Archbishop Lori was very active at the Convention, participating in all of the liturgies and meetings, and even hearing early morning confessions. He was the primary celebrant for Thursday morning's Memorial Mass, opening the final day of the Convention. The Mass was offered for brother Knights, family members and friends of the order who have died over the past year.

"This Mass is a wonderful act of fraternal

charity," Archbishop Lori said in his homily. "It is an act of unsurpassed love, for we now offer for them the one sacrifice of Christ by which sin is forgiven, and hope of everlasting life shines forth."

Appointed Archbishop of Baltimore in 2012, Archbishop Lori has served as supreme chaplain since April 2005. He has been attending the Supreme Convention since the 1980s, and was very impressed with the Orlando gathering.

"It was a wonderful convention," he said. "We had a great opening Mass. As I walked around the hall at the Convention Center, I sensed a wonderful spirit of Knights and wives and family members, who were happy to be together. It's a great theme this year, First in Faith and Charity. And as always, the Florida hospitality is very, very warm and wonderful. Also, I enjoy being in Florida, the nice weather and being with all the people."

A Delegate Report

I am grateful for the opportunity to have served as a member of the Florida Delegation to the 141st Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus.

While I was a delegate for the 2000 and 2001 Supreme Conventions, they were both held virtually, and the Florida group met up at a church near Boca Raton and Naples. Ironically, the live convention in Orlando was much closer to my home in Port Orange!

My biggest takeaway is that the Knights of Columbus is a very dynamic and diverse organization, eager to change and grow to better serve Catholic men, along with their families and parishes. The overturning of Roe vs. Wade offered new opportunities, and RSVP was quickly formed to fill that need. For 2023, the Knights are embracing the Cor Meeting, a ministry to build the faith of Catholic men. This news was enthusiastically embraced by all three councils in District 20, who have teamed up to make Cor a District initiative.

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly gave an excellent opening address, a very eloquent and inspiring report on the state of the order.

SK Bob Dytkowski – who was a delegate at the Minnesota Supreme Convention in 2019 – had me prepared for Tuesday’s State Dinner, which was a wonderful affair. Following the parade of states and nations, we sang songs for each of the states – which carried us through the entire dinner. Up last was Florida as host state, with “Zip a Dee Doo Dah” fondly bringing back memories of our late Fraternalist, PSD/Vice Supreme Master Bob Anderson. A great tribute!

I was concerned that the final session – the pro forma adaptation of resolutions – would be challenging, but I found the individual resolutions quite interesting and a fantastic overview of the many areas of involvement for the KofC. Also, each of the 379 resolutions presented by the states had been carefully considered and acted on. This session acted as a meaningful conclusion to the convention.

The convention gave the opportunity to meet and exchange pins with Brother Knights from around the world. I even got to meet someone from my hometown of Pittston, Pa., Central PA Master Brian Hallock. His office is located just up the hill from where I attended high school at St. John the Evangelist.

Overall, I was most impressed by the liturgies and the backdrop used in the main hall. The opening Mass was led by a procession of around 70 Fourth Degree Color Corps – led by new Supreme Master Michael McCusker and many vice supreme masters, state masters, marshals, commanders, navigators and SKs. Next were about 140 Priests, then 60-70 Bishops, three Cardinals and celebrant Bishop John Noonan of Orlando, while a choir did an outstanding rendition of Te Deum. Masses the following days had similar processions and inspiring music.

The backdrop for the opening Mass was the façade at Our Lady Queen of the Universe. You had to look closely to make sure that the stained-glass windows and statues were not real!

This backdrop changed with each session. One had stained glass windows of four Old Testament prophets and the four New Testament evangelists; another a large image of Father Lopez coming onshore at St. Augustine to celebrate the first Mass on the new continent. I asked Supreme Director Scott O’Connor if it was a giant big-screen television, but he said it was actually a combination of more than 120 projectors. It demonstrated great attention to detail – one of the many reasons that the 141st Supreme Convention was one of remember. I’m honored to have been a small part of it.

Vivat Jesus! John O’Malley

The Privilege of Service



The Supreme Convention in Orlando, FL was a great way to continue serving my brother's knights. It was a great honor to represent the Florida State Council as a supreme delegate and serve the Florida jurisdictions by reviewing and voting on resolutions presented during the Supreme Convention meetings. We voted on two new supreme directors that will continue to help guide our great order. Florida's Supreme Master Emeritus Dennis Stoddard was recognized for his great service to our order, and he gave a heartfelt speech for his recognition.

As a state officer and volunteer, it was great to serve our brother knights and their families order wide that came to attend the Convention. Headed by State Marketing & PR Director Weldon "Tuey" Watkins, our Florida hospitality room was a great success and perhaps the best hospitality suite due to Tuey's cooking. Our transportation committee was able to meet so many dignitaries. Our brother knights and their families visited some of the best parts of Florida on our tour. As I assisted in our fraternal dinner at the Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament, I was made an honorary

member of the Montana, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba State Councils as they were on the bus that I oversaw.

Great pictures of the Supreme Convention have been taken by our State Photographer Harry Rother, [please check them out](#). The next time the Supreme Convention is in Florida, please make sure you come out to see and volunteer for this experience of a lifetime.

Vivat Jesus! State Treasurer Joseph Coicou



Reflections From Supreme Convention

I would like to start by saying that I was honored and privileged to be elected as a delegate to represent the Florida State Council at the 141st annual Supreme Convention in Orlando.

I arrived early on Sunday and immediately went to the Florida State Council registration desk where I had the pleasure to meet many arriving dignitaries from many states and also from abroad. There was great camaraderie around the group. I also experienced the spirit of friendly good-fellowship when working the Florida State Council hospitality room for brunch the following day. Working along with the State Deputy, Immediate Past State Deputy and all of the officers and delegates was a very rewarding experience, where I met many state deputies, past state deputies and also current and former Supreme officers and directors and their wives.

One of the highlights of the Convention was attending daily Mass, where I felt closer to God and could feel the spirit of the Knights of Columbus throughout the room. It was the best choir that I have ever heard and to be in the same room with all of the priests, state chaplains, bishops and cardinals is something that I will never forget. The

Fourth Degree presence was amazing, and I am proud to be a member.

The business meetings were very professional and extremely interesting. I could see the hard work that our elected officials put in to run such a large and successful organization and it was great to be a part of it.

The pin exchange was another highlight for me, where talking to most of the states and territories was a unique and pleasurable experience.

The States Dinner was very festive and colorful, and I was happy to sit next to the International Family of the Year, Daniel and Maria Cabrera and their five children. I was also honored to be present for the awarding of the blessed Michael McGivney medal to Fr. John Grace of California, and also the Gaudium et Spes Award given to Mother Agnes Mary Donovan of the Sisters of Life.

The amount of work done by the Florida State Council to host this enormous event is astounding and they are to be congratulated. I am proud to be a member of the Knights of Columbus and I can see us as being "First in Faith and First in Charity." Vivat Jesus!

District Deputy District 53 Al Heyman

Box of Joy Program

Put your faith into action this fall by blessing children in developing countries with a Box of Joy!

This simple and hands-on service project from Cross Catholic Outreach enables Florida councils and their families to engage their parish community or school to pack small gifts for children who may have never received a Christmas gift! Cross Catholic Outreach adds a rosary and The Story of Jesus to every Box of Joy to help evangelize our Catholic faith. Be part of the Box of Joy ministry of mercy. Sign up today to receive your free supplies: <http://www.boxofjoy.org/signup>



Supreme Master Leads 4th Degree

There was a new face leading the Fourth Degree Color Corps at the head of the processions for each of the three Masses at the 141st Supreme Convention in Orlando. Supreme Knight Michael McCusker wore the dark blue baldric symbolic of his position, followed by Florida Marshal Danny McIntyre and Vice Marshal John Shelton, leading 75 SKs in regalia into each ceremony (not counting an addition 30+ SKs in regalia who led priests to the various stations for the distribution of Holy Communion). The new baldrics were quite visible, with a mixture of light blue, dark green, gold, purple and white sashes joined by the traditional red, white and blue service baldrics.

McCusker took over position at the beginning of March, succeeding Supreme Knight Emeritus Dennis Stoddard, who served as Supreme Knight for 13 years. A decorated war veteran, McCusker is enjoying the challenges.

“It’s a wonderful role and a wonderful opportunity to help lead the Fourth Degree, especially as we come up on our 125th anniversary in February, 2025,” SK McCusker said. “I’m enjoying learning all about the different parts of the country and the world, and how they interact with each other. I’m enjoying getting to know so many new brother Knights who are so dedicated to the Fourth Degree.”

The position did not come without personal challenges for the Tennessee resident.

“My biggest challenge right now is learning the work-live balance, because I’m still working fulltime as an assistant district attorney, and I’m retiring in two years,” he explained. “Just balancing the travel up to New Haven with my job back home in Memphis, Tennessee, with my job as the husband of my wife Theresa, and the father of three kids who are still teenagers and young adults. That’s the biggest challenge.”

McCusker’s greatest challenge leading the Fourth Degree is enticing more younger Knights to join the Patriotic degree – and to participate in

the color corps. He’s optimistically anticipating that opportunity.

“We’re going to appeal to their sense of patriotism, by showing them how important it is now at this part of their life to develop the discipline of serving their church and their country,” he said. “We especially have a great opportunity with the 125th anniversary coming up to help energize a more youthful generation of Fourth Degree Knights.”

SK McCusker, a member of the Knights of Columbus since 1988, served as the state deputy of Tennessee from 2019 to 2021 and was elected to the Board of Directors in August 2022. He has worked as a criminal prosecutor for more than 20 years and currently is an Assistant District Attorney General for the 30th Judicial District of Tennessee. He also served in the U.S. Army Reserves, and then the Tennessee National Guard, for more than two decades, including a deployment to Afghanistan from 2005 to 2006. McCusker was awarded a Bronze Star for his service in Afghanistan, as well as an Army Commendation Medal for his actions during a search-and-rescue mission there in 2005.

Ironically, McCusker had never worn the regalia prior to taking over as Supreme Knight. It didn’t take him long to feel “at ease” in the new uniform.

“I love the regalia,” he said at the Supreme Convention. “The best thing about the new uniform is how versatile it is. I had a friend of mine who passed away recently, and I needed to be at his funeral that night, and I had to work all day. I went to work, and work my regular blue blazer with the rest of the [Fourth Degree] uniform. When I was able to get out of work, I raced across town, got to the funeral, took my Fourth-Degree blazer out of the bag and swapped out coats, and I was able to go right in there and do what I needed to do to honor my brother.”



**Cruise in support of the Florida K of C Charities, Inc. Vocations Fund
and in celebration of State Chaplain and St. Agnes Pastor Fr. Bob
Kantor's 25th Anniversary of Ordination**



**Father Bob Kantor, State Chaplain of the Florida State Council and
Pastor of St. Agnes Catholic Church in Naples, Florida, and the
Knights of Columbus' Florida K of C Charities, Inc. invite you to enjoy
this cruise in support of Florida K of C Charities, Inc. Vocations Fund.**

**Join us aboard the Celebrity Beyond from Monday, November 13,
2023, to Wednesday, November 22, 2023, departing from and returning
to Fort Lauderdale, Florida**

**For more information on the Cruise www.floridakofc.org, services,
online forms and scroll down to Charities.**

You can also reach out:

**H&E Smart Travels, Inc., West Palm Beach, FL* Evelio J Sardiña,
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INVOCATION

Knights of Columbus Florida State Council Newsletter How To Write an Article

Newsworthy • Broad Appeal • Concise • Complete • Factual • Accurate
Answers the Questions: Who, What, When, Where, Why & How

INVOCATION reports on local council activities throughout the entire State of Florida

- Article size: **300 words** ideal (half page) to 500-600 words max (full page)
- Articles submitted as an attachment in Word format - not in the body of an email
 - PDF submissions are for ads or promotions - not articles
- Pictures need to be sent separately as an attachment and the original pictures **Please do not format them in any way, we will do it**-- not embedded in a Word document
- **Articles need to be brief, highly relevant and actionable**
- **At a minimum, Who, What, When and Where needs to be in the first paragraph,**
- Articles need to be brief, to-the-point and **of interest** to the entire State Council
 - What is the event/activity about?
 - Whom did it benefit?
 - What was the result?
 - Who are the key players/Knights?
- **Similar story** submissions will be consolidated/batched into one article by the Editors
- Authors must submit on time per the Editor production calendar- **Deadline 1st of each month**
 - Late submittals will be placed farther down the newsletter or not published.
- Proof your article carefully for spelling and grammar before sending (**use spellcheck**)
- Document filename should reflect the office/title, i.e. State Deputy article
- Every Region needs to participate – one page of the Invocation will be dedicated to each Region respectively
 - If a region does not submit content their page will be eliminated from that issue
- Cover story submissions need to be submitted ahead of the deadline due to special photo editing
 - Cover story photos – in portrait style at least 1mb in size - not formatted or resized
 - filename “Cover Story”

Send all information:

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For general information or questions email: invocation@floridakofc.org



Are You A Member?

The Blessed Michael J. McGivney Guild serves as a source for information about the life, works and spirituality of Father McGivney.

The Guild distributes informational materials about him, receives reports of favors granted through his intercession and oversees the distribution of relics.

Guild members receive regular updates on the progress of Blessed Michael J. McGivney's



cause for canonization and are invited to participate in promoting devotion to this Servant of God. Members of the Knights of Columbus are not automatically Guild members and must elect to join the Guild.

The Blessed Michael J. McGivney Guild Newsletter is published bimonthly except July - August, and is sent free to Guild members.

To join the Guild, register online at: <http://www.fathermcgivney.org/> †

Did you know that the State of Florida Council has a YouTube Channel? Well, we do! This is a place where we can put in videos of the all the great things that we do as Knights in the State of Florida.

During the State Convention we took video interviews of some of the Dignitaries that honored us with their presence. You can

see the videos by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Please be sure to subscribe to the channel so you will be notified when new videos are added. If you have any videos that you would like to add that shows your Council doing good works please email Jim Clark, Broadcast Media Relations and Production Director at jclark1@gmail.com.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL
MISSION STATEMENT

Evangelize and proclaim our faith, protect families, and perform works of charity.

Through our witness and deeds attract Catholic men to our Order.

Build the Domestic Church through service, support our parishes, clergy, and communities.

Incorporate principled fiscal responsibility for charitable giving.

The Florida State Logo



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

COLUMBIA

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



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