

INVOCATION

DECEMBER 2022



**Councils Support
Coats For Kids**

Port Orange Donates Coats



Our Lady of Hope Council 8086 recently had its biggest Coats for Kids drive, donating 633 coats valued at more than \$8,000 to deserving students at eight area schools.

A year ago, the Knights donated nearly 400 winter coats and jackets, but the successful Duck Derby in late October allowed additional funds to be dedicated to the annual Coats for Kids drive.

More than a dozen Knights distributed the coats at Sugar Mill Elementary, Horizon Elementary,

Spruce Creek Elementary and Port Orange Elementary in Port Orange; South Daytona Elementary and Turie T. Small in South Daytona; Holly Hill Elementary in Holly Hill; and West Side Elementary in Daytona Beach. Horizon Elementary received the coats for the first time in the expanded drive.

Roger Packard is the Grand Knight of Council 8086. Tony Manzolillo is the council's point of contact for Coats for Kids, with Tim Mell the council's Program Director.



*Giving Tuesday turned out to be a heartwarming success for the Knights from **Father Gabriel Council 3746** in Melbourne. On that day, the Council donated 96 Coats for Kids to students of University Park Elementary. During the presentation one of the young boys mentioned that the coat was probably the only gift he would receive for Christmas. Grand Knight Frank Meyer said, "Being a Knight can be so heartwarming." Other Knights present at the donation were DGK Rory Ditmer and Warden Gene Rhua.*

A Worthy Reflection

By State Deputy Rob Urrutia

As I reflect on the first 6 months of the fraternal year. I think of all the wonderful things we were able to accomplish. First we had the passing of the silver rose to Alabama. Then we celebrated with the Catholic schools of Miami with the day at the ballpark where we got to watch the Marlins beat the NY Mets.

Then Ian and Nicole decided to pay us a visit. The efforts of all our brother Knights in the State and from around the world was tremendous. On the Ground Dr. Stephen Wyer, Greg Sutter, Brian Lawandus GA, John Shelton, and many, many others came down to the heavy areas of the Venice Dioceses. They helped with the clean up and securing of homes. We cooked for the heavy areas and we still managed to our programs of Charity, Unity, and Fraternalism.

In November. I attended the State Deputies meeting in Orlando and I could not stop saying how proud I was of the teamwork and dedication to helping others. From the bottom of my heart thank you for all your efforts.

As you all know Supreme holds Florida extremely high in the order. Even with the storms coming through we still managed to stay on pace

with Supreme membership Quota. If you are looking to give someone a gift this Christmas, what a perfect gift of membership to the order.

I would like to congratulate Our Faithful Frier Fr. Christopher Hoffman celebrating his 35th anniversary of his Ordination.

From my family to yours wishing you all a blessed Christmas season.



*State Deputy
Robert Urrutia*



Color Corps Surprises Fr. Chris Hoffmann



Father Chris Hoffmann received a special surprise on the 35th anniversary of the ordination to the Priesthood, with a reception following Mass at Our Lady of the Lakes in Deltona.

Sir Knight Father Chris is Pastor of Our Lady of the Lakes. A former military chaplain, he serves as Faithful Friar for the Florida Fourth Degree, is a member of the Fourth Degree Exemplification team, and a member of Assembly 2794.

Joining him in concelebration of the Mass was his classmate, SK Father Matthew Mello, who is Chaplain of Council 8086 and Pastor of Our Lady of Hope in Port Orange. State Deputy Rob Urrutia, who is the parish business manager, helped organize the event.

Adding to the surprise was the presence of 16 members of the regional Fourth Degree Color Corps. Bill Lowery of host Bishop John Newmann Assembly 1930 was Color Corps Commander, joined by Faithful Navigator Alfred Ducharme. SKs in attendance included Florida District Master John O'Toole, Immediate Former District

Master Charlie McLaughlin, and visiting Color Corps Commanders Frank Consentino and John O'Malley.

Among the highlights were a post-communion procession with many of the parish youth, who contributed roses to a large bouquet. There was a reception following Mass, featuring Father Chris' favorite, sausage and sauerkraut.



Celebration Takes Preparation

By State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor

Advent is a season of preparing and anticipating, hopefully examining our relationship with the Lord, and readying a path for Him to our hearts. Then comes the celebration! Society is quick to skip to the celebration part.

The consumer culture that brings Christmas decorations and sales in November, and television shows and specials that bypass Advent for Christmas can creep into our thinking as Catholics and Knights if we're not careful.

For a successful celebration, there's no substitute for preparation. No party can take place without a little cleaning, preparing and forethought. Christmas shouldn't arrive without prayer, repentance, and reflection on our part. Knights and their families can slow the rush to a premature celebration of Christmas in many ways. Among them are:

- having an Advent Wreath in the home and making the lighting of each candle a prayerful event,
- attending a Penance Service or regular Confession hours in your parish to clean up the soul for the Lord's arrival,
- finding an Advent "lessons and carols" or some similar event that focuses on the beautiful scriptures and music of this season,
- delaying your Christmas decorating until at least after the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 8th.

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

Then Christmas, this monumental event in human history, the birth of our Savior, will bring greater joy than ever. I have fond memories of happy Christmases from my childhood. They were set in the cold and snow of western New York in the warmth of a loving and faithful family. Regardless of the geographic and cultural settings from which you come, we Knights are united in the wondrous gift of the Father's only begotten son, Jesus.

As we celebrate the King who came into the world in the humblest of circumstances, be assured that as your State Chaplain, I will keep you and your families in my thoughts and prayers. Please accept my sincere wishes for a fruitful Advent and very merry, holy Christmas that brings wonderful blessings from the infant Jesus!



*State Chaplain
Very Rev. Bob Kantor*



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.

Christ Is Born! Glorify Him

By Former State Chaplain Reverend Salvatore Pignato

From the beginning of Salvation History, caused by the Fall of Adam and Eve, God the Father has intervened into our space and time on a frequent basis. The proof of this begins in the Old Testament, that book that chronicled the beginning of Salvation History.

God intervened in His world when He created Adam and Eve. He intervened again when He called Abraham, Noah, and Moses to develop a new Covenant with Him. God built a new nation with a set of Laws and fulfilled His promise that He would be the God of Abraham's posterity and that they would be His people. In all of this, God had a plan and a purpose. He had an objective that would change the face of the earth and of all creation. He was about to establish the final Covenant with His people.

To understand the genesis of this new Covenant, we have to go into the New Testament. The New Testament was going to expose to us and to the world the absolute love God had for His human family.

It took twelve generations for God to root that first Covenant in His people Israel, but, after those twelve generations, God the Father was about to intervene again into our space and time. It would be a spectacular event that would be even greater than the creation of the world.

This spectacular event can only be believed by people of faith. St. John in his Gospel proclaimed this spectacular event when he said: "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God, became flesh and dwelt among us." God, the "I am who Am" united Himself to the womb of the Theotokos, and

the issue that came forth was True God and True Man. Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God, became flesh to fulfill the promise made to Adam and Eve of a Savior.

With the birth of Christ, Salvation History did not end. In fact, it was renewed by Jesus and given as a ministry to the Apostles. In turn, the Apostles gave to those they baptized this same ministry.



*Former State Chaplain
Rev. Salvatore Pignato*



So, the birth of Christ that we celebrate is at least two pronged. First, we must thank God the Father for the Gift of His Son. Ultimately, that Gift will afford us forgiveness and an opportunity to gain eternal life. What a wonderful realization of the Incarnation of God into our world. Secondly, with this Gift given to us in the form of the Messiah, it demands Thanksgiving to Jesus, the Messiah, for His selflessness. That means we must live, in our lives, the ministry of Jesus Christ that was given to the Apostles and to us in baptism and chrismation. Our daily lives must reflect Jesus Christ

to others in love, mercy, and forgiveness. In the Eastern Church on December 25th, the people greet each other by saying, "Christ is born." The response is 'Glorify Him!', and that glorification comes in the form of our ministry to the people of God.

Knights Host Veterans Breakfast



Knights from Prince of Peace Council 8791 recently held a successful Veterans Day Breakfast following the 9 a.m. Mass on Nov. 6.

Posting the colors were a color guard from the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Army Reserve Officer Training Corps, while the Catholic War Veterans presented the “POW/MIA Missing Man Table.”

Among the Knights making the breakfast a success were Gillis Blaise, SK Joe Di Blasi, Knights District 18 Deputy Harold Bennett, Dave Dornbach and District Warden Chuck Armstrong.

Joe Taibl, PGK Jay Young, PGK Bart Teracino, Frank De Vito, and SK Matt Crowner provided the kitchen crew.



Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

“For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” (Gospel for Dec. 18, Mt 1:20-21)

Does the Advent season sometimes seem to be about things other than Christ? Amid breathless advertisements, urgent warnings about the waning number of shopping days and the hassle of making holiday plans, there’s a danger that Jesus’ birth will be neglected or forgotten. Let’s make it a priority to remember what Christmas is about: The Son of God became man in order to die for our sins and rise again, so that we could be freed from our slavery to sin and also rise to new life.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to keep your attention on the true meaning of Christmas by setting up a Nativity scene in a prominent place in your home and spending some time in prayer before it each day. Second, I challenge you to assist your council in the Faith in Action Keep Christ in Christmas program.

Questions for Reflection:

How do you “Keep Christ in Christmas” in your own life? Do you practice any Christmas traditions that help you do this? Could you establish any new traditions that will remind you what Christmas is all about?

Bingo With the Veterans

Sir Knights from two Assemblies resumed their monthly Bingo With the Veterans after nearly a two-year absence.

Assembly 2901 from Prince of Peace/St. Brendan in Ormond Beach teamed with Our Lady of Hope Assembly 2974 to resume the program, entertaining 32 veterans from the Emory L. Bennett State Veterans’ Nursing Home in Daytona Beach.

Fourteen SKs played 10 games of bingo, passing out Walmart gift cards and shirts donated by Carl and Caroline DelNegro.

SK and Former District Deputy Bob Simcoe



(2901) and FN Bob Gillikin (2974) coordinated the event. The Assemblies will host every other month, sharing the gifts, bagels etc. Assembly 2974 will host the next Bingo, set for Thursday, Jan. 5.

Council 7408 Distributes Coats



Saint Joseph Council 7408, Palm Bay, Florida distributed Coats for Kids and bags of food for needy families on Sunday, November 19, as a drive-up at St. Joseph Catholic School.

It is done annually on the Saturday before Thanksgiving at St. Joseph Catholic Church along with St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Distribution.

Our council raised enough money to purchase 100 coats this year. The bags of food were collected by Saint Joseph Catholic Church and included enough food to feed a family at Thanksgiving dinner. It also included a gift certificate to purchase their choice of meat.

Not all coats and food bags were distributed on that day. The food bags will be distributed again prior to Christmas and any additional coats requested will be given to the St. Vincent dePaul Society as required.

Knights present to pass out coats and distribute food to the needy were John Palazzo Jr. (DGK and Program Director) Tom Tremblay, PGK (Chairperson), George Fantry, Mike Deschaine (Grand Knight), Tony Krzeminski, Joe Giesler, (Community Director), Harry and Santis Weaver, and Ron Hoenig (Financial Secretary).



One Knights Journey

By Past State Deputy Scott O'Connor

Dear Brother Knights, I wanted to let you know that my new book “One Knights Journey” is now available at: www.lectiopublishing.com and online at most major book retailers. The book chronicles my faith journey leading me to join the Knights of Columbus and eventually calling me to take on leadership positions, ultimately serving as the State Deputy of the Florida Jurisdiction, during the Covid-19 Pandemic. A portion of my royalties from book sales will go to support the Marybeth O'Connor Holy Angles Fund for Vocations (Florida K of C Charities, Inc.).

The publisher, Lectio Publishing, LLC will have a table with copies of the book for sale, at the December Mid-Year Meeting of the Florida Jurisdiction, Hyatt Regency – Orlando, on December 9-11. I will be available each day for those who would like a signed copy.

For those of you interested in future leadership roles, this book shares many of the experiences and challenges that I faced, hopefully, it can help you in your decision making process. Below are two excerpts from the book, I hope you enjoy them. Have a happy Advent and a most joyous Christmas.

Excerpt from One Knights Journey –

“The Newman Center was open most hours of the day and into the evening. I took full advantage and it was a great sanctuary in its own right. I used the coffee shop to study. I would also visit the chapel and talk to God, which helped me cope with day-to-day issues. One day, a particular man just appeared, dressed in nothing but a tattered tunic. He was barefooted with long black hair and a long black beard. He went by the name “Prophet John.” He carried nothing but a tattered Bible. He was always making notes and highlighting texts in the Bible, whenever he was not preaching or talking with whomever would listen. John would

appear at campus events, either standing on a bench or another perch so he could be seen and heard. He blended in with the hippies and drew crowds of twenty or thirty, sometimes much larger.

On one occasion, we (Catholic Students) were anticipating the visit of then -Pope John Paul II, who would be celebrating Mass in Chicago. People were making plans to go to see the Pope. Our campus was located about sixty miles west of the city, and transportation was either by bus or private car. Profit John was looking for a ride to go to see the Pope. He wanted not so much to hear the Pope, but to share with him his message for repentance.

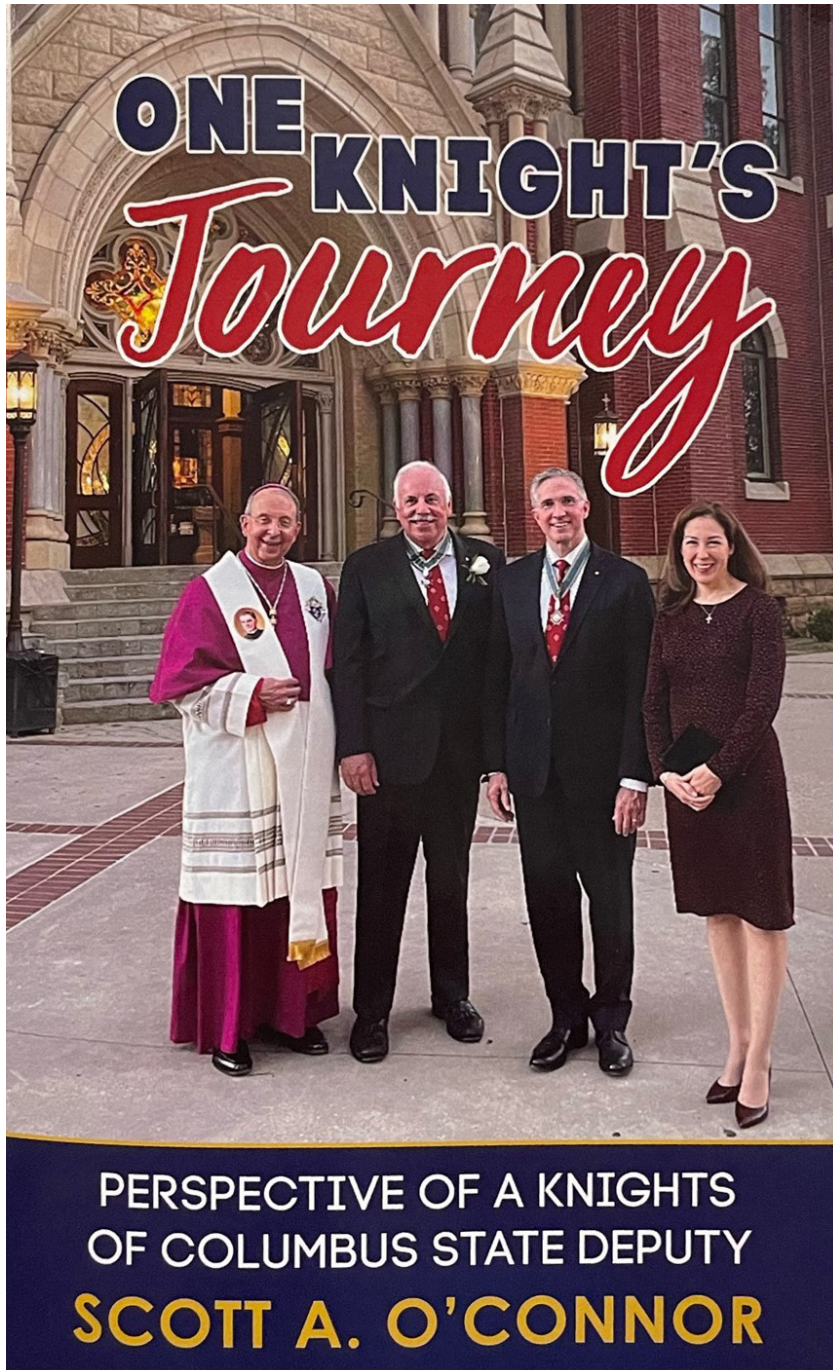
The pastor of our Newman Center was a very wise priest and on one occasion used “Profit John” as the topic of his homily. I still remember the theme of that message—how Jesus was treated by his own community. Though we all saw “Profit John” as just a hippy who liked to preach, our pastor pointed out several facts: 1.) Our Profit John never claimed to be anything other than a man proclaiming the gospel; 2.) Our Profit John did in fact quote directly from Scripture and did not deviate from or distort the message in any way; 3.) Our Profit John did follow the teachings of our Lord, Jesus Christ, taking literally the message Jesus gave to his disciples—to live by the means provided to him by those who took him in. His only possessions were the tunic and Bible, no money, nothing earthly. Our pastor told us “Who are we to condemn this man or call him a fraud?” “How do we know that he was not sent to deliver this message to us?”

Profit John disappeared one day, just as mysteriously as he had arrived. There was no sign of him ever again. I don't know if he made it to see the pope or if he had just moved on to another campus. But I do know that he had a lasting impact on me, regarding faith and conviction. He so

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believed that he was willing to give up all earthly possessions to preach the Good News, even when being scorned and ridiculed.

There was always the one who needed his message, the one who would change his own life, pick up his cross and follow the Lord.”





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- 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,**
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- 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**)
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- Cover story submissions need to be submitted ahead of the deadline due to special photo editing
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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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