

An aerial photograph of a car show. The scene is filled with a variety of cars, including classic convertibles, modern sports cars, and vintage trucks. Many cars have their hoods or trunks open, and people are walking around, looking at the vehicles. There are several tents set up, and the overall atmosphere is busy and festive. The text 'INVOCATION' is overlaid in large yellow letters at the top, and 'Best Of Show' is overlaid in large white letters at the bottom.

INVOCATION

FEBRUARY 2024

Best Of Show

St. Thomas Aquinas Car Show



More than a year of painstaking planning could not have drawn up a more perfect day of weather for the first annual St. Thomas Aquinas Car Show hosted by Knights of Columbus St. Thomas Aquinas Council #11497 in New Port Richey. The forecast for Saturday, January 27, called for sunny skies and a high of 80 degrees. The forecast did not lie. About 80 cars had been pre-registered for the event, but given the beautiful weather forecast, an additional 80 cars showed up on the morning of the event to register as participants, stretching the capacity of the parish grounds.

The car show planning was led by Brother David Petrantoni, the brainchild of the event, assisted by an eager team of brothers who formed the car show planning committee. Brother Stephen Katona maintained the project plan and ensured that all tasks identified by the committee were assigned and tracked to completion. Pastor Father Eric Peters endorsed the idea and fully supported the work of the committee as did Associate Pastor Father George Varkey.

The event was billed as “family friendly.” Children’s activities included face painting led by Brother Jack Timmins with help from the parish’s LifeTeens and a Pinewood Derby run by Brother Jim Marcotte and his wife Sue on a homemade four lane track designed and built by Brother Jim. Five food vendor trucks provided a variety of food





and treats to the hundreds of spectators who came to the event. Traffic control for spectators was led by Brother Rick Ardizzone, a retired sheriff's deputy. DJ Steve Ur and Emcee John Keller kept the crowd entertained and informed.

Professional photographer Brother Manny Pontoriero and his family were heavily involved in the design of all the promotional materials and helping out at the event. Brother Manny photographed every car that entered through registration and also used a drone to capture images and videos from above. The overhead video as well as a video of the parade of cars leaving the parish grounds after the conclusion of the car show filmed by Brother John Treska can be found on the homepage of the Council's website – kofc11497.org.

Judging of cars was led by Brother David Petrantoni. A total of 54 trophies representing numerous categories of cars was procured by PGK Larry Alaimo. The Best of Show trophy, along with a cash prize of \$500, was awarded to the owner of a 1933 Ford Model 3 Hot Rod. The check and trophy were presented by Grand Knight Dan Sanstrom and Deputy Grand Knight John Esposito.

The success of the event exceeded the planning committee's expectations, especially given that this was its first car show. The committee had hoped for about 100 cars, a day with no rain, and to break even financially. As Father Eric joked, the committee "must have had an in with a higher power".

The \$5,000 of net proceeds from the event will be split among three local charities and St. Thomas Aquinas parish. The committee looks forward to its next car show.



A 40-Day Season of Prayer

By State Deputy Richard Hughes

As begin our Lenten journey, it is useful to recall what the Church teaches about Lent. As the US Conference of Catholic Bishops says:

“Lent is a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.”

As Bishop Robert Barron has pointed out, the practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are things that we do, involving the exterior of our lives as much as the interior and spiritual part of our lives. And by doing these practices, we draw closer to the Lord as the center of our lives.

As we assist our pastors and parishes with various parish activities during the Lenten and Easter seasons, we should also not forget to offer the gift of membership in our Order. Men join the Knights of Columbus for many varied reasons, but one of the most important is because they see the work that we do in service to our parishes and communities.

As mentioned in November's column, we did not mail out individual appeals for our State Charities Funds this year, due to rising costs. We asked all Councils to publicize this year's appeal through their Council communications for our Charities funds in Vocations, Helping Life, and Special Olympics. Unfortunately, it does not appear that very many Councils have published our appeal, and the individual response has been minimal, far below what we had received in our

past mailing campaign. We are especially in need of donations for our Holy Angels Vocations Fund, which supports our seminaries and Diocesan Vocations programs.

Our collective support of the seminaries and our Bishops is an expression of the Spirit of Unity here in Florida. Once again, we are asking you to

publish an appeal to your members to at least consider making a donation online for our state Charitable Funds.

Individual donors that list their Council in their donation will receive credit towards their charitable fundraising goal for the Fraternal Year. All Council that meet their Council fundraising goal by April 1 will be recognized at the State Convention. Individual donations can be made online at <https://donate.floridakofccharities.org/> or by clicking the red Donate button on the State website (www.floridakofc.org).

Once again, I want to thank each and every Knight here in Florida for their prayers and their service to their parishes and communities, and for exemplifying the Principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism in everything that they do. And remember that Star Council + Faith Formation = a Successful Council!



State Deputy
Richard Hughes



Repent, and Believe in the Gospel

By State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor

Lent is fast approaching and often when I preach on Ash Wednesday, I am struck by the disconnect between the day's Gospel and what happens later in Mass. In the Gospel, Jesus encourages us to keep the good things you do between you and your heavenly Father only to get a large black cross of ashes painted on our foreheads not long after! Maybe we can both boldly show the Cross and remain humble while doing it.

We don't have much day-to-day contact with ashes these days. Fireplaces are not too common in Florida and most of those we do see are gas. And yet we gather once a year in great numbers to receive a cross of ashes on our foreheads. Many of the rituals of the Church link us to the customs and symbols of many generations that have gone before us. Ashes are one of those sacramentals.

Wood ash was used by pioneers to make soap. The chemical reaction between the tallow and the ash created a harsh but effective soap for skin and clothes, providing much needed cleansing for people who worked hard in difficult and dirty conditions. In ancient cultures, ashes were used as a sign of mourning, a symbolic acknowledgement that the fires of life had left not only the one who had died but also those who were left to grieve. And, of course, the legend of the phoenix rising from the ashes of its predecessor is an ancient symbol of resurrection.

The Ash Wednesday cross on your foreheads will be a reminder for you and for everyone who sees you of Christ and the beginning of a 40-day period of spiritual cleansing and growth. (That is for those who don't think you just forgot to wash

your face.) But what can we do every day this Lent to help people reflect more on Christ, grow closer to Him, and emulate Him more each day? Could others think of Christ and be drawn to him through our words and actions when they encounter us? Wouldn't that be a great Lenten challenge for each of us as Knights of Columbus?

We are nearing the threshold of one of the holiest and most challenging seasons of our Church year. It asks something significant of us. This year, let the ashes you receive paired with the words "Repent, and believe in the Gospel," or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" be a reminder of our own mortality and the importance of making the most of our lives for Christ as we begin this year's 40-day period of spiritual cleansing and growth.

We are signed with the ashes of repentance, of awareness of our limitations, our need for conversion. But they are also blessed ashes, holy ashes, and they also hold the promise of cleansing, protection, and most importantly, the promise of resurrection. Let us bear them not with pride, but with determination and a real sense that we are marked by the Cross of Christ and the way in which we live our lives should lead others to Him too. That will happen if others really do see something of Jesus not on you, but in you. Vivat Jesus!



*State Chaplain
Very Rev. Bob Kantor*



The Great Fast

By Former State Chaplain Reverend Salvatore Pignato

When I was in the seminary for meditation in the morning, we used a book called *The Science Of The Saints*. It was a meditation book. One of the things that I noticed was that one discipline the Saints used on a regular basis was fasting. With such a fascination the Saints had for fasting, I wondered where the tradition of fasting came from and why we fast.

Looking into history, the Jewish people fasted to commemorate the destruction of the first and second Temples. They also fasted for many other religious events such as the Day of Atonement. The Jewish religion was rich with commemorations that included fasting. The Apostles after Pentecost, as they established the Church of Jesus Christ, brought with them the tradition of fasting into the Church. So fasting has been in the Catholic Church from its foundation.

Looking into the New Testament, the objective of fasting is focused on our spirituality and communication with God. Jesus said, "Be perfected as my Father is perfect in Heaven. To accomplish this, fasting is a cleansing agent to prepare us to work on our perfection each day and communicate with God. We have to empty ourselves body, mind, and soul so that God can fill us with His Grace and with Himself.

Self-denial and fasting gives God the opportunity to be present to us more fully with God and that we can hear Him speak to us more clearly.

The Church at times offers to us a time for

fasting and thus self-reflection, redirection to realign our commitment to the Will of God. The Great Fast that began in this month of February is one of those times. "Be perfected," Jesus says. Our focus, therefore, is on our spirituality at this time, on the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a Season of fasting so that we can more fully feel the agony of that passion and death. It is a Season also to rise with Christ on Easter Day, cleansed of sin, more united to Christ, and fully committed to the ministry of Jesus Christ that He gave us at His Ascension when He said "Go teach all nations." Fasting prepares us to do just that.



*Former State Chaplain
Rev. Salvatore Pignato*



Charity Through the Union of Hearts

by State Treasurer Joseph Coicou

Encouraging your wife or significant other to participate in Knights of Columbus activities can be a positive way to share interests and values. Here are some steps to help you do that:

Open Communication: Begin by having an open and honest conversation with your partner. Ask about their interests and concerns, and whether they have any reservations about getting involved with the Knights of Columbus. Make sure they feel heard and understood.

Explain the Benefits: Highlight the benefits of participating in Knights of Columbus activities, such as the sense of community, shared values, and the opportunity to make a positive impact through charitable work. Discuss how this can be a fulfilling and meaningful experience for both of you.

Attend an Event Together: Invite your partner to attend a Knights of Columbus event with you. This can be a social gathering, a charity event, or a meeting. Encourage them to experience the atmosphere and meet other members.

Discuss Shared Interests: Identify specific Knights of Columbus activities that align with your partner's interests or skills. For example, if they enjoy volunteering or working with youth, suggest related programs within the organization.

Emphasize the Family Aspect: Knights of Columbus is a family-oriented organization. Highlight the opportunities for your family to get involved together, such as participating in family-friendly events or youth programs.

Respect Their Boundaries: Be understanding if your partner has reservations or isn't ready to commit fully. Respect their boundaries and be patient. Participation must be a voluntary and enjoyable experience for them.

Start Small: Encourage your partner to start with smaller commitments, such as attending one event or volunteering for a specific project.

This can help them get a feel for the organization without overwhelming them.

Lead by Example: If you are an active member, lead by example by actively participating in Knights of Columbus activities and demonstrating your commitment to the organization's mission.

Seek Support from Other Members: If there are other Knights of Columbus members whose partners are involved, ask for their advice and experiences. Their insights can be valuable in helping your partner feel more comfortable getting involved.

Be Supportive: Regardless of their level of involvement, be supportive and appreciative of your partner's efforts and willingness to participate. Recognize and celebrate their contributions.

Remember that the decision to participate in Knights of Columbus activities should ultimately be voluntary and based on your partner's interests and comfort level. It's important to maintain a healthy balance and ensure that both of you feel fulfilled and supported in your individual and shared pursuits.



State Treasurer
Joseph Coicou



Three Kings Day



Osceola County Sheriff Marcos Lopez, the Osceola Chamber and its Hispanic Business Council sponsored Three Kings Day for the 20th straight year on January 7 in Old Town Kissimmee.

In much of Latin America, Three King's Day – or Día de los Reyes – recognizes the Three Wise Men, or Kings, who are part of the biblical story. It's about Balthasar, Gaspar and Melchior — the three wise men who traveled to Bethlehem to pay homage to baby Jesus, as they brought their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. For children in many of the Latin American cultures, it is the day they most look forward to for holiday gifts and treats. This popular event celebrates the Three Kings holiday, especially in the Hispanic community, symbolizes a spirit of caring and giving. Sunday's event, which drew hundreds of families to the streets of Old Town, was filled with laughter, joy, and excitement.



In the spirit of giving and celebration of Three Kings Day, St. Cloud/Kissimmee Council 6624 Brother Knights and their family members again responded to a request to support this popular event. Soon the air was filled with the aroma of grilled hot dogs as the volunteers grilled, wrapped, and distributed more than 3,000 hot dogs to what seemed a never-ending line of children and their

families. Sheriff Lopez and some of his deputies stopped by to personally thank the Knights for their continued support to the local Hispanic community and the Osceola County Sheriff's Department.

Volunteering for the Three Kings Day continues to be one of the Council's most popular events. The atmosphere is happy and joyous as the children receive their gifts. One of our Brother Knights remarked, "it only takes the smile on the face of one of the children to light up your heart and makes you want to come back year after year."



Knights Feed the Homeless



Father Downey Council 4934 based at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in New Smyrna Beach recently held its Community Hot Meals program. The monthly initiative saw the Knights and family prepare and serve 120 meals for the homeless in the New Smyrna Beach area.

Participating were 18 Knights, headed by brothers Eddie Grambo and Glenn Strobel. Throughout Lent, the council will also hold resume

its popular fish fry at the parish hall. In January, the Knights under Grand Knight Leo Decker, Life Director Rich Ross and head cook John Martens held a special fish fry that raised nearly \$1,000 for the Terry Cassidy Memorial Coastal Laps for Life to provide ultrasound machines for faith-based women's centers.

Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; then from the cloud came a voice, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.” (Gospel for Feb. 25, Mk 9:7)

In last month’s challenge, we talked about recognizing Jesus’ presence and power in our lives. Here, at his baptism, we hear the voice of God instructing us very simply: “Listen to him.” It is not enough to acknowledge Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. We must also be attentive to his teachings — communicated through sacred Scripture and sacred tradition — and respond by following him faithfully. This is the path of the true disciple who understands his own baptismal mission. May we follow this path faithfully throughout our lives,

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to spend at least 10 minutes each day in prayerful silence, contemplating the presence of Jesus and listening for his voice.

Questions for Reflection:

How do you listen for the voice of Jesus? What steps can you take in your prayer life, your spiritual reading, your pious practices and your religious study to hear his voice more clearly? What dispositions and virtues should you foster within yourself in order to become more open and responsive to what Christ is telling you?



Council 5972, John Adamson in Miami, continued its stream of activities from the end of the year to the start of a new one.

Among the many activities of January and February, the council honored the altar servers with a t-shirt and the Knights of Columbus certificates for the service provided to the parish.

The council collected non-perishable food and cans and had a drive to help the St Vincent de Paul group in the effort to feed the hungry in the community. This will be duplicated for lent in their Forty cans for Lent drive. To help with this fundraiser, they had a “Pan con Bistec” event at the end of each mass during two weekends before Lent.

The council is blessed by having a pastor who doubles as its chaplain and attends most meetings to give the council his support.

Council 6624 Baby Shower



Grand Knight Rob Consolo hosted Council 6624’s annual Baby Shower Social on January 24, to benefit JMJ Pregnancy Center, Walking with Moms in Need (WWMN), and Little Souls at Rest.

Fr. Emmanuel Akalue, Pastor of Holy Redeemer Church, led the opening prayer and, after some brief comments in support of the event, accepted a \$750 check on behalf of WWMN from Gerry Yeung, Culture of Life Director for the Council. Guests donated baby items that were shared with JMJ and WWMN. After enjoying a delicious dinner and dessert, they heard from Jena Vozzella, Founder and President of Little Souls at Rest, a unique ministry that assists with providing the dignity of burial services for babies lost before 20 weeks of pregnancy. Jena was presented with a \$500 donation from the Council.

Bob Perron, Executive Director of JMJ, described the “man cave” that helps him minister to the men that accompany abortion-minded women to the Orlando Center. He explained how the work of JMJ has led to about 750 babies being saved in 2023 (praise God!), enough to fill the hall over seven times.

Chloé Battle, Director of Operations for JMJ, gave the testimony of her own journey from having an abortion as a young woman to her work today with JMJ helping to save the lives of babies and their mothers. Chloé was presented with a \$750 check from the Council plus a 20% matching donation from the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council’s Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) initiative. A big thank you to all who attended and helped out for this great cause!



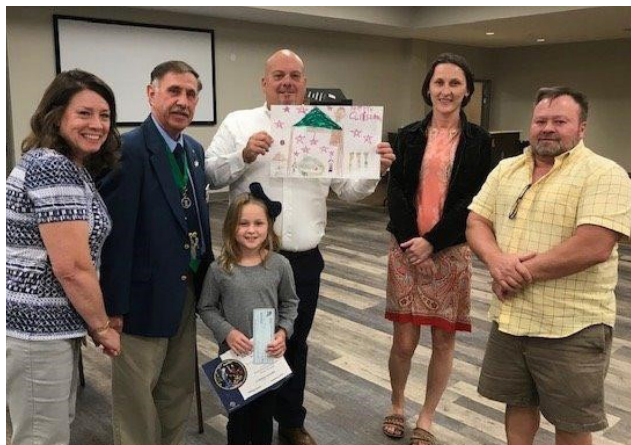
Keep Christ in Christmas

Mike Hall, Faith Director, and event chairperson for Knights Council 8009, reported that their seventh annual Christmas event set a new Council record of 54 “Keep Christ in Christmas” Children’s Poster entries.

Recently the Council has combined their poster contest with their annual “Breakfast with Santa.” This event is in cooperation with the youth programs at St. Sebastian Parish. An invitation was given to Parish community to attend the event free of charge with a goodwill donation for the council’s charity support programs.

Winners in each age group (5-14 years old) received cash prizes and invited, with their parents/guardians, to a Council sponsored membership meeting dinner complete with an awards presentation.

One of the most popular activities during the “Breakfast with Santa” event and poster drawing is Christmas cookie decorating. Debbie Bova, Director of Faith Formation Programs, said the children and their parents are thankful to the Knight’s Council for promoting the “Keeping Christ in Christmas.”



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/> †

Council Supports Pregnancy Center



Fr. Philip de Carriere Council 10484 in Haines City presented an Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) grant check from the Supreme Council.

Council 10484's Grand Knight David Miller, Financial Secretary Paul Hoffer, and Chancellor Stan Wagaman presents the \$400 grant check to Ms. Abanaris Roldan in front of LifeChoice Pregnancy Center, Winter Haven, FL. Council 10484 members and their families raised \$2,022 for the LifeChoice Pregnancy Center's Second Annual Walk for Life event on Saturday, November 4, 2023, in Winter Haven, FL.

Executive Director Abanaris Roldan accepted the award check in the attached picture and informed us she would be using the funds, and matching funds from a generous benefactor, for construction and remodeling of their building to better use the space they have.

She also informed us they would like to acquire a second office in Haines City in the future because many of the Pregnancy Center's clients live in the Haines City area and travel to Winter Haven for the supportive services they provide.

A Night At The Races



This important fund-raising activity happens monthly at Emmanuel Parish Church, in Delray Beach, where our Knights of Columbus, Blessed Mother's Council 13338, present a distinctive field of thirty-six horses spread over six (6) races.

No Citation, Seabiscuit, Secretariat or Seattle Slew will be listed on any of the entries, but at our Night at the Races one can find very original and unusual names, like: Leave the Gun-Take the Cannoli, or So's Your Old Man, or Here's Looking at You Kid.

The venue for this 3-hour, fun-filled activity occurs at 6:30 PM in the church's Columbus Hall where spectator seating for approximately 180 racing fans, and which has indeed become somewhat of a tradition for the community, providing laughter, camaraderie, and for a little extra cash.

The evening festivities include munchies and a meal; soft drinks are also available. However, attendees can "BYOB," along which they often bring their own varied choice of snacks or goodies.

Prepared by our valiant kitchen crew and

attended by our steadfast servers, the meal follows the third race and consists of our "famous tube steaks" (hot dogs) served in a bun with sauerkraut, red onions, relish, baked beans and the usual condiments, and for the not so faint hearted, "hot" jalapenos. Coffee, tea, and dessert then follows the fifth race.

Our worthy Grand Knight, Luke Van Hove, starts the evening with a prayer along with his thanks for the support given by the community of this event and the success it has experienced. Our council members e the obvious enjoyment by all the visitors.

Following the introductions, we arrive at post-time and the first run for the finish line. Staffed by our brother knights, four mock pari-mutuel betting windows open prior to each race. The maximum bet for each horse is \$2 and once the windows close, the odds get tallied and then posted onto the tote board. Long-shot odds do occur.

A six-lane track of ten (10) spaces lays spread-out on the racing floor and six colorful broomstick horses, mounted by volunteer jockeys from our viewing gallery, who then proceed excitedly to

the blue starting line to take their preferred “post” positions.

Each race is run by the turning of an oversized 3-dice mixer under the keen direction of our racing coordinator, Christopher Clarke, the numbers of which he calls will then determine the spaces for each horse to advance.

Well, the moment arrives, the dice are rolled and “out of the gate” the race begins with a rush of encouragement by those nearby at the rail cheering excitedly for their jockey and chosen steed. Horses gallop forward toward the wire, while others sometimes find themselves left in the dust. And sometimes a dead heat occurs forcing a four-space race-off until a winner is crowned. It is great fun for a \$2 bet with the possibility of yielding a rewarding payoff.

Another highlight of the evening occurs at the sixth race. Besides the regular betting, the 6-horses are sold for \$25 each for a total purse of \$150.00. Attendees can place their name and table in a “hat” from which six are randomly selected to choose which horse they wish to buy. At the end of the race, the pay-off for the winning horse is \$150.00. Sweet!!

A 50-50 raffle is also held, increasing the take-home for someone who is having, or will otherwise have, a good day.

Thanks to the yearlong support given this activity, Blessed Mother Council nets approximately \$15,000 with a percentage for our parish church. These proceeds are essential in allowing us to maintain our council’s various charitable causes for: Seminarians, Special Needs Children, Coats for Kids, and Farm Workers. But an added real benefit is sharing a night out with friends and family, giving all a wonderful opportunity to get together and a chance for everybody just to have an enjoyable time ~ and win a couple of bucks.

Our thanks for this activity certainly go to our Pastor, Rev. Fr. Gaudioso Zamora, and of course to our council brothers, who arrange, oversee, and



manage the evening’s festivities. Others prepare the tables and chairs, the food tables, the racetrack, and the supplies. Others manage the betting; coordinate the racing, and most importantly the cooking and serving. All do so with immense appreciation to the community for the unyielding support they give to our council, not only in this event, but in so many others.

In addition to giving insight to the fun, spirit, and interest we enjoy hosting our Night at the Races, we hope this article might spark curiosity for other councils around the state to sponsor their own fund-raising efforts and thereby perhaps also boost their member recruitment.



The 120th Annual Convention

The 120th Annual Convention of the Knights of Columbus Florida State Council will be held May 24 – 26, 2024 at Hyatt Regency Orlando, 9801 International Drive, Orlando, Florida 32819 USA.

The Florida State Council By-Laws require that each Subordinate Council elect two (2) Delegates and two (2) Alternate Delegates not earlier than the first meeting in January 2024, nor later than the first regular business meeting in March 2024. The first Delegate should be the current Grand Knight, and the second Delegate should be a Past Grand Knight of the Council. If a Council has no Past Grand Knight, a Third-Degree Member in good standing may be a Delegate.

The two (2) Alternate Delegates (one for the Grand Knight and one for the Past Grand Knight) must each be a Third-Degree member in good standing and must also be elected. Alternate Delegates are not required to be Past Grand Knights. Please note that Councils must be in good standing with the Supreme Council and State Council in order to send Delegates to the State Convention. That means that both Supreme and State per capita payments are up-to-date!

Upon completion of the election of Delegates, the Council Financial Secretary will complete the online Election of Delegates Form by logging into the Florida State Council Website at www.floridakofc.org, going to the Council's Division Management page, and clicking on the Election of Delegates button. Only the Council Financial Secretary may enter this information on the website. In order to access the State Convention Section of the State Website, the user must be registered on the website. The website is expected to be available for completion of Election of Delegates forms on January 15, 2024.

Entering the Election of Delegates form does NOT register the Delegates; it just authorizes which individuals may register as Delegates. Each Delegate or other member attending the State Convention must individually register on

the State website. The website will not recognize any Council Member attempting to register as a Delegate for the State Convention until the Financial Secretary has completed the Council's Election of Delegates Form. The Financial Secretary is urged to complete the Council's Election of Delegates Form as soon as possible after the date of the election, but not later than March 31, 2024. Once the form is completed, an email should be sent by the system to each Delegate and Alternate on the Election of Delegates form. *If a Council is NOT planning to attend the State Convention, the Election of Delegates Form must still be completed with the check box at the bottom of the form marked indicating that your Council will NOT be represented.*

The Financial Secretary's online report of the Election of Delegates is an official communication of your Council and the Financial Secretary's registration and reporting using the State Website constitutes the official SEAL affixed thereto. After the Financial Secretary has completed the Council's Election of Delegates Form on the State Website, he should notify the Council's Delegates as soon as possible that they can now register for the State Convention.

Worthy Grand Knight, your prompt attention to this matter is extremely important. Please ensure that the online Election of Delegates Form is completed before March 31, 2024. If you, the Council Financial Secretary or any member of your Council have difficulty registering on the State Website or navigating to the State Convention Registration section, please contact the Convention Registration Chairman, Richard Gallant, at ConventionRegistration@floridakofc.org 561-707-5973, or the State Warden, Ed Sleyzak, StateWarden@floridakofc.org, 813-416-4317.

Please read the enclosed State Warden's Letter for additional information about our 120th Annual Convention.

Finally, please note that, as we have done in the past several years, the Caucuses to nominate and elect Delegates to the Supreme Convention will be done electronically before the State Convention, during the period May 1 – May 22, 2024. This year, the Supreme Convention will take place in Quebec City, Canada, which means US attendees will need passports. The Expiration Date on passports can be no less than six months from the last day of travel. So, if a Supreme Convention attendee will depart Canada on August 8, 2024 (the

last day of the convention), the Expiration Date on their passport can be no earlier than February 8, 2025. Any potential Delegate to the Supreme Convention should plan accordingly and get or update their passport if they need to do so waiting until after the Caucus elections will be too late.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to seeing this task completed.

Fraternally,
Rick Hughes, State Deputy

This letter supplements the letter of instruction from the State Deputy on the 2024 State Convention.

Delegate Registration

In preparation for the 120th State Convention of the Florida State Council, to be held May 24-26, 2024, please read all the instructions in the letter from our Worthy State Deputy Rick Hughes before you attempt to register for the State Convention. In it, he explains the process for electing Council Delegates to the 120th State Convention, and your Council Financial Secretary's electronic submission of the Election of Delegates Form with the State. *This form must be completed before Council Delegates or other Council Members can register for the Convention and purchase Convention event tickets.* No Delegate will be able to register as a Delegate until the Financial Secretary completes this task. Your Council's Delegate registration is the basis for your Council's participation in the State Convention. Please be sure your elected Delegates understand and follow all these instructions. The Convention Registration page on the State website repeats these instructions.

The Convention Badge and Credentials for the Council Delegates will be held by the State Council until the attending Council Delegates pick them up at the State Convention during the registration sign-in process – they will not be mailed. To obtain Convention Badge and Credentials, each Delegate and Attendee must present the Registration and

Credentials Committee a Government-issued photo ID and a valid 3rd Degree Travel Card that is signed.

Hotel – Meals – Banquet Reservations

It is the responsibility of the Council Financial Secretary – after he has completed the Election of Delegates Form – to inform the Council Delegates, or Alternate Delegates, that they are able to register for the State Convention. It is the responsibility of each Council Delegate, or Alternate Delegate, to register himself, as well as his spouse and/or guests, using the Convention Registration Form on the State Website. *Please note that Alternate Delegates should NOT register as a Delegate unless they have confirmed that the primary Delegate will not be attending the Convention.*

Council Delegates should log in to the Florida State Council Website at www.floridakofc.org and click on the Convention Registration button underneath Options on the dashboard to complete the State Convention registration process and purchase event tickets. *(Note: The Delegate/Alternate Delegate must be a registered user of the State Website to access this information.)* Other information on the State Convention, including information on hotel reservations, Convention Committee assignments, dress codes, etc., can be found by clicking on the State Meeting tab near the top and then clicking 2024 State Convention.. *Council Members are encouraged to visit the State Convention Section of the State Website often for new and updated information about the event.* Please ensure that your Delegates receive this

information and complete website registration and hotel reservations promptly. NO ADDITIONAL MAILINGS WILL BE FORTHCOMING. ALL FURTHER MATERIALS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR FROM THE WEBSITE.

The State Convention registration site is expected to open on January 15, 2024. *All registrations and payments for the State Convention must be completed by Sunday, May 1, 2024.*

- **Hotel Reservations:** Information on making hotel reservations at the Hyatt Regency Orlando can be found on the State website. You must use the link provided, or call the number indicated and use the listed group code, in order to get Knights of Columbus rates. **THE DEADLINE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS IS MAY 1, 2024.** Reserve your rooms early, as the Florida State Council does not guarantee room availability once the block of rooms has been filled.

- **Event and Meal Order Registration:** When registering for the State Convention, each attendee will be able register and pay for events, such as the State Banquet and Ladies Luncheon, for themselves and guests. The events that are presented to you will depend on your registration status—Delegate, District Deputy, Regional Administrator, State Officer, State Executive Board, Clergy, State Staff, General Agent, Field Agent, and/or Attendee. Delegates, District Deputies, and State Council staff will receive one pre-paid registration for the Saturday Banquet Ticket and one pre-paid Registration Packet. *The costs will for each of these will automatically be deducted from the per diem and mileage allowance (see below.)* The Saturday Banquet is considered an official function of the State Convention. Should a Delegate, District Deputy, or member of the State Staff decide not to attend the Banquet, the cost will still be deducted from his per diem and mileage allowance.

Additional tickets for Convention events (Saturday Banquet and/or Ladies Luncheon) are available for purchase for spouses and guests at the time of registration. Purchases are made with an online payment by PayPal or credit card at the time of registration. Any online payment for meals

and registration for must be completed at time of electronic registration. Check the State Convention Section of the State Website for acceptable forms of payment. **ABSOLUTELY NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE CONVENTION.**

We hope to have a special event for any children that will be accompanying members. More information will be distributed via email as it becomes available.

- **Saturday Banquet Seating:** After completing registration and payment for any balance due, registrants will be given the opportunity to choose a table for themselves and their guests for the Saturday Banquet.

- **Per Diem and Mileage:** A per diem of \$50.00 per day and MILEAGE of \$0.25 per mile for fifty (50) miles or more will be paid to each Delegate, District Deputy, and State Staff PROVIDING he answers each roll call and is not absent for more than two hours during any business session. A maximum of two days per diem will be paid, unless the member is traveling more than 250 miles one-way, in which case an extra day per diem will be authorized. Mileage is calculated between the member's home Council and the Queen of the Universe Basilica in Orlando. As noted above, the costs of registration, Saturday Banquet, and Saturday Breakfast will be deducted from the final per diem and travel allowance paid out.

If you experience any difficulty in registration or processing payment, please contact Richard Gallant, State Webmaster, Registration at (561) 707-5973 or ConventionRegistraton@floridakofc.org.

If you have any questions regarding the process, please contact a Registration Committeeman in your area for assistance or you may contact me directly. Let's make sure that each member and his family attending the Convention has a most enjoyable and memorable experience during the 120th State Convention. May God bless each of you and your family.

Fraternally,
Ed Sleyzak, State Warden



**Knights of
Columbus®**
**Florida
State Council**



January 15, 2024

Re: 2024 Florida State Council Convention Advertising and Sponsorship Solicitations

Worthy State Officers, Directors, Chairmen, Regional Directors, District Deputies, Grand Knights, General Agents and Brother Knights,

As you may already know, the 120th Florida State Convention will take place May 24-26, 2024 at the Hyatt Regency Orlando.

The Florida State Council requests every Brother Knight be involved with the 2024 Knights of Columbus Florida State Council Convention Advertising and Sponsorship solicitation effort.

It is imperative that we act now and submit the appropriate forms for Convention Ad submissions. **Deadline is May 1st, 2024.**

All District Deputies are respectfully requested to place a \$500 full page ad in the Program Book. This is accomplished by soliciting each of your Councils and Assemblies for their proportional share. In addition, all Brother Knights, especially our State, Regional, and District Leadership, are requested to help find commercial and business advertising for the Program Book as well as key sponsorships for the State Convention.

DISTRICT AD PROCEDURE:

- DDs - Fill out the Program Ad order form and return to Weldon O. Watkins III with a check made payable to: **Florida State Council**
- Email a separate DD Word document using Arial 12 font with your District Council & Assembly information in the following format:
 - Council # and name
 - GK name
 - FS name
 - Chaplain name

Same information is needed for Assemblies and Columbiettes.

MAIL TO:

Weldon O. Watkins III
C/O FSC Knights of Columbus
4783 NW 45th Ct
Ocala FL 34482

Request that Regional Directors assist in stressing the urgency to get these forms in early and with payment.

ADVERTISING OBJECTIVE - offset convention costs and present a better convention experience offer to all attendees whether in-person or virtual.

Florida District Biennial Meeting

Worthy Faithful Navigators, I am pleased to provide you with information regarding the Florida District Biennial Meeting.

Biennial Meeting date and Location:

In accordance with Supreme Assembly By-Laws, Article V, Section 13, Paragraph "C" each District Master must conduct a Biennial Meeting during the months of March or April in the even number year of his term. Therefore, I have scheduled the Florida District Biennial Meeting for Saturday, March 23, 2024. The meeting is being hosted by Monsignor Bishop Assembly 0162, Orlando, Florida. The meeting location is; Monsignor Bishop Council # 2112 meeting hall, 5727 Cornelia Avenue, Orlando Florida 32807. The meeting will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. and should conclude approximately 3:30 p.m.

Election of Assembly Delegates:

A. Each Faithful Navigator by virtue of his authority is automatically a delegate to the Biennial Meeting.

B. Each assembly is entitled to one (1) additional delegate for every 100 members on the assembly roster.

C. Each delegate elected must also have an Alternate Delegate elected. The alternate should attend the Biennial Meeting in the absence of the elected delegate.

D. Election of delegates should be conducted during the assembly's February business meeting. The election results must be logged on the Delegate Election Form and attested by the Faithful Navigator and Faithful Comptroller and the Assembly Seal affix. The Delegate Election form MUST be forwarded to the District Master by March 16, 2024.

E. Each Assembly shall bear the cost of their representatives and delegates attending the District Biennial meeting.

Submission of Resolutions:

Assemblies wishing to submit resolutions for consideration and submission to the Supreme Assembly must submit such resolution to the Master by March 9, 2024. All resolutions must be signed by the Faithful Navigator and the Faithful Scribe and have the Assembly Seal affixed. Submission of three (3) copies is required. Resolution may be for changes to existing articles of the By-Laws, Supreme or District policies, new policies or procedures.

Any Sir Knight seeking consideration for the position of District Master must submit an Assembly's resolution of endorsement. Endorsement resolution is submitted in the same manner as described above.

Luncheon:

The Monsignor Bishop Council #2112 will be providing a luncheon for delegates and attendees who will be arriving early. Luncheon will be served beginning at 11:30 a.m until 1:00 p.m. A nominal luncheon fee will be charged.



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:

Region 1: Robert C. Guillery rag130@outlook.com

Region 2: invocation@floridakofc.org

Region 3: John O'Malley jomalley1@cfl.rr.com

Region 4: invocation@floridakofc.org

Region 5: invocation@floridakofc.org

Region 6: Armando Minutoli alminutoli146@gmail.com

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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Region 4 (Open)

Region 5 (Open)

Region 6 Armando Minutoli *alminutoli46@gmail.com*

Region 7 (Open)

Region 8 (Open)

Florida State Council Social Media

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

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



Knightline

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

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

COLUMBIA

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



DISCOVER
— THE —
Catholic
DIFFERENCE