

Heroes Of The Year



rguably the most popular event of the year, the Knights of Columbus St. Cloud/Kissimmee Council 6624 held its annual Heroes Night Social on February 15, 2023 at their council hall, where Brother Knights, families and friends show their support to the local law enforcement and first responders -- the Kissimmee Fire and Police Departments; the St. Cloud Fire Rescue and Police Departments; the Osceola County Sheriff

Department, Fire and Rescue, and Department of Corrections; and the local office of the Florida Highway Patrol.

"Tonight is really about letting our law enforcement and first responder communities know that we 100 percent support what you and your brothers and sisters do to keep us all safe",

said Brother Knight Joseph Martin, the Master of Ceremonies and Community Director. "We have your back and every week we pray for you."

Part of the ceremony is to recognize an officer, a firefighter, first responder, or team, chosen by his or her chief, as this year's Hero of the Year. All the chiefs admitted that this year the selection was even more difficult than ever. Deputy Chief Betty Holland from the Kissimmee Police Department added, "I want to thank Council 6624 for again

presenting us an opportunity to recognize our Officers, especially during this time of frequent attacks on our police forces. It means a lot to us, not just for our Heroes of the Year, but for all of us wearing a uniform."

The night was also special for two reasons. Firefighter/Paramedics Logan Smith and Sydney Sagel drove the Pink Heals firetruck to the hall. They were nominated for the Hero of the Year honors not only for their tremendous efforts as

representatives of public safety, but for their dedication to Pink Heals St. Cloud by raising funds to provide support to breast cancer survivors in the local community. At the end of the evening, Council 6624 presented a special award to Fire Chief James Walls, of the Kissimmee Fire Department, for

his continued support and service to the Knights of Columbus and the local community.

Most felt that this year's Heroes Night Social was one of the best yet. The background stories given by the respective Chiefs highlighted just a few of the ways they keep us safe -- by saving lives, preventing HAZMAT tragedies, and rushing in when most of us run the other way. Thank God for our Heroes.



We Can Do This!

By State Deputy Rob Urrutia

he numbers for membership just came out for February. Great job everyone as we succeeded Supreme's goal for the month. Please keep the locomotive going and let's finish the year off strong! But Membership is only one leg of the stool we need to make Circle of Honor. Our charitable giving and volunteering as well as the programs we participate in all count towards the goal. Like Thomas the Train says. I can do this! We can do this!

With this year's Supreme Convention being held in Orlando, wouldn't it be great to walk around the World Marriott and have all the delegates congratulate you on a job well done? This is an important year for us so let us finish strong. As we head into the Lentin season, a season of renewal, let's reach out to our brothers who have not attended a meeting or an event for some time and check on them. Invite them back or better yet just talk with them and let them know how much they are missed.

As we pray the Rosery at home, before mass, or at a meeting. Pray for our church community to bring us together as one family, one church.

Has your council participated in a Fraternal Benefits night? Ask your fraternal advisor to assist you in setting up the event. Remember, talk to your General Agent, or Council Financial Advisor, for assistance. They will be more than happy to assist you.

Do you know anyone who is looking for a job? I know 3 people who are looking for a few good men! Brian Lawandus, Sergio Urrutia, and Jim Spinelli. 3 of the best General Agents in the order are looking for a few good men. I have heard from a lot of councils that have mentioned that they haven't seen an agent. Well, this is your time to assist them. Please reach out to these fine young gentlemen and let them know you might have someone for them. They are looking for go getters, Self-motivators, and someone who can

speak in front of crowds or families. Please reach out to them if you know someone. Help them as they help us.

Has your council ordered the newest Vivat Jesus book from Supreme? What a perfect item to hand out to potential new members or to members



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we haven't seen in a while. During this Lentin season we have many aides to help us renew our faith. Let's us use Vivat Jesus as a tool to bring our councils and families closer together spiritually for the whole year.

Time is running out on the State Raffle program. Has your council participated? Ask your District Deputy or Grand Knight how you can participate.

Remember to register for the convention. Strength in Prayer!



A Holy Rhythm

By State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor

"Beloved: Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God." - 2 Tim 1: 8b-10

ne of the nice things about being an active member of the Knights of Columbus is that so many of the activities and practices of our Order are synched to the life of the Church. It helps a Knight and his family grow in holiness.

This is particularly true in Lent. Aside from serving in whatever year-round parish and community support efforts a Knight may, whether it's as an usher, lector, or extraordinary minister of the Eucharist at Mass, or at a food pantry or some other community outreach, seasonal needs arise. Fish Fries and other events call us to service of our brothers and sisters in Christ and keep us busy.

Amidst all that happens at this time of year, particularly in Florida when our "season" brings more people and higher demands in many areas, we can grow weary. Multiple demands that come our way can stretch and stress us. It's then that the above words of St. Paul to Timothy can help. If the endeavor is good and true and worthy, then God is behind it and will give us the strength to accomplish it.

Early in Lent some of the readings at Mass included sections of commandments interspersed with "I am the Lord." God didn't do that for Himself. He did it for us. It was a reminder that God should always be the starting point of

who we are and what we do. When our efforts are centered in Christ, the extra sacrifices are bearable, going the extra mile makes greater sense, and our limited human strength is bolstered by God.

As we move through these 40 days, we might get tired, but there will be reminders of coming Easter Joy that keep



State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor

us going. On the second Sunday of Lent the Church gives us the story of the Transfiguration, a mountaintop experience that was a glimpse into divine grandeur. It was a vision that Peter, James and John were told to keep to themselves until Jesus was raised from the dead.

In this season of extra stress and strain, God will provide moments that will reveal the light of Christ to us too. It may come in the form of a smile from someone we serve, an affirmation from a brother Knight or an embrace from a family member. In addition to receiving these holy signs, be God instrument by giving them as well. In this way we will all keep moving forward on our journey with Christ "with the strength that comes from God."

id 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.

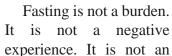
The Great Fast

By Former State Chaplain Reverend Salvatore Pignato

Fast or the Lenten Season. Fasting has been part of the Church since the time of the apostles and even further back than the apostles. If we go into the Old Testament, we see people fasting in good times and in bad times. The Hebrews fasted to implore God's help, for feasts, their needs, and going into battle.

God commanded His people to institute, as part of their faith, a day of forgiveness. This day of forgiveness is called in the Hebrew religion the Day of Atonement. The Day of Atonement was a vehicle for forgiveness of sin. Once a year, the High Priest would go behind the Veil of the Temple and pray for forgiveness for his people, Israel. Also, in the Torah, there is only one day that the people had to fast, and it was on this Day of Atonement. So, we can see that the apostles were well versed in fasting.

The apostles brought fasting with them into the New Church of Jesus Christ. Again, going into the Old Testament, fasting meant fasting all day long and only eating a meal at night. The apostles brought that custom of fasting into the new Church of Jesus. Over the centuries, the fasting rules have changed. But the reason for fasting is the same for us as it was for Israel and the apostles. And, that reason is "forgiveness." To prepare us for forgiveness, as in the Old Testament, food, a staple for life, was chosen as the vehicle for fasting and cleansing.





Former State Chaplain Rev. Salvatore Pignato

arduous task. It is a sign of hope. It is how we prepare ourselves, as St. Paul says, "to rise from under sin" with Jesus Christ at Easter and the Resurrection of Jesus. When we finally wash off the ashes of Ash Wednesday that reminds us of who we are, let us use the Fast to renew ourselves, commit ourselves to Jesus and His ministry and enjoy the cleansing of our souls by the abstinence from food that the Fast offers us and the cleansing Sacrament of Confession we experience during the Fast.



Our Lady of Hope Council 8086 in Port Orange recently recognized the winners of the annual Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest during an assembly at Father Lopez Catholic High School.

Winners were Kylie Sanders, Senior; Robert Ridgewood, Junior; Caroline Theriault, Sophomore; and Elijah Gabriel Alvarez, Freshman. The winners each received an award certificate and a check for \$50.

Making the presentation were Council 8086 Deputy Grand Knight Dr. Ernie Jackson and contest coordinator Mike Godbout.

Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid." (Gospel for March 5, Mt 17:7)

o not be afraid" — we read these words often in Scripture. Here, Jesus speaks to the apostles, awestruck at his Transfiguration. In a similar way, the angel told St. Joseph, "Do not be afraid" to take Mary, who had conceived the Christ Child, as his wife. The knowledge that God is with us should encourage and strengthen us. Sometimes, as with the apostles, we are overwhelmed by the mysteries of faith; at other times the challenges of living our faith in a secular culture seem daunting. Yet Christ continually empowers us as he calls us: "Rise, and do not be afraid."

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, in which we celebrate the feast of St. Joseph, I challenge you to watch the documentary St. Joseph: Our Spiritual Father (available for free at kofc.org/stjoseph), reflecting on St. Joseph's courage. Second, I challenge you to participate in the Faith in Action Pilgrim Icon program, which features an icon of St. Joseph.

Questions for Reflection:

What are you afraid of? Do your fears prevent you from fully following God's will in your life? How can you imitate the courage of St. Joseph?



Programs Director Kris Elliot, GK Joe Ricco and Bishop William Wack bless an ultrasound machine at Alpha Center., Pensacola, FL

Assemblies Receives Awards



t. John Paul II Fourth Degree Assembly 2932 of Palm Bay and Bishop Norbert M. Dorsey Assembly 3482 of Melbourne recently received the Star Assembly and Civic Award at Color Corps training hosted by Council 6624 in Kissimmee.

Florida District Master John O'Toole presented the award to SK Terry Galvin and SK Rich Passarella, the Faithful Navigators of the respective assemblies.

Training was presented by SK Dan McIntyre, District Marshal. Also in attendance was SK Bruce Winner, Vice Marshal.

Assembly 2932 had five members of its Color Corps in attendance. Faithful Navigator Terry Galvin, PGK, District Warden Pat Farrelly, PGK, PFN, SK Robert Allaire, PFN, SK Joe Widmayer, and Color Corps Commander Ron Hoenig, Faithful Comptroller.

"I would highly recommend this Corps Training to all new and experienced members of the Color Corps," Passarella said.

One week later, Florida District Executive Assistant John O'Malley re-presented the Star Assembly plaque and Civic Award certificate Charlie Hunton, the past Faithful Navigator who is now living out of state.



Polar Plunge Raises Funds

ir Knights Pedro Campoverde, Bobby Sullivan and Paul Kuracz of Monsignor artin B. Power Council 14573 in Melbourne survived the 68- degree water to complete this year's 2023 Special Olympic Polar Plunge. God was kind to us with warmer water than usual, but it was still cold to us transplanted Floridians!

With the help from the January 21st and 28th Mass Collections and webpage campaign, Team Money Splash was able to raise \$2,800 which is well above our goal of \$1,500.

"We can't thank you enough for an amazing year!" said Kuracz. "Please take time to thank Father John for his continued support."

Since its first Polar Plunge in 2020, the Council based at Ascension Catholic Church has raised \$7,052, helping Special Olympics Florida to serve almost 60,000 athletes with intellectual

disabilities (ID), providing sports programs, health screenings, and leadership training. Its mission is to ensure people with ID receive the respect and opportunities they deserve. Your gift of time, talent and treasure makes that possible and helps Special Olympics athletes live richer, fuller lives.





San Jose Council 12619 in Jacksonville, Florida holds an annual Ensure the Legacy golf tournament to help support San Jose Catholic School. This weekend the council presented the check to the school for \$234,000.00 to school Principal Jen Swain and Fr. Remek.

PGK Mike Hernandez and GK Dave Pendergraft presented the K.O.C. Supreme check for \$400.00 from the ASAP program to Nancy Basham at the Women's Help Center on University Blvd S. Supreme added to our council donation of \$2000.00 to them this year.

Central Laps for Life





nights from Councils throughout Central Florida combined their efforts for the 10th annual running of the Central Florida Laps4Life, held on Saturday, March 4, at Bishop Moore High School in Orlando.

It was indeed a success. As of this writing we are at 73,258.89 (pre match). While it sounds like a lot (and it is) we will still have money trickling in through the next few weeks, with approximately \$1,000 in donations pledged and forthcoming. In addition, we continue to reconcile the proceeds delivered on site, as well as the donations from the Councils who have graciously donated food plus all the proceeds from the sales at the event.

To date, the initiative has placed nearly 50 ultrasound machines in pregnancy crisis centers, almost half of the machines placed by the Florida State Council.

The Fourth Degree Color Corps began the event by presenting the Colors (a first for the event). SK Pat Cavanaugh led the singing the Star-Spangled Banner, and Father Robert Marquez (parochial vicar at Bishop Moore and rector of St. Charles Borromeo) gave the invocation. Afterward, Dr Erika Wikstrom, Principal of Bishop Moore High School, spoke.

There were more than 250 in attendance.

Many students and children participated in the field day activities. "Soccer Shots, Inc" was on hand and donated their program that trains children as young as two. Other games included soccer, football, water balloons toss and races for the older students. Father Richard Lyons and Annunciation Councils donated food and its preparation, along with the proceeds from sales of the food. "Scotchie Cakes" donated a cake which was a wonderful addition and went quickly, by the piece for donations.

As you've heard before, "A busy Knight is a happy Knight, and a happy Knight is a holy Knight." We had a great many holy and tired Knights following the event.

Thanks to everyone who stepped up and worked; our sponsors/donors; and to each and every Knight who raised funds for the event. By the way, we did a quick analysis today, and well over 80-percent of the monies raised was through the Internet. I know everyone thinks they need to donate or beg for alms. It is really not that complicated to use Internet.

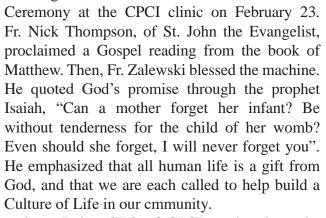
We look forward to seeing each of you at next year's event, which has already been scheduled for March 2, 2024.



Council Donates an Ultrasound Machine

aint John Council
11281 Knights
of Columbus
donated a Philips
ClearVue 850 Ultrasound
Machine to Community
Pregnancy Clinics, Inc.
(CPCI) in Naples, Florida.
The machine includes
3D/4D imaging modes
and color Doppler.

Rev. Fr. Tom Zalewski of St. John the Evangelist parish in Naples led the Blessing and Dedication



Scott Baier, CEO of CPCI, spoke about the importance of ultrasound technology and thanked St. John the Evangelist parish and the Knights of Columbus for donating the machine. CPCI operates pregnancy clinics in Naples, Fort Myers, Sarasota and Gainesville – as well as two mobile clinics.

The Knights of Columbus Council 11281 Grand Knight, Paul Curti, explained that the Council has held various fundraisers (including a Baby Bottle Drive and an outdoor Country Life Fest concert) to raise money for the Ultrasound machine and other donations to local Pro-Life organizations. Central

Florida Laps for Life provided additional funding, and the Supreme Knights of Columbus Council provides a dollar-for-dollar match for Ultrasound purchases.



The Knights of Columbus has donated over 1,600 Ultrasound machines to pregnancy resource centers over the past 15 years.

Leona and Tony Hernandez, members of St. John the Evangelist parish, volunteered to help with the Ultrasound machine demonstration. The CPCI staff and the 25 attendees at the Dedication Ceremony were extremely impressed with the clear and powerful images of their preborn child.



2023 State Convention General Information

he 119th Annual Meeting of the Florida State Council, otherwise known as the 2023 State Convention, will be held May 26-28, 2023 at the Hyatt Regency Orlando, 9801 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819.

Key Items for the preparation and conduct of this State Convention are as follows:

- **Agenda**: The Convention Agenda will be posted at this link when finalized.
- Election of State Convention Delegates: Each Council must conduct an Election of its Delegates to the State Convention after January 1, 2023 but before March 31, 2023, and Council Financial Secretaries must enter the election results through Division Management on the State website by April 1, 2023. Click this link for more information.
- Registration: Each person attending the Convention must individually register and, if applicable, pay the appropriate fees. Please note that Financial Secretaries cannot register their Council's Delegates--each Delegate (and all other attendees) must register himself. However, Delegates will not be able to self-register until Financial Secretaries enter Delegate information on the website through the Election of Delegates capability. Click here for more information.
- **Hotel**: Information on hotel reservations can be found at this link.
- **Resolutions**: Information on the submission of resolutions by Councils can be found at this link.
- State Awards Forms and Instructions. Instructions for State Awards, as well as links to all of the required 2022 State Awards Forms, can be found at this link.
- Program Advertisements and Sponsorships: Each Council is requested to contribute to a District Ad for the State Convention Program Book. Also, we are soliciting Business Advertising and Sponsorships. Click here for more information.

- Elections and Electronic Voting: Supreme Convention Delegates will be nominated and elected through four Caucuses. Nominations and elections will be conducted electronically before the State Convention through the ElectionBuddy election service. All other elections will take place in person at the State Convention site; there will be no remote Delegate voting. However, in the case of a contested election, we will again use the ElectionBuddy election service, so all Delegates should have their smartphones on hand. More information will be posted at this link.
- Convention Committees. State Convention Committees are essential for the planning an execution of the State Convention. Most of these committees will fall under the State Warden. District Deputies, Regional Administrators, and State staff should check this link for Committee assignments.
- Convention Rules and Regulations. Click here for the 2023 State Convention Rules and Regulations.
- **Dress Code**. <u>Click here</u> for the Dress Code for attendees.
- **Compensation.** Information on Compensation for Convention attendees can be found here.





You are invited to join our webinar featuring Jim Effner, who specializes in financial services and has been helping thousands of families with financial planning.

April 26, 2023

7:30 PM EST

Date

Time

https://tinyurl.com/KofCEffnerApril26



RSVP

No purchase is necessary. This event is for informational purposes only and does not constitute financial, tax or legal advice. Knights of Columbus, One Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510

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Knights of Columbus FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL



FIRST PRIZE

\$25,000

2nd Prize: \$15,000

(3) 3rd Prizes - \$5,000

Raffle Raffle

Tickets are \$5

Proceeds will benefit
The Florida Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc.

Drawing will be May 27, 2023

For Tickets, further details, or questions, please see a Knight or contact John Gearon III at 941-320-4745 or Johngearon@yahoo.com

www.floridakofc.org

!!!69th ANNUAL FLORIDA STATE BOWLING TOURNAMENT!!!







PRESENTED BY

Knights of Columbus – Florida State Council Bowling Association

<u>Singles and Doubles: Saturday, April 22, 2023</u>

Team (4-Person): Sunday, April 23, 2023

Proceeds to benefit: Special Olympics Florida State Bowling Competition

USBC Sanctioned - Handicap 90% of 230. Open to all KofC members & pledges, female family and significant others. For new bowlers (males) enter at 145 average; new (females) enter at 130 average.

1st Bowler to roll a 300 wins \$100!!!

Bowling at:

Boardwalk Bowl & Entertainment Center The Largest Bowling Center in the Southeast USA!!! 10749 East Colonial Drive, Orlando, FL 32817 Website: www.alomabowlingcenters.com/boardwalk

Lodging: Ask for "Knights of Columbus Bowling Tournament" group rate at the La Quinta, or click on hyperlink. All within 3 miles of the Boardwalk Bowl & Entertainment Center.

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3.0 miles from Boardwalk	1.3 miles from Boardwalk	2.5 miles from Boardwalk
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For additional information, please feel free to contact:

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Greg Davis - Director	gdavis1002@yahoo.com	772-579-5340	
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Additional information can be found on the State website (www.floridakofc.org) or on our Facebook page (Kofc Florida State Bowling)

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
 - o 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
 - o What is the event/activity about?
 - o Whom did it benefit?
 - o What was the result?
 - o 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
 - o 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
 - o 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
 - o filename "Cover Story"

Send all information:

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

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



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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 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









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.



