

# INVOCATION

MARCH 2024



# Knights On Bikes

# Council Joins Knights on Bikes



**F**lorida Knights on Bikes from across the state celebrated the opening of Daytona Beach's Bike Week with a special event to recognize the newest Kob council within the Orlando Diocese.

SK Leo Decker, Grand Knight of Father Downey Council 4934, requested a Knights on Bikes designation for his council, based at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in New Smyrna Beach. Council Warden SK Shane Harrington of Council 4934 was appointed the Council's Road Captain by the Orlando Diocese Chairman SK Miles Brooks.

The event began with Knights on Bikes officials SK Ernie Jackson, Assistant Diocesan Chairman, and SK Dave Vaden, the Council 8086 Council Road Captain, designating Council 4934 as an official Knights on Bikes Council. The Catholic riders had their bikes blessed by Council 4934 Chaplain Rev. Fr. Aldrin Nunes. Then, Harrington and SK Rick Polo of Council 8086 led the group ride to the New Smyrna Speedway in Samsula to watch the Sons of Speed racing.

Sons of Speed is a motorcycle race inspired by early 20th-century board-track racing, featuring stripped-down bikes starting with pre-1925

American V-Twin engines up to antique 1200cc bikes, traveling over 80 miles per hour. Numerous modifications are made to handlebars, exhaust, fenders, fuel, and oil tanks etc. OH, did I mention NO BRAKES!

After watching motorcycle racing, the Knights on Bikes Group attended Mass celebrated by Fr. Charlie Donovan at Sacred Heart, followed by dinner at the Lost Lagoon Restaurant, also in New Smyrna Beach.

SK George Lopez, KoB National Vice President, participated in the ride. He called this event the "Piston Ride" because it brought another Knights on Bikes Council into the Florida Knights on Bikes.

Knights on Bikes Florida is part of the International Knights of Columbus. The Knights on Bikes' goal is to spread the love of God and evangelize communities in Florida, all while sharing the passion of motorcycles with fellow brothers. They are committed to serving communities and fellow Knights through charitable and community events.

For more information about the Knights on Bikes see <https://www.konbfl.com/>.

# Your Lenten Journey

By State Deputy Richard Hughes

**B**rothers All, the last third of the Fraternal Year is a busy time for all of us. In the midst of our personal Lenten journeys, Councils are stepping up their services to their parishes, ramping up recruiting efforts, and trying to finish off administrative requirements for the Fraternal Year.

As I review reports from District Deputies, it simply amazes me how much Councils contribute to the well-being of their parishes and communities in Florida. I sincerely believe that our pastors work would be much more difficult without the help of the Knights of Columbus. Supporting our priests—and vocations to the priesthood—is a hallmark of the Order, and I thank each of you for what you are doing to assist our priests and vocations.

This is also a time of preparation for our State Convention May 24-26, 2024. The State Convention is a great time of fraternity, networking, and celebration of our collective accomplishments in this Fraternal Year. The State Officers, Directors, and Chairmen are working hard to make your experience as enjoyable and trouble-free as possible. You can help by making sure that administrative issues are completed well in advance:

-- By the end of March, Councils should have conducted their Election of Delegates to the State Convention, and Financial Secretaries should have entered the results on the State website.

-- Individual registration must be completed online by mid-May

-- Hotel reservations should be made as soon as possible, but no later than May 1.

Convention attendees that experience the most problems are the ones that have not properly registered for the Convention or Convention events before arriving. This is especially true for Ladies events—I cannot tell you how many times members have forgotten to register their wives

for the Saturday Ladies luncheon or the Saturday evening banquet and are disappointed when there is no availability for those events when they arrive. So, please be sure your registration is complete before you arrive!

One of the great parts of the Convention is the Saturday morning awards session, where we recognize the outstanding

accomplishments of the Councils in Florida. To do that, however, Councils need to help us by filling out the State Awards forms available online. We must have these forms by early April, so that we have time to evaluate the submissions and order the appropriate awards. You can't get recognized if you don't participate, so please—get those State Awards forms in!

I am also very happy to announce that Father Alberto Hernández, Rector and President of the St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, has agreed to be our guest speaker at the Saturday evening banquet!

I pray that your Lenten journey continues to be spiritually rewarding for you, and I wish each of you a joyous and Blessed Easter!



State Deputy  
Richard Hughes

## Important Dates for the State Convention

**March 31st:** Certification of Election of Delegates finalized.

**April 14th:** Resolutions Submission Deadline

**May 1st:** Registration for Convention and Hotel Reservations Deadline

# Remember That You Are Dust

*By State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor*

"To the extent that this Lent becomes a time of conversion, an anxious humanity will notice a burst of creativity, a flash of new hope. Allow me to repeat what I told the young people whom I met in Lisbon last summer: "Let us find the courage to see our world, not as being in its death throes but in a process of giving birth, not at the end but at the beginning of a great new chapter of history. We need courage to think like this" – Message of the Holy Father for Lent 2024

**W**hen you received ashes on Ash Wednesday, you might have heard the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." These words are jarring to the senses. What went through your head when those words were uttered? Me, dust? And that's what I'm returning to? It is a message that reminds us of our mortality, that compared to God we are indeed dust, and hopefully this all leads to a humility that sets the tone for Lenten repentance.

At the same time, we cannot forget that we are God's beloved, that the world was created for us. God sent his only begotten son as our savior and did not spare his life for our account. What a God we have, so far above us and almighty, and yet so intimate and accessible.

There's an old story among Jewish rabbis about a faithful Jew who every morning would write down on a piece of paper the words "I am but dust and ashes" and place the paper in his pocket.

Throughout the day he would take out the paper and read it; the words, spoken by Abraham in the Book of Genesis, served as a prayerful reminder of his unworthiness and humility before God.

One day he showed the paper to his rabbi. The rabbi was moved by his congregant's reverence.

But the rabbi took out a second piece of paper and wrote the words "For my sake, the universe was created." "Take these words as well and carry them too," the rabbi said. "Let there be balance in your life. Realize that of



*State Chaplain  
Very Rev. Bob Kantor*

yourself before God, you are nothing – but because you are created in God's image, out of love, you possess the greatest dignity imaginable: you are a child of God."

May we find in this Lenten desert experience a balance between those two truths in the spirituality we live. As we make our way through these days culminating in Holy Week and Easter at month's end, may we humble ourselves

and draw nearer to the God who embraces us in love. May these days draw us closer to Christ and more dedicated to His service as faithful Knights!



# Lead By Example

*By State Advocate Robert Rasch*

Over the last 4 ½ years while functioning as your State Advocate, I generally learn about most, if not all, of the events and actions that reflect the ugly, underbelly of the State Council. This includes councils admitting pedofiles because they didn't properly vet them, home corporation board of directors refusing to turn over the proceeds from the sale of a building to the council, fights over the smallest of issues, etc.

I have come to the conclusion that nearly all of these ugly situations result from selfishness, egos out of control, or stubbornness. None of these situations reflect the Knights of Columbus virtues of charity, unity or fraternity. None of the culprits demonstrate the virtue of humility, that our dear Lord taught and demonstrated throughout his life on earth.

Too often, our brother Knights fail to remember the words of St. Peter: "Friends, this world is not your home; so don't make yourselves cozy in it. Don't indulge your ego at the expense of your soul."

Each one of you reading this message is likely a leader in your council in one capacity

or another. I urge you to both exemplify and teach the virtue of humility.

My 95-year-old aunt used to exhort me: "Your job is to get all your family to heaven." I exhort each of you: "Your job is to get all your members and their families to heaven." You have no lesser calling.

We as Knights are charged with the responsibility to fight the evil in the world, most of which emanates from either greed, arrogance or egotism. All of these are a result of society's prevalent "me first" attitude. Don't be afraid to preach humility. Exemplify humility and lead by example. "The tongue in your mouth should speak less than the tongue in your shoes."

Vivat Jesus.



*State Advocate  
Robert Rasch*

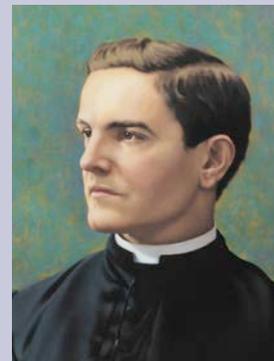
## Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael J. McGivney

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

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

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

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



# Council Honors First Responders



It takes a special person to serve as a first responder - to be willing to run towards an accident, inside a burning building, or respond when shots are fired, when everyone else is running away. To honor those individuals, Knights of Columbus St. Cloud/Kissimmee Council 6624 held its annual Heroes Night Social, inviting all the local agencies in Osceola County's law enforcement, corrections, and fire departments for a night of appreciation and a banquet of tasty entries and desserts.

"Tonight is our way of saying 'Thank you' for your dedication. It is our way of recognizing all your agencies and to show our appreciation for all that you do to keep us safe", said Joe Martin, the event's Master of Ceremonies and Council lector. The Heroes Night Social was held just days after the memorial service for Florida Highway Patrol trooper Zachary Fink, who was killed in the line of duty in Fort Pierce, and a tragic incident in Minnesota where three first responders lost their lives as a reminder of the dangers they face every day.

One of the highlights of the evening is when each Chief recognized his or her 2024 Hero of the Year and provided a short back story as to why this Hero was chosen. Here are a few examples: Osceola

County Corrections Officer Juan Rodriguez, while working in one of the Correction facilities high-risk units for the most violent inmates, noticed that a fellow officer was having a medical episode and in distress. Officer Rodriguez never hesitated and jumped into action, saving her life. Afterwards, the Hero responded, "I did what I was trained to do. I was happy to be there to save her life." Another example was from the St. Cloud Fire Department Paramedic/Firefighter Jaycius Golding. While on a medical call to save a child from drowning, the child needed to be airlifted to the hospital, but the mother wasn't wearing the correct shoes to fly with her son. Without hesitation, Paramedic Golding gave the mother his shoes to wear so she could accompany her son to the hospital.

At the end of the ceremony, Joe Martin invited everyone to come to this year's Hero Casino Night, scheduled for Saturday, April 27, at the Council 6624 headquarters at 2000 Neptune Rd, Kissimmee. All the proceeds go to the benevolent fund for first responders and their families during time of need. Then as a surprise, Grand Knight, Robert Consolo, acknowledged the birthday of Osceola County Sheriff, Marcos Lopez, who despite other plans for the evening, made time to attend the event.

# Central Laps for Life



**P**ushing a wheelchair carrying a portrait of Msgr. Edward J. Thompson, State Advocate Bob Rasch gave his friend a ceremonial lap around the Bishop Moore Catholic High School track in Orlando during the March 2 11th annual Central Florida Laps for Life.

“I’m taking my friend for a lap around the track,” SK Rasch said.

Msgr. “Easy Ed” Thompson passed away on Feb. 11, 2016. The award for the top fund-raising KofC Council is named in his honor.

SK Bob – spiritually joined by “Easy Ed” – was one of more than 300 participants who raised more than \$92,400 (the total continues to grow) to support Ultrasound and Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) in Central Florida and beyond. Fund raising continues through March 29.

“I’d like to thank all the councils who supported Central Florida Laps for Life,” said event chairman SK Jamie Taglia. “The mostly cloudy skies made for a slightly cooler morning than last year – a great day for families to gather and give witness to the defense of life. It was a wonderful celebration of life from the games with the kids to the face painting to the wonderful food prepared by the

CCW of St James and the hamburgers, hotdogs, empanadas, breakfast burritos and pulled pork sandwiches. There were almost 300 participants. We walked over 390 miles if we added all the laps together. This means that our cumulative walk would take us from Orlando to Marathon Key. Several pregnancy centers had exhibits where they presented information about their ministries.”

Deacon Tony Medina of St. Mary Magdeline set the tone for the event when he explained in his invocation that billions of dollars were being spent in attempts to find life on Mars and farther out in the galaxy.

“You don’t need a Hubble Telescope when you can easily find new life using an ultrasound machine.”

In all, 23 teams signed up for the event, including 16 KofC councils. Leading the list was Incarnation #16236, raising \$20,806. Second, with \$16,745, were donations in Easy Ed’s honor, with Father Richard J. Lyons Council 5357 third with \$12,724. Councils are asked to reach out to SK Taglia regarding allocating their funds to ultrasound or ASAP.

# Challenging The Demands Of The Season

*By Past Grand Knight and Trustee Brother Dominic Scaduto*

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BLESSED MOTHER COUNCIL 13338 AT EMMANUEL PARISH DELRAY BEACH SPONSORED A WELLNESS SEMINAR ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5th, 2023.

“Improving Emotional and Spiritual Aspects of Celebrating the Holidays.”

**T**his rather long title intended to cover what many people experience particularly during the holiday season and with the particular intention to provide some sense of ease in dealing with the stress and pressures that seem to arrive at this time of the year.

We were privileged to have two highly respected individuals: Dr. Elssy Oms, MD and Father Timothy Canaan, M.Div., M.A., to address this seminar to the many diverse parishioners who attended.

Dr. Oms is board certified in General Psychiatry and Child Adolescent Psychiatry and has previously served as the Vice Chair of Psychiatry at JFK North Medical Center in West Palm Beach.

Father Canaan has served the Diocese of Ogdensburg as Vocations Director, Director of Admissions of Wadhams Hall Seminary and as College and Director of Campus Ministry. He has preached numerous parish missions including at Emmanuel Parish where we are proud of his weekly participation at our weekly and Sunday masses.

Dr. Oms provided an introspective audio/video presentation of various topics dealing with the emotional feelings and ways to reduce stress usually experienced at this time of the year

In one of her topics, Dr. Oms explained that not all stressors are within our control, but some are; that putting too much on your plate may increase one’s stress load and limit the amount of time spent on self-care. One way she emphasized to help reduce stress may be to say “no” more often. This is especially true if you take on more than you

can handle because juggling many responsibilities, especially during this Christmas season, may leave you feeling overwhelmed. Indeed she went so far to say that “NO” is in fact a complete sentence requiring no further detail or explanation; that creating boundaries — especially with people who add to your stress levels — is a healthy way to protect your well-being.

She also went on to explain that exercise, a balanced diet, and more time out for meditation and prayer along with more time with family and friends could and would go a very long way to dealing with and reducing stress.

Even Father Canaan recounted to us that he himself went through some difficult and troubling periods in his life, But, in the telling us of his personal experiences and struggles he indeed provided emotional and spiritual encouragement to all of us listening to what he had encountered and how he overcame them particularly through prayer and the help of the Holy Spirit.

It was a much uplifting and rewarding seminar. Dr. Oms and Fr. Canaan indeed connected with each of us attending and their answers to questions were concise and on point. In addition to them both, much thanks also need go to our Faith Director, Armando Minutoli, who chaired the occasion and to our Council Treasurer, Peter Cavanaugh, who co-chaired along with Past Grand Knight and Membership Chairman Chuck Dolce who arranged for the refreshments.

All in all, the seminar was a huge success, close to one-hundred fifty knights and parishioners attended and all left with a strong feeling of composure, with a heightened sense of well-being and gratitude to what had been presented and with what each of those in attendance experienced. Brother Armando, who was exceedingly happy about the turn-out, said that they intend to promote similar events in the future that encourage physical and spiritual well-being for the knights and parishioners alike.

# Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

*By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori*

“Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.” (Gospel for March 17, Jn 12:26)

**N**ext to Our Lady, what greater model of faithful service to Jesus do we have than St. Joseph, the Lord’s own adoptive father? In humble obedience to God, Joseph protected Mary and Jesus under the most difficult of circumstances. Although he says not a word in Scripture, the “silent” Joseph speaks volumes through his faithful actions. He is a model of manhood and discipleship for all Knights today.

## **Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:**

This month — in which we celebrate the feast of St. Joseph — I challenge you to pray a novena or another prayerful devotion to this great saint.

## **Questions for Reflection:**

What virtues do you see in St. Joseph as you read the Gospel narratives about the nativity and early life of Jesus? How well do you practice these virtues in your own life, not only as a husband or father, but as a faithful disciple of Jesus? What specific, concrete things can you do to grow in these virtues in your day-to-day life?

## Council 5972 Honors Altar Servers

**M**iami’s John Adamson Council 5972 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 also 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 fund raiser, 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 meeting to give the council his support.



# Council Supports Local Shelter



**K**nights from Saint Brendan’s and Prince of Peace Assembly 2901 got together to provide 10 needed chairs to the Barracks of Hope Shelter in Holly Hill. Special thanks to Vince Colona and Jay Young for finding these chairs.

“Our Vets really needed these chairs for their dining room,” said SK Skip Keating, a long-time Veterans advocate and member of Assembly 2901. They can now enjoy “Pizza Special Nights” with proper seating. Also, thank you to Angel and Gladys, my friends, who helped me deliver the chairs.”

In another recent visit, Keating provided the shelter with two checks one from the military officers Association of America and the second was from the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Assembly in Ormond Beach Florida. The checks would be used to buy a portable medicine cabinet lockable to take care of the health needs of the 20 veterans who reside at the Barracks of Hope.

“We just want to give back to the community and take care of our Veterans,” Keating said.



# Assemblies Promote Suicide Awareness



**K**nights of Columbus Patriotic Fourth Degree Assemblies 1932, 2194, and 3297 will place 22 crosses a day for thirty days on St. Helen's Catholic Church, Vero Beach property bordering 20th Street to give us a visual idea about how significant the loss of veteran lives is due to suicide.

The participating Assemblies were: #1932 Father Charles D. Brady of Vero Beach; #2194 St. Williams of Sebastian; and #3297 Richard N. Allen of Vero Beach.

Since 9/11, more veterans have lost their lives to suicide than to combat. Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Assemblies wants to change that and has invited [22aday.org](http://22aday.org) out of Ypsilanti, Michigan, to execute a thirty-day long experience that helps us understand the significance of the veteran suicide problem and helps us understand what we can do to combat this unnecessary loss of lives.

Beginning at noon on February 14 and every day for 30 days, citizens are encouraged to come out any of these days to learn more about veteran suicide and what can be done to prevent it. Those who have lost a veteran to suicide may also come to the location to write that veteran's name on a

cross so that we will never forget. You may also add branch of service, date of death, or other information.

[22aday.org](http://22aday.org) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose objective is to reduce the prevalence of suicide among veterans by doing public awareness campaigns and by helping individuals discover



## INVOCATION

ways that they can impact veterans and potentially save a life. 22aday.org also provides veterans, caregivers and loved ones with connections to resources they need. Further information is available on their website: [www.22aday.org](http://www.22aday.org). Hotline number is (734) 726-4101. It is answered by real people, not a computer.

22 Crosses a Day relies strictly on donations. Three people drove their personal truck and hauled the equipment trailer from Michigan. We ask each Assembly to consider a donation towards their costs for gas, lodging and meals.



*On January 20th several knights from Council 12196 assembled outside of Pastor Paul Kochu's home to tear down and replace the walkway bridge that ran from his home to the rear of the church. Replacing this rickety structure was important because it had outlived its usefulness and was becoming an eye sore. This was a particularly daunting task, but the council knights stepped up to the plate, and not only replaced the old bridge, but replace it with a better one.*



# Supporting Operation Stand Down

The Knights of Columbus Fr. Gerard Powers Assembly 2882 recently donated \$1,000 to One Community Now to support Operation Stand Down 2024.

“The purpose of One Community Now’s Operation Stand Down is to support veterans that are struggling with homelessness or having difficulty transitioning back into civilian life by connecting them to services and resources to help them ‘get ahead’ in life,” stated Ms. Patti Templeton Director of One Community Now.

“A wide range of support services and resources are offered to Veterans and their immediate family through Operation Stand Down, including medical, dental, mental health & PTSD, housing, employment, education, legal, and personal-hygiene, to name a few,” explained James Marcotte, Coordinator of Veterans Support Services for the Assembly, who presented the donation to Ms. Templeton.

The donation was made possible by a successful Sweeties (Valentines Day) Dinner Dance fund raiser hosted by the Assembly and chaired by Clark Hill and his wife Doris. Operation Stand Down is a three-day event scheduled for April 19-20, 2024 by One Community Now, a non-profit



organization that provides assistance and support to homeless and at-risk veterans.

Further information about the services offered by One Community Now and Operation Stand Down may be obtained by contacting Ms. Patti Templeton at [OCNStandDown@gmail.com](mailto:OCNStandDown@gmail.com) or 727-849-4724.

## 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/> †

# Knights Take The Polar Plunge

*By Special Olympics Chairman Chris Berens*



**T**he 15th annual Special Olympics Polar Plunge at Sea World's Aquatica water park took place on February 10, and it was as great success. It was a beautiful morning to jump into the chilly 62 degree water with over 300 brave individuals showing their support for Special Olympics by dressing up and taking the plunge.

Among the swimmers were representatives from other organizations such as Wawa, various County Sheriffs' departments, Ron Jon Surf Shop, Fanatics, and local schools.

I was there to take the plunge along with our Immediate Past State Deputy Rob Urruita and his wife Lucille, along with Knights from Council 14585 from Kissimmee.

The Polar Plunge is a fun opportunity for individuals, companies and organizations to raise money for Special Olympics. This year's organizations raised over \$135,000. For next year's event, I am challenging my fellow Knights

to have 10 councils around Central Florida coordinate teams, fund raise and brave the chilly waters for a great cause.

There was a mass at St. Fautina in Orlando in support of Special Olympics.



# St. Jude Relic Tours Florida

**F**rom September 2023 to May 2024, the right arm of Saint Jude Thaddeus, venerated in Rome from ancient times, will be on pilgrimage in the United States, making stops in 100 cities. The relic toured the state of Florida for seven stops throughout late February and early March, with the KofC Fourth Degree assisting at veneration.

One of the Church's most beloved saints, Saint Jude is the one to whom people turn when they are desperate and have tried everything else. When things seem lost or unbearable—when they seem hopeless—Saint Jude is the one to whom people often turn. His tomb rests in St. Peter's Basilica, but centuries ago his arm was removed and placed in a wooden reliquary carved in the shape of a priestly arm imparting a blessing. This is the first time the relic has been out of Italy. The tour offers a unique opportunity for people to experience a connection with one of the most venerated figures in history.

Florida stops included the Queen of Peace, Gainesville, Feb. 22; Basilica of St. Paul, Daytona Beach, Feb. 23; St. Jude Parish, Boca Raton, Feb. 24; St. Peter Parish, Jupiter, Feb. 26; St. Elizabeth Seton, Naples, Feb. 27; St. Paul Catholic Church, Tampa, Feb. 28; Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle, St. Petersburg, Feb. 29; Blessed Trinity, Ocala,



March 1; and St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Jacksonville, March 2.

The tour visited the Basilica of St. Paul in Daytona Beach on Feb. 23, attracting the largest turnout in its 143-year history. Seven Sir Knights from four Assemblies stood guard as pilgrims waited two- to three-hours for veneration. The Basilica also installed high-definition cameras to livestream Friday evening's Mass, enabling more than 500 people to participate online.

"It is very humbling, but a privilege and an honor," Father Ken Gill, rector of the basilica, told Glenda Meekins of the Florida Catholic Media Staff. Father Gill received news of the basilica's selection as a host to the relic just after celebrating Mass on the feast day of St. Paul, Father Gill considers the basilica's participation as God's will stating "there are no coincidences in the spiritual life."

Companions of the Cross Father Carlos Martins, church custodian of the relic and director of Treasures of the Church, accompanied the relic throughout the tour and gave the homily during the evening Mass at the Basilica.

The relic is permanently displayed at the Dominican Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus located in St. Pius V Parish in Chicago.

# The IncrediBULLS Games



This past February, Knights from Council 14084 in Riverview, Florida volunteered their time in support of the IncrediBULLS games, an event for special needs students from schools around the Tampa area.

This year, there were 580 athletes from 15 middle and high schools competing in over 12 events during the one day event co-hosted by Bloomingdale (go BULLS) and Newsome High Schools.

Adding to the festivities were the Bloomingdale Marching Band drum line who helped greet all the participants with amazing cadences as participants entered the track and field area.

All of the athletes gave their best performance and thoroughly enjoyed the competition with their “buddies”, students from each school who chaperoned each athlete during the event.

The Knights were responsible for running events at the track during which they saw some impressive performances.

The IncrediBULLS games were the inspiration of former Council member Bill Smith, who tragically passed away several years ago. Bill helped create the games as a way to gather students from around the area for a special day of activities, games, celebration and all-around fun.





Ed Slott, “America’s IRA Expert,\*” presents  
**Retirement Savings and  
Distribution Planning**

**Ed Slott, CPA**

Television personality & best-selling author known for his unparalleled ability to turn advanced tax strategies into understandable, actionable and entertaining advice. Ed combines current research, in-depth expertise, and humor to teach viewers about the ins and outs of their retirements and distribution planning information.

\*Named “The Best” source for IRA advice by the Wall Street Journal.



**You are invited to join our free virtual webinar featuring Ed Slott. Ed specializes in the latest retirement strategies and opportunities for 2024.**

**Register today to reserve your spot.**

**Tuesday, April 2, 8:00pm EST**

<http://tinyurl.com/KofCApril2>



Scan here

Ed Slott, CPA is not affiliated with the Knights of Columbus and the opinions expressed in this presentation are solely those of the presenter and not necessarily those of Knights of Columbus. This event is for informational purposes only and does not constitute financial, tax or legal advice. Knights of Columbus, One Columbus Plaza, New Haven, 06510

**LIFE INSURANCE • DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE • LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ANNUITIES**



**Knights of  
Columbus®**

20008 2/24

*Since our founding, Knights of Columbus has been committed to helping provide financial security and stability to our members and their families. So, we’re proud and excited to bring Ed’s expertise to you and we can’t wait to see you there!*

<http://tinyurl.com/KofCApril2>

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:rag130@outlook.com)

Region 2: [invocation@floridakofc.org](mailto:invocation@floridakofc.org)

Region 3: John O'Malley [jomalley1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jomalley1@cfl.rr.com)

Region 4: [invocation@floridakofc.org](mailto:invocation@floridakofc.org)

Region 5: [invocation@floridakofc.org](mailto:invocation@floridakofc.org)

Region 6: Armando Minutoli [alminutoli146@gmail.com](mailto:alminutoli146@gmail.com)

For general information or questions email: [invocation@floridakofc.org](mailto: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](mailto:jclark1@gmail.com).

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL  
MISSION STATEMENT

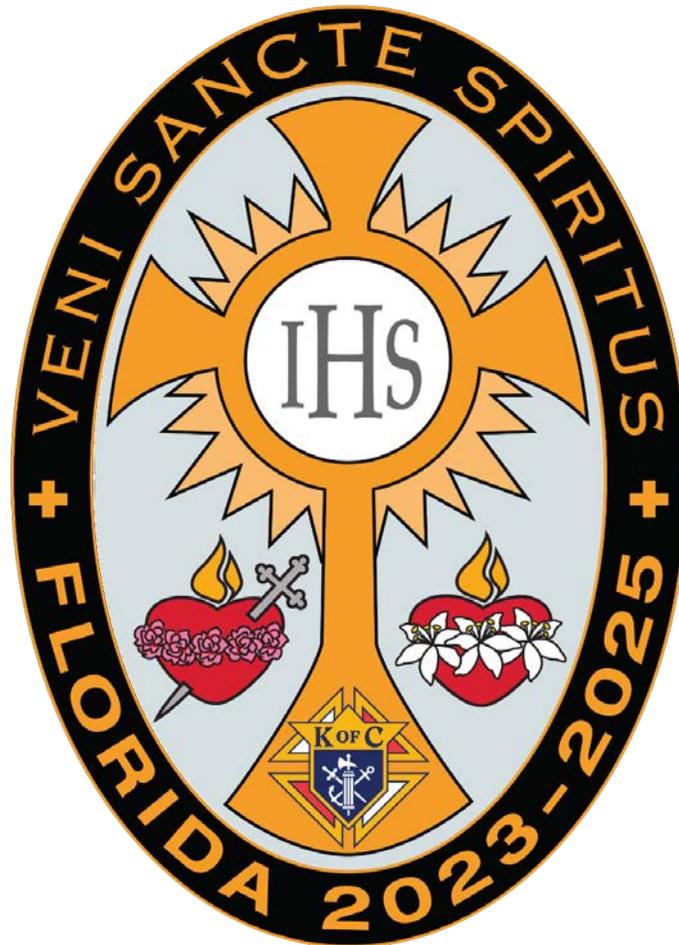
Evangelize and proclaim our faith, protect families, and perform works of charity.

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



## Florida State Council Officers

### STATE DEPUTY

**Richard Hughes**  
*rhughes14084@gmail.com*

### STATE CHAPLAIN

**Most Rev. Robert Kantor**  
*frbob@stagnesnaples.org*

### STATE SECRETARY

**Michael Gizewski**  
*mpgizewski@gmail.com*

### STATE TREASURER

**Joseph W. Coicou**  
*jcoicoukofc@gmail.com*

### STATE ADVOCATE

**Robert Rasch**  
*robertwraschlaw@gmail.com*

### STATE WARDEN

**Edward Sleyzak**  
*esleyzak@outlook.com*

### IMMEDIATE PAST STATE DEPUTY

**Robert Urrutia**  
*Robert.S.Urrutia84@gmail.com*

### STATE EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

**Marc Anderson**  
*marcstx19@gmail.com*

### STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

**Danny McIntyre**  
*danmci@aol.com*

### STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

**Kris Elliot**  
*kris.elliott@1980.usna.com*

### STATE CHARITIES DIRECTOR

**Richard E. Dahn Jr.**  
*rdahn32@gmail.com*

### STATE MARKETING DIRECTOR

**Weldon "2E" Watkins**  
*kofctuewowiii@gmail.com*

### PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

**John O'Malley**  
*jomalley1@cfl.com*

# INVOCATION

**Publisher- Ed Sleyzak** *esleyzak@outlook.com (Position open)*

**Scott Huetteman** - Technical & Layout Editor *Scott@engage360.us*

**Harry Rother** Photographer Website: [www.kofcfoto.website](http://www.kofcfoto.website)

## Regional PR Coordinators

Region 1 Bob Gualtieri *rag130@outlook.com*

Region 2 (Open)

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

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**