

INVOCATION

MAY 2023



**Knights
On Bikes**

Knights On Bikes Convention



Forty-five bikers from throughout the state of Florida rode into Leesburg on April 14-16 for the Knights on Bikes Florida Annual Convocation.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Council 13300 of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Wildwood hosted the event, led by incoming Grand Knight Mike Lepore. State Deputy SK Rob Urrutia was a special guest at the convocation.

The Knights met for a weekend of fellowship, riding, smoking cigars and a few meetings.

George Gutierrez, representing St. John XXIII Council 14390 of Miramar, was named new Knights on Bikes Florida President. Other officers announced at the Convocation included:

National Eastern Time Zone Vice President: George Lopez, Venice; State Vice President, Bob Knapik, Orlando; Diocese Chairman Miami, JC Rivera; Diocese Chairman Orlando, Miles Brookes; Diocese Chairman St. Augustine, Hector Vazquez; Diocese of Venice Chairman, Pete Battle.

The Knights took advantage of the winding roads in the Leesburg area for several rides. On Friday the early arrivals rode for 45-miles on farm roads, highlighted by a stop at Mystic Ice Cream in Fruitland Park for delicious homemade ice cream. Saturday afternoon's 75-mile ride included a stop at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, where they stopped for a rosary and a few cigars.

"We got drenched on both days on the ride back," said SK Lepore. "Fortunately, Father McGivney kept us safe."

"It was a lot of fun, spending time with my Brother Knights from all over the state," said State Secretary-Treasurer SK David Campos from Miami Lakes. "Our State Chaplain Father Bob [Kantor] calls us a 'moving billboard,' because we ride in packs with our bright yellow vests with the big KofC logo on the back."

A personal highlight for Campos was the installation of his son Ryan into the Knights on Bikes. Ryan is a 21-year-old student at the University of Florida and member of the college council.

"I am humbled and honored to have been elected as your new State Vice President," said SK Knapik. "It was a privilege to be your Orlando Diocese Chairman for the last couple of years," and I am very excited to pass the torch to Brother Miles Brookes! Please give





him all of the same support that you gave me during my time as Diocese Chairman. Also, thanks to Worthy outgoing President Stephen Bell for all of his leadership and service over the last several years as President. And thanks to Worthy outgoing State Vice President George Lopez for all of your service and efforts as well!"

The Knights on Bikes Florida's big event is the Ride for Vocations on May 25, followed by the Florida KofC State Convention in Orlando on May 26-28.

The Knights on Bikes Florida are already making places for next year's Convocation, set for Panama City on April 26-28.

Prince of Peace Council 8791 of Ormond Beach recently held its sixth blood drive of the Fraternal Year, with a four-and-a-half hour visit by the Big Red Bus.

Giving blood with "One Blood" is safe and controlled and includes a Wellness Checkup. One Blood also offered a \$20 eGift Card and a short sleeve "Giving Your Best Life" T-Shirt in April in response to the critical need for blood in our area.

During the last Fraternal Year, Council 8791 gave 86 pints of blood as part of its "Faith in Action" Program. This year's goal is 100 pints. The Council started off this Fraternal Year "with a bang" in July contributing 16 pints of blood, followed up in September with 15 pints which was awesome, and hitting it out of the park in October with a whopping 18 pints. In January, the total was 26 pints of blood, the single greatest contribution in one day in the Council's history (as far as we know) and in March donated another 18 pints. This was a total of 93 pints

donated for the Fraternal Year leading up to the April visit.

Jim Morris is the Council Grand Knight, while Mark Leary is the Blood Drive Chair.



Finishing Strong

By State Deputy Rob Urrutia

As we enter May, and only 2 months left of the fraternal year. Let's take a look at what we accomplished and what we need to do to finish strong. These past few months all your hard work has paid off. Let's get working until the end.

We need to average 14 new members a day to accomplish our goal by the Convention. We will have an all-star degree team the Thursday before the convention starts. I think it would be nice for our guests to witness a very large degree that night that puts us over the top.

Once again, thank you for all your hard work these past few months but as our Membership

Director Danny McIntyre slogan with an added twist 1,2,3 Train is roaring down the Tracks. Hop on the train as we rumble to the finish line.

Supreme convention is right around the corner. Please visit our website to volunteer for the convention, www.floridakofc.org/2023-Supreme-Convention-Hospitality-Center, don't be left out.



State Deputy
Robert Urrutia



Knights of Columbus Florida State Council Hockey Challenge Chairman Jerry Poirier gives a few pointers to a participant during the recent Our Lady of Hope parish picnic in Port Orange. Our Lady of Hope Council 8086 hosted hockey, basketball free throw and soccer competition for local youth during the parish's first picnic since the pandemic. The Knights also provided cooking for the free event, which attracted 650 parishioners.

Mary's Month

By State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor

“I have chosen you out of the world.”

~John 15:19

(Gospel for May 13: Our Lady of Fatima)

For Catholics, May evokes happy memories of First Communions, May Crownings and the celebration of Our Lady of Fatima. It is Mary's month as well as the month in which we honor our mothers. In the Florida State Council, under the care of our patroness, Our Lady of Guadalupe, we conclude the month at our State Convention and honor the fallen on Memorial Day Weekend. For Floridians living where seasonal populations fluctuate, it's also the month we bid farewell to the last wave of snowbirds.

May is a special month for many reasons, but with so many ties to the Blessed Mother, it's a great time to ask for help from Mary, Queen of Knights! Our Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori's Monthly Challenge is to offer one decade of the rosary each day for Mary's motherly aid and help. Second, he challenges us to participate in the Faith in Action Rosary Program in our parishes.

The Rosary is a powerful prayer. I remember returning to the practice of praying it as a young businessman in upstate New York. As I began discerning a call to priesthood, my morning commute to work included the rosary. My First Communion rosary was once again in use. Praying it brought me peace and clarity about where God was calling me. Working in the field of radio broadcasting at the time, I went from channel surfing for entertainment and analyzing station programming decisions to a quieter approach to the morning drive. It fed my spirit, and the time behind the wheel became a welcome respite from the busyness of life. Ultimately, the prayer time led me closer to Christ in the priesthood.

You don't have to be called to a religious

vocation to enjoy the fruit of Mary's intercession through the Rosary. Try it yourself, if only a decade at a time, during your drives, or as you walk from the car to your destinations, whether they be offices, stores, restaurants, or church. The rosary's repetition can calm our spirits. After a while, praying it is as natural as breathing.

We become more open to God's plan for us, more accepting of God's will. Mary intercedes for our good. Jesus listens to his mother like a good son and answers our prayer. Mary, Queen of Knights, pray for us!



*State Chaplain
Very Rev. Bob Kantor*



The Beginning of a New Life

By Former State Chaplain Reverend Salvatore Pignato

When we look at the Old Testament, we see God gathering a people unto Himself through Abraham and then teaching them how to follow Him through Moses and the Ten Commandments given to him by God.

In the New Testament, we see God fulfilling His Promise to Adam and Eve of a Messiah. That Messiah, who was born of a Virgin and named Jesus, fulfilled that Promise of salvation to Adam and Eve and to the world by His Passion and Death. In the Resurrection of Jesus, as described in the New Testament, Jesus opened the Gates of Heaven to us and a "new way of life" in order to reach eternal life.

There are two events that we celebrate in May that describe the foundation of that new life. The first is the Ascension of Jesus. Jesus ascends to the Right Hand of His Father and sits in Power with Him. As he ascends into Heaven, He says to His Apostles, "Go teach all nations." Thus, He now lays the foundation of this "new life." In laying down this foundation, He also tells His Apostles that, "I am with you all days until the end of the world." He lays down with this Promise of being with them a trust in His Apostles, that Jesus will continue to be the foundation and support for them in this "new life" that they will develop.

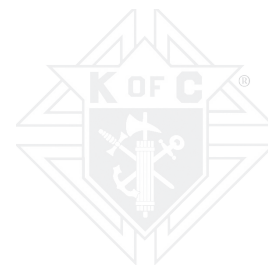
The second event we celebrate in May is Pentecost. We call this the birthday of the Church because, by the descent of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles received complete knowledge of Jesus, His mission, and their mission.

The Apostles went out to evangelize the people of God after Pentecost, baptizing them into the body of Christ, and building up a worshipping Church community. The centerpiece of the Church community they began to build, as chronicled in the Epistles, was the Eucharist, the Pearl and Crown of the Church of Jesus Christ, and the body of Christ.

We are the inheritors of this rich history of salvation and the founding of the Church. That ministry of founding and leaving the Church has been a continuing process for over two thousand years and is our "new life." You and I are in the middle of this ministry and "new life" today, and Jesus says to us, "Go teach all Nations". The Holy Spirit, given to the Apostles at Pentecost, has been given to us in baptism. As the Apostles, the Holy Spirit was given to them and us as a Divine Guide who protects and guides us in our ministry. Let us accept this gift of the Holy Spirit and baptismal mission of living this "new life" in the Church with joy, energy, determination and commitment.



Former State Chaplain
Rev. Salvatore Pignato



Relics of St. Faustyna

Corpus Christi Assembly 2810 in Flagler Beach celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday with a presentation entitled “Messages of Divine Mercy: A Program with Relics of St. Faustyna,” at Santa Maria del Mar Church.

This first in Florida program was presented by the Apostolate for Holy Relics, which featured Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, accompanying music, meditations from St. Faustyna’s Diary and veneration of holy relics.

Denise Serafini, Event Coordinator, gave a brief history of St. Faustyna Kowalska prior to beginning the program. The saint was born in Poland in 1905. She was the third of 10 children. She felt strong stirrings of a religious vocation at an early age. She later entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in 1925. She was privileged to be visited by Jesus Himself. Jesus made it known to her that he wanted her to tell the world of His ‘unfathomable’ Mercy.

Sr. Faustyna was instructed to write these interactions down. They were recorded in a diary that she titled “Divine Mercy in My Soul”. The Diary has been translated into more than 20 languages. On April 18, 1993 Pope John Paul II raised St. Faustina to the glory of the altar.

The program began with reflections from St. Faustyna’s Diary. Event Coordinator, Denise Serafini, read dialogue from the diary as the voice of St. Faustyna. Fr. Manny Lopez, Pastor and Assembly Faithful Friar, read the dialogue of Jesus.

Father Lopez, assisted by Deacon Stephen, opened the tabernacle and brought the host to the Monstrance for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Those in attendance prayed reverently to Jesus, truly present on the altar. A short time later, PFN Bryant Perszyk led the faithful in the praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

The more than 200 attendees were invited to venerate the religious relics present. The Relics of



St. Faustyna Kowalska collection included:

- A piece of the True Cross which was discovered by St. Helena
- A 2x4” piece of St. Faustyna’s veil
- A piece of St. Faustyna’s veil with bone imbedded
- Various materials used by St. Faustyna

Any Knights of Columbus Assembly (or Council) that would like to learn more about the relic program or to arrange a Relic Tour Program for their area should contact: Denise Serafini, Events Coordinator, at 860-496-0648. Email: denise@relictour.org, or visit the website, <https://relictour.org/>.



Gathering Together

By State Warden Joseph Coicou

Meetings for many people may not be considered fun or a better use of time when discussing important matters of an organization. Nevertheless, discussions and decisions must be made for the future of that organization. Lucky for us members, the Knights of Columbus is not an ordinary organization. It is a family guided by the spirit of our founder, Blessed & Fr. Michael J. McGivney, which we can call each other brother knights. We, as brother knights, must gather together for us and for the Florida jurisdiction that we serve under in this outstanding order.



Together, we show the glory of Christ as a unifying body. We all have our role in this excellent order with many different gifts. At this State Convention, we will see how everything works together in the Florida jurisdiction. Truly exemplify “unity.”

Our gathering together will help us to strengthen one another. Throughout the fraternal year, every brother knight, and council has challenges. But when we witness the great work we have done in the Florida jurisdiction as reported by our State Deputy or through the various award ceremonies, this can encourage us that the excellent work that we have done for faith, community, family, and the culture of life was not done in vain. Truly exemplifying “charity.”

When we meet with one another, we know we are not alone. We meet old and new brother knights to discuss our challenges in running a council for our charitable works and find new ways to

overcome them with those who have. We build current or new relationships, so we know we are never by ourselves and that other brother knights can be by our side—exemplifying fraternity.

And lastly, this state convention will help us to grow in our Catholic faith. Brother knights come to offer their work through the mass, eucharistic adoration, and prayers during these three days of the meeting. We can learn from each other how to live and walk the ways of our Lord from each of our examples as members of the Knights of Columbus. As it was written (Heb 10:24-25), “And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

See you all in Orlando in May 2023.

Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

“I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.” (Gospel for May 14, Jn 14:18)

Jesus keeps his promises to us. He does not leave us orphans. He appeared to the disciples several times after he rose from the dead. He gave us the Eucharist, his real presence, to nourish us until the end of time. He said he would return at his Second Coming. And there’s another way he did not leave us orphans: He gave us his own mother to be ours. Let us turn to the Blessed Mother often with our needs and prayers of intercession.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month: During this month of Mary, I challenge you to draw closer to Our Lady by offering one decade of the rosary each day for her motherly aid and help. Second, I challenge you to participate in the Faith in Action Rosary program in your parish.

Questions for Reflection:

Do you really think of Mary as your mother? How can you better seek out her help — as a mother — in all your needs and problems? Do you understand the power of the rosary and seek to honor your mother’s request to pray it regularly?

Clergy Recognition Mass



Council 8086 paid tribute to the priests and deacons of Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church parish at a Clergy Recognition Mass on April 30, Good Shepherd Sunday.

Grand Knight Roger Packard presented Pastor Father Matt Mello, Parochial Vicar Father Paul Dau and six deacons with special certificates of recognition following a reception at the parish hall following the Mass.

“On Good Shepard’s Day, it is with great dignity and honor that we recognize our Clergy, our spiritual directors, as they are so a vital part of our health in the body of Christ, his Church,”

Packard said.

The Knights had a very strong presence, filling all possible roles at the Mass. In addition to priests and deacons, Brother Knights served as Eucharistic Ministers; readers; altar servers; choir and cantor; music director and accompanist; Offertory gifts; audio-visual directors; and ushers. Two members of the parish-based Fourth Degree Assembly 2794 Color Corps led the processions entering and leaving the church in addition to presentation of the gifts. The council’s blue shirts were very visible in the congregation, with at least 58 Brother Knights in attendance.

Council Contributes to Miracle League



Father Downey Council 4934 of New Smyrna Beach recently donated \$2,000 in its continued effort to support the Miracle League of Volusia County.

Grand Knight Leo Decker was joined by a dozen Brother Knights and spouses from the Sacred Heart Catholic Church-based council at the ceremony.

“They have two teams in a disabled children’s league, aged up to around 40,” Decker said. “Parents get to see their children enjoying baseball and other various activities. Volunteers and parents assist the children hitting the ball and running the bases. This project has been very well received by our Knights and families.”

The Miracle League of Volusia County was formed in 2015 as a non-profit 501c3 corporation giving those with special needs an opportunity to play America’s favorite pastime. To further its goal of serving more than 13,000 school-aged children with varying exceptionalities in Volusia and Flagler counties, they built a \$250,000 rubberized baseball field that accommodates wheelchairs and walkers, as well as other assistive devices. The property, provided by the City of New Smyrna Beach, is located in the New Smyrna Beach Sports Complex on Turnbull Bay Road.



*SK Russell Benett of of **Bishop Thomas J. Grady Assembly 2901** enjoys a game of bingo with Navy Veteran Jennie Kern during the monthly KofC Veterans Bingo at the Emory Bennett VA Nursing Home in Daytona Beach. Games are hosted by Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Assemblies 2901 of Ormond Beach and 2794 of Port Orange on the first Thursday of every month at 10 a.m*

Catholic Cardinal Visits Niceville



Sunday, Jan 29, 2023 was a unique day at Christ Our Redeemer in Niceville, FL—the day a bishop and a cardinal came to town. Along with them also came visitors from Mississippi, Pensacola, and Alabama.

Christ Our Redeemer (COR) hosted the 42nd Annual Liturgical Celebration Commemorating Black History Month and the Archbishop of Washington D.C., Wilton Cardinal Gregory concelebrated Mass with Bishop William A Wack, Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee, and Fr. Bob Johnson, pastor.

This event is organized by The Catholic African American Cultural Awareness Group of Okaloosa County. The first celebration took place in 1982 at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Niceville but moved to St Mary's Church in Ft Walton Beach due to growing attendance. Last year, the celebration returned to Niceville at Christ Our Redeemer which can seat 600 comfortably. Over 300 people attended the Mass and we're over 350 views on the Facebook livestream.

The celebration began with a concert by the Eglin AFB Brotherhood Gospel Choir followed

by a Liturgical dance by the Anointed Angels of Grace Praise Dancers. Then, probably the most elaborate entrance procession you'll ever see in Niceville began the Liturgy. A joint Honor Guard of the Knights of Columbus (Assembly 3236) and Knights of Peter Claver (Assemblies 1&52), who wear traditional regalia, led off, followed by numerous Altar Servers, Deacons, Priests, Bishop Wack and Cardinal Gregory. Their Supreme Comptroller and past Supreme Knight also attended. After Mass, the parish hall was filled with people enjoying a complimentary dinner arranged by the organizers.

To assist the many visitors, COR Council 13527 directed parking, unfortunately in the rain. Although the two Knight honor guard organizations do things somewhat differently, they managed to blend in seamlessly. Like Jesus prayed, "that all my followers be one."

reading online? View livestream: <https://www.facebook.com/CORCatholic> [Click here](#) to view more pictures

Seminary Holds Pig Roast

Saint John Vianney College Seminary council 17907, held a pig roast followed by an annual Easter Concert at St. Raphael Chapel in the grounds of the seminary earlier this month.

The event was open to the public, which was given a tour of the grounds if requested. The pig roast was accompanied by two side dishes and a drink and helped raise funds for the council and the seminary.

The concert followed the dinner event with members of the council who belong to the Seminary Choir, delighting all in attendance.

Council 10055 San Marcelino Champagnat joined forces with the seminary council, both in District 81 and there was a recognition and round of applause for the Knights sponsoring the roast. Members of both councils spoke with the men in attendance who are not knights and we await their response to join the order

El consejo del Seminario de Saint John Vianney College 17907, llevó a cabo un asado de lechón seguido por el Concierto de Pascua anual en la Capilla de St. Raphael en los terrenos del seminario a principios de este mes.

El evento estuvo abierto al público al que se dio un recorrido por los terrenos si así lo solicitaba. El lechón fue acompañado de dos guarniciones y una bebida y ayudó a recaudar fondos para el consejo y el seminario.

El concierto siguió a la cena con miembros del consejo que pertenecen al Coro del Seminario, deleitando a todos los asistentes.

El Consejo 10055 San Marcelino Champagnat se unió al consejo del seminario, ambos en el Distrito 81 y hubo un reconocimiento y aplausos para los Caballeros que auspiciaron el asado. Los miembros de ambos consejos hablaron con los hombres presentes que no son caballeros y esperamos su respuesta para unirse a nuestra orden

Knights Honor St. Joseph Icon

Our Lady Queen of Peace Knights of Columbus Council 11680 hosted the St. Joseph Pilgrim Icon from April 18-21, 2023 ending with a Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and Icon Prayer Service. The integrating of all three events was the idea of Our Lady Queen of Peace's Parochial Vicar, Fr. Saji James, MST and supported by Grand Knight William Shustowski, Jr.

"This manner of honoring and celebrating St. Joseph as part of the Mass and Eucharistic Adoration helped emphasize the need to give thanks for St. Joseph's example of being a good father and a loyal husband, as well as to seek his intercession as we Knights strive to imitate his quiet strength, integrity and fidelity, as urged by our Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly," stated William Shustowski, Jr.

Many parishioners and Knights visited the Icon displayed in Our Lady Queen of Peace Church



and reflected on the life of St. Joseph during the four-days the Icon was in residence. The Icon's residency ended on Friday, April 21st with over 30 parishioners and Knights attending the closing Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and Prayer Hour in honor of St. Joseph.

Adopt a Sister Program

The idea for the Adopt a Sister program was born in Tampa out of great need. With many of the Salesian Sisters aging, the reality of retirement and its increasing care costs became an urgent issue.

In 1991, Mr. Fortune Bosco, upon hearing of the plight of the Sisters, suggested that it was time to “adopt our Sisters” intending people to take the Sisters into their hearts, not their homes. Friendships were born between people and Sisters. People would simply send a donation for their “adoption” and have a friendship with prayers, letters, emails, etc for a year with a Sister.

The Adopt a Sister program had a spurt of growth, and in 1999, Sr. Mary received word that the program be featured on the national news program “20/20”. The showing of 20/20 related the power of prayer and the power of good media coverage and literally by the next day, bushels of mail arrived. This gave the Sisters the ability to pay for construction of a retirement home in NJ for the elderly Sisters. To see the 20/20 TV segment, click here: www.salesiansisters.org/donation.



Today, the funds are needed more than ever for the upkeep of the retirement home and the care of the elderly Sisters. As for the program, the Sisters’ hearts are full of love for their extended family. They pray every day for their adopters’ needs and requests, and they are delighted to hear from them. Bonds between many of the adopters and Sisters are formed, thus making it truly one big family.

A starting donation of \$160 enrolls you or someone you love in the Adopt a Sister program for one year. Your gift helps provide for the Sisters’ retirement needs. In gratitude for your faith and friendship, your “adopted” Sister will pray for you each day for a year. Adoptees receive a picture and profile of their adopted Sister as well as a “Certificate of Adoption.” People from all faiths build great relationships with their adopted Sisters.

There are several Knights of Columbus Councils and Columbiette Councils from around the State of Florida as well as other states taking part in the Adopt a Sister program. We hope you will consider asking all Councils in the State of Florida to take part in this worthwhile program. It will bring much joy to the Councils as it does to the Sisters!

For more information, contact Sr. Mary Rinaldi: toll-free: (877) Our-Nuns; that is (877)687-6867.





Adopt a Sister

For office use only:

Yes! I would like to Adopt a Salesian Sister!

Enclosed is my yearly gift of (check one) \$260 \$160 \$500 Other _____

Enclosed is my quarterly gift of (check one) \$65 \$40 \$125 Other _____

I will make my donation via:

- Check (Please make payable to the Salesian Sisters)
- Money Order Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____
Date: _____

I heard about this program from: _____
 I already know a Sister. I would like to adopt: _____
 I would like you to choose a Sister for me.

Ms./Mr./Mrs. _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____ E-mail address: _____
Birthdate: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

This adoption is a gift. (Please write the recipients information below.)
Ms./Mr./Mrs. _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____ E-mail address: _____
Birthdate: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

Please mail this form to:
Sr. Mary Rinaldi, FMA
659 Belmont Avenue
North Haledon, NJ 07508

The Missionary Society of the Salesian Sisters is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.
Funds can be matched by any donor affiliated with a corporation providing matching funds.

Habitat for Humanity Partnership



This month's project was managed by Brother Knight Michael Mahan, Habitat for Humanity Chairman. This represented the 4th Habitat project in 2023 and cumulatively the 76th monthly project in a row since January 2017.

On Thursday, April 27th, 2023, 9 Knights of Saints Cosmas & Damian Council #13341 responded to the triangle property across the street from the Habitat Depot in Palmetto and assisted with landscaping at two of the four homes currently under construction.

The project team completed the following tasks:

1. Planted two (2) trees (one tree per front yard).
2. Installed black plastic landscaping edging to form front yard shrub beds at each house.
3. Installed black fiber weed screening in each shrub bed.
4. Planted approximately three dozen assorted bushes/ shrubs in shrub beds.
5. Wheelbarrowed mulch from opposite end of construction site and installed same in shrub beds after completing plantings.

6. Raked and graded both front yards to prepare for sod planting at a future date.

7. Installed post office box posts at both houses.

8. Placed two (2) yards of crushed shell around the outside perimeter of one of the houses.

Cleaned up all construction debris at both homesites. Discarded same in Depot dumpster. Cleaned and stored all garden tools and equipment in Depot



Star Council Award

The Star Council Award recognizes outstanding achievement in membership, insurance and programming. In order to achieve the Star Council Award, a council must earn the Father McGivney, Founders', and Columbian Awards. Additionally, the council must submit both the [Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity](#) (#1728) and [Service Program Personnel Report](#) (#365). In the United States and Canada councils must also be fully compliant with applicable safe environment requirements.

Prior to the end of the fraternal year on June 30, make sure that your council achieves the requirements to qualify for your awards. To view your quota and/or progress towards earning the Star Council Award, please log on to [Officers Online](#) regularly.

COLUMBIAN AWARD

This award recognizes excellence in your council's programming and charitable outreach. To earn this award your council must conduct and report programs in each of the four program categories (Faith, Family, Community, and Life) for a total of 16 program credits, with four in each category. A completed [Columbian Award Application](#) (#SP-7) must be received by the Supreme Council office by June 30 in order to earn this award.

Virtual/remote programs will be counted in the same manner that they would have been if conducted completely in person. Please note that hybrid events should only be counted once (not as both an in person AND virtual/remote event).

There are no required programs.

Featured Programs

The Supreme Council has designated certain programs as featured programs in each of the program categories. When your council conducts a featured program and satisfies the associated requirements it will receive two credits towards that program category on their [Columbian Award Application](#) (#SP-7). The featured programs for

each category are listed below.

Faith - [Refund Support Vocation Program](#) (RSVP), [Holy Hour](#), [Spiritual Reflection](#), [Into the Breach](#).

Family - [Food for Families](#), [Family of the Month](#), [Family Prayer Night](#), [Family Fully Alive](#)

Community - [Coats for Kids](#), [Habitat for Humanity](#), [Global Wheelchair Mission](#)

Life - [March for Life](#), [Special Olympics](#), [Ultrasound](#), [Pregnancy Center Support](#) (includes Aid and Support After Pregnancy – ASAP)

FATHER MCGIVNEY AWARD

This award recognizes excellence in your council's membership growth. To earn this award your council must meet or exceed its yearly membership quota. The council quota for 2022-2023 is 6% increase in the council's membership as of July 1 (minimum of five and maximum of fifteen). There is no application for the Father McGivney Award.

Councils that attain Star Council status and achieve 200 percent of their gain goal will receive the Double Star Council Award. Councils that achieve 300 percent of their gain goal will receive the Triple Star Council Award.

All membership transactions must be received, processed, recorded, and released at the Supreme Council office by June 30.

FOUNDERS' AWARD

The Founders' Award recognizes excellence in the promotion of our insurance and fraternal benefits. Councils striving for the Founders' Award must host (or co-host) two fraternal benefit seminars (in-person or virtual) per year. Each council must have a minimum of 7 members or member-eligible attendees at each seminar. These events are coordinated in conjunction with your local field agent. In order for the council to receive credit, the grand knight must submit the [Fraternal Benefit Seminar Form](#) (#11077) to the general agent within seven days of the seminar.

Columbian Award Application

Many councils are now, or soon will be, completing the Form SP-7 Columbian Award Application in recognition of their fraternal programs conducted between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023.

The deadline for submission of the SP-7 is June 30, but councils are strongly encouraged to submit the SP-7 early, as soon as they complete four program credits in each category of Faith, Family, Community, and Life. This article provides additional information to assist councils with successful submission of the SP-7.

The following answers were provided in an April 24, 2023, email from Tyler Lomnitzer, Senior Director, Programs and Member Engagement at Supreme Council:

“How can a council tell if the SP7 is indeed accepted and not rejected later?”

If we receive the application prior to June 1 we will send the GK an email letting him know if the application was approved or rejected. Due to the high volume of submissions after June 1, we do not send emails to GKs. The Star Trackers and Awards Progress Reports provided to RGDs would be the next best option to determine council status.”

“Can you tell me, if a completed form is submitted and "not accepted", how do they know the reason?”

We do not have the manpower to explain the specific reason(s) why an application was rejected. Usually, it is because the council did not report enough program credits or they listed

a “procedural Church activity” as a program (i.e.. Attended Funeral for Brother Knight). A council can always email fraternalmission@kofc.org and we will provide a specific reason.”

“Also, once it is accepted, is that all they need to be concerned with?”

Once the application is approved, that is all a council needs to be concerned with as far as the Columbian Award is concerned. There are of course additional requirements for Star Council.”

Note: GK is Grand Knight, RGD is Regional Growth Director

Additionally, here is a question and answer regarding submission of revised or corrected SP-7s:

“...the system is blocking councils from submitting revised, corrected SP-7's, giving them the message that the form has already been submitted. They ask if we were aware of this and knew of a workaround.

Yes, we are aware of this. Unfortunately resubmissions will have to be done via PDF and emailed to FraternalMission@kofc.org.

Finally, as indicated in the Faith in Action Reference Guide #1172, the Grand Knight is the one who submits the online SP-7 to Supreme Council.

If you have questions or need assistance with a Columbian Award Application SP-7, please contact the Florida State Council's SP-7 Award Chairman, George Elliott. His email address is grejr13@gmail.com, and his cell phone is (908) 487-8622. Vivat Jesus!

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.

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see the videos by [CLICKING HERE](#)

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2023 Florida State Council Hockey Shoot Out Challenge
Help Support Vocations

-\$10 for 5 shots

-Donations gladly accepted

-Top 3 scorers will receive a prize



When: May 26th-27th

Where: Florida State Council Convention

Run by:

Jerry Poirier, State Hockey Chairman



Cruise With the State Chaplain

We are excited to announce our upcoming fundraiser for the Florida K of C Charities Inc. Vocations Fund, a cruise trip to the Southern Caribbean on Celebrity Beyond, the newest ship of the Celebrity fleet. The trip will be nine nights long, departing on November 13, 2023, from Fort Lauderdale, Florida and stopping at Grand Cayman, Aruba, Curacao, and Bonaire.

This trip will give us the opportunity to join in the celebration of the 25th priesthood ordination anniversary of our State Chaplain and Pastor of St Agnes Catholic Church in Naples, FL, Fr. Bob Kantor, and include several Masses onboard with him.

This is an excellent opportunity for our organization to raise funds, while also offering a fun and memorable experience for you, your friends, and family. The proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to support our religious vocations fund, and we hope you will consider joining us on this exciting adventure.

The trip includes a good number of amenities and activities, with plenty of opportunities to relax, explore, and make new friends. We have also arranged for special group rates, making this an affordable way to enjoy a luxurious vacation. The rates require prompt action, therefore, act now to place your deposit by May 16, 2023, to be able to obtain additional benefits. Click Cruise Details to get all the information and to reserve your spot to enjoy this great cruise. . If you have any questions regarding the cruise, please contact



H & E Smart Travels, Inc.

Your participation in this fundraiser will make a significant difference in the lives of those we serve, and we thank you for your support. Please share this letter and its purpose with the members of your Council, Assembly, and your Council sponsored Columbiettes Council.



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



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

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

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

You can also reach out:

**H&E Smart Travels, Inc., West Palm Beach, FL* Evelio J Sardiña,
FDD, PGK, PFN smarttravelcruising@gmail.com 941-400-0320**

2023 State Convention General Information

The 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.** [Click here](#) for the Dress Code for attendees.

- **Compensation.** Information on Compensation for Convention attendees can be [found here](#).





From August 1-3, 2023, the Florida State Council will have the honor of hosting the 141st Supreme Convention in Orlando at the Marriott Orlando World Center. In order for us to successfully host the Supreme Convention, we will need a large number of volunteers, particularly from the Orlando area, from Saturday, July 29 through Friday, August 4. The areas for which we will need help are:

- Welcoming Committee
- Transportation Committee
- Hospitality Registration Committee
- Tour Committee
- Color Corps for Masses and Adoration Chapel

We ask that you prayerfully consider helping in this most important endeavor. We suggest that you volunteer in Council or Assembly groups and carpool to the hotel for your shifts, and that you

consider volunteering for multiple consecutive shifts.

Please go to <https://www.floridakofc.org/Volunteers> to find out more information and to see the sign-up lists. We are using Signup Genius to schedule volunteers.

Fraternally,
 Robert S. Urrutia, State Deputy
 Richard P. Hughes, State Secretary



Knights of Columbus
Florida State Council



Charity Raffle

FIRST PRIZE

\$25,000

2nd Prize:- \$15,000
(3) 3rd Prizes - \$5,000

\$5 Per Ticket

Proceeds will benefit
The Florida Knights of Columbus
Charities

**"Time's
Running Out"**

Only 1 month remaining

Drawing will be May 27, 2023
at FL State Convention

Details, or Questions, contact

John Gearon III at 941-320-4745
Johngearon@yahoo.com

www.floridakofc.org



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



Support Florida K of C Charities Inc.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

[amazon
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Do you shop on Amazon? If so, you can now have .05% of your purchases donated to Florida K of C Charities! All you need to do is use the link for Amazon Smiles. To activate this on your Amazon account just click on this link [AmazonSmile](https://smile.amazon.com) that's all you have to do!

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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

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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.
ESTABLISHED 1977 • Volume 24 • Number 1 • www.kofc.org

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