

St. James Council 12402

Serving the Chancery and St. James Cathedral

Date: Jun 1st, 2024 Issue: June Newsletter



Grand Knight's Report



Over the past months, our council has been actively engaged in several service initiatives, reflecting our commitment to faith, charity, and fraternity. We have had the privilege of serving our youth on two separate occasions, including support for the entire faith formation team. These events have been a great success, thanks to the dedication of our members. In addition, we have supported our homeless population on at least three separate occasions. A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who have generously given their time and effort to these endeavors. Your contributions make a significant impact on our community.

Our RSVP and JMJ programs have also seen exceptional support, with notable participation in the Laps for Life event. This effort has underscored our dedication to supporting vocations and charitable causes.

Thanks to the support of our council and community, we have been able to use the Bishop Noonan Room for our activities, and we are hopeful that in about six months, we will have access to our kitchen again. This will open up even more opportunities for service and fellowship.

There will be more opportunities to feed the homeless in the coming months. Please keep an eye out for signup emails from George Olson. Your participation is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

I am honored to take over the newsletter responsibilities from George Olson, who has done an outstanding job. His efforts have been recognized and awarded, and I am grateful for the strong foundation he has built.

I recently attended the state convention with Brother Ken. It was an enriching experience, allowing us to learn about various statewide initiatives and opportunities to grow in faith, charity, and fraternity.

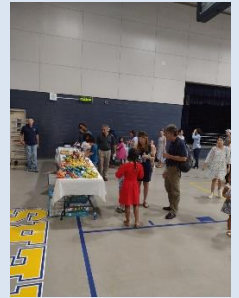
Lastly, I want to express my gratitude to the outgoing officers. Your volunteerism and dedication over the past year have been instrumental to our council's success. Thank you for your hard work and commitment. Thank you all for your flexibility as we continue to transition in and out of our traditional spaces for meetings and events. Your patience and adaptability are deeply appreciated as we navigate these changes together. Together, we will continue to serve our community, support each other, and uphold the values that define our council.

JMJ Pregnancy Center Donation



It is with great pleasure that our council (represented by Life Director Brother Les Castro and PGK George Olson) got to present a \$2K check to Executive Director Bob Perron and Operations Director Chloe Battle of the JMJ Pregnancy Center as the result of the Laps4Life fund raiser. Many of you donated to this wonderful fund raiser which made this possible. We thank you for that.

Faith Formation Celebration St James School



Our council provided over 200 hot dogs, drinks, and snacks during the End-of-Year Faith Formation Celebration. We thank those Brother Knights who supported this activity.

Renewal of Vows Mass Les & Camille Castro



Congratulations to Brother Les and Camille Castro who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a special renewal of vows mass on Saturday, May 25th. They are pictured here with Fr. Miguel and their 4 children.

Life Director



Brother Knights,

As of May 1st, 22,409 abortions were performed in Florida before the six-week ban took effect. The ban should dramatically reduce the abortions in Florida and take the state off the list of destinations for abortions. Approval of Amendment 4 on the Florida November ballot would remove abortion restrictions. A coalition of pro-life groups has formed "Do No Harm Florida" to campaign against the amendment. They have a speaker's bureau that will visit any church or event to share information and encourage a "no" vote in November. Anyone can visit their website "DoNoHarmFL.org" for more information or to provide financial support.

Chemical abortions account for nearly two-thirds of all abortions in the US. The FDA has loosened restrictions on these drugs allowing prescriptions to be filled through mail order with only virtual doctor visits. In 2023 over 8000 women per month received the abortion pills through the mail in states with severe restrictions or total bans on abortion. The US Supreme Court is weighing a case against the FDA to reinstate guidelines regulating the drugs. A decision is expected in June.

Crisis pregnancy centers continue to show an increased impact on abortion-minded clients since the Dobbs decision in spite of challenges including various types of violence. Overall, since 2019 there has been a 12% increase in ultrasounds, a 41% increase in attendance at parenting classes, and a 27% increase in tests for STI/STD's.

JMJ Pregnancy Center held their monthly Hope Visit providing over 20 mothers with needed items for their families.

In Washington State Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants can now prescribe lethal medication for assisted suicide. Also, in New Mexico the waiting period for assistance has been reduced from 15 days to 48 hours. This waiting period can also be waived in certain circumstances. Requests for assisted dying in Oregon has increased by 30% since the residency requirement has been lifted. In Vermont, where there is no residency requirement, patients can request lethal drugs for assistance via telemedicine.

Sponsors

Sign-up to be a sponsor for the next 6 months; 50/50 drawing will be held at the Jul Meeting. As of right now there is \$160 in the drawing; \$80 to the winner. The cost is only \$5 per month to sponsor a newsletter.

Members	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	2024
Les Castro	x	x	x	x	x	x	+6
George & Kim del Campo	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Chris Ewing	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Ron Gulasa					x	x	+12
John Rice	x	x	x	x	x	x	+1
Brian Schanen	x	x	x	x	x	x	+6

Financial Benefits Advisor



Brothers,

This month is Father's Day. Every year at this time, I think of my father and all the father figures I've had in my life – spiritual fathers like the great priests who have helped shape me into who I am. My membership in the Knights of Columbus has given me incredible examples of men who have dedicated their lives to the service of others and in their example, made me a better man.

Being a Knight truly is to live a life of service. To give of one's self.

When I think about the many ways our Order contributes to our parishes and to our communities, I'm reminded of what St. Paul tells us about giving: "Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:7).

"A cheerful giver" — that perfectly describes what it means to be a Knight.

As a Knights of Columbus field agent, I see in my daily life how Knights give of themselves with joy. When a brother Knight chooses to protect his family through Knights of Columbus insurance, he does so out of love. He wants to make sure his loved ones are taken care of when he's gone.

And I remind him that he's not only protecting his family. He's furthering the charitable mission of our Order.

That's what sets Knights of Columbus apart. Members who've purchased a Knights of Columbus insurance product or invested with Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors are doing business with an organization that aligns with their Catholic faith.

Through the business activities and the contributions of state and local councils, Knights of Columbus was able to donate more than \$185 million to charity last year alone. That doesn't even include the nearly \$21 million distributed through Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund via grants by donor clients.1 To be a Knight is to be part of a culture of giving – and in terms of business, it's a culture that turns insurance premiums into charitable impact.

Whether it's supporting new mothers in need, delivering Coats for Kids, bringing relief after natural disasters, or supporting seminarians, the number of people who depend on our help is countless. And the extent of our reach would not be possible without our insurance program.

As the Fraternal Year comes to a close, I want to congratulate you all for the many successes you've achieved as a council. When we come together under our principles of charity, unity and fraternity, we truly make a great impact.

Thank you, and I wish all of the fathers here many blessings this Father's Day.

Vivat Jesus!



FL State Deputy Address

Your Excellency, Reverend Monsignor and Fathers, Worthy Supreme Treasurer, Worthy Supreme Director, Worthy Supreme Master Emeritus, Worthy State Officers, Worthy District Master, and Directors, Worthy Past State Deputies, Worthy Regional Administrators, Worthy District Deputies, Worthy Former Masters, Worthy State Directors and Chairmen, Worthy General Agents, and Worthy Delegates, Brothers Knights and Ladies:

Once again, I want to welcome all of you to the 120th Annual Meeting of the Knights of Columbus Florida State Council. We are here this weekend to gather in Fraternity, to celebrate the achievements of the past Fraternal Year, to conduct the necessary business of the Florida State Council, and hopefully, in the process, learn something new to bring back to our Council members across the Jurisdiction.

I can honestly say that the past year has been one of tremendous success throughout Florida. As I traveled around the State on our Spirit of Unity tour early in the year, I was tremendously uplifted by the dedication and enthusiasm shown by so many Council leaders for the mission of our Order. And you have followed through with your commitment all year long. Hundreds of activities have been reported from across the Jurisdiction, including such varied programs as feeding families in need and the homeless, fundraising for pregnancy centers, providing volunteer and financial support for Special Olympics of Florida, and conducting Holy Hours and Eucharistic Processions. And I know that there are many, many more programs that go unreported by Councils. Service programs are at the center of every Council's mission, and it gratifying to see so many Councils taking this to heart.

This has also been a great year for charitable fundraising by Councils in support of our causes. About 70 Councils participated in the traditional Citizens with Disabilities campaign through Florida K of C Charities, collectively raising over \$250,000, with over \$75,000 raised for Special Olympics of Florida alone. 36 Councils raised over \$58,000 directly for the American Wheelchair Mission. Over 100 Councils contributed \$180,600 to support 261 seminarians through the Order's RSVP program. As of May 1, 56 Councils this year have participated in the Order's Aid and Support After Pregnancy program, otherwise known as the ASAP, program, supporting pregnancy centers and maternal homes, and have raised over \$213,000, which currently puts Florida number one in the Order! And that doesn't even count our State fundraising campaign in May for seven pregnancy centers serving the poorer areas of each Florida Diocese, which has exceeded \$54,000 so far! As for Ultrasound projects--\$390,000 has been raised for 7 projects that have been completed or approved by Supreme, with another 3 under review and 2 more underway!

I also know that many Councils have taken on the new Cor initiative to introduce spiritual development into our activities. While we don't have any good statistics on Cor, I do know that many Councils have reported tremendous success with Cor. As Catholics, Knights of Columbus should never ignore the spiritual component of our work, and Cor is great way to systematically incorporate spiritual development into the life of a Council.

It has also been a tremendous year for membership growth. Already, as of mid-May, 142 Councils in Florida have achieved their membership goals, representing 43% of our active Councils, and another 69 are within range of making their goals by June 30. As well, 54 of our 86 Districts have also met or exceeded their membership goals. Your commitment to growing the Order has enabled the Florida Jurisdiction to exceed its membership goals on May 9, which, I am told, is one of the earliest dates that has ever been accomplished! That is certainly not my achievement—it is a result of your collective dedication and successful recruiting efforts! Now, if all 211 of these Councils can meet the other requirements for Star Council, I think we could say this would be one of the best years ever for the Florida State Council!

But we should always remember that this is NOT about the numbers or about getting a plaque for a trophy case. Those of you who have heard me speak on our Spirit of Unity tour know that Star Council goals set by Supreme relate directly to the mission of the Knights of Columbus, and so Star Council is a measure of a Council's success in executing that mission. The more Councils that can achieve those goals, the closer we get to achieving that Spirit of Unity across the Florida Jurisdiction and the Order.

While we take a pause this weekend to celebrate our achievements, we also should recognize that, in the words of one of my brother State Deputies, the end of the Fraternal Year is not a destination, it is a checkpoint. In that vein, I hope that all Council leaders this weekend not only take the time to celebrate your accomplishments, but that you take the opportunity to get new ideas and learn new ways of doing things. To that end, we are, for the first time, introducing workshops into the State Convention. I think we have chosen timely topics—Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund, Cor, Safe Environment, and website training.

We know we may not get this entirely right, and so we really want your feedback on these workshops. Ultimately, we want to ensure that we can continue to improve the service we provide to our parishes and our communities.

While we want to continue to conduct and enhance our service programs and charitable works, the upcoming Fraternal Year poses a special challenge. 2024 is, of course, an election year. I don't have to tell you that the polarization and partisanship in our nation is intense, but we must remember that, as Councils and individual Knights, we cannot be involved in partisan politics. This is a very strict rule of the Order. As an individual, of course, one may be involved in partisan as a matter of free will, but politics a person cannot represent himself as a Knight in such activities, nor can Councils as an organization. Even the appearance of involvement in partisan politics must be avoided.

However, having said that, the situation is very different when it comes to nonpartisan issue advocacy, and there is a very grave issue that will be on the ballot in November—namely, the Proposed Amendment 4 to the Florida Constitution which will enshrine unregulated abortion and make Florida one of the most pro-abortion states in the nation. The amendment language is very problematic, using undefined terms like “healthcare provider”, “patient health”, and “viability”, which will very likely lead to allowance of second and third trimester abortions and take physicians completely out of the picture. And the amendment, if passed, would jeopardize existing laws and prohibit new ones that protect the health and safety of women, and would eliminate parental consent for a minor to have an abortion—which would make abortion the only medical decision for which parents have no say. The Florida Bishops have issued a strong joint statement against this proposed amendment, and all of us here should become familiar with their position.

What is our role as the Knights of Columbus? Quite simply, it is to do everything we can to support our Bishops and our clergy in opposing this amendment. This is truly a lay evangelization mission, and we should take on this mission boldly and confidently, under the leadership of our Bishops. But how do we do this?

First and foremost, our Bishops have asked us to pray, for without prayer, we will accomplish nothing. A specific prayer has been composed, which is already available digitally. You will see prayer cards in your registration packets. I would ask all Knights of Columbus Councils to recite this prayer at meetings and other gatherings, as a constant reminder of what is at stake.

Second, we must promote the reasons why this amendment is wrong. The Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops is starting to publish support materials for Dioceses and parishes to promote opposition to this amendment. At least one Bishop has already produced a video message on the subject. Let's use those materials in our evangelization efforts to promote opposition to the amendment, particularly among our fellow Catholics.

Third, encourage all Knights—and all Catholics—to register to vote, and to vote “No” to this proposed amendment in November. Nonpartisan voter registration drives have always been a proper Knights of Columbus function.

Finally, in our evangelization efforts, we should also take this opportunity to reflect on why, as Catholics, we oppose abortion. I am certainly the last person to give you theological exposition on the topic, but I can tell you the way I think about it as a lay Catholic.

- God made human beings in His image
- God took on our humanity as Jesus Christ, and through His Death and Resurrection, He has called each and every one of us to share in the Divine life, body and soul, and to be with Him in all eternity.

What that means is that all human life is sacred, from conception to natural death. So why do we oppose abortion? Because all human life is sacred. Why do we oppose euthanasia and the death penalty? Because all human life is sacred. Why do we as Knights support pregnancy centers and maternal homes? Because all human life is sacred. Why do we partner with and support Special Olympics and American Wheelchair Mission? Because all human life is sacred.

Why do we conduct and participate in programs to feed the hungry, house the homeless, and provide coats to children in need? Because all human life is sacred. In my view, every service program we conduct as Knights is based, at least in part, on belief that all human life is sacred. Tomorrow, we will be hearing more from a representative of the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops, and they will have a table in the foyer. But let us resolve now to get behind our Bishops in this most important task.

I am proud to be a Knight of Columbus. And I am proud to stand beside all you as we continue to serve our parishes and our communities. And as this second year of the National Eucharistic Revival draws to a close, let us continue to deepen our faith as we step up our service and our evangelization efforts, and continue to make the Order flourish in the Florida Jurisdiction.

Vivat Jesus Veni Sance Spiritus
Rick Hughes State Deputy

Prayers

- For the recent graduates, that they hear the voice of God in their lives. Guiding them on the new journey they are beginning.
- For the vocation of Marriage.
- For the vocation of the ministerial priesthood.
- For the new Deacons that will be ordained on June 8th.
- For those separated from the Church.
- For Pat and Barrie.
- For GK John & Ruth Rice's daughter-in-law who is pregnant.
- For the safety of children and their families during the summer months.

Jun Birthdays – Members

3 Jun	Rob Fagan	19 Jun	Dr. Anis Khalaf
11 Jun	Dan Wallace	23 Jun	Ed Gold Jr.
14 Jun	JB Coward	28 Jun	Michael Makowski
16 Jun	Steve Kerestes	28 Jun	Joseph LoFaso

Jul Birthdays – Members

1 Jul	Joseph Cimijotti	12 Jul	PGK George del Campo
4 Jul	Neri Olea	17 Jul	Thomas Matthews
6 Jul	Gerrit Lemmen	22 Jul	Deacon Pat McAvooy
6 Jul	Chris Marquette	24 Jul	Tim Norton
8 Jul	Kraig Johnson	25 Jul	Chuck McNulty
10 Jul	Ron Jozwiak	29 Jul	Nicholas Pinto
11 Jul	Phil Perfito	31 Jul	Dr. Javier Martinez

Jun/Jul Birthdays – Spouses

1 Jun	Dorothy Butler	6 Jul	Tanya Paolo
1 Jun	Winnie Pinhal	7 Jul	Teresita Colon
1 Jun	Liz Zeitler	10 Jul	Peg Bonacci
3 Jun	Aileen Trauger	12 Jul	Tammy Helenthal
4 Jun	Karen Forester	16 Jul	Lisa Powell
7 Jun	Wendy Tilley	17 Jul	Ruth Rice
12 Jun	Maura Livingston	17 Jul	Lisa Mahoney
21 Jun	Priscilla Walker	17 Jul	Gabriela Khalaf
28 Jun	Evelyn Hinson	19 Jul	Joanne Olson
29 Jun	Jean Griffin	23 Jul	Alyse DiGaetano-Byrne
		30 Jul	Mariko Caberto

Jun/Jul Anniversaries

9 Jun	Patrick & Maggie Hayes (40 years)
13 Jun	Joshua & Katherine del Campo (9 years)
22 Jun	Jim & Maureen Hutcherson (12 years)
22 Jun	Steven & Sheron Leo (5 years)
25 Jun	Dr Javier & Laura Martinez (28 years)
25 Jun	Fred & Jackie Grob (19 years)
29 Jun	JT & Jean Griffin (28 years)
6 Jul	Eligio & Teresita Colon (11 years)
10 Jul	Jay & Janet Lemmen (48 years)
12 Jul	Chris & Alvida Groom (21 years)
24 Jul	Andy & Lisa Sojourner (14 years)

Council Officer Candidates (2024-2025)

Position	Candidate	E-mail
Grand Knight	GK Chris Ewing	profcewing@gmail.com
Dep Grand Knight	King Davis	king.davis@outlook.com
Chancellor	Jay Lemmen	mjlemmen@icloud.com
Treasurer	Michael Laughlin	mariaacolaughlin59@gmail.com
Recorder	Jeff Conklin	jeff.conk14@gmail.com
Warden	Matt Steiger	matthewsteiger@icloud.com
1st Year Trustee	PGK George Olson	golson255@gmail.com
2nd Year Trustee	PGK John Rice	Johndrice1@gmail.com
3rd Year Trustee	Thomas Jensen	thomasjames2480@msn.com
Advocate	Kraig Johnson	knjohnson509@aol.com
Inside Guard	Gilberto Martins	gilmar411@aol.com
Outside Guard	Chris Marquette	christophmarquette@gmail.com
Assigned by GK		
Chaplain	VR Miguel Gonzalez	mgonzalez@stjamesorlando.org
Financial Secretary	Ken Siders	kennethsiders@att.net
Lecturer	Les Castro	camlescstro@gmail.com

Years of Service (Jun/Jul)

Date	Member	Years	Date	Member	Years
27 Jun	Tim Galvin	66	27 Jun	Timothy Phan	9
6 Jun	Dan Witucki	46	14 Jun	Michael Makowski	7
19 Jun	PGK Bob Wilson	23	14 Jun	Frank Terrizzi	7
22 Jun	Patrick Hayes	18	14 Jun	Alex Trauger	7
14 Jun	Alex Sithong	16	27 Jun	Miguel Kaled	6
25 Jun	Dan Almaguer	15	8 Jun	Hector Cordova Sr	5
8 Jun	John McIntosh	13	8 Jun	Michael Cordova	5
18 Jun	Angel Sanchez	13	18 Jun	Dannie Costantine	5
24 Jun	John Meehan	12	20 Jun	Maximo Perez-Suero	5
10 Jun	Jonathan Brown	11	9 Jun	Weir Alexander	2
10 Jun	Michael Pascuzzi	9	9 Jun	Dr. Brian Schanen	2
17 Jun	Ralph Briscoe	9	29 Jun	Thomas Dukes	2
17 Jun	David Viera	9	8 Jun	Troy Collins	1
19 Jul	VR Miguel Gonzalez	30	13 Jul	Thomas Jensen	8
24 Jul	James Bayly	27	14 Jul	Michael Barillas	8
11 Jul	GK Chris Ewing	18	23 Jul	Ty McCormack Jr	4

Upcoming Events

Jun

Mon, Jun 3 – Feed the Homeless – Christian Service Center, 11:30 am
 Mon, Jun 10 – Assembly Meeting – Monsignor Bishop
 Thurs, Jun 13 – Membership Meeting – Bishop Noonan Room, 7:00 pm
 Fri, Jun 14 – Flag Day / U.S. Army 249th Birthday
 Sun, Jun 16 – Father's Day
 Thurs, Jun 17 – Officer Induction Ceremony & dinner – Bishop Noonan Room, 6:30 pm
 Mon, Jun 24 – Nativity of Saint John the Baptist
 Sat, Jun 29 – Feast of Saints Peter and Paul

Jul

Thurs, Jul 4 – Independence Day
 Mon, Jul 8 – Assembly Meeting – Monsignor Bishop
 Thurs, Jul 11 – Membership Meeting – Bishop Noonan Room, 7:00 pm

Aug

Tues, Aug 6 – Transfiguration of the Lord
 Mon, Aug 5 – Feed the Homeless – Christian Service Center, 11:30 am
 Thurs, Aug 8 – Membership Meeting – Bishop Noonan Room, 7:00 pm
 Mon, Aug 12 – Assembly Meeting – Monsignor Bishop
 Thurs, Aug 15 – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge

He took the child by the hand and said to her, “*Talitha koum*,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise!” (Gospel for June 30, Mk 5:41)

Jesus restores the young girl to life by his word and touch. He restores us to life through the sacraments, particularly the sacrament of penance, with the words of absolution pronounced by his priest. We too can improve the lives of those in need around us, extending to them Christ's love through our own words and works of charity.


Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to find one way each day — even a small way — to concretely share Christ's love with those you meet.

Questions for Reflection:

Do you recognize that your charitable works are an extension of Christ's mission of healing and compassion on earth? How does that awareness affect the work that you do? How might you recognize little opportunities to be a “Christ for others” to people you encounter each day?

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