



The Shield

Grand Knight's Message



Tom Krivchenia, PFN
Grand Knight
GrandKnight7109@gmail.com

Worthy Brothers & Ladies,

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday spending time with family and friends. Hopefully, you will all have a chance to watch some fireworks as we celebrate God's gift of our freedom in this land we call the United States of America. We bow in gratitude, praise, honor and love to the Almighty who has been so good to us. The Color Corps will be attending the 8:30am Mass on July 4th. Hopefully, many Knights will be attending the July 4th Mass, celebrating our Nation's 249th birthday!

It's hard to believe I'm starting my second year as Grand Knight. As I look back in amazement at all we have accomplished this past year as a Council, I am filled with gratitude to all of those who made our achievements possible. Looking ahead to the coming year, I look forward to working with our new program committee personnel for another productive year of charitable fundraising.

Our Program Committee Chairpersons for the coming year of 2025-2026 are:

Program Director: Mark Feldman
Community Director: Michael King
Family Director: Matt Sunski
Faith Director: Wally Vasquez
Life Director: Jack Strehle

Issue 07, July 2025

Next Council Meeting
Thursday, July 10 @ **7:00 pm**
in the Parish Center

View the Newsletter online at:
www.safetyharborkofc.org

Visit the State Website at:
www.floridakofc.org
Visit the Supreme Website at:
www.kofc.org

I would like to congratulate and honor **Emily Morgan** as the **Altar Server of the Year – 2025**.



*Emily Morgan, a seventh-grade student at Espiritu Santo Catholic School, has been recognized as the Espiritu Santo Altar Server of the Year. Emily was selected for her outstanding dedication, leadership, and consistent willingness to go above and beyond in her service. She frequently serves the 4:00pm Saturday Mass on her own and has volunteered to serve during outdoor Christmas and Easter liturgies in Phillipe Park. In addition to mentoring junior altar servers and being a leader on her 9:00am Sunday team, Emily is actively involved in the school's theatre program and volleyball team. She received the award from Bishop Gregory Parkes during a special ceremony held at St Stephen's Parish in May. **Congratulations Emily!***

I want to extend a warm welcome to David Hale as he joins our Council. David is our 15th new member of this fraternal year, which has qualified us for Star Council once again. Thank you to everyone who helped us to reach Star Council for the second year in a row. We couldn't have done it without your participation.

June was a very slow month for us. We did have our Corporate Communion Mass which was very well attended with an outstanding turnout for breakfast at The Lucky Dill. I have heard nothing but positive comments about the restaurant, so we will plan on having it there again next year.

Upcoming Events

KofC Rosary – Thursday, July 10th at 6:15pm in the JBC

7109 Council Business Meeting & Installation –

Thursday, July 10th at 7:00pm in the Parish Center

Coffee & Donuts – Sunday, July 13th after all morning Masses in the JBC

Golf Committee Meeting – Monday, July 14th at 7:00pm in the Gathering Room

Pinellas Hope Food Prep – Thursday, July 17th at 9:00am in the Parish Center Kitchen

Kimberly Home Workday – Saturday, July 19th at 8:00am

Assembly 2474 Business Meeting & Installation – Thursday, July 24th at 7:00am in the JBC

Because the July 4th holiday falls the day after our scheduled Officer's Meeting, **I have decided to cancel the Officer's Meeting for this month.** In our normally scheduled Business Meeting, we will include our year-end awards and immediately afterwards, we will have the Installation and refreshments and cake.

We will have the Rosary in the JBC on July 10th at 6:15pm. Please invite friends and family to attend this beautiful devotion. Thank you, Wally and Jerry, for leading the Rosary.

We will need extra people to volunteer to set up the Parish Center for the Business Meeting and the Installation as the Parish Center is now being used for daily Mass. So, the chairs need to be moved and returned to their normal location for daily mass after our Business Meeting. Sign-up sheets will be sent out soon. One will be for set-up and breakdown and the second one will be for attendance and for the meeting and Installation. I will need to know how much food to order. Officers, please plan on attending the Installation. If you are unable to attend in person, please find a replacement for yourself.

We will resume Coffee, Donuts & More starting on Sunday July 13th with set-up starting at 7:00am. Coffee, donuts and more will be available after the 7:30am, 9:00am and 10:30am Masses. Clean-up will be completed by 12:15pm.



WGK Tom Krivchenia recognizes SK Doug deWolfe as Knight of the Month for March 2025



WGK Tom Krivchenia recognizes SK Bill Krajieski as Knight of the Month for April 2025



SK Edward Amador
Membership Director
Edamador00@gmail.com

Council 7109

Holy Moments

We Did It! 15 Members Strong – Goal Achieved!

Brother Knights of Council 7109,

It is with overwhelming joy and gratitude that I share with you: **WE HAVE ACHIEVED OUR MEMBERSHIP GOAL** for the 2024–2025 fraternal year! With the additions of **Charles "Chuck" Warrington** and **David Hale**, we reached our target of **15 new Brother Knights**, officially putting us at **100% of our goal** — and in the running for **Star Council once again!**

This is no small feat, and it deserves celebration, reflection, and sincere thanks.

Heartfelt Thanks to Our Leadership & Champions

This milestone would not have been possible without the strong leadership, persistence, and faith-filled energy of several key Brother Knights. Please join me in thanking:

- **Grand Knight Tom Krivchenia** – for steady leadership and always keeping the mission at heart
- **Financial Secretary Tom Harkins** – for supporting and processing all our membership efforts
- **Bill Galant, Tom Stanko, JJ Coyne, Wally Vazquez, and Amaro Lionheart** – for their outreach and commitment to sharing the beauty of our brotherhood

Thank you, Brothers, for answering the call and living the mission.

What Does This Mean? A Holy Moment Fulfilled

As **Matthew Kelly** reminds us in *Holy Moments*, "Every Holy Moment you create is a turning point in someone's life." This year, **15 men** had a life-altering encounter through our invitations, witness, and persistence. They chose to step into something greater than themselves — a brotherhood rooted in faith, charity, and action. *That* is the power of a Holy Moment. Each time we shared our story... each time we handed out a card... each time we said, "*You'd make a great Knight*" — that was a Holy Moment.

A New Year, A New Goal

As we close this fraternal year and open the next, we begin again with a **new goal of 15**. Let's not lose momentum. Let us **celebrate** but also **commit** to bringing in another wave of Catholic men looking for faith, service, and brotherhood.

We all have someone in our life — a son, a brother, a neighbor, a friend — who needs what the Knights of Columbus offers. Don't assume someone else will ask them. **Let it be you.**

Best Practices for Recruitment

To keep our momentum going, here are some simple ways every Brother Knight can help:

1. **Carry a KofC Info Card** – You never know when the opportunity will arise.
2. **Share Your Story** – Let people know *why you became a Knight* and how it has impacted your life.
3. **Make It Personal** – People join people, not programs. Be inviting and sincere.
4. **Pray for Candidates** – Offer your Holy Moments for the intention of bringing others into the Order.
5. **Use Events** – Every Fish Fry, Donut Sunday, or Parish Event is a gateway. Invite.

Welcome to Our Newest Brother Knights

Please join me in welcoming with open arms our newest Brothers: **Charles "Chuck" Warrington** and **David Hale**

Your journey with the Knights of Columbus is just beginning, and we look forward to walking beside you in faith, service, and fraternity.

Let's keep the fire lit. Let's not rest. **Let's lead with faith, live with purpose, and continue to create Holy Moments in the name of Christ.**

Vivat Jesus,

Edward J. Amador

Unity – Strength in Numbers

Informational Open House Schedule

2025-2206

Aug 19 | Oct 14 | Dec 16 | Feb 17 | Apr 14 | Jun 16

Unified Degree Ceremony Schedule

2025-2026

Aug 21 | Oct 16 | Dec 18 | Feb 19 | Apr 16 | Jun 18

Look for more information from our Grand Knight



Council Membership Report

Total Membership	333
Insurance Membership	128
Honorary Life Members	63
Honorary Members	08
2024-2025 Membership Growth vs Goal	15/15
2024-2025 Insurance	02/02

Assembly Membership Report

Total Membership	125
Honorary Life Members	14
Honorary Members	01
2024-2025 Membership Growth vs Goal	05/06



Council Officers 2025-2026

Grand Knight	Tom Krivchenia, PFN	727.366.5422
Chaplain	Fr Michael W. Cooper, SJ	727.644.5544
Deputy Grand Knight	Mark Feldman	727.366.5959
Chancellor	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
Recorder	Bill Krajieski	727.784.2817
Financial Secretary	Tom Harkins	727.772.0607
Treasurer	Jerry Custin, PGK, PFN	727.244.6464
Lecturer	Paul Harvey, PFN	727.286.7171
Advocate	Richard Resler	727.472.1651
Warden	Jim Lankford	813.455.2292
Inside Guard	Paul Cooper	727.736.6837
Outside Guard	Mark Peterman, PFN	727.403.5993
Guard Alternate	Brian Annis	727.204.7490
Trustee Three Year	Gene Jajuga, PGK, PFN, FFA	727.403.3261
Trustee Two Year	JJ Coyne, PGK	901.832.7332
Trustee One Year	Ken Seguin, PGK, PFN	727.331.7278
Regional Administrator	John Papa, PGK, PFN	727.482.3734
District Deputy	Alan Gauzens, PGK	727.483.8250
Fraternal Benefits Advisor	John Ruckart	813.855.5111
Special Assistant to the Council	Vincent Cristiano	
Special Assistant to the Council	Gary Murphy	

Happy Birthday Brothers! Many Happy Returns!

Joseph Amendola, Mark Barrett, Fred Bennett, Marc Brill, Richard Bulova, James Burris, Steven Cote, JJ Coyne, James Cusick, Zach Faraone, Joel Gray, Michael King, Michael McCarthy, James Nolf, Edmund Pagnott, Glen Pettersen, Charles Powers, James Preston, Scott Rineer, Richard Roberto, Daniel Saracki, Thomas Smith, Chuck Sullivan, Klaus Tobitsch, Alvah Vankleeck

Prayers for the Sick

Don & Marie Bishop, Sean Michael Cook (d), Tim & Barbara Rush, Ken Seguin, Susanne Papa (d), Ward Griffin, Elizabeth Inderwies, Linda Cooper (d), Bob Ehrman, Antonia Rosin (d), Frances Hamacher (d), Jacqueline Barry (d), Mary Branham (d), Mary Williams (d), Frank Schuster II (d), Kennedie McFadden, Sal Burriesci, George Smith (d), Pauline Sager (d), Vicki Nolan (d), Steve Gorey (d), Felice D'Elia (d), Stanley Kwiatowski (d), Ethan Griswold (d), Alex Griswold, Dick LaLuzerne, Fr Rich Rosin (d), Mary Duell (d), Tony Doyle (d), Mary Frances Lowe, Dwight Rochester, Jim & Pat Nolf, Frank Diaz (d), Nancy Pagnott, Ed Warticki (d), Joann Finney, Joseph Genalo Jr, John Clarke, Jack Mills (d), John Cathcart, Ed Sleyzak, Thomas O'Rourke, Karen Jajuga, Bob Justiana, Wally Vazquez, Edward Amador, Santo Loparo, Sue Engelmann, Madison Lentz, Helen Lentz, Kathleen Griffin, Karen Loparo, Taylor Dumke, Richard Roberto, Peter Salesses, Peggy Gohman, Barbara Papa, Kathy King, Richard Roberto, Joe LaGuardia, Michael D'Amelio, Steve Wozniak, Evely Harvey (d), Skylar Ruckart

Please pray for all our sick and deceased Brothers, Ladies, and family members. Please report illnesses and deaths to Sir Knight Paul Harvey, Lecturer, at 727.286.7171 or pharvey10@verizon.net

Support Our Vocations Fund



Austin Smith



Mark Wegener



John Paul Grabowski

Thank you for your continued support of the Vocations Fund. As most of you know we are making annual donations to three seminarians. Austin and Mark are located at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, while John Paul is located at St. Joseph Seminary College. Austin Smith is from Nativity parish in Brandon. Mark Wegener is from St. Anthony the Abbot, Brooksville. John Paul Grabowski is from Catholic Student Center, USF – Tampa.

Please get your name on the list by giving \$5.00, \$10.00 or whatever you can in support of this worthy endeavor! We need to continue to support these young men and vocations, but it will take everyone's help. Thank You!

Edward & Violet Amador, Mark Barrett, Donald Borbath, James & Jean Burris, William Cullen Jr, Joseph & Betty D'Amelio, Douglas & Carol De Wolfe, Peter Demzak, Frederick & Suzanne Di Masi, Sean Donahoo, Robert & Zoe Dufour, Michael & Sue Engelmann, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Michael & Lisa Furman, Joel & Karen Gray, Robert & Catherine Gwinner IV, James & Anna Haitz, Thomas & Anne Harkins, Timothy & Ann Hartle, James Hayes, David & Donna Heezen, Joseph & Sandra Hoherl, George & Claire Inderwies, Steven & Anne Ippolito, Robert & M. A. Justiana Sr, Michael & Katherine King, Dan & Donna Kistel, Mark & Renee Kraf, William & Katherine Krajeski, Frank Laffey, Stephen & Ellen Leger, Milton Levine, Amaro Lionheart, Jerry Maratea, Frank & Cindy McEwen, Charles McEwen Sr, Kenneth (Ken) Miller, John Morgan, Adel Nammour, Chris & Leah Nesci, Thomas & Carolyn O'Rourke, John & Susanne Papa, Paul & Virginia Pappas, Mark & Christine Peterman, Robert & Vickie Pickard, Richard Roberto Jr, Kenneth & Gabriella Seguin Sr, Jason Seguin, Morgan Sheaffer Sr, James & Karin Smith, Thomas Stanko, John & Kay Strehle III, Matthew Sunski, Roy & Linda Vanderveer, Steven & Jaclyn Verba, Paul & Josefina Vilchez, Mario & Judy Zaccaria

Total Collected to Date: \$729.69



Father Michael W. Cooper, SJ, STD
Chaplain

Chaplain's Corner

The Retreat in Everyday Life — The Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius Loyola

Dear Brother Knights and Ladies,

I take advantage of this moment to invite you to consider this eight-month retreat from September to May dealing with everyday life using the vision/spirituality of Ignatius Loyola, the Founder of the Jesuits. These Spiritual Exercises are very demanding and may only appeal to a very few, but I invite you to prayerfully consider whether the Lord is inviting you to this very sacred and very incarnational, (aka every day) journey. This retreat is not a course but praying your life with the Lord using Ignatius' Exercises and the scriptures.

For the past five years I have joined my lay colleagues in the Arrupe Digital Spirituality Community. We offer on-line programs in Ignatian spirituality, including "the Retreat in Everyday Life," often called the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat. We also offer a training program in giving this retreat and a book club.

In the past the Spiritual Exercises retreat was done for a month apart from everyday life and usually limited to priests and religious. Today the "retreat in everyday life" is a progressive unfolding of the Ignatian Exercises while the retreatant is living her or his everyday life. **Really the retreat is not a course but praying one's life using the Ignatian exercises** - one's life before, one's life now, and into the future. This contemporary update of the retreat in everyday life involves praying about one hour a day all at once or over time during the day. Part of the prayer includes the "examen of

consciousness" of how one is experiencing the Lord all during the day. The retreat uses scriptural prayer and is usually done in a community context with other retreatants. Each retreatant also meets with their spiritual director assigned from our trained staff once a week and for faith-sharing together with the other retreatants every two weeks for about an hour. All the retreat meetings are done on-line using Zoom.

The "retreat in everyday life" involves a solid commitment of time and especially of spiritual and emotional investment but offers a life-changing transformation. Here are some questions or goals that might help you discern whether now the time for you is to discern the Lord's invite to make this very grace-full retreat or not

--Are you looking to deepen your friendship with Jesus?

--Are you looking to discover your "true self" [and Call] and grow in your prayer life?

--Are you looking to incorporate your own spirituality and vision more into your everyday life and into your service/ministry?

--Do you want to learn more about Ignatian discernment of spirits/Christian decision making?

For more information, don't hesitate to call me 727.644.5544. The journey through the exercises does not replace your personal spirituality but can help make you're a more alive and gifted Brother Knight or Lady.

Blessings,
Michael Cooper, SJ, STD

Service Program Directors 2025-2026

Program Director	Mark Feldman	727.366.5959
Membership Director	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
Faith Director	Wally Vazquez	727.542.5376
Community Director	Mike King	727.453.8843
Family Director	Matt Sunski	
Public Relations Director	Amaro Lionheart	305.761.3419
Life Director	Jack Strehle	
Vocations	Frank McEwen, PGK, PFN	727.239.2687
Retention Coordinator	Frank McEwen, PGK, PFN	727.239.2687



Mark Feldman
Deputy Grand Knight
dkg7109@gmail.com

Deputy Grand Knight's Report

Worthy Brother Knights,

Gentlemen it is the start of a new fraternal year. To Tom Krivchenia, I want to thank you for all your hard work over the last year. This year you will now have to teach me what you know so that I can step into your shoes next year.

We will be having a busy year with all our events which will include Full Family breakfasts, Dinner Dances, Pinellas Hope Food Prep, volunteering at the Kimberly Home and our Basketball, Hockey and Soccer challenges to name a few. Gentlemen, we cannot be successful without your volunteer hours. Our installation of new officers will be held on the 10th of July.

Faith in Action

Our directors meeting will be held on July 17th in the Gathering Room at 7pm. Our Faith Director is Wally Vazquez. Wally runs the Rosary, said before each Membership Meeting. Mike King is our Community Director. Mike is responsible for the Helping Hands program, Coats for Kids and the Sports contests to name a few. Jack Strehle is our Life Director; he will handle missions related to promote and encourage the Pro-Life movement and the Kimberly Home Project. I want to thank Matt Sunski for taking over the Family Directors Position. He will be in charge of programs such as Keep Christ in Christmas, Food for Families and Family of the Month. Again, I ask that when assignments are put out you volunteer to help these men make it a great year.

St Benedict Abbot

Born in the year 480 as a son to a Roman Noble and the twin to his sister Scholastica. The young Benedict was sent to Rome to finish his education. His area of study was rhetoric, the art of persuasive speaking. Afraid for his soul, Benedict fled Rome, gave up his inheritance and lived in a small village with his nurse. When God called him beyond this quiet life to an even deeper solitude, he went to the mountains of Subiaco. There he lived as a hermit under the direction of another hermit, Romanus. While there the Devid presented Benedict's imagination with a beautiful,

tempting woman. Benedict resisted by rolling his body into a thorn bush causing many cuts. It is said that the body wounds he received cured the wounds of his soul. Thru years of prayer a set of followers helped him set up 12 Monasteries in Subiaco, where monks lived in separate communities of 12. It was in Monte Cassino he founded the monastery that became the root of the Church's monastery system. After almost 1500 years of monastery tradition his directions seems obvious to us. In Benedictine prayer, our hearts are the vessel of empty thoughts and intellectual striving. All that remains is the trust in God's providence to fill us. Emptying ourselves this way brings God's abundant goodness bubbling up in our hearts. Benedict died on 21 March 543, not long after his twin sister. It is said he died with high fever on the very day God told him he would. He is the patron saint of Europe and students

July Liturgical Calendar

July 01 - St Junipero Serra, Priest, opt memorial
July 03 - St Thomas, Apostle, Feast
July 05 - St Elizabeth of Portugal and St Anthony Zaccaria, Priest, opt memorials
July 09 - St Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest and Companions, Martyrs, opt memorial
July 11 - St Benedict, Abbot, Memorial
July 14 - St Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin, Memorial
July 15 - St Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, Memorial
July 16 - Our Lady of Mount Carmel, opt memorial
July 18 - St Camillus de Lellis, Priest, opt memorial
July 21 - St Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church, opt memorial
July 22 - St Mary Magdalene, Feast
July 23 - St Bridget, Religious, opt memorial
July 24 - St Sharbel Makhlef, Priest, opt memorial
July 25 - St James, Apostle, Feast
July 26 - Sts Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Memorial
July 29 - St Martha, Mary and Lazarus, Memorial
July 30 - St Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, optional memorial
July 31 - St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest, Memorial



John Ruckart
Field Agent
John.Ruckart@kofc.org



Fraternal Benefits Advisor Report

This month is the start of our new Fraternal Year together as Knights — a big congratulations to our previous year's accomplishments! This is always a time of new beginnings, when councils can start fresh and reassess where they stand in relation to their goals.

This should apply to us individually, too, including personal financial goals. Are you on track to reach them?

Now is the perfect time to meet with me to review the existing insurance plan you have in place or to help you take the initial steps to create one. I invite you to meet with me every year as your family grows and changes, milestones are reached, and financial needs adjust.

As your brother Knight, it's my privilege to carry out Father McGivney's mission by serving your family and helping you gain a clear picture of your financial protection needs, no matter your current situation. If I can be honest, I think this is one the most underappreciated benefits of membership in the Knights of Columbus, and if you've never taken advantage of getting a complimentary financial needs review, I encourage you to make this the year!

With a personalized review using top-tier financial software, I can give you a transparent illustration of your finances with insights on how your current situation aligns to your future objectives. Together, we'll review your current coverage and identify potential protection gaps, ensuring your plan aligns with your goals.

If you're interested in investments that are aligned with Catholic teaching, I can also talk to you about our own investment platform, the Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors, which helps all faith-based investors prepare

for retirement, build wealth and beat inflation with additional sources of income.

Knights of Columbus, your premier partner for financial services, is for brother Knights, by brother Knights. I'm here to partner with you. Please see me and we'll set up time to work together to financially safeguard your family.

Thank you!

Vivat Jesus!
John D Ruckart, FICF
813.855.5111

Book an appt with me here:
johnruckart.10to8.com

Learn about our investments:
<https://info.kofcassetadvisors.org/meet-john-ruckart>





JJ Coyne
Faithful Navigator
johnjjcoyne@gmail.com
901.832.7332 (m)

Faithful Navigator's Log

Worthy Sir Knights,

It is an honor and a privilege to have been elected as the Faithful Navigator of Espiritu Santo Assembly 2474. I am humbled by the trust you have placed in me, and I look forward to serving alongside each of you in the spirit of charity, unity, fraternity, and, of course, patriotism. Our official installation for the fraternal year will take place at our regular scheduled Assembly meeting on Thursday, July 24th.

As we embark on this new fraternal year together, I want to first express my sincere gratitude to our Past Faithful Navigator, Sir Knight John Gohman, for his steady leadership and unwavering commitment to our Assembly. His example has laid a strong foundation for us to build upon. I will certainly lean on John, our Assembly Trustees – Wally Vazquez, Frank McEwen, and Frank DiMattei – and our Assembly leadership team.

My vision for this year is one of renewed engagement and meaningful service. I hope to strengthen our presence in the parish and community, support our clergy and veterans more visibly, and encourage greater participation among our membership. Whether through honoring our fallen heroes, supporting parish initiatives, or deepening our spiritual lives, I believe we can make a lasting impact when we come together as Knights.

After a lot of site visits, requests for proposals, and a few practice rounds, we have decided on Seven Springs Golf & Country Club for the 2025 – the 9th annual – Assembly 2474 | Gary Sinise Foundation Golf Tournament. The event will be held on Friday, November 14th with a 12:00 shotgun start. It obviously takes a village to pull this thing off so expect to soon start seeing requests for your time, talent and or treasure. Lots more to follow as we get closer. We will be holding regular Golf Tournament Committee

Meetings as we move closer to the event; please feel free to attend and share ideas.

I invite all of you to be active participants in the life of our Assembly - your voice, your talents, and your presence matter. Together, we will continue to live out the principles of the Fourth Degree with pride and purpose.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve. I am excited for what lies ahead and am confident that, with God's guidance, we will accomplish great things.

God's Peace be with you!

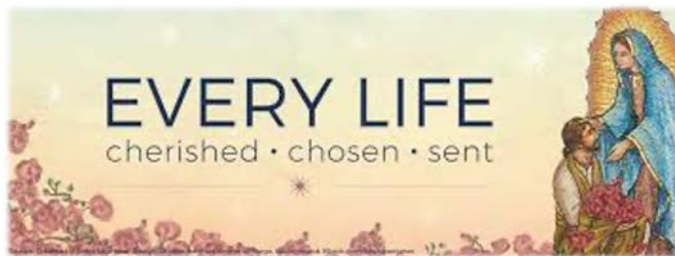
SK JJ Coyne
Faithful Navigator
Espiritu Santo Assembly 2474



WGK Tom Krivchenia presents Brother Justin Harrington with his Third-Degree certificate



Amaro Lionheart
 realamarolionheart@gmail.com
 305.761.3419



The Heart of a Nation

There beats within the breast of Christ a heart crowned in thorns and radiant with mercy. This heart, sacred and pierced, poured forth blood so that the world might live. It is a heart that loves without measure, that forgives without hesitation, that burns with an unquenchable desire to redeem every soul who calls upon its power. In July, the Church fixes its gaze upon this Precious Blood, upon this torrent of salvation flowing from the Sacred Heart, reminding every pilgrim that true love always bleeds, and true freedom is bought at a price.

How strange and yet how perfect that this same month marks the birth of a nation, a nation also stained with sacrifice, a nation that pledged its sacred honor upon the altar of liberty, a nation that believed it had been chosen by Providence to bear the lamp of hope to a darkened world. From thirteen humble stripes rose a republic dedicated to liberty, to human dignity, to the knowledge that all men are created equal because they are fashioned by the same divine hands. America was not simply founded by rebels or merchants. It was forged by souls who knelt before their Creator and declared, in the shadow of death, that freedom would live, even if they did not.

Now, in this year of America's 250th birthday, a symbol of that greatness lies at anchor, threatened by rust and apathy, her fate ready to sink beneath the waves of forgetfulness. The SS United States, born of steel but baptized in the same spirit that built a nation, waits in silence. She once carried the dreams of a people who dared to break records and cross oceans, who dreamed so large that even the horizon could not hold them. This ship was no mere vessel. She was a floating monument to what free people, guided by faith and fired by courage, could build. To scuttle her is to scuttle the very memory of that daring spirit. It is to drown our inheritance in the dark salt of the sea.

Can we allow that? Shall we stand idle while a symbol of national resolve, a testament to freedom's voyage,

is torn apart and forgotten? Look to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. There we see a love that refused to let humanity sink. A love that endured the cross rather than watch one child be lost to the depths. That same divine heart calls to us now, asking whether we will allow this ship to vanish, whether we will let the hope of a free nation slip beneath the water, lost to time, or whether we will rise as guardians of the past and protectors of the future.

The SS United States is the living heartbeat of American pride, a floating prayer in steel, a silent hymn to greatness. If we let her drown, we drown with her. We drown our courage, our memory, our resolve, our very identity. Like the Precious Blood, she is a witness, a vessel of sacrifice, a relic of all that is noble in our American story. Saving her is more than an act of preservation. It is an act of national resurrection, a testament that what was born of courage will not die of neglect, that what was consecrated by service will not rot in the tide of forgetfulness.

This July, as we celebrate our independence, as we lift our flags to the summer wind, let us remember that freedom is not a moment but a mission. It is not a banner but a beating heart. The Sacred Heart of Christ shows us how far love will go to save what is precious. So too must we now go, to save what is precious in our American soul, to rescue this proud flagship from a watery grave.

If we sink her, we sink ourselves. If we save her, we proclaim that the heart of a nation still beats, that our dreams remain unsinkable, that the Precious Blood of the Savior and the sacrifice of patriots still echo on these shores, still worth defending, still capable of carrying us through every storm.

Omnia ad Jesum Per Maria

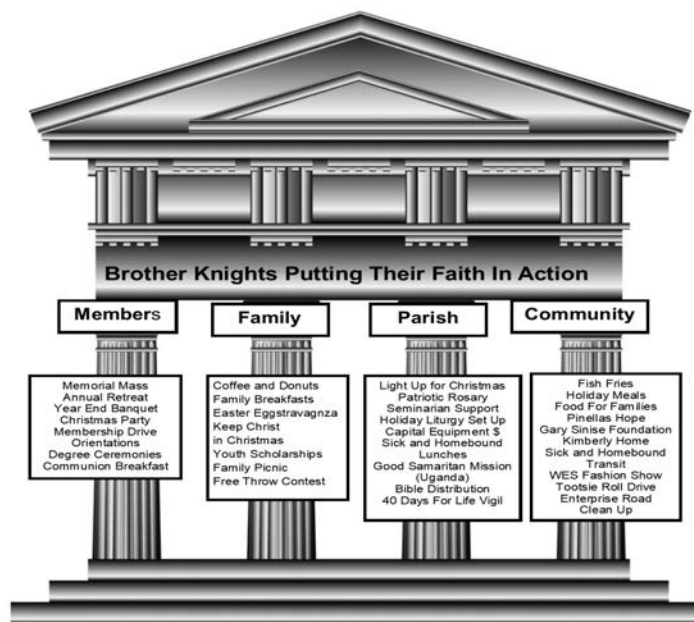


Jerry Custin
PGK, PFN
jcustin@gmail.com



Serve the Lonely and Abandoned

Wow! Our call is to serve the lowly and abandoned but Psalm 58 gives us the fire and brimstone behind that call. This is a lament expressing trust in God's power to dethrone all powers obstructing divine rule of the world. First condemned are "the gods," the powers that were popularly imagined to control human destinies then "the wicked," the human instruments of these forces. It adds that the wicked spew venom and asks God to smash the teeth in their mouths. Ultimately, The psalmist prays God to prevent them from harming the just. Thankfully our role is simply to serve the lonely and abandoned though the many things we do in our parish and local community and avoid all the drama that comes from engaging in wickedness.



Psalm 58

Do you indeed pronounce justice, O gods; do you judge fairly you children of Adam? No, you freely engage in crime; your hands dispense violence to the earth. The wicked have been corrupt since birth; liars from the womb, they have gone astray. Their venom is like the venom of a snake, like that of a serpent stopping its ears, So as not to hear the voice of the charmer or the enchanter with cunning spells. O God, smash the teeth in their mouths; break the fangs of these lions, LORD! Make them vanish like water flowing away; trodden down, let them wither like grass. Let them dissolve like a snail that oozes away, like an untimely birth that never sees the sun. Suddenly, like brambles or thistles, have the whirlwind snatch them away. Then the just shall rejoice to see the vengeance and bathe their feet in the blood of the wicked. Then people will say: "Truly there is a reward for the just; there is a God who is judge on earth!"

Letter to the Editor

Make Yourself Small

In his first homily to the College of Cardinals, Pope Leo XIV basically reflected on Christ's charter to Peter and church leaders to spread His message across the face of the earth. He began by repeating the Psalm used in that Mass and offered that as both a blessing and the challenge at hand. ***I will sing a new song to the Lord because he has done marvels.*** He noted that these marvels did not only relate to his new role "but with all of us, my brother cardinals, as we celebrate this morning, I invite you to recognize the marvels that the Lord has done, the blessings that the Lord continues to pour out upon all of us. Through the ministry of Peter, you have called me to carry that cross and to be blessed with that mission, and I know I can rely on each and every one of you to walk with me as we continue as a church, as a community of friends of Jesus, as believers, to announce the Good News, to announce the Gospel."

He continued with Peter's response to Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?". Peter replied, "'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God'" (Mt 16:16). In these words, Peter, asked by the Master, together with the other disciples, about his faith in him, expressed the patrimony that the Church, through the apostolic succession, has preserved, deepened and handed on for two thousand years. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God: the one Savior, who alone reveals the face of the Father."

He added, "In him, God, in order to make himself close and accessible to men and women, revealed himself to us in the trusting eyes of a child, in the lively mind of a young person and in the mature features of a man (cf. Gaudium et Spes, 22), finally appearing to his disciples after the resurrection with his glorious body. He thus showed us a model of human holiness that we can all imitate, together with the promise of an eternal destiny that transcends all our limits and abilities."

Christ also asked Peter, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" If we reflect on the scene we are considering, we might find two possible answers, which characterize two different attitudes. Pope Leo points out to the wealthy and elites, "consider Jesus a completely insignificant person, at best someone with an unusual and striking way of speaking and acting. And so, once his presence becomes irksome because of his demands for honesty and his stern moral requirements, this "world" will not hesitate to reject and eliminate him. But the ordinary citizens, "For them, the Nazarene is not a charlatan, but an upright man, one who has courage, who speaks well and says the right things, like other great prophets in the history of Israel. That is why they follow him, at least for as long as they can do so without too much risk or inconvenience. Yet to them he is only a man, and therefore, in times of danger, during his passion, they too abandon him and depart disappointed."

He concludes by noting the relevance of this question today and restating his mission and that of the Church. "There is an indispensable commitment for all those in the Church who exercise a ministry of authority. It is to move aside so that Christ may remain, to make oneself small so that he may be known and glorified, to spend oneself to the utmost so that all may have the opportunity to know and love him. May God grant me this grace, today and always, through the loving intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church."

Our role is to humbly and faithfully provide others the opportunity to truly know Jesus in both His human and divine forms.



From the Desk of Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly...

In Solidarity With Peter

We pledge our prayers and support for Pope Leo XIV, as he calls the Church to missionary renewal in Christ

In recent weeks, I had the great privilege of representing the Knights of Columbus at both the funeral of Pope Francis (April 26) and the inauguration Mass of Pope Leo XIV (May 18). Together with hundreds of thousands of faithful in St. Peter's Square and countless more watching around the world, I prayed for the soul of Pope Francis and mourned his loss, even as I welcomed with great joy and prayed for Pope Leo XIV.

In the first days of his pontificate, Pope Leo signaled themes that will likely shape his Petrine ministry. When he emerged on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica after his election on May 8, his first words were, "Peace be with all of you!" These words of the risen Christ, he said, should "resound in our hearts, in our families and among all people." Recalling the legacy of Pope Francis, the Holy Father urged us to move forward without fear, "hand in hand with God and with one another!"

Pope Leo evoked the image of a missionary Church — one that builds bridges and remains "ever open to welcoming ... all those who are in need of our charity, our presence, our readiness to dialogue and our love." Addressing the 1.4 billion Catholics he now leads, he quoted St. Augustine: "With you I am a Christian, and for you I am a bishop."

The next morning, at Mass in the Sistine Chapel with the cardinal-electors, the Holy Father reflected more deeply on what it means to be a missionary Church in our time. He spoke candidly about the challenges: "There are many settings in which the Christian faith is considered absurd, meant for the weak and unintelligent — settings where other securities are preferred, like technology, money, success, power, or pleasure." These are places, he added, "where it is not easy to preach the Gospel and bear witness to the truth, where believers are mocked, opposed, despised, or at best tolerated and pitied. Yet these are precisely the places where the missionary outreach of the Church is desperately needed."

So how do we respond, as Christians and as a Church? The answer, Pope Leo said, is Jesus Christ — to have a personal relationship with the Lord and a daily commitment to conversion. The Church, he said, must be a "beacon that illumines the dark nights of this world — not so much through the magnificence of her structures or the grandeur of her buildings, but rather through the holiness of her members."

Pope Leo took his name in honor of Pope Leo XIII, who was supreme pontiff when Blessed Michael McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882. Leo XIII's landmark encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, published in 1891, addressed the upheaval of the Industrial Revolution and social concerns that helped inspire our founding.

Two days after Pope Leo XIV's election, he told the College of Cardinals that the papacy is a yoke that is "clearly far beyond my own limited powers, as it would be for any of us." However, he trusts the Lord will not abandon him and knows he can count on the prayers of "so many who love the Church and support the Vicar of Christ."

Indeed, our new Holy Father can count on the loyalty and prayers of the Knights of Columbus — now and always. In solidarity with him, I invite all Knights, their families, and people of goodwill to join in a special novena for the pope and his intentions. It will begin on June 19, the anniversary of Pope Leo's priestly ordination, and conclude June 27, the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I will bring the submitted petitions to Rome during a Jubilee pilgrimage this October.

Let us pray for His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, that the Lord may grant him a spirit of courage, wisdom and strength to lead those entrusted to his care, for many years to come.

Vivat Jesus!



From the Florida State Council Chamber...

It Has Been My Honor

State Deputy Richard Hughes

As we get ready to close Fraternal Year 2024-2025, I want to thank all Council, District, and Regional leaders for their pursuit of excellence in the Principles of the Order and growing our Order here in the Florida Jurisdiction.

As I have said many times, the primary goals that Supreme sets for Star Council—breadth and depth of service programs, education in the fraternal benefits available to members, providing a safe environment for our youth and vulnerable adults, and growing our membership—are all directly related to the mission of the Knights of Columbus as outlined in the Charter. The vast majority of Councils in Florida have taken on these goals with determination and enthusiasm.

While we have achieved the collective membership growth goals that Supreme set for Florida for this Fraternal Year, I still hope to see at least 200 Councils in Florida achieve Star Council. It is not too late!

Never forget why Blessed Michael McGivney founded our Order. Supporting our parishes and communities through service programs and charitable works, providing opportunities to financially protect our families, and ensuring every Catholic man has the chance to join our order—these are the ways in which we fulfill his vision and carry out our mission. I hope and pray that each member, and each Council, will continue to carry out that vision and mission.

It has been my honor to serve as your State Deputy these past two years. Please give our newly elected State Deputy the same support you have given me.

A Spiritual Transition

State Deputy Elect Mike Gizewski

As the sun begins to set on the 2024-2025 fraternal year, and we prepare to rise together into a new year of faith, fraternity, and service beginning July 1, I write to you with deep gratitude, renewed purpose, and a heart full of hope. It is an extraordinary privilege and a profound honor to greet you for the first time as your newly elected State Deputy of Florida.

This transition marks more than a change in dates—it is a spiritual moment, a sacred passing of the torch, and an opportunity for each of us to recommit ourselves to the mission of the Knights of Columbus. Our Order was not founded to rest on comfort or tradition alone. We were founded in a time of hardship and uncertainty, and it is in those very moments that we find our strength. This same spirit of resolve, brotherhood, and divine calling lives on today—in every council, every parish, and every act of service carried out by you, my brother Knights.

(continued on next page...)

A Spiritual Transition

State Deputy Elect Mike Gizewski

(...continued from previous page)

I had the sacred privilege of being installed in the office of State Deputy in the very birthplace of our Order—St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut. As I stood within the hallowed walls of that humble but historic sanctuary, I felt more than honored I felt connected to something eternal. It was there, in 1882, that Blessed Michael McGivney gathered a small group of Catholic men, not to begin an organization, but to ignite a movement of faith and fraternity that would span generations and continents. That moment—humble in appearance but divine in purpose—forever changed the lives of Catholic men, their families, and the Church itself. To receive the responsibility of state leadership in that very place was not merely a formality for me; it was a moment of deep spiritual significance. I knelt where our founder knelt. I prayed where he prayed. And I accepted this calling with full awareness of the trust it carries, and the mission it demands.

As we reflect on the year coming to a close, we must first offer thanks—to God, to our priests, to our families, and to every brother Knight who labored in faith and humility to serve others. I have seen and heard of your good works across our beloved state. You fed the hungry, clothed the poor, supported pregnant women and their unborn children, gave comfort to the grieving, welcomed new members, and brought hope to those who had almost forgotten it. You led rosary rallies, served your pastors, mentored the next generation, stood for life, and served your communities with joy and courage. This is who we are. This is what it means to be a Knight.

Our principles—charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism—are not just ideals to admire; they are marching orders. And this new fraternal year gives us a new chance to live them more fully than ever before. We are not called to do what is easy or popular. We are called to do what is right. We are called to go where Christ goes—into the margins, into the broken places, into the aching hearts of our communities. And we are called to bring the light of the Gospel, the strength of our fraternity, and the power of our Catholic witness.

We do not serve for recognition. We serve because we are sons of the Church, disciples of Christ, and men devoted to our Blessed Mother. Every act of charity we offer, every prayer we lift, every hand we extend to our neighbor is part of something bigger—something eternal. The Knights of Columbus is not simply an organization. It is a brotherhood guided by the Holy Spirit and rooted in the heart of the Church.

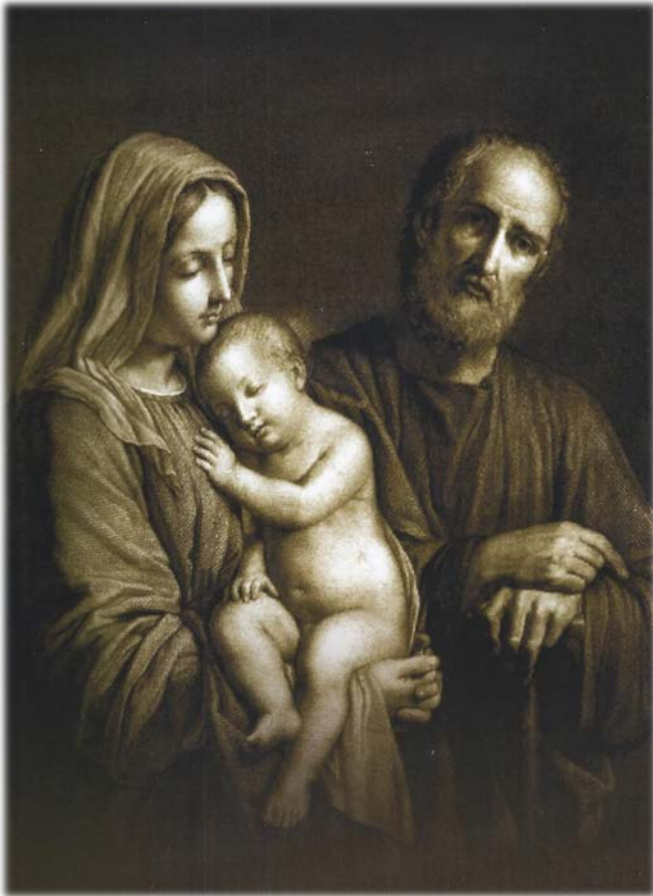
As we enter the 2025–2026 fraternal year, I invite you to renew your purpose. Invite that man in the pew beside you to join our brotherhood. Look for the need in your parish and be the one who responds. Speak boldly of your faith and live it with joy. Find ways to strengthen your council, support your chaplains, and become even more present to your community. We are not building our legacy—we are continuing the legacy of Blessed Michael McGivney, who reminds us of those ordinary men, when united in faith, can do extraordinary things.

My brothers, my offices and my district deputies I am humbled to serve you. I ask for your prayers as we begin this journey together. I also offer you mine. May we always place our trust in Jesus Christ, draw strength from the Holy Eucharist, and seek the intercession of our Blessed Mother, Patroness of our Order. Let us walk into this new fraternal year not with hesitation, but with holy boldness. Let us be men of action and prayer, men of faith and service. Let us be Knights.

Thank you for all you have done and all you will do. May God bless you and your families, and may He bless the Knights of Columbus in Florida.

Assembly Officers 2025-2026

Faithful Navigator	JJ Coyne, PGK	901.832.7332
Faithful Friar	Fr Michael W. Cooper, SJ	727.644.5544
Faithful Captain	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
Faithful Admiral	John Gohman	813.810.3735
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Color Corps Commander	Tom Wozniak, PGK, PFN, FDD	727.214.8377
Veterans Liaison	Bill Gallant	727.251.6300



A Family Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of our family. Enlighten our hearts and minds that we may live more fully this vocation to love.

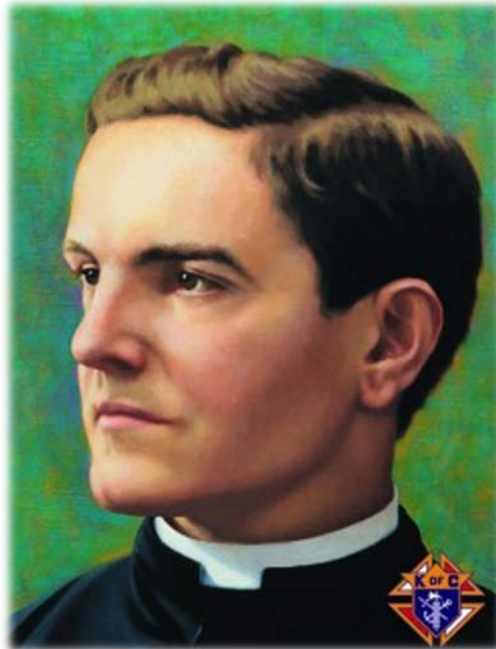
In our daily life and work,
May we reflect the self-giving love which you,
O Father, eternally show with your Son
and the Holy Spirit.

Let your love be evident in the peace that reigns in our home and in the faith, we profess and live. May our family always be a place of generosity, understanding, forgiveness and joy.

Kindly give us the wisdom and courage to be witnesses to your eternal design for the family; and grant that the Holy Family of Nazareth may always guide our path to holiness as a family.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.



Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney

Founder of the Knights of Columbus

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael 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 Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request).

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

What's Happening?



Council Calendar of Events...

July 2025

- 07/10 | Thu 6:15p Rosary
- 07/10 | Thu 7:00p Council Membership Meeting
- 07/13 | Sun 7:00a Coffee & Donuts
- 07/17 | Thu 8:00a Pinellas Hope Food Prep & Delivery
- 07/19 | Sat 8:00a Kimberly Home Work Day



Assembly Calendar of Events...

July 2025

- 07/04 | Fri 8:30a Independence Day Mass (Color Corps)
- 07/14 | Mon 7:00p Golf Tourney Committee Meeting
- 07/24 | Thu 7:00p Assembly Membership Meeting
FY 2025-26 Installation Ceremony

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Prayer for our Nation

God our Father, Giver of life, we entrust the United States of America to
Your loving care.

You are the rock on which this nation was founded.

You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and
the pursuit of happiness.

Reclaim this land for Your glory and dwell among Your people.

Send Your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders.

Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities
that accompany human freedom.

Remind Your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing
Your will.

Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, Patroness of our land,
grant us the courage to reject the "culture of death."

Lead us into a new millennium of life.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

