



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
AVE MARIA COUNCIL #14697  
AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER**

**Grand Knight’s Message**

Brothers,

In ancient times, Christian Knights were on duty 24/7 to answer the call to defend the poor and the vulnerable. Today, Knights need not strap on weapons but they are still called 24/7 to lend their hands to support the poor and the vulnerable. As the right hand of the Church and active participants in the Body of Christ, we must always be aware of the need to help and answer the call.

It is Fall now, and the Council will be called on to help the Church, the Community and our Brothers. Additional ushers will be needed for the increased attendance at Holy Mass. Brother Phil needs support for our one day a month effort at the Guadalupe Food Pantry. Brother Michael moves the food pantry materials to the Food Pantry as his partner, Brother Krzyminski has moved out of Ave Maria. Brother Rizer needs additional support to open and close the church. His 18 volunteers are covering 60-62 openings/closings a month. Another 12 volunteers would be a huge relief to this ministry. Brother Schang will be firing up the grills for the AMU football concession soon.

These are just a few of the items our Council assists with each month. Some take a few hours a month. Others require only 20 minutes of a Brother’s time. I encourage every Knight (we have over 280) to find a activity that is meaningful to them and lend a hand.. If you are not able to assist physically, we have many opportunities that only require prayer, emails or a phone call. Let me know and I will help you find a place in the service of the Council to Ave Maria.

Respectfully Submitted  
John Lanham  
Grand Knight

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO READ YOUR WEEKLY EMAIL FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES. PRAY FOR THOSE LISTED ON THE GOOD OF THE ORDER AND THE REVIEW OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES WILL KEEP YOU UP TO DATE ON COUNCIL ACTIVITIES. REMEMBER PAGE 2 HAS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES! IF YOU HAVE THE TIME, WE CAN HELP YOU PUT IT TO GOOD USE!**



**The inaugural Oktoberfest is coming!**

This year, the Council and its partners will bring a new event to Ave Maria, the Oktoberfest! On September 27, we will convert the section of Pope John Paul II Blvd next to Annunciation Circle into a celebration of all things German! Donations will go to the Guadalupe Food Pantry.

The day will include a German band, German food and of course, beer. A special thanks to our friends at Oil Well Craft Brewery for helping us launch this inaugural event.

Council Volunteers will be needed to make this a success. If you can assist with this fundraiser, please contact Brother Jim Kukalis at 203-207-0426 or email at [jkukalis@hotmail.com](mailto:jkukalis@hotmail.com).

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# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

## AVE MARIA COUNCIL #14697

### AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

#### Fraternal Year 25-26 Officers & Chairmen

Officer	Name
Grand Knight	John Lanham, PGK
Deputy Grand Knight	Daniel Hamilton
Chancellor	Robert Schoenborn
Recorder	Paul O'Keefe
Treasurer	Kevin Schang, PGK
Advocate	Paul Bruno
Warden	Sergio Patto
Inside Guard	John McGuire
Outside Guard	Michael Horne
One Year Trustee	Ralph Petragnani
Two Year Trustee	John Strysik
Three Year Trustee	Michael Baldasari
Financial Secretary	James Kukalis
Chaplain	Fr. Mark Ruckpaul
Lecturer	Kevin Schang

Program Director	John Lanham, PGK
Faith Director	Deacon Jeff Ball
Vocations Chairman	Stephen Roser
Community Director	Kevin Schang, PGK
Life Director	Daniel Hamilton
Health Service	George Anastasiades
Public Relations	
Family Director	Robert Schoenborn
Membership Director	James Kukalis
Recruitment Cmte 1	James Kukalis
Recruitment Cmte 2	Robert Schoenborn
Recruitment Cmte 3	Mike Baldasari
Insurance Promotion	Vacant
Retention Committee	Mike Baldasari
Retention Committee	Ralph Petragnani
Retention Committee	John Strysik
Head Usher	John Lanham, PGK
Lighthouse Project	Don Rizer
SSSC Chair	Tom DiFlorio
St Peter Ministry	Don Rizer

#### Calendar of Events

NOTE: These are planned & subject to change. Please review the Upcoming Activities email for the most up-to-date information.

- 8/18/2025 Assembly Business Meeting
- 8/18/2025 Council Business Meeting
- 8/19/2025 SSSCO Steering Committee
- 8/20/2025 Oktoberfest Steering Committee
- 8/22/2025 Holy Hour
- 8/23/2025 Installation of Officers
- 9/4/2025 Food Pantry Day
- 9/6/2025 Adopt a Spot
- 9/6/2025 Football Concession
- 9/8/2025 Nativity of the BVM Rosary Walk
- 9/8/2025 Assembly Officer Meeting
- 9/8/2025 Council Officer Meeting
- 9/9/2025 Exemplification of New Knights
- 9/10/2025 Soup Kitchen Day
- 9/11/2025 September 11th Remembrance
- 9/15/2025 Assembly Business Meeting
- 9/15/2025 Council Business Meeting

On this page is the current list of Council Officers and Committee Chairmen. It also lists the upcoming activities for the Parish, the Council & the Assembly through the next Council Business meeting.

Committee Meetings will be added to this calendar starting in the new Fraternal Year, July 1st.



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# Program Reports

## *Faith*

### **Parish Men's Retreat**

No Report this month.

### **Usher Ministry**

Usher Hours for the calendar year now stand at 2520 hours.

### **Lighthouse Evangelization**

The two Kiosk's continues to serve the community and provide a revenue stream for the Council. Gross receipts from February 24 to August 16, were **\$3,220**.

### **Good of the Order Rosary**

Our Goal is 300 rosaries for the Good of the Order this year. We are at forty-four for the new fraternal year starting July 1.

### **St. Peter's Ministry**

There are only **18** active members, which includes a few seasonal Knights. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact **Don Rizer** ([dcrizer@yahoo.com](mailto:dcrizer@yahoo.com)).

### **RSVP (Seminarian Support)**

We successfully sent the four seminarians on the Good of the Order list \$500 each. The new Ave Maria candidate, Connor Cameron will receive \$2100 in August when he begins his studies at St John Vianney.

### **Ave Maria Parish Support**

No Report this month.



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# Program Reports

## *Community*

### **Feed Ave Maria**

One request made and delivered in past month.

Blessings,  
Pete Battle

### **Food Pantry**

I was the sole volunteer from our Council to work in the Food Pantry on Thursday, August 7th. The two Council members that typically volunteer with me were out of town. A third Council knight, who was going to serve as a substitute volunteer, hurt his back a couple of days before that Thursday, and had to bow out. Fortunately, a young Immokalee High School graduate was working in the Food Pantry that day, and provided me considerable assistance.

My volunteer work efforts consisted of:

1. Removing from boxes different size diapers and placing 12 of them in individual bags and marking them with the diaper size.
2. Filling grocery bags with non-perishable food items and placing the filled bags on shelves to be dispensed to the poor.
3. Opening boxes taken off storage shelves, and placing various non-perishable food items contained therein, on shelves to be placed in grocery bags.

I arrived at the Food Pantry at 9:00 AM and departed at 11:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brother Phil DiPietro

### **Soup Kitchen**

The number of clients we are serving is 100 to 110 Monday through Friday. Shelf-stable foods are always welcome.

Brother Don Rizer

### **Catholic Essay Contest**

No Report this month.

### **Sunshine State Steak Cook off**

Steering Committee is meeting and preparing for the Fall Campaign to promote the Steak Cook-Off

### **Oktoberfest**

Steering Committee is meeting and will have more information next month.



# Program Reports

## *Family*

## *Life*

### **Soccer Shoot out**

No Report this Month.

### **AMU Summer Youth Retreat**

No Report this Month.

### **Fraternus**

No Report this Month.

### **Fidelis**

No Report this Month.

### **Donahue Academy**

No Report this Month.

### **March for Life**

No Report this Month.

### **Tootsie Roll Campaign**

No Report this Month.

### **ASAP (After Pregnancy Support)**

No Report this Month.



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# Financial Reports

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY WARRANTS

August 2025

#208	Jesse Gomez	\$500.00	RSVP #1
#209	Andres Cordero	\$500.00	RSVP #2
#210	Bao Nguyen	\$500.00	RSVP #3
#211	Valdiuia Alain	\$500.00	RSVP #4
#212	VOID	\$0.00	Void
#213	Sam's Club	\$25.06	Totus Tuui Food
#214	Gordon's Food	\$60.98	Totus Tuui Food
#215	Knights of Columbus	\$2000.00	Ultrasound Truck Initiative
#216	U. S. P. S	\$14.60	Postage
#217	Publix	\$17.63	Totus Tuui Ice
NEW FRATERNAL YEAR JULY 1,2025			
#01	K of C State Council	\$2803.00	State Per Capita
#02	Ach Payment	\$31.92	Website Fees
#03	State of Florida	\$89.67	Lic. & Title Transfer Trailer
#04	Trophy Case Ft. Meyers	\$47.86	



# Financial Reports cont'd

## *Treasurer Report*

STARTING BALANCE JULY: \$15,180.28

DEPOSITS: \$4135.34

DEBITS: \$6459.73

ENDING BALANCE JULY: \$12,855.89

CURRENT AUGUST DEPOSITS:

\$1180.95

CURRENT AUGUST DEBITS:

\$1523.49

CUURRENT OUTSTANDING ALLOCATIONS: \$100.00

CURRENT COUNCIL WORKING BALANCE TO DATE: *\$12,413.35*

## **CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT**

BEGINNING JULY BALANCE: \$13,436.99

JULY DEPOSITS: \$45.38

JULY DEBITS: 00

ENDING APRIL BALANCE: \$13,482.37

CURRENT CAPITAL RESERVE BALANCE TO DATE: \$13,482.37