Knights of Columbus

Msgr. Martin B. Power Council 14573

March 2026

Council Officers

Grand Knight
SK Rich Passarella
(321) 431-0982

Chaplain
SK Fr. John Bosco Maison
(321) 254-1595

Deputy Grand Knight
SK John Pechar
(724) 263-0273

Chancellor
SK Dwight Collins
(321) 960-6540

Warden
SK Bobby Sullivan
(321) 223-2473

Recorder
SK Bob Richmond
(321) 298-3884

Financial Secretary
Brother Richard Becker
(561) 523-0499

Treasurer
SK Randy Lascody
(321) 626-0804

Inside Guard
SK Joe Ameigh
(321) 242-0694

Outside Guard
SK Ralph Carestia
(321) 432-8439

Advocate
SK Mike Marzec
(321) 5431404

Lecturer
SK Deacon Chris Meehan
(321) 242-8003

Membership Director
SK John Miller
(321) 794-6620

Trustee (1 year)
SK Bill Quinn
(954) 917-8413

Trustee (2 year)
SK Dave AmRhein
(321) 591-6697

Trustee (3 year)
SK Jose Montes
(321) 795-8171

From the Grand Knight

Worthy Brothers and Sisters,

February truly was a remarkable month for our Knights and Ladies Auxiliary members, who generously dedicated their time, talent, and donations to serve our Ascension and the wider community. Their shining efforts and commitment made a wonderful impact that we deeply appreciate.

Our **Polar Plunge** donations exceeded expectations, reaching an inspiring total of $6800, twice our $3000 goal! A heartfelt thank you to our generous parishioners and to everyone who braved the chilly weather to gather donations during the weekend masses. The Plunge on Thursday, Feb 12th at The Tides Beach was a fun-filled morning, despite the overcast skies. Special thanks to our wonderful Sir Knights who braved the cold water: Pastor and Chaplain Father John Bosco, Father John Triolo, Jim Voltaire, Bobby Sullivan, and the fantastic chairman, Paul Kuracz. Your enthusiasm and support truly made this activity amazing for the Florida Special Olympics.

Thank you to everyone who attended the **Sacred Heart of Jesus Icon Holy Hour** on Tuesday, Feb 17th. Special thanks to our celebrant, SK Deacon Chris Meehan, Ascension Music Director Doug Duca, the Assembly Color Corps, and everyone who helped make the Holy Hour a meaningful and spiritual event. At the Saturday 4:30 PM Vigil Mass, one of our new Knights, Marcel Bonnici, had the joyful opportunity to carry the Icon in the entrance procession, supported by three Assembly Honor Guards: Sir Knights John Miller, Elmer Rivera, and Joe Ameigh.

The Council will host a fundraising event for the **American Wheelchair Program** on the weekend of February 28 and March 1, with donations collected at all weekend masses. There is a significant need for children, teens, and adults worldwide who lack mobility due to birth defects, war, disease, accidents, natural disasters, or aging, and who need a wheelchair but cannot afford one. The money raised will allow the Council to purchase and deliver a new wheelchair for $150, which would normally cost over $500. Your tax-deductible donations help the Knights make an immediate and tangible difference in people's lives. All gifts, large and small, will go toward purchasing wheelchairs through the AWP. Brothers and sisters, let us come together as the generous Ascension community to help the poorest of the poor regain mobility, hope, and freedom. Please visit the Council webpage to donate online.

GK Rich Passarella (continued)

With the Florida State Convention scheduled for May, the Council began planning our participation by nominating and holding an election for convention delegates. At the council meeting, SK Dave AmRhein presented the delegate nominations from the February Officers meeting and conducted the election with the council members. Delegates elected will be the Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, and two alternate delegates, Trustees Bill Quinn and Jose Montes. Financial Secretary Rich Becker will submit the delegates' names in the state online system.

A big thank you to SK Dwight Collins for steering the Council's **40 Cans for Lent Drive**! We warmly invite every Knight and parishioner to join us in this meaningful journey by pledging, purchasing, and donating one can of food each day during the 40 days of Lent. Please take a moment to visit the Council webpage to register your pledge—your generous donations will serve Ascension's Social Concerns in providing food for the needy and help us secure a matching contribution from the Supreme Council. Let's come together to make a real difference!

Our first Lenten Friday Fish Dinner took place on Friday, February 20th, at the Ascension School Cafetorium, and it was a wonderful event! A big thank you to SK Jose Montes and his dedicated team for their outstanding work in preparing and serving the meals from 4:30 to 7 PM. Guests could choose to take out or dine in before or after the Stations of the Cross —no reservations needed! Jose's team offered a delicious adult meal for $15, featuring options like Fried Cod or Baked Fish, along with sides such as Mac and Cheese, Coleslaw, French Fries, a variety of desserts, and refreshing hot and cold beverages. Kids could enjoy a meal for just $5, with options like a slice of cheese pizza or a combo of fish and Mac and Cheese, plus a dessert and a drink. Kids 2 years old and under eat free! It was a warm and inviting evening, and over 150 meals were sold, which everyone truly enjoyed. The first Fish Fry was a great learning experience, and we are confident the upcoming ones will run even more smoothly. We invite you to be part of it—please visit the Council webpage and sign up to help with cooking, serving, and cleanup or just come to enjoy a delicious dinner.

The Florida State Council is excited to sponsor again a statewide charitable fund raffle to support local councils and Florida KofC Charities, Inc. When you buy a ticket book for $10 (which includes 4 tickets), 60% of your purchase helps the State, and 40% helps the Council's charitable fund. Our council has been challenged to sell 112 raffle books. Prizes include 1st place of $25,000, 2nd place of $ 5,000, and two 3rd-place prizes of $ 1,000 each. We are about 50% of the way to our goal. The final drawing will be held at the State Convention on May 23rd, 2026- you don't need to be present to win! You can get your raffle ticket books at our Assembly and Council Meetings, at the Fish Fry and donut hall after masses or by emailing us at ascension14573@gmail.com.

Also, this year's Laps for Life is scheduled for Saturday, March 7th, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Melbourne Central Catholic High School Track. At the Council meeting, our Insurance Agent SK John Barfield shared that his family—wife Cinthia and children Matthew, Elena, and Nicholas—are signed up as walkers on the 2026 Brevard Laps for Life webpage. The overall goal for the Brevard L4L is $20,000, which will support the Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative Program to purchase ultrasound machines for pro-life pregnancy centers, hopefully including another one in the local Brevard area. We raise $20,000 here in Brevard, and Supreme will provide the other $20,000 to complete the funding for the purchase of an ultrasound machine. You can participate as a walker or runner and start your own fundraising page, or simply DONATE if you are unable to attend or participate. To participate or DONATE, please visit the Council webpage or go to www.brevardl4l.org. No contribution is too small. Come out to support this activity and cheer on the Barfield family and the other Brevard KOC walkers and runners. Food and water will be provided during the event.

St. Joseph's Council is hosting a **St. Patrick's Day Party** at St. Joe's KOC Hall on Saturday, March 14th, with a social hour at 5 pm and a choice of chicken or corned beef dinner at 6 PM. Tickets are $25 per person. Please contact the Grand Knight if interested in attending.

Our next Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 19th, at 7 PM in the Knights Room, with a Power Rosary taking place at 6:15 PM.

God Bless You.

SK Rich Passarella
Grand Knight
Council 14573

Council Notes

Council Website. We continue to add new features to our Council and Assembly website — the place to find the latest information and activities — HERE

Prayer Requests – Prayer requests can be sent via email to ascension14573@gmail.com, and can now also be submitted from the council's website. Just click here for Prayer Requests on the home page and you will be directed to a form where you can enter your request. An email will be sent to the Council and The Ladies Auxiliary to ask them to unite in prayer with you and your request will be also included in the monthly Power Rosary.

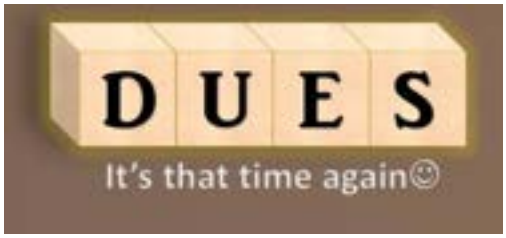
40 Cans for Lent. The Knights of Columbus Martin B. Power Council 14573 is challenging all parishioners to join them in their 40 CANS FOR LENT Annual food drive. The plan is simple: pledge, purchase and donate one can of food per day for the 40 days during the Lenten season starting Ash Wednesday and ending Good Friday. Donations can be brought to Church or Social Concerns all at once or weekly. Put the cans in the baskets already designated for food collection.

- NOTICE: Per request from the Social Concerns Pantry: PLEASE, NO GREEN BEANS OR CORN UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, THANK YOU!
- Visit the 40 Cans For Lent page to pledge your donation.

Florida State Council Charity Raffle. We are selling the FL State Charity Raffle tickets. They are $10 per book - Please see raffle committee chair SK Brian Ellerhorst for your book of tickets.

Council Notes

- **Renew Your Dues Now.** July 1st marks the start of a new Fraternal Year. Our membership dues for the K of C Council 14573 are due at the beginning of the Fraternal Year. Regular dues are $40 per year. If you have any questions about your dues, email Richard Becker at rit3722@gmail.com. Below are two options to pay our dues:



1. Pay by check payable to "K of C Council 14573" and hand the check to Richard Becker (Financial Secretary) orRandy Lascody (Treasurer) at the next council meeting or mail it to:"K of C Council 14573, Attention: Richard Becker, 4825 Tiverton Court, Melbourne, FL 32934
2. Pay electronically using a Credit Card, Debit Card, PayPal, or Venmo. This can be done from the Council's website Dues page by clicking on this link. If that URL link does not take you to the dues page, visit the main page here — Council Website.
3. Please remember that your membership dues support Council sponsored charitable contributions, operations, and per-capita assessments from Supreme and the Florida State Council. The combined annual Supreme and Florida State Council assessments must be paid by the Council for all members on the roster, even if the member did not pay his dues. Paying your dues avoids the Council from having to use someone else's dues or funds targeted towards charitable contributions to cover members who do not pay, therefore we ask that you please stay current with your membership dues.

- **Assembly Dues** were due on January 1. Please pay your annual dues of $25 at your earliest convenience. Followup notices will sent to all members who have not paid their dues — you can pay in person at the next meeting or bring your check to the Parish office. Dues are the main funding for the Assembly so please pay promptly.

- **Ascension Thrift Store.** The store continues to fall short in having enough volunteers to support all the hours necessary to bring in the revenue needed to support the Social Concerns Ministry and the Ascension Catholic School. The store is a key source of revenue for these ministries. If you can spare a few hours, please consider volunteering. You can contact the Thrift Store to volunteer here.

ASCENSION THRIFT STORE
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Below are QR code links to sign up to volunteer. Please consider joining this amazing group of people, for it is in giving that we receive. Feel free to pass this along to anyone who may be interested in helping out. Thank you for your time and consideration. May the peace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.

WEEKDAY VOLUNTEER
SATURDAY WAREHOUSE

Ascension Thrift Shop is in need of
TENTS AND SLEEPING BAGS

Please bring donations to the Thrift Shop during hours of operation.

Thank you for your generosity.

For more information on volunteering, please call: 321-610-8742 or email: info@AscensionThriftShop.com

Council Notes

- **Daily Bread.** In the past, the Knights have supported the Daily Bread facility on the fourth Sunday of the month with volunteers who served the noon meal. This is no longer provided at the Melbourne location. The future plans are to build Providence Place — a permanent, affordable multi-family apartment community with on-site resident services and amenities, prioritized for individuals and families facing homelessness in Melbourne. Currently, the staff at Daily Bread are organizing a mobile outreach program which we hope to support in the future. POC: SK Ric Robinson

  - For more information on Daily Bread or to volunteer — click here

- **Council and Assembly Shirts.** We now have a new project officer who is our single point of contact for all things shirts and hats for the The Council and Assembly — SK Bill Quinn. We also have a new patriotic hat for $20 that is available for both the Council or Assembly. Contact Bill for all of your Council and Assembly attire needs.

  - SK Bill now has both Council and Assembly hats for sale — $20. Contact Bill if you want a hat.

- **Bartman.** We will continue to use Bartman as a source for Council and Assembly attire. This company is owned and operated by a brother Knight and has proven to be very reliable in the past. Any Knight shirt, hat, or other item or clothing can be ordered from Bartman and can also be embroidered to your specifications. You can order the shirt to your specifications yourself by visiting their website, calling, or visiting their shop — or just see Bill.

Bartman Enterprises

2735 Center Place
Suite 101
Melbourne, FL 32940
Phone: (321) 259-4898
Cellphone : (321) 324-9212
Fax: (321) 259-4424

Email : papanole@aol.com

Business Hours :
Monday through Thursdays : 8:30am - 5:30pm
Friday : 8:30am - 3:00pm
Visit Bartman here

The next monthly Council meeting will be held on March 19 at 7PM in the Knights Room. Power Rosary at 6:15 in the Ministry Building, Room 313.

March 2026

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Monsignor Martin B. Power Council #14573
Council Email: ascension14573@gmail.com

Council #14573 – 2009/10/11/12/19 Florida State Council of the Year

DATE	TIME	EVENT	CHAIR
Feb 28 Mar 1st	All Masses	Food for the Poor/ Red/Assembly Shirt	SK J. Kelly
	All Masses	Global Wheelchair Mission weekend	Sk J Pechar
Sun 1st	1:30-2:30 pm	Life Chain (Corner of Pineda and Wickham)	SK B. Sullivan
	2-3 pm	Silver Rose Prayer Service	SK B Churchill
Thu 5th	6:15 pm	Chaplet of Divine Mercy (Ladies Room – 313)	SK Ralph Carestia
	7 pm	Assembly Meeting (Knight's Room – 312)	WFN R Light
Fri 6th	9-10:30 am	Highway Cleanup (Knight's House)	SK R. Lascody
	4:30 pm 7 pm	Lenten Fish Fry Dinner School Cafetorium	SK Jose Montes
Sat 7th	9am 12 pm	Laps for Life MCC Track	SK J Barfield
	10:30 am 12:30 pm	State Free Throw Competition (MCC High School Gym)	SK M. Marzec
Thur 12th	6:30 7:30 pm	Council Officers meeting	WGK R Passarella
Fri 13th	4:30 pm 7 pm	Lenten Fish fry Dinner School Cafetorium	SK Jose Montes
Sat 14th	7:15 am 11:15	Pray for Life (Orlando) Meet at N Wickham Home Depot	SK R Sepulveda
	9 am	St. Patrick's Day Parade (Gather at Melbourne Auditorium, Step off at 10 AM)	CCC E. Merlet
Thu 19th	6:15 pm	Power Rosary (LA Room – 313)	SK B. Sullivan
	7 pm	Council Meeting (Knights Room – 312)	WGK R Passarella
Fri 20th & 27th	4:30 pm 7 pm	Lenten Fish Fry Dinner School Cafetorium	WGK J. Montes
Thu 26th	7 pm	Charity, Unity, Fraternity Exemplification (Note 1)	WGK R Passarella

LOOK AHEAD

DATE	TIME	EVENT	CHAIR
April 24th	10 am	Flag Retirement Ceremony ACS Middle school Students	SK B Richmond

Note1. Based on applicant availability

Click here to subscribe to the Council and Assembly Calendar.

*** Please provide input for the monthly council events to DGK John Pechar jpechar68@gmail.com

Near Term Important Dates at Ascension Parish:

- Each Wednesday: Holy Hour (1700-1800)

Activity Chairmen Phone Numbers:

WGK Rich Passarella 321-431-0982
WFN Rob Light 321-626-9641
DGK John Pechar 724-263-0273
CCC Eddy Merlet 954-882-3687
SK Ralph Carestia 321-432-8439
SK Jerry Kelly 321-258-7477
SK Randy Lascody 321-626-0804
SK Bob Richmond 321-298-3884
SK Bobby Sullivan 321-223-2473
SK Mike Marzec 321-543-1404
SK Paul Kuracz 321-223-5627
SK Dave AmRhein 321-591-6697
SK Dwight Collins 321-960-654

Ladies Auxillary

President Becky Richard 412-779-9970
Vice President Lyn Becker 561-531-3173

+ THE 4TH DEGREE +

+ PATRIOTISM +

BISHOP NORBERT M. DORSEY CP ASSEMBLY #3482

Assembly Officers

Faithful Navigator
SK Rob Light
(321) 626-9641

Faithful Friar
SK Fr. John Bosco Maison
(321) 254-1595

Spiritual Advisor
SK Deacon Tom Stauffacher
(321) 242-4504

Faithful Captain
SK Ralph Carestia
(321) 432-8439

Faithful Pilot
SK Malachy McGuinness
(321)213-0923

Faithful Admiral
SK Bill Quinn
(321) 917-8413

Faithful Comptroller
SK Lacy Beanblossom
318-230-0393

Faithful Purser
SK Elmer Rivera
(787) 619-7684

Faithful Scribe
SK Bob Richmond
(321) 298-3884

Faithful Inner Sentinel
SK Bobby Sullivan
(321) 223-2473

Faithful Outer Sentinel
SK Joe Ameigh
(321) 242-0694

Trustee (One Year)
SK Jim Chatman
(321) 223-8963

Trustee (Two Year)
SK Rich Passarella
(321) 431-0982

Trustee (Three Year)
SK John Pechar
(724) 263-0273

Color Corps Commander
SK Eddy Merlet
(954) 882-3687

From the Faithful Navigator

Sir Knights

The Concept of Catholic Knighthood – Part I (excerpt from *The Knights of Columbus: An Illustrated History*, pg. 25, by Andrew T. and Maureen H. Walther, SquareOne, 2020):

["Drawing from the chivalry and code of conduct that characterized the knights of the Middle Ages, the Knights of Columbus forged a new type of knighthood – one that was suited to modern times. Initially, knights fulfilled secular rather than religious roles. However, spirituality and fidelity to the Church soon became increasingly important. Knighthood became overtly religious with the founding of monastic orders of knighthood, promoted by Saint Bernard of Clairvaux. The ideals of non-monastic Catholic knights also received significant attention in a treatise on knighthood by Blessed Ramon Llull, who also devoted his life to evangelization in the Middle East. Although the works of knights varied and evolved over centuries, these holy men urged knights to settle for nothing less than the pinnacle of virtue and fidelity." … to be continued in the March edition.]

An update to Faithful Captain SK Ralph Carestia's efforts in coordinating the Deployed Services Member Appreciation Dinner … he is inquiring as to the use of "The Tides" club facility that is across the street from PSFB on A1A as an alternate venue while renovations take place at our usual location. A sincere thank you to the Color Corps for their participation in escort duty for the Sacred Heart of Jesus Icon Prayer Service on 17 February, SK Al Odorizzi's funeral (Ascension) on 24 February, and SK Marks Peoples funeral (Our Lady of Grace) on 28 February – much honor given!

Next meeting is March 5 at 7 PM in the Knights Room. Chaplet of the Divine Mercy immediately preceding the meeting at 6:30 in Room 313 (Ladies

As a reminder, the next Assembly meeting will be held on Thursday, **5 March**, at **7:00pm** in Rm 312 of the Ministry Center preceded by the Divine Mercy Chaplet Devotion beginning at **6:15pm**. Some other upcoming activities include:

- SK Bill Lansing's Funeral, Our Lady of Grace, 3 March, 1300 (with Color Corps)
- Brother Knight Robert Caldo's Funeral, Ascension Parish, 10 March, 1100 (with Color Corps)
- Saint Patrick's Day Parade, Melbourne Auditorium, 14 March, 1000 (with Color Corps)
- Flag Retirement Ceremony with Ascension School, 24 April, 1000

If you are not already a member of the Assembly or Color Corps and interested in learning more, please contact Membership Director, SK John Miller, Color Corps Commander, SK Eddy Merlet, or myself about joining (contact info listed on the KofC newsletter front page and Assembly page). Please keep an eye out for upcoming events in the monthly activity sheet and God Bless!

Vivat Jesus

SK Rob Light
Faithful Navigator

2025-2026 ASSEMBLY 3482 PLAN OF ACTIVITIES

Date/Time	Event	Chairman
July 15 1500	Roundtable with Fr. John Bosco	Parish Office, WGK, FN, MP
August 10	Veteran Presentation Purple Heart Recognition	FC Ralph Carestia CCC Eddie Merlet
August 10 1130	Quarterly Council/Assembly Corporate Communion, Color Corps CCC Eddie Merlet	WGK/PFN Rich Passarella FN Rob Light
Sept 11 1200	911 Patriotic Rosary Ascension Catholic Church	WDGK/PFN John Pechar SK John Autio
Sept 11 1800	911 Ceremony at Veteran's Center Merritt Island	SK Bobby Sullivan
Sep 18	Vietnam Disabled Veterans Fundraiser Dinner	SK Be Duong SK Bobby Sullivan
Oct 30 1500	Roundtable with Fr. John Bosco	Parish Office, WGK, FN, MP
Nov 1 Sun Mass	All Souls' Day Service	WGK/PFN Rich Passarella CCC Eddie Merlet
Nov 8 1000	Veterans' Day Parade – Color Corps Assembly / Council / LA	CCC Eddie Merlet SK Bobby Sullivan
Nov 11	Veterans Flag Ceremony at Shady Oaks Cemetery following Veterans' Day Parade	SK John Autio SK Bobby Sullivan
Nov 17	Flag Folding Event with Cub Scouts	SK John Autio
Dec 13 1630	Quarterly Council/Assembly Corporate Communion, Color Corps CCC Eddie Merlet	WGK/PFN Rich Passarella FN Rob Light
Dec 13 0930	Wreaths Across America at Shady Oaks and JS Sloan Cemeteries	FN Rob Light WDGK/PFN John Pechar CCC Eddie Merlet
Jan 3-14	Prepare Form 1728 Annual Survey of Fraternal Activities Report – Due Jan 31	FN Rob Light FC Ralph Carestia
Jan 12-18	Sacred Heart of Jesus Icon w/Color Corps	WGN/PFN Rich Passarella CCC Eddie Merlet
Jan 21 1500	Roundtable with Fr. John Bosco	Parish Office, WGK, FN, MP
		FC Ralph Carestia
March	Prepare Form 2321 Civic Award Application	FN Rob Light FC Ralph Carestia
April ???	Ascension School Flag Retirement Ceremony	SK Bob Richmond
Mid-April 1500	Roundtable with Fr. John Bosco	Parish Office, WGK, FN, MP
May 4	Color Corps Marching of the Colors	FP Melachy McGuinness
May 4 TBD	Quarterly Council/Assembly Corporate Communion, Color Corps CCC Eddie Merlet	WDGK/PFN Rich Passarella FN Rob Light
May TBD	Vietnam Travelling Wall & Laying of Wreaths (Assembly/Council/LA) – Color Corps	CCC Eddie Merlet
May TBD	May Crowning (ACCW) Color Corps	CCC Eddie Merlet
May 25 TBD	Memorial Day Ceremony at Shady Oaks	SK Bobby Sullivan
June 27 1800	Flags for Heroes Flag Display Knight's House Lawn Area	WDGK/PFN John Pechar PGK Dave Jim Rhein
July 4 1000	Independence Day Parade Assembly / Council / LA	CCC Eddie Merlet SK Bobby Sullivan

March Birthdays

Heavenly Father, We praise You for all Your gifts to us. In a special way,, we thank You for our brothers as they celebrate their birthday. Bless them always in Your love. Bless us too, Holy Father, Help us all to praise You and give You glory Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sergio Colon-Velez	March, 3
Darrel Keim	March, 4
Michael Arias	March, 11
Michael Smith	March, 13
Geoffrey Schmits	March, 15
Sam Zeidan	March, 15
Ronald Bourque	March, 16
Andrew Whelan	March, 19
Nicholas St Gabriel	March, 25
Joseph Tocco	March, 26
Lennie Cloud	March, 27
Robert Baird	March, 28
Brian Ellerhorst	March, 30
George Luniw	March, 30

Be sure to let us know if we miss any monthly birthdays

You can find the Ascension 14573 Monthly Newsletters -- HERE

Chaplains Corner

Deacon SK Tom Stauffacher

When Jesus began his ministry, there were always crowds that followed him. What did they want? They were demanding crowds — they came to get something. They came with demands — they came to use him. They came not to give but to take. But that is not not really strange and is very characteristic of our human nature. And we see this right here at Ascension too — always looking for help — help to do something or help with monetary donations. When we talk about us — the Knights of Columbus — we talk about using the gifts that God gave us — time, talents, and treasures where we do the good things that we need to do and don't ask for anything back in return. We see that in our Parish community — we do what needs to be done — you see it during Lent with our Fish Fry's. You see it at Social Concerns and the Thrift Shop and with Coats for Kids — wherever things need to be done, you will see Knights there doing what is needed without asking for anything in return. We use our time, talents, and treasures as God intended. We offer our affection, our service and our devotion to help God to do the things that he wants us to do when and wherever he needs it without any concerns of rewards for our actions. Why? Because it is simply a Knights of Columbus thing.

Deacon SK Chris Meehan

Deacon Chris wanted to share the homily Pope Leo gave on Ash Wednesday:

Ash Wednesday Homily of Pope Leo XIV

The Historian's Corner

At a recent Council Assembly meeting, Deacon Chris gave a very information and entertaining talk on survival in the Arctic — a true story of how 8 men in 1630 survived the winter.

An Unknown Survival Classic: How Eight Men Survived an Arctic Overwintering in 1630

You can read the story by Lou Bodenhemier

READ THE STORY HERE

Sacred heart of Jesus Holy Hour

February 17

Monthly Council Meeting

January Family of the Month
PGK Dave AmRhein, Michelle & Wayne Devoid, GK Rich Passarella

January Knight of the Month
SK Brian Ellerhorst

Lenten Fish Fry's

Starting Friday February 20th, we started our annual Friday Lenten Fish Fry's. This is shaping to be a big and much needed fundraiser for our council. Due to the church renovation, the dinners will be offered in the school cafetorium. Food prep and service will be in the cafetorium after 3:30 PM for most volunteers. Some who have been Safe Environment cleared by the Diocese will begin meal prep in the school kitchen around 2PM. We also have limited use of the Parish Hall kitchen to do some prep before 3:30 PM. The food service will be in the cafetorium.

- We are following the same approach as last year with some minor changes to the sides offered. Here are the highlights:

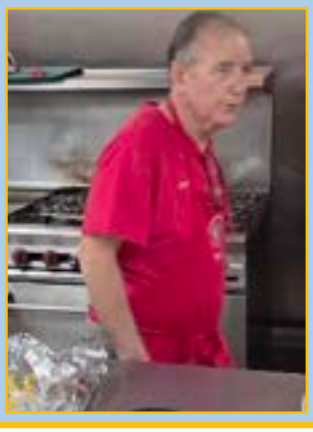
  1. Dinner service: **4:30 PM to 7:00 PM**. Come before or after Stations of the Cross, or any time. Meals are served as you come, first come first served until closing time or until we run out.
  2. Dinner Options:

  Adult Meal ($15) includes all of the following:
  - Choice of fried OR baked fish
  - Choice of sides like mac n' cheese, french fries, coleslaw, and others.
  - Simple desserts
  - Hot and cold drinks

    Kids Meal will include a choice of a slice of cheese pizza or fish and 1 side, dessert, and a drink ($5).

  3. No reservations required!
  4. Dine-in or Take-out orders

- We have held two Fish Fry's in February and have received very positive feedback — total net income from the two events is $2106. So we. are off to a very good start!
- There are 4 Fridays left during Lent and we will need A LOT of help each week. We are use Signup Genius for volunteer signup. Check the Upcoming Events page for more information. If you are unable to volunteer to help, consider attending and supporting this fundraising activity. Proceeds are used for the council's charitable donations, scholarships, seminarian support, and operations. Your participation in any way is greatly appreciated!



Free Throw Championship

The local competition was held on Monday, January 12 and Tuesday, January 13 in the Ascension School gym.

- There are 12 age divisions of boys and girls age 9-14. To compete, at the follow-on competitions, students must be 9yo as of December 1. We allowed all eligible students to compete at the local level.
- We had our regular volunteers but are always looking for a few more who would like with this and other events held at the school that we support. This is a great opportunity to work with the school staff and students but it does come with a special requirement — all volunteers must be Safe Environment Background Checked and fingerprinted. So if you qualify or would like to qualify for future events with the school, consider volunteering.
    - SK Mike Marzec and SK Bob Richmond are co-chairs for the 2026 Free Throw. Please let us know if you have any questions about how to volunteer or get your Safe Environment Training.
- We had a great experience at the local competition — was fun for both the Knights, staff and students. We had 9 students who completed their official forms to enter the District Level competition.

The District Free Throw Championship was held January 24 at Melbourne Central Catholic High School and the Ascension Eagle competitors did excellent. We had eight students who competed at the District Competition 5 who moved on to the Regional event.

The Regional Free Throw Championship was held February 28 at MCC and the Ascension Eagle competitors once again did excellent. We had five students who competed at the Regional Competition and 3 who moved on to the State event which will be held at MCC on March 7. Results are below.

<u>First Place</u>

10 Year-Old Boys	Kayden Lewis
11 Year-Old Girls	Isabella Walters
12 Year-Old Girls	Liana Roeder

<u>Second Place</u>

12 Year-Old Boys	Brayden Dunham

<u>Third Place</u>

10 Year-Old Girls	Addison Moyles

All winning competitors will receive a certificate and a Walmart gift card for $25 after school Mass on March 25 Those who advanced beyond the District level will receive a gift card for $50.

2026 Polar Plunge

By SK Paul Kuracz

SK Jim Voltaire, SK Paul Kuracz, Father John Bosco, Father John Triolo, and SK Bobbie Sullivan

before taking the 2026 Polar Plunge

This year's 2026 Polar Plunge campaign has been a record-breaking year. With the generous help from Father John Bosco and Father John Triolo, we were able to about $6992.00 for Special Olympics which was our highest total to date. Our council was the third highest fund raiser for the Orlando Polar Plunge. The 2026 Polar Plunge will be remembered by two frigid events! The incredibly cold weather during the Church collection weekend and the Polar Plunge itself. Knights and Lady Auxiliary members endured brisk and windy 27-degree weather to support collections after the evening and morning Masses on January 31st and February 1st. On a chilly winter day at beach near Tide's Club across from Patrick Space Force Base, the Polar Plungers jumped into the 63-degree water. Father John Bosco was the first of the plungers to race into the water, while the rest of team took a slower approach. Father John Triolo took his first plunge without hesitation. He laughed throughout the whole event and probably wondering what he got himself into. Unfortunately, the jagged rocks and waves prevented the team from staying in more than a few minutes.

Along with the continued support of Council 14573 and the Ladies Auxiliary, we could not have been a success without Father John, the wonderful Church Office staff, and Joyce DeFusco's embroidering. To date, the Polar Plunge has raised over $19000.00 in 6 years!

Father John Triolo and Father John Bosco arrive to the Polar Plunge!

Post Plunge

Father John Triolo warming up after his first plunge along with Deputy Grand Knight John Pechar

A Check From the School for $500

Knights of Columbus Silver Rose Program

Each year, from early March through mid-December, Silver Roses are stewarded by Knights of Columbus councils along routes from Canada to Mexico. Every stop the Silver Rose makes throughout the pilgrimage is a rosary-centered occasion for Knights, parishioners, and community members to pray for respect for life, for the spiritual renewal of each nation, and for the advancement of the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

There are eight Silver Roses on eight pilgrimage routes throughout the US. This year, our Council will have the opportunity and privilege of a Silver Rose visiting our area. This Silver Rose is identified as the Route 5 Silver Rose starting here in Florida on February 14 for a month, visiting many Councils in Florida, then traveling through 10 states. Eventually, arriving in Mexico on December 9 and staying until December 12, the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, all the Silver Roses will meet at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We are scheduled to receive it at Ascension Catholic Community on Sunday, March 1st, and are planning an afternoon prayer service similar to the pilgrim ICON Holy Hour.

You can share the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe and promote respect for life by participating in this meaningful pilgrimage. The Silver Rose program demonstrates the unity among Knights of Columbus in Canada, the United States, and Mexico through a series of prayer services that promote the dignity of all human life and honor Our Lady. So please, **SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, MARCH 1st, at 2 PM**.

Pictures from prayer service will be in the April newsletter.

The Silver Rose and Our Lady of Guadalupe

Ascension Catholic School

The future of the Church is being formed in hearts and homes all around us. In this special message, Father John Bosco shares why supporting Catholic education matters — because when we invest in faith formation, we strengthen the Church for generations to come.

At Ascension Catholic School, we are honored to partner with families in nurturing faith, academic excellence, and servant leadership in our students. Through your support of the 30th Annual Golden Gala – An Evening Under the Stars, you help ensure that this mission continues to thrive here on the Space Coast.

Our children are growing into the leaders, parents, parishioners, and faithful disciples of tomorrow.

Become a sponsor — Purchase your tickets — Support the mission
Visit https://onecau.se/acsgala30 to join us Under the Stars.

Together, we are building something that lasts far beyond one evening — we are strengthening the future of the Church.

From the Ladies Auxiliary

I pray that this Newsletter finds you experiencing a beautiful Lenten journey that is drawing you deeper into your relationship with our Lord. We continue to prepare our hearts and minds for the gift of Easter. Don't forget to have your clocks "Spring Forward" this Saturday into Sunday! Doesn't it seem like we were just setting them the other direction? My, how time flies!

We were unable to present our February "Lady of the Month" award at the last meeting, as our recipient was unable to attend. It's always difficult to choose just one to recognize, as so many of you work so very hard to provide support for our Knights, and provide services to our community. Please know that you are all seen and appreciated, your selfless acts do not go unnoticed, and our parish and community are thriving, in no small part due to your giving spirit.

Newer members Judy Mabry, Denise Brower, Irene Halquist, and Martha Heaton were called upon to share a little about themselves at our last meeting, so we can get to know them better. If you haven't had a chance to meet them, yet, please introduce yourselves and give them a big welcome. There is nothing like servicing together at our many activities to help us grow together as friends and Sisters in Christ, and we can look forward to seeing and working with these wonderful Ladies in the coming days and months!

Our Fish Fry Fridays are off to a great start. At this writing, we have 2 of the 6 completed. It is always a fun event to work, so if you haven't come out to help this year, please consider coming this Friday, or plan to come and enjoy dinner with us! 40 Cans For Lent is also underway. Several of our Ladies, or past Ladies, will either be on this upcoming CRHP Team, or attending the retreat. Please keep them in your prayers. Come, Holy Spirit.

Please wish a …

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! to:

Kathy Harris	March 8
Grace Belfiore	March 24

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! to:

Joan and James Guin	March 4
Doreen and Norm Boudreau	March 20
Lan and Be Duong	March 28

This is a busy time around Ascension, and we are all getting used to the move back into the hall now that construction has begun again in the sanctuary and all of that the move entails for our very active parish. These are just growing pains, and bumps in the road, that will quickly pass. We look forward to celebrating in our newly renovated spaces, and pray that we are are able to celebrate Christmas there. Until then, we adapt and find new ways to do what we do! We will all most certainly grow in patience through the process, which is a virtue to be treasured.

It will soon be time for the Trustees to present a slate of candidates for Board positions. Please prayerfully consider serving, and notify a Trustee of your interest.

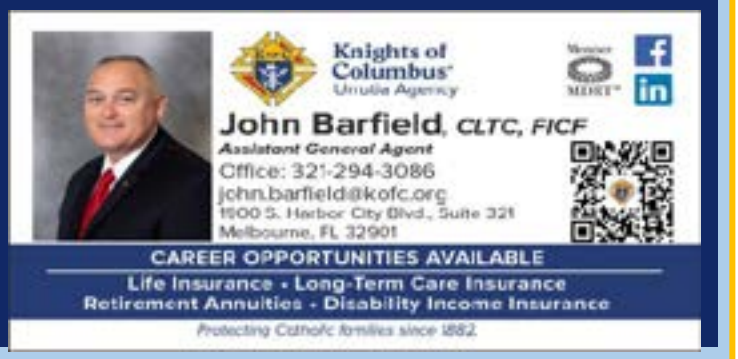
Our next Ladies Auxiliary meeting will be on March 19, beginning at 7pm. I hope to see you there!

Your Sister in Christ,

Becky Richard
President, Ladies Auxiliary

INSURANCE FIELD AGENT

Knights of Columbus®



Fr. McGivney – The Vision Of A Saint

The funeral was over. Another one.

Father Michael McGivney stood in the cemetery dirt, watching another widow try to figure out how she'd feed her children tomorrow. Her husband had died in a factory accident. No insurance. No savings. No help coming.

This was the third funeral this month. Always the same story.

The woman looked at him with desperate eyes. "What do I do now, Father?"

He had no answer. Not a real one anyway.

Michael had grown up watching this happen. His own father worked brutal hours in a brass mill, breaking his body for pennies. When Irish families like his came to America fleeing starvation, they found a different kind of hell waiting.

"No Irish Need Apply." The signs were everywhere.

Catholics couldn't get decent jobs. Couldn't get insurance. Couldn't get help when tragedy struck. And tragedy struck constantly in those dangerous factories and rail yards.

Every week, Michael buried someone. A father crushed by machinery. A mother dead from disease. Children who never had a chance.

After each funeral came the same heartbreak. Families destroyed overnight. Widows sent to poorhouses that were basically prisons. Children scattered to orphanages or left on the streets.

Michael couldn't sleep anymore. He'd walk the dark streets of New Haven, seeing families huddle in cold tenements, knowing that one accident, one illness, one bad day would destroy everything they had.

The other priests told him this was just how things were. The rich took care of the rich. The poor suffered alone.

But Michael refused to accept that.

Late one night in 1882, he had an idea that seemed almost too simple. What if Catholic men banded together? What if they pooled their money? When one of them died, his family would get help from everyone else.

It wasn't charity. It was brotherhood.

He started gathering men in St. Mary's basement. Factory workers with calloused hands. Shop clerks earning barely enough to survive. Immigrants who spoke broken English but understood perfectly what it meant to struggle.

"We take care of each other," he told them. "When your family needs help, we'll be there. When mine needs help, you'll be there."

They called it the Knights of Columbus. The name meant something. Columbus was Catholic. Catholics belonged in America just as much as anyone else.

The first meetings were small. Maybe a dozen men sitting on wooden crates, planning how to save each other's families.

But word spread through the immigrant neighborhoods. Here was something different. Here was hope.

Michael threw himself into the work like a man possessed. He already worked eighteen-hour days as a priest. Celebrating Mass at dawn. Visiting the sick all day. Hearing confessions until midnight.

Now he added this. Recruiting members. Organizing meetings. Handling paperwork. Traveling to other cities to start new groups.

Friends begged him to slow down. He looked skeletal. His hands shook from exhaustion.

"There's no time," he'd say. "Another family is suffering right now."
The Knights grew. Slowly, then faster. When a member died, his widow received money that let her keep her home. His children stayed fed. The system worked.

Michael never stopped pushing himself. Never took a break. Never said no when someone needed help.

By 1890, his body was failing. He could barely stand through Mass. His cough wouldn't go away.

Then pneumonia hit New Haven. As always, Michael went out to the sick. Gave them last rites. Comforted dying families. Breathed their infected air.

He caught it himself.

His friends carried him to bed. For the first time in years, Father Michael McGivney had to stop working.

On August 14, 1890, two days after his 38th birthday, he died. Worn out. Used up. Gone.

He never got to see what he'd built.

When Michael died, the Knights had maybe three thousand members. Small. Hopeful. Nothing more.

He died thinking he'd helped a few families. Made a small difference. Maybe.

He had no idea.

Today, the Knights of Columbus has two million members worldwide. They've given billions to charity. They provide life insurance to millions of Catholic families. They run programs in dozens of countries.

Every dollar donated traces back to that exhausted priest who wouldn't stop working.

In 2020, the Catholic Church declared him Blessed Michael McGivney, one step from sainthood.

But here's what gets me about his story. He never got his victory moment. Never saw the crowds. Never received the applause. Never knew his work mattered on this scale.

He just kept going until his body gave out. Trusting that somehow, helping one family at a time would add up to something bigger than he could imagine.

Most of us want to see our impact. We want results we can measure. Recognition we can feel.

Michael McGivney got none of that. He just worked himself to death for people he'd never meet, creating something he'd never see.

And maybe that's the most powerful kind of service there is. The kind that asks for nothing back except the faith that somewhere, somehow, it matters.

Vivat Jesus!

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2026 Laps for Life

Laps for Life

In 2026 the Brevard County Knights of Columbus will host our 7th Annual Brevard Laps for Life. The State of Florida is second to no one in placing valuable ultrasound machines in the pregnancy centers where they are needed. As part of Central Florida Laps for Life since its initiation, we have raised more for these machines than any other Knights group of Councils world-wide.

Our Brevard L4L goal this year is $20,000. In the past many of our Brother Knights were raising monies from their sponsors on a one-on-one basis; this year, we encourage more use of social media (email, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, etc.).

While we are there to support Life, perhaps just as important is our support of the Culture of Life and helping families in distress. Often, we forget that this is not just about the infants we save but also the families; this is a stressful time and pregnancy centers offer help in other ways to them, including education, clothing, diapers, etc. While the Ultrasound Machines play an important part in the health of the mom and infant, these centers are truly lifesaving and help in keeping families together.
Join us on March 7th at Melbourne Central Catholic High School. Please register to participate via this website; walkers/runners who pre-register will be able to collect online donations from sponsors prior to the event and avoid manual registration forms onsite at the event..
Please contribute to help us save lives and families. You and your sponsors may donate online (if paying via credit card, please pay the fees if possible!) or register the donation and "send checks (payable to "**Brevard Laps for Life**") to

Brevard Laps for Life
c/o Bob Duerr
8117 Cortese Dr
Titusville FL 32780

🙏Prayer Requests🙏

Recently Deceased

Brother Bob Caldo
Brother Geoff Schmits
Hugo, Brother of Lady Zory Cortes and father of Brother Rey Sepulveda

Healthcare Providers and First Responders Worldwide
Service Men and Women serving our Country Worldwide
Victims of Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Fires and other Natural Disasters
All those suffering from terrorist attacks, invasions by foreign governments, and loss of life and oppression in all war-torn areas

All those in need of prayers for health issues

ARA SK Gerry Grillo
SK Randy Lascody
SK Doug Blair
SK John Miller
SK Marc Worchel
SK Werner Schulz
SK Allen Allebach
SK John Kisiel
PGK David Sullivan
SK Ralph Carestia
SK John Autio
Brother Bill and Betsy Hampton
Lady Jan O'Bryan-Wilson
Elizabeth 'Beth' Engel, Wife of WGK Rich Passarella
Jim Richmond, Brother of SK Bob Richmond
Rowena Carenen, Niece of SK Mike Marzec
Vivian Seal, Sister-in-Law of Tommy Gorman
Parker, Grandson of Lady Lan Duong
Clara, Daughter of Lady Lan Duong
Lucille, Mom of Brother Damien Madigan
Genevieve Harris, granddaughter of Lady Kathy Harris and SK Jack Duggan

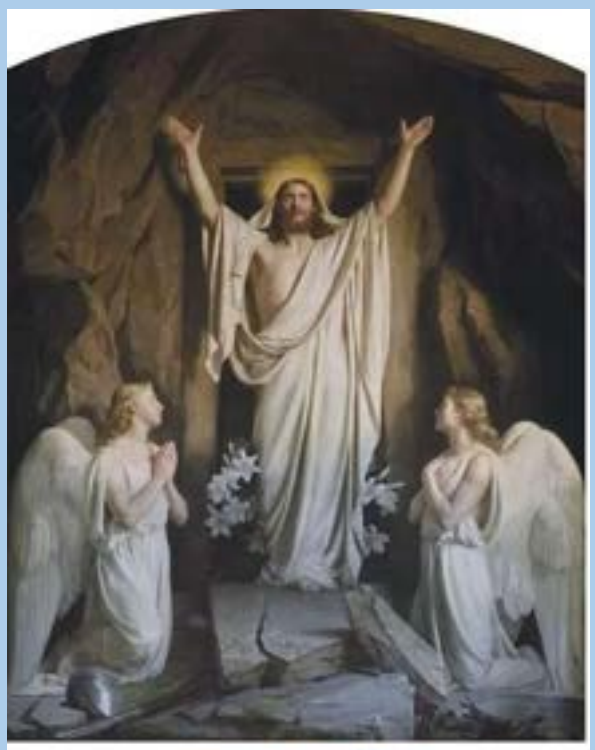
All Those Men in Formation for the Sacrament of Holy Orders — Priest and Deacon

Michael Anctil
Jonathan Amgott
Gavin Foreman
SK Rob Light

Prayer for Blessed Michael McGivney

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.

An Easter Prayer



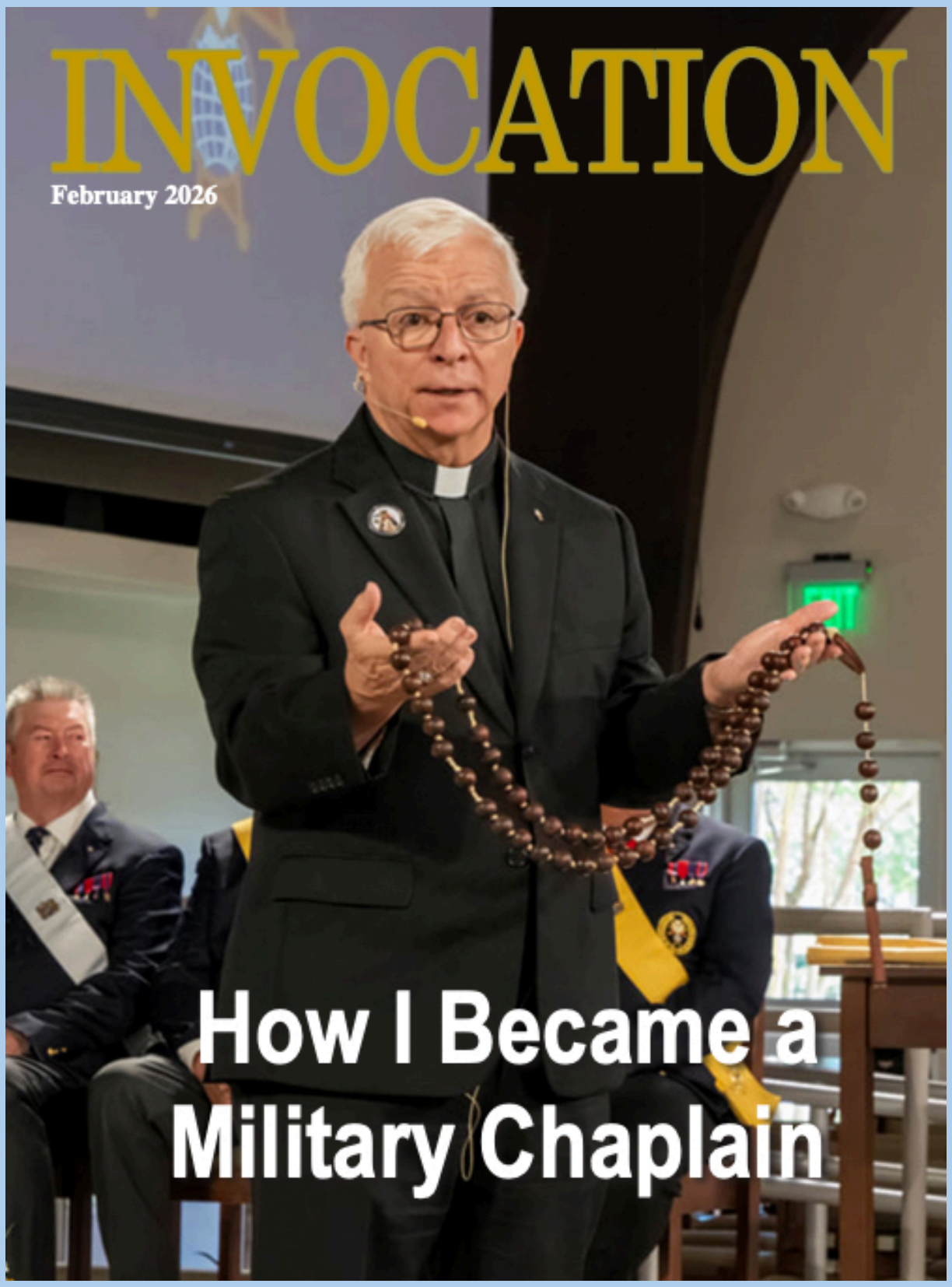
Carl Heinrich Bloch, Public domain

Good and gracious God,
Our most glorious Creator,
As we greet the signs in nature around us of Spring once again regaling us in bloom,
In the songs of returning birds and fields soon to be planted,
We give you praise for an even greater sign of new life: the resurrection of your Son,
Our Lord Jesus Christ, that we especially celebrate at this time.
The sadness and despair of his death has given way to the bright promise of immortality,
For the Resurrection is our guarantee that justice will triumph over treason, Light will overcome darkness, and love will conquer death.
As we celebrate we also dare to ask for your grace that we may live the promise given to us,
By imitating the life of Jesus in reaching out to the poor, the marginalized, the least among us,
As we strive to be neighbor to all those we meet.
We ask your special blessings each and every day on our President, Barack Obama.
Working with him may we strive to make this great country of ours a beacon of hope
And justice in a world hungry for peace and so in need of your love.
We praise you in this Easter season. Change our lives, change our hearts to be messengers of Easter joy and hope. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord forever.
Amen.

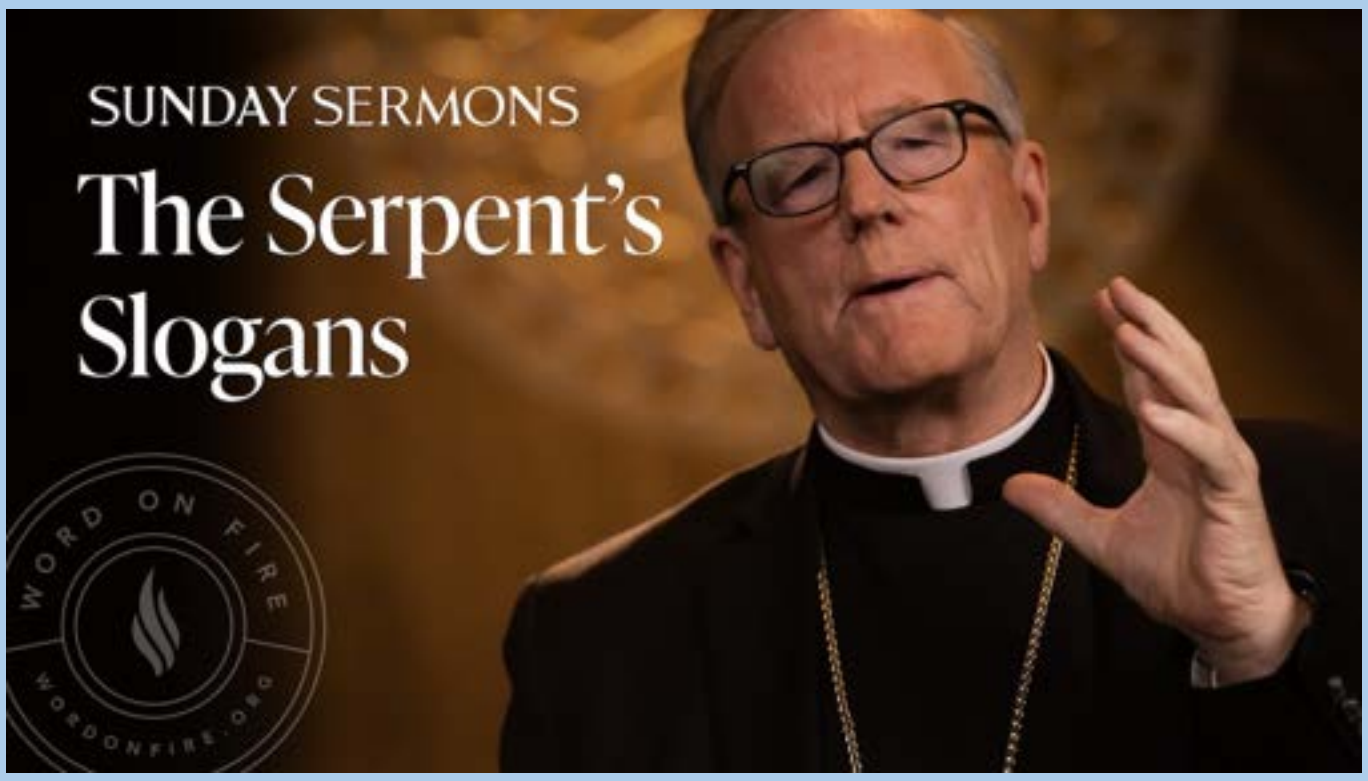
-**Prayer offered by Fr. Larry Snyder,** president of Catholic Charities USA, at the fourth annual White House Easter Prayer Breakfast on April 8, 2013

More Easter prayers from Jesuit Resources

Florida State Council February Newsletter



Bishop Robert Barron



Videos of the Month

Power Rosary

My Brothers and Sisters,

Monthly Power Rosary — Power Rosary every 3rd Thursday with SK Bobby Sullivan and SK Ralph Carestia — immediately before the membership meeting in the Ministry Building, Room 313 — 6:15 PM. Contact Brothers Bobby or Ralph if you want to lead one of the decades.

They sought strength in solidarity, and security through unity of purpose and devotion to a holy cause: they vowed to be defenders of their country, their families and their faith.

These men were bound together by the ideal of Christopher Columbus, the discoverer of the Americas, the one whose hand brought Christianity to the New World. Their efforts came to fruition with the incorporation of the Knights of Columbus on March 29, 1882

We are the Knights of Columbus

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity! (Psalm 133:1)

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. (*Romans 6:4*)

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Melbourne, Florida 32935

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!!!PLEASE BE AWARE!!! EMAIL AND TEXT SCAMS CONTINUE TO CIRCULATE!!! Please spread the word among your fellow Knights.

If you receive an email or text that appears to be from any Council or Assembly Officers, Church clergy or staff member requesting a moment of your time, need your help, asking for a favor, etc. **DO NOT REPLY!!** These scam emails continue to circulate and parishioners, out of the goodness of their hearts in trying to help, are falling victim.

We will NEVER request special favors, ask for your time, ask you to buy gift cards or make any such request via email or text, nor will any clergy or staff. PLEASE DELETE IMMEDIATELY AND DO NOT CLICK ANY LINKS. No matter how authentic it looks, it is a scam.