



The Compass

John A. Hill Council 4955 / Chartered 1960

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May / June 2026

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PAST GRAND KNIGHTS

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1960 Louis Georgen + | 1973 Eugene Ciotoli + | 1986 Thomas Armento + | 1999 Donald Tomlin + | 2012 Daniel Davis + |
| 1961 John A. Hill + | 1974 Edward Millar + | 1987 Richard Chisholm + | 2000 Prospero "Nick" Pavia + | 2013 Daniel Davis + |
| 1962 Edward A. O'Neil + | 1975 Earl Sloane + | 1988 Jim Salisbury + | 2001 Gerald Sherlock + | 2014 Leon Lacroix + |
| 1963 Walter A. Millar + | 1976 James W. Cupp + | 1989 Richard A. Fetchik Sr. | 2002 Tom Miller + | 2015 William W. Whiting |
| 1964 Thomas Brown + | 1977 Jack Spanola + | 1990 Dave Kacprowicz | 2003 Ray Peglow + | 2016 Donald W. Macejko |
| 1965 Robert Dugdale + | 1978 Charles Schramm | 1991 Dave Teitz + | 2004 Martin Gabriel + | 2017 Miguel Dorante Ramia |
| 1966 Fred Lassiter + | 1979 James Zilai + | 1992 Jack Chadwick + | 2005 Don Scalzo + | 2018 Kyle D. Riebel |
| 1967 John Bussen + | 1980 Jose Vales + | 1993 John Papetti + | 2006 Charles Monteforte Jr. + | 2019 Terence M. Sheen |
| 1968 Steve Santa Lucia + | 1981 Frank Braun + | 1994 Frank Ricciardelli + | 2007 Martin Dunne III | 2020 John G. Yardley |
| 1969 Robert Sorrelle + | 1982 Rocco Bochetto + | 1995 Raymond Drew | 2008 Charles Monteforte Jr.+ | 2021 John G. Yardley |
| 1970 Joseph Massarella + | 1983 Edward Joncas + | 1996 Walter Kuhn + | 2009 Daniel Davis + | 2022 John G. Yardley |
| 1971 Albert Vincent + | 1984 Raymond Gauthier + | 1997 Tom Miller + | 2010 Leon Lacroix + | 2023 Ralph Amato |
| 1972 Ed Gross + | 1985 George Vargo + | 1998 Mack Courson + | 2011 Daniel Davis + | 2024 Ralph Amato |

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 JOHN A. HILL COUNCIL 4955

Knights of Columbus 4955
 St. Gabriel Parish
 731 N. Ocean Blvd.
 Pompano Beach, FL 33062
Dated Material
Please Rush!

Disabilities Drive caps off a year of success

Happy Eastertide! We sincerely hope you had a blessed Lent, and a wonderful Easter, and I am hopeful the joy of the Lord's resurrection may fill you and your families for the entire season.

As we continue through a season filled with faith, service and fraternity, I am proud to share the many meaningful accomplishments and moments our council has recently experienced. These past weeks have truly reflected the strength of our mission and the dedication of our brother Knights.

Our annual Disabilities Drive has been an outstanding success this year, thanks to the tireless efforts of so many volunteers. Financially, it has been the most generous drive since Covid. The generosity of our parish communities and supporters is both humbling and inspiring.



Through your commitment, we were able to raise significant funds that will directly benefit individuals with intellectual disabilities in our local area. This effort not only reflects our charitable purpose but also

serves as a visible reminder of the compassion that defines our Order.

We spoke with many parents and families who were personally thankful for the efforts of the drive – and those stories were emotional and inspiring. One such story came from Christine Cosenza, who gratefully shared pictures of her father Albert, who was the chairman of the Disabilities Drive in his council in Massachusetts from 1976 to 1986. What a proud legacy!

Our Council had an opportunity to partner with the Knights on Bikes to present the Silver Rose at St. Ambrose in late February. Thank you to Father Dariusz for his support for the Knights and for this very special Mass. Special congratulations and blessings to Father Dariusz as well for celebrating the 35th anniversary of his ordination March 29.

We also were honored to participate in the Fourth Degree Blessing of the Swords, a deeply meaningful and symbolic ceremony. This tradition serves as a powerful reminder of our call to defend our faith and uphold the principles of charity, unity fraternity – and patriotism. The reverence and dignity displayed by all who participated made this event especially memorable.

In recent weeks, the Fourth Degree Honor Guard has once again demonstrated unwavering dedication in honoring several of our departed brother Knights. Their presence at the funerals of Frank Laverty and Robert Lehr brought comfort to grieving families and stood as a testament to the lifelong bond we share. We remain grateful for their service and continue to keep our departed brothers and their loved ones in our prayers.

Fellowship was also on full display during the February 21 Our Lady of Mercy Italian Dinner. This wonderful event brought together parishioners, families and friends for an evening of great food and community spirit. Events like these



Christine Cosenza and John Marcinka at St. Paul the Apostle Church shared pictures of her father Albert, who was the chairman of the Disabilities Drive in his council in Massachusetts from 1976 to 1986. What a proud legacy!

strengthen our connection not only with each other, but with the broader parishes we are blessed to serve.

Service remains at the heart of all we do, and our recent opportunity to provide a meal for the OCIA class at St. Ambrose was a perfect example of that commitment. It was a privilege to support those preparing to enter the Church, and to share in their journey of faith. Small acts like these often leave lasting impressions, and we are grateful to have played a role in their formation.

Finally, we were blessed to take part March 24 in the 60th Diamond Jubilee and special celebration marking the groundbreaking of the 53-foot St. Gabriel Church tower, along with Mass concelebrated by Bishop Esteves and Father Nathan. The 53 feet commemorates the 53 beads of the rosary. This was a historic and joyful occasion, symbolizing growth, renewal and the future of our faith community. Being present for this milestone reminds us of the important role we play in supporting the Church both today and for generations to come.

On the membership front, we are adding new members almost every month. There truly is something happening in the Catholic Church right now, as witnessed by the growth of OCIA and the Knights of Columbus. We are honored to provide a place for Catholic men interested in serving our Lord, our parishes and communities in a deeper way, to be part of something special.

Thank you, brothers, and their families, for your continued dedication and service. Together, we are making a difference.

Christopher Long, Grand Knight

4955 Knight passing recalls rich tradition

On February 7, God called home 60-year Knight (all with 4955) Henry C. Schoepp.

In early 1970, his 8-year-old daughter Beth Louise Schoepp was fighting hypoplastania, a rare blood disorder that prevents the blood from reconstituting itself. Therefore, she needed multiple transfusions, going through 60 pints in just a few weeks.

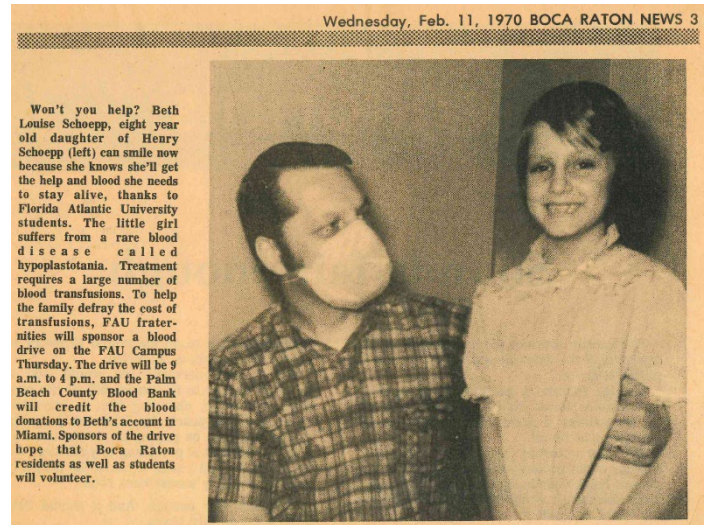
Once again, the Knights stepped up. Multiple media outlets reported on both the appeal and the response. For example, a February 22, 1970, *Sun-Sentinel* article: "Beth's father said their daughter owes her life to ... members of the Knights of Columbus [4955] and many others who've donated blood."

God called Beth to Himself shortly after, but Hank included her name in *The Compass* Memorial Patrons each year thereafter.

A central project from 4955's earliest days was encouraging every able-bodied Knight to donate blood as frequently as possible. Central to each *Compass* were local blood bank hours. And that was when fasting was a requirement to donate.

For three decades, 4955 hosted blood drives ... as stand-alone events, at meetings, but most commonly with our monthly Pancake Breakfasts. They were always spaced apart for donors to give as frequently as they could ... and many 4955 members donated over a dozen gallons ... each!

I've been proudly donating for 30 years. Since arriving at Holy Redeemer in 2021, I've invited the "bloodmobile" to



One of numerous 1970 media profiles of the valiant efforts to save Beth Schoepp's life.

come to the parish every several weeks ... inspired by those happy memories of 4955 blood drives and its donors.

Though I'll never get used to that needle, it's never been easier to "give life."

The last time 4955 hosted a blood drive, we had a hall ... over a quarter century ago. Maybe it's time to regularly host blood drives again?

Rev. Martin Dunne, PGK, FDD, Council Historian



Members of the Knights on Bikes, including 4955 Chancellor Ron Sacco, escorted the KofC Silver Rose to St. Ambrose Church for Mass February 20. The Silver Rose is transported to churches around the country to honor Our Lady and in support of Respect Life initiatives before returning to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City every year.

Fourth Degree patriotic exemplification set June 27

The Fourth Degree has scheduled the next local exemplification for new members Saturday, June 27, 2026, at St. Bonaventure Church, 1301 SW 136 Ave., Davie, FL 33325.

This will be a special patriotic celebration honoring the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America. All Third Degree members are candidates to join the Fourth Degree, but an application must be submitted to the Council's Financial Secretary to qualify.

Families and all Fourth Degree members are also welcome to be witnesses to this historic patriotic event.

The Honoree is the Most Reverend Thomas Wenski, Archbishop of Miami.

Registration begins at 8 a.m., with the Exemplification Ceremony at 10 a.m. Dress is coat and tie or Fourth Degree uniform.

Contact Edward A. O'Neil Assembly 1534 Faithful Navigator David Miller, 954-574-7943.

Calendar of events

Join our monthly Rosary devotion to Mary Mother Guardian of the Faith at 5:30 p.m. before our membership meetings. Refreshments and fellowship follow. Visit kofc4955.com for events reservations.

| APRIL | | | |
|-------|------------|---------|---------------------------------|
| Mon | 4/13/26 | 6:30 PM | Council Meet |
| Wkd | 4/18-19/26 | | Disabilities Drive @ Assumption |
| Wkd | 4/25-26/26 | | Coffee @ St. Gabriel Masses |
| MAY | | | |
| Mon | 5/5/26 | 6:30 PM | Officers Meet |
| Sun | 5/11/26 | | Mothers Day |
| Mon | 5/12/26 | 6:30 PM | Council Meet/Election |
| Wkd | 5/23-25/26 | | State Convention |
| Wkd | 5/23-25/26 | | Coffee @ St. Gabriel Masses |
| Mon | 5/25/26 | | Memorial Day |
| Sat | 5/30/26 | | Corpus Christi Feast |
| JUNE | | | |
| Mon | 6/1/26 | 6:30 PM | Officers Meeting |
| Mon | 6/8/26 | 6:30 PM | Council Meet |
| Sun | 6/14/26 | | Flag Day |
| Sun | 6/14/26 | | Fathers Day |
| Wkd | 6/27-28/26 | | Coffee @ St. Gabriel Masses |

In our prayers

Our dead: Charles Fischer, Steve Kutschynski, Henry C. Schoepp Sr.

For healing: Father Anthony Mulderry, Bernard McLaughlin, Marian and Richard Fetchik, Chris Maccio, Mike Tarr, Kurt Kohler, Steve Cole, Dan Falvey, Rev. Kenneth D. Whittaker, Larry Martin, Tomas Vazquez, Roger Harris, Vincent Casale, Beverly Cunningham, Joseph D'Jay, Bill Farrington, Mark Ardis, Margaret Hays, Joseph Smith, James Walker.

If you know a member who needs help, is ill, or has passed away, contact Bill Whiting, 561-368-6531, or email kofc4955@yahoo.com.



Members of Edward A. O'Neil Assembly 1534 served as honor guards with Deacon Jerry McGuinn at the St. Ambrose Church Mass March 29 marking the 35th anniversary of Fr. Dariusz Zarebski's ordination. Fr. Dariusz is a former chaplain of Council 4955.

Candidate slate recommended

The following members have been recommended as officers for the 2026-27 fraternal year by the Nominating Committee of Chris Long, David Rouchard and Mike Charles. They have agreed to stand for election at the May 11 membership meeting, when nominations also may be made from the floor.

Grand Knight David Rouchard
 Deputy Grand Knight Ron Sacco
 Treasurer Mike Charles
 Chancellor Ivan (Danny) Ramirez Villanueva
 Advocate Matt Donahue
 Recorder J.J. Bowman
 Warden Mike Ganesh
 Inside Guard Andre Wangard
 Outside Guard Joao Almeda
 Outside Guard Kurt Kohler
 3 Year Trustee John Yardley
 2 Year Trustee Ralph Amato
 1 Year Trustee Don Macejko

Local Shirt Vendor: Council 4955 red golf shirts \$37 (plus \$12 shipping option) at Boca Color Graphics, 139 NW Third Street, Boca Raton, FL 33432; 561-391-2229 or email amy@bocacolorgraphics.com.

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 Peter Assumma
 John Brogan
 Edward Butler
 Michael C. Caroccia
 Michael Charles
 Randy Chisholm
 Christopher M. Courson
 Daniel M. Courson
 Joseph W. Curran
 Mark L. Dachsteiner
 Charles P. Davis Jr.
 Robert Daw
 Nino De Rosa
 John DiPompeo Jr.

Elmer S. Dewey
 Matthew Donohue
 Rev. Martin Dunne III
 PGK
 Dr. David J. Erdman
 Edmund F. Fee
 Marian Fetchik
 Richard Fetchik Sr.
 Richard Fetchik Jr.
 Matthew Flynn Sr.
 Victor Garcia
 Michael Garelli
 Eli Ghazel
 Jeff Graham
 Joseph Greco Jr.
 Kenton Hajdic

Rev. Paul VI Karenga
 Kurt Kohler
 Charles E. Long Jr.
 Chris Maccio
 James McDavitt Sr.
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 James W. McNeal
 David Miller
 Ralph Natale
 Albert Ott
 Rev. Mr. Charles W.
 Parlee Jr.
 George Patterson
 Robert E. Payeur
 Steven R. Payeur
 Kyle Riebel PGK

Charles J. Roach
 Dennis M. Romanelli
 David Rouchard
 Gordon S. Scott
 June & Hank Schoepp
 Jeramiah T. Sheehan
 Timothy A. Sheehan Sr.
 Rev. Joseph R. Sileo
 Michael J. Stock
 Kenneth Staab
 Daniel White PGK
 Bill Whiting PGK
 John Wohlford
 Daniel Woronkiewicz
 Rev. Stanley F. Wulinski

MEMORIALS

Daniel Davis PGK
 Joseph Dziminski Jr.
 Leon Lacroix PGK
 Charles Monteforte Jr.
 PGK
 Beth Schoepp
 Steve Schoepp