



# The Compass

John A. Hill Council 4955 / Chartered 1960

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[www.kofc4955.com](http://www.kofc4955.com)

September / October 2024

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1960 Louis Georgen +  
1961 John A. Hill +  
1962 Edward A. O'Neil +  
1963 Walter A. Millar +  
1964 Thomas Brown +  
1965 Robert Dugdale +  
1966 Fred Lassiter +  
1967 John Bussen +  
1968 Steve Santa Lucia +  
1969 Robert Sorrelle +  
1970 Joseph Massarella +  
1971 Albert Vincent +  
1972 Ed Gross +  
1973 Eugene Ciotoli +  
1974 Edward Millar +  
1975 Earl Sloane +  
1976 James W. Cupp +  
1977 Jack Spanola +  
1978 Charles Schramm  
1979 James Zilai +  
1980 Jose Vales +  
1981 Frank Braun +  
1982 Rocco Bochetto +  
1983 Edward Joncas +  
1984 Raymond Gauthier +  
1985 George Vargo +

1986 Thomas Armento +  
1987 Richard Chisholm +  
1988 Jim Salisbury +  
1989 Richard A. Fetchik Sr.  
1990 Dave Kacprowicz  
1991 Dave Teitz +  
1992 Jack Chadwick  
1993 John Papetti +  
1994 Frank Ricciardelli +  
1995 Raymond Drew  
1996 Walter Kuhn +  
1997 Tom Miller +  
1998 Mack Courson +

1999 Donald Tomlin +  
2000 Prospero "Nick" Pavia +  
2001 Gerald Sherlock +  
2002 Tom Miller +  
2003 Ray Peglow +  
2004 Martin Gabriel +  
2005 Don Scalzo +  
2006 Charles Monteforte Jr.  
2007 Martin Dunne III  
2008 Charles Monteforte Jr.  
2009 Daniel Davis +  
2010 Leon Lacroix +  
2011 Daniel Davis +

2012 Daniel Davis +  
2013 Daniel Davis +  
2014 Leon Lacroix +  
2015 William W. Whiting  
2016 Donald W. Macejko  
2017 Miguel Dorante Ramia  
2018 Kyle D. Riebel  
2019 Terence M. Sheen  
2020 John G. Yardley  
2021 John G. Yardley  
2022 John G. Yardley  
2023 Ralph Amato

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Knights of Columbus 4955  
St Gabriel Parish  
731 N. Ocean Boulevard  
Pompano Beach, FL 33062

## Grand Knight Report: Excitement

As we reach the middle of the year, many of us are enjoying vacations and time off. The middle of the year break allows us to recharge our minds and our bodies to prepare for the remainder of the year.

It's the same for us Knights. We're all getting ready to start our giving season. The reality is we will have to recharge and be ready to work to be successful.

Our success will be measured in how many people we can help and give a little more hope to.

Success at smiles and giving opportunity makes our efforts the reason we should be excited about working for others and, of course, GOD.

This year, the goal is to have a great time and enjoy our efforts. The past is behind us and our goals will be easy with great teamwork and a belief is our goals.

Fellow Knights enjoying giving should make us all excited.

**Ralph Amato, Grand Knight**

## Calendar of events

SEPTEMBER			
Mon	9/2/24		Labor Day
Tue	9/3/24	6:30 PM	Officers Meet
Mon	9/9/24	6:30 PM	Council Meet
Sat	9/14/24	5 PM	San Gennaro Italian Festival @ St. Gabriel
Sun	9/22/24	10:30 AM	Corporate Communion @ Our Lady of Mercy
Wed	9/25/24		Our Lady of Mercy Feast
Wkd	9/27-29/24		Our Lady of Florida Retreat <a href="http://www.ourladyofflorida.org">www.ourladyofflorida.org</a>
OCTOBER - Respect Life Month			
Mon	10/7/24	6:30 PM	Officers Meet
Mon	10/14/24	6:30 PM	Council Meet / Columbus Day @ Our Lady of Mercy
Thu	10/31/24		Halloween

## In our prayers

**For healing:** Steve Cole, Betty Oulette, Dan Falvey, Rev. Kenneth D. Whittaker, Frank Laverty, Larry Martin, Tomas Vazquez, James Blaine, Roger Harris, Vincent Casale, Jeff and Paula Graham, PGK Chuck and Mary Monteforte, Lynn White, Joe Dziminski, Beverly Cunningham, Joseph D'Jay, Bill Farrington, Mark Ardis, Margaret and Herb 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](mailto:kofc4955@yahoo.com).

**San Gennaro Italian Festival:** See the enclosed flyer and contact GK Ralph Amato to help make this event successful.

**Local Shirt Vendor:** Council 4955 red golf shirts \$37 at Monograms Plus, 716 E. Atlantic Blvd., Pompano Beach, FL 33060; 954-785-4725.

**Dues:** Member dues were due July 1. Payment may be made online at [kofc4955.com/dues](http://kofc4955.com/dues) or by check to Bill Whiting, 1699 Juana Road, Boca Raton FL 33486.



**Vanessa Seltzer accepted the council's donation of \$2,036 to Arc Broward in July from DGK Chris Long and Trustee John Yardley. It's one of five organizations receiving grants from the council's annual Disabilities Drive, including B-Pan Warriors Foundation, Dynamos of Pompano Beach, Equine Assisted Therapies and Special Olympics. Council 4955 renewed its support of Arc Broward in 2023.**

## District Deputy Report

John A. Hill Council 4955 is a member of the Florida State Council and belongs to District 71, which includes our partners from Fort Lauderdale Council 3080 and San Isidro Council 16980.

It is an honor to serve as your District Deputy again this year and to represent councils as fine as ours and Fort Lauderdale and San Isidro!

We are scheduled to have a District Meeting with council leaders on Thursday, August 8, 2024, at 6 p.m. in the Saint Gabriel Parish Hall and any Knight is welcome to join us.

I'm pleased to report our friends at councils 16980 and 3080 achieved the Star Council award helping District 71 earn Star District!

Star Council is the highest award a council can receive and demonstrates superior membership gain, insurance performance, and for having robust and active programs. In addition, the council must achieve Safe Environment status.

Councils strive for Star Council to complete our mission as Knights, not merely to win an award and a nice plaque.

While we did not achieve Star Council in Pompano Beach this fraternal year, we had a very successful year winning both the Founder's Award for insurance performance and the Columbian Award for conducting programs that draw men closer to their faith, families and communities.

Our council also achieved Safe Environment compliance, which means our leaders are trained to protect the most vulnerable members of our society, and we all should be proud of these excellent accomplishments.

I would like to thank Grand Knight Ralph Amato, past Deputy Grand Knight David Sepe, Financial Secretary Bill Whiting, and all our officers and members for an excellent year, and for all their time and effort spent on behalf of our council and the Knights of Columbus.

**John Yardley, District Deputy**



# *PGK Charlie Schramm sees 4955's great potential*

On July 6, I had my first opportunity to speak with Charles Schramm since the council's 50th Anniversary, nearly 15 years earlier, and it was a most enjoyable and friendly chat!

Charlie joined 50 years ago this year, and is currently 4955's earliest surviving Grand Knight (1978-1979).

Although our archives include the scrapbook chronicling his year as Grand Knight, I wanted to ask for insights and observations that may serve to inspire the current generation of Knights and leadership.

I asked him for some of the highlights from the time:

"Well, we transferred the old pews from St. Elizabeth into San Isidro. I had to bring along 5-gallon gas containers because this was during the Energy Crisis.

"I am also very proud of the awards we won at the State Convention."

Later, as District Deputy, he was the first to argue the need for Council 5235 to merge back into 4955. It would be by 1994.

I observed how the photos not only showed a variety of activities, but how everyone seemed to have great fun. Charlie responded: "I like to work. No one was told what to do, no one grumbled. We just got it done.

"The people were good. When someone hollered for help, we'd do it. As tired as we may have been after finishing one event, we all stayed until set-up was complete for the next day's event. [I too remember that situation many times!].

"You'd surround yourself with inspirational people, but people who also had a good sense of humor ... nothing too offensive!

"One time I rode my motorcycle inside the hall with PGK Eddie Millar in the backseat. Not everyone appreciated that one (laughs). Another time, I and some others arrived at the annual Past Grand Knight Dinner/Dance from the back of PGK Bob Sorrelle's old dump truck!"

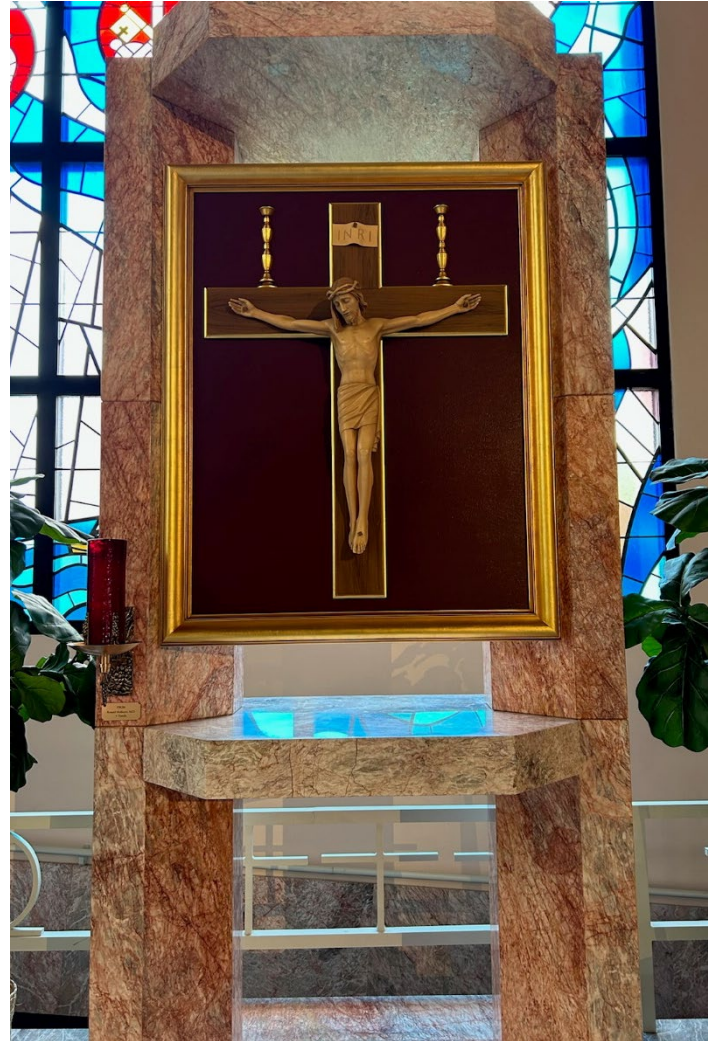
Charlie lives surrounded by the beauty of the Georgia mountains, and he remains active in numerous ways. He still enjoys riding his motorcycle. He still assists at his parish, including helping widows with various needs.

"I won't refuse anything unless I can't do it. That makes me happy."

He still sets-up the large tents for the annual parish festival.

"A job that no one else wants to do. And I'm 84. I don't know how much longer I can continue doing that. I'm concerned that the younger generation just doesn't want to get involved like they used to be. They don't seem to realize what they're missing by not going beyond themselves."

I told Charlie I'd continue to pray for his strength, health and happiness. We both look forward to more phone



**Charlie working during the installation dinner, 1978.**

## *4955 replica crucifix installed*

In response to Father Marty's last newsletter column about his search for the crucifix that once hung in our council hall, the council approved a \$500 donation to support his initiative to have a replica created for his parish, Holy Redeemer Church in Palm City.

Father Marty reports his project status:

"Yesterday evening [August 1], an exact replica of 4955's old crucifix (custom made in Italy) was installed in Holy Redeemer's Sanctuary to double as part of a new baptistry, to teach those present at future christenings that through Baptism we share in Christ's Salvific Death.

"It will be blessed by Bishop Barbarito Saturday, February 22, at 11 a.m., as part of the Confirmation Mass."

conversations where we can reminisce over other past achievements of 4955 that may inspire and motivate the membership to continue 4955's legacy into perpetuity.

**Rev. Martin Dunne, PGK, FDD  
Council Historian**



**KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS®**

# **San Gennaro Italian Festival**



**Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024**

St. Gabriel Parish Hall, 731 N. Ocean Blvd., Pompano Beach  
Doors open at 5 p.m.

**Fun + Food + Raffle Prizes + Music + Dancing**

Pasta with choice of sausage, onions and peppers or  
meatballs, mixed vegetables with onions and garlic,  
salad, dessert, beer, wine or soda

**Donation \$25**

**(Children under 11 free)**

**St. Gabriel Church Benefit**

**Seating Limited**

**Reserve by Sept. 9 online at [KOFC4955.COM](http://KOFC4955.COM)**

**Or contact Mike Charles, 803-312-2302**



# Heroes Wanted

(Editor's note: **Respect Life Director Steve Foley** made this presentation at the July membership meeting.)

When my son was a small child, I loved to take him to St. Elizabeth of Hungary for the Children's Sunday Mass with Father Glorie.

He would invite the children up to the altar and his homily was to them.

At the time, I was going through a divorce and Sundays were my visitation days. One Sunday, the children were asked to come up for their homily and were asked, "Who is your Hero?"

All the kids eagerly raised their hands and one-by-one replied with Superman, Ninja Turtles, Simba, Barney, etc.

When it came to my son, I was very apprehensive as to his answer, especially due to my ongoing bitter battle of the divorce. My son didn't hesitate by saying emphatically "MY DADDY."

The priest and congregation rustled a little, looking for this proud "HERO" sitting in the front row of the church.

This was the PROUDEST MOMENT OF MY LIFE and it was impossible to hold back a tear or two.

Ever since that day, I strived to be the HERO that my son would always be able to look up to.

A long time has passed. Life with my son has changed a bit. That story is reserved for another day, but it hasn't changed my resolve to remain that HERO my son believed me to be.

You see, men should not be measured by their machismo, power, aggression, greed, or coarseness in language. That is the "Tough Guy Hero" that is usually depicted in the movies.

Heroes are "Men of VIRTUE." Those of high moral value who will fight for a cause, the poor, the preborn and the innocent. They do not play politics. They are not indecisive or stubborn. They are true leaders.

A HERO is a MAN who will stand for what is RIGHT, even if he stands ALONE. One who has the qualities of strength, courage, resilience, discipline, and integrity.

A respectful man is one who shows empathy, compassion and accountability



-- someone who is humble and gives ALL to the glory to God.

Men who not only pray but actually put those prayers into ACTION.

Please, don't think I am trying to describe me with all the above. Oh NO, I am FAR from that.

Jesus Christ was the only person who could fit that description and He is "MY HERO" and role model.

**OK, I gave you my #1 Hero, Who is your HERO?**

Here are just a few my local examples.

Frank Laverty told me about his order of the Franciscans. It takes a REAL HERO to visit a hospital to give support and minister to Patients dying with AIDs. **Frank, YOU are my Hero.**

What Mike Charles did with the Homeless Goody Bags was fantastic. **Mike, You are my HERO.**

The SUPER HERO not only hands the bag to the homeless, but tries to engage, ask their name, give them encouragement, give them HOPE. If you get to know them, visit them on the street, get them a haircut, take them out to eat. Pray and say the rosary with them.

Trade that time you spend in the comfortable, air conditioned chapel where **YOU** pray AND pray with them where **THEY** live. It sure gives you a new perspective on life.

DON'T GIVE THEM MONEY. It only enables them with their problems.

Heroes physically help the handicapped, the physically or mentally disabled or elderly.

Some parents that chose life and are raising physically or mentally handicapped children are the SUPER HEROES.

**Peter Assuma, YOU are my SUPER HERO.**

HEROES go out and visit the elderly in nursing homes and hospitals.

We have several brother Knights that are living in this environment. **Bill Whiting, John Yardley, Peter Assuma, Matt Donohue and several others, you are my HEROES.**

A SUPER HERO would feel guilty if they can only visit a nursing home or hospital only two times a week. They even visit those they don't even know?

**All the people that stand up for the moral issue of Pro-Life are HEROES in my eyes.** Those who stand at the abortion mills get all sorts of fingers, VULGARITIES, rude comments and harassment, yet **they are not to JUDGE** and **ALWAYS respond in a loving, kind way.** Just for standing in prayer with signs like this. **Bob, PETER, Matt, Thomas, John, Frank, and the many others ... YOU ARE MY HEROES.**

Another Hero that is helping the LIFE cause in a VERY BIG WAY. His efforts touch the lives of 107,000 souls. **Jose Zambrano, you are my HERO.**

**Continued on Page 6.**

Continued from page 5.

Those who volunteer at the Respect Life Centers giving their time for free to help abortion-minded, confused young girls to keep their babies and offer support for them for a couple years. How many of us has ever stepped in one of those centers to see what they do and offer your THANKS? **Miki (my better half) and all the others in Respect Life .... they are my HEROES.**

A HERO goes out to prisons to give out Bibles to the prisoners. What Mike Tarr started was a great idea.

**MIKE, for your idea, you are my HERO.**

Super Heroes take those Bibles and do Bible studies with the prisoners.

A HERO takes his own money and buries a local, homeless man who died.

**Don Macejko, for that act of kindness, YOU are my HERO.**

I knew him. He was my brother Tim. He wasn't my blood brother, but we are all brothers in Christ.

I am sorry if I forgot someone specifically who deserves recognition for being a HERO.

I am time limited and we have a LOT of Heroes. I wish I could go on and on.

My last example of a Hero is a general statement.

A Real Hero should follow all 7 Acts of Corporal Works of Mercy:

Feed the hungry. Give drink to the thirsty. Clothe the naked. Shelter the homeless. Visit the sick. Visit the prisoners. Bury the dead.

Notice, the 7 acts said FEED, GIVE (DRINK), CLOTHE, SHELTER, VISIT SICK, VISIT PRISONERS, BURY.

It DID NOT say donate money and stop there.

Giving money for the problems in this world is a good start AND it might be for a good cause, AND we all might

## ***September men's retreat at Our Lady of Florida***

Council 4955 members join St. Ambrose parishioners attending an annual Men's Retreat at the Passionist Spiritual Center, 1300 U.S. Highway, North Palm Beach, Florida 33408.

The retreat begins with dinner Friday evening and ends with 11 a.m. Mass Sunday. This year's theme: **To Proclaim Liberty to Captives. (Isiah 61:1 – 11)**

This year's retreat will offer insights into renewing and deepening your faith journey. We offer practical and promising steps to go deeper for everyone, from those deeply rooted in their faith to those who are just beginning their journey.

Retreat is time to stop, think, reflect and deepen our faith.

Register online at ourladyofflorida.org. A donation of \$250 includes meals and lodging Friday and Saturday. Contact Bill Whiting for ride sharing.

"feel good" for a little while, BUT it REALLY makes a LIFELONG EFFECT on us when we get active and get our hands dirty.

I'll use two short analogies.

In the world today, you might feel some fear. You are not getting any younger and decide you need to buy a gun to defend yourself and family in case someone breaks in. The gun store sells you a gun and a box of ammo. You go home and put them in a safe place. Without some practice shots at the range, you might FEEL good and safe but is a waste of money because you never **practiced action.**

The same is true with a Bible. You are feeling a "**little spiritual.**" To prove it, you buy a **nice, big Bible** and display it on the shelf to show everyone how **pious** and **saintly** you are, but you don't read it.

**More feel-good, no action and more money wasted.**

Just recently, I learned about the "FAITH IN ACTION" Program model of the Knights. **(Thanks John)** I will read a few sentences for time sake.

"We know that the chance to roll up our sleeves and demonstrate our faith through service is as powerful as it is rewarding. The calling is a fundamental part of the Knights history and foundation of our program model,

FAITH in Action.

The Faith in Action model allows us to come together to share our faith, celebrate our fraternity with our families and do what we do best ... stand shoulder-to-shoulder in service to our community and defend LIFE in all stages and in every condition."

**That's what I thought the Knights were about.**

I suggest we all read this document and act on it as much as we can.

Let me sound like an Evangelical and close with an Altar Call. You don't need to come up front and kneel.

In the next couple months, this Florida Amendment 4 will become front and center.

I described this misleading and purely evil bill that will allow FULL TERM abortion with no limitations, no parental consent and with no definition of a doctor in our last meeting.

A lot will be asked of us to defeat this. Polls are now up to 68% of those who want it accepted and it only takes 60% to pass.

This is our time to shine and defend LIFE just like the Faith in Action says. We need the SUPERHEROES of the Knights. A group of Knights as a sub-committee with BLESS to work on defeating this bill.

**Contact Steve to help.**

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