



FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL – DISTRICT 51

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

JUNE EDITION 2020

District Deputy Message

SK John T Gearon III, PGK PFN

My fellow Brothers in Knighthood:

There comes a time in each Columbian Year where the beginning must come to an end. To the retiring officers who have dedicated many hours and years of blood, sweat, and tears thank you for your service. To newly elected officers who will step into their new roles on July 1st, you are not alone, reach out to Past Grand Knights or your District Deputy for advice. We have been there and it is up to us as a team to foster and build great leaders of tomorrow. On behalf of my District Warden Giovanni Iannotti and I we wish all of you a good fraternal year.

Each month this newsletter will showcase a Council within our District; last month showcased Incarnation Council 15332. This month will be St Thomas More 7826. We encourage members to stay active and informed; if you miss a meeting or event we hope that through this newsletter you will be brought up to speed and made aware of what is going on in our district.

Supreme Council & Florida State Council host weekly Knighthood Degrees at 7:00 PM; the one difference is the FSC holds theirs live. The dates are listed on the State website.

Supreme Council Scholarships range from Vocations to Education.

Education Applications are available as of March 1st and deadline to submit them is May 4th.

Vocation applications deadline is June 1st.

District 51 Program

As this pandemic has left many families facing hardships across the nation, our order is always there to help assist Parishes, Communities, and members and their families that have been impacted by this virus. I would like to start a program that will help Brother Knights who are in the field of Carpentry, Painting, and Auto Mechanics. Please see the hyperlink attached and fill it out and send back to me.

[..\Documents\SKILLED TRADESMENSHIP.xlsx](#)

District 51 Knighthood Degree Schedule

March - St Patrick Council – CANCELLED

April – St Thomas More – CANCELLED

May – St Michael the Arch Angel – CANCELLED

June – Florida State Council / Supreme Council

Council Elections:

Congratulations to the newly elected and re-elected officers that will serve the upcoming fraternal year 2020-2021

Programs & Events

As per directive from the Supreme Council and the State Council, all meetings and events must be held virtually until the Covid-19 restriction is lifted for the Knights.



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Meetings:

Council meetings that are being held using the Zoom application. As a reminder if your Council is holding meetings please send me and my District Warden an invite to attend.

FRATERNAL BENEFITS:

Supreme Council is working on a Fraternal Benefits Evening via online. The date has yet to be announced. Councils that had theirs scheduled but had to cancel due to COVID-19 please contact our Fraternal Benefits Advisor Brian at (440)-669-8957 for more details.

This program will be via SKYPE.

District Birthdays

On behalf of District 51 we wish all who are celebrating birthdays for the month of June a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

In these times of uncertainties, please remember those who need assistance.

- “Leave No Neighbor Behind”
- Feed the Hungry (bring food to a local pantry)
- Support your fellow Brother (reach out, call, text, email)
- Support your Parish (send in your weekly envelope) – (attend daily or weekly mass online)
- Blood Drives (blood is urgently needed)

DISTRICT DEPUTY – CLOSING REMARKS

I close with this final thought of thanks to my wife Kellianne, my two daughters Samantha and Ava Marie who have been huge supporters this year. As Knights we volunteer for committees, office, meetings and even virtual meetings and we cannot do all this alone. Our families are the base line that keep us going. Our Order has redefined itself with the knowledge and understanding that in order to bring in younger members, we need to involve the families of these young men. By doing so it lets them see firsthand the Mission of the Order and the fraternal and unity aspect we have for one another.

Secondly to Giovanni Iannotti who serves as our District Warden, thank you. Your steadfast leadership and advice is always appreciated and welcomed.

As your District Deputy, it is an honor to serve our Order, our State Deputy, and most of all you.

CHARITY – UNITY - FRATERNITY is clearly written into our ceremonials of our Order, but they are only words until they are given life in action of men. Let these words CHARITY – UNITY – FRATERNITY be living realities shown by all of us all the time.

Until we meet again,

Fraternally,

John T Gearon III, PGK PFN

District Deputy



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District 51 Council Show Case Page

COUNCIL NEWS:

My Fellow Brother Knights,

It appears that our country is beginning to gradually re-open; under federal guidelines, continuing social distancing, wearing masks, remaining diligent to safety concerns and protection of those that are most vulnerable to the virus. We, at St Thomas More parish, received the “good news” that our Parish was re-opening to celebrate Mass with the above considerations and reduced occupancy. It is wonderful for us to be able to get back together in the celebration of Mass and be together, again, as Catholic families.

We realize, though, that there are many individuals and families that have been severely affected by the virus, in their health, as well as economically. Our social safety-nets are being stretched at this time. I think of all the not-for-profits that have been “closed” or have experienced increasing demand for their services while donations and funds have been reduced. These organizations that we Knights support financially and with our leadership and volunteerism, provide, among others, services such as pregnancy counseling, infant and toddler supplies, adoption services, food pantries, safe shelter, medical supplies, clothing, mental health services, tutoring and education, service to individuals with disabilities, senior programs, or just help on paying bills to those that need assistance at this time. Our charity support is the tenet of our Knights of Columbus organization – our legacy of faith and service.

I ask that all our fellow Knights consider, as your means allow, to support the institutions that provide these services to our community. Your prayers are also, so important, for these organizations to be able to continue to provide these services and programs. Let’s be generous, at this time, to all those in need and pray for their lives to be “protected” and nurtured.

Please, also, stay in touch with your Brother Knights. There may be “Knights in need” or under distress. Make a habit of “calling a Brother a day” or just reaching out to see how he (and his family) is doing.

Also, let us remember our Catholic parishes, that have been “closed” and reflect on all the “good times” that we have experienced at our church facilities and events. Let’s support our pastors and parochial vicars as they re-open our Parish facilities.

Simply said, we Knights are leaders (and volunteers) to our community, parish, Catholic Church and so much more.

Your St Thomas More Brothers – wish you and your family, health and prosperity – as we “return to the new normal”. Let us not forget “what is important” and all those individuals that sacrificed during these “catastrophic times”.

Respectfully,

Ken Berberich, Grand Knight, St Thomas More
Council #7826



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INCARNATION COUNCIL 15332

Hello Brothers,

As our Fraternal Year ends, I find myself reflecting on the events of this past year. It seems only yesterday Worthy Past Grand Knight Dale was passing the Council Gavel to me. What an evening that was. What I did not know then was how special it would turn out to be, that our 2019 – 2020 Officers would be installed by my dear, departed friend, John Wojtyna FDD, PGK, PFN. Worthy, I miss you dearly.

We had many, many changes this year, starting with the abrupt change to our Fraternal Benefits Program and how we are measured by completing this program by Supreme. Then, there was the drastic change to our Degree Ceremonies that were eliminated and combined into one Exemplification Ceremony, making a new candidate a Third-Degree Knight with this one Ceremony. We had to establish a new Exemplification Ceremony Team and get up to speed with the new script which, I am proud to say, we did. Worthies Art Reilly, Steve Christie, Charlie Culkin, and Brothers Jerry Hayes and Phil Riordan are to be commended. We performed our District's one and only Ceremony and did it extremely well. Around 25 candidates and members seeking their Third Degree attended and we had 25 Dignitaries with 40 guests in attendance. That was a great evening! In true Incarnation fashion, challenges were met head on, and we handled each challenge not as a problem, but as an opportunity. That philosophy has served us well.

Then, the mothers of all mothers hit us, the COVID-19 virus strain that caused the Coronavirus pandemic. In true fashion, we faced this challenge head-on. We adapted and embraced the Internet and became familiar with the virtual meeting software called ZOOM. This is proof positive that you can teach some old dogs' new tricks! That was a little joke there! All kidding aside, I am so proud how you all have embraced this medium and how everyone wants to incorporate this with meetings going forward. The business of the Council has proceeded, and we were also able to stay in contact with each other while also praying the Glorious Mysteries Rosary once a week. We were able to plan our upcoming Fraternal Year - Faith in Action Program, start our Budget, and more importantly, come together as Knights.

As a Council, we completed all 16 required programs we set as goals at the beginning of the Fraternal Year, our membership goals were surpassed, and all Fraternal Benefits goals were met. A remarkably successful year by normal expectations, but this was no normal year. Our largest fund-raising event, Spring Training with the Orioles, was cut halfway through. Along with the canceling of our events for the last quarter of the year, we took a major hit in our Council finances, however we still managed to have sizable contributions to our Charitable Partners. Our Membership, Program Directors, and Officers are to be commended. Everyone's hard work in completing these goals, faced with such difficult circumstances, is evidence of our success.



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Lastly, as we go forward, I would like to thank Jerry Hayes, Phil Riordan, and Pete Gordon. Your service as officers this past year was exemplary. I am extremely excited with the Council Officers for the 2020-2021 Fraternal Year. Because of these Brothers, the bar is set extremely high and I am supremely confident that we will hold fast the standard of excellence passed down to and set before us.

I am so blessed to be with you men as we come together to serve God, our Parish, our Community, and support our Families. Let it never be said that a few men cannot come together to change lives – save lives. Thank you all for all your hard work, dedication, and sacrifice this past year. You all have the Thanks and Gratitude of a very humble Grand Knight.

God Bless you all and your Families!

Dr. Steven M. Wyer

Grand Knight



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FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL NEWS:

WWW.FLORIDAKOFC.ORG



Scott A. O'Connor

Florida State Deputy 2019-2021



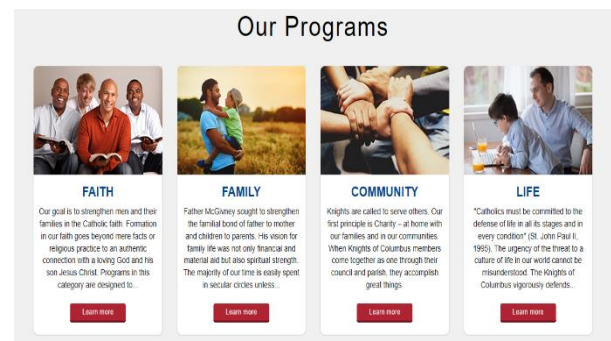
Florida State Council Annual Convention

The annual State Convention was held on May 23, 2020 via virtual interaction. Although different from the way I am used to, the business at hand was and ever will be to promote the Mission of Our Order.

State Deputy Scott O'Connor and the Florida State Council Officers were re-elected to a second term which will begin on July 1, 2020 and end June 30, 2021.

Congratulations to the State Raffle winners. A total of 45 thousand dollars was split out with the first-place prize being 25 thousand dollars.

Faith in Action Programs:



DISTRICT DEPUTY 51 – JOHN T GEARON III – 941-320-4745 or JOHNGEARONDD51@YAHOO.COM
DISTRICT WARDEN 51- JOHN IANNOTTI – 941-720-5286 or GMIANNOTTI@VERIZON.ENT



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Upcoming Knighthood Degrees



Council Events

May 21, 2020

Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity

Invitation to the Florida State Council Live Virtual Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity via ZOOM in English

[Learn more](#)

May 28, 2020

Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity

Invitation to the Florida State Council Live Virtual Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity via ZOOM in English

[Learn more](#)

Every Thursday evening at 7:00 PM please register to join or advance in the degrees of our order.

Sarasota Laps for Life

The 3rd annual Sarasota Laps for Life will take place virtually due to the coronavirus.

The registration fee per participant is \$30.00

This is a signatory event held for My Choice Pregnancy Center. For more information about this center please go to:

www.mychoicepregnancycenter.com



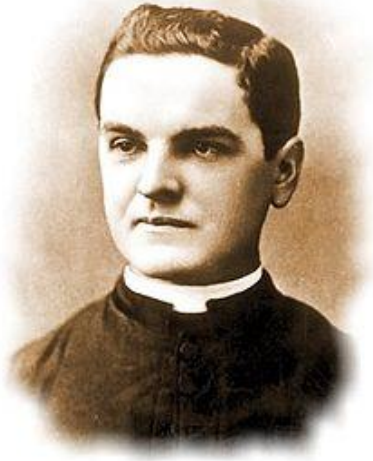


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VATICAN NEWS:

Pope Francis announced that our founder Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney will be **Beatified**.



From our founding in 1882 the order continues his vision for taking care of the needy and the outcasts, more today than ever as a nation and the world suffers from this virus that plagues us. One of our many initiatives is “Leave No Brother Behind” is taking place as we speak, and its as simple as picking up a telephone, texting, or an email and checking up on a fellow Brother and his family.

DISTRICT WARDEN MESSAGE:

Giovanni Iannotti

Brothers,

I want to talk to you about the value of quality communication. Communication is the exchange of information with a sender and receiver. One person sends the information to another person who receives it. Sometimes that communications is misunderstood. As we close out the fraternal year and begin a new fraternal year let’s make sure our communication with our Councils, Assembly, and our District Deputy are clearly understood. We should not hesitate to ask for clarification questions from the sender whomever it may be. As a courtesy we should acknowledge that we received a message from the communicator. By keeping open communication as well as agreeing to disagree on certain items we can flourish for the betterment of the order. Personally, I am willing to communicate with my brother Knights and brother Sir Knights for the betterment of the order. Let us keep our communication a two-way street and workout any differences as Catholic gentlemen.