DISTRICT 53 KNIGHTLY NEWS
MARCH 2026

Remembering Father Jerry Kaywell

On February 23, 2026, Father Jerome "Jerry" Kaywell, Sacred Heart Parish pastor and our Brother Knight passed away at the age of 72. While the Diocese of Venice lost a dedicated priest of 34 years, Council 8074 lost a chaplain who truly saw the best in all of us. Whenever he stood at the pulpit, he did not just see a congregation. He looked out and saw what he called the "Saints of Punta Gorda."

For over 30 years, Father Jerry was a proud member of the Knights of Columbus. As a 4th Degree Knight and Council 8074 Chaplain, he was a vocal advocate of the Knights of Columbus.

Rest in peace, Father Jerry. You have finished the race, and you have kept the faith.

Visitation will be at Sacred Heart Church on Wednesday March 11 from 2 to 7 p.m. The Funeral Mass will be on March 12 at 10 am at Sacred Heart.

Founders Day

On February 2, 1882 Father Michael McGivney and the first members met to establish “a purely original organization” and appointed Father McGivney to draft the constitution and bylaws. The fine work of Father McGivney on the constitution and bylaws led the Connecticut legislature to quickly grant a charter to the Knights of Columbus on March 29, celebrated annually as Founder’s Day. All councils are encouraged by our State Deputy to organize some event such as a prayer service, corporate communion, membership drive or penance service to commemorate Founders Day.

Council Rosters should be uploaded monthly. The date to upload your roster this month is **March 10.** Supreme updates all transactions submitted by Financial Secretary's throughout the Order after normal business hours every Monday. Therefore, if you update your council Member Management on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, your council membership roster will always be up to date. **Put a note on your calendar to complete this important task!**

State Award Forms/Reports are now available on the Florida State Council website. Every Council should fill out the reports in order to be considered for State Awards at the State Convention. The data from each report is tabulated to determine the winner of the award in each category. Be sure to supplement your report with photographs of your events and activities relevant to the report category.

Be sure to file **Form 10784 Fraternal Programs Report** after each Council event. Any member can file the form. This will make filling out your SP-7 much easier.

122nd FSC State Convention will be held on May 22-23 at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando. All Councils should have completed the process of electing your Delegates to the Convention. The Delegates themselves, not the Financial Secretary, are responsible for registering for the convention. The registration link is on the FSC website.

Region 5 Free Throw Competition The Region 5 Free Throw Competition was held on February 21 at St. Charles Borromeo School. Special thanks to St Charles Borromeo Council 5399 for hosting this terrific event. Congratulations to the winners:

Knights of Columbus Region #5 Boy Winners of Free Throw 2026

Age

9 Years
- 1st Place: Beau Sexton Co # 11281
- 2nd Place: Noble Molineaux Co # 15332
- 3rd Place: No Entrants

10 Years No Entrants

11 Years
- 1st Place: Canon Greg Fyvie Co # 5399
- 2nd Place: Adam Michalski Co # 11281
- 3rd Place: Cooper Lundsten Co # 5399

12 Years
- 1st Place: Maddox Clayton Co # 11281
- 2nd Place: Vincenzo Franco Co # 15332
- 3rd Place: Dylan Perez Co # 5441

13 Years
- 1st Place: Michael Ribas Co # 5399
- 2nd Place: Nicholes Coluneso Co # 5604
- 3rd Place: Miguel Ariles Co # 5441

14 Years
- 1st Place: Logan Potts Co # 5399
- 2nd Place: No Entrants
- 3rd Place: No Entrants

Schedule your **Open House/Fraternal Benefits Events** with our Field Agent, Alan Kotlarski. Each council must conduct two FBEs during the fraternal year to qualify for the Founders Award. The Founders Award is an essential element required for the Star Council Award. A change for this year is that the Grand Knight and Deputy Grand Knight may meet individually with their agent for a personal review of the benefits available to them. These two meeting count for one of the two required FBEs. The Grand Knight reports these GK/DGK meetings and the regular FBEs using this online reporting tool: #11077 Fraternal Benefits Event Council Report (25-26)

FOURTH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATIONS:

March 21 Fort Walton Beach, St. Mary Catholic Church

May 9, 2026 Naples, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

Contact Robert Urrutia, FL Master for further information. (507) 486-7883, robert.s.urrutia84@gmail.com

Fourth Degree – March 26 6:00 p.m. Social hour at 5:00 p.m. San Antonio Parish Center.

Fourth Degree Ice Cream Social, 28 MARCH 2 p.m. Jacobson Veterans Home, PC

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE DISTRICT

San Antonio Council 12456

San Antonio Church Men's Gospel Discussion Group, every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Rooms 1&2 of the Ministry Building at San Antonio Catholic Church,

March 21 Knight at the Races, Holy Trinity Event Center

Ponce de Leon Council 8074

March 13, 20, 27 Fish Fry - Sacred Heart Parish Hall
March 18 6:00 p.m. Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity

St. Charles Borromeo Council 5399

March 13, 20, 27 Fish Fry – St Charles Borromeo Parish Center

St Maximilian Kolbe Council 11483

March 11 6:00 p.m. Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity
March 13, 20, 27 Fish Fry St. Max Parish Hall

Thank you for all you do for the Order and the Church.

Gary D. Miller
District Deputy, Dist 53

Vivat Jesus!