



DISTRICT 53 KNIGHTLY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2026



SEPTEMBER 8 FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated exactly nine months after the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, just as Christmas is celebrated nine months after the Church remembers the Incarnation of the Son of God on the Solemnity of the Annunciation. The birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary is one of three liturgical feasts in which we celebrate a birth: Christmas, the Birth of Saint John the Baptist, and the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Only the three most consequential figures in the Bible receive the honor of a liturgical celebration to commemorate their births.



Nothing is known for certain about the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary or of her upbringing, since the Bible only introduces the Mother of God to us for the first time during the Annunciation. However, an early second-century apocryphal text called the Protoevangelium of James (The Gospel of James), paints a detailed picture of her conception, birth, early years, and betrothal to Saint Joseph. Though the account is not part of the canon of Scripture, it has been a source of reflection throughout the centuries and is the source of the traditional names of the Blessed Mother's parents, Joachim and Anne.

9/11 Anniversary Prayer



God of Peace and Mercy, on this 25th anniversary of the attacks on September 11, 2001 we lift up the souls who perished on that day. Welcome them with loving arms into Your kingdom. Comfort their families and friends. Help us to mourn alongside them with a constant compassion that can only be rooted in You. May we look to the first responders that day to inspire us to live bravely and courageously, and to selflessly protect others in need. May we look to those who opened up their homes to the stranded and displaced that day to stir us to be more hospitable. Having seen the face of evil and darkness, may we be steadfast and faithful in pursuing You, our perpetual Light. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Council Rosters should be uploaded monthly. The date to upload your roster this month is **September 8**. 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!**



SACRED HEART ICON ñ Start planning now by appointing a program chairman and discussing the event with your pastor.

The schedule (subject to change) is as follows:

Council 5399 10/27/2026 to 11/2/2026

Council 8074 11/3/2026 to 11/9/2026

Council 11483 11/10/2026 to 11/16/2026

Council 12456 11/17/2026 to 11/23/2026

Essay Contest

This year's topic is "The rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God". Essays must be typed and be between 500 and 750 words in length. Councils should target their competitions for late November or early December and have their winning essays and signed score sheets (Form 4208 9/22) forwarded to the District Deputy for District Competitions no later than December 15th.

Poster Contest

Entries in the Knights of Columbus Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest must include a slogan reflecting the topic and an *original* visual image. Councils should target their competitions for December, 2026 and have their winning posters and signed score sheets (Form 5025 3/23) forwarded to the District Deputy for District Competitions no later than December 31st.

Diocese of Venice Youth Rally: 14 November Charlotte Harbor Conference Center.

This is a wonderful afternoon of interaction with some of the finest young people in the Diocese. Must be Diocese Safe Environment certified. Contact Gary Miller, DD 53 to volunteer: (502) 777-5659 or gdmillerdd53@gmail.com.

Changes to Council Offices: The Supreme Council Board of Directors has passed Resolutions which make significant changes in the structure of Council Offices. The position of Chancellor has been eliminated. Several offices have been made optional with the Councils having the freedom to not elect those officers or choose to elect officers to fill some or all of those positions. The offices which will be optional and filled by Councils as they so choose are Lecturer, Inside Guard, Outside Guard and two (2) Trustee positions.

The Financial Secretary will no longer be appointed by the Supreme Knight. The Financial Secretary will be elected annually with other council officers. The terms of office of all incumbent Financial Secretaries will terminate on June 30, 2027.

More information and guidance on the implementation of the changes will be sent to the Florida State Deputy in November. The Florida State Council will pass the guidance down through the chain of command. Your District Deputy will share the information and guidance as it is received.

Star Council Criteria: Major changes have been made to the requirements for the Star Council Award. All Council Officers have all been briefed on the requirements for the new fraternal year. Questions or concerns may be directed to your Officers.

Fourth Degree St Jude Assembly 1750

Fourth Degree Meeting – will be held on September 24 with a social hour at 5:00 p.m. The business meeting will commence at 6:00 p.m. San Antonio Parish Center, Rooms 1 & 2.

Fourth Degree Ice Cream Social, September 26 at 2 p.m. Jacobson Veterans Home, Port Charlotte.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE DISTRICT

St Maximilian Kolbe Council 11483

Tootsie Roll Drive September 25-26

CUF 2nd Wednesday of each month as needed

Heartland Council 7567 (Arcadia)

The newly reactivated council in Arcadia will host a membership drive featuring drinks and snacks after the Spanish Mass at Noon on September 27.

The Arcadia Council is also holding a raffle for a small dirt bike. Flyers will be coming.

Ponce de Leon Council 8074

In a press conference on May 13, it was announced that Bishop Emilio had been appointed as the third bishop of the Venice diocese by Pope Leo XIV. As he intends to visit all 61 parishes within the diocese, Sacred Heart was fortunate to have him visit two weeks after his ordination. The Bishop's goal to do this is to afford him the opportunity to meet the pastors, priests, deacons, religious, and lay leaders at their respective parishes. Later on during the first year of his term, he intends to make more formalized and official visits to each parish.

Bishop Emilio Biosco Aquero visited Sacred Heart by saying Mass on July 24 during his first visit since his formal ordination on July 11. The Guild of our Lady and the Knights Council 8074 worked to coordinate a great reception in the church hall following the Mass. He gave his insights on becoming the new Bishop of the Venice Diocese and discussed his family history after the breakfast. Father Russell invited Bishop Emilio to visit the parish again later in the liturgical year.

Thanks to all of those Knights and members of the Guild of Our Lady who hosted Bishop Emilio's reception for the parish. He stated that he appreciated the efforts of all those who helped with the reception and the opportunity to familiarize himself with Sacred Heart. Bishop Emilio asks that we all pray for him in his new position moving forward.



St Charles Borromeo Council 5399

Pancake Breakfast September 13, 2026 7:45 to 10:30 am. Parish Center. \$10
Corn Hole Tournament September 26, 2026 (See attached Flyer)

Knights of Columbus St. Charles Borromeo Council 5399 Introduces New Officers for 2026-2027



Front Row: Joseph Stephey, 2nd year Trustee;
Doug Griffith, Advocate

2nd Row: Nick Madore, Warden;
Joseph Luppi, Treasurer;
Gary Miller, District Deputy

3rd Row: Richard Toolan, 1st year Trustee;
Peter Catauro, Grand Knight; Joe Peters,
Outside Guard; Dave Richardson,
Deputy Grand Knight; Gary Garamella,
stand in for Don Roth, Recorder

Not pictured: John Striker, Financial Secretary; Gary Boser, Chancellor;
Tony Verdugo, Inside Guard; Larry Byersmith, 3rd year Trustee



St. Charles Knights of Columbus
September 26th at 6:00 PM
St. Vincent de Paul, 21841 Gates Ave., PC
for
Knights, Family and Friends

Knights will provide burgers, hot dogs, dessert, and water, families bring your favorite sides.

Enjoy socializing, and Cornhole Stations will be set up for some friendly competitive fun.

This event is new to all councils in area. So come out for a fun night of eating, socializing and sport.

RSVP to Peter Catauro, Grand Knight
401-263-8324 or
941-273-9038 (Vinny /Santello)



San Antonio Council 12456



September 13 6:00-8:00 PM Concert "Simply Sixties" at Holy Trinity Event Center, 24411 Rampart Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL.

Pot Luck Social September 22 6:00 PM San Antonio Ministry Center

CUF 1st Wednesday of each month as needed

(Please provide by email any articles including photographs for any event or program you are running in the coming six weeks that would be of interest to members of all councils and parishes.)

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

Gary D. Miller

District Deputy, Dist 53

Vivat Jesus!



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It's a win-win situation:

Book a meeting with our council's assigned insurance agent, and you'll get us closer to earning the **Founders' Award***, while taking advantage of your fraternal benefits as a Knight.

Your agent can help you:

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- Financially protect your family
- Discuss retirement and legacy planning goals
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Take full advantage of your member benefits and help our council achieve its goals.

Book a FREE financial needs analysis today!

Contact:
Alan Kotlarski
941-626-9408
alan.kotlarski@kofc.org

* The Founders' Award recognizes excellence in councils' promotion of the Knights of Columbus' insurance and fraternal benefits. To earn this award, new or associate members must meet individually with their local field agent for a financial review. No purchase necessary. Please refer to the Fraternal Excellence Guide for full details and requirements. Knights of Columbus, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510