

INVOCATION

A group of men, likely members of a veterans' organization, are walking in a church aisle. They are wearing dark blue suits, white shirts, and dark ties. Several men are wearing black berets with gold emblems. They are also wearing white gloves and carrying canes. The man in the center is wearing a white shirt, a yellow tie, and a black vest with several patches. He is holding a small wooden box. The background shows a church interior with pews, stained glass windows, and other people.

Silver Rose Prayer Service

Silver Rose Prayer Service



Mother Seton Council #17480 hosted the Silver Rose Prayer Service on Tuesday, August 6th. The service was attended by over 250 people. All District #17 Grand Knights, along with many council members, were present.

The Corpus Christi Assembly 2810 Fourth Degree Color Corp, led by SK Frank Consentino, added reverence and respect to the ceremony. The Knights on Bikes, Brothers Mike Grubb and Wayne Friday, delivered and processed the Silver Rose with dignity and honor. District Deputy Greg Gully provided guidance on the organization of the Silver Rose Program to Council #17480 GK

Ralph Esposito.

Rev. Robert Trujillo and Rev. Sergio Santos of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Palm Coast led the Mass to start the program, with assistance from Deacon Perlito "Tom" Alayu. After Mass, Fr. Trujillo invited all attendees to stay for Eucharistic Adoration and a rosary dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Brother Wayne Friday presented the Silver Rose before an image of the Tilma of Our Lady of Guadalupe. He personally built the display stand for the Silver Rose. Cantor Cody Biggs led the congregation in songs of praise for the Mass and Eucharistic Adoration.



Scripture readings on the Annunciation were read in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. An Act of Consecration to Mary was recited by all, followed by the singing of the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Members of the Faithful were then invited to make a private visit before the Silver Rose and image of the Blessed Mother.

After the program, a reception was held in the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Hall. Brother

Joseph Lupo prepared a delicious meal for all the attendees. District Deputy Gully expressed his gratitude to Regional 2 Administrator, William Kelly, for handling the logistics that allowed District #17 to host the Silver Rose, and also thanked the Pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Rev. Jose Panthaplamthottiyil, for allowing the use of his parish for the prayer service.

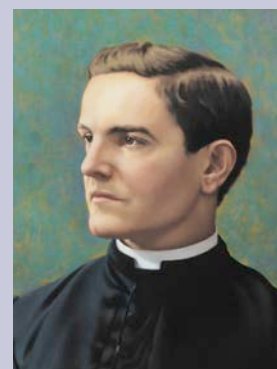
Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael J. McGivney

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael J. McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor.

Through the example of His life and virtue may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling His commandment of charity and building up His Body which is the Church.

Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue His work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify your venerable servant Blessed Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will.

Through His intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request).



Knights On Mission

By State Deputy Richard Hughes

The 142nd Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council was held in Quebec City earlier this month, and a very successful meeting it was. The theme of the Convention was “On Mission”. In his address to the Delegates, the Supreme Knight quoted St John Henry Newman, saying that “. . . every great change is effected by the few, not the many; by the resolute, undaunted, zealous few.”

The Supreme Knight said that is what we must be: resolute, undaunted, and zealous in advancing our mission in today’s world. There is no greater task of ours than to build up families, parishes, and communities that are centered on Christ. We are Knights of the Eucharist, and we are On Mission!

The Supreme Knight covered many works and initiatives the Order has accomplished this year. Of particular note, in preparation for the Church’s Jubilee Year in 2025, the Order will be assisting with the restoration of baldacchino—the massive bronze canopy that rises above the papal altar above St Peter’s tomb in St Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican, as well as a bronze sculpture at the altar of the Chair of St Peter. The Supreme Knight also reviewed the humanitarian efforts the Order has done in Ukraine, aiding persecuted Christians, assisting with Disaster Relief, and many other works worldwide. All of us should be proud of what the Order stands for, and what we are able to accomplish as a unified Order!

I strongly encourage each of you to read the Supreme Knights address, as well as other materials about the Supreme Convention, available on the Supreme website.

The Supreme Knight also announced a new pilgrim icon program, to replace the St Joseph icons currently in circulation. This year is the 350th anniversary of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque receiving her visions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1674, and Pope Francis, has announced that he’s writing a new document — a reflection on the Sacred Heart — that will be released probably in

September. Therefore, in early 2025, the Order will help spread devotion to the Sacred Heart with the launch of a new pilgrim icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We will not be able to schedule anything in Florida until we get more details, but Councils can and should tell their pastors and parishes about this forthcoming opportunity and seek their support in hosting this new pilgrim icon.

Finally, as I have mentioned before in this publication and other forums, the vote on the proposed Amendment 4 to the State of Florida constitution is a very grave matter that all of us should be concerned about. The Bishops of Florida are unanimously opposed to this amendment, and many of them have posted video messages on Diocesan websites. I once again strongly encourage all Councils in Florida to engage with their parishes and Diocesan Life Committees and support the efforts to educate and help foster opposition to the amendment. While we cannot reasonably expect to have a mass conversion to the pro-life point of view, we can help to spread the word about the flaws in the language of this proposed amendment, and we can strongly help encourage our like-minded fellow Catholics to vote “no” on this proposed amendment in November.

Vivat Jesus



*State Deputy
Richard Hughes*



The Spirit of the Good Samaritan

I am delighted to share the highlights of the 142nd Supreme Knights of Columbus Convention, held recently in Quebec, Canada. This year's convention was a significant gathering, bringing together members from around the world to reflect on our shared mission and values.

One of the most impactful moments of the convention was the keynote address delivered by Cardinal Seán Patrick O'Malley, OFM Cap., the Archbishop Emeritus of Boston. Cardinal O'Malley's speech centered on the parable of the Good Samaritan, offering profound insights into the relevance of this story in our contemporary world. He reminded us that the essence of the Good Samaritan lies in recognizing the humanity in others, regardless of differences, and extending compassion to those in need.

Cardinal O'Malley emphasized that as Knights of Columbus, we are called to embody the spirit of the Good Samaritan in our daily lives. This means not only providing charity to those in need but also advocating for justice, peace, and dignity for all. His words were a powerful call to action, urging us to look beyond our immediate circles and reach out to the marginalized, the suffering, and the forgotten.

The convention also provided a platform for discussions on various topics crucial to our organization and the broader community. From

addressing social justice issues to exploring ways to engage more effectively with younger generations, the sessions were both enlightening and inspiring. These conversations reinforced our commitment to the core principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.

In addition to the rich content of the discussions, the convention was a valuable opportunity for fellowship. Members had the chance to reconnect, share experiences, and forge new friendships, all while renewing our collective dedication to the mission of the Knights of Columbus.

As we move forward, let us carry with us the lessons from the parable of the Good Samaritan, as articulated so eloquently by Cardinal O'Malley. May we continue to serve our communities with love, compassion, and unwavering faith, ever mindful of our duty to be our brother's keeper.

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to making the 142nd Supreme Knights of Columbus Convention a memorable and impactful event. We look forward to gathering again next year to continue our work together.



State Secretary
Michael P. Gizewski



On Saturday, August 3rd at the 4 pm mass at the Church of St. Mark the Evangelist, District Deputy #46 Tony Fortunato, and Immediate Past Grand Knight Dave Weidner presented Gracie Wood with the Knights of Columbus Florida State Council's 2023-2024 the Alter Server of the Year Award for the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

Part of God's Great Plan

By State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor

“Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.” - Lk 1:56

This month we celebrate both the feast day of our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney (August 13) and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15). Both remind us of our call as Catholics and Knights of Columbus. Blessed Michael started an Order that unites men in charity and fraternity. The Blessed Mother opened her heart to God’s will. We can all point to the things they “did” in life. But it was who they were in relationship to God that spurred their actions as part of God’s great plan.

This year’s 142nd Supreme Convention in Quebec City early this month was a time to soak up historic Catholic heritage in North America’s oldest diocese while focusing on who we are as Knights on mission. Held in conjunction with the 350th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Quebec, attendees were inspired by homilists and other speakers who called us out of comfort to selfless service. The clear message continues to be that our works follow our faith, and that the formation of our Knights as Catholics is the first priority. The Cor initiative, gathering the men of our parishes, whether Knights or not, to prayer, formation and fraternity, was promoted as a powerful avenue of conversion and enrichment for Catholic men.

The theme for the convention was “On Mission,” and the individuals and actions honored at the event reminded us that our Order is not static, but active in the world, as were those missionaries who first brought the Faith to North America. I had the privilege of hearing from a young Ukrainian priest who was harassed and arrested for promoting the Knights of Columbus in Ukraine, eventually expelled from his homeland. His courage in the face of Russian oppression was

an inspiration to remain strong in our ideals. The work of our Order, near and far, has never been more relevant to a world in need of inspired, faithful leaders. New initiatives and existing missions bolstered by needs unfolding in society will put Knights on mission more than ever.

An emphasis on evangelization and spiritual development may seem like a new priority in our councils. It is not a break from what we are about, but rather a further development of who we are as Knights. As our faith grows and matures, the Order and our Church will be better for it. May we accept the challenge to go out “on mission” as Mary did for a time in supporting her cousin Elizabeth, before returning home. As the old saying goes, oceangoing vessels are not made to remain in the safety of a harbor. Neither are we made to stay inactive or stunted in our spiritual growth. May we embrace our mission and grow in faith and love, following in the footsteps of Jesus and Mary, as well as the great missionaries of North America and our founder Blessed Michael McGivney. Vivat Jesus!



*State Chaplain
Very Rev. Bob Kantor*



The Gift of Gifts

By Former State Chaplain Reverend Salvatore Pignato

There is a question that we may have thought of or even asked of someone. The question is, "What is eternal life?" A man in the Gospels asked Jesus this question. Jesus answered the man in this way.

Jesus said to him, "Eternal life is this, "To believe in God and Him whom He sent, Jesus Christ." Jesus outlines the first two Persons of the Blessed Trinity in that statement and then reveals the Holy Spirit gradually in His living and interaction with the people He ministers to.

Our first task for eternal life is to believe in God the Father and in his Son Jesus Christ. Jesus also tells the man who asked the question, "And sell all that you have and come follow me." In Baptism and Chrismation, we receive the Holy Spirit who teaches us how to minister to others and become poor in Spirit.

St. Mark's Gospel, in the parable of the sheep and the goats, Jesus spells out what it takes to follow Him. Jesus says, "For when I was hungry, you fed me. When I was naked, you clothed me.

When I was thirsty, you gave me a drink. These are the people who look like Jesus. Jesus said when you did it to the least of your brothers, you did it to me. Eternal life for us, then, is living out the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes. Jesus finishes the Beatitudes on that mountain by saying that in living those Beatitudes, our reward will be great in Heaven.

What is that reward that we will receive in

Heaven? Jesus gives us that answer to that also.

We celebrated on August 15th, the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. God bestowed upon the Theotokos the gift of eternal life. As the Icon of the Theotokos presents, Jesus is holding in His arms an infant representing the soul of Mary. Jesus came for His mother Himself, and she was raised bodily just as He was. She received the



*Former State Chaplain
Rev. Salvatore Pignato*



Gift of Gifts, resurrecting with her body, and was brought to Heaven.

As Jesus was the image of the Beatitudes in His life, Mary also lived those Beatitudes in Her life. Our mission in life is to become God-like. Living the Beatitudes will point us to that perfection or divinization, as the East calls it, for ourselves, and we, too, will be given the Gifts of Gifts, which is our own resurrection and someday the gift of bodily form. What greater gift from Jesus could we want for ourselves. St. Paul calls it winning the race and receiving the Crown.

Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

“Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal.” (Gospel for Aug. 4, Jn 6:27)

Before the Fall, God put Adam to work tending the garden. Good men work hard to provide for their families, including their material wants and needs. These temporal necessities, however, must never become our highest priority. Our first obligation is to seek the path to eternal life — for ourselves and for our loved ones. Jesus, the Bread of Life, is the food that will endure.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

Our Founder, Father McGivney, worked tirelessly to serve God and man. I challenge you to pray the novena to Blessed Michael McGivney this month, during which his feast day takes place (August 13).

Questions for Reflection:

Does your goal of attaining heaven for yourself and your loved ones come first in your life? Do your efforts focus excessively on temporal needs and pleasures? What more can you do to ensure that your primary mission is to prepare yourself and your family members to enter the kingdom of heaven?

Council Supports Pregnancy Center



Knights from St. Joseph's Council 7408 in Palm Bay recently presented \$500 checks to Pregnancy Resources Center of Melbourne and Essential Pregnancy Resources of Palm Bay as part of the Knights' ASAP Program.

Knights present were Council Grand Knight Brad Hood, Lecturer Larry Davis and photographer Deputy Grand Knight Joe Geisler. Both organizations have ultrasound machines donated by the Councils of District 30.

Rescue Mission Members Honored



Three members of the helicopter crew that played a role in a series of daring rescues earlier this year in Haiti were honored at the banquet following the July 27 Fourth Degree Exemplification at St. Gabriel in Pompano Beach.

Pilot Anthony Marinello, Co-Pilot SK Deacon Benny Matos and Flight Engineer SK Richard Sills were recognized at the ceremony, and each gave stirring recollections of the rescue. Sills had taken his Fourth Degree at the Exemplification, while Marinello missed the opportunity due to a conflict.

Marinello and Sills are members of John A. Hill Council 4955 of Pompano Beach, while Deacon Matos is a KofC Field Agent. They were joined at the banquet by State Haitian Development Coordinator Willie C. Gabriel Sr.

The presentation followed personal recollections of a trip one week prior to the Exemplification to the Honduras by Supreme Director Scott O'Connor and Florida District Master John O'Toole. The pair accompanied Msgr. Thomas Skindeleski in a follow-up visit to continue work on hurricane damage. The trio visited the country the previous year to help get a badly damaged school back in operation, while giving the local residents their first opportunity to celebrate Mass in over a year.

Marinello, of Fort Lauderdale, received a call from the office of Congressman Cory Mills of Volusia County on Sunday, March 10, asking him to take part in a rescue mission. He then called Deacon Matos, West Palm Beach, who had just participated in a Fourth Degree Exemplification at St. Frances Cabrini in Parish. They flew into a war

zone in Haiti to rescue 10 Americans at the Have Faith Haiti Mission & Orphanage in Port-au-Prince, including noted author Mitch Albom, who had established the orphanage in 2010 following a major earthquake devastated the capital.

Within hours of receiving the call, Marinello and Matos were in the air, making their way to the Dominican Republic while making multiple fuel stops. They waited until dark before flying into Haiti. Maneuvering their way through mountains into the city overrun by heavily armed gangs controlling 80-percent of the capital, arriving at 2:20 a.m. Finally, they saw a house with blinking lights – a prearranged signal – and Marinello hit the landing zone without taking a reconnaissance loop. Once on the ground, Mills quickly got the group onto the helicopter, and Marinello was back in the air a mere 67 seconds later.

After completing their unauthorized mission, the group encountered some political resistance back in the Dominican Republic, where the

10 rescued personnel were freed following the evacuation. Marinello got to shake hands with Album, not familiar with the successful author/Detroit Free Press columnist whose work include Tuesdays with Morrie, The Five People You Meet in Heaven, Finding Chika (which is based in his orphanage) and the Little Liar.

The rescue had unintended consequences. Shortly afterwards – thinking Haiti was under invasion by the U.S. – Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry announced his resignation.

Marinello and Matos followed by running an additional 30 missions in April in which they evacuated 143 of the approximately 700 people rescued from the capital. While Sills did not fly to Haiti, he was responsible for preparing the helicopter for each mission.

For more information, please read the five-page cover story by Elisha Valladares-Cormier in June's Columbia Magazine.



Saints Cosmas & Damian Council 13341 of Our Lady of the Angels, Lakewood Ranch, generously supported the St. Michael's Summer Youth Program by donating \$3,000 for the two-week event. The program was developed and administered by the Sisters of Servants of the Lord who reside at St. Michael's Parish.

St. Michael's is a financially challenged Parish in Wauchula. The parishioners are predominantly Hispanic. Each year, approximately 250 children are provided two weeks of religious activity and education, recreation, and meals. For these children, it is the highlight of their summer.

For years, Saints Cosmas & Damain Council 13341 has also provided literally thousands of jackets for the youth of St. Michael's through the Coats for Kids program.

Council Continues Long Standing Program

The brothers of council 14212, St. Katharine Drexel and its newly installed officers have vouched to continue a long-standing program. The Bread of Life Program has been operational for the last nine years, including during the pandemic.

The program benefits the needy of the community and their families. The process includes several steps and coordination daily to be successful. A council brother is charged on a rotating basis with stopping by a prearranged Publix store and pick up bread and pastries that are donated. He then returns to the parish before 7:00 to help set up the tables with other brothers for the distribution of the goods. The program runs daily from 7:30 to 9:30 or, as the saying goes, until supplies last. Anyone in the community can take as much as they want, even for family members that cannot make it to the distribution.

The pictures show brother knights setting up the tables and the goods available and the announcement that appears regularly on the parish bulletin.

CONSEJO CONTINUA PROGRAM DE LARGA EXISTENCIA

Los hermanos del consejo 14212, St. Katharine Drexel y sus funcionarios recién instalados han prometido continuar con un programa que lleva años de existencia. El Programa Pan de Vida ha estado operativo durante los últimos nueve años, incluso durante la pandemia.

El programa es para el beneficio de los necesitados de la comunidad y sus familias. El proceso incluye varios pasos y coordinación diaria para tener éxito. A un hermano del consejo se le encarga, de forma rotativa, pasar por una tienda Publix previamente concertada y recoger el pan y los pasteles que se donan. Luego regresa a la parroquia antes de las 7:00 para ayudar a preparar



las mesas con otros hermanos para la distribución de los bienes. El programa funciona todos los días de 7:30 a 9:30 o, como dice el refrán, hasta agotar existencias. Cualquier miembro de la comunidad puede tomar todo lo que quiera, incluso para los miembros de la familia que no pueden asistir a la distribución.

Las fotografías muestran a los hermanos caballeros preparando las mesas y los productos disponibles y el anuncio que aparece periódicamente en el boletín parroquial.



Council Lines Up It's Ducks



Knights from Our Lady of Hope Council 8086 worked to get their ducks in a row at a recent evening in the Parish Office in Port Orange, preparing more than 23,000 plastic ducks for its eighth annual Duck Derby.

The Duck Derby is a highlight of the Port Orange Family Days. On Sunday, Oct. 13, the ducks will be liberated in the Port Orange City Center Lake, and the four winning entries will be retrieved by the council's Knights in Kayaks.

The winning duck carries a \$1,000 prize, with \$500 for second, \$200 for third and \$100 for fourth. To date, the initiative has raised more than \$100,000, with funds benefiting the many Knights of Columbus charities supported by Council 8086. These include Coats for Kids, Vocations, Global Wheelchair Mission, Habitat for Humanity, Pregnancy Crisis Center and numerous parish and community youth programs.

Tim Mell, now a Council 8086 Trustee and Florida State Knight of the Year for 2021-22, continues to oversee the program since its inception, working with Grand Knight Ernie Jackson for the three-time Division 3 Florida State

Council of the Year.

Duck Derby began as a challenge by Florida State Council officials Lorenzo Rodriguez and Danny McIntyre to find new ways of raising funds and promoting membership. Knights sell ducks for \$5 – or six ducks for a \$25 Quack Pack – at civic events throughout the region in the months leading up to Family Days. The event annually raises more than \$17,000 in donations and sponsorships.



Special Olympics: A Year in Review

Hearing the Olympic music on the TV for the Summer Olympic games in Paris makes me think back to the past year and how we, as the men of the Knights of Columbus around the State of Florida, have supported Special Olympics. Councils around the State have hosted Valentine's Day Dinner Dances, Spaghetti Dinners, Pig Roasts, breakfasts, and certainly the Tootsie Roll programs to raise funds. Knights and wives stand in front of their local Publix, Winn-Dixie, Wal-Mart or Lowe's to collect donations for their charities that include Special Olympics.

We have also volunteered at numerous local events around the State allowing these Special Olympics athletes to reach their goals and dare to achieve their dreams. Many councils and individual Knights along with their wives volunteered at the State Fall and Summer Games at the Walt Disney World Resort. The sense of pride that you feel leaving the court, the field or pool after volunteering at a Special Olympics event is



so similar to the feeling I get when I'm watching an American athlete in Paris stick the landing on a floor exercise or a swimmer touching the wall first to win the gold medal. What a high! All the athletes had to qualify in district and then regional games just to compete at these State Games, so they are excited to be there and ready to compete. At the State Games, there is an opportunity for the athletes to see a dentist, podiatrist, optometrist, hearing doctor, and mental health specialist to make sure that they are in excellent overall health. What an amazing benefit to these athletes to take advantage of when qualifying for the State Games. The Knights Color Corp presented the National Colors at the beginning of the games with the Opening Ceremony, and by the end of the evening the crowd was cheering with excitement and clapping with a sense of pride. Talk to your council about volunteering at the Fall games. They won't be disappointed!

In March, Rob Urrutia and his wife Lucille and I attended the Polar Plunge in Orlando at Aquatica. It's a fun morning, such a unique experience and





a great way to support Special Olympics. In the coming year, we need to have more councils and Knights attending the Polar Plunges that are in Tampa and Jacksonville as well.

At our State Convention in May, we donated \$30,000 and because of our efforts, they received a bonus of \$7,500 from Supreme. Special Olympics have also created an annual award in honor of Pete Chiaravalle, former Special Olympics Chairmen, and the inaugural winner was Jeff Marquet from council Saint John the Baptist in Jacksonville. We should all congratulate Jeff and thank him for his amazing and incredible support.

All year long, I have had the opportunity to meet and talk with so many of the Special Olympic athletes. They are doing great things on and off the field. In many cases they are attending universities and starting businesses. Truly awesome athletes.

So, you say, what can we do to top that? Well, we just have to be aware of all the local events that occur around the State and in the spirit of Blessed Michael McGivney give back with our volunteer time to those who need our support. Queue the Olympian music!

~ Chris Berensj, Special Olympic Chairman

Did you know that the State of Florida Council has a YouTube Channel? Well, we do! This is a place where we can put in videos of the all the great things that we do as Knights in the State of Florida.

During the State Convention we took video interviews of some of the Dignitaries that honored us with their presence. You can

see the videos by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Please be sure to subscribe to the channel so you will be notified when new videos are added. If you have any videos that you would like to add that shows your Council doing good works please email Jim Clark, Broadcast Media Relations and Production Director at jclark1@gmail.com.

Amendment 4 Action Resources

The year 2024 is an election year. In accordance with the Laws of the Order, Councils and individual Knights cannot be involved in partisan politics. Any individual, of course, may be involved in partisan politics as a matter of free will, but a person cannot represent himself as a Knight in such activities, nor can Councils as an organization. Even the appearance of involvement in partisan politics must be avoided. This is particularly true with regard to the promotion, endorsement, or opposition to candidates for office.

However, Councils and individual Knights can be involved in nonpartisan issue advocacy, and there is a very grave issue that will be on the ballot in Florida in November—namely, the proposed Amendment 4 to the Florida Constitution which will enshrine unregulated abortion and make Florida one of the most pro-abortion states in the nation. The amendment language is very problematic, using undefined terms like “healthcare provider”, “patient health”, and “viability”, which will very likely lead to allowance of second and third trimester abortions and take physicians completely out of the picture. And the amendment, if passed, would jeopardize existing laws and prohibit new ones that protect the health and safety of women, and would eliminate parental consent for a minor to have an abortion—which would make abortion the only medical decision for which parents have no say.

The Florida Bishops have issued a strong joint statement against this proposed amendment, and all of us here should become familiar with their position. You can find this statement on the website of the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops. On that website, you will also find a document that published by the Bishops that explains why Floridians should vote “No” on this proposed amendment in November. Links to both of these documents can be found below.

As Knights of Columbus in Florida, our role as the Knights of Columbus is to do everything we can to support our Bishops and our clergy

in opposing this amendment. This is truly a lay evangelization mission, and we should take on this mission boldly and confidently, under the leadership of our Bishops.

First and foremost, our Bishops have asked us to pray, for without prayer, we will accomplish nothing. A specific prayer has been composed, which is available below. The State Deputy asks all Knights of Columbus Councils and Assemblies to recite this prayer at meetings and other gatherings, as a constant reminder of what is at stake.

Second, we must promote the reasons why this amendment is wrong. The Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops is publishing support materials for Dioceses and parishes to promote opposition to this amendment. We must stick to the messaging in these materials in our evangelization efforts to promote opposition to the amendment, particularly among our fellow Catholics, and not get creative with producing our own materials and messaging. Currently, other than the resolution passed at the State Convention, no Knights of Columbus messaging is authorized that is independent of the FCCB or Diocesan Respect Life Ministries.

Third, encourage all Knights—and all Catholics—to register to vote, and to vote “No” to this proposed amendment in November. Nonpartisan voter registration drives have always been a proper Knights of Columbus function.

Finally, Councils may want to donate money to help fund the opposition to this effort. The preferred way for a Council to donate money would be to the Diocese to which the Council belongs. If that is not possible, it is permissible to donate to the FCCB or other 501(c)(4) organizations that are promoting opposition to Amendment 4. However, extreme care must be taken so that Councils do not lose their tax-exempt status. A letter template that should accompany any Council donation to a 501(c)(4) organization is at a link below. We very strongly recommend that Councils do not donate to 501(c)(4) organizations not specifically recommended

by the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops, and that Councils do not sacrifice their charitable contributions for donations to these organizations. Individuals may, of course, donate as they seem fit, but such donations will not be tax-deductible.

Councils may want to donate funds to help oppose Amendment 4. The preferred way for a Council to contribute is to the FCCB-approved 501(c)(4) organization promoting opposition to Amendment 4.

VOTE NO on 4 Presentation



Members and guests of Notre Dame Council 10514 in Flagler Beach attended an informative presentation on the proposed Amendment 4 to the Florida State Constitution. The presentation was conducted by the Life Director in the Office of Human Life & Dignity in the Diocese of St. Augustine, Maureen Shilkunas.

Life Director Shilkunas pointed out that the extreme consequences should the amendment pass this fall. She read the actual wording of Amendment 4 and pointed out the following extreme measures that would be implemented should the amendment pass. She specifically highlighted three of the areas that would affect current Florida State abortions:

(1) No Medical Doctor Needed – the amendment would allow any health care provider to approve an abortion. The term health care

provider is loosely defined in Florida State law. It could be almost anyone from a nurse, dentist, or abortion provider staff member. Current Florida State law requires two medical doctors to approve an abortion.

(2) No Parental Consent – the amendment would remove the requirement of parental consent for an abortion that would be performed on their child. The language would be changed to only require parental notification. A cell phone text message could satisfy that requirement.

(3) No Limit or Timeline on When an Abortion Can Take Place – the amendment would nullify the recently enacted ‘Heartbeat Protection Act’. Current Florida State Law prohibits an abortion after an unborn child’s heartbeat can be detected. This is typically around the sixth week of pregnancy (there are exceptions for rape, incest, and to save the life of the mother). Should Amendment 4 pass,

abortion would be allowed through all 9 months of pregnancy with no protections for the unborn child.

Maureen stated that the Florida State Conference of Catholic Bishops has issued a pastoral letter opposing extreme Amendment 4. The Florida Catholic Bishops have formally launched its multilingual campaign to defeat Amendment 4 on the upcoming November ballot. They have launched a new website with a video entitled “Not What it Seems”. The video exposes the deceptive nature and extreme ramifications of Amendment 4. She encouraged everyone to visit the website and view the posted video. It can be found at: <https://votenoona4florida.com/>

At the conclusion of the presentation, Life Director Shilkunas asked everyone to get involved

with defeating Amendment 4. She asked attendees to speak to their friends, family, and neighbors and let them know the extreme consequences of the passage of Amendment 4. Most importantly she asked persons of faith to pray to our Blessed Mother for her intercession and to the Holy Spirit for the guidance to defeat this constitutional amendment.

Knights of Columbus Councils or Church Ministries (Catholic or Protestant) in the Diocese of St. Augustine may schedule a presentation on Amendment 4 by contacting:

Maureen Shilkunas, Director, Office of Human Life & Dignity

Phone: (904)262-3200, ext. 159

Email: mshilkunas@dosafll.com

August-Sept 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|----------------|---------|--|--|---------------------------|---|
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 FSC Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity | 30 | 31 Council Safe Environment Compliance Due |
| 1 Order Substance Abuse SA-KIT Essay Contest Kit EA-KIT | 2 Labor Day | 3 | 4 | 5 FSC Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Grandparents Day | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 FSC Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity | 13 | 14 RA Meeting with SD |
| 15 DD Form 944 due to Supreme Due Family of the Month Form 10784 due to Supreme | 16 | 17 | 18 FSC Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity-Spanish | 19 FSC Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity | 20 | 21 DD Meeting with SD |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 FSC Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity | 27 State Board Meeting | 28 State Board Meeting |
| 29 State Board Meeting | 30 | | | | | |



FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

The nonpartisan public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Florida

201 West Park Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-7715 * (850) 222-3803 * www.flaccb.org

Florida Bishops Oppose Extreme Abortion Amendment *Vote No on Amendment 4*

Florida Amendment 4, which will appear on Florida's November 2024 ballot, is an extreme proposal that legalizes full-term abortion with no protections for the preborn child, including when the child is capable of feeling pain. This proposed amendment to our state constitution would prohibit all restrictions on abortion before viability and create a broad exception that any healthcare provider could exploit to allow abortion up to birth.

Furthermore, the amendment would effectively overturn or seriously jeopardize common-sense state laws that have regulated abortion for years. These include basic health and safety requirements for clinics where abortions are performed, requiring a physician to perform abortions, informed consent requirements, laws limiting public funding of abortion, and parental consent requirements before a minor's abortion.ⁱ These risks demonstrate the extreme nature of the amendment.

We urge all Floridians of goodwill to stand against the legalization of late-term abortion and oppose the abortion amendment. In doing so, we will not only protect the weakest, most innocent, and defenseless of human life among us but also countless women throughout the state from the harms of abortion.

Human life is sacred. The dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision of society. Direct attacks on innocent persons are never morally acceptable, at any stage or in any condition. In our state, human life is repeatedly being destroyed by abortion. Over 84,000 vulnerable and voiceless children were aborted in Florida in 2023.

This matter concerning the respect for human dignity and the fundamental value of human life is of grave importance to both our Church and our state. The threat of abortion remains our pre-eminent public policy priority. Therefore, we support a coordinated campaign to mobilize against the proposed amendment. To this end, we offer this prayer to defeat Amendment 4:

Ever-living God, you give life and desire a future for all your children. Take hold of our nation, state and community and awaken in every heart awe for the gift of life. Send your Spirit to strengthen us with wisdom and fortitude as we defend mothers and children in Florida from laws that disregard their health and safety.

Mary and Joseph trusted in you and welcomed Jesus into our broken world. God Almighty, we ask their intercession to protect the preborn and their mothers, and to guide all parents in raising their children. May they help us build a civilization of love by upholding the sacredness of life and accompanying pregnant women in need.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady, Mother of the Family, pray for us! St. Joseph, Protector of the Unborn, pray for us!

Most Rev. Thomas G. Wenski
Archdiocese of Miami

Most Rev. Gerald M. Barbarito
Diocese of Palm Beach

Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane
Diocese of Venice

Most Rev. John G. Noonan
Diocese of Orlando

Most Rev. Gregory L. Parkes
Diocese of St. Petersburg

Most Rev. William A. Wack, CSC
Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

Most Rev. Erik T. Pohlmeier
Diocese of St. Augustine

Most Rev. Enrique E. Delgado
Archdiocese of Miami

ⁱ Florida law distinguishes between parental *consent* prior to a minor's abortion (Ch. 390.0114(5)), which would be invalidated by Amendment 4, and parental *notice* of a minor's abortion (Ch. 390.0114(4)), which would be retained.



CONFERENCIA DE OBISPOS CATOLICOS DE LA FLORIDA

La voz no partidista de la política pública de la Iglesia Católica en Florida

201 West Park Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-7715 * (850) 205-6820 * www.flaccb.org

Obispos de la Florida se Oponen a la Enmienda Extrema sobre el Aborto **Voten No en la Enmienda 4**

La Enmienda 4 de la Florida, que aparecerá en la papeleta electoral de la Florida en noviembre de 2024, es una propuesta extrema que legaliza el aborto a término sin ninguna protección para el niño antes de nacer, incluso cuando el niño es capaz de sentir dolor. Esta propuesta para enmendar la constitución de nuestro estado prohibiría todas las restricciones al aborto antes de la viabilidad y crearía una amplia excepción que cualquier profesional de la salud podría aprovechar para permitir el aborto hasta el nacimiento.

Además, la enmienda anularía o pondría en grave peligro las leyes estatales de sentido común que han regulado el aborto durante años. Entre ellas se incluyen los requisitos fundamentales de salud y seguridad para las clínicas donde se practican los abortos; la necesidad de que sea un médico quien realice los abortos; los requisitos de consentimiento informado; las leyes que limitan la financiación pública del aborto; y los requisitos de consentimiento parental antes del aborto de una menor.¹ Estos riesgos demuestran la naturaleza extrema de la enmienda.

Exhortamos a todos los floridanos de buena voluntad a que luchen contra la legalización del aborto tardío y se opongan a la enmienda sobre el aborto. Al hacerlo, no sólo protegeremos las vidas humanas más débiles, inocentes e indefensas entre nosotros, sino también a innumerables mujeres de todo el estado contra los daños del aborto.

La vida humana es sagrada. La dignidad de la persona humana es el cimiento de una visión moral de la sociedad. Los ataques directos a personas inocentes nunca son aceptables moralmente, en ninguna etapa ni condición. En nuestro estado, la vida humana se destruye repetidamente por el aborto. En 2023, más de 84,000 niños vulnerables y sin voz fueron abortados en la Florida.

Este asunto sobre el respeto de la dignidad humana y del valor fundamental de la vida humana es de gran importancia tanto para nuestra Iglesia como para nuestro estado. La amenaza del aborto continúa siendo nuestra prioridad preeminente en la política pública. Por lo tanto, apoyamos una campaña coordinada para movilizarnos contra la enmienda propuesta. Con este fin, ofrecemos esta oración para derrotar la Enmienda 4:

Dios eterno: Tú das la vida y deseas un futuro para todos tus hijos. Apodérate de nuestra nación, estado y comunidad, y despierta en cada corazón la admiración por el regalo de la vida. Envía tu Espíritu para reforzarnos con sabiduría y fortaleza mientras defendemos a las madres y a los niños de la Florida de las leyes que desprecian su salud y su seguridad.

María y José confiaron en ti y recibieron a Jesús en nuestro mundo quebrantado. Dios todopoderoso, pedimos que ellos intercedan para proteger a los niños por nacer y a sus madres, y dirigir a todos los padres y madres en la crianza de sus hijos. Que nos ayuden a construir la civilización del amor al defender el carácter sagrado de la vida y acompañar a las mujeres embarazadas que así lo necesiten.

Te lo pedimos por Cristo, nuestro Señor. Amén.

Nuestra Señora, Madre de la Familia, ¡ruega por nosotros! San José, Protector de los No Nacidos, ¡ruega por nosotros!

Reverendísimo Thomas G. Wenski
Arquidiócesis de Miami

Reverendísimo Gerald M. Barbarito
Diócesis de Palm Beach

Reverendísimo Frank J. Dewane
Diócesis de Venice

Reverendísimo John G. Noonan
Diócesis de Orlando

Reverendísimo Gregory L. Parkes
Diócesis de St. Petersburg

Reverendísimo William A. Wack, CSC
Diócesis de Pensacola-Tallahassee

Reverendísimo Erik T. Pohlmeier
Diócesis de St. Augustine

Reverendísimo Enrique E. Delgado
Arquidiócesis de Miami

¹La ley de la Florida distingue entre el consentimiento parental previo al aborto de una menor (Cap. 390.01114(5)), que sería invalidada por la enmienda 4, y la notificación parental del aborto de una menor (Cap. 390.01114(4)), que permanecería.

OFFICE OF YOUTH PROTECTION SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM (SEP)

KOFC.ORG/SAFE

Under Faith in Action, certain state and council officers/directors are required to complete the Order's safe environment training and may also be required to provide authorization for a background check.

If members in certain roles are not compliant within 30 days of notification, they are subject to removal from those roles.

Email addresses are required when completing the *Service Program Personnel Report* (#365) for the program, community, and family director roles. Praesidium, the Order's safe environment partner, will email grand knights, program, family, and community directors assigned usernames and passwords to complete the training. They will also email family and community directors a personalized link to provide background check authorization. The Knights of Columbus covers all costs associated with these

requirements. Although the grand knight may also hold one of the following roles, there must be three (3) different members assigned to the program, family, and community director roles.

Email notifications are unique to each recipient and cannot be forwarded or used by any other member. The time-sensitive notifications require the recipient to complete training and background check authorization within 30 days of receipt.

All members who have access to Officers Online may view the safe environment status of their council or jurisdiction each week on the Reports tab.

For a council to be compliant with the safe environment program, all SEP roles must be filled and compliant. If the council sponsors a Columbian Squire Circle, the circle must also be fully compliant.

SEP Roles: Training and Background Check Requirements

| SEP ROLES | TRAINING | BACKGROUND CHECK | OFFICERS ONLINE REPORTS |
|----------------------------|----------|------------------|-------------------------|
| State Council | | | |
| State Deputy | ✓ | | ✓ |
| State Advocate | ✓ | | ✓ |
| State Program Director | ✓ | | ✓ |
| State Youth Director | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| State Family Director | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| State Community Director | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| State Squire Chairman | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Subordinate Council | | | |
| Grand Knight | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Faithful Navigator | ✓ | | |
| Program Director | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Family Director | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Community Director | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Chief Counselor | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Adult Counselor | ✓ | ✓ | |

MEMBER HELPLINE: YOUTHLEADER@KOFC.ORG | (203) 800-4940 | FAX (855) 845-3502

OFFICE OF YOUTH PROTECTION: OYP@KOFC.ORG | (203) 752-4558 | FAX (855) 845-3502

YOUTH PROTECTION HELPLINE (844) 563-2723



Knights of Columbus

Safe Environment Program Council Compliance Guide (Rev 5/10/2024)

The following criteria must be met for a council to be Safe Environment compliant:

- 1) Email addresses are mandatory to appoint members into ALL roles that have safe environment requirements. Emails must be unique to the member, NOT gkcouncil123@XYZ.com to ensure that members retain credit for completing their training and background checks.
- 2) There must be a **Grand Knight** assigned via Form 185 through Member Management.
- 3) The council must have submitted Form 365 Report of Program Personnel or named program personnel via online Member Management. Watch this video to learn how to submit online:
https://players.brightcove.net/802593642001/y6FLilaOf_default/index.html?videoid=6191938577001
- 4) On the 365 Report, there must be **three different members** assigned to:
 - a. **Program Director**
 - b. **Community Director**
 - c. **Family Director**

*Grand Knights may only hold **one** of the additional director roles listed above.
- 5) All roles above must complete the Safe Environment training. The **Community Director** and the **Family Director** must also provide consent for a background screening (criminal and motor vehicle records).
- 6) If the council sponsors a Squires Circle, that circle must be compliant for the council to be compliant. The following criteria need to be met for the circle to be compliant:
 - a. Form 468 must be submitted appointing counselors every year
 - b. One (1) **Chief Counselor** must be appointed
 - c. A minimum of one (1) **Adult Counselor** must be appointed
 - d. The circle must have a minimum of ten (10) **Squires**
 - e. For every additional ten (10) squires, there must be one (1) additional Adult Counselor
 - i. Example 1: 10-20 Squires must have 1 Chief Counselor + 1 Adult Counselor
 - ii. Example 2: 21-30 Squires must have 1 Chief Counselor + 2 Adult Counselors
 - iii. Example 3: 31-40 Squires must have 1 Chief Counselor + 3 Adult Counselors ...et cetera
 - f. Chief Counselor and Adult Counselor(s) must complete training and provide consent to a background screening.

All members who have access to Officers Online may view the safe environment status of their council or jurisdiction each week on the Reports tab.

Member Helpline:
203-800-4940 • 855-845-3502 (Fax)
YOUTHLEADER@KOFC.ORG

KofC Youth Protection Helpline:
1-844-563-2723
KOFC.ORG/SAFE

Office of Youth Protection:
203-752-4558 • 855-845-3502 (Fax)
OYP@KOFC.ORG

INVOCATION

Knights of Columbus Florida State Council Newsletter

How To Write an Article

Newsworthy • Broad Appeal • Concise • Complete • Factual • Accurate

Answers the Questions: Who, What, When, Where, Why & How

INVOCATION reports on local council activities throughout the entire State of Florida

- Article size: **300 words** ideal (half page) to 500-600 words max (full page)
- Articles submitted as an attachment in Word format - not in the body of an email
 - PDF submissions are for ads or promotions - not articles
- Pictures need to be sent separately as an attachment and the original pictures **Please do not format them in any way, we will do it**-- not embedded in a Word document
- **Articles need to be brief, highly relevant and actionable**
- **At a minimum, Who, What, When and Where needs to be in the first paragraph,**
- Articles need to be brief, to-the-point and **of interest** to the entire State Council
 - What is the event/activity about?
 - Whom did it benefit?
 - What was the result?
 - Who are the key players/Knights?
- **Similar story** submissions will be consolidated/batched into one article by the Editors
- Authors must submit on time per the Editor production calendar- **Deadline 1st of each month**
 - Late submittals will be placed farther down the newsletter or not published.
- Proof your article carefully for spelling and grammar before sending (**use spellcheck**)
- Document filename should reflect the office/title, i.e. State Deputy article
- Every Region needs to participate – one page of the Invocation will be dedicated to each Region respectively
 - If a region does not submit content their page will be eliminated from that issue
- Cover story submissions need to be submitted ahead of the deadline due to special photo editing
 - Cover story photos – in portrait style at least 1mb in size - not formatted or resized
 - filename "Cover Story"

Send all information:

Region 1: Robert C. Guillery rag130@outlook.com

Region 2: Invocation@floridakofc.org

Region 3: John O'Malley jomalley1@cfl.rr.com

Region 4: invocation@floridakofc.org

Region 5: invocation@floridakofc.org

Region 6: Armando Minutoli alminutoli146@gmail.com

For general information or questions email: invocation@floridakofc.org



Are You A Member?

The Blessed Michael J. McGivney Guild serves as a source for information about the life, works and spirituality of Father McGivney.

The Guild distributes informational materials about him, receives reports of favors granted through his intercession and oversees the distribution of relics.

Guild members receive regular updates on the progress of Blessed Michael J. McGivney's



cause for canonization and are invited to participate in promoting devotion to this Servant of God. Members of the Knights of Columbus are not automatically Guild members and must elect to join the Guild.

The Blessed Michael J. McGivney Guild Newsletter is published bimonthly except July - August, and is

sent free to Guild members.

To join the Guild, register online at: <http://www.fathermcgivney.org/> †

Is Your Personal Information Accurate?

Every member of the Knights of Columbus in the Florida jurisdiction is listed on the Florida KofC website. Financial Secretaries update council lists on the Supreme and State websites at least quarterly. To ensure your information is correct, please review the brief YouTube video link below to confirm that your personal information and your preferred contact information is correct.

The 5-minute video describes how to log on or gain initial access, and reviews how to correct or confirm your personal information.

Please note that if you are a State, Assembly or Council officer, chairman or director, you must remain subscribed to the State Council's email list. Failure to do so will result in you missing important communications concerning your position and may result in your forfeiture of that position.

Follow the instructions on the video <https://youtu.be/IVS3XkgiUs> and while you are on the site, check out the other good news and information is available to you with just a click or two.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

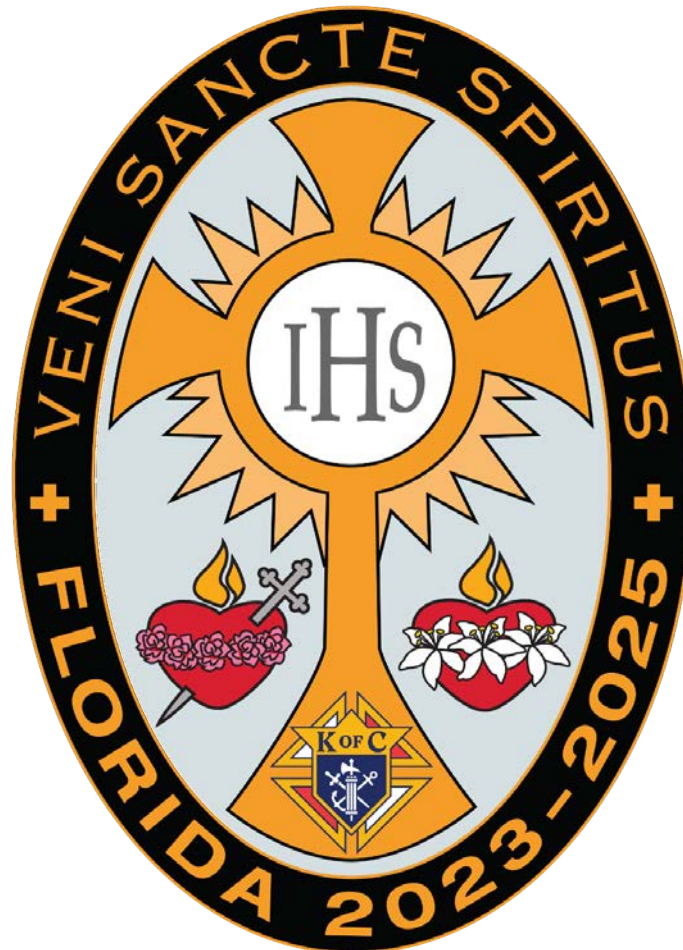
Evangelize and proclaim our faith, protect families, and perform works of charity.

Through our witness and deeds attract Catholic men to our Order.

Build the Domestic Church through service, support our parishes, clergy, and communities.

Incorporate principled fiscal responsibility for charitable giving.

The Florida State Logo



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Region 6 Armando Minutoli *alminutoli46@gmail.com*

Region 7 (Open)

Region 8 (Open)

Florida State Council Social Media

Your State Council is now on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and You Tube. We need all Brother Knights to participate and Let Your Light Shine.

- Go to Facebook and "LIKE" the page
- Go to Twitter and Instagram and "follow"
- #LetYourLightShine @KofcFlorida



Knightline

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN SERVICE TO ONE IN SERVICE TO ALL

Check out the current issue of **Knightline**, a monthly resource for local KofC leaders. It is designed to help council officers plan events and activities, meet quarterly goals for the fraternal year and learn about Orderwide news. [CLICK HERE](#) to download the issue.

COLUMBIA

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the online version of **COLUMBIA** Magazine, a publication for the Knights of Columbus.



DISCOVER
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