

INVOCATION

August 2026



Wheelchair Mission
Changes Lives

Wheelchair Mission Changes Lives

By Scott A. O'Connor, PSD – Florida, Supreme Director



Since 2003, the Knights of Columbus and the American Wheelchair Mission, a Global Wheelchair Mission Partner, have been changing lives through the gift of mobility.

The American Wheelchair Mission is a nonprofit organization dedicated to delivering brand-new, free wheelchairs and mobility aids to physically disabled children, teens, and adults throughout the world who lack mobility and the means to acquire a wheelchair. With a strong focus on serving the Americas, the American Wheelchair Mission continues to transform the lives of entire families by providing the gifts of hope, dignity, freedom, and independence.

Providing a wheelchair to someone without mobility improves the quality of life for the entire family. Children can attend school, adults can work to support their families, and elderly individuals can leave beds in which they may have been confined for years. The American Wheelchair Mission estimates that each wheelchair delivered positively impacts an average of 10 lives.

It is estimated that more than 100 million people worldwide need a wheelchair but cannot afford one. Many of these individuals cannot be helped by canes, crutches, walkers, or prosthetics. For them, a wheelchair is their only hope for mobility.

Through charitable donations, the Knights

of Columbus has funded the delivery of tens of thousands of wheelchairs around the world. Here at home, thousands of veterans and their families across the United States have received the gift of mobility. In Florida, wheelchairs have been delivered to veterans' hospitals, nursing homes, and Honor Flight programs that transport combat veterans to visit the war memorials in Washington, D.C.

During the week of July 6–11, Supreme Director and Past State Deputy of Florida Scott O'Connor, along with current Florida State Deputy Michael Gizewski and his wife, Lisa, had the privilege of participating in a wheelchair distribution mission in Tampico, Mexico. More than 60 wheelchairs were distributed through donations from several Knights of Columbus jurisdictions, including Texas and Florida.

The Children's Rehabilitation Institute (CRIT) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides comprehensive rehabilitation services for children with neurological, muscular, and skeletal disabilities. The American Wheelchair Mission partners with local CRIT facilities to provide new, high-quality wheelchairs to patients at no cost to the recipients. During a typical distribution event, approximately 60 wheelchairs are presented, with the mission team also making several deliveries directly to recipients in their homes.

The mission also included spiritual reflections led by Father Mark Salas and the praying of the Rosary during the five wheelchair presentations made in individual homes. Praying alongside the families receiving these wheelchairs was truly inspiring. These were the very people who had been praying for a wheelchair for their loved one. Now their prayers had been answered, and those who delivered the wheelchair were able to stand beside them in prayer. It was a beautiful experience to witness the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

One of the primary fundraising activities conducted by Knights of Columbus councils to support this ministry is a "Wheelchair Weekend" event. For more information on how to organize a Wheelchair Weekend, please contact:

Michael J. Costanza
Mobility Disabilities Chairman
– Florida State Council
3821 Lapeer Avenue
North Port, FL 34287
kcdistrict51@yahoo.com
(941) 400-7416

Thank you for your prayers and your continued support of this life-changing ministry.



Deluna Assembly 156 Color Corps supported the 70th Anniversary Mass for the Priesthood of Fr. Eugene Pathe in the Pensacola-Tallahassee Diocese. Pensacola Bishop Wack presided at the Mass, which was held at St. Mary Catholic Church in Niceville July 22. The beautifully produced "Pathe to Priesthood" film by the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel was featured at a reception following the Mass. Filmed in 2024, it is a wonderful tribute to Father Pathe's life, vocation, and faithful service to Christ and His Church.

State Advocate Kris Elliott serves as Color Corps Commander for Deluna Assembly.

Membership Is Our Lifeblood

The future of the Knights of Columbus is not determined by chance—it is shaped by the leadership of men who are willing to invite, inspire, and serve.

Every successful council is built on members who understand that leadership is more than holding an office. True leadership is setting the example, strengthening our faith, serving our parish, supporting our families, and extending a hand to the next Catholic man who is searching for purpose and brotherhood.

Membership is the lifeblood of our Order. Every new member brings new ideas, new energy, and new opportunities to expand our charitable mission. When we invite one man to join, we are not simply increasing our numbers—we are strengthening our Church, our councils, and our communities for generations to come.

As Knights, we are called to be visible witnesses of Christ through charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. Our actions speak loudly, but our invitations can change lives. A simple conversation after Mass, an invitation to a

council event, or sharing your own experience as a Knight may be exactly what another Catholic man needs.

Let us challenge ourselves to lead by example and to make membership growth a personal mission. If every Knight invited just one qualified Catholic man to join, our councils would flourish, our charitable works would multiply, and Blessed Michael McGivney's vision would continue to grow stronger than ever.

Together, let us build a legacy of faithful leadership, vibrant councils, and committed Catholic men who answer God's call to serve.

Lead With Faith. Invite With Confidence. Serve With Purpose.

Vivat Jesus!



State Deputy
Michael P. Gizewski



Seven members of **Corpus Christi Assembly 2810** of Flagler Beach recently paid a 103th birthday visit to Santa Maria Del Mar parishioner Al Smith.

Smith is a WWII Army Air Corps veteran. His wife Greta, who was a WWII Navy Nurse, passed away last year at 102. This was the Knights' third annual visit to greet Smith and present him with a special birthday cake, to the delight of his family.

Joining the Knights was Council Chaplain and Santa Maria Del Mar Pastor Father Manny Lopez.

God Uses What We Have and Provides the Rest

By State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor

Jesus said to them, “There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves.” – Mt. 14: 16

The first weekend of this month includes a Gospel which recounts a miraculous feeding, the using of five loaves and two fish to feed a multitude. Before Jesus does this, he instructs his apostles to feed them. They saw the impossibility of feeding so many with so little. What they forgot was the power of God in their midst. We too as Knights can never forget the power of giving what we have and allowing God to do the rest.

This month we are reminded of two priests whose holiness helped show what faith in Jesus can produce. Blessed Michael McGivney’s feast day is Friday, August 13, celebrated between his birthday of August 12, 1852, and death on August 14, 1890. His short 38 years of life started a chain of events that led to the magnificent Order of which we are a part. Giving what he had and engaging the gifts of the Irish immigrant men of his time was enough to let God do the rest.

If we are to be Knights after the heart of Jesus, we can look to Blessed Fr. McGivney for life’s inspiration. Serving immigrant families and seeing the plight of his flock, particularly that of men losing their faith, and widows and orphans without the basic necessities of life, he met those needs tirelessly.

Another priest whose feast day we celebrated August 4 is St. John Vianney, the Cure of Ars, who likewise served the spiritual needs of people and became an unlikely hero for Christ in France. I will be at the Supreme Convention in Denver on his feast and will pray that all our chaplains have the humble heart of this amazing saint to reconcile souls to God and bring others closer to Christ. Striving to be a worthy State Chaplain for you, I draw strength from the lives of these two great priests.

Growing up poor and without much of an education, St. John Vianney had to persevere and

rely on the help of a tutor until he finally secured a place in seminary. One of his advocates stated, “The Church wants not only learned priests but even more holy ones.” Upon ordination he was sent to a tiny village of 250 souls. Through his pastoral zeal, simple homilies, and many hours in the confessional, it

would become a place of pilgrimage so popular that the railroad had to add special trains to take people there. By the time he died in 1859, St. John Vianney was one of the most beloved figures in France.

Providentially, the first Knights council formed in France in 2016 was at the boyhood parish of St. John Vianney. Both St. John Vianney and Blessed Michael McGivney encountered the suffering of people, turned minds and hearts to Christ, and through the Sacraments nourished souls from death to life, from sin to grace to eternal life.

The examples of these two holy priests remind us to rely on God and use what limited resources we have, knowing God will not only supplement our skills, but let His strength shine through our weakness. I don’t know about you, but the leaders I most admire are those who can admit their mistakes, acknowledge their weaknesses, laugh at themselves, and persevere to do their best with the help of God and others. Knights of Columbus are called to do just that. Together with God, we can do all things.

St. John Vianney, pray for us! Blessed Michael McGivney, pray for us! Vivat Jesus!



*State Chaplain
Very Rev. Bob Kantor*

Council 5618 Is Cleaning The World

Since its founding in 2009, the organization Clean the World has been addressing two critical global issues: hygiene-related illness and environmental sustainability. For the members of **Bishop Thomas J. Grady Council 5618** of Altamonte Springs, this mission became a hands-on reality in the fall of 2025.

The origin story of Clean the World is as simple as it is transformative. After witnessing the volume of discarded soap in hotels during his travels, founder Shawn Seipler asked a pivotal question: “What happens to leftover soap in hotel rooms?” Learning that these products were being discarded while millions of children worldwide remained at risk from preventable diseases like pneumonia and diarrhea, he launched a mission to turn hotel waste into a global lifeline.

Given Orlando’s status as a major tourism hub, it serves as the ideal World Headquarters for this international effort. Clean the World now partners with over 8,600 hospitality locations globally to divert used soap and plastic amenities from landfills.

Every month, members of Bishop Thomas J. Grady Council 5618 dedicate their time to this cause. On the first Wednesday of each month, volunteers head to the local recycling operations center to assist with sorting and packing. While the work is physically demanding—requiring hours of standing on warehouse floors—the commitment of the members remains steadfast.

As Tom Weninger, who recently visited the facility, noted, the experience is a reminder that impactful service is rarely glamorous. During his visit, it was observed that while the organization’s reach is massive, they do not currently provide printed brochures for distribution, making direct participation and word-of-mouth support all the more vital for the local community.

The partnership yields benefits that extend far beyond individual hygiene kits:

- **Environmental Impact:** To date, Clean the World has diverted over 32 million pounds of waste



from landfills. By processing discarded plastic amenity bottles into flakes for new products or clean energy, they are actively fostering a circular economy.

- **Public Health:** Recycled soap is the primary ingredient in the organization’s global hygiene revolution. Since 2009, over 100 million bars of soap have been donated, helping to reduce the impact of hygiene-related illnesses in 127 countries.

- **The WASH Foundation:** Clean the World’s impact is further extended through their partnership with The WASH Foundation, which provides sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs to vulnerable populations, including those experiencing homelessness.

For those interested in supporting this ongoing project, the work being done by Bishop Thomas J. Grady Council 5618 continues to be a shining example of how local service can create a ripple effect of wellness and sustainability around the world.

Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.” (Gospel for Aug. 30, Mt 16:23)

Who knows the mind of God? God is beyond human understanding, yet he has revealed himself to us most perfectly in the person of Jesus Christ. Through prayer we can come to know God more fully, and we grow in understanding of his plan when we make a habit of conforming our will to his holy will. We follow Christ in discipleship when we pray daily to the Father as he did: “Not my will but yours be done” (Lk 22:42).

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to study the life and example of our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, whose feast day is Aug. 13. Use the Blessed Michael McGivney Cor Session Guide (freely available at kofc.org/shopcis), noting in particular how Father McGivney always sought to align his will with that of God.

Questions for Reflection:

How can you strive to better understand things from God’s perspective? How can you discern when your thoughts are merely human thoughts and not of God? What virtues of Blessed Michael McGivney can you imitate in order to submit yourself more fully to God’s holy will?



FLORIDA K OF C CHARITIES

WE ARE KNIGHTS OF CHARITY AS CHARITY IS AT THE HEART OF OUR FAITH AND OUR WORK.

DONATE TO US TODAY

GET INVOLVED

Give \$10 a month to Florida K of C Charities - Living Faith in Action, Charity in Service.

Council 13277 Raises \$35,500

St. Sylvester Council 13277 of Gulf Breeze raised \$17,500 at its annual Golf Tournament to benefit local Special Olympians. The donation check was presented to the Santa Rosa County Special Olympics during the June Council Membership meeting on June 4.

The tournament had 60 sponsor/donors and 34 teams for this year's event.

Additionally, the Council hosted the annual Smokin' in the Square Charity BBQ Competition at St. Sylvester Catholic Church, which raised \$18,000 this past year. This benefits two charities chosen by Bishop Wack (Pensacola-Tallahassee) and Father John Kelly (KofC Diocesan Chaplain Pensacola-Tallahassee).

Bishop Wack selected the Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida Food Assistance Program, and Father John Kelly selected The Little Sisters of the Poor Mobile Residence.

Council 13277 donated \$9,000 to each organization, with presentations taking place on June 14 for the Little Sisters of the Poor and June 21 for Catholic Charities. Due to Father John's unwavering support, these checks were presented from the pulpit after Mass.



These presentations were featured in the Navarre Press.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require further information:

Neal Carter
District Deputy 4
PGK, PFN
702-203-3906
nealcarterdd4@gmail.com

Vivat Jesus,



**Knights of
Columbus®
Programs**



FAITH

Our goal is to strengthen men and their families in the Catholic faith. Formation in our faith goes beyond mere facts or religious practice to an authentic connection with a loving God and his son Jesus Christ. Programs in this category are designed to...

[Learn more](#)



FAMILY

Father McGivney sought to strengthen the familial bond of father to mother and children to parents. His vision for family life was not only financial and material aid but also spiritual strength. The majority of our time is easily spent in secular circles unless...

[Learn more](#)



COMMUNITY

Knights are called to serve others. Our first principle is Charity – at home with our families and in our communities. When Knights of Columbus members come together as one through their council and parish, they accomplish great things.

[Learn more](#)



LIFE

"Catholics must be committed to the defense of life in all its stages and in every condition" (St. John Paul II, 1995). The urgency of the threat to a culture of life in our world cannot be misunderstood. The Knights of Columbus vigorously defends...

[Learn more](#)

District 17 Hosts Special Life Event



Members, first responders, and community leaders with *Knights of Columbus District 17* recently gathered in Palm Coast for a special series of events including Florida Lieutenant Governor Jay Collins highlighting the sanctity of life, emergency newborn safety, and long-term care for mothers in crisis.

The day's activities began at Fire Station 25, located at 1250 Belle Terre Parkway in Palm Coast, Florida—the site of the local Safe Haven Baby Box. District 17 leaders, officials, and attendees visited the installation to reflect on the life-saving technology and honor the collaboration between the Knights of Columbus, local leadership, and first responders that brought the project to fruition.

Following the initial gathering at Fire Station 25, the presentation moved to Santa Maria del Mar Catholic Church in Flagler Beach. The formal program opened with solemn reverence as Father Manny Lopez, Pastor of Santa Maria del Mar, delivered the invocation. In his opening prayer, Father Manny offered blessings over the leaders, emergency personnel, and advocates dedicated to serving families in need and protecting human life at all stages.

The event featured keynote remarks from

Lieutenant Governor Jay Collins and Gen. Charles Gambaro, who delivered powerful messages regarding sanctity of life issues and local pro-life infrastructure.

Both speakers praised the community-wide effort to establish the Safe Haven Baby Box at Fire Station 25. Designed to offer parents in extreme crisis a safe, secure, and entirely anonymous option to surrender a newborn, the Baby Box provides a critical alternative to protect innocent lives.

"In a moment of crisis, a parent now has a safe, anonymous surrender option, and a child has a future filled with possibilities. It stands as a promise that every child deserves a chance at life and every parent deserves dignity and compassion."

— Gen. Charles Gambaro

A major centerpiece of the address was an in-depth discussion on the Knights of Columbus ASAP (Aid and Support After Pregnancy) program, with Lieutenant Governor J. Collins speaking very extensively on the initiative's profound impact and necessity.

Lieutenant Governor Collins detailed how defending life extends far beyond birth, emphasizing that true advocacy requires walking alongside mothers before, during, and long after delivery. He highlighted how the ASAP program



directly strengthens local pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes by providing essential funding, baby supplies, diaper drives, and volunteer assistance.

Pro-life advocacy is a full spectrum of care. Through programs like ASAP, the Knights of Columbus are ensuring that no mother feels alone, under-resourced, or overwhelmed. We are building a network of real, tangible relief—offering financial support, material goods, and compassionate mentorship so that both mother and child can thrive."

— Lieutenant Governor Jay Collins

By leveraging matching grants and community-driven outreach, Collins noted, the ASAP initiative bridges the critical gap between emergency intervention and long-term family stability.

The event highlighted the deep partnership between District 17 and local emergency personnel, from the firefighters monitoring the Safe Haven Baby Box 24/7 at Fire Station 25 on Belle Terre Parkway to the parish ministries supporting mothers across Flagler County.

The gathering concluded with a strong renewal of commitment from District 17 councils to continue funding life-saving technologies, supporting parish ministries, and championing families throughout the region.



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.

Knights Travel Georgia's Road of Honor

By Ernie Jackson



Some motorcycle rides are measured in miles. Others are measured in memories. This one was measured in both—and guided by a mission.

Led by two Florida Knights on Bikes diocesan officers, four Harley-Davidson riders traveled from Port Orange into Georgia to visit historic military sites, honor those who served and strengthen the bonds shared between fathers, sons, veterans and brothers in service.

The riders were Mike Godbout, Orlando Diocese Chairman for Florida Knights on Bikes; Dr. Ernie Jackson, Assistant Orlando Diocese Chairman; Eddy, Seminole Harley-Davidson staff; and Jim, a church elder who brought a quiet, faith-centered perspective to the journey.

Their route took them to Andersonville National Historic Site, the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, Fort Pulaski and historic Savannah. Most importantly, the journey would allow Eddy to spend time with his son, Aiden, an active-duty United States Army lieutenant stationed at Fort Benning.

Throughout the trip, the four riders experienced the principles of the Knights of Columbus—charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism—not through formal ceremonies, but through shared hardship, concern for one another, prayerful reflection and respect for those who sacrificed in service to the nation.

For Mike and Ernie, Florida Knights on Bikes represents much more than a motorcycle organization. It brings together Catholic men who share a love of riding, a commitment to their faith and a desire to serve their Church, communities, veterans and fellow Knights.

The ride reflected the Knights on Bikes motto: “In service to one. In service to all.”

Silence at Andersonville

The first major destination was Andersonville National Historic Site. As the four motorcycles were parked, the familiar rumble of their engines gave way to an almost complete silence.

More than 45,000 Union soldiers were confined at the Confederate military prison during its operation in 1864 and 1865. Nearly 13,000 died from disease, starvation, exposure, contaminated water and inadequate medical care.

Walking through the former prison grounds and the nearby national cemetery reminded the riders that freedom has always carried an extraordinary price.

Rows of white headstones stretched across the landscape, each representing a life cut short far from home. The riders moved quietly among them, understanding that some places deserve silence.

For members of the Knights of Columbus, patriotism is more than displaying the flag or



attending a ceremony. It means remembering those who carried the nation's burdens, supporting veterans and military families, and ensuring that the sacrifices of previous generations are never forgotten.

Fraternity at the Windsor

By evening, the riders reached the historic Windsor Hotel in Americus.

After removing their sweat-soaked riding gear and enjoying the welcome relief of air conditioning, the four men gathered for dinner. They talked about motorcycles, military service, memorable rides, faith and family.

They shared stories from different chapters of their lives and laughed about moments that only close riding companions could fully appreciate.

The evening reflected the fraternity at the heart of the Knights of Columbus.

Some of the best memories from a motorcycle journey are never written into the itinerary. They occur naturally after the engines have cooled and good friends gather around a table.

The following morning, the riders would arrive

at Fort Benning—and experience the emotional centerpiece of the journey.

A Father's Pride

For Eddy, Fort Benning was much more than another stop.

It was an opportunity to enter, if only briefly, the professional world of his son.

Aiden was serving there as an active-duty Army lieutenant, beginning his own chapter in the long history of the United States Infantry and accepting the responsibilities of leading soldiers.

When the riders reunited with him, Eddy's pride was immediately visible.

It appeared in the way he listened as Aiden spoke about his duties. It could be seen during introductions and photographs. It was present in the questions Eddy asked and in the quiet smile that surfaced whenever Aiden displayed the confidence, discipline and professionalism expected of a young Army officer.

There was something powerful about watching a father and son stand together on an Army installation shaped by generations of soldiers.

Two Generations of Infantry Service

The visit also brought the journey full circle for Ernie.

In 1981, Ernie arrived at Fort Benning as a young Army lieutenant and began what would become a 20-year Infantry career. He spent his first five years of military service there, attending many of the Army's major Infantry schools and learning from some of the finest leaders in the profession.

More than four decades later, he found himself standing beside another young lieutenant beginning a remarkably similar journey.

Uniforms, equipment and technology may change, but the responsibility of leading soldiers remains timeless.

For Ernie, the visit connected the past with the present.

The group spent much of the day exploring the National Infantry Museum.

For Ernie, the exhibits awakened memories of soldiers he had trained, mentored and led. For Eddy, each gallery provided greater insight into the profession his son had entered. For Aiden, the museum represented a proud history he was now responsible for carrying forward.

Remembering Absent Brothers

For Mike, a retired Marine master sergeant who served more than 20 years and fought in the Second Battle of Fallujah, the museum stirred a different set of emotions.

Several times during the visit, he quietly remarked, "My buddies would have loved this place."

He remembered Marines who had served beside him, including those who fought with him in Iraq. He also thought about his cousin and how much he would have appreciated the museum.

Lessons at Fort Pulaski

The following day, the four riders traveled east toward Fort Pulaski near the entrance to Savannah Harbor.

The massive brick fort took 18 years to construct and required approximately 25 million bricks. Once considered nearly indestructible, its walls

were breached by newly developed rifled artillery during an approximately 30-hour bombardment in April 1862.

The battle changed military engineering by demonstrating that traditional masonry fortifications had become vulnerable to advancing technology.

Standing beneath the damaged walls reminded the riders that even the strongest human creations can be overtaken by change.

Technology advances. Strategies evolve. Institutions once considered permanent can quickly become obsolete.

Courage, leadership, faith and sacrifice, however, remain constant.

The Road to Savannah

As the riders continued toward Savannah, the conversations became lighter.

They talked about military history, family traditions, favorite motorcycles, Knights on Bikes activities and unforgettable journeys.

Somewhere along those Georgia roads, the four men were reminded that motorcycling has never been only about the machines.

It is about the people.

Savannah provided a fitting conclusion to the journey. Beneath live oaks draped in Spanish moss, the four riders reflected upon how much they had experienced in only a few days.

They had traveled from the tragedy of Andersonville to the living military legacy of Fort Benning. They had crossed farmland shaped by both beauty and suffering. They had stood beneath the battle-scarred walls of Fort Pulaski and finished their journey among the historic streets of Savannah.

Most importantly, they had shared the experience together.

Dr. SK Ernie Jackson serves as Assistant Orlando Diocese Chairman, Florida Knights on Bikes, and is the Florida State Council Council Development Chairman

Flagler Assembly Dedicates Cemetery Plaza



A newly constructed Cemetery Spiritual Meditation Plaza was recently dedicated at St. Mary Catholic Cemetery in Bunnell with the assistance of **Corpus Christi Assembly 2810** of Flagler Beach. The dedication ceremony was held in conjunction with the annual Memorial Day Veteran Remembrance ceremony at the cemetery.

The construction of the plaza was a result of consultation with the Director of Catholic Cemeteries for the Diocese of St. Augustine, Keith Rezendes, and members of Assembly 2810. It was felt that a place for family members and guests to sit and quietly pray at the cemetery would be spiritually beneficial to those visiting the cemetery as well those souls interred in their final resting place. The plaza would also be a visual enhancement to the aesthetics of the overall cemetery.

A member of Assembly 2810 donated the funds to purchase the bricks and other materials needed for the project. PFN Richard Friese assisted Sir Knight and master mason, Bruce Zarajczyk, in the actual construction of the plaza. Traditional bricks were used to build the walls and seating area.

A donation of floor pavers was installed on the ground in front of the seating area. Planters were built into each of the side walls so that flowers and small plants could be added.

Color Corp members from Corpus Christi Assembly 2810 (Flagler Beach) and **Fr. John McElroy Assembly 4069** (Palm Coast) were led by Color Corp Commander Chris Daley at the dedication and remembrance ceremony. Sir Knight Deacon John Harvey opened the dedication with the invocation. He was followed by Sir Knight Deacon Steve Johnson invoking God's blessing with benediction prayers.

The names of all of the deceased veterans interred at the cemetery were placed on placards in front of the new plaza. American flags were fixed next to the grave markers of the veterans in honor of their service to the country. The large cemetery American flag at half-mast served as a backdrop for the service as it was concluded with the playing of taps.

KofC Florida License Plate Taking Shape

The Florida Knights of Columbus License Plate Program is finally beginning to take shape. The State Council is gathering signatures of interest so they can bring an official request before the Florida Legislature for approval.

There are two ways to express interest and show your support:



1. Online (Preferred Method)

Visit the Florida State Council [website](#)

Open the blue pull down menu

Select Charity Resources

Click FL KC License Plate Request You will need your membership number to complete the form.

2. Paper Form:

A printable form is also available for those who prefer to submit their interest manually. It will be available at our next assembly monthly meeting but for sure online is the preferred method.

Who Can Participate? At this stage, the program is open only to Knights. Whether it expands later

is unknown, but the more support we show now, the stronger the case becomes.

Why This Matters? A Knights of Columbus specialty plate would be a visible witness to our faith, our fraternity, and our commitment to charity. It's a simple way to evangelize on the road and strengthen our presence across Florida.

Let's Help Move This Forward: The campaign is just getting started, and every signature helps. I will include a direct link to the Florida State Council website so you can sign up easily.

Together, we can help bring this project from idea to reality, one Knight at a time.

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/> †



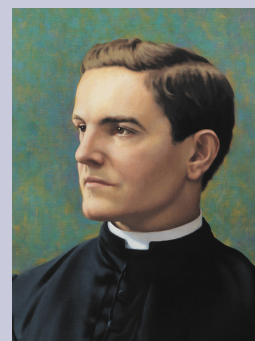
Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael J. McGivney

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).



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



Explanation of the Florida State Council Pin 2025-2027

“OPEN WIDE THE DOORS FOR CHRIST” is a powerful and fitting exhortation for the Knights of Columbus in this Jubilee Year. As men of faith, the Knights are called to welcome Christ into every aspect of their lives—into their homes, their parishes, and their communities. By echoing the words of St. John Paul II, we are reminded to live boldly and faithfully, opening our hearts to Christ’s truth, mercy, and love. Worn as a pin, it becomes a visible sign of commitment to evangelization, service, and the defense of life; encouraging all to embrace and share the Gospel in this special year of grace.

“JESUS IN MARY’S WOMB” is a profound symbol of the sacredness of life from its very inception. His presence as a child, unborn, reflects the divine value of every human life. The Knights of Columbus draws strength and inspiration from this mystery, standing firmly for the right to life from conception to natural death. As Mary carried the Savior of the world in her womb, so too must society recognize and protect the dignity of every human being at all stages of life.

We are a fraternity of men who love our God, love our Family, and love our country. We protect the children, we salute our veterans, and we pray to our patron Blessed Michael McGivney. We do all unashamed and with pride because we understand that which is not against us is with us. For we are the Knights of Columbus protectors of the widows and orphans, and we wear it proudly so **OPEN WIDE THE DOORS FOR CHRIST and he shall enter.**

Florida State Council Officers

STATE DEPUTY

Michael Gizewski
mpgizewski@gmail.com

STATE CHAPLAIN

Very Rev. Robert Kantor
frbob@stagnenaples.org

STATE SECRETARY

Edward Sleyzak
esleyzak@outlook.com

STATE TREASURER

Richard E. Dahn Jr.
rdahn32@gmail.com

STATE ADVOCATE

Kris Elliott
kris.elliott@1980.usna.com

STATE WARDEN

Richard Gallant
floridaknightsofcolumbus@gmail.com

IMMEDIATE PAST STATE DEPUTY

Richard Hughes
rhughes14084@gmail.com

STATE EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

Carlos Ortiz
carlos.ortiz.EA@outlook.com

STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Danny McIntyre
danmci@aol.com

STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Steve J. Zajac
sjzajac@embarqmail.com

STATE CHARITIES DIRECTOR

Vince Cipriano
vinnie1248@outlook.com

STATE MARKETING DIRECTOR

Weldon "2E" Watkins
kofctuewowiii@gmail.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Marc Anderson
marcstx19@gmail.com

INVOCATION

Publisher- John O'Malley *jomalley1@cfl.com*

Scott Huetteman Technical & Layout Editor *fl.hutts@gmail.com*

Harry Rother Photographer Website: www.kofcfoto.website

Regional PR Coordinators

Region 1 Bob Gualtieri *rag130@outlook.com*

Region 2 (Open)

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

Region 4 (Open)

Region 5 (Open)

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 X (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
— THE —
Catholic
DIFFERENCE