

INVOCATION

DECEMBER 2024



In Service
To The Poor

A Paper Bag Ride



St. John XXIII Council 14390 of Miramar joined the Knights on Bikes on their Paper Bag Ride on November 9.

This was the first time the council has participated in this ride. They packed sandwiches, candies, water bottles, and fruits the paper bags decorated by the students.

Rev. Juan Pedro Hernandez-Alonso, pastor of Mother of our Redeemer Catholic Church, was present during the preparation of the paper bags and gave his blessings as they started.

After the paper bags were packed with goodies, they rode to the parking lot and bus station in Ft. Lauderdale, intermittently stopping while handing over the paper bags to the needy. When the people saw us, they came and got their bags, and they were very appreciative for the gifts we had given them.

“It was a gratifying Saturday morning to see the help you have given to the ones in need,” said PGK Alex Santos. “This will be the start of continuing service to the poor.”



Become Fishers of Men

By State Deputy Richard Hughes

Brothers all, I hope and pray that all of you had a Blessed Thanksgiving and that you were able to take some well-deserved time off with your families. It has been a rather intense few months, especially with two hurricanes that severely impacted our state. I am proud of the way our Councils responded with charity to their members, their parishes, and their communities to these disasters. I want to thank you for all that you and your Councils did in responding to these needs, while continuing your other charitable works.

These past few months were also filled with a rather toxic political climate leading up to a presidential election. Whatever your political stances and opinions were on the candidates, I hope that each of you remembers that the principle of the secrecy and integrity of the ballot, fundamental in our exemplification of the Patriotic Degree, includes every person's right to vote without the fear of retribution. As Catholics and as Knights, we should not shun or belittle those who have different political beliefs than our own. We believe in the dignity of human life from conception to natural death, and that includes those on the "other side". In this Advent season leading up to Christmas, let us truly commit ourselves to "peace on earth, good will to all."

The Bishops of Florida have expressed their sincere thanks to the Florida State Council for the efforts of Knights across Florida in supporting the opposition to Amendment 4. But the credit belongs to you and your Councils for the myriad of ways that you supported your parishes and Dioceses. We must also remember that, although the defeat of Amendment 4 was a victory for life, much work remains to be done in evangelizing secular society in the culture of life. We must not only work to protect the unborn—we must work to support and protect those vulnerable women who may rightly fear the health, economic, or emotional

consequences of bearing children. It is an enormous task, but one that, as Knights, we must take on if we are to help bring about a culture of life in our society.

Finally, I want to make some frank comments on growing our Order. From the time that I was elected State Deputy, I have emphasized that the success of the

Order is rooted in the success of each and every local Council. Concretely, that means that each Council strives to achieve its Star Council goals in programs, fraternal benefits, and membership, and engages in some kind of faith formation like Cor. But the Supreme Council also sets overall membership goals for the Florida State Council, and as of December 3, Florida is 307 members short of meeting its 50% goal by the end of December. So, in this month of preparation for our Lord's Birth, and all of the Council activities that entails, I am asking each of you to place a special emphasis on becoming Fishers of Men with an Advent and Christmas recruiting effort. Even if your Council does not have a Degree Ceremonial planned for December, you can help us enormously by bringing in new members by having them join online in December and following up with a Degree at a later date.

Thank you for all that you do for the Order. May you and your families have a most blessed Advent and Christmas season!



*State Deputy
Richard Hughes*



The Gospels of Christmas

By State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor

“Behold, the Virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”

-Matthew 1:24

The Gospel prescribed for the first Vigil Mass of Christmas is not the sweet manger scene we have come to think of in conjunction with Christmas. (More on that later.) It is the genealogy of Jesus, beginning with Abraham and ending with Joseph. It is a long list of names, some difficult to pronounce, that shows the lineage of Jesus in the line of David, expected for the Messiah. Some of the characters were virtuous, some infamous, and most largely unknown. It’s a reminder that out of the ordinary, God can deliver the extraordinary. God raises our human nature to something divine.

Now, as for that nativity story, with angels and shepherds and swaddling clothes and a manger, that comes at the Masses at midnight and dawn. We have come to sentimentalize the scene that would have been frightening to the shepherds and scary to a mother about to give birth in a cave. The place the child is put to rest is a feeding trough for animals. The one who gives us his flesh to eat and blood to drink in the Eucharist begins his earthly life in a crude feeding container.

It sounds shocking when presented that way, and it’s a reminder to us of how much our God

trusts us. He sent his only begotten Son into the world as a vulnerable infant, though in the best of hands in the Virgin Mary. This Advent

and Christmas, perhaps we can live in ways as Knights and men and husbands and fathers, to respect and protect life in our families and in our communities. Where

expectant mothers are confused and vulnerable, we need to be their strength. Where lives are in danger, from the unborn to the very elderly, we must be their guardians moving into the breach.

Imperfect as we are, not unlike some of the characters in Jesus’ family tree, may we know and live our part in this generation of believers, firm in faith and knowing how blessed we are to have such love lavished on us by our God. As we celebrate the King who came into the world in the humblest of circumstances, be assured that as your State Chaplain, I will keep you and your families in my thoughts and prayers. Please accept my sincere wishes for a fruitful Advent and very merry, holy Christmas that brings wonderful blessings from the infant Jesus! Vivat Jesus!



*State Chaplain
Very Rev. Bob Kantor*

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.

Prophets and Prophecy

By Former State Chaplain Reverend Salvatore Pignato

In the month of December, we find religiously two events that form the future of religion and salvation history. These two events were prophesied in the Old Testament. On December 8th, we celebrated the Conception of Anna or what is also known in the Latin Church as the Immaculate Conception.

In Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah speaks thus: "Behold a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call his name Emmanuel." This prophecy should leave no doubt in the mind of the reader that the Theotokos would be a woman who is a virgin. In the New Testament, Matthew and Luke confirm that statement about the Theotokos. In Mt. 1:22-23, he says, the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled in Mary. In Luke 1:27, Luke says: "She is called a 'Virgin'." Our faith consents to this Mystery of God. Our faith consents to this seemingly impossibility because we believe in what Jesus said about His Father..."What is impossible for man is possible for God." By faith, we believe in the Doctrine of this woman, the Theotokos that she was born without sin. Again, in the Old Testament we believe Jeremiah 32:17 who says, "Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you". The Church calls Mary the Ark of the New Covenant. Again, nothing is too hard for God!

The second event is on December 25th, the birth of the Messiah who is Emmanuel, God with us, Jesus the Christ. In the Old Testament, Isaiah in 7:14 says "A pure young woman will give birth to God's son. In Isaiah 9:6 Isaiah says the Messiah will come as a baby. In Micah the Messiah is prophesied in that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. In Numbers 24:17 it calls the Messiah the "Star" that comes from Judah. In Daniel it says the Messiah will be like God Himself, an embodiment of God to mankind.

Prophets and prophecy would not be complete without a look at the New Testament and the

Messiah. We see Jesus as the Messiah in the confession of St. Peter in Mark 8:29 when he says Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. In the Gospel of St. John Martha confesses her belief that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, after Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. Again, in the Gospel of St. John the very first sentence proclaims Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God when he says: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God".

December is a holy month. It holds two of the three events of Jesus, the third being the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus that brings salvation to us and the world. In these first two events of our salvation that we celebrate in December, they show forth for us the love and caring of the Father for us. As we celebrate these Feasts of our salvation, let us reflect on the foundational values of love and caring. God so loved us that He sent his only begotten Son. St. Paul says the basis of our relationship with God and the people of God is based on love of God and others. Otherwise, we become clanging symbols. Out of love for us, God the Father gave us Jesus and Jesus gave His life for us. As we celebrate these two Feasts of the Conception of Anna and the birth of the Messiah, let us fully commit ourselves to live the basis of these two Feasts which are to love God and love neighbor as self.



*Former State Chaplain
Rev. Salvatore Pignato*



Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

“Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.” (Gospel for Dec. 1, Lk 21:36)

To remain watchful is a frequent exhortation of Jesus, for we do not know when the end will come. For most people, their end will come at the moment of their death. We trust in God's grace, but grace requires our response: We must not grow lax and presume we have plenty of time to repent. We must pursue holiness and seek God's will at all times so that we stand ready to meet him at any time.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, in which we celebrate the birth of Jesus, I challenge you to meditate on the poor shepherds who watched over their flocks on the night he was born and identify one way you can better incorporate watchfulness into your own life.

Questions for Reflection:

Do you maintain a practice of daily prayer, regular examination of conscience and frequent confession, or do you sometimes grow spiritually lazy? Do you commit yourself to steady growth in holiness and virtue as preparation for the final judgment? Do you teach and encourage your loved ones to do the same?



The Helping Hands Program at **Council 11220** in Fleming Island, Florida, led by PGK Ron Warner, provides care for the most disadvantage in our community – to include the elderly and others in need. Other Helping Hands projects earlier this year included household repairs, hanging birdhouses, and painting doors and benches at our mission church. Project assistance is requested at our Knights' monthly business meeting as well as soliciting Church and community support through emails and social media.

Knights, parishioners and community members in need of assistance request it through our Council. All volunteers meet at our parish early on Saturday mornings, we divide the groups into teams, and go to our assigned project sites. Our Knights partner with our Parish Youth Ministry, local high schools, community organizations and our own parishioners for volunteers and other forms of support. During the Council's most recent community service day, they weeded gardens, applied weed block and fresh mulch, fixed homes, and pressure washed driveways and sidewalks.

Lest We Forget



Flagler Assembly #2810 held its fifth annual SK Anthony Gasparino “Lest We Forget” Mass and Awards Ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 2, celebrated by Faithful Chaplain Father Manny Lopez.

Sir Knight Anthony Gasparino was a Vietnam Veteran, a Past Grand Knight of Notre Dame Council #10514 and Past Faithful Navigator of Assembly #2810. These awards are given to honor both his service to America and to Fourth Degree Assembly #2810.

This year, Fr. Manny Lopez and Assembly #2810 presented Pastor, Veteran, and First Responder awards to 21 awardees in and around our community, one of which was posthumous. The recipients of these awards were recognized for their service to church, community and country. Awards were presented to veterans, law enforcement and fire/fire rescue. Pastor’s awards were presented for work at Santa Maria Del Mar parish.

Beginning outside, under the church portico, the mass was preceded by a bell ringing ceremony

and salutes by the American Legion rifle squad, a combined area Color Corps, and the Palm Coast Fire Dept Color Guard. Twenty-one SKs from four different assemblies were in attendance. Assisting were Color Corps from Our Lady of Hope #2794, Bishop Thomas Grady #2901, and Bishop Verot #0166.

This was followed by a procession into the church gathering area, where Fr. Manny blessed the “Wall of Heroes” where pictures of hundreds of our family Veterans are proudly posted.

The procession continued into the church with the posting of our flags and the celebration of a well-attended Holy Mass. Visiting Pastor Fr. Ken Beale, a decorated long time US Navy/Marine chaplain, concelebrated the mass with Fr. Manny. A full dress Catholic Command Chaplain’s uniform was on display in the church, courtesy of Fr. Manny.

Fr Manny and Faithful Navigator Gregg Wilson presented the awards with the assistance of Lady Claudia Gasparino in honor of her fallen husband Tony.

Knights Supports Hispanic Festival



Knights of Columbus St. Cloud/Kissimmee Council 6624 again participated in the Holy Redeemer Hispanic Festival during the weekend of November 1-3.

The festival was rescheduled due to Hurricane Milton, and celebrated the diversity of the many cultures and countries in the Caribbean, Latin, and South America found at Holy Redeemer parish. It is a wonderful time of colorful displays and clothing, tasty food and drink, music, and dancing.

Once again, Council 6624 was asked to represent the United States of America and following a long Knights of Columbus tradition, offered coffee and

doughnuts after the morning Masses, and hotdogs -- always a favorite of the kids -- for later in the day.

More of our Brother Knights are Hispanic and it helped demonstrate that Council 6624 represents and supports the entire parish, including the Hispanic Community.

Fr. Emmanuel Akalue, the Pastor of Holy Redeemer, spent a lot of time at the Council tent "with his Knights" and he expressed his deep gratitude for the role that the council continues to play at Holy Redeemer.



Council Hosts Duck Derby

The untimely arrival of Hurricane Milton failed to halt Our Lady of Hope Council 8086 from holding its eighth annual Duck Derby.

Knights from the Port Orange council were busy helping 38 parish families prepare for the surprise Category 5 storm during the second week of October. The hurricane resulted in the cancellation of Port Orange Family Days Oct. 11-13, which includes kayakers “rescuing” four plastic ducks to award \$1,850 in prizes.

With no new date for the community event, the council Grand Knight Dr. Ernie Jackson and Program Director Tim Mell – Florida State Knight of the Year for 2021-22 – were tasked with finding an alternative location. This was the second time Community Days was cancelled, with the Knights accepting a generous offer from L.A. Fitness to use their swimming pool during the 2000 COVID breakout.

For 2024, the Knights opted to hold a drawing during the council’s monthly pancake breakfast on Nov. 10. Instead of using the 23,000 plastic ducks, Mell’s group prepared slips for the drawing, and SK Jim Baskin converted a 55-gallon drum.



DGK Vito Benedetto donned a duck costume to draw the winning slips. Kathleen, William and Brian Stark won the first prize of \$1,000. Second, \$500, went to SK Jose Vigara; third (\$250) went to Cindy Bland, and fourth (\$100) to Peter and Geri Mastropolo.

The event raised \$20,201, which will benefit 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.



Members of Councils 7399 and 17029 in Northeast Florida with the 4D Ultrasound purchased through their 2024 fundraising efforts and matching funds provided by the Knight of Columbus for the Women’s Help Center in Jacksonville, Florida. The ultrasound monitor shown is displaying twins from a recent client visit to the Jacksonville Westside location.

Council Assists Habitat for Humanity



Members of Council #7621 once again donned their hard hats, work boots and rolled up their sleeves to assist in the finishing of a Habitat for Humanity home in Holiday FL.

Most of you have all heard of the Habitat for Humanity project due to President Jimmy Carter who many believe to have started this endeavor, in reality it was founded by Millard and Linda Fuller in Americus GA in 1976. The Fullers were self-made millionaires who developed the partnership housing concept that became Habitat for Humanity.

It was President Jimmy Carters involvement in 1984 that the project got the publicity it truly deserved and it really took off.

For those that think that Habitat “gives away” houses, nothing could be further from the truth. These aren’t free homes, they are affordable homes. Applicants are carefully vetted before being accepted into the program. They are expected to be able to pay for their home once it is finished, they might need to expend a fair amount of ‘sweat equity” in completing their home. Partly because

it lowers the costs associated with building a home but it also instills pride of ownership that comes with knowing how hard you worked to make your home a reality.

Members of our Council answered the call when the request for volunteers went out in our area. We have been at various job sites all through the summer.

Today, Brothers Mike Moraca, Devin Akins (aka the beard) and volunteer Dominic Klatka were at the Holiday site at the finishing stages of this project doing last minute painting and touchups along with a thorough cleaning awaiting the final completion and getting the occupancy permits signed.

The home itself is about 1200 sq ft, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 car garage central air and new appliances. It’s a beautiful house

As the Van Patten family are eagerly awaiting their new home. Those of us at St Ignatius Council #7621 Tarpon Springs, FL are proud to be a small part of this project. We wish the Van Patten family many happy and healthy years in their new home.

Council Presents Nearly 200 Coats



St. Peter the Apostle Council 15779 in Trinity recently took advantage of the Supreme BOGO Coats for Kids program and presented two deserving schools with 96 lightweight jackets each on Wednesday, Nov. 20. The schools were James Marlowe Elementary in New Port Richey, which has 86% of the students Economically Disadvantaged, and Gulf Trace Elementary, where 80% of students are Economically Disadvantaged.

The teachers commented that the timing was perfect, as the weather was about to turn cooler, and how the kids looked forward to receiving the jackets. Only a sample of the children was available, but the teachers were very appreciative, and assured us all of the coats would be distributed to those who need them.

“This was the third year the Council has presented the jackets to these deserving schools, but with the BOGO program, we were able to service twice as many children this year,” said Phil Bitner, Grand Knight. “We are hopeful the

program will be extended in the future, as the need continues to grow.”

Knights who attended were Bitner; Nunzio Scorgia, Program Director; Tom Ferrell, Recorder; Mike Happ and Joe James, Family Director. Also in attendance was Brother Knight Jerry Custin, who was representing Congressman Gus Bilirakis’s office. Invitations were sent to several State Officers and Directors, but due to conflicts they were unable to attend.



District 17 Distributes Coats



All three councils in District 17 combined in the Coats for Kids program to distribute 192 jackets to benefit kids in need. District Deputy Greg Gully invited Notre Dame Council 10514 (Flagler Beach), St. Mary's Council 11961 (Korona), and Mother Seton Council 17480 Mother Seton (Palm Coast) to participate in the program.

Coats for Kids is a featured community program under the Knight's Faith in Action Model Program. DD Gully announced that the Supreme Council was offering a 'Buy One Get One' (BOGO) promotion in October. The promotion stated that for each case of 24 coats that a council ordered, they would get an additional case of 24 coats at no additional charge. All councils in the district participated, with District #17 Warden Owen Thompson assisting Gully in administering the BOGO program for the district.

Grand Knight Ralph Esposito of Mother Seton Council 17480 and Grand Knight Darren Maloney of St. Mary's Council 11961 teamed up to distribute coats at the St. Elizabeth Parish Hall in Palm Coast. Brothers Mike VanHeusen and Dennis Boucher coordinated the coat distribution. A special \$500 donation was made by Cable

Works USA to help fund the local coat program in Palm Coast. The focus of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton coat distribution were the individuals that come to the parish's outreach mission.

GK Jerry Chabon and Community Director Dan Wiggins worked with the Flagler County Education Foundation to distribute coats purchased by Notre Dame Council 10514 through their S.T.U.F.F. Bus Initiative. The S.T.U.F.F. Bus, which stands for Supplying Things U Find Fundamental, provides essential supplies and clothing to students and their families experiencing economic difficulties. Supplies include, but are not limited to: new and gently used clothing, jackets, hygiene products, shoes, undergarments, and school supplies.

Since 'Coats for Kids' launched in 2009, Knights have distributed coats in all 50 U.S. states and all 10 Canadian provinces — including on U.S. military bases and Native American and First Nation reservations in the U.S. and Canada. Internationally, Knights of Columbus councils currently distribute approximately 200,000 coats to children in need each year. Coats for Kids exemplifies the Knights of Columbus' mission of charity and providing for the most vulnerable members of society.

Knights Support Special Olympics

The Knights of Columbus attended in full support when the Special Olympics of Florida held its Fall Games at the ESPN Wide World of Sports at the Walt Disney World Resort on October 25-26.

Councils and individual Knights from around the state volunteered to assist the more than 1,300 athletes who competed in five sports. These volunteers fulfilled a number of important and different jobs to help the Special Olympic athletes perform at their best. They worked as linesmen and referees, and they congratulated and presented medals to athletes when they performed at their best.

The opening ceremony is one of the highlights of the event, where the Knights Color Corps presented the American and Special Olympics flags to kick off the ceremony.

Thank you to all the Knights of Columbus members who volunteered at this event. We



look forward to the next opportunity to make a difference. Councils should continue to service, support and volunteer at the local events, from Miami to Pensacola. To sign up for future events, go to specialolympicsflorida.org and look under the Events tab to see a schedule of upcoming volunteer opportunities.



Venerating Six Mexican Martyrs

The faithful at five Diocese of Venice parishes were given the opportunity to venerate the relics of six Mexican martyrs during a special tour by the Knights of Columbus Silver Cross.

The relics are those of six Catholic priests, and members of the Knights of Columbus, who accepted death rather than halting their public practice of faith during the Cristero War of 1926-29.

Bishop Frank J. DeWayne celebrated the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Nov. 24, 2024, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, to mark the start of the tour at St. Maximillian Kolbe Parish in Port Charlotte.

Bishop Dewane said these martyrs should serve as an example to all as they lived their faith with courage nearly a century ago.

"For these six young priests, they were clear who was King in their life, there is no doubt," Bishop Dewane said. "Christ must be the King for you and me. If someone else, or something else has taken that role, we have to look at how we set about changing that in the life we live."

The relics – tiny slivers of bone – are housed in a silver, cross-shaped reliquary and it was placed in front of the altar so people can pay their respects after Mass. The reliquary with the relics of the six priests was presented to the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus in 2001.

The six priests – Fathers Luis Batis Sainz, Jose Maria Robles Hurtado, Mateo Correa Magallanes, Miguel del la Mora, Rodrigo Aguilar Aleman, and Pedro de Jesús Maldonado Lucero – were among 25 Mexican martyrs whom St. John Paul II canonized in 2000.

At the time of the Cristero War, the anti-clerical government, in the wake of the Mexican



Revolution, banned public religious rituals. Catholic clergy and lay people resisted, and many were arrested, tortured or killed. The rebellion is depicted in the movie "For Greater Glory," and includes Father Hurtado's story and death in 1927 at the hands of Mexican troops.

The Silver Cross, which is normally housed at the Knights of Columbus Supreme Headquarters Museum in New Haven, Conn., was brought to St. Maximillian Kolbe Parish at the behest of Kellmis Fernandez, who serves as the Florida Knights of Columbus Hispanic Development Coordinator.

"My heart is bursting with joy to see everyone here," Fernandez said. "This is something very special. We have been after this for quite a while. I think providence is great, because these are people who gave their lives for their belief."

While in the Diocese of Venice, through Nov. 2, the Silver Cross visited San Antonio Parish in Port Charlotte, San Pedro Parish in North Port, and Holy Cross Parish in Palmetto, before being transferred to the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

Present for the Mass were the Knights of Columbus Honor Guard and representatives of the supreme, state and diocesan councils.

Knights Serve Their Community

This year's hurricane season brought a host of challenges to the parishes and councils of Sarasota County. When our community was hit with 3 destructive storms one after the other, the Knights of St. Patrick's Council #13307 in District 51 had their work cut out for them.

Hurricane Debbie flooded all 84 homes of a subdivision in The Church of St. Patrick's Parish with between 3 and 4 feet of rainfall and storm drainage from a failed lift station. 8 of these homes belong to St. Patrick's Parishioners, 2 of those families are St. Patrick's Council Knights. The council established a team of 10 Knights and their wives to help with cleanup and property salvage for these parish families. Grand Knight Michael Madigan teamed with St. Patrick's Pastor Fr. Paul Nguyen, utilizing poor box collections and available State and local resources, collected for 5

consecutive weeks to support parish families. At last count St. Patrick's Council and Parish raised over \$10,000 per parish family affected by the flood.

The 110+mph winds of Hurricane Milton caused significant damage to the roofs and properties of 2 Brother Knight families with serious medical conditions and at potential risk of not receiving required care. Grand Knight Michael Madigan quickly established teams of Knights to install tarps to secure their roofs, then cleared debris and fallen trees on their properties to ensure access to medical care.

The Knights of St. Patrick's Council #13307 demonstrate what it means to be a Knight of Columbus, serving our parish communities and members of the Order, when in need, and every day.

Knights Provide Full Breakfast

Amid the craziness of two hurricanes, Helene and Milton, the Knights of Council #7621 in Tarpon Springs FL held a FREE hot breakfast for our parish and community in St. Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Church social hall. If you were in need, there was NO COST. Donations were accepted to go to the Disaster Relief Fund through the Knights of Columbus. The total received was \$3300.

The weekend after Hurricane Milton on Sunday, October 10th our BIG Breakfast, normally a fundraiser was changed due to many people not having power or in some cases no home to cook a meal. It was changed to be able to help anyone who was hungry or unable to provide for their family.

We served just over 200 meals of plain, chocolate chip, cranberry and blueberry pancakes, scrambled eggs, home fries, bacon or sausage and a beverage. Doughnuts were available with orange

juice or milk for the kids...and maybe a few adults too.

Knights and their spouses and friends of KofC volunteered to cook, serve and help those who came for breakfast. In many cases we just walked around to talk with those who may have lost everything. It's amazing how comforting it is to just listen to their situation.



INVOCATION

The Knights of Columbus of **Blessed Sacrament Council 13240** provided 45 thanksgiving turkeys for students at Lake Hills Elementary School in Howey in the Hills on Nov. 19.

Lake Hills is a school for severely handicapped students in Lake County, providing special needs education to more than 200 students. The school identified several families in need of assistance. Council 13240 stepped in to help and has been providing support to the school and its students every year for over 10 years

Shown in the photo, from left, are Tecia Johnson (LHS Staff), Melissa Walker (LHS Staff), John Martin (Council 13240 Grand Knight), Dr. Robin Meyers (LHS Principal), Karl Grabowski (Council 13240 Chancellor) and Dennis Diaz (LHS Staff).



Council 11079 donates shirts to Honor Society members at St. Ann School.

It is with great pleasure that I share with our council how we are making a difference for our kids at St Ann School.

Grand Knight Kevin Kelly and District Deputy 60 Jeff Vespo recently had the great honor to represent St. Ann Council 11079 of Naples in present new shirts the council funded for the NJHS (National Junior Honor Society) of St Ann School.

"Your generosity of \$550 brought joy and happiness to these kids who have made a commitment to academic excellence and community service," Kelly said. "We are investing in the leaders of tomorrow."

St. John the Evangelist Council 11281 of Naples donated food from Publix and Wawa on the day after Thanksgiving. Brother Bill Piece helped deliver the food.

The council helps out with food pickup and delivery every Friday for Collier Harvest. The donated food is then delivered to soup kitchens at Salvation Army and St. Matthews House.



Veterans Day Sarasota



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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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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.



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