

# INVOCATION

DECEMBER 2025



## Fishers of Men



# Council Wins Supreme Initiative



**F**lorida led the way in the first “Fishers of Men” initiative, with Council 8086 leading the Southeast Territory with 51 new members recruited in the new Fraternal Year through Oct. 31. The Southeast Territory is composed of 12 states plus Puerto Rico.

**Our Lady of Hope Council 8086** of Port Orange recruited 20 men in October for a strong finish to the new initiative, which was announced in June and ran from July 1 through Oct. 31. Council 8086 recruited 51 new members during the first quarter. With the large council goal of 15 new members, Grand Knight Dr. Ernie Jackson saw his council achieve 340-percent of its quota. Adding five additional recruits in November, Council 8086 is only four new Knights away from achieving 4-Star Council for the first time.

The Port Orange council achieved additional recognition for percentage of quota. Florida had 10 of the top 25 councils in the Territory for percentage of quota gained during the 4 months. These councils were also eligible for cash awards to be used for a council/parish event. The top 3 finishers received special recognition with larger awards.

Florida is proud of St. Peter the Apostle Council 15779 in Trinity who finished second (380%) and earned a \$1,000 award.

Fourth through 25 place finishers receive a \$250 award. Florida has nine councils in that group. Please join us in congratulating these councils:

13207 Father John Patrick Council Gainesville  
360%

8086 Our Lady of Hope Council Port Orange  
340%





9720 Live Oak Council Live Oak 320%  
 10663 San Juan Bautista Council Miami 320%  
 13118 St. Anthony Council Fort Lauderdale  
 262.5%  
 13654 San Patricio Council Miami Beach 240%  
 13483 Saint Cecilia Fort Myers 220%  
 5407 North Jacksonville Council Jacksonville  
 200%  
 17915 Saint Stephen's Council Winter Springs  
 200%

When the Fishers of Men incentive was announced, councils were encouraged to hold at least one Church Drive during the quarter. For 8086, every weekend turned into a recruiting weekend. In addition, every activity also had a recruiting component.

"We go to the church, because all of the guys we want are in the church," Council 8086 GK Jackson explained. "When they come out, we greet them, and tell them all about the Knights."

For instance, Council 8086 held its first Wheelchair Weekend in September. In addition to raising funds to allow the American Wheelchair Mission to purchase at least 60 wheelchairs to

give the poorest of the poor the gift of mobility, the council recruited nine new Knights.

Another surprise activity was at a monthly food drop. Impressed with the work of the Knights at the activity, six students at nearby Emory Riddle Aeronautical University became E-members on the spot.

"We talk to Catholic men at all of our events," Jackson said. "Every social event is a recruiting event, especially when you have people coming from outside the council."

Jackson's biggest surprise came in the form of a phone call from the Council Chaplain.

"Father Matt [Mello] called me one night and said that he had a recruit, and he gave me the guy's name and phone number," Jackson recalled. "When you can get your priest and pastor involved in recruiting, you get a home run off of that."

When the numbers were announced in late October showing his council in the lead, Jackson challenged his council to borrow a play used by the Philadelphia Eagles, using the "Tush Push" to get the ball over the goal line. Then after the winning touchdown, Jackson urged his members





to “Go for Two.”

Now, the council’s next challenge is getting the new members to remain active.

“The key to retention is getting them involved early,” Jackson said. “Some guys don’t know a lot of what we do, but they know how to hand out a magnet (Keep Christ in Christmas), they can sell a rubber duck (annual Duck Derby), they can be at the church or a super market doing the Tootsie Roll thing, they can serve pancakes and bacon at our monthly breakfasts. They get to know the Knights, they get to know the people we deal with, and that’s what gets them to stay. We had four brand-new Knights attending our first CPR seminar, and two new recruits and their wives

helped out at our Assembly’s Veterans Dinner. We even had new Knights going out and recruiting other new Knights.

“That’s the key to retention.”

The top three recruiting councils by total membership gains and the top 25 recruiting councils by percentage of quota in each territory will receive money from the Supreme Council Home Office to use toward holding a council/parish event during the 2025-2026 fraternal year.

Council 8086 will use its winnings towards its annual Casino Night, which benefits Father Lopez Catholic High School and other Catholic schools in the Orlando Diocese Eastern Deanery.



## 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...

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### 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...

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### 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...

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# God Is At Work Here

Every now and then the Lord grants us a moment so profound, so filled with grace, that it reminds us exactly why we do what we do as Knights of Columbus. This month, I was blessed with such a moment an afternoon spent in the company of 125 seminarians, sharing lunch, conversation, and fraternity.

To sit among them was to sit among the future shepherds of Christ's Church. Their joy, their conviction, and their deep, steady faith stirred something powerful within me. The strength of their witness radiated like a living testimony to the enduring love of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It was a reminder that the Church is not only alive but flourishing, and we as Knights have a sacred duty to support these young men who will one day stand at the altars of our parishes, blessing our families, baptizing our children, and guiding God's people home.

Moments like these ground us. They remind us that our work is not paperwork and programs. It is apostolic. It is sacrificial. It is holy. And as we look back on the month of November and forward into December and beyond, I can say with absolute confidence that the Florida State Council is living its mission with vigor, faith, and brotherly dedication.

This past November, we witnessed something historic a membership surge unlike anything seen in our state's rich history. For the second month in a row, we shattered the Florida membership record of 359, setting a new standard for what is possible when faith-filled men step forward in unity and purpose. This is not merely an administrative

milestone; it is a sign of spiritual awakening. Every new member is a new heart willing to serve Christ. Every new Knight is another pair of hands ready to lift up the poor, protect the unborn, serve our parishes, and strengthen our families. These numbers represent souls men choosing to answer the call to charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.

And now, with December already off to a

remarkable start, the momentum continues. The Holy Spirit is clearly moving among our councils. The energy is unmistakable. And as we prepare for our Mid-Year Organizational Meeting from December 11th to 14th, we gather not merely to discuss numbers or updates, but to celebrate the work of God in our midst. We will reflect on the strength of our charitable outreach, the growing depth of our programs, and the exceptional commitment we have seen in membership. These three pillars' charities, programs, and membership are not isolated efforts. Together,

they are a testimony to the beating heart of the Florida Jurisdiction.

This year, we have issued a bold challenge to our district deputies an invitation not just to meet expectations, but to surpass them with excellence and zeal. We call it the 25 and 25 Challenge. It is a challenge befitting the spirit of Florida State



State Deputy  
Michael P. Gizewski





Council of the Knight of Columbus: courageous, ambitious, and mission driven.

Any district deputy who brings 25 new members into a single council in the month of December will receive a tremendous honor at our state convention. Both he and the grand knight and their wives will be seated upon the dais, recognized publicly for their extraordinary leadership and commitment. This is more than an award; it is a seat of honor earned through vision and perseverance.

Meanwhile, any district deputy who brings 25 new members district-wide in the month of December will be shown a level of appreciation fitting for such dedication. We have reserved a table at the State Convention white-glove service included complete with filet mignon and bottles of wine to mark the occasion. Not simply as a reward but as a celebration of the evangelizing mission that lies at the heart of our Order. Because every new member represents a soul drawn deeper into service, closer to Christ, and firmly rooted in fraternity.

Brothers, we do not issue these challenges lightly. We issue them because the times demand

courage. The world around us grows louder, more divided, more confused. In such a world, the Knights of Columbus must be a beacon a lighthouse standing tall against the storms of modern life. Our families depend on us. Our parishes depend on us. Our priests depend on us. The vulnerable, the forgotten, the lonely—they depend on us too. And when we grow, when we multiply our strength, we multiply our capacity to be Christ's hands in a wounded world.

What we have accomplished in these last months is not simply organizational success. It is spiritual fruit. It is the sign of a jurisdiction alive with purpose, driven by love of God and neighbor. When I see seminarians filled with joy and purpose, when I witness councils growing at record speed, when I hear the stories of charity and compassion flowing from every corner of Florida, I am reminded of one fundamental truth: God is at work here.

May the peace of Christ be with you and your families, and may the Holy Spirit continue to guide the great work of the Florida State Council.

Open why the doors for Christ and he will enter and I promise you that great things will happen.

**FLORIDA K OF C CHARITIES**

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# Advent: A Hopeful Reality Check

*By State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor*

“The crowds asked John the Baptist, ‘What should we do?’” – Lk 3:10

**A**dvent is a season of preparing and taking account, examining whether our hearts are ready for the coming of Jesus. There are innumerable more Christmas trees than Advent wreaths already up, even in Catholic homes.

We can't wait to celebrate Christmas, but what kind of celebration is it without some good preparation? Some don't give it much thought. Perhaps we should be more like the followers of John the Baptist who ask, “What should we do?”

Knights of Columbus and their families could consider:

- praying a Scripture reflection in the evening at home.
- attending at a Reconciliation Service or otherwise go to Confession.
- participating in a “giving tree” or some other charitable endeavor.
- lighting the candles of an Advent wreath each Sunday.
- delaying Christmas decorating until later in Advent.

Knights in Councils around our jurisdiction should also ask, “What should we do?” Some follow-up questions could include:

- How are we selflessly serving God and the Church in the activities of our council?

- Do we help our brother Knights and their families grow spiritually?

- Are we truly Brothers in Christ, helping each other in times of need?

- Do we communicate a sense of welcome to the newest members of our Order?

- Are we uplifting and inspirational to the people we encounter?

Advent coincides with the mid-point of our fraternal year. It's the time we take account of how much our July aspirations have turned into December results. If we're “not quite there yet,” fear not. There's more time to bear fruit, and the hopeful season of Advent teaches us that a measure of prayer and preparation will yield an abundant harvest. And my Advent will include prayers for you and your families so that you will know “what to do” and enjoy a joyful Christmas and happy, healthy New Year! Vivat Jesus!



*State Chaplain  
Very Rev. Bob Kantor*



**D**id 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](mailto:jclark1@gmail.com).



# Global Wheelchair Mission Initiative



**T**he Knights of Columbus **Council 8104 at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church** in Land O'Lakes joyfully announces the success of its recent Global Wheelchair Mission initiative.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of parishioners and the dedicated efforts of Wheelchair Chairman Mason Stevenson, the council raised enough funds to provide 25 wheelchairs to individuals in need around the world. These life-changing gifts offer mobility, dignity, and hope to those who would otherwise go without.

Council members collected donations outside all Masses the weekend of October 25–26, engaging parishioners in conversation about the mission and the impact each wheelchair can have on a person's life. The campaign flourished through the warm encouragement of the parish community and with special support from Council Chaplain Fr. Raju Chebattina, whose pastoral leadership and prayers inspired generosity throughout the weekend.

Grand Knight Matthew Youngster expressed gratitude for the parish's response, sharing, "Our

parish once again showed its commitment to stewardship, compassion, and Christian charity. Providing 25 wheelchairs means 25 families will experience newfound independence. We are blessed to serve such a generous and faith-filled community."

Council 8104 extends heartfelt thanks to all who contributed their time, prayers, and financial support. Through this mission, the community of Our Lady of the Rosary has allowed the Knights to continue to uphold the first principle of the Order: Charity.





# Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

*By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori*

“Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” (Gospel for Dec. 7, Mt 3:10)

**I**n these reflections over the past year, we have meditated on the importance of our faith bearing fruit in good works. In a way, this Gospel passage, quoting St. John the Baptist, might seem out of place during Advent. But throughout this season, we reflect not only on Christ’s coming in the incarnation, but also his second coming in judgment at the end of the

world. Let us pray and work to ensure we lead truly faithful and fruitful lives as disciples of Jesus.

**Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:**

This month, I challenge you to spend some time reflecting on the four last things — death, judgment, heaven and hell — to better prepare yourself for eternity.

**Questions for Reflection:**

Do I live with my sights set on heaven? Am I aware of the reality of hell? Do I live my life so as to be prepared for my death and judgment?



**St. Thomas Aquinas Council #11497** in New Port Richey hosted an Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity on November 23 at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, welcoming 15 candidates.

Twelve candidates were sponsored by St. Thomas Aquinas Council, under the leadership of Grand Knight Manny Pontoriero, and three were sponsored by **St. Michael's Council #10377**, under the leadership of Grand Knight Thomas Pfister.

The exemplification was presided over by State E-Membership Chairman Joseph James, with the degree team from **St. Peter the Apostle Council #15779**, led by Grand Knight Philip Bitner. District Deputy Larry Belligiere attended in support of the councils and candidates.



# Special Olympics Fall Games



**S**pecial Olympics Florida held its Fall Games at the ESPN Wide World of Sports at the Walt Disney World Resort on November 14-15, and the Knights of Columbus from around the State of Florida were there in full support.

Knights councils as well as individuals 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, spotters, referees, and they congratulated and presented medals to athletes when they performed at their best.

The opening ceremony was one of the highlights of the event, where the Knights Color Core led by District Master Rob Urrutia and Immediate Former Master John O'Toole presented the Special Olympics flag to kick off the ceremony on Friday evening. The singing of the National Anthem by an athlete was amazing.

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](http://specialolympicsflorida.org) and look under the Events tab to see a schedule of upcoming volunteer opportunities.





# Council Hosts Family Retreat



**S**t. Mary's Council 11961 recently hosted a Knights of Columbus Family Retreat at St. Joseph's Monastery in Bunnell.

The council invited all of the District #17 Councils and family members to attend the retreat. Grand Knight Darren Moloney from Council 11961 worked with PGK Bob Conochalla from Notre Dame Council 10514 on the half-day retreat schedule.

The morning began with the opportunity for attendees to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary were prayed in the chapel beginning at 8 a.m., followed by a concelebrated Mass. The principal celebrant was Council 11961 Chaplain Fr. Robert Marciniak, assisted by Fr. Grzegorz Góra.

Immediately following Mass, Fr. Marciniak began Eucharistic Exposition. He led the congregation in various hymns, litanies, and prayers. Time was allotted for silent Eucharistic Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament was reposed in the tabernacle. Coffee and donuts

were provided for a short fellowship break after Adoration in the monastery's pavilion.

Deacon John Harvey led a Stations of the Cross procession through the beautiful outdoor Stations located at the monastery. He was assisted by 13 brother knights who each led the retreatants in prayer before each station. After processing back to the chapel, Deacon Harvey gave a spiritual direction presentation. He built his presentation around the theme of Fr. Marciniak's homily, 'Building a Strong Foundation'.

Deacon Harvey highlighted the fact that in his early Deacon training he was taught that the foundation of a good Christian Life is built in this order: God, Family, Career, Church

He explained that an analogy could be made to that of building a house:

Foundation in a House – A home's foundation is critical because it supports the entire structure, distributes its weight evenly onto the ground, and protects the house from water, pests, and soil movement

Foundation with God – A foundational



relationship with God is essential because it supports our entire life by distributing life's events evenly, and protects our existence from the evils that try to destroy it.

In building any relationship with someone we must spend time with them, share, listen, and be available when needed. Our relationship with God is built the same way. Putting God first in our life is the key. After building the relationship with God, we are called to provide security, values and morals for our family. We become role models for our children built on a strong relationship with God. And so it goes with our career, and then, offering our time, talent, and treasure for the church. All stem from having a solid relationship with God.

Deacon Harvey then picked up his guitar to close the retreat by leading everyone in singing the prayer of St. Francis:

Make me a channel of your peace,  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love,  
Where there is injury your pardon Lord,  
And where there's doubt true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace,  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope,  
Where there is darkness, only light,  
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

O Master grant that I may never seek,  
So much to be consoled as to console,  
To be understood as to understand,  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace,  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
In giving of ourselves that we receive.  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.



## 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/> †



# The Coats for Kids Campaign



**C**ouncil 10157, Saint Raphael's Parish in St. Petersburg stepped up its involvement in the annual Coats for Kids drive, helping the neediest children in their community while adding members to the council in the process.

In the past, the council's involvement meant buying several cases of jackets for the drive. This year, under the direction of Grand Knight Bob Hargrove, they decided to ask their parishioners to get involved.

Worthy GK Bob Hargrove explained the process:

First, we showed a short video of children receiving jackets from other councils. Then we humbly asked for help. We listed four parishes that were in most need.

Second, we had signs with QR codes that took our parishioners directly to a donate button going to our square account.

Third, we let them know our goal was to have 400 jackets to deliver to our community. Through the overwhelming generosity of our parishioners, we were able to purchase over 1,000 jackets and added a fifth parish!

Fourth, we coordinated with the priest and nuns to deliver jackets along with the knights from that parish. We saw the smiles and difference it made when helping children in need. The act of giving has inspired us to do more.

Fifth, we thanked the parishioners for providing the funds to purchase the coats. Through their generosity the Knights of our council were able to touch more than 1,000 lives. The QR code made giving easy and provided us information to be able to give donors a receipt for their taxes.

The Coats for Kids campaign provided an unexpected benefit; It inspired several men in our Parish to see us involved. They stepped up and said, "I'd like to become a Knight."

We learned that if you ask, people will respond. If you directly help in your community, the gift you are giving will not only be to the people you are helping but also to yourself. You will be inspired to do more. We are now working with a Mission in Tampa hoping to make a difference in their community. Our former spiritual advisor Father Kevin Makin, OFM said, "Do all you can, for whomever you can, as long as you can, because you can." Words for all Knights to live by.

# KofC Board Pilgrimage To Rome

*By Scott A. O'Connor, Supreme Director*



*Pope Leo XIV and the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors are pictured together following the Oct. 6 audience in the Sala del Concistoro of the Vatican Apostolic Palace. (Photo by Vatican Media)*

The 2025 Jubilee Year happened during the same time frame that the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors was to take its Board Pilgrimage trip, which happens every five years. This was a very special opportunity for us and to also coincide with the first year of the new pontificate of Pope Leo XIV it was truly an amazing experience.

Our pilgrimage began on Friday, October 4 where we were treated to a welcome reception at the Terrazza degli Aranci, Rome Cavaleri Hotel.

Day 2 we divided into smaller groups of about 20 people and participated in a walking tour. Our

tour took us to Piazza Navone, Basilica di Sant' Agostino, San Luigi dei Francesi, and Santa Maria Sopra Minerva as well as the Pantheon. After lunch we visited the Church of Gesu, where Archbishop William E. Loir, Supreme Chaplain presided over Mass after we all had processed through the "Holy Door."

Day 3, we toured the San Sebastiano Catacombs and then visited the Papal Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls where Archbishop Lori Celebrated Mass and we entered through the "Holy Door".

On Monday, Day 4 we traveled to the Vatican



and were given a private audience with The Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, we then departed to the Papal Basilica of St. Peter in the Vatican where Archbishop Lori Celebrated Mass at the Chair of St. Peter. Following Mass, we departed for the Centro Sportivo Cavalieri Pio XI (K of C Sports Center) which is owned by the K of C. There we had lunch and toured the grounds, where we noted the excellent view of the dome of St. Peter's. Later that evening we returned to the Vatican where we had a private tour of St. Peters, we were able to visit the catacombs under the Basilica as well as enter through the "Holy Door." During this tour, the Rector of the Basilica treated us to a light show of the newly restored (by K of C) Baldi Kino structure.

On Tuesday, Day 5 we traveled to the Vatican where we conducted our board of directors meeting in the Sala Capitolare, Vatican Basilica. Following our meeting we traveled to the Pontifical North American College where we had Mass, followed by a luncheon in the Courtyard. Later that evening. we traveled to the Vatican Museum where we had a reception and dinner in the Courtyard, followed by a private tour of the museum.

On Wednesday, Day 6 we toured the Papal Archbasilica of St. John Lateran and entered through the Holy Door. This tour included the Basilica of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem. After lunch we traveled to the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major, where we entered through the "Holy Door." The Supreme Knight laid a flower arrangement at the tomb of Pope Francis. We then participated in the Holy Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Lori. During a tour of the Basilica, I was surprised to run into three of our Brother Knights from the Bahamas. They were on a pilgrimage of their own, led by Archbishop Patrick Pinder. Later that evening, we had a farewell dinner at the Villa



Miani, where the KofC Rome office staff, many Vatican hierarchy and clergy attended.

The pilgrimage was truly an amazing once-in-a-lifetime experience. It enlightened me to the fact that the Knights of Columbus has played an integral part in the support and growth of the Holy Roman Catholic Church for nearly a century and a half. Every place we visited, we were greeted with thanks and gratitude for the support and work that we are doing. I encourage every Knight to consider making a pilgrimage to Rome and the Vatican at least once in his lifetime.



# Tampa To Host Fourth Degree

The first Fourth Degree Exemplification for the Florida District of the De Soto Province in 2026 will be in Tampa on Saturday, Jan. 31. The ceremony will be held at St. Mark the Evangelist Church, 9724 Cross Creek Blvd., Tampa.

Registration will open at 9 a.m., followed by the ceremony at 11 a.m. in the church. The Exemplification banquet will be held at 2 p.m. in the parish hall, followed by Vigil Mass at 4 p.m.

Family, friends and current Sir Knights are welcome to experience the revitalized ceremony that debuted at New York City's St. Patrick's Cathedral on Washington's Birthday in 2025 – the 125th anniversary of the Fourth Degree.

The candidate fee is \$90, including banquet, and the fee for a Priest is \$50. While the ceremony is free, the banquet fee for family, friends and observers is \$50.

Assemblies are required to send in a downloaded copy of the registration form (please do not write on the original), degree certificate, signed dress code letter, signed Form 4 (all four copies for each candidate), and check payable to the Master, Rob Urrutia. Forms are available on the Florida State website.

Please note the dress code for the exemplification. While tuxedos are no longer mandatory, candidates must sign the dress code paper, wear a dark suit (not brown!) and black dress shoes. Candidates are encouraged to write the number of their new assembly on the back of their KofC membership card.

Assembly checks are to be made out to: Robert S. Urrutia, Master, and sent to Robert S. Urrutia,



Master, 339 Whisper Ridge Loop, Davenport, FL 33897.

## The deadline is Friday, January 16.

Assemblies and Councils are invited to support their Candidates by purchasing an ad in the Exemplification program. The cost of a full-page ad is only \$250, and will include your Assembly or Council name, number, current officers, and your message. We also have pre-made pages for your convenience. Half-page ads cost \$150. The deadline is Wednesday, January 14.





# Fourth Degree Biennial Meeting

**F**lorida District Master Rob Urrutia has announced that the next Biennial Meeting of the Florida Fourth Degree will be held on Saturday, April 18, at the Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church Parish Hall in Port Orange.

In accordance with Supreme Assembly By-Laws, Article V, Section 13, each District Master must conduct a Biennial Meeting during the months of March or April in the even number year of his term.

The meeting will begin at 11 a.m., and will conclude at approximately 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be hosted by **Our Lady of Hope Council #2794**.

Each Faithful Navigator is automatically a delegate to the meeting. Each assembly is also entitled to one additional delegate for every 100 members on the assembly roster. Each assembly must also elect an alternate delegate for each elected delegate. The election should be elected during the assembly's February business meeting. The election results must be logged on the Delegate Election Form and attested by the Faithful Navigator and Faithful Comptroller with the Assembly Seal affixed. The Delegate Election form should be forwarded to John O'Malley, Executive Assistant to the Master, by March 27, 2026.

Assemblies wishing to submit resolutions for consideration and submission to the Supreme Assembly must submit such resolution to the Master by March 13. All resolutions must be signed by the Faithful Navigator and the Faithful Scribe and have the Assembly Seal affixed. Submission of three copies is required. Resolution may be for changes to existing articles of the By-Laws, Supreme or District policies, new policies



or procedures.

Any Sir Knight seeking consideration for the position of District Master must submit an Assembly's resolution of endorsement. Endorsement resolution is submitted in the same manner as described above.

Assembly will be providing a luncheon for delegates and attendees who will be arriving early. Luncheon will be served beginning at 10 a.m. until 10:45 a.m., and immediately following the meeting. A nominal luncheon fee will be charged.

Please send election results and resolutions to: John O'Malley, Executive Assistant, 4641 South Moon Trail, Port Orange, FL 32129



# District 17 Coats For Kids

**D**istrict 17 witnessed a heart-warming day of fellowship, charity, and community spirit during its Coats for Kids distribution with an annual initiative that has become a beacon of hope for families in need, distributing more than 240 coats to needy children.

This year's event was made even more special thanks to the combined efforts of the Brother Knights from **Mother Seton Council 17480**, led by GK Joseph Paul, and **St. Mary's Council 11961**, led by GK Darren Malony, who came together with one mission: to ensure that every child faces the winter season warm, confident, and cared for.

Held in a spirit of unity and compassion, the day brought together council members, parish volunteers, and families from across the district. Tables were lined with brand-new winter coats in a variety of colors and sizes, each one representing more than warmth—it represented dignity, love, and the Knights' unwavering commitment to service.

The Brother Knights arrived in full force, bringing their characteristic energy and enthusiasm. Their team worked seamlessly with the dedicated members of St. Mary's Council 11961 and Mother Seton council 17480 whose longstanding service to the community helped ensure the event ran with warmth and efficiency. Together, they greeted children with smiles, helped them find the perfect coat, and made each child feel special.

Parents expressed deep gratitude, sharing how meaningful it was to know their community stood behind them. Many remarked that the Knights' generosity lifted a burden during an already



challenging season.

The event was not just about distributing coats—it was about strengthening bonds within District 17. Knights from both councils connected with one another, shared stories of their service, and recommitted themselves to the Order's core principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.

Events like this remind us that small acts of kindness can light up an entire community. Thanks to the dedication of Mother Seton Council 17480, St. Mary's Council 11961, and District 17 District Deputy Greg Gully, countless children will walk into winter with warmth—not only from their new coats, but from the love and care of the Knights of Columbus.







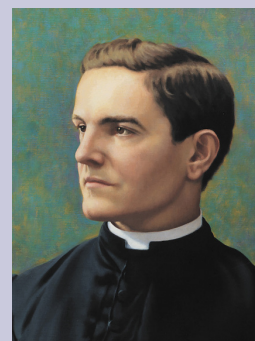
**Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael J. McGivney**

**G**od, 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?

**E**very 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.**



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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.



**DISCOVER**  
— THE —  
*Catholic*  
**DIFFERENCE**