

# INVOCATION

FEBRUARY 2025



Where There Is a Need  
There Is a Knight



# Where There Is A Need



**K**nights from Suwanee River Council 9720 gathered in January to distribute food at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Live Oak. The Knights distributed several thousand pounds of food in 2024 alone. Families gather early in the morning each month to line up to receive boxes of food.

The program was started by Parish Office Manager Claudia Forshier, with food assistance from Catholic Charities. Council 9720 has been actively involved from the beginning.

Worthy Grand Knight Michael Flowers told the Invocation, "This ministry provides an amazing outlet for the Knights of our Council. We don't ask questions of those we are serving. Their denomination or religion doesn't matter. It doesn't matter what language they speak or what political party they belong to. We are here to simply serve. To serve each person as our brother and our sister. To see Christ in everyone. That is our calling as Knights. That is our vocation.

Some of our Knights live out that call through our Friday Holy Hours of Adoration and others through the Food Distribution Program. Both are important methods of service. 'Ora et Labora'. Prayer and Work. However our Lord is calling,

the answer always leads to serving Him. When those families drive away, after receiving their box of food, that could be their first encounter with the Catholic Church, their first encounter with a Knight of Columbus. Even if it has no direct spiritual result on them in that moment, you never know the long-term result that serving as Christ's hands and feet can have on others. When they see the insignia of a Knight around town in Live Oak,

I want them to remember that we offered them assistance without asking for anything in return. Perhaps one day they will remember that and walk into a church to pray. We are simply planting the seeds. The more we serve, the more we water the seeds that we have planted. This monthly service program is an amazing opportunity to plant and water those seeds in the larger community, with people that we might otherwise not have a chance to minister to. As one of our motto's states, 'Where there is a need-there's a Knight'."



# A Very Successful Fraternal Year

*By State Deputy Richard Hughes*

**O**verall, the Order here in Florida has had, thus far, a very successful Fraternal Year. Councils have been conducting many meaningful activities and programs in support of their parishes and communities.

Membership recruitment has been robust—as of February 14, 146 Councils are at 60% or more of their membership goals, and 73 Councils have already met or exceeded 100% of their membership goals.

However, there is still some work to do for many Councils to meet Star Council goals.

--93 active Councils have not yet conducted or participated in a Fraternal Benefit Event--2 events are required for each Council with a total of 10 or 14 unique participants, depending on the Council size.

--130 active Councils are not yet Safe Environment Compliant.

--And 59 active Councils have yet to recruit a member this year.

If you find that your Council is behind, there is still plenty of time to meet your goals for Star Council. Each member should actively participate in their Council programs and activities, especially during the upcoming Lenten and Easter seasons, and strive to bring the gift of membership to every Catholic man in their parish. Most men will respond better to a personal invitation to join, and this is exactly what the Fishers of Men campaign is all about. (See the State Chaplain's excellent article

on becoming Fishers of Men). This is also an excellent time of the year to plan and conduct church drives where possible, and to carefully integrate recruitment into all of your Council's activities within the parish. Leaders should schedule and promote Fraternal Benefit Events, including any virtual opportunities that Supreme may offer, and ensure that all administrative requirements are met. These requirements are not difficult to complete—they just need some focus.

The Annual Fraternal Survey, Form 1728, was due to Supreme on January 31. This is another Star Council requirement, and it is critical that Supreme collects this information from every Council in the Order. If you have not already done so, submit this form as soon as possible.

Our State Convention is coming up at the end of May with a change of venue—due to a contract cancellation by our original hotel, we will hold the Convention at the Hyatt Regency in Jacksonville. Councils should be conducting elections now for Delegates to the State Convention.

Please accept my sincere thanks for all that you do in the great work of the Order!



*State Deputy  
Richard Hughes*

**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).

# Fishers of Men

*By State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor*

“Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” - Luke 5:4

**T**he Gospel for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, the second Sunday this month, tells the story of the great catch of fish directed by Jesus (Luke 5:1-11).

Can you imagine, seasoned fishermen who have been unsuccessful all night taking fishing lessons from the son of a carpenter? It's like me trying to give you fishing instructions. The closest I came to being an angler was running family errands as a kid to the local fish market on a Friday in Lent.

But see what happens when Jesus is directing the effort and others listen and act ... something amazing!

An abundant catch of fish results and it's all because Peter trusts enough in Jesus to “put out into deep water” and lower their nets for a catch. The haul was so plentiful their nets were tearing, and the boats were in danger of sinking!

Now, many times are we asked to bring other men into our order when we think we have done all we can and the possibility of a “catch” is remote? Maybe we are tired of “fishing” because we have been at it for many years, not just a night. Still the call goes out to “put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” If we do, could it go for us as it did that day for Peter and his fishing companions?

First, it helps to know why we fish. Just like Jesus was preparing Peter and the others for a more meaningful catch of men who would follow

Jesus on the “the Way,” we Knights can't stop inviting and recruiting and encouraging the men of our parishes to join us because that sets them on a journey to grow closer to Christ. Sure, there are quotas to attain and insurance opportunities to promote, but we recruit primarily because, in the comradery of being a

Knight, in living more fully our call to discipleship, in engaging our baptismal call to service, the men



*State Chaplain  
Very Rev. Bob Kantor*

we “catch” become more fully alive in Christ. And as their role as Catholic husbands and fathers is strengthened, their families grow in faith with them.

Fishing for us as Knights of Columbus is not a numbers game. It is a matter of life and death. We all know the great stories of conversion and

faith enrichment that follow when Catholic men become Knights. Perhaps you represent one of them. The thing for us to remember is that it is God who will convert the heart. We only need to invite and encourage, trusting in Jesus to provide the catch. Let it begin in faithfulness and obedience as a Catholic gentleman and Knight. And let it conclude in thanksgiving to Christ for a bountiful catch beyond our expectations.





# A Contradiction And Folly

*By Former State Chaplain Reverend Salvatore Pignato*

**T**here is a Feast of Jesus that is called the Feast of the meeting of Jesus with Simeon in the Temple. It is a Feast of great importance. Simeon gives a prophecy about the life and ministry of Jesus.

Simeon was waiting for the coming of the Messiah. When Jesus was brought to the Temple after the eighth of His birth, Simeon saw Him and said. "Now O Lord, you can dismiss your servant because I have seen my salvation." Simeon recognized the Messiah and his salvation. The prophecy of Simeon is very profound and would characterize the ministry of Jesus.

Simeon took the child and said of Him that He would be a "contradiction to the Hebrews and a folly to the Gentiles." If we follow the ministry of Jesus in the Gospels, we see that the prophecy of Simeon was fulfilled.

The priests of the Temple were always at odds with Jesus. He was accused of violating the Law of Moses and violating the Lords day by performing His miracles. Jesus insisted that He came to full the Law, not to destroy it. Jesus made claims about Himself that went contrary to belief in the One True God. His life and preaching was a contradiction to their understanding of God and the worship of God. Because of this contradiction, Jesus became a danger to the priests and their understanding of God.

Jesus was a folly to the Gentiles because the Romans believed in many gods. The Romans could not grasp the concept of the One True God, let alone believe that Jesus was the Son of God.

Pilate was baffled by Jesus when he talked to Him and considered Him to be a confused but non-threatening person. He did not find Him to be a danger to Rome. This is why Pilate could put on the Cross that Jesus was "King of the Jews."

For those who have been baptized in the name of the Trinity have become, as St Paul says, the body of Christ. Because of this, the prophecy

of Simeon is fulfilled in us. I believe that the ministry that we have done and still do each day, at times, may have caused others to view us as a contradiction and folly to the world. The Apostles experienced this in their ministry. All we have to do is read the Epistles to recognize this. Their martyrdom is witness to being a contradiction and folly to the world.

In this Feast, we must embrace this moniker of contradiction and folly. It must be our badge of faith in Jesus. Jesus accepted this moniker and founded a Church. The Apostles accepted this moniker and changed the face of the earth. If we accept this moniker, we will carry on the work of Jesus and the Apostles which is to perfect ourselves and the world one day at a time.



*Former State Chaplain  
Rev. Salvatore Pignato*



# Brimming With Opportunity

**A**s we enter the month of February, we are reminded that while it is the shortest month of the year, it is also a time brimming with opportunity. At the Florida Knights of Columbus State Council, we want to encourage each of you to use this month as a moment for productivity, action, and reflection on the good that can be accomplished when we come together in the spirit of service and brotherhood. The brevity of February should not be seen as a limitation, but as a catalyst for even greater focus and determination.

In many ways, the shorter month serves as a reminder of how quickly time can pass. The calendar page turns so quickly, yet with thoughtful action, we can accomplish remarkable things in a short period. Each day is an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to the Order and to the communities we serve. Whether you're involved in a large-scale initiative or simply lending a helping hand in a local project, every effort matters and can make a lasting impact.

Imagine the difference we can make across the state of Florida if we each dedicate ourselves to action in February. While the season may seem slower or quieter, this is the perfect time to ramp up our efforts. From recruiting new members to supporting local charities or advancing our councils' programs, February holds immense potential for moving our mission forward in ways both big and small.

Think about the things we could accomplish if each one of us took a little time to reach out, to serve, to give back. It could be something as simple as helping a neighbor in need, organizing a local fundraiser, or engaging in a new community outreach effort. Each of these actions—no matter how small they may seem—contribute to the larger goal of spreading the light of Christ, building unity, and strengthening the fabric of our brotherhood.

One of the primary roles of the Knights of Columbus is to serve others—whether through charitable donations, volunteer work, or by

offering support to those who need it most. February is the perfect month to do just that. Consider how you can actively participate in service efforts within your local community. This could involve helping with a parish event, assisting with local food drives, or even donating time to support local schools, hospitals, or other organizations.

The need is always present, and the Knights have always been there to answer the call. Whether it's supporting those who are suffering or reaching out to uplift the underprivileged, our presence makes a profound difference.

Furthermore, February is an excellent time to reflect on the strength of our fraternity. Our unity as Knights is something that not only serves us as individuals but strengthens our communities. Each council, each member, is part of something much greater than us. During this month, let's take the time to connect with our fellow brothers, check in on how they are doing, and reaffirm our shared mission. Sometimes, the best service we can offer is simply to strengthen the bonds between us and remind each other why we've chosen this path of faith and service. When we stand together, the impact of our collective efforts is immeasurable.

Another important area we must focus on is the growth of our Order. As Knights of Columbus, we have a responsibility to bring others into our fraternity and ensure that the spirit of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity is passed on to future generations. This month, I urge you to take a moment to reflect on the ways you can invite others to join our mission. Whether it's inviting a friend or fellow parishioner to a council meeting, sharing the benefits of membership with someone who might not yet be aware of what we do, or reaching out to men in your community who are searching for



*State Secretary  
Michael P. Gizewski*

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a way to serve, your efforts in growing our Order can create ripples that affect generations to come. Each new member adds to the strength and vitality of our councils, and together we continue to carry out the great works of the Knights of Columbus.

The State Council recognizes the commitment and dedication that you, the members, bring to our cause every day. You are the lifeblood of this great organization, and it is your work, your service, and your leadership that make the Knights of Columbus what it is today. During this month, as we reflect on all that we've accomplished and all that lies ahead, I encourage you to think about what more you can do to help Florida and its citizens. Whether it's a new project, a continuing initiative, or a simple act of kindness, you have the power to create real, tangible change.

Remember, the month of February may be brief, but what we do with it can resonate for a long time. Time spent in service, time spent growing

our brotherhood, and time spent supporting each other is never wasted. Let's use this month to come together with renewed energy, purpose, and commitment, remembering that each of us, as part of the Knights of Columbus, is an agent of change in our communities and beyond.

As always, the State Council stands ready to assist in any way possible. If you need guidance, support, or ideas for your local projects, do not hesitate to reach out. Together, we can continue to advance the noble mission of the Knights of Columbus here in Florida and beyond.

Thank you for all you do. Let us make the most of this month and continue to serve with the hearts of true knights, dedicated to the causes that matter most. Always remember OPEN WIDE THE DOORS FOR CHRIST! And behold the gifts you will receive.



**St. Thomas Aquinas Council #11497** of New Port Richey recently presented funds totaling \$9,266.32 to West Pasco Pregnancy Center, \$6,372.20 which will be used to purchase a portable ultrasound unit.

The amount includes matching funds from Supreme as part of the Ultrasound Initiative program. The remaining funds were raised by the Council from its recent Pro Life Gala as well as funds set

aside previously for a future ultrasound project.

Representing the Council are Brother Tony Fontana and his wife Rosemarie, Brother Manny Pontoriero, Pro Life Gala Chairman Brother Henry Perri, and Brother John Treska. The Council will apply for an additional \$400 grant through Supreme's ASAP program.



# Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

*By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori*

Simon said in reply, “Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets.” (Gospel for Feb. 9, Lk 5:5)

**S**t. Peter describes an experience to which many of us can relate. Sometimes, we work tirelessly at something but come up empty, failing at our task and seemingly accomplishing nothing. But Peter here finds overwhelming success when he listens to the Lord and tries again.

It may remind us of the psalmist’s words: “Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build” (Ps 127:1a). In everything we do, let us always seek to do God’s will. Then, no matter the outcome, we will not have worked in vain.

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

This month, I challenge you to begin each day by offering all your efforts to God. There are many different morning offering prayers; you can find one version in the Catholic Information Service® booklet Prayer Time or in the Vivat Jesus spiritual planner.

## **Questions for Reflection:**

Do you feel that there have been times in your life you have worked in vain because you failed to recognize or follow God’s will? Are you ever afraid to “lower the nets” by entrusting your efforts to God? What role does prayer play in growing in trust of God?

# Coats for Kids

**O**ver the week of November 18-22, the Knights of Columbus Council 17689, affiliated with Saint Rita Catholic Church, provided over 400 area families with much-needed coats for children in Walton County. In conjunction with Caring and Sharing of South Walton, the Knights raised funds through the fall from Saint Rita parishioners and other local donors to purchase over 600 new coats – exceeding their goals for the second-straight year.

KofC Brother Jeff Ricketts led the months-long campaign and enlisted many fellow knights to carry out this important mission. Families who had registered to receive coats were able to pick them in conjunction with receiving their Thanksgiving meals from Caring and Sharing’s Santa Rosa Beach headquarters.

“We are so thankful to the Knights of Columbus and their Coats for Kids program. Each year, they commit to distributing hundreds of coats to



the families we serve and despite our growing needs, they always deliver,” stated Carly Barnes, Executive Director of Caring & Sharing.

The “Coats for Kids” initiative is a nationwide outreach for the national order of Knights of Columbus, a Catholic Fraternal Organization classified as a 501©(3) benefit society. Since 2009, they have been able to distribute over 100,000 coats in 50 states and 10 Canadian Provinces.



# Wheelchair Weekend



The Knights and Ladies Auxiliary of Monsignor Martin B. Power Council 14573 in Melbourne conducted a Wheelchair Weekend in January to raise funds to give the poorest of the poor the gift of mobility, by collecting donations from parishioners before and after the Saturday Vigil Mass and the four Sunday Masses.

The tremendous generosity of parishioners at Ascension Catholic Church resulted in a successful drive that brought in more than \$6,100 in donations, which will be sent to the American Wheelchair Mission to purchase more than 40 wheelchairs.

For more than 20 years the Knights of Columbus has partnered with the American Wheelchair Mission to give mobility, hope, and freedom to those in need.

Using weekly bulletin announcements and slides presented prior to mass over several

weeks leading to the fundraiser weekend, and a table with brochures and a sample wheelchair from the American Wheelchair Mission used for demonstration, the Knights raised awareness of this great cause and the parishioners responded very generously. The donations came, big and small, cash and checks, in person and online, and even after the weekend was over more donations were dropped off at the church office. Big thanks to Pastor Fr. John Bosco for giving the Knights the opportunity to conduct this fundraiser, and to the Ascension Catholic Community for opening up their hearts to support this life-changing initiative.



# Assembly Donates Honor Chairs

**A**rchbishop Ambrose de Paoli Assembly 3218 of Weston proudly presented Honor Chairs to the Honor Flights of South Florida on January 14, at their meeting place in Plantation Fire Station in Plantation.

These Honor Chairs are specially designed wheelchairs used by veterans when they visit Washington, D.C., in recognition of their service and sacrifices.

With Supreme Director SK Scott O'Connor, PSD's invaluable assistance, the assembly acquired ten wheelchairs. SK Anthony Marotta, the assembly's dedicated spokesperson for Honor Flights, coordinated with Michael Miskew to ensure the smooth delivery of the wheelchairs from Jacksonville, FL.

The assembly has steadfastly committed to providing the necessary Honor Chairs throughout the year and continuing their service and volunteer efforts. The Honor Flight organization expressed profound gratitude for the generous donation and looks forward to future collaborations to benefit veterans.



This initiative underscores the assembly's unwavering dedication to honoring and supporting our nation's heroes. By providing these Honor Chairs, the assembly not only facilitates the veterans' visits to the nation's capital but also pays tribute to their invaluable contributions to our country. The assembly's efforts exemplify the spirit of community service and the importance of recognizing and appreciating the sacrifices made by our veterans.

**Saints Cosmas & Damian Council 13341** delivered more than 400 Coats to very happy and grateful kids on Dec. 5 to the children of St. Michael's Parish in Wauchula. The school's children range from first graders through high school.

St. Michael's Church is one of the poorest parishes in the Diocese of Venice. The population primarily consists of migrant farm workers.

Ten Brother Knights and six of their spouses carpooled together for the one-hour trip to the

event. The Knights and spouses presented individually to each child the predetermined size of their coat.

The children showed their appreciation by singing several Christmas carols they had rehearsed for the event. Refreshments were served following the distribution of coats.



# Council Baptism Program



**M**onsignor Joseph Pellegrino approached St. Ignatius of Antioch Council 7621 of Tarpon Springs Grand Knight John Donnell in early 2022 with a request: Could the Knights come up with a program to honor those individuals being Baptized into the Catholic faith? At first, the Council had no idea what Monsignor Joseph wanted, but after some research and many months, ideas began to coalesce for a new program.

This program has been received with tremendous enthusiasm by both the parents and clergy alike. Typical comments are, “I never knew the Knights did this sort of thing,”; “I’m so impressed with the Knights”; and “thank you so much for this.”

So, just what does Council 7621 do at a Baptism?

The Council has Baptism teams of two. Being part of a team is open to any and all who desire to participate, including sons and daughters, wives or significant others. You need not be a Knight, its open to any member of the Parish

The teams set up at the Baptismal font, add the water to be blessed, put out the Holy Oils, Baptismal garment and candles. The Baptism

teams do everything the Priest or Deacon needs to perform the Rite of Baptism.

The Knights supply a custom-decorated shell to be used in the Baptism. The council also supplies the Baptismal garment or bib, along with Rosary beads for the mother and the father. At the conclusion of the Rite, the shell and rosary beads are presented to the child and parents. The Baptism team then reads a short script thanking the parents for presenting their child to the Church to receive Jesus Christ.

What makes it special is the custom-made Baptism Shell, these are individually created by the Council. When the program started, they used local artists to create these items. Since that time, they have come up with a way to create the shells, with no artistic talent needed. It’s now a cut and paste operation.

Now, the council feels it’s time to share this program with our Brother Councils.

As far as the Baptismal Garment and Rosary Beads are concerned, we are blest to have a Rosary makers group at our Parish. The Council supplies the funds, they supply the Rosaries we need. It adds a nice touch to know that the Baptismal garment and Beads were crafted by members of

the Parish. If your Parish doesn't have a Rosary makers group, these items are readily obtainable from commercial sources.

If after reading this and you think it's something you would like to do at your Parish, there are two steps, 1. Get your Pastor's approval. 2. Contact Council 7621, who will supply all the information needed to produce the custom Baptism Shells. The council's Baptism team leader is SK Steve

Thomas, call or text (508) 320-6423 or email vidtech@verizon.net.

FYI, this is also a "soft recruiting" tool. We have gained members from this program; we have convinced long lost Brothers to come back to the Knights. We are leading by example; we show the Parish we are far more than fish fries and pancake breakfasts.

## Scouting Religious Award



**C**ouncil 13527 of Niceville and the Christ Our Redeemer parish recently recognized seven Scouts who recently completed the Pope Pius XII Scouting Religious Award.

The Council donated funds which paid for Facilitators Guides, Participants Manuals, certificates, and medals. Several council members served as facilitators, as well as the council chaplain.

The purpose of the program is to help Scouts explore vocations and ministries in the Church as calls from God. It includes youth-led discussions

on current issues facing the Church and society, which was included as part of a Pope Pius XII day of recollection. It also includes several interviews, a service project, and an investigation of a controversial issue facing the Church or society, as well as completion of a Board of Review.

This program, offered by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, is designed for young people, 15 or 16-years-old, but all registered Venturers and Sea Scouts before their 21st birthday and all registered Scouts BSA Scouts in high school before their 18th birthday may participate.



# GK Performs Advent Concert

**O**n the evening of Sunday, Dec. 22, Live Oak, Florida experienced something unusual for its population: an ecumenical Advent Concert that reached across denominations for all who would like to come and worship the baby boy, born over 2,000 years ago, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This concert was the latest in a yearly series that is performed by the Grand Knight of Suwannee River Council 9720, Michael Flowers, accompanied by Marjorie Huffman on Organ and Piano.

WGK Flowers is a concert violinist and vocalist, and Ms. Huffman is a nationally acclaimed organist. The previous years' concert in 2023 was at the Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Tallahassee, which also served as a benefit concert for Immaculate Conception Parish in Perry, Florida after it suffered hurricane damage. Their 2022 concert was at Grace Presbyterian Church in Madison, Florida.

This year, the Worthy Grand Knight requested permission to hold the concert at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, in Live Oak, where he serves as the Director of Music. As he explained, "St. Luke's is one of the oldest, most historical churches in Suwannee County. It has a beauty that I knew would lend itself to this gathering to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Marjorie Huffman, who has been gracious enough to join me these last three years, is one of the most talented organists I have ever met. She is of the Baptist faith and so whenever we are together, we consider it our own way of building a bridge across denominations through music. We began our concert last year at the Co-Cathedral with the Bach-Gounod 'Ave Maria' arranged for violin and organ. At Margie's suggestion we did the same this year at St. Luke's. It was a special moment to gather in that space and hear the welcome from Father Ken Johnstone, the Rector of St. Luke's, as looked out at those gathered. Looking at the ministers represented alone was a humbling moment. We had a Baptist



minister, a Methodist minister, a Church of God minister, the Episcopal priest, the Episcopal deacon, a Roman Catholic deacon from High Springs and our beloved Catholic priest from Live Oak, Father Manuel Puga."

The church was filled with members of these different churches. Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, Methodists, Baptists, Church of God and Seventh Day Adventists were just some of the denominations represented. As WGK Flowers stated that evening. "The title of this concert is 'A Voice Crying in the Wilderness'. Looking out at all of you gathered here from your various churches, it is a reminder that what unites us will always be stronger than what divides us. For what unites us is our love of the baby, born so long ago. The love we have for our Savior. I pray that all of us will serve as voices that cry in the wilderness to prepare the world for His birth and for His coming again in glory".

May we as Knights, continue to echo this cry in the wilderness, as well.

# Honoring Special Olympics Athletes



**K**nights from Councils 12569 and 8086 in Port Orange recently combined their efforts to honor Special Olympics athletes and their families at a Christmas Luncheon at the Church of the Epiphany Family Center.

More than 250 Special Olympics athletes and their families were in attendance.

Knights from Our Lady of Hope Council 8086 coordinated the food pickup, and joined Knights from Epiphany Council 12569 in serving the meal.

A highlight was the presentation of a check for \$1,000 to Special Olympics from Council 8086 by Past Grand Knight Roger Packard, Point of Contact Tony Manzolillo and SK Jarrett Helm. Helm, the Special Olympics state pickleball champion who recently received his Fourth Degree, volunteered on the serving line rather than join his fellow athletes at the meal.

## Other Special Olympics events:

The Special Olympics Polar Plunge for Orlando is at the Aquatica Water Park at Sea World on February 8. The Knights of Columbus team is getting ready and fundraising for the event. There are six members on the team, the fundraising goal

is \$2,500, and they will be wearing fun costumes. Councils around Florida can form their own teams for the Orlando, Tampa or Jacksonville Polar Plunge. Visit [specialolympicsflorida.org](http://specialolympicsflorida.org) to sign up for the Plunge near you.

Wolf Branch Brewing is hosting another fundraising day for Special Olympics on January 10. They have three locations, Mount Dora, Eustis and Leesburg. On Friday, they will once again donate 10-percent of their sales to Special Olympics. Last year, Wolf Branch Brewing Company donated over \$1,200 from the quarterly fundraising campaign. If you are in the area, please stop by to support Wolf Branch Brewing and Special Olympics.





# Chaplain Blesses Mobile Medical Unit



**F**lorida State Chaplain Father Bob Kantor, blessed the brand new Mobile Medical Unit donated by St Agnes Council 14202 on Friday, Nov. 22, at St Agnes Catholic Church in Naples,

As part of the Ultrasound Initiative, the Council raised the \$200,000 cost of the new Mobile Unit under the leadership of the Program Chair John Kaspar. This program was shot out of a cannon starting in early 2024 when brother Kaspar discussed the needs of Community Pregnancy Clinics with CEO Scott Baier. He was told that their most current need was their Mobile Clinic Program. Their existing Mobile Clinic increased their capacity to serve women facing unplanned pregnancies in multiple communities with high-abortion rates throughout Collier and Lee Counties.

The purchase of this newest Mobile Medical Unit has allowed CPCI to increase their reach into

even more Counties. By providing vital services such as pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, STI screening, and faith-based counseling, wherever women in need are, they empower them to make informed decisions and choose life for their babies. The Council was able to raise the funds needed through large donor support by March and the Mobile unit, with a fully funded Ultrasound by the Supreme Council, was built, picked up, and on the road by October.

In attendance at the blessing of the Mobile Medical Unit included Florida State Chaplain Father Bob Kantor; CEO of CPCI Scott Baier; Council Life Director Bill Keating; Program Chair John Kaspar and Wife Karen; Florida State Charities Director, and State Treasurer, Richard Dahn; Grand Knight Jerry McGrath; and District Deputy 60 Jeff Vespo.

# Knights Host Casino Night

**T**he Knights of Columbus Council 8086 is partnering with the Diocese of Orlando to hold its second annual Casino Night to benefit Catholic Schools in the Eastern Deanery.

The event will be held at the Father O'Leary Parish Center at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church in Port Orange on Friday, Feb 28, from 5-9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50, including \$200 in casino money, hors d'oeuvres and drinks. The event has been expanded to include more gaming tables, slot machines and a high-roller table.

One of the evening's highlights will be the raffle of a 2023 Ford Bronco Sport SUV valued at over \$27,000. The raffle will be limited to 700 tickets, with a donation of \$100 per ticket.

To date, the effort has raised a remarkable \$60,000 for Catholic schools in just over two years. Funds raised will be used for scholarships, infrastructure, instructional materials, programs and continued building of an endowment to benefit Catholic education in the future.

"I truly believe that 30 years from now, this Endowment fund will grow to over \$1 million, and we will look back proudly on how it all started—



with a vision, hard work, and faith – from \$20,000 to a legacy that will sustain and support Catholic education for generations to come," said Our Lady of Hope Pastor Father Matt Mello.

Other activities include a photo booth and jail – courtesy Father Downey Council 4934 of New Smyrna Beach. Attendees are urged to "dress to impress" with a Roaring Twenties theme.

For additional information, please visit [ourladyofhope.org](http://ourladyofhope.org) or [Knights8086.com](http://Knights8086.com)

## Are You A Member?

**T**he 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/> †



# Council Hosts Communion Breakfast



**I**n keeping with Emmanuels pastor Fr. Zamora's pastoral mission, on Saturday, January 18th, 2025, both the parish and our Knights Council led by Grand Knight Robert Budd, co-hosted its first communion breakfast following mass.

A large turn-out of one hundred-fifty parishioners attended the breakfast, held at the parish's Columbus Hall. A complete traditional breakfast of delight served, which consisted of eggs, sausages, hash browns, pastries, and coffee. Provided by church volunteers and the knight's Faith Director's event committee of brother knights who planned, cooked, and served...

Followed by our guest speaker Rev. Fr. Timothy Canaan. Father has served the Diocese of Ogdensburg as Vocations Director, Director of

Admissions of Wadhams Hall Seminary and as College and Director of Campus Ministry. He has had a multitude of experience preaching missions including recent Knight's sponsored events.

His featured talk centered on meditations of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which he disclosed always had been personal devotion for him. He spoke for about just under an hour and recounted how he grew up with that devotion and the important place and the closeness the sacred heart of Jesus held within his family and imparted A poignant moments in his life.

One being memories of his grandfather's house where a picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was so special to him that he enshrined it in a separate room and where his grandfather prayed every day. He said, his grandparents prayed earnestly for God



to grant that one of their children become a priest. “Well, they had four daughters.” But, as it turned out to be their pride and joy, Fr. Timothy’s mother was one of those daughters.

He mused that after his grandparents passed, their home and the enshrinement underwent various changes of hands, although, as he elatedly explained, both the house and shrine and now happily in the possession of Fr. Timothy’s sister.

He further recounted a few more delightful stories. His talk was most engaging and funny at times, and the participants were all so glad to be there to hear about his life and the prominent place within his life the devotion he and his family held for the sacred heart of Jesus . He distributed two handouts: one describing the litany and novena prayer to the sacred heart and the other to the consecration of the family.

Parts of the novena prayer were twelve promises Jesus made to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. Father discussed the promises and how they contributed prayerfully to events and benefits in his life and how, if observed, they could do so in our own lives.

He finished his presentation with a recitation of the litany and then implored all to seek their own devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus. As we prayed and he blessed us.

This communion breakfast event was received quite well as a worthwhile and spiritual experience for the participants, and our Knights Council owes our church and Fr. Timothy sincere thanks. Father not only gave a warm, meaningful, and captivating presentation, but a beautiful touching glimpse into his personal life and his love of Our Lord . He is truly a gift.

All those attending expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to enjoy the meal and most certainly Fr. Tim’s address. The participants complimented the food. For that we wish to express our heartfelt thanks to our pastor, Fr. Zamora, the faith director and the knight’s council event committee: the cooks, the servers, volunteers, and the clean-up crew, etc. For their unflinching help in making this “first” communion breakfast a reality. And, most especially, the parish participants.



*Council 8120 hosts Rosary prayer*



**HELP MAKE A CATHOLIC EDUCATION  
POSSIBLE FOR MORE LOCAL KIDS**

# **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FUNDRAISERS**

*Eastern Deanery parishes are working together to raise funds  
for Volusia County Catholic Schools through two fundraisers:*



## **2023 Ford Bronco Sport**

\* Like New \* 6 Year/100,000 mile Ford Warranty  
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## **BRONCO CAR RAFFLE**

**TICKETS: \$100 Donation**

Only 700 Available

- Must be 18 years old to Participate
- Don't Need to be Present to Win
- Contest Rules on OLOH Website



Special thanks to **mullinax** 

**CAR RAFFLE DRAWING WILL BE HELD**

# **Friday, February 28**

**Our Lady of Hope Parish Center | 6 – 9:30 PM**

# **CASINO NIGHT**

**Dress to Impress — *Roaring 20's***

**\$50 Casino Night Ticket includes**

\$200 "Casino Money" | Hors d'oeuvres | Drinks  
Professional Gaming Tables | Roaring 20s Photo Booth

**THREE WAYS TO GET CAR RAFFLE & CASINO NIGHT TICKETS:**  
Scan the QR Codes | VISIT [Ladyofhope.org](http://Ladyofhope.org) | Buy In Person Sundays After Masses

**BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!**

For info, contact SK Ernie Jackson, Council 8086, [50CHEVYPICKUP@GMAIL.COM](mailto:50CHEVYPICKUP@GMAIL.COM)



**!!!71st ANNUAL FLORIDA STATE BOWLING TOURNAMENT!!!**



**PRESENTED BY**

**Knights of Columbus Saint Cloud Council 6624**

**Singles and Doubles: Saturday, April 26, 2025**

**Team (4-Person): Sunday, April 27, 2025**

**Proceeds to benefit: Special Olympics Florida State Bowling Competition**

**USBC Sanctioned - Handicap 90% of 230. Open to all KofC members & pledges, female family and significant others. For new bowlers (males) enter at 145 average; new (females) enter at 130 average.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Bowler to roll a 300 wins \$100!!!**

**Bowling at:**

***AMF Kissimmee Lanes***

***4140 W Vine St, Kissimmee, FL 34741***

***(407) 846-8844 - Website: [www.amf.com](http://www.amf.com)***

Lodging: All within 5 miles of the bowling center. Make your reservations early.

Days Inn by Wyndham Kissimmee West

4125 W Vine St, Kissimmee, FL 34741 - (407) 705-2034

1/2 mile from Kissimmee Lanes

Free coffee & breakfast item

Hampton Inn Kissimmee North

351 Centerview Blvd, Kissimmee, FL 34744 - (407) 997-7700

5 miles from Kissimmee Lanes

Free hot breakfast

For additional information, please feel free to contact

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[bluerage69@gmail.com](mailto:bluerage69@gmail.com)

718-510-2263

Additional information can be found on the State website ([www.floridakofc.org](http://www.floridakofc.org)) or on our Facebook page (Kofc Florida State Bowling)



# 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:rag130@outlook.com)

Region 2: [Invocation@floridakofc.org](mailto:Invocation@floridakofc.org)

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For general information or questions email: [invocation@floridakofc.org](mailto:invocation@floridakofc.org)



**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



## Florida State Council Officers

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Region 5 (Open)

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Region 7 (Open)

Region 8 (Open)

## Florida State Council Social Media

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

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



## Knightline

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN SERVICE TO ONE IN SERVICE TO ALL

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

## COLUMBIA

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



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