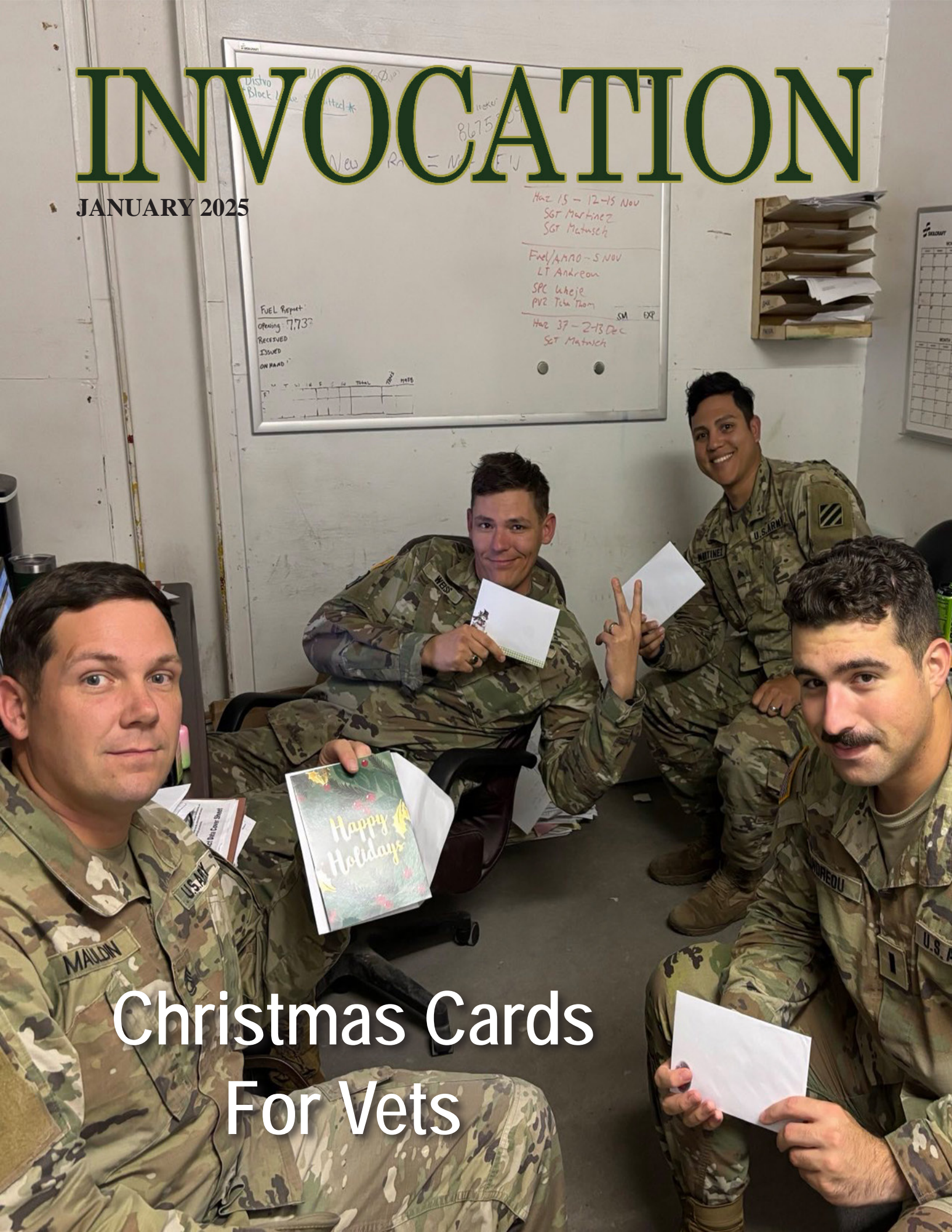


INVOCATION

JANUARY 2025



FUEL Report:
Opening 773?
Received
Issued
ON HAND

Mar 15 - 12-15 Nov
SGT Martinez
SGT Matusch

Fuel/AMMO - 5 NOV
LT Andreou
SPC Wheje
PV2 Tom Thom

Mar 37 - 2-13 Dec
SGT Matusch

Christmas Cards
For Vets

Council Distributes Cards for Vets

Bill Millson and Barbara Jaskisicz made this Christmas brighter for US Army service members who were away from their loved ones.

Millson, a member of Our Lady of Hope Council 8086 in Port Orange, joined Jaskisicz of the parish's Sociable Seniors to lead an effort to sign and deliver Christmas cards for more than 3,500 soldiers in the 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry (Grand Knight Ernie Jackson's former unit).

Millson and Jaskisicz then drove four hours to Ft. Stewart, GA (near Savannah) to personally deliver the cards to the military unit to ensure a timely delivery to the soldiers. A Navy veteran, Bill relocated to Daytona Beach in 2002 and joined OLOH the following year. He joined Council 8086 seven years ago. He has known Barbara, who is involved in many OLOH ministries, for over a decade through church activities.

Bill feels it is part of his faith to be a concerned and helpful member of OLOH and Council 8086.

"Being a member of the Knights of Columbus is an important and easy way for me to accomplish my goals."

They both want to thank everyone who signed and wrote notes in the Christmas cards. "We know



how lonesome it can be, especially during the Holidays, if you are separated from or have no family back home," said Barbara, expressing their gratitude to everyone who signed the 3,500 cards for our troops.



Fanning The Flames Of Hope

By State Deputy Richard Hughes

I pray that each of you had a most Blessed Christmas season! In this Jubilee Year of Hope, I cannot think of a better group of men than the Knights of Columbus to help bring renewed hope to our parishes and our communities.

Our programs help feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, defend the culture of life, and evangelize the faith. They are designed to bring hope in our communities that are in most need. We must recommit to continue our mission even in the face of adversity. It is what we are called to do. It is what our Church needs us to do!

We have received the new Sacred Heart Pilgrim Icons, and we should get the supporting materials soon. Our State Pilgrim Icon Chairman is hard at work scheduling parishes for the tours. If a Sacred Heart Icon visits your parish, please take advantage of this opportunity and promote it.

This third quarter of the Fraternal Year is a

prime opportunity for Councils to complete their Star Council goals in programs, fraternal benefits, and membership. The success of each and every Council in achieving these goals is critical to the success of the Order.

In particular, we would like to see every member to embrace Supreme's Fishers of Men initiative and seek out Catholic men to join our Order. Survey after survey shows the vast majority of Catholic haven't joined for one simple reason: they haven't been invited. We have to re-create that culture of invitation initiated by Blessed Michael McGivney almost 143 years ago.

The Supreme Knight has asked each and every Brother Knight to extend that invitation, that hand of brotherhood, to the next generation. I hope that each of us responds to that request with a renewed sense of purpose to grow our Order!

As Pope Francis has said about this Jubilee Year, "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision." It is a task for which we, as Knights of Columbus, are well-suited.

Vivat Jesus!



*State Deputy
Richard Hughes*



A Time for Hope

By State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor

“May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.” - Pope Francis (Jubilee Prayer excerpt)

At Christmas in Rome, Pope Francis opened the Jubilee year which will continue through Epiphany 2026. This is a graced time which can bolster our brother Knights and enflame the hearts of men to grow in faith and join our Order. Before we can engage fully as Pilgrims of Hope, we must know what a Jubilee is all about and how this one can enrich our lives.

The Jubilee Year has Jewish origins. It is a time of forgiveness, liberation, and restoration. Celebrated every 50 years, it was marked by the sound of a ram's horn, celebrating rest for the land, freedom for slaves, restoration of equality and reduction of wealth disparity ... to remember God's mercy.

Since 1450 our church has celebrated a Jubilee Year every 25 years. The establishment of prayers, celebrations and pilgrimages with passages through “holy doors” designated by the Church all deliver the message that a Jubilee year is special. This year's is dedicated to Christian Hope.

Hope is defined as desire accompanied by expectation or belief in fulfillment, to want something good to happen or be true, and usually have a good reason to think it might. Images of the

Magi in Matthew's Gospel suggest how the Epiphany of the Christ Child we recently celebrated transformed these seekers into true pilgrims of hope, returning to their native lands by a new path, with a new vision.

You might say this is perfect timing for a Jubilee, with the world torn by war and evil,

disasters affecting so many and our nation divided by political discord and economic uncertainty. The issue of loneliness and isolation affects so many: the poor, the elderly often 'warehoused' without the comfort of family or friends, and the 'other' in our communities seeking compassion and relationship. These are groups to whom the Knights of Columbus has famously reached out, from aid to refugees of the war in Ukraine and victims of hurricanes in our state, to Coats for Kids and the Special Olympics.

Perhaps the spirit of the Jubilee Prayer excerpt above can be the force that works through us as Knights in Florida through this graced year. As we journey with others and perhaps bring some into our fraternal Order along the way, may we travel together as Pilgrims of Hope! 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.

I AM WHO AM

By Former State Chaplain Reverend Salvatore Pignato

In the book of the Old Testament, Moses asks God in the Burning Bush, "What is your name. The answer came back, "I AM who AM." God told Moses He was a God that had no beginning or end. This statement by God is a concept and belief that is hard to grasp. But, if we read the Bible, we find signs of that God who "Is and always will be."

In the book of Genesis, we read the words of God, "Let us make man in our own image." God is speaking in the plural about Himself. We read again in what is known as the Hospitality of Abraham that Abraham is speaking to three men (interpreted as angels and a prefigurement of the Trinity) about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. As we read the Prophets in the Old Testament, they speak of the Spirit of God (who is God Himself) and the Golden Vessel, Mary, who would hold the Messiah, the One promised by God to Adam and Eve. The Old Testament is filled with the expectation of not only God but the presence of the Second and Third Person of the Triune God.

In December and January, we celebrated the fulfillment of these visions and prophecies of the Old Testament. In the Gospel of John, John proclaims the reality of the Old Testament prophecies when he says, "In the beginning was the Word, the was with God, the Word was God and the Word took flesh and dwell among us." The words of St. John in his Gospel sum up salvation history itself. But to be sure people understood the Triune God, the evangelists,

in their birth narrative of Jesus, make it clear that Mary was conceived by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit and the child that Mary would bring forth would be called Emmanuel, God with us. This is an explicit proclamation of the Triune God. That Triune God was fully exposed at the baptism of Jesus when St. John saw, as Jesus

came up from the waters of baptism, a dove over His head and a cloud over the head of the dove. St. John heard from that cloud the words, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, hear



*Former State Chaplain
Rev. Salvatore Pignato*



Him." As people of faith, what further evidence do we need to believe in the Triune God.

In the baptism of Jesus, Jesus began His ministry a ministry that continues for us and in us because we, too, have been baptized into the ministry of Jesus Christ. As the body of Christ, we

become the living witness to these truths of the living God. We are the protectors of that knowledge of the Triune God who said, "I AM who AM".



Open Wide The Doors For Christ

A New Year, A New Opportunity: Let's Continue to Build a Stronger Florida through Love, Faith and Charity as Brothers in Christ. Open Wide the Doors for Christ!

As the calendar year turns, it is a moment to pause and reflect on all that we've accomplished in the past year and all the possibilities that lie ahead. For the Florida Knights of Columbus, the end of June and the start of a new year on July 1st are not just markers of time; they are opportunities to renew our commitment to God, our families, and our communities. In this new year, 2025, let's continue the momentum we've built and strive to make Florida the very best it can be.

Over the past year, we've witnessed countless acts of charity, unity, and fraternity in our councils, and we should be proud of all that has been achieved. But our work is never done. There are still many in our communities who have not yet experienced the warmth of the Knights, the power of brotherhood, or the transformative love of God that we share. This year, let us focus on reaching out to them—not only by inviting them to join our ranks but by inviting them into the heart of what we do.

One of the most powerful ways we can grow our organization and build a stronger, more vibrant Florida is by sharing the love of God and the spirituality that sustains us. When we embody the teachings of Christ in our actions and our service, when we show others what it means to live a life rooted in faith, we don't just speak of our values—we demonstrate them. This is how we will attract new members: not by asking them

to join an organization, but by inviting them to be a part of something much greater—a family of men dedicated to living out their faith, serving those in need, and growing in spiritual depth.

Imagine how many people would be drawn to us if they could see the strength of our brotherhood, the generosity of our service, and the depth of our commitment to faith. When others witness Knights of Columbus members coming together to help those in need, when they see us engaged in the sacraments and living our faith with sincerity and joy, they will want to be a part of that. They will recognize that the Knights of Columbus is not just a fraternal organization—it is a living, breathing community of men striving to become better disciples of Christ.

As we enter this new year, let's keep that focus at the forefront of all we do. Whether it's through organizing charitable events, supporting our parishes, or simply offering a helping hand to someone in need, let's remember that each act of service is an opportunity to share the love of Christ with others. Let's make it a priority to invite those around us—friends, family, fellow parishioners, and neighbors—to come and see what we're doing. They may not initially realize the impact that joining our order can have on their lives, but once they experience the unity, support, and spiritual growth that come with being



*State Secretary
Michael P. Gizewski*



a Knight of Columbus, they will understand why we do what we do.

The year 2025 is not just a new chapter in our history; it is a new opportunity for growth and renewal. Together, we have the power to strengthen our councils, serve our communities, and lead others to the love of God. Let us embrace this year with faith, enthusiasm, and a renewed commitment to our mission. Through our love, our service, and our example, we can make Florida a beacon of the best that the Knights of Columbus stands for—an organization that not only changes lives but changes hearts.

Let us pray that God continues to bless our efforts, guide our steps, and inspire us to be the best brothers, fathers, and Knights we can be. By doing so, we will not only build a stronger Florida, but we will also build a stronger Church and a stronger world. This is our calling, this is our mission, and together, we will answer it.

OPEN WIDE THE DOORS FOR CHRIST!
And behold the gifts you will receive.

Vivat Jesus!

Knights Celebrate Three Kings Day



Knights of Columbus St. Cloud/Kissimmee Council 6624 again was asked to participate in the 20th annual Three Kings Day, or Día de Los Reyes, a fun event serving the Hispanic community of Old Town Kissimmee.

Three Kings Day is celebrated in many countries worldwide. It recognizes the Biblical Three Wise Men, or Kings, who brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to baby Jesus. For many children in Latin American cultures, this day is eagerly anticipated for holiday gifts and treats. The children enjoyed free toys, face painting, and photos with the Three Kings.

Led by Council 6624 Grand Knight Robert Consolo, several Brother Knights and their families volunteered to cook, wrap, and hand out nearly 3,000 hot dogs to the children and their families.

One Brother Knight remarked; "the smiles on the children's faces make it all worthwhile. That is why I come every year."

The Knights also learned an important lesson -- kids prefer ketchup to mustard on their hotdogs as the Knight ran out of ketchup packets before noon.



Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

[A]nd on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. (Gospel for Jan. 5, Mt 2:11a)

The solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord recalls the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus. The Magi recognize the newborn king and offer him homage. This great feast occurs during the liturgical season of Christmas, which begins on Christmas Eve and continues through the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During Christmas time, we all remember and celebrate the reality that God assumed our human nature and became a little child. May this season also remind us to recognize the dignity of all children — including unborn children — today.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to work toward greater recognition of the sanctity of unborn human life by participating in a peaceful pro-life demonstration or supporting a pregnancy resource center.

Questions for Reflection:

Do you look upon the lives of children — and all people — with respect, recognizing the dignity of human life? What more can you personally do to protect and support life wherever it is threatened or in need? Are there ways you can witness to others — in word or deed — to foster awareness of the sanctity of life?



*Members of the **Bishop Charles B. McLaughlin Assembly 1850** and **Monsignor John F. Scully Assembly 3418** combined to deliver 260 turkey dinners for veteran families in need. This annual drive started 14 years ago with a total of only 35 turkeys. It has now grown into a joint effort and provides 260 complete Thanksgiving meals.*

The Thanksgiving meals were assembled for veteran families in need that were previously identified by the VA throughout the year. Each meal consisted of a turkey, stuffing, instant potatoes, gravy, corn, green beans, cranberry sauce and a box of cake mix.

Knights met at the Bloomingdale Target bright and early on Nov. 25 to pick up the turkeys, that were jointly purchased by Assemblies 1850 at Nativity and 3418 at St. Stephen. The truck was provided by Daniel Blanton, assistant manager at the Enterprise truck division in Riverview, who also volunteered to drive as well.

Pictured are the Sir Knights of Assemblies 1850 and 3418 with the VA staff of the HUD-VASH unit after unloading the turkeys and food items.

Council Prepares Boxes of Joy



Members of the St. John XXIII Council 14390, along with their families, the Knights on Bikes, and the Mother of Our Redeemer Council 17477, gathered at the Cross Catholic Outreach warehouse in Doral on Dec. 14 to prepare boxes of joy for children in South America—their collective efforts aimed to bring smiles to the faces of these children during the holiday season.

The volunteers performed various tasks, from cleaning dirty boxes to screening and adding items before packing them into shipping boxes. Alejandra Hicks, wife of Brother Thomas Hicks, expressed her enthusiasm, noting the great feeling

of contributing and encouraging other wives to join in future council activities.

Scott greeted the volunteers upon arrival while Dawn oversaw the operations, ensuring everyone was put into action efficiently. The team at Cross Catholic Outreach, including Scott, Dawn, and Terry, expressed their gratitude for the Knights of Columbus' contributions and welcomed their commitment to future endeavors.

This event highlighted the spirit of service and dedication of the Knights of Columbus, who pledged to continue supporting those in need.



Knights from Assembly 3236, Niceville, supported by Knights from Councils 7667 and 13527, both from Niceville, participated in the Niceville Community Christmas parade carrying the Keep Christ in Christmas banner and a trailer featuring a Nativity scene. The Knights have participated in this annual Christmas parade for many years.

Bringing Holiday Cheer to Vets



On December 12, 2024, Archbishop Ambrose de Paoli Assembly 3218, Florida Jurisdiction / De Soto Province of the Knights of Columbus, generously donated to the veterans at Alexander "Sandy" Nininger State Veterans' Nursing Home in Pembroke Pines, Florida. The assembly donated gift bags filled with Christmas cards and three wheelchairs to the nursing home, which houses 120 residents, including veterans from the World War II era.

In a heartfelt gesture, the assembly members and their wives personally labeled the gift bags to show their appreciation for the veterans' dedication and service. Special thanks to SK Ted Veskoy and his wife, Donna, for doing the shopping and preparing the gift bags for the 120 residents. During the visit, they engaged in meaningful conversations with the veterans, fostering a sense of camaraderie and respect. The nursing home's administrator, Lawrence Militello, and activity director, Jill Rutenberg, expressed their heartfelt gratitude for the donations and mentioned that the gifts would be distributed to the veterans on Christmas Day.

The assembly, with a strong sense of duty, also discussed future activities with the nursing home staff, who were very supportive and appreciative of the ongoing efforts. The Knights of Columbus assured the veterans they would continue serving and supporting them, demonstrating their unwavering commitment. They encouraged the staff to communicate any needs so that they could assist regularly.

This visit was a life-changing experience for the assembly members, who are committed to continuing their work to honor those who have sacrificed and dedicated their lives for our freedom. The personal growth and inspiration they gained from this experience fuels their dedication to the cause, inspiring others to join in their efforts.



Ave Maria Supports Knights 4th Degree

Ave Maria, near Naples Florida is a community that finds its origin in 2007 because of Tom Monaghan, A Catholic Marine veteran who previously sold the Domino's Pizza Corporation and used the proceeds to move the University to Florida while developing the community. Mr. Monaghan previously established the University in Detroit Michigan then moved it to Ave Maria Florida.

Just a few blocks North of downtown Ave Maria is a magnificent Veteran's Memorial Park established by the Veterans Association of Ave Maria honoring our American Veterans. In addition, every year a fundraiser is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus with an elegant dinner ball that raises considerable funds enough to sponsor a \$10,000 donation to the needs of veterans.

This year the hefty donation will be awarded to 4 veterans who will seek a miraculous cure for their disabilities while be sent to Lourdes France for a miraculous blessing. If your parish Council or Assembly are interested in sponsoring a similar event, keep in mind the long term planning requires several people to organize the event. Because our 4th degree supports Patriotism your Council may want to consider to do something similar.

This year Dominic Micillo, our Faithful Navigator, himself a Navy pilot and retired Captain, invited the Keynote speaker Vice Admiral Charles W. Moore Jr., a combat pilot, having fought in several combat theatres with over 1000 aircraft carrier landings on nine different carriers to be the speaker. Admiral Moore has far too many awards, ribbons and military commendations to mention herein...That would require a separate article. He spoke vigorously about his love of country in peace and combat while having lost his wingman in battle, but more importantly he spoke about digging deep as Americans to always give ones best effort and how he learned such things as a well parented child, during his Catholic education years. He mentioned that mediocrity has no place in the quest for exceptionalism. After having



retired from a distinguished Naval career Vice Admiral Moore went on in 2004 to become Vice President at Lockheed Martin who oversaw the F-35 development and aircraft assessments at the multi billion dollar company. He also stated that America has to be choosy in the way our country gets involved in global combat and war while sacrificing our best and brightest to pay the ultimate price for freedom. The money (\$10,000.00) raised during the dinner and dance has been selectively donated as previously mentioned.

In simple, to engage with your council and assembly regarding this type of fundraiser event you don't need a heroics example of American bravery as your guest speaker but simply a : Veteran Speaker, and M.C., Hall, Catering contract, music and dance floor. It helps to have a team of brothers help plan about six months to a year ahead of your prospective date. I believe you will be very satisfied and fulfilled knowing that you took the 4th degree of Patriotism to the next level. Good luck Blessings.

Councils Distribute Coats for Kids



District Deputy Greg Gully invited all of District #17 councils to participate in the Supreme Council 'Coats for Kids' Program. The '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, including Notre Dame Council 10514 (Flagler Beach), St. Mary's Council 11961 (Korona), and Mother Seton Council 17480 Mother Seton (Palm Coast). District #17 Warden, Owen Thompson, assisted DD 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.

A total of 192 coats were distributed from the councils in District #17 to benefit kids in need.

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 Host Breakfast with Santa



Father Downey Council 4934 hosted its annual Breakfast with Santa for the Sacred Heart and St. Gerard communities of New Smyrna Beach.

Santa, played by Sherwin Merrick, and Mrs. Claus (Tracey Merrick) handed out toys to more than 60 children, helped by an Elf (their son Jackson). The Knights also served breakfast for more than 300 youngsters, parishioners and friends. SK Glenn Space led the kitchen crew.

Steve's Famous Diner in Port Orange also donated more than 100 pancakes for the event.

"The Knights thank all the parishioners of Sacred Heart and St. Gerard's for all of their support throughout the year," said Grand Knight Leo Decker. "Thank you, merry Christmas and God Bless!"

Council Distributes to Missions



The long-standing tradition of food and toys distribution of Council 10055, San Marcelino Champagnat and Columbian Squires 3877 continues strong. The groups gathered six missions in the region in one location at Nuestra Señora de Altagracia and at St James church on two consecutive Saturdays to distribute over \$8,000.00 in gift cards redeemable for food and toys. The 200 participants were pre-registered at their missions.

The families had been previously screened and selected by leaders at the missions and were there to receive the envelopes in the festive ceremony. The homebound participants were visited and taken their contributions that afternoon. The ceremony included prayer, gospel readings, the meaning of Christmas and the mandatory carols to maintain the tradition that the Knights and Squires have upheld for decades.

A good time was had by all and the true meaning of both holidays permeated the missions and the people involved.

La larga tradición de distribución de alimentos y juguetes del Consejo 10055, San Marcelino Champagnat y Columbian Squires continúa fuerte. Los grupos reunieron seis misiones en la región en un solo lugar en Nuestra Señora de Altagracia y en la iglesia St James dos sábados consecutivos para distribuir más de \$8,000.00 en tarjetas de regalo canjeables por alimentos y juguetes. Los 200 participantes fueron preinscritos en sus misiones.

Las familias habían sido previamente examinadas y seleccionadas por los líderes de las misiones y estaban allí para recibir los sobres en la ceremonia festiva. Los participantes confinados en sus casas fueron visitados y recibieron sus contribuciones esa tarde. La ceremonia incluyó oración, lecturas del evangelio, el significado de la Navidad y los villancicos obligatorios para mantener la tradición que los Caballeros y Escuderos han sostenido durante décadas.

Todos pasamos un buen rato y el verdadero significado de ambas festividades impregnó las misiones y las personas involucradas.

Council Celebrates Christmas With Patients



Every year around Christmas time, Council 10087, San Juan Bosco, spends an afternoon with food and company for the patients at the Coral Gables Nursing and Rehab Center. This event took place this year on the 21st of December. Brother Knights of the Council and their families spent time in the spirit of Christmas with these patients and enjoyed food, music and camaraderie. This is an event that is anticipated and welcomed by all involved every year.

Cada año, alrededor de la época navideña. El Consejo 10087, San Juan Bosco, pasa una tarde con comida y compañía para los pacientes del Centro de Enfermería y Rehabilitación de Coral Gables. Este evento tuvo lugar este año el 21 de diciembre. Los Hermanos Caballeros del Consejo y sus familias pasaron tiempo en el espíritu navideño con estos pacientes y disfrutaron de la comida, la música y la camaradería. Este es un evento anticipado y bienvenido por todos los involucrados cada año.



Knights Assist Hurricane Cleanup



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.

Operation Warrior Resolution

The suicide rate among U.S. veterans is around 6,000 per year since 2020, the highest is among veterans in the 18-35 year age bracket. Operation Warrior Resolution (OWR) is a leader in innovative, holistic mental health care for veterans and their families at absolutely no cost to them.

In response to this great need, Our Lady of Lourdes Knights of Columbus Council 9924, had its second annual fundraiser for OWR in the Venice Community Center. The theme of the evening was The Italian Night, and it featured a singer who entertained the crowd to the music of Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin. Many of the Knights and guests gave generous donations above the \$57.00 per person ticket which helped us to raise a total of \$46,756.

The most rewarding part of the evening was the fact that the servers and clean-up crew were the veterans that received help by OWR. Kendra Simpkins, founder and CEO of OWR, served in the U.S. Army as an Intelligence Analyst, and after she was honorably discharged in 2010, she received her Masters of Science in Social

Work from Columbia University in New York, graduating magna cum laude. This began her journey to support her fellow veterans with the best possible treatment options.

The Chairman of the event was Knights of Columbus brother Ray Pronko who left no stone unturned in making the evening a huge success. His vision, dedication and hard work led to this event doubling the gift to OWR from the previous year.

OWR uses brain-based healing which replaces negative behavior and distressing emotions with positive behavior, energy and a feeling of well-being. They hold retreats and provide services such as, coaching, yoga, health and nutrition counseling and a variety of activities to transform the lives of these men and women who have so much of themselves to protect our country. The success rate of OWR is a staggering 85%.

Ray Pronko and the other brother Knights are already planning next year's event to further grow the funds raised to support the increasing need of healing of our veterans.

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/> †

!!!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.

1st 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

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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Additional information can be found on the State website (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 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

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

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



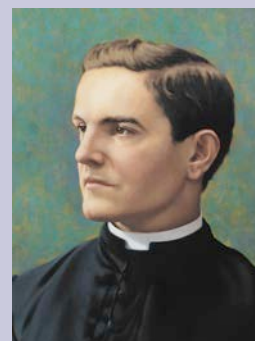
Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael J. McGivney

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

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

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

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



Is Your Personal Information Accurate?

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

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

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

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

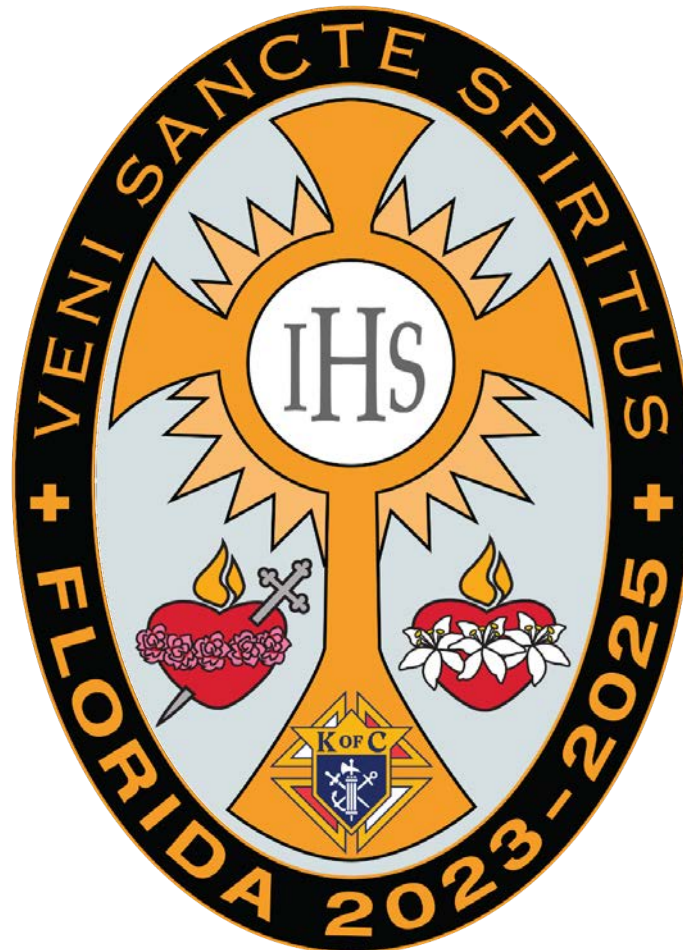
Evangelize and proclaim our faith, protect families, and perform works of charity.

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

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

Incorporate principled fiscal responsibility for charitable giving.

The Florida State Logo



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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 —
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