

INVOCATION

JULY 2024



A Passion For Faith



A lifetime motorcycle enthusiast and a member of the Knights of Columbus since 1988, George Gutierrez was able to combine both of his loves when he joined the Knights of Bikes in 2012. He quickly worked his way up the ranks, and is currently President of the organization's Florida chapter.

"I had a love of motorcycles, but I was looking to do something different than just riding," said Gutierrez, a Miami native who now resides in Fort Lauderdale. "Then I found about the Knights on Bikes, which gives the opportunity not only to enjoy what we love doing – which is riding – but also to serve the Lord and be closer to Him."

A longtime motorcycle enthusiast, Gutierrez had been a Knight since 1988 in the Miami area, serving as Former District Deputy and Past Grand Knight. He eagerly took advantage of the opportunity when he learned of the Knights' two-wheeled program. He worked his way up the ranks, and now is President of the Florida chapter.

"I didn't know what I was signing up to," Gutierrez said of becoming president. "It gets pretty busy. We have eight dioceses and over 200 members. There's always something going on. I tell all the guys that we have to be Catholic

gentlemen first, remember why we signed up to join the Knights of Columbus. It's a busy job, and we get calls from everywhere – everyone wants us to come to support their event. It's fun and interesting, but it does get busy."

It's busy to the point where he may be willing to step down when his term expires at the end of the Columbian Year. On the other hand, it's rewarding enough that he may allow himself to be persuaded to step up for another term.

"I have a few more things on my bucket list before I hang it up," he said. "So if these guys like what I'm doing, I might stay on for another term. I've got a good team, a good set of guys. All the chairmen, all the members are great. Everybody pulls together."

Internationally, Knights on Bikes has 2,050 members, with branches in the Phillipines, Canada, Mexico and all across the United States. Puerto Rico and the Bahamas are expected to enter the fold.

The months ahead will be especially busy for the Florida Knights on Bikes – with the Knights on Bikes holding its international rally in St. Augustine in 2025.

"Hosting the International is huge," Gutierrez

said. “We’ve been trying to host that for a while, and it’s finally going to happen on June 23, 2025. It’s a four-day event. We’re staying at a beautiful golf resort. There will be a lot of serenity, stay away from the noise downtown. We’ll be riding all over, visiting all the shrines. We’ll have a day of serenity with a Mass, and followed with a little bit of fun with the wind in the air. Then on the fifth day, whoever wants a little more riding we’re going to take them to Key West. That’s on a lot of peoples’ bucket lists, so we’re going to try to venture out there. That’s an extended eight-hour rally ride.”

The Florida chapter’s biggest event is the Archbishop Ride in January. 55 Knights on Bikes come from all over Florida to ride with Miami Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski – who is an avid biker. The ride goes from Our Lady of Guadalupe church in Doral to a destination. The 2025 ride will go to Justin Martin Church in Key Largo, with a total of 400 bikes expected.

That’s closely followed by the Vocation Ride prior to the KofC Florida District State Convention in May, with the 2024 event attracting 40 bikers.

“We also do a prison ministry, that’s probably the third-biggest ride that we do. We go to the

prisons outside St. Augustine. The prisoners know we are here, they know who we are, and they know what we’re doing.

“We do a lot of other things,” Gutierrez added. “We’re working very closely with the Silver Rose chairman. We do paper back rides; feed the homeless, fill up our motorcycles with food in brown paper bags and hand them out to those who most need it. We visit the elderly at the homes, along with visiting children with autism – we put them on a motorcycle, rev up the engine and listen to music.

“The best part is we are evangelizing when we’re doing this,” he added. “It’s amazing, the places we go to, because we do a lot of church services, but we also end up stop at watering holes and restaurants, and people walk up to us and ask, ‘Who are you and what do you do,’ and ‘I didn’t know that the Catholic guys rode.’ ‘I didn’t know that the Knights of Columbus had bikers that ride,’ They see us praying together.”

To join the Knights on Bikes, you need to ride a motorcycle – either two or three wheels. You’re also invited to bring a significant other.

“We have the Lady Knights, wives who ride,” he said. “We’re keeping the family together.”



We Are Facing a Grave Issue

By State Deputy Richard Hughes

This past Fraternal Year has been one of achievement and growth by Councils. While Star Council Awards will not be announced until later this month, we could have 130 Star Councils or more this year. About half of the Councils in the Florida Jurisdiction achieved or exceeded their membership goals.

Charitable fundraising continues to increase after recovering from the pandemic, and the Cor program is taking off across the Jurisdiction. Every member should be proud of the accomplishments of the Knights of Columbus this past Fraternal Year. Let us all resolve to continue to carry out the vision of Blessed Michael McGivney in this new Fraternal Year. Now is the time to plan out your programs, fraternal benefits events, open houses, and Degree Exemplifications to ensure we have the facilities and logistics in place to carry out our mission.

As always, membership growth should be ever-present in our activities. If we believe in the Knights of Columbus as an organization, we have a moral obligation to offer every Catholic man the opportunity to become a Knight. The membership goals that each Council has are relatively modest, but it does take an effort by all members to reach out to their family, acquaintances, and fellow parishioners to offer the gift of membership. Please take these membership goals seriously, and

plan your open houses and church drives now—the future of our Order depends on it!

As I write this, the 10th National Eucharistic Congress is about to convene, the first in over 80 years. This much-anticipated event is a time for the Church in the United States to be united in prayer, to reflect and reinvigorate our beliefs in the Eucharist, and to prepare for a new phase of evangelization in our communities. I hope that you get a chance to view some of the proceedings online or via broadcast.

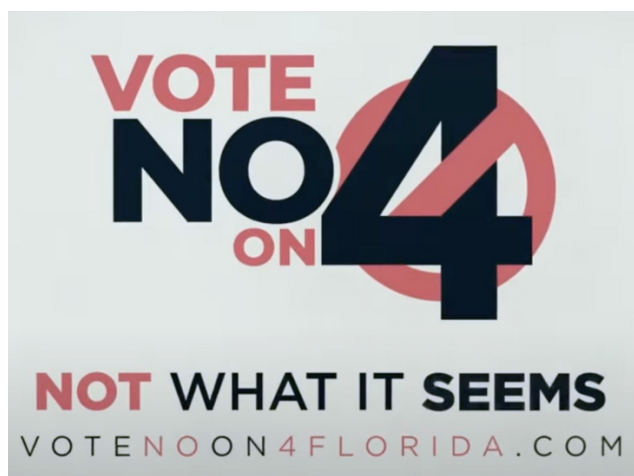
As I have written previously, we face an election year with a grave issue on the ballot in November—namely, the proposed Amendment 4 to the Constitution of the State of Florida, which will essentially remove almost all restrictions on abortion. In particular, it would allow second and third-trimester abortions; create broad “health loopholes to justify abortions, including temporary medical conditions; allow “healthcare providers” – not just physicians – to determine if an abortion is “necessary” to protect the mother’s “health”; invalidate current law requiring parental consent for a minor to have an abortion; and jeopardize existing laws and prohibit new ones that protect the health and safety of women.

All of the Bishops of Florida have strongly condemned this proposed amendment, and the Florida State Council passed a resolution at the 2024 State Convention to condemn this amendment as well. All Knights are strongly encouraged to vote “No” on this amendment in November and to get involved with their Diocesan Life Ministry efforts

Vivat Jesus!



*State Deputy
Richard Hughes*



Strengthening Our Core Values

Welcome to a new fraternal year! As we embark on this journey, let's reflect on the fundamental pillars that define our noble order: fraternity, unity, charity, spirituality, and service. This year, our focus will be on strengthening these core values to foster a deeper sense of brotherhood and faith within our council and communities.

Our strength lies in unity. The Florida State Council will prioritize initiatives that promote camaraderie and support among our members. We invite you to join us in engaging in regular fellowship activities, mentorship programs, and charitable works to strengthen our bonds and make a positive impact on those in need.

Our Catholic faith is the cornerstone of our mission. This year, let us commit to deepening our spiritual lives through regular prayer and worship, faith formation, and support for our clergy. By doing so, we aim to grow closer to Christ both individually and as a community.

The future of our order depends on the vitality

and growth of our membership. Let us be proactive in welcoming new members and engaging existing ones through recruitment drives, retention strategies, and youth involvement programs that foster a sense of belonging within our community.

As we move forward into this new fraternal year, let us do so with hearts full of hope and dedication. Together, we can achieve great things, living out our mission to serve God, our Church, and our community. May the spirit of fraternity, spirituality, and membership growth guide our every effort.

Stay tuned for upcoming events, initiatives, and opportunities to further strengthen our bonds as brothers and Knights. Long live Jesus!



State Secretary
Michael P. Gizewski



Al Heyman, District Deputy 53, presents the check for \$1,500 to Michael Costanza, State Mobile Disabilities Chairman and Rick Hughes, Florida State Deputy on behalf of **Council 8074** in Punta Gorda for the American Wheelchair Mission

Knights 150 Strategic Plan

Ronald F. Schwarz is no stranger to Florida, attending several Supreme Conventions, board meetings and other opportunities. His visit this past May was different.

As the Knights of Columbus' Supreme Treasurer, Schwarz attended the Florida State Council Convention in Orlando, and gave a keynote address as the representative of the Supreme Office.

"I've traveled to quite a few jurisdictions as a Supreme representative, and each place is unique," Schwarz said. "I have to admit it's very friendly down here. People are more apt to come up to you and talk to you. I've also met a lot of people in Florida that I've known from other parts of the country."

The visit also gave him the opportunity to visit old friends.

"It's a small world! I've known Dennis and Linda Stoddard for quite a long time. Paul Koppie and I were classmates together and we've done quite a few things together. So, I've got quite a history here."

In his position, Schwarz has the opportunity to attend conventions and other meeting throughout the jurisdiction. He was impressed with the work that the Florida State Council put into the annual event.

"(State Deputy) Rick Hughes and the state officers team has been fabulous, taking care of us," Schwarz said. "We very much appreciate how you guys do things. Then, I was very impressed listening to all the work you do and all the activities and programs, and how much money you raised."

"I can honestly say there are very few states that can match what Florida does. Florida probably ranks in the top four or five with all the activities you do as Brother Knights here. I'm amazed, seeing all the things that go on and the participation is pretty good again, even though it's not a [state officer] election year. You've got a good percentage of your councils; a lot of states

don't have that."

In his presentation, Schwarz talked about the Knights 150 Strategic Plan for growth.

"We're looking at where our growth is coming from. We have to welcome more Hispanic heritage men into our order. We also have to look at keeping first in Faith as well as in Charity.

We also have to keep in mind that we have to protect and provide for the financial security of our Knights as well as their families."

Schwarz also reiterated some of the gratitude that Supreme has for all of our hard work and dedication and commitment to the Order.

"Because of that, you made the Knights of Columbus a premier lay Catholic organization," he said. "Our work is strengthening our Catholic families and parishes, about putting our faith into action by serving the less fortunate. The Knights of Columbus, what we do, we empower Catholic men to live their faith and serve their parishes, their families and their communities."

Schwarz also spoke of the success of the new Cor initiative, which is more of an evangelizing opportunity than a KofC program, to the delegates at the convention.

"We have received very positive reviews of Cor," he said. "You have to remember what Cor is. It creates a space for every Catholic man to join in prayer, Knight or not. It leaves an indelible implant in your heart, something that cannot be taken away. Cor was never designed to be a membership-driven tool, but because men have sat down and taken part in Cor, we have had more than 1,000 men join because of Cor. Think about that, guys, it's a very powerful tool, and we are providing something they are looking for."



*Supreme Treasurer
Ronald Schwarz*

INVOCATION

Schwartz summed up by touching on the KofC's global programs and a glimpse into the future, and the priorities moving forward.

"We've got to strengthen the Order by bringing more men into our ranks," he said. "We've got to strengthen our role as the strong right arm of the church. We must strengthen our men in faith and

fraternity, expand our witness to charity. We want to be first in faith as in charity.

"We are the spiritual heirs of Blessed Michael McGivney, and we must carry his vision on as we move forward.

"Vivat Jesus!"



Several members of Notre Dame **Council 10514** of Flagler Beach recently volunteered for beach clean-up.

Members brought buckets and trash bags for the clean-up. The members stated that they wanted to do their part in providing local residents and visitors a more pleasant beach experience and a safer place to enjoy that experience. Pictured left to right are KofC Brothers Craig Martin, Kevin Martin, Ron Wolak, Doug Hill, Nick Caruso, Bob Conochalla and John Pires.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Patriotic Exemplification Pompano Beach
28	29	30	31 Supreme per Capita and State Per Capital Due	August 1 Report 365 due to Supreme	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Blessed McGivney Birthday	13 Blessed McGivney Feast Day	14 Blessed McGivney Death	15 Semiannual Audit 1295- Due Family of the Month Form 10784 due to Supreme	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24

Nourished by the Eucharist

By State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor

“Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?” - John 6:5

Knights sure are great with a mission, and often that entails some element of feeding people, whether it's a fish fry or tootsie roll! Give them a challenge, a project, a task in the parish and Knights will rally to the cause and usually outperform expectations. Many of us are busy on multiple fronts in the Order, not to mention the family, work, and other obligations of our lives. What gives us the strength to do all that? Well, it's Jesus, of course, and his great gift to nourish and sustain us, the Eucharist.

We are a Eucharistic people. The Real Presence of Jesus in Communion is a hallmark of our Faith. Without it we have no life in us!

This month, monstrosities containing the Blessed Sacrament which began their journey from the four ends of our nation, including our Supreme Headquarters in New Haven, CT, converge on Indianapolis for a Eucharistic Congress. Celebrations of the Eucharist and Adoration will certainly be a highlight of this gathering of the American Church. So will keynote speakers

and inspiring music that will lift people's hearts to God. If you are not able to be there, you are no less blessed to be at any Mass or in any church or chapel where the Blessed Sacrament is present to be enriched by the same Eucharistic Lord.

The last weekend of this month we'll hear the beginning of the sixth chapter of the Gospel of John, a chapter that foreshadows the Eucharist in the feeding of a multitude. Jesus turned five

barley loaves and two fish into a satisfying meal for thousands. He could have done it, as God created all things, out of nothing. But He chose to multiply the little that could be found. In the same way, God uses what little we have to offer and multiplies whatever we give. And what we have to offer is always better when we are grounded in Him.

When we sit in the Lord's presence in Adoration, we can be tempted to think we are not

doing or accomplishing anything. That quiet time is foreign to our world of busyness and action. But whenever we take time to be still before the Lord, He is doing something in us! As we begin a new fraternal year and the all the new responsibilities we undertake, our nourishment must come from Christ. Fed and strengthened by the Bread from Heaven, we will find that not only will our goals be attained,

but the relationships formed and strengthened in the process will make those we serve and us more faithful, more loving, more complete human beings...more a member of the Eucharistic body of Christ which is the Church. Then we will be better able to fulfill the vision of Blessed Michael McGivney ... an Order connected in prayer, centered in Christ, strengthened by the Eucharist so that we may in turn feed others.



*State Chaplain
Very Rev. Bob Kantor*



The Reason For Being

By Former State Chaplain Reverend Salvatore Pignato

I am sure sometime in our life, or even more than once, we have asked, "Why am I here?" or "What does God want of me?" The answer to both questions is a thesis. What is theosis? The answer to this question will be discussed with an Eastern spiritual eye and understanding.

In Eastern spirituality, theosis is the ultimate reason for our existence. In the East, the one-word description of theosis is "divinization," meaning, to become Divine. The more appropriate description that fits our human fallen nature is to become God-like.

In the Book of Genesis, God made Adam and Eve in a perfect state. So, they had already achieved that state of theosis, that is, to become God-like. Unfortunately, they sinned against God and lost that perfection for themselves and all future posterity. Thus, for that posterity, that is humanity, retrieving and attaining theosis becomes the priority of daily living. Even with this task, God helped humanity by reaching down to His creation and chose Abraham as His people. God said to Abraham, "I will be your God, and you will be my people." Thus, God invited Abraham and his posterity to begin the quest to theosis, to become God-like, to regain perfection. To help His people, God laid out the Ten Commandments to live by which would begin the process of theosis. God gave them the Ten Commandments as the foundation of theosis.

In the birth of Jesus, who is the Son of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, and the Messiah, Jesus would give us the other pieces of theosis for daily living. Jesus did say He came to

"complete the Law, not destroy it."

So let us take a look at the first piece of practicing theosis. Jesus, with this first piece of theosis, said, "Be perfected as my Father is perfect in Heaven." With that command, Jesus was going to make the Ten Commandments more practical for daily living and thus make attaining

theosis easier and more practical. He said, "Love God and neighbor as self." These are action commandments. We literally have to do these things in our lives and daily living. We have to practice them and live them.

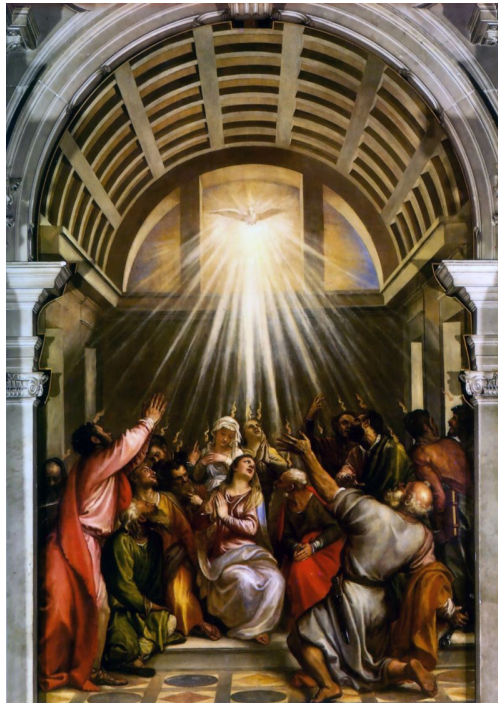
Living these commandments leads us to the second piece of theosis that Jesus gives us. They are the Beatitudes and called in the Gospels

"The Sermon on The Mount." Jesus now makes loving ourselves and others in the Beatitudes easy and practical. All the Beatitudes begin with the word "Blessed." If we live out these Beatitudes, we become blessed. Thus, theosis is developing in us

and in our spirituality. Remember what Jesus said to St. Thomas, "Blessed are you Thomas because have seen and believe, but more blessed are they who have not seen but believe". Not seeing but believing is you and me, "the children of God" through baptism. "Blessed" has great meaning for



*Former State Chaplain
Rev. Salvatore Pignato*



Jesus and for us.

The word blessed" is so important to theosis and salvation that I would like to highlight the word blessed" in the Gospel of Matthew because that word ushers us into eternal life. Jesus separates the sheep from the goats and says to the sheep, "Blessed are you, come into the kingdom of Heaven which was prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Jesus then describes how the sheep lived His two commandments, the Beatitudes and

the Ten Commandments giving practical living experiences, which the sheep to theosis, becoming God-like.

Jesus has laid out a blueprint and the tools of living to gain eternal life, which is to gain complete theosis.

The last thing Jesus tells us about theosis and using the tools is this, "Let him who has ears to hear let him "hear." We must follow the blueprint

Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

"Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal." (Gospel for Aug. 4, Jn 6:27)

Before the Fall, God put Adam to work tending the garden. Good men work hard to provide for their families, including their material wants and needs. These temporal necessities, however, must never become our highest priority. Our first obligation is to seek the path to eternal life — for ourselves and for our loved ones. Jesus, the Bread of Life, is the food that will endure.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

Our Founder, Father McGivney, worked tirelessly to serve God and man. I challenge you to pray the novena to Blessed Michael McGivney this month, during which his feast day takes place (August 13).

Questions for Reflection:

Does your goal of attaining heaven for yourself and your loved ones come first in your life? Do your efforts focus excessively on temporal needs and pleasures? What more can you do to ensure that your primary mission is to prepare yourself and your family members to enter the kingdom of heaven?

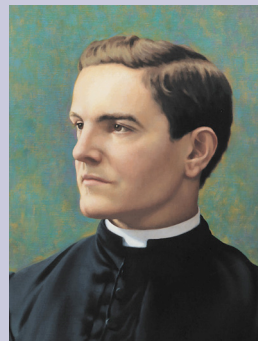
Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael J. McGivney

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).



OFFICE OF YOUTH PROTECTION SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM (SEP)

KOFC.ORG/SAFE

Under Faith in Action, certain state and council officers/directors are required to complete the Order's safe environment training and may also be required to provide authorization for a background check.

If members in certain roles are not compliant within 30 days of notification, they are subject to removal from those roles.

Email addresses are required when completing the *Service Program Personnel Report* (#365) for the program, community, and family director roles. Praesidium, the Order's safe environment partner, will email grand knights, program, family, and community directors assigned usernames and passwords to complete the training. They will also email family and community directors a personalized link to provide background check authorization. The Knights of Columbus covers all costs associated with these

requirements. Although the grand knight may also hold one of the following roles, there must be three (3) different members assigned to the program, family, and community director roles.

Email notifications are unique to each recipient and cannot be forwarded or used by any other member. The time-sensitive notifications require the recipient to complete training and background check authorization within 30 days of receipt.

All members who have access to Officers Online may view the safe environment status of their council or jurisdiction each week on the Reports tab.

For a council to be compliant with the safe environment program, all SEP roles must be filled and compliant. If the council sponsors a Columbian Squire Circle, the circle must also be fully compliant.

SEP Roles: Training and Background Check Requirements

SEP ROLES	TRAINING	BACKGROUND CHECK	OFFICERS ONLINE REPORTS
State Council			
State Deputy	✓		✓
State Advocate	✓		✓
State Program Director	✓		✓
State Youth Director	✓	✓	✓
State Family Director	✓	✓	✓
State Community Director	✓	✓	✓
State Squire Chairman	✓	✓	✓
Subordinate Council			
Grand Knight	✓		✓
Faithful Navigator	✓		
Program Director	✓		✓
Family Director	✓	✓	
Community Director	✓	✓	
Chief Counselor	✓	✓	
Adult Counselor	✓	✓	

MEMBER HELPLINE: YOUTHLEADER@KOFC.ORG | (203) 800-4940 | FAX (855) 845-3502

OFFICE OF YOUTH PROTECTION: OYP@KOFC.ORG | (203) 752-4558 | FAX (855) 845-3502

YOUTH PROTECTION HELPLINE (844) 563-2723



Knights of Columbus

Safe Environment Program Council Compliance Guide (Rev 5/10/2024)

The following criteria must be met for a council to be Safe Environment compliant:

- 1) Email addresses are mandatory to appoint members into ALL roles that have safe environment requirements. Emails must be unique to the member, NOT gkcouncil123@XYZ.com to ensure that members retain credit for completing their training and background checks.
- 2) There must be a **Grand Knight** assigned via Form 185 through Member Management.
- 3) The council must have submitted Form 365 Report of Program Personnel or named program personnel via online Member Management. Watch this video to learn how to submit online:
https://players.brightcove.net/802593642001/y6FLilaOf_default/index.html?videoid=6191938577001
- 4) On the 365 Report, there must be **three different members** assigned to:
 - a. **Program Director**
 - b. **Community Director**
 - c. **Family Director**

*Grand Knights may only hold **one** of the additional director roles listed above.
- 5) All roles above must complete the Safe Environment training. The **Community Director** and the **Family Director** must also provide consent for a background screening (criminal and motor vehicle records).
- 6) If the council sponsors a Squires Circle, that circle must be compliant for the council to be compliant. The following criteria need to be met for the circle to be compliant:
 - a. Form 468 must be submitted appointing counselors every year
 - b. One (1) **Chief Counselor** must be appointed
 - c. A minimum of one (1) **Adult Counselor** must be appointed
 - d. The circle must have a minimum of ten (10) **Squires**
 - e. For every additional ten (10) squires, there must be one (1) additional Adult Counselor
 - i. Example 1: 10-20 Squires must have 1 Chief Counselor + 1 Adult Counselor
 - ii. Example 2: 21-30 Squires must have 1 Chief Counselor + 2 Adult Counselors
 - iii. Example 3: 31-40 Squires must have 1 Chief Counselor + 3 Adult Counselors ...et cetera
 - f. Chief Counselor and Adult Counselor(s) must complete training and provide consent to a background screening.

All members who have access to Officers Online may view the safe environment status of their council or jurisdiction each week on the Reports tab.

Member Helpline:
203-800-4940 • 855-845-3502 (Fax)
YOUTHLEADER@KOFC.ORG

KofC Youth Protection Helpline:
1-844-563-2723
KOFC.ORG/SAFE

Office of Youth Protection:
203-752-4558 • 855-845-3502 (Fax)
OYP@KOFC.ORG

INVOCATION



Grand Knights from Councils 13527 and 7667 in Niceville present a check for \$3113.80 to the CEO of Children in Crisis, Inc. The councils combined efforts to conduct a Luau in Niceville with all proceeds going to the local charity that provides homes for children and has been able to keep 300 siblings together.



State Council Organizational Meeting

Our State Chaplin in front of the Monstrance during Holy Hour held at the 2024-2023 Organization Meeting in Orlando, FL





FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

The nonpartisan public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Florida

201 West Park Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-7715 * (850) 222-3803 * www.flaccb.org

Florida Bishops Oppose Extreme Abortion Amendment Vote No on Amendment 4

Florida Amendment 4, which will appear on Florida's November 2024 ballot, is an extreme proposal that legalizes full-term abortion with no protections for the preborn child, including when the child is capable of feeling pain. This proposed amendment to our state constitution would prohibit all restrictions on abortion before viability and create a broad exception that any healthcare provider could exploit to allow abortion up to birth.

Furthermore, the amendment would effectively overturn or seriously jeopardize common-sense state laws that have regulated abortion for years. These include basic health and safety requirements for clinics where abortions are performed, requiring a physician to perform abortions, informed consent requirements, laws limiting public funding of abortion, and parental consent requirements before a minor's abortion.ⁱ These risks demonstrate the extreme nature of the amendment.

We urge all Floridians of goodwill to stand against the legalization of late-term abortion and oppose the abortion amendment. In doing so, we will not only protect the weakest, most innocent, and defenseless of human life among us but also countless women throughout the state from the harms of abortion.

Human life is sacred. The dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision of society. Direct attacks on innocent persons are never morally acceptable, at any stage or in any condition. In our state, human life is repeatedly being destroyed by abortion. Over 84,000 vulnerable and voiceless children were aborted in Florida in 2023.

This matter concerning the respect for human dignity and the fundamental value of human life is of grave importance to both our Church and our state. The threat of abortion remains our pre-eminent public policy priority. Therefore, we support a coordinated campaign to mobilize against the proposed amendment. To this end, we offer this prayer to defeat Amendment 4:

Ever-living God, you give life and desire a future for all your children. Take hold of our nation, state and community and awaken in every heart awe for the gift of life. Send your Spirit to strengthen us with wisdom and fortitude as we defend mothers and children in Florida from laws that disregard their health and safety.

Mary and Joseph trusted in you and welcomed Jesus into our broken world. God Almighty, we ask their intercession to protect the preborn and their mothers, and to guide all parents in raising their children. May they help us build a civilization of love by upholding the sacredness of life and accompanying pregnant women in need.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady, Mother of the Family, pray for us! St. Joseph, Protector of the Unborn, pray for us!

Most Rev. Thomas G. Wenski
Archdiocese of Miami

Most Rev. Gerald M. Barbarito
Diocese of Palm Beach

Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane
Diocese of Venice

Most Rev. John G. Noonan
Diocese of Orlando

Most Rev. Gregory L. Parkes
Diocese of St. Petersburg

Most Rev. William A. Wack, CSC
Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

Most Rev. Erik T. Pohlmeier
Diocese of St. Augustine

Most Rev. Enrique E. Delgado
Archdiocese of Miami

ⁱ Florida law distinguishes between parental *consent* prior to a minor's abortion (Ch. 390.0114(5)), which would be invalidated by Amendment 4, and parental *notice* of a minor's abortion (Ch. 390.0114(4)), which would be retained.



CONFERENCIA DE OBISPOS CATOLICOS DE LA FLORIDA

La voz no partidista de la política pública de la Iglesia Católica en Florida

201 West Park Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-7715 * (850) 205-6820 * www.flaccb.org

Obispos de la Florida se Oponen a la Enmienda Extrema sobre el Aborto **Voten No en la Enmienda 4**

La Enmienda 4 de la Florida, que aparecerá en la papeleta electoral de la Florida en noviembre de 2024, es una propuesta extrema que legaliza el aborto a término sin ninguna protección para el niño antes de nacer, incluso cuando el niño es capaz de sentir dolor. Esta propuesta para enmendar la constitución de nuestro estado prohibiría todas las restricciones al aborto antes de la viabilidad y crearía una amplia excepción que cualquier profesional de la salud podría aprovechar para permitir el aborto hasta el nacimiento.

Además, la enmienda anularía o pondría en grave peligro las leyes estatales de sentido común que han regulado el aborto durante años. Entre ellas se incluyen los requisitos fundamentales de salud y seguridad para las clínicas donde se practican los abortos; la necesidad de que sea un médico quien realice los abortos; los requisitos de consentimiento informado; las leyes que limitan la financiación pública del aborto; y los requisitos de consentimiento parental antes del aborto de una menor.¹ Estos riesgos demuestran la naturaleza extrema de la enmienda.

Exhortamos a todos los floridanos de buena voluntad a que luchen contra la legalización del aborto tardío y se opongan a la enmienda sobre el aborto. Al hacerlo, no sólo protegeremos las vidas humanas más débiles, inocentes e indefensas entre nosotros, sino también a innumerables mujeres de todo el estado contra los daños del aborto.

La vida humana es sagrada. La dignidad de la persona humana es el cimiento de una visión moral de la sociedad. Los ataques directos a personas inocentes nunca son aceptables moralmente, en ninguna etapa ni condición. En nuestro estado, la vida humana se destruye repetidamente por el aborto. En 2023, más de 84,000 niños vulnerables y sin voz fueron abortados en la Florida.

Este asunto sobre el respeto de la dignidad humana y del valor fundamental de la vida humana es de gran importancia tanto para nuestra Iglesia como para nuestro estado. La amenaza del aborto continúa siendo nuestra prioridad preeminente en la política pública. Por lo tanto, apoyamos una campaña coordinada para movilizarnos contra la enmienda propuesta. Con este fin, ofrecemos esta oración para derrotar la Enmienda 4:

Dios eterno: Tú das la vida y deseas un futuro para todos tus hijos. Apodérate de nuestra nación, estado y comunidad, y despierta en cada corazón la admiración por el regalo de la vida. Envía tu Espíritu para reforzarnos con sabiduría y fortaleza mientras defendemos a las madres y a los niños de la Florida de las leyes que desprecian su salud y su seguridad.

María y José confiaron en ti y recibieron a Jesús en nuestro mundo quebrantado. Dios todopoderoso, pedimos que ellos intercedan para proteger a los niños por nacer y a sus madres, y dirigir a todos los padres y madres en la crianza de sus hijos. Que nos ayuden a construir la civilización del amor al defender el carácter sagrado de la vida y acompañar a las mujeres embarazadas que así lo necesiten.

Te lo pedimos por Cristo, nuestro Señor. Amén.

Nuestra Señora, Madre de la Familia, ¡rueda por nosotros! San José, Protector de los No Nacidos, ¡rueda por nosotros!

Reverendísimo Thomas G. Wenski
Arquidiócesis de Miami

Reverendísimo Gerald M. Barbarito
Diócesis de Palm Beach

Reverendísimo Frank J. Dewane
Diócesis de Venice

Reverendísimo John G. Noonan
Diócesis de Orlando

Reverendísimo Gregory L. Parkes
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Reverendísimo William A. Wack, CSC
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Reverendísimo Erik T. Pohlmeier
Diócesis de St. Augustine

Reverendísimo Enrique E. Delgado
Arquidiócesis de Miami

¹La ley de la Florida distingue entre el consentimiento parental previo al aborto de una menor (Cap. 390.0114(5)), que sería invalidada por la enmienda 4, y la notificación parental del aborto de una menor (Cap. 390.0114(4)), que permanecería.

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:

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Region 6: Armando Minutoli alminutoli146@gmail.com

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



Are You A Member?

The Blessed Michael J. McGivney Guild serves as a source for information about the life, works and spirituality of Father McGivney.

The Guild distributes informational materials about him, receives reports of favors granted through his intercession and oversees the distribution of relics.

Guild members receive regular updates on the progress of Blessed Michael J. McGivney's



cause for canonization and are invited to participate in promoting devotion to this Servant of God. Members of the Knights of Columbus are not automatically Guild members and must elect to join the Guild.

The Blessed Michael J. McGivney Guild Newsletter is published bimonthly except July - August, and is

sent free to Guild members.

To join the Guild, register online at: <http://www.fathermcgivney.org/> †

Is Your Personal Information Accurate?

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

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

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

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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

Incorporate principled fiscal responsibility for charitable giving.

The Florida State Logo



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Florida State Council Social Media

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

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



Knightline

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN SERVICE TO ONE, IN SERVICE TO ALL

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

COLUMBIA

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

