

INVOCATION

JULY 2025



**State Deputy
Michael P. Gizewski**

Open the Doors for Christ and He Will Enter

By State Deputy Michael P. Gizewski

As the Florida State Council of the Knights of Columbus begins a new fraternal year, there is no greater foundation for success than to center every plan, every action, and every heart on spirituality and Christ. This new year is not just a continuation of past efforts—it is a sacred opportunity to renew our commitment to the mission given to us by Blessed Michael McGivney and to recommit our lives and our brotherhood to Jesus Christ, the true source of strength, wisdom, and unity.

Success in the Knights of Columbus is not measured merely by numbers, events, or awards. True success is measured by how faithfully we embody the principles of our Order: charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism, all of which are only fully realized when they are rooted in Christ.

If we strive only for external achievements without grounding them in a living relationship with God, we may build a structure—but not a brotherhood. We may organize activities—but miss the transformation of hearts. This year must be different. It must be spiritual. It must be Christ-centered.

At the heart of every Council, and especially the State Council, must be a deep devotion to prayer. The most successful fraternal years begin with men on their knees, asking God to guide them, bless them, and work through them. Let every meeting, every initiative, and every decision be covered in prayer—not just as a formality, but as the true engine of our work. Invite the Holy

Spirit into every planning session. Place the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Queen and the patroness of our Order, at the center of every endeavor. If we do this, we will not only succeed—we will be transformed.

The spiritual health of a Council begins with its leaders. The State Deputy, officers, and directors must lead not just with skill and organization, but with hearts that are visibly committed to Christ. Their witness must inspire others not just to act, but to believe. A Knight who is spiritually alive will become an unstoppable force of good in his family, his parish, and his community.

A Council that prays together, serves together, and grows in holiness together will thrive in every sense of the word.

This fraternal year is a call to return to the source. Jesus Christ must be at the center of every Faith in Action program. He must be the reason we serve. He must be the purpose of our fraternity. Programs like the

Rosary, Holy Hours, Eucharistic processions, and spiritual reflections should not be seen as optional or secondary—they are the soul of our mission. They connect our works to heaven. Without them, we risk becoming just another organization. With them, we become a brotherhood on fire for God.



*State Deputy
Michael P. Gizewski*



We must also remember that our spirituality cannot be confined to meetings or formal events. Christ calls us to be his Knights in our daily lives—in our marriages, in our fatherhood, in our friendships, and in our parishes. This year, the Florida State Council has the chance to inspire a spiritual renewal across the state by calling every man to greater holiness. It begins with personal commitment, but it blossoms in brotherhood. Together, with our chaplains and spiritual advisors, we can foster a culture where holiness is not only encouraged but expected.

Let this be the year when Christ is not only invited into our work but enthroned in it. Let this be the year when Knights in Florida are known not just for what we do—but for who we follow. And let us move forward with the confidence that comes from faith, knowing that if we place Christ at the center, our efforts will not be in vain.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus guide our every step, and may Our Lady of Guadalupe protect us. As I always close, I close with “Open wide door for Christ.”

Open the New Columbian Year

By State Deputy Michael P. Gizewski

For the glory of God - Open wide the doors for Christ! It is with deep humility, profound gratitude, and unwavering faith that I stand before you today as your new State Deputy.

I thank you for your trust, for your prayers, and for your commitment to this noble Order. I stand not alone, but with every one of you who has given his heart, his hands, and his soul in service—to God, to Church, to family, and to country.

Today, I want to talk about what we must do—not only to continue the legacy of the Knights of Columbus here in Florida, but to strengthen it. To elevate it. To spiritually renew it.

This is our call. This is our moment.

Let us begin where everything must begin—with God. This is not a social club. This is not just a volunteer group. This is a brotherhood formed in faith, led by charity, built on unity, and sustained by fraternity.

The strength of the Knights is not in our numbers—it's in our faithfulness.

And if we are going to lead this Order forward, we must place Christ at the very center of everything we do.

“Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders

labor in vain.” – Psalm 127:1

Every meeting should open with prayer, but every project must begin with intention—that what we do, we do for the greater glory of God. That every coat we give to a child, every dollar we raise for the unborn, every moment we spend in adoration, is an act of love, a reflection of the face of Christ.

My brothers, the world today is starving for authentic masculinity—not bravado, not aggression, but true, Catholic manhood, and the Church is calling us to rise.

We are called to be men of strength—but also of tenderness. Men of courage—but also of compassion. Men who protect the weak, defend the truth, and serve without counting the cost.

What does that look like?

It means protecting life, from the unborn to the elderly.

It means serving our priests, our parishes, our dioceses.

It means supporting our widows and families in crisis.

And it means standing up in the public square—not with hatred, but with holy conviction.

Last year 96,000 new members into the night of Columbus Florida came in third place in donations with \$7.2 million and fifth place in volunteer hours with 2 million hours and that's not even counting what our wives have done.

Let the Knights of Columbus in Florida be known for this balance: powerful men who kneel in prayer, strong men with tear-streaked cheeks in adoration, tough men who cradle the suffering.

This is our identity. Let us claim it.

Charity is the first principle of our Order—and it is the beating heart of who we are.

But I want to challenge us today: Is our charity comfortable? Or is it costly?

Charity that doesn't inconvenience us is easy. But charity that costs us our time, our energy, our sleep, our comfort—that's where grace begins.

Let's challenge our councils to go deeper.

Instead of writing a check, let's show up in person.

Instead of hosting a dinner, let's serve the hungry ourselves.

Instead of saying "we'll pray," let's pray right then and there.

I believe in our Knights. I believe that every man here wants to be a saint. But sainthood begins with a radical love—a love that looks like the Cross.

We need to bring spirituality back to the center of every council. Brothers, if we are not praying, we are just spinning our wheels.

I want every council in Florida to be a school of holiness. That starts with:

- Monthly Holy Hours
- Council Rosaries
- Council attendance at Sunday Mass as a group
- Personal accountability in prayer, confession, and spiritual reading.

Our programs should include corporal works of mercy and spiritual ones. Teach the faith. Evangelize. Be leaders in men's formation. Be examples of Eucharistic devotion.

Let us be known as the spiritual engine of our parishes—not just men in jackets and badges, but men of deep prayer, fasting, and wisdom.

If we want the Knights to grow, we have to stop wishing and start witnessing.

A man joins because he sees something in us he wants. He sees strength, brotherhood, joy, and holiness.

We don't need gimmicks. We need authenticity.

Let us challenge every council in Florida to grow not by marketing, but by living the Gospel with fire and joy. Make our brotherhood visible. March in public processions. Sponsor parish missions. Bring young men in with mentorship and mission—not just fish fries and bingo.

We will only grow if we are alive. And we will only be alive if we are holy.

Finally, we must rediscover the power of true fraternity. A brotherhood that laughs together, prays together, struggles together, and carries each other. Too many men today are isolated. They are hungry for real friendship—not just networking, but soul-level connection.

That's what we offer.

Let us build a culture in our councils where men can be vulnerable. Where they can be supported in marriage, fatherhood, addiction, grief, fear, failure.

Let us make the Knights the safe haven it was always meant to be.

And let us unite—not as separate councils, not as competing districts—but as one brotherhood, one body, one mission.

My brothers, we live in difficult times—but we were born for this time.

We are Knights of Columbus. We stand on the shoulders of Blessed Michael McGivney and all those who have gone before us. We carry the sword of truth, the shield of faith, and the mantle of Our Lady.

Let us go forward together.

Let us walk in faith. Let us lead with strength. Let us love with compassion. Let us live in holiness.

Be not afraid.

So always remember open wide the door for Christ and he will enter once he is entered it is your job to bring it to our brothers, and they will

receive it with open arms.

I tell your brothers you are the District Deputies of the Knight of Columbus when you go to a council meeting wear a jacket, wear a tie, and wear your jewel which is emblematic of your authority.

Ask your Grand Knight to put on a jacket at his meeting.

And you will see the change right before your eyes start to happen.

The men will respect you the men will want to be you the man will follow you wherever you lead them.

Open the wide the doors for Christ that is all I can say to you and he will enter.



Open the Doors Outreach

Members of St. John XXIII Council 14390 of Miramar visited one of its council's charter members, Emiliano Montes, who is suffering from an illness, to bring the Eucharist.

This gesture marked the beginning of the council's commitment to "Open the doors wide for Christ," the motto of new State Deputy Michael Gizewski. The council is dedicated to bringing Holy Communion to brothers in need and will reach out to other council members and the parish community so that they can continue to serve the Lord, our God.

Brother Jimmy Fernandez, Grand Knight (GK)

of the council presented the brother a certificate for his 17 years as a member of the Knights of Columbus. Brother Emiliano Montes is a Fourth degree knight and a member of the Archbishop Ambrose de Paoli Assembly 3218.

Brother John Stone, Past Grand Knight (PGK) and the council's Faith Director, has played a pivotal role in this mission. He has shared profound insights regarding the relationship between Our Blessed Virgin Mary and the Eucharist, which is the body of Christ, Our Lord and Savior. The member's wife expressed her deep appreciation for the presence of the council members and their efforts to bring the Eucharist.

Open Wide the Doors for Christ

By State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor

“Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build.” - Psalm 127:1

Knights sure are good with a mission! Give them a challenge, a project, a task in the parish and they 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. All that activity can take its toll, particularly if we become too busy to pray. We can lose focus, become irritable, and even mistreat one another.

At the recent organizational meeting of the Florida State Council, our new State Deputy Michael Gizewski delivered an inspirational opening address. He highlighted the things about being a Knight that are hallmarks of our Order and touched on the heroic character of our Knights. But the most powerful central theme of his speech promoted faith which must undergird all our efforts. If we are to “Open wide the doors for Christ” as his motto proclaims, we can do it best by strengthening and nourishing our relationship with God in the Church.

The first day of meetings opened with the celebration of a Mass and Sacred Heart Holy Hour on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Supreme continues to encourage Knights to engage in Holy Hours as part of their regular council activities. Why? We are a Eucharistic people. The Real Presence of Jesus in Communion is central to our Faith. Without it we have no life in us! So, why wouldn’t we want to spend time with Him? When we sit in the Lord’s presence, 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!

Attaining goals is important. The charitable acts of the Knights are laudable. Supporting our parishes and initiative of our Order is admirable.

But, without the Lord directing and informing our efforts, “they labor in vain who build,” as Psalm 127 reminds us. Without prayer, action loses its meaning. And so, this significant prayer time beginning the gathering of state officers and district deputies was important. It reminded us why we do what we do ... for whom we do it.

A new fraternal year and the all the new responsibilities we undertake call for our best effort. Our best effort must begin in faith with prayer, placing Christ at the center of our lives and actions. When we do, we will find that not only are the goals attained,

but the relationships formed and strengthened in the process will make us and those we serve more faithful, more loving, more complete human beings. Then we will truly fulfill the vision of Blessed Michael McGivney ... an Order fueled by prayer, centered in Christ, fulfilling a sacred mission. Open wide the doors for Christ! Vivat Jesus!



*State Chaplain
Very Rev. Bob Kantor*



Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

“Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers’ victim?” He answered, “The one who treated him with mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.” (Gospel for July 13, Lk 10:36-37)

In the parable of the good Samaritan, we again witness the Lord’s call to put our faith into action. Neither the priest nor the Levite stopped to render aid to alleviate the injured man’s suffering. The true act of love came from an unexpected source: a Samaritan, a person with whom a practicing Jew of those days would not ordinarily associate. Let us be good Samaritans when we encounter others in need, remembering that we are called to love and serve all people in need.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to serve as a good Samaritan to others with whom you might not normally associate — whether it be people who are homeless, the poor, the homebound or others.

Questions for Reflection:

Who is your neighbor? Have you found yourself ignoring those in need when it is inconvenient for you to assist them? How can your response to the needy you encounter more closely reflect the example of the good Samaritan?



The 122nd Florida State Convention returns to its traditional Orlando location in a new venue in 2026. Rosen Shingle Creek Orlando will host the event on May 22-24

The annual Florida State Council Mid-Year Meeting on Dec. 12-13 will also be held at Rosen Shingle Creek. The resort is located east of the Orange County Convention Center’s North South building.

In 2025, the 121st Florida State Convention was held at the Hyatt Regency in Jacksonville.

The Convention will feature the annual opening Mass, mission statement from the State Deputy, and concluding banquet. The gathering celebrates achievements for the Columbian Year, along with state meetings and presentations. Another highlight is the election of officers, including the Florida delegates for the 2026 Supreme Convention in Colorado.

Please continue check the State Meetings tab on the state website, www.floridakofc.org, for updates.

Knights on Bikes International Rally



The historic and sacred city of St. Augustine proudly hosted the 2025 International Knights on Bikes (KonB) Bi-Annual Rally. This momentous event brought together Knights of Columbus members from across the United States and Canada, many of whom rode their motorcycles all the way to Florida to take part in a week filled with faith, fraternity, and spiritual renewal.

The rally welcomed 110 Knights, along with 48 wives—whom the KonB reverently recognize as Lady Knights—and four young participants under the age of 18. This 160-strong turnout reflected the growing unity and devotion among Catholic riders who seek to evangelize and serve the Lord on two and three wheels.

Among the many blessings of the week was the presence of the Most Reverend Archbishop Thomas Wenski of the Archdiocese of Miami, who celebrated Mass throughout the event. Two

priests—Father Murchadh O'Madagain from the Diocese of Venice and Father Kenneth Bolin of Orlando—rode in with the group and offered daily Masses. A devoted deacon also traveled from Michigan to participate in the rally.

The rally was honored to welcome several distinguished guests. The Most Reverend Erik T. Pohlmeier, Bishop of St. Augustine, and Mike Gizewski, newly installed Florida State Deputy, gave powerful and uplifting speeches during the Gala Dinner on Wednesday night. On Tuesday, Dr. Mary Soja, Vice Promulgator for the Cause of the Florida Martyrs, delivered an inspiring address at the Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche.

All Florida KonB state officers were in attendance. A special highlight was celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Knights on Bikes with our founder, Sir Knight Ray Medina of Texas. What began as a small group of faithful KofC brothers with a shared love of evangelization and



motorcycles has grown into a thriving international movement.

Also present were International President Ace Bagley of Michigan, Canada President John Moniz Vidal, and incoming USA President Paul Padilla of California. Vice Presidents representing each U.S. time zone participated, along with numerous past officers, all coming together in joyful fellowship and spiritual unity.

The week began Monday with a solemn Ceremony for the Fallen, honoring KonB brothers who have gone home to the Lord since our last rally. As each name was called by their state president, the thunder of motorcycle pipes roared in tribute—a moving and unforgettable moment.

Tuesday was our Pilgrimage Ride, as we rode in groups of 25–30 bikes, led by our Road Captains and Blockers and followed by our Gunners, ensuring that no one was left behind. At each of the five churches visited, a decade of the Rosary was prayed. The pilgrimage concluded at the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche, where Mass was celebrated and attendees heard a compelling talk on the Florida Martyrs.

Wednesday featured the International Business Meeting, during which it was voted that the 2027 Rally will be hosted in the great state of Michigan. The meeting was followed by a police-escorted ride along scenic A1A, featuring breathtaking coastal views and the iconic ride through “The Loop.” The group stopped for lunch at Destination Daytona, followed by Mass at the peaceful St. Joseph Carmelite Monastery.

That evening, we gathered for our much-anticipated Gala Dinner, themed Havana Night,

complete with a vibrant buffet, prize raffles, heartfelt speeches, and tales of the road from our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thursday morning, Archbishop Wenski once again celebrated Mass for all in attendance. As World Wide Chaplain of the Knights on Bikes, his spiritual leadership added immense grace and reverence to the entire week.

Hosting the 2025 Rally in Florida was a true labor of love—a statewide effort that could not have succeeded without the dedication of many faithful men and women who answered the call to serve.

Special thanks go to the Florida Rally Event Team for their tireless contributions: Bob Knapik, David Campos, Mike Grubs, Ernest Jackson, Miles Brooks, Steven Bell, Juan Carlos Rivera, Mike Godbout, and Kevin Kelly—as well as many others who gave their time, talents, and hearts.

Each time the call was made, someone answered with a faithful “yes.” Whether it was setting up, guiding rides, welcoming guests, or helping behind the scenes, our team showed what it truly means to serve Christ and each other with humility and joy.

On behalf of the Knights on Bikes and the entire Florida chapter, I—Florida State President George Gutierrez, known affectionately as “G-Man”—give thanks to God for each and every one of you who made this rally a success.

Through your commitment and the shared passion of all KonB members, this rally was not just a motorcycle event—it was a joyful celebration of Catholic brotherhood, spiritual devotion, and our continued mission to Ride for Christ.

Riding With the Apostles

There are moments in life when you see particular moments in the scriptures come to life. This happened on a recent Monday for two Knights of Florida District 8, District Warden and Past Grand Knight of Council 9720 Michael Flowers reported to the Invocation.

“It sounded like the beginning of a joke, ‘two nuns and a friar got into our car,’” Flowers explained. “But it wasn’t a joke. It was more of a divine occurrence. These three young people were members of the Poor Nuns and Poor Friars of Jesus and Mary. They arrived as hitchhikers at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Live Oak, Florida. DD8 J. Daniel Noblin and I provided them transportation to their next destination, Tallahassee as they journeyed back to their base in southern Louisiana. They were living out Christ’s commission in Mark 6:8-12:

He instructed the to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick-no food, no sack, no money in their belts. They were, however, to wear sandals, but not a second tunic. He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave from there. Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them. So they went off and preached repentance.

“When we asked them where they were going, they said ‘Tallahassee.’ They told us that once they got there they would walk around and God would provide. Their complete surrender to God was the most remarkable and moving experience. I am a type A personality, so I called several people until we found them a room at the Blessed Sacrament Neumann Center. Sister Caterina who led this three-person band of missionaries of the Eucharist explained their order and their charism to us as we rode. Just as Phillip got in the Ethiopian eunuch’s chariot and explained the scriptures to him, leading to his baptism. Much like Phillip disappearing



after the conversion, we will probably never see this group again after dropping them off at Tallahassee, but again, much like Phillip, our lives will remain changed by the encounter.

“Sister Caterina spoke of meeting other Knights, including our amazing Knights on Bikes, who had helped them on their current journey. These hitchhiking Apostles may not take money from those they meet. Only transportation, food, water and medicine if they are injured. It was a Knights on Bike member that provided Sister Caterina medicine for ant bites she suffered at a gas station while they witnessed there, she told us. I thought about God putting us in the right place at the right time-the entire basis of their vocation. I was off work on a Monday, which has happened only a few times in my many years of employment. I thought about the new State Deputy’s call at the Organizational Meeting to live lives of charity and faith. It all converged on meeting these three Apostles: Their humility; their faith; their trust.

“It was a lesson learned, a God moment. If you see them on the road, I pray you too will seize that chance to encounter God through these travelling missionaries. We gave them a ride in a car. They gave us a gift, far more precious in return: a renewing shower of God’s Spirit and God’s grace.”

ASAP and Ultrasound Initiatives

Through the 12th Annual Central Florida Laps for Life event held March 1, 2025 and fundraising through the end of March, St. Thomas à Becket Council 16236 has raised over \$35,000 to help mothers choose life for their babies.

This generous support from brother Knights, faithful and friends of Incarnation parish and St. John Fisher quasi-parish of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter allowed Council 16236 to support a maternity home and seven pregnancy centers through the Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) initiative, and positioned Council 16236 to take the lead in funding an ultrasound machine in the new fraternal year.

Under the Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) initiative, the Knights of Columbus Supreme office matches \$100 to a council's \$500 donation to a qualifying pregnancy center or maternity home, with up to \$400 matched against \$2,000 donated per center per council per year. In the final months of the 2024-25 fraternal year, Council 16236 delivered \$2,000 donations and



filed for \$400 Supreme matching donations to:

- Beyond Pregnancy Care (Kissimmee and St. Cloud)
- Choices Women's Clinic (Downtown Orlando and Oviedo near UCF)
- Divine Mercy House maternity home (Jacksonville)
- Hope Resource Center (Deltona)
- LifeChoice Pregnancy Center (Winter Haven)
- Life Choices Medical Clinic (Altamonte Springs)
- Life's Choices Women's Clinic (Eustis and Leesburg)
- The Pregnancy Centers (Sanford and Winter Park)

In addition, Council 16236 is working with another council to arrange funding for 100% Supreme matching for ultrasound machine placement at a pregnancy center in the 2025-26 fraternal year.

Council 16236 looks forward to continued support of mothers and babies through next year's Central Florida Laps for Life, to be held March 7, 2026, at Bishop Moore Catholic High School in Orlando.



Region 1 Color Corps



One of the great things of being in the Knights of Columbus Color Corps is the opportunity to attend faith activities in different parishes. It's one thing to attend KofC conventions and meetings, but when you visit another parish, there is a different atmosphere being among the rank and file Catholic faithful. There is also a proud feeling how the KofC supports and reinforces the basic tenants of our Catholic faith.

Recently, the Color Corps of Region 1 had two such special opportunities. On May 31, the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee ordained four new priests. The Ordination Mass was in St Paul Catholic Church, Pensacola, a larger church in the Diocese. The church was packed with more than 500 faithful. Priests from all over the Diocese came to welcome their new brothers. More than 20 color corps members throughout Region 1 came to add significance to the event. Vice District Marshall Tony Jette and new FL State Advocate

Kris Elliott led the group. It was quite a site to see the KofC filling the center aisle of the church as the procession entered.

A second special event was a 1.2-mile Eucharistic Procession at Corpus Christi Church in Destin on June 21, the Feast of Corpus Christi. In his homily, Pastor Viet Huynh stressed the importance of the Eucharist in our Catholic Faith. The Knights led the procession which started after the Vigil Mass and acted as Honor Guard during Mass. Assemblies 3236 and 1564 led the procession. There was a lot of coordination to the Eucharistic Procession, including the support of the local police blocking off traffic on the local streets as the procession progressed. As we led the way, we could hear sacred music and then the faithful praying the Rosary, timed perfectly to end just before arriving back at the church.

Yes, it's very satisfying to be in the KofC Color Corps.

Special Olympics USA Games



The Special Olympics USA Games will be held at the University of Minnesota from June 20-26, 2026. The Florida USA Team held a training camp session at a Lake Nona Hotel, where the over 300 athletes representing Florida got to meet their new coaches, athletes from around the state in their sport and then get fitted for one of the unique USA Games Uniforms.

It was also an opportunity for supporting organizations got to meet and talk with the athletes, meet representatives from other supporting organizations and have dinner. Two Special Olympic athletes will be attending the USA Games as reporters. Doing interviews and reporting on the progress of the Florida Athletes, stay tuned. Brother Knights Chris Berens and Harry Rother and their wives attended the training camp.

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/> †

Knights Host Veterans Bingo



Back in 1995, SK Bob Simcoe began an initiative for the Sir Knights of Bishop Thomas J. Grady Assembly 2901 of Ormond Beach. The SKs would gather once a month at the Emory Bennett VA Nursing Home in Daytona Beach, to spend an hour playing bingo with the veterans.

The program has continued over the years, with SKs providing bingo, fellowship and refreshments for the former servicemen.

SK Simcoe reached out Our Lady of Hope Assembly 2794 Faithful Navigator Jack Walsh in 2008, with the two assemblies sharing the costs ever since.

Vets Bingo is held on the first Thursday of every month at 10 a.m. at what is now the Emory L. Bennett Veterans' Nursing Home at 1920 Mason Ave. in Daytona Beach. The Knights provide bagels, cream cheese and coffee for the veterans. Knights stand near each of the tables in the dining hall to assist vets play a variety of games, concluding with cover-all. Walmart gift cards are awarded to the winners of each game.

Bill Whelan is the new Faithful Navigator of Assembly 2901, succeeding Jay Young. Andy

Duzek follows Bob Gillikin and Sam Tedesco as Faithful Navigator of Assembly 2794. Simcoe remains active calling the games when his health allows, joined by Duzek and Russell Bennett of Assembly 2901. PFN Ray Zall, Veterans Chairman for Assembly 2794, coordinates the purchase of gift cards and bagels.



Award-Winning Exemplifications



The Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus celebrated its 125th anniversary on Feb. 22, 2025, with a gala Exemplification at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. For the first time, the ceremony was open to spouses and family members, who witnessed the knighting of 649 new Sir Knights. Current Sir Knights are also welcome to attend to experience the updated ceremony.

The Florida District took up the challenge of Supreme Master Michael McKusker goal of each district in the order holding an Exemplification with at least 125 candidates in honor of the anniversary year. Under the direction of Master Robert Urrutia, the Florida District was not only first in the DeSoto Province – Florida was first in the entire order to achieve that goal.

The new ceremony stresses the role that Catholics have played throughout the history of the United States, and how it is possible to be both a good Catholic and Patriotic American. Enhanced visuals and videos provide for a dramatic learning experience, making one proud to be a Catholic American Citizen.

Florida's award-winning Exemplification team tackled the new ceremony for the first time on April

26 at Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church in Lakewood Ranch. A good turnout watched 75 candidates knighted. Pastor Father Sebastian Szczawinski was the class honoree. Joining Master Urrutia on the degree team were Expositor

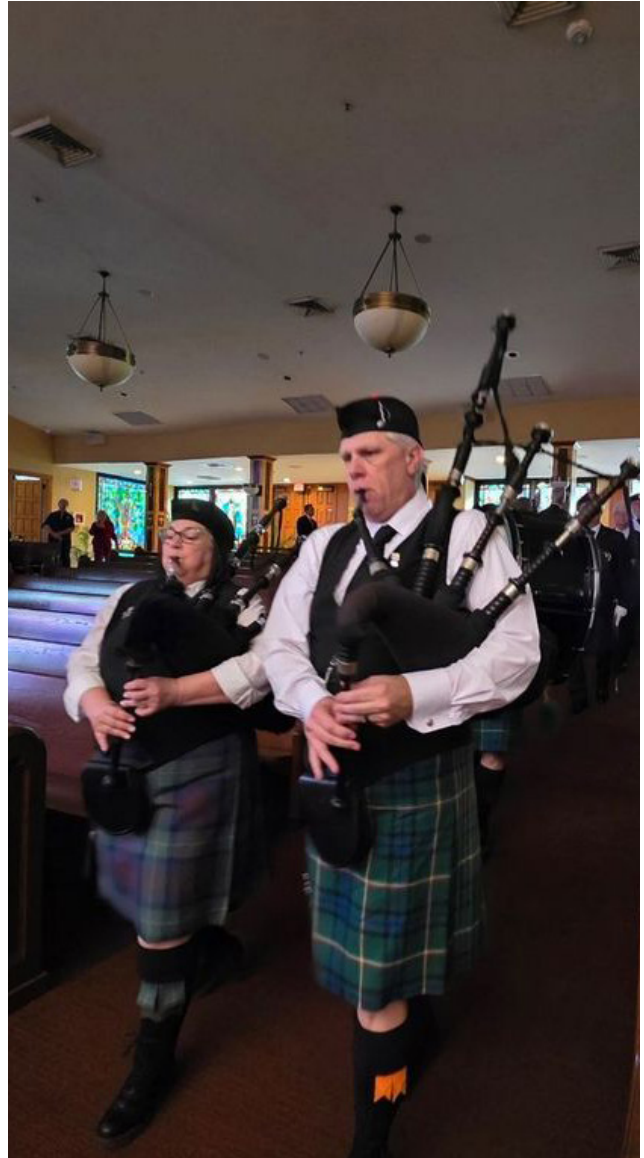


of the Faith Deacon Richard Dahn, joined by Past State Deputy Donald Kahrer (Expositor of the Constitution) and John O'Toole (Historian).

The next degree was on June 14 at St. Ignatius Loyola Cathedral in Palm Beach Gardens, with a turnout of 136 new SKs. Father Gavin Badway, Rector of the Cathedral, was the honoree. Father Chris Hoffmann was the Expositor of the Faith, joined by Supreme Director/Past State Deputy Scott O'Connor (Historian) and Director of Exemplars Ron Brown (Expositor of the

Constitution). Master Urrutia shared his role with Richard Gallant, who was instrumental in making the arrangements for the Exemplification.

Upcoming Exemplifications are planned for this fall and November. In January, plans are to hold the degree in the Bahamas and in the Tampa area. Please see the [Florida KofC web site under the Fourth Degree tab](#) for information and the proper forms.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS | EPIPHANY COUNCIL 12569

SEVENTH ANNUAL TRUCK, JEEP &

CAR SHOW

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22 | 10 AM - 2 PM

\$15 ENTRY FEE | REGISTRATION 9 - 11 AM



All Entries Judged by Appearance:

Exterior - Body condition, panel fit, trim and detailing

Interior - Seats, carpets, headliners, door panels

Paint - Finish, matches throughout and door jams

Cleanliness - exterior, interior, and engine compartment



**Door Prizes
50/50,
BBQ & Breakfast**



**Trophies & Music
Free General
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INVOCATION

Knights of Columbus Florida State Council Newsletter How To Write an Article

Newsworthy • Broad Appeal • Concise • Complete • Factual • Accurate
Answers the Questions: Who, What, When, Where, Why & How

INVOCATION reports on local council activities throughout the entire State of Florida

- Article size: **300 words** ideal (half page) to 500-600 words max (full page)
- Articles submitted as an attachment in Word format - not in the body of an email
 - PDF submissions are for ads or promotions - not articles
- Pictures need to be sent separately as an attachment and the original pictures **Please do not format them in any way, we will do it**-- not embedded in a Word document
- **Articles need to be brief, highly relevant and actionable**
- **At a minimum, Who, What, When and Where needs to be in the first paragraph,**
- Articles need to be brief, to-the-point and **of interest** to the entire State Council
 - What is the event/activity about?
 - Whom did it benefit?
 - What was the result?
 - Who are the key players/Knights?
- **Similar story** submissions will be consolidated/batched into one article by the Editors
- Authors must submit on time per the Editor production calendar- **Deadline 1st of each month**
 - Late submittals will be placed farther down the newsletter or not published.
- Proof your article carefully for spelling and grammar before sending (**use spellcheck**)
- Document filename should reflect the office/title, i.e. State Deputy article
- Every Region needs to participate – one page of the Invocation will be dedicated to each Region respectively
 - If a region does not submit content their page will be eliminated from that issue
- Cover story submissions need to be submitted ahead of the deadline due to special photo editing
 - Cover story photos – in portrait style at least 1mb in size - not formatted or resized
 - filename "Cover Story"

Send all information:

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

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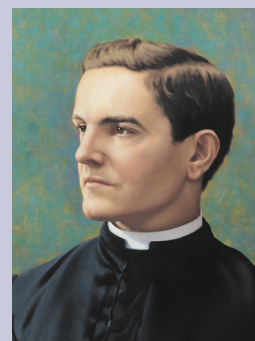
Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael J. McGivney

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



Explanation of the Florida State Council Pin 2025-2027

“OPEN WIDE THE DOORS FOR CHRIST” is a powerful and fitting exhortation for the Knights of Columbus in this Jubilee Year. As men of faith, the Knights are called to welcome Christ into every aspect of their lives—into their homes, their parishes, and their communities. By echoing the words of St. John Paul II, we are reminded to live boldly and faithfully, opening our hearts to Christ’s truth, mercy, and love. Worn as a pin, it becomes a visible sign of commitment to evangelization, service, and the defense of life; encouraging all to embrace and share the Gospel in this special year of grace.

“JESUS IN MARY’S WOMB” is a profound symbol of the sacredness of life from its very inception. His presence as a child, unborn, reflects the divine value of every human life. The Knights of Columbus draws strength and inspiration from this mystery, standing firmly for the right to life from conception to natural death. As Mary carried the Savior of the world in her womb, so too must society recognize and protect the dignity of every human being at all stages of life.

We are a fraternity of men who love our God, love our Family, and love our country. We protect the children, we salute our veterans, and we pray to our patron Blessed Michael McGivney. We do all unashamed and with pride because we understand that which is not against us is with us. For we are the Knights of Columbus protectors of the widows and orphans, and we wear it proudly so **OPEN WIDE THE DOORS FOR CHRIST and he shall enter.**

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Region 6 Armando Minutoli *alminutoli46@gmail.com*

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.



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