

INVOCATION

July 2026

A photograph of a formal ceremony taking place in a church. In the foreground, a man in a dark suit is kneeling on a red cushion, facing right. A man in a blue uniform with a yellow sash and a black cap is performing a ritual on him, holding a sword and touching the kneeling man's forehead. Other men in suits and uniforms are visible in the background, some kneeling and some standing. The church has wooden pews and a stained glass window in the background.

**'250 on the 250'
at Miami Fourth
Degree**

'250 on the 250' at Miami Fourth Degree

The Florida Fourth Degree District of the DeSoto Province recently held a '250 on the 250' Exemplification in the Miami area.

The special commemorative Exemplification to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence was conducted on June 27 at St. Bonaventure Catholic Church in Davie, Florida.

The Most Reverend Thomas Wenski, Archbishop of Miami, was the Honoree, with 256 candidates receiving the honor of elevation to the Visible Arm of the Order.

The exemplification was attended by the Supreme Master of the Knights of Columbus, Michael McCusker; Vice-Supreme Master of the DeSoto Province Daniel Barton, PSD – South Carolina; Current Supreme Board of Directors member Scott O'Connor, PSD – Florida; Florida District Master, PSD – Rob Urrutia; and many others.

Clergy included Most Reverend Thomas Wenski, Archbishop of Miami; Most Reverend Patrick Pinder, Archbishop of Nassau, Bahamas; Very Reverend Canon Thomas Skindeleski, State Chaplain Emeritus (Florida) Reverend Martin Dunne, III, K of C Diocesan Chaplain (Palm Beach); Reverend Wilfredo Corses, K of C Diocesan Chaplain, Archdiocese of Miami; Reverend Francis Roof, a Sir Knight and former council chaplain and assembly Friar - host parish; Reverend Peter Sutinga, A Sir Knight and former council chaplain and assembly Friar - host parish; and many other attending clergy.

In addition to many dignitaries and guests Brother Louis Prevost, older brother of our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, attended the exemplification virtually.



The 4th Degree was officially established on February 22, 1900, in New York City. The fourth principle of the Order “Patriotism” was added to the existing three: Charity, Unity and Fraternity, during the time when the Knights of Columbus was addressing concerns about the loyalty of Catholic citizens to their country. The goal, to deepen loyalty and devotion to one’s country among its members.

The idea of a patriotic degree emerged early on at a time when the Order was only four years old. However, it was not until 1899 that the Supreme Knight appointed a committee to formalize the new degree. The first 4th Degree Exemplification saw 1,000 members become Sir Knights and several hundred local police officer (members) acted as sentinels and received the honors of the 4th Degree membership. The second exemplification of the 4th Degree took place in Boston, when 750 members advanced to the rank of Sir Knight.

The 4th Degree is organized into assemblies, which draw members from multiple local councils. Assemblies are part of a larger district, and districts are under a larger province. The leadership hierarchy includes Faithful Navigators (Assembly level) District Master (District Level) Vice-Supreme Master (Province Level) Supreme Master (Order Wide).



Members of the 4th Degree, known as Sir Knights, may also participate in color and honor guards at civic and religious events, making them the most visible representatives of the Knights of Columbus. They also engage in community service, particularly supporting veterans and active military personnel through various programs. The many activities include:

- Acting as ushers during Papal visits (Mass)
- Providing honor guard at Mass, funerals, and other religious events, including blessed sacrament processions
- Providing color guards at sporting events such as Professional Baseball Games
- Marching in patriotic events such as parades and civic events
- Providing both color and honor guard for KofC conventions and meetings

The Fourth Degree also supports priests, particularly those who go on to serve as military chaplains. Through a special scholarship program, (Military Chaplains Fund) the Knights helped fund the education of seminarians preparing to become Catholic chaplains in the U.S. Armed Forces. Florida was the first jurisdiction to participate in this program and continues to lead the Order in fundraising and donations to support priestly development.

For those who would like to see the Mass that followed the exemplification, please follow the link:

https://youtube.com/live/uFGkAOc_2kQ?feature=share



Out with the Old... In with the New

As one fraternal year comes to a close and another begins, my heart is filled with one overwhelming emotion—gratitude. Thank you.

Thank you for your countless hours of service. Thank you for your sacrifices. Thank you for your dedication to your councils, your parishes, your communities, and most importantly, your unwavering love for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Every successful council, every new member welcomed into our Order, every family helped, every priest supported, every seminarian encouraged, every wheelchair delivered, every Special Olympics athlete served, every unborn child defended, and every charitable act performed is a reflection of Christ working through each one of you. You have been His hands and His feet throughout this past year, and I could not be more proud to serve beside you.

We accomplished many great things together, but our greatest accomplishment cannot be measured by numbers alone. It is measured in the souls we have touched, the faith we have strengthened, and the hope we have brought to others. Those are the treasures that last for eternity.

Now, we turn the page.

Like the arrival of spring after a long winter, God gives us a brand-new beginning. The old year has become part of our history, but the new year is filled with endless opportunities to do even greater things for His glory.

Scripture reminds us: "Behold, I am making all things new." (Revelation 21:5)

What a beautiful promise.

Every new fraternal year is an opportunity to renew our commitment to Christ, to recommit ourselves to the mission of the Knights of Columbus, and to once again answer God's call to serve.

Do not look back at what was left undone. Instead, look forward with hope. Our God is a God of

new beginnings. He gives us fresh opportunities to build stronger councils, welcome more men into our Order, support more priests, strengthen more families, and bring more souls closer to Jesus Christ.

This year is not simply another year on the calendar. It is another opportunity to change lives.

Each council has the ability to become a beacon of faith within its parish. Every Grand Knight has the opportunity to lead with humility and courage. Every District Deputy has the privilege of mentoring councils and inspiring greatness. Every Knight has the opportunity to become the man God is calling him to be.

As I begin my final year serving as your State Deputy, I do so with a grateful heart and tremendous hope for what lies ahead.

Serving you has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. I have traveled across our jurisdiction, shaken thousands of hands, prayed with you, laughed with you, celebrated victories with you, and stood beside you through challenges. Everywhere I have gone, I have witnessed faithful Catholic men living their vocation through Charity, Unity, and Fraternity.

You inspire me.

Your commitment strengthens my faith.

Your dedication gives me confidence that our best days are still ahead.

As we begin this new journey together, I ask three simple things of every brother Knight.

First, I ask for your prayers.

Please pray that God continues to guide me with wisdom, humility, and courage as I complete this final year of service. Pray for our State Officers, our District Deputies, our Grand Knights, and



*State Deputy
Michael P. Gizewski*

every council throughout our jurisdiction. Above all, pray that everything we do brings honor and glory to God.

Second, I ask for your continued love and support.

The strength of the Knights of Columbus has never been found in one individual. It has always been found in brothers working together with one common purpose—to serve Christ and His Church. United in faith, there is nothing we cannot accomplish.

Finally, I ask for your confidence. Believe that great things are ahead. Believe that your council can grow. Believe that new men are waiting to be invited. Believe that lives will be changed because of your service. Believe that God has chosen you for this moment.

When we place Christ at the center of everything we do, extraordinary things happen. He blesses our efforts beyond anything we could ever accomplish on our own.

This year, let us continue building councils that are alive with faith. Let us continue strengthening Catholic families. Let us continue supporting our priests and seminarians. Let us continue defending the dignity of every human life. Let us continue reaching those who have drifted away from the Church and invite them home.

Most importantly, let us never lose sight of why we wear the emblem of the Knights of Columbus.

We are not simply members of an organization. We are disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our mission is not merely to hold meetings or conduct programs. Our mission is to evangelize through action, to love through service, and to bring others closer to Christ by the example of our lives.

As this new fraternal year begins, let us walk forward together with renewed faith, renewed enthusiasm, and renewed purpose.

The past has prepared us. The present calls us. The future belongs to God.

May we answer His call with generous hearts, steadfast faith, and joyful spirits.

Thank you once again for everything you have done and everything you will do in the year ahead. It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your State Deputy.

May God continue to bless you, bless your families, bless your councils, and bless the great work of the Knights of Columbus.

Together, let us make this our strongest year yet—for our councils, for our Church, and above all, for the glory of God.



FLORIDA K OF C CHARITIES

WE ARE KNIGHTS OF CHARITY AS CHARITY IS AT THE HEART OF OUR FAITH AND OUR WORK.

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GET INVOLVED

Give \$10 a month to Florida K of C Charities - Living Faith in Action, Charity in Service.

A Nation Enriched

By State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.” - Mt. 11:28

This month we celebrate our nation’s 250th birthday. In the Gospel for the weekend of July 4, Jesus gives thanks to his heavenly Father for revealing to the little ones what remains hidden to the wise and learned. We are in a nation where “We the people” are entrusted to not only preserve the good that exists but to make it more perfect. Knights of Columbus have been engaged in that effort since the late 1800’s. Jesus words quoted above from that same Gospel passage urge all who labor and are burdened to come to Him. Countless people have come to our country in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty that famously heralds, “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.” The United States of America is an amazing country, and we as Knights are part of its unique character.

We exercise free religion and worship as the successors of those immigrants, some more recent than others. But, from the beginning, Catholic Christians have been instrumental in what is sometimes called “the American Experiment.” Charles Carroll, a Catholic from Maryland, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. His cousin, John Carroll of Baltimore, a Jesuit and good friend of Benjamin Franklin, ministered during the Revolutionary War to Catholic colonists and many French and European Catholics joining the cause, including as Polish national Casimir Pulaski and Brig. Gen. Tadeusz Kosciuszko. He became the first Archbishop in the newly independent nation and consecrated it to the Blessed Mother under the title Immaculate Conception. George Washington tapped an Irish Catholic, Commodore John Barry, to head the U.S. Navy. He and John Paul Jones share the title, “Father of the U.S. Navy.” General Lafayette, a French Catholic, served under Washington and was instrumental in the Battle of Yorktown – the turning point in the Revolution.

America today seems divided in some ways. But

it’s not the first time we have seen that. There was a split between those who supported independence and those who professed loyalty to England 250 years ago. Our nation was fractured by a Civil War in the 1860’s. But, out of both our nation has emerged stronger and I pray that will be the case in our times. But it will only

happen if we look back and hold to the ideals that formed us, and work as diligently as our ancestors did to build an even more inspiring future. There’s a clear tie between Christianity and the founding of our country. There’s also a dynamic connection for Catholic men between loyal citizenship and a membership in the Knights of Columbus.

Among the most beautiful words establishing our country: “We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” That’s a big dream to safeguard. And it can’t happen without continued faith and prayer. Knights stand up for life and support the most vulnerable among us, the unborn, the disabled, the elderly. From the time Blessed Michael McGivney founded our Order to care for widows and orphans and bolster the life and faith of immigrant men, Knights have been a shining light in our bright and beautiful country.

Let us pray that our nation will become a more perfect union, enriched by the continued contributions of faithful and patriotic Knights of Columbus. May almighty God bless our Order and help its members contribute over the next 250 years and beyond to the future of a country which realizes every ideal inspired by the will of God.

God bless America! Vivat Jesus!



*State Chaplain
Very Rev. Bob Kantor*

Supreme Secretary Keynote

By John Marrella, KofC Supreme Secretary since 2009

During his Keynote Address at the recent Florida State Council 122nd Convention, KofC Supreme Secretary John Marrella highlighted the work of several Florida State councils that were recently recognized in Columbia magazine. Following is that portion of his speech:

As citizens and as believers, we must take to heart Jesus' admonition that to whom much is given, much will be required. As Knights of Columbus, we know that the principle of Charity is not some abstract admonition to do good; but rather a firm commitment to be co-workers with Christ, as St. Paul said in First Corinthians, "Working to spread his Kingdom on earth through our good deeds and our faithful witness."

No American president expressed this patriotic sentiment better than John F. Kennedy, who concluded his Inaugural Address with this profoundly Christian aspiration. He said, "Let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking God's blessing and his help. But knowing that, here on earth, God's work must truly be our own."

It sounds like he was talking about the Knights of Columbus. Authentic patriotism is nothing less than making a sincere gift of self for the benefit of our fellow citizens, and doing it all for the glory of God. We in the Knights of Columbus have a long record of caring for the poor and the disabled, through programs such as the American Wheelchair Mission, Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity and Coats for Kids, to name just a few order-wide initiatives.

Check out the back pages of any issue of Columbia magazine, and you'll see our members and their families feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, caring for the sick and visiting the elderly. Here in Florida, you've been living out that first principle of Charity in a thousand different ways. Here are some of them:



- At its annual golf fundraiser, Council 16492 in Ponte Vedra raised \$100,000 to support St. John Paul II Parish's campaign to build a permanent church.
- Orange Park Council 7399 held a spaghetti dinner, raising \$4,000 to support Guardian Catholic School in Jacksonville. The money will be used to provide free lunches for students in need.
- Council 15425 in Plantation donated more than \$1,600 to support St. Gregory the Great Parish's school supply drive, filling some 230 backpacks with school supplies for families throughout the Fort Lauderdale area.
- St Petersburg Council 2105 and Frank J. Lewis Assembly 159 have supported the Daystar Life Food Pantry since 1982. In addition to their recent contribution of \$1,350, members volunteer weekly at the food pantry to help with distribution.
- Thomas A Beckett Council 16236 here in Orlando, and Epiphany Council 12569 in Port Orange, raised \$26,500 to help purchase an ultrasound machine for JMJ Pregnancy Center in Orlando.
- Corpus Christi Council 14132 in Celebration also supported JMJ Pregnancy Center, collecting more than \$2,700 worth of baby items, donating them to the expectant mothers there.

- St. John of the Cross, Our Lady of the Rosary Council 13153 in Vero Beach, prepared lunches for some 1,900 Special Olympic athletes, coaches and volunteers over two days at a Special Olympics swim meet. By providing this service for the past 12 years, the council has helped Special Olympics Florida save over \$180,000.

- Using funds raised by the monthly parish breakfast at St. William Catholic Church, Council 10757 in Naples donated \$5,600 to Catholic Charities in Venice, to purchase a new freezer for their homeless mission.

You get the idea. Performing these acts of charity – and a thousand others – precisely as Catholic Christians and as Knights of Columbus, you are evangelizing and reclaiming this state and country for Jesus Christ. All of us – Knights and wives and family members – have an opportunity, and more than an opportunity, an obligation and a privilege – to pray, to go to Mass, to spread the Gospel, and to serve people in need. Having declared his dependence on us, Christ has given us everything we need to be his co-workers.

Preparing for Your Independence

This month, Americans celebrate and give thanks to God for the 250th anniversary of the United States. The American story is one of 250 years of great sacrifices, freedoms and the responsibility to bear those freedoms well.

This month I want to talk to you about a special kind of freedom - freedom in retirement.

What do you want your retirement to look like? Maybe you'd like to spend more time with family, travel, volunteer or pursue hobbies.

If you're already retired, you likely know how important it is to prepare financially for this period of life.

Retired or not, have you considered just how long your retirement could be? It could, in fact, last multiple decades. Will you have enough money to cover the lifestyle you want for years to come?

Now, you might doubt that your retirement will span decades. But what about your family? Will their needs be taken care of when you're no longer here? What legacy do you want to leave your children and grandchildren?

Don't miss the opportunity to prepare for the freedom of long-term financial stability in retirement. While it's easy to get lost in the expenses in front of us right now, planning ahead with insurance and fixed annuities can pay off enormously for you and your loved ones.

The hardest step may be making the initial decision to start. From there, it doesn't need to be intimidating. We're here to partner with you in finding insurance solutions. Whether you want to review the retirement plan you already have in place or are just beginning your journey, we can work together to make sure you have what you need.



James Booritch

Please come see your Field Agent after your next Council meeting and schedule a time to meet. Thank you for your time! Let's continue to thank God for our nation and for all his blessings.



Knights Host Dinner for VA Patients



Something was missing from Assembly 2794's annual Veterans Day Salute to the Veterans dinner at the Our Lady of Hope Parish Hall in Port Orange – the Veterans confined to the Emory L. Bennett State Veterans Nursing Home in Daytona Beach.

“Why don’t we bring a similar dinner to the Vets at the VA?” challenged Bill Piper, an **Assembly 2794** officer who former served as Past Grand Knight, Past Faithful Navigator and former District Deputy.

Working with Faithful Navigator Andy Duzyk, Piper and a committee began drafting plans for an appreciation dinner, taking elements of the annual dinner co-hosted by the Assembly and **Council 8086** since 2019.

The dream came through to fruition on Friday, July 3, with a packed house of appreciative Veterans and staff at the VA.

Unfortunately, Piper was not alive to realize his dream. He passed away from an illness in May, active with the Knights up until the very end. His wife, Mary, helped with the dinner arrangements, as FN Duzyk and his team worked to keep Piper’s dream alive. Bill and May were honored as Florida KofC State Council Family of the Year for 2009-2010.

Our Lady of Hope Minister of Music Debra Main set the tone for the evening by playing

patriotic tunes on the piano, with Duzyk playing the Star Spangled Banner on his trumpet. Vets joined in the singing of several other patriotic tunes.

The meal for the evening was compliments of Mission BBQ of Lake Mary.

The 2026 Salute to Veterans Dinner will be held on Saturday, Nov. 7, at Our Lady of Hope Parish Center. The Assembly also hosts two annual picnics at the VA, along with joining Prince of Peace Assembly 2901 in playing bingo with the Vets on the first Thursday of each month.



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?



**Knights of
Columbus®
Programs**



FAITH

Our goal is to strengthen men and their families in the Catholic faith. Formation in our faith goes beyond mere facts or religious practice to an authentic connection with a loving God and his son Jesus Christ. Programs in this category are designed to...

[Learn more](#)



FAMILY

Father McGivney sought to strengthen the familial bond of father to mother and children to parents. His vision for family life was not only financial and material aid but also spiritual strength. The majority of our time is easily spent in secular circles unless...

[Learn more](#)



COMMUNITY

Knights are called to serve others. Our first principle is Charity – at home with our families and in our communities. When Knights of Columbus members come together as one through their council and parish, they accomplish great things.

[Learn more](#)



LIFE

"Catholics must be committed to the defense of life in all its stages and in every condition" (St. John Paul II, 1995). The urgency of the threat to a culture of life in our world cannot be misunderstood. The Knights of Columbus vigorously defends...

[Learn more](#)

Council 5618 is Cleaning the World

By Nick Leon, DGK

Since its founding in 2009, the organization Clean the World has been addressing two critical global issues: hygiene-related illness and environmental sustainability. For the members of **Bishop Thomas J. Grady Council 5618**, this mission became a hands-on reality in the fall of 2025.

A Local Solution with Global Reach

The origin story of Clean the World is as simple as it is transformative. After witnessing the volume of discarded soap in hotels during his travels, founder Shawn Seipler asked a pivotal question: “What happens to leftover soap in hotel rooms?” Learning that these products were being discarded while millions of children worldwide remained at risk from preventable diseases like pneumonia and diarrhea, he launched a mission to turn hotel waste into a global lifeline.

Given Orlando’s status as a major tourism hub, it serves as the ideal World Headquarters for this international effort. Clean the World now partners with over 8,600 hospitality locations globally to divert used soap and plastic amenities from landfills.

Service in Action: Council 5618 at the Warehouse

Every month, members of Bishop Thomas J. Grady Council 5618 dedicate their time to this cause. On the first Wednesday of each month, volunteers head to the local recycling operations center to assist with sorting and packing. While the work is physically demanding—requiring hours of standing on warehouse floors—the commitment of the members remains steadfast.

As Tom Weninger, who recently visited the facility, noted, the experience is a reminder that impactful service is rarely glamorous. During his visit, it was observed that while the organization’s reach is massive, they do not currently provide printed brochures for distribution, making direct participation and word-of-mouth support all the more vital for the local community.



More Than Just Soap

The partnership yields benefits that extend far beyond individual hygiene kits:

- **Environmental Impact:** To date, Clean the World has diverted over 32 million pounds of waste from landfills. By processing discarded plastic amenity bottles into flakes for new products or clean energy, they are actively fostering a circular economy.

- **Public Health:** Recycled soap is the primary ingredient in the organization’s global hygiene revolution. Since 2009, over 100 million bars of soap have been donated, helping to reduce the impact of hygiene-related illnesses in 127 countries.

- **The WASH Foundation:** Clean the World’s impact is further extended through their partnership with The WASH Foundation, which provides sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs to vulnerable populations, including those experiencing homelessness.

For those interested in supporting this ongoing project, the work being done by Bishop Thomas J. Grady Council 5618 continues to be a shining example of how local service can create a ripple effect of wellness and sustainability around the world.

Knight Launches Evangelization Podcast

In the modern digital landscape, the call to evangelize has moved beyond the parish walls and into the online sphere. Recognizing this, Peyton Meehan—a brother of the **Bishop Thomas J. Grady Council #5618** in Altamonte Springs—and his wife, Cecilia, launched *Some Catholic Podcast* in July 2025.

Both Peyton and Cecilia are deeply rooted in parish life at St. Mary Magdalen. Peyton serves the parish as currently as the Communications Coordinator and serves in the OCIA ministry alongside Cecilia, who also brings over 20 years of experience in choir ministries. Together, they developed the podcast with a clear mission: to provide a reliable, faith-filled resource for Catholics and seekers alike. Through more than 36 episodes, the couple has leveraged their passion for apologetics and Scripture to combat the rise of misinformation and secular confusion online.

“Our mission is to educate and inspire,” says Peyton. “We wanted to create a space that relies on the truth of the faith, anchored firmly in the Bible and the Catechism.”

The podcast has recently reached a significant milestone in viewership, and following: one of its first exclusive interview with a member of the clergy. Episode 36 features Father Mike Mahoney, a priest from Iowa known for his dynamic defense of the faith during his viral "panel" discussions on TikTok. In this insightful conversation, Father Mike discusses his vocation story, offers practical guidance on explaining the Sacrament of Confession to non-Catholics, and provides encouragement to those currently discerning a call to the priesthood.

This episode represents a new chapter for the program, as Peyton and Cecilia plan to expand their reach through further interviews with religious figures and experts.

As a member of the Knights of Columbus, Brother Meehan’s work serves as a testament to the Order’s commitment to faith formation. By utilizing digital tools to reach a wider audience,



he and Cecilia are helping to answer the Church’s call for a "New Evangelization."

Listeners can support this mission by tuning into *Some Catholic Podcast* on Spotify, YouTube, Apple Podcasts, Amazon Music, and iHeartRadio. For more information and to listen to their latest episodes, visit their [Linktree](#).



Archives on Display at State Convention

By Sean Denny, Florida State Council Historian



As we review the 122nd FL State Convention 2026 Convention, I want to explain how well the museum was this year to look at our incredible archives.

On May 21, The Knights of Columbus 122nd Florida State Convention convened at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort Hotel in Orlando. Upon arrival, the State Council was having a meeting in the Board Room on what needed to be accomplished. State Warden Richard Gallant gave me a new "Convention Team" Golf Shirt. State Deputy Mike Gizewski showed me the Gatlin A-2 room where the museum was to be set up. Bob Higgins told me the archives were sitting in Gatlin A-4. I asked one of the registration guys to help me unload the flatbed dolly movers. Soon, Steve Lowrey and I took the Museum Boards, Easels, and Charters to the room.

By 1:30 p.m., I was ready to transform Gatlin A-2 into an archive room. The hotel help provided 12 Easels and 29 Tables. I filmed the progress every

hour as the museum took shape. By 6 p.m., the museum was ready to be shown. I had the Council 2105 Charter and museum boards on the left wall. The 1926 Saint Petersburg Assembly 2105 Charter was in the back left corner. On the back wall were the athletic T-shirts from the 1990s.

A liturgical table in the back right corner had a mannequin dressed in priest vestments. I arranged the chalice and religious medallion coins. Most of the plaques, officer medallions, awards, and one Ceremonial Robe were displayed on the far right wall. The photo albums and scrapbooks were out in the near right corner for visitors to peruse. The State Deputy Portraits were organized in a circle of tables in the center. I had a new Museum Board of Past State Deputies. SK Don Mulholland gave me a Christmas card from a State Deputy from 1931! Just to the left were the fourth degree swords, the new Knights on Bikes Mannequin, and the portrait of Governor Ron DeSantis becoming a Knight in 2022 donated by Supreme Director Scott O'Connor.

Early Friday Morning, I gave tours to the State Deputy and State Photographer who both loved it! Mass began at 9 a.m. with Archbishop Thomas Wenski as the main celebrant. After mass, State Deputy Mike presented a check for Seminarians. We participated in a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration.

We returned to the main hall to get ready for the opening ceremonies. At 12:45 p.m., The Honor Guard marched in leading the State Officers. District Warden Chris Grimberg and I marched in the Banner Parade while patriotic music played. The 122nd Convention was officially open. State Deputy Mike Gizewski and Supreme Secretary John Marrella addressed the delegates. The Knights on Bikes did a presentation of an honorary vest for State Deputy Mike Gizewski.

Chris Grimberg and I went to the museum. On camera he said, "Museum tells the history by itself from start to finish. Everything you want to learn about is here."

On Saturday, I found two new plaques documenting the Florida State Deputies paired with their Chaplains since 1904 to Richard Hughes and Fr Bob Kantor. We began the 7:30 a.m. Mass of Remembrance with Archbishop Patrick Pinder as the main celebrant. After mass, I gave the Supreme Secretary John Marrella a tour of the museum. I met Sergio Lozano from Miami who wanted to help make the museum better. After the banquet, I made it to the museum to start the disassembly. Fr. Martin Dunn had one more look and exclaimed on camera "I am so happy because the State Museum has been a roaring success. I have never before seen how beautifully laid out. People have been visiting at high frequency throughout the convention. Visitors were inspired by the past to be their best in the future. May God bless you always!"

Ron Poussard and Chris Grimberg joined me to break down the museum and load the archives by 10:30 p.m. It was raining so we took the charters and museum boards to my room for the evening.

Early the next morning, we returned to the main hall for Feast of Pentecost Mass at 9a .m. Fr Bob Kantor was the main celebrant. After the mass concluded, Ken Jeffres gave his thoughts on video



on how Council 2105 improved over the last year. He said, "Brothers, I want to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart because of the practice of the work you did for Father. McGivney. There are no words to describe to say how proud we are with the Knights of Columbus Florida State Council. You have done an outstanding job and we are flabbergasted. It is well noted and everyone is looking at you. Thank all of you from the bottom of my heart and God Bless You. Please continue to serve in Jesus' name and Blessed Fr. McGivney."

We welcome both temporary and permanent displays. Please email venner20@aol.com with photos of the archive you want displayed. If it is temporary, please retrieve if no later than the conclusion of the State Banquet on Saturday night next year. In conclusion, The State Museum belongs to you. It gives us a chance to explore and research the rich history of the Florida State Council.

Sir Knight Sean Denny is the Florida Historian and Curator and current Grand Knight of Saint Petersburg Council 2105



A New Fraternal Year



District Deputy 17 Greg Gully officially launched the new fraternal year with a district Organizational Meeting on the first Monday of July.

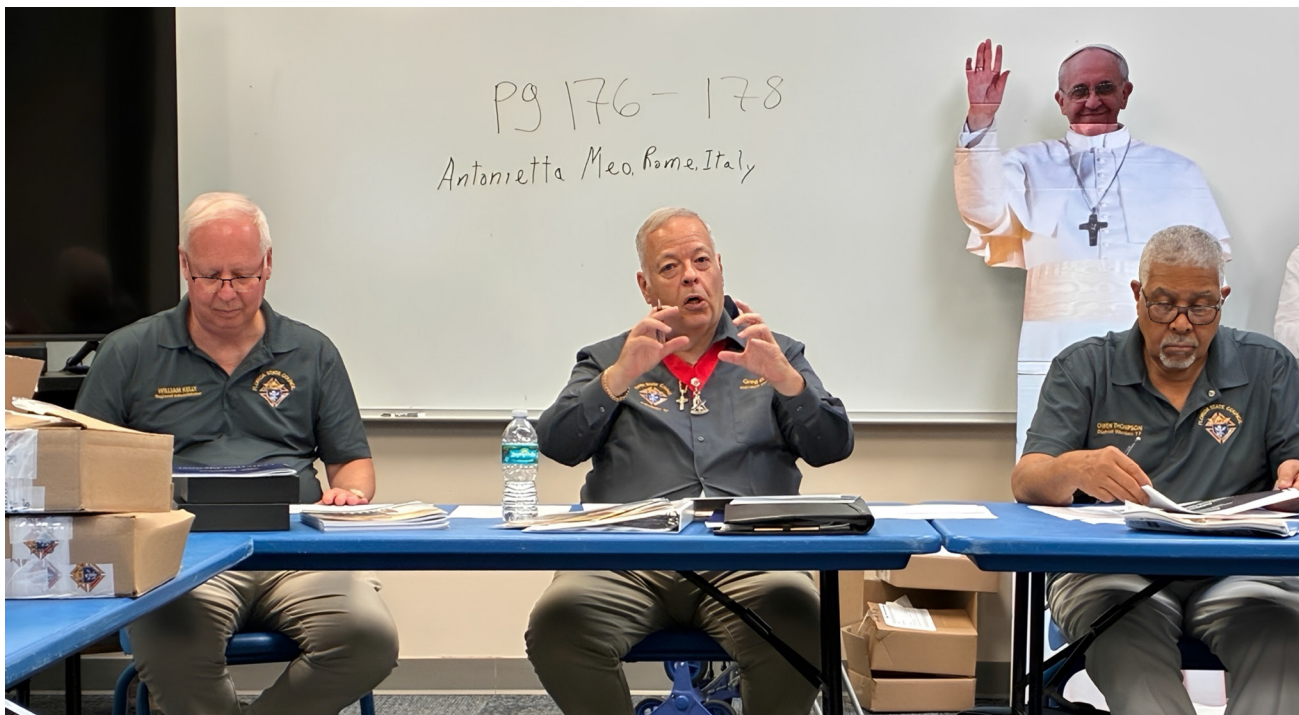
The Grand Knights, Program Directors, and Membership Directors from **Notre Dame Council 10514**, **St. Mary's Council 11961**, and **Mother Seton Council 17480** were in attendance. DD Gully led a number of discussions on the various Supreme Council programs and resources available to ensure successful implementation.

DD Gully announced several new Faith in Action programs that have been introduced this year, including "Build a Bed," "Remembering Our Faithful Departed," "Gospel of Life," "Imitating Saint Juan Diego," and "Celebrating Our Catholic Heart Heritage." It was explained how these programs offer councils additional opportunities to strengthen service to the Church, the local community, and Brother Knights.

District Warden Owen Thompson highlighted the advantage of using webinars to train the incoming council officers. Officers can sign-up for the Fraternal Leaders Advisory on the Florida State Council website to view videos about their individual roles.

The district was honored to welcome Worthy Regional Administrator Bill Kelly, who provided valuable guidance on the new Supreme Council requirements and expectations for the 2026–2027 Star Council Award. RA Kelly outlined the requirements to qualify for the 2026–2027 Star Council Award. Every council must first remain in good standing with the Supreme Council, maintain Safe Environment compliance, submit all required forms on time, and complete Form 1295 (Annual Audit), which must be submitted by August 15th. Timely submission of all forms is key to helping ensure a smooth and successful fraternal year. He also pointed out that there are no changes to the requirements for the Father McGivney Award. Councils must continue to achieve their assigned membership growth goals. The requirements for the Founders Award have changed. Rather than conducting Fraternal Benefit Events, councils must now have their Financial Advisor meet one-on-one with Associate Members. Depending on the size of the council, a minimum of five and a maximum of fifteen individual meetings will be required.

In addition, councils seeking Star Council must complete the following:



- Donate \$500 to one of the following Supreme Council initiatives: Aid & Support After Pregnancy (ASAP), Food for Families, Coats for Kids, or Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP).
- Conduct one Faith in Action program in each of the four categories: Faith, Family, Community, and Life.
- Conduct a monthly COR Faith Formation Program meeting, appoint an Evangelization and Faith Formation (EFF) Director, and submit the required EFF Director form to Supreme.

If a council does not meet the monthly COR requirement, it must instead complete three unique Evangelization and Faith Formation activities, such as building fraternity among members, bringing men closer to Christ, or serving the parish

and local community.

Councils should also be aware that a new SP-7 form (Columbian Award Application) will be introduced. It is already available for viewing through the Officers Online Forms section, although the complete version will not become available until January 1st.

DD Gully closed the meeting by pointing out that having an organization meeting early in the fraternal year is extremely important. District 17 has proudly earned recognition as an All-Star District for many years through the dedication and commitment of its councils. As the councils in the district begin this new fraternal year, working together in faith and fraternity, each individual council, as well as the district, can once again reach these same heights of excellence.

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.



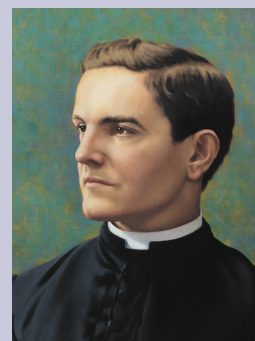
Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael J. McGivney

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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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 X (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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