

# INVOCATION

MAY 2024

OPERATION:  
CODE VET

# Operation: Code Vet



**A**ssembly 3418 participated in a Code Vet painting project on April 27th. The veteran was Mr. Burns who is an elderly US Air Force veteran with disabilities who lives in northwest Brandon.

In February, Code Vet and Home Depot partnered to clean up the property and install a new fence. On April 27th the Assembly gathered at his house with over 32 volunteers from the Assembly, Assembly 1850, Durant AF JROTC, Home Depot department managers, Code Vet team members, friends and relatives.

The day began at 8 a.m. and everyone was working by 9 a.m. The group painted the entire house and installed screening on the lanai. It was amazing how fast the painting was done. We finished about 11:30 with a few tasks left for Code Vet team members to do the following week. We finished a bit early because so much was done and it was starting to get hot.

It was especially great to see the 11 enthusiastic JROTC students get involved and learn some of the handyman skills which most of us take for granted. Mr. Burns' house had a big transformation in four hours. It was the biggest volunteer event Code Vet

has had to date. It was an outstanding example of Charity and Volunteerism. Special thanks to SK Dave Farrugia, our Faithful Admiral for a lot of coordination with Code Vet to put this together.

**Operation Code Vet** is a nonprofit organization that partners with Hillsborough County Code Enforcement to identify veterans who need





assistance to improve the conditions of their home and/or property. Operation Code Vet raises funds, solicits donations of goods and services, and coordinates community outreach efforts and volunteers.

These resources are utilized to help veterans in hardship situations not only get their properties back in code compliance but also to improve their quality of life and the community at large. The group provides volunteers, equipment, and other resources to fix home and yard problems that otherwise could lead to citations or fines.



# Commitment and Dedication

*By State Deputy Richard Hughes*

**A**s we go into the State Convention at the end of May, it is easy to see that the Councils in Florida have taken to heart the Star Council goals set by Supreme—as of mid-May, 26 Councils have already met all of the qualifications, and 163 more are in good position to complete those goals by June 30. In fact, Councils have done so well in Florida that Florida has already exceeded its State goal set by Supreme!

It is heartening to see Council after Council overcome the obstacles in their path and stay true to the mission of the Knights of Columbus. So many Councils have raised funds and put in volunteer hours for such causes as pregnancy centers and Ultrasound programs, helping to feed and house the less fortunate, supporting Vocations and our

seminarians, energizing our faith through the Eucharistic Revival and spiritual reflection programs, and fighting for the right to life.

The Knights of Columbus would not be the organization it is today without your commitment and dedication to serving your parishes and your community. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your commitment and dedication to the Order and its works!



*State Deputy  
Richard Hughes*

## Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

*By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori*

He took the child by the hand and said to her, “Talitha kum,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise!” (Gospel for June 30, Mk 5:41)

**J**esus restores the young girl to life by his word and touch. He restores us to life through the sacraments, particularly the sacrament of penance, with the words of absolution pronounced by his priest. We too can improve the lives of those in need around us, extending to them Christ’s love through our own words and works of charity.

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

This month, I challenge you to find one way each day — even a small way — to concretely

share Christ’s love with those you meet.

### **Questions for Reflection:**

Do you recognize that your charitable works are an extension of Christ’s mission of healing and compassion on earth? How does that awareness affect the work that you do? How might you recognize little opportunities to be a “Christ for others” to people you encounter each day?



# Enlightened by the Spirit

*By State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor*

“When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.” - Acts of the Apostles (Pentecost Sunday)

**T**he liturgies of the Easter season are tremendously inspirational. They capture the profound transformations in the first followers of Jesus from a fearful group hiding in the upper room following Jesus’ crucifixion to courageous dynamos spreading the Good News following his Resurrection and the reception of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. I have seen this transformation in men and women of our time too. Some of them are Knights of Columbus and Columbiettes. You can see it in their lives and actions.

It takes courage today to be a disciple of Jesus and a faithful Knight these days. Our ultimate mission as both is to bring people to Christ on a journey to heaven. This can get lost in the weeds of everyday council meetings and the routine duties our positions entail in the Knights. But, but small things like inviting men to the Order, preparing or serving food at a parish event, engaging in prayer opportunities, and responding

to the charitable needs of our community define who we are.

The Gospel of John which we hear from so much at Eastertime presents choices to be made between light and darkness, good and evil, faith and unbelief, life and death. In a world where evil is often presented as good, the Gospel is what guides us and offers corrective light to the world.



*State Chaplain  
Very Rev. Bob Kantor*

It is the key to happiness and salvation. As Knights, we must carry that light to a darkened world and stand up for what is good and true. It’s not an easy task and we must rely on one another for strength.

Where do we get this strength? A glance at our state pin will remind us that we are inspired by the Holy Spirit and our strength comes from the Eucharist. Grounded as such, God gives us the power to overcome whatever society throws at us. Working together we too will see the great gains in faith experienced in the Acts of the Apostles if we only persevere in courage.

As we grow closer to God and one another in the Spirit, our Order will grow. So will our Church. And the world will be transformed. Vivat Jesus!



# Go Teach All Nations

*By Former State Chaplain Reverend Salvatore Pignato*

**O**n May 9th, the Feast of the Ascension was celebrated in the Eastern Church and on May 12th in the Latin Church. With this Feast, the Easter Season ended. Or did it? In reality, the Feasts of Jesus never end. They do not end because they are living Feasts just as Jesus lives today.

The Feast of the Birth of Christ, for instance, is celebrated and lived every time someone accepts Jesus. There is a new birth in Jesus, and the body of Christ, which is the church, expands and breathes with new life.

When we look at the Feast of the Resurrection of Jesus, we proclaim He is alive when we say, "Christ is Risen." Easter is lived when someone goes to confession and says to Jesus as the son said to his father after coming back home "I have sinned against you and against God." That person

has been freed from sin and rises with Jesus who redeemed him and raises him, as St. Paul said, "Out from under sin." Every time someone who has given up the Church and returns has thus been pulled

back from the gates of Hades and has received the Grace of the Resurrection back into his or life. Thus, a new life is born. A resurrection has taken place.

The Ascension of Jesus shows us that there is another life after this one that is eternal. The Ascension engraves in our spirit the fact that life does not end. It merely changes.

The Ascension of Jesus also inaugurates our ministry in the vineyard of the Lord. We have been

given the care of this world, which was first given to Adam and Eve when God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, have dominion."

This call to ministry, "Go teach nations" has made us a royal priesthood as the Documents of Vatican II states. We are a chosen people in Jesus Christ. And, with the Ascension of Jesus,

He gave to His Apostles, through their baptism and Confirmation, a ministry to "teach all nations. Jesus, through our baptism and Chrismation, gives us the same ministry of spreading His Name to the



*Former State Chaplain  
Rev. Salvatore Pignato*



world. In the Ascension, we have been given a great gift. Jesus always said about His relationship with His Father, "He who sees Me sees Him who sent me." Our relationship with Jesus and His gift given to

us in His Ascension is that we can truly say, "He who sees me sees Him who sent me, Jesus Christ".



# Raising Funds for Military Chaplains



Over the last decade, Knights of Columbus Corpus Christi Assembly 2810 has been one of the few Assemblies in the country raising funds for the support of our Military Chaplains, which is overseen by the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA in Washington, DC.

Each year, the Assembly holds a dinner dance and raffle in conjunction with our annual Past Faithful Navigator dinner. This year's event was held on March 9 in the Santa Maria Del Mar Parish Hall in Flagler Beach.

Prior to the start of Covid in 2020/2021, we raised almost \$70,000 to benefit the military chaplains. We were temporarily stalled during Covid, but our program was restarted again in 2022. This year our Assembly raised more than \$4000 in additional monies, bring our total to nearly \$80,000.

In October of 2023 Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly awarded a Civic Award to Assembly 2810 in recognition of our financial support of the Military Chaplains. Our Assembly is comprised of three District 17 Councils: Notre Dame Council 10514 Flagler Beach ;Mother Seton Palm Coast Council 17480; and St. Mary's Council 11961, Korona.

Planning this event is critical and requires several months of preparation. Our Faithful Navigator must attend all three Council meetings

to announce the event. Our Knights distribute flyers, make announcements and sell tickets at the masses. We solicit ads to appear in our program booklet. This year we received 40 ads from Brother Knights, community members, and local businesses.

Rev. Fr. Manny Lopez, Pastor of Santa Maria Del Mar, and Rev. Fr. Mathew Ibok of Corpus Christi Church, St. Augustine were in attendance.

In his opening remarks, Faithful Navigator, Richard Frieze began the program with a prayer by most Reverend Timothy Broglio for military services. Each table had program booklets with the ads from the businesses that supported the Chaplains dinner dance and additional literature from the Archdiocese for the Military Services.

This very successful event could not have happened without the total support of Fr. Manny and the members of our Assembly. The Ladies of our Assembly contributed many hours of their time with decorations, table setup, registration, clean-up and more. Our outstanding Assembly chef's put out the best dinner we have had in years! Our food servers were volunteers from the Santa Maria Del Mar Teen Life Ministry.

We support our Military Chaplains! God Bless the USA!

# Knights Supporting Veterans



**O**n April 25, 2024, Knights of Columbus from Our Lady of Victory Council 7968, Joseph R Perrone Assembly 2789, and Family members made their Annual VA Support Trip to Biloxi, MS as they have done for the past 20+ years.

They traveled a total of six hours (three hours each way) with four pickup trucks, fully loaded, with an estimated \$9,000 of hygiene supplies, art supplies, gardening supplies, electronics, and clothing that not only helps to enhance their inpatient rehabilitation services, but it also helps to provide needed items to the many homeless vets that utilize some of the VA programs for the homeless.

We also were able to spend a couple of hours playing bingo and serving them snacks and soft drinks. As always, our Veterans appreciate all we bring to them and the time we can spend with them. It is a privilege and an honor to help them.

Additionally, we were given a tour of the Gardening Project(s) planted & maintained by VA Clients using donated gardening supplies.

A special thanks to Rosemary and Tony for organizing, collecting, storing, and purchasing all the donations and items. And thanks to all our Knights and Parish Family who donated and made this year a great success. Thank you and God Bless.



# Council Holds Special Dance



**O**n the fourth Thursday of each month (except November), Knights of Columbus Council 7027 in Milton holds its Fourth Thursday Special Dance at Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church. These dances are hosted for the benefit of our special needs friends and their families at no charge to them.

Each month, the dance has a different theme. In April, the theme was Spring Fling. In May, the theme will be Memorial Day. Everyone gets a name badge to wear. Our DJ, a knight, plays a variety of popular dance music, and everybody

gets on the dance floor for party favorites such as the Loco-motion, Cha-Cha Slide, Macarena, and Limbo Rock. The average monthly attendance has grown from 35 in January of 2019 to nearly 100 now!

Many thanks go to the Saint Rose of Lima Ladies Auxiliary members who provide the soft drinks, chips, and desserts, and who help serve the hot dogs the K of C council provides. Thanks also to Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church for allowing the use of the parish hall and sound system. And thank you to the knights who set up and run the dance.



## Melbourne Knights Lay Wreaths at Vietnam Traveling Wall

**M**onsignor Martin B. Power Council 14573 of Melbourne and its Ladies Auxiliary participated in the Wreath Laying Opening Ceremony of the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall at Wickham Park on Monday, May 6.

This patriotic community-wide annual event is part of the Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard program in Brevard County.

# Council Holds Heroes Casino Night



For the fifth year, Knights of Columbus St. Cloud/Kissimmee Council 6624 held its annual Heroes Casino Night to benefit the families of their local Heroes - the Kissimmee and St. Cloud Fire and Police Departments; Osceola County Sheriff's, Fire Rescue Department and the Department of Corrections; and the local office of the Florida State Highway Patrol - during their time of need.

This year was no different. Chief James Walls from the Kissimmee Fire Department approached the Council and asked if the Council could provide some help to the family of one of the firefighters. The family has two small children and the wife has recently begun treatments for breast cancer. The Council officers voted unanimously to donate the proceeds of Casino night to the family.

On the evening of the Heroes Casino Night, the guests were able to enjoy a fun night of good food, games, and prizes; the dealers provided hints and suggestions to the novice players; and sounds of laughter and cheers filled the room every time someone one won. But the main theme of the

event was charity and, thanks to the generosity of our guests and donors, the Council was able to raise much-needed funds for the family, reducing the need for them to establish a 'go-fund-me" pay their bills.

A special note of appreciation was given to Kathy Martin, the wife of Brother Knight Joe Martin, the Council lecturer. In spite of being in the hospital, she sent her husband to Heroes Casino Night. Joe Martin was instrumental for establishing the Heroes Casino Nights and his presence was a key reason that the event was so successful.

At the end of the evening, as the guests were leaving -- many carrying their prizes with smiles on their faces -- they gave the Council members hugs, thanking them for a wonderful and rewarding evening. Council 6624 is already planning a bigger and better Heroes Casino Night next year.

# Knights on Bikes Annual Meeting



A total of 46 bikers from all around Florida recently met for a weekend in Panama City for the Florida Knights on Bikes annual State Convocation.

The event was organized by KoB members from the Pensacola Tallahassee Diocese. They were joined by the Alabama State President John Blackburn and his wife Nancy.

On Friday, the bikers participated in a leisurely 60-mile ride along the Panama City Coastline. Saturday saw a more aggressive 150-mile ride through the Panhandle farmlands.

The group also held its annual meeting on Saturday, electing several new officers to positions in various dioceses throughout the state.

The convocation closed with Mass on Sunday morning.

Florida KoB is also set to raise money for vocations with their fourth annual ride from St. Cloud to Kissimmee for the Florida State Council convention in Orlando on Thursday, May 23.

The Florida Knights on Bikes are already making plans for next year's convention, which

will be held in St. Augustine. The event will be one to remember, held in conjunction with the international Knights on Bikes rally.



# Knights Organize Food Drop



Our Lady of Hope Council 8086 of Port Orange has partnered with Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida to distribute more than five tons of food during the opening three months of a monthly food pickup program, held on the fourth Friday of each month at the parish parking lot on Clyde Morris Blvd.

After three months, the council has served more than 1,600 individuals. The council has donated

1,000 pounds of meat each month, going with the 10,000 pounds of donated food.

The food drop is held at 9:30 a.m. on the fourth Friday of each month, rain or shine. No appointments are necessary, and there are no requirements to receive food. SK Bill Piper is the council point of contact for the pickup.



# Knights Host “Ambassadors for LIFE” Statue



began on Tuesday April 9, the day after the Feast of the Annunciation. A team of Florida Knights helps JMJ Pregnancy Center move the statue to parishes taking part.

During its stay at St. Ann, the LIFE Statue was positioned under a mural of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the church narthex. The display period lasted until the Friday before Mother's Day. The Knights of St. Ann have a long-standing

**F**ather Philip de Carriere Council 10484 hosted the LIFE statue from JMJ Pregnancy Center in Orlando during the months of April and May 2024 at St. Ann Catholic Church in Haines City to celebrate the sanctity of life.

JMJ Pregnancy Center is the only Catholic pregnancy center in the Diocese of Orlando. The LIFE Statue, created by world-renowned sculptor Canadian Timothy Schmalz, represents a pregnant Mary carrying her unborn Son, Jesus. The colossal version of the LIFE Statue is on display at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

When visiting Orlando, Schmalz was so impressed to find an all-Catholic pregnancy center, he duplicated a life-size version of the LIFE Statue and gave it to JMJ.

JMJ formed the “Ambassadors for LIFE Campaign” to display in Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Orlando, and other parishes in the State of Florida after that. The campaign's idea is two-fold: promote the sanctity of life among Catholic parishioners, and provide a source of funds for JMJ Pregnancy Center by selling miniature replicas of the LIFE Statue while on display at the parish.

The Knights at St. Ann Church learned of the initiative and secured a month-long display that

commitment to honor unborn children. The Council built a prayer chapel for the unborn in the parish's carillon tower. An Italian sculpture of Blessed Fr. Michael J. McGivney adorns the chapel.

Grand Knight SK David Miller said about the experience, “We appreciate the efforts of JMJ Pregnancy Center and the openness of St. Ann Parish to honor the sanctity of life from its very beginning stages. As brother Knights, we can take pride in our privilege to protect expecting women and their unborn children.”

St. Ann Parish was the third parish in the Diocese of Orlando to host the LIFE Statue since the “We Are Ambassadors for LIFE” Campaign began. For more information about the Campaign, contact JMJ Pregnancy Center by visiting their webpage at [jmjfriends.org/life](http://jmjfriends.org/life).

Pictured with the LIFE statue are from left to right: SK Edwin Guerra, Fr. JoseLuis Ortecano, Deacon SK Frank Morano, SK Stan Wagaman, SK Dave Pipitone, SK John Formella, SK John Tardif (Grand Knight of Council 7091, Winter Haven), Financial Secretary SK Paul Hoffer.

# Knights Award Scholarships



**N**otre Dame Council 10514 in Flagler Beach awarded seven \$500 college scholarships to young adults of Santa Maria del Mar Parish. While Council 10514 traditionally awards two scholarships each year, anonymous donors from the generous council membership provided five additional scholarships for this year's recipients.

Each applicant must be a member of Santa Maria del Mar Parish in Flagler Beach and looking to pursue undergraduate studies in a two- or four-year college or technical college. The applicant may be an entering freshman or upper classman.

Each applicant submitted a written essay that answered the following questions:

What school or schools are you looking to attend; What is your intended course of study; What are the goals you hope to achieve; What activities have you been involved in: (Parish, School and Community); free time (hobbies); and how would the grant monies be used.

The scholarship awardees received their checks and certificates at the April Santa Maria del Mar Parish Breakfast.

Pictured are scholarship winners Claire Collins, Mia Nilsen, Natlia Alicea, Charlotte Low and Isabella Papa, receiving their awards from GK Bob Conochalla and PGK Bryant Perszyk. Additional recipients were Taylor and Jordan Verdugo.

**D**id you know that the State of Florida Council has a YouTube Channel? Well, we do! This is a place where we can put in videos of the all the great things that we do as Knights in the State of Florida.

During the State Convention we took video interviews of some of the Dignitaries that honored us with their presence. You can

see the videos by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Please be sure to subscribe to the channel so you will be notified when new videos are added. If you have any videos that you would like to add that shows your Council doing good works please email Jim Clark, Broadcast Media Relations and Production Director at [jclark1@gmail.com](mailto:jclark1@gmail.com).

# Council Hosts Build-A-Bed Program



In recent months, our Order has noted efforts of brother Knights in working with Sleep in Heavenly Peace (<https://shpbeds.org>) in building children's beds. As described in their media kit, "Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) is a volunteer-driven nonprofit dedicated to building and delivering hand-made, fully furnished beds to children in need.

SHP's mission is to tackle childhood bedlessness, which we estimate to affect nearly 3% of the population." A video summary of Newtown (Connecticut) Council 185's "Build-A-Bed" event, held last year on the birthday of Blessed Michael J. McGivney, can be found at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xs5p3pG\\_sI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xs5p3pG_sI)

While the February webinar "Council Focus Areas for the Next Four Months" <https://goto.webcasts.com/viewer/event.jsp?ei=1655435> suggests that a council provide funding, volunteers, and a large space with electricity to build 20 beds at \$250 each, councils can work with local Sleep in Heavenly Peace chapters ([https://](https://shpbeds.org/chapters/?state=Florida)

[shpbeds.org/chapters/?state=Florida](https://shpbeds.org/chapters/?state=Florida)) to support other scheduled "Build-A-Bed" events without providing funding or a suitable location.

On April 13, eight brother Knights and families of St. Thomas à Becket Council 16236, serving Incarnation parish and St. John Fisher quasi-parish of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, supported a "Build-A-Bed" event at Lowe's Home Improvement in Fern Park north of Orlando. Over a four-hour period, volunteers cut, sanded, and completed sixty beds in an assembly line process. Brother Knights observed that while it was hard work, it provided a tangible impact for those in need, and they look forward to participating in future "Build-A-Bed" events.

Whether your council has the resources and location to fund and host a large-scale event or can work with your local Sleep in Heavenly Peace chapter to support an event in your area, brother Knights and families can put their Faith in Action and serve their community through a "Build-A-Bed" event.

# Knights Support Honor Flight



**J**oseph Petruzzelli, 77 years old, USMC Sgt. (E-5) featured in the photos shaking hands with Michael P. Gizewski, State Secretary, Florida State Council and being embraced by the many supporters, finally got his welcome home after serving in An Hoa, Vietnam, 28 miles southwest of Danang from 1966 to 1967 and coming home just around Christmas of 1967, where the welcome wasn't as great as he received at the April 6, 2024 Honor Flight Reception.

There were over 700 people at the Palm Beach International Airport, West Palm Beach, Florida, where his lovely wife of 56 years, Donna, attended with members of Council 15619, where he is a Past Grand Knight having achieved Star Council. Representing the Knights of Columbus were the Palm Beach Region Drill Team, the Honor Guards of the Palm Beach Assemblies: Divine Mercy Assembly 3698, Father Doherty Assembly 155 and Our Lady Queen of Peace Assembly 2709 and the Columbiettes, along with congressmen, police, fire rescue department. Just a very festive celebration for the welcome home of the 85 veterans who flew into Washington DC to spend the day at the World War II Memorial.

On April 6, 2024, the Florida State Secretary, Michael P. Gizewski, had the honor and privilege of meeting two distinguished military veterans at the Honor Flight Reception at the Palm Beach

International Airport, West Palm Beach, Florida. The Veteran on the right of State Secretary Michael P. Gizewski served was at the shocking bombing of Pearl Harbor by Japanese fighter attack planes. The man to the left of the State Secretary was on the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, where the Foreign Minister and General Yoshijiro Umezu signed their names on the document of surrender at 9:04 A.M. to General McArthur. He accepted the Japanese surrender for the United States, the Republic of China, the United Kingdom, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic and in the interest of other nations at war with Japan.



# Knights Hold Corporate Communion



**N**otre Dame Council 10514 and Corpus Christi Assembly 2810 holds Corporate Communion. The Corporate Communion Mass is a special Mass for Knights of Columbus members to gather and proudly profess their Catholic faith.

They receive the Body of Christ in the Eucharist along with their families and other members of the parish church community. The Assembly 2810 Color Corps provided the honor guard for the Mass. KofC members attended the 9 a.m. Corporate Communion Mass and wore their green

KofC Council 10514 or their dark blue Assembly 2810 shirts.

Pastor and Council Chaplain Manny Lopez recognized the Knights of Columbus to open the Mass. He thanked them for all that they do to serve the church. At the conclusion of the Mass, Fr. Lopez invited everyone to the parish hall for a free parish breakfast prepared by the culinary committee of the Council 10514 Knights of Columbus.



# Council Provides Altar Server Uniforms



**O**ur Lady Queen of the Apostles Council 12376 in Royal Palm Beach conducted a donation effort that provided the Altar Servers with new alb cassocks and cinctures to replace a well-worn inventory.

The church was presented with a ceremonial check for the nearly \$1800 on the inauguration of their church use on February 18. It was clear from the onset – which was an inquiry for help from one of the Church deacons – that this was not only an opportunity to support our mission to assist the Pastor but a way to reinforce the close relationship of the Knights with Altar Servers. They are a future source of vocations, Knights and other church ministries. This effort also turned out to be- in retrospect – a not so surprising finding that a clear 85+% of the many donations to this project were from Altar boy Knights. This effort was well received by our pastor, deacons and the parishioners

For our 23 altar servers (16 boys and 7 girls) who assist the celebrant and deacons at all six

weekend masses we have a creative feature of the new alb cassocks – which are totally white but are accompanied by are a variety of different cinctures which serve to color coordinate with the celebrant's vestments.



# Knights Assist Casino Night



**K**nights from Our Lady of Hope Council 8086 in Port Orange approached the Eastern Deanery of the Orlando Diocese earlier in the year with a plan to raise funds for the Catholic schools serving Volusia County.

The deanery embraced the plan, putting together a Casino Night that was held on April 12.

More than 200 attended the gala, which included nearly a dozen table games including roulette, dice and cards, in addition to a raffle. The event raised more than \$22,000, which will be divided among Father Lopez Catholic High School, Sacred Heart, St. Paul, St. Brendan, St. Peter and Lourdes Academy. In addition, the deanery will establish an endowment to help sustain long-term growth.

Leading the Council 8086 efforts were DGK Ernie Jackson and GK Roger Packard, working with Our Lady of Hope and Council Chaplain Father Matt Mello. Two dozen Knights worked the event in various capacities.

Knights from Father Downey Council 4934 provided additional Knight power, running the bank and a jail.



# Council Donates to Pregnancy Crisis Center



**F**ather Downey Council 4934 of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in New Smyrna Beach held a new Lenton initiative, 40 4 Life. The initiative was started by new Deputy Grand Knight SK Chris Hennessy, working with Life Director Rich Ross.

To participate, Knights donated \$40 in cash or supplies for the Pregnancy Crisis Center in Daytona Beach.

At the conclusion, a group of Knights visited the Pregnancy Crisis Center and presented them

with a check for \$1,000 and several cases of diapers. They were given a tour of the center by the director, learning about the wonderful things the volunteers do for women who have nowhere to turn, and their babies.

The day began with a rosary and then 8 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart. After breakfast at the parish school, Council Chaplain Father Aldrin Nunez led the delegation to visit the center.

## Are You A Member?

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

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

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



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

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

sent free to Guild members.

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



# FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

*The nonpartisan public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Florida*

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## 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.<sup>i</sup> 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

<sup>i</sup> 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](http://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.<sup>1</sup> 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**  
Diócesis de St. Petersburg

**Reverendísimo William A. Wack, CSC**  
Diócesis de Pensacola-Tallahassee

**Reverendísimo Erik T. Pohlmeier**  
Diócesis de St. Augustine

**Reverendísimo Enrique E. Delgado**  
Arquidiócesis de Miami

<sup>1</sup>La ley de la Florida distingue entre el consentimiento parental previo al aborto de una menor (Cap. 390.01114(5)), que sería invalidada por la enmienda 4, y la notificación parental del aborto de una menor (Cap. 390.01114(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 1<sup>st</sup> of each month**
  - Late submittals will be placed farther down the newsletter or not published.
- Proof your article carefully for spelling and grammar before sending (**use spellcheck**)
- Document filename should reflect the office/title, i.e. State Deputy article
- Every Region needs to participate – one page of the Invocation will be dedicated to each Region respectively
  - If a region does not submit content their page will be eliminated from that issue
- Cover story submissions need to be submitted ahead of the deadline due to special photo editing
  - Cover story photos – in portrait style at least 1mb in size - not formatted or resized
  - filename "Cover Story"

Send all information:

Region 1: Robert C. Guillery [rag130@outlook.com](mailto:rag130@outlook.com)

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

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



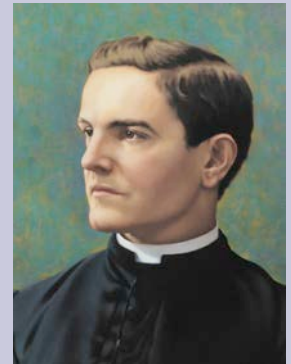
### Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael J. McGivney

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

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

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

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



## Is Your Personal Information Accurate?

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

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

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

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

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

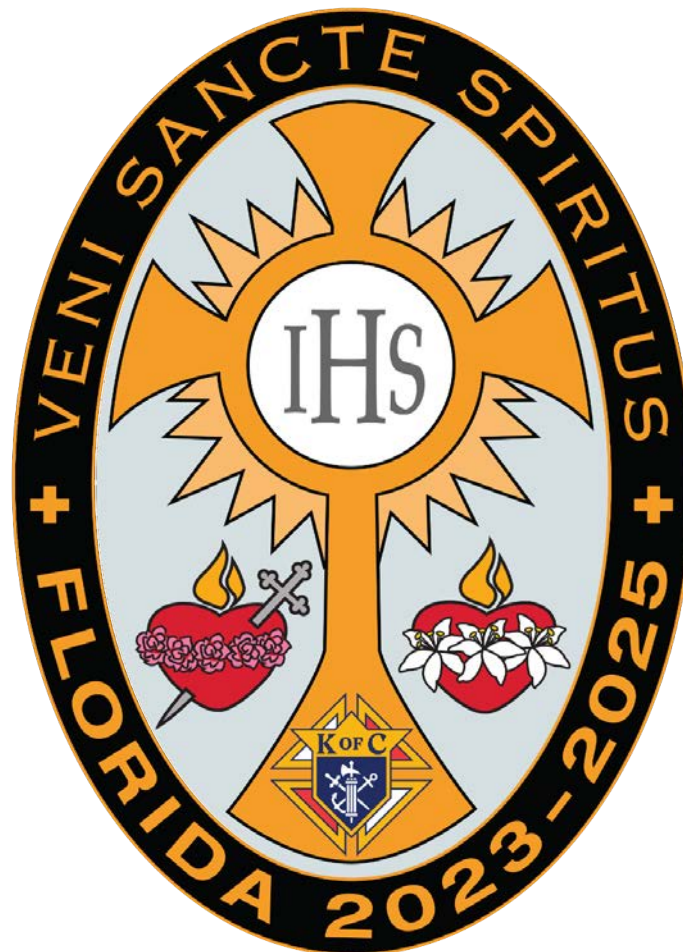
Evangelize and proclaim our faith, protect families, and perform works of charity.

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

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

Incorporate principled fiscal responsibility for charitable giving.

## The Florida State Logo



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Region 7 (Open)

Region 8 (Open)

## Florida State Council Social Media

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

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



## Knightline

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN SERVICE TO ONE IN SERVICE TO ALL

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

## COLUMBIA

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

