

# INVOCATION

May 2026



Assembly Supports  
Fisher House

# Assembly Provides Full Course Meal



**O**n April 1, 2026 the **Monsignor Scully Assembly #3418**, provided a full course meal for residents of the Fisher House at the James A Haley VA Hospital in Tampa, FL.

Sir Knights Mark Lovejoy, Gerry Coffey, Rich Sarnowski and Roland Tiso delivered the fare from our caterer Publix Catering Service and assisted the VA Fisher House coordinator with setting up the meal. The dinner fed 35 to 50 veterans and their families. The staff at the Fisher House and the residents were thrilled with the ongoing support provided by our Assembly.

Fisher House Foundation builds comfort homes where military & veteran families can stay free of charge, while a loved one is in the hospital.

These homes are located at military and VA medical centers around the world. Military and veterans' families who live more than 50 miles from the VA Hospital can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment.

Fisher Houses have up to 20 suites, with private bedrooms and baths. Families share a common kitchen, laundry facilities, a warm dining room, and an inviting living room.

Since inception, the program has saved military and veterans' families an estimated \$650 million in out-of-pocket costs for lodging and transportation.

Fisher House Foundation also operates the Hero Miles program, using donated frequent flyer miles to bring family members to the bedside of injured service members as well as the Hotels for Heroes program using donated hotel points to allow family members to stay at hotels near medical centers without charge. The Foundation also manages a grant program that supports other charities and scholarship funds for military children, spouses, and children of fallen and disabled veterans.



# A Job Well Done

**B**rothers, there are moments in our journey when we pause—not to rest, but to recognize the grace of God moving through the work of our hands. This is one of those moments.

As of May 1, the Florida State Council has reached its Circle of Honor membership requirement. What a tremendous accomplishment. What a powerful testament to your dedication, your sacrifice, and your unwavering commitment to the mission entrusted to us. Simply put—well done.

And yet, even in celebration, we remain grounded in who we are and why we serve.

We are not an organization that exists to meet quotas or check boxes. We are Catholic men called to action. We are men of faith, men of charity, men of fraternity. Every number we report represents a soul. Every new member represents a man who has heard something stirring in his heart and responded to that call. That is the true meaning behind this achievement.

So yes, we celebrate. But we do so with humility, knowing that the work is not finished.

Our fraternal year does not end until June 30. That means there are still weeks ahead—weeks filled with opportunity, with purpose, and with responsibility. Because the truth is this: there are still countless men out there searching. Searching for brotherhood. Searching for meaning. Searching for a place where they can live their faith more fully and serve something greater than themselves.

## **We have what they are searching for**

We have the gift of the Knights of Columbus—a gift given to us through the vision of Blessed Michael McGivney, a priest who saw the needs of his people and responded with courage and faith. That same call echoes today. It echoes in our parishes, in our communities, and in the quiet hearts of men who are waiting—perhaps without even realizing it—for someone to invite them.

## **That someone is us.**

Each of us has a responsibility, not born out of obligation, but out of love. Love for our faith. Love for our families. Love for our brothers. And love for those who have yet to join us.

There is a certain joy that comes from inviting a man into this Order. Not because we are growing

our numbers, but because we are changing lives. We are giving a man a path—a way to deepen his faith, to serve his community, to stand shoulder to shoulder with other men striving to be better husbands, better fathers, better disciples of Christ.

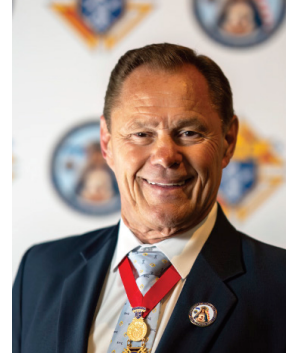
Think about the moment you joined. Think about what the Knights have meant to you. The friendships. The service. The faith. The sense of belonging. Now imagine that same gift waiting for someone else—waiting for you to extend the invitation.

## **This is where our work continues**

We cannot become complacent because a goal has been reached. We cannot slow down when there is still so much good to be done. If anything, this accomplishment should ignite us. It should inspire us to go further, to reach higher, to bring even more men into this brotherhood.

Because the mission has never been about doing just enough. The mission is about doing everything we can for the glory of God.

In these remaining weeks of the fraternal year, I ask you to reflect on that mission. Look around your parish. Look at the men sitting beside you at Mass. Look at your friends, your neighbors, your coworkers. There are men there who are waiting. They may not say it out loud, but they are searching for purpose, for direction, for something more.



*State Deputy  
Michael P. Gizewski*

**We have the answer**

But an answer unspoken is an opportunity missed.

So let us go forward with renewed energy. Let us go forward with courage. Let us go forward with the joy that comes from knowing we are part of something truly meaningful.

Let us be bold in our invitations, but always gentle in our approach. Let us be proud of who we are, but always humble in how we serve. Let us be persistent, not for our own recognition, but for the sake of the men who have yet to hear the call.

And above all, let us keep Christ at the center of everything we do.

Because it is not through our own strength that we achieve anything. It is through Him. It

is through His grace that we have reached this moment, and it is through His guidance that we will continue forward.

**Brothers, thank you**

Thank you for your dedication. Thank you for your faith. Thank you for your willingness to serve. You have done something extraordinary, and you should take pride in that—but never lose sight of the greater purpose.

There is still work to be done.

There are still souls to reach.

There are still lives to change.

And together, with God’s grace, we will continue this mission—not just until June 30, but for as long as we are called to serve.



# A Month of Spiritual Riches

*By State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor*

“There appeared to them tongues as of fire.”  
~ Acts 2:3

**F**or Catholics, May evokes happy memories of First Communions, May Crownings and the celebration of Our Lady of Fatima.

This May includes Pentecost and the celebration of the Holy Spirit breathing life into the Church and our lives. It is Mary’s month as well as the month in which we honor our mothers. In the Florida State Council, under the care of our patroness, Our Lady of Guadalupe, we conclude the month at our State Convention and honor the fallen on Memorial Day Weekend. For Floridians living where seasonal populations fluctuate, it’s also the month we bid farewell to the last wave of snowbirds.

May is a special month for many reasons, but with so many ties to the Blessed Mother, it’s a great time to ask for help from Mary, Queen of Knights! What better way to present our petition, then in the context of a rosary. I remember returning to the practice of praying it as a young businessman in upstate New York. As I began discerning a call to priesthood, my morning commute to work included the rosary. My First Communion rosary was once again in use.

Praying the brought me peace and clarity about where God was calling me. Working in the field of

radio broadcasting at the time, I went from channel surfing for entertainment and analyzing station programming decisions to a quieter approach to the morning drive. It fed my spirit, and the time behind the wheel became a welcome respite from the busyness of life. Ultimately, the prayer time led me closer to Christ in the priesthood.



*State Chaplain  
Very Rev. Bob Kantor*

You don’t have to be called to a religious vocation to enjoy the fruit of Mary’s intercession through the Rosary. Try it yourself, if only a decade at a time, during your drives, or as you walk from the car to your destinations, whether they be offices, stores, restaurants, or church. The rosary’s repetition can calm our spirits. After a while, praying it is as natural as breathing. We become more open to God’s plan for us, more accepting of God’s will. Mary intercedes for our good. Jesus listens to his mother like a good son and answers our prayer.

Mary, Queen of Knights, pray for us! Vivat Jesus!

**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).

# Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

*By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori*

Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. (Gospel for April 19, Lk 24:35)

**T**he disciples on the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until the breaking of the bread. Jesus promised he would be with us always, and the Eucharist is his fulfillment of that promise. We encounter his presence most profoundly in the Eucharist, where he is truly present — body, blood, soul, and divinity — under the appearance of bread and wine. The disciples' experience on the road to Emmaus was no ordinary meal, but an encounter with Christ, who invites us, too, to enter into communion with him through the Eucharist.

**A**s we are winding down the 2026 Fraternal year there are a few **Special Olympic** events that have taken place or are upcoming in the near future.

The State Summer Games are happening in Orlando from May 15-16 at the ESPN Wide World of Sports complex at the Walt Disney World Resort.

The athletes who are competing at the State games had to qualify through the district and regional competitions, weeks and months before the State Games. They are some of the best athletes who compete in the 8-9 different sports events at the games.

At the Summer Games, the athletes also have the opportunity to see several different physicians, like eye doctors, hearing, dental, feet, strength and mental health to ensure that they continue to be in the best overall health.

Knights of Columbus members and councils can volunteer during the two-day event by signing up at [specialolympicsflorida.org](http://specialolympicsflorida.org) and look for the events tab. They offer a t-shirt and box lunch for

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

This month, I challenge you to remain in prayer and adoration for several minutes after Mass to grow in awareness of Christ's true presence in the Eucharist.

## **Questions for Reflection:**

Do you fully realize it is the true body and blood of Christ that you receive in the Eucharist? Do you habitually pray in thanksgiving after Communion for this immeasurable gift? Do you consistently participate in Mass on Sundays and holy days? Do you make an effort to attend more frequently, so that you might avail yourself of the graces of this great sacrament?

your time. The Summer Games has a unique and special opening ceremony for the athletes at the baseball stadium on Friday evening. The athletes from around the State sit with their fellow county athletes and enjoy the music, talks and the dramatic entrance of the sheriff officers on their motorcycles, cars and oversize vehicles, with their lights and sirens going, such a sight. Once again, the Fourth Degree Color Corps will be presenting the Special Olympics Flag at the Opening Ceremony.

The State Equestrian Games were in Ocala at the World Equestrian Center and a local color corps presented the flag at the opening ceremony on March 27. There are several different classes that the Olympians can compete in during the two-day event. Knights of Columbus supported and volunteered at the event.

The Knights of Columbus are proud to support Special Olympics in a variety of ways. Councils and fellow Brothers should take advantage of this last opportunity of the Summer Games, the final activity of the Fraternal year.

## Casino Night Benefits Volusia Catholic Schools



The third annual Catholic Schools Casino Night at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church attracted a capacity crowd, raising funds to benefit Catholic education in the Orlando Diocese Eastern Deanery.

The Las Vegas-themed event was held on Friday, April 10, at the Father Raymond O’Leary Parish Hall, and raised approximately \$70,000. It was hosted by Knights of Columbus **Our Lady of Hope Council 8086**, with strong support from **Father Downey Council 4934** of Sacred Heart Church in New Smyrna Beach, Father Eamonn Gill Council 13018 of St. Brendan the Navigator in Ormond Beach, and additional Volusia County Councils.

The evening included a variety of Las Vegas-style table games, while Elvis Tribute Artist Allan Coffin entertained guests throughout the evening.

A highlight was a drawing for a Ford Bronco Sport, presented by parishioner Larry Mullinax, owner of Mullinax Ford who sponsored the Car Raffle. Jeff Stanfield of Acworth, Georgia held the

winning ticket. Stanfield was a first-time visitor to the area, and attended the event at the last minute when a friend had an extra ticket to the sold-out event. After winning raffle chances on a slot machine, he entered the drawing for the final ticket to the Bronco raffle. He not only won the final ticket, that ticket also proved to be the winner of the Ford Bronco.

The funds will be distributed to Father Lopez Catholic High School in Daytona Beach, Sacred Heart Elementary School in New Smyrna Beach, St. Peter Elementary School in Deland, Basilica School of St. Paul in Daytona Beach, St. Brendan the Navigator Elementary School in Ormond Beach, Lourdes Academy in Daytona Beach, and the Catholic Foundation of Central Florida’s Scholarship Fund for Volusia County Catholic schools.

# An Event To Remember



**M**iami's 250th Exemplification will be an event to remember. The Miami area will host an Exemplification on Saturday, June 27, at St. Bonaventure Catholic Church, 1201 SW 136th Avenue in Davie.

The Miami-area ceremony will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. Retiring Miami Archbishop Most Rev. Thomas Wensky will be the honoree. An impressive guest list is gathering for the event, led by Supreme Master Michael McCusker and Supreme Director and Past State Depute Scott O'Connor. The registration deadline is Friday, June 12.

Third Degree Knights are encouraged to join the Patriotic Degree, and experience the revitalized ceremony that debuted at New York City's St. Patrick's Cathedral on Washington's

Birthdays in 2025 – the 125th anniversary of the Fourth Degree.

The 125th anniversary celebration was an event to remember. The country's 250th anniversary Exemplification promises to be equally memorable,

Unlike former years, family members and friends are encouraged to attend, Sir Knights who took the Fourth Degree prior to 2025 are also invited to experience that stresses the importance of becoming a Patriotic Catholic Citizen.

The Miami area ceremony will be the Florida District of the DeSoto Province's second Exemplification this month. On May 9, Immediate Past State Deputy Rick Hughes will be the honoree for the next Fourth Degree Exemplification in Naples.

The Naples Exemplification will take place at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 625 111th Ave N, Naples.

# Proof That Life Begins at Conception

*By Rev. Martin Lauzerne Dunne III, KofC Chaplain for Diocese of Palm Beach*

**M**ary's 'In haste' proof that life begins at conception. All we ever have control over is our ability to say yes or no. Mary's "yes" to God's plan led to God saving all humanity. When we say "yes" we say that God's will is the path to ultimate happiness!

Immediately before The Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth, Mary said, "yes" to God's invitation to be the mother of Jesus. But this greatest of honors came with the greatest of challenges, from convincing others she conceived by the Holy Spirit to watching her son suffer & die on the Cross. We gain many challenges by saying yes to God's special plans for us, but Mary knew certainties will always infinitely outweigh any challenge.

The Visitation is the only use in the entire New Testament of phrase cried out, to unmistakably point-out to the joy. Luke's language echoed the words of David when the Ark arrived to his home. Mary is the new ark. Show your joy at the way God visited you you, especially thru his will for your life. Blessed means manifestation of God's loving presence. God promises ultimate blessing for trusting His will as best. Elizabeth, for her faithfulness, not only was blessed to be mother of John, but was visited by God thru Mary & thru the Holy Spirit, showing that it's God that both gives and proclaims Mary's blessing. Luke makes it clear Elizabeth could not know Mary's news until she arrived. Elizabeth called Mary was most blessed: better translated "most happy."

This all drives home the call to fulfill God's will with haste. Haste is not rushing. The ancient use of the word haste conveys faith, motivation, joy, wonder, eagerness, sincerity, but especially urgency, not wanting to lose one moment b/c you see how precious each moment is. Once it's gone, the seal of eternity is upon that moment forever, whether used best or not. In spite of the sword that pierced her heart Mary always acted out of love,



out of joyful trust.

Historians agree that the distance from Mary's to Elizabeth's home was about 90 miles, it took a perilous journey of several days to complete. Elizabeth would not even be able to know Mary was visiting. But when you "do the math," because of Mary's haste, the Annunciation occurred only a week before the Visitation. Jesus was in Mary's womb only a matter of days and at little more than a microscopic size. Yet the moment Mary arrived, both Elizabeth and John the Baptist, himself only six months in Elizabeth's womb, INSTANTLY recognized Mary was carrying God within her.

What more proof do we need that LIFE BEGINS AT CONCEPTION?

We, like Mary & Elizabeth can have great joy thru God's will! As we fulfil our purpose more each day, we cling to the reality that God's path, wherever it may lead, is the greatest path to eternal happiness!

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# The History of Holy Water

By SK Scott O'Connor

**W**e men, as Knights of Columbus, pledge to “do all in our power to defend and support the Church” which includes learning and practicing our faith. As we grow older sometimes, we forget what we learned as children and need to be reminded of the significance of certain established values that are part of our common faith.

When entering a Catholic Church, we Catholics practice dipping the finger(s) of the right hand in the font with holy water and making the Sign of the Cross and we repeat this ritual on leaving the church. The holy water in the font is holy only insofar as it has been blessed (or sanctified) by a priest or deacon. The water itself is not magic. Its power depends on the prayers, faith and devotion of the person who uses it. In making the Sign of the Cross with holy water, one expresses faith in God as Father, God as Son, and God as Holy Spirit and asks God's blessing in the name of the same three divine persons. This ritual action of blessing oneself also serves as a reminder of one's baptism.

John the Baptists use of water symbolized a new beginning – like being spiritually washed in preparation for the arrival of the Messiah.

## **He performed a one-time immersion**

It symbolized repentance and preparation for God's coming kingdom

It was offered to everyone, not just those needing ritual purity. It is described in the Gospels as a “baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”

Water, itself, has a long association with God's saving deeds. With water all things are washed and nourished. Water is life giving for all of nature and vegetation. Water flowed from the rock as God's gift to his chosen people. The water of the Red Sea was divided to liberate God's people from slavery. Jesus was baptized in the waters of the Jordan. He came walking on the water to calm the storm on



the Sea of Galilee. Ritual washings were required for Jewish people before entering the temple; and, of course, this prefigured baptism.

Holy water is also used by the priest to sprinkle the congregation during the entrance rite of the Mass. It is used by priests when blessing homes, animals, places of business, automobiles, and objects of devotion such as medals, rosaries, etc.

Another type of holy water is found in holy wells and at places associated with apparitions of Mary or saints, and at special holy sites - Lourdes, Fatima, etc.

Easter water is blessed at the Easter Vigil and is given a somewhat more solemn form of blessing (Easter candles are dipped in the water, drops of chrism) than "regular holy water". It is used for baptisms.

So the next time you enter a Catholic Church, you will remember why we bless ourselves with the holy water...

# State Museum Plays Key Role in State Convention

*By Sean Denny, Florida State Council Historian*



**A**s we prepare for the 2026 Convention, let's take a walk down memory lane on the incredible Florida State Council Archives.

Sir Knight Sean Denny joined the Knights of Columbus in 2009. He attended his first State Convention in 2012 in Orlando at the Renaissance Sea World Hotel. A mutual friend, Sir Knight Joe LaGuardia, introduced him to SK Anthony "Tony" Nalli, who was the State Curator at the time, who recruited him make a video of Interviews with Past State Deputies of the Florida State Council, including Frank X Scandone, Jim Cupp, and Douglas Murray. He also interviewed the Keynote speaker, Patrick Kelly, who became Supreme Knight in 2022.

Following the Convention, Nalli and State Deputy Chris Kernan appointed Denny "Curator Assistant," with responsibilities including taking a photographic inventory of the archives plus digitizing photos and old minutes of the Florida Council.

Here is a look at Convention highlights over the years:

**2013:** By the time the 2013 Convention arrived, Sean and Tony worked together to set up and tear down the museum. Sean donated three science boards with vintage Knight Messengers, 50th Anniversary Book, and photos of Past Grand Knights.

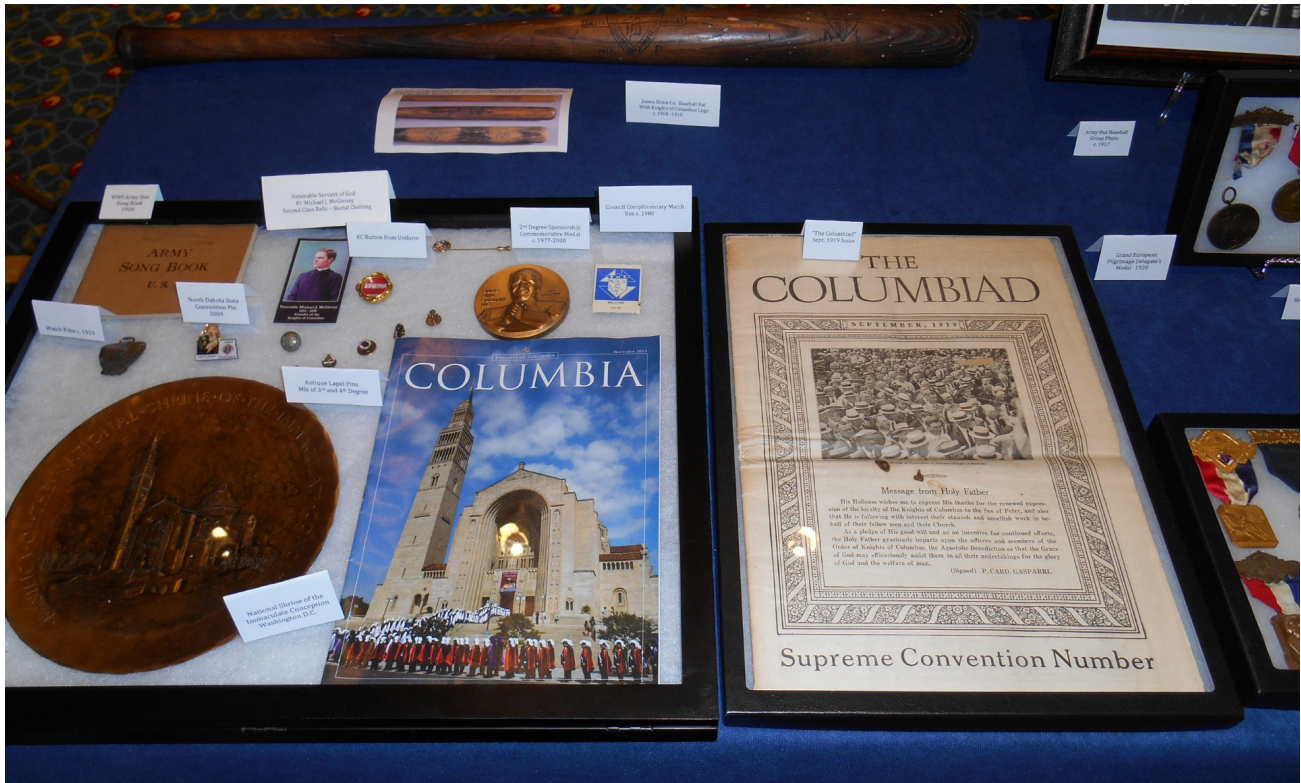
**2014:** Highlights of the 2014 Convention included a display of Fourth Degree Regalia on mannequins, swords, magazines, and other archives donated by Guest Curator Robert Gale from Pasco County.

**2015:** This was final State Convention at the Renaissance Sea World Hotel.

**2016:** The Florida State Council Convention would convene at the Grand Caribe Convention Center at Caribe Royale Resort. Robert Gale, Tony Nalli, and Sean Denny arrived to help setup the State Museum. A living facility pod was set up at the Convention Center entrance. New ones had been built for Pinellas Hope by **St. Raphael's Council 10157**. There were three separate living spaces in one unit. Officially they had been named "Hope Cottages."

State Deputy Donald Goolesby asked

## INVOCATION



St. Raphael's Council again to give their presentation on the Hope Cottages during the business meeting. A video was shown to the delegates describing how the Hope Cottages were assembled. They asked for financial help with this Charity giving shelter for future units.

Immediately after the 2016 Convention, Nalli officially retired, making Denny the State Curator. The archives were temporarily moved to Pinellas County and then later moved to Orlando.

**2017:** The 113th State Convention's display included tables memorializing Past Supreme Chaplain Dailey, Past State Deputies, Fourth Degree Regalia, Liturgical Vestments on a pair of mannequins, and **Council 2105's** Traveling Museum. District Deputy #12 Vanoy Counts donated the Knights of Columbus PEACE AND WAR book. John Rafferty from Pensacola also presented a temporary donation of a Council charter, Social Baldrick and a bust of Christopher Columbus.

**2018:** The 114th event was held for the first time at the Hyatt Regency next to the Orange County Convention Center. Banners, plaques, vestments, awards, swords, regalia, Canvas Portraits, Photo Albums, and Past State Deputy photos were

among the displays. Ron Winn from Pensacola brought in the Holy Family Icon to display. A metal trough running around the perimeter of the room displayed many the plaques. District Deputy Tom Wozniak donated a Left-Handed Sword from 1930s. Members from Jacksonville also loaned their Council Charter.

**2019:** The State Museum was included in the Silver Springs Room, and included two old charters: 12-21-1919 **Council 2105** and 2-28-1926 **Assembly 2105**. The display included Council 2105 museum panels, plaques, pictures, canvases, regalia, and banners.

State Secretary Scott O'Connor donated Third Degree Exemplification Robes. Tom Wozniak and Jorge Mercado loaned antique swords.

**2021:** Following an online Convention in 2020 due to the pandemic, the 2021 Convention returned to the Hyatt Regency. Denny brought the **Assembly 2105** Charter, **Council 2105** Charter, Museum Boards, and Banner to the Convention Hall. Florida Fourth Degree State Master John O'Toole said the sword on display with the eagle hilt would have likely been in possession of the first State Deputy in 1904.

Supreme Master and Past State Deputy Dennis

Stoddard handed over a chance coin from Our Lady of Lourdes (France) as a donation to the State Museum. The inscription read “Religiously Devoted, Patriotically Proud.”

The State Curator gave an update on the museum and announced that the State Council was negotiating with the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary Queen of the Universe to permanently house the State Archives within the next couple years. The links to the YouTube videos can still be found at: <https://youtu.be/txE7frlLqbs> and <https://youtu.be/V3k3cCOk0LU>.



**2022:** Scott O’Connor introduced the staff to Joe McGivney and his wife, and he was given a private tour. Joe was a Deputy Grand Knight of the **Jupiter Council 13139** and is the Great-Great Nephew of Blessed Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus. Other private tours were given to dignitaries Past State Deputies Chris Kernan and Jim Schonefeld, State Deputy Robert Urrutia, Supreme Director Scott O’Connor, Chaplain Fr. Bob Kantor, and Fr. Bob Webster. Among the visitors to the museum was a former teacher at St. Jude, who knew some of the guys in the **Assembly 0159** Fourth Degree and a council who has information about William O. Boutwell (1901-1907), the first State Deputy of Florida.

**2023:** Memorabilia included trophies, Fourth Degree Regalia, canvases, State Deputy Portraits, Sport shirts and caps, and scrap books. Set the State Deputy Portraits chronologically. State Treasurer Mike Gizewski and Past State Deputy Scott O’Connor and were impressed with the organization of the museum. Scott contributed his old chapeaux and a copy of his book, *One Knight’s Journey: Perspective Of A Knights Of Columbus State Deputy Scott A. O’Connor*.

Lorenzo Rodriguez scanned old convention minutes. He explained Past State Deputy John Adamson (1959-1961) was instrumental in establishing the Miami Council that Lorenzo is a member. Bill McLeland and Pete Grasso from St. Jerome’s in Largo donated a box of archives

donated by Past State Deputy Robert Anderson. These archives included a large portrait, jewelry, Assembly charter, and other certificates.

The Florida State Council was honored to not only have Past Supreme Master Dennis Stoddard attend the Mass, but also Past Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. He was elected in 2002 and held the office through 2022, and was Keynote Speaker at the Convention.

Anderson has done much for the Knights of Columbus and was our liaison to several Popes and US Presidents. He spoke to the delegates on how happy he was to return to Florida. He said “we are the largest Catholic Company in the World.” Denny escorted Past Masters Dennis Stoddard and Robert Read, who both gave valuable history lessons. Stoddard described his visit with the Pope and the Sistine Chapel. Bob Read said he designed the 2006 Supreme Emblem. Bob Read and Bob Rasch liked the Bob Anderson memorial and commented the only thing missing were brightly colored socks. Master John O’Toole cleaned an antique sword that had an eagle on the hilt. He said this sword was used to knight State Deputies starting in 1904. Everyone who saw the museum commented how well done it was.

**2024:** The 120th State Convention convened at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Orlando for the final time. State Warden Ed Sleyzak bought new large plastic container boxes to replace the old cardboard and broken plastic boxes. Allen McCaffery setup

the Charter for the First Florida **Council 611** on loan for the weekend.

Archbishop Patrick Pinder was the main celebrant of the Memorial Mass. State Deputy Richard Hughes paid tribute to Past State Deputies Stan Zgurzynski (2003-2005), Doug Murray (2009-2011), and Christopher Kernan (2011-2013). Joe McGivney and Scott O'Connor donated their published books to the museum, and gave a museum tour to Supreme Treasurer Ronald F Schwarz.

**2025:** The 121st State Convention was held in Jacksonville for the first time, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Fr. Martin "Marty" Dunn brought scrapbooks from Palm Beach Assembly. Past State Deputy (PSD) Scott O'Connor had a full collection of Degree Ceremonial Robes. PSD/Past Supreme Master Dennis Stoddard brought a volume of hard cover bound COLUMBIA Magazines along with chance coins and plaques. Sleyzak brought new 8x10 Frames to replace the broken ones.

State Chaplain Fr. Bob Kantor blessed the new Knights on Bikes exhibit, that included the debut of the new shirt and vest displayed on a mannequin. Former Historian Tony Nalli said "the museum is better now than when he was Curator!" State Deputy Elect Michael Gizewski endorsed Sean Denny as "the greatest curator and the Smithsonian Museum ought to hire him."

**2026:** We welcome both temporary and



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

permanent displays. Please email [venner20@aol.com](mailto: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.

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.



## 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

**Epiphany Knight's of Columbus #12569**  
*Presents*  
**LIVERPOOL LIVE**  
*and Dinner Show*

**Saturday May 9th**  
**5:30 - 9:30 pm**

**TICKET PRICE \$40**

*All proceeds go towards*  
**Epiphany Knight's of Columbus**  
**#12569** charitable causes!

TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED  
*Online Using QR Code*

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- **Church Office**
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Knights of Columbus®  
Florida State Council



# 5th Annual Knights on Bikes Ride for Vocations May 21, 2026

**WHO ARE WE AND WHY WE RIDE FOR VOCATIONS:**

Founded by a parish priest, Blessed Michael McGivney in 1882, the Knights of Columbus (KofC) have always been a strong defender of the priesthood and religious life and a generous supporter of seminarians and religious in formation. As the largest Catholic fraternal organization in the world, the KofC seeks to assist the Church with financial and moral assistance for this purpose. As Knights get more involved in vocation efforts, we find new meaning in our own vocations as Catholic laymen and members of the Knights of Columbus.

**COME RIDE WITH US:**

Please join the Knights on Bikes (KonB) from across the state of Florida as we convene to ride for vocations to the 122nd Annual Knights of Columbus Meeting of the Florida State Council in Orlando Florida.

**LUNCH, LIBATIONS, CIGARS, AND FRATERNITY:**

The ride for vocations concludes with lunch hosted by Brother Knights from KofC Council # 6624 at KofC Council Hall located at 2000 Neptune Road, Kissimmee, FL 34744.

**WANT TO PARTICIPATE, MEET THE KNIGHTS ON BIKES AT:**

Publix Super Market at Loughman Crossing at 6075 U.S. Hwy 17-92 N, Davenport, FL 33896  
11.30 am meet up, KSU @ noon. KonB members - Speak with Diocese Chairman for add'l details.



**\$30 single riders + \$10 for passengers**

Donations Payable as follows.....



By check, pay to: Knights of Columbus Council # 14390 with check mailed to Zach Mangones, Treasurer, KofC Florida at 14900 SW 30 Street, Unit 278352, Miramar, FL 33027  
By PayPal @ KonBFL (or scan QR code). Please include completed form with payment.  
Please email the form to KonBFLTreasurer@gmail.com if paying electronically.

Rider \_\_\_\_\_ Passenger \_\_\_\_\_

Don't ride? Please still support this very important cause! Please contact Pete Battle, Vice President, KonB Florida at KonBFLVicePresident@gmail.com or 239 601-6061 should you have any questions.



Mission: To Evangelize to fellow riders in support of the Catholic Church in alignment with the Knights of Columbus while promoting the Principles of the Order – Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.



Supporting  
**Special Olympics**  
Florida

Cigars by



# CIGAR & BOURBON NIGHT

**JUNE 6TH - 1:00 PM TO 5:00 PM**

**TWO PREMIUM CIGARS  
ONE BOURBON / SCOTCH**

**\$50**

**PER PERSON**



SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE  
OPEN TO COUNCILS AND PARISHES

**Tickets & Details:**

**John T Gearon III**  
Chairman

941-320-4745  
johngearon@yahoo.com

**Our Lady of Victory Council #3358**



**GOAL IS \$2,000 TO RAISE.**



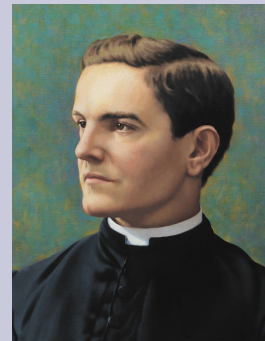
**Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael J. McGivney**

**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



### 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 7 (Open)

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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.  
ESTABLISHED 1977 • Volume 24 • Number 1 • www.kofc.org News for Knights of Columbus Leaders • 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3026, USA

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.

