

INVOCATION

OCTOBER 2024



Bunks Across America



The Knights of Columbus hold close to their hearts the concern and recognize that there are children without beds throughout our country. Recently, Council #12376, Our Lady Queen of the Apostles, held a community event in collaboration with the nonprofit organization, Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP).

Inspired by a recent article in Knightline, SHP connected with a council in Newtown, CT to construct beds for children in need. This nonprofit organization was also present outside of the 142nd Supreme Convention in Quebec, Canada. SHP has certainly traveled far and wide in keeping with their commitment to providing safe, sturdy and comfortable beds. They also do an amazing job in connecting with local chapters such as ours, in West Palm Beach, FL.

Grand Knight Guy Scavelli had arranged for the council to go out to SHP's Bunks Across America event on Saturday, September 14, 2024, in West Palm Beach, FL, where seven of our brothers helped build fifty beds for the community's most needy families. The local volunteer staff of SHP was kind enough to take everyone through

the process, from unloading and cutting lumber, sanding the wood, pre-drilling holes and screwing the varied components together for final assembly.

Once finished, all the components are delivered throughout Palm Beach County to families in need who have been identified by SHP. The end-product is a sturdy and comfortable bed, with mattresses provided by local and national sponsors, ensuring a safe bed for children in need.



Charity, Unity, and Fraternity

By State Deputy Richard Hughes

The last several weeks have been trying for Floridians with back-to-back hurricanes. Hurricane Helene devastated rural communities in northern Florida and the storm surge affected most of the west Coast. Then Hurricane Milton comes along, cutting a wide swath through central Florida with winds and torrential rain, and spawning a very large number of tornados across the entire state.

Individuals and communities are suffering, including many of our own members and our parishes. Thank you to all of those members and Councils that have already reached out with support, both material and spiritual; in many cases, the road to recovery will be long, and there will be many opportunities to help out in the coming weeks and months. The sense of charity, unity, and fraternity has never been stronger in Florida!

It is also heartening to see Councils not let these disasters alter their missions and activities in support of their parishes and communities. Putting our faith in action is a way to give witness to our faith and point the way to Jesus Christ. We should never be afraid to give that witness, and we should never be afraid to keep on forming ourselves in our

faith, through Cor or other faith formation programs.

We should also never be afraid to invite other Catholic men to join us on our journey. Recent surveys have shown that there are many, many Catholic men that are open to joining the Knights of Columbus. And the main reason why those men are not already Knights?

Because they have never been asked. Every Knight should be proud of the accomplishments of our Councils and our Order, and we should all be ready and willing to bring in more Catholic men. The Knights of Columbus was built one member at a time, and that continues to be the case. Imagine what we could accomplish if every Knight brought in just one member a year!

Please keep all of those affected by the recent hurricanes in your prayers.

Veni Sancte Spiritus.



*State Deputy
Richard Hughes*



Standing Up for Life

By State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor

Many of us grew up in the north when this month of October ushered in dramatic changes in nature. Colorful foliage marked a transition from the green and warmth of summer to the barren branches and cold of winter. It was a kind of dying and an annual reminder of the cycles of life and change. Here in Florida the seasonal changes are more subtle, but the subsiding of rainy season with its humidity and transition to the dryer and cooler period of winter reminds us that things change here too. Even our yards become a little less colorful and more barren.

October in our Church is something quite different. It is Respect Life month with the full flowering of what that means. We are invited to think about the sacredness of life and celebrate it on Respect Life Sunday, October 5th and all month long. Throughout October Knights councils will engage in the groundwork that gives meaning to this special month for life. Some will raise funds for an ultrasound machine for their local crisis pregnancy center, allowing young mothers to see the wonder of the life within them. Others will help distribute information and educate citizens about the dangers of proposed Amendment 4 to the Florida Constitution which would result in the killing of babies, harm to mothers and a lessening of parental rights. Still others will pray Rosaries for intentions like an end to the death penalty, reflecting the consistent life ethic of our Church.

One of the primary things we can do to respect life rests in the way we treat others, even those with whom we disagree. It's hard to have credibility in standing up for life when we destroy the one to whom we're communicating. Small acts of kindness and lifting others up can help us see the good in our neighbor and overcome differences to be united more closely in the One who made us all.

As we are a quarter of the way through our fraternal year, this month also offers us a reminder to invite other Catholic men to the life-giving experience of being a Knight of Columbus. As members of this order, we must also care for the lives of our brother Knights and their families, especially those who are alone or

suffering. Recently I learned of a brother Knight whose house was catastrophically damaged in Hurricane Helene. I offered my prayers as any chaplain would, but it is in the fraternal response of brother Knights to the day to day needs of our brothers facing difficult circumstances that we primarily answer God's call to service of God and neighbor ... another great way to Respect Life. Let us look out for one another and then look outward, both to bring other men to our Order and to serve the needs of our community in such a way that builds a culture of life. Vivat Jesus!



*State Chaplain
Very Rev. Bob Kantor*



Mary, Our Protection

By Former State Chaplain Reverend Salvatore Pignato

On October First, the Eastern Church celebrated the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God. When we look at religion, we see that protection was part of the covenant with Abraham. God said to Abraham, "You will be my people, and I will be your God." Thus the protection of His people Israel began. In reading the Old Testament, we can see that protection of God the Father. When the ark of the Covenant was brought into battle, Israel won. When they did not bring it into battle, they lost. God, took care of them in every way possible.

In the fullness of time, as St John says in his Gospel, God sent His only begotten Son in order to make reparation for the Sin of Adam and Eve. He was the final acceptable sacrifice of the Old Testament. Jesus came to protect His people from the wiles of Satan. He came to protect us from eternal domination. God so loved the world that He sent His Son to protect us, and Jesus so loved us that He sacrificed Himself in order to free us, as St. Paul says in his Gospel, "Out from under sin." In His death, Jesus protected us from the grip of Satan.

Now we can come to a consideration of Mary as Protectress. By an act of God, Mary came into this world sinless. She was that special person chosen by God to be the Theotokos and to raise and protect Jesus in His infancy. She is the mother given to St. John and to us by Jesus on the Cross.

By that selfless act of giving the Theotokos to us, Mary became the mother of the church and our mother. With that innate instinct of a mother, she protects us as we live our lives. Our ministry as Knights, then, is by our baptism and Chrismation, to take the mission of protecting the "Deposit of Faith" of the Church and protecting the people of God in their quest to seek God and in witnessing to the Name of Jesus. Protection, then, becomes part of the ministerial foundation of the Church and becomes our ministry as Knights.



*Former State Chaplain
Rev. Salvatore Pignato*

Are You A Member?

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

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

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



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

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

sent free to Guild members.

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

Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

“For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood.” (Gospel for Nov. 10, Mk 12:44)

The lowly widow received praise from Jesus because her gift came from her substance and not her abundance. There is much to be said for the “give until it hurts” approach to charity. We ought to give sacrificially, and it is not much of a sacrifice to give away things we don’t use or money we won’t miss. Remembering what Jesus gave us should challenge us to greater sacrifice for others.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to prayerfully examine your level of giving, both of your treasure and your time, and consider whether you are giving as much as Christ asks of you.

Questions for Reflection:

When you give of yourself — whether of your financial resources or your time — do you give only from your abundance? What might you be able to sacrifice in order to provide more assistance to those in need? Are there any specific actions you could take to give more to others?



Members of the **Knights of Columbus Color Corps of Central Florida** led the procession leading the 23rd Anniversary 9/11 Tribute Ceremony, held at the Veteran's Memorial Park in Merritt Island.

SK Eddie Merlet, Color Corps Commander of Host Bishop Dorsey Assembly 3482 of Melbourne, led the procession to begin the opening ceremonies.

He was assisted by fellow Color Corps Commanders Jim Kiffer, John F. Kennedy Assembly 1593 of Melbourne; Steve Lowery, Commodore John Barry 160 of Rockledge; and John O'Malley, Our Lady of Hope Assembly 2794 of Port Orange.

The annual tribute supports and remembers the fire, police, EMS, civilians and military who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001, and all those afterwards who suffered the loss of life and medical challenges from that day.

Council Honors First Responders



The Our Lady of Hope Knights of Columbus Council 8086 honored a record 57 local first responders at the seventh annual Blue Mass on Sunday, July 18, celebrated by Our Lady of Hope Pastor Father Matt Mello.

The Mass is held to recognize all first responders, active or retired, in Eastern Volusia County. Its purpose is to publicly recognize their diligent work in protecting the Our Lady of Hope parish community and the region, to thank them for their service and pray for their continued safety and success.

Among the agencies in attendance were Sheriff Mike Chitwood and the Volusia County Sheriff's Department; Port Orange Police Department Color Guard; Port Orange Fire Department; Public Safety Volusia County; and the Volusia County Sheriff's Emergency Management, Bomb Squad and Marine Unit.

The first responders gathered in the Father Raymond O'Leary Parish Center. Then, the Fourth Degree Assembly 2794 Color Corps led the procession into the church, followed by the

Port Orange Police Department color guard and the first responders.

In addition, the Volusia County Sheriff Bomb Squad, Volusia County SWAT, and the Volusia County Sheriff's Marine Unit loaned emergency vehicles and water craft to be put on display outside the parish social hall.

Following the Mass, the first responders were invited to the Parish Center to enjoy coffee and donuts as a thank you for their service and participation.

SK Dave Vaden has been the annual Point of Contact for the Blue Mass. SK Dr. Ernie Jackson is the Council 8086 Grand Knight.

The Blue Mass is one of the many activities undertaken by the council. Activities include the Duck Derby, Casino Night to benefit Catholic Schools, Evening with the Knights to benefit the Ultrasound Initiative, Coats for Kids, Vocations, Global Wheelchair Mission, Habitat for Humanity, Pregnancy Crisis Center, Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP), and numerous parish and community youth programs.

Silver Rose Prayer Service

On September 8th, 2024, the Knights of Suwannee River Council 9720 gathered to honor the Blessed Mother by celebrating the Silver Rose Prayer service at two Masses. In the presence of the Silver Rose, both the English and Spanish Masses at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Live Oak, Florida, led by Father Pablo Fuentes, took time to pray for peace and the end of abortion.

The Rose was transported to Live Oak from Holy Family Catholic Church in Williston, Florida by Daniel Noblin, the Council's District Deputy for District 8 and Michael Flowers, the District Warden and the Council's Grand Knight. The Knights of 9720 were especially thrilled to have the Silver Rose present on the 8th, as this is the date that the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mother is traditionally celebrated.

Following the two Masses, the Knights of 9720 hosted a free meal, open to all parishioners in honor of the Blessed Mother and the presence of the Silver Rose in their parish, while on its pilgrimage. This meal was prepared by Brother Rene Yaxon, the council's newly appointed Spanish Roundtable Coordinator, with the assistance of several Knights and other members of the parish. There were between 100-150 people fed. According to the council's Grand Knight, Michael Flowers, Council 9720 is devoting this year to deepening its commitment to bringing the entire parish together and uniting the English and Spanish speaking communities through their shared faith and devotion.

The Grand Knight shared some of his thoughts with the Invocation. He reported, "We have an obligation as a Council, to be certain that our doors are opened for all our parishioners. The Spanish speaking community of our parish is full of deep and abiding faith, and our council wants to make sure they become active members of the Knights of Columbus. Most of the children in our parish's CCD program are from Spanish speaking families, the Spanish Mass normally has twice the number of attendees as the English-speaking

Mass immediately prior. Yet, these numbers are not reflected in our Council membership. We are working to correct that this year. With the assistance of my Deputy Grand Knight Leo Morin, of Cuban American decent and Rene Yaxon, a Guatemalan-American, we are attempting to build a bridge between the two communities. I can think of no greater bridge-builder than our Blessed Mother.

As Knights, our Lady of Guadalupe is our Patroness, and she is of course, revered amongst many Spanish-speaking cultures. Being able to bring people together on the Nativity of the Blessed Mother, made this day even more special. Council 9720 looks forward to hosting more events in the coming fraternal year to deepen the faith of our members and to build a bridge in our faith community. We hope many other councils in our jurisdiction will do the same. We share a common faith, and what unites us is always greater than anything that could divide us."



She Was Loved By Many

With the backdrop of the Florida Knights of Columbus in a battle to stop a State Constitutional Amendment that would make Florida an abortion destination state, the immediate past Grand Knight of St Elizabeth Seton Council 4357 was waiting for his child to be born.

Frank Roberts completed his Star Council year as Grand Knight just in time to welcome baby No. 4 to the Roberts' family. However, on August 24, tragedy struck the Roberts family when their baby girl, Zipporah Fiorenza, passed away unexpectedly in utero. While Zipporah didn't make it into this world, she was loved by so many.

While Frank was unimaginably grieving with his family, he still took the time to reach out to the current Grand Knight of the Council, Selem Lake, to request the Fourth Degree Color Corps be present at his daughter's funeral at St Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish on Sept, 2.

On August 27, DD60 Jeff Vespo reached out to all Councils, Assemblies, DDs, RAs, and Vice Marshals in the SWFL area calling for a strong showing of Brother Knights and Color Corps to participate in the Funeral Mass. The response was staggering, as 29 Color Corps members from Naples to Cape Coral – including seven Color Corps Commanders – were in attendance to show their support and unity to the Roberts family.

As the family, the local council members, the Pastor, and the Parish staff came into the church,



all were stunned by the showing of the Color Corps of the Knights. Pastor Father Casey Jones – who had only become a Fourth Degree Knight in May – commented that he had never seen such a testament to brotherhood and unity as that display of the Color Corps at that Mass. He was very proud to have become a Sir Knight.

It was a heartbreaking day for all involved, but the support by so many Knights from so far away was a testament to the Fraternal bond that Knights have with each other and, to an even greater extent, how much the value of the life of a child means to all men of faith!



Honoring 9-11 Victims



Father Holmes Assembly 1951, in support of the local Boy Scout Troop 662, found a unique way both to honor those who gave their lives on September 11, 2001, and to remember the local police and firefighters who responded to the attacks at the twin towers at the World Trade Center and at the Pentagon.

On Wednesday evening, September 11, 2024 before the monthly Assembly meeting, the boy scouts offered a spaghetti dinner at the Council Hall to raise money for an Eagle Scout project -- to replace the flag pole and update the fire pit area where the fire retirement ceremonies are held.

Then after the Assembly meeting, an Eagle Scout candidate, surrounded by boy scouts, Assembly members, and friends and families, led a formal flag retirement ceremony at a fire pit behind the building. Because of the large numbers of flags received, everyone was able to directly participate in the ceremony.

The night ended when a number of Sir Knights shared stories and memories about that fateful day. It was personal for some of our Council 6624 and Assembly 1951 members so please keep the survivors in your thoughts and prayers.

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.

Serving Pinellas Hope



The Knights of St Paul's Parish in St Petersburg cooked and served 216 meals to the residents at Pinellas Hope on Thursday August 29th. Preparing the evening meal for Pinellas Hope has been a regular community service activities of this council for many years. The St Paul's Knights are just one of many groups that contribute to the outstanding service that Pinellas Hope provides to the homeless.

Pinellas Hope, a program of Catholic Charities Diocese of St. Petersburg opened on 10 acres of

land provided by Bishop Robert N. Lynch and the Diocese of St. Petersburg. It was developed as a pilot program in December 2007 and continues to provide a comprehensive array of services and shelter to homeless individuals. Today, Pinellas Hope continues its mission of providing a safe living environment and the necessary support for homeless adults to become self-sufficient. Since its formation, Pinellas Hope has served over 10,000 people and served over 1.6 million meals.

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.

Council Provide Ultrasound Machine

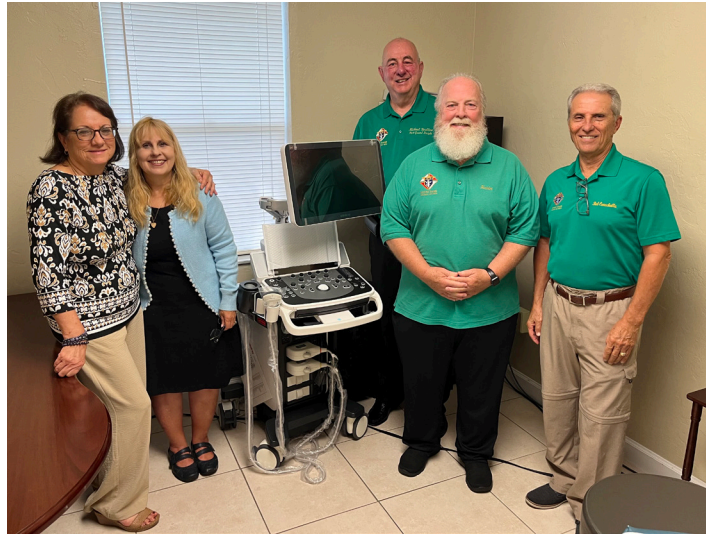
Representatives from Notre Dame Council 10514 of Flagler Beach recently attended a reception at 'A Woman's Answer Medical Center (AWA)', a crisis pregnancy clinic in Gainesville.

FDD Kevin Ryan, and Past Grand Knights Michael Boullion and Bob Conochalla were there to celebrate the blessing of AWA's new ultrasound machine, a donation from the council through the partnership with the Supreme Council's Ultrasound Initiative Program. The new ultrasound machine replaces one that was 20 years old.

The new ultrasound machine was blessed by Father Ed Murphy, parochial vicar of Holy Faith Catholic Church. Maureen Shilkunas (Director of the Office of Human Life and Dignity for the Diocese of St. Augustine) led the attendees in thanksgiving for all of those that have dedicated their time and energies to saving babies.

Lunch was provided by the clinic's Board of Directors. In attendance were Lori Hiebert (Executive Director of the clinic), Filomena Smolenski (President of the Board), Michelle Kenlon (Board Vice President), Janet Schmittgen (Board Secretary). Other board members present included Angela Medyk, Belinda Herring, Maryanne Walker, Frank Kenlon, Jennifer Mullis, Joan Scott, and their spouses and family members.

The funds for the ultrasound machine were provided by an anonymous donor. The donor was a 'snowbird' attending Mass at Santa Maria del Mar Church in Flagler Beach. He was impressed with the many activities of the Notre Dame Council and how well the council and parish worked together. He learned of the Knights of Columbus pro-life programs and inquired as to what were the past and current pro-life programs of the council. Part of those discussions where the fact that the council was able to fundraise and assist in the placing of eight ultrasound machines in crisis pregnancy centers in the Diocese of St. Augustine since 2017. This led to a commitment to fund an ultrasound



machine purchase for 'A Women's Answer'.

Although this was the ninth ultrasound machine in which Council 10514 fundraised, it was the first one that utilized the Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund (KCCF). The donor stated he preferred to donate monies through a 'Qualified Charitable Distribution' (QCD) from his IRA. Kevin Ryan, PGK, serving as District Deputy, contacted the Supreme Council KCCF office about the process. The donated funds were able to be transferred directly into the council's KCCF pro-life fund. The necessary funds were later transferred to the Florida State Council's Charitable Fund after the completion all of the proper forms and final approval for the ultrasound machine. The Supreme Council then sent the matching funds for the ultrasound purchase.

AWA staff members pointed out that of the hundreds of ultrasounds they have performed, they have only lost one child to abortion after the mother viewed her ultrasound. They also expressed their gratitude to the Knights of Columbus for the new ultrasound machine. The donation of this very important life-saving equipment eliminated the prospect of diverting limited funds from other needs of the ministry or foregoing the availability of a machine to provide free ultrasounds for women.

Council Hosts The Silver Rose



The Knights of Columbus (KofC) have celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe for the past 60 years. This feast, which commemorates the miracle of the roses where Mary, our blessed mother, instructed St. Juan Diego to have a temple built in her honor at the base of Tepeyac Hill. She used the roses as her sign to the Bishop to ensure they knew the request was from her.

The KofC sponsor the silver rose's journey which lasts from February through December

and travels from Canada to Mexico with stops in several cities along the way. On August 4th, the parish of Mary, hosting the silver rose. In conjunction with members of the 4th Degree Assemblies of St Catherine of Siena Assembly 3154 and Father Edward Massey Assembly 2564, which provided the color corps, the event was attended by 62 parishioners and an additional 28 fellow knights. These were the largest turnouts the parish had ever experienced in the 4 years that they have hosted the silver rose service.



9-11 Memorial Ceremony



Knights of Columbus Notre Dame Council # 10514 held a September 11th Remembrance Ceremony at Veteran's Park in honor of the almost 3,000 people killed in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Program Chairman and Master of Ceremonies for the event was Knights of Columbus Past Grand Knight and Former District Deputy, Kevin Ryan.

Former Air Force Military Chaplain, Fr. Ken Beale, gave the opening Benediction. Fr. Beale is a New York City native and related how he called his parents from this active-duty station in Utah on the morning of September 11th. They gave him a first-hand account of what could be clearly seen of the World Trade Center towers from their apartment balcony. He was on the phone with them when the second plane struck the second tower. He later led the attendees in the 'Prayer of St. Francis' and also offered the closing prayers for the ceremony.

Joseph DePalma was this year's guest speaker. On September 11th, he was called from his home in New Jersey to assist the First Responders in setting up lighting, ensuring electrical grids were safe, as well as working to seal off the labyrinth of plumbing lines. He also assisted in the removal of the bodies of the deceased at Ground Zero. He related how there was a sense of reverence that

took place as all of those present worked to look for survivors after the tragic event.

The Corpus Christi Assembly 2810 Fourth Degree Color Corp members served as honor guards for the ceremony. The Matanzas High School J.R.O.T.C. Color Guard posted the American Flag and the Florida State Flag at the event. Retired uniformed members of the New York City Police and Fire Departments were present along with a number of First Responders from the Flagler County area. Local dignitaries present included Flagler Beach Mayor Patti King, Commissioner Jane Mealy, and Police Chief Matthew Doughney. Program Chairman Ryan thanked the city officials for their continued support and assistance in setting up the annual event.

A special 'Blue Mass' was celebrated at Santa Maria del Mar Catholic Church by Fr. Ken Beale, assisted by Deacon Bob Krol, for all current and past members of the military, police officers, firefighters, and first responders.



Fall Special Olympics



Fall is upon us, finally, and I want to remind Councils around the State of Florida that there are volunteer opportunities every weekend around the state in support of Special Olympics. Grand Knights should be asking their program or life director to identify when there would be a local Special Olympics event that the council can support.

Volunteering with an organization such as Special Olympics is such a rewarding feeling. Not only are you supporting your community but also you are helping the Special Olympics athletes to compete and realize their competitive dreams and goals.

The Fall State Games at the Walt Disney World Resort is set for November 8-9, and is another wonderful opportunity to volunteer around the Greater Central Florida area. There are a number of different sporting events happening all day long, so it should fit into anyone's or any councils' schedule. The athletes that compete at these State Games had to qualify to be in Orlando, through local, district and regional competitions. So, they are great at what they do and are excited to be at a State Competition.

Many councils around the state are doing fundraising for Special Olympics now that Fall is here. The most popular events are the Citizens With Disabilities (Tootsie Roll) drives, dinner dances and pancake breakfasts. If your council would like to have a Special Olympic Athlete attend your event, help with fundraising, interact with your membership at a social, please let me know and I can assist with that effort. The athletes can add so much to any of your councils' events.

Finally, don't forget to document your councils' activities with Special Olympics and send me pictures of your programs and events. I love to see them! Remember, when making a donation to Special Olympics, make sure you document on the 10784 form. Send a copy to Supreme and if the councils complete this by January 31, 2025, Supreme will add an incentive to the State Council, which will be added to our donation with Special Olympics at our 2025 State Convention.

My wife Shari and I recently attended a Special Olympics Gala Dinner, and we got to meet the Chris McDarby, the 2024 Athlete of the Year for Special Olympics. Chris is from Hillsborough County and has been participating with Special

Olympics since 1995 in track and field, bowling, golf and tennis. He has received several special awards for courage, inspiration and in 2014 competed at the USA games in New Jersey.

We also met the 2024 Coach of the Year, Elizabeth Dager. For 15 years, Elizabeth has coached several sports in the Miami – Dade area including swimming, softball, basketball, cheerleading, flag football, and the list goes on. She has been very instrumental in managing a program of over 60 athletes. Congratulations to both Chris and Elizabeth for an amazing year in 2024. Let us as councils from around the state continue our support and volunteer with Special Olympics.



An Honor of a Lifetime

Attending the 142nd Supreme Convention in Quebec as a Delegate from Florida was an honor and privilege of a lifetime. The 142nd Supreme Convention was a momentous event, marking a significant gathering of the Knights of Columbus. Delegates from various regions, including Florida, convened to celebrate their shared mission and values.

The convention was a vibrant tapestry of tradition and vision, with the opening Mass setting a reverent tone. The Supreme Knight's Annual Report was a focal point, highlighting the organization's growth and outreach.

From the sea of white robed Clergy at the opening Mass, to the Supreme Knights Annual Report, to the States dinner, Award Session and the Memorial Mass, the message from Supreme was clear. We are all called to be a missionary, reflecting the goodness and love of God in Christ. This calling was reflected in inspirational speeches from such dignitaries as His Eminence Gerald Cyprien Cardinal Lacroix, Archbishop of Quebec, His Eminence Mauro Cardinal Gambetti, Archpriest of St. Peter's Basilica, His Eminence Sean Cardinal O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston and Most Reverend William E. Lori, Archbishop

of Baltimore.

The highlight of the Supreme Convention was the Supreme Knight, Patrick Kelly's Annual Report. Following a brief lesson on the history of the Catholic Church and its growth in Canada, announced that Devotion to Blessed Michael McGivney is growing. A marble stature of our Founder was dedicated in the Basilica of the National Shrine and this coming winter St. Patrick's Cathedral will unveil a statue of Father McGivney.

The growth of the Knights was highlighted by the Supreme Knight. Membership is now at 2.1 million men. This past year over 92,000 men joined our ranks. There are now more than 17,000 Councils worldwide – with exciting growth in Cuba and Mexico.

Along with growth comes a greater opportunity to give more. Last year, 47 million hours was spent on a mission, with over \$190 Million in charitable works. One million children's coats have been donated, the Global Wheelchair Mission has enabled 11,000 people to be mobile again, and more than \$4 million was donated to Special Olympics.

Promises have been kept, the Supreme Knight stated, to the more than 20 million Catholics of

Nigeria. The Knights will sponsor and fund the ongoing formation of priests and lay leaders. The Knights launched a program in the Philippines called “Guardians of Dignity,” training Filipino Knights to “sound the alarm” when they suspect human trafficking. The Supreme Knight also called for “Indigenous Outreach” to support First Nation projects such as “Build a Bed” and “Coats for Kids.” More than 100 beds were built during the Supreme Convention.

Another area that the Supreme Knight highlighted was worldwide disaster relief of more than \$1 million dollars. Mention was of the massive relief effort that 200 Knights provided for Maui last year.

There are 72 military Councils worldwide. I have had the honor to perform duties as the District Deputy in Europe and as the District Master in the Far East. As Veterans we know the importance of having a Priest to confide in, the brother to talk to, and a Catholic Community to pray with. The Knights will be forever present to fight for our religious liberty.

Ukraine was the next topic addressed by the Supreme Knight. Over 8.5 million pounds of relief supplies have been delivered by K of C Charity Convoys. Our Polish Knights are welcoming refugees and keeping Mercy Centers and Charity Convoys operating.

Our insurance and investment programs have earned top grades from AM Best for 40 years and

S&P awarded our programs a superior rating. The KofC now manages more than \$2.2 billion for dioceses, religious=s and Catholic families.

Our commitment to Pro-Life efforts is an ongoing battle. As the Supreme Knight stated “Today the work is even harder. But it does not matter how hard it is or how long it takes – we will never stop building a culture of life!”

Church support and Faith Formation is our testimony to true love. The vocations support program (RSVP) has received more than \$4.1 million for formation of seminarians and women religious around the world. To date, more than 650 councils have started Cor – with nearly 4,000 more ready to start this movement.

A final topic presented by the Supreme Knight was our involvement and support of the National Eucharistic Revival. He spoke of his own experience helping carry the canopy through the streets of New York City, with onlookers kneeling, crossing themselves as the Eucharist passed by.

The Supreme Convention is a time to recharge, refresh and escalate our Faith. The excitement during the States dinner, the awards ceremony and the Supreme Knights report is magnificent. It is plain to see after this convention that we, as Florida Knights, are an integral part of the entire Knights of Columbus. This convention not only celebrated past achievements but also set a forward-looking agenda for continued service and growth. Indeed, we are “on mission.”

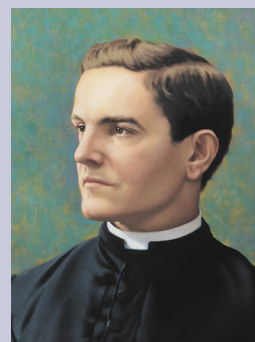
Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael J. McGivney

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).





FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

The nonpartisan public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Florida

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

Florida Bishops Oppose Extreme Abortion Amendment Vote No on Amendment 4

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

Most Rev. Thomas G. Wenski
Archdiocese of Miami

Most Rev. Gerald M. Barbarito
Diocese of Palm Beach

Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane
Diocese of Venice

Most Rev. John G. Noonan
Diocese of Orlando

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

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

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

Most Rev. Enrique E. Delgado
Archdiocese of Miami

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



CONFERENCIA DE OBISPOS CATOLICOS DE LA FLORIDA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Te lo pedimos por Cristo, nuestro Señor. Amén.

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

Reverendísimo Thomas G. Wenski
Arquidiócesis de Miami

Reverendísimo Gerald M. Barbarito
Diócesis de Palm Beach

Reverendísimo Frank J. Dewane
Diócesis de Venice

Reverendísimo John G. Noonan
Diócesis de Orlando

Reverendísimo Gregory L. Parkes
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

¹La 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 1st of each month**
 - Late submittals will be placed farther down the newsletter or not published.
- Proof your article carefully for spelling and grammar before sending (**use spellcheck**)
- Document filename should reflect the office/title, i.e. State Deputy article
- Every Region needs to participate – one page of the Invocation will be dedicated to each Region respectively
 - If a region does not submit content their page will be eliminated from that issue
- Cover story submissions need to be submitted ahead of the deadline due to special photo editing
 - Cover story photos – in portrait style at least 1mb in size - not formatted or resized
 - filename "Cover Story"

Send all information:

Region 1: Robert C. Guillery rag130@outlook.com

Region 2: Invocation@floridakofc.org

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

Region 4: invocation@floridakofc.org

Region 5: invocation@floridakofc.org

Region 6: Armando Minutoli alminutoli146@gmail.com

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



Are You A Member?

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

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

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



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

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

sent free to Guild members.

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

Is Your Personal Information Accurate?

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

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

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

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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

Incorporate principled fiscal responsibility for charitable giving.

The Florida State Logo



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Florida State Council Social Media

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

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



Knightline

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

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

COLUMBIA

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



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