

INVOCATION

OCTOBER 2025



**Working Together to Build a
Greater Culture of Life**

State Ultrasound Initiative

By Jason O'Neill and Mike Lepore

One of the main objectives within the Knights of Columbus is to protect and defend life. The Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative provides much-needed ultrasound machines to qualified pregnancy resource centers and pro-life medical clinics. Local councils and assemblies raise half the cost of a machine or mobile ultrasound unit; the Supreme Council, through the Culture of Life Fund, provides the rest. (For councils that entirely fund or refurbish a new mobile unit, the Supreme Council will fund up to 100% of the vehicle's ultrasound machine.)

Since the flagship pro-life program was launched in January 2009, Knights in the United States and Canada have helped place more than 1,900 machines, worth a total of \$91 million. They are on pace to reach 2,000 machines by the end of 2025. Here in Florida, over 135 ultrasound machines were completed through May 2025. This could not be possible without the commitment to life by Knights across the state of Florida.

With Life being one of the Knights of Columbus' four core programs, councils remain committed to the cause by fundraising to purchase a new or replacement ultrasound machine. Why? The main reason is that through the ultrasound machine program, these machines are vital to a successful and healthy pregnancy. Through a ultrasound image we can change hearts and minds – it has been estimated that as many as 80% of abortion-minded women who see an ultrasound image of their womb do not go through with an abortion.

For this fraternal year, let's commit to the ultrasound program by reaching out to the pregnancy centers in our communities:

Does the pregnancy resource center need a new ultrasound machine?

Has the pregnancy resource center expanded to a new location where a new ultrasound machine might be needed?

Does the pregnancy resource center want or need a mobile ultrasound unit?

Does the pregnancy resource center have a need to replace an older ultrasound machine? Ask when the ultrasound machine was last purchased.

Through these questions, we can understand what the needs are for the ultrasound program in the communities in which we live. For more information on the Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative and its requirements, please contact the Florida State Ultrasound Program Chair Jason O'Neill (jason.c.oneill@gmail.com, 302-530-7101). The hearts beat on

HELPING LIFE PROGRAM.

The Florida State Council's Helping Life Fund works closely together with the Ultrasound Initiative program to ensure that much needed funds are distributed where most needed. The fund provides state-wide support to pregnant women, especially those experiencing unexpected pregnancies, and helps new mothers and their babies. Your donations help them---and the pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes that assist them.

For moms, the Helping Life Fund helps provide testing, choices counseling, medical clinic support, of course ultrasound viewings, financial assistance, ongoing maternity training, encouragement, support, and sometimes housing.

For pregnancy resource centers, the Helping Life Fund provides monies to acquire, train staff, maintain, and repair all office equipment including ultrasound machines, as well as to help pay for medical care, medical supplies, and financial and counseling resources for their clients, since they generously provide these services free of charge.

The need for such support is greater than ever. Even after the favorable Supreme Court ruling in the Dobbs case three years ago, more than a million babies are still being tragically aborted every year, with 63% being aborted by using the

chemical abortion pill. The pregnancy centers that the Helping Life Fund supports are often the first line of defense, of support, or of reassurance for a woman facing an unexpected pregnancy. They need and they deserve our help.

Many Councils are already extremely generous in holding diaper and baby supplies drives, and fundraisers that support their local-area pregnancy support centers. This is wonderful and life-affirming work, and must continue.

But the Helping Life Fund expands the reach of a local council's efforts far beyond their local area, to those clinics state-wide who may not receive any local council support and where the needs are the greatest. And councils will of course receive Faith in Action-Life program credit for its donations to the Helping Life fund for pregnancy support centers, simply by noting its council number on the donation form and completing a Form 10784.

Donating is easy. Go to www.FloridaKofC.org, then "Donate," then "Helping Life Fund" to make your one-time or your recurrent monthly donation. There are many wonderful and worthy charities out there, but Florida K of C Charities Inc should be at the top of all of our lists.

Finally, once per year all State Members will receive a supply of mailing labels asking to lift our voices in the celebration of life. Please be generous! Even a modest donation from the majority of our membership will allow us to provide much-needed funds all across the state where needed most.

This support should be a part of every council's and every Brother Knight's commitment to supporting a greater culture of life. Please make donations to the Ultrasound Program and to the Helping Life Fund a part of your plans for this fraternal year.

For further information, contact Mike Lepore (bolepore@aol.com, 515-306-0380).

October is Membership Drive Time

By Scott A. O'Connor, PSD – Florida, Supreme Director

Two times each year, every council is expected to conduct a major membership drive. October is one of those months.

Remember to plan your membership drive well ahead of the event. Get permission from your Pastor, order materials and schedule your members to participate. The Supreme Council has guides to help you organize and conduct your membership event.

As Knights of Columbus, we pledge to abide by the Precepts of the Catholic Church. It is a good idea to review them from time to time, especially before conducting a membership drive, in order to be able to explain to prospective members what it means to be a "Practical Catholic."

Precepts of the Catholic Church:

- To attend Mass on Sunday's and Holy Days of Obligation, and to rest from servile works.

- To observe the days of abstinence and fasting.
- To confess our sins to a priest at least once a year.
- To receive Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist at least once a year during the Easter Season.
- To contribute to the financial support of the Church, each to his own ability.
- To obey the laws of the Church concerning Matrimony.
- To participate in the mission of Evangelization of Souls – (Missionary Spirit of the Church).

Finally, while conducting your membership drive, should you encounter a prospect who is not a "Practical" Catholic, take the time to introduce him to a priest or deacon and invite him to consider the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults program.

A Strong Start Built on Faith

As the Florida State Council of the Knights of Columbus steps confidently into the fourth month of the 2025-2026 fraternal year, the spirit of renewal is alive and well across the state. Local councils, energized by fresh goals and a clear mission, are advancing the timeless values of the Order: charity, unity, fraternity, and a deep commitment to spiritual growth. It is a time of building—of strengthening the brotherhood, expanding outreach, and deepening the faith that underpins every action.

At the heart of this momentum is a growing focus on membership. From Pensacola to Key West, councils have been actively recruiting new members, not only to increase numbers but to open doors for Catholic men to discover a deeper sense of purpose and service. The Knights of Columbus offer more than community involvement; they offer a calling. Many men today are searching for meaning in a world that often feels increasingly divided and uncertain. The Knights provide a place where faith is not only professed but practiced, side by side with brothers who are committed to something greater than themselves.

The Florida State Council leadership has emphasized the importance of intentional membership: inviting men not simply to join, but to belong. The focus is on integration and activation, ensuring that new members are welcomed, mentored, and quickly given opportunities to participate. When men are engaged from day one, councils thrive, families are strengthened, and parishes are enriched. The result is a ripple effect that touches every corner of Catholic life in Florida.

But numbers alone don't tell the full story. It is the work of charity that reveals the true heartbeat of the Knights. Florida councils have already completed dozens of charitable initiatives in just the first quarter of the fraternal year, ranging from hurricane relief efforts and pro-life advocacy to food pantries, school supply drives, and support for seminarians.

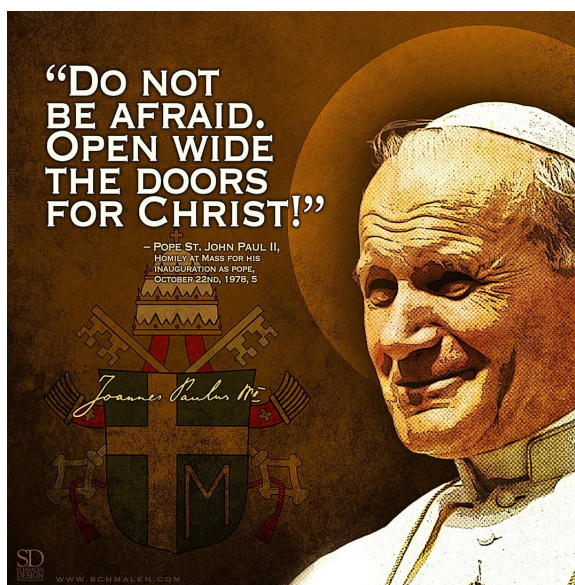
These acts of service are not done for recognition, but as an expression of Christ's love in action. When a Knight shows up to build a wheelchair ramp, distribute food, or support a single mother, he brings with him the quiet but powerful witness of a life rooted in the Gospel.

Behind every charitable effort is a bond of fraternity that gives the Order its unique strength. Brotherhood among the Knights is more than friendship; it is a spiritual kinship forged through shared mission and sacrificial love. Councils across Florida are investing in fraternal life: organizing retreats, men's conferences, family barbecues, and father-son events that draw members closer together. In a world that often isolates men, the Knights provide a place of belonging, accountability, and encouragement.

These fraternal bonds are also essential to spiritual development, which has become a major emphasis of the Florida State Council this year. Knights are being called to a higher level of



State Deputy
Michael P. Gizewski



holiness not just to be “doers,” but to be disciples. Across the state, councils are holding regular rosaries, Holy Hours, and spiritual formation gatherings, inviting members to grow in prayer, sacramental life, and personal holiness. After all, the Order is not merely a service organization it is a brotherhood of Catholic men united by faith and committed to living that faith boldly and authentically.

Spirituality is not something added to the mission of the Knights it is the foundation. It is what transforms good works into holy works. It is what elevates a council project from a task to a testimony. And it is what will ultimately lead the Florida State Council, not just to organizational success, but to sanctity. As councils across the state embrace this call, a deeper culture of spiritual leadership is taking root one that will bear fruit for

years to come.

As the fraternal year continues, the Florida Knights of Columbus are not slowing down. If anything, they are accelerating. With strong leadership, a growing membership base, and a clear vision rooted in faith, the next nine months promise to be a time of extraordinary growth not just in programs or projects, but in discipleship, brotherhood, and spiritual maturity.

There is still much to do. But with charity as their mission, fraternity as their strength, and spirituality as their guide, the Florida Knights are proving that when Catholic men unite in faith, incredible things happen not only in their councils, but in their parishes, families, and communities.

Always remember Open wide the doors for Christ and he will enter and pass along the gift.

First Responders Mass

Sts. Cosmas and Damian Council 13341 recently held a First Responders Mass at Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church.

There were 270 in attendance, including Knights, Knights’ wives, parishioners and law enforcement.

The event honored the work of all public safety personnel in the community, including law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical services, and military personnel. It recognized these brave individuals for their sacrifice, and remembering those who have given their lives in service to their communities. It was also a chance to thank all who presently serve and put their lives on the line every day responding to emergencies in our community. Finally, lest we not forget, we



remembered those who sacrificed their lives on Sept 11, 2001, at the World Trade Center while selflessly helping others.

Several ranking officials were present, including the Mayor of Bradenton, the Chief and Assistant Chief of Police, the Chief and Assistant Chief of the Fire Department, Councilmen and women, several police officers, and many others.

The Rosary & Respecting Life

By State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor

October is both Respect Life Month and the month of the Rosary. They go well hand in hand. The Rosary is a powerful prayer invoking the intercession of the Blessed Mother. It's probably the most popular private devotion in the Church.

Having courageously carried the Savior of the world in her womb, who better than Mary to help us protect life and assist expectant mothers and their vulnerable children. Many of those who pray the Rosary find the practice both rhythmic and comforting. In times of peril, like Mary experienced first-hand in her flight to Egypt with St. Joseph and the baby Jesus, the Rosary calms us like a mother's lullaby soothes an infant.

The Rosary helped me on my path to priesthood. The Rosary I received for my First Communion and learned to pray as a young boy continues to have a special place in my life. As a young businessman in upstate New York, I returned to the practice of praying it as I discerned a call to priesthood. The radio, so much a part of my life as a broadcaster and partner in a radio syndication and production company, was silenced in my car in favor of praying the Rosary on my commute to the office. It led me closer to Christ. That's what Mary does. Soon, doors were opening and closing, allowing me to transition to seminary.

Like many priests, I became a Knight of Columbus as a seminarian. Knights supported me with funds that helped pay for things like car insurance that I no longer had income to cover. When I went to my first March for Life in Washington

with other seminarians, it was on a bus sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Knights stand for life and with our priests. I learned that early in my path to priesthood and continue to be grateful for that today.

Knights are called by God in special ways. Now is a great time for each of us to be attentive to the still, small voice of God. October brings increased activity to most parts of our state. Seasonal residents return. Traffic is getting heavier. Restaurants fill. Churches enjoy an increase of the faithful in the pews. Parish programs gear up. Knights council meetings draw larger numbers. Our programs and



*State Chaplain
Very Rev. Bob Kantor*



activities grow.

This month is an annual pivot point to the most vibrant period of the year in many places. How will we welcome it with enthusiasm and hope in this Jubilee Year of Hope? How can we as Knights see it as an opportunity?

I suggest we contact brother Knights who have not been as active in recent years and encourage them to return. Look for new and unfamiliar faces at church to welcome and invite to the Order. And let's pray for one another, that under the maternal care of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we will grow as faithful disciples and exemplary Knights. Vivat Jesus!

Mary, Our Protection

On October 1st, the Eastern Church celebrated the Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos, the Mother of God. In 911 A. D., Constantinople, which is now modern-day Istanbul, was being invaded by the Ottoman army. The people went in the evening to pray for protection of the Theotokos at the Blachernae Church, where the veil, robe, and part of her belt were kept and venerated. The people prayed throughout the night.

In the early morning, while still dark, the prayer service ended, and the people were coming out of the church. One of the parishioners looked up at the dome of the church and saw the Theotokos standing on the dome. She was holding in her outstretched hands an open mantel. She was beckoning the people to take refuge under her mantel. The people huddled under the mantel, and the Ottoman army did not enter the city.

Who is this woman in Maryology? She is the God Bearer. She is the Golden Vessel prophesied in the Old Testament. She is our Mother given to us by Jesus from the Cross. She is our Protectress.

We can see then why our veneration of Mary is appropriate because motherhood brings with it respect, love, and thanksgiving for her sacrifices. Let us examine some of those sacrifices.

The very first sacrifice that Mary made as

a young girl was to God Himself when she said to the Archangel Gabriel, "Be it done to me according to your word." Another act of her protection was the trial of moving from danger and going to Egypt and then pulling up her home again to return to Palestine. Her greatest sacrifice as a mother was to watch her son being crucified and die on the Cross.



*Former State Chaplain
Rev. Salvatore Pignato*



She is mother to us in her Apparitions. She, as in her appearance in Constantinople, beckens us to come under her mantel. She instructs us, admonishes us, loves us, encourages us, and uplifts us in her Apparitions. She cares and worries about us, as demonstrated in her Apparations. She is truly a mother..

As her children, we must stay close to the Theotokos. She will make her presence known to us and will watch over us so that we do not harm ourselves or stray

away from Jesus. Let each one of us look to Mary, the Theotokos, as our personal Mediatrix of all Grace.

Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

“But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, ‘O God, be merciful to me a sinner.’” (Gospel for Oct. 26, Lk 18:13)

The parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector relates back to our August monthly challenge about humility. The Pharisee exalts himself before God, extolling his superiority and keeping of the law. Meanwhile, the tax collector prays with humility, seeking mercy for his sins.

Our culture stresses the importance of “self-esteem,” but we must also remember that all of us are sinners in need of God’s mercy. We should never approach God in a spirit of pride, but always

humbly on our knees — confident of his loving mercy.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, the month dedicated to the holy rosary, I challenge you to pray five decades of the rosary daily, asking God for humility and mercy.

Questions for Reflection:

Have there been times in your life when you pridefully compared yourself to others, like the Pharisee in this parable? Do you perform a regular and careful examination of conscience so as to remain humbly aware of your sinfulness? What other steps can you take to become more like the tax collector in this parable?

Councils Hold Joint Installation

St. John Council #11281 and Arthur J. Corr Assembly #3308, North Naples held a joint Installation of Council Officers and Assembly Officers on the Feast of Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney.

Mass was held at 5 pm at St. John the Evangelist Church. The Mass was concelebrated by Parish Pastor Father Tom Zalewski, Faithful Friar Fr. Mark Harris and Council Chaplain Fr. Jacob Gwynn.

Fr. Gwynn was recently ordained on July 12, 2025. After Mass, DD #60 SK Jeff Vespo conducted the Installation of Officers. Fr. Zalewski blessed the medals of office. Fr. Gwynn presented Council officers their medal of office and Fr. Mark



Harris presented Assembly officers their medal of office. After the installation of officers, a reception was held in the Parish Pulte Center.

In the photo, the officers of St John Council #11281 and Arthur J. Corr Assembly #3308, following Installation of Officers after Mass on the Feast Day of Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney.

Council Donates 60 Wheelchairs

Our Lady of Hope Council 8086 of Port Orange recently held its first Wheelchair Weekend, resulting in donations of more than \$9,000 that will enable the Knights of Columbus to purchase at least 60 wheelchairs, giving the poorest of the poor the gift of mobility.

While each wheelchair costs \$500-plus, the Knights purchase them in bulk, reducing the cost to \$150. Since 2003, the KofC has delivered more than 100,000 wheelchairs throughout Mexico, the Holy Land, Latin America, Vietnam and other countries, in addition to U.S. Veteran and local needs throughout the United States. There are more than 100,000 people worldwide who cannot afford a wheelchair. Each wheelchair impacts an average of 10 lives.

Council 8086 Delegates DGK Vito Benedetto and Chancellor Adam Schmidt were very impressed with the Wheelchair Mission presentation and display at the Florida State Council Convention in May, and brought back the recommendation that the Council hosts a Wheelchair Weekend. Under the direction of GK Ernie Jackson, Program Director Tim Mell met with State Wheelchair Chairman Michael Costanza, who loaned the Council two wheelchairs, the display and additional information.



The Council aired a video message from Mell prior to each of the Masses on the weekend prior to the September event, with Knights then passing out forms for parishioners exiting each Mass. On the following weekend, Knights collected the envelopes following each Mass. Donations surpassed \$9,000.

For sponsoring a wheelchair with a \$150 donation, the donor receives a personal certificate of thanks with a photo of the recipient.

District 20 will hold a second Wheelchair Weekend this Columbian Year, with Church of the Epiphany Council 12569 set for January 24-25.

Councils interested in holding a Wheelchair Weekend are asked to contact Costanza at kcdistrict51@yahoo.com.

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 Holds Sacred Heart Holy Hour

A Sacred Heart Holy Hour Program was conducted in the Adoration Chapel of Santa Maria del Mar Church in Flagler Beach. The prayer service was conducted during Eucharistic Adoration on First Friday. The Sacred Heart travelling Icon was on display during the service.

Notre Dame Council Grand Knight Bryant Perszyk, Faith Director Doug Hill and PGK Bob Conochalla assisted with the readings, Responsorial Psalm, Reflections, and Intercessions as outlined in the 'Sacred Heart Holy Hour' Booklet (#5050) available from the Supreme Council. Brother Doug Hill recited the Chaplet of Divine Mercy with the attendees.

After the recitation of the 'Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus,' GK Perszyk led the participants in the singing of the Tantum Ergo. The Blessed Sacrament was then reposed in the tabernacle.



Notre Dame Council has committed to having members signed-up for Eucharistic Adoration each Friday from 11:00 a.m. – noon. Eucharistic Adoration was extended by Pastor and Chaplain Fr. Manny Lopez to accommodate the Sacred Heart Holy Hour Program.

The framed 'Sacred Heart Icon' portrait was placed on the Santa Maria del Mar altar for a week prior to being transferred to the next council to host the Sacred Heart Holy Hour program

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/> †

Council Hosts Soccer Challenge

As Summer wanes into Fall it's back-to-school at Incarnation Catholic School (ICS) in Sarasota. That means it's time for the ICS, Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge! A team of Brother Knights from Incarnation Council #15332 led by Grand Knight Bryan Hoskinson hosted the event at ICS bright and early on Wednesday morning, September 17th.

A total of 52 Boys and 50 Girls participated, ages ranging from 9 to 14. Past Grand Knight Dale Haas and Brother, Coach Bill Donivan, retired Director of Athletics at Cardinal Mooney High School in Sarasota, organized and conducted the event. As Incarnation Council is the only council in District 51 to hold a Soccer Challenge the Council event served as the District Competition. With the help of ICS teachers and staff it ran like clockwork. The children always look forward to competing with their peers and the fun that Knights of Columbus athletic activities provide in full measure.

Incarnation Council's youth program is so successful with the school they are planning to expand their activities by hosting a Hockey Challenge for the first time this year! And it's



not just the youth who enjoy their time in the Sun, all Brother Knights who participate share in the spirit of the event, serving the school, Parish and community, and spreading the good works of the Order. So much so one fifth grader asked an Incarnation Brother, "when can I become a Knight?" Not too much longer young man!



Louis Prevost Captivates Assembly

Father Claudio Stewart recently introduced Louis Prevost – older brother of Pope Leo XIV – and his wife Deborah following Mass at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church in Port Charlotte. Originally planning to talk for about five minutes, the Prevosts gave their impressions and answered questions for about 45 minutes. Included in the congregation was Sir Knight Kellmis Fernandez, Florida State Multi-Cultural Director for the Knights of Columbus, who spoke with him and told him about the Knights of Columbus, extending an invitation to join the order.

Fernandez then set up a formal Zoom meeting interview with Mr. Prevost conducted by PSD and KofC Supreme Director Scott O'Connor and himself. The interview lasted nearly two hours.

The first part of the interview was published in the August issue of the Invocation.

Scott O'Connor – Tell us a little bit about yourself and your family, and how you decided to come to Florida, and anything else you want to add.

Louis Prevost – While we were living up north, I contracted a blood cancer that attacked my bones, in the marrow. I was going for months with horrible pains in my legs, in my back, neck, shoulders. I had been to three or four doctors, and they did all these different tests, and they couldn't find anything, only giving me medicines to take the pain away. Finally, one day I woke up, and I couldn't move. I was paralyzed, and in horrible pain all through my body.

What woke me up was my office was calling after hours, and I needed to get on my computer and do work. But I wasn't able to move and I thought, something's really wrong. Holy cow! Why can't I move?

Well, that went on for some time, I finally, I managed eventually to roll my way out of bed. I got to my computer, I was basically just kneeling on the floor with the computer on the bed and just



moving my arms and fingers to type, and I thought “This is bad.” That was in June of 2017. On July 4 of that year, Independence Day, we were supposed to go to my brother John's for a barbecue picnic, and again, I woke up and I couldn't move. I was stuck again in bed, and my wife's saying, “that's it, you're done.” She dragged me out of bed, helped me get dressed and took me to the Urgent Care in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

They got me in, and they ran all kinds of tests, took X-rays, and came back with the same (diagnosis). There's nothing there. Everything looks good, have some oxy (OxyContin) but I still was dying from the pain. They also said, “Or if you want, you can go over to the Emergency Room. Now we've been there (Urgent Care) like four or five hours already. I was ready to get in the car and go home. Thank God, my wife again saved my life. She dragged me over to the ER, where

they put me through another five or six hours of tests. They drew lots of blood, took lots of X-rays, it was now in the evening.

Then we were put in a little room and told that the doctor will be in to talk to you in a minute. He's going over the results of all your tests. We're sitting there for what seemed like an eternity and I thought "let's just go, they forgot about us." But my wife said we're not going anywhere until we find out. And I said, "You watch. They're going to come in here and tell me I've got terminal cancer. I've got three weeks to live."

Honest to God! It wasn't 20 seconds after I said that there was a knock at the door. Guy opens the door and says, Mr. Prevost, "yes". I am sorry to tell you. You've got malignant multiple myeloma. Here's an oncologist card we recommend. I would go home, make your final preparations, and get your affairs in order. Good luck, and he walked out. And so my jaw dropped open. My wife is balling, oh, my God! And it's what a way to you know you like to hear the news. But what a way to present it! You know you got three weeks good luck.

So, we did that at the at that time Deb was working for AbbVie. If you're familiar, they're a spinoff from Abbott labs.

We made an appointment with the oncologist. He did some tests and then he sent me for different kind of X-rays and scans that they hadn't done in the past. The oncologist said, "I don't understand why they didn't do whatever it was. But you need to go do this test so we can see what's going on. It was an MRI and a CT scan. I think. So, we went back to the hospital emergency room, and they did those tests."

Now I'm walking around, I'm on the oxy, so I have no pain right. I'm having a good old time I'm working away doing stuff at home around the house. We went out to have lunch at a Golden Corral up in Kenosha. When you go inside the restaurant, there's no cell phone service. I think they've got it locked down so people don't you know yak on their phones while other people are eating. When we came out of the restaurant, both our phones were blowing up. We heard urgent messages from the hospital to "Come back right

away! Come back right away!" That's all they said.

We jumped into the car. Went back to the hospital. I pulled up and there's a nurse out there waiting for us, she is waving to us "come over here, come over here." So we drive around to where she was, two guys and two girls show up. They open the passenger door and one of the girls reaches in, puts a neck brace on me. The guys drag me out of the car, and put me on a gurney, then they shoved me in the back of an ambulance, and away we went, to St. Luke's in Milwaukee.

Well, it turned out those scans showed my neck was broken in two places. Some of the vertebrae had been eaten into (the shape of) an arrowhead. It had pushed into my spinal column and that's what was causing the pain and paralysis. Because depending on where that (arrowhead) was pressing, the whatever circuit in my spine was shorted, and I was stuck in great pain.

As it turns out, when I got out of the ambulance, they got me, boom, right into surgery. After the surgery, when the doctor came out to explain what they found and what happened.

In my mind I am thinking that the first miracle was that my wife insisted we go the clinic. Miracle two was when somebody actually looked at the x-rays and said, Holy crap! He's got a broken neck in two places. Then then the third miracle was that I had a great surgeon who was available at 2:10 in the morning to come in and do this operation.

The doctor then told me, after I had woken up later that morning, all that had transpired. He said, "The first thing to do when you get out of here is go to church and say a prayer, because I don't understand why you're not a paraplegic, or a quadriplegic." It was that bad. "I don't understand how you're not totally paralyzed after what we had to do to fix your spinal column in your neck."

And he showed me the pictures, and I'm like, Oh, my gosh! So, prayer worked in my mind for me. I'm ambulatory. They fixed my neck and now, all they had to do was battle the cancer somehow. But yeah, that was incredible. And when I woke up I was feeling no pain, like I was still on the pain drugs, and they said, No, you're not on pain meds. I'm like, "Well, I have no pain

So, for the next few years I was going back regularly to have that stuff looked at, X-ray's and tests. This was to make sure the bones (cadaver) were adapting and healing and not deteriorating. They were also checking on the spread of the lesions that previously were eating the bones. They had kind of slowed down and/or stopped. So, it was all good, and we resumed normal life. While my wife was at AbbVie she talked to some of the doctors there and she gave him the whole background. The fellow at AbbVie then said "that's not good enough, you got to find another doctor that treats it more aggressively." They said, "Go see Dr. Hari at Froedtert, he's a leading expert in the Myeloma field". So we did, and he did some magic. He got me into a couple clinical trials. That was July 2, 2017. It's now July 22, 2025. I'm still here. I'm active, I'm pain free, I'm working full time.

Right around the time Covid was starting to break out I told my doctor there at Froedtert that we were thinking about moving to Florida because the cold weather really hurts. The doctor said if you're going to move to Florida, we need to stay near Tampa because I want you to go to Moffitt for your treatment down there.

When Covid came out, work told me that I may not want to come into the office with all the people here, and I might want to stay home. I said, "Does it matter where my home is?" It took about a week for him to say "no, probably not, why?" "I said, well, we're moving to Florida." And then they went, I guess it doesn't matter. Go ahead.

So we started scoping the area close enough to Tampa when another miracle happened. We were dejected because we couldn't find a anything we could afford. We were driving when we learned that a new house just came on the market, within a half mile of where we're at. We found the house empty and abandoned. We walked up to the windows and my wife looked in the front door. You could look in the front, look clear through the back. See the lanai, see the pool, see the backyard, and then see the empty lot behind it, and see the woods across street. It was beautiful. We made an offer, lower than the asking price, that was denied. We started heading, driving back towards Chicago

and we were in Kentucky when the phone rang, and it was the agent saying, "they have a counter offer." We went back and forth several more offers and when we got to our home in Illinois, the phone rang the next day and the agent said, "they have accepted your offer."

We then rapidly packed stuff up and came down here. And that's what drove it, my health and to get out of the cold. Since they (doctors) did not want me in the office at work, and we found a place that worked for us. Here we are.

Scott O'Connor – What a great story, especially the part about your being in remission!

Louis Prevost – I remember thinking "I'm not a quitter! I'm going to beat this. I don't care what they say. Damn it. we're going to do this, let's fight, let's fight", and you just gear up and you go for it. It's another reason why, at my age, I'm still working full time. My doctor told me, "Whatever you do, don't stop working, keep active, keep your mind going and keep your mind off what you got." You'll be 100% ahead of the game. I can't imagine to just retire, what would I do? I need to be mentally aware and awake and active, and not just turn to a couch potato.

Kellmis Fernandez – You don't have to worry about that (retirement and what to do), Lou, because if you retire and you decide to join a Knights of Columbus council, we'll find stuff for you to keep you busy!



Fourth Degree Exemplification in Wildwood

Knights will have the opportunity to take the enhanced Fourth Degree Exemplification Ceremonial at St. Vincent de Paul in Wildwood on November 1, 2025.

The Fourth Degree is celebrating its 125th anniversary, with the celebration beginning on Washington's Birthday with a class of 650 new Sir Knights in a stirring ceremony at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Since then, the Florida District has hosted Exemplifications in Lakewood Ranch, Palm Beach Gardens and St. Augustine, joining the select group to meet the "125 for 125" objective.

The Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus was founded in 1900 to embody the virtue of Patriotism. The Fourth Degree is available to all third degree members in good standing who are citizens of the country they reside and wish to grow in their practice of Catholic patriotism.

St. Vincent de Paul is located at 5323 East County Road 462 in Wildwood. Registration begins at 9 a.m., with the Exemplification ceremony starting at 11 a.m. The Banquet begins at 2 p.m., followed by the Vigil Mass at 4 p.m.

For the first time, the new Exemplification ceremony is open to spouses, family and guests.

All forms for the degree must be received by the Master by January 17, along with banquet reservations. The initiation fee is \$90, including one banquet ticket (\$50 for Priests and members of a religious order). Additional banquet tickets are \$50. Assemblies should fill out the proper form, along with a Form 4 application for each candidate, along with one Assembly check payable to Master Robert Urrutia. The correct forms and additional information are available under the Fourth Degree tab on the www.floridakofc.org web site.

Candidates must wear a dark suit and tie, with a plain white shirt and black shoes. Religious may



wear their clerical garb. Members of the armed forces or full-time police, and firefighting officers may wear their respective dress uniforms. Fourth Degree members shall wear official dress plus social baldric, lapel pin and current jewel of office.

The next scheduled Florida Exemplification will be on January 31, 2026, at St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Tampa.



Knights of Columbus VAVS Program

By Angel Luis Rodriguez Rivera, State VAVS Director

Strategies Councils and Assemblies Can Use for a Supporting Presence in Veterans' Lives. Determine what activities and interactions Councils and Assemblies are currently having with Federal, State and various Veterans' Organizations in your geographic location by reaching out to those Councils and Assemblies in your area. This can be facilitated through your Regional Administrators and the District Deputies in their Assigned Region.



The various organizations would be the local Honor Flight Association flying Veterans to Washington, D.C. Memorials; the Missing in America Project burying deceased homeless veterans with military honors at National Cemeteries; American Legion; Veterans of Foreign Wars, etc.

At the VA Medical Centers, Assembly and Council Members, Columbiettes and parishioners can become volunteers after background screening and some basic training at the Center for Development & Civic Engagement (CDCE). Check with the Catholic Chaplain to see if KofC volunteers can distribute Communion to hospitalized veterans throughout the hospital, bring the disabled veterans in wheelchairs and escort veterans using canes or walkers to the chapel for Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation.

Determine the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) Facility in your area and obtain contact information of the Chief, Center for Development & Civic Engagement (CDCE) and his team members and whether there is a Knights of Columbus Representative and Deputy Representative for Veterans Affairs Volunteer Services (VAVS)

assigned by the Master of the Fourth Degree and Supreme Master to that VA Medical Center. If there is a vacancy, the local KofC Assemblies should select Fourth Degree members to be Knights of Columbus VAVS Program Representative and Deputy Representative, preferably veterans who honorably served in U.S. Military Services. These candidates and all volunteer candidates will be subject to background screening.

At the Catholic Churches in your local area, or in your residential communities, Councils and Assemblies can decide if their members are willing to make their members available to help elderly and disabled veterans by bringing them to church, bringing them Communion, taking the veterans to Church activities, to hospital appointments, taking them out for meals or bringing them a meal from a restaurant or fast-food place or going to a movie. If so, let your Pastor and his staff know and see if they are willing to let your brother Knights be there to support our veterans.

CAR SHOW & *Cookout*



**Knights Of
Columbus**

**Saints Cosmas
& Damian
Council 13341**

Live DJ



**All Proceeds Go to
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Saturday, November 1st, 2025 - 10am to 2pm
Our Lady Of The Angels Catholic Church
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\$20 To Show Your Car

All Cars Welcome (Must Arrive By 9:30 am)

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS | EPIPHANY COUNCIL 12569

SEVENTH ANNUAL TRUCK, JEEP &

CAR SHOW

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22 | 10 AM - 2 PM

\$15 ENTRY FEE | REGISTRATION 9 - 11 AM



All Entries Judged by Appearance:

Exterior - Body condition, panel fit, trim and detailing

Interior - Seats, carpets, headliners, door panels

Paint - Finish, matches throughout and door jams

Cleanliness - exterior, interior, and engine compartment



**Door Prizes
50/50,
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**Trophies & Music
Free General
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201 LAFAYETTE ST. | PORT ORANGE
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INVOCATION

Knights of Columbus Florida State Council Newsletter

How To Write an Article

Newsworthy • Broad Appeal • Concise • Complete • Factual • Accurate

Answers the Questions: Who, What, When, Where, Why & How

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

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

Send all information:

Region 1: Robert A. Gualtieri ro130@outlook.com

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

Region 4: invocation@floridakofc.org

Region 5: invocation@floridakofc.org

Region 6: Armando Minutoli aminutoli145@gmail.com

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



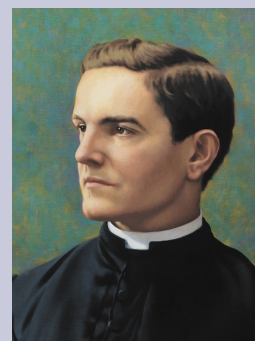
Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael J. McGivney

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

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

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

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



Is Your Personal Information Accurate?

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

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

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

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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

Incorporate principled fiscal responsibility for charitable giving.

The Florida State Logo



Explanation of the Florida State Council Pin 2025-2027

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

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

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

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Region 7 (Open)

Region 8 (Open)

Florida State Council Social Media

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

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



Knightline

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

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

COLUMBIA

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



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