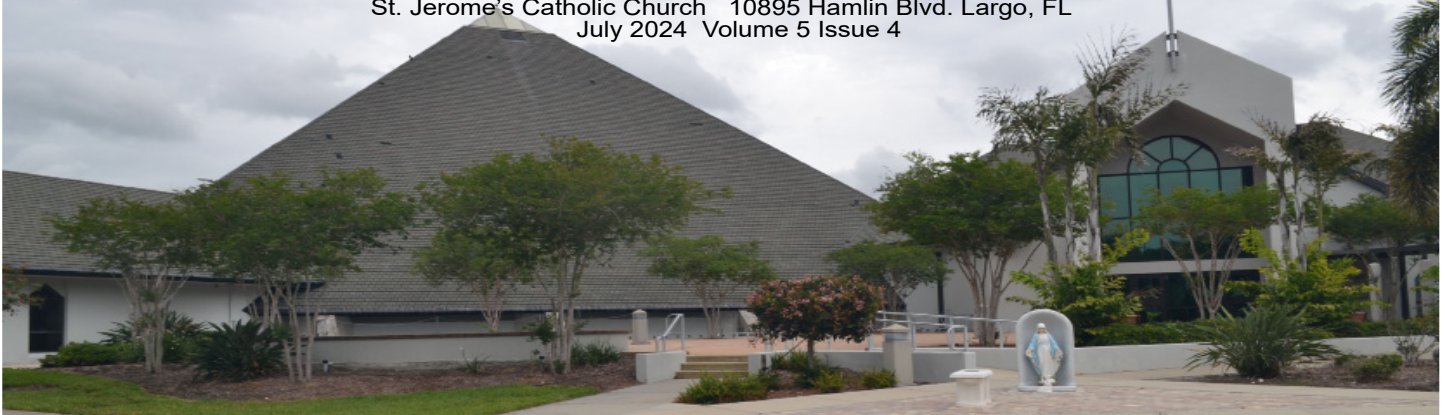


KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249

St. Jerome's Catholic Church 10895 Hamlin Blvd. Largo, FL
July 2024 Volume 5 Issue 4



First Liberty, McGuireWoods LLP Sue National Park Service For Not Letting Knights of Columbus Host Memorial Day Mass Inside Cemetery



Knights a permit to host the Mass because a policy change prohibits demonstrations in the cemetery.

On May 13, First Liberty sent a letter to Chief Park Ranger Aaron Scott, urging the National Park Service to rescind the denial of the permit and allow the Knights to continue hosting the Mass at the Cemetery.

The letter noted that the Mass does not meet the definition of a "demonstration" and even if it did, the policy's application would ultimately be discriminatory and

Two legal organizations have filed a lawsuit after the National Park Service denied, for the second year in a row, the Knights of Columbus' request to host a Memorial Day Mass inside a national cemetery. The Knights have hosted the annual Memorial Day Mass inside Poplar Grove National Cemetery in Petersburg, Virginia since the 1960's.

On May 21, First Liberty Institute and McGuireWoods LLP filed a motion for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction against National Park Service, so that the Knights can continue on with hosting their annual Memorial Day Mass at the Cemetery.

According to First Liberty, the National Park Service denied the

a violation of the First Amendment, especially because the National Park Service was denying a group a permit based on the group's intention to celebrate a religious event.

"If you persist in denying the permit, our clients intend to take all appropriate steps to protect their rights, including through litigation," First Liberty wrote.

"The National Park Service is way out of line," Roger Byron, senior counsel at First Liberty, stated in a news release about the lawsuit. "This is the kind of unlawful discrimination and censorship RFRA and the First Amendment were enacted to prevent. Hopefully the court will grant the Knights the relief they need to keep this honorable tradition alive."



FROM AROUND THE WORLD OF INTEREST TO CATHOLICS

UK diocese bans celebrating 'Pride month' in schools

11 Martyrs of Damascus to be canonized

Kentucky enjoys 6 months of no reported abortions

Kentucky diocesan hermit 'comes out' as transgender

Federal Court: No opt-out of LG-BTQ curriculum in MD

NY high court: Albany diocese must cover abortion

New Mexico priest dies by suicide amid child sex abuse investigation

No reason to be cynical about celebrity conversions, Bishop Barron and others say

White House says Israel's Rafah strike and ground assault don't cross Biden's 'red line'

Editor's note: After this article was printed, a follow-up article appeared. It is below.

BIDEN ADMIN. BACKS DOWN, ALLOWS MEMORIAL DAY MASS The National Park Service has granted the permit for the Knights of Columbus to host a Memorial Day Mass inside a national cemetery, the legal organization First Liberty announced. The news comes after First Liberty filed a lawsuit over the agency shutting the Mass down. The lawsuit has now been withdrawn.

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Pete McCabe

Grand Knight Report: Year in Review

As we conclude our fraternal year at the end of June, I want to provide you with a "Year in Review" on our council activities. Hopefully, you will see how much we have accomplished and energized you to get involved in some small way.

Your council tracks activities through four program areas: faith, family, community, and life. These activities include contributing time and/or money. Our Worthy Deputy Grand Knight Bill Bannon tracks the man-hours we contribute to these events. From July 2023 to June 2024, our council has contributed 2,117 man-hours. During this same period, your council has dispersed a total of over \$61K.

Let's break down those numbers into the four program areas:

Faith - 235 man-hours and \$25.8K

Supported the roof fund with a \$10K contribution plus other improvements

Supported the ECC and other ministries such as Alpha, OCIA, and GriefShare

Man-hours helped with landscaping, setting up manger scene, replacing hymnals

Supported Sisters of St. Clare, Diocesan seminarians, and Catholic Home School

Family - 24 man-hours and \$1.4K

We provided Scholarship tuition money to St. Patrick's School

We supported St. Jerome's Trunk or Treat event

Community - 1,723 man-hours and \$8.8K

We provided financial and man-hour support to the Blessing Bag program

We provided 96 coats through Coats for Kids program to Bellaire Elementary School

We provided financial and man-hour support St. Jerome's Lifeline program

We provided financial and man-hour support for area disaster relief

Life - 43 man-hours and \$7.1K

We provided financial and man-hour support to Foundations of Life pregnancy center

We ran the Baby Bottle Campaign and in one week raised \$5,945.35 for FOL

We provided financial and man-hour support to Special Olympics Florida event

Outside the four program areas, the council's efforts also focused on the Grotto and Bingo. Our monthly cleanup details have made a positive impact on the Grotto. Bingo operations require volunteers to setup the room on Wednesday and to man the various duties on Thursday. Consider helping in either effort.

The council is funded by Bingo, member dues, fundraising, and donations. Thanks to our Worthy Treasurer, Rich Pettit, our next budget (2024-2025) forecasts Bingo revenue of \$24K and total revenue of \$35K. Our total council disbursements are \$35K. This is a zero-based budget with income equaling our disbursements. The council was especially generous with financial support this last year since we started the year with so much money in our bank account (over \$31K). We plan to start and end the next budget year with \$10K in the bank.

I encourage you to review our detailed budget. It outlines all the programs and events we plan for the next year, and hopefully you can find one area that interests you. We'd love to see more of our Brother Knights join us at meetings and/or events.

We started the fraternal year in July 2023 with 101 members and will end the fraternal year this month with 112 members. While that may seem like a large number, the number of active members is much smaller. Many of our members cannot participate due to health issues and that is understandable. Getting more brother Knights involved in our activities - however limited in scope - would boost our program effectiveness and assist so many people. So please consider joining your council in a future activity even if that activity is coming to a general meeting and lending your voice to our deliberations.

This past year was a very good year for our council. Let's make next year even better.

FROM THE DESK OF OUR CHAPLAIN



Fr. Mike

Editor's Note:

Brothers,

As most of you know, Fr. Mike has agreed to become our council's chaplain. He also has agreed to write a monthly column. However, for July's newsletter he was too busy to write anything, so we will have to wait till next month's newsletter.

If/when you see him, please thank him for his dedication to our Lord and the decision to be our chaplain.

Vivat Jesus!

Jim Hand

Msgr Muldoon's 60th Anniversary As a Priest

On Sunday, June 16th, the parish celebrated Msgr Muldoon's 60th Anniversary as a Priest. The 10:45 Mass celebrated this diamond jubilee with Bishop Parkes presiding over the event along with numerous other priests in attendance. Afterwards,

there was a reception in the Parish Center which was attended by over 200 people. To honor Msgr Muldoon, the parish has renamed the Education Building to the Msgr. Brendan Muldoon Education Building. In addition, the parish also announced

the Msgr. Brendan Muldoon Endowment to benefit the St. Jerome Early Childhood Center. The Knights helped with planning and execution of the Mass and reception. Thanks to all who helped with setup, serving, and cleaning.



Several Knights Clean Up Grotto

On Saturday, June 8, a few Knights gathered for the monthly Grotto cleanup. While it was a bit warm out there, the group benefitted by the shaded Grotto area. The usual tasks were completed: blew the debris off the bricks, weed killer applied to the weeds between the bricks, and a group pulling weeds in the all the flower beds. The Brothers especially concentrated on the flower bed in the Rosary area. In addition to these tasks, the altar top got a good scrub as well as any bricks that needed it. If you have not been out to the Grotto lately, a trip out there is highly recommended. You will be impressed. Please join this group once a month. The more the merrier!



(L-R, back row): Rick Hendrickson, Rich Pettit, Fred Melchiorri, Tim Condron
(L-R, sitting): Dan Timmons, Bob Jodal
Not shown: Edgar Lecuyer and Pete McCabe

Movie Review: Irena's Vow



Irena's Vow (2023) is a carefully crafted film that draws you into a captivating and memorable true story. Directed by Louise Archambault, its unique account and unsuspecting plot twists make it a must-see film for every Catholic.

It is not surprising to find a WWII film that honors heroism and sacrifice in the defense of human dignity, but *Irena's Vow* stands out for its

authentic and humble depiction of holiness in action. Irena is a Polish Catholic who finds herself in an unexpected position of advantage amidst the Nazi occupation.

Rather than keep her head down to ensure her own survival, Irena takes the ultimate risk to hide Jews in the house of a high-ranking Nazi officer. This film is sure to become a regular classic amidst the treasure trove of inspiring films.

The film embraces the theme of the dignity of all human life in a balanced and thought-provoking way. The pro-life message is subtle but inundates the entire theme of the film. Jews, the unborn, and even Nazis are portrayed in all the grittiness of the human condition. Viewers will find themselves reflecting anew on the profound weight of every human life. Throughout the film, Irena illustrates faithfulness to God and charity to her neighbor by remaining steadfast in her decisions, despite obstacles

and risks. Every time her precarious external situation changes in a way more favorable to her own survival, Irena views the change as a gift from God that she is bound as a Christian to share with the less fortunate. The film portrays both the struggle and the virtue of Irena without slipping into trite piety.

Irena's Vow will have you on the edge of your seat. It is a far cry from just another WWII movie. The unique details of Irena's story provide an out-of-the-ordinary setting to examine and relive the shock of WWII—through the eyes of a housekeeper from within the very home of a high-ranking Nazi official. Plot twists will keep you engaged and the profound message will leave you pondering anew the unforgettable impact of the Second World War.

Moviegoers will find *Irena's Vow* to be thoroughly engaging and yet deeply challenging.

Little Rock Installs Safe Haven Baby Box, Receives Two Infants Within Weeks



A newly installed Safe Haven baby box at a fire station in Little Rock, Arkansas, received two infants in only a few weeks, before the box

could even be dedicated or blessed. The baby box is an initiative from the Safe Haven Baby Boxes organization, which places temperature-controlled boxes in fire stations across the country so first responders can receive abandoned babies whose parents cannot care for them.

Little Rock Mayor Frank Scott Jr. celebrated the swift use of the baby box. "Our ultimate responsibility in each of those cases is to protect the infant's well-being. The installation of a Safe Haven Baby Box will ensure parents in crisis will have a 24/7, last-resort option to surrender their newborns and ensure the health and safety of the child," Scott said.

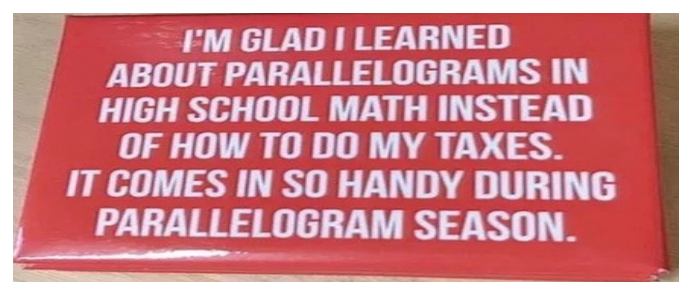
When a baby is placed inside the box, it locks and sends a signal to first responders, who can then immediately care for the baby. Babies are then

taken to a hospital for medical evaluation and usually adopted within 30 to 45 days.

The Little Rock baby box was installed in the Little Rock Central Fire Station and funded by Calvary Baptist Church.

Little Rock Fire Chief Delphone Hubbard said that the box will enable first responders to better care for abandoned infants.

"I know the significance of a baby box, being in this business for over 29 years and making calls where we find a baby that has been left on the side of the dumpster," Hubbard said. Arkansas allows parents to surrender their babies younger than 30 days to Safe Haven programs or any hospital emergency room, police or sheriff department, state police office, or fire department with 24/7 staff.



Bishop Barron: Anti-religion Bill Maher has 'become an ally'

Bishop Robert Barron said that talk-show host Bill Maher, who has been famously critical of religion, has become an unlikely "ally" amid the ongoing bitter culture wars.

Barron, the bishop of the Winona-Rochester Diocese in Minnesota and founder of Word on Fire Ministries, wrote that while for many years Maher was a reliably harsh and unsparing critic of religion, the comedian has of late set his sights on a very different target. Barron recalled that Maher "...would often present the most extreme and simple-minded version of Christianity, and his audience would derisively laugh with him at the poor rubes who still believed such nonsense."

The comedian's anti-religious zeal ultimately came to a head in the 2008 film "Religulous," Barron noted. In that feature-length film, Maher traveled the world, mocking and criticizing numerous religions, including Catholicism.

Maher annoyed me, Barron admitted, though he said he came to understand Maher's beliefs as an outgrowth of what the bishop described as a "childish version of the faith" imparted by a lax mid-century American faith tradition.

Yet in recent years, Barron noted, the comedian has pivoted away from criticism of religion and more toward

criticism of the "woke" style of politics that has come to dominate much of American political and social discourse.

"As he has done so, I have found myself, time and again, nodding my head in agreement," the prelate wrote. "To my surprise, the nemesis had become an ally."

The bishop wrote that both he and Maher are opposed to the "all-or-nothing antagonism that is characteristic of wokeism and the brutal cancel culture that follows from it."

The "woke consensus is that those we disagree with are not just to be corrected or ignored; they are to be shouted down and silenced," he said.

The bishop further pointed to Maher's recent appearance on conservative Greg Gutfeld's Fox News talk show.

The left-wing Maher and right-wing Gutfeld "didn't insult one another; they didn't resort to smear tactics," Barron wrote. Rather, "they presented arguments and, at the close of the program, they were both laughing."

Maher was demonstrating that intellectual opponents "do not have to demonize one another" and that they can "talk through issues without resorting to violence or personal attack."

In doing so the comedian "was both striking at the foundation of wok-



Bill Maher and Bishop Barron

eism and showing, in a truly patriotic spirit, that he still believes in the democratic process," Barron said.

Maher spoke out in response to outrage surrounding Kansas City Chiefs kicker Harrison Butker's May 11 commencement speech at Benedictine College. In that speech Butker, a Catholic, spoke about gender ideology, gender roles, homosexuality, abortion, and other hot-button issues. The comedian said critics have painted Butker as "history's greatest monster" for speaking out in favor of marriage and faith. "I don't see what the big crime is. I really don't," Maher said.

In conclusion, the Bishop said, "Maher has likewise in the past been an unsparing critic of religion, calling it a 'neurological disorder' that makes 'a virtue out of not thinking.'"

This Song Just Might Bring You to Tears!

Rachel Holt, an 18-year-old country singer from Indiana now based out of Tennessee, recently released a song to celebrate the second anniversary of the overturning of Roe v. Wade. The song is sung from the perspective of a little girl in the womb and is titled "I Was Gonna Be."

Chris Wallin, who has written songs for Brad Paisley, Toby Keith, Kenny Chesney, and many other big names in country music, wrote this song. In an interview with Breitbart News, he expressed that he was convicted that "something needed to be said" although he "didn't think anyone would ever actually sing [the song]." After getting to know Holt, Wallin and Holt recorded and released the

song with Baste Records.

Singing, "If my mama coulda just seen my face, maybe she woulda had me anyway," Holt has topped charts with her newest song.

Breaking through to rank at the top five in country music on iTunes, Holt sings a sorrowful story of a little girl who never made it to birth.

Holding a strong pro-life stance and traditional values, Holt shared with Breitbart that she feels that girls her age do not listen to songs about life, Baste Records was happy to help her share this authentic perspective. Now, some are calling this the new "Pro-Life Anthem."

Listen to the song here: <https://youtu.be/JECbfKi90rA>



Rachel Holt

A Ouija Board: Fact or Fiction?

As Catholics, it's crucial to acknowledge the incredible danger that comes with engaging in occult activities like the Ouija board. In recent times, the Ouija board has surged in popularity, especially among younger people. Even virtual versions are now readily accessible.



demons impersonating them. Ultimately, the truth unravels because demons cannot indefinitely conceal their malevolent nature. Love does not exist in hell.

When teenagers and young adults resort to the Ouija board in search of supernatural answers, they jeopardize their faith in God. Instead of turning to Him in prayer, they seek guidance from spirits, placing their trust in entities other than God for answers to their questions. Christ ceases to be their central focus, potentially leading to a weakening and eventual loss of faith in the one true God. "No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn." Luke 10: 13.

The use of the Ouija board can result in detrimental physical and psychological consequences. There have been reports of nausea, vomiting, dizziness, and headaches by those who sought to communicate with spirits. The author of the novel *The Exorcist*, William Peter Blatty was interviewed by Ray Connelly in 1972 on the *Evening Standard* and reported supernatural occurrences as he was writing the last chapter of his book after using the Ouija board. He stated, "Well, I don't want to sound like a nut, but as I was writing the last chapter and the epilogue, I did

have a series of bizarre experiences. For the first time in my life, I got hung up on a Ouija board for 10 days. I'd never done it before, but I found I couldn't leave it alone. And I had the most definite feeling that I was communicating with the dead. Yes, I agree an awful lot of it could be auto-suggestion, and I knew all about how Ouija boards worked because I'd researched it so much for the book, but there were certain things which are not susceptible to explanation by the subconscious mind.

"Then there were poltergeist experiences. When I was doing revisions of the book at a friend's house, the telephone rang and suddenly the receiver leapt off the hook. It happened to him first and then to me. So I asked a friend who did the acoustics for the Kennedy Centre what the possibilities were of this happening electrically, and he said it was impossible. Then telephone engineers in two states confirmed that it was impossible. But we both saw it happen. That was the culmination of several incidents, but it was the one that in no way could be explained."

Although demonic possession is not an everyday occurrence, it is real, and the possible consequences are severe. It is not worth the risk of enduring such torment and violence by the Prince of Darkness, all for the sake of simply "playing a game." Why risk opening the gateway to the demonic, giving Satan permission to harm us, and losing our soul to the evil one?

NPR Showcases 'Rogue' Nun Behind Pro-Abortion Push in Missouri

National Public Radio (NPR) recently featured a Missouri nun who is backing an effort to add a pro-abortion initiative to her state's November ballot.

NPR's Katia Riddle interviewed Sister Barbara for the taxpayer-funded network's long-running news program "All Things Considered."

"NPR is not using Sister Barbara's last name," Riddle said. "She fears retribution from her local archdiocese for publicly expressing her beliefs on reproductive rights."

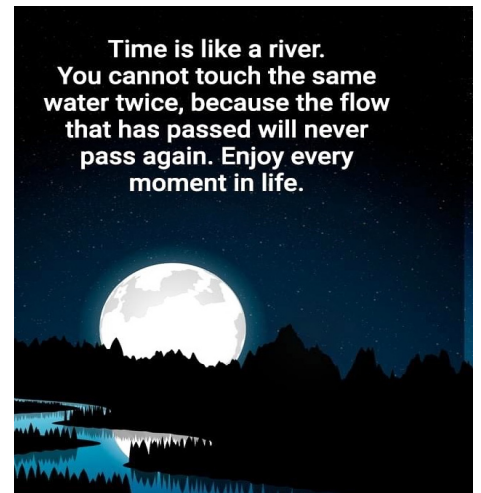
"She doesn't agree with the Church's position that abortion is a sin and should be illegal," the NPR reporter pointed out.

In the interview, Sister Barbara justified her support for abortion: "I just don't see it in just real absolute terms."

Also, according to Riddle, the nun claimed the Bible "does not say anything explicit about abortion."

Sister Barbara added: "I want to put a sticker on the car that says 'Don't like abortion? Don't have one.'"

Time is like a river.
You cannot touch the same
water twice, because the flow
that has passed will never
pass again. Enjoy every
moment in life.



US Returns \$80 Million-Worth of Stolen Artifacts to Italy



It looked more like a museum exhibition of Italian art than a crime scene, but in the Central Institute for Restoration's offices, located inside a former women's prison in central Rome, some 600 works of art were put on display Tuesday morning.

Ranging from life-sized bronze statues to tiny Roman coins, from oil paintings to mosaic flooring, the pieces span the 9th century BC to the 2nd century AD and amount to just one year's stolen and trafficked art confiscated by Manhattan prosecutor Col. Matthew Bogdanos' team and returned to Italy.

The trafficked works, pillaged from the Italian regions of Lazio, Campania, Puglia, Calabria and Sicily, were sequestered in New York and New Jersey last year.

Billoards Across America Declare June Is Devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Throughout the month of June, billboards depicting the centuries-old devotion to The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus have sprung up across the country, including in multiple areas of Wisconsin.

The Knights of Columbus St. John Neumann Council #973 in Kenosha, Wisconsin "have sponsored 10 Sacred Heart billboards across the city for the month of June.

Three-and-a-half hours away in Wausau, Wisconsin, someone said, "We have two billboards, A City Transit bus, yard signs, bumper



sticker magnets, flags and banners! "We are taking our month back!" the person said. Two huge Sacred Heart of Jesus billboards were erected in New York's Times Square, reminding thousands of passersby that the month of June belongs to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

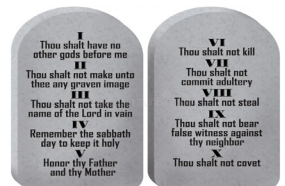
Louisiana Set to Become First State to Mandate the Ten Commandments Displays in Public Schools

The legislation requires all publicly funded schools to display a poster or framed document depicting the text of the Ten Commandments that is larger than 11 by 14 inches. The text—printed in a large, legible font—must be the central focus of

the display. Charter schools are exempt from the requirement. The legislation also adds that public schools may use state funds to purchase the displays, but they are not required to do so. The displays additionally could be

received as a donation or purchased with donated funds.

The legislation has now been returned to the House, which will vote a second time before sending it to Republican Gov. Jeff Landry for his approval or veto.



Florida Priest Charged for Biting Arm of Woman He Says Was Desecrating the Eucharist



A priest in Florida bit the forearm of a woman he says was desecrating the Eucharist in a Communion line and has now been charged with one count of battery.

Father Fidel Rodriguez, 66, admitted to police that he bit the woman but said he did so only after she reached into the ciborium and tried to grab a host from it, damaging other hosts as she did so.

"The only defense that I found to defend something that for us is sacred was biting her. I'm not denying that," Rodriguez told police.

"I admit that I bit her, as a defense for myself and the sacrament," he said.

The woman told police the priest denied her Communion after she refused to answer his questions about whether she had been to confession recently.

"I just wanted a cookie, that's all," the woman told police.

Firefighters treated the arm of the

woman at the police station. She refused to go to a hospital.

Police have charged Rodriguez with one count of battery stemming from the incident, which occurred during the noon Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

The woman told police she then went to the 10 a.m. Mass with her same-sex partner because it was the woman's niece's first Communion.

The parish's video of the 10 a.m. Mass shows an interaction between the priest and the woman, who neither presents her hands to receive the host nor opens her mouth to receive on her tongue. The priest and the woman speak for about 45 seconds, holding up the Communion line, though their conversation can't be heard over the music and singing.

The woman later told police she suspected the priest wouldn't give her Communion because of the way she was dressed and because of her sexual orientation. "I believe that his excuse was that I wasn't super-holy, in his eyes," the woman.

But the priest told police sexual orientation had nothing to do with it.

When the woman didn't hold her hands out one on top of the other or open her mouth and didn't say "Amen" after he said "body of Christ," he said, he knew she didn't know what she was doing.

He said he asked her when the last time she received Communion was, and that she said it was many years ago. He said he asked her if she had gone to confession, and she replied, "I don't need to explain you that."

He said he told her that he has the authority to ask her that question

and that he could not give her Communion, but he could give her a blessing instead, which he said he did.

The woman and her partner then went to the noon Mass in Spanish, which Rodriguez celebrated, and the woman again went to him to receive Communion.

He told police he asked her if she had gone to confession in between Masses. She replied: "No, I don't need to explain anything to you. Don't judge me."

He said: "I'm not judging you, I'm asking you only if you went to confession after the other Mass so you could receive Communion now. Because if you did not confess, I can't give you Communion."

"Then she grabbed all the hosts in her hands, because she wanted to receive for herself. She is not permitted to do that. And she broke all the hosts, spreading them," the priest said.

He was worried that she would spill the hosts on the floor.

The Catholic Church teaches that the Eucharist is the actual body and blood of Jesus, whom Catholics worship as God. The Church also teaches that to receive Communion a person must be a Catholic in a state of grace, meaning not being mindful of having committed a serious sin without getting absolution from a priest in confession.

The woman told police that during the second Mass the priest forced it in her mouth, which she didn't want.

"He wouldn't give me a cookie. I don't know if it was how I was dressed," the woman said. "He said basically I needed to do confession, that I need to go to Mass every Sunday or whatever. And I said, 'That doesn't matter. I've done everything I needed to do as a kid. I'm just here to accept the bread.' And he wouldn't give it to me." "I tried to grab another cookie, and that's when he grabbed my hand and bit me," the woman said.

Video of the incident published by WFTV Channel 9 in Orlando shows the woman's hand in the ciborium, which is the bowl that holds Communion wafers, while the priest holds onto it with both hands. It also shows the priest moving his head down toward the woman's right arm but does not show the actual bite.

Knights Show up for Landscaping Project

On Saturday, June 1, Chris McBride, parish manager, requested the help of St Jerome ministries for some landscaping work. In answer to that call, several Knights showed up to help with some of the landscaping around the church and parish center. We helped install new plants and placed mulch around those plants.

In addition, we removed bushes and trees to make way for future roof replacement trucks and equipment (later this year). We replanted those bushes and trees to other areas of the parish campus.

Overall, our efforts will improve the beautiful campus around St. Jerome.



L-R Mike Keeser, Tim Condron, Rich Pettit, Rick Hendrickson, Fred Melchiorri
Knights not pictured: Pete McCabe, Edgar Lecuyer, Jerry Kleber

Knight of the Month



Brother Joe Moore is the council's Knight of the Month for May. Joe is always willing to lend a hand whether cooking or cleaning at our monthly breakfast. He also helps at our weekly bingo in the kitchen. Joe recently stepped up and volunteered at the last minute to help at the 1230 Mass where ushers were needed. Joe and one other Knight were the only ushers at that Mass. Joe is also the council's Outside Guard. Please remember to congratulate Joe the next time you see him.

A Message From Our New District Deputy

Brothers,

If you haven't heard the news, I want to let you know that I am succeeding Pete Grasso as the District Deputy. Following him, as I did as Grand Knight, leaves me with very large shoes to fill. I have every confidence that with your help, prayers and with divine guidance we can follow the example Pete has established to continue to be one of the top councils in one of the top districts in the state. Vivat Jesus,
Bill McClelland



Three Reasons To Be a Catholic

A few months ago, I got to know a beautiful couple who were raised Protestant but had decided to convert to Catholicism. As part of their OCIA program, they were tasked with writing down why they believe it is good to be a Catholic. Upon reviewing the husband's reflection, I requested permission to share it anonymously with a wider audience, which he generously agreed to. He begins his reflection by noting that before he decided to convert, he had long considered himself a "fan of Catholicism." It has no parallel in any of the Protestant denominations of which I had been a member. His "point of no return," he stated, came after visiting the famous Italian Catholic sites of Venice, Florence, and Rome, where he was faced with "such unimaginable beauty" dedicated to Jesus that he could no longer remain merely a "fan" of Catholicism. **"The first reason** to be a Catholic," he said, "is that the church is exceptionally clear on sin. This clarity is a natural extension of the Magisterium- the teaching authority that has no true equal in any other church. "The Church comes under fire from all sides, often from professing Catholics, for its moral teachings. These teachings on topics from abortion to marriage are often the subject of controversies from outside and within the Church. Despite the backlash, the Church stands firm on difficult issues.

"A church that would cower from the fight against sin would be a church that would find itself emptied within a couple of generations.

"We do not go to church because it wines and dines us and tells us how good we are; rather, we go to church because it is set apart from the rest of the world.

"The Catholic Church is the church established by Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, and like Christ, the church is not meant to be like the world, but something greater."

"The second reason it is good to be a Catholic is that the Catholic Church is the true Church. My favorite justification of this comes from a quote from Hilaire Belloc," he said. "The Catholic Church is an institution I am bound to hold divine — but for unbelievers, a proof of its divinity might be found in the fact that no merely human institution conducted with such knavish imbecility would have lasted a fortnight."

"I am hard-pressed to find another example of an institution that has lasted for 2,000 years. The Catholic Church is the church founded by Christ, given to the stewardship of Saint Peter, and passed down through a line of apostolic successors to our current pope, Pope Francis. If you must pick a church, it is wise to pick the true Church," he said.

"The third reason it is good to be a Catholic is the belief in the sacraments given through the Church. "The

Blessed Sacrament, the Eucharist, is reduced by many Protestants to a mere symbol. While their



version of the Eucharist might symbolize the real Body and Blood of Our Lord, it is the real thing in the Catholic Church. Quite simply, when Jesus said, 'This is My Body,' He meant it." "The Church also facilitates the other sacraments- baptism, confirmation, reconciliation, anointing of the sick, marriage, and ordination. Each of the sacraments is a crucial form through which God dispenses His divine grace to us.

"Our Protestant brothers and sisters might recognize baptism and communion as sacraments. More often than not, they have no proper vessel to facilitate reconciliation, ignoring the scriptural command to confess our sins to one another.

"Our Orthodox brothers and sisters have largely adopted the same seven sacraments as the Catholic Church, but the Catholic Church was the first to clearly define them. Why settle for second place?"

~~Domonkolus Palay

Baby Bottles Campaign Very Successful

The Mothers Day Baby Bottle Boomerang was a success on several levels.

1. We created an awareness throughtout our parish of Foundations of Life and the local services that they provide to famalies.
2. Many of us volenteered including the Knights, Colombeittes and Life Ministry.
3. We raised just under \$6000. That money among other things can buy formula, diapers, safe cribs, car seats and much more.
4. We established an annual event that we can grow upon next Mothers Day.

To paraphrase Fr Waters, " With confidence from the Holy Spirit we can do things beyond our natural abilites".

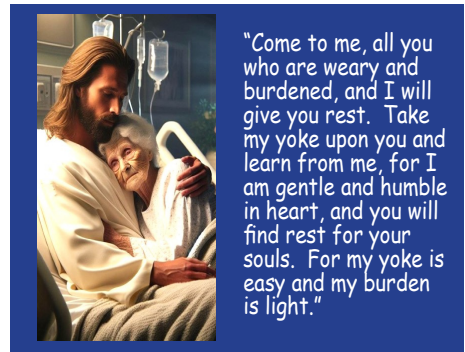
We did more than just say no. We answered the call of women who say " I WANT TO KEEP MY BABY".

Thanks to all of you for your participation.

~~Kevin Manning

"I've had a lot of worries in my life, most of which never happened."

- Mark Twain



Quotes from St. Thomas More



You must not abandon the ship in a storm because you cannot control the winds....What you cannot turn to good, you must at least make as little bad as you can.

It's wrong to deprive someone else of a pleasure so that you can enjoy one yourself, but to deprive yourself of a pleasure so that you can add to someone else's

enjoyment is an act of humanity by which you always gain more than you lose.

Every tribulation which comes our way either is sent to be medicinal, if we will take it as such, or may become medicinal, if we will make it such, or is better than medicinal, unless we forsake it.

To a person suffering a trial, Christ wanted his own deeds to speak out with his own living voice, "O faint of heart, take courage and do not despair. You are afraid, you are sad, you are stricken with weariness and

dread of the torment with which you have been cruelly threatened. Trust me. I conquered the world, and yet I suffered immeasurably more from fear."

To his daughter he wrote: "Don't worry about me no matter what happens in this world. Nothing can happen to me that God doesn't want. And all that He wants, no matter how bad it may appear to us, is really for the best."

Written to his daughter when he was in prison: "I die the king's faithful servant, but God's first."



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



Council 17249 Divine Mercy of Jesus Officers for 2024-2025

Chaplain
Grand Knight
Deputy Grand Knight
Chancellor
Recorder
Treasurer
Advocate
Warden
Inside Guard
Outside Guard
1 Year Trustee
2 Year Trustee
3 Year Trustee
Program Director
Membership Director
Faith Director
Family Director
Community Director
Life Director
District Deputy
Field Agent
Newsletter Editor

Fr. Mike O'Brien
Pete McCabe
Bill Bannon
Greg Musick
Rocco Totino
Rich Pettit
Gregg Appel
Joe Ghezzi
Wayne Nuñez
Joe Moore
Rick Hendrickson
Bill McClelland
Jim Patton
Bill Bannon
Jim Cullinan
Peter Nunes
Mike Keeser
Pete Ganio
Kevin Manning
Bill McClelland
Tony Crevello
Jim Hand