



Knights of Columbus®

ST THOMAS MORE COUNCIL #7826



Welcome to the St Thomas More Council August Newsletter

The feast of the **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** is celebrated on **August 15th**, a holy day of obligation. On this day we celebrate the bodily taking up of the **Virgin Mary into Heaven at the end of her earthly life**. This significant feast day recalls the spiritual and physical departure of the mother of Jesus Christ from the earth, when both her soul and her body were taken into heaven.

We as **Knights of Columbus** place a special importance on honoring the Blessed Mother. **Every man who joins STM Council #7826 receives a rosary** and is encouraged to seek Mary's intercession by **praying it regularly**.

In addition, we have scheduled a special **"Knight's Mass" at the 8:00 a.m. Mass** every month. **Prior to this Mass we say the rosary** for the intentions of those on the **Good of the Order list**. Please plan to join your brother Knights this month on **Wednesday, August 9th**, beginning at 7:30 a.m. with the rosary.

Grand Knight's Report

The beginning of **our 2023-'24 fraternal year was filled with both joy and sadness**. The joy of 2 young servers awarded the **"Servers of the Year"** for the Diocese of Venice. The joy of a new priest, **Fr. Alejandro Giraldo-Roldan**, being ordained at the Cathedral and the honor of saying **his 1st Mass at STM**. The joy of the parish was evident in the **celebration of this special event** with a reception in his honor after the Mass. The joy of these special events was tempered by the transfer of **Fr. Lawton to San Antonio Parish** in Port Charlotte.

This month our parish and our council will be **welcoming a new Parochial Vicar, Fr. Daniel Scanlan**. Fr. Scanlan is a 3rd Degree Knight. If he's available, we will introduce him at our next Council meeting. I am confident he will take on his new role with the **same spiritual vigor as Fr. Lawton**.

On July 10th **Incarnation hosted the Assembly Meeting with Worthy Dr. Steve Wyer** chairing the meeting as the **new Faithful Navigator** and **Worthy Charlie Culkin** taking on the role of **Faithful Scribe**.

Special Congratulations to Worthy Dr. Steve Wyer as our new District Deputy and Worthy Charlie Culkin as the new District Warden for this fraternal year!

On July 12th we had our 1st **“Knight’s Mass” at the 8:00 a.m. Mass with almost 25 Knights and wives in attendance.** Also, the **rosary was prayed** starting at 7:30 a.m. before the Mass. Both the rosary and the Mass were dedicated to those on the Good of the Order list with **a special intention for Brother Lee Dusoe.**

On July 13th STM Council held our **Council Business meeting.** **There were close to 50 Brother Knights** in attendance as we continue our trend of record attendance. Thank you for your continued support of the Council and our General Meeting.

On July 18th **the Exemplification Team** held the 3rd Degree ceremony where we **welcomed Brother Stuart Christensen** to our Council. **The Honoree** for this Exemplification ceremony was **Brother Steve McElroy** in recognition of all his contributions to our Council.

On July 27th we held our all **day prayer walk at Planned Parenthood.** Thank you to all who were able to participate. We were excited to see some **new faces join** our continuing core group of prayer warriors. **Great work was done by Brother Neil Corrado, Frank and Imelda Moeslein, Ted Kovacic, Johnnie Turner, and others** for leading the way on this day for such an important cause.

On July 29th we participated in the Funeral Mass for Brother George Risbano and presented the Certificate of Condolences to Nancy Risbano. Please continue to keep Nancy Risbano and family in your prayers.

The weekend of July 29-30th after all the Masses, the parish held a farewell reception to **thank Fr. Lawton** for his many contributions to STM and to our Council. We wish him well in **his new position as Administrator** of San Antonio Parish in Port Charlotte.

Our **next Council Meeting will be on August 10th** in the Spirit Center at 7:00.

Thank you for all you do!

***DIOCESE OF VENICE – TOP SERVER AWARDS
(Ava & Genevieve White)***



CORPORATE COMMUNION – JULY SOCIAL









FATHER ALEJANDRO'S ORDINATION





FATHER ALEJANDRO'S 1st MASS







FATHER ALEJANDRO'S RECEPTION







FATHER LAWTON'S FARWELL



A little over 2 years ago, **Fr. Lawton became our Chaplain**. He has prayed with us, counseled us, encouraged us, and strengthened us. **He has provided spiritual direction, cooked for us, shared socials with us** and deepened our Catholic faith.

Now **we must bid him farewell** as he has been assigned to take on a new role as the **Administrator at San Antonio Parish in Port Charlotte**. While we will miss him, we know that **God has plans for him and wish him every blessing and a prayer-filled farewell**.

We thank him for his spiritual guidance, love and passion for living the Gospel and **sharing this love with our Council as Chaplain**. We will miss his sense of humor, his willingness to help whenever needed, **and his cooking tips**.

We pray that **God will continue to bless his labors**, shield him from all divisions and **give him the wisdom and grace** to minister the people at San Antonio Parish.

From a **grateful STM Council, Fr. Lawton, God Bless YOU!**

FUNERAL MASS FOR BROTHER GEORGE RISBANO



(Photo below from November 2021)



Faith in Action

Thank you also to the Food Bank volunteers and their spouses for your in-person participation and your monetary support. As you may know, **the supply chain remains a challenge** and food supplies are in still in short supply. Given today's economy, **we have 75-100 families** in need every week. Please continue to **support the pantry with both food and monetary donations**. The pantry continues to **purchase additional basic items** each week to supplement what we receive from All Faiths Food Bank. The **weekly bulletin lists the items we critically need**. Your donations are **greatly appreciated** by the pantry and those families we serve.

August Knight of the Month

This **Brother Knight** has served the Council in so many ways: as a **Hospitality Minister**, a Right to Life warrior, and all around hard working, dedicated Knight. Our August Knight of the Month is **Dan Martin**.



August Family of the Month

Our **August “Family of the Month”** is currently visiting in France. It is difficult to **express the gratitude for all the hard work** of this dedicated team to our parish and to our Council. In recognition for your years of service, our **August “Family of the Month”** is Jim and Beth Meyd.

Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori Monthly Challenge

This month the Supreme Chaplain **Archbishop William Lori’s challenge** is to **remind yourself and others** – *“Our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, was an advocate of strong, faith-filled families. Do we share our Catholic faith with our own families and friends, or do we neglect this vital responsibility? May we commit ourselves to building strong families and friendships in faith by our word and deed.”*

Parish News

Update on construction . . .

The **painting is finished** in the Spirit Center but not in the Chelsea Center. This should be **completed over the next 2-3 weeks**. We expect to continue to hold meetings e.g. Council Business, Exemplifications, Committees **throughout this period**.

The **pavers have been delayed due to supply chain issues**. Fr. Gordon expects to see the **pavers on sight in early-August**. Work on the pavers should begin shortly thereafter and **continue for 4-6 weeks**. The schedule is to start in front of the church and begin to move towards the Chelsea Center. **You can expect limited access to all the buildings** on campus during this period. We will **keep you informed** of any closures in advance of all Council **scheduled events**.

St. Thomas More is also in **need of Hospitality & Eucharistic Ministers**. There is a need for **Hospitality Ministers for Sunday 12:00 mass**. If you are a current Minister, please consider changing to assist in covering these masses. This is a **great way to volunteer your time to assist our parish** and increase the visibility of all we do as a Council. **Please call the Parish Office** if you are interested in volunteering. **Thank you** to those who have responded to this call.

Committee Corner

We have the **need on many of our committees for new members**. To our new members, this is a **great way to become involved** in our Council activities. Please see **Deputy Grand Knight Charlie Culkin and Chancellor Chris Pariseau** to assist you in **joining a committee**.

Spring Training Baseball

BALTIMORE ORIOLES ANNOUNCE 2024 SPRING TRAINING SCHEDULE

Although there are **two or three months left** in the Baltimore Orioles 2023 baseball season, they announced on July 24th their **2024 Spring Training Schedule**. The Orioles will **play a 16-game schedule** at Ed Smith Stadium. The season begins on **Saturday, February 24th** and ends on Saturday, August 23rd. The schedule includes three games against the Pittsburgh Pirates; two games with the Atlanta Braves, Boston Red Sox, Detroit Tigers, **Tampa Bay Rays** and Toronto Blue Jays; and single games with the Minnesota Twins, **New York Yankees and Philadelphia Phillies**. Games times will be announced later.

For **the 13th consecutive year**, the St. Thomas More and Incarnation Councils will be **working a concession stand together**. Charlie Culkin will continue as the Team Director. **The Councils will operate the Outdoor Patio Grill**, where they have worked the past three years. As of now, **the menu will be hamburgers, cheeseburgers**, hot dogs and sausage peppers & onions; **peanuts, popcorn and chips**; and bottled soda and water, Gatorade and draft beer.

Like last year, **it will take 12 volunteers** to operate the concession stand – an average of **six volunteers from each Council** per game. And like last year, volunteers must make a **two-game commitment**. The game sign-up sheet will be sent out in early December in an email from each Council. **Last year, a number of volunteers stepped forward** to work multiple jobs. To provide **more staffing flexibility**, it would be beneficial if a **few more volunteers step forward to learn multiple jobs**, such as working as a grill assistant or a cashier. There are **Brothers who can train you**.

Let's have a great 2024 Spring Training Baseball Season!! See you at the Ball Park!

Charlie Culkin,

Director, Spring Training Baseball

Special Olympics

August Monthly News and Updates

Volunteer Opportunities



Volunteers are the backbone of our organization. Volunteers range from coaches, Unified partners, mentors, officials, and event coordinators.

Volunteers are needed for bowling, swimming and Fall Classic competitions.



We are in search of incredible individuals who are willing to make a difference as mentors. If you have a passion for guiding Athlete Leaders toward their goals and being a positive influence in their lives, we need you!

[Register to Volunteer](#)

[Learn more about becoming a mentor](#)

Save the Date

July 29: Hillsborough & Pinellas County Swimming Competition

August 5: Area 5 Bowling Competition

August 5: Area 7 Bowling Competition

August 26: Area 7 Swimming Competition

August 27: Area 5 Swimming Competition

There are many **great opportunities coming up** where you can volunteer to assist and participate. Brother **John Cesare has done a fantastic job** as Chairman of this committee **through his leadership** and communications of its activities. If you are interested in becoming **involved in Special Olympics** please reach out to Brother John Cesare for details.

RIGHT TO LIFE



More families are suffering economic hardships and consequently more pregnant women are in need of the life-saving services and support provided by MyChoice and Community Pregnancy Centers. **As Knights** we are dedicated to the **sanctity of life**. The **"40 Days for Life 365"** campaign provides each of us the opportunity to participate 365 days a year. Our Council has been requested to participate at the Sarasota Planned Parenthood facility on the 4th Thursday of every month – from 9AM to 1PM. We are asking our Members to consider a one hour shift and to **sign-up by contacting our Right to Life Co-Chairs**, either Brian Harkins at bjharkins1@gmail.com or telephone # 908-451-7454 or Neil Corrado at fdny0261@gmail.com or telephone # 941-993-1520. Please consider praying outside of the Planned Parenthood facility. Thanks to our Brothers for participating on our day to pray.

Please continue to **safely and peacefully** support the work we are already doing. **Please remember that in accordance with K of C guidelines you cannot handout materials or confront someone entering Planned Parenthood unless you are approached by the person first for information. You are allowed to greet them and pray for them, but do not go beyond that unless they reach out to you.**

Golf Committee

Please **reserve the date, Monday, May 6th, 2024** - for the 3rd Annual STM / KofC Council #7826 Golf Outing as to be held **at Legacy Golf Club**. The event has become a solid **fundraiser for our Council**, contributing over **\$12k net income** in 2023. This is the result of, among others, **the solid venue at Legacy Golf Club** and **its management's support** is awesome! Golf Committee Members, our **Volunteers and the support of our Council's GK and Officers** along with Council members **combine to make this an outstanding success.**

Further, we have the **support of our 25 golf teams**, our corporate and hole sponsors, our donors and contributors of the event. **The Golf Committee** will be meeting **in September** as to begin all of our efforts in making the 3rd Annual Event - **a continuation of our success story.**

Ken Berberich
Chair - Golf Committee

Membership

Our New Member Goal this fraternal year is **ten (10) New Members**. We currently have **(1)** new member. We have 11 more months to recruit 9 more members and make **Star Council** again this year -with **YOUR help!!**

New Members must be a **practicing Catholic, 18+ years of age**. We need your **help to reach out to K of C "prospects"**. You will be assisted by our Membership Development Committee. Please **provide the name of an individual** that may/has **an interest in K of C** and our St Thomas More Council. **Please contact Chancellor Chris Pariseau, at his email pariseau314@outlook.com or his telephone # 443-994-7397.** Membership growth is essential to the success of the Knights of Columbus. With **the addition of each new member**, the Order can **better serve the Church**, local communities and particularly those in need.

STM Council 7826 held an **Exemplification** of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity on Tuesday, July 18th. At this Degree Ceremony **we welcomed 1 new member** to our Council: **Stuart Christensen**.



New Knight – Stuart Christensen

Every Exemplification Ceremony is dedicated to a specific honoree. This month's ceremony was dedicated to **Brother Steve McElroy**. Steve was recognized for his work in editing the monthly newsletter, sending emails to all council members, and as **Chairman of the Scholarship Committee**. Steve is a brother Knight who provides **exemplary leadership within our Council** and with the Assembly 3089 (4th Degree) as the Purser.



Special Honoree Brother Steve McElroy

Social Media Platforms

Our Council provides several internet opportunities to stay in touch with our Members via Facebook, STM K of C Website, Emails, Telephone contact and the “Good of the Order”.

➤ **Facebook – “KofC Council 7826”**

Many thanks to **Brother Jim Clark** for handling the Administration of our FACEBOOK account. With Jim’s move to Buffalo, NY, **Brother Steve McElroy and his wife, Carol**, will become the **new platform Administrators** for our Council **FACEBOOK account**. if you need assistance to sign up on our FACEBOOK account or to post information - contact Steve and Carol at his email address: **mcelroyfs@verizon.net**

- **STM K of C Website – The STM parish web page and our STM Council 7826 website is being updated to ensure current information and events are available in a timely manner to all members.** Many thanks to **Brother Dan Martin** for taking on the administration of **these important social media platforms** for our Council. Our Council website address is **www.kofc7826.org**. Please use this website and pass it along to your

friends, relatives and associates that may have an interest in the Knights of Columbus and our St Thomas More Council.

- **We are asking all 3rd Degree Knights to consider accomplishing your 4th (Patriotic) degree – and join the Our Lady of Charity Council 3089.** This is a separate degree ceremony and must be scheduled with FL State/ District. If **you are interested in obtaining your 4th degree**, please contact GK Ralph Neller at rneller65@outlook.com or his telephone 513-708-0528.

Donation Request – K of C Assembly 3089 – Our Lady of Charity Assembly

The 4th (Patriotic) Degree is **requesting donations for Veterans at Bay Pines.** Items consist of **books, tee-shirts, toiletry items, socks etc.** A donation box is available at each Council meeting. **You can also make a cash or check donation** (payable to KofC Assembly 3089) used to purchase needed items. Please notate **on your check that you are a Member**, STM Council 7826. Thank you for your continuing support. Please see **Brother Steve McElroy** to find out how you can help.

Good of the Order

The **Good of the Order Committee** is dedicated to helping **our Brother Knights** and their families **in a very special way - PRAYER and OUTREACH** for all those in need of support. This support may be **in the form of prayers, a phone conversation, requests for communion**, or sacrament of the sick, or even a **request for a ride** to a Council meeting.

As a Council, **we need to recognize the important work** of this committee and those who spend **so much time supporting our brother Knights and their families.** The Good of the Order Committee is comprised of the **Chairman, Dr. Tony D'Souza, PGK Jim Meyd, John Maier, John McAlonie, Carol Szansfranski, and Jim Alexander.** A special "thank you" to **Brother John Maier** for his leadership as the past co-chair of the committee. Brother John has decided to relinquish the co-chair position due to personal reasons, but will continue as a member of the committee going forward.

The **work of this committee continues to increase with our membership.** If you want **to join this committee** and support our brothers and their families **during a time of need** please contact **Brother Tony D'Souza** or any member of this committee. They need **you to join the team!**

Good of the Order List

Please include the following individuals in need of our prayers:



John & Kay Maier
John McAlonie
Erin McAlonie Brady (daughter of John McAlonie)
Alec & Shirley Berardinelli
Janek Jakubiuk
John & Craig Spinale (John's son)
Rose Marcella (wife of Richard Marcella)
Carol & Kim Wojtyna (daughter of Carol & John Wojtyna)
Shirley Berardinelli (wife of Alec Berardinelli)
Sheree Levanti (wife of Ken Levanti)
Lee Dusoe
Donna Woodford (wife of David Woodford)
John Baldelli (son of Charles Baldelli)
Christopher Peppard (son of Hank Peppard)
Nancy Risbano (wife of George Risbano)
Ted Bogusz
Dan Borgmeyer
Ruth Walsh
Ron McCluskey
Fr. Gordon Zanetti
Judy Moore (wife of Joe Sommer)
Deane MacGillis (wife of Roy)
Gary Ellis
Pasquale Guadagno
Don & Jeanne Leonard
Jack Rodman
Dave Bracy
Steven Wyer

If you know **of any Brother Knight in need, let us know**, and we will make sure that he is contacted. If you have any questions or needs, **please contact me** (Ralph Neller, Grand Knight) at my email address rneller65@outlook.com or my mobile 513-708-0528.

Upcoming Events

- The next **Council Social Event** will be held on **Thursday, August 24th**, at the **Dockside Restaurant in Venice**. Our social will begin at 5:30 pm. Please **contact Brother Dave Bracy** at dsbracy@comcast.net for reservations at 941-966-7692 by August 18th if you plan to attend.
- Our monthly **“Knight’s Mass** will be on **August 9th** at the 8:00 a.m. Mass. We will pray the **rosary prior to the Mass** beginning at 7:30 a.m.
- We will hold our next **Council Business Meeting** on **August 10th** at **7:00**, in the Spirit Center.
- Our **Council** will host **Coffee & Donuts** on **Sunday, August 13th**, after the 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Masses in the Spirit Center.
- **Assembly 3089 (4th Degree)** will conduct their monthly **meeting and annual officer installation ceremony** on **Monday, August 14th** with an early start time of 6:00 p.m. at Incarnation.
- The next **Exemplification Ceremony** for candidates is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 15th**, at 6:30 p.m.
- The **Prayer Walk** for STM is scheduled for **Thursday, August 24th** between **9-11:00 a.m.** in front of **Planned Parenthood** in downtown Sarasota.
- The next **Council Social Event** will be held on **Thursday, August 24th**, at the **Dockside Restaurant in Venice**. Our social will begin at 5:30 pm. Please **contact Brother Dave Bracy** at dsbracy@comcast.net for reservations at 941-966-7692 by August 18th if you plan to attend.

Thank you for your support in these futures events!

Please remember to report your volunteer hours!!



August Birthdays

Please join in recognizing the following Knights celebrating birthdays in August.

August 2 – Jerry Hayes

August 4 – Charles Baldelli

August 8 – Michael Mazer

August 9 – John Maier

August 18 - Robert Ballard

August 18 – Josef Bogner

August 19 – Joseph Sommer Jr.

August 22 - Charles Culkin

August 23 – Dale Scully

August 25 – James McNamara

August 27 – Jean Paul Assaf

August 29 – Kim Klee

August 29 - Jim Clark III

August 31 – Philip Maresco

August 31 – John Volpe

NEWS FROM OUR FRATERNAL BENEFITS ADVISOR

I was watching television the other day and saw an advertisement with the theme "Shop Local." The ad touted the many benefits of putting your dollars to work with businesses that are owned and operated by those folks who live and work right in your community. In addition to supporting the local neighborhood and community, the ad pointed to the personal service and the unique products one can find locally. Big box stores are great; they are convenient and provide goods at competitive prices. But many products are uniform; you can get the same thing at many other places. Their service is sometimes wanting; I can remember wandering in a big box retailer looking for help. However, when I shop at some of my favorite local spots, I always get a genuine greeting, personal help and the feeling that they really appreciate me being there and supporting them.

All this got me thinking about our local councils. The Order is doing great things in countries far and wide. We have big ideas; big plans...and they are important and have tremendous impact on making our world better. But on a local level you

members are the face of the Knights of Columbus. When our local Catholic community thinks of the Knights of Columbus, I'm sure it is you members who come to mind. Our Catholic community sees all the good works you do locally. They see you volunteering to help at parish events, supporting your pastor in his needs. Local folks see you handing out coats for kids, holding fundraisers to help local families, taking the lead at sacramental events, visiting the homebound. For the Catholics in the council and in the parish—you, my Brother Knights...you, are the Knights of Columbus. You represent all that is good in our Order. When you lead with faith, protect your family, serve others and defend your values, you are a witness inspired by our founding principles.

Our Supreme Convention in Orlando, Florida, highlighted many of the accomplishments from the previous fraternal year. I think we can all be justly proud of the difference the Knights of Columbus makes. Thank you for all you do! I want to congratulate you on your contribution to the Order's success and especially for the impact you in this council have had on the local Catholic community!

Vivat Jesus!

Yours in Christ,



**Knights of
Columbus**
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August, 2023

SC – Spirit Center
CC – Chelsea Center
C - Church



Knights of Columbus®

ST THOMAS MORE COUNCIL #7826

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Officers Mtg 7:00 PM - SC	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 8:00 AM Knight's Mass - C	10 Council Meeting 7:00 PM SC	11	12 New Officers Installation after 4:00 PM Mass -SC
13 Coffee & Donuts 8:00 + 10:00 Masses	14 4 th Degree Assembly Mtg 6:00 PM Incarnation	15 Assumption of the BVM +++++ Ex-Degree Ceremony@ 7:00 PM - SC	16	17	18 Social event RSVP is due to Dave Bracy	19
20	21	22	23	24 RTL Prayer Walk 9-1:00 – Planned Parenthood Council Social @ 5:30 PM – Dockside Restaurant	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		