



# Knights of Columbus®

Charity, Unity and Fraternity



Diocese of Orlando

**COUNCIL 1895  
BASILICA OF ST. PAUL  
DAYTONA BEACH, FL**

January 2026 Newsletter



## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



Dear Brother Knights,

As we begin this new year, I want to express my deep gratitude for your faithful support throughout Advent and Christmas. The Christmas Bazaar was a tremendous success, and our first Men's Advent Evening of Recollection was so well received that we're already planning to offer these at least quarterly.

Your dedication to building up our faith community is truly inspiring. The evening celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe was an unforgettable experience, filled with color, pageantry, faith, and fellowship. Thank you for all your help in making these events possible.

This Christmas was different from any other in my priesthood. On Tuesday, December 23rd, I wasn't feeling well and was diagnosed with influenza A. The quarantine that followed meant that, for the first time as a priest, I couldn't celebrate Christmas Mass or be with my parish family. Besides being very sick, I felt the weight of that disappointment and isolation keenly.

Yet the Lord consoled me in unexpected ways. Through our livestream, I listened to our Basilica Choir's beautiful prelude and watched Fr. Edgar celebrate his first Midnight Mass as our parochial vicar. What began as sorrow turned to joy. God was present with me in my room, teaching me that even when we cannot be where we want to be or do what we want to do, He is still with us, still working, still bringing good from difficulty.

As we begin this new calendar year, may we remain aware that God walks with us through our successes and our disappointments alike. May the hope we experienced during this Jubilee Year continue to propel us forward together, as brothers, unified in faith, hope, and charity.

Vivat Jesus!

Father Ken



## GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE



Brother Knights, as you can see, I've placed Fr. Ken's message before mine. Going into this new year I thought it appropriate that his message lead us into 2026.

As we begin this new year together, I'm going to reflect on Fr. Ken's simple but powerful truth: *"even when we cannot be where we want to be or do what we hope to do, He is still with us, still working, still guiding, still bringing good out of difficulty."* As I'm writing this early in the morning, I read that statement and something makes me want to jump up, raise my hands in the air and say, Thank You Lord!

This past year was challenging for many of us. It reminded us that our plans are not always God's plans. Yet time and again, He showed us that His grace is present in every season, especially the challenging ones. When circumstances limited us, He strengthened our unity. When obstacles appeared, He opened new paths for service. When we felt stressed and stretched, He reminded us that we never walk alone. As Knights, we are called to carry the same hope Fr. Ken reminded us of, becoming instruments of God's grace in our community. Our mission of charity, unity, and fraternity does not depend on perfect conditions. It begins with our willingness to show up, and then to live with faith, humility, and courage, trusting that God will multiply even the smallest effort we offer Him.

In the year ahead, I invite each of us to renew our commitment to our Council, our parish, and one another. Let us continue to support our priests, welcome new Brothers, serve our community, and to show up and be visible witnesses of Christ's love. And when challenges arise, as they always do, may we remember that God is already at work in them, shaping us into stronger men and stronger Knights.

Thank you for your dedication, your prayers, and your brotherhood. I am grateful to serve alongside you, and I look forward to all that God will accomplish through us in the coming year.

SK Jon Ewing, GK



## DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE



Brothers,

As we step into this new year, I keep coming back to a truth that's been on my heart: even when we can't be where we want to be or do everything we hope to do, God is still with us, still working, still guiding, still bringing good out of the hard moments. I've seen that play out in both of our lives this past year.

I want you to know how much I appreciate walking this path with you. You've been steady, supportive, and willing to shoulder the work right alongside me. When things got complicated, you didn't hesitate. When plans shifted, you adapted. When our Council needed strength, you helped provide it. That kind of brotherhood isn't something I take for granted.

As we move forward, I'm grateful to have you at my side, not just as Deputy Grand Knight, but as a true Brother in every sense. I'm looking forward to what we'll build together this year: stronger fraternity, deeper faith, and a Council that continues to serve with heart.

May God bless you and your family in the year ahead. I'm proud to serve our Lord with you.

Vivat Jesus,  
Brother Israel Rivas, DGK



# HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 1895

Basilica of St. Paul Catholic Church  
Daytona Beach, Florida

“Behold, I make all things new.”—Revelation 21:5

### A YEAR OF FAITH • SERVICE • BROTHERHOOD

As we welcome 2026, our Council gives thanks for the blessings of the past year and looks forward with hope, unity, and purpose. Through every challenge, God has remained our strength and our guide.

### OUR FOUR PRINCIPLES

**CHARITY** Serving families, parish ministries, and our need.

**UNITY** Standing together as Catholic men committed to our faith.

**FRATERNITY** Supporting one another as brothers in Christ

**PATRIOTISM** Honoring our nation with prayer and integrity,

### A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Lord, bless our Council, our parish, and our families. Strengthen our hands for service, deepen our faith, and guide us in all we do throughout 2026. Vivat Jesus.

Fraternally,

Jon Ewing  
GRAND KNIGHT

## JANUARY

### For prayer with the Word of God.

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

[www.popesprayer.va](http://www.popesprayer.va)



## Pope Leo asks for liturgy that is 'sober in its solemnity' while respecting popular piety

Victoria Cardiel via EWTN 18.11.25



Pope Leo XIV addresses diocesan liturgy officials during an audience on Nov. 17, 2025, at the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican. | Credit: Vatican Media

Pope Leo XIV urged parishes to invest in liturgical formation, especially for lectors, while also encouraging people to pray the Liturgy of the Hours and calling for attention to be paid to popular piety.

While receiving participants in a course organized by the Pontifical Liturgical Institute of St. Anselm in Rome at the Apostolic Palace for diocesan liturgical pastoral workers, the Holy Father said that "in the dioceses and parishes there is a need for such formation" and encouraged the creation of "biblical and liturgical courses" in places where such formation programs are lacking.

Through such courses, the pope said the institute could help local churches and parish communities "to be formed by the word of God, explaining the texts of the weekday and feast day Lectionary."

For the pope, it is important that the liturgy be "expression of a community that cares for its celebrations, prepares them, and lives them to the full."

Regarding biblical formation combined with liturgical formation, he recommended that those in charge of liturgical ministry pay "particular attention" to those who proclaim the word of God. Referring to lectors and those who regularly read the Scriptures, the Holy Father said that "basic biblical knowledge, clear diction, the ability to sing the responsorial psalm, as well as to compose prayers of the faithful for the community are important aspects that implement liturgical reform and help the people of God grow on their path."

"We are well aware that liturgical formation is one of the main themes of the entire conciliar and postconciliar journey," Leo XIV stated.

In this regard, he affirmed that while "much progress has been made" there is still "a long way to go." "Let us not tire: Let us enthusiastically resume the good initiatives inspired by the reform and, at the same time, seek new ways and new methods," he urged.

The pope said the aim is "to foster the fruitful participation of the people of God as well as a dignified liturgy that is attentive to different sensibilities and sober in its solemnity."

Among other things, he expressly asked the diocesan liturgy to promote the Liturgy of the Hours and to nurture the dimension of "popular piety."

"Among the aspects linked to your service as directors, I would like to mention the promotion of the Liturgy of the Hours, care for popular piety, and attention to the celebratory dimension in the construction of new churches and the adaptation of existing ones," he stated.

"In many parishes, then, there are also liturgical groups who must work in synergy with the diocesan commission," the pope noted.

### Parish liturgy committees

The Holy Father continued: "The experience of a group, even small but well-motivated, that is concerned with the preparation of the liturgy is an expression of a community that cares for its celebrations, prepares them, and lives them to the full, in agreement with the parish priest."

"In this way, we avoid delegating everything to him and leaving only a few people responsible for singing, proclaiming the word, and decorating the church," he explained.

Similarly, he lamented that these parish groups "have dwindled to nothing, as if they had lost their identity." Therefore, he called for a commitment to make "this area of Church life attractive again, capable of involving people who are competent or at least inclined to this type of service."

He thus encouraged liturgical leaders to propose to parish priests "formation courses to start or consolidate liturgical groups in the parish, training their members and offering suggestions for their activities."

*This story was first published by ACI Prensa, CNA's Spanish-language news partner. It has been translated and adapted by CNA.*

## The 2025 Christmas Celebration St Paul Vietnamese Catholic Community of Prince of Peace



(From left to right) Attended by Ayden Tran, Bro Tuan Tran (Jenny, standing in black) Bro Chuan Trinh (Seminarian), Sue and SK Jon Ewing, GK, Bro Harry Perez (Suzie) and Bro Tuan's sister-in-law Lina (standing in red)



## COME HOLY SPIRIT

COME, HOLY SPIRIT, FILL THE HEARTS OF YOUR FAITHFUL, AND KINDLE IN THEM THE FIRE OF YOUR LOVE. SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT, AND THEY SHALL BE CREATED; AND YOU WILL RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH. O GOD, YOU TAUGHT THE HEARTS OF YOUR FAITHFUL BY THE LIGHT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, GRANT THAT BY THE GIFT OF THAT SAME SPIRIT, WE MAY BE TRULY WISE AND ALWAYS REJOICE IN HIS CONSOLATION. WE ASK THIS THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.

## Charity and Truth in the Public Square

*In our contentious times, Catholics are called to engage opponents with civility in the common quest for truth*  
By R.J. Snell, KofC.com, 11/1/2025



*If Thou Hadst Known (1885) by William Brassey Hole, Royal Scottish Academy of Art & Architecture / Artepics / Alamy stock image*

While the prophet Jeremiah did not have the United States — or any modern nation — in mind, his description of calls for “Peace, peace,’ when there is no peace” (Jer 6:14) aptly illustrates our current political and cultural discourse. Many decry the rancor and polarization in public life, to no avail, prompting ever more fervent demands for peace.

Obviously, the Church has no fixed opinion on speed limits, so why should you or I? But there are other natural law issues on which While the prophet Jeremiah did not have the United States — or any modern nation — in mind, his description of calls for “Peace, peace,’ when there is no peace” (Jer 6:14) aptly illustrates our current political and cultural discourse. Many decry the rancor and polarization in public life, to no avail, prompting ever more fervent demands for peace.

Catholics are full and ordinary citizens, with duties and rights like every other. Consequently, they have political tastes and views, as well as the usual disagreements — all of which is perfectly normal and not a problem. Many political issues allow

reasonable people of good will to see things differently without revealing themselves as ignorant or unfaithful. Zoning laws, school funding and tariffs are matters the Church has not dogmatically defined and which natural law leaves unspecified, so differing viewpoints are expected without scandal.

Men and women in the pews can and do disagree on many issues while remaining loyal both to their faith and their country. Patriotism is a virtue, and patriots often disagree — just ask James Madison and Alexander Hamilton. Or Charles Carroll, the only Catholic to sign the Declaration of Independence, who argued for independence from Britain in the *Maryland Gazette* under the pseudonym “First Citizen.” We are patriotic citizens, proudly so, and a free and self-governed people deliberate, debate and disagree — as they should.

Of course, some disagreements are fundamental, with far more at stake than tax policy. Debates about abortion, euthanasia or the definition of marriage do not allow faithful Catholics to compromise on moral truth or the clear teachings of the Church. An essential task, then, is to know the difference and respond accordingly. Is this a matter of preference? Does this debate allow for legitimate diversity of opinion? We must take responsibility for forming our consciences well, guided by the Church’s teaching.

Even on fundamental issues, Catholics are called to be sowers of peace rather than enmity. After all, we know we are not citizens solely of the city of man; our first and primary citizenship is in the city of God, the Church. Politics matter — sometimes a great deal, involving life and death, right and wrong — but politics are not ultimate, for eternity awaits us long after the next election cycle, let alone the next news cycle. We take our rightful place in public debate but with a freedom not available to the unbeliever, trusting in a time beyond this one, in a King beyond all rulers. We vote and debate with a freedom — and responsibility — that others may lack, especially those who do not hope in God. Politics matter, but they are never first.

## **CHARITY AND UNITY**

Because we live in hope and faith, Catholics are free to be charitable — even toward political opponents. In his *Spiritual Exercises*, St. Ignatius of Loyola offered invaluable advice that is especially relevant today: “It should be presupposed that every good Christian ought to be more eager to put a good interpretation on a neighbor’s statement than to condemn it. Further, if one cannot interpret it favorably, one should ask how the other means it. If that meaning is wrong, one should correct the person with love.”

This counsel is nearly the opposite of today’s political chatter, especially online, where small disagreements are mischaracterized, catastrophized and attacked — often without the slightest effort to understand, let alone to interpret in the best possible light. But this is not charitable, nor does it reflect the freedom, hope and good cheer proper to the children of God.

The Catholic tradition holds to the natural law, affirming that human beings can access the basic principles of morality through reason alone. This provides a basis for unity despite disagreement. For instance, we all know that human life is to be preserved. It is reasonable to conclude that traffic laws help protect life, but whether the speed limit should be 65 or 70 on a particular stretch of highway the Church has always spoken clearly — for example, the intrinsic evil of abortion. And this raises an important question: In a society where grave violations of natural law are permitted or even celebrated, how should Catholics conduct themselves in political discussions?

“Even on fundamental issues, Catholics are called to be sowers of peace rather than enmity. ... We offer that truth best when we do so with mercy and humility, not condemnation.”

Here again, charity remains essential. People in error about serious moral matters need our prayers, which truly help them. And while we must not treat all perspectives as morally equal, we can still acknowledge that most people — like us — are attempting to state the truth as they understand it. They may be wrong, and even gravely so, but still be acting in good conscience. Two perspectives can, at times, both carry partial truths. And one person’s grasp of the truth does not render it unavailable to others.

This is not relativism; moral truth exists and can be known and defended. But we offer that truth best when we do so with mercy and humility, not condemnation. If we remember that others, like us, are created as rational seekers of truth, we can see them not as enemies, but as fellow pilgrims on a common quest.

## **BOUND IN BROTHERHOOD**

Many matters allow for good people — all seeking the truth, all trying to be reasonable — to arrive at different conclusions. Unity with difference is not always a contradiction, and we need not fear it. We certainly need not be outraged by it. Calmness and charity in such matters can go a long way toward modeling good disagreement.

This posture fosters fraternity. When we recall that others are also patriotic, when we interpret them charitably, when we remember that they are united with us in seeking truth, it becomes easier to see them as neighbors — even friends and brothers. They have political views that matter to them; so do we. They have families, insurance premiums and property taxes; so do we. They have fears and dreams for their children — and so do we.

Perhaps they differ from us about taxes or health insurance, but they remain fellow citizens, fellow members of humanity, and perhaps redeemed by the same waters of baptism. We might oppose them at the ballot box or in the comments section, but we are still called to care for them, shoulder their burdens, seek the common good, and live in solidarity with all. In that view, cheap rhetorical points seem a hollow victory.

As Knights of Columbus in particular, we can draw on the principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism in our dealings with others, whether our disputes are large or small. We cannot compromise on essentials, but firm resolution need not be unkind.

We must also be humble. Some truths we hold not because of our own brilliance, but because we were taught them by our mother, the Church. Not everyone has that good fortune. “There but for the grace of God go I” is more than a cliché; it’s a call to modesty about ourselves, and to patience and generosity for others.

And let us not forget: Those others, whatever their politics, are persons with an eternal destiny. If we gain the whole world but lose their souls — or risk our own — by seeking to “win” an argument, what does it profit?

Peace is in short supply, and bitterness often pervades public debate. Still, we would do well to remember that not every disagreement is a fundamental one — and even when it is, we are still bound by Christ’s command: “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Mt 5:44). As Catholics and as Knights, we can begin by doing just that.

*R.J. SNELL is director of academic programs and editor-in-chief of Public Discourse for the Witherspoon Institute in Princeton, N.J. A member of St. John the Evangelist Council 10024 in nearby Lambertville, he and his family reside in the Princeton area.*

### ***Blessing in the New Year***

“May God watch over and protect you throughout the year 2026. May God continue to bless all your efforts to serve Him and draw you ever closer to Him. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen”

Father Clay Kilburn, C.M., Association of the Miraculous Medal



# 2025-2026 CHARITY RAFFLE



Bro Knights, as a recap, raffle books (4 tickets per book) are being distributed to councils based on **50% of their membership.**

Bro Knights, a modo de resumen, se están distribuyendo libros de rifa (4 boletos por libro) a los consejos **en función del 50 % de sus miembros.**

**The suggested donation is \$3 per ticket or \$10 per book. For each book sold Council 1895 retains \$4 for our charitable programs** and send \$6 to Florida K of C Charities, Inc. There is **no cost** to the councils to participate.

La donación sugerida es de 3 dólares por entrada o 10 dólares por libro. **Por cada libro vendido, Council 1895 retiene 4 dólares para nuestros programas benéficos** y envía 6 dólares a Florida K of C Charities, Inc. La participación no tiene ningún coste para los consejos.

#### Critical Return Requirements

**All returned ticket books must have staples removed.** Return the back cover, all tickets, and donations. Checks must be made payable to: **FLORIDA K of C CHARITIES, INC.**

#### Requisitos críticos de devolución

**Se deben quitar las grapas de todos los talonarios de boletos devueltos.** Devuelva la contraportada, todos los boletos y las donaciones. Los cheques deben hacerse pagaderos a: **FLORIDA K of C CHARITIES, INC.**

#### Key Deadlines

**Early Bird Drawing – \$400 prize.**

*Books must be returned by February 10, 2026.*

*Drawing: March 13, 2026*

#### Fechas límite importantes

**Sorteo por inscripción anticipada:** premio de 400 \$.

Los libros deben devolverse antes del 10 de febrero de 2026.

*Sorteo: 13 de marzo de 2026*

#### Final Return Deadline

All tickets, books, and donations must be received by **May 10, 2026.**

Final drawing: **May 23, 2026** at the FSC Annual Convention in Orlando.

#### Fecha límite para la presentación de la declaración final

Todas las entradas, libros y donaciones deben recibirse antes del **10 de mayo de 2026.**

*Sorteo final: 23 de mayo de 2026 en la Convención Anual de la FSC en Orlando.*

If you need tickets, please reach out to Bro Russ at 407-595-8934 or email him at [russref@cfl.rr.com](mailto:russref@cfl.rr.com)

Si necesita entradas, póngase en contacto con Bro Russ en el 407-595-8934 o envíe un correo electrónico a [russref@cfl.rr.com](mailto:russref@cfl.rr.com)

## “PHILL” THE BOX SAYS, “JUST BAG IT AND BRING IT”!

Collecting gently used (no tears or stains) clothing, shoes, boots, purses, bags, hats, gloves, scarves, towels, linens, tablecloths, curtains, belts, backpacks, jackets, and uniforms. Place the items in a closed plastic bag and drop in the box located behind the parish offices outside the Lower Room. This is a Council 1895 fundraising initiative to benefit the Basilica of St. Paul Church, Basilica School of St Paul, and the Knights of Columbus.



**\$200 Gambling Chips  
With \$55 Donation Ticket**

**LOCAL KNIGHTS OF  
COLUMBUS PRESENTS**

**CASINO  
NIGHT**

**Council 8086**

**VIVA  
Las Vegas**  
Dress to Impress

**FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH 6:30-9:30PM**

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT LOCAL  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

[www.ladyofhope.org](http://www.ladyofhope.org)

INFO - CONTACT OUR LADY OF HOPE CHURCH AT 4675 CLYDE MORRIS BLVD. PORT ORANGE, FL 32129

## IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS



Brother John Battenfeld's Sister  
Jerry & Margret Mackey  
Macrena Vazquez  
Worthy DD Brother Chuck Armstrong  
Brother Frank Rapino  
Brother Ramon Oyola's Sister, Iris  
Brother Russ Wetherington  
Brother Jon Ewing's former neighbor Steve Courtright  
Our dearly departed brothers and their families.



January 4 – Brother Jose F. Ayala  
January 4 – Brother John P. Redigan  
January 5 – Brother David G. Montgomery  
January 8 – Brother Christopher Calabucci  
January 19 – Brother Jordan F. Busque

## ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY AS A KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS



Brother Louis A. Davis, Jan. 1, 1947 – 79 years  
Brother Christopher Calabucci, Jan. 1, 1985 – 41 years  
Brother Thomas F. Lynch, Jan. 22, 1994 – 32 years  
Brother Robert E. Rios, Jan. 8, 1996 – 30 years  
Brother Joseph O. Radcliffe, Jan. 1, 2000 – 26 years  
Brother Robert G. Lecky, Jan. 4, 2002 – 24 years  
Brother Juan Rios, Jan. 12, 2005 – 21 years  
Brother Pedro A. Santovenia, Jan. 21, 2014 – 12 years  
Brother John N. Schornstein, Jan. 23, 2018 – 8 years  
Brother Father Ken Gill, Jan. 5, 2025 – 1 year  
Brother Juan De Dios Elias, Jan. 30, 2025 – 1 year



## 2025-2026 COUNCIL OFFICERS

Grand Knight – Jon B. Ewing  
Deputy Grand Knight – Israel Rivas, Jr.  
Financial Secretary – Russ Wetherington  
Chaplain – Rev. Father Ken Gill  
Chancellor – Anthony Calamita & Jorge Gilberto Munoz  
Recorder – Unassigned  
Treasurer – Charles Smith II  
Advocate – Jorge A. Lezama  
Warden – Ramon Oyola  
Inside Guard – Cory Helgemo  
Outside Guard – Juan De Dios Elias  
One Year Trustee – Dave Montgomery  
Two Year Trustee – Jim Larsen  
Three Year Trustee – Gary Kemmer



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>:** New Year's Day  
**Solemnity Of Mary – Holy Day of Obligation**



**Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>:** **The Epiphany of the Lord**

**Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>:** 6:00 PM – Officers Meeting  
7:00 PM – Council Meeting

**Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>:** **The Baptism of the Lord**

**Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>:** **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**



**Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>:** **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**



**Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>:** **Pray for the Protection of the Unborn**

**Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>:** **Espousal of Mary**  
Exemplification of new Brother Knights  
Mulally Hall

**Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>:** KofC 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Meeting (Officers)  
St. Peter's Catholic Church, 359 W New York Ave - DeLand, Florida.

And He said to them, “*Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?*” But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them; and His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. **Luke 2: 49-52**



If you would like to include any items, pictures, prayer intentions or upcoming events in the monthly newsletter, please forward said items to Joe Ronca by the 25th of the month, at [roncaj@bellsouth.net](mailto:roncaj@bellsouth.net)