



### Grand Knight's Report

Brothers,

Anyone paying a modicum of attention to today's politically charged rhetoric targeting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs within our federal government might wonder, what's going on with DEI? Are DEI initiatives making our institutions stronger or weaker? Is DEI good or bad? More to the point, why am I writing about DEI in our council's monthly newsletter? Simply put, many of the basic tenets in DEI programs are rooted in the social justice teachings of the Catholic Church.

In a 2021 *Word on Fire* video, Bishop Robert Barron makes the point that "diversity, equity, and inclusion" are not fundamental and absolute values. Rather, he argues that diversity, equity, and inclusion can only have relative and derivative values, and some values promoted under the banner of DEI are counterproductive. Citing "equity" as an example, Bishop Barron opines that there are natural inequities that can't be resolved by edict, such as physical appearance, athletic skill, intelligence, innate courage, etc. However, that doesn't mean our natural inequalities should be limit our pursuit of a productive life.



I've no doubt DEI will continue to be a hot topic in today's political climate. In that regard, we're all free to have our own thoughts regarding its pros and cons. Just know that unlike institutional DEI, the Catholic Church's approach to social justice finds its basis in scripture and in the teachings of Jesus Christ. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus emphasized compassion, service to the poor, and the importance of loving one's neighbor. Those teachings from 2,000 years ago are still excellent values to live by.

Peter Blaise

Grand Knight	Peter Blaise	Advocate	Dan Rooney	Trustee (3 Year)	Stuart Lewis
Chaplain	Fr. Bob Johnson	Lecturer	Ken Rodriguez	Faith Director	Dcn Tom Dwyer
Deputy GK	(Vacant)	Warden	Jim Thennes	Vocation Dir.	Mark Haddorff
Chancellor	Dave Carter	Inside Guard	Art Jean	Community Director	Kevin Knebl
Recorder	Ralph McDonald	Outside Guard	Ryan Wehmeyer	Family Director	Mic Wehmeyer
Financial Secretary	Lenny Smales	Trustee (1 Year)	Bob Gualtieri	Life Director	Dave Halupowski
Treasurer	John Wohleber	Trustee (2 Year)	Jim Yurack	Public Relations	Joe Purka

# CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

*Deacon Tom Dwyer*

The beginning of Lent is just around the corner, with Ash Wednesday on March 5<sup>th</sup>. This is year “C” in the Church’s three Lectionary Cycles. We will hear primarily from the Gospel of Luke, the longest of the four gospels. (The number three is significant to our faith, and all human civilization: all of our existence is expressed in one of three ways: thought, word or deed.)

Luke, purportedly a Greek physician born in Antioch, is considered to be an excellent story-teller. Luke’s Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent is a fine example of this as he tells of Satan’s three temptations of Jesus. Each of these reflect temptations that are universal to human nature.

The first, of turning stones into bread, reflects our own weakness to satisfy personal desires by taking moral short-cuts.

The second, to worship Satan to gain world dominion, reflects fascination with power and control over others. It also reflects justifying an immoral or illicit act for the supposed greater good.

The third temptation for Jesus to throw Himself off the temple roof to prove His identity reflects human fixation with popularity and fame; which is essentially pride.

Spring is almost here, and with it, baseball spring training. It is common for teams to have pre-season workouts to test new recruits and to strengthen all players before the new season. Persevering through repetition and fatigue builds physical and mental toughness, and self-confidence. Jesus did His “pre-season training” at the start of His ministry with 40 days of fasting and praying in the desert. Lent is a perfect time to perform some religious calisthenics of our own. We can do this by answering Lent’s three calls: to pray, to fast, and to give alms.



## Bingo Schedule—2025

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
24	21	21	25	23	20	25	22	19	17	14	19

## Upcoming Events

Feb 21	Bingo at HNJ 6 p.m. (COR Team)
Mar 1-2	<b>Recruiting Weekend—Wear your Knight’s Shirt to Mass</b>
Mar 5	<b>ASH Wednesday</b>
Mar 6	Council Meeting Bluewater Community Church, 7 p.m. (Dinner and Social at 6:15 p.m.)
Mar 15	<b>St. Patrick’s Day Party at 3rd Planet (COR and HNJ Councils)</b>
Mar 20	Assembly Meeting at Bluewater Community Church, 7 p.m. (Dinner and Social at 6:15 p.m.)
Mar 29-30	Knights Lead Pre-Mass Rosary. Come a half-hour early and wear your Council shirt.

## Sacred Heart Icon coming to COR in June

Through the Pilgrim Icon Program, councils organize a Sacred Heart Holy Hour featuring an icon depicting the most famous image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, painted in 1767 by Pompeo Batoni and now venerated in the Church of the Gesù in Rome. The reproduction bears the blessing of Pope Francis, through the Papal Almoner, and is one of more than 300 icons traveling across the world, from council to council, for veneration and use in prayer services.

The Sacred Heart Holy Hour includes readings from Sacred Scripture and reflections from Pope Francis on the Sacred Heart, as well as the Divine Mercy Chaplet, prayers to the Sacred Heart and time for silent prayer. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament may also be included. Following the holy hour, families are encouraged to enthrone the Sacred Heart in their homes by placing an image of the Sacred Heart in a place of honor and conducting an enthronement ceremony.

Since the first traveling pilgrim icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 1979, more than 191,000 council and parish prayer services with some 23 million participants have been held.



## January Family of the Month

### Mic, Beth & the Wehmeyer Family

Our Family of the Month is very active in our community. The Knight serves as our Family Director and leads the annual Baby Bottle Drive and Keep Christ in Christmas (KCIC) campaign. This year the Baby Bottle Drive raised over \$3,200 for a local women's center, and the KCIC campaign had \$450 in sales.



Last year he led classes to help seven Scouts earn their Pope Pius XII religious emblems, and this year he's leading classes to help eight Scouts earn their *Ad Altare Dei* religious emblems.

His son, Ryan, is an Eagle Scout and serves as our Outside Guard. He is currently working on a degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of West Florida. His other son, Eric, also an Eagle Scout, and a brother Knight, is working on his Associate's Degree at Northwest Florida State College.

Our Knight's wife, Beth, and daughter, Tina, are also very active in Scouting. Beth serves as a Roundtable Commissioner and troop Advancements Chair, ensuring Scouts get their awards. And Tina, an Eagle Scout, serves as Youth Roundtable Commissioner and Assistant Scoutmaster. She works as a Teller at the Eglin Federal Credit Union. For the focus this family has on serving our youth, we are pleased to announce the Wehmeyer family as our Family of the Month for January 2024.



## January Knight of the Month

## Dave Halupowski

Our Knight of the Month serves as our Life Director, keeping us updated on Pro-Life activities and legal issues throughout the State of Florida.

A 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knight, he serves in our Assembly's Honor Guard. He recently led the Color Guard during a Walk for Life March in Pensacola.

He also serves on our Bingo team and cooks for our Spaghetti Dinners. In December, he led our Council's entry for the Annual Niceville Christmas Parade, providing the only Nativity Scene floats in the parade. He recently helped secure an alternative location for Council meetings while our parish hall is being renovated.

A self-described nerd, he's also a member of the Northwest Florida Astronomy Association and the Playground Gem and Mineral Society. He visits mines and collects various stones that his wife, Anita, then turns into jewelry. He has also collected over 27 pounds of uranium.

Finally, he volunteers at the Twin Cities Hospital front desk, greeting and assisting visitors. For these and many more efforts, we are pleased to recognize Sir Knight Dave Halupowski as our January 2025 Knight of the Month.



## Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest Winners



Grand Knight Peter Blaise presented certificates and a saint statuette to each of the eight winners of the Keep Christ in Christmas poster following 10:30 a.m. Mass on January 26th.