

KNIGHT VISION



Star Council 2024-2025

Council 13527 Newsletter

August 2025

Grand Knight's Report

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion—DEI—receives much attention, especially considering the government's recent push to dismantle DEI programs throughout many facets of society.

Such actions result in me asking, "why?" I'm puzzled as to why DEI programs created to prevent discrimination, comply with civil rights laws, and foster inclusivity have been painted so negatively, especially since the basic tenets of DEI parallel the key themes for our Church's social justice teaching as well as the social justice teachings of virtually all major faiths. Aren't we all to love God and our neighbors and believe human life is sacred?



Catholic social teaching is "a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society." (www.usccb.org) Key themes are:

- ♦ Human life is sacred. The dignity of the person is the basis of a moral vision for society.
- ♦ We have a fundamental right to life and those things required for human decency.
- ♦ People have a right and duty to participate in society, to seek the well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.
- ♦ The economy must serve the people. The basic rights of workers must be respected.
- ♦ We are one human family regardless of national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences.
- ♦ We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith with all of God's creation.

These themes are an intrinsic part of our faith. Even more, they're captured in our Declaration of Independence. I wish all of you lives filled with social justice.

Vivat Jesus!

Peter Blaise

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

May Family of the Month

Adam & Sarah Dieterich

Our family of the month has been consistently active in our council, parish, and community. Adam joined our council in 2006 and served as our Financial Secretary for several years. Sarah has been playing our parish's music since 2005. She became our parish's music director in 2017, leading the music ministry for all three weekend Masses. All three of their children have served as altar servers for our parish. Their daughter, Amanda served as an altar server since the third grade and was selected by our council as Altar Server of the Year. She helped teach religious education classes as an aide and as teacher for pre-school. She also earned one of our council's college scholarships and will become an Eagle Scout in July. Their other daughter, Abigail, has also helped teach religious education classes and has joined the Eaglets, Niceville High School's dance team. Their son, Anthony, participated in children's choir and plays soccer. For these and many more reasons, we are pleased to announce the Adam and Sarah Dieterich family as our May 2025 Family of the Month

May Knight of the Month

Jose Sanchez

Not every individual selected as the Knight of the Month has a long history of service to the council and the community. Our May selection is a newcomer to our organization having completed his exemplification in May. He immediately immersed himself in council activities to include working at our Bingo fundraiser within days of his exemplification. We are pleased to announce Brother Jose Sanchez as our May 2025 Knight of the Month.

Assembly 3236 Installation



District Master Anthony Jette conducted the installation of new officers for the Niceville-Bluewater Bay Assembly 3236 at Christ Our Redeemer on July 17. Jim Reese was installed as Faithful Navigator and Father Bob Johnson as Faithful Friar.

CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

Deacon Tom Dwyer

This year on July 4th we began the count-down to our nation's 250th anniversary. As a second generation American of Irish ancestry, it is worth reflecting on the role immigration has played in creating, arguably, the greatest country in today's era. This includes the eleven American Catholic saints who served God and our country. This column describes the first four saints.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821), New York City born, she converted to Catholicism and in 1821 founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph — the first order of religious women in the U.S. She is considered the founder of the U.S. Catholic School system. Her feast day is Jan. 4.



St. John Neumann (1811-1860) originally a missionary priest from Bohemia, he is the first male U.S. citizen to become a saint. Made bishop of Philadelphia, he founded the first diocesan Catholic school system in the U.S. His feast day is Jan. 5.

St. Marianne Cope (1838-1918) born in Germany, Cope joined the Sisters of the Third Order of Saint Francis, serving multiple times as the congregation's novice mistress and superior of St. Joseph's Hospital. She joined St. Damien in Molokai, Hawaii to serve those quarantined there with leprosy. Her feast day is Jan. 23.

St. Katharine Drexel (1858-1955), dedicated her wealth and life to serving Native Americans and African Americans. She founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People, opening schools and mission centers. With her order, she founded New Orleans' Xavier University, the only historically black U.S. Catholic college. Her feast day is March 3.

Upcoming Events

July 25	Bingo at HNJ (COR Team) Early Bird 6 p.m., Regular Bingo 7:15 p.m.
July 31	Executive Board 7 p.m. St.. Acutis Room, Seton Hall, COR
Aug 7	Council Meeting , 7 p.m. Seton Hall, COR (Dinner and Social at 6:15 p.m.)
Aug 8	Holy Family Academy Mass and Grand Opening, 8 a.m. at HNJ
Aug 15	Feast of the Assumption
Aug 21	Assembly 3236 Meeting at HNJ, 7 p.m. (Dinner and Social at 6:15 p.m.)
Aug 22	Bingo at HNJ (COR Team)

June Knight of the Month

Jack Starr

June's Knight of the Month is a charter member of Council 13527. He has, over the years, helped in almost every council activity to include pancake breakfasts, Sunland picnics and Christmas parties, marching in the Niceville Christmas parades, and has been a consistent member of the Friday night Bingo games. He also visits the infirm and shut-in members of the community to provide them with a visit and communion when they can't make it to Mass. A faithful member of Assembly 3236, for many years, he served as a member of the Honor Guard for Masses and funerals at Christ Our Redeemer and other local churches. For all these and many more of his service activities, we thank Jack Starr for his contributions to the Order and being Christ for others.



June Family of the Month

Rick & Marcy Spitznagel



Our family of the month is active at both Christ Our Redeemer and Holy Name of Jesus parishes. Rick is involved in many of the council's activities and regularly volunteers on most of our Council's Habitat for Humanity builds. He also regularly ushers for, and is the Usher Captain for the Sunday 10:30 Mass, ensuring that those assigned are notified of their schedule. Marcy is a member of the Council of Catholic Women and volunteers at Angel's Attic thrift store. She is a retired schoolteacher, who volunteers at Plew Elementary School helping children learn to read. She also is actively involved in the new Holy Family Catholic Academy, serving on the academy's School Advisory Council. This family also volunteers to serve meals at Harbor Docs Restaurant in Destin on Thanksgiving that raises funds for Habitat for Humanity. For these and many more reasons, we are pleased to name Rick and Marcy Spitznagel as our June Family of the Month.

Lewis and Pudlo Named Altar Servers of the Year for Pensacola-Tallahassee Diocese

Both of Christ Our Redeemer's Altar Servers of the Year were recently selected as the Altar Servers of the Year for the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee. Grand Knight Peter Blaise, assisted by District Deputy Bob Gualtieri made the presentations following the 10:30 a.m. Mass on July 20th .

Noah Lewis, the 7-12 year old Altar Server, is a 4th grader at Bluewater Elementary School. He is involved in many extra-curricular activities, takes piano lessons, and is a Bear Scout in Cub Scout Pack 553. He is always eager to serve at Mass. Noah has earned the Cub Scouts Light of Christ Emblem, the Catholic Religious Emblem for Scouts age 6-7 and has started on the *Parvuli Dei* Emblem for Scouts aged 8-10.



Ben Pudlo, 16, was selected in the 13-18 year old Altar Server category, is entering his senior year at Niceville High School. He is a varsity athlete on its Cross Country and Track & Field teams and was inducted into the National Honor Society. He currently holds a 4.53 GPA while taking numerous college level courses as a dual enrollee at Northwest Florida State College. An altar server since the 6th grade, he has served at churches in Virginia and North Carolina before moving to Niceville. Ben intends to pursue a college degree in mechanical engineering.

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Council Installs New Officers

Newly installed District Deputy Bob Gualtieri conducted the installation of new officers for the 2025-2026 fraternal year on July 9th at Christ Our Redeemer.

