



St. Thomas More Council 7826

June 2021 Newsletter

Welcome to the St Thomas More Council June Newsletter



It has been an honor for Trish and me to serve the St Thomas More KofC Council 7826, for myself as Grand Knight. Thank you! to all Officers and Members for your support, prayers and friendship. My mentors remain PGK Dan Bulinski and PGK Johnnie Turner whose examples of leadership, I tried to continue on, in my own way. The Officers of our

Council are outstanding, so too, our members and their families. I am very proud of our Council as we support our St Thomas More Parish and our Pastor Fr Gordon and Parochial Vicar, Fr Lawton, our Catholic Church and the Diocese of Venice, our Charities and our Community. We have a vibrant Council and I am extremely confident in the leadership of our Officers elected for the next fraternal year as led by Grand Knight Jim Meyd. Trish and I will remain very involved in our Council, among others, STM Golf Outing, Parish Picnic, Parish Christmas Party and volunteering for our Council events and active with Right to Life. Yes – we “love” and will be present at the Council Socials. It is my honor to continue to serve the Council as an Officer and Trustee. May I wish all Officers and Members of our Council – and your families – good health and prosperity in the years to come and be humble as you support the Knights of Columbus. Vivat Jesus.



Knight of the Month

John Cesare

Chair, Special Olympics – and volunteering activities include, among others, Hospitality Minister, St Vincent DePaul Society, Pancake Breakfasts, Coffee & Donuts, STM Picnic and Chair, Officer Nominating Committee

Family of the Month

Rob & Patty Carver

Activities include, among others, Baltimore Oriole's Concession Stand, Golf Outing, Parish Picnic, Coffee & Donuts and Pancake Breakfasts.



Certificates of Appreciation

Al Ferrigno and Ted Bogusz – Volunteers / Special Olympics

Tony D'Souza and John Maier – Good of the Order / Prayer List / Outreach

John Gearon III – DD Fraternal Year 2020-2021



**FAMILY OF THE YEAR
JOHN & LUCY KOITSCH**



**KNIGHT OF THE YEAR
JOE TIFFANY**

**Altar Server of the Year
Joan Crowley**



Per John Koitsch, Sacristan “she (Joan) worked many Masses last year, especially when we could not find servers to help us out. She served some Sunday Masses back to back when we needed her, always helpful and dependable to make the best of this ministry. Joan is pictured with Brothers Charlie Ballschmieder and PGK Johnnie Turner and in her alb for Mass.

Corporate Communion – Thank you! to all Brother Knights, your families and guests that attended our Corporate Communion at the 4PM, Saturday, June 12th Mass as officiated by Fr Lawton, our Chaplain. After the Mass, our June Social was held at The Italian Inn, South Sarasota.



Children with Disabilities / Tootsie Roll Campaign – was held after all the Masses, the weekend of June 26-27. Thank you! Fr Gordon and Fr Lawton for supporting this fundraiser. Recall, proceeds go to Oak Park School and St Mary's Academy as to support their mission assisting children with disabilities. Recognized is the leadership of DGK Jim Meyd and all that volunteered to "wear the orange vest and hold the money cans" as includes Johnnie Turner, Al Ferrigno, Rob Carver, John Cesare, Steve McElroy, Derek Noll, Ken Gaasch, Joe Sommer, Ted Kovacic, Max Streibel, Jeb Kingseed, Larry & Joyce Faeth, Jim Beck, Cecilio Fernandez Jr, Jack Rodman, Fred Zava, and Ron McCluskey. – **and a big thank you! to all our Parish Members that generously contributed to this fundraiser.**

40 Days for Life/365 – St Thomas More Parish Right to Life and KofC Council 7826 support - the Prayer Vigil at the Sarasota Planned Parenthood facility, **every 4th Thursday of the month, hours 9AM to 1PM**. Please contact Right to Life Co-Chairs, either Brian Harkins bjharkins1@gmail.com or Neil Corrado at lamb1anc2@verizon.net to volunteer at the Prayer Vigil. **We are asking all Knights to consider - one hour each month - to pray and walk at the Prayer Vigil in support of Pro-Life.** For the Month of June – thank you! Brothers DGK Jim Meyd, Neil Corrado, Phil Arsenault, Jr Fernandez as joined by GK Ken Berberich at the Prayer Vigil on June 24th.



STM Scholarship Awards

PGK Dan Bulinski and Chair, Scholarship Committee, advised that our Council awarded five scholarships totaling \$6,500 to **Cardinal Mooney High School**. The Scholarship Award Program and Reception was held on June 22nd at the Chelsea Center. Members of the Scholarship Committee are Hank Peppard, Larry Hall, Johnnie Turner, Jim Corso, Jim Meyd, Ron McCluskey and Steve McElroy.

- **Richard A Schwehr Memorial Scholarship** – to Daniel Krajewski
- **Lance Corporal Patrick Ryan Adle Memorial Scholarship** – to Liam Farrelly
- **Hank Peppard Family Memorial Scholarship** – to Daniel Ramirez
- **Angela Cianciulli - McAlonie Memorial Scholarship** – to Keira Donovan
- **KofC Council 7826 Memorial Scholarship** honoring PGKs Bob Haas and John Wojtyna - to Liam Donovan

Here are the Council Officers – for the fraternal year 2021-2022. Members approved the Officers at the June 10th Council Meeting - please congratulate, support and thank them for their commitment to our Council.

- Chaplain – Fr Lawton Lang
- Grand Knight – Jim Meyd
- Deputy Grand Knight – Dale Scully
- Chancellor – Ralph Neller
- Financial Secretary – Larry Hall
- Treasurer – Greg Sokolik
- Recorder – Dan Bulinski
- Warden – Dave Bracy
- Advocate – Joe Tiffany
- Lecturer – Jim Clark
- Inside Guard – Charles Ballschmieder
- Outside Guard – Hank Peppard
- One Year Trustee – PGK Johnnie Turner
- Two Year Trustee – Jack Rodman
- Three Year Trustee – PGK Ken Berberich

Our Council has attempted to stay in touch with our Members via Facebook, Website, Emails, Telephone contact and “Good of the Order”.

- **Facebook – “KofC Council 7826”** – Please contact Lecturer Jim Clark if you need assistance to sign up on our Facebook account or to post information. Jim Clark’s email address jclark1@gmail.com
- **Website** - St Thomas More Council 7826 website is available to all members. The **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.*

ONLINE 3RD DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION CEREMONIES – are being hosted by Supreme Council and are intended for 1st and 2nd degree members **to achieve the new, Charity - Unity - Fraternity degree (3rd degree)** as well as candidates/new members to participate in the (3rd degree) ceremony. If you are interested in participating in the “online ceremony”, please contact Ralph Neller, Chancellor at his email address rneller65@outlook.com or his telephone #513-708-0528.



New Member - **Kenneth (Ken) Levanti**. Ken and his wife, Sheree are members of St Thomas More Church having moved to Sarasota in 1984, growing up in Andover MA. He is a pilot and owner/engraver of Sarasota Trophy. Joe Tiffany sponsored Ken to our Council. Pix of Ken to the left. He accomplished his third degree on June 10th.

New Member – **Goutham Gogineni**. Goutham is a member St Thomas More Parish. He is married, spouse Arul and is a Software Engineer. He was accepted by Council Officers and accomplished his degree ceremony on June 3rd. He is sponsored by Brother Tony D’Souza. Goutham pix to the right.



Transfer – In - **Seminarian** (Diocese of Venice) **Alejandro Giraldo-Roldan**, as assigned to St Thomas More Church. He accomplished his Knighthood while attending St John Vianney College two years ago but has never belonged to a Council. Welcome Brother Alejandro to our Council!

Pending New Members – **Juan Rodriguez** as sponsored by Joe Tiffany and **Dick Riley**, a volunteer at STM Food Pantry. We anticipate their membership in July. Further as sponsored by Al Ferrigno, is reactivated member- **Phillip D’Carlo**, also pending for July.

Your Council #7826 – made STAR COUNCIL, this fraternal year 2020-2021. Thank you! to all who made this happen! **Please continue in your diligent search for new members** – if you know of an interested individual – please contact Chancellor Ralph Neller at rneller65@outlook.com

Special Olympics Committee – John Cesare, Chair is pleased to advise that **Brothers Al Ferrigno and Ted Bogusz have joined the Special Olympics Committee**. Thank you! Al and Ted for your commitment to Special Olympics and our Council. Both individuals were designated as “Class A Volunteers” for Special Olympics. Events include bowling, swimming, flag football and softball. If you are interested in learning more or volunteering for a Special Olympic event, please contact John Cesare at email johncesare1@verizon.net

Please include the following individuals in need of our prayers.



Fr. Jim Simko
Joyce Bulinski (wife of Dan Bulinski)
Carol Wojtyna (wife of departed John Wojtyna)
Jack Shaw
John Maier
John McAlonie
Larry Faeth
Erin McAlonie Brady (daughter of John McAlonie)
Gary Ellis
Alec Berardinalli
Al Ferrigno
Steve Fenner
Janek Jakub
Peter Barry
Domenic Caledonia
Craig Spinali (son of John Spinali))
Rose Marcella (wife of Richard Marcella)
Shirley Berardinelli (wife of Alec Berardinelli)
Pat Zabach (wife of Jerry Zabach)
Audrey Barry (wife of Peter Barry)
Kim Wojtyna (daughter of Carol & John Wojtyna)
Derek Noll
Dave Bracy
Sheree Levanti (wife of Ken Levanti)

For our departed Brothers Fred Peoni, Tony Lingrosso, Robert Giovino, Marty Goodrick, John Wojtyna, Dale Lux, Joseph (Woody) Hayes and departed family members Paula Stout (spouse of Robert Stout), John Hogge (son of Judy Sommer), Robert McAlonie (brother of John), Christopher Peppard (son of Hank) and the "Unborn"- let us keep them in our prayers.

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 Stan Szafranski at his email address carolandstan1@comcast.net



July Birthdays - Please join in recognizing - Knights having birthdays in July.

July 1 – Roy MacGillis
1 – Donald DiRuzza
1 – Paul McClusky
8 – Edward Espinola
8 – John Jannusch
11 – Don Leonard
13 – Domenic Caledonia
14 – Alec Berardinelli
14 – Mitchell Mauer
15 – Jamie Holahan
16 – Rich Marcella
17 – Christopher Langer
22 – Julio Melendez
23 – Al Ferrigno
23 - Joseph Mizii
27 – George Risbano
27 – Mark Lawrie



Social at The Italian Grill – after the Corporate Communion Mass on June 12th - as attended by 50 Knights, spouses, significant others, surviving spouses and guests including Fr Gordon and Fr Lawton. Well done! Dave and Sue Bracy as the event was well received by all in attendance.

Our next Social will be held on July 24th, after the Officer Installation

ceremony **as to be held at Meadows Country Club**. Please contact Sue or Dave Bracy and FS Larry Hall to register for the July Social. Sue and Dave Bracy dsbracy@comcast.net and Larry Hall hallorhall@gmail.com. An email blast to all members on the Officer Installation ceremony and July Social will be forthcoming.

2022 St Thomas More Golf Outing – is now being planned. Will be held on Monday, May 9th 2022 at Legacy Golf Club in Bradenton at Lakewood Ranch.

Golf Committee Members are Ken Berberich Chair, Ralph Neller, Greg Sokolik, Rob Carver, Joe Tiffany, Al Ferrigno, Ed Plankey, Richard Lamb and Gary Ellis. Are you interested in joining the Golf Committee? If so, please email Ken Berberich at berberichken@yahoo.com We will be looking for Golfers, Hole Sponsors, Corporate Sponsors, Gift Donors and Volunteers as to make this Outing a success. The proceeds of the 2022 Golf Outing will go to KofC Council 7826 – for operating funds and donations to our charities.

NEWS FROM OUR FRATERNAL BENEFITS ADVISOR – If you have a Knights of Columbus Insurance question or need – contact at the Lawandus Insurance Agency – **Field Agent – Brian DeBlauw**. He may be reached at his cell # 440-669-8957 or email brian.deblauw@kofc.org

Editors' note:

It has been my great pleasure to work with Worthy Grand Knight Ken Berberich on a number of things over the last two years including formatting and final editing of the newsletter, expanded email communications, and enhancements to our website. Under his leadership we've increased the information and photos in the newsletter and also made great strides in expanding our content on the website, and, most recently, setting up a Facebook page - all with the intent of keeping in touch with every member and celebrating our successes.

There are so many things our Council is involved with and our success is always due in great part to the participation and passion of each and every one of you reading this - so please stay informed and stay involved. My sincere thanks to GK Ken Berberich for the journey you have taken us on! - Steve McElroy