



St. Thomas More Council 7826

July 2021 Newsletter



Welcome to the St Thomas More Council July Newsletter

Corporate Communion, Officer Installation, Ceremony, & Social Event

On July 24th, after the 4PM Corporate Communion Saturday Mass, Our Council Officer Installation Ceremony was conducted in the Spirit Center. District Deputy Dr. Steven Wyer and District Warden Charlie Culkin presided over the installation. Our Council will be forever grateful for the guidance and leadership of Grand Knight Ken Berberich during these last two difficult years due to the pandemic. Grand Knight Ken Berberich did an outstanding job leading us through, and keeping us connected as a Council during this difficult time. Through his

leadership and guidance, we were able to overcome many things and still achieve Star Council status. My sincerest thank you for his friendship, guidance, and mentoring, both to myself, and all members of the Council. I look forward to working with our officers and members returning our Council back to “normal”, and continue our service to St. Thomas More Parish, our community, and our dedication to our charitable work. Most importantly, I would like to express my personal thank you to all spouses/significant others and families of our Knights, both in your support, and generous volunteering of your time to our Council and Parish. This is the Officer Team of our Council for the 2021-2022 fraternal year.

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





Corporate Communion

We held our first Corporate Communion of the fraternal year on Saturday, July 24th, at the 4:00 mass, presided by Fr. Gordon, prior to the Officer Installation. Thank you for all that attended we had a great turnout.

July Social

We also held our first social of the Fraternal Year at The Meadows Country Club. Thank you to Ted Kovacic for sponsoring our Council as his guests. Special thanks go to Dave & Sue Bracy who spent countless hours preparing for the Officer Installation and making it a great night for us all at the social. We had 67 guests at this month's social. This was a great turnout of Knights in the middle of the summer months. Thank you to all who attended. We even had a special guest with Brother John McAlonie attending. It was great to see him and that he was able to join us. In his words "I'm Back!" Also in attendance was Fr. Gordon, our Pastor, and Fr. Lang, our Chaplain. Dignitaries in attendance were District Deputy Dr. Steve Wyer and his wife Teresa, District Warden Charlie Culkin and His wife Cindi, and our past District Deputy John Gearon III and his wife Kellianne.

We honored and presented PGK Ken Berberich with a plaque and other gifts to recognize our appreciation for his time as our Grand Knight. We also recognized our Past Grand Knights Johnnie Turner and Dan Bulinski with a PGK cap. WE will present PGK Dan Bulinski's cap to him at the Council Meeting in August.



More photos from the Social Event and Officer Installation Ceremony can be found near the end of the newsletter.



Spotlight on the Knight of the Month and Family of the Month



July Knight of the Month



July Family of the Month

Brother Tony D'Souza – As a new member, Tony has made an immediate impact on the Council. Tony has become fully involved in helping to stay in touch with our Brothers who have found their way onto the Good of the Order. He is dedicated to reaching out to them through visits and phone calls. He assists them with any needs they may have. He has become a great partner with Brother Stan Szafranski in this effort.

Brother Frank Moeslein & Imelda Moeslein – Also as new members, Brother Frank & Imelda have immediately become deeply involved in our Right to Life program. They are regular participants at our Planned Parenthood prayer walk every 4th Thursday of the month.

Parish News

On July 1st, Fr. Gordon Zanetti celebrated his 2nd anniversary as the Pastor of St. Thomas More parish. Please join us in congratulating Fr. Gordon on this milestone and wish him many more years to come.



Committee Corner

Children with Disabilities (Tootsie Roll campaign)

We received very strong support from our members in volunteering for our parish campaign. Through your efforts and the generosity of our parishioners, we raised \$1200 during our campaign. All proceeds go to Oak Park School and St Mary's Academy. Thank you to Brothers Johnnie Turner, Al Ferrigno, Rob Carver, John Cesare, Phil Arsenault, Derek Noll, Ken Gaasch, Joe Summer, Ted Kovacic, Max Streibel, Jeb Kingseed, Jim Beck, Cecilio, Ron McCluskey, and Jack Rodman. Special thanks to our Treasurer Greg Sokolik and Roy Rasmussen, who came after every mass to secure and count the donations. Many thanks to Steve & Carol McElroy, who worked so diligently behind the scenes to schedule coverage after all the masses.

Special Olympics

Any Gear Heads out there? Whether you are or not, Florida Knights are involved in a fun event which also supports one of our important Faith in Action programs: Special Olympics. The Daytona Coke Zero 400 race, to be held on August 28, partners the Florida Knights with Special Olympics. Anyone purchasing tickets through the Knights link will receive an admission discount and other discounts and amenities. And, \$10 per ticket goes directly to Special Olympics. But let's say someone can't attend the race but still want to either participate or help Special Olympics. Consider your council hosting a viewing party. You can then allocate the funds you raise from such the party to your local Special Olympics chapter. [Make a \\$15 - \\$25 Donation to be a Sponsor and get your name in the Race Day Program](#)

40 Days for Life 365 - The Knights of Columbus has begun a campaign to pray – 365 days a year – at Planned Parenthood facilities. 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**, Brian Harkins bjharkins1@gmail.com or phone # 908-451-7454 or Neil Corrado at lamb1anc2@verizon.net or phone # 941-377-8710. Please consider praying outside of the Planned Parenthood facility. Many thanks to our July 22nd Prayer Warriors, Brothers Ted Kovacic, Neil Corrado, PGK Johnnie Turner, PGK Ken Berberich, Trish Berberich, Frank & Imelda Moeslein, and GK Jim Meyd.



We have a large Council and we could use your support. With all that has happened these last two years, our rights are constantly under attack. Remember this: **Without the Right to Life, the rest doesn't matter.** Come help us protect and pray for the unborn. Please see letter below from Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly.

Dear Brother Knights,

Your immediate action is necessary to prevent taxpayer funding from being used to pay for abortion.

This week, the U.S. House of Representatives will vote on several government funding bills that remove long-standing, bi-partisan provisions, such as the Hyde Amendment, which prohibit taxpayer dollars from being used to pay for abortion. The Hyde Amendment has been passed every year since it was first introduced in 1976 by the late U.S. Rep. Henry Hyde of Illinois, a brother Knight. Over the last 45 years, this important provision has saved the lives of more than 2.4 million children!

I urge you to take action today by calling your elected representatives in Congress and asking them to preserve the Hyde Amendment.

Our 2021 Knights of Columbus/Marist Polling found that 58% of Americans oppose the use of taxpayer dollars to fund abortion domestically, and that 77% oppose paying for abortions abroad.

*Visit the [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Action Center](#) **TODAY** to contact your elected representatives and remind them that Americans do not want their taxpayer dollars to be used in the killing of innocent, unborn life.*

Thank you for taking action now to build a culture of life in America!

Fraternally,

*Patrick E. Kelly
Supreme Knight*

Golf Committee

To - All Members of St Thomas More Council 7826

Our St Thomas More Council 7826 will be hosting a Golf Tournament on May 9, 2022 at Legacy Golf Club, Bradenton at Lakewood Ranch. The event will include a light breakfast and BBQ lunch for the Golfers and Volunteers. We will have "fun events" of, among others, gift baskets raffle, sale of mulligans, longest drive and closest to the pin holes and a hole-in-one prize hole. The cost of the event is \$100 per Golfer and \$400 4/some.

We are looking for Hole Sponsors at \$100 each. We are requesting Corporate Sponsors at several levels, \$500. \$1000-1500 and Major Sponsor at \$2500+.

There will be Gift Basket Raffles - and we need gift certificates and non-perishable items for the gift baskets. Perhaps from restaurants that you frequent and businesses that would have an interest in supporting the Knights of Columbus, STM Council 7826 and our Council Members.

We will need Volunteers at the golf event.

Proceeds of the event go to our Knights of Columbus Council 7826, and are a major part of our 2021-2022 Budget.

We need ALL MEMBERS to support the Golf Outing.

Please get in touch with one of our Golf Committee Members if you desire more information or want to support the event: Ken Berberich, Ralph Neller, Greg Sokolik, Ed Plankey, Charlie Ballschmieder, Rob Carver, Joe Tiffany, Al Ferrigno, John Malloy, Ted Bogusz, Gary Ellis, and Richard Lamb.

Thank you for your help on the Golf Tournament!!!

PGK Ken Berberich



Membership

Our New Member Goal this fraternal year is **ten (10) New Members**. **We currently have read in four (4) New Members!** Phil DiCarlo (June), Juan Rodriquez (July), Probert Prima (July), and Timothy Ciafone (July). New Members must be a practicing Catholic, 18+ years of age. We need your help to reach out to KofC “prospects”. You will be assisted by our Membership Development Committee. Please provide the name of an individual that may/has an interest in KofC and our St Thomas More Council. Contact Chancellor Ralph Neller at his email rneller65@outlook.com or his telephone # 513-708-0528.

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. But it isn't just the Order that benefits from a new member. Each new Knight benefits also. Since its beginnings, the organization has promoted the principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. Knights contribute to the welfare of their parishes and communities, and seek to help the needy through financial and volunteer support. In addition to the fellowship and faith development that Knights enjoy through their affiliation, the Knights offer a top-rated and competitively priced insurance program for the security of member families.

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 - contact Jim Clark at his 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.*
- **This year we will be returning to live, in-person Exemplifications.** They 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, please contact Ralph Neller, Chancellor at his email address rneller65@outlook.com, or his telephone #513-708-0528.

- **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 Jim Meyd greygoose1@frontier.com, or his telephone 941-923-7517.

Donation Request – KofC Assembly 3089 – Our Lady of Charity Assembly (4th - Patriotic Degree) – is requesting donations for Veterans at Bay Pines. Items consist of books, tee-shirts, toiletry items, socks etc. Please consider making a donation. You can also make an Amazon purchase of the articles or make a cash donation. Have your purchase or your check payable to K of C Assembly 3089, c/o SK Dennis Mikus, 2965 Seasons Blvd, Sarasota FL 34240. Please notate on your check that you are a Member, STM Council 7826. Thank you for your consideration to this donation request

Announcement

There will be a memorial mass for our departed Brother and Past Grand Knight John Wojtyna. The mass will be held at the Church of St. Patrick, 7900 Bee Ridge Rd, on Saturday, October 2nd at 10am. John meant so much to many of us. Please plan to attend.



Fraternal Benefit Night (FBN) – We are looking to schedule our Fraternal Benefit Night on September 28th. More information on this will be forth coming.



Good of the Order

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 Berardinelli
Steve Fenner
Janek Jakubiuk
Peter Barry
Domenic Caledonia
Craig Spinali (John's son)
Rose Marcella (wife of Richard Marcella)
Audrey Barry (wife of Peter)
Kim Wojtyna (daughter of Carol & John Wojtyna)
Shirley Berardinelli (wife of Alec Berardinelli)
Pat Zabach (wife of Jerry Zabach)
Dave Bracy
Sheree Levanti (wife of Ken Levanti)
Jerry Pardo

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) 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 me at my email address greygoose1@frontier.com - Jim Meyd, Grand Knight, or I may be reached at 941-923-7517.



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

August 4 – Charlie Baldelli
9 – John Maier
18 – Robert Ballard
18 – Josef Bogner
19 – Joe Sommer
22 – Tom Perry
23 – Dale Scully
25 – James McNamara
27 – Jean-Paul Assaff
29 – Kim Klee
29 – Jim Clark
30 – Robert Colucci
31 – Philip Maresco

More Social Event Photos





More Officer Installation Ceremony Photos



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 . See informative article following.

Summer is in full swing; vacations and backyard barbeques, outdoor sports and yardwork! I look forward to this time of year with flowers in bloom and thoughts of a much needed and anticipated summer vacation. I hope your summer is going well for you!

It's interesting to read about Blessed Michael McGivney's attitude in *Faith and Fraternalism* by Christopher J. Kauffman: "Though he [Fr. McGivney] seems to have been well aware of the value of ceremonials as the binding force for fraternal unity, he spent his energy in promoting the insurance feature." You know the story well; how the untimely death of his father nearly derailed Fr. McGivney's plans to become a priest. As the curate of St. Mary's he encountered families in similar situations. So it's no wonder he was so practical when it came to making sure families were financially sound.

In my position I feel a deep kinship with Fr. McGivney in helping to protect Catholic families. I see myself as your partner in facing this planning process. You don't have to go it alone. With our new financial need's analysis tool, with cutting edge software, robust and in-depth, we can approach this together. Several members have reached out to me. Let me give you a fictionalized account about two of them. I recently met with a brother Knight and his wife who have a couple of young children. Together, we were able to see that based on what this couple wanted for their family; there was a need in two particular areas. One, the brother's group life insurance, while free as a benefit, was not enough to do what he wanted his life insurance to do. He desired more to make sure, if he had an untimely passing, his wife and children could stay in the same home, could still attend Catholic grade school and could afford to make a college education a reality. The other area that he had not thought about was what I call the "death of his earning power." What if he became sick or hurt and could not work? His employer provided very minimal coverage for a few months, but after that there was nothing. We explored how the Knights could fill that void and make his family whole. All this from spending time with me. The best part for him...and for you, is that this service does not cost the Knight anything; we do it as part of our service to the members. Many others in the industry charge fees for this kind of analysis. It's a fraternal benefit that I am happy to provide.

The other couple was recently retired. Well past the stage of this former young couple. I completed a financial needs analysis for them. They were in very good shape financially; had all their proverbial "ducks in a row" in almost every area. The area that they were concerned with was an extended care event. How could they protect all that they had worked for and saved in the event of needing help with daily living activities? I was able to help them plan for that and shift the financial burden to the Knights. The other issue they looked at was setting aside a little of what they had saved to help their grandchildren. We were able to set up a plan to pass that money **tax free** to them in a way that is much more beneficial than a savings account.

Maybe you have similar concerns; meeting with me can allay them. I am your partner as we share our brotherhood in the Order. That kind of relationship is rarely found elsewhere in the financial services world. Let's get together and see where you stand.

Vivat Jesus

Brian DeBlauw, Field Agent

August 2021



C=Church
CC=Chelsea Center
SC=Spirit Center

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 STM Youth Group Pizza Party SC	2	3	4 Officer's Meeting 7:00 CC	5	6	7
8	9 Assembly Meeting 7:00 Incarnation	10	11	12 Council Meeting 7:00 SC	13	14 District Org. Meeting 9:00 – 11:00 Incarnation
15	16	17	18	19 Degree Exemplification Ceremony 7:00 SC	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Planned Parenthood Prayer Walk 9:00 – 1:00	26	27
28	29	30	31			