



St. Thomas More Council 7826

August 2021 Newsletter



Welcome to the St Thomas More Council July Newsletter

Brother Knights,

August 13th was a historic day for the Knights of Columbus and for the Catholic Church — it was the first feast day of our Founder, Blessed Michael McGivney.

This was a day of celebration, reflection and prayer. The Church has chosen August 13 to honor our Founder because it falls one day after the anniversary of his birth and one day before the anniversary of his death, when he entered eternal life. During the 38 years in between, Father McGivney answered God's call to defend the family and the faith, most notably by founding the Knights of Columbus. In the words of our Supreme Convention theme, which were drawn from the Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis on St. Joseph, our Founder truly embodied "creative courage" in service to God — and his example should inspire us all to live boldly in faith.

The [Papal Message](#) to the Supreme Convention observed that “The joyful event of Father McGivney’s beatification, celebrated this past year in Hartford, marked a significant milestone in [the Order’s] distinguished history and represents a summons to renewed fidelity to the founding principles of faith, fraternity and charitable assistance to those in need.”

For many years, Knights and our families have prayed for our Founder’s intercession. His presence in heaven was confirmed by the [miraculous healing of an unborn child](#), the son of a brother Knight. That miracle paved the way for Father McGivney’s beatification last October, when he was raised to the honors of the altar. Now, we hope and pray for a second miracle, so that we may soon call Father McGivney a saint.

Grand Knight Report

We had a great beginning to our fraternal year with a Corporate Communion, Officer Installation, and Social. We had 67 attendees at the mass and social. That is a great number for mid-summer! We also had many who came over after mass to attend the Officer Installation. Once again, thank you for your continuing support of the Council and all we do. The strength of our Brotherhood & Sisterhood, with our spouses and significant others, in this Council, provides a solid foundation for all we do as a Council. Not only does it keep this Council strong & vibrant, but it is a main driver on how we attract new members. We had our meeting with Fr. Gordon in July to review our Faith in Action Plan and how we can best support the parish. Once again we received positive support from Fr. Gordon. The only thing holding us back is the uncertainty of the virus. The future is still cloudy and most events are on hold, but once we get the green light we will be off and running. Be prepared! We have a lot of work to do when that time comes and we will need all hands on deck.

As you know, we raised a little over \$1200 from our parish Tootsie Roll Campaign. The council provided checks in the amount of \$605 to both Oak Park School and St. Mary Academy. In recognition of our spring donations to St. Mary, we received a thank you note from St. Mary Academy.

On Sunday night, August 1st, STM Council 7826 supported the STM Youth Group in kicking off their community service week, recognizing them for their commitment to community service. We felt it was especially important to recognize them given the climate we currently live in, that they would reach out to learn and help others in the community. STM Council 7826 was pleased to join youth group leader Robbie Anderson, and her adult volunteers, in supporting the group by

joining in on the opening activities and providing a pizza party. Many thanks to Brothers John Cesare, John Koitsch, and GK Jim Meyd for their attendance at the kickoff. The group's week included visits to Streets of Paradise, All Faith's Food Bank and STM Twelve Baskets Food Pantry, and the community of Immokalee, among other learning and helping activities. Each day ended with time for spiritual reflection and sharing of their daily experiences.

We had our District Organizational meeting on August 14th. The District Deputy and Warden were both very helpful with laying out the basics of the business side of the council. We will be making an all-out Council effort focusing on VAVS donations for our veterans. Brother Steve McElroy will be heading this for the council. Good News! We resumed in-person degree ceremonies beginning on August 19th. Thank you to our Worthy Recorder PGK Dan Bulinski, for quickly getting this back on to our calendar. Our Council had one new member, Juan Rodriguez, take the Exemplification of Charity, Unity, & Fraternity. We also had one new member, Ronaldo Landayan, take the degree virtually. All Brother Knights were welcome to attend, and we had a great showing. Our departed Brother and Past District Deputy John Wojtyna was our Honoree. We were fortunate to have John's Wife, Carol, accept the honoree certificate for John.



Lecturer Jim Clark has arranged to restart the Speaker series at the September 9th Membership meeting. The speaker will be Danielle Valery, Director of the Memory Disorder Clinic at Sarasota Memorial Hospital and the topic will be addressing the challenge of Dementia.

As you can hear, even in restricted times, we are a very active and vibrant council. Stay Active! Stay involved! We need every Knight in the Council to help keep our Council active.

August Social

Once again, Dave & Sue Bracy arranged a perfect evening for our August Council Social. Our social was held at Pincher's in Venice. Our council had 38 in attendance along with our Pastor, Fr. Gordon. Included, we had three perspective candidates attend. Thank you to Brother Junior Fernandez for introducing them to our Council. We were able once again to see some familiar faces, some new faces, and some faces we haven't seen for a while. Welcome back to those in attendance. Our next social will be September 23rd starting at 5:30 PM at Dockside Waterfront Grill with more details to follow. Dave & Sue are working on something really special for our Christmas social. You won't want to miss this one. Thank you Dave & Sue for the effort you put in, to make all our social events so special. -- No pictures were taken because we were having too much fun.

August Knight of the Month

Brother John McAlonie – John has been involved in so many ways for a long time in our Council. When I first met him, he was on the Scholarship Committee. He was also part of a great program of our Council, the Good of the Order. John reached out to so many in their time of need, offering them support and help where he could, and keeping them connected to our Council. Recently, he has been in the very spot where he helped so many. It was a thrill to see him back at our July social. In his words, "I'm back!"



August Family of the Month

Brother Ted & Karla Kovacic – You see this family together anytime you see the Knights gather for an event. Whether it is Tootsie Rolls, Parish Picnic, Parish Christmas Party, or sponsoring our council social, you will always see this couple graciously and quietly involved in all we do.



Faith in Action



Great to see **Brother Al Ferrigno** with his grandson as Altar Servers together in August. Our Knights participate in many important parish ministries.

Parish News



We are all aware of how fortunate we are to belong to such a vibrant parish. Father Gordon, Father Lawton, and the staff at St. Thomas More work very hard to create an environment of inclusion and support to our parishioners and our local community. In the same way the pandemic has affected us all, so to with our parish. The parish leadership team kept our parish open and available to us all, while controlling expenses across the board. We know that like us, our parish facilities are not getting any younger, and the cost to function and maintain our facilities continues to rise. Please be mindful of this as you look for ways to support our parish financially, and through your continued volunteer efforts. Anything you can do to contribute to your weekly offering, and support of the Catholic Faith Appeal, would be greatly appreciated. By achieving and exceeding our goal, more of those funds are directed straight back to our parish. Rest assured, the leadership team of our parish, is dedicated to using these resources efficiently to keep our parish alive and vibrant. St. Thomas More is also in need of Hospitality Ministers for the Sunday 8:00 and 12:00 masses. This is a great way to volunteer your time to assist our parish and increase the visibility of all we do as a Council. You are already attending mass, and this really adds to the spirit of the day. Please call the Parish Office if you are interested in volunteering.

Committee Corner

We have needs on many of our committees. We have specific committee openings on our Scholarship Committee. This is a great way to become involved in our Council activities. Each year we donate over \$6000 in scholarships for students attending Cardinal Mooney High School. Please reach out to our New Scholarship Committee Chair Brother Steve McElroy. This is a great committee that is dedicated to helping our youth stay connected to their faith and assisting in giving them the tools they need to be successful and to be valuable assets in our community.

Special Olympics

As in all sports, seasons come and go. Special Olympics are shifting to new activities as we move to summer/fall events. Special thanks to Brothers Al Ferrigno and Ted Bogusz, who have stepped up their commitment to support the activities of this great organization. Brother John Cesare has done a fantastic job as Chairman of this committee through his leadership and communications of its activities. If you are interested in becoming involved in Special Olympics please reach out to Brother John Cesare for details how you can become a volunteer.

Right to life

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**, either Brian Harkins bjharkins1@gmail.com or telephone # 908-451-7454 or Neil Corrado at lamb1anc2@verizon.net or telephone # 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, DGK Phil Arsenault, Ed Plankey, 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.

We are preparing for a very busy September/October with our Right to Life programs. September 22nd kicks off Right to Life Month. Brother Brian Harkins will

give the keynote address on opening night. Here is where we need your help. September 23rd will be our 4th Thursday of the month walk from 9am-1pm. Tuesday, September 28th, is the STM Parish & K of C day to cover the entire day from 9:00am – 7:00pm. Tuesday is the day when abortions are performed. This is a very solemn day for us to be part of. We need your support! October will be our “Baby Bottle” Campaign at STM Parish. We will need help in distributing the bottles after mass. More details to follow.



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

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 had two new members take the degree this month. Great work was done by the membership team. 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.

Recently, the parish has been blessed with several new members. We are trying to reach out to the new parishioners to introduce them to the good works our council does for the parish and their community. Perhaps one of them has become a new neighbor. Please review the list of names, and if you are aware of how to contact them, please pass this information to Chancellor Ralph Neller. The new parishioners are Mario Urzua, Joe Devore, Victor Ibarra, Edward Nock, Warren Griffith, Hans Knitter, Andrew Lluberes, Larry Hedge, and Don Muzzi.

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 month we returned 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

The 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. Please see Brother Steve McElroy to find out how you can help.

Announcement



There will be a memorial mass for our departed Brother 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 too many of us. Please plan to attend.

Good of the Order



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Brother Jerry Pardo. In addition to his active participation in our Council, as a 4th Degree Knight, and member of the Color Corps, SK Jerry never missed a callout of the Corps until he was taken ill. We know that there were many Knight and Sir Knights waiting in heaven upon his arrival.

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 Spinale (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)
Frank Moeslein
John Spinale
Donna Woodford (wife of David Woodford)
Jon Baldelli (son of Charles Baldelli)
John Baldelli (son of Charles Baldelli)
Chuck Fulton

For our departed Brothers Jerry Pardo, 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.



September Birthdays

Please join in recognizing the following Knights - celebrating birthdays in September.

- September 2 – Steve Zavada
- 3 – Steven Kepecz
- 6 – Thomas McDermott
- 6 – Stephen Cerjan
- 6 – Stephen Tasch
- 7 – Mike Paradiso
- 9 – Ken Russo
- 11 – Gary Garvin
- 11 – Christopher McDevitt
- 12 – John Spinale
- 12 – John Koitsch
- 14 – John Ladowicz
- 17 – Mike Piscopo
- 17 – Eric Dudley
- 19 – Dan Borgmeyer
- 22 – Dennis Armstrong
- 22 – Gary Basara
- 26 – Ron McCluskey
- 26 – Jeb Kingseed
- 27 – Joseph Kempton
- 27 – John Solum
- 29 – Allen Hillman

Fraternal Benefit Night (FBN) – Our Council & STM Parish Fraternal Benefits Night has been scheduled for Thursday, September 30th, in the Spirit Center at 7:00pm. In addition to hearing all the financial benefits available to you as a Knight, it is a requirement for us to achieve Star Council. We need your support! More information on this will be forthcoming.

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

One harbinger of September that has been like clockwork over the past number of years is our Knights of Columbus Fraternal Survey. It's my chance to stay in touch with you, see what's changed in your life and let you know I am here to be of service.

Just like last year the survey can be completed online; simple, fast and confidential.

I'm sure that as you look through the survey you might find a block to check; a subject you'd like some information on. Maybe you've been thinking about your life insurance and other benefits at work...are they adequate? Do I get to keep my group life insurance when I move to another job? Maybe you're thinking about a relative that's had a long term care event and all the agony and worry that entails. Maybe it's time to get serious about retirement.

Perhaps you have some products and you need service—a change of beneficiary or owner...or maybe you've moved and we need to update your contact information. Any of these can be addressed if you complete the survey.

In my travels around Sarasota, I often run into people who know the Knights of Columbus from our good works in the parish or community, our disaster response, support for Special Olympics and our prolife efforts. But very few of them know that we are a life insurance company...and we make no bones about that. After all Fr. McGivney saw that protecting our families was one of the two key reasons he brought those New Haven men together in the basement of St. Mary's in 1882.

“No doubt Father McGivney was motivated by the wish to keep young Catholics from entering the ranks of condemned secret societies and by the need to protect families during sickness and death.” (*Faith and Fraternalism, The History of the Knights of Columbus 1882-1982*; Christopher J. Kauffman, pg.17)

Unite men of faith and protect our families. Our Order has been faithful to that mission for 139 years. With the beatification of Blessed Michael McGivney I feel a renewed zeal to invite men to join the Order to reap those benefits of Unity, Charity and Fraternity. I am just as zealous to help protect Catholic families. Tempus fugit, memento mori! Vivat Jesus!

September 2021



C=Church
CC=Chelsea Center
SC=Spirit Center

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Officer's Meeting 7:00 SC	2	3	4
5	6 Labor Day	7	8	9 Council Meeting 7:00 SC	10	11
12	13 Assembly Meeting 7:00 Incarnation	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 40 Days for Life Kickoff	23 Prayer Walk 9:00-1:00 Planned Parenthood Social Event 5:30 Dockside Waterfront Grill	24	25
26	27	28 STM Parish Prayer Walk 9am to 7pm Planned Parenthood	29	30 Fraternal Benefits Night 7:00 SC		