



## St. Thomas More Council 7826

### September 2021 Newsletter



#### **Welcome to the St. Thomas More Council September Newsletter**

*“Take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand” (Eph 6:13).*

Brother Knights, with these words, St. Paul exhorts the Christians in Ephesus to stand firm in the faith, despite the opposition of the culture around them – a culture that was opposed to life at a fundamental level. It was regular practice in the Roman Empire to expose unwanted or malformed babies and leave them to die. This is good advice for us too, for we face increasing hostility to life in our own culture. The urgency of the issue has been elevated of late.

Brother Knights, it is time to stand. That is, it is time to pray and to speak. Let us pray and recommit ourselves to building a culture of life. Let us speak together with family and neighbors, and let them know where we stand. Standing comes at a cost, and we can expect a fight as we work to defend innocent human life.

Brother Knights, we too must stand for the poor, the weak, the abandoned, the elderly, and the most vulnerable of all, the unborn.

## **Grand Knight Report**

Since our last newsletter, our DGK Dale Scully has requested to step down and Brother Phil Arsenault has volunteered to step in temporarily. Brother Phil will also be taking over the Council Shirts & Hat ordering until Brother Larry Faeth returns. If you need a shirt or hat please see Brother Phil. We attended the District Organization Meeting which was helpful in understanding the business side of the Council. Many great resources were made available by the District Deputy and Warden, and many great conversations were held with other councils. Recently we have had an issue where member email accounts have been hacked and requests for gift cards or Amazon purchases have been requested. No one from this council would make that request using email or text. Please do not open, reply, or act on these requests. They are a scam. Please contact the person whose name was used in the email, or contact one of the Council Officers, so that we can send an email out to the Council notifying them of the scam.

Our membership goal of 10 has now been reduced to 8 to go. Thank you to our membership team. Many thanks to PGK Dan Bulinski and the degree team for their hard work and great job on our first Exemplification using the new ceremony. Our next Exemplification is scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup>. All 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Knights are welcome to take their third degree. Please see Chancellor Ralph Neller. All Brother Knights are welcome to attend the Exemplifications to show their support. We also continued our 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday prayer walk at Planned Parenthood. As you will read later, we begin our RTL activities this month and will need your support. We had our 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Assembly Officer's Installation and the Past Faithful Navigator Dinner on August 28<sup>th</sup>. We restarted our Speaker Series, featuring Danielle Valery. Danielle is the Director of the Memory Disorder Clinic at SMH. Danielle spoke on addressing the challenges of dementia. Valerie shared very valuable information with us. We once again were able to hold our council social hour after the meeting, with pizza and beverages, another step in our journey back to normal. Many thanks to Fr. Gordon, for his support of our council, and for carefully, and safely guiding us along the way. To start October, we will hold our membership drive scheduled after masses on October 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>. Please speak to Chancellor Ralph Neller to volunteer. Our "Baby Bottle" campaign will also start on that same weekend. We will be supporting My Choice Pregnancy Center. Please find a time after the mass you attend to volunteer for these activities. Please see Brothers Neil Corrado & Brian Harkins. We have also begun planning for the Parish Christmas Party to be held on December 5th. Once again, thank you for your continuing support of the Council and all we do.

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.

### **September Social**

We held our September social on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at Dockside Grill. Brother Dave & Sue Bracy did another great job putting this together. Over 60 members and guests came together for fraternity and brotherhood. Our Seminarian, Alejandro Giraldo-Roldan, was in attendance and gave the blessing for our meal. What a great evening we had! We have some great social activities in store that you won't want to miss. We will hold a Corporate Communion Sunday October 24th at the 10:00am mass. We will hold our October social after the mass with the always popular Sunday Brunch at Stoneybrook Golf and County Club. Due to Covid19, the buffet has been suspended, but there will be menu selections to choose from. More details will be forthcoming. A jacket and Council shirt should be worn. Feel free to wear a jacket and tie.







## September Knight of the Month

This Brother Knight has been involved in so many ways for a long time in our Council. He has served in several council positions. He has worked on member retention. When we were battling through COVID, as Grand Knight, he put a great plan together to keep us all in touch and kept the council active. He didn't stop there. He has been Chairman of the Parish Picnic, the Parish Christmas Party, the Chairman of our Golf Outing, and a frequent participant at our monthly prayer walk and all of our Right to Life activities. He is also continuing to assist our new Christmas Party Chairman, Hank Peppard, in planning for this year's Christmas party. If that isn't enough, he is our 3 Year Trustee. Our September Knight of the Month is PGK Ken Berberich.



## September Family of the Month

You see this family together anytime you see the Knights gather for an event. It is amazing when you break down all they are involved in. Helping with our Officer Installation-Check! Assisting with preparation for the parish Picnic & Christmas Party – Check! Keeping Fr. Gordon and Fr. Lawton fed a couple of times each week – Check! Keeping out Brotherhood and Sisterhood alive and well by planning and executing our fabulous Council Socials – Check! Taking the position of Council Warden – Check! Still working – Check! Our September Family of the Month is Dave & Sue Bracy.





In addition, Tony D'Souza our July Knight of the Month received his certificate.

### **Faith in Action**

As part of our Commitment to Faith in Action, our council continues to support the STM Youth Group. We will be donating 23 youth bibles for the Faith Formation Youth Group that began on September 19th. We will also be supporting a new Seminarian Andres Cordero.

## 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 too 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. The parish is still \$100,000 short of its' goal. If just 50 families would contribute \$1000, and 100 families would contribute \$500, we would reach our goal. 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 & Eucharistic Ministers. There is a need for Eucharistic Ministers and Hospitality ministers for the Sunday 8:00am mass, and Hospitality Ministers for Sunday 12:00 mass. If you are a current Minister, please consider changing to assist in covering these masses. The parish is also in need of Lectors for the 4pm Saturday Vigil Mass. 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 and the Parish Christmas Party. These are 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.

The Parish Christmas Party is scheduled for Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. This is one more step back to normal. The entire parish is looking forward to celebrating together again. Please see Chairman Hank Peppard if you are interested in signing up. We have many openings to fill and couples are welcome to volunteer.

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:bjharkins1@gmail.com) or telephone # 908-451-7454 or Neil Corrado at [lamb1anc2@verizon.net](mailto:lamb1anc2@verizon.net) or telephone # 941-377-8710. Please consider praying outside of the Planned Parenthood facility. Many thanks to Brothers Neil Corrado, Brian Harkins, Ted Kovacic, Ed Plankey, Phil Arsenault, Ken Berberich, Junior Fernandez, and Frank & Imelda Moeslein for participating. 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 22<sup>nd</sup> kicked off Right to Life Month. Brother Brian Harkins gave the keynote address on opening night. We continued our support of 40 Days for Life 365. We held our Parish & Council Walk for Life Day on Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. Tuesday is the day when abortions are performed. This is a very solemn day for us to be part of. Many thanks for all who participated for your support.

**October will be our “Baby Bottle” Campaign at STM Parish after the weekend masses on October 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>. We will need help in distributing the bottles after mass. More details to follow.**

Many of you are familiar with the Community Pregnancy Center just around the corner from Planned Parenthood. They are a worthy partner in our Right to Life

activities and allow the use of their facilities during our walks. The Council makes a donation to them every year in appreciation. In addition to pregnancy counseling, they also provide after birth items to support the mother and baby. Please consider making a cash donation, gift cards (WalMart, Target, Publix), or donating any of these items: diaper cream, 2T-3T-4T pullups, shampoo, lotion, pacifiers, wipes, sleepers (boy & girl), other outfits up to 2T, infant car seat, pack n play with bassinet, and bath towels.



Many thanks to Brother Brian Harkins, his wife Maureen, and Brother Neil Corrado for making our prayer walk a success. Thank you to the following for supporting our Walk for Life. Brothers Joe Frustaglio, Johnnie Turner, Ed Plankey, Greg Sokolik, Gary Ellis, Frank & Imelda Moeslein, Ted Kovacic, Junior Fernandez, Jim Meyd, Ken Berberich, Ralph Neller, Dan Bulinski, and parishioners Rosemary York & Melanie Gutierrez.





***Note: Photos from the Prayer Walk on 9/28/21 and full coverage will appear in the next issue of the newsletter. Thank you to all that participated this week!***



## **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](mailto: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 Fred & Donna Berardo, John & Rebecca English, Adrian & Patricia Kotasek, Jeff & Cara Noccioli, John & Conne Regan, Chan Vo, and Oscar & Valerie Hau.

**Our fall Membership Drive will be held after all weekend masses on the weekend of October 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Chancellor Ralph Neller to assist in this effort after the mass that you attend.**

***You can print the flyer on the next page and provide this to prospective members.***

## *Calling all men of STM Parish . . . October 9-10<sup>th</sup>.*



*Do you **want to help STM** and our parish community? Are you **a practicing Catholic man over the age of 18**? Are you **new to the parish or a part time resident** and want to meet other men who share your values and interests?*

*If you answered **YES** to these questions, we invite you to join us as a member of the **new STM Knights of Columbus**! Sunday, October 9-10<sup>th</sup> we will provide more information on how to join and share in the **work of the Knights**.*

***Now is the time to join** us as a new member and to share **the many gifts God has given** to each of us. **No man is too busy** to become a Knight of Columbus. **We have over 200 members** at STM and regardless of their schedule or other commitments; they found that the Knights of Columbus add something significant to their lives.*

***We look forward to meeting you!** Just introduce yourself to one of the men outside the church **on Sunday, October 9-10<sup>th</sup>** or simply take the information they will provide. For those of you who will not be attending the Mass in person, **please contact us** at [rneller65@outlook.com](mailto:rneller65@outlook.com) or call (513) 708-0528 to **answer any questions** or gain more information **how to join us**.*

**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](mailto:jclark1@gmail.com)
- **Website** - St Thomas More Council 7826 website is available to all members. The **website address is [www.kofc7826.org](http://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.*
- **We returned to live, in-person Exemplifications.** They are intended for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> degree members **to achieve the new, Charity - Unity - Fraternity degree (3<sup>rd</sup> degree)** as well as candidates/new members to participate in the (3<sup>rd</sup> degree) ceremony. If you are interested in participating, please contact Ralph Neller, Chancellor at his email address [rneller65@outlook.com](mailto:rneller65@outlook.com), or his telephone #513-708-0528.
- **We are asking all 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Knights to consider accomplishing your 4<sup>th</sup> (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 4<sup>th</sup> degree, please contact GK Jim Meyd [greygoose1@frontier.com](mailto:greygoose1@frontier.com), or his telephone 941-923-7517.

**Donation Request – KofC Assembly 3089 – Our Lady of Charity Assembly**

The 4<sup>th</sup> (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.



## Upcoming Events

Oak Park School will be holding their First Annual Golf Scramble to raise money for special programs for the school. The date is October 23<sup>rd</sup> at Serenoa Golf Club, with an 8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start. The entrance fee is \$100 per golfer, and there are other sponsorship levels. Deadline for entries is October 18<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested, please contact Grand Knight Jim Meyd for more information and signup.

Padre Louis DeSoto Assembly 1860, will be hosting its' annual Captain Robert O'Neill Military and Patriotic Ball on November 6<sup>th</sup>. The Ball will be held at the Kirby Stewart American Legion Post on 75<sup>th</sup> Street West in Bradenton. There will be dinner, live music, and dancing. Tickets are \$40 per person, and CDC, Diocese, and Knights of Columbus COVID-19 guidelines will be followed. Please contact Grand Knight Jim Meyd to purchase tickets or for more information.

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 sudden passing of Brother Chuck Fulton. Chuck was a valued member of our Council. Chuck volunteered to help in all our activities and was also a Hospitality Minister. Brother Chuck will be greatly missed. Please include the following individuals in need of our prayers:

Fr. Jim Simko  
Joyce Bulinski (wife of Dan Bulinski)  
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)  
Carol Neller (wife of Ralph Neller)  
Dave Bracy  
Sheree Levanti (wife of Ken Levanti)  
Frank Moeslein  
John Spinale  
Donna Woodford (wife of David Woodford)  
John Baldelli (son of Charles Baldelli)

For our departed Brothers Chuck Fulton, 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 Jon Baldelli (son of Charles Baldelli), 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](mailto: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.

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

**Fraternal Benefit Night (FBN)** – We held our Fraternal Benefit Night on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Brother Brian BeBlauw gave us some great information to share concerning our Fraternal Benefits and how to protect our assets and reduce our tax liability.

**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](mailto:brian.deblauw@kofc.org). Please see monthly update below:  
Brother Knights,

Every sport, every enterprise, every organization, every industry has their top reps, their all-stars and their most valuable players. They are the ones who give their all 100% of the time; they represent their companies masterfully, they get customers and retain them, they provide extraordinary service, they inspire their colleagues to reach heights no one thought attainable. Well, the insurance industry is no different and I'd like to take a few minutes to tell you about that.

The life insurance industry has an organization called the Million Dollar Round Table or MDRT. It is an international organization that was founded in 1927 and it recognizes agents for their commitment to excellence, professionalism, outstanding service, and the highest ethical standards. In our industry, these are the hallmarks of the all-stars.

"Big deal!" some might say. "What's so special about that?" Let me tell you what is so special about membership in the Million Dollar Round Table. Across the industry in a normal year, only about 2% of agents meet the stringent requirements to become an MDRT member. We've had a great track record at the KofC over the last four or five years where 10 or 11% of our agents qualified for membership. That's about five times the industry average...pretty impressive!

But last year was anything but normal and we had an anything but normal group qualify for MDRT: 38%, yes, you read correctly, 38% of our field force qualified for membership in this prestigious organization. There were only three other companies in the USA that had a higher number of qualifiers, but none came close to our percentage of qualifiers. Imagine that, the KofC beat out some of the biggest names in the industry.

What's all this mean to you? This kind of result doesn't come about by accident. It demonstrates the Knights of Columbus commitment to give you, our members and your families, a highly trained, qualified and committed financial service professional. My job is to use my skill and knowledge to make sure you understand the issues of protecting your family from the unknown.

But I do not do this alone. It comes because all of you have let me into your homes, allowed me to gain your trust, and have given me the opportunity to link you to the benefits you receive from YOUR insurance company. So, thank you all for your trust and allowing me to serve you!

Let's get together soon...and I'll tell you about my Million Dollar Round Table journey.

Vivat Jesus!



# October 2021



SC-Spirit Center  
CC-Chelsea Center  
C- Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 John Wojtyna Funeral 10:00 St. Patrick's Laps for Life
3	4	5	6 Officer's Meeting 7:00 SC	7	8	9 Membership Drive/Baby Bottles C- After All Masses
10 Membership Drive/Baby Bottles C- After All Masses	11 Assembly Meeting 7:00 St. Patrick's	12	13	14 Council Meeting 7:00 SC	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Oak Park School Golf Scramble 8:00 Serenoa Golf Club
24 Corporate Communion 10:00 Mass Council Brunch Social	25	26	27	28 Degree Ceremony 7:00 SC Prayer Walk Planned Parenthood	29	30/31