

Welcome to the St Thomas More Council March Newsletter

Grand Knight's Report

LENT is a time of personal reflection and transformation leading us to the final mystery of Christ's death and resurrection - **Easter!** It is not coincidental that Easter is celebrated in the spring just as Nature is transformed and made new with the rebirth of new plants, trees and flowers. As Knights, Lent is a time for us to recognize our individual limitations, accept our crosses, and have the courage to express our faith openly through a spirit of renewed hope and love. Just as the risen Christ is the our hope of resurrection; we, too, will soon begin a new fraternal year with a renewed spirit of hope and with the affirmation to our mission as Knights of Columbus - Charity, Unity, and Fraternity.

Our fraternal year will be ending in a few months and the leadership of our Council will be also be transformed. Each of us is called upon to renew our commitment to the work ahead with a spirit of hope and faith. Faith in knowing what we have accomplished over the past year and hope in what more can be achieved in the new fraternal year with God's continued help. This month's issue of the Council Newsletter is of particular interest as the results of several of our major fund raisers and social events are covered in pictures as well as their final or updated results. My personal thanks to ALL the council members and their wives who volunteered to make these fund raisers such a resounding success. It is clear our STM Council #7826 can achieve any goal and meet any challenge provided we do it -Together!

Our new leadership team will need your prayers and support as these programs and those throughout next year will again require your time, energy, and above all your involvement. This new group of Brother Knights is dedicated to make our Council the success it has always, and will always be. Don't hesitate to get involved and volunteer.

On March 9th, STM Council held our Council Business meeting. There were over 65 Brother Knights in attendance as we continue our trend of record attendance. Thank you for your continued support of the Council and our General Meeting.

On March 20th, St. Pat's hosted the Assembly Meeting where Advocate & SK Joe Tiffany had 1 new candidate submission to join the Assembly.

On March 12th, STM Council hosted our final Pancake Breakfast for this year. Thank you to all the volunteers over the past 3 months and who continue to volunteer to make

these breakfasts a destination point for STM Parishioners after the 8 and 10:00 am masses.

On March 23rd we held our all day prayer walk at Planned Parenthood. Thank you to all who were able to participate. We were excited to see some new faces join our continuing core group of prayer warriors. Great work was done by Brothers Neil Corrado, Brian Harkins, and his wife Maureen for leading the way on this day for such an important cause.

On March 14th, STM Council attended the musical GODSPELL at the Players Theatre highlighted by our own Debbie White as one of the principal players. It was a joy-filled evening in celebrating many of the Old and New Testament biblical stories in verse and song. Thank you to Sue and Dave Bracy for putting another entertaining night of Fraternity and Unity together for our council.

Thank you for all you do!



GODSPELL

PANCAKE BREAKFAST





























Faith in Action

The Grand Knight would like to thank the many Brothers and their spouses who participated in working our stand at this year's Spring Training. The results of our Council's participation is covered (with pictures) later in the newsletter. You will see it was our best year ever!

Thank you also to the Food Bank volunteers and their spouses for your in-person participation and your monetary support. As you may know, the supply chain remains a challenge and food supplies are in still in short supply. Given today's economy, we have 75-100 families in need every week. Please continue to support the pantry with both food and monetary donations. The pantry continues to purchase additional basic items each week to supplement what we receive from All Faiths Food Bank. The weekly bulletin lists the items we critically need. Your donations are greatly appreciated by the pantry and those families we serve.



March Knight of the Month

This Brother Knight has served the Council in so many ways: as a Hospitality Minister, a Right to Life warrior, and all around hard working, dedicated Knight. Our March Knight of the Month is Thomas Nate.



March Family of the Month

Our March Family of the Month has been at the core of our Tootsie Roll Campaign every year. They were a team this year and didn't hesitate to work a 2nd shift when the scheduled Knight was unable to fill the time slot. For service above and beyond the call of duty, our Family of the Month is Mike Mazur and Nancy Brand.



Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori Monthly Challenge

This month the Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori challenge is to *remind* yourself and other – particularly your family and those closest to you – that Christ is present by speaking about your faith in everyday conversations (perhaps simply by thanking God for some blessing he has bestowed). The challenge is to participate in the Faith in Action program Fully Alive. The program places the Savior at the center of the family and builds on sharing Christ together.

Parish News

After several months of meetings, phone calls, cards, and conversations, the initial phase of the Capital Campaign is coming to a close. As Winston Churchill once said, "Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning." The parish has answered the call and their support is reflected in contributions approaching \$2.3 million or 92% of the Capital Campaign goal of \$2.5 million. Brother and Past Grand Knight as well as serving as the Capital Campaign Co-Chair, Ken Berberich, has an update on our progress ahead in the newsletter. _As a Council, we will continue to look at ways we can assist the parish to meet this goal.

If you are able, please consider attending at least one daily mass each week. It is a great way to start your day with prayer and the Eucharist. Your will find it results in a more meaningful day as you become closer to God.

St. Thomas More is also in need of Hospitality & Eucharistic Ministers. There is a need for Hospitality Ministers for Sunday 12:00 mass. If you are a current Minister, please consider changing to assist in covering these 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. Please call the Parish Office if you are interested in volunteering. Thank you to those who have responded to this call. Please note there will only be one mass on Saturday, April 8th, the Easter Vigil at 8:30 p.m.

STM Capital Campaign

(This section will be a new and ongoing part of our Council newsletter. I will use this section to keep you aware of progress as it becomes available.)

The "active phase" of the Capital Campaign comes to a close at the end of March. Recall, this is a three (3) year campaign, such that during the upcoming years, through the designated (by Diocese of Venice) campaign period, ending July, 2025, we will continue to seek donations from "new" parish members, visitors and registered families that may be in a financial position to pledge and donate to the campaign that were not able to, at this time and "one time givers" that may be able to re-up annually.

Currently, we show \$2,293,237 in pledges to the \$2,500,000 campaign or a shortfall of \$206,763. We are confident that with the support of the above and others that we will meet and exceed our campaign goal.

We have received cash of \$692,020 and the remainder in pledges.

We have currently met 92% of our campaign goal with 30% of parish households participating, which is 492 households.

We continue to solicit from several individuals who have stated an interest in pledging but have not (yet) turned-in their pledge card.

Thank you! to all those involved in the capital campaign, including the Campaign Committee, Volunteers for Mailers, at the Masses, Receptions and Phone contacts. We appreciate the expertise and support from Guidance In Giving, our campaign consulting firm. We recognize the support of the Parish Office staff members.

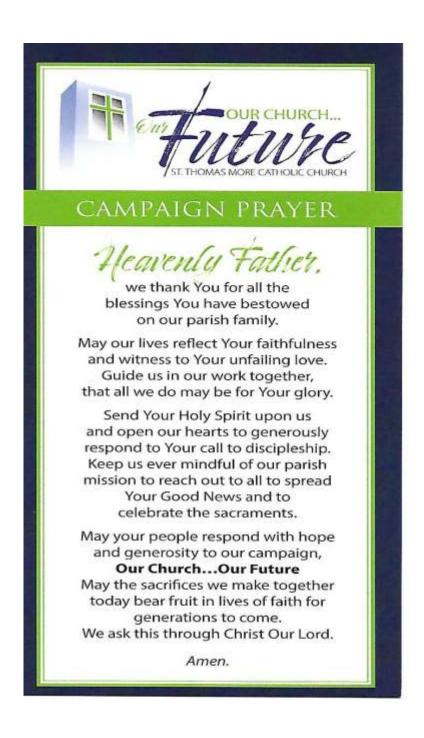
Thank you! to Fr Gordon's leadership on the campaign, Fr Lawton, Fr Don Henry and all the visiting priests to our Masses that supported the Capital Campaign "from the pulpit".

Work on campus is now being done on HVAC, Roofs, Painting, Window Repair and the last will be the Pavers.

It has been an honor for myself and my spouse, Trish, to have been named the Co-Chairs of the "Our Church - Our Future" Capital Campaign.

Respectfully,

Ken and Trish Berberich STM Capital Campaign, Co-Chairs



Committee Corner

We have the need on many of our committees for new members. To our new members, this is a great way to become involved in our Council activities. Please see Deputy Grand Knight Ralph Neller and Chancellor Chris Pariseau to learn the opportunities we have available.

Spring Training Baseball 2023 SPRING TRAINING BASEBALL SEASON IS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL EVER

For the twelfth consecutive year, Incarnation Council 15332 and St. Thomas More Council 7826 operated a concession stand at Ed Smith Stadium during the 2023 Baltimore Orioles Spring Training Baseball Season. It was the first time in three years that the Orioles played a full home schedule. In 2020 and 2021, the seasons were impacted by COVID and last year by the baseball strike.

For the third season, Incarnation and St. Thomas More Councils operated the Outdoor Patio Grill Concession Stand – AND WE DID VERY WELL!!. For the 17-game schedule, the stand rang up \$158,355 in gross sales or an average of \$9,315 per game. Pretty good for a stand just selling hamburgers, hot dogs, sausage with peppers and onions, draft beer, soda, water, popcorn, potato chips and peanuts. We served 7,299 customers or an average of 429 per game.

The above sales resulted in the two Councils earning \$32,277 – the most the Councils ever earned in a Spring Training Season. The earnings came from commissions – 10 percent of net sales – and tips. The commissions totaled \$14,612. However, the Councils big revenue source was credit card tips, which totaled \$16,157. In addition, the Councils received \$1,508 in cash tips. For the year, the Councils earned an average of \$1,899 per game – \$860 in commissions and \$1,039 in tips. After deducting expenses, each Council will receive around \$15,500. The amount is an estimate until the final accounting and check is received from the Baltimore Orioles.

The success of the 2023 Spring Training Season was all due to the great work and commitment of the volunteers from each Council. This year, 23 Brothers and Sisters from St. Thomas More worked the seventeen ball games — Denny Armstrong, Charlie Ballschmieder, Ken Berberich, Dave Bracy, Rob Carver, Charlie Culkin, Scott Deahna, Corey DeVito, Margot Ellis, Mike Giudici, Ted Kovacic, John Malloy, Dan Martin, Mary Martin, Chris McDevitt, Jim Meyd, Ralph Neller, Ray Paleczny, Chris Pariseau, Jack Rodman, Jim Walsh, Dr. Steve Wyer and Teresa Wyer. They worked hard, but they had

fun doing it. Special thanks goes out to Spring Training Baseball Director Charlie and Grill Chefs Dr. Steve and Teresa Wyer who worked every game! They were the first ones to arrive and the last ones to leave the ball park for every game. Also, the following individuals worked a number of games during the season – Denny Armstrong (9), John Malloy (9). Ray Paleczny (9) and Jim Meyd (7) Thank you.

To celebrate all these volunteers hard work, a "Thank You Cookout" is planned in late March at Incarnation Council. The event will be held outside the Finegan Center in the parking lot, where hamburgers, hot dogs, macaroni salad, cole slaw, potato chips, cold beer and wine will be served.

See You at the Ball Park Next Season!!

Charlie Culkin
Director, Spring Training Baseball







Special Olympics

There are many great opportunities coming up where you can volunteer to assist and participate. 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

More and more families are suffering economic hardships and consequently more pregnant women are in need of the life-saving services and support provided by MyChoice and Community Pregnancy Centers. As Knights we are dedicated to the sanctity of life. The "40 Days for Life 365" campaign provides each of us the opportunity to participate 365 days a year. 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 at bjharkins1@gmail.com or telephone # 908-451-7454 or Neil Corrado at fdny0261@gmail.com or telephone # 941-993-1520. Please consider praying outside of the Planned Parenthood facility. Thanks to our Brothers for participating on our day to pray.

While amazing things happen every year in the blessed work of helping women and saving babies, the *Dobbs* decision from the Supreme Court and the overturning of Roe v. Wade has resulted in the need to help more pregnant women considering abortions. A 15 week ban is currently in place in Florida, but abortions have actually increased this past year as our state has become an abortion destination. Most abortions occur prior to 15 weeks and our border states have tighter restrictions which means more women are coming to Florida for an abortion. For this reason, there is now a greater need to continue our prayer walks and our support of those pregnancy centers we now support. Please continue to safely and peacefully support the work we are already doing. Please remember that in accordance with K of C guidelines you cannot handout materials or confront someone entering Planned Parenthood unless you are approached by the person first for information. You are allowed to greet them and pray for them, but do not go beyond that unless they reach out to you.

SMPC GALA



The Sarasota Medical Pregnancy Center (SMPC) hosts a gala dinner for their major donors. Our Council continues to support the SMPC by funding 2 tables at this annual event. As you can see our GK Jim Meyd and his wife Beth, along with Ed and Fran Plankey, and Greg and Debra Sokolik. Also in attendance were: Brian and Maureen Harkins, Frank and Imelda Moeslein, Charley and Jeannette Baldelli, and Ted and Sabina Bogner. STM Council #7826 was well represented at this gala event.

A special "thanks" to Brothers Neil Corrado and Brian Harkins and their outstanding work in building our Right to Life program. We encourage you to join us on the 4th Thursday of every month in front of Planned Parenthood. Thank you to Neil, Brian & Maureen Harkins, Frank & Imelda Moeslein, Charlie & Jeannete Baldelli, Ted Kovacic, Ed Plankey, Greg Sokolik, Phil Arsenault, Ken Berberich, Johnnie Turner, Max Streibel, and others who supported our prayer walk, and for being part of our constant prayer warriors.

Golf Committee

Recall, the 2nd Annual St Thomas More / Knights of Columbus Council 7826 Golf Outing is scheduled on May 8, 2023 at Legacy Golf Club at Lakewood Ranch.

As of this writing, we have confirmed 22 Golf Teams or 88 golfers. Our goal is to have 25 Golf Teams or 100 golfers, such that we remain looking for 3- 4somes to complete our outing. We have asked the 18 members of the Golf Committee to look for the additional teams as well as Legacy GC is posting our Golf Flyer in the Men's and Women's locker rooms as many members of Legacy GC are looking for charity fundraising golf events to play in and support. We need our Council's members support, as well, to find 3 teams to complete the event. Time is of the essence to fill-up the golf outing with 25 teams.

We have confirmed, 54 Hole Sponsors. This an increase of 15 Hole Sponsors as compared to last year's event. There are, now, 3 Hole Sponsors at each of the 18 tee-off boxes and is a major contributor to the net proceeds of the event.

We have committed, now 6, Corporate Sponsors. This, too, is a major contributor to the profitability of the event.

We will have 3 major Raffle Baskets and 3 major Auction Baskets - representing over \$2500+- of donated value to the event. These items (baskets) will either be raffled or auctioned off at the event.

We have a wonderful "goodie bag" for each of our golfers.

There are 18 Golf Committee members working on the event and we have 24 Volunteers for the event.

We have met with the management of Legacy Golf Club and were advised that they wholly support our outing and STM KofC. We are one of their preferred golf events.

A light breakfast and BBQ lunch will be provided at the event.

We will be selling mulligans and 50/50 tickets at the event.

We have a Hole-in-One Insurance Policy - for winner at \$25,000.

Thank you! to all the Golf Committee members, Sponsors of the event, Volunteers and the management of Legacy GC - for making this an outstanding golf event.

Reserve the date - May 6, 2024, for the 3rd Annual STM / KofC Council 7826 Golf Outing.

Ken Berberich Chair - STM / KofC Council 7826 Golf Committee

Membership

Our New Member Goal this fraternal year was ten (10) New Members. We have made our Membership goal for this year!! We currently have (13) new members. Congratulations to the Council and thank you to our Chancellor Chris Pariseau, and our Advocate Joe Tiffany. We have 3 more months to recruit 7 more members and make Double Star Council again this year. We can do this!!

New Members must be a practicing Catholic, 18+ years of age. We need your help to reach out to K of C "prospects". You will be assisted by our Membership Development Committee. Please provide the name of an individual that may/has an interest in K of C and our St Thomas More Council. Please contact Chancellor Chris Pariseau, at his email pariseau314@outlook.com or his telephone # 443-994-7397. 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.

STM Council 7826 held an Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity on Tuesday, March 28th. At this Degree Ceremony we welcomed 2 new members to our Council: Paul Kavlich and Johnny Matos.





Every Exemplification Ceremony is dedicated to a specific honoree. This month's ceremony was dedicated to Charlie Ballschmieder. Charlie was recognized as a long standing member of the degree team and a Brother Knight who provides exemplary leadership as the Captain of Hospitality and several other duties.



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 Chris Pariseau. The new parishioners are Edward Becker, Jack Bonacci, Michael Brake, Richard David, Pete DeMichele, Mike

Failne, Edward Flock, Eric Greenhill, Mark Morse, Christopher Muller, Timothy Tunney, John Tynan, and Stephen Weiss.

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 Brother 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** <u>www.kofc7826.org</u>. 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 will continue to hold 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 Chancellor Chris Pariseau at his email pariseau314@outlook.com, or his telephone #443-994-7397.
- ➤ 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 – K of C 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. A donation box is available at each Council meeting. You can also make a cash or check donation (payable to KofC Assembly 3089) used to purchase needed items. Please notate on your check that you are a Member, STM Council 7826. Thank you for your continuing support. Please see Brother Steve McElroy to find out how you can help.

Upcoming Events

- Our cruise raffle is in the final stretch. Please see Gary Ellis or Jonathan Genz at the April Council meeting to pick up extra tickets for this year. This is one of our major fundraisers and we need every Knights help in making this a success.
- We will hold our next Council Meeting on April 13th at 7:00, in the Spirit Center.

 Thank you for your support in these futures events!

Upcoming Social News

The next Council Social Event will be held on April 16th. We will hold a corporate communion that day at the 10:00 mass followed by a brunch at the Stoneybrook Golf and Country Club. We will also make the presentation to our two schools from our Tootsie Roll Campaign at the brunch. - Details of the cost and the details to make a reservation will be forthcoming by separate email announcement.



April Birthdays

Please join in recognizing the following Knights celebrating birthdays in April.

April 1 - Thomas Meirink

April 10 - Max Streibel

April 10 - James Treloar

April 13 - David Mandgroc

April 17 - Peter Haleas

April 18 - Phil Arsenault

April 22 - Charles Wines

April 24 - Victor Ferruli

April 27 - Antonio Cervantes

April 27 - John Regan

April 27 - Fernando Villalta

April 28 - Ronaldo Landayan

Good of the Order

Please include the following individuals in need of our prayers:



John Maier

John McAlonie

Erin McAlonie Brady (daughter of John McAlonie)

Alec Berardinelli

Janek Jakubiuk

Craig Spinale (John's son)

Rose Marcella (wife of Richard Marcella)

Kim Wojtyna (daughter of Carol & John Wojtyna)

Shirley Berardinelli (wife of Alec Berardinelli)

Sheree Levanti (wife of Ken Levanti)

Lee Dusoe

Donna Woodford (wife of David Woodford)

John Baldelli (son of Charles Baldelli)

Christopher Peppard (son of Hank Peppard)

Nancy Risbano (wife of George Risbano)

Ted Bogusz

Dan Borgmeyer

Ruth Walsh

Ron McCluskey

Fr. Gordon Zanetti

Kay Maier (wife of John Maier)

John Spinale

George Risbano

Judy Moore (wife of Joe Sommer)

Deane MacGillis (wife of Roy)

Gary Ellis

Pasquale Guadagno

Don Leonard

Jeanne Leonard (wife of Don Leonard)

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.



NEWS FROM OUR FRATERNAL BENEFITS ADVISOR

March this year, to me, means Spring and Spring cleaning, Lent and preparing for Easter, and the day when we're all a little bit Irish, St. Patrick's Day. Let me start with St. Patrick's Day. It's a nice break from the doldrums of winter and a brief respite from Lenten preparation. To all of my members, Irish or not, I say "Sláinte!"

This year we're immersed in Lent for the entire month as we look forward to Easter on March 9. This is a time of renewal and preparation for Holy Week, Christ's Passion, and his conquest over death in the Resurrection. May your focus be on generous giving and spreading peace to everyone you encounter.

Spring...we've been through the toughest part of winter and we begin to think about Spring. And Spring is a time of rebirth and renewal: trees may begin to bud and flowers begin to poke through in search of warmer temperatures. The Spring equinox means that daylight lasts as long as night with the earth spinning toward that summer solstice. Maybe, just maybe, winter is behind us. While you're getting rid of all the old cobwebs of winter and doing the annual spring cleaning, now is a great time to take a fresh look at your family's financial security.

With a wide range of products—life insurance, long-term care insurance, disability income insurance and retirement annuities, I can help you look at your family's financial situation now and for the years to come. All this while you deal with a company that shares your faith and beliefs and invests in accordance with Church social teaching.

As your Knights of Columbus Field Agent I've been trained to help you through that important process. Sit down for a short meeting with me and we can use our newest and most advanced financial needs analysis platform that the Order has ever had. I'll take the time to gather information from you, ask about your wants, needs and desires, and put together any recommendations to help you meet those.. As always you're under no obligation. I'll contact you soon to see if an appointment should be our next step.

Vivat Jesus!

Thank you and God bless, Brian DeBlauw

April, 2023

SC - Spirit Center CC - Chelsea Center C - Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Palm Sunday	3	4	5 Officer's Meeting 7:00 SC	6	7 Good Friday	8 Easter Vigil Mass - 8:30 pm
9 EASTER	10 Assembly Meeting – Incarnation 7:00 pm	11	12	13 Council Meeting 7:00 pm SC	14	15 Choir Appreciation Dinner
Corporate Communion 10:00 Mass Stoneybrook Social	17	18	19	20	21	22 Alejandro Giraldo Roldin Ordination Day (away)
30	24	25	26	Planned Parenthood Prayer Walk 9:00-1:00	28	29