



Knights of Columbus®

ST THOMAS MORE COUNCIL #7826

INDEX

Grand Knights Report **Page 2**

Faith In Action **Page 5**

Parish News **Page 11**

Committee Corner **Page 12**

Council Good of the Order **Page 15**

Council Birthdays / Officers **Page 16**

Council Upcoming Events **Page 17**

Insurance Advisors Letter **Page 18**

Calendar **Page 19**



"ALL LABOR THAT UPLIFTS
HUMANITY HAS DIGNITY AND
IMPORTANCE AND SHOULD
BE UNDERTAKEN WITH
PAINSTAKING EXCELLENCE."

- MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Grand Knights Report

SEPTEMBER MARKS THE END OF SUMMER WITH THE CELEBRATION OF LABOR DAY-

The Knights of Columbus and Labor Day share an underlying principle: the dignity of work and the worker. At first glance, you might not see a clear connection between the two, but a closer examination reveals intriguing overlaps that highlight the shared values of community, service, and worker welfare.

As Knights we don't shy away from the intersection of faith and labor. Our Catholic teaching calls for just labor practices, including fair wages and safe working conditions. Our members have often stood in solidarity with workers, recognizing that labor is not just an economic issue but a moral one as well.

Labor Day originated in the late 19th century, a period marked by significant social and economic changes. The industrial revolution had led to longer working hours and unsafe conditions for workers. The holiday was initially proposed by labor unions to celebrate workers and draw attention to their rights.

The Knights of Columbus was founded by Father Michael J. McGivney, a Catholic priest who was concerned about the wellbeing of his parishioners, many of whom were working-class immigrants. They were often subjected to poor working conditions and had no social safety net.

Father McGivney's vision included providing for families who lost a breadwinner and promoting social activities that were in line with Catholic values. Over time, the Knights expanded their reach to include insurance programs, educational support, and other forms of community service.

So, as you enjoy your Labor Day barbecue, please take a moment to consider the values that make this more than just a long weekend. The principles celebrated on Labor Day are very much alive within our own Knights of Columbus Council 7826. We will continue to advocate for the dignity and well-being of workers and to the shared values of community, service, and worker welfare.

Happy Labor Day!



Grand Knights Report



VOTE “NO” ON AMENDMENT 4 -

Amendment 4 entitled – “Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion” would repeal all Florida laws on abortion, even common-sense laws that most people on both sides of the issue support, like parental consent for minors seeking an abortion, informed consent, and laws that protect the safety of women.

Principally the language used in the ballot description of Amendment 4 camouflages the purpose of this proposed change to Florida law with deceptive and misleading statements. What the amendment allows are:

- **No restrictions on late-term abortions**
- **No doctor is required**
- **No parental consent is required**

At issue is the health and well-being of the mother as well as the unborn.

Due to its misleading and deceptive language a panel of state economists has been legally successful in requiring the ballot to include the following “Financial Impact Statement” to better understand the potential impact of this proposed amendment.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed amendment would result in significantly more abortions and fewer live births per year in Florida. The increase in abortions could be even greater if the amendment invalidates laws requiring parental consent before minors undergo abortions and those ensuring only licensed physicians perform abortions.

There is also uncertainty about whether the amendment will require the state to subsidize abortions with public funds. Litigation to resolve those and other uncertainties will result in additional costs to the state government and state courts that will negatively impact the state budget.

An increase in abortions may negatively affect the growth of state and local revenues over time. Because the fiscal impact of increased abortions on state and local revenues and costs cannot be estimated with precision, the total impact of the proposed amendment is indeterminate.



Grand Knights Report

KNIGHT'S MASS -

On August 7th we had our monthly "Knight's Mass" at the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the Chapel with Father Daniel as the celebrant. The rosary was prayed before the Mass starting at 7:30 a.m. with Adoration following the Mass in the Chapel.

The rosary and the Mass were dedicated to the Good of the Order with a special intention for Brother John Van Schoor. Please join your Brother Knights and their wives for this special Mass.

The next "Knight's Mass" will be on September 4th at the 8:00 a.m. Mass.



KEEPING THE PROMISE -

Blessed Michael McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus on the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

Charity is at the heart of our work and our faith, and it always has been. For Council #7826, charity means supporting a virtually boundless variety of projects that include Support for Vocations, Coats for Kids, Respect for Life, Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity, Catholic HS Scholarships, Citizens with Disabilities, and our STM Food Pantry.

WEBSITE UPDATE -

Our website has a new "Prayer/Visit Request Page". Simply go to our website (<https://kofc7826.org>) and select the "News" menu option from the main menu bar at the top of the web page. Scroll down towards the bottom of the page to where the Pray/Visit request is located. Below is an image of what you will see on the webpage:

Prayer/Visit Request

To send a request to the Good of the Order Committee complete these steps:

- Fill-in your name, email address and phone number.
- Select the check boxes that correspond to your request.
- Complete the "Message" field with any details of your request, i.e., home address, hospital name and room number, recommended time for a visit, etc.
- Select the "Send" button.

First Name Last Name

Email Phone Number

☐ Prayers
 ☐ Home Visit
 ☐ Hospital Visit

☐ Communion
 ☐ Call/Email
 ☐ Take Off List

Message

Faith In Action

ALTAR SERVER OF THE YEAR (Diocese of Venice) -

The Florida State Council has awarded the "Altar Server of the Year" Award for the Diocese of Venice to one of our most dedicated servers at St. Thomas More - Wyatt Liott.

The award was presented after the 10:00 Mass on August 4th. Wyatt is pictured below with his grandparents Dr. and Cathy Liott. Congratulations Wyatt !



LAST MONTH's EXEMPLIFICATION HONOREE -

At our July Exemplification our honoree was unable to attend the ceremony. Brother Corey Devito (pictured below) was our July Honoree. He greatly appreciated this special honor from our Council.

A Council Exemplification was not scheduled for August.



**Knights of
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ST THOMAS MORE COUNCIL #7826

Faith In Action

COFFEE & DONUTS -

On Sunday August 18th our Council hosted a Coffee & Donuts after the 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Masses. Even with the off-season crowd, we had over 120 parishioners enjoy the event with fellowship and meeting new friends.



Faith In Action

AUGUST COFFEE & DONUTS *(continued . . .)*

Our Chairmen and their wives: Corey and Jean Devito and Dan and Kim Flynn *(pictured right)*.

Thanks to all the volunteers who served our parishioners and their dedication to our parish and our Council!!



Faith In Action

AUGUST SOCIAL - MIGUEL'S ON SIESTA KEY

We celebrated our August social at Miguel's on Siesta Key. It was the 1st Council social for Fr. Nick and he received a warm welcome along with the traditional snifter dessert.

Below he is introducing the TMIY Parish Program which the K of C strongly support. Welcome Fr. Nick!



Faith In Action

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY DONATION -



August 30th we presented a \$1k donation to the representatives from Habitat for Humanity from our Council.

Pictured above (L to R) are the representatives from Habitat for Humanity: Fanny Gadea, Services Co-ordinator, (Ralph Neller, GK, Brother James Alexander), Susie Ellis, Donor Relations & Community Engagement Mgr., and Cathy Dahlberg, Program Manager.

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that helps families build and improve places to call home. They believe affordable housing plays a critical role in strong and stable communities.



OUR LADY OF CHARITY ASSEMBLY (4th Degree) and OPERATION WARRIOR RESOLUTION -

Originally, the Assembly's fundraising focus was donating to organizations that help and support Veterans. Our charitable donations have gone to national foundations where we felt our monies were not making much impact.

In an effort to keep hometown monies in our own backyard, we redirected our focus to finding a local organization that specializes in aiding Veterans. We were so blessed to find Operation Warrior Resolution. After speaking with their Founder and CEO Kendra Simpkins, we knew we had found a partner whose vision coincided with ours.

Their specialty is treating Veterans and their families that suffer from various Post Traumatic Stress Disorders at no cost and they operate here in Sarasota. Through their remarkable efforts, Veterans come in basically holding on to a string and leave their treatment programs having a full grasp on life again. Their work is truly amazing.

Dr. Steven Wyer FDD PGK PFN
St. Thomas More Advocate
Faithful Navigator, CCC
Our Lady of Charity Assembly #3089

Faith In Action

KNIGHT / FAMILY OF THE MONTH

KNIGHT OF MONTH -

This month Brother Ed Plankey is our STM Council "Knight of the Month". Ed was in SMH for over 100 days earlier this year to recover from a debilitating illness and is still on the GOTO list. His strength and perseverance are an inspiration to our Council.



FAMILY OF MONTH -

Our "Family of the Month" is Brother John and Lucy Koitsch. John and Lucy serve as our parish Sacristans. It is their devotion to our Monthly Knights Mass that makes it such a success. We thank them for this service to our parish and to our Council.



Parish News



FOOD PANTRY -

Thank you to all 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 still in short supply.

Given today's economy, we have 75-100 families in need every week. The weekly bulletin lists the items we critically need. Your donations are greatly appreciated by the pantry and those families we serve.



“THAT MAN IS YOU” INFORMATION NIGHT -



Jim Gontis, the Director of Evangelization for the Diocese of Venice, led the presentation at STM on the “That Man is You!” program.

The TMIY Program is a parish program for men that builds community and fellowship among the men of the parish. Its purpose is to develop authentic male leaders capable of transforming themselves, their families and society as a whole.

TMIY is supported by Bishop Dewane, Fr. Nick and the K of C in the diocese. It is a program of faith development for Knights to deepen their spiritual journey in conjunction with their service and charitable works. For more information contact Brother Chris Pariseau at 443-994-7397 or the STM Parish Office at 941-923-1691.

Committee Corner

2025 ORIOLES SPRING TRAINING SCHEDULE -



Last month, the Baltimore Orioles announced their 2025 Spring Training Schedule. The Orioles will play a 16-game schedule at Ed Smith Stadium. The season begins on Saturday, February 22nd and ends on Friday, March 21st. The schedule includes three games against the Pittsburgh Pirates; two games with the Atlanta Braves, Detroit Tigers, Minnesota Twins and Toronto Blue Jays; and single games with the Boston Red Sox, New York Yankees, Philadelphia Phillies and Tampa Bay Rays. The 16th game will be on Saturday, February 15th, when New York Yankees Prospects will play against Baltimore Orioles Prospects – the game is not listed on the official schedule.

For the 14th consecutive year, the St. Thomas More and Incarnation Councils will be working a concession stand together. Spring Training Baseball is the largest fundraiser for both Councils. During the past thirteen years, the Councils have earned \$186,080 in commissions and tips. In their first year (2012), the Councils split \$3,725. Last year, the Councils split \$33,382. The 2025 Spring Training Season should be another profitable year.

For the 22nd Spring Training Season, Charlie Culkin will manage a concession stand at Ed Smith Stadium. Charlie will be the Director for the St. Thomas More/Incarnation Team for the 14th consecutive year.. The Councils will operate the Outdoor Patio Grill, where they have worked the past three years. As of now, the menu will be hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs and sausage peppers & onions; peanuts, popcorn and chips; and bottled soda and water, Gatorade and draft beer.

Like last year, it will take 12 volunteers to operate the concession stand – an average of six volunteers from each Council per game. And like last year, volunteers must make a two-game commitment. The game sign-up sheet will be sent out in early December in an email from each Council. Last year, a number of volunteers stepped forward to work multiple jobs. To provide more staffing flexibility, it would be beneficial if a few more volunteers step forward to learn multiple jobs, such as working as a grill assistant or a cashier. There are Brothers who can train you.

Let's have a great 2025 Spring Training Baseball Season!! See you at the Ball Park!

Charlie Culkin,
Director, Spring Training Baseball

Committee Corner

SPECIAL OLYMPICS -

Special Olympics of southwest Florida has requested assistance with a local Special Olympics event. Below you will find more opportunities to volunteer.

Opportunity Name:

Golf Coaches - Sarasota County



Description:

Special Olympics Florida is seeking volunteers to serve as a Golf Coach for Sarasota County. The season begins August through December

No coaching experience is required. We will provide all the necessary training, venues, and information! Head Coaches are required to be at least 18 years old and must pass a criminal background check prior to being placed with a team. Applicants should possess a desire to learn and to inspire athletes to lead happier, more satisfying lives.

How to Apply:

If you are not a current volunteer you will be prompted to create an account. Once you have applied, you will receive an email with next steps. If you do not receive an email, please check your spam folder and/or reach out to the contact below.

Start Date: Thu, Aug 1, 2024

End Date: Sat, Dec 14, 2024

Spots Available: Unlimited

Meeting Location: Sarasota County

Sarasota County

Organizer:

Deborah Jackson

deborahjackson@sofl.org

352-910-4147

Category:

West Region Coaches / Sarasota County Coach

Thank you for your support of Special Olympics Florida! Should you have any questions please reach out to volunteer@sofl.org.

Join us in helping athletes achieve their dreams, volunteer today!

Fraternally,

John Cesare,

Chairman Special Olympics Committee

Committee Corner

RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE -

Brother Knights,

Thank you to everybody that has been praying at Planned Parenthood on our fourth Thursday monthly commitment day. It's been a hot summer and our Lord appreciates the sacrifice you make for 1 hour or more on our monthly commit day.

You could never underestimate the power of prayer and presence! Neil and I are happy to report that they're actually two babies saved before Labor Day at CPCI with a Mom and their partner changing their minds and being escorted over to CPCI rather than going into Planned Parenthood!

In September, the fourth Thursday, actually coincides with The Fall Kickoff for 40 Days for Life on Thursday September 26th. If you haven't walked with us before, this is a great day to come up because at 10:30 in the parking lot at Community Pregnancy Clinic, 1419 7th Street Sarasota, around the corner from Sarasota Planned Parenthood there will be two great speakers lined up for this event you will not want to miss:

- First, Lynda Bell, president of Florida Right to Life and one of the founders of Do No Harm Florida, a group working to defeat Amendment 4, the pro-abortion amendment to the Florida Constitution.



- Second, Scott Baier, the CEO of Community Pregnancy Clinics (CPCI) who will speak about some of the new initiatives that CPCI is undertaking including being part of a coalition to defeat Amendment 4. This is a bring your own chair event.

Hope to see you there. Let's get fired up to save babies and defeat Amendment 4 this fall.

For Life!

Brian and Neal

Council Good of the Order

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

Charley Baldelli
Shirley Berardinelli
Ted Bogusz
Dave & Sue Bracy
Erin Macalonie Brady (daughter of John Macalonie)
Pat Cesare
Ed Cox
Susan DeBlauw (wife of Brian)
Jean DeVito
Gary Ellis
Ken Gaasch
Madeline Garvin (wife of Gary)
Pat Guadagno
Jan Jakubiuk
John Koitsch
Don Leonard
Roy MacGillis
John & Kay Maier
John Malloy
Ron McCluskey
Jim Meyd
Thomas Nate
Kevin Noccioli (brother of Jeff Noccioli)
Margie Noll
Hank Peppard Jr.
Christopher Peppard (son of Hank Peppard)
Ed Plankey
Tom Reed
Nancy Risbano (wife of George Risbano)
Eugene Sobecki (C. Ballschmeider's sister-in-law)
John Spinale
Joe Tiffany
Johnnie Turner
Kim Wojtyna (daughter of Carol & John)
Donna Woodford (wife of David Woodford)
Dr. Steve Wyer



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 (Ralph Neller, Grand Knight) at his email address rneller65@outlook.com or his mobile 513-708-0528.



SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Brothers James Alexander and Dan Martin for their kind assistance with this Newsletter!

Council Birthdays

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



Sept. 2 - Steven Zavada Jr.
 Sept. 5 - Johnny Matos
 Sept. 6 - Stephen Cerjan
 Sept. 6 - Stephen Tasch
 Sept. 9 - Kenneth Russo
 Sept. 11 - Gary Garvin
 Sept. 11 - Chris McDevitt
 Sept. 12 - John Spinale
 Sept. 12 - John Koitsch
 Sept. 12 - Kevin Maguire
 Sept. 14 - John Ladowicz
 Sept. 15 - Dan Flynn
 Sept. 17 - Michael Piscopo
 Sept. 17 - Eric Dudley
 Sept. 22 - Dennis Armstrong Jr.
 Sept. 23 - Jon Engelbrektson
 Sept. 23 - Kenneth Levanti
 Sept. 24 - Ronald McCluskey
 Sept. 24 - Thomas Flamminio
 Sept. 26 - John Solum
 Sept. 28 - James Alexander
 Sept. 29 - Allen Hillman III

K of C #7826 OFFICERS

Fr. Daniel Scanlan - Chaplain
frdaniel@stthomsmoresrq.org

Ralph Neller - Grand Knight
rneller65@outlook.com

Scott Deahna - Deputy GK
scott34465@yahoo.com

Steve McElroy - Financial Sec.
mcelroyfs@verizon.net

Ken Berberich - Treasurer
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Kevin Deady - Chancellor
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Dan Bulinski - Recorder
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Dave Bracy - Warden
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 Dr. Steven Wyer - Advocate
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 Derek Noll - Lecturer
derekjnoll@msn.com
 Ernest (Joe) Dean -3yr Trustee
ejdean99@icloud.com
 Corey Devito - 2yr Trustee
cmdevito@kaighnco.com
 John Spinale - 1 yr Trustee
jtspin912@gmail.com
 Charlie Ballschmieder - Inside Guard
cjball01@verizon.net
 Hank Peppard - Outside Guard
hakp7916@gmail.com

Council Upcoming Events

Thank you for your support of these future events!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday, September 2nd, **HAPPY LABOR DAY!**
- Our monthly “Knight’s Mass will be on Wednesday, September 4th at the 8:00 a.m. Mass.
- The Officers’ Meeting is scheduled for September 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the Spirit Center.
- Our Lady of Charity Assembly Meeting (4th Degree) will be held on Monday, 9th, at St. Thomas More beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The September Council Membership Meeting is scheduled for September 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Spirit Center.
- Saturday, September 14th, is the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children at the 4:00 p.m. Mass.
- Sunday, September 15th, is the 40 Days for Life Sign Up after all the Masses.
- Our September Exemplification Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17th at 7:00 p.m. in the Spirit Center.
- The monthly Right to Life Prayer Walk is planned of Thursday, September 26th, in front of Planned Parenthood.
- The September social will be held at the Dockside Grill on September 26th beginning at 5:30 p.m. Contact Dave and Sue Bracy to reserve a spot.



Insurance Advisor

NEWS FROM OUR FRATERNAL FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Brothers,

Working with Knights like you and your families every day is a blessing. I truly enjoy my work. With that said, I appreciate a long weekend as well. I hope you were all able to enjoy Labor Day and get some well-deserved rest.

Whenever we have a long weekend, it's like a little preview of what retirement might look like. If you're like me, I hope my retirement is one that's restful where I'm also able to remain productive, be an active member of the Knights, pursue my personal hobbies, and enjoy a bit of travel here and there.

And to those of you who are already retired, I commend you for all the time you dedicate to our Order. But if you're like me and not quite there yet, I hope you will take the necessary steps to prepare yourself financially for your retirement. A good way to do that can be through an annuity. Now, what is an annuity?

Simply put, it's a retirement savings product. You make contributions and, after a specified amount of time, the annuity pays you a regular income stream. The amount of money you'll need in retirement can be difficult to calculate. But with a properly structured retirement annuity through Knights of Columbus, you can have retirement income that you cannot outlive, guaranteed. There are many different payment and plan types you can choose from.

Once established, the money within the annuity continues to earn value, before eventually being disbursed. There are many different payment and plan types you can choose from. Once established, the money within the annuity continues to earn value, before eventually being disbursed according to the options you elect. Knights of Columbus annuities come with two important guarantees.

First, your principal is guaranteed. Regardless of market condition or company results, your Knights of Columbus annuity will not lose value.

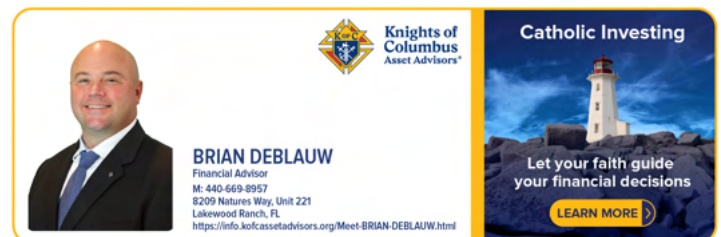
Second, each Knights of Columbus annuity comes with a guaranteed minimum interest rate. No matter the market fluctuations, your annuity is guaranteed to never earn less than the contractually stated amount on an annual basis.

As you can see, annuities can be a key part of your retirement strategy. If you'd like to learn more about how annuities can help you, please schedule an appointment with me and I would be happy to discuss your options.

Vivat Jesus!

God Bless!

Brian DeBlauw



Calendar - SEPTEMBER, 2024



Knights of Columbus®

ST THOMAS MORE COUNCIL #7826

SC – Spirit Center

CC – Chelsea Center

C - Church

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 ²⁷	2 ²⁸ LABOR DAY!	3	4 Knight's Mass 8:00 am Officers' Mtg. 7:00 pm SC	5	6	7
8	9 Assembly Meeting 7:00 p.m. STM - SC	10	11	12 Council Mtg 7:00 pm SC	13	14 Ntl Day of Remembrance Mass 4:00 p.m. C
15 40 Days for Life Sign Up - all Masses - C	16	17 Exemplification 7:00 p.m. SC	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 9-1:00 pm Prayer Walk - Planned P. 5:30 pm Dockside Grill Social	27	28
29	30					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7