

July 2026



Knights of
Columbus®

KNIGHTLY NEWS



OUR LADY OF HOPE COUNCIL 8086



My Brother Knights,

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as your Grand Knight. I sincerely thank you for the trust and confidence you have placed in me, and I am excited and look forward to continuing the strong tradition of faith, service, and brotherhood that defines Council 8086.

Our mission will continue as set by PGK Ernie Jackson and thank him for his leadership and dedication to our council. Through the efforts of many committed Knights, Council 8086 has experienced remarkable growth and expanded its impact within our parish and community.

The Knights of Columbus is founded upon the principles of **Charity, Unity, and Fraternity**. These principles guide everything we do. Through charity, we serve those in need and support our parish and community. Through unity, we work together toward common goals. Through fraternity, we strengthen the bonds of brotherhood that make our Order unique.

Membership growth remains a priority for both our council and the Florida State Council. Every new member brings talents, energy, and opportunities to expand our mission. I encourage each of you to invite Catholic men to join us as we continue growing a vibrant and active council. KofC.org (Join).

One of our first objectives this year will be developing a responsible budget and program schedule. Sound planning allows us to maximize our resources and continue supporting meaningful charitable, parish, and community initiatives throughout the year.

At the heart of everything we do is our commitment to serve our **Pastor, Parish, and Community**. These priorities will continue to guide our actions as we support parish ministries, promote Catholic values, assist those in need, and strengthen our Catholic faith through service.

I encourage every member to remain active and engaged. Whether attending meetings, volunteering at events, recruiting new members, or helping a fellow Knight, each of us plays an important role in the success of Council.

"Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."
— **1 Corinthians 16:13–14**

Together, let us continue reflecting faith in action, dedication to our Church, and commitment to one another.

Vivat Jesus!

SK Vito Benedetto
Grand Knight

PLEASE VIEW OUR WEB SITE: www.knights8086.com



Brother Knights,

As we gather this month, we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. This milestone invites us to reflect with gratitude on our nation's journey—marked by sacrifice, perseverance, and a lasting pursuit of freedom and justice.



Through wars, hardships, and division, our nation has endured and remained strong. Our history is not only one of struggle, but also of generosity, service, and hope.

As we celebrate, we give thanks for the blessings of faith, family, and freedom. These blessings call us to responsibility—to uphold human dignity, care for those in need, and work for the common good.

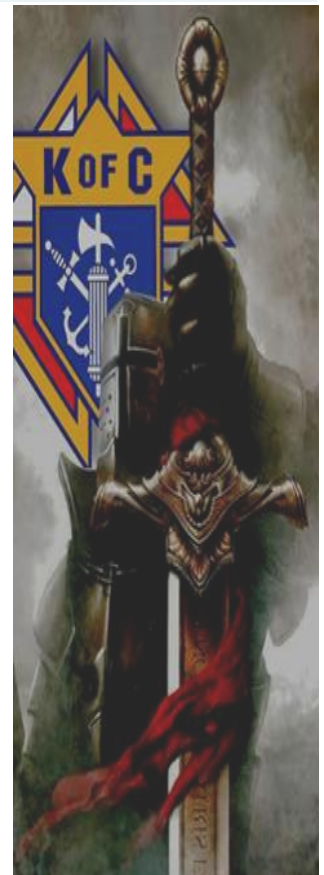
Let us pray for our nation, our leaders, and all who call this country home. We remember with gratitude those who have served and sacrificed, especially in the armed forces.

Happy Birthday, America. May God continue to bless and guide you, now and always.

In Christ,
Fr. Matt

 **2026-2027 COUNCIL OFFICERS**

Grand Knight	Vito Benedetto	vbenedetto65@aol.com
Deputy Grand Knight	Jake Mays	Jakemays007@gmail.com
Chancellor	Adam Schmidt	adam_r_schmidt@yahoo.com
Financial Secretary	Wes Wengren	wwengren429@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jacques Roch	jacdaytona@hotmail.com
Warden	Dave Carson	carsondave73@gmail.com
Recorder	Walt Kaehl	walter.kaehl@gmail.com
Advocate	Pete Ensel	enselobj@gmail.com
Lecturer	Steve Gross	deaconstephengross@gmail.com
Inside Guard	Tom Mies	tomgmies@gmail.com
Outside Guard	Zak Laina	zlia9453@gmail.com
Outside Guard	Dennis Flesch	dfleschdennis208gmail.com
First Year Trustee	Roger Packard	rpackard3@yahoo.com
Second Year Trustee	Bob Gillikin	bobGillikin@gmail.com
Third Year Trustee	Tim Mell	Timmell1@att.net
Chaplain	Fr Matt Mello	frmatt@ladyofhope.org
District #20 Deputy	John O'Malley	jomalley1@cfl.rr.com
Field Agent	James Booritch	james.booritch@kofc.org



DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT



SK JOHN O'MALLEY

On behalf of Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly and State Deputy Mike Gizewski, I extend best wishes for the new Columbia Year!

Also, congratulations for every member of Council 8086 for achieving Eight-Star Council for the recently completed year.

There are a number of changes that will affect Star Council beginning with the new Columbian Year. I will give more details in my report at our July meeting, but here are a few highlights:

No more Fraternal Benefit Events: Now, 15 associate or new members need to have a one-on-one review of their financial/retirement plans with our Field Agent, Jim Booritch. There is no need to purchase insurance.

The Cor ministry will take on even greater significance moving forward. Council 8086 got on board as soon as Cor was announced two years ago. D20 was the first district in Florida to conduct Cor on a district-wide basis, and we already have plans for the upcoming year – focusing on the Eucharist. The next Cor meeting will be on Tuesday, August 25, at 6:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart. All Catholic men are welcome. Also, for the upcoming year, there will be no summer break – Cor will be held on a 12-month basis.

We will be required to make at least one \$500 donation to one program (ASAP, Coats for Kids, RSVP, etc). Currently, we support several programs.

For Faith in Action, Councils need to do at least four programs, one each in Faith-Family-Community-Life. In the past, we needed four in each category. Several programs have been eliminated, including Habitat for Humanity.

Those are the requirements for Star Council. I'm confident that our council will continue to support as many programs as possible – it's a great way to get our many members – both new and current – involved in making a big difference with our families, our church and our community. That will make us better men in the process!

Our special challenge this year is to hold a Retreat Sunday. Joe McGivney – a relative of our founder – is working closely with Guest House, the world's first and most successful treatment and recovery center for Catholic clergy and religious. SK Joe credited his cousin for miraculously curing a serious ailment. He is using Guest House in an effort to follow in the footsteps of Blessed Father McGivney. Last year, we were very successful in our first Wheelchair Weekend. Let's see how we do with a Retreat Sunday.



Keep up the great work!

SK John O'Malley,
District Deputy 20

Faith in Action COR DISTRICT 20 FLORIDA

AUGUST 25 — 6:30 PM at Sacred Heart

OPEN TO ALL MEN IN OUR PARISH. They do not need to be a Knight.

Cor exists to form and strengthen Catholic men in faith and virtue as missionary disciples by drawing them into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, formation, and fraternity.



Contact SK John O'Malley at 386-631-6889 or jomalley1@cfl.rr.com for more information.

Are you disabled? If so, please register with **Wes Wengren,**
wwengren429@gmail.com.

To view the FL State Council info, click below: <https://www.floridakofc.org/>



FAMILY OF THE YEAR 2025-26

Vito and Gina Benedetto exemplify the ideals of Catholic family life and the core principles of the Knights of Columbus—Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. Through their faith, leadership, and commitment to service, they have made a significant impact on Council 8086, Our Lady of Hope Parish, and the greater community.

As Deputy Grand Knight, former Chancellor, and Assembly Pilot, Vito has provided outstanding leadership while supporting numerous council programs and charitable initiatives. Alongside him, Gina has faithfully served the parish through Children's Faith Formation and as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Together, they have dedicated countless hours to strengthening both the council and parish communities.



The Benedettos are especially recognized for their leadership in pro-life efforts, including Laps for Life and support of the Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative. Their work has helped provide resources and hope to mothers, children, and families in need. They are also active in food distribution programs, fundraising events, parish ministries, and outreach efforts that benefit those facing hardship.

What distinguishes the Benedetto family is their unwavering commitment to living their faith through service. Their example of Catholic marriage, family life, and Christian discipleship inspires others to become more involved in their Church and community.

For their exceptional dedication to the Church, the Knights of Columbus, and those they serve, Council 8086 proudly recognizes Vito and Gina Benedetto as the **2025–2026 Family of the Year**.



KNIGHT OF THE YEAR 2025-26

Very Reverend Father Matthew Mello embodies the spirit of Blessed Michael J. McGivney through his commitment to strengthening Catholic families, serving those in need, and inspiring men to live their faith through the Knights of Columbus. Since becoming Pastor of Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, his faithful leadership has helped foster a vibrant parish community and a strong partnership between the parish and Knights of Columbus Council 8086.

Through outreach initiatives such as the Grocery Distribution Program, more than 10,500 families have received food assistance, while fundraising efforts have generated hundreds of thousands of dollars to support Catholic education, F.A.I.T.H. and many charitable causes throughout Volusia County. Father Mello's vision of parish and Knights working together has inspired exceptional council growth, expanded charitable outreach, and greater engagement among Catholic men and their families.

As Sacred Scripture reminds us: *"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them... being examples to the flock."* — 1 Peter 5:2–3

Father Matthew Mello exemplifies these words through his faithful ministry, servant leadership, and dedication to those entrusted to his care. For these reasons, Council 8086 proudly awards Very Reverend Father Matthew Mello as Knight of the Year.





FAMILY OF THE MONTH: Ted and Lynda Morell

We moved to PO In June 2010 when we retired from the Albany NY area, We both were quite active with our parish, St Thomas the Apostle. Ted has been a member of the knights of Columbus since 1961, now a Lifetime member.

Since joining OLOH in 2010 , we continued with several ministries. Linda with Faith Formation, EMHC, and lector, along with CCW and Barbara’s Hope Ted as an usher, just recently named Usher of the Year. and stays busy with the KofC.

He has been a member of the original Color Guard, and misses the old regalia uniform. He still works the pancake breakfast each month. We both are active with Loaves and Fishes.

In the community we both prepared and served breakfast for several years at the Halifax Hospice Center. Linda has been a Group Facilitator for the Halifax Hospice Begin Again Children’s Grief Center since 2012.

We have been married for 58 years, have 3 sons and 5 grandchildren. And as many know, we love to travel and experience so many cultures around the world.

We have experienced the great kindness of people everywhere. As we are slowing down, we ask all to keep us in your prayers as we try to defy the aging process. God has blessed us multiple times over.



KNIGHT OF THE MONTH: Mike Popp



The Knights of Columbus Council 8086 at Our Lady of Hope is proud to recognize **Mike Popp** as our **Knight of the Month** for his faith, perseverance, and dedication to service.

After retiring as a maintenance mechanic in New Jersey, Mike and his wife moved to Florida in 2005. He later worked 15 years at Lowe's. After the passing of his beloved wife in 2021, Mike found renewed purpose through faith and service by joining Council 8086.

Mike has faithfully served as an **usher at Our Lady of Hope for several years**, welcoming parishioners and assisting at Mass with kindness and humility.

In 2025, Mike faced one of life’s greatest battles after being diagnosed with **Stage 4 lung cancer**. Through faith, prayer, excellent medical care, and the support of his brother Knights, Mike is now gratefully **cancer free**. He credits part of his healing to the power of **Jesus Christ, prayer, and brotherhood**.

Mike’s life is a powerful witness to courage, resilience, and trust in God. His servant’s heart and unwavering faith inspire everyone around him and remind us that **with God, all things are possible**.

Congratulations, Mike Popp, on being named Knight of the Month—a true example of faith in action.

Faith in Action 2026 State Awards



Tim, Jim, Tony Mike Wes, Zack, Dennis, Ernie, Gianni display FI State 1st Place awards for Community service.



Top: Ernie, Jake and Adam hold the 1st Place award for FI State recruiting. Rt: Ernie & Fr Matt display the coveted "Century Award" for the FI State over 100 membership.



Dennis earns 2nd Place for Faith Actives; Jim earns FI State 1st place for Community.



1st Place State Wheelchair

Faith in Action 2026 State Awards



Dennis earns 1st Place overall Faith Activities.



Ernie displays 1st Place for ASAP, helping new mothers

SHINING ARMOR

New members have one year from joining the Council to earn this award.

To qualify for the Shining Armor Award, Knights must:

- Be involved in at least three Council service programs.
- Attend at least three Council meetings.
- Meet with their Council's insurance representative.
- **Recruit at least one new member.**



Jake presents Silver Shield to Chris



Please recruit a new members for our Council

AI in Faith

2026 New Leaders



Knights at a Round Table



Sean Laughlin "Faith Director"



Dennis Flesch "Door Guard" & Zack Laina, "ERAU Chairman"



Eric Mason "Community Director"



Dcn Stephen Gross "Lecturer" & Trent Cloud "Family Director"



Faith in Action 4th Degree Note



THIS COMING AUGUST 29TH IS THE BEST OPPORTUNITY, EVER, TO HAVE OUR LOCAL BROTHER KNIGHTS MAKE THEIR FOURTH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION ... AT OLOH CHURCH, PORT ORANGE ... WITH BROTHER JOE MCGIVNEY ATTENDING AND SPEAKING.
JUST SAYIN ...

I just spoke with Brother Joe McGivney. PGK Ernie Jackson met him and told him about our planning of the August 29th Fourth Degree Exemplification at OLOH.

FYI: I took the liberty of inviting Brother McGivney to attend, and to speak a few words during the ceremony. He has honored us by agreeing to do so!

Please JJ, let's make sure that we copy Brother Joe on all relative correspondence regarding, and in preparation, of this Exemplification.

*Brother Joe,
Please let either me or District Deputy SK JJ O'Malley know of any questions and/or needs that you might have in traveling to Port Orange.*

It was an honor and pleasure to speak with you today. Thank you.

Fraternally & with God's Blessings,

*Andy Duzyk
Faithful Navigator Assembly 2794
Our Lady of Hope*

Faith in Action GK Notes

Brother Knights,

As we move forward together, I encourage each of us to keep the mission and goals of the Knights of Columbus clearly before us. Everything we do should reflect our commitment to Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. When we remain focused on serving our Faith, our Parish, our Pastor, and our Community, our council will continue to grow and thrive.

We must remember that no one Knight carries this mission alone. We are a team—brothers united in purpose, each bringing unique gifts and talents to strengthen our council and advance God's work. Success comes when we work together with mutual respect, trust, and a shared commitment to service.

Change can be difficult, and at times not everyone welcomes it. But growth often requires change. What matters most is how we respond. If we choose to remain positive, support one another, and focus on solutions rather than obstacles, we will accomplish great things.

Scripture reminds us, "Encourage one another and build one another up." (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Let us continue to build up our council, support one another as brothers, and keep Christ at the center of all we do.

Together, as Men on a Mission, there is no limit to the good we can accomplish.

**"Men on a Mission"
Vito**



Hurricane Knights

We put up shutters in the event a named hurricane is forecasted to hit our area.

This is for Registered OLOH Parishioners ONLY

Email Eric Mason at emason197494@aol.com

Deadline July 10th



Knights of Columbus
Council 8086

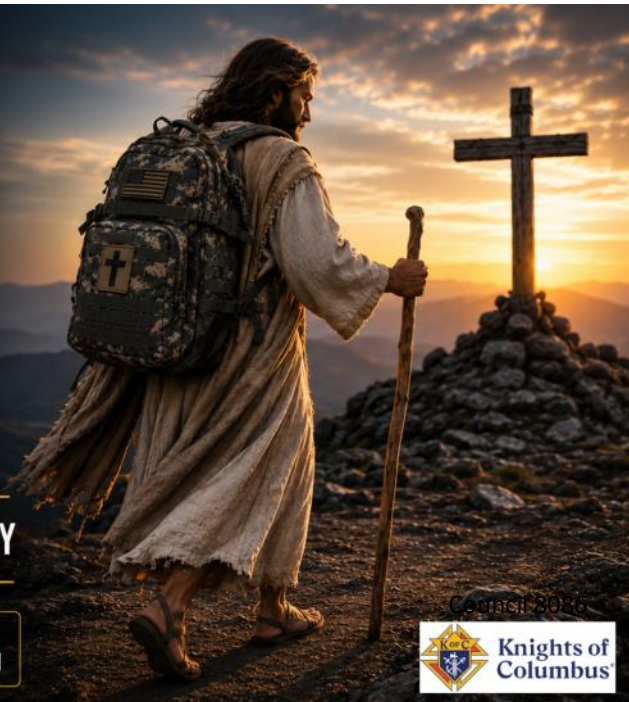
RUCK UP FOR JESUS

9:00 AM | SEPTEMBER 19TH

EMBRY RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY
COUNCIL 8086

START POINT:
TBA

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
JAKE MAYS - JAKEMAYS007@GMAIL.COM



July 2026

3 Fri 7:45A Rosary/Holy Hour

4 Sat TBD Ducks City Center

7 Tue 7:00P Officers/Directors Meeting

11 Sat 11:00A Loaves & Fishes

12 Sun 6:30A Pancake Breakfast/Recruiting

14 Tue Council Meeting CANCELED

21 Tue 6:15P Rosary before Meeting

21 Tue 7:00P Council Meeting RESCHEDULED



Join Knights 8086 Round Table @ ERAU



EMBRY-RIDDLE

Aeronautical University

ERAU Students Invited to Answer the Call at “Ruck for Jesus”

PORT ORANGE / DAYTONA BEACH, FL — The Knights of Columbus Council 8086 at Our Lady of Hope invites students from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to join a powerful faith-filled event this fall: **5K Ruck for Jesus**.

As Council 8086 welcomes more college students, including ROTC students, we remain committed to building strong Catholic leaders. **ERAU students are helping strengthen our Council with energy, leadership, and a desire to serve.**

College life brings challenges and opportunities. While preparing for careers, many students are also seeking **purpose, brotherhood, and faith**—and the Knights offer all three.

Organized by the ERAU Roundtable, **Ruck for Jesus** combines physical challenge with spiritual growth, symbolizing Christ’s call to carry our cross and follow Him.

“Ruck for Jesus is about more than a march,” Council leaders shared. **“It is about faith, purpose, and brotherhood.”**

Through service, fellowship, and leadership, young Catholic men can build lasting friendships and make a real difference.

Ruck for Jesus is your opportunity to step up, be challenged, and grow stronger in faith. **Free event shirt for first 60 participants.**

Event Details

- Event:** Ruck for Jesus
- Date:** September 19
- Time:** 9:00 AM
- Location:** Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Start Point TBA)
- Hosted by:** Knights of Columbus Council 8086 ERAU Roundtable



For more information, contact Zack Liana

- ☎ 845-779-6848
- ✉ zlia9453@gmail.com

“Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.” — 1 Corinthians 16:13



Knights of Columbus

FOURTH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION

REACH YOUR HIGHEST POTENTIAL

The Fourth Degree is a group of outstanding Knights, dedicated to promoting patriotism enlightened by their Catholic faith. These Knights, distinguished by exemplary deeds for God, for country, and the Order, are united by the Fourth Degree to support religious, civic, and charitable causes.

Fourth Degree members belong to local units called assemblies. Each assembly is involved in a wide range of public patriotic activities.

Each assembly maintains a Fourth Degree Color Corps and Honor Guard. Uniformed members wearing the Official Uniform, and swords participate in special civic and religious ceremonies. For this reason, the Fourth Degree is often called the visible arm of the Knights of Columbus.

ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for the Fourth Degree, one must:

1. Be over 18 years of age.
2. Be a member in good standing with your Council.
3. Be a practical Catholic.

CHARITY★UNITY★FRATERNITY★PATRIOTISM

The Knights Fourth Degree Exemplification Ceremony will take place on Aug 29 here at OLOH, Port Orange.



Earn your 3rd Degree by clicking on link below and watching the video. The KofC conducts an **"On Demand—Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity.**

Click Here: <https://videos.kofc.org/exemplification>

8086 Knights Shirts

TO ORDER: Contact Lacey's

503 Herbert St | 4burgnow@gmail.com | 386-767-0932

POLO: \$42-\$45, XXL \$2 extra
DRIFIT T-SHIRTS: \$10, XXL \$2 extra
COTTON T-SHIRTS: \$8, XXL \$2 extra

Features 8086 Logo, US Flag, Your Name

OTHER STYLES AVAILABLE: MEN ON A MISSION
Crewneck Sweatshirt: Small-XL \$18, XXL \$20, 3X \$22

Hoodie Sweatshirt: Small-xl \$26, XXL \$28, 3X \$30

Full Zip Up Hoodie: Small-XL \$32, XXL \$34, 3X \$36

***These prices are for screen-printing of Men on a Mission logo.*

July BIRTHDAYS

1—Stanley Picklesimer
2— Sam Magda
7— Walter Badya
7—Vince Pecoraro
7—Anthony Konkiel
12—John Clune
13—Ken Kasten
15—Robert Heisler
15—Caleb Janssen
16—John Hoag
17—Andy Duzyk
17— Ron Gitlin
18—Peter Ferreira
18—Steve Komondoreas
18—Hector Valle
19—Rich Silva
20—Tristan Plenzier
21—Chuck Haswmann
22—Jorge Garcia
22—Joe Nadwairski

22—David Roquebert
24— John Riskosky
26—Tom Hilpert
29—Seth Kalisz
29—Tim Solon



*Please Pray for the Repose
of the Soul of our Brother*



Eternal rest grant unto him,
O Lord. And let perpetual light
shine upon him. May he rest in
peace. Amen.

Knights' Intentions

Please pray for our Brothers and their Families who are sick or in need:

Jim Albano, Dave Arundel, Jim Booton, Audrey Borowski, Al Citro, John Coseo, Jim Gallo, Bill Gardi, Doug Graves, Harry Holt, Brian Hyde, Walt & Liz Kaehl, Marilyn Kliment, Ed LeMay, Marti Librizzi, Mike Mann, Stephen & Judy Martino, Mike O'Malley, Dcn Mike Pettit, Mary Piper & Family, Mike Popp, Louis Prevost, Doreen Taylor, John Thomas, Joe Wheeler, Issy White and Maureen Wojohowski, Lynne Mell, Charlie Young, Steve Gilman, Jean & Hank Nolan, Michelle Greci.

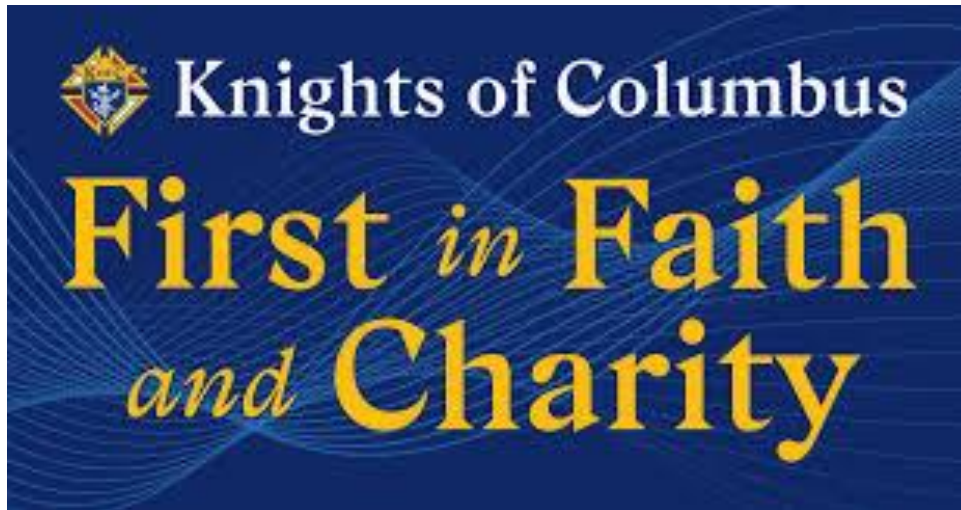


To qualify for the Shining Armor Award, during their first fraternal year, brother Knights must:

- Be involved in at least three Council service programs.
- Attend at least three Council meetings.
- Meet with their Council's insurance representative.
- **Recruit at least one new member.**

When you complete all tasks report your success to the Council Chancellor Adam Schmidt to process.

GET YOURS SOON



Faith in Action HELPING HANDS



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
OUR LADY OF HOPE COUNCIL 8086
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

**COUNCIL 8086
MEN ON
A MISSION**

CHARITY • UNITY • FRATERNITY • PATRIOTISM



COUNCIL 8086 SERVES THROUGH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY *Helping Hands*



The Knights of Columbus of Council 8086 at Our Lady of Hope continue to live out the Order's mission of **charity in action** through our **Helping Hands** partnership with Habitat for Humanity.



For Council 8086, this program is more than construction work—it is faith put into action. By volunteering on Habitat projects, our Knights help provide families **with something** every family deserves: a safe place to call home. Whether lifting lumber, framing walls, installing materials, or assisting with site preparation, every task becomes an act of Christian service.



Our recent Habitat mission was another great example of brotherhood in action. Under the leadership of our new Habitat Point of Contact, **Gianni Teta**, Council 8086 assembled **12 Knights** to support the build. From framing walls and roofing preparation to site labor, the team worked side-by-side to make a real difference for a future homeowner.



We are especially grateful to **Gianni** for his outstanding leadership, enthusiasm, and commitment to this ministry. His efforts have already strengthened this important outreach and created more opportunities for Knights to serve.



Habitat service gives Catholic men a chance to roll up their sleeves and put faith into practice. It reflects the spirit of **Blessed Michael J. McGivney**, who believed Catholic men should lead through service, sacrifice, and charity.



Building with skill and brotherhood.



Every task is an act of Christian service.



Working together to build hope and homes.



*"Let us not love with words or speech
but with actions and in truth."*

— 1 JOHN 3:18

INTERESTED IN JOINING?

If you are interested in joining a future Habitat Helping Hands mission, please contact

GIANNI TETA
718-598-4714



COME HELP US BUILD HOMES, BUILD HOPE,
AND CONTINUE BEING **MEN ON A MISSION.**



FAITH IN ACTION.
CHARITY IN MOTION.
TOGETHER, WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!