



*Knights of Columbus*

*Council 2505*

*St. Joseph's Church*

*Lakeland, FL*

*May 2024*

*Celebrating 100 Years of Service 1924 - 2024*

*A message from the Grand Knight*



Worthy Brothers,

Sometimes when I watch the news at night I see someone who came to the rescue of another person and the newscaster called them a hero. This person was called a hero because they stepped out of their comfort zone and helped another human being in need. I often wondered if I would run into a building on fire to save another person or tackle a man with a gun before he could kill someone.

I know of a young man that was in college when a student walked into a classroom with several guns and started shooting students. This happened on Valentine's Day about 18 years ago. As people were running out all the doors of this college building this young man ran in. He ignored students telling him to run instead pushed on ahead with no regard for his own safety to see if he could help fellow students. He ran into the room where the shooting happened and saw blood everywhere and students lying on the floor, He found a girl hiding under a table screaming and crying and grabbed the girl and ran her out of the building to an administrative office next door.

Even though that young man wanted to go back to that classroom, the people in the office made him stay there in the locked building. To that girl he grabbed and ran to safety, he was a hero. He doesn't think of himself as one but of all the hundreds of students running out of that building how many ran in?

I looked up hero in the dictionary and in the Thesaurus words came up like champion, warrior, person of the hour, model, example, person to look up to, and knight. My dad was my hero. He was my role model. I always wanted to be like him. It is funny how I saw the word knight come up under hero. If you look at the things we do for people you can say we are heroes.

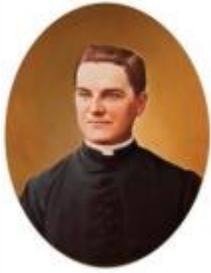
Here is a chance to be a hero to many people. On Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> our Knights Council will be hosting an event at ROAR (formally known as Noah's Ark). 500 Inspiration Dr. 33805. This is a wonderful facility here in Lakeland that houses adults with special needs. The residents here are really special people. They will shower you with attention and make you feel like hero to them. The schedule is as follows: 10:00 Tour the facilities. See the opportunities that the residents have. 11:00 Game time. Bocce Ball, cornhole, basketball, and disc golf. The residents playing these games know how to play and all the rules. You will be there just to be a hero to these special individuals. 12:30 BBQ by us. We will be cooking food for everyone including ourselves. 1:30 Dance. Dance with the residents or just watch and put a big smile on your face.

Volunteer for a few hours and be a champion, a person of the hour, model, person to look up to, and a Knight. Be a hero that will be remembered. Your family and friends are invited to be part of this special day. Please email me if you can give a few hours of your time for this wonderful event.

Vivant Jesus,

Mark Sagen

msagen1@msn.com



### Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney Prayer

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, You called Your priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue may we follow Your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling His commandment of charity and building up His Body, which is the Church. Let the inspiration of Your servant prompt us to greater confidence in Your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that You glorify Your venerable servant Father Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of Your holy will.

Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (*here make your request*), through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## ***Considering a 4th Degree?***



Hello Brother Knights of Council 2505: This message is for those of you whom have not yet attained your 4th Degree. Please see below the schedule of 4th Degree Exemplifications scheduled in 2024 here in Florida.

**June 15th 2024** (Saturday) Church of the Little Flower in Coral Gables, Fla; Coral Gables is near Miami.

**August 25th 2024** (Saturday) San Juan del Rio Catholic Church in St. John, Fla (St. John is just south of Jacksonville, Fl and is about 190 miles from Lakeland (about a 3-4 hour drive).

The Exemplification is now open for wives and family members to attend the exemplification ceremony. The degree on March 9th 2024 in Parrish Fla is the closest exemplification in 2024 to Lakeland (only about a 1 hour drive)

If you are interested in progressing and making your 4th Degree in our Order, ***or learning more about the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree***, please contact Charlie Stokes by phone at 863-899-6005 to discuss.

# May Call for Volunteers

We have multiple opportunities for our brother Knights and their wives to participate in one of our Council's most important charitable events – Supporting ROAR (formerly Noah's Ark 500 Inspiration Dr. Lakeland 33805).

The schedule:

Tour of the Facility .....	10:00 AM
Games .....	11:00 AM
BBQ Setup .....	12:00 PM
Lunch for Residents and Friends .....	12:30 PM
Dance .....	1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Come for the day or for Games and Lunch. Stay for the Dance and join in the fun.

*As our GK says in his message – “Be a Hero.”*

~~~~~

## **St. Joseph Mass presenters needed –**

*St. Joseph Parish will be losing one of the weekly Mass presenters in May. This leaves the parish with only one individual to present the prayers, words of the hymns, and the announcements to the worshipers for all English Masses.*

*The Knights of Council 2505 have a long history in serving at Mass: our Grand Knight does every Saturday as a Mass server and various Knights do as Ministers of Hospitality every weekend.*

*We are asking Knights who want to participate in the Mass by presenting the Mass slides to please contact Doug Cooper at [Dougstjoe@gmail.com](mailto:Dougstjoe@gmail.com) or 954.589.9446 or at our business meeting to learn more about the opportunity.*

*Hands on training will be given at your convenience during the week.*



# Why do Catholics venerate Mary?

KEVIN P. CONSIDINE U.S.Catholic

In 2005 in Chicago, a young woman was driving home from work and looked at the wall of an underpass where she saw an image of the Virgin Mary. For a short while, “Our Lady of the Underpass” became national news and a local pilgrimage site. Where some saw a miraculous image, however, others saw a mere salt stain.

Although the excitement has died down, there are still those who ensure that the underpass remains adorned with candles, flowers, and a makeshift altar. There are thousands of stories like this. Some Marian shrines become permanent pilgrimage sites, such as Lourdes and Medjugorje. Others simply fade away.

The veneration and adoration of Mary is as old as the church itself. The earliest record of Mary’s veneration probably comes from the Third Ecumenical Council at Ephesus in A.D. 431. There church fathers affirmed Mary as the *Theotokos*, or God-bearer. The title stuck, and today we refer to her as the “Mother of God.”

This designation of Mary as the mother of God is really at the root of Roman Catholic veneration. Mary is the link between our broken humanity and the boundless divinity present in the triune God. Mary is redeemed, as she is human, but she is also considered to have a special and unique relationship with God, as she shares DNA with Christ. Mother Teresa once remarked, “She gave Jesus his body, and his body is what saved us.”

She has many faces and innumerable names, among them Our Lady of Guadalupe, She Who Ripens the Wheat, Queen of Angels, and the Light Cloud of Heavenly Rain. She is said to appear on occasion, mostly to children or others who are weak, disempowered, or on the margins of society. She is said, in some cases, to procure miracles. Some have even said that in the last days, Mary will lead the army of angels in the final battle against evil.

But all of the titles and all of the miracles are considered to be a result of Mary’s close relationship with her son, Jesus. As mother of the King of Kings, she is the saint of saints. Furthermore, because the church is the body of Christ, and Mary is Christ’s mother, she is also the mother of the Church. This means that in addition to having a special relationship with Jesus, Mary also has a special relationship with the Church. She belongs to the Church and the Church belongs to her.

So when we pray the rosary, or bow our heads during the creed, we are honoring our mother, and the mother of our Lord. Although she is not God, she has earned our respect and devotion.

*May is one of two months in which we deeply venerate our Blessed Mother in Liturgy and Prayer.*

# *Supreme's Family of the Month for April*



*The Knights' Supreme Council has chosen Vicki and Brian Krolak as one of its Families of the Month for April. Both Brian and Vicki are active members of St. Joseph Parish, Columbiettes, Emmaus, and Council 2505 where Brian serves as our Recorder (and as chief chef on various Knight's events). Congratulations!*

## *Ordination Anniversary Congratulations*



Fr. Tim Labo as he celebrates his 38th Anniversary on May 11th 2024



Fr. Luis Salazar as he celebrates his 8th Anniversary on May 28th

*Continue to remember these special Brothers in your prayers.*

## *An excerpt from Columbia – The Knights' Magazine*

---

### **Supreme Chaplain's Challenge**

*A monthly reflection and practical challenge from Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori*

**“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.” (Gospel for April 28, Jn 15:7-8)**

Have you noticed the progression in the challenges over the past months? If we recognize who Jesus truly is, we must listen to Him and serve Him. We have St. Joseph as a true model of that faithful service and discipleship.

Now we are told that the Father is glorified through our discipleship and the fruit we bear. By being faithful Disciples of Christ, may we bear much fruit and so glorify the Father.

**Challenge:** This month, I challenge you to prayerfully ask yourself if you are bearing much fruit as a disciple of Christ and then identify and undertake one way you can be more fruitful.

*Find accompanying reflection questions at [kofc.org/monthlychallenge](http://kofc.org/monthlychallenge)*

*To view the Columbia Magazine in its entirety on line use the following address*

<https://www.kofc.org/en/news-room/columbia/index.html>

(Cut and paste into the address line on your browser -- not the search line.)

# *Vote to restrict abortion in Florida*

## **Florida Bishops Oppose Extreme Abortion Amendment Vote No on Amendment 4**

Florida Amendment 4, which will appear on Florida's November 2024 ballot, is an extreme proposal that legalizes full-term abortion with no protections for the preborn child, including when the child is capable of feeling pain. This proposed amendment to our state constitution would prohibit all restrictions on abortion before viability and create a broad exception that any healthcare provider could exploit to allow abortion up to birth.

Furthermore, the amendment would effectively overturn or seriously jeopardize common-sense state laws that have regulated abortion for years. These include basic health and safety requirements for clinics where abortions are performed, requiring a physician to perform abortions, informed consent requirements, laws limiting public funding of abortion, and parental consent requirements before a minor's abortion.<sup>1</sup> These risks demonstrate the extreme nature of the amendment.

We urge all Floridians of goodwill to stand against the legalization of late-term abortion and oppose the abortion amendment. In doing so, we will not only protect the weakest, most innocent, and defenseless of human life among us but also countless women throughout the state from the harms of abortion.

Human life is sacred. The dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision of society. Direct attacks on innocent persons are never morally acceptable, at any stage or in any condition. In our state, human life is repeatedly being destroyed by abortion. Over 84,000 vulnerable and voiceless children were aborted in Florida in 2023.

This matter concerning the respect for human dignity and the fundamental value of human life is of grave importance to both our Church and our state. The threat of abortion remains our pre-eminent public policy priority. Therefore, we support a coordinated campaign to mobilize against the proposed amendment. To this end, we offer this prayer to defeat Amendment 4:

*Ever-living God, you give life and desire a future for all your children. Take hold of our nation, state and community and awaken in every heart awe for the gift of life. Send your Spirit to strengthen us with wisdom and fortitude as we defend mothers and children in Florida from laws that disregard their health and safety.*

*Mary and Joseph trusted in you and welcomed Jesus into our broken world. God Almighty, we ask their intercession to protect the preborn and their mothers, and to guide all parents in raising their children. May they help us build a civilization of love by upholding the sacredness of life and accompanying pregnant women in need.*

*We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

*Our Lady, Mother of the Family, pray for us! St. Joseph, Protector of the Unborn, pray for us!*

**Most Rev. Thomas G. Wenski**  
Archdiocese of Miami

**Most Rev. Gerald M. Barbarito**  
Diocese of Palm Beach

**Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane**  
Diocese of Venice

**Most Rev. John G. Noonan**  
Diocese of Orlando

**Most Rev. Gregory L. Parkes**  
Diocese of St. Petersburg

**Most Rev. William A. Wack, CSC**  
Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

**Most Rev. Erik T. Pohlmeier**  
Diocese of St. Augustine

**Most Rev. Enrique E. Delgado**  
Archdiocese of Miami

## An Update from Our Financial Secretary

My Worthy Brothers:

The end of the 2023-24 Fraternal Year is fast approaching. Membership dues notices will be snail mailed out and also emailed out to all brothers of the Council around 15 June 2024. Please pay your dues promptly.

Acceptable forms of payment of dues are: cash, personal checks, money orders. If you prefer a different means of payment for your membership dues, please contact me via email at [cstokes9@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cstokes9@tampabay.rr.com) immediately so that I can reach out to you for a possible different payment method. There are over 125 members in our council; it is your responsibility to reach out to me if you cannot pay with: cash, personal checks or money order.

Once I receive your membership dues, I will mail your new membership card (for 2024-25 fraternal year) to you in the mail.

Please read your "Dues Notice" carefully. We have not changed the amount of membership dues for our Council in about 10 years. The Council did approve earlier this fraternal year to ask each member of the Council which includes regular members, Honorary Members and Honorary Life Members and Exempt Members to make a \$10.00 donation this upcoming fraternal year; this \$10.00 will go towards the RSVP which supports seminarians. The RSVP is one of the programs in Faith that our Council will be supporting in the 2024-25 Fraternal Year.

Should you have any questions, contact me by email at [cstokes9@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cstokes9@tampabay.rr.com) or by cell phone at 863-899-6005.

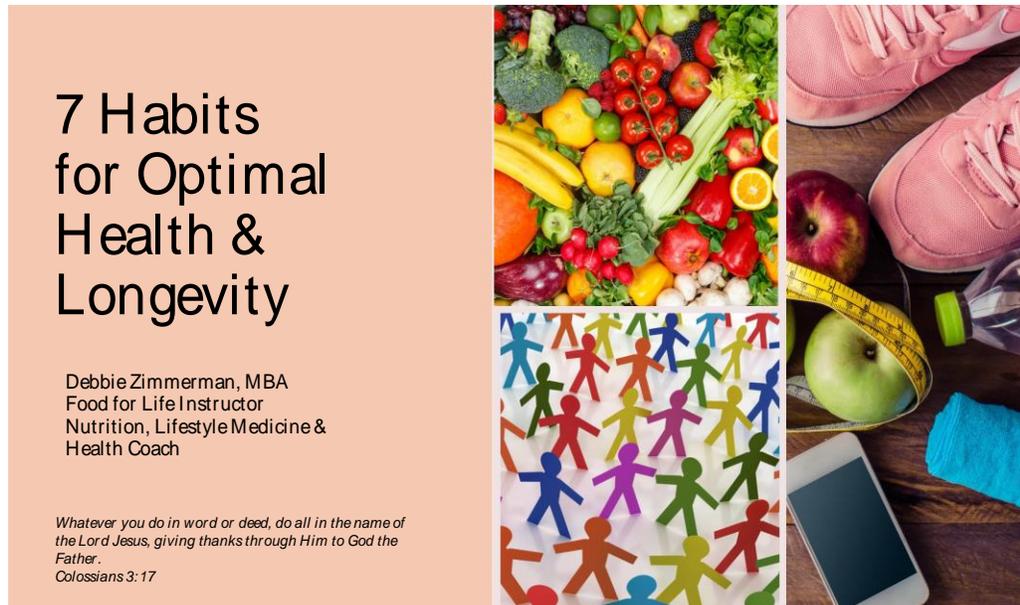
Charlie Stokes

## Dates to Remember

|                              | Member Birthdays                    |                      |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>May</b>                   |                                     |                      |
| <b>Name</b>                  | <b>Birthday</b>                     | <b>Age</b>           |
| Mr Vincent C Scevola         | 05-01-1930                          | 94                   |
| Mr David A Reilly            | 05-03-1984                          | 40                   |
| Mr Eugene F Day              | 05-20-1933                          | 91                   |
| Mr Eric Thomas               | 05-20-1966                          | 58                   |
| Deacon Raymond J Sakowski    | 05-21-1957                          | 67                   |
| Mr Christopher R Tebo-Hardin | 05-22-1992                          | 32                   |
| Rev. Julius Glen Lopez       | 05-23-1963                          | 61                   |
| Mr Thomas R Uetz             | 05-27-1934                          | 90                   |
| Fr. Francois Charles         | 05-30-1978                          | 46                   |
|                              | <b>Wife Birthdays</b>               |                      |
| <b>Member's Name</b>         | <b>Wife's Name</b>                  | <b>Birthday</b>      |
| Mr Travis Cole Maydish       | Danica Maydish                      | 05-02                |
| Mr Eric Thomas               | Adriana Thomas                      | 05-09                |
| Mr Michael R Shiver          | Patricia Kay Shiver                 | 05-31                |
|                              | <b>Member Wedding Anniversaries</b> |                      |
| <b>Name</b>                  | <b>Date</b>                         | <b>Wife's Name</b>   |
| Mr Gary J Page               | 05-05-2007                          | Deborah Page         |
| Mr Patrick D Koegler         | 05-10-2012                          | Carol Koegler        |
| Mr James M Palmer            | 05-22-1988                          | Diane Palmer         |
| Mr Daniel F Pilka            | 05-23-1986                          | Cindy Hardin - Pilka |
| Mr Kenneth M Zimmerman       | 05-28-1983                          | Debbie Zimmerman     |

# April Social Addresses Health and Longevity Topics

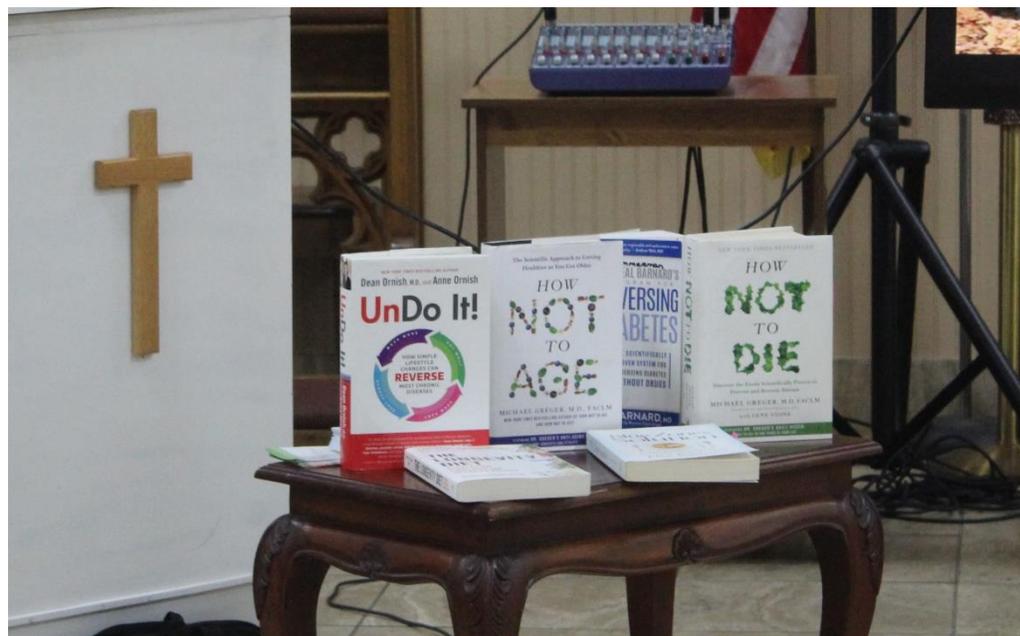
April's Social, sponsored by the Knights of Council 2505 and the St. Joseph Columbiettes, featured a pot luck turkey dinner for our Knights and guests. Our featured speaker was Debbie Zimmerman who presented a talk entitled "7 Habits for Optimal Health & Longevity." Debbie is a St. Joseph and Santa Fe graduate. She and her husband KZ (a brother Knight in Council 2505) are active in parish ministry.



**7 Habits for Optimal Health & Longevity**

Debbie Zimmerman, MBA  
Food for Life Instructor  
Nutrition, Lifestyle Medicine & Health Coach

*Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.*  
Colossians 3:17



For more information visit Debbie's website <https://www.Phyto-fit.life/>

## May Important Dates

|          |          |                                                                          |            |
|----------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| May 2nd  | Thursday | Council Planning Meeting                                                 | 6:30 PM    |
| May 9th  | Thursday | Knights' Business Meeting<br>(Rosary at 6:00 PM)<br>(Meeting at 6:30 PM) | 6:00 PM    |
| May 18th | Saturday | ROAR Visit and BBQ                                                       | 10AM - 3PM |
| May 20th | Monday   | Assembly 2546 Meeting<br>St. John Neumann                                | 7:00 PM    |



## Discover the Catholic Difference

Rely on the **Knights of Columbus** to help protect your family's future.

*A name you know and trust.*

*An organization you can believe in.*

Contact me today to learn  
more about our products

### **Andrew Burke**

*Field Agent*

863-456-8965

andrew.burke@kofc.org



© Knights of Columbus, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven CT 06510

**LIFE INSURANCE • DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE • LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ANNUITIES**

*"Be anxious about nothing, but in all things by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God which passes all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."* **Phillipians 4:6-7**

*Have something to share, an idea for an article or leading an event?*

*Contact Doug Cooper [Dougstjoe@gmail.com](mailto:Dougstjoe@gmail.com) to have your contribution included in next month's newsletter.*