

THE BEACON DECEMBER 2025

Bringing Fellowship to Crossroads



On Saturday November 15, ten brother Knights from Council 8074 put together a barbecue for the boys at the Crossroads Hope Academy at the Davidson campus near Babcock Ranch. It was a great day and a huge success as the hot dogs and hamburgers were well received. The time shared with these boys was very well spent as it exemplified our support for this philanthropic group led by its Executive Director John Davidson. We will continue to work with Crossroads as we further implement our mentorship program with them. Council 8074 will be supporting their upcoming Christmas parties for the Davidson and Nix campuses.

The Month Ahead

Event	Date
Raffle Tickets	Saturday, December 6 After Mass
Raffle Tickets	Sunday, December 7 After Mass
Pancake Breakfast	Sunday, December 21 7:00am – 1:00pm

From the Grand Knight

As the holiday season is upon us, I would like to reflect on how this fraternal year has been going for Council 8074. We recently collected 401 turkeys on our annual turkey drive for St. Vincent de Paul and the Charlotte Care Center; this effort will serve to help many in our community. The \$4,000 raffle ticket sales will continue in December, February, and March as well as future Tootsie Roll sales campaigns after the holidays. Our third Knights breakfast will be December 21 and the final one on January 18. The pork chop dinner in October went very well; we thank our wonderful parishioners and community for supporting these events through the year.

The socials we had in August at the Winesett House downtown and in October at Visani's in Port Charlotte were well received as we hope to continue having different types of these events. At the July general meeting, council members voted on locations where they wanted to have socials this year and we are looking to continue scheduling them at some of those highly voted locations. We recently had a barbecue at the Crossroads Hope Academy Davidson Campus for the boys which was a great event for the 12 Council 8074 brothers who helped out as well as the 21 boys who participated. The mentorship program with Crossroads is being implemented throughout the fraternal year.

One of my primary goals this year is to increase faith related activities in the council. We now say the rosary before all of our monthly general meetings. Our Chaplain Father Jerry is working to coordinate a retreat in May for the council at the retreat center in Venice, Florida. I am working with Rita Sheridan after the holidays to implement a monthly prayer group at the parish center; there will be more information on this later on. The fraternal year is going by fast and we continue to work on increasing our membership. I encourage all of you to seek out more members for our council as we are now in prime season months with an increased number of potential candidates in the area now.

Merry Christmas to all of you this holiday season!

GK Brian Greathouse

Vivat Jesus!



United in Faith at the Diocese Youth Rally

Brother Knights from Council 8074 volunteered at the Venice Diocese Youth Rally held at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center in Punta Gorda on September 15. Nearly 2,000 youths from across the Diocese attended, making it the largest event the Diocese hosts each year. The rally featured Catholic trivia, a bilingual Rosary, and vendors promoting vocations.

A Eucharistic procession through the crowd was followed by Adoration of the Most Holy Eucharist and Benediction, with the Holy Mass concluding the day. Many young people also received the sacrament of reconciliation. Bishop Frank Dewane encouraged participants to stand confidently as men and women of God and to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they respond to His call.

Medical Minute

In our previous report, we emphasized the importance of influenza vaccination. Because viruses mutate unpredictably, vaccines are updated yearly to include prevailing strains of Influenza A and Influenza B. A new H3N2 strain has emerged, differing from this year's influenza A vaccine strain and causing severe illness in older adults in Europe and Asia.

Despite this mutation, vaccination remains strongly recommended, as even a partial match can reduce illness severity and complications.

Written by Elvin M. Mendez, M.D.

In Memoriam



Leonard Saluto

April 1, 1931 – November 13, 2025

A longtime resident of Fort Myers, he was a devoted family man and a faithful member of the Knights of Columbus. Known for his kindness and steady presence, he touched the lives of those around him and will be remembered with love by family and friends.



Austin Alexander "Alex" Lyle

December 18, 1945 – November 17, 2025

A devoted husband, father, and grandfather, he served as a Navy hospital corpsman and later as a Physician's Assistant and Warrant Officer. A devout Catholic and member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, he loved fishing and time on the water. He will be remembered for his service, faith, and the love he shared with his family.
