

THE PATRIOT'S CALL: *United in Faith & Freedom*

ASSEMBLY 1818

Volume II Issue III October 2026



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Inner Sentinel
Chuck Woodrum 304-282-8733

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One Year Trustee
Richard Kunzier 973-903-1226

Two Year Trustee
Kevin Szopinski 630-277-1367

Three Year Trustee
Bernie Lanza 941-441-8892

Faithful Friar
Rev. Januszc



“Never will anyone who says
his Rosary every day become
a formal heretic or be led
astray by the devil.”

– Saint Louis de Montfort

October
is the
Month of
the Most Holy
Rosary
of the Blessed
Virgin Mary

October: The Month of the Holy Rosary

A Call to Marian Devotion and Patriotic Witness

Brother Sir Knights,

October, the month of the Holy Rosary, invites us once again to turn our hearts toward the Blessed Virgin Mary. This devotion has shaped saints, strengthened families, and fortified the Church in every age. For the Fourth Degree, whose mission is to stand firmly for **faith, family, and country**, the Rosary is more than a prayer. It is a spiritual discipline that forms us into men of courage, clarity, and conviction.

Every bead of the Rosary draws us into the mysteries of Christ's life, where we learn the virtues that define true patriots: humility, perseverance, sacrifice, and unwavering fidelity to truth. Mary, our Mother and Patroness, shows us how to live these virtues with grace. Her quiet strength at Nazareth, her steadfast presence at Calvary, and her maternal care for the Church remind us that authentic patriotism begins with love, love rooted in God, expressed in service, and lived with honor.

Throughout October, Knights across the nation lead Rosary processions, gather for parish devotions, and carry their Rosaries as daily armor. These simple acts of faith become powerful public witness. They remind our communities that the Knights of Columbus stand not only for civic duty, but for the moral and spiritual foundations that make liberty possible.

As we enter this month, I encourage each Sir Knight of Assembly 1818 to renew his commitment to the Rosary. Pray it with your family. Pray it before Mass. Pray it for our nation, for our veterans, for our priests, and for those who carry heavy burdens. When we gather as an Assembly, let us pray the Rosary together united in purpose, strengthened in fraternity, and guided by Our Lady's gentle hand.

May Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, watch over you and your families, and may her intercession help you to remain a faithful servant of God and loyal citizen of this great nation.

Vivat Jesus!



SK George Barbiero



VISION

Rooted in our Catholic faith and guided by charity, unity, fraternalism and patriotism, Bishop Charles McLaughlin Assembly 1818 serves as an exemplary model of faithful service and sets the standard for Knights of Columbus Assemblies.

MISSION

Bishop Charles McLaughlin Assembly 1818 is a Catholic volunteer brotherhood of Sir Knights pledged to the guiding principles of **Patriotism, Charity, Fraternalism, and Unity**. We are steadfast in our commitment to strengthening our Catholic faith, supporting our Assembly and its members, assisting our state leadership, and honoring the veterans and country. As members of the **Color Corps**, we proudly offer our service to the Church and to our Bishop whenever called upon. We stand ready to support worthy causes and uphold the dignity of our Order. Together, we strive for the betterment of our faith, our community, and our country.

ASSEMBLY 1818 - 2026 / 2027 FRATERNAL CALENDAR

October

9th	Friday	Officer Meeting	1:00PM	Officer Meeting	CANCELLED
14th	Wednesday	No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony	8:30AM	SNC	Second Wednesday of every month
15th	Thursday	Assembly Meeting	6:45 PM	Knight Hall @ SubStation Road	5:30 Rosary; Dinner 5:45 every Third Thursday
15th	Thursday	Guest Speaker - TBE	6:45PM	Knight Hall @ SubStation Road	PART OF THE MONTHLY MEETING
30th	Friday	CC Practice	1:00PM	OLMC	Practice

November

TBE		Veterans Memorial Mass	12:00PM	SNC	Annual Event
11th	Wednesday	No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony	8:30AM	SNC	Second Wednesday of every month
13th	Friday	Officer Meeting	1:00PM	Officer Meeting	Officer Meeting
19th	Thursday	Assembly Meeting	6:45 PM	Knight Hall @ SubStation Road	5:30 Rosary; Dinner 5:45 every Third Thursday

December

9th	Wednesday	No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony	8:30AM	SNC	Second Wednesday of every month
11th	Friday	Officer Meeting	1:00PM	Officer Meeting	Officer Meeting
12th	Saturday	Feast of Our lady of Guatalupe	11:15AM	OLPH	Honored Feast of K of C an Annaul Event
TBE	Saturday	Wreath Placement	7:30AM	SNC	Annual
19th	Saturday	Assmby 1818 Christmas Dinner	5:00PM	VG&RC	In lieu of Assmby Meeting Annual Event



Please enjoy once again this year the beautiful presentation prepared by our own Sir Knight Peter Spagnuolo, whose images and music capture the reverence of the Blue Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes. As we remember the events of September 11, 2001 and honor the courage of first responders and the nearly 3,000 lives lost, Assembly 1818 stands proudly in unity and prayer. May this video inspire us to “Never Forget” and to remain steadfast in faith, hope, and charity.

Click link to open video:

[Blue Mass OLOL 2026](#)

No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony

We are pleased to announce that the **No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony** will be on:

Wednesday, October 7th, 2026.

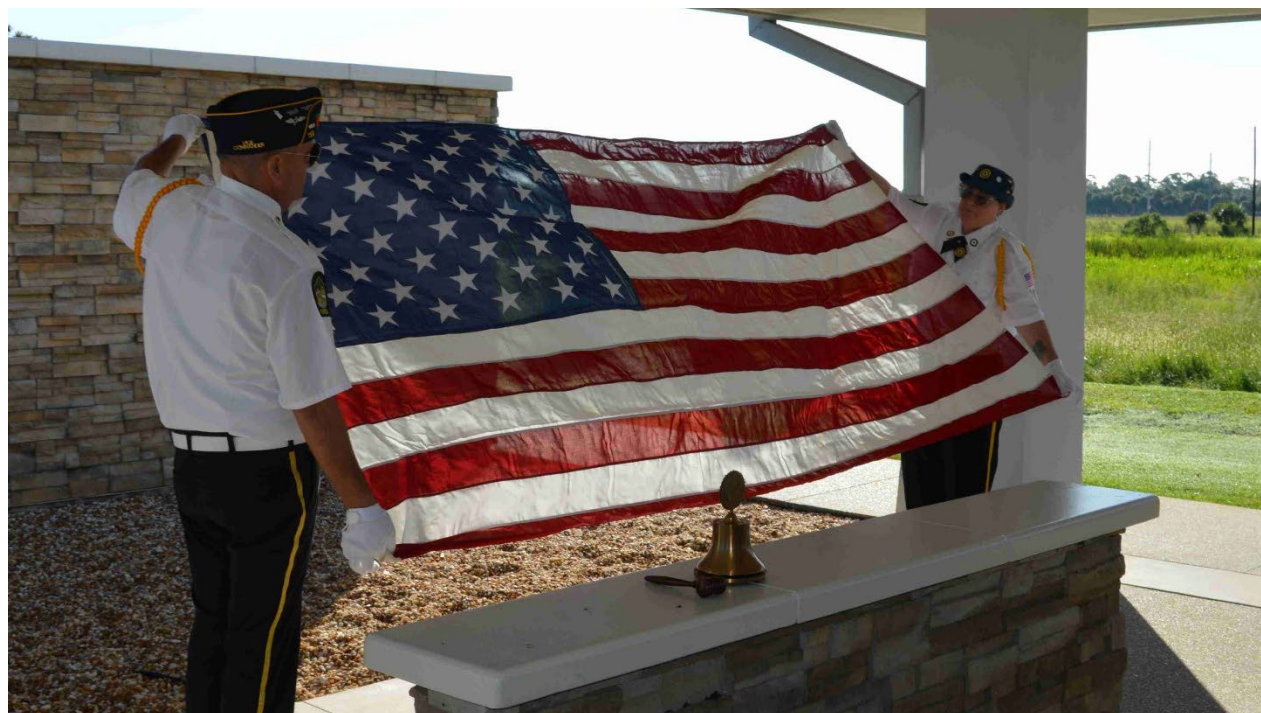
We ask all participants to meet by 8:45 AM. We head to the Internment Shelter at Sarasota National Cemetery at 8:50 AM, with the service beginning at 9:00 AM. Please wear your assembly shirt, and invite your spouses, friends and neighbors to join us as we stand together to remember the legacy of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

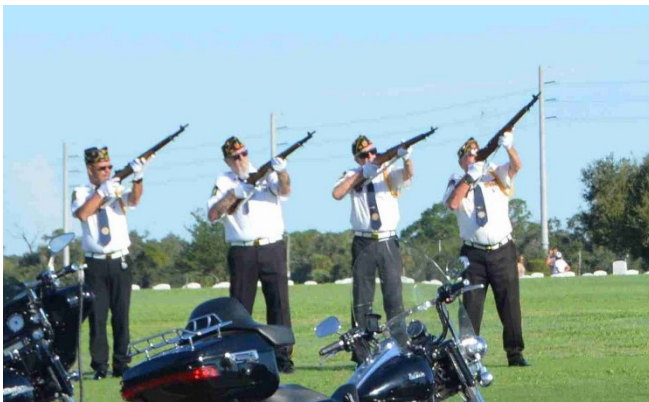


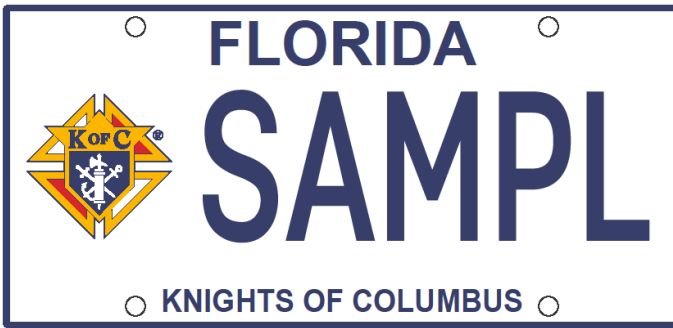
RANK	VETERANS NAME	BRANCH OF SERVICE
PVT	Peter M. Szakacs	US Army - Vietnam
TM3 (SS)	Gary T. Takacs	US Navy
FN	William R. Beatty	US Navy - Korea
SGT	Daniel R. Sweeney	US Air Force – Persian Gulf
LCPL	Ronald W. Farkas Jr.	US Marine Corps











Florida Knights of Columbus License Plate Initiative

Brother Knights,

If you attended our last Monthly Meeting, Faithful Navigator Tony Hopfinger shared that the Florida Knights of Columbus License Plate Program is finally beginning to take shape. The State Council is gathering signatures of interest so they can bring an official request before the Florida Legislature for approval.

How to Show Your Support There are two ways to express interest:

1. Online (Preferred Method)

- Visit the **Florida State Council website**
- Open the **blue pull-down menu**
- Select **Charity Resources**
- Click **FL KC License Plate Request** You will need your **membership number** to complete the form.

2. Paper Form A printable form is also available for those who prefer to submit their interest manually. It will be available at our next monthly assembly meeting but for sure online is the preferred method.

Who Can Participate? At this stage, the program is **open only to Knights**. Whether it expands later is unknown, but the more support we show now, the stronger the case becomes.

Why This Matters A Knights of Columbus specialty plate would be a visible witness to our faith, our fraternity, and our commitment to charity. It's a simple way to evangelize on the road and strengthen our presence across Florida.

Let's Help Move This Forward The campaign is just getting started, and every signature helps. I will include a direct link to the Florida State Council website so you can sign up easily.

Together, we can help bring this project from idea to reality one Knight at a time.

“A Victory for Catholic Veterans”

From :Bishop Charles McLaughlin Assembly 1818, Venice, Florida

Bishop Charles McLaughlin Assembly 1818 stands in gratitude and support of Congressman Greg Steube (R FL) for his steadfast leadership in securing a long overdue honor for Catholic Veterans: the right to have a CRUCIFIX placed on their headstone in our nation's veteran cemeteries



Nearly one in five American Veterans is Catholic and many are buried at veteran cemeteries without a choice for a catholic symbol engraved on the headstone. The current choice is among 100 that include Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Wicca and secular humanism.

Neil Voje a member of Epiphany Cathedral, Venice Florida exposed this Catholic failing when he requested the principals at Sarasota National Cemetery for a headstone engraved with the Catholic crucifix to honor Stan Voje, his deceased veteran brother. The V.A. said the wait could be between 3-5 years. Being persistent, Neil worked his way up to Congressman Greg Steube who identified the need.

Congressman Steube realized this injustice and acted. In April, he led a bipartisan coalition of 45 members of congress in a letter to VA Secretary Douglas Collins and Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Sam Brown, urging the VA to add the crucifix to its approved list of emblems. His message was clear: Catholic Veterans deserve the same reverence and representation afforded to every other faith tradition.

The enthusiasm quickly grew into a national movement. The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA under Archbishop Timothy Broglio, publicly supported the initiative. Representative Riley Moore strengthened the cause by securing language in the Military Construction and Veteran Affairs funding bill directing the VA to approve the crucifix as an eligible emblem.

The house passed the bill with overwhelming bipartisan support--400-1-- a resounding affirmation of the dignity owed to our Catholic servicemen and women.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Congressman Steube for his unwavering commitment, courage, and advocacy on behalf of Catholic Veterans and their families. Special thanks to Neil Voje for lighting the Fire for our Catholic veterans.

Our Assembly 1818 stands proudly and echoes their resolve: We will not rest until every Catholic veteran has the right to be laid to rest beneath the Catholic Crucifix.

Richard "Rick" Anderson
Faithful Pilot
Cemetery Coordinator
Bishop Charles McLaughlin
Assembly 1818



Vivat Jesus!



THE DIFFERENCE

BETWEEN CRUCIFIX AND CROSS:



CRUCIFIX

The Crucifix (a Cross with a Corpus) is a symbol used by the Catholic Church. Its name is derived from the Latin word *cruci fixus* which means "fixed to a cross." It thus refers to an image of Jesus fixed to a cross which is distinct from a plain cross.

Most crucifixes include the sign INRI across the top. INRI is the Latin abbreviation for "Iesus Nazarenus, Rex Iudaeorum" or Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews.



CROSS

The cross is a symbol of Christianity. But there are over 35,000 Christian denominations in the world. More often than not, protestants do not have the body of Christ on the Cross. In Roman times, the cross was an instrument of torture and public humiliation.

Today, the cross has been adopted as a symbol of the ultimate sacrifice. It evokes Jesus' death and, more importantly, His resurrection.

Note: Catholics understand that both the simple cross and the crucifix are symbols of our faith, helping us to recall Jesus' great sacrifice for us.

[Knights on Bikes Venice Chapter](#)

Knights on Bikes: Faith, Fellowship & the Open Road

We encourage you to explore this link for the latest information about Knights on Bikes.







Bishop Charles McLaughlin
Assembly 1818
Monthly Meeting
September 17, 2026

Assembly 1818 – September Monthly Meeting Summary

The September Monthly Meeting of Bishop Charles McLaughlin Assembly 1818 was well attended, marked by steady progress, clear decision-making, and continued unity of purpose. Members reviewed and officially adopted the Assembly's Vision and Mission Statements, reaffirming our commitment to service, patriotism, and fraternal support.

A key portion of the meeting focused on the newly established **Welfare Program**, now formally recognized as one of our Assembly programs. One Sir Knight will serve as the Welfare Coordinator, responsible for keeping the Assembly informed of members who are ill, hospitalized, or deceased so that prayers and support may be offered promptly and appropriately.

The Assembly also refined its **donation protocol**. Any donation request outside the approved budget will now be limited to **local veteran support organizations**, ensuring our resources directly benefit those who have served our nation. Additionally, any motion raised from the floor will be referred to the Officers for review and recommendation before returning to the Assembly for final disposition.

A discussion was held regarding the liability of serving alcoholic beverages at meetings. After thoughtful consideration, the Assembly voted **not to serve alcoholic beverages moving forward**.

Members also reviewed the **Objectives for FY 2026–2027**, noting strong progress across leadership, membership growth, fundraising, Color Corps development, organizational improvements, and patriotic initiatives. Several objectives have already been completed, many are in process, and others remain open as part of our ongoing mission. These objectives continue to guide our efforts to strengthen Assembly 1818, enhance participation, and expand our impact within the community.

The meeting concluded with appreciation for the dedication of all Sir Knights who contribute to the Assembly's momentum and success.



★★★ 2027 ★★★

Victory — for — **VETERANS** GALA

★ **VETERANS FUNDRAISER** ★

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2027
DOORS OPEN: 6:00 PM – 2:00 AM
📍 PLANTATION GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

★
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Monsignor Anthony R. Frontiero, S.T.D.
*Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia
Archdiocese for the Military Services of the United States of America*

★
\$100 PER PERSON
WHICH INCLUDES A PLATED DINNER,
A COMPLEMENTARY DRINK, DANCING
AND A SILENT AUCTION.

★
COME AND JOIN US IN HONORING OUR VETERANS
AND ENJOY A FUN EVENING AS WELL.

★
SPONSORED BY
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ASSEMBLY 1818

George Barbiero
203-885-8238

★ **FOR TICKETS SALES CONTACT:** ★
Marty Reis
209-480-6043

Darwin Reeck
941-451-9657





VENUE & WELCOME



This year's Gala will be held at the Plantation Golf & Country Club, a premier plated venue befitting the noble cause it supports.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to a fun evening in support of our Veterans.



AN EVENING OF DINING & FELLOWSHIP



Guests will be greeted with a complimentary glass of Prosecco upon arrival, accompanied by a large gourmet cheese and fruit display to enjoy as the evening begins.

Dinner features four beautifully plated entrée selections:

- *Chicken Marsala,*
- *Salmon with Romesco Sauce,*
- *Steak Medallions with Red Wine Demi-Glaze,*
- or a *Vegetarian Stir Fry*—each served with a starch, vegetable, and plated dessert.

Coffee, iced tea, lemonade, and water are included, and a fun cash bar will be open throughout the night.



FELLOWSHIP, FUN & RECOGNITION

The Gala continues with music and dancing, a lively 50/50 drawing, exciting raffles and a silent auction.



YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Your attendance directly supports our veteran charities and veterans support groups. This Gala is being brought to you by the Knights of Columbus, Assembly 1818 whose purpose is the support of our veterans.



**THANK YOU FOR HONORING OUR VETERANS.
TOGETHER, WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**



★★★★★ 2027 ★★★★★

Victory for **VETERANS** GALA

★ SPONSORSHIP & DONATION OPPORTUNITIES ★

SUPPORT OUR VETERANS ★ MAKE A DIFFERENCE



PLATINUM
\$1,000

- Special acknowledgement in program.
- Supports Our Veterans



GOLD
\$500

- Special acknowledgement in program.
- Supports Our Veterans



SILVER
\$100

- Special acknowledgement in program.
- Supports Our Veterans



BRONZE
\$50

- Special acknowledgement in program.
- Supports Our Veterans



GENERAL DONORS

- Any monetary or gift donation greatly appreciated.
- Helps Make a Difference



EATERY TREE
(FOOD ONLY)

- Donate Food or Catering Items for the Event
- Supports Our Veterans



GIFT CARDS

- Donate Gift Cards for the Silent Auction
- All Gift Cards Welcome



★★★★★

Thank You

FOR SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

★
Those Who Serve Deserve Our Support.



Tickets for the Victory for Veterans Gala are now being printed, and we are approaching the most critical phase of this entire event. Once tickets are in our hands, **Assembly 1818 members will receive the first opportunity to purchase them.** After a brief window, sales will open to the Councils, followed by parish members and the general public.

This is our moment. If we do not sell all 260 tickets, every hour of planning, preparation, and coordination will fall short of its purpose. The success of our Gala and the support we provide to our veterans depends on strong early participation from our Assembly.

When the announcement is made that tickets are officially available, **please be ready to purchase yours immediately.** Your prompt action will set the tone for the entire campaign and help ensure a full, vibrant, and meaningful event.

Together, we can make this Gala a resounding success for the heroes it honors.



FUNDRAISING BASKETS – V4V 2027

Brother Knights,

As we move into the initial preparation phase for our 2027 *Victory for Veterans Gala*, we are asking for your help in building out this year's fundraising baskets and silent auction items. Your generosity directly strengthens our mission and ensures a truly exceptional evening in honor of our Veterans.

BASKETS NEEDED Please consider donating or assembling one of the following themed baskets:

- **Italian Basket** – Marty & Kathy Reis will donate.
- **Mexican Basket** – Meal ingredients, margarita mix, chips, dips, spices, etc.
- **Morning Wake-Up Basket** – Baking mixes, ingredients, oven mitt, recipes, coffee, cups, flavorings, etc.
- **Party Host Basket** – BBQ tools, spices, rubs, apron, oven mitt, sausage, cheese, crackers, charcuterie board, etc.
- **Crafts & Games Basket** – Supplies for home décor or gift-making, plus cards, dice, board games, etc.
- **Lottery Basket** – Assorted scratch-offs and lottery draws.
- **Wine Basket** – Assorted wines, stoppers, glasses, opener, etc.
- **Liquor Basket** – Assorted liquors, glasses, stir sticks, garnishes, etc.

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS We are also seeking donations or contacts for the following:

- Large Wooden Flag or Oversized Wall Art
- Golf fees for a foursome
- Eatery Trees (x2)
- Cruise package
- One-year unlimited car washes

Additional silent auction suggestions are welcome, unique experiences, handcrafted items, restaurant gift cards, professional services, or any high-value item that can elevate our auction lineup.

A CALL TO ACTION We ask all members to please consider stepping forward *now* to build or donate one of the items above. Early commitments allow us to promote, organize, and showcase these offerings well in advance, which greatly increases their fundraising impact. If you have contacts, business relationships, or creative ideas that could expand our list, we would be grateful for your help.

Please reach out to **any member of the V4V Committee** as soon as possible if you are able to contribute. Your kindness and participation are essential to making this year's Gala a phenomenal success.

May our efforts be guided by charity, strengthened by unity, and blessed by the loving hand of our Lord.





Assembly 1818 theme song is more than a melody. It is a reflection of our brotherhood, our mission, and our faith. We will **cherish its lyrics and melody** going forward, and it will be formally presented as the **Official Theme Song of Assembly 1818**.

It will be played at our meetings and at appropriate events as a reminder of the spirit that binds us together.

God Bless Assembly 1818.

Click the LINK below and enjoy!

[KOC Assembly 1818 Theme Song Best Music](#)



Gear Up, Brothers



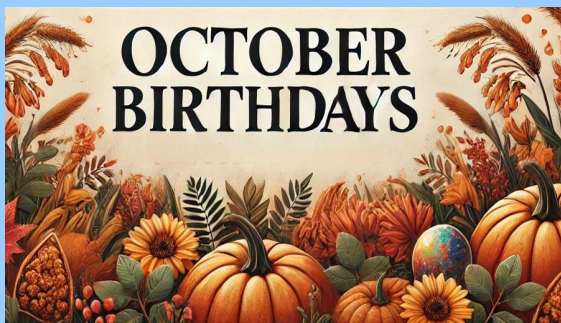
Looking to show your Knights of Columbus pride? You may purchase shirts and caps at *Designer Tees* located at 565 Paul Morris Dr, Englewood. They may be reached at 941-474-8673. If you're looking for a wider selection of Knights of Columbus merchandise, including a variety of accessories and apparel, be sure to visit at [Knights Gear](#) online. They offer a range of items to help you display your dedication to the Order. Finally, for our esteemed Color Corps members, uniforms may be purchased directly at [Knights of Columbus | Supply Room](#) and [Home - Knights of Columbus Supplies](#)

Bishop Charles Mclaughlin Assembly 1818 Website

<https://kocasassembly1818.org/>



Milestones of our Brother Knights - This month, we extend our warmest wishes to those brothers observing a birthday, and we also recognize those who are celebrating an anniversary of their commitment to the Fourth Degree.



Name	Date	Age
Robert P. Ott	1	58
Robert J. Smith	1	89
John N. Cappel	2	88
Thom R. Gardner	2	65
Joseph P. Fogerty	6	84
Paul N. Grieco	6	88
Patrick J. Hunt	7	83
Josh Mihm	8	50
Mark Piazza	12	66
William L. Jagenow	14	86
Msgr. Patrick Dubois	15	55
Mr. Jean F. Milord	16	48
Willard F. Straub	17	90
John F. Yaglenski	18	85
John S. Calkins	21	83
Ernesto (Pete) A. Castillo	21	76
Roy E. Szoka	21	81
Mark Edward Crews	24	72
Manny A. Delgado	24	45
David J. Mulvaney	28	87
Gerard Grabowski	31	84
Kevin G. Staas	31	54



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Years
Charles E. Hall	68
Howard Schneider	30
Robert F. O'Connor	28
Frederick M. Strang	27
Philip T. Omdahl	24
Robert Louis Smialek	23
Richard A. Kunzier	17
Deacon Peter Casamento	16
Scott J. Hiltgen	14
Frank William Mayle	14
Alfred (Rick) R. Miller	13
Michael J. Lavecchia	13
Larry V. Middendorf	9
Leo J. Shuzdak Jr.	8
Matthew F. Ukleja	7
Rev. Patrick Dubois	5
Patrick J. Keigher	5
Luis A. Montalvo	5
Dr. Andres O. Soriano	5
John S. Calkins	3
James (Jake) Delgaudio	2



SK Rick Miller	Roberta Reamer
Anita Hemseri	Linda Waldt
Connie Smith	Renee McPhail
Pam & Jim Russell	Frank Bruno
Michael Donaldson	Leroy Maciel
Chuck Donalson	Eric Hatch
George J Barbiero Sr.	Paul Migliori
Tracy Amico	Pete Crowell
Jean Richardson	All Knights of Columbus Brothers
Tim Lynch	
Chuck Lynch	
Gussie Wiess	

This prayer list is a testament to our commitment to one another, a space where we can place the names of our fellow knights, cherished family members, and dear friends. Whether facing health issues or grappling with personal challenges, each person needs our heartfelt prayers.



ASSEMBLY 1818 APPOINTED POSITIONS



Color Corps Commander	Martin Reis	209-480-6043
Faithful Friar	Father Jay Jancarz	
Cemetery Activity Coordinator	Rick Anderson	321-303-8172
Membership Chairman & Committee	Steve Vacca Jim Lakatos Tony Salvucci Joe Frech	954-655-1110
Retention Chairman	Charles Woodrum	304-282-8733
Victory for Veterans Gala Chairman & Event Coordinator	Darwin Reeck	941-541-9657
Football Commissioner	Richard Kunzier	973-903-1226
Welfare Chairman	Paul Caccatore	913-378-4931
Admissions Chairman & Committee	Deacon Rich Frohmiller Steve Vacca Tony Salvucci	914-388-4389
Knights on Bikes	Bill Blanchard	732-841-6074
Photographer	Mike Mauti	978-807-0421
Assembly Rosary Leader	Bob O'Brien	732-606-3738
Newsletter & Webmaster	George E. Barbiero	203-885-8238
Relief Committee	Tony Hopfinger George Barbiero Vinny Gelsomino	412-496-6776 815-409-2385
AD HOC Committee for Bylaw Review	Mike Milak Kevin Szopinski Darwin Reeck Tony Hopfinger	941-380-7248



Council Updates & Family and Pro Life News



Below you will find the websites for each of the third-degree councils that contribute to our Assembly. Although each Council is unique, they all share the core values of charity, unity, and fraternity. We encourage you to explore each website as well as Deacon Rich's *Family and Pro Life News*.



[Click here](#) for Council 7997 San Pedro.



[Click here](#) for Council 15821 Our Lady of Mount Carmel.



[Click here](#) for Council 9924. Our Lady of Lourdes.



[Click here](#) for Council 7052 Epiphany Cathedral.



[Click here](#) for the monthly *Family and ProLife News Briefs* from Deacon Rich.