

INVOCATION



JUNE 2024

2024 State Convention

The 120th Annual FSC Convention



The 120th Annual FSC Convention was held at Hyatt Regency in Orlando Florida on May 24th and 25th with members and their families across the state.

To see more pictures go to [Images of the KofC Florida State Council - 2024 Florida State Convention](https://www.kofcfoto.com) (kofcfoto.website)

If you would to have electronic copies of the Report Book, Ad Book, the Necrology book and the presentations you can go to the following link: [2024 State Convention](https://floridakofc.org) (floridakofc.org)





Knightly Honors



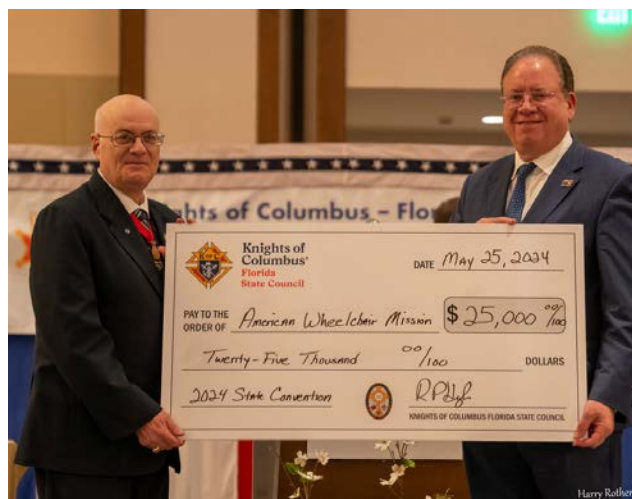
2023-2024 Chaplain of the year Rev Joe Gates



2023-2024 Family of the Year Frank and Imelda Moeslein
Council 7826 St. Thomas Moore



2023-2024 Knight of the Year James Thennes, Sr
Council 13527 Christ the Redeemer



Is Your Personal Information Accurate?

Every member of the Knights of Columbus in the Florida jurisdiction is listed on the Florida KofC website. Financial Secretaries update council lists on the Supreme and State websites at least quarterly. To ensure your information is correct, please review the brief YouTube video link below to confirm that your personal information and your preferred contact information is correct.

The 5-minute video describes how to log on or gain initial access, and reviews how to correct or confirm your personal information.

Please note that if you are a State, Assembly or Council officer, chairman or director, you must remain subscribed to the State Council's email list. Failure to do so will result in you missing important communications concerning your position and may result in your forfeiture of that position.

Follow the instructions on the video https://youtu.be/_IVS3XkgiUs and while you are on the site, check out the other good news and information is available to you with just a click or two.

Address to the Delegates

By State Deputy Richard Hughes

Once again, I want to welcome all of you to the 120th Annual Meeting of the Knights of Columbus Florida State Council. We are here this weekend to gather in Fraternity, to celebrate the achievements of the past Fraternal Year, to conduct the necessary business of the Florida State Council, and hopefully, in the process, learn something new to bring back to our Council members across the Jurisdiction.

I can honestly say that the past year has been one of tremendous success throughout Florida. As I traveled around the State on our Spirit of Unity tour early in the year, I was tremendously uplifted by the dedication and enthusiasm shown by so many Council leaders for the mission of our Order. And you have followed through with your commitment all year long.

Hundreds of activities have been reported from across the Jurisdiction, including such varied programs as feeding families in need and the homeless, fundraising for pregnancy centers, providing volunteer and financial support for Special Olympics of Florida, and conducting Holy Hours and Eucharistic Processions. And I know that there are many, many more programs that go unreported by Councils. Service programs are at the center of every Council's mission, and it gratifying to see so many Councils taking this to heart.

This has also been a great year for charitable fundraising by Councils in support of our causes. About 70 Councils participated in the traditional Citizens with Disabilities campaign through Florida K of C Charities, collectively raising over \$250,000, with over \$75,000 raised for Special Olympics of Florida alone. 36 Councils raised over \$58,000 directly for the American Wheelchair Mission. Over 100 Councils contributed \$180,600 to support 261 seminarians through the Order's RSVP program. As of May 1, 56 Councils this

year have participated in the Order's Aid and Support After Pregnancy program, otherwise known as the ASAP, program, supporting pregnancy centers and maternal homes, and have raised over \$213,000, which currently puts Florida number one in the Order! And that doesn't even count our State fundraising campaign

in May for seven pregnancy centers serving the poorer areas of each Florida Diocese, which has exceeded \$54,000 so far! As for Ultrasound projects--\$390,000 has been raised for 7 projects that have been completed or approved by Supreme, with another 3 under review and 2 more underway!

I also know that many Councils have taken on the new Cor initiative to introduce spiritual development into our activities. While we don't have any good statistics on Cor, I do know that many Councils have reported tremendous success with Cor. As Catholics, Knights of Columbus should never ignore the spiritual component of our work, and Cor is great way to systematically incorporate spiritual development into the life of a Council.

It has also been a tremendous year for membership growth. Already, as of mid-May, 142 Councils in Florida have achieved their membership goals, representing 43% of our active Councils, and another 69 are within range of making their goals by June 30. As well, 54 of our 86 Districts have also met or exceeded their membership goals. Your commitment to growing the Order has enabled the Florida Jurisdiction to exceed its membership goals on May 9, which, I am told, is one of the earliest dates that has



*State Deputy
Richard Hughes*

ever been accomplished! That is certainly not my achievement—it is a result of your collective dedication and successful recruiting efforts! Now, if all 211 of these Councils can meet the other requirements for Star Council, I think we could say this would be one of the best years ever for the Florida State Council!

But we should always remember that this is NOT about the numbers or about getting a plaque for a trophy case. Those of you who have heard me speak on our Spirit of Unity tour know that Star Council goals set by Supreme relate directly to the mission of the Knights of Columbus, and so Star Council is a measure of a Council's success in executing that mission. The more Councils that can achieve those goals, the closer we get to achieving that Spirit of Unity across the Florida Jurisdiction and the Order.

While we take a pause this weekend to celebrate our achievements, we also should recognize that, in the words of one of my brother State Deputies, the end of the Fraternal Year is not a destination, it is a checkpoint. In that vein, I hope that all Council leaders this weekend not only take the time to celebrate your accomplishments, but that you take the opportunity to get new ideas and learn new ways of doing things. To that end, we are, for the first time, introducing workshops into the State Convention. I think we have chosen timely topics—Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund, Cor, Safe Environment, and website training. We know we may not get this entirely right, and so we really want your feedback on these workshops. Ultimately, we want to ensure that we can continue to improve the service we provide to our parishes and our communities.

While we want to continue to conduct and enhance our service programs and charitable works, the upcoming Fraternal Year poses a special challenge. 2024 is, of course, an election year. I don't have to tell you that the polarization and partisanship in our nation is intense, but we must remember that, as Councils and individual Knights, we cannot be involved in partisan politics. This is a very strict rule of the Order. As an individual, of course, one may be involved in partisan politics as a matter of free will, but a

person cannot represent himself as a Knight in such activities, nor can Councils as an organization. Even the appearance of involvement in partisan politics must be avoided.

However, having said that, the situation is very different when it comes to nonpartisan issue advocacy, and there is a very grave issue that will be on the ballot in November—namely, the Proposed Amendment 4 to the Florida Constitution which will enshrine unregulated abortion and make Florida one of the most pro-abortion states in the nation. The amendment language is very problematic, using undefined terms

like “healthcare provider”, “patient health”, and “viability”, which will very likely lead to allowance of second and third trimester abortions and take physicians completely out of the picture. And the amendment, if passed, would jeopardize existing laws and prohibit new ones that protect the health and safety of women, and would eliminate parental consent for a minor to have an abortion—which would make abortion the only medical decision for which parents have no say. The Florida Bishops have issued a strong joint statement against this proposed amendment, and all of us here should become familiar with their position.

What is our role as the Knights of Columbus? Quite simply, it is to do everything we can to support our Bishops and our clergy in opposing this amendment. This is truly a lay evangelization mission, and we should take on this mission boldly and confidently, under the leadership of our Bishops. But how do we do this?

First and foremost, our Bishops have asked us to pray, for without prayer, we will accomplish nothing. A specific prayer has been composed, which is already available digitally. You will see prayer cards in your registration packets. I would ask all Knights of Columbus Councils to recite this prayer at meetings and other gatherings, as a constant reminder of what is at stake.

Second, we must promote the reasons why this amendment is wrong. The Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops is starting to publish support materials for Dioceses and parishes to promote opposition to this amendment. At least one

Bishop has already produced a video message on the subject. Let's use those materials in our evangelization efforts to promote opposition to the amendment, particularly among our fellow Catholics.

Third, encourage all Knights—and all Catholics—to register to vote, and to vote “No” to this proposed amendment in November. Nonpartisan voter registration drives have always been a proper Knights of Columbus function.

Finally, in our evangelization efforts, we should also take this opportunity to reflect on why, as Catholics, we oppose abortion. I am certainly the last person to give you theological exposition on the topic, but I can tell you the way I think about it as a lay Catholic.

- God made human beings in His image
- God took on our humanity as Jesus Christ, and through His Death and Resurrection, He has called each and every one of us to share in the Divine life, body and soul, and to be with Him in all eternity.

What that means is that all human life is sacred, from conception to natural death. So why do we oppose abortion? Because all human life is sacred. Why do we oppose euthanasia and the death

penalty? Because all human life is sacred. Why do we as Knights support pregnancy centers and maternal homes? Because all human life is sacred. Why do we partner with and support Special Olympics and American Wheelchair Mission? Because all human life is sacred. Why do we conduct and participate in programs to feed the hungry, house the homeless, and provide coats to children in need? Because all human life is sacred. In my view, every service program we conduct as

Knights is based, at least in part, on belief that all human life is sacred.

Tomorrow, we will be hearing more from a representative of the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops, and they will have a table in the foyer. But let us resolve now to get behind our Bishops in this most important task.

I am proud to be a Knight of Columbus. And I am proud to stand beside all you as we continue to serve our parishes and our communities. And as this second year of the National Eucharistic Revival draws to a close, let us continue to deepen our faith as we step up our service and our evangelization efforts, and continue to make the Order flourish in the Florida Jurisdiction.

Vivat Jesus, Veni Sancte Spiritus



Did you know that the State of Florida Council has a YouTube Channel? Well, we do! This is a place where we can put in videos of the all the great things that we do as Knights in the State of Florida.

During the State Convention we took video interviews of some of the Dignitaries that honored us with their presence. You can

see the videos by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Please be sure to subscribe to the channel so you will be notified when new videos are added. If you have any videos that you would like to add that shows your Council doing good works please email Jim Clark, Broadcast Media Relations and Production Director at jclark1@gmail.com.

Celebrating a Milestone

The Florida State Council of the Knights of Columbus proudly celebrated a historic milestone with its 120th State Convention. This event marked over a century of fraternity, charity, and unity, bringing together members from across the state to reflect on their achievements and plan for the future.

The convention, held from May 24 – 26 was a grand gathering of Knights and their families, showcasing the enduring spirit and commitment of the Knights of Columbus. The Hyatt-Regency Resort provided the perfect backdrop for this momentous occasion. Attendees were treated to a blend of insightful discussions, spiritual enrichment, and fraternal bonding.

The convention featured a series of keynote speeches from esteemed leaders within the organization, including a video of Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly and the keynote speaker Very Rev. Alberto Hernandez, President/Rector of SVDP Regional Seminary. Also, comments from Ronald Schwartz, Supreme Treasurer. Their addresses highlighted the organization's recent accomplishments, current challenges, and future aspirations. Scott A. O'Connor a Supreme Director, PSD added to the festivities.

A variety of workshops were conducted, focusing on topics such as leadership development, charitable initiatives, membership growth, and community engagement. These sessions provided valuable insights and practical strategies for local councils to implement in their respective communities.

One of the highlights was the awards ceremony, where councils and individual knights were recognized for their outstanding contributions over the past year. Awards were presented for exemplary service in areas such as faith, family, community, and life. Special recognition was given to councils that demonstrated exceptional growth in membership and innovative charitable activities. A special award was presented by the Special Olympics of Florida and a presentation by one of their Special Athletes.

At the heart of the convention was a deep sense

of spirituality and faith. Daily Masses, Eucharistic Adoration rosary sessions, and spiritual reflections were integral parts of the agenda, offering attendees moments of contemplation and renewal. The presence of the State Chaplain Very Rev. Robert J. Kantor and the Most Rev. Patrick C. Pinder, Archbishop of Nassau, and other clergy members added spiritual significance to the event.

As the convention concluded, there was a palpable sense of excitement and optimism about the future. The discussions and resolutions passed during the convention set the stage for the Knights of Columbus in Florida to continue their mission of charity, unity, and fraternity with renewed vigor. All State Officers were reelected for a second term.

The Florida State Council remains committed to serving communities across the state, guided by the principles that have defined the Knights of Columbus for over a century. The 120th State Convention was not only a celebration of past achievements but also a powerful affirmation of the ongoing dedication and brotherhood that will drive the organization forward.

The Florida State Council of the Knights of Columbus extends its heartfelt gratitude to all the attendees, speakers, volunteers, and sponsors who contributed to the success of the 120th State Convention. Your participation and support are invaluable as we continue our journey together.

For more information about the Knights of Columbus and to get involved with your local council, visit our website at www.floridakofc.org.

This article captures the essence and highlights of the 120th State Convention of the Florida State Council of the Knights of Columbus, celebrating a legacy of service and brotherhood while looking forward to future endeavors. As the State Secretary, I would like to thank all who attended personally. and say *job well done!*



State Secretary
Michael P. Gizewski

The Holy Spirit and the Eucharist

By State Chaplain Very Rev. Bob Kantor

“Do not be afraid. Just have faith.” - Mark 5:36

In the last month my faith has been bolstered by powerful experiences with the Knights. The State Convention drew many of us to Orlando Memorial Day weekend. The Knights on Bikes rolled in Thursday, converging at the Knights hall in Kissimmee and continuing on to the Hyatt-Regency Hotel. They did so with a great spirit and a sense of fraternity, one of the great hallmarks of the Order.

The Convention itself gave us the opportunity to be inspired by the Supreme Knight in his video address, and our own State Deputy affirmed us for a job well done this year and set a course for growth and exciting initiatives for the next fraternal year. I had the chance to confer with Diocesan Chaplains and other priests who attended, strengthening our commitment to be good shepherds for the flock of Knights entrusted to us. The family of the year, Knight of the year and Chaplain of the year awards reminded me of the everyday heroic acts that take place among our Knights. As many as we can formally recognize, there are countless others doing good for God and our Order.

I had the chance to address the delegates and others present with a reminder of the focus of our State Deputy, beautifully embodied in the state pin we wear. *Veni Sancte Spiritus* (Come, Holy Spirit) are the words he chose. And the Holy Spirit never lets us down. The great Advocate promised by Jesus has enlivened us to do great things, refreshed us when we need a boost, and enlightened us when we needed a clearer focus. I encouraged those present to work effectively with their chaplains/pastors, establishing and nourishing a good relationship that will help bear fruit for the good of all.

The other feature of our state pin is a monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament. In this time of Eucharistic Revival in the Church in

America, a Eucharistic Procession followed the opening Mass of our convention, highlighting the Eucharist that feeds and leads us as Catholics. I urged the Knights at the convention to remain strong in the Eucharist. From parish phase events of the Eucharistic Revival that will soon transition

to a national Eucharistic Congress, to taking part in Adoration, Eucharistic processions, Corporate Communion and Memorial Masses, Knights must be present with, receive worthily and be strengthened by Christ in Communion. United in Him, there is nothing that we cannot do.

This month I had the chance to travel to New Haven, Connecticut, the Supreme Headquarters of our Order. With other State Chaplains, we were updated on the impressive strides being made to enhance the spirituality of our own members and all men through new initiatives like *Cor* and see how our members are serving others with the heart of Christ. We had a pilgrimage to the parishes where our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney ministered.

The heart of Fr. McGivney touched my heart. Our Supreme Chaplain, Archbishop William Lori, celebrated Mass with the State Chaplains, State Deputies and Supreme Officers, uniting us in the Eucharist as we celebrated the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. These experiences have inspired me to serve you as State Chaplain. Together, may we live the words of Jesus to the synagogue official whose daughter was healed: “Do not be afraid. Just have faith.” *Vivat Jesus!*



*State Chaplain
Very Rev. Bob Kantor*

Divine Foundations

By Former State Chaplain Reverend Salvatore Pignato

A piece of the ministry of Pope Francis is the concept and ministry of "inclusion" in the Catholic Church. This is not a new concept or even a new ministry. I would make a guess that this concept of "inclusion", when applied to the Catholic Church, is over two thousand years old. To prove this, let us start from the beginning of the Church to understand this concept and ministry of "inclusion".

The concept of the Church was conceived in the Promise of God to Adam and Eve when He promised to send them a Messiah. In that Promise, the seed of "Church" was beginning to take shape and form. In the spectacular event of the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem of Judea, that seed was now planted. It was a seed that was prophesied by God to the Serpent in the Garden of Eden when God said, "I will put enmity between your seed and her seed, and you shall lie in wait for his heel." In the birth of Jesus, that seed was now planted on fertile ground and ready to blossom as the mustard seed of the New Testament.

In the birth of Jesus, the "Church" was no longer simply a concept, the foundation was now laid by Divine Command in Jesus Christ, true God and true Man. In being true God and true Man, Jesus is the Son of God born of a woman by the Holy Spirit.

This Jesus, in His birth, was poor, born in a stable, and put in swaddling clothes. He was the poorest of the poor by human standards but rich by Divine standards.

Being the poorest of the poor, who were the first to hear the announcement that the Messiah was born? You guessed it. It was to a band of poor shepherds tending their flock of sheep. These shepherds were asked by the Angels to venerate Jesus as Messiah and join that fledgling "Church" in its seminal form. When we

speak of this humble beginning of "Church" in a stable, we see a poor band of shepherds who seem to fit the first Beatitude of the Sermon on the Mount...."Blessed are the poor in spirit, they shall see the Kingdom of God."

Not only do we have the inclusion of the poor in this fledgling Church, but we also see the underlying attitude and spiritual readiness in order to join this new Church. As Jesus and these shepherds, the members of the body of Christ must have an attitude of being poor. The first goal of eternal life is to be poor in spirit, a prerequisite established by the birth of Jesus in a stable.

We see in this humble beginning of "Church", the beginning of "inclusion". "Church" is for everyone. To prove this, Let us examine the inclusion of the Magi. Even the rich and great are included. The Magi



*Former State Chaplain
Rev. Salvatore Pignato*



came looking for the King of Kings. They found Him and were invited into the "Church" founded by Jesus Christ in its infant form in the humble dwelling of Jesus.

After the baptism of Jesus, He began His ministry. Again, what kind of people did He choose to help Him in His ministry? The men He chose, those early Apostles, were poor. They were fishermen and labor workers. After the death of Jesus, Jesus was not finished adding to His band of Apostles, Jesus chose another Apostle, a very learned man by the name of Saul who would soon become known as Paul. After His death, a doctor by the name of Luke, who never knew Jesus personally, joined His disciples and Luke even wrote a Gospel. We can see when Jesus says "Go teach all Nations", all are welcome. What a kadry of people. Talk about inclusion.

After the Ascension of Jesus and the Pentecost event, the apostles went throughout the world building "Church". Those who joined were Jew and Gentile alike. As the Church grew through the ministry of the apostles and those whom they

baptized, the Church grew and expanded. The face of the Church included the cultures and traditions of peoples. If we look into our own family church we attend, we see different races, cultures, traditions, different colors and maybe different ways of praying.

The last two we can talk about as referenced above and whose Feast we celebrate on June 29th is St. Peter and St. Paul. These two men certainly exhibited inclusion into the Church of Jesus Christ. Both are Jewish, but with different experiences, different ways of thinking and encountering Jesus. One man who said to Jesus you are the Son of God and the other man who persecuted Christians. Talk again about diversity and inclusion. These two diverse men unified in Jesus Christ, planted their feet solidly in the foundation of the Church who is Jesus Christ, and became the two Pillars and CEOs of that body of Christ, called today, the Catholic Church.



*Knights of Columbus **Santa Maria Council 4999** held a fundraising event on Saturday, April 13, 2024 for the Special Olympics of Palm Beach County. 170 people attended the sold out Clam Bake, which included a live band, silent auction, 50/50 raffle, and fabulous food prepared by member Knights. Pictured above are Co-Chairs, Mike Perfetto and John Manna, presenting a check for \$6,750 to Richard Fleming, Director, Special Olympics, PBC, Ryan Ruch, Program Director, Special Olympics, PBC, Brad Davis, Special Olympic PBC, volunteer and athlete. The event was a huge success.*



Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

He took the child by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise!” (Gospel for June 30, Mk 5:41)

Jesus restores the young girl to life by his word and touch. He restores us to life through the sacraments, particularly the sacrament of penance, with the words of absolution pronounced by his priest. We too can improve the lives of those in need around us, extending to them Christ’s love through our own words and works of charity.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to find one way each day — even a small way — to concretely share Christ’s love with those you meet.

Questions for Reflection:

Do you recognize that your charitable works are an extension of Christ’s mission of healing and compassion on earth? How does that awareness affect the work that you do? How might you recognize little opportunities to be a “Christ for others” to people you encounter each day?

A Memorial Day Mass

Sir Knights of the Our Lady of Peace Assembly 2709 Honor Guard participated at the Diocese of Palm Beach annual Memorial Day Mass.

Bishop Gerald R. Barbarito celebrated the Mass at Our Lady of Peace Cemetery in Royal Palm Beach, offered for all of those who have died in service to our country and for all of those who have served in the military.

Additionally, there was a special military tribute to all of the men and women who have served our country. The Lake Worth ROTC, Project 425 and Palm Beach Pipe & Drums joined the Assembly 2709 Honor Guard in providing honors at the Mass. Nine of our Sir Knights were able to



withstand the mid-90 degree weather to take part in the procession, as well as lead a recessional after the Mass, toward the cemetery’s memorial site, honoring the deceased from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. Assembly 2709 and its Honor Guard are proud to be a part of this annual Mass celebration dignifying the sacrifice of the men and women of the armed services.

Armed Forces Day Golf Tourney

The Southern Guide Dogs for Veterans and the Military Chaplain's Fund shared all profits. The total volunteer hours invested was 687.5. 69 major donors provided cash and gifts to be awarded or auctioned. After 117 golfers returned from playing 18 holes, they received an excellent dinner and participated in an awards ceremony.

Other Event Day activities included a putting contest, sale of Mulligans, '50/50' raffle, Silent Auction (26 items), Tee Sponsors (30), Flag Sponsors (13), and 40 other Gift Bag donors.

The leadership staff held seven meetings to ensure the success of our inaugural and future Armed Forces Day Golf Tournaments.

Thanks to our dedicated volunteer staff, our total cost was \$16,546, and the funds we distributed to selected charities amounted to \$22,173!

We advertised on our Assembly website and produced pre-announcements and an official brochure for distribution.

We considered our first attempt at a Golf Tournament a significant success monetarily due to enthusiastic golfers, generous donors, and tireless volunteer staff.

Charity Recipients:

Military Chaplains Fund

Service members and their families' spiritual and moral well-being. Counseling. In most cases, military chaplains minister to military personnel and their families, and in some cases, they will also work with local civilians within a military area of operations.

Southeastern Guide Dogs (Dogs Inc)

Dogs Inc.'s extraordinary dogs transform lives throughout the United States—at no cost to the recipients—thanks to the generosity of their donors and volunteers.

Veterans

Why choose a service dog from Dogs Inc?

When you need a buddy who's got your back,



our dogs are here for you. Your highly skilled service dog will change your life, boost your confidence, and restore your freedom. You'll get the healthiest, best-behaved dog with a top-notch pedigree and thousands of hours of training. And you don't pay anything! We provide your dog with online and in-person training, lifetime alum support, dog food, and preventative veterinary care at no cost.



Altar Server Appreciation Day



On May 18th, 2024, the Diocese of St. Petersburg hosted its annual Altar Server Appreciation Day at Christ the King Parish in Tampa, FL. Altar Servers of the Year and their families came from all over the Diocese to participate in the event.

The day began at 10 am with Bishop Parkes leading a morning prayer for all attendees. Following the prayer, awards were presented to the Altar Servers of the Year.

The Knights of Columbus from Region 4 raised funds to cover the cost of food for the event. Twenty-two Knights from across the Region volunteered to assist with serving. FSC State Warden Ed Sleyzak and Region 4 Administrator John Papa also attended the event.

This event has now become a yearly tradition for the Knights of Region 4, and we are eagerly anticipating its continuation in the future.



Master John O'Toole

SK John O'Toole wasn't even a candidate for Master of the Florida District of the DeSoto Province at the biennial meeting of the Florida Fourth Degree in April 2020.

O'Toole gave his report as director of exemplars at the meeting – held virtually due to COVID restrictions – and was not even one of the three candidates for the two-year Master position.

You can imagine his surprise when he received a phone call several months later from Supreme Master Dennis Stoddard informing him of his selection.

"I got a call from the Supreme Master, who told me I was the new Master," O'Toole recalled. "I wasn't even running; I didn't even go to the biennial meeting. My wife (Nadine) was sick. She was in the hospital and in rehab, and this was during COVID. Then she died that summer. It was a very difficult time."

Scheduling any live event was difficult at the time, especially a degree ceremony that brought together Sir Knights and Candidates from across the state. Planned Exemplifications in Fall 2020 for Bradenton and Riverview were cancelled due to COVID-related restrictions. Finally, O'Toole's first Exemplification was at St. Sylvester Catholic Church in Gulf Breezes on Feb. 6, 2021. The honoree was the Very Rev. William Wack, CSC, Bishop of the Pensacola-Tallahassee Diocese.

One month later, O'Toole hosted a virtual Exemplification using the Zoom platform – a

ceremony that was repeated in June and again (in Spanish and English) in October. It wasn't until November that the next live ceremony was held, continuing the Thanksgiving Day Weekend tradition at the Florida Hotel at the Florida Mall in Orlando.

"Virtual degrees were both good and bad," he recalled. "It's so much better if you can experience the Degree in reality, with the color, the music and

everything. Also, it's a shared experience. You make it with a live group of your brothers, and it means much more. But with virtual, people were able to keep joining. Each council, each assembly was strengthened by that."

O'Toole chaired the 2022 biennial meeting held live in Orlando – and was the only announced candidate. This time, the confirmation call from Supreme Knight Stoddard was not

unexpected as O'Toole began his second and final two-year term. With conditions coming back to normal, the Florida District resumed live Exemplifications at locations throughout the state. The 2022 biennial meeting included an idea for a program presented by Assembly 2951 of Apopka involving clipping stars from retired flags and offering them in a small packet to parishioners. Donations were then forwarded to the Gary Sinise Foundation. The program was adapted – with success – by several assemblies throughout the state.

"One of the advantages of the biennial meeting – just like the State Convention – is brothers



getting together and sharing ideas. Each assembly gets to hear what other assemblies are doing, and it gives them new ideas for what they can be doing in the future.”

In March 2023, O’Toole returned to Gulf Breezes – to host a ceremony while hosting SK Michael R. McKusker – recently appointed Supreme Master of the Fourth Degree.

“I’ve had a great time as the Master, and I’m glad we were able to transition out of COVID,” he said at the recent Florida State Convention. “We made a lot of changes, including the virtual degree, and Florida has shown we produce a great product. I’ve met a lot of great people I’ve met across the state at the different assemblies. The Knights of Columbus are a great group of guys, and the Fourth Degree is the cream of the crop – wherever you go.”

Following the state convention, O’Toole was planning to return to Guatemala with Monsignor Thomas Skindeleski, repeating a recent trip to help that country recover from hurricane damage.

After that, he will remain active in the Knights and the Fourth Degree.

“I’m more than willing to help with whatever the State wants me to do,” he said. “I hope to remain active in the new (Fourth Degree Ceremony), I hope they give me my old job back as Historian. I really enjoyed doing that, and I think I can memorize the new one. I’ve changed the other degrees four times, and I think I can change to the new one!”

Rosary On The Water



On 10 May 2024, the Straz Center in Tampa, Florida, hosted "Roar the Rosary" with Bishop Gregory Parks from the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida; Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke, American Cardinal Prelate of the Roman Catholic Church from Lacrosse, Wisconsin; Mother Adela Galindo,

founder of the Religious Order Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary; Gus Lloyd, Host of Seize the Day on SIRIUS XM's The Catholic Channel. Over 3000 religious and devout Catholics attended the event.

The presentations emphasized the importance of the Holy Rosary, with Mother Adela describing



it as "The Compendium of the Life of Jesus through the eyes of the Blessed Virgin Mary," and Cardinal Burke emphasizing the importance of the Americas' devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Angelic musicians and vocalists, along with Gus Lloyd's narration, added to the spiritual atmosphere. Following the presentations, Cardinal Burke led the congregation in the praying of the Holy Rosary.

Before the praying of the Holy Rosary, the Holy Eucharist was placed into the Monstrance and placed on an altar on the Straz stage. After the Third Decade of the Rosary, a procession was formed with the Holy Eucharist and Monstrance. The entire congregation followed the Monstrance from the Straz Center to the riverfront of the Hillsborough River. The Holy Eucharist was escorted by the Sir Knights Honor Guard of Tampa's Fr. William Tyrrell, SJ, Assembly 0161, consisting of Sir Knights from the Sacred Heart Church Council, the MacDill Air Force Base Our Lady of the Bay Chapel Round Table, and the Christ the King Church Council.

The procession, led by the Sir Knights, navigated through a circuitous and precarious route that significantly narrowed in places and dropped at least 6-10 feet in elevation within 40-50 yards before reaching a barge on the Hillsborough River. The barge then moved up the river and centered

itself on the congregation, reminiscent of biblical passages Luke 5:1-3, Mark 4:1, and Matthew 13:1-3. Through the Eucharist, Jesus ministered to and blessed the 3000+ participants at this deeply moving event.

The Sir Knights of Assembly 0161 considered it an honor and privilege to have served the Lord in the solemn recitation of the Holy Rosary and Hillsborough River Benediction, bringing a meaningful experience to Tampa Bay's Catholic Community.





FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

The nonpartisan public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Florida

201 West Park Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-7715 * (850) 222-3803 * www.flaccb.org

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.ⁱ 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

ⁱ Florida law distinguishes between parental *consent* prior to a minor's abortion (Ch. 390.0114(5)), which would be invalidated by Amendment 4, and parental *notice* of a minor's abortion (Ch. 390.0114(4)), which would be retained.



CONFERENCIA DE OBISPOS CATOLICOS DE LA FLORIDA

La voz no partidista de la política pública de la Iglesia Católica en Florida

201 West Park Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-7715 * (850) 205-6820 * www.flaccb.org

Obispos de la Florida se Oponen a la Enmienda Extrema sobre el Aborto **Voten No en la Enmienda 4**

La Enmienda 4 de la Florida, que aparecerá en la papeleta electoral de la Florida en noviembre de 2024, es una propuesta extrema que legaliza el aborto a término sin ninguna protección para el niño antes de nacer, incluso cuando el niño es capaz de sentir dolor. Esta propuesta para enmendar la constitución de nuestro estado prohibiría todas las restricciones al aborto antes de la viabilidad y crearía una amplia excepción que cualquier profesional de la salud podría aprovechar para permitir el aborto hasta el nacimiento.

Además, la enmienda anularía o pondría en grave peligro las leyes estatales de sentido común que han regulado el aborto durante años. Entre ellas se incluyen los requisitos fundamentales de salud y seguridad para las clínicas donde se practican los abortos; la necesidad de que sea un médico quien realice los abortos; los requisitos de consentimiento informado; las leyes que limitan la financiación pública del aborto; y los requisitos de consentimiento parental antes del aborto de una menor.¹ Estos riesgos demuestran la naturaleza extrema de la enmienda.

Exhortamos a todos los floridanos de buena voluntad a que luchen contra la legalización del aborto tardío y se opongan a la enmienda sobre el aborto. Al hacerlo, no sólo protegeremos las vidas humanas más débiles, inocentes e indefensas entre nosotros, sino también a innumerables mujeres de todo el estado contra los daños del aborto.

La vida humana es sagrada. La dignidad de la persona humana es el cimiento de una visión moral de la sociedad. Los ataques directos a personas inocentes nunca son aceptables moralmente, en ninguna etapa ni condición. En nuestro estado, la vida humana se destruye repetidamente por el aborto. En 2023, más de 84,000 niños vulnerables y sin voz fueron abortados en la Florida.

Este asunto sobre el respeto de la dignidad humana y del valor fundamental de la vida humana es de gran importancia tanto para nuestra Iglesia como para nuestro estado. La amenaza del aborto continúa siendo nuestra prioridad preeminente en la política pública. Por lo tanto, apoyamos una campaña coordinada para movilizarnos contra la enmienda propuesta. Con este fin, ofrecemos esta oración para derrotar la Enmienda 4:

Dios eterno: Tú das la vida y deseas un futuro para todos tus hijos. Apodérate de nuestra nación, estado y comunidad, y despierta en cada corazón la admiración por el regalo de la vida. Envía tu Espíritu para reforzarnos con sabiduría y fortaleza mientras defendemos a las madres y a los niños de la Florida de las leyes que desprecian su salud y su seguridad.

María y José confiaron en ti y recibieron a Jesús en nuestro mundo quebrantado. Dios todopoderoso, pedimos que ellos intercedan para proteger a los niños por nacer y a sus madres, y dirigir a todos los padres y madres en la crianza de sus hijos. Que nos ayuden a construir la civilización del amor al defender el carácter sagrado de la vida y acompañar a las mujeres embarazadas que así lo necesiten.

Te lo pedimos por Cristo, nuestro Señor. Amén.

Nuestra Señora, Madre de la Familia, ¡rueda por nosotros! San José, Protector de los No Nacidos, ¡rueda por nosotros!

Reverendísimo Thomas G. Wenski
Arquidiócesis de Miami

Reverendísimo Gerald M. Barbarito
Diócesis de Palm Beach

Reverendísimo Frank J. Dewane
Diócesis de Venice

Reverendísimo John G. Noonan
Diócesis de Orlando

Reverendísimo Gregory L. Parkes
Diócesis de St. Petersburg

Reverendísimo William A. Wack, CSC
Diócesis de Pensacola-Tallahassee

Reverendísimo Erik T. Pohlmeier
Diócesis de St. Augustine

Reverendísimo Enrique E. Delgado
Arquidiócesis de Miami

¹La ley de la Florida distingue entre el consentimiento parental previo al aborto de una menor (Cap. 390.01114(5)), que sería invalidada por la enmienda 4, y la notificación parental del aborto de una menor (Cap. 390.01114(4)), que permanecería.

INVOCATION

Knights of Columbus Florida State Council Newsletter How To Write an Article

Newsworthy • Broad Appeal • Concise • Complete • Factual • Accurate
Answers the Questions: Who, What, When, Where, Why & How

INVOCATION reports on local council activities throughout the entire State of Florida

- Article size: **300 words** ideal (half page) to 500-600 words max (full page)
- Articles submitted as an attachment in Word format - not in the body of an email
 - PDF submissions are for ads or promotions - not articles
- Pictures need to be sent separately as an attachment and the original pictures **Please do not format them in any way, we will do it**-- not embedded in a Word document
- **Articles need to be brief, highly relevant and actionable**
- **At a minimum, Who, What, When and Where needs to be in the first paragraph,**
- Articles need to be brief, to-the-point and **of interest** to the entire State Council
 - What is the event/activity about?
 - Whom did it benefit?
 - What was the result?
 - Who are the key players/Knights?
- **Similar story** submissions will be consolidated/batched into one article by the Editors
- Authors must submit on time per the Editor production calendar- **Deadline 1st of each month**
 - Late submittals will be placed farther down the newsletter or not published.
- Proof your article carefully for spelling and grammar before sending (**use spellcheck**)
- Document filename should reflect the office/title, i.e. State Deputy article
- Every Region needs to participate – one page of the Invocation will be dedicated to each Region respectively
 - If a region does not submit content their page will be eliminated from that issue
- Cover story submissions need to be submitted ahead of the deadline due to special photo editing
 - Cover story photos – in portrait style at least 1mb in size - not formatted or resized
 - filename "Cover Story"

Send all information:

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Region 2: Invocation@floridakofc.org

Region 3: John O'Malley jomalley1@cfl.rr.com

Region 4: invocation@floridakofc.org

Region 5: invocation@floridakofc.org

Region 6: Armando Minutoli alminutoli146@gmail.com

For general information or questions email: invocation@floridakofc.org



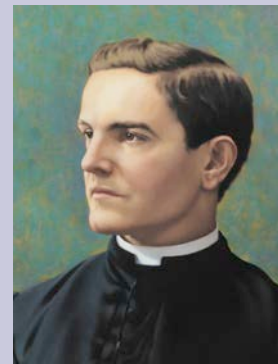
Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael J. McGivney

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed 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 Blessed 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).



Is Your Personal Information Accurate?

Every member of the Knights of Columbus in the Florida jurisdiction is listed on the Florida KofC website. Financial Secretaries update council lists on the Supreme and State websites at least quarterly. To ensure your information is correct, please review the brief YouTube video link below to confirm that your personal information and your preferred contact information is correct.

The 5-minute video describes how to log on or gain initial access, and reviews how to correct or confirm your personal information.

Please note that if you are a State, Assembly or Council officer, chairman or director, you must remain subscribed to the State Council's email list. Failure to do so will result in you missing important communications concerning your position and may result in your forfeiture of that position.

Follow the instructions on the video <https://youtu.be/IVS3XkgiUs> and while you are on the site, check out the other good news and information is available to you with just a click or two.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

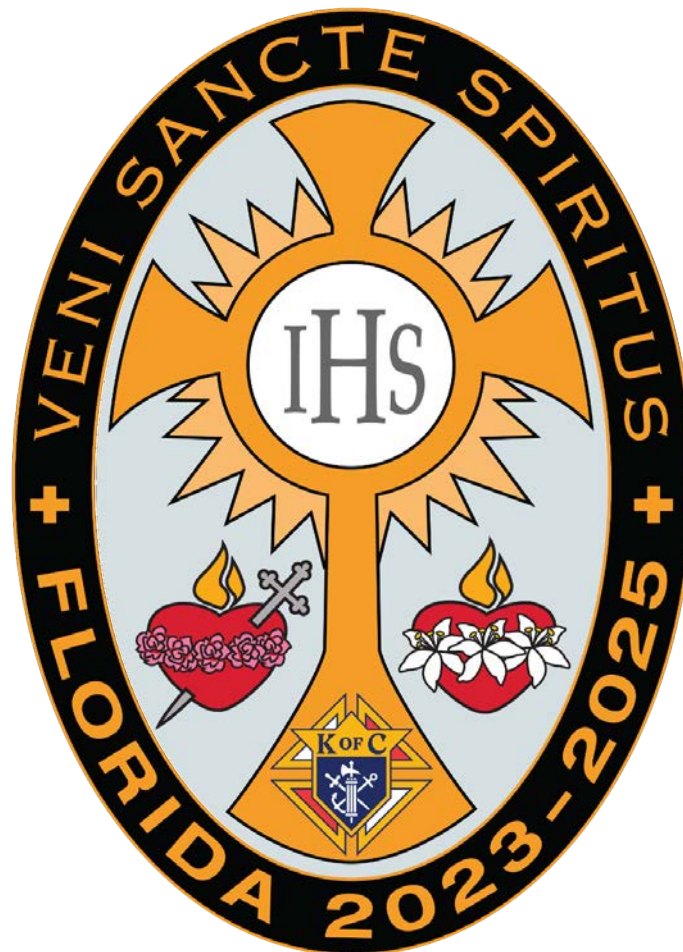
Evangelize and proclaim our faith, protect families, and perform works of charity.

Through our witness and deeds attract Catholic men to our Order.

Build the Domestic Church through service, support our parishes, clergy, and communities.

Incorporate principled fiscal responsibility for charitable giving.

The Florida State Logo



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Florida State Council Social Media

Your State Council is now on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and You Tube. We need all Brother Knights to participate and Let Your Light Shine.

- Go to Facebook and "LIKE" the page
- Go to Twitter and Instagram and "follow"
- #LetYourLightShine @KofcFlorida



Knightline

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN SERVICE TO ONE IN SERVICE TO ALL

Check out the current issue of **Knightline**, a monthly resource for local KofC leaders. It is designed to help council officers plan events and activities, meet quarterly goals for the fraternal year and learn about Orderwide news. [CLICK HERE](#) to download the issue.

COLUMBIA

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the online version of **COLUMBIA** Magazine, a publication for the Knights of Columbus.

