



# THE SHIELD

## Grand Knight's Message



Gene Jajuga  
Grand Knight  
[GrandKnight7109@gmail.com](mailto:GrandKnight7109@gmail.com)  
727.403.3261

Worthy Brother Knights & Ladies!

I hope that my report finds you and yours doing well and that you all enjoyed a wonderful Easter Season.

We are quickly approaching the end of the 2022 – 2023 Fraternal Year for our Barney Gonyea Council here at Espiritu Santo Catholic Church and I just want to share with you a brief “State of the Council” without getting into specific numbers. Please understand that any member of our Council that wants to see our Council’s status with complete details we will be happy to review these with you at any Council meeting.

As you all know, we ran into a couple of very costly and unforeseen expenses with the replacement of the freezer and the deep fryer in the Parish Center Kitchen. Since we had no choice and needed to replace these two major appliances, we also thought that it would be very prudent to upgrade them to what we really needed to take our council to the next level.

We also made the decision to upgrade the bibles that we provide and donate to the third graders of our school and religious education classes and we spent approximately \$2,000 more this year than we did the previous year. That said, these three large expenditures pushed us way over our zero-based budget by roughly \$8,000.

With one more Full Family Breakfast in May and one more Dinner Dance in June, I am projecting that we will be able to meet 100% our Council’s budgeted charitable donations this year while finishing very close to if not exactly where we started the fraternal year off on July 1, 2022, with our Council’s bank balance.

Issue 5, May 2023

Next Council Meeting  
Thursday, May 11 @ 7:30 pm  
In the Parish Center

View the Newsletter online at:  
[www.safetyharborkofc.org](http://www.safetyharborkofc.org)

Visit the State Website at:  
[www.floridakofc.org](http://www.floridakofc.org)

Visit the Supreme Website at:  
[www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org)

Earlier today, both JJ Coyne and myself distributed the new bibles to the two third grade classes at our school. It was very gratifying to see the faces of the children as we handed them their own personal bibles. They were all very polite and appreciative and it made me proud to be representing all of you and all the hard work that you do to be able to do this for them. I would also like to thank both our Deputy Grand Knight, Tom Krivchenia and JJ who made the distribution of bibles to the religious education students while I was on vacation.

### Tootsie Roll Drive:

We held our annual “Tootsie Roll Drive” after all Masses on Saturday and Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> and collected \$1264.15. The 4p Saturday Mass generated over twice the amount over the next highest Mass. We will be donating 100% of the donations received by our Council Knights to benefit the disabled in our area. Thank you to all that volunteered for this awesome cause.

|                 |                 |                  |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Phil Farney     | Vince Cristiano | George Inderwies |
| Frank McEwen    | Gene Wolanin    | Chris Mazzone    |
| Bryan Snyder    | Austin Snyder   | Matt LNU         |
| John Clarke     | Richie Resler   | Mike Engelmann   |
| Ed Amador       | Violet Amador   | JK Sujarani      |
| JJ Coyne        | Joe D’Amelio    | Peter Salesses   |
| Tom Fitzpatrick |                 |                  |

Printed inside the wrapper of each KofC tootsie roll wrapper is: “The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic, family, fraternal service organization. Our more than 1.7 million members and their families are dedicated to the ideals of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. We work to benefit

our communities, our Church and our fellow men and women. Knights have long placed a special emphasis on programs to benefit people with intellectual disabilities, and over the past decade alone we have donated more than \$1 billion and provided nearly 594 million hours of community service to them and countless others in need.

Thank you for your donation. It will help us continue this record of financial commitment and volunteer support. Please note that 100% of the profits from this project go directly to agencies and programs serving people with intellectual disabilities.”

#### **Pinellas Hope Lunch Prep & Distribution:**

We had our monthly Pinellas Hope Lunch Food Prep and Distribution on Thursday, April 20th, and the following volunteers assisted with this awesome ministry. Thank you one and all for your terrific work on behalf of our entire council.

|                |               |                 |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Santo Loparo   | Ed Amador     | Tom Fitzpatrick |
| Bob Justiana   | Tom Stanko    | Robin LaChance  |
| Betty D'Amelio | Joe D'Amelio  | John Gohman     |
| John Malone    | Bill Krajeski | John Clarke     |

#### **Upcoming Events May:**

- Council Officer's Meeting – Thursday, May 4th, at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Program Directors Meeting – Tuesday, May 9th, at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Rosary – Joyful Mysteries – Thursday, May 11th, at 6:30 PM in the John Bosco Center
- Council Business Meeting – Thursday, May 11th, 7:30 PM in the Parish Center
- Ladies Auxiliary Meeting – Thursday, May 11th, 7:30 PM in the Gathering Room
- Council Annual Retreat – Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 AM in the Parish Center
- Pinellas Hope – Lunch Meal Prep and Delivery – Thursday, May 18th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM PC Kitchen
- Kimberly Home Work Day – Saturday, May 20th, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM (1189 NE Cleveland Street, Clearwater)
- Council Full Family Breakfast – Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:30 AM – 12:00 PM
- Assembly Business Meeting – Thursday, May 25th, 7:30 AM in the John Bosco Center
- Council Officer's Meeting – Thursday, June 1st, 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Rosary – Patriotic Rosary – Thursday, June 8h, at 6:30 PM in the John Bosco Center
- Council Business Meeting – Thursday, June 8th, 7:30 PM in the Parish Center
- Ladies Auxiliary Meeting – Thursday, June 8th, 7:30 PM in the Gathering Room

Blessings for an awesome month!

Vivat Jesus!

Gene Jajuga, PFN, FFA

#### **Now That's Funny!**

And on the 8th day, God created seniors. Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom, God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their eyeglasses, keys, and other things, thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things, requiring them to bend, reach, and stretch more. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature, requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So, if you find, as you age, you are getting up and down a lot more times, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.

Nine Important Facts to Remember as We Grow Older:

#9 Death is the number 1 killer in the world.

#8 Life is sexually transmitted.

#7 Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

#6 Men have two motivations: hunger and sex, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.

#5 Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe they won't bother you for years.

#4 Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.

#3 All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

#2 In the 60's, people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.

#1 Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do today may burn your tuchus tomorrow.

Please share this wisdom with others; I would do it now, but I need to go to the bathroom!

# Council 7109 Membership Corner

Happy Month of Mary My Brothers,

As we honor our mothers, the mothers of our children, and all mothers of the world that play vital role in someone’s life, let us not forgot our heavenly mother. A mother that is always looking out for her children and ready to help and intercede for us whenever we ask. Let us remember, when we do works of charity and help those less fortunate than us, we are not only helping God’s children, but we are also helping Mary’s children. Remember that when you are speaking to new prospects and share with them that we need all the help we can to help our mother’s children of the world.

This past month we had one prospect at our Open house and two new members joined us at our Exemplification night. That is now NINE new members! We just need SIX more to meet our goal of 15 by the end of June. WE'RE SO CLOSE!!! If you have someone that is ready to join, help them join online from the link below or reach out to myself or Tom Harkins for assistance. If they have more questions, have them reach out to me or bring them to the Family Breakfast this month and we'd be happy to speak with them.

Here’s a list of membership events over the next month for opportunities to introduce new prospects to the Knights of Columbus.

- TBD – Family Breakfast (Watch your emails)
- 06/13/23 – Informational Open House
- 06/15/23 – Degree Ceremony



If you have somebody ready to join, no need to wait for an event, feel free to sign them up on the spot with this QR Code or visit: <https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-the-knights.html> and a brother Knight will reach out to them.

Blessed Michael McGivney, please pray for us to enroll SIX more Knights to support your cause! Mary Queen of the Knights, Pray for us.

Good Luck, God Bless, and Peace Always!

Brian Riley  
 Membership Director  
 Email: Brian.S.Riley@gmail.com  
 Cell: 303.921.9861

**Informational Open House Schedule:**

Jun 13

**Unified Degree Ceremony Schedule:**

Jun 15

**Look for more information from our Grand Knight**

**Council Membership Report**

|                                     |      |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Total Membership                    | 333  |
| Insurance Members                   | 137  |
| Honorary Life Members               | 68   |
| Honorary Members                    | 8    |
| 2022-2023 Membership Growth vs Goal | 9/15 |
| 2022-2023 Insurance Growth vs Goal  | 0/2  |

## Council Officers 2022-2023

|                                  |                           |              |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Grand Knight                     | Gene Jajuga, PFN, FFA     | 727.403.3261 |
| Chaplain                         | Fr. Michael W. Cooper, SJ | 727.644.5544 |
| Deputy Grand Knight              | Tom Krivchenia, PFN       | 727.366.5422 |
| Chancellor                       | Mark Feldman              | 727.366.5959 |
| Recorder                         | Bill Krajeski             | 727.784.2817 |
| Financial Secretary              | Tom Harkins               | 727.772.0607 |
| Treasurer                        | Jerry Custin, PGK, PFN    | 727.244.6464 |
| Lecturer                         | Paul Harvey, PFN          | 727.286.7171 |
| Advocate                         | Richard Resler            | 727.744.8923 |
| Warden                           | Mark Peterman, PFN        | 727.403.5993 |
| Inside Guard                     | Paul Cooper               | 727.726.6837 |
| Outside Guard                    | Jim Lankford              | 813.455.2292 |
| Guard Alternate #1               | Tim Rush                  | 727.797.7818 |
| Trustee Three Year               | John "JJ" Coyne, PGK      | 901.832.7332 |
| Trustee Two Year                 | Kenneth Seguin, PGK, PFN  | 727.331.7278 |
| Trustee One Year                 | Frank McEwen, PGK         | 727.239.2687 |
| District Deputy                  | Alan Gauzens, PGK         | 727.483.8250 |
| District Warden                  | Frank McEwen, PGK         | 727.239.2687 |
| Fraternal Benefits Advisor       | John Ruckart              | 813.855.5111 |
| Special Assistant to the Council | Vincent Cristiano         |              |
| Special Assistant to the Council | Gary Murphy               |              |

### Happy Birthday Brothers. Many Happy Returns!

Donald Bishop, Robert Bonvicino, Sean Casey, Kenneth Chmara, Terrell Clampitt, Frank Colucci, Vincent Cristiano, Jerry Custin Sr, Francisco Diaz Estrella, Mark Feldman, Jim Gencur, Mark Gurley, Bob Justiana Sr, Mark Koch, Raymond Kraker, Stephen Leger, Kevin McMullen, Brian O'Connor, Richie Resler, Walter Rybowski, Ken Seguin Sr, Robert Shepherd

### Prayers for the Sick

Don & Marie Bishop, Marie Burke (d), Bryan McGuire (d), Tim & Barbara Rush, Mario Zaccario, Ken Seguin, John Maloney (d), Sean Cooper, Ted Strab, Jim Gencur, Joseph McHale (d), Alfred Bonvicino, Ed Mandichak, Ron Lexa (d), Susanne Papa (d), Jim Schownek, Ed Warticki, Desiree, Mrs LeClerc, Barbara Dimartino, Don Breitzman, Brady Cobb, Kathy Kukulski, Andrea Coe (d), Maggie Cappabianca

Please pray for all our sick and deceased Brothers, Ladies, and family members. Please report illnesses and deaths to Sir Knight Paul Harvey, Lecturer, at 727.286.7171 or [pharvey10@verizon.net](mailto:pharvey10@verizon.net)

## Support our Vocations Fund



Austin Smith



Benjamin Harris



John Paul Grabowski

Thank you for your continued support of the Vocations Fund. As most of you know we are making annual donations to three seminarians. All three of our seminarians are located at St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, Louisiana. Austin Smith, junior year who is from Nativity parish in Brandon. Benjamin Harris, junior year from St. Anthony the Abbot, Brooksville. John Paul Grabowski, in his sophomore year, is from Catholic Student Center, USF – Tampa.

Please get your name on the list by giving \$5.00, \$10.00 or whatever you can in support of this worthy endeavor! We need to continue to support these young men and vocations but it will take everyone's help. Thank You!

Mark Barrett, David and Patricia Behrle, Patrick and Beatrice Boland, James and Jean Burris, John and Sharon Cathcart, Christopher and Debra Constantine, John Coyne, Joseph and Biagia D'Amelio, Douglas and Carol DeWolfe, Peter Demzak, Jerome Dewberry, Frank and Angela Di Mattei, Jonathan Di Mattei, Francisco and Mildred Diaz Estrella, Terry and Shirley Drake, Robert and Zoe Dufour, Robert and Patricia Ehrman, Philip and Janet Farney, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Charles and Raquel Friesema, William and Marie Gallant, John and Peggy Gohman II, Joel Gray, Gerald and Lorraine Grubba, Thomas and Anne Harkins, Thomas Hart Jr, Paul and Rose Marie Harvey, David and Donna Heezen, Kevin and Gidet Hernandez, Joseph and Sandra Hochoerl, Jarret Honahan, George and Claire Inderwies, Steven and Anne Marie Ippolito, Eugene and Karen Jajuga, Shawn and Pattie Jajuga, Gregory and Kim Juedes, Peter and Nancy Jula, Matthew Killeen, William and Katherine Krajewski, Tom and Margaret Krivchenia, Frank and Deborah Laffey, James and Maria Lankford, Stephen Leger, Santo and Karen Loparo Jr, Frank and Juliann Marsalek, Frank and Cindy McEwen, Charles McEwen Sr, Kevin McMullen, Stuart Miller, James and Phyllis Montali, Adel Nammour, David Neal, Chris Nesci, James and Patricia Nolf, Thomas and Carolyn O'Rourke, Mark and Melissa Ostapowicz, Todd and Margaret Owers, Donald and Carol Palacheck, John and Susanne Papa, Gerald and Holly Pappa, Paul and Virginia Pappas, Brandon and Mirela Parrinello, Mark and Christine Peterman, Richard Roberto Jr, John and Kathleen Ruckart, Peter and Susan Salesses, Morgan Sheaffer Sr., James and Karin Smith, Thomas and Janet Stanko, Matthew and Julie Sunski, Walberto and Ramona Vazquez, Steven and Jaclyn Verba, Eugene and Rita Wolanin, Mario Zaccaria, Patrick and Joan Alix, Victor and Suzanne Berggren, Donald and Linda Motika Borbath, Herman and Mary Jo Brames, Sal and Ingrid Burriesci, Robert and Nancy Carman, Anthony Crevello, Sean Donahoo, Zach Faraone, Mark and Elaine Feldman, Edward and Anne Fucillo, Joseph Guazzerotti, David and Paula Harvey, Karl and Lisa Held, James Jessup, James and Karen Kurzdorfer, Brian Lawandus, Francis and Carol Mahoney, Christopher Mazzone, William Mc Fadden, Michael and Maria Li McCarthy, Clifford and Michelle Merz, William Nies, George and Tracy Paradise, Thomas and Nancy Penders, Daniel and Teresa Peterson, Glen and Jennifer Pettersen, Christopher and Carol Purcell, Richard and Rosalie Resler, Brian and Erin Riley, Juan and RoseMary Romero, Guillermo Romero, William and Mary Scott, Kenneth and Gabriella Seguin Sr, Jim and Nancy Shirer, Jugdesh and Sucheta Sujanani, Chuck and Elizabeth Sullivan, Roy and Linda Vanderveer, Brian and Carolyn Annis, Dennis and Joyce Ayril, Paul and Jacqueline Barry, Fred and Caroline Bennett, Robert and Ann Marie Bonvicino, Jonathan and Marianne Boyce, Tim and Stacey Bruggeman, Jacob and Mary Burnett, Patrick Carroll, Francis Cayer, Kenneth and Debra Chmara, Terrell and Victoria Clampitt, Joseph and Ellen Cortese, Anibal Cruz, Austin Davis, Eric and Bernadette Flores, Michael and Lisa Furman, Joseph Gajewski, Ward and Kathleen Griffin, Mark Gurley, Lawrence and Nancy Harkins, James and Janetze Hart, James Hayes, Michael and Anna Heider, Kenton and Sue Heuertz, Christopher and Celise Jones, Mark and Maryann Locascio Kapinos, William and Elizabeth Kasak, Brian and Christine Kearns, Richard and Cecilia Kemball-Cook Jr, Dan and Donna Kistel, James and Patricia Kleinsorge, Brian and Christina Lapointe, Milton Levine, Louis Lyons, Kenneth (Ken) Miller, Javier and Xiomara Ortega, Edmund and Diane Pagnott, Frank and Patricia Piro, Edward and Sandra Riley, Jeffrey and Roxann Rogers Sr, James and Drema Rooney, Timothy and Barbara Rush, Mario and Karen Russica, Kurt Salac, Daniel and Paula Saracki, Robert and Teresa Shafer, Hugh and Katie Siegel, Massimo Simeoni, Bryan and Krista Snyder, Gregory and Carolina Sohn, James and Darlene Stanley, Keith and Griselda Taylor Sr, Edward Warticki, Benjamin and Rosmeli Workman, Kevin Cordaro, Gerald Custin Jr, Timothy and Marcy Dolan, Christian Lyon, Edward Martinenko, Thomas and Gwendolyn Odmark, Bradford Patterson, Lawrence and Corinne Steinhardt, Skip and Margaret Vankleeck, John Willyoung, Darryl and Mary Miller, John J Liu, John T Liu, Peter and Susan Salesses

**Total Collected to Date: \$2,166.22**





Father Michael W. Cooper, SJ  
Chaplain

## Chaplain's Corner

Brothers and Sisters,

### FIRST COMMUNIONS AND CONFIRMATION

May is the month of First Communion for younger children while Confirmation is usually for young people in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Adults who have not been confirmed or are just entering the Church usually receive the sacraments of initiation on Holy Saturday at the great Vigil Mass. I encourage all of you to go to the Mass when these sacraments are being celebrated for your children or grandchildren or the children of friends. Sacraments are actions of the Community of Faith, so it is very important that you join in and witness to the importance of these sacraments.

What is the meaning of Holy Communion? A good number of Catholics do not believe in or understand The Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. The consecrated bread and wine still look like and taste like bread and wine. However, God uses material, visible signs to carry the meaning of the Eucharist—food for the journey. We are invited to say yes to the Real Presence as an Act of Faith. Moreover, Real Presence is theology—the logic of God, who “somehow” wants to be visible and close.

The Resurrection Narrative in Luke 24, the Disciples on the Road to Emmaus, adds further understanding. At the end of their journey to Emmaus, their eyes are opened, and they recognize the Risen Lord in the “Breaking of the Bread.” Thus,

Eucharist celebrates the Risen Lord with us

at all times but especially in times of difficulty and challenge. The situation is not changed but we are. The Risen Lord communicates in the Paschal Mystery New Life, New Hope, New Beginnings. Because of the Risen Lord walking with us, we do not give up or walk away or let anger and disappointment stop us. Really, the Real Presence of the Risen Lord in the Eucharist walking with us becomes that great sign of Hope and Possibility. Thus, your presence at First Communion witnesses to the importance of this sacred reality.

I heard the confession last Saturday of seven eighth graders about to be confirmed. Confirmation is a celebration of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit coming down upon those being confirmed. During our time together I made the point to each one that **Confirmation is an adult faith commitment.** Those being confirmed make a commitment to be actively engaged in living their faith in word and in deed. It is a choice and a commitment. I try to evoke that personal response as does Sue who coordinates sacramental preparation.

Michael Cooper, S.J.

## Service Program Directors 2022-2023

|                           |                            |              |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Program Director          | Tom Krivchenia, PFN        | 727.366.5422 |
| Membership Director       | Brian Riley                | 303.921.9861 |
| Faith Director            | Wally Vazquez              | 727.542.5376 |
| Community Director        | Jim Lankford               | 727.698.3489 |
| Family Director           | Tom Wozniak, PGK, PFN, FDD | 727.214.8377 |
| Public Relations Director | John Gohman                | 813.810.3735 |
| Life Director             | David Behrle, PGK, PFN     | 727.723.1169 |
| Vocations                 | Frank McEwen, PGK          | 727.239.2687 |
| Retention Chairman        | Frank McEwen, PGK          | 727.239.2687 |



Tom Krivchenia  
Deputy Grand Knight  
dgtk7109@gmail.com

# Deputy Grand Knight's Report

## Worthy Brother Knights!

As we approach the end of this beautiful Easter season and prepare for Christ's glorious Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles at Pentecost to inspire them to spread His gospels throughout the world, we give thanks and praise. Looking back, we remember Christ's terrible suffering at his Passion and Death. It was all for us because he loved us so much! He forgave us our sins and earned Eternal Life for us with him in heaven. Humbly, we bow before the Risen Lord and go forth to serve him. We must follow Him from the tomb and boldly proclaim His Words. We are his hands and feet in this world. Let us carry His banner before us with courage and strength! I hope you continue to have a wonderful Easter Season in the love of Christ.

I would like to welcome our four new members to our Council.

We, as a Council, gave Bibles to the third grade ESCS and religious education students.

### From the Faith Director's Desk

We will be holding our monthly Rosary on Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the JBC. Wally Vasquez and Jerry Custin will be leading the Rosary. Please invite your friends as this is open to everyone.

We are having our Retreat on Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> featuring Dr. Wayne Philips who will be talking about the Shroud of Turin.

### Retreat Agenda

- 8:15a Coffee and pastries
- 9:00a Dr. Phillips arrives and starts set up for presentation.
- 9:15a WGK welcomes remarks  
WGK introduces of Fr. Michael  
Fr. Michael opening prayer  
Wally Vazquez introduces Dr. Phillip's

- 9:30a Dr. Phillips presentation of Shroud of Turin
- 10:30a Q & Aa session
- 11:45a Fr. Michael closing prayer  
Social time and lunch snack

We are looking for volunteers to help set up and clean up.

We will have our Corporate Communion on Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup> at the 9a Mass and refreshments in the JBC after Mass. We will be sending out a sign-up sheet soon.

### From the Community Director's Desk

Brothers, I want to thank you all for your continued support for our Community Outreach Program. The Saturday before Palm Sunday, we assisted in delivery of meals in conjunction with The St. Vincent DePaul Center, and it was a great success. We also continue with our ongoing road clean-up project for Enterprise Road from the Railroad tracks down to Philippe Parkway. We have another one planned for Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00a. This really takes less than an hour to do and is so worthwhile. I have had in the past passerbys speak to me thanking me/us for the project. It's a great way for us to project The Knights in action, and I invite you to join in this worthwhile project in June.

### From the Family Director's Desk

As we enter the month of May, those families with school age children are planning a summer of fun activities. The children can hardly wait for the final school bell of the year. As a Knight of Columbus, guide your family through these lazy or maybe very busy days of summer with all the excitement and joy of the child you once were. Each and every day with your family is precious. Make long lasting memories this summer with your family. Your brother Knights of Council 7109 enjoy your fellowship and friendship. As we honor our Blessed Virgin Mary this month of May, we wish you and your family all the best.

**Pentecost Sunday – May 28, 2023**

By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, the Church remains in every age vivified and sanctified by Christ's presence. The Holy Spirit prepares us with his grace to draw us to Christ. He manifests the risen Lord to us, opening our minds. He makes present the mystery of Christ. And he reconciles us, bringing us into communion with God. Saint Thomas Aquinas says that the Holy Spirit interiorly perfects our spirit, communicating to it a new dynamism so that it refrains from evil for love. With the Holy Spirit within us, "it is quite natural for people who had been absorbed by the things of this world to become entirely otherworldly in outlook, and for cowards to become people of courage." (Saint Cyril of Alexandria). A miraculous, unimaginable event happened fifty days after Easter. The Apostles and the disciples were gathered in the upper room – waiting. Then, the Holy Spirit rushed upon them in tongues of fire and transformed mostly uneducated men into fearless Evangelists who would go out of that upper room to convert the whole world to Jesus Christ. We bow in awe to the Holy Spirit who crashes into our own little world to inspire us with his gifts to follow Christ unreservedly. Let us rejoice and be glad!! Alleluia!!

**May Liturgical Calendar**

May 1 St. Joseph the worker  
 May 2 Saint Athanasius (Memorial)  
 May 3 Saint Philip and James (Feast)  
 May 10 St. John of Avila, St. Damien de Veuster  
 May 12 Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, St. Pancras  
 May 13 Lady of Fatima  
 May 15 St. Isidore  
 May 18 The Ascension of the Lord (Solemnity)  
 May 20 St. Bernadine of Siena  
 May 21 Ascension of the Lord (Solemnity)  
 May 22 St. Rita of Cascia  
 May 25 St Bede the Venerable, St. Gregory VII, St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi  
 May 26 Saint Philip Neri (Memorial)  
 May 27 St. Augustine of Canterbury  
 May 28 Pentecost Sunday (Solemnity)  
 May 29 The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church (Memorial)  
 May 31 The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Feast)

Vivat Jesus!

Tom Krivchenia, PFN

[DGk7109@gmail.com](mailto:DGk7109@gmail.com)

727.366.5422



JJ Coyne is recognized as March Knight of the Month



Frank (& Angela) DiMattei is recognized as March Family of the Month



Edward Amador receives his 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Certificate







Frank McEwen  
 Faithful Navigator  
[fmcewen99@gmail.com](mailto:fmcewen99@gmail.com)

# Faithful Navigator’s Log

I sincerely wish you all a Joyous Easter Season. This is a time to celebrate and rejoice in a new beginning. However, for many, it seems that God does not exist. All around us we constantly see injustice, evil, indifference, persecution, and cruelty. This past week there was a convention of Satanists in Boston. However, the truth of Easter is that amid all this darkness, something new, noble, and virtuous always springs to life and sooner or later produces good fruits. The latter is where we should concentrate our energy.

How impressive it is to see Sir Knights serving everywhere each Holy Week. You are truly the “right arm” of our Parish.

Thanks to the following Honor Guard members who served on Holy Thursday at the Mass of the Lord’s Supper and then stood guard until midnight in the parish center during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Garden of Gethsemane: John Papa, Gene Jajuga, Tom Krivchenia, Paul Harvey, George Inderwies, Santo Loparo, John Gohman, Chris Mazzone, and Vincent Cristiano.

Thanks also to the Sir Knights who served as Cross Bearers at the Good Friday services: John Ruckart, Santo Loparao, Wally Vazquez, Tom Fitzpatrick, Tom Krivchenia, and Jerry Grubba.

The Florida State Council has announced the dates and locations for three Fourth Degree Exemplifications scheduled for this year:

- Saturday, June 24, in West Palm Beach
- Saturday, August 24, in St. Augustine
- Saturday, November 25, in Orlando

Please contact me if you are interested in attending the June Exemplification.

The month of May is dedicated to The Blessed Virgin Mary. One of the defining characteristics of the Knights of Columbus is its members’ deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Every Knight receives a rosary when he joins the Order and is encouraged to turn to Mary as his own Mother, so that she may lead him closer to her Son.

It is with the same devotion that we cherish and revere our own mothers. I encourage you to take the opportunity this Mother’s Day to do something charitable for your mother, something charitable for mothers in the community. Let your mother, wife, grandmothers, sisters, aunts, cousins, and friends know how special you think they are. Take time to give thanks for the miraculous gift of life, and to converse with and honor our Blessed Mother. To all the moms in our parish and council family, through the intercession of Mary, Queen of the Knights, we pray you have a blessed Mother’s Day.

Wishing you and your loved ones a meaningful and Blessed Easter Season!

Vivat Jesus!  
 Frank McEwen  
 FN

| Assembly Membership Growth |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Current Membership         | 140 |
| 2020/2021 Goal             | 0/6 |



Dave Behrle  
PGK, PFN  
(727) 723-1169

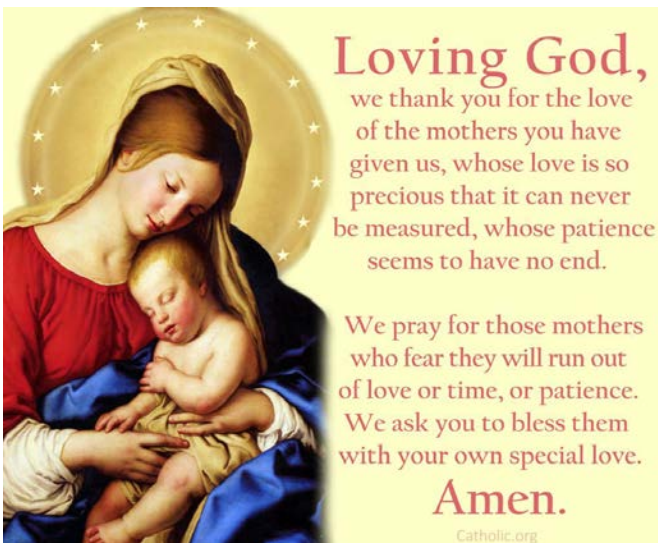


Happy Mother's Day! We celebrate all the Moms, Grandmas, and Great Grandmas on Sunday, May 14. I invite all Great Grandmas to share the number of great grandkids they have, so I can recognize you in a future article. Ditto for all Great Grandpas. And, if we have any Great-Great Grandparents, please share that as well. Please email to [behrle.david@gmail.com](mailto:behrle.david@gmail.com), the number, and the name you are known by.

Remember the synod? Did you go to a local listening session? For those interested, the diocesan report and the joint USA & Canada final document are both available for review. Please check them out at:

<https://www.dosp.org/synod/>

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/north-american-final-document-continental-stage-2021-2024-synod>



Lines from the  
**Ladies Auxiliary**

What blessings of beautiful spring mornings we've had. We are truly thankful that we are avoiding tornadoes, floods, and hailstorms in other areas of our country. May is the month of remembering our mothers, and those who were like mothers to us throughout our lives. The ladies are asking for donations to honor mothers with your loved one's name placed on a paper flower and then displayed on our memory trees. The trees will be presented for Mother's Day weekend through the month of May and prayers made for them. A table will be available in the portico in front of the parish center. Suggested \$5 donation per flower. Father's Day will be also honored in June.

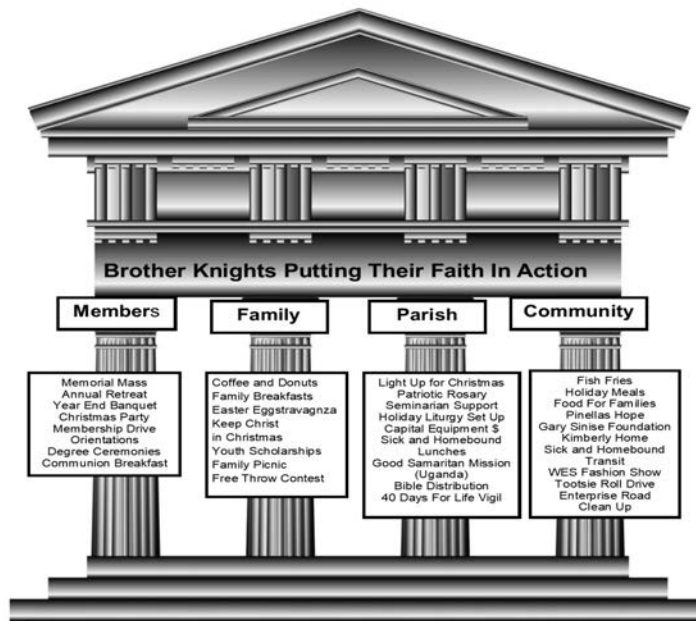
The Ladies Auxiliary will be having their treat and sweet sharing at our meeting May 11. We will take a recess from our meetings until September. So many have travel plans over the summer. We are looking forward to fall charitable events and our treasured fellowships. Please consider joining our group.





**Harmonize Work and Family Life**

Psalm 127 makes it very clear that it is vanity for man to rise early, toil hard, build his house and guard the city unless God is at the center of his thoughts and labor since “all this God gives to his beloved in sleep.” It continues that sons (children) are a gift from the Lord and are like arrows in a quiver and blessed if the man who fills his quiver with them. He will never be shamed. The message is clear, put God at the center of your family, work hard and balance your toil knowing that God has your back. Be the father to you wife and children that He is to you.



**Psalm 127**

Unless the LORD build the house, they labor in vain who build. Unless the LORD guard the city, in vain does the guard keep watch. It is vain for you to rise early and put off your rest at night, to eat bread earned by hard toil—all this God gives to his beloved in sleep. Certainly, sons are a gift from the LORD, the fruit of the womb, a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior It continues are the sons born in one’s youth. Blessed is the man who has filled his quiver with them. He will never be shamed for he will destroy his foes at the gate.\*



# Special Announcement

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
BARNEY GONYEA COUNCIL 7109  
SAFETY HARBOR, FLORIDA**

Proudly Presents its 2023 Retreat Featuring  
**Dr. J. Wayne Phillips**

## The Shroud of Turin



The burial cloth covering the body of Jesus Christ is known as the Shroud of Turin. Is the shroud authentic? Is it a fraud? Attend this presentation of a renowned authority on the Shroud of Turin. A Vatican-recognized authority on the Shroud, a Member of the Shroud Science Group, and a Sacred Heart Academy graduate, Dr. Wayne Phillips provides an in-depth look at the history and study of the Shroud of Turin.

**ALL PARISHIONERS ARE WELCOME**

The Knights of Columbus at Espiritu Santo are having our annual Retreat on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, in the Parish Center from 9:00a to 1:00p. All members of our parish community are welcome to attend. We will begin by serving light pastries and refreshments beginning at 8:30a. At 9:15a, we will have opening comments and prayer by our Knights of Columbus Chaplin, Fr. Michael Cooper immediately followed at 9:30a by the presentation by Dr. J. Wayne Phillips with questions afterward. Closing comments, a light lunch snack and fellowship. Donations will be gratefully appreciated to cover our costs.

Please register to attend with your RSVP by texting / calling Gene Jajuga at 727.403.3261 or by email at [grandknight7109@gmail.com](mailto:grandknight7109@gmail.com)

# Proposed Slates FY23-24

| Barney Gonyea Council 7109       |                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Elected Positions                | Candidate                 |
| Grand Knight                     | Gene Jajuga               |
| Deputy Grand Knight              | Tom Krivchenia            |
| Chancellor                       | Mark Feldman              |
| Recorder                         | Bill Krajeski             |
| Treasurer                        | Jerry Custin              |
| Advocate                         | Richard Resler            |
| Warden                           | Mark Peterman             |
| Inside Guard                     | Paul Cooper               |
| Outside Guard                    | Jim Lankford              |
| Guard Alternate                  | Brian Annis               |
| Trustee Three Year               | JJ Coyne                  |
| Trustee Two Year                 | Ken Seguin                |
| Trustee One Year                 | Frank McEwen              |
| Appointed Positions              | Candidate                 |
| Chaplain                         | Fr. Michael W. Cooper, SJ |
| Financial Secretary              | Tom Harkins               |
| Lecturer                         | Paul Harvey               |
| Special Assistant To The Council | Vincent Cristiano         |
| Special Assistant To The Council | Gary Murphy               |

| Espiritu Santo CC Assembly 2474 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Position                        | Candidate                |
| Faithful Navigator              | Wally Vazquez            |
| Faithful Comptroller            | Thomas Harkins           |
| Faithful Friar                  | Deacon Gregory Nash      |
| Faithful Captain                | John Gohman              |
| Faithful Admiral                | Frank McEwen, PGK        |
| Faithful Purser                 | Jerry Custin, PGK        |
| Faithful Pilot                  | JJ Coyne, PGK            |
| Faithful Scribe                 | TBD                      |
| Inner Sentinel                  | Vincent Cristiano        |
| Outer Sentinel                  | Richie Resler            |
| Three Year Trustee              | Frank DiMattei, PGK, PFN |
| Two Year Trustee                | Gene Jajuga, PFN         |
| One Year Trustee                | Mark Peterman, PFN       |
| Veterans Liaison                | Tim Rush                 |
| Color Corp Commander            | John Papa, PGK, PFN      |

# In Memoriam

## Andrew Frank Szeltner

December 31, 1954 – May 23, 2022



Andrew Frank Szeltner, 67, of Palm Harbor passed away on May 23, 2022. Andrew was born on December 31, 1954 to Peter and Theresa Szeltner (Mueller) in Cleveland, Ohio. He was the oldest of six boys and the first member of the family born in the United States. Andrew studied marketing at John Carroll University, where he was captain of the varsity soccer team (and received the 1976 MVP Award), was president of the Marketing Association, and was a founding pledge-master of Iota Phi Theta Service fraternity. After graduating, he started his first job at The Higbee Company, kickstarting his long and successful career in men's retail. In 1989, he met Elizabeth Szeltner (Bailey) and her daughter April Bailey in El Paso, Texas and they went on to have three children who were his pride and joy: Catherine (Matthew) Hadro, Anthony (Madison), and Samuel. Andrew was a 30-year parishioner at Espiritu Santo Catholic Church and was heavily involved in several ministries; he was the longtime coordinator of Lector Ministry and was a Fourth-Degree member of the Knights of Columbus Council 7109. He spent his last year of life working part-time at the local John Geigle YMCA, where he was known for his big smile and ability to talk to members of all ages. Andrew was an avid golfer, the most reliable airport chauffeur, great sports fan, a faithful Catholic, and the most loving father, brother, and uncle. Andrew is survived by his children, five younger brothers, Peter (Renate), John (Heidi), Joseph (Lynda), George (Julie), Thomas (Mary), his 13 nieces and nephews, and his three cousins who were like sisters, Elisabeth Filippi (Robert), Barbara Hermann (Hanz), and Theresa Gutwein (Bob). Services were held at Espiritu Santo Catholic Church on Saturday, May 28. There was a viewing and a Mass, immediately followed by a reception at the Safety Harbor Community Center. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to either Espiritu Santo Catholic Church, the John Geigle YMCA, or the Knights of Columbus.





### Saint John Paul II Apostle of Mercy

Recently I was informed of a video produced by the Knights of Columbus entitled John Paul II Apostle of Mercy. It reflects on his great devotion to the infinite mercy that God has for His people and the influence of Saint Faustina Kowalska on his life. It is brief, 8 minutes or so, and well worth the watch. [Click here](#) to view it on You Tube.

The video covers the Pope's boyhood during WWII in Poland and his dedication and vocation to the priesthood as well as the consistent influence of Saint Faustina of the Blessed Sacrament. Saint Faustina came from a large, peasant family who had apparitions of Christ from an early age. She left home at 18 with nothing but the clothes on her back to try and enter a convent. Due to her lack of education, she worked as a maid to earn money and was turned down by numerous convents, in one case, with the assessment that "we don't take maids here". But she persisted and eventually was promised entry to a convent when she had enough money to pay for her habit. That took over a year and she formally entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy at 20 years of age in age in 1926. She was a mystic and her convent work was menial, including work as a maid and a gardener but her devotion to Divine Mercy grew as did her apparitions. She passed in 1938 and warned of the coming war which would devastate Poland.



In one of her apparitions, she was called by Jesus to render a painting of her vision with the signature "Jesus I trust in you". Not being able to paint, she eventually met a priest, who became her spiritual advisor, who engaged a friend to create the painting. Christ also told her the He wanted the image to be

"solemnly blessed the first Sunday after Easter and that Sunday is to be known as the Feast of Mercy."

Her writings, including the [Divine Mercy Chaplet](#), were assisted by Father Michael Sopocho (who initially had her psychologically evaluated but came to believe), were

formally banned from circulation within the Catholic church for almost two decades (1959-1978) due to "serious theological reservations and what Vatican evaluators felt to be an excessive focus on Faustina herself."

Pope John Paul II was very much aware of the writings and devotion of Saint Faustina and shared that devotion himself. In fact, the Holy See directed then Bishop Karol Woltyja, to open the investigation into her life. As Pope John Paul II, he later both beatified and eventually canonized Saint Faustina on April 30, 2000.

Pope John Paul II observed, "The message she brought is the appropriate and incisive answer that God wanted to offer to the questions and expectations of human beings in our time, marked by terrible tragedies. Jesus said to Sr. Faustina one day: 'Humanity will never find peace until it turns with trust to the Divine Mercy.'" Pope John Paul II died on the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday 2005 which is now celebrated the Second Sunday after Easter.

Our Rosary group recently prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet in conjunction with the Sorrowful Mysteries. The primary prayer said in place of the Hail Mary in each decade is, "For the sake of his sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world." God's mercy it's infinite and Divine.



## *From the Desk of Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly...*

### **Merciful Like the Father**

*We are called to live in the truth and to love our neighbor, reserving judgment and practicing forgiveness*

**Ours is a time** that calls for the proclamation of eternal truths, for standing boldly and inviting others to what we know is “a still more excellent way” (1 Cor 12:31).

At the same time, ours is a climate that tempts us into hypercriticism and an almost dehumanized judgment that goes beyond calling one another into the truth.

Last month, in a Lenten Gospel reading, we heard Christ say, “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” Our Lord then drilled down and gave his disciples more detailed instruction on what, exactly, it means to be merciful. “Stop judging, and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned,” he said. “For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you” (Lk 6:36-38).

Stop judging. Stop condemning. These words are hard for us to hear. But the truth is also hard for us to hear, and yet we need it just as much! As Christians, our task is to reconcile these two callings by imitating the Lord, who is “abounding in mercy and truth” (Ps 86:15).

For most of us, criticism comes very easily. It’s the easiest of habits to fall into and an extremely hard one to break. The far more difficult thing is to offer the benefit of the doubt, to turn the other cheek, to be “merciful like the Father.”

It’s a tremendous irony that when we judge and condemn, we attempt to assume the place of God. We give into that original human temptation to rebel and to “become like gods” (Gen 3:5). And yet we do so in the precise moment that our Lord is calling us to be like God in exhibiting mercy!

Of course, our human expression of mercy can never match the Father’s, which is based on a complete and perfect understanding of the truth of the matter. He knows each of us better than we know ourselves. Our human judgments will always be flawed, clouded as they are by our own pride and selfishness. Through that clouded lens, we often fail to see others as God does, as brothers and sisters made in his image and likeness.

Can our judgments be true? Certainly. But rather than bearing lasting fruit, they often pull us into a cycle of negativity and resentment that hurts us as much as it does those we are criticizing.

One of the great Christian witnesses of the 20th century was Venerable Cardinal François-Xavier Nguyen Van Thuân, who was imprisoned by the communist North Vietnamese government for 13 years. He wrote of the prison we create for ourselves through judgment and condemnation: “To remember a person’s defects is to hold onto the past and to concentrate on that person’s worst side, as if no other existed! No one’s life is frozen; everyone is constantly evolving, changing, growing. You must concentrate your entire attention on the present and future, rather than on the past.”

For each of us, there will be a judgment and a measuring — that is clear in Jesus’ words. But it is the Lord who will judge and who will measure each of us — both according to how we follow God’s commandments, and how well we adhere to Christ’s “new commandment” to love one another (Jn 13:34).

Especially in these days of cultural confusion, we must offer the truth in love (Eph 4:15). We must offer fraternal correction at times and call our brothers to the more excellent way. But we must do so with a clear understanding of the imperfections in our knowledge of ourselves and others, and therefore be slow to judge and quick to forgive.

If we are to be brothers, we must strive to look at one another as the Father does. Our task is to know, love and serve God and to proclaim his eternal truths, all the while being witnesses of his mercy.

*Vivat Jesus!*



## *From the Florida State Council Chamber...*

Dear Brother Knight,

We are excited to announce our upcoming fundraiser for the Florida K of C Charities Inc. Vocations Fund, a cruise trip to the Southern Caribbean on Celebrity Beyond, the newest ship of the Celebrity fleet. The trip will be nine nights long, departing on November 13, 2023, from Fort Lauderdale, Florida and stopping at Grand Cayman, Aruba, Curacao, and Bonaire. This trip will give us the opportunity to join in the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> priesthood ordination anniversary of our State Chaplain and Pastor of St Agnes Catholic Church in Naples, FL, Fr. Bob Kantor, and include several Masses onboard with him.

This is an excellent opportunity for our organization to raise funds, while also offering a fun and memorable experience for you, your friends, and family. The proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to support our religious vocations fund, and we hope you will consider joining us on this exciting adventure.

The trip includes a good number of amenities and activities, with plenty of opportunities to relax, explore, and make new friends. We have also arranged for special group rates, making this an affordable way to enjoy a luxurious vacation. The rates require prompt action, therefore, act now to place your deposit by May 16, 2023, to be able to obtain additional benefits. Click [Cruise Details](#) to get all the information and to reserve your spot to enjoy this great cruise. If you have any questions regarding the cruise, please contact H & E Smart Travels, Inc.

Your participation in this fundraiser will make a significant difference in the lives of those we serve, and we thank you for your support. Please share this letter and its purpose with the members of your Council, Assembly, and your Council sponsored Columbiettes Council.

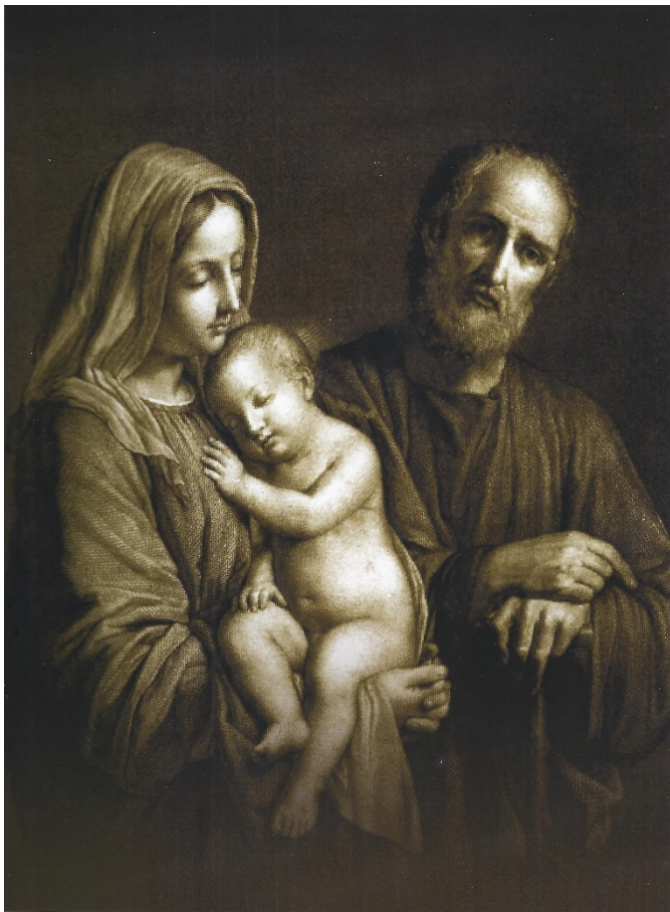
Sincerely,  
Robert S. Urrutia  
President Florida K of C Charities Inc.

### **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER & INFORMATION**

- Deposits must be received by: May 16, 2023.
- Final Payment is Due on: August 15, 2023.
- For All Travel – US Passport must be valid at least six (06) months from your return date (November 22, 2023).
- All passenger names must be exact as shown in their travel documents.
- Itinerary subject to change by cruise lines without previous notice, please check ports & times upon embarkation.
- To obtain more information on Celebrity Beyond, go to:  
<https://www.celebritycruises.com> (and follow the prompts)

## Assembly Officers 2022-2023

|                       |                          |              |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Faithful Navigator    | Frank McEwen, PGK        | 727.239.2687 |
| Faithful Friar        | Deacon Greg Nash         | 813.267.1535 |
| Faithful Captain      | Walberto Vazquez         | 727.542.5376 |
| Faithful Admiral      | Frank DiMattei, PGK, PFN | 727.871.6506 |
| Faithful Pilot        | John Gohman              | 813.810.3735 |
| Faithful Scribe       | Jack Tipton, PGK         | 727.510.9997 |
| Faithful Comptroller  | Tom Harkins              | 727.772.0607 |
| Faithful Purser       | Jerry Custin, PGK, PFN   | 727.244.6464 |
| Inside Sentinel       | Vincent Cristiano        | 727.725.5647 |
| Outside Sentinel      | Richard Resler           | 727.744.8923 |
| Sentinel-at-Large     | George Inderwies         | 727.647.1601 |
| Trustee Three Year    | Gene Jajuga, PFN, FFA    | 727.403.3261 |
| Trustee Two Year      | Mark Peterman, PFN       | 727.403.5993 |
| Trustee One Year      | Paul Harvey, PFN         | 727.286.7171 |
| Color Corps Commander | John Papa, PGK, PFN, FDD | 727.482.3734 |
| Veterans Liaison      | Tim Rush                 | 727.797.7818 |



### A Family Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of our family. Enlighten our hearts and minds that we may live more fully this vocation to love.

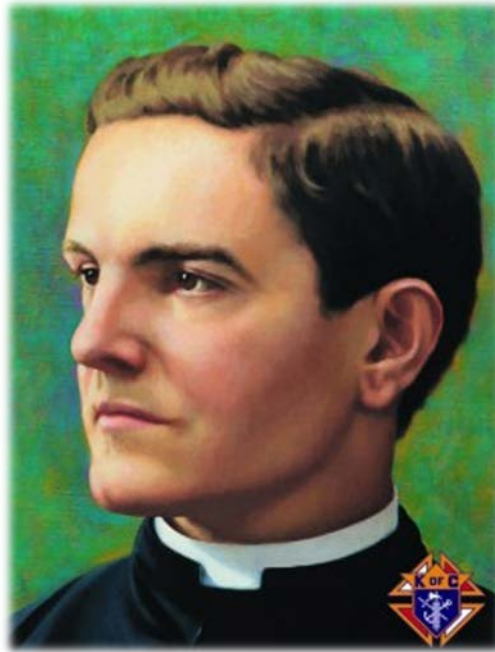
In our daily life and work,  
 May we reflect the self-giving love which you,  
 O Father, eternally show with your Son  
 and the Holy Spirit.

Let your love be evident in the peace that reigns in our home and in the faith, we profess and live. May our family always be a place of generosity, understanding, forgiveness and joy.

Kindly give us the wisdom and courage to be witnesses to your eternal design for the family; and grant that the Holy Family of Nazareth may always guide our path to holiness as a family.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.



*Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney*  
*Founder of the Knights of Columbus*

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



# What's Happening?



## Council Calendar of Events...

### May 2023

- 05/11 | Thu 6:30p Rosary
- 05/11 | Thu 7:30p Council Membership/Ladies Auxiliary Meeting
- 05/13 | Sat 8:30a Council Retreat
- 05/18 | Thu 9:00a Pinellas Hope Meal Prep & Delivery
- 05/20 | Sat 8:00a Kimberly Home Yard Workday
- 05/21 | Sun 7:30a Full Family Breakfast



## Assembly Calendar of Events...

### May 2023



- 05/25 | Thu 7:30p Assembly Membership Meeting

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**PRESS 1**


• Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net) or text to **838255** • •

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**RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF SUICIDE RISK**

- Thinking about hurting or killing yourself
- Looking for ways to kill yourself
- Talking about death, dying or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior such as drug abuse, weapons, etc.
- Hopelessness, feeling like there's no way out
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, mood swings
- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug abuse
- Withdrawing from family and friends

**the presence of these signs requires immediate attention.** **Call us if you experience any of these warning signs.**



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

## Prayer for our Nation

God our Father, Giver of life, we entrust the United States of America to  
Your loving care.

You are the rock on which this nation was founded.

You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and  
the pursuit of happiness.

Reclaim this land for Your glory and dwell among Your people.

Send Your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders.

Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities  
that accompany human freedom.

Remind Your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing  
Your will.

Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, Patroness of our land,  
grant us the courage to reject the "culture of death."

Lead us into a new millennium of life.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

