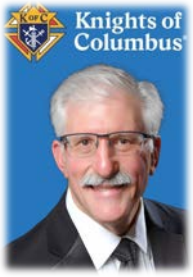
The Shield

Grand Knight's Message



Tom Krivchenia, PFN
Grand Knight
GrandKnight7109@gmail.com

Issue 07, July 2026

Next Council Meeting
Thursday, July 09 @ **7:00 pm**
in the Parish Center

View the Newsletter online at:
www.safetyharborkofc.org
Visit the State Website at:
www.floridakofc.org
Visit the Supreme Website at:
www.kofc.org

Worthy Brothers & Ladies,

HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!!! GOD SHED HIS GRACE ON THEE!!!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

As we start our new Fraternal Year 2026 – 2027, I would like to take a moment and look back at some of the accomplishments for this past year and recognize the people who are stepping down and who provided a great service to our Council. I would like to thank Mark Feldman, our Deputy Grand Knight, for the efforts and time he put in to helping our Council achieve Star Council the past two years and to increasing our contributions to new heights. I, also, would like to thank Wally Vazquez for his leadership in being our Faith Director for the past four years. He has arranged and planned the events with the Holy Icons and The Silver Rose that we have had over the years. He has also planned and arranged the Memorial Mass that we have in November and our Corporate Communion Mass and Breakfast. I would like to thank Doug deWolfe for his tireless efforts in selling our State Raffel Tickets over the years. He has sold all of the tickets each year. Thank you, John Ruckart, for volunteering to take photos at the Christmas Party, Breakfast with Santa and the Valentine's Day Dinner Dance for gratis. Those pictures will hold special moments in our hearts.

Our accomplishments this past year include grilling hamburgers and hot dogs for the Religious Educations students and parents and for Confirmation families. We were able to increase the number of Coats for Kids that we donated to a shelter in Safety Harbor as well as donating coats to people at Pinellas Hope. We increased the amount of money we gave to Fr. Frank's Mission & School, Pinellas Hope, The Kimbery Home and to the three special needs schools that we donate to. Once again, we had another record-breaking year with the amount of people attending our Lenten Fish Fry contributing to our First-Place Award for the Tampa Bay Area by Sprit FM radio station. We also became a Star Council for the third year in a row. Thank you to everyone who helped in making this happen with the Membership, Programs and Community services.

In the month of June, we had the Corporate Communion Mass with Fr. Theo presiding. Thank you for the

wonderful Mass, Fr. Theo, and your homily was inspiring. It was great to see so many Knights in attendance. After Mass, we had a great turnout for breakfast at the Lucky Dill in Palm Harbor. Our other event for the month was our Coffee & Donuts held on the 14th of the month. I would like to thank everyone who came out and helped with this event.

Gene Jajuga	Tom Harkins	Karen Jajuga
Mark Feldman	Kay Strehle	Margaret Krivchenia
Jack Strehle	Tom Wozniak	Keith Taylor
JJ Coyne	Garrett Phoebe	

For the upcoming fraternal year, with the uncertainty of Fr. Cooper's health, I have asked Fr. Theo to become our Chaplin this fraternal year. Fr. Theo was delighted to be asked and accepted. I would like to welcome Ed Amador as the new Deputy Grand Knight. Ed will oversee the various Programs and the Program Directors. George Inderwies will be our new Chancelor in charge of Membership and the Membership Director. Mark Peterman has accepted the position of Faith Director who will be responsible for our faith programs including the Memorial Mass, and the Icons we may receive as well as the Corporate Communion Mass & Breakfast.

Upcoming Events

As I stated previously, HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!!!!

We stand proudly by our country, remembering the sacrifices, love and patriotism that built this extraordinary land that we call the United States of America! Let us always know that we were founded as One Nation Under God. Let us pray to Our Almighty Father to shower our country with faith, peace, unity, goodness, kindness and love for all. Throughout our great history, we have been a beacon of hope and a light in the darkness for the suffering, the oppressed and the downtrodden. Right now, we are sending help to Venezuela and the earthquake victims. The United States of America is a noble and generous nation as the decades and years of our history have shown. So, let us stand up for our country and wave the flag proudly on July 4th as we watch the fireworks explode and light up the skies. We live in the most wonderful country on earth!

The July 4th Holiday Mass will be on Friday July 3rd at 8:30 AM in the main church. The Color Corps will be presenting the colors for the Mass. At our July 9th Council Business Meeting we will have a presentation on Cyber Security with time for questions and answers. This will be very informative on protecting yourself from being hacked. We will have our first Coffee & Donuts of the new fraternal year on July 12th after all the morning Masses.

The Officers installation for the fraternal year of 26-27 will be on Thursday July 16th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center. Everyone is invited to say goodbye to the outgoing officers and welcome in the new officers. We will also have the year-end awards. There will be fruit trays, veggie trays and sandwiches provided afterwards as we spend time in fellowship with each other. I will send out a sign-up sheet in the next few day so I can get an accurate count on how much food I may need to order.

- Officers Meeting – Thursday, July 2nd at 7:00 PM In the St. John Bosco Center
- 4th Of July – Saturday, July 4th Happy 250th Birthday America!!!!
- Rosary – Thursday, July 9th at 6:15 PM in the St. John Bosco Center
- Council 7109 Membership Meeting – Thursday, July 9th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center
- Coffee & Donuts – Sunday, July 12th at 7:30 AM in the St. John Bosco Center
- Pinellas Hope Prep – Thursday, July 16th at 9:00 AM in the Parish Center Kitchen
- K of C Officers Installation Ceremony – Thursday, July 16th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center
- The Kimberly Home Workday – Saturday, July 18th at 7:00 AM at The Kimberly Home in Clearwater, FL
- Assembly 2474 Business Meeting – Thursday, June 25th at 7:00 PM in the St. John Bosco Center
- Officers Meeting – Thursday, Aug 6th at 7:00 PM In the St. John Bosco Center
- Rosary – Thursday, Aug 13th at 6:15 PM in the St. John Bosco Center
- Council 7109 Membership Meeting – Thursday, Aug 13th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center



SK Edward Amador
Membership Director
Edamador00@gmail.com

Council 7109 Holy Moments

BARNEY GONYEA
COUNCIL 7109

ANSWER THE CALL. STEP UP.

CALL TO ACTION

WE ARE SEEKING A DEDICATED KNIGHT TO
BECOME OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR!

This is your opportunity to lead, serve, and make a lasting impact in our parish and community.

As Membership Director, you will be responsible for **RECRUITING CATHOLIC ELIGIBLE MEN** to join the ranks at our council to:

- **HELP AND SUPPORT** OUR COMMUNITY
- **DEFEND** OUR FAITH
- **GIVE PRAISE AND HONOR** TO THE LORD OUR GOD

"AS IRON SHARPENS IRON, SO ONE MAN SHARPENS ANOTHER."
— PROVERBS 27:17

LEADERSHIP. FAITH. SERVICE.
BECOME THE LEADER WHO ANSWERS THE CALL.

THE NEED IS NOW.
WILL YOU ANSWER?
CONTACT A COUNCIL OFFICER TODAY TO LEARN MORE OR TO VOLUNTEER.

CONTACT
Tom Krivchenia | (727) 366-5422 | grandknight7109@gmail.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS — IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Unity – Strength in Numbers

Informational Open House Schedule

2026	2027
Aug 19 | Oct 14 | Dec 16	Feb 17 | Apr 14 | Jun 16

Unified Degree Ceremony Schedule

2026	2027
Aug 20 | Oct 15 | Dec 17	Feb18 | Apr 15 | Jun 17

Look for more information from our Grand Knight



Council Membership Report

Total Membership	336
Insurance Membership	126
Honorary Life Members	61
Honorary Members	06
2025-2026 Membership Growth vs Goal	00/15
2025-2026 Insurance	00/02

Assembly Membership Report

Total Membership	125
Honorary Life Members	14
Honorary Members	00
2025-2026 Membership Growth vs Goal	00/06

Council Officers 2025-2026

Grand Knight	Tom Krivchenia, PFN	727.366.5422
Chaplain	Fr Michael W. Cooper, SJ	727.644.5544
Deputy Grand Knight	Mark Feldman	727.366.5959
Chancellor	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
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	727.472.1651
Warden	Jim Lankford	813.455.2292
Inside Guard	Paul Cooper	727.736.6837
Outside Guard	Mark Peterman, PFN	727.403.5993
Guard Alternate	Brian Annis	727.204.7490
Trustee Three Year	Gene Jajuga, PGK, PFN, FFA	727.403.3261
Trustee Two Year	JJ Coyne, PGK	901.832.7332
Trustee One Year	Ken Seguin, PGK, PFN	727.331.7278
Regional Administrator	John Papa, PGK, PFN	727.482.3734
District Deputy	Alan Gauzens, PGK	727.483.8250
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!

Joseph Amendola, Mark Barrett, Fred Bennett, Marc Brill, Richard Bulova, James Burris, Steven Cote, JJ Coyne, James Cusick, Zach Faraone, Joel Gray, Derrick Heezen, Michael King, Michael McCarthy, James Nolf, Edmund Pagnott, Glen Pettersen, Charles Powers, James Preston Jr, Scott Rineer, Richard Roberto Jr, Daniel Saracki, Thomas Smith, Chuck Sullivan, Alvah Vankleeck, Theobald Weria, Joshua Wisnowski

Prayers for the Sick

Marie Bishop, Sean Michael Cook (d), Tim & Barbara Rush, Ken Seguin, Susanne Papa (d), Ward Griffin, Elizabeth Inderwies, Linda Cooper (d), Bob Ehrman, Antonia Rosin (d), Frances Hamacher (d), Jacquline Barry (d), Mary Branham (d), Mary Williams (d), Frank Schuster II (d), Kennedie McFadden, George Smith (d), Pauline Sager (d), Vicki Nolan (d), Steve Gorey (d), Felice D'Elia (d), Stanley Kwiatowski (d), Ethan Griswold (d), Dick LaLuzerne (d), Fr Rich Rosin (d), Mary Duelk (d), Tony Doyle (d), Mary Frances Lowe, Dwight Rochester, Jim & Pat Nolf, Frank Diaz (d), Ed Warticki (d), Jack Mills (d), Bob Justiana, Kathleen Griffin, Evely Harvey (d), Jack Greenwald (d), Don Bishop (d), Frank Nunziata (d), Dave Weber (d), Nicholas Burriesci (d), Anthony Burriesci (d), Thomas Ziegler (d), Sal Burriesci (d), John Salesses (d), Zoe DuFour (d), Gobind Sujanani, Maurice Chin, Betty D'Amelio, Jim Slattery, Kenny p-SIL, Pushpa Sujanani, Margie Waters, John Papa, Don Puchalski, Ed Fucillo (d), Kyle LaChance, Tammy Harrison, Michael D'Amelio, Adel Nammour, Frank DiMattei, Brian Jones, Tom Krivchenia, Paul Harvey, Tania Carnet, Pat Flynn, Rose Marie Harvey, Daniela Salazar, Kathy Akbari, Fr Michael Cooper, Terry Mueller, James O'Neill (d), DN Dom Friscia (d), Julius Silva, Thelma Rochester (d), Paul Vilchez, Minnie Silva

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

Support Our Vocations Fund



Austin Smith

Mark Wegener



Thank you for your continued support of the Vocations Fund. As most of you know we are making annual donations to two seminarians. Austin and Mark are located at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary. Austin Smith is from Nativity parish in Brandon. Mark Wegener is from St. Anthony the Abbot, Brooksville.

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!

Edward & Violet Amador, Mark Barrett, Donald Borbath, John & Betsy Clarke, Kevin Cordaro, JJ Coyne, Joseph & Betty D'Amelio, Douglas & Carol De Wolfe, Peter Demzak, Michael & Mary Kathleen Dixon, Terry & Shirley Drake, Robert & Zoe Dufour, Walter Feble, Patrick Flynn Sr, Michael & Lisa Furman, Thomas & Anne Harkins, Thomas Hart Jr, Paul & Rose Marie Harvey, David & Donna Heezen, George & Claire Inderwies, Eugene & Karen Jajuga, Shawn & Pattie Jajuga, Gregory & Kim Juedes, Michael & Katherine King, Dan & Donna Kistel, William & Katherine Krajeski, Frank & Deborah Laffey, Stephen & Ellen Leger, John Lenehan, Milton Levine, Amaro Lionheart, Doug & Kelly McCall, Michael & Maria McCarthy, Frank & Cindy McEwen, Charles McEwen Sr, Kevin McMullen, Stuart Miller, John & Morgan, Thomas & Carolyn O'Rourke, John & Susanne Papa, Gerald & Holly Pappa, Paul & Virginia Pappas, Robert & Vickie Pickard, Donald & Alexis Reed, Richard Roberto Jr, Guillermo Romero, John & Kathleen Ruckart, William & Mary Scott, Kenneth & Gabriella Seguin Sr, Jason Seguin, Michael & Melissa Short, John & Kay Strehle III, Matthew & Julie Sunski, Walberto & Ramona Vazquez, Paul & Josefina Vilchez, Mario & Judy Zaccaria

Total Collected to Date: $538.20

S.O.S.
Support Our Seminarians



Father Michael W. Cooper, SJ
Chaplain

Chaplain's Corner

Dear Brother Knights and Families,

As we begin the month of July, we celebrate both our nation's independence and the freedom we enjoy as children of God. Independence Day reminds us to give thanks for the many blessings of liberty while remembering those who have sacrificed to preserve it. As Knights of Columbus, we are called to be faithful citizens who uphold the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism through our words, our actions, and our service to others.

July also offers us the opportunity to honor several remarkable saints whose lives continue to inspire our faith. On July 3, we celebrate the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, whose journey from doubt to unwavering faith reminds us that honest questions can lead to a deeper relationship with Christ. His profession of faith - "My Lord and my God!" - should be the prayer of every Catholic heart.

On July 22, the Church celebrates the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene, the first witness to the Resurrection. Once transformed by Christ's mercy, she became a courageous disciple and the first to proclaim the Good News of the risen Lord. Her example reminds us that God's grace can transform every heart and that each of us is called to share the Gospel through lives of faithful witness.

The month concludes with the Memorial of St. Ignatius of Loyola on July 31. Founder of the Society of Jesus, St. Ignatius taught that we are to "find God in all things" and to seek His greater glory in every aspect of our lives. His Spiritual Exercises continue to guide countless Christians in discerning God's will with humility and courage.

As we enter a new fraternal year, let us renew our commitment to serving our parish, supporting our priests, strengthening our families, and reaching out to those most in need. Every act of kindness, every prayer offered, and every hour of volunteer service reflects Christ's love and strengthens the mission of our Order.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, under her title of Our Lady of the Rosary, continue to intercede for us. Let us also keep in our prayers our brother Knights, clergy, military personnel, first responders, the sick, and those who have died, especially those who have no one to pray for them.

May God bless you and your families with peace, good health, and abundant grace throughout the month of July.

Vivat Jesus!

As our Faithful Friar/Chaplain continues his recovery and convalescence, this month's article was prepared on his behalf. We are grateful for his ongoing spiritual guidance and ask that you keep him in your prayers during this time.

Service Program Directors 2025-2026

Program Director	Mark Feldman	727.366.5959
Membership Director	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
Faith Director	Wally Vazquez	727.542.5376
Community Director	Mike King	727.453.8843
Family Director	Matt Sunski	727.423.9524
Public Relations Director	Amaro Lionheart	305.761.3419
Life Director	Jack Strehle	727.433.0081
Vocations	Frank McEwen, PGK, PFN	727.239.2687
Retention Coordinator	Frank McEwen, PGK, PFN	727.239.2687



Mark Feldman
Deputy Grand Knight
dgk7109@gmail.com

Deputy Grand Knight's Report

Worthy Brother Knights,

First of all, I want to wish you all a Happy 4th of July. Gentlemen, it will be the start of a new fraternal year. I will be stepping aside as the Deputy Grand Knight. Edward Amador will be taking over as the new Deputy Grand Knight for this fraternal year. I will work alongside him as we progress. Gentlemen, as always, to continue to be a successful organization we need your help with volunteering at all the activities that we do. Again, I want to thank you all for the support you have given me over the past two years.

There is nothing to report from the Program Directors.

July Liturgical Calendar

- July 01 - St Junipero Serra, Priest, optional memorial
- July 03 - St Thomas, Apostle, Feast
- July 05 - St Elizabeth of Portugal and St Anthony Zaccaria, Priest, optional memorials
- July 09 St Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest and Companions, Martyrs, optional memorial
- July 11 - St Benedict, Abbot, Memorial
- July 14 - St Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin, Memorial
- July 15 - St Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, Memorial
- July 16 - Our Lady of Mount Carmel, optional memorial
- July 18 - St Camillus de Lellis, Priest, optional memorial
- July 21 - St Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church, optional memorial
- July 22 - St Mary Magdalene, Feast
- July 23 - St Bridget, Religious, optional memorial
- July 24 - St Sharbel Makhluf, Priest, optional memorial
- July 25 - St James, Apostle, Feast
- July 26 - St Joachim ad Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Memorial
- July 29 - St Martha, Mary and Lazarus, Memorial
- July 30 - St Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, optional memorial
- July 31 - St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest, Memorial

St. Mary Magdalene

St. Mary Magdalene is one of the most prominent women in the Bible and a powerful witness to God's mercy and transforming grace. Although the exact dates of her birth and death are unknown, the Gospels place her at the center of Christ's public ministry, His crucifixion, and His resurrection.

For centuries, Western Christian tradition often identified Mary Magdalene as a prostitute or sexually immoral woman, but Scripture does not support this claim. The Gospels simply tell us that Jesus cast seven demons from her, marking the beginning of her dramatic conversion and lifelong discipleship.

Some scholars have debated whether Mary Magdalene is the unnamed sinful woman who anointed Jesus' feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. While this identification remains uncertain, the Gospels clearly portray Mary as someone whose life was radically transformed by Christ. Her story reminds us that no one is beyond the reach of God's saving grace.

Mary became one of Jesus' devoted followers and was among the women who faithfully accompanied and supported His ministry. She remained near Him during His crucifixion and returned to His tomb on Easter morning to anoint His body. Finding the stone rolled away, she encountered the risen Christ and became the first witness to His resurrection, earning her the title "Apostle to the Apostles."

According to later Christian tradition, Mary remained with the early Church before eventually traveling to southern France, where she is believed to have spent her final years in prayer and solitude.

The Church celebrates the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene on **July 22**. She is the patron saint of converts, repentant sinners, those struggling with temptation, and pharmacists. Her life stands as a lasting testament to the power of repentance, faithful discipleship, and the boundless mercy of Christ.



John Ruckart
Field Agent
John.Ruckart@kofc.org

Knights of Columbus INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE

Fraternal Benefits Advisor Report

This month, as Americans we celebrate and give thanks to God for the 250th anniversary of the United States. The American story is one of 250 years of great sacrifices, freedoms and the responsibility to bear those freedoms well.

This month I want to talk to you about a special kind of freedom - freedom in retirement.

What do you want your retirement to look like? Maybe you'd like to spend more time with family, travel, volunteer or pursue hobbies.

If you're already retired, you likely know how important it is to prepare financially for this period of life.

Retired or not, have you considered just how long your retirement could be? It could, in fact, last multiple decades. Will you have enough money to cover the lifestyle you want for years to come?

Now, you might doubt that your retirement will span decades. But what about your family? Will their needs be taken care of when you're no longer here? What legacy do you want to leave your children and grandchildren?

Don't miss the opportunity to prepare for the freedom of long-term financial stability in retirement. While it's easy to get lost in the expenses in front of us right now, planning ahead with insurance and fixed annuities can pay off enormously for you and your loved ones.

The hardest step may be making the initial decision to start. From there, it doesn't need to be intimidating.

I'm here to partner with you in finding solutions. Whether you want to review the retirement plan you already have in place or are just beginning your journey, we can work together to make sure you have what you need.

Let's continue to thank God for our nation and for all his blessings.

Vivat Jesus!

John D Ruckart, FICF
813.855.5111

Book an appt with me here:
https://bookRuckart.flkofc.com/
Learn about our investments:
https://info.kofcassetadvisors.org/meet-john-ruckart



WGK Tom Krivchenia recognizes SK Doug deWolfe as April 2026 Knight of the Month



JJ Coyne
Faithful Navigator
johnjjcoyne@gmail.com
901.832.7332 (m)

Faithful Navigator's Log

Brother Sir Knights,

As we celebrate our nation's independence, I wish all of you and your families a blessed and safe Independence Day. We are grateful for the freedoms we enjoy and for the sacrifices made by generations of Americans who have defended them. I encourage all Sir Knights to participate in our Independence Day Mass, where our Color Corps will once again help enhance the dignity and solemnity of the celebration through their visible witness of faith and patriotism. This Mass will be observed on Friday, July 3rd, at 8:30a.

I would also like to thank the members of our Color Corps who participated in the June Honor Flight Homecoming. Their presence helped provide a memorable and heartfelt welcome for our veterans returning from Washington, DC. It is always inspiring to see our Assembly support those who have served our nation and to honor their sacrifices in such a meaningful way.

Our July 23 Assembly meeting will include the installation of officers for the new fraternal year. I congratulate all newly elected and appointed officers and thank those who have faithfully served during the past year. I look forward to working alongside our new Faithful Navigator, Ed Amador and the rest of the leadership team as we continue to promote the principles of Patriotism, Charity, Unity, and Fraternity.

As we begin planning for the upcoming fraternal year, the Assembly is considering supporting Wreaths Across America as a recipient of our charitable donations. This outstanding organization honors our nation's veterans by remembering their service and ensuring that their sacrifices are never forgotten. Additional information will be shared as discussions continue.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our Assembly, our Church, our community, and our veterans. May God bless you, your families, and the United States of America.

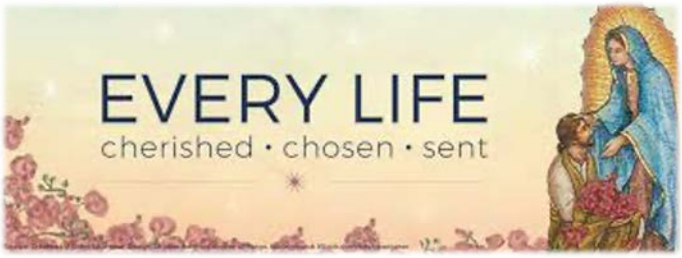
Vivat Jesus!

JJ Coyne
Faithful Navigator
Espiritu Santo Assembly 2474





Njällssen Amaro Lionheart
realamarolionheart@gmail.com
305.761.3419



The Month of the Precious Blood, River of Redemption and Seal of the Covenant

July enters the year clothed in solemn splendor, like a crimson banner unfurled over the Church, reminding the faithful of the price of their salvation. It is the month dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus, the Blood that fell like rubies upon the earth from Gethsemane to Calvary, each drop carrying the weight of a love deeper than the oceans and older than creation itself. The Precious Blood is not symbol or poetry alone. It is the living price of the new covenant, the river of redemption that flows through the sacraments and into the hearts of the faithful. To contemplate this mystery is to stand before the deepest truth of the Gospel: humanity was not redeemed by power, force, or decree, but by the poured-out life of the God-man who embraced suffering so that the world might be set free. July calls the faithful to gaze upon this Blood with awe, for it is the very heartbeat of salvation, the scarlet thread woven through Scripture from the Passover lamb to the cross of the true Lamb of God.

The story of the Precious Blood is the story of divine love unfolding in crimson light. In the Garden of Gethsemane, the Blood begins to fall, born not of violence but of anguish, revealing the weight of the sins He chose to bear. At the scourging post, it stains the stones as a silent testimony to innocence suffering for guilt. Along the via Dolorosa, it marks the path of sacrifice, like a trail guiding humanity back to the heart of the Father. On the cross, it flows from His hands and feet in streams of mercy. And from His pierced side it pours forth as blood and water, the fountain of the Church's sacramental life. The saints teach that this Blood is the key that unlocks heaven, the shield that defends the soul, the remedy that heals wounds too deep for human consolation. July invites us to enter this mystery not as spectators, but as children washed and claimed by the covenant sealed in this divine outpouring. The Precious Blood is the song of mercy that has never ceased to echo across the centuries.

To live July rightly is to let this Blood speak into our lives with its quiet authority and boundless compassion. And to my brother Knights, this month summons us to a deeper sense of mission grounded in gratitude for the price of our redemption. Let us be men who defend the dignity of every human life, remembering that every soul is worth the Blood of Christ. Let us console the suffering, uplift the forgotten, and stand firm against injustice, knowing that the covenant carved in Calvary's shadow calls us to courageous charity. Let our councils pray the Litany of the Precious Blood with devotion, enthrone its mystery in our homes, and teach our families to trust in the victory that has already been won. July is the month when the river of redemption flows most clearly before us. Let us step into its waters with fidelity, allowing the Precious Blood to strengthen our hearts, sanctify our mission, and draw us ever closer to the Heart from which it first flowed.

Ad Jesum per Mariam.



Patriot Ellie Jajuga wishes everyone a Happy Independence Day

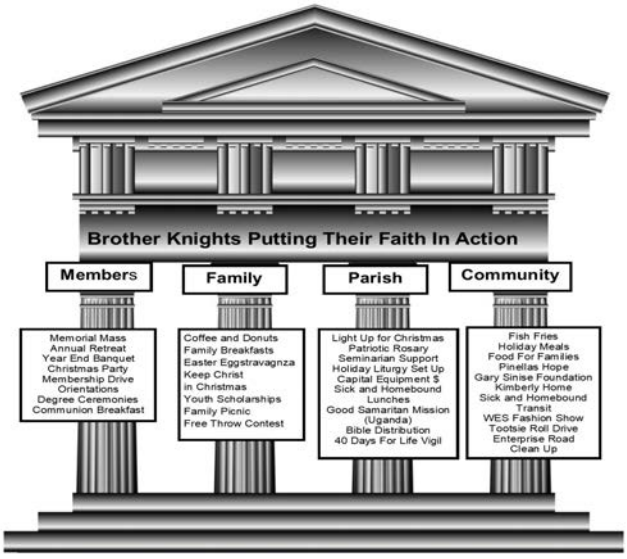


Jerry Custin
PGK, PFN
jcustin@gmail.com



Serve The Lonely And Abandoned

Well, Psalm 58 caught David on a bad day. Ultimately, this is a lament expressing trust in God's power to dethrone all powers obstructing divine rule of the world. But first, he tears apart the current culture of Judah in believing in false gods and engaging in crime and violence. He calls them liars from the womb. I wonder what he would say about the author countering our national motto, In God We Trust, covered in our editorial? How can we serve the lonely and abandoned if we act like those described by David? But in the end, David calls for all that wantonness to ooze away. Then, the just shall rejoice. Then people will say: "Truly there is a reward for the just; there is a God who is judge on earth!"



Psalm 58

Do you indeed pronounce justice, O gods; do you judge fairly, you children of Adam? No, you freely engage in crime; your hands dispense violence to the earth. The wicked have been corrupt since birth; liars from the womb, they have gone astray. *Their venom is like the venom of a snake, like that of a serpent stopping its ears, So as not to hear the voice of the charmer or the enchanter with cunning spells. O God, smash the teeth in their mouths; break the fangs of these lions, LORD! Make them vanish like water flowing away; trodden down, let them wither like grass. Let them dissolve like a snail that oozes away, like an untimely birth that never sees the sun. Suddenly, like brambles or thistles, have the whirlwind snatch them away. Then the just shall rejoice to see the vengeance and bathe their feet in the blood of the wicked. Then people will say: "Truly there is a reward for the just; there is a God who is judge on earth!"

Dues Notice

Billing for Fraternal Year 2026/2027

On or about June 15, you will have received a membership dues notice for the upcoming fraternal year. If you have an email address in your KofC profile, your notice will be emailed to you. Otherwise, the notice will be sent via US mail. Our fraternal year runs from July 1 to June 30. Annual dues are $30.00. We also offer the feature of donating to the seminarians we support. We ask $5.00 from single members and $10.00 from couples. Honorary Life members, who owe no dues, will not receive a notice for the seminarians. If you want to donate, please see me at a future meeting, or send a check to the address below.

Newsletter Ads - If you would like to have your business card in the newsletter for one year, please send $20.00 and your business card along with your membership payment.

Pay Dues Online - You can pay your Dues online through PayPal. Just go to our website: www.safetyharborkofc.org and click the Dues dropdown link and then follow the instructions on that page. You do not need a PayPal account to pay this way. If you pay via PayPal there is a fee added to cover the fees the Council is charged by PayPal. If you have your own PayPal account connected to your bank, you can send your payment directly to fs@safetyharborkofc.org with no fees.

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In Memoriam

Dominic Patrick Friscia

April 21, 1938 – May 28, 2026



Dominic Patrick Friscia, 88 years old, of Clearwater, Florida, passed away May 28, 2026.

Born April 21, 1938, in New York, New York, he was the son of Frank and Mary Friscia.

He transferred from Pensacola, Florida, to Clearwater, Florida, in 1972 to become the merchandise manager of Gayfers Department Store at Clearwater Mall. Due to his legal blindness, he transitioned from Gayfer's to become a member of the first deaconate graduating class for the Catholic Church, Diocese of St. Petersburg, in 1987. He became a deacon at Espiritu Santo Catholic Church in Safety Harbor, Florida, where he organized the RCIA and various other organizations within the church. He remained an active deacon up until around 2024.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Victoria "Vicky" Friscia; his five children, Marie Spence (Tim), Frank Friscia (Melanee), Dominic Friscia, Jr., Edward Friscia (Gena), and Stacey Cavaliere (John); along with nine grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Sylvan Abbey Funeral Home.

A viewing was held at Sylvan Abbey Funeral Home in Clearwater, Florida, on June 4, 2026. A funeral Mass was offered on June 5, 2026, at Espiritu Santo Catholic Church in Safety Harbor, Florida, followed by a reception in the parish center.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites you to please consider making a donation to St. Vincent de Paul at Espiritu Santo Catholic Church in his name.

Condolences may be offered at www.sylvanabbey.com.





Happy 250TH In God We Trust

Happy Fourth of July, as we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the signing of our Declaration of Independence. This is a universally historic document as it clearly established the true source of human governance. That is, ***"We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights and among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."*** Self-evident, no sources needed, a strong affirmation. Recognition that the Creator grants human rights, not a King, tyrant, or some other form of human governance. Perfect rights for our order – life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Further, fifty-six men signed that document, fully committed to seeking Creator-given rights with the knowledge that their choice could involve risk and sacrifice. They signed with the closing phrase that they were offering ***"our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."*** Nine of those men gave their lives; others their fortunes. None yielded their sacred honor.

This led to arguably the second-most recognized document on human governance – the US Constitution. In the very first amendment, our Constitution specified freedom of religion as a fundamental right. The Magna Carta is the only competitor to our Constitution.

On June 14, 1954, Flag Day, President Eisenhower signed a joint Congressional resolution adding the words ***"In God We Trust" to*** our money. The addition was heavily influenced by the Cold War and the Second Red Scare. Lawmakers aimed to distinguish the United States from the officially atheistic Soviet Union by emphasizing the nation's spiritual and religious heritage.

On Flag Day 2026, the Orlando Sentinel published an article questioning adding that phrase to our money. The author, David Williamson observed, "***While we're on the subject of national anniversaries, our national motto has one coming up. "In God We Trust" turns 70 in a few weeks. Somehow it seems older — those must have been a tough 70 years. A national motto should reflect the values that unite a nation. But on July 30, 1956, President Eisenhower signed "In God We Trust" into law as the motto of the United States, despite the fact that Americans were not then, have never been, and are not now united by a shared religion***."

Yes, it has been a tough 70 years. Journalism used to be professional. The most popular journalist of the era, Walter Cronkite, would close his broadcasts with the words, ***"And that's the way it is***." Now, in far too many cases, the claim should be, and this is what I'm trying to convince you of. It's not even an opinion. It's active disinformation. In those 70 years, we have aborted over 68 million babies, expanded our gender base from the two given by our Creator to an ever-expanding number of our choosing, we have suffered an unprecedented major attack on our soil, and we have gone from basically no national debt to over $38 trillion based on the choices we have made. John Adams told us well over 200 years ago that our Constitution was written for a moral people. Today, our core morality as a culture is in question.

The author sets up a false dilemma in his article. He says, we have never been united by a shared religion and thus cannot claim "**In God we trust."** Our Declaration of Independence addresses our Creator. It does name a particular God or religion. Our Constitution provides for freedom of religion. It does not direct us to a specific God or even a specific god or religion. Lack of a "shared religion" has nothing to do with trusting in God as a diverse people.

In 1954, the Knights of Columbus successfully lobbied to add two words to our Pledge of Allegiance, which was written in 1892. Those two words? ***Under God.*** Not only, In God We Trust. But we are also one nation Under God. These are the core values of our Order as Knights of Columbus, as well as our formation as a country. On July 4, 2026 proudly proclaim that In God We Trust and realize the blessing that we are one nation Under God.

From the Desk of Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly...

The Heart of the Father

Through the Eucharist, Christ teaches that authentic fatherhood begins with receiving and sharing the sacrificial love of God

As we celebrate Corpus Christi Sunday (June 7), the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (June 12) and Father's Day (June 21), we are invited to meditate more deeply on the love of Christ revealed in the Eucharist and reflected in the vocation of fatherhood.

This year, in a special way, the U.S. bishops will consecrate the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 11 - as part of the broader observance of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The formal act of consecrating the nation to the Sacred Heart is a way of entrusting our country to the love and guidance of Christ. According to the U.S. bishops, the consecration is meant "to remind everyone of our task to serve our nation by perfecting the temporal order with the spirit of the Gospel."

That idea - perfecting the temporal order with the spirit of the Gospel" - is a tall order. When contemplating something so big, I find it helpful to think of something a little closer to home. St. John Paul II reminded us that "the future of humanity passes by way of the family" (*Familiaris Consortio*, 86).

What does devotion to the Sacred Heart have to do with the family? How can this devotion help us become better husbands and fathers? I believe the answer lies in meeting Christ in and through the Eucharist. The Mass teaches us four lessons essential to understanding what it means to be a father.
First, the Mass connects us to the heart of Christ and gives us the true heart of a father. In revealing the Father's love, Christ is our best guide for what it means to be a father, and he shows us that being a good father begins with being a good son. Jesus said: "I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me" (Jn 6:38). The better we understand who we are as God's sons, the better fathers we will be to our own children.

Second, in the sacred liturgy we hear the Father's voice, and he teaches us. Through the readings, we hear our heavenly Father encouraging, correcting and instructing us. We see Jesus modeling how we should act and think. We learn about forgiveness and mercy. The Mass, then, reveals the meaning of a father's love in all its dimensions - a love we are called to make our own and pass on to our children.

The third lesson the Mass teaches is sacrificial love. This is the very essence of the Eucharist. Our heavenly Father made the ultimate sacrifice - his only Son - out of love for us. It was an act in which Jesus himself fully shared. Christ shows us that giving one's life for others is the greatest gift one person can give another.

As fathers, we are called to make a similar sacrifice - to give all that we are and all that we have for the sake of our wives and children. Every family needs a man willing to love sacrificially in this way. We learn that love through the sacrifice of Christ that we encounter in the liturgy.

Finally, the Mass teaches us that Jesus entrusts us with a mission and sends us forth. Yes, modern life is complex, but God works through his creation - and he works through us. He is greater than the forces shaping our world, and he gives us the capacity to achieve great things if we rely on him.

The most important difference we can make in shaping the world is in shaping our children. The Eucharist gives us the strength to fulfill this calling and to form our families - especially our children - as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart is not complicated. At its core, it means having a personal relationship with Christ. And the best way to deepen that relationship is through the Eucharist, where Christ teaches us to love with his own heart.

Vivat Jesus!

From the Florida State Council Chamber…

The Countdown Is On

As we approach the conclusion of the 2025–2026 fraternal year, the countdown has officially begun. June 30, 2026, is rapidly approaching, and while the calendar may be winding down, our mission is not. In fact, these final weeks present one of the greatest opportunities we have had all year.

Too often, organizations view the end of a year as the finish line. In the Knights of Columbus, it should be viewed as a launching point. There is still important work to be done, lives to be touched, and men to be invited into our Order. The year is not over until June 30, and every day between now and then matters.

One of the greatest opportunities before us is membership growth. Every new E-member who joins during the month of June can be transferred into a local council in July, giving that council a strong start toward Star Council for the upcoming fraternal year. Imagine beginning July with new members already engaged and ready to serve. That momentum can make all the difference in helping councils achieve their goals and continue their growth.

This is why I am encouraging every District Deputy and every Grand Knight to stay focused and finish strong. We have worked too hard throughout this year to slow down now. We have conducted meaningful programs, supported our parishes, served our communities, raised funds for charitable causes, defended life, strengthened families, and brought men closer to Christ. The foundation has been laid. Now is the time to build upon it.

Let us continue pursuing the Father McGivney, Founders', and Columbian Awards. Let us continue striving for Star Council. Let us continue working toward earning the prestigious double star council and triple star council. Most importantly, let us keep the train on the tracks and moving forward.

For the first time in twelve years, Florida has an opportunity to bring Pinnacle back to our jurisdiction. That is not a small accomplishment. Pinnacle recognition represents the very best of what a jurisdiction can achieve in membership growth, insurance growth, charitable outreach, and overall excellence.

Bringing Pinnacle back to Florida would be a testament to the dedication, faith, and hard work of every brother throughout our state. The good news is that this goal is within our reach. It does not require extraordinary measures. It requires commitment, determination, and a willingness to continue doing what successful councils have always done - invite Catholic men to join us in our mission.

Membership drives do not have to be complicated. Sometimes the most effective invitation is the simplest one. Set up a table after Mass. Speak with a parishioner. Share your experience as a Knight. Invite a friend, a neighbor, a fellow ministry member, or a family member. Ask someone to join. Of course, always work closely with your pastor and obtain the necessary permission from your parish. When Pastors see Knights actively serving their parish and supporting its mission, they often become our strongest allies in membership growth.

Every new member represents more than a number on a report. Every new member is a Catholic man seeking a deeper relationship with Christ, a stronger connection to his parish, and an opportunity to serve others. Through the Knights of Columbus, we provide that pathway. We help men grow in faith, build lasting friendships, support their families, and become leaders in their communities. That is why membership growth is not simply about statistics. It is about evangelization. It is about building the Church. It is about bringing souls closer to Jesus Christ.

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As I reflect on this fraternal year, I am filled with gratitude for all that has been accomplished across the Florida State Council. I have witnessed extraordinary examples of faith in action. I have seen councils step forward when communities were in need. I have watched brothers volunteer countless hours serving their parishes and charitable organizations. I have seen families strengthened through our programs and lives changed through our works of mercy.

For all of this, I simply want to say thank you. Thank you for your hard work. Thank you for your sacrifices. Thank you for your dedication. Thank you for your willingness to answer the call to serve. Thank you for being visible examples of Catholic faith and leadership in your communities. Most importantly, thank you for helping bring souls to Christ.

The strength of Florida is not found in any one individual. It is found in thousands of dedicated Knights and their families who choose every day to live out the principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. It is found in Grand Knights who lead with humility, District Deputies who mentor and encourage, chaplains who provide spiritual guidance, and members who quietly serve without seeking recognition.

Together, we are making Florida a better place to live. We are strengthening our parishes, supporting our priests, serving those in need, defending the dignity of every human life, and building a stronger future for the Church.

As we enter the final days of this fraternal year, I ask each of you to remain focused, remain energized, and remain committed to the mission. There is still work to be done. There are still men waiting to be invited. There are still goals to be achieved. Let us finish strong. Let us continue moving forward. Let us continue building upon the tremendous success of this year. And let us work together to make history by bringing Pinnacle recognition back to the Florida State Council.

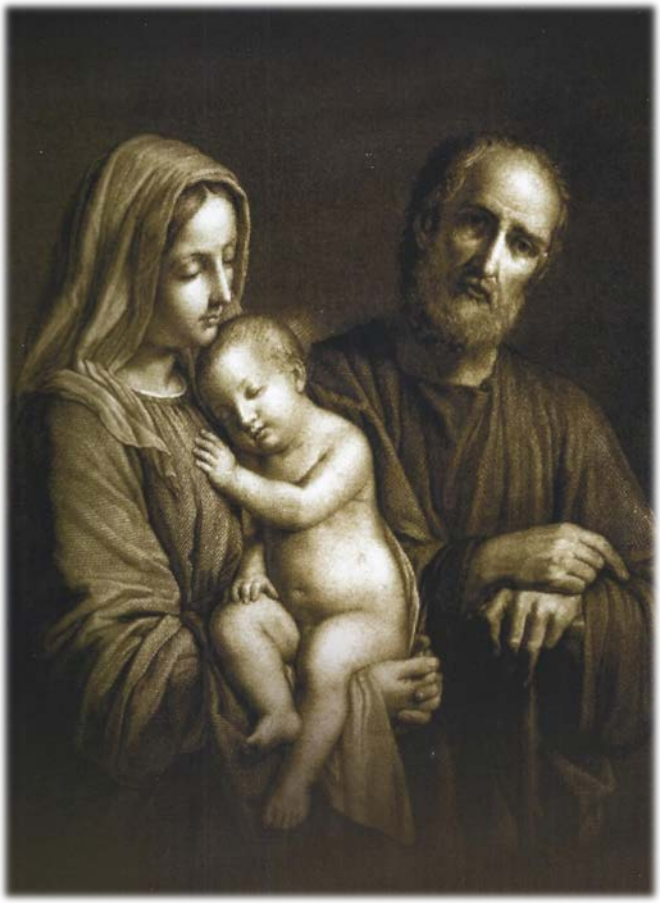
May God continue to bless you, your families, your councils, and the great State of Florida.

Elected & Appointed Council Officer Slate Fraternal Year 2026-2027

• Grand Knight	Tom Krivchenia, PFN
• Deputy Grand Knight	Edward Amador
• Chancellor	George Inderwies
• Recorder	Bill Krajeski
• Treasurer	Jerry Custin, PGK, PFN
• Advocate	Richard Resler
• Warden	Jim Lankford
• Inside Guard	Paul Cooper
• Outside Guard	Vincent Cristiano
• Guard Alternate	Vacant
• Trustee Three Year	Gene Jajuga, PGK, PFN
• Trustee Two Year	JJ Coyne, PGK, PFN
• Trustee One Year	Ken Seguin, PGK, PFN
• Special Asst to Council	Gary Murphy
• Special Asst to Council	Jacob Bandy
• Chaplain (*appointed*)	Fr Michael Cooper, SJ
• Financial Secretary (*appointed*)	Tom Harkins
• Lecturer (*appointed*)	Paul Harvey, PFN

Assembly Officers 2025-2026

Faithful Navigator	JJ Coyne, PGK	901.832.7332
Faithful Friar	Fr Michael W. Cooper, SJ	727.644.5544
Faithful Captain	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
Faithful Admiral	John Gohman	813.810.3735
Faithful Pilot	Amaro Lionheart	305.761.3419
Faithful Scribe	David Heezen	727.792.4471
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	727.472.1651
Trustee Three Year	Wally Vazquez, PFN	727.542.5376
Trustee Two Year	Frank McEwen, PGK, PFN	727.239.2687
Trustee One Year	Frank DiMattei, PGK, PFN	727.871.6506
Color Corps Commander	Tom Wozniak, PGK, PFN, FDD	727.214.8377
Veterans Liaison	Bill Gallant	727.251.6300



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.

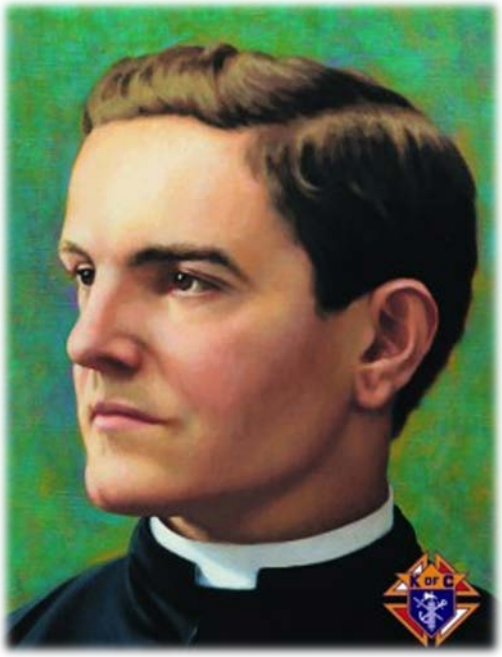
In our daily life and work,
May we reflect the self-giving love which you,
O Father, eternally show with your Son
and the Holy Spirit.

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…

July 2026

- 07/09 | Thu 6:15p Rosary
- 07/09 | Thu 7:00p Council 7109 Membership Meeting
- 07/12 | Sun 7:00a Coffee & Donuts
- 07/16 | Thu 8:00a Pinellas Hope Meal Prep & Delivery
- 07/16 | Thu 7:00p Council Officer Installation Ceremony
- 07/18 | Sat 8:00a Kimberly Home WorkDay

Assembly Calendar of Events…

July 2026

- 07/03 | Fri 8:30a Independence Day Mass (Color Corps)
- 07/23 | Thu 7:00p Assembly 2474 Monthly Meeting
  Installation Ceremony

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Knights of Columbus

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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.

