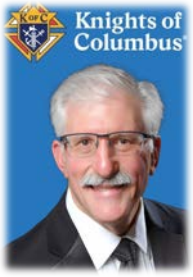
The Shield

Grand Knight's Message



Tom Krivchenia, PFN
Grand Knight
GrandKnight7109@gmail.com

Issue 10, October 2026

Next Council Meeting
Thursday, October 08 @ **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

Greetings, Brother Knights and Ladies,

Oct is here! With the fall season, we can hope for cooler days and nights to come later in the month. Football season is in full swing, and school is well underway. The holiday season is just around the corner, and the stores have been promoting Halloween for the past two months. As our council swings into this busy time of the year, I would like to recap the events that we have been engaged in during September.

Espiritu Santo's Ministry Fair was held on September 19 & 20 after each Mass. We had our booth for promoting the Knights of Columbus and the Ladies Auxiliary. I want to thank Keith Taylor for his fantastic effort in getting the names of 15 potential new Knights. We sold coffee and donuts after all the Sunday Masses. We almost ran out of all the donuts! The Ministry Fair was a great success. I would like to thank our volunteers who helped to make our part in the fair run smoothly. Please forgive me if I have left anyone out.

Paul Harvey	Matt Sunski	Margaret Krivchenia
Jim Montali	Joe D'Amelio	Tom Krivchenia
Phyllis Montali	Betty D'Amelio	Carlos Salezar
Judy Jennings		

Our next major event was the Tootsie Roll Drive after each Mass on September 26 & 27. This was a very successful event as our parishioners donated $1908.64 for students with learning disabilities. This was the most we have collected in quite some time. I would like to thank all the volunteers who selflessly offered their time for this charitable fundraiser.

Please forgive me if I have missed anyone.

Ed Amador	Peter Saleses	Gene Jajuga
John Papa	Ken Seguin	Betty D'Amelio
JJ Coyne	Gabe Seguin	Joe D'Amelio
Keith Taylor	JK Sujanani	George Inderwies
Matt Sunski	Tom Harkins	Richard Ciardullo
Richie Resler	Frank McEwen	Richard Cordoro
Paul Harvey	Vince Cristiano	Tom Fitzpatrick
Jack Strehle	Mario Zaccaria	Chris Mazzone
Steven Verba	Mark Feldman	Garrett Phoebe
Tom Krivchenia		

Thank you to all the volunteers who sign up or show up to help with the numerous events. We could not be so successful without you! May God bless you abundantly!

September ended with the beautiful feast days of the Archangels, Michael, Gabriel and Raphael on September 29. Michael means "Who is like God.' He is the warrior we invoke for protection. He battled against Satan and his minions during the great war in heaven. In many churches, the Saint Michael the Archangel Prayer is still recited at the end of Mass. Gabriel means "God's Strength." Gabriel is the messenger as he appeared to the Virgin Mary at the Annunciation. Raphael means "God's Remedy." He cured Tobit of his blindness and helped Tobias and

Sarah to find each other. He is the healer. We honor these majestic Archangels as they help us on our journey through life.

We still have 41 members who have not paid their dues. You can send your check to Tom Harkins at 10 Summerwinds Lane, Oldsmar, FL 34677 or you can bring your check to the nest Council meeting on Oct 8th.

Upcoming Events

We start off the month with our Council Family Picnic this Sat Oct 3rd at 11:00 AM in Philippe Park at Shelter #5. We are having hamburgers and hot dogs with potato salad, macaroni salad and chips. We will also have assorted cookies. We will have games to play. If anyone who is coming to the picnic has a cornhole game, please bring it to the picnic.

We are having our first full family breakfast on Sun Oct11th after all morning Masses. We are celebrating Christopher Columbus and the Knights of Columbus. We will be serving eggs, sausage links, hashbrowns and assorted pancakes with juice and milk. I will be sending out a sign-up sheet for volunteers. Come have a good breakfast and see some old friends and meet some new friends. For our new Knights this is a great way to get involved. If you are interested in becoming more involved in the parish here is a good way to get involved.

We are looking for some additional Eucharistic Ministers to serve our parish at several Mass times. We will be conducting a training session in the Gathering Room Sat morning Oct 24th from 9:00 AM – Noon. If you are interested in joining us in this wonderful ministry, please contact Jim Lankford at 813.455.2292 or email Jim at jimlankford78@yahoo.com

As I stated, Oct is here, and on Fri, Oct 23rd, we will be having OCT AT THE RANCH, OUR BOOTS AND STETSON BALL!! Tickets are on sale at $25 per person, $15 for children 12 and under. We began selling tickets after all the Masses last weekend. The Andrews Raiders Country band will be performing country music with some of your favorite songs. Practice your Line Dancing! It is a western theme. So, wear your jeans, boots and hats if you have them. Chicken with barbeque sauce, salad, corn, baked beans, mashed potatoes and rolls will be on the menu as well as a delicious cake. Buy your tickets early and fill up the tables. This will be a fun foot stomping event!

Thank you to Gene Jajuga for designing the flyer and tickets. The Ladies Auxiliary will be busy with the decorations and the raffle baskets. Thank you to Ed Amador for bringing the supplies for our table decorations. The Ladies will have fun putting them together!

Strengthen Your Faith and Brotherhood

Are you looking to deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ and connect with other men in the parish? The Good News is a Catholic Bible study for men that offers an opportunity to better understand what it means to be a man today by studying the essential Gospel message of the Bible: how humanity was created good, fell through sin, and saved through Jesus Christ. This core message of Scripture unlocks the broader story of the Bible and presents men with the choice to follow Christ with their whole lives.

Men of the Word: The Good News has 12 sessions, including 4 Lectio Divina sessions that help men pray with Scripture and study. Each study session includes selected readings from the Bible, discussion questions to apply the readings to daily life, and additional supplements for deeper study.

The structure of the sessions includes 6 key parts:

1. Session introduction
2. Opening Prayer
3. Reading Scripture
4. Applying Scripture
5. Call to Action
6. Closing Prayer

Other Structural Elements:

· Each session includes quotations from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, saints and Popes.
· Each session includes some extended explanations of key ideas or parts of scripture.
· Each session includes a brief list of additional readings that participants may want to read at home after the meeting.

The Knights of Columbus invite all men of the Council to join our monthly Men of the Word: The Good News Bible study. This 12-session program explores God's narrative of salvation and teaches us how to pray with Scripture using the ancient practice of Lectio Divina.

· When: Monthly on the third Thu of the month, from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
· Where: Parish Center or the John Bosco Center (Check parish signs each month)
· What to Bring: Please bring your own Bible.

Meeting Dates (12-Month Schedule):

· 2026: Oct 15, Nov 19, December 17
· 2027: January 21, February 18, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16

Important Registration Details:
If you plan to attend, please complete the sign-up sheet so that study materials can be ordered in time. The hard deadline to sign up is Oct 4th. If you have questions, please contact John Gohman at john.gohman2@gmail.com or 813-810-3735.

- Council 7109 Officers Meeting – Thu, Oct 1st at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Council 7109 Family Picnic – Sat, Oct 3rd at 11 AM Pavilion #5 in Philippe Park
- Dinner Dance Ticket Sales – Sat, Oct 3rd after all Masses under the pavilion
- Dinner Dance Ticket Sales – Sun, Oct 4th after all Masses under the pavilion
- Monthly Rosary – Thu, Oct 8th at 6:15 PM in the Gathering Room
- Council Business Meeting – Thu, Oct 8th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center
- Ladies Auxiliary Meeting – Thu, Oct 8th at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Dinner Dance Ticket Sales – Sat, Oct 10th after all Masses under the pavilion
- Dinner Dance Ticket Sales – Sun, Oct 11th after all Masses under the pavilion
- Full Family Breakfast – Sun, Oct 11th after morning Masses in the Parish Center
- Columbus Day – Mon, Oct 12th
- Council 7109 Open House – Wed, Oct 14th at 7:00 PM in the gathering Room
- Pinellas Hope Food Prep – Thu, Oct 15th at 8:00 AM in the Parish Center Kitchen
- Unified Degree Ceremony – Thu, Oct 15th at 7:00 PM in the St. John Bosco Center
- Kimberly Home Workday – Sat, Oct 17th at 8:00 AM in Clearwater
- Dinner Dance Ticket Sales – Sat, Oct 17th after all Masses under the pavilion
- Dinner Dance Ticket Sales – Sun, Oct 18th after all Masses under the pavilion
- At The Ranch Dinner Dance – Fri, Oct 23rd at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center.
- Council 7109 Officers Meeting – Thu, Nov 5th at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room
- Gary Sinise Golf Tournament – Fri, Nov 6th at Seven Springs golf Club
- Monthly Rosary – Thu, Nov 12th at 6:15 PM in the Gathering Room
- Council 7109 Business Meeting – Thu, Nov 12th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center
- Ladies Auxiliary Meeting – Thu, Nov 12th at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Room

Welcome Fall, y'all. The Ladies Auxiliary will be busy the month of October assisting our Knights with three events. The annual KofC Family Picnic will be held October 3 in Philippe Park. Ladies bring goodies to share. Our monthly Ladies Auxiliary meeting will be held Thursday, October 8 at 7pm in The Gathering Room. Planning for the two upcoming events will be discussed. The next event will be Sunday, October 11, assisting our men with a Full Family Breakfast. And the last event for October will be the "October at the Ranch" Dinner Dance, Friday October 23rd, with great chuckwagon foods, boot scootin' music, and great fellowship. Of course, we ladies will have our wonderful baskets for donations. We all have a busy month ahead, so saddle up for a good ride! God bless you and your family.

Keith Taylor
keithptaylor1@gmail.com
727.698.7331

Membership Matters

!!! Announcing upcoming opportunity to become a Knight of Columbus at our Exemplification of Charity, Unity & Fraternity in the St. John Bosco Center @ 7pm, October 15th!!!

Come join us at the Espiritu Santo Knights of Columbus Exemplification Meeting for Council #7109 on Thursday, October 15th to join our brotherhood and become a Knight of Columbus!

You can gain 1st, 2nd and 3rd degree with the Knights at this single event. We would love to have all Catholic men become part of our Knights of Columbus fraternity and Council! Do what you can when you can.

***Feel free to reach out to Keith Taylor; Knights of Columbus Membership Director at (727) 698-7331 (Call, voice message &/or text) to get you ready for membership with the Knights for this October 15th Exemplification!

Find Your Brothers - No man is meant to go it alone.

But sometimes, that's exactly how Catholic men find themselves. Without the right network of friends, without the right models of faith and virtue look up to, we struggle silently in our work lives, our faith lives and even our homes.

We need brotherhood - a brotherhood that pushes us to be better men, better husbands, better fathers.

That was true in 1882, when Father Michael McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus, and it's just as true today. Come and see what brotherhood with the Knights can offer you.

In the state of Florida and across the country, our Order continues to grow. We need to extend the benefits of membership to all Catholic men. Without growth, our programs fail to have new ideas and become stagnant. The various charitable, church, council, and youth programs are what the Knights of Columbus are known for and those programs require new members.

All good works the Knights of Columbus do are founded on the core principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. Our Catholic faith teaches us to "Love thy neighbor as thyself." Members of the Knights of Columbus show love for their neighbors by conducting food drives and donating the food to local soup kitchens and food pantries, by volunteering at Special Olympics, and by supporting both spiritually and materially, mothers who choose life for their babies. Knights recognize that our mission, and our faith in God, compels us to action. There is no better way to experience love and compassion than by helping those in need, a call we answer every day.





A couple pictures from the 25th Anniversary 911 Memorial Service; SK Keith Taylor participated with the combined Color Guard

Unity – Strength in Numbers

Informational Open House Schedule

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

Unified Degree Ceremony Schedule

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

Look for more information from our Grand Knight



Council Membership Report

Total Membership	327
Insurance Membership	124
Honorary Life Members	60
Honorary Members	07
2026-2027 Membership Growth vs Goal	00/15
2026-2027 Insurance	00/02

Assembly Membership Report

Total Membership	125
Honorary Life Members	13
Honorary Members	01
2026-2027 Membership Growth vs Goal	00/06

Council Officers 2026-2027

Grand Knight	Tom Krivchenia, PFN	727.366.5422
Chaplain	Fr Theo Weria, ALCP	727.726.8477
Deputy Grand Knight	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
Chancellor	George Inderwies	727.647.1601
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	Vincent Cristiano	
Trustee Three Year	Gene Jajuga, PGK, PFN, FFA	727.403.3261
Trustee Two Year	JJ Coyne, PGK, PFN	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	Gary Murphy	
Special Assistant to the Council	Jacob Bandy	

Happy Birthday Brothers! Many Happy Returns!

Vincent Baldwin, Ryan Burriesci, Kevin Cordaro, Richard Cordaro, William Cullen Jr, Jerome Dewberry, Frank DiMattei, Walter Feble, Bill Gallant, Richard Gouin, Edward Gouthro, David Hale, Thomas Hart Jr, Jaret Honahan, Thomas Kukulski, Frank Laffey, Will Maxwell Jr, James McCarthy, Charles McEwen Jr, Anthony Metty, Kenneth Miller, Adel Nammour, William Nemanich, Thomas Penders, Kurt Salac, Peter Salesses, William Scott, Morgan Sheafer Sr, Michael Short, James Smith, Robert Smith III, Thomas Stanko, Denny Werner, Andrew Williams

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), 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, 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), Don Puchalski, Ed Fucillo (d), Pat Flynn, Rose Marie Harvey, Daniela Salazar, Kathy Akbari, Fr Michael Cooper, Terry Mueller, James O'Neill (d), Dn Dom Friscia (d), Julius Silva (d), Thelma Rochester (d), Rolando Kirk, Minnie Silva, Richard Cook (d), Ingrid Burriesci, Mark Feldman, Paul Barry (d), Ed Sleyzak (d), Nelson Amador (d), Joseph DiMattei, Robert Morgan, Amaro Lionheart, Joseph Genalo Jr, Doris Colon

Please pray for all our sick and deceased Brothers, Ladies, and family members. Please report illnesses and deaths to Sir Knight Frank McEwen, , at 727.239.2687 or fmcewen99@gmail.com

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, Justin Appel, Fred & Caroline Bennett, Frank & Angela Di Mattei, Philip & Jane Farney, Mark & Elaine Feldman, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Charles & Raquel Friesema, John & Peggy Gohman II, James Haitz, Irving Hernandez, Joseph & Sandra Hocherl, Christopher & Celise Jones, Robert & M.A. Justiana Sr, Matthew Killeen, Steve Kindrick, Tom & Margaret Krivchenia, Gerard Lobo, Patrick Mackin, Jerry Maratea, Frank & Juliann Marsalek, Clifford & Michelle Merz, James & Phyllis Montali, Chris & Leah Nesci, Frank Pensabene, Miguel & Sammantha Perez I, Garrett Phoebe, Juan & Rosemary Romero, Peter & Susan Salesses, Robert Shafer, Morgan Sheafer Sr, James & Karin Smith, Thomas Smith, Thomas & Janet Stanko, James & Darlene Stanley, Chuck & Elizabeth Sullivan, Alvah & Margaret Vankleeck, Steven & Jaclyn Verba, Timothy Weber Sr, Joshua Wisnowski, Patrick & Joan Alix, Dennis & Joyce Ayral, Patrick Carroll, Joseph Celic III, Sylvia O'Neill, Frederick & Christi Elflein, Zach Faraone, Joel & Karen Gray, Mark Gurley, Kenton & Sue Heuertz, William Kasak, Thomas Kukulski, James & Maria Lankford, Brian & Angela Lawandus, Albert Masselli, Christopher Mazzone, James & Patricia Nolf, Brian & Lisa O'Connor, Robert Papariella, Mark & Christine Peterman, Daniel & T Peterson, Glen Pettersen, Christopher & Carol Purcell, Carlos Salazar, Massimo & Valeria Simeoni, Bryan & Krista Snyder, Lawrence & Corinne Steinhardt, Jugdesh & Sucheta Sujanani, Keith & Griselda Taylor, Charles & Sharon Warrington Jr, Eugene Wolanin, Vincent Baldwin, Jonathan & Marianne Boyce, James & Jean Burris, Aaron Cardenas, Terrell & Victoria Clampitt, Joseph Cortese, Gerald Custin Jr, Frederick & Suzanne Di Masi, Sean Donahoo, Richard & Joan Ducheny, Eric & Maria Flores, Joseph & Megan Gajewski, Ward & Kathleen Griffin, Gerald & Lorraine Grubba, Lawrence & Nancy Harkins, Brian & Christine Kearns, Richard Kemball-Cook Jr, Timothy Kielich, Brian & Christina Lapointe, Didler Legros, Stanley Lipiarz, Francis & Carol Mahoney, Darryl & Mary Miller, Adel Nammour, Javier & Xiomara Ortega, Todd & Margaret Owers, Edmund & Diane Pagnott, Donald & Carol Palacheck, James & Suzanne Preston Jr, Andrew Rodnite, Daniel & Paula Saracki, Jim & Nancy Shirer, Gregory & Carolina Sohn

Total Collected to Date: $2528.68



Father Theo Weria, ALCP
Chaplain

Chaplain's Corner

Encouraged to pray for peace and creation:

Among other liturgical celebrations within the month of October are the memorials of Our Lady of the Rosary on the 7th of October and of St. Francis of Assis on the 4th of October. The month of October is dedicated to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, by the popular devotion and prayer of the Holy Rosary. This devotion has its basis in 16th century, when the Christion Europe were invited and encouraged to pray the Holy Rosary before the naval battle of Lepanto in 1571. So, Pope Pius V established the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary to commemorate the victory from the battle.



Knights of Columbus promote and encourage devotion to the Holy Rosary as a key aspect of the faith within the families and communities. In our present time, around the world, there are different wars which affect our God's given gifts to us; namely our creation, harmony, and the peace. Also, we pray through St. Francis of Assis, who loved creation and whom we celebrate his 800th anniversary of death on 4th of October, concluding days of prayer for creation we began on 1st of September. In solidarity, we are encouraged to pray that all the individuals, families, all countries of the world may live the commitment and a call to love and be instruments of protecting the creation as our creator intended. With the prayer of the Holy Rosary, we hope and trust that our heavenly father hears and responds to our concerns.
Fr Theo

Service Program Directors 2026-2027

Program Director	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
Membership Director	Keith Taylor	727.698.7331
Faith Director	Mark Peterman, PFN	727.403.5993
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/Prayers	Frank McEwen, PGK, PFN	727.239.2687
Retention Coordinator	Ken Seguin, PGK, PFN	727.331.7278



SK Edward Amador
Deputy Grand Knight
Edamador00@gmail.com

Deputy Grand Knight's Report

Making October Count: One Holy Moment at a Time

Brother Knights,

As we continue through the 2026–2027 fraternal year, I have been thinking about how easily we can measure our success by the number of events on the calendar, the number of programs we complete, or even the number of new members we bring into the council.

Those things are important. But I believe there is another way we should measure what we are accomplishing as Knights: How many opportunities are we taking to make a difference? That is where Matthew Kelly's message about Holy Moments continues to resonate with me.

A Holy Moment does not have to be something extraordinary. It can be a simple decision to do something good for someone else. It can be showing up, lending a hand, inviting someone to an event, introducing a new person to the Knights, or simply taking the time to be present.

October gives us plenty of opportunities to do exactly that.

Come Be Part of the Family, one of the things I would like to see more of this year is our Brothers and their families participating together.

The Knights of Columbus is not simply about attending a business meeting once a month. It is about building relationships, strengthening our families, supporting our parish, and creating opportunities for Catholic men to live their faith through action. Our upcoming events provide some great opportunities to do that. On October 3, we will have our Family Picnic at Philippe Park Shelter 5. This is a chance to step away from our normal routines, bring the family, spend some time with Brother Knights, and simply enjoy one another's company.

On October 11, we will have our Full Family Breakfast, followed later in the month by the October at the Ranch Dinner Dance on October 23. These are more than dates on a calendar. They are opportunities to build friendships. They are opportunities to introduce someone to the Knights. They are opportunities for our families to get to know the families of our Brother Knights. And sometimes, simply sitting down together over a meal can become a Holy Moment. I encourage you to come out, bring your family, and invite someone who may not yet know what our council is about. October 12: Remembering Columbus and Our Catholic Heritage as October also gives us a special opportunity to recognize Columbus Day on Monday, October 12.

The Knights of Columbus has a long historical connection to Columbus Day, dating back to the earliest years of our Order. For us, it is an opportunity to recognize our Catholic heritage, our identity as Knights of Columbus, and the patriotism that has been part of our Order's history from the beginning. This year also marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation, making the observance especially meaningful. Whether you have an opportunity to participate in a local Columbus Day event, attend a parade, support a Fourth Degree activity, or simply take a moment to reflect on what our organization represents, I encourage you to participate in some way.

As Knights, we should not simply know our history. We should be willing to show up for it.
For those interested in the Fourth Degree's participation in the New York City Columbus Day Parade, I encourage you to read my Faithful Navigator's report elsewhere in this newsletter for more information.

Membership: One Invitation Can Make a Difference
Another area where every Brother can create a Holy Moment is membership. Growing our council cannot be the responsibility of the Membership Director, the Grand Knight, or the officers alone. It belongs to all of us. Think about why you became a Knight. Maybe someone invited you. Maybe a friend encouraged you. Maybe you saw the Knights helping your parish or community. Maybe you wanted a stronger connection

with other Catholic men. Whatever your reason, someone had to take the first step and invite you. Now it is our turn.

There are Catholic men in our parish and our community who may be looking for exactly what the Knights can provide: faith, fraternity, service, and an opportunity to make a difference. We do not need to pressure anyone. We simply need to have the conversation. Invite a Catholic man to dinner. Invite him to the picnic. Invite him to breakfast. Invite him to the Night at the Ranch. Let him meet our Brothers and see what we are doing. Then tell him why "you" are a Knight. That conversation could be the Holy Moment that changes someone's life and it could also help shape the future of Council 7109.

A Brotherly Reminder About Dues

I also want to take a moment to remind everyone about something that is not nearly as exciting as a dinner dance or family picnic but is absolutely necessary to the health of our council: **Please keep your Knights of Columbus dues current.** Our dues help provide the resources necessary for the council to operate and support the charitable, parish, and community activities that we undertake throughout the year. When Brothers do not keep their dues current, the responsibility does not simply disappear. The financial burden ultimately falls on the council and, in turn, on Brothers who do pay their dues. More importantly, unpaid dues reduce the resources available for the very causes and programs we are trying to support. If you are behind on your dues, please take care of them. If you are unsure of your status, reach out to the council and we will help you get it resolved. Paying your dues is more than fulfilling an obligation. It is one of the simple ways every Brother helps keep our council strong and our mission moving forward.

Matthew Kelly's concept of a Holy Moment reminds us that we have choices every day. We can choose to do what is easy, or we can choose to do what is good. And when we do those things consistently, something bigger happens. We build a stronger council, a stronger parish community, and a stronger brotherhood.

Let's Make October Count- Brother Knights, I am asking each of you to look at the October calendar and find a place where you can participate. Bottom line: Help with a council program. Invite someone to join us. Make sure your dues are current. You do not have to do everything.

But do something, because when every Brother does something, the council becomes stronger. And perhaps that is one of the greatest lessons of a Holy Moment: we may never know the full impact of a small decision to help, serve, invite, or simply be present.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Deputy Grand Knight. I look forward to seeing many of you and your families throughout October.

Vivat Jesus!



SK Edward J. Amador, MPS, FN





John Ruckart
Field Agent
John.Ruckart@kofc.org

Knights of Columbus INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE

Fraternal Benefits Advisor Report

Nearly half (47%) of adults say they would have trouble paying living expenses within six months of their primary wage earner's death according to a 2025 LIMRA study. While no one wants to think about tragedy striking their family, planning ahead about how your family might manage financially can be an important part in caring for those you love.

Your decisions today have a direct impact on your family's financial future. By working with me to consider your life insurance and income replacement needs, you can prepare for the unexpected while also carrying forward a legacy that has been at the heart of the Knights of Columbus since our founding.

When Blessed Michael McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882, he was witnessing firsthand the precarious situation widows and orphans faced when a father died. He sought to create a way to relieve their burdens and care for those in need. Today, we are proud to continue that tradition of guarding what matters most to our members - their families and their faith.

Income replacement through life insurance can be one part of that protection. As your financial circumstances and family needs change over time, I'm here to help you consider whether your coverage continues to align with your goals and priorities.

That's why every year, we ask for an update on any big life changes - such as whether you've bought a home, had a baby or retired. This annual Financial Protection Survey gives my team important insight into your evolving financial needs so we can provide the personalized, faith-based service you deserve. It also helps us know how well we're fulfilling the Knights of Columbus mission in our roles as licensed professionals. Complete your survey online at https://survey.kofc.org

That mission is straightforward and hasn't changed for more than 140 years: to help Catholic men grow in faith, serve others and financially protect their families.

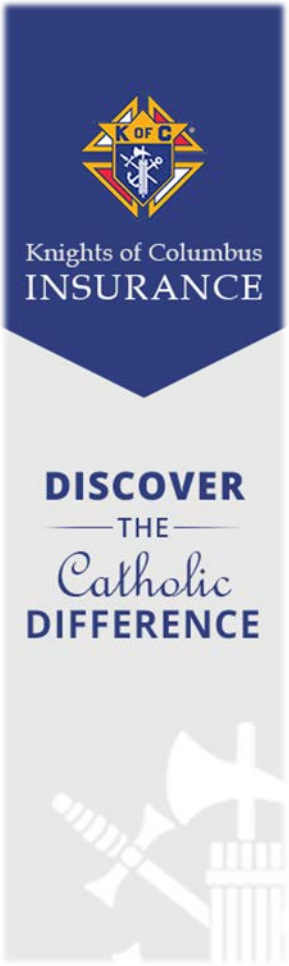
Thank you for your time and thoughtful response. I truly appreciate the opportunity to serve you and your family.

Vivat Jesus!

John D Ruckart, FICF, 813.855.5111

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SK Edward Amador
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Faithful Navigator's Log

Dear Brother Sir Knights,

As we move into October, I want to take a moment to reflect on what it means to be a Fourth Degree Knight and, more importantly, what it means to put that commitment into action.

The Fourth Degree has always represented a visible expression of our Catholic faith, patriotism, and commitment to service. Being a Sir Knight is more than wearing the uniform or participating in ceremonial events. It is about being willing to step forward when our Church, our community, our fellow Knights, or our country needs us.

That means showing up. And this month gives us several opportunities to do exactly that. The Golf Tournament: Your Help Matters. Our annual golf tournament continues to be an important effort for our Assembly and the charitable work we support. But a successful tournament does not happen on tournament day alone.

There is planning. There is preparation. There is contacting sponsors. There is organizing volunteers. There is helping with registration. There is gathering donations and prizes. There is making sure our golfers and supporters have a positive experience.

Our Golf Tournament Committee will be meeting throughout October, including October 5, October 19, and October 26, and I encourage every Sir Knight to consider getting involved in some way. You do not have to be a member of the committee to help. Maybe you can help find a sponsor. Maybe you know a business that would like to support the tournament. Maybe you can help on tournament day. Maybe you can make a few phone calls. Maybe you can simply share information about the tournament with friends and family.

Whatever your ability or availability, there is a way to contribute.

The success of this event belongs to all of us, and every Brother who contributes makes the work a little easier for everyone else.

Our Core Program: Service With Purpose

As Sir Knights, we should also remain focused on the programs that define our Fourth-Degree mission. Our core program gives us an opportunity to take the principles of the Fourth Degree and put them into practical service. Whether that means supporting our parish, participating in patriotic activities, assisting veterans, supporting our community, or providing a visible presence at important Catholic events, these activities give us an opportunity to demonstrate what the Fourth Degree represents. I encourage every Sir Knight to find at least one way to participate this year. You do not have to do everything. But do something. Attend. Volunteer. Support. Recruit another Sir Knight to participate. Bring your family when appropriate. Offer your time. Sometimes we underestimate the value of simply being present. A uniformed Sir Knight standing at a Mass, assisting at an event, honoring a veteran, or supporting our parish sends a message without saying a word.

That visibility matters. Which is a subject that I intend to discuss at our next meeting under new business.

Columbus Day: Remembering Who We Are: October also gives us an opportunity to recognize Columbus Day on Monday, October 12. The connection between the Knights of Columbus and Columbus Day goes back to the earliest years of our Order. The Knights participated in Columbus Day celebrations in the 1890s, including the 1892 celebration in New Haven, Connecticut, where thousands of Knights participated. The Order's history is closely connected with the celebration of Columbus and with the broader themes of Catholic identity, patriotism, and the experience of immigrants in America. That history gives us another reason to take a moment and remember what our name represents.

This year is particularly significant as our nation observes its 250th anniversary.

The Supreme Council is inviting Fourth Degree Knights from across the country to participate in the 2026 Columbus Day Parade in New York City on Monday,

October 12. The goal is to have at least 250 Fourth Degree Knights in uniform, and registered marchers will receive a commemorative challenge coin.

For those who have the opportunity to participate in New York, I encourage you to consider joining our Brother Sir Knights there. It is a unique opportunity to stand alongside Knights from across the country and represent our Order on a national stage.

For the rest of us who will remain here in Florida, the message is just as important: Find a way to participate at the Full Breakfast in honor of Columbus Day or the potential parade that we are still trying to coordinate in Safety Harbor. If our Assembly or Council has an opportunity to participate, volunteer and if you have the opportunity to proudly wear your Knights of Columbus emblem or Fourth Degree uniform at an appropriate event, remember that you are representing something larger than yourself.

A Call to Action for Every Sir Knight

I have said this before, but I believe it is worth repeating: The Fourth Degree cannot be something we simply belong to. It has to be something we participate in.

Every Sir Knight has something to offer. Some have time. Some have connections. Some have organizational skills. Some have financial resources. Some have experience. Some have the ability to recruit. Some can help behind the scenes. And some can simply show up when they are needed. All of those contributions have value.

As we move through October, I ask each Sir Knight to make a simple commitment:

Find one way to get involved. Help with the golf tournament. Participate in a core program. Attend a patriotic event. Support a Brother. Invite another Knight to become more active. Wear the uniform. Show up for your parish. Stand with our veterans. Or simply ask our Assembly leadership, what can I do to help?

That question may be one of the most important things a Sir Knight can ask.

One Brother. One Action. One Difference.

We often look for large opportunities to make a difference, but service is usually built through smaller acts of commitment. One Brother makes a phone call. Another finds a sponsor. Another volunteers at an event. Another stands in uniform. Another welcomes a new member.

Another takes the time to thank a veteran. Another simply shows up. Individually, these actions may seem small. Together, they become the work of the Fourth Degree.

That is what I hope we continue to build within Espiritu Santo Assembly 2474, an Assembly where our Brothers are not simply members on a roster, but Sir Knights who are willing to participate, serve, and stand for the principles we represent.

October gives us plenty of opportunities to do exactly that.

Let us take advantage of them. Let us honor our faith. Let us serve our community.
Let us support our Brothers. Let us honor our veterans.

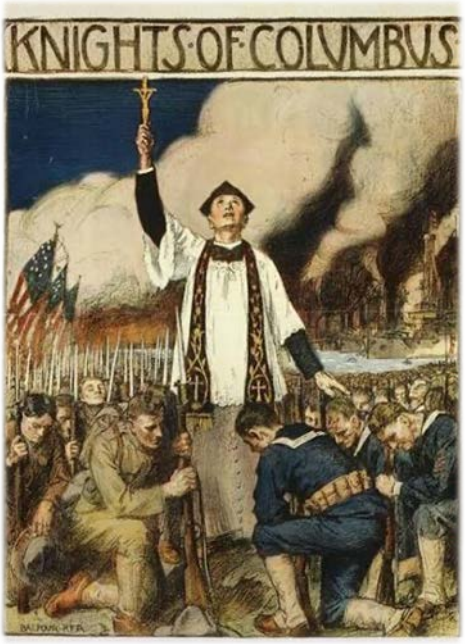
And on Columbus Day, whether you are marching in New York City or participating here at home, let us proudly remember the history of our Order and the Catholic men who came before us.

Be present. Be involved. Be visible. Be a Sir Knight in action.

Vivat Jesus!

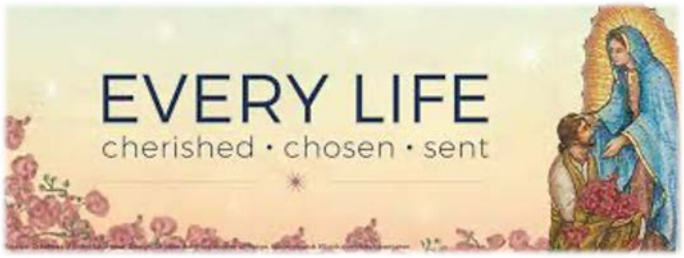


SK Edward J. Amador
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The Beads That Hold the World Together: October and the Holy Rosary

October arrives beneath a changing sky. The fierce brightness of summer begins to soften, the evenings lengthen, and the earth seems to draw inward beneath a quieter light. Fields are gathered, leaves begin their surrender, and the air carries that unmistakable sense that something is passing away so that something deeper may be revealed. In the spiritual life, October carries the same invitation. The Church places into our hands not a sword of steel, but a chain of prayer. Bead by bead, mystery by mystery, decade by decade, the Holy Rosary becomes a road through the Gospel, a path walked beside the Blessed Virgin Mary into the very life, Passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Rosary is small enough to disappear inside a pocket, yet within it rests a cathedral of memory. Bethlehem is there, Nazareth is there, the Jordan is there, Cana is there, Gethsemane is there, Calvary is there, the sealed tomb is there, the empty tomb is there, Pentecost is there, and heaven itself seems to wait beyond the final mystery. The Rosary gathers the mysteries of salvation into the palm of the human hand and teaches the fingers what the heart must never forget. It is Scripture breathed slowly, contemplation given rhythm, and the Gospel carried in beads. Every Hail Mary becomes another footstep beside the Mother of God. Every Our Father raises the soul toward the Father who sent His Son into the world. Every Glory Be reminds us that the God who acted in salvation history is the same God who reigns now and forever. The Rosary is not empty repetition when it is prayed with the heart. It resembles the beating of the heart itself, returning again and again to the same sacred rhythm in order to sustain spiritual life.

October belongs in a special way to the Holy Rosary, and at the center of the month stands October 7, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Its history carries us onto the waters of the Mediterranean in 1571, to the Battle of Lepanto, when Christian forces faced the Ottoman fleet in a struggle that shook Europe. Pope St. Pius V called the faithful to pray the Rosary, and after the victory he gave thanks to God and credited the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Church remembered that day not merely because ships returned from battle, but because a people in fear turned toward heaven, because hands that could not touch the battlefield could still touch beads, and because prayer became a form of spiritual participation in a struggle larger than any single nation or army.

There is something almost sacramental in that image. Ships rise and fall upon a violent sea. Sails strain against the wind. Cannon smoke darkens the horizon. Men face death upon the water. Yet far away, beneath the arches of churches, within monasteries, and inside ordinary homes, Christians kneel. Lips move in prayer and fingers pass slowly from bead to bead. The world hears cannon fire, but heaven hears Ave Maria. History remembers the clash of fleets, while faith remembers the sound of knees touching stone. In this contrast we begin to understand the mystery of the Rosary, because its power rarely appears as the world expects power to appear.

No thunder shakes the walls when an elderly woman begins her first decade before sunrise. No trumpet announces the father who kneels beside his child's bed and whispers the mysteries of Christ. No crowd gathers around the widow who holds a Rosary in trembling hands after the funeral Mass. No earthly applause follows the soldier, the prisoner, the patient, the grieving parent, or the frightened soul who reaches into a pocket and finds those familiar beads. Yet heaven does not measure strength by noise. The deepest wars are often fought where no one else can see them, in that hidden country of the human heart where fear battles trust, resentment battles forgiveness, lust battles purity, pride battles humility, despair battles hope, anger battles mercy, and temptation battles fidelity. Into these unseen battlefields the Rosary enters quietly, teaching the soul to breathe again, teaching the frightened heart to remember, and reminding us that Christ remains present even when the storm has hidden the horizon.

The mysteries of the Rosary never lie to us about suffering. They do not offer a Christianity without a Cross. We rejoice with Mary at the Annunciation, but we also follow her beneath the Cross. We kneel before the Child in Bethlehem, then behold the same Jesus mocked, scourged, crowned with thorns, and carrying the instrument of His own execution. We hear the angelic hymn of Christmas, then later encounter the dreadful silence of Calvary. Yet the Rosary refuses to abandon us at the tomb. It carries us through the darkness until stone gives way, death is defeated, and the risen Christ steps forth into morning. This is the grammar of Christian hope. Joy is not destroyed by sorrow, sorrow is not meaningless when united to Christ, and the Cross is never separated from the Resurrection. The Catholic faith does not deny suffering. It passes through suffering with Christ and discovers that even the grave cannot silence the promise of God.

This is why the Rosary has survived kingdoms, revolutions, persecutions, wars, epidemics, migrations, and centuries of human forgetting. Soldiers have carried it into battle. Mothers have prayed it over sleeping children. Priests have carried it into prisons and hospital rooms. Immigrants have crossed oceans with little more than faith and a Rosary among their possessions. Prisoners have counted Hail Marys in darkness. The dying have held beads when their hands could hold almost nothing else. Generation after generation has worn those beads smooth because when human words failed, these words remained. The Rosary has moved through Catholic families almost like a spiritual inheritance. A grandmother's Rosary becomes her daughter's, and one day it may rest in the hands of a grandson who never met the woman whose fingers polished those beads through decades of prayer. In that simple strand, generations touch one another. Prayers are offered for children not yet born, while memories are carried for those already gone home to God. How many beads have absorbed the tears of mothers, and how many small crucifixes have been kissed before surgery, battle, burial, or a final breath? Only heaven knows.

Pope Leo XIII strongly encouraged devotion to the Rosary during October, urging the faithful to pray especially for the needs of the Church and society. His call still speaks powerfully to our own age. Our homes are filled with devices demanding our attention, our minds are crowded with noise, families struggle to remain united, nations remain restless, and many souls are exhausted by constant motion, argument, distraction, and anxiety. We possess more ways to communicate than any civilization before us, yet many have forgotten how to listen to God. The Rosary answers noise with rhythm, haste with contemplation, anxiety with memory, and darkness with mystery. It teaches stillness without emptiness because the silence it creates is filled with Christ.

To pray the Rosary deeply is to enter the Gospel with the imagination. See Gabriel entering the quiet of Nazareth and hear Mary's astonishment become surrender as she gives herself completely to the will of God. Walk beside Joseph toward Bethlehem and feel the cold night air while the King of Kings enters the world in poverty, resting where animals feed. Stand at Cana as Mary notices what others overlook and quietly directs the servants toward her Son. Enter Gethsemane and hear Christ pray beneath the weight of the world's sin. Walk the road to Calvary and feel the dust rise beneath His wounded feet. Stand beside Mary as the nails are driven and hear the silence when the stone closes the tomb. Then enter Easter morning and behold the impossible, death itself discovering that it cannot imprison God. The Rosary paints the Gospel upon the interior walls of the soul until the mysteries of Christ are no longer distant scenes but places we have visited again and again in prayer.

October also surrounds this devotion with saints whose lives shine like stained glass illuminated by the same divine light. St. Thérèse of Lisieux teaches us that even the smallest act can become enormous when offered with great love. St. Francis of Assisi reminds us that when the soul loosens its grip upon the world, its hands become free to receive God. St. Teresa of Ávila leads us into the interior castle where prayer becomes friendship with Christ. St. Luke the Evangelist reminds us that the life of Jesus must be remembered, proclaimed, and faithfully handed from one generation to the next. Their lives followed very different roads, but every road eventually pointed toward the same destination, Jesus Christ.

This is also the true heart of the Rosary. Mary never gathers us around herself so that we remain with her alone. She gathers us so that she may lead us toward her Son. At the Annunciation she receives Him, at Bethlehem she presents Him, at Cana she points toward Him, at Calvary she remains beside Him, and at Pentecost she waits with His Church for the descent of the Holy Spirit. In every mystery, Mary does what she has always done, carrying Christ toward humanity and drawing humanity toward Christ. Her words at

Cana remain one of the great Marian commands for every generation: “Do whatever He tells you.”

Perhaps this October we do not need another complicated spiritual program. Perhaps we simply need to begin again. Pick up the Rosary, hold the crucifix, make the Sign of the Cross, and begin with one decade if five seem impossible. Pray before the morning becomes noisy. Pray on the drive home. Pray with your spouse. Pray with your children even when they become distracted. Pray for the child who has left the faith, for the marriage that is struggling, for the person whose name still awakens anger in you, for our priests, for the dead, for peace, for the lonely, and for the conversion of sinners. Pray when your faith feels strong but especially pray when faith feels like a single fraying thread between your soul and heaven, because sometimes that thread is stronger than it appears.

The Rosary itself is such a thread, stretching between earth and heaven, between the human heart and the Heart of Mary, between Mary’s heart and the Sacred Heart of Jesus, binding our sorrow to Calvary and our hope to the empty tomb. Perhaps this is why the Rosary has endured when empires have not. Kingdoms rise and collapse, armies march and disappear, monuments crumble, languages change, borders move, and generations pass into history. Yet somewhere tonight a voice will still whisper, “Hail Mary, full of grace.” That same prayer will rise from a chapel, a bedroom, a hospital, a prison cell, a battlefield, a monastery, a parish pew, and a kitchen table. It will be spoken by different voices carrying different sorrows in different nations, yet each prayer will turn toward the same Blessed Mother and ultimately toward the same Jesus Christ, carrying within it the same ancient Christian hope.

So let October become a month of return, a return to prayer, to silence, to Scripture, to the mysteries of Christ, and to the Rosary lying forgotten inside a drawer, hanging beside a bed, resting near the family Bible, or waiting quietly inside a pocket. Take it into your hands, feel the crucifix, touch the first bead, and begin. Allow every prayer to become another candle lit within the soul, every decade another window opened toward heaven, and every mystery another step toward Christ. History has known battles fought with swords, cannons, armies, and ships, but the Christian knows that some of the greatest battles are fought in silence upon the knees, with nothing more in the hand than a crucifix and a strand of beads. In the mysterious economy of heaven, even the smallest beads can carry prayers large enough to hold a world together.

Ad Jesum per Mariam.

To Jesus through Mary.

Vivat Jesus.



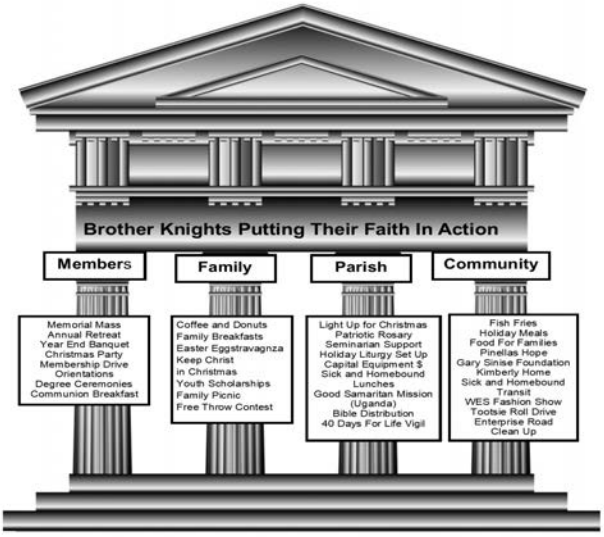


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GENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Psalm 105 is a psalm of praise to the Lord for his many blessings to His people across many generations and promised for eternity. This passage is not the complete Psalm. The remainder covers the wandering of the Israelites to Egypt and the various plagues and calamities which ensued. But God, according to His promises, kept to His words with wonderful and marvelous deeds. And, as the Psalm reminds us, we must do our part by seeking the Lord. This Psalm has roots to the Book of Chronicles going back roughly 800 years or 40 generations. It's now in our hands through our fraternal acts and personal faith to continue on this everlasting path thanking and praising God for each and every blessing.



PSALM 105:1-15 Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name; make known among the peoples his deeds! Sing praise to him, play music; proclaim all his wondrous deeds! Glory in his holy name; let hearts that seek the LORD rejoice! Seek out the LORD and his might; constantly seek his face. Recall the wondrous deeds he has done, his wonders and words of judgment, You descendants of Abraham his servant, offspring of Jacob the chosen one! He the LORD, is our God whose judgments reach through all the earth. He remembers forever his covenant, the word he commanded for a thousand generations, Which he made with Abraham, and swore to Isaac, And ratified in a statute for Jacob, an everlasting covenant for Israel: "To you I give the land of Canaan, your own allotted inheritance." When they were few in number, a handful, and strangers there, Wandering from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another people, He let no one oppress them; for their sake he rebuked kings: "Do not touch my anointed ones, to my prophets do no harm."

Golf Tournament



Letter to the Editor



SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI - 800TH ANNIVERSARY MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE

This is a year of anniversaries. 250 for the USA and 800 years since St. Francis of Assisi left this earth for his heavenly reward. The Psalm for this month speaks to generational relationships. It hit me that all three of these are tied together in a broad, spiritual context.

First some back story on St. Francis, perhaps one of the most well-known Saints in our Church for his simplistic lifestyle and love of all God's creatures. We were assigned to Naples, Italy for four years and were introduced to the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement who ran a B&B in Assisi. They had American nuns there and each year at Thanksgiving several families from Naples would visit there and take them American food including turkeys and all the fixings. There was always a visiting priest who would both hear our confessions and take us on a spiritual tour of Assisi including the original Chapel of San Damiano where we would have Mass. Ironically, in 1997 years after we left Italy, we were visiting Assisi when they had a major earthquake collapsing the main Cathedral. So, St, Francis and Assisi have great meaning to us.

So, who is St. Francis and what were his beliefs? In brief, Franciscan spirituality centers on radical humility, joyful poverty, and finding the divine present in everyday creation. Rather than retreating into monastic isolation, St. Francis of Assisi sought to live the Gospel directly in the world. Keywords, live the Gospel directly in the world. That's one of the qualities that makes him both intergenerational and timeless.
Digging deeper, here are the main tenets of his beliefs that relate to us even today as Knights and Catholic brothers:

- **Radical Poverty (*Lady Poverty*):** Francis viewed material poverty not as a burden, but as a path to total spiritual freedom and dependence on God. By renouncing wealth, he sought freedom from greed, power, and social division.
- **Incarnational & Christ-Centric Devotion:** His faith focused heavily on the human, vulnerable aspects of Christ—particularly the Nativity (originating the live Christmas creche) and the Passion (receiving the stigmata).
- **Universal Kinship & Creation:** As expressed in his *Canticle of the Sun*, Francis viewed nature as a reflection of God's goodness. He referred to elements and animals as "Brother Sun," "Sister Moon," and "Brother Wolf," seeing all creation bound in a single family.
- **Minority and Humility (*Fratres Minores*):** Francis called his followers the "Lesser Brothers" to emphasize servanthood over authority. He insisted on solidarity with the marginalized, the poor, and lepers.
- **Joy and Peace (*Perfect Joy*):** Francis emphasized maintaining internal peace and joy even through hardship, persecution, or physical suffering, treating difficulty as an opportunity to share in Christ's love.
- **Active Mission and Fraternity:** Unlike traditional contemplative orders, Franciscans practiced an itinerant lifestyle—travelling, preaching, working manually, and serving communities as a brotherhood.

How's that tie to our 250th birthday as a republic? Our Declaration of Independence states that "all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights and among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Like St. Francis our freedom and liberties are Creator-based not driven by broken men. We are all equal in the dignity and integrity of our Creator. As Knights, we are committed to charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. Next month we get to choose if we remain one nation under God.

O Lord, make us a channel of Your peace. Where there is hatred let us sow Your love and where there is doubt true faith in You.

From the Desk of Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly...

Loyal to the King

The witness of the Mexican martyrs reminds us that we are called to remain faithful to Christ above every earthly allegiance

On Aug. 1, we commemorated the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the Cristero War in Mexico. Viewing the Catholic Church as a threat to its authority, the government of President Plutarco Elías Calles unleashed a sweeping campaign of persecution in 1926. Parishes were closed, convents were dissolved, and many courageous Catholics were imprisoned. Priests, religious and lay faithful were executed, among them many brother Knights, including nine who have been canonized or beatified.

In that moment of crisis, Mexican Catholics, including Knights of Columbus, were forced to choose between loyalty to the state and loyalty to Christ and his Church. Their choice was made clear in their resounding cry: *¡Viva Cristo Rey y Santa María de Guadalupe!* - Long live Christ the King and Our Lady of Guadalupe!

Today, most of us are not faced with such a dramatic conflict of loyalties. Indeed, the very idea of loyalty is often disregarded or ignored.

We live in an era of individualism that resists commitments to relationships and institutions whenever they limit personal freedom or threaten our popularity. Personal autonomy is king, and loyalty is often regarded as a quaint relic from a less sophisticated time. But this should not be the case for us as Knights. Loyalty - especially to Christ and his Church on earth - should be a defining virtue for us. To be in solidarity with our bishops and priests is more than a slogan. It is a reality that we strive to live out in thought, word and deed.

Loyalty binds us to the persons, groups and institutions that matter most. It is a steadfast commitment to protect those relationships and sacrifice for them. We are loyal to those to whom we are deeply attached - our families, our friends, our country, and the organizations we belong to and cherish.

But true loyalty is neither blind nor servile. It has limits set by justice and charity. Loyalty cannot excuse wrongdoing or sins - whether our own or others'. Charity demands that we will another's good, even when doing so appears disloyal.

As Catholics, our primary loyalty is owed to God. In Scripture, the idea of loyalty is often expressed as faithfulness or fidelity. God seeks a relationship with us and remains faithful when we are not. As St. Paul tells us, "If we are faithless, he remains faithful - for he cannot deny himself" (2 Tim 2:13).

Despite our unfaithfulness - our lack of loyalty - God never abandons us. In fact, he proves his unfailing loyalty by sending his Son, Jesus, to restore us to right relationship with him. Jesus models the loyalty to the Father that we should strive to imitate.

As baptized Catholics, we are called to be loyal sons of the Father and faithful sons of the Church; as Knights of Columbus, we are also called to be loyal brothers to one another. Loyalty unites us as an Order, enabling us to support a brother Knight and his family whether nearby or across the world.

Loyalty also demands faithfulness to Christ our King - obeying his commands and faithfully following wherever he leads us as "builders of communion" and "servants of the coming Kingdom" (*Magnifica Humanitas*, 16). When we serve the least of our brothers and sisters, we serve Christ himself as his faithful disciples. We remain loyal by maintaining our relationship with him through daily prayer, frequent reading of Scripture and regular reception of the sacraments.

In this way, we will be prepared to prove our loyalty to Christ when it is tested. The Cristeros faced the ultimate test of loyalty, and they met it as true Knights - willing to accept death rather than betray their King. May we follow their example, placing God above all else so that we can say with them:

¡Viva Cristo Rey y Santa María de Guadalupe!

From the Florida State Council Chamber…

144th Supreme Convention

My Brother Knights in Christ, after returning from the Supreme Convention in Denver, Colorado, August 4-7, I am prouder than ever to be a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Being surrounded by Knights from across the United States and from countries throughout the world reminded me just how large, powerful, and truly remarkable our organization is. There is something very special about standing among thousands of Catholic men who come together from different states, different countries, different cultures, and different backgrounds, yet are united by the same faith, the same mission, and the same love for Jesus Christ. We may speak different languages and come from different places, but we are brothers, united in Christ and committed to serving our Church, our families, our communities, and our country.

The Supreme Convention is a reminder that the Knights of Columbus is much more than an organization. It is a brotherhood built on faith, charity, unity, and fraternity, and it is a brotherhood
that reaches around the world. What makes us truly powerful is not simply our size, but what we do with the blessings God has given us. Every time a Knight reaches out to someone in need, every time a council supports a family, every time we provide a wheelchair to someone who cannot afford one, every time we help a veteran, support a seminarian, protect an unborn child, assist a person with a disability, provide coats for children, or simply stand beside someone who is struggling, we are putting our Catholic faith into action. We are showing the world what it means to live the Gospel.

Jesus tells us in the Gospel of Matthew, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.” That command is not only for priests, religious, or missionaries. It is a call to every one of us. As Knights, we have a responsibility to take our faith beyond the walls of our churches and into the world. We are called to be men who do not simply talk about our faith but live it every day. Our councils should be places where people can encounter Christ. Our homes should be places where our children and grandchildren see faith lived out. Our communities should know that when a Knight arrives, he comes with a heart ready to serve. As Jesus also reminds us, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” That is the heart of the Knights of Columbus. Our love for Christ must be visible in the way we treat one another and in the way we serve those around us.

The good works being done by Knights around the world are a powerful witness to our faith. Whether we are helping a family in need, supporting a veteran, assisting someone with a disability, protecting the unborn, supporting vocations, helping our parishes, or simply reaching out to someone who needs a friend, we have an opportunity to show the love of Christ through our actions. Sometimes the greatest thing we can give someone is not money or material assistance, but our time, our friendship, our prayers, and the knowledge that they are not alone. There are people all around us who are searching for hope, searching for meaning, and searching for someone who cares. As Knights, we have the opportunity to be that person.
This has always been a strong and important month for the Knights of Columbus, especially here in the Florida State Council. As your State Deputy, I bring you greetings and ask each of you to look ahead with renewed faith, enthusiasm, and determination. We have accomplished much together, but I truly believe our greatest work is still ahead of us. God has given us an incredible opportunity to strengthen our councils, strengthen our families, welcome new men into our brotherhood, and reach people who may be searching for a place where they can belong and serve something greater than themselves. We should never underestimate the difference one Knight can make in the life of another person.

This is also a time for us to remember our dear brother, Ed Sleyzak, Florida State Council State Secretary, who has gone before us and found his final resting place in Heaven. Ed was not only a dedicated servant of the Knights of Columbus, but a brother, a friend, and someone who gave so much of himself to our Order and to the people he served. His presence is deeply missed, and there is an emptiness in our Florida State Council that only his unique friendship and dedication could fill. Yet our Catholic faith gives us hope. Jesus tells us, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live.” Those words remind us that death is not the end for those who place their trust in Christ. We pray that our Lord has welcomed Ed into His eternal kingdom and that he now rests peacefully in the loving arms of Christ. We pray for his family and for all those who loved him, and we honor his memory by continuing the work he cared so deeply about. Every time we serve another person, every time we strengthen our councils, and every time we bring another man into the Knights of Columbus, we can remember Ed and know that his work continues through us. May his faith, his friendship, and his dedication remain a part of the Florida State Council and in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

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Most importantly, I ask you to open the doors wide for Christ. Open the doors of our councils, our parishes, our homes, and our hearts. Let Christ enter into everything we do and then carry His message with us wherever we go. There are so many people in our communities who need to hear
that they are loved, that someone cares about them, and that they are never alone. We should never be afraid to invite someone into our councils, never be afraid to tell another man about the Knights of Columbus and never be afraid to share our faith. The world needs men who are willing to stand for
something, men who are willing to serve, men who are willing to sacrifice, and men who are willing to put their faith into action.

Jesus tells us, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." That is what we are called to do. We are not called to hide our faith. We are called to let it shine. When people see the Knights of Columbus, they should see men who are willing to serve. When they see our families, they should see the love of Christ. When they see our councils, they should see a place where men are welcomed, where families are supported, and where people in need are cared for. The message we carry is simple: "I love you. I care for you. I want you to be happy, joyous, and free." Those words may seem simple, but they can mean everything to someone who feels forgotten or alone.

My Brother Knights, I am proud of what we have accomplished together, but I believe our greatest work is still ahead of us. We cannot become comfortable with yesterday's accomplishments. God is calling us to continue moving forward, to continue growing, to continue serving, and to continue bringing souls closer to His Son. There are still men waiting for an invitation to become Knights. There are still families who need our help. There are still young people who need examples of strong Catholic men. There are still communities that need our presence. And there are still souls who need to hear the message of Jesus Christ.

When we unite our faith, our families, our councils, and our service, there is no limit to what God can accomplish through the Knights of Columbus. Saint Paul reminds us, "Whatever you do, do from the heart, as for the Lord." That should be the attitude of every Knight. We do not serve for recognition. We do not serve for applause. We serve because Christ calls us to serve. We give because God has blessed us. We love because Christ first loved us. And we continue the work because there are still people who need to know that they are loved by God.

I am honored to serve as your State Deputy, and I am grateful to call each of you my brother. I do not take this responsibility lightly, and I am humbled every day by the faith, dedication, and generosity I see throughout the Florida State Council. I know that the work we are doing today is part of something much bigger than any one of us. We are building upon the foundation laid by those who came before us, and we have a responsibility to leave the Knights of Columbus stronger for those who will come after us. Let us continue this journey together with faith, courage, and love, always keeping Christ at the center of everything we do.

Let us be men who live our faith, strengthen our families, serve our communities, support our Church, and welcome others into our brotherhood. Let us never forget the poor, the vulnerable, the unborn, our veterans, the elderly, those with disabilities, and anyone who simply needs someone to care. Let us continue to open our doors wide for Christ and allow Him to work through us. And when our time comes to stand before our Lord, may we be able to say that we used the gifts He gave us to serve others, to strengthen His Church, and to bring souls closer to Him.

May God bless you and your families, may God bless the Knights of Columbus, and may God
continue to bless the great state of Florida. And may God welcome our brother Ed Sleyzak into His eternal home, where he may rest in peace until that glorious day when we meet again. May we continue the work together, always remembering that we are not simply members of an organization; we are brothers in Christ, called to serve, called to love, and called to bring souls to Jesus Christ.

Vivat Jesus!

Assembly Officers 2026-2027

Faithful Navigator	Edward Amador	305.606.8632
Faithful Friar	Fr Michael W. Cooper, SJ	727.644.5544
Faithful Captain	Amaro Lionheart	305.761.3419
Faithful Admiral	JJ Coyne, PGK, PFN	901.832.7332
Faithful Pilot	Mark Feldman	727.366.5959
Faithful Scribe	Santo Loparo	727.804.7428
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	John Gohman, PFN	813.810.3735
Trustee Two Year	Wally Vazquez, PFN	727.542.5376
Trustee One Year	Frank McEwen, FDW, PGK, PFN	727.239.2687
Color Corps Commander	Tom Wozniak, FDD, PGK, PFN,	727.214.8377
Veterans Liaison	Bill Gallant	727.251.6300





A Prayer for the Family

Composed by St. Mother Teresa

Heavenly Father,
You have given us the model of life in the Holy Family of Nazareth. Help us, O Loving Father, to make our family another Nazareth where love, peace and joy reign. May it be deeply contemplative, intensely eucharistic, revived with joy.

Help us to stay together in joy and sorrow in family prayer. Teach us to see Jesus in the members of our families, especially in their distressing disguise. May the eucharistic heart of Jesus make our hearts humble like his and help us to carry out our family duties in a holy way.

May we love one another as God loves each one of us, more and more each day, and forgive each other's faults as you forgive our sins. Help us, O Loving Father, to take whatever you give and give whatever you take with a big smile.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, cause of our joy, pray for us.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

Holy Guardian Angels, be always with us, guide and protect us.

Amen.



Knights of Columbus®

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…

October 2026

- 10/03 | Sat 11:00a KofC Family Picnic
- 10/03 | Sat 4:00p Dinner Dance Ticket Sales
- 10/04 | Sun 8:00a Dinner Dance Ticket Sales
- 10/08 | Thu 6:15p Rosary
- 10/08 | Thu 7:00p Council 7109 & Ladies Auxiliary Meetings
- 10/10 | Sat 4:00p Dinner Dance Ticket Sales
- 10/11 | Sun 8:00a Dinner Dance Ticket Sales
- 10/11 | Sun 8:00a Full Family Breakfast
- 10/14 | Wed 7:00p KofC Informational Open House
- 10/15 | Thu 8:00a Pinellas Hope Meal Prep & Delivery
- 10/15 | Thu 7:00p Unified Degree Exemplification
- 10/17 | Sat 8:00a Kimberly Home WorkDay
- 10/17 | Sat 4:00p Dinner Dance Ticket Sales
- 10/18 | Sun 8:00a Dinner Dance Ticket Sales
- 10/23 | Fri 7:00p October At The Ranch Dinner Dance

Assembly Calendar of Events…

October 2026

- 10/05 | Mon 7:00p Golf Tournament Committee Meeting
- 10/19 | Mon 7:00p Golf Tournament Committee Meeting
- 10/22 | Thu 7:00p Assembly 2474 Monthly Meeting
- 10/26 | Mon 7:00p Golf Tournament Committee Meeting

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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.