

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Jerome's Catholic Church 10895 Hamlin Blvd, Largo, FL Council 17249



The Divine Mercy of Jesus

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PA GOV. TOM WOLF FAILS TO PROTECT 'HUMANITY'S MOST VULNERABLE LIVES' WITH DOWN-SYNDROME-ABORTION VETO

Pennsylvania governor Tom Wolf this week vetoed a bill that would have banned the abortion of children prenatally diagnosed with Down syndrome. The state Catholic conference condemned the decision.

"Gov. Wolf's veto will prevent all children with Down syndrome from going on to live happy and fulfilled lives," executive director Eric Failing said in a Nov. 21 statement.

Wolf vetoed the bill on Thursday, stating that the legislation would have hindered the medical decisions between a woman and her doctor. "Physicians and their patients must be able to make choices about medical procedures based on best practices and standards of care," he said.

Under the current Pennsylvania law, abortion is permissible for any reason, besides gender selection, until the 24th week of pregnancy. If the bill passed this week had been signed into law, it would have prohibited abortions chosen after a diagnosis of Down syndrome, except in cases of rape, incest, and medical emergencies.

Up to 75% of babies diagnosed prenatally with Down syndrome in the U.S. have been aborted in recent decades, according to research conducted between 1995 and 2011.

Opponents of the bill have claimed the legislation would violate women's reproductive rights.

According to Penn Live, Sen. Maria Collett said the bill would not help people with disabilities.

"This bill does nothing to improve the lives of people with Down syndrome," said Collett. "Instead, it uses them to advance a political agenda."

Sen. Scott Martin disagreed, saying abortion of children diagnosed with Down syndrome is "not health care" but an act of "eugenics."

"These are parents who actually want to have children, who are presented as if this child will actually be a burden, who cannot live a productive life. These children have the ability to live long, productive lives, even past the age of 60," he said.



FROM AROUND THE WORLD
OF INTEREST TO CATHOLICS

Pope Francis Honors Heroism of Japanese Martyrs of Nagasaki

Ban on Elderly Nun's Habit in Retirement Home Went Too Far, French Mayor Says

Democratic Candidates: Protecting Abortion Is 'What We Do and What We Stand for'

Pro-life Stem Cell Research Fnds Success—and Seeks More Support

Knights of Columbus Give Hundreds of New Coats to Denver's Homeless

Notre-Dame still at risk of destruction, says rector

Benedictine Sisters in Ecuador inaugurate baby drop-off box

Drop in support for the death penalty matches decline in its use

Catholic homilies shortest of all denominations, study finds

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Pete Grasso

Brothers:
Happy New Year.
As the year comes to a close, we can look back at some amazing achievements and look forward to furthering our walk with God in our

church in the upcoming year. Our presence continues to be felt around our church family, even in a very busy month. We had an awesome Christmas Party for our members and our families with good fellowship, sweets, and, as Tom Kurt described it, fantastic singing led by our own Knight choir members. I'm proud of everyone. We will continue to do as much as we

can to bring ourselves and our families together. We have a couple of possible activities upcoming which we will be discussing at our next monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 8. We were contacted by the Knights Council at St. Patrick's and asked to participate in the February St. Valentine's Day dance on February 15. I asked Brother Jim to send out an email to take a straw poll on how many of our group would be willing to participate in the set up, food prep, and other things necessary, and they had offered to share expenses and receipts. This was done and only had a six of our members respond in a positive way. This can only be evaluated as an overwhelming negative response by the majority. It will be discussed only if someone brings a motion at our next meeting. I was also contacted by the Wellness Committee at St. Jerome. I had been talking with the chairman of

the committee about the Knights participating. Unfortunately, they had little response to considering doing a "Family Day" at St. Jerome. They are asking our participation which I believe would be good and part of our agenda. I will had more information and make a motion to move forward with this at our next meeting. Special thanks to all of our brother Knights for your participation the breakfasts on the first Sunday. I hear from many of the parishioners of how much they enjoy the outstanding meal. We will be doing this again this Sunday. We are always looking for programs and projects which allow us to keep God in the forefront and bring us closer together. Please bring suggestions to Wednesday's meeting or send me an email with any ideas. I continue to say that we have so much talent and experience in our council. Vivat Jesus, Pete

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAPLAIN



Fr. Tom Morgan

Dear Friends:
We believe when Jesus spoke to John from the Cross and told him, "Behold your mother," (John 19:27) He was giving Mary His Mother to all believers. On Tuesday, January 1, we

celebrate that the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation.

The Church teaches that, "In fact, the One whom she conceived as man by the Holy Spirit, who truly became her Son according to the flesh, was none other than the Father's eternal Son, the second person of the Holy Trinity. Hence the Church confesses that Mary is truly "Mother of God" (Theotokos)." #495 The Catechism of the Catholic Church. Mary is indeed the Mother of Jesus, the Mother of God. She is also the Mother of all Christians. As we begin this new year, let us draw close to Mary who always leads those she loves closer to her Son Jesus.

- 2) Profound Humility: Knowing who she is before God, nothing more and nothing less
- 3) Universal Mortification: Seeking to lay down her life and her will at every moment
- 4) Constant Mental Prayer: Always being aware of God's presence
- 5) Blind Obedience: Following God's call without counting the cost
- 6) Divine Wisdom: Always begging for God's Spirit to guide her
- 7) Surpassing Purity: Having a heart immaculately clean and unstained by sin
- 8) Angelic Sweetness: Radiating joy and peace to everyone she encountered
- 9) Lively Faith: Constantly seeking God's will and never settling for complacency
- 10) Heroic Patience: Always trusting that God was on the move; having more faith in His plans than her own.



*Rest
in
Peace*



Brother Bob DiCola
1933 - 2019

The 10 Virtues of Mary

1) Ardent Charity: Letting her love for God be the driving force behind every decision



Our council helped with Trivia Night

NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED AS COUNCIL BEGINS ITS GROWTH

On Wednesday evening, April 3, eight men declared their desire to become a part of the Knights of Columbus at St. Jerome's Parish Council 17249.

The induction ceremony was led by Jim Blackwell, Financial Secretary, aided by District Deputy José Carrera and GK of St. Pat's council Danny McConnell. A video made by Supreme explained what the Knights are all about, especially the first formation degree.

During the process, the men were given a rosary and a lapel pin.

The exemplification was the first of our new council which will hold its meetings in the Ed Kilroy building on the second Wednesday of the month. There will also be a corporal meeting every three months to enhance our spiritual growth and to get to know each other better, both of which is difficult in a regular business meeting which is required by Supreme. A corporal Mass is going together as a unit, both Knights and their wives. After Mass, we plan to go out and eat.



We helped Fr. Tom with the golf-cart ministry.



We will celebrate our quarterly corporate communion Mass together at the 5 p.m. Mass on Sunday, July 28. Following Mass we will have a catered buffet dinner in the Parish Center. Attendees will pay \$15 per person for the meal. We need to have an approximate number of those attending before we order the food, so would you email me to let us know that you and a guest will be attending? My email address is editorjhand@tampabay.rr.com.

Following the dinner, we will have the ceremony for the installation of officers of our council for the 2019-2020 fraternal year.

Knights Hold Hurricane Seminar



Marshall Eiss
Pinellas Suncoast
Fire Department

Mike Clay
BayNews9
Meteorologist

Mary Burrell
Community Program
Director

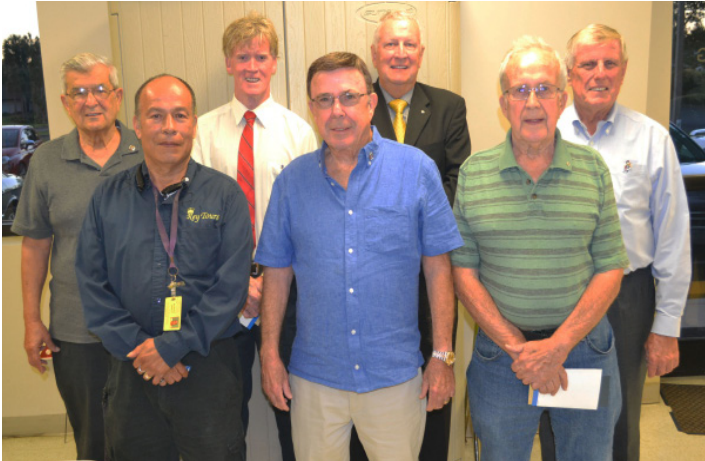


Knights display chickens recently brought to the the Ed Kilroy Building for Thanksgiving Dinner



Part II

NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED AS COUNCIL BEGINS ITS GROWTH



Front, L-R: Eddie Padilla, Bob Mills, Jim Dolan
Rear, L - R: Unidentified, John Francks,
Bill Bannon, John Ronnlof.



Some of our members help in the Ed Kilroy building, preparing various food items to be distributed to the needy.



Always helping in the Parish Center with various gatherings.



Here we are attending Mass with our spouses.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN SERVICE TO ONE, IN SERVICE TO ALL



Carrying Our Lady of Guadalupe, L-R: Sir Knight Pete Grasso WGK, Joe Moore, Edgar Lecuyer, Danny McConnell, Jim Cullinan, Joe Ghezzi, Rich Hendrickson, Gene Sanders, Billy Baldwin, Thuy Nguyen, Manny Barros, and Sir Knight Bob Anderson FSVM PDD



Part of our breakfast crew, L-R: Boone Bowen, Jim Cullinan, Joe Ghezzi, Joe Moore, Thuy Nguyen, and Bill Bannon



Our council met for a casual get together with our spouses on December 11 in the parish center. Afterward, we all gathered for a group photo.

**Join Us For
Breakfast**

Once again the Knights of Columbus will provide a free breakfast on the first Sunday in January after the 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., and 10:45 a.m. Masses. The meal will consist of eggs, bacon and sausage, biscuits and gravy, and condiments. Our breakfasts are well received. Join us and see why. Donations will be accepted.



MARIAN APPARITIONS OVER THE YEARS



Editor's note: With this article I am beginning a discussion of various apparitions of the Blessed Mother over the years. There is much information about the apparitions, so I will present the accounts in future newsletters, one at a time. All information will come from the Catholic.org website.

public revelation for a specific purpose, but it can never add anything new to the deposit of faith. The Church will confirm an apparition as worthy of belief, but belief is never required by divine faith. The Holy See has officially confirmed the apparitions at Guadalupe, Saint-Etienne-le-Laus, Paris (Rue du Bac, Miraculous Medal), La Salette, Lourdes, Fatima, Portugal, Pontmain, Beauraing, and Banneux.

As a historical pattern, Vatican approval of apparitions seems to have followed general acceptance of a vision by well over a century in most cases. According to Father Salvatore M. Perrella of the Marian Pontifical Institute in Rome, of the 295 reported apparitions studied by the Holy See through the centuries only 12 have been approved, the latest being the May 2008 approval of the 17th- and 18th-century apparitions of Our Lady of Laus.

Other apparitions continue to be approved at the local level, e.g. the December, 2010 local approval of the 19th-century apparitions of Our Lady of Good Help, the first recognized apparition in the United States.

An authentic apparition is believed not to be a subjective

According to the doctrine of the Catholic Church, the era of public revelation ended with the death of the last living Apostle. A Marian apparition, if deemed genuine by Church authority, is treated as private revelation that may emphasize some facet of the received

experience, but a real and objective intervention of divine power. The purpose of such apparitions is to recall and emphasize some aspect of the Christian message. The church states that cures and other miraculous events are not the purpose of Marian apparitions, but exist primarily to validate and draw attention to the message. Apparitions of Mary are held to be evidence of her continuing active presence in the life of the church, through which she "cares for the brethren of her son who still journey on earth".

Not all claims of visitations are dealt with favorably by the Roman Catholic Church. For example, claimed apparitions of Our Lady, under the title of "Our Lady of the Roses, Mary, Help of Mothers", Jesus Christ and various saints at Bayside, New York have not been condoned or sanctioned in any way, nor those at the Necedah Shrine in Necedah, Wisconsin. The behavior of Ms. Veronica Lueken and Mary Ann Van Hoof, who claimed these heavenly favors, was deemed not to compare favorably with the "quiet pragmatism" of St. Bernadette Soubirous - Church authorities are said to use Bernadette as a model by which to judge all who purport to have visitations. Indeed, both women seriously criticized the Roman Catholic Church hierarchy, allegedly even harshly, and Mrs. Van Hoof is said to have subsequently left Roman Catholicism for an independent local Old Catholic Church. Possibly the best-known apparition sites are Lourdes and Fatima. Over sixty spontaneous healings, out of thousands reported at the Lourdes Spring, have been classified as "inexplicable" by the physicians of the Lourdes Bureau, a medical center set up by the Church in association with local medical institutes to assess possible miracles. The Three Secrets of Fatima received a great deal of attention in the Catholic and secular press.

Marian apparitions are sometimes reported along with weeping statues of the Virgin Mary. However, to date only one single example of a combined weeping statue and apparition (namely Our Lady of Akita) has been approved by the Vatican and the rest have usually been dismissed as hoaxes.

(To be continued in next month's newsletter.)

Food for Families Program

The Food for Families program was launched as part of the Neighbors Helping Neighbors initiative that resulted from a Knights of Columbus-sponsored summit held in New York City attended by representatives from many of the nation's largest volunteer organizations. Established during an economically difficult time for communities, Food for Families ensures that families have adequate access to nutritious food.

Although the economy may have improved in some areas, many families still need food assistance. In fact, some councils have seen families who previously donated to food pantries more recently come to the same pantries to receive donations.

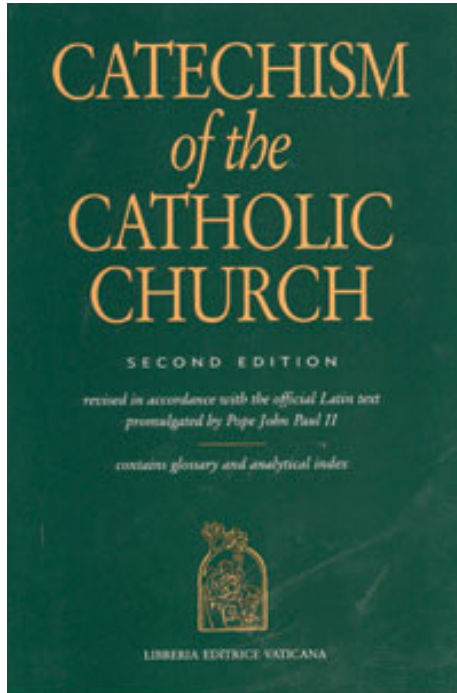
Since its launch in 2009, Food for Families has expanded significantly. Since 2012, Knights collected more than 21.5 million pounds of food and \$10.7 million in donations for soup kitchens and other food programs.

In addition, Food for Families has seen the formation of several innovative programs at the grassroots level. For instance, Our Lady of Guadalupe Council 8306 in Helotes, Texas, started the 40 Cans for Lent food drive in 2011, which has since become an Orderwide initiative. The program encourages council members and parishioners to contribute one can of nonperishable food per day for the duration of Lent. In addition, Tillamook (Ore.) Council 2171 planted a community vegetable garden that yielded more than 14,280 pounds of fresh food, a commodity that food pantries often lack. These projects — and hundreds more — have done wonders to keep food banks stocked and serviceable.

As added incentive, the Order launched the Food for Families Reimbursement Program, which offers rebates to councils that provide financial assistance to food banks and food pantries. For councils or assemblies, the Supreme Council will refund \$100 for every \$500 donated, or for every 1,000 pounds of food that a council contributes to a parish food pantry, community food bank or soup kitchen - up to a maximum of \$500 per council/assembly per fraternal year. Reported contributions of food and/or monetary donations should be cumulative for the fraternal year and there is no need to send in a refund request every time a contribution is made. How-



ever, to be eligible for the rebate, the cumulative total of contributions of food/money needs to reach a minimum of \$500 or 1,000 pounds of food for councils or assemblies.



What Does the Catechism Say about The End of Time?

673 Since the Ascension, Christ's coming in glory has been imminent,⁵⁶⁶ even though "it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority." This coming could be accomplished at any moment, even if both it and the final trial that will precede it are delayed.

674 The glorious Messiah's coming is suspended at every moment of history until his recognition by "all Israel," for "a hardening has come upon part of Israel" in their "unbelief" toward Jesus. St. Peter says to the Jews of Jerusalem after Pentecost: "Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for establishing all that God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old." St. Paul echoes him: "For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?"

675 Before Christ's second coming the Church must pass through a final trial that will shake the faith of many believers. The persecution that accompanies her pilgrimage on earth will unveil the "mystery of iniquity" in the form of a religious deception offering men an apparent solution to their problems at the price of apostasy from the truth. The supreme religious deception is that of the Antichrist, a pseudo-messianism by which man glorifies himself in place of God and of his Messiah come in the flesh. (continued in the February newsletter.)