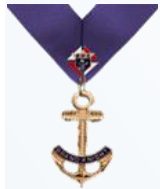


JULY 2025



Knights of
Columbus®

KNIGHTLY NEWS



OUR LADY OF HOPE COUNCIL 8086

Grand Knight's Report

Brother Knights,

In this edition, see our members in action in the Color Guard at the Port Orange Memorial Day Honors. Thank you Brothers for representing us during this special day where we remember our fallen!

I personally want to thank Vito and Adam for attending the Florida State KofC Conference in Jacksonville in my absence. **Adam was recognized for recruiting the third most in the state of Florida. Congrats Adam!!**

We are looking forward to another great recruiting year. I couldn't attend the conference since I had major surgery that week at the Mayo Clinic. *I thank all of you for your prayers and support during my surgery and recovery.*

Congrats to all our members in our Council for helping us earn "Star Council!"

Check out a note from our State Deputy about Star Council. According to Supreme, Star Council is a measure of a successful year.

Catholic schools are now getting their proceeds from the Casino Night and Car Raffle Fundraisers. We hope to have another great Casino Night next year on April 10th. Catholic schools build our Faith and our church. Thanks to Fr. Matt for leading us down this road and helping our youth to become good Catholics.

This month, we are recognizing our Family of the Year — SK Vito Benedetto and his wife Gina, and Knight of the Year — SK Al Citro, who is being honored for his lifetime achievements. They are all very deserving of their award as they have helped support our missions for years. *God Bless them!*

This issue also features some great pictures of the International Rally of Knights on Bikes attended by Dave Vaden, Mike Godbout, Tom Mies, myself and our better halves. The event was led by Archbishop Winski, who rode up from the Archdiocese of Miami. We hosted over 220 Knights from all over the USA and Canada.

Happy Fourth of July to you and your families!

**God Bless,
Ernie**

JULY EVENTS

- | | |
|------|--|
| 7/1 | OFFICERS MEETING
7 PM |
| 7/3 | AUDIT MEETING |
| 7/4 | DUCK SALES, CITY CTR |
| 7/4 | DAYTONA JULY 4TH
PARADE, 9 AM |
| 7/8 | SPECIAL MEETING
PARISH CENTER,
5:45 PM |
| 7/8 | COUNCIL MEETING/
EXEMPLIFICATION
Meeting, 6:45 PM
Exemplification,
7:30 PM |
| 7/11 | OFFICER INDUCTION
6:00 PM |
| 7/13 | PANCAKE BREAKFAST |
| 7/19 | DISTRICT MEETING AT
OLOH, 9 AM |
| 7/27 | COFFEE & DONUTS |

LOOKING AHEAD: AUG

- | | |
|------|-----------------------------|
| 8/5 | OFFICERS MEETING,
7 PM |
| 8/12 | COUNCIL MEETING,
7 PM |
| 8/19 | EXEMPLIFICATION,
7:30 pm |

PLEASE VIEW OUR WEB SITE: www.knights8086.com

Dear Brothers in Christ,

July is a month where we, as Americans, celebrate the freedoms we hold dear. Independence Day reminds us of the sacrifices made for liberty—but as Catholic men, we also recall the words of St. Paul: “For you were called to freedom, brothers. But do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” (Galatians 5:13) Your acts of charity, fraternity, and service are powerful witnesses to the kind of freedom Christ calls us to: freedom for mission, freedom for self-giving love.

Thank you for being living examples of this Christian freedom. Whether it’s assisting at parish events, raising funds for local charities, supporting families in need, or simply praying together, your work does not go unnoticed. You are vital to the life of this parish and a sign of hope to many. As many of you are aware, recent events in the Middle East have brought renewed tension to the world stage, particularly following a military action undertaken by the United States against the Islamic Republic of Iran. These developments weigh heavily on our hearts, as they call to mind the suffering that so often accompanies geopolitical conflict—suffering borne by innocent families, soldiers, and entire communities.

While we pray for the protection and safety of our nation and its service members, we also pray fervently for the conversion of hearts, especially among world leaders. As Catholics and as Knights of Columbus, we are called to be peacemakers. Our Lady, Queen of Peace, intercedes for the world constantly, and we now join her in begging for an end to violence and a path forward grounded in human dignity. Let us remain united in prayer—for our troops, for those in positions of power, and for all the people affected by this conflict. May the Prince of Peace guide the hearts of all who govern and lead.

Thank you for your ongoing support, faithfulness, and prayerful witness during this time.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Matt



2025-2026 COUNCIL OFFICERS

50chevypickup@gmail.com

Deputy Grand Knight	Vito Benedetto	vbenedetto65@aol.com
Chancellor	Adam Schmidt	adam_r_schmidt@yahoo.com
Financial Secretary	Wes Wengren	wwengren429@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jacques Roch	jacdaytona@hotmail.com
Warden	Jim Baskin	jnmbaskin@gmail.com
Recorder	Walt Kaehl	walter.kaehl@gmail.com
Advocate	Jarrod Eich	jarrodjeich@gmail.com
Lecturer	Mike Godbout	godboutmg@gmail.com
Inside Guard	Bob Thomas	budstvservice@yahoo.com
Outside Guard	Tom Mies	tomgmies@gmail.com
Outside Guard	Rick Polo	rick.polo.jr@gmail.com
Second Year Trustee	Roger Packard	rpackard3@yahoo.com
First Year Trustee	Bill Piper	williampiper44@gmail.com
Third Year Trustee	Andy Duzyk	Aduzyk@aol.com
Chaplain	Father Matt Mello	frmatt@ladyofhope.org
District #20 Deputy	John O'Malley	jomalley1@cfl.rr.com
Field Agent	James Booritch	james.booritch@kofc.org



MEMORIAL DAY WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

The Knights Color Guard joined the VFW and the City of Port Orange in honoring fallen veterans at the annual Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony at Veterans Park on May 26. The solemn ceremony is held to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Six Council 8086 SKs escorted the laying of the wreaths: Paul McNamara, Tim Carnego, Jacques Roch, Andy Duzyk, Lou Greci and John O'Malley. *Well done Brothers!*



DISTRICT DEPUTY'S REPORT

SK JOHN O'MALLEY

Greetings on behalf of Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly and SD Mike Gizewski

We recently held our State Convention for the first time in Jacksonville. Mike Gizewski was elected as our new State Deputy, and takes his position when the new Columbian Year begins on July 1. All three of our councils had two delegates participating, and I will let them give their report.

I am happy to report that we have achieved all of the requirements for Star District.

We have reached 200-percent of our attendance goal; all three councils have achieved Star Council; and all of the necessary forms and benefit event requirements have been met. Council 8086 is 2-Star, while Sacred Heart is closing in on 3-Star and Epiphany had a strong May to reach Star Council. To date, 65 councils in the state reached Star Council – Supreme defines success as achieving Star Council.

The next step is the organizational meeting on June 27, for District Deputies. We will report back to our councils at the District Organizational Meeting. We are again joining with Districts 18 (Daytona/Ormond) and District 19 (West Volusia) at our regional organizational meeting, at Our Lady of Hope on Saturday, July 19, at 9 a.m. **Key officers – especially new officers – are urged to attend.**

I thank you for participating in our second Cor Ministry, which takes the summer off. Stay tuned for our plans for the upcoming Columbian Year. Cor was a hot topic at the Convention.

Also at the Convention was a presentation on Wheelchair Weekends. While the gift of mobility costs \$500-plus, the Knights buy in bulk, reducing the cost to \$150. A wheelchair drive consists of a three-minute pulpit talk at each of the weekend Masses, followed by Knights at each door distributing information and collecting donations. Which of our three councils will be first to host a Wheelchair Weekend?

SK John O'Malley.

District Deputy 20



Faith in Action

COR DISTRICT 20 FLORIDA

Aug 26— 6:30 PM at Sacred Heart

OPEN TO ALL MEN IN OUR PARISH. They do not need to be a Knight.

Cor exists to form and strengthen Catholic men in faith and virtue as missionary disciples by drawing them into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, formation, and fraternity.

Contact SK John O'Malley at 386-631-6889 or jomalley1@cfl.rr.com for more information.



Are you disabled? If so, please register with **Wes Wengren,**
wwengren429@gmail.com.

To view the FL State Council info, click below:

<https://www.floridakofc.org/>

Council 8086 was well represented at the 2025 Florida State Convention in Jacksonville May 23-25 by Deputy Grand Knight Vito Benedetto, his wife Gina, Chancellor Adam Schmidt, his wife Laura, and District Deputy John O'Malley and his wife Sue. Grand Knight Ernie Jackson was unable to attend because he was in the hospital.



New State Deputy Mike Gizewski & his wife Lisa.



**Knights of
Columbus®**
Florida
State Council



Worthy Grand Knight and Brother Ernest,

With the end of the Fraternal Year less than a month away, it looks like your Council has completed all requirements for Star Council. While nothing is official until Supreme announces Star Council awardees in late July, I wanted to offer my congratulations in not only getting the job done, but getting it done early!

As I said during my Spirit of Unity tour, Star Council goals are not arbitrary—they are set by the Supreme Council and directly relate to the success of the mission of the Knights of Columbus.

As of June 4, 2025, here is your Council's Star Council goal status, according to the June 1 Star Tracker Report issued by Supreme:

Council Number: 8086
Membership: 220.00%
FBEs: Completed (2 Events 19 Participants)
Programs (Form SP7): Completed
Safe Environment: Compliant
Form 365 (Service Personnel): Completed
Form 1728 (Fraternal Survey for 2023): Completed
Good Standing: In Good Standing with Supreme

Be sure to stay on top of Safe Environment status. We have seen Councils lose Star Council because individuals in key positions have their Safe Environment Compliance expire. In addition, it might be a good idea to review the Form SP7 that you submitted once again, just to be sure there is not something missing or incorrect that might lead to a rejection by Supreme.

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to lead your Council in service of your parish and your community!

Fraternally,

Rick Hughes
State Deputy, FI

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BENEFIT FROM CASINO NIGHT/CAR RAFFLE

In May, Catholic Schools in the Eastern Deanery of Volusia County started to receive the proceeds from the 2025 Casino Night and Bronco Raffle Fundraisers. The first check, totaling \$15,000, was presented to Fr Lopez High School. The other schools have since received their portions of the proceeds. Thanks to the volunteer efforts of our pastor Fr Matt, our Council, along with our Brothers in Councils 8086, 4934 and Assembly 2794, OLOH parishioners and fellow Catholics in Volusia County—and the generosity of many — the combined fundraisers generated were approximately \$90,000— \$58,000 going direct to schools and \$30,000 to the Eastern Deanery Volusia County of Catholic Schools.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: The next Casino Night and Car Raffle Drawing is set for April 10, 2026 in the Our Lady of Hope Parish Center. The theme is Via Las Vegas!!

PICTURE: Fr Matt Mello and GK Ernie Jackson present fundraiser proceeds check to Fr Lopez High School President Leigh Svajko.



KNIGHT'S SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT GRADUATES SUMMA CUM LAUDE

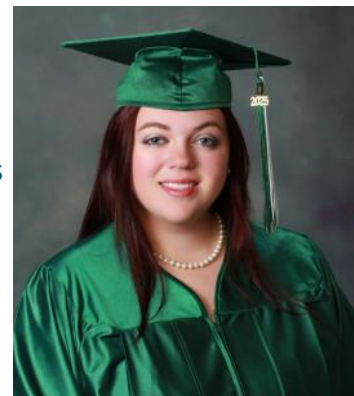
Four years ago, following the passing of our esteemed District Deputy Terry Cassidy, our Council made a commitment to help his daughter Erin, a graduate of Sacred Heart Catholic School, continue her Catholic education at Fr Lopez High School.

The annual \$1,300 donation honored our Brother Terry's legacy and made a difference in the lives of Erin and widow Barbara.

In May, Erin graduated Summa Cum Laude from Fr Lopez. She was awarded the school's highest honor —the Crest of The Wave Award for her exemplary character, service, leadership and co-curricular involvement. In addition to serving as a Fr Lopez Ambassador, Ernie was a member of five honor society's: National Honor Society, and National Honor Societies for Science, Math and the Drama Honor Society/ International Thespian Society.

A gifted singer and actress, Erin rose up the ranks of the Drama Club, serving as president her senior year. She performed in shows locally and at District and State Thespian Levels, earning Excellent and Superior ratings. Additionally, she sang in her church choir, and served as an altar server, lector, and Faith Formation instructor and Vacation Bible School instructor, and musical and choreography director at Sacred Heart.

This Fall, Erin will attend Stetson University, where she was accepted into the Honors Program. She will majoring in musical theatre, with a minor in religious studies and writing.



Erin Cassidy, daughter of the late SK Terry Cassidy



2024-25 KNIGHT OF THE YEAR: SK AL CITRO

The Knight of the Year Award is being presented to SK Al Citro for his long term service to Council 8086 and his Brothers.

Knight of the Year SK Al Citro, his late wife Dottie, and children were one of the original Our Lady of Hope parish families.

Devout Italian Catholics, the Citros raised their three boys — Vincent, Tony and Paul — to serve God. They were all altar servers, lectures and back when mass was held at Spruce Creek High School, they used to pass out the bulletins.

Raised in Boston, Al — who is a graduate of the prestigious Culinary Institute of American — flew down to Daytona Shores in 1974 for a three week trip to help his good friend open a restaurant. Six months later, he met Dottie. They were married six months later, and made Florida their home for the next 47 years until she passed away.



It was Dottie who encouraged him to be a Knight. They were empty nesters after their youngest Paul left home. After focusing his life on raising their sons and running his business, Dottie knew he needed to find something to fill the void. That's when she suggested he become a Knight. Al joined Council 8086 in 2015. And, two years later, he made the Fourth Degree together with his son Tony, who later moved to Charolette where he is active with this council.

The professionally-trained cook found his niche in the Our Lady of Hope parish center kitchen. For close to a decade, Al was a staple in the kitchen at the Council's monthly Pancake Breakfasts. He also worked the Lenten Fish Fry Dinners and was the original head cook for the annual Veterans Dinners, where he made delicious, authentic Italian meals.

Health issues have kept Al out of the kitchen recently. But, he still does what he can to help his brother Knights by working Tootsie Roll Drive. Even though he now has trouble standing, Al still volunteers rain or shine. "Some people would have given up, but as long as I can still sit there I will to help," said Al, noting that he always feels better after helping his fellow Knights.





FAMILY OF THE YEAR: SK VITO & GINA BENEDETTO

Our 2024-25 Family of the Year — SK Vito and Gina Benedetto — exemplify what it means to be a good Catholic family.

Our Deputy Grand Knight and his wife Gina live Christ-centered lives. They both put their faith into action daily by making a difference in the lives of our parishioners, helping those in need and serving as witnesses for the dignity of life.

Initially, when the Benedettos left Long Island, NY, to move to Port Orange in 2016, Vito was hesitant to take on too many volunteer commitments because he was working 50-hour weeks as a distribution manager. That all changed after he joined the Knights. Vito says he never saw the service hours he put in at the Pancake Breakfasts, Coats for Kids, Tootsie Roll Drive, Duck Derby, Special Olympics, Church Picnics and other Knights programs as work. He enjoyed the brotherhood and community service so much that he took on more responsibility, serving as Assembly 2794 Pilot for three years and Council 8086 Chancellor for two years prior to becoming Deputy Grand Knight.



Additionally, Vito and Gina, who is an amazing cook, can often be found in the OLOH Parish Hall Kitchen, making delicious meals and leading the staff at the annual Veteran's Dinner, dances and other events. Vito also cooks at other special events such as the annual Council Spiritual Retreat and the Port Orange Jazz Fest.

In his role as the Council Laps for Life Chair — which is his most enjoyable part of serving as the Life Director for Council 8086, Vito developed and hosts the highly successful annual *Evening with the Knights Cocktail Party*. His chef extraordinaire is Gina, who creates all of the culinary delights served at the fundraiser. Working as a team, they bring the parish, community and several women's centers together for an evening of true fellowship that brings awareness to challenges women face after learning they are pregnant. Thanks to this event, and the other support Vito garners, Council 8086 will be placing its 14th Ultrasound machine at local crisis pregnancy centers this year. This is in addition to the funds raised for the Aid and Support After Pregnancy Program that helps moms and babies in need.

The Benedettos, who have been married since 2013, are also active together in Loaves & Fishes, Cursillo, and other church ministries. They are both Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Vito is a Minister to the Sick and Homebound. Gina, who in addition to continuing her job as a project manager at United Healthcare, works part time for OLOH, serves as the head of the EMHC Ministry, and coordinator for the Children's Faith Formation and Weddings. She's also a member of the Council of Catholic Women, and was instrumental in organizing the former Circle Group's annual collection/distribution of holiday items for Family Renew and the much-needed collection of baby items for the Pregnancy Crisis Center. Gina can also be found volunteering with Vito whenever needed at Knight's programs, including Casino Night, Special Olympics and the monthly Food Distribution.

Vito and Gina are both committed to serving God where He needs them. "We will continue to do all that is possible for the Council and Our Lady of Hope," said Vito, noting that **"We are grateful for being able to do God's work and trust in Jesus' plan"**



2025 International Knights on Bikes Rally in St Augustine:

Where Knights Evangelize our Catholic Faith on Two/Three Wheels

Fraternal gathering of Knights from around the country & Canada, included daily Mass, rides to various Shrines and the St Joseph Carmelite Monastery in Bunnell where fellow Knight Rider Archbishop Thomas Wenski concelebrated a beautiful mass with the Carmelite Brothers. *Special thanks to SK John O'Malley and the Knight Color Guard for participating in the Mass; and to SK Sam Tedesco for directing parking at the Monastery!*



Faith in Action **KNIGHTS on BIKES**



2025 International Knights on Bikes Rally:

Honored Guests: Bishop Wenski, Bishop Pohlmeier & FL St Deputy Gizewski

The bi-annual Conference of Catholic Riders concluded with a banquet with inspiring speeches by Diocese of St Augustine Bishop Erik Pohlmeier and the new Florida State Deputy Mike Gizewski, who attended with his wife Lisa.






Knights of Columbus

Save the Date

Celebration of Life


Council 8086

2026 Annual Fundraiser
January 10, 2026



Consider joining the 4th degree. Our "Patriotic Degree" Contact SK Andy Duzyk.

SHINING ARMOR AWARD

To qualify for the Shining Armor Award, during the fraternal year, brother Knights must:

- Be involved in at least three council service programs.
- Attend at least three Council meetings.
- Meet with their Council's insurance representative.
- **Recruit at least one new member.**



New members have only one year from the date of entry to the council to earn this award.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 Mike Deguire
 1 Stan Picklesimer
 7 Walter Badyna
 7 Vince Pecoraro
 8 Anthony Konkiel
 10 Ralph Ameduri
 12 Gilbert Malmgren
 13 Ken Kasten
 15 Robert Heisler
 18 Steven Komondoreas

15 Caleb Janssen
 16 Bryan Hoag
 17 Andrew Duzyk
 18 Peter Ferreira
 18 Steven Komondoreas
 19 Rich Silva
 21 Charles Hasemann
 22 Joe Nadwairski
 23 David Roquebert
 29 Tim Solon
 31 Paul McNamara



Knight's Intentions

Please pray for our Brothers and their Families who are sick or on need:

Francis Allen, Chuck Armstrong, Jim Baskin, Hank Bensley, Robert Carden, George Chatley, Holly Clark, George Cline, Dave Domann, Lee DeGuire, Douglas Graves, Lou Greci, Lewis Hartman, Perkey Henderson, Walter Kaehl, John King, Nancy Jo Kennedy, John King, Tracy Lynn, Steve Morris, Tom Motan, Michael Orris, Mike Popp, Mark Provenzano, Bob Read, Sam Tedesco, Vaden Family, Anita Vigara, Robert Yer Jr., and Robert Yu.

*Please Pray for the Repose
 of the Soul of our Brother*

Louis Ralston



Eternal rest grant unto him,
 O Lord. And let perpetual light
 shine upon him. May he rest in
 peace. Amen.

8086 Knights Shirts

TO ORDER: Contact Lacey's

503 Herbert St | 4burgnow@gmail.com | 386-767-0932

POLO: \$42-\$45, XXL \$2 extra
DRIFT T-SHIRTS: \$10, XXL \$2 extra
COTTON T-SHIRTS: \$8, XXL \$2 extra

Features 8086 Logo, US Flag, Your Name

OTHER STYLES AVAILABLE: MEN ON A MISSION

Crewneck Sweatshirt: Small-XL \$18, XXL \$20, 3X \$22

Hoodie Sweatshirt: Small-xl \$26, XXL \$28, 3X \$30

Full Zip Up Hoodie: Small-XL \$32, XXL \$34, 3X \$36

****These prices are for screen-printing of Men on a Mission logo.**



Help Recruit New Knights Council 8086

"We are Men on a Mission"

Call to Action: *To sustain and grow our Council, each of us can take an active role in identifying potential new members. Share your stories, invite them to our events, and let them see the difference we make as Knights. Together, we can create countless Holy Moments and continue to build a legacy of service and faith.*

Contact SK Adam Schmidt, Chancellor

773-963-2419

adam_r_schmidt@yahoo.com

Visit our recruiting page for more information
<https://knights8086.com/join-the-knights-online>



FREE FOOD PICK UP & GROCERY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM



Council 8086

Friday, Aug 22 at 9 am

Our Lady of Hope Church

**Need Food Come Get Food. NO COST!
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP DISTRIBUTE FOOD**

SAVE THE DATE 18 October 2025

October Dinner & Party – See Chris Camacho

At Our Lady of Hope Catholic Parish Ctr, Port Orange



Council 8086

