

July 2026



Knights of
Columbus®

KNIGHTLY NEWS



OUR LADY OF HOPE COUNCIL 8086



My Brother Knights,

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as your Grand Knight. I sincerely thank you for the trust and confidence you have placed in me, and I am excited and look forward to continuing the strong tradition of faith, service, and brotherhood that defines Council 8086.

Our mission will continue as set by PGK Ernie Jackson and thank him for his leadership and dedication to our council. Through the efforts of many committed Knights, Council 8086 has experienced remarkable growth and expanded its impact within our parish and community.

The Knights of Columbus is founded upon the principles of **Charity, Unity, and Fraternity**. These principles guide everything we do. Through charity, we serve those in need and support our parish and community. Through unity, we work together toward common goals. Through fraternity, we strengthen the bonds of brotherhood that make our Order unique.

Membership growth remains a priority for both our council and the Florida State Council. Every new member brings talents, energy, and opportunities to expand our mission. I encourage each of you to invite Catholic men to join us as we continue growing a vibrant and active council. KofC.org (Join).

One of our first objectives this year will be developing a responsible budget and program schedule. Sound planning allows us to maximize our resources and continue supporting meaningful charitable, parish, and community initiatives throughout the year.

At the heart of everything we do is our commitment to serve our **Pastor, Parish, and Community**. These priorities will continue to guide our actions as we support parish ministries, promote Catholic values, assist those in need, and strengthen our Catholic faith through service.

I encourage every member to remain active and engaged. Whether attending meetings, volunteering at events, recruiting new members, or helping a fellow Knight, each of us plays an important role in the success of Council.

"Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."

— **1 Corinthians 16:13–14**

Together, let us continue reflecting faith in action, dedication to our Church, and commitment to one another.

Vivat Jesus!

SK Vito Benedetto
Grand Knight

PLEASE VIEW OUR WEB SITE: www.knights8086.com

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

A Message from Fr Matt Mello



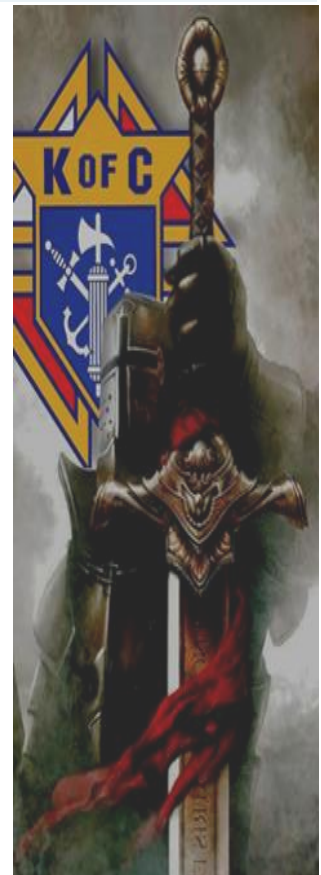
Brother Knights,

In Christ,
Fr. Matt



2026-2027 COUNCIL OFFICERS

Grand Knight	Vito Benedetto	vbenedetto65@aol.com
Deputy Grand Knight	Jake Mays	Jakemays007@gmail.com
Chancellor	Adam Schmidt	adam_r_schmidt@yahoo.com
Financial Secretary	Wes Wengren	wwengren429@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jacques Roch	jacdaytona@hotmail.com
Warden	Dave Carson	carsondave73@gmail.com
Recorder	Walt Kaehl	walter.kaehl@gmail.com
Advocate	Pete Ensel	ensel@j@gmail.com
Lecturer	Steve Gross	deaconstephengross@gmail.com
Inside Guard	Tom Mies	tomgmies@gmail.com
Outside Guard	Zak Laina	zlia9453@gmail.com
Outside Guard	Dennis Flesch	dfleschdennis208gmail.com
First Year Trustee	Roger Packard	rpackard3@yahoo.com
Second Year Trustee	Bob Gillikin	bobGillikin@gmail.com
Third Year Trustee	Tim Mell	Timmell1@att.net
Chaplain	Fr Matt Mello	frmatt@ladyofhope.org
District #20 Deputy	John O'Malley	jomalley1@cfl.rr.com
Field Agent	James Booritch	james.booritch@kofc.org





Keep up the great work!
SK John O'Malley,
District Deputy 20



Faith in Action COR DISTRICT 20 FLORIDA

AUGUST 25 — 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/>



FAMILY OF THE YEAR 2025-26

Vito and Gina Benedetto exemplify the ideals of Catholic family life and the core principles of the Knights of Columbus—Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. Through their faith, leadership, and commitment to service, they have made a significant impact on Council 8086, Our Lady of Hope Parish, and the greater community.

As Deputy Grand Knight, former Chancellor, and Assembly Pilot, Vito has provided outstanding leadership while supporting numerous council programs and charitable initiatives. Alongside him, Gina has faithfully served the parish through Children's Faith Formation and as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Together, they have dedicated countless hours to strengthening both the council and parish communities.



The Benedettos are especially recognized for their leadership in pro-life efforts, including Laps for Life and support of the Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative. Their work has helped provide resources and hope to mothers, children, and families in need. They are also active in food distribution programs, fundraising events, parish ministries, and outreach efforts that benefit those facing hardship.

What distinguishes the Benedetto family is their unwavering commitment to living their faith through service. Their example of Catholic marriage, family life, and Christian discipleship inspires others to become more involved in their Church and community.

For their exceptional dedication to the Church, the Knights of Columbus, and those they serve, Council 8086 proudly recognizes Vito and Gina Benedetto as the **2025–2026 Family of the Year**.



KNIGHT OF THE YEAR 2025-26

Very Reverend Father Matthew Mello embodies the spirit of Blessed Michael J. McGivney through his commitment to strengthening Catholic families, serving those in need, and inspiring men to live their faith through the Knights of Columbus. Since becoming Pastor of Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, his faithful leadership has helped foster a vibrant parish community and a strong partnership between the parish and Knights of Columbus Council 8086.

Through outreach initiatives such as the Grocery Distribution Program, more than 10,500 families have received food assistance, while fundraising efforts have generated hundreds of thousands of dollars to support Catholic education, F.A.I.T.H. and many charitable causes throughout Volusia County. Father Mello's vision of parish and Knights working together has inspired exceptional council growth, expanded charitable outreach, and greater engagement among Catholic men and their families.

As Sacred Scripture reminds us: *"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them... being examples to the flock."* — 1 Peter 5:2–3

Father Matthew Mello exemplifies these words through his faithful ministry, servant leadership, and dedication to those entrusted to his care. For these reasons, Council 8086 proudly awards Very Reverend Father Matthew Mello as Knight of the Year.





FAMILY OF THE MONTH: Ted and Lynda Morell



KNIGHT OF THE MONTH: Mike Popp





Tim, Jim, Tony Mike Wes, Zack, Dennis, Ernie, Gianni display FI State 1st Place awards for Community service.



Top: Ernie, Jake and Adam hold the 1st Place award for FI State recruiting. Rt: Ernie & Fr Matt display the coveted "Century Award" for the FI State over 100 membership.



Dennis earns 2nd Place for Faith Actives; Jim earns FI State 1st place for Community.



1st Place State Wheelchair



Dennis earns 1st Place overall Faith Activities.



Tim & Ernie display



We need YOU to recruit new members for Council 8086.



Jake presents Silver Shield to Chris

Faith in Action 2026 Conference



Vito, Ernie, Tim, Sean, Mike, State Deputy Mike, Adam, Fr Matt, Giani, Jake, Jim, Zack



Zack, Gianni, Monica and Lynn hanging out at the State Deputy after party

AI in Faith

2026 New Leaders



Knights at a Round Table



Sean Laughlin "Faith Director"



Dennis Flesch "Door Guard" & Zack Laina, "ERAU Chairman"



Eric Mason "Community Director"



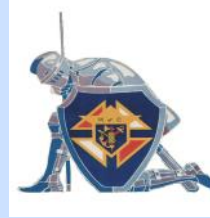
Dcn Stephen Gross "Lecturer" & Trent Cloud "Family Director"



Faith in Action Open Positions



- Council Webmaster
- Council Meeting Briefing Slides
- Council News Letter (Knightly News)



If you are interested please contact Ernie at
570-687-6907 or 50chevypickup@gmail.com



New Members that attended the Florida State Convention & Their Thoughts—Sean, Gianni, Zack

Attending the Florida State Convention was much more than an enjoyable gathering with fellow Knights — it was a powerful reminder of the mission and teachings of the Knights of Columbus and the responsibility we share as Catholic men. The convention strengthened our commitment to the core principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism while renewing our dedication to serving both our Church and our community.

One of the greatest blessings of the convention was the opportunity to deepen the bonds of brotherhood among the members of Council 8086. Spending time together outside of regular meetings allowed us to know one another on a more personal level and grow stronger as brothers in Christ. Just as meaningful was the opportunity to meet Knights from councils across the state of Florida. Men who were once strangers quickly became friends, united by a common faith, shared values, and a desire to serve others. Throughout the convention there was a genuine spirit of camaraderie, fellowship, and Christian brotherhood that reflected the true heart of the Order.

Equally inspiring were the messages shared by the guest speakers and leaders throughout the convention. Their testimonies reminded us of what it truly means to live our vocation as Catholic gentlemen and Knights. Repeatedly, we heard the call to put our faith into action by serving those most in need — feeding the hungry, helping families in crisis, supporting the Church, caring for the vulnerable, and standing beside our neighbors as true brothers. These teachings reflect the Gospel message and the mission of the Knights of Columbus: to be men of faith who led through charity and service.

The convention also highlighted the outstanding work accomplished this year by Council 8086. From charitable outreach to community service, our council continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. Seeing so many dedicated Catholic men working together for the good of the Church and community was both humbling and motivating.

Overall, the convention renewed our sense of purpose and reminded us that the strength of the Knights of Columbus is found not only in what we accomplish, but in the faith and brotherhood that unite us. We look forward with great anticipation to next year's convention and to continuing our mission of serving God, the Church, and our community.

God bless all our brother Knights, and to Council 8086 on a job well done.

Faith in Action Knights Ride for a Holy Purpose



The eyes of Diocese Chairman SK Mike Godbout lining everyone up.

Faith, fellowship, and purpose came together as the Knights on Bikes ministry took to the road for a special Vocation Ride dedicated to praying for and supporting religious vocations. The ride brought together brother Knights, families, and supporters who shared a common mission — to encourage young men and women to answer God's call to serve the Church.

The day began with prayer and fellowship before riders departed on a scenic journey across Central Florida, proudly displaying their faith and unity along the way. Throughout the ride, participants reflected on the importance of vocations to the priesthood, religious life, and permanent diaconate, while offering prayers for seminarians, clergy, and future Church leaders.



GK Ernie Jackson and SK Adam Schmidt, SK Mike Grubbs rolling on in to Vocation Lunch.

The Vocation Ride of over 70 bikes was more than just a motorcycle event; it was a visible witness of Catholic brotherhood in action. Riders demonstrated that faith can be lived boldly in everyday life while supporting the Church's future through prayer, encouragement, and community outreach.

Events like these continue to strengthen the bond among brother Knights while reminding everyone that vocations are the responsibility of the entire Catholic community. Through faith, charity, and fraternity, the Knights on Bikes ministry continues to inspire others both on and off the road. If you are interested in joining contact SK Dave Vaden at dave@davevaden.com



FL KoB Riders pose with Arch Bishop & State Deputy.



Join Knights 8086 Round Table @ ERAU



EMBRY-RIDDLE

Aeronautical University

We are blessed to be welcoming a growing number of college students into Council 8086.

The Emory Riddle students represent the future strength and vitality of our Council and the Knights of Columbus as a whole. Please join me in warmly welcoming and supporting these young men as they become part of our brotherhood.

The continued growth and strength of the Knights of Columbus depends on the active involvement of young men who are willing to step forward in faith, service, and leadership. Their energy, ideas, and commitment ensure that our mission endures for future generations. By inviting young men to join, we are not only building membership—we are shaping the future of the Order and strengthening the Church in our communities.

Through activities such as service projects, faith-based events, and fellowship opportunities, we create an environment that naturally builds camaraderie and brotherhood.



As part of this effort, the Knights of Columbus is offering a series of youth-focused activities, including a special ERAU and Father Lopez High School event featuring scuba diving lessons for just \$25 each Knight. The ERAU Roundtable is also organizing a “Ruck March for Jesus” this coming fall. These events are designed to bring young men together in faith, challenge, and fellowship while building lasting connections.

If you are interested in participating or learning more, please contact Zack Laina at 845-779-6848 or zlia9453@gmail.com.





Knights of Columbus

FOURTH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION

REACH YOUR HIGHEST POTENTIAL

The Fourth Degree is a group of outstanding Knights, dedicated to promoting patriotism enlightened by their Catholic faith. These Knights, distinguished by exemplary deeds for God, for country, and the Order, are united by the Fourth Degree to support religious, civic, and charitable causes.

Fourth Degree members belong to local units called assemblies. Each assembly is involved in a wide range of public patriotic activities.

Each assembly maintains a Fourth Degree Color Corps and Honor Guard. Uniformed members wearing the Official Uniform, and swords participate in special civic and religious ceremonies. For this reason, the Fourth Degree is often called the visible arm of the Knights of Columbus.

ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for the Fourth Degree, one must:

1. Be over 18 years of age.
2. Be a member in good standing with your Council.
3. Be a practical Catholic.

CHARITY★UNITY★FRATERNITY★PATRIOTISM

The Knights Fourth Degree Exemplification Ceremony will take place on Aug 29 here at OLOH, Port Orange.



Earn your 3rd Degree by clicking on link below and watching the video. The KofC conducts an **"On Demand—Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity.**

Click Here: <https://videos.kofc.org/exemplification>

8086 Knights Shirts

TO ORDER: Contact Lacey's

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

POLO: \$42-\$45, XXL \$2 extra

DRIFIT 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.**

July BIRTHDAYS

1—Stanley Picklesimer
 2—Sam Magda
 7—Walter Badya
 7—Vince Pecoraro
 7—Anthony Konkiel
 12—John Clune
 13—Ken Kasten
 15—Robert Heisler
 15—Caleb Janssen
 16—John Hoag
 17—Andy Duzyk
 17—Ron Gitlin
 18—Peter Ferreira
 18—Steve Komondoreas
 18—Hector Valle
 19—Rich Silva
 20—Tristan Plenzier
 21—Chuck Haswmann
 22—Jorge Garcia
 22—Joe Nadwairski

22—David Roquebert
 24—John Riskosky
 26—Tom Hilpert
 29—Seth Kalisz
 29—Tim Solon



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



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

Knight's Intentions

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

Jim Albano, Dave Arundel, Jim Booton, Audrey Borowski, Al Citro, John Coseo, Jim Gallo, Bill Gardi, Doug Graves, Harry Holt, Brian Hyde, Walt & Liz Kaehl, Marilyn Kliment, Ed LeMay, Marti Librizzi, Mike Mann, Stephen & Judy Martino, Mike O'Malley, Dcn Mike Pettit, Mary Piper & Family, Mike Popp, Louis Prevost, Doreen Taylor, John Thomas, Joe Wheeler, Issy White and Maureen Wojohowski, Hank Nolin, Lynn Mell, Charlie Young, Steve Gilman.



To qualify for the Shining Armor Award, during their first 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.**

When you complete all tasks report your success to the Council Chancellor Adam Schmidt to process.

GET YOUR SOON

Hurricane Knights

We put up shutters in the event a named hurricane is forecasted to hit our area.

This is for Registered OLOH Parishioners ONLY
Email Eric Mason at emason197494@aol.com

Deadline July 10th



**Knights of
Columbus**
Council 8086

Faith in Action Life Happens



The Life Happens Award

Honors a Knight who has overcome a life adversity through faith in God, support from neighbors, and the strength of brother Knights. It recognizes perseverance, courage, and faithful service through life's challenges.

Send GK, DGK or Chanselor your nominations.

Council 8086 General Meeting



July 2026

3 Fri 7:45A Rosary/Holy Hour

4 Sat TBD Ducks City Center

7 Tue 7:00P Officers/Directors Meeting

11 Sat 11:00A Loaves & Fishes

12 Sun 6:30A Pancake Breakfast/Recruiting

14 Tue Council Meeting CANCELED

21 Tue 6:15P Rosary before Meeting

21 Tue 7:00P Council Meeting RESCHEDULED

26 Sun All Masses Coffee & Donuts

