

VICTORY HALL

# INVOCATION

December 2019



**Honoring  
American  
Veterans**





In tribute to our veterans, St. Jude Council 6569, St. Peter Council 13139 and Pope John Paul II Assembly 3299 held a memorial service at Riverside Cemetery, Tequesta on Sunday, November 10. The cemetery has two veteran sections, but other veterans are interred throughout the facility.

Three wreaths were made for the event. One of the three wreaths was made by “Young at Heart,” a St. Peter Catholic Church ministry, which includes many Knights, their spouses and spouses

of deceased brother Knights. Also, the center piece of each wreath included an embroidered 4th Degree emblem, made by the wife of a Brother Knight. Wreaths were placed at the veteran sections of the cemetery.

Reverend Frank D’Amato, Friar for Assembly 3299, presided at the service. Members of the three Knights' organizations and the local community were among the approximately 65 people in attendance. The ceremony was an emotional tribute to the veterans, alive and deceased.





# A Time of Preparation

*By State Deputy Scott O'Connor*

**A**dvent is a time of preparation: we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Light of the World, our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, in the form of a newborn child. Hopefully, we also use this time to take a look back at the past year and reflect on the things we did.

Were we conscious of other's needs? Did we do enough to help those around us that asked? Did we offer to help those we knew needed it? If not, there is still time to reach out and help someone. Please remember that it is at this time of year that charity is most in need both in the physical sense as well as the spiritual.

Consider offering to drive a friend or parishioner to Mass. Offer to pick up a brother knight who no long can drive himself and bring him to a meeting or event. Or, perhaps offer to pick up some groceries for a family struggling to make ends meet. You will be doing a great service. If you can, suggest that your Council members also reach out to those in need, lend a hand and rejoice for it truly is "Better to give than to receive."

In November, I had the pleasure of attending the State Deputies Mid-Year Meeting conducted by the Supreme Council. This year's meeting was billed as a "Historic Event" in the history of the Knights of Columbus.

Following Mass on Saturday, the Supreme Council put on a demonstration of the "New Combined 1st, 2nd & 3rd Degree" for the State Deputies and their wives. This was the first time that wives were permitted to see the ceremonials.

The new degree will be open for all to see. The previous requirement of "Secrecy" has been removed. For some, change will be hard to accept, for others who understand that our Order, much like an old and successful business, must continue to reinvent itself in order to maintain relevancy. It must also do what is necessary to maintain its core base but, at the same time, continue to build new customers.

In this case, the Supreme Knight did a very good

job of explaining how in the early days, secrecy was part of a process to compete with the "secret societies" of the day.

Over the years, our degrees have been modified. In the last few years, none of the three degrees contained any information that you could not find on the internet.

The decision was made to open up the degrees so that the wives and families could see what we are all about and to see what we ask of the men joining. This new degree will be shown at our Florida State Council Mid-Year Meeting to all the Districts Deputies, Regional Administrators and attendees.

The new degrees will be implemented after the first of the year. More information will be coming out shortly. In the meantime, you may continue to conduct First or Second degrees through the current teams, however, there will be no further "Old" 3rd Degrees scheduled.

Starting in January, the combination degree will be offered at the Council, district or regional level. DVD's will be coming out that can be used, also new degree books can be used by those who wish to read the degree. For those teams that want to memorize the parts and conduct the degrees by memory, we will continue our state competition of degree teams. The winning team will be invited to the State Convention to perform the degree for all the attendees. The State Ceremonials Team will be judging the competition.

The new combined degrees should make a positive impact on our recruiting efforts, especially with younger families.

We thank you for your support, your thoughts and prayers. Know that you all are in our daily prayers.



*State Deputy Scott A. O'Connor and Mary*

# The Hidden Life

*By State Chaplain Monsignor Thomas Skindeleski*

There is a new film now playing at select theaters called "The Hidden Life" about a 20th century layman and martyr, Blessed Franz Jägerstätter (1907-1943.) I highly recommend it for your viewing! My guess is that he would have made a great member of the Knight of Columbus, if they would have had a Council in Austria. He certainly would have qualified as one because of the way he lived out his faith. I came across his image in one of the stained glass windows in the beautiful Votive Church in Vienna.

Franz was born on May 20, 1907, near Graz. After the untimely death of his natural father, his mother married Heinrich Jägerstätter, who adopted Franz and gave the boy his surname. Franz received a basic education in his village's one-room schoolhouse. His step-grandfather helped with his education and the boy became an avid reader. It seems he may have been a bit foot-loose in his younger years, as he was the first to own a motorcycle in his village. However, he is better known as an ordinary and humble Catholic who did not draw attention to himself. After his marriage in 1936, and a honeymoon in Rome, Franz grew in his faith, but was not noted for unusual piety. Besides his farm work, Franz became the parish sexton and began receiving Eucharist daily. He would refuse the customary offering for his services at funerals, preferring the spiritual and corporal works of mercy over any remuneration.

In the mid-to-late 1930s, while much of Austria was beginning to follow the tide of Nazism, Franz became ever more rooted in his Catholic faith and placed his complete trust in God. While carrying out his duties as husband and bread-winner for his wife and three daughters, this ordinary man began thinking deeply about obedience to legitimate authority and obedience to God, about mortal life and eternal life, and about Jesus' passion and

death. Franz was neither a revolutionary nor part of any resistance movement, but in 1938, he was the only local citizen to vote against the "Anschluss" (annexation of Austria by Germany), because his conscience prevailed over the path of least resistance. Jägerstätter was called up for military service and inducted in 1940. Shortly thereafter, thanks to the intervention of his town mayor, he returned to his family.

Even though his bishop told him he could legitimately participate in this war, he became convinced that participation in it was a serious sin and decided that any future call-up had to be met with his refusal to fight. He wrote: "It is very sad to hear again and again from Catholics that this war waged by Germany is perhaps not so unjust because it will wipe out Bolshevism. But now a question: what are they fighting in this country, Bolshevism or the Russian People? When our Catholic missionaries went to a pagan country to make the people Christians, did they advance with guns and bombs in order to convert and improve them? If adversaries wage war on another nation, they have usually invaded the country not to improve people, or even, perhaps, to give them something, but usually to get something for themselves. If we were merely fighting Bolshevism, these other things - minerals, oil wells or good farmland - would not be a factor."

Jägerstätter was at peace with himself, despite the alarm he could have experienced witnessing how the masses capitulated to Hitler. Mesmerized by the Nazi propaganda machine, many people actually knelt when Hitler made his entrance into Vienna. Catholic churches were forced to fly the



*State Chaplain Monsignor  
Thomas Skindeleski*



swastika flag and subjected to other abusive laws. In February 1943, Franz was called up again for military service. He went to the induction center on March 1, 1943, and announced his refusal to fight, offering to carry out non-violent services: this was denied him. He was held in custody in March and April, transferred to Berlin prison in May, and brought to trial on July 6, 1943, when he was condemned to death for sedition.

The prison chaplain was struck by the man's tranquil character. On being offered the New Testament, he replied: "I am completely bound in inner union with the Lord, and any reading would only interrupt my communication with my God." That August 9, before being executed, Franz wrote: "If I must write... with my hands in chains, I find that much better than if my will were in chains. Neither prison nor chains nor sentence of death can rob a man of the Faith and his free will. God gives so much strength that it

is possible to bear any suffering. People worry about obligations of conscience as they concern my wife and children. But I cannot believe that just because one has a wife and children, a man is free to offend God." Franz, who would not bow his head to Hitler, bowed his head to God, and the guillotine took care of the rest. He was obviously called up to serve a higher order! He was beatified on October 27, 2007, in the presence of one of his daughters, and his feast day is celebrated on May 21st, the day of his christening. Vivat Jesus!

We have many people to remember in our prayers for the sick, including past and present Florida state officers and their wives: Jim & Dot Schoenefeld, Christopher Kernan, MaryBeth O'Connor, Lucille Urrutia, Christine Kehrner, and my sister, Jeanne Bradley. Have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year

## Building the Body of Christ

**B**rothers all, as we move into the second half of the year, our Membership Team is continuing to support and assist our District Deputies and Regional Administrators as we all work together in Unity and help every Council in Florida as they travel the Path to Star Council.

Over the last month the excitement and commitment has taken a turn for the positive. We want to thank each brother who has stepped up and invite those who are off to a slow start to join as we build The Body of Christ.

Our Path to Star Tour starts on January 10th, 2020 in Ocala, followed with two rallies in Orlando. We will be announcing later rallies after our mid-year meeting.

Round Tables: Almost every church in Florida has multicultural communities making up their

parish. We are committed to sharing our ministries and benefits with EVERY Catholic man and his family. Let's commit to having at least one Round Table in every church.

Remember, everything starts with the First Degree. We need new members to keep up with the ever growing calls for support and assistance from our churches, families and communities. The degree leads to Building The Domestic Church, our parishes and our communities.

Again we invite every Knight to step up and make 100% Star Councils and Districts a reality.

**OUR TIME IS NOW,**



# Keep Christ in Christmas

*By Former State Chaplain Reverend Salvatore Pignato*

**D**ecember is the time to be merry. It is a time of giving. But, most of all, it is a time of thanksgiving to God for His Gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. The Knights have the slogan, "Keep Christ in Christmas". This is what the merriment and the giving is all about.

It is a celebration of thanksgiving to God for keeping His promise to Adam and Eve. It is a time of joy and satisfaction in celebrating the prophets of the Old Testament who foretold the coming of the Messiah. It is the joy and dancing that David did before the Ark that held the ten Commandments and the staff of Moses. Our Ark has now arrived which we celebrate on December 25th.

In the Gospel of St. John, the very first sentence proclaims the whole of the Promise of Salvation History. St. John says, "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

In these words, "In the beginning was the Word", St. John, who is known as the theologian, confirms the existence of the Word, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity and that this "Word was with God". Jesus confirms this Himself when prays in a longing voice, "Father give me the glory I had with you before time began".

St. John continues, "the word became flesh and dwelt among us". St. John verifies and proclaims the culmination of the promise of God to Adam

and Eve of a Messiah. He verifies the fulfillment of the prophecies of the Old Testament regarding the Messiah. As confirmed in the genealogy of Jesus in the New Testament, after twelve generations of waiting, our Ark has arrived and "dwells among us". He walks with us. Let us dance and rejoice before that Ark. Let us turn on colored

lights and have a feast on the day of birth of the Messiah. We have fasted for twelve generations. It is now time to have a feast of the foods of the earth given to us by God.

As we prepare ourselves for the birth of Christ by participating in the Advent Season for the Latin Church and St. Philip's Fast for the Eastern Church, let us remember the journey to get to this day of the birth of Christ, that is, the fall of Adam and Eve, the promise of God to them of the Messiah, the prophecies of the Old Testament in regard to the Messiah, the twelve generations of waiting and finally the birth of Jesus Christ, who by His birth, passion, death and resurrection opened the gates of heaven for us.

May all of you have a blessed Christmas,



*Former State Chaplain Rev. Salvatore Pignato*

**D**id you know that the State of Florida Council has a YouTube Channel? Well, we do! This is a place where we can put in videos of the all the great things that we do as Knights in the State of Florida.

During the State Convention we took video interviews of some of the Dignitaries that honored us with their presence. You can

see the videos by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Please be sure to subscribe to the channel so you will be notified when new videos are added. If you have any videos that you would like to add that shows your Council doing good works please email Jim Clark, Broadcast Media Relations and Production Director at [jclark1@gmail.com](mailto:jclark1@gmail.com).



# Supreme Monthly Challenge

*By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori*

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: "A voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'" (Gospel for Dec. 8, Mt 3:1-3)

**W**e are all familiar with the sense of panic that sets in when guests are due to arrive at our home. With people coming any minute, we rush to finish the cleaning and make the final preparations. My brother Knights, in this Gospel passage we find John the Baptist racing through the house, calling on everyone to prepare for the guest of a lifetime: Jesus Christ. This is our common task every day of Advent: to inspect every corner of our spiritual house and clean out the clutter, for Christ's arrival is at hand. Let us pray for the grace to repent and prepare our souls for the coming of

our Lord..

## **Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:**

This month, I challenge you to fast or abstain from meat one day a week to prepare for Christ's coming. Second, I challenge you to help prepare for Christ's coming through the Faith in Action Keep Christ in Christmas program or by simply wishing others a "Merry Christmas."

## **Questions for Reflection:**

How does treating Advent as a time of repentance and preparation change how we understand and celebrate Christmas? What is one practical way you are shifting the focus from materialism to the light of Christ and the spirit of giving this season? How can I remind others of the joy of Christmas during this time of year?

## November Families of the Month

*This is just a very small list of the Families and Knights of the month across the State of Florida. Does your Council participate? If so send us the names. The December issue will list the November names. Send in your FOM form#10668 to Bob Dytkowski Awards and Forms Chairman [dytkowski@bellsouth.net](mailto:dytkowski@bellsouth.net)*

### **Family of the Month**

Council 13571 Mike and Mary Nelman  
Council 7826 John and Kathy Mallo  
Council 7997 Frank and Honey Stoker  
Council 13307 Mark and Tonya McDonald  
Council 15332 Pete and Dawn Gordon  
Council 8086 Tim and Marsha Walters  
Council 7408 James and Kelly Fisher  
Council 8419 Paul and Sharyn Vowles  
Council 13243 Ron and Beverly Gento  
Council 14573 John Miller  
Council 14084 Dan and Pam Stamey

### **Knight of the Month**

Council 7826 Ted Kovacic  
Council 7997 Michael Costanza  
Council 13307 Jason Peters  
Council 15332 Charlie Culkin  
Council 8086 Mike Deguire  
Council 7408 Michael M. Horvat  
Council 8419 John Kingston, Manny Zapata,  
Chuck Higgins, Dennis Marquez  
Council 13243 Ray Quinn  
Council 14573 Bob Caldo  
Council 14084 Rick Gnatowsky



# Knights Host Spaghetti Dinner



**K**nights of Columbus Assembly 2794, in cooperation with Council 8086, hosted its second annual veterans spaghetti dinner at the Our Lady of Hope Parish Hall in Port Orange on Saturday, Nov. 9.

The military-style dinner paid tribute to the many local veterans and active duty military personnel, who were among the 350 parishioners and community members who enjoyed the spirited evening of good food and camaraderie at the sold-out affair.

Modeled after the military Dining-Out, a ceremonial tradition in all branches of service, the dinner was steeped in military history and customs, combined with some good old-fashioned fun. This year, the church community was honored to have two special guests attend the event: U.S. Representative Michael Waltz, Florida's 6th Congressional District, and retired Army Brigadier General Ernie Audino, Waltz's District Director.

A combat-decorated Green Beret and steadfast supporter of veterans, Waltz thanked the veterans, and their families, for their patriotic service to our country. The National Guardsman stressed the special bond that veterans share. Noting that, in combat conditions, regardless of age, socioeconomic background or political party, our military never take their eyes off their mission.

"Our veterans, like those who serve today, all fight under the same flag to preserve our freedom," said Waltz.

The festive dinner program saluted the veterans. The military tribute began with the traditional bugle Mess Call, played by parishioner and Spruce Creek High School band member Kaely Beagling. The Embry Riddle University Combined Arms (Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force) Sr. ROTC Color Guard posted the colors, followed by the singing of our National Anthem by Knight Joseph Cerio. Our Lady of Hope Pastor and Assembly 2794 Faithful Friar Fr. Chris Hoffman gave the invocation and benediction.

Assembly 2794 Faithful Navigator SK John O'Malley (President of the Mess) presided over the dinner.

The revelry began with the motley crew of veterans and community members, dressed as the cast of MASH (1970's TV Sitcom about the Korean War), for the Council's version of a military Punch Bowl ceremony. Past Grand Knight and Air Force veteran SK Tim Mell served as the Master of Punch. The grog-like punch made from a concoction of ingredients represented our nation's battles and wars. SK Richie Smatt



said, “The ceremony and dinner were such a great way to honor our veterans living with in our church community.”

The light-hearted entertainment continued during dinner as Mr. Vice, played by SK Retired Army Lt. Col Ernest Jackson, kept everyone laughing with comical “Points of Order” skits that poked fun at the inter-service rivalry and roasted a few good-humored guests. Guests were also treated to a special performance of the iconic World War II era hit Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy by our very own Andrew Sisters – portrayed by Debbie Jackson, Carmel Vaden, Denyse Meyers – and bugler/dancer John O’Brian, dressed in an authentic WW II Army uniform.

Later, the guests joined in the formal Punch Bowl Ceremony toasts, led by the Master of the Toast Council 8086 Grand Knight SK Jim Waggoner. Special toasts were offered to each branch of service, our Creator and military families. Waggoner said, “God Bless our soldiers, men and women. Let us always remember that because of the dedication, perseverance and sacrifice of our military warriors we have the liberty to awake every day in a free country called the United States of America. They deserve our unwavering appreciation and gratitude with every breath of our being.”

A solemn toast was also offered by Knight retired Lt. Col. Dave Vaden to honor those who

made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. These brave heroes were represented at an empty table set in memory of our Fallen Comrades.

After dinner, Port Orange Mayor Donald Burnette thanked the Knights for honoring local veterans, recognizing that they do much for their community. Lt. Col. Rob Moyer, the Army ROTC Commander at Embry Riddle University, delivered an inspiring speech about the sacrifices made by our veterans and those currently serving our country, and how important it is for us to honor them.

Special recognition goes to talented chef SK Al Citro and his outstanding kitchen crew, who made the authentic Italian spaghetti, sausage and meatballs.

The Knights also want to thank the following community organizations for their help in honoring the veterans: The Color Guard by Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force ROTC at Embry Riddle University and SFC Cazares; Displays by Boy Scout Troop 436:-Kevin Piper and Jim Baskin; Servers: Rob Brock & Warner Christian Academy; Rowena Hoblin & OLOH Youth; Displays by Daytona Military Museum, LTC Dave Vaden; Food: Olive Garden, BJ’s, Walmart, Sam’s Club, Gordon’s, Mario’s, Giuseppe’s; Supplies donated by SFC Lindy and SFC Matthew Marchese; Ceramic Table Centerpieces - Ralph & Eleanor Ameduri.

## Council Serves Needy and Homeless

**Council 4934**, based at Sacred Heart Church in New Smyrna Beach, had a busy November, serving a pair of dinners for community members.

On Monday, Nov. 18, Council volunteers prepared and served 123 meals to the needy and homeless at the First United Methodist Church in New Smyrna Beach through the Community Hot Meals Program. The diners were treated to a pre-Thanksgiving lunch featuring baked ham and turkey, supplied by Sacred Heart Church. This is an ongoing Council activity.

The week of Nov. 25 was an active week for the

Council, as members worked together with local community volunteers to purchase, prepare and serve Thanksgiving dinners to an estimated 550 people. The event was organized and supervised by Council Grand Knight Danny Aloise and his wife Joan. Also, among the member volunteers was our own DD, Terry Cassidy.

At its monthly Council business meeting on Nov. 18, the Council presented Reverend Tom Burke (Council Chaplain and Pastor of Sacred Heart Church) with a check in the amount of \$10,000 to apply towards the renovation of the church.



## Council Recognizes Veterans



**T**he Frank J. Durbin Fourth Degree Assembly 2608 and Knights of Columbus Council 7091 of Cypress Gardens teamed up to recognize current and retired members of the U.S. military with a dinner in their honor at Cypresswood Golf & Country Club in Winter Haven.

This First Annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, November 3 attracted an estimated 80 men and women, many of whom served the United States in wartime and peacetime as members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard. The function, which was free of charge to veterans and their spouses, was held on Saturday, November 3.

The event featured a delicious buffet dinner prepared by Brooke Paul and the staff of Southern Legacy Tap & Grille; the Presentation of the Colors by an Honor Guard from the award-winning Marine Corps Junior ROTC at Lake Region High School; a Missing Warrior Table exhibit narrated by

Steve Hilbmann, a Knight and director of the local unit of the Military Order of the Purple Heart; and the presentation of laminated stars created from a retired American flag to each veteran. The stars, created by Irene Schiefer of Ohio, were handed to the veterans as they entered the banquet room by Schiefer's brother-in-law Steve Siesel, a past grand knight and military veteran.

The function also included special recognition of Alvin Lewis, a 94-year-old World War II vet, who resides in Cypresswood; the blessing of the food by Phil Pierpont, a deacon of the Catholic faith and past grand knight; the singing of The Star Spangled Banner and God Bless America by the entire assembly led by Ken Nelson, also a past grand knight; and drawings for door prizes, including five free haircuts donated by the SportsCuts barbershop, four bottles of wine and two 18-hole rounds of golf courtesy of Cypresswood golf pro Bob Schade and K of C Council 7091.

The event was chaired by Phil Pierpont, with assistance from Assembly 2608 Faithful Navigator Jerry Melnitzke, Council 7091 Grand Knight James Sharak and Knights Ken Nelson, Steve Hilbmann, Ruben Sanabria, Sal Porta and Bob Bigg.

The sponsors thank St. Anne Catholic Church in Haines City, St. Joseph Catholic Church in Winter Haven, the Military Order of the Purple Heart and other local veterans' groups, as well as the Cypresswood, Traditions and Cypress Landings communities for their assistance in promoting the event.

Named in honor of the late World War I hero, Frank J. Durbin, the Assembly is the patriotic/ceremonial arm of Knights of Columbus Council 7091, a charitable organization serving primarily eastern Polk County.

# The Great American Teach-In



On Nov 21, 2019 the Color Corp of Msgr. John Scully Assembly 3418 had the honor of participating in the Great American Teach-In. The event was held at Progress Village Middle Magnet School of the Arts in Tampa, Florida.

Throughout the day, over 150 students were selected to attend special classes and learn the history of and respect for the American Flag. Each day all the students at this and many other schools across America say the same 31 words that make up the Pledge of Allegiance, without ever really understanding what they are expressing when they say the Pledge.

The Color Corp represented by Sir Knight Gerald Coffey, Sir Knight Mark Lovejoy, and Color Corp Commander-Sir Knight Rick Gnatowsky, held seven - :45 minutes tutorials for 150 students that defined the history of the flag; as well as the proper etiquette that the flag has earned and is entitled to.

They shared some historical flags, such as one that flew during the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, and a Flag of Honor that defined each and every American that lost their life on 9/11. The handling of the flag, including carrying, displaying, and actual folding ceremony, was explained and demonstrated in detail.

The flag used to demonstrate was loaned to the Corp by Julio Alveraz, Jr. It was the flag that was used to honor his father, a 38 year veteran

who was in WWII and the Viet Nam War for two tours. A true hero! For the first time ever, students understood the true meaning behind a flag positioned on a coffin at a funeral.

They really understood the meaning and sacrifice given for them over the history of this great country by so many who served valiantly and boldly so they could enjoy

the freedoms they have. They truly understood the 31 words they say every morning.

The true value was realized the next morning when Mrs. Cooper, the coordinator for the GATI, wrote me an email saying that she saw a student “spring to attention with hand over her heart the next morning” when it was time to say the Pledge of Allegiance. That in itself may not seem like a big deal, but this student has NEVER stood and said the pledge before, because she was informed she could refuse if she chose to as one of her freedoms. Now she is front and center and proud.

That was worth the investment of time and research and effort invested; along with the many questions and look in each student’s eyes as they learned what the flag represents. Also as with every event since the Color Corp changed to the new uniform, it was nice to hear the many positive remarks and how nice the uniform looked.

Here are some facts about our flag. Did you know:

- The American Flag had 15 stripes for 23 years!
- The Constellation of stars was changed 27 times!
- The National Anthem was composed during the War of 1812 to honor the American Flag!
- The American Flag is the most recognized flag in the entire world! Second to no other!

Stand proud and respect the American Flag for all it represents every chance you get!



# Event Benefits Vocations Program



25-year old Glenrothes Rare Cask Scotch. Also raffled off was a bottle of Johnny Walker Blue Scotch, which was donated by Divine Mercy Assembly 3698 from West Palm Beach.

The Council also greatly appreciates the Florida State Council State Secretary Rob Urrutia, State Website Technical Chair Lou Ortiz and Region 6 Aide Joe DeStefano for joining our Council for

this wonderful evening. At the local level various Brothers from Sarasota, Bradenton and West Palm Beach Councils attended and made this event such a success

This year's funds, \$1,800 will be used to support the Council's two Seminarians, Christian Chami and Juan Contreras, and the Florida State Council Vocations Program. This year's event success is attributable to all the hard work of Grand Knight Dr. Steve Wyer, who arranged for the venue and purchased all the scotch and cigars.

On Saturday, September 28th, thirty two Brother Knights enjoyed an evening of Rare Scotch and Premium Cigars at Maduro's South Cigar Bar Sarasota. The event, which was sponsored by Incarnation Council 15332 Sarasota and benefited the Council's Vocations Program. This was the Second Annual Vocations Fundraiser Event which enabled the Council to provide financial support for a Seminarian, the Diocese of Venice Vocations Program and the Florida State Council Vocations Program.

For a donation of \$50.00, each patron received two Premium Cigars and tasted three Rare Scotches. In addition, each patron enjoyed some delicious heavy finger food prepared by Teresa Wyer – Grand Knight's Dr. Steve Wyer's wife – which included Deli Sliders, Shrimp Cocktail, Swedish and Sweet-n-Sour Meatballs and various chips and dips.

During the evening, there were various raffles. The first raffle featured cigars, humidors, lighters, cigar cutters, ash trays and various other items. The second raffle, "The Mancave Raffle," consisted of a humidor, box of cigars, lighter, cigar cutter, and 25-year old bottle of Glenrothes Bourbon Cask Scotch. The "Grand Prize" was a \$600.00 bottle of





# Knights Awarded St. Jude Medal



**K**nights of Columbus members in Region 5 were awarded the St. Jude the Apostle Medal by Bishop Gregory L. Parkes. During evening prayer at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle in St. Petersburg, Bishop Gregory L. Parkes recognized the St. Jude Medal recipients from our parishes and missions. Through their generosity and loyal service to their parish and communities, these lay men and women have contributed greatly to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout our diocese.

Established in 1999 by Most Reverend Robert

N. Lynch, the fourth bishop of St. Petersburg, the St. Jude the Apostle Medal is awarded to a lay member of a parish for distinguished and outstanding service. Casted on the medal are the Diocesan Coat of Arms and the image of St. Jude the Apostle, patron of this diocese.

Thank you to Ray Bassett of Maddock Photography for taking and sharing these photos with us! #courageouslyliving





# Catholic Days At the Capitol

*Save the Date: January 28-29, 2020*

Each year, Catholics from across the state gather in Tallahassee to participate in Catholic Days at the Capitol. This two-day event provides an opportunity for the faithful to put a call to political responsibility into action and strengthen the presence of Catholic values in the public square.

By joining together to advocate for laws that protect and defend human life and dignity, Catholic Floridians can give a voice to some of the most vulnerable and marginalized populations in our state and promote the common good for all Florida residents.

2020 Catholic Days activities include:

- A legislative briefing on policy issues affecting human life and dignity
- Pre-scheduled meetings with lawmakers
- A breakfast for Catholic Days participants, Florida's bishops and legislators

- Group photos of each diocesan delegation with their bishop
- Tour of the historic capitol building
- The opportunity to view the legislative process in action
- Annual Red Mass of the Holy Spirit concelebrated by the bishops of Florida to pray for those working in the legislative, judicial and executive branches of government

For more information and registration, please visit the Bishops' website, at:

<https://www.flaccb.org/cdac>

Brother Knights, there has been a bill in the defense of life every one of the 11 years I have attended Catholic Days at the Capitol. I invite you to join your Diocese representatives in this noble cause.



*On November 16, Our Lady of Fatima Council 6391 Inverness was a sponsor of the Pregnancy Family and Pregnancy Life Center's Spotlight on Local Talent fundraiser. Many Knights and their families attended and supported the event. This center provides a vital service to expectant mothers and families in Citrus County.*

# Council Hosts Designer Bag Bingo



On Sunday, November 17, 2019, Knights of Columbus St. Cloud/Kissimmee Council 6624 hosted an afternoon of Designer Bag Bingo on behalf of the Healing Touch Therapeutic Riding Center, a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to using horses as a pathway to healing.

Healing Touch's therapeutic riding program integrates the teaching of riding skills designed specifically for the individual rider with physical, cognitive and emotional special needs.

The Center also plays a key role in supporting the equestrian events for the Florida Special Olympics.

Council 6624 Brother Knights and their families were instrumental in the success of the Designer Bag Bingo. Overall, more than \$7,000 was raised through this worthwhile activity.



*The Knights of Columbus stand with our brothers and sisters around the world facing religious persecution. Pictured above are our Father Andrew Brown Assembly color guard at the opening Mass for the Trinitarians Religious Persecution Conference. In addition, Council 3274 presented a check to the Trinitarians in support of this important conference. Our Council has also supported the Trinitarians in rebuilding a Catholic school in Aleppo, Syria.*



# Council Hosts Respect Life Brunch



Coral Gables Council 3274 has been doing a Respect Life Brunch for years at Church of the Little Flower Coral Gables. Hundreds of people attend for what we call “Biltmore Brunch at McDonald’s prices” Biltmore Hotel is a famous property built in 1926 at the same time as COTLF opened.

This was a record year in which we raised \$15,000 for the South Dade Pregnancy Center in Miami-Dade County. The center is funded by Catholic Church organizations and not the Dioceses of Miami. Jose Juara, Council Chancellor, leads

the effort for the Knights along with JC Toyos, wife of PGK Waldo Toyos, the Respect Life Leader at COTLF. We are blessed to have such an incredible Hall in Coral Gables where we can prepare much of the food the day before.

40-50 Knights work this event which includes a Champagne and Mimosa station which was donated by one of the Knights in our Council. Tuesday night at the Pregnancy Center monthly meeting we presented the check to the Program Director Cathy Weissinger.



# The Day After Thanksgiving Luncheon



For the 5th year in a row, Knights of Columbus St. Cloud/Kissimmee Council 6624 played a key role in Holy Redeemer's annual 'Day After Thanksgiving

Luncheon' for the local homeless and needy families living in the nearby hotels and motels.

Partnering with the Kissimmee Advent Health Hospital, Brother Knights dropped off 25 turkeys, where the chef and his crew prepared several trays of hot, sliced turkey and gravy for the luncheon.

This year, Council 6624 was asked to also

donate small jars of peanut butter and jelly for the homeless to take home after the meal, and over 100 jars each of peanut butter and jelly were donated to the event.



In addition, several Brother Knights, their families, and the Columbiettes volunteered their time to help Christian Hearts, other ministries at Holy Redeemer, and interfaith volunteers to serve

over 150 meals to the needy. Leftover food and clothing items were delivered to a local battered women's shelter and the parish's food pantry.

## Council Delivers Bibles

At the request of Holy Redeemer pastor, Fr. Jorge Torres, KofC St. Cloud/Kissimmee Council 6624 ordered and delivered 75 bibles, 50 of which will be placed at the Osceola County prison as part of the Parish's effort to provide

spiritual guidance to the local Catholic prisoners in jail. The remainder of the bibles will be used in support of the Bereavement Ministry and a newly formed Divorced Catholic group at Holy Redeemer.



# Knights Support St. Vincent de Paul



In our prosperous suburban community, we can easily miss those less fortunate. Easily miss the needs of so many individuals and families who struggle to keep a roof over their heads, have enough to eat, lack warm clothing or many of the very basic necessities.

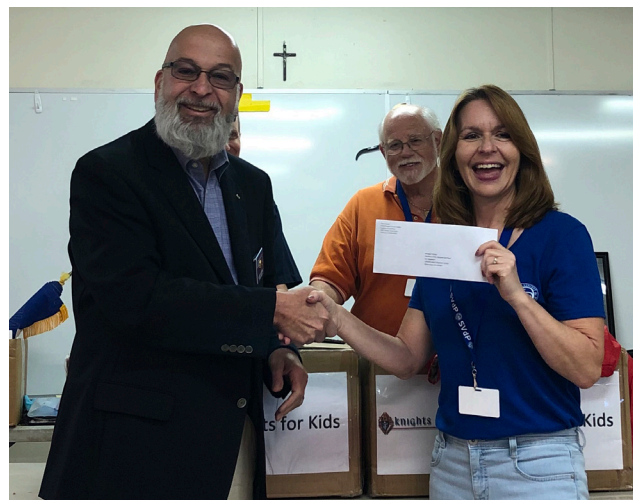
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul offers tangible assistance to those in need. No work of charity is foreign to the Society. Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul are men and women of St. Stephen who strive to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to individuals in need.

Food is distributed each Friday, financial assistance may be available to those in need of rent, utilities or other living expenses.

Council 14084 has donated two cartons of new children's clothing (24 warm jackets for boys, 24 for girls) to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. This donation is our small participation in the "Coats for Kids" program of the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus. Presentation was made by Trustee John Berrie and Grand Knight Alex Czopek on 11/22/19.

Monetary support is also important to Society of St. Vincent de Paul – we want to support their efforts with families in our community. Council 14084 presented a check for \$500 to Bridget Wray of the St. Stephen Conference of Society of St. Vincent de Paul on 11/22/19. As you may know, the "Food for Families" program is also an effort of the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus.

At our Christmas party, and upcoming business meeting, Council 14084 will also be collecting can food for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.





# Council Hosts Mass of Remembrance

Council 8791 hosted the annual Mass of Remembrance for Our Deceased Brothers at Prince of Peace Catholic Church on Tuesday, Nov. 26.

The Mass – dedicated to the memory of Past Faithful Friar Rev. Richard Grasso – honored Brother Knights and Sir Knights who passed away in the last fraternal year from Districts 17, 18, 19 and 20.

The Mass was celebrated by Pastor Father Bill Zamborsky. Rev. SK Titus Kachinda concelebrated.

Sir Knights Robert Simcoe and Harold Bennett conducted the necrology, honoring the memory of 24 Sir Knights and 38 Brother Knights.

Participating District Deputies were Sir Knights



Kevin Ryan (17), Simcoe (18), Wojerski (19) and Terrence Cassidy (20), along with 12 members of the regional Color Corps commanded by SK Eddy Ho of Assembly 2791.



KofC Council 3274 distributed 350 Turkeys and a ton of canned food distributed amongst our community in need. #VivatJesus #knightsinaction #service We thank St. Theresa Catholic School families for their support.





# Council Delivers to the Homeless



*Council 10055, San Marcelino Champagnat, embarked on its quarterly caravan with food and other items to specific areas of downtown Miami. Early on the morning of Saturday 13th, after receiving the blessing from our Chaplain Father Oscar Perez, a group of Knights and their wives and teenage sons and daughters departed from the parking lot of the church to four homeless enclaves. There, they distributed food, snacks, toiletries, blankets, and other items donated by members of the Council and other entities in town.. This is a standing practice of the Council and is done at least every three months. The items for distribution vary with blankets and clothing replacing toiletries in the winter months.*





# Council Hosts Blessing of Mobile Clinic



**O**n Sunday, October 20, 2019, during and after the 11:00 am Mass, a special blessing/dedication ceremony was held to unveil the new Mobile Medical Clinic (Van) which is owned and operated by the Community Pregnancy Clinic, Inc.

The total cost of the new clinic was \$184,000 and funds were received from: Bishop Dewayne of Venice; the Supreme Council to pay for the Ultrasound devise; and, Councils throughout the State of Florida, especially those from the Diocese of Venice.

Council 13341 Lakewood Ranch, hosted this campaign. This Clinic will be used to: serve women and families in indigent and migrant communities; increase our presence at sites where abortions are performed; expand presence on college and university campuses; and, build public awareness through the visibility of the Mobile Medical Clinic while on the road and while parked at various events. Upon conclusion of the ceremony, honored guests and parishioner were treated to a luncheon in Sacred Heart Hall.

# Council Supports STREAM Program



*Over a year ago, the Incarnation Catholic School Sarasota (ICS) established the STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, Math) Program in ICS to enhance its academic standing, but also help recruit new students. The STREAM Program is very expensive because it is technology driven. During the 2018-2019 school year, a classroom was dedicated for the program and capital improvements were made. Some technology equipment was purchased, but much more was needed. Incarnation Council 15332 made a \$10,000 donation to the STREAM Program.*





# A Thanksgiving "Giving Celebration"

**A**fter months of preparation, Council 10055 San Marcelino Champagnat, and the Christopher Columbus High School Squires Circle 3877, made their Thanksgiving "Giving Celebration" happen. On Sunday November 24th at 7:00 AM, (a beautiful Miami morning), both family and friends gathered to pack 62 boxes of delicious food, baked goods, and a Gift certificate to be given to 62 needy families of our parish, and our two missions.

For years, Council 10055 has been celebrating this Thanksgiving tradition. The time in preparation and coordination, is perhaps the most elaborate, and complex of our Council's programs, (with the possible exception of our upcoming toy distribution). Our Council members donate food, money, pick-up food, get donations, secure sponsors, and create a pre-determined list of foods that have a long shelf life, and are useful after Thanksgiving. The Council works with the missions to identify area needy families, and those who would not celebrate Thanksgiving without a helping hand. Rather than receiving a frozen turkey, a Gift card for their meat of choice, is in the distribution.

The Squires, along with the Knights, and volunteers work hand-in-hand, like a well-oiled

machine. The amazing process is sight to be seen! Food is staged on tables, and the Squires move about with boxes. Knights and other volunteers fill the boxes with the much anticipated Thanksgiving Dinner. Once completed, the dinners await distribution.

After a Thanksgiving celebration, (which includes song, gospel reading, prayer, meditation, thankfulness, and love), we ready the dinners for distribution. Then, the remaining dinners are loaded into a school bus, and a caravan of Knights along with their families follow to the missions, some 15 miles away. Our Thanksgiving celebration is repeated, and the dinners are then distributed. Those who do not have means of transportation, usually arrange with the Knights to have the dinners delivered to their home.

After a much anticipated Sunday of hard work, the Squires, Knights, and volunteers are tired, but yet fulfilled by the sights, sounds, and conclusion of yet another successful Thanksgiving "Giving Celebration". The Knights and Squires are constantly improving their process, and hope to make every Thanksgiving "Giving Celebration" an even more memorable experience.



*Council 10055 Fellowship Breakfast*

# The True Meaning of Christmas

*By Council 14084 Worthy Lecturer Roland Tiso*



**I**n this special holy time of advent, my thoughts are of the meaning of Christmas and our duty as Knights in a society where Christmas has too often become shorthand for shopping and where many who celebrate Christmas too often lose sight of its true meaning.

There should be no doubt as to the importance of this issue. We live in difficult times and too many people in our great country are quick to question Christian religious beliefs and bring their opinions before the courts with the expressed purpose of removing our Lord Jesus Christ from the public scene.

Over the past 60 years our Order has tried to remind Christians that Christmas is a religious holiday and not just a shopping opportunity. By keeping Christ in Christmas, our Order has underlined the first six letters in the word Christmas. That's the message we must continue to remind people and add that Christmas is about

“peace on earth toward people of good will.” To the faithful, that sentiment is one that is easily understood.

Celebrating the birth of Jesus is “the Reason for the Season!” We are opposed by both the overt commercialism of the season, and from protests by the more secular forces in our society. Our Order has led the “Keep Christ in Christmas” campaign; maintaining a positive voice in our national cultural life.

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson summed up the rationale for the Order’s longstanding commitment to keeping Christ in Christmas when he said that, “In the midst of an increasingly materialistic and secular society, it is all too easy to lose sight of what Christmas really means. We give gifts to each other because it is the day on which we celebrate the ultimate gift: the Christ child, the savior of mankind.”

Our Order’s continued commitment to “Keep Christ in Christmas” ensures that we do not lose sight of the true meaning of the season. We keep Christ in Christmas not just through our public displays of nativity scenes, banners, and signs, but also, and most importantly, through our actions and deeds during the Christmas season.

It is through those acts of charity and compassion that we remind everybody that Christmas is a religious holiday. And that message is important to both Christians and non-Christians alike for even those who do not share our Christian faith can and do appreciate the message of peace and hope that this Christian holy day brings to the world. It is a message that the world needs now more than ever.

Let us always honor the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas, and give the gift of yourself to our Order, our church community, your family, and our country.

*Merry Christmas and God Bless!*



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL



## MISSION STATEMENT



Evangelize and proclaim our faith, protect families, and perform works of charity.

Through our witness and deeds attract Catholic men to our Order.

Build the Domestic Church through service, support our parishes, clergy, and communities.

Incorporate principled fiscal responsibility for charitable giving.



### 2019-2020 Florida State Charities Raffle Rules and Guidelines



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## Florida State Council Social Media

Your State Council is now on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and You Tube. We need all Brother Knights to participate and Let Your Light Shine.

- Go to Facebook and "LIKE" the page
- Go to Twitter and Instagram and "follow"
- #LetYourLightShine @KofcFlorida



## Knightline

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.  
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Check out the current issue of **Knightline**, a monthly resource for local KofC leaders. It is designed to help council officers plan events and activities, meet quarterly goals for the fraternal year and learn about Orderwide news. [CLICK HERE](#) to download the issue.

## COLUMBIA

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the online version of **COLUMBIA** Magazine, a publication for the Knights of Columbus.



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