



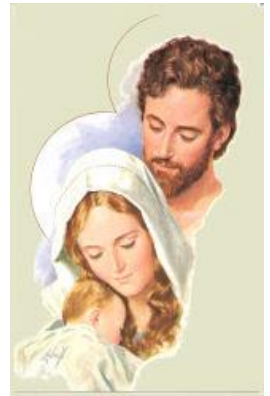
The Korona

St. Mary's Council 11961
Website: www.council11961.org

August 2025

Grand Knight Message *In service to one. In service to all*

Charity
Unity
Fraternity



"..Catholics around the world revere Father McGivney, including him in their prayers and contemplation. In that so many still look to him for guidance, he will ever be in the relationship that suited him best: a parish priest for the modern world"



Brothers, we are counted among the many that continue to turn to Blessed Michael McGivney for guidance and assistance. We also pray for his canonization especially this month as we observe his memorial on August 13th. It is my hope that we will be able to come together on that Wednesday and pray a special litany for our Founder at the Monastery chapel.

Thank you to the **Hot Smokin' Knights** who provided an amazing menu of beef brisket, smoked chicken, baked beans, cole slaw, and corn on the cob for the **Monastery Dinner-Dance on July 19th**! It was an incredible success that brought together all of the supporting groups of the Monastery for an evening of fundraising and fun. Special kudos to our Leadership Team – Chris, Ken and Fred, as well as, a small army of volunteers – Mike, John T., John P., John R., Tony, Joe M., Nestor, David, and Pitmaster, Paul Schulten.

Our next **Knights of Columbus Mass** will be on **Sunday, August 3rd at 10 am**. Please join us, along with your wife and family members, for this special Mass. Please let me

know if you are interested in joining the **Liturgy Team** (music, lector, altar server, usher, etc.) for these monthly first Sunday Masses. We can always use more helping hands.

I'd like to put in a special plea for getting **sponsors** for our council golf tournament in **October**. We really need to make this a **council-wide effort** to line up sponsors for the tournament – not just the golf committee. Each of us knows someone or some business that would gladly sponsor a hole for \$125.00 to publicize their business or to simply make a contribution to the Monastery. You will find a **Sponsor Sheet** in the newsletter. You don't need to be a salesman to help us, all you need to do is ask – your landscaper, your pool guy, your insurance agent. Remember, one sponsor, at any level, is free money for the future social hall. **THANK YOU!**

Vivat Jesus!

*Grand Knight
Darren Molony*

**God's On the Line, Don't Hang Up!
Vocations are *Everybody's* Business. Pray for Vocations!**

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Fr. Robert Marciniak (July 3, 2025)



Brother Knights,

As we look back of our nation's Independence Day, we find ourselves not only looking back with gratitude but also looking forward with resolve.

July 4th is more than fireworks, flags, and festivities. It is a reminder of a profound truth: that liberty is not simply the freedom to do as we please, but the freedom to do what is right.

The Founding Fathers of the United States understood this. They risked everything for the idea that human dignity does not come from any government or king, but from God Himself.

The Declaration of Independence boldly proclaims that we are "endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights." This is a profoundly Christian vision of the human person.

However, it is also a responsibility—a call to live, serve, and build a society where those God-given rights are defended for all.

As Knights of Columbus, patriotism is more than just the 4th degree of membership. It's an integral part of your calling. Patriotism means more than loving your country. It means working for its true good, which is rooted in faith, truth, and justice. And in a time when the moral foundations of our society are crumbling, your witness as Catholic men is more needed than ever.

We are living in a time when the meaning of freedom itself is being distorted. All too often, freedom is reduced to self-expression without responsibility. People claim rights while ignoring their duties. Yet, we know that authentic freedom can never be separated from truth.

Pope St. John Paul II once said, "*Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.*" This is the kind of freedom that built this nation and it's the kind of freedom that will preserve it.

You, Brother Knights, are called to be guardians of that truth. Not just with words, but with actions. Through your service to the Church, defense of life and family, support for the poor and vulnerable, and commitment to prayer and the Eucharist you help renew the soul of this nation: one act of charity and courage at a time.

Tonight, as we prepare to celebrate Independence Day, let us also recommit ourselves to being men of conscience and faith. Let us remember that patriotism begins with gratitude: for our freedoms, for our blessings, and for those who came before us. However it must evolve into something more: a willingness to stand up, to speak out, and to sacrifice for what is true and right.

And above all, let us be men of prayer. Our nation needs prayer, not empty gestures, but sincere pleas for God's mercy, healing, and guidance. Pray for our leaders. Pray for our children. Pray for peace. Pray that this richly blessed land may always be a place where truth is spoken, goodness is honored, and God is never forgotten.

St. Thomas More, patron of statesmen and conscience, pray for us.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, pray for us.

And may God bless the United States of America.

Vivat Jesus!

District Deputy Message



Brothers,

Our new fraternal year is one month old, and your council officers have been officially installed. A dynamic and impactful District 17 organizational meeting was held, where your officers attended a 2-hour meeting that

encompassed an important agenda setting out the goals for your council to achieve the Star Council award. Some of the things we discussed were membership, Faith in Action Programs, establishing a COR meeting, and fraternal benefit events.

We are excited to announce our goal for each council to host 3-4 membership drives. Additionally, we strongly encourage EACH Brother to, PLEASE, sign up a new Catholic gentleman as an E-Member. This process is simple and fast. After signing up a prospect, have them accept the invitation email immediately.

We strongly encourage you to participate in as many council functions as possible. By participating, you can actively share and strengthen our faith, unity, and

fraternity. Your involvement is crucial to our success and the growth of our community.

I have also requested that each council recite one decade of the rosary at the start of every meeting. Reciting one decade of the rosary is a powerful way to strengthen our shared faith. We are a faith-based Catholic fraternity first and foremost, and what better way to express this than praying together.

I am incredibly honored and thrilled to be the District Deputy for the best group of Catholic men in the State of Florida. Let's work together to continue to make District 17 the shining city in the darkness of today's world.



Remember we were INVITED to be Knights. Bless a Catholic gentleman with an invitation

Vivat Jesus,
Greg Gully

Field Agent – Larry Kennedy Life Insurance Awareness Month “Charity, Unity, Fraternity”



This is an exciting time of year for two reasons.

First, our 143rd Annual Supreme Convention is taking place in Washington D.C., August 4-7. Supreme Knight Patrick

Kelly will lead us in celebrating the successes of our Order over the last Fraternal Year.

He will announce the number of volunteer hours completed, the amount of charitable donations made, and more. That impact is only possible through our work right here on the local level. I hope that you take as much joy in being a Knight and making a difference as I do.

I encourage you to watch the livestream of the Supreme Convention at kofc.org/convention. Or, if you're unable to watch live, you will be able to find news articles and videos on the website during and after the convention.

Second, I am excited as we begin a new Fraternal Year. There's much work to be done in our community as always. I pray that Blessed Michael McGivney, whose feast day we celebrate August 13, will watch over our efforts this year and that we will continue to grow in charity,

unity, and fraternity. If you've benefitted over the past year from any aspect of your experience with the Knights – whether through faith-based activities, volunteer work with your brothers, getting a handle on financial matters or something else – I encourage you to invite a friend or family member into that experience with you. Let's share that brotherhood with others.

I pray, too, that through the intercession of our founder, God will bless our families abundantly this year.

As always, I am available to discuss how Knights of Columbus can help protect you and your family financially. I hope you will avail yourself of this important benefit of being a member of our Order.

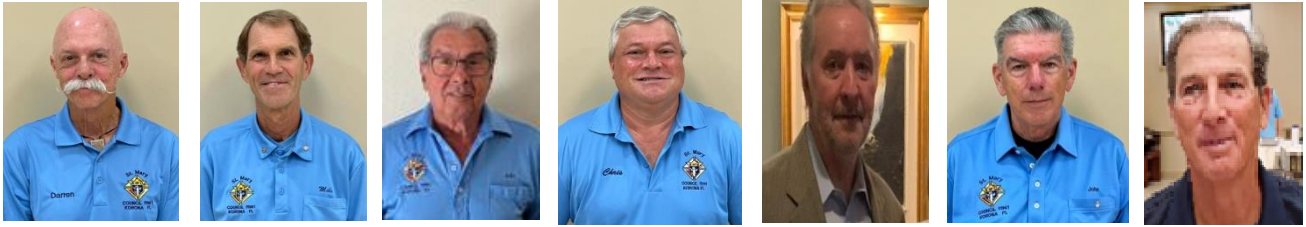
Vivat Jesus!
Larry Kennedy

* Insurance products offered through Knights of Columbus, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510

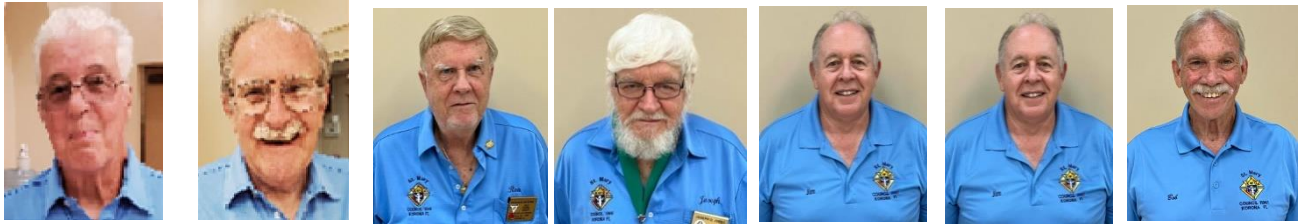
For more information contact: Larry Kennedy, FICF, MDRT
407-579-9888
larry.kennedy@kofc.org



Council 11961 Officers 2024-2025



Grand Knight Darren Molony **Financial Sec.** Mike Gossman **Deputy GK** John Picucci **Chancellor** Chris Grecek **Recorder** Tom Flemming **Treasurer** John Thomas **Advocate** Phil Lajeunesse



Inside Guard Joe Beck **Outside Guard** Paul Przybysz **1 Year Trustee** Ron Kiceina **2 Year Trustee** Joe Jurec **3 Year Trustee** Joe Jurec **Lecturer** Dr. Jim St. John **Warden** Bob Stearns



So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead. **James 2:17**

Council 11961 Chaplain & Directors



Chaplain
Fr. Robert Marciniak



Program Director
John Picucci
johnpicucci@yahoo.com



Life Director
Mike Gossman
Gossmanmike@gmail.com



Family Director
Darren Molony
jjthomas.10@icloud.com



Faith Director
Paul Vicario
pvcrosscap@comcast.net

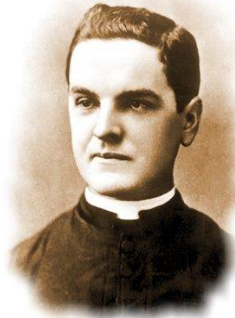


Community Director
Chris Grecek
cgrecek40@gmail.com



Talk to your children about Religious Life!
Vocations are *Everybody's* Business. Pray for Vocations!





God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Aug 2025 Calendar

Sat Aug 2, 2025	7:00am- 1:00pm	Special Olympics Bowl (Jacksonville)
Sun Aug 3, 2025	10:00am-11:00am	Mass St. Joseph Monastery
Sun Aug 3, 2025	After Mass	Membership Drive
Thur Aug 7, 2025	5:30pm – 6:00pm	Officer’s Meeting (SMdM Parish Hall)
	6:00pm – 7:15pm	Business Meeting at (SMdM Parish Hall)
Wes Aug 13, 2025	All Day	Memorial for Blessed Michael McGivney
Tues Aug 19, 2025	4:30pm – 6:30pm	Assem. 2810 Meeting (SMdM Parish Hall)



August 2025

27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

Sept 2025 Calendar

Thur Sept 4, 2025	5:30pm – 6:00pm	Officer’s Meeting (SMdM Parish Hall)
	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Business Meeting at (SMdM Parish Hall)
Sun Sept 7, 2025	8:00am – 1:00pm	Blood Drive at St Joseph monastery
	10:00am – 11:00am	Mass – St Joseph Monastery
Tues Sept 9-14 2025	All Day	Sacred Heart ICON
Tues Sept 16, 2025	4:30pm – 6:30pm	Assem. 2810 Meeting (SMdM Parish Hall)

September 2025

31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4



National Knights on Bikes

On June 25th, the Monastery hosted a Mass for the “Knights on bikes”. It was attended by approximately 65=79 KofC Bikers, including Arch Bishop Thomas Wenski who arrived on his bike. There were other clergy in attendance including Father Manny and Deacon John Harvey and the Color corps. Bikers were from California, Texas, Illinois, Ohio etc. (and Florida)



ST JOSEPH CARMELITE MONASTERY DINNER/DANCE FUNDRAISER



On July 19th St Joseph Monastery held an outdoor fundraiser at the Polonia Society Pavillion with the menu prepared by our Council's chef team. The menu consisted of brisket, chicken or vegan lasagna with ALL the trimmings. Community Director, Chris Grecek laid out a schedule from Thursday's purchasing food and supplies to Monday's clean up. The meal was suburb and the music got many onto the dance floor. The Polonia Society must be thanked for offering their Pavillion and kitchen to the Monastery's building fund.



Father Manny of Santa Maria del Mar, supported the building fund by purchasing 10 tickets. Above are Deacon Bob, GK Bryant Perszyk, PGK Bob Conochalla and their wives.

Brother Patrick and Father Gregory also enjoyed the evening. Brother Partick contributed his beautiful art works for auction. The crocheted art was donated by Ula Porada. Approximately 135 attended the event.



BEHIND THE SCENES

These pictures may give a clue as to what is required to plan the “who, what, when where and how”. Off to purchase the ingredients. Then the preparation begins, trim the meat, rub the seasoning on, fire up the smoker for an 16-18 hour cook while maintaining the temperature. When the cook is done, wrap the brisket and put them in the hot boxes. On the next day, we transport everything, including the smoker, to the event site. Next morning, prepare the chicken, season it, fire up the grill. The beans are doctored with a special sauce. The corn is cooked and the coleslaw is mixed. Finally, the serving tables are set with the chafing dishes and the servers are ready. The next day, clean up begins, pots and pans scrubbed, smoker is power washed.

15 Council 11961 Knights and 4+ days of team work.





JULY'S KNIGHT OF THE MONTH

This month we thank Paul Vicario for his contribution to our council. As a virtual new comer, he accepted the position of Faith Director. Paul's very personal presentation on his relationship with the Sacred Heart of Jesus was inspirational. You will hear Paul as lector at the Monastery's masses. Paul also is active in all aspects of the Councils activities.



INSTALLATION OF ST MARY'S COUNCIL OFFICERS



Our Council held it's 2025-2026 Installation of officers on July 15th in the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Chapel. The ceremony was officiated by DD Greg Gully with a blessing by Father Robert.

The Officers, Father Robert and those who attended the installation retired to dinner at the Olive Garden





**GOLF BENEFIT for
St. Joseph Carmelite Monastery Building Fund
Grand Haven Golf Club October 13, 2025**

Sponsor Sheet



Knights of Columbus
St Mary's Council 11961

TOURNAMENT SPONSOR - \$1,000

- Exclusive title sponsorship of event, opportunity to promote products, sponsorship of two holes and two player entries in tournament. Logo on tournament banner and recognition in tournament program.

GOLF CART SPONSOR - \$250

- Exclusive sponsor of carts, signs on all carts. Logo on tournament banner and recognition in tournament program.

RAFFLE SPONSOR - \$200

- Name recognition in tournament program and display in prize area.

HOLE-IN-ONE SPONSOR - \$300

- Name recognition in tournament program, sponsorship sign and product display.

DRIVING RANGE SPONSOR - \$150

- Name recognition in tournament program, sponsorship sign at driving range.

LONGST DRIVE SPONSOR - \$150

- Name recognition in tournament program, sponsorship sign at longest drive hole.

CLOSEST TO PIN SPONSOR - \$150

- Name recognition in tournament program, sponsorship sign at closest-to-pin hole.

CLOSEST TO LINE SPONSOR - \$150

- Name recognition in tournament program, sponsorship sign at closest-to-line hole.

HOLE SPONSOR - \$125

- Name recognition in tournament program and sponsorship sign at tee box.

Please indicate your sponsorship, enclose logo and payment

Company _____

Contact Person _____

Phone Number _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

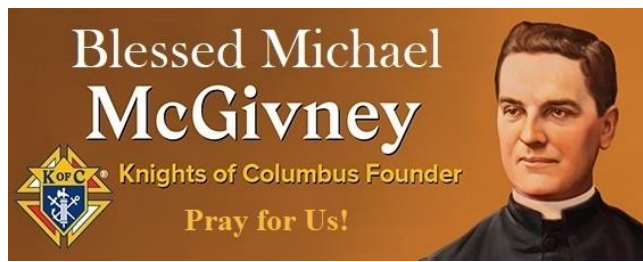
E-mail Address _____

Make Checks to: Knights of Columbus Council 11961
c/o St. Joseph's Carmelite Monastery
141 Carmelite Dr., Bunnell, FL 32110

Any questions, contact a golf member: J. Thomas 732-484-1453, J. Picucci 914-572-7475,
F. Harting 518-852-1864, M. Gossman 317-250-7628, j. Marotti 330-289-4557,
and Monastery 386-439-2910

View Our Website





August Birthdays



<i>Don Worthington</i>	<i>Aug 5</i>
<i>Joseph Jurec</i>	<i>Aug 9</i>
<i>Alex Ortiz Velez</i>	<i>Aug 22</i>
<i>Joseph Marotti</i>	<i>Aug 27</i>



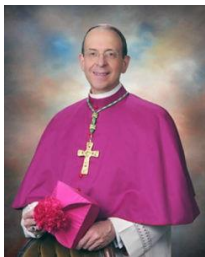
300 CLUB WINNERS July \$50 Winners

- 186 Nick Ruck
- 179 Melissa Gossman
- 148 Lindsey Marotti
- 85 Judy Hall



Supreme Chaplain's Challenge (August)

A monthly reflection and practical challenge from Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori



“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Gospel for Aug. 31, Lk 14:11)

One lesson of this parable in Luke’s Gospel is that when you exalt yourself, there’s nowhere to go but down. In the life of a disciple of Christ, we are called to develop the virtue of humility. We are called to self-giving service to others, not self-serving advancement of ourselves. Let us strive not to seek worldly honors in an egotistical spirit, but rather to live as servants to others so that God may exalt us to eternal life.

This month, in which we celebrate the feast of Blessed Michael McGivney on Aug. 13, I challenge you to pray each day the Litany of Blessed Michael McGivney or the prayer for his canonization — and take time to reflect on his humility in serving the people of God.

Questions for Reflection:

- Do you sometimes struggle with the sin of pride?
- How can you be at once humble of heart and yet bold in living and proclaiming your faith?
- What living examples of humble service have you found in your own life?

Financial Secretary – Michael Gossman

ANNUAL DUES ARE PAYABLE ON JULY 1st!

Prompt payment of your dues is extremely important. It ensures you remain eligible for all of the benefits of membership. If dues are not remitted within a reasonable time frame, the council is required to pass your name to the retention committee. This process is quite laborious, so your prompt remission of dues is appreciated.

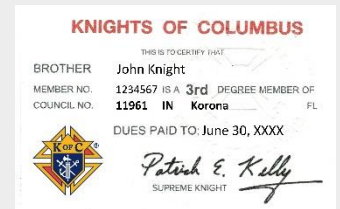
REGULAR MEMBER DUES \$35.00

Honorary Member Dues \$17.50

Priests, Deacons, Disability and Honorary Life Members are EXEMPT

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

Seminarian Support (Voluntary Amount)



PLEASE PAY PROMPTLY, MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Co. 11961 AND FORWARD TO:

Michael Gossman, FS – 87 Long Ridge Ln, Ormond Beach, FL 32174, Phone: (317) 250-7628

Benefits of Knights of Columbus Membership

1. **Columbia Magazine** - Free subscription to the Order's award-winning magazine examining issues of concern to Knights, Catholics and families
2. **Knights of Columbus Rosary** - Blessed by the Supreme Chaplain, presented during the New Member's Exemplification
3. **Daily Mass** of Remembrance at **St. Mary's Church** - Mass for deceased members and their wives at the birthplace of the Order
4. **Insurance** - Access to a portfolio of top-quality life insurance, long-term care and annuity products exclusive for members and their families
5. **Family Fraternal Benefit** - For eligible families: a) pays \$1,500 for the child who dies before the age of 61 days; b) pays \$750 for the child who is stillborn at least 20 weeks after conception; c) offers guaranteed-issue insurance - up to \$5,000 - to any child under age 18
6. **Orphan Benefit** - \$80 monthly allotment for orphans of eligible families; up to \$7,000 in college scholarships available
7. **Member/Spouse Fraternal Benefit** - Accidental death coverage for member and spouse at no cost
8. **Widow Benefits** - a) continues to be covered under the Member/Spouse Fraternal Benefit; b) may purchase life insurance, long-term care insurance or annuities up to one year after insured member's death; c) receives a free lifetime subscription to Columbia; d) eligible with her children for scholarships, student loans, etc.
9. **Scholarships** - Scholarship programs for higher education available to members, their spouses and children from the Supreme Council. Council 11961 also sponsors a Scholarship Program for the youth of Flagler County.
10. **Leadership Development** - Opportunity to build personal leadership skills, public speaking ability, organizational skills, mentoring, etc.
11. **Fourth Degree** - Eligibility to join the Patriotic Degree
12. **Honorary Life Membership** - At age 70 with 25 years of membership or with 50 years of membership
13. **Membership Card** - Entitles participation in all Catholic, fraternal and social activities in member's council and also in over 15,000 councils throughout the world
14. **Activities** - participation in a variety of programs and activities conducted by St Mary's Council 11961 which include: Church Ministry, Charitable Fundraising, Socials, Dances, Dinners, Parades, and more.

BLOOD DRIVES

**THE BIG RED BUS WILL RETURN TO THE MONASTERY ON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH.
COME ATTEND THE 10:00 MASS AND VOLUNTEER.**



PRAY FOR THOSE ON OUR SICK LIST

**If you know of any Brother or family member
in distress, please notify one of the council officers.**

MARY, QUEEN OF THE KNIGHTS
intercede to Jesus for those in need of his healing.

Joe Jurec wife Karen, Nacci Family, Eric Bonilla, Mel Young, Paul Przybysz
Joan Beck, Bob Stearns and son, Peter Capozzi
Joe Rios Family, John Ruck, Dr. Joe Moore, Joe Pimentel, PDD Kevin Ryan's son Shane

Almighty and Eternal God, You are the everlasting health of those who believe in You. Hear us for Your sick servant for whom we implore the aid of Your tender mercy, that being restored to bodily health, he (she) may give thanks to You in Your Church. Through Christ our Lord.



Prayer for the Healing of Loved Ones

Almighty God, look with mercy and kindness on our loved ones who are sick, especially those listed here. Grant them good health. Send your holy Angels to watch over them. Protect them from danger, and keep them safe from lasting injury or harm. May the life-giving grace of Your Divine Son relieve their suffering and bring them to a full recovery. Embrace them with Your constant love, and with the power of Christ's healing presence, that Your bountiful goodness may be their source of comfort, strength and joy. Amen.

Prayer for the Faithful Departed

O Loving Father, Source of all life, please accompany Your servants, listed here, from this earth, to the Kingdom of heavenly peace, rest and eternal life that You have prepared for us. Forgive any sins that have been committed, and welcome these departed souls into the joyful embrace of Your never-ending love. Amen



Pray for our Deceased Brothers

Let us remember and pray for our Brothers that are no longer with us, George Baldyga, Michael Benedetto, Francis A. Bock, John A. Carey, Jerry Fondow, Hank Kesselring, Thomas Lee, Andrew Petersen, John Placenti, Richard Rentz, Gus Simms and also our former District Deputy Paul Gloekler. May our Lord welcome them home.



Pray for Vocations

“The way Jesus shows you is not easy. Rather, it is like a path winding up a mountain. Do not lose heart! The steeper the road, the faster it rises towards ever wider horizons.”
St. John Paul II



If you are over 18 years of age; a citizen of the country in which you reside; a practical Catholic in union with the Holy See; and you are a Third Degree member in good standing, it's time to consider joining the ranks of the Fourth Degree. To learn more about the Patriotic Degree and how to join its ranks, contact:

SK Ramon Marrero 386-793-2251



The

Korona

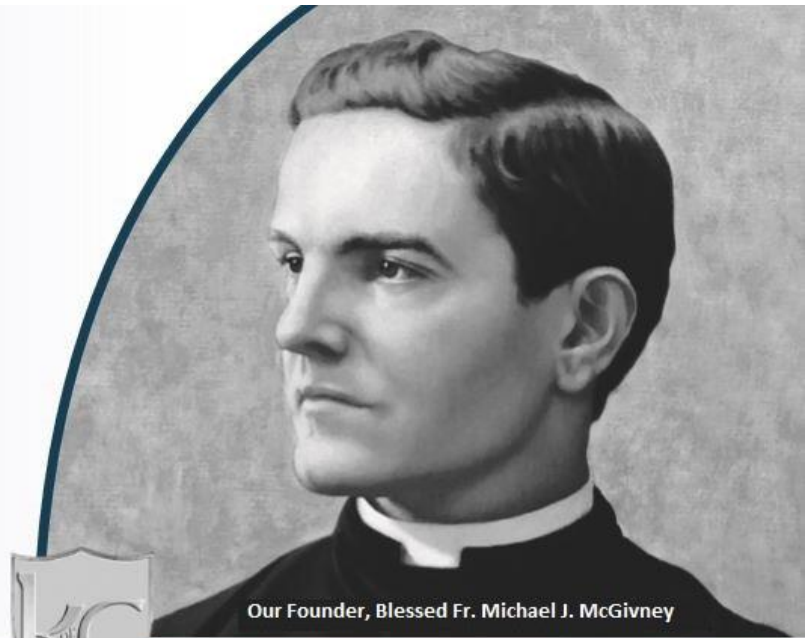
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Charity
Unity
Fraternity

Different for a reason

Discover the Catholic difference
of doing business with the
Knights of Columbus.



Our Founder, Blessed Fr. Michael J. McGivney



Knights of Columbus®
INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE™



Larry Kennedy, Field Agent
407-579-9888
lawrence.kennedy@kofc.org



LIFE INSURANCE DISABILITY INSURANCE LONG-TERM CARE RETIREMENT PLANNING