

Knights of Columbus

St. Joseph - Council 7408

October 2025 Volume 15, Issue 4

This Month's Highlights October 9th Council Business Meeting October 23rd Social Meeting

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Newsletter Editor
Mark Zarraonandia
Email at:
markzarraonandia@gmail.com

Sir Knight Ron Hoenig receives credit for any pictures in the newsletter unless noted otherwise

If you had been at September's events...



Ministry Fair was held at the Church Hall



Awards handed out at the Council Meeting



Bingo at the K of C Hall Monday.

Doors open @ 5pm Games start @ 6pm





Directory of Third Degree Officers

Grand Knight: Joseph Giesler

404-933-8784

giesleremail@yahoo.com:

Financial Secretary: Ron Hoenig, PFN

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Deputy Grand Knight: Kevin S. Freedman

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Treasurer: Richard DiCicco

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Advocate: Joseph Widmayer

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Warden: Robert Tumbiolo

321-243-6969

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Inside Guard: Kenneth N C Friedel

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Outside Guard: Kenneth Ma Friedel

410-591-7670

my little engine productions @gmail.com

1 Year Trustee: Mike Wahlberg, PGK

Phone: 954 854-5671 MIKEWAHLB@GMAIL.COM

2 Year Trustee: Thomas Tremblay, PGK

603-540-1899

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3 Year Trustee: Bradley Hood, PGK

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Seminarian: Angel Garcia

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tm_krus@bellsouth.net

Faithful Friar: Fr. Timothy L. Knepper

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Scribe: Joseph Widmayer

321-795-3345

widmayers@yahoo.com

Inter Sentinel: Ben Adamo

321-408-4084

Outer Sentinel: Robert Bodycote

321-7277940

1st Year Trustee: Thomas Tremblay, PGK

603-540-1899

2nd Year Trustee: Anthony Krzeminski

321-544-6341

3rd Year Trustee: Bradley Hood, PGK

678-410-6163



Grand Knight's Message



Worthy Knight's and Ladies,

This year, Council 7408 is honored to sponsor the Silver Rose as it passes through our area, continuing a cherished tradition that began in 1960. Originally a single rose traveling from Canada to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico, the pilgrimage has grown to include eight silver roses journeying across North America. Each rose is entrusted to Knights of Columbus councils along the way, symbolizing our unity, devotion to Our Lady, and unwavering commitment to the sanctity of life. We hope to host

the Silver Rose at St. Joseph's Church for an extended period, offering parishioners a chance to participate in prayer services and reflect on the power of the rosary.

Council 7408 is proud to announce the formation of a new Exemplification Team, led by Brother Larry Davis. This dedicated group is preparing to conduct a live 3rd Degree exemplification ceremony in November, marking a significant milestone in our council's growth and spiritual development. As we retire our long-standing 1st and 3rd Friday spaghetti nights, we invite members to stay tuned for fresh fellowship opportunities that continue to build our fraternal bonds and serve our parish.

Looking ahead, please join us for our Oktoberfest fundraiser on Saturday, October 11th. This festive event supports our council's charitable programs and the St. Joseph parish community. Tickets are available for \$25 at the Church office or during Monday night Bingo. Whether you attend or donate, your support strengthens our mission and helps us continue the good work of the Knights of Columbus. Let's come together in faith, fellowship, and fun!

Vivat Jesus
Joseph A. Giesler
Grand Knight
Knights of Columbus Council 7408





Navigator's Log



Worthy Knight's and Ladies,

As we approach the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, Assembly 2932 invites all Third Degree Knights to take the next step and join the Fourth Degree—the Patriotic Degree. This milestone in our country's history will bring many opportunities for public service and ceremonial participation, and we need dedicated members ready to answer the call. Now is the time to deepen your commitment to the Order and to our

country by embracing the values of patriotism and civic duty.

Our Honor Guard continues to be a visible and respected presence at ceremonies both within and beyond our parish. Whether standing watch at religious services, civic events, or memorials, these Knights exemplify the dignity and devotion of our Assembly. Assembly 2932 has upheld a proud tradition of service for many years, and we honor the legacy of those who have gone before us by continuing to serve with pride and reverence.

Looking ahead, we will host a Flag Retirement Ceremony on November 6th in honor of Veterans Day. This solemn event pays tribute to our nation's symbols and those who have defended them. We'll be gathering on Thursday, October 2nd to refine the ceremony and ensure it reflects the respect and gratitude our veterans deserve. Thank you for your continued support, and may you have a blessed and patriotic month.

Fraternally,

Joseph Giesler Grand Knight Council7408 Faithful Navigator Assembly 2932



HONOR GUARD: If you are interested in helping with Honor Guard duties, please contact SK Mike Deschaine at (321) 698-2136. For those Sir Knights who do not have regalia, we do have some donated to us that would help alleviate the cost for those interested, until you are able to purchase your own. Ladies and Sir Knights if you have regalia that you are not using or have no longer need of and would like to donate or sell for the nominal price, please call one of the above Knights.



Deputy Grand Knight's Message



Brother Knights,

I hope this message finds you and your families well. I want to take a moment to sincerely thank each of you for your continued dedication to our council, our parish, and our community. Your efforts do not go unnoticed,

and they make a real difference.

A special thank you to the brothers who stepped up to cook hot dogs at our recent Church Movie Night. Your willingness to serve added warmth (and great food!) to a wonderful evening of fellowship. It's these simple but meaningful acts that show who we are as Knights—men of service, faith, and fraternity.

I'd also like to recognize the brothers who consistently volunteer their time to watch over the hall during events. Your quiet dedication helps keep our space safe, clean, and welcoming for all who use it. Thank you for your reliability and your watchful eyes.

Let's continue to support each other and serve together in faith and unity. If you haven't been involved lately, now is a great time to jump back in. There's always room for more hands and more hearts.

Vivat Jesus,
Kevin Freedman
Deputy Grand Knight
Knights of Columbus Council 7408
St. Joseph Catholic Church





District Deputy Message



Worthy District Deputy Eddy Merlet has nothing to report at this time.





Pro-Life Corner



On October 5th, we will be holding our Annual Life Chain from 2pm to 3pm. Once again it will be at our church. We will line the West side (church side) of Babcock St.

Can you stand for ONE Hour to support Pro-Life?

The Pillow & Sheet Drive for Genesis House was a success. How much of a success is still to be counted. Currently we have 74 Pillows from the School kids. The kids had fun stuffing my SUV with pillows. I'm awaiting the delivery of sheets from one of my helpers (Big Ben and Pat). Once I have them Patty and I will have a final count.

Mark & Patty Zarraonandia: Life Director – Pro-Life Couple PFOY







Ladies Auxiliary News



Dear Ladies and Knights,

Our new year has started out well, with fourteen ladies joining us for our first luncheon meeting.

We are looking for new members and our rules are easy: any Catholic woman over the age of 18. Our dues are only \$10 per year for many luncheon meetings and a good time. Nothing is too difficult, just some

planning for the Fashion Show and some luncheons outside of the hall.

Our next meeting on October 14th is the Annual Genesis House Baby Shower which has been going on since the 90's!

So men, please encourage your wives, partners or friends to come out and join. Just show up for a meeting and we'll take you in. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 1130 in the hall. Please come on down!!

God Bless,

Susan Burgess

President

Spiritual Notes - Deacon Frank



"IF TODAY YOU HEAR HIS VOICE HARDEN NOT YOUR HEART"

Hebrews 3:15

It seems that the Knights of Columbus is about 70% club members and 30% actual workers. But that's my opinion. If I can get more people that are Knight to actually do something to make the Order fantastic. To start with God gives us two ways to look at it one yes I will follow my

calling and, two I'll think about it but chances I'll forget about it tomorrow. Or just let it go by.

You would be surprised at what saying yes can do to you. My wife and I were living a normal life, but yet I was a deacon and doing what deacons do. We had spent a few vacations in Hawaii on Maui over a few years. Bought a piece of property on the side of the volcano about 2500 feet up on a 10,000 foot high volcano. It was the following year when we decided to move to Maui we left a beautiful home and job. But the calling was so loud to me and my wife felt that also. We packed up after I got a letter from Fr. Jack at St. Theresa's saying yes he would love to have me as his deacon. We packed up what we could and stuffed them in a car and off we went. We rented a small cottage and submitted plans for a small house on piers overlooking the ocean. By Christmas the house was done, and we moved in. St Theresa's was a small church full of beautiful people.

Wherever we went to eat or there were people would ask me how can a Priest have a wife and family? Actually, I was the first deacon on the island of Maui. I was treated by the Priests and Bishop as one of them. Good feeling. It took a few years to be totally accepted as a native of the Island. After the house was built there was no work, so we decided to go in the sailing charter business, we bought a 43' sailboat hired a captain until I got my captain's license. We sailed the Islands for 8 years. I helped design the new church that's there now. It was then Fr. Jack had a severe heart attack at that point I ran the parish for about three months as he was in Honolulu in the hospital. There is an Island 1200 miles south of the big Island we helped build a church there it is part of the diocese of Honolulu. We had to leave and take care of my wife's mom in Palm Bay as they' were getting quite old. There were 6 newly ordained deacons on the Island. So, I guess our years in paradise was what God wanted us to do. It was a fantastic memory. My first mate Marcia and I sailed together for those years. We heard His call and said yes. Don't you think saying yes to God's calling put me where I was needed and even brought more clergy into the church to help bring the word of the Lord to those that might need it by those that heard His call and said yes Lord, I know there are more that are worthy but if you call me I'll harden not my heart I'll say yes to your calling. All I can say now is. Thank you Lord.

Senior Deacon Frank Falotico sosm, Life member 3rd degree and life member 4th degree. Life member Disabled American Veterans. 100-ton Sea Captain and Commercial Pilot, 60 years married, 8 years U.S, Marine and in May celebrated 45 years ordained deacon. My life has been full, 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

Insurance Guy



Living Benefits - KofC Life Insurance

Did you know some life insurance policies include living benefits?

Does yours?

Certain policies offer benefits during your lifetime – these are known as "living benefits."

One such benefit is a whole life insurance policy's cash value, which can grow tax deferred. You can access it during your lifetime either through a partial loan or a full

surrender of the policy, or as collateral. You would have this at your disposal to help with a down payment, tuition, to supplement your income in retirement, or in case of emergency.

Secondly, living benefit riders, which you can add to a whole life policy, can help make funds available to you if you're diagnosed with a chronic or terminal illness.

No one expects a devastating diagnosis, but if it happens, you'll be able to put your whole life insurance policy to work immediately — while you and your family need it.

One of those riders is the new Chronic Illness Armor rider, which helps guard your family against the financial strain of a chronic health diagnosis. For a modest premium, this rider allows you to access your policy death benefit to cover mortgage payments, medical bills or any other expenses that come in the wake of a chronic illness. There are no restrictions on what you can use the accelerated benefits for!

The Terminal Illness Rider will also accelerate your death benefit and can help provide funds if you receive a terminal diagnosis that shortens your life expectancy. Like the Chronic Illness Armor rider, this benefit can be used to cover anything from a family trip to end-of-life expenses.

In short, life insurance with living benefit riders can help your family prepare not just for an unexpected death, but also serious illness through a means that allows you to use your benefits during your lifetime. It's a daunting scenario to consider, but if it does happen, financial relief is possible.

Set up time to meet with me, and we'll create a personalized insurance plan that matches your needs. Thank you!

Vivat Jesus!

Best Regards,

John Barfield, CLTC, FICF

(Cell) 407-433-5421 - (Office) 321-294-3086

Email: John.barfield@kofc.org

Tax benefits assume all premiums are timely paid and are based on the claims-paying ability of the issuer. Any policy loans will impact the tax benefits by reducing the policy's death benefit and cash values. Proceeds from life insurance policies may be subject to certain taxes based on individual circumstances. Tax laws vary by jurisdiction and may change over time. Knights of Columbus and its agents do not provide tax or legal advice and are not financial planners. Please consult with your financial, legal and tax advisors about your own particular circumstances. For costs and complete details of coverage, please contact your agent or the Knights of Columbus.





Columbus Club Corner



Hello Brothers

Our next Columbus Club meeting is on Thursday October 9th at 6:30 pm.

Please think about joining as we staff for rentals, keep up the

maintenance on the building and grounds.

Remember about coming to our October 11th German Knight.

I have tickets.

Frank

540-429-2626

Community Activities Director

Bingo - Chairman Ron Hoenig and Brother Ben Adamo

The doors open at 5:00 pm for Monday Night Bingo. The Jackpot for the big game this week, Sept 28 will be **\$750.** Some of our games have payouts around \$150.00. Food and Drinks are being served. We have Hamburgers and Fries on the Monday night menu. Our Chicken salad sandwiches, and Hot Dogs are also popular items. Take a break from the mundane routine and get out Monday Night to hone your Bingo skills. Each attendee is given a blue 50/50 ticket that is entered in the end of month drawing which awards the winner with a cash prize totaling around \$200 on some months. You can have a light dinner and pick up an ice cream treat at the mid-way break. Look forward to seeing all of you on Monday evenings.

Live4more

Was held at Holy Name of Jesus beachside on Aug 28th, (Note we attended in lieu of our August Social Meeting) Father Tony from St Lukes was the guest speaker. He spoke on the book...Return and basically is :How we can approach people who have drifted away from the church into returning. I found this very interesting. Father Tony gave a further talk on this on Sept 27th after the 9am Mass.

Kitchen Clean Up

Was held on Sept 16th. Joe Whitmayer called the troops out for a Tuesday morning engagement to assault our kitchen area before an upcoming Health Inspection. Because I could not attend Tuesday, Elin and I did a scouting patrol on the weekend and attacked the two top racks of the stainless shelving units. The main battle group showed up on Tuesday and completed the mission. I was later told that the inspection was a success.

Friday Night Spaghetti

Was held on Sept 19th. Rick had spaghetti and a second form of pasta available for you to choose from along with the meatballs, Rick had prepared some sweet sausages. I REALLY liked the sauce and the sausages. Captain Jack did not attend this time. Rick stated that this was the last spaghetti dinner he was doingat this point attendance is low and not worthwhile having the dinners.

FIT Spaghetti Dinner

Was held on Sept 24, this was our second dinner of the year. We had an excellent turnout of Knights to help serve. Tony S was there extra early as usual and got the salads and lemonade made, Rick Deciccio bought his corn boiler and ended up making 14lbs of spaghetti, Joe Giesler was everywhere

Saint Joe's Movie Night

Was held on Sept 26th. Joe, Jerry, Ben and Dan prepared Hot Dog's and oven baked French fries while I gave my opinion on Quality Control. The Hot dogs looked delicious, and the fries were hot and yummy. I assisted a couple of young guns serving food to our patrons who remained seated at their tables. The movie was great, and I believe everyone there enjoyed the evening.

Upcoming Events/happenings

October 5 2pm – 3pm Life Chain at the Church

October 11 we are holding our Oktoberfest dinner and Dance

October 13th K of C Soccer Challenge will be held at Saint Joe's school, please be at school around 845am

November 8th Veterans parade

December 6th Christmas Parade.

Tony Krzeminski - Community Coordinator



2025-26 Knight of the Month & Family of the Month Awardees

July:	January:
Knight of the Month: Jean Gellin	Knight of the Month:
Family of the Month: Ethen and Elizabeth Devoe	Family of the Month:
August:	February:
Knight of the Month: Anthony Krezminski	Knight of the Month:
Family of the Month: Frank and Ann Altro	Family of the Month:
September:	March:
Knight of the Month: Daniel J. Cochran	Knight of the Month:
Family of the Month: Zachery and Krystal Franciosi	Family of the Month:
October:	April:
Knight of the Month:	Knight of the Month:
Family of the Month:	Family of the Month:
November:	May:
Knight of the Month:	Knight of the Month:
Family of the Month:	Family of the Month:
December:	June:
Knight of the Month:	Knight of the Month:
Family of the Month:	Family of the Month:
Knight of the Year: Family of the Year:	







Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Assembly Meeting 4 th Degree 7:30PM	3	4
5 LIFE CHAIN 2pm-3pm at Church	6 Bingo Doors Open at 5PM	7 Ladies Aux. Meeting 11AM O & D Meeting 7:30PM	8	9 Council Business Meeting 7:30PM	10	11 Oktoberfest Dinner and Dance
12	13 Bingo Doors Open at 5PM Soccer Challenge	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Bingo Doors Open at 5PM	21	22	23 Council Social Meeting 7:30PM	24	25
26	27 Bingo Doors Open at 5PM	28	29	30	31	

Information

Meetings

(All meetings are at the Council Hall unless otherwise announced)

Fourth Degree First Thursday at 7:30 PM

General Council (Business)
Second Thursday at 7:30 PM

Columbus Club
Second Thursday at 6:30 PM

General Council (Social)
Fourth Thursday at 7:30 PM

First Degree
TBA by Grand Knight

Assembly Boosters Club

Get Listed in our Boosters Club

Rick DiCicco, PGK Kenneth Friedel Family Ted Krus Anthony Krzeminski

See the Faithful Comptroller for payment.

Boosters Club

Get Listed in our Boosters Club

Rick DiCicco, PGK Daniel Cochran Joe and Denise Giesler Ron and Judy Hoenig Frank and Anne Altro Kenneth and Mary Friedel Kenny Friedel Tony Krzeminski **Anthony Selario** Jerry Morris Lorraine Callagy **Bradley and Suzanne** Hood Joe and Teresa Widmayer James Krempasky and Shirley Hollink Robert Tumbiolo Kevin and Paige Freeman Joseph Gould Michael Wahlberg Stephen and Kathy Whitney Ethen and Elizabeth Devoe Catherine Imbriano

Cost to be a Booster is \$5 per name or \$10 a couple. See the Financial Secretary for payment.

Happy Birthday!

William S. Adamo Paul H. Benitez-Oliver Kenneth NC Friedel Mark A. Figura Terrence P. Galvin John Gomolka Robert K. Hoe Carl M. Kern Gerald L Lague Thomas L. Leggins Barry J. Lucas David J. Mancini Benjamin R. Pena Chistopher Rokosz Paul E. Sharkey Walter G. Smith William J. Thibault III David M. Wierzchowski Richard J. Wombacher Isaac D. Zepeda



Information Continued

List of Brothers & Sister who Rest in Peace

Eugene Callagy, Thomas Pernice, Peter Cote, John Pordon, Michael Finn, Robert Lannon, Fred Marano, Patrick Steffens, Robert Meehan, Fred Mercier, Leonard Miller, Edward Parsley, Tim Chasey, Joseph Rinando, William Bloemen, Robert, Goldbach, Nannette Apel, Tony Colandrea, Kenneth Jaques, Doug Kalcik, Kevin Roberts, Frank Ferrante, Tim Holcomb, Fred Weinert, Nicholas Fiasconaro, Alrico Eric Macrorenhas, Juan Ferras, Gene Janutolo, Michael Uhaul, Rene Laimont, Mel Broom, James Duffy, Kenny Derenthal, Msgr. Cleo Schmenk, Linda Boland, Antoinette Kaye, Dorothy Mulligan, Irene Ryan, Bernard Seman, Fr. Edward Hamilton, Albert Sorrentino, Chester Milza, James Grossman, Pete Hoffman, Tom Boland, Ann Coyne, Bob Goldback, Thomas Opalewski, John Landry, Bill Holmes, Marcia Falotico, Pablo Molina, Bob Calarco, Joseph Fliss, Dirk Kraus, John Malys, Leonard Hill, John Davis, Thomas Gourley, Russell Baxter, Edward J. Dudek, Walter Carper, Thomas Good, Mary Farrelly, Claudia Benifeito, Robert Rossman, Norman Measel, John Reddy, Beryl Kruempel, Dennis Yangco, Dennis Vukson, Mark Schiro, Henry Gartner, Peter Arbona, Gary Von Dross, PGK, PFN, FDW Bob Burgess, Gerald Burdick, Harry Vadney, William Hawk, Joseph Skoskie, Mike Brown, Paul Gallant, Tom Lipton, Robert Zerkowski, Carol Desmaris, Phil Rosaci, Jeanine Lembcke, Bill Stearly, Thomas E. Smith, Marietta Janutolo, Deacon John Dunlop, Sidney Durham, Bert Kaiser, Paul E. Phenix, Jr., Richard Wendt PFN, Fr. Robert "Bob" Hoeffner, Alain Fradette, Lu Berardi, Catherine Quinn,

May they rest in peace and in the care of our Lord. Please pray for these brothers and sisters who have gone to their eternal reward.

Council Information
Address
6725 Babcock St.
Malabar, FL 32950
321-312-6480
Mailing Address
PO Box 60778
Palm Bay, FL 32906-0778

We're on the Web!

See us at:

https://council7408.wixsite.com/website

Baptism Cross Sponsors

Month	Sponsor
July	Robert Tumbiolo
August	Kevin Freedman
September	Joe Giesler
October	Kenneth N C Friedel
November	
December	
January	
February	
March	
April	
May	
June	

Prayers for Sick and Grieving

Please pray for the following:

The Friedel Family
The Colon Family
Jean Gellin
Pat Farrelly
Deacon Gary and his wife Charo
And anyone not listed who is in need of healing



God of goodness and compassion,

I place in Your hands all those who suffer from illness. Grant relief to their pain, strength in their weakness, and hope in their journey. May they feel Your presence and the tenderness of those around them. If it is Your will, grant them total healing and, above all, peace of soul.

Amen.



Pictures from September











Rent Our Hall





- 1. Security deposit \$450.00 on all rentals (refundable)
 - 2. Whole Building \$150.00 per hour
 - 3. Kitchen (East) Hall \$125.00 per hour
 - 4. No Kitchen (West) Hall \$75.00 per hour





St. Joseph Council 7408 40th Anniversary Polo Shirt Order Form

Date	PAID
Name	CASH
Phone	CHECK
Email	DATE
Address	

	Description	Size	Quantity	Unit Price	Amount
Mens	Polo Shirt Small	Small		33.00	
Mens	Polo Shirt Medium	Medium		33.00	
Mens	Polo Shirt Large	Large		33.00	
Mens	Polo Shirt Extra Large	XL		33.00	
Mens	Polo Shirt XXL	XXL		35.00	
Mens	Polo Shirt XXXL	XXXL		36.00	
Mens	Polo Shirt XXXXL	XXXXL		37.00	
Ladies	Polo Shirt Small	Small		33.00	
Ladies	Polo Shirt Medium	Medium		33.00	
Ladies	Polo Shirt Large	Large		33.00	
Ladies	Polo Shirt Extra Large	XL		33.00	
Ladies	Polo Shirt XXL	XXL		35.00	
Ladies	Polo Shirt XXXL	XXXL		36.00	
Ladies	Polo Shirt XXXXL	XXXXL		37.00	
		'		TOTAL	

Order will be submitted after payment received.	
	signature
Order taker, rec'd payment	



SAINT JOHN PAUL II Assembly 2932 Polo Shirt Order Form

Date	PAID
Name	CASH
Phone	CHECK
Email	Secretary days to consider
Address	DATE

	Description	Size	Quantity	Unit Price	Amount
Mens – no pocket	Polo Shirt Small	Small		38.00	
Mens – no pocket	Polo Shirt Medium	Medium		38.00	
Mens – no pocket	Polo Shirt Large	Large		38.00	
Mens – no pocket	Polo Shirt Extra Large	XL		38.00	
Mens – no pocket	Polo Shirt XXL	XXL		40.00	
Mens – no pocket	Polo Shirt XXXL	XXXL		42.00	
Mens – no pocket	Polo Shirt XXXXL	XXXXL		43.00	
Mens - pocket	Polo Shirt Small	Small		42.00	
Mens - pocket	Polo Shirt Medium	Medium		42.00	
Mens - pocket	Polo Shirt Large	Large		42.00	
Mens - pocket	Polo Shirt Extra Large	XL		42.00	
Mens - pocket	Polo Shirt XXL	XXL		43.00	
Mens - pocket	Polo Shirt XXXL	XXXL		45.00	
Mens - pocket	Polo Shirt XXXXL	XXXXL		46.00	
ADD:	\$6.00 for Name			NAMES	
The order will be submitted after payment received.				TOTAL	
			signature		

Order taker, rec'd payment

Come & Pray With Us For 1 Hour At

The 2025 National Life Chain

Sunday, October 5th from 2 pm to 3 pm in front of St. Joseph Catholic Church



Peaceful ... Prayerful ... Silent ... Non-Political ... Non-Confrontational

We will gather in front of St. Joseph Catholic Church at 5330 Babcock St NE, Palm Bay.

Pro-Life signs will be provided.

Please bring chairs, water or anything else that you may need.

--- For more information ---Call: 321-720-9813

E-mail: lifechainsouthbrevard@yahoo.com Web page: www.lifechainbrevard.org

A Turning Point In America

by Patty Zarraonandia-Respect Life Ministry

This is a very hard article to write because my husband and I have been the Respect Life coordinators for at least 15 years. It gives me great sorrow to see the attacks on churches and the total de-humanization of life. In recent years, there have been several attacks on Catholic churches and Pregnancy Centers across the country. There have also been brutal murders including: The Covenant School where six people, including three children, were killed; Annunciation Catholic school where 2 children were killed and 18 injured; and recently, the assassination of Charlie Kirk who was a Christian, conservative speaker who founded Turning Point USA. He was known for having civil discussions with students in his "Prove Me Wrong" events on college campuses.

It seems our Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Religion are under attack. Evelyn Beatrice Hall said, "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." [1] We must not silence or, God forbid, assassinate any person because of their beliefs. Who is the arbiter of truth except God. If man is the arbiter of truth, then one day, our speech and our religion could be taken away.

In a speech by John F Kennedy he said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." [2] Prayers are always powerful, but in addition, we need righteous indignation to fight for our faith with conviction ... not violence. That could mean stopping political action that goes against church doctrine like peacefully protesting abortion, or maybe protecting and visiting the elderly, maybe working with the youth to give them the truth about the love of God, and most of all, we need a spiritual revival. We must be unafraid to share our faith with others.

We never know God's purpose, but according to the Catholic News Agency in a story by Amira Abuzeid she wrote, "In what some are calling "the Charlie Kirk effect," people across the nation, including many college students who are not ordinarily churchgoers, have decided to go to church since the assassination. Matt Zerrusen, co-founder of Newman Ministry, a Catholic nonprofit that operates on about 250 campuses nationwide, told CNA, "I have not talked to anyone who has not seen an increase in Mass attendance," Zerrusen said. "Some schools are reporting increases of 15%."[3]

His widow, Ericka Kirk said Charlie's goal was to "make Heaven crowded." That is a goal we should all have. Take this opportunity to try and stop the de-humanization of all life and be unafraid to speak the truth about your faith in this "turning point."

- [1] Quote Investigator: https://quoteinvestigator.com/2015/06/01/defend-say/
- [2] Quote Investigator: https://quoteinvestigator.com/2010/12/04/good-men-do/
- [3] Catholic News Agency By Amira Abuzeid; https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/266579/mass-attendance-up-at-various-colleges-in-wake-of-charlie-kirk-assassination