



DISTRICT 53 KNIGHTLY NEWS

AUGUST 2025



GENERAL IMPORTANT ITEMS

AUGUST 15 FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

The Assumption is one of the oldest holy days in the Church. It recalls both the happy departure of Our Lady from this earthly life and the lifting of her body into heaven. It provides a foretaste of our own bodily resurrection at the end of time. Some people think Catholics believe Mary ~~ascended~~ into heaven. That's not correct. Christ, by His own power, ascended into Heaven. **Mary was assumed**, or taken up into Heaven, by God. She didn't do it under her own power. On Nov. 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII declared that it is a dogma (a belief declared as unquestionable truth) of the Church ~~that~~ the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory. The Assumption is a truth of salvation history that requires our belief and assent. In doing so, we imitate Christ in honoring His mother.

Cor . A new Blessed Michael McGivney Session Guide is available. Each session includes suggested prayers, readings about the life of Blessed Michael McGivney and group discussion questions. The guide is a great way to learn more about the life and ministry of our Founder. The download is free at kofc.org/shopcis. You put the item in your cart and checkout like you are purchasing an item, but you do not have to put in any payment information. The download link comes to your email.

The Evangelization and Faith Formation Director is responsible for coordinating *Cor* activities. The EFF Director should be assigned and submitted via a separate form *Council EFF Director Submission Form* for Fraternal Year 2025-2026 (online submission only)

IMPORTANT DATES

FSC Per Capita Bills should have been postmarked no later than JULY 31 to avoid penalty. If you have any questions contact the State Secretary, Ed Sleyzak.

Council Rosters should be uploaded monthly. Supreme updates all transactions submitted by Financial Secretaries throughout the Order after normal business hours every Monday. Therefore, if you update your council Member Management on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, your council membership roster will always be up to date. **Put a note on your calendar to complete this important task!** Upload your roster this month on **August 12.**

Semi-Annual Council Audits were due August 15. All the councils in District 53 have completed their audits on time. **Well done!**

SAFE ENVIRONMENT COMPLIANCE must be completed no later than August 31. Failure to be compliant will result in removal from office of all non-compliant officers including Grand Knights.

Schedule your **Fraternal Benefits Events** with our Field Agent, Alan Kotlarski.

Each council must conduct two FBEs during the fraternal year to qualify for the Founders Award. The Founders Award is an essential element required for the Star Council Award. *A change for this year is that the Grand Knight and Deputy Grand Knight meet individually with their agent for a personal review of the benefits available to them.*

These two meetings count for one of the two required FBEs. The Grand Knight reports these GK/DGK meetings and the regular FBEs using this online reporting tool: [#11077 Fraternal Benefits Event Council Report \(25-26\)](#)



SACRED HEART ICON . Start planning now by appointing a program chairman and discussing the event with your pastor.

SILVER ROSE COMING 26 FEB 2026

CROSSROADS HOPE ACADEMY

Ponce de Leon Council 8074 is answering a call for assistance from John Davidson, Executive Director of Crossroads Hope Academy, in helping the boys in his two Punta Gorda facilities. Deputy Grand Knight, Frank Dillon, is coordinating the mentoring program for the Crossroads Hope Academy. Father Jerry is a strong advocate of the Academy and has asked that we help where we can to support John Davidson's request. Contact Frank Dillon by phone or text at 727-543-5958 or emailing him at pruman701@aol.com for information about this program.

KNIGHTS ON BIKES



Laz" Miel has reached out on behalf of Knights on Bikes to make us aware of the mission of this group.

The Knights on Bikes in the Diocese of Venice is looking to expand by reaching out to those Knights that are motorcycle enthusiasts. Many new members to the Knights of Columbus have been added because there are Catholic men looking to join other like minded men on motorcycle rides. There are men that have not had an interest in becoming Knights until they find out they can serve the Lord using their motorcycles. All Knights that know a Catholic gentleman that rides a motorcycle are encouraged to reach out

to him and let him know that Knights on Bikes have something for him.

Any questions may be addressed to Lazaro "Laz" Miel, Knights of Columbus, Diocese of Venice, St. Katharine Drexel Church Council 11177, miell@bellsouth.net, 786-547-5944.

KUDOS AND WELL DONE!!

The following Knights were recognized with Knight of the Month for their exceptional service to their councils in the previous month.

Council 5399 . None selected

Council 8074 - Jofran Medina

Council 11483 . Paul Versnik

Council 12456 - Michael Davis

The council Family of the Month committee has selected the following parish families that model Christian family values and visibly lives them every day.

Council 5399 . None selected

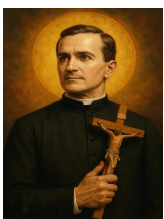
Council 8074 - Jim Callihan

Council 11483 . Marvin and Carol Peschel

Council 12456 . The Bill Zeithammer family

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE DISTRICT

San Antonio Council 12456



13 Aug 7:20 a.m. Feast Day of Blessed Michael McGivney.

Pray Rosary before mass, Mass and prayer service after mass with Prayer for Canonization.

August 22, 5:00 p.m. Past Grand Knight Dinner Maple Leaf Golf & Country Club, 2100 Kings Hwy, Port Charlotte



September 21 6:00-8:00 PM Concert %The Goldtones+ at Holy Trinity Event Center, 24411 Rampart Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL.

August 31, 10:30 a.m. Corporate Communion/Rosary

CUF 1st Wednesday of each month as needed

St Maximilian Kolbe Council 11483



14 August Feast Day of St. Maximilian Kolbe 8 a.m. Mass

24-25 October Yard Sale Centennial Park

17 January 2026 Golf Outing at Paradise GC

CUF 2nd Wednesday of each month as needed

Ponce de Leon Council 8074



17 August Corporate Mass 9 am & Brunch to follow

3rd Wednesday of each month as needed

27 August Dinner at Winesett House

24 September Trivia Night in Sacred Heart Parish Hall

St. Charles Borromeo Council 5399



14 September Pancake Breakfast after all masses

Field Agent Message:

Will you have enough income in retirement? The last thing any of us wants to worry about is running out of money to cover our needs, especially in our golden years. An annuity from the Knights of Columbus can help give you peace of mind with a guaranteed income stream.

How does it work? Simply put, an annuity is a retirement savings product. You make contributions, and, after a specified amount of time, the annuity pays you regular income. Unlike other ways you may be saving for retirement, annuities remain stable during volatile market conditions. In fact, each Knights of Columbus annuity comes with a guaranteed minimum interest rate. No matter the market fluctuations, your annuity is guaranteed to never earn less than the contractually stated amount, on an annual basis.

As you prepare for retirement, you can also consider the tax advantages, income flexibility, and estate planning benefits that permanent life insurance offers. It's a potentially valuable, and often underutilized, tool for families when it comes to preparing for retirement.

Let's look at your finances together to see what plans you already have in place, and what gaps you may have to ensure you don't run out of income in retirement. Safeguard your future today - set up time to meet with me in the coming weeks!

Fraternally,

	 Knights of Columbus® Alan Kotlarski <i>Field Agent</i> Mobile: 941-626-9408 alan.kotlarski@kofc.org 432 Gallegos St Punta Gorda, FL 33983	 
Life Insurance • Long-Term Care Insurance Retirement Annuities • Disability Income Insurance		
<i>Protecting Catholic families since 1882.</i>		

(Please provide me by email the details including photographs for any event or program you are running in the coming six weeks that would be open to members of all councils and parishes. Those events will be included in the newsletter.)

Thank you for all you do for the Order and the Church.

Gary D. Miller

District Deputy, Dist 53

Punta Gorda, FL

Vivat Jesus!