

THE PATRIOT'S CALL: *United in Faith & Freedom*

ASSEMBLY 1818

Volume I Issue II August 2025



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Greetings, Brother Knights:

As the warmth of August is upon us, our thoughts, as Knights, naturally turn to our Blessed Mother. This month holds a special significance for us all, marking the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary. On August 15th, we celebrate the glorious moment when Mary, at the end of her earthly life, was taken up, body and soul, into heavenly glory. This profound event serves as a powerful reminder of God's immense love for His mother and, by extension, for all humanity.

For Knights of Columbus, our devotion to the Blessed Mother is not merely a tradition; it is a cornerstone of our very being. It is why the Rosary, that beautiful chain of prayers, holds such a central place in our personal and fraternal lives. Through the Rosary, we walk with Mary through the mysteries of Christ's life, growing closer to Him as she did. Her unwavering "yes" to God's will, inspires us to live lives of faith, charity, unity, and patriotism. Mary is our intercessor, our guide, and our spiritual mother, always leading us closer to her Son. Her Assumption is not just a historical event; it is a beacon of hope, assuring us of the ultimate destiny that awaits those who faithfully follow Christ. As we reflect on this powerful feast day, let us renew our commitment to the Rosary, to our Blessed Mother, and to living out the principles of our Order with ever-increasing commitment.



SK George Barbiero



A Message from our Faithful Navigator



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ASSEMBLY 1818

Sir Knights:

I would like to begin by thanking you for electing me to serve as your Faithful Navigator for this award-winning Assembly for the upcoming 2025-2026 year. Last year for the first time in the history of this Assembly we won both the Civic Award and Star Assembly Award. Please join me in making it our goal this year to accomplish another win of these prestigious awards.

I would like to thank our outgoing Officers of the Assembly-- our Faithful Comptroller, Mike Milak, who worked diligently to ensure that we won these awards--our Faithful Purser, Kevin Szopinski, and our Faithful Pilot, Dan Lanktree whose contributions to the Assembly were exceptional.

Participation in the Assembly is something I would like to address. I know this newsletter is reaching many, many members who have not attended a meeting in some time. While there may have been many reasons for not attending, I am asking that you give it another try and come to a meeting. We have grown over the last few years and have worked tirelessly to make our meetings more interesting and enjoyable. We now pray the Rosary as a group of dedicated Catholic gentlemen. Right after the Rosary we share camaraderie with our fellow Knights while maybe enjoying a beer and always a fantastic dinner prepared by our own chef, SK Marty Reis (also the Color Corp Commander).

We are proud to say we are the Patriotic wing of the Knights of Columbus. Once a month we attend (with wives and friends) a small ceremony at Sarasota National Cemetery known as No Veteran Forgotten. Also, we place flags at the headstones of the SNC, just prior to Memorial Day. We also place Wreaths at the headstones at Christmas. Each year on Veterans Day Bishop Dewane celebrates Mass at the Sarasota National Cemetery. Our Color Corp is called for this honor each year. We also participate in the "Blue Mass" normally in September of each year in honor of our men in Blue and 9-11.

We have one large charity event called Valentines for Veterans, at which we honor three veterans each year. It is a Dinner Dance with a DJ and a delicious meal made by our own chefs. We also invite guest speakers to our meetings a few times a year. So as not to forget our wives, we have two social Dinner/Meetings during the year.

With so many activities and committees, I am inviting all our Knights to volunteer to help. Many hands make light work. So why not give us a try and attend our meetings if you are able. Come back to the Patriotic wing of the Knights of Columbus!

I would like to thank each of you for being a 4th Degree Knight. Please keep our Assembly in your daily prayers.

SK Bernie Lanza

Faithful Navigator
Bishop Charles McLaughlin
Knights of Columbus Assembly 1818
941-441-8892
mailanza@icloud.com
Vivat Jesus

Upcoming Events: Join Us in Fellowship and Service

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

Our Assembly is excited to present a calendar filled with opportunities for fellowship, spiritual growth, and service. These events aim to promote unity among our Brother Knights while helping the community. We encourage all members to review the upcoming schedule and participate as actively

as your time and talents allow. We look forward to seeing you there.

Knights of Columbus Assembly 1818 Monthly Meeting



Please mark your calendars for the upcoming monthly meeting of Assembly 1818. The meeting will be held on **Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 512 Substation Road, Venice, Florida.** The schedule for the evening is as follows:

- **5:30 PM:** Rosary
- **6:00 PM:** Dinner
- **6:45 PM:** Meeting

Upon arrival, a **Prayer List** will be available for sign-up. In the spirit of Christian charity and brotherhood, please add the names of those in need of our prayers when you sign in. Through our collective prayers, we can offer support and solace to those who are suffering or in need of divine grace. We will also be holding a **50/50 drawing**, so come prepared to participate!

The **No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony** will take place this month on **Wednesday, August 13, 2025.** We ask all participants to meet by 8:45 AM. We head to the Internment Shelter at Sarasota National Cemetery at 8:50 AM, with the service beginning at 9:00 AM. Please wear your assembly shirt, and invite your spouses, friends and neighbors to join us as we stand together to remember the legacy of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.





We are excited to announce *the Charity Football Pool* for this year's NFL season! This is your chance to combine a love for football with the spirit of generosity, all while supporting the charitable programs that make such a difference in our community. Special thanks to SK Richard Kunzier for leading this program. Here's how it works: for a \$25.00 donation, you enter our

Monday Night Football pool, with every dollar going toward our charitable initiatives. Each week, one lucky participant will win \$50.00, turning football nights into a celebration of both sport and service. The booklet you receive with your donation will include every Monday night football matchup, all the way through to the Super Bowl, so you won't miss a single game or opportunity to win.

We are reminded in the Gospel that "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). By joining our pool, you're not only adding fun and friendly competition to your Monday nights, but you're also helping us support those in need, reflecting our faith in action.

Let's come together, enjoy the season, and make an impact that reaches far beyond the gridiron. Please contact Richard Kunzier (973-903-1226), Marty Reis (209-480-6083) or George Barbiero (203-885-8238) to reserve your spot, and feel free to invite friends and family to join in the excitement and the good work. Many Blessings and Good Luck.

The Sock Czar Wants You!



Last year, Father Jay cast a bold vision: to pair every one of the 5,000 donated boots for migrant workers with warm socks, Assembly 1818 rose to the challenge, rallying the strength of Council 9924, and under the steady hand of our Sock Czar SK Marty Reis, we exceeded the call of charity and surpassed 12,000 pairs collected.

Though we met the goal, the need endures and so does our calling to serve. This year, the Sock Czar proposes a streamlined and spirit-filled approach:

Two Special Sock Drives — One at our first meeting in August 2025, the second in January 2026

Fr Jay will continue to receive Parish donations, and SK Marty Reis will continue purchasing socks on behalf of Assembly 1818 and Council 9924.

Let's keep the faith, lace up our boots, and press forward.

Rite of Ordination of Priests



Our Lady of Lourdes Parish was once again the setting for a deeply spiritual and joyous occasion as the Rite of Ordination of Priests was celebrated on Saturday, July 12, 2025. The Most Reverend Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice officiated the beautiful service, which saw Transitional Deacons Joseph Doherty, Jacob Gwynn, and Patrick Long ordained to the Priesthood.

The church was filled to capacity with family, friends, and parishioners from various parishes, all gathered to witness this significant event. Over 75 visiting priests attended. In a show of support and reverence, Bishop Dewane had specifically requested the participation of the Sir Knights of the Color Corps Assembly 1818 in the ordination, adding a visual splendor to the ceremony.



At its conclusion, Bishop Dewane extended heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to and participated in the celebration. He specifically acknowledged the dedicated efforts of the Knights of Columbus and the Council of Catholic Women for their unwavering support.

Following the ordination, all attendees were invited to the Parish Hall for a delightful luncheon providing a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and continued celebration.



Record Turnout at *No Veteran Forgotten* Ceremony



The *No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony* on July 9 had an exceptionally large attendance, with many Knights of Columbus members, families, and friends gathering to honor those who lost their lives in service. There were even visiting grandchildren who participated.

Assembly 1818 had an inspiring turnout of 41 members present

to witness this solemn event. Their strong presence, along with many other parishes and councils, demonstrated the community's deep respect and gratitude for our fallen heroes

We encourage everyone to attend this month. Reach out to friends and family and invite them to the ceremony on August 13. This 30-minute event leaves a lasting mark on the heart reminding us of the sacrifices made for our freedom.

We extend our thanks to all who attended and helped make this month's ceremony such a powerful tribute.

This month we would like to share the list of Veterans we honored

LTJG	Eugene Byron	US NAVY
SN	Robert Larson	US NAVY
SGT	Edward Dannenberg	US ARMY
CPL	Donald Liptak	US ARMY
AB	Christopher Everest	US AIR FORCE
CMSGT	Roy Reichelt	US AIR FORCE
A2C	Edith Reichelt	US AIR FORCE
PV2	Laurie Kalsto	US ARMY
SP4	George Botjer	US ARMY
SA	James Tudor	US NAVY
CPL	John Kelley	US MARINE CORPS
AKAR	Jory Sherman	US NAVY
BM2	Harold Everingham	US NAVY
L CPL	Larry Willis	US MARINE CORPS
EN3	Donald Wolsefer	US NAVY
SN	William Palmer	US NAVY

A Ceremony of Patriotism and Purpose: Bishop Charles McLaughlin Assembly 1818 Inducts New Officers



On July 23, Assembly 1818 gathered at Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel to officially induct its new slate of officers for the upcoming fraternal year. The installation of officers is a cornerstone event for every Knights of Columbus assembly, signifying a renewed commitment to the Order's principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. These dedicated men volunteer countless hours, offering support to their churches, aid to those in need, and a steadfast commitment to Catholic values.

SK Robert Marrah FDD PGK PFN officiated the ceremony. As the newly elected officers were called forward, they were escorted with dignity and honor by Brothers of Color Corps underscoring the Fourth Degree's dedication to civic involvement and love of country.

A particularly touching moment of the induction was when the officers' wives assisted in placing the *Faithful Medals*, around each husband's neck. The poignant inclusion of the wives highlighted the integral role families play within the Knights of Columbus and recognized the unwavering spousal support that enables these men to serve their parishes and communities so effectively.





As we celebrate our new leadership, we extend our deepest gratitude and respect to all the exiting officers for their unwavering dedication and tireless service during their term. Their commitment has been instrumental in guiding Assembly 1818. We sincerely hope they will continue to serve in other capacities within the Order, as their experience and wisdom remain invaluable to our mission.

As Assembly 1818 embarks on a new fraternal year under its newly installed leadership, the spirit of service and brotherhood is sure to continue flourishing. The ceremony on July 23rd was not merely a formal proceeding; it was a vibrant affirmation of faith, fellowship, and the unwavering dedication of these Sir Knights and their families to make a tangible difference in the Venice community and beyond.





The newly elected officers stand ready to serve, God Bless them all.

Faithful Navigator
Comptroller
Captain
Admiral
Purser
Pilot
Scribe
Inner Sentinel
Outer Sentinel
One Year Trustee
Two Year Trustee
Three Year Trustee
Faithful Friar

Bernie Lanza
George Barbiero
Tony Hopfinger
Tony Salvucci
Vinnie Gelsomino
Rick Anderson
Vince Hagerty
Chuck Woodrum
Bill Blanchard
Ed Farrell
Richard Kunzier
Kevin Szopinski
Rev. Januszcz

Knights on Bikes Faith, Fellowship & the Open Road



[Knights on Bikes Venice Chapter](#) brings together the love of motorcycles and devotion to Catholic service in a striking display of unity and purpose. More than a riding group, these Knights are an embodiment of compassion, dignity, and community.

Established under the national Knights on Bikes movement, the Venice Chapter began with a mission: to make visible the values of the Knights of Columbus through motorcycle ministry. As part of the Diocese of Venice, members are first and foremost Catholic men devoted to charity, unity, and patriotism and happen to love the rumble of the road as well. Their motto, *"In God We Trust and Ride,"* says it all.

Riding With Purpose

Venice Knights on Bikes serve as visible ambassadors of the Church, blending leather and liturgy into a unique brotherhood. Their presence—leather vests, roaring engines, and prayerful hearts—turns heads and opens hearts. Whether escorting funeral processions, supporting parish events, or simply showing up where they're needed, the Knights on Bikes of Venice ride with purpose and faith

Fraternal Year Highlights: 2024-2025

- Organized 75 rides traveling over 128,695 miles across Florida and beyond.
- Attended two priestly ordinations in Naples and Venice joyfully supporting vocations.
- Participated in the annual Vocation Ride raising funds for seminarians through member donations.
- Supported members' spiritual lives by attending parish masses and motorcycle blessings across the region.
- Prayed the rosary for incarcerated souls during a ride to the state correctional institution.
- Escorted the Archbishop of Miami Thomas Wenski, an active KOB member to: Knights of Columbus State Convention, KOB State, National and International Convocations, and fundraising rides for addiction and rehabilitation efforts
- Participated in Veterans Day parades and celebrated mass at the Sarasota National Cemetery.
- Joined Independence Day festivities through local parades and events.

- Packed over 343,000 meals at *Feed My Starving Children* events in Cape Coral and Naples
- Delivered joy through Christmas toy drives
- Marched for Life in Ave Maria
- Donated thousands of diapers and wipes through pregnancy center drives
- Participated in the monthly *No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony*

The following programs at the local, state and national levels are highlighted providing additional context to this meaningful brotherhood.

No Veterans Forgotten Ceremony



On the second Wednesday of every month at 9 a.m., the chapter proudly stands in honor at the Sarasota National Cemetery for the No Veteran Forgotten Ceremony. This moving tradition pays tribute to veterans laid to rest without family present. Through prayer, solemn presence, and patriotic support, the Knights ensure that no one who served is ever forgotten.

Guardians of the Rose- The Silver Rose Pilgrimage



The Silver Rose Program is one of the most cherished traditions within the Knights of Columbus, symbolizing unity, devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, and a commitment to the sanctity of life. Every year, eight Silver Roses journey from Canada through the U.S. to Mexico, ending at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City on December 12th, the Feast of Our Lady.

Florida Knights on Bikes plays a vital role in escorting the Silver Rose during its pilgrimage. Whether riding across Florida highways or standing in solemn prayer, they ensure that the message of **One Life, One Rose** reaches every corner of the community. These brothers escort the Silver Rose between dioceses and parishes; successfully transferring the Silver Rose to its sacred destination. KOB of the Diocese of Venice safely transported the Silver Rose between 22 parishes for rosary and mass celebrations.



Knights on Bikes ride not for glory but for God championing life, hope and faith wherever the road leads. KOB demonstrates how service, brotherhood, and motorcycles can ignite powerful change in our community. We are proud of our brothers' service and extend special thanks to **KOB Member Lazaro Miel** for providing us with this information.

Parishes with Knights on Bikes Members The following parishes in the Diocese of Venice are members of this Brotherhood. Ave Maria, St. Agnes, St. Maximilian, St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, St. Andrew, Epiphany Cathedral, St. Katherine, St. Michael The Archangel, St. Katherine Drexel, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Ann, Our Lady of Light, Our Lady of the Angels, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, St. John XXIII and St. Vincent De Paul.



Archbishop of Miami Thomas Wenski, Global Chaplain and active KOB member

Milestones of our Brother Knights This month, we extend our warmest wishes to those brothers observing a birthday, and we also recognize those who are celebrating an anniversary of their commitment to the Fourth Degree. Please join us in offering congratulations and prayers for these esteemed members.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Name	Date	Age
Robert O'Connor	4	87
Father Piotrowski	5	37
Deacon Paul Consbruck	5	64
Dr. Stefano Ragozzino	8	51
Kyle Hill	10	65
Robert Mathiau	12	62
Dr. Victor Deloach	15	69
Mark Uebelacker	15	29
Denise Charles	17	79
Michael Renzulli	20	63
Anthony Amorose	22	82
Kenneth Ebers	24	76
Anthony Davis	26	83
Robert Fonseca	26	86
Vince Gelsomino	26	64
Edward McManus	30	91
Louis Magyar	31	73
David G. Smith	31	59



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Years
Jeffrey Curtis	2
Joseph Della Penna	10
Thomas Doherty	12
William Donnellan	20
Frederick Englert	10
Denis Pavlock	10
John Riebel	16

Prayer LIST

This prayer list is a testament to our commitment to one another, a space where we can place the names of our fellow knights, cherished family members, and dear friends. Whether facing health issues or grappling with personal challenges, each person needs our heartfelt prayers.

Rick Miller	Tony Salvucci
Mike Milak	Michael Cleary
Connie & Jerry Smith	Lou Nagy
Marvin & Bonnie Reis	Bernie Lanza
Kevin Wolak	Jim Lakatos
Olivia Wolak Russo	Turk Hemsari
Armond Padula	Amado Varona
Richard Kunzier	Emily S.
Linda Montemarano	Steve M.
George J. Barbiero Sr.	Virginia Sisco (RIP)
Dale & Norma Blencher	Pat & Jim Kilby (RIP)
Father Jay	Father Shawn
Father Greg	Joanne Scannell (RIP)
Father Sean	Pete Castillo
Ann Borowitz	Joanne Scannell (RIP)



On July 14 we gathered at San Pedro Catholic Church in solemn remembrance of Donna Salvucci, the beloved wife of Brother Knight Tony Salvucci. Donna's passing leaves an indelible mark upon our hearts. Her life was a testament to love, devotion, and grace, and her spirit touched all who knew her. May Tony find comfort in the promise of eternal life and rejoice in the knowledge that she now rests in peace. We offer continued prayers for Tony and his family, that they may be surrounded by strength, compassion, and the healing light of faith.

Gear Up, Brothers



Looking to show your Knights of Columbus pride? You may purchase shirts and caps at *Designer Tees* located at 565 Paul Morris Dr, Englewood. They may be reached at 941-272-8672. If you're looking for a wider selection of Knights of Columbus merchandise, including a variety of accessories and apparel, be sure to visit at [Knights Gear](#) online. They offer a range of items to help you display your dedication to the Order. Finally, for our esteemed Color Corps members, uniforms may be purchased directly at [Knights of Columbus | Supply Room](#) and [Home - Knights of Columbus Supplies](#)



ASSEMBLY 1818 APPOINTED POSITIONS



Color Corp Commander

Martin Reis
209-480-6043

Cemetery Activity Coordinator

Rick Anderson
321-303-8172

Meeting Communications Coordinator

Michael Cleary
734-623-1046

Membership Chairmen

Martin Reis
209-480-6043
George Barbiero
203-885-8238

Retention Chairman/Bereavement/
Birthdays /Anniversaries

Charles Woodrum
304-282-8733

Valentines For Veterans

Tony Hopfinger
412-496-6776
Mike Milak
941-380-7248
Martin Reis
209-480-6043

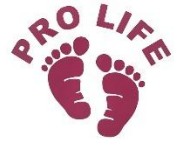
Football Commissioner

Richard Kunzier
973-903-1226



Council Updates & Family and Pro Life News

Below you will find the websites for each of the third-degree councils that contribute to our Assembly. Although each Council is unique, they all share the core values of charity, unity, and fraternity. We encourage you to explore each website as well as Deacon Rich's *Family and Pro Life News*.



[Click here](#) for Council 7997 San Pedro.



[Click here](#) for Council 15821 Our Lady of Mount Carmel.



[Click here](#) for Council 9924. Our Lady of Lourdes.



[Click here](#) for Council 7052 Epiphany Cathedral.



[Click here](#) for the monthly *Family and ProLife News Briefs* from Deacon Rich.