



# KNIGHTLY NEWS



FEBRUARY 2018 ISSUE

ST. STEPHEN COUNCIL 14084



From Our  
Worthy  
Grand  
Knight

## Looking Forward

**B**rothers - Scanning through the most recent issue of KNIGHTLINE, the headline "Five Things to Tackle in 2018" grabbed my attention. In particular, our Order offered a list of priorities that I think are appropriate for our Council as we round into the second half of our fraternal year.

**Aim Younger** - I have noticed more and more younger families in our parish, and we need to make a concerted effort to reach out to the men who head those families. This should be a topic of conversation, and we all need to get out of our comfort zones when it comes to recruiting.

**Be more family oriented** - The U.S. Army likes to say: "Recruit a soldier, retain a family," and I think the same applies to the Knights of Columbus. Once we recruit a Knight, we need to ensure that we emphasize that our activities (save for the business meetings and degrees) are open to the entire family. Are we doing the right activities to encourage family participation?

**Generate increased awareness**

*Grand Knight Con't. Next Page*

## Farewell, Sir Knight



*Councils join together in honoring Herb Swoope, a dearly departed brother and friend of the Knights of Columbus*

**O**n January 27, the Knights of Saint Stephen and from Nativity finally had a chance to say goodbye to our brother, Herb Swoope, who passed on October 22, 2017, in Virginia. A memorial Mass was held at Nativity Catholic Church in Brandon, and Herb's wife, Judy, and several family members were present.

Brothers **Don Decort** and **Rick Armstrong** honored Herb's memory with impressive eulogies that reminded all of us about Herb's sense of humor, his dedication

as a volunteer fireman, his tremendous support to veterans, and his love for the Knights of Columbus.

A combined Color Corps from Bishop Charles B. McLaughlin Assembly 1850 and Monsignor John F. Scully Assembly 3418 provided a fitting tribute, and the church was full of Knights from Saint Stephen and Nativity paying respects to Herb, a faithful and dedicated member of our Order.





**of who Knights are and what we do**  
You should be quick to tell fellow parishioners that we are a fraternal service organization dedicated to the principles of CHARITY, UNITY, FRATERNITY, and PATRIOTISM. Be ready to give examples of what we do.

We live out these principles by supporting ministries of mercy such as Saint Vincent DePaul and Home Makers of Hope; our clergy through the *Clergy Appreciation Dinner* and donations to our seminarians; *Right to Life Activities* and providing donations to Pro-Life options such as the Knights Women's Center; Veterans at the Hayley VA Center and Warrior's Place in Ruskin; first responders at our annual *Blue Mass*; and those with special needs through the *Special Olympics* and *Tootsie Roll Drives*.

We also are dedicated to service for our parish as we volunteer our time to host barbecues for our graduates and our altar servers; sponsor soccer challenges, free throw competition, and provide scholarships for our Saint Stephen School students; set up the crèches each year at Advent; host a *Saint Nicholas Day Pancake Breakfast*; and help the Men's Club with the *Lenten Fish Fry* among other activities.

**Develop strong relationships with the clergy** - We are blessed to have the strong support of our pastor, our parochial vicar, and our deacons – all of whom are Knights. The Knights may be an independent organization, but service to our parish and our clergy's priorities has to be a priority for us as well. Our Church's priorities are (1) the sacraments, (2) faith formation, and (3) pastoral care, so we too should keep the sacraments and spiritual growth our foremost priorities as we volunteer our service for the pastoral care of our parish.

**Make spirituality our key focus**  
**Father Curtis** has discussed with

# Basketball Free Throw Challenge



The 2018 Knights of Columbus Council 14084 *Free Throw Challenge* was held at St. Stephen School on Wednesday, January 24.

Many thanks to the brother Knights who gave their time to help the youth of our

church in this activity. Those participating included Council Youth Director **Michael Specht**, S/K **Jerry Coffey**, S/K **Mark Lovejoy**, S/K **Rich Sarnowski**, S/K **Anton Swihura** and spouse **Ginger**, and S/K **Ed Veronick**

# The Gift of Life

By Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson

THE TEACHINGS OF HUMANAE VITAE AND ADVANCEMENTS IN THE SCIENCE OF FERTILITY CAN HELP US BUILD A CULTURE OF LIFE

AS WE PREPARE to observe the 45th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision, another anniversary comes to mind. July will mark 50 years since Blessed Pope Paul VI's 1968 encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*, on the regulation of birth.

The legacies of both are related to extraordinary scientific advances that opened up new technological means to control the transmission of human life.

When the Supreme Court revisited *Roe* in the 1992 *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* decision, the 5-4 majority argued that *Roe* could not be overturned because, for two decades, people had made choices about their lives and intimate relationships "in reliance on the availability of abortion in the event that contraception should fail."

Pope Paul had a very different response to such challenges — one that has been described as "Christian personalism." In *Humanae Vitae*, he wrote this about married love: "Husband and wife become in a way one heart and one soul, and together attain their human fulfillment. It is a love that is total. ... Whoever really loves his partner loves not only for what he receives, but loves that partner for the partner's sake" (9).

*Humanae Vitae* proclaims that each person is worthy to be loved and respected for his own sake and possesses a dignity that is inviolable. This proclamation is more necessary today than ever as scientific experiments in areas such as artificial intelligence, robotics and genetic manipulation push past boundaries of even the most imaginative science fiction writers.

Pope Francis, in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, wrote this: "The acceptance of our

bodies as God's gift is vital for welcoming and accepting the entire world as a gift from the Father and our common home, whereas thinking that we enjoy absolute power over our own bodies turns, often subtly, into thinking that we enjoy absolute power over creation" (155).

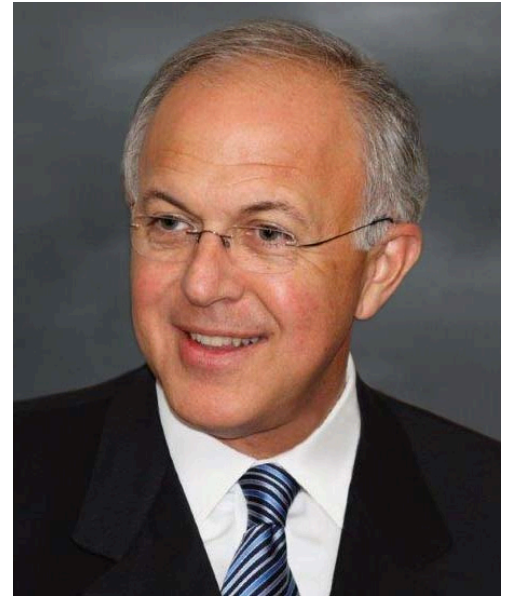
Science and technology will confront us with new questions about what it means to be human. And the answers will be increasingly difficult as the line between reality and virtual reality is blurred.

Today, as in 1968, *Humanae Vitae* is an important part of the Church's response. Unfortunately, some will use the occasion of the anniversary to reignite old controversies, but this approach will miss its enduring value.

St. John Paul II promoted *Humanae Vitae*, though he thought that further explanation was needed for its teachings to gain wider acceptance. That is one reason why he developed a "theology of the body," and why he devoted so much time to it.

But already in 1968, natural family planning advocates such as my friends Drs. John and Evelyn Billings welcomed *Humanae Vitae* and supported its teaching with a natural method of fertility management now known as the Billings Ovulation Method.

Just last year, the European Union certified a new mobile app that uses an algorithm developed by a Nobel Prizewinning physicist to measure a woman's body temperature to accurately predict ovulation. According to one English news source, the app, known as *Natural Cycles*, "could spell the end for hormonal and intrusive birth control measures."



Such a result would come not a moment too soon. The World Health Organization has classified estrogen-progestogen oral contraceptives as Group 1 carcinogens. That means they are known to be carcinogenic for women, increasing their risk of liver, cervical and breast cancer.

Natural family planning methods encourage women to better understand the delicate natural processes of their bodies. They encourage better communication and respect between husbands and wives.

Perhaps this new "science" of the body will enable a new generation of Catholic spouses to live an authentic theology of the body in their marriages and will help the world rediscover the dignity of human life and love.

*Vivat Jesus!*





Our Order's steadfast defense and promotion of a Culture of Life is grounded on our ultimate assurance that in the natural law written in the heart of every person is the recognition that human life is sacred from its very beginning to its end. In the depths of our consciousness, human intellect knows that the very source of its existence—i.e. human life—ought to be protected and celebrated. In that regard, the message of the Knights of Columbus extends far beyond our Order and our religious creed; it is a universal message that every person of good will can come to affirm.

*"Human life is sacred and inviolable at every moment of existence, including the initial phase which precedes birth. All human beings, from their mother's womb, belong to God who searches them and knows them, who forms them and knits them together with His own hands, who gazes on them when they are tiny shapeless embryos and already sees in them the adults of tomorrow whose days are numbered and whose vocation is even now written in the 'book of life.' There too, when they are still in their mothers' womb—as many passages of the Bible bear witness—they are the personal objects of God's loving and fatherly providence." (Evangelium Vitae, 61)*

St. John Paul II famously noted that if human life itself is not respected, then respect for all other rights—for example, the right to health, to marriage, to culture, to religion—is "false and illusory." Human rights of every kind are "incomprehensible" without the right to life. Our Order, therefore, joins the universal Church in acknowledging the dignity of human life in its efforts to achieve legal and constitutional protection for every human person at the international, national, state, and local levels.

all of us the elements of a ministry, and the first one is that our work should flow from a baptismal call to be a Disciple of Jesus. Let's make sure that spirituality is a part of everything we do by beginning with a prayer asking for God's grace in all our endeavors. Individual Knights can grow spiritually by attending business meetings and degree formations – those events are steeped in prayer and reinforce

our spirituality.

We've had a very successful fundraising year so far, and we have been active in our support for our fellow Knights and their families, our parish, and our community. Let's leverage these successes and align our priorities to recruit new members, get current members more active, improve our support to our clergy and our parish, and grow spiritually.

## A Lenten Reflection

By Jerry Coffey

My mother had two sisters and a brother. All were married and gathered at least twice a month to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or a specific holiday. We would all partake of a great meal and, of course, Aunt Helen's apple pie. Afterwards, we children would be escorted outside or into another room so the adults could play "penny poker," have some liquid refreshments and gossip!

Joe, my Aunt Kate's husband, loved Chianti, and as the evening wore on, he would be more forthcoming about how he thought about current topics. At times, Joe would get into my father's face about his devotion to the Catholic church. We were a family of limited means. However, my father attended Mass and gave to the church his time, talent and treasure. Joe would often tell him how foolish he was to support the church, especially when the priests had automobiles, and we could not afford one.

After a few years passed, Joe began to have constant pains in his left shoulder. His doctors could not determine the cause, and my dad referred him to his doctor. At first, the suggestion was ignored, but the pain increased, so Joe went to the medical group dad had recommended. The doctor felt a slight lump under Joe's left shoulder blade and recommended exploratory surgery. The resulting prognosis was terminal cancer, with no more than six months life expectancy. Joe was soon hospitalized at a hospital in the next city. His wife returned to work and would visit in the evenings. My dad, now retired, took the city bus and visited Joe as much as he could. As time went on, they

became close, and dad discovered Joe was a fallen away Catholic. He asked Joe if he would like to see a priest, and after looking at my dad, almost with resignation, he said yes. Our parish priest arrived a few days later, and upon leaving the room, he looked at my dad and said in a compassionate tone: "Tell the family Joe has made his peace with the Lord and is ready for his journey home." My Uncle Joe died shortly after his 51st birthday.

The "Hound of Heaven" is a poem written by English poet Francis Thompson (1859-1907). The author was praised by G.K. Chesterton and influenced J.R.R. Tolkien. It is a story of all of us who go after worldly pleasures, ignoring the possibility of their sinful attributes. The deeper we plunge, the stronger grace pulls on us to return to the one who loves us, until at last, we return. I often think of the many years my Uncle Joe spent away from the Church. Yet I'm sure deep down inside he never really left, for the grace of a loving God never gave up on him. We are in the season of Lent when the grace of God calls us to repent and come home. Take some time out of your busy schedule and allocate some quiet time to reflect on the following:

- Google "The Hound of Heaven" and you will find an assortment of interpretations.
- Search on YouTube for a variety of renderings of the poem, including one reading by Richard Burton.
- Read: The Parable of the Lost Sheep Luke 15: 1-7

# A Call to Action

**O**n February 3, the Saint Stephen Parish Pastoral Council hosted a Ministry Workshop to discuss how the various Saint Stephen ministries can help grow the spiritual church over the next 3-5 years.

After Mass and an opening prayer, the Parish Pastoral Council chair, Jack Metz, started the workshop with some interesting facts about our parish: we have over 15,000 registered parishioners (@5,000 families), and in the past year since the opening of the new church, 300 families have joined the parish.

While that's a good trend, we're only seeing 20-25% of our fellow parishioners at Mass each weekend. This workshop focused on what we can do as a ministry to achieve the parish's missions and goals; reach out to those who do not regularly come to church; become a more welcoming church, and evangelize to the greater community.

Father Curtis was the first of many speakers, and he discussed how Jesus calls for us to make other disciples, and how that drives the priorities of our Church – the centrality of the sacraments; the formation of faith; and the pastoral care as demonstrated by charity and other outreaches to those in need. He then talked about the three elements of a ministry and how each of the Saint Stephen ministries should reflect each of these elements. We as Knights should constantly strive to ensure we are acting like a ministry that benefits the members of the parish and adheres to each element of a ministry.

The first element of a ministry is that it “flows from the baptismal call”. Are we doing things that make more Disciples of Christ? If not, then we are just another social organization.

The second element of a ministry is that it conducts its business in “cooperation and collaboration with proper pastors”. That means that we make use of the Parish Pastoral Council to ensure the Knights' activities are in line with the needs of the

parish and in line with our pastor and Church's priorities: sacraments, faith formation, and pastoral care.

The third element of a ministry includes “formation.” Considering the activities of our Council, are we doing them intentionally? Pope Francis said, “Find new ways to spread the word of God to every corner of the world.” Events like our annual Day of Reflection help us to ensure that we are doing things intentionally and help with the formation of the work we are engaged in for the parish.

S/K **Julio Alvarez** and **Nick Turco**, both Parish Pastoral Council members, discussed the Saint Stephen Mission Statement and introduced the goals.

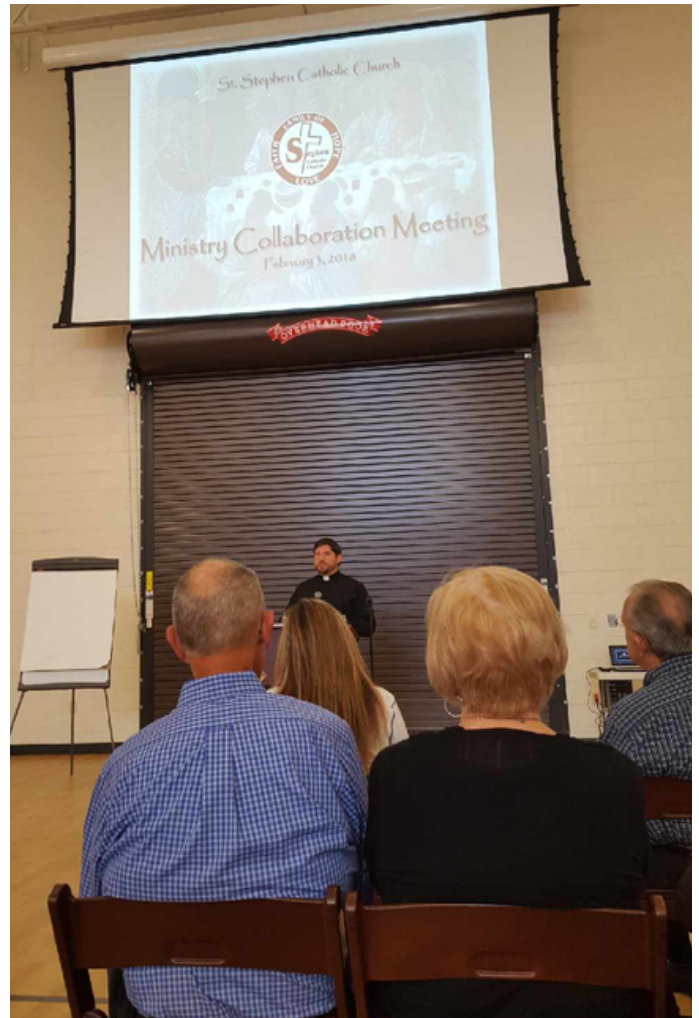
## **Saint Stephen Parish Mission**

*We, the Welcoming Family of  
Saint Stephen Catholic Church,  
Inspired by the Holy Spirit and  
Nourished by the Word and Sacraments,  
are Committed to Grow Together  
in Christ,  
Sharing God's Gifts by Spreading  
the Light of Jesus Christ  
Throughout our Greater Community.*

Goal #1: Extend genuine hospitality and compassion to all parishioners and visitors alike, to offer the peace and hope of Jesus Christ.

Goal #2: Grow and enrich the worship life of our parish to strengthen our Catholic identity.

Goal #3: Identify and address the spiritual and physical needs of our parish



family and surrounding community to enable God's healing grace.

The balance of the morning was spent discussing how we as ministries can help the parish reach these goals. Many ideas were discussed, and each parishioner has a chance to have their ideas heard by participating in a survey that will be open until March 10.

Saint Stephen Parish is soliciting your feedback in developing our goals and objectives for the next 3-5 years. The focus now is in making our parish more welcoming; offering opportunities to grow in our spirituality; addressing the needs of those who come to church regularly, and reaching out to those who do not attend Mass regularly or need help. The survey is online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SSCCParishSurvey>



## St. Stephen Council Officers Fraternal Year 2017-2018

### Chaplain

**Father Dermot Dunne**

### Grand Knight

**Bruce Czaja**

### Deputy Grand Knight

**Guillermo Bambach**

### Chancellor

**Tim Donahue**

### Warden

**Randy Lee**

### Advocate

**Steve Haines**

### Lecturer

**Ross Lowery**

### Recorder

**Paul Spindler**

### Financial Secretary

**Alex Czopek**

### Treasure

**John Laughman**

### Trustees

**John Berrie, Ed Sleyzak,  
Mark Lovejoy**

### District Deputy

**Steve Jarosz**

### Field Agent

**Chuck Lusky**

### Guards

**Bob Haley  
Randy Lee  
Chris Hobbs**



## Mission Statement

We, the Welcoming Family of Saint Stephen Catholic Church,

Inspired by the Holy Spirit and

Nourished by Word and Sacrament,

are Committed to Grow Together in Christ,

Sharing God's Gifts by

Spreading the Light of Jesus Christ

Throughout our Greater Community.



### **GOAL #1**

**EXTEND GENUINE HOSPITALITY AND COMPASSION TO ALL  
PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS ALIKE,  
TO OFFER THE HOPE AND PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST**

*Supported Essential Element(s)*  
**Evangelization / Stewardship**

### **GOAL #2**

**GROW AND ENRICH THE WORSHIP LIFE OF OUR PARISH,  
TO STRENGTHEN OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY**

*Supported Essential Element(s)*  
**Word & Sacraments, Faith Formation**

### **GOAL #3**

**IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS THE SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL NEEDS  
OF OUR PARISH FAMILY AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITY,  
TO ENABLE GOD'S HEALING GRACE**

*Supported Essential Element(s)*  
**Pastoral Care, Leadership**



# Building the Domestic Church

## FEBRUARY – THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

**T**he foundation of the domestic church is the sacrament of marriage. It is therefore important to reflect often on the mystery and calling of this sacrament. Also, our children may be called to become spouses and parents, so it is important to help them understand the type of love that is necessary in marriage and family life.

### Meditation

From a homily by St. John Chrysostom on Marriage and Family Life

How is marriage a mystery? The two have become one. This is not an empty symbol. They have not become the image of anything on earth, but of God Himself. ... They come to be made into one body. See the mystery of love! If the two do not become one, they cannot increase; they can increase only by decreasing! How great is the strength of unity!

From Pope John Paul II's Familiaris Consortio

"The Spirit which the Lord pours forth [in the sacrament of marriage] gives a new heart, and renders man and woman capable of loving one another as Christ has loved us. Conjugal love reaches that fullness to which it is interiorly ordained, conjugal charity, which is the proper and specific way in which the spouses participate in and are called to live the very charity of Christ who gave Himself on the Cross. ... Spouses are therefore the permanent reminder to the Church of what happened on the Cross; they are for one another and for the children witnesses to the salvation in which the sacrament makes them sharers.

"Do we think of marriage differently when we remember that Christ is present in the sacrament of marriage? How does this change or challenge our personal views of love?

"What do we think of St. John Chrysostom's principle of Christian married love — that spouses and family "increase" by "decreasing"? How does



this principle relate to the words that we hear from John the Baptist: "He must increase; I must decrease" (Jn 3:30)?

"Have we loved each family member by sacrificing for them as Christ has done for each of us? In what ways do each of us do this? In what ways could we be better at this?"

### Scripture Reading - Psalm 128

A prayer of the happy home that follows the Lord

Blessed are all who fear the LORD,  
and who walk in his ways.  
What your hands provide you will enjoy;  
you will be blessed and prosper:  
Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
within your home,  
Your children like young olive plants  
around your table.  
Just so will the man be blessed  
who fears the LORD.  
May the LORD bless you from Zion;  
may you see Jerusalem's prosperity  
all the days of your life,  
and live to see your children's children.  
Peace upon Israel!

### Family Project

Read the below nuptial prayer from the Order of Celebrating Matrimony. Share memories about your wedding day with your family over a nice family meal. At this meal, have each child share one thing they appreciate about their parents' marriage. Then, each spouse should share one reason why they are grateful for their marriage and how each one sees Christ as present in their marriage.

### Nuptial Blessing

Holy Father, who formed man in your image, male and female you created them, so that as husband and wife, united in body and heart, they might fulfill their calling in the world; O God, who, to reveal the great design you formed in your love, willed that the love of spouses for each other should foreshadow the covenant you graciously made with your people, so that, by fulfillment of the sacramental sign, the mystical marriage of Christ with his Church might become manifest in the union of husband and wife among your faithful. ... May they also sustain, O Lord, by their deeds the home they are forming and prepare their children to become members of your heavenly household by raising them in the way of the Gospel. ... Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## St. Stephen Council Directors and Committees

### Membership Director

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### Program Director

**Guillermo Bambach**

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### Community Committee

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### Council Committee

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### Family Committee

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### Youth Committee

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### Squires

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**Bob Haley**

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**Bob Kines**

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### Degree Team Leader

**Rick Hughes**

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### Communications

**Nick Turco**

**Scott Huetteman**

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# Thank You For All That You Do

I want to thank you for all the good things that you are doing as a Council. There have been struggles this year, but you keep going and doing the great things as a Council.

As we head into the last quarter of the Fraternal year, we need to concentrate on asking catholic gentlemen to join the Order. We all were asked at one point to join the Knights by someone, and we said yes. Don't give up, we all know what being a Knight means, and we all know someone that would be a great asset to the Order, so keep asking. Eventually, they will say yes.

Building the domestic church will help with finding those men that want to continue to grow in their faith and help give back, not only to the parish but the Community. We all need to build the domestic church to become better Catholic gentlemen and to grow in our Faith.

As we move forward, we need to look to the programs that are available and chose the ones that you as a Council can implement into the parish. This will not only attract new members, but it shows the parish what we are about, Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. I would like you to go to the supreme site and click on [Building the Domestic Church](#) and see the programs that are available. I feel that this is a great program and will definitely make you a stronger Council in the long run.

When was the last time you have been to a Degree? The 3rd principle of the Order is Fraternity, meaning we are a brotherhood and we support all our brother Knights. As you advance in the degrees one of the requirements is that you observe a degree.

You will always learn something when you attend a degree but it also shows those that are advancing that you support them. All the degrees are held the 3rd Saturday of the month with the admission degrees (1st) being held on the even months and the formation degrees (2nd Degrees) being



held on the odd months. The next Knighthood (3rd) degree will be held on March 3rd at St. Catherine of Sienna in Clearwater. Please contact your membership director for more information on these Degrees and plan on attending them.

Have you purchased your Florida State Charities Raffle Ticket yet? If you are not aware of this raffle, [CLICK HERE](#) for more information. This is a great way to donate not only to Florida State Charities but also support you Council as 50% of the money collected goes to the Council. See one of your brother Knights to purchase tickets or reach out your financial secretary.

As we head into Lent, I would like you to consider this a time of renewal and preparation. As children, we always would give up something that we liked a lot for these 40 days. As Catholic gentlemen we should take this time to become stronger in our faith and be that great example to our family and fellow Knights. Here are a few things to consider during this time of Lent: 1) go to Mass one extra time during the week 2) go to adoration, and 3) go to confession. If you find it difficult to do any of these things spend an hour every week in prayer.

Again thank you for all you do as a Council.

Fraternally,  
Ed Sleyzak PGK  
District 47 Warden  
Florida State Council  
Knights of Columbus



# Attending a Degree Exemplification

**A**s every Knight of Columbus knows, each of the Order's degree exemplifications teaches a lesson about one of the principles of the Order. In the admissions (First) degree, we learn the lesson of Charity; in the formation (Second) degree, the lesson of Unity; in the Knighthood (Third) degree the lesson of Fraternity; and in the patriotic (Fourth) degree, the lesson of Patriotism.

The first three lessons are so vital to understanding who we are as Knights that a member can only achieve full Knighthood in the Order if he completes the first three degree exemplifications. That is why we strongly encourage every member to strive for full Knighthood in the Order by completing the first three degree exemplifications and becoming a Third Degree Knight. If a member remains a First or Second Degree Knight, he will only receive part of the story and will never fully understand what the Order—and being a Knight of Columbus—is all about.

We should also recognize that repetition usually helps all of us in our learning process. That is why we encourage every member to periodically attend degree exemplifications as an observer after their initial exemplification. Every time we witness a degree exemplification, we learn something new about the Order, whether by picking up a new phrase or sentence that we previously missed, by hearing something significant about the lesson that we have forgotten to put into practice, or by seeing a different interpretation given by a new degree team member. It also never gets tiring watching new candidates receive these lessons for the first time!

Also, the Order revises the content of the degree exemplifications every so often to keep them fresh and enhance the impact of the lessons taught. Our current version of the admissions degree exemplification dates from 2006, but the formation degree exemplification dates from 2016 and Knighthood degree exemplifications dates from 2011 (with some additional revisions in 2014). As those of us on the St. Stephen degree team who have

immersed themselves in exemplification roles can attest, the changes are deeply meaningful, and every single Knight can benefit from seeing and hearing these lessons of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity in a new light.

There are many opportunities for admissions and formation degree exemplifications. At St. Stephen, we conduct one or the other every month on the third Saturday in the Family Life Center. (See the specific schedule of upcoming degrees at St. Stephen elsewhere in the newsletter.)

Also, several degree team members have been working to achieve certification from the state Council to conduct Knighthood degree exemplifications—that certification is currently scheduled for March 3, in Clearwater. We hope that this will increase the availability of Knighthood degree exemplifications in our immediate area.

For the “old-timers”—those who received their degrees before the current revisions went into effect—there is an additional incentive for you to attend and observe a degree. In the revised ceremonies, candidates at the formation and Knighthood degrees receive a physical memento reminding them of the lessons taught, somewhat akin to the rosary every Knight receives in his admissions degree.

Here is the incentive—if any member of St. Stephen Council, who previously has not received the memento, attends and observes the corresponding degree exemplification (formation or Knighthood) that is conducted by the St. Stephen Degree Team, the member will receive that memento as a gift. These mementos have value only to those who have attended the revised exemplifications and are a reminder of the lessons that they teach.

If you are a first or second degree member, I strongly encourage you to complete your journey to full Knighthood in the third degree. If are an “old-timer”, please come and observe the revised exemplifications conducted by our degree team members. You will be impressed with their dedication and professionalism.

And, if you want to join this group of professionals, please contact me—we are always looking for new talent!

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention something about the patriotic (Fourth) degree. While not required for a member to achieve full Knighthood, it does earn the member the title of “Sir Knight”, which is usually abbreviated “S/K”. More importantly, this degree teaches that loyalty and commitment to the Church and loyalty and commitment to our country are not incompatible. In the early days of the Order, American Catholics were often viewed as unreliable and, in some cases, even traitorous, because of our loyalty to the Holy Father, a foreign dignitary.

While those viewpoints are much in the minority today, the patriotic degree still teaches us that we can be proud to be called “American Catholics”. Patriotic degree exemplifications are even rarer than Knighthood Degrees, so take advantage of them when they occur. There is one scheduled in Bradenton on April 28. If you are interested, please contact me for details—there is additional paperwork involved that must be completed well ahead of time!

I hope to see each of you at a degree exemplification in the very near future!

**Rick Hughes, Degree Team Captain**  
degreeteamcaptain@kofc14084.org.

## Upcoming Degree Schedule.

All exemplifications take place at the Family Life Center. Candidates should report no later than 8:30 AM (8 AM if going through an admissions committee). Exemplifications start promptly at 9AM.

- Sat. Feb 17, 2018, Admissions (First) Degree at FLC)
- Sat. Mar 17, 2018, Formation Degree (Second) at FLC)
- Sat. Apr 21, 2018, Admissions Degree (First) at FLC)
- Sat. May 19, 2018, Formation Degree (Second) at FLC)
- Sat. Jun 16, 2018, Admissions Degree (First) at FLC)



## Monsignor John F. Scully Assembly #3418 Officers

Friar

Faithful Navigator

**S/K Patrick Roach**

Faithful Captain

**S/K Steve Haines**

Admiral

**S/K John Montaldo**

Faithful Pilot

**S/K Ed Sleyzak**

Faithful Comptroller

**S/K Alex Czopek**

Faithful Scribe

**S/K Mark Lovejoy**

Faithful Purser

**S/K Peter Card**

Trustee - 1 Year

**S/K Rick Hughes**

Trustee - 2 Year

**S/K Julio Alvarez, Jr.**

Trustee - 3 Year

**S/K John Cirello**

Faithful Inner Sentinel

**S/K Randy Lee**

Faithful Outer Sentinel

**S/K David A Morone**

Color Corps Commander

**S/K Shawn Ryan**



## Knight of the Month Mike Formato

Congratulations to our Knight of the Month, **Mike Formato**. It is with some degree of sadness that we recognize Mike this month as he is moving back to Georgia in March as a result of his job.

Mike is a past Grand Knight, Faithful Navigator, and District Deputy in Georgia, and he brought all of that experience to our council for the past several years. He has served our Council in many ways including as the Advocate and Degree Team Captain. Most importantly he has been a steadfast contributor in all of our activities, and he has been a great Catholic friend.

He recently told me: "Although this was not the council I became a Knight in, I do consider this council to be home and the epitome of what a Knights council should be." High praise from a Knight who could have been Knight of the Month every month. Godspeed, Mike!



## Family of the Month Alex Czopek Family

Our Family of the Month is the **Alex Czopek** family. Alex has spent the last 7+ years keeping the Council on the straight financial path as the Worthy Financial Secretary, and Diana has supported him every step of the way.

Alex has done much more than track our finances – he drafts and maintains the budget each year; he submits the annual survey; he completes the quarterly audits; he maintains the membership accounts, collects dues, and assists in retention efforts; and he orders all of the council supplies.

All these activities – and many other things I have omitted – require hours of dedication each week. We have been blessed to have someone with the Wisdom of Solomon and the Patience of Job serving in this very important position. Thank you, Alex!

## Are You A Member?

The Father Michael J. McGivney Guild serves as a source for information about the life, works and spirituality of Father McGivney.

The Guild distributes informational materials about him, receives reports of favors granted through his intercession and oversees the distribution of relics.

Guild members receive regular updates on the progress of Father McGivney's cause for canonization and

are invited to participate in promoting devotion to this Servant of God. Members of the Knights of Columbus are not automatically Guild members and must elect to join the Guild.

The Father Michael J. McGivney Guild Newsletter is published bimonthly except July- August, and is sent free to Guild members.

To join the Guild, register online at: <http://www.fathermcgivney.org/>





## February Birthdays

Jorge	Arnoldson
Richard	Brown
Jeffrey	Brown
Larry	Campbell
John	Cantwell
Curtis	Carro
Paul	Christian
Bruce	Czaja
Cameron	Czaja
James	Dawes
Raymond	Dion
James	English
Ronald	Goecke
Brian	Hollands
Peter	Leet
Amado	Malonjao
Stephen	Mc Callister
Michael	Mudd
Daniel	Noyes
Reuben	Persaud
Richard	Sarnowski
Jay	Scott
John	Simon
Daniel	Stempniak
Roland	Tiso
Anthony	Weilbacher

## Catholic Men in a Modern World

The 8th Annual

**Tampa Bay Men's Conference**

**"Come and See"**

**Saturday, February 10, 2018**  
**Higgins Hall, Tampa**

featuring Jeff Cavins  
Fr. Dwight Longenecker  
and John Pridemore

Mass celebrated to begin the event. Reconciliation and adoration throughout the day

# Insurance Agency News

I want to take this opportunity to let you all know that I will be retiring as your Field Agent this year. Come March 1st I will have served five years as a Field Agent. Over the holidays Cathy and I decided we want to be located closer to our daughters and grandchildren.

So by summer we hope to be in the Dallas – Ft Worth area. This will give you plenty of time to meet with me to update your Family Service Record and talk about your financial and insurance needs. Being a charter member of this council I have enjoyed watching this council and parish grow. There will always be a special place in my heart for the members at St. Stephen. I look forward to working with you these last few months.

*Chuck Lusky*



## Columbiette First Degree



Columbiette Auxiliary 14084 held a First Degree ceremony on Tuesday January 16, 2018 at the St. Stephen Catholic School for two new members, Caroline J.S. Picart and Jennifer A. Hickey.

The ceremony was conducted by the First Degree Team of Chair Person

**Carol Guettler**, President **Heidi Noyes**, Immediate Past President **Rita Joyce**, Vice President **Dot Foley**, Financial Secretary **Jan Goldonowitz**, Sentinel **Denise Lee**, and acting as the Guides, **Elaine Simon**, and **Mary Grace Porter**. Congratulations and welcome to our newest Columbiettes!

## Prayer for the Canonization of Father Michael J. McGivney

**G**od, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Father Michael J. 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 your venerable servant Father Michael J. 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.

## KNIGHTLY NEWS

This newsletter is a publication of St. Stephen Catholic Church Knights of Columbus Council 14084.

For more information or to offer a contribution, visit our website at: [www.KofC14084.org](http://www.KofC14084.org)



## Upcoming Events

February 17	1st Degree, FLC
February 23-24	Pro Life Rally, Mary Help of Christians
February 24-25	Tootsie Roll drive, Church
March 3	Roadside Cleanup
March 6	Business meeting 7:30pm
March 10	3rd Degree, Seffner
	Pro Life Prayer Vigil
March 16	Fish Fry With Spirit FM
March 17	2nd Degree
	Tootsie Roll Drive - Publix
March 25	Palm Sunday
March 29	Holy Thursday
March 30	Good Friday
March 31	Easter Vigil
April 7	Parkinsons Disease Walk 8:30am
April 8	Corporate Mass
	Altar Server BBQ
April 21	Kenny Chesney Concert

Please check your Council website calendar for more details regarding these events.  
<http://www.kofc14084.org/>

## Find Us On Facebook

**D**id you know that we have a Facebook page? We would like to hear your comments about the posts that are downloaded. Please feel free to comment or hit the LIKE button and let us know.

When was the last time you visited our Website [www.kofc14084.org](http://www.kofc14084.org)? This is constantly being updated with different things and is a good source of information. We would like to hear from you on this as well. Every item that is downloaded on the webpage gives you an opportunity to comment and let us know what you think about. Please take the time and visit our website.

