Council Helps
Special Olympics
Score
Grand Knight’s Message

Brothers,

Happy February which if you didn’t know is the second and shortest month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars with 28 days in “common years” and 29 days in “leap years” with the quadrennial 29th day being the leap day! If you didn’t know all that… now you do.

We have new members amongst us Brothers! In December we welcomed brothers Anthony Hopfinger and Mike Sellner to their Admission Degree who went on to earn their second degree on January 19th. On January brothers Don Crandell and David Erb entered the First Degree. Let us offer a brotherly welcome to these new members and look forward to their much needed participation in Council events.

On January 26th our Program Director SK David Tschanz conducted the first “Introduction to Knights of Columbus Council 15821” to interested members, including three of our newest. It included distribution of a 38 page manual on the council as well as a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the history, organization and activities of the council. Make plans to attend the next one as it will open a whole new level of information to you.

We had our first corporate communion of the year on Sunday, the 27th – thank you to all of those who turned out. Just a reminder that you wish to go to the optional Communion Breakfast you must contact David Tschanz (941-488-4794) at least five days before. Places are limited for the March 31st event so I suggest you sign up now.

Speaking of events, the Fourth Degree is holding its annual fundraising gala on March 2nd. The Fourth Degree provides, among other things, free of charge/stipend honor guards when a brother, his immediate family passes away. Buy a ticket, show your support and give your significant other a fun evening out. Details are farther in the newsletter.

I hope by the time you receive this you have signed up to volunteer for the annual Tootsie Roll collection at the new Publix. I hope, if you care about supporting those less fortunate that you’ll be there!

Finally, I wish to thank all who took the time to become involved in the Novena for Life program of the Faith in Action Life category! It was a success and I’m quite certain all who participated found it informative and interesting.

If you haven’t heard already Brothers it is with a heavy, heavy heart I announce the passing of our lifetime member Brother William (Bill) Kella after a long illness. Mary Kella his lifetime wife, boss and partner has decided on a 10:30am start time for his service. I’ll be sending another notice to remind all that you should attend this Brother’s service. Both Bill and Mary spent an enormous amount of time as my lead ushers for many years. God bless you Bill and Mary!

Vivat Jesus!

Bruce A. Crisman
Grand Knight, Council 15821
Spiritual Reflection
Walk With God at Your Side

When we look back, we see a few things which we want to do differently. But we can’t go in the past to change them, God only allows us to go forward each day. So, why not learn from the past and implement those leanings now to design the future we want for ourselves, the future most pleasing to Him. We have seen that life is all about the choices we make. If we want to lead a meaningful life then we must live in the present moment. Dwelling about past or worrying about future consumes our precious energy. This makes us feel tired and less energetic and leave us with less to enjoy the present moment. Apart from this, staying positive in life is very important as one negative thought can disturb our peace of mind like one rotten fruit can damage all other fruits of the basket. We have to take a conscious effort to weed out any negative thought that may creep in and feed only positive thoughts to our mind. We can achieve this by walking with God at our side. Our mind is like a beautiful garden and we cannot put garbage like hatred, fear, and worry into it. This life is a gift from Him, it is a blessing, so don’t just exist, but live life to the fullest. Always strive to excel in what you do and see God in everything. It will make you feel more satisfied with yourself. Everyone is unique and different from each other. So, don’t compare yourself with anyone else as it is like comparing an apple with an orange. Pray to God to help us to be a better person by each passing day. Each day presents a new opportunity to learn new things, to meet new people, to connect with God in a deeper way and so on. So, it is our duty to make the most of these opportunities. The key to happiness is to do things you love doing. - Deacon Tom Grant

Pre-Meeting Rosary

Brothers are invited to attend a corporate rosary beginning at 6:30 PM. Prayer is a "we" thing. "Our Father, who art in heaven...give us this day our daily bread," etc. Jesus prayed that we may be one, and one of the ways we can "practice" this and actually DO this is to pray together. This is an opportunity for you to avail yourselves of that experience.
Helping Special Olympics Score

Brothers Ron Balaze, Bruce Crisman, Bob Kelley and Dave Tschanz volunteered to help at the Sarasota County Special Olympics Regional Basketball Tournament on January 12, 2019. Serving as scorekeepers and timers, they helped athletes and other volunteers succeed. Singing out the quintet, Special Olympics County Director Randy Klinger said: “The Knights assistance has been invaluable for this tournament and our other events.” Additional photos at https://tinyurl.com/SOB2019
New Knights Enter First Degree

New brothers David Erb (second from left) and Don Crandell (third from left) pose with Grand Knight Bruce Crisman and District Deputy John Wojtyna shortly after their 1st Degree Exemplification and admission in the order. Photo by Ron Balaze.

January 16th saw the addition of the newest members to our Council when Donald Crandell and David Erb entered the First Degree of the Order during an exemplification ceremony sponsored by Council 15332 in Sarasota. In support were SK Ron Balaze, DGK; SK Bruce Crisman, GK; Br. Thomas McDermitt, FS; SK Dennis O’Leary and SK David Tschanz, PGK.

Charity is the foremost principle of the Knights of Columbus and is the primary focus of the 1st degree exemplification. There are three degrees of the order, each corresponding to a separate virtue: charity (1st degree), unity (2nd degree), and fraternity (3rd degree). The final (optional) degree, or 4th degree, focuses on the virtue of patriotism.

Take a few moments to welcome our newest brothers and encourage them as they begin their new journey to full Knighthood.

Election of Delegates, Alternates to State Convention

Election of delegates to the 2019 State Convention being held May 24-26, 2019 in Orlando will be held at the February 7th General Meeting. One delegate is the Grand Knight, the other a Past Grand Knight of the Council. Alternates may be any Third Degree member. In the event the Grand Knight and/or Past Grand Knight are unable to serve as delegates, the Council may elect another Third Degree Knight in good standing.
Knight of the Month & Family of the Month Honorees

The Knight and Family of the Month are honors awarded for efforts above and beyond the average call of duty. These awards are given once a month usually at our Business Meetings. Please don't hesitate to say thanks to these worthy recipients for all their efforts.

Knight of the Month – December 2018
Ron Balaze

Sir Knight Ron Balaze is a bedrock knight. The council rests its foundation on men like him and he has never wavered. He became a knight in 1987 and is a charter member of this council. He has held a variety of positions including Trustee, Inside Guard and currently serves as Deputy Grand Knight and Membership Director. In the latter role he has been the council’s most effective recruiter. As if that isn’t enough, Ron coordinates our annual Tootsie Roll drive. He is also a lector, Eucharistic minister, short order cook, bottle washer and devoted husband and father. He was Knight of the Year for 2015-16

One knight like him is the same as having ten knights in council.

Family of the Month – December 2018
Robert & Susan Kelley

Brother Robert Kelley has been a member of this council since his founding. He and Susan were placed in charge of the "Giving Tree" in affiliation with the parish. While coordinating fellow knights and parishioners, they collected and delivered over $20,000 worth of toys, clothing and cash donation for Catholic Charities in Immokalee, FL. They can always be relied upon to help with council projects and Special Olympics. They continue to show what a dedicated knight, in conjunction with a supportive and self-driven spouse can do for their council, parish and those less fortunate.

First Year Knight?
Earn the Shining Armor Award

Awarded for service to the Order with distinction during the first year of membership, the “Shining Armor Award” is given to those men who exemplify what a true Knight of Columbus is.

To qualify for the “Shining Armor Award” new Knights must do the following during their first year of membership:

- Be involved in at least three council service programs
- Attend at least three council business meetings
- Receive their Second and Third degrees
- Meet with their council’s insurance representative
- Recruit at least one new member

Currently recipients receive Certificates of Recognition along with special "Shining Armor" Lapel Pins in recognition of their achievement.
Volunteer Opportunities

“You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give.” ~Winston Churchill

**Coffee & Doughnuts**
January 6 & 20, 2019
All Masses - Clean up and set up
Contact Brother Tom McDermitt

**Pancake Breakfast**
January 13, 2019
All Masses – Various Duties
Contact Grand Knight Bruce Crisman

Prison Ministry Volunteers Needed
Join a team of volunteers who share God's love and mercy with those incarcerated in any of the 21 jails/prisons throughout the Diocese. No previous experience required; newcomers are paired with experienced volunteers.
Contact Robert Hiniker at 863-558-0407, hinbob5@hotmail.com

Every Life is Worth Living

Heavenly Father, thank you for the precious gift of life. Help us to cherish and protect this gift, even in the midst of fear, pain, and suffering. Give us love for all people, especially the most vulnerable, and help us bear witness to the truth that every life is worth living. Grant us the humility to accept help when we are in need, and teach us to be merciful to all. Through our words and actions, may others encounter the outstretched hands of Your mercy. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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“Tootsie Roll” Drive Scheduled for February
Volunteer Now!

No, the Knights of Columbus has not taken to selling candy and has no ties to Tootsie Rolls or any other candy bar, or their Manufacturer! This campaign, often referred to as the “Tootsie Roll Drive” is really a “Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities” The nickname is due to the nature of the fundraiser, in which Knights distribute candy bars, very often specially marked Tootsie Rolls in exchange for donations used to support programs geared to improve the Quality of Life for people with Disabilities, in particular, Special Olympics.

Council 15821’s annual Citizens with Disabilities Campaigns, popularly known as the Tootsie Roll Drive will be held **February 1-3** at Publix Super Market at Shops at Casey Key, 1350 S Tamiami Trail, Osprey, FL 34229  from 8AM -6 PM on February 1 &2, and 10-4 on February 3rd. (2 hr shifts); **January 26&27** – OLMC after all Masses.

This is probably the Knights of Columbus’ best-known national fund-raiser. Unlike fundraising done by other organizations, every dollar raised goes to help people with disabilities.

Monies raised are split by the Council amongst Sarasota Special Olympics, Dreams Are Free and Challenger Baseball.

Coordination of the program is being conducted by Deputy Grand Knight Sir Knight Ron Balaze. When he calls upon you to be a volunteer please be ready to answer the call.
Field Agent Notes

I have some good news to share with you. The New Year has brought some important and positive changes at the Knights of Columbus, in particular with regard to our fraternal benefits program. As a result of some key decisions that have just been made by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson regarding the rules that regulate our fraternal benefits program, I have once again been reassigned to serve as your Fraternal Benefits Advisor, this time hopefully for good. I look forward to continue working with you and supporting your council in achieving its goals in the New Year.

Can you believe that 2019 is already upon us? I hope that 2018 was a healthy and prosperous year for you and your family. The first part of our Order’s motto, Tempus Fugit (time flies), seems more and more true every year older we get. As we review the past year and prepare to welcome a new one, we wonder where the time goes. An insurance check-up can be as important as an annual physical. Unlike many other products, you don’t just need money to obtain life insurance, long-term care, or disability income insurance. You also need good health, and no one knows when your health could change.

Did you take time out of your schedule last year to meet with me? If you did, thank you for meeting with me and helping to secure your financial future. If you didn’t have a meeting with me last year, I hope you will answer my invitation this year. It’s a wise idea to have an expert look at your finances. Schedule some time to visit with me, your professional Knights of Columbus Fraternal Benefits Advisor, and I’ll provide an insurance check-up that will quickly identify any gaps in your family’s insurance program. Did I mention my check-up is free of charge? When was the last time you received something for free that could be providing value to you and your family for generations? And I’ll come to your home when it fits your schedule. Call me today.

You can reach me at (941) 923-7912 or via E-mail at Frank.Burns@kofc.org.

Fraternally,

Frank Burns

4th Degree Exemplification in Bradenton on March 23rd

A Fourth (Patriotic) Degree exemplification will be held in Bradenton’s Saint Joseph Church Parish Hall on March 23, 2019.

Any Third Degree member in good standing is eligible for membership in the Fourth Degree. The primary purpose of the Fourth Degree is to foster the spirit of patriotism by promoting responsible citizenship and a love of and loyalty to the Knights' respective countries through active membership in local Fourth Degree groups (called "Assemblies"). Certain members of the Fourth Degree serve as honor guards at civic and religious functions, an activity that has brought worldwide recognition to the Knights of Columbus.

As mentioned in an earlier article there is a unique opportunity here for a first (or later) degree member to “fast track” through the Second to the Fourth degree in a matter of weeks and with twenty miles of Council 15821. This was a deliberate design on the part of the Florida State Council and local Districts.

Fourth Degree exemplifications provide an opportunity for candidates and spouses and/or other guests to enjoy a social event as well as advancing in the order. Dress is formal wear. A ladies luncheon takes place while candidates and observers attend the exemplification. A banquet will be held in the evening. Both the luncheon and banquet are optional.

Any members wishing to make his Fourth Degree should contact Faithful Captain David Tschanz as soon as possible. Paperwork and checks need to be turned into the local Assembly no later than February 21st.

Fourth Degree members of Council 15821 include Tschanz; Bruce Crisman, Grand Knight, Ron Balaze, Deputy Grand Knight; Dennis O’Leary, Trustee; Charles Palmeri, Lecturer; Dennis Pavlock and Robert Kelley.

Fourth Degree members are encouraged to attend as observers and bring friends and family to the luncheon/banquet.
Hopfinger, Sellner Advance to Second Degree

Brother Anthony Hopfinger and Mike Sellner attended the Formation (Second) Degree exemplification at Saint Joseph’s Council 5604 on January 19th.

There are three degrees of the order, each corresponding to a separate virtue: charity (Admission/First Degree), unity (Formation/Second Degree), and fraternity (Knighthood/Third Degree). The final (optional) Patriotic/Fourth Degree, focuses on the virtue of patriotism.

The second degree highlights the principle of unity. Members of the Knights of Columbus are united in the body of Christ, ritualized and embodied in their full participation in the Catholic Church. Their loyalty to Christ and the unity which He encompasses is realized through their commitment to one another and their local, regional, and global church. The Second Degree helps Knights realize their true potential as Christian brothers and the sacred power of unity.

Corporate Communion
March 31, 2019
8:30 AM Mass

Breakfast following

The optional post-mass breakfast/brunch venue will be held at the Venetian Golf and River Club at the east end of Laurel Road. The breakfast is a full buffet with an omelet station and a large selection of other items including sausage & biscuits, blintzes, Danish, etc. Cost is 9.95++ per person.

Places for breakfast are limited to 24 seats — so please “book early.” If you sign up to attend and do not cancel 72 hours in advance, you will be charged. Please advise SK David Tschanz if you wish to attend. He can be reached at dwt1121@gmail.com or 941-488-4794

Council 15821 Patio Loan Repayments
Fraternal Year 2018-19

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*As of September 6, 2018
8th ANNUAL GALA

Saturday, March 2, 2019
5:30 PM Cocktails
6:30 PM Dinner

Choice of Sliced Sirloin or Salmon*
Salad, Baked Potato and Vegetable plus Dessert

Musical Entertainment by Sunny & Sable

$45 pp

Jacaranda West Country Club; 1901 Jacaranda Blvd; Venice, FL 34293

This event is open to the public, membership in the Knights of Columbus is not required. Contact Ed Farrell (941-223-6321); Ed Gionet (941-716-3483); Esther (941-870-4747) or your local Grand Knight/Council Representative for tickets and more information. Make checks payable to Knights of Columbus Assembly 1818. *Meal choices are final. Dress is Tuxedo and Social Baldric for 4th Degree members. Formal or semi formal for all others.
The Knights vs. The Klan

by Kevin Coyne

One evening in the summer of 1923, Supreme Advocate Luke E. Hart looked out the window of the train he was riding through southern Indiana.

“The lights of the automobiles lit up the roads for miles and made quite an impression on the travelers on our train,” he wrote in a letter the next day. He estimated that there were “not less than 1,000 automobiles filled with members of the Ku Klux Klan” returning from a KKK parade in the town of Orleans.

A St. Louis lawyer, Hart had been named supreme advocate barely a year earlier, at a time when the Klan was on the rise and on the attack. The Klan and its allies’ campaign of racial and religious bigotry extended to Catholics in general and the Knights in particular — portraying Catholics as foreign invaders beholden only to Rome, and the Knights as the Church’s enforcers.

The introduction of a 1921 KKK pamphlet titled The Ku Klux Klan or the Knights of Columbus referred to the Knights of Columbus as “the Pope’s Knights of Mob and Murder, his Militia of Christ, his pliant tools who have bound themselves together in a secret, unholy compact to destroy our free American Public School system, our Constitution and its guarantees.” It further stated, “Apparently the organization most interested in the destruction of the Ku Klux Klan is the Roman Catholic Order of the Knights of Columbus.”

The Klan grasped one grain of truth: The Knights of Columbus did indeed work to counter the Klan’s malicious ideology. Moreover, the Order’s passionate, nonviolent response to the Klan’s anti-Catholicism, racism and historical revisionism remains a model for Knights today.

Nativist Slander & Violence

The size and reach of the Ku Klux Klan, and the racist, nativist beliefs it traffics in, have ebbed and flowed through the history of the United States. Born in the South after the Civil War, the group’s hatred was initially aimed at newly freed slaves and Yankee carpetbaggers. The Klan surged again in the years before Hart’s train ride, spreading to the rest of the nation and broadening its list of enemies at a time when racial and cultural prejudice was magnified by political and economic fears.

Immigrants — “Italian anarchists, Irish-Catholic malcontents,” as a Klan pamphlet of the era described them, “the scum of the Mediterranean and the middle European countries … masses of ignorant, superstitious, religious devotees … festering sores on the American body politic” — were still arriving at a pace that alarmed those who believed that the United States was, and should remain, a nation of white Anglo-Saxon Protestants.

The Klan cast itself as the sentinel against the kind of rapid social change that many Americans found unsettling. Membership soared past 4 million by the early 1920s, large enough to gain wide political influence and sway elections. For example, the Klan was instrumental in electing governors or senators in Oregon, Oklahoma, Indiana, Colorado, Maine and Texas, as well as many local government officials.

As the size of the Klan peaked, so did its battle with the Knights — fought with legal briefs and letters, pamphlets and magazines, speeches and meetings, and sometimes with violence.

Knights and their allies from around the country reported on the Klan’s actions in missives addressed to Supreme Advocate Hart — typed neatly on the letterheads of parishes and local councils, scrawled hastily in pencil on pages torn from notebooks, dispatched urgently in telegrams.

- From Santa Maria, Calif.: The Klan was invited to march in the Armistice Day parade, but the Knights were not.
- From Scottdale, Pa.: “The Klan is just now running the town, or think they are.”
- From York, Pa.: The Klan was sponsoring appearances by Neva Miller Moss, a “self-styled ex-nun” peddling copies of her salacious book, Behind Convent Walls.
Many of the complaints concerned the Klan’s circulation of the “Bogus Oath,” a compendium of lurid anti-Catholic fantasies that had been circulating in various forms for centuries, but that had been attached most persistently in recent years to the Knights. It was purported to be an oath taken by Fourth Degree members and included such intentions as to “hang, burn, waste, boil, flay, strangle and bury alive” Protestant “heretics” and to undermine civil government.

In Terre Haute, Ind., Klansmen rode through the night tossing copies of the Bogus Oath onto lawns and porches.

“Each pamphlet was wadded up and jammed into a wooden clothes-pin, thus making it easier to hurl,” one letter reported. In Kingsville, Texas, copies of the Bogus Oath in Spanish “caused quite a little excitement among our Mexican population,” another correspondent wrote.

Protected by the dominance of the Klan in some regions, KKK members went beyond propaganda to commit acts of violence.

On an August afternoon in 1921, at St. Paul’s Catholic Church in Birmingham, Ala., the pastor, Father James E. Coyle, presided at the wedding of Ruth Stephenson, a recent convert, and Pedro Gussman, who was Puerto Rican. Born and ordained in Ireland, Father Coyle had spent 25 years in Alabama ministering to immigrant Catholics, many of them drawn to work in the mills, mines and foundries. He was a charter member of Mobile Council 666 and chaplain of Birmingham Council 635.

An hour after the wedding, Father Coyle was sitting on the porch of his rectory when Rev. Edwin R. Stephenson, a Methodist minister, approached with a gun. The minister, who was the bride’s father and a Klansman, shot the priest in the head, killing him. The Klan paid for his lawyers, three of whom were members. The fourth, Hugo Black, who later became a U.S. Senator and Supreme Court justice, also joined the Klan after the trial. The judge and the foreman of the jury were both Klansmen as well. After a weeklong trial, the jury returned quickly with its verdict: not guilty.

Several years later, as the Knights of Columbus spoke out strongly against Mexico President Plutarco Elias Calles and the violent persecution of the Church in Mexico, the Klan offered its own members as soldiers for the Calles regime in the event that they were necessary.

Knights of Columbus Resistance

The Knights’ first Spanish-speaking council in the United States, Del Norte Council 2592 in El Paso, Texas, repelled a Klan attempt to take over the school board and mayor’s office in 1922. Knights of Columbus members followed Klansmen to their secret meetings and then wrote down their license plate numbers and made their names public.

Knights of Columbus councils in other cities, such as Anaheim, Calif., Sometimes, the Knights answered the Klan with their own show of force. In 1924, after hooded Klansmen abducted, severely beat and mutilated Father John Conoley in Gainesville, Fla., Knights armed with shotguns stood in the windows of the rectory, protecting another priest and the church itself from the Klan’s threats to burn it.

Most often, the Knights responded simply by using words, reason and the law. Anyone circulating the Bogus Oath got a stern cease-and-desist letter from Luke Hart. Those who failed to comply got a libel suit. The editor of the Rail Splitter Press, which published reams of anti-Catholics tracts, called Hart’s letter “the most damnable piece of papal insolence that has ever come into this office,” but he never reprinted the oath again.

Rewards were offered to anyone who could prove the oath was genuine. “It was clamoring to be claimed, but no one came,” the bishop of Galveston wrote about the $5,000 deposits that waited in banks in each of the five Texas dioceses — $25,000 with no takers.

The Knights also distributed literature of their own, including pamphlets reprinting speeches against the Klan by public figures.

“I heard of the Knights of Columbus on the battlefields of France; I heard of them in the hospitals over there nursing the boys; but I did not hear anything of the Klan over there, and no masks were worn over there except gas masks,” declared Mississippi Sen. LeRoy Percy after a Klan representative had spoken at the county
courthouse in Greenville, Miss. “If you love your people, if you love the welfare of your community, do not be led off after this firebrand creed that is built on dissension, hatred and factional strife.”

In the tumultuous debate over who was, or ought to be, American, the Knights published more substantial volumes, too, defending not only their organization and their faith but their larger belief in an open and diverse nation.

The Knights of Columbus Historical Commission was established in 1921, and three years later, it published the Racial Contributions Series: *The Gift of Black Folk: The Negroes in the Making of America*, by W.E.B. DuBois; *The Jews in the Making of America* by George Cohen; and *The Germans in the Making of America* by Frederick Schrader.

Around the same time, a KKK pamphlet titled *Knights of the Klan versus the Knights of Columbus* portrayed Catholic and Jewish immigrants as a menace to U.S. society.

Christopher Columbus, too, received the Klan’s hatred. Eager to defame this Catholic, non-Anglo explorer, celebrated by immigrants, the Klan targeted anything that honored him. In Oregon, for example, the Klan fought to get rid of Columbus Day. In places such as Richmond, Va., and Easton, Pa., the Klan nearly succeeded in blocking the erection of statues of Columbus. Elsewhere, Klansmen disrupted Columbus Day celebrations, such as with a cross burning in Nanty Glo, Pa.

Whereas KKK publications called Columbus Day “a papal fraud,” the Knights insisted that U.S. citizens’ embrace of Columbus — and the immigrants he represented — enriched rather than threatened American identity.

### Defending Religious Liberty

The Knights’ most lasting victory over the Ku Klux Klan was in a legal battle that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. In the 1920s, several states tried to force Catholic school children out of parochial schools and into public ones, but none were as successful as Oregon, where the Klan was strong and Catholics were sparse.

In the 1922 Oregon state election, the Klan supported Walter M. Pierce for governor, as well as the ballot initiative that Pierce endorsed. Later known as the Oregon School Law, it required all children to attend public school through eighth grade. Pierce and the ballot initiative both won.

“There is only one way left for us to defeat this infamous law, and that is through the courts,” wrote the Knights’ state deputy of Oregon.

Supreme Knight James A. Flaherty agreed. “I call upon members of this Order everywhere,” he wrote, “to rally in defense of the Catholic schools.”

The plaintiff in the case was an order of teaching nuns, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, and the Knights helped finance their legal battle. When the Supreme Court eventually ruled unanimously against the Oregon law in 1925, the Knights saw not just a legal victory but also a moral one.

“We see about us the fruits of irreligion, and we see that they are bitter fruits. It is clear to us that if the seeds of irreligion are sown and resown, our nation will reap a dangerous harvest indeed,” Flaherty wrote. “Let us be proud of our part in the good fight, let us rejoice that when, in the dark hours of bigotry’s first threatening advance, the victims of a small and prejudiced group sought our aid, they didn’t seek in vain.”

Although the Klan was shrinking in numbers and influence by the end of the 1920s, conflicts continued.

After Msgr. Bernard J. Quinn, the founder of the first church for black Catholics in Brooklyn, established a Catholic orphanage for black children on Long Island, it was burned down twice in arson attacks attributed to the Klan. Msgr. Quinn, who had previously served as a Knights of Columbus chaplain in World War I, responded by simply rebuilding the orphanage, the second time in stone and brick.
That same year, the Klan met Al Smith’s presidential campaign train to Oklahoma with fiery KKK crosses.

“I here and now drag them into the open and I denounce them as a treasonable attack upon the very foundations of American liberty,” Smith said about the Klan to a packed crowd of 10,000 in the Oklahoma City Coliseum Sept. 29. “Nothing could be so contradictory to our whole history. Nothing could be so false to the teachings of our divine Lord himself. The world knows no greater mockery than the use of the blazing cross, the cross upon which Christ died, as a symbol to instill into the hearts of men a hatred of their brethren while Christ preached and died for the love and brotherhood of man.”

Though Smith, who was a member of Dr. John G. Coyle Council 163 in New York City, ultimately lost the election, the Klan’s influence continued to decline.

But decades later, when another Knight, John F. Kennedy, a member of Bunker Hill Council 62 in Charlestown, Mass., ran for president in 1960, the Bogus Oath surfaced yet again.

Led by Luke Hart, who had served as supreme knight since 1953, the Knights once again responded. Through publications, lawsuits and public witness, the Order was determined to stamp out the Klan’s bigotry and falsehoods for good.

Alfred E. Smith (1873-1944), a longtime governor of New York and member of Dr. John G. Coyle Council 163 in New York City, gives a speech as the Democratic candidate in the 1928 U.S. presidential race. Smith was vehemently opposed by the Ku Klux Klan, which burned crosses during his campaign and claimed that “A Vote for Al Smith Is a Vote for the Pope.” Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress
Couples Celebrating Marriage - All couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, or more than 50 years of marriage are invited by Bishop Frank J. Dewane to an Anniversary Mass in their honor. The Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in two locations: 11:00 a.m., Saturday, March 2 at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice, and 10:00 a.m., Saturday, March 16 at St. Leo the Great Parish in Bonita Springs. Information packages will be mailed to Parishes in January.

Catholic Days at the Capitol - Registration is now open for the 3-day trip to Tallahassee from March 26 - 28. Join others from around the state in making a difference while visiting our state legislators. Activities include:

- A legislative briefing on policy issues affecting human life and dignity
- Pre-scheduled meetings with lawmakers led by team leaders
- A luncheon for participants, Florida's Bishops and legislators
- Group photo with our Bishop
- Tours of the current and historic capitol buildings
- Annual Red Mass of the Holy Spirit celebrated by the Bishops of Florida to pray for those working in the legislative, judicial and executive branches of government.

Free bus transportation is provided. For registration and hotel information, contact Jeanne Berdeaux at 941-374-1068 or Berdeaux@dioceseofvenice.org. The registration deadline is February 26. (CLICK HERE for ¼ page ad.)

40 Days for Life - You are invited to join other Christians from March 6 through April 14, for the spring 40 Days for Life campaign - 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. Stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood in Naples, Fort Myers or Sarasota or the abortion facility in Port Charlotte. For more information, go to www.40daysforlife.com and click on the location nearest you. (Contact your 40 Days for Life Church Coordinator for specific information about your parish's commitment days.)

Our Mother's House Wine Tasting - The Our Mother's House Wine Tasting, Auction and Dinner Dance will be held at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, February 28 at the Venice Community Center in Venice. All proceeds will benefit Our Mother's House, a program of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. which is committed to helping homeless mothers and their children achieve self-sufficiency. The evening will include a wine tasting, auctions, dinner, and dancing. Tickets are $85 a person. For information and tickets, please visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org or call 941-485-6264 or email ourmothershouse@ccdis1.org.

Third Annual "Starry, Starry Night" - Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center (OLPH), 3989 South Moon Drive, Venice, invites all to the Third Annual "Starry, Starry Night" presenting Brian Gurl and the Crooners at 5:30 p.m., Friday, April 12, 2019. Seats are $80 and VIP tables are $1,000. Great Christmas gift! A fun way to support the mission at Our Lady of Perpetual Help by enjoying a great night! Jacket required. For more information and to register visit www.olph-retreat.org or call 941-486-0233 ext. 3002.
**Pray With Pope Francis on This Vatican-Approved App**

If you’ve always wanted to pray with the Pope, now there’s an app for that. Pope Francis unveiled a new “Click to Pray app at [http://clicktopray.org](http://clicktopray.org) app this weekend. Exactly what it sounds like, the praying app allows people from around the world to come together to pray about a certain issue.

The Pope launched the app, which is the official app of the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer), to coincide with the World Youth Day festival that gets underway on January 22nd.

From the site:

*Click To Pray is the prayer platform of the Pope, of his Worldwide Prayer Network.*

The app invites you to pray together for his intentions which address current challenges facing humanity and the mission of the Church. And because “every day is different,” the app offers you a prayer 365 days a year to help you discover each day how God calls you to live. Join us as we pray together with the Pope, united with the Heart of Christ, thousands of us throughout the world now form a truly global prayer network.

The app is broken down into three sections: Pray with the Pope, Pray every day, and Pray with the network.

The Pope plans to push out “requests for prayers for the Church’s mission” in that “Pray with the Pope” section. The “Pray Every Day” section offers daily prayer suggestions, and the “Pray with the Network” section offers a place for people to post their own prayer requests.

The app is available in Spanish, English, Italian, French, Portuguese, and German. When you’re scrolling through those network requests you’ll quickly come across posts in a new of those languages.

If you’d rather not put the app on your phone, there’s also a website where you can do everything you can through the mobile app without downloading anything.

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**For Tender, Heroic Men — the Knights of Columbus**

*By Kathryn Jean Lopez*

Helping families rebuild after a hurricane. One thousand ultrasounds. Insisting that the United States pay attention to a genocide of Christians in the cradle of their faith, in Iraq and Syria, where many Americans don’t even realize Christians are. Also, helping those displaced Christians rebuild, making it possible for them to stay and see a future there for their children. Paying attention to the history of the Americas, where the Mother of God is believed to have appeared pregnant with Jesus to a man named Juan Diego in 1531 and set off a flood of conversions that changed the face of Mexico — and the continent.

Since the Knights of Columbus became a political issue recently, a constant refrain I’ve seen on social media is something along the lines of “What do you mean, the pancake-breakfast guys?” The point being: Could you be picking on nicer guys? But it is so much more than that. The Knights of Columbus are about virtue and service. The United States — and the world — would not be the same without the Knights of Columbus. I’d have a lot less hope without the Knights of Columbus.
The Knights became an issue when two Senate Democrats questioned a judicial nominee about his membership in the Knights. Hawaii Democrat Tulsi Gabbard deserves some kind of Adult in the Room award for taking on the “fomenting religious bigotry” that the spectacle demonstrated. “While I oppose the nomination of Brian Buescher to the U.S. District Court in Nebraska, I stand strongly against those who are fomenting religious bigotry, citing as disqualifiers Buescher’s Catholicism and his affiliation with the Knights of Columbus,” she wrote.

Her op-ed was courageous and important. Because this is not a passing issue. It’s an ideological position, the idea that people who take their religious duties seriously should be relegated to a second class, punished for exercising their religious liberty. Think of the Little Sisters of the Poor having to go to the Supreme Court to protect their conscience rights during the Barack Obama administration, or the city of Philadelphia severing ties with Catholic Social Services. Such attempts to narrow religious liberty are happening at a time when we need more people to follow the example of those who practice their faith with enthusiasm — imagine how different the world might look, for instance, if every Christian took seriously the Beatitudes. We need that. We ought to want that, ecumenically.

In a series of videos last year, the Knights highlighted some “everyday heroes.” It wasn’t so much a commercial for the Knights — though it certainly couldn’t hurt them — as a challenge to be better. That’s what the Knights are about. They make money by selling families life insurance — a necessity in the world today — and then spend it to help families. The Knights help men know how to be good husbands and fathers in fellowship with other husbands and fathers who care about what’s going on in their communities. They are good neighbors. They are mentors.

Carl Anderson, the head of the Knights of Columbus since 2000, wrote one of the most sensible books about politics in recent years, *Beyond a House Divided: The Moral Consensus Ignored by Washington, Wall Street, and the Media*. Backed by deep-dive polls that the Knights have been commissioning for over a decade now, he nudges us toward a better way, finding opportunities for common ground on some of the most contentious issues of the day.

As the Knights were in the news, I was at the Cathedral of Saint Peter and Saint Paul in Indianapolis as 3,000 people waited in lines (45 minutes to an hour) one Friday to venerate a relic, the incorrupt heart of Saint John Vianney. Vianney was a priest who poured himself out in love for God’s people, hearing hours of confession every day and taking on acts of penance for the sin in the world.

Whatever you think of such pious practices and relics, the scene was remarkable and very K of C: families of all ages, with at least three generations in many cases. There was at least one active military man when I was there, sitting in the front row, praying for so many I know who are doing their best or don’t know how to do their best. There were people from clearly different income brackets and professions and states in life. That night after Mass, the heart moved onto the SEEK conference of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, with more than 17,000 in attendance, mostly college students. The Knight assigned to the relic’s current tour of the U.S. (its permanent home is a shrine in France) estimates that most of those in at the conference must have stopped by to venerate the relic as well, because the lines were always long. Just as soon as I returned to New York, a friend texted me a picture of her view of the same relic in a parish church in Columbus, Ohio. That heart is doing more to restore Catholic hearts in this time of scandal than we can ever know or understand — drawing us to prayer, rooting us in history, signaling to Heaven.

The Knights are far from an “extremist” organization that a judge ought to take leave of. To the contrary, we need more of the Knights. A judge needs the fraternity all the more. But every man, whatever his calling, can benefit. And we should be thankful that they’re a part of the life of our country. May they grow, and may we learn to treasure opportunities for virtuous fellowship and civic service, opportunities for encouraging one another to be our fullest and best.

*This column is based on one available through Andrews McMeel Universal’s Newspaper Enterprise Association. This article is reprinted by the National Review website. The original, published on January 14, 2019, can be found at [http://www.nationalreview.com/2019/01/knights-of-columbus-we-need-more-of-them/](http://www.nationalreview.com/2019/01/knights-of-columbus-we-need-more-of-them/)*

*Photo by Eduardo Munoz/Reuters*
2018/2019
Florida State Council, Knights of Columbus

$45,000 Charity Raffle

1st Prize - $25,000
2nd Prize: $10,000
3rd Prize: $5,000
(5) $1,000 Prizes

Donation $1.00-

Donor need not be present to win.

2019 Drawing will be held on
Saturday May 25, 2019 at
the Hyatt Hotel, Orlando, Florida

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHARITY RAFFLE DONATIONS ARE NOT DEDUCTIBLE AS A CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION FOR FEDERAL TAX PURPOSES.

All Prizes Paid by Florida K of C Charities, Inc.
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**Knights of Columbus: Called to Serve**