



The

Korona

St. Mary's Council 11961
Website: www.council11961.org

Charity
Unity
Fraternity



June/July 2025

Grand Knight Message *In service to one. In service to all*



"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Thessalonians 5:18



Brothers, as I end my first year as Grand Knight and begin my second, I look back and look forward at the same time.

As I look back, I am filled with incredible joy for the work you have accomplished in Christ Jesus and thank you for the hard work and dedication you put into everything you did for the council and the community. As one Knight from another council remarked, "You guys do a lot for a little council." Truer words were never spoken! Here's a short list...blood drives, cook events, Knights' Sunday Masses, a hurricane relief drive, seminarian support, Silver Rose service, moving our shed, renovating the pavilion, first golf tournament, Special Olympics volunteering, selling 300 club tickets, and so much more.

I couldn't be prouder of you and your accomplishments! I am honored to be your Grand Knight

As I look forward, I am filled with excited anticipation of all the good we will do for Jesus Christ and His Church. After a

challenging year, I see us becoming a more comfortable part of the Monastery community and taking advantage of the spiritual benefits it offers. Whether that is daily Mass, praying in the Rosary Garden, participating in adoration or attending special programs like the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus by our Faith Director or hosting the Sacred Heart of Jesus icon in September. Also being more involved with the maintenance and fundraising activities there as well.

I continue to joyfully give thanks for all of you and the role models you are to me of Catholic gentlemen making a positive difference in the lives of so many. I continue to pray for all of us that the Holy Spirit will make us men of prayer, men of courage, men of charity, and men of unity as Father Robert encouraged us to be.

*Grand Knight
Darren Molony*

**God's On the Line, Don't Hang Up!
Vocations are *Everybody's* Business. Pray for Vocations!**

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



Last Sunday we celebrated the solemnity of Pentecost. The Church, born anew in the upper room, is still vibrating with the power of the Holy Spirit — the same Spirit who hovered over the waters at creation, who descended upon Mary at the Annunciation, and who filled the hearts of the apostles with courage, zeal, and holy fire. And here we are — modern-day men, Catholic men, Knights of Columbus gathered not in an upper room, but in a world just as broken, just as confused, just as hungry for truth as the one the apostles first faced. So, what does Pentecost mean for us, Knights of the 21st century?

It means this:

We are not here just to wear a pin or attend meetings. We are here to be men of Pentecost. Men who live by faith. Men who act with courage. Men who love with sacrificial charity. Men who allow the Holy Spirit to

burn in their hearts, and then to go out and set fires — fires of faith, fires of hope, fires of love in a world growing cold. The apostles were not strong in themselves. But they were made strong by the Holy Spirit. And so are we.

Our world today doesn't need more experts. It needs more saints. It needs men of God who have fire in their hearts and truth on their lips. And that's our calling. Blessed Michael McGivney understood this. He saw the needs of families, widows left unprotected, men without fraternity, parishes struggling. And what did he do? He didn't retreat. He built. He gathered men like you and said: We can be better. We can be brothers. We can be Catholic men who serve and protect. He responded to the Holy Spirit. And that response became a movement of over 2 million Knights worldwide. But it starts here, now, in each of our hearts.

And so, during this Pentecost octave, I urge you, my brothers:

1. Be men of prayer.

The Holy Spirit is not an idea. He is a Person, dwelling in your soul since baptism.

Speak to Him. Call on Him. Ask for His gifts - wisdom, understanding, fortitude, counsel.

A Knight who doesn't pray will become a man of the world. A Knight who prays becomes a man of God.

2. Be men of courage.

The apostles went from locked doors to open squares. They spoke boldly.

Not harshly, but with conviction. We are called to do the same: to defend life, to witness to marriage, to protect our children, to support our priests, and to bring Christ to the public square.

3. Be men of charity.

Charity is not just writing a check. It is showing up. It is being present for your family, for your parish, for your community.

The Spirit leads us out of selfishness into service. Every time you offer your time, strength, and skills in love, the Spirit is at work in you.

4. Be men of unity.

The Holy Spirit unites. The devil divides.

Let there be no division among us - in our councils, in our families, or in our Church.

Our unity, rooted in Christ, is a powerful testament to the world in which we live.

Dear Brother Knights, Pentecost is not a relic of the past. It is a power for today.

You have received the Spirit - not a spirit of timidity, but of power, love, and self-control.

So go forward, with renewed zeal. Be the men God has anointed you to be.

Let your hearts be set on fire, like the apostles.

Let your works shine, like your founder.

Let your lives speak of Jesus Christ, risen and alive.

And may Mary, the Queen of the Knights, walk with you, protect you,

and keep your hearts always open to the fire of God.

Fr. Robert Marciniak (June 12, 2025)

District Deputy Message



Brothers,

The start of the 2025-2026 fraternal year. Thanks to all of you all 3 councils in District 17 are Star Council. Notre Dame council had 22 new brothers and achieved star council, St Mary's had 8 new brothers and received star council and Mother Seton had 66 new brothers and received 5-star council. District 17 had 96 new Brother Knights and finished the fraternal year at 417% to goal and earned 2nd place in membership in the State of Florida as well as All Star District. This was NOT me.....this was YOU!!!

As the new fraternal year has begun, please remember each Brother Knight does NOT need to wait for a membership drive to offer a Catholic gentleman the gift of membership. That Catholic gentleman you see in church every week is a prime candidate for the invitation to join our brotherhood. In unity and fraternity, we can accomplish this. Every faith in action program is a membership opportunity. Offer a Catholic gentleman the GIFT of becoming a Knight. Please use the e-membership function on KOFC.ORG/JOINUS

July 9th at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Hall at 6PM I will invite your Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, Financial Secretary, Program Director and Membership Director to my yearly organizational meeting. Our Worthy Regional Administrator Bill Kelly and Florida State Membership Director Danny McIntyre will be honored guest. My agenda for our fraternal year will be the plan for your council to achieve the goals you have set for your council.

I also want to welcome a new council to District 17, effective July 1st. It is Council 8101 Father Michael J. McGivney council located in Crescent City, FL. The incoming Grand Knight is Thomas LaValle, FDD, PGK.



Remember we were INVITED to be Knights. Bless a Catholic gentleman with an invitation

Vivat Jesus,
Greg Gully

Field Agent – Larry Kennedy “Life Transitions”



Summer is a time of transition for many people. You may know someone who recently graduated high school or college and is now heading into the workforce. Or you may know a couple who is getting married this summer. These are all joyous occasions that we can celebrate.

At the same time, certain stress can come with any life transition. For a graduate, entering the workforce can take some adjustment. And marrying is certainly one of the biggest life adjustments people can experience. Before long, they may be welcoming children or looking to finance a house.

Any transition in your life is a good time to think about your financial situation and your loved ones who depend on you.

Though life insurance may be the last thing on a young adult's mind, it may be the perfect life stage to start preparing financially for the future.

On that note, for my brother Knights on the younger side, I have two pieces of good news. And I encourage all my brothers here to consider how this may apply to yourself or your adult children, grandchildren, and other family members.

First, the younger you are, the more affordable permanent life insurance can be, and the simpler the underwriting process is. At a younger age, you're less likely to have health or medical problems that could make coverage more expensive.

The second piece of good news is that you have options. Maybe you're not yet sure you want permanent life insurance. In this case, you might choose a term insurance policy, which is an affordable option for temporary needs. If you should decide later that you'd prefer permanent coverage, you may have the option to convert your term insurance.

In today's day and age when so many of us may feel pressure to spend above our means, I have been heartened to talk to young people who are quite financially literate and eager to set up a responsible financial strategy for their future. Many of them grew up seeing economic problems in the world, and they want to make sure they build a strong financial foundation for themselves.

This summer, no matter where you are in your journey through life -- whether you're undergoing a life transition, or you simply feel that now is the time to think about your financial future -- I encourage you to make an appointment with me. I will be happy to discuss your options with you.

Vivat Jesus!
Larry Kennedy

** Insurance products offered through Knights of Columbus,
1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510*

**For more information
contact: Larry Kennedy, FICF,
MDRT
407-579-9888
lawrence.kennedy@kofc.org**



Council 11961 Officers 2024-2025



Grand Knight
Darren Molony



Financial Sec.
Mike Gossman



Deputy GK
John Picucci



Chancellor
Chris Grecek



Recorder
Tom Flemming



Treasurer
John Thomas



Advocate
Phil Lajeunesse



Inside Guard
Joe Beck



Outside Guard
Paul Przybysz



1 Year Trustee
Rich Frieze



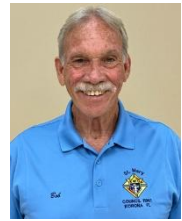
2 Year Trustee
Ron Kiceina



3 Year Trustee
Joe Jurec



Lecturer
Dr. Jim St. John



Warden
Bob Stearns



So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead. **James 2:17**

Council 11961 Chaplain & Directors



Chaplain
Fr. Robert Marciniak



Program Director
John Picucci
johnpicucci@yahoo.com



Life Director
Mike Gossman
Gossmanmike@gmail.com



Family Director
John Thomas
jjthomas.10@icloud.com



Faith Director
Paul Vicario
pvcrosscap@comcast.net



Community Director
Chris Grecek
cgrecek40@gmail.com



Elizabeth Ann Seton held their Golf Tournament on June 2nd at Pine Lakes Golf Course. Our Council sponsored one hole and had one foursome participate. See the outstanding form represented by Brother Fred Harding and GK Darren Molony.



July 2025 Calendar

Thurs Jul 3, 2025 5:30pm – 6:00pm
6:00pm – 7:15pm
Fri Jul 4, 2025 All Day
Sun Jul 6, 2025 10:00 – 11:00
Tues Jul 15, 2025 4:30pm – 6:30pm
Sat Jul 19, 2025 5:00pm – 10:00pm
Sat Jul 26, 2025 All Day
Thur Jul 31 2025 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Officer's Meeting (SMdM Parish Hall))
Business Meeting (SMdM Parish Hall))
Independence Day
Mass St. Joseph Monastery
Assem. 2810 Meeting (SMdM Parish Hall)
Monastery Dinner Dance Fundraiser
Special Olympics Swim/Jacksonville
Social Meeting- Scam/Identity Theft (SMdM)



July 2025

29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

August 2025 Calendar

Sat Aug 2, 2025 All Day
Sun Aug 3, 2025 10:00 – 11:00
Thurs Aug 7, 2025 5:30pm – 6:00pm
6:00pm – 7:15pm
Tues Aug 19, 2025 4:30 – 6:30pm

Special Olympics Jacksonville
Mass St Joseph Monastery
Officer's Meeting (SMdM Parish Hall)
Business Mass at (SMdM Parish Hall)
Assem 2810 Meeting (SMdM Parish Hall)

August 2025

27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6



They said it couldn't be done!!!!!!

Well, it took a lot of pain and anguish but Brother Joe M and team would not be deterred. Brother Joe said "you could launch rockets off the shed pad". I believe he is right.

Many Brothers worked hard and long to achieve this result – the Shed now stands at its new permanent home. Soon electricity will be connected, the shed will be loaded and ORGANIZED and our KofC emblem, (renewed by Brother Paul Przybysz) will be hung.



"Speak, for your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:10
Vocations are *Everybody's* Business. Pray for Vocations!

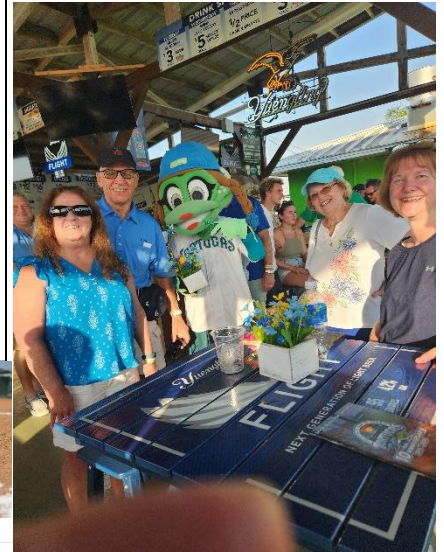


Take me out to The Jackie Robinson Stadium, aka “The Jack”



On May 16 our Council joined that of SMdM and SEAS to enjoy a night of baseball. The night was organized by Field Agent Larry Kennedy. It gave us an opportunity to relax with our brothers and mates. Thanks, Larry, for your effort.

There was plenty of good food and drink to go along with the run scoring. Unfortunately, the opposition outscored our Tortugas.



African American Mentor Program



On May 30 and 31, Chris Grecek's team was hard at work having been engaged by Flagler County's African American Mentor Program to prepare and serve a meal for their attendees. Try to imagine the planning and execution required to fulfill and order of pulled pork, hamburgers, baked beans, coleslaw, and soft drinks for 125 people.

With Chris's organizational skills, Ken Fehner's "comparison shopping skill" and computer savvy, plus Fred Harting's smoker ability, aided by assistance from Joe Galetta, John Picucci, Darren Molony, Nestor Ramos, Phill and Debbie Lageunesse the job was a success.



Recognition Awards



June's, "Knight of The Month" award goes to Nestor Ramos.

Nestor could be typecast as the "Strong silent type". What ever the job is, when ever the help is needed, Nestor is there. Wheater it is working concrete, basting fish, or moving our equipment for the shed, Nestor is always willing.



For the first time in recent memory, St. Mary's council achieved a Florida State Council award! The goal set by the state for vocation support is \$12.00 per member and our council donated over \$26.00 per member to our seminarians, Justino and Loc! We also maintain correspondence and meet with both seminarians which helped win the award. Pictured receiving the award from DD Greg Gully are GK Darren and Faith Director Paul.

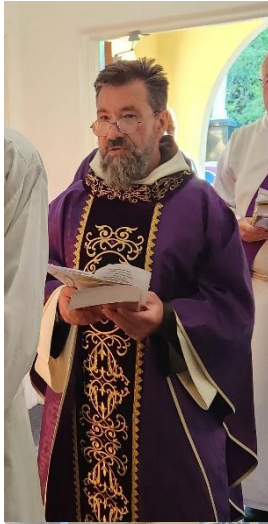


On May 1st we presented Farther Robert with a check for \$1,200.00. The check was a profit from the very successful Lenten fish Frys.

Many of our Brothers volunteered to be part of the event, that's what made the frys so enjoyable. We also became more a part of the Monastery Family.

(On the right) during Father's Jubilee, we presented him with an honorary Council shirt, along with a Plaque inscribe with our heart felt congratulations for his 25 years of service to Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

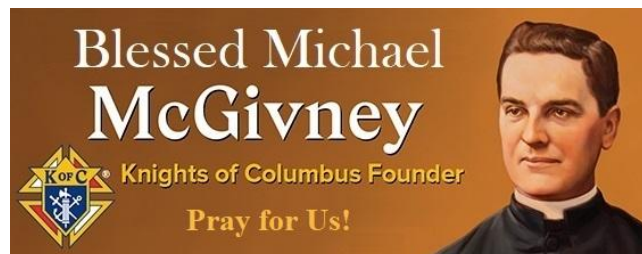
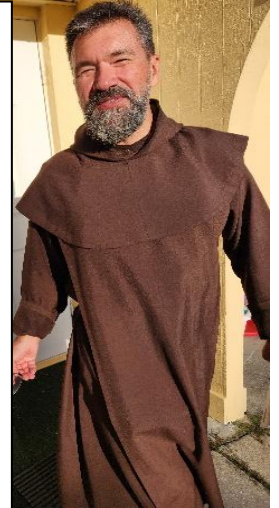




CONGRATULATIONS FATHER ROBERT MARCINIAK

On May Sunday, May 25th, Father celebrated his, Jubilee as a Carmelite Priest. A pot luck party was held at Plantation Oaks Club house. All were welcomed. Many of Father's flock joined in the festivities bringing food and drink. It was a wonderful afternoon and Father Robert was overjoyed to see so many attendees.

The Council presented Father with a plaque expressing our appreciation for his spiritual leadership, his kindness and support for the Knights mission. We also gifted Father with a pair of his choice sandals.



June/July Birthdays

Anthony Flynn 6/11
Anthony Biancardi 6/15
Robert Otto Stellner 6/18
Joseph Giuliano 6/20
Charles Miller 6/24
Robert Borst 6/27
Paul Stadtmuller 6/29
Donald Gendron 7/1
Joseph Nacci 7/4
Enzo Pistritto 7/4
Br. Patrick Gemmato 7/8



Julius Kish 7/9
Sonny Demartino 7/10
Christopher Grecek 7/16
Francis Smith 7/18
Robert Stearns 7/21
Peter Capozzi 7/23
Wallace Burns 7/24
James Dupuy 7/24
John Schulten 7/24
Charles Lundy 7/27



300 CLUB WINNERS May \$50 Winners

174 Joan Grecek
268 Dechrstine Bozek
165 Chris Grecek
106 Richard Fries

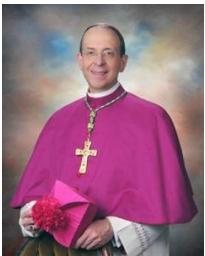


June \$50 Winners

161 Terri Lujan
56 Glenn Shaw
261 Joe Rios
125 Helen Venezano
155 Maya Marotti (\$100)

Supreme Chaplain's Challenge (July)

A monthly reflection and practical challenge from Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori



"Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." (Gospel for July 13, Lk 10:36-37)

In the parable of the good Samaritan, we again witness the Lord's call to put our faith into action. Neither the priest nor the Levite stopped to render aid to alleviate the injured man's suffering. The true act of love came from an unexpected source: a Samaritan, a person with whom a practicing Jew of those days would not ordinarily associate. Let us be good Samaritans when we encounter others

in need, remembering that we are called to love and serve all people in need.

This month, I challenge you to serve as a good Samaritan to others with whom you might not normally associate — whether it be people who are homeless, the poor, the homebound or others.

Questions for Reflection:

- Who is your neighbor?
- Have you found yourself ignoring those in need when it is inconvenient for you to assist them?
- How can your response to the needy you encounter more closely reflect the example of the good Samaritan?



Saint Joseph Carmelite Monastery



Building Saint Joseph Social Hall

Dinner & Dance Fundraiser

Tickets \$50 per person

Saturday, July 19, 2025 - 5:00 to 10:00pm

Open Pavillion - Casual Country

*Includes: Dinner, Dancing, auction, 50/50, raffles,
Cash bar and more!*

**Polonia Society of Korona
2925 W State Rte 100,
Bunnell, FL 32110**



**Please contact Monastery office (386) 437-2910,
Darren (203) 241-8034 or Tony (386) 366-2598**

Financial Secretary – Michael Gossman

ANNUAL DUES ARE PAYABLE ON JULY 1st!

Prompt payment of your dues is extremely important. It ensures you remain eligible for all of the benefits of membership. If dues are not remitted within a reasonable time frame, the council is required to pass your name to the retention committee. This process is quite laborious, so your prompt remission of dues is appreciated.

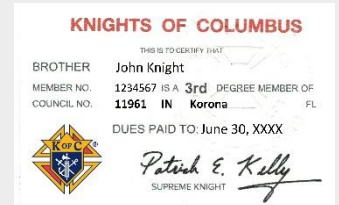
REGULAR MEMBER DUES \$35.00

Honorary Member Dues \$17.50

Priests, Deacons, Disability and Honorary Life Members are EXEMPT

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

Seminarian Support (Voluntary Amount)



PLEASE PAY PROMPTLY, MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Co. 11961 AND FORWARD TO:

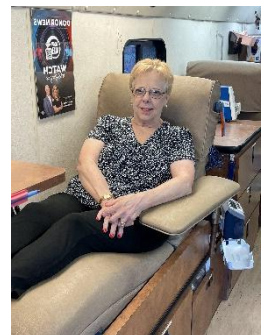
Michael Gossman, FS – 87 Long Ridge Ln, Ormond Beach, FL 32174, Phone: (317) 250-7628

Benefits of Knights of Columbus Membership

1. **Columbia Magazine** - Free subscription to the Order's award-winning magazine examining issues of concern to Knights, Catholics and families
2. **Knights of Columbus Rosary** - Blessed by the Supreme Chaplain, presented during the New Member's Exemplification
3. **Daily Mass** of Remembrance at **St. Mary's Church** - Mass for deceased members and their wives at the birthplace of the Order
4. **Insurance** - Access to a portfolio of top-quality life insurance, long-term care and annuity products exclusive for members and their families
5. **Family Fraternal Benefit** - For eligible families: a) pays \$1,500 for the child who dies before the age of 61 days; b) pays \$750 for the child who is stillborn at least 20 weeks after conception; c) offers guaranteed-issue insurance - up to \$5,000 - to any child under age 18
6. **Orphan Benefit** - \$80 monthly allotment for orphans of eligible families; up to \$7,000 in college scholarships available
7. **Member/Spouse Fraternal Benefit** - Accidental death coverage for member and spouse at no cost
8. **Widow Benefits** - a) continues to be covered under the Member/Spouse Fraternal Benefit; b) may purchase life insurance, long-term care insurance or annuities up to one year after insured member's death; c) receives a free lifetime subscription to Columbia; d) eligible with her children for scholarships, student loans, etc.
9. **Scholarships** - Scholarship programs for higher education available to members, their spouses and children from the Supreme Council. Council 11961 also sponsors a Scholarship Program for the youth of Flagler County.
10. **Leadership Development** - Opportunity to build personal leadership skills, public speaking ability, organizational skills, mentoring, etc.
11. **Fourth Degree** - Eligibility to join the Patriotic Degree
12. **Honorary Life Membership** - At age 70 with 25 years of membership or with 50 years of membership
13. **Membership Card** - Entitles participation in all Catholic, fraternal and social activities in member's council and also in over 15,000 councils throughout the world
14. **Activities** - participation in a variety of programs and activities conducted by St Mary's Council 11961 which include: Church Ministry, Charitable Fundraising, Socials, Dances, Dinners, Parades, and more.



THE BLOOD DRIVES CONTINUE. ON JUNE 1, 8 OF OUR VOLUNTEERS OUT OF 10 WERE ABLE TO DONATE THEIR PRECIOUS BLOOD. THANK YOU. THE BIG RED BUS WILL RETURN TO THE MONASTERY ON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH. COME ATTEND THE 10:00 MASS AND VOLUNTEER.



PRAY FOR THOSE ON OUR SICK LIST

**If you know of any Brother or family member
in distress, please notify one of the council officers.**

MARY, QUEEN OF THE KNIGHTS
intercede to Jesus for those in need of his healing.

Joe Jurec wife Karen , Nacci Family, Eric Bonilla, Mel Young
Joan Beck, Bob Stearns and son, Payton Phillips wife Jane, Peter Capozzi
Joe Rios Family, John Ruck, Dr. Joe Moore, Joe Pimentel, Rich Friesse, PDD Kevin Ryan's son Shane

Almighty and Eternal God, You are the everlasting health of those who believe in You. Hear us for Your sick servant for whom we implore the aid of Your tender mercy, that being restored to bodily health, he (she) may give thanks to You in Your Church. Through Christ our Lord.



Prayer for the Healing of Loved Ones

Almighty God, look with mercy and kindness on our loved ones who are sick, especially those listed here. Grant them good health. Send your holy Angels to watch over them. Protect them from danger, and keep them safe from lasting injury or harm. May the life-giving grace of Your Divine Son relieve their suffering and bring them to a full recovery. Embrace them with Your constant love, and with the power of Christ's healing presence, that Your bountiful goodness may be their source of comfort, strength and joy. Amen.

Prayer for the Faithful Departed

O Loving Father, Source of all life, please accompany Your servants, listed here, from this earth, to the Kingdom of heavenly peace, rest and eternal life that You have prepared for us. Forgive any sins that have been committed, and welcome these departed souls into the joyful embrace of Your never-ending love. Amen



Pray for our Deceased Brothers

Let us remember and pray for our Brothers that are no longer with us, George Baldyga, Michael Benedetto, Francis A. Bock, John A. Carey, Jerry Fondow, Hank Kesselring, Thomas Lee, Andrew Petersen, John Placenti, Richard Rentz, Gus Simms and also our former District Deputy Paul Gloekler. May our Lord welcome them home.



Pray for Vocations

"The way Jesus shows you is not easy. Rather, it is like a path winding up a mountain. Do not lose heart! The steeper the road, the faster it rises towards ever wider horizons."
St. John Paul II



If you are over 18 years of age; a citizen of the country in which you reside; a practical Catholic in union with the Holy See; and you are a Third Degree member in good standing, it's time to consider joining the ranks of the Fourth Degree. To learn more about the Patriotic Degree and how to join its ranks, contact:

SK Ramon Marrero 386-793-2251



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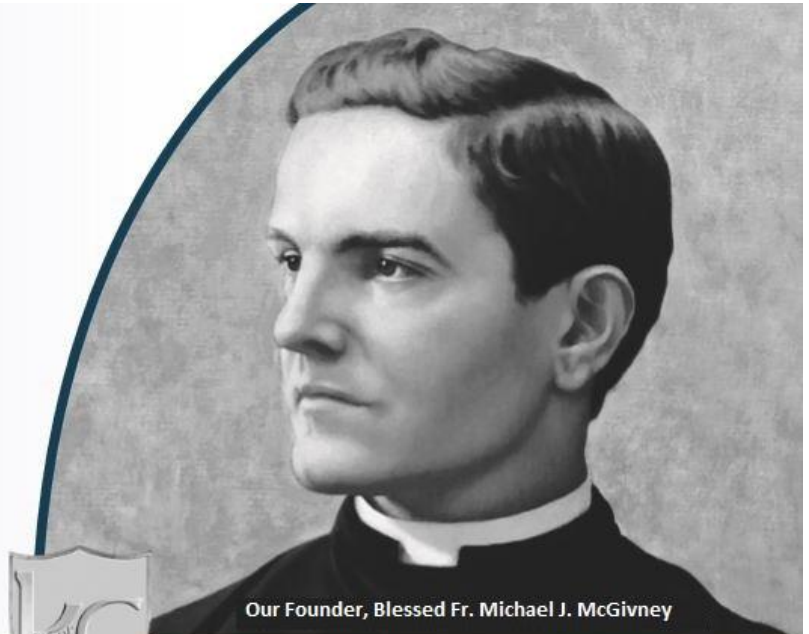
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