



KNIGHTS IN ACTION
January 2023
Our Lady of Victory Council 7968
Joseph R Perrone Assembly 2789

Grand Knight – Dan Lesh
Deputy Grand Knight – Dennis Daigle
Faithful Navigator -- Bill Marchand
Faithful Captain – Travis Robinson Jr
State Deputy – Robert S. Urrutia
District Deputy – Matt French
Insurance Agent – Jeff Fischer

Council business meetings are held on the **2nd Wednesday** of the month at 7 PM.
Council social meetings are held on the **4th Wednesday** of the month at 7 PM.
Assembly meetings are held on the **1st Thursday** of the month at 7 PM.
All meetings are held at the Knight's Hall, 701 E. James Lee Blvd.

GRAND KNIGHTS CORNER

INSURANCE NEWS

Please see attached flyer from Jeff Fischer.

Adopt a Highway Clean Up Time!

Brother John Mehalopoulos who has been the Knights Quarterly Highway Cleanup Chief for years just recently turned 80 years young and has decided to give that job up. Brother John has been working his heart out for over 20 years with the Bread and Pastry Ministry and he is still doing that on Mondays and occasionally helps on Fridays as well. He has been a great asset to our organization, and we appreciate all the hard work he has done for the Knights over the years.

Pending getting a replacement for John, our Grand Knight, Brother Dan Lesh took the responsibility and ran January's Highway Cleanup. We had a good turnout and did a good job cleaning up our two-mile stretch of Highway 90.

Picture 1 - A great turnout.

Picture 2 - Our hard-working brothers.

Picture 3 - Our kitchen crew preparing a wonderful breakfast.

Picture 4 - The working crew enjoying a great meal.

Note: Herb was there, he took the pictures.







Exemplification

District 5 conducted an Exemplification at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Niceville, the home of Council 7667, on 26 January. As noted in the December newsletter we are one of five districts in the state that conduct an Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. The five Districts are required to provide an Exemplification for First, Second and Third Degree once a month. Our next Exemplification is scheduled for 23 February. Each district Exemplification is displayed throughout the State of Florida and councils that have potential new members who watch the Exemplification become new members of the Knights of Columbus.

Brothers Herb Fosman and Mark Johns represented the Exemplification Team from our Council. The other attendees are representing their respective councils within District 5. Arnaldo is the Technical Director and has the important job of ensuring the Exemplification livestream was seen throughout the State of Florida without problems and he does a super job in addition to taking very nice pictures, like this one...



Pre-Lenten Fish Fry!

To ensure everyone has their act together for our upcoming Fish Fry Fridays, we had a pre-Lenten Fish Fry on the 20th. The first Lenten Fish Fry will be on 24 February, which is the Friday after Ash Wednesday. Then we will have another one every Friday after that right up to the Friday before Good Friday (31 March). All proceeds will be going into the charitable fund or in support of approved organizations. Your support of our delicious fish dinners is very much appreciated.

Picture 1 - The in-processing crew.

Picture 2 - The food preppers and cooks for the fish and fries.

Picture 3 - The Cole Slaw and Tartar Sauce team.

Picture 4 - The serving crew.







Emerald Coast Walk for Life

On Saturday, January 14th, the 7th Annual Emerald Coast Walk for Life commenced at Seville Square Park in Pensacola, kicking off at 11:00 am. Guest speakers were Christine Yeargin, Autumn Higashi, and Andrew Shirvell, all of whom gave great speeches talking about their passion for the Pro-Life movement. Each spoke about their experiences and efforts to inspire others to take a stand in protecting the unborn and working to abolish abortion. Many organizations were present that provide support to pregnant women, with information available on the services they provide. There was a great turn out of listeners and walkers, including many church youth groups.

Youth Director Brother Arnaldo Fonseca led twenty young people from Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church and Brother John Dick came out with his daughter and provided chaperon services while supporting and participating in this important event.

Also, Brother Thom Witzman came out with his wife Jane. Jane is the Executive Director and Coordinator of Emerald Coast Coalition for Life and they both assisted with transportation, set up and disassembly, greeting, and other supporting activities throughout the event.

Crestview's Knights of Columbus, Council 7968 was represented by Brothers Tom Witzman, Michael Winner, Arnie Fonseca, and John Dick. There were many Knights from surrounding areas also present. Everyone enjoyed being part of a beautiful, peaceful, and prayerful day in the park, receiving inspiring messages from the guest speakers, and showing their support by joining in the Walk for Life. The function ended around 1:00 pm.

Picture 1 – Brothers Tom, Michael, Arnie, and John.

Picture 2 – The wonderful participation from Our Lady of Victory Church.

Picture 3 - Brother Tom Witzman and his wife Jane.

Pictures 4 & 5 – Some of the participants, what a great turn out.

Thank you, Brother Michael Winner, for providing the newsletter input for this event.





EMERALD COAST
COALITION FOR

PRO
IS PRO WOMAN
LIFE



EMERALD COAST
COALITION FOR LIFE

ECCFL.ORG



Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

Brother Bill Marchand headed up the annual Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest". The 16 participants were all from Our Lady of Victory Church. The first-place winners in each age group received a \$50 gift card, second place a \$25 gift card and third place a \$20 gift card. The winners by age group were:

Age 5 to 7 - First Place Ellie Dodd Fonseca, Second Place Eli Liam Whitfield and Third Place was Maria Mayorquin

Age 8 to 10 - First Place Caroline Forsman, Second Place - America Mayorquin and Third Place Veronica Mayorquin

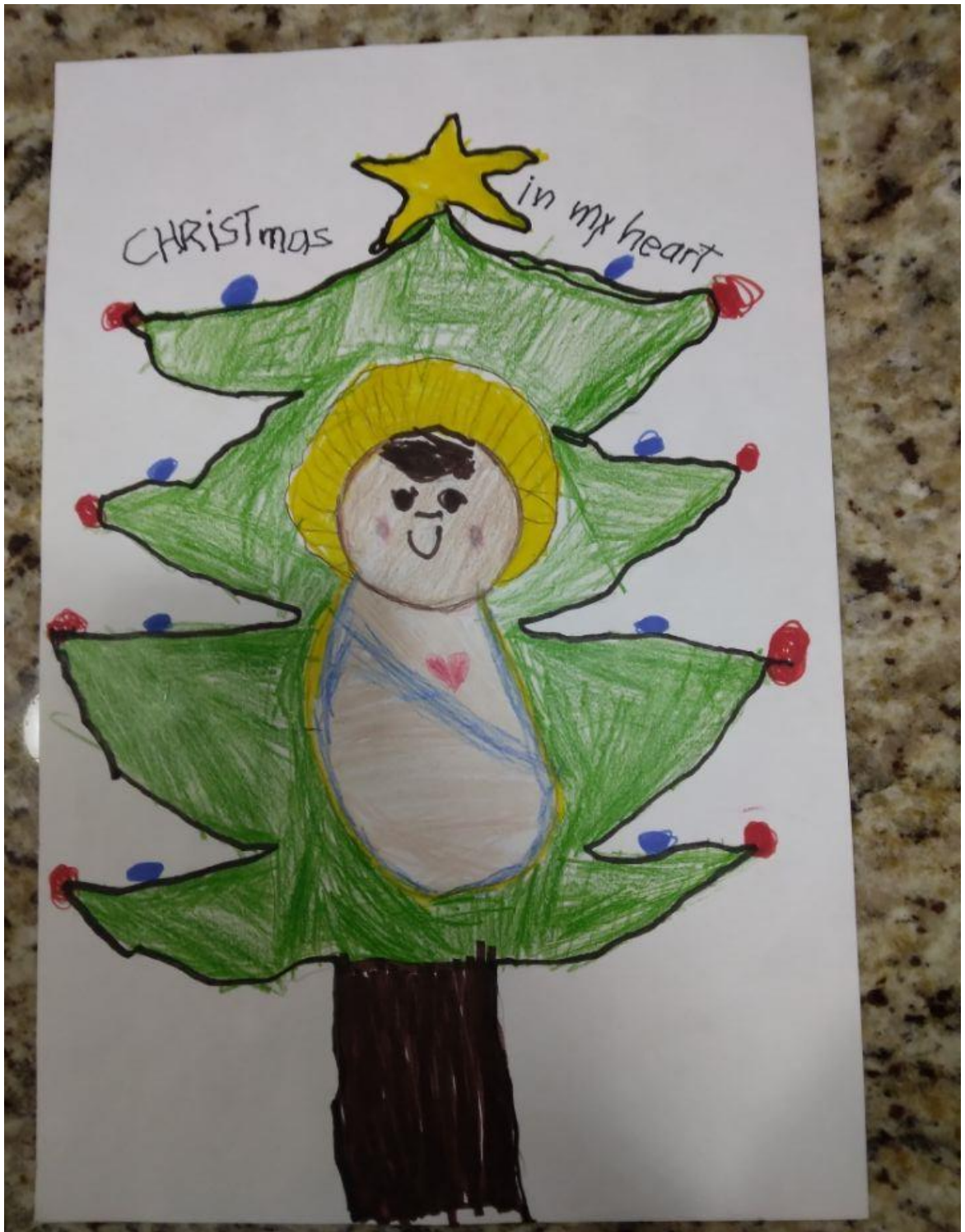
Age 11 to 14 - First Place Elisa Foreman and Second Place Daniel Mayorquin

The First Place Winners from each age group went on to compete at the District Level. We had one winner there in the 5 to 7 age group, Ellie Dodd Fonseca who is now competing at the Regional Level. Once the results of that contest are announced they will be made available.



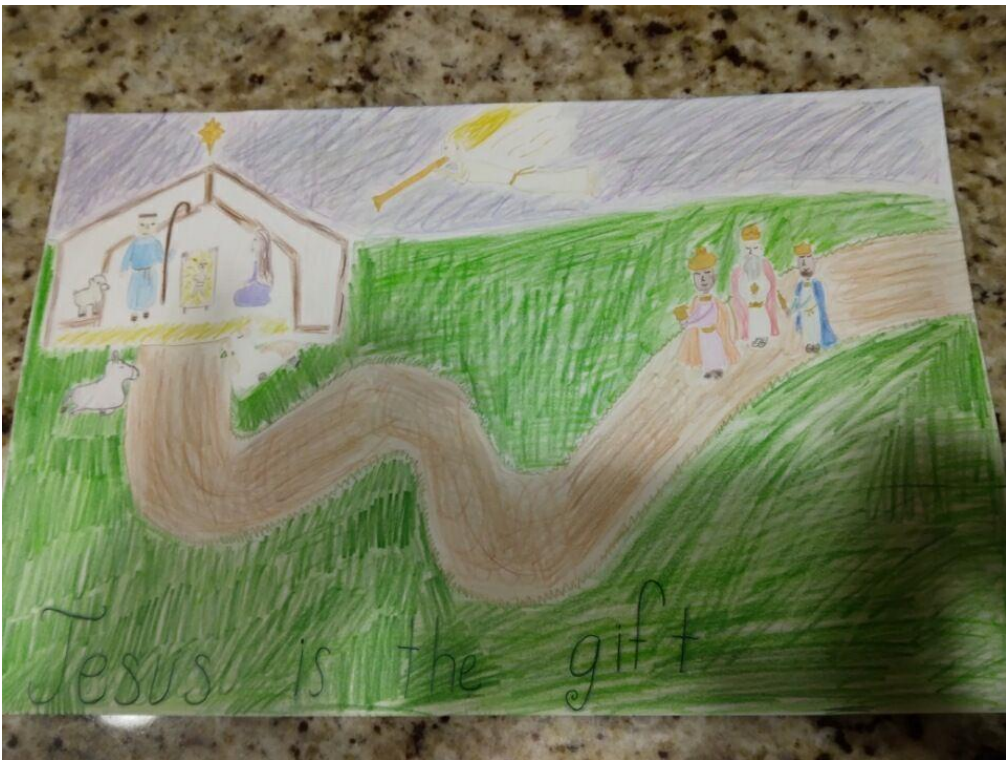
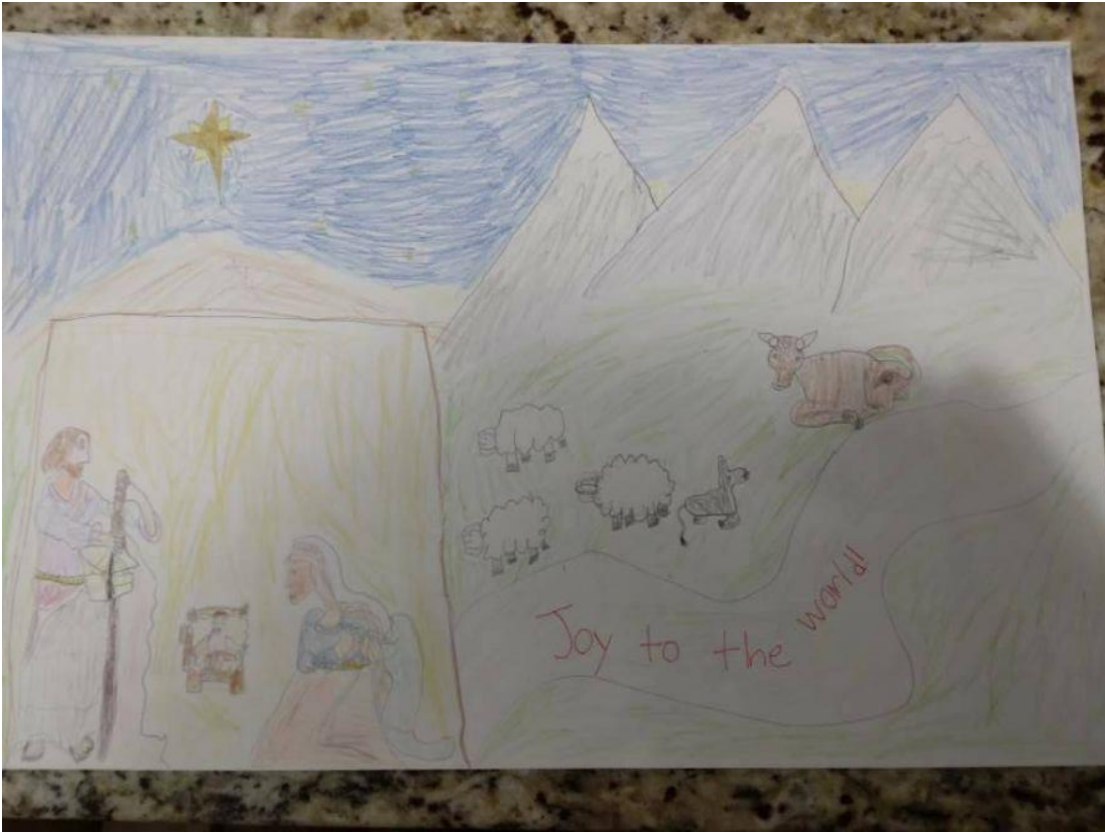
Ellie Dodd Fonseca, age 5 to 7 level, won First Place at the Regional Level and her Poster, picture 1, will move on to compete in the Florida State competition. Once results are known there, they will be made available.

Pictures - First Place winners in each age group as noted above



CHRISTmas

in my heart



Catholic Caring Coach!

The 10th of January was another second Tuesday of the month when Catholic Charities provides a week's worth of food to local families in need. After unloading the van, the volunteers put together 72 bags of food but we ended up only needing 42, which is unusual. The remaining 30 bags were returned to Catholic Charities. We normally do not have that much leftover and hope to see many more families next month. If you would like to help next time, be at the Parish Hall on the 14th of February between 11:15 and 11:30 AM and join in on the fun.

Picture 1 - Catholic Charities van loaded with food.

Pictures 2, 3 and 4 - The crew filling the bags with food.

Picture 5 - Brother Mike taking the bags to the issue point.

Picture 6 - Brother Bob directing traffic.

Picture 7 - The workers enjoying a very nice lunch.









What goes up, must come down!

In the December newsletter we saw very nice pictures of Knights setting up the Nativity Scene in front of Our Lady of Victory Church. So, this month we have an article showing the Knights taking the Nativity Scene back down.

Pictures 1 thru 4 - The Brother Knights who disassembled the Nativity and cleaned up the area. Pictures were taken by Brother Mike Winner. Thanks, fellows, for the great job you all did.

In pictures 5 and 6 Brother Steve is taking measurements. He says the Nativity Scene will have a new home next year. That is something we can all looking forward to.









End of Year Reports!

Directors will be writing their annual Director reports that must be sent to Florida State and received NLT 31 March. This may change to an early April due date. If it does, we will get the word out to you. Also, we need to nominate our Knight and Family of the Year and have that to the Grand Knight by 1 March. On 2 March the Council Officers will be making the selections and results reported at the Business Meeting held on 8 March. After the announcement of the Knight and Family of the Year has been made, the Knights who submitted the nominations will have sufficient time to get their writeups to Florida State by 31 March. Because Florida State holds their annual meetings in May of every year. The Directors reports and Knight and Family of the Year Reports will be written from period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, Amen.

In Memoriam, Baltasar (Rod) Echevarria



In July of 2006 Rod and Gloria Echevarria moved to Texas to be closer to their kids. While there, Rod transferred his Council membership to Texas, but remained a Fourth Degree member of our Assembly and paid his dues. At our monthly 4th Degree meeting held on 5 Jan we received notification from Supreme that Baltasar (Rod) Echevarria had passed away on the 24th of July 2022 at age 86. For those who knew Rod, the news was terrible.

Two days later Herb and Uschi contacted Rod's wife Gloria. Unfortunately, she has dementia, and it took a few minutes talking to her before she remembered us. Herb gave Gloria his telephone number and asked that we get some info on Rod's passing. She said her daughter was coming and she would provide the information to her, but that did not happen. Uschi and I said a prayer hoping we would get the requested information on Rod. Two weeks later we received a call from Gloria's daughter, Maria Elena, telling us she found our telephone on a piece of paper. So, our prayer was answered. The following information was provided by Rod's daughter:

Rod was born May 2, 1936, in Caguas, Puerto Rico. In his youth, he worked as a professional trumpet player, and his life-long love of music was known to all around him as he often hummed one of his favorite tunes.

He married his wife, Gloria, on April 22, 1962, and they shared 60 years of unconditional love that was inspirational. He served in the US Air Force at locations throughout the world, retiring as a Chief Master Sergeant after more than 30 years of service.

Rod was a faithful and devoted Catholic, serving as a member of the Knights of Columbus since 1991 and was a Fourth Degree Knight, and was an active supporter of both church and community.

Most of all, Rod was a proud husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and a beloved friend to many. His contagious humor, compassion, generosity, and vivacious personality will be truly missed.

Along with his wife, Gloria, Rod is survived by his five children, their spouses, 11 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and a sister.

Rod had a Knights Honor Guard for the funeral, as well as a military honor guard. He was buried in full regalia and was laid to rest at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

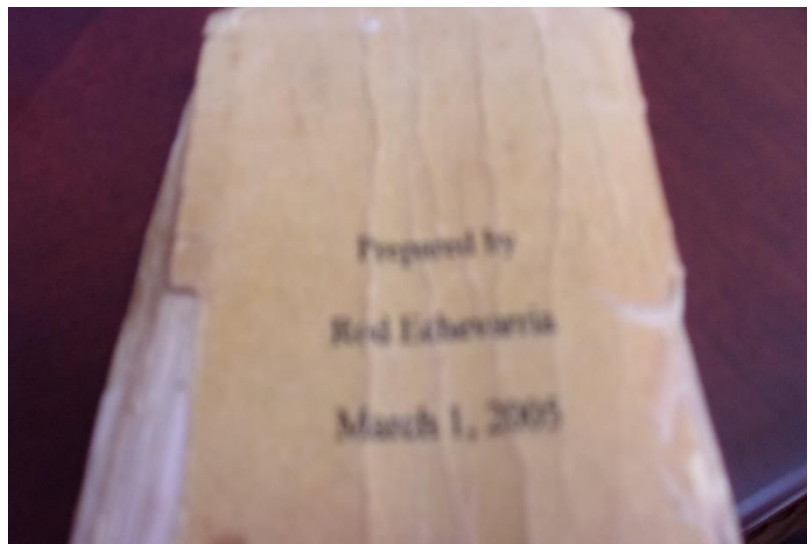
Rod was a member of our Council from 1991 until his departure in Jul 2006. Most of that time Rod was the Council's Webmaster and served as the primary contact for all aspects of the website handling a range of responsibilities and did a super job. Rod was also a member of the OLV church choir. At the farewell party held for Rod and Gloria back in Jun 2006 Debbie Dailey, President of the Ladies Auxiliary, fare-welled Gloria and presented her with a gift from the Ladies Auxiliary for all the wonderful support she provided to the Ladies Auxiliary. Herb Fosman, Master of Ceremonies, who presented Rod's accomplishments, identified him as a Marathon winner for all he had done for the council, the church and the community and presented him a marathon medal award. Following that the Grand Knight, Ray Hornbaker, presented Rod with a beautiful plaque highlighting all the positions he held since his membership and presented a beautiful bouquet of flowers to Gloria. It was a wonderful event.

Picture 1 was taken the night before Rod passed away, what a guy!

Picture 2 Is a miniature directory and address book that Rod made back on 1 March 2005 for every knight that wanted a copy. This one in the picture belongs to Herb who still uses it to this day, 17 years later.



The Knights of Columbus, Council 7968, has enrolled Rod as a Perpetual Member to the Society of Saint Columbans, Amen



Knight of the Month

Steve Malutich was selected as Knight of the Month for January 2023. Steve has been a very active Knight the last few months. He joined the Bingo Team and was trained to be a bingo caller. The past two months Steve helped with the food truck is delivered by Catholic Charities the second Tuesday of every month and a week's worth of food is bagged by helpers and passed to about 60 or so families who remain in their cars. Steve also helped setting up this years Nativity Scene in front of the church and later helped to take it back down. Steve also noted the housing of the Nativity Scene is old and needs to be replaced. A project he plans to start before next Christmas. Steve also helped with Highway Cleanup on 28 January. Lastly, Steve will be attending the Fourth Degree Ceremony to be held at St. Sylvester Church in Gulf Breeze on 4 March 23 and become a Sir Knight.

Here is a picture of the Grand Knight, Daniel Lesh, presenting Steve with the Knight of the Month Certificate for the month of January 2023.



Family of the Month

Brother Steve and Joann Kerr were selected as Family of the Month. Both Steve and Joann are dedicated members of the Bingo Team, working every three weeks. Steve has been helping with bingo for a very long time and he is always there when scheduled to work. Joann works in the kitchen taking orders and delivering food to the bingo customers. Both Steve and Joann have also helped with the second Tuesday of the Month special food event where food is delivered to the Parish Hall by Catholic Charities and a week's worth of food is bagged by volunteers and passed out to about 60 or so families who remain in their cars, a job where help is always needed. Lastly, Steve will be attending the Fourth Degree Ceremony to be held at St. Sylvester Church in Gulf Breeze on 4 Mar 23 and become a Sir Knight.



Upcoming Events

February

- 11th and 12th Wear Council shirts to church
- 14th Team 1 works bingo
- 14th Catholic Charities Food Truck
- 15th Semi Annual Audit is due
- 21st Team 2 works bingo
- 24th Lenten Fish Fry at the Hall from 4 to 7 pm
- 28th Team 3 works bingo

And now a note from the desk of our lecturer Brother Richard Walcheck...

Dad jokes are subject to ridicule. Personally, I enjoy them and want others to share theirs with the council. The stories will be judged, and a winner chosen. The best joke winner will receive paid membership for the upcoming year. Second place will receive a council sport shirt. Entries must be submitted in writing and given to the council either at a meeting or Tuesday bingo. Winners will be announced at the officer's installation. The council lecturer will be the sole judge and all decisions are final!