



KNIGHTS IN ACTION

July 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 – Richard P. Hughes

District Deputy – Travis Robinson Jr

Insurance Agent – Jeff Fischer

Council business meetings are held on the **2nd Wednesday** of the month at 7PM.

Council social meetings are held on the **4th Wednesday** of the month at 7PM.

Assembly meetings are held on the **1st Thursday** of the month at 7PM.

All meetings are held at the Knight's Hall, 701 E. James Lee Blvd.

INSURANCE NEWS

I was watching television the other day and saw an advertisement with the theme "Shop Local." The ad touted the many benefits of putting your dollars to work with businesses that are owned and operated by those who live and work in the community. In addition to supporting the local neighborhood and community, the ad pointed to the personal service and the unique products one can find locally. Big box stores are great, they are convenient and provide goods at competitive prices. But many products are uniform; you can get the same thing at many other places. Their service is sometimes wanting; I can remember wandering in a big box retailer looking for help. However, when I shop at some of my favorite local spots, I always get a genuine greeting, personal help and the feeling that they really appreciate me being there and supporting them. All this got me thinking

about our local councils. The Order is doing great things in countries far and wide. We have big ideas, big plans...and they are important and have tremendous impact on making our world better. But on a local level you members are the face of the Knights of Columbus. When our local Catholic community thinks of the Knights of Columbus, I'm sure it is you members who come to mind. Our Catholic community sees all the good works you do locally. They see you volunteering to help at parish events, supporting your pastor in his needs. Local folks see you handing out coats for kids, holding fundraisers to help local families, taking the lead at sacramental events, visiting the homebound. For the Catholics in the council and in the parish—you, my Brother Knights...you, are the Knights of Columbus. You represent all that is good in our Order. When you lead with faith, protect your family, serve others and defend your values, you are a witness inspired by our founding principles. Our Supreme Convention in Orlando, Florida, Will highlight many of the accomplishments from the previous fraternal year. I think we can all be justly proud of the difference the Knights of Columbus makes. Thank you for all you do! I want to congratulate you on your contribution to the Order's success and especially for the impact you in this council have had on the local Catholic community! Vivat Jesus

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Vivat Jesus and May God bless you all,
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New Council Officers

On the 2nd of July, the installation of our new officers for Council 7968 was held at Our Lady of Victory Church, followed by the installation of the Fourth Degree Joseph R. Perrone Assembly 2789. We had a very nice turnout of members and their wives with both participating in the events. All the ladies received a beautiful red rose.

Picture 1 - The outgoing District Deputy Brother Matt French running the event and taking the place of our new District Deputy Travis Robinson who was attending a state meeting.

Picture 2 - The new officers of the Council for Fraternal Year 2023-2024.

Picture 3 - Father Roy blessing the Council medals.

Picture 4 - Wives placing the medals on their husbands.

Picture 5 - A picture of Fraternal Year 2023-2024 officers and event participants.

Picture 6 - Grand Knight Dan Lesh offering some closing remarks.



Fourth Degree Ceremony

Picture 1 - Field Marshall Brother Tony Jette running the event.

Picture 2 - District Warden, Brother Bob Gualtieri, saying the opening prayer. Father Roy had an appointment and had to leave.

Picture 3 - The 4th Degree officers for Fraternal Year 2023-2024.

Picture 4 - Linda placed the Faithful Navigator medal on Bill and received a red rose from the District Warden

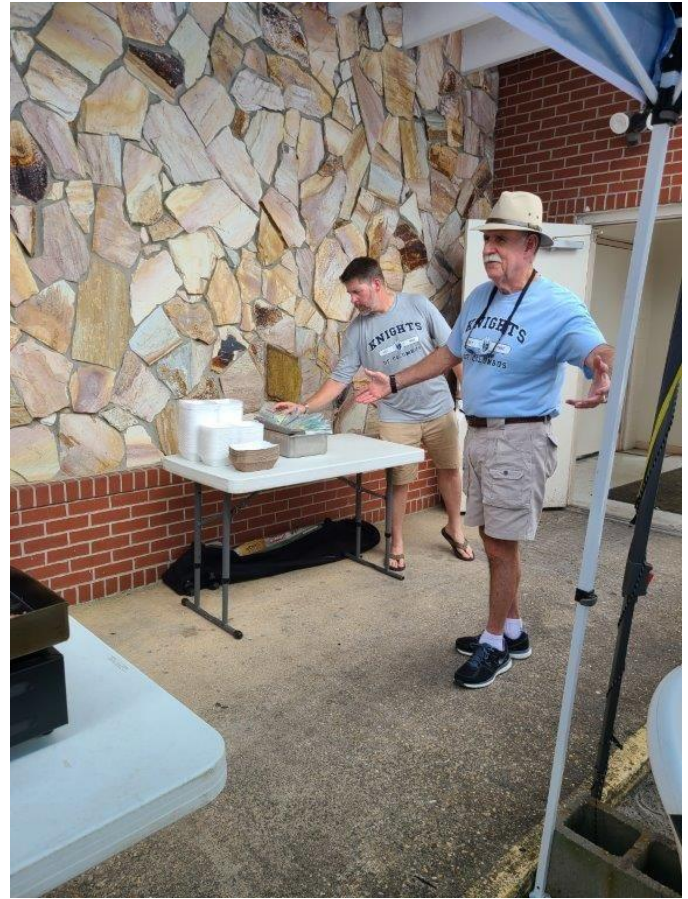
Picture 5 - A group picture of the 4th Degree officers.

Picture 6 - The 4th Degree Faithful Navigator getting ready to offer some closing words.



Fourth of July

The Knights along with their wives held a special event at the Knight's Hall on the 4th of July from 3:00 to 7:30 PM. They sold a \$5.00 meal that included a hot dog or cheeseburger, a bag of chips and a drink. Popcorn was also available for \$1.00 a bag. The hard-working Knights supported by their wives earned \$654.00 that went into the Knights Charity Fund and will be used to help those in need. The pictures were taken by Jeanine Robinson and include those who worked and were available to work if needed. Thanks to all that helped make the event successful.





Catholic Charities

On the second Tuesday of July (the 12th), Catholic Charities delivered hundreds of pounds of food to the Parish hall. The volunteers unloaded the food from the van and brought it into the Parish Hall where it was unpacked and separated onto tables. The workers formed an assembly line and filled 60 bags with a week's supply of food: meat, bread, canned goods and many other goodies. 45 of the 60 bags were given out to those in need. The remaining 15 bags were returned to Catholic Charities.

Picture 1 - Brother Travis directing traffic.

Picture 2 – Unpacking the food brought in from the van.

Picture 3 - Brother Doug and wife Peggy setting up the luncheon table.

Picture 4 - Bags of food containing a week's supply of food ready for distribution.

Picture 5 - Three rows of cars waiting for food.

Picture 6 - Helpers getting ready to provide filled bags into the waiting cars.

Picture 7 - Helpers enjoying a nice lunch of sandwiches, pastries, veggies, and drinks.

The next 2nd Tuesday will be on the 8th of Aug. Mark your calendars and come out to help and enjoy the fun.





Exemplification livestream was seen throughout the State of Florida. He does a great job and takes wonderful pictures which he shares with everyone on the team. He is always so busy ensuring that everyone can be properly seen in the end picture that he doesn't join in.

Picture 1 - To profess our commitment to all the principles of the Knights of Columbus, the Presiding Officer asked all those present to rise and raise their right hand.

Picture 2 - A picture of the District 5 Exemplification Team along with the three new members. The gentleman in the white shirt is Robby Wilcox, a new member to Council 7968

District Exemplification

There are three District 5 Presiding officers that present the Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity throughout Florida. They are Brothers John Rafferty, Matt French and Travis Robinson. On the 13th of July at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Niceville Matt French presided over the Exemplification Ceremony. It was a very nice event with a total of three men becoming Third Degree Knights, one of which was from Council 7968. We had an excellent turnout from our council for the event. Brother Deacon Dan Daily served as the Chaplain and led us in the opening and closing prayers. Brother Herb presented the talk on Charity and the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Brother Travis operated a computer and ensured the words to the ceremony were properly processed on the ceremonial screen. And lastly Brother Arnie Fonseca, the District 5 Technical Director, made sure that the



Adopt a Highway

Early on Saturday the 15th of July, several Brothers and their family members gathered at the hall for the quarterly Cleanup of Highway 90. Our area of responsibility extends 1 mile in each direction from the hall. The litter bugs were busy over the past 3 months as the roadside was quite dirty and we could have used more help. But those who were there made do, and later enjoyed a SUPER full course breakfast prepared by our Highway Cleanup Cook Brother Travis.

Picture 1 - The crew getting ready to venture out.

Picture 2 - Workers in action cleaning Highway 90 East.

Picture 3 - KofC Council 7968 adopted Highway 90 East and West about 25 years ago.

Picture 4 - Karen helping our cook Brother Travis.

Picture 5 – The crew enjoying a super breakfast consisting of eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy, orange juice and donuts, WOW!

Herb took the pictures and helped out as well.



Knights Social Event

We had some great food and fellowship for our social gathering on Wednesday evening the 26th of July. Brother Marti, Picture 1, took responsibility for bringing the food and did a super job along with others who brought in some additional goodies. We also had the opportunity to sing Happy Birthday to Mark Johns who was celebrating his 55th birthday. Our next social will be on the 23rd of August. Hope to see you there!



Baby Bottle Drive Update

The Baby Bottle Drive that we held last year in November raised over \$5600. \$4000 of that went to the Crestview Pregnancy Center. The rest of the money raised was given to two other pregnancy centers in the area. For every \$500 that we raised we received an additional \$100 from Supreme up to a maximum of \$400.00. Because we raised and distributed over \$5600, we received the maximum of \$400.00 in matching funds from Supreme. On the 24th of July, Dan Lesh, our Grand Knight, presented a second check to the Crestview Pregnancy Center for \$400.

This year's Baby Bottle Drive is coming up in November. Start saving your coins for your donation now!



A Note From our former Membership Director, Herb Fosman

Hello Fellows, as you all know Council 7968 received Supreme's Double Star Council Award for Fraternal Year 2022-2023. Our new Fraternal Year for 2023-2024 began on 1 July. It would be wonderful if we could win Supreme's Star Council Award again this Fraternal year. There is a lot we have to do to earn the Star Council Award, but the main thing we have to do is bring in 11 new members. We have already brought in 1 new member, so we only have 10 more to go. You may be surprised how easy it is to bring in a new man. If you see someone you have not seen in church before, introduce yourself to him and ask if he is a member of the Knights. If he is not a member, he may want to join. You may even have friends that might want to join. If you bring in a new member you will receive \$25 off your membership dues next year and if you bring in two new members you won't have to pay any dues next year. So go to work and best of luck. Should you bring in a new member or two, just make sure to let the Financial Secretary (Jim Pazienza) know so you will receive credit on your dues next year.

Network Upgrade

To help improve the communication system in the hall, Grand Knight Dan Lesh and Brother Tony Alcobia installed some much-needed new ethernet cabling. These guys ended up putting in 400 feet of cat 5 wire, 16 new connectors, and 10 new wall outlets. This upgrade will speed network communications for direct connect devices. In picture 1 you see Tony working in the attic, a very difficult job any time of the year but especially in July! The remaining pictures show Dan and Tony working in the hall completing the rest of the installation. Thank you, fellows, for your hard work.



Knight of the Month

Jim Nelson was selected as Knight of the Month for June. Jim, at 88 years of age, is an amazing guy. He works bingo every Tuesday night helping with quarter Bingo and working in the kitchen when needed. This is something he has been doing for many years. In addition to that, he helps at all the special events held by the council. For example, the Lenten Fish Fry dinners, spaghetti dinners, etc. He also attends most Council meetings although he lives 30 miles away in DeFuniak Springs! An amazing fellow well deserving of Knight of the Month.



Family of the Month

John and Catherine Widmeier were selected as Family of the Month for June. John, at 88 years of age, and his wife are an amazing couple. For 20 plus years they have worked at Caring and Sharing every Tuesday helping to care for the needy within the community. They are also members of the Bread and Pastry Ministry and pick up bread and pastries from a local grocery store every Saturday morning and deliver it to the Nazarene Church. The church then provides a meal, bread, and pastries to the needy. They also deliver bread and pastries to Crestview Area Shelter for the Homeless. An amazing couple who is deserving of this high recognition.

