

# CROSS AND COMPASS

*A Publication of the Knights  
of Columbus  
Council 9924  
August 2023*



## Grand Knights Message

Greetings, Brothers!

Welcome to the August edition of the Cross and Compass. The temperature continues to climb outside, but the good news is the church is air conditioned and is always here waiting for us. Hopefully, we will start getting back to cooler temperatures before too long. I wanted to start out by sending out a quick "thank you" to all the members. I have gotten so many well wishes over the last month that I have lost count, but there is nothing better to me than meeting our membership. I really learn a lot from everyone as we all have our own story. I also want to thank everyone who has volunteered to help the council this year. We still have several spots available so if you are interested, please let me or one of the officers know. We need to get Tom Reno some help with the clothing drive he runs, and we also need someone or a group of men to take over the visitation committee as well. You do not need to have a fancy resume to serve either, just be a part of the council. It is a wonderful way to meet new people as well.



As we begin to wind down the summer and gearing up for the fall, we have a lot of great activities planned. The annual Golf Outing will be here before we know it, and this is always a great event. If you have not sponsored a hole yet or a foursome, please consider doing so or please see Dave Tura or his committee if you have any questions or want to help. As well our now Past GK Ron Bowes will be chairing the Raffle this year for us. I'm hoping everyone can support Ron as well as our Priests with the raffle as these dollars are really needed for the Faith Appeal. Be sure to check out the calendar so you can stay up to date on everything that is going on.

Lastly, let us remember for Catholics, the month of August holds a particular significance as it is dedicated to the devotion of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This devotion focuses on honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary and her compassionate, loving heart. Throughout August, Catholics may participate in special prayers, processions, and novenas dedicated to the Immaculate Heart, seeking her intercession and guidance in their spiritual journey. Additionally, August 15th marks the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, commemorating the belief that Mary was taken body and soul into Heaven at the end of her earthly life. This feast day is celebrated with joy and reverence by Catholics worldwide. The month of August offers a wonderful opportunity for Catholics to deepen their faith and draw closer to the Mother of Jesus through prayer and devotion to the Immaculate Heart.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting and at mass.

Vivat Jesus

Rick Kuertz, GK

## Council 9924 2023-2024

### Grand Knight

*Rick Kuertz 513-430-4330*

### Deputy Grand Knight

*Eric Bisighini 860-899-8785*

### Chancellor

*John Tosado 610-428-9292*

### Treasurer

*Robert Rueger 941-493-4927*

### Advocate

*Peter Spagnuolo 941-786-6638*

### Recorder

*Robert Burhoe 941-460-6546*

### Warden

*Bobby Whiting 941-416-5912*

### Outside Guard

*Larry Middendorf 513-884-1559*

### Lecturer

*Jay Junkus 630-842-3618*

### Trustee 3 Year

*Ron Bowes 412-965-1983*

### Trustee 2 Year

*Bill Szyper 704-776-041*

### Trustee 1 Year

*Dave Tura 978-837-0692*

### Chaplain

*Father Saji*

### Financial Secretary

*Bill Morris 214-244-9464*

### Field Agent

*Brian DeBlauw 440-669-8957*

### District Deputy

*Michael Costanza 941-400-7416*



## **Prayers for Our Sick & Distressed**

Jim Collins  
Patrick Burke  
Dennis Putman  
Scott Sheldon  
Armand Padula  
Dick Maier  
**Jack Stass**

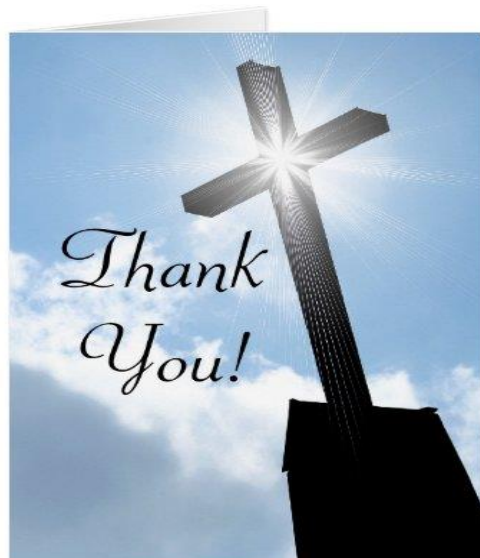


## **Remembering Those Close To Us**



## **Prayers For Those Close To Us**

*Thank you letters from those receiving donations from Council 9924. These illustrate the value of the rewards of our charitable work and commitment to those in need.*



# Epiphany Cathedral



**Leah Mihm, Director of Development at Epiphany Cathedral School, called to say thank you for our \$500 donation.**

**Leah will attend our September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to give us a talk on the school. She will speak prior to our meeting, at approximately 6:30. She will show a short video as part of her presentation.**



7/27/23

Dear Knights of Columbus  
Our Lady of Lourdes,

Thank you for your prayers and support. I hope and pray that you all are doing well. May the Lord in this summer give you peace and joy to continue serving him in your daily lives. I'll pray for you from Fatima. We'll go to the world youth day to Portugal, you'll be in my prayers. God bless!

In Christ,  
Andres Cordero.





**CATHOLIC CHARITIES**  
**Diocese of Venice, Inc.**  
**Our Mother's House**

Most Reverend Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of Venice in Florida  
Rev. Msgr. Stephen E. McNamara, V.F. - Vicar General  
Dr. Volodymyr Smeryk, M.A., J.C.D., J.D. - Chancellor

Rita Cavuoto, Chair  
Robert Farnham, Vice-Chair  
Eduardo Gloria, Chief Executive Officer

**July 26, 2023**

**Mr. Bill Morris**

**Knights of Colum bus 9924**

**1201 Center Rd**

**Venice, FL Z4292-3810**

**Dear Mr. Morris,**

**Please accept this acknowledgment of your donation to Our Mother's House of \$500.00 received on 7/20/2022.**

**Your gift supports single mothers and their children who would otherwise be homeless. Mothers joining the program must attend life skills, parenting, self-esteem, nutrition, and financial literacy classes. They must also agree to accept communal responsibilities and genuinely want to move on to independence. As a result of your contribution, we can continue to be a beacon of light and hope that better days are ahead.**

**One recent success story that comes to mind is a mother of a two-week-old infant that was suddenly forced into poverty by the abandonment of the baby's father. On the verge of living in a car and considering giving her newborn up for adoption, she found us, and we were able to offer help quickly. She entered Our Mother's House program and was provided with food and shelter; she learned financial responsibility and the power of education. During the 18 months that she resided at Our Mother's House, she finished her college degree, was offered a position with a major pharmaceutical company overseeing clinical trials, and can now provide for herself. She said it best: "Now I have a career, not just a job; it's like a dream come true. "**

**The success of our programs is only possible with your support. Because of you and your generosity, lives are changed forever, and together, we can continue to provide *help, create hope, and serve all.***

**Be Well,**

**Eduardo Gloria**

**Chief Executive Officer**



# CELEBRATIONS



## BIRTHDAYS

Name		Age
Joseph	Sciano	92
Lawrence	Baranick	85
Laurence	Fischer	83
James	Bennett	83
John	Le Duke	81
Kirby	Meagher	81
Thomas	Lucia	79
Richard	Sheldon	77
Dennis	Charles	77
Ronald	Courtney	76
Lee	Smutz	75
Patrick	Burke	73
David	Kristie	72
Michael	Davis	71
Lee	Hendrickson	68
John	Kopinsky	66
Dan	Dacey	62
Vince	Gelsomino	62
David	Smith	57
Stefano	Ragozzino	49

## ANNIVERSARIES

Name		Years
William	Tarr	56
Eugene	Clifford	46
David	Smith	38
Dennis	Charles	34
Robert	Martin	28
David	Mulvaney	28
Michael	Davis	16
Ralph	Mantello	4

Red denotes Life Members

## SERVICE PROGRAMS

**Director** – Nick Catone 717-818-3167

**Community** - Dan Dacey 493-9107

**Faith Director** – Bob Burhoe 617-899-3109

**Family Director** - Nick Catone 717-818-3167

**Blood Donor** –Henry VonSalzen 631-672-1803

**Membership** – Ed Jones 240-507-0800

**Retention** – Bill Morris 214-244-9464

**Culture of Life**- John Yaglenski 941-408-7558

**Publicity** - Jim Palermo 941-493-3424

**Food Collection** - Eric Bisighini 860-899-8785

James Collins 917-837-8698

**Cross & Compass** – Ray Pronko 858-880-8376

**Backpack** – Mike Milak 941-380-7248

**Insurance Promotion**

**Vocations Chairman** - Greg Walsh 941-681-2438

**Council Prayer Tree** -

**Fourth Degree** – Mike Milak 941-380-7248

**Visitation** - Rick Kuertz 513-430-4330

**Food Service** – John Tosado 610-428-9292



## July Food Collection

**\$1,816 in donations and 1,067 lbs of food collected. Thanks to all who donated their time, goods and money.**



# Barbara Diehl Committee



**Grand Knight Rick Kuertz, Peter Spagnuolo, Jim Palermo, John Chuimento and Ron Bowes.**

Recognition for their stewardship of the \$50,000 donation from Barbara Diehl for the benefit of children. The most recent activity was a **“Christmas in July”** gathering where gifts were distributed to many happy children.

# ★ Ron Bowes ★

## Four Year Grand Knight



Grand Knight Rick Kuertz, Ron Bowes, Peter Spagnuolo

During Ron's four year leadership of our council, he has achieved Star Council and the Columbian Award in each of those four years. He has led us in raising thousands of dollars for various charities including The Loveland Center, St. Vincent de Paul, Special Olympics, St. Joseph the Worker, St Michael Outreach Center and many, many more.

Our Blood drives have exceeded all expectations and he has increased our membership each year while leading us to an all time high in membership. And let's not forget his claim to fame, "Irish Night", with Andy Cooney. Ron has always had the council's best interest at heart and has always put his faith in action representing us in the church community, the Knights of Columbus and beyond.

**All the brothers Thank YOU for an amazing run!**

# New Members



# Transfers

**Welcome to Council 9924. We look forward to your contributions.**

**Ed Jones – Membership Chairman**

# Council Merchandise



**If you would like to order a Council shirt or ballcap, please click on the link below. We have sizes Small through XXXL.**

**Shirts are \$25 or \$28 depending on size and optional embroidery of your name on the shirt is \$3. Ballcaps are \$20.**

**If you have misplaced your name badge, please let me know.**

**<https://www.wesharegiving.org/app/giving/WeShare-20001756>**

**Bill Morris, FS**

# Knight Times



Proverbs 11:25 The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

**We are always in need of ushers for most masses, volunteers for food collection and readers for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Rosary.**

# Sock Drive



Father Jay has challenged us to collect 10,000 pairs of socks to help workers in need. So far, we have collected 1842 pairs. Ollies Bargain Outlet has low prices on work socks. They can be collected at the monthly meeting. This will be an ongoing effort.

Marty Reis

[mkreis5375@gmail.com](mailto:mkreis5375@gmail.com)

# Our Mother's House



There is a continuous need for the items listed below, especially during the off-season to support mothers and their children. Please bring any of these items to the next meeting for collection:

**Diapers 4&6  
Paper Towels**

**Pullups 3T 4T 5T  
Dish Soap**

**Toilet Paper  
Laundry Soap**

In addition, the council passed a resolution supporting this cause with a \$500 donation.

John Chiumento  
[mrandmrsc71@comcast.net](mailto:mrandmrsc71@comcast.net) 941-445-2566



## Knights of Columbus 9924 Backpack Program Update



Since The Knights of Columbus from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Venice was approached by AFFB 15 years ago to get involved with the Backpack Program, Jim Palermo was the KoC Chairman. The Council handled Oak Park at the Middle School and Taylor Ranch School. Oak Park no longer exists. It has been a very meaningful 16 years knowing and seeing the good we have done for the kids and families in this area. Since Covid the involvement of the Knights has been drastically reduced. Also, as more and more donors have turned to QCD's from their IRA's we felt it appropriate to alert all donors and all Knights to send donations directly to AFFB, a 501c3 charity. There is no need for the knights to be the middleman since we turned over all donated backpack money to AFFB anyway. We ask that in the future you mark your donations to AFB and in the subject line that you note FOR Benefit of the Knights of Columbus.

Over the past 2 years we have been blessed with a few significant donations that have allowed us to support 100 students at Taylor Ranch School with weekend lunch bags as well as providing 75 Turkey Dinners for their families at Thanksgiving and 75 Ham Dinners for Christmas. But as with all programs the needs in our communities continue to grow and the need for more volunteers and donations along with it. **Volunteering can be done in one of two ways:**

1. **Warehouse Packing of Back Packs and Case goods. Sessions last 2-3 hours have both morning and afternoon shifts. AFB is located in Sarasota off Fruitville Road.**
2. **Mobile Food Pantries. These are held at multiple locations and include about 6 to 8 locations around Venice. You help setup and work a drive thru distribution of a variety of food products to prequalified families. In any given shift a locations will serve 100-200 families.**

**So How do we volunteer. Its easy. Once you are registered (you can follow the link below) you will receive an email once a month listing available/shifts that you can sign up for. Teams normally have 12-15 volunteers and wife's are highly encouraged. Volunteer opportunities include sorting and packing food, distributing at pantries, participating in our nutrition education and cooking classes, helping in our offices, lending a hand at events and more!**

**<https://allfaithsfoodbank.org/volunteer-application/>**

### **Be a hunger hero -- DONATE!**

When you donate to All Faiths Food Bank, your gift provides meals to children, families and seniors in our community. Donate today! Your tax-deductible gift feeds children and families right here at home. Food is the first step to help families gain stability, gives students the opportunity to achieve academic success, ensures that senior citizens can afford medication, and lets our veterans know they are not forgotten. Please mail your donation to:

Victoria Hasselbring  
All Faiths Food Bank  
8171 Blaikie Ct.  
Sarasota FL 34240

Hope you find a way to either donate your time or donation or both. Questions, please contact me.

**Mike Milak; Backpack Coordinator**  
**[Mmilak33@gmail.com](mailto:Mmilak33@gmail.com)**  
**941-380-7248**

# Circle of Life Golf Tournament

**Our largest fundraiser of the year will be held on  
November 4<sup>th</sup> at Pelican Pointe**



**In order to achieve our goal of \$30,000 we need all brothers to successfully recruit one  
business to contribute funds or make a \$100 donation.**

**Dave Tura**

# August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Council Meeting Officers 5:00 Rosary 5:30 Dinner 6:00 Meeting 7:00	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Food Collection
27 Food Collection	28	29	30	31		

# One Blood Drive



**Sunday, September 10,  
8:00 am -1:30 pm**

**Copy and paste the link to reserve a time.**

<https://donorportal.oneblood.org/donate-now/donation-centers-list-select-time?type=md&driveID=1357186&driveStart=1694347200&driveEnd=1694367000>

In September, we offer donors a \$20 e-gift card and a One Blood Cancer Awareness T-Shirt

**Every two seconds, someone needs blood. The blood donated at our blood drive will likely be transfused into a patient within 48 to 72 hours. The turnaround is that fast and is that constant.**

**Henry Vonsalzen**

# Blue Mass

## September 17

### 12:00 Mass



All former first responders, retired or active, and their spouses & family are invited.

Retirees are encouraged to attend in uniform.

All denominations are invited.

If anyone has contact info about first responders organizations that would help us achieve a higher attendance, please contact Nick Catone at 717-818-3167 via text only or email

[nickcat813@aol.com](mailto:nickcat813@aol.com)

Also, we will be hosting a luncheon in the church hall after mass.

Nick Catone

# Columbus Day Retreat

Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center

9:00 AM

## Presentation Topic: Discernment of God's Will

Retreat Includes: Continental Breakfast, Morning Session, Lunch,  
Afternoon Session, Meditation time, and ends with a Mass.

Open to Council 9924 members and their wives.

Cost is \$40.00 per person.

If you signed up for last year's event, you do not have to pay again.  
More information on how to sign up is forthcoming.

Contact Jim Quinnan

[jquinnan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jquinnan@sbcglobal.net)



# Italian Wedding Reception



**Fundraiser for a “to be named” Veterans Charity**  
**Friday evening, November 10**  
**Parish Hall**

**Enjoy the sounds of Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra via live entertainment and other Italian wedding songs.**

**Preliminary Plan:**

**Dance floor**

**Hors d’oeuvres**

**Wedding cake**

**BYOB**

**Recognition of veterans**

**Irish need apply**

# Annual Clothing Drive

## December 9-10<sup>th</sup>



We need a volunteer to serve as Co-Chair.

In addition, we will need volunteers to collect the items at the pavilion. More information to follow.

Please contact Tom Reno  
[tomrenovenice@gmail.com](mailto:tomrenovenice@gmail.com)  
941-539-0230

# Pro-Life Update



## Prolife Report: The Sound of Freedom By Ray Ross

As Knights we are called to do all we can to protect the born as well as the unborn.

A few days ago, my wife and I went to see "Sound of Freedom," the movie currently number one on box office charts. The movie is based on the work of Tim Ballard, initially a Homeland Security Investigative agent. The movie stars Jim Caviezel who plays the role of Tim Ballard. You may remember Caviezel as Jesus in Mel Gibson's "The Passion of Christ."

The movie revolves around the kidnapping of a brother and sister, Miguel and Rocio who are then sold into the sex trafficking trade. Ballard gets involved when a man by the name of Earl Buchanan is arrested at a U.S. Port of Entry as he attempts to smuggle Miguel into the United States. In the movie Ballard takes Miguel out for a hamburger and the boy pleads with Ballard to find and rescue his sister.

These children are only two of hundreds of children that Tim Ballard has rescued since 2002. Ballard started his career in the CIA and then moved over to Homeland Security once Homeland Security was formed after 911. He was moved to the Mexican border where he first focused on tracking terrorists and then was asked to join the Investigative Unit of Homeland Security focused on child trafficking.

In 2006 a law was passed that allowed Homeland Security agents to go into foreign countries to investigate child trafficking activities as long as the case involved a U.S. citizen. In the case of the young girl that Ballard was attempting to find, he discovers that a U.S. citizen is not involved and he has a very difficult decision to make about whether to quit Homeland Security three months before he was eligible for retirement or continue to track the criminals and try to rescue the girl.

Ballard is married with six kids at the time (now nine children) and, if he quits, the family could lose their home. His wife plays a crucial role in his decision. She tells him that he must continue to try and rescue the girl and that her own soul is at stake. She does not want to stand before God at her judgment and tell God that she had her husband make the comfortable choice.

After he left Homeland Security, Ballard set up OUR, Operation Underground Railroad. His work involved going underground, setting up sting operations, and dealing with some of the darkest, most evil people alive. In the course of his work, he is traumatized by the evil he sees and experiences. I

Human trafficking is now a \$150B per annum business and rivals the size of drug trafficking. There are more people enslaved now globally than at any time in human history. Six million children are being forced into sex slavery, labor slavery or organ harvesting every year and the U.S. is the largest consumer of the trade (this includes massive consumption of child pornography). There are 85,000+ unaccompanied children who have shown up at the border in the last two years. These children come in without their sponsors being vetted and many then disappear.

Ballard today continues his rescue work. I was surprised to find that a key funder of his work is Glenn Beck.

The movie was actually made five years ago but has been roadblocked in every way imaginable.

I highly recommend the movie. It is a top-notch drama and does not have graphic scenes that might turn you away.

I'd also recommend you take a look at two YouTube videos: Father Mike Schmitz's review of the movie – <https://youtu.be/0cscYYBD2kY>.

as well as Dr. Jordan Petersen's interview of both Tim Ballard and Jim Caviezel - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rTBGNEliczc>.

# Knights of Columbus

OUR LADY OF LOURDES COUNCIL, No. 9924  
1301 Center Road, Venice, Florida 34292

Council 9924 Dues Notice - July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2024

To pay with a Credit Card online, click on the link below and then click on “Home” at the top

[Give \(wesharegiving.org\)](https://wesharegiving.org)

<b>ANNUAL DUES</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>
<b>Optional - Seminarian Support</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
		<b>\$50.00 (recommended)</b>

Our Council supports 3  
Seminarians, with a  
quarterly donation of \$300,  
or \$1,200 per year. Your  
donation of \$15 will help  
ensure that our Council can  
continue to support our

If paying by check (payable to KofC Council 9924): mail to:  
  
William Morris, Financial Secretary  
1606 Monarch Drive  
Venice, FL 34293

Confirmation of Contact Information on File

Venice/SW Florida Address	Seasonal Address
Email Address	Cellphone Number
Wife’s Name and Phone Home	Phone Number



# August



## Immaculate Heart of Mary

The month of August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart. Since the 16th century, Catholic piety has assigned entire months to special devotions. The month of August is traditionally dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The physical heart of Mary is venerated (and not adored as the Sacred Heart of Jesus is) because it is united to her person and is the seat of her love (especially for her divine Son), virtue, and inner life. Such devotion is an incentive to a similar love and virtue.

This devotion has received new emphasis in the 20th century from the visions given to Lucia Dos Santos, oldest of the visionaries of Fatima, in her convent in Tuy, Spain, in 1925 and 1926. In the visions, Our Lady asked for the practice of the Five First Saturdays to help make amends for the offenses committed against her heart by the blasphemies and ingratitude of men.

Our Lady mentioned her Immaculate Heart in her second apparition in June. She told Lucia she would stay on the earth after her cousins went to heaven since *Jesus wishes you to make me known and loved on earth. He wishes also for you to establish devotion in the world to my Immaculate Heart.*

Our Blessed Mother also told her, *I will be with you always, and my Immaculate Heart will be your comfort and the way which will lead you to God.*

On October 31, 1942, Pope Pius XII made a solemn Act of Consecration of the Church and the whole world to the Immaculate Heart. The world was in turmoil in the 1940s and in 1942 he responded to the requests of Our Lady of Fatima and consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on October 31, 1942.

# Pray For Ukraine

