



Most Reverend Felipe J. Esteve
Bishop of St. Augustine



A very important message from Bishops of the Florida Jurisdiction

The Knights of Columbus organization was founded by the Servant of God, Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney, a parish priest in New Haven, Connecticut, and received its charter in 1882. This unique organization of Catholic Men, who are over the age of 18, now extends well beyond the United States and Canada to many parts of the world. Its many members dedicate themselves to the service of God, protection of family life, their parishes, communities and country.

With a membership approaching 2 million men, of which more than 55,000 are in the Florida Jurisdiction (which includes the US state of Florida, the Bahamas and Saint Lucia, West Indies), the Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic charitable fraternal organization in the world. The Order has grown to include top-rated financial products, including life insurance, long-term care and retirement programs.

At first, Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney and his fellow Knights would “pass the hat” to benefit widows and orphans. Now with more than \$118 billion of insurance in force world-wide, with over \$185 million in the Florida Jurisdiction, and a full-time staff of more than 1,100 agents serving our members and their families, we are proudly fulfilling Fr. McGivney's vision.

Today, Knights work tirelessly to help the initiative of “Building the Domestic Church” through our “Faith-in-Action” program. In 2018, Knights donated over 76 million hours of their time and over \$897 million to charitable works. Its special mission has been to protect mothers and orphaned children from hardship and destitution. One of the largest supporters of “U.S. Special Olympics,” Knights make it possible for many “Special Dreams to come true.” Florida Knights lead the Order in distribution of Ultra-Sound machines, with the 100th machine (in Florida) to be dedicated in 2020. Florida Knights are active in all our dioceses and generously make annual donations for the development of vocations. In addition, Florida Knights support many programs that assist those with developmental or physical challenges through multiple service programs. In 2019, Florida Knights came to the aide of our Brethren in the Bahamas, bringing much needed relief supplies and support following hurricane Dorian. Florida Knights support the Habitat for Humanity program in many local councils, becoming the “go to” organization that Habitat relies upon for manpower.

We cordially invite you to join us in this most worthy fraternal organization. Consider becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic Organization of which we can all be proud.

With every prayerful wish, we are sincerely yours in Christ,

The Bishops of the Florida Jurisdiction (including the seven diocese of Florida, The Bahamas and St. Lucia)

Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski
Archbishop of Miami

Most Reverend John G. Noonan
Bishop of Orlando

Most Reverend Felipe J. Estevez
Bishop of St. Augustine

Most Reverend Enrique Delgado
Auxiliary Bishop of Miami

Most Reverend Patrick C. Pinder
Archbishop of Nassau, Bahamas

Most Reverend Gerald Barbarito
Bishop of Palm Beach

Most Reverend Gregory L. Parkes
Bishop of St. Petersburg

Most Reverend Robert Rivas
Archbishop of Castries

Most Reverend Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of Venice

Most Reverend William A. Wack
Bishop of Pensacola / Tallahassee

For information on membership visit: www.floridakofc.org


Scott A. O'Connor, State Deputy, Florida Jurisdiction