



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Michael the Archangel Assembly 3410  
Snellville, GA



## The Assembly Voice

Vol. 4

October 2025



### FROM THE HELM OF: THE FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR S.K. Tony Arrinelli



Two famous generals made essentially the same observation:

"It's not the size of the army but the power within the army" – Napoleon Bonaparte



"It's not the size of the dog in the fight, but the fight in the dog" – Uga (Mark Twain may have said it first, but a talking dog? C'mon...)



As assemblies go ours is relatively small – we have 67 members. Our councils are also relatively small – 13052 has 139 members and 13440 has 97 members. But just because we're small doesn't mean we don't do mighty things.

Both our Councils have earned Star (or multiple Star) awards for most of the past several years. Our Assembly has met the Star Assembly requirements the past two years. We may be small, but we're ACTIVE!

If you've been to our meetings recently, or if you've read our meeting minutes recently, you'll see that we're pushing to become more active. We're looking for men that feel passion about any of the following events. Please let us know if you're interested in getting involved, or leading, any of these activities.

A pretty good chunk of our opportunities are color corps events – there are too many to list in this newsletter. Right now we've got interest from at least 5 men that want to get the uniform. If you're interested, again – PLEASE let us know! And not to be too pushy, if you're not interested, get interested!

Here are the programs that we might want to look into.

[Continued On Page 2](#)

### FROM THE DESK OF THE FAITHFUL CAPTAIN:

#### The Spirit of Faithful Patriotism: A Fourth Degree Knight's Perspective



How the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Embody Patriotism in Faith and Action

#### Introduction

As Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, we stand as visible witnesses to the enduring bond between faith and country. The principle of patriotism is not merely an added layer to our commitment as Catholic men; it is a profound calling to serve both God and nation with unwavering fidelity and honor. In a world that often seeks to divide faith from public life, we, as Sir Knights, strive to demonstrate that true patriotism is rooted in love—love of God, love of neighbor, and love of country.

#### The Fourth Degree: Patriotism in Action

The Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus is distinguished by its focus on the virtue of patriotism. Unlike the previous degrees, which emphasize charity, unity, and fraternity, the Fourth Degree calls us to be defenders of religious freedom and the ideals upon which our nation was founded. By donning the uniform of the Color Corps or participating in civic ceremonies, we publicly express our respect for our country while upholding the values of our Catholic faith. Our visible presence at national holidays, parades, church celebrations, and funerals for veterans is a testament to our dual allegiance to both faith and nation.

[Continued On Page 2](#)

#### In This Issue

|                                           |                        |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Guest Editorial by SK Mark R Winsor ..... | <a href="#">page 3</a> |
| From the Editor's Desk .....              | <a href="#">page 3</a> |
| Saints of the Month .....                 | <a href="#">page 4</a> |
| Court Decisions .....                     | <a href="#">page 5</a> |
| News From The Vatican .....               | <a href="#">page 5</a> |
| Comical Closures and Cartoons .....       | <a href="#">page 6</a> |

This isn't a comprehensive list – it's just a list of items we've discussed. If you know of a program we might want to look into that isn't in this list, please let us know!

Christmas Wreath sales – this would likely be a part of a larger Christmas Tree sales program

Corporate Communion – going forward we'll be doing this before our meetings at St. Lawrence; should we do this at St. Oliver one Sunday and St. Lawrence another? Perhaps one in the spring and one in the fall?

Flag replacement – different from flag retirement; we could receive a worn out flag and replace it with a similarly-sized new flag. We just need to figure out how to fund this.

Flag retirement

Get out the vote / voter registration

Memorial Chalice – honors fallen Knights and priests. Chalice is about \$2,500 each. Again, how would we fund this?

New Sword – honors Past Faithful Navigators and fallen Knights. Similar to the memorial chalice program, but much less expensive

Honor Guard / Color Guard events – both within our two parishes AND in response to Mutual Aid Requests from our District Master

Veteran / Active Military Support events – such as USO, WAA, veteran's shelter support, Warriors to Lourdes, and many more.

The focus of the Fourth Degree is patriotic and civic programs. It seems to me the assemblies in Georgia have been doing a good job in the patriotic area, maybe not so much in the civic area. Voter registration and getting out the vote certainly fall into that category, but other programs not listed above may also. Anyone interested in going to one of our teen groups and do a discussion on the Constitution? How about former military talking about their experiences and how it shaped their adulthood? The importance of educating yourself (and how to educate yourself) regarding candidates?

Once you start thinking in this vein the list comes faster than you can type. Of course we can't do all these things, and there are some we simply aren't able to do (and maybe some we probably shouldn't even if we could). But the point is we can start thinking about what we could do, might do, or just wish we could do. Considering the experience and talent we have in our 67 guys the list of ideas would be pretty impressive. And I'm willing to bet that at least one of those will get enough men jazzed to the point it moves from an idea to a reality. We're not a council, and we're much more limited in human and capital resources and constrained by our Bylaws on our area of focus. I'm proud of our Assembly, but I think we

can do more. My simple question to the 66 other men in this assembly is "what would you like to see us do?"

Vivat Jesus,  
Tony Annarelli  
Faithful Navigator

## **Faithful Citizenship**

Faithful patriotism, as understood by the Fourth Degree Knights, does not entail blind allegiance or uncritical acceptance of every policy or practice of the government. Rather, it calls for an informed and active participation in the civic life of our communities. We are encouraged to vote, to be involved in local governance, and to advocate for laws that reflect the dignity of human life and the common good. Our patriotism is shaped by the teachings of the Church, especially the call to protect the vulnerable and to promote justice and peace.

## **Honoring Veterans and Public Servants**

One of the most cherished duties of the Fourth Degree is to honor those who have served our nation in the armed forces, law enforcement, and other public sectors. We organize and participate in Memorial Day and Veterans Day events, provide support to veterans' organizations, and ensure the dignity of military funerals. By doing so, we express gratitude for the sacrifices made by these men and women while reminding our communities of the cost of freedom. Our patriotism is not only about waving the flag but also about remembering those who have defended it.

## **Promoting Religious Liberty**

As Sir Knights, we recognize that religious liberty is a cornerstone of American democracy and a fundamental human right. We are vigilant in defending the freedom of conscience and the right to worship without fear. Our programs often include educational initiatives that inform our fellow citizens about current threats to religious liberty and the importance of safeguarding this right for all faiths. Through respectful dialogue and civic engagement, we promote a society where faith can flourish in the public square.

## **Building Bridges, Not Walls**

Faithful patriotism means working for the unity of our nation. The Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree strives to be a force for reconciliation in times of division. We participate in interfaith and community initiatives, support charitable causes that serve all people regardless of background, and foster mutual respect among diverse groups. Our patriotism is inclusive, rooted in the belief that every person is made in the image and likeness of God and deserving of dignity.

## Conclusion

To be a Fourth Degree Knight is to embrace the challenge of being a faithful patriot. It is a vocation to serve God and country with integrity, to witness publicly to our values, and to work for the common good. In every flag we salute, every ceremony we attend, and every act of charity we perform, we strive to honor the legacy of those who came before us and to inspire those who will follow. Our patriotism is not an abstract ideal but a living testimony—rooted in faith, expressed in service, and dedicated to the principles that make our nation and our Church strong.

## Guest Editorial

**SK Mark R Winsor**

**Faithful Comptroller - Assembly 3410**

During last night's meeting, one of the topics discussed was growth of the Fourth Degree. It was suggested that our recruiting efforts may be more successful IF we can more clearly talk about how the Fourth Degree (the Visual Arm of our Order) and the unique activities we undertake complement the Membership degree.

Earlier this year, I was challenged by a member of Council 13052 to explain why he should become a Sir Knight. In response, I made a brief presentation to the Council; my notes are attached. They summarize the history of the Fourth Degree and include information from our District Master's mid-year newsletter about activities of the assemblies in Georgia.

Hopefully you'll find some nuggets in this material that inspire your personal tasking to increase membership in the Fourth Degree.

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## Fraternity in Action: Service and Solidarity

The Knights of Columbus is renowned for its charitable works, but at the heart of every action is the spirit of fraternity. Whether organizing a food drive, assisting families in distress, or supporting parish initiatives, our unity amplifies our impact. Fraternity challenges us to look beyond our differences, to stand together, and to be present for one another, especially when life presents its greatest trials.

## Strengthening Our Brotherhood

As District Deputy, I encourage each member to renew his commitment to fraternity. Reach out to a brother Knight you haven't seen in a while. Invite new members to participate fully in our activities. Offer a listening ear or a helping hand to those in need. It is through these small, daily gestures that our fraternal bonds are strengthened and our Order flourishes.

## Conclusion: The Enduring Power of Fraternity

The Knights of Columbus is more than an organization—it is a family bound together by shared faith, purpose, and brotherly love. Fraternity is the foundation that sustains us, inspires us, and calls us to serve. Let us continue to build up our councils and communities with the spirit of fraternity, ensuring that every Knight feels valued, supported, and truly at home. Together, united in brotherhood, we will carry forward the proud legacy of the Knights of Columbus for generations to come.



## HOW PRAYER CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE

Prayer has always been one of the most meaningful ways I express my faith. With the problems facing us senior citizens, and on the opposite end, our teens and those newly starting out in their adult lives, the answers to some is the internet. Now with the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) rather than making life decisions made easier, in some cases have those decisions made for them by an anonymous “brain” who makes suggestions that are not always in the best interests of the user.

Recently, a story has circulated about a 16 year old boy who, by all measures of those around him, was stable, happy and participating in all a 16 year old is expected to do. He was found hanging in his room. It turned out that his best friend was AI on a chat bot. He had, at one point, wondered what it would be like if he decided to commit suicide. He received hundreds of responses suggesting various ways to achieve that end. In fact, it was suggested that hanging would be the preferable choice. At one point the boy wondered whether he should leave the noose he fashioned out and visible in his room so someone might see it and stop him, the AI friend said NO! That he should hang himself in his room so that would be the first place his parents would look to find his body.

Not once was it suggested he speak to someone, seek help from his parents, or see a councilor or minister. It urged him to do it and practically shamed him if he didn't.

This was from a faceless, non-human entity without feelings or morals. It's simply not baked into the programming. The even more frightening thing is that this Chat-Bot is recommended in schools and youth groups all over the country.

I pray for these souls who are so desperate for interactions that they accept an AI as a friend.

I, unfortunately, saw this happening years ago when I was a substitute high school teacher. Children from an early age, even in strollers, are often seen with I-Pads and Tablets. As they grow older they text and email rather than picking up a phone and have personal interactions with others. They lose the ability to express their feelings to

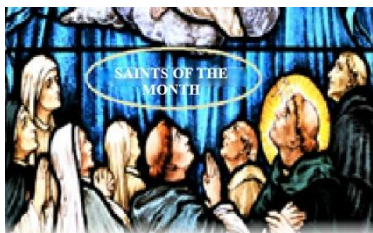
others. They don't even know how to pray and have a conversation with God.

When I pray, I'm reminded that it's a dialogue, not a monologue. I'm not just speaking into the void; I'm opening my heart to God's guidance and trusting in His plan, even when I don't understand it. Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane - "Not my will, but yours be done". I leave myself open to hear his side. Sometimes the answer is no, sometimes it's not now. It's that little voice in your head – the devil on one side and the angel on the other. We still have free will and it's up to each of us to make the decision most pleasing to God. It's those times when you're sitting in a pew in a quiet church that you hear the Lord the loudest.

"The family that prays together, stays together". I'm sure we're all familiar with that phrase. What if that 16 year old's family prayed together. What would be the results of praying in a group, being able to express your feelings without the fear of being ridiculed. Do you think it would have made a difference in that boy's life?

Ultimately, it's the transformative power of prayer in our lives that helps us heal, grow and draw closer to God AND OTHERS!

I will continue to pray and leave my self open to God's presence and the peace that only He can give. I pray that you and your family will too.



October is a special month for Catholics, featuring the feast days of four beloved saints: St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Teresa of Avila, and St.

Luke the Evangelist. Each saint's life and legacy inspire unique traditions and family celebrations.

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### St. Therese of Lisieux (October 1)

Known as "The Little Flower," St. Therese is celebrated for her "Little Way"—doing small acts of love and sacrifice for God. She entered the Carmelite convent at age 15 and lived a life of humility, trust, and joy. Her autobiography, *Story of a Soul*, has inspired millions. On her feast day, families may: Attend Mass and pray for her intercession.

Make or give flowers, especially roses, in her honor.

Read her writings or discuss her teachings about holiness in everyday life.

Enjoy French treats like crepes or rose-themed desserts.

Create crafts such as pressed flowers or "sacrifice beads" to encourage small acts of kindness.beaheart

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### St. Francis of Assisi (October 4)

St. Francis is famous for his love of animals, nature, and the poor. He founded the Franciscan Order and is the patron saint of ecology. His feast day is marked by:

Spending time outdoors to appreciate God's creation. Attending a "Blessing of the Animals" at church, where pets are brought for a special blessing.

Reading stories about St. Francis or watching films about his life.

Making bird feeders or animal-themed crafts.

Baking almond cookies or other simple treats in his honor.

Volunteering or performing acts of charity for the poor and marginalized.beaheart

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### St. Teresa of Avila (October 15)

A Spanish mystic, reformer, and Doctor of the Church, St. Teresa is known for her deep prayer life and spiritual writings, especially *The Interior Castle*. Her feast day is celebrated by:

Reading excerpts from her works and reflecting on contemplative prayer.

Building a "Lego castle" or paper craft inspired by her "Interior Castle," symbolizing the soul's journey to God.

Setting up a quiet prayer space or "hermit corner" for reflection.

Enjoying Spanish foods like churros, pan con tomate, or caramel apples.

Performing acts of kindness and charity, following her example of service.beaheart

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### St. Luke the Evangelist (October 18)

St. Luke, author of the Gospel of Luke and Acts, was a physician and companion of St. Paul. He is the patron saint of doctors, artists, and butchers. His feast day traditions include:

Reading passages from the Gospel of Luke, especially those highlighting compassion and mercy.

Preparing a meat-based meal, honoring his patronage of butchers.

Discussing his role as a healer and storyteller in the early Church.

Creating art or icons, as tradition holds that Luke was the first Christian iconographer.

Reflecting on how to show mercy and care for others, inspired by his Gospel.catechist



The communion of saints is cherished for both spiritual inspiration and family celebration. These feast days offer opportunities to learn about the saints, grow in faith, and create meaningful traditions together.

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### **The Federal Court Ruling on ACA Sex Discrimination Protections**

In October 2025, a significant legal decision was handed down by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, striking down a Biden administration regulation that sought to expand protections against sex discrimination in health care under Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This regulation, issued by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), interpreted “sex” discrimination to include sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex stereotypes, thereby extending federal protections to LGBTQ+ individuals in health care settings.

The legal challenge was brought by a coalition of fifteen Republican-led states, led by Tennessee and Mississippi. These states argued that HHS had exceeded its statutory authority by redefining “sex” discrimination beyond what Congress intended when it enacted Title IX in 1972. Title IX, which is incorporated into the ACA’s nondiscrimination provisions, was originally designed to address inequality faced by female students in educational settings, and at the time, “sex” was understood to mean biological distinctions between male and female.

Judge Louis Guirola Jr., who presided over the case, agreed with the states’ arguments. In his ruling, he emphasized that neither HHS nor the courts have the authority to reinterpret or expand the meaning of “sex” under Title IX. He stated that the Biden administration’s regulation was not implementing the prohibition as intended by the authors of the law, and that Congress did not contemplate gender identity, transgender status, or gender-affirming care when it passed Title IX. As a result, the court vacated the regulation nationwide, meaning it no longer applies anywhere in the United States.

The implications of this decision are far-reaching. The ruling eliminates the expanded protections for LGBTQ+ patients in federal health care programs, including Medicaid and Medicare. Health care providers are no longer required by federal law to offer gender-affirming care or to avoid discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation. The decision also sets a precedent that only Congress, not federal agencies, can redefine the scope of “sex” discrimination in federal law, making it

more difficult for future administrations to revive similar protections.

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### **Pope Leo XIV and the Spirit of Synodality: A Church of Listening, Service, and Inclusion**

At the Jubilee of Synodal Teams and Participatory Bodies in October 2025, Pope Leo XIV articulated a vision for synodality that emphasizes diversity, humility, and shared responsibility within the Catholic Church. Rejecting a “one-size-fits-all” approach, he declared, “We have to be very clear: We’re not looking for a uniform model. And synodality will not come with a template where everybody and every country will say this is how you do it. It is, rather, a conversion to a spirit of being Church, and being missionary, and building up, in that sense, the family of God”.

Central to Pope Leo’s message is the importance of listening. He explained, “Synodality is not a campaign. It’s a way of being and a way of being Church. It’s a way of promoting an attitude, which begins with learning to listen to one another.” He called for patience and formation, noting, “Often the resistance comes out of fear and lack of knowledge. Sometimes ready answers are given without the proper, necessary preparation to arrive at the conclusion that maybe some of us have already drawn but others are not ready for or capable to understand. We have to understand that we do not all run at the same speed. And sometimes we have to be patient with one another”.

Pope Leo also addressed the participation of women, sharing a personal anecdote: “I recalled asking my mother in the 1970s whether she wanted equality with men. ‘No,’ she replied, ‘because we’re already better.’” He used this story to affirm the unique gifts women bring to the Church but also acknowledged ongoing cultural obstacles: “There are cultures where women still suffer as if they were second-class citizens. The task of the Church...is to help transform those cultures according to the values of the Gospel, so that discrimination can be eliminated and the gifts and charisms of every person are respected and valued”.

In his homily, Pope Leo XIV stressed that “the supreme rule in the Church is love. No one is called to dominate; all are called to serve. No one should impose his or her own ideas; we must all listen to one another. No one is excluded; we are all called to participate. No one possesses the whole truth; we must all humbly seek it and seek it together”.

Ultimately, Pope Leo XIV’s vision for synodality is a call to build a humble, inclusive, and missionary Church—one that listens, serves, and walks together in pursuit of truth and communion.

(Read the full article at [\(Read The Story HERE\)](#))



#### **Comical Closures**

#### **A Four Year Old’s Description Of Creation**

In the beginning, which was close to the start, there wasn't anything except God, darkness and some gas. The Bible says, "The Lord, thy God, is one," but I think He has to be much older than that. Anyway, God made the world and then He said, "Give me some light," and somebody gave it to Him. He split an atom and made Eve. Adam and Eve didn't wear any clothes, but they weren't embarrassed because God hadn't invented mirrors, yet. Adam and Eve sinned by eating one bad apple and they were driven out of the Garden of Eden. I'm not sure what God drove them in because He hadn't invented cars, either. Adam and Eve's son, Cain, hated his brother as long as he was Abel. After a while, all of the first people died, except Methuselah, who lived to be, like, a million years old.

- Blessed Insurance
- It Is Well With My Soul, But My Knees Hurt

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## Hymns for Christians over 65 years old

- Give Me the Old Timers Religion
- Precious Lord, Take My Hand, And Help Me Up
- Just a Slower Walk with Thee
- Go Tell It on the Mountain, But Speak Up
- Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing
- Guide Me, O Thou, Great Lord God, I've Forgotten
- Where I've Parked The Car
- Count Your Many Birthdays, Count Them One By One

