



Knights of Columbus

St. Oliver Plunkett Council 13440

Knights News



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Chaplain Father Cyriac	Grand Knight Javier Tavira	Deputy Grand Knight Carey Scruggs	Financial Secretary Frank Montelione	Treasurer Mark Layton	Advocate Ray Prosek	Wardon Richard Bellnier
Recorder	Chancellor Bill Childress	One Year Trustee Fritz Siler	Two Year Trustee Robert Barnard	Three Year Trustee	Inside Guard Patrick Chiah	Outside Guard John Spudich

Around the Council: Service in Action

The Importance of Lent to the Knights of Columbus

As we transition from the Lenten season into the Easter season, we extend our warmest wishes to all our Brothers and their families. **We hope you had a truly blessed and joyful Easter celebration.**

“Charity is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God.” — *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*

As we look back on the most solemn days of our liturgical year, Council 13440 continues to live out our pillar of Fraternity through Service. Throughout this Lenten season, I was grateful to see our men step forward—quietly and faithfully—to support our parish community during the Triduum. We served as ushers and Special Ministers of the Eucharist, participated in the Choir and we are especially thankful for the time our Brother Deacon Mike Chavez devoted to serving at many of our Lenten services, including the Easter Vigil.”

Standing Guard: Good Friday Traffic & Parking

This year marked a new chapter for our Council as we took on a first-time service project: managing the parking and traffic flow for the Good Friday services at **St. Oliver Plunkett**.

On Good Friday, as the crowd arrived for the Veneration of the Cross, four of our Brothers generously took on the behind-the-scenes work of helping everyone enter and leave the grounds safely and calmly. By managing the flow of traffic, we kept the crowds moving smoothly, so parishioners could participate in services rather than focusing on parking.

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From the Desk of the District Deputy Robert Barnard:



Finish the Fraternal Year Strong:

As we approach the end of the fraternal year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the tremendous work our council has accomplished and to encourage everyone to finish strong. The Knights of Columbus stands as a beacon of faith, charity, and unity in our community, and it is through your dedication and service that we continue to make a positive impact.

This is the time to review our goals, celebrate our achievements, and address any unfinished business. Whether it's completing service projects, recruiting new members, or fulfilling charitable commitments, every effort counts toward the legacy we leave behind. Let's come together to ensure that our programs are executed with excellence and that our council remains vibrant and welcoming to all.

I urge each of you to reach out to fellow Knights and encourage participation in upcoming events and initiatives. Your leadership, enthusiasm, and support are essential as we strive to meet—and exceed—our targets for the year. Remember, the work we do now sets the foundation for future success and strengthens the bonds of brotherhood within our council.

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The Brothers that participated were stationed at key entry points to smoothly move cars into the lot and to direct cars onto the main road in an orderly fashion once the services ended.

As with all first time events there were lessons learned. The parking lot was completely filled and while services were going on, the Hispanic Community staged a living Stations Of The Cross in the lot across from the Church making parking for that event a challenge. Plus, there were parishioners parking on Brooks Drive and crossing between double parked cars causing a hazardous condition for the pedestrians crossing. All this will be taken into consideration for next year's Good Friday Services.

Given the above, by volunteering our time, we helped eliminate the usual bottlenecks at the exits. At the conclusion of the Services retired Police Officer **Frank Montelione** directed traffic back onto Brooks Drive in record time. He said, "if you can direct traffic in New York, you can direct traffic anywhere".

Grand Knight Javier Tavira, although he could not be present due to previous commitments, supplied us with traffic cones and walkie talkies helping make the job easier.

A heartfelt thank-you to the four Brothers who served—**Robert Barnard, Ray Prosek, Todd Morrow** and **Frank Montelione**. We'd also like to give a thanks to Robert's daughter Annie for assisting her dad and the rest at this inauguration event. Your presence in the parking lot was a simple act of service that made a real difference for our parishioners.

Our next planning meeting will be held on May 11th at 7:00pm in the church library. Our next monthly meeting will be on May 18th. As usual, we will begin in the Chapel with a recitation of the Holy Rosary at 6:00pm, followed by a light meal and camaraderie in Family Center. The meeting will begin at 7:00pm. Please plan to join us—your voice and your presence matter as we begin lining up our Election of Officers and late spring and summer charitable initiatives.

Council Budget

Over the past few years, we've been blessed with the opportunity to help staff the concession stands at the **Brevard Stripers games**. This effort has generated much-needed funds that allow us to support our charities and Council activities. Because this source of income could end at any time, it's important that we continue to

staff the booths as fully as possible while we have the opportunity. Without this support, we may be forced to scale back—or drastically curtail—our charitable participation. If you're able to help, we truly need you. Please contact Robert Barnard for details.

Vivat Jesus: Let us continue to pray for our sick and distressed Brothers and their families.

Thank you for your continued service and commitment. Let's finish the fraternal year with pride, purpose, and unity, carrying forward the principles of the Knights of Columbus into the new year ahead.

Vivat Jesus!
District Deputy

Will AI Marginalize the Faithful?



Have you ever looked at a photo and thought "Is this for real?" Or read a story and question it's validity?

I've seen texts and emails from my contacts that encourage me to view a video often from politics or the church. When I view them, I look for telltale signs of and AI fake. In one, a "NYC Police Officer" was ordering ICE out of his city. The first thing I noticed was the "officer" was wearing a gray uniform jacket. As a Police Officer myself serving on the NYC border I can tell you neither we nor NYPD ever wore gray uniforms. The arm patch was of no known department in NY or anywhere else. The "officer" is a local "officer" and has no authority to order a Federal Agency to do anything.

Recently, I was shown a photo of one of the rescued airman who bailed out of his aircraft in Iran standing with a sign over his head stating that when he bailed out he met Jesus. I immediately noticed that he was standing in front of the downed aircraft. As soon as I looked at the picture I said I don't think he had time to pose for such a photo and I am sure he had his mind on escape not on making a sign.

BUT how many believed these were true?

What troubles me most is how deliberately AI is now being used to manipulate religious belief. I have personally seen AI-generated videos circulating on social media that portray a completely fictional "Pope Leo XIV" delivering so-called end-times sermons, offering political opinions, or commenting on global events. These videos look and sound convincing, yet they are entirely fabricated. Still, many viewers accept them as genuine papal messages simply because they appear authoritative and familiar.

The deception does not stop there. Scammers have gone even further by using deepfake video and voice technology to impersonate well-known pastors. Some of these videos are poorly produced, but they are emotionally charged and persuasive enough to convince people to send money for fake religious services or supposed emergencies. Even more disturbing, AI has been used to create highly realistic sermons in the voices of deceased Christian leaders—words they never spoke, messages they never preached—yet presented as authentic.

Even content that may seem harmless at first glance can be misleading. Viral “Bible influencer” videos that depict fictional or cartoon-like versions of characters from Scripture often blur the line between truth, entertainment, and theology. When these videos are shared without explanation or context, they can subtly distort Scripture and confuse viewers about what is truly taught by the Church.

At a recent “Ethics of AI” dialogue in Brussels, Catholic leaders warned that as artificial intelligence reshapes society, religious voices risk being pushed aside in decisions about how these technologies are governed. Organized by the Commission of the Bishops’ Conferences of the European Union (COMECE), the discussion emphasized that while technical expertise is important, moral and ethical guidance rooted in human dignity must not be ignored. Participants also raised concerns about AI in high-risk areas like health care, where algorithms could influence life-and-death decisions, reminding us that technology without moral grounding can cause real harm. ([Will AI marginalize the faithful? Catholics call for ethical oversight](#))

I urge all to carefully scrutinize what you are seeing of viewing. My father always told my sisters and I “believe half of what you see and none of what you hear”.

I pass that advise to you. If the claims in social media are in the very least suspect, please double check the sources and do a search on the “facts” being espoused before acting on any dubious thing you find questionable.



Pope tells priests to use their brains, not AI, to write homilies

Here’s what Leo said in a private Q-and-A with priests this week.

Pope Leo XIV speaks to priests from the Diocese of Rome in the Vatican’s Paul VI Hall on Feb. 19, 2026. |

Credit: Vatican Media

By [Marco Mancini](#)

February 20, 2026

In a private exchange with priests of the Diocese of Rome on Thursday, Pope Leo XIV responded to four questions, advising them on prayer, study, and priestly fraternity.

The off-camera moment took place after Leo gave a [public speech](#) to the priests, inviting them to “rekindle the fire” of their ministry.

“The first priest to speak was a young man who asked the pope how the Gospel can be embodied in the world of young people,” according to a priest present at the Feb. 19 meeting in the Vatican’s Paul VI Hall.

The priest told ACI Stampa, the Italian-language sister service of EWTN News, that Leo’s answer to this question was: “First of all, what is needed is the witness of the priest; and then, when meeting young people, they must broaden their horizons to reach as many young people as possible. For this, it is necessary to rediscover the value of communion.”

Responding to a second question, the pope recommended knowing well “the community in which one lives and works. It is necessary to know the reality well. To love your community, you must know it. Therefore, a real shared effort is needed to understand it better and thus face together all the challenges that arise.”

“The pope also invited us to use our brains more and not artificial intelligence [AI] to prepare homilies, as he now sees and hears happening,” the priest said. “And here the pope made a strong recommendation regarding prayer: We priests must pray — remain with the Lord, that is — not reduce everything to the breviary or to a few brief moments of prayer but truly learn again to listen to the Lord.”

The third question was more reflective: Today, as priests, we are unable to rejoice in the success of another fellow priest.

The pope responded that “we are all human, but we should set a good example, especially the example of priestly fraternity.”

He dwelt at length on how to cultivate priestly friendship. The pope also reminded them to continue studying. “It must be ongoing study; we must always stay up to date. But the fundamental thing is to cultivate priestly friendship, priestly fraternity,” the priest from Rome said.

The final question concerned elderly priests and their loneliness. According to the priest, Leo’s response “reaffirmed the need for fraternity, for the joy of being together. We must give thanks, truly live gratitude for the fact of being priests, from the day of our ordination every single day, and thank God for this great gift, and live the

priesthood with gratitude. And here, a great deal of humility is also required.”

“Personally, I was happy,” the priest concluded. “We greatly appreciated the pope for a very, very concrete speech.”

[Evidence for Christ](#) by Catholic Answers Jimmy Akin

Jesus has rightly been called the most influential person in history. What makes him so significant isn't just the role he has played in shaping world history but his identity as the Jewish Messiah and the Son of God incarnate, as well as the events of his life, death, and resurrection.

Christians hold that these events redeemed the world and make it possible for us to be saved. Billions of people have become his followers, and in this book, I will be offering you evidence that Jesus of Nazareth really is the Jewish Messiah, or Christ. The overall argument can be put like this:

In his word, God revealed that he would send a key figure in his plan known as the Messiah (Christ).

This Messiah would be identifiable by certain pieces of evidence.

The evidence points to **Jesus of Nazareth**.

Therefore, Jesus is the Christ.

As we explore this argument, we will need to discuss several things. One is the concept of the Messiah. What does this term mean? This will require us to investigate what God's word has to say on the topic. We will thus be looking at the Jewish scriptures (the Old Testament) and what they have to say about the Messiah.

We also will look at the history of the idea of the Messiah and how it has been understood in different periods and among different groups of Jewish people. In this history there is no single, unified Jewish understanding of the Messiah and what he will be and do. Instead, there are several understandings, and we will see that Jesus emphatically rejected one of them.

Once we look at the concept of the Messiah, we will need to consider what we can know about Jesus from history. We will look at a spectrum of views, one extreme of which is *Jesus Mythicism*, which holds that Jesus did not really exist and is just a mythological figure like Horus or Zeus. This is a fringe position that is not taken seriously by scholars, and we will see why.

We also will address the reliability of the four canonical Gospels and see that they are highly reliable sources of historical information about Jesus.

Once we have a grasp of the concept of the Messiah and the historical evidence concerning Jesus, we will bring the two together and look at how well Jesus fits the profile of the Messiah. As we will see, he fulfills numerous messianic prophecies.

Reflection for Knights of Columbus: Standing Firm When the Culture Misunderstands Us

The article you're reading highlights something many of us have felt for years: when it comes to traditional Christianity, much of the modern media simply doesn't understand us — and often doesn't try. Instead, it frequently portrays faithful Christians as dangerous, hateful, or driven by dark motives. The examples cited show how easily Scripture is misquoted, intentions distorted, and long-held moral teachings recast as extremism.

For Knights of Columbus, this moment is not a cause for anger but a call to clarity. Our mission has always been to live the Gospel publicly and joyfully, even when the culture misreads our convictions. The Order was founded in a time when Catholics were caricatured and distrusted, yet our response was not retreat — it was charity, unity, and fraternity.

The misunderstandings described in the article remind us that the world often fears what it does not know. But Christ never asked His disciples to be understood; He asked them to be faithful. When we stand for the dignity of life, for moral truth, for the good of families, or for the freedom to live our faith, we do so not out of hostility but out of love — love for God and love for our neighbor.

As Knights, we can meet misrepresentation with integrity. We can answer confusion with witness. And we can respond to hostility with the steady confidence of men who know that truth does not depend on public approval. This is our moment to shine our light — not to win arguments, but to reveal Christ.

[The media's anti-Christian falsehoods reveal shocking hate](#)

Talarico Botches the Annunciation: A Knights of Columbus Perspective

Talarico Botches the Annunciation

This is what you get when you merge radical liberalism and diluted Christianity

[Trent Horn](#)

Texas legislator James Talarico has argued that Mary's consent at the Annunciation supports modern abortion

rights. This claim reflects a serious misunderstanding of Catholic theology and Scripture. Mary's fiat is a yes to life and to cooperation with God's creative action, not an endorsement of ending a life already conceived. Consent to conceive is not permission to kill; abortion ends a human life; it does not prevent one.

The argument also relies on selective use of Scripture, treating some passages as binding while dismissing others that conflict with progressive ideology. This approach undermines biblical integrity and reduces faith to a political tool. While Talarico criticizes "Christian nationalism," he freely uses Christian language to justify progressive policy goals, revealing a selective standard.

Pro-life believers are often caricatured as seeking control, yet all political movements use law to shape behavior. The real question is whether laws protect the vulnerable and serve the common good. When Christianity is continually reshaped to fit secular ideology, it loses its distinctiveness and moral force.

For the Knights of Columbus, this serves as a reminder that Mary's fiat is not a political slogan but a model of discipleship, openness to life, and trust in God. Fidelity to the Gospel requires clarity, charity, and courage in defending unchanging truth.

This debate matters not only to Catholics but to the nation as a whole because it touches on the integrity of both faith and democratic discourse. When religious beliefs are selectively reinterpreted to serve shifting political aims, they erode the moral foundations that have long informed America's understanding of human dignity, conscience, and the common good. A healthy pluralistic society depends on honest engagement with religious traditions—not their distortion for partisan advantage. Preserving that integrity is essential if public life is to remain rooted in truth, accountability, and respect for the most vulnerable.

Dominican Sisters Challenge New York Law on Religious Grounds

The Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne have filed a federal lawsuit challenging New York State's LGBT Long-Term Care Facility Residents' Bill of Rights, arguing that it violates their religious freedom. The Sisters operate Rosary Hill Home, a Catholic nursing facility that has provided free, dignified end-of-life care to indigent cancer patients for more than a century in accordance with Church teaching.

The 2023 law requires long-term care facilities to use

preferred pronouns, assign rooms, and grant access based on residents' gender identity, and mandates recurring "cultural competency" training. Failure to comply could result in fines, loss of licensure, or imprisonment. Despite having no complaints filed against them, the Sisters were denied a religious exemption and warned by state officials.



In their lawsuit, the Sisters argue that the law violates the First Amendment by compelling them to act against sincerely held religious beliefs and by granting exemptions to

some religious groups while denying them to others. The case raises important questions about government overreach and the future of religious liberty for faith-based ministries serving the vulnerable.



Comical Closing and Cartoons

A hunter is hiking in the woods when a massive bear suddenly appears and begins chasing him. The hunter runs until he is trapped on the edge of a steep cliff, with the bear closing in for the kill.

In absolute desperation, the hunter drops to his knees, shuts his eyes, and prays, "Lord, please make this bear a Christian!"

Suddenly, the roaring bear stops. The bear drops to its own knees, clasps its paws together, bows its head, and starts praying aloud:

"Dear Lord, bless this food I am about to receive... in Jesus' name, Amen."

A priest and his parishioner were playing a round of golf on a beautiful Sunday morning. On the first hole, the parishioner teed up, took a swing, and missed the ball entirely.

"Dam, missed again!" the parishioner exclaimed.

The priest shook his head. "My son, if you continue to use such language, the Lord will surely strike you down."

On the second hole, the parishioner missed another easy shot. "Dam, missed again!"

Suddenly, thunder clapped, a massive bolt of lightning flashed from the sky, and struck the priest dead in his tracks. A booming voice came from the clouds: "**DAM, MISSED AGAIN!**"

