



# Knights of Columbus

## St. Oliver Plunkett Council 13440

### Knights News



Issue 3

July 2025

<b>Chaplain</b> <a href="#">Father Cyriac</a>	<b>Grand Knight</b> <a href="#">Javier Tavira</a>	<b>Deputy Grand Knight</b> <a href="#">Carey Scruggs</a>	<b>Financial Secretary</b> <a href="#">Frank Montelione</a>	<b>Treasurer</b> <a href="#">Mark Lavton</a>	<b>Advocate</b> <a href="#">Ray Prosek</a>	<b>Warden</b> <a href="#">Richard Bellnier</a>
<b>Recorder</b>	<b>Chancellor</b> <a href="#">Bill Childress</a>	<b>One Year Trustee</b> <a href="#">Fritz Siler</a>	<b>Two Year Trustee</b> <a href="#">Robert Barnard</a>	<b>Three Year Trustee</b> <a href="#">Todd Morrow</a>	<b>Inside Guard</b> <a href="#">Patrick Chiah</a>	<b>Outside Guard</b> <a href="#">John Spudich</a>



#### A Journey of Dedication and Passion

##### Grand Knight Javier Tavira

In the heart of our community, there lies a story of dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment. This is the

Javier's story is one of a son of immigrants who has not only built a life filled with love and purpose but has also made significant contributions to society.

10 years of marriage, Javier and his wife Deysi share a beautiful life with their daughter. Their journey together is marked by love, support, and shared experiences that have strengthened their bond over the years.

For the past ten years, Javier has donated his hair to St. Baldrick's Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to funding research to find a cure for childhood cancer. This act of kindness and generosity reflects his deep compassion and desire to make a difference in the lives of children battling cancer.

Professionally, he is a state-certified UA Plumber and an Instructor at MTI-JATT trade school. His expertise and dedication to his craft has earned him respect and admiration in his field. As an instructor, Javier is shaping the future of aspiring plumbers, imparting knowledge and skills that will serve them well in their careers.

Outside of work, they enjoy traveling and attending live sporting events. These adventures provide them with opportunities to explore new places, create lasting memories, and experience the thrill of live sports.

His hobbies include collecting UA pins and Pokémon cards, showcasing their enthusiasm for unique and cherished items. Additionally, Javier has a great relationship with their grill, indicating a love for cooking and sharing delicious meals with

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#### Overcoming Miscommunication by Faithful Captain Robert Barnard

##### Overcoming Miscommunication

Clear and consistent communication is key to fostering unity among council members. Regular meetings, transparent decision-making processes, and open channels for dialogue can help ensure that every member feels heard and understood. Miscommunication often arises from assumptions or incomplete information, so prioritizing clarity in our interactions is essential.

##### Aligning Priorities

Each member of Council 13440 may have individual commitments and varying levels of availability. However, unity in purpose requires us to align our priorities with the broader goals of the council. Establishing clear objectives and emphasizing the importance of each member's contribution can help bridge gaps and create a cohesive approach to our activities.

##### Encouraging Engagement

Engagement is a critical component of unity. When members feel connected to the council's mission and see the impact of their involvement, they are more likely to invest their energy and time. Encouraging participation through meaningful opportunities and recognizing members' efforts can foster a sense of belonging and shared purpose.

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family and friends. You will see him ordering up burgers and hot dogs at various church functions including the Annual Fall Parish Picnic.

His story is a testament to the power of dedication, love, and community involvement and with his dedication to our Council. Javier's journey inspires us all to pursue our passions, give back to society, and cherish the moments we share with our loved ones.

### Strategies for Strengthening Unity

Unity is not a static state; it requires ongoing effort and intentionality. By adopting strategies to reinforce our bonds and align our actions, Council 13440 can thrive as a united force for good.

### Building Relationships

Strong relationships among council members are the foundation of unity. Hosting social events, organizing team-building activities, and creating opportunities for informal interaction can deepen connections and strengthen trust. When members feel genuinely connected to one another, collaboration becomes more natural and effective.

### Shared Leadership

Unity thrives when leadership is inclusive and collaborative. Encouraging members to take on leadership roles and participate in decision-making processes can foster a sense of ownership and collective responsibility. Shared leadership allows us to leverage the strengths of our diverse membership and ensures that everyone has a voice in shaping the council's direction.

### Celebrating Success

Recognizing and celebrating achievements, both big and small, reinforces the value of unity. Whether it's a successful charitable initiative or the resolution of a challenge, acknowledging our collective efforts strengthens the bonds among members and reminds us of the power of working together.

### The Impact of Unity

The true measure of unity is its impact on our council's ability to fulfill its mission. When Council 13440 operates as a cohesive team, we amplify our capacity to make a difference in the lives of those we serve. Unity in purpose allows us to respond to community needs with efficiency and compassion, ensuring that our efforts create lasting positive change.

### Community Outreach

Unity enhances our ability to organize impactful community outreach programs, from charitable donations to volunteer initiatives. When council members work together seamlessly, our efforts are more effective and reach a wider audience, reflecting the values of the Knights of Columbus.

### Strengthening Faith

As a faith-based organization, unity strengthens our spiritual

connection and reinforces our shared commitment to live out our values. By coming together in prayer, worship, and service, we nurture our faith and inspire others to do the same.

### Conclusion

Unity in purpose is the lifeblood of Knights of Columbus Council 13440. It is what transforms individual efforts into collective achievements, and it is what enables us to uphold the values and mission of the Knights of Columbus. As we continue on our journey, let us remain committed to fostering unity among our members, embracing our shared vision, and strengthening the bonds that make Council 13440 a beacon of hope and service in our community.

By nurturing unity, we affirm that together, as Knights, we can accomplish great things. Let us move forward with purpose, dedication, and an unwavering belief in the strength of unity.

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### Installation of Officers for 2025-2026 New Fraternal Year, New Officers For Term

Congratulations to our Council Officers for the new Fraternal Year. Javier Tavira will lead us as the Grand Knight. Javier ran his first Planning Meeting and is instituting some new events that will bring more visibility for the Knights by the Church Congregation. We will be hosting the Divine Mercy Chaplet once a month. The first one for July was a success and we look for it to only grow as the Congregation begins to take notice.

Many of our past Officers are returning to their posts, some have changed titles and some are new Officers. Carey Scrugs will continue to chair COR Men of the Word, Frank Montelione continues in his appointed position as Financial Secretary and wears the hat of Newsletter Editor and Website host. Mark Layton will continue as Treasurer and Patrick Chieh, a new brother, will be our Inside Guard.



Pictured Left to Right,  
DD Robert Barnard,  
PGK Todd Morrow,  
GK Javier Tavira, State  
Deputy Kevin York,  
Chaplin Fr. Cyriac

Now Past Grand Knight Todd Morrow addressed those present thanking all for the support over the year. He was presented with a plaque in thanks



for his work for the Council.

The Officers for the Fraternal Year are:

Chaplain	Fr. Cyriac
Grand Knight	Javier Tavira
Deputy Grand Knight	Carey Scrugs
Treasurer	Mark Layton
Financial Secretary	Frank Montelions
Chancellor	Bill Childress
Advocate	Ray Prosek
Inside Guard	Patrick Chieh
Outside Guard	John Spudich
One Year Trustee	Fritz Siler
Two Year Trustee	Robert Barnard
Three Year Trust	Todd Morrow

We still have two important positions open – Recorder and Warden. The Duties and Responsibilities for these positions can be found on our webpage - [www.stoliverskofc13440.org](http://www.stoliverskofc13440.org)

Please consider taking a part in your Council by volunteering to assume one of these positions.



Our Grand Knight, Javier Tavira, instated praying the Chaplet after all Masses once a month in the Rosary Garden. Our first recitation was July 13<sup>th</sup>. It was a great success. We hope that with notices in the Bulletin, reminders at Mass and, most importantly, word of mouth, the attendance will grow.

We will notify all on our mailing list of upcoming Chaplet recitation

### The History of the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy [From DivineMercy.org](http://From DivineMercy.org)

In 1935, St. Faustina received a vision of an angel sent by God to chastise a certain city. She began to pray for mercy, but her prayers were powerless. Suddenly she saw the Holy Trinity and felt the power of Jesus' grace within her. She found herself pleading with God for mercy with words she heard interiorly:

Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world; for the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us. (*Diary*, 475)

As she continued saying this inspired prayer, the angel became helpless and could not carry out the deserved punishment (see 474). The next day, as she was entering the chapel, she again heard this interior voice, instructing her how to recite the prayer that our Lord later called "the Chaplet." This time, after "have mercy on us" were added the words "and on the whole world" (476).

From that time on, she recited this form of prayer almost constantly, offering it especially for the dying.

In subsequent revelations, the Lord made it clear that the Chaplet was not just for her, but for the whole world. He also attached extraordinary promises to its recitation.

He encourage souls to say the Chaplet which I have given you (1541). Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death (687). When they say this Chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as the just Judge but as the Merciful Savior (1541).

Prayed on ordinary rosary beads, The Chaplet of The Divine Mercy is an intercessory prayer that extends the offering of the Eucharist, so it is especially appropriate to use it after having received Holy Communion at Holy Mass. It may be said at any time, but our Lord specifically told St. Faustina to recite it during the nine days before the Feast of Mercy (the first Sunday after Easter). He then added: "By this Novena, [of Chaplets] I

will grant every possible grace to souls." (796)

It is likewise appropriate to pray the Chaplet during the "Hour of Great Mercy" — three o'clock each afternoon (recalling the time of Christ's death on the cross). In His revelations to St. Faustina, Our Lord asked for a special remembrance of His Passion at that hour.



All daily Masses and weekend Masses will beheld nt he Kane Beltran Center from July 21 through August 8 while the church carpet is being replaced and the pews are being refurbished. Adoration will be suspended during this time. Thanks for your patience while we make these improvements.



In this section we will highlight the duties and responsibilities of various Council Officers. We have a new Grand Knight with many excellent ideas to lead and grow our Council. So where better to start with then with the **Grand Knight**.

The **Grand Knight** serves as the **chief executive officer** of the local council and is responsible for overseeing all aspects of its operations.

The Grand Knight Presides over council meetings and ensures proper ceremonial conduct.

He appoints key positions such as the program director, and membership director, and oversees strategic planning, goal setting, and alignment with state and Supreme Council initiatives.

With the Financial Secretary and Treasurer coordinates the collection of dues and monitors member retention. He approves financial transactions and ensures audits are conducted.

The Grand Knight supports directors in planning Church, Family, Youth, and Community programs.

Most importantly, he encourages unity, charity, and prayer within the council and upholds the mission of the Knights to serve both the Church and the broader community.



Pope Leo XIV's Message to U.S. Pilgrims: A Call for Christian Unity

During a recent pilgrimage titled "From Rome to New Rome," Pope Leo XIV met with fifty Greek Orthodox, Byzantine Catholic, and Latin Catholic pilgrims at the serene Castel Gandolfo. Among the pilgrims were notable figures such as Archbishop Elpidophoros and Cardinal Tobin. The atmosphere was filled with anticipation as the pope prepared to deliver his address, which would emphasize the pursuit of unity and charity among Christian communities.

The timing of this meeting was significant, coinciding with the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, a cornerstone in Christian doctrine that affirmed Jesus's divinity. Pope Leo XIV highlighted this historical milestone, praising the Nicene Creed as a unifying liturgical element across Christian traditions. He noted that this year, both Eastern and Western churches celebrated Easter on the same day, which he called a "providential coincidence."

In his address, Pope Leo XIV extended peace greetings to Patriarch Bartholomew and expressed hope for future collaboration in commemorating Nicaea's anniversary. He reflected on the historical events of the 1054 Great Schism and celebrated the 1965 gesture by Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras, who lifted mutual excommunications. This act of reconciliation was a significant step towards healing the divisions within the Christian community.

The pope's message was imbued with a spirit of spiritual unity. He invoked the spirit of Pentecost, urging believers to return to Jerusalem spiritually—"the City of Peace"—and become bearers of hope and healing. His words resonated deeply with the pilgrims, who felt a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to fostering ecumenical friendship.

As the meeting concluded, the pilgrims left Castel Gandolfo with a sense of inspiration and determination. Pope Leo XIV's message had beautifully woven doctrinal history with an appeal for unity and charity, leaving an indelible mark on all who were present.



### Let Religious Freedom Ring

In its 2024-2025 term, the Supreme Court addressed several cases with significant implications for religious freedom and the relationship between church and state. A key ruling involved a unanimous decision affirming that denying a Catholic charity a tax exemption granted to other religious groups constitutes religious discrimination. The Court also ruled in favor of parents seeking to opt their children out of public school instruction that conflicts with their religious beliefs, specifically in the context of LGBTQ+ themes in the curriculum. However, the Court also addressed internet-related cases, retreating from some First Amendment principles in those specific instances.

Key Religious Freedom Cases and Decisions:

#### Catholic Charities Tax Exemption:

The Court unanimously sided with Catholic Charities in Wisconsin, ruling that denying them a tax exemption, while granting it to other religious groups, was discriminatory. This case highlighted the issue of religious exemptions and whether they should be applied uniformly.

#### Public School Opt-Outs:

In a 6-3 decision, the Court ruled in favor of parents in Montgomery County, Maryland, who sought to opt their

children out of certain public school instruction, including LGBTQ+ themed content, due to religious objections. This decision emphasizes the protection of religious beliefs in educational settings.

#### Mahmoud v. Taylor:

This case, often cited in discussions about the opt-out curriculum and religious beliefs. The case focused on whether public schools could be compelled to accommodate religious objections to certain lessons.

#### Oklahoma Statewide Charter School Board v. Drummond:

The Court did not reach a decision in this case, which involved a Catholic virtual charter school's application to become the first religious charter school. This case highlights the ongoing debate surrounding religious institutions in public education.

#### Religious Liberty in Public Spaces:

First Liberty Institute is currently involved in a case concerning a man who was prohibited from sharing his faith in a public park, raising questions about religious expression in public spaces.



### The month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood.

The feast of the Precious Blood of our Lord was instituted in 1849 by Pius IX, but the devotion is as old as Christianity. The early Fathers say that the Church was born from the pierced side of Christ, and that the sacraments were brought forth through His Blood.

"The Precious Blood which we worship is the Blood which the Savior shed for us on Calvary and reassumed at His glorious Resurrection; it is the Blood which courses through the veins of His risen, glorified, living body at the right hand of God the Father in heaven; it is the Blood made present on our altars by the words of Consecration; it is the Blood which merited sanctifying grace for us and through it washes and beautifies our soul and inaugurates the beginning of eternal life in it."

The Church reminds us of the first drops of blood that flowed for our redemption on the day when Jesus was circumcised.

It is night on Mount Olivet, and the moon is shining. We see the holy face crimsoned with blood during the agony in the garden.

Unhappy, despairing Judas casts the blood-money down in the temple. "I have betrayed innocent blood!"

In the scourging chamber we see the Lord in deepest humiliation, under raw strokes the divine Blood spurts out over the floor. Christ is led before Pilate. Pilate shows the blood-covered Body to the crowds: *Ecce homo!* We go through Jerusalem's streets following the bloody footsteps of Golgotha. Down the beams of the Cross blood trickles. A soldier opens the sacred side. Water and Blood.

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

## Upcoming Events:

### August

8/10/25	Devine Chapel of Mercy (Rosary Garden) <b>after each mass</b>
8/11/25	Planning meeting (Library) <b>7pm</b>
8/16/25	Intellectual Disabilities Drive (Kroger) <b>9am-1pm</b>
8/17/25	Blood Drive (KBC) <b>8am-2pm</b> 7am-3pm
8/18/25	Rosary/Council meeting (Sanctuary/KBC) <b>6pm</b>
8/28/25	Men's Bible Study (JPII Center) <b>7pm</b>
8/31/25	Coffee and Donuts (KBC) <b>after 8am and 9:30 mass</b>

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### Comical Closer

A pair of Irish ditch diggers were repairing some road damage directly across the street from a house of prostitution.

They witnessed a Protestant minister lurking about, then duck into the house.

"Would ye look at that, Darby!" said Pat. "What a shameful disgrace, those Protestant reverends sinning in a house the likes of that place!" They both shook their heads and continued working.

A short time later they watched as a Rabbi looked around cautiously and then darted into the house when he was satisfied no one was looking. "Did ya see that, Darby?" Pat asked in shock and disbelief, "Is nothing holy to those Jewish rabbis? I just can't understand what the world is coming to these days. A man of the cloth indulging himself in sins of the flesh. T'is a shame, I tell ya!"

Not much later a third man, a Catholic priest, was seen lurking about the house, looking around to see if anyone was watching, then quietly sneaked in. "Oh no, Darby, look!" said Pat, removing his cap and crossing himself, "One of the poor girls musta died...."

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### Several Cartoons to Follow



*"That's my boy!"*

