



THE SOUTHERN CROSS

Grand Knight's Message

Gentlemen,

After six months into the Knights year which began July 1st, I am pleased to announce that the status of the Council is very strong. We have had an extremely active late summer, fall and now into winter. Our 2nd annual bowling tournament was a huge success in raising funds for our annual scholarship program. We followed that with a record Respect Life Brunch in which we donated \$13,750 to the Southwest Dade Pregnancy Center in our annual drive to promote our pro-life values. We partnered with our 4th Degree Assembly for the Annual Turkey Bowl between Pace and Belen in football raising hundreds of dollars for our annual food and turkey drive. In partnership with Saint Theresa School, we donated over 1,500 hundred pounds of food and 300 turkeys to those less fortunate in our community. Once again, we delivered close to a thousand toys in our annual toy drive in December and supported the Dodge Christmas Party in south-Dade for hundreds of underprivileged children in our County. We had a fantastic Christmas Party at the Hall for all our families with a special visit from Santa. If you haven't been by the Hall in a few years, please try and make our monthly Council meetings the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM

We hosted a great BBQ for all the Alter Servers at COTLF in October at the request of Father Flores and provided real nice certificates from the Knights for each server in recognition of their service to the church. Our Supreme Council has asked us to hold a spiritual event as part of the "Faith in Action" program started in 2018. We hosted a Retreat for Men at Saint Augustine with Father Omar Huesca during Advent with over 50 men in attendance. We plan to do another event during Lent. We are now gearing up for our Chili Fest for Veterans on January 20th. As you can see we are non-stop and clearly one of the most active Councils in south Florida. Our Hall Club is in the strongest shape it has been in decades; please read the report from our Hall Club President Javier Maribona. Look forward to seeing you all at our next Council event.

Vivat Jesus,

Matt Brophy, GK

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A Knight's Story: The Miracle of St. Jude

By Felipe Barreda

My wife and I had been married for ten years and we were told that we would never be parents. We had already gone through three miscarriages and it seemed that our role was going to be doting uncles and aunts. However, our son Victor was born on September 25, 2006. At the time my wife and I were members of extraordinary form of the Roman Mass (i.e. the traditional Tridentine Mass) at St. Robert Bellarmine in Allapattah. My wife and I were heavily involved in the parish and I was master of ceremonies to our priest Father Joseph Fishwick who was assigned to the Latin Mass and was the Roman Catholic Chaplain at South Miami Hospital. Victor was born at Mercy Hospital and on November 11, 2006 was baptized at St. Robert Bellarmine church by the pastor Father Omar Huesca. For the first eighteen months, Victor was a happy normal child.

However, on May 15, 2008 while he and Victor were over at his godmother's house getting ready to go on a trip to visit Mary's brother in Ohio, I got a telephone call from Victor's doctor that he and Mary could not fly and was told to go the next day to Baptist Hospital to see a pediatric hematologist by the name of Dr. Dured Dagastani. We got to the office and immediately I sensed that something wasn't right when I saw the words pediatric oncologist. A blood test was done and that's when we got the devastating news that Victor had leukemia. My only experience with leukemia up until that time was as a kid growing up in Massachusetts. Every kid I knew who had leukemia died and when I heard that Victor had leukemia my first thought was that I had to plan for an eventual funeral. Victor was immediately admitted to the oncology wing of the pediatric ward of Baptist Hospital.

Immediately we reached out to family and friends during this time of need. One of Mary's cousins was married to a prominent Lebanese American Cosmetic Surgeon in Miami, Dr. Thomas Zaydon Jr.. His father was Dr. Thomas Zaydon Sr. who was a founding arcon at St. Jude Melkite Church in Brickell and was also a friend of Danny Thomas, the founder of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. His daughter and Dr. Zaydon Jr.'s sister Tama Zaydon was on the board of directors for St. Jude. She immediately contacted St. Jude and St. Jude immediately contacted us and informed us that Victor and Mary had a flight reservation to Memphis, TN the next day and that they would be picked up at the airport in Memphis.

On May 17, 2008 Victor was admitted to St. Jude and tests confirmed that he had acute lymphoblastic leukemia which was the easier form of leukemia to treat. Victor underwent surgery to place an intravenous external port (otherwise known to the kids as "budy") and immediately started a protocol of chemo therapy. After being discharged from the hospital, Mary and Victor were put up at the Ronald McDonald House in Memphis and within a month and a half, Victor had gone into remission. Victor and Mary returned home shortly afterwards and would only need to follow up with the local oncologist and St. Jude about once a month for treatment.

During one of their return trips in September, 2008 Victor and Mary returned to St. Jude to receive chemo therapy but then Victor developed an allergic reaction to one of the medications, purge aspirginase. St. Jude offered an alternative treatment that only the FDA had approved St. Jude to administer but it required Victor to get three injections twice a week which meant that Mary and Victor would have to stay in Memphis.

Unlike Ronald McDonald House which had individual rooms with bathrooms and had common kitchens for the residents, Target House had individual apartments with two rooms private bathrooms and kitchens. If you were only at St. Jude for a period of two weeks, St. Jude would put you up in the Grizzly House which was like their own private hotel and provide you with a meal card to eat in the cafeteria. If the stay was three months or less, then you would go to the Ronald McDonald House. More than three months and patients were kept in Target House.

From September of 2008 to May of 2009 Victor underwent three injections of medication twice a week. He also underwent treatment with chemo therapy which would take several hours and he would also get frequent spinal taps which required him to go under general anesthesia. At St. Jude we got to know many families who were going through the same situation as we were. Some of the other kids had worse cancers than Victor and several of them died while undergoing treatment. I remember going to the funeral of a little girl here in Miami who we knew at St. Jude. I can never forget the impression I got when I saw her dressed in her pajamas in her open casket surrounded by her toys and plush animals.

Even though Mary, Victor and I went through some rough times at St. Jude they were also marked by occasions of great happiness and many blessings. We got to know members of a local Roman Catholic Church in Memphis who placed Victor on their prayer list and received regular visits from their deacon and a seminarian who happened to be Cuban and whose parents also lived in Memphis. Mary joined a rosary group with the other St. Jude moms at Target House and we got to get close to several other families. I was fortunate to have friends and family who helped me out by helping me get monthly flights to Memphis to go see Mary and Victor. We spent Christmas in Memphis and Target House made sure that Victor got his toys from Santa. You should have seen the look on his face when he got all the toys he asked for. In May of 2009 Mary and Victor returned to Miami and would do monthly trips to Memphis until he finished his treatment in January 2011.

St. Jude took care of everything. Victor's treatment cost approximately \$500,000 but we never received a bill for medical treatment from St. Jude. They also covered the cost of Victor and Mary's flights to and from Memphis; they provided lodging to us at no cost and food as well but most important of all they provided us with the belief and confidence that Victor was going to be okay and that he was going to get over his cancer. That's not to say there weren't many scares along the way. I remember Victor had to be admitted several times to the hospital for fevers that he would get due to his weakened immune system. One fever was so bad that the doctor had told us had we not gotten Victor to the emergency room when we did, he would not have survived.

In gratitude for everything St. Jude had provided us, we agreed to allow St. Jude to use Victor in their fundraising campaigns and promotional materials. Mary and Victor got to travel around the country to do radio and television interviews and we got to meet many celebrities among them Luis Fonsi and Jeb Bush Jr. I even participated in not one but three triathlons here in Miami and raised over \$30,000 for St. Jude. In my first triathlon I got interviewed by local and national news media and even got onto Fox Sports. I still have the DVD of the spot. Most importantly we were able to give back to St. Jude and help thousands of other children beat cancer.

In February 2011 I lost my job with a major cruise line about a month and a half after Victor finished his treatment but fortunately Mary and I found new community and acceptance at the Church of the Little Flower, St. Theresa Catholic School, the Emmaus community, the marriage covenant community and the Knights of Columbus. I was not aware of the prayers and support we had received from this community until after I had joined Emmaus and Knights. During Victor's time at St. Jude the nun's at St. Theresa Catholic School had the kids write motivational messages to Victor, send him coloring books and stuffed animals. Victor had made such an impact at St. Theresa that when he joined as a student, he became an instant celebrity.

Thanks be to God Victor is now twelve and St. Jude already considers him to have been cured of his leukemia. Victor and Mary continue to go to St. Jude once a year for annual checkups. Victor is now in the survivor program and his case is providing valuable information to St. Jude in order to help kids beat their cancers. St. Jude is a research hospital completely funded by government grants, insurance payments and generous donations from members of the public. It costs \$1.6 million dollars a day to run the hospital but they manage to raise the money and get the job of saving children's lives done and more importantly St. Jude share's its research with other hospitals around the world free of charge.

These last seven years has not been easy on our family, but thanks to St. Jude, the Knights and God's grace we have managed to make it through. God bless you all.



K of C Hall Club

by Javier Maribona - PGK and Hall Club Pres.

Did you know besides the Council we have a separate entity known as the KofC Council Hall Club. Officers are elected every three years and we manage the property which includes the Hall as well as the small strip mall on Salzedo across from our parking lot. The founders were very smart to include the strip mall that generates roughly 100K in revenue to offset taxes, insurance and other expenses. We now have a strong partnership with Fetes & Events which operates their business out of the main Hall. The improvements made the last 7 years have been incredible, please view the photos on this page that show how far the Hall has transformed itself recently. I know many of you have enjoyed our renovated facility but much of our membership doesn't get by too often to see all the improvements, especially those members that live outside Miami. We just finished our financial year and we are in the best shape we have been in decades. We have been building a strong reserve fund and really have very few improvements left to do since we just renovated the bathrooms this last summer. As Knights we do offer you a special discount for renting the facility, we do ask that you use Fetes & Events for any catering. Our fellow Knight, JC Miranda and his daughter Danielle, are ready to help you plan and execute a great event. I am also glad to inform you the Hall booking are up substantially in 2019 with almost every Saturday booked this year. On behalf of myself and the Hall Club Board we are pleased to support our Council and all the events they do at the Hall with such an unbelievable facility. We also contribute over \$7,500 to the Council and their charitable endeavors.



Vivat Jesus,

Javier Maribona
PGK and Hall Club President



If you have not seen the Knights of Columbus hall in several years you need to return and see this hidden gem several blocks south of Miracle Mile. The Club of Knights has several unique venues inside and outside. Inside is an elegant ballroom with state of the art lighting, sound system, video projection system and dance floor. Also inside is the bar and lounge with separate sound system and large TV. Outside, the courtyard has natural outdoor beauty with a historic flare and addition bar. Located at 270 Catalonia Avenue in Coral Gables this venue makes for a wonderful setting for any event.

Chaplain's Message



Brother Knights,

A belated Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year to you all! I wanted to communicate my continued support and prayers for you all as I see our Council is as busy as ever, and to ask for your prayers regarding the passing of Msgr. Marin, the pastor of St. Augustine.

As we reflect on the beginning of this year, maybe we can reflect on this idea of transformation and transition: the transition from the old to the new, the transition between life and death, and the transition within ourselves that occurs when one knows the saving and redeeming power of Christ.

Please continue to pray for us as we've been extremely busy at the University of Miami, and our continued emphasis for this year is this idea of assisting those around us to have that transformative moment in Christ. From our Gameday (tailgate) ministry that invites many students from all walks of life to enjoy true fellowship, to our Men's and Women's nights, to our fellowship meals, liturgies, retreats, etc., it all returns to Christ.

I pray that in 2019 that Christ will indeed "make all things new" (Rev 21:5) in all of you, and to transform your families and our culture through the example of the way that you live your lives, and through the example of our Knights of Columbus council.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Phillip H. Tran

Catholic Chaplain for the University of Miami
Archdiocese of Miami

"Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."
John 15:13

Field Agent

"Not another salesman. A Brother *Knight*."

As a Brother Knight, your Knights of Columbus agent has a special perspective on your situation. Our products are tailored to our members, and our agents are professionally trained to show how a comprehensive insurance plan can protect you and your family.

Let your agent in so you can learn all about the benefits of brotherhood."



Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE



Knights in Action





**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS

- January 9th Council Meeting 7:00 PM Knight's Hall**
- January 20th Gables Chili Fest 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM Knight's Hall**
- January 22nd Council Social 7:00 PM Knight's Hall**
- January 30th First Degree 7:00 PM Knight's Hall**
- February 6th Council Meeting 7:00 PM Knight's Hall**
- February 20th Council Social 7:00 PM Knight's Hall**
- February 23rd Habitat for Humanity**
- March 6th Council Meeting 7:00 PM Knight's Hall**
- March Special Olympic TBD**
- April 3rd Council Meeting 7:00 PM Knight's Hall**
- April 5th Fish Fry 7:00 PM Knight's Hall**
- May 1st Council Meeting 7:00 PM Knight's Hall**
- May 15th Council Social 7:00 PM Knight's Hall**
- June 5th Annual Meeting & Elections 7:00 PM Knight's Hall**
- June 8th Knight's Gala**

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Come visit the new and improved Knight's Hall with all new bathrooms. Invite new members to our First Degree on January 30th!

SAVE THE DATE:

The Knight's Annual Fundraiser and Gala will be on Saturday, June 8th! Don't miss it!

**THE
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Coral Gables Council 3274

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*Gloria Patri et filii et spiritui sancto. Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in saecula saeculorum.
Amen.*



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
CORAL GABLES COUNCIL #3274

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The Southern Cross is published periodically by the Knights of Columbus, Coral Gables Council 3274. Opinions expressed are those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect those of Coral Gables Council 3274 or the Knights of Columbus. Questions and concerns should be addressed to the Grand Knight. Comments with respect to the publication should be emailed to editor3274@gmail.com.