



THE POTOMAC DISCOVERER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
POTOMAC COUNCIL #9259

Meeting Times

Officers Meeting: Second
Thursday of each month, 7-8 p.m.

Council Meeting: Fourth Thursday
of each month, 7-8 p.m.

Where are we?

We meet in the basement of St.
Francis of Assisi Catholic School.
18825 Fuller Heights Rd., Triangle,
VA. 22172

Join us

We are always looking for Catholic
gentlemen 18 years or older to
help our mission of Faith,
Community, Life and Charity. It is
great for you and your family to
participate and you can participate
at a level you are comfortable
with.

K of C Financial Advisor

Jeff Ghering
571-677-1075
jeff.ghering@kofc.org

Musings from the Grand Knight

Brother Knights,
It is that time of the year when our programs are wrapping up and we will start planning for the next fraternal year.

However, there are still opportunities to serve around the parish and in the community. Donut Sunday is March 9 after the 8:00 and 9:30 masses, Into the Breach with the Men's Fellowship Ministry is on Tuesday, March 11, and the Virginia March for Life is on Wednesday, April 2 – marshals are needed.

Please plan to come to our Council Social on **Thursday, March 27 from 7-8 PM** where we will be celebrating Founders Day (officially March 29). Our Insurance Agent will be giving a presentation titled "Guard: Strategies to Protect Your Family's Legacy" and discussing legacy/estate preservation, including retirement planning.

The nominating committee will be starting to build next year's slate of officers. I would ask everyone to prayerfully consider stepping up to serve in one of these roles. At a minimum, think about at least one program you intend to support next year. Reach out to the trustees or myself.

As we enter the Lenten season, take some time to reflect on this jubilee year's theme: Pilgrims of Hope. Be a pilgrim during your personal Lenten journey with the enduring hope that is Jesus' resurrection.

Vivat Jesus!

SK Ryan Steenberge
Grand Knight
Potomac Council, 9259

Recent Events



K of C Polar Plunge with GK Ryan, PGK Alex and
'Volunteers'



MEN OF THE PARISH
FAITH and FELLOWSHIP
VIEW
THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS VIDEO SERIES:

“INTO THE BREACH”

PARTICIPATE IN
A Small Group Discussion
COME JOIN US
The 2nd Tuesday Evening of Each Month
7 to 9 pm in the Brother Juniper Room

For More Information Contact:

Tony Mercogliano
amercogliano@gmail.com
St. Francis of Assisi
Men’s Fellowship Ministry
<https://stfrncis.org/mfm/>

Ryan Steenberge
ryan.steenberge@gmail.com
Knights of Columbus
Potomac/Triangle Council #9259
<https://uknight.org/CouncilSite/?CNO=9259>

Upcoming Events



Fraternal Benefit Event

Learn more about how you can align your finances with your faith.

Strategies to Protect Your Family's Legacy

Date: Thursday, March 27 **Time:** 7:00 PM

Location: KofC Hall - Basement of School

RSVP: gheringofficemail@kofc.org

RSVP by: Tuesday, March 25



Learn more about:

- Financial protection for your family through life insurance
- Long-term care insurance options
- Annuities that can provide lifetime income in retirement
- A brotherhood that cares for one another, their families and the world

Open to members & non-members.



Knights of Columbus

Jeff Ghering, FIC
Field Agent
571-677-1075
jeff.ghering@kofc.org



Worthy Grand Knight,

I'm Jim Adams, PGK. To assist in charity events I incorporated a company in Virginia, Fr Julius J Clilnski Charities Inc., and gained approval from the IRS that this company is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit company. I am the Director of that company.

As mentioned in the attached flyer, if one contributes to this company, e.g., sponsor a hole for \$300 I will send that person/organization a letter acknowledging that contribution as tax deductible. Your Council can sponsor a hole; an individual can sponsor a hole perhaps acknowledging a recently deceased friend or their personal business. Your call. We will place a sign on that hole identifying the sponsor.

In 2022 and 2024 we conducted a Golf Outing at The Country Club of Fairfax and raised a total of approximately \$25,000 for KOVAR.

We are conducting another Outing on April 28, 2025.

I am inviting all Councils in the Arlington Diocese to participate in this Outing with at least one foursome. In 2024 we had seven Councils participate.

I humbly request that your Council participate Unifying with other Councils in Charity, with the Fraternity of playing a round of golf and enjoying dinner together afterwards - the three tenants of the KofC, Unity, Charity and Fraternity.

I also request that you consider including the attached flyer in your monthly newsletter to alert all of your Council members. But one doesn't have to be a member of the Knight of Columbus to play. The outing is open to all golfers, men and women.

If you would like me to visit one of your Council meetings to discuss this I would be pleased to do that.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Vivat Jesu,

Jim



DATE & TIME: 4/28/2025 Shotgun Start @ 1:00 pm **PRIZES:**

REGISTRATION: Opens at 11:30 am 1st Place \$400 + Revolving Trophy to Represented Council

COST: \$150 per player, which includes green fee, cart fee, free range balls, box lunch, dinner, and prizes 2nd Place \$200

Don't Delay - Limited to first 100 golfers registered Longest Drive – \$50, men & ladies

❖ Mulligans: 3 for \$5 and 5 for \$10 * Silent Auction/Raffle Prizes

❖ 50/50 – 3 for \$2, 5 for \$3, 20 for \$10 * 36" Putting String: \$10

*** SPONSORS AND DONORS NEEDED ***
– see Sponsor Information for details –

Contact: PGK James Adams
 Jladams1964@gmail.com
 Make check payable to: Father Julius J Cilinski Charities Inc.
 Send checks to: 12901 Popes Head Road, Clifton, VA 20124

Player Name	Council Affiliation

SPONSOR INFORMATION

GOLD	\$5,000 includes: two (2) foursomes, signage recognition, and full page ad in program
SILVER	\$2,500 includes: one (1) foursome, signage recognition, and half page ad in program
BRONZE	\$1,500 includes: two (2) paid registrations, signage recognition, and one quarter page ad in program
PATRON	\$300 includes: signage recognition and your name listed in program
Please provide your company logo/ad via .pdf or .jpg format to <arodrigue63@aol.com>	

DRESS CODE:

Men: Collared Shirt, Mock Turtleneck, or Turtleneck, tucked in unless banded

Women: May wear shirts without collars or sleeves; neckline must be round, crew, mock-turtle, boat neck or v-shaped, tucked in unless banded

All: Jeans/denim, gym attire prohibited

Fr. Julius J Cilinski Charities Inc. is an IRS approved 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization which supports a number of religious programs including: KOVAR, Wheel Chairs, Pro-Life, Retirement Fund for Religious, Food Banks, etc. Specific charity supported by this initiative will be KOVAR.

March 9th After 8:00 & 9:30 Mass



ACTS (Action in the Community Through Service) ACTSPWC.ORG does a lot of good charity work in the area, they are seeking people to help deliver food to a growing list of people in need, these are mostly seniors or people with disabilities. They are currently serving a record 90 individuals and are in need of help. You can contact the Grand Knight at GK92592KofC.org if you are interested.



Celebrating the Jubilee Year 2025

WHEREAS, following a period of great war and disease in the late 13th century, a multitude of the faithful made a pilgrimage to Rome for Christmas in 1299 to pray at the tombs of St. Peter and St. Paul, prompting Pope Boniface VIII to proclaim the first jubilee year in 1300, thereby inaugurating a tradition of popes proclaiming jubilee years as special opportunities to seek forgiveness for sin and its temporal punishments, while also calling on the whole of Christendom to renew their commitment to serve God with joy and peace in a spirit of solidarity, hope, and justice; and

WHEREAS, the origin of these celebrations traces its roots to the earliest days of Mosaic Law in the Book of Leviticus, which prescribed a special year for the Jewish people saying, “And you shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you;” and

WHEREAS, in 1470, Pope Paul II issued a Papal Bull setting the celebration of ordinary jubilee years at every 25 years beginning in 1475 and continuing to the present day, with particular focus on the faithful going on pilgrimage to Rome to pray at the tombs of St. Peter and St. Paul, with more-modern traditions expanding to include the opening of Holy Doors at the Papal Basilicas of St. Peter, St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, and St. Paul outside the Walls, as well as celebrations in local dioceses throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, during the Jubilee Year 2000, the Knights of Columbus provided funds to restore the Maderno Atrium and Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica to prepare the largest church in Christendom, and an important symbol of our Church and our Catholic faith, for the third millennium of the Christian era; and

WHEREAS, during the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis in 2016, the Order promoted frequent reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation as well as local pilgrimages to the Holy Doors in local dioceses throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, in the Bull of Indiction, *Spes Non Confundit*, Pope Francis proclaimed that the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025 will commence on December 24, 2024, with the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica and conclude on January 6, 2026; and

WHEREAS, in proclaiming this Jubilee Year, the Holy Father asks the faithful to reflect especially on the need for hope, saying, “We need to recognize the immense goodness present in our world, lest we be tempted to think ourselves overwhelmed by evil and violence. The signs of the times, which include the yearning of human hearts in need of God’s saving presence, ought to become signs of hope;” and

WHEREAS, the Holy Father exhorts all people to bring hope to those for whom it is most needed in this present age—especially the poor, those who suffer from war, those who do not accept new life into the world, the young generations, the incarcerated, migrants, the sick, and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, in anticipation of the Jubilee Year 2025, the Knights of Columbus committed the necessary funds for the restoration of the iconic baldacchino over the main altar of St. Peter’s Basilica as well as the bronze statues surrounding the ancient relic of the Chair of St. Peter—all masterpieces by the Renaissance artist Gianlorenzo Bernini and important reminders of the Church’s apostolic authority as instituted by Jesus Christ.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Knights of Columbus and our families welcome with joyous anticipation the Jubilee Year 2025 and commit ourselves to a year of forgiveness and renewed faith; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that through our many charitable and faith-filled programs, Knights of Columbus will respond to the call of Pope Francis to bring hope to those communities most in need of our witness through which, we pray, they will see the face of Christ.

KNIGHTS' CHAPLAIN'S CORNER --- MAR 2025

POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST

Take a look at Pope's Francis' prayer request for this month:

1-For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.



THE POPE VIDEO

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

2-VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkqR7ReJuNI>

3-ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & REFLECTION



Pope Francis – March 2025

We all dream about a beautiful, perfect family. But there's no such thing as a perfect family. Every family has its own problems, as well as its tremendous joys.

Every member of the family is important because each member is different than the others, each person is unique. But these differences can also cause conflict and painful wounds.

And the best medicine to heal the pain of a wounded family is forgiveness.

Forgiveness means giving another chance. God does this with us all the time. God's patience is infinite. He forgives us, lifts us up, gives us a new start. Forgiveness always renews the family, making it look forward with hope.

Even when there's no possibility of the "happy ending" we'd like, God's grace gives us the strength to forgive, and it brings peace, because it frees us from sadness, and, above all, from resentment.

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

Pope Francis: The best medicine to heal the pain of a wounded family is forgiveness

In the video illustrating his prayer intention for the month of March, the Pope asks us to pray “that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds.”

Pope Francis emphasizes that forgiveness always renews the family and allows family members to look ahead with hope.

Even when a “happy ending” is not possible, forgiveness “brings peace, because it frees us from sadness and resentment.”

(Vatican City, 4 March 2025). –Pope Francis dedicates his prayer intention for the month of March to families in crisis. This is an increasingly more important theme in society today in which the number of separations and divorces is greater than marriages in many countries. In the video message produced by the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network that illustrates his intention, the Pope asks that we pray “that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other’s gifts, even in their differences.”

The perfect family does not exist

Doors slamming, shouting at home in front of the children, strong arguments between parents and children, conflict between brothers and sisters – The Pope Video accompanying Pope Francis’s words shows scenes of family that most of us are familiar with. In fact, every family has its sufferings, its joys, and its crisis moments: “We all dream about a beautiful, perfect family. But there’s no such thing as a perfect family,” the Pope confirms.

Conflicts often originate because of differences between members of the family itself. This is why it is necessary to know how to respect and appreciate each person, with the conviction that everyone contributes something to family unity.

Pope Francis also states that when conflicts create deep wounds, “the best medicine to heal the pain of a wounded family is forgiveness.” Giving others another chance as God does with us, “forgiveness always renews the family, making it look forward with hope.” Even in those cases when restoring the family unit is not possible, when, in the words of the Pope, “there’s no possibility of the ‘happy ending’ we’d like,” forgiveness frees us from sadness and resentment.

However, as Pope Francis explains in his Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, “experience shows that with proper assistance and acts of reconciliation, through grace, a great percentage of troubled marriages find a solution in a satisfying manner. To know how to forgive and to feel forgiven is a basic experience in family life.” What can be learned by surmounting a crisis is that “every new step along the way can help couples find new ways to happiness.”

Five pieces of advice for family living

Commenting on this month's video, the International Director of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, Father Cristóbal Fones, S.J., explains several attitudes that can enhance a family's daily life. "First of all, we need to accept everyone's differences, considering them as an opportunity to enrich family relationships. The family unit is composed of different people who love and respect each other and try to learn from each other. Secondly, and closely related to the first, another basic attitude is that of appreciating others, recognizing their richness and gifts."

This means we should try not to judge people. "We cannot expect others to be perfect, or their love to be perfect, in order to appreciate them. As Pope Francis says, the other person loves me as I am, and as he or she can, with their limitations and defects. But this does not mean that their love is not true."

Understanding one's own weaknesses, and those of others, leads to the most important attitude in the family – asking for forgiveness and forgiving when necessary. "We can learn from the Lord's humility and mercy," Father Fones continues. "It can be difficult to forgive the family member who hurts us deeply, because wounds caused by family members are usually the most painful. This is why it is always good to keep in mind that Jesus has forgiven us first, as Pope Francis often reminds us."

The International Director for the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network ends his list of attitudes for daily life by referring to accompaniment.

LET US PRAY

For families in crisis

MARCH 2025



"The best medicine to heal the pain of a wounded family is forgiveness."

Franciscus



THE POPE VIDEO

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

“The Christian community can and must be a place of acceptance, dialogue, prayer, and accompaniment. It is where families can find hope and help for reconciliation when is necessary, without feeling judged. Our model to follow is always that mercy our Lord has for us.

Images, text, & video: <https://www.popesprayer.va/>

SUPREME CHAPLAIN’S MONTHLY CHALLENGE

1-CHALLENGE

MARCH 2025

“A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not pick figs from thornbushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles.” (Gospel for March 2, Lk 6:43-44)



Scripture often reminds us that our faith must be made evident through our works, through the good that we do. If we are truly prayerful and holy in an interior way, we will also be productive in the world. Like a tree, we will be known by the fruit we produce. May we always be mindful that faith calls us to lead lives of virtue in service to God and neighbor.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to prayerfully identify at least one area of your life where you could bear better fruit. Then, guided by the Holy Spirit, undertake at least one concrete resolution to improve.

Questions for Reflection:

To borrow an old question: If you were accused of being a Christian, would there be sufficient evidence to convict you? Where do you see room for improvement in turning your faith into action? What opportunities does the Knights of Columbus provide to help you bear good fruit?

Images, text, & video: <https://www.kofc.org/en/who-we-are/our-faith/monthly-challenge.html?1tab=1tab0>

peace & all that is good. friar Chris
864-202-8740 cdunn@stfrancis.org



News and Links of Interest

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

I'm sure I'm not the only one that has noticed the continuous improvements made to the St. Francis of Assisi parish website. It is a great resource to learn about events at our church, and to connect with the broader community through ministries, learning, and special programs. Please take a few minutes to browse the site here: <https://stfrancis.org>.

Knights of Columbus News

Get the latest new about the Knights of Columbus here: [Recent News - News Hub | Knights of Columbus \(kofc.org\)](#)

News from the Arlington Diocese

Find the latest news releases from the Arlington Diocese here:
<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/pressreleases/>

Prayers

Please remember those in need of prayers – our brothers and sisters impacted by war, disasters, disease, and all those who are marginalized in our world.