

Knights of Columbus Council 12376

Our Lady Queen of the Apostles

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

DATE 7/27/2026

Chancellor Reflection:

Following the Rosary and before the meeting was called to order, Chancellor Frank Balzano shared an answered prayer concerning his daughter. After a tumor was discovered, the Council and others prayed for her, and emails were circulated requesting continued prayers. Frank also noted that his neighbor, a Jewish man with contacts in Israel, arranged for a written prayer to be placed in the Western Wall in Jerusalem. He later reported that doctors could no longer find the tumor and expressed his gratitude for the prayers offered for his daughter and family.

Frank then read a reflection entitled, "The Question: Realization of Our Journey Home." The reflection considered why God sometimes calls good people from this life sooner than we expect. It presented death not only as a loss, but as a return home to God, while describing grief as evidence of the love and blessing shared with the person who has died. The reflection concluded by encouraging those who mourn to carry forward the light and goodness of their loved ones in the hope of being reunited with them in the life to come.

Meeting Called to Order –

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by the Grand Knight, Stephen Holdaway.
The opening ceremony was performed.
39 Members in attendance.

Opening Ceremony:

Lord's Prayer, led by GK Steve Holdaway.
Pledge of Allegiance led by GK Steve Holdaway.
The roll of officers was called and noted as follows:

Chaplain	P	Financial Secretary	P	Outside Guard	P
Grand Knight	P	Treasurer	P	3 year Trustee	P
Deputy Grand Knight	P	Advocate	E	2 year Trustee	P
Chancellor	P	Warden	P	1 year Trustee	E
Recorder	P	Inside Guard	P		

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POSITION	OFFICER
Chaplain	Father Laurent
Grand Knight	Stephen Holdaway
Deputy Grand Knight	Oliver Brown
Chancellor	Frank Balzano
Recorder	Victor Straiton
Treasurer	Jose Calas
Financial Secretary	Ken Ida
Advocate	Dan Carbone
Warden	Neville Moo Young
Inside Guard	Vincent Loria
Outside Guard	Ray Taylor
Three Year Trustee	Guy Scavelli
Two Year Trustee	Greg Mazzella
One Year Trustee	Bill Mergens

Minutes of Prior Meeting were emailed to all members. Corrections or additions to minutes made as needed. Motion to approve. Approved

Grand Knight's Report:

Grand Knight Stephen Holdaway presented four primary priorities for the coming fraternal year: strengthening the Council's relationship with the Parish, developing a broader fundraising strategy, increasing member participation and growth, and protecting the integrity and reputation of the Knights of Columbus and the Church.

The Grand Knight summarized his July 23 meeting with Fr. Andy. He reported that the Parish intends to respect the Council's established fundraising activities, including the Lenten Fish Fry, and will work toward better communication with the Council before decisions are made that could materially affect the Council's financial position. He emphasized that the Council's objective is cooperation, communication, and mutual respect rather than confrontation.

To improve communication, regular meetings will be held between Fr. Andy and representatives of the Council. The next meeting is scheduled for August 14 and is expected to last approximately one hour. The Grand Knight and Financial Secretary Jose Calas will represent the Council. A request for Faithful Navigator Ray Sulla to participate in future meetings will be raised for consideration. Questions concerning parish rent and other financial arrangements will also be addressed at a future meeting.

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Members discussed the Council's financial commitment to assist local youth participating in World Youth Day. Questions were raised regarding the amount of the commitment, and its potential effect on Council finances. Some members questioned the spiritual and charitable value of the trip, while others emphasized the importance of supporting opportunities for young Catholics to deepen their faith.

The Grand Knight explained that the commitment formed part of the broader discussions with the Parish that helped preserve the Fish Fry and other established Council fundraising activities. He further stated that the request reflected the pastoral priorities of Fr. Andy and Bishop Rodríguez, in support of the wider mission and direction of the Catholic Church under Pope Leo XIV.

The Grand Knight also clarified that \$500 had already been contributed toward the initiative. The remaining amount and the Council's total commitment will be reviewed and clarified at the next meeting with Fr. Andy.

During this discussion, one member expressed strong disagreement with the manner in which the commitment had been made and stated his intention to resign from the Council. The Grand Knight and Chaplain encouraged the brothers to continue addressing disagreements respectfully and to seek reconciliation through charitable and constructive dialogue.

The Grand Knight then presented a fundraising initiative initially described as "11 Months, 11 Events." The purpose of the initiative is to strengthen the Council's finances while also increasing fellowship, family participation, charitable activity, and opportunities to recruit new members. Potential activities included heritage nights, social events, family dinners, holiday celebrations, entertainment events, and other community-oriented fundraisers.

Following discussion concerning feasibility, parish coordination, volunteer availability, and difficulties encountered with previous fundraising efforts, the Grand Knight suggested beginning with events approximately every other month. No final event calendar was adopted. Members were encouraged to propose events and volunteer to serve as chairmen or committee members. Each event will require a chairman, committee, proposed budget, fundraising goal, and coordination with the Parish before proceeding.

Members also discussed methods of publicizing Council activities, including parish bulletin announcements, overhead announcements, bulletin inserts, flyers, and limited announcements associated with Mass. It was noted that all parish publicity must be coordinated with Fr. Andy and the appropriate parish staff. The Grand Knight will seek further clarification during the next meeting with the Parish.

The Grand Knight emphasized that the strength of the Council should be measured not only by the number of members on the roster, but also by attendance, volunteer participation, charitable service, successful programs, and recruitment. He encouraged each brother to invite another Catholic man to attend a Council meeting or event and asked members to become actively involved in committees and upcoming activities.

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The Grand Knight further stated that any concerns involving the unauthorized removal or misuse of Church or kitchen property must be handled carefully, professionally, and based upon verified facts. No individual should be accused without sufficient evidence. Any credible concerns should be documented and addressed through the proper Council and parish channels.

The Grand Knight concluded by reminding the members that rebuilding the Council's financial position, strengthening its relationship with the Parish, increasing participation, and carrying out its charitable mission will require the involvement and cooperation of the entire membership.

Treasurer Report:

The Treasurer report was read and filed with the minutes.

Past Treasurer Bill Shea's report for May and June was filed with the minutes and distributed to the trustees.

Financial Report:

The Financial Secretary report was read and filed with the minutes. Currently 225 members.

Other Reports –

Report of Trustees:

Past Grand Knight and Three-Year Trustee Guy Scavelli presented the Trustees' report on behalf of the Trustees, noting that the financial records had been audited and found satisfactory. The report was notably prepared on high-quality stationery.

Fourth Degree:

Faithful Navigator Ray Sulla reported that the Fourth Degree had been awaiting the outcome of the general meeting and the Council's discussion with Fr. Andy before moving forward with its report. The Fourth Degree will continue to wait for additional information following the next meeting with the Parish.

District Deputy's Report:

The District Deputy encouraged the Council to continue working toward a cooperative and respectful relationship with Fr. Andy and the Parish. He expressed confidence that improved communication would create additional opportunities for the Council to raise funds, support charitable causes, and increase its visibility within the parish community.

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He spoke in support of programs benefiting Catholic youth, including World Youth Day and other spiritual retreats. He noted that youth programs help strengthen the future of the Church and provide meaningful opportunities for young Catholics to grow in their faith.

The District Deputy also presented information concerning the Florida State Council raffle as a possible fundraising opportunity. Tickets are sold for \$10, with proceeds divided between the State Council and the local council. The raffle does not require the Council to organize a separate event and includes a grand prize drawing scheduled for May. The Grand Knight will review the program and determine whether Council 12376 should participate.

The District Deputy additionally reported on a statewide charitable-giving initiative through which members may make a voluntary annual contribution of \$25 to support designated Florida charities. He encouraged the Council to consider supporting the program and emphasized the substantial charitable impact that could be achieved through widespread participation.

Unfinished Business:

No unfinished business was formally brought before the Council.

New Business:

No separate items of new business were formally introduced. New initiatives, proposed programs, and related discussion were addressed during the Grand Knight's Report.

Good of the order:

Awards

The Knight of the Month and Family of the Month selections had previously been announced in the Council newsletter. No formal award presentations were made during the meeting.

Prayers requested for:

Urgent prayers were requested for Brother **Enrique Sobrino**, who remains hospitalized in serious condition. Prayers were also requested for his wife and family during this difficult time.

Prayers were requested for Faithful Navigator **Ray Sulla**, who was scheduled to undergo shoulder surgery the following day.

Grand Knight Summary:

The Grand Knight reminded the Council that its future will not be decided by how many names appear on the membership roll, but by how many brothers are willing to take part in its work. Council 12376 has an opportunity to become stronger, more active, and more useful to the Parish and the community. That will require better communication with the Parish, new ways of raising funds, and a greater willingness among the members to serve.

There are eleven months remaining in the fraternal year, and the Grand Knight made clear that this will be his only year serving in the position. He therefore wants the Council to use the time well and begin making real progress now. The original idea of “11 Months, 11 Events” was presented as a goal rather than a strict rule. Events may be held every other month or arranged in another practical way, but the purpose remains the same: the Council must begin creating new and dependable sources of revenue.

These events should do more than raise money. They can bring families together, introduce new men to the Knights, and give the Council the means to support charitable work that might otherwise remain only an idea. No plan, however promising, can succeed if the same few men are always expected to carry it.

The Grand Knight asked each brother to consider what part he is willing to play. Some may chair an event, while others may volunteer, bring a guest, or offer an idea worth pursuing. The officers can provide direction, but they cannot build the Council alone.

He concluded by asking the members to spend less time dwelling on what is wrong with the Council and more time asking a harder and more useful question: “What can I do to make it better?”

Chaplain’s Message:

Father Laurent reflected upon the importance of supporting Catholic youth and the Church’s efforts to encourage young people to remain active in their faith. He explained that the Bishop’s support for participation in World Youth Day is intended to build a stronger spiritual foundation for the future of the Diocese. A healthy parish community is demonstrated, in part, by its willingness to care for and invest in its young people.

Father Laurent also addressed the spirited discussion that had occurred during the meeting. He reminded the members that disagreements and misunderstandings should be handled through patient, respectful dialogue rather than allowing emotions to control the conversation. Open communication can resolve many problems that arise from incomplete information or miscommunication.

He encouraged the members to support the new Grand Knight as he begins his term and to offer constructive guidance when concerns arise. Leadership may present ideas and direction, but the

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success of those ideas depends upon the participation, cooperation, and input of the entire Council. He expressed confidence that, by working together, the Council can continue to grow and flourish.

Father Laurent further reminded the members that the celebration of the Mass is sacred and should not become primarily an opportunity for advertising or organizational announcements. Any announcements or promotional activities connected with Mass should be limited, respectful, and approved by the Pastor. Other parish communication methods should be used whenever appropriate.

He concluded by encouraging the brothers to remain united, speak charitably to one another, and approach future discussions with patience, humility, and a sincere desire to strengthen the Council and its relationship with the Parish.

Closing Prayer:

The Father Laurent lead the prayer for the Canonization Blessed Michael McGivney

The closing ceremony was performed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM

Submitted by:

Victor Straiton

Recorder