

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



FRANK J. LEWIS ASSEMBLY 0159

Established in 1926

ARTICLE WRITTEN BY SEAN DENNY



Faithful Navigator



Faithful Filer



Faithful Captain



Faithful Priest



Faithful Comptroller



Faithful Scribe



Faithful Purser



Senior Sentinel



Junior Sentinel



Faithful Advisor



Exalted Corp. Commander



Trustee 3 Year



Trustee 2 Year



Trustee 1 Year



**HISTORY OF FRANK J LEWIS ASSEMBLY 2017-2019**

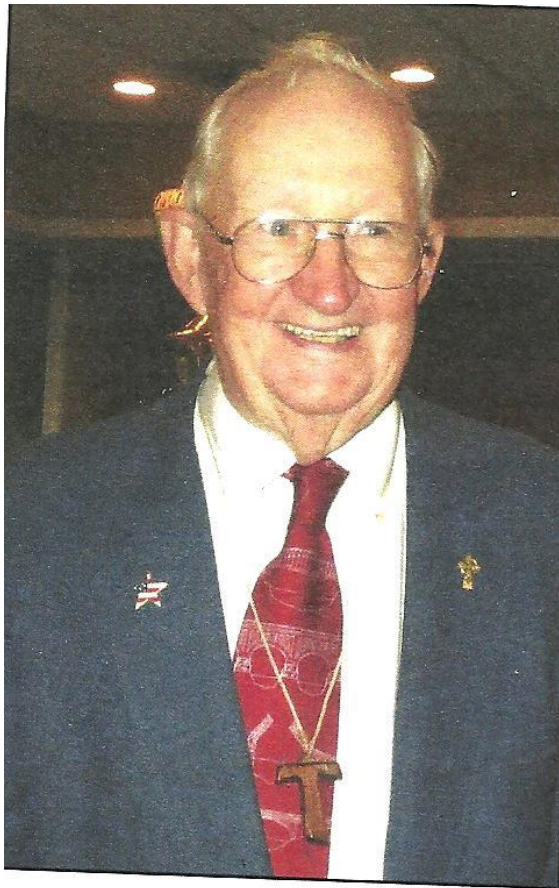


On July 15<sup>th</sup>, the members of Frank J Lewis Assembly 0159 responded to a callout from Sir Knight Kevin Greeno to help lay decks at *Pinellas Hope*. The decks gave a safe landing of pedestrian traffic between a collection of four cottages. The cottages have served the homeless by getting them out of tents and into a liveable facility. When I arrived, I helped Bill Condon with the wooden planks as he cut them to a specific length. Our newly elected Faithful Navigator Wayne Ries and Fr. Kevin Mackin of St. Raphaels were assisting Kevin Greeno with the manpower to get the job done. Color Corp Commander John Shevenell was supervising a power saw. Jose Carrera was from Holy Cross Assembly. Bob Bielicki and Mike Kelsner brought their sons and grandsons to help with the labor. We laid the planks in a “staging” area before permanently fastening them. Kevin indicated there was supposed to be 26 more Hope Cottages by the end of 2017.



The new pastor at St. Joseph’s, Fr. Stephan Brown, arrived by July 2017. On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, *Food For Families* had a lot of good volunteer help from the Columbiettes of Council 5131, Blessed Trinity Council, St. Judes Council, St. Petersburg Council 2105, and the Mormons. Bill Feck donated 250 pounds of non-parishable foods. The Ladies put the food in the bags while the Gentlemen went through the Assembly Line with the bags. Winston Stroude placed bread in the finished bags. David Van Wanzelee, John Land, and Don Mulholland supervised the breakfast of pancakes and sausage. Fr. Stephan Brown who opened the breakfast with prayers. Grand Knight Garth Albury presented Fr. Stephan his Council 2105 transfer membership card. Fr. Stephan said he used to belong to the St. Leo’s Knights of Columbus Council in Florida. Our council welcomed our new Pastor.





## JAMES A. PRIOR

Born: November 26, 1933

Died: September 3, 2017



"Jim" was born in N.Y.C. in 1933 to James J. and Elizabeth (White) Prior. He graduated from Fordham Prep and Fordham University in New York and earned a Master's in Journalism from New York University. After college Jim served as a First Lt. in the U.S. Army. In that position he wrote and directed shows for the entertainment of the troops at Fort Meade, Md. Jim's business career had him working for firms in New York and Florida with Time-Life, Fortune, Schering Drug, Martin Marietta and the American Automobile Association.

After retirement Jim gave himself completely to working for the poor, the sick, and the imprisoned. He was very active as a Minister in the Third Order of the Secular Franciscans, the Cursillo Movement, and the Serra Organization and as a Eucharistic Minister at Saint Mary Our Lady of Grace Church, Saint Anthony's Hospital, Bayfront Medical Center, and Bay Pines Veterans Hospital. Jim was the recipient of the Saint Jude's Medal for his parish work at and for his volunteer work at the Pinellas Jail.

Jim was predeceased by his parents, his brother Bill, and his son David. He is survived by his wonderful sons James Randall and Robert Sean and by his former wife, Jane Murphy, the mother of his sons; his grandson Cadet Patrick Prior, (West Point), granddaughter Grace, and his daughter-in-law, Deborah of Largo; his brother Richard of Saint Petersburg; his sister, Nancy Shannon and her husband Bob of Saint Pete Beach. Nieces and nephews include Betsy Moran, Jane Shannon, Rory and Julie Shannon, Andrew and Erika Shannon, Ted Shannon, Jonathan and Jennifer Shannon, Stephen and Susan McGovern and many great-nieces and nephews. Jim is also survived by very many wonderful friends from throughout his well-lived life!

*"The purpose of life is to serve and to show compassion and the will to help others. Only then have we, ourselves, become true human beings." (Albert Schweitzer)*

The family asks that in lieu of flowers donations be made to your favorite charity in Jim's name. Thank You.

On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, James A Prior, born November 26, 1933, passed away at Bayfront Medical due to head trauma when a moving vehicle struck him in a crosswalk near St. Mary's on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Needless to say we were all devastated by the news. I first met Jim at Transfiguration Church in the early 1990s. In 2009, Jim Prior introduced me to James Gillis, then a Grand Knight of St Petersburg Council 2105 in turn recruited me into the Knights of Columbus. The three of us moved to St Mary Our Lady of Grace in 2011. Jim Gillis and Jim Prior also formed a partnership delivering communion to Hospitals, Correctional Facilities, and Pinellas Hope. Jim Prior also became involved with Secular Franciscans and the Fr. Juniper Serra Club both directly helping Vocations of Clergy and Seminarians. The Knights were invited to the annual Serra Vocation Dinner at St. Pete Yacht club meeting seminarians studying to become priests. We actively participated in the Annual 40 Days For Life Campaign near Mary's Outreach since 2007. Jim stood outside and prayed the rosary. Jim Prior also prayed the rosary at the Columbus Statue in Downtown St. Petersburg when we had a Fortnight For Freedom walk in 2012. Bishop Robert Lynch gave Jim Prior the Medal of St. Jude in 2013.

I had the honor driving to West Palm Beach in June 2014 with Jim Prior to have him take his Patriotic Fourth Degree. Jim told me his third degree was taken in 1956 and agreed with me

that it was time to complete. On a daily basis, Jim Prior gave communion at local hospitals like BayPines VA, St. Anthony's, All Childrens, and Bayfront Medical. At St. Mary's, he was an Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Eucharist and a Reader. Jim often walked into the Church before 8AM with a smile and handshake.

In the Knights of Columbus, Tom Johnston called Jim Prior "Volunteer Supreme."

Former Faithful Friar of Frank J Lewis Assembly, Fr. Tony Fortunato wrote:

***sorry for james 's death he was a great person sorry to you all dear fratelli and sorelle ciao ftf odm.....***

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**Sincerely yours in Jesus and Our Lady of Mercy, Fr. Anthony M. Fortunato, O. de M.**

Joseph LaGuardia, ***"So sorry to hear about Jim and his passing Sean. He was an inspiration on how to fight the good fight. He was a good soul and the fact that his Funeral Mass will be on 8 Sept, our Blessed Mother's birth day makes me believe that she's there waiting for him. RIP Brother Jim. Blessings to you Brother Sean."***

District Deputy #43 Bill Teska said, ***"I have just received an email from Sir Knight Tom Johnston that 4th Degree Sir Knight James Prior of Council 2105 and Frank J Lewis Assembly 0159 passed away on Saturday September 2nd. This is our second Brother Sir Knight that has joined the Kingdom of our Lord this week. May Brothers Jim Prior and George Pioli rest in peace and pray for their families. Both Brothers were from District 43, Brother George from Council 12306 and Brother James from Council 2105. I will forward information, as I receive it."***

God Bless

Bill Teska

District Deputy #43

Faithful Comptroller Frank J Lewis Assembly 0159

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, I dressed in regalia and met John Shevenell and Wayne Ries at St. Mary's. The family brought the "Cre-mains" in a silver box with a cross on it placed at the altar. Fr. David Tickerhoof and Deacon Michael Menchen were the main celebrant and homilist. The 10 AM Mass was concelebrated by Msgr. Robert Gibbons, Fr. Waters, Fr. Melchoir, and several Franciscan Friars. A lot of representation from the Knights of Columbus Assembly 0159 and Council 2105 especially Grand Knight Garth Albury, PGK Peter Stock, PGK Bob Dickerson, and PGK Peter Connor. There were Secular Franciscans and Serra Club Members.

Jim's brother Richard "Dick" Prior spoke on the family's behalf. Jim grew up in Bronx, NY and later devoted his life to the Church.

On September 6<sup>th</sup>, Robert Dickerson was awarded Sir Knight of the Month.

Council 2105 received a vocation award on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.



September 26 was a great evening to be a Knight of Columbus! I participated in two very important events: *Forty Days For Life Opening Ceremony* and Honor Flight Reception. I picked up Don Mulholland from my Council 2105 and we drove to the All Women's Health Center on Central Avenue. Our Grand Knight Garth Albury and Past Grand Knight Jim Gillis joined us. Sir Knights Bill Feck, Ron Debiase and Chris Grandlienard were also present.



We had the honor and privilege to personally meet our Bishop of St. Petersburg, Most Reverend Gregory Parkes who gave the opening prayer. Columbiette and Director of Mary's Outreach, Linda Mason demonstrated how *Forty Days For Life* has grown since 2008 and how many lives we have saved. Don and I drove to the St. Petersburg Clearwater Airport for the Veteran Reception. The parking lot was a "circus" and was a challenge to find any parking.





We found a place and made it just in time! I put on my regalia as soon as I reached the terminal. Color Corp Commander John Shevenell and State VAVS Chair Dick Anci directed us to do a sword salute when the Veterans returning from Washington DC came down the hallway to claim their luggage. Veterans from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam followed several police forces who were carrying flags. We had the honor of shaking their hands thanking them for their service to our Country. Faithful Navigator, Wayne Ries, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Honor Flight Ambassador Karen Maex, for her tireless and graceful work in coordinating the Honor Flight Receptions.



Past State Deputy Paul Koppie announced of his plans to become a Deacon back in 2015. The *Ordination to the Diaconate* took place at the Cathedral of St. Jude on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Bishop Parkes wrote on his FACEBOOK Page: “**I’ll ordain Eugene Beil, John Carter, Ronald Fly, M. Scott Huang, Paul Koppie, Edward LaRose, John Schaefer and John Ustick to the permanent diaconate today! Please keep them in your prayers!**” Jim Gillis had a double reason to be there because he sponsored both Paul Koppie and Sir Knight John Carter of St. Jude Council.

I arrived at the Cathedral over an hour before the 11am Mass. I joined the Knights of Columbus Frank J Lewis Fourth Degree Honor Guard with my Vice Supreme Master Bob Anderson, State Master Bob Read, Commander John Shevenell, Navigator Wayne Ries, and many others. The Florida State Council Officers and some Past State Deputies were in Attendance. Bishop Gregory Parkes ordained a total of eight men during a beautiful two hour Mass. The Honor Guard was acknowledged by Bishop Parkes himself at the conclusion of the Ceremony. We gave a sword salute while the new deacons walked through the corridor back to the main altar for group photos.



On November 11<sup>th</sup>, I drove to Bay Pines VA Medical Center for a *Veterans Day Doubleheader 2017*. I arrived at 9:30am in full regalia for the Veterans Ceremony at 11am. The weather was delightfully sunny in the mid 70s degrees. I was joined by Commmander John Shevenell with Sir Knights Richard Chalwe, Chris Granlienard, and Don Murray. Chris and Richard volunteered to carry the American and KofC Flag, respectively. We marched fourth in the opening procession. I greeted my Grand Knight Garth Albury and Chris Granlienard and his wife. During the course of the picnic, Jorge Antunez, Don and Ann Murray joined the festivities. We met Mercedarian Friar Fr. Ken Green. Faithful Navigator Wayne made games including Horseshoes and a Limbo Bar. We enjoyed the company and the food watching the activity in the Boca Ciega Bay.







On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, I drove to St. Joseph's Catholic Church for the monthly *Food For Families*. I joined the assembly line by helping fill the bags of groceries and taking pictures. Wayne Sokalski thanked everyone for their help in feeding the poor especially a recent Thanksgiving Food Drive on November 18<sup>th</sup> where 400 people were served 250 turkeys. Grand Knight Garth Albury gave a brief prayer with the volunteers of the Knights of Columbus, Columbiettes, and the Italian Angels Bike Club. Garth said he wore his JESUS cap and spelled out the acronym of Justification, Edification, Salvation, Unification, and Sanctification. All the St. Petersburg Knights of Columbus Councils work together to feed our brothers and sisters during the Christmas Season.

Pancakes and Sausages were being cooked for breakfast which we served the patrons upon arrival. Soon, "Santa Mike" Kelzer arrived on his motorcycle dressed as Santa Claus. The children got to eat breakfast with Santa. Santa distributed the toys our Council collected. We had a lot of volunteers!



I arrived at the Pasadena Yacht and Country Club by 6pm for the *Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Christmas Party*. I got dressed in regalia just in time for the Honor Guard to welcome Bishop Gregory Parkes. Someone played a bugle-horn when our Bishop walked into the main dining hall. I had to guard the flags along with Ron Debiase. Jim Canfield and Shawn Smith who carried the American and Knights of Columbus Flags respectively. Commander John Shevenell recited the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Bishop Parke's blessing to open the dinner. Master of Ceremonies Wayne Sokalski introduced the Clergy and the Knights of Columbus dignitaries. It was a blessing to see our former Color Corp Commander Terry Cunniff. I joined Garth and Alvin Dogan at the table when they announced Fr. Emeric Szlezak, our Council 2105 Chaplain seated at the Head Table.



St. Joseph's Pastor Fr. Stephan Brown arrived with his mother and joined us at the table. Garth Albury announced a presentation in honor of Fr. Emeric's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. He was born December 17, 1917, Served 78 years as a Franciscan Priest, and twelve years as Chaplain of Council 2105. Fr. Emeric had typed Chaplain reports for me to plug into the Newsletters when I was editor. He has asked the Council to read Catholic publications like **GIVE US THIS DAY** to increase our knowledge of our faith. Fr. Emeric received a beautiful plaque donated by the Frank J Lewis Assembly 0159.

Our Faithful Navigator Wayne Ries presented an appreciation award to Bishop Parkes for all the spiritual benefits in his first year as Fifth Bishop of St. Petersburg. Sir Knight Wayne stated:

***“The Knights of Columbus recognize that you’ve been traveling throughout the Diocese and learning all aspects of the Diocese this year, as well as ministering to all of the spiritual needs of our faithful Catholics. We are pleased and honored to share this evening with you, and we hope in some measure to help you celebrate the completion of your first year as our Bishop. It is the heart-felt desire of every Knight to be present to, and to affirm your good works among us. Just as we know when we see you that you’ve been on a journey for our spiritual well-being, so also we wish you to know that whenever you see one of our Knights you will be heartened to know of our abiding love for the spiritual benefits you foster constantly for our Diocese. Representing all the Knights of Columbus in our Diocese of St. Petersburg, it is my great honor to present you with this token of our appreciation for your spiritual leadership over the past year. We welcome you and we are at your service.”***

Bishop Parkes thanked the Knights and announced there will be celebrations throughout 2018 for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of St. Petersburg.



\*\*\*\*\*2018\*\*\*\*\*



At noon on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018, I met my Grand Knight Garth Albury, Chuck Greenslade, and Don Mulholland at Morningstar School to present our donation for Citizens with Disabilities based on money received for a recent Tootsie Roll Drive. Jennifer Brooks was present to receive the check. I took the picture of Garth Albury and Jennifer Brooks. It helps maintain their school in Pinellas Park.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, Garth Albury and I presented a donation check to Morningstar Schools based on the last Tootsie Roll Drive we had at both St. Mary and St. Joseph Catholic Churches. Principal Sue Conza received the check.



On February 7<sup>th</sup>, I attended the annual *Knights of Columbus Assembly 0159 Reobligation Ceremony*. Wayne Sokalski had offered the St. Pete Social Club at 2500 34<sup>th</sup> South, St. Petersburg, FL, 33711 to hold our meeting. We had 18 Sir Knights including State Master Robert (Bob) Read, State VAVS Dick Anci, Faithful Navigator (FN) Wayne Ries, and Grand Knight 2105 Garth Albury. The brief ceremony re-affirmed our dedication to the principles of the Knights of Columbus: Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. FN Sir Knight Wayne Ries thanked everyone who came that evening.



I attended the *Knights of Columbus Florida State Council 114<sup>th</sup> Convention* starting May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018. This was the first time at the Orlando Hyatt Regency next to the Orange County Convention Center and the Rosen Centre Plaza Hotel. I greeted Rick Hughes, the newly appointed State Warden in the lobby. The state archives were brought over for me to set up the Archive Museum in the Silver Springs room. At 12:30pm, Rick Hughes let me into Silver Springs where I proceeded to setup the Banners, plaques, vestments, awards, swords, regalia, Canvas Portraits, Photo Albums, and Past State Deputy Photos through 5pm. Ron Winn from Pensacola brought in the Holy Family Icon to display. A metal trough running around the perimeter of the room allowed me to stand a lot of the plaques.

I woke up at 6:45am on Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup> and dressed into my Tuxedo. I went to the Convention Hall and attended my first State Deputy's Appreciation Breakfast. After a blessing by State Chaplain Fr. Sal Pignato, we ate scrambled eggs, spicy red potatoes, sausage, and croissants. Fr. Sal gave the story behind the Icon of Kanzas from Russia. Then each attendee received a bag with a replica of the Icon. It was beautiful!



After breakfast, I dressed in my regalia for Mass. This was the first State Convention where there was a mixture of the new and old regalia. Arch Bishop Thomas Wenski celebrated the Opening mass with three other Florida Bishops and Seminarians. Our own Past State Deputy Paul Koppie served as a Deacon. I

reported back for Honor Guard Duty at the Opening Ceremonies at 12:30pm . My Grand Knight Garth Albury rolled our Council Banner thanks to modifications from Alvin Dogan. We stood at attention for the National Anthems. Florida State Deputy Donald Kahrer welcomed everyone to the 114<sup>th</sup> State Convention. When the Color Corp was dismissed, Back at the museum, District Deputy Tom Wozniak donated a Left-Handed Sword from 1930s. Members from Jacksonville also loaned a Council Charter.

On Saturday Morning, May 26<sup>th</sup>, I arrived at the main hall for 7:30AM Mass. Deacon Paul Koppie read the Gospel. Bishop Patrick Pinder blessed the Knights who passed away during the 2017-2018 Fraternal Year. My dearly departed friend James A Prior was the only name listed for Council 2105. Wayne Ries, Bill Teska, and Garth Albury each had a chance to walk through the museum. While the Insurance Agents were introduced and awards given out, I went upstairs for a breakout Financial Secretary Training given by Daniel Smedley. Every delegate had to be back in session by 1:30pm for elections. Major event was that the Executive Board got re-elected for another year notably Richard Hughes officially assuming the role of State Warden. I got dressed in my tuxedo for the State Banquet. When the doors opened, I sat with Garth & Daisey Albury, Wayne Ries, and Kevin Greeno. After dinner, Supreme Master Dennis Stoddard gave his keynote address. Knight of the Year and Family of the Year were presented by Lorenzo Rodriguez. Winners for the State Raffle and Auction for vocations were completed before the final blessing.





I woke up to a rainy Sunday Morning at 6:30am. I took my luggage to my car and moved it down one level to Floor 6. I walked back to the convention floor for an Eastern Orthodox Divine Liturgy Mass with Bishop Kurt Burnett and Fr. Sal Pignato. After mass, State Deputy Don Kahrer acknowledged Fr. Sal's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Ordination. It was also nice to greet our former State Chaplain Msgr. Tom Skindeleski.





At the Knights of Columbus Assembly 0159 Meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup>, Grand Knight Garth Albury received a Family of the Month Certificate.



Bishop Gregory Parkes celebrated his first mass at St. Mary Our Lady of Grace on June 30, 2018. Pastor Fr. Damian Amantia invited us to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Third Order Regular Franciscan Friars at St. Mary's. A list of 18 Friars appeared in the bulletin and I've known six of them. I arrived at 2:45pm for preparation of the 4pm Mass. I was pleasantly surprised that our former Parochial Vicar Fr. Kevin Queally was in the procession with Bishop Parkes, Fr. Damian, and Deacon Michael Menchen. Deacon Michael read the Gospel. Bishop Parkes came down off the altar for the homily. He commented he was 6 foot 8 inches tall, analyzed the Gospel. Bishop Parkes thanked everyone for coming at the conclusion and asked us to continue to love our Pastor. The congregation walked down the eastern stairs to the Parish Hall for the reception. A long waiting line to greet the Bishop surrounded tables of freshly baked cookies. Christopher King photographed me with Bishop Gregory Parkes. Fr. Kevin said he was in town till Tuesday. As we were leaving, a wedding was starting.

On July 7<sup>th</sup>, I went to St. Joseph's Catholic Church to help the Knights of Columbus Council 2105 with *Food For Families*. I helped my Grand Knight Garth Albury to hang the Food For Families Banner.



New member John Fleming had delivered the bread and pastries but his truck needed a new battery. Bill and Dora Feck delivered the can-goods. The Columbiettes arranged the food in an assembly line for the guys to go along with thirty bags to be filled. Bread was placed in each bag. Pastor Fr. Stephan Brown came in to say the morning prayer. He was wearing his new Knights of Columbus Vestments. Garth gave Fr. Stephan the “2017-2018” label to adhere to the Food For Families Plaque while I filmed.



Francesco Franzese took group pictures of the volunteers. John Land and Lenny Romano cooked pancakes and sausage. We served the people a free breakfast and they took a bag of groceries home. Frank Dillon said: ***My Brother Knights, I was Blessed being your District Deputy and with all the support that all of you did, we showed Supreme that the program would work. It all started in 2012 at St Joseph's Social hall. Thank you for feeding the hungry! Vivat Jesus!!!!***





On Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, I dressed in my tuxedo because I was invited to participate in a Corporate Communion at Transfiguration Catholic Church. I dressed in my Knights of Columbus Regalia and entered the Church. I met the new Pastor Fr. Carlos Rojas. Joanne Kopitsky, now the Parish Manager showed me the structural changes to the Sacristy. Soon the Pinellas Park Assembly arrived and I got in line for the Mass. I was saddened to hear the original Pastor Msgr. Ed Mulligan had just passed away. I met Msgr. Mulligan at the Transfiguration Catholic Church Reunion in 2001. Pete Rocca took photos with Bob Gibbia's camera phone after the Mass. We enjoyed coffee and donuts in the Social Hall.



The Eastern Wooden Fence at my house was knocked down by Hurricane Irma September 2017. Knights of Columbus Frank J Lewis Assembly 0159 came to the rescue. On May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018, I took pictures of the "mess." Faithful

Navigator Wayne Ries paid us a visit and drew up a mission plan to replace the fence. His request was to keep the old posts to do carpentry projects on. Wayne Ries and Kevin Greeno found appropriate costs for lumber at Lowes Hardware Store. Both Assembly 0159 and Council 2105 contributed financial help prior to the purchase. Wayne and I met on August 15<sup>th</sup> to purchase the fence with his military discount and set up a delivery date.

Early in the morning of August 18<sup>th</sup>, *The Denny Fence Project: The Removal* commenced. I woke up before 8am and took the “before the project” photos. Stephen Goetz (Holy Family), Kevin Riskowitz (Blessed Trinity), and Bob Bielicki (St. Judes) arrived after 8am to help remove the fence panels and the overgrown vines. Wayne Ries stopped by briefly to check everything was going to plan. We put the old fence panels in Bob’s trailer to take to the incinerator. It was hard labor but with the help of my brothers, we were done before 10am. My family thanks those who took time out of their Saturday. The plan going forward included delivery of the new fence on Monday August 20 and installation the following Saturday August 25<sup>th</sup>. Faithful Admiral Jim Hyland posted the article on <https://frankjlewiskofc.com/>. Comptroller Bill Teska emailed out the article to the State Council saying “***Here is a story of interest that you might want to consider. The Knights help everyone!!!***” Charlie Rooney wrote, “***I am very happy to see Our bro. Knights in Action, This is something that should go into the Columbian Magazine.***” On Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, the materials were delivered for the fence installation which included 8 foot wooden panels, posts, bags of concrete and boxes of nails.

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, the Frank J Lewis Assembly 0159 came to my house at 8 AM to finish the *Denny Fence Project: The Replacement*. In addition to those who came on August 18<sup>th</sup>, we had help from Sir Knights Garth Albury and Alvin Dogan (Council 2105), Lorne Davie, Neal Hunt, Ralph Marshall, and Skip from St. Judes Council.



Faithful Navigator Wayne Ries lead those gathered to clear the line the new fence would be positioned as level as possible. String and section markers were used to ensure the panels and posts could be raised. We dug up roots and clipped more vines and brush and transported to the city dumpsters down the alley. We removed the last double-post from the old fence. New post holes were dug. Dry concrete was packed around the new posts. Several brought the new fence panels into position starting at the back end of the property. They were fastened with screws to each post. By 10:15 AM, the last panel was moved into position. We enjoyed the cold sodas and water that my Grand Knight Garth Albury brought as we finished the project. We took final group shots with digital stills and video. My mother and I bought thank the Knights of Columbus for their hard work. My mother has her backyard again and my family has their privacy. After everyone left, I swept the driveway and positioned several plants around the yard.

My mother Barbara expressed her gratitude to the Knights. She later went out back to see her new backyard. St. Joseph's Pastor Fr. Stephan Brown said "**Great job!**" District Deputy Bill Teska said, "**That's perfect!**" Faithful Navigator Wayne Ries posted, "**Good job everyone. I was very pleased to work with everyone this morning. There is nothing like a good community work project to bring out the beauty of spirit in our Knights of Columbus organization. Each Knight who worked on this project did their part and it was a great accomplishment. We are very pleased to bring a sence of peacefulness and security to Sean's family in their enjoyment of their home. Blessings, to everyone. Vivat Jesus! Wayne Ries, Faithful Navigator, KOC Assembly 0159.**" Sir Knight Stephen Goetz emailed, "**Good work. Thanks for some good hours, Sir Knight. Vivat Jesus!**"





Alvin Dogan and I went to the St. Petersburg-Clearwater Airport on September 11<sup>th</sup> for an Honor Flight reception. Retired Military Veterans are flown to tour the National Monuments in Washington DC. Knights of Columbus Frank J Lewis Honor Guard was invited to welcome them upon their return to Florida. Alvin and I arrived at 6:30pm and met members of Knights on Bikes from Dunedin. I put on my cape and chapeaux. Our Color Corp Commander John Shevenell and Faithful Navigator Wayne Ries arrived. We were posted at the end of the luggage terminal to salute with swords drawn. Former Florida Governor Charlie Christ opened the parade of vets. We welcomed the veterans home by expressing our gratitude for their service. I took Alvin home after a patriotic Patriot Day. The next evening, we did another call-out at Holy Cross Church for a Blue Mass remembering fallen Police and Firemen. Our former Faithful Friar Fr. Emory Longanga celebrated the Mass and saluted those lost September 11, 2001.





On September 15, 2018, I attended the 4pm Mass at the Cathedral of St. Jude's. Roger Dandro greeted me before the mass. Fr. Alex Padilla with Deacon John Carter were the celebrants. Fr. Arthur Proulx assisted during communion. Fr. Proulx was just about to be officially installed as rector of the Cathedral by Bishop Parkes the next day. He was a former pastor at St. Joseph's and used to serve Bishop Thomas Larkin in the 1980s. St. Jude's Knights of Columbus Council 14178 was hosting a fundraiser consisting of a dinner and game. I found my Grand Knight Garth and Daisy Albury at the table in the hall. The *St. Jude's Family Feud* game commenced and we had to answer trivia questions with two teams of five people. My team consisted of Garth Albury, Bill Feck, Deacon John Fox and his wife Carol. We lost the first round getting 4 points. Therefore, the host named our team "Four Points." However, we were invited to compete against last year's champions and won!



The *St. Mary's Luau* was a fundraiser on September 22<sup>nd</sup> after the 4pm Mass. I had the honor and pleasure greeting Fr. James Morman upon entering St. Mary Our Lady of Grace. The choir warmed up and confessions were heard in the hour before the mass. The mass was celebrated by Fr. Damian, Fr. Morman, and Deacon Michael Menchen. Fr. Morman just moved back to Florida from Pennsylvania. Garth Albury came in at the conclusion after Communion. Fr. Damian introduced Fr. Jim to the. We went downstairs to the party. Several ladies recognized Garth as a former teacher or colleague. Everyone was dressed in tropical attire. The Parish Hall resembled Hawaii. Richard Smith was the lead singer on Jimmy Buffett's "Margaritaville" and did fantastic. I won the grand prize of a basket of cheer with plantain chips, and two wine glasses. Everyone had a grand time.





On September 30, 2018, I went to St. Jude's for the *Knights of Columbus Assembly 0159 Installation of Officers* which followed the 11:30am Mass in the Cathedral. Former Faithful Navigator and Faithful Admiral James Hyland led the ceremony. I was reinstated as Faithful Scribe. Garth Albury as a Trustee and Alvin Dogan as a Guard rounded out Council 2105. Fr. Alex Padilla was installed as Faithful Friar and Jim Hyland became the Color Corp Commander. John Shevenell accepted the State Vice Marshall position. Alvin Dogan he took pictures of the Christopher Columbus Statue on the way back home.







On October 6<sup>th</sup>, I woke early and helped at Food For Families at St. Joseph's. We had a good showing of volunteers including Faithful Navigator Wayne Ries helping. I helped Elaine Clark at St. Mary's turn for 40 Days For Life Pro-Life volunteering on Central Avenue near 40<sup>th</sup> Street. I prayed the rosary for 1.5 hours.



I drove to St. Petersburg Social Club for the *Columbus Day Awards Dinner* on October 8, 2018. Wayne Sokalski invited all the local Councils and Assemblies to celebrate local charities especially Food For Families. I filmed a who's who of Grand Knights, Fraternal Benefit Advisors, Color Corp Commanders, Faithful Navigators, and District Deputies. Fr. Stephan Brown was the Guest of Honor. Frank J Lewis Faithful Navigator Wayne Ries dressed in full regalia and led the pledge of allegiance.



Awards were given to the local Grand Knights Garth Albury (2105), Les Santiago (5131), Kevin Riskowitz (Blessed Trinity), Bob Bielicki (St. Judes), and Kevin Greeno (St. Raphael). Each Grand Knight gave their perspectives on why we support these charities and the origins of Food For Families. Other key members were also awarded like John Land and Robert Lachnicht from Council 2105, Bill and Dora Feck from St. Judes, and Jim and Cheryl Ferguson from Council 5131. At the conclusion, Fr. Stephan Brown gave his Keynote Address. He walks local streets to invite the community into the Parish of St. Joseph's. Fr. Stephan has been elated with the service the Knights of Columbus has provided. He said St. Joseph Parish has a saying "God is Great All the Time; and All the time God is Great!"



*KofC Assembly 0159* arranged a *Columbus Day Picnic* on October 13<sup>th</sup> at Demens Landing Park in Downtown St. Petersburg. Faithful Navigator Wayne Ries and Shawn Smith were transporting a cooler to Shelter#2. We helped bring the food and games to the shelter. Bob Dickerson, Garth Albury, Jim Hyland, Jorge and Wanda Antunez, and Chris Granlienard with his wife joined us. The pulled-pork was made by Robert Bielicki and Richard Snare. Wayne brought Buns and Baked beans, Garth brought potato salad, Bob Dickerson brought bread pudding, pecan ring, and cocanut **Macaroons**.

Early on, Peter Stock called to break the news *Charlie Rooney (1934-2018)* just passed away after a lingering illness. I met Charlie through Pete Stock in 2011. He was Pete's Uncle-In\_Law, a War Veteran and just moved from South Carolina. Better still he was a former Color



Corp Commander in the Knights of Columbus and a Major Degree Member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. We recruited him quickly into St. Petersburg Council 2105, Frank J Lewis Assembly 0159, and AOH Pinellas Division 2. We supported Faith Formation and Daystar at St. Mary's. I made sure he attended Knight of Columbus Meetings every month. I called often when he was having health issues or well enough to travel. We held a brief prayer and moment of silence for our brother Sir Knight. We enjoyed our picnic and fraternity. Jim Hyland did card tricks and jokes. In wrapping up the picnic, we embarked on a pilgrimage to the Christopher Columbus Statue. We took group pictures before walking back to our cars..



The Diocese of St. Petersburg celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese throughout 2018. Bishop Gregory Parkes brought the celebration to a conclusion with the *Family Faith Fest* on October 27<sup>th</sup>. The Knights of Columbus Honor Guard was invited to help out at the final Mass with Bishop Parkes. Jim Canfield drove me to the Florida State Fairgrounds. We were directed into the Market Square Auditorium where vendor tables were setup . I was glad to run by Fr. Tony Fortunato and Msgr. Gibbons. Our Worthy State Deputy Donald Kahrer was seated at a Knights of Columbus table with his wife Christine and several members of the Florida State Council. Jim and I waited for the rest of the Color Corp. Our new State Master Charlie McLaughlin, Assembly 0159 Faithful Navigator Wayne Ries, and three others from another Assembly dressed in regalia. Bishop Emeritus Robert Lynch arrived and we escorted him to the staging area for the Honor Guard and the Priests. I saw Bishop Parkes, Bishop Lynch, Fr. Rojas (Transfiguration), Msgr. Gibbons (St. Pauls), Fr. Alex Padilla (St. Judes), Fr. Art Proulx (St. Judes), Fr. Tony Fortunato, and many more.





State Deputy Don Kahrer and a few others were also recruited to help. Fr. Craig Morely gave us the instructions and provided “Pit Crew” lanyards. Outside a crowd of people gathered around the main stage for Mass. At 4pm, the Honor Guard created a “flying wedge” to lead the clergy through the crowd to the altar on the main stage. Music from the Our Lady of Lourdes Band performed the hymns. We were seated in the front row and I was on the right hand side. Bishop Parkes welcomed everyone to this historic event honoring the Diocese of St. Petersburg. Bishop Parkes gave the homily reinforcing the theme “Courageously Living the Gospel.” During Communion, the Honor Guard carried large umbrellas to shelter the priests giving communion to the crowd.

At the end of the mass, Bishop Parkes thanked the Knights of Columbus and the Priests. He conceded that through St. Jude we ended up where we were supposed to be. Jim Canfield drove me home safely.



I celebrated *Veterans Day Weekend* with Frank J Lewis Assembly 0159. On November 10<sup>th</sup>, I drove to Tampa for a parade. Fog was thick on the Howard Franklin Bridge and cleared up in Tampa. We parked near the James A Haley VA Medical Center just south of Livingston Avenue and Fletcher Road. I greeted Dick Anci, John Shevenell, Wayne Ries, and a few others from Hillsborough, Pasco and Hernando Counties. We were positioned at the front of the parade. At 10am and swords drawn, the parade commenced. We marched toward the western entrance with disabled veterans and children waving flags along the path. A bandstand was set by the parking garage announcing each participant in the parade. We were dismissed in the Hospital's Game Courtyard where a barbeque was being setup. Wayne and I walked back to our cars to remove our regalia and then returned for the party.

Early Sunday Morning, November 11<sup>th</sup>, I did the second reading at St. Mary's 8am Mass. I drove to Bay Pines VA Park for a Fourth Degree Picnic. I took some pictures of Shelter#4 before Wayne Ries arrived. Jorge and Wanda Antunez joined us bringing cocanut macaroons. We grilled hot dogs and hamburgers. Everyone enjoyed the homemade molasses cookies that I made the night before. I filmed the WWII "Walker Bulldog" Tank before driving home.

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Frank J Lewis Assembly Honor Guard was invited to guard the Relics of St. Padre Pio. I arrived just before 6pm and the line stretched out through the Cathedral of St. Judes and went behind the choir loft! I was involved with the Bishop's Mass at 6:30pm with the Relics and to honor All Souls Day. Bishop Parkes blessed everyone with the Relics at the conclusion of the Mass.



On November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018, I was invited to the *Knights of Columbus Florida State Fourth Degree Exemplification* in Orlando. I drove to the Rosen Plaza Hotel which was on the north side of the Orange County Convention Center and arrived by 7:30am. They had complimentary parking for the KofC. Vice Supreme Master Bob Anderson said this hotel used to be the Clarion and the Rosen Centre. I met Angel Luis Rodriguez-Rivera who was the State Chair for Keep Christ in



Christmas behind the registration counter. I greeted my Color Corp Commander Jim Hyland who introduced me to his candidate from Council 5131 Frank Preg. We went upstairs and put on our regalia. John Shevenell was the new Vice Marshall for State Master Charlie McLaughlin. After inspections, we got to sit with the new candidates before heading downstairs. The wives were taking pictures of us processing down the stairs. The Ceremony lasted from 11am to 1pm which was a perfect patriotic followup to Thanksgiving Day.



On December 1, I drove to St. St. Joseph's for the monthly *Food For Families*. Bill and Dora Feck brought over the food. We helped bring the food into the parish hall. Jim Gillis and John Fleming soon arrived with the bread and cakes. We got the food into an assembly line so that stuffing the thirty bags was efficiently done. John Land and Leonard Romano cooked the pancakes and sausages for breakfast. Garth Albury welcomed everyone with a prayer. We served breakfast to the mothers and children who came to eat. Each family took a bag of groceries upon leaving. Fr. Stephan Brown came in and Garth and I helped him deliver food to a neighborhood family near the church.





Sir Knight Jim Hyland recently was promoted to Color Corp Commander. I prepared to attend the Annual *Knights of Columbus Assembly 0159* Christmas Party at the Pasadena Yacht & Country Club. I met Jim Gillis' new wife Mary-Paul Gillis. We welcomed the dignitaries Vice Supreme Master Bob Anderson, State Master Charlie McLaughlin, and State Deputy Donald Kahrer. I had the honor of introducing State Deputy Don Kahrer to Fr. Stephan Brown. It was also an honor of introducing Fr. Stephan to Fr. Tony Fortunato who was back in St. Petersburg for three years. Commander Jim Hyland led the procession at 7pm. I carried the American Flag while Jim Canfield had the Papal Flag. Don Murray and Frank Preg followed us to salute the flag. After removing the regalia, I joined a table of Holy Name Parishioners. Wayne Sokalski introduced the Grand Knights and Priests. Jim Hyland introduced each State Dignitary who gave a brief speech. Master McLaughlin tied the founding fathers of our country to the patriotism of today.



Early the next morning, December 2, I quickly drove to Holy Name in Gulfport for the 9:30am Mass with Bishop Gregory Parkes. I was in the Honor Guard with John Shevenell, Jim Hyland, Wayne Ries, Don Murray, and Frank Preg. The mass was fantastic! Afterwards, we ate doughnuts and a nice chat with Bishop Parkes. We welcomed him into Assembly 0159.



On December 8<sup>th</sup>, I drove to Orlando for the *Knights of Columbus FL State Mid-Year Meeting*, I left at 5:15pm and arrived at the Florida Hotel by 7am. The morning Mass would start at 7:30am. State Chaplain Fr. Sal Pignato celebrated Mass in Honor of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He blessed a new icon at the conclusion. The hotel treated us to breakfast of fruits and danishes. The State Meeting started at 9am and lasted till Noon.

The dignitaries included State Chaplain Fr. Sal, Supreme Master Dennis Stoddard, Vice Supreme Master Bob Anderson, State Master Charlie McLaughlin, State Deputy Donald Kahrer, State Secretary Scott O'Connor, State Advocate Bob Urrutia, and State Warden Rick Hughes. The afternoon meeting lasted from 1:15pm to 5pm. I was introduced by Programs Director Lorenzo Rodriguez. We attended the afternoon mass at 5pm.



On December 10<sup>th</sup>, I attended the *Knights of Columbus Council 2105 Anniversary-Christmas Party* at St. Joseph's. Grand Knight Garth Albury postponed any business in favor of the Christmas Party and a chance to socialize

with the Columbiettes and Legion of Mary. We brought a variety of food for the Pot-luck. We introduced new member Kenneth Criscio on camera. I brought the Council 2105 Charter which was dedicated 21<sup>st</sup> December 1919. District Deputy Bill Teska and Grand Knight Garth Albury wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



\*\*\*\*\*2019\*\*\*\*\*



Knights of Columbus Council 2105 was founded a century ago on December 21, 1919. I joined on November 30, 2009 under Grand Knight Jim Gillis. Since 2011, our council in addition to other local councils have been participating in *Food For Families*. Started out as a lunch or dinner to serve the poor families around St. Joseph Catholic Church in St. Petersburg. Currently, we serve a



pancake breakfast with sausage to the people on the First Saturday of each Month. They leave with a bag of groceries. Food was provided by Bill and Dora Feck through St. Vincent DePaul. Bread and Cakes donated by Publix Supermarkets and delivered by Jim Gillis.



I went to St. Joseph's early to help out at 7:40 am. Garth Albury and Winston Stroude were hanging the outside banner and preparing 35 paper bags for the groceries. Wayne Sokalski directed the helpers from St. Jude, Blessed Trinity, Council 2105, and Council 5131. Bill and Dora Feck arrived with the food and the guys helped unload their car. Cheryl & Jim Ferguson organized the food. New member Steven Hawkins also came to assist. We started an assembly line placing can goods and pasta into the bags. Jim Gillis and Michael Renwick arrived with the bread and cakes from Publix. We added a loaf of bread to each bag. We took group photos around the banner out front. Soon a lot of patrons of the community came with their children. We know we served more than 40 people thanks to Pastor Fr. Stephan Brown going around the neighborhood. John Land made pancakes and had some with blueberries upon request. We were runners in serving a packed Parish Hall up to 10 am.

On January 12<sup>th</sup> we attended the 4pm Mass at St. Mary's for Charles Rooney's memorial. Several Brother Knights like Garth Albury, Chuck Greenslade, Kenneth Criscio, Jim Gillis, Peter and Laurie Stock. Fr. Timothy Harris celebrated with Fr. Jim Morman and gave a beautiful tribute to the late Charlie Rooney during the Homily. Garth, Greg, Peter, and Laurie took up the gifts.

Former Council Warden, Thomas Holloway also passed away in January 2019.



The Knights of Columbus Frank J Lewis Assembly 0159 Honor Guard was invited to serve a Mass on the MacDill Air Force Base (AFB) in Tampa, FL on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Florida State Vice Marshall John Shevenell got me authorized to gain access to the base on that Saturday afternoon. Once I drove past the Dale Mabry gate and turned left, I began the search for the McDill Chapel. Once I found it just off of Bayshore Boulevard, I was pleased to find my brother Sir Knights waiting for the Mass. John Shevenell and Bob Bielicki were dressed in the new uniform. Ralph Marshall, Jerry Lithacum, and Rich Perfidio were also present. We were introduced to Retired Major General Edward F. Dorman, III. We led in Archbishop Timothy Broglio, who was the Fourth Archbishop of the USA Military Services. He confirmed five teenagers. After the mass, Rich Perfidio's wife took our picture with the Archbishop. We were invited into the Annex Hall for a fantastic reception.





Knights of Columbus Assembly 0159 invited our Florida State Master Charlie McLaughlin and the Fr. Lopez Assembly in Pinellas Park to a *Reobligation Ceremony* for February 6, 2019. Wayne Sokalski invited us to use the St. Pete Social Club. I had the honor of taking Fr. Tony Fortunato to the event. He knew the venue as the Italian Club a while ago. Fr. Tom Kirchhoeffer came as Faithful Friar of the other Assembly. The ceremony was done instead of the formal Fourth Degree Meeting.



On February 16<sup>th</sup>, Sir Knight John Shevenell invited me to St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Largo for a *Knights of Columbus Honor Guard Training*. Several Assemblies from Pinellas County came to participate at 9AM. We lined up and went over the basic commands on drawing, presenting, and returning our swords. John also gave suggestions on how to march starting out with our left foot and pivoting left, right, and about face. We split into groups to have the visiting commanders also give their instructions. Training was done under an hour.



On March 16, I went to the 4pm Mass at St. Mary's. Garth Albury, Robert Lachnicht and I handled the Tootsie Roll Drive at each entrance. Fr. Damian gave a nice announcement asking for donations to help his Brother Knights support Morning Star Schools and citizens with disabilities. I was posted at the St. Francis



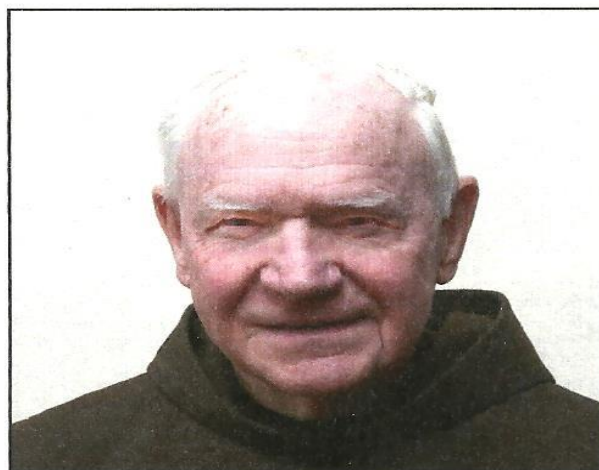
Courtyard on the Southeast side of the church. Then we regrouped in the Parish Hall for the *St. Mary's Saint Joseph's Dinner*. The Buffet Table, Altar, and Dessert Table were beautiful! Fr. Damian had assembled the altar of bread donated by Mazzarro's Italian Market. After our Pastor, blessed the food, Fr. Tony Fortunato walked in to join the party. Most of the food was brought in by parishioners. I participated in the pot luck by baking three Spinach Pies. In addition, we ate salmon, shrimp, lasagna, ziti, eggplant, and artichoke salad. The desserts included chocolate cake with silk roses on top. There were canolis, doughnuts, and brownies. Fr. Damian asked for \$10 donations for the loaves of bread to help with Daystar Charity.



Early the next morning, Bob Lachnicht, Kenneth Criscio, and I handled the Tootsie Roll Drive at the 8am Mass at St. Mary's. I came back for the 11am Mass to honor Thomas Holloway. Richard Smith was ushering. Garth Albury, Bob Lachnicht, Alvin Dogan, John Fleming, and I handled the Tootsie Roll Drive at the end of Mass. Later, Bob Lachnicht would count the donations collected came to \$955.00 for Morningstar School in Pinellas Park for Citizens with Disabilities. Lou Curcio and Wayne Sokalski also joined us at the Mass. We drove to the St. Pete Social Club for a Christopher Services Meeting. I stayed for the St. Patrick's Dinner. During the lunch, Jim Gillis arrived with the sad news that Council 2105's Chaplain Fr. Emeric Szlezak, OFM had passed away peacefully the night before.

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**REV. EMERIC SZLEZAK, O.F.M.**

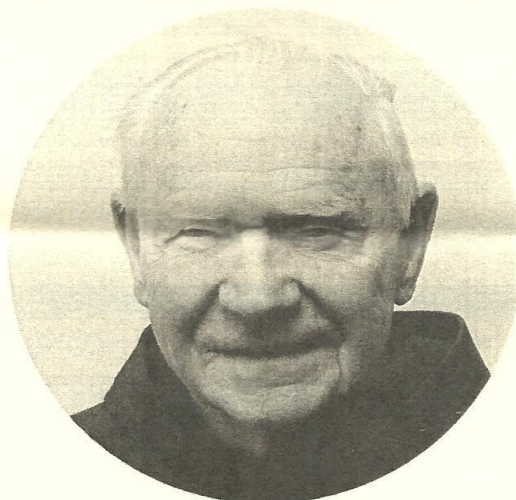


*Born December 17, 1917*  
*Ordained June 11, 1944*  
*Died March 16, 2019*



## Father Emeric Szlezak. O.F.M.

...a professed Franciscan friar for 79 years and a priest for 74, died on March 16 in St. Petersburg, where he had lived since 2005. Fr. Szlezak was 101 years old and the longest living friar in the history of Holy Name Province. Fr. Szlezak was born on Dec. 17, 1917, in Budapest, Hungary, to Kalman and Elizabeth (née Beck). He moved with his family to the United States in 1923. Fr. Szlezak attended Catholic grammar school in Brooklyn before enrolling in St. Joseph Seraphic Seminary in Callicoon, N.Y. He was received into the Order of Friars Minor in 1938 at St. Bonaventure Friary in Paterson, N.J., where he professed his first vows in 1939. Fr. Szlezak made his solemn profession in 1942 and in 1944 was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Amleto Cicognani at the Franciscan



Monastery of the Holy Land in Washington, D.C. After completing theology in 1945, Fr. Szlezak's first assignment was to St. Stephen of Hungary Parish on East 82nd Street in New York City, where he served for 42 years, until 1986. There, he ministered to the Hungarian immigrant community in New York City. After World War II and again after the Hungarian Revolution in the 1950s, he assisted displaced persons, refugees and struggling immigrants. For 30 years, Fr. Szlezak gave weekly sermons in his native Hungarian language for a New York radio station that conducted a Hungarian broadcast. He also served as a chaplain to Catholic War Veterans on both the state and national levels and to local sheriff departments. In 1986, he was assigned to St. Emery Parish in Fairfield, Conn., where he served for 19 years. In 2005, Fr. Szlezak retired to St. Anthony Friary in St. Petersburg, from which he traveled to Sarasota and Venice to celebrate Mass and offer pastoral care. He also served as chaplain to the Knights of Columbus, Council 2105, St. Petersburg.





Fr. Emeric Szlezak was a great Franciscan Priest and lived 15 months past his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. We made arrangements for his funeral to be held at St. Mary

Our Lady of Grace on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Knights of Columbus Frank J Lewis Honor Guard arrived at 8:30am on that Friday. I joined the Honor Guard with Commander Jim Hyland, Don Murray, Jim Canfield, Frank Dillon, and Richard Chalwe. Council 2105 Officers Grand Knight Garth Albury, PGK Jim Gillis, PGK Robert Dickerson, PGK Peter Connor, Don Mulholland, Bob Lachnicht, Trevor McDonald, Chuck Greenslade, and John Fleming attended. Bob Dickerson, Peter Connor, and Don Murray were current members of St Judes Council 14178. St. Raphael's Council had Fr. Kevin Mackin, GK Kevin Greeno, John Shevenell, and PGK Tom Doyle. Holy Family had Andy Leopold. Fr. Emeric's remains arrived by 9am with almost 30 OFM Franciscan Friars coming to attend. The Honor Guard was posted every 15 minutes by the open casket by the Altar. Fr. Emeric wore his 100<sup>th</sup> Year Stoll over his brown robes. The mass in *Tribute to Fr. Emeric Szlezak* (December 17, 1917 to March 16, 2019) began at 10am. Cantor was Terry Silva. Fr. Jim Morman and Fr. Damian Amantia were both in the congregation while one of the Fransican Order of Friars Minors celebrated the Liturgy.





Brother Terry Cunniff April 12, 1940 – March 26, 2019

MARCH 27, 2019

2 COMMENTS

CITADEL CADET  
TERRY



TERRY CUNNIFF

GRADUATION - CITADEL



TERRY  
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ST PAUL'S



JIM CANFIELD / ROY SMAY



JIM HYLAND / SEAN DENNY



JOHN MARTIN / ROGER DANFIELD / BILL TESKA



TERRY CUNNIFF



GLEND A HAIGHT / DAVID KEMPEL

MARIO CONGUI / JIM HYLAND



MICHAEL ALBANO / FR TONY FORTUNATO



MARIO CONGUI / JIM HYLAND

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PHOTO COLLAGE BY JIM HYLAND AND SEAN DENNY

John "Terry" Cunniff was born April 12, 1940. He was a Grand Knight of Knights of Columbus Council 2105 in 1997. Later served as the first Grand Knight of St. Paul's Council and Frank J Lewis Assembly 0159 Faithful Navigator. After Richard "Dick" Haight passed away in 2013, he became the Color Corp Commander about when I joined the Color Corp. He remained Commander through 2016 but soon had a stroke which put him in poor health. I was sad to learn he passed on March 26, 2019. I filmed a slideshow *Tribute to Terry Cunniff* on March 29<sup>th</sup> which happened to be Founders Day in the Knights of Columbus. His funeral was scheduled at St. Paul's Catholic Church on April 13th.





KofC Council 5131 arranged the *Clergy Appreciation Dinner* on March 30<sup>th</sup> at St. John Vianney on St. Pete Beach. I arrived early to prepare for the Flag Ceremony in full regalia. Faithful Navigator Wayne Ries provided a new pair of gloves because my old ones disintegrated. I welcomed Fr. Tony Fortunato and Sr. Lucia Brady from St. Jerome's in Largo. Jim Gillis and Garth Albury arrived with their wives. Commander Jim Hyland directed Wayne Ries and Jim Canfield to carry and post the flags. Frank Preg and I carried our swords at attention while Garth Albury filmed the procession with my video camera. VA Chaplain Fr. Tom Kirchoeffer led the Pledge of Alliegiance and Pastor Fr. John Blum led the prayer before meals. Grand Knight of Council 5131 Les Santiago announced Founder's Day was March 29<sup>th</sup>, 1882 when Fr. Michael McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus. He invited Faithful Navigator Wayne Ries up to introduce me to come up and speak. I invited my Past Grand Knight James Gillis and Current Grand Knight Garth Albury to help pay tribute to our late Chaplain Fr. Emeric Szlezak (1917-2019).

I acknowledged Council 2105's Centennial this year and began a moment of remembrance of Rev. Emeric based on known facts and the Chaplain Reports he provided to type into the Council Newsletters from 2012-2016. They were available digitally on the Florida State Council Website <https://floridakofc.org/council-newsletters?member-site=>. PGK Jim Gillis talked about Fr. Emeric's early part of his career in NYC including being a radio host and making film documentaries in the 1940s. GK Garth Albury said at his Fr. Emeric's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday in December 2017 there was always humor even at Council Meetings. Fr. Emeric always had a prayer "Mary Queen of the Knights" and will be missed. Les Santiago passed out the tokens of appreciation to Fr. John Blum, Fr. Frank, Sr. Elizabeth, Sr. Emparo from El Salvador, Sr. Lucia Brady, Sr. Joy, Fr Tom Kirchoeffer, Fr. Tony Fortunato, Fr. Justin Freeman, Fr. Rogers, Fr. Rogers, and Fr. Stephan Brown. Fr. Stephan told me he had just flown in from Brazil earlier that morning. He complimented the Chef David DeRose before we went home. Fr. Tony complimented, "**great pics thanks a million ciao santa notte ftf odm.**"

**Obituary of John Cunniff**

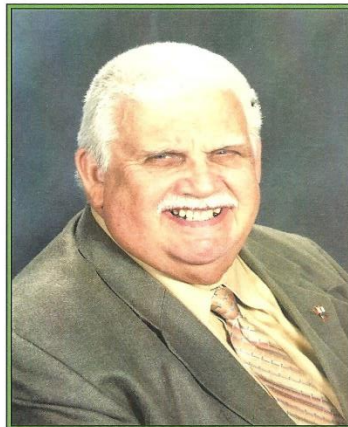
Cunniff, John "Terry," age 78, passed away on March 26, 2019 in St. Petersburg where he had been a resident since 1981. He was born in Pittsburgh, PA on April 12, 1940 to the late John Francis and Mary Rose (Armsey) Cunniff. Terry was part of the 1962 graduating class of The Citadel in Charleston, SC where he also made the Dean's List. After honorably serving in the U.S. Army, he worked as a District Sales Representative for McGraw-Hill for over 35-years, serving the Pittsburgh, Columbus, Detroit, and Tampa Bay areas. He earned the distinction of Sales Representative of the Year a total of 6 times during his extensive career.

Terry was active in the Catholic community, acting as President of the Parish Council and President of the Home School Association for St. Raphael Catholic Church, as well as a Lector for St. Paul's Catholic Church, both in St. Petersburg. Along with the church, he was also active in community organizations such as the Steering Committee for the Crisis Pregnancy Center in St. Pete, as Color Corps Commander for the Frank J. Lewis Assembly, Diocese Coordinator for Membership and New Council Development for the K of C Florida State Council, and as initiator of St. Paul's Council (St. Pete), St. Jude's Council (St. Pete), Saint Stephen's Council (Valrico), Fr. Michael Finnegan Council (Clearwater), and Holy Cross Council (St. Pete). Terry was most active as a longtime member of the Knights of Columbus in which he was a past Grand Knight, Faithful Navigator, District Deputy, Elected Delegate to the Supreme Convention, Co-Director of VA Volunteer Services for Bay Pines, Trustee of St. Paul's Council, and recipient of the Family of the Year Award. Terry is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Judith P. Cunniff; son, Glenn T. Cunniff (Anne); grandsons, Max and Stephen of Atlanta; sister, Karen Cunniff James (Jim) of Washington, DC; niece, Angela Bradford (Ben) of Tampa; as well as many great-nieces and great-nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Timothy Cunniff. A Memorial Mass will be held on April 13, 2019 at 10:30am at St. Paul's Catholic Church in St. Pete with reception to follow. A Committal Service with military honors will take place privately for the family at Calvary Catholic Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Terry's memory to a charity of your choice.

The family invites you to attend a reception immediately following the service at **St. Paul's Parish**.

A Funeral Mass  
Celebrating the Life of

**John Terence Cunniff**  
April 12, 1940 - March 26, 2019



St. Paul's Catholic Church  
St. Petersburg, Florida

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, Terry Cunniff's Funeral Mass was scheduled on April 13<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul's Catholic Church celebrated by Msgr. Robert Gibbons. I saw Past State Deputies Robert Anderson and Paul Koppie present. Ed Slyzak, KofC FL Public Relations was also present. The Frank J Lewis Assembly Honor Guard and a couple other Assemblies represented the Knights of Columbus as we said farewell to our friend. *Tribute to Terry Cunniff* was made possible with photographs of the Frank J Lewis Honor Guard provided by Bob McGue.







The Knights of Columbus Frank J Lewis Assembly 0159 participated in two Honor Guard Callouts in the Month of May 2019. On May 5<sup>th</sup>, I dressed up for the 11:30 AM Corporate Communion Mass at St. John Vianney on St. Pete Beach. Fr. Tony Fortunato was the main celebrant. At the conclusion of the mass, a big thunderstorm hit with lots of rain and wind. It was fine by the time I returned home. On May 11<sup>th</sup>, I was invited to the Cathedral of St. Jude for Our Lady of Fatima Celebration and Good Shepard Sunday. A visiting Bishop from Africa celebrated the Mass.



On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Council 2105 gave the Tootsie Roll Check to Morningstar School. This was collected at St. Mary's on March 16-17<sup>th</sup> for the Citizens with Disabilities Campaign. Grand Knight Garth Albury was joined by Alvin Dogan and Winston Stroude to present the check to Principal Sue Conza.





On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, I drove to Orlando for the *Knights of Columbus 115<sup>th</sup> FL State Convention* at the Orlando Hyatt Regency Hotel. I greeted both State Deputy Donald Kahrer and State Warden Rick Hughes. After lunch, walked downstairs to the Silver Springs Room in the convention center to setup the State Museum. Region Director John Montaldo offered to assist unloading my car. We took the Council 2105 traveling museum along with two old charters: 12-21-1919 Council 2105 and 2-28-1926 Assembly 2105. I proceeded to setup the State Museum between 2pm and 4:45pm. Council 2105 museum panels were setup at the south end. Plaques, Pictures, Canvases, Regalia, and Banners were organized around the room. My first Past State Deputy Douglas Murray came by as I was filming the final setup.

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, I woke up early for the State Deputy Appreciation Breakfast. Fr. Sal Pignato gave background on the gift of a Russian Icon Tryptic of the Resurrection of Jesus. I joined the Color Corp for the Opening Mass lead by Archbishop Thomas Wenski. ArchBishop Wenski said that he flew earlier that morning instead of riding on his motorcycle. I gave tours of the museum following Mass. Council 2105 delegate Alvin Dogan and his wife Elaine arrived just before the opening ceremonies. At 12:30pm, I marched in the color corp while the flags were being posted for the Opening Ceremonies.

After dismissal, I changed into a jacket and tie and made my way back to the chamber where State FL Deputy Donald Kahrer was giving his opening remarks. I noticed the Districts were reverse in each row this year. The higher numbers were in the front. I sat up front with District Warden Kevin Greeno, Alvin & Elaine Dogan in District 43. Our Grand Knight Garth Albury just checked in as the general session concluded and the first business session began.



On May 25<sup>th</sup>, the Memorial Mass for Deceased Knights began at 7:30 am. Our Council remembered our fallen knights: Eric Holding, Thomas Holloway, Charles Rooney, and Fr. Emeric Szlezak. Bishop Patrick Pinder was the main celebrant. Tom Wozniak and Jorge Mercado loaned antique swords. Tom's sword had a Columbus head which faced forward and Jorge's was an eagle. Garth and I attended Financial Secretary Workshop by Dan Smedile. The 2019-2020 Florida State Council was elected. The new officers will be Deputy Scott O'Connor, Secretary Bob Urrutia, Treasurer Rick Hughes, Advocate Bob Rasche, and Warden Michael Gizewski. Scott O'Connor unveiled his State Deputy Pin of a Fish.



The meeting was adjourned to come back for the State Banquet. I shared the table with Alvin & Elaine Dogan, Garth & Daisy Albury, Steve Goetz, Paul Traxler, and Richard Perfidio and his wife. The State Council marched in with Fanfare and Robert Anderson was the Master of Ceremonies. After the awards and speeches, the raffle money was distributed. One ticket went to a relative of Winston Stroude of Council 2105! Dinner ended at 10:30 pm with the singing of “God Bless America.” After dinner, Alvin Dogan, Kevin Riskowitz, and John Lashley helped me box everything in the museum within one hour. Robert Higgins promised to transport all the state archives to the Storage Facility on Sunday.

Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup>, was the last day of the Convention. The Divine Liturgy Mass began at 7:30 am with Bishop Kurt Burnett and Fr. Sal Pignato celebrating. Our Homework was to read the “Acts of the Apostles” from the Bible.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vivat Jesus!  
Sean Denny

KofC Assembly 0159 Scribe