

# Columbus Crusader

Newsletter of Our Lady of Light Council 10498 in Estero, FL  
Roman Catholic Brothers in Christ, Chartered in 1990



June 2026

Charity, Unity, Fraternity,  
Patriotism

## Officers for 2025-2026 Fraternal Year

Grand Knight: Jim Mendolera  
Deputy GK: Stefan Gehrold  
Chancellor: Robert Dumont  
Recorder: Bob Lehman  
Treasurer: Joe Ercolino  
Advocate: Don Fiscella  
Warden: Ron Molinaro

Inside Guard: Frank Valvo  
Outside Guard: Brent Labreche  
Trustee 1yr: Todd Junker  
Trustee 2yr: Mitch Pappas  
Trustee 3yr: Felix De Los Santos,  
Jr.  
Fin Secretary: Ron Kuhnen

Lecturer: Pat Becker  
Field Agent: Todd Camron  
District Deputy: Steve McPhillips  
Chaplain: Fr. Michael Young

**Next Month General Membership Meeting:** Tuesday, July 7, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center. Food and refreshments will be provided.

Let us try to recruit more new members this month to finish out our Fraternal Year. Our new **Field Agent is Todd Camron.**

This past month, our Council handed out flowers after all the Masses on Mother's Day. We also sponsored and supported the Mother's Day Tea Concert providing pastries and tea for the more than 60 attendees. Thanks to Diane Lehman for providing the music and choir. We also held BINGO and 137 parishioners played Bingo. On May 31<sup>st</sup>, we had the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Rosary and Corporate Communion. The 10:30 AM Mass Intention was for Deceased Members of our Council 10498. A luncheon was held after the Mass at Mario's Restaurant. Many thanks to **Brother Joe Ercolino** for organizing the Mass and

luncheon. Also, "Thank You" to the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Color Corps for their participation.

It is with sadness that I report the passing of **Brother Richard Uhart** on April 29, 2026. Brother Richard was a 23-year member of the Knights of Columbus and a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knight. Funeral Mass is on June 4, 2026 at **St. Leo's Catholic Church** at 10:00 AM. Please wear your Red Council Shirt to show the Council's support and honoring **Brother Richard Uhart.**

## JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS....

**JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup> – Business Meeting** – 7:00 PM in the Parish Center. Food and refreshments will be provided.

**JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup> – Corpus Christi** – 10:30 AM Mass. We will set up



### From the Grand Knight

Hello Brother Knights,  
Congratulations to **April Knight of the Month Tim Distler** and **April Family of the Month Brother John and Gale Ryan.** Welcome to our Council **Fr. Michael Young.** We now have 21 new Knights that have joined our Council. We have met 162% of our quota set forth by Supreme for the 2025-2026 Fraternal Year.

an altar in the Parish Center at 10:00 AM. Please attend Mass in your Red Council Shirt.

**JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup>** – Set up for the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Liberty Ball at 10:00 AM in the Parish Center.

**JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>** – **4<sup>TH</sup> Degree Liberty Ball** – Doors open at 5:00 PM.

**JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>** – **Planning Meeting** – 7:00 PM in Classroom 302.

**JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup>** – Set up for the Pancake Breakfast at 12:00 Noon. Help is appreciated.

**JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup>** – **Pancake Breakfast** – served after all the Sunday Masses. Help is always needed and appreciated especially after the 10:30 AM Mass to serve and clean up.

The proceeds from our Disability “Tootsie Roll” Drive were donated to Special Equestrians, Wolfhounds Legacy Inc., Family Initiative, Special Olympics, and Hearts and Homes. These organizations received \$3,225.00 each. Thanks to all of you who worked very hard to collect the monies for these worthy organizations and their causes with working for those individuals with disabilities.

**LIBERTY BALL – JUNE 20, 2026.** The 4<sup>th</sup> Degree will be holding the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Liberty Ball in the Parish Center. Cost is \$45.00 per person and it includes appetizers, dinner, drinks, and

dancing. **100%** of all proceeds benefit Hearts and Homes, Military Chaplain’s Fund, Wreaths Across America, and 1<sup>st</sup> Responders in Lee County. **A Patriotic Celebration Honoring Knights of Columbus Veterans, 1<sup>st</sup> Responders and their families.** Catering by Antonio’s Scratch Kitchen and music by The Johnny and Patti Revue. BYOB. See attachment for dinner selections. Get your dinner tickets from **Faithful Navigator John Ryan 239-253-8813** or **Brother Jim Mendolera 440-446-9110**. Tickets are also available in the Parish Office. Cash or checks are accepted. No credit card sales.

**NEW OFFICERS FOR FRATERNAL YEAR 2026-2027**

Grand Knight – Stefan Gehrold  
Deputy Grand Knight – Frank Esposito  
Chancellor – Jeremy Brown  
Recorder – Bob Lehman  
Treasurer – Joe Ercolino  
Advocate – Don Fiscella  
Warden – Ron Molinaro  
Inside Guard – Brent Labreche  
Outside Guard – Frank Valvo  
Trustee 1 Year – Todd Junker  
Trustee 2 Year – Felix De Los Santos  
Trustee 3 Year – Bob Dumont  
Financial Secretary – Ron Kuhnen  
Field Agent – Todd Camron

District Deputy – Steve McPhillips  
Chaplain – Fr. Michael Young  
Lecturer – Pat Becker

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as your Grand Knight. I appreciate all the help, guidance, and dedication that all of you have provided to make my job as Grand Knight very enjoyable these past 2 years.

Please continue to support your new Council Officers, as you have in the past, so that our Council will continue to excel and become one of the best Knights of Columbus Councils in the State of Florida.

I will pray for all of you, my Brothers, for many years of good health and prosperity.

God Bless,  
Jim Mendolera, GK, PFN  
Knights of Columbus Council  
10498

*“Charity, of course, is the first principle of the Knights of Columbus. As Blessed Michael McGivney’s life teaches us, there is no charity without freedom – freedom from sin and from self-centeredness that enables us to see others and respond with generosity.”*



**From the Chancellor**

Hello Brother Knights,

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the quiet of off season in Florida. This Sunday May 31st we are having 5th Sunday Rosary and Corporate Communion at the 10:30 Mass. Please attend and wear your red shirts. We will have a section set up for us in Church. The following Sunday June 7th we will be setting up an

altar for Corpus Christi in the parish center before the 10:30 Mass at about 10:00 am. After the 10:30 Mass we will process out of Church for the ceremony in the Parish Center. Please wear your red shirts.

Jim has the information on the Mass for Brother Richard Uhart at St Leo's Catholic Church. Please pray for Richard and his family and continue to pray for all Brother Knights who have passed or are ill.

Thank you to all who have supported me through over 10 years as your Chancellor of Council 10498 and a special

thanks to Pat Becker who has improved my monthly newsletter articles.

Please continue to support your new Council Officers as you have done for me. Continue to be the best Council of the State of Florida and help Our Lady of Light continue to be the best Parish in the Diocese of Venice.

Mary pray for us,

Bob Du Mont

630-352-1979



Please pray for the following brothers, family members, and significant others: Tony Almeida, Bob Dumont, Jim Culley, Jackie Erickson (daughter of brother Dave), Jack Horan, Horace "Bud" Fichera, Jes Jensen, Greg Mitchell, Ron Molinaro, Pat Neville, Jim Scialabba



# June

John	C	Diller		6/2	Robert		Jordan	6/25
Andrew		Hudak		6/2	Peter	J	Ennis	7/1
Joseph	R	Pavich	Sr	6/2	Pat		Jaquinto	7/2
John	F	Fischer		6/7	Brian	K	Mc Cone	7/5
George		Mantikas		6/10	Marco	A	Salomon	7/5
Paolo		Cavazzini		6/11	Terry	D	De Freeuw	7/9
Louis	W	Salera		6/12	John	J	Uzdilla	7/9
Donald	P	Labonte		6/16	Todd	J	Junker	7/12
Frank	C	Pomarico	Jr	6/19	Anthony	J	Gilborges	Osfs 7/13
Richard	P	Giacomuzzi		6/22				
John	A	Iamurri		6/22				
Richard	E	Ditter		6/25				

In Case of Death: At the death of a Brother Knight, notify the Grand Knight or the next in charge, who will then contact the family and offer sympathy and help from the Council. The Council member contacting the family should ask whether a wake will be held and if so, whether the family would like the Council to do a rosary service. If a Mass will be offered, the family should be asked if they would like a resolution of condolence to be presented. Any ceremonial presentation requested should be done only with permission of the clergy. If the deceased Brother is a 4th Degree member, the Grand Knight will notify the Insurance Field Agent and the Faithful Navigator of the Assembly. Grand Knight: Jim Mendolera. Email: [jmendolera323@yahoo.com](mailto:jmendolera323@yahoo.com). Telephone (239) 390-0346

Please visit our website at <http://www.kofccouncil10498.org/> for additional information and upcoming events.

Please contact our Financial Secretary Ronald Kuhnen (715) 215-0408, [kuhnen10498@gmail.com](mailto:kuhnen10498@gmail.com), to make updates to your personal profile (change of address, change or added phone, email address, etc.)

To add or delete from the prayer list above, or correct birthday and/or name please contact Patrick Becker.

E-mail: [patbecker50@yahoo.com](mailto:patbecker50@yahoo.com).

# Helping Our Community



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS**



**FAMILY INITIATIVE**



**HEARTS AND HOMES**



**WOLFHOUNDS LEGACY**



## SPECIAL EQUESTRIANS

# ***Liberty Ball***

A **PATRIOTIC CELEBRATION** honoring KofC Veterans, First Responders & their families

Festivities are open to anyone who wants to attend (**you do not have to be a Knight**)

Food : Grand Charcuterie Board  
Seasoned Tossed Salad  
Entrée Choices  
Chicken Marsala with domestic mushroom  
Baked Cod Oreganato w/seasoned breadcrumbs  
Penne Pasta w/creamy pink vodka sauce  
Roasted Potatoes & Assorted Mixed Vegetables  
Associated Cookies & Brownies placed a each table  
Catered By Antonio's Scratch Kitchen

Beverages: Water, Soft Drinks, Lemonade, Coffee, Tea or BYOB

Entertainment by: The Johnny & Patti Revue

Ceremonial Honors

- Veteran & First Responder Honorees from District Councils
- Knight of the Year Honoree
- Ceremonial Meal Table honoring and remembering all veterans M.I.A.

Monetary Proceeds Benefit

- Veterans Administration for Lee County Veterans
- Assistance to help provide Lee County Homeless Veterans with housing, food and medical support.
- Promote local Homeless Veteran Associations with support and aid
- Provide support and help to all needy Veterans in Lee County

**Where & When: Our Lady of the Light Parish Hall**  
**19680 Cypress View Dr, Ft Myers, FL 33967**  
**Saturday, June 20, 2026 at 5:00PM**

**Tickets available in the Parish Office \$45 per person**

**Ticket Contacts: Our Lady of the Light Parish Office**  
**SK Jim Mendolera (440) 446-9110**  
**SK John Ryan (239) 253-8813**



Knights of Columbus  
**FOURTH**  
**DEGREE**  
*Patriotic degree of the Order.*



One Nation, Under God