

Saint Therese Church Knights of Columbus Council 12885
Meeting Minutes September 9, 2025

Call to Order by Grand Knight Frank A Bio at 6:33 pm. All Officers were in attendance except for the Chaplain, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Warden, Third Year Trustee, Second Year Trustee and the First Year Trustee. All absences were excused.

There were ten Council Brothers in attendance

The Recorder noted that all members present were credentialed.

The opening Prayer - GK Frank A Bio.

The Pledge of Allegiance - GK Frank A Bio

Special guest - Worthy Regional District Deputy/ District 1 Deputy Gene Ziemba, was introduced and welcomed by GK Frank A Bio.

The Minutes of the August Council Meeting were approved by motion.

Chaplain's Message

Bro. Bob Smith, Lecturer, read the monthly reflection and challenge from the Supreme Chaplain, Archbishop William E. Lori. As we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross on September 14th, our challenge is to undertake some sacrifice, such as abstaining from meat one or two days a week, to strengthen our willingness to carry your cross daily. May we always carry our cross with courage as faithful followers of Christ.

Grand Knight's Report

GK Frank A Bio welcomed the Council members and encouraged all members to consider serving the Council in several Officer positions that remain unfilled. The vacancies include the Advocate, the Faith Director, the Life Director, and the Retention Chairman. The duties of the positions are found in the published Council By-Laws.

The Council has a very busy Calendar of Events scheduled for this month and other important information for all, which is available on our Council Website - KofC12885.org

Membership Report

GK Frank A Bio reported that there is currently a total of 96 members in Council #12885. Bro. Tom Brady, Membership Director, discussed the final plans for Recruitment Weekend

Scheduled on Saturday, September 27th, and Sunday, September 28th. A short presentation and an invitation to join will be made during each of the Masses. All Brothers attending Mass are asked to represent the Council by wearing their Knights of Columbus shirts and nametags as a show of unity. Afterwards, light refreshments will be offered in the courtyard during a "meet the Knights" social/ sign-up.

Fourth Degree Report

GK Frank A Bio reported that the Fourth Degree Assembly #2017 recently conducted a flag seminar for the entire eighth-grade class of Saint Mary Catholic School. The instruction, held at the upper school flagpole, included the correct raising, lowering, and folding of the Flag of the United States of America. Instructions on flying the flag at half-staff were also taught as this year marks the 24th anniversary of

9/11.

Additional information and news regarding the Fourth Degree Assembly #2017 can be accessed on our Council's Website or by logging into KofC 2017.org.

Worthy Regional District Deputy/ District Deputy

RDD Gene Ziemba greeted the membership and expressed his pleasure with how our Council is performing. Note: WRDD Gene Ziemba has assumed the District Deputy 1 Office in the absence of WDD Bob Hack, who is hospitalized.

WRDD Gene Ziemba advised the Council that the Worthy State Secretary, Paul McGraft, has recently resigned from his position as an Officer with the Knights of Columbus.

WRDD Gene Ziemba discussed and encouraged different ways to attract new membership through COR programs and by providing other activities to benefit Catholic men, the Church, and the community.

Unfinished Business

- GK Frank A Bio mentioned and discussed numerous Council activities and events taking place through most of September and into October. Assistance is needed for these events to be successful.
- Fall Shrimparoo Fundraiser, September 20th at 6 pm. Many open spots to volunteer by logging on to our website (kofc12885.org) or contacting Bro. Joe Costy (910-444-9743; costy.joe2@gmail.com).
- InterCouncil Bocce Tournament, September 20th at 9 am. Come root for Council #12885 as they compete against other local Councils
- St. Joseph Church TEFAP. Second Tuesday of each month, help is needed to unload a truck-full of donated food at the Church Food Pantry in Burgaw.
- Membership Recruitment Weekend, September 27th and September 28th, after all Masses. Opportunity to invite new members to join our family of Knights.
- The Feast of Saint Therese, Thursday, October 1. Mass at 3 pm, followed by a catered reception in the Parish Hall. Knights have been requested to assist with providing and serving beverages for the event.
- A copy of the Council By-Laws was published on the Council Website for review and discussion by the membership. A motion to adopt the By-Laws as written was made, but several grammatical errors were identified and required correction before a final vote of acceptance could occur. A conditional motion to accept the current By-Laws pending error corrections was made and approved.

New Business

- The Council's quarterly NCDOT Adopt-a-Highway Roadway Clean-up, AKA the "Tom Rice Road Run," is scheduled for Saturday, September 13, at 8 am. The organizer of the "Race", Bro. Greg Gausman wants all participants to meet at the Grabowski Center. The Council will be sponsoring a "Post Race" breakfast at McDonald's.
- Bro. Bob Smith, who has assumed the duties of organizing the St. Joseph Workers. Meetings and Fellowship are held in the Parish Hall on the 1st Thursday evening of every month. The meetings would include an inspirational video and a spiritual discussion afterwards. Attendance has been low, and I asked the Council members for suggestions and guidance to increase participation. Prior meetings were held following Adoration in the Church, but recently the scheduled times for Adoration have been reduced, which may have resulted in the lower turnout. New ideas welcome.

- GK Frank A Bio presented an interesting story/information to the Council regarding a retired Bishop, His Excellency Herbert Bevard, who was ordained in Philadelphia in 1972 and consecrated as a Bishop in 2008. He was subsequently appointed as Bishop of the US Virgin Islands in 2008 and served his diocese with amazing grace for many years until he suffered unanticipated medical conditions and deteriorating health that compelled him to retire. In 2020, he was airlifted to a hospital in North Carolina and currently lives in Wilmington. GK Frank A Bio requested he be added to our Brothers in Need Prayer group.

Brothers in Need

- Bro. John Moody
- DD Robert Hack (Recently discharged from hospital, in a health care facility)
- Bishop Herbert Bevard (Wikipedia/Herbert Bevard)

Closing Prayer - GK Frank A Bio

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm

A dinner meal, provided by GK Frank A Bio, and fellowship enjoyed by all.

Next meeting scheduled for October 14, 2025, 5:45 pm Officers, 6:30 pm Members.

Submitted by Recorder, Bro. Roger Wachnicki