

St. Therese Church
Knights of Columbus Council 12885
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2026

Call to Order by Grand Knight Frank A. Bio at 6:30 PM. All Officers were in attendance except for the Recorder, Warden, both Guards, three Trustees, and the Chaplain. All absent brothers were excused.

- Bro. Marco Vialpando volunteered to serve as the Recorder. He noted that all members present were credentialed
- The opening prayer was offered and led by Bro. Bob Smith, Lecturer.
- The Grand Knight led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America
- The Minutes of the last meeting were approved by motion.

GK Frank A. Bio welcomed all Council members to the meeting. He also noted that there were eight members of the Council who recently completed the Fourth Degree. Congratulations to the new Sir Knights: Bill Balaban, Richard Clark, Giuseppe Cortina, Greg Gausman, Greg Marchi, Craig Morehead, Bob Smith, and Anthony Ward. In the interest of time, he stated the meeting would follow a shortened agenda.

Financial Report

Financial information is available from Bro. Phil Ley. There are no outstanding documents. He also mentioned that he has extra Council shirts on hand. Please use Zelle to pay for the ones you want; they are \$25.00 each.

Financial Secretary / Membership Report

Bro. Paul Johnson noted that we have four new Life Members: Brothers Robert Cantwell, Robert Edens, Larry Ferrell and Lawrence Yemma. The council also lost one member, Bro. David Gould. There are 102 Brothers in the Council. Bro. Johnson mentioned that he began the procedure to move Eight Brothers to the Affiliate Program. Also, 11 Brothers still owe dues. Finally, he has the Membership Cards and Nametags for any Brother who has not yet received theirs.

Programs Report(s) and Unfinished Business

GK Bio noted that we need a Program Director and a Life Director. He then mentioned that there are other Officer positions open and requested everyone to go to the website and look over the duty descriptions of all the Officer positions. At the May meeting, a proposed slate of officers should be announced, and elections would take place during the June meeting. Please consider volunteering for an Officer position.

Bro. Frank Weisgerber gave the fourth-degree report, noting that the Honor Flight of the Cape Fear Area will take place on Saturday, 18 April, and the Welcome Home Ceremony should start at approximately 8:00 PM at the Airport. If you plan on attending, please wear your Council shirt.

It was noted that the Council netted \$2,000.00 from the sale of the Easter Baskets; a lengthy discussion followed. A motion to donate that money to the Food Pantry was tabled with Bro. Ley stating that he would talk to the leadership at the Food Pantry to see exactly what their needs really are and will report back to the Council.

The GK reported that Fr. Upah gave the Council approval to hang the Original Charter, which will be hung soon.

He also reported that the program "For Pete's Sake" has been chosen as one of the three finalists for the Family Program Award at the State level. The winner will be announced at the State Convention. The GK then showed the short video that was submitted for the award, and everyone thought it was an awesome video.

The GK also noted that there is still a space for one more Brother to attend the convention. The hotel cost, along with the cost of all meals, is reimbursable to that Brother.

Finally, GK Bio noted that Bro. Richard Clark has accepted responsibility for distributing flowers on Mother's Day, so please support him if you can.

New Business

The Funeral Mass for Bro. Gould will be celebrated as part of the Noon Mass on 23 April. GK Bio mentioned that Bro. Gould was a former Financial Secretary of the Council and was a pilot during the Vietnam War. It's worth reading his Obituary; he was a remarkable person. There will be a reception following Mass, and help is needed for set up, serving of the food, and clean-up immediately following the reception. Please get with GK Bio if you can help in any way.

The GK mentioned that the “Knight out with the Ladies” went well, and he called on Bro. Smith, who led the discussion. Bro. Smith would like us to “Do something” every month. He’s doing “That Man is You” at St. Marks now, and he described what that entailed. He envisions it to be approximately Ninety Minutes in total, a 25-minute video or speaker, then break into groups to discuss the topic, then a recap. The GK told Bro. Smith to pick a date between our monthly meetings, then plan on starting at 7:00 PM, so everyone can eat dinner before the event, which would save time. Once the date is chosen, GK will send out an email detailing what and when the evening will entail.

In the open discussion, it was recommended that speakers from outside agencies/non-profits, a Pro-Life Speaker from the State Council, etc., be considered to speak at our meetings.

GK Bio then went into “Brother’s in Need” mentioning Bro. Dan Alford is having a total knee replacement, Fr. Gregory Spencer, Faithful Navigator, Larry Greer, Bro. Walt Flippin, and finally, Ms. Patricia Kopchick, the Director of St. Joseph’s Food Pantry. The GK announced “Good of the Order,” noting that a “Catholic Store” opened in part of St. Mary’s downtown, and more information will follow. He also mentioned that our website has a link to information on the High School that will open in the fall at St. Mary’s.

The GK again called on Bro. Smith, who read an article from the Supreme Chaplain, challenged all of us to spend time in church after Mass and remain in prayer and adoration, to grow in awareness of Christ’s true presence in the Eucharist.

Bro. Smith mentioned on 24 through 26 April, St. Mark’s will celebrate their 25th Anniversary.

GK Bio said the next meeting will be on May 12th. He then led us in prayer and closed the meeting at 7:28 pm, followed by sandwiches and soft drinks.

Submitted by Bro. Marco Vialpando for Recorder, Bro. Roger Wachnicki