

St. Therese Church Knights of Columbus Council 12885  
Meeting Minutes - September 8, 2026

**Call to Order:** Grand Knight Frank Bio: 6:31 PM

- Total in attendance: 22 Brothers

**Opening Prayer:** Our Father led by GK Bio.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by GK Bio.

**Officers Attendance Report:** Please see bottom of report.

**Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting 8/11/26:** A motion to approve was made and seconded as posted. Approved.

**Lecturer's Reflection:** Br. Robert Smith

- **September 2026 Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge**

Then Peter approaching asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." (Gospel for Sept. 13, Mt 18:21-22) To forgive others can be very difficult at times, especially when someone repeatedly offends us. Jesus tells us there is no magic number that limits our obligation — our desire to forgive and show mercy to others must be boundless, just as God's mercy toward us is infinite. We pray in the Our Father, "Forgive us our trespasses *as we forgive those who trespass against us.*" Our very salvation depends on our willingness to forgive, for God will forgive us in the measure that we forgive others (cf. Mt 6:14-15).

- **Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:** This month, I challenge you to make a list of the people in your life — past and present — whom you find or have found difficult to forgive, and to sincerely pray for them each day.

**Grand Knight Report:** GK Frank Bio

- Shrimparoo tickets will be sold this weekend at all Masses, before and after. If you are on duty, please show up a half hour before Mass time, as most of the tickets seem to be sold before Masses. Materials (sign, box, cards, and envelope) are in the Parish Hall meeting room and cabinet. A tent will already be set up from the priest's retreat, which is from September 14 through September 18.
- October 1st is the Feast Day of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux. Check the bulletin to see if there will be a church event on Saturday night October 3 after Mass.
- Father Bill's birthday is Saturday, October 3.
- The bocce ball tournament, a competition of local councils, will be held on Saturday, October 3. Bocci team captain Bob Smith is looking for at least one more player. The format is a combination of single-elimination in the first round and then double-elimination.
- Thank you to our new Community Director Steve Venezia for taking on his new responsibility.
- An attendance sheet was passed around.

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**Treasurer Report:** Br. Phil Ley (also for Financial Secretary Br. Paul Johnson)

- Council shirts are available for \$25.
- The Council currently has a \$4476.03 checking account balance at Truist Bank along with a \$2128.87 CD for a total of \$6604.90.

**Programs Reports:** Br. Bob Smith

- According to GK Bio, each program director can refer to a list of recommended activities outlined by the Knights of Columbus. For example, the Life Director could coordinate involvement in Wilmington's annual March for Life and submit a report to Supreme, summarizing our participation. Please support all program directors in their various activities and undertakings.
- **Faith Director Report:** Br. Holden Spain
  - In an ongoing effort to promote devotion to St. Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe, we expect to have a pair of statues or icons purchased by the Council along with prayer cards and rosaries. These devotionals will make their way through our Council as each member would have the opportunity to use them in prayer for a week until the saints' feast days (12/9 and 12/12, respectively). A sign-up sheet will be provided to register member participation..
  - The relics of St. Bernadette will make their way to the Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral in Raleigh (as part of a U.S. tour) on November 9 and 10. A sign-up sheet will be provided for members who would like to make a road trip.
  - A spiritual retreat is expected for early next year.
  - On October 14 at 6:30pm our Council will host a That Man Is You! program. It appeals to men of all ages, will run for about 1 hour, and will include a video and discussions. FYI St. Mark's hosts "That Man Is You!" Saturday mornings at 6:30.
  - Hallow is a popular Catholic app that features guided prayers, devotional meditations, and scripture readings. For about \$200 the Council can sign up as a group (perhaps 15-20 members) that would bind us in prayer. Parishes and other KofC councils use it; we will talk further to measure interest.
- **Family Director Report:** Br. Dan Alford
  - Br. Dan requests responses for those Knights who volunteer at St. Joseph's food pantry. He is creating a report that accumulates hours spent at the pantry.
- **Community Director Report:** Br. Steve Venezia
  - There are many elderly people who may need help getting to church. Maybe this is an opportunity for the Community Director going forward.
- **Life Director Report:** Br. Craig Morehead
  - A follow-up communication was sent to the New Hanover County District Attorney, seeking his support for "baby box" legislation in the upcoming session. Mothers can confidentially surrender newborns to certain safe locations (typically firehouses), and the Knights are looking to back this practice.
  - We are waiting for a date to be announced for the 2027 March for Life.

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- **Membership Director Report:** Br. Tom Brady
  - Our Regional District Deputy will provide our Council with a membership drive package with solicitation materials.

**Fourth Degree Report:** DGK Frank Weisgerber

- New officers have been installed for the year.
- Flag ceremonies were held at St. Mary's and St. Mark's.
- Knights will participate in the Veteran's Day parade in November.

**Unfinished Business:**

- There were no questions related to the budget that was prepared by Br. Johnson and Br. Ley.
- A motion to approve the budget was made and seconded as distributed. Approved.

**New Business:**

- Most of the duties for the Shrimparoo have been fulfilled. Br. Alford is in charge of shrimp (shrimp will be peeled and deveined with tail on) and Br. Sanza is in charge of chicken (35 pounds of chicken will be purchased). A hard copy sign-up sheet was passed for the tasks that still need to be filled, including salad preparation and chili prep for hotdogs. We are targeting 110 guests (last year we had 82 guests - 62 paid customers and 20 walk-ins). Thanks to Br. John Housler who has arranged to have ice cream provided free of charge.
- This past Sunday 9/6 Council members were invited by UNCW's Catholic Campus Ministry to participate in a Mass and a social event at the Newman Center. Photos have been posted on our website.
- Kindly browse the website as a routine for important information and resources.
- Ideas for speakers and/or future agenda items were solicited.

**Prayers for Brothers In Need**

- Deacon George Keenan
- Br. Pat Kolenick
- Father Greg Spencer (St. Mark's)

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, October 13 at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall (Officers arrive at 6:00).

**Closing Prayer:** Hail Mary and Grace before meal led by GK Frank Bio

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15 PM

**Minutes completed by Recorder:** Br. Tom Brady

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| <b>2026-2027 Officers</b> |                   |              |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>Office</b>             | <b>Officer</b>    | <b>P/A/E</b> |
| Grand Knight              | Frank Bio         | Present      |
| Chaplain                  | Rev. William Upah | Excused      |
| Deputy Grand Knight       | Frank Weisgerber  | Present      |
| Chancellor                | Peter Sanza       | Present      |
| Treasurer                 | Phil Ley          | Present      |
| Financial Secretary       | Paul Johnson      | Excused      |
| Warden                    | Patrick Kolenik   | Excused      |
| Outside Guard             | Larry Dunning     | Excused      |
| Inside Guard              | Richard Clark     | Present      |
| Recorder                  | Tom Brady         | Present      |
| Trustee 1 Year            | Anthony Melilli   | Present      |
| Trustee 2 Year            | Joe Costy         | Excused      |
| Trustee 3 Year            | John Dwight       | Present      |

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| <b>2026-2027 Program Chairs</b> |                |              |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>Office</b>                   | <b>Chair</b>   | <b>P/A/E</b> |
| Program Director                | Robert Smith   | Present      |
| Faith                           | Holden Spain   | Present      |
| Family                          | Dan Alford     | Present      |
| Community                       | Steve Venezia  | Present      |
| Life                            | Craig Morehead | Excused      |
| Membership                      | Tom Brady      | Present      |
| Advocate                        | (Open)         |              |
| Retention Manager               | (Open)         |              |
| Lecturer                        | Bob Smith      | Present      |