



# THE SOUTHERN CROSS

## Annual Bowling Tournament

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual bowling tournament was a huge success this month at the historic Bird Bowl. We raised almost 9K for our scholarship fund. Coral Gables Council supports four students that desperately need the money to attend Catholic High School. Every year we do an essay contest for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students based on the question “What does it mean to be a Catholic in society today”

We had 92 bowlers this year and several teams competed for the coveted Knights Bowling Pin Trophy. Joe Lluhi took home the high bowler award with a solid 189 game; when he’s not running the COTLF Homeless Ministry he must be at the lanes! The top Knights team of Don DeLeon, Robert Moreira, Hely Santeliz and Frank Parrella won the Knights team competition. The Hall Club President and Grand Knights team was a close second and a new Council from Blessed Trinity in Miami Springs took third. Our Past Grand Knight Mike Schrader ventured down from Orlando wearing a classic 1982 bowling shirt. Special thanks to Jose Zarraluqui (ZARG ) our Council Advocate and Alex Boucourt for putting together this 2<sup>nd</sup> annual event which doubled last years revenue! Many thanks to all the Knights that participated and made donations to this incredible cause.

## An Adoption Story

by Fernando Garcia, Esq. – Program Director

As Knights of Columbus, we not only respect life but we need to do much more. When a young mother is considering abortion, prolife organizations supported by Knights councils worldwide encourage the mother to choose life because it is the only choice you can make as a Catholic and as a Christian. But what if the mother cannot afford to support the child? What if she is not ready to commit to all the responsibilities of being a mother? The Catholic community encourages adoption. Well, it is what we must do. Only God creates life and we must not and cannot “choose” to terminate God’s creation. Those couples who cannot have children need to be persuaded to adopt. Also, the Church (which is all Catholics) must actively promote and take action to facilitate adoption by all married couples. This is a responsibility which must not be taken lightly, for there are many children who are desperately in need of a loving home.

This is where our story begins. Jackie, my wife, and I have two beautiful daughters, Natalia, age 16, and Katerina, age 11. When we were married twenty years ago, we could not have children. At that time, we tried to do artificial insemination and in vitro fertilization, although they were not part of the Church’s teachings and were contrary to God’s natural law. We thank God every day that for us, after failing in these efforts, we decided to adopt. One of the best decisions we made in our marriage. At the time, I was concerned about U.S. adoption and the risks involved. i.e, the potential that a family member would challenge the validity of the adoption or would otherwise try to make contact with the child after the adoption. I told my wife that I was not comfortable adopting in the U.S. and wanted to consider an overseas adoption.

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*Check out our Facebook page “Coral Gables Knights of Columbus 3274” or visit our Council website: [www.kofc3274.org](http://www.kofc3274.org)*

At that time Jackie had a friend who adopted three children in Russia. We went to a picnic and met various families who adopted in Russia and saw that these families were happy and the children seemed to be well adjusted. We spoke to Jackie's friend and felt comfortable that this was something we could pursue. We decided to contact an adoption agency and we embarked on this adventure. God was there guiding us all along, although we did not realize it. He led us to an orphanage in Karelia, located north of St. Petersburg and close to Finland. When we first saw a picture of Natalia, we were immediately drawn to her. We visited her in the orphanage and saw the conditions that the children lived in. The facilities were barely adequate and not enough staff to give the babies the attention they needed. Many of them, including Natalia, were not given the warmth that one takes for granted when you have a family. She did not have a mother and father or other family members giving her constant hugs and kisses, the nurturing that is critical for her normal development and that we often take for granted. Fortunately, we took Natalia out of that orphanage. When we left the orphanage, a bunch of kids ran after the car screaming "dada and mama", something that we would never forget...

At thirteen months she was young enough to still receive the love that was essential for her development. We brought our precious baby home and she grew up well-adjusted and far away from the reality of a Russian orphanage. At a certain age, the child is eventually forced to leave the orphanage without adequate financial support or guidance. Children often turn to drugs, crime or become sex slaves. Natalia is now a happy teenager, doing well in school. Dios sabe lo que Hace. Jackie is a teacher and had a lot to do with Natalia's schooling and putting her on the right track.

Several years later, Jackie wanted to adopt again, and I remembered those other children we left behind in Natalia's orphanage. We came back for Katerina, this time in Siberia. She was two and a half years old and much more aware of her circumstances than Natalia ever was. Living in a cramped orphanage with many children and sharing bunk beds with many other kids in a room. It was heartbreaking. She was mostly fed soup and boiled eggs. When we adopted her, she would often hoard food in her bedroom, as if she would run out of food. It took years for her to get over all of that. We thank God that now she is progressing, well adjusted and happy.

Brothers, so many children are waiting to be adopted into loving homes. We must motivate Catholics to do much more. Knights are called to rally family and friends to adopt here at home and elsewhere. U.S. adoptions have become easier than they were fourteen and nine years ago when we adopted Natalia and Katerina. We must do all we can to not just "respect life" but also to help find a solution for those children craving to be adopted. A loving Catholic home. It is part of being Catholic and Knights councils need to do all they can, to support and enable adoptions and provide homes for all these unwanted and abandoned children.

**James 1:27**

*"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world".*

Let's not forget part of Father's McGivney's mission in forming Knights of Columbus: to provide for widows and orphans of deceased Knights.

We recently attended, together with our Grand Knight Matt Brophy, a fundraiser for Asociacion Emergencia Ayacucho. AEA is a charitable organization dedicated to serving the needs of orphan and abandoned children in Peru. AEA was fueled by the visit of Pope John Paul II to Peru in 1985. The Pope donated \$50,000.00 for the orphans of war and AEA was founded because of the need for funding to maintain John Paul II Orphanage Homes. This is one organization that takes care of the needs of orphanages in an area of the world that has no resources. Please contact Raul J. Sanchez De Varona with any AEA inquires on donations or adoptions. [rjsdevarona@gmail.com](mailto:rjsdevarona@gmail.com).

In addition, Amor en Accion is a Catholic charitable organization which supports orphanage homes in Haiti. If there are questions or you would like to donate, please contact Adriano Garcia at [adriano@aol.com](mailto:adriano@aol.com). Our Knights council has provided some financial support for both AEA and Amor en Accion.

Please contact Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami Inc., for assistance with adoptions in the State of Florida. Unfortunately, adoptions in Russia are no longer as viable as they were before. There is no shortage of orphan children, whether in foster care programs in Florida or other states and in orphanages abroad. These children are all deserving and in need of a loving home.



## Chaplain's Message



Dear Brother Knights,

I'm so grateful to you all for your brotherhood and for your recent support of the UM Catholic Campus Ministry. Because of your support, our ministry has been enhanced in numerous ways. One of the most meaningful events that the kids talk about is the amazing end-of-year banquet that the Knights hosted at the Hall in late April. They absolutely loved the evening and felt like royalty; other groups on campus were astounded that they were able to enjoy such a night at no cost to themselves.

Most recently, the students have greatly benefitted from the generosity of the Knights, in their new "Gameday Ministry" at UM home games. An event that not only fosters fraternity amongst the members of the group itself, but a very evangelical ministry for other students that are otherwise nominally Catholic or even non-religious. Through the Knights providing the BBQ grill, ice chest, tent, propane and food, it has allowed us to deepen in friendship with each other, and to bring the message of Christ through fun and fellowship.

May God continue to bless you always!

Your Brother in Christ,  
 Rev. Phillip H. Tran  
 Catholic Chaplain for the University of Miami

PS: St. Paul hits it on the head here when it comes to giving thanks: "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" - 1 Cor 15:57

## Field Agent

"Not another salesman. A Brother *Knight*."

As a Brother Knight, your Knights of Columbus agent has a special perspective on your situation. Our products are tailored to our members, and our agents are professionally trained to show how a comprehensive insurance plan can protect you and your family.

Let your agent in so you can learn all about the benefits of brotherhood."



Knights of Columbus  
**INSURANCE**  
 YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE



# Knights in Action





**KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS**  
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

**UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS**

- October 3<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting 7:00 PM Knight's Hall**
- October 17<sup>th</sup> Council Social 7:00 PM Knight's Hall**
- October 21<sup>st</sup> Alter Server Appreciation BBQ at the Priest Residence COTLF from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**
- October 28<sup>th</sup> RESPECT LIFE BRUNCH, Comber Hall, 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Need all Knights to volunteer for this event!**
- November 4<sup>th</sup> Down Syndrome 5K Run and Miracle Walk. In front of Coral Gables City Hall Sunday morning.**
- November 7<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting 7:00 PM Knight's Hall**
- November 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> Canned food sorting and Turkey Drive. Knight's Hall and Saint Theresa School.**
- November 30<sup>th</sup> thru December 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Theresa School Fair**
- December 5<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting 7:00 PM Knight's Hall**
- December 15<sup>th</sup> Advent discussion with Father Omar St. Augustine 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM**
- December 16<sup>th</sup> Knights Christmas Family Party, Knight's Hall**
- December 17<sup>th</sup> Carmelite Posada Dinner, 6:00 PM, Comber Hall**
- December 20<sup>th</sup> Knights Toy Drive St Theresa School 9:00 AM**

**OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Come visit the new and improved Knight's Hall with all new bathrooms. If you live in District 114 please support our DGK Javier Enriquez for State Representative!

**SAVE THE DATE:**

The 4th Annual Chili Cook-Off is Sunday, January 20th, 2019. It is partnered with the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Andrew Brown Assembly. Don't miss it!

**THE  
SOUTHERN CROSS**

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Coral Gables Council 3274

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Javier Maribona

## Grand Knights Message

Gentlemen,

It is both an honor and privilege to serve you as Grand Knight of our Council. We hope to do a quarterly newsletter to keep you informed and up to date on upcoming events. Our Council Board recently approved a \$65,000 budget for our new Knights year which began July 1<sup>st</sup>; we have over 30 service projects and charitable causes that we are participating in this year. We are an extremely active Council and have one of the most unique Knights Hall in all of Florida. The improvements to the Hall have been quite incredible over the last 5 years and it has really paid off; our Hall Club is in the best financial strength it has been in decades. Many thanks go to our Hall Club President Javier Maribona and our partnership with our fellow Knight JC Miranda and his company Fetes & Events. If you haven't been by the Hall in a few years, please try and make our monthly Council meetings the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM



Our Annual Gala in June, the Cattle Barons Ball, was a huge success. We raised almost \$28,000 and the entire event was underwritten by Fetes & Events per their agreement with the Hall Club. Thank you to all the Knights that helped out and attended this great party; if there is one event you can participate in during the year, I strongly recommend you make the Gala an annual tradition. Our Hall is doing so well that we are booked for every Saturday in 2019, thus we are already on the calendar for June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019!

Our Financial Secretary, Johnny Herrera, has been extremely busy getting everything updated with our Council. Our Council Board recently decided to ask 83 members who haven't paid dues to be removed for our roles; it isn't fair to ask those paying dues to cover our contributions for others to State and Supreme. We still have over 300 members and if you haven't paid dues, please go to our Council website [www.kofc3274.org](http://www.kofc3274.org) and get current. Consider it a small \$40 donation that goes to great works.

Vivat Jesu,

Matt M Brophy GK Coral Gables Council #3274

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*Gloria Patri et filii et spiritui sancto. Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in saecula saeculorum.  
Amen.*



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**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
CORAL GABLES COUNCIL #3274

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The Southern Cross is published periodically by the Knights of Columbus, Coral Gables Council 3274. Opinions expressed are those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect those of Coral Gables Council 3274 or the Knights of Columbus. Questions and concerns should be addressed to the Grand Knight. Comments with respect to the publication should be emailed to [editor3274@gmail.com](mailto:editor3274@gmail.com).