

## 2023 KNIGHT OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION

This Brother Knight has been recognized by his brothers in the Council as the epitome of servant leadership. He fully embodies the core Knights of Columbus principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism - and he embraces the Faith-in-Action programs that bring these principles to life. Each year, including this Fraternal year, he selflessly donated over 1,000 hours of his time to lead and serve in his Council. He has developed effective tools and processes to help others to seamlessly take on leadership roles. He is very comfortable with leading, sharing his wise and prudent ideas, and making timely decisions - while at the same time rolling up his sleeves and getting things done. This Knight is a true role model in both word and action, inspires those around him, and mentors so many of the less experienced Council members. In response to the COVID pandemic and Hurricane Ian, he developed new programs to help the parish and community - while fulfilling the objectives set forth by the Supreme and Florida State Councils, in a very active Council, with over \$250,000 of income, about 200 events and activities, and roughly 30,000 service hours. This Knight has led or been actively involved in nearly all of these events and activities!

This Knight is actively involved in the Naples Community - whether acting as a Knight, as a member of the parish, or as a citizen. His selfless devotion in leading his Council and parish effort to help those impacted by Hurricane Ian was truly remarkable and inspirational. The Ian relief efforts resulted in over 4000 volunteer hours from his Council, provided food and supplies to hundreds in the community, and assisted the St. Vincent de Paul Society to help many others. He worked with the VFW to support Wreaths Across America, and worked with Wounded Warriors of Collier County to help locate and provide services and material support to homeless veterans in the Naples area. His work with the No Neighbor Left Behind Program has helped many in the community.

In addition to Mass ministry, such as ushering, this Knight has been the Catholic Adult Organization (CAO) lead in his parish for the past four years. In this role, he helps to organize parish-wide events and helps coordinate programs like bocce, trivia night, and bingo. He works with the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) to support various Basketball and Golf events. This Knight served on the parish Finance committee and is a co-leader of parish Emergency Preparedness efforts. His strong relationship with the parish makes his Council stronger. He leads the Altar Server Awards program, and has helped to plan and execute Retreats, Days of Recollection, and Family Prayer Nights. He does much to build fellowship and community in his Council and parish.

This Knight has been the backbone of his Council, with involvement in most of its 70+ programs. In addition to his strong leadership as an Officer and Director, he leads numerous council programs. This included Hurricane Ian relief efforts, where he directed Council members who volunteered about 4,000 hours for cleanup, salvage and support services - along with food & supply collection and distribution. He leads the No Neighbor Left Behind Program, chaired two major 2023 fundraisers, handles Council communications, and maintains the Council Directory. He introduced Caring Calls, Blood Drives & many other programs, and developed effective program management tools and templates to help others seamlessly take on leadership roles.

Whether he is chairing a program for the Council, attending daily Mass, leading a group in prayer, or greeting those around him, it is obvious that he is a model Knight and a worthy recipient of the Florida State "Knight of the Year!"

It is my pleasure to present the Florida State Council's 2023 Knight of the Year Award to Brother William Warvel, Past Grand Knight of St. John Council 11281