



THE CRUSADER



Official Publication of the New Jersey State Council Knights of Columbus

State Deputy's Message



Bruce DeMolli
State Deputy



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Brothers,

I would like to offer my sincere gratitude and appreciation to Past State Deputy Andy Lipenta and his team for carrying on the traditions and programs of the New Jersey State Council. Their dedication and commitment to expanding the programs, training and membership in our state demonstrated their deep commitment and love of our organization. Let me thank Andy's staff and chairmen on the membership and program teams for all their hard work in leading our state through many challenges during Andy's tenure.

I also want to thank all the District Deputies and Grand Knights who led their Districts and Councils during these fraternal years with steadfast loyalty to the principles we espouse as Knights of Columbus.

I now welcome all the new and returning District Deputies and Grand Knights. The titles of District Deputy and Grand Knight are not just titles. They reflect a promise and commitment to our order and principles of the Knights of Columbus. You are the leaders we will rely on to support and expand our programs. You are the leaders who will grow our order to new levels in every council and district in our State.

Lastly, I want to thank my membership and program team. With me, these men have dedicated themselves to reaching new goals and carrying on the state's action plan. We have new state incentives for the District Deputies, Councils and Sponsors that will help us grow our order and programs. My team and I are determined, committed and excited about the next few years.

As always, my appreciation extends to all of our Past State Deputies, without whose guidance and wisdom, the State Council's great legacy would not continue.

I know, together, we can accomplish and do great things. Dedicated and determined we can overcome all obstacles. *"Protecting God's Kingdom"* is our duty. Have a great year.

Vivat Jesus, Bruce De Molli, KSG, State Deputy



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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK by John A Gazis, FDD

My Brother Knights,

I would like to thank State Deputy Bruce DeMolli for asking me to assume this position on his staff. I am honored to serve under him. This task was not one that I asked for but is one that I accept willingly, knowing full well that I have big shoes to fill. Over the past 4 years, the E-Newsletter Staff did a wonderful job in building this newsletter from the beginning and I applaud them for the wonderful product they put out. The format will remain the same, as will the manner in which it is delivered to you. I hope to live up to their standard of excellence.

This Newsletter is a vehicle for information from the State Officers and State Council Staff to get information to the Officers and Members of the local Councils. You will find information on upcoming Supreme, State and 4th Degree events such as Degrees and State Program information. It will also let you know of the important dates that are approaching, feature upcoming Programs that could be of assistance in bringing new members to your Council and the Order, as well as list the important forms that are dues each month.

Pass this newsletter along to your Council and Assembly Officers, Chairmen and members, so they will be up to date on the upcoming events throughout the State.

The staff here at The Crusader hope you all have a fun summer, while also helping your Parish and the Order grow, in membership, in friendship and all ways possible.

On a personal note, it saddens me that the State Council lost 2 important men during June, two men that worked under numerous Past State Deputies: John Weiser, Former Master, and Robert D'Ambrosia, FDD. We lost men that were the epitome of what a Knight of Columbus should be. Men that would be there to help you if you called, either by guiding you in the proper direction or by coming and physically being there to help if that's what you needed. I know whenever I called either man for advice, protocol or a question on certain historical aspects of the Knights in New Jersey, they either had the answer or got back to me with one. Godspeed gentlemen, you are missed.

John A Gazis, FDD
Newsletter Editor



Culture of Life Corner

Brothers:

Every July 1, when we stand at the beginning of a new Columbian Year, we have the opportunity to start afresh and look for ways to do an even better job of re-establishing a Culture of Life. The question I have been asking the Culture of Life team over the past few months is, how can we do things better? I hope your council is asking itself that as well. That said, I would like to make a few suggestions on how you can do that.

First, be sure to name a Respect Life Chairman for your council. The form can be found at this [LINK](#) on the State Council web site. The same goes for an R&C Chairman, the form available at this [LINK](#). By informing us of these chairmen, you make it easier for us to get to you the information you need to succeed in this area. Please make this one of the first things you do.

Second, start planning your fundraising for the year. Many of our programs involve donations, so the earlier you start raising the money the better. October is Respect Life Month, and Sunday, October 4th, is Respect Life Sunday. Make your plans now for a Rose Sale or a Baby Bottle Boomerang to raise funds for the Respect Life causes supported by your council. See the Grand Knight's handbook for details.

Third, you could plan participation on one of our new programs: Save a Life, Adoption as an Option, and Our Catholic Voice in Social Media. The details are in Section 10 of the Grand Knight's Handbook. These new programs make our Culture of Life mission more comprehensive, as we address more needs.

Save a Life allows us to fulfill our moral obligation to the pregnancy care centers where we have placed ultrasound machines by providing funds to help them defray the operation and maintenance costs of those machines. If you need any assistance in this new program, please contact your Regional Coordinator or the chairman, FDD Kevin Bieberbach.

Adoption as an Option helps promote this option to abortion to women who do not believe that they are ready to be a parent. We do not want them to kill their baby for this reason, and want them to be comfortable with the decision for life and adoption. Chairing this new program is Brother Dave Busarello, a Brother Knight who can speak with experience on being an adoptive parent and is very excited to promote this program. I urge you to read his story elsewhere in this newsletter and even more, to participate.

Our Catholic Voice in Social Media gives us the opportunity to speak out with more immediacy and to a broader audience on Culture of Life issues. It also does not force us to rely on newspaper editors to print our letters, as with Our Catholic Voice in the Media, and it is a media we know that the politicians pay attention to.

Good luck in this new Columbian Year and remember that in Unity there is no limit to the miracles that we can accomplish! Let's get to work!

Vivat Jesus!

Steven J. Richardson, FM

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAM OF THE MONTH

Adoption as an Option

The Knights of Columbus have long been at the fore front of Pro-Life issues, none more recognizable than the annual March for Life. However, there are other occasions and opportunities that would also be considered Pro-Life, yet they seem to fly under the radar. Adoption would be one of those.

I am very grateful State Deputy Bruce De Molli and Culture of Life Director Steve Richardson asked me to develop and chair this new State Program. There is no better place to start than with my family's own journey.

My wife Mary Ellen and I met in our thirties, and, by the time we were married, we knew that pre-existing health issues would make birthing a child a serious risk. For us, adoption was always a topic of conversation. Standing before us were a myriad of decisions, some rather easy, some very difficult. We knew there would be challenges and obstacles, questions and objections. Love, prayer, and the support of our wonderful family and friends would be our compass through this often unpredictable journey.

There were so many things to consider from the start, domestic, international, new born, infant, toddler, adolescent. Decisions about race, sex, special needs, sibling groups; it really is overwhelming. The benefit of getting help from those that took this path before us was immeasurable. My wife and I know one thing, we did not select a child; we were guided to our child, the one who was meant to be ours all along.

We were blessed with our daughter Anna, born in China with a cleft lip/palate, and with hearing difficulties. She came home December 2002, just short of her third birthday. My wife's expertise in speech therapy, as well as being a special needs coordinator for a local school district, made the challenges Anna had a little less scary.

A few years later, those old feelings began to stir again. In March of 2008, we brought home David, also born in China with a cleft lip/palate. He had just turned two several days before our "Gotcha Day" (that's the day we gotcha. It goes by various names, and is a very special day for adoptive families)

Today, Anna and David, 15 and 10 respectively, are typical kids growing up in New Jersey, going to school, playing sports, scouting, and driving their parents crazy. Many people complement us for doing such a nice thing. We feel very differently. The love and courage of Anna's and David's birth mothers deserve all the praise and thanks we can give. Each Mother's Day, we think of and pray for them. They each gave two gifts. They gave their child the gift of life. They gave my family the gift of a daughter and son. They chose life.

David P. Busarello, PGK
Program Chairman

Special Programs Corner

We are called by Christ through our Baptism to practice the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, to protect the weak and the vulnerable, to care for the needy, and to treat all persons with respect and dignity. These programs help in caring for those individuals who are often deemed unwanted by society.

Window to the Womb: helping us to educate everyone as to the truth of the early stages of human life. For more info contact [Joseph R Wickham, FDD](#)

Drive for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities: helping all people to live their lives with respect and dignity. Your council can raise funds all year long. Report those funds on this [Form](#) to [Gary Seals](#)

Special Olympics: We all love the challenge of a good game with friends, to push ourselves to be the best person that God intended us to be. The Special Olympics Games were held this past month so we will report next month. The Chairman is [Stephen Matuszek, FDD](#)

Polar Bear Plunge: A brisk dip on a cool day . . . “Are they nuts!” Maybe, but it’s a great way to raise funds to support Special Olympics. If you would like to take the plunge contact [John Gazis, FDD](#)

Deborah Hospital Support: Though none of us ever want to use their services, it is nice to know that this highly accredited Cardiac and Pulmonary Hospital is there. They offer their services to both adults and children at no cost to the patient. To help support Deborah or get more information contact [Andrew J. Julia, Jr., FDD](#)

Autoimmune Disease Awareness: Did you ever expect your body to attack itself? We all know someone with: Multiple Sclerosis, Lupus, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Scleroderma, Type 1 Diabetes, Crohn’s Disease, Ulcerative Colitis, or Myasthenia Gravis. Help people to be educated as to their treatment and care, or even raise funds to support research.

Alzheimer’s Disease Respite Care Support: We all joke about “Old Timers” disease and having “Senior Moments”, but this is no joke. Help us to provide support to families that are caring for a loved one with Alzheimer’s. Northern Counties contact [Neal McGarrity](#) and Southern Counties contact [John J. Persia, FM](#)

Marian Devotion Program: For all of the above programs we need to call on the support of our Mother, the Patroness of the Americas and the Patroness of our order. Let us ask Mary’s help in protecting the vulnerable and caring for those who can’t care for themselves. As soon as the next image is available the distribution chain through the District Deputies will be set up. State Chairman: [Bernard Ricciardi, FDD](#)

[Joseph D. Wickham, OFS, FDD](#), Director of Special Programs

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Brothers,

As we begin a new fraternal year under a new State Deputy and Membership team, we must start putting together our **COUNCIL ACTION PLAN**. Our goal is **STAR COUNCIL**. The State Membership team has made available to you all the necessary requirements. All you must do is put them into practice:

1. Submit your **SERVICE PROGRAM PERSONNEL REPORT** - Form #365-due August 1st
2. **ANNUAL SURVEY OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITY** - Form #1728-due January 31st
3. **MCGIVNEY AWARD** - meet membership quota
4. **FOUNDER'S AWARD** -meet insurance quota
5. **COLUMBIAN AWARD** -Form #SP7-June 30th
6. **COUNCIL IN GOOD STANDING**

Your State and Diocesan Membership teams will be there to assist you in capturing this most prestigious award.

Bringing in new members is the key to making **STAR COUNCIL**. Having a strong membership chairman and membership team makes this task easier. Now is the time to contact your Pastor to set up your **STATE WIDE RECRUITMENT DRIVE** weekends at the church.(**BLITZ**). We must plan ahead. Other forms of recruitment drives are:

1. **HEAD START WELCOME BACK DRIVES**
2. **PARISH/COMMUNITY DRIVES**
3. **POLICE/FIREMAN RECRUITING**
4. **ALTERNATIVE RECRUITMENT TECHNIQUES (LET'S THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX)**

If you have any **ROUND TABLES** or plan on starting **ROUND TABLES** now is the time to contact the Pastor and set up recruitment drives.

It is equally important to set up a **RETENTION TEAM**. Sometimes it is easier to retain a member than get a new member and as we all know retention starts the day the member takes his first degree. Have we done that?

To help us even more in our **STAR COUNCIL** goal a new incentive program has been set up:

1. For each member that a council recruits between July 1,2015 and June 30,2016 less suspensions that council will be paid \$10.00 per new/reactivated member from the state council. (net total).
The amount will be issued as a credit towards their state per capita bill mailed in September.
2. For each new member or reactivated member, the sponsor will be entered into a state drawing at the midterm and end of year Grand Knights meetings. Copy of the form 100 to be sent to the State Membership Director. (Prizes to be determined)
3. For Councils that achieve the highest membership intake by diocese and by membership size will be invited to the end of the year Founders Day Dinner. (More information and the criteria to come)

We will be setting up diocesan leadership training, membership training, District Deputy training as well as Financial Secretary training. All of this will aid you in your goal. New Council Development will be an on going project.

If at any time you feel overwhelmed or confused, do not hesitate to contact anyone on your Diocesan Team, your District Deputy or myself.

Your friend in Christ,
Mike Vaclavicek, FDD
State Membership Director



INSURANCE MATTERS

Time to have the Turtle Stick its neck out of the Shell.....

When I was a teacher and coach, I used to tell my athletes that a turtle in its shell cannot be hurt. But, for that turtle to get anywhere in life it has to stick its neck out and take a chance, to find food, or a mate, or just to get to the other side of the road. So, let's all stick our necks out a little bit, leave our comfort zone, don't rely on the idiom, "well that's the way we have always done things", or "we tried that years ago, it didn't work".

The greatest measure of whether you and your council is on track and doing what Fr. McGivney wanted us all to do, is earning the Star Council Award. That's right, I said EARN the award. You don't win Star council, you earn with your hard work and dedication to Fr. McGivney's two dreams. Star council has three parts, Programs, Membership and Insurance.

Many of you, over the years have said, we are not involved to win awards, we don't care about that stuff, plaques on the wall mean nothing. I'm here to tell you, you are right, we don't do what we do, as Knights, for awards. We do what we do, because Jesus asks us to. In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus tells us, "what you do for the least among us, you do for me". That's why we make Charity the first cornerstone of our Order. As Christians/Catholics we are called by Jesus to do so.

So, why is membership so important, why do we always talk about it? For two reasons, we have a bunch of older guys and we need to have new ideas and new energy to keep our councils vibrant and relevant. Secondly, and more importantly Fr. McGivney said that he wanted no Catholic family left out, he wanted no Catholic family to suffer. So that is why membership is such a priority. Our Supreme Knight put it very concisely when he said, "We have a moral obligation to offer membership to every Catholic man".

*Change is inevitable, just like death and if we don't go after and cultivate younger members we doom the Order to a long slow march towards irrelevance and death. None of us here today, is here because we want the Order to fail, we are all here because we want it to succeed. BUT to do so **we** may be the ones who need to change, to stick our necks out.*

The third part of Earning Star council is meeting your insurance quota. Guys, we were founded as a Fraternal Benefit Society. From 1882 to 1966 insurance was mandatory. You could not join without purchasing insurance. The reason Fr. McGivney founded us was to make sure that our families are protected. Fr. McGivney wants all of us to do what's right as men and provide for our families in life and in death.

I know it's been said many times, but the facts need to be repeated so that everyone can understand. All the per capita that goes to New Haven doesn't cover the printing and mailing of Columbia magazine. The profits of the insurance program fund Millions of dollars' worth of charitable endeavors in your name and millions of dollars of fraternal expenses. So, about a third of the \$1.5 billion that we have donated to charity in the last ten years is from the profits of the insurance department. When you think about buying insurance from a commercial carrier ask yourself if they are going to fund our fraternal activities or Catholic Charities here and around the world. That's what being an insurance member does.

Every new member is one more man living out his faith with us. Every new program is another chance to change the life of someone less fortunate. Every new insurance member helps fund the programs we care about. That's why Earning Star council is important, it's not about awards, it's about Fr. McGivney vision, it's about the Supreme Knight's vision and it's about answering the call of the Pope to evangelize. Protecting Catholic Families since 1882, it's who we are and what we do.

Charlie Miraglia, General Agent,

GENERAL PROGRAMS

Hello Brothers and welcome to the new Columbian year of 2015-16. First, let me congratulate all of the new council officers and District Deputies on their recent election and appointment to their office! Thank you, one and all, for taking a step out of the many and into a leadership role in our Order. We need gentlemen of your distinction and character.

I am looking forward to the challenges and excitement ahead for all of us in the new Columbian year. We have a significant responsibility in promoting programs as a means of living the new evangelization, becoming the center of parish activity, and a vehicle for recruitment and retention.

Ask any active member and he will tell you the reason he stays active is he enjoys the fraternity and working on one or more Council programs. The goodness one feels as well as the fraternity created, is the cornerstone to a successful activity and Council. Participation in our service programs is what calls us to join and keeps us part of the Knights. Service programs are the very reason for the council's existence. They are the source of honor, pride, membership, and reputation for accomplishing good by living as Christ has beckoned us to live. They are especially important on many levels, most notably the spiritual. The Gospel calls us to live our lives as practical Catholics, and the late Pope John Paul II both encouraged and challenged us to "live the new evangelization." Our service programs are based on Catholicism and the principles of our Order. By participating and advocating for our council members to participate in such activities, we can work toward our callings to achieve our spiritual aspirations and give glory to God. We can also better "*Protect God's Kingdom*" through our service programs in our Church, community, council, family, and youth.

Our July considerations should be; an organizational meeting with your chairmen, the Soccer Challenge, Coats for Kids, Food for Families, and Keep Christ in Christmas. We need to think three months out for planning, then a month out for organizing, and then finally executing the program.

Let us, together, do our best and develop a calendar of programs, with the tools supplied by our State Council and Supreme, to have fun in doing God's work and bringing other like-minded Catholic men into our Order. Vivat Jesus!

Keep the Faith,

Jim Sweeney, FDD

NJ State Council General Program Director

"Protecting God's Kingdom"



SCHEDULED DEGREES

[LINK](#) individual councils below for details.

DEGREE: **LOCATION & DATE:** **LINK**

CAMDEN:

METUCHEN:

NEWARK:

2nd Mary Immaculate Council 12769
 Secaucus Wed. July 8 [LINK](#)

1st St. Thomas More Council 2188
 Westwood Tues. July 14 [LINK](#)

2nd Regina Council 1688
 Rutherford Wed. July 15 [LINK](#)

PATERSON:

TRENTON:

1st St. Barnabas 8603
 Bayville Thurs. July 23 [LINK](#)

[All Website Schedules](#)

<u>Council</u>	<u>Charter Date</u>	<u>Yrs</u>
240 - PATERSON, West Paterson	July 11, 1897	118
359 - GEORGE WASHINGTON, Morristown	July 18, 1898	117
783 - SUMMIT, Berkley Hts	July 8, 1903.	112
1446 - RAHWAY, Rahway	July 15, 1906.	109
1432 - SOMERVILLE, Somerville	July 4, 1909.	106
1436 - ST JOHN NEUMANN, Delran	July 25, 1909.	106

State Deputy Bruce DeMolli, along with the NJ State Council Staff would like to take this opportunity to wish **ALL** councils best wishes on their **Charter Anniversary**.

May your council continue to grow an good inue to grow our ranks, expand our programs so we

Happy Anniversary

[NOTE: Due to the large number of anniversaries each month we have limited the publishing list to the names of councils celebrating their 25th, 50th, 75th and 100th + Anniversary during the current month.]



From our Webmaster

A Bit From My World of Bytes

The look and function of the current New Jersey State Council website has evolved over the past 11 years from my reading of an article in 2004 by Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson. In that article, Supreme Knight Anderson described how he took his cue from our Holy Father, (now) Saint John Paul II, who, in his message of May 12, 2002, had in writing for the 36th World Communications Day, pointed to the need for "...fresh energy and imagination in proclaiming the one Gospel of Jesus Christ". The subject of World Communications Day 2002 reflected on just that, as the theme was "Internet: A New Forum for Proclaiming the Gospel".

The late Pope, Saint John Paul II, in establishing the Vatican website, noted the vast potential of the Internet - used properly - "...to follow the Lord's command to 'put out into the deep': Duc in altum! (Lk 5:4)". Our Holy Father also noted, "The Church approaches this new medium with realism and confidence" and, "Like other communications media, it is a means, not an end in itself".

Then, as now, many Councils are faced with a struggle to build their ranks; faced with an aging membership; and a lack of awareness and understanding of the Knights of Columbus. And, like all Brother Knights, we have a need to support our Pope, Bishops, Priests, and our Church.

With the likelihood that future members will come from the "younger" Catholic gentlemen of our communities (18-40 year olds), and that this age group typically "surfs the internet", we have a need to focus on capturing, not only their interest, but their enthusiasm. In 2004 I conducted an exhaustive survey of every Council in the United States. As of December 31, 2004 only 1,254 Councils had websites. Today, 10-1/2 years later, more than half of all active Councils have websites of one form or another - some better than others.

Brothers, websites are THE lifeline for communicating YOUR message not only to your current membership, but to your potential members. Get your message out. "Put Out Into The Deep!" If the Catholic population in New Jersey is roughly 44%, and the 2014-2015 male population over the age of 18 is roughly 3 million...and we are hovering around 60,000 members, we need to get out our seine nets and catch some fish on our websites!

As we move forward into the next Fraternal Year, it is important that retiring Officers, Directors, and Chairmen stay in the loop on activities and news throughout the State, thereby continuing to communicate our message.

By submitting your registration request you agreed to receive official New Jersey State Council Knights of Columbus e-mails from webmaster@njkofc.org. Should you decide, at any time, not to receive official New Jersey State Council correspondence and notifications, please send an e-mail to optout@njkofc.org and enter Unsubscribe in the subject line. Please allow 72 hours for us to process your request. Thank you.

PLEASE: Remember to notify us if you change your address, phone number, marital status, or e-mail address, as we will need to update the mail server, and possibly the State Office mailing list and the on-line State Directory.

Vivat Jesus!!!

Bernie Ernst, FDD ~ Webmaster



Upcoming Events:

* PLEASE NOTE - **ALL MONTHLY REPORTS ARE DUE AT THE STATE COUNCIL OFFICE ON THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH.**

Be sure to make a note of the activities that are scheduled for the next several months. Click the specific activity [\[hyperlink\]](#) to obtain more information, details and forms. Log-in required.

2015

- July 1 - Form 185 due
- July 4 - Independence Day
- July 8 - Second Degree, Secaucus
- July 11 - Installation of State Officers
- July 15 - Monthly Reports Due
- July 15 - Second Degree, Rutherford
- Aug 1 - Form 365 due at Supreme
- Aug 4,5,6 - Supreme Convention - Philadelphia
- Aug 15 - Semi-Annual Audit due
- Aug 15 - Monthly Reports Due
- Aug 15 - Soccer Challenge Kits Order Form due
- Sept 1 - Essay and Substance Abuse Order Form due
- Sept 7 - Labor Day
- Sept 15 - Monthly Reports Due
- Sept 16 - Second Degree, Garfield
- Sept 22 - 27 - World Meeting of Families

Quarterly Calendar



JULY 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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AUGUST 2015						
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SEPTEMBER 2015						
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27	28	29	30			

Please forward this Newsletter to all your council members.

WHEREVER YOU SEE PRINT ["LINK"] THE COLOR OF THIS BOX - OR - YOU CAN HYPERLINK DIRECTLY TO THE WEBSITE

CHECK for "Summary of Forms & Deadlines"

