



Wisconsin



KC STATE NEWSLETTER

"PUT OUT INTO THE DEEP"

NOVEMBER 2023





BROTHERS, WE ARE now four (4) months into the Fraternal Year. This is a good time to reflect on your council's progress by asking the following questions:

- ▶ Is your Council on track to be a Star Council?
- ▶ Have you achieved 40% of Membership Goal?
- ▶ Have you held at least 1 Fraternal Benefit Event?
- ▶ Have you completed at least 6 programs, with at least 1 in each FIA Area of Faith, Family, Community, and Life?

If not, now is the time to make plans to be a Star Council. Now is the time to schedule Church Drives, Exemplifications, Programs, and Fraternal Benefits Nights. There is still time for every Council to be a Star Council, but you need to plan for it, and then execute those plans.

It was great to be able to meet with so many Brother Knights in October. The month started out with the Eucharistic Congress in Madison that was attended by over 1200 faithful, followed by a Cor event, and then several Landing Day dinners, and 4th Degree Exemplifications in both Appleton and Medford.

A few things stood out this month. First, the importance of Cor and how it really helps the Knights of Columbus to focus on our Mission of Bringing more men and their families into a closer relationship with God and the Church. If you do not yet know about the Cor initiative, please take time to go to KofC.org/cor to learn more.

A second thing that stood out was comments on Membership. I frequently hear "We have asked all of those guys, and they are not interested." When I hear this, I have to ask if you shared with the men

why they are being called to become Knights of Columbus? By our Baptism, we are all called to Evangelize and Serve Others, and the Knights of Columbus provides a means for Catholic men to meet that calling.

The third thing that stood out is the need to fill open positions within our Councils, Districts, Diocese, and State Council. Not filling all of the positions means that we are not able to do all that we should be doing. Most of us joined the Knights of Columbus to grow in our faith and to serve others. Why then do we struggle to step up to make a difference when we are given the opportunity to lead? I challenge every Knight in the state to prayerfully consider how you are being called to lead.

This leads me to my final observation, many of you expressed being tired, and wanting someone else to lead for a while. My initial response to this is to go back to scripture.

After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. Luke 5:4-6

What would have happened if Simon would have laughed and told Jesus, "Sorry, Lord, I'm done fishing for the day. Maybe tomorrow." If Simon would have acted this way he would never have been blessed with this abundant catch.

My secondary response is: We are all tired. There is still work to be done. We all need to pitch in and focus on doing our part.

"Every one to whom much is given, of him will much be required." Luke 12:48.

Councils need to be building a bench, and every Knight needs to be given an opportunity to lead something. Councils should pray together to ask for the Lords help in filling positions. Invite the Holy Spirit to inspire your Council, District and State Leaders. This is how we will grow our bench. Set the expectation within your Council that everyone leads something. Spread the burden and the opportunities around. Everyone takes a turn. Doing this will strengthen your Council.

I keep a picture of Mother Theresa near my desk at the State Office. Anytime that I start feeling exhausted, I look to Mother Theresa for inspiration. She tirelessly took care of others, never letting anything stop her from her mission. As Knights of Columbus, we are called to do the same. I pray that each of you will focus on the Mission of the Knights of Columbus, understand your calling to Evangelize and Serve Others, and work together to Grow the Knights of Columbus in Wisconsin.

*Vivat Jesus!
Viva Cristo Rey!*



DEAR BROTHER KNIGHTS and Sir Knights, I wish you all could know the joy of being a Knights of Columbus Chaplain. I thank God that He put me in the position to become a State Chaplain for our order. There is a lot that we learn from each other as brother Knights, through the work that we do together. God teaches even more. Above all the blessings I have received as a KofC Chaplain, the greatest is this: the Knights of Columbus have allowed me the opportunity to LEAD in FAITH. The Knights have been an enhancement to my development as a priest.

Pray for our priests, brothers. In traveling throughout Wisconsin I have learned that it is still a struggle to have the participation and leadership of our priests, as we desire, in the regular business of our order. Priests very often feel overworked. Knights of Columbus meetings or other events can easily fall into the rank of being "something else to attend". I was there once. Being no model council chaplain myself, I often am happy if I can make part of a council meeting. Knights are excellent at deferring to the priest when the Council Chaplain finally makes it in the room. The problem with this very often is that just because I have made it in the room, doesn't mean I know what to talk about right away. I might not be ready to give the Chaplain Report, especially if I haven't had the chance to pray with you and follow your proceedings in the meeting. Other times I go to the meeting knowing exactly what to share. As a priest, I know that I need to be leading the Knights of Columbus, not following or

chasing! How can we support our priests in such a way that we can strengthen them as leaders?

How can we engage and reengage with more pastors and chaplains with this goal in mind? Let priests Lead in Faith. Now, I don't mean a specific faith program. Lay Knights need to be in charge of programs, even faith programs. But our priests always will be our leaders in the Catholic faith. So, I feel blessed to be serving as a state chaplain during this time when councils are taking up the Cor Initiative. Talking to Brother Knights about Cor has already helped me to develop leadership potential as a priest. Cor is not a program. We say it a lot. Cor refers to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Every time we invoke the name, Cor, we are leading brother in faith. Jesus Christ is our Leader in Faith. Every priest is made to lead in that same Faith. By helping to initiate Cor in our state and at the council level, I know that I am operating within the area where I need to focus. The Knights of Columbus have given me as a chaplain, as a priest, the opportunity to lead in faith. This has led to me being a more committed and engaged chaplain. The programs, meetings and activities can all be taken up as part of the package. A chaplain who leads in faith leads a council that leads confidently in the faith of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit fills the councils and the order that is lead to the Heart of Jesus Christ, by faith in Jesus Christ.

So what is the path to engage our priests more fully as our leaders? The path is leadership in faith. Is your council ready to lead in faith? Cor gives us a ripe opportunity to regain the focus that we need. It

can't come soon enough. Talk about Cor with your Pastor or Council Chaplain. Talk about Cor with your council officers and members. Priests will always have enough work to do. But they do not have enough opportunities to lead faithful men in the Catholic faith. Seriously. Bless your priest, your parish, and your council by helping launch Cor. Do it this month! [Visit the website and learn more.](#)

Cor carries with it a similar kind of energy that we see when a priest is determined to launch a new council. But you don't have to launch a new council. All we need is to allow space for Jesus Christ to lead our men, a space where He can do new things with the men that he already has. That is what priests are looking for too. Jesus Christ wants to do new things with the men who He has called to be His own. This is the message of Good News, the work of evangelization we are blessed to share as Knights of Columbus. I will happily provide any advice or assistance to Chaplains, Grand Knights, or EFFs who are looking to start Cor. Andy Orgovan is doing great work for our state in this area as well, and he is glad to assist. Let us pray for our priests and support them, as they seek to lead with the Heart of Jesus Christ!

Vivat Jesus!





OCTOBER WAS BUSY in the Coonen household. We had to store and organize over 120 cases of Green Bay Coats for Kids, not to mention managing the distribution of over 6,500 coats throughout the state. Attending a State Training event for the COR Initiative. Lindsey and I volunteered for four hours at the Resch Center and assisted my council with their Church Drive. In addition, I received and organized 1,200 YOUCAT Bibles at the house. Unfortunately, I got double-booked leading a council activity and had to miss a State Officer meeting and a 4th-degree Exemplification.

Your State leaders are volunteers and work hard to help your council. They want you to be successful and achieve your goals. Remember to appreciate their sacrifices and thank them for their service.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU! In cases where councils are struggling, we try to come up with some suggestions.

WE WOULDN'T BE DOING OUR JOBS (even though we are volunteers) if not trying to help and also challenge where we see excuses being made.

WE ARE EMPATHETIC for councils where they have continually struggled and find it hard to bring in new members. **AT THIS SAME TIME**, we are challenging councils with 'new' ideas or 'new' ways to invite new members.

THESE ARE NOT THE SAME KNIGHTS OF EVEN A DECADE AGO!

The exemplifications have changed! E-membership wasn't an option a decade ago! We are doing **MORE and MORE** charitable activities every year—the last 2 years, we have continued to grow our Charitable and Volunteer Hour impact in our State! **THIS IS IN A POST-COVID ENVIRONMENT!**

We continue to do **MORE** with what seems to be **LESS!**

Imagine if we could have **MORE HELPING HANDS! MORE MEMBERS** to assist our Councils in these efforts!

Last year, the COR Initiative was introduced in our state. It presents an excellent opportunity to involve your Parish Priest and help the men in the parish grow in their faith. The new 'Cor' initiative, from the Supreme Council, emphasizes the importance of Catholic men being First in Faith as they are First in Charity. This initiative aims to refocus Catholic men on Jesus Christ and strengthen their faith and virtues through a brotherhood committed to prayer, formation, and fraternity.

As of now, almost 70% of our Councils have not yet brought in any new members this year, which is concerning as we are already 4 months into the Fraternal Year. Last year, approximately 30% of our Councils failed to bring in any new members for the year. It is important to note that if we keep focusing on reasons why we cannot achieve something, it will eventually

become our reality. It is no longer an excuse, but rather a belief that we hold to be true.

Our organization has been in existence for over 140 years, and we owe our longevity to the vision of a Parish Priest who identified the need to assist his Parishioners. The help that we provide is just as important today as it was in 1882. We continue to expand our charitable initiatives as there are still many individuals and families in need of support in our community. This year, we were able to make a significant impact by donating over 7,000 coats to kids in our state.

In order for us to continue making a positive impact on our communities, we require the support of our members. If our council's membership continues to decline and our leaders serve for longer than they would like, the burden on those who remain will only increase. This could lead to us achieving less and less, as the struggle to do more becomes increasingly difficult.

As winter sets in, keeping warm becomes a constant task, much like stoking a fire. But what happens when the fire burns out? It's easier to keep it going by adding logs every now and then. Similarly, when it comes to membership growth in the Knights, even one new member is better than none.

Vivat Jesus!



State Incentives 2nd Quarter Incentive

The State Council is offering a unique opportunity to give back to your Bishop during the 2nd Quarter incentive. The incentive goals for the Diocese are based on the year-end goals. If the Diocese achieves its monthly intake goal, then its Bishop will receive \$1,000 for each month the goal is reached. Your Bishop will receive the checks personally at the Diocesan meetings in December, and all the attending councils can share in this presentation.

- ▶ **Milwaukee ArchDiocese Goal: 50 new members each month**
- ▶ **Green Bay, Madison and LaCrosse Diocese Goal: 35 new members each month**
- ▶ **Superior Diocese: 20 new members each month**

Unfortunately, the October incentive was not met by any of the dioceses. Still, Milwaukee deserves kudos for its impressive membership growth last month. Let us not miss out on the potential for earning extra revenue for each of your bishops this November! Seize the opportunity now and let us work together to achieve this goal.



ONLINE TRAINING

Register now for officer training sessions that will enhance your skills as we approach the halfway point of the fraternal year. View our [Online Training Schedule](#) or click on the training topics below to register:

Note: All Times are Eastern

November 8, 2023, 8:00 PM	Council Recovery Program
November 9, 2023, 9:00 PM	Introducing Families to the Knights
November 20, 2023, 8:00 PM	Grand Knight 201

And don't forget that training sessions are recorded and made available to view on demand after the live broadcast. Click [here](#) to view the complete list of on-demand training videos.

Vivat Jesus!
SK Miles Casey



Knights of Columbus®



BISHOPS, PRIEST, DEACONS, State Families and Membership, and my brothers and sisters in Christ, greetings and blessing from the Nowak Agency.

The month of October has a great number of Saints to inspire us and help us to conform to Christ, I had the pleasure this month to participate in the Men of the Cross in Lacrosse WI and yes I made it to the Shrine for Our Lady of Guadalupe, as I was in Adoration I prayed for two things, for all of you and for peace in our world.

As I spoke with many men at the conference, I asked them to consider joining us, with four ideas in mind. The first was to Lead in Faith, within the Knights you have a wealth of spiritual resources to help you lead others to be better men. Second, to Protect your family, top quality portfolio of insurance and retirement product backed by ethical and Catholic business practices that should give your family peace of mind. Third to serve others both local and international- that help those who need it the most. Fourth, to defend your values,

Defending the Faith and Defending the Truth. The Catholic Faith is worth defending, and needs to be defended, with the Knights you never act alone. As I spoke these truths to men from around the state it made me happy to represent you and this great organization, did everyone join? NO. Did at least a few? Yes! And did we plant seeds that need watering? Absolutely.

Deep within the heart of every man is a call to live with a purpose and meaning, a call to lead, to protect and to defend. We must keep asking other to join us, to be active in the purpose of the Faith.

Worthy State Deputy John asked me what I needed help with at this time. I told him in truth, we need to teach people how to invite men better, and to give them the words to say with a sense of urgency. And also know that, the men you approach this week may be ready to leave the church for good. He may be ready to leave his family as he feels alone in his manhood. However, with that in mind we must not shy away from asking today, right now, it will save families, and

men for the world that wants them to quit being there for their

family and church. We must not say I will ask him next time you see him, or when you get around to it. The second thing I told WSD was I need his help reminding membership to answer the phone and invite your agent into your family. We have many agents who are trained in helping you through the process of protection, growing and giving. If no one answers the phone and no one lets them in, we will be no better than an expired warranty that didn't get purchased before the crisis of tomorrow.

I am asking you to do me a small solid favor, let your field agent get to know you, invite him into your family and introduce him to those in your close-knit circle so he can help them as well as you.

Vivat Jesus!



Learn how you can make a difference [Kofc.org/Ukraine](https://kofc.org/Ukraine)





SHOW & TELL

Learning the basics of Public Relations doesn't have to be complicated. Many essential principles that make PR effective can be traced back to our earliest years. By focusing on the core values of honesty, transparency, and empathy and developing strong communication and relationship-building skills, you can establish a solid foundation for PR success that will benefit you and your Council. You can become a confident and competent PR practitioner by approaching PR with a constructive mindset and a willingness to learn from your childhood experiences.

Do you remember the "Show and Tell" activity from kindergarten? Every student was more interested in the "show" part. Bringing a pet snake to school was way more exciting than just talking about it.

This principle also applies to evangelism and marketing.

Pope Paul VI once said in *Evangelii Nuntiandi* that "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to

teachers, it is because they are witnesses." This means you have to lead by example, not just talk the talk.

Imagine trying to share the Gospel with someone, but every time you meet for coffee to talk about Jesus, you are rude to the waiter. They might think, "If that's what being a Christian means, then I don't want to be a part of that."

So, how can you be a better witness in your marketing? Engage your audience in your story by reflecting their own experiences back to them and demonstrating how you can help them improve it—replace 1,000 words with one incredibly insightful photo. Offer social proof through testimonials or reviews.

In other words, show and tell. You really did learn everything you need to know in kindergarten.

Vivat Jesus!
Jack Wrbanich

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PATRIOTISM — A LOVE for or devotion to one's Country. This is the principle of the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus.

People in the armed forces quietly suffer and sacrifice a great deal, often without the rest of the world knowing or understanding. Patriotism also means not dishonoring, but instead praising and being thankful for, all the work that has been put in to make this beautiful country and the freedom that we enjoy. Remember and thank your Veterans.

Veterans Day, originally known as Armistice Day, was first celebrated on November 11, 1919, to commemorate the end of World War I. It was officially recognized as a federal holiday in 1938 and was renamed Veterans Day in 1954 to honor all American veterans, both living and deceased. Veterans Day is observed annually on November 11th.

Celebrating Veterans Day provides an opportunity to show appreciation for veterans and recognize their contributions to the

nation. Here are ways to participate in the celebrations:

Attend Parades and Ceremonies:
Many cities and communities organize parades and ceremonies to honor veterans. Participate in these events to show your support.

Visit Veterans Memorials

Pay a visit to local veteran's memorials or cemeteries to pay your respects and reflect on the sacrifices made by veterans.

Thank a Veteran

Express your gratitude to veterans you know personally or encounter in your community.

Volunteer

Offer your time to volunteer with organizations that support veterans, such as VA hospitals or veterans' service organizations.

Donate to Veteran Causes

Contribute to charities that provide assistance to veterans and their families.

Display the Flag

Fly the U.S. flag to honor veterans and show your patriotic spirit.

The history of Veterans Day is rooted in the end of World War I when an armistice, or cease-fire, was declared on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. This event marked the end of hostilities in the war, and November 11th became a day to remember and honor veterans. It has since been a day of reflection and appreciation for the military service of veterans from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Honor Flights schedules will resume in April 2024.

Vivat Jesus!





WORTHY BROTHERS, AS your State Advocate, we all need to keep working towards Safe Environment and I will help you in anyway I can. Also if you have procedural questions, [please reach out to me.](#)

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

I can report some good news about the Safe Environment computer issues, they are updated and information is available for each council as of 10/31/2023. Only those registered (from forms 185 and 365) are able to complete the training. Please check your list and make sure they are getting the training. **Who needs to complete the training? Grand Knight, Program Director, Family Director and Community Director.** The Family Director and Community Director will also complete the background check.

TAX FAQS

1) Is the Knights of Columbus a charity recognized by the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (“IRC”)?

No. The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal benefit society recognized under IRC Section 501(c)(8).

2) Are all Knights of Columbus councils and assemblies in the United States eligible to be recognized under Section 501(c)(8)?

Yes. As a unified corporate entity, the Knights of Columbus encompasses not only the Supreme Council, but all subordinate units (i.e., state councils, local councils, chapters, and assemblies). Accordingly, all subordinate units in the United States may be recognized by the IRS as “fraternal lodges” under Section 501(c)(8). In order to be recognized under Section 501(c)(8), each council, chapter, or assembly must provide its Employer Identification Number (EIN) to the Home Office Legal Department, which in turn will report the EIN to the IRS for inclusion in the Order’s group exemption listing.

3) Are all Knights of Columbus councils and assemblies in the United States exempt from federal taxation?

The Knights of Columbus Supreme Council and its subordinate units in the United States are generally exempt from paying federal income tax on ordinary receipts (e.g., funds received for charitable or fraternal purposes). However, unrelated business income would be subject to federal income taxation. See IRS instructions for Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

4) Are Knights of Columbus councils and assemblies exempt from state sales tax?

Generally, state legislatures grant state sales tax exemptions or state or local property tax exemptions only to charitable organizations recognized by the IRS under Section 501(c)(3). Since the Knights of Columbus is not recognized as a charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3), councils and assemblies are not generally eligible for a state sales tax exemption, although the exemption may be available in certain states.

5) Are donations to Knights of Columbus councils and assemblies deductible on the donor’s income tax return?

No. Donations to Knights of Columbus councils, assemblies, and chapters for fraternal or social purposes are never deductible and most donations for charitable purposes are not deductible. Donors who wish to claim a tax deduction for a charitable contribution to one of the charities supported by the Knights of Columbus may do so by donating to Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc. (U.S.), Knights of Columbus Canada Charities, Inc. (Canada), or a charitable corporation established by one of the State Councils. See Tax Exempt Charitable Corporations and Foundations (see entry below).

**Unless otherwise expressly stated, the guidance set forth in the Officers’ Desk Reference does not constitute tax advice on which any individual member of the Knights of Columbus or any subordinate unit may rely in determining his or its obligations and liabilities under the revenue laws of any jurisdiction. Council and assembly officers are responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable tax laws and regulations and the accuracy of all returns filed with any taxing authority. To this end, we encourage all subordinate units to consult with a competent tax advisor if they have any questions or concerns about their obligations and liabilities under the revenue laws.*

**FINANCIAL SECRETARIES &**

Grand Knights, as you review my article, we are four (4) months into the Fraternal Year.

Supreme's Fraternal Year Target Goal for Wisconsin is 423 new E-members. That equates to an average goal of **35 new E-members per month.**

By the end of October, I had assigned a total of **105 new E-members.**

That equates to an average actual of **26 new E-members per month.**

(We are currently short of our 4-month intake average by 35)

As I review my council assignments, I see that the majority of our 105 new men are coming from a small percentage of our total councils in the State.

What that tells me is that these councils are active in the church drives and programs and are also utilizing the online membership option to recruit men on the spot, and then bringing them into their councils on a timely basis.

If you have not received any E-member prospects assigned to your councils, it means you are either not doing church drives, or at least not using the online application process during your drive or council program.

The area that I have a concern is that of the 105 members that have been assigned so far this year, 46 or 44% of these men are still pending transfers into local councils, and some have been on my pending list since July.

WGK & WFS please review your councils PROSPECT tab and if you are having difficulty in making contact, or any other issue, please email me regarding these outstanding assigned e-members and I will gladly assist you with reaching a remedy.

As we together address the above current fraternal year's assigned members, please keep me abreast of any issues you may be experiencing. I check the weekly Supreme's rosters every Tuesday to see who has been officially transferred.

On a side note: For those councils in the Milwaukee Archdiocese, I am also the Diocesan Trainer for GK, FS. & DDs regarding Officer's Online features. To date 4 GK's 9 FS's & 1 DD = 14 have signed up for training, and of those 5 have already completed their training sessions. Thank you to those Officers for investing 90 minutes of their time to ensure they understand the features that their access to Officer's Online has to offer. As they complete their sessions, they also receive an official KC Challenge Coin that reflects their Officer position and become part of a select group of trained officers.

Together, let's get it done!

Vivat Jesus!





Officers Online Access

Members in a role permitted access to Officers Online will be emailed an invitation code once the Supreme Council receives the appropriate form from the state council, local council, or assembly indicating the election or appointment, and records this information. If you do not receive an invitation code within a reasonable time, click "Account Assistant" on the sign in page and follow the instructions.

If you previously held a role with access to Officers Online, you do not need a new invitation code. Your access will automatically be reactivated once the appropriate form is submitted.

If you do not remember your log on credentials, click "Account Assistant" or "Password Reset" on the sign in page and follow the instructions. If additional assistance is required contact our Customer Service Department at 800-380-9995, option 2 and provide your membership number and role.

Applications by Roles	Role Description										
	Officers Online	Officers Desk Reference	Office of Youth Protection	Home Corporations	Member Management	Member Billing	By Laws Online	Knights Gear	Supplies Online	Prospect Tab	Candidate Tab
Jurisdiction/ State											
State Deputy	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	
State Secretary	X	X	X	X				X	X		
State Treasurer	X	X	X	X				X	X		
State Advocate	X	X	X	X				X	X		
State Warden	X	X	X	X				X	X		
Immediate Past State Deputy	X	X	X	X				X	X		
Executive Secretary	X	X	X	X				X	X		
State Membership Director	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	
State Program Director	X	X	X	X				X	X		
State Round Table Chairman	X		X	X				X	X		
Council Reactivation Chairman	X		X	X				X	X		
Council Retention Chairman	X		X	X				X	X		
Member Retention Chairman	X		X	X				X	X		
Insurance Promo Chairman	X		X	X				X	X		
NCD Chairman	X		X	X				X	X		
Ceremonial Chairman	X		X	X				X	X		
Hispanic Council Growth Coord.	X		X	X				X	X		
Online Membership Chairman	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	
Additional Membership Roles	X		X	X				X	X		
Online Membership Coordinator	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	
State Trainer	X		X	X	X	X		X	X		
4th Degree / Provincial											
Vice Supreme Master	X	X	X	X				X	X		
District Master	X	X	X	X				X	X		
District											
District Deputy	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	
Council											
Grand Knight	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Financial Secretary	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Advocate	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		
Deputy Grand Knight	X	X	X	X				X	X		
Treasurer	X	X	X	X				X	X		
Membership Director	X	X	X	X				X	X		
Assembly											
Faithful Navigator	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
Faithful Comptroller	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Faithful Admiral	X		X	X			X	X	X		
Faithful Pilot	X		X	X			X	X	X		
Faithful Purser	X	X	X	X				X	X		

WE ARE CALLED by the Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly to be “First in Faith and Charity.” The programs listed below support his challenge to all of us. Please work with your parishes to implement them. Councils are encouraged to work together to make programs bigger and better.

INTO THE BREACH: THE MISSION OF THE FAMILY

The Mission of the Family was released earlier this month! All five episodes of the series and an accompanying study guide are available [at this link](#). Councils are encouraged to make immediate use of these resources to help strengthen couples and those discerning marriage to live authentic Catholic marriages while navigating the challenges and struggles of married life. Please promote this vital new resource to help form Catholic men into better husbands, fathers, and friends.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

Promote the true spirit of Christmas in homes, schools, parishes, and communities. Councils will evangelize society

through their faithful acts, celebrations, and a variety of activities.

The Knights of Columbus offers multiple activities that promote Christmas and the season of Advent in their proper context: Journey to the Inn, Spread the Light of Christ, Crèche or Advent Wreath Blessing, and the Christmas Poster Contest. These programs are centered on the example of the Holy Family and the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Keep Christ in Christmas (KCIC) Program brings all KCIC activities together under one umbrella. It encourages councils to prompt their neighbors to shift from a preoccupation with materialism to the light of Christ and the spirit of giving. KCIC activities include whatever efforts best suit the parish and community of a particular council and do not need to originate from the Supreme Council. [Check out this link for more information.](#)

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, Christian organization founded in 1976 that seeks to eliminate poverty housing and



homelessness one family at a time. The organization helps provide quality-built, affordable homes to needy families by cooperatively involving the future homeowners with the community volunteers and suppliers to build the home. Since its founding, Habitat has helped more than 29 million people improve their housing conditions in 1,400 communities in over 70 countries worldwide. Contact your local Habitat for Humanity office, by visiting habitat.org, to learn about Habitat for Humanity builds near you.

If you have any program questions, please feel free to contact your Diocese Program Coordinator. Their contact information is below.

Vivat Jesus!

DIOCESE	KNIGHT	EMAIL
GREEN BAY	James Vosters	jvosters@outlook.com
LA CROSSE	Gary Wolf	Wolfgary63@gmail.com
MADISON	Kevin Boening	kevinboening92@gmail.com
MILWAUKEE	David Sytkowski	sytkowski@sbcglobal.net
SUPERIOR	Michael Frase	mikfrase@outlook.com



DEAR BROTHERS, IN the world of office environments, we often hear the humorous excuse, “The check is in the mail.” While it is a punchline to a well-known joke, I am pleased to share some real updates on financial matters.

Checks

The ID / Tootsie Roll checks turned out to be a more significant job than expected. However, I am pleased to inform you that these checks have been processed, and hopefully, you have already received yours. I am in awe of the good work that Wisconsin Knights do to support ID programs. I have now turned my attention to Council Charity Grant checks and will work diligently to get these processed to support your Council. My commitment to your efforts is unwavering.

Assessments

State Assessments have gone digital! We continue to modernize our processes by sending State Assessments via email. This change

is part of our ongoing efforts to streamline communication and make it more convenient for all our Councils as well as save money on postage. We’ve ensured that all Financial Secretaries, on record, have received their Council Statements. If, by any chance, you have not received your statement or are encountering difficulties accessing it, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. I am here to assist you promptly. A quick reminder: Supreme and State assessments do not require approval by the Council vote. There is no need to delay these payments until next meeting, and this is written in our bylaws. Please pay promptly and know your cooperation is appreciated in this matter.

Thank you for your ongoing support and patience. Your understanding is invaluable, and it helps us keep things running smoothly. If you have questions or require assistance, please feel free to reach out.

Happy Thanksgiving!



BROTHER KNIGHTS, THERE is some exciting times in the Knight of Columbus State Bowling committee that we wanted to share!

First off, the State Bowling Committee donated \$1,000 last year, and another \$1,000 this year to Wisconsin Special Olympics Bowling Program. But as Knights, our charity should not stop there! We were all at Weston Lanes last year for the Knights of Columbus State Bowling Tournament, so let’s all make another trip there this December! The Special Olympics State Bowling Tournament is at Dale’s Weston Lanes and help out these amazing athletes! I strongly urge anyone in your council to help with this, as they ALWAYS need volunteers! Information below:
Special Olympics Wisconsin
2023 State Bowling Tournament

December 2-3, 2023
Dale’s Weston Lanes, Weston WI
(greater Wausau)
[REGISTER HERE](#)

Secondly, the team applications and rules are now posted on the State Website! [If you go to the state website, under State Forms, Bowling, the team form is there!](#) It is a fillable PDF so hopefully it is easier to fill out!

Vivat Jesus!
Andy Caelwaerts
State Bowling Chairman



THE BLESSED MICHAEL J. MCGIVNEY GUILD

Are you a member?

The Blessed Michael J. McGivney Guild serves as a source for information about the life, works and spirituality of Father McGivney. The Guild distributes informational materials about him, receives reports of favors granted through his intercession and oversees the distribution of relics. Guild members receive regular updates on the progress of Blessed Michael J. McGivney's cause for canonization and are invited to participate in promoting devotion to this Servant of God.

As of July 1, 2023 Wisconsin has only 1,264 out of 179,000 plus members registered in the Guild. Members of the Knights of Columbus are not automatically Guild members and must elect to join the Guild. The Blessed Michael J. McGivney Guild Newsletter is published bimonthly except July - August and is sent free to Guild members.

Scan the QR Code above to register today! It's **FREE!**



SACRAMENTAL GIFTS

A FAITH PROGRAM

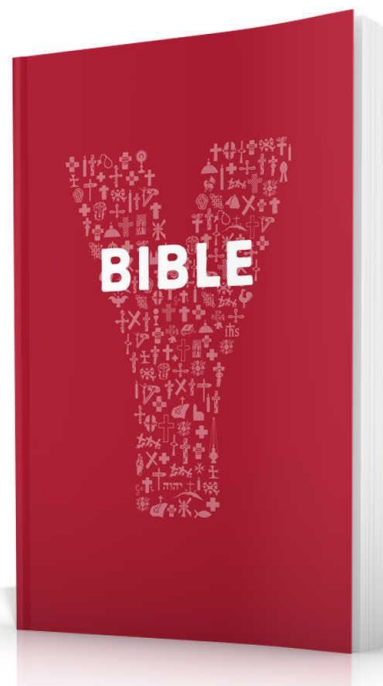
The receiving of the Sacraments are the most significant events in the lives of Catholics. As Knights of Columbus, we need to be there to support our fellow parish members when they encounter Christ's special blessings at these important events. As our fellow parish members grow in their faith we need to make them aware of our support of them in tangible and meaningful ways.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation confers the gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, knowledge, council, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord) upon the recipients. It is a personal commitment to grow and share our faith with others. While receiving a Sacrament this important in their lives the Knights of Columbus of Columbus needs to show them our support, in their new commitment to Christ and the Catholic Church.

To assist our Councils in supporting our young adults the Wisconsin State Council has secured Youth Bibles that retail for \$24.95 at a discounted price of \$12.50 each. [Orders can be made through the State Council Store accessible through this link.](#)

Deliveries will be at the Winter District Deputies meeting through the District Deputies with the final deliveries for the year at the State Convention. We are also hoping on establishing pick up points in each diocese.



For additional info or questions contact me:

SK Dennis Bednarek Sacramental
Gifts Chairman
DFBednarek48@gmail.com
262-470-4477



BROTHERS, AS WE enter into November, we've now completed 1/3 of our '23-'24 Fraternal Year. In planning for your Columbian Award and Star Award for this year, you should have now completed at least 1 or 2 of your Community-oriented FiA programs. If not, it's time to get moving now.

While most Councils who do Coats for Kids tend to concentrate their efforts to obtain and distribute their coats (and related items they may chose to also do) in the September-November timeframe leading up to Black Friday and the week thereafter, there's still plenty of time to still do the program thereafter. Coats and tother items can still be secured from Supreme or elsewhere and given out around Christmastime, New Year's and Epiphany (Feast of the 3 Kings), Valentine's Day, etc. Many Councils (more so in the South) obtain spring jackets from Supreme or other sources and give those out in March-April (St. Patrick's Day, Feast of St. Joseph, Easter, etc.). Fundraisers to obtain the money for coats, jackets, etc. are always in order throughout the period.

Other Community programs you may wish to initiate in November include:

- ▶ Holding a fundraiser to raise money to purchase several wheelchairs for the Global Campaign (they usually run about \$150 each). Check the Supreme website for more information.
- ▶ Contacting your nearest Habitat for Humanity Chapter to arrange a workday at 1 of their projects or how to help out at their Re-Store site. You could also share that fundraiser in #1 with Habitat as well.
- ▶ Checking with your local parish, school and local organizations to see where

you can do a Helping Hands project before year's end.

- ▶ Starting to arrange plans to review and revise as needed or establish those Disaster Response/Relief plans for your Council, parish and related facilities. These actions would be a great lead-in to the holidays.

The PPK State Contest was held in De Pere on October 28. Results should be on the State website in November. Any Councils who did local Soccer Contests need to report their results to their DPC by Nov. 30.

Note: This year there will be only 1 Christmas Poster Contest – the Supreme “Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest.” All information needed can be downloaded from the Supreme website or ordered from Supplies Online. The Contest is for all students in these categories: kindergarten, grades 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8. Councils can determine their own awards and judging process. Posters are to be done in November and early December; due to DPCs by January 1. They all need to have a completed KCC Poster Contest entry form on the back of the poster. Family Director James Vosters will be directing the contest and the State judging this year. Questions should be directed to your DDs and to him.

The Culture of Life Essay Contest will again be run in January and February. The topic and downloadable materials will be on the State website by November 30.

Knowledge and Free Throw Contests can be run by Councils anytime from December 1 to March 1, District Free Throw Contests March 8-17, Diocesan Knowledge and Free Throw Contests March 23-April 7, State Contest April 13 or 20. Free Throw materials and information can be downloaded from the Supreme or State websites and ordered from Supplies Online.

Knowledge Contest information can be downloaded from the State website. 2023-24 Council tests can be downloaded from the State website by Nov. 30.

Hockey Skills Challenge information and materials can be found on the Supreme website and ordered from Supplies Online. Contests can be run anytime November-April.

Have a great November. Good luck to all those doing Coats distributions! Have a Blessed, Happy Thanksgiving!

Vivat Jesus!

WISC KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CAMPING ASSOCIATION NEWS

Fellow Campers, it is not too late to join our Association and enjoy a wonderful weekend from June 21-23, 2024, at the Door County KOA Campground near Brussel, Wisconsin. Many family activities are again being planned. All campers are welcome, pop up and tents, small rigs and big, fifth wheels and trailers. You must join our Association to get the discount at the Campground when making your reservation before January 1st 2024. **For a family fun-filled weekend, make your reservations now.**

Joe Huser,
State Camping Coordinator
(joehuser@charter.net)
715 572-4531

Mike Geisler, Sec/Treas
(mvgeisler@aol.com)
715 536-2203 for details.






Worthy Brother Knights,

The Charity Raffle tickets have been distributed to your district deputy at the district huddles. The state office is working on sending out the council charity checks.

The charity committee has not received forms from following councils; thus, they will not receive their checks until they are received:

Council #		Council #		Council #	
La Crosse		Green Bay		Madison	
4295	20	1922	3	n	
6599	21	2210	4	4416	40
17021	21	4896	4	6151	40
12468	22	17149	4	12644	40
4592	23	16582	5	16994	43
10158	23	10260	6	9082	44
839	25	10714	8	16863	44
16444	25	1033	9	1637	46
1840	26	16217	9	3450	46
3492	26	11305	10	4527	47
12183	26	12393	11	1669	48
4628	28	16729	11	15229	48
5488	28	10552	13	6997	
16937	28			Milwaukee	
7894	29			2689	60
4963	30			8817	60
11832	31			4648	64
18057	#N/A			973	67
Superior				14362	67
6759	81			16710	68
7106	91			4706	69
				3464	70
				15659	72

Still time to get your form to the committee.



God Bless,
Bernie Heit
State Charity Director



FAITH IN ACTION – FAMILY PROGRAMS

Hello Brother Knights! Midway through Quarter 2 of the fraternal year, we are getting into the most active part of the year for family programs!

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

We should have had multiple conversations with our local schools and faith formation program leaders about distributing contest materials, flyers, and posters. Additionally, we should start announcing our plans to show off these works of art to the community! Start talking up the artwork and building the anticipation for the artists and community members! Remember, Council level winners are due to your DPC no later than Dec 15. Please reach out to them if you have any questions or timeline concerns.



FOOD FOR FAMILIES

As we wrap up our grills and bring out the slow cookers and crock pots, remember our brothers and local families who may not have enough to eat. The holidays are especially challenging as schools close and community centers see increases in requests for support. Reach out to your local pantries, shelters, and soup kitchens to make sure they are well supplied and staffed. When you find a need, fill it with the grace, time, and earthly goods God has given us. Remember that credit for this program requires time volunteering to distribute food AND a donation of food or money.

CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY FAMILY

Our Supreme Chaplain has composed a prayer to consecrate ourselves and our families to the protection of the Holy Family. This program gives our councils the opportunity to lead our families, and parish members in choosing to live a more holy way of life by consciously being a beacon of God's love through His Church. In November we need to order the prayer card materials, and plan to distribute them throughout our parishes in December. Culminating with a week of devotion and mass on the Feast of the Holy Family on December 31st.

FAMILY OF THE MONTH

Supreme

The September Supreme family of the month is the **Ann Benz** family from the Solomon Juneau Council 2770 of Mauston in District 20 of the La Crosse Diocese.

Gentlemen, it is a **privilege and honor** to serve you and your councils! **Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help.**

Vivat Jesus!



Knights of Columbus®

Ultrasound Projects

Msgr. Blecha Council – #2055

Menomonie

GK Mike Kasten

kc2055gk@gmail.com

910 Wilson Ave.

Menomonie, WI, 54751

C 715-309-2339

Michael James Fieder Council #7048

Life's Connection - Waukesha

GK Mike Wagnitz

jlwagnitz@yahoo.com

P.O. Box 385

Mukwanago, WI, 53149

262-278-9850

If you would like to donate to either fund, but wanted a personal tax deduction, please write your check out to and mail to:

Wisconsin Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc
Memo: **#2055 OR #7048 Ultrasound**
4297 W Beltline Highway
Madison, WI 53711-3859

Special Olympics Update:

The Wisconsin Knights of Columbus have agreed to cater breakfast for all their statewide events. There are five events (Fall Games, Bowling, Winter Games, Spring Games, Summer Games). Special Olympics of Wisconsin (SOWI) will pay for the food. We save them money by cooking and serving the food. We look forward to seeing your council at one of their statewide events! **WE NEED YOUR HELP in this excellent and worthy pro-life endeavor!**

The next SOWI statewide event is their Bowling Tournament from Saturday-Sunday, December 2-3. Saturday-Sunday. The tournament will be from 10am-4pm both days at Dale's Weston Lanes, 5902 Schofield Ave, Weston, WI. KofC

caters food for all athletes and their families. If you are from the Weston area – let's begin planning this event NOW! Contact: [Worthy State Warden Ernie Reinhart](#) or [me](#) for details.

ASAP Grants

Hopefully the month of October left your council's checking account EMPTY after giving away all your money to pregnancy centers in your area! For every \$500 (up to \$2,000) you gave to a maternity home or pregnancy center, Supreme Council will give that non-profit entity another \$100! But, you have to apply for it! I can help you, but it is super easy if you have a scanner or a cell phone with a camera.

March for Life Washington D.C.

Join us in person or in prayer on January 19, 2024 in Washington, D.C. for the world's largest human rights protest! Some groups are organizing a bus charter to D.C., such as Pro-Life Wisconsin. If you or someone from your council can't go, please consider sponsoring a youth to go!

Through Christ,
Dan Miller
State Director
Culture of Life Committee
KofC State Council

Dan.M@ProLifeWI.org
262-993-6262



A SPECIAL THANK YOU to all Volunteers who helped prepare and serve a Pancake Breakfast for Special Olympics Athletes, Coaches and Parents at the Fall Games in Wisconsin Dells. We prepared for 660 to eat and they were all served in less than 2 hours. It was great seeing so many Knights working together.

We are asking for more member participation with Special Olympics at events. The days of just writing a check are no longer the only support that we as Knights are asked to do. As a matter of fact Supreme looks at involvement, more than money donated to award the Supreme grant each year. I list events on this article months prior in order to give Councils and members sufficient time to plan ahead. Click on the **BECOME A VOLUNTEER** below to sign up for an event.

Please remember to file on line **Form #10784 each and EVERY TIME** you make a contribution to

or volunteer to the drive or a local agency or do a project. **Report man hours and members** involved as well as money. If using Tootsie Roll drive monies for Special Olympics, those Man Hours and Members from that project should be reported as well.

**TEAM WISCONSIN
2026 DRIVE**

I am very happy to announce that we have received **\$55,348.37** as of Oct 24, 2023! Thank you! Now let's see if we can reach \$200,000.00 before the 2026 convention.

WHAT A CHALLENGE!

PLEASE remember Special Olympics Monies can come from a Fund Raiser, Council Donation, Charity Account or any other ideas.

NOTICE FROM SUPREME

As part of the Order's ongoing support of Special Olympics, each jurisdiction in the United States and Canada receives a check to present to the Special Olympics

organization in its state, province, or territory every year.

The check amount is based on council participation in Special Olympics programming in your jurisdiction compared to other jurisdictions within your membership division. To earn a larger check for your state deputy to present to Special Olympics, encourage councils to report their participation in Special Olympics programs through the online **Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784)**.

All participation taking place in calendar year 2023 must be reported through the online #10784 by January 31, 2024 to be considered in the rankings. Rankings will be determined, and checks will be issued, by April 2024. Rankings are based on categories such as number of volunteers, volunteer hours, and donations.

BECOME A
VOL♥
UNTEER



Special Olympics
Wisconsin

Volunteers are needed at all events.

Click on above image or go to Wisconsin Special Olympics web page or phone Nicole Christensen, 608-442-5670

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
November 4, 2023	State Volleyball Tournament	Menomonee Falls
December 2–3, 2023	State Bowling Tournament	Weston

On July 16th 2023 the Journey of the Silver Rose through 31 Councils and Parishes in Wisconsin began when our State Deputy accepted the Silver Rose from the Iowa State Deputy. On August 12th 2023 the Wisconsin journey ended as the Silver Rose was transferred to the Illinois Delegation. However, the Journey of the Silver Rose is not complete on many fronts. Forces of evil are still trying to overturn the Wisconsin laws that existed prior to the Roe verse Wade era. Both our prayers and actions must continue to support life from Conception to Natural Death. The evil forces that push not only Abortions, but also Euthanasia, the Death Penalty, and War, are still active in today's society. The fight for life continues to allow a full and meaningful existence for all of Gods Children regardless of their Special Needs.

On Tuesday December 12th 2023 the eight Silver Roses that have journeyed through parishes from

Northern Canada through the United States and Mexico will be presented to Our Lady at Guadalupe Mexico where she appeared decades ago. While the journey is over for this year the planning will then begin for next year's journey. My report to Supreme is due at the end of December. From the collection of similar reports, Supreme will then establish which jurisdictions gets the Silver Rose and when.

The big key for me in filling out my report to Supreme is through reviewing the forms #10784 filed by the Councils. Please file this form and email a copy of it to Forms@wikofc.com where I get a copy sent to me. Unfortunately, at the end of September Supreme reported only 14 forms for the Silver Rose submitted and only 8 were forwarded to me out of the 31 councils that were scheduled for the Silver Rose over two months ago.



**Knights of
Columbus®**



TRANSFER DATE	ICON 1	ICON 2	ICON 3	ICON 4
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023	31	40	8	67
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023	32	41	13	73
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023	22	26	2	49
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2023	24	46	80	50
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024	30	44	85	48
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024	29	14	91	63
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2024	27	10	83	62
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024	28	11	81	69
MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024	90	12	82	60
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024	89	9	87	61
FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024	STATE	71	STATE	66
SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2024	ALL ICONS RETURNED TO STATE OFFICE			

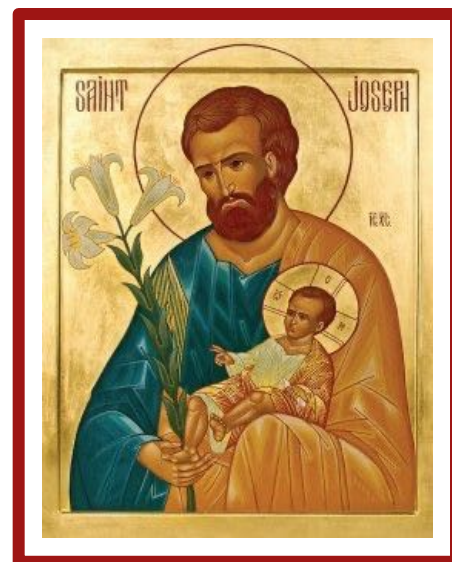
ICON UPDATE

The Pilgrimage of the four St. Joseph Icons continues through the councils of the Wisconsin Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus. Since our second rotation through our state began with the opening of the fraternal year July 1st the Icons were scheduled to be in 12 districts, which includes 48 councils by the end of October. Interestingly there were only 4 forms #10784 submitted in the first quarter for the Marian Icon to Supreme. I ask all the Councils to please submit this form as soon after you have your prayer service, as possible. At the end of the Rotation next June I will be required to make a report to the Supreme Council on how the Councils handled the Icons. They have a limited number of ICONS and this time we are blessed with 4 of them to rotate between our Councils. This allows more time for each council to have a meaningful service than when we only had only three Icons. I would hate to be reduced to three ICONS when the next ICONS will be circulated.

There has been some misunderstanding on how the ICON is rotated. I determine the schedule between the various districts. When the original schedule was set we looked at our 4 Diocese and tried to bring the ICON as close to our Bishops possible in an effort for them to start the pilgrimages. After that I tried to block of the districts location on a map and attempted to create a pattern that would be easiest to reach all Districts with the shortest space between them. Unfortunately this summer I found out we have additional Districts that were not in our initial rotation, which forced me to make some changes.

Once the Icon is in the district it is the District Deputies that are in charge of making sure the Icon gets to each of his councils when they can have a service as well as coordinating the transfer to the next district. No one knows his councils better than the District Deputy who communicates with each of them, at least once per month.

While this month I'm doing three separate reports, starting next month I will only be doing two reports. The Sacramental Gifts report and the Marian Icon report will be combined into the Faith Programs Report. The Silver Rose Report will be separate as it is a Life Program.



**In service to One.
In service to all.**

