



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

# Wisconsin



KC STATE NEWSLETTER

"PUT OUT INTO THE DEEP"

JANUARY 2024



**St. Joseph Catholic Church**  
Monsignor Blecha Council #2055  
Menomonie, WI





**BROTHERS, IT IS** hard to believe that we are halfway through the Fraternal Year already. Tempus Fugit! I can truly say that I have enjoyed the last 18 months, especially visiting Councils and hearing about all the great ways that you are putting your Faith in Action.

Growth has been slow to start the new year. As a State, we challenged Councils to Grow in Faith, Charitable Impact through Programs, Fraternal Benefits, and Membership. We are off to a good start on the Charitable Impact with over 7000 Coats for Kids, and over 61K in ASAP Donations. Cor is rolling out in several Councils, with more planning to jump on board in the 2nd half of the year. Fraternal Benefits events are behind where we would like, and membership intake is still tracking behind plan, but is improving every week.

As we begin 2024, it is important that we take a few minutes to address some administrative tasks.

Every Council should submit Form 1728 – Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity. This form documents the Your Councils Charitable Donations and Volunteer Hours of the members of your

Council for the previous Calendar Year.

Every Council should submit Form 10784 to document their Special Olympics volunteer hours and donations for the previous Calendar Year. Even if your involvement was minimal, it is important to report involvement as Grants from Supreme are based on the number of forms submitted.

Review your Council Roster prior to sending out Dues notices.

ASAP Grant Application for any donations to Pregnancy Resource Center or Maternity Homes since July 1. Kofc.org/ASAP (Wisconsin is Number 2 in ASAP Donations, but Number 6 in Applications).

Complete Form 11077 for any Fraternal Benefit Events that your Council has participated in since July 1. Reporting responsibility was transferred to the Grand Knights on July 1.

Complete Form 10784 for any programs that you have done in the first half of the fraternal year that have not yet been submitted.

Prepare a Draft SP-7 – Make sure that you will have enough programs in each area.

I know that this seems like a lot of documentation, but it is important

as we move forward to be able to know the impact that we are making so that we can make adjustments.

As you start making your New Years Resolutions, I hope that you will include more time for prayer in your Resolutions. Attendance and Holy Hours or Eucharistic Adoration, Daily Mass, Morning, Evening, and Night Prayer are all ways to grow in your prayer life and faith. Attending Cor or another small group would be other ways. The key is to make this a priority, and that is where the New Years Resolutions come in. I plan to add Evening Prayers, as well as making a Pilgrimage to the Marian Shrines in LaCrosse, Champion, and Holy Hill in 2024.

I wish you all a Merry and Blessed Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year.

*Vivat Jesus!  
Viva Christo Rey!*

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Worthy Brothers, it has been an honor to be able to bring together this monthly newsletter for our state council. It is my hope that these newsletters look professional and that they are engaging. If you have any suggestions for improving this newsletter, please feel free to reach out to me at the email below.

**NEW FOR 2024!** Most of our covers have so far featured various churches, cathedrals, and basilicas from around the world. However, I would like to personalize the newsletter to Wisconsin by featuring churches that are connected to our own councils. Therefore, I am requesting the help of all Wisconsin Grand Knights to share high-quality images of their parishes so that we can feature them on the cover. If you would like your council's church featured in future issues of the newsletter, please send me your parish's name, city, and council #. Submissions may be sent to [jjhoppermusic@gmail.com](mailto:jjhoppermusic@gmail.com).

*On the cover...*

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
Monsignor Blecha Council #2055  
Menomonie, WI

**DEAR BROTHER KNIGHTS,**

Christmas has just passed and now we are entering a new year. Let's not forget the importance of Epiphany. After Christmas, we remember how God appeared to His people, and the glory of Jesus Christ is revealed to the world.

Epiphany retraces the footsteps of the three wise men, or magi. These scholars traveled from a distant eastern country believing in the promises of God to Israel. They came bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The gift of the magi reminds us of the gifts that

all of have been given which are meant to be offered to God in worship.

Worship is a gift from God that we are given to be offered to Him. It is a language that all people can speak. This is why we each ought to do our part to fight for a more reverent mass. We do this in the way that we approach the mass. Do you arrive early at mass, prepared to pray. Are you familiar with the sacred actions of the mass that make a pleasing offering to God? Do you take time to clear away distractions? Are you prepared for mass by studying the

readings in advance?

Do not be afraid to let your priest know that reverence is important to you. Come to mass early. Stay late to give thanks. Encourage anything that your priest does to try to make worship a more reverent experience for all. A reverent and beautiful liturgy has a powerful effect in reaching the lost.

*Vivat Jesus!*







**LAST MONTH'S ARTICLE** focused on the theme of "What message are they hearing?" This month's article will build upon that theme by asking "Where do we find our next members?" Membership growth is a constant goal for our Order, just like any other organization that relies on its members to do good deeds. However, inviting and bringing in new members is also the most challenging aspect of our organization. I recently made a statement to some people, where I said that if we were to poll all of our councils in the state, almost 100% of them would say that they excel at doing charitable works (programs) in their respective councils. Similarly, if Supreme polled the 75 State Deputies from the various jurisdictions of the order, I'm sure that each of them would have a similar response. However, if we did the same poll to find out how many councils excel at membership growth and finding new members, less than a quarter of them would say they excel in this area. This is the challenge that we face each year, finding our members.

As a leader within the Knights, I've always been frustrated when people or councils claim that they're looking for quality Catholic men and are selective about who they invite to join. While it's essential to be careful about who we allow into our councils, I must ask: "Who gets to decide what quality means?" Who are we to say that some men are more deserving of membership than others based on our perception of them? And who are we to judge someone's Catholicity?

If I may be a little personal, I find it difficult to clearly define what makes an ideal, upstanding Catholic man worthy of membership in the Knights. This topic has become particularly relevant to me considering recent events. My father has been homebound for some time now and has spent several years in and out of the hospital. In April of 2022, just before my last State

Convention as State Deputy, he was admitted to the hospital and underwent a series of major surgeries. He spent approximately three months in and out of the hospital and nursing home after that. In 2023, he had nine separate hospital stays, most recently a week just before Christmas.

He's lived what I would refer to as a very hard life, having gone through countless surgeries. There are the physical scars that people can see and the emotional scars from his time serving in Vietnam over 50 years ago. Lately, he has been struggling to reconcile and make sense of the events that happened while he was there. For example, he's opened up to me recently that he still feels survivor's guilt for being one of eight men out of sixty-eight to survive a December battle.

For most of my youth, I lived in a single-income household where my mother stayed at home. My dad often worked 12+ hours a day, sometimes seven days a week, to support and raise our family. Due to his busy schedule, he was unable to attend church weekly. However, whenever he had a Sunday off, he would choose to rest after working 60-70 hours a week. On the rare occasions when we did attend Mass, I would often accompany him and serve as an usher. Looking back, this was also a way for me to get out of my mom's hair. Nevertheless, my dad instilled in me the importance of attending Mass, and I can honestly say that I am a better Catholic man because of him, despite what others may have thought.

My father came from a large family of 14 siblings. He grew up in the 50s and 60s, attended Catholic School, and later went to the all-boys academy, Premontre, where priests and sisters taught him throughout his youth. He firmly believed that a person's character and actions matter more than flashy displays.

**"Tempus Fugit. Memento Mori."**  
which means "Time flies.  
Remember death."

We must remain vigilant, for we know not the day, nor the hour when

we will be called to give an account of our life. We must prepare for our death spiritually.

Surprisingly, my father joined the Knights of Columbus in 2015, and a month after joining, he took his 2nd and 3rd degrees. He had more time to volunteer after he retired in 2009 and was impressed by the charitable work that they did for his community. His health has prevented him from being active these last years—the last time we did the Tootsie Roll event together was in 2022—but his actions in these last few days speak volumes about the kind of man he is. He lives his life following our values, openly displaying his Catholicity and what he learned as a youth. His prayer book, cross, and rosary, which he had since childhood, are his constant companions. I'm proud to say that Eugene Francis Coonen is not only my father, but he is also a very deserving member of the Knights of Columbus. I will continue to stand up and fight for other men like him who maybe are not defined as the 'ideal Catholic', but who deserve a chance to be a better man, a better husband, and—most important to me—a better father.

We tend to judge people by our observations of them, not taking into account what things may go on behind closed doors. This is a lesson I will always carry with me. We don't know what burdens a person may carry and the Knights of Columbus, much like our Church, may offer someone the much-needed salvation. Actions and character are not always visible to the naked eye!



**BISHOPS, PRIEST &** Deacons, State Families and membership—my brothers and sisters in Christ greetings and Blessing from the Nowak Agency.

First off, let me wish each of you a very Merry Christmas, may the Joy of knowing a Savior give you peace and Joy.

Second, it is always a pleasure to share a thought or two with all of you.

### Touching and Seeing

As I read my daily readings during Advent and as I prepare to see our Savior born of Mary in Bethlehem, I felt drawn to find him, and to see him with clear eyes on Christmas Morning. As I thought of prophets and their telling of Jesus' touching, his merciful touching of others, like Bartimaeus, and the blind man and the paste that Jesus made his spittle, pressing it into the man's eyes.

Thinking of the deaf man whose ears he opened by inserted his fingers into them. Thinking of the little girl who had died, he took her hand and speaking to her softly get up, and she arose and so many more. This all reminded me of something so special as to why we the Knights of Columbus exist. To touch those who need care and to show those who need to see, Jesus. St. Mother Theresa of Calcutta said she saw Jesus' disguise in the poor and then

sick. I say let people see Jesus in your disguise as a Knight, your touching of placing coats on children who have none. In cheering on those with Intellectual disability, cooking them pancakes and feeding them breakfast at their events. Let them see you processing the Eucharist though your communities and you walking on pilgrimages. Let them see you before mass go to confession or sit in adoration. Let all that happens this time of year, happen again next year with such great dedication that others will want to join you in your actions of touching and seeing.

It is my great pleasure to serve you and your families today and always, a little way from home (in my home away from home) with great joy and love of fellow members of great catholic community of Jesus and his church. I look for ways to touch those who have not yet discovered his touch and to help those who have not seen his miracles in their lives yet. I know we can grow our Knights councils with families looking for that touch and those trying to see Jesus. My wish for each of you as the year comes to a close, and we move from blessings to blessings is to be grateful to our Lord that we have a purpose worth living out again in 2024.

Happy New Year to your all,  
*Vivat Jesus!*



**“Faith is something that sustains us.”**

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





# LEVERAGING

According to Webster's Dictionary, leveraging is to provide (something, such as a corporation) or supplement (something, such as money) with leverage: to enhance as if by supplying with financial leverage. Can this work in your storytelling?

Public relations are a powerful tool to help your council build trust and establish a positive public image. It allows you to showcase your achievements, promote your methods, and highlight your results. This, in turn, can help your council grow. Unfortunately, many councils still struggle with using PR effectively. I want to share a few short stories to help you leverage your PR use in telling your council's story.

## 'First in Faith and Charity'

Penney a Knight a Day (PKD) - (check out our state website to learn more about this initiative).

Last year, local councils demonstrated their unwavering support for Catholic Education initiatives by donating over \$35,000 to our Diocesan bishops. The Knights of Wisconsin has also been a shining example of generosity, contributing over \$2 million to this program over the years. Their dedication to this cause is truly inspiring.

Since 2009, the Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids initiative has distributed a staggering 1 million coats, impacting countless lives. It's worth noting that local

councils played a significant role in this achievement, responsible for 3.5% of the total. This shows that small contributions can make a huge difference in the lives of those in need.

ASAP - Our State Life Director recently visited a Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) to deliver a check to them. During his conversation, the Executive Director of the PRC shared a heartwarming story about a young woman she had helped, which resulted in a positive outcome. She referenced that our hard work and the efforts of the compassionate Knights in Wisconsin have paid off over the past thirteen years. The Wisconsin Council's ASAP initiative successfully raised one of the highest donations and received the second-highest number of applications, according to the Supreme Council. We have donated over \$273,106 to various PRC organizations across the state and installed 45 machines valued at \$2.4 million over the last decade. You can read the latest edition of the Badger Bulletin to learn more about this inspiring story.

These are a few of the marvelous accounts that Wisconsin Knights should be proud of and, hopefully, some ideas that you can leverage when telling your own council's story.

Do you have a story to tell? Let us know by submitting it to [pr@wikofc.com](mailto:pr@wikofc.com).

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The Wisconsin Eastern District of the Fourth Degree had its District meeting with all Assemblies of the Eastern District in Winneconne in December. Assemblies were informed of the changes that have occurred such as the increase of the new candidate initiation fee from \$70.00 to \$90.00. This was done to offset some of the continuing increase of cost to put on an Exemplification. The last fee increase was back in 2006. A change was also made in the wearing of a magnetic Assembly name plate on the uniform when in a social setting plus a clarification of wearing the Knights of Columbus overcoat when participated in Honor Guard/Color Corp functions.

Information from our Worthy Supreme Master Michael McCuster was presented on two charities that he would like our Districts and Assemblies to concentrate on.

### WARRIORS TO LOURDES

You can give back to those who serve. Help send our service men and women on a pilgrimage like no other. "It is very easy to lose faith or suffer both physically and spiritually, but the healing we have enjoyed, both during our trip to Lourdes and since returning, is something that I wish we could share with all of our fellow service members, particularly those suffering." Jonathan A., Marine Corps, 2017 Warrior Pilgrim In partnership with the Archdiocese for Military Services U.S.A., the Knights of Columbus provides the opportunity and means for our non-wounded, wounded, ill and injured U.S. warriors to participate in the Warriors to Lourdes pilgrimage for a period of prayer and spiritual guidance. We accompany and support our warriors and their families throughout the course of the

pilgrimage which occurs during the annual International Military Pilgrimage (PMI) in Lourdes, France. Every \$2,600 raised sends a warrior to Lourdes. If you need to reach the Office of Charitable Giving regarding donating, you can do so Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm: Phone: 1-800-694-5713 Email: [info@kofccharities.org](mailto:info@kofccharities.org)

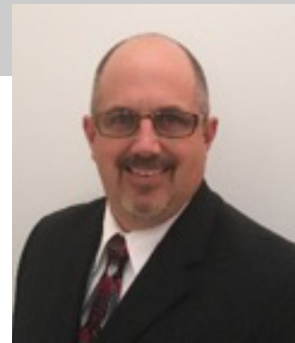
### FATHER MCGIVNEY MILITARY CHAPLAIN SCHOLARSHIP

Established in 2011, the Knights of Columbus Father McGivney Military Chaplains scholarship program helps fund the education of seminarians preparing to become Catholic chaplains in the U.S. Armed Forces. Having barely a third of the number of chaplains needed to meet the needs of the 1.8 million Catholics served by the archdiocese worldwide, the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS), created the "Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program" to recruit priestly vocations for the benefit of the armed forces. The military archdiocese contracts with participating dioceses and religious orders to fund 50 percent of the cost of a seminarian's five-year education — typically \$20,000 per year. In return, the candidate agrees that following ordination and three years of service at a parish, he will commit to serve as a military chaplain under the auspices of the military archdiocese for a minimum of three to five years. While the number of seminarians has increased as a result of the Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program, the program initially placed a huge burden on the archdiocese, which receives no financial assistance from the military or government. Through this scholarship, the Knights of

Columbus has relieved some of this burden. The scholarship program is named for Father McGivney, the founder of the Knights of Columbus. Fundraising for the Order wide project had the goal to distribute \$1 million in scholarship money to the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA over a period of five years at a rate of \$200,000 per year. That goal was met and in 2020, since the cost of educating seminarians continues to rise, a new goal of \$2 million was set. Through this scholarship, the Order hopes to ensure the future development of the Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program, and increase the number of Catholic chaplains, to serve the Catholic men and women in uniform today. The Archdiocese of Military Services USA continues to recruit men to serve as military chaplains at great cost; and our Order-wide fundraising projects help to support the program, which is led by Fourth Degree members, the patriotic degree of the Knights. These funds will help produce a new generation of much-needed Catholic chaplains to minister to U.S. military personnel and their families.

For inquiries and donation for the Military Chaplain Program please contact us at 800-694-5713 Monday to Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. EST, or email [info@kofccharities.org](mailto:info@kofccharities.org). If you need to reach the Office of Charitable Giving regarding donating, you can do so Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

*Vivat Jesus!*



### Programs Are Why Men Become Knights

I shared during the recent District Deputy Meeting two quotes that is my guiding star for this Fraternal year. First, the theme of Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly was “First in Faith and Charity.” Supreme Chaplain, Archbishop William Lori stated during address, “Charity leads to faith and the witness of charity leads to faith.”

Men choose to join our order for two primary reasons. First, to grow in their faith. Second, to perform acts of service for their parishes and communities. In turn our goal is to help men, their families, and their parishes grow closer to Christ. Through our programs and resources, we provide opportunities to live and spread the Catholic faith.

As Knights it is our duty to foster men’s desire to serve. We relish the opportunity to continuously adapt to the demands of a changing world and the needs of future members. We know that demonstrating our faith through service is as powerful as it is rewarding. This calling is a fundamental part of the Order’s history and the genesis for our program model, Faith In Action.

Through Faith in Action, Knights in Wisconsin are given opportunities to make a difference – prayer, community service or raising money. Built into our programs is the opportunity for all Knights and families to share faith, celebrate fraternity, and stand shoulder to shoulder in service to our parishes and communities.

I believe we demonstrate our founding principles through our

Faith in Action programs. Our programs provide men opportunities to grow in their faith and to perform acts of service for their parishes and communities. Councils that are active in programming are more likely to attract new members.

### Special Olympics Incentive – Council Reports Due Jan. 31, 2024

As part of the Order’s ongoing support of Special Olympics, each state deputy in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and Guam receives a check to present to the Special Olympics organization in his state, province, or territory every April.

To earn a larger check, it is important for each council 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 by January 31, 2024, to be considered.

As of December 11, 2023, the following councils have already submitted the necessary forms:

524, 746, 973, 1257, 1478, 1709, 3396, 3805, 4106, 4240, 4520, 4586, 4671, 4871, 5008, 5127, 6487, 7048, 7775, 12738, 16022, 17889

Councils should contact their District Deputy or Diocese Program Coordinator with their questions.

### Family of the Year Nominations

As communicated by State Family Directory James Vosters, it is time for councils to begin preparing their

Family of the Year submissions. A link to the Supreme Family of the Year form is available in the forms section of the Wisconsin state website.

Councils should contact their District Deputy or Diocese Program Coordinator with their questions.

### Council History Book Submission Due to District Deputies by Feb 15

To reduce the council administrative burden the History Book format was updated for 2023. The new format will leverage Supreme Forms whenever possible. The updated format is available on the state website. The format outlines the scoring that will be used for History Book Competition. The due dates for the HB competition will remain consistent from previous years:

- **February 15:** Councils Submit to District Deputies for scoring (DD)
- **March 1:** DD submit to Diocese Program Coordinator for scoring (DPC)
- **March 23:** State Level Judging (Meeting Date TBD)

Councils should contact their District Deputy or Diocese Program Coordinator with their questions.

*Vivat Jesus!*





## 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, 2024 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!**



### GOOD CHRISTMASTIDE MY

Brother Knight! I hope you have been blessed with all the beauty and wonder that this special time brings to all believers. Too often the non-Catholic world throws out Christmas, with their tree, on December 26th. Don't follow that nonsense, but celebrate all the holidays of Christmastide.

I want to thank the many Councils that have paid their October Per Capita. As a reminder, payments were due November 30th and as of this writing, we have not received payment from 87 Councils. If your Council still needs to pay and you need a copy of the invoice, please contact me and I will gladly email one to you. I think it is worthwhile to review the process for Per Capita billings. Invoices are issued each April 1st and October 1st. They are emailed to the Council's Financial Secretary using the email address on record.

The State Council uses QuickBooks software so the billing statement will come from QuickBooks. The emails received might include QuickBooks or Intuit in the email address. It is also possible that a Financial Secretary

might not recognize the email address and choose to ignore or delete it. It is also possible that the email might go into the Financial

Secretary's Spam folder. So, please be on the watch for it.

It is easy to confuse invoices sent by Supreme and those sent by the State. The status of invoices from Supreme is reported monthly on their Council Payment – Summary and Payment Coupon, which is available to the Council's Grand Knight and Financial Secretary via Supreme's website. This report only reflects the status of Supreme's Per Capita billing. If you ever have any questions about your Council's State Per Capita billing, please contact me at [rlarson@wikofc.com](mailto:rlarson@wikofc.com) or 715-551-0714.

*Vivat Jesus!*



## ONLINE TRAININGS

**BROTHER KNIGHTS, BELOW** are the upcoming schedule for online training offerings from Supreme. Online training sessions are conducted by experienced Fraternal Trainers and are available to watch on demand after the live viewing. Give all members of your council an opportunity to enhance their ability to make a difference in their community!

Encourage members in your council to register for upcoming online sessions or on demand training [here](#).

### Upcoming Training Sessions

January 16, 2024, 7:00 PM.....	Membership Retention
January 23, 2024, 7:00 PM.....	Officer Desk Reference
January 24, 2024, 9:00 PM.....	Navigating Council Forms
January 29, 2024, 7:00 PM.....	Programs for Lent/Easter

Let's finish this Fraternal Year STRONG!!

*Vivat Jesus!*



**WORTHY BROTHERS, AS** your State Advocate, I want to wish all of you a Happy New Year. If I can be of any help with Safe Environment or if you have procedural questions, please reach out to me @ [jfroh@wikofc.com](mailto:jfroh@wikofc.com).

### SAFE ENVIRONMENT

**It is important that you continue to review your council's status regarding who has completed the Safe Environment 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**. This is a second email from Praesidium Academy.

If your 185 and 365 are in and correct, then the Praesidium Academy sends out the email to complete the training.

They get email information from Supreme from the 365 and 185 forms.

If you are listed on the forms correctly and still have not received your email, then you need to contact:

Office of Youth Protection

203.752.4458 (p) 855.845.3502 (fax)

[oyp@kofc.org](mailto:oyp@kofc.org)

They will track the issue down and resend the email to complete the training and if needed another email for background check on FD and CD.

### RAFFLE TICKETS

**There has been a lot of discussion on mailing raffle tickets. Please know that mailing and return of raffle ticket stubs is illegal using the US Post Office mailing, per the Federal law on Post Office mailings. The State could lose our license for raffles.**

Also, per our Supreme:

### GUIDELINES FOR RAFFLES

Federal law **prohibits depositing, sending, or delivering raffle tickets by United States mail**. The law is designed to protect the integrity of raffles and other gambling activities, and to guard against illegal gambling schemes that may be carried out through the mail. Many states have similar laws.

**It is legally permissible to advertise raffles or send out promotional information by mail, but the raffle tickets should be delivered in person.** Ideally, raffle

tickets should be distributed to members during a council meeting or related council event.

Before conducting a raffle, the council should review all relevant laws and regulations and should take steps to ensure compliance. [Rev. February 2023]

### WHAT TO DO???

Several suggestions came through about using FedEx/UPS/Speedy or other such services.

Another suggestion is to hand them out at meetings or church get together.

Some councils are going to put the raffle tickets in an envelope and put the name address on the front, (using the address labels). Hand out at membership meeting and then have several members take about 5-10 each and deliver them. This might be a great way to reconnect with members who have not come to meetings lately. Remember to put in the contact info on who is picking them up.

**Please share with all of us any other suggestions.**



# Knights of Columbus®





**FINANCIAL SECRETARIES, GRAND** Knights, District Deputies, Brother Knights All, as of this writing, we are six months into the Fraternal Year. Please keep that in mind as you review my article.

**Supreme's Fraternal Year E-Member Target Goal for Wisconsin: 423 new E-members.**

Our goal number over six months equates to an average goal of thirty-five new E-members per month. As of December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, we have assigned a total of 180 new E-members, which is about thirty men short of our goal. As a result of this, our new monthly goal is to assign at least forty new E-members per month to reach our end goal of 423 new E-members.

On a positive note, you have transferred 132 or 73% of our 180 new e-members into your local

councils. Congratulations and thanks for a job well done by the council membership committees!

Now let's see what we can do to transfer the remaining 48 during the month of January.

As you are doing your programs & church drives, be sure to include the E-membership online invitation app. In your invitation process to potential members. Bottom line = 180 new members have already utilized the online process. **It works!**

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.

It was a pleasure meeting the WDD's & Council Officers during

the December Winter DD & Diocesan meetings.

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.

**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
<b>Jurisdiction/ State</b>											
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		
<b>4th Degree / Provincial</b>											
Vice Supreme Master	X	X	X	X				X	X		
District Master	X	X	X	X				X	X		
<b>District</b>											
District Deputy	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	
<b>Council</b>											
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		
<b>Assembly</b>											
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		





**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND** Happy New Year, Brother Knights! As we begin up Quarter 3 of the fraternal year, we wrap up the most active part of the year for family programs, but there are still so many ways to bring families together!

## KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

Posters should be collected and graded by now at local and district levels. Make sure to show off pictures of the winning posters!

- **Jan 15:** DPC Grading due to SFD
- **Jan 31:** State Grading due to Supreme

DD's, please communicate with your DPC if you are unsure about the process to grade, timing, or have any other questions.



## SUPREME FAMILY OF THE MONTH

The November Supreme family of the month is the Jim Thomes family from the St Bernadette Council of Appleton in District 10 of the Green Bay Diocese. Congratulations!

## FAMILY OF THE YEAR

**It's that time of year already!** As we close out the final calendar month of the year, we must reflect on all of the families we have nominated for Family of the Month, and

those who are especially deserving of recognition by the Diocese and State as the Knights of Columbus Family of the Year! Nominations typically come from a Family of the month in the January 2023 – December 2023 time frame, however the families of all our Brother Knights that have not won this award are eligible.

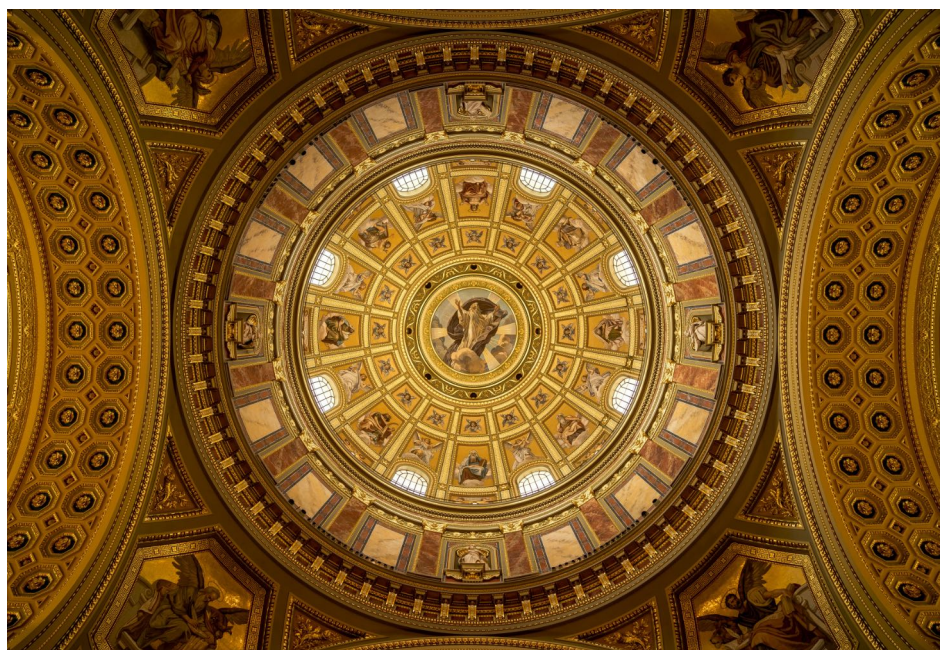
**All** nominations are due to **me** on completed Form #10680 by February 16, 2024.

## GOOD FRIDAY FAMILY PROMOTION

Even though we have just celebrated the birth of Christ, we must start to plan for the celebration of his resurrection. In our families, we do this through the Easter Triduum. I encourage you to appoint a chairperson to plan, promote, and participate in the Good Friday celebration with your council families. Details can be found on the supreme website, on form #10611.

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!*



**McDonald O'Neil Council #2032****GK John Sykes****415 Dahl St****Rhineland, WI 54501****715-360-0116**[jsac5820@gmail.com](mailto:jsac5820@gmail.com)**(New Dawn PRC)**

**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: #2032 ultrasound  
4297 W Beltline Highway  
Madison, WI 53711-3859

Have you helped with a KofC Special Olympics event? Be sure to report your hours to your GK so Wisconsin can get credit (and the funds from Supreme Council) – go here to submit your Form #10784!

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! Here is a list of the next SOWI events in 2024.

**JANUARY**

Time to begin planning and collaborating for SOWI Spring Games being held in Oshkosh on 4/12-14/2024. KofC are catering for the athletes and their families. To volunteer, email the following people: [majernie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:majernie@sbcglobal.net) and [Dan.M@ProLifeWI.org](mailto:Dan.M@ProLifeWI.org)

**FEBRUARY**

February 10-11, Saturday & Sunday ~ SOWI Winter Games. Granite Peak at Rib Mountain State Park, Wausau. Winter Games will bring over 140 athletes and 70 coaches to Granite Peak at Rib Mountain State Park and Nine Mile Forest to compete in a host of winter sports, including alpine skiing, snowboarding, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing. The Pere Menard Assembly #1449 will be coordinating the breakfast for this event. To help out, please contact any of the following people:

**Faithful Navigator**

Dennis Janssen at 715-842-8686  
[dennisjanssen@charter.net](mailto:dennisjanssen@charter.net)

**Special Olympics Chairman**

John Benisch @ 715-884-3197  
[johnb45@TDS.net](mailto:johnb45@TDS.net)

**WSW**

Ernie Reinhart  
[majernie@icloud.com](mailto:majernie@icloud.com)

**Dan Miller**

[Dan.M@ProLifeWI.org](mailto:Dan.M@ProLifeWI.org)

**ASAP Grants**

Remember last year? Wisconsin was number one in ASAP applications and dollars donated. Please see the infographic on the right for more information.

Hopefully the month of November 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!

*Vivat Jesus!*

**December 2023 Jurisdictional ASAP Rankings – Top 10**

Council Applications		
Rank	Jurisdiction	Amount
1	Michigan	46
2	Pennsylvania	40
3	Texas	38
4	Florida	33
5	Ohio	32
6	Wisconsin	31
7	New Jersey	26
8	Minnesota	24
9	California	22
T - 10	Illinois	19
T - 10	Iowa	19

Council Donations		
Rank	Jurisdiction	Amount
1	Michigan	\$75,448
2	Wisconsin	\$61,052
3	Pennsylvania	\$60,485
4	Florida	\$60,356
5	New Jersey	\$52,467
6	Texas	\$47,502
7	California	\$44,936
8	Alabama	\$35,575
9	Minnesota	\$34,162
10	Ohio	\$32,845





**TEAM WISCONSIN 2026**

**DRIVE:** I am pleased to report that we have received \$74,968.46 as of Dec 21, 2023. Thank you for all that you have done to make this happen! Hopefully, we can reach \$200,000.00 before the 2026 convention. **What a challenge!**

**Become a Volunteer**

We are asking for more member participation with Special Olympics at events. 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 by Jan 31st. Report participation in Special Olympics

programs through the online Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784).

**Councils should report after 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.

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

Volunteers are needed at all events listed below. We are looking to have at least 200 volunteers for the Summer Games June 6-8 at Whitewater. This is a great opportunity for Councils in Southern Wisconsin to become involved.



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
<b>February 10-11, 2024</b>	State Winter Games	Wasau
<b>February 17, 2024</b>	Basketball Skills Competition	Lake Geneva
<b>February 18, 2024</b>	Team Basketball & Skills Comp.	Menomonie
<b>February 25, 2024</b>	Team Basketball Competition	Wilmont
<b>March 3, 2024</b>	Team Basketball & Skills Comp.	Neenah
<b>March 16, 2024</b>	Team Basketball Competition	New Berlin
<b>March 17, 2024</b>	Team Basketball Competition	Stevens Point
<b>March 23, 2024</b>	Swim Competition	Neenah
<b>March 23, 2024</b>	Swim Competition	Oconomowoc
<b>April 12-14, 2024</b>	State Spring Games	Oshkosh
<b>June 6-8, 2024</b>	<b>Summer Games</b>	<b>Whitewater</b>

**BROTHERS, AS DECEMBER** has come to a close I hope everyone's family has, had a Merry and Holy Christmas. Remember that the Christmas season is not over on Christmas Day, but it is only the start of the Christmas season, which extends to the Feast of the Three Kings on January 6th, or The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on February 2nd, dependent upon your tradition.

### Sacramental Gifts

YouCat Bibles are still available and will continue to be available in the future. This fiscal year, we have already distributed 418 Bibles, we have orders in process for an additional 321 Bibles, and still have over 700 additional Bibles. Orders for the Bibles can still be made from the [state web store](#) or by ordering directly from me at [DFBednarek48@Gmail.com](mailto:DFBednarek48@Gmail.com). If you order directly from me you need to send your check to the State Office with YouCatBibles written in the memo line.

As I mentioned at the Winter District Deputies meeting, my hope that starting next year we will be able to extend the Sacramental Gifts program with assistance from the State. There are seven sacraments and everyone of them is important to developing our strong faith as Catholics.

### National Eucharistic Pilgrimage

The First National Eucharistic Congress in 83 years will be held from July 17–21, 2024, at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Congress will begin at the end of the Pilgrimage of the Eucharist

from four locations. Wisconsin is part of the Marian Route as it will pass through the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion – the first and only approved Marian Apparition site in the United States. The key dates released for the Pilgrimage through Wisconsin are June 7–9 in La Crosse; June 14–16 in Green Bay; and June 21–23 in Milwaukee. As I get more information, I will be sharing it with everyone here and through Flocknotes.

### Silver Rose

We will have the Silver Rose this year from July 14 through August 10. I am currently accepting requests for the councils that desire to host it in 2024. To date, there are 26 councils that have sent in their requests. We will have the Silver Rose for 28 days. I expect more councils will send their requests. Therefore, in order to accommodate every council, I created a priority system for scheduling the Silver Rose. The first priority will go to the councils that hosted it last year, the second priority will go to the Councils that filed a form 10784 last year and had the highest attendance. Other factors I will consider are councils that are connected to many parishes, or two Councils located close together who may share the Silver Rose on a single day. To request the Silver Rose in 2024 please send me an email at [DFBednarek48@Gmail.com](mailto:DFBednarek48@Gmail.com). ***In your email please include your council number, the name of the hosting parish, and a contact name, email, and phone number.***



### RSVP

As of now, I am receiving the forms submitted for Sacramental Faith Programs and I have been seeing an influx in RSVP activity in the councils, I would like to remind you that there are two forms that must be submitted for RSVP:

- ▶ Form #10784 that is required for Supreme's records of programs completed as well for reporting in the History book.
- ▶ Form #2863 is the RSVP Refund Application and must be accompanied with a copy of the canceled check that went to the seminarians in order to receive your rebate from Supreme.

*Vivat Jesus!*





**BROTHERS, AS WE** enter the New Year 2024 and the second half of our '23-'24 Fraternal Year, time for some resolutions for the new year. Here are a few I'd suggest:

- ▶ Resolve to try one new Community program for this year. Since many Councils already do or have done Coats for Kids, Free Throw (and Knowledge) Contest, and some form of Helping Hands, and with the Citizenship Essay Contest already completed, I suggest you strongly consider trying Habitat for Humanity, Global Wheelchairs, Disaster Preparedness or the Soccer or Hockey Skills programs.
- ▶ Hold a Wheelchair fundraiser in the parish, community, in collaboration with neighboring Councils. Help the parish or community update their disaster preparedness plans or establish a disaster relief fund to assist locals in need. Set up a Soccer Skills Contest for the spring or Hockey Skills Contest for the winter months ahead. The Soccer contest is actually easier to do than PPK!
- ▶ Resolve now to expand on one of those Community programs you already do for

the rest of this FY or next year. For example, add a Knowledge Contest to your Free Throw competition. Add a spring jackets component to your Coats for kids Drive or another donation site or other items such as hats and mittens or gloves. Try to do a community collaboration Helping Hands project in addition to one in the parish or cluster or for a school family in need.

- ▶ Resolve to get those Form 10784s in promptly for not only the Community and Youth programs you do, but for all the others you do as well.
- ▶ Resolve to increase your efforts to use those Community and youth programs as membership opportunities. Bring in at least 1 new member at each of these programs you operate in the next 6 months.

As for Youth Programs per se, note that in January and February, we now do the "Culture of Life Essay Contest." It's now timed to coordinate with the "March for Life" and "Novenas for Life" in January as well as all the loving feelings generated with Valentine's Day in February. The topic is the same as last year (ie. Adoption vs.



Abortion). All needed information is on the State website. Essays are to be completed by February 29 and to Councils by March 15 for judging. Winners are to be sent to DPCs by March 31.

The window for Council and District Free Throw Contests is now open through March 10. Same for Council Knowledge Contests. Diocesan Contests should be run March 8-April 7. Council tests will be able to be downloaded from the secure section of the State website after January 1. (Note: The 2022 tests can also be used as they have not been changed.) Free Throw information is still available via the State and Supreme websites.

The date for the State Knowledge and Free Throw Contests has been finalized. It will be Saturday, April 13, 2024 at Assumption High School in Wisconsin Rapids. More details next month.

Have a great January. Stay safe and warm!

*Vivat Jesus!*



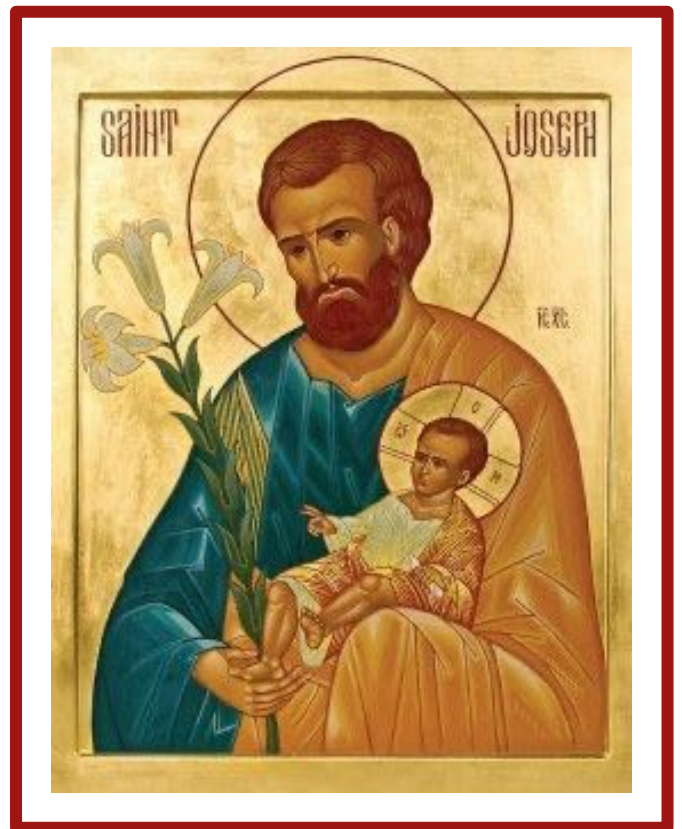
**Knights of  
Columbus®**

TRANSFER DATE	ICON 1	ICON 2	ICON 3	ICON 4
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023	22	26	2	49
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2023	21	46	IN TRANSIT	50
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024	30	44	80	48
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024	29	14	85	63
MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024	27	10	91	62
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024	28	11	83	69
MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024	90	12	81	60
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024	89	9	82	61
FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024	STATE	71	87	66
SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2024	ALL ICONS RETURNED TO STATE OFFICE			

## ICON UPDATE

While working on the Icon schedule several months ago, I made an error in which the Icon would have had to travel over 200 miles between districts. I worked out the issue by changing the schedule of Icon 3 over the next few months by moving the rotation one notch and hopefully relaying it to District 80. So, if you are scheduled to get Icon #3, please check the revised schedule above.

*Vivat Jesus!*  
SK Dennis Bednarek





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

