

Wisconsin Knights of Columbus Notes

December 2019

[Wisconsin State Website](#)

Editors: SK Mike Tomsyck & SK Rob Christianson



Half Time Report



Lisa and I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas as we start moving into the second half of the Fraternal year and to thank each of you for all you are doing to promote and spread the word about the Knights in Wisconsin. We are truly blessed to be leading our councils into 2020. Membership growth is key not only to our success but the growth of our Catholic Faith in Wisconsin.

We have had a really good first half, membership growth is up from last year, Faith in Action programs are increasing, Wisconsin Knights are stronger now than we have been in years. Yet, we have a ways to go and we don't want to become complacent in our mission. Pride, Service and Responsibility have been key contributors to our success this year, but in order to have an even better second half each of us should take stock in what it means to be a Knight in our order, what it means to have a successful council, and how are we going to finish strong.

There are several key aspects I would like to share with you from our State Deputy meeting held in November. In the next several weeks your District Deputy will be holding his mid-year meeting. I am asking each District Deputy to evaluate each of his councils and report back to me by the end of December his findings. From that the state team will be contacting those councils who may need assistance not only in membership growth but in programs (Faith in Action) growth as well. Key points I am asking each District Deputy to look at are:

- Healthy councils run successful programs. District Deputies must assess and coach grand knights on how to use programs to drive council growth and success.
- Reinforce WHY we want healthy councils. Because healthy councils are ready and prepared to step into the breach. We step into the breach through Faith in Action.
- District deputies need to assess council health through Faith in Action by holding their grand knights accountable.
- Having a conversation with your pastor about our Faith in Action programs and which are right for the parish.
- Ensuring that each council is implementing Faith in Action programs
- Ensuring that each council understands and implements the Required Programs
- Ensure that each council makes it a priority to fill the Program Director position and that this person plays oversees the implementation of all council programs and manages the reporting of all program activities

In the second season of the Everyday Heroes video series we learn the stories of individual men who are on a journey to make a positive impact that are unquestionably linked to their faith. You can view the entire season at <https://www.kofc.org/en/videos/everyday-heroes.html>, I will be sending out weekly Flocknotes as well.

Nunc Coepi!
Vivat Jesus!
Viva Cristo Rey!
Jack Wrbanich
State Deputy

MEMBERSHIP

Do You Have Membership Plan for Christmas?

Advent is a time we await the coming of Christ. Many 'new' people who don't attend mass very often will begin to come back to Mass in December. What are we doing as Councils to welcome these people into our Church and Council?

Do we say hello and welcome them? Or do we ignore them and wonder where they have been the rest of the year?

Advent masses are your best opportunity to be welcoming and inviting to these men and their families. Do I think you need to conduct a church drive in December? Not in the traditional sense but you should be making it known to these people the Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus are an inviting and positive place to be. NO ONE wants to leave mass or any Council event feeling worse than when they came. Do Not Allow That To Happen!

At the entrances to all churches should be our 'Join Us' EMembership Cards. Don't have any? Order some through Supreme Supplies Online (10526) or have your District Deputy pick some up at the Winter District Deputy Meeting. I have 100's! Even better, try to get information about your Council and EMembership into the bulletins the week of Christmas!

Want to give them more information? Put 'Join Us' pamphlets (10537) out in your church. They have information about E-Membership and more information about Programs the Knights offer.

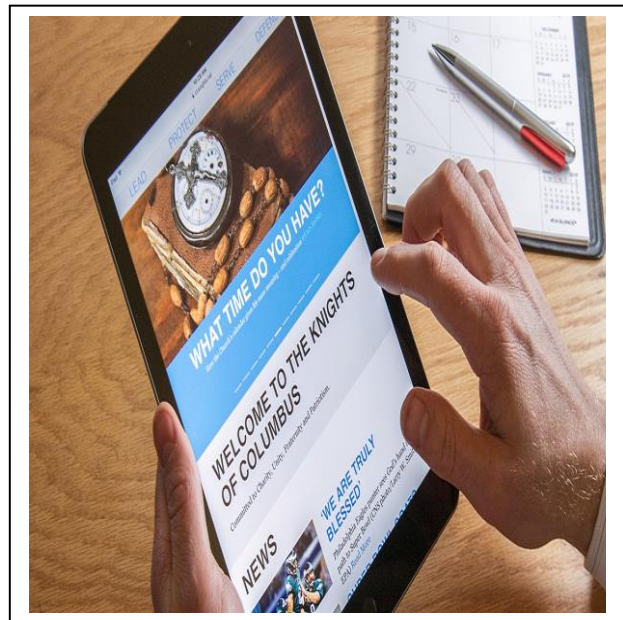
Almost all of us would agree the Knights of Columbus are a great group to join but if no one knows what we do or who are members, why would someone new join? Show them!

I have a few WILD ideas for December.

- Wear your emblem.
- *SMILE*
- Be nice
- *SMILE*
- Give out EMembership Cards like candy
- *SMILE*
- Wish ALL people Merry Christmas
- *SMILE*
- Schedule an Admission Degree
- *SMILE*

I know what I am asking you to do is wild, hard, and completely undoable. But let's give it a try anyway.

Thank you for all you do for the Order.
Together we will be successful.
Mark Jelinek



SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Worthy Sirs,

It is my great pleasure to thank you all for your tireless efforts towards working to become 100% compliant with the Safe Environment requirements for your councils. As of this writing (November 21st), we have 118 councils in the State that are 100% compliant. This is outstanding, as we have almost 39% of the councils in the State meeting these important requirements. This already exceeds where we ended the last 2 years at, where we only had roughly 30% (2017) and 35% (2018) compliant.

My goal as I stated in prior submissions was to be close to achieving 50% of the councils compliant before the end of the calendar year, and we are trending in the right direction...as every week we are picking up another 4-5 councils being fully compliant!

At the Winter DD meeting, I will be focusing on the next steps needed to achieve this goal along with the lofty expectation of 75% of our councils compliant by the State Convention. We will be discussing with your District Deputies the potential of conducting training sessions at the various Dioceses in the State in January and February to try and pick up an additional 10 councils in each Diocese--roughly another 16% at least! Please stay tuned to these upcoming dates if your council still has officers needing to fulfill this important training.

Also of note, 75% of the councils in the State that have completed and submitted their Form 365 and Form 185 with Supreme. When I originally sent communications regarding this back in October, we were just over 60%, so obviously the trend is that COMMUNICATING REGULARLY with councils that have outstanding requirements needed to be completed is working! We are already far exceeding where we ended the last 2 years with respect to these form submissions. My goal now, becomes a little bit loftier than prior expectations because you all are doing an outstanding job! I see no reason that we can't strive to be above 90% submission of these forms by the State Convention. Let's make it happen!

I thank you to all that have taken the necessary steps needed to submit these important forms...and I implore you if you are in the 25% who have not, to get this completed ASAP! If not, I will ask for you all to make this your New Year's Resolution!

My promise to you all is that I will continually communicate regularly with the councils still needing to complete these training requirements until we achieve these goals! All I ask of you is to communicate back with me if you are having any difficulties or questions in completing this, as I am here to help!

In the wise words of a Cable guy named Larry, 'Git er Done!'

Lastly, as we embark on the 2nd half of this Fraternal year, I wanted to once again extend a challenge to all Diocese in the State! The goal for membership this Fraternal year was to end the year net/net positive! As of this writing, Green Bay, Milwaukee and Superior have achieved this status! I see no reason why all 5 Diocese cannot accomplish this feat...a first for our state in my recent memory since being involved at a State/District level of the past 6 years.

Green Bay is neck and neck with Milwaukee, and I fully expect Green Bay to end the year this year as the top Diocese in the State. We plan to end this calendar year at close to 150 new members, which is on pace for meeting our yearly goal! This is due to the hard work of our council leaders, District Deputies, along with the RMCs who have tried to attend weekly since September the Church Drives going on in our Diocese.

We planned back in July the steps that were needed to achieve such a high standard by mapping out our entire calendar year's Church Drives and Degrees. By doing so, we are able to get the help that is needed to successfully recruit these some 150 men into our order.

At our December meeting we will be revisiting this calendar, and scheduling further Drives and Degrees.

It isn't that difficult for EVERY council to do this.

Quite simply, to meet our goal of 1250 members, it seems that we need to move heaven and earth at times.

Well...being a student of numbers, I like breaking things down to 'simplify' the action steps that are needed to achieve this goal...

With 305 councils in our State...if each council brought in 4 NEW Members we would be just short of this goal (but well within reach).

If we are averaging just 2 members per degree, this means that each council needs to hold a MINIMUM of 2 DEGREE EVENTS a year!

It doesn't seem impractical to think that you should be able to get 2 NEW MEN EVERY 6 MONTHS by conducting a proper church drive, or by recruiting at the various activities that your council does. You even have the support of RMCs to assist you with these Drives.

1250 is the goal for the State...but that isn't achieved if it isn't started at the council level, by coordinating your membership events and communicating them to your State Officers, District Deputies and RMCs so that they can assist.

In the words of Membership Director, 'by working together, we will achieve.'

Let's start 2020 off on the right foot and use December as a month to reflect and plan what is needed to achieve! We are all in this together!

(Stepping down off of soap box)

Corey Coonen
State Advocate

FAITH IN ACTION – FAMILY OF THE MONTH

Hello Brother Knights! Thank you again for a **great** October! Below is a quick summary of our progress to date. All the details can be found in the Family Director Flocknote post <https://knightswisc.flocknote.com/FamilyDirector/note/5237204>. Check it out!



Family of the Year

It is time to start preparing to choose your council family of the year so they can be submitted for consideration for the Diocesan Family of the Year awards. **Only families that are council members can be submitted** as non-council members cannot be chosen for the Diocesan, State and International Family of the Year awards.

The deadline for council family of the year submissions is **February 15th**.

Since Supreme will only accept digital submissions from each jurisdiction for the International family of the year, I would greatly appreciate it if all submissions to me will be in **PDF format**. If families are submitted in a printed format, it will force me to need to scan every page before we choose the winning families.

Please save yourself time and money printing and mailing your submission. It will also save me time / **don't have. Thank you!**

Supreme

Wisconsin is still in 1st place with 43 FOMs, Michigan is in 2nd place with 38 and Virginia is in 3rd place with



31.

*56 of the 82 jurisdictions submitted 423 FOMs, down 11% from September. **Wisconsin submitted 10.2% of the FOMs submitted to Supreme! Well done everyone!***

Here is the Supreme Family of the Month that will be receiving a nice certificate and letter.

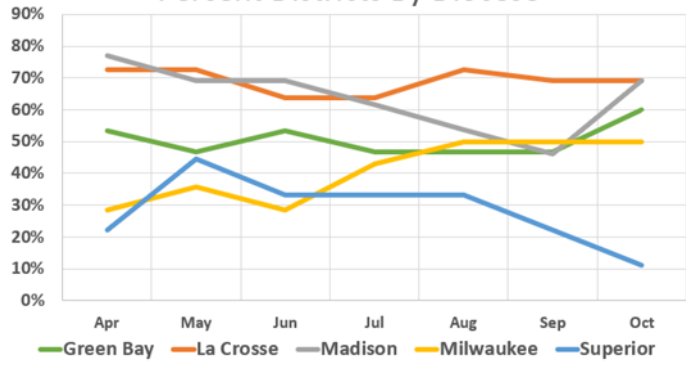
Ron and Kathy Murphy

Diocese

Here are the Diocesan families of the month that will be receiving a certificate and letter from the state. Please click on the link above to download the PDF that contains the amazing story of each of these families!

Green Bay	Mark and Tracy Schultz	La Crosse	Charles and Betty Poulter
Madison	Ray and Teri Cobb	Milwaukee	Gordon and Pam Gerstner
Superior	Doug and Nancy Weiss		

In support of the goal of having 100% districts submitting ONE FOM each month, here are the Percent Districts By Diocese



percentages by diocese.

Well done Madison! Both Madison and La Crosse are tied at 1st place with 70%.

Well done Green Bay! Green Bay is now in 2nd place with 60%.

Milwaukee is in 3rd place by staying at 50% and Superior dropped to 11% with only one district submitting FOMs.

We had TWO dioceses that increased this month! Let's see if all dioceses can trend up next month!

District

This month's leading district was district 2 with **four councils** submitting a FOM. There currently is no DD for district 2! The district's former DD Chris Mosconi's leadership has left a lasting impact with these councils. **Thank you, Chris Mosconi, and thank you District 2 councils!**

Oct-19	District	Diocese
4	2 - Open	Green Bay
3	21 - Paul Zimmerman	La Crosse
3	81 - Paul Krenik	Superior
2	12 - Tre Waleren	Green Bay
2	13 Wesley Swisher	Green Bay
2	23 - Dennis Koranda	La Crosse
2	24 - Kevin Van Den Huevel	La Crosse
2	41 - Jerry Leahy	Madison
2	46 - Paul Quigley	Madison
2	71 - James Nabak	Milwaukee
2	73 - Brian Daniel	Milwaukee

The other leaders are Paul Zimmerman and Paul Krenik where their districts have submitted three FOMs each!

Well done Paul and Paul.

We had **ELEVEN** districts with two or more FOMs!

Thank you, worthy District Deputies! Your leadership is greatly appreciated!

Worthy Brothers. *Can we continue to find **at least ONE** family in the 12 parishes in each district that deserves to be honored for all they do for our parishes, community and councils?* **I believe we**

can! Let's set our goal to having **60% district participation next month** with our eye on the goal of reaching **65% districts by the end of December 2019 and 100% by the end of the June 2020!**

Council

We had **three** new council that submitted a Family of the Month. Welcome to the program!

St. Joseph's Council 7618	Pope John 1 Council 7370	Thomas Aquinas Council 8172
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We had 41 fantastic families submitted to the state! Every council should be striving to submit **at least one** family of the month before the end of 2019, so they can choose them as the council Family of the Year. The family can then be considered for the Diocesan family of the year, State family of the Year and International Family of the Year.

Please click on the link above and download the PDF containing the list of all these amazing families!

Closing

Through this awesome Family of the Month program, the Knights of Columbus has the privilege to bring joy to families for thanking them for all they do on behalf of everyone. The benefits are:

- The family is grateful for the recognition
- Everyone else is grateful to the Knights for stepping forward to honor the family
- The perception of the council increases for taking time to serve the parish in a very visible way

It is a win-win-win situation!

I am grateful that your councils are willing to take the time to choose a family, give them the recognition they deserve and submitting them for the Family of the Month.

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!

SK Joe Uchytel
Wisconsin Family Coordinator



Council Chaplain and Former State Chaplain Fr. Peter Renard speaks to 45 members De Pere Council #3955. The council recently added 7 new members!

Knights of Columbus Soccer results

The following student-athletes were winners in the Wisconsin State Soccer Challenge Finals held on Saturday, October 26, 2019 at Eau Claire Regis High School. The competition is sponsored by the Wisconsin State Council and Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus and was hosted by John F. Kennedy Council 1257 of Eau Claire and the Council of District 22.

BOYS

9 years old

1 st	Alex Matthew Cumberland)	Council 6051	District 89	Superior Diocese
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10 years old

1 st (tie)	Carl Weiss (Prairie du Sac)	Council 3099	District 43	Madison Diocese
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1 st (tie)	Max Odden (Barronett)	Council 6051	District 89	Superior Diocese
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11 years old

1st	Joseph Eggert (Cumberland)	Council 6051	District 89	Superior Diocese
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12 years old

1st	Ben Westmont (Madison)	Council 16863	District 47	Madison Diocese
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13 years old

1st	Jack Richter (Comstock)	Council 6051	District 89	Superior Diocese
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GIRLS

9 years old

1st	Alyssa Statz (Waunakee)	Council 6371	District 43	Madison Diocese
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2nd	Avery Johnson (Cumberland)	Council 6051	District 89	Superior Diocese
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11 years old

1st	Allison Johnson (Waunakee)	Council 6371	District 43	Madison Diocese
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2nd	Sophia Becker (Turtle Lake)	Council 7848	District 89	Superior Diocese
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12 years old

1st	Alyza Johnson (Darlington)	Council 1080	District 41	Madison Diocese
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Student-athletes competed in local contests across the state and in one of 5 Diocesan (Regional) Contests to reach the Finals. Winners received trophies, medals and Certificates of Achievement. Winners scores are submitted to the KC Headquarters in New Haven, CT for entry into the national/international competition. Winners received medals and Certificates of Achievement; 1st place winners received a trophy as well. While awarding the student-athletes, Wisconsin State Program Director William Frayer of Racine said, "These student-athletes have well-earned the accolades they received today through their tremendous efforts and performance both today and in their previous contests! We also thank their parents and family for all the love and support they have given to these kids throughout their academic and athletic careers."

The Knights of Columbus are the world's largest Catholic men's fraternal organization with nearly 2 million globally and over 35,000 members in Wisconsin. They are based on the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. Along with their top-ranked insurance program, PPK and Soccer Challenge are just 2 of the dozens of programs offered by the Knights through their Faith in Action Program in the areas of Faith, Family, Community and Culture of Life.



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Notice of Expenditures

The State Officers approved the following redemption/withdrawal from the Restricted Reserve Account:

\$6,819.32 - (2019 WI Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids)

\$ 500.00 - (2019 Women of Christ Conference)

\$7,319.32 Total

Expenditure Correction

In the November 2019 State Newsletter there was a notice regarding the expenditure of \$7,870.20 for the expanded use of Sharefile/Right Signature with funds to be redeemed/withdrawn from the Restricted Reserve Fund. However, after further review, it was determined that the appropriate accounting entry would be to have the expenditure allocated over a three (3) year period. In order to do this, the funds would instead be withdrawn from the General Account and thus NO funds will be used/withdrawn from the Restricted Reserve Fund for this expenditure.

State Secretary: Mike Tomsyck

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

CONGRATULATIONS! As of the writing of this article our drive for Team Wisconsin 2022 has reached 40% of our goal. With a goal of \$125,000.00 we have received \$49,916.84 to date. With 28 months to go it is looking very positive. Especially with many opportunities coming up with ways to raise funds. I still show a number of outstanding ID (tootsie roll) checks that look like they would go towards the drive. If your council has not passed these checks on, please do so soon, as they have an expiration date. If they go for the drive you can send them to me. My address is in the state directory.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS POLAR PLUNGE. This is a new opportunity to raise funds. Sign up is now open at PlungeWi.org/locations to register. Instruction sheets will be in the packets District Deputies will receive in December. Once you have signed up solicit pledges from friends and relatives. Remember to indicate Knights of Columbus and Council number under Team name. Monies from this will be credited to your Council towards the Team Drive 2022.

In early February councils will be placing their Tootsie Roll orders. If the council wants to donate the proceeds to the Team Drive, indicate to have the check made payable to Wis KofC Charities (preferred) or to Wisconsin Special Olympics. In either case please indicate that it is for Team Wis Drive. Council Charity Funds can also be used to make a donation to the drive. Make check payable to Wis KofC Charities and mail to me.

Normally in December councils make plans for the upcoming year. When planning your events (Brat Fry, Fish Fry, Bingo, Card Party, etc.) please remember Special Olympics - Team Wisconsin. Be sure to advertise that the funds are for the Team Drive.

I wish A Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all, while remembering to Keep Christ in Christmas.

John Benisch
Wisconsin KC Special Olympics Coordinator

Coats for Kids

November was a busy month. The following are some pictures from some of the locations where coats were distributed.

Sauk City



Sparta



Abbotsford



Abbotsford



Milwaukee- St. Vincent



Milwaukee- St. Vincent



Note: A parish representative let the KCs know that several of these families were refugees from Puerto Rico and are very appreciative of the coats as this will be their first winter in Wisconsin

Meonmonie Council (#2055)

100th Anniversary Celebration



The Monsignor Blecha Council 2055 Knights of Columbus celebrated their 100th anniversary on November 19th, 2019.

The day started with mass at 10:15 am celebrated by Fr. Tim Wells, chaplain for the Knights of Columbus in the Lacrosse Diocese.

An open house was then held in Charles Hall with food and beverages provided. Many displays were setup for viewing and memorabilia as well.

Many current state officers were present for the event as well as many Knights and their families. A big thank you goes out to Sir Knight Richard Kostuch for being the chairman of the event. A job well done!

Tomah Council-Clergy Appreciation



Care Net Mobile Clinic Dedication



State Deputy Wrbanich and State Secretary Tomsyck, along with Bishop Hying and other Madison Knights participated in the dedication of Care Net's Mobil Unit. The mobil unit includes an ultrasound machine Council 4549 (Middleton) spearheaded its purchase with matching funds coming from Supreme .

Honor Guards with our Bishops



Honor Guard provided by Assembly 1948 with Fr. Balaraju Eteri and Bishop Hying at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish of Poynette at their building's 50th Anniversary Celebration



Honor Guard members from the Lawrence P. Gherty Assembly and Council 1762 provided a Honor Guard for Bishop James Powers, Bishop of Superior Diocese, at the Confirmation Mass at St. Patrick's Church in Hudson. Members included L-R: Jim Michaelson, Commander, Mike Riesdorf, Chris Michaelson, Mike Frase, Fr. John Gerrits, Bishop James Powers, Gary Maier, Jerry Martell, Dave Weiss and Ray DeCamp.

Council 1762 conducts BABY DIAPER DRIVE



Council 1762 delivers a truck load of baby diapers. The council held a Baby Diaper Drive during the month of October, Pro-Life Month. Over 3000 diapers were collected and donated during this month long drive. The diapers were delivered to Options for Women St. Croix Valley to help young families and their new babies in the St. Croix Valley. Jim Michaelson was chairman of the event.

