

BADGER BULLETIN

JUNE 2025

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Ready the Rosary

Joshua Hopper

IN MY YOUTH, I shared the sentiment of many Catholics, young and old: The rosary is boring. It's true. What purpose was there in reciting a prayer over and over again for what felt like an hour. I knew the rosary was supposed to be something special, but I did not see it.

I was born and raised Catholic. I went to my weekly Masses, I prayed before meals with my family, and I went to the minimum number of confessions and all the holy days of obligation. I fulfilled my duties as a Catholic—and I still do—yet I continued to grapple the question: Why am I not truly happy? Why do I struggle with so many things in my life when everyone else seems to have it made? These were difficult questions for me as a youth and they are still difficult questions for me as an adult.

While the journey to find these answers is ongoing, St. Augustine provides some comfort in the first page of his "Confessions." He writes that those who look for the Lord will find Him and praise Him. "[Y]ou made us for yourself and our hearts find no peace until they rest in you" (Confessions, p. 21). We need to seek God to get to know Him and build a relationship with Him.

Unfortunately, it is not like a game of hide-and-seek where only one person looks for the other. God actively searches for us and we need to search for Him just as fervently.

Personal prayer is one of the best ways to know God and the rosary is one of the most powerful prayers. In the rosary, you are not just asking for Mary's intercession, but you pray the Lord's prayer, you meditate on the life of Jesus, and you praise God.

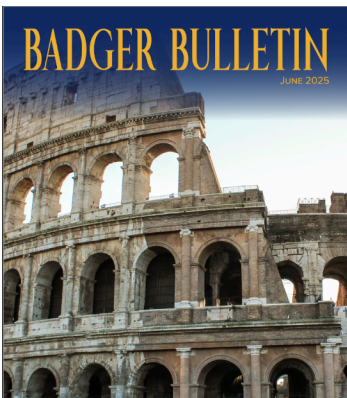
Saying one rosary is very good, but in "Secrets of the Rosary," St. Louis de Monfort speaks of the power of praying a complete rosary (all four mysteries) in one day. You receive special graces and more strength to avoid sin. If you want to learn more about why the rosary is more than just a twenty-minute meditation and far from boring, pick up his book or read "The Rosary Handbook"! We should challenge ourselves to quiet our minds for a minimum of twenty minutes a day to ask for Mary's intercession and God's help and, if you feel called, to pray the entire rosary.

Vivat Jesus!



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Keep articles below 500 words.
- Submit word docs to the PR email.
- Send photos separately, clearly labeled, with credits.
- Prioritize quality content with articles.
- Proofread thoroughly for spelling and grammar.
- Avoid double spaces after periods.
- Be punctual! Submit articles by the last day of the calendar month to avoid delays.



ON THE COVER: ROMAN COLOSSEUM

The infant Catholic Church faced persecution of its members for their belief in the risen Christ. Blamed for the burning of Rome, Emperor Nero had many of these Catholics burned alive or killed in the Colosseum for entertainment. These early martyrs helped spread the religion by those inspired by their faith. On June 30, we commemorate these brave men and women.



Looking to Summer

MY THANKS TO EVERYONE THAT attended our annual WI State Convention in Green Bay. I speak for all of your State Officers in expressing our appreciation for your vote of confidence in electing us for a second term.

I received many compliments that the convention was well run and that it also kept to a timely schedule. Those thanks should really go to the terrific support teams provided by the host council members that came to help coordinate the many details that make up a successful convention.



A special thank you as well to our two Bishops that were able to attend, Bishop Ricken of Green Bay and Bishop Powers of Superior. Both gave very inspirational presentations, as did our Supreme Representative Sean Pott, Senior Director of Evangelization and Education.

With the convention behind us, we have truly little time to rest as we are already preparing for our Summer Mid-Year District Deputy Organization meeting scheduled for June 27th – 29th. If you remember, we recognized the District Deputies that are retiring at the end of June. We need new men to step up and continue that support they provided to their assigned councils. If you have the desire and want to find out more about this vital role, please reach out to me. As District Deputy, you



directly represent the State Deputy in your district. It has been referred to as the best job in the state.

Now that we are in June, we are in the last 30 days of our fraternal year and still have many councils that need to achieve their intake & program goals to reach Star Council status. In his video presentation at the convention, my boss, our Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly has issued a challenge to all of us. Every council is challenged to bring in at least one new member before the end of the year. Let's show him that Wisconsin is up to that challenge.

I will be meeting with our Supreme Knight in New Haven on June 4th – 7th at the summer Mid-Year State Deputy meeting, and I would be proud to report on your behalf that you have accepted & achieved his challenge when I make my Wisconsin status report.

In summary, let's maximize the days we have left in June to reach out and invite every eligible Catholic man & his family to join us in fulfilling the mission of Blessed Michael McGivney caring for the needy & less fortunate, while enhancing their own personal and family's foundation in our faith, church and communities.

Looking forward to meeting you during my travels throughout the State.

Thanks for all you have done, and will do throughout the month of June, and beyond!

Vivat Jesus!





AS I WRITE THIS, my last contribution to our "Badger Bulletin," I wish to once again express gratitude to all of the Knights from around the state who have showed their commitment to our Lord Jesus and His Church. Knights go out of their way to make priests feel honored. I am grateful to have served as State Chaplain for three fraternal years in our order. I will not be a stranger and I look forward to seeing you around. I wish Fr. Lobacz the best as he takes up his place on our team of State Officers. He will enjoy working with Our State Deputy Pat and the rest of our team as much as I have.

Speaking of the State Officers, they have shown a strong ability to come together this year. We just had a great convention. We were able to celebrate together all of the ways that the Knights are serving men, their families, their churches, and those in any special need. Bishop Ricken inspired us with his preaching and his presentation about this Jubilee Year of Hope. I encourage all of our Knights to participate in Diocesan activities for the Jubilee year. Find the pilgrim sites in your diocese and visit them. As summer begins, this is the perfect time to plan recreation around Wisconsin. A simple visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Holy Hill, or Our Lady of Champion can be a powerful moment. Who knows? Maybe Christ will use that visit with you and your family. He can reach a family member who is hurting or has wandered from the Church.

Have hope! Jesus is **always** working for the salvation of all of his people. I loved having Fr. Michael Maher feature so prominently. He described how he initiates men into the Knights. He gives them hope that they are part of something bigger. It was encouraging to see, little by little, more young men on the floor of our convention. Our order is experiencing renewal from the youth. Have hope! And I will have hope too. Please pray for me as I begin a new assignment. I will keep praying for you and doing all that I can to remain faithfully yours.

Vivat Jesus!



SPOTLIGHT

Monsignor Blecha Council #2055 brings community events to St. Joseph's in Menomonie, WI.



Far left: Members of the Monsignor Blecha Council #2055 help provide fun and entertainment in our annual Parish Potluck. **Right:** Council #2055 knights also ran a very successful fish fry for for most of the weekends in May and June. Together, they were able to raise over \$14,000 for their council.



A Bridge Across Time: The Leadership of Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIV

AS THE SUN DIPPED BELOW the horizon, casting a warm glow upon the Vatican, two figures emerged at a solitary chapel, united by faith and the timeless call of the Holy Spirit. In one corner stood Pope Francis, a champion of humility and inclusivity whose heart resonated deeply with the marginalized. Equally significant but of an earlier time, Pope Leo XIV, the first Augustinian pope and the first pontiff from the United States, embodied a commitment to renewal and unity.

Pope Francis, born Jorge Mario Bergoglio, embraced a life of service long before he donned the papal mantle. Elected in March 2013 as the 266th pope, he chose the name of St. Francis of Assisi, reminding the Church that Christ's message is found not in power but in love and sacrifice. His pilgrimage began in Argentina, where he encountered the struggles of the poor. With every homily and gesture toward the marginalized, he taught that the Church's divine mission is fulfilled by caring for the "least of these."

In contrast, Pope Leo XIV's papacy was defined by a dynamic call to action within a modern context. He uniquely understood that the Church must address contemporary issues while remaining rooted in doctrine. His inaugural message emphasized a "daily journey of conversion," calling all members of the Church to strengthen their bonds of charity and fraternity. His approach highlighted the necessity of personal transformation and community engagement, urging the faithful to forge deeper connections through acts of love.

While both pontiffs shared the goal of uniting the Church and deepening faith, their visions illuminated different facets of this mission. Pope Francis emphasized inclusivity, advocating for marginalized individuals and interfaith dialogue. His encyclicals like **Laudato Si'** called for communal action against environmental degradation, urging the faith community to embrace stewardship of God's creation.

Pope Leo XIV, on the other hand, maintained the importance of foundational values while fostering renewal. He believed in the significance of retaining the Church's core truths, insisting that every member is part of the body of Christ. His messages frequently urged clergy and laity alike to build welcoming spaces for Christ, balancing simplicity in faith practices with active participation in community life.

As they walked together through the Vatican's sacred halls, the two pontiffs shared insights on their respective legacies. Pope Francis reflected on how bending low allows one to lift others. He emphasized that his experiences in Buenos Aires shaped his understanding of shepherding humanity. Pope Leo XIV nodded, stating, "Your commitment to the suffering inspires many of us," yet he emphasized the enduring need for a strong faith foundation amid change.

Their conversation flowed like a gentle wind, intertwining tradition and innovation, humility and strength. Both leaders illustrated that effective leadership is not limited to one model but is enriched by diversity. As dusk descended, the pontiffs found solace in prayer, each carrying the hopes and burdens of believers.

They knew that, regardless of era or challenges, the mission of the Church is always clear: to manifest Christ's love to the world and ensure every soul feels welcomed in God's embrace. In that moment, they stood as towering examples of how love, fidelity, and faith can transcend time, inspiring the Church to look forward with hope while remaining anchored in the truth of Christ's message. The legacy of their leadership would continue to echo, reminding all that through service and unity, the path to the Kingdom of God shines brightly before them.

Vivat Jesus!



WE'VE HAD A RECORD-BREAKING, year for e-members, bringing in 595 new guys since July 1st. That's 45% more than ever before, and we're not even done with the fraternal year! Many of you have been quick to bring these e-members into your local councils, with about half of all new members this

year coming through the e-member program. A big thanks to the 30% of Wisconsin councils that have already used online membership to boost their numbers.

Now, we need your help to finish strong. We've got 139 e-members who are assigned to councils but haven't been brought in yet. Some of these guys have been waiting over six months! Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries: Please check your Prospect Tab in Officers Online and reach out to these assigned e-members. Getting them settled could even help your council hit its McGivney Award membership goal.

You can get cards with a QR code for online joining from Supreme. These are great for inviting new members, and your Diocesan Membership directors and District Deputies can help you get them. If you're struggling to contact an e-member or running into any other issues, email me. I'm here to help you get these guys into your council. Let's work together to welcome these new Knights into our ranks!

REMINDER

The Prospect tab shows you e-members that have joined online via the Supreme app. The date field is used to transfer them into your council when they have completed their exemplification. With e-membership, new members enter their own data, and then confirm their membership when they receive an e-mail from Supreme. These e-members are then part of the State Council, and get assigned to a local council. Until the local FS enters the Exemplification date, these members remain part of the State Council. Local Councils get credit for them when the exemplification date is entered by the FS to transfer them into your Council. Supreme presented a [webinar](#) in December on transferring online members to council membership.

Do not send Form 100's to Supreme for new members, keep them for your council's records. If you must use a Form

PROSPECT TAB

The Prospect tab shows you e-members that have joined online via the Supreme app. and the date field is used to transfer them into your council when they have completed their exemplification. With E-membership, new members enter their own data, and then confirm their membership when they receive an e-mail from Supreme. These E-members are then part of the State Council, and get assigned to a local council. Until the local FS enters the Exemplification date, these members remain part of the State Council. Local councils get credit for them when the Exemplification date is entered by the FS to transfer them into your Council.

Clicking on this blue box will take you to the Prospect Tab training.

CANDIDATE TAB

The Candidate tab is what you use when you recruit a member locally or are handling a member transfer request or a reinstatement of a prior member. The Candidate tab can best be described as an online Form 100. The candidate tab training covers new members and transfers into local councils. Scan the QR Code for Candidate tab training.

Clicking on this red box will take you to the Candidate Tab training.

100, scan it and email it to Supreme, keep the original for your council records. Since Form 100's must be manually processed at Supreme, they can lead to data entry errors and delays. Utilizing e-membership or the **Candidate Tab** for new members are the preferred ways to bring in new members.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact me, I am in your State Directory. *Vivat Jesus!*



A Welcome from Your New Membership Director

MY NAME IS LES KOSTERA. I am the incoming State Membership Director. First of all, I would like to thank Corey Coonen for his hard work and dedication for the state in his membership director's role. I will do my best to follow in his footsteps. It will be an honor to work with the state officers and my fellow brothers. May God bless each and every one of you!





MY BROTHER KNIGHTS, thank you for everyone that participated in or helped at the 124th State Convention. I want to especially thank the delegates for re-electing me as your State Secretary. I am honored by your trust and support. Together you and I, with the great State Team, will serve our

councils and communities by putting our **faith in action!**

Finishing the year with strong Knights of Columbus membership is vital for sustaining the organization's mission of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. In 2024, the Knights experienced remarkable growth, welcoming 92,000 new members, bringing the total to 2.1 million. To bring this growth to Wisconsin and build upon this momentum, councils can implement several strategies.

Active Recruitment and Visibility

Engaging in visible community activities, such as hosting membership drives after Masses or participating in local events, can attract potential members. Utilizing banners, flyers, and digital platforms to promote these events ensures wider reach and engagement.

Mentorship Programs

Establishing mentorship initiatives helps integrate new members into the council. Pairing them with experienced

Knights fosters a sense of belonging and provides guidance, enhancing retention and active participation.

Incentive-Based Goals

Setting and achieving membership goals can be motivating. Setting an intake goal, helps track success and encourages sustained recruitment efforts

Family and Youth Engagement

Organizing family-friendly events and programs like "Family Fully Alive" can strengthen bonds within the council and appeal to younger members. These initiatives promote Catholic family values and encourage long-term involvement.

Effective Communication

Maintaining regular communication through newsletters, social media, and social events keeps members informed and engaged. Recognizing achievements and milestones within the council fosters a positive and inclusive environment.

By focusing on these strategies, councils can not only finish the year strong but also lay a solid foundation for continued growth and service in the coming year. Are you a **star**? You can be a **star**!

Vivat Jesus!



Habemus Papam:

Pope Leo XIV Elected

Following Pope Francis's death, the 2025 papal conclave elected Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost as Pope Leo XIV. The historic conclave, with 133 cardinal electors, concluded on May 8th. The new pope, the first American to hold the position, has pledged to continue the reforms of Pope Francis, emphasizing inclusivity and attention to the needs of the marginalized.



JUNE IS THE MONTH of the Sacred Heart, culminating with the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 27. Councils can spread devotion to Our Lord by hosting a Sacred Heart Holy Hour (with or without the Pilgrim Icon) or distributing Home Enthronement resources

at their parish. Resources can be found [here](#), on Supplies Online, or for non-members [here](#). Stay tuned for additional program materials in the coming weeks, including a Novena.

Logbooks for the Sacred Heart Icon should be returned to me after the last service in June. The new log book for the first half of 2025-26 fraternal year were distributed to the scheduled Councils or their DD at the state convention.

The Feast of Corpus Christi, on Thursday June 19th this year is a great opportunity for Knights to organize eucharistic processions and publicly proclaim our faith. As the feast focuses on the Holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, it can be an opportunity for councils to reinvigorate their devotion to our Lord through the Eucharist. Resources for Eucharistic Processions can be found [here](#).

June 30 is the deadline for councils to submit the RSVP refund application for donations made to seminarians and postulants during the past fraternal year. For every \$500 donated, \$100 will be refunded by Supreme to the council. You can find the form [here](#). Noting the June 30th date also applies for Support of Pregnancy Relief Organizations and Food For Family donations.

SACRAMENTAL GIFTS

As it was announced at the State Convention officially we now are selling two different bibles to the Councils throughout the state. We are continuing sales of the YUCAT bible which was edited, with commentaries for our Youth written in German in 2015 by Reverend Patrick Hartin, and translated to English in 2017.

The “new” offering is the complete Revised Standard Edition Translated from the original tongues in 1611, and compared to ancient authorities in 1946, 1952, and 1965. This is Complete adult version of the Bible in a paperback suitable as reference in all Catholic families and can be used as a Sacramental gift for not only Adult and youth

Confirmations, but also weddings and numerous other sacred events.

The St. Ignatius Bibles normally sells for \$24.95 the same as the YouCat Bible, both will be available through the State Council for \$12.50 each, mainly to our ability to purchase in bulk. Through credit card you can order your bibles through the State web site. Or if your Council does not have a credit card you can email the order to me at DFBednarek48@Gmail.com. Payments must be made at or before delivery. A majority of deliveries will be made at the two District Deputies meetings and the Convention. Some deliveries can also be made through the Diocesan Teams in special situations.

SILVER ROSE

The Silver Rose will be traveling around the State again starting on Sunday July 13 through August 9th. The schedule was released at the State convention with one exception being Monday August 4th where a council had to drop out. The Schedule has now been published and adjusted to meet needed changes. The final schedule is attached to this article.

By the time you read this your new officers should be elected and working on coordinating your councils budget and schedule. Some of the things to remember are you need 16 programs for the Columbian award including four Faith programs. Simply donating money does not make a program however it can be part of a program if a fundraiser was used for a program. All programs should include an action that benefits the faith and requires council rather than individual participation. Without submitting a form #10784 with a copy to forms@wikofc.org no one will know what your council is doing. If you believe a program is exceptional you also need to file a form #STSP that is found on the State website.

Current Grand Knights and financial secretaries this is crunch time to get forms filed. Don't wait to June 30 or even June 20th. If a form is rejected you might not have the time to correct it and get it in on time.

Vivat Jesus!



I KNOW THAT THOSE that attended the State Convention went back home with a lot of energy. We need to transfer that energy to your council. This is the last month of our Fraternal Year and a lot of councils are very close to getting the Columbian Award,

which is an award that every council should be able to attain every year.

Your District Deputies and I are there to help you with your 10784. I have said before that we need programs and membership to make our councils stronger and accountable to attain the goals that Supreme wants us to achieve. It is not about awards but what we can do for our communities, parishes, and families that we need to focus on. We do need to step up and follow the example that Blessed Father McGivney gave us in starting the Knights of Columbus.

Looking ahead we also need to schedule our programs for next year. Look at the programs that were not as successful as you wanted and look at what you can do differently to make the program work for you. Look at starting a new program that you have never tried before. Talk to your Parish Pastor and your Chaplain and ask them what they like to do for fun.

Programs are supposed to be fun and a family event so you have to find a way to do just that and be creative. Remember, the gentleman that is sitting next to you might have a favorite event that he likes to do that you never thought of—just ask him to join. I know that there are councils out there that have trouble finding officers. Remember, if you have more programs you will get more Knights to help you with your council officers.

The program reports (10784) need to be completed 10 days after the event. That way, you will not be scrambling at the end of the fraternal year. We need to send them to Supreme, the State, and your DD.

Let us have a great last month, and continue into the next Fraternal year.

Vivat Jesus!



AS WE CELEBRATE THE 125th Anniversary of the Fourth Degree, we are reminded that the vitality of our Order relies on strong collaboration between

our local councils and assemblies. The Third and Fourth Degrees are not separate silos. They are complementary paths of Catholic brotherhood, each strengthening the other. The Third Degree forms the heart of parish life, rooted in Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. The Fourth Degree builds upon that foundation by adding the principle of patriotism and providing a visible, dignified presence at civic and religious events. Together, they complete the full journey of Knighthood envisioned by Blessed Michael McGivney.

Working together doesn't just happen. It must be intentional. Programs like the **Silver Rose** and the **Traveling Icon** offer powerful opportunities for collaboration. Councils can host prayer services while assemblies provide an Honor Guard presence, enriching the spiritual impact of the event and drawing attention to the visible witness of the Knights of Columbus.

Other shared opportunities include exemplification support, parish initiatives, and recruiting active-duty or veteran Knights to join the Fourth Degree. When councils and assemblies work in harmony, we grow not only in numbers—but in spirit and effectiveness.

Let this anniversary be more than a celebration. Let it be a call to action. Invite. Support. Collaborate. Together, we honor our legacy and build a stronger future.

Here are a few suggested “sidebar blurbs” you can include alongside the article in a newsletter layout:

Looking for simple, meaningful ways to strengthen ties between your council and local assembly? Try these upcoming programs:

- > **Silver Rose Prayer Service:** Partner to host a parish-wide event. Council organizes the service; assembly provides Honor Guard.
- > **Traveling Icon Program:** Display the icon in your parish for a week. Invite the assembly for a closing rosary or special Mass.
- > **Veteran Recognition Events:** Councils can host; assemblies bring patriotic presence and regalia.
- > **Exemplification Support:** Work together to promote Fourth Degree membership following a Third Degree exemplification.

Vivat Jesus!

ULTRASOUND PROJECTS

St. Gianna Clinic in De Pere & CareNet Dane County – Madison. Congratulations to council #10714, #4586 for your leadership on these ultrasound initiatives. If your council would like to help, please send your checks to:

Fr. Claud Allouez #10714

Peter Tilleman
3155 E. River Dr.
Green Bay, WI 54301
920-737-0630 (c)
pltillman@gmail.com

St. Joseph Council #4586

GK Charles Risler
1102 Timothy Ave.
Madison, WI 53716
608-574-53716
risler5@yahoo.com

SPECIAL OLYMPICS OF WISCONSIN

The Wisconsin Knights of Columbus have agreed to have boots on the ground for all Special Olympics of Wisconsin (SOWI) statewide events. Here are the upcoming events! Please get the word out to your members to go volunteer! You can like the link to volunteer for the Summer Games below.

SUMMER GAMES

Thursday, June 5: Perkins Stadium @ UW-Whitewater, 5 p.m. start time. Outdoors (rain plan is inside Williams Arena on campus)

FALL GAMES

Friday, September 5: Chula Vista Resort Wisconsin Dells, 7 p.m. start time. Indoors.
Includes Saturday morning Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast



ASAP GRANTS

Hopefully the month of May left your council's checking account EMPTY after giving away all your money to pregnancy centers in your area! For every \$500 your council or assembly donates to a pregnancy resource center or maternity home (up to \$2,000), the Supreme Council will donate \$100. But, you have to apply for it! Always best to apply online! If you need help with that, let me know and I'll help walk you through it. OR... you can give me the information and I will apply for you online!

MARCH FOR LIFE – WISCONSIN

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, June 14, 2025**, from 2-4pm @ the State Capitol! All four pro-life organizations are collaborating on this project. [Please show your support!](#)

Vivat Jesus!

In service to One.

In service to all.

