

# BADGER BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2025



# Officers

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# Take A Pilgrimage:

## Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

**WHAT IS A PILGRIMAGE?** A Pilgrimage is a journey you make with a religious motive to a shrine or holy place. Leaving familiar surroundings, the journey can lead to a personal transformation. The word Pilgrim comes from Latin and means one who has come from afar. The purpose of a Christian Pilgrimage was summarized by Pope Benedict XVI in this way:

“To go on pilgrimage is not simply to visit a place to admire its treasures of nature, art, or history. To go on pilgrimage really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God where he has revealed himself, where his grace has shone with particular splendor and produced rich fruits of conversion and holiness among those who believe.”<sup>1</sup>

A person on Pilgrimage is in danger of becoming a tourist and vice versa. The goal of Pilgrimages is to travel with faith expectancy, a search for wholeness, that are often solitary and employing silence to create an internal sacred space.<sup>2</sup> The spiritual refreshment that comes from the experience revitalizes the participants as they return to their everyday responsibilities and live their faith.

**A Pilgrimage here in Wisconsin?** As Knights of Columbus Wisconsin State Chaplain, I invite you to consider making a pilgrimage this October. It will not be to the Holy Land or to Rome but right here in Wisconsin. There are several shrines in our state. Three of the shrines are dedicated to The Blessed Virgin Mary: The Shrine of Our Lady of Champion (the only appearance of Our Lady in the United States recognized by Rome), the Shrine of Mary Help of Christians (commonly known as Holy Hill) in Hubertus, and Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse.

**What will happen on this Pilgrimage?** I invite all the Knights of Columbus, their family, and friends to take part in Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, on Sunday, October 19, 2025, starting at 9:00AM and ending at 3:00PM. [Here is the day's planned itinerary.](#) You will see that day includes a variety of devotionals, an opportunity for confession, and Holy Mass. A true highlight for the day will be the Act of Consecration to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Cardinal Raymond Burke will be on hand to offer a special blessing.

**How do I register?** In order to make proper preparations we need to know how many people will participate in this event. There is no fee to participate in this day. However, there will be a free will offering asked to cover cost of the lunch that will be served. You can register [here](#) (there is also a QR code at the top of the page). I also encourage you to look up the [website](#) for the Shrine of our Lady of Guadalupe. It is impressive, even inspirational!

**Questions?** Call the Knights of Columbus State Office at 608-274-5750.

*Vivat Jesus!*



<sup>1</sup> Apostolic visit to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, November 6, 2010

<sup>2</sup> Fahey, Frank (April 2002). "Pilgrims or Tourists?" *The Furrow*. 53 (4): 213–218.



# An Important Notice From Your State Deputy

**DURING THE MONTH** of September, your State Officer Team will be traveling and hosting the required Annual Fall Diocesan meetings throughout the five dioceses of Wisconsin. The Saturday or Sunday meetings are expected to be no longer than four hours. Some may be offering the ability to attend Mass prior to the scheduled meeting times.

These meetings **require** your council's attendance and are directly related to presenting awards, new directories, Charity Raffle tickets & important informational updates to the Council Officers & members. **No Shows are not acceptable.**

The minimum expected attendance is the WGK, DGK, Program Director, Membership Director.

Council members are also welcome to attend.

If the weekend dates conflict with any of the officers mentioned above, I expect them to designate an alternate council member to attend on their behalf. We require that someone be available on that date & time, and they may enjoy the opportunity to represent your council.

I, as well as the State Officer of the Diocese and related team members, including our Supreme Regional Director, will be driving many miles, and in some cases, staying overnight to make the next day's meeting times.

My request is that you extend to us the courtesy of investing the four hours required to attend this meeting.

## **OPEN STATE COUNCIL POSITIONS**

With the growth of our membership base comes a growth of new councils and the need for additional motivated men that want to take the next step in their

advancement with the Knights and become an active contributor to our mission in supporting our councils and their membership.

Helping our council leaders and members become fully active and visible in supporting their communities, parishes and priest throughout our five dioceses. New district leaders bring new ideas that help the councils stay energized and involved in their communities.

This is your opportunity of a lifetime to be part of my team to keep our councils up to date on new initiatives.

If you are that person or know of another brother knight that exhibits dedication & leadership abilities and believes in the mission of Blessed Michael McGivney and the Knights of Columbus and wants to be part of our team to help our councils grow and adapt to the necessary changes in how we operate. Please reach out to me and I can answer any questions you may have.

As a District Deputy, you will directly represent the State Deputy in your district. It has been referred to by all Former District Deputies as "The Best Job in the State".

Other coordinator positions are also available relating to supporting our Programs and Membership initiatives.

Filling these open positions is a high priority of mine that needs to be completed during the first quarter of our fraternal year.

Looking forward to your call. **Don't delay! Call today. You won't be disappointed.**

*Vivat Jesus!*



**Milwaukee Archdiocese Meeting September 13th.** With RGD William Chasse

8:00 AM to 12:00pm

Saint Monica Parish - Whitefish Bay

5681 North Santa Monica Boulevard,

Whitefish Bay, WI, 53217

*No Mass / Need to be out of room by 12:30 PM as another event will be using the room after us.*



**Madison Diocese Meeting September 27th.** With RGD William Chasse

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

St. Dennis Parish – Upper Parish Hall

505 Dempsey Road

Madison, WI

*Working on possible Mass at 8:00 AM with Bishop Hying*

*Will have RGD speak early so he can leave by 10:30 AM for a meeting in Tomah.*



**LaCrosse Diocesan Meeting September 27th.** With RGD William Chasse

12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

St. Patrick Catholic School – Host Council #4592

100 South “L” Street

Sparta, WI



**Green Bay Diocesan Meeting September 28th.** With RGD William Chasse

Sunday Mass at 10 AM TBD

Light Lunch & Social Fellowship Hall 11:30 AM

12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

St John Nepomucene

11 Vandenbroek Street

Little Chute, WI



**Superior Diocesan Meeting September 21st.** With RGD William Chasse

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

St. Ann Catholic Church

320 Pine St.

Turtle Lake, WI



# Support Catholic Education with Penny-a-Knight-a-Day

**DID YOU KNOW** that just a penny a day can make a meaningful impact on Catholic education right here in Wisconsin?

The Penny-a-Knight-a-Day (P.K.D.) Program was launched in 1970 by Wisconsin State Deputy Edward Quillin as a way for Knights of Columbus members to show their support for Catholic education and our bishops' efforts to provide families with quality faith-based schooling. The concept was simple: contribute just one penny each day—only \$3.65 per year—to help make a difference.

Back in 1970, a penny could still buy a piece of candy or time on a parking meter. Today, it's easy to overlook, but when combined with the efforts of thousands of Knights across the state, those small contributions add up in a big way. With 34,512 Knights in Wisconsin, full participation could raise almost \$126,000 annually!

Even better, the money raised in each diocese stays in that diocese. Every year, these contributions are presented directly to the local bishop during the diocesan meeting, making it a great opportunity to show both financial and personal support for our Church leadership.

This year, because of your dedication and support, we will present:

- > Archbishop Grob      \$9,864.20
- > Bishop Hying          \$9,682.83
- > Bishop Battersby      \$8,732.06
- > Bishop Ricken          \$8,705.87
- > Bishop Powers          \$5,342.95

Together, we can keep Catholic education strong and accessible for generations to come. All it takes is a penny a day.

*Vivat Jesus!*



**PENNY-A-KNIGHT-A-DAY**

**P.K.D.**





# Wisconsin Knights: Be Heralds of Hope!

*SUBMITTED BY WST ERNIE REINHART*

**AT THE 143RD SUPREME CONVENTION** in Washington, D.C., Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly inspired Knights across the globe with a call to be “Heralds of Hope”—a message that resonates deeply with our mission here in Wisconsin.

Rooted in the legacy of Blessed Michael McGivney, Kelly reminded us that in a world searching for meaning, Knights are uniquely positioned to bring Christ’s light through faith, charity, and service.

## **Charity That Reaches Far and Wide**

- Humanitarian aid in Ukraine, including prosthetics for war victims.
- Support for vulnerable children and anti-trafficking efforts in the Philippines.
- Disaster relief across the U.S., including recent efforts in Texas and California.
- Over 2,000 ultrasound machines donated and \$6 million in pro-life support.

## **Faith Formation and Evangelization**

- The COR initiative continues to strengthen men’s spiritual lives.
- Eucharistic processions and the Sacred Heart Pilgrim Icon Program have touched hundreds of thousands.
- The RSVP program has supported over 150,000 religious vocations.

## **Service to Country and Community**

- Knights remain strong advocates for religious liberty, military service, and veteran support.
- Sgt. Lewis Reed was honored for his service at over 25,000 veterans’ funerals.
- Continued support for Warriors to Lourdes and military councils.

## **Stewardship and Growth**

- The Order manages over \$123 billion in life insurance and \$2.4 billion in assets.
- The Charitable Fund has distributed \$147 million to Church and community causes.

## **Wisconsin Call to Action**

Supreme Knight Kelly challenged each Knight to invite two new members—a goal we can embrace right here in the Badger State. Let’s grow our councils and continue to be Heralds of Hope in our parishes, communities, and families.

As Kelly concluded: *“Let’s put our faith into action once again as heralds of hope in all we do.”*



# Knights of Columbus®





# TREASURER'S CORNER:

## The Importance of Paying Your Per Capita Assessment

**AS YOUR WISCONSIN STATE TREASURER**, I want to take a moment to highlight a key responsibility that ensures the strength and sustainability of our statewide organization: the **per capita assessment**.

Each council is assessed **\$10.00 annually per member**, split into **two payments**—one in **October** and one in **March**. This assessment is approved annually at the State Convention, reflecting our shared commitment to supporting the programs and operations that benefit all councils across Wisconsin.

Why is this important?

- > **Supports statewide initiatives** like youth programs, charitable outreach, and leadership development.
- > **Funds administrative operations** that keep our organization running smoothly.
- > **Demonstrates unity and accountability** among councils statewide.

When councils pay their assessments on time, they help maintain the momentum of our mission. Delays or missed payments can hinder planning and execution of programs that serve our communities and members.

This is not just a financial obligation; it's a **symbol of stewardship**. By fulfilling this commitment, councils affirm their role in a larger network of charity, unity and fraternity.

Let's continue to lead by example. Make sure your council is prepared for the **October** and **March** assessments, and let's keep Wisconsin strong, united, and impactful.

Thank you for your dedication and service.

*Vivat Jesus!*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

*Father Michael McGivney*

On August 12, William P. Stephani Council 710, Manitowoc, held its regularly scheduled meeting, attended by 47 Brothers, which is average attendance. The meeting was preceded by a celebration of the Mass, followed by a light meal, refreshments, fellowship. It was business as normal after that. For dessert, they enjoyed a birthday cake to celebrate Blessed Father McGivney's birthday.







# DIVINE APPOINTMENTS:

## Finding Men Through Repairs

**ON A COLD DAY**, two months after purchasing my washing machine, it broke down. Frustrated, I had no idea this would lead to welcoming two new members into the Knights of Columbus.

I called a local appliance repair service and was fortunate to have a technician named Greg, skilled in GE appliances, come to my house. I always engage in conversation with service providers, so I started chatting with Greg as he examined my washer. He was friendly and knowledgeable, living in Kenosha, and revealed he was Catholic and a friend of Jim, one of our Council 973 officers.

During our discussion about the washing machine and life in general, I discovered that Greg had never heard of the Knights of Columbus. I seized this opportunity to explain our organization—our strong commitment to faith, family, community, and life. As I described our mission and the impact we strive to create, Greg listened intently. After assessing my washer and ordering the necessary parts, I didn't think much about our conversation until he returned a few days later to complete the repair.

When Greg came back, he successfully repaired my washer and expressed genuine interest in joining the Knights. I was thrilled! What had begun as a simple conversation had evolved into a new friendship dedicated to service and faith.

Fast forward four years, and my reliable GE dryer finally gave out. My wife and I decided to upgrade and repurpose the old units for washing dog blankets. This required us to install new outlets, including a 30-amp

service for the dryer, leading me to meet Jim, a skilled electrician and business owner.

As Jim worked on rewiring and troubleshooting, I took the chance to engage him in conversation. We discussed everything from electrical demands to challenges faced by parents in Catholic schools. When I noticed his children were enrolled in a Catholic school, our conversation deepened around our shared values.

Wearing my Knights of Columbus cap, I asked Jim if he knew anything about our organization. To my surprise, he admitted he hadn't heard of us, but curiosity quickly took over. After finishing his work, I invited him to my kitchen table for a more in-depth discussion about the Knights.

As I shared our history, charitable efforts, and love for strengthening families and communities, our conversation flowed naturally. By the end, Jim was excited to join the Knights that same day.

Reflecting on these encounters reminds me of the importance of investing in the lives of those God places in our paths. Whether a technician or an electrician, each moment can lead to meaningful connections and opportunities to share our mission and faith. These experiences show that divine appointments often come disguised as ordinary events.

Membership in the Knights of Columbus is fundamentally about the relationships we cultivate and the lives we touch. You never know—the next person you meet could signify the beginning of a new adventure in faith and service.

*Vivat Jesus!*



**WE HAD ANOTHER SLOW MONTH** for Online Membership. As of August 21, we have assigned a total of 59 new E-members since July 1. This is less than half of the pace that we need to meet our State Goals. So far Councils have transferred 33 E-members into Councils this Fraternal Year. Roughly 50% of Council Intake this year has been through E-members. This is a significant drop-off from the prior Fraternal Year. We are better than this.

Cards with the QR Code to join online are available from Supreme. These can be very helpful when inviting men to join. Your Diocesan Membership Directors and District Deputies should be able to help you get these cards if you need them.

WGK & WFS please frequently 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.

## REMINDERS

WGK & WFS please frequently review your councils **Prospect** tab. Should you experience any difficulty with this process, please email me regarding these outstanding assigned e-members and I will gladly assist you.

Supreme presented a Webinar in December on Transferring online members to council membership which you can access [here](#).

Do not send Form 100's to Supreme for new members, keep them for your council's records. If you must use a Form 100, scan it and email it to Supreme, keeping 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. **The date field is the date they were exemplified by your council. Once you enter those dates in either tab, the members will be automatically transferred to your council's roster within the next week.**

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

*Vivat Jesus!*

## PROSPECT TAB

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 confirm their membership, and then 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 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.

**Clicking on this red box will take you to the candidate training.**

## ONLINE CEREMONIAL

**Click on this box to take you to the Online Ceremonial invitation site.**



# SPOTLIGHT

## Silver Rose Handoff

By Kathy Loy



**DUBUQUE, IA**—The Silver Rose was handed over to the WI State Council on July 13 at St. Columbkille Church. It was presented to SPatrick Reiff, WI State Deputy, and Bill Taylor from Hazel Green, WI, from the Iowa Knights of Columbus.

Fr. Robert Gross presided at Mass and the handoff ceremony was held immediately after. Eight members of the Knights of Columbus from Iowa and Wisconsin participated. The Wisconsin contingent consisted of Lloyd Berning, Tim Genthe, Joe Loy, and Michael Plear.

Later that afternoon, the Silver Rose was presented to the Sauk City Knights of Columbus at St. Francis de Sales Church in Hazel Green, WI.



◀ **Clockwise from left:** SD Patrick Reiff stands with the Silver Rose | Fr. Ross Gross presides over Mass and the Silver Rose Ceremony | Members of the Wisconsin and Iowa contingents attend the Mass and ceremonial Silver Rose handoff. >>





- ◀ **Clockwise from left:** Bill Taylor, KC Council 7370 Hazel Green WI hands off the Silver Rose to Sergio Reyes, Grand Knight of Council from Sauk City. | Council members from Lancaster #1202 and Highland #2320 stand with the Silver Rose in Hazel Green, WI.
- Front Row:** Tim Genthe, Jesus Hernandez, Sergio Reyes, Alfonso Flores Martinez; Jerry Berning
- Back Row:** Lloyd Berning, Michael Plear, Joseph Loy, Ron Timmerman, Peter Uppena, Chris Reuter

## Diocese of La Crosse Welcomes Fr. Guenther



Knights line up with Bishop Battersby prior to Mass. ▶

- ▶ Sir Knights from Assemblies 1202 and 2320 did the Honor Guard duties at the installation of V. Rev. Brandon A. Guenther as pastor of Holy Family Parish in Prairie du Chien on Sunday, July 6, 2025. Bishop Battersby, resides over the ceremonies.





**THIS IS THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR** of the Patriotic Degree. Please consider joining and be a part of this historic class. Fall exemplifications will be held on **October 18th** in **Beaver Dam** and on **October 25th** in **Baraboo**. Future exemplifications being considered around the state. Details are always given to the Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries, District Deputies, Faithful Navigators, Faithful Comptrollers and to Area Coordinators. Please be sure to discuss them at your Council and Assembly meetings.

Honor Flights are again returning for the fall with the first ones being held in **September** in **Milwaukee, Madison** and Central Wisconsin (**Mosinee**). These will be followed up by a number of flights in October and November at various locations. Type in Honor Flights in Wisconsin into your browser and look them up for specific details. Be there to welcome back our veterans when they return from their visit to Washington D.C.

Remember, the Patriotic degree builds upon the degrees of Charity, Unity and Fraternity that are the foundations of all Council members. The Honor and

Color Guard become the most visible arm of the Knights of Columbus at many events but all of us can help to make the Knights of Columbus more visible in the public eye. Wearing your KC apparel at events—Masses for KC members, fundraisers, dinners, COR programs—makes the Knights more visible to the public and will help us to add Council and Assembly members.

To all the assemblies in the state: You can also participate in the **ASAP** program and raise matching funds for your local pregnancy centers. Make sure you complete the required application. For every **\$500** raised, Supreme will send a match of \$100 to the local pregnancy center. Remember there is a cap per year of **\$2,000** at the Assembly or Council level for the Supreme matching funds.

The Western Wisconsin District held an exemplification at St. Anthony Church in Lake Nebagamon (near Superior) on August 10, 2025. We welcomed fourteen new Sir Knights, two of whom took all four degrees that day! ***Congratulations to those men and their families!***

**Remember:** The Fourth Degree Honor Guard can stand in honor of a Brother Third Degree Member at his funeral, his spouse's funeral, his parents' funerals and his children's funerals **if asked** by the family. We support more than just Fourth Degree members. Both of your Districts in Wisconsin and their Masters like to work together with the Councils. **Please ask us if we can be of assistance or help in any way.**

*Vivat Jesus!*

#### STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

LESTER KOSTERA



We are a little behind from last year, but I am confident that we will catch up and pass our goal to date. I will be passing along again the 1st Quarter incentive to the councils, and the incentive is the same as last year's 1st. Quarter. Enjoy the warm weather. Fall is coming very soon.

*Vivat Jesus!*



**I AM LOOKING FORWARD** to seeing everyone at the September Diocesan meetings. We will be explaining the eight new programs that Supreme has announced in the **Faith in Action** categories:

- > Community: Bright Future / Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage
- > In Life: Holy Hour for Life

with Our Lady of Guadalupe / Gospel of Life

- > In Faith: Viva Cristo Rey / Imitating Juan Diego
- > In Family: Remembering Our Faithful Departed / Quinceañera Support

#### **Program Focus: Boost Participation & Compliance**

Our popular Special Olympics, Coats for Kids, Tootsie Rolls, and Free Throw programs continue strong. Let's boost support for Camping, Bowling, and Golf, which need more exposure. Our Disaster Relief Program also needs attention; consider how we can extend help, as seen with the Janesville Knights or aid for California, Hawaii, and Texas disasters. Disasters strike anytime; our presence is crucial.

Involve parish families in your programs! Their participation shows the good we do and can encourage new members.

Youth can work alongside Knights, promoting youth programs for their well-being and our future councils.

#### **Immediate Action Required:**

*Youth Safety Program:* Grand Knights, Deputy Grand Knights, Program Directors, and Community Directors must complete this Supreme-mandated training to work with youth.

*Fraternal Benefits Insurance Program:* Host two events. The first, by January 1, 2026, involves the Grand Knight and Deputy Grand Knight meeting with an insurance agent for a benefits presentation. The second needs at least 14 attendees (including parishioners) to learn about KofC benefits and membership value.

Remember to submit 10784 forms promptly after programs. Thank you to those who do!

#### **Upcoming Opportunities:**

Consider events for Blessed Father McGivney's birthday (August 12) or death (August 14), or Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15). Fundraise for Coats for Kids and promote the Essay Contest. Incorporate a new Supreme program.

**Keep your programs going! Programs = Memberships AND Memberships = Programs.**

**You asked. We delivered.  
Now, will you?**

***Fraternal Year 25/26 Schedule for  
GA-sponsored FBE (7:00 pm CST)***

**Thursday, September 18 ~ Benefits You May Not  
Know About**

**Wednesday, October 29**

**Monday, November 24**

**Wednesday, December 17**

**Thursday, January 29**

**Wednesday, February 25**

**Thursday, March 26**

**Wednesday, April 29**

**Thursday, May 28**

**Wednesday, June 24**

Mark your calendars and make plans.

Remember to invite the **entire** parish, making sure to get the invite in the church bulletin.

Get Educated.

Get Credit.

Have **FUN!**



## ULTRASOUND PROJECTS

Anchor of Hope in Plymouth (additional location) and St. Gianna Clinic in De Pere & CareNet Dane County – Madison & La Sagrada Familia Familia in Saban Yegua, Dominican Republic. Congratulations to Council(s) #1069, #1789, #4586, & #15659 for your leadership on these ultrasound initiatives. If your council would like to help, please send your checks to:

### Plymouth Council #1789

Bryan Smith  
15 Grove Street  
Plymouth, WI 53073  
bryansmith1011@gmail.com  
(920) 838-3101

### St. Joseph Council #4586

Charles Risler  
1102 Timothy Ave.  
Madison, WI 53716  
(608) 574-9935  
risler5@yahoo.com

### George S. Schreier Council #1069

Jon Kleist  
159033 Evergreen Road  
Wausau, WI 54403  
(725) 551-7850 C  
kleist1150@gmail.com

### St. Lucy's Council #15659

Earl Wirtz  
3101 Drexel Ave.  
Racine, WI 53403  
(262) 497-9159  
earlwirtz@mac.com

## NEED HELP WITH ULTRASOUND FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN?

There is a great pro-life organization out in Yelm, Washinton (state) called [4US](#). They will help with **25%** of the cost of the ultrasound. **Yes**, that is **half** of your council's obligation! Here's their [website](#).



## 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. Please help get the word out to your members to volunteer!

### FALL GAMES

Friday, September 5: Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, 7 p.m. start time. Indoors. [Sign up here to join the 4th Degree Honor Guard](#). The **Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast** will be from 7:30am–9:30am, Sunday, September 7.

**Contact:** Bob Kappel  
(608) 481-0996 (c) or [rjlngfs@charter.net](mailto:rjlngfs@charter.net)

### ASAP GRANTS

Hopefully the month of August 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!](#) It is always best to apply online. If you need help, let me know and I'll walk you through it. You can also provide me with the information and I will apply for you online!

## CHOOSE LIFE WISCONSIN GRANT FUND

Any pro-life pregnancy center or maternity home can apply for a grant from Choose Life Wisconsin, the Choose Life Plate People! Apply [here](#) any time. You can also purchase Pro-Life license plates. The more plates we have on the road, the more the pro-life message will be shared, and the more money there will be for the Pregnancy Resource Centers. The extra \$25 you pay for the plate is **tax deductible** if you itemize on Schedule A. More information [here](#).

*Vivat Jesus!*



**AS WE MOVE FROM SUMMER** into fall, we should have our program planning and execution already in high gear! In regard to Coats for Kids, our orders for this year are at present only around a quarter to a third of what they were last year at this time. To secure your coats from

Supreme, place your order

now vis the State Council Store link on the State website. Cases are \$145 (toddlers, child, youth) or \$175 (teen adult). That's almost 50% off regular price. Orders will be sent in around September 15 for delivery by end of September or early October. For more information, contact PSD Corey Coonan. Let's go all out for this program again this year!

With the recent floods in the state here in august, especially in the southeast area, there is need for assistance to many families and Brother Knights right here in Wisconsin. Most certainly donations and fundraisers are appreciated. For more information, contact State Disaster Response Director Paul Shepherd or State Office. It also highlights the need for Councils, parishes, families, communities to have those plans, resources in place for disaster response like these to be up to date and in place!

Helping Hands projects, Global Wheelchair fundraisers and Habitat for Humanity projects and fundraisers all continue to be in order – locally, with neighboring Councils or parishes and Districts. With the new school year beginning, most certainly Councils can get involved in the new Bright Futures program by strengthening their support, ties and involvement with

our Catholic schools, students and educators. Be sure to check the Supreme website for ideas and materials that can help get you started.

As to Youth programs, Punt, Pass & Kick Council Contests should be done by September 30. Diocesan Contests are to be held from October 3-19. State Finals will be held in Wausau at Newman High School, date TBA (Oct. 25, Nov. 1 or 8). Registration/practice 10-11 AM, announcements and competition start 11:15 AM. All 1st place Council winners should have a green travel card for the Diocesan Contest. All 1st and 2nd place Diocesan winners should have an orange travel card for the State Contest.

Fall Soccer Contests, if held, follow the same time frame as the PPK Contests. Finals competition will be held in Wausau if Council and Diocesan numbers warrant holding such.

For the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest, you should have ordered your materials from Supreme (Supplies Online). Much can also be downloaded from the State and Supreme websites. Get those materials to the schools and secure their participation in September. Essays are to be written in October/November and due to the councils by December 15. The contest is open to all students grades 8-12 (parochial, public, private schools, homeschool and religious ed programs).

Finally, We are still looking for Brother Knights who feel strongly about the following programs who would like to become State Coordinator for any of the following programs: Helping Hands, Global Wheelchairs, Punt, Pass & Kick Contest, Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest, Free Throw Contest, Knowledge Contest, Soccer Challenge, Hockey Skills Challenge.

Have a great September.

*Vivat Jesus!*



**ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF**

as the new State Charity Director. My name is Michael Haight (pronounced 'hate') and I reside in Sparta, WI. I have been a member of the Knights for the past 27 years with Council #7096 (Cashton, WI) and have been

serving as its Financial Secretary for the past 18 years. I am also a member of Assembly #1902 4th Degree in Tomah, WI. Lastly, I also currently serve as District Deputy in District 28 for the Tomah Deanery. I was invited by, then-State Charity Director Bernie Heit, to come on board and assist as the La Crosse Diocesan Charity Committee Chairman (which I did for four years) and then I was invited to resume the role of State Charity Director when Bernie stepped down this past June. Though I have some big shoes to fill as Brother Bernie did a lot of hard and great work for the Charity program in his tenure, I will do my best to continue the great work he did and make the program a continuing success. I, along with many others on the State Team and State Charity Committee Team, extend deepest gratitude for the many years Brother Bernie contributed to the program and wish him the very best. May God richly bless him and his wife, Kathy, for sharing of their time and talent in the State Charity program.

As I write this message for the state newsletter, the State Charity Committee has wrapped up its annual "Packing Party" for the upcoming 2025 – 2026 State Charity Raffle season. The team is ready to hit up the Diocesan Tours with the stationary District boxes.

Each Diocesan Charity Chairmen will be at their respective Diocesan tour meetings in September to hand off the boxes to each District Deputy. For Districts that do not have an assigned District Deputy, the chairman will contact their Diocesan Director to arrange to get packets to each council. As soon as the tickets get into the hands of the councils, **let the selling begin!** A courtesy email will go out to all the District Deputy's in early September followed by another email to all council Grand Knights a short time later about the program updates and reminders. I'm sure there will be new council charity chairmen in some councils and, in time, we'll capture those and include them in charity raffle ticket program updates.

As the state has been under redistricting in most areas, we believe we have the labels correctly done and the new district numbers correspond to the councils in their districts. If any are missing or incorrect, please accept my humble apologies and send me an email with the errors and I will do my best to update our records. Thank you for your patience!

I am looking forward to serving you as your new State Charity Director and will do all in my authority to bring relief and encouragement to those who need our help through the charity program. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I have an open-door policy and will be happy to hear your thoughts and treat them with Catholic charity and respect.

You may contact me in the following ways:

[michael.a.haight@outlook.com](mailto:michael.a.haight@outlook.com)

(608) 487-2138

*Vivat Jesus!*

*In loving memory...*



Parishioners, families, and friends gather at Lynnhurst Park in Minneapolis to mourn the victims of the Annunciation Catholic School shooting on Wednesday, August 27.

Photo Credit: Ben Hovland | MPR News





**IT IS SEPTEMBER ALREADY.** Our new elected officers have two months under their belts and should have set their schedules and have a firm idea where they are leading their councils. Our youth is starting school again after their summer break and it is time for us to start acting on the programs we planned for.

Remember for Star Council or simply earning the Columbian Award your required to complete 4 credits in each of the four groups, Faith, Family, Community, and Life. Each year the Supreme Council specifies a Feature Program which earns the Council two credits rather than just one credit. This year's feature program is the Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP).

## **SACRAMENTAL GIFTS**

The state is still supporting this program by providing councils with bibles for distribution at half their normal price thanks to the ability to purchase in bulk. In the 2022-23 fraternal year, we distributed roughly 1,300 bibles; 1,100 bibles in 2023-24; and 800 bibles in 2024-25.

This year we are expanding our selection to include both the YOUCAT Bibles for our youth and the Ignatius Bibles, which contains both the Old and New Testaments in paper back form. Both of these are available to councils for \$12.50 per copy and can be ordered either through the state website using the blue State Council Store icon, or contacting me direct at [DFBednarek48@Gmail.com](mailto:DFBednarek48@Gmail.com).

## **SACRED HEART ICON**

The schedule for the Sacred Heart Icon is located on the [state website](#). I cannot express the need for every council to check the schedule and review when they will get the icon, which council they will be receiving it from, and which council they will be passing it on to. Then, at least a month before you are scheduled to receive it, contact the council that you are receiving it from and that you will be passing it on to to start setting up the transfer arrangements. Please also review the [Supreme website](#) and the program and discuss it with your pastor to prepare for the icon. Note each council gets it for an entire week to make scheduling easier with your parish, while also allowing you multiple services, especially if your council is servicing more than one parish.

Each icon should have a log book attached on the inside of the carrying box. Fill out the log book. If you have had the icon and did not fill one out, email me with the number of services your council had and their approximate attendance. If you have an icon without a log book, please get back to me ASAP as the log book is the main tracking data Supreme is using to determine which jurisdictions are having the best results with the icons. This last July I had to get a report to Supreme and only had two of the 6 log books returned to me and I had to estimate the others for my report. The log books are important.

## **RSVP**

With school starting for seminarians this is the time they need our Financial Support the most. Supreme will help you with a refund of \$100 per seminarian you support with \$500 or more. Supreme is also making the RSVP program the only Faith feature program that earns the council two credits. Remember: Seminarians are the priests of tomorrow and without priests it becomes harder for our church to evangelize and support our parishes.

## **SPIRITUAL REFLECTION**

Make the most of this Jubilee Year by encouraging your councils to plan a retreat or day of reflection with their chaplains at least once over this next Fraternal Year. The reflection or retreat can be hosted by a council (or groups in councils) in the area. Don't be afraid to make pilgrimages to nearby basilicas, monasteries, or convents. Encourage them to include Mass within the spiritual reflection as well as confession, eucharistic adoration, the rosary, or any other sacramental and liturgical activities. Resources for Spiritual Reflection can be found [here](#).

*Vivat Jesus!*

# Calling All Sinners

Joshua Hopper

**A COMMON LAMENT HEARD IN OUR CULTURE** is that of the overbearing IRS agent. These great forces are after our hard-earned money and they are relentless in their pursuits. There is no escape! This draws an unsettling parallel to the tax collectors of Jesus' time.

The tax collectors were despised because not only did those in Jesus' time hate giving money to the foreigners who ruled over them, but many were dishonest and took more money than they needed to pay the Roman Empire. Zacchaeus, for example, openly confessed this sin to Jesus. For this reason, tax collectors were largely seen as traitors and treated as such.

Making matters worse was the fact that the tax collectors of the time were fellow Jews, who were enlisted to collect taxes on behalf of the Roman Empire on imports, exports, income, and property. Essentially, they became social and religious outcasts.

Yes Jesus held no aversions to these people. Tax collectors were forbidden from entering the synagogues, but they

were welcomed by Jesus. St. Matthew was originally a tax collector, but Jesus called him to be one of his disciples. Of course, the Pharisees condemned Jesus for such actions. They voiced their displeasure and contempt for such practices, to which Jesus replied, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Mt. 9:12-13).

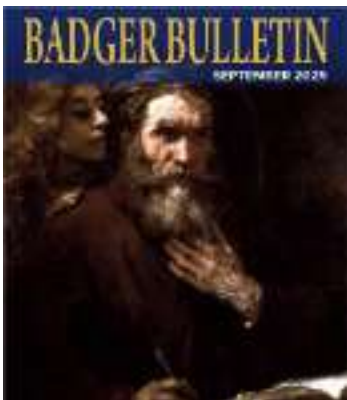
We hear Jesus expel similar sentiments throughout the bible, that everyone are to follow Jesus to the Kingdom of Heaven, *especially* sinners like you and me. It is amazing to think that despite our wrongdoings and our failures, God continually calls us to Him. We elect to follow or ignore this call. I welcome you all this month to continue to reflect on what God has called you to do and how you can follow Him more closely. When Jesus says, "Follow me," (Mt. 9:9), we need to be ready to respond, "Yes, Lord."

*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! Late submissions will be excluded from future publications.



## ON THE COVER: ST. MATTHEW

Before St. Matthew became one of Jesus' twelve apostles and one of the four evangelists, he was a tax collector, despised by the Pharisees. Three of the four gospels tell how Jesus met Matthew. They stated that Jesus approached Matthew in his tax office and said: "Follow me" (Matthew 9:9-13). While not much is known about St. Matthew, his contributions to the Catholic faith through his gospels are clearly significant. We celebrate the feast of St. Matthew on September 21.

**In service to One.**

**In service to all.**

