



**Missouri State Council Knights of Columbus**  
**Officer Candidate Biographies**  
**2021-2022 Fraternal Year Elections**

**Mike Grudzinski**  
**Candidate for State Deputy**

Mike was born and raised in a small town in central Nebraska, attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, spend 7 years in Iowa, but has spent the last 28 years in Missouri. Mike joined the Knights of Columbus in 1988 while he lived in Iowa but became active within Council #1339 in Maryville as soon as he moved to Missouri.



Mike has held the council positions of Chancellor, Treasurer, Deputy Grand Knight, Financial Secretary and Grand Knight. In 2002, Mike began working on the State Council by serving 4 years as DD followed by 4 years as a Chairman. He then spent 8 years as a Director: Church Director, Community Director, State Program Director and State Membership Director. In 2018 he was elected to be the State Secretary and was re-elected to a 2nd term in 2019. At the 2020 State Convention he was elected as State Deputy.

Mike has been active in the 4th Degree as well joining St. Joseph Assembly #569 in 1996. He later served as the Charter Faithful Navigator of the St. Benedict Assembly #3287 which was formed in 2011. From 2010-2019 he served as the Audio-Visual specialist for both the Eastern and Western Missouri 4th Degree Exemplification teams.

Mike has worked at Northwest Missouri State University since 1993, having various titles and job responsibilities as technology evolved: "Coordinator for Satellite Video," "Videoconferencing Coordinator," "Distance Learning Manager," and now "Video and Web Conferencing Specialist."

Mike is active at St. Gregory Barbarigo Parish in Maryville serving as an Usher, Sacristan, Lector and Eucharistic Minister. He also served two 3-year terms on the Board of Regents for Conception Seminary College.

Mike has been married to his high school sweetheart Michelle for 37 years. They have 2 sons and a daughter-in-law, but no grandchildren, yet.

**Paul O'Brien**  
**Candidate for State Advocate**

Paul joined Father Harter Council in Joplin in 2007. He was asked to be Grand Knight the following year and served for four years. In 2012 he was honored to accept the Missouri State and Supreme Service Awards on behalf of Council 979.



In 2016 he was appointed District Deputy #13 by PSD Joe Rosenthal and then reappointed in 2018 by PSD Bob Hawkins. In 2018 he was Knighted in the 4th degree. Paul was elected State Advocate at the 2020 virtual Missouri State Convention. Paul recently transferred to Council 9190 in Carthage Missouri.

In other activities, Paul has served on the Board of Directors for Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri for four years. Paul is long-time adult leader in the Boy Scouts of America. Paul currently resides in Carthage, Missouri with his wife, Carolyn and two children.



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**Mike Tesmer  
Candidate for State Treasurer**

Mike is married to his wife Kathy for 44 years and has three daughters and 7 grandchildren. Mike graduated from the Ohio Institute of Technology in Columbus Ohio with an Electronics Degree and shortly after joined the Xerox Corporation as a Customer Service Engineer. Mike has been with Xerox for 42 years and is currently a Systems Analyst for the Professional Services Consultant Group supporting Missouri, Kansas and parts of Arkansas.



Mike is currently a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Harrisonville and he and his wife have been active in the parish with many duties such as Eucharistic Ministers, School of Religion teachers and Parish Council. Currently they are the pre-marriage preparation couple.

In the KC/St. Joseph Diocese, Mike and his wife have been active in Worldwide Marriage Encounter for over 31 years and currently members of the Presenting Team along with the Financial Couple and Supply Couple. They have served two terms in leadership representing the Diocese. In June, Mike will join the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities for the Diocese as a representative of the Knights of Columbus.

Mike joined the Knights of Columbus in his hometown of Upper Sandusky Ohio in 1976 and obtained his 1st, 2nd and 3rd degrees there. When Mike and his wife relocated to Harrisonville for his job, he joined Fr. Puetz Council #6550. Mike has held many officer positions such as Recorder, Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Grand Knight. In Mike's second year as Grand Knight, the Council obtained Double Star status. Mike joined the 4th degree as a member of the Holden Assembly #1778 and served as Faithful Navigator. He is now a member of the Joseph Gerke Assembly #3080 in Harrisonville and serves in the honor guard. After serving as Grand Knight, Mike was selected to the position of District Deputy #9 by then SD Appelbaum. Mike served two years as District Deputy and achieved Outstanding District Deputy both years and also Star District his second year. SD Grill appointed Mike to the then new position of Diocesan Chairman as liaison to the KC/St. Joseph Diocese. Mike was then appointed State Church Director by SD Milson, State Council Director by SD Rosenthal, State Life Director by SD Hawkins and currently State Religious Information Bureau by SD Grudzinski.

**Lou Holtmann  
Candidate for State Columbian Charities Delegate At Large**

Lou is a Charter member of Council 12323 St Catherine Laboure St. Louis where he has held the positions of Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, Chancellor, Inside and Outside Guard. He was appointed District Deputy 51 and 16. Lou served as the Meet Life Program State Chairman for the first 5 years of the program's existence. He has served as the Special Olympics program Chairman for the past 5 years. Lou chaired the State Council Essay contest for 1 year.

Lou is a member of St Louis Assembly 565 and has been active in the Honor Guard over the past 20 Years. He has served as Greater St Louis Chapter President.

Lou and his wife Mary have 8 children, 19 Grandchildren and 17 Great Grandchildren

Lou is a Retired Air Freight Industry Executive. He is Founder and past Director of Citizens For Safe Median non profit. He is Co-Director of Faith Based Voters Club St. Louis. He was awarded the Special Olympics Volunteer of the Year 2019. He was honored as one of 19 St Louis Catholic Men of the Year in 2020 by the Archdiocese of St Louis. Lou has proudly represented the Missouri



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State Council to the Midwest March for Life for the past 12 years and has represented the State Council to the St Louis Archdiocesan Pro-Life Convention for the past 10 years.

**Chris Teel  
Candidate for State Warden**

Chris and his wife Linda were both born in the Kansas City area and remain residents in the Northland. They were married in 1986 and were blessed with two wonderful children. Their son Christopher, a Knight of Columbus, and his wife Shannan have two sons named Henry and Jameson. Their daughter Nicole, a currently Ladies Auxiliary President, is married to Dylan Rodes. Both families also live in the Kansas City area.



Chris is very active at Holy Family Parish in Kansas City. He participates in ministries for the parish as an Usher, Lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and Sacristan. He also worked with the young adults preparing for Confirmation.

Chris is a Charter Member of Holy Family Council #14266, that began in 2007. He is also a member of Monsignor Maurice F. Wogan Assembly #2315 in Kansas City. At Holy Family Council he has held the offices of Financial Secretary, Advocate, Inside Guard, Outside Guard and Trustee. In 2012 State Deputy Brad Grill appointed Chris as District Deputy #5 and held this position for two years. He remained District Deputy #5 under State Deputy Keith Milson for the next two years. He received three Outstanding District Deputy Awards during this period. In 2015 he assisted with Chartering Twelve Apostles Council #16189, in Platte City.

In 2016 State Deputy Joe Rosenthal appointed Chris and Linda as the State Ladies Auxiliary Chair-couple where they served for two years.

In 2018 State Deputy Bob Hawkins appointed Chris as Community Director where he served for two years. During this time as Community Director the Drive for Persons with Developmental Disabilities had a two-year donation total of \$1,280,019.50.

In 2020 State Deputy Mike Grudzinski appointed Chris as Faith Director where he has served a one-year term.