



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Wisconsin



KC STATE NEWSLETTER

"PUT OUT INTO THE DEEP"

MARCH 2024



St. Katharine Drexel Parish
Kaukauna Council #1033
Kaukauna, WI



Brothers, Spring is always a busy time of year. In addition to working and taking care of our families, we have Lent, Easter, spring cleaning, sports, yardwork, and planting. Councils have Fish Fries, Pancake Breakfasts, Holy Hours, Charity Raffle Ticket Sales, ID Drives, and Council Elections. And then, Councils are asked to invite more men to join, schedule Fraternal Benefit Events, and complete more paperwork. It all can seem very overwhelming.

Your State Officer team is busy preparing for the State Convention, visiting Councils, helping Councils to Achieve Star Council recognition, helping Councils to solve problems, preparing reports for the Convention Book, preparing and reviewing Resolutions, and preparing a Budget for the upcoming Fraternal year. Again, this is all in addition to our Parish, family, and work obligations. Again, this can seem very overwhelming at times.

I hear people ask why Knights of Columbus do all of this. Why would I want to be a Knight of Columbus when I already have so much on my plate with a job, home, and family?

The answer is really quite simple. We see the needs in our Parishes and Communities, and we choose to step up to make a difference. We choose to profess our faith through our actions in the great lay ministry of the Knights of Columbus. We choose to live our lives in Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism

because our Families, Parishes, and Communities are in need of our Leadership and Service.

There will be days when you are exhausted and need a break. That is OK. Take a brief break, but then, get back to the mission of serving others. That is what we do as Knights. I keep a picture of Mother Theresa by my desk for those days when I am feeling tired, and then I remember how Mother never gave up. She kept going every day, serving others as best she could.

I am also reminded of the Gospel Reading:

After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. Luke 5:4-6

What would have happened if Simon would have simply said he was tired and done fishing for the day? What if he had said "Let someone else do it, I have done my part"? What if Simon had simply decided that he had too many other things on his plate to go out and try again?

As Knights of Columbus, we are challenged every day to Put Out into the Deep. We need to be fully committed to evangelize and spread the good news through our lives of Prayer and Service.

Looking at some preliminary numbers, the Knights of Columbus in Wisconsin are stepping up and serving others. Wisconsin ranks #3 in the Order for ASAP Donations. Wisconsin ranks #5 in the Order for RSVP donations. In 2023, Councils in Wisconsin donated over 5 million dollars and 800,000 hours of service. As great as these numbers are, when we look around our parishes and communities, we can see that there are many more people in need of our help. We need to invite other men and their families to join us in this effort.

Where would the church be today if the 12 men in the upper room had kept their faith to themselves and not shared it far and wide? We cannot allow our Councils to continue to hide in the upper room with a small group of 6-10 guys. We need to spread the good news and invite others to join us. Only in this way will we truly follow in the Mission that Fr McGivney gave us in 1882.

This is our time to make a difference. It is time for each of us to Put Out into the Deep.

*Vivat Jesus!
Viva Christo Rey!*

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Each month in our 2024 newsletter will feature one of our council's churches throughout Wisconsin. If you would like your council's church featured in future issues of the newsletter, please send me your parish's name, city, council #, and a high-quality image. Submissions may be sent to jjhoppermusic@gmail.com.

On the cover...

St. Katharine Drexel Parish
Kaukauna Council #1033
Kaukauna, WI



DEAR BROTHER KNIGHTS: May the passion and death of our Savior, Jesus Christ, lead you into the glory of His resurrection. The Lord showed his disciples how to live and how to die. With the coming of Holy Week, each Christian has to ask, "am I willing to be a disciple of Jesus to the very end?"

Even St. Peter himself was not yet ready. Though he wanted to die for Jesus, Peter did not have the grace to do this. He did not have the spirit to even risk the mockery of a slave girl outside of the high priest's house. Jesus had told him, "the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak."

In contrast, the Lord Jesus possessed the Holy Spirit so perfectly that his flesh and blood became the salvation of the whole world. Jesus Christ knew that the salvation carried out in His Body was perfect. He merited every grace for our weakness. So the Lord gave us the Eucharist. This is the perfect feast to remedy the needs of our

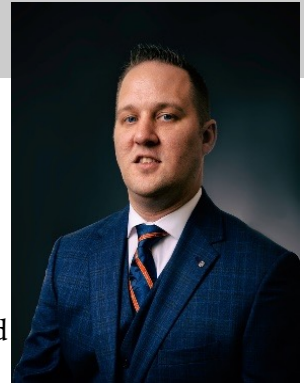
broken body and neglected spirit. After the Last Supper, Jesus rejoiced and praised the Father. Now is the hour for the Son of Man to be glorified!

Peter would one day find strength to glorify God in his body, even dying a martyr's death. Peter was now filled with the same Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit teaches us how to surrender ourselves freely for the glory of God. You are not alone when you fight against sin. Jesus helps you with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Ask Jesus this Lent to show you how you can surrender yourself to God's will in your life. How can you sacrifice your own pursuits for the life of Jesus Christ? Jesus died for you. He wants to live in you, through the Eucharistic gift of himself and the loving gift of the Holy Spirit.

Vivat Jesus!





BROTHER KNIGHTS, WITH one-third of the year remaining, I want to you ask yourselves where you are with tracking towards your goals?

In many aspects of life, we are judged on 'quarters.' Whether it be in sporting events such as professional basketball and football—to in business where you have quarterly goals and performance and financial reports—it is good to reflect on where we are year to date and if your council is 'tracking' towards your goals.

As a State—our goal is to achieve the highest honor from the Supreme Knight, which is to achieve the 'Circle of Honor' goal for membership. For the past two years, the state of Wisconsin has achieved this distinguished goal because of the work and efforts of all of our councils.

To date this year, we are behind schedule—but we have 4 months to go to catch up.

As a state, we need approximately 125 members each month these next four months to reach our goal for a third consecutive year—which to what we all recall has never been accomplished in Wisconsin history.

500 new members is what we need these four months—which is about what we have brought in over the first seven months of the year. A huge mountain to climb—but not too different from what we overcame in 2021-2022 Fraternal Year to achieve COH that year and rank in the top 25 of the order in percent to goal!

What I am asking of each council is simply the following:

- ▶ Host two Exemplifications for your Council between now and June 30th.
- ▶ Conduct at least one Recruitment Event/Drive between now and June 1st (to allow for you to do an exemplification before June 30th).
- ▶ Reach out to your Parish Office and priest this upcoming week to 'ask' for the contact information for the RCIA Candidates and send each a personalized invite and 'congratulations' to them on joining the Church

Taking this a step further—I would love for each council to do a 'celebration' event—something small, such as coffee and donuts, etc.

or appetizers and drinks after a weekend Mass to 'welcome' the newest members to the Church and invite all Parish Members to attend as well—as they can also 'welcome' and get to meet these newest members. By 'engaging' and 'welcoming' these individuals as well as actively supporting the 'growth' and 'engagement' of your Parish members—I'm sure that your council will come across at least a few interested new members!!

If COVID taught us anything as a State—it's the fact that we sometimes need to 'think outside the box' with new ways to invite and engage. As a result, we have found new programs and opportunities to evangelize all our Catholic men as well as our Catholic youth! We need to not stop though with this mindset—we need to continue to move 'forward' as our State motto would suggest to allow us to continue to flourish as a State Council.

Vivat Jesus!





BISHOPS, PRIEST, & Deacons, state families and membership, my brothers and sisters in Christ, greetings and blessings from the Nowak Agency.

I would like to share a short story. After hearing a Homily this week of Lent, I wanted to share the passage from Matthew 25:31-46. You all know the story- when did we see him hungry, thirsty or in jail? Then Father said something that I thought was profound and that I had not heard. He said that there are two kinds of Hate, Animosity and Apathy. I guess I want to expound on this thought with you for a couple of paragraphs if you will let me. First, I had to think about this in the matter of truth. Is there truth in the statement: "There are only two kinds of hate?" If you Google it, it says there are four kinds (I don't agree). Then if you look at your own likes and dislikes, that is not the same as hate is it? So, it is back to truth. It seems to me that it is true. Most people would not expect animosity to be the word most associated with Hate or Apathy for that matter.

So, Jesus Christ's deepest teaching on what Heaven is like, discuss the separating of the goats and sheep, is based on how they treated those who were in need. It is also going to happen based on how we were or weren't indifferent to those around us. This topic is not to make us feel bad or point fingers in any one direction but is to be a topic of discussion at your council level and maybe your small group level. Let me start with what I thought: Is my apathy really hate or something more or less? Then I move to Jesus's discussion - when I was thirsty, when I was naked, when I was hungry - I could have done more than I had done in all these areas. Okay, then I need to create a plan to not have as much apathy in my life.

Let me start again, animosity, by definition is a strong feeling of dislike or hatred or hostility and resentment. For example, I use Webster and absolutely hate Wikipedia—I'm almost even hostile toward them! The discussion should not surprise us. That we don't like some things or persons or behaviors is a lot like a house divided that Past Supreme Knight Carl Anderson wrote about. I would say voting for None of the above sounds about right. However back to us, for a minute. I have been at council meetings when discussing to have a fund raiser for someone's needs, a member asked "is he even a Knight?" That, my friends, is not a good question. I was with a family who had a child with cancer. As we talked, she had lived 5 years longer than expected, and was still fighting hard. I asked her dad when did he become a Knight? His name was John. He looked me right in the eye and said, "the day we went to the church for the spaghetti dinner that the Knights put on for us. I will never forget when we arrived the line went all the way around the church and weaved inside and out. I wasn't even a very good Catholic at the time" he said, "but Man was I a believer in the Knights of Columbus doing charity for my baby girl. I am a little better Catholic today but I am a Knight so I can do the same for the next family, no matter the need and no matter the race, religion or nationality. Yes, I am a Knight for life" he told me, and gave me a hug as I left his home that day. Our councils have to know we are needed today just as much or maybe even more than 30 years ago, one generation. We need more to see Jesus in all of those in need and do something - a lot of somethings- because at the end of the gospel reading it says "and these will go off to eternal punishment, but the

righteous to eternal life". I don't know much about goats and sheep but I don't know about good works and what we are capable of doing. So let's commit this Lent to be driven by Charity in 2024.

Vivat Jesus!





Badger Bulletin Submission Guidelines

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◆ Newsworthy ◆ Board Appeal ◆ Concise ◆ Complete ◆ Factual ◆ Accurate

Answers the Questions: Who, What, When, Where, Why, How

Badger Bulletin reports on local and state council activities throughout the entire State of Wisconsin

- Pictures need to be sent separately **as an attachment** in their original form. Please do not format or edit them in any way. In addition, please provide clearly labeled captions for each picture.
- Article size: 300 words ideal to 600 words max (half-full page)
- Articles need to be submitted a Word document attachment
- PDF submissions are for ads or promotions - not articles
- Articles need to be brief, highly relevant, and actionable.
- At a minimum, Who, What, When and Where needs to be in the first paragraph.
- Articles need to be brief, to-the-point and of interest to the entire State Council
 - What is the event/activity about?
 - Whom did it benefit?
 - What was the result?
 - Who are the key players/Knights?
- Similar story submissions will be consolidated/batched into one article by the Editors.
- Photos and articles should be submitted in a timely manner to be considered for publication.
- Proof your article carefully for spelling and grammar before sending (use spellcheck).
- Document filename should reflect the Council/Assembly Number/office/title, i.e. *Cover Story Submission_Council2055_MsgrBlecha*.
- Every Dioceses needs to participate – minimum of one page of the Badger Bulletin will be dedicated to each Diocese respectively.
- If a Diocese does not submit content their page will be eliminated from that issue.
- Cover story submissions need to be submitted ahead of the deadline due to special photo editing.
- Cover story photos – in portrait style at least 1mb in size - not formatted or resized.
- **All articles and photos should be sent to pr@wikofc.com by the first of the month**

UPDATED



A MOST CORDIAL invitation is extended to every third-degree member of our order to advance to the Fourth Degree in the Knights of Columbus.

The Fourth Degree is very proud of its many accomplishments since its founding in 1900. The ceremonials of the Fourth Degree were orchestrated on the theme of Patriotism and Catholic Citizenship and remain so today.

Patriotism is the principle of this prestigious degree. Its ceremonials are orchestrated to exemplify our love of our country and church. The Fourth Degree's primary purpose is to encourage active Catholic citizenship and foster the spirit of patriotism in its members and the community.

To qualify, a candidate must be a Third-Degree member of the Knights of Columbus in good standing.

The **Eastern Wisconsin District Exemplification** will be May 11, 2024, at Divine Mercy Catholic School, 695 College Ave, South Milwaukee. **Honoree is Fr. Alejandro (Alex) Rodriguez.**

The **Western Wisconsin District Exemplification** will be May 18, 2024, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 151 S. Washington Ave. New Richmond. **Honoree is Sir Knight James Michaelson.**

Contact your Grand Knight, Faithful Navigator or District Master for more information and registration forms.

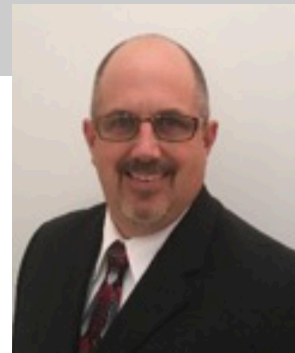
Please support Honor Flights by making donations to support a veteran or by being in attendance to greet them when their flight returns from Washington D.C. or by writing letters to be given to the veterans at Mail Call on the flight. Here is the current schedule of flights for the spring of 2024:

- ▶ [Appleton/Green Bay](#)
April 17, 2024
- ▶ [La Crosse](#)
- ▶ [Madison](#)
April 6, 2024
May 11, 2024
June 1, 2024
- ▶ [Milwaukee](#): Knights contact SK [Dale Kordylas](#) Area 2
Coordinator for lower level access (Star and Stripes Honor Flights only)
C: (414) 308-9880
April 20, 2024
May 18, 2024
June 15, 2024
- ▶ [Mosinee](#)
April 22, 2024
May 20, 2024
- ▶ [Superior](#)

Come Join the Fourth Degree. Sir Knight is not just a title. It's an Honor.

Vivat Jesus!





Wisconsin Faith in Action

SPRING IS RIGHT around the corner. This should be one of our busiest times of year. Councils should be looking for way to help their Parishes and Communities. They should be first in line to help Father during the season. Spring is a great time to plan programs that are inviting to young Couples and their families.

It is important for councils to have a well thought out plan during this busy time. Having a plan helps ensure that parishes are fully supported. Your plan should include the five W's of who, what, where, when and why. Councils should review tentative plans with Father to ensure their efforts it supports his priorities.

Ask the following questions when thinking about your Spring programs plans:

- ▶ Does your council have programs already planned?
- ▶ Have leaders meet with Father regarding his priorities?
- ▶ How will your council support the men, women & children of your parish?
- ▶ Will members of your council be visible in your parish?

It is important that plans include everyone in parish, men, women, and children of all ages. Additionally, programs should be planned that support families. Below are some FIA programs that councils may consider during the season.

Faith:

- ▶ Spiritual Reflection*
- ▶ Holy Hour*
- ▶ Family:
- ▶ Easter Egg Hunt
- ▶ Good Friday Family Promotion
- ▶ Community:
- ▶ Habitat for Humanity*
- ▶ Helping Hands
- ▶ Life:
- ▶ Pregnancy Center Support* / ASAP
- ▶ Christian Refugee Relief
- ▶ *Featured Program

When planning your programs be sure to invite everyone in the council to participate. Reach out to Brothers that are no longer active in council activities. Let them know the council is alive, well and that they are missed. Additionally, invite men who are not yet brothers to help. Let them get to know the Knights of Columbus and the good things your council does for the parish.

Vivat Jesus!



Knights of Columbus®



THE BLESSED MICHAEL J. MCGIVNEY GUILD

Are you a member?

The Blessed Michael J. McGivney Guild serves as a source for information about the life, works and spirituality of Father McGivney. The Guild distributes informational materials about him, receives reports of favors granted through his intercession and oversees the distribution of relics. Guild members receive regular updates on the progress of Blessed Michael J. McGivney's cause for canonization and are invited to participate in promoting devotion to this Servant of God. As of July 1, 2024 Wisconsin has only 1,264 out of 179,000 plus members registered in the Guild. Members of the Knights of Columbus are not automatically Guild members and must elect to join the Guild. The Blessed Michael J. McGivney Guild Newsletter is published bimonthly except July - August and is sent free to Guild members.

Scan the QR Code above to register today! **It's FREE!**



Brothers, Last month I encouraged you all to become a STAR Council and to make sure your Council was in good standing. Please remember, each Council must file an IRS Form 990 for the 2023 tax year. As a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code, compliance is essential for maintaining your tax exempt status.

Filing Requirements:

- ▶ Councils with gross receipts under \$50,000 and assets less than \$200,000: File Form 990-N (e-Postcard).
- ▶ Gross receipts between \$50,000 and \$200,000, with assets under \$500,000: File Form 990-EZ.
- ▶ Gross receipts \$200,000 or more, with assets \$500,000 or more: File Form 990.

Electronic Filing: All filings must be electronic through the IRS online system (E-Services). New users need to register or sign in with LOGIN.GOV or ID.me.

Deadline and Extensions: File by the 15th day of the fifth month after your accounting period. Extensions are available for Forms 990-EZ and 990 using Form 8868.

Penalties: Late filings may incur penalties of \$20 per day, up to \$11,000 or five percent of gross receipts.

Where to File:

- ▶ Form 990-N (e-Postcard): File online.
- ▶ Forms 990-EZ and 990: File online with instructions on the IRS website.

For issues with Form 990-N, contact the Knights of Columbus Legal Department or IRS customer service if unable to e-file.

Resources: Utilize IRS resources and consult the Compliance Guide for Tax Exempt Organizations for guidance on maintaining tax-exempt status.

Please ensure timely compliance to avoid penalties and maintain your tax-exempt status.

If you are unable to e-file, please contact the legal department at Supreme by [email](#). It is important to remember that each Council and Assembly fall under the Supreme tax ID and they can usually help get you answers.

You can always call me with questions too.

Vivat Jesus!





WORTHY BROTHERS, AS your State Advocate, I want to wish all of you a Happy St Patrick's Day. May neighbours respect you, trouble neglect you, the angels protect you, and Heaven accept you.

RAFFLE TICKETS

Please keep in contact with your members and keep selling the raffle tickets. Just a reminder from Supreme:

GUIDELINES FOR RAFFLES

Federal law prohibits depositing, sending, or delivering raffle tickets by United States mail. The law is designed to protect the integrity of raffles and other gambling activities, and to guard against illegal gambling schemes that may be carried out through the mail. Many states have similar laws. **It is legally permissible to advertise raffles or send out promotional information by mail,** but the raffle tickets should be delivered in person. Ideally, raffle tickets should be distributed to members during a council meeting or related council event.

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

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

I know I repeat this, but it is extremely important that we all strive to get the training done! It is to protect the CHILDREN and each of you can help. It is important

that you continue to review your council's status regarding who has completed the Safe Environment training.

Who needs to complete the training? Grand Knight, Program Director, Family Director and Community Director. The Family Director and Community Director will also complete the background check. This is a second email from Praesidium Academy.

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

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

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

OFFICE OF YOUTH PROTECTION

203.752.4458 (p)

855.845.3502 (fax)

oyp@kofc.org

Please CC me at jfroh@wikofc.com. They will track the issue down and resend the email to complete the training and if needed another email for background check on FD and CD. If I can be of any help with Safe Environment or if you have procedural questions, please reach out to me.

Vivat Jesus!



**FINANCIAL SECRETARIES,****GRAND** Knights, District Deputies, Brother Knights All:**As you review my article:**

- ▶ We are **eight months** into the Fraternal Year.
- ▶ Supreme's Fraternal Year E-member Target Goal for Wisconsin is **423 new E-members**.
- ▶ **As of Feb 18th, We have assigned a total of 257 new E-members, and we should be at 282 to be on target.**
- ▶ **257 puts us 25 men short of our YTD Goal through January. In January, we were 32 men short, so we improved by seven men.**

As you are doing your programs & church drives, be sure to include the E-membership online invitation app. in your invitation process to potential members. Bottom line = 215 new members have already utilized the online process.

IT WORKS!

Supreme has been working on fixing some bugs in the Member Management / Member Billing modules of Officers online which unexpectedly kicks us out of the

website. Supreme planned a shutdown early Tuesday morning Jan 23rd. to remedy these issues, so hopefully by the time you read this article, everything will be back up and running. We appreciate your patience during this time when you are attempting to complete your e-membership transfers and new year membership billings, etc.

WGK & WFS please **frequently review** your council's **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.

Remember:

- ▶ The **PROSPECT** tab shows you e-members that have joined your council online via the Supreme app. and the date field is used when they have completed their exemplification.
- ▶ 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.

Again, 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.

Do not send Form 100's to Supreme for new members, keep them for your councils records.

Any questions or concerns, contact me, I am in your State Directory.

Together, Let's get it done!
Vivat Jesus

Pat Reiff is the State Online Membership Chariman and Milwaukee Archdiocese Officer's Online Trainer.

“Faith is something that sustains us.”

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





Officers Online Access

Members in a role permitted access to Officers Online will be emailed an invitation code once the Supreme Council receives the appropriate form from the state council, local council, or assembly indicating the election or appointment, and records this information. If you do not receive an invitation code within a reasonable time, click "Account Assistant" on the sign in page and follow the instructions.

If you previously held a role with access to Officers Online, you do not need a new invitation code. Your access will automatically be reactivated once the appropriate form is submitted.

If you do not remember your log on credentials, click "Account Assistant" or "Password Reset" on the sign in page and follow the instructions. If additional assistance is required contact our Customer Service Department at 800-380-9995, option 2 and provide your membership number and role.

Applications by Roles	Role Description										
	Officers Online	Officers Desk Reference	Office of Youth Protection	Home Corporations	Member Management	Member Billing	By Laws Online	Knights Gear	Supplies Online	Prospect Tab	Candidate Tab
Jurisdiction/ State											
State Deputy	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	
State Secretary	X	X	X	X				X	X		
State Treasurer	X	X	X	X				X	X		
State Advocate	X	X	X	X				X	X		
State Warden	X	X	X	X				X	X		
Immediate Past State Deputy	X	X	X	X				X	X		
Executive Secretary	X	X	X	X				X	X		
State Membership Director	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	
State Program Director	X	X	X	X				X	X		
State Round Table Chairman	X		X	X				X	X		
Council Reactivation Chairman	X		X	X				X	X		
Council Retention Chairman	X		X	X				X	X		
Member Retention Chairman	X		X	X				X	X		
Insurance Promo Chairman	X		X	X				X	X		
NCD Chairman	X		X	X				X	X		
Ceremonial Chairman	X		X	X				X	X		
Hispanic Council Growth Coord.	X		X	X				X	X		
Online Membership Chairman	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	
Additional Membership Roles	X		X	X				X	X		
Online Membership Coordinator	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	
State Trainer	X		X	X	X	X		X	X		
4th Degree / Provincial											
Vice Supreme Master	X	X	X	X				X	X		
District Master	X	X	X	X				X	X		
District											
District Deputy	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	
Council											
Grand Knight	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Financial Secretary	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Advocate	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		
Deputy Grand Knight	X	X	X	X				X	X		
Treasurer	X	X	X	X				X	X		
Membership Director	X	X	X	X				X	X		
Assembly											
Faithful Navigator	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
Faithful Comptroller	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Faithful Admiral	X		X	X			X	X	X		
Faithful Pilot	X		X	X			X	X	X		
Faithful Purser	X	X	X	X				X	X		

LAST MONTH I was fortunate that our council was able to host a Valentine's dinner banquet with 45 couples from our parish. The affair had decorated tables, buffet-style catered broasted chicken, drinks, and in a separate room, childcare provided by a group of confirmation students and their sponsors. After dinner, several young parents approached me with thanks for allowing them to have dinner with their friends, while knowing their kids were in good hands. Selfishly, I was a strong proponent of the event because I had wanted that exact experience, but I was surprised that so many others had the same feelings!



This summer, I intend to suggest a second

similar event, maybe a luncheon, with the hope that these families will attend again, and grow in faith and community together. As council leaders, I challenge you to do the same. While our kids are certainly a part of our families, we also need to remember the sacrament of Marriage! A strong marriage builds stronger families; in the next few months consider planning an event to help your married members grow stronger together.



FAMILY OF THE YEAR

Thank you for all the nominations of wonderful families for the Knights of Columbus Family of the Year award. I am going through the phases of evaluation now, and I look forward to announcing the winners at the 2024 Wisconsin Knights of Columbus State Convention.

GOOD FRIDAY FAMILY PROMOTION

As we approach the middle of the Lenten season, we need to continue to prepare our families for the resurrection of Christ. One way I am steering my family through Lent is by asking them regularly how their sacrifices (candy and video game time) compare to Christ's sacrifice for us; and how their behavior compares to Christ's. Looking forward to the end of Lent, we will also be participating, as a family, in all the events of the Easter Triduum beginning March 28. I encourage you to appoint a chairperson to plan, promote, and participate in the Good Friday celebration specifically, with your council's families. Details for running the program can be found on the supreme website, on form #10611.

FAMILY FULLY ALIVE

After Easter and the onset of summer, there exists an opportunity to bring families together to grow in community and holiness. The Family Fully Alive program gives councils monthly themes, scripture verses, and activities for families to participate in as a group. Please review guide sheet #10605 and booklet #10162 for details on how this program can work.

SUPREME FAMILY OF THE MONTH

The December Supreme family of the month is the **Ted Meixensperger** family from the **Fr. Mathias Zervas Fond du Lac Council #664** in **District 6** of the **Milwaukee Archdiocese**. Congratulations!

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!**

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

The Wisconsin Knights of Columbus have agreed to cater breakfast for all their statewide events. There are five events (Fall Games, Bowling, Winter Games, Spring Games, Summer Games). Special Olympics of Wisconsin (SOWI) will pay for the food. We save them money by cooking and serving the food. We look forward to seeing your council at one of their statewide events! **WE NEED YOUR HELP** in this excellent and worthy pro-life endeavor!

April—Spring—Winter Special Olympics

OSHKOSH! You are on deck for the next statewide Wisconsin Special Olympics event, coming up on **April 12-14, 2024!** To volunteer for this event, please reach out to [John Benisch](#) and/or [James Vosters](#)—we are looking for about 30 volunteers for this event.

ASAP Grants

See our current standings below. Keep up the good work!

Hopefully the month of February left your council's checking account **empty** after giving away all your money to pregnancy centers in your area! For every \$500 (up to \$2,000) you gave to a maternity home or pregnancy center, Supreme Council will give that non-profit entity another \$100! But, you have to [apply for it!](#) Always best to apply online! I am hearing stories of **money left on the table** with applications that either got emailed or worse yet, **mailed** to Supreme Council. Don't do that! Give me the information and I will apply for you online and your PRC will get those funds matched!

MARCH FOR LIFE WISCONSIN

Mark your calendars: Saturday, June 15, 2024, will be the location of a March for Life, taking place in Madison at the State Street steps of the Wisconsin Capitol Building. Time to be announced!

Vivat Jesus!



January 2024 Jurisdictional ASAP Rankings – Top 10

Council Applications		
Rank	Jurisdiction	Amount
1	Pennsylvania	64
2	Michigan	60
3	Wisconsin	56
4	Ohio	51
5	Texas	49
6	New Jersey	48
7	Florida	43
8	Iowa	39
9	Minnesota	38
10	Illinois	31

Council Donations		
Rank	Jurisdiction	Amount
1	Pennsylvania	\$131,401
2	Michigan	\$105,635
3	Wisconsin	\$95,310
4	New Jersey	\$90,782
5	Florida	\$86,162
6	Texas	\$89,652
7	Ohio	\$70,865
8	Iowa	\$58,366
9	California	\$55,136
10	Minnesota	\$48,616

TEAM WISCONSIN 2026

DRIVE: I am pleased to report that we have received \$83,153.97 as of Feb 20, 2024. Thank you! Hopefully we can reach \$200,000.00 before the 2026 convention. *What a challenge!*

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

There are many opportunities coming up in the next few months. See list below. If your Council is in the area, please volunteer. If you cannot help, stop in at event and cheer on the athletes.

We are asking for more **member participation** with Special Olympics at events. Supreme looks at involvement, more than money donated to award the Supreme grant each year. I list events on this article months prior in order to give Councils and members sufficient time to plan ahead. Click on the

"Become a Volunteer" image below to sign up for an event.

Thank you to the councils that filed online **Form #10784** by Jan 31st. Councils should report after **each** and **every time** they make a contribution to or volunteer to a drive or a local agency or do a project. Report Man Hours and Members involved as well as money. Only 67 Councils filed this Form last year. Very disappointing.

Please remember Special Olympics monies can come from a fundraiser, council donation, charity account or any other ideas.

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

Vivat Jesus!



BECOME A
VOL♥
UNTEER



Special Olympics
Wisconsin

Volunteers are needed at all events.

Click on above image, go to Wisconsin Special Olympics web page, or phone Nicole Christensen, 608-442-5670

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
March 3, 2024	Team Basketball & Skills Comp.	Neenah
March 16, 2024	Team Basketball Competition	New Berlin
March 17, 2024	Team Basketball Competition	Stevens Point
March 23, 2024	Swim Competition	Neenah
March 23, 2024	Swim Competition	Oconomowoc
April 12-14, 2024	State Spring Games	Oshkosh
May 4, 2024	Region 2 Athletics	Merril
May 4, 2024	Region 6 Athletics	Oregon
May 4, 2024	Region 8 Athletics	Muskego
May 11, 2024	Region 7 Athletics	Burlington
May 18, 2024	Region 3 Athletics	Chippewa Falls
May 18, 2024	Region 4/5 Athletics & Cornhole	Green Bay
June 6-8, 2024	Summer Games	Whitewater
Sep 6-8, 2024	State Fall Games	Wisconsin Dells

Only a couple months before the drawing of \$50,000

Do you know someone who has had a home fire recently? If you notify the state office with their contact information, a check can be sent to the family (up to \$300) that same day. No questions asked, no judgement, don't have to be a Knight, don't even have to be Catholic. This money can be used for the immediate needs of the family.

These funds are available to Wisconsin fire victims due to proceeds from the State Charity raffle. Let's get these funds to families in need.

It is not too early to send in the Council Charity Grant Fund Request Forms. Please send them to the State office. Council chairmen, please turn in tickets to your diocese chairman monthly.

Diocese Coordinators

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“Buy Raffle Tickets!”

FORMS #10784 ARE the measuring tool of Supreme of how programs are performing. I review the data every month from the Supreme report I'm glad to report that our number For the Silver Rose look a lot better than what they were just a few months ago. Currently there were 26 Silver Rose reports turned in to Supreme compared to the numbers I received from Supreme in November claiming only 8 councils reported having a service. We had 89% of the Councils that were scheduled host the Silver Rose send in a #10784 Thank You.

On the other end of the spectrum since July roughly 175 councils should have had the St. Joseph Icon available to them for having a service, yet only 26 form #10784's were filed with Supreme as of February 1st. Now the question arises are only 15% of the Councils having services with the St. Joseph ICON? Are the district Deputies making sure all their Councils have an opportunity to have a service with the ICON? Is my route planning that difficult that are numbers are this low? Please if you have any suggestions how this program can be improved send me a note so the next rotation starting July 1st will be able to run more smoothly.



NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

The National Eucharistic Procession will begin in Wisconsin when Bishops Barron of Winona-Rochester and Callahan of La Crosse meet

on the West Bank of the Mississippi River by the Mameron Street Bridge on Friday, June 7, 2024. The Pilgrimage will travel through La Crosse Diocese, Green Bay Diocese, and the Milwaukee Archdiocese on its way to the Eucharistic Congress on July 17th to the 21st at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis Indiana. Councils are strongly encouraged to support this event and I will be publishing the route when it becomes finalized through Wisconsin so they can contact the Parishes participating on how they can be of assistance. For more information on the congress, [see their web page.](#)

YOUCAT BIBLES

Sacramental Gifts program is continuing to distribute the YouCat Bibles. To date we have distributed over 500 Bibles, have orders for nearly 100 more, and have over 900 still available for ordering. They can be ordered from the State store on the States Website as well as by sending a check to the State office you do not have a council debit or credit card. Bibles cost \$12.50 each and are distributed through PSD Corey Coonen in the Green Bay Diocese, ST Ross Larson in the La Crosse Diocese, the State Office for the Madison Diocese, Dennis Bednarek for the Milwaukee Diocese, and SS Miles Casey for the Superior Diocese. Additional Bibles will be distributed at the State Convention.



SILVER ROSE

The Silver Rose is coming up this July again in Wisconsin. I have opened up requests from the councils to host the Silver Rose since we completed the pilgrimage through Wisconsin last August. In order to assure that I can get a schedule finalized by Convention that is workable with everyone I will be closing requests on March 15th. At that point, I'll start mapping out the 2024 route through Wisconsin. Remember first priority will go to Councils requesting it that have not had it last year. But if you had it last year it does not mean you cannot get it this year so please send in a request if you want to have the Silver Rose for a service in your parish this year.

Vivat Jesus!



BROTHERS, MARCH SHOULD be a month loaded with activities for your Councils. In addition to being the ¾ point of the '23-'24 Fraternal Year, your 4 Program Service Award entries (including your best Community program entry) should have been turned into State Program Director Ernie Reinhart, State Office, or me by March 1. Your History Books should've been into your DD by February 15.

Meanwhile, the Citizenship Essay Contest wrapped up with the announcement of the State winners and forwarding of the 1st place entries on to New Haven for International competition. Winners at the 8th, 9th, 11th and 12th grade levels are posted on the State website (no 10th grade entries were received from the entire state). These will also be displayed at the State Convention April 26-28 at the Dells. Hopefully, they may help attract more Councils to promote entry into the contest for October-November of '24.

I have also been receiving quite a few inquiries and reports from Councils who have or will soon be holding local or District Free Throw and/or Knowledge Contests. Things seem to be going smoothly leading up to the Diocesan Contests this month and the State Knowledge and Free Throw Contests on April 13 at Assumption high School in Wisconsin Rapids.

With so many Councils operating or assisting with Fish Frys, pancake

breakfasts, etc. during Lent, now is the time to be planning what to do with the money raised in the process. Why not plan to use that money for helping with a Habitat for Humanity project in your area, perhaps with a work crew from your Council or parish as well? Or why not use it (perhaps with other Councils) help in the District to purchase wheelchairs that can be used by those in need in Ukraine or the Middle East? Or why not use that money and your Council brothers, family, parishioners to team up to resolve some of those desperately needed "clean up, paint up, fix up" projects in the church, school, rectory, parish office or center; maybe shut in or disabled parishioners' homes. That's a great way to put that Helping Hands project(s) on your list of programs for your SP-7.

March marks the end of "winter" and start of spring, so stores will be ridding themselves of their winter coats and related items. So, it's a great time to obtain these at big savings for your Coats Drive next fall or winter. This can allow you to donate even more when you team up with State or Supreme to be part of the Matching Grant program later in the year.

February brought us the first tornadoes recorded here in Wisconsin, something no one expected! But then we usually don't expect disasters. So, here in March, it's a great time, as tornado season

develops, to help review, revise, develop the disaster response plans for your parish, community, District for how you'd respond should such an event strike your area.

March is also a great time to run a Hockey Skills Contest in your area, an indoor Soccer Challenge, or start plans for a Soccer Challenge in April or May in your area or District. Check the State and Supreme websites for needed information. Your DPC and I can help you as needed.

Remember that your Culture of Life Essay Contest local entries are due to you by March 15. Winners are due to your DPC by March 31. Hopefully we'll see a lot of good entries.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the State Convention at Chula Vista in April. We'll have examples of outstanding Community and other programs on display there as well as the twoov Essay Contest winners, the Christmas Poster winners, PPK, Knowledge and Free Throw winners, etc.

Hope you all have a great March.
Vivat Jesus!



Knights of Columbus®

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

ICON UPDATE

As the ICON continues I expect to see at least sixteen form 10784 each month being submitted. To date, I have twelve that were submitted in the last five months of 2023 and two for 2024. Please submit these forms, as Supreme is using these forms as a basis of their assessments on how well a program is doing. As the Fraternal year comes to an end, I will be creating a new schedule for 2024-2025 because Supreme will not be releasing a new icon until sometime after the 2024-2025 fraternal year.

Vivat Jesus!
SK Dennis Bednarek



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

