



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

# Wisconsin



KC STATE NEWSLETTER

"PUT OUT INTO THE DEEP"

MAY 2024



**St. Luke Catholic Church**  
Boyceville Council #17021  
Boyceville, WI



**BROTHERS, THANK YOU** to everyone that took time to attend the 123<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wisconsin State Council Knights of Columbus Convention. Please make sure to take a few minutes to complete the survey that was sent to those registered to attend the State Convention. I would like to especially recognize Rick Raulin who coordinated our Host Councils and the Districts who supplied volunteers to keep things running smoothly. Another thank you goes to Honor Guard Commander Dennis Rose and Western District Marshal Jacob Grzywacz for coordinating the Honor Guard and Color Guard for the weekend.

Congratulations to the newly elected team of State Officers – State Deputy (Elect) Pat Reiff, State Secretary (Elect) Ross Larson, State Treasurer (Elect) Ernie Reinhart, State Advocate (Elect) Dr. David Kreutz, and State Warden (Elect) James Vosters. Congratulations also to our Elected Supreme Delegates – David Dechant, Ernie Reinhart, Jon Olson, Dr. Jim Froh, Victor Johnson, Rich Mich, Al Brooks, Dr. David Kreutz.

In his address to the State Convention, the Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly challenged every Council to hold a Church Drive between the State Convention and June 30th. We have 300 Active Councils in Wisconsin. If every Council holds a church drive in the next two months, every Council could have 1-2 new members to help fill leadership positions and help with programs.

We are nearing the end of the Fraternal Year, so it is important that Councils complete requirements to receive their Awards recognitions. Here is a list of rewards that every council should be able to obtain this year:

**Columbian Award:** If you are running programs, submit Columbian Award Application SP-7

Submit your SP-7 now so you can make any necessary corrections if the form gets rejected. 5% of the Councils in Wisconsin have already qualified, and we expect this number to climb quickly. There is no reason that 75% of the Councils in Wisconsin should not qualify if they apply.

**Founders Award:** Councils need to promote at least 2 Fraternal Benefit Events. At least 14 total members or those eligible for membership (10 if the Council has 99 or fewer members) must attend a Fraternal Benefit Event (either in person or virtual) to qualify for this award. The GK submits form 11077 for each event to get credit for Council Members attending. The State Council has Virtual Fraternal Benefit Events scheduled on May 29 and June 26. The Supreme Council has Virtual Fraternal Benefit Events scheduled for May 22 and June 18. The Supreme Council has an on-demand Virtual Fraternal Benefit Night available, and our General Agent and Field Agents are happy to schedule in Person events. So far, 10% of Councils in Wisconsin have met the requirements this year. There is no reason that 75% of Councils should not qualify for this award.

When we started the Fraternal Year, we set a goal of at least 1 Star Council in every District, or 20% of our Councils receiving the prestigious Star Council Award. This Award is still in the reach of every Council in the State. Councils must meet the requirements for the McGivney, Founders, and Columbian Awards, as well as submit Form 1728, 365, be Safe Environment Compliant, and in Good Standing (Per Capita and Audits are up to date). So far five Councils (2% have met the requirements this year.) This award is still in reach for any Council that truly wants to earn it.

Councils will be holding their Officer Elections over the next few weeks.

This is a great opportunity to involve new people in leading your Council. Every Council needs a full team of Officers and Directors. Ideally, 30-40% of the Council members should be helping to lead something, rather than the same 4-6 guys doing everything. Men need to be invited to lead. Now is the time to make that happen. Results of Council Elections are reported to Supreme via Member Management or using form 185. Council Director appointments are also reported to Supreme via Member Management using form 365.

As we announced at the State Convention, Administrative Manager Steve Geishirt is retiring at the end of June. Applications for the AM position are now being accepted. Interested individuals should submit a resume and cover letter to the State Office as soon as possible, as we intend to start interviews in the next week. Contact Steve at (608) 274-5750 with any questions.

The Knights of Columbus in Wisconsin are having a great year. We are seeing significant growth in programs, donations, and volunteer hours. We need to grow our membership to allow us to continue to grow in service to our Parishes and Communities. Working together we can make this happen. Now is our Time to make a Difference. It is time to put out into the deep!

*Vivat Jesus!*

*Viva Christo Rey!*



**TODAY, I WOULD** like to reflect with you on the meaning of the words, “First in Faith and Charity”. Last year’s Supreme Convention in Florida focused on that aspirational goal of our order. As a motto, there are few other phrases which could better sum up our values. These words can serve as a mission statement in themselves. Let us encourage each other with these words, making them an inspiration daily. First in faith and charity is not just a motto for Knights of Columbus as an organization. This motto is a handy summary for how each of you must be as Christian men.

First in faith! This part of the motto reminds a Christian man to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ. A Roman Catholic is and strives always to be a man who believes in Jesus Christ. When the Jewish people asked Jesus, “what are the works of God that we may carry them out?” The Lord replied, “This is the work of God, that you should believe in Him whom He has sent.” In the Knights, we have the opportunity to show our love for God and neighbor in the charitable works we do. We are grateful and amazed at the goodness that God has given to the Knights. In these good works, we must never lose

sight of the priority of our faith. Believe in the One, Jesus Christ, sent by the Father for salvation.

Faith in Jesus Christ brings life to light. In Jesus Christ, we were made. “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.” - Colossians 1:15-16

Reflect of those words. Jesus alone has the keys to every heart. Jesus knows what makes for you to be fully alive. Faith and obedience go together. Remember the words of the Father on the mountain of Transfiguration: “This is my Beloved Son.” Listen to Him. Faith is more than just the knowledge of what is true for a Catholic. Faith is also in the living commitment of lives to our savior. There can be no real faith without obedience. God is invisible. We hear the Word, accepting the truth in the obedience of faith and of prayer. Another word that I like to use for this kind of faith is trust. By obedience to God, we are showing our trust that the Father, God, has everything in His mighty hands. He is working all things for the good of those who love him. As we trust

God more, he then trusts each of us with more of his work, and even more of his life and presence. The Holy Spirit transforms disciples of Jesus with a greater share of God’s gifts and His wisdom. Ultimately the goal for us as men is to become like the Father, giving a faithful image of God’s love to the people who need our leadership. They need your fatherhood and your knighthood. The people of God don’t want to go around the men who are our fathers. They want to go with you and through you to God the Father.

Let first in faith be a reminder to elevate your life into the supernatural. “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and all these things will be added to you besides”, Jesus said. In the motto, “First in Faith and Charity”, faith must come first. Faith is the necessary pathway to supernatural charity. All your virtue, your talents, and your honor as a man must be rooted in your faith. Faith in Jesus Christ must become as natural as breath. Without your faith, all of this is for nothing. Faith is the only true key to our identity.

*Vivat Jesus!*

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Each month in our 2024 newsletter for 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](mailto:jjhoppermusic@gmail.com).

*On the cover...*

St. Luke Catholic Church  
Boyceville Council #17021  
Boyceville, WI





**TO THOSE THAT** were not fortunate enough to attend this past month's State Convention, you missed out on a great opportunity to hear a powerful message from Supreme Knight, Patrick Kelly. The charge given to each council throughout the entire Order was to conduct at least one church drive between now and June 30th. The intention is clear: We are on a path as an order to continue our record growth! As a State Council, we have just over 300 councils in our State that could conduct a Church Drive and follow it up with an exemplification ceremony shortly thereafter to bring in interested new prospects into members.

If able to do this and follow through on the charge set forth by Supreme

Knight Kelly, we will have over 300 additional new members brought into Wisconsin this year. Doing so would:

- ▶ Allow us to bring in more new Knights into our State this year than the prior year.
- ▶ Have the State council achieve its Circle of Honor Membership Goal for the 3rd consecutive year
- ▶ Ensure that every council in our State is membership active by bringing in at least 1 new member this year

Further, by closing the year on a strong note for your council and by bringing in new members, you set up your council for success for this upcoming fraternal year as well!

Finish strong, start strong. This is something that our overall State council has struggled to do for as far as I can recall in my over 10 years as a District Deputy and my time as State Officer, State Deputy, and Membership Director.

We have a path in front of us to change this course. We control our destiny. It is up to each of us to do our part. One is better than none— one church drive, one new member, one state council. But it all can't be done by just one person—but with the over 30,000 members in the our state council we all will be successful!

*Vivat Jesus!*





**BISHOPS, PRIEST, DEACONS,** State Families and Membership, my brothers and sisters in Christ, greetings and blessings from the Nowak Agency.

Colossians 3:17 reads: “And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him ...”

As we come out of being at the State Convention where we celebrated, the good that was done within our Councils and through the State in every Diocese, we should give thanks to God the Father through the Lord Jesus. And with this in mind we can return to the Mission in each council, striving to all things both word and deed be done in Him and through him.

We see so much effort toward building valuable relationships with one another, and that is the true gift we have to offer to any gentlemen in any place in Wisconsin, and the upper peninsula of Michigan. We

know what matters most, and we need to share that vision with those that are not among us yet. That true authentic relationships await them in each council. That in these days when most cannot find what they are looking for we have already found it. It is a love of the Lord and love of Brotherhood, within our Order. So now that we know this who are we going to tell? Well, we heard we should tell the Men first, then their wives, and with our Priest and Bishop’s help through parish life, we can double are efforts to grow Wisconsin, and by doing so build up the church. With more members we will serve more fully the needs and bridge those gaps. Helping our Parishes & Catholic Schools grow stronger with our support.

I encourage each of you to start a journal, write down the five things that happen today that were good. Then write down the name of the Man you will ask to join our ranks.

Then pray for Him that he might say yes to that invite.

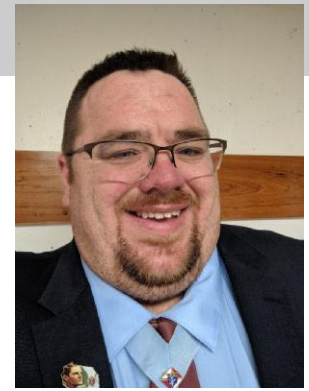
We can grow with your efforts, and you example of fortitude, ask him and ask your wife to ask his wife. Stay true to our mission, helping men become Knights.

In the Month of Mary, I encourage you to say the rosary, take flowers to a Marian statue and ask for our Lady’s help she is the Patroness of the Knights. I would like to thank all who attend the 123<sup>rd</sup> State convention, it was good to see you and celebrate the past years’ efforts. I look forward to working with all of you to make sure we meet or exceed the expectations of membership in 2024-2025 Fraternal year.

*Vivat Jesus!*







**BROTHER KNIGHTS,** I want to open this message congratulating the new State Officers on the Team! The order will be in good hands this next fraternal year!

Secondly, I would like to congratulate the Medalion Winners for the 2023-2024 Fraternal Year!

They are:

- ▶ Green Bay Diocese:  
William Hitt
- ▶ La Crosse Diocese:  
Gary Hughes
- ▶ Madison Diocese:  
Michael Plear
- ▶ Milwaukee Archdiocese:  
Robert Bauman
- ▶ Superior Diocese:  
Alan Lingen
- ▶ At Large:  
Rich Mich

**Thank you for all your hard work and dedication! Congratulations!**

Next, there are a few things that need attention in the next coming days/weeks.

**Fraternal Benefit Night** reporting: Make sure that your council files form 11077 after attending a Fraternal Benefit Event.

This is necessary to receive credit from Supreme for your council and part of the STAR Council Award. Please do so immediately after your council participates in a Fraternal Benefit Night!

Be sure that your council files an **SP-7** for your activities and programs you ran over the past year. When accepted by Supreme, it qualifies you for the Columbian award, and is necessary to qualify for STAR Council.

Also, **Penny a Knight a Day**, and **Culture of Life** donations are now due to the State Office.

Council elections should be happening now! Make sure that you are filing your 185 and 365 forms following your council elections, noting they are for the 2024-2025 fraternal year.

The **Eucharistic Pilgrimage** is coming through Wisconsin! Please make sure that your councils are preparing properly! Information will be on the State Website, or your Diocesan Website.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of you for allowing me to serve as a State Officer for the past 5 years.

Due to personal reasons and some health concerns, my wife and I made the decision not to run for State Deputy. It was a very hard decision, as I love the Knights and all we stand for, but in the end, I did decide not to run. Blessed Michael McGivney always held Faith and Family paramount, and that is why I made this decision.

This is not Goodbye; this is I will see you around. I will be taking back District 22 in the La Crosse Diocese, as well as helping THE SUPERIOR Diocese in growth and programming.

From my wife Carrie and I, we cannot thank you enough for the well wishes, support, and hospitality you have given us over the years. Thank you!

*Vivat Jesus!*

## UPCOMING TRAINING SESSIONS

Supreme Offers a great newsletter every month to Council Leaders. It is called the Fraternal Leader Advisory (FLA). It offers great articles for leaders of your council and District, reminders, and highlights successful programs as well as upcoming program dates and reminders. Lastly, it offers dates for upcoming online training sessions, like below! Register for upcoming online sessions by clicking on the links below or you can watch on demand after the live session. On demand training can be found at [kofc.org/training](http://kofc.org/training).

May 14, 2024 7:00 PM.....	<a href="#">Options for Entering Forms 185 &amp; 365</a>
May 21, 2024 7:00 PM.....	<a href="#">Grand Knight Basics: Part One</a>
June 5, 2024, 9:00 PM.....	<a href="#">Transitioning Between Fraternal Years</a>
June 17, 2024, 7:00 PM .....	<a href="#">District Deputy Basics: Part One</a>
June 25, 2024, 7:00 PM .....	<a href="#">Financial Officer Training</a>
June 27, 2024, 7:00 PM .....	<a href="#">Grand Knight Basics: Part Two</a>

To sign up for the Fraternal Leaders Advisory (FLA), follow this [link](#).



# Badger Bulletin Survey Results

**WE WOULD LIKE** to remind you that our BB Survey is still open for responses. If you have already replied, we appreciate your input. If you haven't, please consider taking a few minutes to do so. The survey will remain open for a few more weeks. [Please click this link for the survey.](#)

After receiving approximately 68 responses, we have summarized the feedback and gathered some interesting remarks to help improve the Badger Bulletin in the future. Please find below a summary of the survey results for the Badger Bulletin sent by the State Council:

- ▶ The survey was conducted using a small sample size.
- ▶ 32% of respondents showed high interest in receiving the Badger Bulletin, while 53% indicated medium interest.
- ▶ When asked how often they read newsletters, 67% responded "Sometimes," while 25% said "Every day."
- ▶ On a scale of 1-5, 38% of respondents rated the importance of the regular Badger Bulletin as 4 (high importance), and 31.3% rated it as 5 (high importance). These results are consistent with the level of interest shown in the first question.
- ▶ The majority of respondents (41%) rated the layout as 5 (very satisfied) on a scale of one to five.
- ▶ 43% of respondents rated the photos as 4 (moderately satisfied), while 40.3% rated them as 5 (very satisfied).
- ▶ Overall, the survey results indicate that the majority of respondents are satisfied with the content of the Badger Bulletin.

Here are a few comments when asked how we can make the Badger Bulletin better:

- ▶ It was concerning that several respondents reported never or rarely receiving the BB. The state officers should address this issue by examining how the BB is promoted and distributed.
- ▶ Another recommendation is to create links to Council newsletters, websites, and social media pages on the BB. This would make the BB a go-to place for all State Councils to showcase and advertise their efforts. This is an interesting concept that requires further evaluation and discussion.

While it's nice to see other councils promoting their accomplishments, an Idea Sharing section could be even more valuable. The aim would be to provide details on how these successes were achieved. I fully agree and will investigate this further. These are just a few of the many comments and recommendations we have received. Thank you for submitting them, and we look forward to hearing more. Please continue to submit your photos, articles, and ideas to [pr@wikofc.com](mailto:pr@wikofc.com)."

*Vivat Jesus!*



## Knights of Columbus®



*The following is from KofC.org:*

**THEY ARE THE** Knights on Main Street, the men you probably envision when someone says Knights of Columbus to you. They're present in their distinct regalia at civic and Church events, acting as honor guards and color corps, or standing in respect at the funerals of members or during adoration of the Eucharist.

But there is more to being a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus than a uniform. They are the men who have chosen to embrace the Order's fourth principle of patriotism, the men who lead the efforts to reach out to veterans and active military and to embody the fact that one can be a faithful Catholic and also be a faithful citizen.

When the Knights of Columbus was founded in 1882, three principles united its members: charity, unity and fraternity. At that time people feared that members of the Catholic faith owed their entire

allegiance to the Church and could not be trusted as citizens of their country. Patriotism was added to the Order's principles in 1900, based on the idea that Knights are loyal to both God and country.

Members who wish to live out patriotism together can join "the Fourth Degree." Members of this degree have the special honor of holding the title "Sir Knight," participating in color and honor guards and organizing programs that promote Catholic citizenship. They also become part of a Fourth Degree Assembly in their area. There are more than 3,500 Fourth Degree assemblies around the world.

"It is important, particularly in this day and age, that our Fourth Degree Assemblies encourage active Catholic citizenship and foster the spirit of patriotism in our members and the community at large," Supreme Master Dennis Stoddard said.

The Serving Those Who Served program is a major initiative of the

Fourth Degree supporting Veterans Affairs facilities. The Knights of Columbus has representatives at almost every Veterans Affairs medical clinic in the United States, where they recruit and manage K of C volunteers in developing activities and programs that aid patients' most essential needs.

The Fourth Degree has also supported priests, in particular those who go on to serve as military chaplains. Through a special scholarship program, the Knights helped fund the education of seminarians preparing to become Catholic chaplains in the U.S. Armed Forces.

"The fourth principle 'Patriotism,' commits our members to the preservation of our Church, our Order and to the many nations where Knights serve.

*Vivat Jesus!*







**WORTHY BROTHERS, WHERE** did the year go? It is already May and we have only a couple of weeks here to get your Safe Environment Compliant completed.

I hope all of you enjoyed the State Convention as much as my wife and I did. Thank you to all of you who came up and talked with us.

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT**

Supreme is working with us and allowing us to make sure the 185 and 365 forms are current. If you put new names in this month of May they will work with you to get the training completed. If no new names are in then Supreme in June will not process anyone else. 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: (best is via email).

**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!*

**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!**



**Knights of  
Columbus®**





**FINANCIAL SECRETARIES, GRAND** Knights, District Deputies, Brother Knights All, as you review my State Newsletter article, please note the following:

- ▶ We are **10 months** into the Fraternal Year. **Time is running out.**
- ▶ Supreme's Fraternal Year End E-member Target Goal for Wisconsin is **423** new E-members.
- ▶ As of April 22nd, We have assigned a total of **338** new E-members, and we should be at **352** to be on target.
- ▶ Our Online activity of **338** only puts us **14** men short of our April YTD Goal.
- ▶ We need to bring in **85** more e-members before the end of June, or an average of **43** p/mo. during May & June.
- ▶ 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 = 338 new members have already utilized the online process. **IT WORKS!**

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.

A final note:

By the time you read this May newsletter, our State Convention will be behind us and as previously noted in last month's April newsletter, the election for the new slate of state officers for the next fraternal year will also be concluded. If elected as your next State Deputy, I will need someone to replace me as Online Membership Chairman.

- ▶ This is a key role in the State and if you have a possible interest in this position, let me know, and I can provide you with further information regarding the requirements of the position of the Online Membership Chairman.
- ▶ The position does not require travel and can be done at your home via email with Officers Online accessibility.

Together, Let's get it done!

*Vivat Jesus*  
Patrick Reiff

**“ Faith is something that sustains us.**

Learn how you can make a difference [Kofc.org/Ukraine](http://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
<b>Jurisdiction/ State</b>											
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		
<b>4th Degree / Provincial</b>											
Vice Supreme Master	X	X	X	X				X	X		
District Master	X	X	X	X				X	X		
<b>District</b>											
District Deputy	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	
<b>Council</b>											
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		
<b>Assembly</b>											
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		





**BROTHERS, IT HAS** been a pleasure to serve as your State Family Program Coordinator for the last 10 months. While I will be around, I find myself needing to step back to balance the load of work between my family, and my recent election as the incoming State Warden (pg. 13). If building families are a passion of yours, please reach out to me and we can discuss the role and goals for the future.



**FAMILY FULLY ALIVE**

At the conclusion of Easter and onset of summer, 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 the guide sheet #10605, and the booklet #10162 for details on how this program can work.



**STATE FAMILY OF THE YEAR**

The 2023-2024 Family of the Year is the Kevin and Sarah Werner Family of the Monsignor Gehl Council 7895 in Hortonville in the Green Bay Diocese!

The Werner Family are members of Saints Peter and Paul in Hortonville, WI. Kevin and Sarah have been married for 27 years and have 5 children, Alysha, Joshua, Gabriel, Veronica, and Maria.

Kevin is a fourth degree knight and enrolled in the first degree over 19 years ago. He has held nearly every leadership role in his council, and currently serves as Financial Secretary. Kevin participates in nearly every council activity, in addition to coaching multiple sports, teaching RCIA classes, and attending adoration regularly.

Sarah sings and plays piano at Saints Peter and Paul for masses, funerals, weddings, and other events, and assists in other parishes as needed. In addition to her musical talents, Sarah is a member of the Worship committee, has co-run the Children's Christmas Choir, and coordinated Vida talks at school.

Together, Kevin and Sarah taught baptism classes at Sacred Heart, and host a family night for high school teens for Encounter in addition to other excellent programs and initiatives. Their children have taken their parents' lead and are just as active in their local parishes and communities.

Collectively, Alysha, Joshua, Gabriel, Veronica, and Maria have each demonstrated musical abilities in voice or instrument, served their parishes and communities in a variety of roles and events, participate in their faith life daily, and volunteer their time to better their communities and defend Life.

**The Wisconsin Knights of Columbus are proud to name the Kevin and Sarah Werner Family as the Wisconsin Family of the Year!**

**SUPREME FAMILY OF THE MONTH**

The March Supreme family of the month is the Paul Schueller family from the Bishop Salvator Schlaefel Council 11301 of Campbellsport in 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!*

**State Officers**

**State Chaplain**

Fr. Brian Dulli  
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frbriandulli@wikofc.com

**State Deputy**

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**State Secretary**

Miles A. Casey  
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**HAVE YOU HELPED** with a Special Olympics of Wisconsin (SOWI) 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 have boots on the ground for all Special Olympics of Wisconsin (SOWI) statewide events. If they need us to flip pancakes, that's what we will do! If they want us to man a table for sign-ups, that's what we will do! We are there to help with manpower! There are five events (Fall Games, Bowling, Winter Games, Spring Games, Summer Games). 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! The next SOWI statewide event is from **June 6-8: Wisconsin Special Olympics – Summer Games!**

**UW-Whitewater!** You are on deck for the next statewide Wisconsin Special Olympics event, coming up on June 6-8! To volunteer for this event, please reach out to [John Benisch](#) and/or [James Vosters](#) and be sure to [register](#) with Special Olympics of Wisconsin.

For every volunteer hour that is reported to Supreme Council through the 10784, Special Olympics of Wisconsin gets a certain dollar amount donated to them from Supreme Council. If you log in/volunteer for a Special Olympics' event through their volunteer portal, we can track your volunteer hours back to your council to be sure we are maximizing the amazing Fraternal Benefit through the Knights of Columbus.

#### **ASAP Grants**

Hopefully the month of April 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. Please don't do that! Give me the information and I will apply for you online and your PRC will get those funds in promptly!

If you'd like to see where each District stands with Form 10784 submissions, click here! As you look at the document, you'll see that the highest use of man hours is in the Community programs, with 55,414 hours volunteered, then the Life programs at 53,951 hours volunteered and so on. Keep up the great work! It all adds up!

#### **Culture of Life Grant Fund**

If you have a pro-life project or favorite pregnancy center that would like to apply for funds from the Culture of Life Grant fund, just click here for the application. (form is found on the State Council Website under "state forms" all the way on the bottom). Deadline is May 15, 2024.

#### **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.

#### **March for Life – Wisconsin**

Mark your calendars! Saturday, June 15, 2024 is the March for Life, Wisconsin, which will take place in Madison at the State Street steps of the Wisconsin Capitol Building @ 1:30pm!

*Vivat Jesus!*

## State Warden-Elect: James Vosters

Brothers, my name is James Vosters, and at the 2024 State Convention in the Wisconsin Dells, I was elected to be the new State Warden. I thank you for your faith in my abilities.

My introduction to the Knights was in high school, I was a chartering member of my parish Squires Circle. On graduation from high school, I joined the Knights in Council 1762 Hudson in early 2011. Shortly after, I made the 2nd and third degrees, followed by the 4th degree. While still in college, I led the formation of new Squires circles as the State Squires coordinator, and chartered council 15711 at UW-River Falls.

After an 18mo layover in Iowa, I returned to our great state and have been an active member of my local council, and within the Knights leadership ever since. I am currently the Grand Knight of my local council, the Diocesan Green Bay Programs Coordinator, and the State Family Director.

During my tenure on the State Council, I will be focused on streamlining our efforts and focusing our meetings creating time savings, ensuring that Family life continues to be the core focus, after faith, and that the State Council can deliver programs that meet the needs of each of the councils in our state.

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!*

**TEAM WISCONSIN 2026**

**DRIVE:** I am pleased to report that we have received \$99,710.44 as of May 3, 2024, Thank you! Hopefully, we can reach \$200,000.00 before the 2026 convention. **WHAT A CHALLENGE!** Keep up the good work.

**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. 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 to sign up for an event.

Thank You to the Councils that filed the on line Form #10784 by Jan 31st. Councils should report after each and **every time** you make a contribution to or volunteer to the 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 Fund Raiser, 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.



BECOME A  
VOLUNTEER



**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
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
<b>Honor Guard requested at Thursday opening ceremonies Over 200 volunteers will be needed for the games</b>		
Sep 6-8, 2024	State Fall Games	Wisconsin Dells
<b>We will be doing a breakfast and we need volunteers for that as well as at the games.</b>		



**HAPPY EASTER SEASON** to all, remember Jesus has Risen and is with us today. Welcome to what some of us call the crunch season in the Knights. This is the season that your Council is trying to find those last two members to make their Star Council numbers or trying to get that last program of the 16 required for the Columbian Award. The State Convention is over, and I would like to congratulate all the Councils that have earned awards. If you planned, there is no need for you to have to crunch now, but it is the time to plan your Council's goals for the 2024-25 fraternal season.

**The Pilgrim Icon program** is now in its last three legs of the 2023-24 rotation. So far, the 2022-23 rotation has been smooth, but repeated challenges began appearing in January. To my surprise, we will retain the St. Joseph Icon for the 2024-25 fraternal year. However, this rotation will be by Councils that are requesting the Icon rather than by the District. This change will mean there will be no gaps in the flow from Councils or Districts that pass on hosting the Icon this year. It will also allow each requesting Council to have the Icon for a full week allowing it to fit a service smoothly into the normal parish schedule. If a council is serving multiple Parishes it will allow me to give them more time with Icon to serve all their parishes. Finally, it will free up Councils and Districts that do not want the Icon from having to coordinate the transfer.

I worked on the **Silver Rose Schedule** for this summer and released the final version at the State Convention. I would also like to thank the Councils that had it in 2023, as from my last number over 80% of the hosting Councils filled out a Form #10784.

I'm publishing a partial Schedule here as the completed information was already emailed to the Hosting Councils. Please note that I am still

missing some of the names of parishes where the services will be held and the times of the services. When these are available please send me the information so neighboring councils can attend your services.

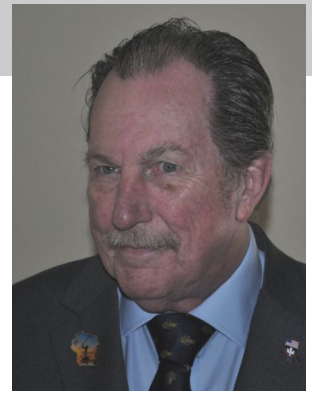
As you can see with a few exceptions the Councils selected this year have not had the Silver Rose last year. Therefore, I do expect to receive phone calls with many questions. My job is to be of service to you in any way I can so please do not hesitate to call me with your questions.

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage begins only a few days after you read this. The Marian Route that will progress through Wisconsin begins on May 17th at the Stanford Center in Bemidji Minnesota. The other routes are the St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Route beginning in New Haven Connecticut, the San Juan Diego Route beginning in Brownsville Texas, and the St. Junipero Serra Route beginning in San Francisco California. All the Routes will converge on July 17th at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis Indiana for the First National Eucharistic Congress in 83 Years.

As Knights and Catholics the Eucharist is an important part of our lives and our Faith. We must support the Eucharist which is the same Body of Christ that Jesus gave to His Apostles at the Last Supper. As the procession will travel through Wisconsin it creates a rare opportunity for us to show our love for Christ.

Here is the current schedule I have through Wisconsin. If there is a Parish that will host the Pilgrimage in your area please contact them as to how your council can be of assistance. Different parishes will have different needs, be it handout fliers, servers for refreshments, ushers to guide the visitors, food servers, or guards in the procession

to



just name a few. Simply ask the Parish leaders how your Council can help.

The Eucharistic Congress itself will meet from July 17th to 21st and is open to everyone. Review their [pages](#) as they have multiple speakers lined up and many opportunities for Reconciliation and Mass..



Yes, the Sacramental Gifts program is continuing with the YouCat Bible. So far this year we have delivered over 900 bibles. We have had

numerous comments on the Bibles indicating that individual catechists in the state have different preferences. Numerous strong comments on the Bible lead me to believe that no one version will be better accepted than another.

We still have several hundred Bibles left for our councils to share with their parishes. However please purchase one and show it to your religious education department for their comments before ordering a large quantity.

In the future months, I will be expanding the Sacramental Gifts program with the State. I see several options especially as I now receive several religious goods catalogs. I also believe that religious education should not end with Confirmation. Good Catholic publications should be available for anyone who desires to expand their understanding of Our Faith. *Vivat Jesus!*

So enjoyed seeing and talking with many of you at the recent State Convention! With 2 months left in the '23-'24 Fraternal Year, time to close things out with a bang. Be sure to complete those Habitat for Humanity and Helping Hands projects, Global Wheelchair fundraisers and spring Soccer Contests. Get those Disaster Preparedness plans, kits and supplies updated. As you do so, file those Form 10784s with Supreme and the State Forms address.

It's also not too early to start laying plans now for your fall Coats for Kids Drive, PPK and Citizen Essay programs, or fall Soccer or Hockey Skills Challenges. If you need help, be sure to contact your District Deputy, Diocesan Program Coordinator or me for assistance.

I'd also remind you to complete your SP-7 Columbian Award form and get it in now so it can be amended if necessary to ensure you

get full credit for all the great work you've done this Fraternal Year. Again, if you need assistance, contact those listed above for guidance.

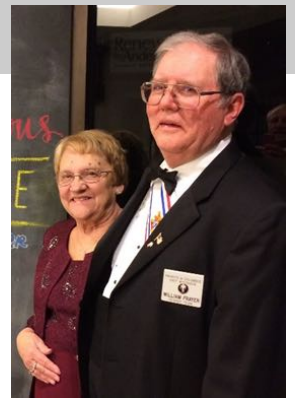
The State Free Throw and Knowledge Contests in April went very well with some 70 Math and Spelling contestants and 100+ Free Throw student-athletes participating from the 5 Diocese. Many thanks to the Councils, Districts and Diocese who held competitions leading up to that point, and especially to Duane Spiner, Ron Shymanski, Council 1538, District 33, Gary Wolf, Dave Sytkowski, et al. who helped to make it a success! Check the State website for results of the events.

The State winners of the annual Culture of Life Essay Contest have also been announced. While the winning essays were well done, the number of entries across the state has continued a precipitous drop

since COVID hit in 2020, especially at the high school level. We will do a complete review of the contest for FY 2024-25. Any ideas for reform or new topics are welcome.

In conclusion, if you or anyone you know feel strongly about one or more of the Community or Youth programs and would like to lead or help lead them in ;24-'25 and beyond, feel free to contact me via email, text, phone message or drop me a line and I'll get back to you with more information.

*Vivat Jesus!*



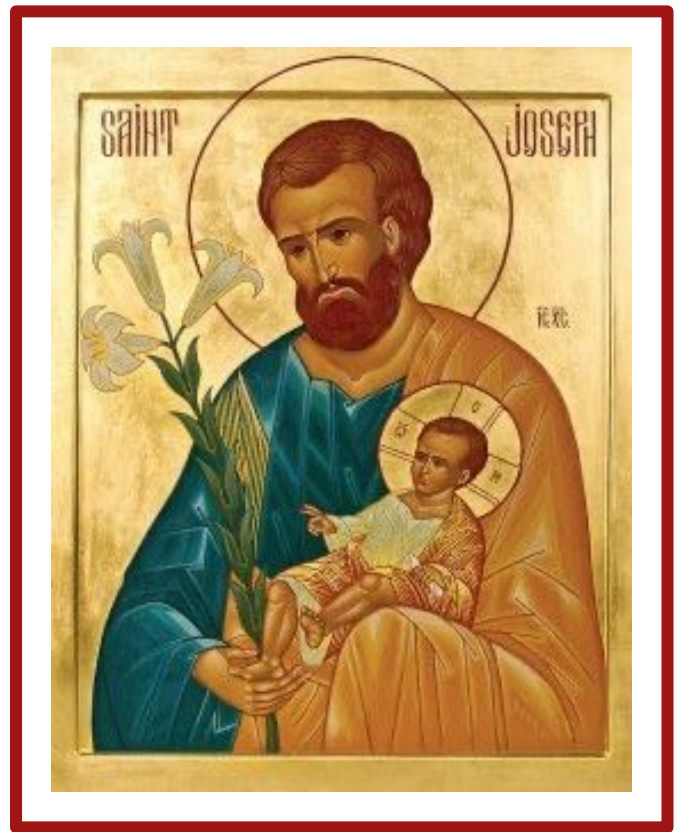


TRANSFER DATE	ICON 1	ICON 2	ICON 3	ICON 4
MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024	90	12	81	60
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024	89	9	82	61
FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024	STATE	71	87	66
SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2024	ALL ICONS RETURNED TO STATE OFFICE			

## 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



**Knights of  
Columbus®**



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

