



Wisconsin Knights of Columbus Notes

August 2019

[Wisconsin KC website](#)



Editors: Mike Tomsyck & Rob Christianson

Building a Culture of Accountability In Your Council



Last month I wrote about and provided some examples of "Half Measures" only to realize that taking half measures makes things worse than better. Another aspect of "Half Measure" is building a culture of accountability in your Council and your Parish.

Have you ever encountered someone in your Council who seems to be running on their own schedule? Puts off getting back to you, or simply drops the ball on tasks? It has been said that we can not control the behavior of others, what we can control is our reaction to it.

I read someplace that "Accountability and trust are critical elements of an effective team, organization, and relationship. And, being accountable and trustworthy are both extremely low-cost ways that we can position ourselves as capable professionals". As Knights, we are recognized by our values set by our founder the Venerable Father Michael McGivney. While we can only control our own behavior, we do have the ability to change the culture of our councils by consistently acting by our values. If nothing else, it always feels good to take the high road, when those around you let their standards slide. As Knights, shouldn't be held to a higher standard? I think we do, I know we do, as I have visited many of our councils and districts I can see and hear it. Let's make this year the best year for our jurisdiction by holding ourselves accountable to others, and we can truly lead our Parishes and grow our Order.

"An important job had to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that because it was **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thought that **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn't do it. It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done." – Author Unknown

Vivat Jesus
Jack V. Wrbanich
State Deputy

I'm the Guy" (Author Unknown)

I'm the guy who asked to join your organization.

I'm the guy who paid his dues to join.

I'm the guy who stood up in front of you and promised to be faithful and loyal.

I'm the guy who came to your meetings and no one paid attention to.

I tried several times to be friends, but they all had their own buddies to talk to and sit next to.

I sat down several times, but no one paid any attention to me.

I hoped very much that someone would have asked me to take part in a fund raising project or something, but no one saw my efforts when I volunteered.

I missed a few meetings after joining because I was sick and couldn't be there.

No one asked me at the next meeting where I had been.

I guess it didn't matter very much to others whether I was there or not.

The next meeting, I decided to stay home and watch TV.

The following meeting, I attended, but no one asked me where I was for the last meeting.

You might say I'm a good guy or a "good family man" who holds a responsible job and loves his community and country.

You know who else I am? THE GUY WHO NEVER CAME BACK.

It amuses me how the heads of organizations and the members discuss WHY the organization is losing members.

It amuses me to think that they spend so much time looking for NEW members when I was there all the time.

All they need to do was make me feel needed, wanted, and WELCOME!

State Advocates Report

Brothers All,

This submission this month will serve as two-fold.

First, as State Advocate, I want to address our pursuit of perfection as it pertains to the Safe Environment requirements for the needed officers and program chairs.

My goal this year is to improve upon the jobs done by our prior State Advocates in pursuit of trying to have all of our councils in the State compliant by the State Convention. To help do so, we have engaged the skills of one of our former District Deputies from Green Bay, Gary Janssen. Throughout the course of the year, you may be hearing from both Gary and me regarding your status as a council, both via email and phone.

We will embark on this pursuit of perfection via phone and email come August. In the meantime, please make sure that you have submitted your forms 185 and 365 to Supreme. As a reminder, this is how the assigned training is given and if not completed in a timely fashion, may require a new submission again.

We will work as a State Officer team to improve upon the communications throughout the year regarding council's status so that hopefully this is one less item for your council to stress about come June 2020!

As the State Officer in charge of the Green Bay Diocese for now the second consecutive

year, we are working on improving upon this past year. Continual pursuit of improving the processes in place to allow us to be more successful should be every council's goal, and this is what we are striving toward in the Diocese of Green Bay. One way that we are doing this is to conduct District Huddle meetings as a follow up from our scheduled District meetings earlier in the month. At these District Huddle meetings we are meeting with the various council officers in the District to coordinate the membership activities of all councils in the District for the Fraternal year. This will result in us scheduling over 150 First Degrees for the Fraternal year, as we are averaging well over 10 First Degrees per district as of this Submission.

Were you aware that on average, our intake is 2.5 members per First Degree conducted. Although math was never a strong suit of mine (pause for laughter), this should mean that the Green Bay Diocese will take in more than 300 new members this next year! This would result in over a 50% increase over this past year wherein we were second in the State with just over 200 new members.

So why am I telling you all this? Well, my hope is that all of you see how easy it is to try and achieve your goals if you are to plan appropriately. As the old adage goes, failure to plan, is a plan to fail. Through these efforts this year, our goal is to lead the way for the State with respect to membership and also set us on the path for net 1 membership!

Vivat Jesus,

Triple C



Faith in Action – Family of the Month

Hello Brother Knights! Thank you again for a **great** June! Below is a quick summary of our progress to date. All the details can be found in the Family Director Flocknote post <https://knightswisec.flocknote.com/FamilyDirector/note/4305964> . Check it out!

Supreme



Louisiana has taken the lead by submitting 36 FOMs and Wisconsin submitted 34. *Unfortunately, we could have had 40 if all the forms were sent to Supreme.* 49 of the 82 jurisdictions (60%) submitted 324 FOMs, down 5% from May. **Wisconsin submitted 10.5% of them!**

Here are the Supreme Families of the Month that will be receiving a nice certificate and letter.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Jeffery and Michelle Peters | Dennis and Jan Koranda |
| Robert and Barbara Dietsche | Tony and Janet Zblewski |

Diocese

Here are the Diocesan families of the month that will be receiving a certificate and letter from the state. Please click on the link above to download the PDF that contains the amazing story of each of these families!

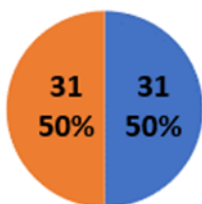
| | | | |
|------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Green Bay | Jeremy and Jenny Searl | La Crosse | Dennis and Jan Koranda |
| Madison | Edwin and Nancy Heflin | Milwaukee | Ronald and Joan Awe |
| Superior | Andy and Kelli Tuttle | | |

District

| Jun-19 | District Deputy | Diocese | Jun-19 | District Deputy | Diocese |
|--------|----------------------|-----------|--------|----------------------|-----------|
| 5 | 2 - Chris Mosconi | Green Bay | 5 | 2 - Chris Mosconi | Green Bay |
| 3 | 13 - Daniel Grillo | Green Bay | 3 | 13 - Daniel Grillo | Green Bay |
| 2 | 15 - Charles Grom | Green Bay | 2 | 15 - Charles Grom | Green Bay |
| 2 | 87 - Jeff Stellreckt | Superior | 2 | 87 - Jeff Stellreckt | Superior |

This month's District Deputy leader is **Chris Mosconi**. He is firing on all cylinders as **every one of his five councils** submitted a family this month! **Well done Chris!** Here are the other amazing District Deputies that have more than one Family of the Month in their District. Thank you, worthy District Deputies! Your leadership is greatly appreciated!

62 Total Districts



Our district participation **decreased** by 2 from last month to 31 putting us at 50.0% participation. Worthy Brothers. *Can we continue to find at least ONE family in the 12 parishes in each district that deserves to be honored for all they do for our parishes, community and councils? I believe we can!* Let's set our goal to having **55% district participation next month** with our eye on the goal of reaching **100% districts by the end of December 2019!**

We had **one** new council that submitted a Family of the Month. Welcome to the program!

Guadalupe Council 12468

We had 34 fantastic families submitted to the state! Every council should be striving to submit **at least one** family of the month before the end of 2019, so they can choose them as the council Family of the Year. The family can then be considered for the Diocesan family of the year, State family of the Year and International Family of the Year.

Please click on the link above and download the PDF containing the list of all these amazing families!

Closing

Through this awesome Family of the Month program, the Knights of Columbus has the privilege to bring joy to families for thanking them for all they do on behalf of everyone. The benefits are:

- The family is grateful for the recognition
- Everyone else is grateful to the Knights for stepping forward to honor the family
- The perception of the council increases for taking time to serve the parish in a very visible way

It is a win-win-win situation!

I am grateful that your councils are willing to take the time to choose a family, give them the recognition they deserve and submitting them for the Family of the Month.

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!

SK Joe Uchytel

Wisconsin Family Coordinator



State Programs

Brothers,

We are now in our 2nd year of the Supreme Faith in Action Initiative. If we look at our Supreme by-laws, they speak about Fr. McGivney's desire for a fraternal organization that would help its members to grow and stay strong in their faith; one that would protect members and their families in the event of loss if income from death or injury/illness, provide mutual support and activities for members and their families, help men to be better Catholics and better fathers, reach out to the community to those in need in charity and evangelization...

Yes, brothers, the dream of Fr. McGivney is precisely what our Honored Order is today and Faith in Action is simply the tool we can use well to advance that goal. The 32 programs encompassing Faith in Action are great ways for us to strengthen our faith and our families, be active/visible in the community in charitable outreach and promote the Culture of Life. These programs are meaningful; most are easy to carry out and they can be excellent vehicles for fathers who we need and who badly need/seek the assistance we can give them for themselves and their families!

Remember to use your zip drives from the July Dis-

trict meetings. They have a lot of important information that Grand Knights need to get to their DGKs, Program, Community, Family, Faith and Life Directors. The entire Faith in Action Guide Book is on the zip drive for you to download as needed, as well as your #10784 Award form for Faith in Action programs. Your 2019-20 Outstanding Council Award form and other important State forms are also there.

In August, be sure to make plans for your PPK, Soccer Challenge, Culture of Life and/or Supreme Citizenship Essay Contests, Fall Church Drives, Coats for Kids, etc. All the information for these and more can be downloaded from the State website. All the information packets for the State's youth programs have been updated.

Be sure to meet with your pastor and his leadership team on a regular basis! Find out his priorities and adapt your programs to those whenever possible. Find out where you can help him and the parish out and do so whenever/wherever possible! Be that strong right arm of the parish!

Have a great August – stay cool. Vivat Jesus! Vivat Cristo Rey! Nunc Coepi!

Bill Frayer
State Program Director



Transferring of the Silver Rose through Wisconsin jurisdiction.

Have You Changed a Man's Life for the Better or Do You Need Help Finding a Man to Change His Life?

Did your Council conduct a successful First Degree in July? Do you have a First Degree scheduled for August?

In the past we have been told One First Degree per District per Month. The new Membership Team is going ask each District to hold at least 10 First Degree before the end of the Fraternal Year.

You may ask how is this different, it sounds the same?

If your District conducts 10 First Degrees with candidates, we will be able to cover the losses for the year. (Net Net +1) Possibly multiple Councils in the District could join forces and make September District Church Drive Month. If a District would focus on conducting several Delta Church Drives in September, they will need to hold several First Degrees in September and October to accommodate the new members they WILL gain from a Delta Church Drive being done correctly. Holding several First Degrees in a District, in September to get all the guys in would be huge for any District. Technically it is not 1 per District per Month. Go with the old saying, Work Smarter Not Harder.

This may sound simple but when you schedule a Delta Church Drive, schedule a First Degree. You will get names and you need to seal the deal with these new guys who are on fire.

There are several upsides of thinking about conducting a Delta Church Drives in September: You will get your Helping People with Intellectual Disabilities Checks back in the fall packets. What a great opportunity to publicize in the local media and

church bulletins what the Knights are really about. Family vacations are over as school is back in session. Dads are at mass with their children and what father doesn't want to hear their work with the Knights of Columbus will teach their children amazing life lessons of Charity and Unity.

You might put a barrier in your own way by saying, 'I don't know how to conduct a Delta Church Drive.' The Membership Team has removed this barrier by implementing Regional Membership Coaches (RMC). The RMC has the duty to provide resources and ideas of how to increase membership. If you haven't talked to your RMC yet they would love to hear from you. Contact WI Membership Director, Mark Jelinek and you will be connected to your Regional Membership Coach.

The idea is not to hold a guy until it is your Councils scheduled month to host a Degree. If you have a guy, have a Degree!

Membership is all of our duties. Ask yourself, why did you join, what did you want to gain? Consider the same question with new guys, what do they want to get from the Knights? Meet a guy where he is at.

Thank you for all you do for the Order.
Together we will be successful.

Mark Jelinek
Wisconsin Membership Director
markmjelinek@gmail.com
(608) 604-9302



Disaster Relief Report

This past month we partnered with E9. This is a company that does contracting work for the Government and is a group of retired military members from all military services.

We met in early May to assemble a team of Knights for the first Disaster Relief Training activity at Volk Air Field Base for the Air National Guard.

It was a huge success and so much so, we partnered with them again to help train the MN National Guard as well. There were many councils from WI attending and sending members for 4 solid days of training. So many, I cannot list all of the names and councils. Suffice to say, I was proud of our Knights of Columbus for stepping up to create such a successful experience.

Because of this extremely successful experience with E9, we see an opportunity for Knights Benefits all over the country.

DD Vaughn Blaeser, Major Robert DuBien and I will be working on the details of this project with the rest of our disaster relief team to be presented to our State Officers. Pending successful review by our State Leaders we will be prepared to share that presentation with the Supreme Disaster Relief US director during the Supreme Convention in MN.

We covet prayers for our continued success. God bless and kind regards.

ACTORS NEEDED!
For a Military Training Exercise at Volk Airfield!
Museum - 101 Independence Dr, Camp Douglas, WI 54618
8am-4pm Sun-Tue 23-25 June & 6am-5pm Thu 27 June 2019

You will play the role of an "injured citizen" for a training exercise in emergency response! Makeup and Costume Artists will get you into character! Food and drinks will be provided free! All you need is comfortable clothes, with a bathing suit on underneath. This is a fun day of supporting the military & 1st responders! Veterans, Retirees, Reservists, those joining the service and those who'd like to support the military are all encouraged to participate! Please contact Paul via text/call or email at:
619-602-0547 / paul.ghiozzi@e-9.com
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

www.e-9.com

Paul E. Lang Ph.D., SCLA, Six Sigma, PGK
K of C WIS Disaster Relief Team: kcwidr@gmail.com

-Financial Secretary for Council 4879

-District Warden #51

-WI State Disaster Director -

-WI 4th degree Honor Guard Assembly - 1948

608-397-9405

Knights of Columbus: Charity, Unity, Fraternity, Patriotism

Faith In Action...How Can I Help?

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is an annual event that the Tomah Council #4125 members volunteer their time to help this worthwhile cause. The event was held on July 12 & 13 at the Monroe County Fair Grounds. However, there is an up-coming event in Sauk City that the Blackhawk Council #3099 is involved with. Area Councils may want to consider having members of your Council volunteer for a 2-hour shift. The event 6:8“Sauk Prairie Against Hunger” (SPAH) Pack event will be held on Thursday through Saturday (October 24-26, 2019). Knights can register as individuals or groups beginning September 15, 2019 at: makingservicepersonal.org/SPAH

Both of these programs would meet one of the “required” programs in Faith In Action under Family (Food for Families-a featured program). This would count as two credits toward your Columbian Award. For more information about the SPAH in Sauk City, please contact Financial Secretary, John Helt of Council #3099 by email at: jwhelt@tds.net.

2019 Diocesan Meeting Schedule

Superior Diocese

Saturday, September 7th
St. Joseph Parish-Rice Lake
Sunday, September 8th
St. Francis Church-Merrill

La Crosse Diocese

Saturday, September 14th
Mary, Mother of the Church-La Crosse

Madison Diocese

Sunday, September 15th
St. Joseph Parish-Dodgeville

Green Bay Diocese

Saturday, September 21st
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish-De Pere

Milwaukee Archdiocese

Sunday, September 22nd
Sacred Heart School of Theology-Franklin



Marian Prayer Program
Our Lady of Help of Persecuted Christians

Brother Knights,

I hope your summer is going well with your families and councils. We continue on our mission of charity as we continue promoting and providing opportunities for prayer and reflection with our icon program "Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians". We just finished a month celebrating our freedoms as a country while around the world freedoms are being lost. These freedoms may be jobs, homes, family and the ability to worship and practice the faith as a community. This cannot be understated. The best thing we can do is to offer our prayers of support for our brothers and sisters throughout the world. As we pledge our support in prayer and deed we lift up the whole of humanity toward Christ and the suffering that does exist in its many forms may be transformed into a path to holiness. I am often reminded of a saying used frequently by John F. Kennedy "a rising tide will lift all boats".

What is the "rising tide" in our example? This is you and your prayer life. We know that faith informs our good works. Our CHARITY is really an extension of our prayer and faith life. If we want to see good works in our families, councils, community and world, we must begin a life of prayer. As Bishop Fulton Sheen said, "This is the choice before us: either try to revolutionize the world and break under it or revolutionize ourselves and remake the world."

This is so true in the spiritual battle that our persecuted Christians are having, but also in our own life. How many times have you asked for prayers for a certain intention for yourself, family, friends, business, etc.

Your prayers are powerful to "lift all boats" and as each of you plan and provided time for others to pray and support this project all people will benefit in some way only known to God. Mary, Help of Persecuted Christians, will truly multiply our prayers and efforts. I know this takes time and effort for everyone involved in scheduling this initiative, but I encourage you that this not only changes those participating and those suffering, but you as a Knight of Columbus will change interiorly to "revolutionize ... and remake the world". Thank you all for your efforts in this project. Please continue to chart your events in the booklet accompanying the icon.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to help you implement this powerful program of prayer and intercession. God Bless.

Kevin Blau

Marion Prayer Program Coordinator