



# ILLINOIS STATE COUNCIL

## Knights of Columbus

### TOGETHER WE ARE ONE

[HTTP://WWW.ILLINOISKNIGHTS.ORG](http://www.illinoisknights.org)



P.O. Box 681, Kankakee, IL 60901-0681

August 2021

## STATE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The Most Reverend Michael McGovern  
Bishop of Belleville

Dear Brother Knights,

Sep 21 is the Feast of St. Matthew, the Apostle. We can read about Matthew's conversion in the Gospel of Matthew when Jesus approaches Matthew the Tax Collector and says to him "Follow me". The Gospel tells us that Matthew got up and followed the Lord immediately. Matthew then went from collecting coins for taxes and instead began to collect the teaching, the parables, and words of Jesus.

In our lives, too, we hear our Lord speaking to us "Follow me". And with that invitation, we have the possibility of living as a new creation as men more focused on the Lord and sharing the Gospel in prayer and through service.

My hope for us as brother Knights, is that the Lord's call to us is renewed in this time and season of our lives. I invite you each to consider where the Lord is calling you to follow him. Also consider what might lead you to resist answering that call and ask the Lord for the help you need to set aside all fear and all resistance in order to follow the Lord with joy, courage, and conviction. I look forward to serving as your State Chaplain. Please know that I keep all the Knights in my daily prayers and I look forward to seeing you at our many events in the coming year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael McGovern  
Bishop of Belleville

We are most happy to welcome our new State Chaplain, Bishop Michael McGovern. born July 1, 1964, a native of Evergreen Park, Illinois, the youngest of eight children who grew up in a devoutly Catholic family. He attended Christ the King Grammar School and St. Ignatius College Prep, both in Chicago. He graduated from Loyola University Chicago in 1986, and from St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Ill., earning an S.T.B. in 1993 and a M.Div. in 1994; and was ordained to the priesthood on May 21, 1994, at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, Illinois; by the late Joseph Cardinal Bernardin.

After his ordination, he was in residence at Immaculate Conception, Highland Park, also at St. Clement Parish and Holy Name Cathedral both in Chicago and he served as Parochial Vicar for the Queen of the Universe Parish, Chicago (1995 – 1998), Saint Mary Parish, Lake Forest (1998 – 1999), St. Juliana Parish, Chicago (2003 – 2004), and Pastor at Saint Mary Parish, Lake Forest (2004 – 2016), and Saint Raphael the Archangel Parish, Old Mill Creek (2016 until His Holiness, Pope Francis named him to be the ninth Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Belleville, Illinois, on April 3, 2020, He was Consecrated a Bishop and Installed on July 22, 2020).

Bishop McGovern served the Archdiocese of Chicago as Secretary of the Archdiocesan Incardination Committee, Associate and Vice Chancellor (1998 – 2000), Archbishop's Delegate for Lay Ecclesial Movements, Archbishop's Delegate for Extern and International Priests (2000 – 2002), and as the Co-Chair of the Chicago Priest Convocation. He was a member of the Archdiocese Presbyteral Council, a Dean in two Vicariate I Deaneries and a Member of the College of Consultors. He served on the Pastor Advisory Committee for the "To Teach Who Christ Is" Campaign and as member of the Priests' Placement Board. He served as the Interim Episcopal Vicar for Vicariate I from 2019 till his appointment as Bishop of Belleville.

Bishop McGovern joined the Order on May 5, 1999, and currently is a member of Cathedral of St. Peter Council 15746. He is also a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, having joined in 2008 and will be promoted to the rank of KC\*HS at their up-coming Investiture in Covington, KY this Fall.

We look forward to all the spiritual leadership and encouragement that Bishop McGovern will be providing our State Jurisdiction in the coming years.

**Illinois State Council****2021 - 2022 Officers***State Chaplain*

Most Reverend Michael McGovern  
Bishop of Belleville

*Associate State Chaplain*

Rev. Charles W. Tuttle

*Associate State Chaplain*

Rev. Paul Gins, O.S.M.

*Associate State Chaplain*

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*State Deputy*

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*State Warden*

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**Stephen G. Mann**

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Dear Brother Knights,

***This is the Day the Lord has made. Let Us Rejoice and be Glad!*** As Knights of Columbus let us live our lives always giving thanks to the Lord. This is the first issue of the Illinois State Knights of Columbus newsletter for Fraternal Year 2021-2022. In this issue we want to introduce ourselves and tell a little about ourselves so that you may get to know us better.

On July 1, 2021 I began my term as Your State Deputy. I have been with the Knights my whole life as my Dad was already a Knight when I was born. I joined the Order in October of 2000. I became a Grand Knight in 2004-2005. I then served as a District Deputy 2005-2009. Then the fun began. PSD Jim Bednar asked me to become his Membership Director where I served 2009-2011. I then served as Diocesan Chairman for the Springfield Diocese, 2011-2014. I became State Warden 2014-15 and then asked for your consideration to become State Advocate. I served as State Advocate 2015-2017, State Treasurer 2017-2019, State Secretary 2019-2021, and now as your State Deputy. This has been a very interesting journey with my Brother Knights in Illinois. From Belleville to Chicago I have met many great Brother Knights. I now consider every one of you part of my extended family.

I have been asked why I donate so much time to the Order, and I answer how can I not? WE are in a fight for our Faith and our beliefs. WE are fighting for the lives of the unborn. WE are there for the hungry and those left behind. So many of you have stepped into the Breach during this time of Covid and made sure no neighbor was left behind. All that I can ask is we keep up these good works of the Order and be there when we are needed, and we are needed now more than ever! Now we must help our Priests by inviting our fellow Catholics to come back to Church with us. Let us fill the pews and sing out the Greatness of the Lord!

On August 13, 2021 we celebrated the First Feast Day of our Beloved Founder Blessed Fr. Michael J. McGivney. His dream has grown from a few men in the basement of St. Mary's Church to more than two million men worldwide. Look at the good works, time donated, money donated, and lives changed by these Brother Knights and imagine how much more could be done if there were more Knights. Worthy Sirs I ask you to ask a fellow Catholic Gentleman to join us. Help us grow and to fulfill Blessed Fr. Michael J. McGivney's dream of a Council in every Parish. Together I know we can do this!

Vivat Jesus,

Steve

**ASSOCIATE STATE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

**Reverend Charles W. Tuttle**

[cwtuttle@charter.net](mailto:cwtuttle@charter.net)

Dear Brother Knights and Families,

Our State Deputy has asked us to write a short background introduction that you might get to know each of us a little better. I grew up in Indianapolis and attended Bishop Chatard High School graduating in 1966. I attended Saint Meinrad College Seminary for two years transferring to Marian College in Indianapolis my Junior year and received a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy in 1970. I then attended Catholic Seminary of Indianapolis and received my Master of Arts in Religion (1972) and Master of Divinity (1973) degrees. I became a Knight of Columbus at St. Pius X Council in Indianapolis, Indiana, in August of 1973.

My first assignment in the Belleville Diocese was during the Summer of 1973, being assigned as a Deacon to Saint Joseph's Parish in Olney. My first assignment following ordination on June 8, 1974, was to St. Mary's Parish in Carlyle, arriving on July 3, 1974. My ministry as an associate pastor included working with the C.Y.O. on the parish and Diocesan level and the local Carlyle Knights of Columbus Council.

## ASSOCIATE STATE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER Continued

Reverend Charles W. Tuttle

[cwtuttle@charter.net](mailto:cwtuttle@charter.net)

While an associate, I began teaching at Mater Dei Catholic High School in Breese, first part-time (from 1975-1977) and then full-time (1977-1982), teaching Psychology, Sociology and Theology. While in Carlyle I served as Chaplain of Council 1382 and joined the Fourth Degree in April of 1976 and Bishop Althoff Assembly 0193. I also served as President and Trustee of the Belleville Diocesan Chapter and currently serve as Diocesan Associate Chaplain.

In 1982, I was assigned as Pastor to St. Patrick's Parish in Tipton and Immaculate Conception Parish in Madonnaville while being a full-time teacher at Gibault Catholic High School in Waterloo. While in Tipton, I served as Grand Knight of the Waterloo Council 1334 from 1983-1985 and District Deputy from 1984-1985. I was recognized in 1984 by the Belleville Southern Friendship as their second recipient and I received the Illinois State Medallion in 1985 from State Deputy Jack Ray.

In 1985 I was reassigned back to Mater Dei Catholic High School with residence at the Carlyle Healthcare Center as Chaplain and weekend work at St. Mary's in Centralia. Upon transfer back to the Carlyle area, I became involved with the establishment of a Columbian Squire Circle in Carlyle in 1986. I received the Illinois State Squire Medallion in 1987. I had the honor to serve as the State Father Prior of the Illinois State Circle from 1986 until the Squire program was dissolved by Supreme in 2017. In 1991, I was assigned as Administrator of St. Lawrence Parish in Sandoval, Illinois, and in 1994 was named pastor of the parish. I worked with the men of the parish to establish the Saint Lawrence Knights of Columbus Council 11758 on March 31, 1996, and served as their Chaplain.

On August 18, 2001, I became pastor of St. Augustine Parish in Breese and St. Anthony Parish in Beckemeyer, retaining my ministries at the Carlyle Healthcare Center and Mater Dei Catholic High School, where I continue to minister at both today. In June, 2005 I was named Director of Advancement at Mater Dei ending my teaching but beginning a new endeavor at Mater Dei while continuing to serve as Pastor at St. Augustine and St. Anthony. The 2021-2022 school year will mark my 44th year of service with Mater Dei Catholic High School.

In 2005 I was appointed Associate State Chaplain of the Illinois State Council by then State Deputy Paul Havrilka, Jr., a position I currently hold. My work with the Fourth Degree involves currently being Faithful Friar of the Bishop Althoff Assembly 0193 and having served as District Friar of the Marquette Province Southern District from 1980-2001 and being a member of the Southern District Fourth Degree Team. I received the Master's Medallion in 2008. I also continue my spiritual guidance as Chaplain of the Breese Council 2869.

I was inducted into the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem on Sunday, September 18, 2011 in the Archdiocese of Chicago at the Cathedral of the Holy Name. On Saturday, October 22, 2016, I was promoted to Knight Commander of the Holy Sepulchre, KCHS and I made my Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2018 receiving my Pilgrim's Shell on February 23, 2018 at the Latin Patriarchy in Jerusalem.

At the recent Virtual 139<sup>th</sup> Supreme Convention I had the privilege of representing my Diocese of Belleville as a Delegate. The inspirational words of our new Supreme Knight, Patrick Kelly, and the theme of the Convention "*Called to Creative Courage*" is an inspiring testimony of who we are and what we are about as Knights of Columbus. In this year of St. Joseph, we are to bring more Catholic men into the Order that they may be moved to be better Men of Prayer, Faith and Action: called to holiness as loving husbands and devoted fathers. St. Joseph taught us "what to do" through his care for the Holy Family and Blessed Michael McGivney has taught us "how to do it" through his dedicated life and vision. Putting our "Faith in Action" we have the power to continue the legacy of Blessed Michael and as the Annual Report of the Supreme Knight concludes (with these words): "The work of the Knights of Columbus is only beginning – and we are the ones who will carry it forward."

I truly am renewed by my work with the Knights of Columbus both on the local and State level and my priestly ministry, especially that at Mater Dei Catholic High School. Both are my family and both give me life. Now at 73 years of age, as I look to the future, I have no desire to retire as long as my health and my "mind" remain strong and astute! I look forward to the challenges each day brings and I enjoy the "mixture" of ministries that are a part of my priesthood. Why would I want to retire – "*Life Is Good.*"



Fr. Chuck Tuttle

Associate State Chaplain

## State Secretary

Jeffrey J. Peters

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Welcome to fraternal year 2021-2022! TOGETHER WE ARE ONE is the theme of our State Deputy Stephen Mann. A pretty good message I would say, especially after what Covid has done to our councils, the Order, and society. The past two years of Covid has worked to isolate all of us. From our council Brothers to our own personal families, the pandemic has caused a number of us to become separated from the things we enjoy doing. Although quarantining has helped to keep us physically healthy and safe, it has also caused us to suffer the mental stress of being separated and alone. We are human. We are Knights. We need and crave the desire to help others through our CHARITY through our UNITY with our FRATERNITY brothers of the Knights of Columbus. In other words, TOGETHER WE ARE ONE.

To help the State Council become more visible to our councils and membership, the State Deputy has asked each of us to write down and share a few things about ourselves. So here goes. I live in Cherry Valley (outside of Rockford) with my wife Teresa and our younger daughter Madelynn who is finishing up college. Our older daughter Jennifer lives in Nashville, TN where she works as a nurse. By profession, I work as a chemist at Evoqua Water Technologies (no, being a State Officer does not pay the bills). I joined the Knights of Columbus in 2000 and have served in a number of positions including Grand Knight, District Deputy, and Chapter President among others. I enjoy serving currently as State Secretary for the Illinois State Council. As State Secretary, my main responsibility is to record the minutes of the State Officers meeting and to distribute Motions and Action Items to the Officers. I also review and co-sign the vouchers of the Illinois State Council. One of the more enjoyable responsibilities is that along with the State Treasurer, the State Secretary is responsible for arranging the Open House, Hospitality Suite, and Illinois Night at the Supreme Convention for the Illinois Delegation. So, there you go, that is why the State Secretary makes the big bucks! Seriously, we all volunteer are time to act as your State Officers because we believe in the Knights of Columbus, the Illinois Jurisdiction, our Church and You the members! TOGETHER WE ARE ONE!

Jeffrey J. Peters  
State Secretary

## State Treasurer

Lloyd J. Reinkensmeier

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Greetings Brother Knight,

Wow! How time Flies. It seems like our state convention was only yesterday. I, like many of newly elected officers are learning and adjusting to our new roles to bring the best lifetime experience we can offer to you as a member of the Illinois jurisdiction. Many great activities to come as we move forward.

For many of you, you may be thinking, who is this guy that we elected. For the average Knight, who does not go to convention or read the materials, you really don't know us as a person, and we are often looked at as someone who does not know what truly happens at the council level. Let's face it, members think we only care about the numbers and forget about what really makes the Illinois Knights tick—the member. So, let me take a moment to give you a little insight as to who I am and my journey that got me here today.

For the most part, I'm just an average guy; but I am unique in that I am a triplet. So, my life experience has always been x3. I do not know what it's like to have siblings who are older or younger; but I got a lot of attention growing up as we made the news circuit in the local area. I grew up on a dairy farm passed on from one generation to the next in a small community in Southern Illinois. As soon as you could talk and walk, you were helping with the chores learning responsibility and developing a work ethic. We became one with the land taking care of it as it sustained our family. A trip to the grocery store was rare as we seldom went to town to get groceries. Unfortunately, today, I do not look forward going to the store. Today's generation has no idea what truly home-grown food tastes like as many of our foods are artificially preserved and flavored.

Moving on, my parents got me involved in activities other than farming such as 4-H, Scouting, and CYO activities. It was through these activities that I learned about service to God, family, community, and country. I learned to persevere no matter how difficult the road ahead was. Giving up was not an option. Being a part of the church family was very important in our family. We never missed Mass and us boys were altar servers. Back in the day it was an honor to serve Mass and it was very competitive to serve Mass. Unfortunately, we do not see that today. Hopefully, as Knights, we can find a way to turn that around.

Going to college was a huge frightening experience as I was about to be a first-generation college student. Too many people and such a large campus. How was I going to get from one end of campus to the other in ten minutes? Fortunately, my dorm RA was Catholic. He introduced me to the Newman campus, and it was one way of helping me get through my four years.

## State Treasurer continued

**Lloyd J. Reinkensmeier**

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My contribution to Newman was being a hospitality guide at the 9AM Mass. It was at this time that a friend of mine invited me to become a Knight. I thought to myself, what is this organization about. All I knew was that they wore capes and was this something that I really wanted to do. He explained what the Knights were about, and I decided to give it a try. Before I knew it, I was working bingo's, selling raffle tickets, and attending Mass together as a group. Upon graduation, I move to St. Louis and became a part of the local parish. Unfortunately, I never saw or was invited to be involved in Knights during my time there.

Ten years later I was transferred to Mt. Vernon and became a parishioner of St. Mary Church. Fortunately, one of my store associates, was a member of the parish. She went home and told her husband, PSD Paul Havrilka, Jr. , that I was a member of the parish. He gave her a form 100 to give to me and before I knew it, I was involved in my local council. Paul always made sure that I did not get lost in the fold and he encouraged me to become a council officer. I took the bait and moved up the chairs to Grand Knight. Upon completion, I thought I can take a break and just be a regular Knight. About a year later, PSD Ted Stites attended a major degree we had at Mt. Vernon and casually asked if I would consider being a District Deputy. I took some time to think about it and I talked to Ted at a State convention before making my decision. I thought why not, it can't be that difficult, and I get a chance to meet and help other knights from other councils. It was a great experience but a challenging one as well.

Upon completion of my stint as DD, I was asked if I would consider being a Diocesan director. Now things were heating up and I thought this is becoming big time responsibility. Again, I took the challenge and made a commitment to personally visit as many councils as I could. I wanted to make a personal connection. I was able to visit 36 out of 58 councils during my term. Now if that was not enough. I was somehow elected Chapter President during the same period. Now I had two roles to learn and to get things turned around in Belleville. After a few years, I contemplated and ran for State Warden, then program director, and really took the leap of faith and ran for State Advocate.

Every step of the journey has been rewarding but it had its challenges. My eyes were opened to so many things that I never thought about as a member. It is to each of you that I own my gratitude to. Without you I would not be where I am today. Being a state officer was not why I joined the Knights. It was about being of service to others in my local parish and community. I charge each of you to find ways to be of service using your talents that God gave you to do greater good. Be not afraid, God is with you along your journey in life.

If you get a opportunity to see me as I'm traveling, stop by and introduce yourself. No special invite is needed.

Be safe and take care.

Vivat Jesus,

Lloyd

Lloyd Reinkensmeier  
State Treasurer

## State Advocate

**Michael C. Blackburn**

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Professionally, I have always been interested in the concept of leadership – guiding teams or groups to make a better product or a better experience for our customers. My inspiration comes from a Simon Sinek quote: “Leadership is not about being in charge. Leadership is about taking care of the people in your charge.” As leaders, we need to help those around us. As leaders, we need to be examples for others. I was in my early 30s when I joined the Knights of Columbus, and I found an amazing example of this type of leadership in the life of Fr. McGivney. A man who sacrificed everything fearlessly to help the forgotten in his community and who inspired others to do the same. We face similar challenges today. Catholic men need to stand up and take care of the people in our parishes and communities – to fearlessly be examples of our faith to others.

I began my journey as a Knight by joining St Peter the Apostle Council #10884 in Itasca. I found wonderful examples of Catholic faith being used to help and inspire others. In time, I was elected Grand Knight for 3 terms. Under the mentorship of many on the State level, including our Immediate Past State Deputy, Frank Schwartz, I became involved with our Chapter, eventually serving as Joliet Chapter President for two years. I was appointed District Deputy by Bill Doerfler and then Joliet Diocesan Chairman under Ted Stites.

## State Advocate continued

**Michael C. Blackburn**  
[mblackbu@hach.net](mailto:mblackbu@hach.net)

As State Deputy, Frank Schwartz again challenged my skills by appointing me State Membership Director. After two years as Membership Director, I decided to run for the position of your State Advocate. I look forward to this new challenge and those in my future with the State Council.

None of this would be possible without my amazing wife, Diane. At the end of August 2021, we will celebrate 30 years of marriage. We have raised three wonderful children – Madeline, Sir Knight Elliott, and our youngest, Laura. August also sees Laura begin a new adventure as a freshman at Marquette University.

I'll close with one more Sinek quote and a challenge to everyone in a leadership position in councils, chapters and assemblies: "There are leaders and there are those who lead. Leaders hold positions of power or influence. Those who lead inspire us." In this time of uncertainty in our communities and our nation, we must be the ones who inspire others to live our Catholic faith to its fullest. Use the example of Fr. McGivney as your guide. Be a Knight that inspires others and be a Knight that takes care of the people in your charge. Blessed Fr. McGivney, pray for us.

Mike Blackburn  
State Advocate

## State Warden

**Mark E. Halper**  
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It is a good day to do great things in the name of the Lord!

That phrase was used frequently during Rich Spada's term as State Deputy. I am humbled, honored, and blessed to serve as State Warden for the Illinois State Knights of Columbus.

Just a little bit of background on me, I joined the Knights of Columbus in February 2001, and advanced to the third degree later that year in October 2001. In June 2002 I was elected to serve as the council's Recorder, and in October 2002 I advanced to the fourth patriotic degree. I then served other officer roles in the council, moving up until being elected to serve as Grand Knight in 2009-2010. Upon completing Grand Knight, I served as District Deputy from 2010-2015. In May 2013 then State Deputy Rich Spada awarded me the State Deputy's Medallion. Later in 2013 I was appointed to serve as the Rockford Diocese faculty for the KC Academy (while simultaneously serving as District Deputy), which I served in this role until 2019. In September 2015 I was recognized by the Rockford Diocese Chapter Knights of Columbus at the annual Rockford Diocese Roundtable Dinner. In June 2016 I was elected as Faithful Navigator which I served until June 2018. The adventure continued in June 2017 when Past State Deputy Ted Stites appointed me to serve as State Youth Activities Director. When Supreme changed the programming model from Surge with Service to Faith In Action, I was appointed as State Community Director in June 2018. In June 2019 I was appointed to serve as State Family Director, and in May 2021 I was elected to serve as the State Warden for the great State of Illinois!

Joining the Knights of Columbus was one of the greatest decisions of my life. If it wasn't for the Knights of Columbus I wouldn't have many great Catholic men and their families within my Parish, in our community, in our Diocese, and this great state of Illinois. If it weren't for the Knights of Columbus, I most likely would not have become an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, I definitely would not have been involved with Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) both as a participant and later on team. If not for the Knights of Columbus my children would not have gotten involved with Youth Ministry and I would not have been involved as a Confirmation class facilitator.

Being a member of the Knights of Columbus has helped me to grow in my faith and grow closer to God as well as help me to do my small part to make the world a better place. Whether it be through participating in an outdoor Rosary, helping pack food at Feed My Starving Children, cleaning up the road with Adopt-A-Highway, or serving with an honor guard for the Bishop and our Priests as well as honoring our fallen brothers, these are fulfilling.

Being a part of the Knights of Columbus has been a life-changing event for me that I am thankful for. We ask you to ask someone to join the Knights of Columbus so we can continue to make the world a better place. The Church needs us! The Church needs the Knights of Columbus!

God Bless  
Mark Halper  
State Warden

## Immediate Past State Deputy

Frank J. Schwartz, Jr.

[fjschwartzjr@ameritech.net](mailto:fjschwartzjr@ameritech.net)

Dear Brother Knights

After the past two (2) years I am sure everyone of you, knows my family and me. Born one of nine children, a member of the National Honor Society, A college graduate, a military man, married to my wife for 43 years, we have 2 children and 3 grandchildren.

My family and I have been part of the Knights of Columbus for 26 years. When I state family, I mean all the family members. My children, Wife and Grandchildren have all participated in Council programming, State Conventions, my son also assisted in the ceremonials and worked in my hospitality suites as I went the chairs as a state officer.

We have operated the same as it related to our walk together is our faith. My wife, children and I taught religious classes, we were ushers at mass, EM's, leaders in the living rosaries, and participated as a family committing hoe hour weekly to participated Eucharistic Adoration.

As the State Deputy for the past two years and during the 18 months our state and churches was closed due to Co-Vid 19, was a special time in my life. Some of you asked me is I felt cheated or if I regretted that I had served as during this time of Co-Vid 19 as the Stated Deputy. I always replied I was "blessed" because I saw Knights(men) and their families do amazing things with no fear or worry for themselves. All over the state these special people ran/helped in food pantries, they conducted ZOOM prayer services and meetings, they invited 2000 new members to join our order, they were open to change and came out to 18 road shows. Many councils met all their charities goals and believed in the fact we needed to make sure we left no neighbor behind.

In the nearly 500 phone calls I made, I never accepted "we can't" instead, I often stated on the phone when talking to a Grand Knight they could and after a discussion they often figured out they could. Reminding them of what our Founder Blessed Fr Michael J McGivney accomplished in very similar condition.

Now we MUST bring families back to church, back into our faith communities, and work to unite us all. We must be inviting to all men and their families asking them to join and help us in all the programming and charities of the Knights of Columbus. We need to make them feel welcome and to listen to them and their new ideas. We need to ignite the Fire of the Holy Spirit in their hearts. The time is now, and you are the men that can turn the tide and help defeat the evil one.

Shelly and I continue to pray for all of you and your families we ask God to watch over all of you. Gob Bless you and God Bless America



## State Membership Director

Scott E. Hawkins

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I'm married for 29 years to my lovely wife Patti, and we have two wonderful children Danielle and Matthew. It's been a true calling to being a Knight and to doing the Knights work I've always said being a Knight it's a calling to serve our church and our community. I held the position of Grand Knight 2012 –2014, District Deputy 2014-2018, Chicago Diocesan Chairman 2017-2019 and Membership Director for Chicago 2020-2021.

As we begin the year, we are going to have to start getting back to in person meetings, membership drives and council events. When your council's start hosting events, make sure you have a membership table setup. We now have a QR code to assist in recruitment. You are able to scan the QR code with your phone. It will take you to the Supreme website sign up page, by entering MCGIVNEY2020 the candidate can become a member for free. QR code pads are available , contact the state office. We will be sending QR pads to the DD's

Supreme would like to see candidates enter through The E membership program, the goal is doing 70 to 80% with E- membership.

Council's need to start our Delta Membership drives. Membership is every Knight's job, and we should be asking friends coworkers relatives to join the Knights. Feel free to contact me at any time through my email [jbweld6@gmail.com](mailto:jbweld6@gmail.com), or give me a call at 708-878-4113.

God Bless,  
Scott Hawkins  
Membership Director

## State General Program Director

**John P. Dehm**

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It is a great good day to do great things in the name of the Lord. As Knights of Columbus, we are the people that have been chosen to go out into the world and look out for those in most need. Over the last year we have done great things for the neediest in our communities

This year I have been chosen by our State Deputy to be your State General Program Director. The Knights of Columbus has been an integral part of my family's life as my father was a Knight for more than 50+ years leading us in our faith. I joined the order in December of 2004. I became in Grand Knight in 2008-2009. I then served as a District Deputy 2005-2009 I was then asked by PSD Bill Doerfler to be a chairman. After being successful in that role I was then asked to be Membership Director 2017-2019 for PSD Ted Stites. I also was the State College Council Director 19-21 under IPSD Frank Schwartz and now as you State Program Director. I have had the great honor of serving in these various roles to work with brother Knights across our state.

After considering to be a missionary, and then a priest I know that the Knights is my way to be most involved in my faith. I have mentioned many times that the KofC is not just an organization but a Lifestyle. I can not find a better way to put my "Faith Into Action" and being a true servant of God.

Now is the time to reach out to all brother Knights and make sure they have everything they need and to reconnect with them in faith and fraternity. We must all now to make sure we leave no neighbor behind. Let us expand our good works beyond our comfort zone and be ready to step into the breach wherever needed. Let's make sure we are offering the opportunity of member to every catholic man and his family and get every Catholic family re engaged in their church by serving those most vulnerable following in the steps of our founder the Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney.

Vivat Jesus,  
John P. Dehm

## State Charitable Activities Director

**Matt Piescinski**

[piescinski@hotmail.com](mailto:piescinski@hotmail.com)

Greetings, all! I'm Matt Piescinski and serve this year as the state Charitable Activities Director. While the city of my birth is Chicago, I have lived all or part of the last 46 years in the City of Charleston, in Coles County.

I joined the Knights of Columbus 30 years ago, on Columbus Day weekend, 1991. During my time in the Order, I have been Grand Knight of Charleston Council 4024, Faithful Navigator of Mattoon Assembly 0223, and a Springfield Diocese District Deputy. Past State Deputy Bill Doerfler appointed me to a position in State Athletics Activities 5 years ago where I was mostly involved in bringing back the Illinois State Bowling Championships.

As I go into my new position, I'm reminded that Charity is the eternal virtue, as well as the First Principle of the Order. We responded to the challenge in the Pandemic Year of 2020 and had many accomplishments. Now we must find a way to return to the levels of support we saw pre-pandemic, as well as noting there is no old normal to long for or return to. As we plan for the Intellectual Disabilities Drive coming together next month, be creative, be safe out on the streets, and look for ways to give people the opportunity to help you help others! Vivat Jesus!!

[Matt Piescinski, Charleston, IL 61920](#)

## New Council Developmnt Director

**John Lough**

[Jlough.illinoiskofc@yahoo.net](mailto:Jlough.illinoiskofc@yahoo.net)

What first drew my attention to the Knights of Columbus was their dedication serving at my parish. I was eight or nine at the time and would see Knights helping with tasks around the church, some involving physical labor and some consisting of organizing parish activities or events. What impressed me wasn't so much that they were working for the church, as it was that our priests seemed to really count on them and trust them to get things done. I viewed our priests as the ultimate authority in our parish community. But who were these men that even the priests looked to? What I didn't see at that tender age, were the challenges they faced. Our parish was shrinking even in the eighties as the neighborhood changed and people moved away. The resources were less and less; one can only imagine how frustrating it was over the years, for active Knights continue to conduct the mission of our Founder, especially after 40 years when on July 1, 2021, St. Timothy Church was relegated to profane but not sordid use, and most likely to be sold off to pay debt.



## New Council Development Director continued

John Lough

[jlough.illinoiscofc@yahoo.net](mailto:jlough.illinoiscofc@yahoo.net)

Often as a Knight of Columbus we face unexpected challenges, trials which may seem to grow to be insurmountable. This reality becomes very concrete as churches are forced to combine or close with diminishing numbers of Catholics to support them or the covid-19 pandemic inhibiting people from practicing their Faith. Many Knights are becoming displaced, disillusioned, and often feel betrayed. But when we step back and view the situation collectively, we can either become wrapped in hopelessness or we can seek solutions to reverse the downward spiral. Victor Frankl once wrote, "Forces beyond your control can take away everything you possess except one thing, your freedom to choose how you will respond to the situation." Frankl would know what hopelessness was like having spent two years in the Terezin Ghetto, north of Prague in 1942, one year at the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in 1944, and in 1945 at Kaufering and Tuerkheim in Bavaria. Remarkably he survived to tell the story. Frankl observed that those in the camps who lost purpose in life would die very quickly, but those who could find meaning in their life, even under those deplorable conditions, could better hold on and survive. He spent his time helping others to find purpose and not give up and wrote about it in *Man's Search for Meaning*.

While this life and death situation is an extreme example, we learn the importance of having meaning in one's life.

Recently our Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly talked about how being a Knight of Columbus gave meaning to men and helped to focus them as guardians of the family and of the Holy Eucharist (truth). This idea of personal meaning was mirrored by Supreme Chaplain Bishop Lori in his homily at the Convention Memorial Mass when remarking on the life of St. John Vianney and his ability to turn a collapsing parish around and make it a thriving Catholic center in Ars, France. Similarly, when we gain purposeful meaning from our membership in the Knights of Columbus, we can accomplish amazing things. We can inspire failing councils to meet and determine how to rekindle their spirit of accomplishment and then in turn give new life to their parishes. We need only to believe in God's purpose and make the choice that we will not go quietly but will stand up for our Faith and surpass the many challenges we face today. Each of us, leading by example, will inspire Catholics to return to church and the Holy Eucharist.

Each one of us is able to help another man, another council, or another district find their own purpose. When we bring meaning and hope, to other men and Catholic families, urging them to not despair but to choose to respond to the situation, we are living the teachings of Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney and are truly his Knights. Motivated by the dedication of those men I saw serving their parish so long ago, I decided to become a Knight in 2007. Encouraged by the leadership and support of inspired knights along the way, I've had the opportunity to serve as Grand Knight, District Deputy, Faithful Navigator, Chapter officer, Diocesan team member, State Program Director, and I'm now blessed as State New Council and Retention Director. After reading the above remarks you have some inkling of what drives me as a Knight. Echoing the sentiments of our State Deputy Stephen Mann, I value the commitment of each one of you, and am proud to call you Brother Knight.

Sincerely, John Lough

## College Council Director

James M. Jatcko

[jjatcko@hotmail.com](mailto:jjatcko@hotmail.com)

As a former College Knight, it brings me immense joy and satisfaction to work alongside the youngest leaders of our Order, the College Knights.

Over the past two years, I have had the pleasure of working with another former College Knight, John Dehm, on solidifying and growing our college councils throughout the state. John and I are proud of the work that these young men have done in being shining examples of Catholic men putting their faith into action.

For the second consecutive year, our college councils at the University of Illinois (#2782), Southern Illinois University (#7682), Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (#8343) and Eastern Illinois University (#8713) have qualified for Star Council status.

One council in particular, the state's Outstanding College Council Award winner, Southern Illinois University, should give all of us great hope in the future of the Knights of Columbus. This past year, despite the pandemic, the brothers of Southern held a 6:00am rosary and breakfast every Tuesday throughout the school year, participated in the March for Life, held *Into the Breach* study groups, and provided snow removal not only for the Newman Center on campus, but also for elderly members of the community, among several other programs and events.

The Immediate Past Grand Knight of the SIU Council was installed as District Deputy for four councils in Southern Illinois, at the age of 22! Brother Knights, the young Catholic men across our state are ready to be asked to join the Knights and given the opportunity to participate in and implement Faith in Action programs that will serve others, defend our Faith and values, respect the sanctity of life, and grow our Order!

Vivat Jesus!

## Executive Secretary

Dennis W. Shook Sr.

[denny@illinoisknights.org](mailto:denny@illinoisknights.org)

### WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU!

THE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND BROTHER KNIGHTS OF THE ILLINOIS JURISDICTION. SERVICING THE NEEDS OF THE STATE OFFICERS, STATE DIRECTORS, NEARLY NINETY (90) DISTRICT DEPUTIES AND OVER FIVE HUNDRED (500) CHARTERED COUNCILS IN THE ILLINOIS JURISDICTION. IT IS A BLESSING TO INTERTWINE MY FAITH LIFE WITH THE CHARITABLE WORKS OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS.

I JOINED THE ORDER IN AUGUST OF 2003, AFTER NUMEROUS “PROMPTS” FROM MEMBERS OF MY PARISH, ST. JUDE IN NEW LENOX AND MEMBERS OF FR. DICK ALLEN COUNCIL 10926. SINCE THEN, I HAVE BELONGED TO FR. PEREZ COUNCIL 1444, SENECA COUNCIL 1316 AND CURRENTLY ST. VIATUERS COUNCIL 745 TRANSFERRING HERE WHEN I MOVED TO KANKAKEE IN FEBRUARY 2020. THE KNIGHTS HAS TRULY BECOME A SECOND FAMILY TO ME, AS HAS THE MEMBERS OF TOGETHER THROUGH MUSIC, THE SMALLER “CONTEMPORARY” CHOIR AT ST. JUDE PARISH IN NEW LENOX. I TRULY BELIEVE, THE LORD CALLED ME TO BE A KNIGHT. EVERY TIME I DRIFTED AWAY FROM THE KNIGHTS, THE AVENUE TO RETURN TO ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT WAS PRESENTED TO ME, TO THE POINT THAT NOW IT IS AN INTERGRAL FACET OF MY LIFE.

IN NOVEMBER 2011 I BEGAN MY JOURNEY AS YOUR STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. SERVING UNDER PSD RICH SPADA, PSD SKIP KINYON, PSD BILL DOERFLER, PSD TED STITES, PSD FRANK SCHWARTZ, AND CURRENTLY STATE DEPUTY STEVE MANN. IT HAS BEEN HUMBLING TO EXPERIENCE THE DEDICATION OF EACH OF THESE BROTHER KNIGHTS, THE MEMBERS OF THE STATE FAMILY, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCILS THROUGHOUT THE STATE. SERVING FOUR (4) YEARS AS A DISTRICT DEPUTY IN THE PEORIA DIOCESE WAS A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE, I WILL CHERISH FOR YEARS TO COME.

THE DEDICATED STAFF OF THE STATE OFFICE (ANGIE, SHELLY, VICKI, AND I) ARE HERE TO BE OF SERVICE TO THE BROTHER KNIGHTS IN THE ILLINOIS JURISDICTION, PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR THE CHARITABLE WORKS AND PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE FRATERNAL YEAR, AS WELL AS SERVICING THE “ADMINISTRATIVE” NEEDS OF THE ILLINOIS STATE COUNCIL AND ILLINOIS STATE COUNCIL K OF C CHARITIES, INC.

## Ceremonials Chairman

PSD Philip J. Barone

[pjbarone@ameritech.net](mailto:pjbarone@ameritech.net)

### IN-PERSON CEROMONIALS ARE BACK

The New Fraternal Year is moving very quickly, and it is now time to “gear-up for Success.” There have been many changes in the Ceremonial Presentation and content to the Degrees of Charity, Unity and Fraternity.

I remember when I first attended a Major Degree that exemplified the Principals of the Order. It was an All-Day event with a large turnout of Candidates and Brother Knights. It was an opportunity to not only learn about the Knights of Columbus but also to meet many new Brothers, who have become long lasting friends. I’m sure most of you have similar recollections. In last 18 months we have experienced many different versions of the Exemplification of the Order’s Principals. We have had to use, out of necessity, extended of electronic versions of Degree Staffs via Zoom Sessions and Individual only viewings of videos to accommodate safety related issues caused by the Pandemic.

It is now time to refocus our efforts to bring Brother Knights together to promote Fraternity and Fellowship through In-Person Exemplification Ceremonials to not only complete the admission process for New Brother Knights but re-educate and advance our existing Brother Knights. Our State Deputy Brother Steve Mann and his Elected and Selected Officers have committed the resources necessary for Every Council to have In-Person Exemplification Ceremonials that will strengthen our Councils and The Order. The State Council has reinstated Ceremonial Degree Staffs in each Diocese to assist councils to Host Major Exemplifications both Large and small that will promote Knights and Families to come together to celebrate Fraternity and Fellowship.

Each Council that brings in New Members, through Electronic Membership or the Traditional Form 100, must confer the New Candidate the principles of the Order thru the Exemplification Ceremonial of Charity, Unity and Fraternity before they and their Family is recognized as “Full Brother Knights”. There are several methods that can utilized in completing the Exemplification Ceremony. Each can be performed at a Council or Diocesan Level or even “personal level” when necessary, as follows:

## Ceremonials Chairman continued

PSD Philip J. Barone

[pjbarone@ameritech.net](mailto:pjbarone@ameritech.net)

- Use of Council Ceremonial Staff (memorization not required but preferred)
- Use of State Council Diocesan Ceremonial Staff
- Use of Supreme Council On-Demand Video Presentation via website link  
<https://www.kofc.org/en/for-members/resources/ceremonials.html?1tab=1tab0>
- Use of Illinois State Council on Demand Video Presentation via website link  
<https://www.illinoisknights.org/degree>
- Use of Direct Supreme Video (Wi-Fi Required)  
<https://videos.kofc.org/exemplification>

Please remember that the Ceremony is not COMPLETE until a Form 450 is submitted.

You can access the via website link <https://www.illinoisknights.org/degree>

The Form 450 is required after each Exemplification Ceremony. It can be completed by a DD, GK, FS, or any Illinois Council Representative. In addition to submission to the Supreme Ceremonials address, please also send to State Ceremonial Chair Phil Barone at [pjbarone@ameritech.net](mailto:pjbarone@ameritech.net)

While the Electronic New Member Program is the preferred method for Signing up new members; If a Candidate has completed a traditional Form 100 and is Exemplified at an In-Person Ceremony, simply has the Council Financial Secretary update the Candidate in the Electronic FS Member System with the Dates of Exemplification and the System will generate a Membership # and allow the FS to complete the process without the mail of the Form 100 to the Supreme Office.

We ALL have the opportunity and resources to achieve OUR Goal, making the Knights of Columbus in Illinois an Active, Strong, and Vibrant Fraternity that is second to none.

Each of US must make that commitment to our councils that will add new members this fraternal year. The time is NOW and the person that is needed is YOU.

With ALL of our efforts the Knights of Columbus in Illinois will continue to be a Leader and the Bright Jewell of the Order.

Please contact me if you need any assistance with the New Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity

Vivat Jesus, Phil Barone

Philip J Barone, PSD

State Ceremonials

630 207-8606

[pjbarone@ameritech.net](mailto:pjbarone@ameritech.net)

## General Insurance Agent

Jeff Niemeyer

[Jeff.niemeyer@kofc.org](mailto:Jeff.niemeyer@kofc.org)

*My name is Jeff Niemeyer, General Agent with the Supreme office in New Haven, CT. Married to my lovely wife, Emily and we have three energetic boys. We reside in Breese in the Belleville diocese. I joined the Knights of Columbus, Breese council in 2006 with the heavy endorsement from my father. It is hard to believe I am in my sixteenth year with the Knights of Columbus as a General Agent. My family is no stranger to the Knights of Columbus. My dad has been an active Knight for more than 45 years and my grandpa was a charter member of Breese council in the 1940's. Even my father in law has been extremely active for more than 25 years. I can only hope this legacy of Knights continues with my three sons in the future. In addition to my Knights of Columbus dedication, our family is very active in our church as I am a past parish council member, finance council member and executive parish picnic member. Currently, I sit on the Board of Directors for the non-profit organization Community Link and presently hold the title of Treasurer.*

*I look forward to the growth of the Illinois Knights of Columbus and can help you with your recruiting action plan to continue to spread the good news about what the Knights do. After all, we all joined for a reason. My reason was to become part of something bigger than myself. And that is exactly what the Knights of Columbus are.*

Vivat Jesus!

Jeff Niemeyer

## Right to Life Chair Couple

Ty Simmons & Jane

[ty.simmons@comcast.net](mailto:ty.simmons@comcast.net)

*“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you” (Jer. 1:5)*

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law" (No. 2271).

Thus, modern science has not changed the Church's constant teaching against abortion, but has underscored how important and reasonable it is, by confirming that the life of each individual of the human species begins with the earliest embryo.

We believe that God is the Author of Life and that human beings have dignity and worth because we are made in God's image and as Christians that makes the pro-life argument clear. But in order to be persuasive in a secular world, we must also be equipped with the secular arguments against abortion.

The defense of Life, from the moment of conception until the moment of natural death should not be based upon its usefulness but rather as an unconditional value that is inextricably tied to us by being God's image-bearers.

Pro Choice advocates claim that “no one knows when life begins” but that is not based on science but rather their own political, philosophical, or even religious values. Their argument is about whether, that life deserves legal acknowledgment and protection. Today's pro-life feminists have revealed that the so-called feminist who claim that abortion is a woman's right are not defenders of women's rights at all but rather defenders of abortion. Our nations feminist movement was borne out of the belief in equal justice for all and that is the inclusive formula embraced by pro-life advocates today.

In 1973 the Supreme Court created a virtually unlimited right to abortion, a policy with which nearly 60% of Americans disagree. As the truth about abortion continues to be revealed many states have enacted legislation in favor of Life and we remain hopeful that abortion policy making is returned to the people.

We desire to spread the Respect Life message to the Illinois Knights of Columbus, their families and parishes by communicating information between various Respect Life resources and our leadership.

The more abortion is understood, the more one realizes it is anti-human, anti-life, and anti-woman. The notion that we are in the business of “changing hearts and minds” has, regrettably, been reduced to cliché, but it is nevertheless true. Abortion is different from any other modern social issue debated today, and many people are suffering because of it. Prayerfully, and for the sake of women and their babies, let us go after those hearts and minds armed with knowledge and animated by compassion.

Ty & Jane Simmons  
Illinois State Council  
Right to Life Chair Couple

## State IT/AV/Media Chairman

Gerry Mattix-Wand

[gmwand@eawr.org](mailto:gmwand@eawr.org)

## Your Council Can Raise Charity Funds Online – FOR FREE!

The State Council has purchased an online donation platform that can be used by your councils to raise funds online for Newman, ID, General Assistance, Respect Life, and Vocations. The service is provided at no charge to councils. To get started, visit the Charity Page on the Illinois State Council Website and follow the step by step guide to set up your council's fundraising pages.

Your council will get credit for all funds raised through your page. Create a page today and share the link with family and friends and Together as One we will raise money for our most important Charities.

### “Your GAF dollars at work”

A devastating flash flood hit Gibson City in Ford County on Thursday evening August 12th. Upon the request of Joliet Chapter officials, the state officers voted \$3,000 in assistance for flood victims.

During the week of August 16th Knights from Gibson City Council 7372 along with State Charitable director Matt Piescinski went door to door distributing \$50 gift cards to the hardest hit homes. Most damage involved fully flooded basements.

On Sunday, August 22nd Joliet Chapter officials came to Gibson City to provide a free pasta dinner to any in need. Food and school supplies were also distributed at the outdoor meal. An additional \$2,100 in donations came into the Gibson City Knights from a parish in Peoria diocese due to our efforts that week. Knights from Paxton assisted Gibson City throughout the week.

Matt Piescinski



***Illinois State Council Knights of Columbus  
Celebrating Council Anniversaries***

<b>Years of Service</b>	<b>Name of Council</b>	<b>Diocese</b>	<b>Date Instituted</b>
<b>125</b>	<b>182 Cabrini</b>	<b>Chicago</b>	<b>July 10, 1896</b>
<b>100</b>	<b>2321 Virden</b>	<b>Springfield</b>	<b>October 16, 1921</b>
<b>75</b>	<b>2964 Mt. Vernon 7804 Godfrey</b>	<b>Belleville Springfield</b>	<b>March 17, 1946 March 24, 1946</b>
<b>40</b>	<b>7727 Brussels 7801 Oglesby 7804 Godfrey 7817 Genneseo</b>	<b>Springfield Peoria Springfield Peoria</b>	<b>January 18, 1981 May 4, 1981 May 18, 1981 June 7, 1981</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>11691 Hecker 11707 Greenville 11744 Walnut Ohio 11758 Sandoval 11874 Rock Falls</b>	<b>Belleville Springfield Peoria Belleville Rockford</b>	<b>January 21, 1996 February 6, 1996 March 29, 1996 March 31, 1996 November 1, 1996</b>

***Congratulations***