



# A Knight's View

the newsletter of the RI State Council Knights of Columbus

formed in 1893 as the first State Council

Serving the Church & Community through Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism

Christmas 2023

Volume 8 issue 1

## Merry Christmas

Hello all, It has been a while since my last newsletter. But I have resolved to get back to a regular schedule. May each of you and your families have a Blessed and Joyous Christmas. –  
*Jack & Linda Tracy & Family.*

This issue will be without some of the usual articles to ensure a Christmas delivery.

## Recent Program Highlights

Though I have been remiss in reporting, there have been many programs & events held at the State & Local Council level over the first half of the Fraternal Year. The Annual *Teens R Dynamite* fundraiser was another smashing success as was *Operation ROVAC*. The State Family Day in August was the best attended to date, and Camp Ker-Anna was an excellent host. Columbus weekend parades were well-attended & further proof we have bounced back from the COVID pandemic.

The State Charity Ball was held at a new-for-us venue – St. Ann's Arts & Cultural Center in Woonsocket. It was attended in comparable numbers to recent years & raised significant dollars for our charitable causes. Woonsocket Council had a record year with its *Toy Drive in Memory of Ron Auger* collecting over 1400 toys and the 120 penny social baskets brought in a large amount of cash with which the Council was able to fill in the gaps (the usual 11–12-year-old group of youth). Numerous Local Councils helped needy segments of the community with their own toy drives, Thanksgiving Basket donations and Christmas Adopt-a-Family efforts. Finally, I wish to mention the *Coats for Kids* program. This year many Councils chose to order through the State Council which allowed them to double their donation due to a Supreme Council matching effort. Though those Councils not participating at a "State" level were no less significant.

## In Memoriam

One sad note from the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the year. In September PSD James "Jim" Gilcreast was called home to God. Jim touched many of our lives in his capacities as State Deputy, Conferring Officer on Degree teams, and Brother Knight. He was a staunch supporter of Special Olympics Rhode Island, a faithful Rotarian and valiant champion of the Pro-Life movement.

## Upcoming Program Highlights

The annual Pro-Life Dinner will be held on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at St. JohnPaul II Parish (750 Central Ave., Pawtucket) beginning with Mass at 4:30 pm. Dinner will be at 7pm, preceded by a Cocktail Hour. Cost is \$30 per person. The dinner will be prepared by District Deputy/District Marshall Rich Silvia assisted by the Brothers of Kennedy Council. Proceeds to benefit the Pro-Life organizations of RI. Beginning this year, the Pro-Life Dinner has been re-christened the James Gilcreast Memorial Pro-Life Dinner in recognition of Jim's long & strong support of the movement.

The annual RI State House Day of Prayer will be on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 3-4 pm in the State House Rotunda.

Also in January, St. Philips Council has arranged for a Memorial Mass for Jim Gilcreast at St. Philips on Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm. St. Philips address is 618 Putnam Pike (Rt 44) in Greenville.

There are a couple of 4<sup>th</sup> Degree dates upcoming which will be in the article below.

## Patriotic Degree News

District Master Vic Silva is pleased to announce that the Jurisdiction of RI held its 1<sup>st</sup> Exemplification since the pandemic (2019) on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Delaney Assembly was the host for the Mass & Exemplification at St. Teresa Church in Pawtucket. 34 new Sir Knights were exemplified including 5 Priests. The class represented 8 of our 9



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Assemblies in the Jurisdiction and we are pleased to welcome this group of men.

One near upcoming event of note is the Altagracia Mass with the Hispanic Community of RI. The Patriotic Degree traditionally provides an Honor Guard for this Mass, and we will do so again this year. Reports are that Bishop Henning will be present. Mass will be at the Cathedral of SS Peter & Paul at 7pm. Honor Guard should report no later than 6:30pm (though history shows 6pm would be better for parking purposes – we can chat & catch up we each other).

Save the Date! April 4<sup>th</sup> is the scheduled date for the Biennial Meeting of the Jurisdiction of RI. This is the Patriotic Degree equivalent of the State Convention when we choose our preference for the District Master position for the next 2 years (beginning in September 2024). The selection will then need to be ratified by the Supreme Council. **Please Note: ANY** 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knight may attend this meeting. The Executive Secretary for the Patriotic Degree will be sending out Delegate Selection forms during the second week of January.

A final item: District Master Vic Silva has begun a Newsletter for the Patriotic Degree which he is distributing to the Assemblies.

## *Membership News*

Brothers,

Inviting a Catholic man to join the Knights of Columbus is a great way to help him on his Lenten journey.

We all look for ways to put our Faith In Action during Lent. Joining your Council would help him do just that year-round.

When was the last time you asked someone to become a Knight? I challenge each of you to ask at least 1 person this week.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> quarter membership intake was on pace with last year's effort (which met goal). But have since dropped off somewhat. Please remember that **Free on-line membership is still in play**. The code is **BlessedMcGivney**, which is

one word and not case sensitive. Let's continue to bring in those extra hands & new ideas. While programming is the heart of the Order, membership is our lifeblood. Also remember that Membership Director Mark Paul and the State Officers & District Deputies are here to help with your efforts whether it is Delta Drives, Exemplifications, or other recruiting efforts

## *Fraternal Benefits*

Our Fraternal Benefit agents are willing to work hard on your behalf. You still need to host or attend at least 2 Fraternal Benefit Nights/Events during the Fraternal Year. Touch base with your Field Agent about hosting/attending one. You can also check the State website at [kofcri.org](http://kofcri.org). Contact information for our agents: Asst. General Agent Jim Davis – [Jim.davis@kofc.org](mailto:Jim.davis@kofc.org) Field Agents Jim Fielding – [james.fielding@kofc.org](mailto:james.fielding@kofc.org) Scott Eastwood – [scott.eastwood@kofc.org](mailto:scott.eastwood@kofc.org) Brian Lawlor – [brianlawlor84@gmail.com](mailto:brianlawlor84@gmail.com).

## *Program Notes*

Please continue to send articles & photos from your program efforts. I will attempt to intermix them in future editions. I am keeping this issue shorter so as to ensure publication as mentioned above.

Don't forget Form #10784 – copies to Bob Lynch – [programskofcri92@gmail.com](mailto:programskofcri92@gmail.com) as well as Supreme, & your DD.

## *Housekeeping items*

### *State Meeting*

The next State meeting will be Hosted by Narragansett Council #21 on **Thursday, January 25, 2024, 7 PM** at



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St Pius X Church  
Basement Hall  
45 Elm St  
Westerly, RI 02891  
Doors will open @ 6:30pm.  
Collation/refreshments following

News items for the newsletter can be sent to [rikofcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rikofcnewsletter@gmail.com) , through your District Deputy, who will forward it or through the various program Directors.

Note: a more expansive list of State leadership contacts will be included in future issues

## A Note of Fraternal Concern

Brothers, while we are making progress, our membership is still older. Implicit in that is the fact that we have many older members with medical issues. These Brothers often are unable to regularly attend meetings and functions. This can lead to Councils losing track of them and, unfortunately, should they pass away, we fail to recognize their significance and membership in our Order. I am asking that the word be spread among your membership and families to be vigilant to the passing of a Council member or Council family member and relay the information to the Grand Knight.

*Regardless, we must be informed to properly Honor the Dead.*

## Contact Information



Website – [kofcri.org](http://kofcri.org)  
Supreme Website – [kofc.org](http://kofc.org)  
Email: [rikofcstateoffice@gmail.com](mailto:rikofcstateoffice@gmail.com)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/kofcri](http://www.facebook.com/kofcri)  
USPS (Mailing) address for the State Office - **PO Box 9091, Providence, RI 02904.**

Street Address: 3200 Pawtucket Avenue, East Providence



St Augustine's Council donated \$300.00 to St Mary's home for children on Fruit Hill Ave in North Providence to be used to buy Christmas gifts for the children living at the home. Pictured, from left to right, Paul Morry, Marcel Delo Santas (grant director) at the home and John Olobri