

BADGER BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2026



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WE HAVE ALL HEARD someone say, “When you consider her husband, you must admit, she is a living saint!” In Christian belief, a saint, also known as a hallowed one, is a person who is recognized as having an exceptional degree of holiness, likeness, or closeness to God. Recognition and veneration of saints is conferred in Catholicism through the process of canonization. Actually, all of those baptized in the Trinity are saints because they have a relationship with God. Bishop Fulton Sheen, during one of his television broadcasts, once offered this definition of a saint: “A saint is a sinner who just keeps on trying.”

In all my years as a priest I have included in my daily prayer life reading about the lives of the saints. This pattern was instilled in me as a child who went to Catholic grade school. After daily morning Mass, a classmate was assigned to read from the lives of the saints. After decades of reading from the lives of the saints daily, I have not run out of saints to consider. I am duly impressed at what happens to people who let God into their lives through prayer. For them, living life always becomes an adventure, filled with challenges, consolations, low and high points. But through it all, their constancy in prayer renews their intimacy with God.

How about famous saints?

Some saints are more “famous” than others. These are the ones who are depicted in paintings, statues, stained-glass windows and on prayer cards. Their depiction is called hagiography because artistic elements give hints about their particular way to holiness. Listed on this page are fifty-nine of the

most popular saints of the Catholic Church. How many do you know?

How about patron saints?

The Catholic church, based on the lives of the saints, assigned some as patron saints of something in particular. Here are just a few: St. Thomas Aquinas (Students), St. Matthew (Accountants), St. Genesius (Actors), St. Aloysius (Care Givers), St. John Berchmans (Altar Servers), St. Michael the Archangel (Emergency Medical Technicians), St. Anthony of Padua (Lost Things), St. Sebastian (Athletes), and St. Jerome (Biblical Scholars).

How about you?

Do you know anything about the saint’s name given to you at baptism? Do you want to know which saint is a patron of something in particular? I invite you to go to the website [Catholic Online](#). There you will find great resources including some cartoon presentation of saints for children. Could you try to do a saint a day for all the days of Lent? After all, “A saint is a sinner who keeps on trying!”

Vivat Jesus!

FAMOUS SAINTS

- > St. Francis de Sales
- > Our Lady of Guadalupe
- > St. Thomas More
- > St. Stephen
- > St. John the Baptist
- > St. Margaret of Scotland
- > St. Juan Diego
- > St. Dominic Savio
- > St. Nicholas
- > St. Mark
- > St. Dymphna
- > St. John Vianney
- > St. Margaret Mary Alacoque
- > St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

- > St. Michael the Archangel
- > St. Francis of Assisi
- > St. Catherine of Siena
- > St. Joseph
- > St. Valentine
- > St. Christopher
- > St. Patrick
- > St. Jude Thaddaeus
- > St. Teresa of Avila
- > St. Anthony of Padua
- > St. Lucy
- > St. Monica
- > St. Therese of Lisieux
- > St. Sebastian
- > St. Philomena
- > St. Agnes
- > Mary the Blessed Virgin
- > St. Katerina Tekakwitha
- > St. John of Arc
- > St. Clare of Assisi
- > St. Maria Goretti
- > St. Padre Pio
- > St. Augustine of Hippo
- > St. Maximilian Kolbe
- > St. Teresa of Calcutta
- > St. Peter
- > St. Paul
- > St. Faustina Kowalska
- > St. Gabriel the Archangel
- > St. Elizabeth
- > St. Mary Magdalene
- > St. Thomas Aquinas
- > St. Dominic
- > St. Benedict
- > St. Blaise
- > St. Luke
- > St. Katharine Drexel
- > St. Pope John Paul II
- > St. Matthew
- > St. John the Apostle
- > St. Thomas
- > St. Vincent de Paul
- > St. Martha
- > St. James the Greater
- > St. Jerome



IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE that half of this 2025-2026 fraternal year is already behind us. Thanks to all of you, We had a very positive first half of the year in membership growth and New Council developments.

Wisconsin councils are growing at a phenomenal rate and Supreme is taking notice. We have 672 new 3rd degree

Knights and we still have five more months to essentially double that number.

Supreme is also launching productivity improvements to the KofC.Org platform. The first phase just launched on January 20th, and the Wisconsin State Office Team is also working on alternatives to the State Website, which is long overdue to provide councils and leaders with up-to-date program information, and improving the way we process council orders online versus filling out paper forms etc.

TAKE NOTE: Wisconsin's Annual State Convention planning is underway and coming soon. This year it will at the Madisn Marriott West hotel in Middleton from May 15-17. All councils should be planning to send 2 delegates to the convention, which is especially important this year because this convention is also a major election year for your new state officers for the 2026-2027 Fraternal year. Every council in good standing should be part of the

voting process.

My second-year term as your State Deputy will be ending at the end of June, and it has been an amazing opportunity to work side by side with all of you. The past 19 months seem to have passed in the blink of an eye.

All five positions will be open for nominations. If you want to take the next step in leadership of the State Council, have your council prepare a supporting resolution on your behalf, and include a resume of your skills to consider.

All candidates, including State Officers that wish to advance need to prepare and send their resolutions and resumes to the State Office for publication in the Badger Bulletin newsletter. This gives the council membership time to review the candidates in advance, so they are prepared to vote accordingly.

These should be filed with our Worthy State Secretary Ross Larson by March 15th in order to have time to publish the entire list in the April Badger Bulletin.

Elected positions to be considered are State Warden, State Advocate, State Treasurer, State Secretary, and State Deputy. I hope to see all councils represented at this State Convention.

Until then, let's continue offering the gift of membership to every eligible Catholic gentlemen and their families.

Mother Mary Pray for Us

Vivat Jesus!

INPUT REQUESTED:

NEW KC STATE WEBSITE IN DEVELOPMENT

You may or may not know your new State Council Website is under development and the webmasters are looking for your input. In May, we will be launching a new Website platform based on the latest technologies. This new platform will allow us all to communicate better and provide information access in better ways.

As the Admins are busy building out this platform and planning the transition off the old site we are asking your input. Most DD's and others at the Winter DD meeting have responded. To help guide our priorities please respond to our survey [here](#) or scan the QR code.





WELCOME TO ORDINARY TIME! I put the exclamation point on that statement, because I am excited to be in ordinary time again. If we look at “ordinary” like Merriam-Webster does, then we think of ordinary as routine, usual, average or common and that is rather depressing, isn’t it?

The Church, however, blesses us with ordinary time. In our Church tongue of Latin, ordinary comes from ordinalis which means numbered or ordered. The church tells us that ordinary time is for us to put our days in order, to return to a focus on our relationship with Christ. So, let’s welcome ordinary time and embrace our Columbian Promises.

Do you promise to conduct yourself as a Catholic gentleman, and to live your life guided by the principles of Charity, Unity and Fraternity? As a practical Catholic, do

you promise to continue to form yourself in the Catholic Faith, to live in accord with the Precepts of the Catholic Church, and to participate in its sacramental life, especially through attendance at Sunday Mass? Do you promise to promote the well-being of your brother Knights and to support the mission and activities of your Council? Your promises have been accepted, and ordinary time helps us succeed on these promises.

Turning to State Convention planning: Please work now to speak with your Pastor/Chaplain and make sure he gets invited to the Convention. It is the responsibility and duty of each Council to invite, register and fund their Chaplain’s participation. We rely on these men, and this is one way to make sure they are aware of our appreciation.

Enjoy these last days of ordinary time, because Catholics know holiness is found not only in great celebrations, Feasts and Solemnities but in the “ordinary” moments of our lives.

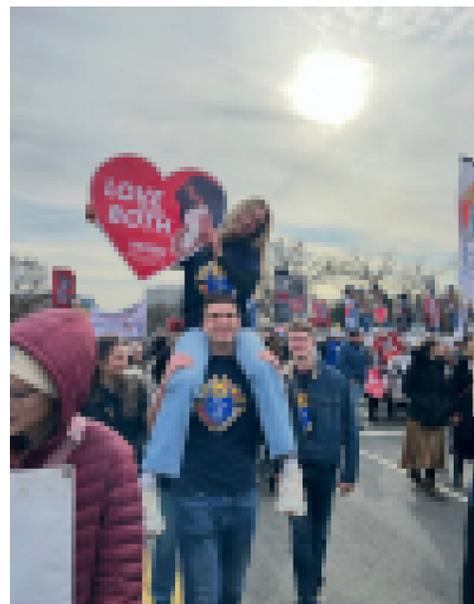
Viva La Cristo Rey!

Vivat Jesus!



MARCH FOR LIFE

Council #18811, St. John Paul II Council at Carthage College





AS WE PREPARE TO celebrate the Lenten season and the promise of Easter and the Resurrection of our Lord, Lady Melissa and I wish each of you a blessed and hope-filled season. May the victory of Christ over death renew our hearts and fill your homes with faith, peace, and joy.

As we reflect on the past year, we are deeply grateful for the blessing of being part of the Wisconsin Knights of Columbus family. Your dedication to charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism continues to inspire us. Through parish ministries, community outreach, and the support you show one another, you truly embody the spirit of our Order.

Easter is a time of renewal and new life. As we move forward from the empty tomb, let us recommit ourselves to the mission of the Knights of Columbus—serving our parishes, strengthening our families, and standing together as brothers in faith, guided by the light of the Risen Christ.

Lady Melissa and I are humbled to walk alongside you on this journey. We pray that the Lord blesses your families abundantly throughout the coming year and leads our councils to even greater works of charity and fraternity.

On behalf of the State Officers, thank you for all you do to make Wisconsin shine as a beacon of faith, hope, and service.

Vivat Jesus!



Knights of Columbus®

JOIN THE FATHER MICHAEL MCGIVNEY GUILD



Honor His Legacy. Advance His Cause.

Strengthen Your Faith During the Jubilee Year of Hope.

As the Church celebrates the Jubilee Year of Hope, Catholics everywhere are called to renew their faith and walk more closely with Christ. What better way to respond than by drawing inspiration from our founder, Blessed Michael J. McGivney, who gave his life to strengthening families, building parish communities, and bringing hope to those on the margins.

By joining the Father McGivney Guild, you can (1) support his cause for sainthood and pray for his canonization, (2) deepen your spiritual life through his intercession during this Jubilee of grace, and (3) Publicly witness to our Catholic hope as a member of his spiritual family.

Membership is free and open to all who believe in his mission. Guild members receive inspiring newsletters, spiritual reflections, and invitations to special devotions honoring Blessed McGivney. Let's help make our founder a saint.

McGivney Guild Chairman

Jack Wrbanich, PSD



JANUARY WAS ANOTHER SLOW MONTH for Online Membership. As of January 22, 44 e-members joined the order in Wisconsin during the month of January. This is about half of what we would normally expect. Since July 1, we have brought in 429 e-members in Wisconsin. This is an increase of about 85 e-members compared to the same time last fraternal year. Thank you to all of the Councils that are using E-membership

to bring new men into the order.

During January, Councils continued to do a good job of welcoming assigned e-members into their Councils. Since July 1, we still have about 124 e-members that have been assigned to a Council but have not yet taken an Exemplification or joined a Council. While in person exemplifications are preferred, if schedules are not working out, please use the On-Demand Online Exemplification to get these brothers into your Councils and then invite them to get involved.

Cards with the QR Code to join online are available from Supreme. These can be very helpful when inviting men to join. Your Diocesan Membership Directors and District Deputies should be able to help you get these cards if you need them.

WGK and 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.

REMINDERS

WGK & WFS please frequently review your councils **Prospect** tab. Should you experience any difficulty with this process, please email me regarding these outstanding assigned e-members and I will gladly assist you.

Supreme presented a Webinar in December on Transferring online members to council membership which you can access [here](#).

Do not send Form 100's to Supreme for new members, keep them for your council's records. If you must use a Form 100, scan it and email it to Supreme, keeping the original for your council records. Since Form 100's must be manually processed at Supreme, they can lead to data entry errors and delays. Utilizing e-membership or the **Candidate** tab for new members are the preferred ways to bring in new members. **The date field is the date they were exemplified by your council. Once you enter those dates in either tab, the members will be automatically transferred to your council's roster within the next week.**

If you have any questions or concerns, contact me. I am in your State Directory.

Vivat Jesus!

PROSPECT TAB

Shows you e-members that have joined online via the Supreme app. The date field is used to transfer them into your council when they have completed their exemplification. With e-membership, new members enter their own data and confirm their membership, and then they receive an e-mail from Supreme. These e-members are then part of the state council, and get assigned to a local council. Until the local FS enters the exemplification date, these members remain part of the State Council. Local councils get credit for them when the exemplification date is entered by the FS to transfer them into your Council.

Clicking on this blue box will take you to the Prospect training.

CANDIDATE TAB

Used when you recruit a member locally or are handling a member transfer request or a reinstatement of a prior member. The Candidate tab can best be described as an online Form 100. The candidate tab training covers new members and transfers into local councils.

Clicking on this red box will take you to the candidate training.

ONLINE CEREMONIAL

Click on this box to take you to the **Online Ceremonial** invitation site.



AS WE CONCLUDE the first half of our fraternal year, I am pleased to share that we have successfully achieved both our first- and second-quarter incentives. Although the third quarter began slowly, momentum is building once again and we are making steady progress.

Reaching our third-quarter incentive is essential to ensuring a strong and successful fourth quarter, and I am confident that we can accomplish this together. In the coming days, I will be reaching out personally to councils experiencing challenges with membership recruitment to offer support and encouragement.

Thank you sincerely for everything you do for the Order. Your dedication and commitment make all the difference.

Vivat Jesus!

Maximize Your Council's Benefit






Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
Making a difference for life.

We are excited to announce that the Supreme Office has implemented a new initiative. Any council that refers a Brother Knight or eligible Catholic male to become a Field Agent, and that candidate successfully completes six months under contract, will have all per capita fees waived at the end of the applicable billing cycle.

We appreciate your understanding and look forward to seeing you online. Together, let's strengthen our community and build a secure future.

New Fraternal Benefit Nights

| |
|---------------------------------|
| 02/05/2026 - Thursday - 7:00 pm |
| 05/28/2026 - Thursday - 7:00 pm |
| 08/13/2026 - Thursday - 7:00 pm |
| 11/05/2026 - Thursday - 7:00 pm |



STATE WARDEN
JAMES VOSTERS



AS THE YEAR HAS PROGRESSED, we have started implementing portions of our new state website. The first changes you may have already noticed include the new tootsie roll ordering process and the state convention information and registration pages.

While I and a team of volunteers are working to build and test the pages, I recognize that this is still new, and there could be a technical glitch on occasion. If you think you encounter an error in the new pages or forms, or have a general question, please send me an email at jvosters@wikofc.org. I am personally monitoring all of the site traffic and form submissions. As of writing, 113 orders have been placed for more than 800 cases of tootsie rolls. Lets keep up the momentum and see how many cases we can give away through our local councils this year!

Lastly, I have recorded two videos to assist you in navigating and filling out the tootsie roll ordering form and convention registration forms. They will be posted to the state website by February 1st. Changing and automating processes can be a daunting task, I ask for your patience as we take more steps forward, and I ask for your observations as you engage with the new technology.

Vivat Jesus!

AN INVITATION TO CONTINUE THE JOURNEY TOGETHER

AS MASTERS OF THE FOURTH DEGREE IN WISCONSIN, entrusted with the stewardship of the Patriotic Degree, we are asking councils and assemblies to look ahead together and prepare intentionally for the opportunities before us in 2026.

Patriotic Exemplifications are among the most important moments in the life of our Order. They provide Brother Knights an opportunity to continue their journey by embracing the Patriotic Degree, not as something separate from council life, but as a deeper expression of the same principles we already live, faith in action, fraternity in service, and love of country rooted in our Catholic identity. Time and again, we see that the most effective invitations come not from announcements, but from personal encouragement and example.

UPCOMING PATRIOTIC EXEMPLIFICATIONS

INCLUDES

- > **April 11** – De Pere
- > **April 25** – Marshfield

These exemplifications offer councils a natural opportunity to work closely with their local assemblies, identifying eligible Third Degree Knights, reaching out personally, and helping them understand what it means to serve as a Sir Knight.

As we look beyond exemplifications, we are also mindful that our nation is approaching a historic milestone: the 250th anniversary of the United States. America 250 presents a meaningful framework for councils and assemblies to collaborate in ways that are visible, respectful, and rooted in parish and community life. This moment does not call for grand gestures, but for thoughtful, local efforts that reflect who we are as Catholic men.



COUNCIL-ASSEMBLY COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES

- > Joint promotion of Patriotic Exemplifications
- > Patriotic or America 250 themed parish Masses or prayer services
- > Veterans outreach or recognition efforts
- > Parish, community, or charitable projects planned together
- > Civic observances or flag retirement ceremonies
- > Ceremonial or visible support when requested

Participation in the Patriotic Degree takes many forms. Some efforts will be public and ceremonial; others will be quiet acts of service, prayer, or leadership behind the scenes. Whether through parish events, veterans' outreach, civic observances, charitable projects, or visible support when requested, councils and assemblies each bring unique strengths to the mission. When those strengths are aligned, the impact is unmistakable.

The Fourth Degree exists to support councils and strengthen the Order as a whole. Assemblies stand ready to assist councils in their activities, just as councils play a vital role in encouraging Brother Knights to consider the Patriotic Degree as a natural continuation of their Knightly service.

We encourage Faithful Navigators and Grand Knights to begin these conversations now. Ask where collaboration makes sense, where presence is needed, and how upcoming events can reflect both our faith and our patriotism. When we move forward together—each contributing in his own way—we honor our heritage and ensure a strong future for the Knights of Columbus in Wisconsin.

Vivat Jesus!

ULTRASOUND PROJECTS

Hope Life Center, Wausau; CareNet Dane County, Madison; and Lillies of Hope, Grafton.

Congratulations to Council(s) #1069, #4586, and #4520 for your leadership on these ultrasound initiatives. If your council would like to help, please send your checks to:

St. Joseph Council #4586

Charles Risler
1102 Timothy Ave.
Madison, WI 53716
(608) 574-9935
risler5@yahoo.com

George S. Schreier Council #1069

Jon Kleist
159033 Evergreen Road
Wausau, WI 54403
(725) 551-7850 C
kleist1150@gmail.com

San Salvador Council #4520

Dave Breidenbach
P.O. Box 341
Cedarburg, WI 53012
(262) 665-8215 C
david.breidenbach@gmail.com

NEED HELP WITH ULTRASOUND FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN?

There is a great pro-life organization out in Yelm, Washinton (state) called [4US](#). They will help with **25%** of the cost of the ultrasound. **Yes**, that is **half** of your council's obligation! Here's their [website](#).



SPECIAL OLYMPICS OF WISCONSIN

The Wisconsin Knights of Columbus have agreed to have boots on the ground for all Special Olympics of Wisconsin (SOWI) statewide events. Here are the upcoming events! Please get the word out to your members to volunteer. Get your men there to volunteer. Bring the whole family! Special Olympics of Wisconsin will put your whole family to work and it's a lot fun! State Winter Games details can be found [here](#).

ASAP GRANTS

Hopefully the month of January left your council's checking account **empty** after giving away all your money to pregnancy centers in your area. For every \$500 your council or assembly donates to a pregnancy resource center or maternity home (up to \$2,000), the Supreme Council will donate \$100. But, you have to [apply for it!](#) It is always best to apply online. If you need help, let me know and I'll walk you through it. You can also provide me with the information and I will apply for you online! There are only two forms you need, [Donation Receipt Letter](#) and a [W9](#).

CHECK OUT THE PICTURES ON PAGE 5!

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.

You can also purchase Pro-Life license plates. The more plates we have on the road, the more the pro-life message will be shared, and the more money there will be for the Pregnancy Resource Centers. The extra \$25 you pay for the plate is **tax deductible** if you itemize on Schedule A. More information [here](#).

Vivat Jesus!



AS JANUARY GOES INTO THE BOOKS, we are now looking at February which is the American Heart Month along with the favorite St. Valentine's Day on February 14th, Presidents Day on February 16th, and Ash Wednesday on February 18th. The month of February also brings us a week-long National Celebration of Marriage from February 7th through the 14th ending on St.

Valentines which is certainly monumental!

Lent begins on February 18. This year, perhaps we can celebrate the preparation of Easter as a family? I know I certainly have a "Scale of Improvement" in this area! There are several Family activities that can inspire all of us in being better Husband's, Father's, Grandfather's and just better Family men. I have attached numerous links below to "Family Activities" and you can create any "Family Activity" in whatever works for you & your family.

I must also add that we need to remember and keep looking for that "Family of the Month" within our Parish. Let's give many families that encouragement and recognition of simply being a loving, caring and sharing

family. In essence, the head of the household for a "Family of the Month" entry does NOT have to be a member of the Knights of Columbus.

On a side note, for those Council's that are submitting a "Family of the Year" there is a deadline date of February 15th for a "Family of the Year" entry. Remember: The husband of the "Family of the Year" **does** need to be a good standing, active member of the Knights of Columbus.

The other item that I need to mention is the "Food For Families" program. As we are in the middle of winter in Wisconsin, these programs can certainly be brutal! The past weeks have given us some very cold days and nights. Let's share our good fortunes with the less fortunate in however that calling transpires us.

In closing, I'd like to reiterate that there are numerous links to "Family Activities" and that you can create **any** "Family Activity" as long as it works for you and your family. I believe that's all for now. Until we meet again, take care, stay healthy and God bless us all!

Vivat Jesus!



FAMILY

HISTORY BOOK UPDATES

Mike Frase

Please make sure your Councils are aware of the major changes to the Council History book authorship for 2026. Much has currently gone into communications and transfer of information to the State Officers, District Deputies, and Councils which began at last years Convention. But from my experience as a KC for over 25 years, I am sure there is still leadership withing the Councils that have not gotten the message. There is no book report due in February to anyone and no shipping of books anywhere. All your wonderful book authorships are due at convention time this May. Please make sure you check out all the latest information along with guidance and training documents and videos in the History Book section of the State Website under state Forms. The State Officers along with all your fellow KC's are looking forward in viewing your FIA Fraternal Yearbooks at convention time. [More on Digital uploading will be provided.](#)



I **EXTEND MY GRATITUDE** to all the councils throughout the state who have turned in their tickets sales during the first turn-in period in mid-December. Though slow, every ticket that is sold will help bring relief to a family or individual in time of great

need. The next turn-in to your Diocesan Coordinator is mid-February.

Revisions have been made to forms for the Charity program. Please take note:

- > 1) Begin using the revised Charity Raffle Deposit Form (2025-2026) provided in the white ticket packets at your Diocesan Huddle meetings last fall. The previous forms are obsolete and will not be accepted. I am working on getting the updated form uploaded to the State website. Thank you for your patience.
- > 2) For submitting an Individual Charity Grant Request Form (2025-2026) please use the updated form also inserted into the white packets. Those forms are available now on the State website. The previous forms are obsolete and, again, will not be accepted. You can find the updated form [here](#).
- > 3) The report form for the Council Charity Grant Form (2025-2026) that is due on May 1, 2026, has also been revised. Older versions of this report are obsolete and will not be accepted if submitted. When completed, please post mail or email the form directly to me as State Charity Director. **Do not send** to the State Office or email to the State Form email address (forms@wikofc.com). With the State Convention being later again this year (May 15 – 17) the CCFG form, again, needs to be turned in by May 1, 2026. So please make the best effort

to turn them in before that date. The revised form can be found [here](#).

These updates and delivery revisions have been to help better streamline the collection process to a single person for better uploading and accounting practices.

HELP WANTED! Two of our current Diocesan Coordinators - Dennis Berendes from the Diocese of Superior and Robert Pizur from the Diocese of Madison - have announced their retirement from the State Charity Committee at the end of this season. We are actively seeking to fill these vacancies as soon as possible. Anyone who is interested or would like more information on the duties and responsibilities of the role please reach out to either one of these fine gentlemen or me and we would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Brothers Dennis and Robert have served on the Committee for many years and have been a great asset to the State Charity Committee for their time and service. May God bless them for the sharing of their time and talent.

Please continue to keep up the great work that we do as Knights of Columbus to follow in the footsteps of our founder Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney. With the season of Lent just around the corner, one way we can encourage our neighbors is to support charitable causes such as our State Charity Raffle program.

Wishing you, your families and Brother Knights all a blessed and holy Lenten season.

Vivat Jesus!

“Let us show Christ honor, not with olive branches but with the splendor of merciful deeds to one another.”

St. Andrew of Crete, bishop (650-712 A.D.)



WHILE WE ARE HOPING to get out of the deep freeze this month we are quickly moving into the season for preparation and action. We have many opportunities coming up in the near future, such as February 19th being Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten Season. March 14th -15th the

arrival of the Silver Rose in Wisconsin, March 14th the Men of Christ Conference in Milwaukee, March 29th Passion Sunday or Psalm Sunday, leading into Holy week and Easter on April 5th. If we have not pre planned for these opportunities for Faith Programs now is the time for preparation. Time is ticking away faster than we often realize.

The Silver Rose

This year Supreme surprised us by moving by moving our dates ahead by 4 months from where we received the Silver Rose last year. Fortunately, with Councils answering the call I was able to prepare the schedule soon enough to allow all the councils a little over a month to prepare. Unfortunately with Holy week falling in the middle of our rotation, I was only able to schedule 22 Councils with at least 3 Councils in each of the Dioceses. I'm asking each of the host Councils to please review Supreme's [webpage](#). Please Read #10622 Guide Sheet which was updated in the last year. At the request of our Supreme Master I also want to encourage all Host Councils to invite the Honor Guard to all the Silver Rose Services. If you need any additional assistance feel free to call or email me.

Sacred Heart Pilgrim ICON Program

In June the first rotation of the Sacred Heart Icon will complete its full rotation of all the Councils in the state of Wisconsin. Due to some communications issues there were some Councils that had missed their rotations. The second rotation will be starting in July to the Councils that are requesting the icon for this second rotation. Preference will be for Councils that did not receive it on the first rotation. Please email me your request. Councils still in line to receive the icon remember to order supplies from Supreme especial the prayer cards and litany cards.

Home Enthronement of the Sacred Heart

While I had mentioned this prior please consider bringing this program to your parishes. Enthronement of the Family had been a wide spread practice since the 17th

century with the Image of Sacred Heart in every home. However through generations it has dwindled down. By enthroning the Sacred Heart, participants commit to living according to Christ's teachings and embrace a way of life rooted in his love, mercy, and blessings.

Ideally, the enthronement of the family is done by a priest, but it can be done by the head of the family. A simple 9-day sovena shared with the family should precede the actual enthronement. The blessed image of the Sacred Heart should be placed in a predominant place in the house while the family is praying together. Every Council can order the necessary material from Supreme including either framed or unframed images of the Sacred Heart.

Sacramental Gifts

This is the season moving upon us where Couples are getting Married, Young Adults are receiving Confirmation, Children are receiving their first Communion, RCIA Adults are receiving their Sacraments for the first time, and seminarians are becoming Deacons, or Priests. The sacraments stand as the most significant spiritual events in the life these individuals. As Knights we need to make sure they understand that we will support these individuals in their spiritual journeys.

As a State Council we are offering to help your Council with copies of either the YCAT condensed bible for our Children or the ST. Ignatius complete bible for our young and old adults. These bible in paperback are available for \$12.50 each through the State Web site or directly trough [me](#).

Holy Hour

As Catholics, we believe in the Real Presence: that Jesus Christ is truly present—body, blood, soul, and divinity—in the Eucharist. As such, we are compelled to grow in our devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist and to share His presence with the world. A Eucharistic Procession, just as a Eucharistic Adoration, is an extension of the worship of Jesus Christ, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. Now is the time to prepare ahead to help your Pastors host both the Holy Hours and Processions.

New Faith Programs

Supreme is constantly looking for new programs that will help us not only expand our faith but also spread it through evangelization. The two newest Faith programs are "Imitating Saint Juan Diego" and "¡Viva Cristo Rey!" The Imitating Saint Juan Diego program encourages

councils to promote devotion to St. Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe. As Knights of Columbus, whose patroness is Our Lady of Guadalupe, we are called to be her messengers, just as St. Juan Diego was throughout his life. The ¡Viva Cristo Rey! program celebrates the sanctity of the Mexican Martyrs, including members of the Knights of Columbus, who were killed for their faith during the religious persecution of Catholics by the Mexican government in the early 20th century. Both of these programs help us understand what obedience and dedication to Our faith can do.

Forms and More Forms

I touched on this item briefly at the District Deputies Winter meeting. For the first six months of our Fraternal year there were 14 forms 10784 submitted to Supreme for the Pilgrim Icon program. During that time period the Icon was Scheduled to be in at least 100 Councils. Meaning that less than 14% of Councils are submitting this form. Then we can subtract from that that several of the submissions were duplicates. Remember when the form #10784 is submitted to Supreme it reflects on the Activity of your Council, your District, as well as the Wisconsin Jurisdiction. Also, remember that no program is complete until the paperwork is completed. It should only take five minutes to fill this online form. If you need help your District Deputy can walk you through the process, or you can call me.

My second forms issue concerns the forms checked as other. I read every form that is listed under OTHER which included 31 faith forms in the first six months. Out of these I found some fantastic new Faith Programs that should be submitted for State Awards and possibly even a Supreme award. However there were numerous others that should have been filed not as Faith Other, but would have fallen into a Family or Community classification. Please read through the titles on all four columns of the form before checking the other box. If you're unsure what makes it a particular program simply read the description and guideline on the Supreme website.

Vivat Jesus!

| SILVER ROSE 2026 | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Saturday, March 14, 2026 | |
| Sunday, March 15, 2026 | 16444 Lacrosse |
| Monday, March 16, 2026 | 2772 Mauston |
| Tuesday, March 17, 2026 | 974 Chippewa Falls |
| Wednesday, March 18, 2026 | 1762 Hudson |
| Thursday, March 19, 2026 | 5397 Spooner |
| Friday, March 20, 2026 | 7319 Bruce |
| Saturday, March 21, 2026 | 3449 Stanley |
| Sunday, March 22, 2026 | 4628 Schofield |
| Monday, March 23, 2026 | 13702 Weyauwega |
| Tuesday, March 24, 2026 | 5582 Fort Howard |
| Wednesday, March 25, 2026 | 2556 Chilton |
| Thursday, March 26, 2026 | 5539 Keil |
| Friday, March 27, 2026 | 4520 Cederburg |
| Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 7048 Mukwonago |
| Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 6448 Muskego |
| Monday, March 30, 2026 | 4106 Union Grove |
| Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 3396 Fort Atkinson |
| Wednesday, April 1, 2026 | HOLY WEDNESDAY |
| Thursday, April 2, 2026 | HOLY THURSDAY |
| Friday, April 3, 2026 | GOOD FRIDAY |
| Saturday, April 4, 2026 | HOLY SATURDAY |
| Sunday, April 5, 2026 | EASTER SUNDAY |
| Monday, April 6, 2026 | 1478 Watertown |
| Tuesday, April 7, 2026 | 4879 Sun Prairie |
| Wednesday, April 8, 2026 | 531 Madison |
| Thursday, April 9, 2026 | 7811 Mazomanie |
| Friday, April 10, 2026 | 2820 Lancaster |
| Saturday, April 11, 2026 | |
| Sunday, April 12, 2026 | 1840 Prairie Du Chein |



HOPE YOU'RE HOLDING UP THROUGH the recent blasts of bitter cold and snow. Hopefully February will bring us better weather to operate our programs in! Last month, I challenged Councils to look at the 5 core Community programs in the Faith in Action category (Coats, Habitat, Wheelchairs,

Disaster Response/Prep and Helping Hands) and offered suggestions for participation in them during January-March. I stand by those ideas and ask you to look at them again and get going on at least 2 or 3 of them this month or finish up what you have already begun.

Here in February, it's a good time to take a look at the 2 new Supreme programs in this area, namely "Bright Futures" and "Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage." Now is the time that parishes, pastors and leadership are planning and implementing their formats for parish festivals, fairs and picnics; patron saint observances, holiday celebrations (St. Patrick, St. Joseph, July 4 250 th anniversary of the nation, etc.). Get together with those planners and leaders and offer your help to man, support, coordinate those programs or parts of them. Likewise, schools are now setting their '26-'27 calendars, = determining their needs for programs, staff, students. Contact them, find out what you can do to help them with student supplies, scholarships, teachers' materials, phy. ed. Or athletic equipment, AV or other needed equipment replacement or upgrades, etc. Start now to set up a fundraiser or 2 in spring and summer. Highlight activities for Family Week in August as a great lead-in to the new school year.

For both of these, you'll be helpful, visible and maybe bring in some new members or at least supporters in the process! You can really show that we are the "strong right arm of the church!" Same updates on youth programs: 1) Citizenship Essay Diocesan winners are now arriving on

my desk and State winners will be announced in February. 2) Council and District Poster winners should now be arriving to DPCs and/or Diocesan Directors for their judging prior to going on to State judging. 3) Culture of Life Essay Contest is now underway in January through the end of March. Council entries should be in and judged by April 15, then on to DPCs or Diocesan Directors by April 20. 4) Spring Soccer and Hockey Skills Council-level Contests are underway now through the end of May. Results should be sent to your DPC or Diocesan Director and to me. 5) Free Throw Council and District Contests and Knowledge Council Contests are now underway through March 15. Send results to your DPC or Diocesan Director ASAP. Green travel cards to advance to District Free Throw and Diocesan Knowledge and Free Throw Contests are needed by all Council winners. They can be obtained from your DDs, DPCs, State Office or me. They can also be printed from the format now on the State website.

Diocesan Knowledge and Free Throw Contests are set or in the works for Madison, La Crosse and Green Bay Dioceses. Contact Ray Berres (Green Bay), Erik Hayko (Madison) or Mark Schaefer (La Crosse) for more information. Milwaukee Archdiocese is still TBD. Hopefully, it will come to fruition. Contact [Don McInnes](#) or [Dennis Irwin](#) for more information. There is no DPC in Superior. Hopefully, Diocesan Contests can yet be arranged. If not, Councils and DDs will need to send me their results with winners' names, full contact information and scores so that I can determine who will qualify for the State Contests. More on that in March! The State knowledge and Free Throw Contests are set for Saturday, May 2 in Wisconsin Rapids at Assumption High School (Free Throw 10-11 AM registration and practice, announcements and start of competition 11:15 AM; Knowledge registration 10-11:15 AM, announcements and start 11:30 AM). Stay safe and warm. Have a great February.

Vivat Jesus!



SPOTLIGHT

THREE KINGS EVENT South Milwaukee Council 1709



ON JANUARY 3, 2026, members of South Milwaukee Knights of Columbus Council 1709 partnered with the officers Milwaukee Police Department 2nd District, led by Captain Erin E. Mejia, and Araceli Arevalo and the team from Safe & Sound, Inc. Together, they

participated in the annual Three Kings Event, which provided activities, entertainment, haircuts, lunch, and coats to children affected by crime and violence.

Council 1709 and Ladies Auxiliary members donated and delivered more than 110 coats, hats mittens and scarves to 42 families living in District 2 neighborhoods.

A special thanks to Les Kostera, State Membership Director and David Sytkowski, District 65 District Deputy for assisting Council 1709 members with the distribution of coats.



SENTIMENTS FOR SEMINARIANS



ON MONDAY, JANUARY 12, Ernie Reinhart, Michael Tennes, and SK Don McInnes presented the WI KofC Milwaukee Diocese area Sentiments for Seminarians donation of gift cards totaling \$12,940 to Father Luke Strand with Saint Francis de Sales Seminary for presentation to the Milwaukee Diocese Seminarians on behalf of the Milwaukee

Diocese Knights of Columbus Councils.

Surprised by the donation—which would provide approximately \$300 to each seminarian currently in faith formation—Father Luke extended his thanks to the Knights for their generous support of the Seminarians. SK Don McInnes stated: "I have to say it felt really good being there with my KC brothers representing our fraternal order and was both humbled and honored to do so as Milwaukee Diocese Director."

Give up...

Joshua Hopper

NO, CONTRARY TO WHAT the title seems to imply, I am not telling you to quit. Quite the opposite, in fact. I am reminding you that Lent begins on February 18 and we are called to give something up in our lives. God loves us so much that He gave up His only begotten Son to die for our sins. Doesn't it seem fitting that we find something to give up as well?

In our day and age, we struggle with all sorts of addictions or distractions that prevent us from forming that close relationship with God that He desires for us. I, for one, am guilty of spending too much time with mindless gaming and useless scrolling. Matthew 6:21 states: "For where your treasure is, there your heart

will be also." If we treasure the things that take us away from God, how can our hearts learn to love God?

Remember, Lent is more than a time of giving things up. It is a way for you to remove those addictions and distractions from your life. Removing these things creates a void in our lives that we can choose to fill with Jesus instead. Instead of the hour spent scrolling a day, dedicate that time to a holy hour or a rosary or personal prayer. Instead of reaching for the phone, reach for the Bible. Make this Lent not just a time of giving up, but a time of renewal in your relationship with God!

Vivat Jesus!

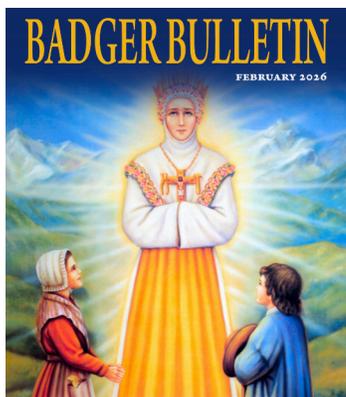


SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Keep articles below 500 words.
- Submit word docs to **kc2055pr@gmail**
- Send photos separately, clearly labeled, with credits.
- Prioritize quality content with articles.
- Proofread thoroughly for spelling and grammar.
- Avoid double spaces after periods.
- Be punctual! Late submissions will be excluded from future publications.



Knights of Columbus®



ON THE COVER: OUR LADY OF LA SALETTE

Two children named Maximin and Melanie were tending to their sheep on September 19, 1846, when they came across a crying woman. She confided in them about her desire for conversion of sinners as it displeased her Son. She also called the children to remember to keep the sabbath day holy and to respect the holy name of Jesus. Our Lady of La Salette is one of the only Marian apparitions that appeared only once. The apparition was approved five years later on November 16, 1851, by Monsignor de Bruillard and its feast day is on September 19. Pope St. John Paul II reflected on Our Lady on her feast day, saying "LaSalette is a message of hope, for our hope is nourished by the intercession of her who is the Mother of mankind."

In service to One.

In service to all.

