



# *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

February 2023

Volume 7 issue 5

## *From the State Deputy*

My Brother Knights,

The fraternal year is a little over halfway done and many Councils have already done so much work. The State Council aligns with our recruitment goals for this part of the year. Almost two-thirds of the active councils in the State have recruited one new member. I have witnessed the success that some of these councils have experienced in gaining new members and council leadership. For those Councils who have been unsuccessful, please know that your District Deputy, State Officers and State Insurance team can assist your council with Church and Membership drives. Don't hesitate to contact Worthy Membership Director Mark Paul if you have any questions or need help with your next drive. Remember that this is not a numbers game. We need to recruit new members to have vibrant and active councils with a continuity of new leadership. New membership provides for more hands to accomplish more good works. The new member provides for the next leaders of our councils. Does your council know who your next leaders are? Unfortunately, the answer is no for most councils that have recruited any members this year. Please do not lose hope if you are having difficulties recruiting; I have seen many councils this year that have been successful even though they have gone many years with little growth. **Please remember that free online membership is extended into the fraternal year with promo code: BlessedMcGivney.**

In addition to the successes of our various Council's membership goals and program activities, there have been many exciting milestones this year. We have seen a change in our State Council Chaplain. We welcome Fr. Gadoury and we are inspired by his leadership and words of inspiration. We wholeheartedly thank Fr. Joe for his unwavering pastoral dedication and friendship to the members of this order. We have also seen a change in our Diocesan leadership as well. Most of you have likely heard that Bishop Tobin has submitted his resignation to the Pope (as required in that he turns 75 in April 2023). Bishop Tobin has stated that he expects his resignation to be accepted in the Spring. Toward that end, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Richard Henning to the position of Coadjutor Bishop alongside Bishop Tobin beginning in January. As Coadjutor Bishop, Bishop Henning will automatically succeed Bishop Tobin. Bishop Henning is also a Knight of Columbus. Let's welcome

Brother Knight, Bishop Henning, and support him throughout his tenure as our Shepherd. And also thank Bishop Tobin and Auxiliary Bishop Evans for their service to God and His people.

There is so much more information I would like to share with you, Brothers, and I believe the best opportunity for that would be at our next State Meeting held on February 23rd at Cranston Council #1738 (70 Pettaconsett Ave., Cranston, RI). This will be a Thursday night state meeting which we are trying out for a few of our state meetings this year. The State meetings, whether held on Friday or Thursday this year, will start earlier at 7:00 pm. We value your time and will make every effort for the business portion of the meeting to last one hour so we can get on to the better part of the meeting, the sharing of fraternity. Several of these State Meetings were held very close to this time, only going a few minutes over, and many members stayed after the meeting for the collation. Like last month, the State Officers and District Deputies will be available after the business portion to answer any questions and/or offer advice or guidance.

Lastly, brothers, The Supreme Council is actively promoting that the membership strengthens themselves in faith and virtue by drawing them into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, formation, and fraternity. The Supreme Council is piloting a program called the COR MEETING, a separate meeting open to knights and non-knights alike that focuses on prayer, formation and fraternity. Supreme also recommended partnering with established Men's groups that conform to these goals. In the State of Rhode Island, another group organizes their meeting just for such a purpose. That group is the Men of St Joseph International. Brothers, I consider this timing so providential as many of our leadership have joined them and their leadership has become knights in the past two years. The notion that they are the men of faith and we are the men of action is now gone. We now see each group striving to be men who put their faith into action. I have spoken to the Supreme Knight and shared the possibility of working with the Men of St Joseph International and he wholeheartedly agreed that we should work together. I would strongly recommend you consider attending the Men of St Joseph International's Men's Conference on Saturday, March 25th at St. Philips in Greenville and joining a local chapter. This event will be a great showing of this partnership as one of the



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presentations will be given by Rhode Island State Chaplain Fr Gadoury and Men of St Joseph International chaplain Fr Murphy will celebrate the mass. Vivat Jesus!



David Bebyn  
State Deputy

## *State Secretary*

State Secretary Joe Carignan reports that the State Per Capita bills have been emailed and the Insurance bills will be emailed this February. (ed. note - Supreme Per Capita statements have been posted & are only available through Officers Online).

Also of note, the mailing address for the State Office has changed to **PO Box 9091, Providence, RI 02904**.

## *Diocesan News*

### *Diocese of Providence*

The Diocese of Providence officially welcomed its new Coadjutor Bishop, Richard Henning, on January 26th at a Mass of Welcome followed by a reception. The Mass was spectacularly attended by a diverse cross-section of the Diocesan population. Included were many of our priests and students from the many Catholic schools. There were also many priests from New York as well as approximately 30 Bishops (including 2 Cardinals - Timothy Dolan & Sean O'Malley and Papal Nuncio Archbishop Christophe Pierre). There were representatives from the Knights of Malta, Knights of the Holy Sepulchre and our own Order, the Knights of Columbus.

## *Patriotic Degree News*

As mentioned in the Christmas edition District Master Victor Silva has been informed by Supreme Master Dennis Stoddard that there will no longer be Virtual Exemplifications. In that light, RI will need to re-assemble and enhance its 4th Degree Exemplification team. In

addition to the existing members, we will need to fill in some spots where we have lost a Brother Sir Knight. We also would like to have enough members to go 2-deep to better ensure availability as we all sometimes have conflicting commitments. Any Sir Knight wishing to join the Degree team can contact PJ Shea (Delaney Assembly Navigator) or Jack Tracy (Exec. Secretary to the Master). Their contact information can be found on the end page. You can, of course, also reach out to District Master Vic Silva as well. Please note that you **MUST** have the Uniform to participate on the **Degree Team**.

## *From the District Master*

My brother Knights and Sir Knights,

Let me first start by thanking all the Sir knights in uniform and tuxedo for their assistance in the Lady of Altagracia the Dominican Mass, we had 17 Sir Knights. Then, the week after we had the Mass for our Bishop Henning- Coadjutor Bishop of Providence. The Mass was well attended with at least 24 Sir Knights on a Thursday afternoon I know a lot of you took the day off or left early so thank you.

Please remember even if you don't have a uniform yet you are always welcome to come. As of now, I have not heard of any exemplifications yet, I do know that we have a few brothers that would like to join the order of the 4th degree, so as soon as I hear of any we will have to figure it out and probably travel.

Keep in mind that we have confirmations coming up and if you hear of any, it is the Assembly's responsibility to gather Sir Knights.

If any assembly is interested in the ceremonial renewal of obligations, I will be doing one on February 20th at 7pm for the Rebello assembly in Cranston at St. Marks Church Garden City. If your Assembly is interested let me know

Lets us keep in mind our Veterans and Brother Knights and family that need our prayers



*Victor Silva*  
District Master



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## Membership News

Membership Director Mark Paul has announced the results of the State Membership Incentive effort. In Tier 1 Providence College earned the \$600 1st place prize with 150% of their annual goal, Bristol Council took 2nd place (\$250) with 75% of annual goal. In Tier 2 Pope Pius earned \$400 with 100% of goal, Woonsocket was 2nd (\$200) at 75% of goal, and Blessing Council was 3rd (\$100) at 75% of goal. In Tier 3 Fr. Donnelly Council earned \$200 with 80% of their annual goal. The membership goal along with programming were the 2 components needed to achieve this incentive. Congratulations to all, let's keep the positive momentum going.

Don't forget **Free on-line membership!!!** That's right... Supreme is still offering free on-line membership. 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.

The next scheduled Exemplification of Charity, Unity, Fraternity is February 27th at 6:30pm at Woonsocket Council (1200 Mendon Rd).

Finally, remember that Membership Director Mark Paul and the State Officers & District Deputies are here to help.

## Fraternal Benefits

Our Fraternal Benefit agents are willing to work hard on your behalf. AGA Jim Davis is currently lining up dates for virtual & in-person Fraternal Benefit Nights. If he calls & asks your Council to host one, please work with him to make it happen. **Remember** - your Council must have 7 members or member-eligibles in attendance to count toward the Founder's Award.

There are also 3 virtual Fraternal Benefit Seminars scheduled by our General Agent, see below:

- Thursday February 23, 2023 @ 7:00PM register by going to the State website ([kofc.org](http://kofc.org)) and clicking on the Fraternal

Benefit Seminar button near the bottom of the home page

- The Urrutia Region welcomes **Ed Slott** "Retirement Savings and Distribution Planning" on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 PM EST

Link:

<https://tinyurl.com/KofCSlottMarch2>

- The Urrutia Region welcomes **Jim Effner** "Importance of Whole Life as part of Retirement Plan" on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM EST

Link:

<https://tinyurl.com/KofCEffnerApril26>



AGA Jim Davis



GA John Ruffo

## Programming Activities

All our State sponsored and promoted activities can be used to satisfy requirements of the Columbian Award. Note also that some of our biggest State initiatives began as a local Council activity (e.g. - Operation R.O.V.A.C.). Supporting the causes of other Councils will also get them to reciprocate and support your causes.

- Fraternity begets Unity and together lead to an increase of Charity.

## Dates of Note

- **February 10th** -Warwick Council Funny for Funds
- **February 12th** - Pascoag Council Valentine Dance
- **February 20th** - Presidents Day
- **February 21st** - Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras) Pancake Dinner @ E. Prov. Council
- **February 22nd** - Ash Wednesday
- **February 22nd** - Spring 40 Days for Life Campaign begins



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- **February 23rd** - State Meeting @ Cranston Council (see below)
- **February 27th** - Exemplification of Charity, Unity, Fraternity at Woonsocket Council

Check the State website for other events at [kofcri.org](http://kofcri.org).

There are Councils which hold Lenten Friday fish Dinners to recognize our Catholic Lenten tradition. Please support them. Examples are St. John Paul II/Delaney St. Teresa & Rooney Councils every Friday during Lent and Warwick Council on March 10th. If there are others please spread the word.

## *State Meeting*

The next State Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, February 23rd** at Cranston Council in Cranston (20 Pettaconsett Ave.). **Start time is 7:00.**

**State Warden Jeff Gaulin** notes that the January State Meeting was the best attended this Fraternal Year and urges all to keep the momentum going. Each Council should send at least one representative to each meeting. There is always some good new information to be exchanged and may provide your Council with a new program idea.

## *Community Programs*

### *Helping Hands*

There will always be a need for assistance to those less fortunate - as there has always been. Don't let your Helping Hands programs lapse. Our brothers & sisters experiencing some disadvantage, temporary setback, or disaster (natural or personal) will always need our help.

**Charity is the 1st Principle!**

### *Faith Programs*

State Faith Director Ed Misiolek provides the following: As Lent approaches, we want to encourage everyone to choose some way to spend time deepening their faith. Take advantage of the opportunities in your parish, at other local churches, from our Diocese and from many online resources. We encourage anyone looking for a Retreat experience to consider Holy Family Passionist Retreat

Center in West Hartford, CT. Several members of the RI Knights have already been on retreat here. There are also some members who won the bids for a retreat at the Charity Ball who will be attending this year. And there are a couple of weekends coming up where local Knights are serving as liaisons for members considering attending:

1. Couples Retreat Feb 10-12- 2023 Brother Brian Lawlor and wife May as liaison
2. Men's retreat June 9-11-2023 , IPSD Brother David Quinn. as liaison

There are other retreat dates for men only and women only as well.

This year's themed retreat is entitled: A Missing Peace A brief description:

Peace is something we crave but rarely find for more than a short time. This season at Holy Family, we'll explore the theme, A Missing Peace, in the hope that together, through prayer, presentations, and discussions, we can come closer to understanding how to achieve the peace Jesus meant for us to have, and equally important, to share in our families and in our world. Visit [hollyfamilyretreat.org](http://hollyfamilyretreat.org) for more info and to register or call us at 860.760.9705.

## *Men of St. Joseph Men's Conference*

The Annual Men's Conference is set for Saturday March 25th, (Solemnity of the Annunciation) at St. Philips Parish in Greenville. Beginning at 7:45am and running to 3:30pm, featured speakers are Ralph Martin of Renewal Ministries and our State Chaplain, Fr. Mark Gadoury. We will also hear from MOSJI Chaplain Fr. Chris Murphy. Flyer and registration form are available on the MOSJI website at [mosji.org](http://mosji.org) and click on the events tab.

## *Eucharistic Revival*

Supreme has instituted a new Faith program, to coincide with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Eucharistic Revival. There will be an increased focus on Holy Hours & Eucharistic Processions. These are simple to do but very powerful for our Faith. Details are available on the Supreme Website or reach out to Faith Director Ed Misiolek. [ejmisiolek@gmail.com](mailto:ejmisiolek@gmail.com).





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## *Keep Christ in Christmas*

The annual Keep Christ in Christmas poster contests were conducted by Councils around the State. One such was St. Augustine Council whose winners are pictured below. State level winners were chosen at the January State Meeting - more to come.



Winners of the St. Augustine School/Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest. L-R Rev. Robert Forcier, pastor; Giuliana Piccardi (5-7 division); Skylar Grist (8-10 division); Alice DiDonato (11-14 division); and Grand Knight Bob Chase. Each winner received a \$25 gift card.

## *Icon Program*

This year's Icon Program is dedicated to St. Joseph, protector of the Holy Family. Contact Faith Director Ed Misiolok at [ejmisiolok@gmail.com](mailto:ejmisiolok@gmail.com). You can also get more information on the Supreme website ([kofc.org](http://kofc.org)) under the *Faith In Action* programs.

## *RSVP*

While we have all pledged support of our Priests, let's not overlook our seminarians. Supporting our future priests in their formation is every bit as important as supporting our current priests in their ministry.

## *Novenas*

Novenas for Life, Novenas to St. Joseph, Novenas to the Blessed Mother, Consecration to the Holy Family and similar programs can be done anytime of the year and are an important spiritual boost. Include them in your programming on a regular basis.

## *Family Programs*

### *State Soccer Challenge*

A followup on the Soccer Challenge

Congratulations to **Orion Gonzalez** from Lincoln Council. Orion was named the International winner in the 10 year old Category. A job well done. His Supreme Award is being shipped to State Deputy Dave Bebyn for presentation.

### *Basketball Free Throw Contest*



Time to plan & hold your local Basketball Free Throw Contests. The Target date for the State Finals is the end of March. Information is on the Supreme website ([kofc.org](http://kofc.org))

### *Hockey Challenge*



Did you know that there is a Supreme program for a Hockey Challenge? I didn't until recently. Information can be found on the Supreme website ([kofc.org](http://kofc.org))

### *Family of the Month/Year*

**One of the easiest programs to run at the Council Level.** Currently, only a small handful of Councils take part in this program. Given the ease of operation & the rewards in uplifting our members/community, let's see if we can't push it to 100% participation.

Each month, the council Family of the Month committee selects one parish family that models Christian family values and visibly lives them every day. For Family of the Month/Year resources, visit [www.kofc.org/familyofthemonth](http://www.kofc.org/familyofthemonth).



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**N.B. - Submission of "Family of the Month" via online form #10784. The RI State Office does not get copied when you submit online. Please copy the RI Program Director at [programskofcri92@gmail.com](mailto:programskofcri92@gmail.com)**

## *Life Programs*

*We must always be vigilant when it comes to Life issues. Never be afraid to engage your local, State and National officials in a dialog of truth. While we should always be respectful and civil in this dialog, we need not fear the truth regarding the sanctity of life from conception to natural death.*

## *40 Days for Life*

The Spring/Lenten 40 Days for Life Campaign begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. Join us in this peaceful demonstration in support of Life. It is extremely important that we continue the struggle to have all acknowledge the sanctity of human life.

## *Aid and Support After Pregnancy*

The Supreme Council has instituted this new program option this year. This program will be similar to the RSVP program, your District Deputy will have more information or go to the Supreme Website <https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/faith-in-action-programs/life/pregnancy-center-support/11371-aid-and-support-guide-book.pdf>

January is traditionally Pro-Life month and thus, a good time for this program. BUT, it can be done any time of the year.

## *Fraternal Training and Communication*

### *KnightCast*

The Supreme Council has created a member exclusive web series, **KnightCast**. This is an ongoing series of webcasts on topics of interest to Knights.

While you do need to register (have your membership number handy), the one-time registration will get you all the webcasts as they are presented, or on demand after the initial broadcast.

You can sign up here:

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6105948/KnightCast-Registration>

## *Training*

There are many training opportunities throughout the year (see the Supreme Website), they are open to any Brother Knight who may be interested. You can register from the Home Page of the Supreme website ([kofc.org](http://kofc.org)): go to Members, Resources & then the Fraternal Training tab. You must register to participate, but once registered, you do not have to view it live. Rather, you can view it later at a time of your convenience. Additionally, the State Council has a Training Officer available to assist with any topic. FM Bob Gallant is here to help. You can reach him at [bobgal664@gmail.com](mailto:bobgal664@gmail.com)

## 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.*

## PRAYERS REQUESTED





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Please pray for the repose of:

Peter Olobri (son of SK John Olobri of St. Augustine Council & the Men of St. Joseph)

Our Brother Knights & families in the Ukraine & their families here in the USA in general & RI in particular

Ongoing prayers are also requested for Bishop Louis Gelineau, Fr. Dennis Reardon, Fr. Robert Bailey, Annette Bebyn (mother of State Deputy David Bebyn), Anthony Machado (Blessing Chancellor), Sue Moniz (wife of FDD Bob Moniz), Michael Kinnear (S. Carolina), FDD Ron Trottier, Jess Carrignan, Don Godin (Sullivan Council), Jack Walter, Dave Riendeau (St. John Paul II Council), Orlando Giansanti Jr., PGK Tom Boucher (St. Thomas Council, Cumberland), Ron Portella (Hickey Council), Don Stubbs (Frehill Council), Denis Richard, Pauline Neri, Moses Segbe, PGK Joseph Bedard (Pascoag Council), Patricia Moran (grandmother of State Warden PJ Shea), Gerry and Pat Desmarais (St. Eugene Council), Barry Chevrette (Pascoag Council), Matt Parent, Nancy Forest (wife of PGK Richard Forest), PFN Rick Regan, Roger Depot, FDD Mike Krzywonos, PGK/PFN Stanley Eason (Woon. Council/ Moylan Assembly), GK Jerry Marra, Ellen Charpentier (Wife of PSD/FM Normand Charpentier), Bob Jackson (St. Francis Council), Mike Magill, DD Alan Lamake, David Riendeau (John Paul II Council), and FDD Dave Lucas, as they each deal with various health concerns.

(to have someone mentioned or if someone wishes to be removed from the list, please contact me at [rikofcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rikofcnewsletter@gmail.com). You can also ask the state to add them to the prayer list on the website as I check that regularly).

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

## Contact Information



State Website – [kofcri.org](http://kofcri.org)

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