



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Wisconsin



KC STATE NEWSLETTER

"PUT OUT INTO THE DEEP"

FEBRUARY 2024



St. John the Evangelist
Milwaukee Pere Marquette #524
Greenfield, WI



BROTHERS, TEMPUS FUGIT, “*Time flies!*” February is the 8th month of our Fraternal Year; February 14 is Ash Wednesday; the State Convention is less than three months away; everything is coming up so quickly. At our State Convention, we will be considering Resolutions, passing a State Council Budget, Electing State Council Officers, Electing Delegates to the Supreme Convention, and sharing best practices on Programs, Fraternal Benefits, Evangelization and Faith Formation (Cor), and Membership.

As I look back on the last five and a half years as a State Officer, it is amazing to see how fast the time has gone, how many changes the State Council has seen, and how much work remains to be done. Just 4 years ago, we were all experiencing the Covid restrictions in our schools, churches, workplaces, and communities. We experienced a Lent where we were not able to attend mass in person. For me, that brought a real understanding of how central the Eucharist was to my life. Not being able to attend mass and receive the Eucharist was painful and left me feeling empty. While I worked from home, I was always able to go to the office when I needed to, I could go to the store for groceries, but not able to attend mass. This was just one of many attacks on our religious freedom. Many did not come back to church following Covid. We need to continue to pray for them. If you

know someone that has not yet returned to mass, Lent would be a great time to invite them to attend mass with you.

I have experienced several frustrations when working to help Councils. I would like to touch on just a couple of these this month that are particularly timely. The first of these frustrations is the councils that do not want to plan membership recruitment activities. The first part of any plan is to set goals and then put steps in place to accomplish those goals. If you go into a membership drive with the intent of going through the motions and hope you get lucky, you may get a few names or perhaps a new member. However, if you start with a goal to recruit five members and then put a plan into place to make that happen, you will be more likely to succeed. Having a goal and a plan can make all the difference.

A second frustration is the difficulty that we find with recruiting leaders at the state, diocesan, district, and council levels. Hopefully, we all joined the Knights of Columbus to make a difference. Why then are brothers so reluctant to step up and take on a leadership role? Perhaps a better question is: Why do so many brothers decline these leadership positions before they take the time to pray about it and discern the opportunity? We are all called by our Baptism to serve each other. Each of us has unique talents, and each in being called in different ways. Are we taking the

time to pray on it and determine how we are being called, and to answer that call?

As we enter Lent, I pray that Wisconsin Councils will embrace Cor and the need for evangelization. Our Bishops are counting on our councils to make this happen. I pray that our Brother Knights will invite others to attend mass with them and to join in putting Faith Into Action. It is time to stop complaining about people that have strayed, and take action by inviting them to join you at mass.

None of us is guaranteed another day on this earth. *Tempus Fugit. Momento Mori.* Our time to make a difference is Now! We cannot make a difference by waiting for someone else to step up. Each of us needs to step up and make a difference. This Lent, I urge each of you to take time to pray, put faith first in your life,

Put your Faith in Action through acts of charity, invite others to join you in service, listen to the calling to serve others, and step up to a leadership role in the Knights of Columbus. Make this Lent a time of true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully.

Vivat Jesus!
Viva Christo Rey!

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Each month in our 2024 newsletter will feature one of our council's churches throughout Wisconsin. If you would like your council's church featured in future issues of the newsletter, please send me your parish's name, city, council #, and a high-quality image. Submissions may be sent to jjhoppermusic@gmail.com.

On the cover...

St. John the Evangelist
Milwaukee Pere Marquette #524
Greenfield, WI

**DEAR BROTHER KNIGHTS:**

"Whoever does not take up his cross and come after me is not worthy of me."

Suffering has power. As the Church marks the beginning of Lent, we as Knights of Columbus can empathize with the Catholic Church in her sufferings. Knights of old were heroic in their deeds and sacrifices. As we take inspiration from the deeds of old, it can be easy to forget about the sufferings that the worthy men of the past accepted.

There is no Christian life without the willing acceptance of suffering. Every Catholic is taught about suffering. But how do we learn it? It's common to find even faithful Catholics avoiding suffering. We live as though these sufferings are signs of God's punishment.

On the contrary, the fact that you and I still suffer is a sign of hope for our salvation. Going through life seemingly untouched by troubles is a far greater sign of impending punishment. Woe to the man who lives a life of human comfort only to

drop down into hell in the blink of an eye.

For all of the sins and evils of this world, redemption is accomplished to the extent that you and I are willing to suffer with Jesus Christ our Savior. It's been remarked how many people set out to avoid suffering. We know suffering can't be avoided. What choice do you make when you do suffer? We tend to rebel in the face of suffering in our sinful flesh. In sin, we try to avoid suffering, preserve our lives, and shut down our hearts. Jesus teaches a better way.

In this holy Lent, pray for more grace to suffer with Jesus. What patience God has with us! What greater love is there than Jesus's love on the cross?

Dedicate your Lent to meritorious suffering. Can you consider some of your problems with the eyes of Jesus? Often our first instinct when we are suffering is not the best one. We need to take time to process what's happening. Pause and accept the experience of suffering. The Lord is asking you to suffer. As men,

we like to take action. Jesus will give you everything that you need for that too. Along with that work, you must accept what suffering the Lord has chosen for you in love.

Love will provide you the strength to endure hardships worthily for Jesus Christ.

Vivat Jesus!





WHAT ARE THE keys to success, and how do we effectively communicate with each other?

Serving as both a former State Deputy and Membership Director has been a unique experience! These are arguably the two most challenging positions in the Knights. The biggest challenge they face is motivating their councils to do great things while trying to communicate effectively to our councils to do so.

As with any volunteer organization—our leaders are volunteers just like us. As a volunteer, it's a balancing act to find time that allows for you to devote the necessary time to lead others and do all the tasks that are needed of the role you serve. It's also hard to balance your every day life commitments such as work, family and friendships, and the many hobbies you may enjoy. Life with anything involves prioritizing these activities.

As I wrote this article, I felt a need to reflect on the following question: "What are the keys to success when leading volunteers?" I happened upon a LinkedIn article that discussed the 10 Tips to Leading Volunteers that I thought is helpful for leaders in our organization—whether it be on a State level or a local Council level!

- ▶ Build a Relationship
- ▶ Listen for What Matters to Them
- ▶ Connect Them to the Mission
- ▶ Clearly Define Roles & Expectations
- ▶ Enroll and Get True Commitment
- ▶ Create a Shared Vision
- ▶ Delegate and Empower
- ▶ Maintain Contact & Provide Support
- ▶ Adjust & Redesign
- ▶ Appreciate & Reward

In assessing these 10 keys—it seems that many of these relate directly to all of our roles within the Knights.

We have a 'clear' mission—of helping those in need. We are here to

serve as the 'Strong Right Arm' of the Church—and our Bishops, Priests and Deacons all need our support in building a stronger Catholic community and church. That is our mission.

As Past Supreme Knight Carl Anderson spoke about often—it is our mission to offer membership in the Knights to every eligible Catholic male! We cannot do this if we **do not invite**. So, this is a great opportunity for us to take advantage of the coming months in this fraternal year and invite eligible men to join the Order, such as the Lenten fish fries! **This is the expectation** of us all, to offer membership to others.

As a leader of your council, I would define this as the role of every Knight and an expectation that we offer the same opportunity that was cast upon us!

Attracting new members sometimes requires us to build a relationship, a connection, to what we do as Knights. Much like our leaders, we need to build a relationship to our members as they are the ones that we count on to continue to do the great works we do, to continue to grow our charitable and volunteer impact each year.

It's important to understand what is important to our members. Our volunteer assessments can help guide new members to areas where they are passionate about and may want to be involved with yearly, maybe even as a **leader!** This is how we can encourage our members to step forward into leadership opportunities that could lead to the development new, unique programs for the future. It's our responsibility to help develop the next new leader in our councils in the same way that our State leaders, past and present, encourage others to step into leadership positions. However, we have more leadership roles than we do individuals willing to serve, so this is a perpetual challenge we face. That's why it is important that we get men to take on leadership roles at the council lever so that they may be desired to later our Order at the

district or even state level.

Finally, I have found two tips to be important: listening and showing appreciation/rewarding.

Finding ways to motivate our councils with unique membership incentives is always a challenge. We listened to our councils who were struggling during COVID and turned our attention to "relief" with the State Per Capita. Now, you will find that our attention is once again on membership growth.

Hopefully, you have witnessed us listening to your needs with our communications concerning incentives and that you feel that we making sure they are attainable for every council. This is **our** way of showing our appreciation for the efforts your council takes to help our State Council succeed.

All of our councils play an important role in our State's success. For the past two years, we have achieved the Circle of Honor recognition from Supreme. Yet, this is not a reflection of the State Deputy or State Membership Director's efforts. Rather, it is the efforts of all of our Councils helping us achieve this recognition!

To date, roughly half of our councils have yet to bring in a new member, but we have five months of time to **get active** and help our State once again achieve a third consecutive year of as a recognition as an outstanding State Council.

That said, it's only a result of our councils, and I welcome any suggestions that you have to help us cultivate future leaders and motivate our councils to succeed! Your success is important because our State cannot succeed without you! We are here to serve you! This is why I typically end my communications with a simple "**Thank You**" for all that you do to help our State succeed! *Vivat Jesus!*



BISHOPS, PRIEST & Deacons, state families and membership; my brothers and sisters in Christ, greetings and blessings from the Nowak Agency. I want to wish you all a Happy New Year and a Happy Valentine's Day!

I want to share a journey I went on this month in January. As I was making a weekly trip to True Value, doing minor maintenance at the office on the front door closer, I spotted an elderly gentleman in his eighties whose truck was broken down on a street corner. His hood was up and he was speaking into his phone. His flashers were not on and he was getting honked at, so I could see he was very stressed out by the situation. I went to see if he needed any assistance and offered him two options: (1) I could push him around the corner so he would not be at the stop light or (2) I could hook a chain up to my truck and pull him into the parking lot of a nearby Walgreen's. He replied that Triple A was going to help, and I let him know that he would be honked to death by then. He eventually accepted my offer. While we were hooking up the chain amidst the throes of angry and impatient honkers, another person offered us a tow rope to aid in our task. As I was unhooking the chain in the Walgreens parking, he said, "Let me introduce myself: My name is Tim."

I told him that would be easy to remember as I shared the same name. I began to share stories with him about growing up on a farm and had to start almost half of the equipment by a pull-start. The man thanked me again, and I offered to take him home. He declined, but that prompted me to remind him that his heater was broken and that AAA would not be there for at least another two hours. So, he agreed to let me take him to his fishing hole to where he was meeting up with Walter, and Walter would help him from there.

When we arrived at the location, which was a Mobile gas station, Tim turned to me and asked, "What do I owe you," and I said, "Nothing! I am blessed to help you." Tim replied, "Nobody does that anymore, Tim" to which I responded, "Sir, that is a false narrative. I am glad to help and hope you have good luck with your truck. Just a word of advice, though, if it were me, I would just replace the battery. They go bad, especially, when it is below zero."

My reason for sharing this story is that, today false narratives abound. As Catholics we help people every day. As Knights of Mary and Missionaries of Fr. McGivney we change narratives every single day. Not so we can brag or look good, but so people can see Jesus's love and mercy. Our narrative? Become a

knight and provide the charity others don't think

exist anymore. We can change the narrative. If perhaps you needed a new year's resolution, I have one for you. Be the change in the narrative in peoples' lives.]

Vivat Jesus!



Membership Incentive Update

Your State Officer Team recently approved this great new incentive for the 3rd quarter of the fraternal year. This membership incentive runs from **January 1st-March 31st**.

- ▶ **If a Council achieves their needed membership goal (50% of Supreme Quota) between February 1st and February 29th--then they will receive 20% off of their April 1st State Per Capita payment.**
- ▶ **If a Council achieves their needed membership goal between March 1st and March 31st--then they will receive 10% off of their April 1st State Per Capita payment.**
- ▶ **IF A COUNCIL ACHIEVES THEIR GOAL MULTIPLE TIMES (FOR EXAMPLE IF YOUR GOAL IS 3 AND YOU BRING IN 3 NEW MEMBERS IN JANUARY AND 3 NEW MEMBERS IN FEBRUARY--THEN YOU WILL ACHIEVE BOTH THE JANUARY REDUCTION OF 30% AND THE FEBRUARY REDUCTION OF 20%).**

We are excited to offer this as it is achievable for every council to reach their stated goal below and also is based off the 'size' of your council membership. State Incentive is in addition to the Supreme Incentive for 6 new members to get a pop-up banner.



Nowak Agency WI & UP

Fraternal Benefit Night

You're Invited to a Virtual Zoom Fraternal Benefit Night
All Councils are encouraged to have a "Watch Party".

February 28th at 7 pm

We are Excited to have Special Guest
The Most Reverend Bishop Donald J Hying
From the Diocese of Madison to discuss:

- 1) Authentic Leadership in Men.**
- 2) Benefits of the Knights of Columbus.**



Please Register by going to
Live Events at our website
(kofcwi.org) or QR Code



State Officer Resumes

If you are interested in becoming a State Officer for the Wisconsin Knights of Columbus, you are welcome to submit your resume, and it will be posted to the State Website under the State Convention Folder under State Officer Resumes. You will still need to be nominated from the convention floor during nominations.

Supreme Convention Delegate Resumes

If you wish to represent the State of Wisconsin as a delegate to the Knights of Columbus, please feel free to submit your resume, and it will be submitted to the State Convention folder under Supreme Convention-State Delegate. Supreme Convention will be held in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. August 5th-9th 2024. A passport will be required to travel to Canada.

You will still need to be nominated from the convention floor during nominations.

To submit a resume for either role, please submit your resume at mcasey@wifofc.com.



STOP CALLING IT A “TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE”

The upcoming months mark the time for the annual campaign organized by our councils to support people with intellectual disabilities. The campaign is aimed at raising awareness and funds for individuals with intellectual disabilities to ensure they have access to the resources they need. The council members will be working hard to spread the word and encourage people to donate to the cause. It's an excellent opportunity to show our support for the community and help create a more inclusive and caring society.

Fundraising for individuals with intellectual disabilities

The Knights of Columbus members contribute significantly to helping individuals with intellectual disabilities. When sharing information about these efforts, it is essential to follow specific guidelines. Council bulletins, committee reports, posters and flyers, press releases, and everyday language should be precise and thoughtful while referring to individuals with disabilities.

The following are some DOs and DON'Ts of language:

- ▶ Please keep in mind the following guidelines while communicating about people with intellectual disabilities:
- ▶ Avoid using derogatory terms such as "the retarded."
- ▶ Do not label the person by their disability, such as "the wheelchair-bound."

- ▶ Use person-first language, such as "people with intellectual disabilities."
- ▶ Treat adults with intellectual disabilities as adults and refer to them accordingly. Avoid using child-like names or references.
- ▶ Avoid negative connotations such as "victim of," "afflicted with," "suffering from," or "unfortunate" while referring to individuals with intellectual disabilities.
- ▶ Use appropriate language that does not imply disease or sickness. Intellectual disabilities are not contagious, and individuals with such disabilities are not "sick."

I hope this helps!

Campaign for People With Intellectual Disabilities

State and local councils conduct a popular and successful fundraiser for people with intellectual disabilities by collecting donations outside stores and on street corners. Donors receive a piece of candy, usually a Tootsie Roll, as a token of appreciation. However, the nickname "Tootsie Roll Drive" is misleading because the Knights of Columbus, who organize the campaign, do not have any official ties to Tootsie Rolls or their manufacturer. Many councils offer other items as tokens of appreciation during the same fundraising drive. Therefore, when referring to this project, it is essential to focus on the good that the donations do for

people with intellectual disabilities and not advertise a candy bar. As a result, the project must be promoted as the "Campaign for People With Intellectual Disabilities," not the "Tootsie Roll Drive."

Examples of photo descriptions for use in parish bulletins and social media

SERVING COMMUNITY MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Father Chinonso Okoroichi, who is the parochial vicar of Holy Angels Parish, along with other members of the Holy Angels Council in Colma, California, recently organized an annual fund drive for people with disabilities. During the drive, parishioners were encouraged to donate as they exited Mass. In total, the council was able to raise \$1,200, which was donated to the San Francisco Pomeroy Recreation and Rehabilitation Center.

FUND DRIVE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The members of Father Timothy P. Molony Council 2681 in Scottsbluff, Nebraska and their families collected more than \$3,500 during their yearly fund drive for people with disabilities. This year's collection brings the total amount raised over the past four years to about \$45,000. The funds are donated to Buckboard Therapeutic Riding Academy and Camp Scott, which is a summer program for children and young adults with disabilities.

Vivat Jesus!



ST VALENTINE'S DAY greetings to all Brother Knights and families! The Fourth Degree of the Wisconsin Knights of Columbus has two exemplifications scheduled in May of 2024 in the South Milwaukee area and in New Richmond on the Western side of Wisconsin. Please complete a form 4, join the Fourth Degree, and become a Sir Knight.

So, what does the Fourth Degree stand for? We are the Patriotic Degree of the Knights of Columbus. We are committed to the preservation of our Church, our Order and to the many nations where Knights serve. We serve as examples of Christ's presence in the world. At some point in our lives, there comes a time when we realize that our Christian duty extends beyond our own lives, beyond how we lead our families and into how we serve our fellow man. This is what defines the Knights of Columbus!

Members of the Patriotic Degree are an integral part of the Order and we serve our brother Knights, we proudly foster patriotism in each nation in which we are active and we act on what is right and honorable. Here are two charities that the Fourth Degree is very active and supportive of: The Warriors to Lourdes Program and the Father McGivney Military Chaplain Scholarship Program.

During the month of November, the Fourth Degree Sir Knights were active supporting veterans especially since Veterans Day was celebrated on November 11. Many Assemblies are making donations to support the Supreme initiative to send Warriors to Lourdes Program. These collections can be made year round in each jurisdiction of the Fourth Degree. Collections from fund raisers and any other donations can be made year-round but the focus is

to concentrate on the Summer and Fall months and turn in the donations in November.

For the Father McGivney Military Chaplain Scholarship Program, the Fourth degree will hold fundraisers and other events during the Winter and Spring months to make the annual donations in April which is the birth month of Father Emil Kapaun. Details about these programs can be found on the Supreme Website.

Related to Honor Flights from the state of Wisconsin, those are now getting scheduled with the earliest that is now scheduled to occur out of Madison on April 6th. You can support Honor Flights by making donations to support a veteran, being in attendance when the flight returns from Washington DC and greeting their return or write letters to be given to the veterans at Mail Call on the flight. Here is the current schedule of flights for the spring of 2024:

- ▶ **Appleton/Green Bay**
[Old Glory Honor Flight](#)
No flights currently scheduled
- ▶ **La Crosse**
[Freedom Honor Flight](#)
Friday, May 10
- ▶ **Madison**
[Badger Honor Flight](#)
Saturday, April 6
Saturday, May 11
Saturday, June 1
- ▶ **Milwaukee**
[Stars and Stripes Honor Flight](#)
Saturday, April 20
Saturday, May 18
Saturday, June 15
- ▶ **Mosinee**
[Never Forgotten Honor Flight](#)
Monday, April 22
Monday, May 20
- ▶ **Superior**
[Honor Flight Northland](#)
No flights currently scheduled

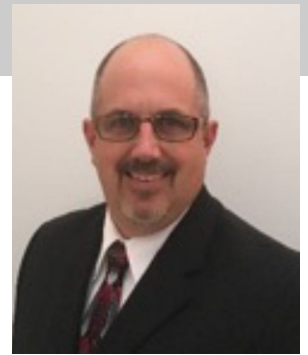
As we approach Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent, remember that this is about fasting and penance and reconciling our lives back to God. He is the real gift to mankind as he suffered and died for us so that we can receive our real inheritance in heaven. Donate food items to the less fortunate thru your local food pantries. Work in conjunction with your local councils to run programs and improve results for everyone. Supreme offers many of the same programs with payments to Assemblies as well as Councils.

Finally, a word to our Faithful leaders of our Fourth Degree Assemblies. Remember to start completing the paperwork for the various awards such as the Patriotic Award and the Civic Award. The District Masters do realize that you do all this work and don't always get recognition for it. I know it is not about the recognition here on earth, but it does matter to Supreme. We have 55 Assemblies in the state of Wisconsin, we should have all 55 Assemblies receive one or both of the above awards which could then be delivered to your assembly by the Masters. It only takes a few minutes of your time to complete the paperwork.

"Sir Knight" is not just a title, it is an "Honor".

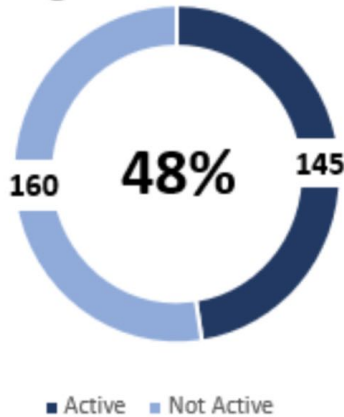
Happy St. Valentine's Day and a Blessed Ash Wednesday!

Vivat Jesus!



BROTHERS, WE ARE halfway through the fraternal year. Has your council put it's Faith in Action? Are you on track to earn the Columbian Award? At this point each council should have completed 50% of the programs required to receive the award.

Program Active Councils



The data in this report is July-December 2023. Congratulations to the 145 (48%) councils that are active programs. I am concerned about the 160 (52%) councils that have not yet reported a program this year. One of two things have occurred. These councils have done programs but are either unable or unwilling to submit form #10784. The other option is that these councils have not done any programs and need help.

I have heard it said that there is a perception out there that nothing is done with the data so there is no need to submit 10784. Let me dispel this myth. The State program Director of each state receives a monthly report from Supreme of all the submitted 10784 forms for the month. I have developed a report that enables State Leaders and District Deputies to quickly access each council's progress. They can determine which councils are on track to earn the Columbian award.

that there are councils that are program active but not reporting their programs. Their lack of reporting makes it difficult for State and Diocese leadership to determine the councils that need help. Their apathy is a disservice to their brother councils.

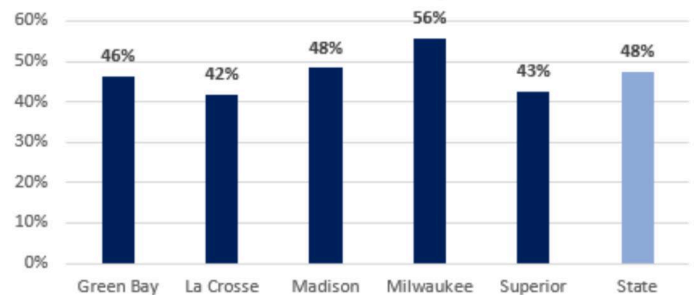
I have also heard questions like why doesn't the state do more to help councils? If you or someone in your council has asked this question regarding programs, I ask you a follow up question. Has your council submitted 10784's for all the programs you have completed? The program

team is willing and able to help councils in need. However, we can't identify them when healthy councils fail to complete the required paperwork. Your Faith in Action programs help your church and community. Reporting each completed program via Form #10784 enables State and Diocese leadership teams to identify and help councils in need.

As Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly said during the 2023 Supreme Convention the goal of our order is to be "First in Faith and Charity." One of the most important ways we do this is through our Faith in Action programs.

Vivat Jesus!

Percent Active Councils by Diocese



Knights of Columbus®



THE BLESSED MICHAEL J. MCGIVNEY GUILD

Are you a member?

The Blessed Michael J. McGivney Guild serves as a source for information about the life, works and spirituality of Father McGivney. The Guild distributes informational materials about him, receives reports of favors granted through his intercession and oversees the distribution of relics. Guild members receive regular updates on the progress of Blessed Michael J. McGivney's cause for canonization and are invited to participate in promoting devotion to this Servant of God. As of July 1, 2024 Wisconsin has only 1,264 out of 179,000 plus members registered in the Guild. Members of the Knights of Columbus are not automatically Guild members and must elect to join the Guild. The Blessed Michael J. McGivney Guild Newsletter is published bimonthly except July - August and is sent free to Guild members.

Scan the QR Code above to register today! **It's FREE!**



BROTHERS, WE ARE now in the second half of the Fraternal Year and a good portion of our focus is ending the year with success. The goal for all councils is to be a STAR Council. Awards don't mean a great deal to me personally, but as a Grand Knight, I do want my council to be recognized for all the great work they accomplish each year. Helping them get to STAR Council helps me do just that. You can do it too. Every council can be a STAR Council.

STAR Requirements:

- ▶ Form 365 Service Personnel Report
- ▶ Form 1728 Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity
- ▶ McGivney Award for Membership growth
- ▶ Founders Award for FBN participation and promotion
- ▶ Columbian Award for showcasing Faith in Action
- ▶ Good Standing

I have to put on my Wisconsin State Treasurer hat now and remind us all on the importance of completing Form 1295. The Semi-Annual Council Audit Report. This is due 02/15/2024. I think that this

report is a critical part of a Council being in good standing. Completing the audit is a systematic examination of financial records, transactions and our internal

controls. More important than just that, the audit plays a pivotal role in ensuring transparency, accountability and the overall financial health of a Council. An audit will identify weaknesses, inefficiencies, but also underscore successes and demonstrated growth.

Please take steps to make sure your council has completed the #1295. If you have questions on the form, please feel free to give me a call, text or email. Be a STAR!

Vivat Jesus!



ONLINE TRAININGS

BROTHER KNIGHTS, ONLINE training sessions are conducted by experienced Fraternal Trainers and are available to watch on demand after the live viewing. Encourage members in your jurisdiction to register for upcoming online sessions or on demand training by visiting kofc.org/training, or by clicking on the links below.

Upcoming Training Sessions

February 6, 2024, 9:00 PM [Council Officer Succession Planning](#)
 February 12, 2024, 7:00 PM [Public Relations](#)
 February 20, 2024, 7:00 PM [Recruitment](#)
 February 21, 2024, 7:00 PM [Activity Drives](#)

Be sure to take advantage of those great opportunities!

Vivat Jesus!

WORHTY BROTHERS, AS your State Advocate, I want to wish all of you a great first quarter. May your council bring in many new members!

Exciting news about this qtr. incentives. I hope your council is taking full advantage of this and getting the new members in.

Remember in order to become a STAR Council, one of the requirements is you need to have **all four positions** complete the safe environment training and background checks where needed.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT - THE PROCESS WAS CHANGED END OF LAST SUMMER

It is important that you continue to review your council's status regarding who has completed the Safe Environment training.

Who needs to complete the training? Grand Knight, Program Director, Family Director and Community Director. The **Family Director and Community Director** will also complete the **background check**. This is a second email from Praesidium Academy.

The following is the instructions to reach out to Supreme and Praesidium: The training is all handled by Supreme via Praesidium. There is **no** link to send and the old website is not operating. The forms **185** and **365** are what drives the links to be emailed to the **GK, PD, FD, and CD**.

Praesidium sends the email directly to each one of these members to complete the training. Email addresses come from forms **185** and **365**.

The only ones who get a follow up email are the **FD** and the **CD**. They receive an additional email to complete the background check.

- ▶ First, you must make sure your forms 185 & 365 are in and up to date, if updating make sure to change to the current date on the form.
- ▶ Check the forms to make sure correct information and emails are on it.
- ▶ If good, then check your emails and spam folders, if no email from Praesidium then you must contact [Supreme](#) at requesting a new email. They will then resend an email for you to complete the training. If first time users on the Praesidium, then they will have to create a log in.
- ▶ You should receive the follow up from Supreme and then another email will be sent from Praesidium to complete the training. You have 30 days from the date of the email to complete the training.

MAKE SURE THEY KEEP A COPY OF THE COMPLETION OF THE TRAINING CERTIFICATE

Right now, the website for Safe Environment is not open for those who are not required to take the training (GK, PD, FD, AND CD are required to take it). Supreme is working on this so we can get more members certified in Safe Environment.

Vivat Jesus!





FINANCIAL SECRETARIES,
GRAND Knights, District Deputies,
Brother Knights All:

As you review my article:

- ▶ We are **seven months** into the Fraternal Year.
- ▶ Supreme's Fraternal Year E-member Target Goal for Wisconsin is **423 new E-members**.
- ▶ **As of Jan 22nd, We have assigned a total of 215 new E-members, and we should be at 247 to be on target.**
- ▶ **215 puts us 32 men short of our YTD Goal through January**

As you are doing your programs & church drives, be sure to include the E-membership online invitation app. in your invitation process to potential members. Bottom line = 215 new members have already utilized the online process.

IT WORKS!

Supreme has been working on fixing some bugs in the Member Management / Member Billing modules of Officers online which unexpectedly kicks us out of the website. Supreme planned a shutdown early Tuesday morning

Jan 23rd. to remedy these issues, so hopefully by the time you read this article, everything will be back up and running. We appreciate your patience during this time when you are attempting to complete your e-membership transfers and new year membership billings, etc.

WGK & WFS please **frequently review** your council's **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.

Remember:

- ▶ The **PROSPECT** tab shows you e-members that have joined your council online via the Supreme app. and the date field is used when they have completed their exemplification.
- ▶ The **CANDIDATE** tab is what you use when you recruit a member locally or are handling a member transfer request or a reinstatement of a prior member.

Again, 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.

Do not send Form 100's to Supreme for new members, keep them for your councils records.

Any questions or concerns, contact me, I am in your State Directory.

Together, Let's get it done!

Vivat Jesus

Pat Reiff is the State Online Membership Chariman and Milwaukee Archdiocese Officer's Online Trainer.

“Faith is something that sustains us.”

Learn how you can make a difference Kofc.org/Ukraine





Officers Online Access

Members in a role permitted access to Officers Online will be emailed an invitation code once the Supreme Council receives the appropriate form from the state council, local council, or assembly indicating the election or appointment, and records this information. If you do not receive an invitation code within a reasonable time, click "Account Assistant" on the sign in page and follow the instructions.

If you previously held a role with access to Officers Online, you do not need a new invitation code. Your access will automatically be reactivated once the appropriate form is submitted.

If you do not remember your log on credentials, click "Account Assistant" or "Password Reset" on the sign in page and follow the instructions. If additional assistance is required contact our Customer Service Department at 800-380-9995, option 2 and provide your membership number and role.

Applications by Roles	Role Description										
	Officers Online	Officers Desk Reference	Office of Youth Protection	Home Corporations	Member Management	Member Billing	By Laws Online	Knights Gear	Supplies Online	Prospect Tab	Candidate Tab
Jurisdiction/ State											
State Deputy	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	
State Secretary	X	X	X	X				X	X		
State Treasurer	X	X	X	X				X	X		
State Advocate	X	X	X	X				X	X		
State Warden	X	X	X	X				X	X		
Immediate Past State Deputy	X	X	X	X				X	X		
Executive Secretary	X	X	X	X				X	X		
State Membership Director	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	
State Program Director	X	X	X	X				X	X		
State Round Table Chairman	X		X	X				X	X		
Council Reactivation Chairman	X		X	X				X	X		
Council Retention Chairman	X		X	X				X	X		
Member Retention Chairman	X		X	X				X	X		
Insurance Promo Chairman	X		X	X				X	X		
NCD Chairman	X		X	X				X	X		
Ceremonial Chairman	X		X	X				X	X		
Hispanic Council Growth Coord.	X		X	X				X	X		
Online Membership Chairman	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	
Additional Membership Roles	X		X	X				X	X		
Online Membership Coordinator	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	
State Trainer	X		X	X	X	X		X	X		
4th Degree / Provincial											
Vice Supreme Master	X	X	X	X				X	X		
District Master	X	X	X	X				X	X		
District											
District Deputy	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	
Council											
Grand Knight	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Financial Secretary	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Advocate	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		
Deputy Grand Knight	X	X	X	X				X	X		
Treasurer	X	X	X	X				X	X		
Membership Director	X	X	X	X				X	X		
Assembly											
Faithful Navigator	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
Faithful Comptroller	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Faithful Admiral	X		X	X			X	X	X		
Faithful Pilot	X		X	X			X	X	X		
Faithful Purser	X	X	X	X				X	X		



JANUARY HAS BEEN a busy month for the Vosters household. We had a little time away from school to start the month, two new participants in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and the sudden uprising of two young 49'ers fans. Believe me when I say that this is my family faith in action: dedication and commitment to teaching the next generation about the mysteries and graces of our faith, the endurance and constant prayers for patience and understanding as we navigate the rollercoaster that is childhood emotions, and the hair-pulling stress of cheering for the green and gold to win, while listening to pint-sized



persons scream "Interception!" every time the ball is caught. Our family programs are meant to strengthen, support, and build on the family unit. This month, I challenge you to find a way to incorporate a fun council-strengthening activity into your calendar to include as many families as you can. Include non-members, kids, and grandkids. Don't try to raise money or solve a problem. Instead, be present and create a new, fun, faith-filled experience for the generation of tomorrow.



FAMILY OF THE YEAR

It's that time of year already! As we close out the final calendar month of the year, we must reflect on all of the families we have nominated for Family of the Month, and those who are especially deserving of recognition by the Diocese and State as the Knights of Columbus Family of the Year! Nominations typically come from a Family of the month in the January 2023 – December 2023 time frame, however the families of all our Brother Knights that have not won this award are eligible. All nominations are due to ME on completed Form #10680 by February 16, 2024.

OUR MARRIAGE PRAYER

February is known by all as the month of love, but it is also the month of Our Marriage Prayer! In this month of February, consider holding an Our Marriage Prayer event in your parishes around the weekend of February 11 or February 17. Click this [link](#) for more details.

GOOD FRIDAY FAMILY PROMOTION

Even though we have just celebrated the birth of Christ, we must start to plan for the celebration of his resurrection. In our families, we do this through the Easter Triduum. I encourage you to appoint a chairperson to plan, promote, and participate in the Good Friday celebration with your council families. Details can be found on the supreme website on form #10611.

SUPREME FAMILY OF THE MONTH

The December Supreme family of the month is the **Claude A. Wojtysiak** family from the **South Milwaukee Council 1709** in **District 65** of the **Milwaukee Archdiocese**. Congratulations!

Gentlemen, it is a **privilege and honor** to serve you and your councils! **Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help. Vivat Jesus!**

State Officers

State Chaplain

Fr. Brian Dulli
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608-798-0100 (H)
frbriandulli@wikofc.com

State Deputy

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State Warden

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Immediate

Past State Deputy

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C 920-819-9409
ccoonen@wikofc.com

State Office Manager

Steve Geishirt
4297 W Beltline Highway
Madison, WI 53711
(608)274-5750 office
sgeishirt@wikofc.com



HAVE YOU HELPED with a KofC Special Olympics event? Be sure to report your hours to your GK so Wisconsin can get credit (and the funds from Supreme Council) – go here to submit your Form #10784!

The Wisconsin Knights of Columbus have agreed to cater breakfast for all their statewide events. There are five events (Fall Games, Bowling, Winter Games, Spring Games, Summer Games). Special Olympics of Wisconsin (SOWI) will pay for the food. We save them money by cooking and serving the food. We look forward to seeing your council at one of their statewide events! WE NEED YOUR HELP in this excellent and worthy pro-life endeavor!

FEBRUARY

The next SOWI statewide event is from February 10-11, Saturday & Sunday ~ SOWI Winter Games. Granite Peak at Rib Mountain State Park, Wausau. Winter Games will bring over 140 athletes and 70 coaches to Granite Peak at Rib Mountain State Park and Nine Mile Forest to compete in a host of winter sports, including alpine skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. The Pere Menard Assembly #1449 will coordinate the breakfast for this event. To help out, please contact any of the following people:

Faithful Navigator

Dennis Janssen at 715-842-8686
dennisjanssen@charter.net

Special Olympics Chairman

John Benisch @ 715-884-3197
johnb45@TDS.net

WSW

Ernie Reinhart
majernie@icloud.com

Dan Miller

Dan.M@ProLifeWI.org

ASAP Grants

Remember last year? Wisconsin was number one in ASAP applications and dollars donated. Please see the graphic for our current standings. 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 (up to \$2,00) you gave to a maternity home or pregnancy center, Supreme Council will give that non-profit entity another \$100! But, you have to apply for it! I can help you, but it is super easy if you have a scanner or a cell phone with a camera.



Knights of Columbus®

January 2024 Jurisdictional ASAP Rankings – Top 10

Council Applications		
Rank	Jurisdiction	Amount
1	Pennsylvania	64
2	Michigan	60
3	Wisconsin	56
4	Ohio	51
5	Texas	49
6	New Jersey	48
7	Florida	43
8	Iowa	39
9	Minnesota	38
10	Illinois	31

Council Donations		
Rank	Jurisdiction	Amount
1	Pennsylvania	\$131,401
2	Michigan	\$105,635
3	Wisconsin	\$95,310
4	New Jersey	\$90,782
5	Florida	\$86,162
6	Texas	\$89,652
7	Ohio	\$70,865
8	Iowa	\$58,366
9	California	\$55,136
10	Minnesota	\$48,616

MARCH FOR LIFE WISCONSIN

Mark your calendars: Saturday, June 15, 2024, will be the location of a March for Life, taking place in Madison at the State Street steps of the Wisconsin Capitol Building. Time to be announced!

Vivat Jesus!

**TEAM WISCONSIN 2026**

DRIVE: I am pleased to report that we have received \$77,757.56 as of Jan 22, 2024. Thank you! Hopefully we can reach \$200,000.00 before the 2026 convention. *What a challenge!*

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

There are many opportunities coming up in the next few months. See list below. If your Council is in the area, please volunteer. If you cannot help, stop in at event and cheer on the athletes.

We are asking for more **member participation** with Special Olympics at events. Supreme looks at involvement, more than money donated to award the Supreme grant each year. I list events on this article months prior in order to give Councils and members sufficient time to plan ahead. Click on the

"Becoem a Volunteer" image below to sign up for an event.

Please remember to file online **Form #10784** by Jan 31st. Report participation in Special Olympics programs through the online **Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784)**. Councils should report after **each** and **every time** they make a contribution to or volunteer to a drive or a local agency or do a project. Report Man Hours and Members involved as well as money. If using Tootsie Roll drive monies for Special Olympics, those Man Hours and Members from that project should be reported as well.

Please remember Special Olympics monies can come from a fundraiser, council donation, charity account or any other ideas.

Volunteers are needed at all events listed below. We are looking to have at least 200 volunteers for the Summer Games June 6-8 at

Whitewater. This is a great opportunity for Councils in Southern Wisconsin to become involved.

Vivat Jesus!



BECOME A
VOL♥
UNTEER



Special Olympics
Wisconsin

Volunteers are needed at all events.

Click on above image, go to Wisconsin Special Olympics web page, or phone Nicole Christensen, 608-442-5670

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
February 10-11, 2024	State Winter Games	Wasau
February 17, 2024	Basketball Skills Competition	Lake Geneva
February 18, 2024	Team Basketball & Skills Comp.	Menomonie
February 25, 2024	Team Basketball Competition	Wilmont
March 3, 2024	Team Basketball & Skills Comp.	Neenah
March 16, 2024	Team Basketball Competition	New Berlin
March 17, 2024	Team Basketball Competition	Stevens Point
March 23, 2024	Swim Competition	Neenah
March 23, 2024	Swim Competition	Oconomowoc
April 12-14, 2024	State Spring Games	Oshkosh
June 6-8, 2024	Summer Games	Whitewater

Only a couple months before the drawing of \$50,000

Could it be you? No limit to how many tickets **you** can purchase.

Could it be a family member, a close friend, or someone you know? Not if you don't sell them a ticket.

It is not too early to send in the Council Charity Grant Fund Request Forms. Please send them to the State office. Missing the deadline of May first could cause delays in receiving council payments.

Council chairman please turn in tickets to your diocese chairman monthly as to save stress and errors as convention approaches.

Diocese Coordinators

Milwaukee

James TenPas
1004 N 49th St.
Sheboygan, WI 53081-3089
920-207-6007
jamestenpas53@gmail.com

Madison

Bob Pizur
N1690 Carlin Road
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538
920-285-0175
anrca@charter.net

La Crosse

Michael Haight
PO Box 32
Sparta, WI 54656-0032
608-487-2138
michael.a.haight@outlook.com

Superior

Dennis Berends
2468 160th Ave.
Emerald, WI 54013
715-265-4186
dennisberends@centurytel.net

Green Bay

Jeff Janssen
822 14th Ave.
Green Bay, WI 54304
920-489-0790
jcjracer@gmail.com

“Buy Raffle Tickets!”

SOMETIMES IT SEEMS like time flies by faster than we want. Christmas season feels like it was yesterday and Lent will begin in just two short weeks. Palm Sunday will follow on March 24, and Holy week services will follow it up until Easter Sunday on March 31st. Today is not too soon to start planning what your council will do for both Lent and the celebration of The Resurrection.

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION



I am slowly getting information on the Eucharistic Procession through Wisconsin. The Eucharistic procession will go through the La Crosse, Green Bay, and Milwaukee Diocese. It

begins with the transfer of the Eucharist across the Mississippi River to Green Bay on Friday, June 7. On June 8, it will be at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, followed by SS Patrick's in Sparta on Sunday, June 9, and proceed to St. Peter's and Paul Parish in Wisconsin Rapids. On June 10, it will proceed with a stop at the grave of Blessed James Miller on its way to St. John's Parish in Marshfield. It is scheduled for St. Bernard's in Abbotsford and Wasau for June 11. On June 12, will have a mass at Holy Name Parish in Wausau before going to the Green Bay Diocese. The Green Bay and Milwaukee diocese schedules have not been given to me yet; however, I will publish it as I receive more info.

Even though the Procession is five months away, we still need to plan

ahead for it to be a success. Councils and assemblies that are located along the route need to contact their respective pastors and find out how they can be of assistance. There are already notes about the transfer to the bridge. They hope to have the Honor guard lead the procession as well as stand guard at the entrance to the Civic Center. Remember: We are being of service to our bishops and priests for this historic event and their wishes should be our commands.

YOUCAT BIBLES

Yes, we still have the YouCat Bibles. My latest count indicates we distributed or have orders for over 600 bibles and still have almost 900 remaining in stock. The quickest way to order the bibles is through the State web site and clicking on the blue box titled "State Council Store." Payment on the website is by credit or debit card only. If you desire to pay by check, make it out to the Wisconsin State Council and mail it to the State office with a note indicating your council number and the number of bibles you need at \$12.50 each.



Please be aware that we are **not** mailing the bibles. We have a supply in each diocese with the following individuals for pick up or delivery. All orders go through me, and I will notify the Diocesan representative when payment is received. They will also be available for distribution at the State Convention. Our



diocesan representatives can be contacted at the numbers below:

- **Green Bay**
Cory Coonen
920-819-9409
- **Milwaukee**
Dennis Bednarek
262-470-4477
- **La Crosse**
Ross Larson
715-551-0714
- **Superior**
Miles Casey
715-551-0714
- **Madison State Office**
608-274-5750

SILVER ROSE

I am still accepting requests for the Silver Rose. In early March, I will be reviewing the requests and giving first priority to the councils that had it last year and second priority to councils that Submitted a Form 10784. I will be releasing the final schedule at the State Convention. Currently, the National Shrine of our Lady of Guadalupe is interested in working with us for the opening on July 14. I'm looking for a council in the area to sponsor this event. Please [email](#) me your requests.

Vivat Jesus!

BROTHERS, FEBRUARY

BRINGS us up to the 2/3 mark of our 2023-24 Fraternal Year. Have you reached at least that point as far as completing the Community and Youth programs you have planned for the year and those you need to complete that section of your SP-7? If so, great. If not, it's past time to get moving!

Many Councils are presently working on their indoor Helping Hands projects at their parishes, parishioners' and members' homes, community sites, etc. Others are concentrating on bowl-a-thons, Cornhole (Bags) tournaments, raffles, pancake breakfasts and spaghetti dinners, upcoming fish fries, benefit concerts and shows, etc. as fundraisers for Global Wheelchairs projects, Habitat for Humanity project donations or Coats for Kids funding for spring jackets or next fall/winter drives. It's also a great time to be organizing your work brigade for a Habitat project in your area.

As for Youth programs, I was very disappointed in the response this year to the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest. The State winners will be announced this month, but only 5 Councils in the entire state submitted entries, nearly all from 8th grade only – a very poor showing. We'll have to review the program this spring/summer, but we certainly can do a better job there.

On the other hand, the Free Throw (and Knowledge) Contest continues to have good participation, though there's always room to do better. Remember that Council contests should be finishing up this month, as well as Free Throw District Contests where needed. Green travel cards should be issued to Council and/or District winners for their Diocesan Contests. Your Diocesan Program Coordinators will be setting up and advising you of the details for those contests to be held in March. The State Finals will be on Saturday, April 13 at Assumption High School in Wisconsin Rapids. As usual, it will be registration and practice 10:00-11:00 AM, competition begins 11:15 AM for the Free Throw Contest. (DDs, DPCs – remember to tell Diocesan winners that they need to bring their own practice balls to the State Contest.) Math and Spelling registration is 10:15-11:15 AM with competition set to begin at 11:30 AM. (NOTE: The 2023-24 Council Knowledge Contest tests are now available on the State website. If you have problems with it, let me know. The Diocesan Tests I will send directly to the DPCs.)

Another Youth program that Councils in the State have done little with is the Soccer Challenge. Though easier to run than PPK, very few Councils have chosen to operate this program so that we haven't been

able to do Diocesan or State programs in Wisconsin essentially since 2019. The local contests can even be run indoors at a gym. Here in February, it's certainly appropriate to be planning for a spring contest in April or May.

The companion (newer) Hockey Skills Contest is operated much the same way as the Soccer Challenge. All the information needed can be obtained from the Supreme website and Supplies Online. If you decide to do this one, please let me know when and how it turned out.

The Culture of Life Essay Contest is still ongoing. Entries are due to Councils by March 15. Winners are due to DPCs by March 31.

Finally, let me urge all Councils to get their 2023 History Books in by February 15 to your DDs and your Service Program Award entries (your best Faith, Family, Community and Life programs) into State Program Director Ernie Reinhart or State Office by March 1.

Remember Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday on February 14.
Vivat Jesus!



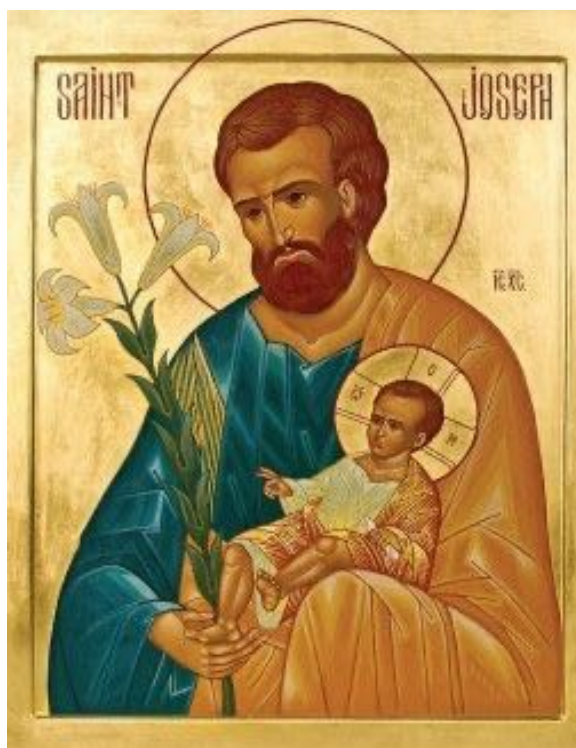
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TRANSFER DATE	ICON 1	ICON 2	ICON 3	ICON 4
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024	30	44	80	48
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024	29	14	85	63
MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024	27	10	91	62
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024	28	11	83	69
MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024	90	12	81	60
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024	89	9	82	61
FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024	STATE	71	87	66
SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2024	ALL ICONS RETURNED TO STATE OFFICE			

ICON UPDATE

As the ICON continues I expect to see at least sixteen form 10784 each month being submitted. To date, I have twelve that were submitted in the last five months of 2023 and two for 2024. Please submit these forms, as Supreme is using these forms as a basis of their assessments on how well a program is doing. As the Fraternal year comes to an end, I will be creating a new schedule for 2024-2025 because Supreme will not be releasing a new icon until sometime after the 2024-2025 fraternal year.

Vivat Jesus!
SK Dennis Bednarek



**In service to One.
In service to all.**

