

The Oklahoma Knight

(SSN 1048 3955) (USPS 070 790)

The official news of the Oklahoma State Council of the Knights of Columbus.
Published quarterly Periodical postage Paid at Edmond, Oklahoma 73034



VOLUME 41, No. 4

EDMOND, OKLAHOMA

OCTOBER 2018

Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians

Brother Knights:

At this year's Supreme Convention a new pilgrim icon titled "Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians" was unveiled.

This icon will travel to all jurisdictions in the Order and will be made available to all subordinate councils. The circulation of this icon will mark the Order's 18th Marian Prayer Program. The Oklahoma State Council has received two of these icons. We are in the process of collecting the accompanying printed materials and preparing a circulation plan.



John Pierce

From the State Deputy

The icons and the circulation plan will be presented to our District Deputies at the upcoming Mid-Year meeting to be held Dec. 1 & 2 in Stillwater. Before outlining our program plans let's take a moment to review the involvement of the Knights of Columbus in supporting persecuted Christians.

In 2014 Islamic State Militants began an occupation of Syria and northern Iraq. They targeted Christians and other minority religions, killing thousands of the faithful and driving hundreds of thousands from their homelands as refugees. In response to this atrocity the

Supreme Council established the Christian Refugee Relief Fund to provide humanitarian relief to those whose lives had been devastated. Over the past four years the Order has committed in excess of \$20 million in aid. During this time the Order has also conducted campaigns to promote prayer for and awareness of the plight of those suffering persecution in the Middle East.

The icon, commissioned by the Supreme Council, was created by Italian artist Fabrizio Diomedi. It depicts the Blessed Mother with the Child Jesus over her heart. The images surrounding the Blessed Mother are a representative gathering of recent Christian martyrs including six priest members of the Knights of Columbus who were killed by the Mexican government in the early 1900's.

The September 2018 issue of the *Columbian* magazine contains an excellent article detailing the response of the Knights of Columbus to the atrocities committed by ISIS over the past four years as well as a timeline of the Order sponsored related events.

As we prepare our plan for the circulation of the Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians icons we should all re-read the *Columbian* article so we are reminded of the harsh reality of the persecution of innocent people in our world today. The purpose of this Marian Prayer Program is to educate our members and our fellow parishioners of this reality and to promote prayer and physical support for the restoration of Christian communities in the Middle East, the cradle of Christianity in the world.

The State Chairman for this Marian Prayer Program is Steve Rose. Steve is preparing a circulation plan that will allow each Oklahoma

Prayer for Persecuted Christians

**O God of all the nations,
the One God who is and was and always will be
in your providence you willed that your Church
be united to the suffering of your Son,
Look with mercy on your servants
who are persecuted for their faith in you
Grant them perseverance and courage
to be worthy imitators of Christ
Bring your wisdom upon leaders of nations
to work for peace among all peoples
May your Spirit open conversion
for those who contradict your will,
that we may live in harmony
Give us the grace to be united in truth & freedom,
and to always seek your will in our lives**

**Through Christ our Lord. Amen
Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians
pray for us.**

*(Prayer composed by
Arch. William E. Lori, Supreme Chaplain)*



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Editor's Note

Hi.

This issue marks a very special milestone for me – 20 years as your *Oklahoma Knight* editor.

I remain grateful for everyone who helps me by submitting articles and photographs. Please continue to do so.

I am also very grateful to God for allowing me to do this and help spread the word on His Kingdom through the work done by this Order. Again thanks!

Steve Gust Okla. Knight editor

SD

From Page 1

council to request an icon and related printed materials for at least one week. As Steve is working on the overall plan, each council should reach out to their pastor to discuss events that can be scheduled in conjunction with presence of the icon at their parish. An easel will be provided with each icon allowing display in a location at your parish accessible by all parishioners.

The printed materials accompanying each icon include prayer cards with the icon image on one side and on the other side a Prayer for Persecuted Christians written by our Supreme Chaplain, Archbishop William E. Lori. Also provided are a supply of prayer booklets containing a Mass prayer service and a Rosary prayer service. Advance copies of these printed materials will be made available to council leaders to review with their pastors prior to receiving the icon.

The icon packages that will be circulated include the icon, a custom carrying case to protect the icon during transport, an easel for display of the icon and a container of printed materials including a log book for event entries by each receiving council, a supply of Prayer Cards to give to event participants and a supply of Prayer Booklets for Mass Prayer Services and Rosary Prayer Services.

When receiving an icon package each council should conduct an inventory of received items and immediately notify their respective District Deputy or program chairman Steve Rose of any missing items or short supply of printed materials.

Let's make a concerted effort to include our pastors and parishioners in this Marian Prayer Program.

Venerable Michael McGivney, Pray for Us,
Blessed Stanley Rother, Pray for Us.

Vivat Jesus!
John Pierce

Enid Knights remain busy

The Enid Knights, Council 1044, held its annual rummage sale this month. That sale helps to fund the council's hall as well as a host of community projects.

In addition, anything left over goes to an Enid thrift shop or the Center of Family Love.

The council is led by **Adam Treman**, the GK as well as **Maxwell Meier**, who is the FN for the Fourth Degree.

Recent Knights of the Month for Council 1044 are **Al Patocka** and **Leroy Patocka**. Among those getting the Family of the Month honors during the summer are **Doug and Marcie Clown** and **Chris and Valerie Trojan**.

National Day of Remembrance for aborted children



A Mass was celebrated Sept. 8 at Saint Gregory's Chapel in Shawnee to mark the "National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children." The annual event marked its sixth year nationally and fifth year in Oklahoma. Mass was celebrated by Father Price Oswalt of Saint Joseph's Cathedral of Oklahoma City. Father Oswalt is also state chaplain of the Oklahoma Knights of Columbus. The Knights provided an honor guard for the day. The event was sponsored by Citizens for a Pro-Life Society, Priests for Life and the Pro-Life Action League. It calls on pro-life Americans to honor gravesites of our aborted brothers and sisters.

Please pray the rosary daily

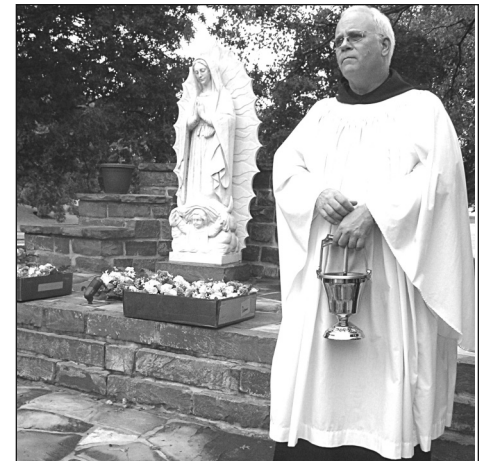


"The National Day of Remembrance," local organizer Richard Hufnagel, leading the rosary.

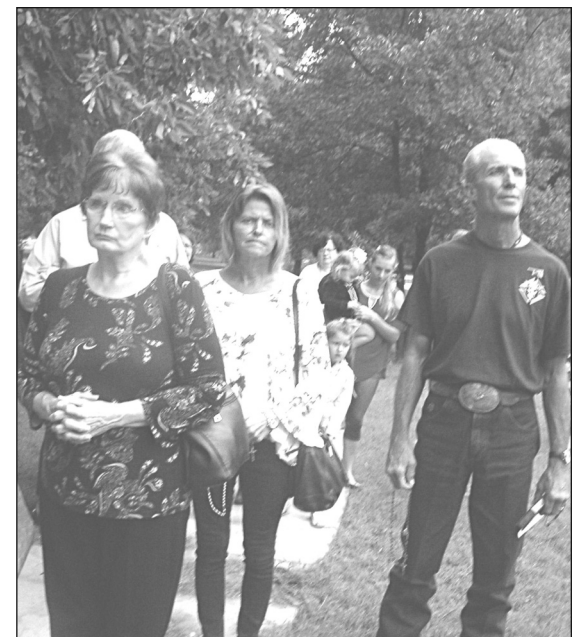


A blessing for flowers was held at the statue. The flowers were then to be taken and placed at gravesites in Tulsa, Saint Gregroy's Abbey cemetery and Resurrection Cemetery in Oklahoma City. Organizers also urge the faithful to regularly visit during the year a graveside of aborted children or another memorial to the aborted.

Father Boniface Copelin of Saint Gregory's Abbey.



A procession from Saint Gregory's chapel to the Our Lady of Guadalupe statue followed Mass. Along the way the faithful prayed the rosary, led by Richard L. Hufnagel, the primary organizer of the day's events.



How we defeat the Evil One; Save souls

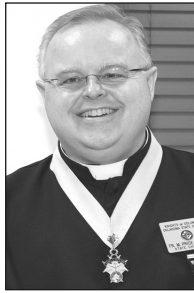
Brother Knights:

As we enter the month of November, the month of All Saints and All Souls, it is a great time to think about the eternal destiny of our individual souls.

Sometimes, in this modern age, we don't like to think about it, but there is a very real battle for our souls and that the one thing the Evil One does not want is another Saint for the Kingdom of God.

Of late, I have been following the beatification and canonization process of Venerable Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan. In 1975, he was the archbishop of Saigon as it fell to the North Vietnamese. He was imprisoned by the communists for 13 years. After the Vatican negotiated his release, he was brought to the Holy See and named a cardinal and Saint John Paul the Great named him as President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

While he was in prison, he was able to have a great relationship with his guards and kept converting them to the faith, by his kind



Fr. Oswald

From the State Chaplain

treatment of them. They helped him slip messages out to the Catholics of the country, encouraging them to keep the faith. These messages, were later compiled and became a book entitled, "The Road to Hope."

Writing about the battle for our our souls, one of the messages of Cardinal Nguyen was this: "Your 'weapons' in this struggle are meditation, self denial, the sacraments, the rosary and reconciliation. Your allies are the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, the angels (*especially your guardian angel*), your patron saint and your spiritual director. Unless you gradually drop your weapons and betray your allies, your victory is assured..." The emphasis on the Guardian Angel is mine, but the point is the same.

Without a good relationship with our Guardian Angel, we are simply lost in the Spiritual life. Likewise, if we do not have a good abiding relationship with our patron saint, we cannot possibly hope to gain the Kingdom. The Angels, the saints, the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, have already achieved the goal of eternal life. How can we possibly

hope to achieve it on our own?

The use of the "weapons" that Ven Francis Xavier speaks of are important. We might add wearing crucifixes, using holy water and frequent confession.

Additionally, we might use the frequent reading of Sacred Scripture and the reading of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. If we do not continue to form our conscience, then we do not continue to grow. These are all important. That is one of the reason the Church gives these to us. We could discuss the issue of self-denial for a long time; something most Christians do not practice hardly at all, especially outside of Lent.

So, on this journey toward the Kingdom, keep your weapons handy, and keep your allies close by as well. Confer with them frequently and the devil simply does not have the opportunity to do combat with you.

Striving for the Kingdom and pushing toward the fullness of Life on high with the angels and the saints is virtually guaranteed to those who persevere.

Vivat Jesus
Fr. Price Oswald
State Chaplain



Fr. Oswald leads a blessing of flowers at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Gregory's in September.

The event was part of a National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children.'

Let's all pray for the souls of all aborted children everywhere.

See more photos on Page 3.



Grand Knight John Leon sends out a big thanks to all who took part in Council 13366's hamburger booth during a recent Hispanic festival at St. Joseph Old Cathedral.

Several Knights came out during the day to help. ABOVE council members George Woods and George Waters get ready for more customers. A special thanks to all who helped cook burgers, especially District Deputy Dennis Naudman, who also provided a table for the booth.

Hobby Lobby purchases St. Gregory's University

By Nolan Clay

NewsOK.com/The Oklahoman

SHAWNEE — Hobby Lobby has agreed to pay \$8 million to buy the campus of bankrupt St. Gregory's University.

The private Catholic university closed in December after being denied a \$12.5 million loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Hobby Lobby is an Oklahoma-City based company that sells arts and crafts items, picture frames, fabrics and holiday merchandise at more than 800 stores throughout the United States.

The popular retailer has not disclosed what it intends to do with the 73-acre campus.

A Hobby Lobby Stores Inc. executive on Sept. 27 signed the purchase agreement for the campus and associated assets. A U.S. bankruptcy judge must approve the agreement before the sale can become final. A hearing is set for Nov. 28 in Oklahoma City.

The agreement became public in late October when a bankruptcy trustee requested approval of the sale.

Hobby Lobby was the only one of three potential purchasers to submit an offer after the campus was listed for sale April 17, the trustee reported.

Anyone still interested in the campus can submit a higher cash bid on or before Nov. 28. The bid must be at least \$8,490,000.

Proceeds from the sale will be used to pay off claims and mortgages against the campus, the trustee reported.

Owed \$4.78 million are the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corp., the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and the Catholic Order of Foresters, the trustee reported.

Join The Father McGivney Guild

Please print in block letters

If you and your family are not members of the Father McGivney Guild, please complete the coupon and mail to:

**The Father McGivney Guild
Knights of Columbus
1 Columbus Plaza
New Haven, Ct. 06510-3328**

Register online at www.kofc.org

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ZIP CODE _____

Guild members receive a bi-monthly newsletter on the status of the sainthood cause, a special prayer card and additional materials as they are developed. Members may also submit prayer and Mass intentions to the director of the Guild. KOC membership does not make one automatically a Guild member. **PLEASE SIGN UP TODAY EITHER** with this form or online.

Ten reasons to support Order's insurance program

This past July, General Agent Daniel Schachle spoke to a group of agents, explaining that it is our job as Knights to show the world that faith-based values matter. He noted that we must seek to promote those values in every aspect of our lives, including in how we plan our families' financial future. Here's why:

- The Knights of Columbus has products that help families all across the economic spectrum. If a Catholic family needs a strong insurance company, we are it.

- Knights of Columbus Field Agents serve their members with high integrity, and so does our organization, which was named a World's Most Ethical Company by the Ethisphere® Institute for the fifth consecutive year this past February.

- Your local Knights of Columbus Field Agent is committed to you. His working mission and purpose is to provide the best advice and service to you and your family.

- Your dollars with the Knights do triple duty: They are invested in a Catholic way, they help those less fortunate and they help your family.

- The Knights of Columbus offers more than life insurance. We also have insured retirement plans where your IRAs, Roth IRAs, 401ks or

non-qualified funds can be placed to maximize your retirement income.

- Knights of Columbus Field Agents can help members create a solid financial legacy plan. Remember, you don't choose if you leave a legacy — you either leave your family a legacy of love or you leave them burdens.

- The Knights of Columbus offers long-term care insurance, a product that helps you pay for your extended medical needs in a nursing home facility or in the comfort of your own home. The Knights allow you, not someone else, to decide how and where you should live. It's up to you.

- With the Knights of Columbus you can guarantee that, even if you run out of money, you will never run out of income.

- The Knights of Columbus offers disability-income insurance, a product that helps replace lost income if you are unable to work due to a disability resulting from an illness or accident.

- The Knights of Columbus help to ensure that the dreams a father has for his children can come true — even if he's not here to see to it and provide it himself

Find out more by visiting kofc.org/insurance.



The Silver Rose Transfer

Earlier this month the Silver Rose transfer from the Kansas State Council to the Oklahoma State Council was completed at, Sacred Heart Parish, Miami, Okla. Among those present was SD John Pierce, second from left and Fr. Price Oswald. The Silver Rose is on its way across Oklahoma and eventually will go to Mexico. As most Knights know, the run is done in honor of our beloved Patroness, Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Calendar

(Editor's Note: There are dates with degree work listed. Please obtain more information on each from your GK or your district deputy.)

November

Nov. 1
All Saints' day..

Nov. 2
All Souls' Day

Nov. 6
General election.

Nov. 11
— Veterans day.



— Transfer Silver Rose to Texas Council.
Time and location TBA

Nov. 12
Admissions degree council 12108, Norman.

Nov. 15
-Admissions Degree, Edmond, 6477.

Nov. 16
Admissions Degree. 1287, Lawton.

Nov. 22
Thanksgiving Day.

Nov. 25
Admissions Degree, 962, Muskogee.

Nov. 30
Mid Year meeting, State Council, Stillwater.

December

Dec. 2
First Sunday of Advent.

Dec. 8,
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Mother.

Dec. 13
Admission Degree, 9901, Moore.

Dec. 16
Admissions Degree, 1018 St. Benedict's in Shawnee..

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New Greenhouse at the CFL



Since our last issue, the Knights from Council 11237 (*Edmond, St. Monica*) helped with the construction of a new greenhouse at the Center of Family Love. The CoFL residents will be using this greenhouse for their winter crops.

Did you know the Center of Family Love must raise \$10,000 annually to meet each of their resident's needs? The Center of Family Love never charges their residents or their families for the care they provide in the event they cannot afford to live there. Incidentally, 99% of their residents require Medicaid support for their needs.

To assist the COFL with their mission to provide quality lifetime care to individuals with developmental disabilities, the Knights are embarking on "The Love Challenge". This program aims to challenge Catholic parishes across Oklahoma to adopt one intellectually and physically disabled friend who lives at the Center of Family Love. Parishes are called to designate a Team Champion to assist with The Love Challenge at their local level. Team Champions and parishes will be given marketing and support materials to assist in this challenge.

If you'd like to help the CFL with their most vital mission of love, please contact them at 405) 263-4658; 635 West Texas Ave.; Okarche, OK 73762 or donate online at centeroffamilylove.org.