

Church Activities

“*Changing Lives & Saving Lives - The Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus. What a Team!*”

Today, it seems that the Catholic Church is in turmoil. The number of Catholics, especially our young adults and college age Catholics are drifting away from the church. At best some see the church and the Knights as little more than a social organization to help the needy. At worst, people see the Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus as an outdated means for simple-minded believers to foolishly follow a powerful and corrupt organization. Simply put, neither of these views are correct. Both the church and the Knights are so much more. So what are we as Knights, supposed to do?

To address this, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson has begun a new initiative entitled: Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parishes. With a declining number of priests and religious, it has fallen to the family and laity to help build and maintain the Catholic Church. What better organization to do this than the Knights of Columbus?

The charitable work of the Knights of Columbus will always go on but it is essential that we as Knights show our love for God and his church. As Church Activities Director, I am proud to help our Knights meet this goal. From our various Vocations, Grants and Seminarian's programs to our Religious Appreciation and Pilgrimages, we as members of the Knights of Columbus can show that we are ready, willing, and able to assist the church in its mission.

I am well aware that many councils have several charitable works that they do in any given year but I ask that you and your council consider taking on the task of helping out your church in an Evangelical way this coming year. Show your love for the church by attending mass as a council. Additionally, we will have four Pilgrimages throughout the state that you and your council can attend. If you do not already, please consider sponsoring a seminarian to help the church grow.

By doing these things, we can do our part in building the church and remain faithful to the gospel. We will show that we are proud members of the Knights of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Church. Together we can change lives and save lives. What a team!

John Gambon, Director

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Church Activities

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Prayer For Vocations

Heavenly Father, bless your Church with an abundance of holy and zealous priests, deacons, brothers and sisters. Give those you have called to the married state and those you have chosen to live as single persons in the world, the special graces that their lives require. Form us all in the likeness of your Son so that in him, with him and through him we may love you more deeply and serve you more faithfully, always and everywhere. With Mary we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PROGRAMS

Diocesan Relations - Diocesan Chairmen

The Diocesan Chairmen are the liaison between the Knights of Columbus and the Diocese. They are responsible for the Vocations Programs in the Diocese as well as being a Diocesan representative to the Missouri State Meet Life Campaign Board. The Diocesan Chairmen communicate with the Grand Knights and District Deputies concerning activities and opportunities occurring within the Diocese. The Diocesan Chairmen are familiar with all state programs as they work with the Diocese thus making them a valuable resource to your Council. It is vital that your Diocesan Chairmen be made aware of all of your church activities so he can communicate with the specific Diocesan offices. Many times, a Council's outstanding accomplishments are left unknown to the Diocese. The offices of the Diocese are very willing and receptive to working with us. Be sure to contact your specific Diocesan Chairman for any questions regarding a Diocesan activity.

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Religious Vocations



The Knights of Columbus cherishes and celebrates all forms of vocations as gifts of God. But because of the Church's urgent need for priests and consecrated religious women and men, the Order's vocations program gives special priority to promoting these vocations.

As the largest Catholic lay organization in the world, the Order seeks to assist the Church with financial and moral assistance for this purpose. So, what can your Council do to promote vocations?



- **Assign a vocations Chairman for your Council**
- **Encourage families to talk with their children about vocations**
- **Work with your Chaplain or Parish Priest and research Diocesan programs promoting vocations**
- **Pray for vocations - Sponsor adoration time promoting vocations**
- **Partner with other organizations that support vocations like Serra Club**
- **Support the Missouri State Vocations Programs listed below**

Adopt-a-Seminarian Program

Each Council will be given a seminarian to support which will be coordinated by your Diocesan Chairman and the Diocese Vocations Office. The support can be in the form of using the RSVP or simply letters of support and cards or maybe an occasional gift card. You can be creative with your support. Include his information and progress in your newsletters and include him in your Council events if he can attend. It is important that you let your Diocesan Chairman know if you are supporting a seminarian through the RSVP currently so he can assign him to you. Most likely a seminarian will be adopted by more than one Council. We may also be able to extend this support to the Deaconate program as these men need our prayers as well, and also to the religious women in the convent. Look for this to start soon after the fraternal year begins.

Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP)

Under the Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP), Knights of Columbus councils or assemblies make an annual contribution of \$500 or more to an individual seminarian or novice to help with their personal expenses and then receives a refund of \$100 back from the Supreme Council, once the paperwork is submitted. Councils and assemblies can sponsor more than one seminarian or novice if their resources permit. In each case, the minimum annual contribution is \$500. The RSVP is unique in that funds go directly to the recipient. The donation is not intended to cover the cost of education; rather these funds are for the recipient to use for his or her personal needs. Be sure to see the Supreme guidelines for eligibility or check with your Diocesan Chairman for guidance. The RSVP does include men and women who are novices or postulants in religious orders or communities. Your Diocesan Chairman will be the focal for this program and will be able to assign you a recipient. A Council can start "tithing" \$42 a month, at the beginning of the fraternal year, to have the \$500 available by the end of the fraternal year. This would be a great way to have your Council focus on vocations. Besides just financial support, the RSVP does require you to provide moral support. See Supreme form #2863 for more information and be sure to **send a copy to your Diocesan Chairman**. If you are currently supporting a seminarian, be sure to let your Diocesan Chairman know so he can assign this seminarian to you in the Adopt-a-Seminarian program. The Diocesan Chairman will then notify the Diocese Vocations office as they need to know what seminarians are supported. Suggestions for the \$100 you receive back from Supreme would be:

Good - Use the money to start the fund for your next RSVP recipient

Better - Send the money to the recipient

* **Best** - Donate the money to the **Missouri Religious Vocations Fund!**

Missouri Religious Vocation Fund (MRVF)

Promoting Future Vocations!

This fund was established to provide financial assistance to all four Diocese's in the State of Missouri to assist them in promoting future vocations. We ask is that each Council, Assembly or Ladies Auxiliary prayerfully consider \$.50 per member, or more, to this fund. Our Dioceses are gaining seminarians, which is a great thing, but finances to support these men are scarce. It would be fantastic if the Missouri Knights took this issue on, as we have taken on the cause for the unborn and support this fund. The goal this year is \$15,000, and I know you will come through. If you do use the RSVP, please donate the \$100 from the Supreme Council to this fund. This is the **Best** way you can turn this refund around. Checks can be made out to "Columbian Charities", be sure to mention that the monies go to the MRVF. You can send the monies to the MRVF Chairman, Joe Stoverink.

Please note that the Missouri Religious Vocations Fund (MRVF) and the Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP) are two separate programs and we encourage your participation in both!

And, additionally, would you like to have a personalized Missouri Knights of Columbus license plate for your vehicle? A \$25 donation (for 1 year) or \$50 donation (for 2 years) is all it takes. This money goes into the MRVF, so not only will you be showing your pride in the Knights, but you will be helping out vocations as well! To receive an "Emblem Use Authorization Statement" to take with you when your register your vehicle, please fill out the form available at www.mokofc.org.

Joe Stoverink

Religious Vocations Fund Chairman
2341 Burns Avenue, Overland, MO 63114
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vocationsfund@mokofc.org

Msgr. Joseph Mancuso Catholic Education Grant Program

Providing strong Catholic Education programs for our youth has always been a priority of the Knights. In 1984, Monsignor Joseph Mancuso spearheaded a drive to raise money to establish a \$1,000,000 trust fund for Catholic Education programs. Beginning in 1990, interest earned from this fund has been used to provide grants totaling \$574,800 to 265 different Catholic Schools and Parish-based Religious Education programs.

Catholic Schools (Pre-Schools, Parochial Schools, and High Schools) and Religious Education programs (K-12) apply for either a \$500 or \$1,000 grant. Application forms are available on the State Council's website:

<http://www.mokofc.org/component/rsform/form/19-catholic-education-grant-application>

(If you have problems downloading the application, please call Father Weber.)

Completed applications be emailed, using the online form, sent via postal mail, or faxed and are due by **March 1st, 2017. (Electronic submissions are preferred and recommended!)**

Grant recipients will be announced at the State convention .Funds will be distributed the end of the 2017 School year. In the 2015-2016 fraternal year, 20 \$1,000 grants and 60 \$500 grants were awarded.

Please encourage your Catholic School and/or Religious Education program to submit an application this year!

To support the administrative costs of this program, you have the opportunity to donate monies in Memorial of a Deceased Knight or Lady. Their name will be posted on the State Memorial Board that is displayed at the State Convention and District Deputy meetings. Send your memorial donations to Clarence "Book" Lawrence.

Msgr. Joseph Mancuso Catholic Education Grant Program

Grant Criteria

- Deals with a specifically Catholic dimension of education which is in conformity with the Magisterium of the Catholic Church.
- Would affect a high percentage of the potential number of students enrolled or other persons involved.
- Shows promise of continuing after the initial funding is expended.
- Does not merely replace what is an expected service but offers an improved dimension (supplements basic programs, does not supplant, or initiates a needed program).
- Could be replicated in other Catholic educational settings.
- Show clearly the basis of need for this project.
- Show clearly the inability of the local setting to meet this need.
- Would be implemented by personnel with appropriate background and expertise.
- Is accompanied by a budget which meets requirements and includes no request for overhead expenses unless it is a new project.
- Offers matching effort (not necessarily financial) on the local level to the extent possible.

Rev. Joseph Weber, Jr.
Catholic Education Grants
St. Monica Parish, 12136 Olive Blvd
Creve Coeur, MO 63141
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catholicedgrants@mokofc.org

Faith Enrichment

As Knights, we tend to be so busy with our charitable events and community efforts that we often do not think about ourselves. If this is true of you and your Council, make sure you take some time to get refreshed and renewed in your faith. Along with ourselves, we need to make sure we are not leaving our wives and families behind while we are out doing charitable works. It is great to be involved in activities but it is better if we include our wives and families in them when we can. You, the Church, and your Council will be stronger for it and you will draw more membership!

To aid you in your Council Faith Enrichment, we have a Faith Enrichment Chairman Priest in each of the four Diocese. They will also be available to assist the State Chaplain in passing on important information to the Council Chaplains. Be sure to take advantage of these focal Priests in your area and we are looking forward to their spiritual guidance.

Msgr. John Borcic
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Religious Appreciation

Let us show our support and appreciation for our clergy and religious and let them know that we are thankful to them for devoting their lives to serving the Lord and us. Make sure you let Priests, Retired Priests, Deacons, Sisters and Brothers know that we truly appreciate everything they do for us. One way to do this is to plan an event such as a dinner, picnic, or some form of formal recognition. Maybe you could take your clergy and religious out to dinner once a month. You may even want to consider having this as a District-wide event. To report an event or for assistance in planning or conducting an event, please contact Harry Lee Beste.

Marian Hour Devotion

The Supreme Council would like every Council to hold a Marian Hour of Prayer Service this year. Here are the suggested steps involved in setting one up. 1.) Contact your Council chaplain or pastor to schedule the prayer service. 2.) Pick a place to hold it (a church is preferred but you may use your Council hall or meeting area). 3.) Select a date and time that is convenient for the chaplain and for most members. 4.) Plan a companion event (a breakfast, picnic, banquet, membership drive etc.) to be held in conjunction with the service. 5.) Promote your event through your council newsletter, parish bulletin, diocesan newspaper, etc. 6.) After holding your prayer service, please make a report on the event and send it to John Clarke. The Supreme office does provide an icon display, including Marian prayer books that will help assist you. Contact John Clarke or your District Deputy for availability.

John Clarke

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Clarence "Book" Lawrence

Catholic Education Fund
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Independence, MO 64055
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Pilgrimages

The goal this year is to have a pilgrimage in each Diocese or region of the state. This is a great way to work in partnership with our Dioceses. The pilgrimage will not only be for the Knights but for all of our Parishes to participate in. This will be a great opportunity for our Honor Guard to be showcased and to provide a spiritual experience for all in attendance.

Scheduled Pilgrimages:

- September 11th, 2016: Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows - Starkenburg
- September 18th, 2016: The Black Madonna Shrine - Eureka
- October 2nd, 2016: National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal - Perryville
- November 12th 2016: Our Lady of the Lake - Branson

Check the State website for details on these and any other Pilgrimages or you can contact the Religious Pilgrimage Chairman Harry Lee Beste or your Diocesan Chairman.

Harry Lee Beste

Religious Appreciation/Pilgrimage Chairman
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A pilgrimage is a journey to a sacred place undertaken as an act of religious devotion. Its purpose may be simply to venerate a certain saint or ask some spiritual favor; beg for physical cure or perform an act of penance; express thanks or fulfill a promise.

The Modern Catholic Dictionary