

Wisconsin Knights of Columbus Notes

September 2019

[Wisconsin State Website](#)

Editors: SK Mike Tomsyck & SK Rob Christianson



“Knights of Unity”

Did you watch any of the Supreme Convention on EWTN? Supreme Knight Carl Anderson opened the Convention with his annual report (read the entire report online at kofc.org), the theme of his speech was “Knights Of Unity.” To quote SK “Through our unity, we will continue to rise in charity and fraternity. And as we extend the hand of brotherhood, we will continue to transform the world around us — a world that needs more, not less, of the truth and witness that define all those who call themselves Knights of Columbus.”

The call to continue to rise in charity and fraternity requires may require us to rethink or even retool ourselves and our councils. Are we not best to accept this challenge? How do we continue on this path of unity? The below article by Father Daniel Schuster, Faithful Friar of the Marquette Assembly provides some insight into why we need to continue to evolve, change and look at how we as Knights need to have Pride in our brotherhood, not lose focus on our Service obligations and continue to be Responsible for each other. Father’s article specifically talks about the Fourth Degree Uniform change but can be applied to our to how we accept and deal with change in general.

“Just like many of you, I grew up in various circles where a uniform was required. I spent 8-years training in Tae Kwon Do (a Korean martial art). I am still an active Boy Scout, and I even spent 8-years on a summer camp staff with a daily uniform (wearing unattractive knee-high socks). I attended Catholic Schools with a defined dress code. I was a member of a social fraternity called Phi Gamma Delta and wore the regalia. I worked at Target Superstores, I waited tables, tended bar, and worked in my father’s sheet metal factory. I played on many sports teams. These days, I wake up each morning and stare into a closet full of 33 black clergy shirts and 6 pairs of black pants. And yes, the uniform in each of these scenarios changed multiple times over the years, and I needed to pony-up and buy the latest and greatest prescribed articles.

The time has come for our Fourth Degree Knights to change their uniform. This is not as simple for many people as blithely accepting the changes. The new changes cost money. We are humans and naturally, we have emotions and memories attached to the plumes and colorful regalia of the Fourth Degree. Rightfully then, these changes signal a time of mourning which we began over a year ago. We delayed the changes as long as possible, thinking that this might help each of you mourn, grieve, and come to peace with the changes. We stalled to

see if the changes were real, or if they were merely an idea that was being tested by the Supreme Knight. The changes are real.

As faithful friar and chaplain, my task and duty is not to strong-arm everyone into accepting the changes. My role is to offer you spiritual guidance in a time of change. So please take a moment, as I did, to connect this current experience to other past experiences you have had in your life. How did you survive those changes? What was one negative (unhealthy or sinful) way you dealt with the change? What/who eventually brought you through the change? Where was Jesus ministering to you during the time of change? Where did you accept his mercy and love in your grief, and where did you reject it? Who were the people placed in your life who helped you deal with change? In the grand scheme of life, how does the acceptance of this current situation assist with my ultimate goal and my desire of being saved and entering into eternity? How much of this is out of my control?

Let us continue on with our mission of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism all for the greater glory of God and the benefit of our families and the poor.” - Father Daniel Schuster.

Vivat Jesus,
Jack Wrbanich
State Deputy

NOTICE OF EXPENDITURES



State Secretary provides the following Notice Per Article VI, State Council Finances, Section 13 (Special Charity Grants) of the By-Laws of Wisconsin State Council Knights of Columbus.

The following Special Charity Grants have been recently approved:

- August 9, 2019: CrossWoods Adventure Camp-\$10,000.00
- August 9, 2019: Women’s Care Center (Madison)-\$3,000.00
- August 24, 2019: Our Lady of Good Help-\$25,000.00

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Tomsyck
State Secretary

MEMBERSHIP

What is Your Councils Image?

It is a very simple question, but I don't think most Councils think about it, but it is important to know when trying to grow your Membership.

How can you understand why men join some Councils and not others?

If someone was new to your parish or town asked the question: Who are the Knights of Columbus? What would your priest say? Fellow parishioners? Members of the Council? The old boys at the morning coffee clutch? The dads watching their kids play youth sports?

Do they even know you exist? Do they think they are a bunch of grumpy old guys? Do they think they are bunch of young guys who drink too much and talk big and do nothing? Are they the guys that do the great breakfasts/fish fries? Are they the guys who get everything done around church, if Father needs it them to do it. Are they the guys who lead the rosary before mass on Sunday? Are they the guys that do the Tootsie Rolls? They are the guys with the funny hats? Are they the guys who run the food shelf? Are they the guys who sing Christmas Carols at the nursing home? Do they think they are a nice excepting group of men who are encouraging and always building others up?

If we all would honestly ask that question of who our Council is, it would help us figure out who we are recruiting. Why are some councils recruiting big year after year while others are bringing in 1 and losing 10?

You can do church drives, but programs are a huge recruiting opportunity. Your programs and image will help get guys in your Council and more importantly keep them there.

There is no one size fits all image for a Council, but it is a very important factor to know when recruiting a guy. If your Council takes off the rose-colored glasses, do you like what you see? If not change it! Not sure how to change it? Ask any State Officer or Regional Membership Coach and we will help you with your image which will help the entire Order.

Together we will we be successful this year and Wisconsin will be Net Net +1.

Mark Jelinek
Wisconsin Membership Director

SUPREME CONVENTION RECAP

Good day, worthy gentlemen:



This past week I had the very good fortune of attending my first Supreme Convention hosted by our neighbor state MN. as a WI delegate. I am very grateful for that experience. The reasons are too many to count or to state in my message of appreciation. I am writing today to hopefully share the same inspiration I took away from that convention.

If anyone remembers the reason, they became a Knight then they know the feeling of this young Knight. This is the very reason we grow – not only in member numbers but for the Faith we believe, the Strength to defend (decency-integrity-honor-rectitude), the Love and Charity to help others but also the ability to band together to fight to support what is righteous when necessary against the very evil that took this young brother from among us. Remember why we became KNIGHTS. We need to invite others to offer them this same experience. We need to offer them this opportunity.

Tuesday night’s keynote speaker at the States Dinner, Cardinal Christopher Collins of Toronto, also praised the “sacrificial love of Kendrick.”

“It is through people that God speaks to us, through their virtue,” he said. “Sometimes brought to a heroic moment, sometimes day-by-day.”

“And that inspires us, guides us, shows us the way. And that’s why the Church takes time and effort and attention to hold up the example of saintly people, people who show us the path, the call to God, help us on our journey,” he said.

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson gave us a very good analogy describing the heart of our becoming and being a Knight. “Where there is a need – there is a Knight”

This is WHY we need YOU. This is WHY we are KNIGHTS. This is WHY I am proud to be one of the greatest charity organization in the world

Kind regards, Gentlemen. If you would like to see some highlights of the convention, please use the following link (<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=qMQ2ubmvM2U>).

Vivat Jesus,
Paul Lang



Paul E. Lang Ph.D., SCLA, Six Sigma, PGK

K of C WIS Disaster Relief Team: kcwidr@gmail.com

-Financial Secretary for Council 4879

-District Warden #51

-WI State Disaster Director -

-WI 4th degree Honor Guard Assembly - 1948

ADOPT-A-PARISH

Brothers:

Several months ago, while I was still Grand Knight, Knights of Columbus Charities approached me regarding an "Adopt-a-Parish" initiative they wanted to launch to support and rebuild Christian church communities in Iraq that were impacted by terrorism and the war there. Our Council was contacted because of our past support for Catholic refugees. With the Council's support, I emphatically said that we would do this. Sponsoring a parish in Iraq will "cost" \$1,000 a year, and at our June 20th meeting, the Council authorized a \$500 donation, the funds of which were generated from the 2019 Food for Families program. During the past four years, I have been able to raise \$2,000 for the Council by soliciting food donations and I hope to be able to raise money in the future. I expect that the second \$500 donation to meet the first year of support will come from the next Food for Families program or through other fund raising efforts.

On August 1st, at the international Knights of Columbus Supreme convention, the Supreme Knight announced the Adopt-a-Parish initiative and we should be proud that we have taken a lead role in making this happen.

As Catholics and Knights of Columbus, we are **PRO-LIFE**, from conception to grave and proudly support those who need help, such as the unborn, the homeless, the victimized and the person next to us in the pew. I think sometimes we take our faith for granted; maybe complaining that the Mass schedule isn't convenient or not liking such or such in our parish and forget that there are people in the world that risk their lives just to be able to go to church. I am proud of this Council for the support you have shown in the past and will continue to show.

Our adopted Iraqi parish is St. George Chaldean Catholic Church. Please take a moment to click on the link below and see what is going on there.

<https://cruxnow.com/church-in-the-middle-east/2019/08/12/laity-participate-for-first-time-in-chaldean-catholic-church-synod/>



Very best wishes,

Roland Breunig
District Deputy (50)

Pictured: Laity participate for first time in Chaldean Catholic Church synod

SPECIAL OLYMPICS



TEAM WISCONSIN 2022

Our drive to help cover expenses to send Team Wisconsin 2022 to the USA games in Orlando, Fl. June 5th-11th, 2022 is well under way. We have raised our goal to \$125,000.00 due to rising costs associated with travel. As of this writing August 18, 2019 we have collected \$28,092.13. We will need to raise another \$97,000.00 by April 2022. We can easily reach this goal if more council's would take part. Only a little over 20% of councils in the state are taking part in this important drive. Just think how much could be raised if all councils took part.

There are many ways that councils can raise monies for this. Publish in council newsletter asking members for donations, Fund Raiser, Charity Account, pass the hat at meetings, etc. All donations should be made through the Knights of Columbus Charity Account, which is a 501(c)(3) account. Check should be made out to Wisconsin K of C Charities, and mailed to:

John Benisch, K of C Special Olympics Coordinator
4645 State Highway 80
Pittsville, Wi 54466

A NEW OPPORTUNITY has developed that is an easy way to raise money for the drive. The SPECIAL OLYMPICS POLAR PLUNGE, which takes place each year. When a member signs up there will be a place to indicate which organization they want credit to go to, put in the Knights of Columbus and your council number. Then ask for pledges from friends and relatives. Any number of members from a council can sign up for the plunge. The more that sign up, the more chances to raise more money. These funds will be credited to our drive for Team Wisconsin 2022. I will be signing up, but will be checking the too chicken to plunge box.

God Bless All.

John Benisch

Wisconsin Special Olympics Coordinator

STATE PROGRAMS

Brothers,

I hope to see many of you on the Diocesan Tour in September, so I will be brief! September marks a quarter of the way through our 2019-20 Fraternal Year. Your membership and programming plans and activities should be that far along toward completion. If so, great; if not, you're already having to run to catch up. Your to do list:

- 185, 365, Summer Audit, initial Roundtable Report in.
- September-October membership activities underway or ready to go and materials ordered.
- Same for PPK and Soccer, Culture of Life and Citizenship Essay Contests, Life Savers for Life, etc.
- Ordering supplies for Coats for Kids, Keep Christ in Christmas – arranging for your other Family, Faith, Community and Life area programs (Supreme, State, local) for the period.
- Heading toward completion of your 2019 History Book
- Check your flash drive and other materials from the Summer District Meeting and the envelopes from the Diocesan Tour to be sure all is in the proper hands and being utilized.

These should set you well on the road to success for Fraternal Year 2019-20. I wish you well.

Fraternally,
Bill Frayer
State Program Director

P.S. Remember to make full use of your Regional Membership Coaches and your Diocesan Program Coordinators!



DISASTER RELIEF

Thankfully, this summer's weather has been much less severe than we experienced last year for most of the state. This has led to a lessened need for assistance for most of the state. That said, this summer we discovered a need for another type of support due to the extreme winds that passed through northern Wisconsin. Mother Nature always seems to be able to keep us on our toes.

With that, the Disaster Relief Team is focused on performing a needs assessment of equipment and supplies required to assist in wind damage/tornadic cleanup. This includes inventorying the availability of such items in councils throughout the state, so that we can act quickly in the event of a disaster. Please begin thinking of what your council can offer to its neighbors, as we will be reaching out to you all in the coming weeks. Once we have this data, we will map the resources throughout the state and identify points of contact in order to be able to act quickly when the need arises.

We covet prayers for our continued success. God bless and kind regards.

Paul E. Lang Ph.D., SCLA, Six Sigma, PGK

K of C WIS Disaster Relief Team: kcwidr@gmail.com

FAITH IN ACTION – FAMILY

Hello Brother Knights!

We are truly blessed by the Faith in Action programs and we need to implement them as much as we can.

Consecration of the Holy Family

This is a required program for the Columbian Award. It is usually implemented around the Feast of the Holy Family which will be January 12th, 2020. Follow the action steps on this link to decide on the weekend to hold the event and order prayer cards. [https://www.kofc.org/en/programs/family/consecration-to-the-holy-](https://www.kofc.org/en/programs/family/consecration-to-the-holy-family.html#/)



[family.html#](https://www.kofc.org/en/programs/family/consecration-to-the-holy-family.html#/)

There will be some prayer cards available at the September diocesan tour and December District Deputy meeting, but not enough for everyone and they will run out. **Order your cards early as Supreme can run low on them the closer it gets to January.**



Our Marriage Prayer

This is a Wisconsin program that has been approved for either the Family or Faith category of the Columbian Award. This is usually celebrated on World Marriage Sunday which will be on February 9th, 2020. You can order English and Spanish prayer cards through Amazon but to save money, please consider getting them at the December District Deputy meeting. They will be available at cost of \$6.50/pack 125 cards at these meetings. To watch a training video and see more details on how to hold an Our Marriage Prayer event, please go to <http://www.ourmarriageprayer.com/Knights-of-Columbus>

Keep Christ in Christmas

Christmas is coming up fast. Please choose who will lead your Keep Christ in Christmas efforts and get them started. http://www.kofc.org/en/programs/family/keep-christ-in-christmas.html#

If you need any resources such as poster contest kits, they should be very soon! Please refer to the **Action Steps** and **Resources** sections on the



ordered page above.

There also is a new Public Service Announcement (PSA) radio message that can be played on your local radio stations. Please consider asking them to play it this coming Christmas season. It would take little to no effort to do this and it would give the Knights some great exposure!



Family Week

Have some fun with the families in your parishes by holding one or more family events. The **Suggested Activities** on the resources tab offers ideas such as a picnic, movie night, sporting event, rosary program, family prayer night, family of the month, holy hour or Sacrament of Reconciliation. All the great details are here. [http://www.kofc.org/en/programs/family/family-](http://www.kofc.org/en/programs/family/family-week.html#/Action%20Steps)

[week.html#/Action%20Steps](http://www.kofc.org/en/programs/family/family-week.html#/Action%20Steps)

Family Prayer Night

Strengthen the bonds within our parishes and build faith-filled families. This is an opportunity for council members, families and the whole parish community to come together for an evening of prayer, dinner and fellowship. Check out the details <http://www.kofc.org/en/programs/family/family-prayer-night.html#/>



once a month here.

Please let me

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



Faith in Action – Family of the Month

Hello Brother Knights! Thank you again for a **great** July! Below is a quick summary of our progress to date. All the details can be found in the Family Director Flocknote post <https://knightswisc.flocknote.com/FamilyDirector/note/4468770> . Check it out!

Supreme

Thank you for a great July! Wisconsin is in 1st place with 44 FOMs, Louisiana had 38 and Virginia with 37.

52 of the 82 jurisdictions (63%) submitted 428 FOMs, up 32% from June. **submitted 10.2% of them! Well done everyone!**



Wisconsin

certificate and

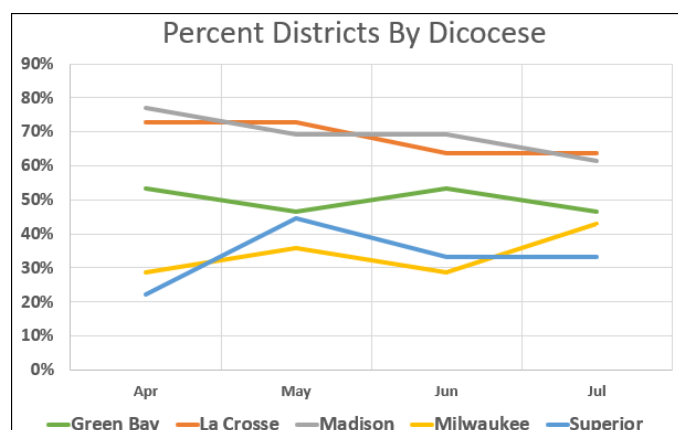
Here are the Supreme Families of the Month that will be receiving a nice letter.

Dirk and Deenah Verheyen	David and Julie Schlies	Jake and Sara Brown
John and Rosamma Thankachan	Luke and Meredith Meinholz	

Diocese

Here are the Diocesan families of the month that will be receiving a certificate and letter from the state. Please click on the link above to download the PDF that contains the amazing story of each of these families!

Green Bay	Gary and Renee Neumeyer	La Crosse	Kenneth and Nichole Muelling
Madison	Roland and Joan Mack	Milwaukee	Brian and DeAnna Jarmuz
Superior	Andrew and Janet Medley		



In support of the goal of having 100% districts submitting ONE FOM each month, here are the percentages by diocese.

La Crosse is #1 with Madison a close second; both have the highest percentage but are trending downward.

Green Bay is hanging around 50% with Superior at 32% and Milwaukee is trending upward to 44%.

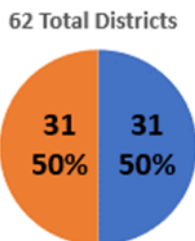
Let's see if all Dioceses can trend upward next month!

District

This month's District Deputy leader is **Paul Krenik**. Here are amazing District Deputies that have more than one Family of their District. Thank you, worthy District Deputies! Your

FOMs	District Deputy	Diocese
4	81 - Paul Krenik	Superior
3	2 - Open	Green Bay
3	13 - Wesley Swisher	Green Bay
3	44 - Robert Kurczek	Madison
2	10 - Michael Bushman	Green Bay
2	21 - Paul Zimmerman	La Crosse
2	49 - Paul Romanelli	Madison
2	71 - James Nabak	Milwaukee

the other the Month in leadership is



greatly appreciated!

Our district participation stayed the same as last month with 31 districts putting us at 50.0% participation. Worthy Brothers. *Can we continue to find at least ONE family in the 12 parishes in each district that deserves to be honored for all they do for our parishes, community and councils? I believe we can!* Let's set our goal to having **55% district participation next month** with our eye on the goal of reaching **100% districts by the end of December 2019!**

Council

We had **five** new council that submitted a Family of the Month. Welcome to the program!

Dr. C.W. Henney Council 1637	Princeton Council 4774	Bishop Annabring Council 4902
Somerset Council 6759	St. Anthony Council 16937	

We had 37 fantastic families submitted to the state! Every council should be striving to submit **at least one** family of the month before the end of 2019, so they can choose them as the council Family of the Year. The family can then be considered for the Diocesan family of the year, State family of the Year and International Family of the Year.

Please click on the link above and download the PDF containing the list of all these amazing families!

Closing

Through this awesome Family of the Month program, the Knights of Columbus has the privilege to bring joy to families for thanking them for all they do on behalf of everyone. The benefits are:

- The family is grateful for the recognition
- Everyone else is grateful to the Knights for stepping forward to honor the family
- The perception of the council increases for taking time to serve the parish in a very visible way

It is a win-win-win situation!

I am grateful that your councils are willing to take the time to choose a family, give them the recognition they deserve and submitting them for the Family of the Month.

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!

SK Joe Uchtyl
Wisconsin Family Coordinator

2019 Diocesan Meeting Schedule

Superior Diocese

Saturday, September 7th

St. Joseph Parish-Rice Lake

Sunday, September 8th

St. Francis Church-Merrill

La Crosse Diocese

Saturday, September 14th

Mary, Mother of the Church-La Crosse

Madison Diocese

Sunday, September 15th

St. Joseph Parish-Dodgeville

Green Bay Diocese

Saturday, September 21st

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish-De Pere

Milwaukee Archdiocese

Sunday, September 22nd

Sacred Heart School of Theology-Franklin