

Rhode Island State Council Knights of Columbus



formed in 1893 as

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Celebrating 125 Years of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism

March 2018

Volume I, issue 8

open ones? (opening Mass, Memorial Mass, Hospitality Suites, State Banquet)

Council news

Countdown to the Convention

The State Convention is fast approaching, it is only 6 ½ weeks away. There are several things each Council needs to do to be ready. Can you answer yes to the following questions?

1. Is your Council Banner ready?
2. Do you have relics and mementos chosen for display?
3. Are you talking up attendance for the events, especially the

It is none too soon to prepare these items. Remember, this is a big year for us. Our State Council is First in the Order, but it only exists to serve the local Councils. Your participation is vital.

And speaking of the Convention, it is time to plan for the following:

1. Hospitality Suites – are you hosting? Finalize planning your offerings and décor
2. Delegates – who will be your Council's delegates and alternates?
3. Memorial Mass – do you have your list of deceased Brothers prepared to turn in?

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Membership News

13 Brother Knights advanced to full Knighthood on February 22nd at an exemplification held at St. Theresa-Delaney Council. Congratulations to all.

Supreme is once again offering a \$4.50 rebate (per active member) for attaining Star Council. Additionally, Supreme is offering a lottery incentive for 10 couples to attend the World Day of Families in Dublin, Ireland – **all expenses paid**. Every time you recruit a new member between December 1st, 2017 and June 30th, 2018, your name will be entered in a drawing. 10 names will be drawn at random on July 1st, 2018.

Remember! *One member per Council per month!*

Following are the degrees scheduled for March (so far):

7th – 1st/2nd at Narragansett Council, candidates @ 6:30pm

15th – 1st at St. Theresa-Delaney Council, candidates @ 7:00 pm

18th – 1st/2nd at St. Paul (Cranston) Council, candidates @ 12:30 pm



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21st – 1st/2nd at Pope Pius Council,
candidates @ 7:00 pm

22nd – 1st/2nd at Warwick Council,

Candidates @ 7:00 pm

27th – 1st/2nd at St. Francis Council,
candidates @ 7:30 pm

28th – 3rd at St. Francis Council,
candidates at 7:30 pm

Degree and Ceremonials Director
Bob Gallant wants to flood these
degrees with Candidates, let's help him
out.

families of two wonderful Catholic
leaders related to our organization.
Past State Deputy Robert Clark
entered into Eternal Life Sunday,
February 11. He was the husband
of the late Clare (Brennan) Clark.
Bob was a Past State Deputy for
the Knights of Columbus and a
member of the East Providence
Council.

We also said goodbye to Eileen
Hitt. She was the beloved wife of
the late Past State Deputy F.
Roland Hitt. Eileen was founder
and first President of the Ladies
Auxiliary for the Knights of
Columbus, Bouffard Council in
North Providence.

Ash Wednesday marked the
first day of Lent, and was also the
occasion for Knights and families to
join with the Diocese of Providence
Human Life Guild, Rhode Island
Right To Life and 40 Days for Life

State Deputy Message

Brother Knights, Families and
Friends, I pray this note finds you
and yours well.

February was a month of
significant events for the Knights of
Columbus councils in Rhode
Island. On a somber note, we
offered our condolences to the

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organizations for a Mass celebrated by Bishop Thomas J. Tobin at the Cathedral of SS Peter & Paul. Bishop Tobin led participants from the Cathedral to Planned Parenthood for a celebration for life and prayers to end abortion.

The K.A.N.D.I. Drive kick-off Dinner was held at St. John Paul II Church Hall on Tuesday evening, February 20 under the direction of Chairman GK Bruce Guindon. Councils from around the state gathers to place orders for the supplies needed to raise funds to help those with intellectual disabilities. The K.A.N.D.I. Drive is planned for May 10-12.

There were many wonderful Council events, including the Past Grand Knights and Parish Clergy Appreciation Night at Newport-Middletown Council #256 on Saturday, February 17. Seven Past Grand Knights and 4 members of the Clergy were honored during the dinner that evening, as well as the Council's Knight of the Year. More than 150 members and their families and friends were in attendance to celebrate. Thank you GK Greg Huett and DD Paul Saunders for a wonderful evening.

State Secretary David Quinn and I were guests of East Providence Council PGK David O'Connell on his cable television show, True Faith For Life. We discussed the good works of the Knights of Columbus in Rhode Island, and the motivation we all have; to follow Fr. Michael J. McGivney's vision to provide Charity to those less fortunate, to come together in Unity to enhance those efforts, and to trust in one

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another through Fraternity for the development of our own faith formation, the benefit of our parishes, and the welfare of our communities. This is Must See TV! Cox channel 14, Verizon channel 30 (or 33) on Tuesday afternoons at 1, and Saturday evenings at 10 through the third week of March.

discussion groups at: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Seekonk 4/5, 5/3, 6/7; St Mary's of the Bay, Warren 3/22, 4/19, 5/17; St. Joan of Arc, Cumberland 4/3, 5/1, 6/5; Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Woonsocket 3/13, 4/10, 5/8, 6/12; St. Philip's Church, Greenville 4/2, 5/7, 6/4. For more information call 508-533-5377.

Coming up:

On Thursday evening, March 22nd, members of the Knights of Columbus joined members of the Men of St. Joseph International at McVinney Auditorium to view the movie, *Courageous*. If you have not seen it, you should! This is the powerful story of men who were going through the motions of life until a turn of events makes them realize their purpose. Many of us have had similar experiences. The MOSJI are conducting follow-up seminars that include Bible/Catechism study &

The 2018 Catholic Families Day of Recollection hosted by RI KofC State Chaplain Fr. Joseph Paquette and featuring Musicians/Catholic Speakers Ryan & Elizabeth Tremblay at All Saints Church in Woonsocket on Saturday, March 10 from 9 until 3 PM, followed by Confession and Mass at 4. A free-will lunch will be provided. This is one you will not want to miss. Ask your family and friends to spread the word!

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The 125th Anniversary of the Rhode Island State Council Knights of Columbus, a Circle of Honor Jurisdiction and the First State Council in the Order, will take place at our annual State Convention April 20, 21 and 22 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick. This is YOUR convention anniversary celebration and your participation will be critical to its success. All Grand Knights, Council Officers, Members and families are encouraged to attend the weekend's events. Spend the weekend at the Crowne Plaza using our special rate that includes breakfast. Get your one of a kind 125th Anniversary logo shirts, hats & jackets. Come to the Kornhole Tournament and Hospitality Rooms Friday evening. Have your ladies sign up for the Ladies Luncheon on Saturday. The Celebration of the

Anniversary Mass & the Gala Dinner will be held on Saturday evening with the presentation of Awards, including Knight of the Year, Family of the Year, Youth of the Year, the first ever Miles A. McNamee Award, and our highest honor, the Hope Award being presented to Coach David Belisle. Invite your Council Chaplains and Parish Priests to join you during this once in a lifetime celebration. Bring your council banners and historical memorabilia to display for all to see. Reservations for the Gala Dinner and special-rate Hotel rooms are needed by March 15. See the website for more details.

Finally, keep recruiting eligible Catholic men to our Order. Be sure your councils are well on their way to reaching your quota when we meet at the Convention. Contact Membership Director FDD Eric

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Batista at

<mailto:ebkofc@gmail.com> for any assistance needed.

Vivat Jesus!

- SD Mike Benson

Thoughts from the General Agent

General Agent Michael Lehman has announced his retirement effective April 1st. We thank Mike for his time and efforts during his years as our General Agent. Personally, in the few short years I have known him, he has become a valued and trusted friend. While we all wish you well in your well-earned retirement, you will be truly missed.

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Programming Activities

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

5 Things to Tackle in 2018:

1. Aim younger.
2. Be more family-centered.
3. Generate increased awareness of who Knights are and what they do.
4. Develop strong relationships with the clergy.
5. Make spirituality our key focus.



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- It is time to prepare your applications for the Annual State Service Program Awards. Awards are given for each of the six program service categories. Entries must be submitted by March 30, 2018. See the state website for details. It is okay to be recognized for the great Charitable works we perform.
- ***Fraternity begets Unity and together lead to an increase of Charity.***

Service (love in action) is the difference between the Knights of Columbus and other Catholic men's groups – State Deputy Mike Benson

East Providence Council hosts a Lenten Bible Study each Monday of Lent from 7 to 8 pm at the Council home.

Lenten Day of Recollection sponsored by the Knights of Columbus will be March 10th at All Saints Church (Woonsocket Council) in Woonsocket from 9am to 3pm.

Little Sisters of the Poor are holding their 10th Annual St. Patrick's Dinner on March 15th from 11 am to 8 pm at the Old Grist Mill Tavern in Seekonk.

Blessing Council will be hosting a St. Patrick's Day fundraiser to benefit the Mother of Life. To be Held on March 18th at 2 pm at the St. Vincent DePaul Groden Center in Coventry. \$20 per person.

Upcoming Events

"Prayer in action is love, and love in action is service," – Mother Teresa

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The State Basketball Free Throw Contest will be held on March 18th at Bishop Hendricken High School at noon.

Check the State Website regularly for details and new listings.

Rosary for Life will be held at the Rhode Island State House on March 22nd starting at 3 pm.

Pilgrimage Opportunity

State Award submission deadline is March 24th 1 am – yes 1 am.

Fr. TJ Varghese (Chaplain, St. Eugene's Council) will be conducting a tour/pilgrimage to

Little Sisters of the Poor Easter Ham Drop will be March 24th starting at 10 am at the Jeanne Jugan Home in Pawtucket.

ENGLAND, SCOTLAND & WALES over 12 DAYS: Sept. 17 - 28, 2018 visiting Stonehenge, Salisbury, Bristol, Cardiff, Bath, Stratford, The Lake District, Edinburgh, York, Oxford and London

Christians at Risk Fundraiser will be held March 24th at 5:30 pm at St. Cecilia Church in Pawtucket. This is sponsored by the Councils of District 1.

At a cost of just \$3599 per person.

(Air/land tour price is \$3099 plus \$500 government taxes/airline surcharges)

Woonsocket Council is holding its Annual Palm Sunday Breakfast on March 25th from 8 am to 12 noon.

Price Includes: Roundtrip Air from Boston, First Class/Select Hotels, Most Meals, Professional Tour Director, Comprehensive Sightseeing, Entrance Fees and More!!

The Columbiettes of Council #3623 will hold their Annual Spring Fashion Show and Ladies Luncheon will take place on April 8th at East Providence Council, starting at 1 pm.

For a brochure & more information, please contact Fr. Varghese at: 401-568- 5102 or email: revtj23@gmail.com

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.....while doing good works.

State & Local Happenings

Below are just a few of the many activities held by Councils around the State. Many of our functions build a spirit of Fraternity.....



Two of Woonsocket's finest amongst the crowd



The sign recognizes Community Donors to Woonsocket Council's Pasta Dinner Fundraiser for C.O.P.S. Walk and was displayed at the Dinner.



Advocate Arthur St. George, Lecturer Craig Lacouture, and Dick Desrosiers serving the attendees at the C.O.P.S. Walk Pasta Dinner

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the K-8 St. Pius V School operated by the Sisters.



Officers of the Our Lady of Fatima Council 4331 in Providence, RI stand with the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia

Our Lady of Fatima Council recently purchased new chairs for the Chapel at St. Pius V school. A special mass and blessing of the new chairs was held for the Knights with the Sisters of St. Cecilia. The council also donated \$1,000 towards the Sisters campaign for a new playground, and continued their annual gift of \$500 to support

Culture of Life Activities

The Annual 40 Days for Life Campaign began on Ash Wednesday, February 14th and runs through Palm Sunday, March 25th. Volunteers are being sought for the daily vigil (7 am to 7 pm). You can sign up at <http://www.40daysforlife.com/providence> or contact the Culture of Life Director Mike Krzywonos at 401-474-2285 or mikrzywonos@gmail.com.

Community Activities

Special Olympics

Brother Knight Michael Walter is once again participating in the Torch Run Plunge weekend at Salty Brine Beach in Narragansett.

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The event takes place on the weekend of March 24th/25th.

Michael is a longtime “Plunger”. Anyone wishing to contribute may do so at :

<https://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/michael-walter/11th-annual-torch-run-plunge>.

learned the ins and outs of running a fundraiser and the rewards of selfless giving. They were assisted in the cooking by the Brothers of Woonsocket Council who are based at All Saints.

Kandi Drive

The annual Kandi Drive Kickoff Dinner was held on February 20th. Thanks to St. John Paul II Council & Chairman GK Bruce Guindon (bruceguindon@yahoo.com or

401-474-0371) for taking the lead for this event. Each Council is encouraged to participate in this effort to raise funds for those with intellectual disabilities. The 2nd weekend in May (11th, 12th, 13th) is the preferred time for local Councils to conduct their efforts.



Torches displayed at the All Saints Confirmation Service Project fundraiser for the Torch Run

All Saints (Woonsocket) Confirmation Class recently held a Pasta Dinner fundraiser to benefit the Torch Run. The Confirmandi

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Church Activities

Youth Activities

Lenten Day of Recollection

The Lenten Day of Recollection is here. This Saturday, March 10th from 9am to 3pm. Coffee and donuts will be available before and lunch will be served. There is no cost for this event, although a free will offering to benefit the All Saints food pantry will be gratefully accepted. Our host for the day is State Chaplain Fr. Joseph Paquette with Brother SK Ryan Tremblay the featured speaker along with his wife Elizabeth. It will take place at All Saints Church, 323 Rathbun St., Woonsocket. We are expecting a good turnout, so come join us for a rewarding day.



The State Basketball Free Throw Shooting Contest is to be held on Sunday, March 18th at Bishop Hendriken High School beginning at 12 pm. The winners from local Council events will come together to determine the best in the State. Good luck to all.

Scholarship Awards time is here. Application Deadline is March 31, 2018. There are awards in 3 age groups; Elementary Catholic School, Secondary Catholic School, and College/University (Book Award). You can download the application from the State Website. Don't miss out.

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Youth of the Year Nomination deadline has passed and submissions are being evaluated. The winner will be announced at the Convention during the 125th Anniversary Gala Dinner.

communications but can use all the help I can get. Thank you.

- *Jack Tracy*

Information is available on the State Website.

The State Convention

Council Activities

New Initiative!

In order to encourage a best practices effort in the area of communication, the State is beginning an effort to recognize Councils and Assemblies who publish their own newsletter and separately those who develop their own website and/or Facebook page. Should your Council have any of these, please direct me to them by emailing me at ijklmc.tracy@att.net.

The form of the recognition is still being developed and I have already accessed some Council's

The major event of the Fraternal Year. See the lead article for important information, but **remember that the Convention belongs to the local Councils**. It is our best opportunity to exchange information and socialize with each other on a grand scale.

Training

There are many training opportunities throughout the year (see the Supreme Website – www.kofc.org). they are open to any Brother Knight who may be interested. Additionally, the State Council has a Training Officer available to assist with any topic. PSD FM Steve Cioffi is here to help.

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State Newsletter

State Charity Raffle

We are approaching the home stretch for selling of Raffle Tickets. Be sure to get the stubs turned in by April 21st (at the Convention) for eligibility to be drawn on April 22nd.

News items for the newsletter can be sent through the various program Directors, including myself, or your DD, who will forward to me. I will draw event items for the Local Council section from your input. I also welcome photos from the event itself: ijklmc.tracy@att.net

State Website

Check out the State Website at www.kofcri.org . It is connected to UKnight Interactive (kofcknights.org) and allows connection to any local Council website that is also a part of the UKnight family. There are also links to other sites of interest such as Fathers for Good, the Supreme Council et alia. *The Links of Interest* tab will connect you to Council event flyers. This can be an invaluable resource, but you must use it for it to help you.

State Meeting

The next State Meeting will be held on March 23rd at 7:30 at Woonsocket Council #113.

Remember that these meetings allow interaction between local Councils, and allow information to be exchanged between the local and State Councils (in **both** directions). Each Council should ensure that it is represented at these meetings.

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Prayers Requested



Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of:

PSD Robert Clark (East Providence Council)

Eileen Hitt, wife of the Late PSD F. Roland Hitt. Eileen was the Founder and 1st President of the Ladies Auxiliary of Bouffard Council Knights of Columbus

Prayers are also requested for Bishop Louis Gelineau, Executive Secretary Mike Krzywonos, PGK PFN Ernie Pennine, PGK PFN Earl Mahar, Pam DePaolo, Barry

Chevette of Pascoag Council, PGK Gilbert Oliver, Jamie Lynn Benson Bauman, DD Bud Garceau, GK Jerry Marra (Pope Leo Council), and GK Kevin Audette (St. Theresa-Delaney Council) as they each deal with various health concerns.

I am sure I am missing others, and for that I apologize. Please feel free to add them to this list of those we pray for and remember.

(to have someone mentioned, contact me @ ijklmc.tracy@att.net)

Contact Information

Officers

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MBenson.rikofc@gmail.com

State Chaplain Fr. Joe Paquette
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Contact information of subcommittee chairmen and other State Staff can be found on the State website www.kofcri.org

Remember, these men are here because they love the Knights and want to help you and your Council. Don't be afraid to contact them for help or with any questions you may have.

Closing Note

Remember, this is here for you, the membership, so **please** let me know what you want, find useful or even what you feel is not helpful. Contact me at ijklmc.tracy@att.net.

Also, (and I know I said this above) please send me content to promote your Council and its good works. Photos are good, too. I will include as much as possible.

- *Jack Tracy*



Vivat Jesus!

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