

The Oklahoma Knight

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St. Joseph – Pillar of Families

Brothers

With this being my first article as State Deputy, I want to take a moment to say "thank you" to all the Knights.

Thank for you electing me as your SD. It is an honor and privilege to serve you. And thank you to all the Knights and Past State Deputies who supported me as I worked through the offices. It is very humbling to have your vote of confidence to lead the Oklahoma Knights of Columbus. I must say that since the convention in April, my emotions have been everything from excited, to eager and stressed. But most of all, I have a strong desire to put into action ways to increase family involvement and grow our order.

We held our 2021 organization meeting, July 10-12 for the Oklahoma Knights at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond. We gathered all state officers, district deputies, grand knights, program and membership chairs. We also had some attendees on Zoom. New officers and district deputies were installed and we shared ideas on how to get people back to our parishes and how to get our councils active again.

This fraternal year is going to be a year to refocus. In many ways, we have lost sight of the core mission of the Knights, so some changes are coming to redirect us into becoming a true fraternal community. This may be a new term for some, but it has been a longstanding tradition for many councils. It is a tradition we have seen diminishing over time with phones attached to our sides, continuous access to the Internet and society's



**Dennis
Kunnanz**

From the State Deputy

never-changing attempts to erode our values. Yes, times have changed in the last few years, but what has not changed is our increasing need for us as Catholics to be leaders and stand firm in our core values. One does not have to look far to see that today, more than ever, our faith and core values are under constant attack. Now is the time for the Oklahoma Knights to stand up and support the Church and our core values as Catholics.

In this day and time, it is difficult to envision fighting the fight on the world level. The battle lines must first be established in our local communities. As Knights, many of us have been known to say, "The Knights of Columbus has made me a better man, husband, father and Catholic." Now is the time to walk the talk. It is easy to say we will do it, but it is much more difficult to put our faith into action.

Just like our forefathers, for us to fight the fight, we must have soldiers. In our fraternal community, our soldiers are those men we call dads, coaches, teachers, city leaders, the police and firemen protecting our communities, priests, deacons, Catholic educators, and yes, even the guy flipping pancakes. These are the men we want our children to look up to. Today, more than ever, we need every Catholic living our their faith. So, for those of you who say, "All the state is interested in is the numbers," I say YES. It is all about the numbers. The number of Knights you want your children to know and become involved with, the number of Knights it takes to support our widow, the number of Knights it takes to maintain our parishes, the number of Knights we need to support our

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communities, and the number of new Knights it will take to carry on the great work you have done over the years.

During this past year we have been called to assist our parishes in reopening, helping our parishes contact members, and keeping our churches as clean and safe as possible. This is where the Knights should be hard at work, but without continuous growth in our councils, we will not be able to support our parishes and communities as we should. Therefore, we must ask men to join the Knights. It is not to fill a quota, but to continue our work for charity.

Having families involved, doing charitable service work, promotes the value of the importance of family in the church and in our communities. Now is the time for the Oklahoma Knights to get as many people as possible to live their faith within our communities.

As Oklahoma Knights, we do not have to fight the whole world. We just need to work on building our faith in our own communities. By having families involved in our councils, we will increase support of the church. Our success starts in your home, your parish and your community by your Faith in Action.

I am looking forward to building our faith and our families with you in our communities.

**Vivat Jesus
Dennis Kunnanz
Oklahoma State Deputy**

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Editor's Note

Hi.

Please have a blessed fall.

And if you're thinking of moving, please let them know at Supreme.

Please pray Our Lady's rosary every day.

Vivat Jesus

Steve Gust Okla. Knight editor



Okla. KOC officers

The 2021-22 slate of officers for the Oklahoma State Council of the Knights of Columbus was officially sworn in earlier this summer. Congratulations go out to Father Oswalt, Matt Maly, Dennis Kunnanz, Chris Victory, Miguel Grijalva, Philip Stamski and Zac Kastl. The membership thanks each of you for your time and effort.

Of Note

Please don't forget to help
The Center of Family Love

Please call 405 263-4658 ext. 1040
and find out ways you can help
the CFL achieve its goals

Annual CFL benefit tops \$860,000

OKARCHE – The Center of Family Love celebrated its 40th anniversary by raising more than \$860,000 during the organization's Gift of Love Virtual Celebration. The event was the eighth in CFL's history.

Generous donors from all over Oklahoma and throughout the United States participated at an unprecedented level during the event in support of the residents. Tanner, 25, one of CFL's newest residents, is a survivor of traumatic brain injury and multiple cancer diagnoses. He served as the event's first-ever resident host and emcee.

The Center of Family Love, which



Tanner B., The Center of Family Love's first-ever resident host and emcee of the annual Gift of Love Gala.

was started by the Knights of Columbus in 1981, empowers individuals living with intellectual and physical disabilities to reach for and

achieve their dreams while providing innovative lifetime care free of charge to them and their families in the event they cannot afford it.

The organization used the occasion to mark its 40th anniversary of serving Oklahomans with intellectual disabilities and held a birthday celebration for all of its residents, inspired by Pauline, CFL's first resident in 1981, who is now 40 years beyond her predicted life expectancy.

Additional highlights of the Gift of Love Virtual Celebration included a resident production of "Lion Sleeps Tonight" and a resident ballet performance in partnership with the Oklahoma City Ballet. CFL also pre-

sented its highest honors on two exceptional community leaders, with Richard "RJ" Schulte of Edmond receiving the Harold J. Wittrock Humanitarian Award and Jeanne Sullivan of Tulsa receiving the Carol and Bill Brown Community Ambassador Award.

Among the key contributors helping CFL to achieve this fundraising record included Kurt and Brooke Bollenbach, Ron and Nancy Carel, Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund, Knights of Columbus Our Lady of the Rosary Council #1287, Ovintiv, Republic National Distributing Company and Rep. Mike Sanders of Oklahoma.



Since the last edition, Council 5266 hosted the annual state KoC Golf Tournament, and donated all proceeds to the Center of Family Love! Thank you, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 5266, for your generosity and commitment to bettering the lives of countless individuals who live at CFL!

Celebrating our faith at home also

My dear Brother Knights and family:

As this new fraternal year kicks off, and the new State Officers assume their duties, we focus as always on membership. The State Council has done so well in these preceding years with membership, even through and in spite of the pandemic. This year should be no different. The urgency to get things "back to normal," should be forefront on all of our minds, not just because it is the right thing to do, but because it helps in every aspect of whom we are as a people. Being able to regroup in person and have face to face contact with our brothers is important in so many aspects of our Councils and our communities.

Just as "in person Mass" is coming back into fuller swing of things, it helps parishes come back together and parishes resume some sense of their normal life, so must the Councils.

That being said, we also have to be cognizant of the new variants of the virus rising in many places, even here in Oklahoma. We all hear and know of the statistics. I recently heard of terribly draconian measures the State of Israel was taking in these regards. It is virtually impossible to travel there. You might be able to get in, with negative results, but it might be very hard to get out, until you can prove you are negative for all variants — and you stay, at your expense, until you can prove healthy.

So, like good "Boy Scouts," we all need to be prepared: always prepared. That is where the Domestic Church programs come into



**Fr. Price
Oswald**

play and are vitally important. This is one of the best programs the Supreme Council can offer.

From the earliest days of the faith, the home — or domestic — church was the foundation of faith. The parish was a later invention. It was the home life where the faith was developed, fostered, nurtured and grew.

So doing the things we can as a family are vitally important. Praying as a family helps hold together the faith that has been instilled in us. The Rosary is one of the most important prayers the Church possesses. Pope Leo XIII once said, that "outside the Mass, the Rosary is the most powerful prayer the Church possesses." As we have seen across the face of the earth, during the pandemic, when the churches closed and the sacraments were closed off to the faithful, the Rosary was still available to the faithful to connect them to the faith-life of the Church, to the life of Christ.

Having a home altar is important as well. Establishing a sacred space — somewhere that is both convenient and somewhat private for the family to use. Someplace that is not too distractible to those using it (*so not in front of the television, for example*), but somewhere the whole family can gather if necessary, or just one member at a time. A space where there are elements that can be used by members of the family. It should not be too cluttered with items. It is not a "store" of religious goods, but some place that holds sacred items. If the family possesses a relic of a saint or blessed (*many third class relics of Bl. Stanley Rother were*

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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

Name _____

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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.