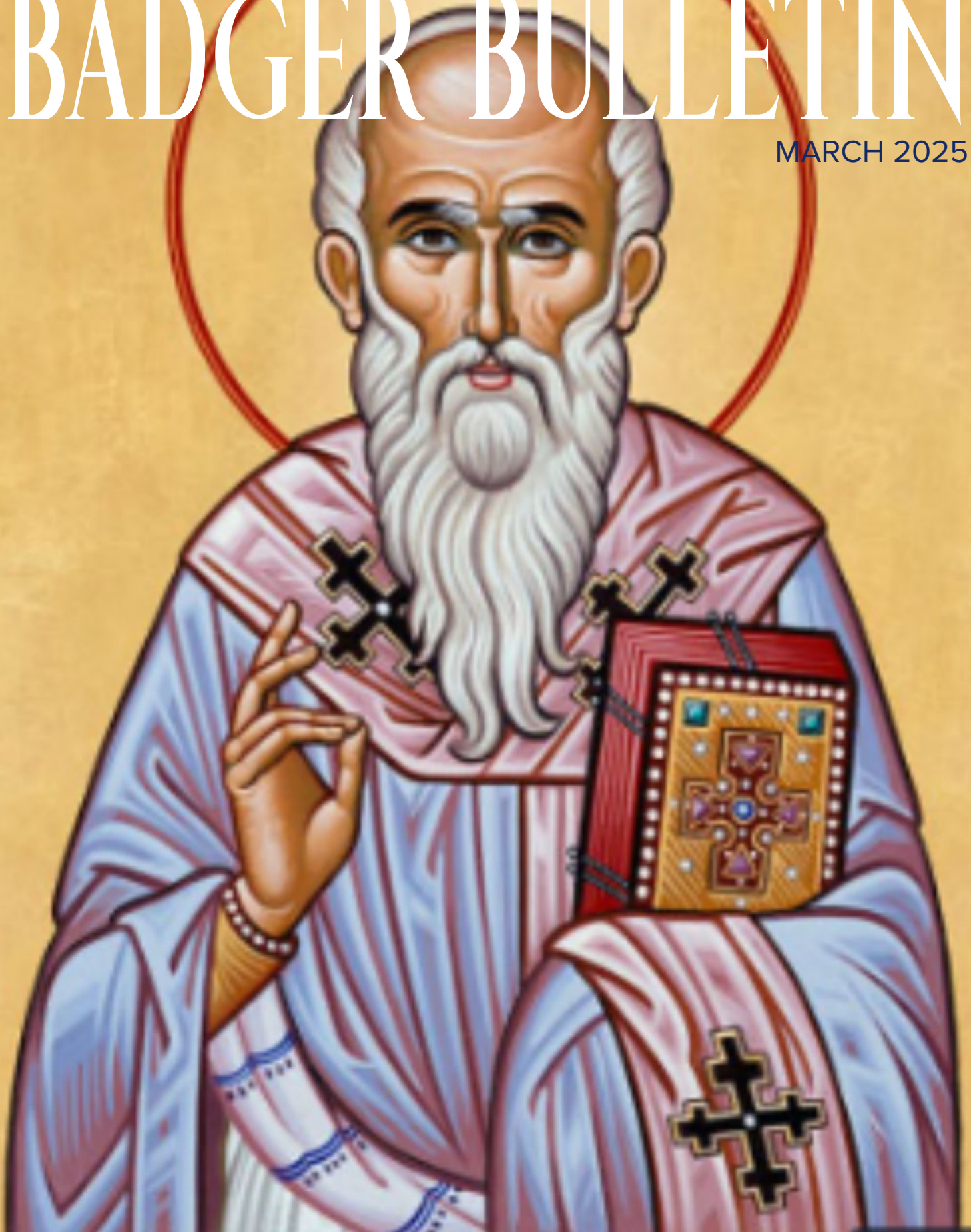




BADGER BULLETIN

MARCH 2025



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EDITOR'S NOTES

JOSHUA HOPPER



BROTHERS IN CHRIST, I am formally reaching out to as your newsletter editor. For a little over a year now, I have had the distinct pleasure in producing a yearly publication for our state councils. It fills me with me great pride, and I hope you have enjoyed the publications.

Moving forward, I want to continue to maintain and improve upon the high publication standards I impose upon myself. In order to ensure that I can produce a high-quality publication, please follow the guidelines listed below when writing your articles:

- ▶ Articles should be kept to **300-500** words. The newsletter's online format allows for a one-page viewing experience. Having to move the article to another page interrupts the reading experience.

- ▶ Articles should be submitted to the State Secretary or to the PR email address. Send articles as Word docs. PDF formats make articles harder to edit. However, those formats are appropriate for ads.
- ▶ Pictures are great additions to articles to create interest! If you include pictures, please send them as separate, clearly labeled documents. Include photo information and credits. **Please do not format or embed them in any way.**
- ▶ With the new merger of the newsletter and the Badger Bulletin, don't feel obligated to provide an article **every** month. If you do not have anything **new** to add for our membership, it's okay to go a while without an article.
- ▶ Articles must be submitted **on time** for each issue, which is the **last day of the calendar month**. Late

submissions will be inserted in the following month's newsletter.

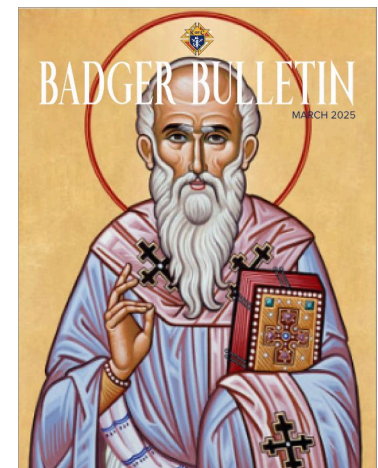
- ▶ Proofread your article carefully for spelling and grammar before sending (use spellcheck or a software such as Grammarly). **Advice: read your articles out loud to get a sense of tone.**
- ▶ There is **no need** to put two or more spaces after periods for new sentences. That is an outdated method!
- ▶ Please name your filenames with your name, title, and newsletter month (e.g. Hopper, Joshua_Editor_Jan24).

Thank you for taking these considerations to heart! If you have any questions, you can always email me jjhoppermusic@gmail.com

Vivat Jesus!

ON THE COVER:

In the year 1123 A.D. Pope Callixtus II officially canonized David of Wales a saint in the Catholic Church. St. David (c. 462–601) is believed to be the son of King Sant of South Wales and St. Non. As a monastic priest, St. David studied under St. Paulinus. Little is known about this saint outside of tradition, but what is known provides us with an exemplary example for how to live a balanced prayer life. St. David was believed to have been endowed with the natural qualities of a spiritual leader, leading many of the monasteries he worked with to flourish. His feast is celebrated on the date of his death around 589 A.D. (some accounts list it as 601 A.D.), which is March 1. He is the patron saint of Wales, vegetarians, and poets.



STATE DEPUTY PATRICK REIFF



ALTHOUGH THIS IS OUR March newsletter, our articles need to be completed in February to make a March publication. With that in mind, I wanted to mention that I did a State of the State virtual broadcast on February 22nd as a means of communicating with members that may not be able to attend their council meetings.

If you had the opportunity to be part of that, I hope it was beneficial for you to learn what we have accomplished to date and what our plans are going forward. If you did not join in on that, it is to be available as a podcast to view after the fact.

I have been traveling throughout the state, personally visiting councils

that reportedly have been quiet since the Covid pandemic and trying to see what we can do together to help them become active once more fulfilling Blessed Michael McGivney's mission of reaching out and helping those in need.

I plan to continue visiting councils either in person or via virtual calls as will the rest of our state officers and directors. We are here to help and assist you in any way we can. If you have not brought in any new members for several years, expect a call or email asking how we can assist you.

A reminder to register for our Annual State Convention that will be held on May 16–18 at the KI Center in Green Bay. You can easily register on our state website. This is also a part of being an active council.

As we move into the season of Lent, it is a time for reflection, prayer, and renewal. Lent is an opportunity for us to deepen our faith, seek forgiveness, and strive to live more closely in accordance with

the teachings of Christ. During this period, I encourage all members to engage in acts of charity and service, both within our councils and in the broader community.

It is through these actions that we can truly embody the principles of our order and make a meaningful impact on the lives of those around us.

In closing, as a state, know that we are improving over the last year but are not yet where we need to be as of the end of February.

We still have many councils that have not brought in a new member. We need every council active if we are to ensure our future works are carried out for many years to come.

What is required to be considered an active council? When you bring in at least one new member this year you are considered an active council.

Looking forward to meeting you during my travels throughout the State.

Thanks for all you do!

Vivat Jesus!



Knights of Columbus®

STATE CHAPLAIN FR. BRIAN DULLI



IN ROME, EVERY 25 years, the Church marks a jubilee. The jubilee was originally a practice deep in the old testament. The Hebrews would forgive old debts and right other wrongs. It was a time of rebuilding and restoration. Captives were set free. It was a time of returning the community to the glory that the Lord intended for it. In the Middle Ages, Rome christianized this practice, giving the Catholic Church a way to celebrate the renewal of God's grace flowing through the Church. The Church would open wide the treasuries of grace. The Catholic Church still does this today. This is represented symbolically with the opening of holy doors throughout the city of Rome. Passing through these doorways symbolizes leaving the older condition of your soul and entering the new graces that Christ

has for you in the Church in this time of jubilee. Local dioceses are encouraged to designate pilgrim sites for Catholics who wish to receive an indulgence. What is your diocese doing to mark the jubilee year 2025?

Traveling to Rome is an incredible experience and tremendous gift. Our faith is infinitely greater. Praise Jesus! He uses ordinary things like doors and church buildings and human hearts. He doesn't want anyone left behind. Who is someone who might be in danger of being left behind? Where is there a family in your community in need of greater freedom? As Knights of Columbus, are we just going to sit back and wait for people to find out about us? The KCs grew rapidly in the earliest day because men looked after each other. They knew which men were hurting and took steps to pray for them and their families. They were able to help protect families in their time of need. To do this today, we need a heart to see when people are spiritually in need, not just materially. The Knights that will successfully lead our order will continue to be men who build trust with men in the parish. Let's not be

in a hurry to move on to the next thing. You ARE your brothers keeper.

As Lent approaches, ask Jesus to reveal to you someone that he want you to invest in spiritually. It needs to be someone you actually know. Make a commitment to pray for that person. Make a commitment to reach out and spend time with that man as a friend. Ask Jesus to reveal to you, "Who is a man in my parish, community, or even workplace who is in danger of being left behind?" Who is that one lost sheep that Jesus wants you to go after? Who is the captive Jesus wants to free? Jesus designed us and his Church to only work when we all enact the Good News in our lives. We are the messengers, and even the very voice and hands of Jesus. Leadership in the Church and of course the Knights is so much deeper than membership. It is how we recommit to our core values of fraternity, unity and charity in a personal way. How will you live this values and show them to someone in your sphere of influence?

Vivat Jesus!



Spotlight

WERNER FAMILY NAMED KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FAMILY OF THE YEAR



A big thank you to Scott Lamers of Bluescape Canyon Photography for providing the photos from this event. You may check them out at their [website](#).



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

COREY COONEN



AS I'M WRITING THIS article on February 23rd, I was struck by the the Gospel of Luke 6:27-38 that was read at this weekend's mass. Below are some excerpts:

"Treat others as you would like people to treat you..."

"Instead, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked..."

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; forgive and you will be forgiven..."

These excerpts serve as a nice reminder that as we begin the celebration of Lent on March 5, we should remember to not pass judgment on those around us.

The Knights of Columbus shouldn't be exclusive to just those Catholic men we feel we want to invite.

If we see new faces over Lent, whether it be on Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Good Friday or at Easter Sunday Mass, we shouldn't look down on those individuals to call them "C&E Catholics" (those that only pack our churches on Christmas and Easter).

What if instead we gave them a kind welcome and a hearty "Glad to see you!" I have heard repeatedly over the last few years complaints that fewer and fewer Catholics attend weekend Mass. Take that as an opportunity to evangelize, not ostracize! Who knows the burden that someone else may be carrying.

Maybe they need to carry their own cross with them this Lenten season. Perhaps that welcoming environment will help bring them back to the Church. Let us welcome them with open arms, and let us take this as an opportunity to invite them to join our Order!

Vivat Jesus!

3RD QUARTER MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE FOR COUNCILS: JAN 1–MAR 31 INTAKE

- ▷ Councils with a goal of 5 or 6 new members for the year: need to bring in 3 new members to achieve incentive
- ▷ Councils with a goal of 7 or 8 new members for the year: need to bring in 4 new members to achieve incentive
- ▷ Councils with a goal of 9 or 10 new members for the year: need to bring in 5 new members to achieve incentive
- ▷ Councils with a goal of 11 new members for the year: need to bring in 6 new members to achieve incentive
- ▷ Councils with a goal of 12 new members for the year: need to bring in 7 new members to achieve incentive
- ▷ Councils with a goal of 13 new members for the year: need to bring in 8 new members to achieve incentive
- ▷ Councils with a goal of 14 or 15 new members for the year: need to bring in 9 new members to achieve incentive

REACHING THIS GOAL WILL RESULT IN THE FOLLOWING:

- ▷ Division 1 Council: \$100 reduction off of 4/1 per capita
- ▷ Division 2 Council: \$250 reduction off of 4/1 per capita
- ▷ Division 3 Council: \$500 reduction off of 4/1 per capita



Spotlight

EAU CLAIRE 4TH DEGREE KNIGHTS SERVE AT BISHOP BATTERSBY'S VISIT TO REGIS HIGH SCHOOL

Photographs by Meghan Kulig, Communications Director at Regis Catholic Schools



Only a few weeks after Catholic Schools Week 2025, newly-appointed Bishop Battersby made his anticipated appearance at Regis High School in Eau Claire. This event welcomed the entire student body of the Regis Catholic School system, which includes three elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. It was wonderful seeing the Fourth Degree Knights present at this joyful occasion.

Joshua Hopper
Badger Bulletin Editor



IMMEDIATE PAST STATE DEPUTY

JOHN HUTTENHOFF



AS OF FEBRUARY 24, we have assigned a total of 429 new E-members since July 1. This is more than all of the prior Fraternal Year, and we still have 4 months to go. We are nearing 100 new E-members in a month. So far Councils have transferred 314 E-members into Councils this Fraternal Year. Roughly 50% of Council Intake this year has been through E-members.

The latest Online Membership statistics from Supreme show that Wisconsin has grown Online Membership 70.3% this year. This is the 4th best percentage increase in the order. Currently just over 30% of the Councils in Wisconsin have used Online Membership to bring new members into the order this year.

Thank you to all the Councils that are utilizing E-membership to grow their membership.

Cards with the QR Code to join online are available from Supreme. These can be very helpful when inviting men to join. Your Diocesan Membership Directors and District Deputies should be able to help you get these cards if you need them.

WGK & WFS please frequently review your councils **Prospect** tab and if you are having difficulty in making contact, or any other issue, please email me regarding these outstanding assigned e-members and I will gladly assist you with reaching a remedy.

Remember:

The **Prospect** tab shows you e-members that have joined your council online via the Supreme app. and the date field is used when they have completed their exemplification. **Prospect** tab training is available at this [link](#).

Supreme presented a Webinar in December on Transferring online

members to council membership - The link for that webinar is [here](#).

The **Candidate** tab is what you use when you recruit a member locally or are handling a member transfer request or a reinstatement of a prior member. The **Candidate** tab training covers new members and transfers into local councils. You may find it at this [link](#).

Again, the date field is the date they were exemplified by your council. Once you enter those dates in either tab, the members will be automatically transferred to your council's roster within the next week.

Do not send Form 100's to Supreme for new members, keep them for your council's records. If you must use a Form 100, scan it and email it to Supreme. Keep the original for your Council Records.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact me. I am in your State Directory.

Together, Let's get it done!

Vivat Jesus



Knights of Columbus®

STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

JIM BURKHART



AS YOU KNOW LENT leading up to Easter is coming up fast. Is your council planning on how best to serve the community and Parish during this time?

Lent is a great opportunity to reflect on Family life. What a perfect opportunity to do family activities. Examples include the following:

- ▷ Food for Families, or come up with a new program that you have not tried before!
- ▷ Ask your parish priest what would be the most

important adventure that the Knights could do during Lent.

- ▷ Just remember that all programs are family activities.
- ▷ Please hold church drives, ask someone to join the Knights and other recruiting ideas you may have.
- ▷ Plans for a St. Patrick's day program should be underway, with families including children joining in.

Other reminders:

- ▷ Are you keeping your records up-to-date for the Columbian Award?
- ▷ Have your election committee reported on their progress?
- ▷ Plan on playing some of the webinars at the council meetings for 10 minutes.

This will take care of your lecture program.

- ▷ Founders Day is at the end of the month. What better way to have a program for everyone and to invite all the parishioners to join as well.
- ▷ Remember to Pay Per Capital and assess your Catholic advertising and Culture of Life programs.

All of the State Program Coordinators, Diocesan Coordinators, and I are working hard for you. Please ask for what you need. The only dumb question is the question not asked.

Remember: without members there are no programs, and without programs, there are no members.

Vivat Jesus!



FOURTH DEGREE

JACK WRBANICH & DUANE ZABOROWSKI



THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS has long been a steadfast pillar of faith, fraternity, and service within our communities. As members, we are called to embody these core values in our daily lives, living out our faith with integrity and purpose. For those seeking to deepen their commitment, the Fourth Degree provides a meaningful opportunity to serve with distinction under the motto: **"With Faith and Honor, We Serve."**

The Fourth Degree is the patriotic arm of the Knights of Columbus, emphasizing devotion to God and country. It is not merely a title but a mission to uphold the principles of Catholic citizenship while fostering civic pride and responsibility. Fourth-degree Knights are exemplars of selfless dedication, engaging in visible acts of service, demonstrating public patriotism, and offering unwavering support to our Church and our nation.

As a Fourth Degree Knight, you will join a distinguished brotherhood united by shared values and a commitment to making a difference. This degree offers opportunities for leadership, public recognition of your faith, and deeper involvement in the charitable works of our Order.

Whether participating in honor guard ceremonies, supporting veterans, or organizing community events, Fourth Degree Knights are leaders in faith and service.

We invite all Third Degree members in good standing to take this significant step in their journey as Knights of Columbus. The Fourth Degree awaits you if you feel called to serve more profoundly and stand as a visible example of faith and patriotism.

Save the Dates:

- ▷ **April 12** ~ Eastern Side
- ▷ **May 3** ~ Western Side

Both exemplifications will be special events commemorating the **125th Anniversary of the Fourth**



Degree of the Knights of Columbus. These historic celebrations aim to welcome 125+ new candidates at each location. With your commitment, we will continue to exemplify the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and

patriotism—honoring God and country in all that we do.

Please visit the state website for more information and to register for these momentous events. Together, let us serve "With Faith and Honor" and make an even greater impact on our Church, communities, and nation.

Vivat Jesus!





Spotlight

CRUCIFIXES BENEFITING SEMINARIANS



Knights from St. Boniface Council 10715 removed old church pews and kneelers during a recent church refurbishment. Oak from the kneelers was salvaged and repurposed by members of the council to make crosses and crucifixes with bronze corpuses. Sales of the crosses and crucifixes raised \$4,000 for the council's seminarian scholarship program.

Pictured

PGK David Del Ponte from St. Boniface Council 10715, in Germantown, WI. presents Carolyn Gall, Parish Administrator, with a crucifix for the annual golf outing/silent auction that benefits the Parish and the Council.



CULTURE OF LIFE

DAN MILLER



ULTRASOUND PROJECTS

St. Gianna Clinic in De Pere, Our Lady of Hope Clinic in Madison and Life's Connection, Women's Care Center (Farwell Ave.) in Milwaukee, and New Day Women's Clinic (Delavan & CareNet Dane County) in Madison. If your council would like to help, please send your checks to the address listed at the bottom of this page.

The Wisconsin Knights of Columbus have agreed to have boots on the ground for all Special Olympics of Wisconsin (SOWI) statewide events. There are five events (Fall Games, Bowling, Winter Games, Spring Games, Summer Games). We look

forward to seeing your council at one of their statewide events!

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The Wisconsin Knights of Columbus have agreed to have boots on the ground for all Special Olympics of Wisconsin (SOWI) statewide events. There are five events (Fall Games, Bowling, Winter Games, Spring Games, Summer Games). We look forward to seeing your council at one of their next statewide events! Click here for more [information](#).

ASAP GRANTS

Hopefully the month of February left your council's checking account EMPTY after giving away all your money to pregnancy

centers in your area! For every \$500 (up to \$2,000) you gave to a maternity home or pregnancy center, Supreme Council will give that non-profit entity another \$100! But, you have to apply for it! Always best to apply online! If you need help with that, let me know and I'll help walk you through it **OR** you can give me the information and I will apply for you online!

CHOOSE LIFE WISCONSIN GRANT FUND

Any pro-life pregnancy center or maternity home can apply for a grant from [Choose Life Wisconsin, the Choose Life Plate People!](#)

Vivat Jesus!

Kettle Moraine Knights of Columbus #3562

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PROGRAMS DIRECTOR *BILL FRAYER*



MARCH BRINGS US TO the our third quarter in 24/25 FY. I hope you have at least three of the four Community programs completed required for your Columbian Award and Star Council Award. If not, it's really time to get moving. Coats for Kids, Habitat for Humanity, Global Wheelchairs, Disaster Preparedness and Helping Hands are still very much in order this month! Knowledge and Free Throw Contests can still be done in March as you lead into the District Contests for Free Throw (March) and the Diocesan Contests for both (March/April).

Once again, the State Contest is set for Saturday, May 3, at Assumption High School in Wisconsin Rapids. Free Throw registration and practice will be 10-11 am with announcements at 11:15 am and competition starting shortly thereafter. For Math/Spelling, it'll be a 10:15-11:15 am registration, announcements at

11:30 am, and the competition at 11:45 am.

The Culture of Life Essay Contest is wrapping up this month. Essays are due to the councils by March 15. Winning council-level entries from each grade level (7-1) are due to the Diocesan Program Coordinators by March 31.

This month, I'd like to focus on the [Soccer](#) and [Hockey](#) Challenge competitions. The Hockey Challenge is relatively new. It can be run either outside or indoors, on ice skates, roller skates, or even in sneakers. So far, it has received very little interest in the state but we're always interested in assisting however we can any Council(s) who want to operate a contest.

Soccer, on the other hand, has a fairly large and solid base around the state. Before COVID, we had perhaps 20-25 Councils who were doing the Challenges and had regional contests in all 5 Dioceses, with a small State Contest as well (20-30 competitors) in the fall with the PPK contest. Since COVID, there have been hardly four or five Councils across the state reporting running the contest with no regionals or State Contest being held.

This is surprising given the number of kids playing soccer and the simplicity of operating the Challenge (easier than PPK). It can be done before or after school, during school (PE class), at sites of practices or games, day or night, indoors or outdoors, virtually anytime of the year. Councils can do it separately or join together with neighboring Councils or an entire District. Open to boys and girls, ages 9-14. You can recruit fellow Brothers, parents, parishioners, family parish or school staff, etc., to run it. Only a relative few are needed to successfully run an competition. We started out with a fall season (August-October). When that faltered, I advocated a spring timeframe (April-June). Now, I'm suggesting that the program can be done anytime from July-June! If we can once again get 15-20 Councils or more to run the program, we'll figure out how to get the Diocesan and State Contest structure going again! (In the past, we've even had several International-level champions!) So, let's make it a goal to revive the Soccer Challenge for 2025!

Have a great March.
Vivat Jesus!

**In service to One.
In service to all.**

