

# Wisconsin Knights of Columbus Notes

June 2020

[Wisconsin State Website](#)

Editors: SK Mike Tomsyck & SK Rob Christianson



As I reported in my State Deputy Report, "The State of the Knights of Columbus in Wisconsin is secure, and we are becoming relevant in our communities and parishes. We are doing this by living up to Father McGivney's vision by expressing our solidarity with our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and to be our brother's keeper. This was most evident in our response to the pandemic sweeping our Nation. Our Knights have responded! We carried on, offering only our best efforts while not focusing on what we cannot do, but focusing on those things we can do.

As your State Deputy, I want to thank you for your belief in me. Your support, friendship, and prayers have carried me through many challenges of being a State Deputy. In a recent article I read, the author spoke about facing changes, "The only constant in life is change" – *Heraclitus*. In his article, Heraclitus states, *"Remember that changes are a normal part of life. It is also amazing how we each have our own resiliency and ability to recover from, or adjust easily to, change. Practice living life with an attitude of gratitude and embrace change as an opportunity for continuous renewal and growth."* It's been a pleasure and a privilege to serve you and your councils. Working alongside, many of you understood how to bring the best out of each other. I do not doubt that you will continue to embrace change while moving our Order forward.

I am reminded of something President Reagan said in his farewell speech:

*"Because we're a great nation, our challenges seem complex. It will always be that way. But as long as we remember our first principles and believe in ourselves, the future will always be ours. And something else we learned: Once you begin a great movement, there's no telling where it will end."* – Ronald Reagan, January 11, 1989.

Gentlemen, when we began this journey together, we kept to our principles, and we have continued to *"begin again – Nunc Coepi."* I am confident we will continue on the right path and make Wisconsin Knights the best we have ever been.

I want to congratulate the newly elected state officers, having just completed our first (and I pray the last) virtual state convention had a few challenges, but we persevered! Having over 400 delegates on a teleconference was amazing! I wish to thank each of the delegates for their understanding and patience as we ran an abbreviated state convention. State Council award winners have been announced and are recognized in this newsletter. We will be reaching out to many of the councils and individuals to set up a time and place for presentations of awards.

Any successes I may had over the last two years can be contributed to a lot of individuals, our State Team of officer WSS Mike Tomsyck, WST John Huttenhoff, WSA Corey Coonen, WSW Miles Casey, IPSD Ron Faust, have worked tirelessly over the year(s) to improve the State Council - Thank you. I especially want to thank our State Chaplain, Father Andrew Kurz, for his guidance and counsel.

I am saddened to report that our Administrative Manager Tony Schreiner will be leaving us on July 1, Tony has been a mainstay in the office, and without him, I truly would have been lost - Tony thank you for your friendship, support, and council. I could go on with platitudes, and thanks for many others, and I would miss someone, for sure. I do want to give a special thanks to our Membership Director Mark Jelinek and Programs Director Bill Frayer, two of the hardest working Knights in the state - thank you for all you have done for the state and me. Last, I want to thank all the District Deputies, you have been outstanding this year, almost half you are wrapping up your first year. I want to thank each of you for a job well done. The last group of guys I want to recognize is those District Deputies who will be retiring at the end of the fraternal year:

District 4 William "Bill" Hitt  
District 10 Michael Bushman  
District 20 Lawrence Anderson  
District 23 Dennis Koranda  
District 27 Alan Haas  
District 42 Aaron Teche  
District 48 Bernard Heit  
District 51 Vaughn Blaeser

District 62 Jonathan Richter  
District 64 Brian Neal  
District 69 Timothy Nighbor  
District 70 Oscar Contreras  
District 81 Paul Krenik  
District 82 James Mitchell  
District 85 Thomas Trochlil

In closing I want to give a huge thanks to my wife Lisa, she was my rock and go to person - this was a team effort, and without her, I would have been lost at sea - thank you!

Lisa and I have truly enjoyed our time representing our state. Thank you for allowing us to do so.

God Bless, Vivat Jesus!

Jack Wrbanich  
State Deputy  
Wisconsin



## State Chaplains Message

Fighting the good fight!

We have celebrated Pentecost with hearts open to God's will, inviting the Holy Spirit to aid us in the discernment of how to move forward at this particular time in history. I want to give a special invitation to young families to come back to God by making Him their number one priority by increasing prayer in their lives. Please share this letter with them if you can. Sharing our faith and praying is something we need to do if we are going to claim ourselves to be followers of Christ on the day we stand before Him looking toward our eternal destiny. Besides being our celebration of Pentecost this year, May 31<sup>st</sup> was also the day we usually celebrate the Visitation, the day of Mary's journey to her kinswoman Elizabeth. As Jesus in the womb, and Mary His Mother approached Elizabeth, she was filled with the Holy Spirit proclaiming for the first time, "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb." So, if we want to have the fullness of the Holy Spirit flowing through us it would be advisable to say these words over and over again for the benefit that comes with inviting the Holy Spirit into our lives. This is one good reason to pray the Rosary! We need the Holy Spirit now more than ever as we move toward a point in history that leaves behind the old normal in exchange for either a new normal designed by our governments, or a Renewed Normal guided by the Holy Spirit.

My dear brother Knights. We are under God's call to fight the good fight. Don't forget to pick up our weapon as Knights of Columbus, the Most Holy Rosary. I hope you have been well trained in how to wield that weapon. Under the orders of our Queen Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, we should pray every day to win the fight for the Culture of Life. Our prayer then will inspire our action to bring about a victory that will be evident in the transforming power of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will see Jesus come into our lives and the lives of those around us if we fight the good fight. So, let's do this.

Pray with Mary, walk with Jesus!

Vivat Jesus!

Rev. Fr. Andrew Kurz

State Chaplain

## Message from the State Secretary

Farewell



It has been an honor and pleasure to have served you as State Advocate, State Treasurer and State Secretary. On July 1, 2020, a new chapter begins for my wife Kim and me. We cherish the many friendships that we have made over the years. We wish the State Council and its new officers the best as they face the challenges that lay before them in the coming fraternal year.

I would like to thank all who have help me while serving as a state officer. There are too many names to list here individually, but in reality, it is all of you Knights, because one cannot do it alone. Thank you for all of the help that you have given me. However, there is one Knight that stands out and that is Rob Christianson who has helped me as co-editor with putting together the state newsletter. *Thank you, Rob,!!*

The word “service” is what resonates with me when speaking about a Knight of Columbus. With that I would like to close with my personal motto: “It is better to serve that to be served”.

Vivat Jesus!!  
*Mike Tomsyck*

### **2019-2020 Award Winners**

#### **2019-20 Family of the Year**

Green Bay Diocese  
Chris, Kriss Mosconi  
Msgr. Looze Council 1869 - Oconto Falls

La Crosse Diocese  
Albert, Shirley Kroll  
John Eisen Council 1799 - Marshfield

Madison Diocese  
David, Margaret McCarthy  
Highland Council 1909

Milwaukee Archdiocese  
Richard, Elaine Garvey  
Oconomowoc Council 2487

Superior Diocese  
Robert, Terri Link  
Fr. Dodge Council 7827 – Woodruff

**2019-20 State Family of the Year**  
**Albert, Shirley Kroll**  
**John Eisen Council 1799 - Marshfield**

**2019-20 History Book Program Activity Awards**

Division 1

St. Charles Council 6926 – Lena (Green Bay)  
Plum City/Arkansan Council 15739 - Plum City (La Crosse)  
Msgr. Beck-Fr. Olson Council 10363 (Madison)  
Fr. Michael J. McGivney Council 12621 – Lomira (Milwaukee)  
Knights of the Lake Council 1269 - Balsam Lake/Centuria (Superior)

Division 2

Msgr. Gehl Council 7895 – Hortonville (Green Bay)  
Fr. John Rossiter Council 3985 – Holmen (La Crosse)  
Highland Council 1909 – Highland (Madison)  
Msgr. S. B. Witkowiak Council 697 – Racine (Milwaukee)  
Heart of St. Croix Council 7030 – Hammond (Superior)

Division 3

Abbot Pennings Council 3955 - De Pere (Green Bay)  
Tomah Council 4125 – Tomah (La Crosse)  
Sun Prairie Council 4879 - Sun Prairie (Madison)  
Fr. Casper Rehrl Council 1964 - West Bend (Milwaukee)  
St. Croix Council 1762 – Hudson (Superior)

**2019-20 State Deputy Trophy**

Division 1

St. Charles Council 6926 - Lena (GK Russell G. Glime)

Division 2

Fr. John Rossiter Council 3985 – Holmen (GK Brian Clements)

Division 3

St. Croix Council 1762 – Hudson (GK Ed DePaux)

**2019-20 History Book Preparation Awards**

Abbot Pennings Council 3955 - De Pere (Green Bay)  
Tomah Council 4125 – Tomah (La Crosse)  
Msgr. Beck-Fr. Olson Council 10363 – Janesville (Madison)  
Fr. Casper Rehrl Council 1964 - West Bend (Milwaukee)  
St. Croix Council 1762 – Hudson (Superior)

**2019-20 Outstanding District Deputy**

Green Bay Diocese - Tre Waldren - District 12  
La Crosse Diocese - Paul Zimmerman - District 21  
Madison Diocese - Paul Quigley - District 46  
Milwaukee Archdiocese - Les Kostera - District 65  
Superior Diocese - James Mitchell - District 82

**2019-20 Outstanding 1st Year District Deputy**

Green Bay Diocese - Wes Swisher - District 13  
La Crosse Diocese - Dan Wieser - District 32  
Madison Diocese - Rick Raulin - District 47  
Milwaukee Archdiocese - Brian Neal - District 64  
Superior Diocese - Joseph Wadas - District 87

**Barney Dunn Award** - Jason Bourget, Council 4963 Neillsville

**Service Program Awards**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Faith</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">San Salvador Council 4520 Cedarburg, WI Grand Knight Eric Stanton</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Campaign to Launch 24-Hour Eucharistic Adoration"</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Family</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Knights of the Lake Council 12609 Balsam Lake/Centuria, WI Grand Knight Fred A. Koslowski</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Snacks with Santa"</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Community</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fr. Dodge Council 7827 Woodruff, WI Grand Knight Robert Link</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Halloween Dance for People with Special Needs"</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Life</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fr. Dodge Council 7827 Woodruff, WI Grand Knight Robert Link</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"New Dawn Ultrasound Project"</p>

**Membership Awards**

Green Bay - **Our Lady of Lourdes Council 614 Oshkosh (GK Jay Schaefer)**  
La Crosse - **St. Juan Diego Council 16444 La Crosse (GK Brian Logue)**  
Madison - **Our Lady of the Green Scapular Council 16863 (GK Tom Coffey)**  
Milwaukee - **San Salvador Council 4520 Cedarburg (GK Eric Stanton)**  
Superior - **Quad County Council 9546 Birchwood (GK Vern Pottinger)**

2019-2020 State Membership Award Winner:  
**Marquette University Council 6883 Milwaukee (GK Timothy Bobeck)**

2019 – 2020 Beacon Award Winner (top recruiter)  
**Richard Forseth, Council 614 Oshkosh**

**Medallion Award**

At-large - Mark E. Wagner (Council 4240 Menomonee Falls)  
Green Bay - Michael O. Darne (Council 2847 Niagara)  
La Crosse - Donald S. Tralmer (Council 4125 Tomah)  
Madison - Dr. Paul E Lang (Council 4879 Sun Prairie)  
Milwaukee - Gerald G. Falk (Council 3095 West Allis)  
Superior - Merritt L. Stigen (Council 1762 Hudson)

Kudos to all Youth Contest winners (and those who qualified for the cancelled knowledge and Free Throw Contests, especially Olivia Grace Rombak who placed 3rd in the Supreme International competition for the "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest (Council 15665 Burlington))

## **State Program Director report**

Brothers,

As we approach the end of the 2019-20 Fraternal Year and look forward to 2020-21, we continue to battle the myriad effects of the COVID-19 pandemic which has had a huge effect on our Councils' ability to function and our programs in general. Virtual meetings have become the norm for many Councils and committees; they'll likely remain that way from now on. Many new programs to assist our communities and parishes have come from Supreme's new "Leave No Neighbor Behind" initiative. Coupled with our Faith in Action and State programs, the recent efforts by most Councils around the state to contact and connect with all their members, should invigorate all concerned. We have the tools for success, Brothers; we just need to use them!

The new Admission Exemptions and associated e-membership online Form 100s, etc. should allow Councils to bring in many new members and families efficiently and soon. Supreme's waiving of per capita and assessments and the State's offer to donate \$100 to Councils' local food pantries for each member brought in up to June 30 should help a lot. Star Council has a 40% reduction in member quota goal for the McGivney Award part and a 50% reduction in the insurance member quota goal for the Founders Award; a virtual or in person Benefits Night can qualify as well!

So, let's close out 2019-20 with a bang and set the stage for a strong new Fraternal Year. To do so, you need to:

- 1) complete your elections and make sure that all your officer and director positions are filled with 185s and 365s in promptly.
- 2) hold your program evaluations and planning sessions with your pastor and with your officers and directors soon. Plan out at least July 2020-January 2021 now.
- 3) get your PKD and Culture of Life Fund donations in by June 30.
- 4) Remember to get your Roundtable reports in if not already done.
- 5) plan to have your Columbian Award forms and Wisconsin Outstanding Council Award forms in by June 30. Check the Supreme and State websites for the changes that have been made to requirements for these 2 awards for this year (ie. Columbian Award needs only 10 programs total instead of 16 with at least 2 in each category and none are "required!") Outstanding Council

requires only 3 programs in each category instead of 5. Also changed are 2 Admission Exemptions of any type, 2 Church Drives or Membership Drives of any type and a History Book [print or electronic of any type – binder, notebook, pdf, DVD, zip drive, etc.] to me by June 30).

Brothers, if we can get these things done, we'll be on our way to bigger and better things for our state and our Honored Order in 2020-21 and beyond. Congratulations to the newly elected State Officer Team. I'm sure they do well. If called upon to help out or jump into a coordinator, director or committee member role, please answer the call – we're all in this together!

Wishing you a happy, healthy summer. Vivat Jesus!  
 Bill Frayer  
 State Program Director

## Family of the Month

### Faith in Action – Family of the Month

Hello Brother Knights! Thank you again for an **amazing** April! 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/7434871>. Check it out!



#### Supreme



Wisconsin is still in 1<sup>st</sup> place with a 38 FOMs, Michigan is in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 28 and Kansas is in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with 18.  
 46 of the 84 jurisdictions submitted 244 FOMs, down 21% from March.  
**Wisconsin submitted an amazing 15.6% of the FOMs received by Supreme!**  
*Well done everyone!*

Here is the Supreme Family of the Month that will be receiving a nice certificate and letter.

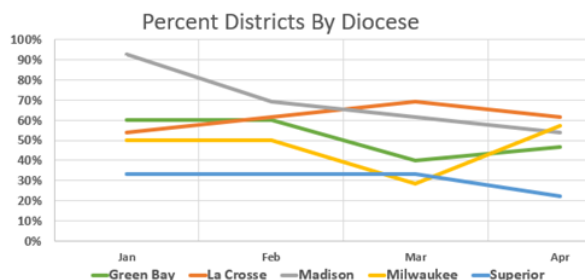
**Joshua and Kelly Schmitz family** council 1547, district 44, Madison Diocese

#### Diocese

Below 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!

<b>Green Bay</b>	Edward and Noreen Vander Bloomen	<b>La Crosse</b>	Marie and Joyce Berger (sisters)
<b>Madison</b>	Mark and Jackie Hebgen	<b>Milwaukee</b>	David and Lori Ahler
<b>Superior</b>	Kurt and Paula Soderberg		

#### District



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

La Crosse is in 1<sup>st</sup> place with 62%. Milwaukee went from 5<sup>th</sup> place to 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 57%.

Madison, Green Bay and Superior are in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> place with 53%, 47% and 22% respectively.



This month we have **nine** districts submitting two forms each. My records show district 44 is open and that the previous DD was Robert Kurczek. *Until I hear otherwise, Robert gets the credit!*

Thank you, Chris, Tre, Wesley, Dan, Robert, Erin, Mark, James, and Paul for having two FOMs each.

FOMs	District Deputy	Diocese
2	Chris Mosconi - 2	Green Bay
2	Tre Waldren - 12	Green Bay
2	Wesley Swisher - 13	Green Bay
2	Dan Wieser - 32	La Crosse
2	Open - 44	Madison
2	Erin Kennedy - 45	Madison
2	Mark Becker - 63	Milwaukee
2	James Nabak - 71	Milwaukee
2	Paul Krenik - 81	Superior

Gentlemen, we are at **52% district 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!*

Due to Covid-19, let us see if we can maintain **50% district participation through the remainder of the fraternal year.**

### Council

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

Saint Patrick Council 3464	Ted Watermolen Council 4877
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**We had 39 fantastic families submitted to the state!** To learn who they were, check out the link at the top of this article.

Every council should be striving to submit *at least one* family of the month before the end of 2020, 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

## Thank you from St. Lawrence Seminary

Dear Brother Knights,

On behalf of our Rector and President, Fr. Zoy Garibay, our faculty, staff and more than 170 seminarians this past academic year, I want to extend our gratitude and sincere appreciation for your approval of our submitted Resolution #25 for Saint Lawrence Seminary.

As an institution devoted to providing an outstanding academic education and nurturing strong Catholic Faith formation including discernment into the priesthood and religious life, we have been serving Catholic families from Wisconsin and the world for more than 160 years. Throughout our history, no young man has been refused admission due to financial constraints of his family. On the heels of this Covid-19 Pandemic and the financial impact it is having, and will have in the months and years ahead, the current financial support of the Wisconsin State Council is most gratifying. And now the endorsement and encouragement of my fellow Brother Knights across Wisconsin is most humbling.

I look forward to our journey together promoting Saint Lawrence Seminary as an outstanding option for our sons, grandsons, nephews and fellow parishioners' families to consider for high school. Saint Lawrence Seminary provides a safe, faith-filled and diverse campus with multiple extracurricular, and many community service opportunities coupled with an excellent academic curriculum.

In addition, your prayerful and thoughtful consideration of a Council grant along with individual donations will allow Saint Lawrence Seminary to continue its legacy of accepting all qualified applicants because financial constraints of the family are not a deterrent.

Vivat Jesus,

Tre Waldren

District Deputy, District #12 /Past Grand Knight, Council #16729

Donor Relations Officer - Saint Lawrence Seminary

### Local Knights Helping Neighbor

A plea came from the Spooner, Wisconsin Knights of Columbus Council 5397 that the Food Pantry operated by the Aging and Disabilities Resource Center (ADRC) of Washburn County was running low on supplies. The Washburn County food bank serves over 150 people or households.

Tomah Council 4125 swung into action. Many generous Knights and their Ladies stepped forward to bring in food staples and donate money. District Deputy Dennis Koranda reports that Knights of Columbus Councils in Sparta, Black River Falls, and Adams Friendship contributed. The extensive cache of foodstuffs was transported to Washburn County on Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, by organizer Past State Deputy Wenzel Felber in his large suburban. Over 600 miles were traveled with pick-up's in Madison and delivery to Spooner. The estimated value of the 1700 pounds of food is \$1000.



The Tomah Knights of Columbus Council 4125 delivered over 1700 pounds of food for the Spooner area Food Pantry. l-r; past Grand Knight Fred Le Savage, past State Deputy Wenzel Felber, Council 4125 Financial Secretary Dennis Kuderer, District 23 Deputy Dennis Koranda.

Several Past State Deputies contributed time, money, and food items. The Knights fulfill their mission of community service and charitable contribution by reaching out to those in need. We are all in this together and together we will all be stronger.

Submitted by Larry Scheckel, Grand Knight of Council 4125, Tomah



Past State Deputy Welber Felber and District Deputy Dennis Koranda are ready to close the doors on a Suburban packed full of supplies for the Washburn County and Spooner Food Pantry.

## A Life-Changing Gift

District 81 Knights of Columbus Councils fund new state of the art ultrasound machine for Options for Women St. Croix Valley (OFWSCV). When their original ultrasound machine broke down, OFWSCV executive director Pat Burns put out an emergency appeal to get a new one.

The new Samsung HS40 3D/4D Color ultrasound machine, software and warranty cost \$81,360. The balance remaining after a Supreme Knights of Columbus Right to Life discount was \$37,228. After the onset of their new ultrasound initiative, KC District Deputy #81 Paul Krenik reached out to his KC Councils for their support. KC Councils 1762 Hudson, 4902 River Falls,

6759 Somerset and 7030 Hammond donated \$20,000. When KC Jerry Kusliek passed away, he left a very generous donation to Council 7030 for the purpose of pro-life work. Jerry was a charter member of Council 7030. These Councils, along with other KC families and private donations from local families, this state-of-the-art machine was fully funded.

Pat Burns said, “We are honored to receive this fit. Just as God orchestrated this funding, we have faith he will orchestrate many changed hearts as mothers see and hear the life within the womb.”



*Pictured with the ultrasound machine left to right:  
Ed DePauw – Grand Knight 1762 Hudson  
Pat Burns – Executive Director OFWSCV  
Dennis Malecak – Grand Knight 7030 Hammond  
Mike Cruz – Grand Knight 6759 Somerset  
Paul Krenik – District Deputy #81  
Dave Andrea – Grand Knight 4902 River Falls.*

## Giving the Gift of Life



Council 1762 blood donations



Council 4897 Sun Prairie COVID blood drive

### Officers Elected for 2020-2021 Fraternal Year

At the Wisconsin Knights of Columbus virtual State Convention, the annual election of officers was held. Congratulations to these men, who will be guiding our state during the next year:

State Chaplain – Fr. Andrew Kurz (continuing his service to us for another year)

State Deputy elect – SK Corey Coonen  
State Secretary elect – SK John Huttenhoff  
State Treasurer elect – SK Miles Casey  
State Advocate elect – SK Paul Lang  
State Warden elect – TBD

## State Deputy Elect – Corey Coonen

Fellow Brothers,

2020 will truly go down for the History Books given the challenges and struggles that we continue to face with respect to the ‘new normal’ in our work and family life, in our parishes and also with our Knights of Columbus. I am truly humbled and blessed to serve all of you as your next State Deputy this upcoming year. Some have already made mention that I am the youngest State Deputy in our history (36 years old). I look at this not as an accomplishment—but as a challenge. I challenge all of you to embrace the young men of your council and seek out their leadership—as I hope that in the future someone else takes this challenge and decides to run for State Office in their 20’s or become State Deputy in their early 30’s. Age doesn’t always equate to wisdom, and as this current Covid19 pandemic has taught all of us, we need to continually learn and adapt to changes around us. Lifelong learning is essential to growth, and many of our younger Knights may have new and innovative ways of doing this, a thought process that we can all learn from.



This coming month our State Leadership Team will be meeting to put together our strategic plan for this upcoming Fraternal year. This plan will include what we ‘hope’ to do if we have a return to normalcy both in our communities and our Parish, but also contingent plans that will allow us to continue to grow our order. We look forward to continuing with our Online Exemplifications that were first conducted this last month with great success. We will continue to explore innovative ways to communicate effectively to all of our council leaders. Effective communications will be the keys to our success and one way that we will be actively doing this in the coming week(s) is by reaching out to every Grand Knight and Financial Secretary with a brief survey to help us better understand how we can serve their council needs.

One ask that we will have is for council’s to share their members’ e-mails so that our leadership team can send a proactive e-mail to all these members, asking them to touch base with 2 individuals that they think would be great members in the Knights of Columbus. Whether it’s a family member, friend, co-worker or their fellow parishioner, we have a tremendous organization built on Charity, Unity and Fraternity that all men should strive to be a part of, especially during trying times such as these. We should want to share this great experience with all Catholic men—young and old! We have ways for them to easily join our membership via e-membership or by attending one of our virtual exemplifications—making it even easier for you to communicate with them and get them to join at their leisure from the comfort of their home. We will also be working with the Bishops in the 5 Diocese in the State to grow our order, and I hope to report on our progress towards this in one of our upcoming newsletters. We have a motivated team of leaders and we look forward to serving all of you.

“Success at anything will always come down to this: FOCUS and EFFORT and we control both.” (Dwayne Johnson, aka ‘The Rock’)

The current pandemic is just a roadblock. The attitude that we bring in these coming months to our parish and to our council will determine not just our success for this next year, but for many years to come. We all can control the outcome by ‘FOCUSING’ on what is important and serving our Parish priests and our community needs. The ‘EFFORT’ towards this that we put forth, along with further promoting all the good works that we do will go a long way towards building our order up. Don’t let the obstacles of TODAY determine our FUTURE. ‘NOW THE JOURNEY BEGINS.’

Vivat Jesus,  
Corey Christopher Coonen  
State Deputy Elect

## State Secretary Elect – John Huttenhoff

Brothers,

I know that the past few months have been very challenging for many of us on a personal level, and for our Parishes and Councils as we deal with social distancing restrictions. Holding the State Convention as a Virtual Meeting on a Holiday weekend was not what any of us wanted to do. Thank you to all of the Delegates that took time over the Memorial Day weekend to attend the Virtual State Convention. We had over 400 delegates on the call, a truly remarkable commitment by our brothers to ensure the success of our State Council. I know that many of you took time to review the information presented on each candidate, and I appreciate the extra time that each of you took to be as informed as possible.



It has been an honor to represent you these past 2 years, first as State Advocate and then as State Treasurer, and I am humbled to be selected as your next State Secretary. I look forward to the opportunity to attend Council events and get to learn more about the great programs of the Councils of Wisconsin. I look forward to working with our new State Deputy to address the challenges of Growing Membership, Improving Communications, and helping to Grow the Church by putting our Faith in Action. Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve you as a State Officer for another year.

Vivat Jesus,  
John Huttenhoff  
State Treasurer  
State Secretary Elect

## State Treasurer elect – Miles Casey

Brother Knights,

With the State Convention passed, I would like to take a moment to thank you for your support to letting me continue to serve the State as your Treasure. It has been an absolutely pleasure seeing all of you at events throughout the state. I want to especially reach out to **THE SUPERIOR DIOCESE** for the hospitality you have shown my wife Carrie, daughter Emily, as well as myself. It has been a great way to start out as a State Officer for the Wisconsin Jurisdiction.



Hopefully moving forward, we can adjust to the new challenges faced with opening society again. I strongly urge all of you as Knights of Columbus to be as Pope John Paul II said, “the strong right arm of the church.” We need to be there more than ever to help our priests and parishes. We can be part of the solution as long as we follow the direction of our priests.

Also, please do not forget our first lesson of the order, Charity. There are many who are facing hardships because of this pandemic. Please continue helping those families. Food drives and other actions should continue in a safe manner. Blood drives are equally important, so consider reaching to the local American Red Cross and set up a blood drive for your area.

I look forward to serving you for the next fraternal year. Thank you for the opportunity.

Vivat Jesus!  
Miles Casey  
State Warden  
State Treasurer-Elect

## State Advocate elect – Paul Lang

Good day, brothers.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your support of your state team and newly elected officers. We will always remember this state convention, as it is perhaps one of a kind where we needed to complete the work of our state obligations virtually. It goes without saying, we have struggled during these times but because we support each other and treat each other with respect, dignity, and kindness, we make it work successfully and still manage to support our communities.



Many of you reviewed our information presented to you electronically via FlockNote and State Web Page. It is with deep appreciation you took that time and proceeded to place your trust in those of us who are new to the State Officer's team with your vote. Those that know me personally, know that I am eager to serve our councils parishes, priests, brothers and communities. Those opportunities are before all of us as officers and it is a time of commitment for finding solutions to all of the challenges, we face both past and present. I am grateful to all of you for the opportunity to serve you as your State Advocate. Please pray for all of your officers that we serve with the heart of Christ and a mind of charity. Together, we rise beyond the state of mediocracy.

Vivat Jesus,  
Paul Lang  
State Advocate elect