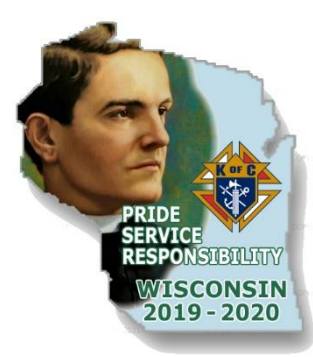


# Wisconsin Knights of Columbus Notes

October 2019

[Wisconsin State Website](#)

Editors: SK Mike Tomsyck & SK Rob Christianson



## Membership Growth

Summer has come and gone; the vibrant colors of Fall are beginning to come alive around Wisconsin as well as Council Faith in Action and recruitment opportunities. So, why should we promote our story and grow the order? Simply put, members are the backbone of the Knights of Columbus, we are the leaders in our parishes and communities, and we are called to evangelize. We must grow or we become inconsequential in our parish and communities. Recruiting and retaining more men increases our presence and will ensure we have left the order better than we found it. **MORE** Knights bring **MORE**

hands to raise **MORE** funds (& to evangelize), doing God's good works helping **MORE** people in need!

During our last Diocesan Tour, we provided councils with several ideas to recruit new members, I want to highlight two of them, that if implemented correctly could have a huge impact on your council's ability to recruit. The Power of Ten and you Councils Landing/Prospect page.

## Power of Ten

A simple and easy way to engage your council and have some fun. In smaller councils you may make it the Power of 5. Think outside the box but use the concept:

- Ask for a team Captain to head up a Team.
- Caution you know there are good recruiters in each council so don't let them be all on one team in fact your best recruiters should be the team captains. Heck your Council Chaplain may want to be a TEAM Captain or be on a team. The Chaplain as a TEAM Captain would be awesome.
- Divide your councils up in Teams of 10 or whatever maybe 5 in smaller councils. The more teams the better.
- Challenge each TEAM to recruit new members each month.
- Whatever Team brings in the most members each month get rewarded (reward determined by the council). It works, and there are bragging rights that come along with this.
- Brothers if we make recruiting (evangelizing fun) we will grow quickly. We men like competition.
- Power of 10 can be used for many things in a council as perhaps cooking teams, prayer teams, event teams, etc.

Any further questions on this please give me a shout. POWER of 10 works!

## Prospect Landing Page

An Online Prospect Form is a digital signup sheet that captures a prospect's contact info for your council AND automatically sends them a personalized, informational email that your council helps create. The prospect will continue to receive personalized emails educating them on the Knights of Columbus, while your council continues to recruit them into your council. **Every council should utilize this tool.** • Fits perfectly into the current and future recruiting strategy • No need to use the Form 100 while recruiting • Access via phone, tablet, or computer • Invite prospects to Admissions (First) Degrees • Invite prospects and their families to service projects and faith & social events To request an Online Prospect form for a council or request updates visit <http://info.kofc.org/pagerequest>

Say, did you know that by joining your local 40 Days for Life campaign, to pray for an end to abortion fulfills the requirements for the KofC Novena for Life Program? You can find your city's vigil site, sign-up to pray and learn more about 40 Days for Life by visiting: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/vigil-search.aspx>



Jack Wrbanich  
State Deputy

*In case you were not able to extract this from our Worthy State Deputy's article, the following is what is used by our Worthy Supreme Growth Director, Joseph Ramirez on all of his emails.*

**MORE Knights bring MORE hands to raise MORE funds (& to evangelize), doing God's good works helping MORE people in need!**

-Supreme Regional Growth Director, Joseph Ramirez, Sr.

## Notice of Expenditures -Wisconsin State Charities, Inc.

Per Wisconsin State Council By-Laws, please be advised that on September 4, 2019 the State Directors of Wisconsin Charities, Inc. approved the expenditure of \$1,000 to assist the Middleton Council 4549, toward the purchase of an Ultrasound machine.

## Faith in Action – Supreme Webcast Link



In case you missed the recent Supreme Webcast on “Faith in Action”, copy the below link to your browser. This is an excellent webcast on Faith in Action. If you watch all of it, you can also get a completion certificate.

<https://event.on24.com/wcc/t/2072385/7D11F7CB187F71D2DC95304020708CEB>

## Membership

### How do we get guys and how do we keep guys?

That is the big membership question for all Councils. It is such a simple question but yet it is the foundation of keeping our Order going.

#### How do we get guys?

Meet them where they are at. Make the Order something they want to be a part of.

Do they want to learn more about their faith? Have a bible study group, lead the Stations of the Cross.

Do they want to support the youth? Host free throw, punt pass and kick, poster contests, support kids on the March for Life.

Do they want to support Respect Life? Run the Life Savers for Life, run a benefit for Ultra Sounds or a Women's Shelter.



Do they want to work on their leadership skills? Let them be a Council Officer or Director.

Do they see a need in the church and want a group of guys to help? Talk to Father, help them, fill the need and grow the Order.

Do they want to just be one of the guys? Encourage them to participate in events they are comfortable with and let them be with guys in the Council who can be positive influences on their lives.

### How do we keep them?

Engage them in activities that interest them.

Let them know that they have value to the Order, no matter what their age or ability.

Make contact with members at least twice a year.

Invite them to activities and events, even if they have said no before or you don't know them.

Make things fun. If your Council does X (brings in 3 guys in the First Degree, increase the amount raised for Tootsie Rolls, or anything else you might think of) your Grand Knight needs to wear a Bears, Cubs, Vikings Jersey at your next Council event. If guys are not laughing and having fun, they are not staying or coming back.

Make everyone feel important.

Everything that I am going to ask of you this year is simple and every man in every Council could do it. If you have any questions of how to get new members or how to retain your current members, contact you Regional Membership Coach (RMC) or let me know.

Together we will all be Successful

Mark Jelinek

Membership

[markmjelinek@gmail.com](mailto:markmjelinek@gmail.com) - (608) 604 9302

## Ceremonials- Formation and Knighthood Degree Teams

Greetings! As you all know very well, advancement in the Knights of Columbus is a beautiful thing. It promotes a member in good standing, gives more incentive for that Knight with the Shining Armor award, and qualifies that Knight to become an officer in their council. It is a proven fact that members that elevate from the ranks of the Admission (1<sup>st</sup>) degree through the Formation (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Knighthood (3<sup>rd</sup>) degrees will be a stronger Knight, with long term benefits for himself as well as the council and the order.

What is lost in the fray of promoting Knights through the ranks are the teams that are needed to do that. As a state we are running into issues where we have not enough teams in an area to perform these degrees. Sometimes the teams travel 3+ hours one way to perform these degrees. Also, with everything else in the order, as we age, so do our degree teams. These factors can diminish the beauty and meaning of these degrees. We even are having issues hosting these degrees because of the lack of help.

My request is that you please reach out to your membership. Ask them to consider joining a local degree team OR better yet, start one in your area! Good solid LOCAL degree teams benefit not only the order, but your local councils. We are looking for formation AND Knighthood degree State Programs teams. A bonus if you can qualify for both, as it is more efficient to conduct both degree on the same day/evening.

If interested, please feel free to email me [bigmiles77@yahoo.com](mailto:bigmiles77@yahoo.com) or call me at 715-579-9124 OR reach out to our State Ceremonials Coordinator, Michael Jordan at [Michael.Jordan@mmluvata.com](mailto:Michael.Jordan@mmluvata.com) or (920)-858-7709, and we can discuss what we need!

Miles Casey  
State Warden  
Wisconsin State Council

## State Programs

Brothers,

It was refreshing and energizing to see so many of you on the recently completed Diocesan Tour and discuss with you many aspects of the Faith in Action program. I sincerely hope that you will take this information to heart and do very well in your October-December programming whether they are Supreme, State or local parish, Council, community programs. All can be fit in under the umbrella of Faith in Action. I'm sure that, by doing so, you will all be on the road to Columbian Award, Star Council and Wisconsin Outstanding Council Awards!



That said, we're a quarter of the way through our Fraternal Year, so you should be 25% at least as far as reaching your membership, insurance and programming goals. If so, great. If not, there's work to be done.

In October, be sure to run your Order-wide Church Drive or other major recruiting event, with associated 1<sup>st</sup> Degree and open House/Information Night. October is "Right to Life" month so do your Culture of Life Essay Contest, Life Savers for Life, Baby Bottle, Ultrasound, Pregnancy Center Support programs. Get your Council-winning PPK and Soccer athletes to the Diocesan contest; hopefully, they'll go on to the State Finals on October 26 at Regis High School in Eau Claire.

Order your materials for your November and December programs; have your plans and personnel in order (eg. Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest, Coats for Kids, Food for Families, Keep Christ in Christmas, etc.). Do try hard to include family, parishioners, prospects in all your programs.

Finally, we are so fortunate this year to have a full complement of Diocesan Program Coordinators who are ready, willing and able to help you with all your programming questions and needs. Don't hesitate to contact them or me at any time. Their/our contact information is on pages 2, 7-8 in your new blue Directory:

- ✓ Mike Bushman – Green Bay (use info on page 34 instead)
- ✓ Bruce Jerue – La Crosse
- ✓ Bill Paar – Madison
- ✓ Dennis Bednarek – Milwaukee
- ✓ Jim Otto – Superior

That also stands true for the other State Directors and Coordinators, RMCs, Committee Chairs and Diocesan Reps (pages 2-11 in the blue Directory). We're all here to help you to be the best Council, officers, Knights that you can be. Nunc Coepi! Vivat Jesus! Vivat Cristo Rey!

Bill Frayer  
State Program Director

## **First Hispanic Council in the Green Bay Diocese!**

Congratulations to our first Hispanic Council in the Green Bay Diocese. Council #17348, St. Francis Xavier Council (patron saint of the Green Bay Diocese), installed their Council Officers on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at St. Philips the Apostle Parish. Worthy District Deputy Matthew Diederich and State Hispanic Development Coordinator Rufino Arce installed Grand Knight Francisco Flores and Council officers, including Chaplain Fr. Bill Hoffman. State Deputy Jack Wrbanich and State Advocate Corey Coonen presented Council officer jewels to the newly elected officers. Marquette Assembly 1197 Fourth Degree Honor Guard along with the East District Master Larry Ziarnik were also in attendance.



## Support for Iraq Churches

During our State convention SD Jack announced that Supreme would begin a new initiative to provide support to our brothers and sisters in Iraq. During the Supreme Convention, Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson announced a new initiative designed to strengthen our support and solidarity with our Christian brethren in Iraq.

The goal is to pair the top councils who have very generously supported the Christian Refugee fund with one of 60 parishes in Iraq. Supreme is hoping and I asked these councils to accept this invitation to partner directly with a parish and have the opportunity to communicate directly with them, build a relationship, and see exactly where their support is going and the impact they are having.

Through the Adopt-a-Parish initiative, councils commit to raising \$2,500 a year for two years for a sister parish in Iraq. During that period, they will have the opportunity to communicate with the pastor of that parish, learn more about the Christian community in Iraq, and receive specialized support from the Supreme Council's Fraternal Mission and Charities Departments.



Interest and support for this initiative have been strong, and we will soon have every Chaldean Catholic Church in Iraq partnered with a Knights of Columbus Council in the United States. Wisconsin Councils have been on the ground floor with this initiative.

Check out Edgerton Council 6508 | Edgerton WI's team fundraising page for Knights of Columbus Charities - <https://donate.kofccharities.org/6508>

Check out Council 7798 Holy Hill's fundraising page for Knights of Columbus Charities - <https://donate.kofccharities.org/HolyHill>

Check out Holy Trinity Council 5397 | Spooner WI's team fundraising page for Knights of Columbus Charities - : <https://donate.kofccharities.org/5397>

Check out St. Stephen the Martyr Council 16821 | Oak Creek WI's team fundraising page for Knights of Columbus Charities - <https://donate.kofccharities.org/16821>

Supreme still have spots open. To learn more, go to:

<https://donate.kofccharities.org/campaign/adopt-a-parish-iraq/c232599>

## One simple act makes a difference...



A Brother Knight, whose wife had been diagnosed with a terminal illness, after nearly 3 years his wife was getting much worse and had asked him to just get a gun and end this. He had always said no, but one Sunday morning when he went to Mass, he felt it was his last mass. He went to communion and took communion to take home for his wife, thinking it will be the last time. She would go to heaven and he would go to Hell.

After communion he was in his pew trying to say good bye, when a Brother Knight who he knew was a member of his council, but not very active member came back from communion and on the way past reached out and gave him a fist bump for no reason what so ever. This little act changed his thoughts and

kept him from doing what he was considering. He decided to go home, and care of his wife as best as he could. Little acts can make a world of difference.

Just think what 38,000 Knights in Wisconsin can do for the 10,000 Special Olympics athletes in Wisconsin. Help us to reach our goal of \$125,000.00 to cover expenses for Team Wisconsin 2022. The USA games are to be held in Orlando, Fl. in June 2022. Please go to your councils and have a donation made to this drive. And do not forget to help your local Special Olympics groups.

There are many ways to make the donations possible, through fund raisers, asking members to donate, from the council charity funds, Special Olympics Polar plunge, Etc. It only takes about \$0.85 cents per member a year to reach our goal, less than a cup of coffee.

Something new this year is the Special Olympics Polar plunge. There will be a place on the signup sheet to indicate an organization. Please put in Wisconsin Knights of Columbus and your council number. Any monies raised thru the pledges you take, will be credited to our Team Wisconsin drive as a donation from your council. I myself will be taking part, even though I will be checking, the "too chicken to jump" box. Our State Officers also have a challenge going to "Toss the Boss".

If you are wondering, yes, this story is about me. My prayers are for all who are going through times in life. *A fist bump to all of you.*

John Benisch  
SOWI State K of C Coordinator



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR LIFE



## FIELD AGENTS OF THE LACROSSE DIOCESE INSURANCE BY BROTHER KNIGHTS FOR BROTHER KNIGHTS



Each member of the Knights of Columbus has a dedicated, professional agent whom they can call on for their insurance needs.

Knights of Columbus agents are brother Knights first and foremost and are charged with looking out for the best interest of our members and their families. These are good, Catholic men, who have taken on a career with the Knights of Columbus as their vocation.

Each agent has approximately 800+ Catholic families assigned to him, and it is his job to look after those families, meeting with them at least once a year.

Our agents are **professionally** trained and **educated** on our products and services. These agents are available to help you with your every need.



**Terry Knutson**  
(715) 425-8074

[TERRY.KNUTSON@KOFC.ORG](mailto:TERRY.KNUTSON@KOFC.ORG)



**Gregory Helgerson**  
(608) 462-3372

[GREGORY.HELGERSON@KOFC.ORG](mailto:GREGORY.HELGERSON@KOFC.ORG)



**John Olig**  
(715) 213-9673

[JOHN.OLIG@KOFC.ORG](mailto:JOHN.OLIG@KOFC.ORG)



**Shawn Fox**  
(651) 324-1209

[SHAWN.FOX@KOFC.ORG](mailto:SHAWN.FOX@KOFC.ORG)



**Steven Books**  
(715) 279-2562

[STEVEN.BOOKS@KOFC.ORG](mailto:STEVEN.BOOKS@KOFC.ORG)



**Ben Brandenburg**  
(608) 480-8484

[BENJAMIN.BRANDENBURG@KOFC.ORG](mailto:BENJAMIN.BRANDENBURG@KOFC.ORG)



**Jason Bourget**  
(715) 937-7039

[JASON.BOURGET@KOFC.ORG](mailto:JASON.BOURGET@KOFC.ORG)



## Faith in Action – Family of the Month

Hello Brother Knights! Thank you again for a **great** August! 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/4747120>. Check it out!



### Supreme



Wisconsin is still in 1<sup>st</sup> place with 39 FOMs, Michigan jumped to 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 37 and Louisiana dropped to 3<sup>rd</sup> place with 36.

55 of the 82 jurisdictions (67%) submitted 434 FOMs, up 1% from July. **Wisconsin submitted 9.0% of them! Well done everyone!**

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

Chad and Jennifer Nelson	Michael Nate	Steve and Sue Taylor
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### 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!

<b>Green Bay</b>	Bryan and Rachel Nowak	<b>La Crosse</b>	Kevin and Sue Breit
<b>Madison</b>	Paul and Mary Quigley	<b>Milwaukee</b>	Leon and Merry Kempen
<b>Superior</b>	Brian and Shannon Webster		

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

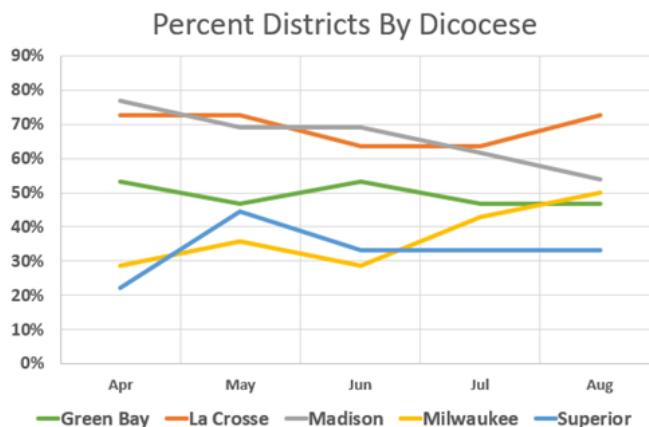
La Crosse extended their 1<sup>st</sup> place lead to 73%. **Great job!**

Madison is in second place but dropped one district giving them about an 8% decline to 54%.

Milwaukee has moved into 3<sup>rd</sup> place with 50%! **Well done!**

Green Bay and Superior stayed the same at 47% and 33% respectively.

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



### District

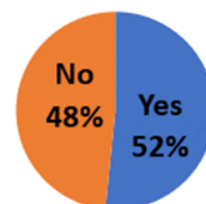
FOMs	District Deputy	Diocese
3	81 - Paul Krenik	Superior
2	2 - Open	Green Bay
2	13 - Wesley Swisher	Green Bay
2	43 - Alirio Pardo	Madison
2	44 Robert Kurczek	Madison
2	46 - Paul Quigley	Madison
2	49 Paul Romanelli	Madison
2	63 - Richard Jacunski	Milwaukee
2	71 - James Nabak	Milwaukee

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

Our district participation increased by one to 32 districts putting us at 51.6% participation. Worthy Brothers. **Can**

**we continue to find at least ONE family in the 12 parishes in each district that deserves to be**

62 Total Districts



*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 **three** new council that submitted a Family of the Month. Welcome to the program!

Father Phillip Gordon Council 6370	Father Gilbert Carlton Council 9360	Fr Joseph Morrissette Council 9685
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We also have a **new milestone to celebrate!** These three new councils helped us reach **100 different councils who have submitted a Family of the Month since July 2017** which means we are at 32.8% of all Wisconsin councils having submitted at least one FOM since then. Awesome!

**We had 39 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

