

# *A Knight's View*

The Newsletter of the Rhode Island State Council  
Knights of Columbus

formed in 1893 as the first State Council

**Serving the Church and Community through Charity, Unity, Fraternity and  
Patriotism since 1893**

January 2021

Volume 4, issue 7

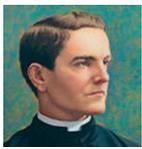
## *Pro-Life Month*

January is usually the month when we are most active on the Pro-Life front. Unfortunately (due to COVID19), many of our efforts are on hold. **HOWEVER**, we still need to remain vigilant as the legislature begins another session. Contact your legislators early & often to make your position known. Please note that the Pro-Life Dinner is cancelled. Maybe your Council can donate directly to RI Right to Life, Mother of Life Center, Little Flower Home, Servants of Christ for Life, or any of the other pro-life groups (including the Ultrasound program of the Knights). The effort can't stop until every heart is changed.

## *National Recognition*

Supreme Warden Mike Benson has forwarded to me a communication from Supreme Secretary Michael O'Connor:

***Our Sunday Visitor***, one of the leading Catholic publications in the United States, has included Blessed Michael McGivney and Supreme Knight Carl Anderson on its list of ***Catholics of the Year for 2020***. Published in the weekly *Our Sunday Visitor* (<https://www.osvnews.com/>) newspaper, the list includes men and women who "Despite unprecedented times...were beacons of light that shone through the darkness —men and women whose witness of faith inspired the Body of Christ." I invite you to read the entry honoring our Founder and our Worthy Supreme Knight, which was written by our Worthy Supreme Chaplain and featured in the December 17, 2020, issue. As this tumultuous year draws to a close, the Knights of Columbus has many reasons to be grateful—and chief among our blessings has been the beatification of our Founder and the past two decades



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of wise leadership rendered by our Worthy Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson, which are both recognized by this well-deserved honor. I know you will join me in congratulating our Worthy Supreme Knight and in continuing to fervently pray for the canonization of our Founder, Blessed Michael McGivney.



Council on this Feast of the Epiphany. This is for on-line enrolment only. Have your candidate enter "McGivney2020" in the appropriate box when registering and their first year dues are courtesy of Supreme.

On-line Exemplifications are offered **On Demand** through the Supreme website (kofc.org) by clicking on "For Members", then "Ceremonials", "Online Exemplification".

## *Message from the State Deputy*

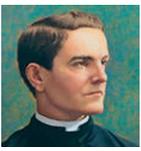
### *Better Days Are Coming*

Brothers,

I hope all of you and your families had a Safe and Blessed Christmas. In many instances there were fewer familiar faces sitting in the living room admiring the tree

## *Membership News*

It has been announced today (January 6<sup>th</sup>) that Supreme has Extended the McGivney2020 program through the end of the Fraternal Year!!! This is a wonderful gift of the Supreme



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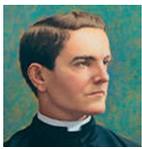
Volume 4, issue 7

and familiar and beloved voices were not heard in the dining room but on a phone or computer screen. As we happily tear off the last page of the 2020 calendar, we pray for 2021 to give back to us some of the normal we miss so much.

Despite all the limitations we must endure to keep everyone safe, we Knights have continued to be active in the community helping to leave no neighbor behind. We passed out over 200 coats to kids in the inner cities of Providence and Woonsocket, loaded up a 20-foot truck full of supplies for our veterans at the Veteran's Home in Bristol. Several councils are still providing food for our neighbors who need it, as well as clothing drives and blood drives. Brother Knights are helping their pastors keep their churches disinfected during this pandemic. One of our Councils offered their hall for vaccinations.

We continue to welcome new brothers into the Order through online membership, and several councils are gaining new members through their community activities. There are Catholic men in the community that see what we are doing and want to help us by becoming brother Knights! Our Virtual Mid-Year Meeting of District Deputies and Program Chairmen is scheduled for January 9<sup>th</sup>, the themes of the meeting are ways to increase council engagement and how to create virtual council events. Council meetings are also changing and there are changes in our Safe Environment Program coming in 2021.

This has been a difficult year, and we all are asking our Lord for a better 2021; but despite all the difficulty and setbacks, we Knights in Rhode Island still to do some great things to help our neighbors and friends get through this pandemic. We should be justly



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proud of all the work we have done; and I hope all our councils will join us to continue our good work into 2021 and until the pandemic is under control.

Father Joe Paquette, I and the State Officers, Membership and Program Chairmen, Master of the Fourth Degree, and the District Deputies want to wish you and your families a Happy and Hopeful New Year!

Blessed Father Michael McGivney, pray for us.

Proud to be your State Deputy,



*Dave Quinn*

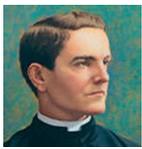
*From the District Master*



I hope everyone had a Blessed and Merry Christmas and wish all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Congratulations to The William J. Adams Assembly #1062 and General Rosecrans Assembly #1058 for receiving the Civic Award for the 2019-2020 Fraternal Year. (This award is presented annually as a tribute to the spirit of Patriotism and National Pride exemplified in activities conducted by Fourth Degree assemblies conducting a minimum of four different Patriotic programs during a fraternal year.)

**REMINDER:** The ANNUAL SURVEY OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITY for assemblies is due January 31.



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With the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, I believe we will be relying on the virtual Fourth Degree ceremonies. At present the District of Maine has been certified to conduct the exemplification in virtual format. VSM Rich McDermott of Bishop Healy Province believes there will be an announcement of a virtual degree early this year. I will notify Navigators as soon as any dates are announced. Vivat Jesus!



*Peter Lentini, PCSD*

District Master

## *Fraternal Benefits*

Brothers, Happy New Year! A year ago we were all so happy to ring in 2020 and shortly after the year

began, we couldn't wait for it to be over. Now it is 2021 and this year will be what you make of it. If you were not able to meet with your Agent last year because of the Pandemic then now is your time. We are able to meet you either in Person or Virtually. Now is a good time to review Life Insurance, Long Term Care, Disability Insurance or Contribute money to your IRA before April to still count for 2020.

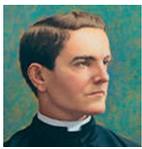
Please call your local agent for no obligation analysis to see if we can put you and your family in a better place now or in the future.

God Bless!

General Agent John Ruffo is available for all your Fraternal Benefits questions. He can be reached at [john.ruffo@kofc.org](mailto:john.ruffo@kofc.org) or by phone at 860-807-3234 (office) or 860-866-8712 (cell)

**Editor's reminder** – Fraternal Benefits include much more than Life Insurance





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## Programming Activities

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

**- Fraternity begets Unity and together lead to an increase of Charity.**

## Events of Note

- **January 1<sup>st</sup>** – Solemnity of Mary
- **January 6<sup>th</sup>** – Feast of the Epiphany (traditional)
- **January 9<sup>th</sup>** – Mid-Year Leadership Meeting (virtual)
- **January 22<sup>nd</sup>** – anniversary (sadly) of Roe versus Wade decision
- **January 22<sup>nd</sup>** – State Meeting to be held virtually

Check the State Website regularly for details and new listings.

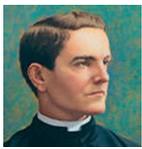
## Milestone Celebration



**Woonsocket Council #113**, whose 125<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary date was January 27, 2020 has once again been forced to postpone its Gala Celebration due to RI COVID19 restrictions. Your humble editor recently joked that we would be celebrating Woonsocket's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in its 126<sup>th</sup> year. And, so, it has come to pass. **The new date for the Gala is April 17, 2021**, a mere 364 days later than originally scheduled 😊 😊. The venue remains unchanged, *St. Ann's Arts & Cultural Center* on Cumberland Street in Woonsocket (just down the road from the Council home @ All Saints Church). It is still hoped that the celebration will begin with a 4pm Mass. With questions, or to participate, contact State Membership Director Jeff Gaulin (event chair) at [jagaulin@verizon.net](mailto:jagaulin@verizon.net) or DD Jack Tracy at [ijklmc.tracy@gmail.com](mailto:ijklmc.tracy@gmail.com).

## State & Local Happenings

Below are just a few of the many activities held by Councils



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around the State. Many of our functions build a spirit of Fraternity.....

.....while doing good works.

## State Charity Raffle



Raffle Tickets are in hand and available and arrangements for distribution can be made by Contacting DD Jack Tracy ([ijklmc.tracy@gmail.com](mailto:ijklmc.tracy@gmail.com)) to order. You may also **text (or voicemail) 401-749-0987**. I am quite flexible with regard to arranging delivery to you and strongly urge you to pre-order if only so we can talk about getting the tickets to you. In these times of curtailed programs this is a good way to supplement your fundraising activities.

Prizes remain at \$1000 for 1<sup>st</sup> prize, \$500 for 2<sup>nd</sup>, and \$250 for 3<sup>rd</sup>. Cost to the Councils is \$1 per book of 6 tickets which you can sell at \$5 per book, realizing a 400% profit to distribute to your Council's chosen charities.

**What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?** (Jas 2:14)

**So also, Faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.** (Jas 2:17)

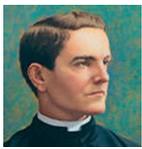
*But someone may well say, "You have Faith and I have works; show me your Faith without the works, and I will show you my Faith by my works".* (Jas 2:18)

## Community Activities



## Operation ROVAC

Our Annual Operation ROVAC effort was a phenomenal success. Organizer Steve Perry (East Providence Grand Knight) rates it the best to date. Given the



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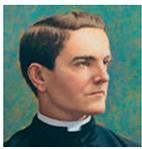
circumstances of the COVID pandemic, this is a fantastic achievement. And it was all captured by a film crew sent by the Supreme Council. Below follows some details from this year's effort:

- \* Largest truck delivery in the 7 year history - in COVID times
- \* Even Santa got in on the action and spent Saturday with us
- \* We had already delivered a carload of donations at Thanksgiving
- \* East Providence Council 1528 was joined by Knights from 28 other Councils and 2 Assemblies state-wide with donations
- \* Mayor Bob DaSilva attended, provided a significant donation, and by going viral on his Facebook page, influenced 6 other East Providence citizens to come by with donations of clothing and toiletries throughout the day
- \* Supreme Knights of Columbus sent a documentary film crew to spend the weekend with us covering the event as it is one of the foremost patriotic (Veteran support) events in the U.S. for the

Knights. E. P. Council volunteers were interviewed and filmed as they went about their duties unloading cars, auditing every delivery to ensure that donations were of new clothing and toiletries, packing and organizing the donations, and finally loading the truck and unloading the delivery at the R.I Veteran's Home

- \* State Deputy David Quinn, State Officers, State Directors, and Steve Perry were interviewed, mic'd up and filmed throughout the two days as part of the documentary process
- \* East Providence Council had to make numerous changes in the structure of the annual event due to COVID safety regulations and the weather and STILL delivered our largest delivery in our 7 year relationship with the Veteran's Home

All who participated deserve the proverbial "pat on the back" for their efforts. And the best part is that this type of Charity is normal for us all.



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The photo above & those below are from the ROVAC Collection event. The truck depicted was eventually filled to capacity.

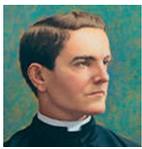


## *Citizenship Essay Contest*

Bristol Council has selected its Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest winners.



(l to r) DD Warren Rensehausen, Fr. Stephen Battey (Asst. Pastor OLMC), 8th grade Essay contest winner Klara Jamro (OLMC) and Principal. Jessica Saglio (OLMC)



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## Life Activities



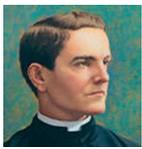
(l to r) Thomas Swift 9th grade essay contest winner (OLMC Confirmation class), DD Warren Rensehausen and Fr. Henry Zinno ( Pastor OLMC)

We must always be vigilant when it comes to Life issues. Never be afraid to engage your local, State and National officials in a dialog of truth. While we should always be respectful and civil in this dialog, we need not fear the truth regarding the sanctity of life.



Jen Oliveira Mancieri ( Bristol Ladies Auxiliary) and Community Chair from Bristol Council Nick Mancieri presenting 7 vases (84) of jackets from Coats for Kids for the BFD Ladies Aux to distribute to Bristol and Warren Families in need

**Blood Drives** have long been a staple of Knights Life programming and continue to be important events during this time. Some tweaking of the logistics has been required due to COVID19, but the need is still there. It is strongly recommended that appointments for donations be made, though the RI Blood Center will allow walk-ins **IF** spacing permits. This is a program we can all get behind, even in these times.



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## Mother of Life Center

The **Ultrasound unit at the Mother of Life Center** is beginning to show its age. It needs repair more often and those are getting difficult as the manufacturer is discontinuing some parts in favor of newer models. Please consider donating, as a Council or individually, toward acquiring a new unit. It has already been confirmed that Supreme will still match funds raised (\$1 for \$1). Your donations may be sent to the State Office at RI State Council Knights of Columbus, 3200 Pawtucket Avenue, East Providence, RI 02915. Mark it to the Attention of State Treasurer Joe Carrigan and memo that it is for Ultrasound.

Editor's Note: Any donation/payment for any function/event/program should always include a notation (preferably on the memo line) as to what it is for so that it can be properly credited. Thank you.

**Please note:** The State **Pro-Life Dinner** has been cancelled due to pandemic concerns. But as noted in my lead article, this should not stop our efforts. Donations may always be made directly to the Pro-Life organizations in the State. cf. the article preceding this notice.

Always remember that the fight to protect life never ends. Whether it is end of life causes, treatment of the living in this world (social justice issues) or treatment of the not yet born.

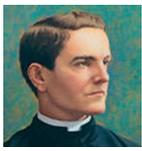
## *Faith Activities*

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not; In all your ways be mindful of him and he will make straight your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)



## *Icon Program*

Just a reminder that we still have an **Icon Prayer Program** in place. The Icon is dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel. Anyone wishing to hold an Icon Prayer Service should contact State Faith Director Ed Misiolek at [ejmisiolek@gmail.com](mailto:ejmisiolek@gmail.com).



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With Masses continuing and adjustments to attendance allowances many of our Councils are continuing to assist our Pastors with logistics, cleaning and other needs. In addition to being the right thing to do this fits in to the **Leave No Neighbor Behind** concept and the general mission of the Order. As our parishes attempt to hold events within the ever-present gathering and distancing guidelines it will be important that we expand our assistance. This blends perfectly with our mission. Let's make sure we are there.

## Seminararian Series



This is a continuing series of profiles of our newest Seminararians. Inasmuch as we fervently support our Priests & Seminararians, I thought it fitting to do a series spotlighting

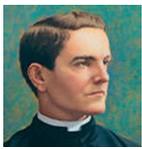
them. I thank Fr. Murphy for his assistance in compiling this information.

**Michael Santos** (Providence College) – 24 years old

- Diocese of Providence (Holy Ghost – Tiverton)
- He attended Franciscan University of Steubenville, where he graduated in 2019 with a degree in Philosophy. While at Franciscan, he participated in the Priestly Discernment Program. After graduation he moved back to Rhode Island and began graduate studies at Providence College for a Masters in Higher Education.

**Jairon Olmos** (City College of New York/virtual – English Language Studies) – 28 years old

- Diocese of Providence (St. Patrick – Providence)
- Jairon was born and raised in the Dominican in the city of Bayguana. He was in formation



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with the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, having professed simple vows. He spent his novitiate years in Brazil, and then finished his BA in Philosophy, followed by a year and a half worth of classes in Theology in the Dominican Republic. Jairon recently discerned that God was calling him to diocesan priesthood. Thanks to a strong connection with St. Patrick's Parish in Providence, Jairon applied for the Diocese this past Spring and was accepted by Bishop Tobin.

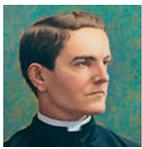
Woonsocket, arrangements were made through Woonsocket Council's and its "co-tenant" *New Beginnings* program. The *New Beginnings* director, Jeanne Michon, is a board member @ the *Boys & Girls Club* which this year filled a void left by *Adopt-A-Family* choosing to step back due to COVID concerns.

## *Family Activities*

### *Coats for Kids*

As noted in the State Deputy's message, the State Council arranged coat donations to the Providence & Woonsocket communities. Donations in Providence were through St. Patrick's & St. Michael's schools. In





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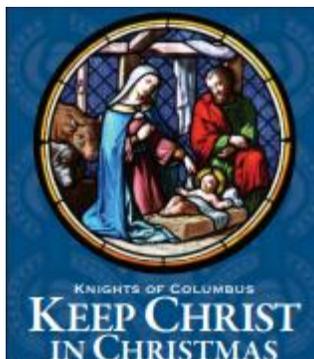
Councils participating in the *Keep Christ in Christmas* poster contest are reminded that the State Council's winners will be selected after the January State Meeting (22<sup>nd</sup>). Please have your Council's winners submitted to DD Warren Rensehausen prior to that time.

Other Councils conducting some type of coat donation program included Bristol Council (see photo above in Community Activities), Frehill Council, St. Eugene's Council, and Lincoln Council. There are likely others, these are the ones of which I have direct knowledge.

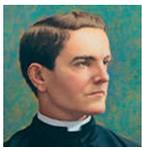
## *Toy Drives*

As many of you know, one of Woonsocket Council's signature efforts is its *Annual Toy Drive in Memory of Ron Auger*, but it is far from the only toy collection drive in the State. Amongst others, East Providence and Dillon Councils collect toys to be distributed for Christmas. Below find photos from each.

## *Keep Christ in Christmas*



Woonsocket Toys collected



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Dillon Council Toys for Tots collection

## *Consecration to the Holy Family*

The Feast of the Holy Family may have passed on the Liturgical Calendar, but it is not too late to dedicate (or re-dedicate) your Council (and parishes) to the Holy Family through the *Consecration to the Holy Family* prayer program.

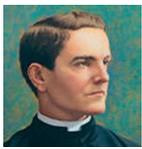
## *Family of the Month*



East Providence toy collection



Father John Abreu, Pastor of St, Thomas Church in Warren, and Bristol Council's Family of the Month for October, Odlatino Moniz.



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Mario Ruel (l) with PGK Rich Riel at Woonsocket's Toy Drive – demonstrating why Mario received December Family of the Month

*Regardless, we must be informed to properly Honor the Dead.*

## State Meeting

The next State Meeting will be held on **Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>** at **7:30 pm** via Goto Meeting.

## In Memoriam

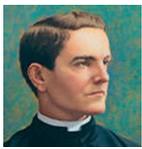
[ed. note: due to the pandemic there will undoubtedly be more Memorial Services for those who passed during restrictions. I will gladly continue this listing so long as I am informed]

## A Note of Fraternal Concern

Brothers, while we are making progress, our membership is still older. Implicit in that is the fact that we have many older members with medical issues. These Brothers often are unable to regularly attend meetings and functions. This can lead to Councils losing track of them and, unfortunately, should they pass away, we fail to recognize their significance and membership in our Order. I am asking that the word be spread among your membership and families to be vigilant to the passing of a Council member or Council family member and relay the information to the Grand Knight

## Prayers Requested

Many of us know people who have contracted the Corona Virus (COVID-19). Please pray for them, their caregivers, and families. Below find a prayer for protection distributed by Supreme:



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O Mary, you always brighten our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain while remaining steadfast in faith. O loving Mother, you know what we need, and we are confident you will provide for us as at Cana in Galilee. Intercede for us with your Son Jesus, the Divine Physician, for those who have fallen ill, for those who are vulnerable, and for those who have died. Intercede also for those charged with protecting the health and safety of others and for those who are tending to the sick and seeking a cure. Help us, O Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who took upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows, so as to lead us, through the Cross, to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen. Under thy protection we seek refuge, O Holy Mother of God. In our needs, despise not our petitions, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.



Please pray for the repose of:

Rev. Archdeacon George Yany (Sullivan Council)

FDD Moe Bosse

Matthew J. Piatek (Blessing Council),

Robert Martin, Sr. (Charter member of St. Philip Council),

David Duhaime (brother of PGK Michael Duhaime, St. Philip Council),

Georgie Swartz (grandson of VSM Richard McDermott),

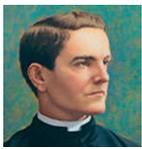
Orlando Giusanti (Hope & Scalabrini Councils)

Scott Salois (Delaney-St. Teresa)

Richard Houle, Sr. (Blessing Council)

James Burns (father-in-law of Kevin Pierce of St. Philips)

And God's comfort to their families



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Please keep FDD Ron Trottier in your prayers as he recovers from surgery.

Also GK Bob Balmforth, St. Philips and

FS Walter Sebastianelli, St. Philips

Ongoing prayers are also requested for Bishop Louis Gelineau, Fr. Dennis Reardon, Fr. Robert Bailey, Ron Portella (Hickey Council), , FDD Bob Moniz, Ron Andrade (E.P. Council), Phoebe Andrade (mother of Ron), Pauline Neri, Moses Segbe, FDD Charlie Fleurant, Mike DeAngelis (Former Faith Director). Roland Falcioni (a cousin of DD Jack Tracy), Armand Dufresne (Woonsocket Council). PGK Daniel Danis (Blessing Council), Kristen Jarret, FVSM Michael Donnelly, GK Joseph Bedard (Pascoag Council), Phil Shea Jr., Patricia Moran (grandmother of State Warden PJ Shea), Gerry and Pat Desmarais (St. Eugene Council), Barry Chevrette (Pascoag Council), Matt Parent, Nancy Forest (wife of PGK Richard Forest), Pat Logan (wife of PGK Greg Logan), PSD/FVSM Sav Giusti, PFN Rick Regan, Roger Depot, Executive Secretary Mike Krzywonos, PGK/PFN Ernie Pennine, PGK/PFN Walter Jalbert, PGK/PFN

Stanley Eason (Woon. Council/ Moylan Assembly), GK Jerry Marra, Ellen Charpentier (Wife of PSD/FM Normand Charpentier), Bob Jackson (St. Francis Council), Mike Magill, DD Alan Lamake, David Riendeau (John Paul II Council), FDD Dave Lucas, and FDD George Plante as they each deal with various health concerns.

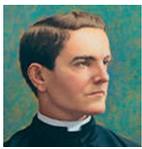
I am sure I am missing others, and for that I apologize. Please feel free to add them to this list of those we pray for and remember.

(to have someone mentioned or if someone wishes to be removed from the list, please contact me at [rikofcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rikofcnewsletter@gmail.com). You can also ask the state to add to them to the prayer list on the website as I check that regularly)

## *Fraternal Training and Communication*

### *Training*

There are many training opportunities throughout the year (see the Supreme Website), they are open to any Brother Knight who may be



# A Knight's View

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interested. You can register from the Home Page of the Supreme website([www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org)): go to Members, Resources & then the Fraternal Training tab. You must register to participate, but once registered, you do not have to view it live. Rather, you can view it later at a time of your convenience.

Additionally, the State Council has a Training Officer available to assist with any topic. PSD/FM Steve Ciolfi is here to help. You can reach him at [stevec618@aol.com](mailto:stevec618@aol.com).

Reminder: I include as much as possible in this newsletter. But I need your help by sending me information & photos from your events.

News items for the newsletter can be sent to me at [rikofcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rikofcnewsletter@gmail.com), through your DD, who will forward it to me, or the various program Directors.

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Supreme Website – [kofc.org](http://kofc.org)

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19

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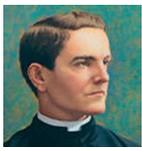
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*Vivat Jesus!*

