

Kentucky State Council Newsletter





CHILI COOK OFF

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Continued on Page 5

IN THIS ISSUE

- 02 NEWS
- 08 MONTHLY UPDATES
- 42 HISTORY
- 44 LOCAL EVENTS
- 46 CALENDAR





FISHIN' IN PARADISE

Imagine driving through some of the most scenic countryside in Kentucky and arriving in paradise, at the beautiful and tranquil home of "Adventure Camp," in Shepherdsville, KY., whose objective is "TO ASSIST CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS TO DEVELOP SOCIAL, PERSONAL, AND SELF-CONCEPT SKILLS THAT HELP THEM TO ACHIEVE GREATER SELF SUFFICIENCY AND LIFE SKILLS." Activities include pontoon boats, canoes, crafts, shooting sports, crafts, silent disco, hiking and, 'fishin,' consisting mainly of spinning tall tales, and occasionally hooking an unwary fish. Pictured L to R, September 8, 2025, Brother Knights, Dennis, Bud and Bill, who belong to St. Edward the Confessor Council 15841. In addition, Parishioner John Ulmer, has donated his generous and spirited time, talent, and treasure to the program for over 25 years. If interested in volunteering at Adventure Camp, please contact John by email: plasticjtu@aol.com

Link 2 Weeks Program

More info: http://www.lhcbsa.org/adventure-camp

Brian Gregory

Program Director



COATS FOR KIDS

On October 31st, 2025, Council 7847, from Hopkinsville, presented coats for kids to three different organizations. We presented coats to Sts Peter and Paul Thrift store, Joy Closet, which manages foster kids/families, and Sanctuary Inc, which is a domestic violence shelter. We still have coats that we will use for this year's angel tree at Sts Peter and Paul Parish.

Bruce Wilcox

Grand Knight





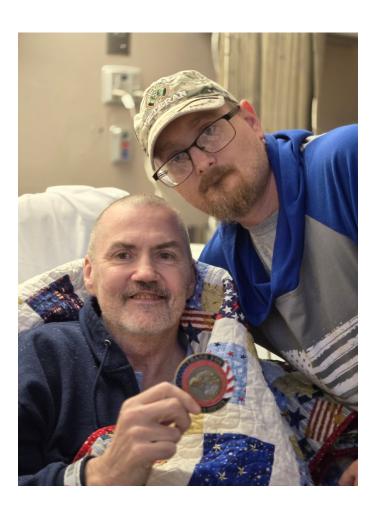


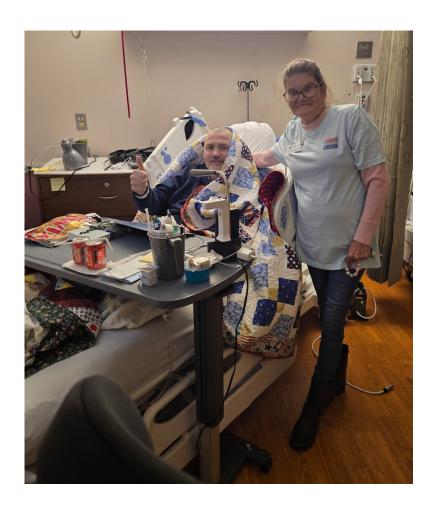
QUILT OF VALOR

On October 27th, Brother Josef Baumann and his wife, Theresa, visited Brother Thomas Nowakowski, both of Council 7847, who has been hospitalized for some time now in Nashville due to a rare disease. Brother Thomas is confined to a hospital bed or wheelchair. The Baumann's visit him almost weekly. On this particular day, the Baumann's were privileged to present him with several items of new clothing. They were also honored to award him a Quilt of Valor thanking him for his service in the Air Force. Additionally, as a military veteran, they also presented him with a St. Michael the Archangel medallion on behalf of Assembly 2753.

Bruce Wilcox

Grand Knight





CHILI COOK OFF

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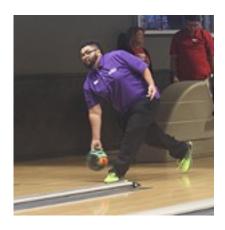
David Allard Faithful Navigator



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

State Bowling Tournament Provides Year's Final Volunteer Opportunity

The State Bowling Tournament is coming up Dec. 6-7 -in Louisville. It is the largest individual sports event of the Special Olympics Year. With multiple bowling sessions at two locations, hundreds of volunteers are needed to make sure the event operates smoothly. It also provides one of the most enjoyable volunteer experiences that the program has to offer. To register, visit soky.org/volunteernow. If your Council wants to volunteer as a group, contact Michaele at mroy@soky.org or 502-695-8222.



Holiday Gift Card Raffle is Can Provide Holiday Boost!

Each year Special Olympics Kentucky gives away a huge gift card package just in time for the Holidays. This year's package includes \$4,900 in gift cards to some of the Holiday

Season's most popular restaurants, retailers and more. We draw the winner on Dec. 12, so you could have them all before Christmas! Tickets are just \$10 each and all the money raised supports Kentucky athletes. For more information or to buy tickets, visit sokyraffle.com



Don't Forget to Report Volunteer Hours

If you have volunteered at any Special Olympics event including fundraising events like Polar Plunges, Truck Pulls and golf outings, don't forget to report your hours to supreme. Every

SPECIAL OLYMPICS CONT.

hour you report is figured into the check that Supreme sends to Kentucky to present in May. For more information, contact Mark Buerger at mbuerger@soky.org or 859-338-6075.

Schedule Set for 2026 Polar Plunges

The schedule is now set for the Coolest Fundraiser in Kentucky – the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Kentucky. Several Councils across Kentucky have participated in the Polar Plunge over the years. In 2023 Councils raised almost \$10,000 for Special Olympics Kentucky in Plunges in Lexington, Louisville and Lake Cumberland. With five Polar Plunges across the state, there is one within a reasonable drive from your Council. For more information or to sign up, visit the site for the Plunge nearest you.

<u>January 31 – Cincinnati at The Banks (There is an opportunity to raise money for Special Olympics Kentucky)</u>

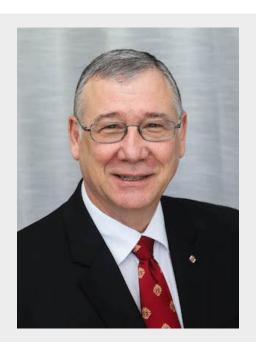
<u>February 8 – Lexington at Texas Roadhouse on Richmond Rd.</u>

February 22 - Louisville at Main Event

March 1 - Western Kentucky at Kentucky Dam Village



STATE DEPUTY LUKE WILLIAMS



Brother Knights,

November is a time of thanksgiving. We started the month with All Saints Day in which we commemorated all those saintly people that came before us. All Souls Day was next as we recognized all of those that have paved the road to Heaven for us. It is fitting that we will give thanks on Thanksgiving Day. Then, we begin the new Liturgical year on November 30th with Advent which is the season of reflective preparation for Christ's Nativity at Christmas. With all this stated, we should be thankful for all the blessings that God has bestowed upon us. For our families, for our health, for our friends and most importantly for our lives. He has given us his love and the blueprint for salvation.

How are we doing?

Since we are getting close to the halfway point of our Fraternal year, let' see how we are doing this fraternal year.

We currently have 54 of our 99 Councils that have recruited at least one new member. 16 Councils have qualified for the McGivney Award which is given to those councils that reach their membership goal for the fraternal year. We have 8 councils that have already qualified for the Founders Award which is given for achievement of the Fraternal Benefits Event and council FBN attendee goal. We started slowly but we now have 18 of our councils supporting COR prayer groups across the Commonwealth.

Are you running effective programs? Many councils are running programs that will qualify them for the Columbian Award. Many councils are well on their way to meet the requirements. We have 30 councils that are "Safe Environment Training" (SET) compliant



WILLIAMS CONT.

because the Grand Knight, Program Director, Community Director, and Family Director have completed their training and background check requirements.

All of these are signs of a council's health. If we are not active in our parish, family, and community, then we cannot be effective in our pathway to take Jesus to the people and places that need him the most. It is our mission as Knights to bring charity, unity, and fraternity for those that need something special in their lives. I know that every one of you can bring these qualities to your corner of our commonwealth and I hope that you will share those gifts with others.

Congratulations to Sebree Council#7831 in Sebree and St. Mildred Counil #14128 in Somerset who are on the final list and have qualified to receive money for their membership status as of October 31, 2025 in the Fishers of Men for Southeast Territory incentive from the Supreme Council. We also had 20 councils across the state that participated in the Kentucky State Council Buy One Get One (BOGO) opportunity for this year. Because of this, there will be 242 cases of coats that will be distributed by KY Councils this year. That is almost 3000 new coats!

On the second Saturday in December, the Kentucky State Council Officers, a large contingent of Kentucky District Deputies, many State Council Service and Program Directors and Chairman, a good showing of Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries and many others, will be coming together for the 2025 Midyear Meeting which is being held at the Christ the King Parish Center in Madisonville. I look forward to seeing and working with those that will be attending the State Council Midyear Meeting December 12th and 13th in Madisonville, KY. The Faith, Family, Community and Life Activities results for all Kentucky Councils will be reviewed with the District Deputies and the midyear meeting attendees along with valuable training with the opportunity for questions and responses for anything Knights of Columbus related.

As the seasons change, I ask that all Kentucky Knights of Columbus come together and continue working on the 4 points of this Fraternal Year's Strategic Plan.

- 1. Make Succession Planning for our leadership a regular order of business for the State and Local Councils. (**Training**)
- 2. Achieve Membership Growth Goals set for State and Local Councils. (Ask every Catholic man in Kentucky to join us)

WILLIAMS CONT.

- 3. Ensure at least 25 Local Councils achieve Star Council Status before June 30, 2026. (**Be Active**)
- 4. Increase COR awareness in Parishes throughout Kentucky. (Pray with your Brothers)

FY 2025-2026 Upcoming Important Dates for your Council Calendar

*December 12-13, 2025 Midyear Meeting – Madisonville, KY C#11132 Hosting

*January, 2026 Councils order Parish Outreach Church Drive

materials for March

*January, 2026 District Meetings with DD and other GK's in District

*February 15, 2026 Awards/State Per Capita/State Convention Stuff

*March, 2026 Councils have Parish Outreach Church Drive

*March 11, 2026 Kentucky March for Life – Frankfort-State Capital

*March 15, 2026 Candidate and Council Resolutions turn into State

Advocate Deadline

*March 15, 2026 State/Faith In Action Award Submissions due to

Program Director

*March 21, 2026 State Officer Faith In Action Awards Meeting - Zoom

*March 29, 2026 Palm Sunday/Founders Day

*April 5, 2026 Easter Sunday

*April 18, 2026 4th Degree Exemplification – Bardstown

*April 24-26, 2026 123rd Annual Knights of Columbus - KY State

Convention – TBD

*June 6, 2026 4th Degree Exemplification – Louisville

<u>Please note</u> – The Kentucky March for Life date is later than usual in 2026, but it needs to be announced starting now so all Knights of Columbus have on their calendars to attend if possible. March 11, 2026 in Frankfort.

<u>State Deputy Notes</u> – Why do some councils excel and others struggle? I believe every man that accepts a leadership position does so wanting to be successful. Leaders don't want to fail. Granted some leaders are stronger than others but at some point in time all leaders need help from those around them. That's the beauty of the Knights of Columbus.

We don't have to start from ground zero or try to reinvent the wheel. We have leaders that have gone before us, Leaders that can help us in our time of need. If your council is struggling and you need help please contact any of your State Officers, your District Deputy or a past Council Officer. Help is just a call away.



WILLIAMS CONT.

We want to see all of our councils be successful and we stand ready to do whatever we can to help you and your council be successful, but you have to make the call.

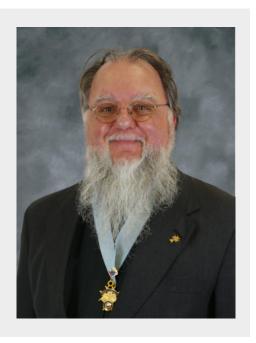
Virtually every council has holiday events for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and these events don't happen on their own. They take planning and work from our members, their wives and typically the churches they serve. What a great way to serve the church, community, and youth around us while getting our entire family involved!

As the seasons change, we should look at ourselves to see what changes we can make to improve our lives or those around us. Begin by looking into your councils' activities.

Finally, in the spirit of thanksgiving, I want to thank each one of you for everything that you do and for the opportunity that you have given me to serve all as the Kentucky State Deputy.

Vivat Jesus, Luke Williams KY State Deputy

STATE CHAPLAIN FR. JOHN LIST



"The souls of the just are in the hands of God, and no torment shall touch them." Wisdom 3:1 (From the Mass for the Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed)

It seems an inevitable pattern: funerals come in threes. But two sets of three, and another to boot? First, three of my brother priests lost members of their immediate, earthly family: Fr. Anthony McLaughlin's brother died suddenly and so young (I will offer Mass for him tomorrow); Fr. David Wheeler's father passed quickly but peacefully; and Fr. George Mani's mother passed with a full complement of years but across the world. I was asked to preside at the funeral of one our brother Knights, Chuck Meade, at St. Peter's, and within a few days at the funeral of one of my parishioners at St. William. A funeral for one to be buried in St. Sylvester's cemetery had been scheduled for a month later (her cremains were to be brought by her family from Florida), but in the meantime another sudden loss of a brother Knight and a permanent deacon with whom I had the pleasure of ministering over the years, Larry Durbin. Although this experience of the cycle of life and death is reflected in the changing of the seasons, and my faith sheds light beyond the appearance of finality, sometimes Lord, it weighs heavy.

But I came across a reflection by Dorothy Day that provided some consolation. Perhaps, if the gloom of shorter days and experience of the fragility of life, whether in the context of mortality or social/economic instability, should feel heavy on your shoulders these days, these thoughts may strengthen you:

"Christ took on our humanity so that we could put on His divinity. He showed us the way and we are a lifetime learning it. The philosopher Unamuno writes in The Tragic Sense of Life that all [people] are haunted by the thought of death, no matter how hard they try to push it out



LIST CONT.

of their consciousness. During this very season of October and November we see all things dying around us; there is a chill in the air and a sadness in the wind in the trees outside the window. Just to see the sudden rain of leaves in a gust of wind, to hear the sound of their dry rustle along the pavement, is a part of sadness. But the season is also crowned with glory, with promise, with a flaming assertion of God's promise. St. Paul expresses this faith, this mystery;

This corruptible body must put on incorruption, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

But when this mortal body puys on immortality, then shall come to pass the word that is written, 'Death is swallowed up in victory!

O Death, where is your victory?

O Death, where is your sting!'"

(An excerpt from "On Pilgrimage, published in The Catholic Worker, October-November

The liturgical calendar at this time of the year moves toward its conclusion and, at the same time, looks to the end-times, the Parousia, the Second Coming, a time of judgement for the world and fulfillment of promises for God's faithful people. "O when the saints come marchin' in... I want to be in that number!" Let us be humble before God, let us be hopeful in Christ, let us be attentive in the Spirit.

Vivat Jesus! Fr. John List State Chaplain

1966 issue.)

IMMEDIATE PAST STATE DEPUTY TOM JOHNSON



Upcoming Mid-Year Meeting:

This year's December Mid-Year meeting is being held in Madisonville, KY. This will be a one-day event. The date of the meeting is December 13th. You should have received your meeting packet from our Worthy Executive Secretary Mike Rinehart. If you haven't seen his email, please contact Mike or any State Officer.

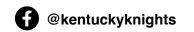
Member recruitment is SOARING!

Catholic men are joining the KY Knights of Columbus in record numbers. We have seen record numbers in the first quarter and the second quarter's off to an impressive start. WGKs, many of you have online members just waiting to be Exemplified and join your councils. What are you waiting for?

Are You or Your Council Struggling?

If your council is struggling and you need help, please contact any of your State Officers, your District Deputy or a past Council Officer. Help is just a call away...but you have to make the call.

Councils are growing in "Spirit" and in numbers. If your council is not, maybe it's time for you to think outside the box.



JOHNSON CONT.

We are now four 4 months into the fraternal year and yet there are still councils that have not completed their forms 185, 365 and/or 1295. Only about a third of our councils are Safe Environment Compliant...WHY?

If your council is one that has not completed the forms 185, 365 & 1295 or is not SET compliant, let's get it done this month and get that monkey off your back.

Reflections:

During this month of November let us not forget the Souls in Purgatory. Our prayers are what releases them from the bonds of Purgatory and sends them on to Heaven to be with God our Heavenly Father.

By the time you read this newsletter, All Saints and All Souls days will have passed. November 9th will mark the 4-year anniversary of the passing of Past State Deputy and Former Supreme Warden Michael Peak. Mike died on November 9th, 2021. May his soul and the souls of all the faithfully departed rest in the Peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We should turn our focus this month to slowing down a bit. The fall leaves will have gone, the days have gotten shorter, the nights longer and the temperatures cooler. A spirit of closeness and family begin to fill our hearts. Thanksgiving is just weeks away and the Advent Season will be here before you know it.

Let us thank God for all that He has given us and done for us. Pray that He may continue to bless our families and watch over His people and pray that He may continue to bless the United States of America.

JOHNSON CONT.

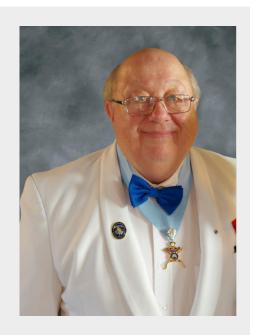
Do you feel God is calling you to serve Him in a greater capacity? If so, you might consider becoming a DD or running for a State Office. Please talk to a current DD or State Officer. God is showing us the way. We just need to follow His path and do His work of bringing men and their families back into the Catholic Faith.

God is Good! All the Time!

Vivat Jesus, Tom Johnson Immediate Past State Deputy



STATE SECRETARY DICK BURNS



Brothers Knights,

Momento Mori

Starting with All Saints Day and All Souls Day, November is a time when we remember our dear departed ones. I hope each council holds a day of remembrance for our lost Brothers.

The Order lost a good leader in Former District Deputy SK Charles "Chuck" Meade. Chuck was a member of St. Peter Council 18058 and Bluegrass Assembly 310 in Lexington. He was a Past Grand Knight and Faithful Navigator, and the father of Former District Deputy SK Fred Meade.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord And let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

https://www.milwardfuneral.com/obituaries/Charles-Chuck-Meade?obId=45404393



BURNS CONT.

Congratulations - Anniversaries!

Owensboro Council 817 celebrates its 120th anniversary on 11/22!

- Fr. Kehoe Council 1764 in Ludlow celebrated its 110th anniversary on 10/11!
- Msgr. O'Sullivan Council 2046 in Whitesville celebrates its 105th anniversary on 11/30!
- Holy Innocents Council 12562 in Louisville celebrates its 25th anniversary on 11/30!
- Bishop Maes Holy Cross Council 17445 in Covington celebrates its 5th anniversary on 11/10!

The hard work of the many members, past and present, results in the longevity of these councils. It'll require the same effort to keep them going. We have councils in the state that are floundering. The main cause is usually the lack of leadership caused by the lack of recruiting new members.

Recruit! and Retain! (or else...)

New member growth continues to be strong, this fraternal year! Keep up the good work.

3 of our District Deputies have already met their District Quotas for the year, DD6 Tom, O'Hagan, DD17 Sandy Berenberg, and DD18 PSD Tom Johnson.

14 Councils have already met their Quota:

- · Fr. Saffer Council 6897 Murray
- Sebree Council 7831
- Msgr. Willett Council 7847 Hopkinsville
- St. Luke Council 10263 Nicholasville
- Fr. Kapaun Council 12965 Oak Grove
- St. Mildred Council 14128 Somerset (320%!)
- Blessed Trinity Council 15181 Dawson Springs
- Holy Spirit Council 15452 Lexington





BURNS CONT.

- · San Pablo Council 15707 Lexington
- St. Edward the Confessor Council 15841 Louisville
- · Fr. Sampson Council 15914 Ft. Campbell
- St. Margaret Mary Council 15979 Louisville
- Fr. Badin Council 18126 Shelbyville
- St. Michael the Archangel Council 18284 Ft. Mitchell

6 Councils have earned the Founders awards.

We're well on our way to matching last year's great Star Council performance!

On the flip side 45 Councils have yet to report a new member. Let me give a recommendation for the new Parish Outreach Drive (POD) format. My council, which counts mostly on one on one recruiting and struggles to make our Quota every year, recruited 2 Stars worth of new members in one weekend using the POD. Ask your District Deputy about it.

Be Fishers of Men! Ask them, they will join. If you don't ask them, they won't join. At the Supreme Convention, we were told there are 7 million Catholic men in the US who aren't Knights simply because no one has ever invited them to join

If each Knight asks 4 men a year to join the Order, and only one of them says yes, you'll still double the size of your council. If you don't ask, you don't grow!

Coats for Kids

20 Councils took advantage of the Supreme BOGO program and purchased 242 cases of coats. Thanks to the Program Director Joe Carter for chairing the program. It's a lot of work, especially when some of the coats don't get delivered (long story, but some of the coats that should have been delivered to our drop point in Richmond but got delivered to a Grand Knight in Wisconsin who gladly distributed them without looking at the label... we got s new order eventually). The whole program is such a success that Supreme had to limit some states on the number of cases they would match. Thanks to Joe's early submittal of our order, we were able to get all or our cases BOGO'd. I'm sure that there were and will be





BURNS CONT.

other councils who participate in this Faith in Action Program. It's a great way to impact our communities and fill in our SP-7's.

Coming Up

The Mid-year Meeting is going to be held December 13th, hosted by Fr. Glahn Council 11132 in Madisonville. We hope to see you there as you can get an update on how the State is doing, what's new from Supreme, and how to keep your council moving toward the Star Council Award the rest of the year.

Vivat Jesus!

Dick Burns
State Secretary
State New Council Director
State Round Table Director



STATE TREASURER GARY DYKHUIS



Worthy Brothers,

Happy Veterans Day and Thanksgiving!

Another Great Month Recruiting Year so far, 209 new Brother Knights. A Great Accomplishment for this fraternal year. Keep going, the race is still going, is your council meeting your Goal? Is your Council going to be a Star council?

It is time to give thanksgiving. It is also the month for All Saints Day that we pray for the saintly people that came before us. All Souls Day is the next day, please pray for the Souls in Purgatory that will get into heaven.

As you gather with your family on Thanksgiving Day, and give thanks, remember those how cannot enjoy a feast. November 1621 was the first Thanksgiving, after the first corn harvest success. It was Governor William Bradford that organized the first celebratory feast the with the colony's fledging Native American allies.

November 10th is the 250th birthday of the Marine Corps, please wish each current and past Marines a Happy Birthday.

November 11th, on the 11th month, the 11th Day, and the 11th hours the guns went silent. Currently it is Veterans Day, a time to thank the current and Veterans for their service.

A Great time was Saturday October 11th is the 12th Anniversary of the Bluegrass on Beshear: Pic 'in Life in Dawson Springs.

October is the month to pray the Rosary every day, were able to pray the rosary?





DYKHUIS CONT.

How is **COR** doing in your parish? This is a Great way to involve your fellow Catholic Men in your Parish.

Remember that for all your hard work you did this month, please have someone in your council file a **Fraternal Programs Report form #10784**.

State mid-Year Meeting!

We are five weeks to the Mid-Year Meeting in Madisonville, December 12-13, 2025. A a lot information for District Deputies, Grand Knights, and Financial Secretaries. Our State Deputy Luke Williams will have the New and Great Information from the Mid-Year Meeting with Supreme.

Recruit and Retain

This is the Fifth month of the Fraternal Year, let's keep up the momentum, keep asking that new parish member to join us. Have you held an Exemplification? Your council needs to hold one every month. Hand the prospective iPhone, and use "Join KofC" and Promo Code **BLESSEDMCGIVNEY**. Have you asked that young man, who is a new High School Senior, or a College Student to consider becoming a Knight. Have your Parish to be a part of the in the Exemplification. These New Third-Degree member, with some Great New Ideas and can help with our projects the Council has. Please welcome former members to come back to the order. Ask any Affiliate Member to come back.

Council Officers

Has your address changed? Please let the Executive Secretary Mike Rinehart (<u>miketheresa@gmail.com</u>) know your changes, for the state Directory.

If your council is struggling and is in the need for help, please contact any of the state officers, your District Deputy. We are just a phone call away, but you need to ask.

Thanks for the District Deputies and District Wardens.

May you have a Blessed Year!
Father McGivney, Pray for Us,
Have a Blessed Day!
Gary Dykhuis
State Treasurer





STATE ADVOCATE MIKE KUCHENBROD



Worthy Brothers,

Normally I would be encouraging you to get out and vote, but this is an off year so no election day for us – at least for State or National votes. Seeing the recent elections across the country does highlight the need for voters to be informed about their candidates. We need to know them well and follow not just what they say to one group but their campaign. Be informed before you vote, know the issues but also know what the office powers and responsibilities allow the official to control. Next year will be an important voting year, encourage good people to run for office and support those in the primaries that carry our values as Christians.

We have 6 councils shown as not submitting their form 185, this will result in those Grand Knights not having access to the KofC portal and no way for Supreme or our State council from knowing who the officers are for that council. Send those forms in, or fill them out online as soon as elections are complete. You can set the new officer slate as taking effect July 1st in the KofC portal so submitting does not interfere with the current officer access.

For those who have turned in their Form 365 (Service Program Personnel Report), Thank You. Please watch for the invitation from Praesidium Academy to meet the Safe Environment Training for those who need to complete this training. If you have completed this training in the last 2 years, the training is good for three years. Reports as of today still show 30 councils not submitting their 365 successfully. This is an improvement from last year, but we can do better. This status can result from either not submitting at all, or not filling in one of the required positions. These could be Youth Protection required Directors or your Membership Director as that position also needs to be filled for the 365 to be complete. Please review your status and add those missing position assignments.



KUCHENBROD CONT.

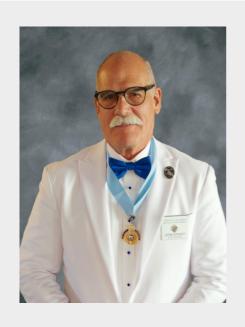
We need to achieve our "Safe Environment Training" goals. This means, Grand Knight, Program Director, Family Director, and Community Director need to complete the training. If you have completed this training in the last three years, you are good to go. It is on line training and takes about an hour to complete. The Councils that sponsor youth events like Free Throw Competitions, Soccer Challenge, Keep Christ in Christmas Poster, eta. "Safe Environment Training" (SET) is a must. You must have at least two SET Knights at these events (one must have a background check). If you cannot meet this requirement, you should not conduct this event. The same requirement is for youth helping you in your events (Fish fries, pancake breakfast, chicken cooks).

If you need assistance with Praesidium training you can contact me for assistance.

Recruit and Retain We have eight more months to recruit New Members and Families in our Kentucky Knights of Columbus order. This is a Gift that needs to be offered to each Catholic man and his Family. There still is FREE MEMBERSHIP. for a New Member and he can join on his iPhone, cell phone by going to www.KofC.Org. The new Promo Code BLESSEDMCGIVNEY. The new Young Members and Families have the Best Ideas and know some of best practices.

Vivat Jesus, Mike Kuchenbrod State Advocate

STATE WARDEN JOHN STAUDT



Worthy Brothers,

November is here and fall is upon us. Fall was originally referred to as "Harvest". It was a time of the year when farmers would harvest their crops and prepare them for winter storage. Later the season was changed to, "Fall", in reference to the leaves falling off the trees. Similar to the reference of, "Harvest", we gather our thoughts and prepare ourselves for the birth of Christ this winter, as we should throughout the year. This is the month for Thanksgiving and the start of Advent with Christmas and the New Year's holidays, and of course, visits with family and friends. It is a time of preparation for yourselves and family. It becomes the busiest time of the year, but don't forget about what the holidays are all about; faith, family, community and helping one another.

In the October issue of the Columbia magazine, the issue highlights the 143rd Supreme Convention in Washington, D.C. and contains the 2025 Annual Report of the Supreme Knight, Patrick Kelly. He highlights his meeting with both Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIV and the good works the Knights of Columbus do all over world. A transcript of Pope Leo's message is also featured in, "The Source of Our Hope". If you haven't watched his message on the Supreme website, you can read it in this issue. On the cover is restored chair of St. Peter monument and baldacchino in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy. I had the opportunity to visit the Basilica in September and see the restoration of both. What a sight! The picture doesn't do it justice, you have to be there to see its magnificence.

I attended, "Bluegrass on Beshear", on October 11th in Dawson Springs, KY. The concert was great and so was the fellowship. Seeing so many people attending in support of life from conception to natural death was also great! Eleven Councils and one Assembly, with



STAUDT CONT.

their wives and families, helped to coordinate and work the concert. Their efforts raised close to \$60,000 and will benefit area pregnancy resource and help centers. Thank you to all involved in putting on the concert.

Our 2025 Football Frenzy first three week winner lists have been posted. Congratulations to those who have won thus far. As of this writing there are five more weeks remaining. If you haven't won, there is still hope you may. The funds from the sales of the tickets go to the General Fund. This fund is for people in need through grant requests and takes care of the administrative costs associated with running the State Charity, such as mailings and supplies. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or email me. If your council sold 25 or more tickets, your council earns 25 points towards the State Deputy Award. This year 73 of 98 councils participated in the sales for a total of 2409 tickets sold with 6 of those sold on-line. Distribution of \$6,470.18 at \$2.63 per ticket sold by the councils will be sent in the near future. Thank you to all the councils who sold tickets to benefit the charity fund.

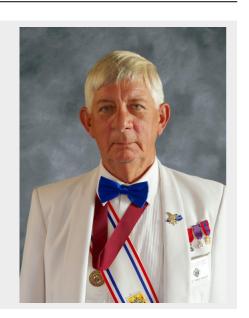
The Basketball Slam is right around the corner. The teams are all college teams and U of L and UK are featured as two of the listed of teams competing for the championship. The ticket packets will be distributed at the Mid-Year Meeting in Madisonville, KY on December 13, 2025. The sale of the tickets helps to fund the Kentucky Knights of Columbus Disaster Relief Program. The funding for this program assists resource and distribution centers, first responder support and staging, points of distribution, emergency volunteer personnel support for shelters and food distribution, and parish preparation support.

With any disaster, if you see or know someone or family who needs financial help as a result of severe weather or other natural disaster, the following link is for requesting funds: <u>State</u> <u>Charities Request</u>

Thank you and I appreciate all your councils do for the communities and people you serve.

Vivat Jesus, John Staudt State Warden

STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MIKE RINEHART



Kentucky Brothers, we are only a month out from the Mid-Year Meeting in Madisonville I need Lunch and Banquet Reservations by December 1st. You also need to be making your hotel reservations. If you need me to resend the Meeting Information to you, please let me know.

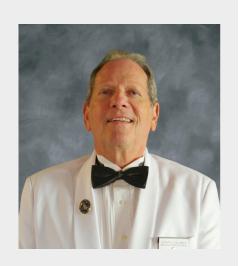
Thanks for all you do for our Church, Communities, and Order.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Vivat Jesus. Mike Rinehart KY Executive Secretary



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR TOM O'HAGAN



Go For Two Social Media Outline.

Our Founder is on the official path to sainthood! On October 31, 2020, Pope Francis beatified Blessed Michael McGivney, affirming his distinctive mission to meet the spiritual and material needs he saw in his community and empower the laity to continue that work. We invite you to join us in living out his legacy. Join us and grow in: Faith & Brotherhood. Charity. Financial Protection.

Visit Kofc.org/join us to learn more.

Become a part of the legacy. Become a Knight.

With nearly 17,000 active councils in 17 countries, Knights put their faith into action every day. Guided by charity, unity, and fraternity, members span generations and build lifelong relationships through prayer, faith formation, and charitable work. Visit Kofc.org/join us to learn more. Become a part of the legacy. Become a Knight.

Like our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, we believe that when men come together in fraternity seeking to grow in faith, they change the world. Visit Kofc.org/join us to learn more. Become a part of the legacy. Become a Knight.

Go For Two!

Recruiter incentive running until December 31.

Chance to win for every 2 (two) men recruited • Drawing to receive a cash prize of \$1,500!* • Ten second-place winners will receive a customized, KofC-branded football. The new membership enrollment card, together with church recruitment drives, will also be a key part of helping each member "Go For Two."

COUNCIL INCENTIVES





O'HAGAN CONT.

Kentucky State Council Fraternal Year 2025-26 Membership Growth Incentives

Quick Start – July 1st thru September 30th (First Quarter)

- #1 Every council that has submitted a completed Form 185, Form 365, a minimum of one Fraternal Benefit Event (FBE), Safe Environment Training (SET) compliant, a minimum of one Parish Outreach Drive (POD) (scorecard submitted to SD and MD), and add at least 50% of their yearly membership goal by the end of the day on 9/30, will receive \$50
 - · Councils that have qualified 7847
- +2 For those councils that did not add at least one new member to their council in FY 2024-25 If that council adds at least one new member by a Charity, Unity, Fraternity (CUF) exemplification by the end of the day on 9/30, the council will receive \$50.
 - · Councils that have qualified 1301, 3379, 4473, 14128, 15707
- #3 For those councils that did not receive any Supreme Awards in FY 2024-2025 (i.e. McGivney, Founders, Columbian or Star Council), if they submit a completed Form 185, 365, Adds at least one new member by a Charity, Unity, Fraternity (CUF) exemplification and attends at least one FBE by the end of the day on 9/30, the council will receive \$50
 - Councils that have qualified NONE

Halfway – July 1st thru December 31st (Second Quarter)

- #4 Every Council that has achieved the McGivney Award, the Founders Award, SET compliance, and submitted Forms 185, 365 by the end of the day on 12/31, will receive \$50
- · Councils that have qualified so far Council 7847

3/4 Pole - July 1st thru March 31st

#5 Every Council that has achieved the McGivney and Founders Award requirement,
 SET compliance, and submitted completed Forms 185, 365, 1728, and 1295 by the end of the day on 3/31, the council will receive
 \$50.

Councils that have qualified so far - None

• #6 Those councils that reach 200% Membership Growth of Quota/Goal and above by the end of the day on 3/31, the council will receive \$75 (Awards to be presented at the State Convention)

Councils that have qualified so far – Council 7831, 14128

Fishers of Men: Extend the Invitation

A Membership Growth Competition for Councils July 1 – October 31st, 2025





O'HAGAN CONT.

Local councils can compete to receive prizes from the Supreme Council Home Office when they meet a minimum of 100% of their 2025-2026 Fraternal Year membership quota between July 1 and October 31, 2025!

Every Catholic man should be aware of the Knights of Columbus and the membership benefits available to him and his family. The good news is that they are willing to join us on our mission. But they're waiting to be invited. That's why we encourage you to extend the invitation as soon as possible and meet 100% of your membership quota by October 31. Leaderboard- db9d653a-e3d1-497a-a33f-f70edfcafcd0.pdf

Parish Outreach Drives

Meaningful programs keep our brothers engaged and active, and meaningful programs also entice new men and their families to want to join our esteemed Order. Schedule one at least every quarter.

Charity, Unit, and Fraternity Exemplification Options

- An in-person Charity, Unity, and Fraternity (CUF) Exemplification is preferred
- Another option that's available to councils is to convert their prospects using the On-Demand Exemplification option. The On-Demand ceremony, in English, Spanish, and French, can be accessed by candidates online 24 hours a day. Fraternal Operations | Knights of Columbus
- 3. When a council has trouble forming a CUF Exemplification team Setting a CUF date to show the Exemplification on screen after a Mass. Requires – a laptop, Wi-Fi, or someone who knows how to use the "TV on a cart" and the CUF MP4 file on a USB. Eliminates the need for an Exemplification team. Allows for multiple prospects to convert to your council at the same time Exemplification | Knights of Columbus

	Actual v Quota MTD	Actual v Quota YTD
New Members	78 v 45 = 173%	252 v 520 = 48.46%
Councils With No YTD Adds		48 v 100
Form 365 Not Submitted (99)		32 v 100
Form 185 Not Submitted (99)		8 v 100

O'HAGAN CONT.

The Knights of Columbus offer every man the chance to live his faith and be an example for others to follow. We owe it to all Catholic men to provide them with this opportunity—the opportunity to be a better Catholic, a better man, a better husband, father, grandfather, brother or son, and friend.

"The Order grows one member at a time, and with a personal ask."

Vivat Jesus! Tom O'Hagan KY State Membership Director



PROGRAM DIRECTOR RSVP CHAIRMAN JOE CARTER



State Program Director

Knights of Columbus councils play a vital role in addressing significant needs within local communities by delivering essential services that may not be available otherwise. For example, our efforts at food banks help relieve food insecurity by providing nutritious meals for families in need. We also support economic stability through the provision of appropriate clothing, enabling individuals to work and attend school. Additionally, our initiatives foster benefits for our membership.

Acts of generosity frequently motivate others to engage in service. The visible presence of the Knights of Columbus within the community strengthens the organization's credibility and reputation. Active involvement in local initiatives increases public recognition and support, thereby enhancing donations. Continued engagement demonstrates our commitment to organizational objectives and highlights our measurable impact. This increased visibility can further encourage men to join and advance the mission of the Knights of Columbus. The entire system is structured to fulfil the primary principle of our mission: Charity.

To effectively encourage participation, it is important to communicate noteworthy achievements across councils. For instance, a successful program in Paducah, KY is unlikely to influence a council in London, KY, unless information is shared. To address this, councils should utilize **Form 10784 - Fraternal Programs Report Form**.



The Supreme Council leverages this form to evaluate whether a program qualifies as a Faith-in-Action initiative and meets the criteria for Featured Program consideration. It is also used to determine eligibility for the Columbian Award and, ultimately, the Star Council Award.

The State Council relies on Form 10784 to assess the value of council activities, which may contribute towards earning the State Deputy's Award. The formula for achieving this award is as follows:

Points for submitting Forms + Points for council activities = State Deputy Award

All activities are considered; there are no designated featured programs.

Process Overview:

- · The council undertakes an activity.
- After completion, a member submits Form 10784 to Supreme's Fraternal Missions Department.
- Fraternal Missions compiles monthly data by jurisdiction in numerical order of councils (note: submission month is used for tabulation, not the month of activity).
- Data is made available to jurisdictions on the first working day of the month following submission, accessible via a dedicated Programs Folder for State Officers and the State Program Director.
- The State Program Director extracts relevant information and updates councils' "State Deputy's Award Tally Sheet." (The Program Director uses the date the activity began, NOT the date the form was submitted to Fraternal Missions.)
- The Program Director generates a report detailing each council's activities and their corresponding points. Additional Supreme webpages assist the Program Director in verifying submissions reports and subsequent assignment of points.
- Reports are distributed to District Deputies for review with councils.

- Councils accumulating 800 points between April 1 and March 31 of the subsequent year are granted the State Deputy's Award.
- Councils that submit all required reports and provide Form SP-7 to the Program Director for review prior to Supreme submission earn the Program Director's Award.
- Notably, councils achieving the Star Council Award automatically receive both the State Deputy and Program Director's Award.

Direct program questions to a State Officer or State Program Director.

RSVP Chairman

Before beginning my monthly newsletter on RSVP, I want to share a revelation that came to mind:

I was responding to an email sent to me by Chuck Lynch, the President of the St. Serra Club of Louisville. As I often do, I ended the email with the complimentary closing "Vivat Jesus." As soon as I did that, I wondered, "Why do we Knights say 'Vivat Jesus' to each other?" When I Googled it, Council 9238 in Gig Harbor, WA, provided the answer:

When the late Supreme Chaplain Bishop Charles Greco was a seminarian, he was deeply moved while reading the story of St. Bernadine of Siena. He adopted the saint's favorite prayer — "May Jesus Live," in its Latin form "Vivat Jesus," to use as the motto for his life and priesthood. When he became Bishop of Alexandria, LA, in 1946, Bishop Greco chose the same phrase as his Episcopal motto. Our past Supreme Knight, Virgil Dechant, thought our Order ought to be devoted to the name of Jesus and chose Bishop Greco's motto, "Vivat Jesus," as a greeting. The response is "SEMPER," meaning 'always.'

So, when someone says, "Vivat Jesus," please respond, "Semper."

The number of nuns in the United States peaked at 178,740 in 1965. They have since declined by 77.9 percent. The number of priests fell by 40.8% over that period. There is a need to encourage greater youth participation in consecrated life. But it's not easy. Some are

not interested due to the pull of a world where young people experience fewer hardships in life and are inundated with materialism, social media pressure, dating, material wealth, sometimes even cell phones, fashionable clothes, and unlimited access to pornography. Moreover, as the numbers demonstrate, young people are not exposed to priests and nuns as they once were. It is believed that young people can't consider a vocation, and a life they have no exposure to.

As dioceses have consolidated and the duties of priests have increased, many dioceses can no longer spare priest personnel to serve at Catholic high schools and university campuses - the places where young men are most likely to encounter a priest and be exposed to the priesthood as a life calling. Most Catholic boys in America only see a priest behind an altar once a week (if they are even attending Mass weekly with their family), with a possible handshake as they leave Mass. The result is less exposure to vocations.

This is a situation where the decrease in the number of young people entering religious life results in fewer priests and nuns. Consequently, this reduces the interaction between young people and religious figures, which may further decrease the number of people choosing religious vocations. A catch-22.

There is a way out of this conundrum – you and me. Together, we must practice what Pope Benedict XVI told us in 2008:

"Let us be quite frank: the ability to cultivate vocations to the priesthood and the religious life is a sure sign of the health of a local Church. There is no room for complacency in this regard. God continues to call young people: it is up to all of us to encourage a generous and free response to that call."

Pope Benedict XVI, in his address to the United States Bishops in 2008

The Church encourages everyone to support young people considering vocations. Leaders should ask members to identify youth who show signs of a calling, such as serving at Mass, attending Rosaries or adoration, displaying prayerfulness, or spending time in the chapel. Share their names and observations with the pastor.

Kentucky dioceses have had a blessed year gathering forty-six candidates for religious life. While that is a testament to the work of the diocesan vocation directors, that increase in seminarians means we Knights must do what is expected of us – be those young people's supporters, both financially and emotionally. We want to be there when they need something or be the conduit to an entity that can assist them.

Seminary is rigorous. There are four stages of formation:

1) Propaedeutic Stage

a.

A preparatory period for seminarians, focusing on developing a foundation

for a new way of life.

2) Discipleship Stage

a.

A systematic and rigorous formation aimed at deepening the seminarian's relationship with Jesus Christ through meditation, contemplation, and the study of philosophy.

3) Configuration Stage

 Seminarians model their lives on the selfdonation of Jesus Christ, preparing for Holy Orders.

4) Vocational Synthesis Stage

a. Transition from seminary to active ministry.

The Vocation Ministry reported in their 2025 update to "The State of Priestly Vocations in the United States" that only about 30% of seminarians in the United States are ordained. It seems that the seminarians are most challenged during the Propaedeutic Stage. After all, men are learning a new life during that stage. We can help by being there when a seminarian needs a soundboard. To achieve this, communication with seminarians should go beyond a Christmas card and a check. Designate individuals to become friends of the young people, talk to them, meet with them, and indulge their interests. And we must pray.



At your Council meetings, pray for seminarians and vocations:

Prayer for Seminarians

Lord, give our seminarians the grace to follow you more perfectly. When they are lonely or discouraged, fill them with your peace.

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make the hearts of our seminarians like yours.

Amen.

Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, we thank you for calling Men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, religious, and Consecrated persons. Send your Holy Spirit to Help us respond generously and courageously To your call. May our community of faith Support vocations of sacrificial love in our Youth. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and The Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

When it came to selecting a seminarian, we heard comments about how difficult it was to contact vocations directors. Some stated they were unsure of the process for identifying a young person to support. The result was that every council had a way of determining who to support. For years, there has not been a criterion for councils to select a seminarian or novice. This has led to feast or famine for some young people. Certain seminarians received support from several councils, whereas others were not provided with assistance.



Except for the Archdiocese of Louisville, vocation directors typically manage multiple responsibilities in addition to their role overseeing vocations. To streamline operations and alleviate administrative burdens, the Knights of Columbus Kentucky Council has assumed responsibility for assigning seminarians to participating councils.

Seminarians will be assigned to councils according to specific criteria. The assignment considers:

- Seminarians who have a connection with parishes affiliated with the requesting councils.
- · Seminarians who are in most need of support.
- Seminarians who are currently not supported by any council. This typically includes new seminarians.

Councils requesting an RSVP seminarian should contact the State RSVP Chairman for a diocesan list. Councils check for parish connections; if none, the Chairman suggests seminarians most in need or those not currently supported. The purpose of the criteria is to ensure every seminarian receives support.

The contact information for the KY State RSVP Chairman can be found in the State Directory.

Joe Carter, FDM Program Director RSVP Chairman

DISTRICT MASTER CAMERON PECK



Brother Knights,

Each year on November 11th, we pause to honor the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States. Veterans Day began as Armistice Day in 1919, marking the end of World War I, and later became a day to recognize all who have worn the uniform in defense of our nation.

To all our veterans — thank you. Your service, sacrifice, and commitment to protecting the freedoms we hold dear are deeply appreciated. Whether you served in times of war or peace, at home or abroad, you have made a lasting difference in the story of our country.

As Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, we have a special duty to honor and support our veterans. We can do this by participating in Veterans Day ceremonies, visiting local VA hospitals or nursing homes, assisting with Honor Flight programs, or simply taking the time to listen to a veteran's story. Every small act of gratitude reminds them that their service is remembered and valued.

I know that many of our assemblies will be honoring veterans in their area. Please make sure to document these events so we can feature them in next month's newsletter and share the great work being done across the district.

May we never take that service for granted, and may we continue to support and pray for those who have served and those who still serve today.

God bless our veterans, and God bless America.

Vivat Jesus! Cameron Peck, PSD District Master





GENERAL AGENT DANIEL SCHACHLE



Knights of Columbus Benefits for Extended Care Planning – November 2025

Brothers, this time of year, we give thanks for the many blessings in our lives. Like many of you, I became a Knight out of love for my family. I wanted to join other Catholic men in becoming

a better man, husband and father. I wanted to be a better protector of my family. One way to protect your family is to start thinking about your family's future and how a extended care event could have a large impact. Do you know somebody that has experienced an extended care event – if so, how did that impact their family's situation? I want to take this opportunity to help you prepare for the possibility that you or your spouse may one day need extended care. **November is Long-Term Care Awareness Month.** With that in mind, I would like to share a valuable resource available to you and your family and would encourage you to check this out.

<u>What Care Costs</u> gives you access to view the costs of Skilled Nursing Homes, Home Health Aides and Assisted Living Facilities in your area and across the country. This service is available free of charge to all our members regardless of whether you hold an insurance policy with Knights of Columbus. Visit <u>www.whatcarecosts.com/KnightsofColumbus</u> and enter sponsor code "KofC" to get started. We want to help families focus on their time with their loved ones – not the financial cost of caring for them.

Lastly, I want to thank those of you who have completed the 2025 Annual Survey. The survey enables you to update the Knights of Columbus on your personal financial goals and share any updates you have had over the last year. If you haven't already filled it out, I



SCHACHLE CONT.

strongly encourage you to do so. This year, all survey respondents will be entered into a drawing for Knights of Columbus RTIC® cooler, with several chances to win! Please fill out the survey as soon as you can, either through the survey you received in the mail or online at https://survey.kofc.org.

Whether you have questions about the survey or want to talk about implementing an extended care plan, our Field Agents are here to help you.

Vivat Jesus!

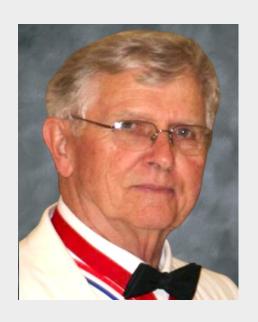
Dan Schachle, FICF, PGK

Knights of Columbus, General Agent
(615) 589-8848

daniel.Schachle@KofC.org



STATE HISTORIAN BILLY HANCOCK



Another year for the annual Tootsie Roll drive to raise money to help people with intellectual disabilities is coming to a close. How are we doing this year? I know PSD Jim Fink will let us know when all the drive reports have been sent in. Hopefully, more Councils are participating and more donations have been collected. I was led to the following article by a link in Catholic Vote. It chronicles the story of how the drive started in a single Council and as we know grew into an Order wide program. Read on.

What's the story behind the Knights of Columbus' candy drive?

Many people are used to seeing Knights of Columbus donating Tootsie rolls by the bucket to raise money for people with intellectual disabilities. But how did this tradition start?

According to Chicago Catholic, the annual nationwide fundraiser began more than 50 years ago in the Chicago suburb of Tinley Park.

In the late 1960s, Raymond Berg, a Knight of Columbus and member of Father C.C. Boyle Council 4698 in Tinley Park, approached the rest of his council with an idea. According to Chicago Catholic, Berg had a child with intellectual disabilities, and he wanted to see if his council could do anything to help other kids with special needs and their families. The rest of the Council agreed to the plan.

One member had a connection to Chicago-based Tootsie Roll Industries and asked the company if it would allow the Knights to give their products to people who donated to support people with disabilities. The company was interested, and upon the Illinois State Council of the Knights of Columbus' approval, the Father C.C. Boyle Council held its first Tootsie Roll fundraiser in 1970. It raised \$30,000 in the first year.



HANCOCK CONT.

The practice of using Tootsie Rolls as an incentive for charitable giving soon spread to other councils across the state and eventually to the rest of the nation.

Now that it's a national campaign, Tootsie Roll drives raise money to help people with intellectual disabilities all over the country. In 2018, for instance, the Knights spent 75 million man hours raising more than \$185 million via the campaign, according to Detroit Catholic.

According to Chicago Catholic, the Knights purchase the candy at full price, but Tootsie Roll Industries prints special wrappers for the annual fundraiser.

Lance Bertolli, grand knight of the Father C.C. Boyle Council, said that funds raised by their council are used locally, helping cover the costs of parish special religious education programs, according to Chicago Catholic. He also said that the whole council enjoys the annual drive. Many religious education teachers of students with disabilities also volunteer to help with the drive.

The Hancock's extend our best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving.

Submitted for the November 2025 Newsletter by: Billy R. Hancock, PSD State Historian



Local Events



Learn more about:

- Sources of retirement income
- Making sense of RMDs
- Distribution strategies



November 5, 2025 7:00-7:30 PM ET

https://tinyurl.com/Nov5Retirement

November 12, 2025 7:00-7:30 PM PT

https://tinyurl.com/Nov12Retirement





RSVP-



BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES IN FAITH, FINANCE AND PHILANTHROPY

No purchase is necessary. This event is for informational purposes only and does not constitute financial, tax or legal advice. Visit the registration page for important additional information.

Life insurance, annuities, long-term care insurance and disability income insurance products are offered through Knights of Columbus, One Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510. For costs, terms, conditions and complete details regarding these products, please contact your agent directly or the KofC office at 1-800-380-9995. Products may vary by state. Insurance solutions available to eligible members of the KofC in the U.S. and Canada.

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20446 9/25



Local Events



CALENDAR

November All Souls Day Veterans Day 1st Sunday of Advent	2 11 30
December Midyear Meeting Christmas	12-13 25
February Ash Wednesday	18
March St. Patrick's Day Good Friday Founder's Day	17 29 29
April Easter Sunday Divine Mercy	5 12

KENTUCKY STATE COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

www.kykofc.com

kykofcnewsletter@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/kentuckyknights/



State Convention



24-26