



Kentucky State Council Newsletter

ISSUE NO.

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MAY 2026



28 CONGOLESE EXEMPLIFIED

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The new members come from the Congolese community at St. Peter Claver and were exemplified through the degrees of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. They join Bluegrass Council 762, and the group is already looking ahead: they have announced plans to petition for their own council, which they intend to name in honor of their late pastor, Father Norman Fischer.

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A NOTE FROM JIM FINK

Worthy State Council Members and State Officers,

I want to extend my thanks to you for awarding me the first "Kentucky State Council PSD James E. Fink Charitable Service Award. I'd also like to thank SS Dick Burns for naming the award in my name. I am sorry I could not be at the Convention to accept this prestigious award, but due to my age and health, this was not to be. If I had been able to appear, I would have had two things to say as I accepted the award. I would like to see every Council's support for the Kentucky Charities increase, as it used to be. I'd also like to see every Council to get involved with KAPID by having a Tootsie Roll Drive. Everything you need to know about how to do a TR Drive is on the Kentucky State Web Site. Also, you can get in touch with me, and I would be glad to help you.

Again, thank you with all my heart for the Award. It was a humbling experience and very much appreciated.

Vivat Jesus!

James E Fink, PSD



KENTUCKY KNIGHTS GATHER IN LEXINGTON FOR 123RD STATE CONVENTION

Every spring, Kentucky Knights of Columbus gather for the State Convention, and this year's gathering at the Clarion Hotel and Bluegrass Convention Center did not disappoint. From Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, April 10-12, the weekend delivered everything a state convention should: good business, meaningful prayer, well-deserved recognition, and plenty of fellowship among brothers from across the Commonwealth.

A Guest Worth Hearing

If you have ever wondered what it looks like when a state council is really firing on all cylinders, you could have gotten a good picture just by listening to this year's Supreme Representative, Robert "Bob" Kish. A member of Corvallis, Oregon Council 1785, Bob served as Oregon State Deputy from 2014 to 2016, and during those two years his state set new membership records, chartered four new councils, and earned both the Circle of Honor and the prestigious Pinnacle Award back to back. He has been with the Supreme staff ever since, and now serves as Territorial Growth Director for the West, covering 17 jurisdictions across the western United States and Canada. Bob addressed the delegates on both Saturday and Sunday, and his message was the kind that sticks with you on the drive home.



The Business of Brotherhood



Saturday and Sunday mornings both opened the same way, with the Rosary at 8:30 a.m. and the convention called to order by State Deputy Luke Williams. Officers delivered reports on membership, programs, finance, and more, and delegates took up committee work on credentials, resolutions, and bylaw matters. It is not the most glamorous part of the weekend, but it is where the real work of governing the state council gets done, and this year's sessions moved along with purpose.

The Kentucky Association for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities also held its annual meeting on Saturday, a reminder that the Knights' commitment to people with special needs runs all the way through the organization, from local

STATE CONVENTION CONT.

councils up through the state level.

Recognizing the Best Among Us

Saturday afternoon's awards session is always one of the highlights of the convention, and this year's honorees were a reminder of just how much talent and dedication exists in the councils across Kentucky. The session is primarily a celebration of council achievement, with State Deputy Awards presented to councils that have demonstrated excellence in membership growth and program work throughout the fraternal year. Culture of Life awards were also presented, recognizing councils that have gone above and beyond in supporting one of the Knights' most important program areas. GK Dr. James Donley of Fr. Gerald Glahn Council 11132 in Madisonville took home the 2025-2026 Knight of the Year Award, the highest individual honor the state council bestows. General Agent Dan Schachle presented several insurance awards, including the Kentucky Agent of the Year, which went to Gregory White. State Deputy Williams presented GK Bennie Sims of Fr. Carroll White Council 6743 in Grayson County with a Supreme Knight congratulations letter marking that council's 50th anniversary. If your council was among the honorees, congratulations — you earned it. Mass, Banquet, and Fellowship



Saturday evening shifted into a different gear. Fr. List celebrated the 123rd Anniversary Mass at 5:00 p.m. in the Belmont Rooms, concelebrated by Former State Chaplain Fr. Patrick Dolan and Fr. Michael Tobin. Music was provided by Megan Johnson and Jason Hewitt. If you have never attended the convention Mass, it is worth making the trip for that alone.

The banquet followed at 6:00 p.m. in the Derby/Preakness Ballrooms, where several

STATE CONVENTION CONT.

more awards were presented before Bob Kish offered his closing remarks. The Family of the Year Award went to Josef and Theresa Baumann of Msgr. James Willett Council 7847 in Hopkinsville, recognized alongside GK Bruce Wilcox and District Deputy Tom O'Hagan. Two Blessed Michael McGivney Awards were presented, honoring priests who exemplify the spirit of our Blessed Founder. Fr. Eric Andriot, Chaplain for Bishop Ackerman Council 5453 in Burlington, received the Diocese of Covington award, and Fr. Michael Tobin — who had concelebrated Mass just an hour earlier — received the statewide award on behalf of St. John the XXIII Council 5634 in Louisville. PSD Rick Arnold received the Charles J. O'Connor Award for distinguished service, with the added touch of having it presented by his son, Justin. State Treasurer Gary Dykhuis was recognized with the State Deputy Award. And Fr. John E. List, Kentucky's State Chaplain, was presented the Fr. Roy Dentinger Award in recognition of 47 years of faithful service as a Knight of Columbus. That is not a typo. Forty-seven years. Convention Co-Chairmen Steve O'Bryan, FDD, and Ed Quinn, District Deputy, deserve a great deal of credit for the smooth organization of the entire weekend.



New Officers for 2026-2027

Sunday's session brought the election of officers for the coming fraternal year. Gary Dykhuis will serve as State Deputy. Mike Kuchenbrod takes over as State Secretary, John Staudt as State Treasurer, Tommy Johnson as State Advocate, and Eric Guy as State Warden.

Congratulations to all five, and thank you to the outgoing officers for everything they gave to the state council.

See You Next Year

Start making your plans for next Spring. It is a weekend worth your time.

Vivat Jesus!



STATE CONVENTION CONT.



STATE CONVENTION CONT.



STATE CONVENTION LADIES LUNCHEON

The Kentucky Knights of Columbus Ladies attending the 123rd State Convention were invited to attend the Ladies Luncheon hosted by the current State Officers' wives. This year, the theme was "A Blossom Affair". After opening prayers, the Ladies began their "Blossom Affair" making "Fascinators" to take home and were given a package of flower seeds to plant for continual blossoms.



28 CONGOLESE CATHOLICS EXEMPLIFIED AT ST. PETER CLAVER

On Sunday, April 26, Bluegrass Council 762 welcomed 28 new members into the Knights of Columbus during an exemplification held at St. Peter Claver Parish in Lexington.

The new members come from the Congolese community at St. Peter Claver and were exemplified through the degrees of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. They join Bluegrass Council 762, and the group is already looking ahead: they have announced plans to petition for their own council, which they intend to name in honor of their late pastor, Father Norman Fischer.

On hand for the occasion were District Deputy Ed Quinn, State Secretary Richard J. Burns, Jr., Field Agent Edgar Correa, and the exemplification team from Bluegrass Council 762. Family members of the new Knights were also in attendance to share in the celebration.

This exemplification is a powerful reminder of the universal brotherhood at the heart of our Order and a testament to the outreach work being done at the local council level. We congratulate the 28 new Knights and look forward to seeing them flourish in service to their parish and community.

Dick Burns
State Secretary



51 NEW SIR KNIGHTS IN APRIL

The Kentucky District had a tremendous April, welcoming 51 new Sir Knights across two Fourth Degree exemplifications. On Saturday, April 18, the Basilica of Saint Joseph Proto-Cathedral in Bardstown served as the beautiful setting for the first ceremony, hosted by Monsignor McGee Assembly No. 309. Twenty-six men answered the call to the Fourth Degree that day, deepening their commitment to God, their country, and their Order. The following Saturday, April 25, Fr. Gerald Calhoun Assembly No. 3611 hosted a second exemplification at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Oak Grove, where 25 more men were welcomed into the ranks of Patriotic Knights. A special word of gratitude goes to both of our Fourth Degree degree teams, who did an outstanding job at each ceremony and made these exemplifications truly memorable.



Bardstown exemplification class

A highlight of the Oak Grove exemplification was the dedication shown by nine Brother Knights from Fancy Farm, who made the long journey across the Commonwealth to serve in the Color Corps and Honor Guard. Their commitment to the Fourth Degree is a shining

NEW SIR KNIGHTS CONT.



Oak Grove exemplification class

example of the brotherhood and sacrifice that defines our Order, and we are deeply grateful for their service.

Both ceremonies featured the new Fourth Degree exemplification format, which now invites family members and friends to witness their loved ones receive the degree, a meaningful addition that connects our families more closely to the work of the Fourth Degree. District Marshal Mike Kuchenbrod led the Color Corps and Honor Guard at both events. With exemplifications still ahead in Bowling Green on May 9 and Louisville on June 6, the Kentucky District is on pace for an outstanding year. If you know a Brother Knight ready to take this next step, encourage him to reach out to his Grand Knight or Faithful Navigator today.

COUNCIL 1301 SERVES UP COMMUNITY AND CHARITY ONE BREAKFAST AT A TIME

For nearly eight years, the members of Bishop Mulloy Council 1301 have been bringing a little morning joy to the hungry of the greater Cincinnati area. Once a quarter, the council partners with the Henry Hosea House Food Kitchen, which provides hot suppers seven days a week to those in need throughout Newport, Covington, and lower Cincinnati, to offer something a little different: a Saturday morning pancake breakfast complete with sausage and goetta.

What began as a simple act of service has grown into a genuine community tradition. On any given Saturday morning, between 75 and 100 patrons come through the doors for a warm meal and a warm welcome. Council wives and children join the brothers in cooking and serving, making it a true family affair.

One highlight of the breakfast has become the goetta, the beloved Cincinnati-area specialty that in the early days of the event left some patrons scratching their heads. A brother Knight from a neighboring council takes on the honor of preparing it, and after eight years, it has become one of the most anticipated parts of the meal.

What started as an unfamiliar dish is now a big hit, and the same could be said for the breakfast itself.

Deacon Bill Theis
Past Grand Knight



OLD GLORY, NEW PURPOSE: BROTHER KNIGHT LAUNCHES KENTUCKY'S FIRST NON-ROTC SCHOOL FLAG TEAM

In September 2025, Sandersville Elementary School launched Fayette County Public Schools' first and only non-ROTC flag team in the district. Led by Sir Knight Damon Sexton, with support from his brothers at the Joseph O'Callahan Assembly 3929 in Lexington, KY, he assembled 20 fourth- and fifth-grade students who were at highest risk of truancy and Tier 2 behaviors to be responsible for raising, lowering, folding, and securing the flag before and after school. The students were taught flag etiquette, proper folding and displaying of the flag, teamwork, civic duty, and school spirit. The students were divided into two units, Team Alpha and Team Bravo, with each unit assuming responsibility for the flag on alternate weeks.

In January, 4 students were selected to lead their peers as 16 new students were selected to follow the same model. This component was designed to highlight the importance of leadership among peers. The impact was noticeable according to Infinite Campus data. For the 36 total students selected for flag duty in the 2024-25 school year, 176 instructional days were recovered and 14 tier 2 behaviors reduced to zero for those same students from prior year data. The program was selected as 1 of 70 programs chosen from 987 statewide submissions to be an "Impact Spotlight" and was included in a booklet presented to the Kentucky General Assembly during the 2026 session. The program was a core element for Sandersville to be selected as the only Purple Star School of Distinction for its support and advocacy of military connected students. It continues as a desired program for students and families at Sandersville.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Please Support This Year's Salute to Summer Games

Since 2020, the annual Salute to Summer Games has been one of the most visible ways that Knights support Special Olympics. Each year we raise money to support the State Summer Games, which is the biggest Special Olympics event of the year.

With one month to go before this year's Summer Games we have raised \$4,800 of our \$12,000 goal. Thank you to the 12 Councils as well as State Deputy Luke Williams and State Chaplain Fr. List who have contributed or raised money so far.



If your Council has not yet discussed the Salute to Summer Games, I ask that you bring it up at your May Council meeting so that we can continue to major supporters of this important event.

There are two ways your Council can participate:

1. You are always able to write a check to support the Salute. If you choose this route, I ask that it be for \$1 per active Council member or more.
2. I know Councils receive many requests for direct support every year and you cannot fulfill all of them. If you would like to support the Salute but not dedicate Council funds, it is easy to raise money quickly through the Salute to Summer Games website. To do that,
 - Identify one at least one Knight in your Council to participate in this project; however, the more who participate, the more likely we are to meet our goal.
 - Identify one Knight to serve as the Captain for this project.
 - Register your Council team on the official web site at sokysalute.com
 - Have all participating Knights register as part of your Council's team.
 - Have each Knight create a [Facebook fundraiser](#) via his fundraising Participant Center at sokysalute.com.

If each Council participates, we should easily reach our goal, and the Knights will once again be listed as a Gold Sponsor for the Summer Games.

If your Council chooses to make a direct donation, checks can be sent to:
 Special Olympics Kentucky
 ATTN: Salute to Summer Games

SPECIAL OLYMPICS CONT.

105 Lakeview Ct.
Frankfort, KY 40601

This is the seventh year that the Knights have held the Salute as a way to support the Special Olympics Kentucky State Summer Games.

Should you have questions about registering or setting up your Council team, please contact our Special Olympics Chairman Mark Buerger at 859-338-6075 or mbuerger@soky.org.

Thank you for supporting this important activity.

Volunteer at the State Summer Games

Spring is the busiest time of year around the state for Special Olympics athletes, with thousands across Kentucky competing or practicing in bocce, gymnastics, soccer, swimming and track and field. Knights have already been at many of these events helping out, including in Erlanger, Murray and Somerset with dozens of Knights signed up to volunteer at this weekend's track and field meet in Louisville.

There is one BIG opportunity left this spring to volunteer and that is at the State Summer Games in Richmond. Knights always have a big presence at the Games, where the St. Mark Council has run the softball throw venue for many years, recently with help from other Councils in the area.



There is still time for you to get in on the fun. This year's Games will be held June 5-6 at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond. There More than 600 volunteers are needed to help the event run smoothly. You can join other Knights at the softball throw or volunteer at any of the other venues that make up the Games.

For more information about how you or your Council can volunteer, contact Michaele Roy at mroy@soky.org. To register to volunteer, visit <https://soky.org/volunteernow/>.

STATE DEPUTY LUKE WILLIAMS



Welcome to the new Season!

We turned the corner at Easter last month and headed towards what is now the last 60 days of this Fraternal Year 2025-2026 which ends on June 30, 2026.

Please continue the good works each Brother is accomplishing this Fraternal Year along with inviting all Catholic men over 18 to join and experience the benefits of being a Knight of Columbus in Kentucky.

2026 Knights of Columbus Kentucky State Convention Report

The 123rd Annual State Convention was held this year at the Clarion Hotel/Bluegrass Convention Center – Lexington, KY on April 10 - 12, 2026. Many thanks to our State Chaplain Fr. John List, all the State Officers, District Deputies, State Service Chair/Directors, Convention Chairman and Co-Chairman as well as Delegates and Brothers who had a hand in or attended this Convention! As I told the attendees, this was a “Celebration” of all the good works done this past year and we even mentioned a little about the future. It was great to see the excitement brought by all this year and I hope that if you have not taken time to celebrate those accomplishments, please help your council do this.

Congratulations to our new State Council Officers for the 2026-2027 fraternal year.

State Deputy Elect Gary Dyhkuis,
State Secretary Elect Mike Kuchebrod,
State Treasurer Elect John Staudt,
State Advocate Elect Tommy Johnson, and
State Warden Elect Eric Guy.

I would like for all of us to keep current State Secretary Dick Burns and his wife Suzanne in our prayers. As some of you noticed, Worthy State Secretary Dick is not on the list above as this would have been the year that Dick and Suzanne would have been elected and

WILLIAMS CONT.

introduced as the New State Deputy and his wife. Worthy State Secretary Dick has and will continue to help the Kentucky Knights of Columbus with his knowledge and expertise that he has brought to us all during his tenure as a State Council Officer the past 8 years. I look forward to continued service with Dick and Suzanne for years to come in our continued careers in the Kentucky Knights of Columbus.

Reminder of the Waive “Supreme” Per Capita Agent Recruitment Incentive for

Councils Every council who refers a Brother “prospective” field agent who ultimately contracts as an agent and tenures for a minimum of 6 months will have all per capita fees* waived for the next two billing cycles.

Full details on this council incentive can be found [here](#).

2025 Council Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity As of today, there are still 16 councils who have not responded to my request to fill out the 2025 Fraternal Survey form showing what the council donated in time and contributions to charitable causes. Contact your District Deputy with any questions.

Evangelization and Faith Formation (EFF)

• We currently have 23 Councils who have EFF Directors reporting regularly that their small prayer groups are meeting. If you or someone would like to receive the regular *Cor Central* Advisory, you can sign up here: [Subscribe to Cor Central](#)

Succession Planning –

• Congratulations on new Officers Elected between May 1st and June 15th. I invite all members to Visit [Fraternal Training | Knights of Columbus](#) to find online training for state, council, district and assembly officers, as well as important instruction for handling Operations.

• Here is a link to a list of “Suggested Training by Office” listing of online courses...

[11843 Suggested Training Audiences](#)

I encourage Everyone, Especially Grand Knights and all of the Council Officers to watch one session of training a month!

Membership Growth – Don’t Stop Inviting men to join us!

• Ensure all your councils have a Spring and Summer Parish Outreach Drive using the Parish Outreach Drive (POD) method.

• Parish Outreach Drive (POD)– This Membership Outreach process is a proven success method for getting new members in your council or roundtable. Ask KY State Membership Director Tom O’Hagan for more information!



WILLIAMS CONT.

Supreme Council Membership Incentive for State Council The Kentucky Jurisdiction is coming off a historic membership year in 2025. To keep our jurisdiction on track to hit the upcoming FY 2026-2027 “Pinnacle” intake goal for new members, it’s important that we all work to keep the momentum going.

Also, Kentucky can now earn a 2% reduction off of next year’s goal before the next fraternal year even starts. As of May 1st, if 80 new members join our ranks here in KY before July 1st, the yearly goal will be reduced before the start of the new fraternal year. Let’s finish the fraternal year strong and help out next year’s State Officers achieve this important membership goal.

At least 25 Councils achieve Supreme Star Council status before June 30, 2026

Here is a short take on Star Council requirements that show a council is active and serving the parish and community well.

- 41 Councils have achieved Safe Environment Training (SET) Compliance. (58 have not)
- 20 Councils have achieved the Founders Award Requirements as of 5-1-26. (15 more are working towards achieving the Award)
- 34 Councils have achieved the Fr. McGivney Award Requirements as of 5-1-26.
- 17 Councils have achieved the Columbian Award Requirements as of 5-1-26.
- Congratulations to the 11 Councils who have met all the Star Council requirements for this fraternal year.

Now is the time to be **Inspired** to finish the Councils progress toward earning the **Star Council Award** designation. I am very pleased with the successes our Kentucky Councils are experiencing this past fraternal year. $\frac{3}{4}$'s of our Kentucky Jurisdiction Councils are active and have brought at least one new member into their ranks. A large portion of the Kentucky councils are actively working on those last needed requirements so that they can be recognized as a Star Council. I assure you that all State Council members are focused on helping those who need or want to make a difference.

Supreme and State Programs

- **SP-7 Columbian Award review - REVIEW COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**, fill out a copy of the SP-7 NOW and send to KY State Program Director Joe Carter josephcarter5898@att.net for him to review and make possible suggestions before submitting to the Supreme Council Office. Here is a link to the PDF version of the **SP-7 Columbian Award**. The Columbian Award shows anyone interested in joining your Council what you guys do. Don’t wait, send in now and beat the rush before June 30, 2026.



WILLIAMS CONT.

- If you have never filled out a Fraternal Programs 10784 report form, I ask you to watch this short video on how and why all Knights should know how for the future. Here is a link to a short video on how to submit a 10784 form.

[Fraternal Programs Report Form \(#10784\) Training Video - Forms - Fraternal Mini Videos Video Training Gallery](#) Here is the link for the online **[Fraternal Programs Report Form 10784](#)** that is easy to fill out and submit.

2026 KofC Mexican Martyrs Relics in Kentucky – May 19 – May 24

Kentucky is honored to again have the opportunity for the KofC Mexican Martyrs “Reliquary” to tour parts of our state this month of May. The Reliquary contains relics of 6 Priests who were members of the Knights of Columbus. They were martyred during the persecution of Catholics in Mexico from 1926-1929. The Reliquary seeks to make known in the United States the testimony of these Knights of Columbus priest martyrs and all those who sacrificed their lives for their faith during the time of religious persecution in Mexico. In 2000, 25 Mexican martyrs were canonized by Pope John Paul II. Six were members of the Knights of Columbus.

The tour will have these opportunities for the relics to be seen and venerated.

Tuesday -May 19 from 5:30 pm to 7:00pm at St. Mildred Catholic Church – Somerset, KY

Wednesday – May 20 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at Cristo Rey Catholic Church - Florence, KY

Thursday - May 21 (**Feast Day of KofC Mexican Martyrs**) from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at St. Paul Catholic Church - Lexington, KY

Friday – May 22 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at St. Rita Catholic Church - Louisville, KY

Saturday – May 23 at St. Thomas More Catholic Church – Paducah, KY Stay tuned for further details

Sunday – May 24 from 3pm to 7:30pm at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, Oak Grove, KY

The State Deputy sends his Gratitude and Thanks to ALL who helped coordinate and participate in these events. My personal thanks go out to Dan Schachle and his Brother Insurance Agents for all their help and support so that this tour became a reality. Viva Cristo Rey!

- **Kentucky Special Olympics** The Special Olympics Salute to the Summer Games is still accepting donations as a Knight of Columbus for the KY Summer games which start on June 5th. The website **sokysalute.com** is now live and ready for Councils to help raise money to support the Special Olympics Kentucky State Summer Games. Should you have questions about registering or setting up your Council team, please contact our Special Olympics Chairman Mark Buerger at 859-338-6075 or **mbuerger@soky.org**.

WILLIAMS CONT.

KofC Fraternal Benefits Events (FBEs)

WDDs, GKs, and FSs, There are 2 Virtual FBEs planned for the next 2 months. May 12th and June 8th at 7:00pm ET.

If you have questions, contact your District Deputy, Field Agent, State Membership Director Tom O’Hagan or any State Officer.

Start making plans now!

Please contact your KofC Brother Field Agent so they can help your council with those important FBE’s they can present personally.

FY 2025-2026 Upcoming Important Dates for your Council Calendar

*NOW ***Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728)*** **Not Too Late to turn**

in!

- *May, 2026 Councils have Parish Outreach Church Drive
- *May, 2026 Multiple CUF Exemplifications planned in your District
- *May 1 – June 15, 2026 Council Officer Elections held
- *May 19 – 24, 2026 Mexican Martyr Relics Tour (More details coming soon!)
- *May 17 – June 13, 2026 Our Lady of Guadalupe Silver Rose Tour (More details soon)
- *June, 2026 Councils have Parish Outreach Church Drive
- *June, 2026 Multiple CUF Exemplifications planned in your District
- *June 6, 2026 4th Degree Exemplification – St. Michael Church, Louisville
- *June 7, 2026 Corpus Christi Solemnity
- *June 12, 2026 Feast Day of Sacred Heart of Jesus
- *June 12-14, 2026 KY Holy Land Conference – Consecration of our Country to the Sacred Heart of Jesus – Marion, Washington and Nelson Counties
- *July 10-11, 2026 FY2026-2027 Organizational Meeting -Brandenburg

I would like to remind all that we were 8 weeks away from the end of the current fraternal year and we are very close to successfully completing all our current Strategic Plan goals and you are needed to remain active so that we can celebrate all the successes achieved, and not just the big ones. There have been many goals that were not even thought about on July 1, 2025 that were achieved because of the dedication and desire to help others (charity). Going forward I ask all of us to be united (Unity) in our goals, celebrate with our Brothers and others (fraternity), and we are gearing up for the celebration planned or unplanned for 250 years of this Nation (patriotism).

WILLIAMS CONT.

Congratulations to all who have recently joined the Knights of Columbus, welcome and bring a friend on this spiritual journey as part of the “Strong right arm of the church”. Thank you for being a part of this great organization.

**Vivat Jesus,
Luke Williams
KY State Deputy**

STATE CHAPLAIN FR. JOHN LIST



“In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places.” (John 14:2)

The image of heaven that is often proposed and accepted as “Gospel” by many is that, if one is judged worthy to pass through the pearly gates (and I think that we generally set the bar way too low for that), you are then escorted to your personal mansion in the sky. That seems to me a mistaken reading of Jesus’ promise above, to wit, “many dwelling places” but one house, that of the Father. Indeed, if each were to have their individual abode, the divisions we cling to on earth would poison the unity and peace of heaven.

St. Peter urges us to “let yourselves be built into a spiritual house... to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:4), a task that is addressed to our life on earth. Will our entry into God’s celestial presence depend on the degree to which we have lived as one on earth?

Imagine this, if you dare, that your place in heaven will be next to the person on earth you least care to be around; not the most evil person on earth, just someone you find it hard to love or even like. Jean-Paul Sartre, philosopher playwright, considered this in his 1944 play *Huis Clos (No Exit)* in which three individuals are ushered into a room together for their afterlife in, well, it turns out it wasn’t heaven.

If that vision motivates you to try a little harder to see the good in someone outside your comfort zone, then this brief reflection will have done its job.

Vivat Jesus!
Fr. John List
State Chaplain

IMMEDIATE PAST STATE DEPUTY TOM JOHNSON



State Convention Wrap-up:

We gathered once again from April 10th through April 12th in Lexington for the 123rd KY Knights of Columbus State Convention.

A big shout out to our hospitality couple Tommy & Megan Johnson who did an awesome job once again in making the weekend fun and enjoyable. After serving as the hospitality couple for the past 4 years, he and Megan are turning the reins over to Danny & Nicki Shea whom I'm confident will also do an outstanding job as the new State Hospitality Couple.

The Friday and Saturday evening events were well attended. I met several first-time convention attendees and their wives from all over the State. All said that they will be back next year.

Congratulations to the Program and State Deputy award winners. Thank you for all that you are doing to strengthen our Catholic men and their families.

One of the best parts of the weekend was seeing the friendships that are developing.

IPSD's Report:

Brothers, the KY Jurisdiction stands on the cusp of achieving the highest honor a jurisdiction can achieve...the Pinnacle Award. The Pinnacle Award is awarded to those jurisdictions that

JOHNSON CONT.

achieve Circle of Honor and then go above and beyond. The Kentucky Jurisdiction has already achieved Circle of Honor and is well on its way to achieving Pinnacle.

Thank you for supporting your parishes, believing in the Knights of Columbus and growing our Catholic Faith.

Congratulations to our Newly Elected State Officers:

State Deputy Elect – Gary Dykhuis
State Secretary Elect – Mike Kuchenbrod
State Treasurer Elect – John Staudt
State Advocate Elect – Tommy Johnson
State Warden Elect – Eric Guy

And a sincere and Heart Felt Thank You to State Secretary Dick Burns for your many years of service to your council and the State Council. Wishing you & Suzanne a speedy and full recovery.

In Conclusion:

God has blessed each of us. He has asked us to build His Church. He has given us the Knights of Columbus as an aid in serving Him by serving His people. Let's not fail Him.

**Take Care & God Bless,
Tom Johnson
Immediate Past State Deputy**

STATE SECRETARY DICK BURNS



Brothers Knights,

State Convention

Those of you who were at the State Convention noticed my conspicuous absence. I was at the hospital where my wife Suzanne was in ICU. She's out and home now, and we're looking forward to a full recovery. We thank those of you who were aware of our situation for your prayers.

Because of my ongoing personal health issues and those of the rest of my family, I made the very difficult, and very correct decision not to stand for the office of State Deputy so that I can focus on my family - **FAMILY FIRST!**

I'm appreciative of the 8 years that I was entrusted to serve the jurisdiction as State Warden, State Advocate, State Treasurer, and State Secretary. I'm not stepping away, just stepping back, and I look forward to staying active in my Council, my Assembly, and in any way I can help the State Council. State Deputy Elect Gary Dykhuis has asked me to serve as his New Council Development Chairman, and I gladly accepted.

I'm proud of my service, and look forward to the time (not too soon, I hope) my name is recorded in the state and Supreme Necrologies as *Former State Secretary*.

New Council and Round table Development

DD Ed Quinn, FA Edgar Correa, and I recently attended the CUF Exemplification of 28 members of the Congolese Community at St. Peter Claver parish in Lexington by a degree team from Bluegrass Council 762. They plan to form a new council named after their late pastor Fr. Norman Fischer.

BURNS CONT.

Celebrations!

Congratulations to St. Teresa Council 2282 in Brandenburg for their 105th anniversary this month, and to Fr. Patrick Creed Council 12923 in Campbellsville on their 25th!

Vivat Jesus!

Dick Burns
State Secretary

Show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

James 2:18

STATE TREASURER GARY DYKHUIS



Worthy Brothers,

Kentucky State Convention 123rd

As we gathered again from April 10th through April 12th in Lexington for the 123rd Knights of Columbus State Convention. Our Supreme Representative Robert “Bob” Kish of Oregon. Bob is currently the “Regional Growth Director -West” (RGD_W) and covers the western half of the United States and Canada which covers 17 Jurisdictions.

Congratulations to the Program and State Deputy award winners. A Big thank you for all that you do strengthening our Brother Knights, Catholic Men and their families. Thanks to Convention Chairmen Steve O’Bryan and Ed Quinn for another great Convention.

Mass on Saturday evening literally was standing room. Your generosity raised over \$700 dollars, which will be given to Fr. List for use in his two parishes. Thanks to Fr. John for his moving homily. A Special thanks to Fr. Patrick Dolan and Fr. Michael Tobin for celebrating Mass. Fr J. Michael Tobin is the Blessed Michael McGivney Medal (Kentucky State Chaplain 2025-2026).

Congratulations to All our newly elected State Officers. I am very humbled to be elected to the office of State Deputy for 2026-2027. I thank for your confidence and prayers.

Dates to mark down, Organizational Meeting, July 10-12, Brandenburg; Midyear Meeting December 5, 2026, Madisonville; State Convention April 23-25, 2027, Lexington (Clarion).

Please join me in Thanking State Secretary Richard “Dick” Burns and Suzanne for all their dedication to the Kentucky Jurisdiction. Their many years of service as a Catholic Family and Community. Dick is truly a Catholic Gentleman, Brother Knight, Father and Grandfather.

DYKHUIS CONT.

How is your goal on COR doing in your Parish?

April was another Great Month Recruiting Year so far, 422 new Brother Knights. We are on another Great Month for this fraternal year. Keep going, the race is still going, keep the “metal to the petal” to meeting your membership Goal?

Has a new Family joined your parish and have asked them join your council? Is your council struggling and need help, please contact any state officer, or your District Deputy. We are all just a phone call away, but you need to make the call.

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

It that Time Again

Are your nominations committee started considering nomination for upcoming Council Elections. Please consider volunteering for a Council Position. According to Section 128 of the Charter Constitution Laws of the Knights of Columbus, Council elections are held between May 1st and June 15th. It will be time to submit **Form 185 “Report of Officers Chosen for the Year.”** After the Elections, Council Officer and Chairman information needs to be sent to the State Secretary for state records and the Executive Secretary for the state Directory. Please consider being a District Deputy or District Warden, contact me.

Recruit and Retain

We have two months left of this Fraternal Year, let’s keep up the momentum, keep asking that new parish member to join us. Have you recruited one New Member? Have you held an Exemplification? Your council needs to hold one every month. If you don’t have any Candidates, do a practice. Hand that prospective your iPhone, and use “Join KofC” and Promo **Code BLESSEDMCGIVNEY**. It is time to start asking that young man, who is a new High School Senior, or a College Student to consider becoming a Knight. Ask 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.

DYKHUIS CONT.

Council Officers

Has your address or phone number changed? Please let the Executive Secretary Mike Rinehart (miketheresa@gmail.com) 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 and District Wardens. We are just a phone call away, but you need to ask.

Thanks for the District Deputies and District Wardens.

Father McGivney, Pray for Us,

Have a Blessed Day!

Vivat Jesus!

Gary Dykhuis

State Treasurer

STATE ADVOCATE MIKE KUCHENBROD



Worthy Brothers,

The State Convention was a great chance to see many of you again and share some of the great things Knights in the Ky Jurisdiction have accomplished over the past year. We also took care of important business, like elections of State officers and I am looking forward to serving again as State Secretary in the coming Fraternal year.

I send you greetings from New Haven, Connecticut, where I have spent the weekend with my fellow graduates of the first class of the McGivney Fellowship Leadership program. The past 3 years have molded and inspired us to be better leaders and I look forward to using that training in my service on the Ky State Council.

Council Elections are coming up!

Your nomination committee should have identified candidates and provided that list of who will be your officers for the next fraternal year. Nominations from the floor are also allowed during elections. Don't wait till the election to speak to a capable brother knight about stepping up and taking an officer role.

Council Forms

You should have submitted most of your forms for this Fraternal year, and yet some councils still have forms missing at this point. GK and FS, as well as others, have access in the supreme portal – check there to make sure none of your forms show as missing. For your director positions there are some that are required for Youth Protection but others such as

KUCHENBROD CONT.

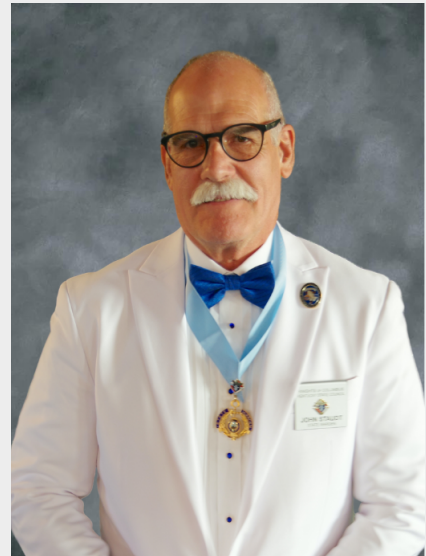
Membership Director must also be filled or Supreme will report your council as having not reported your 365. There is still time to submit those missing forms, let's get them in.

You should submit your SP7 Columbian award form this month, including any projects you plan to complete later in this Fraternal year. Supreme can take some time to process, and if there is an issue you will want time to correct that and resubmit. If you have questions on properly reporting an item our State Program Director will be happy to review your form and provide insightful comments on any item that may need a bit of polish to pass Supreme on the first attempt.

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 online training and takes about an hour to complete. Don't let this be a stumbling block to achieving Star Council or a possible opening to liability should some adverse event occur during a council program, assist your members and get fully Safe Environment trained.

**Vivat Jesus,
Mike Kuchenbrod
State Advocate**

STATE WARDEN JOHN STAUDT



Worthy Brothers,

I hope you all had a great Easter Sunday with family and friends. As I write this, the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs is here along with all the festivities that go with it. I personally have not experienced the Derby in person, but have been able to attend the 502'sDay (502 is the Louisville area code and is Tuesday's race), Thurby (Thursday's race) and The Oaks (Friday's race). Since you will read this after the Derby has been run, I hope you had positive results on your horse.

We had our Kentucky State Convention April 10th – 12th. The business meeting was on Saturday morning with awards in the afternoon. Later we had Mass followed by the Banquet. Sunday we wrapped up with elections for the 2026-2027 State Officers. Officers elect are Gary Dykhuis – State Deputy; Mike Kuchenbrod – State Secretary; John Staudt – State Treasurer; Tommy Johnson – Advocate; Eric Guy – State Warden.

Having been elected to State Treasurer, I am honored to serve the State Jurisdiction and look forward my new position for the 2026-2027 Fraternal Year.

The May Columbia magazine is also available on-line at [May Columbia Magazine](#). Read our Supreme Knight's statement titled, "Supreme Knight Issues Statement on Respect for the Holy Father" and Supreme Chaplin's message, "Mary's Interior Freedom". Supreme Knight's message is about his response to disparaging social media comments by President Donald Trump about Pope Leo XIV. Supreme Chaplin's message is about the Feast of the Visitation on May 31st when the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary, she would be the Mother of our Savior. There are many more interesting articles. The May edition is currently on-line and can be accessed using the aforementioned link.

STAUDT CONT.

Congratulations to the Basketball Slam winners. If you haven't already, you should have received your checks for the winners and those councils who participated and sold tickets will be getting a check for \$3.06 for each ticket sold.

The basketball teams are all college teams. Sadly, U of L and UK were out of the championship race but did make it into the playoffs. If the teams on your ticket(s) did not make it into the playoffs, a team or teams were automatically replaced. 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: [State Charities Request](#).

Thank you and I appreciate all what your councils do for the communities and people you serve. May the, "Peace of Christ", be with you all.

**Vivat Jesus,
John Staudt
State Warden**

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR TOM O'HAGAN



Worthies, we are fast approaching the end of the Fraternal Year. You have 2 months to conduct a Parish Outreach Drive (POD). I recently sent an email request to all DDs, GKs, and FSs requesting that they schedule a POD in the next 2 months. Membership growth is the lifeblood of a council and provides the fuel to expand your mission and increase your impact in your parish and community.

[11872 Membership Drive Steps Council](#)

I highly recommend that each council develop a membership committee because the GK cannot do it all alone. With a membership team, we are all more successful.

[Organizing Your Membership Committees | Knights of Columbus](#)

The Supreme website KoC.org provides numerous links and ideas for membership growth. They are easy to find and to institute within your councils - [Inviting Men to Join | Knights of Columbus](#)

Follow Up When Using Membership Enrollment Cards

Since their release this fall, Membership Enrollment cards have aided council recruiting efforts, especially Church Drives. It's essential that when your council uses Membership Enrollment cards, you have a plan in place to follow up with each member who completes one. [Membership Outreach Steps](#)

As a reminder, Membership Enrollment Cards and Materials can be found on Supplies Online under Membership & Recruitment >> Membership Enrollment Cards.

We have had tremendous membership growth in the Kentucky Jurisdiction this Fraternal Year. Every council needs to continue to grow, to evangelize, and to grow the Church and the Order. Every practical Catholic man needs to join the Knights of Columbus. You just need to ask.

Let's Keep Growing!

O'HAGAN CONT.

INCENTIVES Kentucky State Council Fraternal Year 2025-26 Membership Growth Incentives

Check the Star Council Award Progress Spreadsheet regularly
We have 8 Star Councils. Congratulations!

We now have another 30 councils, one or two elements away from earning the Star Council award

Some councils have earned the McGivney Award for Membership, while others have earned the Founders for Fraternal Benefits award, and several have earned both. However, many councils need to be SET-compliant to be considered for the award. Submit Form 185, 365, 1728, and reach 100% of Membership Quota, FBEs completed, and SET Compliant.

There are 2 Fraternal Benefit Events scheduled before the end of this Fraternal Year - May 12th and June 8th. Take advantage of them and earn the Founders Award.

Email YouthLeader@kofc.org to find out what your Council needs to be SET Compliant

Congratulations to each Council that has earned the various State and Supreme Incentives offered this year.

We are working on new and exciting Council Incentives for the upcoming Fraternal Year. They will be announced soon!

The new kofc.org is now live! We encourage you to explore the site, especially the Officers' Resources section. To familiarize yourself with the new site, watch this [video](#) to get you started.

Keep up with the Star Council and District Award Status Reports to see where your council/district stands.

O’HAGAN CONT.

What is needed for you to reach Star Council and Star District?

	Actual v Quota MTD	Actual v Quota YTD
New Members	66 v 45 = 147%	576 v 490 =117.55%
Councils With No YTD Adds		27 v 100
Form 365 Not Submitted		29 v 100
Form 185 Not Submitted		4 v 100

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



Kentucky Council Program Director

On April 1, a new season began for earning Kentucky State Council Awards. I'll start receiving Supreme Council reports in early May. I'll analyze the data and share it with district deputies so they can help councils stay on track with completing Faith-in-Action programs.

Each month, I download these reports:

- **FIA Report** — compiled from Fraternal Programs Report Form 10784 submitted after a council completes a program activity
- **Family of the Month Report** — compiled from Form 10784 submitted after a council selects a parish family that models Christian values
- **Food for Families Report** — compiled from Form 10784 submitted after a council completes a Food for Families activity
- **Food for Families Transaction Report** — compiled from Food for Families Refund Application Form 10057 submitted after a council donates \ \$500 or 1,000 pounds of food to parish and/or community food pantries
- **Membership/Insurance Progress Report** — compiled from the council's Member Management System
- **Safe Environment Council Compliance Report** — compiled from the PRAESIDIUM system
- **Councils Not Recruiting a New Member Report** — compiled from the council's Member Management System
- **Round Table Report** — provided by the Round Table chairman

CARTER CONT.

Once a year, I download these reports:

- **Councils Not Submitting Officer Chosen for Term Report (Form 185)** – July
- **Councils Not Submitting Service Program Personnel Report (Form 365)** – July
- **Councils Not Submitting Audit Report (Form 1295)** – September
- **Councils Not Submitting Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity Report (Form 1728)** – January

As you can see, earning State Council Awards largely depends on councils completing programs, activities and submitting the appropriate forms timely. Even so, some councils still don't understand why it matters.

Completing Faith in Action Programs Matters for the Knights of Columbus because they fulfill the Mission of the Order.

Faith in Action isn't just a checklist; it's the practical expression **of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism**. When councils' complete programs, they are living out the mission Father McGivney intended, i.e., forming Catholic men, strengthening families, and serving the Church. In short: Programs are how we Knights show who we are.

Every program completed is a visible sign that the Knights are active, reliable, and engaged.

- Faith programs deepen parish life
- Family programs strengthen marriages and children
- Community programs build trust and goodwill
- Life programs defend the dignity of every person

Councils that complete programs become indispensable partners to their pastors and communities.

Councils that run programs consistently:

- Attract new members
- Retain existing members
- Create leadership opportunities
- Build momentum and fraternity

Programs give men a reason to stay involved — because they see real purpose and real impact.

CARTER CONT.

Discipline in submitting reports ensures accountability and recognition. Conducting programs and submitting the required reports is directly to:

- Star Council Awards
- Columbian Awards
- State Recognition
- Parish and diocesan reporting

These recognitions aren't about plaques and certificates, they're about demonstrating that a council is healthy, active, and fulfilling its responsibilities.

Many Faith-in-Action programs supports priests and promotes vocations. They strengthen the spiritual life of the parish.

- Holy Hours
- Rosary programs
- Into the Breach
- Vocations support
- Marian devotion initiatives

When councils complete these programs, they help pastors form disciples and build a culture where vocations can flourish.

Members, donors, and parishioners want to know that the Knights are using their energy wisely. A council that completes programs is a council people trust.

FaithinAction is the common framework that connects **17,000+ councils** across the world. When councils' complete programs, they participate in a unified, global mission — not just local activity. It ensures that every Knight, everywhere, is contributing to the same pillars of faith, family, community, and life.

The true way for parishioners, the religious community, and the more than 17,000 councils to know your council is on task – **you must report your activities.**

Completing and reporting FaithinAction programs proves that a council is alive, missiondriven, and actively serving the Church and community — exactly what the Knights of Columbus exists to do.

CARTER CONT.

Vocations Chairman

Every January and August, men enter seminaries to become priest. Women interested in becoming a nun enter a religious community throughout the year. Entering religious life is not an easy decision; nor from beginning to ordination. Both men and women go through a gradual, multiyear process of prayer, and formation within a religious community.

How Difficult Is Seminary or Religious Formation?

- **It's Spiritually Demanding**
 - They're not just learning about God — they're learning to surrender their entire life to Him.
- **It's Academically Rigorous**
 - It's graduate-level work, often in a second language (Latin, Greek), while also maintaining a full prayer schedule.
- **It's Emotionally and Personally Challenging**
 - It's a total reorientation of life — identity, relationships, and future.
- **Community Life Isn't Easy** (Those of us that served in the military can relate to how difficult it is to fit in a new community)
 - Living with people you didn't choose
 - Sharing chores, prayer, meals, mission
 - Learning humility and patience
 - Navigating personality differences
- **Financial**
 - Seminarians and sisters live with very limited personal resources.
 - Most have no personal income

Here's a strong, practical way to think about it: **seminarians and women religious need support in four major areas — spiritual, emotional, relational, and material.** When councils understand these needs, their support becomes far more meaningful and effective.

CARTER CONT.

Spiritual Support

- Formation is demanding. They need people praying with them and for them.
- Regular prayer for their vocation and perseverance
- Holy Hours offered for vocations
- “AdoptaSeminarian/Sister” prayer partnerships
- Spiritual encouragement — handwritten notes, Mass intentions, rosaries

Formation can be spiritually intense and isolating. Knowing a parish or council is praying for them gives real strength.

Emotional & Moral Support

Both seminarians and women religious face pressure, long study hours, and major life transitions. They will benefit from:

- **Encouraging letters or emails**
 - Provide them the name, address, email address, and phone number of GK or his representative.
- **Occasional checkins**
 - Such as, “How can we pray for you this month?”
- **Invitations to parish or council events**
 - Keep them informed about council activities
 - Let them know that they are welcome always
- **Respectful interest in their journey**
 - Ask how their studies are going
 - Congratulations on milestones
 - Ask if they need special prayers, etc.

Many feel forgotten once they leave home for seminary or the convent. A simple message can mean the world.

CARTER CONT.

Community & Human Support

They are still human beings who need connection, belonging, and normalcy. Helpful support includes:

- Meals when they visit home
- Transportation help (especially seminarians)
- Care packages during exams or feast days
- Inclusion in parish life without overwhelming them

Formation environments can be intense. Normal human connections keep them grounded.

Material & Financial Support

Formation is expensive — books, travel, clothing, and personal needs add up. Councils can help with:

- RSVP stipends
- Gift cards for groceries, gas, or personal items
- Books or supplies for theology studies or personal interest
- Habit or vestment assistance for women religious and seminarians
- Support for retreat costs

Most seminarians and sisters live on very limited stipends. Practical help reduces stress and lets them focus on formation.

How do supporting vocations and the Knights of Columbus Mission mesh?

Our Mission is to strengthen the Church Through Holy Vocations:

The Knights of Columbus exists to form faithful Catholic men, support families, defend human dignity, and serve the Church. Strong vocations are essential to every part of that mission. Priests and religious sustain parish life, provide the sacraments, guide families, and lead works of charity — the very things the Knights were founded to protect and advance.

Blessed Michael McGivney was a parish priest whose ministry to families inspired the Order. Every sacrament, every parish mission, every moment of spiritual leadership depends on holy, wellformed priests and religious. When councils support seminarians and religious communities, they expand the Church's capacity to serve the poor, the vulnerable, and the forgotten.



CARTER CONT.

Vocations Advance Our Four Principles

Charity

Priests and religious bring Christ's mercy to the sick, the grieving, and the poor. Council support multiplies the Church's charitable reach. When councils support seminarians and religious communities, they expand the Church's capacity to serve the poor, the vulnerable, and the forgotten.

Unity

Priests unite the parish through sacramental leadership. Priest are the unifying center of parish identity, sacramental life, and mission. Supporting vocations ultimately strengthens parish unity and mission.

Fraternity

The Order forms men in their own vocation as husbands, fathers, and disciples. Supporting priestly and religious vocations reinforces the culture of discernment and holiness among all Catholic men.

Patriotism

A healthy society depends on moral leadership and spiritual integrity. Priests and chaplains serve communities, hospitals, schools, and the military. Supporting vocations strengthens the moral and spiritual fabric of society.

Supporting Vocations Strengthen Knights of Columbus Programs

Faith Programs

- Holy Hour for Vocations
- Marian devotion and consecration events
- Parish support for seminarians
- Arrange for seminarian engagement in parish

Family Programs

- Family Prayer Nights with a vocation theme
- Encouraging families to pray for specific seminarians
- "Adopt-a-Seminarian" family partnerships

CARTER CONT.

Community Programs

- Support for diocesan vocation offices
- Rosaries or processions for vocations

Life Programs

- Sponsor travel for seminarians to March for Life or local life events

Supporting vocations is one of the most direct ways councils can advance the mission, and service to the Church.

Joe Carter, FDM

Program Director

RSVP Chairman

(702) 277-9122

josephcarter5898@att.net



DISTRICT MASTER CAMERON PECK



Brother Knights,

As we enter the month of May, our thoughts turn toward one of the most sacred observances on the American calendar: Memorial Day. On May 25, we pause as a nation to honor the men and women who gave their lives in service to this country. For Fourth Degree Knights, this is not simply a national holiday. It is a moment that speaks directly to the heart of who we are and why we took the Patriotic Degree.

When we were exemplified, we made a commitment not only to our faith, but to our country. We pledged to be visible witnesses of Catholic patriotism, men who honor the sacrifices of others and who carry forward the values those sacrifices were meant to protect. Memorial Day is one of the most meaningful opportunities we have each year to live that pledge publicly and with purpose.

I encourage every assembly and every Sir Knight to participate in a local Memorial Day observance this month. Whether that means marching in a parade, attending a ceremony at a veterans memorial, placing flags at a military cemetery, or simply organizing your council or assembly to show up together as Knights, your presence matters. When our communities see Catholic men standing at attention in honor of the fallen, it is a witness to both our patriotism and our faith.

If your assembly hosts or participates in a Memorial Day event, please make sure it is documented. Events like these qualify toward the Civic Award, and the June 30 deadline is approaching quickly. Do not let those programs go unreported.

Thank you for your continued service to the Order and to our nation. The example you set in your communities reflects well on every assembly in this district.

Vivat Jesus!
Cameron Peck, PSD
District Master

GENERAL AGENT DANIEL SCHACHLE



Knights of Columbus was founded to provide protection and financial security

Brothers,

A consistent income brings financial stability and well-being to your family. If it were to vanish unexpectedly — whether because of death or disability — consider what might happen next:

Would your loved ones need to sell or downsize their home? Would your children need to change schools? Would it impact retirement savings?

From our founding to now, Knights of Columbus can help replace that crucial income, protect savings and prevent major lifestyle disruptions. Depending on your stage of life, there are K of C solutions that are designed to fit your needs.

If you're a young man, you may be working hard to pay rent or cover basic living expenses. As you age into your prime working years, there may be mouths to feed, a mortgage and a car payment. Then finally as you approach or enter retirement, you might be looking for supplemental income or to protect what you've built.

If you're supporting a family, term or permanent life insurance can help give you peace of mind that they will be financially protected if you or your wife should pass away. Even amid tragedy, it helps give the people you love stability and time to adjust without the added weight of financial hardship.

SCHACHLE CONT.

Not sure what protections and K of C solutions are right for you? Reach out to your K of C Field Agent today so you can arrange a meeting.

Vivat Jesus!

Dan Schachle, FICF, PGK

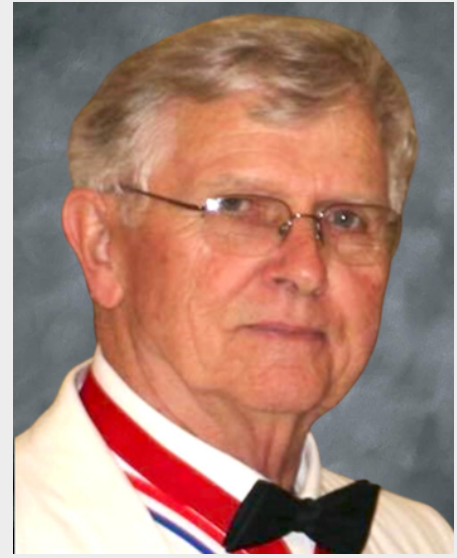
Knights of Columbus, General Agent

(615) 589-8848

daniel.Schachle@KofC.org



STATE HISTORIAN BILLY HANCOCK



It was my privilege to be the keynote speaker at the Fourth Degree Exemplification hosted by the Fr. Calhoun Assembly 3611 in Oak Grove on April 25, 2026. I would like to share with you the first part of the speech.

Today, I would like to take you back in time to two specific dates. The first is the morning of Sunday December 7, 1941. I doubt that anyone else here was alive then besides my future wife and I. I was 5 years old my future wife 4. We celebrate our 71st wedding anniversary Sunday. She is the Lady working the registration table.

In my lifetime I have learned much about December 7, 1941 and its aftermath. I want to share with you one story about that day. It was a balmy Sunday morning. A light breeze stirred the palm trees and gentle waves washed the shores of Oahu Island, Hawaii. It was the calm before the storm which was about to be unleashed upon it by the military forces of the Empire of Japan. It was the day President Franklin Delano Roosevelt referred to as the Day of Infamy.

This is the story about the insight Admiral Nimitz had into the "Mistakes" the Japanese made when they bombed Pearl Harbor.

Tour boats ferry people out to the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii every thirty minutes. A man had just missed a ferry and had to wait thirty minutes. He went into a small gift shop to kill time. In the gift shop, he purchased a small book entitled, "Reflections on Pearl Harbor " by Admiral Chester Nimitz. The man later wrote the following:

Sunday, December 7th, 1941--Admiral Chester Nimitz was attending a concert in Washington D.C. He was paged and told there was a phone call for him. When he answered

HANCOCK CONT.

the phone, it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the phone. He told Admiral Nimitz that he (Nimitz) would now be the Commander of the Pacific Fleet.

Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet. He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941. There was such a spirit of despair, dejection and defeat--you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war.

On Christmas Day, 1941, Adm. Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. Eight sunken battleships and other navy vessels cluttered the waters everywhere you looked. As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked, "Well Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?" Admiral Nimitz's reply shocked everyone within the sound of his voice. Admiral Nimitz said, "The Japanese made three of the biggest "mistakes" an attack force could ever make or - God was taking care of America. Which do you think it was?" Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, "What do mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?"

Nimitz explained. Mistake number one: the Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk--we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.

Mistake number two: when the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships, they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow every one of those ships to America to be repaired. As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America. And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships.

Mistake number three: every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is in top of the ground storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply. That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make or God was taking care of America.

The man wrote that he had never forgotten what he read in that little book. It was still an inspiration. In jest he wrote, I might suggest that because Admiral Nimitz was a Texan, born and raised in Fredricksburg, Texas --he was a born optimist. But any way you look at it--Admiral Nimitz was able to see a silver lining in a situation and circumstance where everyone else saw only despair and defeatism. President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job.



HANCOCK CONT.

We desperately needed a leader that could see silver linings in the midst of the clouds of dejection, despair and defeat. As an aside note if you are ever close to Fredricksburg, TX be sure to stop in. The National Museum of the Pacific War is located there. You will be greeted by an 8-foot bronze statue of Admiral Nimitz. The city restaurants offer good German food and it is located in fine wine country.

The attack on Pearl Harbor lasted a mere 75 minutes executed by 353 Japanese aircraft launched from 6 aircraft carriers. The damage to Pearl Harbor and the surrounding area was astounding. More than 2,400 Americans were killed in the attack. Nearly 20 American ships, including five of the eight battleships, and 300 aircraft were destroyed.

Admiral Nimitz was a man who looked at total devastation and chose to see possibility. Your obligation is to carry that same spirit into your service as Fourth Degree Knights. The Order has been producing patriots through peacetime and wartime for well over a century. You learned the names of a few of them during today's exemplification.

Next month I will submit the second half, September 11, 2001, of my speech for publication.

Wishing all mothers a Happy Mother's Day!

**Submitted for the May 2026 Newsletter by:
Billy R. Hancock, PSD
State Historian**

Local Events

Do you want to *waive* your *per capita* this year?

Recruit your top men to become Knights of Columbus Financial Professionals! Just **one** successful candidate equals 100% reduction in assessment.



1

Promote the Career to Your Members

Learn more about the career at www.kofc.org/agentcareers and visit Supplies online to find all promotional materials

2

Have Your Candidate Apply

Scan the QR code below, and be sure the candidate uses the referral code: **2026Incentive**

3

Your Candidate Becomes an Agent

After becoming an Agent, he will complete a training program

4

Your Agent Completes Six Months

Your candidate must complete six months under contract as an Agent for your council to qualify

5

All Per Capita Fees Waived

All per capita fees waived at the end of the applicable billing cycles



Knights of Columbus®

To apply, scan the QR Code, using the referral code: **2026Incentive**



Referral Incentive only applies to FA's with at least 6 months of tenure. Per Capita includes all Supreme Council Assessments for the 2026 Fraternal year.

20541 12/25

Local Events

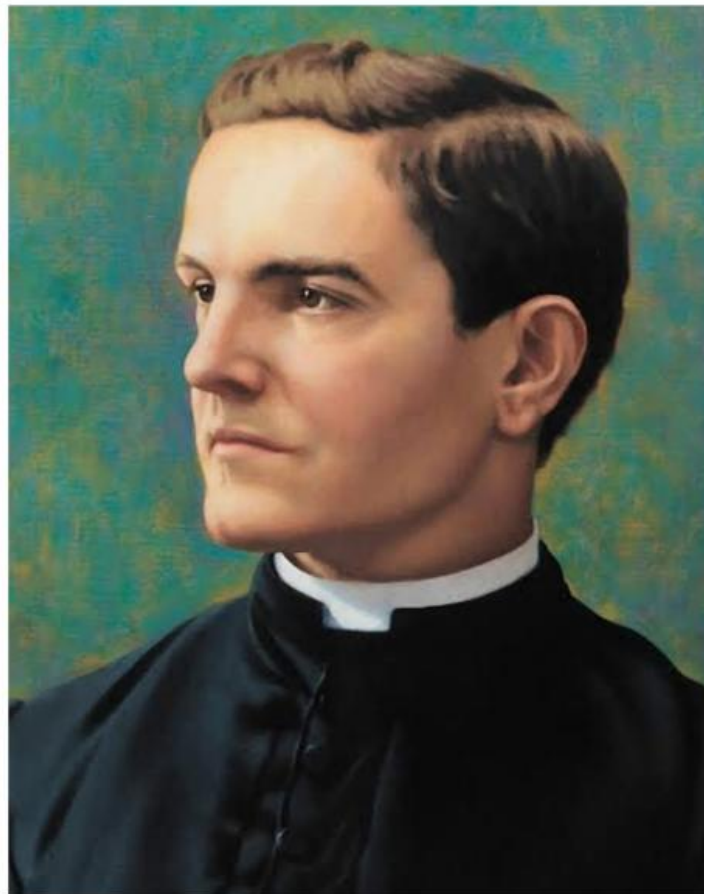
Bishop Flaget Assembly 307



Invites you to
our pilgrimage
Oct. 1-4, 2026



To Saint Mary's, New Haven, Connecticut



**Bus Rides & Stay at the New Haven Hotel
includes one king size bedroom, made to order breakfast
\$650, makes checks payable to Bishop Flaget Assembly and
send to 3711 Avalon Drive, Burlington, KY 41005
Call 606-302-3621 for more information**

CALENDAR

May

4th Degree Exemp. Bowling Green 9
Mexican Martyr Relics Tour 19-24

June

4th Degree Exemp. Louisville 6
Corpus Christi Solemnity 7
Feast Day of Sacred Heart of Jesus 12

July

Fraternal year starts 1
Organizational Meeting 10-11

KENTUCKY STATE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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