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Father Al Camp, Madison

Send Council, Assembly and Circle news and announcements by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month to:

Fred Middleton  
4322 Bloombury St.  
Southaven, MS 38672  
kofc7120@yahoo.com  
662-449-0053

### Founder's Day - March 29

*The Knights of Columbus began in the basement of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, CT, in 1882, when Fr. Michael J. McGivney called together a small group of pioneering Catholic laymen and founded a society to provide financial assistance for widows and orphans of members. March 29 marks the 128<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Order receiving its charter from the state of Connecticut.*



### Coming Events

#### Exemplifications

#### Saturday, February 27

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, Starkville Council 6765, 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree 10:30 a.m. followed by 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, St. Joseph Parish Center.

#### Monday, March 29

Founder's Day, 128th anniversary of the founding of the Knights of Columbus by Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney.

#### Saturday, April 10

4<sup>th</sup> Degree, Meridian Assembly 1251, 1:15 p.m., Council Hall, Hwy. 19 North.

# The Magnolia Knight

Vol. 10, No. 2



February 2010

### A Word from the State Deputy

## Take Time This Lent Insure That Our Councils Are Growing in Charity

By Peter J. Sukanek

We have just entered a special season for the Church and for us. Our English word for this season, Lent, comes from the German and Dutch words (*lenz* and *lente*) for "spring." It is a time for us to watch and prepare for a new beginning in the summer, a time for us to sow the seeds of a new life that will, we hope, blossom in the time after Easter. It is the intervening time between the darkness of winter and sin, and the light of summer and a new life: A special time.

Many of us use the spring to prepare for the following season in a variety of practical ways. We fertilize our lawns, maybe get the lawn mower or tractor back in operation after several months of disuse, plant a garden for a summer's supply of flowers and vegetables. It's the time for the traditional "spring cleaning." The Lenten season should give us the opportunity to get our spiritual house in order. Traditionally, it is the time for fast and abstinence, for prayer and for almsgiving. Not just the usual, "ordinary" activities that we are involved in, but something extra, something special. It's a time for an internal "spring cleaning."

Last month in this space, I mentioned the opportunity the New Year gives us to renew our commitment to the Knights of Columbus. The season of Lent should allow us to focus not just on our individual spiritual life and well-being, but on that of our Councils as well. What is our Council doing to further the fundamental principle of our Order, Charity? Part of that focus is on membership. If the Knights can make one a better

Catholic, as it should, we have the mandate to offer that opportunity to other Catholic men. If the Knights stand for Church, Community, Council, Family, Youth and Life, we have the mandate to sponsor more and better programs in those areas. We have the responsibility to demonstrate in all our local and State programs that first and foremost, the Knights of Columbus stands for Charity.

In the second reading at Sunday Mass a few weeks ago, St. Paul told us, "If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I am nothing." (Those who are old enough may remember that many years ago, the translation was "charity" and not "love.") It should be consoling that, while the Spirit may not grant most of us the gift of tongues or healing powers, we can always choose to exercise the gift of love/charity, which Paul ranks higher than all the rest. Christians must love one another as God has loved us: a difficult and challenging task. This gift of charity we are called to exercise not just as individuals, but also through our Councils. Just as some judge the Church by the actions of some of its members, people will judge the Knights of Columbus not just by what we do as a Council, but also how we live as individuals.

Take this time this Lent to insure that our Councils are growing in charity and that we demonstrate that virtue in the parish and the community.

Vivat Jesus!



### **Foundation Contributes \$8,000 To State Special Olympics**

The Knights of Columbus Foundation of Mississippi contributed \$8,000 to the Mississippi Special Olympics in January, representing a portion of funds collected during the Jurisdiction's annual People with Intellectual Disabilities fund raising campaign.

"On behalf of the members of the Mississippi Knights of Columbus, we wish to recognize the Mississippi Special Olympics for the outstanding service your organization provides to the disabled citizens of our State," Foundation Board member Larry J. Tabor wrote in a letter to Special Olympics Mississippi Executive Director Helen C. Parish.

"Each year the Mississippi Knights of Columbus conducts our fund drive to benefit the intellectually disabled. Through the efforts of our 6,500-plus members and generosity of our local communities, we are able to provide much needed financial support to organizations that offer assistance to the disabled of Mississippi."

A complete distribution of collections made during the 2009 PID drive will be announced at the State Convention in Natchez.

### **Band Trip to Australia Gets a Hand from Council 1908**

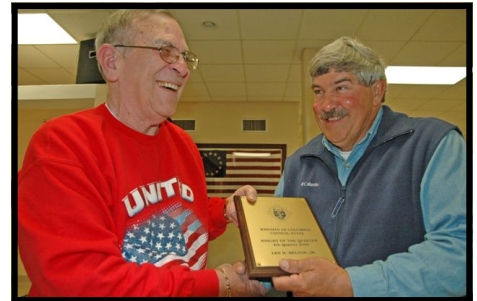


**Hattiesburg Council 1908 hosted a Fish Fry/ Shrimp Boil for Christina Vilar and Connor Lawson, parishioners at St. Thomas Church in Hattiesburg, to assist them on their trip to Australia this summer as part of the Mississippi Lions Band. Each child was presented with a check that helps defray approximately 20 percent of the cost of their trip. Wilbur Moreland made the check presentations as a stand-in for Grand Knight O.D. Landrum, who was attending another Council function. Fr. Tommy Conway was present, dressed in "out of time" vestments to show support for another of his parishioners - Brett Favre, who was**



**busy quarterbacking the Minnesota Vikings on NFC Championship Sunday.**

### **Biloxi 1244 Presents Awards**



Biloxi Council 1244 held its quarterly awards dinner on Feb. 11, recognizing three Family of the Quarter recipients and the Knight of the Quarter and saluting special guests Fr. George Manchapilly, Parochial Vicar of the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and District 11 Deputy Roger Feters and his wife, Teresa.

Grand Knight Michael Arguelles presented Family of the Quarter awards to Eves and Helen Vincent III for October (top photo), Christopher Mables for November and Ellis (Lee) and Jackie Slater for December.

The Knight of the Quarter Award went to Bro. Lee E. Helton Jr. (lower photo). A 4<sup>th</sup> Degree member for several years and Council 1244's Recorder, Bro Lee is involved in many K of C service and community activities. He is also active in the International Order of Alhambra, assisting those with special needs, and is a regular, conscientious volunteer in Biloxi's civic programs to help the less fortunate.

Rev. John R. McGrath, JCL, Council 1244's Chaplain, opened the dinner with a special prayer of blessing and thanksgiving. (Submitted by Council 1244 member Joe Ravita.)



## Discernment Develops One Step at a Time

By Deacon Larry Campbell  
Vocations Chair

"Steps" is a good way to describe the process of discerning one's future, especially where the priesthood and religious life are concerned.

Some struggle too intensely about the possibility of a vocation because they think that a decision must be made with a single great mental leap, once and for all time. But, as in most of life, vocational discernment is a careful and prayerful process of taking things one small step at a time, always asking along the way, "Lord, is this where you want me?"

The answer to that question will come to a listening heart with the help of other people – our vocation director, seminary faculty and many others who provide guidance and experiences. Many times men can find the answer to the question, "Should I become a priest?" by actually entering the seminary.

All Knights can do something to support vocations. We can pray for vocations, both as individuals and as families; encourage our current seminarians; and invite people (including our own children) to consider a vocation.

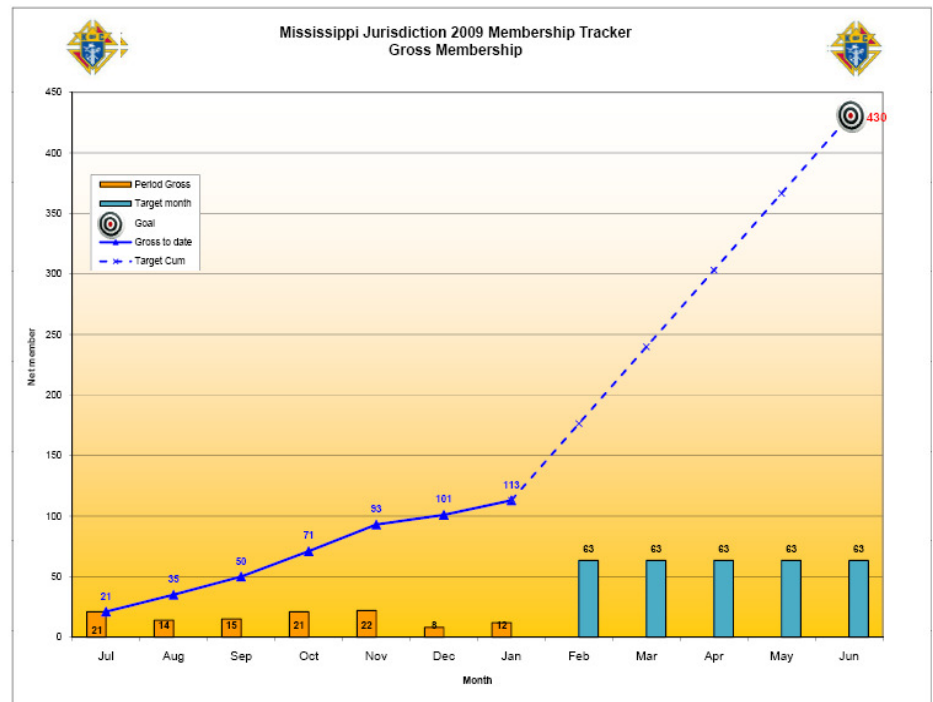
The education of a seminarian costs more than \$25,000 per year. For theology students, the Jackson Diocese covers the complete cost of tuition, room, board, books, fees, etc., along with providing each seminarian with a small monthly stipend to cover their miscellaneous expenses. Various Knights of Columbus Councils throughout the Diocese have been generous by "adopting" individual seminarians to support them spiritually and financially.

Knights and their families can participate in fundraisers to contribute to the Bishop R. O. Gerow Memorial Fund for Seminarian Education, by participating in the RSVP Program, answering the call from the Diocese when special needs arise for seminarians, sending "care packages" with a man's personal needs in mind,

## Southaven Fr. Gregory Bezy Assembly Celebrates 20 Years



**State Deputy Dr. Peter Sukanek and Faithful Navigator James Farris shared a few minutes together prior to joining other members of the head table for the 20th anniversary celebration of the founding of Southaven Christ the King Fr. Gregory Bezy Assembly 2195. Members of the head table included (from left) Kathy Sukanek; Fr. Charles Yost, SCJ (ret.), former President/Spiritual Director of the Sacred Heart League; Founding Faithful Friar Fr. Patrick J. Lloyd, SCJ, guest homilist for a Mass that preceded the celebration; and Mary Coker, widow of the Assembly's Founding Faithful Navigator, Gordon B. Coker, in whose honor the gala was dedicated.**



communicating with letters of support, birthday cards, greetings during the holidays and, of course, through our continual prayer. In the area of prayer, we might dedicate part of our Lenten prayers as prayers for our present seminarians and for those considering seminary life.

For more information on vocations in

the Jackson Diocese, contact Fr. Kent Bowlds, Vocation Director, 4000 W. Tidewater Ln., Madison, MS 39110, 601-720-7273, [frkentb@gmail.com](mailto:frkentb@gmail.com).

**The Magnolia Knight Online**  
[www.kofc-ms.org](http://www.kofc-ms.org)



### ***Illuminated Rosary for Abortions***

***Madison St. Francis Council 9543 presented an illuminated rosary representing the 154 crosses of the number abortions per hour in the US. Jim and Carol Boyle directed the rosary, which was moved indoors because of thunderstorms. (Submitted by GK Charles Wilkerson.)***



### ***Madison Free Throw, Soccer Challenge Champions***

***Madison St. Francis Council 9543 crowned champions in its annual free throw and soccer challenges. Basketball winners were Lauren Tonos, 13, and Bridget Abadie, 12, in girls' competition and John Lee 11, Robbid Tonas 12 and Sam Osborne 13 in the boys' competition. Soccer Challenge winners were (from left) Shanay Desai, Hailey Desai, Phillip Wright, Savannah Turner, Elliott Guzman, David Warnock. Youth Activities Director Johnny Biggert coordinated both events.***

### ***New Columbian Application Includes Pro-Life Category***

The new version of the Columbian Award application (SP-7) with the new Pro-Life program activity award category is now available on-line in the Council Forms section at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org). The new version of the State Service Program Awards form (#STSP) also is available at that site.

### ***December Families***

Three Mississippi families were winners in Supreme's December Family of the Month drawing.

They are Ronnie and Tracy Morales of Laurel Council 2180, David and Jean Martin of Lumberton Council 7211; and Billy and Linda Johnson of Tylertown Council 11956.

Other Councils that submitted families for December were 802, 898, 2134, 4472, 4898, 5654, 6872, 7120, 9094, 9124, 9543, 10216, 10499, 10901, 11934, 12271 and 14051.

### ***Meridian Hosts 4th Degree***

Meridian Msgr. John J. Burns Assembly 1251 will host a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification April 10 honoring Fr. James Brett (deceased).

The event will be held at the K of C Hall located on Hwy. 19 North in Meridian. The host hotel is Drury Inn (601-483-5570). Mention Knights of Columbus group to receive the special rate of \$81.

Registration begins at 11:45 a.m., with lunch at the hall. The exemplification begins at 1:45, followed by a Mass at 5, a reception at 6:30 and the banquet at 7.

The exemplification fee is \$70 per candidate and includes a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree social baldric, a lapel pin and a banquet ticket. Banquet tickets for wives of candidates, members and their wives and other guests are \$20.

Make checks payable to Larry Tabor, Mississippi District 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Master, and send to him along with completed Form 4s at 9601 Blossman Dr., Biloxi, 39532. The deadline for registering is Friday, April 2.

All candidates and 4<sup>th</sup> Degree member observers are required to wear a black tuxedo, black bow tie, white tux shirt with lay down collars (no ruffled shirts), black cummerbund and black footwear. Military personnel may wear dress uniforms. Priests may wear dress clerics. Sword or regalia are not required for candidates.

### ***Momentous Milestones***

The past year was a momentous one for the K of C Insurance program.

1. The Order issued more life insurance than ever: \$7.57 billion.
2. Total insurance in force reached a high of \$74 billion. Just 10 years ago, the amount was \$38 billion.
3. The AAA rating from Standard and Poor's was reaffirmed for the 17<sup>th</sup> consecutive year; and the A++ rating from A.M. Best was reaffirmed for the 34<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.