



State Deputy

Daniel 'Danny' Lechner, Biloxi

State Secretary

Dr. Peter Sukanek, Oxford

State Treasurer

Gerald 'Jerry' Schmuck, Gulfport

State Advocate

David Scott, Madison

State Warden

Jim McCraw, Jackson

Immediate Past State Deputy

Larry Tabor, Biloxi

State Chaplain

Father Charles Nutter, Gulfport

Send council, assembly and circle news and announcements by the 10th of each month to:

Fred Middleton

4322 Bloombury St.

Southaven, MS 38672

fredm Middleton@comcast.net

662-449-0053

On the Web
www.ms-kofc.org

Coming Events

Exemplifications

Sunday, August 14

1st, 2nd and 3rd Degree, Council 1244, Biloxi

Saturday, August 23

4th Degree, Assembly 3007, D'Iberville

Wednesday, August 27

1st Degree, Council 5654, Ocean Springs
1st Degree, Council 5556, Cleveland

Sunday, September 21

2nd and 3rd Degrees, Council 10443, Grenada

Saturday, September 27

4th Degree, Assembly 2734, Starkville

Noteworthy Dates

Sunday, October 26

Priesthood Sunday

The Magnolia Knight

Vol. 8, No. 8

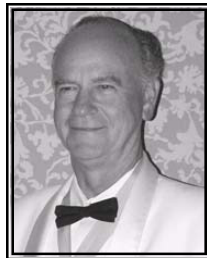


August 2008

'You Are the Best'

By Daniel 'Danny' Lechner

We have embarked on the second month of our journey. The journey of having the best year in the history of the Mississippi Knights of Columbus. The journey will be full of obstacles but, together, we will overcome these obstacles and prevail. I know this because you are the best Knights in the Knights of Columbus.



We have just returned from the Supreme Convention in Quebec, Canada. The convention was filled with inspiration, information, spirituality, friendship and unity. The Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson, gave a wonderful report on the status of our great organization. Bishops, Cardinals, and Priest concelebrated Mass each day of the convention. Awards were presented, including the International Family of the year, which was won by a family from New York State. The award that I am most proud of was the Supreme Knight's Circle of Honor award. This award is given to the states attaining their Supreme membership quota. Through your efforts and hard work, we attained this award.

At the State Organization meeting, the District Deputies offered the following membership goals:

District 1 - 32 members
District 2 - 27 members
District 3 - 19 members
District 4 - 40 members
District 5 - 35 members
District 6 - 48 members
District 7 - 18 members
District 8 - 21 members
District 9 - 29 members
District 10 - 51 members
District 11 - 43 members
District 12 - 58 members

These numbers are above withdrawals and suspensions. Please help them attain their goals.

It will be a challenge to repeat our accomplishments this year. But I know we can do it because you are "the best Knights in the Knights of Columbus."

Remember to get your required reports in.

Thank you for your support and dedication.

May God bless you and your family.

Mississippi Knights of Columbus

Fred Middleton, Editor



The School of Columbianism at Batesville's St. Mary's Church attracted District Deputies (standing, from left) Ray Ball of Corinth, District 1; Wayne Ebelhar of Greenville, District 3; and Bill Sonnemann of Southaven, District 2. Leaders of the event included (seated, from left) State Secretary Peter Sukanek of Oxford and State Deputy Danny

**New Training Seminar
Designed for GK Success**

By Jerry Schmuck, State Treasurer

Supreme has introduced a new training seminar to help Grand Knights succeed in their duties. District Deputies reviewed contents of the seminar at a meeting during the installation of officers in July. The following highlights that review:

Officers Meetings

One of the most unused opportunities a Grand Knight has to stay informed about his council and to help him keep his council meetings short is to hold an officers meeting once a month. This should be on a different day than the council meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to get input from ALL of the officers as well as the Program Director and Membership Director on what they are hearing from the members, ensure the status of old business is properly addressed and have time to find answers to open questions about past, present or future programs. All this is in an effort to keep council meetings short, organized and productive.

(Continued on Page 2)

A Farewell Message from the Master

By Dr. Paul N. Gospodarski

After more than four years of service as the Master of the Fourth Degree for the Mississippi district, my term of office will end at the end of August. These years have been a joyful blessing for both Cathy and me. I have had the wonderful opportunity to get to know so many brother knights and their families not only in Mississippi, but also throughout the country and from Canada. A new Master will be appointed by Supreme and began his duties in September.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to several brother knights who have been of enormous help to me. Our former Vice Supreme Master Bob Peters and current Vice Supreme Master Mike Horten have been exceptional mentors for me. Our Immediate Past State Deputy, Larry Tabor, and current State Deputy, Danny Lechner, have gone the extra mile for me during this time. Brother Knight Ray Ball of Corinth not only formed a new assembly, but his assembly just received the Civic Award from Supreme for exceptional service. When I began service as Master, we had one Marshal for the entire state. Now we have seven throughout the state, whose services are exceptional. I know that they will continue to provide outstanding service to the new Master.

It would have been very difficult for me to carry out my duties and meet my responsibilities as Master without the support and prayers of so many brother knights and their families. During this time, we have had more than 14 exemplifications. In the immediate aftermath of Katrina, we had one of the largest classes for our district in Picayune with more than 50 knights joining the fourth degree. During these four years, more than 300 brother knights have become Sir Knights. Six new assemblies have been formed and approved by Supreme.

Following the horrendous destruction of Katrina, Cathy and I decided to offer our help by driving truckloads and vanloads of food, clothing, furniture, whatever we could get our hands on, to deliver to the coast. All total, we made more than 80 trips with much needed supplies for our brother knights throughout the gulf coast. Thanks to Catholic Charities of the Jackson Diocese and others, we loaded truck after truck with much needed materials for the coast. Our brother knights throughout the country and Canada responded to our request for assistance. Because of their generosity, we were able to distribute many tuxedos to our Brother Sir Knights who

lost everything. For me personally, this service will always be a hallmark of my four years as Master. The many brother knights from North and Central Mississippi who held food drives, and many who collected other supplies, were a blessing that can only have been directed by God. All I can say is thank you from the bottom of my heart.



Finally, let me add that two Fourth Degree exemplifications are scheduled over the next month. D'Iberville Assembly 3007 hosts the first of these on Aug. 23, and Starkville Assembly 2374 hosts the second on Sept. 27. I encourage all of my brother Knights to give prayerful thought to joining the Fourth Degree.

So now I say farewell, but only as the Master. Cathy and I will continue to do the Good of the Order and provide such service as our current and future State Deputy will direct. I thank all of you for your prayers, kindness and generosity. God bless you all!

PSD Larry Tabor Appointed Master of 4th Degree

Immediate Past State Deputy Larry Tabor of Biloxi is the new Master of the Fourth Degree for the Mississippi District effective Sept. 1. His appointment was announced by Supreme Master Joseph Schultz.

Bro. Tabor served two terms as State Deputy in 2005-27.



"It is with great pride and humility that I accept this most honored role to serve my brother Knights," Bro. Tabor wrote in a letter to state Grand Knights and Sir Knights.

"I thank State Deputy Danny Lechner for expressing his confidence by nominating me for this position, I also owe a great debt of gratitude to Dr. Paul Gospodarski and his wife, Cathy, for their tireless efforts in the past four years for great successes enjoyed by the Mississippi District."

PSD Tabor said his immediate focus is to confirm appointments of current District Marshals and seek additional Marshals as necessary and encourage growth in the 4th Degree

GK Training (continued from page 1)

These key members should be talking to the rest of the members during the month in an informal way to help keep them informed about what is going on within the council and to increase excitement while encouraging attendance at meetings.

The officers meeting also is a place where the GK can ensure all old business is being attended to, review programs for the current and upcoming months so there are no late surprises and find out how the projected programs are progressing.

Use of Trustees

The effective use of trustees is also a grossly overlooked resource to the GK. Trustees are often Past Grand Knights. As such, they should be at meetings to help the GK keep meetings at a reasonable length. This can be done by them suggesting that items being discussed are turned over to a committee when discussion becomes too long.

Program and Membership Directors

The GK is to appoint his Program Director and Membership Director personally. These two men will be the key to the suc-

cess of the council during the coming year. The GK needs to plan a strategy of activity for the coming year with each of them and then collectively. This should be done as early as possible, but no later than the end of July. The Program Director needs to discuss with the GK the names of men with whom he would like to work in each of the five program categories as chairmen. The GK then approves or discusses the selections. Then, development of the tentative program calendar for the coming year needs to begin.

The GK needs to meet with the Membership Director and do the same thing with his three committees. They also should plan a membership recruitment strategy for each of the four quarters. They also need to establish a strategy for retention.

Stay in Touch with Officers

The GK should stay in social contact with his officers during the month. Either he or someone appointed should call all of the officers a day before the officers meeting and remind them of the meeting time and location. This will give the necessary information on who won't be there and why.

Bishop R. O. Gerow Memorial Fund: The Best From the Past and a New Beginning

By Deacon Larry Campbell, Chair, Bishop R.O. Gerow Memorial Fund

The Bishop R. O. Gerow Memorial Fund has raised \$1,741,914 in the Mississippi Jurisdiction since 1953, funds that went directly to our bishops to assist in educating and supporting seminarians. All of us can be proud of this accomplishment, which has become a model for other jurisdictions within the Order. During this Fraternal Year, we are looking at the "best from the past and a new beginning." We are embarking upon the following and more comprehensive three-fold approach:

Priest Education Fund or Seminarian Education Fund — As an example, during the 2007 and 2008 Fraternal Years, we raised \$119,727 and \$106,405, respectively. With the soaring costs, and even with the economic stress that we are experiencing in our nation today, we cannot allow these amounts to falter; in fact, we must increase our level of giving well beyond these amounts. If each Council in the Jurisdiction were to raise slightly less than \$25 per member, we could raise approximately \$75,000 for each diocese. This would require 100 percent of all Councils, Assemblies, Ladies Auxiliaries and Columbian Squires Circles to maximize their efforts, and this could and would be accomplished.

Proposed goal for this Fraternal Year: Councils in the two dioceses increase their level of giving to Bishops by approximately 40 percent.

The Knights of Columbus Insurance Trust for Seminarian Education — This trust allows any Knight, family member or acquaintance to give a new insurance policy, or an existing insurance policy, and name a diocese as owner and beneficiary. This policy does not necessarily have to be a K of C insurance policy. It can be an insurance policy issued by any insurance provider. The Internal Revenue Service treats premiums paid on these policies as

tax deductible charitable contributions. Although these contributions may be small for us today, the payoff at the death of an insured then becomes a major gift for a diocese. In time, the diocese would have a "corpus," a large sum of money, earning interest through the investment of these funds by the financial experts from the Catholic Foundation Investment Committee.

Proposed goal for this Fraternal Year: At least five policies from each council throughout the jurisdiction be given to the Catholic Foundation for the Trust for Seminarian Education.

K of C Seminarian Education Endowment — Knights or other individuals choosing to make a one-time "or more frequent" tax deductible contribution instead of an insurance policy can make a direct contribution to the Seminarian Education Endowment. These monies will earn interest, which will be allocated annually for seminarian education. The endowment is also the recipient of all proceeds of benefits paid upon the death of the individual insured through the K of C Insurance Trust. In approaching our contributions through the Insurance Trust or Seminarian Education Endowment, the diocese would have a large and growing "corpus" earning interest earmarked specifically for seminarian education.

The Insurance Trust for Seminarian Education and the Seminarian Education Endowment are the two financial programs that represent "a new beginning." Hopefully, with our ongoing Priest Education Fund or Seminarian Education Fund providing funds on a current basis to the dioceses, the Insurance Trust and the Seminarian Education Endowment will provide funds for future years. In this way, the dioceses would have a large amount of money earning interest far into the future.

4th Grillin' for Life Event Raises \$7,000

The 4th Annual Grillin' for Life, sponsored by K of C councils in Central Mississippi, attracted 27 cooking teams and raised \$7,000 for distribution to pro-life organizations.

Ben Mokry of Jackson Council 8285 at St. Therese Parish, says this year's

event raised the total contribution from the Grillin' for Life event to more than \$21,000 for pro-life causes.

The event was held at Madison St. Joseph School campus, with 15 vendors selling arts and crafts and several bands performing.

UBON's All Professionals, a local team, won the competition's professional division. Madison Council 9543 of St. Francis of Assisi Parish won the K of C Division, and Up in Smoke BarBQue won the Backyard Division.

A Thought about Vocations

By Deacon Larry Campbell
Chair, State Vocations

As many of you know, I travel throughout the U.S. making Mission Appeals on behalf of the Diocese of Jackson. At nearly every parish I visit, I feel compelled to ask the young women and men, particularly those serving at the altar, to "keep an open mind" and listen for "God's call."

In particular, I approach the subject of a religious vocation to the holy priesthood with the young men. I am firmly convinced that if a younger or older man is "open minded" and prayerfully listens for God to speak to him, God will show him the way he should serve. Some may be called to married life or single life, and others to the religious life and/or priesthood. Please let us all remember that by our Baptism, we are all called to a "ministry of service."

As adults we must all strive to be good examples and prayerful and encourage our men, the younger and the older alike, to consider the call to be a "future shepherd." The most powerful prayer we have as a family is to attend weekend Mass on a regular basis. Another powerful prayer is frequent prayer together as a family. Faith in God nourished by prayer is the most powerful way our faith can be strengthened. As the Christopher's used to say, "The family that prays together stays together."

Let us pray that God will keep these men "open minded" and that they will be willing to listen for God to speak to them. Although each vocation chosen by an individual carries with it different responsibilities, no vocation is greater than or better than another. All vocations are a response to the call of God.

Let us ask Our Lord to keep us faithful to the Church and faithful to the service of others.

A People of Life

As members of the Knights of Columbus, we are all called to work toward building a culture of life. The new brochure "A People of Life – And for Life" (#4795) outlines the Order's commitment to reversing the trend toward a culture of death and building a culture that values human life at every stage. The brochure clearly outlines the Order's commitment to the pro-life movement and also offers five practical action items to help members, their families and all concerned people get involved in building a culture of life. Order this brochure from the Supreme Council Supply Department.

Mississippi Knights in Action

St. Vincent DePaul Knights Enlarging Church

Knights of St. Vincent de Paul Council 4898 in Long Beach are at it again, helping their parish recover and operate after Hurricane Katrina.

Now they are expanding the chapel area of St. Thomas Church and adding a cry room as well as a music ministry office.

With the relocation of the St. Vincent de Paul School to its new home, the council and the parish opened the first two classrooms to make more room for masses as well as adding other needed room.

The remainder of the former Long Beach Skating Rink that the council purchased after Katrina and has been used as a school will not be utilized by the parish for religious education classes as well as a dedicated council home. St. Thomas will continue to use this facility until it rebuilds its campus.



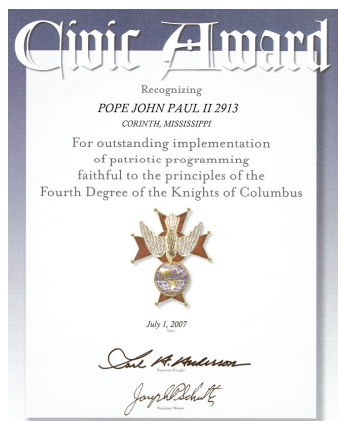
Knights Buddy VanCort and Mark McMillan work on new walls in the church expansion at St. Thomas Church in Long Beach.



Knights VanCort, Huey, McMillan and Garrard erect new walls in a former classroom to enlarge the parish's worship area.



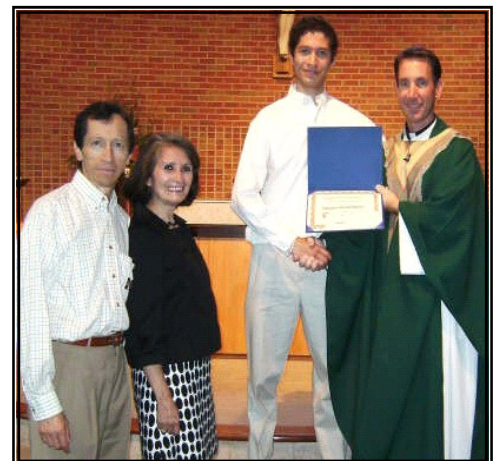
Cleveland Council Installs Officers
Cleveland Fr. Rotondo Council 5556 held its installation of officers for the new Fraternal Year last month at the Cleveland K of C Hall. Present for the ceremony were (back, from left) Robert Vargas, Inside Guard; Will Bradham, Deputy Grand Knight; Doug Cocilova, Chancellor; Andrew Cocilova, Lecturer; and Bill Boswell, Trustee; and front (from left) Michael Aguzzi, Trustee; Luis Ybarra, Grand Knight; Wayne Evrard, Recorder; Florencio Ybarra, Outside Guard; and Fred Henry, Advocate. Officers not present for the installation are Michael Rocconi, Warden; Ben Bailey, Financial Secretary; Jody Rocconi, Treasurer; and Shea Skeen, Trustee.



Corinth Patriotism Saluted

Corinth Pope John Paul II Assembly 2913 received the Civic Award from Supreme for "outstanding implementation of patriotic programming."

The Assembly participated in activities during the year, including marching in the Corinth Christmas Parade; welcoming the 105th Combat Battalion home from Iraq; sending care packages to Alcorn County servicemen in a combat zone and Christmas cards to all other county service personnel on active duty; providing Christmas gifts to residents of the Abused Children Home; hosting the fireworks for the council 4th of July picnic; and providing an Honor Guard for events at various churches in the area.



Miguel Rodriguez Awarded 2008 Knights of Columbus Scholarship

Fr. John Bohn, pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Starkville, presents the 2008 Fr. John P. Egan Scholarship certificate and check to Miguel Rodriguez, a 2008 graduate of the Mississippi School of Math and Science. Proud parents German and Emma were on hand for the presentation. Miguel plans to attend the University of Chicago in the fall.

**Read The Magnolia Knight
On Line at
www.ms-kofc.org**