



**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, Gautier

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

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On the Web  
www.ms-kofo.org

**Coming Events**

**Exemplifications**

**Sunday, October 19**

1st, 2nd and 3rd Degree,  
Council 10216, Brandon, St.  
Paul Family Life Center. 1st  
Degree Registration 10:30  
a.m.; 2nd and 3rd 12:45 p.m.

**Noteworthy Dates**

**Saturday, October 18**

Worldwide Rosary for Un-  
born Babies, 9 - 10 a.m.

**Sunday, October 26**

Priesthood Sunday

**Friday, October 31**

All Hallows Eve

**Saturday, November 1**

All Saints Day

**Sunday, November 2**

All Souls Day

**Tuesday, November 4**

Election Day



Polls Open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

# The Magnolia Knight

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October 2008

Mississippi Knights of Columbus

Fred Middleton, Editor



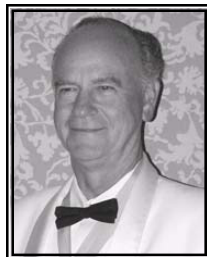
**4th Degree Exemplification**

*Eight Assemblies from throughout the state were represented at a 4th Degree Exemplification hosted by Sir Knight Eugene T. Hicks Assembly 2734 Starkville/ Columbus at St. Joseph's Church in Starkville. The event was held in honor of Dr. Paul Gospodarski, outgoing State Master. See Page 2 for more on the evening of celebration and recognition.*

**A Word from the State Deputy**

**Recruitment: It's a Matter of 'ACT' and 'ACTIVATE'**

*By Danny Lechner*



Fall is in the air and with it comes that feeling of euphoria. With this great feeling, it is now time for us to get in gear and do the things that we are capable of doing.

During the month of October, we observe Respect Life Month, Columbus Day, World Youth Day, Halloween and the "October Membership Blitz" recruitment program.

The October Membership Blitz should not replace our year-long recruitment, but be a catalyst to get us going.

Something that comes to mind was told at the State Deputy's training in New Haven.

It seems that a Grand Knight and Deputy Grand Knight were looking for a Membership chairman.

At Mass, they saw Brother Knight 'Jim,' who was ushering. They looked at each other and said, "Jim is a great salesman and he would make us a fine Membership chairman." After Mass, they approached Jim and asked him if he would take the position. Jim's reply was, "What am I selling?"

Think about it. When we ask someone to join, "What are we selling?" Do we have active programs? Are we visible around the church? Hopefully, the answer is "yes." We have to have something to offer.

The secret to getting and keeping members is "ASK" and "ACTIVATE."

**(Please See A Word from the State Deputy, Page 5)**

### **4th Degree Event Salutes Dr. Paul and Cathy, Initiates 25 New Sir Knights**



**Faithful Navigator Mike Kassouf of the Starkville/Columbus Assembly presented Honoree Certificate to Former State Master Sir Knight Dr. Paul Gospodarski.**



**Deacon Larry Campbell read a letter of thanks to Dr. Paul and Cathy for their work in the Mississippi Jurisdiction. State Deputy Danny Lechner also presented them with a Papal Blessing from Pope Benedict XVI.**



**State Master Larry Tabor and Dr Paul presented certificates to 25 new Sir Knights. Among them were father and son Joe and Byron Tullos of Council 13471, Philadelphia.**



**The Honor Guard for the Mass was comprised of 20 Sir Knights from around the Mississippi Jurisdiction.**

### **New Sir Knights**

#### **Meridian Assembly 1251**

John Graupman, Darrell Hover, Freddy McCoy, Edward Shamp, Otto Storr

#### **Greenville Assembly 555**

Mark Briscoe, Michael Mauel, Euclides Velasquez

#### **Clarksdale Assembly 564**

Walter Gilbert, Walter Kersh

#### **Tupelo Assembly 2131**

Kenneth Valentine

#### **Olive Branch Assembly 3081**

William Irby, David Szymanski



#### **Southaven Assembly 2195**

Dennis Foley, Stephen Frazier

#### **Starkville Assembly 2734**

Jose Aleman, Juan Corrigan, David Johnson, German Rodriguez, Peter Ryan, Daniel Setaro, Joseph Tullos, Byron Tullos, Benton Vizzier

#### **Grenada Assembly 2916**

James Hertel



### **15 Knights Gain 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Degrees in Grenada Exemplification**



### **Tupelo Council Contributes PID Funds**



**Tupelo Council 8848 Grand Knight Mark Dye presents McDougal Center Director Jan Harris with a check for \$8,227.07, representing the amount collected in the council's annual Tootsie Roll Drive for people with intellectual disabilities. Support from Wal-Mart Supercenters, Sam's Club and the local community was very important to the Council's success.**

### **Tupelo's \$10,000 Draw Down for Life Coming Oct. 24**

**By Mark Dye, Grand Knight, Tupelo Council 8848**

It's that time again for the big Draw Down. Since I am the Grand Knight this year, the pressure is on for me to sell more tickets than I have in the past years.

Tickets are only \$100, and that gets two individuals into a live-band dance with dinner and beverages provided. There also is a Halloween Costume contest

No only is the event a lot of fun, but it's for a great cause. Profits support Pro-Life issues in the Tupelo area. 662-213-4217 or Tony Palazzo @ 662-841-2402. (Contributed by Mark Dye.)

### **Council 898 Salutes Memory of Order's First Supreme Knight**

Vicksburg Council 898 will hold a reception and dinner to on the eve of the dedication of a monument honoring troops from Connecticut who fought in the Battle of Vicksburg and the memory of the Order's first Supreme Knight, who was a member of the Connecticut unit.



**Supreme Knight James Mullen**

The monument is a tribute to the men of the 9th Connecticut Regiment Volunteers – known as the Irish Regiment because of its many Irish Catholics – who, in the summer of 1862, dug Grant's Canal across Louisiana's DeSoto peninsula so Union ships could bypass Vicksburg and its Confederate guns. Long denied a place at the military park because of the timing of their service, the 9th's monument comes to fruition with a dedication Oct. 14. A K of C Honor Guard will participate in the ceremony.

Sgt. James T. Mullen, who was a member of the Connecticut unit, was a close associate of Knights of Columbus founder, Fr. Michael McGivney. Sgt. Mullen was one of the founding members of the Knights and served as Supreme Knight in the period Feb. 2, 1882, to May 17, 1886. He enlisted in Company C of the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment on Sept. 11, 1861, and was honorably discharged on Dec. 17, 1862, because of illness.

There is also some evidence that many of the unit were founding members of the Knights.

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson expressed interest in contributing to the monument project in 2003. Three years later, the K of C pledged \$10,000 to the project, one-half when the monument design was approved by the National Park Service and the remainder at the time of the monument's installation.

The monument is located at Grant's Canal across the river from Vicksburg at Delta, La.





**K of C insurance agent James 'Jim' Rigby (left) made the case for membership in Biloxi Council 1244's membership drive, speaking at all St. Michael's masses over the weekend of Oct. 4-5. Al D'Orville (right) answers questions from Corinne Green.**

### ***Biloxi Council 1244 Stages Membership Drive, Corporate Communion***

Council 1244 in Biloxi held a membership drive and Corporate Communion the weekend of Oct. 4-5 at St. Michael's, the Fishermen's Church, in Biloxi. James 'Jim' Rigby spoke at all of the Masses and invited anyone interested in knowing more about the Knights to come to the KC Hall the following Thursday night to find out more about who we are and what we do. He noted membership is open to all Catholic men age 18 and over that are in union with the Holy See. He also told those present how the Supreme Knight and his group that were on a pilgrimage in Rome had just had an audience with the Holy Father the previous Friday. Jim also addressed the fact that the Knights, as the Gospel for that weekend addressed, have and carry out respect for all. He addressed our respect for the unborn, the aged and those who are developmentally disabled. He also spoke of our undying support for our clergy, and he encouraged everyone to take seriously the upcoming election and to vote. Helping with the drive were Round Table Coordinator Al D'Orville, Grand Knight Mike Arguelles, Deputy Grand Knight Randy Trahan, council Church Activity Chair and Publicity Chair Joe Ravita, Brother 'Pete' Hebert and local councilman and Bro. George Lawrence. (Submitted by Joe Ravita.)



### ***One More Task for Ocean Springs Council 5654***

Twenty Knights wielded paint brushes at St. Alphonsus Church to paint the school cafeteria, the K of C Hall and the CCD building, saving St. Alphonsus Parish a large amount of money. "Our priests have been there for our council when we needed them, and we just wanted to show our thanks for their support," said Grand Knight Carl Brochard. Members in the pictures are Larry Skinner, David Sliman, Troy Million, Robert Boney, Benny De Santis, Nolly Du Bose, Steve Jones, David Morano, Ralph Foecke, Dennis Van Acker, L.J. Danise, Gordon Mathieu, Ben Cantin, Paul Pierre. Not Pictured Carl Brochard, Leonard Tarrant, Dan Pasquini, Skip Murphy, Tommy Brochard and Mike Zuber. (Submitted by Carl Brochard; photos by Rose Mary Van Acker.)

**Better Late Than Never; Jackson Man Heeds Mid-Life Call to Priesthood**  
(Reprinted from the Gulf Pine Catholic)

At 51 years old, Michael Marascalco would be considered a late vocation, but, as the old saying goes, better late than never.

The Jackson native who is studying to be a priest recently wrapped up an 8-week internship at Sacred Heart Parish in Dedeaux under the direction of Fr. Michael O'Connor.

Marascalco is the youngest of five children born to Charles and Grace Marascalco. He is a product of Catholic schools and entertained thoughts of becoming a priest early in life.

"I . . . had notions of the priesthood when I was a little kid when I started learning how to serve Mass," said Marascalco, a member of Jackson St. Mary Parish. "That stayed with me for a while. in fact. I got invited to a discernment dinner by Bishop Joseph Brunini (the late former Bishop of Jackson) and thought I had a vocation and was going to pursue it." However, the further he got into high school, the less Marascalco thought about becoming a priest.

"I went into business and got an accounting degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and had a good career as a certified public accountant," he said. "Then, about six or seven years ago, the idea of the priesthood . . . started reoccurring. I could hear the voices, the tapping on the shoulder and that kind of thing, and (I) . . . had a spiritual rebirth, so to speak. I talked to a lot of priests, including my cousin, Fr. Sam Messina, who is a priest in Jackson. Everybody said you've got to go to the seminary to find out one way or the other, so I finally decided that's what I needed to do. I needed to put this to rest one way or the other, whether I was called to be a priest or not."

Marascalco said he grappled with the decision of whether to study for a religious order or to become a diocesan priest. "I had heard of (Holy Apostles Seminary in Connecticut) that allows you to fulfill your philosophy requirements unsponsored. That fit. So, I

went and, with the help of my spiritual director, we both discerned that I was called to diocesan life."

Marascalco spoke with his home Diocese of Jackson. I don't know. I just felt compelled also to talk to the Diocese



**Another in a series of articles about men who have made the decision for the priesthood**

of Biloxi," he said. "(Diocesan Vocations Director) Fr. Dennis Carver made me feel extremely welcome. Everything went well, and I just thought God was calling me here instead of (to) my home diocese."

After wrapping up his stay at Sacred Heart Parish, Marascalco returned home to Jack-

son for two weeks before heading to St. Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad, IN, for orientation. He then began his theology tract. "I'm hoping to be ordained in three years, but it's looking more like four," he said.

The time spent in a parish during the summer months is designed to give seminarians a hands-on look at parish life. Marascalco said his stint in Dedeaux went by in a flash. "I started off going into the crucible," he said, recounting his arrival in Dedeaux. "I came here the day before the parish bazaar, so I got baptized by fire right off the bat. But it was good. It was hard work, but I met a lot of people in those four days. I met a lot of parishioners and I met a lot of people from the surrounding area.

"To be honest, I was a little skeptical. I'm a city boy. I was born and raised in Jackson and, when I came for my visit in December, I was reluctant because I was going to be out in the middle of the country. I had never done that be-

fore, but I've been converted. Country life suits me just fine."

Fr. O'Connor said Marascalco acclimated well in the two months he spent at Sacred Heart. .

Looking back on his own time as a seminarian and his first experience in a parish, Fr. O'Connor, who is one of the diocese's newest priests, having been ordained in 2005, said he was determined to keep Marascalco active during his stay at Sacred Heart because he remembers how easily boredom could set in. "I've always heard about the bride of Christ," Marascalco said. "Well, I've finally met a part of the bride of Christ that has really made an impact on me. The bride of Christ is the Church, and these people that I've met here have opened their homes, their lives and their families to me, and I saw the beauty of Catholic, Christian family life and how that relates to the Body of Christ."

**A Word from the State Deputy**  
(continued from Page 1)

On a couple of other matters: The "Marian Hour of Prayer" icon will circulate around the state again. This year's title is "Our Lady of Charity."

Finally, a note about the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree.

Brothers, we are known as the strong right arm of the church, and we are at our most visible with activities of the 4<sup>th</sup> degree.

We are not as effective as we should be at recruiting new members for the 4<sup>th</sup> degree. Suspensions are the No. 1 enemy of our councils. Statistically, of all members in our order who are 4<sup>th</sup> degree, there are less than 2% suspended.

I urge all Grand Knights to effectively recruit 3<sup>rd</sup> degree members to join the 4<sup>th</sup> degree and to have a 4<sup>th</sup> degree representative at all council meetings.

Let's get visible!!!

Brothers, we have so much to do and so little time to do it. "Let's get it done."

May the love of Jesus Christ be with you and your families.

Vivat Jesus,!!



### **Seminarian Care Package Program Established**

A program designed to involve state councils in providing care packages for men studying for the priesthood in the Catholic Dioceses of Jackson and Biloxi is under development.

The plan calls for each of the 16 seminarians to receive packages on a regular basis to show support for their commitment to their religious conscience and the personal sacrifices they make.

"We ask Knights across the state to support this effort to send our seminarians a Care Package," said Kenn Rains of the Diocese of Jackson, who is coordinating the program with Richard 'Geoff' O'Neil of the Diocese of Biloxi.

"We all know these men have sacrificed much to serve a greater good than self. They have answered a calling from our Lord that takes them on a path where they will eventually serve us by leading our families and parishes to God's grace.

"We would like to send each of them, possibly every other month, a package containing a sundry of items to make their time at the seminary a little more comfortable and enjoyable," Each council is being asked to adopt one or more of the seminarians for the care package program.

"The councils provide financial assistance when they adopt a seminarian, but this extension of our support is intended to provide moral support to these individuals," said Rains. "It is suggested that participants might think about what they would send their own son or daughter if they were away at college or military service."

Laundry detergent, a first aid kit, shower shoes and toothbrushes might be included, along with prayer cards, letters from school children, gift cards and cookies, he explained.

Rains has assigned councils to a particular seminarian, attempting to keep seminarian within his home area where possible. Assignments for the Jackson box are in the accompanying box.

### **Assignments for Councils in the Jackson Diocese**

District 1, DD Raymond Ball, Councils: 8760, 8848 (even months: i.e. Oct., Dec., Feb.) 8912, 10901 (odd months: i.e. Nov., Jan., Mar.), Greg Davidson, Sacred Heart School of Theology, Box 429, Hales Corners, WI 53130. Home Parish: St. James the Less, Corinth, [jamesgregorydavidson@hotmail.com](mailto:jamesgregorydavidson@hotmail.com)

District 2, DD Bill Sonnermann, Councils: 2969, 6555, 7120 (even months), 10443, 13502, 14051 (odd months), Juan Chavajay, 653 Claiborne Ave., Jackson, MS 39209, Home Parish: Guatemala, [johnvisi@hotmail.com](mailto:johnvisi@hotmail.com)

District 3, DD Dr. Wayne Ebelhar, Councils: 2134, 2945, 5267 (even months), 5556, 9234 (odd months), Rafael Anguiano, St. Joseph College, Box 478, St. Benedict, LA 70457, Home Parish: Leon, Mexico, [bonsaisx@hotmail.com](mailto:bonsaisx@hotmail.com)

District 4, DD Mike Kassouf, Councils: 802, 6765 (even months), 7974, 13471 (odd months), Patrick Jones and Scott Thomas, Notre Dame Seminary, 2901 S. Carrollton Ave., New Orleans, LA 70118, Home Parish: St. Patrick, Meridian, [pjonesonline@gmail.com](mailto:pjonesonline@gmail.com); [vincent890@yahoo.com](mailto:vincent890@yahoo.com)

District 5, DD Bill O'Connor, Councils: 848, 898 (even months), 7854, 8285 (odd months), Luke Arredondo, Notre Dame Seminary, 2901 S. Carrollton Ave., New Orleans, LA 70118, Home Parish: St. Michael, Vicksburg, [luke.arredondo@gmail.com](mailto:luke.arredondo@gmail.com); Charles Macko, St. Mary Basilica, Box 1044, Natchez, MS 39121 Home Parish: St. Jude, Pearl, [prevalant@aol.com](mailto:prevalant@aol.com)

District 6, DD Philip Jabour, Councils: 8038, 9543 (even months), 10216, 11934 (odd months), Rusty Vincent, Notre Dame Seminary, 2901 S. Carrollton Ave., New Orleans, LA 70118, Home Parish: St. Jude, Pearl, [scott1984@ymail.com](mailto:scott1984@ymail.com); Bob Soukup, Sacred Heart School of Theology, Box 429, Hales Corners, WI 53130, Home Parish: St. Paul, Brandon, [bob\\_soukup1@netzero.com](mailto:bob_soukup1@netzero.com)

District 7, DD Dr. Wade Ditcharo, Councils: 1034, 6592 (even months), 7915, 8054 (odd months), Adam Nobles, P. O. Box 3938, Mississippi State, MS, 39762, Home Parish: St. Alphonsus, McComb, [ain55@msstate.edu](mailto:ain55@msstate.edu)

### **Financial Secretary Corner**

#### **October Billing Statement**

Due to a situation that occurred during the month-end processing, your October statement will be delivered late. For those councils that have not paid their per capita and Catholic advertising, it is recommended that you use your September statement balance to avoid suspension.

#### **Member Billing Application Announcement**

The Supreme Council is in the process of releasing the new Member Billing application, which complements the Member Management application. Financial Secretaries and Faithful Comptrollers of the Mississippi Jurisdiction are scheduled to receive the applications Nov. 13.

The Member Billing application, which complements the Member Management application, allows councils and assemblies to:

1. Manage the financial transactions for their council / assembly;
2. Create, edit and archive receipts, vouchers, assessments and adjustments;
3. Maintain a list of accounts and sub-accounts, payee / payer lists and council / assembly defined sub-classes for billing (military, students, etc.); as well as,
4. Produce billing notices and record payments received from members.

The Member Billing, together with Member Management, will streamline the duties and responsibilities of our Financial Secretaries and Faithful Comptrollers. Only Financial Secretaries and Faithful Comptrollers will have access to the Member Billing application to this web-based application.