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State Chaplain

Father Charles Nutter, Gautier

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

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The Magnolia Knight

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November 2008

Mississippi Knights of Columbus

Fred Middleton, Editor

Marian Icon Travel Schedule Established for Jurisdiction

The Knights of Columbus has sponsored Marian Hour of Prayer programs since 1979. As part of this program, the Order distributes pilgrim icons depicting the Blessed Virgin Mary under her various titles that travel on a year-long journey from council to council in each of the Order's jurisdictions throughout the world. These Marian icons serve as the focal point for prayer services held in council homes, churches or other locations.

Each District Deputy is responsible for ensuring that the councils in his district have an opportunity to receive the icon and plan a prayer service during the district's scheduled time slot. The Grand Knight of each council should coordinate with his district deputy to schedule a date within the district's time slot for his council to receive the icon. The district deputies should coordinate with each other to arrange for the passing of the icon from one district to the next according to the schedule. If a problem should occur, State Marian Hour of Prayer Coordinator, Bob Leo should be contacted immediately at 601-737-5253. Should a council miss its opportunity to host the Marian Hour of Prayer service, make-up dates may be available in July-August 2009.



Our Lady of Charity

Marian Hour of Prayer Icon Schedule

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Icon #1</u>	<u>Icon #2</u>
Oct. 15-Nov. 30	District 6	District 7
Dec. 1-Jan. 15	District 5	District 8
Jan. 16-Feb. 28	District 4	District 9
Mar. 1-Apr. 15	District 3	District 10
Ap. 16-May 31	District 2	District 11
June 1-July 15	District 1	District 12

Coming Events

Exemplification

Saturday, Jan. 24

1st, 2nd and 3rd Degree, D'Iberville Council 9094, Sacred Heart Parish Gymnasium. 1st Degree Registration 8 a.m.; 1st Degree 9 a.m. followed by 2nd and 3rd degrees.

Noteworthy Dates

Tuesday, Dec. 2

"Light Up for Christ," 8 p.m.

Mid-Winter Meetings

Saturday, Jan. 10, North, TBD, noon - 4 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 11, Central, Madison Council 9543 (tentative), noon - 4 p.m.

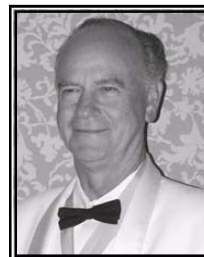
South: Jan. 18, Ocean Springs Council 5654, noon - 4 p.m.

A Word from the State Deputy

A 'Thank You' for the Privilege of Serving You

By Danny Lechner

On behalf of the State Family, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. It's the time that we give thanks to God for all of our blessings. I will give thanks to Him for giving me the privilege of serving the Mississippi Knights of Columbus (the greatest Knights in the Order) with the best state officers, DDs, Grand Knights, council officers and members.



E-mails

One of the greatest inventions in the past few years is the E-mail. With it, we have instant communications. Also, with it comes responsibility. This year I have seen e-mails which have caused hurt feelings between our members. (not intentionally) This happens when e-mails get forwarded that were not intended to be forwarded.

(Please See A Word from the State Deputy, Page 4)



Councils 1244, 5654 Sponsor Blood Drives

Biloxi Council 1244 and Ocean Springs Council 5654 sponsored blood drives in October at their respective homes. Lori Fulford (left) and Deno Ryan (center) were among those who contributed 34 pints of blood at Ocean Springs. In Biloxi, Bro. Lee Slator (center in photo at right) observes as Deputy Grand Knight Randy Trahan (left) and Grand Knight Mike Arguelles take their turns as contributors. Community Director Albert Llado organized the drive in Biloxi with assistance from Joan Llado and Bros. Slater, Roy Andrews, John Higginbotham and Joe Ravita. (Contributed by Carl Brochard in Ocean Springs and Joe Ravita in Biloxi.)

Gulfport St. James Wins State Golf Tournament

Gulfport St. James Council 11541 captured the championship at the Knights' State Golf Tournament held in October at Pine Burr Golf Club in Wiggins.

B.J. Lewis, Terry Harris and Ed Croal, Jr., made up the winning team.

Second place went to the team from Gulfport St Joseph the Worker Council 12331 consisting of R. Hudson, Jr., R. Hudson, Sr., C. Hudson and J. Ma-banta. Long Beach St. Vincent de Paul Council 4898 produced the third-place team, made up of B. Seal, E. Seal, N. McDonald and D. Delorenzo.

Winners of closest to the pin prizes were C. Underwood, Jay Oberlies, C. Croal and C. Hudson.

Jay Oberlies won the longest drive contest for players under 60, with Roger Hudson, Sr., winning the over 60 division.

Six teams competed in the tournament, which will be hosted by Long Beach next year. (Contributed by Ed Croal, Jr.)



Raymond Cole, Pro-Life Chairman of Batesville Council 13502, presents a check to David Caudillo of Coahoma County High School, winner of the Knights of Columbus art contest on the theme of HAVE A HEART...PASS IT ON! Knights across the state have adopted Organ Donation as an extension of their Right-to-Life movement and are encouraging people to sign up as organ donors to help other people live. In the U. S., 17 people die every day waiting for the right organ to become available to help them live, and every 12 minutes someone new is added to the list of people in need of an organ. To sign up, all you have to do is tell your family of your desire to become a donor, then tell the driver's license clerk the next time you go to renew your license. It's that easy. Contact the Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency at www.mora.org for more information. (Contributed by Raymond Cole.)

PID Check Reminder

People with Intellectual Disabilities Chairman Jim Farris reminds that he has checks to be sent to councils from their PID drives from the current year and some past years.

In order to distribute these checks, Jim needs the required distributions forms.

"Please understand," Farris says, "that without the distribution form I do not know who these councils want their checks made out to."

If you have questions about the distribution of funds, contact Jim at 662-393-7550, 4235 Chelsea Circle, Horn Lake, MS, 38637-8762, jameswf@aol.com.

Family of the Month

State Family Director Carl Brochard announced that Supreme selected Larry and Pamela Miller of Greenville Council 2134 as the September Family of the Month.

He also thanks the following councils who submitted nominations: 802, 848, 2134, 4898, 5556, 5654, 6872, 7974, 9124, 9543, 9673, 10216, 10443, 10499, 10901, 11904, 11934, 11956, 12271 and 13502.

Carl also said councils that submitted a family before the 15th of the month but are not on the above list should notify him so he can in turn notify Supreme of the oversight.

On the Web

www.ms-kofc.org



A Fourth Degree Honor Guard participated in the dedication of a monument honoring Connecticut troops who fought in the Battle of Vicksburg. The monument honors men of the 9th Connecticut Regiment Volunteers – known as the Irish Regiment because of its many Irish Catholics – that included the Knights of Columbus' first Supreme Knight, James T. Mullen. Vicksburg Council 898 held a reception and dinner on the eve of the dedication.

Fellow Priests Reinforce Seminarian's Decision **By Juan Chavajay**

My name is Juan Chavajay a seminarian from Guatemala, I am 26 years old. There are three in my family and I am the youngest. On my studies, I have finished my third year of theology in the diocesan seminary of Guatemala Our Lady of the Way, which is located in Sololá, Guatemala.

About my vocation to the priesthood: I never thought about it until my pastor, Fr. Adolfo Marroquín, invited me. I remember very well that at first I didn't like the idea too much, but gradually God started working in my life, showing me his invitation to discern to the priesthood. Through the example and help of my pastor, I decided to try and enter the seminary. Thanks to God, it has now been six years of my formation in the seminary. I find more and more reassurance to continue my pursuit to the priesthood.

A key element in my discernment has been the priests from the seminary. Their spirituality and example of life have been instrumental for me, as I trust in God, which brings me joy and hope in my journey to the priesthood. I was following my discernment in Guatemala when I received an invitation from Fr. Lenin Vargas to consider the diocese of Jackson, MS. He explained to me the need of the diocese for vocations and for people willing to serve God's people in the States. I didn't have to think too much about coming and said yes. I truly want to

(Please See Fellow Priests, Page 6)

Hispanic Deacon Serves at Fatima Parish, Hispanic Community-at-Large

By Terry Dickson
(Reprinted from the Gulf Pine Catholic)

Deacon Jose Vazquez will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Biloxi by Archbishop Thomas Rodi on Dec. 5 at 1 p.m. at the Shrine of Our Lady of San Juan in Tlalpujahua, Michoacan, Mexico.

As his ordination draws nearer, Vazquez, 29, is finishing an internship at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, where he has gotten a first-hand look at parish life under the tutelage of Fr. Paddy Mockler. Vazquez has done a little bit of everything during his parish internship, which started at the beginning of the summer.

"I've been visiting the hospitals on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays," he said. "We visit Biloxi Regional, Gulfport Memorial, Select Hospice and Garden Park. We also visit the nursing homes once a week."

Vazquez is also heavily involved with the local Hispanic community. "I am offering some counseling to Hispanics during the evening hours and helping out with the Hispanic Masses at Holy Family Parish in Pass Christian and at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Picayune on Sundays. I also go to Ocean Springs sometimes and to St. John in Gulfport every Thursday."

Vazquez is also teaching a class for people who are interested in learning conversational Spanish and will be teaching Spanish at Our Lady of Fatima School, as well as upper class Religion.

Vazquez said he's grateful to have had the opportunity to serve under Father Paddy. "Father Paddy is a great teacher, who teaches by doing. He does it. He invites you to do it, but he doesn't force you to. He invites and he delegates. He simply suggests. He has considered my opinions on many things, which is very good. I feel like part of the parish. I feel that I belong to it.

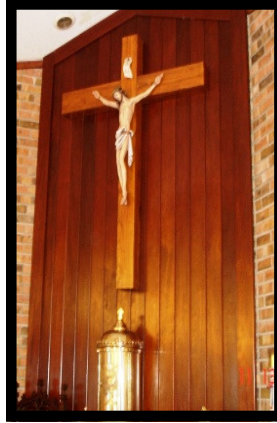
"Father Paddy is letting me participate in weddings, funerals and baptisms so I gain more experience."

Vazquez said having the opportunity to be involved in all facets of parish life has been very beneficial.

"Being an introvert, having to deal with the people and the preaching and all of that has been tough, but, at the same time, with Father Paddy helping me out and leading me toward the community, it's been great."

Vazquez said the parish community has been very receptive. "It's been a wonderful experience. It couldn't be better," he said. "Coming to Fatima was good because I've known the people here since I came from Mexico. This was a parish that welcomed us. We came here very often during the weekends and I was here for two summers. So, I know the people and the people know me, but, now, being ordained and being able to preach and to do more things for them has been a

(Please See Hispanic Deacon, Page 6)



A Church Renovation

Six members of Tylertown Council 11956 took on a project that Pastor and Council Chaplin Fr. Martin Gillespie had been wanting for over a year. That was to move the 'Risen Christ' from over the altar and replace it with a Crucifix (left photos). He wanted the 'Risen Christ' moved to the back of the church. Over a three-day period, the six Knights – Grand Knight Pat Altentaler, Past Grand Knight Harry Smith, Albert Rogers, Aswald Ledet, Ronald Forestier and Terry Chopin – built a matching wall at the rear of the church and moved the 'Risen Christ' (right photos). (Contributed by Pat Altentaler.)

Council 1244 Knight of the Quarter Awards Dinner

Biloxi Knights of Columbus Council 1244 held its quarterly awards dinner on Oct. 23. Rev. Anthony Arguelles, Council 1244 chaplain and Rector of Cathedral of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, opened the dinner with a special prayer of blessing and thanksgiving.

Special guests included Mr. Dick Eckert and Paul Collins and their wives. Mr. Eckert and Mr. Collins represent the local chapter of The Serra Club. Mr. Eckert spoke on the special importance of that organization's mission to foster, affirm and promote vocations in the religious life, and particularly on the critical need for priests in the Catholic Church.

Bro. Pete Hebert, director of Council 1244 Family Affairs, presented the Family of the Month awards to Bobby Grimes (August) and Nellie Cobb (September).

Bro. Jim Rigby, acting on behalf of Council 1244's 2008 People with Intellectual Disabilities Drive Chair Brian Lloyd, presented a check in the amount of \$2,260 to Mr. Bari Matherne and his son, B.J. Mr. Matherne is President of ARC of the Gulf Coast, a humanitarian organization concerned with the special needs of intellectually-challenged citizens.

Br. Harry Steinwinder, the Council's



Bro. Gerard N. Darnell, 2008 Mr. Biloxi

Secretary, announced that Biloxi Council 1244 has named Gerard N. Darnell recipient of the 2008 Mr. Biloxi Knight of Columbus. Bro. Gerard has been a member of Knights of Columbus Council 1244 for 29 years and has been very active in all the programs and projects undertaken by his council. He is always ready to volunteer his time and services. He has served in various elected offices over the years.

Gerard works with the youth in the Pee wee and Little League Sports Program in Biloxi. As a member of Alhambra, a fraternal organization of selected Catholic men, Gerard works conscientiously in the interest of the mentally challenged. He also serves as a Eu-

charistic Minister and as a collection taker in his parish, Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos Catholic Church.

The recipient of the Knight of the Quarter Award is Br. Joseph Ravita. Br. Joe serves as both the Church Director and Public Relations Director.

Grand Knight Mike Arguelles presented a special award to Jeffrey Holt, who acted as fishing instructor during the 2008 Camp Wilkes Summer Camp for Boy Scout Council 213.

(Contributed by Joe Ravita.)

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

Also, during the past few months, due to the Presidential election, there have been e-mails sent out containing partisan political messages. Does the quote "not to bring partisan politics into" remind you of anything?

Please use the e-mail, but do it responsibly.

The schedule for the Regional Mid-Winter Meetings: **North:** Jan. 10, location to be determined. **Central:** Jan. 11 Madison Council 9543 (tentative).

South: Jan. 18, Ocean Springs Council 5654.

The meetings will run from 12 noon until 4 p.m.

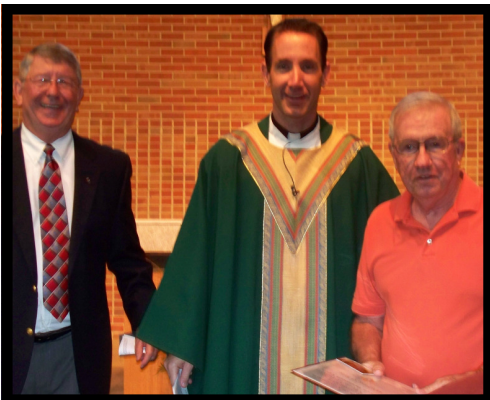
May God bless you and your families.



Ocean Springs Council 5654 held a chicken dinner fund raiser for Judith Pitalo Peebles at St Alphonsus' Fall festival Nov. 2. Judith was in an accident a couple of years ago and has not been able to walk except at the University of Wisconsin, where she underwent an experimental treatment and was able to walk for a brief period. She needs the machine at home that was used in the experimental treatment, which cost \$10,000 plus transportation. Judith's Father, Mark Pitalo, has raised a good portion of the money, and Council 5654 gave a check for \$2,000 from the chicken dinner. (Contributed by Carl Brochard.)



Starkville Council Honors Longtime Knights



Fr. John P. Egan Council 6765 at Starkville St. Joseph's honored two longtime members of the Knights of Columbus with Honorary Life and Honorary designations. Grand Knight Danny Setaro and Fr. John Bohn presented certificates and membership cards to Honorary Life member Wil White (left) and Honorary member Jim Sisson in an October ceremonial. Knights age 65 years and who have been members of the Order for 25 consecutive years qualify for Honorary membership. Members who have attained the age of 70 and who have been members of the Order for 25 consecutive years and those who have been a member for 50 consecutive years, regardless of age, qualify for the Honorary Life designation. (Submitted by Mike Kassouf.)

PRE Students at Christ the King Church fall in line for a pancake breakfast provided by Southaven Council 7120. The Knights served the students in two shifts to honor them on World Youth Day.

D'Iberville Schedules Major Exemplification

Father Patrick McAlpine Council 9094 will host a 1st, 2nd and 3rd Degree Exemplification on Saturday, Jan. 24. at the Parish Gymnasium, located at 10446 LeMoyné Blvd, D'Iberville, on the Sacred Heart Church grounds.

Please notify Grand Knight David Seymour at 228-348-0271 (davidasey@cableone.net) or District Deputy 11 Art Dunn at 228-392-0832 (halfdunn@cableone.net) with the number of candidates you are expecting to attend.

The event begins with registration at 8 a.m. The 1st Degree begins at 9.

Lunch, free for candidates and \$5 for others, will be served following the 3rd Degree. Please adhere to the candidate coat and tie dress code.

If you have Candidate Kits for 1st Degree, please bring them. Otherwise, kits will be available from the host council at a cost of \$4. The cost for the 2nd and 3rd Degree is \$16 per candidate and is due the day of the degree. A state officer will be available to collect degree fees. (Submitted by David Seymour.)



Something to Dance About
Sandy and Mike Westrick purchased one of the winning tickets at Tupelo Council 8848's Annual \$10,000 Draw-Down for Life Halloween dinner and dance. The Draw-Down was a great success, with the council raising \$6,825 for the support of pro-life activities and organizations. Music was provided by Financial Secretary Jeff Houin's Jam Band. (Contributed by Mark Dye.)

A Status Report on the Bishop R.O. Gerow Fund for Seminarian Education

By Deacon Larry Campbell, Fund Chair

As all of you know, the Bishop R. O. Gerow Memorial Fund has three components:

1) The Bishop R. O. Gerow Memorial Fund for Seminarian Education.

This fund is most commonly called the Priest Education Fund. These funds go to our two bishops to help support and educate seminarians from the Dioceses of Biloxi and Jackson. Since inception in 1953, this fund has raised and invested over \$1.7 million dollars for the education and support of seminarians. In the last four years, we have added to this fund through raffles. The first two of these raffles were run by a local council, and the last two were statewide raffles, funded by the Mississippi Jurisdiction. For several reasons, a statewide raffle is not being conducted during the current Fraternal Year. Therefore, we have asked that all councils, assemblies, ladies' auxiliaries and squires circles do what they do best and raise funds locally doing their favorite works. Our goal this year is to raise approximately \$75,000 for each diocese.

2) The Knights of Columbus Insurance Trust for Seminarian Education

This was established several years ago, with each diocese named owner and beneficiary of life insurance policies. At the time of the death of the insured, benefits would be placed into the Bishop R. O. Gerow Memorial Fund Endowment for Seminarian Education. All premium payments for these policies are treated by the IRS as tax deductible contributions. We have established a goal of 150 insurance policies per diocese for the current Fraternal Year. Since April 1, no policies have been given to the Diocese of Biloxi, and only six policies have been given to the Diocese of Jackson.

3) The Bishop R. O. Gerow Memorial Fund Endowment for Seminarian Education

This is the fund into which all life insurance proceeds would be deposited, along with any direct donations from individuals. This fund would be the "corpus" from which earnings would be used by the dioceses to educate and support seminarians. At this time, this "corpus" totals less than \$10,000 in the Diocese of Jackson. I am unaware of the amount of this "corpus" for the Diocese of Biloxi.

In recent weeks and months, our nation's economy and the world's econo-

mies have been seriously shaken and challenged by a downturn that is unprecedented for most of us living today. As a result, many people in our nation and throughout the world are fearful of their future and their ability to meet their financial needs and obligations. Knowing this, it is likely that the goals established earlier this year may not be fully achieved; yet, our own financial demands and those of our two dioceses still exist and must be met.

We, as Catholics, are some of the most generous people in the nation; and Mississippi still ranks first in the nation in per capita amounts donated to charitable causes. There is an old adage that says, "When the going gets rough, the rough get tough." It is our hope that we will live by this old adage and do our dead level best to meet our goals. Each of us must remember that the future of our church depends upon our priests who consecrate the Eucharist and do as Jesus commanded at the Last Supper, "Do this in memory of me."

One of the principle tenets of our faith is that with prayer, nothing is impossible. We also believe that our Good God will never give us more than we can handle.

Hispanic Deacon (continued from Page 3)

Good experience. I was worried because of my accent and that people would have some resistance to accept me or to understand me, but they have been very open, very understanding and very much welcoming."

Vazquez is the 7th of 10 children born to Lidia Morales and the late Jose Trinidad Vazquez. Two of Vazquez' siblings died at an early age. Vazquez will return to Mexico in mid-November and will remain there until some time after his ordination, at which point he will return to this diocese for his first assignment.

"Since I've been quite busy here at Fatima, I haven't really had a chance to think about my ordination," said Vazquez. "I called my family just to check on how the preparations for the ordination are going. I am excited. I am nervous. I have a whole mixture of feelings, but I'm ready for it. It's been a long wait."

Fellow Priests (continued from Page 3)

give my life to God wherever He needs me.

The most difficult part of my decision was to share this with my mother. It was more difficult than I thought. I shed a few tears, but I know this is for God and I went ahead.

I've never been in an airplane, and I was afraid with the idea of flying, but God has been on my side, and this gave me courage and perseverance.

I've been in the diocese of Jackson about two months, and I can see that everything is different and new to me. Now I am in Meridian, working with Fr. Lenin Vargas. He has been helping me to see the different areas of ministry in the parish. I am learning a lot of how priesthood is here in the states. I do not know the language, but slowly I am learning it.

Thanks to God, and to the many people that I have encountered, I feel very well, but I have to admit I miss my homeland.

Thanks to every one for your prayers. I hope to answer God with the generosity that he has showed me through the people of Mississippi.