



**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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www.ms-kofc.org

**Coming Events**

**Exemplifications**

**Saturday, Jan. 24**

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

**Sunday, Jan. 25**

1<sup>st</sup> Degree, Grenada Council 10443, 11 a.m.

**Noteworthy Dates**

**Mid-Winter Meeting**

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

**March for Life**

Thursday, Jan. 22, Washington, DC.

**Supreme Reports**

2008 Fraternal Activity, Form 1728; Special Olympics, Form 4584, to Supreme by Jan. 31.

Audit Report to Supreme by Feb. 15.

# The Magnolia Knight

Vol. 9, No. 1



January 2009

**A Word from the State Deputy**

**A Challenge for '09: Ask for the Membership**

*By Danny Lechner*

We are now in a new year. The past year was an experience of good things and sad things.

It was a year that ended with 51 percent of our membership goal being achieved halfway through the fraternal year.

This is better than the previous year's 47 percent. Let's keep it going!!!

We performed projects that profited the needy, assisted our Seminarians, and gave of our time and treasure to the Church. It was also a sad time, having to say good-bye to many deceased brother Knights.

This year looks bright. We started the New Year with Regional Mid-Winter meetings on Jan. 10 (North) in Tupelo and Jan. 11 (Central) in Madison, with the South meeting scheduled Jan. 18 in Ocean Springs.

Soon we will be celebrating the Lenten season. remembering that Jesus gave his life so we may have eternal life. We will be having our state convention in April and

our "Persons with Intellectually Disabilities" drive in May.

Brothers, we have accomplished a lot. But think of how much more we could accomplish with new members.

**For this reason, I ask every member in the State of Mississippi to ask one Catholic gentleman, 18 years or older, to join our ranks in the greatest Catholic fraternal organization in the world.**

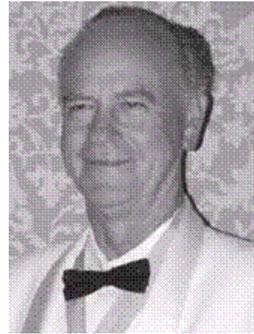
Reminders:

The Annual Survey of Fraternal Activities report is due to Supreme by Jan. 31.

The semiannual Council audit report is due to Supreme by Feb. 15.

Send in your convention registration forms so the convention committee will have ample time to put on a great convention. Also, get in your convention ads.

The state officers and I wish you and your families a joyous and prosperous New Year.



**Getting Down to Business**

*Mid-Winter Regional meetings were hosted by Tupelo Fr. Robert Reitmeier Council 8848 and Madison St. Francis of Madison Council 9543 over the weekend Jan. 10-11, with the final meeting scheduled Jan. 18 at Ocean Springs' Fred L. Westbrook, Sr., Council 5654. State officers (from left) State Master Larry Tabor, Treasurer Gerald Schmuck, Secretary Peter Sukanek, State Deputy Danny Lechner, Advocate David Scott and Warden Jim McCraw updated a large turnout on state program activities, recruitment and retention strategies, changes in the K of C insurance program and other issues. Information was distributed on the 2009 state convention, with its theme of "Back to Basics: Council, Community, Camaraderie." The convention is scheduled April 24-26 at the Jackson Marriott.*



**St. Mary-Woolmarket James D. Hart Council 9673 prepared a Saturday evening meal for the Deacon candidates of the Biloxi Diocese. The future Deacons are in their final year of academic studies and will begin courses in Rubrics. The dinner group included (from left) Cory Peterson, Deputy Grand Knight Patrick Chubb, Sarah Hulbert, Seminarian James Smith, Chuck Lewis, Robert Hundl, Earl DeLaune, Deacon candidate Doug McNair, Ann McNair, Grand Knight John Cruso, Jr., Jack Harrison, Danell Lepre and Sammie Orr. Also joining the Deacon candidates for the meal were Fr. Dennis Carver, Vocations Director for the Diocese of Biloxi, and Fr. Mike O'Connor, Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish. The event took place at the Sacred Heart Cursillo Center in Dedeaux. The Friday night meal for the candidates also was provided by Jane Lloyd, Christ the King Parish, Lattimer.**

### **Our Role as Part of God's Recruiting Team – Vocations, Why and How** By Elvis Gates, Biloxi Chair State Vocations Committee

It never fails, every time I go on vacation and attend Mass in a church for the first time, I am amazed that we are so blessed to have so many good priests to attend to our needs as Catholics. I have yet to go to a church where there was a priest that you could tell did not want to be a priest. What a wonderful gift it must be to do the job you know God wants you to do and you are happy at it.

I am sure that on occasion even the Pope wonders why he said yes when he sees the plight of the church in the world today. But I am also sure God gives Pope Benedict XVI reminders of why he was called to the priesthood in the first place. One only need open oneself to the wonders we have on this planet and not just the pains. If God is giving these messages to Peter's successor, why isn't he doing the same for us? I think he is.

We look around and see so many of our priests coming from other countries these days. They come from all over the world: Mexico, India, Vietnam and the list goes on. How is it God is calling so many "foreigners" and not us Americans? Does God have some sort of quota He needs to fill? Does HE answer to some agency about equal employment practices? I think NOT. So what is the cause of such a lopsided recruitment effort? The answer is that it isn't the recruiter or His efforts; it's the person getting the message. In other words, I think some people just can't hear the calling.

### **Laurel Council, Assembly Honor Myers' Service**

Laurel Council 2180 and Arthur F. Axton Assembly 563 will honor John P. 'Pat' Myers with a Mass and a dinner Saturday, Jan. 17, in observance of his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday and his 70 years as a member of the Knights of Columbus.



*John P. 'Pat' Myers*

He was initiated in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree on Jan. 11, 1939, at Bay St. Louis and is the longest living Mississippi Past State Deputy and former Master. He was initiated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree at Jackson on July 21, 1946.

The events in Laurel begin with Mass at 5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church and continue with dinner at 7 at Jones County Junior College in Ellisville.

Many men and women are so bombarded with the noise of living in "this world" that their ears don't detect and their hearts won't act on the whispers of a loving God that wants others to spread His message to future generations. As Knights and as fathers, do we somehow help turn up the volume of "this world" so loud that our children or the other young people we are associated with aren't able to hear the message? What can WE do to make sure we aren't standing between God the recruiter and the young person the recruit? Each of us has to answer that in his own way... but here are a few tips:

1) Be OPEN to the person who believes they may be called; 2) LISTEN to them and guide them to the resources (Parish or Diocese) they need to understand the call and possibly answer it; 3) Be part of God's recruiting "team" here on earth and never pass on an opportunity to speak about how important the Religious are to us as a church and as a people.

I look forward to my duties as KC Vocations Chairman for the Biloxi Diocese and hope you will call upon me to help you help others "hear the whisper."

Vivat Jesus!

## Gluckstadt Knight Puts the Principle of Charity to Work in Baghdad

Col. John J. Scanlan of Gluckstadt Council 11934 (to the immediate right of the Bishop) is a member of a Roundtable in Baghdad that presented 13 boxes of Beanie Babies and \$3,000 in cash for three charities. The contribution was made to Archbishop Francis Chulikatt, Papal Legate to the Diocese of Iraq, and Sister Hiba. The three charities receiving the contribution were the Little Sisters of the Poor, Sisters of the Sacred Heart and Missionaries of Charity (Mother Teresa). "All have a presence in Baghdad and are doing the Lord's work," Col. Scanlan said in an email. He said funds were raised through the sale of miniature T-Walls, "a concrete Lego-type contraption that is used for temporary protective walls in the city." Col. Scanlon said Councils wishing to support this work can be made to the Gluckstadt Council, which will see that they make their way to the Roundtable in Baghdad. Chaplain (Col.) Dave Reeson, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Green Zone, is at right.



### February Exemplifications

**14** - Clinton Holy Savior Council 7854, hosts 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Degrees.

**19** - Starkville Fr. John P. Egan Council 6765 hosts a 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, with registration at 6:30 p.m.

**28** - Starkville hosts a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree, with registration at 9:30 a.m. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree exemplification will begin at 10:30, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree immediately following.

### Pro-Life Action

#### A Gift of Love

One of the greatest gifts you and your loved one can give each other for Valentine's Day is a Living Will.

Then, God forbid, if a crisis arises, neither of you is left torn about making such life-altering decisions in an emotionally draining situation.

A Living Will format is available from Raymond Cole at [coleraymond@bellsouth.net](mailto:coleraymond@bellsouth.net). The document is approved as legal in the state of Mississippi. There is also a provision in the document that allows a person to indicate that the decision has been made to become an organ donor. (Submitted by Raymond Cole.)

### BISHOP R.O. GEROW MEMORIAL (PRIEST EDUCATION) FUND

#### 2009 Goals

- 100 percent participation
- No participation in 2008: 12 Councils in the Diocese of Biloxi; 9 Councils in the Diocese of Jackson.
- Increase donations by recommended 5 percent

#### Suggested Activities to Offset No Statewide Raffle

- Council Raffles
- Meals
- Fish Fry Dinners During Lent
- Car Washes
- Golf Tournaments

#### Insurance Trust for Seminarian Education

- Funds at death would go into the endowment fund
- Monthly premiums have been ruled as tax deductions by the IRS

#### Christopher Fund Donations

- Results in yearly check to each Diocese

#### RSVP Program

- Contact Fr. Dennis Carver for Diocese of Biloxi Seminarians
- Contact Fr. Kent Bowlds for Diocese of Jackson Seminarians

*Donations should be sent directly to the State Treasurer by March 30, with a courtesy copy to Don Cox, Fund Chairman.*

(Submitted by Don Cox)