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

Fred Middleton
4322 Bloombury St.
Southaven, MS 38672
fredmiddleton@comcast.net
662-449-0053

**Brandon Council Hosts
Nov. 1 Exemplification**

A major degree Exemplification is scheduled Sunday, Nov. 1, at St. Paul Family Life Center in Flowood/Brandon sponsored by Council 10216

The 1st Degree depends on responses, which should be made to Grand Knight Kevin O'Donnell (601-829-1792, home; 662-812-7177, cell; kevinodonnell@wellsfargo.com).

Cost is \$16 for candidates for the 2nd and 3rd Degree and \$4 for the 1st Degree. Dress slacks and dress shirt are acceptable.

Registration begins at 10:30 a.m., with the 1st Degree at 11. A lunch of burgers and fixings will be served at 11:30, with the 2nd Degree at 12:30 p.m. and the 3rd Degree to follow.

The Family Life Center is located next to St. Paul Church on Highway 25, Lakeland Blvd., Flowood/Brandon. From I-55, take the Lakeland Highway 25 exit and proceed north about 8 miles. The church is on the right from I-55.

The Magnolia Knight

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October 2009

A Word from the State Deputy

Our K of C Obligations Have Special Meaning

"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world." Like many of you, I was struck by these words from the letter of St. James (1:27) that were read at Mass several weeks ago. It seemed to me that Fr. McGivney must have had them in mind when he founded the Knights of Columbus. This, after all, is our primary mission: to care for the widows and children of our members and to protect the most vulnerable and marginalized in our society. It is just as much our duty today as it was 127 years ago in New Haven, and 2000 years ago to the recipients of James' letter. It is demonstrated by our charity, the basic principle of our Order.



Recently, I sent out a request that I received from the Supreme Knight to assist if we could our brother Knights in the Philippines. From the very few Councils that I have heard from, I know this call received a generous response. Thanks to those Councils who have been able to respond.

I must admit that I have not read St. James' letter, or at least not recently, so I was curious to see what else he had to say. These words from Chapter 3, verse 9 might also seem familiar: "We use it (the tongue) to bless the Lord and Father, but we also use it to curse men who are made in God's image: the blessing and the curse come out of the same mouth. My brothers, this must be wrong."

Anything else in this epistle? Here's one more verse that struck me as reminiscent of what we have heard in some of our degrees. "Remember this: be quick to listen but slow to speak and slow to rouse your temper. God's righteousness is never served by man's anger."

The obligations we take on ourselves when we became Knights are nothing new, but they are what all Christians are called upon to do. However, they do have special meaning to us since we are Knights. I congratulate you on living up to these commitments. It is not easy to be a Knight.

If these words are perhaps not familiar to you, attend the next first degree in your Council or District. Then attend the next third degree ceremony in your area. Recommit yourself. Better still, ask someone to join, and be there with him as he makes these promises. These are certainly things we cannot be reminded of too often.

Vivat Jesus!

Vicksburg Circle Repeats as Corps d'Elite Winner

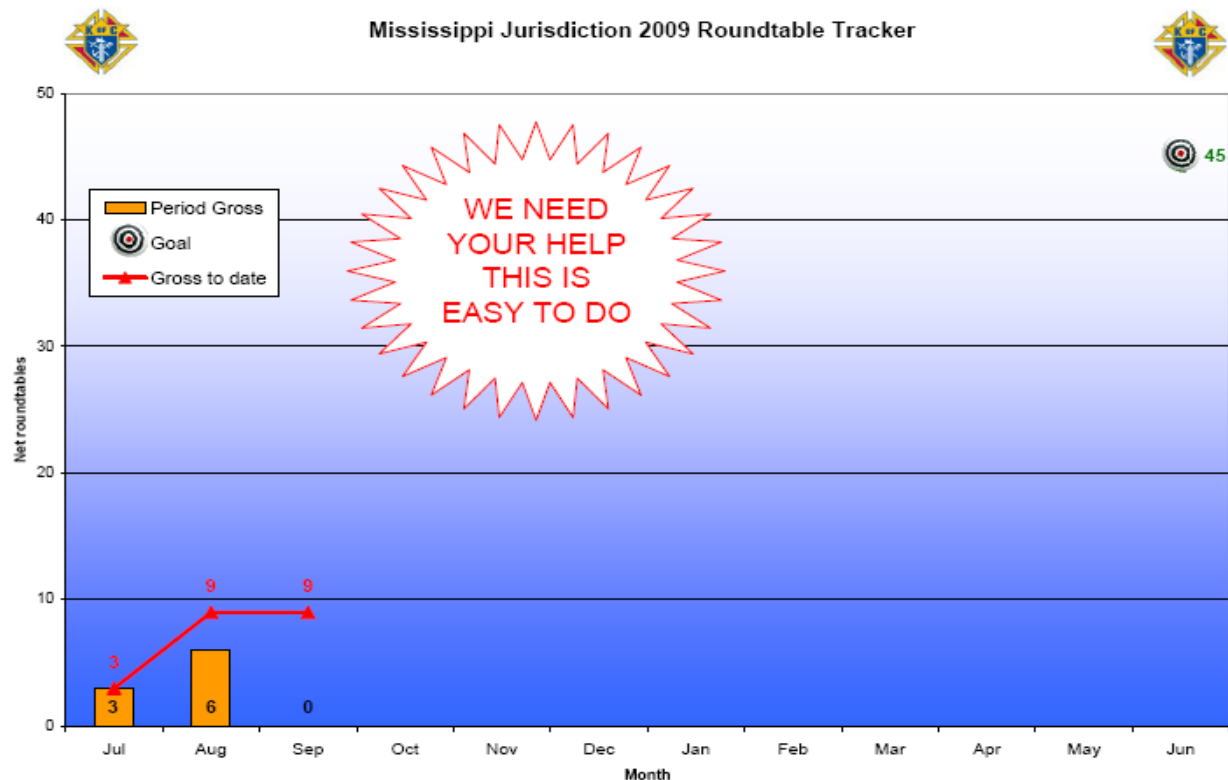
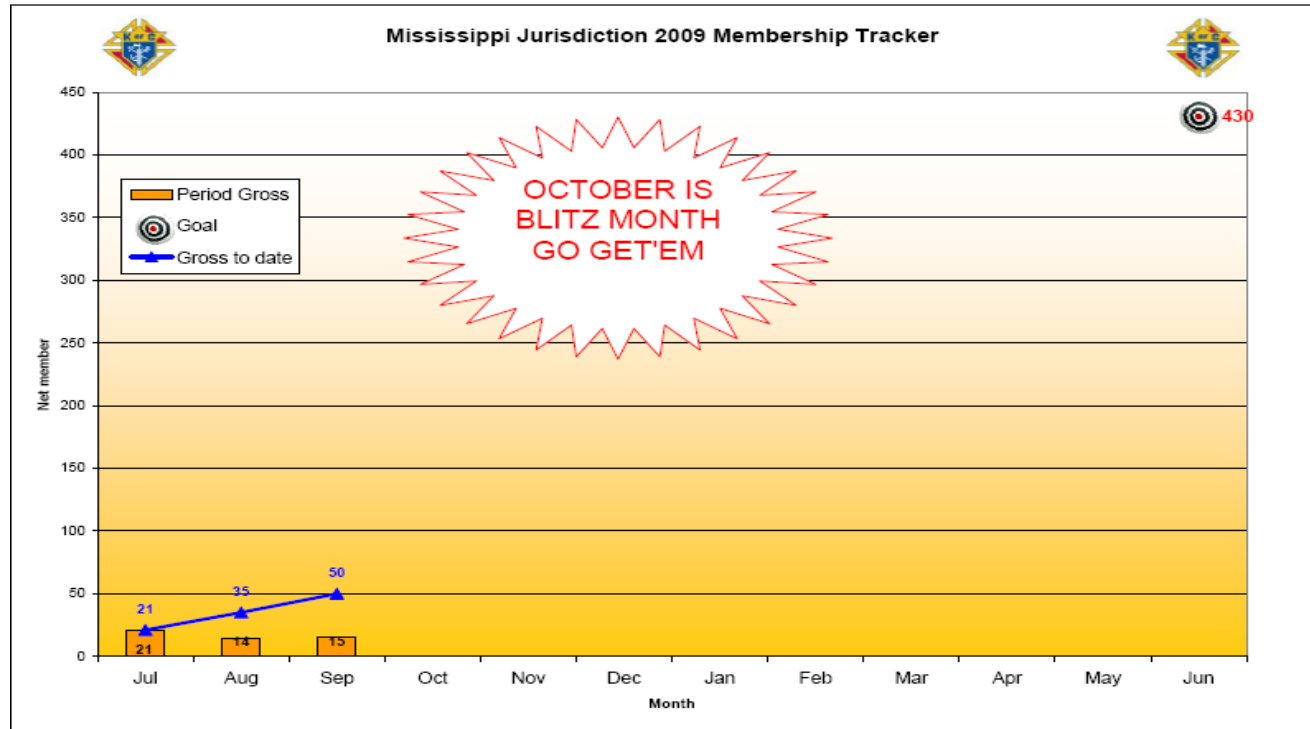
Vicksburg Squires Circle 81 was among 56 circles from 22 jurisdictions which qualified for the Corps d'Elite Award, the highest honor a circle can obtain.

It was the second consecutive year that Circle 81 has won the award, which recognizes achievement in programming, recruitment and administration.

The circle is sponsored by Vicksburg Saints Michael, Paul, Mary, Joseph and Edward Council 898.

October Is Membership Blitz Time, By Noel Aucoin, State Membership Director

This is the month many Councils reserve to really push recruitment, and I trust this will be the case for October 2009. As the most recent report shows, we have to sharply turn the blue line to the north to reach the target. We currently have 33 Councils in the state showing "zero" year-to-date increase in net membership. Councils needing assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me (noel.aucoin@ngc.com). District Deputies: I have not received any list of proposers, and as you can see by the chart we have had some activity. The address to send those reports to: kcmembership@bellsouth.net.



Introducing the Jackson Diocese's Newest Seminarian

Fr. Anthony Quyet, a priest for over 25 years in the Jackson Diocese, is now preparing to teach in a seminary in his native country, Vietnam, with the blessing of Bishop Latino. One of Fr. Anthony's goals is to encourage some seminarians there to consider coming to Mississippi. One man already has responded to that invitation, and he traces his journey in his own words.

I am Binh Chau Nguyen, the newest seminarian for the Jackson Diocese. I am 33 years old and was born in Ho Nai, into a traditional Catholic family of Thanh Tam Parish, Xuan Loc Diocese, Vietnam. Ho Nai is an area where a lot of North Vietnamese evacuated.

There are 8 members in my family, including 5 sons and 3 daughters. I am the eldest; the youngest is now 20. One of them is now a religious of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans). In my studies, I have completed my two years of philosophy and the first semester of theology in the Centrum Dominicanum Studiorum, Vietnam.

When I was growing up, I always got up early and went to church with my maternal grandfather each day. After my first Holy Eucharist and Confirmation, I was a member of the group of altar boys for 14 years. As an altar boy, I dreamed of being a priest. All of the people in my family, mostly my mother, helped me to fulfill this goal. She always encouraged me, supported me and prayed for me very much. Thank you very much, Mom!

I was lucky to go to school and finish primary and secondary school (1994). Afterwards, I worked for an electronics company in Dong Nai for 2 years to help my family financially. Then from 1997 to 2002, I attended Lac Hong University in

Dong Nai for a B.A. in English. And during that time, I attended the vocation program at the Blessed Sacrament Congregation. Unfortunately, our father passed away after a heart attack on June 14, 2001. After my father's death, my mother helped us to overcome the loss and encouraged me in pursuing my vocation. "Let us trust in divine Providence," she said. I went on to finish my senior year at the university.

Then I entered the Blessed Sacrament Congregation after completing my studies in the university. Through the periods of Postulancy, Novitiate and Scholasticate, I pondered a lot on my vocation, especially in my prayer time of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

Once again, we had a great loss; we grieved the death of our mother! Our lovely mother left us on March 29, 2004, when I was at the end of my first year Novitiate. So, in less than three years, we had two mournings, from 2001 to 2004. We were truly shocked, but with the encouragement of the Master of Novices, my aunt (a nun in the Dominican Order), and the support of my novice friends, I continued finishing two years of Novitiate. I took the first vows on Aug. 2, 2005. From September 2005 to July 2007, I studied philosophy at the Centrum Dominicanum Studiorum, Vietnam. However, on July 21, 2007, I decided to leave the Vietnamese Blessed Sacrament congregation because I realized that it would suit me more to be a diocesan



Binh Chau Nguyen

priest. I feel drawn to the life of a priest in parish ministry. After leaving the congregation, I met Fr. Anthony Quyet through my aunt's introduction, and I knew that the Jackson Diocese was a missionary diocese. I asked him to introduce me to Bishop Joseph Latino, who accepted me as a seminarian. Thank you, Bishop Joseph Latino!

I came to the Diocese of Jackson on Aug. 15, 2009. After staying two days in Jackson, I also met Bishop Latino and Msgr. Michael Flannery, and after that, Fr. Kent Bowlds (the Vocation Director) drove me to Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans on Aug. 18, 2009.

So I have been in America about one month and a half, and everything is new to me. I hope and believe that, thanks to your prayers, I will become accustomed to this environment soon. At present, I am spending my time reviewing my English at Notre Dame Seminary with a vision of future priesthood.

Do remember me in your prayers!

Pro-Life Corner **Schedule Rosaries** **During Respect Life Month** **By Raymond Cole**

With October designated as Respect Life Month, schedule a pro-life Mass with a rosary for the unborn. Make this a weekly event during the month.

Now is a good time for your Council to schedule a Parish blood drive.

Blood is the most frequently donated organ of the body and one which replenishes itself in your body after a donation.

Share life with someone else in this very special way and give coverage to your family for an entire year. With 10 percent participation of your parish, your entire church family is covered for one year.



The Gulf Coast Down Syndrome Society held its annual 'Buddy Walk' at the Greyhound Football Stadium in Ocean Springs. More than 1,000 people attended this year's Walk, which promotes awareness of Down Syndrome. Close friends Derek Medjesky, a 4th Degree member of Council 1605 and son of Deacon Mike (Former Master) and Karen Gilly, and Patrick McIlwain led the Buddy Walk as Co-Grand Marshals of the event.

October Feast Day Includes Mississippi Martyrs

**By Deacon Mike Gilly,
Diocese of Biloxi**

October brings the Feast Day for Saints Isaac Jogues and John de Brebeuf and companions, Jesuit missionaries among the Hurons who were martyred in the 17th century in Canada and upstate New York.

One might not expect to also find four fathers and seven military officers honored as Mississippi martyrs on that Oct. 19 Feast Day.

In his book, *Saints of the Americas*, Franciscan Monk Rev. M.A. Habig recognizes their 18th century martyrdoms at the hands of Yazoo, Natchez and Chickasaw Indians in the Mississippi Territory.

According to Rev. Habig's account, the cause of the beatification and canonization of the early missionary martyrs of the U.S. was launched at the annual meeting of the hierarchy of the country in November 1930. Bishop John M. Gannon of Erie, PA, presented a motion that "the bishops in annual conference assembled petition the Holy See that there be introduced one cause for the beatification and canonization of the early missionaries who were put to death

for their faith in what is now the United States territory."

Fr. Habig noted that a mere petition was not sufficient, however, and so Bishop Gannon appointed a committee of historians to draw up a martyrology listing the martyrs, containing brief accounts of the martyrdom of each, and indicating the sources of information. By the end of the summer of 1941, this document was ready, listing 116 martyrs.

The petition was sent with the martyrology to Cardinal Salotti, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Rites. Subsequently, two more names were added, making a total of 118 martyrs.

Among them were the following Mississippi priests:

1702 – Fr. Nicholas Foucault, Diocesan Priest, Seminary of Quebec - by the Yazoo Indians.

1729 – Fr. Paul du Poisson, S.J. - by the Yazoo Indians.

1729 – Fr. John Souel (Jean Rouel), S.J. - by the Yazoo Indians.

1736 – Fr. Antony Senat, S.J. - by the Natchez Indians.

Tupelo Council Schedules Retreat, Draw Down

Tupelo Fr. Robert Reitmeier Council 8848 hosts its annual \$10,000 Draw Down for Life Halloween Dinner Dance in October and sponsors a men's retreat in November.

The dinner dance is scheduled Oct. 29 at the American Legion Post 49 in Tupelo. Tickets are available for \$100 and are available from Mark Dye (662-213-4217), Tony Palazzo (662-397-3758), Dave Palladino (662-401-0451) or dye2968@bellsouth.net.

Franciscan priest Fr. Bob Konopa will serve as leader for a the retreat at St. Bernard's Abbey in Cullman, AL, Nov. 20-22.

Contact David Friloux, 662-213-3742, david.friloux@yahoo.com, for more information or to make a reservation

Support the Cause for Fr. McGivney By Tom Zettler, PSD

Are you a member of the Fr. Michael J. McGivney Guild? If you are not, you should be!

The single purpose of the Guild is to promote the cause of Father McGivney being raised to the honors of the altar. As a member, you are supporting this endeavor and can share in the news of the cause through a monthly newsletter mailed to you. There is no cost to you. What could be better?

Applications to join the Guild are in each issue of Columbia magazine and can also be found on the K of C website. Currently, we have 877 members of the Guild in the Mississippi Jurisdiction. This represents less than 15 percent of our overall membership.

I again repeat that there is NO COST. Please take a minute or two and join the Guild. You will be glad that you did.

(PSD Zettler is Chairman of the Cause for Fr. McGivney Guild in the Mississippi Jurisdiction.)



Gulf Coast Councils were well represented at the 32nd Annual Rosary Rally and Mass earlier this month at the Biloxi Coliseum. This year's rally was the first for Biloxi Bishop Roger P. Morin.

August Family of the Month

The family of Michael and Mary Hoff-pair of Picayune Oscar J. Gelphi Council 6872 was the Mississippi winner in the August Family of the Month contest sponsored by Supreme.

Other Councils submitting families were 802, 1034, 1244, 1908, 2134, 5556, 6765, 7120, 7211, 9094, 9124, 9543, 9673, 10216, 10443, 10499, 10901, 11956, 11934, 12271, 14051.

Contact State Family Carl Brochard, broch57@bellsouth.net if your Council is not included.



Grenada Council 10443 hosted a major exemplification earlier this month that produced 18 new 3rd Degree Knights, including five new members. Grenada had 7 degree recipients; Cleveland 5556 3; Oxford 1090, Philadelphia 13471 and Southaven 7120 2 each; and Greenville 2134 and Olive Branch 14051 1 each.

Reports . . . Reports . . . Reports

By Elvis Gates, State Programs Director

Worthy Grand Knights and District Deputies, you know the old saying about no job is complete until the paperwork's done? Well . . . we're kinda there right now.

Many of you have gotten in your reports to Supreme, and I am most thankful. This allows Supreme to coordinate its program materials to the right officers and committee chairmen on a timely basis. Unfortunately, there are a few Councils lagging in this part of their duties. If you are receiving emails from me showing your Council still has not filed its requested reports, please complete and file the reports. If you have sent a report and are not getting credit for doing so, send me the report and I will see that you get the credit you are due.

Remember, unless all of the Supreme reports are filed, your Council will not be eligible for state awards. Help me help you get the recognition your Council deserves.

Bet You Didn't Know, By Insurance Agent Paul Stalcup

I'll bet you didn't know the Knights of Columbus . . .

Was one of the first organizations to offer relief to families of fallen police, firefighters and emergency personnel – within two days of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Since 2001, the Knights have also taken the lead in helping the country to remember the day in a prayerful way.

Was the leading proponent of the 1954 addition of the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance.

Conducted an unprecedented relief effort in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The effort included both immediate and spontaneous responses from local Councils in the

Gulf region and a national effort by the Supreme Council headquarters in New Haven, CT, to raise needed funds and coordinate the efforts of state Councils throughout the U.S. and Canada - www.kofc.org/un/cmfr/resources/KatrinaFactSheet.pdf.

Supported the spiritual welfare of armed services personnel and their families around the globe through a \$900,000 fund for the Archdiocese for Military Services.

Underwrote completely the renovation of the entire facade of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, the most famous church in the world; the statues of St. Peter and Paul in St. Peter's Square;

and the historic Rooms of the Architects in the Basilica proper.

Supported the spiritual welfare of armed services personnel and their families around the globe through a \$900,000 fund for the Archdiocese for Military Services.

Provides support for such apostolate as the Eternal World Television Network; the National Clergy Conference on Alcoholism; Morality in Media; the National Catholic Office for Persons with Disabilities; and the National Apostolate with Mentally Retarded Persons.