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Father Al Camp, Madison

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

Fred Middleton
4322 Bloombury St.
Southaven, MS 38672
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662-449-0053

Caring for the Troops



Members of Corinth Pope John Paul II Assembly 2013 mailed care packages to 17 members of the armed forces from Alcorn County and St. James Church in Corinth who are deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. (Submitted by Sir Knight and PFN Ray Ball.)

Greenville Hosts 1st Degree

Greenville Fr. Korstenbroek Council 2134 hosts a 1st Degree Exemplification Jan. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the K of C Hall, 1705 E. Reed Rd.

Contact GK Bernard Brown, BeBrown@usg.com or 662-347-8360, by Jan. 15 with prospects.

The Magnolia Knight

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MERRY CHRISTMAS



Scott Thomas of Jackson, in his sixth year of formation for the priesthood at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, was ordained a Transitional Deacon at St. Peter Cathedral in Jackson. Bishop Emeritus William Houck presided at the ordination. A 17-man Honor Guard consisting of Sir Knights representing Bishop Gerow Assembly 554 of Jackson, Msgr. Burns Assembly 1251 of Meridian, Bishop Brunini Assembly 2269 of Jackson and Knights of Peter Claver Assemblies in Jackson participated under the coordination of District Marshall Bill O'Connor. Both Scott, whose priestly ordination is scheduled for June 5, and Bishop Houck are Sir Knights.

Mid-Winter Meetings

Saturday, Jan. 9	Gautier	TBA
Sunday, Jan. 10	Brandon/Flowood	TBA
Saturday, Jan. 16	Oxford	TBA



Madison St. Francis Council 9543 installed 154 crosses on church grounds to represent the number of babies killed by abortion per hour in the U.S. Bill Smith (from left), Joe Osborne and Jim Boyle were among Knights contributing to the project. (Submitted by Charles Wilkerson.)

Down to the Finals

The state membership tournament has reached the final round, with the following matchups:

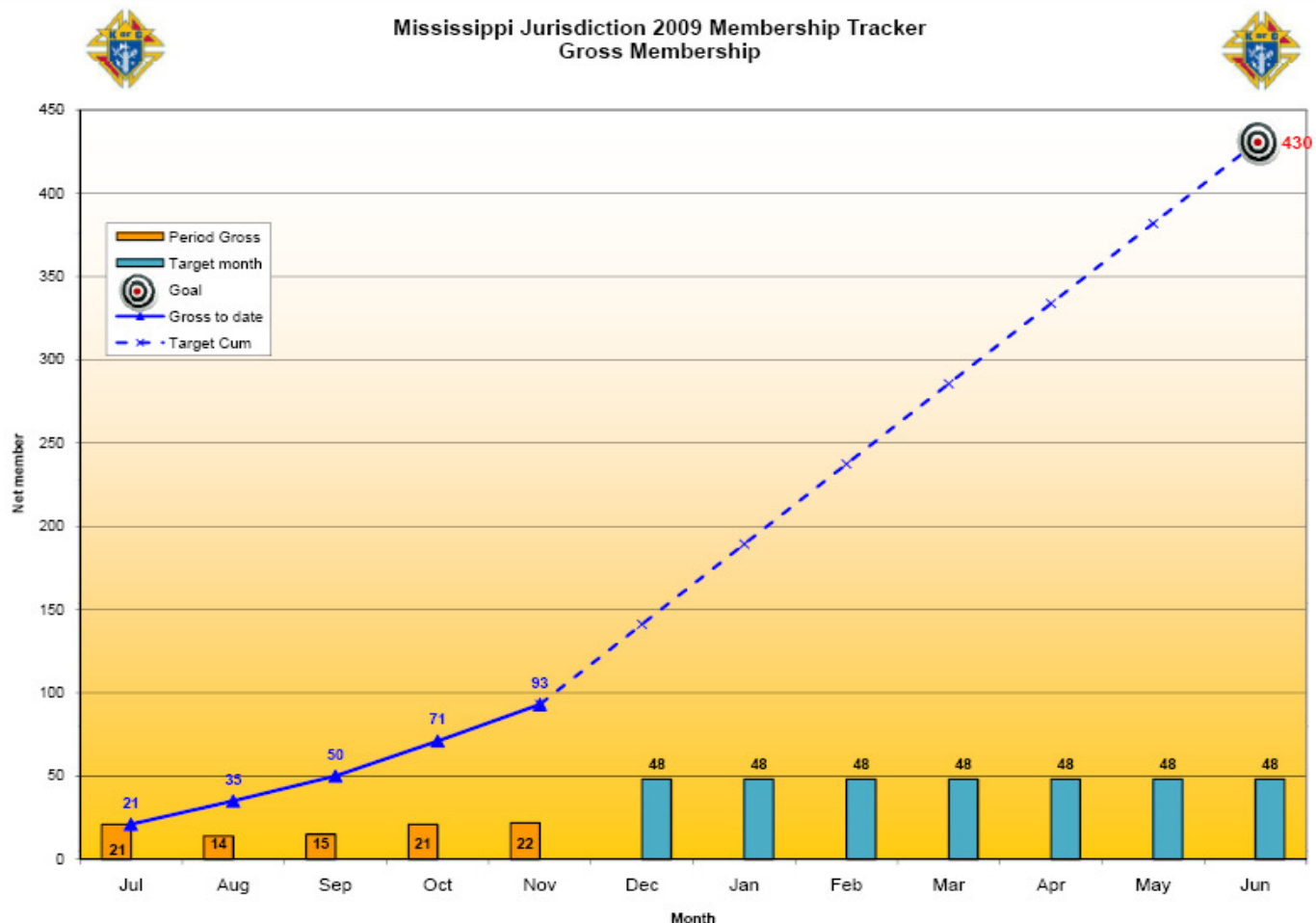
Extra Large Councils: Cleveland Fr. Rotondo Council 5556 vs. Brandon St. Paul Council 10216. **Large Councils:** Jackson John T. Savage Council 848 vs. Hattiesburg Bishop Fahey Council 1908; **Medium Councils:** Pass Christian Msgr. Leech Council 4472 vs. Brookhaven Joseph Bonfiglio Council 7915; and **Small Councils:** Dedeaux Sacred Heart Council 12331 vs. Holly Springs St. Joseph Council 8760.

Supreme Families

October Families of the Month for as selected by Supreme:

Ben and Shirley Mullins
Pascagoula Msgr. P.J. Carey
Council 1605

Bill and Carolyn Grayson
Southaven Hernando DeSoto
Council 7120



Hearing God's Call With Faith, By José de Jesus Sanchez, Diocese of Jackson

Everybody has a vocation – a call by God to do something special in their lives, to cooperate in building His kingdom and to share with Him. Discovering how God is calling us in this day and age is very difficult, because we are in this material world where most people are worried about money and power. Indeed, I was one of those who did not pay attention to God's will.

I grew up in an irreligious atmosphere, in Mexico, where my family believed in the Catholic Church, but they did not attend Mass often. On the other hand, my small town is very religious and each year it receives seminarians as missionaries. In 2002 I was in my last year of high school and I had been thinking of going to college, but during that time I met one of the seminarians who invited to me attend the meetings at the church. I was not really interested, but I decided to go, only for the youth who would be there.

My vocation started with the relationship between that seminarian and myself. He told me he had to return to the seminary for a makeup exam because he had failed one. He asked me if I was available to go with him and I decided to go.

But he lied to me, because he had not failed any test! He left me at the seminary and during those days they had a retreat for youth who wanted to become priests. I was there for the whole week. Finally, when the retreat finished, one of the priests interviewed me and asked me why I was thinking of becoming a priest; my answer was that I had never thought about it.

Then the priest shared with me his own story about how God called him, and when the interview was over he gave me an acceptance letter. I put it in my backpack. One month later I remembered the letter and read it. This was when I felt that God was calling me to do something special.

When I shared this with my parents, they were upset with me. Moreover, I



de Jesus Sanchez

it. However, my parents did not accept my vocation.

On Aug. 16, 2002, I decided to go to the seminary. For the first time, I was leaving my family and friends, and for this reason I was homesick at the seminary. At that time I did not like to pray every day because it felt boring. After I became comfortable, I started making friends. I spent five years in the diocesan seminary in Morelia. During my formation there, I met the vocation director of the Diocese of Sioux City, IA, and I became interested in his diocese.

When I finished my studies in Morelia, I started to study in Conception, MO, as a seminarian for the Diocese of Sioux City. The first months were very difficult, because of the language barrier; I did not know anything about English. In addition, during the wintertime I saw too much snow. Finally, I decided to come back to Mexico.

My will is not God's will. When I

had a girlfriend and also my studies at the college. These aspects were more difficult, but first I talked with my girlfriend about my wish, and she finally accepted

it. However, my parents did not accept my vocation. came back to Mexico, I wanted to be a seminarian for the Diocese of Morelia, but it was impossible. I talked with the seminary rector and he suggested I wait for one year. I began teaching English at the Santa Maria de Guadalupe Seminary (though my English was not good enough), and during that time Fr. Lenin Vargas, the Assistant Vocation Director of the Diocese of Jackson, came there and talked to us about the needs of his diocese. Afterwards I had an interview with him and I explained to him why I decided to come back to Mexico, but he said Jackson needed me.

Finally, I talked with the Rector, Fr. Eugenio Ponce de Leon, and we discussed the possibility of studying for Jackson. He said to me, "If you see it with faith, God is calling you to serve there; I know that you wish to be a priest for this diocese and I think that is your will but not God's." I understood God's will and decided to say, "Yes, God, I want to be your priest if you are calling me to it, wherever you want; I am your servant."

That is how I came to the Jackson Diocese, and I am really happy. I am still learning English and it is very difficult, but with God's help I will be able.

For more information contact Fr. Kent Bowlds, Vocation Director, www.jacksonvocations.com

Prayer Service, Blessing Memorialize Deceased Brothers

Fellow Brothers of Hernando DeSoto Council 7120's deceased Knights gathered for a prayer service and a blessing of burial sites at area cemeteries. Bro. Stephen Frazier sprinkles holy water following a service conducted by Deacon Larry Campbell, Past Grand Knight of the Council.

