

From the State Deputy
Generous Spirit of Giving
Marks State Convention
By Peter C. Sukanek

The 2011 State Convention was a great success. On behalf of all the state officers and convention delegates, I would like to thank once again the members of the convention committee for their hard work and countless hours in putting this together. They did a great job.

At the Saturday evening banquet, we were able to present Bishops Latino and Morin with checks for over



\$100,000 for seminarian education and for pro-life activities in the Jackson and Biloxi Dioceses. What a terrific accomplishment! Another clear demonstration of the generosity of the Mississippi Knights

and their families was the special collection taken up at Sunday's Mass to help the victims of the tornadoes that tore through several communities earlier that week. At that Mass, we collected over \$2,000 for Catholic Charities. In addition, the state officers decided to donate \$1,000 from our Archbishop Rodi Disaster Relief Fund to the Alabama Knights to assist in the recovery efforts in our neighboring state. This is a clear demonstration of the continued commitment of the Mississippi Knights to the basic principle of our Order, Charity. Once again, I congratulate all of you on this commitment.

Those of you who had the opportunity to attend the convention business meeting on Saturday morning or the banquet on Saturday evening heard our Supreme representative, Pat Maloney of the state of Washington, speak about the Knights. His message was simple and clear: as Knights, "we save lives, and we change lives." We save lives through our many pro-life and charitable activities at the local, state and national levels. We change lives again through our charitable work in our Councils, churches, communities, families and with our youth. These

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Don Cox, Chair of the Bishop R.O. Gerow Priest Education Fund, distributed checks to Bishop Roger Morin of the Diocese of Biloxi (left) and Bishop Joseph N. Latino of the Diocese of Jackson during the awards dinner at State Convention. With contributions made in 2010-11, the Mississippi Jurisdiction has contributed \$2,023,623.94 to the education of seminarians since the fund was established.

activities define who we are and demonstrate to all what we stand for.

We are drawing near to the end of this Supreme Fraternal Year. Another message that Pat Maloney shared with us was to "finish strong." (If he had realized we had just started our state fraternal year, he would have added to start strong, as well.)

For many, the summer is a time of few activities and little if any recruitment of new members. Don't let the summer slip by without adding any new members to our ranks. It is only with increased manpower that we can continue and increase the ways by which "we save lives and we change lives." Set the pattern for the new fraternal year by bringing in a new member now. There are still 12 Councils in the state that have not brought in a single member this fraternal year. There is still time for each Council to demonstrate that it is

still alive, that it is still growing, that it wants to continue to demonstrate its commitment to charity.

Gerald Schmuck Elevated to State Deputy

Gerald 'Jerry' Schmuck, a member of Gulfport St. Joseph the Worker Council 12271, was elected State Deputy at the State Convention.

Jerry succeeds Dr. Peter C. Sukanek as leader of the Mississippi Jurisdiction's 59 Councils and almost 7,000 Knights.

Also elected at the 107th State Convention in Tupelo were David Scott of Madison St. Francis Council 9543, State Secretary; Jim McCraw of Jackson John T. Savage Council 848, State Treasurer; Noel Aucoin of D'Iberville Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094, State Advocate; and Philip Jabour of Flowood St. Paul Council 10216, State Warden.

(See New State Deputy, Page 4)



Supreme representative Patrick M. Maloney, Membership and Program Coordinator for the State of Washington, spoke to the State Convention about how the work of the Knights of Columbus "saves lives and changes lives" with its pro-life and charitable focus.

2009-10 Top State Awards

Family of the Month 100 Percent Participation Award

Msgr. John J. Burns Council 802, Vicksburg Council 898, Bishop Fahey Council 1908, Fr. Korstenbroek Council 2134, Laurel Council 2180, Fr. Rotondo Council 5556, Fred L. Westbrook Council 5654, Oscar J. Gelphi Council 6872, Hernando DeSoto Council 7120, Joseph Bonfiglio Council 7915, St. Mary's Council 9124, St. Francis of Madison Council 9543, James D. Hart Council 9673, St. Paul Council 10216, Rev. Clifford Meador Council 10443, Msgr. Gregory Kennedy Council 10499, St. John Council 10901, Gluckstadt Council 11934, Fr. Patrick Quinn Council 11956, St. Joseph the Worker Council 12271, Fr. Denis J. Harlow Council 15155

Insurance Agency Award

Agent of the Year - Rene Davidson

Top Proposer Awards

Overall for State - Roger Fetters; **Individual North** - Mike Kassouf; **Individual Central** - Guy Heying

Membership Awards

Highest Net Small Council - 10443 Rev. Clifford Meador Council; **Highest Net Medium Council** - 7910 Fr. Harry Wade Council; **Highest Net Large Council** - 1908 Bishop Fahey Council; **Highest Net Extra Large Council** - 10216 St Paul Council; **Highest Percentage Small Council** - 10443 Rev. Clifford Meador Council; **Highest Percentage Medium Council** - 7910 Fr. Harry Wade Council; **Highest Percentage Large Council** - 6765 Fr. John P Egan Council; **Highest Percentage Extra Large Council** - 10216 St Paul Council

Council Awards

Top Gun Council Awards - 7910 Fr. Harry Wade Council, 10216 St. Paul Council, 10443 Rev. Clifford Meador Council, 11654 Fr. Paul Gillis Council, 13471 Fr. Raphael Toner Council, 13502 Fr. Thomas M. Boyce Council, 15121 St. Joseph Council, 15131 St. Richard of Chichester Council, 15155 Fr. Dennis J. Harlow Council

Honor Council Awards - 802 Msgr. John J Burns Council, 848 John T. Savage Council, 898 Vicksburg Council, 1522 Pere Le Duc Council, 1583 Bishop Gunn Council, 1908 Bishop Fahey Council, 2134 Fr. Korstenbroek Council, 5267 Msgr. John F Cleric Council, 5654 Fred L Westbrook Sr. Council, 6765 Fr. John P. Egan Council, 6872 Oscar J. Gelphi Council, 7120 Hernando DeSoto Council, 7910 Fr. Harry Wade Council, 7915 Joseph Bonfiglio Council, 8038 St. Jude Centennial Council, 8054 Charles R. Brill Council, 9094 Fr. Patrick Calpine Council, 9124 St Mary's Council, 9409 Reinhart Schroeder Council, 9673 James D Hart Council, 10499 Msgr. Gregory Kennedy Council, 11956 Fr. Patrick Quinn Council, 11995 Fr. R.J. Sorin Council

Council of Excellence Awards - 4472, Msgr. Leech Council, 8285 St. Therese Council, 8848, Fr. Robert Reitmeier Council, 12331 Sacred Heart Council, 15131 St. Richard of Chichester Council, 15155 Fr. Dennis J. Harlow Council

Distinguished Council Award - 14051 Fr. Leo John Dehon Council

Stellar Council Award - 10216 St. Paul Council

Best Newsletter Awards

Small Council - 11956 Fr. Patrick Quinn; **Large Council** - 7120 Hernando DeSoto; **Extra Large Council** - 9543 St. Francis of Madison.

Best Scrapbook Awards

Small Council - 11995 Fr. R.J. Sorin Council; **Medium Council** - 4472 Msgr. Leech; **Extra Large Council** - 802 Msgr. John J. Burns

Best Project Awards

Church - 2180 Laurel Council, Charity is a Virtue; **Community** - 15131 St. Richard of Chichester Council, Ms. Margie's Home; **Council** - 10216 St. Paul Council, Founder's Day Banquet; **Family** - 15131 St. Richard of Chichester Council, July Fourth Parish Picnic; **Youth** - 2180 Laurel Council, Youth Sharing with PID; **Pro-Life** - 1034 Bishop R.O. Gerow Council, Baby Bottle Fund Raiser; **Vocation** - 2180 Laurel Council, Call to Ministries.

Best Council Awards

Extra Large Council - 1583 Bishop Gunn Council; **Large Council** - 9409 Reinhart Schroeder Council; **Medium Council** - 7915 Joseph Bonfiglio Council; **Small Council** - 11956 Fr. Patrick Quinn Council

Other Awards

Best District Deputy - Roger Fetters, District 12; **Knight of the Year** - Richard Hollingsworth, 2180 Laurel Council; **Family of the Year** - Malcolm and Nicole Smith, 9409 Reinhart Schroeder Council

Top Gun Council Award Winners



Recognized as Honor Councils



COUNCILS OF EXCELLENCE

DISTINGUISHED COUNCIL

STELLAR COUNCIL



State Economy Reflected in PID Collections

By James Farris, PID Executive Director

The Mississippi economy continues to be in a less-than-desirable condition, and that is reflected in the contributions made to the 2010-11 People with Intellectual Disabilities program. During the past year, some \$50,000 was received from 26 of the 59 Councils in the state.

Councils sent \$38,000 to their local facilities supporting persons with special needs, and the State Board of Directors sent checks totaling \$32,000 to statewide facilities this spring. These expenditures exceeded collections for the year because last year there was some question as to the type of facilities that were eligible under the rules of our type of charitable organization.

As a result, that money was distributed this year.

The checking and savings accounts of the fund are healthy with a small reserve. The checking account balance is \$5,669.67 and the savings account balance is \$8,014.89

Insurance has been purchased for the 2011-12 drive for the week of May 22-28. Councils having liability insurance separate from the state are free to choose another date for the drive.

**Convention Photos
by Nat Zummo
Pearl St. Jude Centennial
Council 8038**

New Contest for Proposers

Knights who recruit a new member between April 1 and June 30 will be entered in a drawing for a paid basic registration for two nights for him and a guest for the 2012 State Convention in Long Beach in a contest introduced by State Officers.

The drawing will be held in July, and proposers will be entered in the contest for each member recruited. Based on the registration fee at last month's State Convention, the prize would be worth \$140. Extras such as the ladies luncheon or the District Deputies luncheon are not included in the prize package.

All members, including officers, District Deputies and Grand Knights are eligible. Information on members recruited since April 1 must be forwarded to the State Membership Director so proposers receive credit for their recruitment efforts.



Grand Knight Richert Mahony of Oscar J. Gelpi Council 6872 at Picayune St. Charles Borromeo Parish and Rev. Michael Snyder display a promotional check to show appreciation to parishioners for their support of Seminarian breakfasts. The project resulted in a Parish contribution of \$11,147.53 to the Bishop R.O. Gerow Priest Education Fund.

New State Deputy, (Cont'd from Page 1)

Bro. Schmuck progressed through the offices of Warden, Advocate, Treasurer and Secretary before his election as State Deputy. He has served as District Deputy and State Membership Director and currently serves on 1st, 2nd and 3rd Degree teams. He attends St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Gulfport.

Jerry and his wife Linda have two sons and five grandchildren. He is currently employed as an education specialist with the Department of the Air Force in Gulfport.

Philip is new to the state officer ranks with this election. He joined the Knights in 1999 and has been Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, Inside Guard, Trustee and Program Director. He



Gerald Schmuck

Deputy Grand Knight, Inside Guard, Trustee and Program Director. He served the State as District Deputy No. 6 for four years and as Membership Director. Philip was honored to serve as a delegate to the Supreme Convention in Washington, DC, in 2010. He served as Co-chairman of State Conventions in Jackson in 2004 and 2009.

Philip serves on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Degree teams. He is a 4th Degree member of Assembly 2269 in Madison and has served as Faithful Purser for over five years.

He was an Allstate agent for 19 years. He sold his agency in 2010 and is currently a benefit specialist for Allstate Workplace benefits. Philip and his wife Linda have one son Philip L.

Convention Vocations Report

Knights' Can Play a Significant Supportive Role in Vocations Effort

By Deacon Lawrence M. Campbell, State Vocations Chair

To say that we have a shortage of priests in the Dioceses of Biloxi and Jackson is quite evident. We have less than 100 men serving in both Dioceses. Five of the 94 names called at the 2011 Memorial Mass for the Deceased were those of priests who passed to their eternal reward since the 2010 State Convention.

Knights who have attended either of our Bishops' Chrism Masses on the Tuesday prior to Easter Sunday, when all the priests of the Diocese gather at the Cathedrals, see a "sea of gray-haired men." We also have an aging clergy. Because of the small number of clergy and the number of aging clergy, we do indeed have a crisis in the state.

What are some possible ways in which we as men, fathers and grandfathers and our families might help with this crisis?

Prayer, including our personal prayer as well as the prayers of our whole family; encourage men, younger and older, family members, friends

and others to keep an open mind to God's call to priestly service; learn to accept diversity, both in race and in language. In Mississippi, we have Anglo men, Hispanic men, Asian men, African men, Polish men and those from other nations; show our priests how we love them. Share with them our affection and extend to them our friendship. Often times this means that we must accept the individual differences of each.

With regard to our seminarians, we currently have 18 men studying for the priesthood in Mississippi, nine in each Diocese. Three of the nine in the Diocese of Biloxi will be ordained in 2011. One man in the Diocese of Jackson may be ordained in 2011.

Let's continue to support seminarians through the RSVP Program. Currently each of them receives financial assistance from the Knights of Columbus through RSVP. Let's continue to support seminarians in other financial ways, even if it does not qualify under the guidelines for an RSVP award or rebate.

Stay in contact with our seminarians through cards, letters and email, as well as telephone calls and by sending them our local newspapers. Adopt a seminarian. Treat him as you would treat a priest. Write him at his seminary, acknowledging his birthday and various state and national holidays. Send him a care package. Ask him what his personal needs might be. Support the Bishop R. O. Gerow Memorial Fund for the Education of Seminarians. Support our Catholic Foundations through the Insurance Trust Fund in each of our Dioceses.

Please remember that our seminarians are not necessarily young men but are also older men entering seminary training later in life or following another career. Let's all stay in close contact with our Diocesan Vocation Directors: Fr. Dennis Carver in the Diocese of Biloxi and Fr. Anthony Quyet in the Diocese of Jackson.

Knights of Columbus Chaplains Gather in Order's Birthplace

By Fr. Al Camp, State Chaplain

Sixty-six chaplains from throughout the Order gathered in New Haven during the first week of March for the first-ever meeting of State Chaplains.

Father John Grace, O.S.A., director of Chaplain Programs and Development, hosted the meeting which attracted chaplains from 58 jurisdictions including bishops from the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. The meeting was a follow-up to the State Chaplains Pilgrimage to Rome to celebrate the end of the Year of the Priest last June. Having been on the Rome Pilgrimage with the Chaplains, it was a great experience to be with the same chaplains in New Haven.

In his opening remarks, Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson reminded us that the Knights of Columbus and its leadership are committed to making the Order and its members participants in the great renewal of the Catholic Church today. He also spoke to us about the need for a strong relationship between the clergy and the laity. "We will keep our Church strong through parish-based Councils. These Councils and their members will keep the parishes active and healthy, the laity united with pastors and priests."

Supreme Chaplain Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, CT, gave a very inspirational homily at the opening Mass at St. Mary Church where Fr. McGivney offered Mass so many times. His remarks were based on the Gospel of the day, an account of Jesus making his way to Jerusalem telling his disciples of his passion and death and resurrection and asking his disciples if they were willing to drink the cup. Jesus concludes the Gospel account with the reminder that He did not come to be served, but to serve. This, Bishop Lori said, is also the role of the chaplain and all priests as we continue the work of Fr. McGivney. Bishop Lori concluded: "What an honor it is to offer Mass with you in this parish church where Father McGivney daily offered

the Eucharist. We follow in his footsteps as chaplains in the Knights of Columbus."

In another session later in the week, Bishop Lori presented a detailed and informative discussion of the Four Principles of the Order. He concluded by encouraging chaplains to help all Knights and their families grow in the faith and bring that faith to the world.

J. Michael Durbin, Senior Vice President for Membership Growth, told us about the three priests who made a tremendous difference in his life and asked that pastors, chaplains and parishioners support the Knights of Columbus in every way possible.

George Hanna, Senior Vice President for Fraternal Services, reminded us of the need for programs for Church, Community and Society such as the Ultra Sound Program, Coats for Kids, picnics, communions and other activities which are centered on the family.

Rev. Grace outlined the **10 Keys of Success for Chaplains**. He stressed the importance of the Chaplain's report, which, he said, should be called a "reflection" and should be scheduled at the very beginning of the meeting. The chaplain should

call attention to the truths found in the **Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church** and the social teachings of the Church. He noted the problem of the 50 percent divorce rate and the radically dropping number of annulments and how that might affect membership. He included a short statement on the new Rite of Initiation for the Third Degree centered on the Eucharist.

Thomas Smith, Jr., Executive Vice President for Agencies and Marketing detailed the facts and figures of the Knights of Columbus Insurance Program. I was a bit surprised at the 1.6% penetration of our group.

And Frederick J. Abraham, Jr., Executive Vice President Fraternal, reminded us that the chaplain and the Grand Knight should try to come to an understanding of what to expect from the Council. He noted the need for leadership in the Council, a leadership that is founded on the power to inspire and work together. The chaplain should help identify prospective Knights and help define programs to benefit the Parish and community. VP Abraham noted that the chaplain should communicate with the Grand Knight on a regular basis and attend meetings and much, much more.



Starkville Success

Nineteen new Knights were added in an exemplification conducted by Fr. John P. Egan Council 67635 at St. Joseph Parish in Starkville.