

# ***THE MAGNOLIA KNIGHT***

***THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSISSIPPI JURISDICTION OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS***

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## ***A WORD FROM THE STATE DEPUTY***

### ***CHARITABLE NEEDS DICTATE A LARGER JURISDICTION, NOT A SMALLER ONE***

Brothers, I need your help.

We are really falling behind in membership. We have 154 new Knights this year; we have also lost 170 Knights through suspensions, withdrawals and death. That means our total membership so far this year has decreased by 16. This month alone we lost 58 members.

We need to do everything we can to turn this around. If we are going to continue doing our charitable work for our Church and communities, we need to get bigger, not smaller. To the 44 Councils that have positive growth this year, thank you for your efforts. A special thank you goes to McComb Council 8054, which has achieved Star Council status, and Philadelphia Council 13471, which already has achieved Double Star Council status provided it makes its insurance quota. Other Councils included in that special thank you are Picayune 6872, Kiln 7087, West Biloxi 9409, Grenada 10443, Oxford 10901, Gulfport 12271, Batesville 13502, Poplarville 15121, Vancleave 15155 and Hattiesburg 15382. With just a little more work, these Councils also can achieve Star Council status.

To the 18 Councils at zero or negative growth, you still have time. You can turn it around; you only need to give it your best try. To help you, Supreme has two events for you to plan. On Feb. 16-17 you should schedule and conduct a 1<sup>st</sup> Degree in honor of your Chaplain and Parish Priest. On March 16-17, you should work with your District Deputy to conduct a membership drive in your Parish to commemorate Founder's Day. These are reportable events. That means I will be expecting a report from your DD so I can make my report to Supreme.

The 2013 State Convention in Vicksburg is rapidly approaching. The convention is a great time to get reacquainted with our brother Knights from all over the state. Details and registration forms are available on our website. Convention participation also requires some preparation. Are you ready? Have you received and completed your delegate



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slips? Your FS needs to send in the memorandum designating who your Council delegates are along with a list of Knights who have passed away since our last meeting. If your Council has not sent them in yet, make sure it is done soon.

Your Council has several other items that need to be submitted: The Council programs report along with the Knight and Family of the Year submissions are due to Programs Chairman Ben Mokry by March 31. Also due at that time are the Council's "best activity" narrative in each of the six program areas and the best Council submission.

Once again it is time to submit that all-important Form 1726, Fraternal Survey Report. As we talked about at the mid-year meetings, this is considered one of the most important forms we have to complete. The IRS watches what we do closely. This report is the one that justifies our tax-free status. A special thank you to the 18 Councils who have already submitted their report. To the other 44, please get it in quickly. It, along with your Special Olympics participation form, is due by Jan. 31. Also, your semiannual audit for the period

ending Dec. 31, 2012, is due by Feb. 15.

Have you heard about some of our upcoming events? This February Vicksburg Council 898 will host our annual state golf tournament. Also, on March 22-23, Biloxi Council 1244 will host the state bowling tournament. The state officers have agreed to form a team. However, I will give you fair warning that I'm pretty sure we have last place firmly locked in. Of all the state bowlers, the highest average is less than 130. Maybe, with our handicap we'll have a chance.

Natchez Council 1034 is planning its first Fishin' for Life Bass Tournament on April 13. One or more of the Jackson area Councils is bringing back the Grillin' for Life competition. This new competition will be for Councils only, so those of you who think your Council has the best cooking team in the state, now is the time to prove that. Last but definitely not least, Vancleave Council 15155 has asked if we could bring back the state softball tournament. We suspended it several years ago, but if there is enough interest, we can bring it back on the calendar. If you are interested in any of these programs, contact the host Council for more information.

Brothers, we have done well this year, but we still have a long way to go. I have one closing thought for your consideration: Can you truly say that you have done everything you can to make your Council successful? Have you done enough? I propose that no matter what your answer to that question is, you can always do a little more. Let's work together and make Mississippi Knights stand out as the "Shining Stars" that we really are.

Vivat Jesus!

## CARLOW REUNION HONORS IRISH PRIESTS WHO SERVED MISSISSIPPI AND SURROUNDING STATES



The annual Carlow Reunion, officially named the "Memorial Mass Celebrating and Remembering Our Deceased Irish Priests," was celebrated Jan. 8 at Ocean Springs St. Alphonsus Parish. The Mass honors all deceased Irish priests who served in Mississippi and surrounding states. Rev. Roger Morin, Bishop of the Diocese of Biloxi, celebrated the Mass, with Ronald Herzog, Bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria (LA), assisting. The guest Homilist was Msgr. Joe Jennings (center, now retired) who at 95 is in his 70<sup>th</sup> year as a priest. The Mass was attended by 46 priests. The honor guard of 16 dressed-out Knights was made up of Sir Knights from five Assemblies, led by Marshall Skip Murphy (green cape). Ocean Springs Fred L. Westbrook, Sr., Council 5654 hosted dinner for all following the Mass. (Photography by Dennis and Rosemary Van Acker. Submitted by Dennis Van Acker.)



### VICKSBURG MARCH FOR LIFE

Vicksburg Council 898 and Assembly 558 held their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual March for Life, marching from St. Aloysius Parish to the Monument to Unborn erected by the Vicksburg Council at the city cemetery. District Master Warren Doiron and Vicksburg Color Corps Commander John Piazza led the procession. Past Grand Knight Charles Hahn led a rosary for the unborn and all culture of life causes. Also in attendance were Grand Knight Tim Derossette and Deputy Grand Knight Will Halpin. About 15 teens and pre-teens participated.



### GAUTIER CROWNS FREE THROW CHAMPS

Ronnie Meyers and Shaylyn Chandler captured the championships in Gautier St. Mary Council 9124's Free Throw Shoot-Off. Assistance in staging the shoot-off was provided by (from left) a 'Snowbird Knight' visiting the Gulf Coast, Joe Furlan, Ron Meyers, Brandon Parnell, Lee Chandler, Grand Knight Ron Knight, Walker Steadman, Phil Marasca, District Warden Joe McCormick, Jeff Robinson and Steve Parnell. (Submitted by Robert Barr.)

### PHILADELPHIA SPONSORS MARCH FOR LIFE



Two members of Philadelphia Council 13471 Holy Cross and Holy Rosary Parishes presented a check to members of the Diocesan youth office to sponsor students in the March for Life in Washington, DC this weekend. Grand Knight Ron DiPalma and Warden Doug Prosen said the Council wanted to make the donation in support of Culture of Life ministries. Youth office director Katherine Curtis says 107 people signed up for the trip, including about 20 adult chaperones. Each student had to raise \$125, but the trip cost about \$300 per student. This is the first year the Diocese is renting buses to send a group to the event, although individual Parishes have done so in the past. The Diocese has scheduled several activities for the trip in addition to attending the March for Life, including a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a night-time tour of D.C. and a concert by Christian musician Matt Maher. (Submitted by Ron DiPalma.)



### GULFPORT COUNCIL 7910 SHOWS SUPPORT FOR ST. VINCENT DEPAUL, ST. JOSEPH PARISH



*Gulfport Fr. Harry Wade Council 7910 at St. Joseph Parish presented \$1,000 checks to St. Vincent de Paul Society Chairwoman Brenda Cole for the Society's good works and ministry in the Parish and to Pastor Rev. George Murphy for the Parish Building Fund for renovation and expansion. Joining in the presentations were (left photo, from left, front row) Rev. Murphy, Ms. Cole, Leroy Holmes and Grand Knight Sam Williams; and (back row) Knights Bill Mann, Hugh Frazier, Richard Zdziemborski, Butch Plitt, Jeff DeDuel and Past Grand Knight Craig Henderson. Joining Rev. Murphy and GK Sam in the presentation of funds for renovation and expansion were (from left) Mann, Frazier, Holmes, and Sal Domino. Income for the funds came from a Council yard sale and several pancake breakfasts. (Submitted by Stephen J. D'Angelo)*

### GROWING THE ORDER: FIELD AGENTS POINT THE WAY FOR ASPIRING KNIGHTS

BY JOHN STICE, STATE GENERAL AGENT

Any Field Agent worth his salt is a natural born recruiter. His name may not be on the Form 100 as the proposer, but he points as many men as he can to the fraternal leaders for initiating the process of becoming a member. He will then follow up with the Council and the candidate until ultimately attending the First Degree Ceremony and welcoming the new Brother to our ranks.

The reason he does all of this, you ask? Because the successful growth of OUR beloved Order is the life blood of our insurance organization, which in turn funds on a multi-national level all of the great things the Knights of Columbus accomplish in making the world a better place in the eyes of a true Catholic.

New members are the most important asset to an agent. They are open to meeting and reviewing their finances and, literally, looking for ways to make sense of why and how to use our products. Where else in the world can a family purchase financial products and feel secure that they are not funding any of the non-Catholic agendas that plague our world today? I daresay nowhere. So when a new man joins our ranks, we have our most fertile chance to pro-

tect that man with one of our products, while continuing the Good of the Order on a global basis.

In closing, I have to mention what I consider the most pressing issue affecting the Order today. I refer to it as the Fraternal Gap. Even our active members who have insurance contribute to the issue. We continue to admonish the less-than-active-members. I am referring to those who don't make meetings or seldom lift a hand in things that we consider Knights of Columbus business. Many of these men are good Catholics and support the Church and her cause in many other ways. We kick them out, instead of reaching out.

We agents meet these men all the time, and they are no longer interested in our products or the Order. They feel like outcasts for one reason or another, and make statements that refer to us as cliquish or only interested in our initiatives. The Second Degree of the Order is Unity,



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and it is often the most overlooked and misunderstood attribute of Knighthood. These men should feel that paying their dues and being an active Catholic is enough - unified in the cause of our Holy Mother Church, not simply in the initiatives of the local Council. On Knights of Columbus Sunday, we should take pride when we see Knights serving in all facets our religion. I often ask myself, why isn't every good Catholic man a Knight of Columbus?

I pray that each of us finds it in our heart to advance Father McGivney's dream of every Catholic man becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus and allow that man to serve the Church in his own way. If simply coming to Mass with a Knights of Columbus pin on his lapel is the most he can do, welcome and encourage him. It is not Vivat K of C; it is Vivat Jesus!

*(John Stice has assumed duties as General Agent for the Mississippi Jurisdiction. His office address is 328 S. Sage St., Suite 304, Mobile, AL 36606. His contact numbers are 866-513-5235, office; 205-338-0311, fax; 205-908-1253, cell; John.Stice@kofc.org).*