

# THE MAGNOLIA KNIGHT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSISSIPPI JURISDICTION OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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MARCH 2013

## A WORD FROM THE STATE DEPUTY

### WE ARE CALLED TO ADD TO OUR LENTEN EXPERIENCE; THIS YEAR, LET'S MAKE IT FORGIVENESS

BY GERALD SCHMUCK

Mardis Gras is over and Lent is upon us. Lent is a time for fasting, sacrifice and forgiveness. While we all look to God for forgiveness, I also ask that you consider forgiving someone in your life that may have hurt you in the past. In the Lord's Prayer, we pray, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Remember, Jesus forgave those who persecuted him, and we are taught to try our best to be more like him. So how can we seek God's forgiveness if we don't forgive those who have hurt us? Let's all try our best during this Lenten season (and all year) to better serve our Lord by trying to be more like him.

Last month I asked for your help with making our Jurisdiction grow. This month is no different. While many of you have been really trying to increase your membership and meet your goals this year, our membership recruitment thus far has been lackluster at best. We currently have 19 Councils that are either Star Council-qualified or able to reach that goal with a little more work. However, we still have 23 Councils (one-third of our state) at zero or negative growth.

Retention is not doing well either. So far this year we have recruited 183 new Knights throughout the state, but we have also lost 184 brothers through suspensions, withdrawals, transfers and deaths. That's 10 fewer men than we had on July 1. We are supposed to be getting bigger, not smaller. Encourage your members to prepare themselves on how to approach eligible Catholic men to join our Order. Plan a membership drive and make sure you have enough membership literature on hand to provide to prospective members. As soon as your membership drive is over, conduct a 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Exemplification to get those new men into the Order. Brothers, it is still not too late. We have four months left in this Fraternal Year. Let's all pull together to turn this negative trend around!

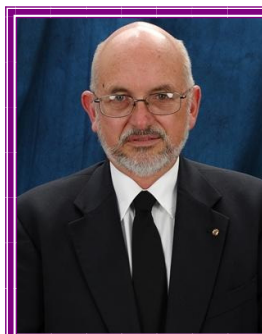
Remember that old saying that no job is complete until the paperwork is done? Well, we still have some paperwork that needs to be completed. Most Councils have completed their Fraternal Surveys, Special Olympics Reports and Semiannual Audits and sent them in. To those who have

done that, thank you for your efforts and promptness. There are, however, still Councils that need to get those reports in. Grand Knights, the State and Supreme Council depend on YOU to complete the necessary forms and paperwork in a timely manner. If you need help, get with your District Deputy or contact me.

District Deputies; please give the GKs any help they need and make sure each of them gets those forms in quickly. Contact me if you need a list of councils who are delinquent.

Vivat Jesus!

*(Editor's Note: In the past week, we have added 20 applicants and reversed our negative position as compared to July 1. Congratulations on the hard work exhibited in February to enable this turnaround!)*



GERALD SCHMUCK



#### STATE CHAPLAIN

Father Bob Higginbotham, D'Iberville

#### STATE DEPUTY

Gerald E. 'Jerry' Schmuck, Gulfport

#### STATE SECRETARY

David Scott, Madison

#### STATE TREASURER

Jim McCraw, Jackson

#### STATE ADVOCATE

Noel Aucoin, D'Iberville

#### STATE WARDEN

Philip Jabour, Flowood

#### IMMEDIATE PAST STATE DEPUTY

Dr. Peter C. Sukanek, Oxford

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

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Southaven, MS 38672  
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901-218-2393

#### THE MAGNOLIA KNIGHT

On the Web  
[www.kofc-ms.org](http://www.kofc-ms.org)



**KNIGHTS  
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MISSISSIPPI

STATE COUNCIL

109TH STATE MEETING

VICKSBURG, APRIL 26-28

YEAR OF FAITH

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**KNIGHTS RALLY TO ASSIST IN WAKE OF HATTIESBURG TORNADO**

**BY DR. JIM GHENTS, GRAND KNIGHT  
HATTIESBURG ST. THOMAS AQUINAS COUNCIL 15382**

In the late afternoon of Sunday, Feb. 10, with sirens blaring, an EF 4 tornado roared through Hattiesburg, Petal and the surrounding area. No fatalities were reported, but 82 people were injured.

The tornado's path was traced by the broken trees, snapped power poles and the utter destruction of homes and businesses that were fully intact only moments before but now stripped of roofs and walls. Insulation from neighboring houses fluttered in trees like cotton candy. Broken tree tops and limbs impaled houses. A crumpled pickup truck sat on home plate at a local baseball field, tossed there by the might of nature.

These were the sites that prompted Knights of St. Thomas Aquinas Council 15382 of Hattiesburg to do what they could to ease the suffering of those whose lives took a sudden turn on that Sunday afternoon. The effort started on Feb. 13 - Ash Wednesday - with Knights setting up a trailer and grill in the parking lot of a church in a particularly devastated section of Hattiesburg. In a community effort, 320 hot dogs and buns were donated by Allen B. Carter American Legion Post 24 of Hattiesburg to be prepared by the Knights. Soon, the Keg and Barrel, a local tavern, donated jambalaya. A news crew came by and got the word out that the Knights were feeding the neighborhood. People, both residents and relief workers, flocked to the site.

Next, a stack of pizza's showed up from a local Pizza Hut. This was truly blooming into a joint community effort of neighbors helping neighbors. The food ran out later that afternoon, but no one left hungry.

Next came the task of recovery. Knights from Hattiesburg St. Thomas Aquinas Council 15382 joined with fellow Knight Father Tommy Conway and parishioners from St. Thomas Aquinas to provide support. Councils across the area joined in the effort. including Gulfport St. Joseph the Worker Council 12271, including St. Deputy Gerald Schmuck; Jackson St. Richard of Chichester Council 15131; and Madison St. Francis of Assisi Council 9543.

Approximately 134 volunteers and 34 Knights took part in the clean-up, sawing trees, clearing yards, moving furniture and reassuring neighbors that they were not alone. In many cases, Knights met people they had never known, yet stood shoulder to shoulder on the job, becoming neighbors through the common bond of this shared experience. Though they may not even live in the Hattiesburg area, these folks became neighbors helping neighbors and Knights living charity, unity and fraternity.





***VOLUNTEERS WERE QUICK TO RESPOND***



***Briefing for Hattiesburg Volunteers***



***Damage was Severe Over a Wide Swath***



***Up on the Roof***



***Ole Miss Students Responded***



***Hattiesburg St. Thomas Aquinas Council 15382 Grand Knight  
Jim Ghents and State Deputy Gerald Schmuck of Gulfport St.  
Joseph the Worker Seabees Memorial Chapel Council 12271***



***Photos by  
Chris Tomlinson***



**VICKSBURG ASSEMBLY LEADS MARDI GRAS PARADE**

**Vicksburg Assembly 558 was at the head of the Vicksburg Mardi Gras parade in early February, with Sir Knights Allen Derivaux and Charles Hahn carrying the colors. Assembly Color Corps Commander John Piazza, Jackson Bishop Brunini Assembly 2269 Color Corps Commander Antoine Otto and Sir Knights Robert Alverado and Syd Johnston III followed as Honor Guard. (Submitted by Charles Hahn.)**

**STATE LENDS SUPPORT TO SUPREME'S PRAYER CAMPAIGN DURING PAPAL TRANSITION**

The Mississippi Jurisdiction, in support of an initiative undertaken by Supreme, is asking its members and all Catholics to pray daily for the election of a new Pope and for Pope Benedict XVI as he begins his retirement.

The Knights' campaign comes at a time when Pope Benedict XVI has publicly asked for prayers for himself, his successor and the church.

"Until a new Pope is elected, we ask Catholics in Mississippi to join with Catholics worldwide to pledge to say this prayer daily for Pope Benedict, for the church, and for our future Pope, and to encourage their friends and families to do the same," said State Deputy Gerald Schmuck of the Mississippi Jurisdiction.

The Knights are asking people to record their pledge to prayer at [www.PrayerfortheChurch.com](http://www.PrayerfortheChurch.com)

The names of those who have made the pledge online will be brought to the Installation Mass for the new Pope. In addition, physical prayer cards are available from the Knights of Columbus for use by parishes, schools or local Knights of Columbus Councils. Cards can be ordered by emailing [communications@kofc.org](mailto:communications@kofc.org).

The Knights are also encouraging people to send their prayerful support to Pope Benedict XVI directly by tweeting "I am praying for you" and the hashtag #prayerforthechurch to the Pope's twitter account @pontifex.

The prayer, written by Knights of Columbus Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore, reads:

"O Lord Jesus Christ, Supreme Pastor of Your Church, we thank you for the ministry of Pope Benedict XVI and the selfless care with which he has led us

**PLAN A PRIEST EDUCATION FUND RAISING EVENT**

**BY DON COX, CHAIR  
BISHOP R.O. GEROW PROGRAM**

Although it's only a short time before the State Convention in Vicksburg, there is ample time for a Bishop R.O. Gerow Program fundraiser for the support of seminarian programs in both the Dioceses of Jackson and Biloxi.

As reported at the Mid-Winter meeting, we have surpassed the \$2 million level in donations, according to existing records. Our goal is 100 percent participation by Councils, Assemblies and Auxiliaries. This is a reachable goal based upon the support of the last few years, this is a reachable goal. We hope and pray that you will accept this challenge. The Dioceses in the state are educating more than 20 seminarians who need our donations and our support.

Let us not let them down.

as Successor of Peter, and Your Vicar on earth.

Good Shepherd, who founded Your Church on the rock of Peter's faith and have never left Your flock untended, look with love upon us now, and sustain Your Church in faith, hope, and charity.

Grant, Lord Jesus, in Your boundless love for us, a new Pope for Your Church who will please You by his holiness and lead us faithfully to You, who are the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Amen."

For more information visit [www.PrayerfortheChurch.com](http://www.PrayerfortheChurch.com) or follow the campaign on Twitter at @KofC.

**D'IBERVILLE'S VETERAN COOKS MAKE IT LOOK EASY, BY ED GUARDANAPO**

D'Iberville Fr. McAlpine Council 9094 showed its community and church pride when asked by Principal Jane Sema to fry fish and egg rolls to help

Is for about 300 supporters of Sacred Heart Elementary School's \$4,000 Drawdown.

This effort may be hard for some groups to perform, but Council 9094's Kitchen Krewe is equal to the task after many years of cooking similar meals for groups as large as 500.

On this occasion, the team of Noel and Patrick Aucoin, Lee Landry, Ricky Pelanne, Butch Philio, Mark Fontenot, Jeff Riopelle, David Seymour and District Deputy Roger Fetters received glowing reviews by the

staff of the school and those in attendance for the drawdown. A job well done by Knights doing things they like to do!

**D'IBERVILLE COUNCIL 9094 CROWNS FREE THROW CHAMPIONS**

**Free Throw Chair Teddy Harder outlines the competition process to families and friends prior to the start of D'Iberville Father Patrick McAlpine Council 9094's free throw contest held at D'Iberville Elementary School. Winners were (from left) Matthew Alexander, age 10 category; Zell Fayard, 11; Layton Businelle, 12; Dawson Underwood, 13; and Zachary Sanders, 14. Winners advance to district competition March 9 at St. Alphonsus in Ocean Springs, which also hosts the Southern State Championship March 16. (Submitted by Ed Guardanapo.)**

**K OF C INSURANCE****FOUR PARTS OF RETIREMENT: PHASE 4, BY FIELD AGENT JACK LEGUIN**

Okay, if you've been following along in my articles, you've read about the first phases that lead to retirement. Protection and accumulation of savings are first, followed by de-accumulation of those funds while making them last. The final phase is care. At some point, at some age (hopefully, at a very advanced age), you will need to slow down. You will no longer be able to care for yourself. At that point, you will need to have assets available to provide much needed care, either at home or in a care facility.

As you probably know, the cost of care continues to rise. I cannot quote you a number here (I could give you specific details in a face-to-face meeting), but the nationwide average grows by leaps and bounds. How do you plan to cover these costs? Government programs might not be available, or might require you to spend down your assets leaving your family with little.

The best way to handle the cost of care in the future is to plan ahead today. The Knights of Columbus offers long-term care insurance that can cover at home or facility care

osts. And our product is backed by the financial strength of the Order. It has many benefits and our premiums are competitive with any other company.

The Knights of Columbus – the organization you trust – is in a position to help you with every phase: Life insurance, disability insurance, guaranteed retirement plans that turn into guaranteed income streams when you retire and long-term care. There is no reason to go elsewhere as you prepare for the four phases.

Contact me today to schedule a meeting. You can reach me at 601-917-1881 or [jack.leguin@kofc.org](mailto:jack.leguin@kofc.org)



**COUNCIL 8285 COMMEMORATES MARCH WITH 'OCTOBER-BABY'**

Families of Jackson St. Therese Council 8285 served up hot dogs and snacks including popcorn for a movie night at St. Therese Church for a showing of "October Baby." The was held to commemorate the 40th 'March for Life' held in Washington. Parishioners shared an evening in support of life were asked to bring a new baby item or cash donation in support of Birthright. Among those who attended were Robbie Parker, Doug Simmons and Olga Valencia (left photo) and Julia Va-



lencia and Rev. Norbert N'Zilamba, O. Praem, Pastor of St. Therese. (Submitted by Ben Mokry.)

**Notification of Death, By Rene F. Davidson, LUTCF, Field Agent**

(Important request of all State Officers, District Deputy's, Grand Knights, Secretaries and Members of the Knights of Columbus).

Unfortunately, some of the families of our deceased members have not received their expected assistance due to the fact that state officers and Field Agents are not receiving notification of deceased members in time to assist families.

Notification is imperative on the day of death. This allows Field Agents to assist widows and family members with funeral arrangements, insurance verification, funeral home assistance, beneficiaries and Honor Guard if requested. Whether or not a deceased member or family member is insured, the early notification allows ample opportunity for paying the deserved respect and assistance due the deceased and the family.

If you do not know your Field Agent, contact Supreme at 800-524-3611

Ext: 4049 or go to [kofc.org](http://kofc.org), select "Insurance," enter your zip code for a list of Field Agents in your vicinity.

**COUNCIL 7120 JOINS JAIL 'N BAIL FOR ULTRASOUND MACHINE**

Southaven Hernando DeSoto Council 7120 co-sponsored a Jail 'n Bail event to raise funds for a new ultrasound machine for the Care Pregnancy Center in Southaven.

Memphis Whitehaven Council 5062 initiated the multi-faith effort that included many denominations in the area.

The Southaven center has housed two ultrasound machines in the past couple of years, but both are in a state of disrepair. The campaign's goal is \$25,000, which would qualify for matching funds from Supreme to cover the cost of the \$50,000 ultrasound machine.



**ASSIST FROM COUNCIL 6765**  
Vance Watson (right) of Starkville Father John P. Egan Council 6765, presents a check for \$1,500 to Father Robert Dore for Columbus Annunciation Catholic School's Annual Giving Campaign, "Make Your Mark."



**Stephen Shahan, PGK Francis Miller, Kathy Fink and PGK Tom Cusker seek bail to help raise funds for Care Pregnancy Center.**

**Supreme's Families of the Month**

**NOVEMBER:** Hollis and Maris Felts, Council 848 Jackson; Clayton and Mary Jo Garrett, Council 1605 Pascagoula; and Robert and Betty Hauser, Council 8912 Corinth. Councils submitting a family: 802, 848, 1034, 1605, 2180, 5654, 7120, 8054, 8912, 9124, 9543, 9673, 10443, 10499, 10901, 11934, 11956, 11995, 12271, 14051.

**DECEMBER:** Ronnie and Tracy Morales Council 2180 Laurel; Ted and Kathryn Lander, Council 7120 Southaven; and William and Rachel Wilson, Council 15155 Vancleve. Councils submitting a family: 802, 848, 1605, 2180, 5654, 7120, 8054, 8912, 9124, 9673, 10443, 10901, 11934, 11956, 11995, 12271, 15155.

**JANUARY:** Richard and Sandra Clark,

Council 2134 Greenville; Ramon and Amy Riojas, Council 9673 Biloxi; and Huey and Diane Allen, Council 11995 Pass Christian. Councils submitting a family: 1605, 2134, 2180, 5654, 7120, 8054, 8912, 9673, 10443, 10901, 11956, 11995, 14051, 15155.