

# The Magnolia Knight

## A Word from the State Deputy

### Communication is the Key



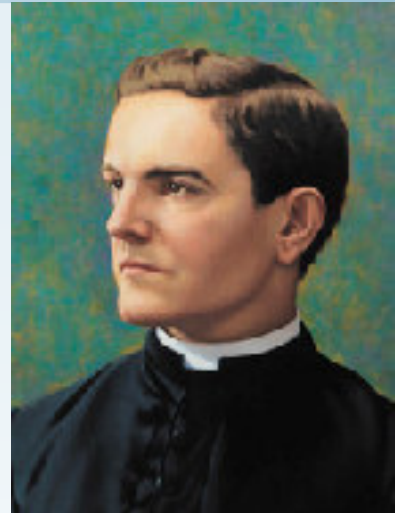
What makes a council successful? This question has been pondered by grand knights for as long as anyone can remember. I don't know that there is any one answer, but I firmly believe that communication is the key. I have seen projects fall apart when there is a breakdown in communication. Communication is nothing more than the sharing of information and it should be a two way street. The grand knight shares information (date, time, location, volunteers needed, etc.) about planned projects to the council members and the council members provide feedback (agree to help, alternative options, etc.) to the grand knight. This information can be shared

in various ways: council meetings, newsletters, church bulletins, emails, phone calls, council website, Facebook, Twitter, etc. Are you using all of your available resources to communicate effectively?

On the state level, we have several methods to help you promote your councils' activities and to find out about state sponsored projects. The state website, [www.kofc-ms.org](http://www.kofc-ms.org) has tons of information that can assist your council with activities. Please visit this site often and check the calendar of events for upcoming degrees and other state sponsored events. You should also submit your planned events to the webmaster, Ben Mokry, for inclusion on the calendar.

Published monthly, the state council newsletter is the Magnolia Knight. It is sent electronically and also posted on the state website. I want to increase the length of the Magnolia Knight to include more pictures and articles of council activities. Send your submissions to the editor, John Lacourrege, at [jklacourrege@bellsouth.net](mailto:jklacourrege@bellsouth.net). If you publish a council newsletter, send an electronic copy each month to John and also to the editors of the Gulf Pine Catholic and the Mississippi Catholic. They are constantly looking for articles about knights. This is a great way to promote an upcoming event or to showcase recent accomplishments.

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### State Officers

**State Chaplain**  
R. Bob Higginbotham, D'Iberville

**State Deputy**  
David Scott, Madison

**State Secretary**  
Jim McCraw, Jackson

**State Treasurer**  
Noel Aucoin, D'Iberville

**State Advocate**  
Philip Jabour, Flowood

**State Warden**  
Ben Mokry, Jackson

**Immediate Past State Deputy**  
Gerald E. Schmuck, Gulfport

Send Council, Assembly and Circle news to John Lacourrege at [jklacourrege@bellsouth.net](mailto:jklacourrege@bellsouth.net)

## Plan an Activity to Celebrate Respect Life Month

Each October in recent times the Catholic church celebrates Respect Life Month. Culture of Life activities should focus on increasing awareness of our Church's teaching on various life issues which respect the dignity of life from conception to natural death. To aid your council, assembly and ladies auxiliary in sponsoring such a program, our Supreme Council mails each Financial Secretary a Respect Life folder published by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. The letter inside of it instructs the Financial Secretary to give this folder to his Grand Knight. Your Financial Secretary should receive this folder shortly. For parishes in the Diocese of Jackson the Office of Parish Ministries of Catholic Charities mails each pastor this Respect Life folder. This is a wonderful folder that makes planning a prolife activity simple. All the resources are either in the folder or listed for ordering.

This year's folder contains a ProLife Publications and Resources catalog which is a valuable source of information you can order throughout the year. I urge you to have your pastor, council culture of life chairman, Grand Knight, and youth minister review this catalog to choose something to order for use in your parish.

### Suggested Simple Activities

**Have a Pro-life Mass.** Respect Life Sunday is October 6 and the liturgy guide in the folder provides pro-life readings for this masses on this day, along with intercessions for life. Since it also contains homily tips, more intercessions for life for A Day of Prayer and Penance for Life on January 22, 2014 and Pro-life Rosary Prayer Intentions, and Prayers for a Novena beginning on January 19, 2014 - the 41st Anniversary of Roe v. Wade, it also is a valuable resource you can use for these activities.

**Display a Pro-life Poster.** Besides asking your pastor to do a special culture of life Mass using the readings and prayer intentions in the folder, you could display the poster in the folder on a church bulletin board or in a display case.

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## Programs An Easier Path to Star Council Status

Two important changes in the current requirements for Star Council initiated this year make it easier to attain that level of recognition from Supreme.

Star Council recognizes achievement in membership, insurance and service program activities. A council must qualify for the Father McGivney, Founder's and Columbian awards to achieve Star Council recognition.

The State's Star Council quota this year is 13. Eleven councils were recognized as Star Council's last year. Double Star and even Triple Star designations come with increased programming.

The changes for this year are that councils need only a seven percent growth in membership with a minimum of four; and councils are no longer required to host a minimum of four First Degree ceremonies.

Councils must conduct and report at least four major programs in each of the Service Program categories. Each category has at least one featured program, meaning that a council can fulfill all requirements of that category by meeting the requirements of one featured activity.



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*"All of these activities are opportunities for recruitment. Invite prospects to participate."*

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### October's Calendar

Respect Life Month, with Oct. 6 designated as Respect Life Sunday. The day is also Life Chain Sunday, with groups throughout the nation visible from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in prayer while holding signs with Culture of Life messages. It's the month to begin checking off the Culture of Life events your Council promotes.

The first week of the month is designated as a time for Council's to conduct a charitable service activity in honor of Pope Francis. The first of two Order-wide Church Drives is Oct. 12-13, and Oct. 21-27 is Order-wide First Degree Week.

Looking ahead? It's planning time for Coats for Kids, Food for Families, March for Life, Light Up for Christ and Christmas card sales. Fall is a good time for the Soccer Challenge and the Free Throw Competition.

All of these activities are opportunities for recruitment. Invite prospects to participate. Let them see how instrumental your council is in the life of the parish.

Think One Member, Per Council, Per Month . . . and that programming is a key factor in attaining the Star Council Award.

Fred Middleton  
State Programs Director



*District Master Bill O'Connor is pictured with 17 of the new Sir Knights exemplified into the Fourth Degree of the Order at St. Paul Catholic Church in Flowood on Saturday, August, 17th. In alphabetical order, they are David Browman, David Bruce, Dan Cado, David Carpenter, John Curley, Glenn Ferreri, James Foulk, Ricky LeBlanc, Steve McCarthy, Steve Miller, Chris Nix, Joe Parsons, Philip Patin, Matthew Polk, Joe Sanford, John Shuerman, Chris Sigler and Frank Smith.*

## 18 New Sir Knights Exemplified into the Fourth Degree at St. Paul in Flowood

On Saturday, August 17th, Bishop Brunini Assembly 2269 hosted a Fourth Degree Exemplification in the Family Life Center at St. Paul Catholic Church in Flowood. Eighteen candidates, half of them from Council 10216 at St. Paul, were exemplified into the Fourth Degree of the Order. Following the ceremony, the new Sir Knights and their spouse attended the Saturday vigil Mass, which was celebrated by Fr. Ed Balser, himself a Fourth Degree Knight.

Following the Mass all returned to the Family Life Center to enjoy a delicious banquet prepared by the Council 10216 cooking team. In attendance were State Deputy David Scott, State Secretary Jim McCraw and his wife Barbara, State Advocate Philip Jabour, District Master Bill O'Connor, and Fr. Ed Balser. FN John Lacourrége asked PGK Dennis Antici to bring the entire crew that had helped decorate the hall as well as prepare and server the food. For the evening out into the hall so that all in attendance could show their appreciation with a round of applause.



### Plan an Activity

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**Display for Distribution or Handout Prolife Literature.** The folder contains the following brochures which can be ordered using the ordering form in the packet. You can also order by phone (1-866-582-0943), fax (1-301-779-8569) or online at [www.usccb.org/prolife](http://www.usccb.org/prolife) : Our Obligation to Protect Religious Freedom; Pregnancy From Rape; Roe Plus 40; Forgiveness and Healing After Abortion; Domestic Violence; Explaining the Reality of Marriage to Family and Friends; A Catholic Response to the Death Penalty. All brochures are priced at \$20.00/100 or \$120.00/1,000. Shipping is \$3.00 if prepaid with order. 2013 Respect Life Flyers cost \$10.00/100 or \$90.00/1,000. 2013 Respect Life Posters, Bilingual cost \$1.25 for 1-9 or \$1.00 for 10-99.

We encourage all councils, Assemblies and Ladies Auxiliaries to hold a Culture of Life activity during Respect Life month in October 2013 and use the materials in the folder throughout the fraternal year.

Never cease publicly defended life for those who are defenseless or weak and at the mercy of our society.

"Not to oppose error is to approve of it" – Pope Felix III

Dennis and Muna Riecke  
State Prolife Couple  
Mississippi State Council



*Council 5943 in Madison holds its annual Living Rosary on the third Wednesday in October as a Respect Life Month activity.*



## Honor Guard Protocol

The question of an Honor Guard at Visitation and Funeral Mass for Brother Knights has been posed and this is to answer what is proper.

The Color Corps Drill Manual most recently approved by the Board of Directors states "... honors by the Honor Guard shall be offered to deceased Sir Knights of the Fourth Degree in good standing on all counts at the time of death." And "...to the immediate family of a Sir Knight in good standing and Third Degree members in good standing and to their immediate family members provided a request is made."

The District Master and the State Deputy reserve the right to grant exceptions to this rule. The State Deputy and District Master are in agreement that all Knights of any degree will have the honors of an Honor Guard granted to them, therefore, there is no need to ask for an exception in these cases.

The term immediate family will be described as spouse, children, parents, brothers and sisters. Remember, the Honor Guard is present to serve the living as the death of a loved one is grieved. It is also to recognize and celebrate the life of the deceased.

If an Honor Guard is requested for any situation other than described above please contact the District Master or State Deputy for an exception.

The request for an Honor Guard should be forwarded to the Faithful Navigator of the Assembly or to the District Marshal. The details of the Honor Guard will then be made to the Sir Knights with regalia for them to serve.

Hopefully this answers any questions, however, if there are any please feel free to contact the District Master or State Deputy.

Fraternally,

Bill O'Connor  
District Master

David Scott  
State Deputy

## A Word from the State Deputy (Continued from Page 1)

Past State Deputy, Danny Lechner, is our "Good of the Order" chairman and can get a message out across the state via email for notices that are time sensitive and need immediate attention such as prayer requests. Contact Danny at dan9409@aol.com with "Good of the Order" requests.

Our State Council Directory includes contact information for the state officers, district deputies, state program directors, the grand knight and financial secretary of each council, the faithful navigator and faithful controller of each assembly, leaders of our ladies auxiliaries and other members who hold key positions in our Order. It is important that this contact information is accurate and current. State Membership Director, Mike Kassouf, maintains the Directory and can be reached at Kassouf@bellsouth.net for updates.

We are looking to increase our communication resources by possibly establishing a State Council Facebook page, a State Deputy Twitter account and maybe provide training videos that can be downloaded off the website or through YouTube. Your feedback on this matter is welcome.

Have you thanked a priest today?

Vivat Jesus!

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*"Have you thanked a priest today?"*

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## Council 6872 in Picayune Forms Squire Circle

Fr. Sylvester Hynes Circle 4234 had their Investiture Ceremony on August 17, 2013. The new Squire members then participated in the Council's Corporate Communion and Social.

Installation of Circle Officers then took place on September 15, 2013 at Hemler Hall where parents and Council members looked on. The Squires first function is participating in the Running of the Silver Rose as it is transferred from Mississippi to Louisiana.

Special thanks go out to Brothers George Martin, LA State Squire Chair and Kerry & Trey Williams of New Orleans St. Maria Goretti Council for doing the honors.

### Officers Installed:

Chief Squire- Jakub Hill  
Deputy Chief Squire- Christian Arcement

Notary- Jonathan Arcement  
Bursar- Lucien Failla  
Marshall- William Smith  
Sentry- Jack Hays  
Arm Captain- Dominic McConnell



*Pictured from left to right are George Martin, David Failla, Dominic McConnell, William Smith, Jonathan Arcement, Jakub Hill, Christian Hill, Lucien Failla, Jack Hays, Jeffrey Arcement, and Benjamin McConnell.*