

The Magnolia Knight

A Word from the State Deputy

Keep Christ in Ourselves



On behalf of my fellow State Officers, I would like to wish every knight in Mississippi and his family a blessed and safe Christmas. At the risk of sounding a bit cliché, let us remember that Christmas is really all about Christ.

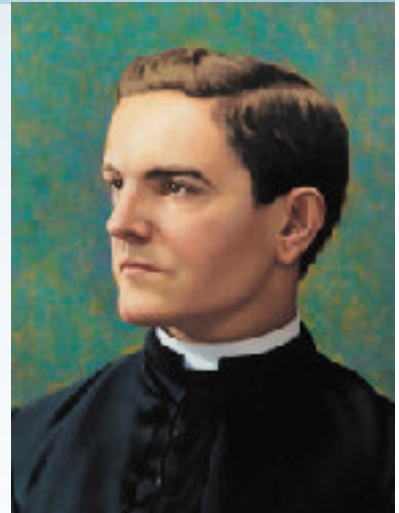
In the hustle and bustle of shopping, cooking, parties, bowl games, sending and receiving cards, and all the other things that go along with the holiday season, let us not forget to spend a little quiet time with God.

People often endure a lot of stress during the holidays for various reasons. Quiet solitude in the presence of God can go along way to relieving that stress. Time spent in adoration or meditation can bring inner peace that can conquer depression or anxiety. We can "Keep Christ in Christmas" by "keeping Christ in ourselves." Small acts of kindness and charitable giving are the good works professed by Pope Francis to be the cornerstone of a Christian life. By joining in unity with other knights and their families, we can accomplish greater acts of charity within our parishes and communities.

Even more can be accomplished when several councils across the state join together in a common purpose. Recently, councils have joined together in the "Coats for Kids" campaign to supply much needed coats for the needy during the cold months of winter. Councils have come together to raise funds for a new cemetery for the Bishops of the Biloxi Diocese. Councils and Assemblies have joined together to provide supplies and recreation to veterans in our VA Homes and Hospitals.

God sees every charitable act, no matter how small it may be. Have you done a Christian act today?

David Scott
State Deputy



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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. "Jerry" Schmuck

Send Council, Assembly and Circle news to John Lacourrége at jlacourrege@bellsouth.net

Bishop R.O. Gerow (Priest Education) Program

Christmas is a time to be thankful for all that we have and to also remember those who need our support.

I ask you to be thankful for all the young men who have said "Yes" to the Lord by becoming Seminarians and thus our priests for the future. I ask you to pray daily for them and to show your support by making a donation to the R. O. Gerow Program.

Merry Christmas to you and your family and I look forward to seeing you at the Regional Mid-winter meetings.

Vivat Jesus
Don Cox
Chairman, Bishop Gerow Program



Supreme Council Families of the Month

The following are the Mississippi winners of the Supreme Council's Family of the Month contest for the month of October, 2013. They are obtained through a random drawing held at the Supreme Council office from among the many nominees submitted by local councils.

Joe & Melinda Spence
Council 4472 — Pass Christian

Benjamin & Phyllis Mokry
Council 8285 — Jackson

Joe & Melinda Spence
Council 4472 — Pass Christian

Kenny & Melanie Moe
Council 15155 — Vancleave

Councils are encouraged to submit their Family of the Month reports in a timely fashion in order for their submissions to be eligible.

State Officers, District Deputies Hold Mid-year Meeting



State officers including State Chaplain Fr. Bob Higginbotham, as well as General Insurance Agent John Stice met on Saturday, December 14th with district deputies, chairmen and others at St. Therese Catholic Church in Jackson for a mid-year meeting to recognize the accomplishments of the Knights in Mississippi and discuss plans for the remainder of the fraternal year leading up to and including the convention in Jackson in late April 2014.

On Saturday, December 14th, St. Therese Council 8285 played host to your state officers, district deputies and others for a Mid-Year Meeting. Along with State Deputy David Scott, State Secretary Jim McCraw, State Treasurer Noel Aucoin, State Warden Ben Mokry, and Immediate Past State Deputy Jerry Schmuck, were State Chaplain Fr. Bob Higginbotham and District Master of the Fourth Degree Bill O'Connor.

The agenda for the meeting, which lasted from mid-morning to mid-afternoon, covered a wide variety of topics from state, district and council goals for membership recruiting and retention, all manner of programs, ceremonials, etc. General Insurance Agent John H. Stice made a presentation on matters relating to the insurance programs, and District Master Bill O'Connor provided information concerning the Fourth Degree of the Order. And State Warden Ben Mokry showed off all of the improvements and upgrade he has made to the [state web site](#), encouraging all to make frequent visits to keep well-informed.

Council officers should expect to have much of this information related to them by their respective District Deputies at the upcoming mid-winter meetings to be held in each district. State Deputy David Scott recognized all of the hard work done by all of the councils and assemblies and urged all of them to keep up the good work in service to Christ and His Church.



Pascagoula Assembly Shows its Appreciation of Veterans



Joe Furlan, FN of Msgr. P. J. Carey Assembly 561, presents a Patriotic Service Award to Lee Chandler, who was a POW in Vietnam.

At its monthly meeting on Monday, December 2nd, Msgr. P.J. Carey Assembly 561 in Pascagoula devoted a part of the proceedings to showing their appreciation to those who have served our country in its armed forces. Faithful Navigator Joe Furlan presented a Patriotic Service Award to Lee Chandler, who spent time as a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

Other veterans recognized for their service were Robert Barr, Bill Clark, Benny French, James Jackson, and Steve Parnell.

The principle of the Fourth Degree of the Order being Patriotism, this was a particularly meaningful part of the assembly's monthly meeting.

Council 848 in Jackson Makes Final Payment on Pledge

On Monday, December 23rd, Joe Blake, Grand Knight of John T. Savage Council 848, presented Fr. Anthony Quyet, Rector of the Cathedral of St. Peter the Apostle in Jackson a check representing the final installment of his council's pledge of \$33,000 toward the restoration of the Keys to the Kingdom stained glass window in the cathedral. Joining GK Blake were Treasurer Doug Wing and PGK Hollis Felts.

The cathedral is the home base of Council 848, which has served it and other parts of the Jackson metropolitan area since 1904. The council made the sizeable financial commitment as its contribution to the much larger full restoration of the cathedral, which occupies a prominent place in the heart of the capital city of Jackson.

Hats off to the Knights of Council 848 for their hard work and dedication to this worthy cause!



Fr. Anthony Quyet, (center right) Cathedral Rector accepts a check from Council 848 GK Joe Blake (center left) while Treasurer Doug Wing (far left) and PGK Hollis Felts (far right) look on.

Father McGivney Guild

Are you a member? If you are not, it cannot be because of the cost to join because there is none. Nor can it be because of the work that is entailed: the only work is for you to fill out the application which takes about one minute. If you don't want to use a stamp, register on line! The point is every member of the Knight of Columbus in the Mississippi Jurisdiction should think so highly of our Founder, Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney that he should make this action second only to his reception of his First Degree. Which Knight in our Order would not want to see our Founder raised to the honors of the altar? Which Knight in our Order would not appreciate receiving the Guild newsletter? We are very close to the 1,000 member mark in Mississippi in Guild membership. We should be close to the 5,000 member mark. Do it today! Join the Guild and join NOW!!

Vivat Jesus,
Tom Zettler, PSD
Chairman for the Cause



Council Assessments

All council payments for Per Capita and Liability Insurance assessments as well as Degree Fees should be mailed to:

State Treasurer
Attn: Noel Aucoin
14620 Porteaux Bay Dr
Biloxi, MS 39532-7327

These payments should be forwarded to the State Council Treasurer's office within 65 days of the January 1 and July 1 billing date to allow sufficient processing time prior to the suspension date of April 10 and October 10.

Upcoming Events

Following is a list of upcoming events as they appear on the [calendar](#) on the Mississippi Knights of Columbus website. For more information concerning the time and exact location of each, go to the calendar and click on the item.

- Sunday, January 5 - District 8 Mid-year Meeting, Hattiesburg
- Monday January 6 - First Degree Exemplification, Southaven
- Thursday, January 9 - First Degree Exemplification, Biloxi
- Saturday, January 10 - District 2 Mid-year Meeting, Southaven
- Saturday, January 10 - District 10 Mid-year Meeting, Pass Christian
- Saturday, January 10 - Third Degree Exemplification, Southaven
- Tuesday, January 14 - Second Degree Exemplification, Biloxi
- Friday, January 17 - Third Degree Exemplification, Biloxi
- Saturday, January 18 - Fourth Degree Exemplification, D'Iberville
- Saturday, February 1 - Fourth Degree Exemplification, Clinton



Council and Assembly Join Forces for Toys for Tots

St. Mary's Council 9124 in Gautier combined efforts with Msgr. P.J. Carey Assembly #561 in Pascagoula to collect toys for needy children in their communities. Faithful Navigator Joe Furlan and Faithful Purser Robert Barr survey the fruits of the council's and assembly's labor of love.

Oscar J. Gelpi Council Delivers Toys to St. Jude Hospital

On Wednesday, December 11th, my wife Kary and I pulled a 4' X 8' trailer stuffed with gifts to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN to deliver the goods from our toy drive. Knights of Columbus Council 6872 put up "Angel Trees" at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church and spread the word via social media and email. Dozens of gifts were collected, even from as far away as United Methodist Church of Kokomo, MS to New Orleans, LA.



St. Jude is the only pediatric cancer research center where families never pay for treatments that are not covered by insurance. No child is ever denied treatment because of the family's inability to pay. This includes the cost of treatment, housing, transportation and meals. How important is that? Treatment for lymphoblastic leukemia, the most common form of childhood cancer, cost about \$600 per day for 2-4 years. That's over \$500,000!

The daily operating costs of \$1.8 million is primarily covered by public contributions averaging \$31. To do our part, Council 6872 took part in Picayune's Street Fair in November and raised over \$500. A total of just over \$1,200 was presented along with the toys. We then received a private tour of the hospital.

Brian Cassagne
Council 6872, Picayune

District 4 Second Degree Team Advances 20 in Journey to Full Knighthood



On Sunday, October 27th, the District 4 Second Degree Team exemplified twenty First Degree Knights to the Second Degree of the Order at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Starkville Mississippi. Pictured here is the class of new Second Degree Knights. A Third Degree Exemplification has been scheduled for Saturday, February 22nd. Check the calendar on the Mississippi Knights of Columbus web site for details.