



# The Magnolia Knight

Serving the Mississippi Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus

*Our goal is very specific.*

*Developing Catholic Leaders.*

*Strengthening Catholic Families."*

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Volume XV Issue I

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## From Our State Deputy, Jim McCraw



Let me begin by extending a most wonderful Happy New Year to each of you and your families.

As we enter this New Year, we take along our successes and a few near misses that just need to be tweaked a bit.

When we began the fraternal year, there were several initiatives laid out:

- Develop Catholic Leaders. Strengthen Catholic Families.
- Begin Membership Retention when the Form 100 is signed.
- Regular 1<sup>st</sup> degrees each month. More 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees in every district.
- Insure every council provides a safe environment for Children.
- Make sure our Home Corps are protected.
- Promote Unity.
- Combine Marian Devotion with Roundtables.

### **Everyone is Important.**

Of these, the very heart of each is Unity and the premise that everyone is important.

I will tell you that there have been a few instances where a council lost perspective. The members stopped thinking about the vision of Father McGivney and they became the most important. When we lose our servant's heart, we lose our reason to exist. Many stopped coming to mass. Regardless of their dues status... they stopped being a Council and became a men's club. I take this as a personal loss.

*It is all about unity. Alone, a knight can take a stand... he can be a symbol .. he can be a voice in the wilderness...but united.. together.. bound in unity.. there is nothing we cannot accomplish.*

The final part of individual importance ... is respect. Football is a game. Personal relationships are not.

I had the pleasure of taking part in the online Safe Environment training programs last month. I found

it very informative and addressed a number of questions I had about my role in the chain of reporting incidents.

Until now it applied primarily to the Council Youth Directors and they received their training and certification through the diocese. If you recall in July, State Advocate Ben Mokry gave us a heads up on Supreme's plans to make it available once they selected an acceptable provider. We are at that point.

This month the next level of authority, our Grand Knights, will have access to the training courses through the Supreme Website. In addition to the GKs, I am having our DDs and State Officers participate. This expansion is to make sure you as a council leader, understand your role and are able to assist and support your Youth Directors should they come to you with a concern.

If you have questions about the process, Ben Mokry will be glad to work with you. If you want to complain before doing it, contact me. I'll be glad to listen. I'm certified now.

Vivat Jesus and remember... you make a difference!

## Council Earns Triple Star Council Award

Council 1522, Bay Waveland, MS Grand Knight Paul Pitts, has received the coveted (and rare) Triple Star award for exceeding State and Council goals for the year 2013 to 2014. The award, presented to GK Pitts by SD Jim McCraw signifies that all goals were met or exceed including membership goals which were exceeded by over 380% for the year. With this performance for 2013-14, the council is gearing up for another year of excellence.



## Advent Message From State Programs Director



Brother Knights,

I start off with my wishes for a Happy and Blessed New Year to You, Your Families, and Your Councils. As we launch into the New Year, we also look forward towards the final 3 months of our 2014-2015 State Fraternal Year. In the blink of an eye, it will be April and many of us will be gathering in Biloxi for our State Convention to celebrate our fraternity as Brother Knights and to recognize the great

works we have accomplished over the prior 12 months. Although the time is short, there is still plenty of time to get your programs and activities completed before the convention is upon us. As we look out over the next three months, there are many areas we can focus our charitable energies as members and councils of the Knights of Columbus. I encourage each of you to get involved with at least one project at your council level to get off to a good start in 2015. It is through our works and charity that we show forth as the Strong Right Arm of the Catholic Church. During the next three months there are ample opportunities for activities in each and every area where we as Knights can participate and be involved: Support of the 2015

- March for Life on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Youth Free Throw Championship

- Food For Families Drives – 40 Cans for Lent
- Coats for Kids
- March Membership Drive
- Lenten Meals of Fridays
- New Year Corporate Communion Service

If your council is not currently planning an activity around one of these, and you would like to be a part of one, reach out to your Grand Knight or Program Chairman and recommend that the council holds an event, or better yet, help plan one. Remember:

**None of us joined the Knights to Attend Meetings.....We Joined to Make a Difference**

Let's all made a difference as we kick off 2015. Be an involved Knight!

Your Brother Knight,

Guy Heying  
State Programs Director

## Message From Our State Chaplain



Msgr. Elvin Sunds

Dear Brother Knights:

I want to wish all of you a Happy New Year. May the Lord bless you and your loved ones with health and happiness this New Year, and may He bless all your efforts as Knights of Columbus.

However, before the glow of this Christmas becomes a distant memory, it is important to reflect for a moment upon the significance of what we celebrated a few weeks ago. Along with Christians throughout the world we celebrated again the coming of the Messiah. We proclaimed the Good News of the Incarnation – God taking on our human nature and becoming one of

us in Jesus. We proclaimed that because of Jesus the world and each of us is forever changed.

As Christians and as Knights, we know Christmas is not just a commercial holiday. It is about the love and joy Jesus brings to humankind. In deed, the love and joy we experience during this season is only a shadow of the love that God the Father's has for us – a love which Jesus came to proclaim to all through his life, death and resurrection. Moreover, we are called to proclaim that love not just during this season but also at all times.

Pope Francis in his apostolic exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, says, "All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization" (120). . . "Each of us should find ways to communicate Jesus wherever we are. All of us are called to offer others an explicit witness to the saving love of the Lord" (121).

Through our joyful celebrations of this Christmas season we offered to others a "witness to the saving love of the Lord." The challenge is to

continue that joyful witness throughout the rest of the year. Our witnessing to the Lord should not end with the taking down of our Christmas decorations.

On January 11<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, which liturgically marks the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Ordinary time. However, if we consciously continue to witness to the love of Lord to our families, our church community, our fellow Knights and to the larger community, there is nothing "ordinary" about this time. It will be a time filled with extraordinary love and grace. So, let us respond to the challenge of Pope Francis to "offer others an explicit witness to the saving love of the Lord" in all we do as Knights of Columbus.

May the Lord especially bless all that you do this year. May all you do begin with the Lord's inspiration, continue with His help and be brought to completion in Him.

Msgr. Elvin Sunds, Vicar General  
State Chaplain

## Council's Activities Supports Causes, Raises Awareness

Council 848 hosted a Spaghetti Dinner in October, raising \$670 for Habitat for Humanity.

Council 848 raised \$3,475 for the Council's Seminarian Fund by doing a raffle for 2014 Egg Bowl. Brian Roach won the 4 tickets + 1 parking pass for this year's Egg Bowl.

Council 848 had their Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. A good time was had by all



## Solemn Mass Celebration At St. Francis Xavier Church, Wiggins

Father Jose Vasquez, center and pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church, Wiggins, celebrated a Solemn Mass in honor of St. Francis Xavier that focused on the example of his great missionary work.

In addition to this work and dedication to others, St. Francis Xavier is known to have baptized thousands of Christians. Born in Spain, in 1506, St. Francis Xavier is co-founded of the Society of Jesus. He fell sick and died at the age of 46 on December 3, 1552. Pictured with Fr. Jose are 4th Degree Knights dressed in full regalia to assist in the celebration of this event and also welcome Fr. Jose back from vacation.

St. Francis Xzavier Church, Wiggins, celebrated its 100th Anniversary earlier this year.



From left to right are Anthony Pennington, Kenneth Smith, Pastor Jose Vasquez, David Russell and Sherwood Beckham.

## Council Conducts Local Essay Contest

Council 9543 participated in the 2014 Knights of Columbus essay contest. This year's topic was, "The Importance of Religious Freedom." The first place winner was Sydni Vandevender, an 8th grader at St. Joseph Catholic School; the second place winner was John Lee, an 11th grader at St. Joseph Catholic School; the third place winner was Derek Lopez, an 8th grader at Olde Towne Middle School.

John Lee, a junior at St. Joseph Catholic School, was congratulated by Tunney Vandevender, Knights of Columbus Council 9543 Grand Knight, and Youth Director Andy Love for winning second place in the 2014 Knights of Columbus Essay Contest. This year's topic was The Importance of Religious Freedom.



## Madison Council #9543 Hosts Priest Appreciation Dinner

On Thursday, December 10th, Madison Council #9543 hosted a Priest Appreciation Dinner. The council served the meal to approximately twelve priests prior to the Reconciliation Service that followed there at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.



## District Deputy Spotlight—Roy Gamez

Lieutenant Colonel Raul “Roy” Gamez (R), a 12 year Pass resident, is dedicated to serving his community and church. He hails from San Antonio, Texas where he graduated from Trinity University. A highly decorated, U.S Army veteran and infantryman, Roy earned a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star for Valor during his tour in Vietnam. He also retired from an accomplished career with the US Federal Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

Roy is an active member of Holy Family Catholic Church. He serves as a Sacristan and head usher. He willingly responds to any need of the parish when called upon. A devoted member of the Knights of

Columbus since 2007, Roy has served as Grand Knight of Monsignor Leech Council 4472 and Faithful Navigator of Holy Family Assembly 3281. He is currently serving his fourth year as District Deputy for District 10.

He is a life member of the VFW, The Purple Heart Society and the Military Retired Officers Association. He is active with the Pass Christian VFW and serves as the Quarter Master for Post 5931.

Roy is also active in several organizations along the Gulf Coast.

He has been awarded the Who’s Who in the Southeast and the Who’s Who in the Southwest Awards for Hispanic Leaders.

Roy has also been inducted to the

National Hispanic Sports Hall of Fame. The award is not only presented to the most outstanding Hispanic athletes and sports figures in the United States, but is awarded to those whose leadership and accomplishments have made them an identifiable role model who has had, and continues to have, a positive influence on young people.

Married 44 years to his high school sweetheart, the former Betty Ann Calonge, they were blessed with twin sons who are Lieutenant Colonels in the US Army serving in Germany and Virginia. They have five grandchildren all of which hold a special place in his heart.



**KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS**  
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

## Second Responder Program Disaster Response Team

Knights of Columbus  
Biloxi Diocese's Regional Area  
Brent Woodfill, Council 1522  
[woodfibt@bellsouth.net](mailto:woodfibt@bellsouth.net)

Knights of Columbus  
Jackson Diocese's Regional Area  
Anthony Kumor, Council 8038  
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Mississippi Jurisdiction of Knights of Columbus  
Jerry Schmuck  
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## St. John The Evangelist #10901 Hosts First Degree

St. John the Evangelist Council #10901 in Oxford, MS recently held a First Degree Exemplification.

At the ceremony the welcomed new First Degree Knight, Joseph Skinner. Welcome to the order!



## State Mid-Year Meeting Schedule

### Key Audience:

Grand Knights, Deputy Grand Knights, Program Chairmen, Membership Chairmen, Financial Secretaries and Council Advocates. Any council officer or 3rd degree member is welcome to attend.

The networking aspect of these meetings is very powerful. It allows attendees to meet their counterparts, share ideas and think beyond your council walls. Great chance to visit with state officers and ask your questions to the various program chairmen.

Special Attention will be given to "Safe Environment" training.

**Star Council lapel pins will be presented to GK, Program & Membership Chairmen of Star Councils.**

### Northern Region Jan 10 Noon-4pm

St. Mary's Parish Hall 120 Highway 35N, Batesville, MS 38606

Host: Fr. Thomas Boyce Council 13502 Dr. Tom Hodge, GK; Fr. Sam Messina, Chaplain  
Lunch will be available at 11:30am Wi-Fi available.

### Central Region Jan 11 1-5pm

St. Joseph Parish Hall 127 Church Rd. Gluckstadt, MS 39110

Host: St. Joseph Council 11934 Chris Sigler, GK; Fr. Kevin Slattery, Chaplain  
Lunch available at 12:30pm Wi-Fi available

### Southern Region Jan 17 Noon-4pm

1583 Council Hall 733 34<sup>th</sup> St. Gulfport, MS 39502

Host: Bishop Gunn Council 1583 Charlie Underwood, GK  
Lunch available at 11:30am Wi-Fi not available.

**Remember to Register:** Attendees should register on the State Website: [www.kofc-ms.org](http://www.kofc-ms.org)

## Columbian Squires Circle 3753

Knights of Columbus Supreme Secretary Charles E. Mauer Jr. has reassigned Number 3753 to the circle in Bay St. Louis/Waveland reinstated under the sponsorship of Pere Le Duc Council 1522. Circle 3753 requested and was given approval to change the name of their newly reinstated circle to the Father Peter Mockler Circle. It is with great pride the young men made this request of Supreme.

Father Mockler was pastor of St. Ann's Catholic Church in Lizana when he passed away on January 20, 2014. He served various parishes in the Biloxi Diocese for over 40 years. He had a kind and gentle spirit. Father Mockler was laid to rest in his home country of Ireland.



## Mississippi Star Council Top Contenders

Council	Location	Membership	Insurance Status
7120	South Haven	100%	50.00%
13471	Philadelphia	125.00%	0.00%
7974	Columbus	80.00%	0.00%
10216	Brandon	78.575	20.00%
15382	Hattiesburg	71.43%	0.00%
10901	Oxford	71.43%	0.00%
9404	West Biloxi	63.64%	50.00%
1522	Bay St. Louis	62.50%	133.33%
11654	Wiggins	60.00%	33.33%
9124	Gautier	50.00%	33.33%
7211	Lumberton	50.00%	0.00%
9958	Lizana	50.00%	0.00%
802	Meridian	40.00%	16.67%
8038	Pearl	40.00%	0.00%
11995	Pass Christian	40.00%	0.00%
2134	Greenville	37.50%	33.33%
848	Jackson	37.50%	33.33%
1244	Biloxi	33.33%	114.29%
7087	Kiln	33.33%	100.00%
11934	Gluckstadt	33.33%	0.00%
4472	Pass Christian	28.57%	33.33%
8054	McComb	28.57%	0.00%
7910	Gulfport	28.57%	0.00%
9543	Madison	25.00%	83.33%

## Starkville Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

Starkville council selected the three winners of this years Keep Christ in Christmas Poster

Contest and awarded a Holy Family Statue after Mass to the winner in each age group. They are:

5-7 Division - Martin Jelinek,  
8-10 Division – Evelyn Artigues,  
11-14 Division Olivia Artigues



## Starkville Council Holds District 4 Second Degree



Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup> Starkville hosted a Second Degree and advanced 26 First Degree Brothers in the lesson of Unity. Candidates were from four Districts and seven different Councils with the Honoree being Bishop R. O. Gerow. Special Guest was State Deputy Jim McCraw and Fr. Basani of West Point who observed the Second Degree.

In attendance were District 1 Council 8912 Cornith – John Lowry, District 4 – Council 802 Meridian – Jason Caballero, Eugene Goellner, Gerald Koca, Michael Miller, Timothy Mowdy and William Zirger, Council 6765 Starkville – Rev Channappa Basani, Jason Caswell, Richard Coughlin, Jerrod Farrington, Bennie Keith and Samuel Rust, Council 7974 Columbus – Eric David, Artemio Loreda, Michael Smith and Matthew, Council 13471 Philadelphia - Gregory Baltzer, Kenneth Barnhill, Cody Cotton, Thomas Holland, Shawn Leader, Frank Rossomanno and Michael Taylor, District 5- Council 9543 Madison – Ian Vandevender, District 11 – 9094 D'Iberville Zachery Doucet.

## Honor Your Knights In Shining - Keeping Them Involved

Awarded for service to the Order with distinction during the first year of membership, the "Shining Armor Award" is given to those men that exemplify what a true Knight of Columbus is. The concept of the "Shining Armor Award" program is to get new members active in the many facets of the Knights of Columbus as early as possible and assist in maintaining that activity and also honor them as a valued member of your council.

To qualify for the "Shining Armor Award" new Knights must during their first year of membership:

- Be involved in at least 3 council service programs.
- Attend at least 3 council business meetings.
- Receive their Second and Third degrees.
- Meet with their council's insurance representative.
- Recruit at least one new member

These are the qualifications for the basic program, consider implementing it in your council. Keep in mind, the main focus of the program is to get new members actively involved within their council from the very beginning. Councils can order materials for this program through the **Supreme Council Supply Department**. Certificate #4293, pin #1700 and Qualification Card # 4292. Award Certificate during a meeting, after Mass, etc. Forward names and pictures to the Magnolia Knight.



## Bishop R.O. Gerow Program For Priest Education

Brothers, our state convention is approximately 3 months away and we should be in our final preparation to support this important event in our 2014-2015 Fraternal Year. I hope your preparations include a donation to the Bishop R.O. GEROW Program. Your donation should be sent to our State Treasurer by April 15<sup>th</sup> if possible. He and I are in weekly contact and your donations will be monitored closely.

We plan to properly represent you as we give YOUR donations to our Bishops. Lent will start soon and it is excellent opportunity to plan a non-meat dinner. You will most likely get great parish support if it is advertised to Support PRIEST EDUCATION. Carol and I are looking forward to seeing you in Biloxi. Vivat Jesus!

Don Cox, Chairman, Bishop R.O. Gerow Program

## Disaster Response Team Provides Assistance After Tornadoes

On Wednesday, 23 December, 2014, Mississippi was once again devastated by destructive tornadoes. It was reported that up to 11 tornadoes touched down in our state with two cities (Laurel and Columbia) receiving damage. In the aftermath, while first responders were doing their jobs, Volunteer Mississippi, a state organization responsible for disaster response operations, called the MS Knights with a request: "Can you help?" Our MS KofC Disaster Response team responded; "yes we can" and immediately went into action.



**Disaster Response Center  
Woodlawn Pentecostal Church  
Columbia MS**



**Volunteer Response Center  
Woodlawn Pentecostal Church  
Columbia MS**

The following day, Christmas Eve, while state disaster response chairman Jerry Schmuck (Council 12271) was on the way to the Columbia tornado site, Biloxi Diocese chairman Brent Woodfill contacted District Deputy Stradford Goins (DD13) and the Grand Knights in the area with requests for assistance. Despite the holidays, men responded in true Knights fashion. While Jerry Schmuck assisted Volunteer MS with setting up and operating the volunteer response center Stradford Goins Sr.(DD13) and his son, Stradford Goins Jr. (GK Council 7211 Lumberton) went to work at the donations reception and disbursement area while Dr. Bill Jarrett (GK Council 1908 Hattiesburg) and Chris Tomlinson (Council 1908 Hattiesburg) took over the task of managing the blue tarp distribution center. Ted Applewhite (GK Council 6592 Bassfield) was also standing by with a team to provide assistance if needed.

Christmas Day was no exception. Chris and Jerry again reported for duty with Chris managing the tarp distribution center and Jerry providing help to Volunteer MS managing the volunteer management program as needed. Ted Applewhite once again volunteered his council if needed but Jerry advised him to allow his council to enjoy Christmas and wait for further instructions. On Friday, 26 December, The residents of Columbia felt ready, with the assistance of Volunteer MS., to take on the recovery operation on their own. On Friday afternoon, after three days of working with Columbia volunteers, the MS Knights of Columbus disaster response team retired to spend the rest of their Christmas holiday with their families. A special thank you goes out to all who gave up their time during the Christmas Holiday to help others in their time of need. This truly exemplifies the first principle of our order, Charity.



**Louisville Tornado Relief Staff with  
Columbia Tornado Relief Advisors**

## Appointments & Moves

Sherwood Beckham has been appointed District Deputy for District 8 effective January 1, 2015. A former DD, Sherwood is currently Financial Secretary for Fr. Paul Gillis Council 11654 in Wiggins.

Bill Jarrett has been appointed District Warden for District 8. Bill is currently Grand Knight for Bishop Fahey Council 1908 in Hattiesburg and a District Marshal for the Pine Belt area.

Lucedale Council 11904 has been moved from District 12 to District 8.

District 8 now includes: 1908 and 15382 in Hattiesburg, 2180 in Laurel, 6592 Bassfield, 11904 Lucedale and 13936 Columbia.

## 14th Annual Wild Turkey Run and Car, Truck, and Top Rat Show

Over 200 Car, Truck, and Top Rat enthusiasts met in Wiggins to participate in the Knights of Columbus Charitable Event held in the parking lot of the Sawmill Family Restaurant.

This show continues to live up to its theme year after year, said Tom Easter, Grand Knight, from the Knights of Columbus, Council # 11654, Wiggins, Ms. The Knights sponsor this event year after year.

One of the reasons for the show's success is because of the car clubs' support of charitable organizations, excellent sponsors, great competition, prizes, and most of

all fellowship.

As usual the weather continued to cooperate as it has the past several years, said Joe Pennington who proudly stood next to his award winning 1956 Lincoln Continental. As This event was previously held in the parking lot of St. Francis Xavier Church in Wiggins on Hwy. 26. The change in location allows the show to grow even larger even though the event at the St. Francis location was just as warm and inviting.

I guess it will be something the Knights will have to consider for next year's show. Bigger is not always better said Joe.





**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
DIOCESE OF BILOXI  
DIOCESE OF JACKSON**

**State President: Jay Gamble [jay.gamble@bellsouth.net](mailto:jay.gamble@bellsouth.net) 228-342-3403**

**State Vice President: Larry Tabor [Indtabor@cableone.net](mailto:Indtabor@cableone.net) 228-207-7182**

The Mississippi Knights on Bikes are off to a fast start. New members are being recruited every day from the two dioceses across the state.

The Knights on Bikes is an international organization and is intended to provide camaraderie with our Brothers of Faith as motorcycle riders. We serve our communities through charitable works and leadership while

enjoying motorcycle riding with our fellow Knights.

Additionally, we view ourselves as a family oriented organization and try to organize events and activities that will allow the entire family to participate.

Any member of a Knights of Columbus council in the state is eligible for membership provided they are in good standing and have

a motorcycle of any make and model (or plan to purchase one within 6 months). We do not discriminate on models of motorcycles. If it will start and stay started, it qualifies.

Knights on Bikes-MS will soon have a web site but until then, email SK Jay Gamble at [jay.gamble@bellsouth.net](mailto:jay.gamble@bellsouth.net) for more information and an application.



SK Jay Gamble, State President, K on B-MS and Knight Joel Dicharry, Council 1522

**JOIN THE MISSISSIPPI KNIGHTS TODAY**

[www.knightsonbikes.net](http://www.knightsonbikes.net)

## Mississippi Knights Of The Round Table

The Knights of the Round Table is a Mississippi Jurisdiction awards program designed to help keep our Members active within the Council as the honor can be earned each year. The Knights of the Round Table is available to First Degree Knights that have been in the order for at least a year and have met the following criteria;

***Been a Knight at least one year.***

***Work on three Council Service Projects.***

***Attend at least three Council Business meetings.***

***Become a Third Degree Member.***

***Recruit one new Member.***

***Meet with the Insurance Field Agent if you do not already have a K of C insurance policy.***

Your Council can also be rewarded;

***The Council with the highest number of members earning the award, in each category size will also be recognized.***

***The Council with the highest percentage of members earning the award, in each category size will also be recognized.***

As soon as a member has meet the above goals please submit his name via this link [Knights of the Round Table](#)

**All of the above must be completed by March 31, 2015.**

## Coats For Kids Project in Mississippi

About five years ago when current State Treasurer, Philip Jabour, was District Deputy #6, the Knights launched the coats for kids national program. Philip wanted to do something on the State Level and checked with Catholic Charities to see if they had a need for coats for any of their programs. Greg Patin, the director of Catholic Charities at that time, and a Knight, decided that they could use coats for their domestic violence program at their battered women's shelter.

He asked for 48 coats. Philip approached the Councils in District #6 and made them aware of the need. Brandon/Flowood, Madison, and the Gluckstadt Councils agreed to purchase the coats and orders were placed. We delivered the coats in late November and the kids were very grateful. There is a need, as often the

battered families get out of a bad situation with just the clothes on their back.

Last year we ordered 72 coats and did again this year as the Pearl Council elected to participate. The extra coats were sent to the Natchez Catholic Charities office.

The coats come packed by the dozen with assorted sizes. A Council can order a box of boys or girls and they have appropriate sizes and colors. They cost the Councils about \$220 a box. We order 3 boxes of each, for boys and girls.

Around the state, Knights are participating in Coats for Kids in different ways that best suits the need in their area. It is never too late to get involved with this project.

Order wide the Knights gave away about 52,000 coats in 2013 and about 42,000 in 2012. The Denver Broncos joined with the Knights in distributing coats in Colorado and in New Jersey when they were there for the Super bowl. Since the program was launched in 2009 the Knights have provided over 170,000 warm coats to needy kids.



### District Deputy Mid-Year Meeting

Saturday, December 6th, Council 8038 hosted the Mississippi Jurisdiction's District Deputy Mid-Year Meeting. There, the State Council conducted discussions relating to topics such as Membership, Retention, Service Program, and Insurance.

Msgr. Elvin Sunds, Vicar General and State Chaplain addressed the attendees and praised the Knights for the impact on Church and community.

Council 8038 provided lunch for those in attendance and were gracious hosts as usual.



Front row DD1 Mark Dye, DD4 Danny Setaro, DD 12 Joe McCormick; Back Row: DD10 Roy Gamez, DD9 Chuck Heim, DD11 Mark Fontenot, DD13 Stradford Goins, DD3 Bernie Brown. (Not pictured: DD2 Joe Suhanin, DD5 Charles Hahn, DD6 Larry Roberts, DD7 Luis Ybarra.)



PSD Rich Lieding, 2003-05; State Deputy Jim McCraw; State Chaplain Msgr Elvin Sunds; IPSD David Scott, 2013-14; PSD Jerry Schmuck, 2011-13



DDs, PSDs, State Deputy & State Chaplain in his Knights of Columbus chasuble presented at the meeting.



Special Projects Coordinator Lonnie Treadway & Magnolia Knight Editor Jack Jennings



State Program Chairman Guy Heying



Quincy St. Pierre, State Squires Chairman



John Stice, General Agent

## State Programs

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**Family Director-Carl Brochard**  
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**Youth Director- Joe Jones Jr.**  
601-940-0078  
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**Community Director- Bob Leo**  
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**Culture of Life Chair Couple-  
Dennis and Muna Riecke**  
601-432-2207  
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## Retention

This report maybe should be on the front page and not the back.

The growth of the Knights of Columbus depends not only on recruiting new members, but also on retaining current ones. The retention effort for new members begins once he signs a form 100. Retention efforts must start immediately after the First Degree has been conferred on a new member. Encourage the new member to take the Second and Third degrees as soon as possible. Establish a "Welcoming Committee" of council members to provide the member and his family with information on the council and answer questions they may have. Present the new member with a certificate. A new Knight's proposer should introduce him to other council members, help make him feel at home and inform him of the dates and times for council meetings and activities. Establish a car pool to bring new and old members to meetings. Also, as soon as the First Degree is over, get new

members interested in earning the "Shining Armor Award" to help their knowledge and involvement in the Order grow.

When a member has become non-participative, inactive, and in arrears of council dues, it is imperative to find out why, perhaps the member has become ill, or unemployed, or even worse, has died. There is nothing more uncharitable, non-benevolent, and embarrassing than to suspend a brother Knight in a time of need.

The State Council has made an investment by subscribing to a people search program to help Councils find Brothers that are not responding to current communications. After a Council has exhausted all search activity they should send to the State Retention Chairmen the following information. Email complete name and birthday of lost Brother to [kas-souf@bellsouth.net](mailto:kas-souf@bellsouth.net).

## Upcoming Due Dates

Two important dates are fast approaching. Form 1728 Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity is due on Friday, January 30th. Form 1295-I Semi-Annual Council Audit is due Sunday, February 15th. Make a New Year's resolution to get your reports in on time, if not a week early!



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