



*Our goal is very specific.*

*Developing Catholic Leaders.*

*Strengthening Catholic Families."*

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# The Magnolia Knight

Serving the Mississippi Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus

Volume XV Issue II

February 2015

## From Our State Deputy, Jim McCraw



February begins the busy time of the year for the Knights of Columbus in Mississippi. Besides all the traditional things like Valentine Day, Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday, our councils are working with their pastors preparing for Lenten Fish Fries and Stations of the Cross. The fish fries generate funds for Seminarian Education, Pro-Life activities, other charitable causes, or maybe help with the expenses our delegates will incur at the State Convention in Biloxi, April 24-26.

From your Membership Director's perspective, this is THE perfect opportunity to call the fellows you rarely see and put them to work. 1908 recruited a retired marine by inviting him to help out with the fish fries. He enjoyed the fraternity so much that he asked for an application.

From a pastor's perspective, these Lenten meals provide an opportunity for him and his parish family to visit in a very relaxed setting.

I mention this because our focus now shifts to *Strengthening Catholic Families*.

The Mid-Year meetings began in Batesville on January 10, Gluckstadt on January 11 and ended January 18 in Gulfport. Every meeting was productive and two had Supreme representatives. Ralph Rossi, Field Director for Ceremonials attended in Gluckstadt and talked about the lessons taught in each degree and the importance of Unity. Our Membership and Program Consultant Dave Tebo did a terrific

job in Gulfport laying out our role as leaders and how to conduct an effective membership drive. Both men addressed core goals in our State Strategic Plan.

Several grand knights have asked for leadership training, with an emphasis on their role. Dave has committed to work with Mike Kassouf to conduct multiple Leadership and Membership workshops throughout the state. As these take shape, Mike will be looking for host sites.

As we talk about training, two extremely important trainings are already underway. All council youth directors, squire leaders and grand knights have been informed of mandatory Safe Environment online training courses by Praesidium, a premier online training provider contracted by the Knights of Columbus. A lot of you have already completed the courses and are certified. I appreciate your prompt action as this is important.

The second training opportunity is now available through Officers Online. There are 31 courses that include a video, some documentation and an online test. I think you'll find them interesting and informative.

So on to MEMBERSHIP!

January ended with a loud "BAM!" as we celebrate the 147 good Catholic men you initiated since July 1. With human nature being what it is, there might be another 21 whose form 100s haven't been received by Supreme. That's 168! But wait... there's more! Possibly 65 candidates are awaiting a 1<sup>st</sup> degree. That's 233 new members and the parish membership drives don't start until March. Double BAM!

Make sure your FS has the forms for the new first degree members and they get scanned and emailed to [membershipecords@kofc.org](mailto:membershipecords@kofc.org).

Let's get those 65 candidates to a 1<sup>st</sup> degree in your council or scheduled in your area.

You take care of those two things and your DD will arrange for Second Degrees in your area. State

Ceremonials Chairman Jerry Schmuck will provide contact info for the certified Second Degree teams. He's also working to schedule more 3<sup>rd</sup> Degrees throughout the State.

Bill Jarrett, GK Council 1908, was recently certified as a Conferring Officer. He joins PSD Rich Lieding, PSD Peter Sukanek and State Ceremonials Assistant, Paul Mitchell. This makes 4 with one more in training.

Special plug for a *Model of Healthy Living Retreat* set for February 28 in the Fr. David O'Connor Family Life Center at St. Mary's Basilica in Natchez. This is organized by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Jackson Health Ministry and Council 1034. It's a 1/2 day and a first event like this in Mississippi.

No column of mine will end without reminding you of the importance of personal contact with every member in your council. Call just to say hi. Let them know if there's anything... anything... coming up that needs his help with. "No" only means not this time. Keep checking back. Let them know they're important! You have to do this. One day it'll be you wishing somebody would acknowledge you exist. It's all about giving the other fellow a break and getting out of our self-important selves.

So, I want each of you to walk up to a stranger after mass. Shake his hand and welcome them to your Church. I promise you... things will change. As we reach out to others, as we make them feel welcome, we discover a new purpose. We are inviting folks into our spiritual home. "Hi I'm Jim, are you new to this Church? Where are you from? Are you a Knight of Columbus? Maybe we can talk about that some time. See you next week, brother." The charm of "Cheers" works in churches too.

"Every man has a purpose. Everyone is entitled to respect. Everyone is important".

Jim

## Knights of Columbus Share Christmas Joy

The Knights of Columbus Fr. Rotondo Council #5556 teamed up with the North Delta Phi Mu Alumni to take in 64 pairs of pajamas and over \$200 worth of toys for Le Bonheur Children's Hospital.

Councils around the world share the joy of Christmas through various acts of kindness. Sometimes it is a visit to a shut-in, a warm meal to a person or family in needs, a Christmas carol sung to a group at a care facility, or gifts to people in need.

And sometimes it can be as simple as a smile.



## Message From State Programs Director

Brother Knights,

As we open the month of February, we enter the final 3 months of our 2014-2015 State Fraternal Year, culminating with our State Convention on the last weekend of April, where we will celebrate our efforts across the state, and gather as brothers focused on our virtues of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

During this same time, we enter in to the Lenten Season. This is a great time for we as members of the Knights of Columbus to show ourselves as the true Strong Right Arm of the Catholic Church, through our faith and charitable works.

I encourage each and every Brother Knight in Mississippi to stand up and get involved during the Lenten Season. Many councils hold Friday meatless meals, food drives, Rosaries, Stations of the Cross, community work days and other service projects during this time; each event giving us a chance to become more involved in the good works our council do. Most importantly, remember why you became a Knight, and use this period to recommit yourself to that reason. If you are already involved, reach out to a brother knight who you have not seen in a while and invite him to join you. Remember:

"Be Strong and Courageous and do the work" *Chronicles 28*. Vivat Jesus!

Guy J. Heying  
Mississippi Jurisdiction  
2014-2015 State Programs Director



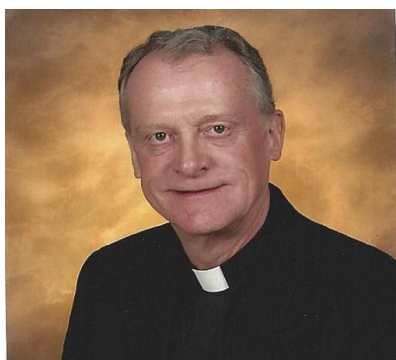
## Mid Year Meetings Around The State

The Northern Regional Mid Year meeting was held at St. Mary in Batesville. Council 13502 was the host. GK Ted Lander, Council 7120, received the first Star Council lapel pin.

Central Regional Mid Year meeting held in Gluckstadt and was hosted by St. Joseph Council 11934. Attending was Supreme Ceremonials Field Director Ralph Rossi who addressed the group on importance of Unity and the Second Degree. DDs were presented a medallion in appreciation for their hard work. Sherwood Beckham was installed as District Deputy #8.

The Southern Regional Mid Year Meeting was hosted by Council 1583 in Gulfport. A number of Star Council and Columbian awards and lapel pins were presented along with certificates of appreciation for host councils. Dave Tebo, our Supreme Membership and Program Consultant, gave an outstanding presentation on how to conduct a Church Membership Drive.

## Message From Our State Chaplain



Msgr. Elvin Sunds

Dear Brother Knights:

As Ash Wednesday draws near, our thoughts turn to the coming season of Lent. At this time I am reminded of driving through the Mississippi Delta several years ago. In the distance I saw a large billboard with the word, "REPENT," in letters large enough to fill the billboard. Although larger than most, it was not uncommon to see a message like this along highways in the Bible belt. But when I got closer, I had to chuckle. In smaller letters below "REPENT" it read, "If you have already repented, please disregard this notice."

Of course, the humor of the

message is that we all need to repent not just once but continually. We are called to continually examine our life and measure it against the Gospel of Jesus. If we do this faithfully, we will always find the need to repent and open our hearts to God's mercy and forgiveness and sincerely try to do better. Lent is a time when we are called to do exactly this.

During this season we are invited to go into the desert with Jesus and measure our life against the Gospel of Jesus. We do this especially by following the three pillars of Lent – prayer, fasting and works of mercy. We are called to spend extra time in prayer and allow the Lord to speak to our heart. One way is to wake up 15 minutes earlier and each day spend time with the Lord reading and praying over the Scriptures readings of the day. Perhaps your parish provides a daily Lenten devotional to reflect upon during this time. Fasting is also important and can take many forms. It can be eating less. It can also be giving up something as a form of penance. Most importantly, we are called to grow

in our love for God and neighbor. We show this love through our acts of mercy.

As Knights, we can be an example to our families and others of the importance of this graced season. We can have family praying of the rosary or bring the family to a parish celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation. We can close our council meetings with a decade of the rosary or take on as a council project visiting the shut-ins of the parish. Knights can lead the parish in the Way of Cross on the Fridays of Lent. There are endless possibilities. I encourage you individually and as a council to think of ways that you and your council can be an example to others of the grace of this season – our need to "REPENT."

I pray that Lent will be a grace filled time for each of my brother Knights and their families. May it also be a time of spiritual growth for every council and every parish.

Sincerely in Christ,

Msgr. Elvin Sunds, Vicar General  
State Chaplain

## Oxford Council Helps Mothers With Pro-Life Campaign

St. John the Evangelist parishioners donated over 215 new baby items from diapers to onesies and blankets to bottles for the Pregnancy Test Center's Baby Boutique. The Boutique, operated by the Pregnancy Test Center, allows pregnant mothers who attend counseling, infant care and parenting classes to earn "Baby Bucks". The new moms can spend the Baby Bucks in the Baby Boutique for essential new baby clothes and equipment needs.

Knights of Columbus's Culture of Life Committee of Council 10901 coordinated the collection of items in the "Traveling Baby Bassinette" provided by the Pregnancy Test

Center. The bassinette was placed at the entrance to the Church and was stuffed to overflowing with donated items during the two-week period prior to Christmas in celebration of the coming of the Christ Child.

Burke Nichols, Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council, said, "The Knights of Columbus fully support the mission of the Pregnancy Test Center. We look forward to more projects to give new mothers that physical, spiritual and emotional support during pregnancy and after the child is born".



Ms. Rebecca Bishop, Executive Director of Sav-A-Life of Lafayette County, and Burke Nichols, Grand Knight, Knights of Columbus Council 10901, admire the workmanship of a group of 81 hand-made bibs donated by an unknown parishioner from St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. Parishioners donated more than 215 items to the Pregnancy Test Center to stock the Pregnancy Test Center's Baby Boutique in celebration of the coming of the Christ Child.



## Council Hosts Annual Children's Christmas Party

Council 802, Meridian, MS held its annual children's Christmas Party December 20th as one of its Family Activity projects. About 30 children, up to the age of ten enjoyed the festivities, especially the visit from Ole St. Nick, (Bob Leo, FDD) and Mrs. Clause, (Rosalie Leo).



## PID Drive Reminder

Just a reminder, that in the month of May, the council should be scheduling their annual "Tootsie Roll " drive.

This very important program is to help out our intellectually, challenged citizens of the state of Mississippi.

Each year the councils that participate in this program, set up collection stations, either at dept. stores or at road side stations, or wherever possible to collect funds for distribution by the councils to their favorite intellectually charity.

Please get in touch with your District Deputy, for the purchase of the Tootsie Rolls. Just a reminder, if you are planning to set up your collection station at a dept. store, such as Wal-Mart or Target, or any of the such like stores, Please, be sure to contact them early as possible, to avoid mix up or duplications of scheduling. (two organizations scheduled in the same time frame) Remember this is a very worth while program, if your council has not participated in this program please consider it.

For any further information please contact:

Bob Leo  
State Community Director

e-mail [Hatchettman2@aol.com](mailto:Hatchettman2@aol.com)

H- 601 737 5253

C- 601 616 8396

## Councils Join To Host Joint Founder's Day & Reconciliation Event

Saturday March 14, starting 08:00am at Annunciation Church in the Kiln will be the 2nd Annual K of C Founders Day & Day of Reconciliation. This event is hosted by Councils 6872 Picayune and Council 7087 Kiln.

The event will start with a Mass, Reconciliation then a break with refreshments. Then followed A lecture by Fr. Jacob Mathew will follow.

The event is still being planned. There is the possibility on a luncheon and additional lecture(s) after the meal. ALL K of C members and guest (possible recruits) are invited. This promises to be a day of Unity and Fraternity.

For more information visit: <http://www.gulfpinecatholic.com/?section=viewStory.cfm&ID=9186>

## District Deputy Spotlight—Bernie Brown

I have been happily married to my wife Joanne for almost Thirty Years. We have one Daughter who is happily married with Two Grandchildren (Mia 6, and Austin 16 Months) who live in South Carolina.

I became a Knight in 2000, my father was also a Knight and it took me way too long to realize the good works the Knights perform and how I could be involved in my parish.

We moved from New Jersey in 2003 and have settled in Greenville where we became actively involved in the KC and our Parish. During the last decade I served as Deputy Grand Knight, Grand Knight, and currently council treasurer. I also became a 4th Degree Knight where I have served in different offices including Faithful Navigator. This has led me to a great friendships and greater faith in the Church.

Because of my interaction with State

Officers and the fellowship I found at State Meetings I agreed to become the District Deputy two years ago. This involvement has allowed me to see all the good our councils perform in my District and around the State. I have gained even more respect for the dedication and devotion our members contribute to their Families, Church and Parishes. In talking with the different clergy members I have met I am constantly thanked for the efforts you all put out and feel the pride in our organization.

## Council 9094 Hosts Draw To Help Local School

The Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary Mardi Gras Draw was held last month. Saturday, Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 was the date for a rousing and successful drawdown, when friends, families and members of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church of D'Iberville gathered at the D'Iberville Civic Center to conduct this event to raise funds for the Sacred Heart Elementary School.

Kudos and credit goes to Bruce and Else Marie, who honchoed the event and with the help of many volunteers, the

drawdown was a huge success. And this effort could not have come about without our recognizing many of them, the contributors and volunteer workers for their effort.

Let's thank Tina Bishop and Sonja Jackson who prepared and provided all the deserts and cakes; K of C member Larry Tabor who prepared his famous seafood gumbo; the D'Iberville Knights of Columbus Council 9094 who's Kitchen Krewe of Jeff Riopelle, Stephen Dunn, Nick Martino, Lee Landry and Mark

Fontenot prepared and Fried the fish, and Biloxi Regional Medical Center who provided the potato salad.

And, let's not forget Gulf Hills package store, Rex Distributing Company, and the consolidated Coca Cola Bottling Company for providing the beverages for the event. Also, kudos go out to some special volunteers from Keesler AFB, the student airmen volunteers that assisted in preparing and helped shuttle food to many hungry guests. What a great response to the drawdown event, yu'all did good.



## Knights' Volunteer Response Centers Help Communities

The Mississippi Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus has appointed three members to coordinate Knights' response to natural and man-made disasters. The Knights have long responded to disasters and partnered with organizations such as Catholic Charities and individual parishes. However, the national organization is placing an emphasis on training and appropriate structures for volunteering during times of disaster.

In Mississippi, the Knights have chosen to partner with Volunteer Mississippi and assist in the operation of Volunteer Reception Centers (VRC). The VRC is where volunteers will report to sign up to help in times of disaster. The Knights are training teams to manage VRCs.

Jerry Schmuck of Council 12271 in Gulfport, MS is a Past State Deputy and is currently the State Disaster Response Director. Jerry is a retired Seabee Master Chief Petty Officer (E-9) and has extensive training in manmade and natural disasters of all kinds. His first natural disaster involvement was with Hurricane Camille in

1969. Since then until his military retirement from active duty in 1994, he has worked every facet of recovery efforts from crew member to operations manager. When Knights of Columbus Supreme Council established a National Disaster Response Program, Jerry volunteered to assist in any way possible. He feels very strongly that by working together MS Knights can make a big difference when assisting with recovery efforts in our state.

Assisting Gerry in the Diocese of Jackson is Greg Patin of Council 15131, St. Richard of Chichester. Greg has over six years in disaster preparedness and response. He was the Incident Commander for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston while working for Catholic Charities in Houston. He led Catholic Charities recovery program which repaired over 350 homes in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Allison. Training parish staff and parishioners in disaster preparedness and response was also his responsibility. He also served as the Director of Regional Disaster Response for the seven Catholic Dioceses in Louisiana. Greg is excited to begin training Brother

Knights in disaster response in the Diocese.

Brent Woodfill is the Biloxi Diocese Regional Disaster Response Director. Brent is a member of Council 1522, in Waveland, MS. Brent has over 7 years of disaster response experience. Brent is National Incident Management System trained and served as the Incident Commander for the U.S. Postal response team in Mankato, Mn. After retiring from the Postal Service, Brent moved to the Waveland, MS on the aftermath of Katrina and served as the volunteer coordinator for St. Clare Recovery. Brent also gained case management experience in disaster response thru his work experience with Catholic Social Services and the Hancock Resource Center. Brent has taught several Red Cross training programs, including Mass Care, Disaster response and assessment, and Shelter Operations. Brent is looking forward to use his experience and training, in helping his Brother Knights to become assets to our community in any incident(s) they are called to.

## Marian Hour Of Prayer

The Icon for the Marian Hour of prayer is close to winding down for year, the Icon is now in district # 4 in the Northern area, and district # 11 in the Southern area.

At the conclusion of this year's cycle of the Marian Hour of Prayers, Our State Deputy Jim McCraw has expressed his desire to keep the program going around the state for another cycle, this means that when the Icon of our Blessed Mother concludes in district # 7 and district # 13, it will begin again starting with district starting with district # 12 in the Southern area and district # 6 in the Northern area.

At this time I would like to thank all the District Deputies for a job well done , so far this year, and I would like to thank the Grand Knights of all the councils, in both the Northern district and the Southern district, for their help and cooperation in keeping the program on schedule. A job well done, and thank you one and all.

Submitted by Bob Leo  
Marian Hour of Prayer Director





## Model Of Healthy Living Retreat

Catholic Charities, Inc. Diocese of Jackson Health Ministry and the Knights of Columbus Bishop, R.O. Gerow Council 1034 cordially invite you to participate and enjoy a half-day Model of Healthy Living Retreat on Saturday, February 28th. The retreat is hosted by St. Mary Basilica, and will be held in the David O'Connor Family Life Center.

Joy or pain in one dimension of our lives inevitably affects other dimensions. Even many medical conditions result from parts of our lives we might not consider medical in nature. A balanced life takes into consideration what is going on not just medically, but in the areas of *faith, movement, work, emotions, nutrition, and family and friends*.

The Model of Health Living developed by The Church Health Center, Memphis, TN recognizes the relationship between all parts of our lives and becomes a tool for pursuing balance and satisfaction. It reflects the realities of our everyday lives-families, jobs, schedules-and reminds us of areas we may tend to neglect. One component out of balance affects everything else.

There is always room for improvement. When we start trying to think that we can be perfect creatures-thinking we can score 100 percent on every part of the Model and achieve "complete health"-we lose the message. We need the gentle reminder to live a healthy life by understanding the nature of wholeness in each of the seven *areas* and the way they come together in balance.

We recognize that is incredibly hard to live a healthy life all by yourself and also minister to others emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually. Community plays an enormous role in improving "Wholistic" health. Having friends, family, and fellow seekers of the life well lived is essential to optimum health.

This morning retreat will be a time to enjoy a nice breakfast, fellowship, and relaxation. Scripture passages and short devotions throughout the morning will enable us to see the various dimensions of our own lives from God's perspective as it relates to the Model of Healthy Living. We will explore some questions to assess our own understanding and satisfaction with each area of the model. This "Self Satisfaction Assessment" will help each of us find a personal starting point for that area of the Model.

Local, state, and national health resources and health information (emotional, physical, social, mental, financial, and spiritual) will be available. The resources will cover all stages of the life span. At the end of the morning, we will reflect on the seven areas of the Model for Healthy Living, feel empowered to set clear goals for finding balance in lives.

Our goal for this joint effort is to journey together toward the wholeness God wants for us. When we bring all of ourselves to God, not just the outwardly religious parts of our lives, we recognize that life is a sacred gift. By living it well and with intentionality, we give thanks for what God first gave us and we become better Disciples of Christ.

## Third Degree Held At Council 1244 Biloxi

Eleven members attained their third degree on January 24 at Council 1244 in Biloxi. Sir Knight Bill Jarrett, was certified as a Conferring Officer after performing this role in excellent fashion. Bill is also the current Grand Knight of Council 1908 in Hattiesburg and a District Marshal for the Fourth Degree. Past Grand Knight Billy Gollott was the degree honoree.



## Mississippi Economic Council's Capital Day

State Deputy Jim McCraw, Field agent Paul Byrne were special guests of Jim Finley, Owner of The Growth Coach, at the Annual Mississippi Economic Council's Capital Day event held at the Marriott Hotel in Jackson and the State Capitol building. Brother Finley has agreed to conduct leadership development workshops in various parts of the state.

SD McCraw said the event was especially significant for the Knights of Columbus as it addressed two major challenges: education and economic development. "Many Councils leaders are very engaged in their local economic initiatives and government. Many serve on civic and municipal boards and commissions. Both are important to our struggling communities and dwindling demographics in some parts of the state. Important, both to the Knights of Columbus and to the Church. These are areas where we should be active and making our voices heard."



Paul Byrne, Council 10216; Blake Wilson, President and CEO of MEC; Jim Finley, Council 10216; Jim McCraw; Delbert Hoseman, Secretary of State.



## Officer Installation at 6592 Bassfield

On December 14, State Deputy Jim McCraw installed Council Officers for Fr. Malchy Burns Council 6592 at St. Peter Church in Bassfield, Mississippi.

St. Peter Catholic Church is a beautiful wood structure dating back to 1904 shortly after Bassfield was established. A solid Irish Catholic community, most of who originated in Paulding, remain an integral part of Bassfield,

The KC house, renovated and led by Keith Applewhite, is located directly across the street from the high school football field. It's a great place to tailgate, they say.

The parish Hall was built by the knights and men of the parish for a fraction of the estimated price. The diocese is still amazed at the craftsmanship and skill put into it.





## From the office of John H. Stice, Knights of Columbus Insurance

### **Breaking News:**

New Assistant General Agent Benji Borrelli  
Benji is currently serving as a Field Agent for us in Gulfport Mississippi, and while that role is not diminished, he will be adding the role of helping us grow our manpower. He and his wife Gina recently welcomed their first child into their home, young Tony Borrelli. He has already attended his first Agency Meeting, and will sure to be a great agent for us in, oh, say about 25 years. With the new addition to his family, Benji has a new found vigor for the Mission of Father McGivney, and is quickly becoming a top performer for the Stice Agency Team. You can find Benji's at [benji.borrelli@kofc.org](mailto:benji.borrelli@kofc.org) or by phone at 228-596-3959.



### **New Field Agent:**

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, we welcome Doug Schmitt to the Stice Agency. Doug comes to us from the final expenses planning business, and is going to be a great asset to our Brother Knights. As we get his office address, phone numbers, and territory all worked out, we will distribute accordingly. Essentially he will be covering from Gulfport to the west, and will have an office in Gulfport. Welcome Brother....

### **A Message to Our Fraternal Brothers:**

Sometimes the story needs to be told, and sometimes we think we have heard, but we have not.

### **Father McGivney's Mission:**

It may seem counter-intuitive that a Catholic organization would be in the life-insurance business. It may seem odd that one of the world's largest *charitable* organizations is also one of North America's largest insurers. But it's not odd at all. Providing financial protection for Catholic families has been at the core of our mission since the beginning.

### **Two Problems, One Solution**

The drive to offer financial protection for Catholic families comes from our venerable founder Father Michael J. McGivney. On numerous occasions in his brief life, Father McGivney witnessed first-hand the devastation wrought by the untimely death of a breadwinner.

Two instances are particularly instructive.

In the summer of 1873, when young Michael was a seminarian in Canada, he was forced to hit pause on his theological studies and return home to aid his family after the sudden death of his father Patrick. "He was reeling," we learn in *Parish Priest*. "He packed his belongings, knowing that he would never return to Sainte-Marie, and went home..."

"Money for tuition was no longer available," the authors go on to say. "Even if the McGivney family could survive without Michael's financial support, it was not clear that he could survive without help from them – or someone." Michael went on to continue his studies, after receiving a scholarship from the then-Diocese of Hartford.

Less than a decade later, McGivney, now an associate pastor at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn., was faced with an all-too-similar situation.

Parishioner Edward Downes, Jr., a good friend of Father McGivney's, was forced to quit the seminary and return home to New Haven to support his widowed mother and his twelve siblings when his father died unexpectedly.

In those days, the court had the right to assign children to public institutions if it had reason to believe that their families couldn't properly care for and support them. The Downses were able to account for most of their family members, but were facing the very real prospect of losing their three teenage boys unless each had a guardian to sponsor and stand for him in court, and provide \$1,500 to back the claim to guardianship.

On February 6, 1882 – the very same day as the first organizational meeting for what would become the Knights of Columbus – Father McGivney appeared in court to stand as guardian for Edward's brother Alfred. The court accepted, and McGivney was satisfied with the outcome, but not with the recurring nightmare of financial hardship.

"Even though he was only a young man," *Parish Priest* says of McGivney, "he was filled with a lifetime of anger and frustration at the sense of doom that settled over nearly every family that lost its wage earner.... On the afternoon of February 6, he was more determined than ever that what had happened to the Downes family need not happen to anyone else."

### **The Mission Begins – And Continues**

And in that spirit, Father McGivney set off with "entrepreneurial zeal" to found the Knights of Columbus. In his own words, Father McGivney wanted the organization to "to unite the men of our Faith throughout the Diocese of Hartford, that we may thereby gain strength to *aid* each other in time of sickness; to *provide* for decent burial, and to render pecuniary assistance to the families of the deceased members."

He knew what life was like without that assistance. The initial system of "life insurance" designed by Father McGivney was a simple one, a pass-the-hat system that each member participated in to help support his brother Knights.

But as the organization grew council-by-council, state-by-state, and country-by-country, so too did the insurance program, and the pass-the-hat system was transformed into one of the largest and most highly-rated life insurance programs in North America, but all that is secondary.

What matters most is that we continue to fulfill Father McGivney's mission of offering and providing financial protection for Catholic families.

(Continued on next page)

## Insurance (continued)

2014 is not 1882. Times are different. Laws are different. Economies are different. But even for those families who may have slightly more than next-to-nothing, insurance protection can be the difference between getting by and getting evicted. In its role as the premier Catholic life insurer, the Knights of Columbus continues to provide a valuable and noble service.

### **That's why we offer life insurance.**

It's not for the \$8 billion in annual sales volume, or the \$95 billion in force, or the 1.8 million policies on the books. It's not the amounts that count, but the impact of those dollars.

It's the homes saved, the college tuitions provided, the Catholic funerals paid for, and the families shielded that create the legacy of protection that would make Father McGivney proud.

It's those things that are the hallmark of the Knights of Columbus Insurance program.



Field Agent Doug Schmitt



Asst. General Agent Benji Borelli

## Pro-Life Monuments From Around The State

Throughout Mississippi, councils have placed Pro-life monuments for the Unborn Child on Church grounds. The Magnolia Knight encourages each council to submit a photo of their monument.

The monument in this photo was placed at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Columbia by the Fr. Patrick Quinn Council 11956 and gives a beautiful message.



## Home Schooling: DD Style

DD Luis Ybrra was unable to attend the Mid-Year Leadership Meeting so SD Jim McCraw paid a special visit to get him up to speed on what he missed. Not shown are Luis' crutches.

We all wish and pray for Luis' speedy recovery.



## From The State Advocate

One of the most important legal tasks of our Council work is protecting our tax exempt status. This requires that we attend to one of the least fun aspects of Council work: maintaining good records. Supremes' Officers Desk Reference is a handy tool that can help keep us out of trouble. Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries access the Desk Reference by logging in to your Supreme account. What you don't know your password or have never logged in? Call Login Access Help (Agents and Fraternal Leaders) - (800) 380-9995.

Under "Maintaining Tax Records" in the Desk Reference you'll find the following helpful guidance:

Each council should, at a minimum, maintain a tax file that includes copies of the following:

- the council's by-laws and all amendments;
- the council's minutes for the last four years;
- IRS group exemption letters dated October 25, 1940 and October 15, 1998;
- Forms 990, Forms 990-EZ, or Forms 990-N filed for the last 10 years;
- Summary Form 1096 and Information Return for Income Payments (Form 1099) filed by the council in the last 10 years, if any;
- Summary Form W-3 and Income Tax Withheld on Wages (Forms W-2) filed by the council in the last 10 years, if any;
- the council's application (Form SS-4) for its Employer Identification Number;
- tax returns for the last five years filed under the Federal Insurance Contribution Act and the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, if any;
- any prior revenue agent examination reports; and
- Form 990 and Form 990-EZ worksheets for those years, if any, in which gross receipts were less than the \$50,000 threshold amount.

Faithful Comptrollers and Financial Secretaries should maintain, at the organization's principal place of business, a file that includes the above-mentioned group exemption letters, and Forms 990 and/or Forms 990-EZ filed in the previous three years. Under federal law, this file must be open to public inspection during regular business hours, and copies of the filings must be provided to anyone who requests them, at the cost to the requester.

Incoming Grand Knights should ask the Council Financial Secretary about these documents and records. Trustees might wish to make a review of the location and condition of these records an item to review at a council audit. Since we are all volunteers and turnover in positions is sometimes unpredictable it is important that the Council establish a plan for maintaining these important documents in a safe and accessible place regardless of who holds which office. In this matter a little attention to details will avoid a lot of grief.

Ben Mokry  
State Advocate



## First Degree DVD Helps Brothers To Become Knights

On January 4, Council 848 conducted a special First Degree for two members whose schedules kept them away from all of the scheduled 1<sup>st</sup> degrees held in the area for the past 12 months. Past State Deputy Rich Lieding coordinated the ceremonial and was pleased with the outcome. The degree was witnessed by District Deputy Charles Hahn, Field Agent Paul Byrne, State Deputy Jim McCraw and several council officers and members. An informal reception followed the ceremonial.



State Deputy Jim McCraw and Past State Deputy Rich Lieding congratulate Justin Harvison and Chris Walters, both of the Cathedral of St. Peter parish in Jackson. (Not pictured is Ivan Lambert, Grand Knight, Council 848)

## Orderwide Church Recruitment Drive Set For March



### Is Your Council Ready?

Your council needs to plan now to have a successful church recruitment drive in March.

To ensure a successful church drive, follow the steps below:

- Permission from your Pastor to conduct the recruitment drive
- Order materials for the drive
- Inform your Field Agent of the dates for your drive
- Membership team prepared for your church drive
- Notify your District Deputy of the date, time and location of your drive
- Within two weeks of your church drive, schedule a First Degree in honor of the Venerable Michael J. McGivney

For more information on how to conduct a Successful Church Recruitment drive, please refer to item #10098, Guide to Recruiting Success: Conducting a Membership Drive or visit the following link: <http://www.kofc.org/un/en/membership/strategies/>

## State Programs

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**Youth Director- Joe Jones Jr.**  
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*In Service To One, In Service To All.*

## Assembly 554 Christmas Dinner

On December 13, Bishop Gerow Assembly 554 gathered at Biaggi's Restaurant in Ridgeland for their Christmas Dinner and Priests Appreciation Social.



Faithful Navigator Ed Jones, Lynn Jones, Barbara McCraw and SD Jim McCraw



## Upcoming Due Dates

Two important dates. Form 1728 Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity was due on Friday, January 30th. Form 1295-I Semi Annual Council Audit is due Sunday, February 15th. Please get these reports in on time.