

*"Strengthening
Catholic Families."*

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The Magnolia Knight

Serving the Mississippi Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus

Volume XVI Issue II

February 2016

From Our State Deputy, Jim McCraw



Lent And Preparing For Growth

Lent begins on February 10th. Traditionally, this is a time for reflection and sacrifice. As a kid growing up in Alabama and Mississippi, Lent meant fish sticks on Friday. My dad, who was a boxing fanatic and a Methodist, would enjoy a steak and the Friday Night Fights. Mama and us kids ate fish sticks.

A lot has changed since then. One of God's finest creations, Mississippi Delta catfish, can be purchased in any grocery store. Catfish Restaurants are everywhere and most restaurants have it on the menu every Friday. This was the result of Catholic influence. Folks look forward to Lent now because it's a well known fact, that nobody cooks catfish better than the Knights of Columbus.

Build the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish. Be sure to read the FAQs provided in this issue. You are already doing Lenten fish fries, spaghetti dinners, rosary before mass, Pro-Life participation, parish voter registration drives and the many family, youth and church activities you spearhead. We will grow through more involvement and coordination of activities with the parish. This is the perfect "next step" for Mississippi.

Parishes and missions with no KC relationship. In December we saw firsthand that our Disaster Response teams must have a point of contact to triage parish needs before arriving. Without that, we rely on the District Deputy who may be 70 miles away. Many parishes already have active knights in the congregation who insure their council is assisting in various ways. Unfortunately, because they are not registered as an official Roundtable (Form 2969), we have to believe they are unaffiliated. That form lets us know who the KC point of contact is. This is very important.

State Convention: Be sure to mark your calendar for the 112th State Convention in Natchez, April 22-24. This is a family affair in a beautiful city on the Mississippi river. The Basilica of St. Mary is the first Catholic Church in Mississippi. Natchez is celebrating its 300th anniversary. Our Supreme Knight has been invited to attend, as have our bishops. Bring your council and assembly banners for the Procession of Banners and celebrate our Knights of Columbus in Mississippi. (For details: www.kofc-ms.org)

MidWinter Meetings were very well attended. Our Supreme Knight Carl Anderson's *Building the Domestic Church* video was shown at each, along with a sneak preview of the new KC history and Mississippi's Silver Rose 2015 videos. I want to thank our state officers, District Deputies, Guy Heying and Mike Kassouf for their excellent presentations and the state chairmen who traveled to Tupelo, Jackson and Gulfport to share their message.

Brothers, I applaud your efforts to "go to the peripheries". That contact is making a difference. More of our priests are actively identifying candidates. Even more significant, they are becoming recruiters. That is awesome. Now we need more Admission degrees to get these new men into our membership. Each new member increases the council's capabilities to make a difference. Our goal is 225 more by June.

Vivat Jesus!
Jim

Picayune Council Support Pro-Life Campaign



Council 6872 in Picayune at work on Pro-Life Display. Crosses are placed in field at St. Charles Borromeo each year by Council members. Photos taken Jan. 9, 2016

Jackson Council 848 Assists Wife Of Deceased Brother

John T. Savage Council 848 in Jackson, Mississippi, assisted the Bobbi Frey, widow of a Past Grand Knight and past president of the MS Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary with her move to her new home. The council provided her with a new stove, removed and hauled away old carpet and padding and hung new light fixtures.

Photos attached:



PGK Hollis Felts, Ryan Gill, DGK Michael Gill, GK Charlie Sims, PGK Joe Blake, Treasurer Noel Machost.

Treasurer Noel Machost helps GK Charlie Sims with a light fixture.



Council 13471 Philadelphia Leads Holy Family Icon Prayer Service

A Holy Family Icon prayer service was recently held at Holy Cross Catholic Church, Philadelphia, Ms. The first photo is of Joe Tullos PGK, Doug Prosen DGK and Byron Tullos GK setting up the icon before the service. The second photo is of Byron Tullos GK doing one of the readings during the service.



State Warden Council Position To Be Filled At State Convention

The position of State Warden will be vacant on July 1, 2016. If you are interested, plan to have your name nominated during the Sunday Session at the State Convention to be held in Natchez April 22 – 24, 2016.

Responsibilities are as follows;

- Responsible for the up keep and yearly inventory of all state property
- Assist the State Deputy in selecting and securing council halls or parish halls to hold the meeting.
- Responsible for setting up all meeting rooms per protocol
- Ensure host Council serves a meal.
- Flags are in place in correct line up.
- Head table and name plates are set as per protocol
- Work with District Deputies to act as inside and outside guards when needed.
- Audio and video equipment needs are met
- Balloting materials are available, when needed.
- If new State Council Jewels are required, make sure that the State Secretary has ordered them and are available for the installation.
- And other as assigned.

If you have any questions, please call any State Officer or the current Warden Mike Kassouf.

September Art Show Funds Ultrasound Initiative

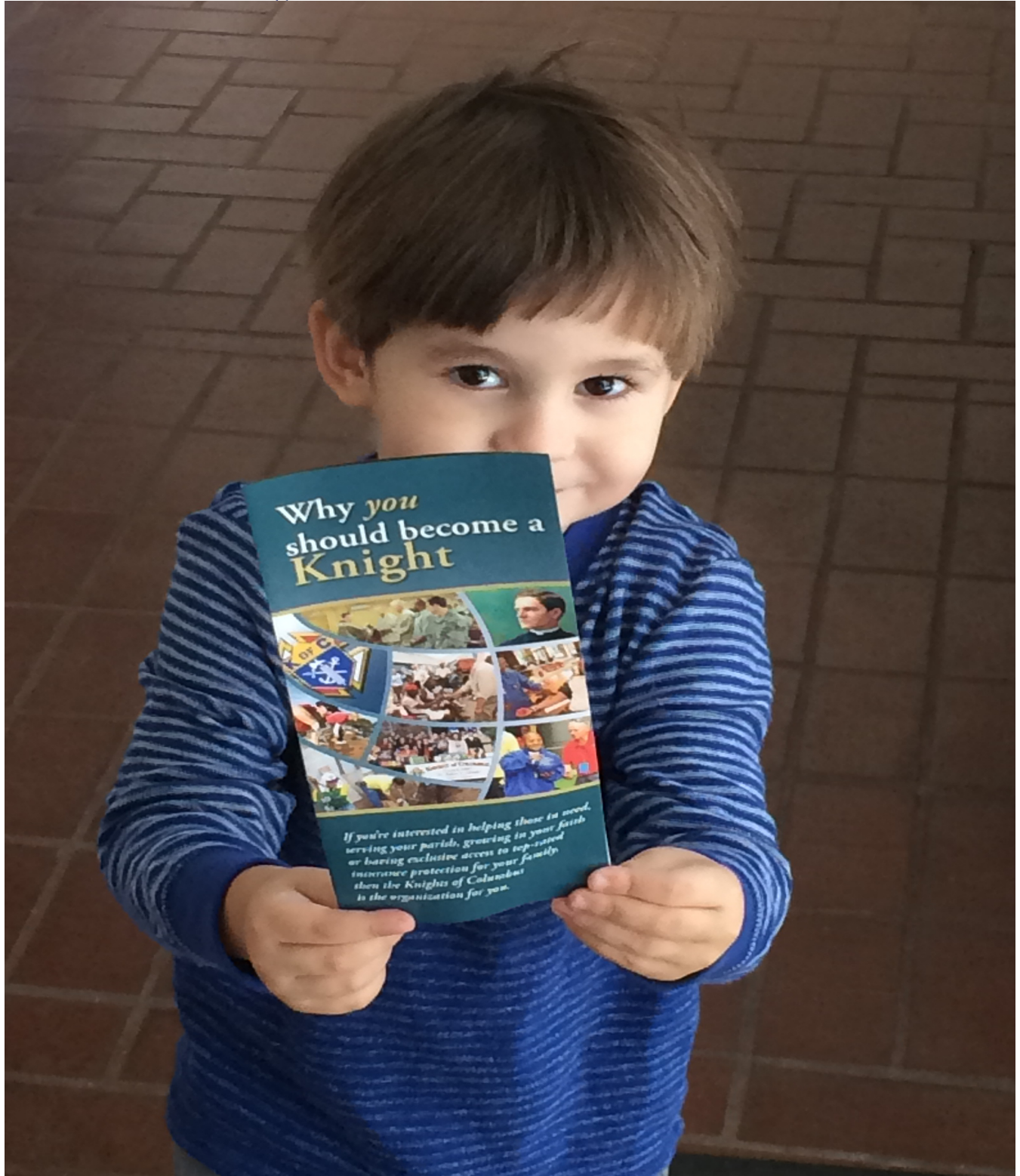


Picyaune Council 6872 held their annual Art Show last September. The proceeds for the event were directed towards the Supreme Council's Ultrasound Program.

This check of \$2,520 from the Art Show started our Ultrasound Initiative. Three months later we have collected \$11,500 in donations and awaiting Supremes approval of our application.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®



Clinton Council 7854 Conducts Keep Christ In Christmas Poster Contest

Attached are pictures of the Holy Savior religious education students with their certificates that participated in the Keep Christ In Christmas Poster Contest which was sponsored by KC Council 7854.

The 3rd grade was selected as the winners.

They are pictured with their teachers - Lois Senger and Jason Rodgers



“The family is the model place where the faith is transmitted to new generations, or where Christian values are lived.”

Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight



2nd Half Council Incentive

From January 1st to June 30th, 2016

Reward your council for its collective hard work and obtain valuable articles to improve Camaraderie & Teamwork!

- Recruit 12 members between January 1st and June 30th, 2016 and your council will receive **20,000 VIP* points**
- Recruit 12 members between January 1st and March 31th, 2016 and your council will receive **30,000 VIP* points**

*VIP points can be redeemed for any article available on Knightsgear.com and by filling out the order form which is available at this link:

<https://www.knightsgear.com/Content/Images/Uploaded/new-vip-order-form.pdf>

The conversion rate is approximately 1,000 VIP points = \$6.00

The Surprising New Normal in the Abortion Debate

There is a new normal in the abortion debate because what it means to be “pro-choice” in America has changed. It is a change likely to be missed in the reporting on this week’s annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. But it is a change that could be one of the biggest surprises in an already-surprising presidential-election cycle.

Each year about this time breathless headlines announce that the “pro-life” or “pro-choice” label is preferred by a narrow majority of Americans, yet it remains a more or less 50–50 proposition. In other words, the message is that America remains “a house divided” unable or unwilling to change the status quo.

But this narrative hides the reality that the decades-long debate over abortion actually has achieved a solid consensus.

The idea that the “pro-choice” label represents a monolithic lobby made up of half of all Americans favoring an unrestricted right to abortion is simply not true. Instead, there is a new normal favoring substantial restrictions on abortion — and that consensus is made possible because of the agreement of a majority of Americans who call themselves “pro-choice.”

Despite the rhetoric of some in politics and the media, a substantial majority of men and women — including those who say they are “pro-choice” — consistently support increasing restrictions on abortion.

Those who say they are “pro-life” reliably support abortion restrictions in overwhelming numbers.

But it would likely shock most Washington pundits that the majority of those who say they are pro-choice also support such restrictions. And yet, surveys conducted by Marist, one of the country’s top polling groups, show that this is exactly the case.

Consider the data from the most recent Marist poll on the issue: Eight in ten Americans (81 percent) would restrict abortion to, at most, the first three months of pregnancy. This includes 66 percent of those who identify as pro-choice.

About six in ten Americans, and about the same number of pro-choice adherents, would ban abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy. More than two-thirds of Americans (68 percent), and a majority of those who call themselves pro-choice (51 percent), would ban taxpayer funding of abortion.

Politically, “pro-choice” has come to mean supporting abortion rights throughout pregnancy and opposing all restrictions. But that’s not the way the average person thinks when he says he is pro-choice.

“The idea that we should abort a seven-pound baby the day before its due date is just out of step with the vast majority of Americans.”

The idea that we should abort a seven-pound baby the day before its due date is, while political dogma in some quarters, just out of step with the vast majority of Americans. And it’s out of step with the vast majority of pro-choice Americans too — about eight in ten of them reject this extreme position.

In fact, about a quarter of those who call themselves pro-choice (26 percent) support what is commonly seen as a strongly pro-life position: They would limit abortion to cases only of rape or incest or to save the life of the mother. In other words, those who identify as pro-choice are more likely to share the position of those who identify as pro-life than they are to share the position of the abortion-rights lobby and its defenders in politics and the media.

Given these numbers, it should be no surprise then that there has been such an increase of proposed legislation at the state and federal level to restrict the nearly unrestricted abortion access established by *Roe v. Wade* more than four decades ago.

Such legislation isn’t the imposition of the will of one half of Americans on the other half. It is, instead, most often a reflection of an overwhelming consensus made possible by a majority of those who say they are “pro-choice.”

No wonder that more than three-quarters of Americans (77 percent) say that laws can protect both a mother and her unborn child, and that more than seven in ten who say they are pro-choice (71 percent) agree.

Though widely unacknowledged in Washington and by the national media, unity — not division — is the new normal for the abortion debate in America.

Forty-three years after *Roe v. Wade*, the American people have reached a consensus on an issue the pundits have told us is “unsolvable.” The Marist poll, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, has been conducted on this issue for nearly a decade, and it has shown a remarkably consistent agreement of about eight in ten Americans in favor of significant abortion restrictions.

It is time for a new discussion on abortion, one not based on labels, but on the real views of the American people. It is time to talk about this issue as it is and to craft restrictions that the vast majority of us agree on, rather than trying to keep in place a legal regime the American people never asked for, and clearly do not support. — Carl A. Anderson is CEO of the Knights of Columbus and author of *Beyond a House Divided: The Moral Consensus Ignored by Washington, Wall Street and the Media*.

Clinton Council 7854 Supports Coats For Kids Program



Holy Savior Council 7854 GK Craig Harrell and Council member Bill O'Connor with Sister Rita Goedken from the Excel Community Learning Center in Morton, MS. which was the recipient of the Councils Coats For Kids Program.

Pic L-R: GK Craig Harrell, Sister Rita, Bill O'Connor

Knights of Columbus
2016 State Convention
Natchez Mississippi
April 21-24, 2016
Buy Ads, Register, Find a Hotel and More!

VISIT THE STATE WEBSITE FOR ALL THINGS STATE CONVENTION

Columbian Squires Update / State Historian

Dear Brother Knights,

Since I have been a State Chairman it has been my honor and privilege to travel this great state. As most of you know Supreme has decided to redirect the Squires from council based groups to parish based. They want us to be more integrated with the parish, and admittedly at first I was not excited about the change. After a few discussions with other knights, and priests, I have come to welcome the move. I will still be Squires Chairman. That has not changed, but I will have to refocus my energies.

After talking to the State Deputy, I have stepped up to be the State Historian. I know that this position brings with it new challenges, but also new blessings. My first order of business is to interview our past state officers, and start putting articles in the Magnolia Knight about our history. My next endeavor will be to interview knights that have reached over 25 years of membership. I am looking to create a history not of only councils but of people.

Thank you and God Bless,
Quincy St. Pierre

The Supreme Knight Reflects on the Order's Insurance Program



What does this achievement mean for the Knights of Columbus?

I think it is a testament to three things: the quality of our business, the trust our members have in the Knights of Columbus, and our dedicated agents who represent us in the field.

For the first, we strive to run our insurance program in a way that is different. That means we put people before dollars, and we do the right things for the right reasons. That is what we mean when we say insurance

by brother Knights for brother Knights. That is our promise. That is the Knights of Columbus difference. And that is what gives us our advantage.

In regard to our members, the achievement is an obvious indication that they trust us and that our products meet their needs. We are grateful for that trust, and we take that trust very seriously. We have more than 2,000,000 active contracts that represent the financial futures of hundreds of thousands of Catholic families across the United States and Canada. It is a great honor.

As for our agents — this achievement would never have been possible without them. We do not sell our products directly to our members; we sell through our network of dedicated full-time brother Knight agents who work tirelessly day after day to make sure every Knights of Columbus family has the protection they need. These men have done tremendous work. The best thing about doing business with the Knights of Columbus is that you have one of our brother Knight field agents there for you.

What does this achievement mean for our members?

To our members, it should be a point of pride. We are the only Catholic life insurer to have achieved this milestone. Our members can see that the Knights of Columbus is in a class by itself. And for our members who have yet to take part in the insurance program, this achievement encourages them to consider participating in this important fraternal benefit. There has never been a better time to turn to the Knights of Columbus to help secure your family's future.

What is the significance of the number itself, of surpassing \$100 billion of life insurance in force?

This number is the total sum of the face amount of all of our active policies. But perhaps that is not the best way to think about it.

What this number represents is the future hopes and financial security of our members and their families. Yes, it means \$100 billion of life insurance in force, but it also means \$100 billion to protect lives and to save homes. It's \$100 billion of trust and of financial protection for our Catholic families.

When it became clear to you that the \$100 billion milestone was within reach, that the Order would surpass it, what went through your mind?

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I can say I was not surprised. I was not surprised because I knew the way we were doing business was the right way. I knew that, as a company, we were motivated by the right things, focused on the right things and doing the right things, and I knew our members would trust us.

Our progress has been steady and consistent. We have set a new record for sales each year for the last 14 years. That statistic is remarkable when you stop to think about it. The last 14 years have seen some major financial crises, and yet the Knights of Columbus has kept moving forward, has never looked back and has never faltered.

Every January, I get the opportunity to address our general agents, and I begin my remarks to them each year in the exact same way. I tell them, "Thank you for making last year the best year in the history of the Knights of Columbus insurance program." It is a great honor to be able to do that.

What niche does the Knights of Columbus fill in the insurance marketplace?

The Knights of Columbus is the premier Catholic life insurer in North America. We are Catholic in the way we do business — we do not invest in companies that participate in abortions, contraception, human cloning, embryonic stem cell research, for-profit health care that pays for the aforementioned, or pornography. And we are Catholic in the way we give back, too. The Knights of Columbus has donated more than \$1.55 billion to charity in the last decade, much of which was made possible by the proceeds of the insurance business. In fact, a lot of the good work we do is made possible by the success of our insurance program. It is a powerful engine that, along with the ongoing efforts of our brother Knights and their councils throughout the world, makes the Knights of Columbus who we are.

What do you think Father McGivney would think of the insurance program today?

He would be proud. This is very much his program. He was looking for a solution to the never-ending financial suffering of widows and orphans in his parish. He labored over the details of the original insurance program. He studied other fraternal benefit societies to see what their programs looked like. He knew this benefit was needed, and he knew that it could provide tremendous value.

Don't forget, he himself was a man who had to leave the seminary and return home when his father died unexpectedly. The need for this type of fraternal benefit was very real to him.

He wanted to build up Catholic families — in faith, in fellowship, in charity, but in finances, too, and I think he would be tremendously proud of how his organization has carried on his mission.

What's next for the program?

We continue to move forward. This is a tremendous milestone and a tremendous accolade. And it is an outstanding testament to all the things I mentioned, but it is by no means the end. We have never been motivated by numbers or by dollars.

That will not end at \$200 billion. It will not end at \$300 billion.

What remains important is that we continue forward with Father McGivney's vision to protect our Catholic families.

Pie Mike



Any Council that recruits 5 new Members in the months of January or February gets a chance for a drawing to throw a pie in the face of State Membership Director at the State Convention in Natchez. If Council brings in 5 new Members in both months Council gets two chances in drawing!

Pie throw to take place Friday after awards ceremony.

Keep Calm and Focus on Membership Recruitment

Seminarian, Meridian Council 802 Member Reflects On His Studies

In the coming months the seminarians studying for the two Dioceses of Mississippi will be sharing their reflections as they continue on the road to priesthood. *Nick Adam is a native of South Alabama but moved to Meridian after graduating from the University of Alabama. He is a 3rd Degree member of Council 802, Meridian, and is currently in his second year of Theology studies for the Diocese of Jackson. He studies at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans.*

With a little over two years remaining before ordination, I believe that all of us in 2nd Theology are experiencing a distinct shift in our formation. We are moving away from discerning whether or not we are called to be priests, and we are moving toward a distinct declaration: *yes Lord, you are calling me to be a priest, and now I must use my time in formation to work on becoming the priest you want me to be.*

I have noticed a major shift in our classes. I am struck by the fact that the books we read for our various courses are books that we will be opening again and again throughout our lives as priests. These are commentaries on the gospels, works of the Church Fathers, and other scholarly material that will help us to be better preachers and teachers of the faith. I realize that it is extremely important that I know enough about the faith so I can share it with the families that I will serve in the parish. I need to know enough so I can share the truths of our faith with an eight year old receiving his first communion and with a 50 year old university professor.

This will be one of the great challenges, and one of the great joys, of ministry. Priests are called to be shepherds of the *entire* parish. We will be called to spread the gospel to *everyone*, and so we are all working to know our faith inside and out and so be able to spread it from the pulpit and from the line at the Winn-Dixie.

This is what the people of God expect from us, and it is a mission that we do not take lightly. All of us in the seminary have been inspired by priests in our dioceses, but also by the men and women in the parish who love their faith and want to be nourished by a priest who can preach the Gospel with conviction and guide them with gentleness and humility.

Clinton Assembly 554 Sir Knights Presented Certificates From Local Law Enforcement

Attached is a pic of Bishop Gerow Assembly 554 FN Ed Jones who presented Certificates of Appreciation from the Jackson Police Dept. to Assembly members Bill O'Connor and Steve Miller for their help with the KC's Appreciation Fish Fry honoring the cities sworn personnel.

Pic L-R: FN Ed Jones, Bill O'Connor and Steve Miller



Donations For Disaster Response Equipment

At the Southern Regional Meeting at St. John's in Gulfport on January 16, State Disaster Response Director Jerry Schmuck presented a check for \$15,000 from the Gulf Coast Community Foundation to State Deputy Jim McCraw.

The funds are to purchase "Go Kits" for our DR teams. The kits will include laptop computers, printers and other essential supplies need to operate a Volunteer Registration Center at disaster sites.

Last year, the state authorized authorizing the Knights of Columbus Foundation of Mississippi, our 501c3 non-profit, to receive and administer tax deductible donations for disaster assistance/response.



Also in north Mississippi, Council 7120 GK Ted Lander is spearheading fundraising through council activities. 7120 operates a concession stand for various events held at the Landers Center in Southaven. At the Council's January General Business Meeting the members present voted unanimously to donate it's entire months fundraising effort to the Foundation earmarking the funds to be directed to the Disaster Response Team's equipment purchases.

With over 80 councils and over 20 assemblies in the state if everyone chipped in there should be resources available to supply the DRT the equipment required to do the job.

The Foundation receives and distributes funds for Special Olympics and other agencies in Mississippi that provide services to persons with intellectual disabilities. It may also receive funds for Pro-Life and Ultrasound funds as tax deductible donations.

Family Of The Month Program

The results of the Supreme Council drawing for the " Family of the Month " plaques are in they are as follows:

For the month of November the families are Rick & Celeste De Angelo, from Council 2134 in Greenville and Roger & Ellen Smith of Council 15382 in Hattiesburg.

For the Month of December the families are Ronald & Laura Tarbutton, from Council 848 in Jackson and James & Hannah Moran from Council 9124 in Gautier. Congratulations to these fine families.

On another note I'm so glad to see An increase in the amount of Family of the month reports that I'm receiving, in some cases I'm receiving 6 to 7 at a time, I appreciate the time and effort that was put into compiling this information, the requirements for supreme is that the reports must be into them by the 15th of the following month that the family is chosen, this also is required by the State, although the state is a little more forgiving, even if its a little late you will still get credit for the submission.

Another submission problem that arises is, if the family that is chosen for the Family of the Month isn't associated or related to a member of the knights of Columbus will that report be acceptable, the answer is yes, as far as the state is concerned, but for the Supreme council. no, it will not be accepted without a members membership Number on the report.

I hope this clears up some of your concerns as to the Family of the Month reports, Please keep them coming, keep me busy. Thank you.

Bob Leo
State Family Director

The Vision Of Your Knights Of Columbus Founders

Since our founding in 1882, the primary mission of the Knights of Columbus has been to protect families from financial ruin caused by the death of the breadwinner. In the beginning, Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney and his fellow Knights “passed the hat” to benefit widows and orphans. From that humble start, the Order has grown to include top-rated life insurance, long-term care insurance, disability insurance, and retirement products. With more than \$100 Billion of insurance in force and a full-time field force of more than 1,400 agents serving our members and their families, we are proudly fulfilling Fr. McGivney’s vision.

The best way to learn about our products is by arranging an appointment with us at your home or our office. We can custom design an insurance program to meet your family’s current needs, help you plan for the future, or simply explain the many fraternal benefits that come with membership. In addition, we can explain the benefits you may be offered through your employer and help you determine exactly what those benefits mean to your family. We are here to serve you!

Sincerely and Fraternally,

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Second Degree Held In Greenville

On December 5, the District 3 Formation Degree team advanced 6 members into the 2nd Degree at Council 2134, Greenville.



Fr. Rusty Vincent sits with Mark Freeman, Curtis Peeples, Jack Duthu, Chris Luckett. Back Row: SD Jim McCraw, GK Guy Mandolini, FS Dick Clark, Darrell Marinek, Jack McNeil, Wayne Ebelhar, Mark Dibiase and DD Bernie Brown.



Newest Formation Degree team District 3 is reviewed by State Ceremonials Chairman, Jerry Schmuck, PSD. Team is made up of members from Council 2134 Greenville and 2945 Leland. Rusty Vincent, Dick Clark, Wayne Ebelhar, Jerry Schmuck, Bernie Brown, Mark Dibiase and Guy Mandolini.

Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish

Frequently Asked Questions

Building the Domestic Church

What is the Building the Domestic Church program? The Building the Domestic Church program refers to existing and new initiatives focused on the work of the New Evangelization, the strengthening of our parishes, and the growth of the Order. This program is designed to help our members and their families live the Catholic faith more fully so that each home is truly a domestic Church, reflecting the holiness of the Universal Church in every Knights of Columbus household. In addition, the program seeks to integrate our members and their families more fully into the sacramental and social life of the parish. The question each council needs to ask of its parish pastor is "How can we help?"

Why is the Building the Domestic Church program being required by the Supreme Council at this time? How will it change our councils? Following the lead of his two predecessors, Pope Francis has identified the family as the key to revitalizing the Church, most recently during his pastoral visit to the United States. The Knights of Columbus has always been an organization dedicated to the well-being of the family, with numerous programs designed to strengthen the faith of its members and enable them to be better husbands and fathers. Building the Domestic Church is not so much a change of direction as it is a refocusing on the core mission of the Knights of Columbus. By integrating our members and their families more fully into the sacramental and social life of their parish, we hope to strengthen our families, revitalize our parishes, and grow our Order. To the extent that our councils will change, we expect that they will become more fully committed to this essential mission.

We expect that councils will provide activities that include not just our members, but entire families coming together as a parish community. These may include faith formation programs, social events, and charitable outreach. Of course, the activities of any council must be harmonized with the priorities of the pastor. At the outset, therefore, it is important that the pastor understand our intention and the resources the Knights of Columbus can offer the parish.

Scouting Programs

What will be the Knights of Columbus relationship with the Boy Scouts of America and other international scouting programs? After careful consideration, the Board of Directors has concluded that the Knights of Columbus will no longer be the chartered organization for BSA troops. This does not mean that the Order has abandoned Catholic scouting. Rather, we wish to align our youth activities with the mission and goals of each parish. To the extent that pastors wish to provide a Catholic scouting experience for the boys in their parish, we strongly encourage councils and individual Knights to continue their volunteer leadership and financial support for scout troops, under the guidance of their pastors. This change is meant to strengthen the relationship between the parish and the troop while providing for a more robust Catholic scouting experience for all scouts.

(continued from page 15)

If a council sponsors a Boy Scout Troup, what steps do they need to take? As a preliminary matter, Grand Knights should meet with their pastors to discern whether Catholic scouting fits into the parish's youth ministry. If so, the Grand Knight will need to coordinate with troop leadership and the local Scouting Council to designate the parish as the chartered organization for the troop. Once this change has been made, the council will continue to provide volunteer and financial support for the troop. If the parish is not interested in sponsoring the troop, the council leaders should contact their local Scouting council to find out how best to find either new sponsorship for the troop. All councils should conclude their sponsorship of scouting units by the end of 2016.

Columbian Squires

Some of my councils have an active Squires program. What do these changes mean for Squires Circles? If a council has an active Squires circle, the Grand Knight and Squires counselor should meet with the pastor to discuss whether and how the Squires Circle may be more fully integrated into the parish's existing youth ministry. Active Squires Circles may continue serving boys according to current practice, reporting to the council and recruiting new members. The Supreme Council will continue to provide support materials to the Circles.

How do councils begin to engage in parish youth ministry? Grand Knights should meet with their pastors to discuss the role that council members and their families can have in supporting parish-based youth ministry programs and activities. These can also incorporate Knights of Columbus youth programs such as the Free Throw Championship and the Soccer Challenge. Youth Activity chairmen should act as a liaison with the parish youth ministry team in order to determine how the council can best support the parish youth activities.

Will the Supreme Council provide any resources for youth activities or ministry? The Supreme Council will continue to provide resources through its various existing youth activities. Additionally, more materials relating to faith formation will become available as the Supreme Council continues to expand the Domestic Church program in the months ahead.

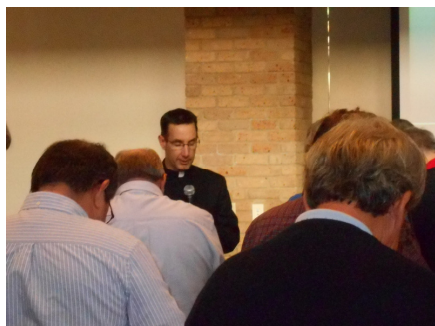
Is there a date set at which Circles are to cease operations? At this point, no. The Supreme Council will continue to monitor and evaluate the program over the course of the next year. However, councils are not encouraged to form new Circles, and inactive Circles should be disbanded.

Should existing active Circles continue to recruit new members? Yes, with the understanding that the program may evolve to meet the needs of the parish's youth ministry.

Will the Squires Advancement program still be supported or should Squires not pursue their advancements? The Supreme Council will continue to support the Squires Advancement program as well as provide other resources that are currently supplied to active Circles.

Will the Supreme Council accept applications for new Circles? If a council has met all the requirements, Supreme will authorize the formation of a new Circle. However, as stated above, new Circles are not encouraged and existing Circles may eventually be integrated into parish youth ministry.

Central Area Mid-Year Meeting



Southern Area Mid-Year Meeting



2015 2016
State Program Directors

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In Service To One, In Service To All.

Programs At-A-Glance

ORDER MATERIAL

- COATS FOR KIDS

PROMOTE ACTIVITY

- ORDERWIDE CHURCH DRIVE
- MARCH FOR LIFE (Philippines)
- ORDERWIDE CHARITABLE SERVICE OUTREACH WEEK

CONDUCT ACTIVITY

- COATS FOR KIDS
- FORTY CANS FOR LENT
- SUSTANCE ABUSE AWARENESS POSTER CONTEST