



*"Strengthening
Catholic Families."*

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The Magnolia Knight

Serving the Mississippi Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus

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From the desk of the State Deputy, Noel Aucoin



Brothers,
Greetings to you all. This is the first of many messages from my desk to your screens. Since the 2016 State Convention, it has been a whirl wind and it's had my head spinning. I have had mountains of paperwork to fill out, instruction after instruction and an informative visit to New Haven. But, before going any further, I want to take time to acknowledge an outstanding leader, mentor, brother Knight and friend.

For the past two years, the administration of State affairs has been led and coordinated by Immediate Past State Deputy, Jim McCraw. Jim has given us unwavering dedication through events that would have stopped many of us in our tracks and has done with style and grace. Jim, THANK YOU for being YOU and THANK YOU for your support and tutelage. He will not fade out of the picture. He will be a huge part of the next administration and you can all look forward to hearing more from him.

It will be my privilege and honor to serve as your State Deputy for the upcoming fraternal year. As we move forward, I'd like to layout a couple of subtle changes to the Schools of Columbianism and the Mid-winter meetings. First of all the Schools of Columbianism will be held Saturday July 16, in Waveland (Southern Region) Sunday July 17, in Jackson (Central Region) and Sunday July 24, in Oxford (Northern Region). We will be changing the format of these events. After the opening remarks, the assembly will be asked to break out into individual training sessions. Session will include training for: Grand Knights, Deputy Grand Knights, Chancellors, Advocates and Membership Directors. We've excluded Financial Secretary training because the FS sessions that Mike Kassouf has been conducting will continue. For this to be effective, more than just GK's will have to attend these sessions. So, I am personally invite all Council Officers to attend these SOC's. It is essential that Council Officers attend but the sessions will be open to any Brother Knight to attend.

The mid-winter meetings have been scheduled for January 7, in Long Beach, Sunday January 8, in Vicksburg and Saturday January 14, in Starkville. These meetings will be geared more towards reviewing mid-year progress and assist councils in preparing for the 2017 Convention. They will take a more traditional feel and should not require attendance by all Council Officers. All these dates along with locations and time will be posted on the State website. Online registration will also be available. Please take advantage of the registration. This give the host council an idea of how many to prepare for.

I will sign off now, but before I do, I want to leave you with a thought. One of the themes that many of you will hear throughout the fraternal year will be **"It IS about the numbers"**. I will explain more as we move forward.

God bless and Vivat Jesus,

Noel

Rogation Days still part of rural Mississippi faith



Posted on **June 22, 2016** by **Mississippi Catholic**

By Father Scott Thomas,

May 24 marked the one-year anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical *Laudato Si*, in which he spoke to humanity about its relationship with creation. In rural Mississippi, especially in the Delta, people still depend on the yield of the land. So many jobs are based on farming, so naturally the Holy Father's encyclical is very relevant to our diocese and state. Towards the end, the Holy Father says, "The rich heritage of Christian spirituality, the fruit of twenty centuries of personal and communal experience, has a precious contribution to make to the renewal of humanity." One of those contributions is the celebration of Ro-

Father Thomas blesses St. Elizabeth parishioner, Mark Agostinelli's field in Clarksdale. In rural Mississippi, especially in the Delta, people still depend on the yield of the land.

Rogation Days within the Christian church can be traced back to the days of St. Mamertius (d. 475). His diocese suffered different natural disasters so he recommended the faithful to turn to fasting in asking for divine assistance and protection over the course of the three days before the Ascension. This continues today, but unfortunately with less participation since the reform of the Roman Calendar following the Second Vatican Council.

During that reform, Pope Bl. Paul VI asked that during Rogation Days prayers for vocations to the priesthood be added. After all, the flock of Christ is seen as a harvest in Sacred Scripture (Luke 10:2), and many laborers are needed to work this harvest. Paul VI's interest in these days shows that he himself intended for Rogation Days to still be celebrated in some fashion because he saw the value in them.

The church teaches us through her social doctrine that our work can be a participation in the creation of the world. Pope Francis recently said that Jesus "sanctified human labor and endowed it with a special significance for our development." Thus, as St. John Paul II stated, through our work humanity "in a way collaborates with the Son of God for the redemption of humanity." God blesses our work in a number of ways, most visibly through the church and her priests as farmers take their pastor into the fields during the Rogation Days.

St. Elizabeth parishioner, Richard Noe, has farmed in the Clarksdale area for 55 years. These days he farms with his son Richard and is joined by his grandson Zachary during the summers. According to Noe, during the days of Msgr. McKenna, one or two retired farmers would pick up the priest and take him around to all of the farms in the parish boundaries. But today each individual farmer meets the priest or picks him up and escorts him to a patch of fledgling crops. This way more are involved and the pastor greets his flock on their turf, in their "natural habitats" away from the parish rectory.

Jude Watts, also a parishioner of St Elizabeth who farms with his son Thad, says that the farmer learns very quickly to trust in God's providence. "Farming is good proof that God is in control. We can't control the rain so of course God's blessing on our crops is needed," said Watts. There is a lot that farmers have to contend with, whether it be a lack of rain, high winds blowing sand on the crops, a scorching sun, or pests such as wild hogs.

While we can till the ground more efficiently, improve seeds, and have access to beneficial chemicals, even as technology grows, we are still dependent upon God and His grace for us. Rogation days are a marvelous reminder of this as we fast and pray for God's blessing on our farms and gardens. Of course, we in no way should limit these prayers to just three or four days. Rather, we should always pray to God for favorable weather and a good harvest for the benefit of the farmers, their community and beyond.

Memorial Day Wreath Laying



Msgr. P. J. Carey Assembly 561 conducted a wreath laying ceremony on 28 May 2016 at the Purple Heart Memorial in Biloxi MS. Our Wreath Layer was BMCM James Jackson, retired, who is also a member of our assembly.

Knights in action serving our own and others with Autism



For the past four years K of C Council - 14051 located at Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Olive Branch, MS has helped send kids to a camp for people with Autism. Will Talley (left) has attended the camp over the past three years as a recipient of the sponsorship. On June 6th of this year Brother Will became a First Degree Knight. Grand Knight Jeff Bell (right) has been volunteering at the camp for the past six years while his son Matthew attends the camp. The camp is located in Taylorsville, MS and is owned and managed by TEAAM "Together Enhancing Autism Awareness in Mississippi". If you would like more information about our camp visit: www.team-matthew.com.

A Knighting Degree was hosted by Council 7854 in Clinton on June 16th in Honor of State Master Bill O'Connor.



Members from Holy Savior who were Knighted:

L-R: State Master Bill O'Connor, Frank Grove, Adam Martino, Kavanaugh Breazeale and GK Craig Harrell.



L-R: District Deputy Charles Hahn, State Master Bill O'Connor, GK Craig Harrell, State Treasurer Phillip Jabour

L-R Seated: State Deputy Jim McCraw. Past State Deputy Rich Lieding (Conferring Officer)

Graduating Senior Reception and Scholarship Funds presentation



Graduating Senior Reception and Scholarship Funds presentation by Council 9124 to graduates from St. Mary Church in Gautier. Grand Knight Rusty Anderson and Father Kitchin are presenting the scholarship checks to this year's scholarship recipients.

Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094 Semi-Annual Blood Drive



On June 12, 2016 Council 9094 of D'Iberville held their semi-annual Red Cross blood drive at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Through the generosity of the parish, they collected 34 pints of blood.

4th Degree Assembly 3007 Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony & Flag Day Flag Ceremony



Knights of Columbus Council 10901 Senior Appreciation Day and Health Fair



Knights of Columbus Council 10901 presented a Senior Appreciation Day and Health Fair Wednesday, June 15th at the St. John the Evangelist's Parish Hall. Health screenings, door prizes, breakfast snacks and health and wellness resource information was provided by 20 local health organizations and agencies for the benefit of those over 55 years of age. From blood pressure readings to preparing advance directions or providing assistance to Alzheimer loved ones, experienced and expert assistance and advice was available to those attending the Health Fair.

Handmade Olive Tree Crosses



Council 10901 of the Knights of Columbus are selling handmade olive tree crosses made in the Bethlehem region of Palestine to benefit the Christian Refugee Relief Fund, a special fund organized by the National Knights of Columbus organization. The Solidarity Crosses are made by Palestinian artisans who sell handcrafted souvenirs to pilgrims visiting the Holy Land.

The olive wood is crafted from indigenous olive trees. Oil from the fruit has been used for religious rites since before the time of Jesus. The wood is from pruned branches of the olive trees which are dried for several years then turned into crosses and other works of art.

The purchase of the crosses assists the 800 Palestinian Christian families who depend on the sale of crosses and other Christian souvenirs for their living. Profits from the sale of the crosses by the Knights of Columbus are sent to the Knights of Columbus' Christian Refugee Relief Fund which was established to help Christian refugees in the Middle East.

Council 10901, under the leadership of Al Ruiz, Deputy Grand Knight, purchases the crosses for \$5.00 and sells them for \$10.00. The profit from the sale is sent directly to Knights of Columbus Christian Refugee Relief Fund. "We are proud to be a part of this world-wide effort to aid our Christian refugee brethren in Iraq and Syria", speaking for the member Knights of Council 10901. "With the assistance of Councils world-wide, the Knights of Columbus has donated more than \$2.2 million to aid Christian refugees in the Middle East."

Council 10901 has sold almost 200 crosses since April. 100% of the profits goes straight to private organizations working directly with Christian refugees in the Middle East.

Men of Christ and a Knight of Columbus



Brother Knights of Columbus,

On June 6th of this month, we received two young men into our order. Will Talley, age 18, who just graduated from Olive Branch High School, and Larry Robins, age 20, who just finished his first year at Mississippi State University. Both of these young men are wonderful examples of our older youth answering the call to serve God through the Knights of Columbus. I would like to share a few things about our Brothers that you may not know. First of all, Brother Will has Autism. Now, what does that mean if you should meet Will at a K of C function? Will may have difficulty in social settings such as making eye contact and responding to questions, even when he knows the answers. Will can read and write, but may need assistance comprehending new information. However, people like Will are very smart, often in their own ways. He is very matter-of-fact. He has friends, hobbies, and had a job while in high school, just like other kids his age. Most importantly, he knows his Catholic Faith and he loves our God and Savior Jesus Christ. Will helps out by volunteering at church, going on retreats, and setting a good example for our younger children. Will may not go to college like Larry. He may never live out on his own or start a family. But as a member of our fraternal order, he will always have an extended family in our Brotherhood of the Knights of Columbus. We will be there to mentor, support and provide opportunities for Will's success whenever we are needed. However, there is also a lot we learn from Will. As Knights, we cannot be lukewarm in our faith. There is no shame in being humble and quiet until it is time to stand up and be heard. Brother Will did just that when he stood with Brother Larry and said Yes to becoming a Knight of Columbus.

Brother Larry has a different story but with the same awesome faith. Larry was always the altar server on call—ready to step in at a moment's notice, and he still is today. He helps teach VBS every summer and is adored by the kids. After confirmation, Larry became a lector, reading alongside his mother whenever he is home from college. Larry is always the first to volunteer on retreats and youth group events. He also joins us on our canoe trip to Spring River every Labor Day. Other young boys and girls aspire to be like Larry. He is currently working a summer job and is teaching VBS this week at Queen of Peace. He also joined our Knights Softball Team. Even with all of these things going on, Brother Larry is also suffering from IgA Nephropathy, an autoimmune disease that attacks the kidneys. Larry was diagnosed in 2011, and to see him on the street, at a softball game, or teaching VBS at church, you would not know anything is wrong. However, his case is pretty aggressive. In fact, he is close to End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), and he needs our help. Brother Larry needs a kidney

!Below are two post on FB from his mom Julie. Please read and do your part. Help us help Larry:

So this is one of those posts that is extremely awkward, but necessary. Most of you know that Larry was diagnosed with a disease called IgA Nephropathy, an autoimmune disease that attacks the kidneys, in 2011. His case is pretty aggressive and he is close to End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD). He is not on dialysis yet, but the Drs are ready to do a transplant within the next few weeks if we can find a suitable living donor. My brother and a cousin are going to be tested. I probably will be too, although I am at the bottom of the list because of my age and the fact that I'm female. Dr. states he would prefer a male donor under the age of 40 and about the same size as Larry. SO, everybody please spread the word. I can post the Donor Coordinator's information if anybody wants to check into it anonymously without feeling like they are committing. Just please pass the word and keep him in your prayers. He's rather embarrassed at this whole situation, but it's the only way to get the word out. PM me for any additional info.

Thank you everybody for all of the sweet comments and shares. Keep it going! I do want to clarify that for those of you who didn't know much about what's going on with Larry, he currently feels ok. I realized that I might have created a picture of him dying in bed. The reality is that he feels pretty good, is working, playing, whatever. He does get tired faster. If you saw him on the street, you would have no idea that is about to go into renal failure. However, that doesn't lessen the need!

The contact information for the donor coordinator at Methodist is as follows: Michelle Floyd, [901-516-7737](tel:901-516-7737). Her email is michelle.floyd@mlh.org. Please contact her and she will be able to give you information. (I wanted to get permission before posting her information) Please let her know that your are interested in donating for Larry Robins. Don't worry about blood type, she said to just call her.

Again, thank you to everybody for your care and concern and prayers! We will take it and appreciate it very much!



Brothers, this request goes beyond the thousands of dollars we donate to charities. It goes beyond the thousands of volunteer service hours we do each year. This request goes beyond feeding and clothing the hungry. This young man continues to live an exemplary, God-loving Christian life against a hardship that would have devastated most men. However, through Larry's faith in Jesus Christ, his pain, disappointment, and longing to scream out, "Why me?" has been redirected to make him the man he is today. Larry is a true Man of Christ and a Knight of Columbus. Please help us find a donor so that Brother Larry can continue living his life as a beacon of light and hope for us all. Thank you for your continued prayers.

Jeff Bell
GK – 14051

Cajun Fest, St. Francis of Assisi, Madison



Ed Marsalis, Past Grand Knight at KC 9543 at St. Francis of Assisi in Madison, prepares a pulled pork sandwich at Cajun Fest as Wayne Lobell and Chris Manning look on. The annual St. Francis fundraiser raised more than \$28,000 toward paying off the building debt at St. Anthony Catholic School in Madison.