



# The Magnolia Knight

Serving the Mississippi Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus

Volume XVIII Issue I & II

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From the desk of the State Deputy, Noel Aucoin

*"Strengthening  
Catholic Families."*

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Greetings to you all. Much has happened since I've last addressed you. The State Family held our Organizational meeting in Lizana on December 10<sup>th</sup>. On the same day, we held an historic Admission's Degree. We admitted nineteen Brother Knights. That class included many Young Knights that eventually formed the first High School Round Table in the state of Mississippi. Three of those young Knights brought their fathers along with them and one of those fathers was the current Mayor of Gulfport, Billy Hewes. The degree also was the first ever (in our jurisdiction) perform entirely by District Deputies. The DD's did an outstanding job and it was very impactful for the candidates. This degree was just the beginning of an initiative to try to en-

courage younger Knights to join our order. In order to survive, Brothers, we must invite younger Catholic men to join our ranks and we must be open to different ways to accommodate their needs. Youth Director, Bill Haas is championing this initiative so feel free to contact him at [wdhaasbellsouth.net](mailto:wdhaasbellsouth.net) for assistance in the recruitment of high school and college students.

We held our first conference call for Grand Knights, in December. I challenged the GK's to bring in a "Knight before Christmas" and you really came through. We had the strongest recruiting December (in Mississippi) since Supreme start keeping these statistics. We took over the top spot in our Membership Region and move up to the number 10 ranking Order wide. Several Councils reach Star Council or McGivney award status and earned steak or hamburger dinners for the Council and families. These dinners will be prepared by the State Officers and District Deputies and we will begin scheduling these immediately following the State Convention. If you are one these Councils, please contact State Secretary, Philip Jabour to schedule your dinner. We achieved top honors in the Supreme membership contest for December. This earned the State \$950, which will be put to good use paying for those steak and hamburger dinners.

January has been, traditionally, the month we hold our mid-winter meetings and 2017 was no different. Meetings we held on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, in Vicksburg, Starkville and Long Beach, respectively. I thank those councils for hosting and once we got past the freezing temperatures everything went off without a hitch. Many topics were discussed at the meetings including the 2017 State Convention in Tupelo, scheduled for April 28, 29 & 30. Links to convention information and registration are now on the State website. Among the information on the website is instructions on how to nominate a Brother Knight for a State Officer position. Traditionally, in our jurisdiction, officers elected to a position will elect to run again for a second term. This year, however State Treasurer, Ben Mokry has decided not to seek a second term. Ben feels his work obligations could be an obstacle as his KC responsibilities grow. I respect Ben's position and whole heartedly thank him for his many years of undying dedication. He has agreed to continue his efforts as State Web Master and I'm very grateful to him for that. With Ben's announcement, State Advocate, Mike Kassouf and State Warden Raul "Roy" Gamez have stated their desires to seek nomination for the offices ahead of them. State Secretary, Philip Jabour and myself will seek nominations to a second term of office. Any third degree Knight may seek nomination for any State office, except State Deputy. Only third degree, **insurance** members may be nominated for that office. I encourage any Brother Knight, contemplating State Office to look over the nomination instructions on the State website and get those nomination letters together.

Brothers, thank you again for all your hard work and passion throughout this first half of the fraternal year. January has started the second half (membership wise) on a slow note but I know that we will pick up right where we left off, prior to the holidays. Remember start planning that March membership drive now and include a member of the State Family in those plans. We are here at your service. Happy and blessed New Year, Vivat Jesus,

Noel

# Growth is Our Primary Responsibility

11/28/2016

## **Supreme Knight tells state leaders membership key to growth and stability of the Knights of Columbus.**

"Our responsibility as the leaders of the Knights of Columbus is to assure the continued growth and sustainability of our Order. This is our first and primary responsibility," Supreme Knight Carl Anderson told the gathered state deputies at the Mid-Year Meeting held in Orlando. The focus of this meeting was membership recruitment and retention.

"While we have other goals and activities that are necessary, no other task is sufficient to advance the Good of the Order if we do not advance membership growth. Everything we do depends upon membership," he added.

Today there is a challenge that has to be met, he continued. Supreme Knight Anderson pointed out that the Knights of Columbus must recruit younger men and fathers of young families. Our councils need to emphasize programs more relevant to families with young children and we need to use recruitment tools that rely upon enhanced Internet and web-based connectivity.

It is necessary, he said, to recruit younger members in ways that respect the more limited time they have to dedicate to volunteer activities and to schedule council activities in ways that respond to the more limited time young fathers have to participate in activities outside the home.

"Let's remember this: Father McGivney was not yet 30 when he founded the Knights of Columbus with what was described at the time as the 'young go-ahead men' of New Haven," the supreme knight continued. "And I am totally confident that had there been a World Youth Day in 1882, Father McGivney would have been there with his brother Knights. Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus for the young working men of his day, to protect their families."

The Supreme Knight also encouraged councils to provide the First Degree in the new DVD format to assure that candidates may join without having to wait for long periods before taking the admission degree.

To help train our council's officers and make volunteer efforts more efficient, the Knights of Columbus has developed the Fraternal Training Portal, the Supreme Knight said. These training programs include information on promoting fraternal leadership skills, and instill organizational awareness of the vision of our founder and the legacy mission. Training will be available for current officers with access to Officers Online and roll out to all council officers over the coming months. Shortly thereafter the Fraternal Training Portal will open to Deputy Grand Knights, Chancellors, Membership and Program Directors, followed by all officers.

"Our Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish initiative combines two great traditions of the Knights of Columbus: building up Catholic family life and strengthening parish life," Supreme Knight Anderson said. Parishes are the natural home of Knights of Columbus councils and where they thrive best while strengthening the parish community as a whole, he added. These parish-based councils can be the drivers within the parish that promotes Catholic family life and new charitable initiatives, and that calls Catholic men to greater spiritual formation and evangelical action.

"And these programs will do one more thing: They will help make our parishes more family friendly, especially for young families," the Supreme Knight said. Along with this, he continued, the Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive program includes monthly themes, meditations, Scripture readings and activities for the whole family. It is a program for all families, but it is designed especially for young families. It can help families that need new ways to bring the light of the Gospel into their homes.

Additionally, the Knights of Columbus is continuing to partner with Praesidium Inc. to provide the most up-to-date resources available to ensure safe environments for children. Through this partnership, Knights involved in youth programs have access to online training, background screening and reporting services. To further enhance this initiative, the Supreme Knight said that an Office of Youth Protection department has been developed at the Supreme Council office to monitor these efforts.

"Young people, especially College Knights, play a large role in the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. each year," Supreme Knight Anderson said. "This coming year, I ask every Knight that can make it to Washington, D.C. for this event, which is a true witness to the devotion we and so many others hold to support a culture of life, to please do so."

During the meeting the Knights of Columbus leaders also had the opportunity to watch the recap video of the 2017 Supreme Convention in Toronto. "This video is an excellent overview of all we do as Knights of Columbus and all that our organization stands for," Supreme Knight Anderson said. "I strongly urge all councils to show this video, which is accessible on [kofc.org](http://kofc.org), to their membership and to link to it on their websites."

## **Protect Your Family With Knights of Columbus Insurance Financial Fitness for the New Year**

When a new year begins, we like to look at our lives and take stock of where we are. Many make resolutions to challenge themselves to be better. Many focus on their health and well-being.

These are great practices. No matter how good we're doing, we can always be doing better, and critical self-reflection and setting goals can help.

This is true not only for our physical and spiritual health, but also our financial health.

So, as we begin 2017, here are a few suggestions to help you look at your financial situation and find opportunities for improvement.

### **Start With a Comprehensive Review**

Take stock of your entire situation. Look at your assets and liabilities, as well as the plans and protection that you already have in place. Try to anticipate the future. Are you hoping to have more children? Do you want to help pay for your children's education? Are you nearing retirement?

This is a valuable and revealing process — and one that you don't have to do alone.

As a Knight of Columbus, you can work with a dedicated, well-trained professional brother Knight field agent who can help you identify what you need to adequately protect your family.

Through their agent, members receive a comprehensive, complimentary financial needs analysis. This analysis, titled "Profiles & Forecaster," is a proven industry tool that helps you determine your needs.

It's a fraternal benefit that costs you nothing but could tell you a lot. The Profiles & Forecaster analysis will help you identify surpluses, shortages, insurance and income replacement needs, final expenses and more.

It's a great way to start.

### **Focus on the Future**

Ask yourself a series of questions: What happens when you die? Will your family be adequately protected? Do you have life insurance? Is it privately owned or tied to your employment? Is it temporary or permanent? As a member, you have exclusive access to our extensive portfolio of permanent and temporary life insurance products that can be customized to fit your needs.

What happens if you get injured? If you're disabled and can't work, how long can your family survive without your income? Do you have disability income insurance? How much of your income does it cover? Is it privately owned or tied to your employment? The Knights of Columbus has recently introduced a disability income insurance product that can help provide critical protection for your paycheck.

What happens if you get sick? If you need extended care in a nursing facility or at home, will you have money set aside for those needs? Have you looked to see what care like that may cost? Members of the Knights of Columbus have the ability to purchase long-term care insurance that can provide the cash needed to pay for long-term care services while shielding the savings they've set aside for retirement and other purposes.

What happens when you retire? Do you have enough money tucked away? How do you know if it's enough? How will your retirement age and social security affect your financial situation? By working with your brother Knight field agent, you can establish a Knights of Columbus retirement annuity that takes the guesswork out by guaranteeing your principle, guaranteeing growth and — when properly structured — an income stream for life, no matter how long you live.

### **Prioritize Protection**

Make protecting the most important things a priority. Think of all the things you insure in your life: your car, house, important electronic devices and major appliances. But how much more precious and valuable is your life? Shouldn't this be protected and prioritized as well?

Proper protection is much more affordable than you may think. Just how affordable? Contact your field agent for your free needs analysis, and he can walk you through all your options.

You just may be surprised.

To find an agent, visit [kofc.org/findagent](http://kofc.org/findagent). To learn more about the Knights of Columbus insurance program, visit [kofc.org/insurance](http://kofc.org/insurance).

## DD Organizational Dinner



A reception was held 12/9/16, in D'Iberville, prior to the State Organizational meeting. Invited were State Officers, Directors, Chairmen, District Deputies and Insurance Team. The event was hosted by State Deputy, Noel Aucoin and his wife Patty. Food was provided by Drew Aucoin and Hook'em in Catering. SD, Aucoin would like to thank Culture of Life couple, Mark and Lee Fontenot and Silver Rose/Marion Hour Chairman Roger Feters and his wife Theresa for their help with the event. Thanks also go out to Fr. Patrick McAlpine, Council 9094 D'Iberville for the use of the room. A great night of fellowship was had by all present.

## DD Organizational Meeting



The second State Organizational Meeting was held Saturday December 10, 2016, in Lizana. Participating in the meeting were the State Officers, Directors, Chairmen, District Deputies and Insurance team. Among the subjects discussed was the current state of the Jurisdiction and the path ahead for each District along with Convention and Insurance Program updates. Lunch was served by St. Ann's Council 9958. Thanks to GK, Thomas Moran and Council 9958 for the use of the facility. Following the meeting a Admission's Degree was held and then many members of the team attended Mass at St. Ann's.

## 1st Degree Prior to DD Organizational Meeting



An historic Admission's Degree was held Saturday December 10, 2016 in Lizana. Among the class, of 19, were several members of were made up of high school seniors of St. Patrick, St. Stanislaus and D'Iberville High Schools. The young Knights will form the first High School Round Table in the state of Mississippi. Three of the young men brought their fathers along with them. One of those fathers was Gulfport Mayor, Billy Hewes. The event kicked off an initiative, throughout the state, to get younger Catholic men involved in our order. This project is being championed by State Youth Director, Bill Haas. The event was historic in another way. It was the first Admission's Degree totally performed by District Deputies. In order to accommodate the schedule of the young candidates, the DD's formed the historic degree team. This truly added to the impact of the degree. The number of new Knights helped catapult the Jurisdiction into the top 10, membership wise, throughout the entire order.



## Mid Winter Starkville



## Mid Winter Long Beach



The Northern area Mid-winter meeting was held Saturday January 14, 2017, in Starkville. Represented were Councils from District's 1, 2, 3 and 4. Among the subjects discussed was the current state of the Jurisdiction and the path ahead for each District along with Convention and Insurance Program updates. Lunch was served by Fr. John P. Egan Council 6765. Thanks to GK, Richard Coughlin and Council 6765 for the use of the facility. To conclude the meeting, Immediate Past State Deputy, Jim McCraw handed out the 2015-2016 Columbian, McGivney and Star Council awards to the councils earning them. Following the meeting a special Mass was held at St. Joseph's for the team.

### Long Beach 1/15/2017

The Southern area Mid-winter meeting was held Sunday January 15, 2017, in Long Beach. Represented were Councils from District's 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13. Among the subjects discussed was the current state of the Jurisdiction and the path ahead for each District along with Convention and Insurance Program updates. Lunch was served by St. Vincent DePaul Council 4898. Thanks to GK, Ben DiLorenzo and Council 4898 for the use of the facility. To conclude the meeting, Immediate Past State Deputy, Jim McCraw handed out the 2015-2016 Columbian, McGivney and Star Council awards to the councils earning them. The meeting followed 11:30 mass at St. Thomas the Apostle church.

# **Knights of Columbus State Bowling Tournament**

**Keesler AFB, Biloxi, Ms.  
Saturday March 18th & Sunday March 19th**



This years State Bowling tournament , will be held in Biloxi, Ms.at Keesler ,AFB on Saturday March 18th & Sunday March 19th.

If you go on the state web site you will find a notice with all of the information you will need to gain entry to Keesler AFB, as well as the form you will need to enter your teams.

In the past few years host councils have had to cancel at least three (3) state bowling tournaments, due to lack of participation,(not enough teams ). At one time we use to have as many as twelve (12) teams at a tournament, the last tournament that was held we had three (3) teams plus the host councils team, Lets see if we can do better this year.

The state bowling is a co-ed tournament and is open to all members of the Knights family, ( brothers, Fathers, Mothers Sisters , Grandfathers & Grandmothers, (if they can still bowl.) so I urge each council to see if you can come up with a team, the tournament is a four (4) man team event. So come on out to Keesler AFB and have some fun for two day's .

Hope to see you there.

**Bob Leo**

**State council Director**

## Most Holy Trinity Council 11995 Necrology Mass



Most Holy Trinity Council 11995 held a Necrology Mass on Nov 21st in concert with the Remembrance Mass held on the same evening for the Parish. Father Paddy Mockler presided over the Mass. Over 200 members of the Parish were recognized and The Knights of Columbus recognized 15 members who passed away since the Council was founded in April of 1997. Those members were: Regis E Brennan, Lacy J Cuevas, Wilton J Cuevas, John E Ford, Harry V Geauthreaux, Rhett R Maynard, Lawrence M Necaise, Eugene J Niolet, Jesse G Parker, Edward F Rosenhauer, Robert H Sanders, Michael R Schaefer, THomas Schandelbach, Leo J Smyth, and Bennett D Thompson.

We would like to thank Marilyn Shumway, Billy Dauphin, Reid Parker, Harold Foster, David Hebert, Richard Hazen, and John Leonhard for their outstanding support in recognizing our fallen members.

## St. Mary's Council 9124 in Gautier "Keep Christ in Christmas"



St. Mary's Council 9124 in Gautier "Keep Christ in Christmas" program for Toys for Tots. On the left is Assembly 561's Faithful Navigator Benny French and on the right is Council 9124's Grand Knight Roddy Johnson.



## **Gautier Council 9124 & Assembly 561's Awards Ceremony**



**Knight of the Year Joe Furlan**



**Sir Knight of the year Bill Clark**



**Family of the Year  
Linda and Rusty Anderson**

## **Bishop Gerow Assy 554 Annual Christmas at Table 100**



On 12/3/16 Bishop Gerow Assy 554 held their annual Christmas at Table 100 in Flowood MS. In attendance were approximately 20 couples, and dignitaries. We were most honoured with the presence of Bishop Latino. Our MC, Buck Buttkowski, led us in games with some special gifts for the winners.

One of the highlights of the evening, was the presentation of the 2015/2016 Civic Award by PDM, Bill O' Connor. FN Dave Fisher received the award on behalf of Ed Jones PFN and the Assembly.



## Starkville Host Second Degree



District 4 held a Formation Degree on Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup> at St Joseph Church in Starkville with 12 First Degree members advancing. From Council 802 Meridian - Joseph Bizer and Brandon Oakes. From Council 5267 Greenwood - Paton Acy, Al Holliday, Nathan Mothershed and Daniel Smith. From Council 6765 Starkville - Jonathan Barrientos, David Darce, Santos Portugal and Gregg Twietmeyer. From Council 7974 Columbus - Dave Reynolds. From Council 8848 Tupelo - Anthony Williams. Grand Knight 8848 Tupelo Keith Merritt, Grand Knight 5267 Greenwood John Young, Grand Knight 802 Meridian David Viger and 6765 Grand Knight Richard Coughlin were all present as well as District Deputies Mark Dye, Dennis Antici and Danny Setaro.



## KC Council 6765 Saint Joseph Starkville



KC Council 6765 Knights Chuck Bailey and Ian Perez spearheaded our Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest at Saint Joseph Starkville. With three age groups and over fifteen participants, the real Christmas Spirit was alive at Saint Joseph this year.

## Council 7854 Annual PID Drive



Pictured are Council 7854 members Craig Harrell and Chuck Weiss with Grand Knight Steve Miller who is presenting a check from funds raised during their Annual Tootsie Roll drive to Mrs. Parks and the Life Skills students at Clinton Jr. High School



## Holy Savior Council 7854



Holy Savior Council 7854 hosts Christmas Social with the Ladies Auxiliary on Dec 7.

## Holy Savior Council 7854



4th Degree Knights from Clinton's Holy Savior Council 7854 lead the Annual Christmas parades for the cities of Raymond and Clinton on Dec. 6th and 10th.

Left :District Marshal Craig Harrell and Color Corp Commander Steve Miller lead the Raymond Christmas Parade Dec 6th.

Right : Past State Master Bill O'Connor; District Marshal Craig Harrell; Sir Knight Chris Halliwell (front); Color Corp Commander Steve Miller and Sir Knight Jim Sharp lead the Clinton Christmas Parade Dec 10th.



## St. Francis Xavier Council 11564



On SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2016 during mass Fr. Bernard John Papania, Jr. presented 22 of the parish Altar Servers With Knights of Columbus Altar Server Award Certificates and Medals. Altar servers who were recognized are Faith Olsen, Mackenna Velazquez, Madison Velazquez, Madison Naramore, Elisabeth Reaux, Josh Reaux, Layla Renot, Lucy Renot, Gracie Renot, Katie Fuerst, Ryan McIlrath, Ethan Kelley, Noah Kelley, Aria Husley, Jessalyn Cain, Lee Cain, Bryant Renot, Tyler Renot, Meaghan Renot and Gabbie Meadow, Stephen Beckham and Mark Velazquez. Also attending was Anne-Marie Cain Altar Server Chairwoman and Bill Haas, The Knights of Columbus State of Mississippi Youth Director.

After mass, a breakfast was served by the Knights of Columbus Council #11564, in honor of all St. Francis Altar Servers, parishioners, friends and there family members. Event like this are so important to our parish and especially our youth. I would like to thank Anne-Marie Cain and the Knights of Columbus for sponsoring this great event, said Father [Berni] Bernard John Papania. It helps build a greater and stronger Catholic Community in a small parish.

## Council 13502 Triple Star Award



GK from Council 13502 receiving the Triple Star Award for Fraternal Year 2015-2016 from SD Noel at a Mass at St Mary's Parish in Batesville, MS

From left to right are: DD2 Dennis Fink, GK William Haire, and SD Noel Aucoin



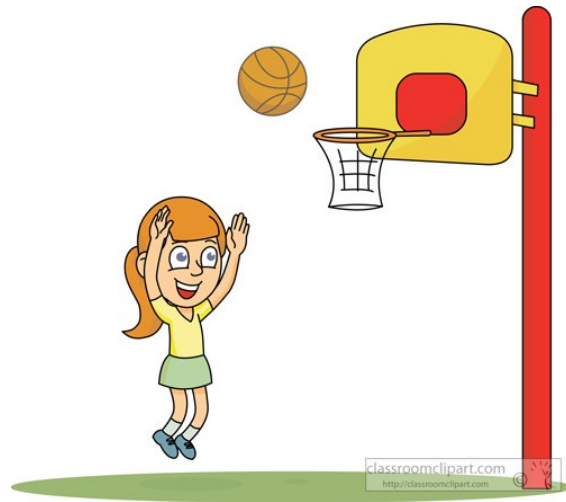
## The Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge Hosted by St. Patrick High School



In conjunction with the Knights of Columbus from several Gulf Coast Councils St. Patrick High School hosted the 3rd. Annual Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge. Approximately 100 youth participated in this event. It is something we look forward to each year mentioned one of the participants. Hopefully next year St. Stanislaus, Resurrection High School and other High Schools in the area will join in the fun, so we can take them on in a friendly one on one, best school wins competition.

Pictured top left above are Knights of Columbus from Council #11654 who set up the Soccer Challenge Event with both young men and women participating.

L-R David Russel, Financial Secretary & 4th Degree Knight, Anthony Pennington, Warden & 4th Degree Knight, Mike Buras, Deputy Grand Knight and 4th Degree Knight.



## Council 5654 Free Throw contest



Council 5654 held its local Council Free Throw contest January 14, 2017, at St. Alphonsus GYM, Ocean Springs. The next step will be the district Free throw January 28, 2017 at St. Mary's Gautier, then the winners of the local will go to the State Free Throw, March the 11th, St. Alphonsus GYM in Ocean Springs to compete against their age group against the whole state KC free throw players. If the First place winner of the local contest can't make it then the 2nd place winner will shoot for the State free throw contest.

Back Row Boys - Will Karcher, Dylan Rushing, Cohen Weinhofer, Parker Brickson

Front Row Girls- Isabella Davis, Mathilde Marsh, Siera Rushing, Sophie Ross, Abby Futch

Back row of Adults KC's

Jane Sema (St. Alphonsus church youth Minister) Jason Cooper, Michael Cooper, Gordon Mathieu, Chuck Nannery, and Council 5654 youth Director Robert Sema. Sophie Ross 1st place for girls 9 year old

Siera Rushing 1st place for girls 10 year old

Cohen Weinhofer 1st place for boys 10 year old

Isabella Davis 1st place for 11 year old girls

Dylan Rushing 1st place for 13 year old boys