



The Magnolia Knight

Serving the Mississippi Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus

Volume XIX Issue V

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From the desk of the State Deputy, Noel Aucoin

*"Strengthening
Catholic Families."*

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Brothers,
Greetings to you all. April is near its end and the Convention is this weekend. It has been an extremely slow month, membership wise. At the time of this article, we were at 83% of our membership goal and have dropped to number 14, Order wide. We need 60 new members in the next two months to make history. This will be the first time, in most people's memory, that Mississippi makes Circle of Honor two fraternal year's in a row. It will not be as easy as we thought it would be, back in December. We had such a fantastic first half of the year that we may have thought we had this membership thing mastered. But, with a slow January, a so so February, a good March and a slow April we have pretty good hill

left to climb. Sixty members in two months may seem a steep hill to climb but let's think about the numbers. We have 60 active councils this means we have to average $\frac{1}{2}$ a member per Council per month. We can do this easily. In fact, I still think we can reach Pinnacle status!! If we average less than $\frac{3}{4}$ a member per Council per month we'll reach that goal. This, my Brothers, is very doable.

There are Catholic men in your Parishes looking for that invitation. I am very much looking forward to seeing many of you this weekend at the convention. Many of you already know that State Treasurer, Ben Mokry, has decided to step down and not run for re-election this year. I would like to take this time to thank Ben for his many years of service to our jurisdiction and to the order. He has been a crucial part of the State Family for many years and I know I'm joined by all the State Deputies he has served under in saying "Thank You Ben". Ben will continue his work as State Website Coordinator. A job that he has excelled in over the past few years. With this in mind, I will run down the Candidates that have stated their intentions to run for State Office. The nominations will be open to the floor at the time of elections and are NOT limited to the names listed below.

State Deputy Noel Aucoin - Council 9094, Dlberville

State Secretary Philip Jabour - Council 10216, Flowood

State Treasurer Mike Kassouf - Council 6765, Starkville

State Advocate Raul (Roy) Gamez - Council 4472, Pass Christian

State Warden Guy Heying - Council 15131, Jackson

The 2020 State Convention will also be selected during this year's convention.

I am looking forward to a very good time in Tupelo.

Vivat Jesus,
Noel

The Family Fully Alive Introduction



Building the Domestic Church The Family Fully Alive

by Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson



In founding the Knights of Columbus, Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney sought to respond to the crisis in family life affecting Catholics in 19th-century America. As a young man he witnessed firsthand the challenges his widowed mother faced with seven children at home. Later, as a priest, he confronted on a daily basis the problems affecting the families of his parish community due to poverty, violence, alcoholism, immigration, anti-Catholic prejudice and discrimination. Father McGivney's vision for family life was not only that each family might find financial and material aid. He understood that holiness is the calling of all baptized Christians. And considering that two brothers followed him into the priesthood, we can understand how truly important the sanctuary of the home was to the McGivney family.

His family was a living example of what the second Vatican Council later taught: each man, woman and child is called to holiness through proclaiming the Gospel and communicating the divine gift of love in the activities of their daily lives. When Christian families respond in this way to the design of the Creator, they become a "domestic church" that, as Pope Paul VI explained, mirrors "the various aspects of the entire Church." (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 71). The modern family recently has been a topic of particular focus for the Church, with the two-year synod on the family and the post-synodal exhortation by Pope Francis,

Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love). During this time, the Knights of Columbus has been involved in supporting families in their Christian vocation through our new Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening our Parish initiative. This initiative, which includes The Family Fully Alive program, is designed to help families become more centered on their task of serving God, neighbor and parish.

Since the second Vatican Council, and especially during the pontificate of St. John Paul II, it has become clear that the family is "the way of the Church." In one sense, this obviously means that the family is the object of the Church's evangelization efforts. But the Christian family too has its own indispensable mission. As St. John Paul II wrote in *Familiaris Consortio*, "The family has the mission to guard, reveal and communicate love." This mission is at the heart of the "community of life and love" that begins with the married couple in the sacrament of matrimony.

To lead us in that mission we are fortunate to have a guidebook — Pope Francis' exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* — to help us build the Catholic family as a domestic church. In *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis describes the Church as "a family of families." He reminds us to view the family as the sanctuary of life and love that is at the heart of the domestic church. Our Knights' families can take special guidance from Pope Francis as he calls us to a new "family apostolate" based upon "joy-filled witness as domestic churches." Our parish-based councils also have a role in connecting men and their families with the parish.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us, "Conjugal love involves a totality, in which all the elements of the person enter. ... It aims at a deeply personal unity, a unity that, beyond union in one flesh, leads to forming one heart and soul." In other words, sacramental marriage involves not just an agreement between the spouses but a radical transformation of the spouses.

As Pope Benedict XVI wrote in *Deus Caritas Est*, "Marriage based on an exclusive and definitive love becomes the icon of the relationship between God and his people and vice versa. God's way of loving becomes the measure of human love."

In this way, the witness of husband and wife within the daily life of the family can guard, reveal and communicate love as they make their own the gifts of marriage — unity, indissolubility, faithfulness and openness to new life.

A Vatican document on the role and mission of the family states, "The family needs to be rediscovered as the essential agent in the work of evangelization" (*Instrumentum Laboris*, 103). It also points to the necessity to better understand the "missionary dimension of the family as a domestic church" (*Instrumentum Laboris*, 48).

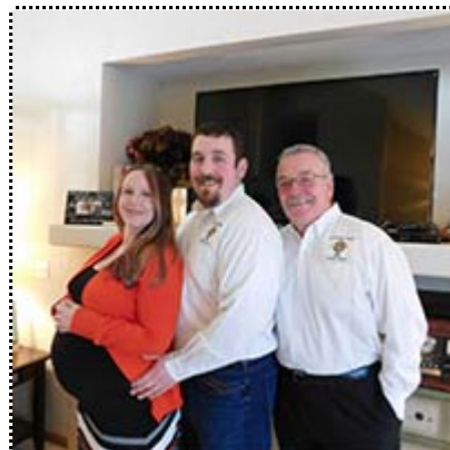
These observations echo those of St. John Paul II, who said, during a meeting with the Latin American bishops in 1979, that "in the future, evangelization will depend largely on the domestic church." (Pope John Paul II, Address to the Third General Conference of the Latin American Episcopate). Clearly, the role of the family in the work of evangelization is not primarily a matter of programs, projects or strategies. These all have their place, but they are secondary. Their place is to be at the service of what is essential — the love between a husband and wife that, sanctified through the love of Christ, radiates to each member of their family.

The family as domestic church is a place of encounter with Christ within the community of a particular Christian family — a place where each member of the family has an important role.

The “mission” of the family in the task of evangelization is to be what it is called to be — that is, to live its daily life as a Christian family. As St. John Paul II said so often, “families, become what you are!”

he family’s mission to “guard, reveal and communicate love”— like the parish community — does not exist in an ideal place. The truth and beauty of the family must be communicated to every Christian family, even those that are fragile, wounded or broken. These families too may read the words of St. Paul with confidence: “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” (Rom 8:35). And they may find in that confidence a path of hope and healing.

During his visit to the Philippines, Pope Francis cited the need for “holy and loving families to protect the beauty and truth of the family in God’s plan and to be an example for other families” (Pope Francis, Address to Families at the Mall of Asia Arena. Our Building the Domestic Church initiative and The Family Fully Alive monthly devotions are concrete ways that Knights of Columbus, in solidarity with Pope Francis, can offer holy and loving families for the Church’s mission of evangelization in our time.



'A Burning Furnace of Charity'

4/1/2017

Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori

The saving power of Christ's love is shared with the world in and through the Church



SOME YEARS AGO, I offered Sunday Mass at an old urban parish. The day was cold, and the church was colder. "Be mercifully brief!" my guardian angel told me as I climbed the stairs to the pulpit. In fact, as I preached I could see my breath.

After Mass, I asked the pastor why the church was so cold. "Was it the boiler?" I wanted to know. "No," he said, "the boiler is fairly new. I had it checked and it's working efficiently."

He went on to explain that the real problem was the distribution system. The pipes and valves that were supposed to carry the hot water from the boiler to the radiators and distribute the heat evenly throughout the building were not in working order. As you might imagine, the cost of fixing that system was pretty steep.

I recently remembered that conversation while I was sitting in my chapel, and it occurred to me that this old story might have a deeper meaning. It's this deeper meaning I would like to share with you, especially in these days when we most solemnly celebrate the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE BODY OF CHRIST

As we take part in the beautiful liturgies of Holy Week, the truth and reality of God's saving love should resonate in our hearts. We celebrate the immense love of Jesus who was sent by the Father to redeem us from our sins. Jesus took our sins upon himself and laid down his life on the cross. He then rose from the dead, overcoming our sins and opening for us the way to everlasting life. So ardent is the love of the Savior's heart that it is sometimes described as "a burning furnace of charity." This means that his heart is perpetually on fire with merciful love for you and me. He offers himself continually and totally, and his love is stronger than our sins and more powerful than death itself.

As baptized Catholics, we rejoice in this saving love of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Truly his heart is "a burning furnace of charity" for the entire world. But how does the ardent love of Jesus, poured out upon the cross and revealed in its power by the resurrection, make its way to our own hearts? To put it another way, what is the "distribution system" by which Jesus' love circulates throughout the Church and warms the world around her?

It might be said that the Church herself is that distribution system. The fire of love burning in the heart of Christ reaches us principally in and through the Church. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, "The Church is born primarily of Christ's total self-giving for our salvation" (766). The redeeming presence and love of Christ circulates through all the members of the Church gathered from every race and nation. The Church is so closely joined to Christ that it is called the Body of Christ, and it is described as the "wondrous sacrament" that came forth from Jesus' side as he hung on the cross.

And through the seven sacraments, Christ's love is extended all over the world and in every era of history. Scripture tells us that blood and water flowed from the side of Christ when it was pierced by the soldier's lance. Water represents the sacraments of baptism and penance. Blood preeminently represents the sacrament and sacrifice of the Eucharist we share in at holy Mass.

CIRCULATING LOVE

In his design for the Church, the Lord willed to use frail and fallible human beings as part of his distribution system. He entrusted his mission to the Apostles and to their successors, and every Christian, whatever his or her state of life or vocation, is called to circulate the love of Christ in a world where there is so much suffering and indifference. What a privilege to be a part of this living mystery.

It is also the human element in this distribution system that often breaks down. Those of us charged with preaching the Gospel and celebrating the sacraments can lose our zeal. Those charged with maintaining the domestic church and transmitting the faith from one generation to the next can succumb to temptation and discouragement. Believers sometimes give scandal, causing people to lose or abandon their faith. Yet nothing is lacking in the furnace of charity that burns for our salvation. Breakdowns, when they occur, are due to our lack of connection to Christ.

We should think of the Knights of Columbus as an important part of the Church's distribution system. Our first principle is charity — an extension of that burning love which Christ has for each person, without exception. The strength and beauty of the charity we are called to practice lie not merely in its massive scope or in the many forms it takes. Rather, our charity is a way of extending and circulating the love of Christ, especially for the poor, the needy, the widow, the orphan and the vulnerable.

So as you engage in the charitable works of the Order, consider yourself part of the Church's "distribution system." By our zeal and enthusiasm for charity and service, let us help keep that system in good repair!

Membership 365

State Membership Contest

Council Incentive 1

Hamburger Dinner, (hamburgers paid for by State Council) cooked and served by State Officers

*Make these Star Council metrics by December 31, 2016

- Membership Quota
- form 185 submitted through member management
- form 365 submitted through member management
- form 1295-1 Semi Annual Council Audit
- update State Directory
- maintain all metrics through June 30, 2017
- Current with all Supreme & State Assessments

*Reports must be submitted to Supreme, Sdreports & DD

Council Incentive 2

Steak Dinner, (steaks paid for by State Council) cooked and served by State Officers

*Make above Star Council metrics plus Insurance Quota by December 31, 2016

*Reports must be submitted to Supreme, Sdreports & DD

The first of these dinners have been scheduled. Please mark your calendars and make plans to give us a hand. We will need your help.

Council 4472, Pass Christian @ Holy Family, Friday June 23

Councils 7087 & 11995 @ Kiln Council Home, Saturday June 24-3pm to 6pm

How Will We Be Known?

Fr. Gabriel O'Donnell, Vice Postulator of Fr. McGivney's cause says; "The message of Fr. McGivney is to go forth bravely to do the good we must do, with great love for our neighbor, including those who oppose us".

Fr. McGivney saw first-hand the needs of his people and the hatred of the opposition. He worked tirelessly to meet those needs and right those wrongs. This is the very reason our Order was founded. He knew united in faith; a strong community of brothers could stand tall against the many challenges of his day.

When we ask you to evangelize by recruiting more brothers to our Order that is just what we mean. Al Cala, Director of Membership Development says; "Membership growth is vital to our mission as pilgrims and part of the 'Church Militant'. The more we grow, the greater opportunity we have of men and their families getting closer to the Church which is the body of Christ. Can we accomplish the second greatest commandment of loving our neighbor by asking a Catholic man to join us? Membership is our greatest gift because it could save a soul! I'm sure you've heard the saying 'Supreme and the state, all they care about are numbers!' Yes, because every number, every member is a soul."

Jesus announces a "new commandment" at the last supper; not only to love one another, but to love as he loved (John 13:34). In doing so Jesus has taken love to a higher level than any Prophet or Pharisee has ever gone and sets the bar at a whole new level! Love as he loved? Jesus love is unconditional, shows no favorites, forgives without limit, doesn't carry grudges or seek revenge even when injustice is committed. A tall order, and we can't do it without him.

Jesus: continues with John 13:35 "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

I think that's one of the most powerful statements in scripture. It's the root of the 10 commandments. Six of them are about how we treat one another and the other four are about how we treat God, but they are all about love!

"Families are the domestic church where Jesus grows; he grows in the love of spouses, he grows in the lives of children." - Pope Francis. Building the Domestic Church is about building marriages and families, about having that kind of love. Nobody does that better than the Knights of Columbus. We want potential members to look at us and say, I want to be a part of that. We want women to look at us and say. I want my husband to be around men like that!

May we participate in Fr. McGivney's vision and win souls for Christ. How will we be known?

The Catholic Difference

4/1/2017

What does a Catholic life insurance company look like?

It's an important question to ask. As you consider all the options for your family's life insurance and financial services, you might wonder if any of them are actually unique. After all, every life insurance company sells life insurance.

But the Knights of Columbus is, in fact, unlike any other company. We do things differently — because both our faith and our members demand it.

We call it the Catholic difference. Here are a few of the things that make us unique:

We invest morally. The Knights of Columbus screens all of its investments according to guidelines published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. We will not invest in companies that deal in abortions, pornography, embryonic stem cell research, human cloning and related endeavors.

We support the Church. Last fraternal year, the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council and local councils together donated \$48 million to the Church. The Order gives generously through various programs such as the Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP), which, in partnership with our councils, has provided more than \$67 million in scholarships to more than 110,000 men and women pursuing religious vocations since 1981. The Knights also helped to restore the facade of St. Peter's Basilica in 1999 for the Millennial Jubilee and purchased satellite equipment that has since broadcasted the recent popes' messages to the world. The Order's aid to the Vatican and the pope is ongoing, with an annual donation from the proceeds of the Vicarius Christi fund given to the Holy Father for his personal charities. We put our Catholic families first. We are not a commercial company. We have no stockholders. We answer only to our members. We return a share of our profits through dividends to our participating policyholders, and we donate generously.

We have given more than \$1.55 billion to charity in the last decade. Most of these funds are generated by proceeds from our insurance business. The proceeds have gone to causes such as pro-life initiatives, disaster relief or aid to persecuted Christians in the Middle East — wherever help is needed most.

We put ethics first. Our corporate commitment to ethics and our ethical business practices have been applauded by the business community. Recently, the Ethisphere Institute named the Knights of Columbus a "World's Most Ethical Company" for the third consecutive year. We are currently one of only two companies to have earned the designation in the "life insurance" category.

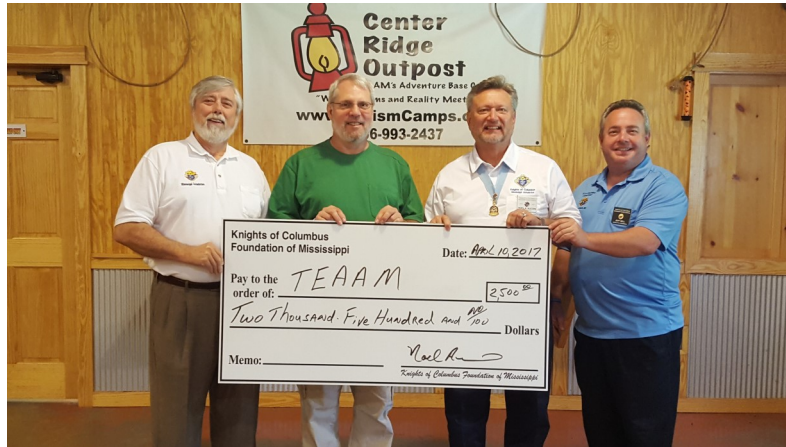
Our members, their spouses and their dependent children have exclusive access to our insurance program. Working with your brother Knight field agent, you can purchase top-quality products to protect your family's future, all while knowing that you are supporting an organization that shares your faith, your beliefs and your values.

More than 130 years after our venerable founder, Father Michael J. McGivney, set our insurance program in motion, we strive to stay true to his mission and our commitment to our members and our Catholic difference.

Other companies may come along and try to convince you that they are just like us. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. But on closer examination, you will find what you always suspected: There is only one Knights of Columbus. We'll be happy to get to know you better and show you that being Catholic always makes a difference.

To contact your agent, visit kofc.org/findagent or call 1-800-345-5632.

Mississippi State Council presents PID check



Pictured are: IPSD Jim McCraw, Dr. Yeager (Director of Center Ridge Outpost), SD Noel Aucoin and Mississippi PID Chairman, Jeff Bell. The Brothers presented Dr. Yeager with a \$2500 check. This was part of the money raised through last year's Tootsie Roll drives. Center Ridge Outpost is the site of the Mississippi Autism Summer Camp.

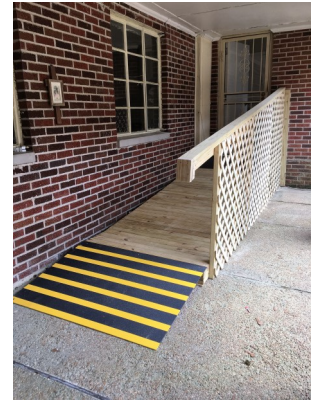
1st Degree Council 9673



Woolmarket Council 9673 held an Admissions Degree on Founder's Day, March 29. Congratulations to these new Brother Knights.

L to R: Roy Gamez, State Warden, Christian Baca Council 7910 Gulfport, Gary Radovich Council 9094 D'Iberville, Michael Brennan Council 9094 D'Iberville, Cayden Peret Council 12166 Pascagoula, Alex Foley Council 10499 Ocean Springs and Noel Aucoin, State Deputy.

Clinton Holy Savior KC Council 7854



Members of Clinton Holy Savior KC Council 7854 completed part II of their charitable work with construction of another ramp at the Carmelite Monastery in Jackson, MS. Thanks to Allen Scott (project foreman), Annie Senger, Charles Collins, Mike Booth, Mike Kirby, Chris Halliwell, Steve Miller and Craig Harrell.

St Richard Council #15131



Work detail on 4/8/18 at Holy Cross Jesus Parish, Canton, Ms. St Richard Council #15131 and Sr Mary Anne Porsche.



Picture of Knights from St Richards Council 15131 that attended the Pro Life Banquet in Jackson Ms, dated 4-6-17.
Picture (L to R) Robert Munroe GK, Victor Gray-Lewis, Harold Hardin FS, Rusty Haydel.

Council 10901

As an early part of our effort to begin a fund-raising effort for a replacement ultrasound machine at the Pregnancy Test Center in Oxford, the Council invited Bishop Kopacz to tour the Pregnancy Test Center we would be raising funds for.

It isn't often a Pregnancy Test Center hosts the Bishop of the Diocese of Jackson, but Bishop Joseph Kopacz spent 90 minutes visiting with Ms. Rebecca Bishop, Executive Director of the Pregnancy Test Center of Oxford, two volunteer members of the Pregnancy Test Center's Board of Directors, Rosann Hudson and Louisa Arico, and volunteer Consultant Marge Hinton. All three volunteers are members of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Oxford.

Bishop Kopacz, invited by Knights of Columbus Council 10901, was able to schedule a visit to the Pregnancy Test Center before a scheduled meeting at St. John to outline the planning and implementation of the new mission, vision and Diocesan priorities.

After listening to the mission of the Center and the emotional, physical and operational aspects of working with women who seek help at the Center, Bishop Kopacz toured the facility, including the ultrasound clinic. Here the ultrasound technician can project a view of the unborn baby on a large screen for the mother and father and see the baby's beating heart, face, fingers and toes to prove the tissue is truly a person. According to Ms. Bishop, this is the most crucial part of the counseling process. Overall, 70% of young parents will choose life for their baby, whether it be adoption or as parents, after viewing the new life inside.

One critical portion of the physical support given to client families is clothing and supplies found in the Pregnancy Test Center's Baby Boutique. Bishop Kopacz learned that clients can attend prenatal and parenting classes and earn points which can be cashed in for newborn supplies such as diapers, clothing, blankets, even bibs.

According to Ms. Bishop, the most gratifying part of their ministry is welcoming the return of young children to the Pregnancy Test Center with their former client mothers.

The Pregnancy Test Center is supported by approximately 30 churches in the Oxford and Lafayette County area, including St. John the Evangelist and Knights of Columbus Council 10901. The Pregnancy Test Center employs 3 salaried staff members, with 9 volunteer Consultants who work directly with the clients. Many individuals and community organizations including the Rebels for Life student organization from the University of Mississippi provide on-call logistical support. The Center depends on donations and gifts from churches and organizations, and receives no State or Federal funds.



Bishop Joseph Kopacz, Diocese of Jackson, inspects hand-made infant blankets and caps in the Baby Boutique while visiting the Pregnancy Test Center in Oxford, MS. Infant supplies are earned by clients who attend prenatal and parenting classes. Mothers can exchange points they earn for needed supplies in the Baby Boutique. Classes are given by volunteer staff at the Center.



Bishop Joseph Kopacz, Diocese of Jackson, inspects hand-made infant blankets and caps in the Baby Boutique while visiting the Pregnancy Test Center in Oxford, MS. Infant supplies are earned by clients who attend prenatal and parenting classes. Mothers can exchange points they earn for needed supplies in the Baby Boutique. Classes are given by volunteer staff at the Center.

16 Knights from District 5



16 Knights from District 5 completed their final journey into Knighthood on April 1st at a 4th Degree Exemplification honoring Past State Deputy Jim McCraw at St. Jude in Pearl, MS. pictured with members of the Degree team and District Master Jerry Schmuck and Vice Supreme Master Russel Ruh.

The Diocese of Biloxi CYO Convention



The Knights of Columbus in support of the Diocese of Biloxi Youth Ministry were key note speakers at the Biloxi Coliseum, Saturday, March 18, 2017. Over 450 young men and women attended this 3 day event.

The theme of this Biloxi Diocese Youth Convention was "Thirst". Each Knights family speaker focused on this topic, tied to real life and also included the Knights concentration on "Building the Universal Domestic Church. It is designed to help our youth and their families to reflect the holiness of the universal Church. In promoting each family as a domestic church, we mean that each family is an assembly of believers that together participate in the work of God. By using the Scripture term "domestic church," we emphasize that family is not simply a social concept, but rather a state of life established by God".